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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. 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 of any information submitted by them.

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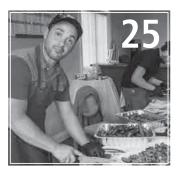
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Mission Statement

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







AN INTRODUCTION TO NEW PEOPLE, FEATURES, THEME AND MORE

ollowing on the heels of our wonderful new editor, Valery Vollenweider, I am making my debut as publisher. Prior to retiring, I worked a number of years in magazine publishing. Arriving in the community about two years ago, I was pleasantly surprised and delighted at the quality of Home on the Green magazine. My husband and I not only enjoyed reading the many articles and columns from fellow residents, we turned to several of the advertisers when renovating and furnishing our home. And now as publisher, I am truly amazed at what an exceptional and dedicated group of volunteers can do. Valery and I are both fully committed to building on past successes while keeping Home on the Green magazine as fresh and entertaining as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lloyd and Kay Pinnock for their many years of outstanding service, first as editors and more recently publishers. The magazine continued to flourish under their leadership and they remain an invaluable resource to both Valery and me.

You will notice in this issue we have introduced a few new elements including:

- · An overall theme of "Safe Living" for this issue. Several articles provide helpful tips and information on this topic including safety on our roads, with our pets, in our cars as well as a humorous take on being too cautious.
- The launch of the photo contest mentioned in the editorial in the June issue. The rules and other information are outlined in the insert that accompanies this issue. We are looking forward to seeing the winning photo on the cover of the March 2015 issue.
- · The first article in our new "Profile" series. We hope to have more profiles on BGCC residents or a person of interest to our community and look forward to getting tips and nominations from you our readers.

We are also conducting a reader survey. We truly need and value your feedback on the magazine as we do this for you, our neighbours and friends. There are a couple of ways you can participate. First, there is a paper survey delivered with this issue. You can fill it out and drop it off at the Recreation Centre. Also, we will be emailing many of you with a link

to the survey. By following the link, you will be able to complete the survey online. It is actually posted on our community website, www.ourbgcc.com. You can also go directly to the website and you will see the survey featured on the "What's New" opening page. Again, follow the link to the survey and fill it out online. All responses are anonymous and confidential and if there are two or more people in your household, we invite you all to complete the

New this issue is a closer relationship with our colleagues at ourbgcc.com. We are introducing a regular column called "What's New on ourbgcc. com" and we hope it will encourage everyone to visit the site more frequently. And if you haven't signed up for the regular email newsletter, you can do so by emailing ourbgcc@rogers.com.

As mentioned above, this magazine has been successful because of our hardworking volunteers and the funding we receive from our advertisers. If you are able to offer your services in any capacity or wish to make a submission, let us know by emailing homeonthegreen@rogers.com. And please support our advertisers as much as possible. Be sure to let them know you saw their ad in Home on the Green magazine.

As you read this we will be moving into fall - a beautiful time here in Ballantrae. I hope you enjoy the season and all the many wonderful activities in and around our community.



Donna Clark Publisher









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PHIL ME IN...

very year I ponder what we can do to make the Ballantrae Wine & Food Festival better. Well, we did it again! The house was rocking! It was another well-attended, fun-filled, successful fundraising event. I want to thank our many volunteers and especially our Committee members, Janice Bannon, Sandra Davies, Phyllis Jackson and Linda Weir, who helped to make the evening the success it was.

This year's recipient, Southlake Regional Health Centre, has now received over \$ 37,000.00. All of this money has been directed to the fight against cancer and heart disease through the purchase of a new "3T MRI." It will have the capacity to provide advanced cardiac and breast imaging needed by so many patients. The 3T is an essential tool in the early detection of breast cancers and provides a more accurate evaluation of the progress of cancers and treatments.

The 2014 municipal election is on Monday, October 27. This election may prove to be the most pivotal time in the history of Whitchurch Stouffville politics. Mayor Emmerson is stepping down. There will be five vacant Council positions up for grabs. Your new mayor will be managing a \$300 million budget over the next four years. He will be your regional councillor and will represent the concerns of this town at both provincial and federal levels. Never has there been a time on the Whitchurch Stouffville Council when there is such a need for strong, experienced leadership. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for you to get out and vote. Please take the time to review candidate qualifications.

All information regarding the election, advance polls, polling stations and proxy votes is available to you online at www.philbannonmayor.com.

The formal dedication of the James Coultice Park (Musselman's Lake) was made at the June 24 Council meeting. Contractors are now on site clearing debris and demolishing the old barn and buildings. We hope to have the park fully operational by the summer of 2015.

On Saturday, September 13, Geranium Homes hosted ground-breaking ceremonies for their new estate development on Lakeshore Road, east of Highway 48.

The National Do Not Call List gives consumers a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls.

If you are a consumer, you can choose to reduce the number of telemarketing calls you receive by registering your residential, wireless, fax or VOIP telephone number on the DNCL. For more information go to www.lnnte-dncl.gc.ca

We continue to come together as a spirited, enthusiastic community. The Ballantrae Summer Games are only 12 months away! I am so very pleased to announce that Harry Renaud has volunteered to chair the 2015 Games. Harry has already started the planning process by meeting with committee members. "Participation" again will be the theme of the games. Please plan on being an active participant in next year's games or helping out as a Condo Captain, Sport Captain or volunteer.

On Saturday, June 28, the Mayor and Council celebrated the grand opening of our new Skateboard Park, located at the Leisure Services Centre. This is a state-of-the-art facility that will be enjoyed for many years to come.

On Sunday, September 7, I hosted the 5th Annual Ballantrae Family Fall Fair, at the Ballantrae Community Park. Families enjoyed a full day of activities including a non-denominational church service featuring Lloyd Knight, Susan Ryman (Brown) and the Freezin Family Band, a Ballantrae Scouts pancake breakfast & Beavertails, farmers' market, craft and bake sale, pony rides and petting zoo, ATV rides, Doo Doo the Clown, live local entertainment, Stouffville Fire & Emergency Services, York Regional Police, Museum, Library and an assortment of fair delights, including face painting, balloon hats and a photo booth.

I am very pleased to announce the donation of \$2,500.00 to the Ballantrae Scouting Group from the proceeds of the 2014 Winter Carnival, Ballantrae Fireworks and Outdoor Movie Night and the Ballantrae Family Fall Fair.

Clean and check your smoke alarms on a regular basis and replace them if any defects are noted. The Fire Marshal's Office recommends that smoke alarms be replaced at least every ten years and we are reaching that time limit in this community. Please ensure that you do replace the batteries on an annual basis.

If you have not registered for or are not receiving my regular "Community Update" emails, please contact me at www.philbannon.ca. (2)



Phil Bannon Councillor Ward #2 Whitchurch-Stouffville 905-640-1910 ext 2701 www.philbannon.ca



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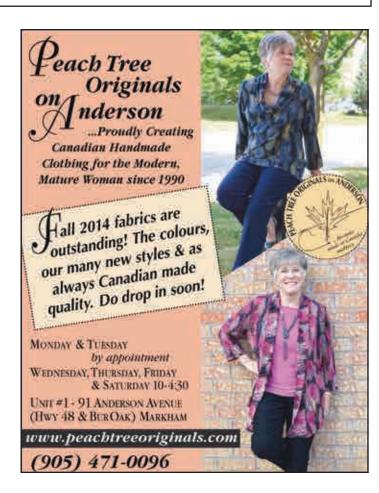


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SAFETY ON OUR STREETS

Mhen we first moved to Ballantrae, I thought I had found paradise. It was like heaven on earth: biking, walking, golfing and fun at the Recreation Centre. But there's a danger lurking on the streets of Ballantrae, and it is ... US!

I recently read an article about the effects of aging on driving. The list of maladies was endless. Apparently we all suffer from arthritis, slowed reaction times, poor eyesight, overmedication... the list goes on.

Wait a minute...we aren't old are we? We moved here just so that we could stay active! After ruefully taking stock of my own many shortcomings, I had to admit that, yes, I was slowing down. I'm not who I used to be. With that realization, I decided to take a look around our Ballantrae to see how we can all be safer on our streets.

First of all, slow down. It is not just the golfers coming into the community who are speeding. Ask your guests to slow down too. My son who is always late for family gatherings uses the excuse that he was following the speed limit on the way in.

Watch for pedestrians. They do in fact have right-of-way when crossing at intersections, including traffic circles.

Signal your turns, both cyclists and motorists.

Come to a full stop at stop signs. Look both ways for cyclists and pedestrians and wait for them to pass by before proceeding.

When overtaking a cyclist, please leave lots of room. Don't just brush past. And please don't try to pass them when a car is approaching from the opposite direction. It leaves little room especially if there is a road grate at the side of the road.

Don't drive up behind a cyclist and then honk. These are your neighbours. Very few are "ride- through" cyclists who are taking a shortcut through Ballantrae.

When stopping your car at the side of the road, check your rearview mirror before flinging your door open. This affects both cyclists and cars.

Be watchful backing out of your driveway, especially on Legendary Trail. Also, while driving on Legendary Trail, be aware that you have quite a blind spot as you round the curve, due to the support bar around your windshield. Have a look. You'll see what I mean!

Stay alert when approaching cart paths that cross the road or use part of the sidewalk. Golfers who don't live here are more likely not to stop or look for pedestrians, cars and bikes.

Give a wide berth to the lawn maintenance crews when they are cutting near the roadways and sidewalks. Lawnmowers can spew out debris of stones and shredded golf balls an incredible distance. And boy does that hurt!

When cycling, ride on the right-hand side of the road. When walking, walk on the left, facing oncoming traffic.

"there's a danger lurking on the streets of Ballantrae, and it's US!"

Don't zoom past a cyclist, then step on the brakes, and abruptly turn right into your driveway -- in the path of a cyclist who cannot stop.

And yes, we are all grown-up (aging) cyclists and don't have to wear helmets when cycling. But please, please do!

Let's keep Ballantrae a beautiful idyllic place to live. Let's look after each other. Happy and safe active aging! (2)

Iane Keast







Families Of Settlers

any readers of this publication are party to the influx of modern settlers and to the subsequent growth of Whitchurch-Stouffville over the past twenty years. We, the new arrivals, have pushed the population of the community beyond the 30,000 mark. I suggest most of us who moved to BGCC did so to live life as retirees surrounded by people with similar goals.

There was a similar twenty-year period of population growth in the years 1840 to 1860. Of course this area of Ontario was then known as Whitchurch Township.

Most of those arriving during that time did not come to retire but to work the land and to provide a better life for their families. The legacy of many of those families and their names can be found in documents in our museum and library. Some, such as Reesor, Grose, Smalley, Cook, Baker, Musselman and Lemon are now found on streets, communities, businesses and prominent farm lots around Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Back in the 1800 period some settlers arrived here via Pennsylvania while others sailed directly from Europe. Many of those arriving from Europe landed in areas around Montreal and simply walked or hitched a ride the rest of the way. Certainly, the treks undertaken by members of those families listed above are well documented. Remember, there was no Mayflower Movers to carry their belongings.

A family name which most of us would recognize today, as at least one of their descendants plays a significant roll in the community, is Emmerson. Thomas and Sarah (Bye) Emmerson were married in Yorkshire, England before embarking on the sea voyage to our part of the new world. They arrived in Whitchurch in the mid 1800s and settled on a 100-acre farm property on Kennedy Road, south of a dusty but well-travelled road known as Bloomington. One of their sons, George, married a local lady named Margaret Kester and they took up residence on another farm further south on Kennedy.

Together on these two farms the Emmersons raised beef cattle and grew crops to supply their family needs and that of the cattle. Along with the farming operation George became a successful blacksmith, having shops in each of Lemonville and Vandorf.

In order to have their children schooled they, along with neighbours, as was common in the day, built a one-room schoolhouse on land adjacent to Thomas's farm. This building remains today but no longer serves as a school.

George and Margaret's oldest boy Arthur eventually took over the operation of the original 100-acre farm. A section of this farm is a stand of maple trees. Within this section Arthur built a sugar shack where the local children could come each year for their annual feast of maple sugar. Arthur's wife Freda (Walker) would ensure there was enough left to bottle for the season ahead. Remnants of that 100-year-old shack still stand in that grove of trees.

Arthur and Freda had five children. One of their boys, Mel, married a lady from Stouffville named Margaret McCowan. It was about the same time that, due to health issues, the original Kennedy Road farm was sold and the Arthur Emmerson family moved to Lemonville. Mel and his new wife moved into a home on Main Street at the corner of Cemetery Lane.

In those days Stouffville had its own hospital. It was known as The Briar Bush and was located on Main Street at the east end of town. At that time of course, many women gave birth to their children at home. However, when it came time for Margaret to bring her children into this world, she simply walked across the street.

One of her children born in that hospital, in 1953, was a son named Wayne. Wayne Emmerson has lived his whole life in Stouffville. He attended SDSS, and played hockey on a team that brought a provincial championship to the community. He eventually became involved in municipal politics. Wayne married Debra and they had two sons. Thereby their sons became the sixth generation of the Emmersons to grow up in Whitchurch Township.

I question whether any of us who have recently settled into BGCC will have a sixth generation living in this area.

P.S. Wayne Emmerson is retiring from local politics at the end of this year after having served the public for 17 years, eleven of those as Mayor. He has guided the town through a legacy of accomplishments; far too many to name them all here but needless to say the core infrastructure of Stouffville was significantly upgraded during his tenure.



Maurice Smith









Fred J. Flood

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Would You Know What To Do?

ot long ago, I received a very anxious call from my husband Art. He had been walking in the forest with our dogs and apparently one of them had cut her leg and was bleeding profusely. He realized that he needed to get her to the vet ASAP, but even though he had his cell phone with him, he did not have the correct number. To make a very long story short,

I had to call the vet, who called me back and then I had to call Art and relay the information to him.

Thankfully Art was able to use the leash as a tourniquet and he quickly got the dogs in the car and headed to the nearest emergency center, which we also had to take the time to look up.

After much anguish and worry on our part, Stella is now fine and back in full form but I do not think Art and I will ever be the same again.

I have now realized how unprepared and uninformed we are to deal with emergencies when it comes to our pets.

When our children were young, we house proofed our homes. And now when the grandchildren visit we try to make our homes as safe as possible. I wonder how many of us have actually thought to make our homes pet safe. If we took a few minutes and looked around, we would probably find such things as cleaning agents, plants, small objects, snack or accessible food that can be deadly to our dogs or cats. We may be empty nesters now but many of us still have pets and we need to keep on top of their welfare.

It would probably be a good idea to assemble a pet first aid kit. Two kits would be even better; one to be kept at home and one to keep in the car. There are commercial kits available but the following items are easily accessible: adhesive tape, gauze bandages and pads, scissors, strips of clean cloth, safety pins, wooden ruler or tongue depressor for tourniquet, wooden paint mixing sticks for splints, hydrocortisone cream, a muzzle, rectal thermometer, 3% hydrogen peroxide, saline eyewash, fresh water, Benadryl, blankets and towels, leash etc. Assembling these items and keeping them in a well-known area in the house and car may sound a little daunting, but it may save a life.

It is very important to have certain telephone numbers and locations easily available. There are two emergency pet clinics in our area: 404 Veterinary Emergency and Referral Hospital, 510 Harry Walker Parkway South, Newmarket, 905-953-1933 (24) hours a day/7days a week) and Veterinary Emergency Clinic of York Region, 1210 Journey's End Circle, Newmarket 905-953-5351. You should probably call your own vet first - many of them offer emergency services and are definitely less costly than the clinics.

I have researched but was not able to find anything that resembles a pet ambulance service in this area. There is such a service in the

city but they will not come here. Had I been alone with Stella as I often am, I may not have been able to get her to the car and to help as quickly as Art. Please always carry your cell phones. I know that many of you only walk your dogs in the community where help is readily available, but the dogs have such a wonderful time in the forests, that with a few safety tips we should be fine.



The most important thing is to try and stabilize your pet so that you can get him/ her to veterinary help as soon as possible.

Some quick tips:

Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435 - will give immediate advice on how to handle any suspected poisoning situation for a small fee.

Bleeding - a clean cloth and pressure should stop bleeding but if the bleeding is severe, apply whatever you have available that will

act as a tourniquet.

Burns - flush with large amounts of water or apply an ice water compress.

Choking - if you cannot easily remove what is blocking the passage, get to the vet quickly.

There are first aid classes available and it would probably be a good idea to speak to your vet to get some tips on how to handle common emergencies.

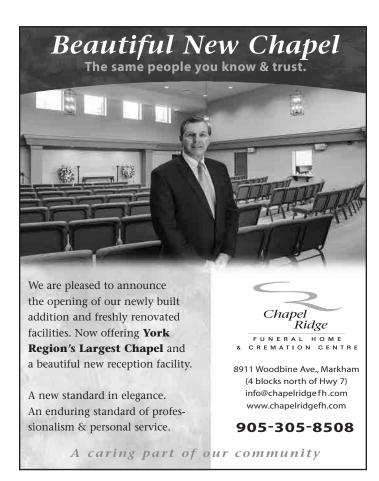
Unfortunately, in most cases of severe injuries, we have to simply transport the animal to the nearest veterinary service. If you do not have a board available, try to wrap the pet in a blanket to keep him/her warm.

Neither Art nor I would have been able to carry Stella had she not been able to walk. Worst case scenario, at least the cell phone would work and if there were no other walkers in the forest, Art would have called someone, anyone for help.

Please do not allow this article to discourage any of you from using our forests. It is important for all of us to be aware of safety issues for both ourselves and our pets. Try to always walk with a friend but if this is not possible, take your cell phone. It could save your life and your pet's life!

Enid Sanders





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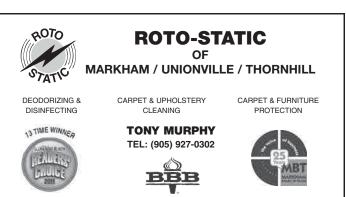




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TEN YEARS - WOW!

It's fall again, and time to rejoin the choir. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Ballantrae Choir. When Jane and George Bishop had a good idea and made it materialize, I don't think even they envisioned a tenth anniversary.

It was hubby who got me to join. When I first knew him, he was embarrassed to sing. Now, on those karaoke nights, I'd like to tie him to the chair. I enjoy most music. A neighbour once told me there were only two types of music: country and western. My scope is quite a bit broader than that, but I am not fond of opera and some types of jazz. Having said that, I have always liked to sing, albeit mostly in a sing-along fashion.

I go to the enrolment, pay my money and am given a folder with the current music. The Virgin Mary is always having a baby boy, the geese are leaving winter behind or the Indians have got Baby Jesus. One or two numbers with words in Latin make that Grade 10 drudgery come in handy. There's always one song you really like and one you don't.

The early sessions are great: lots of gabbing, renewing old acquaintances in between singing. Our choirmaster, Lisa Kyriakides, is an upbeat person, encouraging and talented. She provides us with disks with our part for home study. The atmosphere is euphoric as we begin to tackle the material.

I go home with my disk, very important to me, as not reading music, I have to learn the songs by rote. This is the period where I traumatize the cat. Our poor old cat is blind and wishes he were also deaf as I screech along with Lisa on the soprano part. Hubby tackles the tenors' assignment more melodiously in the den.

Three or four sessions in, we are at the slogging section. I call it this because that's what it feels like. We learn the songs in sections. I show up, confident I know my part, but then can't seem to get it right. It must be those other choir members who are putting me off! The tenors don't know their part, the basses have their heads in the music, the altos are good, but the sopranos are not singing out. Lisa is getting testy and the whole session is hard work.

On the way home I tell hubby "I am not enjoying it, I am not having any fun and I am definitely not joining next year." He nods quietly with a knowing smile because this happens every year. I practise at home more diligently now, because, as it is my last year, I at least want to do it properly.

A couple more weeks and we have the "coming together" session: the melding so to speak. Sometimes this has not really happened until the dress rehearsal, which can be quite scary. Who wants to fall short in front of their neighbours?

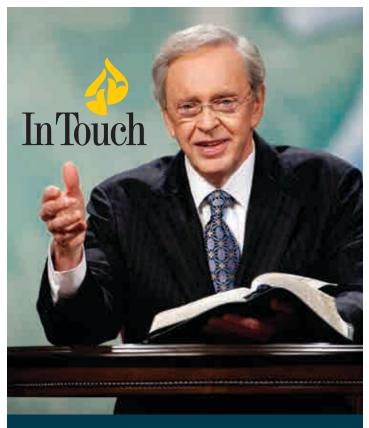
Finally concert day has arrived: the reason I joined. I truly enjoy the performances. I give up tea for the day (caffeine is not good for your voice). I eat lightly. I'm not nervous. I have thirty plus people to cover my mistakes and a forgiving audience of my peers. There's always a surprise. We nail one song really well or muff one we shouldn't. I used to think we performed best in the afternoon when we were freshest, but especially last year, our best job was in the evening.

So ten years later and by the time you read this, I will have joined up again. Maybe it's the challenge of the thing. We don't get a lot of fun challenges in retirement and I guess it's good to stretch, even though, if Mary has one more baby boy, I may lose it. Hmmm, I will have to look for a new white blouse.



Pat Wood





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OLDER - BUT NOT OLD

The called me on my car phone.

I get much of the important news from her when I am in the car. Thank heavens for the hands-free phone. Otherwise I would be frequently unavailable for emergency input.

"Where are you?" she asked. Setting aside several tempting sarcasms, I advised that I was coming north on the Ninth Line - heading home. "Well, if you go by a store, you should know that we are out of bread."

It's moments like this that provide me with an understanding of the vision that motivated people like Alexander Graham Bell and Ted Rogers. Somehow they knew that one day communications such as this would allow me to correct a critical household shortage.

So, of course I soon found myself searching the shelves of a convenience store in Musselman's Lake for a loaf of bread so I could have a sandwich lunch when I arrived home. My wife rarely has a sandwich lunch so really didn't care if we had bread or not. However I was my usual thoughtful self in recognizing that she might indeed want toast the next morning and so I diverted to the store.

Oddly, there were only two loaves available, one white and the other whole grain. Once again, I put my personal preference aside and selected the healthier choice, further evidence of my considerate nature. As I reached for the loaf a rather loud voice asked, "Need any help over there Dad?"

My arm paused in mid air.

Once again, I was faced with selecting from a bevy of delicious responses or merely ignoring the question, hopefully creating the impression that I had not heard the voice. Perhaps my silence would suggest that I simply assumed the gentleman who spoke meant the question for someone else. In any event, I chose not to respond. Rather, I took a few more moments to pretend that I was looking for several items.

Finally, I went to the cash and proceeded to pay for the loaf I had selected. "Find everything you need, Dad?" the middle-aged chap behind the counter inquired.

Now, you might well wonder how I managed to leave that store without making some sort of a scene. On the other hand perhaps you will simply not understand what it was about the situation and the banter that bothered me. Well, the truth is that while I may look ancient to younger people, inwardly I feel positively youthful most days. I simply don't like to be treated like an old guy.

In fact, the majority of "elderly" have a strong tendency to see themselves as considerably younger than their chronological age. It does vary from day to day, but on my good days I seem to see myself as being somewhere between 58 and 62. However this is difficult when I realize my eldest daughter was 60 last January.

Certainly I appreciate some periodic acts of courtesy relative to my advancing age but I do hate to be treated like an old fool. Aging is a deceptively cunning eventuality. It happens so gradually that mostly you don't notice it.

I recall some years ago realizing that at staff parties the young women in the group were much more interested in the junior staffers than the senior men in management. It came as a shock to realize that they were asking us to dance as a courtesy only. And nobody was asking for a lift home any more.

Many years ago, one of the more attractive secretaries on staff asked me to drive her home from the annual company golf tournament. To this day my wife wonders whether this was one of her better ideas. She is still not certain the marriage will work out.

As time passes, little things like not being asked for ID when paying senior rates or having people get up to give you a seat on the subway, tend to jolt one. In family-type restaurants, waitresses tend to call one "dear" or even the hated "sweetie." My wife cringes whenever a clerk hails her with a "dearie" or the dreaded "hon."

On balance, I suppose these somewhat thoughtless comments are a minor burden to bear.

So, when I left the store in Mussleman's Lake, I quietly mumbled, "I am not your Dad!" and went home to make my lunch.



John Gorman



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SAFETY: SMART CARS AND SMART DRIVING

In a past issue, I wrote about home security ("Safe & Sound at Home," December 2012). In keeping with this issue's "Safe Living" theme, I will focus on automobile safety. If you have not purchased a vehicle recently, you may not be aware of the new technological features that have improved the safety of cars. When you are purchasing a new automobile, you may want to consider the safety features described below. Even if you are keeping the old machine, there are still things that you can do to enhance your safety.

I will not discuss such features as Anti-lock Brakes, Electronic Brake Force Distribution, Traction Control, or Electronic Stability Control since these are now common on most cars. However, in the last few years, there have been significant new safety improvements. I am not suggesting that you buy a new vehicle, but these automobile "smart" features may influence your choice when the time comes.

Front, rear, and side, radar-type sensors and/or cameras warn a driver when objects are too close and enable the driver to avoid potential collisions. These sensors/cameras are used in many of the following "smart" applications that warn and even help to prevent accidents before they happen.

Blind Spot Detection alerts the driver if another car enters his vehicle's blind spot.

The Rear View Camera enables the driver to see behind the car when backing up.

Cross Traffic Alert warns the driver of oncoming traffic from either side, when backing up.

Lane Departure Warning gives the driver a visual, audible, and tactile warning when the car drifts into another lane.

Adaptive Cruise Control enables the driver not only to set and maintain the cruising speed but also the distance from the car ahead.

Collision Warning provides advanced warning and enhances emergency braking when a collision is imminent.

Adaptive Front Lighting automatically levels the headlights and also swivels them to illuminate the road during turns.

Infrared Night Vision allows the driver to see animals and people more clearly at night.

Regardless of your vehicle, there are numerous Do's and

Don'ts that will enhance our collective safety:

Do check your tires regularly for wear and air pressure, especially the spare.

Don't speed generally, but especially on BGCC access

Do lock your doors when driving. A locked door is less likely to fly open during an accident.

Don't lift the BGCC entry gate for strangers or open your car door or window when speaking with strangers. Recently, a strange car followed a resident and parked outside the Legendary Trail gate. As the resident was parked at the mailboxes, the stranger approached and the resident rolled down the passenger window. The stranger leaned in with a map, asking for directions. The resident had a purse on the passenger seat, and it wasn't until days later that the credit cards were discovered to be missing.

Do use the "Panic" button on your remote car key in dark and unattended parking lots. Pressing the "Panic" button causes the horn to start honking and this is often sufficient to frighten a thief.

Don't keep valuables inside your automobile. If valuables are in the car, place them in the trunk after disabling the trunk-opening button.

Do keep an emergency kit (first aid kit, blanket, flashlight, spare batteries, seatbelt cutter, small shovel, flares, warning sign), jumper cables, tow rope, fire extinguisher, and in winter, snow brush/scraper and antifreeze washer fluid in your trunk.

Don't keep personal tags on your key ring that identify you, your vehicle, or your address. The War Amps Association provides a numerical tag that only they can decipher. If you lose your keys, the finder can place the key ring in any mailbox and they will be delivered to the War Amps who will then contact you.

We are all concerned about vehicle safety and safe driving practices, especially those of other drivers. In fact, as we age, our driving ability deteriorates. Our eyesight and hearing are diminished, our reaction time is not what it used to be, and we may have other ailments that affect our driving capability. The new "smart" features, while not designed strictly for seniors, assist us in continuing to be safe drivers. As responsible adults, we also have to face the time when we must discontinue driving altogether. In the meantime, happy and safe driving!



Ken Miyauchi







What's New On ourbgcc.com

his September, www.ourbgcc.com completes its fifth year of service to BGCC residents. The website continues to expand and to improve content to keep residents informed of activities and upcoming events both here and in the immediate area.

Recent months have seen the development of a closer relationship between Home on the Green magazine and the Internet site. Of course HOTG continues a tradition of excellence in providing superb articles and wonderful photographs of continuing interest to all residents.

ourbgcc.com is able to focus on providing quick notice of new or changing schedules and timely exposure for coverage of specific individual condo activities complete with snapshots.

Please remember that we look forward to seeing your pictures and will display them for a brief period of time as soon as we receive them.

If you haven't been to ourbgcc.com recently, a current visit will reveal that recent changes in format have made for easier navigation of the site.

To view recent photos simply click on "Activities" on the drop down menu and then click on "Photos."

This "Activities" area offers up-to-date information on our community events as well as area happenings.

A recent contributor to this section has been the BGCC Tennis Club with much information for members and guests.

Many find the "Helpful" section a surprising source of information regarding services available to us through area resources and our own local volunteers. Need help around the house, or perhaps periodic transport? - check here for a quick solution.

You are reminded that www.ourbgcc.com is not readily available to search engines. The decision was made to technically restrict exposure as much as possible to our residents.

So, for your convenience, simply type www.ourbgcc.com in the address line on the top left hand line on your browser and then "click" it as a favourite for easy future access.

Many make it their home page so that it is a regular reminder to surf the site for any news.

Your suggestions are always welcomed by webmaster Peter Sims who can be reached at ourbgcc@rogers.com.



BALLANTRAE RECREATION CENTRE UPDATE (YRVLCC 1202*)

t a meeting held in July, the outgoing Recreation Centre directors met with the newly appointed representatives of the five residential condo boards and officially handed over the reins of governance.

The members of the Board of Directors for the coming year 2014/15 are:

YRVLCC 968 Bill Balfour Wayne Burgess YRVLCC 1066

Carole Draper YRVLCC 1079 President

Harry Renaud YRVLCC 1002 Secretary-Treasurer

David Rushton YRVLCC 1193

The position of Past-President has been added (ex officio, non-voting) and we're pleased that Bob Herbert has agreed to continue serving the board in this new capacity. Bob has served as President and as a member of the board since before the official turnover from the developers and we thank him for giving so generously of his time on our behalf.

As well, appreciation must be expressed to the other two retiring directors, Gary Rossitter (YRVLCC 1066) and Keith Spencer (YRVLCC 1193), for their contributions over the past couple of years.

In keeping with a commitment made at an information meeting a year ago, a mid-year financial summary as compared to a budget will be published and available in the Recreation Centre

We look forward to another successful year for the Ballantrae Recreation Centre.

Board of Directors, YRVLCC 1202

*York Region Vacant Land Condominium Corporation

Q&A with Dayna Stoddart, Ballantrae's Dynamic Wellness Director

he ever busy and energetic Dayna Stoddart was able to squeeze our interview between a fitness consultation and my personal stretch session. Dayna studied kinesiology at the University of Guelph and Physical Therapy at the University of Western Ontario. She brought her experience working as a physical therapist in Chicago to Ballantrae in 2004. Her folks, Garry & Irene, live in Condo 2. Her original job was Administrative Assistant. She evolved her role into Wellness Director over the past ten years. "Thrive in your prime" is Dayna's motto and she brings passion and professionalism to her job. We are lucky to have such a dynamo.

Where Did You Get Your Passion For Helping The 50-Plus Crowd Stay Healthy And Fit?

As a health care professional, I was frustrated by observing the vicious cycle of people being prescribed medication instead of physical activity. On the personal side, I was always active and extremely close to my grandmother. I hated to see her go through a downward spiral caused by multiple medications and not enough exercise, resulting in decreased mobility. I decided to be proactive about empowering the residents of Ballantrae to get fit, so I became a member of the International Council on Active Aging (ICAA). Their mission: to engage in life and actively participate, thus maintaining well-being and quality of life as we age. Their philosophy was right on track with mine.

"Thrive in your prime."

-Dayna's Motto

What Makes Ballantrae Unique?

It's an active lifestyle community, catering to a certain demographic. We are not just looking at the physical dimensions but also the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, vocational and environmental. We have a comprehensive program. Beyond the fitness classes, we offer yoga, computer and digital photo classes, art classes, bridge lessons, card games and more...all housed at the Recreation Centre. Numerous Ballantrae residents bring a wide variety of expertise from their present or former careers and interests. We are fortunate to have such leaders organizing and assisting in running programs for our community, all aligned with the Wellness Program. The Volunteer Assistance Group and Ballantrae Bereavement (grief counselling) are a couple of examples.

Also, as a member of ICAA, I organize the annual Active Aging Week (September 22 to 26, 2014) which is open to all residents. Attendees enjoy free advice from experts in finance,

nutrition, naturopathy, brain health, chiropractic and more.

What's Your Greatest Challenge?

It's trying to get word out to those who don't use our facilities and who might not realize all that's available. For example, I offer a free functional fitness assessment and fitness room orientation to all residents.

What New Programs Can We Expect In The Near Future?

Ballroom Dancing, Meditation,
Music for Wellness, CPR, Pole
Walking, Chronic Disease and Self
Management (6-week workshop) and
Nutrition Programs. We are currently
looking for a line-dance instructor. Bridge
lessons are new and popular. Digital Photos and Computer
Classes are always well attended. We already have Watercolour
Classes and we'll start Acrylic Painting this fall.

What Does Dayna Do On Her Days Off?

I have three daughters so there are plenty of "mom" errands, but I'd like to get back into my yoga practice.

Since 2010, I've competed in twelve Fitness/Physique shows in the figure and fitness model categories with two organizations, International Drug Free Athletics and the Ontario Physique Association. It involves consistent weight training, cardio and nutrition to shape my physique. Now that I'm 43, I not only compete in the Open Class (age 18 and older), but also in the Masters Division Class.

What's The Biggest Mistake The 50-Plus Crowd Makes In Trying To Become Fit?

Trying to do too much too quickly and expecting immediate results. Often sedentary people don't wake up until after some life-changing event such as a stroke or heart attack. It's better to be proactive. Whether you are 30 or 90, if you are consistent with your fitness regimen (cardio, strength training, stretching and balance training), your physical condition will improve. This directly impacts on your quality of life and independence. If you don't use it, you'll lose it. It's never too late to start! **Q**

Anita Draycott

Ballantrae 2015 Summer Games

he fifth edition of the Ballantrae Summer Games is scheduled for August 22-30, 2015. Just in case you thought it was time to relax, the organizers of the 2015 Games hosted a "preview celebration" at the Recreation Centre last month. Chair Harry Renaud and the many members of the Organizing Committee recognized that a sure-fire way to get the Ballantrae folks informed and motivated was to have a party.

While the Games may seem to be a long way off, in fact the Committee has been hard at work for several months, planning and scheduling the many events and competitions. This unique Ballantrae tradition requires considerable time and effort to stage.

During the recent preview celebration which honoured Games' founders John Graham, the late Brian Birkness and past Chairs, Leo Macguire and Phil Bannon, we were reminded that this iconic event is a "community builder" with features designed to allow virtually all to participate in some manner or activity at their age level. All manner of skills and talents are included in the events which run the gamut from playing cards to walking and cycling races. Consider that there will be bocce, swimming, pickleball, table tennis, ladder golf, lawn bowling, and euchre just to name a few contests. Somewhere in between there will be a repeat of the hilarious "lawn-skiing challenge." Make certain you bring your camera for this!

The Games of 2013 saw excellent participation from all condo teams. Who can forget the Purple People from Condo 5? Friendly competition is designed to attract as many folks as possible and those who take part are encouraged to celebrate their involvement more than their accomplishments.

Each evening there will be an opportunity to celebrate (or not) during entertainment at the Recreation Centre so get ready for a great time. Volunteers are urgently needed so step up and get involved, meet your neighbours and have a great deal of fun.













FIRST ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

he first Annual Open House took place at the Ballantrae Recreation Centre on May 12, 2014. For the more than 200 attendees the full-day event offered informative and interactive events and demos showcasing the range of programming - existing and new - available at the Recreation Centre. Several other services and activities taking place in and around the Ballantrae Golf & Country Club community were also showcased. Representatives from the new Police Station were on hand to share literature and insights related to safety and emergency preparedness.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in helping to make this event a success, including our activity groups, our instructors, our volunteers and of course, our residents.

If you missed this first Open House, plan to attend next year's event – it will be well worth your time. **Q**





It was a lovely evening for our first Dine Around of the summer with a family or two of Mallard ducks swimming in the stream just outside the door at the Crow's Nest Pub and Restaurant on July 8, 2014. There was a full house with 42 ladies present enjoying cocktails and appetizers followed by dinner, coffee and a dessert tray.

After a very active round of conversations we ended with a few prizes and updated everyone about future events of the Ballantrae Social Committee.

On September 16, the ladies dined at Peter's Fine Dining in Markham. (2)

Verna Woodruff

Mary Carole Lant Memorial Golf Day

On Monday, July 21, approximately 36 women golfers took part in the "Mary Carole Lant Memorial Golf Day." Mary Carole was one of the first participants in the Ballantrae Ladies' Golf League which began in 2002. She was an energetic and enthusiastic participant in the early stages of the small league - a group which has since grown to over 80 members. Unfortunately, Mary Carole passed away in 2004. Each year we celebrate and remember her life with this special day. Tony, Mary Carole's husband, greets us at the first tee as we set out to play. This year's low net winner was Linda Curness with a 67! **Q**

Donna Clark



Canada Day Celebration

anada Day, July 1, 2014 turned out to be a very beautiful day for us to celebrate our 147th birthday.

With the new umbrellas on the patio and the lovely new furniture, the Recreation Centre was dressed for the party. Approximately 100 people came out to listen to the music of Al Moldon, to enjoy snacks and a beverage or two, and to visit with friends and neighbours.

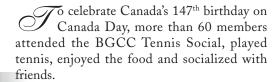
With everyone stopping for a moment to sing our national anthem it made us all proud to be in this great country of ours.

Verna Woodruff





CANADICANADA



The weather provided us with an opportunity to run stringent tests of our new canopy. We are pleased to say it passed both tests with flying colours: protection from the two rain downpours in the morning, and shade from the six hours of blazing sun in the afternoon. The new tables supported the great food for breakfast and lunch provided by the Social Committee, and the new chairs with cushions provided the comfort.

For the tennis activity, the participants were divided into teams and fiercely competed for the most points to win an opportunity to attend the Rogers Cup Tennis Tournament as observers - not participants! The Beaver team won the tickets which had been donated by the Ontario Tennis Association.

In keeping with our annual tradition, Frank Weiss directed the attendees in the singing of "O Canada."

Greg Niles









Ballantrae Wine & Food Festiva

(a) Les, Elvis was in the house! The 9th Annual Ballantrae Wine & Food Festival was held on Monday, June 2, at the Recreation Centre. A sold-out audience enjoyed a full course of entertainment by our disc jockey, Mike Feld, "Most Excellent Productions" and the man himself, Elvis!

We have now raised over \$147,000.00 at the Wine & Food Festival. All of this money has been donated to local charities including Southlake Regional Health Centre, Markham Stouffville Hospital, Evergreen Hospice, Specialty-Care Bloomington Cove and York-Durham Aphasia Centre.

Many thanks to our Committee Members and volunteers who worked so hard to make all of this possible. Thanks to the many vendors, restaurants, caterers and wineries for their very generous support over the past nine years. 🚇

Phil Bannon

Please consider supporting the following businesses that donated very generously to this year's Wine & Food Festival.

Al Dente Restaurant, Annina's Bakeshop, Angus Glen Golf Club, Ballantrae Golf Club, Bruce Black, Canadian Tire (Stouffville), Charlinda Belgian Chocolates, Coolest Little Ice Cream Shop, Clay Creations (Cheryl Milne), Bob Davies, Dominos Pizza (Stouffville), Evangelos Jewellery (Stouffville), 4 Seasons Golf Course, Fishbone Restaurant, Gar Jackson, Geranium Homes, Global Gas Station (Ballantrae), Golftown (Aurora), Graystone's Restaurant (Aurora), Hanson's Restaurant, Ian & Sandy Hume, John Weir, Joia Ristorante, King Cole Duck, Lindy's Floral Boutique, Longo's Supermarket (Aurora), Main Street Limo, Mary Hallam, Metro (Stouffville), Mike Feld (Most Excellent Productions), Mill Run Golf Club, Mount Albert Foodland, Nino D'Aversa (Aurora), P&F Meats, Party City (Markham), Pelee Island Winery, Peppertree Klassics, Peter Davies, Reesor Farm Kitchen, Rice Commercial Group, Sobeys First (Aurora), Stakeout Restaurant, St. Andrews Valley Golf Course, The Briars Golf Course, The Earl of Whitchurch, Tina's Hair, Top Gear Car Wash, United Soil Management, Wild Wing (Stouffville), Willow Springs Winery, Wooden Sticks Golf Course, York Region Media Group (Stephen Mathieu), Laurie McDonald.





Sunday Afternoon Tea Party



une 22, 2014 was a fine, sunny afternoon and the atmosphere in the Recreation Centre was homey and peaceful. Light instrumental music played in the background. A full house of friends and neighbours came out to enjoy the Tea Party and to indulge in delightful snacks which included samosas, pakoras, dhokla and a variety of home-made cookies. The masala chai was a big crowd pleaser too.

Throughout the afternoon, a team of mother and daughter "henna artists" was kept very busy by the anxious and enthusiastic ladies who had very beautiful and intricate henna designs applied to their hands, arms, legs or wrists. All in all, it was a delightful and very successful afternoon.

Thank you to everyone for your help and participation. **Q**

Ajit Sappal









Welcome Back to the Snowbirds and Spring!

he Welcome Back Barbecue on May 24 heralded fine weather and renewed camaraderie at the Recreation Centre in Ballantrae. A warm, shining sun made it perfect for sitting outside on the plush new outdoor furniture. Humber Blue Band, including talented resident Blair Tullis as lead singer, had the sold-out crowd moving and grooving. Leadbetter's tasty meats and salads were prepared on the premises but due to the rock-bottom price, dessert was unfortunately absent. Social Committee members have assured that this sad omission will be rectified at future events.

Kathy Billington

Fallsview Casino Bus Trip

ay 22 was a very lucky day for quite a few Ballantrae residents who participated in a trip to Fallsview Casino. The happy group travelled in a luxury coach to Niagara Falls playing Al Moldon's version of, "Guess What It Is?" with prizes awarded to the accurate speculators. Although the weather was not conducive to strolling around the falls, the day was an overall winner!





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People Helping Animals

y husband and I have been vacationing in Mexico for the past twenty-four years, the last eight years in Manzanillo, a small fishing village on the Pacific coast. We had heard about an organization concerned with the welfare of animals. The organization is called PATA which is an acronym for Personas Ayudando a Todos los Animales, simply put, "people helping all animals."

PATA Manzanillo is a non-profit, all-volunteer group of local Mexicans and foreigners dedicated to the welfare of dogs, cats and the area wildlife. Supported solely by donations, PATA provides free spay/neuter clinics, fosters homeless animals and places them in forever homes, and cultivates a culture of respect for animals through education. I have had the wonderful experience of volunteering in a five day clinic for the last four years.

The clinic is held in an old outdoor auditorium.

The operating room is comprised of folding tables with strung-up overhead lighting and an area to wash and sterilize instruments. The recovery room has more folding tables, used for small animals. Large dogs are placed on sheets on the cement floor. It is a sight to behold!

The clinic is staffed by seven rotating veterinarians from Mexico and the U.S. Supplies are acquired through fund-raising and donations. A charity "Hold 'Em Poker" tournament is held annually. Art auctions, a dog jog, and the sale of PATA calendars featuring wonderful animal success stories are other sources of revenue.

The animals come from the surrounding area. Volunteers pick up street animals and after sterilization return them to their own territory the same night. Most animals are brought in by owners who realize that they have a responsibility to help control the animal population. One lady rounded up twenty neighbourhood

cats and brought them in. One young girl arrived with her two very large dogs who had recently given birth to a combination of twenty-one puppies.

I work mainly in the recovery room although I assist wherever there is a need. I take temperatures and vitals postoperatively, apply hot or cold compresses as required, clip nails, comb out

> fleas, clean ticks from ears and bodies and, time permitting, comb and groom the animals. The animals are given shots as required. The government supplies the rabies vaccine but other vaccines and medications are acquired solely through donations.

Local students take a very active role in the clinics where they are educated on the importance of sterilization and the proper hygiene and health of animals. This information is then passed along to their elders and friends. At least one student has gone on to become a veterinarian.

I work for five days at the clinic and at the end of each day I return to our casa, tired, sore and dirty. I strip at the front door and head for the shower! For the next few hours, I bend my husband's ear with tales of my day's adventures - mainly heartwarming but occasionally heartbreaking.

A very important realization came to me during my work at the clinic. It was how much these people loved their animals. As an observer I had been quick to judge their actions and apparent lack of care of their animals. I now realize that their lack of knowledge was responsible. Organizations such as PATA are providing a valuable service and to this end I am proud to say that we sterilized 480 animals during my most recent visit, bringing the number of animals sterilized in five short years to 5000.

I am already looking forward to next year and hope to continue to "help all animals." **Q**



Ballantrae's Volunteer Assistance Program

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Judy Flow, Co-ordinator

Ballantrae Bereavement

Providing support to neighbours in need

Ballantrae Bereavement is a group of trained volunteers within BGCC offering free grief support and caregiver stress relief programs to members of our community. Our goal is to support fellow residents through the grieving phase so they can move forward to resume active and meaningful lives.

If you feel you might benefit from a visit by one of our volunteer counsellors - or perhaps know of someone else in need — please call:

Our Dedicated Message Centre: 647-999-8070



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BALLANTRAE ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW & SALE

Saturday, November 1, 2014 at the Recreation Centre 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Crafts by Residents of BGCC
- Coffee & Snacks Available
- No Admission Charge

To book a Crafter's table contact: Shirley Beazley 905-642-6264 Elaine Gorman 905-642-0861 The Ballantrae Social Committee presents

An evening of MURDER and MAYHEM!

Saturday, October 25, 2014

Ballantrae Recreation Centre Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

> Price: \$55/person Non-refundable

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Contact Pam Tulino at 905-591-4004 pam.tulino@humber.ca

Active Aging Week

The annual Active Aging Week takes place at the Recreation Centre from Monday, September 22, to Friday, September 26 and is open to all residents. Attendees will benefit from free advice and information from experts in various fields including finance, nutrition, naturopathy, brain health, chiropractic and more. Sign-up sheets are available at the Recreation Centre.



Annual Ballantrae Mixed Golf Christmas Dinner

at Mill Run Golf and Country Club in Uxbridge on Friday, November 28, 2014

> 5:30 p.m. Cash Bar 6:30 p.m. Door Prizes 6:45 p.m. Dinner Served

The talented Pacemakers will entertain us again this year!

To purchase tickets call Mill Run at: 905-852-6212, Extension 230. Price to be determined.



Feeling Lucky?

Join us for a trip to Georgian Downs

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Pick-up at Recreation Centre at 9:45 a.m.

Cost \$12.00 per person includes \$10 lunch and \$5 slot machine credits

The Slots await you!

Call: Mariette Blouin-Johnson 905-591-2032

or

Ajit Sappal 905-591-2307

Christmas Dinner & Dance

The Annual Christmas Soiree, hosted by the BGCC Social Committee, takes place Saturday, December 6

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are still \$65 per person and went on sale August 1

> Please contact: Audrey Pereira at 905-695-9433

Join us for a visit to the fabulous



Monday, November 10, 2014 \$40 per person Lunch is not included in the price.

Bus leaves the Recreation Centre at 8:15 a.m.

Tour begins at 10:30 a.m. Bus returns at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Call Gisela Weger 905-642-2503

Ladies!

Keep the date open for

THE SPRING FASHION SHOW BY PEPPERTREE KLASSICS

Sunday, May 31, 2015 Recreation Centre

Lunch and Wine Bar

Tickets available October 1, 2014

Call: Kathy Billington 905-591-1390

Back by Popular Demand!

Ladies' Christmas Dinner

Thursday, November 27, 2014 at the Recreation Centre

Hors d'oeuvres Punch Cash Wine Bar at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Entertainment provided by: EmBellished

Cost: \$50 per person Tickets available September 15

Please call: Kathy McLeod 905-642-9616

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 residents each month. Email Bruce at mensnightout@rogers.com to add your name to the monthly distribution list.



10th Annual Christmas Concert

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014

2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

\$15

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Alma Boyd 905-642-4482

June Dyer 905-642-4994

Lorraine Farro 905-642-9938

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Pete/Helen Mitchell at 905-640-9597 phmitch9597@rogers.com

Priscilla/David Rushton at 905-591-4445

Stew Cannon at 905-642-9871

An Evening at the Opera

Join us on Saturday, October 4, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. to see Richard Strauss' popular opera Der Rosenkavalier, a light comedy, at the Recreation Centre.

> Please dress in opera attire for the occasion.

Entrance: \$10 per person with a Cash Bar

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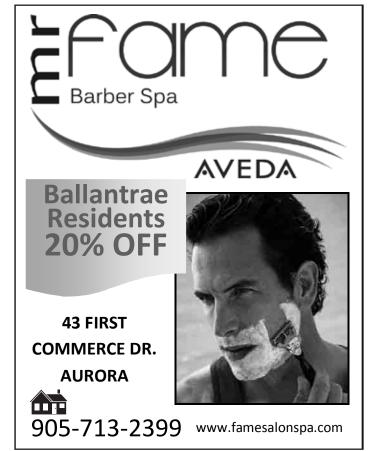
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BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY?

hope they've put this article at the back of the magazine so you can read and heed all the good advice that has preceded it, because I am suggesting you just may want to be sorry, rather than safe, a small percentage of the time.

If you always chose safety, you would never travel. Travel opens up whole adventures we may not anticipate, rewarding us with the wonder and joy of the unexpected. Now, I am not suggesting we hop on a bus to Baghdad, but sometimes stretching ourselves to visit an exotic place is well worth it.

New foods can be unsafe. Nevertheless, I sometimes send down the chute some new concoction our son presents from his kitchen of culinary adventures. (I taught him to cook plain food.) At 2 a.m., with Alka Seltzer, I'm sorry, and I still draw the line at oysters.

Our kids want us to be safe, neatly tucked up into a deadly dull box, to be taken out on holidays. We used to travel for days out of touch. Now, I get peevish emails if I don't check in immediately on the ship. The internet café is usually packed, and I always marvel that cruisers might miss the dolphins while emailing the kids what a good time they're having.

Society, whoever he is, tells us we should always be safe. I say "he" because society has a lot of opinions and men usually have more and are more prone to sharing them than women. Oops, I'm already sorry for sharing that!

Come to think of it, moving to Ballantrae was not all that safe in the beginning. The vacant land condominium thing was new and untried. That slightly unsafe decision turned out to be one of the best ones we ever made. Points here only to originals of Condos One and Two. Later buyers could see what they were getting.

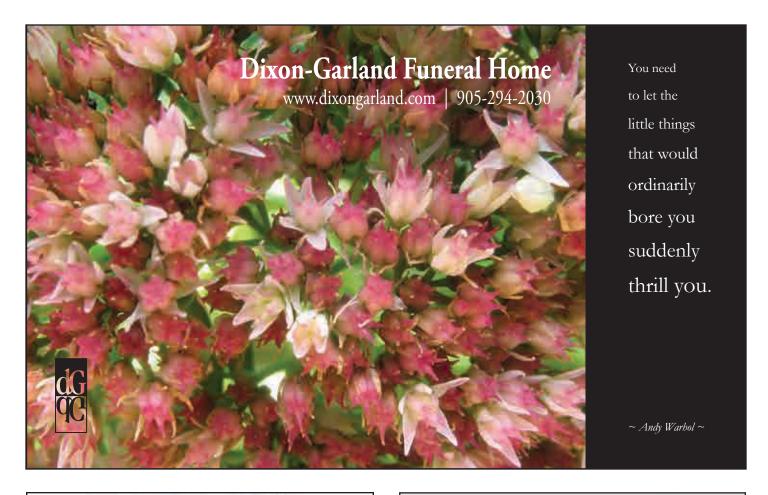
Trying a new thing we might not be good at, or meeting new people we might be uncomfortable with, surely trumps watching "telly" in our cocoon of safeness. I am not suggesting we try skydiving, but I do admire old George Bush's spirit for doing so. I won't be zip lining anytime soon, but there is a tiny wish that I could. In both cases, a safety tip would be to keep your feet up!

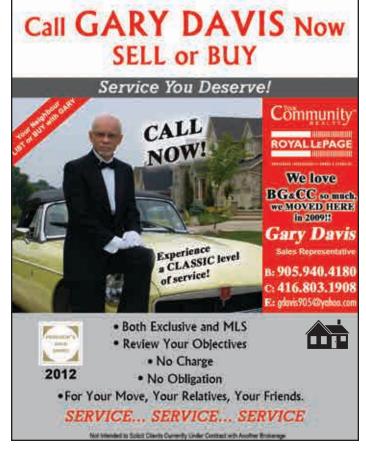
Being safe can so easily morph into being dull, disinterested, or stale, and I just don't want us to die before we do. So please DO BE SAFE!! But only once in a while, and only in a small way, take a chance you might be sorry for.

P.S. Don't call me!!

Pat Wood











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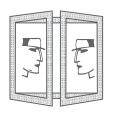
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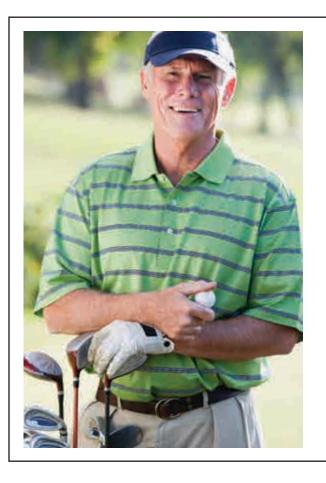
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Dancing Is A Mind Game

or decades we have been going to functions where dancing was the norm.

My first recollection of dancing was at Rochelle Anastasia's birthday party. The dancing consisted of rocking back and forth in one spot while attempting not to have any physical contact.

Then we progressed to school dances, where we thought physical contact was imperative, despite dire warnings by date's dad. A few years later there were university frat binges and tea dances where who can remember what occurred. One summer job that encouraged dancing found me on a cruise ship as a purser where the captain stood pompously on the edge of the dance floor cautioning us against doing the "college crawl" with the younger girls. The older ladies were not a problem with their massive chests and acetone-tainted breaths.

But this is a personal reflection, and one evening I was able to observe the dancers (at least 65 years young) and ponder the data for this essay.

Have you ever noticed that during the slower dances both partners face in different directions? They cannot see the expressions on each other's faces. I can. Somber, solemn, expressionless masks. To call them sober might be an oxymoron. A sort of "duty calls." Bored out of their skulls.

Partners shuffle along with the weight of the world on their shoulders. Weight being defined as lousy market, car over three years old, children and grandchildren needing more money for stuff you wouldn't have thought of buying at their age, and

where did I hide those chocolates I shouldn't have bought in the first place.

Rarely, if ever, a smile. I make a conscious effort to smile because Eddie the drummer on the cruise ships I worked on first brought it to my attention, 60 years ago, that dancers don't smile. What are they thinking?

Perhaps the ladies are wondering: Boy oh boy did I ever whack the ball today, especially on the 17th. Did I take the chicken out of the freezer? I hope the dishwasher doesn't overflow. If it's below 70 tomorrow I'll wash....I'm running out of blouses. I hope the kids don't call tonight because I won't be there. Maybe they'll phone tomorrow. Gawd, does Tania look awfuland Desdemona definitely shouldn't be wearing shorts! Maybe I'll go potty so I don't have to do the next dance. My feet are killing me.

The guys: How the heck did I ever miss that six-foot putt? I hope we're not having chicken again for supper tomorrow. I'm running out of white socks, hope she'll do the washing tomorrow. I forgot to check the dishwasher. If the kids call tonight we're not there and tomorrow I'm sleeping in so no extra cheques this week. Man has Cleo ever aged......and Desdemona should see Omar the tent maker for her wardrobe, not the Gap for shorts. I gotta go to the men's room if only to get away from this racket. My feet are killing me.

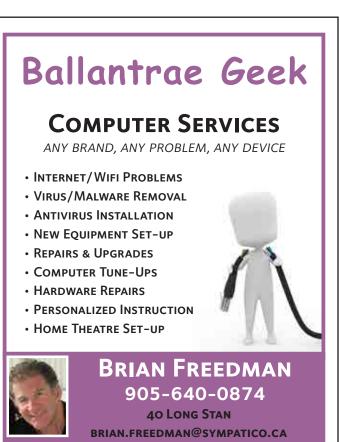
During the faster dances, the stern masks dissolve into faces showing exertion, rising blood pressures, forced grins despite aching muscles, grimaces and an urgency that the music end.

> Here the thoughts are (both sexes): I gotta go to the bathroom (again). I'm not as young as I used to be. This is longer than a Beethoven symphony. Boy the sound system stinks. I could use another drink. Who does Colette think she is bouncing all over like that when she's got nothing.

> But the beat goes on. And we love our dances. But next time you are "Waltzing Across Texas," or doing the "Tennessee Waltz," and your chin is sitting on your partner's shoulder, smile...so at least someone will think "Look at him (her), dancing with that old sourpuss, why's he (she) smiling?" And they'll envy you.



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