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Of Lights

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The Ballantrae Choir

Profile: The Glamorous
World Of Shere Donald

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**A magazine for and about the residents of
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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 in WORD format 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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MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

It is that time of year when lists are being made and everyone is well into plans for the holiday season!

I am truly amazed and extremely proud to be part of the *Home on the Green* team of volunteers who put lots of heart and hard work into our community magazine. It is by far a "best of the best" high quality publication.

We focus on sharing a little bit of everything, featuring adventures, resident profiles, photography, and special interests not only within our gates but also from around the world. Make sure you take the time to read our resident profile and for a chuckle, the article from John Gorman, our Past Chair of *Home on the Green*.

Our community is full of fascinating people, many of whom may be too shy to step forward and share their stories. We are always looking for new profiles, so please connect with us directly, or, if you have a neighbour who has an interesting journey to share, please let us know.

Without our sales team there would be no magazine! Advertising is crucial to the success of *Home on the Green*. Your continued support of all our advertisers is much appreciated.

Thank you to our editorial, photography and production teams for another fantastic issue! Well done! Also, a big thank you to our distribution team and their crew of street captains who deliver our magazine to your front doors.

Wishing you all a very festive holiday season and good health in 2020.



Helen Hunt

APOLOGIES TO SOME OF OUR SPONSORS

The listing of BSG sponsors on page 48 of the Fall issue was incorrect.

FOUR SPONSORS WERE MISSED:
Bryan Black, Schickedanz, Ballantrae Gates,
Wok Chef. Our apologies.

For the correct listing of sponsors, go to the *HOTG* website to see the full list of the Summer Games Sponsors hotg.ca/bsg.





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A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCILLOR MORE FROM MAURICE



PICKERING AIRPORT

The matter of whether or not to offer council support for the long proposed Pickering airport was discussed at a council meeting last August. I supported a motion to not support the project. As your council representative I believe it is important to explain my thoughts on the matter and why I voted as I did on your behalf. In order to do so, a short recap of how we arrived at this point is warranted.

In 1972 the Federal Government announced Pickering as a site for Toronto's second airport and expropriated 18,600 acres of prime farm land. The need for this second airport was based on the projection that 96.4 million passengers would travel through Pearson by the year 2000. Passenger traffic through Pearson in 2017 was only 47 million. The existing design of Pearson will accommodate traffic until at least 2037. By that date there will be other airports in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, such as Hamilton International, Region of Waterloo International and Toronto City, all able to accommodate further growth needs.

Those supportive of the new airport believe that it will become an economic engine for the region which could help create as many as 150,000 jobs. No good evidence or sound business case has been demonstrated to support this figure.

Many are using the predictions put forth when the Mirabel Airport decision was being made as an example of why we should not build in Pickering. Town staff suggest we learn an important lesson from that failed project in Montreal. To justify Mirabel Airport it was predicted that once in operation it would handle upwards of 30.5 million passengers. Ten years after it was opened, both Mirabel and Dorval (it's sister airport) combined, handled only eight million. In 2014, ten years after it was closed, it was announced that the Mirabel terminal building would be demolished and the lands returned to agricultural use.

A further deciding factor for me was the preliminary design of the airport's main runway. These drawings show it to be located such that air traffic ascending and descending would be routed directly over downtown Stouffville.

Is air travel the only and best use of our lands? There is one other option to be considered in order to support growth in this part of Canada. This option would also help, in my opinion, to combat climate change.

The Federal Government recently announced funding to support a plan for high frequency VIA Rail service in Ontario and Quebec. As part of these studies, VIA is looking to create additional routes along lesser-

used tracks between Windsor and Quebec City. This is widely considered to be more viable than air travel and could include a new route from Toronto to Ottawa via Stouffville, Markham and Peterborough.

It is possible that such a dedicated transportation line, with a much lower infrastructure cost, could have up to 15 trains a day and could serve the region as soon as 2024.

The bottom line for me is that the currently available data is not sufficient upon which to make such an important decision.

The motion which was approved by council stated in part, "that the Federal and Provincial Governments be encouraged to consider investing in high-speed and high-frequency rail services instead of a new airport in the GTA."

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE LEGACY FUND

Historically, the town has been asked annually to support many local events through grants and donations. Council and staff have always struggled with the best way to handle these requests to fairly use tax-payers' money.

Our current mayor, Iain Lovatt, decided to take a different approach in dealing with these many requests. Instead of using tax-payers' funds, he launched the Whitchurch-Stouffville Legacy Fund (WSLF) from which charitable requests will be disbursed in the future.

It has been created to help support the financial needs and efforts of local service groups and charities who work to enrich the lives of residents. It is a non-profit entity with an apolitical volunteer board of directors. To be eligible for funding, organizations must demonstrate impact in any number of key areas such as healthy living, connectivity, creativity, or generational.

This project will be solely funded by the efforts of Mayor Lovatt and a dedicated volunteer committee. To kick off fund raising in 2019, they hosted a golf tournament and the Mayor's Gala. The funds raised at these events have been directed to this Legacy Fund.

FINAL NOTE FOR 2019

Personally I would like to thank all residents for their support, comments and involvement over this past year. We live in a great and involved community. The 2019 Summer Games proved this point once again. Jane and I wish you and your family all the best with health and happiness for 2020.

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The Joy of Giving

BY LYNNE BALFOUR



This time of year brings a spirit of giving to others. However, apparently in BGCC that spirit extends to the entire year. Whether your gift is small or large, financial or time, corporate or individual, it is important to the spirit of the community here.

This year the Tuesday Men's Golf League at BGCC achieved its goal of raising \$100,000 for Prostate Cancer Canada, including \$15,000 this year alone! Of this total, \$50,000 was presented to Sunnybrook Hospital's prostate cancer research program which is part of the famous Odette Cancer Centre. Spearheaded by Phil Kostandoff, this fundraising started with putting coins into a tin can at lunch. Our golfers' generosity has really grown. Congratulations gentlemen!

One of our many neighbourhood book clubs, Wine, Women and Words, was presented with a thank-you certificate for ten years of support for Sleeping Children Around the World. Last year this Canadian charity provided 7000 bed kits (foam mattresses, mosquito netting, and school supplies) to children in Africa and other countries. Each kit costs \$35; world-wide 1.6 million kits have been donated to date. One BGCC book club's donations were sent to the Philippines. Reading about this charity motivated the group to help out.

At least ten residents of BGCC work for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank. Picking up donations, stocking the store, creating recipes to make food more interesting, working on the board and helping those who need the food shop for their families are tasks requiring many hands.

One new neighbour discovered that there were two homes on her street with older folks having trouble cooking for themselves. Now she provides two to three dinners a week for her new friends.

BGCC has its own volunteer group that operates a dedicated telephone line, provides drives to local medical appointments and shopping, helps with odd jobs or visits those who cannot get out. They have information on medical equipment available on loan in BGCC (on our website too) and on local agencies.

We cannot forget the more than 80 volunteers who find advertisers, write articles, take photos, work on layout with the printer and deliver our own *Home on the Green* magazine. Peter Sims and his committee run our HOTG.ca website. Our social committee plans trips, concerts and dinners for all to enjoy. The Recreation Centre is decorated seasonally. Our choir practices weekly to give us an amazing Christmas performance. We love the enthusiasm of the Pacemakers. Hundreds of volunteers make our biennial Summer Games a favourite event.

Many residents volunteer for other organizations, raising funds through baby showers or garage sales or giving time. In fact, one neighbour who moved away recently to be closer to his family, stated, "Be careful before you decide to move. This is a caring community. You will miss it!"

Volunteering can be a big or a small thing—a few minutes to help others, a card for someone who needs it, a smile at the right time, a few coins in a can, or a big cheque from a group. Every bit counts.

Happy Christmas season to all of you!





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Good Times

BY PAT WOOD



There's nothing like a funeral to put life in perspective.

Hubby and I recently nipped up to Keswick for the funeral of an old friend who had died suddenly, but after a long illness. We were close back in the '80s when we were young and fit and played tennis at a neighbourhood club in Scarborough. In recent years, separated by time and distance, we only met occasionally. They were a fun and caring couple, so the funeral home was packed. (Why do they call it a home when it's really only a bus stop?)

When the minister got up, I made my usual snap judgment with the instinctive thought of "Oh Lordy!"

He looked like an aging hippie, dressed better, but with long, shoulder length grey hair and a white beard down to his belly. I was never into the hippie thing, although it coincided with my youth. This year, being the much publicized 50th anniversary of Woodstock, I marveled that it was unimportant to me at the time. I was having a baby that summer.

Belying my initial impression, (another erroneous snap judgment which I am guilty of at times), the

minister proceeded to conduct a lovely service: friendly and personal. He had a beautiful speaking voice and told us he would be reading the Twenty Third Psalm, "written by David a couple of thousand years ago from his shepherd's point of view." I actually did not know that David had written my favourite psalm and neither did anyone else I asked afterwards.

This was followed by three songs in remembrance of our friend. The first brought some chuckles from the crowd as it was the bugler's *Call to the Post*. Our friend was a huge fan of the racetrack. Michael Buble sang *When You're Smiling* in remembrance of his great smile and Kenny belted out *The Gambler* appropriately. Hubby and I discussed later what songs we would pick for ourselves. Have a think on that.

Back at the house, we connected with two couples from our tennis days. It was great fun to remember those house league Tuesday nights full of tennis, cards, drinking and laughter. Wednesday work mornings were sometimes quite challenging. We also fondly remembered some great Grey Cup parties held at our friends' home.

Various ailments were also discussed, as neither couple could travel anymore. I am at the end of those days myself and I've been feeling a little bad about this. We've travelled a lot, but travel makes you greedy for more travel. It is just becoming too complicated for us, and home is more attractive and comfortable. We'll probably be travelling on Ignite TV in future.

It is inappropriate to say a funeral gave me a lift, but this one kinda did. Our friend had had a long and fulfilling life and left us with a few chuckles. It made me realize most of us are at that time of life when choices can be difficult. Nevertheless, we can still enjoy old friends, great memories and good times.

Living here in Ballantrae, we can still make new good times. We only have to go up to the Rec centre or nearby homes to do so. Aren't we lucky!



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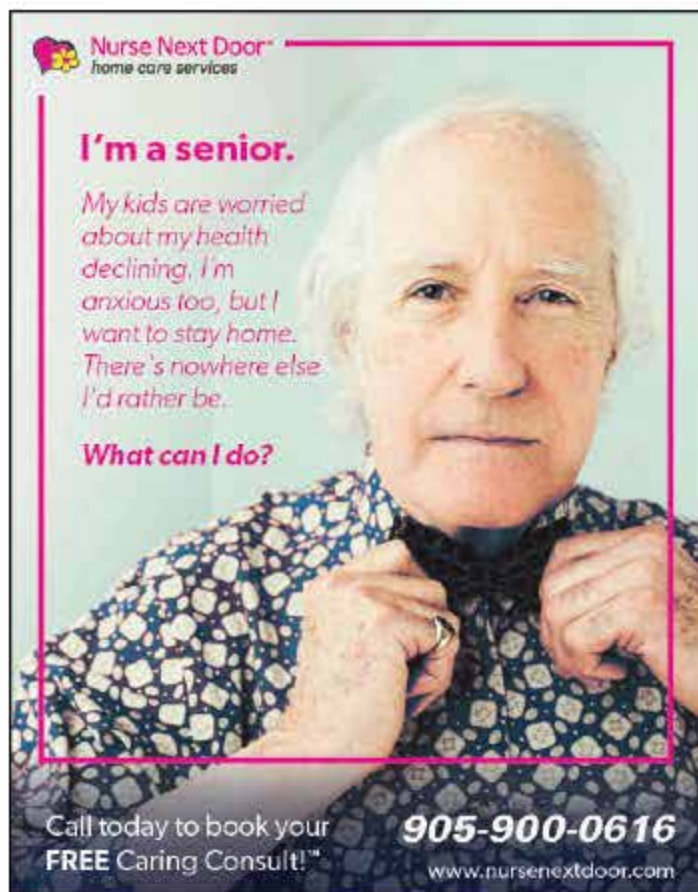
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Your Very Own Round Tuit

BY KEN MIYAUCHI



Have you ever uttered the phrase, “I’ll do it when I get around to it?” I have this fridge magnet that proclaims that I own a “Round Tuit.” Does this mean that I have done everything that needed doing, that I have never procrastinated? Of course not. We have all procrastinated at one time or another. Maybe we still do. So, what is procrastination and why do we do it?

Procrastination is putting off until tomorrow that which could have been done today. I support the group that thinks procrastination is a negative thing; however, let me first acknowledge the opposite view. Some view that delaying a task leads to a better and more creative decision and action. These pro-procrastinators also state that many deadlines are artificial and by delaying action, one can spend more time planning and organizing which then leads to a more efficient and effective solution. I accept that all procrastination is a delay, but not all delay is procrastination. Waiting can be beneficial if circumstances change and the task is no longer necessary. In most cases, however, the task remains and the time to accomplish it diminishes. This creates stress and that is not a positive motivator. Although some do tend to work better under pressure, most of us do not. Research shows that last minute efforts are marred with errors and poor-quality work.

Most procrastination is to delay doing an unpleasant task - one that seems uninteresting, ambiguous, difficult, frustrating, or even overwhelming. Something that feels more like work than play also applies. The rewards of accomplishing the task are insufficient to justify the effort required. The emotional part of your brain, the limbic system, would rather do something that is more fun and it can overpower the logical part of your brain, the prefrontal cortex, which knows that doing the task is the correct action.

So, if we wish to overcome procrastination, we must help our logical brain triumph over its emotional side. Let’s examine some of these strategies.

Give yourself a completion date (even if made up). A wise man once said, “Work assigned without a completion date will never be completed on time, or never at all.”

Break the task into small, easy chunks, especially the first one. Once you start the task, finishing is rarely a problem. It’s that first step, so make it easy.

Give yourself rewards. Try “temptation bundling.” In other words, combine an unpleasant task with a pleasant one. You might iron while watching your favourite TV show or drive your mother-in-law to the doctor while listening to a Blue Jays game. If the task cannot be bundled, reward yourself with a treat. The treat does not have to be a large one. For example, start a task that is easily completed in half an hour, and start it 30 minutes before your favourite show. You must complete the task or you do not get to watch the show.

Tell someone about your task and deadline. This will give you accountability, as the fear of guilt or shame in missing your deadline will spur you on. Fear can be a good thing.

Do it with a friend. Involving a friend in an unpleasant task makes it easier and more palatable. Exercising with a friend gives you a positive feeling and can instill some competitiveness. Quitting makes you feel disappointment and shame.

Remove distractions. If the task requires concentration, turn off the TV or radio and place your phone and tablet in another room. Restoration of these items can be a reward.

Obviously, if we love doing something, we rarely procrastinate. It’s those tasks that are unpleasant or seem like work which may require a helpful procrastination strategy. Okay, now I must get on with finishing this article.

There is something about which I do not wish to procrastinate. Let me wish you a happy holiday season and a healthy, happy and prosperous 2020!

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The Elderly & Pets

BY ENID SANDERS

I often hear our residents say that they wish that they could have a dog or a cat again. They seem to hesitate for many reasons – caring for pets is very time consuming, pets interfere with travel, costs of maintaining a pet, etc.

The truth is that the positives far outweigh the negatives. Animals can help reduce stress, lower blood pressure and increase both social interaction and physical activity. Pets also can have an astounding effect on symptoms of depression and feelings of isolation. Getting older can be very lonely. Friends might move or pass away and it can become very difficult to leave the house and participate in activities.

Caring for a pet gives a senior a purpose. It helps to have someone who needs you. When you have a pet that is reliant on you, you are likely to worry about their needs more than your own.

Two things that concern seniors, particularly those who live alone, are symptoms of depression and feelings of loneliness. Seniors often express how their pets ensure that they never feel alone and unloved. Having a pet helps seniors focus on something other than their own physical problems and negative preoccupations with loss or aging.

Adoption is a win/win situation, particularly if a senior chooses to adopt a senior pet. Seniors have more time to spend with a senior pet. Although there may be some health issues to deal with, the positive effects for the senior and the pet are worth it.

There are some issues that need to be faced before adopting a pet for a senior. Adopting an animal usually affects a person's whole daily routine so the senior needs to be open to change. It is probably best if the senior has been a previous pet owner and at least has some experience of what to expect. If taking a dog outside and walking it is too trying, lower-maintenance animals like cats and birds might be preferable. One might also consider a specially trained emotional support or therapy pet.

It is important for a senior to consider the age of a pet before adopting it. Puppies are often too difficult and require too much training. A senior pet is probably ideal because it is often trained and it is also less likely to find a permanent home. A pet may outlive its senior owner, so it is necessary to make sure a contingency plan is in place. No senior would want his/her beloved pet to end up in a shelter.

Another major consideration is financial. Pets are a significant long-term financial commitment so the

senior's budget needs to be taken into consideration. Remember, a pet does not necessarily have to be a dog or a cat – there are many other alternatives, such as a bird, guinea pig, etc.

While there are several options when it comes to adopting a pet, it is always best to meet the pet before adopting it so please consider a reputable shelter or a known breeder.

I love this poem about a senior dog that got adopted (tissue warning!!)

*One by one, they pass by my cage,
Too old, too worn, too broken, no way....
Then they shake their heads slowly and go on their way.
A little old man, arthritic and sore,
It seems I am not wanted anymore.
I once had a home, I once had a bed,
A place that was warm and where I was fed.
Now my muzzle is gray and my eyes slowly fail.
Who wants a dog so old and so frail?
My family decided I didn't belong,
I got in their way, my attitude was wrong.
Whatever excuse they made in their head,
Can't justify how they left me for dead.
Now I sit in this cage, where day after day
The younger dogs get adopted away.
When I had almost come to the end of my rope,
You saw my face, and I finally had hope.
You saw through the gray, and the legs bent with age,
And felt I still had life beyond this cage.
You took me home, gave me food and a bed,
And shared your own pillow with my poor tired head.
We snuggle and play, and you talk to me low,
You love me so dearly, you want me to know.*

*I may have lived most of my life with another,
But you outshine them with a love so much stronger.
And I promise to return all the love I can give,
To you, my dear person, as long as I live.*

*I may be with you for a week, or for years,
We will share many smiles, you will no doubt shed tears.*

*And when the time comes that God deems I must leave,
I know you will cry and your heart, it will grieve.
And when I arrive at the Bridge, all brand new,
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you.
And I will brag to all who will hear,
Of the person who made my last days so dear.*

Author unknown



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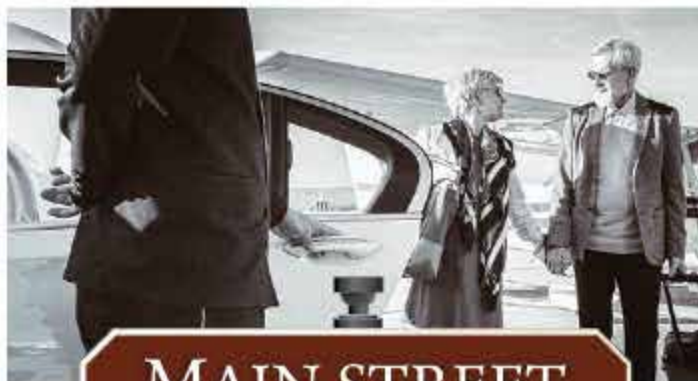
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Tips on How to Buy a Good Bottle Of Wine For Festive Dinners

BY GREG MCCAIN



COLOUR

Traditionally, we associate the drinking of white wine with fish and white meat and the drinking of red wine with red meat. Today, with fine wine processing techniques and a more adventurous spirit, you do not have to follow this rule. Consider a light red Pinot Noir with this year's Christmas turkey.

COST

We often assume that the more expensive the wine, the better the quality. This is not necessarily true. Too inexpensive and the wine will be disagreeable to the palate. Too expensive and it will be more disagreeable to your pocketbook. A good rule of thumb is to stick to a \$15 to \$25 range. In this range there are many well made and pleasing wines. But wines in this price range do not age in the bottle so pull the cork and drink the wine. A small tip: if you have unfinished white or red wine, re-cork and store it in the fridge overnight.

OCCASION

Some wines are meant for special occasions such as weddings and Christmas. A good example is champagne. Try a less expensive bubbly such as Italian Prosecco or Spanish Cava which will save you a lot of money with little loss in pleasure.

Remember Napoleon's famous words: "In victory, you deserve champagne; in defeat, you need it."

ORIGIN

Remember that a wine coming from a country closer to the equator will have tropical flavours such as bananas and mangos (whites) and blackberries and plums (reds). Ontario wines may have flavours of peaches and apples (whites) and strawberries and raspberries (reds). Ontario wines can be delicious, especially when made from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes.

Wines often referred to as "new world wines" from New Zealand (Sauvignon Blanc), Argentina (Malbec) and Australia (Shiraz) give good value for the money.

CAVEATS

Buy what you like, not what someone else likes. Consult with the Vintage staff at a LCBO who are very knowledgeable and up to date on recent releases. Don't be afraid to try something different.

Cheers!



Pat Sciarra
Owner

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Navigating Our New HOTG.CA Website

BY AL MOLDON, THE BALLANTRAE PC DOCTOR



Recently our old community website, ourbgcc.com, was replaced with a new one by the name of hotg.ca and did we ever get a “top of the line” alternative! For years the older one had kept us informed of upcoming and past events with resident Peter Sims as webmaster and advisor John Gorman assisting in the many duties required to keep its information up to date. They also recognized that, with the effective new web creation tools now available, an even better website was possible. John Gorman’s son Michael, an expert in web design and implementation, was hired to design and build it, and the result is nothing short of outstanding!

After it went “live”, it became clear that casual users could benefit from a brief tutorial on how to navigate this powerful new information source. I suggest you go to your computer or tablet and follow along with me as we explore the website. Type hotg.ca in your browser to get started.

When you open the site, you are taken to its “Home Page” and are presented with several colour-coded information areas. The top green bar offers 8 or 9 entry points to the most common requests for information. If using a cell phone, you will see 3 horizontal lines at the top right corner called the “hamburger” which you tap to get the green bar. Additional information links are automatically offered if you slide your mouse over the “Games” and “Activities” choices, while clicking on the other items takes you to that information page. For

example, clicking on the “Magazine” word takes you to current and past issues of *Home on the Green*. The “Activities” drop-down contains “Activities & Clubs” which takes you to my favourite icon, the “Computer Club” where meeting agendas and handouts are available. The most popular item on the green bar is “Classifieds” which takes you to them immediately.

A new addition is the “Events” item. Click on it and you will see four options including the all inclusive event calendar. For more information on events and using the calendar, please see the “More Good Reasons to visit hotg.ca” on page 50. The “Home” choice brings you back to the main “Home Page” so let’s go back there now.

Below the *Home on the Green* masthead logo, you will see two columns. On the left are the ‘Find it Fast’ icons for the most popular areas of the site. They are very similar, but not identical, to the main menu bar. Click on any one and it takes you to that section. On the right, beside the applicable icon, you will find out what’s new (called ‘Recent Updates’). For example, beside Classifieds you can see when they were last updated and then decide if you want to visit Classifieds by clicking on the icon on the left. This is an easy way to check in with what’s happening and what’s new in the community.

Directly below the “Find it Fast” icons is one of the most useful functions on the website; the “Search” capability! Suppose you heard that our Pacemakers band has an upcoming event and you would like more details. Just type in “Pacemakers” (without the quotes) to the right of the “magnifying glass” icon and press Enter or tap Go on your keyboard. Instantly, all references to Pacemakers appear and behold, there it is, the Christmas Concert on December 3. Using the Search function will speed up finding information that may be tucked away somewhere less obvious. Search also scans the Classified Ads so, if you are looking for a Rocker Chair, just search for it and any for sale will pop up!

Finally you will see the weather on the left in a blue box. Also handy is the “Upcoming BGCC Events” section to the right which lists the next 5 events on the calendar with links to the details.

If you have been following along, you now can access almost every area of our fabulous new website. I hope you enjoyed the tour.

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Teddy's Restaurant & Deli

BY ALISON SCOWCROFT



My kids, who have been going to a restaurant in Oshawa for some time now, have repeatedly invited me to go with them to try it out. So, on a recent Saturday afternoon I did just that. Off we went to Teddy's. It was everything and more than I expected—a real blast from the past. When I stepped through the doors, I felt as though I was back in the '60s, going out for lunch with my folks. Teddy's has been in business for 39 years.

First of all, there was a line-up out the door to get a table. I gather it's that way all the time. They get you in and they get you out pretty fast, so we didn't have to wait too long. Once we were seated, it took the server about 10 seconds to bring us a glass of water along with the menus. The menu is large and so are the portions. The place just buzzes, all the time.

Everything is made in-house—soups, salads, salad dressing, burgers, sandwiches and desserts. They grind their beef every day and roast their own meats. They have lunch specials Monday through Friday and dinner specials every day except Tuesday. If you crave a turkey dinner, a western sandwich, corned beef and cabbage, baby beef liver or even veal or chicken parmigiana, Teddy's is the place to come. They also do take out, but it would be hard to have that food in my car and drive all the way home to Ballantrae without digging in on the way.

They don't have a liquor license, so I ordered a tomato juice. The glass was delivered to me resting in a small bowl with a spoon on the side, just like the old days. The staff takes your order the minute you are ready, and the food is delivered very shortly thereafter. As I said, the portions are huge, so either come hungry, or be prepared to take some home with you, which is what I did. I had their salad with the house dressing, crisp and delicious, along with a club sandwich that was fresh and yummy. Teddy's is famous for their fresh strawberry pie and their toasted coconut cream pie.

It's not five-star dining, but it is a place I can recommend, especially if you are having your kids or grandkids visiting and want to show them what restaurants were like back in the day, or if you had a late night and crave some comfort food. It's just fun!

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The Changing Face of Hockey

BY JAN RICHARDS



Jacques Plante of the Montreal Canadiens will either be remembered as the greatest innovator in hockey or just the most sensible goaltender to ever play the game.

Plante gets credit for wearing the first moulded goalie mask, but Elizabeth Graham, a goaltender for the 1927 Queen's University women's hockey team, wore a fencing mask to protect her teeth at the request of her father! The first professional hockey player to wear a mask was Clint Benedict of the Montreal Maroons, who was knocked out cold by a blistering shot. When Clint returned to the net months later he was wearing a crude leather version of a face mask that covered half of his face.

For many years, goalies wore baseball catchers' masks or clear plastic shields for protection, but it wasn't until 1959 that the goalie mask truly arrived. Jacques Plante was one of the most popular hockey celebrities in the history of sport, but his face had taken a beating from the impact of flying pucks. Jacques had devised a solution to prevent his facial injuries but his coach Hector 'Toe' Blake forbade him from using it. After suffering a bloody broken nose in a game against the New York Rangers, Jacques requested to play the rest of the game with a moulded fiberglass mask that he had made. Blake argued that the mask would impair his vision and would show a sign of cowardice to the opposing team. When Plante returned to the ice after being stitched up he

was wearing his homemade fiberglass mask. Blake was livid, but because he did not have a back-up goalie, he agreed that Jacques could wear the mask on the condition that it would be discarded after his facial cuts healed. That night the team won and continued on a winning streak for the next 18 games.

With the goal of protecting his face, Jacques Plante changed goaltending and hockey forever.

When Boston Bruins goaltender Gerry Chevers had his trainer paint stitches onto his fiberglass mask where pucks had struck him, "mask art" was invented. Chevers' mask is still one of the most recognizable decorated goalie masks in hockey history.

Dave Dryden created a fiberglass mask using solder and a fixed wire cage. Dryden approached the hockey equipment manufacturer, Cooper Canada, to help him make his mask. Greg Harrison, an employee and a former York Yeoman goaltender, took up the cause and became the champion of goalie mask artistry. Harrison recognized that the basic hockey helmet and fixed cage did not allow for the flexibility and protection needed by a goalie. Harrison made his first mask for Jim Rutherford in 1974 in Pittsburgh. He was subsequently traded to Detroit and then to the Toronto Maple Leafs and finally to the Los Angeles Kings – each time Rutherford's goalie mask was repainted with unique and personal symbols by Harrison.



To this day, Harrison's masks are time consuming artistic creations, starting with a plaster of paris mould, followed by layers of fibreglass and shellac and finally dry and wet sanding to produce a super smooth surface to begin his goalie mask art. Over the past 35 years Harrison's works of art have been worn by NHL goalies such as Grant Fuhr, Dave Dryden, Eddie Belfour, Curtis Joseph, Tom Barrasso, Ron Hextall and many more.

Ken Dryden wrote "the Plante mask was a blessing; the hybrid goalie mask was a miracle." Jacques Plante had wanted to protect his broken nose in 1959, but he ended up changing the face of hockey!



Powerful Tools for Caregivers Workshop



BY DAYNA STODDART

Self-care in its most simplistic sense includes behaviours, activities, and skills used to take care of oneself.

Well-being is a broad term to assess happiness, health, stability, purpose and meaning in one's life.

Taking care of yourself leads to well-being. But for many people, a commitment to self-care (actions/behaviours which improve well-being) is often overlooked.

Join us as we offer the **Powerful Tools for Caregivers Workshop** this winter 2020.

This six-week workshop is based on a highly successful Chronic Disease Self-Management Program developed at Stanford University.

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- **reduce personal stress**
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- **recognize the messages in emotions**
- **deal with difficult feelings, and make tough caregiving decisions.**

Class participants also receive a copy of *The Caregiver Helpbook*, developed specifically for the class.

In the years since this program began, a great deal of research, evaluation and revision has been done to ensure its continued value and success. The six-week PTC class has been shown to have a positive impact on caregiver health for a diverse group of caregivers.

REGISTRATION FOR THE WORKSHOP

WILL BE LIMITED. See the Winter Lifestyle Guide and the HOTG website for details. Register in the office or contact Dayna at daynas@rogers.com or 905-640-1055.

Festive Baking from the Ballantrae Choir



Since 2005, the Ballantrae Choir has staged Christmas concerts each December for our community. Those of us who attended the sold-out concerts featuring holiday carols were treated during intermission to a decadent selection of yummy baked items made by the 39-member choir. To further spread the choir's holiday cheer, here are some recipes from choir members for you to bake and enjoy this Christmas!

BY JOHANNA BURKHARD

CRANBERRY NUT CLUSTERS

"I make oodles of these treats every Christmas," says Welsh-born Mairwen Thornley of her favourite holiday treat. She recalls her grandchildren when younger would skip the traditional hello when she arrived at Christmas and announce instead, "Grandma's brought clusters!"

MAKES 26 TO 28 CLUSTERS

7 oz (200 g) white chocolate, finely chopped

1 cup (250 mL) dried cranberries

⅔ cup (150 mL) chopped toasted pecans

¼ cup (60 mL) shredded unsweetened coconut

1. Place white chocolate in a glass bowl and microwave at 50% power for 30 seconds. Stir.* Continue microwaving in 30-second bursts at 50% power, stirring each time. When almost melted, remove from microwave and let stand until completely melted and smooth.
2. Stir in cranberries, pecans and coconut. Using two teaspoons, drop clusters of mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Refrigerate until firm. Store clusters in an airtight container and store in the refrigerator.

*White chocolate burns easily when overheated so melt it slowly in your microwave on a lower power setting and stir often to prevent it from burning.

FORGOTTEN COOKIES

Ellie Cannon, who was a member of the Ballantrae choir for several years, still contributes these delectable morsels to the Christmas concerts. She usually omits the pecans as some people have nut allergies.

These are easy to make and a favourite of her grandchildren. Ellie adds, "the beauty of these crisp cookies is that you can forget about them

in your oven overnight and have them waiting for you in the morning."

MAKES ABOUT 3 DOZEN COOKIES

2 large egg whites, at room temperature

¾ cup (175 mL) granulated sugar

½ tsp (2 mL) vanilla

1 cup (250 mL) milk or semi-sweet chocolate chips

1 cup (250 mL) chopped pecans (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper or foil. Set aside.
2. In a bowl, using an electric mixer beat egg whites until foamy. Beat in sugar gradually, adding a few tablespoons at a time. Continue beating for 5 minutes until meringue is very thick and glossy. Beat in vanilla.
3. Gently fold in the chocolate chips and chopped nuts, if using. Using two teaspoons, place mounds of meringue onto baking sheets. Place in preheated oven and turn the oven off. Leave cookies undisturbed for 8 hours or overnight until crisp and dry.

SWEDISH CRESCENT COOKIES

These melt-in-your-mouth shortbread-type cookies were contributed by June Dyer who got the recipe from her mother-in-law. She enjoys baking them each Christmas as the unique crescent shape makes a lovely addition to a cookie tray.

MAKES ABOUT 30 COOKIES

1¼ cups (300 mL) icing sugar (divided)

1 cup (125 mL) unsalted butter, at room temperature

1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla

1-¾ cups (425 mL) all-purpose flour

¼ tsp (1 mL) salt

1 cup (250 mL) finely chopped slivered almonds or pecans

1. Preheat oven to 300°F (150°C). Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, using a wooden spoon, cream butter, ½ cup (125 mL) of the icing sugar and vanilla until light and fluffy. Stir in flour and salt to make a soft dough.
3. Place remaining ¾ cup (175 mL) icing sugar and almonds in separate shallow bowls. With floured hands, shape tablespoons of dough into a log. (If too soft, refrigerate for 15 minutes.) Roll in almonds and shape into crescents, then coat in icing sugar. Place on baking sheets. Lightly pat the tops of cookies to flatten slightly and taper ends.
4. Bake for 16 to 20 minutes or until cookies are set but not brown. Place on a rack to cool. Store cookies in an airtight container at room temperature or freeze for up to a month. If desired, sift icing sugar over cookies before serving.

FAST 'N' FABULOUS FRUITCAKE

Fruitcakes are usually time-consuming but not this streamlined Eagle Brand cake recipe provided by Kay Corlett who has baked this recipe for more than 40 years. "My husband loved fruitcakes and as the recipe makes two loaves, one was for him and the other I brought along to our family Christmas dinner," she says.

MAKES ABOUT 12 SLICES PER CAKE

2½ cups (625 mL) all-purpose flour

1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda

2 eggs

1 jar (750 mL) mincemeat

1 can (300 mL) sweetened condensed milk

2 cups (500 mL) chopped mixed glacé fruit

1 cup (250 mL) chopped walnuts whole or halved glacé cherries for decoration

1. Preheat oven to 300°F (150°C). Grease two 9 x 5" (1.5 L) loaf pans.
2. In a bowl, stir together flour and baking soda; set aside.
3. In another bowl, beat eggs slightly; stir in mincemeat, condensed milk, chopped fruit and nuts. Add flour mixture; mix well. Divide batter between baking pans.
4. Bake in oven for 1 hour and 20-25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean. Cool in pans for 15 minutes. Turn loaves out of pans; cool completely on racks. Garnish top with glacé cherries.

FLOURLESS CHOCOLATE SNOW MOUNTAINS

Nancy McCully bakes these decadent chocolate cookies for her daughter who is gluten intolerant. The recipe is from *Chatelaine* magazine. It has a rich chocolate flavour as it calls for both cocoa powder and dark chocolate.

MAKES 26 COOKIES

½ cup (125 mL) ground almonds (almond flour)

½ cup (125 mL) unsweetened cocoa powder, Dutch-processed

1 tsp (5 mL) baking powder

Pinch salt

¼ cup (60 mL) unsalted butter, at room temperature

⅔ cup (150 mL) packed brown sugar

1 egg

½ tsp (2 mL) vanilla

4 oz (112 g) dark chocolate, chopped, melted and cooled

¼ cup (60 mL) granulated sugar

¼ cup (60 mL) icing sugar

1. In a small bowl, whisk almonds with cocoa, baking powder and salt. In another bowl using an electric mixer, beat butter with brown sugar, for 3 minutes or until light and fluffy.
2. Beat in egg and vanilla. Stir in cooled chocolate. Fold in almond mixture until combined. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 10 minutes or until dough is firm enough to roll.
3. Position oven racks in top and bottom

thirds of oven. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Place granulated and icing sugars in 2 separate small bowls. Scoop dough and roll into tbsp-sized balls. Coat with granulated sugar, then icing sugar. Place on prepared sheets 1-inch (2.5 cm) apart.

4. Bake in oven switching and rotating sheets halfway through, until cookies crack, about 12 to 14 minutes. Remove sheets to racks and leave for 2 minutes. Cookies will look undercooked but will continue to bake as they sit. Remove to a rack to cool completely. Store in airtight container at room temperature up to 1 week or freeze up to 1 month.

MOCK ALMOND ROCA

Erma Dominico provided this yummy candy-like cookie that is always requested by her children and grandchildren at Christmas. Calling for just a few ingredients, they are easy to make, remarks Erma, who has been a long-time member of the choir. Happy birthday to you Erma on celebrating your 90th birthday on December 12. You are such a treasured member of our community!

MAKES ABOUT 30 PIECES

14 double graham crackers

¾ cup (175 mL) slivered or sliced almonds

1 cup (250 mL) butter

¾ cup (175 mL) packed light brown sugar

1½ cups (375 mL) milk or semi-sweet chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Arrange graham crackers in a single tight layer.
2. In a medium heavy-bottomed saucepan, melt butter and brown sugar over medium-high heat, whisking, until mixture boils. Reduce heat to maintain a gentle boil, whisking constantly for 3 minutes.
3. Immediately pour over graham crackers spreading evenly with a spatula. Sprinkle with almonds. Place in oven and bake for 8 minutes.
4. Remove from oven and sprinkle with chocolate chips. Let stand 2 minutes until melted. Spread evenly using a spatula. Let stand at room temperature or place in fridge or freezer until chocolate sets. Cut into squares or break into pieces.

Note: As chocolate isn't easy to photograph, I sprinkled ½ cup (125 mL) toasted chopped almonds over the warm chocolate layer for the photo in this article.





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Reflections on Retirement & Togetherness

BY JOHN GORMAN



I continue to be baffled by the “challenges” of living in retirement. We have been retired for more than 20 years but are still getting used to living alone together.

I have written previously regarding the need for a course for the newly retired. The suggested title was to be “Retirement 101” – how to survive living together for repeated periods of 24 hours, seemingly joined at the hip. As it turns out, a course such as this would have to be refreshed annually, if not even more frequently.

You will recall my previous observation that we had a “somebody” living with us. That somebody continues to forget to turn off the lights, put out the trash and forgets to purchase specifically required items at the grocery store.

Recently I have noted the persistence of several other curious characteristics of our relationship that may be familiar to at least some of our friends and neighbours.

For a start, I am constantly amazed at how two people can become “lost” in such a small bungalow. For Pete’s sake we live on only one level. (We decided not to finish the lower level fearing the children would decide to move back in periodically.) Anyway..... quite often during an average day cries of “where are you?” ring through the house to bring responses such as “in the bathroom” or “lying down.” I’m beginning to think we should leave one another notes.

One of my favourite games begins when the doorbell rings. Living here, this happens so infrequently it could almost precipitate a heart attack. However, despite the uniqueness of such interruptions, they always manage to catch my wife unprepared. Immediately, at the sound of the bell, she barks “you get that.” Now, while I’m not certain what one should be wearing to answer the door, apparently I am always dressed appropriately and properly groomed. Oddly, my wife’s hurried instruction is to advise callers that she is not in. This is apparently also connected to the dress and grooming issue. But she could be in a witness protection program without my knowledge.

Another confusing area has to do with the telephone. It would seem that most of our callers are friends in the duct cleaning trade, but sadly we miss many of their calls because we can’t find the wireless phones in time. It would seem that we are both guilty of leaving the phones where last used so we never really know where they are. By the time we have stumbled around our vast domain to locate a phone, the caller has long gone.

It is also obvious that often our hearing is somewhat less than required to understand and follow simple directions. This is best described as “selective hearing loss” and can cause ongoing friction in the most enduring relationships. Questions such as “Did you mail that birthday card?” and “Did you take in the dry cleaning?” are best dealt with by pretending you are dozing.

The holiday season is uniquely marked by an odd inability to recall certain conversations. Although we continue to celebrate Christmas, the event has certainly been “down sized” as we have aged. Usually my “forgetter” begins to fail in late October of each year. This is when we normally start to consider just where or when we will spend the holiday.

Our children live from Oakville to Vancouver and points in between, so trying to decide who is coming or going where and when is a logistical challenge, usually requiring a degree of diplomacy that we do not possess. Given the various situations and conflicts, it is usually easier for us to avoid the process of determining a schedule and hope that we can mark the season quietly somewhere near our home on a date somewhere in the “neighbourhood” of December 25.

However, recent commentary suggests that we may be marking the event some time before that date and in a location that requires considerable travel and overnight accommodation.

But it is worth it, in order to see the family – at least some of them.

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Our Second Annual Pocket Concert

BY LORRAINE FARRO

On Wednesday, October 2, 2019, the harmonious sounds of our second annual "Pocket Concert" filled the Recreation Centre. Some of Toronto's finest young musicians (from the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, the National Ballet Orchestra and other professional ensembles) captivated everyone in the room with this intimate concert. It was as though they had brought Roy Thompson Hall right to our doorstep.

We heard solo Bach viola, solo piano and the exceptionally beautiful and melodic Faure Piano Quartet. After the concert the audience was invited to ask questions. The musicians mused with the idea of messing up another's Bluetooth

music page turner and many audience members were surprised to learn that a professional string instrument can cost the equivalent value of a mortgage ... or in another case a car.

During the post-concert reception everyone enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks while mingling with the talented musicians.

Watch for the next Pocket Concert announcement in *HOTG* and on the Recreation Centre message board. Get your tickets early as it will be sure to sell out quickly! Many thanks to the Social Committee for supporting this incredible Ballantrae musical experience.



Uxbridge Optimist *Fantasy of Lights*



BY JOE ZINNER

For more than 10 years, the Optimist Club of Uxbridge, with the support of community organizations, churches, schools, businesses as well as individual residents, transforms Elgin Park into a Christmas wonderland.

Each of the 50-plus participants is provided with a 40 by 40 foot lot to create an original LED only light display.

The Optimist Club also provides a small discreet sign to identify the organization so focus is on the overall display.

Two years ago, after enjoying a magical experience with our granddaughter at the Uxbridge Optimist Fantasy of Lights, our daughter urged us to attend this annual event again.

We followed the parade of cars down Elgin Park Drive to the large lit archway at the entrance to the park and immediately marvelled at the sight of so many lights ahead of us. Most people experience the Fantasy of Lights from the comfort of their vehicles. With the windows down, you can listen to Christmas music as you slowly wind through the park.



You will also see many smiling faces in the numerous buses from Amica and Chartwell residences.

Storey Time Farm is back again this year on Saturday nights with their beautiful horses. There is no better way to enjoy the lights than from a comfortable wagon wrapped in a warm blanket.

Heartier souls can park their vehicles and take a leisurely stroll along the lit path (perhaps a kilometre or so) to fully immerse themselves in this winter wonderland.

The event runs every night 6:00 to 9:30 pm from December 7 to January 14. While the event is free, the Optimist Club

of Uxbridge gratefully accepts donations to support youth in the community. Some of the funds are for the ongoing support of the Fantasy of Lights.

Chris Wilson, a director of the Optimist Club of Uxbridge says he expects thousands of people to enjoy the music and journey through this little land of Christmas cheer.

So gather family and friends to attend and experience the magic of Christmas in the park. Don't forget to pack your travel mug of hot chocolate!

For more information, visit www.uxbridgeoptimist.com/fantasy-of-lights.



SHERE DONALD...FROM Camera Ready TO Behind the Lens TO Creativity Blooms

profile BY KAREN CLARK

YOUR JOURNEY HAS BEEN QUITE AN INTERESTING AND DIVERSE ONE... WHERE DO WE BEGIN? DID YOU GROW UP WITH DREAMS OF BEING IN THE GLAMOROUS WORLD OF MODELLING AND TELEVISION?

Never in my wildest dreams! I left an unstable home at 16, and quickly had to learn how to survive on my own, never imagining that the girl devoid of role models or support would someday be a print model, photographer, on television, run her own business, be a writer, an artist and achieve so much all on her own. It took many years of emotional healing and a focus on physical well-being, joining a self-improvement and confidence-building program to finally feel confident enough to put myself out there and join a talent agency in Toronto. When I was camera ready in the late 70s, it was a whirlwind of firsts: photo shoots, newspaper promo ads, auditions, commercials and movie bit parts, kicking off a career in television, hostessing and modelling.

After *SHOWBIZ*, I had no shortage of work. I was the spokesperson for SECUL Credit Union in print, commercials and through public appearances. In between, I did voice-overs and had bit and extra roles in movies shot in and around Toronto.



1980 Charlton Heston



1981 Sherry Linn *SHOWBIZ* host



1982 Sherry Linn



1981 Sherry Linn with Ed Allen



Sherry Linn SECUL Credit Union Spokesperson

WHERE DID ALL THESE EXPERIENCES TAKE YOU?

My first big break was hosting a talk show called *SHOWBIZ* and that's where I met most of the "celebrities." (Sherry recalls meeting Charlton Heston on the set of *SHOWBIZ*. "Where can a guy get a decent cup of coffee around here?" inquired Mr. Heston. Sherry replied with a wink and a sweet smile, "My place!")

Television and modelling evolved into the creation of Sherry Linn Enterprises, Executive Hostessing and Event Planning. From 1979 to 1986, I provided hostesses on Centre Court for both Toronto and Montreal tennis tournaments (now the Roger's Cup). I was rubbing "tennis" elbows with the top seeded players of the time: Bjorn Borg, Jimmy Connors and Martina Navratilova. Meeting with them year after year, I felt like part of the tennis family... oh, the stories I could tell!

DO ANY CELEBRITIES STAND OUT IN YOUR MEMORIES?

I met so many over the years, but the few people that made a lasting impact on me would be Bob Gallo, the legendary music producer/composer and long-time friend; John Candy and Ed Mirvish. Being at Skydome when the Blue Jays won the World Series is a special memory. And I won't forget singing on stage at Musselman's Lake, Cedar Beach Hall back in the 70s, never imagining that I would someday be living so close.



Shere with Bjorn Borg 1980



Shere with Ed Mirvish 1994

IT SEEMS YOU ARE ALWAYS LEARNING AND RE-CREATING YOURSELF. WAS THERE A NEXT PHASE TO YOUR CAREER?

I've worn many hats from bookkeeper and photographer to real estate agent, marketing and promotions assistant to hostess and event planner. When we moved to Ballantrae, I was working at a health food store in Markham studying health and nutrition. In 2000, I wrapped it all up to focus on a life-changing health challenge that took me on a new path.

YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND, JEFF, MOVED INTO BALLANTRAE IN 2001. WHAT ACTIVITIES DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN?

When we moved here, I left all the glitz and glam behind leaving me open to pursue my creative aspirations. Destiny would have it that I would meet Tom Popovich—"Mayor" Tom, as we on Ben's Reign affectionately called him. Tom was one of the founding members of HOTG and one day, shortly after we moved in, he and I got to talking about photography and before I knew it, Tom had encouraged me to take cover photos for the magazine and to join the team. For four years, 16 of my photos graced the covers of *Home on the Green*.

Tom continued to mentor me, encouraging me to branch out. When news of my creative hobbies spread, I found myself doing life story photo DVD's and books, portrait and wedding photography (including 3 weddings here in Ballantrae), business cards, flyers, calendars and more. I also provided cover photos for other periodicals (*Human Spirit* magazine) and was the writer/editor of two nutritional newsletters. All of this happened because of Tom (RIP). He was my "star celebrity".



LOOKING AT SOME OF YOUR PHOTO BOOKS, IT LOOKS LIKE BALLANTRAE HAS GIVEN YOU A PLETHORA OF PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES.

Jeff and I feel so blessed to be living here and my books are filled with photos that reflect our love of nature. One of the books I created titled *I See You* is dedicated to the real life "celebrities" that I've had the pleasure of capturing on film over the years – many of them right here in Ballantrae.

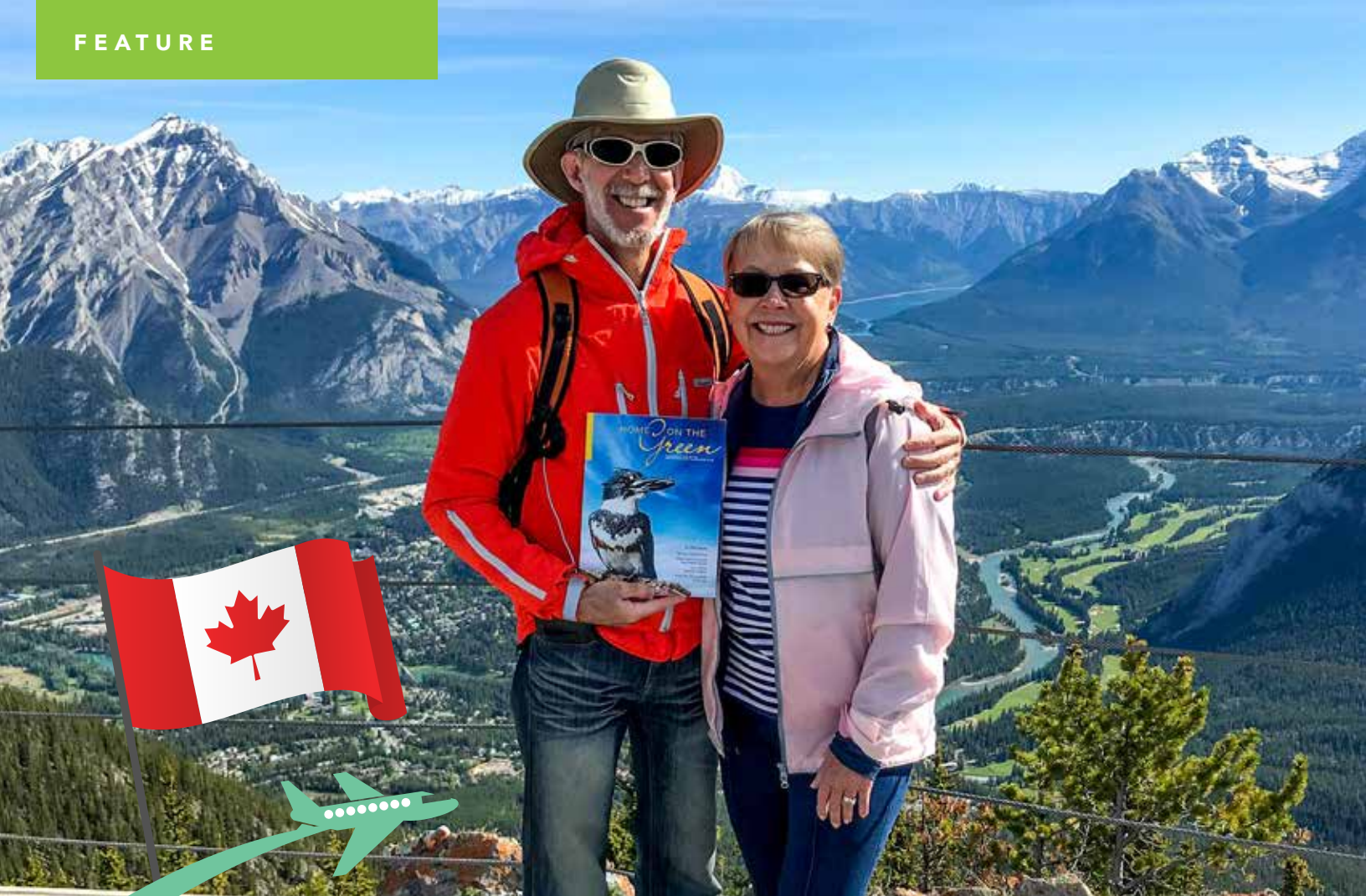
WHERE ARE YOUR CREATIVE TALENTS TAKING YOU NOW?

A few years ago, I started painting and am an avid writer with several books on the go. I am also working on my family ancestry and genealogy and when there's time, I enjoy singing.

WITH ALL THESE PROJECTS ON THE GO, WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES?

Time management and blank walls; where to find time for all my creative passions and where to find room for all my photo books and walls to hang my paintings. Open concept bungalows don't have a lot of walls!





See The Canadian West *By Train*

HOME ON THE GREEN GOES GLOBAL

BY JOHN CRIPPS

My beautiful wife recently talked me into seeing the west coast of Canada by train. Outstanding, breathtaking, uniquely beautiful, majestic—such terms barely do justice or express the emotions we felt while travelling onboard the Rocky Mountaineer train. Yes, a little pricey but a must do for anyone in our community if financially feasible.

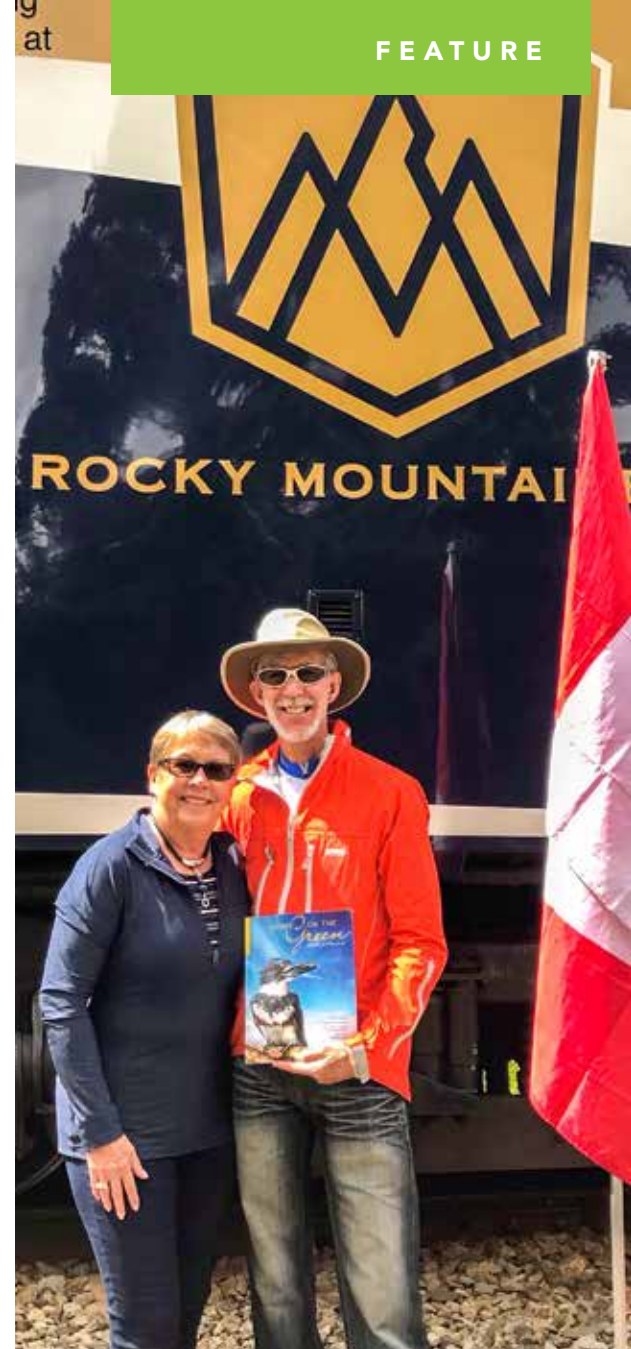
Mid-June 2019 we flew into Vancouver, the third greenest city in the world. Staying overnight at the Westin Bayshore we overlooked Stanley Park and walked along the peaceful 28 km Seaside Greenway observing hundreds of runners and cyclists whizzing past on the waterfront.

The following day we boarded the Rocky Mountaineer. If possible, go for the Gold Leaf option because your well-equipped coach has expansive glass ceilings, heated seats, friendly attentive staff and an elevator for handicapped individuals. All-inclusive meals on the train include breakfast, lunch, snacks, and your choice of drinks at any

time. Every coach has three personal chefs and we were never disappointed. Options for the Rocky Mountaineer are numerous. You can spend two to three days on various train routes; tag on land trips or cruises. You may board the train either in Alberta, British Columbia or Seattle, Washington. I would strongly recommend joining two or more train routes together, thereby travelling a complete circle route.

Our trip included a train route, First Passage to the West (Vancouver to Kamloops to Banff); a land trip along the Icefields Parkway to Jasper; and another train link, Rainforest to Goldrush Route (Jasper to Quesnel to Whistler to Vancouver).

We were able to follow along our route with the Mile Post newspaper which made us appreciate the railway's history including the driving of the last spike at Craigellachie joining Montreal and Port Moody by rail, November 7, 1885. We were also reminded of the sacrifices of thousands of Chinese workers, many of whom died laying track, erecting



bridges and blasting tunnels in mountains in remote areas of B.C. The photographic opportunities and the majesty of the Rocky Mountains made us marvel. At 1626 metres, we crossed the continental divide, the junction of Yoho National Park in B.C. and Banff National Park in Alberta.

In beautiful Banff we relaxed for three nights, explored the quaint town, rode a gondola to the top of Sulphur Mountain, and visited the national park. Thence we boarded a motor coach to Lake Louise and spent two days relaxing and hiking beautiful trails. The motor coach subsequently drove us along the Icefields Parkway to the Columbia Icefields for a tundra buggy ride to the glacier. We finished that part of our scenic journey in Jasper where we boarded a train and did the Rainforest to Goldrush Route.

We saw flora, fauna and canyons accessible only to patrons on the Rocky Mountaineer. No accolades can justify the beauty we experienced. We got an education in salmon

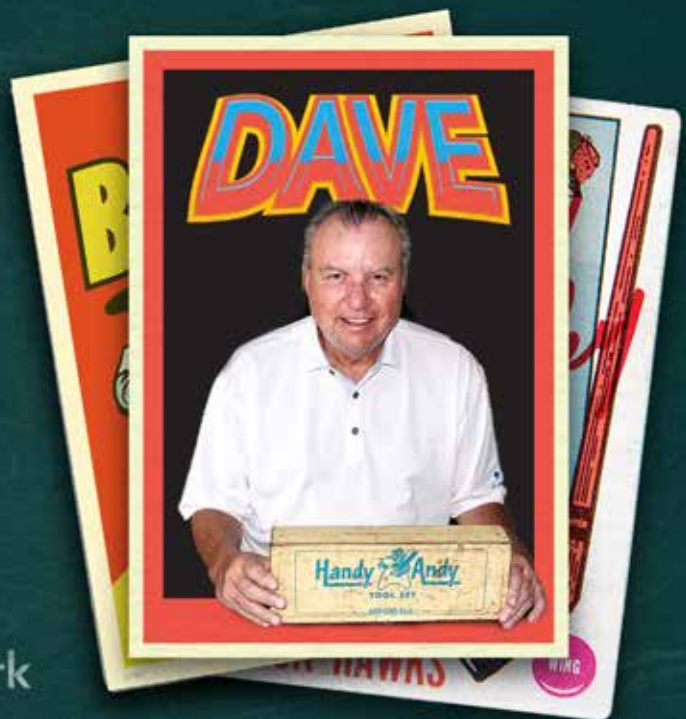
spawning, the forestry industry and the rainforest with trees over 1000 years old. Our last hotel stop was the beautiful Fairmont in Whistler. You must ride the gondolas. Upon boarding PEAK 2 PEAK you will begin a 4.4 km ride from mountain to mountain. We were extremely fortunate to ride with the Swiss engineers who built this marvel for the 2010 Winter Olympics. PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola is the longest unsupported lift span in the world at 3.024 kilometres. It's also the highest lift of its kind with a height of 436 metres.

On the final leg of our journey we relaxed back on the train and celebrated with the outstanding crew. We had completed a "circle route" from Vancouver to Vancouver.

The Rocky Mountaineer Train experience is awesome, breathtaking, extraordinary and well worth your time. Ask your travel agent or get more information online at www.rockymountaineer.com

It's All — IN THE — Cards

By Karen Clark



Arriving home from Florida last year to a very cold, wet spring, my husband and I decided to tackle some overdue projects. On top of the list was sorting and valuing a collection of trading cards that Dave had stored in a little Handy Andy tin toolbox for the last 50 years! Bundled with elastics so old they crumbled, we began the arduous task of categorizing, sorting and listing over 400 cards. From Zorro, Frontier Days, Wings, Hopalong Cassidy, Elvis and of course hockey and baseball, we now had the challenge of educating ourselves on their value. Internet searches brought a plethora of sellers and buyers, but wanting to avoid unscrupulous characters, I did some homework on what some of the cards would be worth. The most informative web site was www.collectors.com.

Once armed, the search was on for a reputable dealer. The quickest and keenest response was from a collector in Kingston (derek@kingston.net) who had listed a "want ad" on Kijiji. Hmmmm, how to vet this man? The passion in his voice during a phone conversation convinced me that he was an avid lifetime collector who could be trusted.

Someone who had gone to the trouble of converting his garage to accommodate his vast array of trading cards, comic books and various memorabilia must be legit. Derek had visited almost every small town

in Ontario meeting sellers, often with his wife and daughter in tow. His wife's trade-off for waiting in the car was that she got no objection to feeding her Lululemon addiction. He also offered to meet me in the Kingston police station parking lot where the police have set up a safe space for internet sellers and buyers to meet. A number of official and unofficial safe zones have been identified in a number of jurisdictions in Alberta and Ontario. After several emails back and forth, he informed me that he would be in Uxbridge coaching his daughter's soccer team the following week and would be interested in coming to view the collection.

With Dave's boyhood cards duly sorted, stacked in numerical sequence and laid out on the dining room table, a deal was struck over a hand shake and both parties were happy—Dave with \$435 in his pocket and Derek with more to add to his collection and excited to give the Zorro cards to his Dad, also a collector, as a birthday gift.

The Handy Andy toolbox is now empty, but the memories remain. Check out your crawl space or old boxes in the back of the closet; there just may be some valuable items collecting dust ... that is if your Mom didn't throw them out while you were away at college!

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Pacemakers' Bash

BY KATHY BILLINGTON

It was a veritable "two for one" at the sold-out Pacemakers' bash on Wednesday, October 16. For half of the afternoon, we sang along enthusiastically to many fun tunes, then we jived, twisted and bopped on the dance floor after intermission.

Blair Tullis, a real crowd pleaser and the solo guest performer, belted out favourites from the '60s.

Fresh sandwiches from Metro were served with yummy desserts donated by Revera Retirement Homes of Newmarket.

It was noted that the addition of acoustic panels improved the sound quality in the hall considerably. Kudos to the Recreation Centre board for addressing this problem.

Once again, many thanks to the hard-working team members of the Social Committee.



Karaoke Adventure

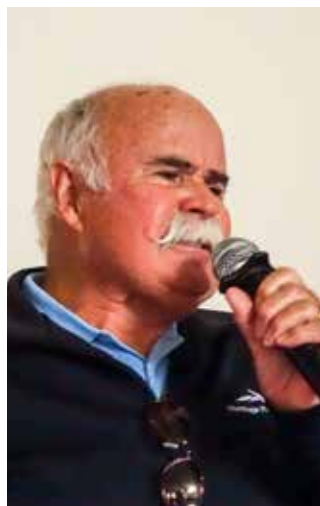
BY PAT HARTFORD

We were looking for a fun thing to do on a lazy Sunday afternoon. A quick look online at our new *Home on the Green* website confirmed there was indeed a fun activity planned for September 29. It was the first BGCC karaoke event at the Recreation Centre sponsored by the Social Committee.

Our DJ hostess, Jackie Kozak, played a great selection of music from oldies up to today's greatest hits. Jackie had a lovely way of persuading us nervous nellys to get up onstage to perform

our chosen songs, no matter the decade or type of music, from country to pop. A group of ladies wearing western hats showed off their prowess as line dancers.

Wine, beer and snacks were available to help fortify our resolve to get up and belt out or croon a tune. Maybe we should make karaoke a Summer Games event. Then perhaps I could learn to sing on key.





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Sunday Nine & Dine Golf

BY KEN MIYAUCHI

Our thanks go to John McLellan, Tanya McGee, and all of the golf course and restaurant staff who supported us during another successful season. We especially appreciated the year-end prizes provided for our closing event.

This year, the closing event featured a game of Goofy Golf, when the rules for each hole were different and none were what you might expect. The winners of the 2019 Sunday Nine & Dine Championship were Betty Miller, Maureen Morris and Scott Morris.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2020 season, and we have spots available for golfers who would like to join us. If you are able to play at least six of nine games, you can become a "regular golfer." As a regular, your spot is guaranteed for each game. If you're only available occasionally, you can become a "spare golfer." This season, each spare was given at least six opportunities to play.

If you'd like to join a very congenial and social group for non-competitive golf, please email Ken Miyauchi, kenmiyauchi@rogers.com, with your name, address and telephone number.



From left to right - Maureen Morris, Scott Morris, and Betty Miller.

Monday Nine & Dine Golf

BY RON STATHAM

The Monday Nine & Dine golf group wound up its very successful season on September 30. We were lucky enough to have only one rain-out which resulted in the 40 regulars and 26 spares sharing in 326 nine-hole scramble rounds of golf. Because we eat at the BGCC restaurant even on rain-out days, 412 meals were consumed during the past golf season. Following dinner on the final day of golf, all 40 golfers received prizes.

A big thank you to our major prize donors: Creative Promotions (Joanne Coleman), Diptyque – Holt Renfrew, Ballantrae Golf & Country Club, Kelly & Sons Roofing, Johnson & Johnson, Frank's Wexford Service Centre, New Chapter Health Products, Ballantrae Pharmacy, Travel Insurance Specialists

Ltd. Markham, Redfern Zizek (Jim Zizek), and Benjamin Moore Inside Out Decorating.

We also want to thank Tanya McGee and her pro shop staff, and Angela Russell and her staff of servers and cooks for their excellent service throughout the entire season.

In 2020 the first game will be May 18 and every second Monday thereafter until the end of September. Any couple or individual wishing to join as a spare should call Lynn and Don Gale at 905-642-6521.



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Our 2019 Pickleball Season

BY DENNIS CARTER

Pickleball continues to be the fastest growing sport in Stouffville. Starting in 2014 with only 40 people, by 2019 the Stouffville Pickleball Players membership reached 257. There are players of all skill levels ranging from beginner to very competitive.

We had an amazing 2019 season. Twenty of our members won medals at the Canadian National Championship in Kingston.

What is Pickleball? It is a combination of tennis, badminton and table tennis. It is a low-impact sport that's gentler on the body than some other sports. It is easy to learn, it is fun and you laugh a lot. What could be better?

The Stouffville Pickleball Players have an opportunity to play nine times a week. This year, we had numerous socials when the players socialized, enjoyed some delicious food and played their favourite sport.

We have ongoing support from our local Council. In fact, both mayor Iain Lovatt and the Honourable Jane Philpott have played on the pickleball courts this year. Our councillor, Maurice Smith, has been our number-one supporter for the last five years.

The Town plans to build eight dedicated pickleball courts in Memorial Park in the summer of 2020. This would make us one of the few towns in Ontario to have dedicated outdoor pickleball courts – a tremendous accomplishment.

I hope you decide to come out and play with us in the spring. Remember, our favourite saying is, "Just one more game."

For more information contact:

Dennis Carter, dwcarter@rogers.com



Jane Philpott serving



Maurice Smith and Dennis Carter at the Dessert Social



Mayor Iain Lovatt and Councillor Maurice Smith with Stouffville Pickleball Players

No-Stress Golf

BY MARILYN BROWN

Once again the 2019 golf season for the No-Stress Ladies' Golf League was a great success. Very few rain days meant we were able to golf almost every week.

What fun we had with no pressure to keep score (unless we wished). It was a pleasure to spend a morning each week with such a terrific group of ladies just enjoying the game of golf.

We tried our hands at tracking "hoagies" requiring ones drive to land on the fairway or green and a maximum of two putts. With the highest number of hoagies, Jeanne Christie won a free coffee (supplied from our kitty) in the clubhouse after golf.

Thanks to our sponsor Alasdair Patton, RBC Dominion Wealth Management Advisor, we enjoyed a wonderful breakfast and driving clinic, as well as numerous giveaways at our final luncheon. Alasdair's presentation at our luncheon was a valiant effort to increase our knowledge and understanding of cryptocurrencies, BitCoin and Block Chain—an eye opener for all of us.

The No-Stress Ladies' Golf group will continue to play at the Royal Stouffville Golf Club next year on Tuesdays. New members are always welcome.

Anyone wishing more information should contact:

Jeanne Christie, 905-640-0560; Lynda Wyse, 905-642-5948; or Marilyn Brown, 905-591-0861.



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Ballantrae Ladies' Golf League

BY SANDRA HINCH

The BLGL had an amazing season. After a slow and wet start to the season, the summer and fall turned out to be fabulous with no cancellations. We had record weekly turnouts and we played a variety of games organized by our committee members.

In June we had the biggest and best "Bring a Friend Day" organized by Brenda Andrachuk and Karen Hewitt. Lots of gifts, prizes, and fun golf were followed by a scrumptious lunch in the dining room.

In July we had the club championship organized by Florence Smith. Marg Lysecki won the low gross with an 84 and Jane Simard won the low net with a 69. Congratulations ladies!

In August, for the first time, we participated in the Ballantrae Summer Games and included all female golfers in our community. It was a hard-fought battle but the gold was won by Condo 4, silver by Condo 2 and bronze by Condo 5. It was a successful new event for the Games.

Our closing luncheon was October 7, catered by Annina's Bakeshop in Goodwood. We also had a wonderful response of contributions to Stouffville Food Bank.

We would like to acknowledge our weekly sponsors of Amica Retirement Homes, Inside Out Decorating, Helen Hunt and Joyce Dow. Other contributions during the year were made by Jim Zizek, Cheryl Milne, Erma Dominico, Kelly & Sons Roofing, and the Ballantrae Golf Club pro shop.

Thanks to all members of the league who made the year so enjoyable and to the committee for their hard work and support.

Have a good winter and see you all in the spring. Opening coffee and registration is Monday, April 27, 2020 with our first golf day on May 4. All are welcome.

Sandy Hinch

905-591-3552 • Cell: 416-522-5364
sandyhinch@hotmail.com



Ballantrae Men's Golf League

BY JAY ADAMS

More than 100 members attended our final luncheon and over 80 prizes were distributed. We also donated more than \$15,000 to the prostate cancer research at Sunnybrook Hospital.

Due to several rainouts, we extended our season into the first two weeks of October. We will start up again

on the first Tuesday of May and play until the last Tuesday of September.

If you would like to join or need additional information, please contact:

Jay Adams, 905-640-2843.



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BGCC Tennis Club

BY JOHN PERZ



The BGCC Tennis Club had a successful 2019 season with the sun shining through most of the summer. Our 99 members enjoyed a full slate of tennis activities including weekly Men's and Ladies' Leagues, Mixed Ladder and Mixed Open, a competitive over-55 inter-county team, and drop-in sessions welcoming all levels on three mornings a week. All these, plus the various social events, were made possible by the dedication of volunteer activity directors and their many helpers.

An important feature of the Club is the series of tennis/social events every month from May to September, culminating in the end-of-year social on Sunday, September 15, with a fun mixed doubles tournament in the morning (unfortunately interrupted by rain) followed by a prime rib roast beef lunch and refreshments with 65 people playing, watching and enjoying good food and drink.

The Ladies' League held its annual fundraising tournament involving 20 ladies on September 10. The morning tennis was followed by a lunch provided by the ladies themselves to keep costs down. The cost savings and donations by the

participants and the Club allowed a gift of \$101 to be provided to the Canadian Cancer Society.

The Club executive committee is already planning programs for the 2020 season. The newly resurfaced courts will open in early May when weather permits. Registration for the Club and its activities will be held at the BGCC Recreation Centre on Saturday, April 25, 2020. Come to meet the executive committee and activity directors and sign up for your favourite activities.

The Club extends a special welcome to new members, whether novice or experienced, and provides a mentoring service to make new members feel welcome. If you are new to the game, or returning after a long absence, please get in touch with the club president, John Perz (905-640-3999 or john.perz@rogers.com). Our club pro can provide instruction to get you going and the club has a ball machine to help members practice and tune their strokes. Please check for information such as activities and court schedules on the *HOTG* website, www.hotg.ca under Activities at BGCC Tennis.

Ladies' 9-hole Golf on Thursday

BY HANNELORE GALYEN

Our golf season began on May 10 with coffee and goodies baked by our very own team. We met at the Recreation Centre to kick off the 2019 season with 42 ladies who had signed up for our Thursday morning league.

The first game took place at our Ballantrae home course on May 16. We all had a great time with a lovely luncheon afterwards.

We played every Thursday morning at different courses and our last golf day was at Pheasant Run with a shotgun start on September 26. Golf was followed by a luncheon which included a glass of wine and sumptuous dessert.

After all of the expenses were paid, we were able to donate \$665 to the Stouffville Food Bank.

If you would like to take part in our 2020 Ladies' 9-hole Golf League, all you need is the love of laughter, companionship and golf. You will also need to pay \$50 so that we can do all the above!

If you are currently not involved with our team, and you wish to be part of our FUN group, please let me know by email: hanneloregalyen@rogers.com and I will put you on our opening email for the 2020 season.

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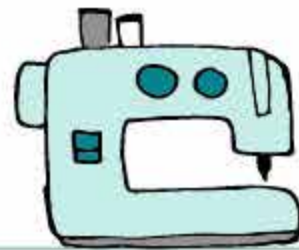
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Annual Craft Sale

BY JOHN GORMAN



A beautiful fall morning heralded the return of the annual BGCC Craft Show and Sale. Crafters and visitors alike took advantage of the fine weather to flock to the event that has been a tradition in the community for the past 15 years.

In addition to the usual displays of jewelry, pottery, knitting, woodwork and watchmaking, the members of the Ballantrae Social Committee joined in with a bake sale table that was a popular

addition. Not only were the home baked goods much in demand, it was all for a good cause with proceeds going towards the renovation of the kitchen at the Recreation Centre.

Long-time organizer, Elaine Gorman, was greatly assisted by Carole McNaughton, who will be heading up the organizing committee for this event in 2020.



The Recreation Centre News

Meet Your Recreation Centre (#1202) Board Of Directors.

BY SUSAN LAROSA



Front row: David Small (Condo 4) secretary; Susan LaRosa (Condo 5) president; Wayne Burgess (Condo 3) Treasurer.

Back row: Fergus Gamble (Condo 2) Director; Phil Bannon (Condo 1) Director.

Over the past year, several improvements have been realized at the Recreation Centre, including the upgraded change rooms, the acoustic baffles in all function rooms, the re-surfacing of the tennis courts and the installation of a new fob system.

The Board continues to work within its budget to maintain the Centre for resident use and enjoyment.

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.

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See BGCC website: www.hotg.ca Lynne Balfour, Coordinator

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BY MARY BRESSER

REDESIGN UPDATE

If you followed "Tech Tips from the Ballantrae PC Doctor" and explored the website, you can now access almost every area of this fabulous new tool.

That being said, it's still a work in progress.

For the Recreation Centre page, we are planning a complete redesign and will develop a calendar for all the programs offered at the Centre. Health & Wellness seminars, the activities listed in the Lifestyle Guide and the schedules for swimming and tennis will all appear on the new calendar.

Any one-time seminars and/or workshops offered are currently included on the main event calendar and will continue to be shown there, as well as on the new Recreation Centre calendar, when it's launched.

EVENTS

EVENTS CALENDAR

One of the most exciting features of the newly redesigned website is the Calendar.

By default, the Calendar view is for the current month. You can select a month in the future, and you also have the option to view a week-at-a-time, either as a list or on a weekly calendar.

There's a special search box for the Events Calendar, so if you're looking for the Choir Concert, simply key/type "choir" (without quotes) and click on FIND EVENTS, then scroll down to view the results.

The Calendar contains BGCC events, Recreation Centre events, and events in the surrounding areas. Click on an event to get all the details about dates, cost and location. There's even

a map feature, so you can easily find events outside of BGCC.

EVENTS BY CATEGORY

Looking for something to do? Are the grandchildren visiting and looking for entertainment? We've got you covered.

If you click or tap on Events by Category, you'll find several blue boxes. The boxes are organized by types of activities and contain some of the more popular venues as well.

Click to see what's in each box. You'll find links to markets, craft shows, movie theatres and all kinds of things going on.

All events contain a date. If you don't see a date, then the link is for a venue. If you click on a venue, you'll be redirected to their website and you can explore at your leisure. If you click on an event, you'll see the calendar entry and all the details.

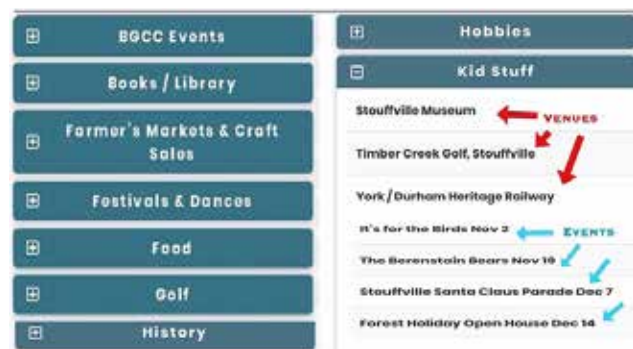
All of the BGCC, Recreation Centre and external events are listed by category and also appear on the Calendar.

We are always interested in adding to this list so if you have an event or venue you'd like included, or have any suggestions, please contact us at hotg_events@rogers.com

While we do our best to keep these links up to date we are in no way responsible for the content of linked third party websites. If you find a problem, please let us know.

PHOTOS

Collections of photos may be viewed in a slideshow format or use the arrow keys to move back and forth between individual photos.



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Social Committee Event Calendar for 2020

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CALENDARS!

Ladies' Dine Around

Tuesday, February 11

Restaurant to be determined

CONTACT:

Kathy McLeod
905-640-7351

Pocket Concert (Classical Music)

Wednesday, May 6

CONTACT:

Ron Brewing
905-640-8836

Ladies' Dine Around

Tuesday, May 12

Restaurant to be determined

CONTACT:

Kathy McLeod
905-640-7351

Casino Trip

Thursday, May 21

CONTACT:

Judy Rose
905-642-2735

Canada Day Celebrations with Entertainment

Wednesday, July 1

CONTACT:

Ron Brewing
905-640-8836

Ladies' Dine Around

Tuesday, July 14

Restaurant to be determined

CONTACT:

Kathy McLeod
905-640-7351

September Theatre Event/ Wine Tour

CONTACT:

Jenny Gould
647-448-4022

Ladies' Dine Around

Tuesday, September 15

Restaurant to be determined

CONTACT:

Kathy McLeod
905-640-7351

Pocket Concert (Classical Music)

Wednesday, September 23

CONTACT:

Sue Daly
905-591-1430

Ladies' Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, November 24

CONTACT:

Lynne Gauld
905-591-4144

Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance

Saturday, December 5

Recreation Centre

CONTACT:

Johanna Burkhard
647-283-4151

Pacemakers' Concert Dates for 2020

Wednesday,
May 20, 4-6 p.m.

Wednesday,
July 22, 4-6 p.m.

Wednesday,
December 16, 4-6 p.m.

PLEASE CONTACT:

Gail Knaggs
905-591-2951

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At Stouffville Creek, fun goes beyond bingo. Your social calendar will be filled with our signature events that include ice cream socials, dances, happy hours, and popcorn-filled movie nights. We believe there should be plenty of opportunities to take up a new hobby or rediscover an old one. Whether it's knitting, painting or gardening, you'll discover activities that are tailored to your needs. After all, it's never too late to strike up a friendship or discover a new passion.

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BY BLAIR TULLIS

I remember the haze of cigarette smoke and clacking balls that greeted me when I walked up the stairs to the Mimico Pool Hall back in the '60s. Little burn lines on the rails of the tables told me this was the place to misspend those hours when I should have been readying myself for university and the rat race that followed. I relished the days of Cokes and butts and quarter bets.

The pool room at the Ballantrae Recreation Centre has the same clacking, razzing and kibitzing, but without the smoky haze. Under the bright table lights, four players in two teams play snooker under the watchful eye of Cliff Thorburn, the legendary Canadian snooker champ, overseeing the three-game matches from his poster on the back wall.

BGCC's Snooker Club was started by Don Pratt to give the residents an organized (and unisex since 2012 we might add) outlet for their pool-playing urges. The league, which plays in monthly sections, is divided into A, B, C and D divisions that play in two-hour slots over the full day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. At the end of each

month, the top four players in each division play off in a singles format to determine that month's winner, limiting the time to stew over a loss and maximizing the opportunity to be a winner at some point in the year. There are fall and spring championships in November and April, with a yearly lunch meeting to cap off play and plan for the next year.

The club currently has more than 60 members who sign up each month for their divisional play. Brian Cox, the fearless leader of this cue crew, moves players up and down the divisions based on the results of each month's play. As long-time member, Iggy Natoli, puts it, "I love playing with the guys because it takes me to a time when I couldn't wait to get to the pool hall and play a few games. The snooker club is a place where you can revisit your misspent youth!"

You too can come out and get hooked on the camaraderie so evident in the Ballantrae Snooker Club. Play and have fun...but be sure to call your colours!





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