

FALL 2022

# HOME *ON THE* *Green*

COMMUNITY LIFE IN THE  
BALLANTRAE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

## In This Issue:

[Celebrate Autumn with Apples](#)

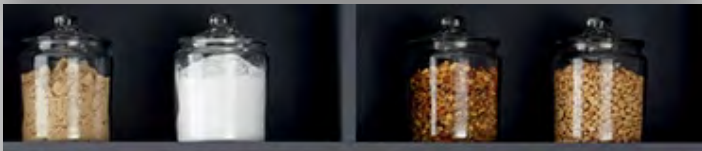
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**A magazine for and about the residents of  
The Ballantrae Golf & Country Club Community.  
A positive community voice to inform and entertain.**

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Printing	Tower Litho Company Ltd.

*Home on the Green* is a community-oriented magazine, published four times per year (March, June, September and December), for the enjoyment of the residents of the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club Community. It is produced by our residents who volunteer their talents, efforts and time. The magazine is owned by *Home on the Green Community Magazine*, a not-for-profit organization, duly incorporated under the laws of the Province of Ontario.

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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 [magazine@hotg.ca](mailto:magazine@hotg.ca). *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 OUR PUBLISHER

BY ELAINE SAKSONS



A few years ago, I was FaceTiming with my granddaughter and I showed her my Dicken's village. She patiently watched as I showed her all the pieces of the setup. When I asked her what she thought, she said, "It's nice Gamma, but where is your house in the village?" Ever since then, I have felt that our Ballantrae is like a village.

Above is a picture of most of the volunteers (members of our village) who tirelessly give of their time – and gas – to bring you this wonderful publication on a quarterly basis. Take a moment to look at the masthead of each publication to see the names of the individuals who are involved. Many of us have never been involved in producing a magazine; it has become an opportunity to learn, to meet new people, to contribute to our community and to have a sense of accomplishment.

We were finally able to gather as a group to celebrate and to give face-to-face greetings and compliments for many jobs well done. The smiles around the room were evidence that we all enjoy being a part of this team and living in our "village."

Thank You

Please let one of us know if you too would like to join the team!

Thank you

Elaine

*Elaine Saksons*





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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCILLOR MORE FROM MAURICE

BY MAURICE SMITH



## Many Miscellaneous Items

Well my friends, these have been a few interesting months! The storm on May 21 just added to the news at Ballantrae Golf and Country Club. Damage caused around the community and on the golf course will not soon be forgotten and it will take many months to return this part of our community to normal. Though many trees were uprooted and gardens cleared, there were no serious personal injuries and in that regard we can count our blessings.

Life in the community is also getting back to normal after COVID. *Home on the Green* continues to be a great magazine that keeps us all up to date. I enjoy reading about people within the community in articles like the recent one about our friend Wayne Burgess. These go a long way in helping us get to know more about our neighbours. In that vein we are now once again allowed to gather at the Recreation Centre to greet old friends and make new ones.

The July 1 Canada Day celebration was a success and a good start to a return to normalcy. Likewise it was great to meet once again at the Recreation Centre to hear our own group of musicians, "The Pacemakers."

I presently serve not only as your local Ward Councillor but also as Deputy-Mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville. It is my wish that with your support, I will be allowed to continue in this municipal role after the October 24 election.

I am happy to advise that after a number of requests by Stouffville council, the region will be installing traffic signals at the intersection of Ninth Line and

Aurora Road. The engineering work is underway and installation is expected within a few months.

## Ballantrae Woodlot

In 2019 I advised that Schickedanz Bros, after many years of construction, had finalized their efforts in building our community. Their only remaining interests were the golf course property and a parcel of land that had become known as the "woodlot."

The golf course lands, which can never be expanded or built on, are now operated under a long term agreement between Schickedanz Bros and Porcupine Management Ltd., a company under the direction of John McLellan.

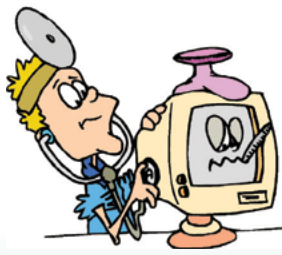
On May 12, 2022, the official ownership and property title for the 11.67 hectare (approx. 29 acres) parcel of land was severed and conveyed to the Town for natural conservation purposes. The area in question is indicated as Part 4 on the surveys shown below.

The situation now is that this woodlot acreage can never be transferred or developed and will, in perpetuity, remain in the Town Park Trust.

There are a series of walking trails within this woodlot and if you have never done so, I would suggest that the next time your grandchildren come to visit, you should take them for a walk. It is a great piece of property and a very welcome addition to our community. There is some minor work to be completed by Town staff, such as clearing a few trees and repairing and fencing the acreage. This will be completed by the end of this summer.







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# The Loyalty of Dogs

BY LINDA LEGALLAIS



One of the most endearing traits displayed by dogs is loyalty. Stories of dogs' loyalty come from all over the world and throughout history. I'd like to share some of these tales.

Greyfriars Bobby was a Skye Terrier owned by John Gray, a night watchman in Edinburgh. When John died he was buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard. His beloved pet Bobby sat watch at his graveside for 14 years until he died in 1872. He was officially "adopted" and cared for by the city of Edinburgh and upon his death was buried inside the gate of the Kirkyard not far from John's grave. A lovely fountain with his sculpture stands nearby in recognition of the loyal little fellow.



Greyfriars Bobby

Let's jump to 1924 when every day Professor Ueno took the train to his job at the University of Tokyo. His Akita dog Hachiko accompanied him to the station and faithfully waited for his return at the end of the day. Tragically, one day the professor did not return from work after suffering a heart attack. For the next nine years Hachiko returned every day to meet the train in the hope that his master would return. He finally died of natural causes in 1935 and is honoured throughout Japan with monuments that praise his loyalty.



Above: Prof. Ueno's dog Hachiko (Akita breed); Right: Statue of Waghya at Raigad Fort-India

Back in 1680, King Shivaji of Maratha, India, adopted a mixed breed dog which he named Waghya, which means tiger. The dog became his devoted companion for many years. When the king died, an elaborate funeral took place and, according to legend, in the ultimate act of loyalty Waghya jumped onto the funeral pyre. Dog and beloved master were immolated



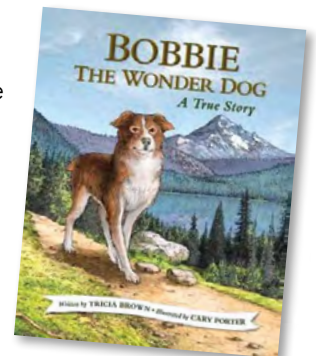
together never to be parted. In 1906 Indore's Prince Holkar erected a statue in Waghya's honour next to his master's shrine.

A German Shepherd was enjoying a car ride with his family in Tolyatti, Russia in 1995 when the car was struck by another vehicle killing the female passenger instantly and critically injuring her husband who later died in hospital. The dog escaped injury but no one noticed him. Residents began to report a German Shepherd on the side of the highway rushing at cars and jumping up to the windows. Finally the story was put together of who had owned the dog. No one could catch the elusive animal so they just began leaving food out for him. They named him Kostya which means loyalty. This continued for seven years until he quietly passed away.



Kostya Dog Monument, Togliatti, Russia

Then there was Bobbie, the collie mix who became famous after being lost during a family car trip in 1920. He walked 2,500 miles to return home to his owner in Oregon. When Bobbie died in 1927, Rin Tin Tin placed a wreath on his grave.



Bobbie the Collie

Closer to home, my husband Dave recalls with great fondness, a neighbour's shepherd mix named Rusty. Although Dave's family always had a dog, it was Rusty who followed him to and from school and around the neighbourhood. He would even wait outside the barbershop when Dave went for a haircut. He spent hours just sitting with Rusty and sharing his dreams. Dave says it was Rusty who first made him want to be a veterinarian. On the other hand, when our daughter picked up our grandkids after a sleepover, our Standard Poodle Splash jumped into the back seat and sat between the two car seats perfectly happy to leave with "her kids." I guess that's loyalty too.

Maybe not all of our canine companions exhibit a heroic loyalty, but they're always there with a wag of a tail in good times or a sympathetic head on your lap when times are rough.





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# 2022 Tips for COVID Conscious Travellers

BY KEN MIYAUCHI



After several years on the COVID roller coaster, many of us are travelling again. Some simply yearn for the opportunity to travel and others have money to spend because of previously cancelled trips. Another wave of COVID may be on the horizon so let's travel but maintain a level of caution and precaution.

Before leaving home, ensure that you are fully vaccinated. If possible, schedule a vaccination just prior to travelling to ensure the highest level of protection. Avoiding high risk areas before travelling and implementing some self-imposed isolation will ensure that you are not sick before you leave.

Travel insurance has never been more important. OHIP has little medical coverage and many policies exclude COVID coverage. Some insurance companies include "cancel for any reason" coverage at no extra cost provided you purchase the insurance within 72 hours of booking your trip. If you are using credit card benefits, check the fine print to ensure sufficient coverage.



Packing is a critical activity. A backpack with multiple compartments is a useful and flexible carry-on. Roll clothing and place in packing cubes to maximize space in your luggage. A GPS luggage tracker tag may assist you if your luggage gets lost. Ensure that your valuables, electronics, cords, travel adapters and chargers are in your carry-on. Remember that carry-on liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes must be a maximum of 100 ml each and all must fit in a clear, quart-sized bag. Enter your travel and vaccination information into the Arrive Can app. Allow extra time to get through airport security and customs.

Although many mask mandates have been eliminated, it is still wise to take a supply of N95 masks, sanitizer, wipes and rapid tests. While on a plane or train, clean the seat and headrest with a wipe, wear your mask and sanitize your hands frequently. Do the same when visiting the restroom. Be as self sufficient as you can. Take your own neck pillow, sweater and headphones. If you are using Bluetooth headphones, a Bluetooth transmitter is an inexpensive and important item.

At your destination, eat at outdoor patios and favour outdoor venues or indoor settings with good ventilation. A museum with high ceilings is better than a crowded restaurant. Wearing a mask when others are maskless can be intimidating so travel with like-minded friends. If you are travelling in non-peak seasons, you are more likely to avoid crowded venues.

Especially for these days with crowded airports and overbooked airlines, an anonymous travel attendant has offered some useful tips:

- If you can drive in less than seven hours, it may be faster than crowded airports and delayed flights.
- Fly a day earlier than needed to avoid missing important functions, flight connections or cruises/tours that will not wait for you.
- Book the first flight in the morning so that you have all day to be rebooked. Also, morning flights aren't cancelled as often. Short staffing problems that snowball throughout the day are avoided by flying early.
- For multi-leg flights, schedule two to three-hour layovers to minimize missed connections.
- Consider upgrading your seats, especially if it is important to sit together. Passengers in more expensive seats are less likely to be bumped.
- Wear shoes when walking or visiting the restroom. That may not be water on the floor!

Travelling is not without risks but taking precautions will minimize problems and result in a successful and enjoyable vacation.



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# AGI Kitchen & Wine

BY ALLISON SCOWCROFT



Early in the summer I went for dinner with a group of friends to a lovely little restaurant on Main Street Stouffville: AGI Kitchen & Wine. It was superb and I knew I would have to interview the owner, Agi Guna, to find out more about him, the restaurant and his inspiration for the delectable food he serves.

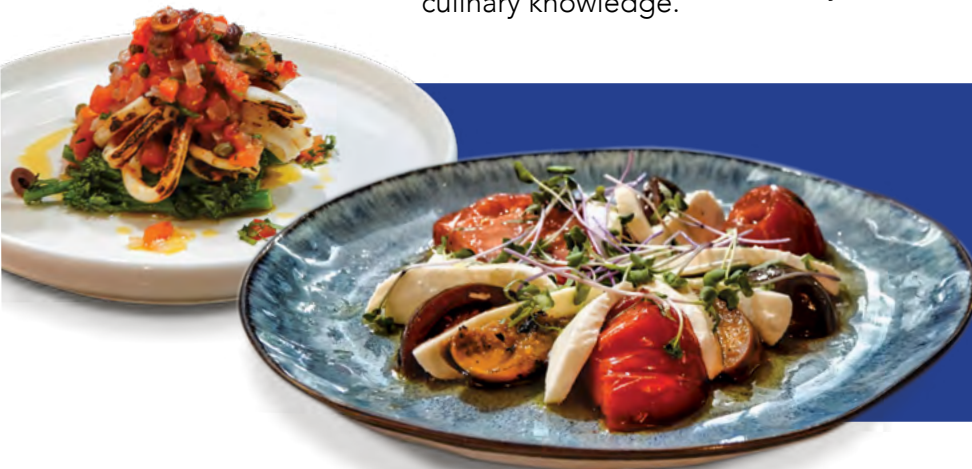
Agi, a Tamil, was born in Sri Lanka and moved to Canada in 2002. He had family working in the restaurant business, so he also started working in the industry. He worked his way up from dishwasher to sous chef and then became head chef in his own restaurant. He worked in restaurants such as Oliver & Bonacini, and Canoe where he gained fine dining experience and culinary knowledge.



At AGI everything is made fresh daily and food is prepared to order. On the evening we went, we loved his mussels in a curry coconut sauce. I had the hand-made gnocchi in mushroom sauce. It was superb; light pasta pillows packed with flavour. The menu also includes fresh fish, lamb, Spanish rice and fresh cut french fries. There are specials every day and generally, although not on the menu, fresh oysters are available.

All desserts are made in house, including a mascarpone cheese cake, poached pears, ice cream, chocolate mousse and crème brûlée.

The restaurant seats 40 people, plus there is a patio. It is available for private parties and events. They also do take-out and delivery. However, because he doesn't want to lose the integrity of quality, not everything is available for delivery. The service we had was excellent: attentive, friendly, professional; I can't say enough good things. It is a restaurant I plan on visiting again soon and I hope you will too.



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# "The Secret of Life is Art"

BY GREG MCCAIN



This quote by Oscar Wilde sums up my passion for studying, viewing, and collecting art. With a couple of my personal paintings I would like to show you how my life and my thoughts about paintings have contributed to my own maturity. My interest in art even led me to be a part owner of an art gallery on Yonge Street in Toronto.

## Early Thoughts

My first interest in art was an enjoyment of realistic painting. Landscapes and figurative works are easy to understand and are an extension of what we see. Frida Kahlo, the celebrated Mexican artist said, "I paint flowers so they will not die."

"I PAINT FLOWERS  
SO THEY WILL  
NOT DIE."



A painting by Alexandr Kachkin, purchased 30 years ago, still hangs in my living room. It appears at first glance to be a still moment in time, but the viewer is gradually invited to infer the backgrounds of the characters and create biographies. It reminded me of my grandparents, then my parents and has evolved to be my wife and me. Every time I look at it, there is a sense of emotion and it makes me smile. The great French impressionist, Paul Cezanne said, "A work of art which does not begin in emotion is not art."

## Later Thoughts

It took me some time before I could appreciate abstract and surrealistic art.

A painting by Alvar, a disciple of Picasso, proudly hangs in our hall. It is filled with brilliant colours and a great deal of symbolism. Note the three figures embracing (Father, Son and Holy Ghost), the checkerboard of life, the dove of peace, the temptation of the fruit, etc. Henry David Thoreau said, "It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."



I once persuaded a friend to accompany me to see Picasso, The Blue Period, at the Naples Florida Art Museum. His comments after seeing the exhibition summed up what he saw, "If he painted this in his blue period, what did he paint when he was in his happy phase?"

I got to visit the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida with a tennis buddy, Maurice Joseph, who as a young man pulled paper for Dali. His explanation of the artist and interpretation of the paintings opened my eyes. If you are ever in Florida and have a chance to visit the museum, please go and take a guided tour. Albert Camus said, "A true masterpiece does not tell everything."

My art collection has become a diary of my life. Each painting recalls a time, a place and a person and reflects the maturity of my life. I highly recommend visiting art galleries. Paintings may open your eyes.



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Our thanks go out to the BGCC community for their continued support during these crazy times. Thanks also go to my father (Philip) for building COVID-friendly table dividers and installing UV HEPA filters to protect our customers and staff. Please join us in our dining room, we would love see everyone again.

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# Moving Solutions

BY LYNNE BALFOUR



There comes a time when looking after a house seems overwhelming, but so does the thought of moving. The accumulation of treasures from years of living has built up. The pressure of downsizing seems too much to bear, even if you know of an appropriate place to which to move.

This is when a company like Downsizing Diva comes in handy. A Canadian franchise, with branches in Markham and Newmarket, Downsizing



Ruth Flanagan & Shirley Coughlin



Diva helps with every facet of a move. Their representative goes through every room of the house with you and helps you to decide what you need and care for and what can be discarded. They immediately remove unwanted items. In my friend's situation, they did several rooms once a week over a month until completion. They can arrange for an antique dealer to evaluate and perhaps purchase some treasures. They plan a layout for your furniture in your new living quarters and determine what will fit. If you need new furniture, they will help with sizing.

On moving day, Downsizing Diva packs all the furniture you are keeping and helps to donate what you no longer need. They move your belongings with their own moving truck and set them up carefully in your new home. According to our neighbour, Ruth Flanagan (who actually founded our *HOTG* magazine) they do everything calmly and efficiently, which helped her stay calm too. Ruth moved out of her house on a Friday and into her new apartment the following Monday. When she arrived, her clothes were hung neatly in her cupboard, her bed was made, her kitchen dishes were in place and her furniture all arranged so that she felt at home immediately. Ruth's diva returned a few weeks later at her request to hang her pictures. The company hires a cleaner to thoroughly clean the house after everything is removed.



This type of company, which specializes in help for seniors, seems ideal for people moving to smaller accommodations, especially if there is no nearby family to help. It could also be a solution for working children of older parents. An interesting service and possible answer to someone's dilemma!





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# McIntosh Apples

BY JAN RICHARDS



The McIntosh, the McIntosh Red, or colloquially known as the Mac, is the national apple of Canada. The Mac has red and green skin, a tart flavour and white flesh that ripens in late September. In the 20th century, the Mac was the most popular cultivar (a plant variety that has been produced by selective breeding) suitable for cooking and eating. Horticulturists praised the Mac as “one of the finest dessert apples grown.”



Unfortunately, the original apple tree was damaged by fire and died after producing fruit for more than ninety years. Horticulturists had saved cuttings from the last known first-generation McIntosh apple tree for producing clones.

William Macoun, a Dominion horticulturist at the Experimental Farm in Ottawa, was credited for popularizing the McIntosh apple in Canada. Macoun recognized the outstanding suitability of this juicy apple for our Canadian climate and urban markets. The Mac apple had winter hardiness that allowed the apples to be stored for five to eight months after picking. In 1907, Macoun reported “that the fruit was widely known and in such great popularity that nurserymen could not meet the demand for these fruit trees.”



Apple trees were introduced to Canada as early as 1600 by French settlers to Annapolis County in Nova Scotia and rural Quebec. The Fameuse or Snow apple was grown in Quebec from 1700 – 1850 for export to England. This variety of apple tolerated extreme winter cold, but due to “apple scab” the orchards were entirely decimated.

John McIntosh’s parents emigrated from Inverness, Scotland and moved to Upper Canada in 1796. In 1811 they acquired the Dundela farm in Matilda Township in Upper Canada. While clearing the overgrown land, the McIntosh family (that included six sons and five daughters), discovered several apple saplings. Cuttings from these trees were planted and bore such superior fruit that the apples famously became known as the McIntosh Red.



In 1835, John’s son Allan started cultivating and grafting (propagating) the trees and selling McIntosh Reds. By 1870, commercial production had started.

By the 1960s the sale of McIntosh Reds made up forty per cent of the Canadian apple market and by 1970 at least 30 varieties of McIntosh hybrid apples were known. By 2010 over 30 million kilograms (66 million pounds) of Mac apples were produced in Ontario.



*The Fameuse or Snow apples of Quebec*

A historic marker has been erected at McIntosh Corners near the family farm where the first apple tree stood. A clone from this tree now grows at Upper Canada Village. This fall, if you are planning a road trip to enjoy our beautiful autumn colours, you might want to veer north of Morrisburg and find the plaque recognizing the national apple of Canada, eh!



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# Back to Margaritaville!

## The Pacemakers Return to Ballantrae

BY BLAIR TULLIS



The Pacemakers Band-Sam Guadagnolo, Bob Ross, Al Gillan, Blair Tullis, Ray Stadnick, Thomie Clarke

With a tippie of tequila, the Pacemakers introduced a new band member to the sold-out crowd in July, bringing everyone back to the joy of hearing, dancing and singing along to live music for the first time in two years. The audience "Flipped, Flopped and Flew, Rocked Around the Clock" (pre-jammy time, of course) and bid "Farewell to Nova Scotia" before the day was done. A splendid time was had by all.



Captive Audience

The Pacemakers' Bob Ross set the narrative during the first set. He took us from the genesis of the Pacemakers, years ago leading singalongs after golf dinners at Mill Run, through the various iterations of the band up to the current roster.

Two of the band's founders, Ray Stadnick and Thomie Clarke, started off the evening with a couple of singalong standards from the old days. Bob

Ross then added his guitar and voice, followed by Sam Guadagnolo, who filled the sound on keys. Singers Al Gillan and the aforementioned newbie, Blair Tullis, filled out the roster, mixing ballads and dance numbers.

What is it about getting out with friends to listen to live music? Don't we get our fill on Spotify or Sirius in the comfort of our homes? Of course not! We need an enthusiastically-sung tune, the participation of other people in a friendly venue, and a few glasses of cheer to recapture the muse and create some endorphins. The result is pure bliss.

Thankfully, that is what happened in Ballantrae this summer. In a short space of time, our residents were treated to a Motown concert off campus at Tiny Seedlings, a July 1 romp with Grant Fullerton and, on July 12, the return of the Pacemakers.

The doors continue to creak slowly open as more concerts are played around the area at places such as the Uxbridge Music Hall and the Coach House Pub. COVID, although still lurking, has lost some of its fear factor as the effects seem less daunting to those vaccinated. Care always has to be taken, but life must be lived.

Things continue to percolate with a Pacemakers August 31 dance concert planned and another in the offing for December. Your boys are working on new tunes and some sweet harmonies to tickle your collective fancies. So, don't let that umbrella in your margarita poke you in the eye and we'll see you next time. The fun has begun again!



Bob Ross & Ray Stadnick Duo



Thomie Clarke



Blair Tullis



Sam Guadagnolo



Al Gillan



# Let's Back Up For A Moment Literally!

BY BRIAN FREEDMAN



Both Al Moldon (PC Doctor) and I service a lot of ailing computers in our line of work.

Typically, the principal concern when that happens is the preservation of the computer user's data: documents, photos, music files, videos and such. My first question is always, "What is the date of your last backup?" Unfortunately, more often than not, that question is met with a rather starry-eyed look; one, when put into words goes something like, "What are you talking about?"

So let's get one thing perfectly clear. If the data in your computer is important to you, the time to take steps to protect it is *now* and *ongoing*, not at the time you are facing a computer crisis. Furthermore, it is best to assume that it is not a question of *if* but *when* you will lose part or all of your data if you have not taken steps to safely back it up. Your computer, tablet and phone are all electronic devices which are prone to failure, damage and even loss given their portability; not to mention user error! Your computer is also susceptible to any number of viruses, including those in the ransomware category that are more than happy to permanently separate you from your important data.

## Backing Up Your Windows Computer

If you are familiar enough to be subscribing to (and using) a cloud based service like Dropbox, Google Drive or Microsoft's Onedrive to store and sync your data, then you are in fairly good shape, as a copy of your important files is already being stored elsewhere on an external computer. However, even that carries some risk as you might unknowingly be placing important data in folders that are not set to sync with the cloud based service.

Call me old fashioned but for me there's no greater comfort than knowing that my data is safely duplicated on a second hard drive that is external to my computer which can be



attached, when needed, with a USB cord. These drives are widely available and in a range of different storage sizes to meet your requirements. While these typically come with their own backup software, you can always configure and use the backup utility that comes with your Windows operating system. If you are not comfortable with software installation in general I suggest reaching out to a knowledgeable friend or family member who can assist you with the initial set up just to make sure it is done properly. You will want to ensure, for example, that the application is configured to back up all active libraries and folders where you are placing your data. This can get a little more complicated if you are running any specialized software applications such as those for accounting and tax preparation, etc.

## Backing Up Your Mac Computer

If you own a Mac computer the process is very similar. For a Mac computer you should always use the built-in application called *Time Machine* rather than back-up software that might come with your external drive. That is because the *Time Machine* application is far superior and is designed to simplify the process of recovery should it be required, including the process of transferring to a new Mac computer. Just make sure that you purchase an external back up drive that is specifically formatted for use with a Mac. This will be written prominently on the packaging. While the *Time Machine* application is quite intuitive, I would still recommend asking a friend or relative who is more familiar to assist you with the first time setup.

## Backing Up Your iPhone or iPad

The good news is that provided your iPhone and iPad were set up properly from the outset, they are designed to automatically back-up your data and settings to your iCloud account anytime you are connected to a WIFI network. So this is not something you should need to even think about! Nevertheless, should you want to quickly verify that this is the case, enter settings by tapping on the settings gear. Once in settings you will see your name at the top followed by *Apple ID*, *iCloud*, *Media & Purchases* written in small print underneath. Tap on that to get to the Apple ID settings panel. Then tap on *iCloud*. This will bring you to the iCloud settings panel. Look for *iCloud Backup* and make sure it is turned on. If not, you should switch it on. Please note that if you have a VERY old iPhone or iPad, Google to find the steps for your particular model as the iCloud settings will be found in a slightly different location.

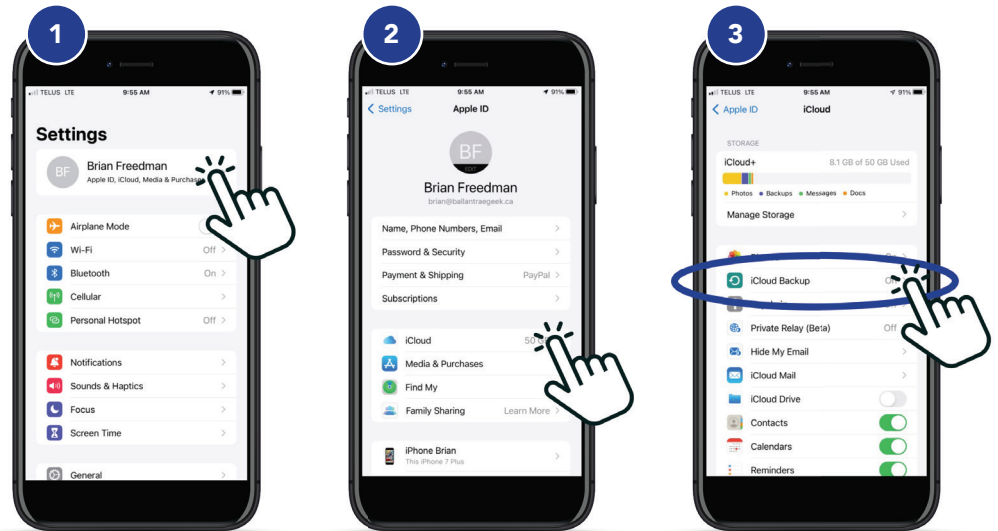


External backup drives are readily available in a range of storage sizes to meet your needs.  
Courtesy: Staples Stouffville.

## How to Backup your iPhone

## Backing Up Your iPhone or iPad

Check that iCloud Backup is turned on for your Apple mobile devices (iPhones & iPads)



## Backing Up Your Android Phone or Tablet

Your Android phone and tablet should have come with a Google Photos app built in. If not, you should be able to acquire it from the Google Play Store. Once set up, all photos taken with these devices are automatically backed up to your Google Photos account in the cloud. You can even access those photos with your computer by logging in at the Google Photos website. The process for backing up your other data, apps and settings can vary depending on your Android device brand and age. Once you open settings by tapping on the settings gear, you should be able to locate a setting labeled "backup" or "backup and restore." For some models you might find this under a category called "Google – services & preferences." You want to make sure that this function is turned on and set to backup to the same Google Account that was used to set up your phone or tablet. Newer Android devices will come with the Google One app, which was more recently introduced to further simplify the backup process. This app is also available at Google Play Store. When it

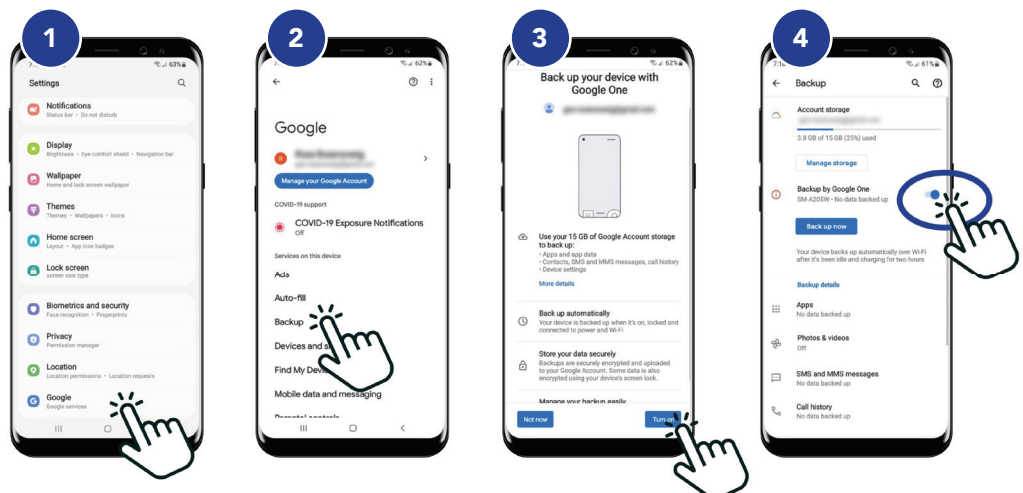
comes to the backup process, I do find Android devices a little more confusing, if only due to differences across brands and Android versions, as well as changes introduced over time. Again, you might want to reach out to a friend or family member who is more familiar with Androids for assistance.

## Please Act Now!

So whether it is photos, documents, video files or confidential information, your data is of the utmost importance to protect. You simply never want to find out that all or even a portion of your data is gone. Thankfully the mobile devices we use today more or less have you covered with built-in solutions, as long as these devices were set up properly from the outset. Your computer, however, does require some involvement on your part, whether that be through the use of a cloud-based service or by setting up a regular back up routine using an external hard drive to create data redundancy. This is by far the cheapest form of insurance available today so please act now if you haven't already done so!

## Backing Up Your Android Phone or Tablet

For most newer Android phones you will find Google Services or Google Services & Preferences under settings to ensure your data and settings are being backed up automatically to your Google Account. Or you can install the Google One app from the Google Play Store





# Mobility Check-Up Time

BY DAYNA STODDART



**Mobility** is defined as the ability to move or walk freely and easily. It is critical for functioning well and living independently. When we were young, we developed the necessary skills to explore and play. Suppleness was just there.

For decades, we moved automatically as needed, and never noticed when these underlying skills started to slip. Why? Because physical tasks were engineered out of our daily lives and we just went with it.

With every decade, exercise or physical activity becomes more and more important in terms of quality of life, independence and vitality. When we shrink our movement sphere, we shrink our function and the more sedentary we become. Use it or lose it! Lose mobility, lose strength, lose energy, lose vitality, lose independence!



Unless our daily routines require a wide variety of movements and positions including a “ground game” (see Health and Wellness Column from Summer 2022 issue), it’s in our best interest to create and choose opportunities to preserve them or work to “earn” them back

## Try this mobility check-up:

PLEASE do NOT self-inflict pain or injury just to prove you can do it.

Score Yourself: **YES (1 point):** I did it automatically with ease.

**NO:** I struggled, felt pain, had to think too much.

### I CAN ...

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Breathe deeply and diaphragmatically while moving with good posture and alignment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Raise both arms overhead comfortably.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Rotate my torso and arch my spine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Look over my shoulder without turning my entire body.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Put my pants on standing up.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Touch my toes with only a slight bend in the knees.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Settle into a deep squat position with my heels down for 30 seconds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Crawl on my belly or all-fours.

### Scoring:

#### GREEN: 8

= holding your own and denying the slide.

#### YELLOW: 4-7

= some kinks in the chain; have started to slide; reverse course now.

#### RED: 0-3

= multiple kinks in the chain; it’s never too late to start re-learning; be sure to EASE back in.

Consider a rusty bike that's been sitting outdoors. Do you immediately take it out on the trail for a rough ride? No, you lube it up, work the oil into the movable parts, check the tires and brakes, and test it out, before you hit the trail.

The more time we spend seated, hunched and/or slumped, the more our mobility declines. Our body adapts to what it does or doesn't do.

Much of the usual age-related decline in physical fitness is preventable, and even reversible, through proper attention to our physical activity and exercise levels. To maintain or improve joint health, exercise is key.

Many people with arthritis resist regular physical activity or exercise because they fear it will increase pain or further damage their joints. But the body is supposed to move; our joints allow for movement.

In fact, movement eases joint stiffness, reduces joint pain, strengthens the muscles which surround the joints and helps us maintain a healthy weight. The benefits are real, so keep moving!

Arthritis is characteristically associated with limited range of motion. To preserve your current range of motion or improve it, you should routinely put each joint through its full pain-free range of motion.

To learn more on exercising safely for joint health and mobility, join me weekly for our virtual Arthritis Fitness Fusion class on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. I will guide you through a series of gentle range of motion exercises to reduce joint stiffness and improve mobility and activities of daily living.

## Common Sense Solutions:



### At HOME...

Do physical labour, chores and tasks both indoors and outdoors. Get down on the ground with pets and kids. If down-sizing, make an effort to keep doing typical physical tasks such as climbing stairs and ladders.



### At WORK and sitting in front of a computer screen?

Frequently stand up, walk around, stretch, reach, arch, bend and rotate away from a seated position.



### At PLAY...

Get outdoors. Hike, bike, ski, play golf, tennis and pickleball. DO whatever gets your juices flowing.

Consider a DAILY practice of breathing, bending, and rotating into and out of positions that are ignored. Try tai chi, yoga, martial arts and mind/body blends.

"We are only as free as the environments we can move in with confidence and competence."

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# Where to Find Your Next Great Read

BY PAT REID



When you're in the mood for a good book, what can you do when you've exhausted the *Globe & Mail* and *New York Times* bestseller lists, the lists of award winners (Canada Reads, Giller Prize, Evergreen Awards, Booker Prize, Pulitzer Prize, Orange Prize, etc) and the recommendations from your local librarian, bookseller and bookish friends?

Fear not! There are hundreds of websites available

to keep you up-to-date on what's new, what's popular and what is likely to match your reading tastes. Some offer opportunities to purchase books and other merchandise or to participate in contests and giveaways. Most can be followed on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Some even specialize in a particular genre, such as Dead Good ([www.deadgoodbooks.com](http://www.deadgoodbooks.com)), a U.K. site that only covers crime thriller books, films and TV.

Because the field is so large, I've chosen to highlight the most popular general sites for your consideration.

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The Bibliofile ([www.the-bibliofile.com](http://www.the-bibliofile.com)) is a book blog hosted by "Jenn" in Oakland, California. She must spend *all* of her time reading because her blog is chock full of book reviews, literary news

Continued on page 27





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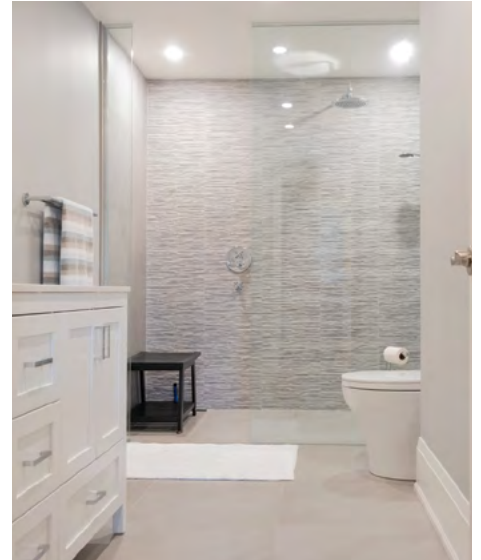
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# Where to Find Your Next *Great Read*

## CONTINUED

and “best of ...” articles. Four times a year, she highlights one title that she believes has a wide range of appeal for book clubs everywhere.



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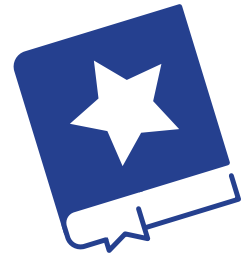
[www.chirpbooks.com](http://www.chirpbooks.com)

If audiobooks are your preference, BookBub has a companion service called Chirp ([www.chirpbooks.com](http://www.chirpbooks.com)) which works the same way.

Celebrity book clubs are another great source of reading inspiration. Because celebrity recommendations tend to receive wide media

exposure, their endorsements carry weight and book clubs everywhere are sure to be reading and talking about the titles they choose. So, if you like to be “in the know”, consider following one or more of these famous bibliophiles.

Oprah Winfrey started the trend in 1996 and is still going strong ([www.oprahdaily.com/oprah-book-club](http://www.oprahdaily.com/oprah-book-club)). Any book she recommends soars to the top of the bestseller lists. She recommends three or four books a year. They tend to be weighty, thought-provoking titles that deal with important social issues and the human condition.



More and more celebrities are now following suit and the field is getting very crowded. For example, Emma Watson has a feminist book club and even star NFL quarterback, Alex Luck has a club for adults and children.

Each month, Reese Witherspoon ([www.reesesbookclub.com](http://www.reesesbookclub.com)) chooses a book with a woman at the centre of the story. To join, simply download the app and set up your profile. The app allows you to share your thoughts with other readers about books you’ve read. If you prefer not to join, you can follow Reese’s club on social media or simply check out a complete list of her past picks on her website.

Jenna Bush Hager, host of the *TODAY Show* also makes monthly picks and discusses them on the show. Her picks tend to be more literary and thought-provoking. Check her website ([www.today.com/read-with-jenna](http://www.today.com/read-with-jenna)) to see her past picks and lots more book related information. Follow on Instagram (#readwithjenna) to engage with other readers and to sign up for her newsletter.

Not to be outdone but with a little lower profile, *Good Morning America* also has a book club. ([www.goodmorningamerica.com/bookclub](http://www.goodmorningamerica.com/bookclub))

As you can see, there is a lot of help out there for readers in a quandary and, for me; these resources are like potato chips. It’s hard to stop at just one!



# Celebrate Fall with the Crunch & Sweetness of Local Apples!

With textures and tastes ranging from crisp and sour to soft and sweet, apples add autumn flavour to many sweet and savoury dishes.

When shopping for apples, some names of local varieties may be unfamiliar, especially at farmers' markets. You will always find favourites, such as McIntosh, Northern Spy and Red Delicious, but be adventurous and try lesser-known varieties such as Jonagold, Red Prince, Ginger Gold and my favourite, Ambrosia. These are some of the newer eating and baking varieties that are worth discovering.

Most supermarkets have also improved their selection of local apples. For instance, each fall, the Vince's chain of supermarkets, displays a large variety of freshly picked apples in large bins right from the orchards. If you want to buy a large basket of apples, keep in mind that the early fall varieties are meant to be eaten right away, while the later hardier varieties, often picked when colder weather sets in, are ideal for longer storage.

Take advantage of this year's crop with these easy recipes.



BY JOHANNA BURKHARD



## PORK CHOPS WITH APPLE AND THYME

*Simple and tasty — this is my favourite way to cook boneless pork chops. Serve with rice or quinoa and steamed broccoli.*

### MAKES 2 SERVINGS

**1/4 cup (50 mL)** chicken stock

**1 tbsp (15 mL)** honey

**1 tbsp (15 mL)** cider vinegar

**1/2 tsp (2 mL)** cornstarch

**2** thick centre-cut boneless pork chops (300 g), well trimmed

**2 tsp (10 mL)** each vegetable oil and butter

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

**1/2** small apple, cored and thinly sliced (do not peel)

**1/2** onion, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced

**1 tsp (5 mL)** chopped fresh thyme or 1/2 tsp (2 mL) dried thyme leaves

1. In a bowl, combine stock, honey, vinegar and cornstarch. Set aside.

2. Pat pork chops dry with paper towels. In a medium non-stick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat until oil is hot but not smoking. Cook pork for 2 minutes per side or until lightly browned. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer to a plate.

3. Add butter to skillet until sizzling. Add apple, onion and thyme; cook, stirring for 2 minutes or until lightly coloured. Reduce heat to medium. Stir in reserved chicken stock mixture; cook, stirring, for 1 to 2 minutes or until sauce boils and thickens.

4. Return pork and any juices to skillet and spoon apple-onion sauce over. Cover and cook for 2 minutes or until pork is no longer pink in the centre. Season sauce, if necessary, with additional salt and pepper to taste.



## APPLE SAUSAGE BREAD STUFFING WITH CRANBERRIES

*This is the stuffing I always make with roast turkey at Thanksgiving as well as with chicken, without the fuss of stuffing the cavity of the bird. The turkey roasts faster unstuffed. As for the stuffing, it never gets soggy and remains moist but has a light toasted top and edges. Also try this with pork roasts.*



## MAKES 8 TO 10 SERVINGS

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C)

Rimmed baking sheet

**13-by 9-inch (3 L)** baking dish, generously buttered

**10 cups (2.5 L)** lightly packed bread cubes\* (see Tip)

**1lb (500 g)** turkey sausage meat or Italian sausage, casing removed and chopped

**1/4 cup (60 mL)** butter

**2** large onions, finely chopped

**3** stalks celery, finely chopped

**3** cloves garlic, chopped

**2** good-sized apples, cored and diced (no need to remove peel)

**2 tbsp (30 mL)** chopped fresh sage

**1 tbsp (15 mL)** chopped fresh thyme

**1/2 tsp (2 mL)** ground black pepper

**1/3 cup (75 mL)** chopped fresh parsley

**1/2 cup (125 mL)** dried cranberries

**1 cup (250 mL)** chicken stock, plus more to moisten the stuffing

1. Place bread cubes on a baking sheet and toast in preheated oven, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes, or until lightly toasted. Let cool and transfer to a large bowl.
2. Meanwhile, in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat, cook sausage meat, stirring and breaking up with the back of a wooden spoon, for 7 minutes or until no longer pink. Place in a sieve to drain fat. Chop or place in a food processor; pulse to finely chop meat.
3. Add butter to skillet and reduce heat to medium. Cook onion, celery, garlic, apple, sage, thyme and black pepper, stirring often, for 10 minutes or until vegetables are softened. Return sausage to skillet and cook, stirring occasionally, for 3 minutes. Add to bread cubes in bowl along with cranberries and parsley and toss well.
4. Pour enough stock over bread mixture and toss until moistened. Spoon mixture into baking dish packing

lightly. Cover with lid or foil. To make the day ahead, prepare stuffing as directed, cover and refrigerate.

5. Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes. (Add more chicken stock while baking if stuffing appears dry. It should be moist but not wet.) Uncover and bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until top is browned.

**\*Tip: Use firm bread such as French baguette or Italian loaf.**



## WARM MAPLE APPLE PUDDING

*Saucy fruit topped with a light cake batter makes one of the most comforting desserts ever created. This version hails from Quebec where sweet and snappy McIntosh apples are paired with amber maple syrup in many baked recipes.*

### MAKES 6 SERVINGS

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C)

8-inch (20 cm) square baking dish, greased

**4 cups (1 L)** peeled sliced apples, such as McIntosh or Golden Delicious

**2 1/2 cup (150 mL)** maple syrup \* (see Tip)

**1/3 cup (75 mL)** raisins

**1 cup (250 mL)** all-purpose flour

**1/4 cup (60 mL)** granulated sugar

**1-1/2 tsp (7 mL)** baking powder

**1/2 tsp (2 mL)** baking soda

**1/4 tsp (1 mL)** salt

**1/4 cup (60 mL)** butter, cut into pieces

**1** egg

**1/2 cup (125 mL)** buttermilk  
**\*\* (see Tip)**

**1 tsp (5 mL)** vanilla

1. In a saucepan, bring apples and maple syrup to a boil; simmer 3 minutes or until softened. Add raisins. Pour into prepared baking dish.
2. In a bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cut in butter using pastry blender or two knives to make fine crumbs. In a bowl, beat egg, buttermilk and vanilla. Pour over flour mixture; stir just until combined.
3. Drop by large spoonfuls onto warm apple slices. Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes or until top is golden and cake tester inserted in centre comes out clean.

Serve warm with ice cream, if desired.

**\*Tip: Once opened, make sure to store maple syrup in the refrigerator. It can also be frozen.**

**\*\*Tip: Instead of buttermilk, use 1/2 cup (125 mL) plain yogurt, or add 1-1/2 tsp (7 mL) lemon juice or vinegar to 1/2 cup (125 mL) milk.**





BY DESIGN



# Welcome to My Home

BY MAIRI VASIL



George and I are so fortunate to have made Ballantrae our home for the past six years. If I had known the satisfaction I would get from driving into our beautifully manicured property and meeting our welcoming neighbours, we probably would have moved from Markham sooner.

As an interior designer for the past 30 years, I truly appreciate the symmetry and well designed landscaping with our curving streets, our beautiful golf course and our Recreation Centre. We do live in "Pleasantville!"

Design has always been my passion and, as a member of ARIDO and serving on the board of directors for CDECA, I was active in maintaining professional standards. I am retired now but the passion for design continues.

I have been in many of your homes and I am always pleasantly surprised by the individuality and personality each home exhibits. It is a testament to our creativity.

We own a Doral model and as with so many of the homes in Ballantrae, it has an open concept. This in itself can present challenges, especially when moving with furniture bought for more traditional homes.

In this issue, I will show you my home and explore some of my design decisions and why I made them. Remember I am married to an accountant, so budget was always front and centre!

## Dining Room

I love angling dining tables. It relieves the monotony of furniture surrounding the walls and it allows us more space on either end.

A black accent wall adds drama to any room allowing my art to pop.

## DINING ROOM









BY DESIGN



# Welcome to My Home

## CONTINUED

Our host chairs are slip covered in ticking stripe. As the feeling moves me I can expose the beautiful black Sanderson floral print hiding beneath.

The traditional table with the contemporary accessories allows for a more eclectic room.

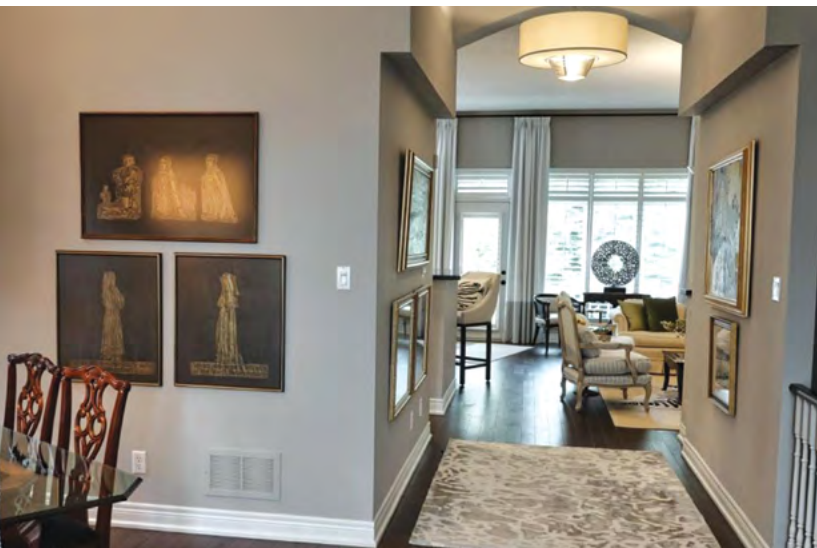
### Hallway

The first thing I did was remove the columns. That allowed more room to display my collection of Canadian art and visually opened the two spaces.

Opening the door to the basement also gave a greater feeling of space and more ease of movement.

Notice my light fixture also coordinates with the other lights.... a very important element in an open concept home.

### HALLWAY



Don't we all love our 11-foot ceilings! I chose to accentuate the height by bringing the custom draperies to the ceiling. We have the height so let's flaunt it!

### Living Room

We decided to place the fireplace on the end wall facing the windows. The contemporary design contrasts with our more traditional furniture.

The bergere chairs have been reupholstered in a simple indoor/outdoor fabric which works well with my five grandchildren!

Then there are pillows! I am on constant alert for new and interesting fabrics and colours. They can update your look in an instant.

### Kitchen

The Doral kitchen is a very workable space with an efficient work triangle and the space to manoeuvre a walker or wheelchair. We decided to leave the footprint, to work with the existing granite and to continue the hardwood floors.

The cabinets were sent out to be spray painted and a fascia with crown moulding was added to give a more custom look and to extend the height.

### KITCHEN



New drawers, built-in microwave, glass door fronts and a back splash were added.

Accessories in an open concept kitchen need to be selected with care and should reflect the adjacent rooms.

I hope you have enjoyed seeing our home and I look forward to showing you another in our wonderful neighbourhood in an upcoming issue.







# Space Technologies Part Three: The Incredible Voyager Missions

BY PHILIPPE MARTIN TEILLET

The technologies of rockets, spacecraft, communications, guidance systems and robotics came together in the 1970s to enable travel to the distant outer planets of the Solar System. Before then, studying planets had become less popular, so graduate researchers, like me who was at the University of Toronto at the time, chose other astrophysical research (computer models of the structure of rotating stars in my case). Nonetheless, we were all fascinated by the bold new missions to explore the Solar System.

NASA launched Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 spacecraft from Cape Canaveral, Florida, in 1977. Thus began a Grand Tour of the Outer Planets of our Solar System, including Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and several of their moons. The spacecraft were built at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

The program cost to date is US \$900 million. As of this writing (July 2022), both Voyagers are still sending data from the interstellar medium beyond the Solar System almost 45 years after launch. They are moving at approximately 60,000 km per hour, over 20 billion km from Earth, with their signals taking around 21 hours to reach us. In his superb book *Voyager*, Stephen J. Pyne (2010) calls Voyager the "grand gesture of a Third Great Age of Discovery." (The first was the sailing exploration of the world's oceans starting in the 15th century and the second was the traverse of the continents in the 19th century.) The late Carl Sagan referred to Voyager as one of the finest achievements of humankind.

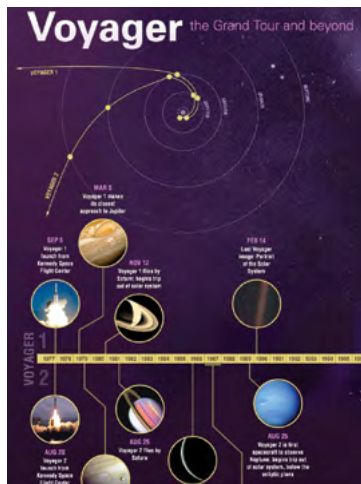
What is the story of this truly remarkable endeavour? The key to reaching the outer planets within a spacecraft's lifetime was the once-in-176-years alignment of planets that occurred in the early 1980s.

Also, gravity assist from Jupiter provided the velocities needed to reach the distant outer Solar System. Complex mathematical calculations of orbital trajectories and mid-course corrections targeted where the planets would be when the spacecraft reached them. As explorations faced in past centuries, Voyager had to work through government bureaucracy, scientific commissions, congressional committees and critics to succeed.

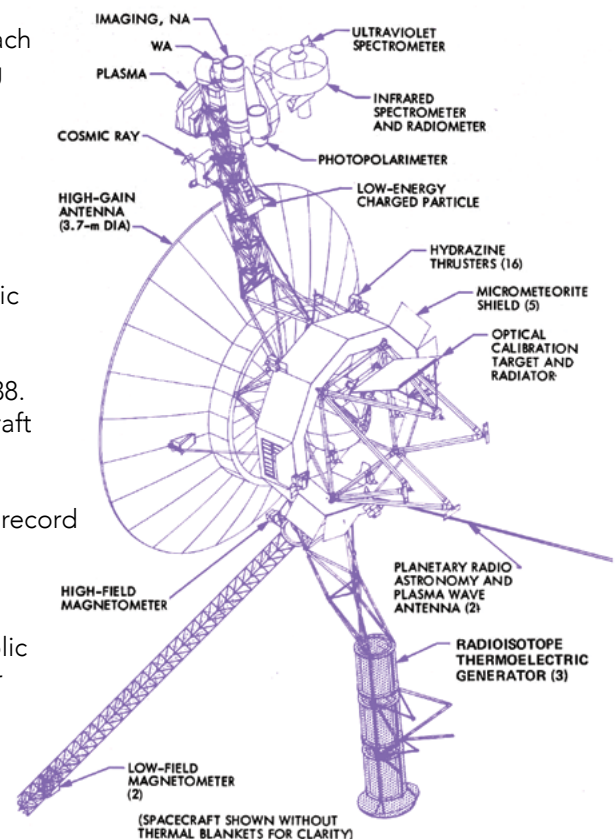
The Voyager spacecraft each weigh 820 kg and include 11 scientific instruments. Power comes from radioisotope thermoelectric generators containing plutonium-238. Both spacecraft carry a 30-cm golden phonograph record containing pictures and sounds of Earth, symbolic directions for



The Alignment of the Planets-Credit Local 12.com.



Voyager 1 & 2 - The Grand Tour-credit nasa/jpl Poster



Above: Voyager instruments [Diagram-Wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voyager_1#/media/File:Voyager_1_instrument_diagram.jpg)  
Top of page: Banner-NASA-Voyager-Missions

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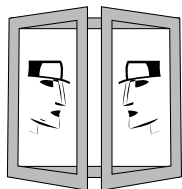
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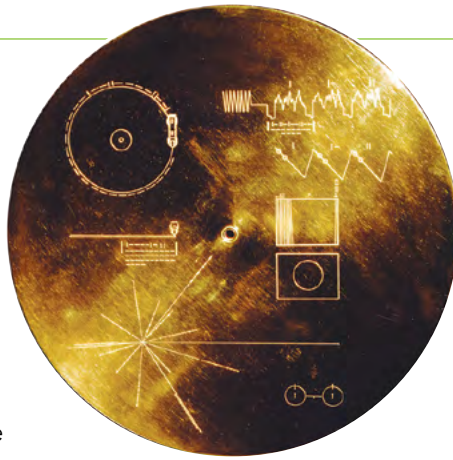
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# Space Technologies Part Three: The Incredible Voyager Missions

CONTINUED...

playing the record, and data detailing Earth's location. The record is a time capsule and an interstellar message to any alien or far-future human civilization that recovers either of the Voyagers.



Above: Voyager's Golden Record-  
credit [nasa.org](https://nasa.org)

Each planetary encounter involved the execution of exquisitely programmed and autonomous data and image acquisition sequences for several months approaching and receding from the planet. Voyager instruments added new knowledge about each planet's properties, and studied many of the moons.

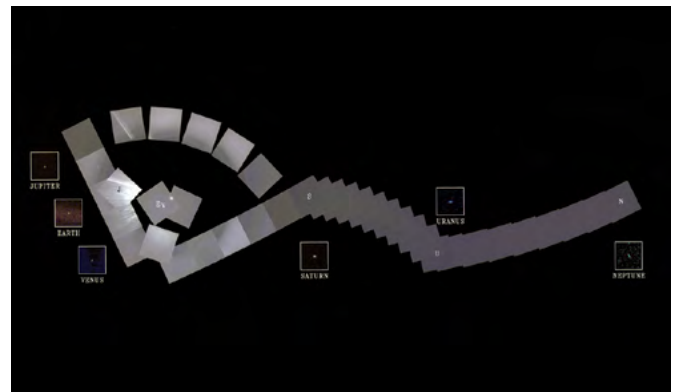
The encounters with Jupiter took place in the spring (Voyager 1) and summer (Voyager 2) of 1979. Swinging around Jupiter doubled the velocity of each spacecraft thanks to gravity assist. Voyager 1 took 20 months (1980) and Voyager 2 took 30 months (1981) to reach Saturn. With the swing around Saturn, Voyager 1 left the plane of the Solar System (the ecliptic) and Voyager 2 got a boost in velocity towards Uranus.

Four and a half years later, Voyager 2's encounter with largely unknown Uranus spanned several months in 1985-1986. From there, the spacecraft's radio signals were several billion times weaker than a watch battery's power. Communication depended on an upgraded Deep Space Network (DSN), the earthbound antennas used for spacecraft tracking and communication. Signals from Voyager 2 then took 164 minutes to reach Earth.

Little was known about the dark planet Neptune, which Voyager 2 encountered after 42 more months of cruising at 70,000 km per hour. For a week in 1989, Voyager 2 completed a suite of intricate manoeuvres and acquired data and imagery, all autonomously. Capturing the signals on Earth required using multiple DSN antennas and the data were synthesized after the flyby. The encounter sent Voyager 2 below the ecliptic

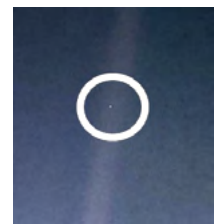
at 48 degrees. Thus ended the Grand Tour of our Solar System's outer planets.

In 1990, travelling above the ecliptic at 64,300 km per hour, six billion km from the Sun, Voyager 1 took images that encompassed six planets, the so-called Voyager "Family Portrait." Earth occupies a fraction of one pixel. Magnified, it appears as a Pale Blue Dot, an expression popularized by Carl Sagan.



Voyager 1-First Ever Solar System Family Portrait (1990)

In 2012, Voyager 1 became the first human-made object to enter interstellar space. Voyager 2 entered interstellar space in 2019. Sometime in the mid-2020s, almost half a century after launch, the remarkable Voyager spacecraft will cease to function and will become inert time capsules, with an infinitesimally small chance of ever being opened.



Voyager 1 "Pale Blue Dot" image of Earth-  
Credit [jpl-nasa.org](https://jpl.nasa.org)

In the July 2022 issue of *Scientific American*, long-time NASA scientist Stamatios (Tom) Krimigis states, "I think the mission lasted so long because almost everything was hardwired. Today's engineers don't know how to do this... Voyager is the last of its kind."



Stamatios Krimigis



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# More Good Reasons to Visit [www.hotg.ca](http://www.hotg.ca)

BY DONNA CLARK


As life returns to normal, one of the most helpful features of our website is the Calendar function. We continue to refine it in an attempt to make it easier to use. We also get the most questions and comments on the Calendar and so it is a good time for a refresher.

## USING THE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

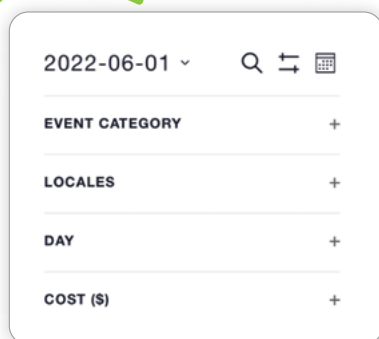
The Calendar is designed to include **all** activities within our community as well as some that we think might be of interest "outside the gates." We encourage you to let us know if there are any activities you think we have missed which you would like to see included. Email [events@hotg.ca](mailto:events@hotg.ca).

Because so many activities and events are now on the Calendar, it can look very busy and somewhat overwhelming. We recommend using the **Filter Bar** to select only those items of interest for viewing:

First, on the home page, scroll down until you see the Calendar.

If you are using a smart phone, the **Filter Bar** is compressed into this icon  so tap it to open. On your laptop/desktop the filter bar is just below the search function. There are four categories you can use to filter the calendar. These are **in addition** to being able to select "list, month or week" for viewing.

This is what the **Filter Bar** looks like:



2022-06-01

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And if you haven't signed up for the **HOTG Newsletter**, contact [webmaster@hotg.ca](mailto:webmaster@hotg.ca).

## EVENT CATEGORIES

We recommend using the **Event Category** to help focus your search. Click on **Event Category** and select one of the following:

### Activities

Resident Organized Activities such as bridge, pocket concerts, poker, lawn bowling, water volleyball, etc.

### Fitness

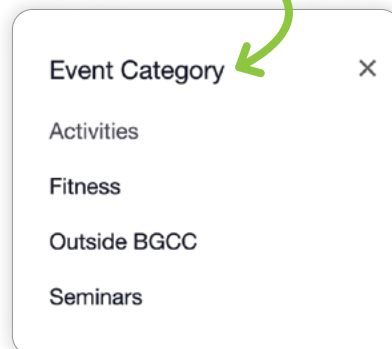
Exercise classes organized by the Recreation Centre.

### Outside BGCC

Any event outside our gates but within York Region that may be of interest to our residents.

### Seminars

Seminars organized by the Recreation Centre and others.



Event Category

Activities

Fitness

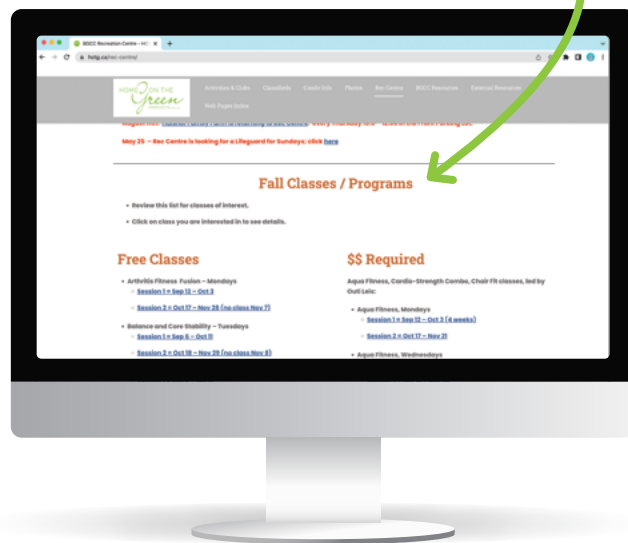
Outside BGCC

Seminars

## FITNESS CLASS/PROGRAM CALENDAR

And if you prefer to see a **summary of fitness classes**, along with associated times/cost, we suggest you go directly to the Recreation Centre page (main menu on [hotg.ca](http://hotg.ca)).

Scroll down to the **Classes / Programs** section (see below) and click on any that interest you for full details.





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# After the Storm

BY KAREN CLARK

On Saturday, May 21, just after 1 p.m., Ballantrae was hit by a brief but very intense storm that radically changed the landscape of our beautiful community. Fortunately, no one suffered any injuries, but many homes experienced damage to roofing shingles and patio furniture and some windows were broken by flying debris. The wind uprooted and downed hundreds of "common element" and golf course trees. It was heartbreaking to see them toppled like dominoes; several were left dangerously leaning. Our serene landscape was ravaged.

Officially classified as a "derecho," the storm was described by meteorologists as one of the most impactful thunderstorms in Canadian history with winds up to 190 km/h (120 mph). A *derecho* (that in Spanish means straight, as in direction), is a widespread, long-lived, straight-line wind storm that is associated with a fast-moving group of severe thunderstorms known as a mesoscale convective system.

Three cities in southern Ontario declared a state of emergency. At least 11 people were killed, mostly by falling trees.

Power outages affected an estimated 1.1 million customers and thousands were still without power a week after the storm. Hydro Ottawa described

**Continued on page 42**





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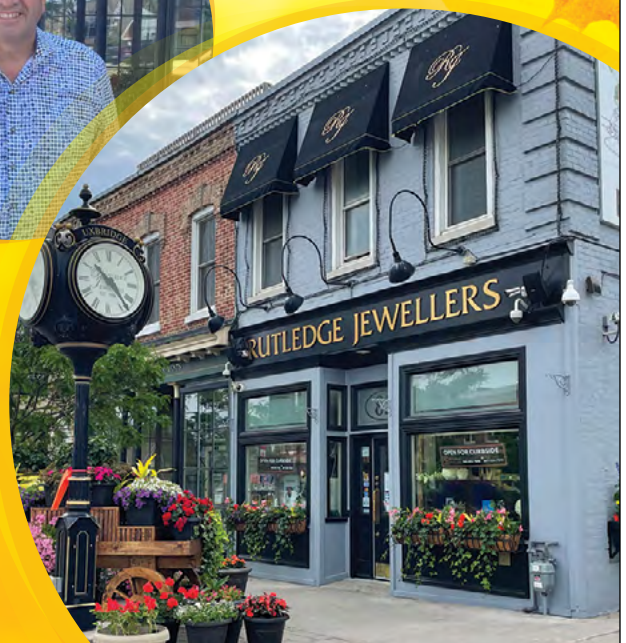
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# After the Storm

CONTINUED...

the damage dealt to its power distribution system as more severe than the 1998 ice storm.

According to an estimate published on June 15 by the firm Catastrophe Indices and Quantification, the insured damage would amount to \$875 million.

This derecho ranks as the sixth costliest event in Canada in terms of insurance claims.

John McLellan of Porcupine Management reported that there were between 125 and 150 trees lost on the golf course that were "in play." Arborists have been contracted to take these trees down to the stumps. This process alone has cost more than \$150,000 to date. This does not include stump removal, reseeding or replacement trees. Three 30-foot maples have been erected on both the fifth tee box and left of the path on the eighth tee box at a cost of \$3,000 each. Areas in the woods adjacent to the course saw at least 100 downed, broken or leaning trees. Clean up of these areas will focus on any trees that pose a danger to golfers. The rest will be left to Mother Nature.

Damage done to irrigation lines by huge roots as they were pulled out of the ground is adding to the workload and cost. Unfortunately, insurance does not cover the cost of the recovery. There is such a massive amount of work still ahead that John can't confirm a time

line for completion but he did comment that if anyone needs free stumps, they are piled up at the maintenance barn!

The winds wreaked havoc mostly on the south side of the community, twisting and snapping trees as if they were sticks. Condos 1 and 2 reported the most damage. Condo 1 had approximately eight common area leaning trees, about 37 fallen common area trees and another 53 downed home owner trees. Condo 2 lost 70 to 80 common area trees and several private ones. You would never know a storm had come through on the north side of Master's North.

Each Condo board is handling their own clean up of the downed trees and planning for replenishment. However, residents are responsible for replacing their own trees.

The huge blue spruce that came down and blocked Snead's Green was quickly removed. However, it was on the private property of Gord and Sue Poland. Suddenly their patio privacy was gone and they opted to replace their tree. It took some scouting, but they found the perfect Colorado blue spruce from J&J Trees in Stouffville. At 18 feet high, it required a 90-inch tree spade to plant it as the tree and root ball weighed approximately 10,000 pounds. The tree and planting fee was over \$1500.

True to form, Ballantrae residents "kept calm and carried on." It is estimated that the clean up and replenishment will go on well into the fall.







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# Canada Day Tennis Round Robin & Social *Tennis Anyone?*

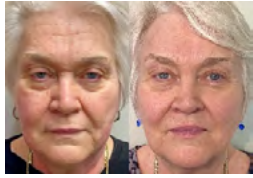
The courts were a sea of red and white as the BGCC Tennis Club hosted a morning of round robin tennis followed by a scrumptious lunch. Thank you to our members who spoiled us with homemade salads and sweet treats! A few showers didn't dampen the fun and the event was rounded out with lucky draw prizes, a group photo and a rousing rendition of *O Canada* led by our choir master, Frank Weis! It was great to be meeting and playing with friends after a two year hiatus.

Do you want to dust off your old tennis racquet and get back in the game, or to start as a beginner? Contact the tennis club at [tennis@hotg.ca](mailto:tennis@hotg.ca) and we will be glad to introduce you to our club members and to find you a comfortable playing group.



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# Muskoka *Rock & Roll:* Seguin Valley Golf Club

BY ANITA DRAYCOTT

Ah cottage country. Just saying it lowers my blood pressure. It conjures up memories of lazy weekends: dangling my feet off the end of a dock; a morning paddle on a lake of glass; basking on a warm pink granite rock; the call of the loon, AND taking a swing at one of my favourite Muskoka courses, Seguin Valley, with 18 glorious fairways designed to capitalize on the region's unique granite outcroppings, mature forests and sparkling lakes.

As a member of the *SCORE* Golf rating panel, I was invited to "stay and play" at Seguin a few years ago. I decided it would be an ideal opportunity to enjoy a gals' golf getaway and invited three of my golf buddies. We stayed in a cute, rustic cabin overlooking Lake McRae. After golf and dinner at the clubhouse, we spent a hilarious evening imbibing in some wine and playing Telestrations. This is a game that involves each player picking a card, then drawing what's written on the card in a supplied sketchbook. Each person then passes their drawing to the left and that person writes an interpretation of the drawing on the next page of the sketchbook. And on it goes until the book returns to you with a final interpretation. The more wine the

less likely the final interpretation will reflect the original. The funniest one started out as a flip flop sandal and evolved into a thong!

The "stay and play" concept at Seguin has proven very popular. Indeed, it has become an annual event for my group. The resort now has four cabins situated on a private lake and can sleep from six to 24 people.





The newest, a renovated maple sugar shack, has four toilet and shower stalls, a full kitchen, TV, living room and outdoor covered patio and fire pit. Surrounding it are 12 separate log cabins, each outfitted with two single beds. Don't forget the marshmallows!

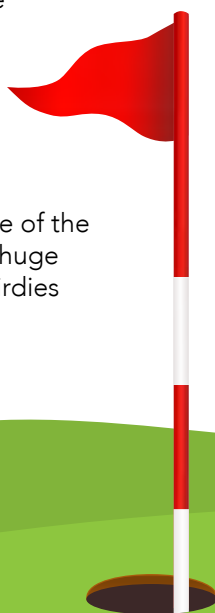
Seguin Valley Golf Club founder Robert McRae spent 15 years carving his 6,795-yard masterpiece out of the Precambrian Shield wilderness just south of Parry Sound. The course first opened in 2003, but McRae sadly died the following year. The course's new owner, Mike Feldman, re-opened it in 2010.

Although blasting was required to clear rock for some tees and greens, as well as for cart paths, little earth was moved during the more than four years of construction, as the course took advantage of the natural lay of the land.

And while there is a minimalist approach to bunkering at Seguin—there are just 25 sand traps on the entire course—and a driving range and expanded practice area are still in the plans, no expense was spared in achieving 18 spectacular fairways. Sitting on 400 acres, there was ample space to lay out each fairway like a separate “room”, so you only see the golf hole you are playing...and perhaps a bear or a moose!

The most memorable hole is the stunning par-three seventh that plays over McRae Lake. The 180-yard-long bridge that curls from tee to green was constructed at a cost of \$350,000. Those of us playing from the forward tees get the unique experience of teeing off from an “island” halfway along the bridge. You'll need an extra club and a brief prayer on this watery wonder. By the way, yet another reason we gals love playing Seguin is because the length from the red tees is a manageable 4,445 yards. There is only one tough forced carry over wetlands on number 15. With six tee decks, low, medium and high handicappers can choose their challenge.

To complement the wild nature of the landscape, a huge, rustic clubhouse was built by Mennonites in St. Jacobs, Ontario, with each log numbered, before being reassembled at Seguin Valley. An iconic 40-foot B.C. cedar thrusts up from the basement through the centre of the distinctive, red-roofed structure. The huge patio is the ideal spot to toast your birdies with some locally brewed Trestle ale.



Yes, the golf is grand and the accommodations ideal, but what makes the Seguin experience so special is the staff. Everyone—from the starter to the gal who took our breakfast and dinner orders to the gent who built us a firepit—could not have been more gracious or welcoming.

For information about Stay & Play golf packages, visit [www.seguinvalley.com](http://www.seguinvalley.com)



# A Celebration of the Music of Our Lives

BY WAYNE BURGESS

On June 17 our Ballantrae Golf & Country Club community, despite the cold, enjoyed an exclusive outdoor party hosted by Mr. Alec Cloke of United Soils. The occasion included an abundance of fine wine, a delicious snack box, friendly service provided by staff who roamed the grounds all evening long and an amazing band that brought back so many happy memories of years gone by. The dance floor was crowded with friends and neighbours of our community. It was an evening to remember that finished with a spectacle of fireworks.

The Ballantrae Golf & Country Club community thanks Alec Cloke, Shana Daniel of Tiny Seedlings and their team for such gracious and overwhelming hospitality.



# Canada Day Celebrations

BY SUSAN MCLELLAN

Ballantrae residents celebrate Canada's 155th in red and white style!

On July 1, 2022, the residents of the Ballantrae Golf & Country Club community gathered once again to celebrate Canada's 155th birthday.

Ballantrae partyers showed up at the Recreation Centre dressed in their finest "reds." Each person was asked to wear his/her best Canada shirt and the assortment was astounding and distinctly Canadian.

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to be together again to sing, to dance, to eat and to drink—it was the perfect way to celebrate Canada's birthday! Many thanks to the Social Committee for organizing this special Ballantrae event.





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# Recreation Centre News

BY SUSAN LAROSA



The #1202 Board of Directors for 2022-2023, with representation from each residential condo corporation is:

**President: Susan LaRosa (Condo 5)**

**Treasurer: Wayne Burgess (Condo 3)**

**Secretary: David Small (Condo 4)**

**Director: Phil Bannon (Condo 1)**

**Director: Susan McKay (Condo 2)**

Residents are encouraged to check the [hotg.ca](http://hotg.ca) website to keep informed of the various activities and amenities offered at the Recreation Centre. All are welcome!

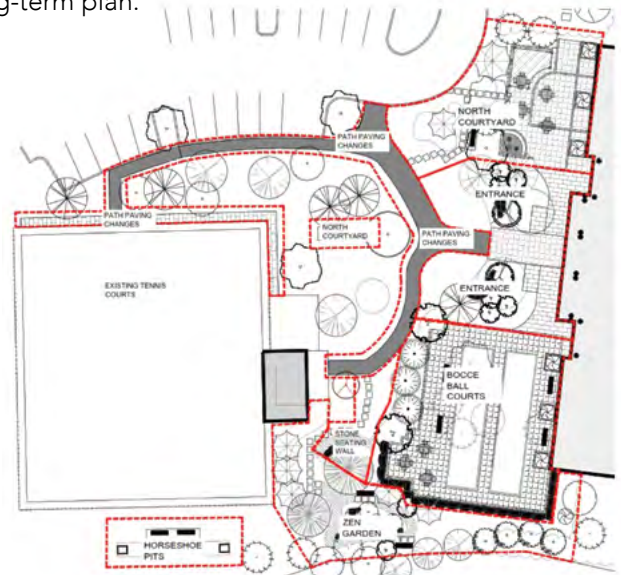
In the AGM insert sent to all Ballantrae residents, it was outlined that the Board of Directors has planned a long-term renovation of the back area, to be undertaken over several budget years. With the popularity of bocce, the first phase will include two professional bocce courts situated closer to the building with new garden beds, shrubs, evergreens, grasses and a seating area. If all goes as planned, the work will commence next spring. This phase will be funded from the current operating budget.

As well, residents who enjoy the pool will be pleased to know that the cause of the staining on the bottom of

the pool has been determined and the entire pool and deck will be renovated to reflect a modernized pool area with costs covered by the reserve fund.

Along with these major projects, the Recreation Centre board is continually assessing ways of enhancing the facility. An example would be the current plan to replace the brick pavement at the entrance of the Centre.

The landscape architect diagram of proposed improvements to the back area of the Recreation Centre provides residents with the total concept of the long-term plan.



## Name Tags Available for \$10 each

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*William Shakespeare  
Romeo and Juliet*

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## Ballantrae Golf & Country Club Craft Sale

Find Gifts for Every Occasion!

BGCC Craft Sale

Saturday, October 22, 2022

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: The Recreation Centre

To book a free table BGCC residents may contact:

Pat Pearson, 905-640-5114 or

Carol McNaughton, 905-640-0651

OCT

22

## Ladies' Christmas Luncheon

Location: Meadowbrook Golf Club,  
11939 Warden Ave., Gormley, ON

Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Time: Noon

Cost: \$55

Please contact:

Jenny Gould, 647-448-4022

Sue Daly, 647-801-8603

NOV

22

## Ballantrae Choir Christmas Concert



## Ballantrae Golf & Country Club Christmas Dinner Dance



**Mark your calendar for the Ballantrae Choir Christmas Concert, Tuesday, December 6, 2022.**

Start the Christmas season off with an afternoon or evening show featuring your friends and neighbours in the Ballantrae Choir. You will also hear our special guest, soprano soloist, Susan Ryman.

Join us in a sing-along of Christmas favourites, and sample some refreshments at intermission.

Cost: \$20. **Tickets will be available in November.**

For more information, please contact: Margaret Lunn 416-574-5218, [marderlunn@bell.net](mailto:marderlunn@bell.net); Alma Boyd 905-642-4482, [almaboyd@rogers.com](mailto:almaboyd@rogers.com); Mary Bresser 416-779-9542, [marybresser@rogers.com](mailto:marybresser@rogers.com); Maureen Downes 905-591-1769, [mdownes44@gmail.com](mailto:mdownes44@gmail.com).

DEC

6

Get Your Dancing Shoes Ready!

Our annual Christmas Dinner and Dance is back!

This popular event sells out quickly each year.

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2022

Featuring: The Pheromones

Enjoy your favourite tunes from the '60s to the '70s

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Complete details of the dance will be posted on the *Home on the Green* website in September.

Mark your calendars!

**Tickets go on sale October 17.**

DEC

3

## Christmas with the Pacemakers

Date: December 14, 2022

Location: Recreation Centre

Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

Cost: \$10. Cash Bar (beer/wine)

For tickets contact: Evelyn St. Clair at [evelyn.stclair@icloud.com](mailto:evelyn.stclair@icloud.com)

DEC

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# Claim to *Fame*

BY JOY MACTAVISH

My son-in-law, Carlo Contaldi and my daughter, Carolyn MacTavish, live in London. He is a theoretical physicist and a professor at Imperial College in London. He is also a captain in the Royal Marine Reserves. During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic he worked as Staff Officer, Medical Intelligence, developing complex mathematical modelling, advanced statistics and data. His analysis provided a greater understanding of the pandemic which was critical to the government's handling of the situation.

In recognition of his contribution, he was awarded an MBE (Military Division). MBE stands for Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The investiture took place at Buckingham Palace on May 4, 2022. The medal was presented to Carlo by Prince William.

Carlo and Carolyn also received an invitation to attend the National Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at St. Paul's Cathedral on June 3. I watched the service on TV and was absolutely stunned when they were shown up close for several seconds. There were 2,000 people in that church and I got to see my daughter and her husband. It blew me away!





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