

December 2014

# *Home on the Green*

*Community Life In The Ballantrae Golf & Country Club*



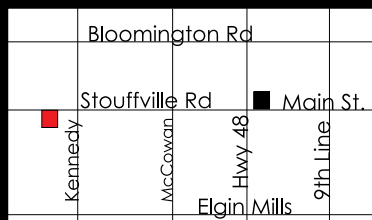
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*Home on the Green* is intended for general information purposes only, and neither endorses nor promotes any of the products or services represented herein, and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of any statements made in the magazine.

*Home on the Green* welcomes submissions from residents of our community for possible inclusion in the magazine. Send articles and news items to [homeonthegreen@rogers.com](mailto:homeonthegreen@rogers.com). *Home on the Green* reserves the right to accept, edit or reject any submitted article. All such contributors are deemed to have consented to the publication – either in print or online – of any information submitted by them.



## Features & Articles

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## Mission Statement

*"A magazine for and about the residents of  
The Ballantrae Golf & Country Club Community.  
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Front cover image taken by Pat Whittingham







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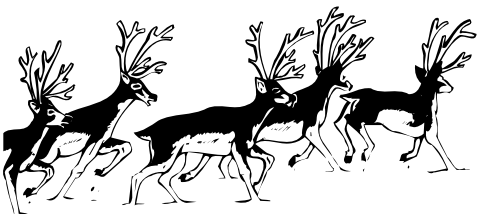
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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2014 holiday issue of *Home on the Green*. Our editorial team strives to fill these pages with images and stories that reflect our multi-faceted, active community and our accomplished and amazing residents.

Thanks for your tremendous response to our recent readership survey. According to resident Fergus Gamble, who has been a professional market research expert for more than 40 years and who compiled the results, "Over 90% of people indicated that they read *HOTG* from cover to cover or at a minimum most of it. In addition each copy of the magazine is looked at or read an average of twice by each person! Many people noted that they keep all the copies. In total 89% of people rated *HOTG* as excellent (54%) or very good (35%)." Kudos also to *HOTG*'s website master, Peter Sims, who programmed and administered the survey. Thanks to both of you for all of your hard work.

We are delighted with your positive feedback but rest assured that our goal is to make your magazine even more entertaining, useful and dynamic in upcoming issues. So stay tuned!

We've also received some terrific submissions to the photo contest announced in the last issue. However, I'm sure many more of you have spectacular images from your travels that you'd like to share. You'll find the details about how to submit on our website [www.ourbgcc.com](http://www.ourbgcc.com). Remember, the winning photo will appear on the cover of the March issue.

This issue's festive cover is the result of a happy collaboration among some of our residents. Brian Freedman, our Photography Coordinator, acted as art director and brought his two greyhounds to pose in front of Assistant Editor, Anita Draycott's fireplace. Patrick Whittingham took the photo.

There's so much going on at Ballantrae we can't possibly cover every event, or all the club news... but we try to squeeze in as much as possible. Highlights in this issue include: a summary of Active Aging Week, a profile on the sporting life of Vicki and Dennis Carter, recommended page turners from five of our book clubs, thoughtful prose from our regular contributing writers and a Christmas collage to put you in a festive mood.

To those Snowbirds heading south, we wish you a safe journey, and to all of our faithful readers, best wishes for the holiday season and 2015 from the entire volunteer staff at *HOTG*.

P.S. You may have completed the readership survey, but we still want to hear from you on an ongoing basis. We welcome your feedback and ideas anytime. ☺



Valery Vollenweider  
*Editor*





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# PHIL ME IN...



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As I write my last article for *HOTG* magazine, I reflect back fondly on the success that we have achieved together as a community.

Janice, Denise, Ashlea and I moved into the community in September 2002. Yes, we moved in as a family. Denise headed off to Brock University while Ashlea finished her last year at Unionville High School. I was a serving member of the Toronto Police Service at the time. To think that I actually commuted to Dundas St. W. and University Ave. on a daily basis!

Thanks to our very near and dear friends, I ran in the 2003 Municipal election. I was elected and have served as your Ward #2 Councillor for the past 11 years.

I would like you to join me in celebration of some of the successes that we have achieved together as a community: Winter Carnival (11 years), Ballantrae Wine & Food Festival (9 years), Community Cleanup Challenge (9 years), Ballantrae Family Fireworks-Outdoor Movie Night (6 years), and Ballantrae Family Fall Fair (5 years).

More than \$147,000.00 has been raised and donated to local health centres and charities including Southlake Regional Health Centre, Markham Stouffville Hospital, Evergreen Hospice, Specialty Care-Bloomington Cove, York-Durham Aphasia Centre, and one of my favourites, Ballantrae Scouting Group.

In the fall of 2015 you will see new sidewalks and streetlights constructed on Aurora Road and Highway 48, the development of a new retail centre on the north east corner of Aurora Road and Highway 48 and a new 4.5 acre community park in Musselman's Lake. We introduced a Stewardship Plan for Musselman's Lake, a dedication of over 200 acres of pristine conservation land to the LSRCA and the restoration of the former Lee Sand & Gravel Pit on Ninth Line to its original state of 300 acres of farmland. Let's not forget the very successful community MPAC re-assessment, Summer Games and Public Safety initiatives.

Congratulations to Maurice Smith on his election to Council. I am so very pleased that we will still have a representative on Council from our community. I have made every effort over the past 11 years to put Ballantrae on the map and I am confident that Maurice will keep us there.

I want to thank Mayor Emmerson and all members of Council for their friendship, hard work and dedication. I feel honoured to have served with such dignified individuals who served with the highest degree of integrity. Whitchurch-Stouffville is a better Town because of these people and they deserve all the credit.

We have invested over \$100 million in infrastructure over the past 8 years, including a new Bethesda sports fields, 19 On The Park, new Town Hall, new Fire Hall, new Twin Pad arena, new Operations Centre, new Museum and new indoor soccer field. What do we have to show for it? One of the lowest residential property tax rates in the GTA!

I am pleased that Mayor Emmerson and members of Council supported making some very crucial changes in the administration. With the election of a new inexperienced Mayor and four members of Council, the burden of a \$70 million budget and a \$30 million renovation to the Leisure Services Centre will prove to be very challenging.

I wish Mayor Emmerson well in his quest for the Regional Chair position. It will serve our community well to have a second voice of reason at the Regional Council.

I have congratulated the new Mayor and all members of Council on their re and election bids. Our future is now in their hands.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our many friends and neighbours for your continued support over the past 11 years. To my wife Janice and my beautiful daughters, Denise and Ashlea, I thank you for your love, strength, purpose and understanding, while enduring the criticism and many lows that any elected official suffers throughout his/her career and election campaigns.

On a positive note, Janice and I are so very proud to announce that both Denise and Ashlea are expecting. What a way to end an election campaign.

On behalf of my family, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. 🍷





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# A PASSAGE THROUGH TIMES PAST

*T*he older we get, the the better we can relate to history. We fondly remember the tales of our grandparents and maybe even great grandparents. Generations of personalities and different ways of living!

A recent vacation cruise to Alaska and sidetrip to Skagway and the White Pass & Yukon Route train brought the past to life. Skagway has an historical wooden building from 1899 which housed rooms, a pub and perhaps a brothel. The old train, (built in 1898) follows the Chilkoot Trail, the infamous route to the Gold Rush area. Thousands of men (and a few women) trekked in single file along a very narrow trail to the mountain peak into Canada's Yukon looking to set their own land claim. Sam Steele, commander of the North-West Mounted Police, who feared starvation of these fortune hunters, ordered each to bring supplies for living for a year --2000 pounds, requiring six or seven agonizing trips up an unforgiving climb. From the train you can still clearly see the 118 year-old trail and Dead Horse Gulch, named after the poor overloaded carriers of some of those packs reaching 1000 pounds. It was said that the trail was so busy, if one stopped to tie a shoe it could take hours to get back in line.

Two of those gold seekers were the father and uncle of John Lind, our neighbour. Having left Sweden at ages 16 and 17, the brothers, John and Eric, emigrated to Bismark, North Dakota where relatives lived. (From 1840-1890 1.5 million Swedes settled in the mid-west United States.) At that time in Europe all family inheritance went to the eldest son. John and Eric were neither the eldest nor immediate family since their widowed mother had remarried. This was 1898 and word of the 1896 northern gold find was heard everywhere. The adventurous brothers decided to seek their fortunes. (At that time outfitting for the trip would have cost \$1200. per person. It is unclear how they got that much money -perhaps distant relatives were promised part of any findings!) They travelled via ship from Seattle to Skagway, and started the first of many challenging hikes up the Chilkoot Trail on a single thin path past ice chunks and boulders. Dangerous wolverines would rip open the food packs and foul what they didn't eat. By the time they arrived in the Dawson City area, most land had already been claimed. Living conditions were poor. The majority of seekers found no gold. John and Eric found work in one of the larger gold mines

already staked out. It was grim hard work for which they earned \$1 to \$10 a day. Other gold seekers at that time moved on to Nome, Alaska.

Three years later, both about age 20, John and Eric returned to Vancouver and found jobs on the Grand Trunk Railway (later the CNR). They were blowing cuts for the railroad using dynamite with a Chinese crew. One explosion did not go off. When they went to check, it blew, killing Eric when a rock hit his head. In a later accident John's knee was crushed leaving him with a permanently stiff knee.

John became a carpenter, then a homesteader in 1908 in Vauxhall, 40 miles from Lethbridge. He bred huge Belgian horses used by farmers for tilling fields until the introduction of the gas powered tractor about 1927. John moved on to work for the Canada Land and Irrigation Company, 150 miles south of Calgary, developing land and irrigation canals. He married a young widow, Esther, who was a cook in one of the construction camps in 1929. Because the company was funded in England, it withstood the Great Depression and John was able to work throughout this time. Their son, our neighbour John, grew up in Vauxhall.

This is the short saga of one family who lived and adapted through changing times — gold rush, building of Canada's railways, construction of irrigation canals opening agricultural lands in early Alberta, and the Great Depression. These are reminiscences of Canadian history, brought to life in family stories. 🍷



Lynne Balfour





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# THE STAINED GLASS ARTISTS OF VIVIAN

Citizens of many villages, towns or cities within Canada like to boast about important people having lived there or a corporation having its beginnings in their specific region. Residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville should know that our community has produced its share of important national and international people and events.

When the Vivian schoolhouse was built in 1874 just north of Ballantrae, it was to serve as a place for the educational needs of the families of the lumbermen working in the area. When it closed in 1954, the school and its property were purchased by Yvonne Williams. This became her summer residence and part-time studio.

Over the years Miss Williams would become the most dominant figure in Canada in the creation of stained glass art. Her works combined a contemporary feeling with traditional forms of church art. This shy, grey-haired artist/designer chose methods almost identical to those used by the great artists of centuries ago. Her impressive career resulted in over four hundred works being commissioned for schools, churches, hospitals and private residences across the country.

Miss Williams eventually sold the Vivian property to one of her understudies, Mr. Gustav Weisman who used this old schoolhouse as his home and work studio. Over the years he became an outstanding painter, sculptor, stained glass designer and teacher. Together with Miss Williams he collaborated in numerous works. One of them known to many is in the McMaster University Chapel Tower in Hamilton, Ontario.

Both of these renowned artists used the technique of incorporating thousands of pieces of hand-blown glass they imported from Germany, France, Italy and Belgium into each of their innovative windows.

Mr. Weisman also served as an assistant to Fred Varley after whom the Varley Gallery in Unionville is named. Thereafter Mr. Varley, Miss Williams and Mr. Weisman became lifelong friends. Unionville's Central United Church has a window created by Yvonne Williams. The remaining stained-glass windows which adorn that church's sanctuary are all the creations of Gustav Weisman.

Other commissioned works of Mr. Weisman can be seen and readily identified in churches such as St. Andrew's in Oshawa, St. Peter's Cathedral,

Charlottetown, P.E.I. or St. George's on-the-Hill and Sunnybrook Hospital, both in Toronto,

Mr. Weisman's work as a sculptor can be found at Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, the offices of Pitney Bowes of Canada and Imperial Oil in Toronto and English Electric, London, England. His works are also represented in the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Canada, Art Gallery of Ontario and many other galleries across Canada.

The Mexican Canadian Scholarship and the Canada Centennial Medal (1967) were among the many outstanding awards he received for his work and artistic talent.

Gustav Weisman died in December 2000. His funeral was held in the chapel at Trafalgar Castle School (formerly Ontario Ladies' College) in Whitby, Ontario. Yes, the sun shone gloriously that winter solstice day as it reflected off the snow and through one of his commissioned stained-glass windows. Those who attended indicated it was a wonderful tribute to a creative and talented man.

Miss Yvonne Williams and Mr. Gustav Weisman, two people not often talked about locally, lived and created some of their most prominent works here in Whitchurch-Stouffville as they left their creative mark in Canada and internationally.

Mr. Weisman's widow still resides in the original schoolhouse on Vivian Road. 📍



Maurice Smith

Most readers are aware I was elected as the Councillor for our area in the recent Municipal election. For this honour I am truly thankful and most appreciative of the support received in BGCC.

Starting with the next edition of *Home on the Green* I will switch from writing about history to writing about local political happenings of the day from a Councillor's perspective.

I encourage you to continue following my history articles in the Stouffville Free Press.

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# GALAXY - A DOG OF INTEREST

If you happen to be out for a stroll in our community and spot a slim woman walking a large black dog, do yourself a favour and introduce yourself to Margaret and Galaxy. Galaxy is a registered St. John Ambulance therapy dog and the much-loved pet of Margaret Keyzer.

It would seem that Galaxy lives an ideal dog's life...but this was not always the situation. Galaxy was found wandering on her own without any identification or markings when she was less



than a year old. Someone turned her into the Georgina Shelter. This is most unusual because Galaxy is a purebred Belgian Sheepdog Groenendael. A puppy of this calibre normally costs about \$1,000 to \$1,500. One would assume that anyone who had made such an investment would be searching for his or her pup. In any case, the Georgina Shelter turned her over to Nancy Hatch, therapy dog breeder/trainer at the Good as Gold K9 (canine) School in Mt. Albert.

Had Galaxy not been taken in by Nancy Hatch, there is the real possibility that she could still be languishing in a kennel at the Georgina Shelter, subject to the "black dog syndrome." This is a phenomenon whereby black dogs are often not adopted and passed over for the light-coloured canines. The "black dog syndrome" may be caused by a combination of factors: size, unclear facial features, dimly lit kennels and negative portrayals of black pets in books, movies and other popular media. Think of the huge, frightening black dogs in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, the *Harry Potter* series, and even on common "Beware of Dog" signs.

Fortunately, for both Margaret and Galaxy, destiny intervened. Margaret had become involved with St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program when her husband became ill. She often took their dog, Cleo, to visit him in the hospital. When she saw what comfort her husband received from visits with his dog,

Margaret involved Cleo in the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program. The two of them regularly visited patients of Southlake Hospital.

After Cleo died, Nancy Hatch invited Margaret to meet Galaxy. Nancy felt that they would make a perfect match. Margaret agreed to bring Galaxy home for a trial period. It was a great success. I do believe that Galaxy has found her forever home and that Margaret has truly been adopted by Galaxy. Both passed the St. John program with flying colours. They now regularly visit the 6th floor Palliative Care Wing at Southlake. Galaxy has proven to be a gentle and loving soul who is warmly welcomed by both staff and patients.


Galaxy may be the perfect therapy dog, but should you assume that she is perfect in every way, Margaret tells me that Galaxy has her own way of letting her owner know that she does not appreciate being left alone. Galaxy is not destructive but she has been known to put a tomato in Margaret's bed – not munched but hidden in the pillows, or tucked into a blanket at the front door!

## Are you and your dog interested in the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program?

Both dogs and volunteer handlers must pass certain tests. Following is a short summary of what is required:

Handlers must complete an application and be physically and mentally capable of performing the type of services they are to provide. They must also pass a criminal records check with a vulnerable sector search.

Dogs must pass a 2 ½ hour evaluation. They must react well to friendly strangers and to other dogs or distractions (noise, joggers, etc.). They must be able to sit calmly for petting, walk on a loose leash, manoeuvre through a crowd (including wheelchairs), sit on command and stay in place.

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# Q&A WITH VICKI & DENNIS CARTER

Meet Ballantrae's sporty couple with a passion for pickleball.

Pickleball, arguably the fastest growing sport in North America, is alive and well in the Ballantrae area, thanks greatly to the efforts of Dennis and Vicki Carter. Before retiring, Dennis worked as District Chief for Officer Development for Toronto Fire Services. Vicki was Director of Student Services at Seneca College. In their spare time they organized trips for the High Park Ski and Biking Clubs. Here at Ballantrae, Vicki started a novice tennis group and was in charge of walking and running activities during the 2013 Ballantrae Summer Games. Dennis has acted as Games coordinator for Condo Five as well as being the overall Pickleball Coordinator. Gregarious and generous with their time, the couple excel at organizing all sorts of fun and games. Pickleball is an ongoing passion. If you aren't familiar with this racquet sport, read on.

## HOW DID PICKLEBALL GET ITS NAME?

There are a few versions and no pickles are involved. Here's the version I prefer: The game was invented in 1965 by a group of neighbours near Seattle, Washington, to amuse their bored kids. They used a Wiffle Ball that belonged to the family dog, Pickles, who was constantly chasing after it. *Dennis*

## WHAT EXACTLY IS PICKLEBALL?

It's played with a paddle larger than a ping-pong paddle on a court about the size of a badminton court with a net approximately tennis height. The plastic ball has holes in it, similar to a Wiffle Ball. You can play singles or doubles, but most of the folks playing in the Ballantrae area play doubles. *Dennis*

## HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN ITS HUGE POPULARITY?

It's estimated that there are up to 150,000 players in the U.S. and 15,000 in Canada. It's fast, challenging and social. The court is smaller than a tennis court so it's easier for folks with aging joints to get to the ball. Though it's extremely popular with seniors, it's a great game for all ages. After a brief introduction, anyone can



pick it up and play right away. It's terrific exercise and laughing is part of the game. *Vicki*

## WHERE CAN PEOPLE PLAY PICKLEBALL NEAR BALLANTRAE?

During winter you can participate in round robin doubles games at the Magna Centre in Newmarket (Monday & Wednesday 1 to 3:30 p.m.; Friday 8 to 11 a.m.) and at the Ross Family Complex in Mount Albert (Tuesday 1 to 3 p.m.; Thursday 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.). There's a nominal fee.

This year we worked with the Stouffville Town Council and succeeded in building four outdoor courts in a hockey rink behind the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum on Woodbine Avenue in Vancor. Thanks to an article in the *Stouffville Tribune*, there has been an increase in awareness and participation among Stouffville residents. With limited options for outdoor pickleball, folks drive all the way up from downtown Toronto to play.

Stouffville may be getting a new recreation facility and our hope is that there will be increased opportunities to put pickleball courts in the plans. We've had a lot of support from Councillors Phil Bannon and Ken Ferdinands.

Here in BGCC, a suggestion has been made that they paint the lines for two courts on the front parking lot at our Recreation Centre. *Dennis*

## SO I'M KEEN TO PLAY; WHAT DO I NEED?

Most facilities offer wooden paddles, but if you're going to play often, you will probably want to buy a light racquet with a composite or graphite exterior. Most range in price from \$50 to \$90. You can order paddles and balls online. I also send out periodic emails with news and tips. If you want to be on the list for the Stouffville Pickleball Players or need equipment information, drop me an email at [dwcarter@rogers.com](mailto:dwcarter@rogers.com)

## WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT PICKLEBALL?

It's social and fun and it puts a big smile on your face. *Dennis* 🧡

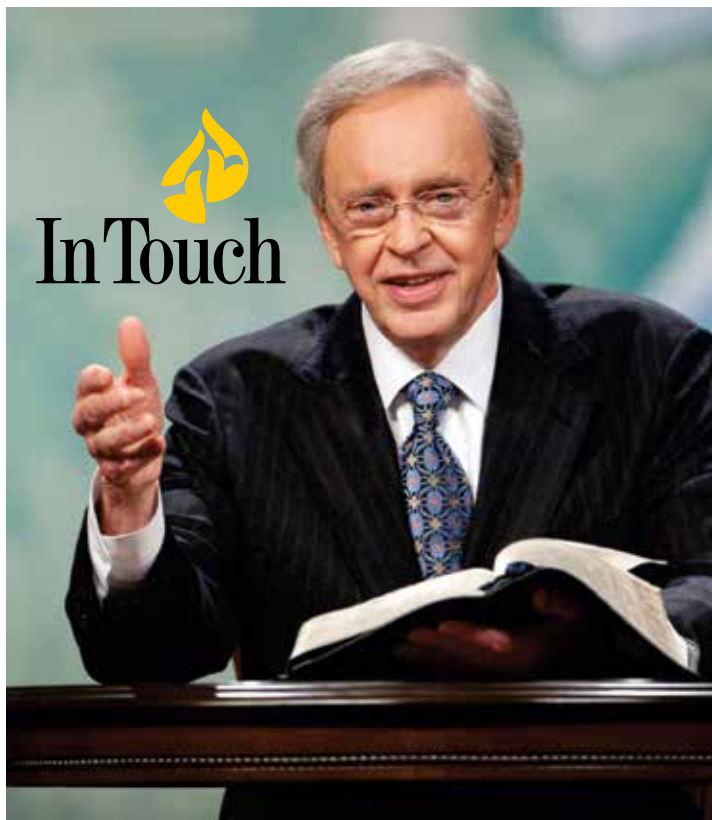
Anita Draycott







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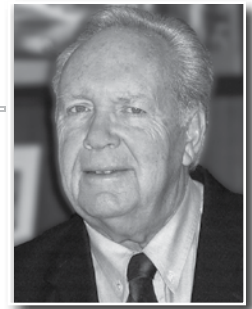
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# 'TIS THE SEASON TO LOOK AHEAD...



John Gorman

There was the time I became so frustrated with the fact that the Christmas tree would not stay up that I nailed the tree stand to the hardwood floor.

This and many other stories have become part of our family fact and fiction about this time of the year. The tree story is a fact. Obviously I had consumed some adult beverages that unlocked my handyman urges. Over time, the incident has become a humorous memory. It probably wasn't so funny at the time.

That's the odd part about this time of the year. I have some great memories of winters past – and some truly bad ones. Without conscious effort, old memories surface and colour our feelings at this time of the year.

Like many of us, I have out-lived my parents. However, they come alive at this time of year. Those early memories are the good memories – the ones I treasure.

Growing up on the western outskirts of Ottawa was a great time to be a kid. The weather was undoubtedly just as cold in those days and the snow just as deep. Yet it was never a problem.

The first snowfall meant Christmas was coming and that meant at least one good gift as well as an assortment of "sensible" clothing. I always wrote out a letter to Santa for Mom to post. In due time it was among those read by Santa on his radio broadcast every night at dinner time on CFRA. For some reason, I was among the last of my age group to lose faith in Santa. When I finally did, it was a dramatic revelation.

One day a friend was kidding me about my letter to Santa being read on the air the night before. When I defended my belief with the evidence of his existence that the broadcast offered, he broke up completely. He said, "So you really don't know that the guy on the air is your Uncle Claude?" I was dumbfounded and raced home to confront my mother with this news.

When she gently exclaimed that indeed my uncle was voicing the role of Santa and had for years I felt like a fool. Claude taught elocution to CBC announcers in those days but I never connected him to the on-air voice of Old Nick.

Shortly after, we moved into Ottawa and settled into a more populated area. In as much as Dad, a

Roman Catholic, had married an Anglican we were a bit conflicted about religion in our home so we did not spend a lot of time at church. I mention this only because this latest move allowed me to befriend Jewish boys. I was astounded to learn that they didn't celebrate Christmas. My sympathy for them disappeared when I discovered that they too exchanged gifts at this time of the year. In fact, most of them made out better than I did – and the food at Hanukkah was terrific. Accordingly any cultural differences vanished in a sea of calories.

As the years went by people came and went, friends and family married, had children. Some folks moved away and some passed away. My mother died at 42 – Dad at 57. I myself married, started a family, moved to Toronto and lost a wife to leukemia when she was 29. She died rather suddenly early one January many years ago.

So the festive season is tinged with sadness I think for all of us. Yet it is important to remember both the good and the sad. I believe people would appreciate being remembered.

In time, revitalized by my wife Elaine, my family enjoyed many happy times together and we savour those recollections as well. Now, the children are off on their own and we have many grandchildren and even great-grandchildren to share the season with and trade stories of more recent time.

This is also the time of year when we review the past twelve months and look optimistically forward to the opportunities for growth and service the New Year brings. Those of us who live in this fine community have much to be grateful for – and much to give.

Let us recall the past also with a smile and gratitude for favours received from those who have passed our way as we look forward to an exciting future. ☺





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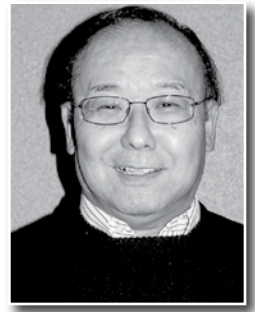
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## SNOWBIRDS: FLYING CLEAR OF TROUBLE



Ken Miyauchi

*B*allantrae residents are seasoned travellers and Snowbirds. Yet, recently I have been in discussions in which people did not understand the legal ramifications of travel to the United States. As many Snowbirds are about to “fly south,” it may be prudent to review the rules.

The US government has strict rules governing Canadian Snowbirds. We all understand that there is a 6-month maximum that we can be in the US. Let’s use the example of a Canadian who travels to the US on October 1 and stays till April 15. This period spans 6½ months, but the individual comes home at Christmas for 2 weeks and goes on a Caribbean cruise for 1 week. As a result, the Canadian is in the US for less than 6 months, right? Not according to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Temporary absences of less than 30 days still count as being in the US; and therefore, this individual has exceeded the maximum time allowable. I hope this is just a hypothetical example.

Remember that 2-hour trip to Buffalo? It counts as 1 day. The only exception is time spent in the US, in transit to a destination outside the US. If you are travelling to Paris via New York, this time is not counted.

The 6-month (181-183 day) limit is for ANY 12 MONTH PERIOD, not necessarily a calendar year. In our previous example, the 6½ months spanned 2 calendar years, but the US Government could choose to count from October to October.

When travelling to the US, the exact entry and exit dates are recorded in a database. Starting next year, the US and Canadian Border Services will be sharing this information. Use a calendar to track all days spent in the US.

What happens if a medical emergency causes you to overstay the limit? Apply, in writing, to the INS with medical evidence to support your extension. Ensure that your travel medical insurance is also extended.

Any Canadian who regularly spends 4 months or more in the US, should submit Form 8840 (Closer Connection Exception Statement for Aliens) to the IRS. This form indicates that you are a Canadian with closer ties to Canada. You maintain your permanent residence in Canada and pay Canadian taxes. The IRS will then exempt you from paying US income taxes. The 8840 must be filed by June 15 or by April 15 if you are declaring US income.

Effective July 1, 2014, Canadian banks are reporting financial activity of clients with a connection to the US. The aim is to catch Americans hiding offshore funds, but it could affect Canadians who have overstayed their time in the US. The banks report to the Canadian Revenue Agency who passes this information to the IRS as part of the joint Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act.

The IRS is not the only one monitoring us. Homeland Security and Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) regard us as foreign “aliens.” We are visitors only, so any attempt to overstay our maximum is met with interest, if not suspicion.

US Border Services is part of Homeland Security and the US agent has total control to allow us to enter the US or to bar entry. There is an example of a Canadian who was asked to prove Canadian residency. A passport and birth certificate were not deemed acceptable. After 11 unpleasant hours with US Border Services, the Canadian was barred from entering the US for 5 years. The Canadian is appealing this decision but is discovering that there is no formal appeal process. The border agent has total discretion and is not accountable to a higher authority.

There is some good news on the horizon. The Canadian Snowbird Association has been lobbying the US to adopt a “Canadian Retiree Visa” which would allow Canadians, 55 years of age and older, to stay in the US for 8 months. The bill has been passed by the US Senate and is awaiting passage in the House of Representatives. The visa is contained in two different bills before Congress and will hopefully pass next year.

Since 9/11, security on both sides of the border has tightened immensely. Know the rules, follow the rules, and a happy traveller you will be. In closing, I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2015! 🐾



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# TIME TO START TRAINING FOR THE 2015 GAMES

All reports indicate that Condo 3 is preparing a vigorous defence of the trophy they managed to win during the 2013 Games.

For those of you who have arrived in our community recently and for those struggling with a poor memory, you are reminded that the trophy is awarded to the condo which has the highest percentage of their population “active” in the Games. By “active” we mean any measure of participation either as a volunteer or as an athlete.

Taking part in a Games event often requires only a minimum of physical effort inasmuch as the contests feature such activities as euchre and ladder golf. The qualifications for participating as a volunteer are somewhat less demanding. The major test features an examiner holding a mirror up to your lips. If the surface of the mirror fogs up – you are hired!

Keeping in mind that although the official dates for the Games are August 22-30, 2015 preparations are ongoing currently and you should be working out to ensure maximum performance.

As an example, it is suggested that those planning on competing in aquatic events start now by dipping their feet twice daily in the shallow end of the pool. This should begin no later than the end of this year. Walkers and runners should build up their stamina gradually, perhaps carrying a six-pack to their car two or three times a week. This can gradually be increased to a case of 24, also by year end.

If you are in need of professional guidance, Dayna Stoddart could introduce you to line dancing to build flexibility and balance. Start by simply standing in a line for a while before tackling any movements or fancy steps.

Some training may also be undertaken for the demanding social schedule which accompanies this iconic event. The evening entertainment at the Recreation Centre each night will require a steady hand and a hardy constitution so be aware of the obvious need for some pre-season training to ensure maximum performance.

Official registration will take place on May 9; however there will be opportunities to pre-register which will be publicized at the Recreation Centre and on [www.ourbgcc.com](http://www.ourbgcc.com). In fact, there will be a section on the website devoted to news and information regarding the 2015 Games.

This fun, condo-wide event offers you a great chance to meet new friends and enjoy the summer with old pals. Get involved and don't miss out! 🏃

J.G.

The key contact folks for the Games are:

## Condo 1

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## Condo 3

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## NEED A GOOD READ? CONSIDER THESE RECOMMENDATIONS

*B*allantrae's residents are avid readers. Here are the favourite titles from six of our book clubs (in no particular order).

### Authors, Books and Chats a.k.a. The ABC Book Club

- *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman
- *Nothing to Envy* by Barbara Demick
- *Annabel* by Kathleen Winter
- *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein
- *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd
- *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand
- *Year of Wonder* by Geraldine Brooks
- *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

### Readers' Companion

- *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein
- *The Best Laid Plans* by Terry Fallis
- *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce
- *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer/Annie Barrows
- *February* by Lisa Moore
- *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway
- *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery
- *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese
- *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson
- *Fifth Business* by Robertson Davies

### The Page Turners

- *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt* by Beth Hoffman
- *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd
- *The Midwife of Venice* by Roberta Rich
- *Cutting For Stone* by Abraham Verghese
- *Dreams of Joy* by Lisa See
- *Crow Lake* by Mary Lawson
- *The Secret Scripture* by Sebastian Barry
- *The Underside of Joy* by Sere Prince Halverson
- *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
- *The Secret Daughter* by Shilpi Gowda

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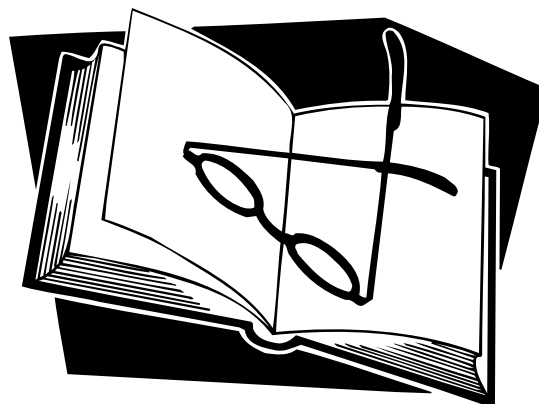
- *Left Neglected* by Lisa Genova
- *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway
- *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman
- *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón
- *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
- *David and Goliath* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay

### Come When You Can Book Club

- *Fifth Business* by Robertson Davies
- *Room* by Emma Donoghue
- *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng
- *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein
- *The Midwife of Venice* by Roberta Rich

### Bookies

- *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachael Joyce
- *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed
- *The Road from Coorain* by Jill Kerr Conway
- *Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent
- *An Astronaut's Guide to Life* by Chris Hadfield
- *The Light Between Oceans* by M. L. Stedman
- *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown
- *The Chalk Circle Man* by Fred Vargas
- *The High Road* by Terry Fallis
- *The Massey Murder* by Charlotte Gray
- *Moloka'I* by Alan Brennert



# BREAST CANCER GOLF TOURNAMENT



It was a day to celebrate! Wednesday, August 27 was the 10th anniversary of the Ballantrae Ladies' No Stress Golf Tournament for Breast Cancer. The weather, the best this summer offered, provided the atmosphere for fun and frivolity. Many teams arrived in costumes of pink, expertly crafted with lots of "bling." Their colourfully decorated carts were comical and creative. WOW!! They spent their money on raffles, auctions, mulligans and "Pot-

of-Gold." Two hospital foundations, Markham Stouffville and Southlake, Newmarket shared \$7,300 because of the generosity of the sponsors and contributors who filled the prize tables to overflowing. What a wonderful community we live in! Participation keeps us young!

Congratulations! 🎉

*Kay Corlett*





# Feeling Lucky At Georgian Downs

Last October, fifty-four eager participants boarded a bus at the Recreation Centre and headed to Georgian Downs in Innisfil, for a day of fun and games. With more than 1000 slot machines, visitors could try their luck at Red Hot Jackpots, Wheel of Fortune, Electronic Blackjack and more. We were also given vouchers for lunch at the Getaway restaurant. Win or lose, a good time was had by all.

Interested in an excursion to Georgian Downs next October?  
Contact Mariette Blouin-Johnson, 905-591-2032. 📞

*Mariette Blouin-Johnson*

## BGCC Tennis Summary

On September 27 the BGCC Tennis season officially came to an end with the annual celebration of the Dinner/Dance/Awards. It was an excellent conclusion to a great season. Although the season got off to a slow start with a long winter and a cool wet spring, the sun finally shone and the two meters of snow that covered the courts disappeared. Our new shade canopies and patio furniture came in very handy for both the sunny days and the rainy days.

Through the season we held six special events, including socials and tournaments. The implementation of a new tournament format (partner draw) produced some excellent semi-final and final matches. The champions were:

Men's Doubles A Champions  
**Glen Fisher and Robin Tate**

Men's Doubles B Champions  
**Tak Hayashi and Art Woodruff**

Ladies' Doubles A Champions  
**Ginette Fisher and Gail Browne**

Ladies' Doubles B Champions  
**Fran Bulkis and Helen Hayashi**

Mixed Doubles A Champions  
**Brian Freedman and Christel Storf**

Mixed Doubles B Champions  
**Dennis Carter and Carol Runstedler**

The changes made to the men's and mixed doubles ladders also produced some great tennis rivalries that took place both on and off the court on a weekly basis. Over 60 percent of the membership took part in the House League, and competition was fierce to see who was on top of the leader board. Our Novice group had over 20 members. This is a key component of any club for the development of new and returning tennis players. All Director-led programs this year were a great success. Special thanks go to the Directors and members of the social committees who made it all happen. This made another great season of fun and camaraderie.

A new executive team is now in place for the 2015 season and planning has already started for the new year. Hope to see you all on the courts next year. 📞

*Garry Stoddart*



## HOTG VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

On Friday November 7, 2014 *Home on the Green* magazine held its appreciation luncheon to recognize all the volunteers who so willingly give of their time and talent in so many different ways to ensure the continued existence of this fine community publication, now in its 12th year.

Some 80 volunteers and guests attended this event at the Recreation Centre and enjoyed a delicious lasagne and salad meal, catered by Annina's Bake Shop of Goodwood. Background music and a video show during the meal were provided courtesy of Al Moldon and Brian Freedman. Publisher Donna Clark introduced Fergus Gamble who presented the outstanding results and analysis of the recently concluded *HOTG* reader survey which confirmed how highly the magazine is valued by

the residents of BGCC. Board Chair Betty Ann Jarvis then made presentations to those volunteers who had left since the previous luncheon held in May 2013. Those recognized were Donna Powers, a Sales /Advertising Representative for three years, Doreen Cunneen (in absentia), Editor for three years, and Kay and Lloyd Pinnock former Editors for three years and Publishers for three and a half years.

It was a very pleasant and rewarding afternoon for everyone present and a sincere thank you is extended to the team that organized the event - Donna Clark, Marna Moldon, Mary Hallam, Al Moldon and Brian Freedman. 📷



## MONDAY LADIES' GOLF LEAGUE

Opening coffee this year saw many new faces joining the fun and fellowship of the Monday Ladies' Golf League. We were blessed with favourable weather this season with only a few cancelled days due to inclement weather. We played weekly golf games, enjoyed a "Bring a Friend" day in June, and the Mary Carole Lant Tournament in July. Congratulations to our champion, long-time member Linda Curness. Our golf days were topped with the opportunity to enjoy a "lunch special" in the club house.

The prize table at the final luncheon included prizes for all the attending ladies. We thank the many local businesses and people who donated to our group. A special thanks goes to Smith Rogers Financial who provided a weekly prize for closest to the pin on a par 3.

This year our members generously decided to donate to "Rose of Sharon." Aside from a monetary donation, we provided many supplies for the young mothers and children supported by this organization.

Thanks to all our members for making the year so successful. Interested in joining the league next year? Come to the opening coffee and registration on Monday April 27, 2015 or contact Sandy Hinch at 905-591-3551 or [sandyhinch@hotmail.com](mailto:sandyhinch@hotmail.com).

Our first golf day is Monday May 4, 2015.

See you in the spring. 📷

*Sandy Hinch*





# Happy Holidays



## HANG ONE ON

Using ultra light balsa wood, Condo Five artist, Judy Baldwin (905-640-1308), hand cuts and paints whimsical folk art decorations. Her festive door hangers are made with yarn and plastic canvas. 🐾



## HAPPY CATS

Treat your kitties to a little recreational catnip and make a whole lot of cats happier. Rita Mak (905-591-5950) donates supplies of her hand-knitted mice containing pure catnip to two local charities to raise money for the animals: North Toronto Cat Rescue in Markham and Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary in Pickering. The Condo Five animal lover also gives her “mice” to the Pet Valu store in Markham which, in turn, donates all cash raised to the North Toronto Cat Rescue. 🐾



## WHITE CHOCOLATE CANDY CANE BARK

Condo Five resident, Shirley Hughes, makes this peppermint/chocolate bark every year for her family and friends at Christmas. It makes a terrific hostess gift. Simply put some bark in a decorative jar, or wrap in a cellophane bag and tie with a festive bow.

### Ingredients

- 1 cup white chocolate wafers or chips (available at Bulk Barn)
- 5 crushed candy canes
- 1/2 cup almonds (optional)

Microwave chocolate in a 2-cup glass measuring cup on high for 1 ½ to 2 minutes or until glossy and almost melted, stirring after 1 minute. Remove from microwave and stir until chocolate is completely melted and mixture is smooth. Note: melting chocolate in the microwave is time-sensitive. If you leave it in too long it becomes solid again.

Stir the crushed candy canes and almonds into the melted chocolate.

Spread the mixture on a cookie tray lined with parchment paper. Refrigerate for 15 minutes or longer if you wish. When chocolate is solid, break it up into bite sized bits. Store in a covered container in the refrigerator.



## A CHRISTMAS TOAST

Each year at the start of the winter season,  
We pause to express love – is there a reason?  
For some it's a time for reflection and thought.  
Many will focus on the gifts that were bought.

Season's greetings with an abundance of cheer.  
Best Wishes are sent to friends far and near.  
It's a time with a meaning which sometimes gets lost,  
The influence of commerce regardless of cost.

We entertain and feast but do we think about those  
Without shelter or food and often no clothes?  
Who have sorrowful hearts with inward commotion.  
Filled with despair and futile emotion.

The significance of Christmas is to some "just a day."  
While some offer praise, bend a knee and pray.  
There are those who wage war in religious belief.  
They seek no peace and desire no relief.

As we recall the past with some tears and sorrow,  
Faith and conviction brings hope for tomorrow.  
We have memories of those who could not remain.  
They'll endure in our hearts till we meet once again.

As we celebrate together with family and friends,  
Think well of this "Day" and the message it sends.  
So, each in our own way give thanks for our wealth.  
A "Toast" one and all to love and good health!

Merry Christmas. 🍷

*Gordon Hanson*



## 2014 Ballantrae Curling Bonspiel

The annual 2014 Ballantrae Curling Bonspiel delivered lots of vigorous exercise and good fun. The venue was the Thornhill Golf and Country Club – with 32 curlers participating and with representation from all five condos.

Early arrivers tucked into a continental breakfast in the bar. Following that, a random draw resulted in eight well-balanced teams. Each played two games – an eight-end game, followed by a soup-and-sandwich lunch and then a six-end game in the afternoon.

The winners were the energetic team of skip Carole Murray, third Linda Levesque, second Karen Blackman and lead Gary Fraser. The second-place team was skipped by Joe Murray with third Pauline Wozniak, second George Iwasiw and lead Peter Keast.

In third place was the team of skip Blanche Leslie, third Barb Otani, second Bruce Stokes and lead Donna Powers.

We thank the following businesses who generously stocked the prize table: Ballantrae Golf Club, Bob

the Watch Guy, Frank's Wexford Services, Nonno Crupi's Pizza, and Ballantrae Pharmacy in Ballantrae; Peppertree Klassics in Markham; and M&M Meat Shops, Stouffville Auto Wash and Trilis Hair Studio in Stouffville. All welcome both non-curlers and curlers to their businesses.

We welcome and encourage more curlers to join the fun next year – so watch for details of the 2015 fun-spiel on the Recreation Centre information board and in the June edition of *Home on the Green*.

For the Ballantrae Curling Committee: Helen & Pete Mitchell, Priscilla Rushton, Stew Cannon, Liz & Cliff Jenkins. 📧

*Cliff Jenkins*



## Unique Finds at the 2014 Annual Ballantrae Craft Show

On November 1 the first snowfall of the season ushered in the Annual Ballantrae Craft Show and Sale. The snow added a festive, seasonal touch to this much-anticipated event.

This traditional show features only items designed and crafted by Ballantrae residents. The show is not advertised outside BGCC so it offers a privileged shopping opportunity for our residents. For the most part, these “crafty” folks are not “in business”; their earnings are generally used to purchase more materials and to finance their hobbies for the upcoming year.

Featured crafts this year included jewellery, pottery, paintings, knitting, soaps, handmade furniture and games, Christmas decorations and more. In total, 15 exhibitors participated; several were newcomers to the show.

The exhibitors offered free coffee and snacks to bargain hunting shoppers who welcomed the opportunity to get together with friends and neighbours before winter set in. For many, it was the last social event of the season before they head south. For others, it was the beginning of the winter social season that moves into high gear during November.

Without exception, all agreed that the 2014 Craft Show was one of the most successful ever and that it had been an extremely enjoyable day. 📧

*Elaine Gorman*  
905-642-0861







## Ladies' Tuesday No-Stress Golf League

Opening Day this year saw 70 new and returning Ballantrae ladies sign up for a season of golf at Maples of Ballantrae. How exciting to have so many newcomers interested in golf! If you are interested in taking up the game or just in golfing in a stress-free, fun environment, please consider joining us next season. We'd love to see you!

Although summer may not have been as warm as we would have liked, we had few rainy days and only one rain out! This year we continued to use a shotgun format. Monthly challenges added to the fun and our thanks to Roy Chan of Maples of Ballantrae for providing the prizes. Monthly games at other area golf courses added to the fun and enticed new members to join our league.

Of course, all good things must come to an end (only temporarily!) and on Tuesday, September 23, the Ladies' No Stress League wound up the season with golf and lunch at Maples of Ballantrae.

A warm fall day made for an enjoyable final round. Many laughs were to be had along with a lot of fun! Thanks to all of our members for making this a great summer of golf.

Money raised by league registration dues was donated to 360° Kids, a York Region charity supporting youth and families.

Our Coffee Meet & Greet will take place on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at Maples of Ballantrae at 10:00 a.m. See you in the spring! ☺

*Deb Kimpton*

For further information, please contact: Deb Kimpton

nostressgolf@yahoo.ca or  
905-642-6426

## Men's Golf 2014 Season Report

Once again this year the Tuesday Men's Golf League provided an opportunity for members to have fun while enjoying the wonderful game of golf. Along with a variety of games during the season, Smith Rogers Financial added a "Closest to the Pin" challenge with a bottle of wine going to the winner each week – Ray Stadnick claimed his first ever "Hole in One" in this challenge.

Members of the winning team for the annual Bill Burrow Trophy Championship were Connie Nucci, Frank Weis, Jim Gillies and Olly Smolak. Individual tee honours were claimed by John Morrison, John Blainey, Charlie Delahey, Brian Morris, Ken MacKay and Emile Haick.

Prostate Cancer Research donations from our members exceeded \$10,000 this year. The total donated to this worthwhile cause by league members over the past five years is now close to \$30,000. Thanks to all those who contributed.

At our closing Tuesday we had two cars available to be won as "Hole in One" prizes. These were offered by Stouffville Hyundai

and Stouffville Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram. Unfortunately again this year there was no winner. Members send special thanks to all sponsors who contributed to making our thirteenth year so successful.

Thanks again go out to Phil Kostandoff and Jay Adams for their tireless efforts in organizing the league. ☺

*Maurice Smith*

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# ACTIVE AGING WEEK

Our journeys, experiences and life situations all directly impact our interpretation of the phrase “active aging.” Change is inevitable. How we view and manage each life stage is different for each person. Active Aging Week’s purpose is to provide you with information to allow you to manoeuvre through life’s stages as successfully as possible.

This year, our wide range of presenters educated, empowered and motivated our residents on many topics...from brain food to kick dancing to navigating Canada’s health care system.

Dr. Brandy Pridham, Naturopathic Doctor, discussed how 80 percent of chronic disease is preventable and what supplements we should take to maintain and optimize our overall health. She also explained how blood scans can provide information on how your body is functioning on both a physiological and cellular level.

Dr. Jasmintha Ellaurie, Optometrist, discussed eye health, symptoms, prevention tips and available treatments.

Virginia Miles, a “healthcare navigator,” explained the complexities of our Canadian healthcare system.

Lifestyle expert, Lester Austin who has appeared on Rogers, Global and CTV networks, gave us eating, energizing and exercise tips.

Sally Kirby, Registered Nurse, spoke about the Self-Management Skills Program, designed to empower individuals to cope with their chronic conditions and to increase their quality of life. This was an introduction to the six-week workshop now running at the Recreation Centre, “Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions.”

Stress and anxiety can have a direct impact on our health. Linda Vanderkolk of ClutterBGone, discussed how to organize, de-clutter and downsize. “If you can’t find what you are looking for in 40 seconds, it’s in the wrong place!”



Kate Kucera,  
Certified Nutritional Practitioner

“The Healthy Brain” was the most well-attended seminar because we are all concerned about dementia and Alzheimer’s. Certified Nutritional Practitioner, Kate Kucera, gave us a clear message, “As we age, brain function is directly related to nutritional status.” She provided a list of key foods and supplements that we should be taking. Here’s some food for thought: “You need to fuel your brain with quality food and nutrition. If you provide your brain with junk it will function like junk!”

Wendy Hardman Ph.D., pianist and composer, presented “Music on Your Mind,” and how music plays a role in our emotional and mental well being.

Carolyn Wyatt discussed skin care as we age and reminded us of the dangers of sun and how to protect ourselves all year long.

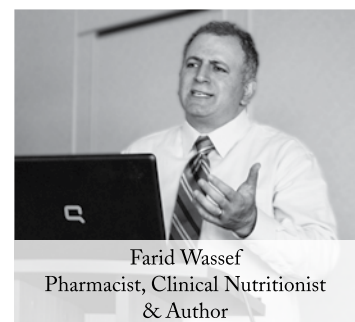
Gina’s Line Dancing Demo “kick-started” the return of our long awaited Line Dancing program at the Recreation Centre.

Ballantrae resident Herb Rempel moderated the “Orderly Affairs” discussion on a variety of topics surrounding the loss of a loved one. The panel included experts from our community representing accounting, banking, insurance, law and funeral home management. This session was very well received.

Karen Dermody, Ballantrae resident and Registered Massage Therapist, discussed Bowen Therapy and how subtle moves can stimulate the body to heal itself.

Stouffville pharmacist Farid Wassef’s seminar “Living the Good Life Requires Good Health,” covered such topics as cardiovascular health, the Mediterranean diet, myths about eating red meat, alcohol intake, super foods for heart health, benefits of moderate physical activity, the importance of probiotics for intestinal health, anti-aging supplements, cleansing and detoxification. And let’s not forget the importance of social interaction and having joy in life.

What does Active Aging mean to you? Consider these inspirational words from Maya Angelou, American author, poet and civil rights activist: “Surviving is important. Thriving is elegant!” 📖



Farid Wassef  
Pharmacist, Clinical Nutritionist  
& Author

Dayna Stoddart



# DON'T BUY ANY MORE "STUFF"...BUY "EXPERIENCES"

Way back, when I was giving seminars, I used a Financial Plan outline with 5 stages in priority that everyone could follow during a lifetime. The idea was -- if you received a \$1,000 gift/windfall, what should you do with it? The 5 stages were:

1. Pay off Debt, then;
2. Set aside money in an emergency fund, then;
3. Invest in your Registered Retirement Savings Plan, then;
4. "Please Yourself," buy goods and services, then;
5. Buy investments

Well, Ballantrae neighbours, we have finally completed the plan and are now drawing down on those investments. For the rest of our lives we are stuck in Stage 4, "Please Ourselves," where we buy stuff (furniture) and buy experiences (vacations).

My counsel now is not to buy any more "stuff" but to buy more "experiences." This is hard to do, because we are "hardwired" by our DNA to buy things. We are hunter/gatherers, we love to buy things that are on sale, we love to show off things that are unique, and we love to outdo the Joneses.

Our present reality is we don't need any more "stuff." There is a reason we bought small 2,000 sq. ft. homes. It was to downsize the space available for all our stuff. The reason we have crawlspaces in the basement is to store our excess stuff, awaiting the next garage sale! We don't have to keep up with the Joneses. We live amongst Supreme Court Judges and multi-millionaires. And, in accordance with Condo documents article 7015.3, we have all parked our egos at the front gate.

So, if you don't buy things, how can you turn your money into happiness? You buy experiences that make you feel good; such things as a Mediterranean cruise, an escorted tour of Europe, plays at the Stratford or Shaw festivals, or a romantic dinner with a good bottle of wine or two. These are services you can buy, but you can't touch; you experience them and they make you feel good. You can buy as many experiences as you want. They don't take up space; you can share them through pictures, and they are long lasting.

I cherish my experiences. Many times, for some unknown reason, I will have a flashback to a happy experience and a smile will come over my face. It drives my wife crazy! ☹

*Terry Chapman*



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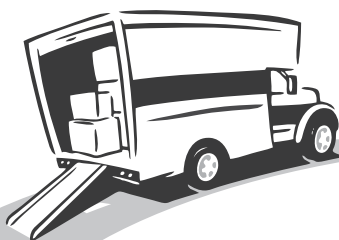
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# A Murder at Sea!

On Saturday, October 25, a group of 100 Ballantrae residents “set sail” on the SS Minnow for a mystery dinner cruise of “Titanic” proportions! Suspicious characters mingled during cocktails and were spread throughout the room, even sitting with us at the dinner tables.

Imagine our surprise when, during the delicious buffet dinner supplied by Leadbetters, Detective Hercule Perrier informed us that our Captain had been murdered! Among the list of suspects were Mr. Thom, the ship owner and his wife, Mrs. Thom; Kato Kaelin, the cruise director;

Ginger, the actress; and Woody, the film director.

Laughter abounded at the non-stop jokes and innuendoes. The delightful cast were very skilled at getting the audience involved. After sifting through the tangled web of clues and submitting our “whodunits,” the murderer was exposed! A few lucky sleuths were rewarded with gift bags from Mysteriously Yours. Everyone in attendance thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful evening. Thank you to the Social Committee for another successful event! 🍷

*Pam Tulino*



## SUMMER ON THE PATIO

It was another great Social Committee event! In this very unpredictable summer, the weather finally cooperated on Thursday, August 7 and those who attended “Summer on the Patio” were rewarded with great music, good food and the camaraderie of friends. Most people who came revelled in the warmth of the sun and enjoyed chatting with friends outside on the patio. Rookie, a new musical group of young men, entertained us with songs

from the 50s & 60s – many of the songs popular long before this talented group were even born! And finally, to top off the event, Nonno Crupi’s served delicious pizza and salad to the crowd of approximately 125 people. Best part for the attendees – it was all free! 🍷

*Pam Tulino*



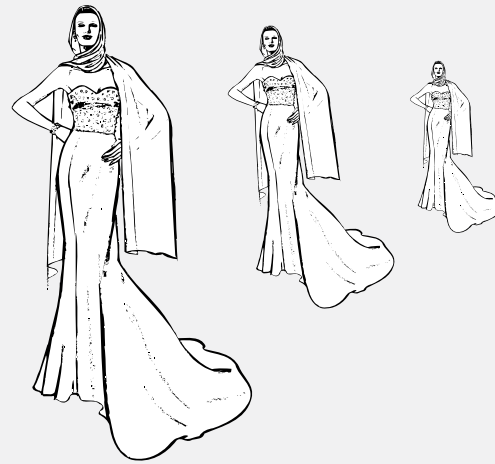
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Sunday, January 25, 2015

Meet at the Recreation Centre at 10:30 a.m.  
Participate in outdoor activities at a nearby forest until noon

Return to the Recreation Centre for homemade soup and dessert at 12:30 p.m.

Bring your own beverage

Cost: \$5 per person

Tickets go on sale Monday, December 1

Please call: Mariette Blouin-Johnson 905-591-2032



## Sunday Night at the Movies

Sunday Night at the Movies

(On a Big Screen)

February 22, 2015 at 7 p.m.

BGCC Recreation Centre

Popcorn and Cookies provided

\$5 per person.

Please bring your favourite beverage

For tickets and movie genre suggestions

Call: Ajit Sappal 905-591-2307





# SOCIAL EVENTS - 2015

The Ballantrae Golf and Country Club Social Committee has a fabulous lineup of events planned for 2015. Please check future issues of *Home on the Green* and the Recreation Centre Notice Board for further details as dates may be subject to change.

**Sunday, January 25**  
**A Breath of Fresh Air**  
**Activities and Homemade Soup**  
 Contact:  
 Mariette Blouin-Johnson  
 905-591-2032

**Sunday, February 22**  
**Sunday Night at the Movies**  
 Contact:  
 Ajit Sappal  
 905-591-2307

**Tuesday, May 5**  
**Ladies' Dine Around**  
**Restaurant - Al Dente**  
 Contact:  
 Verna Woodruff  
 905-591-0264

**Thursday, May 21**  
**Fallsview Casino**  
 Contact:  
 Gisela Weger  
 905-642-2503

**Sunday, May 31**  
**Charity Fashion Show**  
 Contact:  
 Kathy Billington  
 905-591-1390

**Friday, June 12**  
**Woodbine Race Track/ Luncheon**  
 Contact:  
 Gisela Weger  
 905-642-2503

**Wednesday, July 1**  
**Canada Day Celebrations**  
 Contact:  
 Ron Brewing  
 905-640-8836

**Tuesday, July 14**  
**Ladies' Dine Around**  
**Restaurant to be announced**  
 Contact:  
 Verna Woodruff  
 905-591-0264

**September**  
**Date to be determined**  
**Stratford Festival's Carousel**  
 Contact:  
 Ron Brewing  
 905-640-8836

**Tuesday, September 15**  
**Ladies' Dine Around**  
**Restaurant to be determined**  
 Contact:  
 Verna Woodruff  
 905-591-0264

**Saturday, September 19**  
**Bollywood Returns**  
 Contact:  
 Ajit Sappal  
 905-591-2307

**October**  
**Theatre Event**  
 To be determined

**Wednesday, October 7**  
**Georgian Downs**  
 Contact:  
 Mariette Blouin-Johnson  
 905-591-2032

**Thursday, November 19**  
**Ladies' Christmas Luncheon**  
 Contact:  
 Pam Tulino  
 905-591-4004

**Saturday, December 5**  
**Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance**  
**Recreation Centre**  
 Contact:  
 Social Committee

# WHAT'S NEW ON OURBGCC.COM

This community resource continues to change with the times. The website that went "live" in the fall of 2009 was quite limited in scope and content compared to the current version.

Much of the material displayed now is posted as the result of requests received from the residents of BGCC. In fact, most of webmaster Peter Sims' time is devoted to updating content rather than searching for new categories to cover. Displaying information which is fresh and eliminating that which is stale and outdated is vital to the credibility of any website. Peter is dependent on residents to provide notices and coverage of community happenings.

The Social Committee and Condo Boards have the capacity and personnel to update their information regularly, but the input of people running condo-specific events is extremely important.

Recently, communication between *Home on the Green* and ourbgcc.com has accelerated. This is truly a positive development which will allow productive change and improvement in both areas.

There is a page on ourbgcc.com which is devoted to *HOTG*. Visit this page often to keep abreast of news of this publication.

Consideration is currently being given to the posting of past editions of the magazine online. As a minimum, it is anticipated that specific articles will be reproduced from time to time.

Newcomers are reminded that the website is not currently available to search engines such as Google. You must type in the url, www.ourbgcc.com on the address line. Having done so, click the site as a Favourite to revisit often. Better yet, make it your home page and the site will appear first whenever you go online.

You are encouraged to join the website's monthly email newsletter list by simply emailing ourbgcc.rogers.com. This will allow you to be current with changes and improvements as they occur.

Oddly, the feeling persists that most site users are not aware of just how much information is available there. The Condo pages and the Help For Residents section appear among those under-utilized. Help For Residents links to the important and unique Volunteer Assistance Program that residents maintain.

Remember, this is your website – your suggestions and comments are always welcome. ☺

J.G.

## Helping the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank

Ballantrae residents have a long history of helping The Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank, especially at this time of year when the need is greatest.

While all items are gratefully received, the food bank volunteers have asked *Home on the Green* to highlight the items that are most needed. These include:

- Canned fruit
- Canned meats, chicken and fish
- Items for children's school lunches (peanut butter is no longer permitted in schools)
- Juice boxes
- Powdered milk
- Gently used clothing for children aged six years and older

You can drop off your donations on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at:

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Valery Vollenweider, Editor





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# EAT, DRINK AND NEVER GROW OLD IN SUNNY SICILY

My first taste of Sicily was a “McSpleen.” That’s my moniker for slices of beef spleen simmered in a vat of lard and served on a bun with ricotta cheese. Bland, but not disgusting. It must be an acquired taste because the Sicilians line up for huge platters of them at Antica Focacceria San Francesco. Fortunately, the groaning table in front of us was laden with Sicilian specialties more to our liking—artichoke and radicchio salad, onion and anchovy pizza, chickpea frittata—and those were just the appetizers.

I’d flown into Palermo to join a group of “foodies” for a ten-day gastronomic romp. Peggy Markel, our fearless leader, who had successfully navigated us through the narrow streets crowded with flirting Palermitanos and swerving Vespa scooters, proposed the first toast of the trip.

“*A tavola, non si invecchia mai... se si mangia tanto.*” (At the table you never grow old...if you eat a lot.) With a clink of glasses we began the first of many feasts.

Many nations tried to conquer Sicily—from the early Greeks to the Romans, Arabs, Normans, French and Spanish. Thankfully, these invaders left their mark on the culture, cuisine and architecture. The result is a delicious *mélange*.

Peggy’s escorted trip, entitled “Sicily, a Different Italy,” offered an opportunity to tour the island and meet Sicilians who are passionate about their culinary roots. What better way to really sink your teeth into a place?

The next morning we drove to the wine estate of Regaleali-Tasca D’Almerita. Here we’d be the guests for two days of Anna Tasca Lanza, author of several cookbooks. After we were shown to our rooms in the fine old farmhouse, we gathered in the rustic kitchen. The elegantly coiffed and pearly Anna proceeded to prepare an apple/persimmon pie and a herbed roasted leg of lamb while we watched and sampled the house wine. Over dinner, we learned that Anna’s late father, Count Giuseppe Tasca, was the first in Sicily to modernize winemaking. Anna, who nonchalantly admitted she holds the title of *Marchesa*, may be the most down-to-earth patrician I’ll ever meet.

What sets Peggy’s culinary tour apart from a cooking school is the opportunity to meet and break bread with her eclectic and sometimes eccentric Sicilian food aficionados. In Modica, known for its outstanding baroque architecture, we enjoyed



dinner in a candlelit cave catered by Peggy’s pal, Beppe. He served us a meal he’d researched from ancient recipes—bean and pork soup, salty cheeses, bread that would break a tooth, asparagus frittata, sausages in red wine, prickly pears, cannoli and some fine old grappa. T’was a memorable evening, somewhat Fellini-esque.

The next morning we rambled around Modica, buying ceramics, climbing the 254 steps to the magnificent Duomo di San Giorgio and meeting for a chocolate-making demonstration at the Dolceria Buonajuto, Sicily’s oldest confection shop.

Moving on to Ortygia Island, we met Chef Giovanni of the Don Camillo restaurant who led us from stall to stall in the market and then escorted us back to his kitchen to demonstrate some Piscean platters including pasta studded with sea urchins and shrimp.

Our grand finale took us past puffing Mount Etna to lovely Taormina. Dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C., the town hugs the edge of a cliff overlooking the Ionian Sea. Our hotel, the Grand Timeo, was once the love nest of Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. Peggy had arranged a special menu of pasta with porcini, seafood spaghetti, swordfish wrapped in pastry and *zabaglione*.

After dinner on the grand terrace, beneath a full moon and smoke-spewing Mount Etna, Peggy raised her glass for a final toast. That first McSpleen burger back in Palermo seemed like many moons ago, but I swear I hadn’t aged a day. ☺

Anita Draycott



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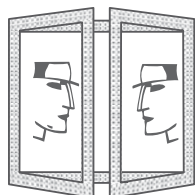
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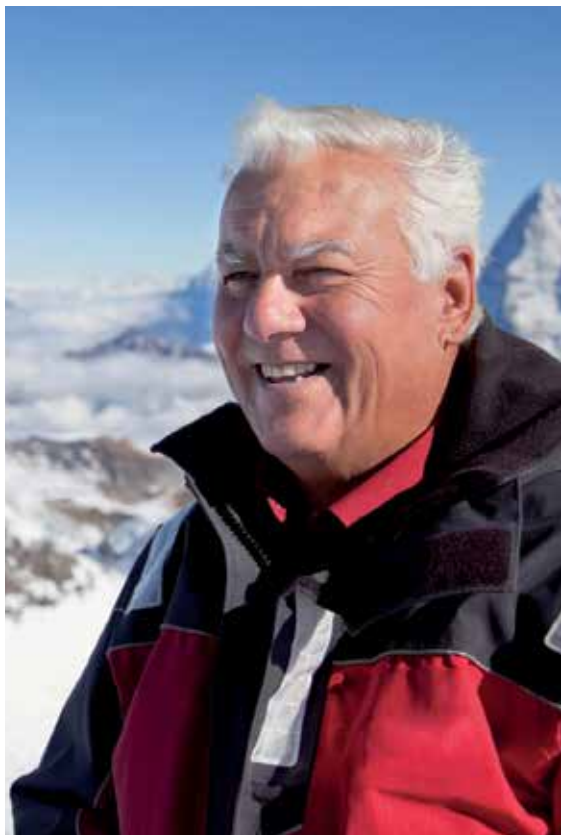
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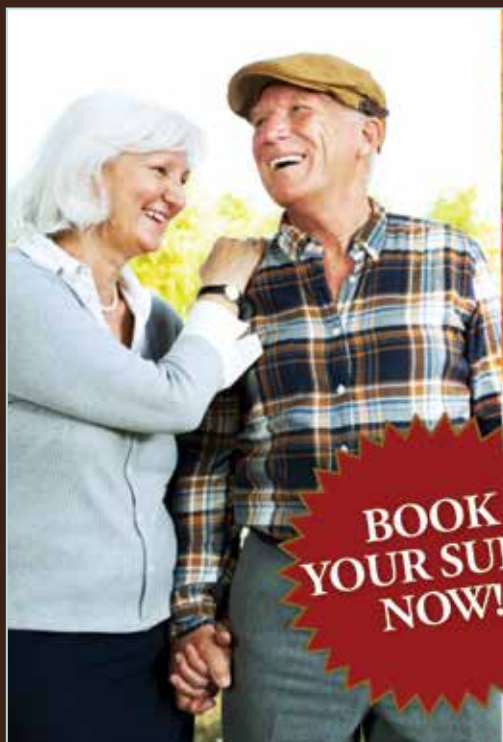
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# WATER HAZARDS ARE FOR GRANDDAUGHTERS TOO!

*M*y granddaughter Samantha is 5 going on 14. A major pleasure is having her stay over for a night.

Like many children of that tender know-everything age, Samantha can be a picky eater. Tomato soup and Kraft Dinner are best eaten cold. Sandwiches are de-crusted and cut in quarters. A bite is taken out of the tip of each triangle and "grandpas" eats the rest. Her mug is inscribed, "I am the Goddess of Everything."

So for our first sleepover in April, Samantha played with her food, then said, "I can't eat if everyone is watching!" When she said she was finished, imagine our surprise when we didn't see any crusts left on the plate.

Next sleepover, same thing.

During the third sleepover Samantha asked if the ducks were on the ponds. We said, "Yes." She announced that she wanted to see them. We put on our spring jackets....ah, but let me digress....

The previous October Samantha had spent a night at our house. The next day we took her to see the Group of Seven paintings. When Samantha got back to her house, she took off like a shot, went to her room, slammed the door and warned us to "keep out!" She reappeared to watch TV and then it was time for bed. Like most pre-school children, our budding artist, Samantha had saved every drawing and project she had ever made in whatever advanced institution of learning she had attended during the first years of her life. When her mother took her to her room for bed, she found that Samantha had taped most of these items to the wall and had rearranged her plentiful supply of toys and books on shelves, floor, bed, etc. We all congregated in the bedroom and asked Samantha what this was all about. "I put them in groups," she said, "just like at the art gallery." Sure enough, her pictures, books, and toys were grouped in sevens.

Then one November afternoon as we prepared for another sleepover, we walked across an unseasonably warm wind-swept Master's South. With no golfers to disturb their realm,

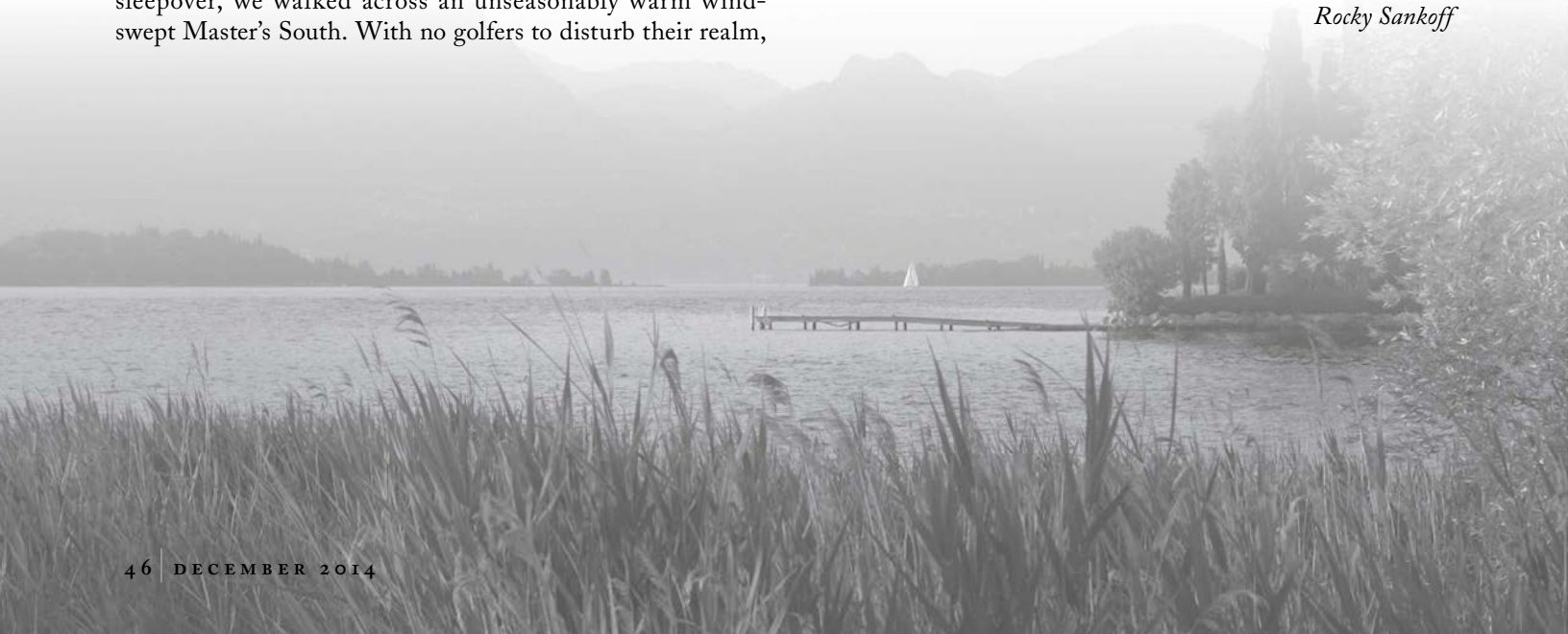
several ducks paddled serenely back and forth across the water hazard. Being aware of the possible presence of these fowl, I had stuffed a few bread crusts in my pocket. These crusts were now produced and Samantha proceeded to feed the ducks.

During the third April sleepover, noted earlier, and our early spring visit to the pond, we took no food. We walked to the pond's edge to see the ducks. Samantha pulled several crusts out of her pocket and fed the ducks. I didn't say a word. When we got home I asked where she had gotten the bread. "I saved it from my sandwiches," she said, innocently volunteering that she had more. Being a former school teacher, and having taken a course many years ago in philosophical logic and mathematics at university, it wasn't too difficult for me to multiply two by two on my slide rule and come up with 3.9999.

I gently confronted her with the possibility that she had been purloining her sandwiches from the last few sleepovers and saving them for the ducks. Without any coercion or threats of incomprehensible tortures she freely admitted that this was so. "Do tell," I said calmly, "where are the crusts now?" She led me to the closet of Shirl's multi-use "Blue Room" (toy storage, office, toy storage, library, toy storage, craft workshop, miscellaneous storage) which doubles as Samantha's sleeping quarters. Deftly removing items not required by a 5 1/2 year old going on 14 she dug into various materials and came up with a plastic Walmart bag. Then I realized what was happening. Her Group of Seven project had nothing to do with the seven painters. She was simply sorting. We were nurturing a scientist! She was a budding Alexander Fleming (penicillin discoverer), a Selman Waksman (discoverer of Streptomycin and other antibiotics), a newly-hatched microbiologist to be. I opened the bag. Sure enough. On the bread crusts, growing amongst the black bread mould, was a beautiful blue-green population of penicillium mould.

Remember this story when the Nobel Prizes are announced in 2050! 🐼

*Rocky Sankoff*



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