

MARCH 2015

HOME *ON THE* *Green*

COMMUNITY LIFE IN THE
BALLANTRAE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

Robert Pitour - Keukenhof Gardens, Holland

Also in this issue:

Shaping up for the Games

New Neighbourhood Noshing Section

Club News

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P.O. Box 849 Stouffville, ON L4A 7Z9

*A magazine for and about the residents of
The Ballantrae Golf & Country Club Community.
A positive community voice to inform and entertain.*

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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. *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.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

By the time you read this, spring will have arrived in Ballantrae and many of our snowbirds will be returning. Spring is a time of growth and renewal and that is certainly true for *Home on the Green*. Our dedicated team of volunteers has been working hard to refresh and energize the pages of our community magazine. We hope you like what you see and read in this and future issues. Should you prefer to read your issue online, we now have the entire magazine available on ourbgcc.com. In fact, the past four issues, including this one, are available. Have a look!

You may remember that we conducted a readership survey last fall. We have used much of your feedback to make the many changes you will notice in this issue. The research results were extremely positive and helpful to all of us here at *HOTG* and we want to thank you for taking the time to tell us your thoughts.

Valery mentioned some of the highlights of the research in her December column, including the data that almost 90% of people rated *HOTG* as excellent (54%) or very good (35%). Now that we have had more time to review the findings, I thought I would share some of them with you. (Note: you can always go on our website, ourbgcc.com to find the full report in the activities section under *HOTG*.)

Along with positive ratings for our current contributors, new topics of high interest included restaurant reviews, health and wellness, plus travel experiences. We received over 100 verbatim comments; rest assured, we read them all! There was a desire for more colour, more pictures, more coverage of activities in and around the community. Many of you are enjoying the profiles of residents and people of interest to the community and we thank you for suggesting folks for future profiles.

Finally, you were very supportive of our advertisers with three-quarters of you indicating that you use *HOTG* to find products and services either "Always" or "Mostly." Given the importance of our advertisers, this is terrific news. All in all, your positive feedback will help us evolve and improve *HOTG*.

On a sadder note, we are saying good-bye to our wonderful editor, Valery Vollenweider. Valery is stepping down for health reasons and I want to thank her personally for her dedication and leadership over the past few months. We will miss her laughter and positive energy.

Donna Clark



A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

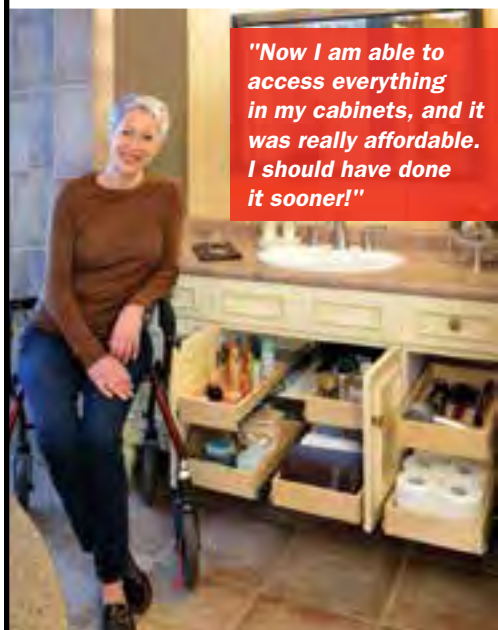
Welcome to the March issue of *Home on the Green*. You will notice there are many new features and design elements in the pages of this edition. Our fresh new look includes colour pages throughout, a vibrant new *HOTG* logo and redesigned text layout. We've also introduced some new feature articles including restaurant reviews on the page titled "Neighbourhood Noshing" and a report on the BGCC Bridge Clubs under the "Club News" heading.

Also new in this issue is the first message from our new Ward 2 Councillor Maurice Smith as well as a Health and Wellness column written by Dayna Stoddart. With the Summer Games taking place this year, Dayna has provided tips for preparing and training for this popular event.

The beautiful picture that graces our front cover is the winning shot from the photo contest. Congratulations to first place winner Robert Pitour who took this photo at the Keukenhof Gardens in Holland. Congratulations also to Phil Teillet who took second place with his photo of the Otago Peninsula in New Zealand. Third place position goes to Anita Draycott for her lovely Venice shot. You can see these winning photos along with a selection of other great shots from the contest in the centre spread.

Many thanks to Pat Whittingham for expertly designing and managing the photo contest and to Cathy Boyd, Terry Coulson and Brian Freedman for their contribution on the five-member judging team. Thanks also to the 19 residents who submitted a total of 88 stunning photographs for consideration. Be sure to check the ourbgcc.com website for more results and for instructions on how you can view a selection of shots from each of the participating photographers.

Valery Vollenweider



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCILLOR MORE FROM MAURICE



I was truly humbled by the municipal election results of last October in which I was elected your Councillor for Ward 2.

In order to be elected to a public office you must have the drive and commitment to work diligently and to make available the time required. You must also surround yourself with people who are prepared to provide their own time and efforts for you to achieve your goal. To my wife Jane and to the campaign team I was fortunate to have around me, I owe a heartfelt thank you for their outstanding support and work.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is divided into six wards. Through the municipal election process one councillor is elected to represent each ward. The seventh member of council is the mayor who is elected by all voters within the town.

Ward 2's northern boundary is Davis Drive from Highway 48 to the York-Durham Line. Its eastern boundary is York-Durham Line south from Davis Drive to midway between Hillsdale Drive and Bloomington Road. The southern line extends west from York-Durham Line along Vandorf Road to McCowan Road. Then the western boundary follows McCowan Road from Vandorf Road to St. John's Side Road where the line jogs east to Highway 48 and north to Davis Drive.

A high percentage of Ward 2 residents live within the confines of Ballantrae Golf & Country Club. It is however, a very diverse ward in that it also encompasses many local farm communities, the area around Musselman's Lake and the original homes of the community of Ballantrae.

There is a role for the media to play in any attempt to have voters come out to cast their ballots. However, I believe the people most responsible for a greater voter turnout are the candidates themselves. The total voter turnout for all of Whitchurch-Stouffville was approximately 47%. The Ward 2 turnout was 58.4%. In BGCC over 82% of eligible voters cast a ballot. You are all to be commended for your interest and efforts in this democratic process.

Phil Bannon was the ward representative on council for the past eleven years. He represented our community well over that time, as only a person who has attended so many council meetings could attest, and we should thank him for his service and wish him well in future endeavours.

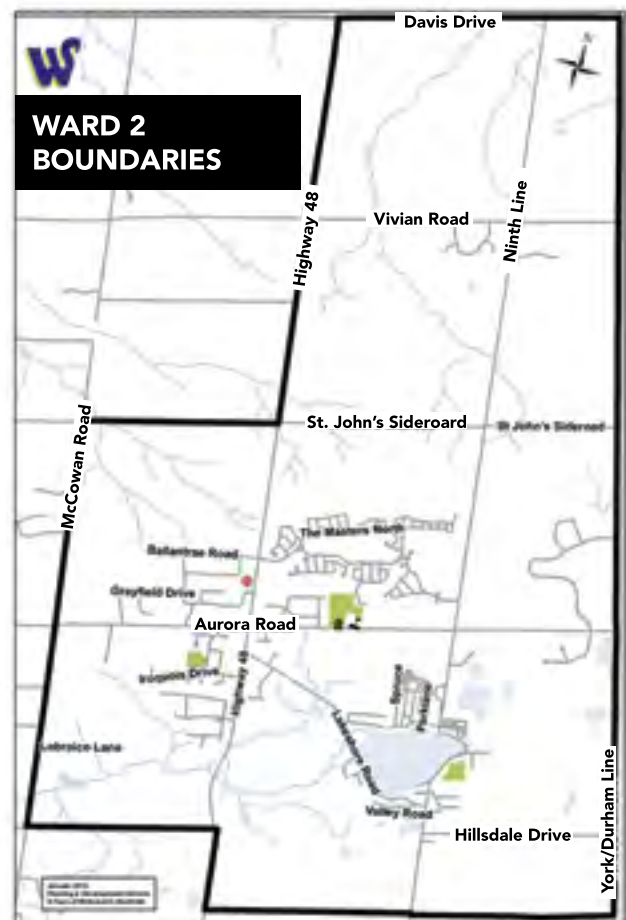
Of the seven members elected to the current Town Council, five, including the Mayor, are first-timers in their roles. Needless to say we have a lot to learn but all are keen supporters of Whitchurch-Stouffville and will endeavour to live up to the expectations of the voters who saw fit to put us there.

The first two or three months of Council meetings have been taken up with orientation matters, meeting the staff and learning who plays what role. We have also held preliminary budget meetings to give town staff guidance as to which items the new council would like in the budget for 2015.

Further, there are committee appointments to be made. Generally speaking each councillor sits on at least two sub-committees of Council. As I have a keen interest in the local library, having served as a public representative on the Library Board for the past eight years, I have requested that I now serve on that same board as a councillor.

The Town produces a booklet each year which contains information about waste management and waste collection dates for our area. These were delivered through Canada Post. If you have a "No unaddressed mail" label on your mail box, your copy would not have been left. I have therefore brought copies of this important booklet to the BGCC Recreation Centre. Just ask at reception for your copy.

If you would like to be on my email list to receive periodic updates on what is happening in our area, just send me your email address. I would be happy to hear from you. My contact information at town hall is: Maurice.smith@townofws.ca



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The Global Economic Forum... and More Food for Thought



One of the goals of our Ballantrae Golf & Country Club Recreation Centre is to facilitate wellness in all phases of life, including mental fitness. To that end there are many enticing programs here.

One of the most interesting is a twice-monthly discussion/speakers group called the Global Economic Forum, a formal title loosely interpreted by the organizers. It was started by a group of men on the treadmills in the BGCC gym discussing various issues on the TV news. They decided that since they hadn't solved the world's problems at the end of their workouts, and since there was no neighbourhood Tim Horton's, they would bring their coffee to our Recreation Centre and continue their discussions. Of course there are many people in our community with fascinating and wide-ranging experience. Many have been requested to speak on their area of expertise. The breadth of the topics covered has been amazing.

This year speakers have included, among others, John McLellan (the business of golf course operation), Doug McIntyre (taking a company public), Gil Scott (the business of sports), Ian Rosenfeldt (career skills needed in the 21st century), Herb Rempel (the bond market and economic indicators), Glenn Crosby (commercial real estate), Bill Balfour (provision of fresh water—local and global) and Dan Fearon (high frequency trading).

Both Helena Jaczek, our MPP and Paul Calandra, our MP, were impressive in speaking about their roles in the provincial and federal parliaments. Future topics will include the economics of education (Karl Kinzinger), economics 101 (John Graham), and socialism vs. capitalism (Bernard Downes).

The intent of this group is to have a discussion. They meet the second and fourth Wednesday of each month (September-May) at 9:30 a.m. in the Recreation Centre. One meeting is a discussion of a specific topic; the next features a speaker. It is open to all BGCC residents. If you or a neighbour want to suggest an interesting topic or speaker, the organizers would be glad to hear from you.

Beyond this group, (and outside of physical activities), there are many groups that might be of interest. Bridge, euchre and other card games, bingo and Mah Jongg, book clubs, choir, quilting and stitch'n chat are weekly events. On top of those events, there are regular social events usually held at our Recreation Centre.

Many Ballantrae people support our local theatres in Stouffville, Markham, Aurora, and Newmarket. The York Symphony is wonderful. The University of Toronto sponsors a fall and spring lecture series at the Markham Council Chambers, with a wide range of topics ranging from history to architecture, science to literature.

No matter where your interests lie, be sure to participate in these nearby events. They are certainly worth your time!

~ Lynne Balfour





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We have all heard the saying, “use it or lose it.” It’s very true. A consistent physical activity regimen is another component of successful aging.

What is your current fitness regimen? Do you have a Physical Activity Plan? If the answer is no, contact me, your Wellness Director, to evaluate your fitness level and to get you started on your plan.

Whatever your activity level, it’s never too late to start. Consistency is the key. Maintaining a certain level of fitness is important so that you do not predispose yourself to injuries when you overdo a sport, especially during the games! It’s important to get out and maintain a level of fitness at least every couple of days, because if you are not stimulating your muscles regularly you are at a higher risk of injury. The longer you are inactive, the longer you need to warm up to avoid injury. Remember that you also need to spend time in the cool-down phase so that you don’t build up lactate and other by-products of a heavy workout. Stretching is very important.

As your Wellness Director, I will offer event-specific preparation sessions in late spring/early summer of 2015. These sessions will include:

- ✓ HOW TO WARM UP WITH DYNAMIC STRETCHING
- ✓ SETTING GOALS
- ✓ STATIC STRETCHING
- ✓ SPORT-SPECIFIC TRAINING

“Fail to prepare, prepare to fail” is one of my favourite quotes. Don’t let that happen to you.

~ Dayna Stoddart, Wellness Director

TIPS FOR PREPARING FOR THE GAMES

NOW is the time to think about creating your own plan of action to prepare for the event(s) in which you will participate. Participation and fun are key elements to the success of the games. Whether you are seasoned to your event or a beginner, practice and sport-specific training are necessary. In order to make your preparation fun, safe and successful, keep these 10 key points in mind:

- 1 Set goals: start slowly and build gradually.
- 2 Ensure you have the appropriate attire and gear, specific to your sport/event. Always consider both safety and performance.
- 3 Practise consistently each week.
- 4 Listen to your body as you train/practise. Do not push into pain. Be aware of old injuries.
- 5 Always warm up prior to training for your specific sport, i.e., dynamic stretching to warm up muscles and joints.
- 6 Always cool down after training for your specific sport, i.e., static stretching.
- 7 Fuel your body with nutrient-dense whole foods. Each meal should consist of lean protein, complex carbohydrates and good fats.
- 8 Hydrate and stay hydrated. Water is key.
- 9 Document your progress over the weeks as we get closer to the games.
- 10 Have fun!





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Q&A WITH DOUG CARRICK

A ROUND WITH BALLANTRAE'S GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT

Last summer I had the pleasure of playing 18 holes with Doug Carrick, Ballantrae's very own golf course architect. And yes, even Doug has trouble sticking some of our greens. His approach to the first green ran off the left and into the bunker (more on that to come). Doug, one of the nicest guys you'll ever meet, has an impressive portfolio. Some of his designs include Muskoka Bay in Gravenhurst, Bigwin Island in Muskoka and The Carrick in Scotland. He's currently working on the new Lebovik course in Aurora and Friday Harbour at Big Bay Point in Barrie.

How did you get started in golf course design?

I was about ten years old when I first caddied for my dad. I loved the game immediately and started to play as an amateur. I soon realized that I was never going to make a living as a pro so I started to take more interest in the design aspect. I took the Landscape Architect Program at the University of Georgia. My first job was with Tom McBroom. In the early 1980s I worked for Robbie Robinson who had worked with Stanley Thompson.

Tell me about your first round at Ballantrae. I'll never forget it. On the 15th I shot a hole in one just as John McLellan, the general manager, drove by on a cart. The guys I was playing with were really excited. "Doug got the first ace!" they shouted. John chuckled. "No, it's not the first," he said. "One of the plumbers got one earlier on the fourth." He stole my fire.

What challenges are involved in designing a course such as Ballantrae? My goal was to make it playable and fun for players of average skill but still make it challenging for low handicappers. There's lots of room off the tees but you'll make or break your pars on the greens. I tried to keep people's backyards out of the line of fire but a few places got squeezed, especially in Condo 5 on number 16.

What's the signature hole? I tend not to have just one signature hole; instead I try to create 18 good ones and make each distinctive. It would be tough for me to name a signature hole here at Ballantrae—probably the one on which I make par or birdie.

Let's talk about your greens. My folks used to live here; in fact my dad and his pal, Bill Burrow, started the Men's League. My dad got razed about the greens all the time. "Tell your son he's a sadist," his buddies would say. Actually, the greens here were modelled after Pinehurst 2. The secret to sticking them? A high and soft approach.

What were your marching orders from Gus Schickedanz? Gus wasn't a golfer. The only course he'd ever been on was Augusta National. I took him over to see Osprey, a course I designed in Orangeville but he commented that it was not what he wanted. He said it "looked like the moon" and preferred Ballantrae to be "totally natural like Augusta" with no earth moved. That's funny because Augusta is far from natural. Now that I think about it, most of my clients have never played golf. That probably makes my job easier.

Do you have a favourite golf course? No, but everything Stanley Thompson designed is good. I'm a member of Summit, his course in Richmond Hill.

What pro golfers do you like? One of my favourites is Ricky Fowler. He has a nice demeanour and he's good for the game.

Where would your ultimate golf holiday take you? To the highlands of Scotland. I love that countryside.

~ Anita Draycott

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Tell Them I'm Out!



I find it difficult to keep up with all of the changes that are taking place in my life.

Granted, some change is inevitable, and so gradual as to go almost unchallenged. Other changes are accepted grudgingly and quite often with reluctance and regret. Mind you, I have no plans to enter the Men's 3K run this year at the Ballantrae Summer Games. But then again, I haven't run 3K since I was in my 20s. There is a 1K walk that might work – although it might be more appealing if they listed it as a 1K “stroll.”

However, many of the changes that confuse me have nothing to do with athletics. They are less obvious and occur without my knowledge. It's as if I awoke one day to a brand new persona, a new me if you will, fulfilling a new role in everyone's life. Somehow, we've gone from “I'll get that” to “Let me do that for you, Dad.” People even ask me to be careful when I am out walking in the weather. They seem to be afraid that I will fall over.

And don't get me started on movies and TV! Why the hell does everyone have to talk so fast? I swear the local channel weather guy would make coffee nervous. There are only about three movies a year that appeal to me. The shootings, the language and the sex in the others are boring. Imagine thinking sex is boring!! There's a change!

Now I know some of us are a little older than many of the newer arrivals in Ballantrae Golf & Country Club but I'm just trying to warn you that you'll find things changing too. When we moved here a few years ago, I observed that many were somewhat more ancient and less active than I.

I appear to be catching up. Mind you, I enjoy life here and look forward to each day probably because my “young” friends here keep me so busy.

In order to truly enjoy my life now, I have discovered the benefits of an afternoon nap. Someone once told me that Winston Churchill was a champion “napper.” That was all I needed. If it was good enough for Winnie it is certainly good enough for me. Unfortunately, this relatively new habit has not been without controversy in our home. Originally my wife regarded the nap as some “failing” only resorted to by the very elderly and

infirm. At some level, she seemed to feel that the nap represented a manifestation of sloth that would diminish me in the estimation of friends and neighbours. To simply suggest that I didn't care what the neighbours or others felt about my afternoon swoon did not do much to persuade her to change her opinion.

So it seemed necessary that we develop a few key phrases which could be used at the door or on the phone if people called during my nap. The simplest response on the phone was, “He's not in right now.” That seemed to work well in principle, however my friends wanted more information. “When will he be back?” was the easiest to deal with. The ever-popular “Where is he?” and “What's he doing?” complicated the situation a tad. Visitors at the door presented a more complex problem. Consider the various complications of telling someone who noticed the absence of tire tracks or footprints in freshly fallen snow on the drive that I wasn't home. They might have suspected foul play – or even worse – that we were in the middle of something “private”!

With the passage of time and having confessed this habit to our friends, we have settled on the only appropriate response to callers during a nap. We tell them I am resting. We don't quite know what I am resting from or for – but it seems to work.

In passing I might briefly mention one other situation which has caused some internal conflict. When people call and your spouse is in the bathroom you must never acknowledge that fact. You can say almost anything up to and including “lost” but you can never admit that we use that room. Apparently that directive was in the marriage contract that I should have examined more closely.

~ John Gorman


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Buy More & Pay Less

Our holiday shopping is behind us and the bills have been paid. Looking back with a critical eye, how many of us have maximized our purchases and minimized our costs? Is it possible to buy more items; and in fact, pay less? Let's examine some of the ways.

Many services, especially telecommunications, can be bundled to save money. Purchase more services from one company and you can obtain significant savings. Another tactic is to negotiate "loyalty discounts" with these same service providers. Each year, I call my service provider to discuss better deals offered by other companies and ask why I should remain with my current company. I was able to negotiate my current deal which includes a significant discount off television, internet, and home phone services. In addition, I received an upgrade to "fibre" (faster internet), an additional 200 GB of internet download capability, a PVR, an enhanced combination modem/router, advanced technical support, and a paper invoice – all free. Free, except for the (ugh) 1.5 hours on the phone.

Many of us rent items we could otherwise buy. Consider your water heater and the fact that you have been paying a monthly rental (\$13-\$26) for all of these years. How often has it needed servicing, let alone replacement? Consider purchasing your rental water heater from Enbridge or replacing it with a new purchased unit. Depending on its age, you may pay as little as a few hundred dollars for your existing unit. In over forty years of owning a home, I have had one service call and have never replaced a water heater. However, never, ever, purchase a water heater from a door-to-door salesperson.

Other items that are cheaper to buy than to rent are television digital boxes, PVRs, modems, and routers. The breakeven point is 1-2+ years and for a few dollars a month, you can obtain replacement protection just as you have for your rental boxes.

Many retailers offer "BOGO" (Buy One Get One) deals; however, I hear people saying that they don't need two of these items. Why not combine with another person to obtain these deals. I even did this once in the store with a stranger. Eyeglasses, shoes, clothing, golf, and restaurants are just a few of the deals.

By purchasing more at designated times, you can achieve considerable savings. We all know about Boxing Day, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday, but many retailers also have warehouse sales to rid themselves of excess inventory. Be wary of trendy or "end of line" goods.

Purchasing more goods online will save money. Further savings can be achieved by having the retailer ship gifts directly to the recipient. (Refer to my previous article on online purchasing in the March 2014 issue). Websites such as Groupon and WagJag offer discounts on many items. Take advantage of these discounts to purchase items already on your list or to try a new but expensive restaurant at half the normal price.

"Buy Now, Pay Later" is a tactic that only favours the seller. Purchasing big ticket items with cash or debit is much cheaper in the long run, than leasing, renting, or buying on credit. There are some legitimate "interest free" purchases but be cautious. Failure to complete the "interest free" payments on time, could result in a hefty interest charge being applied right back to the beginning. Negotiate an upfront cash discount as a better alternative.

As a Canadian, I am reluctant to offer this last suggestion, but as a consumer, I would be remiss not to mention it. If you are a regular traveller, you are already saving money by purchasing more goods in the US. Not everything is cheaper so do your research first, and you too can save 50% to 90% on many items. Remember to consider the exchange rate and sales tax differences. For snowbirds in Florida, the product must be 28% cheaper to break even (21% when taking the sales tax difference between Florida and Ontario into account) given a 78 cent Canadian dollar. At the moment, the Canadian dollar is extremely volatile so check the current exchange rate prior to making a purchase. Cross border shoppers must also factor in the cost of travel.

By buying more and renting less, by bundling purchases, and by buying more at the right time and place, we can all save money or if you're so inclined, afford even more purchases.

~ Ken Miyauchi



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BALLANTRAE

SUMMER GAMES

The 2015 Summer Games “officially” occur from August 22-30, but these are simply the dates for the competitions between the various condos.

SUMMER GAME QUICK FACTS

Currently, there are over 135 volunteers forming the Organizing Committee that started meeting last June. The key folks are the Condo Captains.

The Games will use up to 200 volunteers (no skills required) to act as officials, traffic controllers, cheerleaders, bartenders, coordinators, judges, referees, etc.

There are 18 different events and many of these are broken down into age-specific categories suitable for all residents. Opening and Closing Ceremonies need helpers.

There will be “Happy Hour” every day in the Entertainment Tent at the Recreation Centre with free food, refreshments, and entertainment provided.

During the weeks leading up to August 22, individual Condo Captains and their many volunteers will be organizing playdowns in the various events in their own condos to determine the individuals or teams that will represent them in the August Games.

REGISTER TODAY!

Surprisingly, many of you have not as yet registered for the Games even though forms have been readily available in the Recreation Centre and even more conveniently on our community website. By simply logging on to **www.ourbgcc.com** and clicking on Activities and then Ballantrae Summer Games you can download the registration sheet for completion and mailing.

This listing on the website also provides full details on the current organization behind the Games. A review of the organizing group will demonstrate just how many of your neighbours are assisting in creating and managing this iconic event.

The Games have become the most significant undertaking in Ballantrae Golf & Country Club. They offer a unique opportunity for us to come together, to meet new friends and to share some great fun. Please don't plan to be on vacation in August so that you can participate and compete in the Summer Games.

~ Harry Renaud

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An Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration

From the vintage train, wooden trike and ice skates under the tree to the quaint gingerbread houses used as centrepieces, the decor of bygone days was evident at our ninth annual Christmas Dinner and Dance held on December 14. Carollers singing under a street lamp brightened an otherwise dark corner. Swathed in soft green lighting and decked out in swags and wreaths, the rooms were indeed dressed for the festive season.

Dinner was tasty, the drinks flowed and the smooth vocals of Jennifer of J and R Entertainment made for easy listening. There was some carolling and the dance floor was crowded most of the evening with enthusiastic revellers staying well past 9:30 p.m.!

Our MC for the evening, Hugh Pereira, was adept at keeping things lively, even encouraging diners to sing for prizes. Maureen and Bernard Downes did just that by bravely crooning the lyrics to an old Christmas favourite.

The Social Committee is grateful to those generous individuals who donated gifts for the event. Prizes were many and varied and a mini auction was held for Leaf tickets with the proceeds going to the Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers charity.

Special thanks go to decorating guru Kathy McLeod who once again did such a stellar job.

Finally, cheers for the evening's organizer, Audrey Pereira, who with her helpers did an excellent job of making the evening a fun-filled and memorable event.

~ Kathy Billington



Ladies' Christmas Dinner Nutcracker Sweet



The theme of the annual Ladies' Christmas Dinner last November was The Nutcracker, as evidenced by a multitude of nutcrackers among the decorations. Guests arrived at the Recreation Centre around 5:30 p.m., beautifully attired and keen to mingle with their friends while enjoying the magical ambience created by Kathy McLeod's decorating team.

Amanda Mills, a 17-year-old accomplished ballet student, started off the evening by twirling among the tables to music from Tchaikovsky's much-loved *Nutcracker Suite*. She gracefully set the mood with a flawless performance.

Dinner, catered by O'Malley's, was a delicious turkey meal with all the trimmings. For the finale, we enjoyed the EmBellished Handbell Quartet from Aurora who played magical songs with numerous and various sized bells. Between songs, Lisa Kyriakides explained the history of the bells, why they wear gloves to play them, the various ways they make sounds and how they work. Then it was time for audience participants to ring the bells and play *Joy to the World*. We quickly realized the skill involved to provide a pleasing outcome.

A fun all-women evening was had by all. Thanks to everyone involved for making it such a success!

~ Carollyne Kaise

Christmas Concert 2014

Two residents told me that the Ballantrae Choir Christmas Concert of 2014 was our best ever. Hubby received a compliment on the performance while pumping gas at the local station and Jim Dyer was chatted up about the concert at Walmart.

All these kind words were shared with the rest of the choir at our annual dinner, so we were all feeling really good about our efforts and the approval of our audience.

The music this year was fun and uplifting, well chosen by our choirmaster, Lisa Kyriakides and the committee. A gospel rendition of *Jesus, What A Wonderful Child* was the choir's favourite, while *Winter's Heart* and the octet's numbers were crowd pleasers. Former choir members from the audience joined us in singing *Hallelujah* in celebration of the ten-year anniversary of our neighbourhood choir.

Both performances sold out and we were once again supported by very talented musicians with the added bonus of a magnificent performance by guest pianist, Mathieu Poirier. Just as good as a visit from Santa to get you into the Christmas spirit!

~ Pat Wood



Friday Mixed Golf Christmas Party

On November 28, 2014 the Friday Mixed Golf Group celebrated our Christmas party at a new venue. Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club welcomed us with beautiful decorations throughout as well as a delicious turkey dinner. Although we were limited to 175 guests (due to government regulations), everyone was impressed and excited with the new location. Our "second annual putting contest" took place with half of the proceeds going to the winner, Sandy Hinch, who very generously donated the money back to the Food Bank. The Pacemakers provided the entertainment and were, as always, a great success.

Total proceeds from the Christmas Party to the Food Bank were \$1,075.00, plus more than 100 pounds of food. The Friday Mixed Golf League has raised a total of \$2,594, in addition to over 250 pounds of food this year through golfing events. Not bad...and all for a good cause!

~ Reg Crozier



Gone Fishin' at Ripley's Aquarium

Bright and early on November 10, a group of 55 enthusiastic BGCC residents boarded a luxury coach bound for Ripley's Aquarium of Canada in downtown Toronto. In addition to being educational and beautiful, the aquarium's focus is on conservation. Its operational standards promote sustainable husbandry, zoological practices, research, ecological stewardship and entertainment.

I was particularly impressed by the gallery dedicated to the aquatic life of Canadian waters, including the Great Lakes. There are some pretty strange looking fish in those lakes! Equally impressive was the "How It Works" display at the end of the tour. I have a small fresh-water aquarium and know firsthand just how complicated it is to maintain a quality environment for 10 fish, let alone 16,000.

Fact: in the entire world, fewer than 10 people die every year from shark attacks. Humans, however, kill about 100 million sharks each year. The Dangerous Lagoon Gallery, home to more species of sharks than I ever dreamed existed, is probably the most popular display.

Back on the bus we headed to Jack Astor's for lunch which everyone enjoyed. I don't think anyone ordered fish!

Thanks to Gisela Weger for organizing yet another enjoyable road trip with our friends here at BGCC.

~ Bonnie Fleischaker



Sunday Nine & Dine Golf

After a rough start in which two of the first four golf games were rained out, we had a good run and ended playing on seven of the nine dates. This year we instituted a new non-competitive golf format and awarded all prizes through random draws.

Our 2014 season-ending event, the "Putt Up or Shut Up" contest put everyone's putting skills to the test. The team of Pat Field, Ron Field, and Carl Gamm was awarded the Sunday Nine & Dine 2014 Challenge Cup.

The 2015 season is almost upon us and we are looking forward to another year of good company, good food, and sometimes good golf. We get together every second Sunday afternoon. Welcome back to our returning golfers. New players are also welcome. Contact Ken Miyauchi at 905-640-PLAY (7529) or at kenmiyauchi@rogers.com.

~ Ken Miyauchi



Breath of Fresh Air

"Fantastic!" "Wonderful!" "Fabulous!" were some of the comments we heard from the red-cheeked walkers returning from the first "Breath of Fresh Air" hike in the North Track Forest on January 25. Art Sanders and Tex Bryden (also our photographer) were our guides.

More non-walkers joined us for lunch which consisted of ten homemade donated soups served with fresh bread, followed by dessert of apple pie with ice cream and clementines. Ferrero Rocher chocolates were also handed out to everyone after the meal.

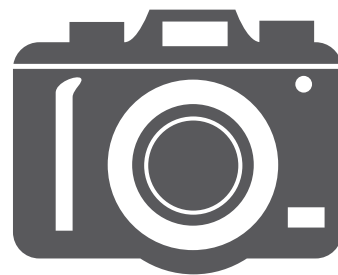
A big thank you to our generous contributors.

~ Mariette Blouin-Johnson



Ballantrae Golf & Country Club

Photo Contest



Wishing to engage more of our residents in *HOTG* magazine, we invited the community to submit up to five digital images each, taken in the past five years, reflecting landscape, wildlife, floral and travel photos of which they are particularly proud. We are pleased to have received 19 submissions with a total of 88 images.

The judging committee was comprised of Cathy Boyd, Terry Coulson, Brian Freedman, Valery Vollenweider and myself. The judges, of course, could not compete. We independently rated each image on a ten-point scale: composition (4), technical quality (2), impact (2) and cover suitability (2). Images were ranked and the top four were then reviewed a second time to affirm their placement and suitability for the cover.

Quality-wise, the images speak for themselves. Some were truly spectacular and would make wonderful fine-art prints to be framed and hung, or they could be part of a travel book.

We hope that this contest proves popular with our readers so that we can repeat it in the future. Personally, I hope it encourages our travellers and hobbyist shutterbugs to shoot portrait-oriented (vertical) shots on upcoming adventures with the specific goal of potentially seeing the image grace a future cover of *Home on the Green*.

We want to thank all contributors and participants for their work and time. I trust you'll enjoy the cover and centre spread. We'd love to get your feedback for the future.

~ Pat Whittingham
Contest Coordinator



1st Place Photo

Taken by Robert Pitour
at Keukenhof Gardens
in Holland

See our top entries on next page...



2nd Place Photo

Phil Teillet
Otago Peninsula, New Zealand



3rd Place Photo

Anita Draycott
Gondola in Venice



Rudy Niessink - Golden Pavilion, Kyoto



Cy Bulkis - Danco Coast, Antarctica



Jane Keast - Aurland, Norway



Bill McLelland - Mosaic Wall, Cochen, Germany



Marna Moldon - Maui, Hawaii



Frank Allison - Great Grey Owl, Brooklin, Ontario



Anne Brewing - Manatee County, Florida



Shirl Sankoff - Betws-y-Coed, England



Brian Smith - Sunset, Bangkok



Karen MacKay - Gourdon, France

BGCC Tennis Club 2015

Even though there is no activity on the courts at this time, there are lots of activities taking place at the executive committee meetings/planning for the 2015 season. To date we have reviewed and updated our constitution and bylaws as well as our 2015 budget. These will be presented to the membership for approval at our June general meeting.

Registration this year will take place on Saturday, April 25 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing all our previous (120+) members return, plus we are hoping new residents who have moved into the community will join us.

At the registration, we hope to have all of our directors on site to discuss their various activities and how to become involved. We are also looking to provide online registration for those who cannot make it on the 25th. In person or online registration will start at 10:00 a.m. to provide equal opportunity to those wanting to join groups for which there are limited numbers.

This year, we plan on providing most of our information to the membership via the BGCC website/Tennis. We are hoping that this option will improve communications by posting when events will take place, team lists, results of those events, weekly sign-ups sheets and standings.

Our year-end awards event is being reviewed by Ginny Tullis, Mary Freedman and Vicki Carter to come up with possible venue alternatives.

Our weekly court time schedule has been updated to reflect this year's changes and our 2015 brochure has been updated to reflect "Dates to Remember" (registration, round robins, socials, men's, ladies', and mixed championships, year-end awards event and general membership meetings). All of the above programs and dates can be found on the BGCC website - www.ourbgcc.com, under Tennis.

Hope to see you on the courts.

~ Garry Stoddart, President 2015



Canada Day Celebration

Wednesday, July 1, 2015
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Snacks, Music & Cash bar

Prizes for Best Costume
& Best Hat

Bring the grandchildren!

Hosted by the Social Committee



Fallsvew Casino Trip

Friday, May 22, 2015

Cost: \$18 per person
(includes \$10 credit for gambling)

Bus leaves Recreation Centre
at 9:30 a.m. and returns at
approximately 6:00 p.m.

Please call: Gisela Weger 905-642-2503

Ballantrae Men's Golf 2015

The Men's Golf League will have a full schedule of weekly games from early May through to the last Tuesday in September. Ballantrae residents who wish to play golf, meet their neighbours and have some fun every Tuesday morning are invited to join the league. In addition to prizes being awarded each week, there are weekly fifty/fifty draws and monthly BBQs.

For additional information please call Phil Kostandoff 905-640-6222 or Jay Adams 905-640-2843.

BALLANTRAE MEN'S LEAGUE SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE 2015

APRIL 28

Pre-season meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Recreation Centre. Once again this year Smith Rogers Financial will sponsor the weekly "Closest to the Pin" challenge.

MAY 5

Opening day for golf at 8:00 a.m.

JUNE 9

Longest Drive, Golf Baseball Challenge (team competition)

JUNE 23 - SPECIAL EVENT; PLANS TBA

Registration for Ryder Cup Tournament, two teams will be arranged. Events: Match play, Alternate shot, Two-man Best Ball

JULY 21 - RYDER CUP TOURNAMENT

JULY 28 - TEAM CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Bill Burrow Trophy awarded to the team with the lowest net score

AUGUST 4

Individual Tee Championship warm-up

AUGUST 11, 18, & 25 - BALLANTRAE MEN'S LEAGUE INDIVIDUAL TEE CHAMPIONSHIP

Everyone qualifies to play in this event

SEPTEMBER 29

Season Finale, Hole-In-One contest
Prize: a new car!

~ Phil Kostandoff

Join the Ballantrae Ladies' Golf League

If you enjoy playing 18 holes of golf plus the fun and fellowship of friends and neighbours, this is the league to join.

We play every Monday from May through September. Generally we play a "fun" game while also allowing you to play your own individual game. All levels of golfers are welcome.

WELCOME COFFEE & REGISTRATION

Monday, April 27, at 10 a.m. in the Recreation Centre

OPENING SCRAMBLE & FUN DAY

Monday, May 4, at 9 a.m.

The golf registration fee of \$50 includes the opening coffee get-together and the final luncheon.

For questions or more information contact: Sandy Hinch at 905-591-3552 or sandyhinch@hotmail.com

Ladies' Dine Around

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Location: Al Dente Italian Restaurant

39 Main Street North, Markham

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m. cocktails & nibbles

7:00 p.m. full sit-down dinner

Price: \$38.00 (tax and gratuity included)

Payable in advance (cash or cheque)
90 Bobby Locke Lane

For reservations:

Verna Woodruff vernawoodruff@rogers.com

Fashion Show

Sunday, May 31, 2015

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BGCC Ladies' No Stress Golf League 2015

ANOTHER FINE SUMMER OF GOLF IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The Ballantrae Ladies' No Stress Golf League plays at the Maples of Ballantrae nine-hole executive course every Tuesday. We are always glad to welcome new members for mornings of fun!

Ladies who only wish to play once a month may join us one Friday a month as we explore York Region to play other executive courses.

Joining our league is a wonderful way to practise your golfing skills in a stress-free environment.

It is also a great opportunity to make new friends and to meet neighbours in our community.

All levels of BGCC golfers are welcome to join in the camaraderie!

OUR GOLFING SEASON BEGINS WITH:

COFFEE MEET & GREET - APRIL 28 AT 10:00 A.M.

Maples of Ballantrae Clubhouse
Cost is \$10 to sign up for the season

OPENING ROUND - MAY 5 AT 9:00 A.M.

For further information please contact: Deb Kimpton, nostressgolf@yahoo.ca or 905-642-6426

Monday Evening "Nine & Dine Golf"

May 11, 2015 to Mid-September, 2015

All are welcome, either as regulars or spares. We will be playing approximately nine times (providing the weather co-operates.) We play a nine-hole scramble format starting at 4:00 p.m. and when finished, we meet in the clubhouse for conversation and dinner.

If you are interested in joining us for a no-pressure evening of fun, give us a call at 905-640-3198 or send an email to billmcllland@rogers.com. We'll sign you up and send you the necessary information. We look forward to seeing you for another great golf season.

Joyce and Bill McLlland

Spring Concert Tribute to Tony Bennett

Sunday, April 19, 2015 - 2:00 p.m.

Ballantrae Recreation Centre

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Tickets: \$15 - Call: 905-640-2790

Thursday Twilight Nine & Dine Golf 2015

We're looking ahead to the golf season and some beautiful sunny days.

Weather permitting, we will start in early May.

This is a fun get-together to encourage golfers of all levels to meet other residents of BGCC.

We play a nine-hole scramble on alternate Thursdays with dinner afterwards in the clubhouse restaurant.

I invite anyone who would like to join us to contact me at liz.jenkins@outlook.com or 905-640-8216.

Live Horse Racing at Woodbine

Friday, June 12, 2015

Cost: \$60 per person (includes \$15 gambling credit and a delicious buffet lunch)

Bus leaves the Recreation Centre at 9:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Please call: Gisela Weger 905-642-2503

Stratford Festival's Carousel

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

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Men's Night Out

Men's Night Out is a monthly get-together of residents of BGCC (and sometimes dignitaries) at a variety of fine restaurants in the area. Our objective is to provide a great meal at an excellent price (generally less than \$40, tax and tip included!) along with interesting discussions on timely topics. This event is organized by resident, Bruce Hyland, who emails the details to interested men each month.

Phone Bruce at 905-642-4984 or email him at mensnightout@rogers.com to get on the monthly distribution list.

*Some say slow and steady wins the race.....
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RECREATION CENTRE

Big Thanks to the Folks Behind the Scenes

We are all proud of our Recreation Centre. It is the jewel of our community and not only adds to our fun, but also contributes to our growing property values.

The Recreation Centre is a fine building but it is only bricks and mortar. What really makes it the hub of Ballantrae are the people who work behind the scenes, without fanfare, to enable the rest of us to enjoy the many activities and events.

We all know Dayna Stoddart, our Wellness Director, who oversees the many fitness classes, activities, and events. Dayna is a Health and Fitness Professional and Active-Aging expert who is highly qualified to manage our programs and does so with dedication and cheerfulness. Without Dayna, our collective health would be worse and New Year's resolutions even more critical.

Ever wondered how the Recreation Centre library was established and remains so well organized? The library is the passion of Sheilagh MacDonald. There are always people using the library facilities and this is a testament to Sheilagh's leadership and dedication.

There are others who ensure that the lights remain on. It is the responsibility of the Condo 1202 Board (Carole Draper, Harry Renaud, Bill Balfour, Wayne Burgess, David Rushton, and Bob Herbert) to ensure that the Recreation Centre is effectively funded, managed, and maintained. The First Service Residential (FSR) management team of Samit Hazra, Adam Hassan, Paul Crawley, Okko Berkhuisen, Leo Kremeris, Mike Sturgess, Lucinda Hodgins, Daniel Hodgins, and Wayne Jackson handle the critical day-to-day management that keeps everything running smoothly. Melfer Property Maintenance including Andrew Gibson and crew keep the grounds looking beautiful and well-maintained. Without these groups, the Recreation Centre would be but a hollow shell.

There is another group of volunteers who are invisible to most of us, not because of their lack of importance, but because they humbly go about their duties and rarely seek recognition. The Social Committee was initially formed by Betty Shukster, and over the years, countless volunteers have worked tirelessly for the betterment of our community. The current Social Committee is comprised of Kathy Billington, Ron Brewing (chair), Geri Flotron, Carollyne Kaise, Mariette Blouin-Johnson, Audrey Pereira, Ajit Sappal, Pam Tulino, Gisela Weger and Verna Woodruff.

This group of resident volunteers devote many hours during the year to ensure that there are activities and events for the rest of us to enjoy: Summer on the Patio, the Canada Day celebrations, the Bollywood Dinner, the Mystery Dinner, the Christmas Dinner & Dance, and various trips, to name a few. At times, they even provide free food. The BGCC website is fast becoming the key communication vehicle and it would not exist without Webmaster, Peter Sims, and the financial support of the Social Committee.

There is another little known side to the Social Committee. The small profit that has been made on paid events has resulted in donations to the local food bank, Heart and Stroke Foundation and Rose of Sharon. Have you noticed the new patio furniture and the new computers in the library? All of these were compliments of the Social Committee and there will be more to come in 2015.

Many of us participate in the wide range of activities at the Recreation Centre. Activities such as table tennis, snooker, and the many card games would not exist without the commitment and painstaking efforts of the many volunteers.

We tend to take the Recreation Centre for granted. It is like the utilities. We pay for and expect to receive electricity and gas for our homes, but they are not items for which we express thankfulness. It is only when these facilities are taken away (e.g. February 2014 Recreation Centre renovation) that voices are heard; unfortunately, usually the negative ones. So, let's all make an extra effort to express our positive thoughts and praise. Next time you see these individuals and groups who so ably support our Recreation Centre and all of us, stop and thank them. Our community would not be the same without them.

~ Ken Miyauchi



Nassau Chop Suey

Last November, Hubby and I went on another cruise, a repositioning one from Barcelona to Miami. After the usual overeating and drinking and the unusual couple of rough sea days, we arrived at Nassau in the Bahamas, our last port of call before disembarkation in Miami. (Do real sailors use such words as disembarkation or just cruisers?)

It was a beautiful day, and from our port side right next to town, Nassau looked very inviting with brightly painted buildings and the sounds of steel drums. We had visited many years before, but decided we needed an update on the place. How were we to know we were one of five ships in port that day, all of them bigger than ours, with two being quite gigantic?

Soon we were part of the hordes of tourists streaming through the port gate into chaos. Adding to the confusion was the construction of new facilities as Nassau readied herself for the upcoming winter season. Wending our way through the crowd, past colourful souvenir huts in our search for a cab tour, we were corralled and herded into a van driven by "Sexy Mary." Our fellow passengers were six young people from China.

I protested that this might not be a good fit, as I was slow getting around and might hold younger people up, but my objections were brushed aside and before I knew it, we were leaving the congestion of the port for the congestion of the streets.

"Sexy Mary" was quite a character, about to be forty-nine the next week. Her short-cropped hair had orange-dyed spikes on top. She was nicely turned out in a navy pantsuit with a crisp white blouse, and loads of bracelets and rings. She told us she was called sexy to distinguish her from the other Mary driver, and because her husband, who also worked as a tour guide, was "Sexy Perry."

Moving at a snail's pace, our tour took us past the usual churches and government buildings as I translated for the Chinese people. (You didn't know I spoke Chinese, did you?) Actually, they all spoke varying levels of English, but couldn't quite understand "Sexy Mary's" Bahamian accent. The young girl sitting next to me kept asking what Mary had said. I repeated as best I could, and she told the others in Chinese.

After a visit to a fort, straw market and rum cake store, Mary told us she was taking us "into the hood," but it was okay as she had grown up there, and everybody knew her. How do you explain "the hood" to a young Chinese tourist, as she looks at you inquiringly? I told her we were going into a rough section of town where poor black people lived and where it was not safe to go at night. Her look changed from inquiring to apprehensive. I might have been nervous myself, had not Mary already proved herself to be very capable and an excellent driver.

The "hood" was pretty primitive: many people with no running water forced to use the community taps curb side. There were lots of people about, all talking, laughing and drinking in the laid-back style of the Caribbean. Mary showed us her school and church with genuine pride in her heritage. I imagine it was a kinder, gentler "hood" than found in some American cities.

Next on our route, we made a giant leap to affluence as we crossed over the bridge to Paradise Island. We were out of the hood but back in the horde, as taxis dumped out their passengers to window shop in Atlantis. The Chinese kids all met up on time as Mary had instructed, slightly shell shocked at the prices of things.

On the return trip, it took us quite a while to get back inside the port. Nassau is not built to accommodate such a tourist horde. All the while, Mary chattered away to us and to the other drivers, laughing and joking and keeping us entertained. I asked her about Sir Harry Oakes, the Canadian millionaire who was murdered in Nassau when the Duke and Duchess of Windsor were there during the Second World War. This was news to Mary, but she insisted I share the info with our Chinese, and told me she would happily include the story in her next tour.

By the time we returned, most cruisers had the same idea and were squeezing back through the gate to the ships. Elbows up, we ambled through, satisfied we had "done" Nassau and feeling kinda lucky to have had such a fun experience. See, you never know what an adventure awaits!

~ Pat Wood



Smokin'



Stouffville's newest eatery on Main Street, The Smokery Kitchen & Bar, is a welcome addition to the local dining scene.

Chef/owner, Christopher Waye, who worked at several of downtown Toronto's upscale restaurants in the Oliver & Bonacini portfolio, has brought his passion for the art of smoking food to his hometown of Stouffville.

"Smoked food requires a lot of care in every step from the brining and curing to the marinades," says Waye. He also takes pride in the fact that everything—from the cornbread to barbecue sauce to the house-smoked bacon—is made from scratch.

The menu changes to suit the seasons but signature dishes, such as coffee-rubbed slowly-smoked brisket, crispy honey fried chicken and both pork and beef ribs are always available. In addition to smoked and barbecue dishes, Waye's menu tempts with twists on such classics as mac & cheese, Caesar salad, devilled eggs and coffee chocolate cheesecake. Prices are moderate; portions are plentiful.

To wash down all this good grub there's a smartly chosen wine list, plenty of beers on tap, fun cocktails and smoky bourbons and scotches.

~ Anita Draycott

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If this quote resonates with you, and you want to visit a Canadian winery without driving all the way to Niagara, take a short trip to the family-owned Gallucci Winery, situated on the Ninth Line, south of Bloomington.

Winemaking was a passionate hobby for Paolo Gallucci, an entrepreneur of 40 years in the meat business. His daughters, Anne Marie Piro, Sonya Sacchetti and Michelle Riccio had always wanted to follow in their dad's footsteps as entrepreneurs, but in a field more appealing than meat! So they persuaded Mr. Gallucci to create another business venture involving his hobby. He saw the potential and was delighted at the thought of leaving a legacy in the wine industry.

Gallucci Winery opened in September 2014 with 15 acres of vines, producing such wines as Frontenac, Baco Noir and Vidal. The vines had been planted nearly five years previously. The family hired a Hungarian winemaker to advise on such details as ideal harvesting times and balancing the wines' acidity levels. Anne Marie and Sonya run the business on a day-to-day basis.

The winery restaurant is open for lunch, serving paninis, cheese platters, pizzas and salads. Gallucci also has an event room for up to 75 people plus a gazebo on the grounds for weddings and other summer events. Weddings are already booked for 2015 and 2016! Tours, which include tastings, are held regularly for those interested in sampling their wares.

So for a new spot for a nice quiet lunch, give Gallucci a try!

~ Sue Gamble



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CLUB NEWS

BRIDGE CLUBS

Practice Bridge, Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Alex Flow: 905-640-1993

If you are interested in playing bridge locally, there are four bridge clubs operating at our Recreation Centre that are basically free to all residents.

If you're a beginner, or want to brush up on your game, this would probably be most appropriate. Even if you've never played, you will be taught and helped, with competent players there to help you as needed. You can watch others play and will be encouraged to go on line for further help. If this is your style, contact Alex or just show up.

Social Bridge, Thursdays, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Peter Sims: 905-640-7449

This is the next level up. Most players are intermediate, with a few duplicate players also joining in. There are usually anywhere from two to six tables, and again there is no need to register in advance.

Intermediate Bridge, Mondays, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Joan Cross: 905-640-3501

This group is further up the ladder, so to speak. They play "duplicate" style, with a maximum of six tables at any one time. Participants sign up on Joan's roster and she arranges the games. Some people choose to act as "spares." She assured me it's social and relaxed, and it runs all year. Some participants don't play in winter and/or summer due to going south or being on the golf course.

Duplicate Bridge, Mondays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Pat Wood: 905-640-9182

This group is for the diehard bridge player, and also has up to six tables, somewhat fewer in winter and summer. Players are asked to contact Pat to be on her roster of regulars (or spares if that is your choice). Players are expected to attend every Monday, unless Pat is advised in advance. There is an occasional small levy for supplies required.

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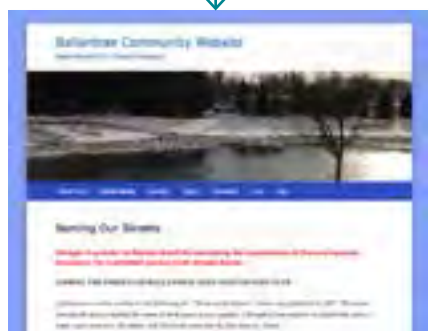
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It's easy. Just go to menu item Condo News and click on Naming Our Streets to view an article written by Maurice Smith who commented in September 2013, "I provided an article similar to this for *Home on the Green*, which was published in 2007. The article detailed the history behind the name of each street in our complex. I thought it important to document this data as many years from now the names will still be the same but the files may be closed."

Webmaster Peter Sims has assembled a wealth of information on this website to inform and assist Ballantrae Golf & Country Club residents. Features such as Events and What's Happening In The Area are designed to provide area-focused information on local fairs, theatre productions and concerts unique to this region.

Such items as the Recreation Centre Lifestyle Guide can be accessed and downloaded from www.ourbgcc.com. It is no longer being distributed door-to-door, however, individual hard copies are available at the Recreation Centre office. Very soon, the spring edition of the Guide will be posted online.

There are bargains to be had in the popular Classifieds section. Because this website is virtually invisible to non-residents, advertisers are confident that enquiries are legitimate and delivery usually no problem. Additionally, buyers have commented on the quality and economy of articles offered for sale.

There is a wealth of information available on the various condos listed under Condo News. In addition to being able to access names and addresses of Board members, much information regarding the history, structure and disciplines of this unique complex is on file. If you would like to see more data on your specific condo page in this category, advise your Board member directly and change can be accomplished quickly.

Over the next few weeks, www.ourbgcc.com will post greatly expanded coverage of the upcoming Ballantrae Summer Games. The website performs an extremely valuable role informing participants of scheduling, results and changes as they occur. Daily reporting of happenings, including social events, will be provided.

Remember, this is your site, designed for your convenience and information. It is a not-for-profit entity that has been developed and maintained by a very small group of volunteers. If you have suggestions or comments, we look forward to receiving them at ourbgcc@rogers.com.

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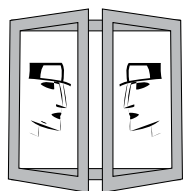
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NOTICES

Ballantrae's Volunteer Assistance Program

"Residents helping residents to meet temporary, non-emergency needs"

We celebrate our resident volunteers, who gladly assist a growing number of our fellow residents just needing a little help.

CALL US FOR:

DRIVES to doctor's/dentist's appointments, physiotherapy, grocery

ODD JOBS such as changing light bulbs, taking out garbage or walking the dog (short-term only), or other little jobs around the house - just ask us.

FRIENDLY VISITING - Are you shut in and wishing someone would visit for a coffee or tea and a chat?

INFORMATION about community resources - Are you wondering where to find that service you may suddenly need?

PHONE: 289-800-2540 (leave a message) or **EMAIL:** help4residents@rogers.com

An Intake Volunteer will respond as soon as possible Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with confidential service.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT now available FOR LOAN - see BGCC website: www.ourbgcc.com

Judy Flow, Coordinator



Calling All BGCC Photographers!

There's another great opportunity coming up for BGCC photography enthusiasts to put their creative shooting skills to work for our community. As Photography Coordinator for *Home on the Green*, I am looking for additional volunteer photographers to help us capture the fun and spirit of this year's Ballantrae Summer Games taking place from August 22 to August 30.

You Call The Shots. Whether you are available to photograph a single activity only or a series of events throughout the Games we encourage you to come out and to be part of the team. No contribution is too small. We will work our schedule around your interests and availability.

All volunteer photographers will receive a complimentary Ballantrae Geek lesson, featuring step-by-step instruction on how to install and to use the popular Dropbox™ service to share photos and files easily with family and friends.

To join the Ballantrae Summer Games volunteer photographer team, or to learn more, please contact me at: brian.freedman@sympatico.ca or 905-640-0874.

~ Brian Freedman

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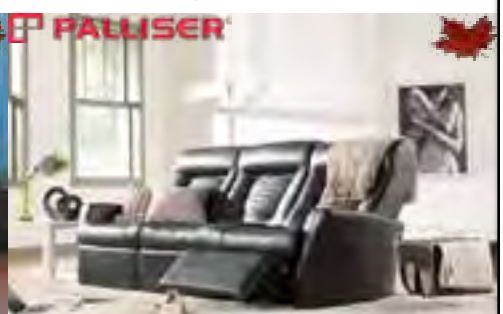
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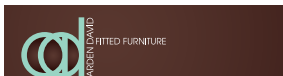
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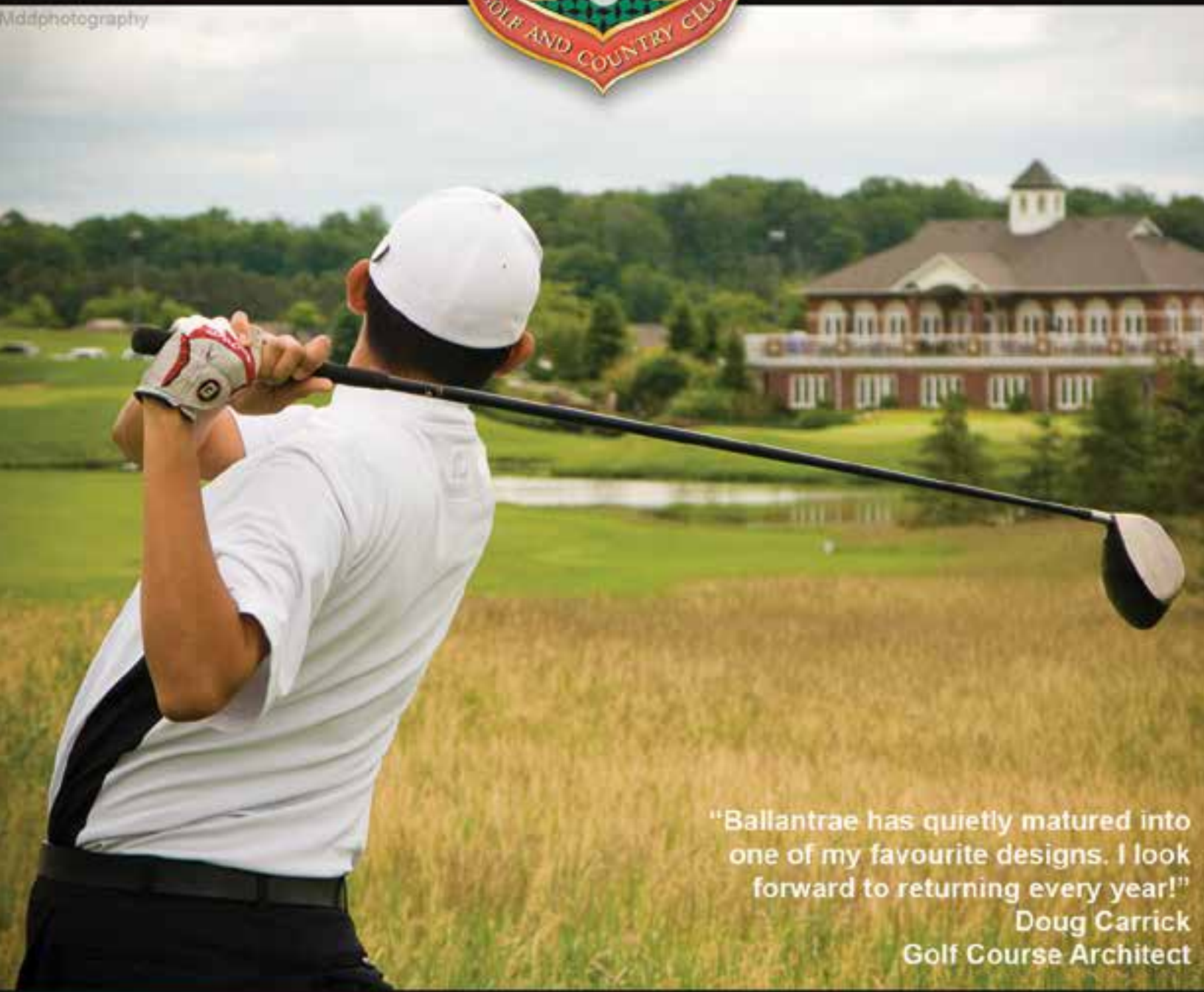


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