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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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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. 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 EDITOR

BY ANITA DRAYCOTT



When our community celebrated its unique Ballantrae Summer Games in 2019, who could have predicted that COVID-19, along with wreaking havoc globally, also squelched the possibility of our much anticipated Games in 2021.

But this summer our Games were back and our residents rallied with great enthusiasm as you will see on the pages of this issue. Robert Pitour and his team of roving photographers managed to capture all the spirit, fun and vibrancy of the competitions and festivities.

Because organizing the Games is such a huge undertaking, we decided to devote ample pages in *HOTG* to cover the numerous highlights. Therefore, you won't see submissions from many of our regular contributors in this fall issue, but rest assured, they will be back in the winter publication.

Thanks to everyone who participated and volunteered, and to all of our generous sponsors. Our Summer Games have been one of the largest and most recognized community events in York Region since 2007 by every level of government and local businesses. We have myriad reasons to be proud.



Save These Dates for Upcoming Social Events

October 4

The Pacemakers' Fall Concert

November 16

Ladies' Christmas Luncheon

December 2

Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance

December 13

The Pacemakers' Christmas Holiday Celebration

Please refer to the Social Committee section of the *HOTG* website and the TV screen at the Recreation Centre for further details about these events!

Ballantrae Choir Christmas Concert

Mark your calendar for the Ballantrae Choir Christmas Concert on Tuesday December 5, 2023

Start the Christmas season off with an afternoon or an evening show featuring your friends and neighbours in the Ballantrae Choir and hear our special guest flautist, Laural Griffen.

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

Tickets (\$25) will be available in November. An announcement will be made on www.hotg.ca

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Margaret Lunn, 416-574-5218, marderlunn@rogers.com; Alma Boyd, 905-642-4482, almaboyd@rogers.com; Mary Bresser, 416-779-9542, marybresser@rogers.com; or Maureen Downes, 905-591-1769, mdownes44@gmail.com for more information.



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCILLOR MORE FROM MAURICE

BY MAURICE SMITH



Our Drinking Water

Water is an essential part of our everyday lives yet we often take it for granted. We turn on the shower and the water comes out clear. We fill a coffee pot and enjoy a hot brew. However, there is a lot of work behind the scenes that goes into providing that crystal clear water we use every day.

The Province of Ontario sets the standards and is responsible for enforcement, but other parties play a bigger and more important role.

The water for Ballantrae Golf & Country Club and surrounding area comes from one of the deepest aquifers in Canada. York Region equipment draws the water and sends it to their tower on Ninth Line, south of Musselman's Lake. Stouffville is responsible for the distribution and quality as well as recovering the cost, based on consumption, from individual homes and businesses.

On at least a quarterly basis, town staff visit BGCC to flush the system within our community. This is important on cul-de-sacs and Legendary Trail where underground piping comes to a dead-end. During this process, staff complete micro-biological and chlorine sampling to ensure that they are meeting provincial quality standards.

The underground distribution system is complex and costly to the town. In 2022 a capital infrastructure fee was allocated to our water bills. This fee covers a required reserve for infrastructure capital for the longer term.

In a previous column I outlined the advantages of a program called WaterWatch. This system is available to all who have installed current smart water meters.

Through the new WaterWatch portal you can:

- Set and receive leak alerts
- Identify usage and monitor efficiencies
- View and compare historical usage data
- Access account information from anywhere

This is just another tool to save money and to contribute to the conservation of this precious commodity that we often take for granted.

Ballantrae Fire Station

Yes, it is moving, but it is not moving to the cleared lands at the corner of Aurora Road and Highway 48.

The clearing of the buildings on those lands was more about caution and safety than for any other reason. The owner and I had many discussions about my concerns that the buildings were becoming a fire hazard to the community. The owner will apply for building permits for the site in the future but there is no current request. A big challenge for any development will be water and sewage disposal considerations.

The proposed site for the fire station is 4902 Aurora Road. You may be aware that this was the location of the family who built and stored Muskoka-style tables and chairs in their yard. The town recently purchased this property. Design concepts for a new fire station are underway.

Home Safety Lock Box

In BGCC, neighbours have risen to the challenge of looking out for one another. This is important particularly if you are a resident living alone.

A challenge sometimes faced by first responders when called is that there is no response at the door. They must then consider a forced entry which could involve breaking a sidelight and unlocking the door.

Emergency services staff now have a simple alternative solution to a forced entry if the resident is non-responsive. They have for purchase, a sturdy and secure lock box which can be installed outside the door. The lock box can contain a key to the main door and can be opened only by the responding official.

Many have been installed and they can still be purchased by contacting Jeff Bignell, of our fire service at 905-640-9595, ext. 6229.



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The Canada Goose

BY JAN RICHARDS



This autumn, as we hear the familiar honking of Canada Geese flying overhead in their distinctive V formation, we recognize a nuisance and a pure Canadiana symbol.

There are two species of geese – the Canada Goose and the Cackling Goose – they look identical but the Cackling Goose is smaller with a stubby bill. The Canada Goose (*branta canadensis*) is part of our national identity and is found in every Canadian province and territory. There are more than five million Canada Geese in North America!

The distinctive black head and neck and white chin strap is familiar to all of us. The male Canada Goose weighs between 2.6 and 6.5 kg and measures 75-110 cm in length with a wingspan of 127 to 185 cm. A Canada Goose's lifespan is from 10 to 24 years. They eat grains, seeds, berries, aquatic plants and insects, and mate for life, seeking partners of similar size. They will nest in the same region (fields, underbrush and large grassy areas) just as their parents did and will use the same nest every year.

Goose chicks or goslings learn to swim, walk and find their own food within days of being born. They travel in broods under the watchful and very protective eye of their parents. Adult Canada Geese will hiss, spit, attack and chase you down if you approach their young, so beware!

A single Canada Goose has between 20,000 and 25,000 feathers. The stubby down feathers help insulate the bird from cold water and freezing temperatures. In late summer, flight feathers are shed and over the next few weeks new feathers grow. During this time of regrowth the geese are unable to fly and will retreat into water if they are threatened by any of their predators (coyotes, foxes, raccoons and gulls). A single Canada Goose can "let go" of droppings every 12 minutes or 100 times per day!

The V-pattern of flight has a purpose – it helps the geese maintain their energy and improves communication. Each bird flies above the bird in front of them to reduce wind resistance which enables them to see the other birds for overall coordination. When the lead bird tires, it moves to the back of the flock for a rest. Speeds of 100 kilometres per hour have been recorded and when conditions are right, Canada Geese can travel up to 1,000 kilometres per day.

So when you hear that familiar honking, you will know that a flock of 30 to 100 birds are talking to each other and deciding where their next pit stop will be; hopefully not at Ballantrae golf course!



Canada Geese Nesting – Painting by Robert Bateman



Canada Goose – Portrait by Mia McPherson



Geese flying pattern



Goslings



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A Celebration of the Music of our Lives

BY WAYNE BURGESS

On July 15, our Ballantrae Golf & Country Club community enjoyed, for the second year in a row, an exclusive celebration hosted by and thanks to the goodwill of Mr. Alec Cloke of United Soils. The occasion included fine wine, a delicious snack box and friendly service provided by awesome helpers who roamed the grounds all evening long. Thanks to an amazing band, which brought back so many happy memories of years gone by, the dance floor was always crowded. It was an evening to remember and it ended with a dazzling fireworks display.

Thank you to Alec Cloke, Shana Daniel and Darlene Shaw of Tiny Seedlings, plus a team of helpers for such gracious and generous hospitality, from the BG&CC community.



Left to Right: Shana Daniel, Wayne Burgess, Darlene Shaw



George St. Kitts Band



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Canada Day

BY KATHY BILLINGTON

We all remember Canada's 100th Birthday Celebration – Expo '67 was certainly a world class event. Canada's 150th was special too. In Ballantrae we had local dignitaries attend and we were served free pizza, cake while we enjoyed live music.

This year, Canada's 156th celebration, although more low key than milestone birthdays, was memorable for one main reason: we were together once more, post pandemic, to sing *O Canada* enthusiastically, to laugh uproariously, to chat closely with neighbours and friends, to dance cheek- to-cheek with our honeys or enthusiastically in a group.

At the sold out event on July 1, it was novel to have two talented entertainers. Grant Fullerton, always a crowd favourite, was joined by Brian Larter, the Piano Man. Both accomplished musicians had the joint jumpin' with Motown songs and other '60s tunes, plus some favourite slow tunes.

Many thanks to Ron Brewing and his Social Committee who organized the fun event for us to focus on how grateful we are to live together in this wonderful country and special neighbourhood.



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TENNIS: A GAME FOR THE AGES

BY: BRIAN MORRIS, BALLANTRAE TENNIS CLUB PRESIDENT

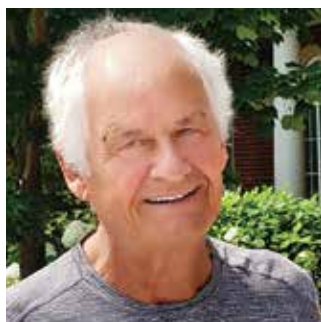


I was sitting on the bench outside the tennis courts watching players ranging in age from early 60s to late 80s at drop-in. The only significant difference I could see was that the 85-year-olds moved a little slower than the 65-year-olds. If they could reach the ball, they got it, but getting to some balls was a bit more of a challenge. Judging by the smiles on their faces and their good-natured teasing though, that fact didn't seem to bother them. They were obviously glad to be out in the fresh air, active and sharing it all with friends and neighbours.

When these players came off the courts to let the next group on, the conversation inevitably turned to current physical challenges. We heard about arthritis pain, the need for knee or hip replacements, tendon

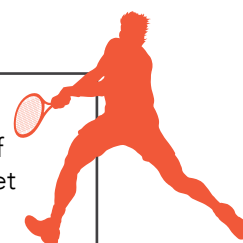
or muscles issues, cancer treatments, upcoming tests and treatments, eye issues, balance issues, etc. A few minutes later these "sufferers" jumped back up and headed on to the courts for their next turn.

As a 78-year-old I looked on with awe and respect. I'd like to say I hope I can play as well as they do when I get to their age. Truth be told, I can't play as well as most of them now. I asked a few how they got into the game and what tennis means to them. In fact there are so many senior players at our club, that we will be publishing the first half of their comments in this issue and the rest in the winter issue. Stay tuned.



BILL BALFOUR (81)

One day this winter, we were relaxing in the lounge (Redvers Dome, Aurora) after our game. A member of our group was wondering if he should have his racquet re-strung. The pro happened to walk by, so he was asked what he recommended. Without blinking, and in a matter-of-fact voice he replied, 'Well, I've seen you guys play quite a bit, so I would advise all of you to have your racquets re-strung about every 5 to 10 years.' We were not offended at all.



When I was growing up in Germany in the fifties, there was not much to do; the country was in ruins and our time was spent in school. After school the teacher would send us to nearby towns to compete in sports against other schools. I won the highest honour and a certificate signed by the German President, Theodor Heuss, for four years running. So when I came to Canada I still wanted to compete and I started to watch tennis tournaments on television and I really liked what I saw. Now I have been playing for nearly 50 years and hope I have a few more years to enjoy my favourite game and compete.



CHRISTEL STORF (80)



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TENNIS: A GAME FOR THE AGES CONTINUED



UPKAR SAPPAL (82)

I used to play tennis in high school. I tried to pick up the game after almost 50 years of separation when I moved to Ballantrae, but found out that signals from the brain do not reach my feet and hands at the same speed as they used to in school. The interesting thing was that most of the players were in the same boat and did not mind if I could not play to their standard. I am here to stay, as long as my health will permit, and enjoy the company of an excellent group of friends.



At my age, I don't take myself too seriously. The members of the BGCC tennis club were very fortunate to have Slavko as our pro for several years and I really enjoyed his approach: "Keep the ball in play." We ought to make the best of every day and enjoy life to its fullest and tennis is a wonderful way to achieve it. I am most thankful to be living in our community.



THERESE SKINNER (80)

A group of us played tennis at the Aurora Highlands Golf Club in the '80s and '90s. Later we played at Dr. Tony Calverly's court on his farm in Kettleby. In the winter Tony arranged with Terry Redvers to play in the bubble in Newmarket.

We always had coffee after tennis and settled the problems of the world.

Over the years we have had the usual attrition, through age, infirmity and death, however we have had only one death on the court. We still have 12 members, many of whom play every weekday.

We also have five 'inactives' who come for coffee and Christmas parties.



TOM MCPHERSON (90)



Pat Sciarra
Owner

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Going for Gold

BY KAREN CLARK



You may remember Grey Brett from his profile in the winter 2021 issue. The Ballantrae resident was diagnosed with a rare auto-immune disease called primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC) in 2005. It is an incurable, progressive disease that results in liver failure. Fortunate to receive and survive a liver transplant in 2015, Grey promised himself to live life to the fullest and follow his dreams. Wanting to be an example for his young daughter and wanting to get back to his athletic endeavours as a competitive swimmer and kick boxer, his goal was to compete in the Canadian Transplant Games held in Toronto in 2016. After a strenuous recovery path, he not only reached his goal of participating, he also won five gold medals in the swimming events. But in his words, the biggest reward was meeting fellow competitors who introduced him to the World Transplant Games. The 2017 Games in Malaga, Spain and the 2019 Games in Newcastle, England awarded him with several world records and more gold medals for Canada.

Continued on page 19



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Going for *Gold* CONTINUED



His amazing accomplishments in the pool don't reflect his amazing accomplishments living with PSC. A transplant is not a cure and the disease brings constant complications and ongoing struggles. Grey thought his days of competitive swimming were over when the World Games took a four year hiatus due to COVID-19. However, he set his sights on the World Games in Perth, Australia this past April. Through his determination and devotion to healthy eating and exercising and a positive mental attitude, he raced in five aquatic events over two days. Reaching his own personal best in each race, he set five world records and won gold in each event!

While standing proud at the closing ceremonies, Grey was surprised and honoured to be awarded the Most Outstanding Male Athlete of the games. "After everything I've been through in life, in and out of hospitals, this was validation for it all."

Since the fall of 2022, he has been swimming with the Aurora Master Ducks four to five times a week. He will be featured as the keynote speaker at the 2023 Sports Aurora Breakfast of Champions this October. His charity work includes participating in a 30 km relay swim across Lake Muskoka to raise funds so that liver transplant children will be able to attend a one week summer camp.

What's next? The 2025 Transplant Games in Dresden, Germany are a possibility, but also continuing his work with the Move For Life Foundation that he and two colleagues started in 2021 with the intention of raising donor awareness, inspiring transplant recipients and creating a vehicle for fundraising.



Visit www.moveforlifefoundation.com for upcoming events.

Follow Grey's journey on Instagram: [@chasing_greytness](https://www.instagram.com/chasing_greytness)

Link to the 2021 HOTG Winter Issue: https://www.hotg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/HOTG_Winter_2021.pdf

DORAL KITCHEN DELIGHT

BY MAIRI VASIL



Renovations can be an adventure. However, with a vision and careful planning, you can achieve a look that is WOW and a space that works!

Phil and Janice Bannon have done just that! They have coordinated Phil's labour and Janice's creativity into a show-stopping kitchen.

As an artist, Janice knew she wanted white cabinets and open shelving with a large island. Installing new hardwood flooring allowed them to move the existing island which expanded their living space. They incorporated storage on both sides of their island along with architectural

elements such as newel posts and under cabinet floor lighting, while keeping clean lines and a classic cabinet style. Removing the wall between the kitchen and the butler's pantry was a brilliant decision allowing for an expansive work surface while visually enlarging the space.

Making use of every inch allowed them to have an efficient pantry cabinet and built-in appliances. Open shelving surrounds the custom classic exhaust fan. An antique light fixture works in juxtaposition to the contemporary space. Chic art work completes this elegant kitchen.



They completed this reno by installing a linear fireplace under a large television. Painting the walls a lovely soft grey pulls together the two spaces.

I think you will agree that this renovation is a great success that provides the Bannons with lots more work and storage space, and a clean uncluttered contemporary design.

Continued on page 22



DORAL KITCHEN DELIGHT

CONTINUED



17 ft. counter top, gold hardware & open shelving.



Under counter lighting enhances new hardwood flooring.



Kitchen overview. Streamlined barstools are beautifully recessed into island



Storage on both sides of the island



Linear fireplace balances large TV



Open shelving allows Janice to display her creativity



Janice & Phil Bannon

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Ballantrae Summer Games 2023

BY PHIL BANNON

The Ballantrae Golf & Country Club is the most sought after market in southern Ontario for those seeking to live in an active adult lifestyle community.

Over the years the competition in retirement residence communities has grown exponentially. Never has that been more evident than in today's market. We have four massive retirement communities within a ten minute drive of our front gates.

If you are interested in drawing the attention of residents to any retirement community, you must first find a formula that keeps you in the lead. Our Summer Games are the most integral part of that formula. All it takes is a group of adults who are approaching their best-before dates, who just want to play games, drink wine, socialize, eat a variety of fine foods and dance the night away. What is wrong with that you may ask.....well, nothing really!

This year it was time to put our community back on the map. Our Summer Games have been one of the largest and most recognized community events in York Region since 2007, by every level of government and local businesses. There were new ideas, new activities and lots of new participants from a community that has virtually been in lock down for four years! We met new neighbours, made new friends and enjoyed participating in an assortment of social and competitive events; what a real community is all about.

After a four year break we wondered...had our sponsors suffered too much during COVID? Would they be interested in returning /participating in our Summer Games? Would our residents still respond with the enthusiasm and excitement of years gone by? Would there be interest in volunteering for the Games? Is COVID still a threat? Where do we start?

Well it all started in October 2022 when the executive committee, Lowell Dennis, Ross Lysecki, Karen Youell, Jim Scrivens and yours truly met to discuss plans for the 2023 Games. Before we knew it, it was registration day. Expectations were exceeded, including the number of athletes who registered, volunteers, participants and non-participants who came out to show their support and engage in the social activities and entertainment.

Living in this community with so many activities really has an overwhelmingly positive impact on our health and well-being. This is our community and we should be very proud of it. You make it what it is! When it comes to family, taking the kids for a swim, playing a little tennis or bocce goes a long way.

But when it comes to the Summer Games, family is key. For those who may have had any doubts about Family Day, I hope that you now have a clear vision of what it is all about. I was thrilled to watch so many proud grandparents interacting with their children and grandchildren. I hope your grandkids embraced the day as much as mine did, enjoying the championship circle, the pool, face painting, balloon hats and Lofty the Magician, hotdogs and pizza. What fun we had on the tennis courts with Adam and his clinic. How about a little mini putt!

Would you dare miss the classic car show, Stouffville's Fire & Emergency Services and York Region's finest, Sergeant Keagan Smith from the community services unit?

Let's top that all off with the world bean bag toss championship for all ages. It was so exciting to see big smiles on all of the kids' faces, gold medals hanging from their necks while chowing down on another ice cream. Wow, what a way to start the Games! Our families are the most important ingredient to our success in life. A couple of hours with the family showing off your community, Recreation Centre and Summer Games are just what the doctor ordered! Don't be shy; make sure you register in 2025.

For nine days we were blessed with the most beautiful weather! The back patio was just a wave of people in action, having fun, playing games and dancing. Hats off to our chefs for the week, Lowell and Ross, and all of the wonderful volunteers who served up an exceptional variety of daily food specials. Competitions were scheduled all day with a break at 3 p.m. for the bar to open and our popular Bingo. Marg Rochon was the resident hostess. Great job Marg. Our daily 50/50 draw was a huge success! Thanks to Jim Scrivens, Linda Weir and our volunteers for looking after that for us. Live entertainment started at 4 p.m. every day, with breaks for sponsor appreciation at 5 p.m, medal awards and the 50/50 draw winner. None of this was possible without the very generous support of our sponsors.

Sunday, August 27 was dedicated to award presentations and celebrating a place in history as the 2023 Summer Games champions. Special congratulations to our grand champions and all of the participants and volunteers. Keep your eyes open for the BSG23 Trophy in the front foyer of the Recreation Centre.

GOLD MEDAL WINNER:

- **Condo 1.** Condo captains: Stew and Ellie Cannon, Don and Margo Procyk

● **SILVER MEDAL WINNER:**

- Condo 2.** Condo captain: Steve Wilkinson

● **BRONZE MEDAL WINNER:**

- Condo 3.** Condo captains: Wayne Burgess and Debra Taylor

Thank you to all the condo and sport captains; volunteer captain, Marie Hewitt; Paul Mak with HOTG; our statisticians, Bill Knaggs and Brian Cox; medal counter Norm Bresser; communications Roy Gee and our photographers Robert Pitour and Glenn McGeorge. To the hundreds of volunteers who made the Games what they are, each of you deserves a gold medal.

More than 135 volunteers accepted an invitation to join us on Wednesday, Sept. 6, for our volunteer appreciation social. A good time was had by all.

We have established a strong foundation of volunteerism in our community over the years that must continue to grow.

As an active participant of this year's Games, I encourage you to take something positive away that you can consider putting into play as part of BSG25. We have much to be proud of.

See you at BSG25.



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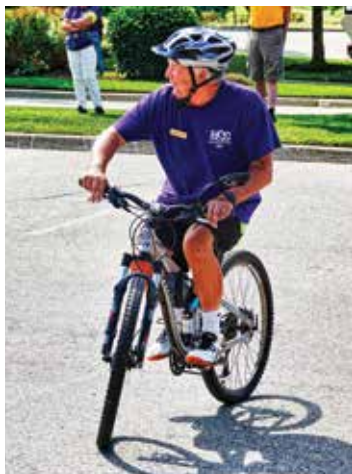


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





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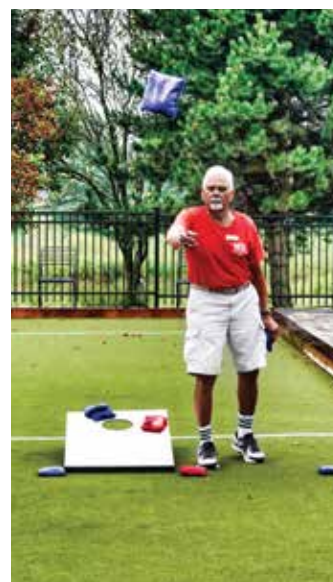
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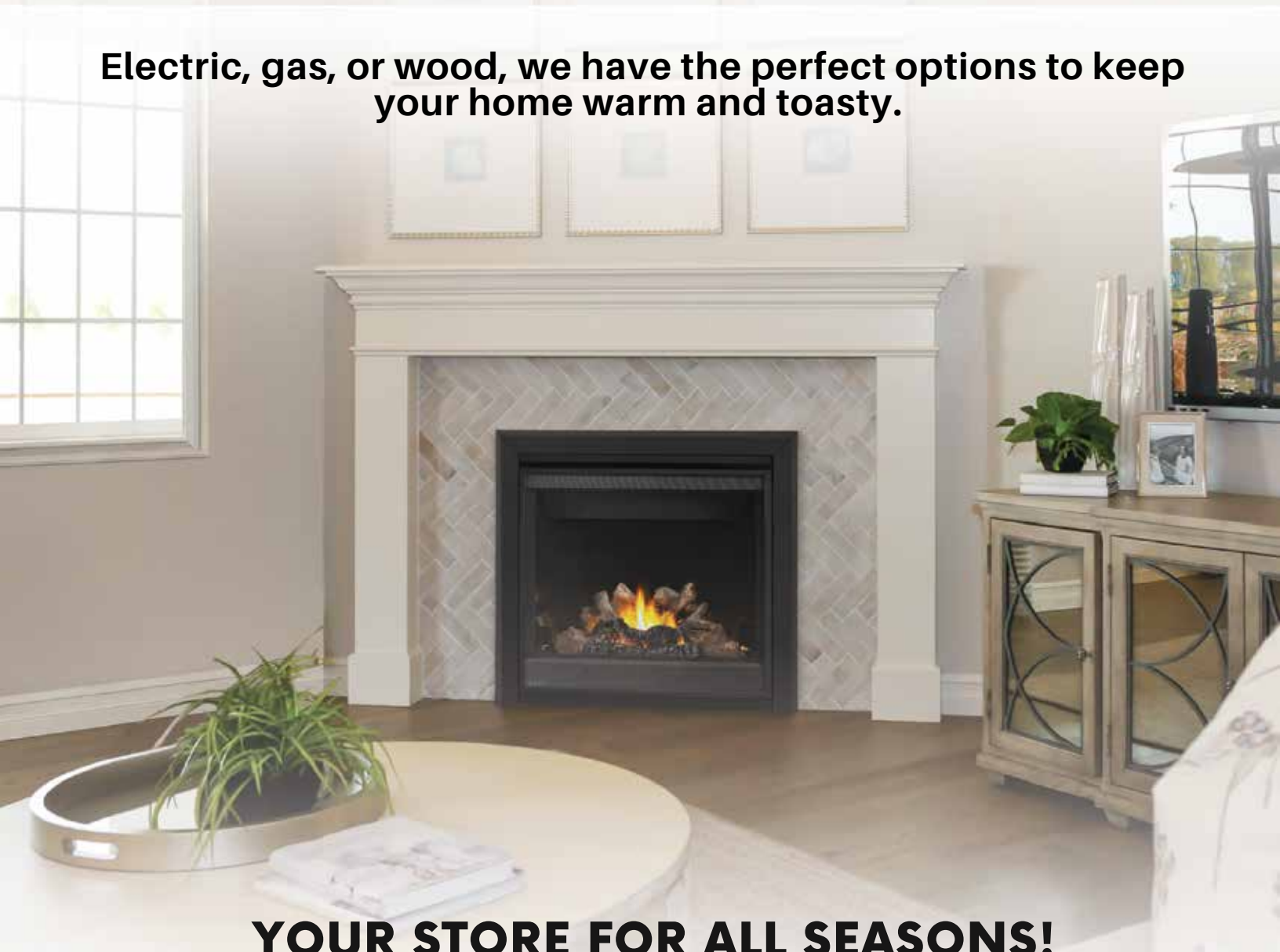


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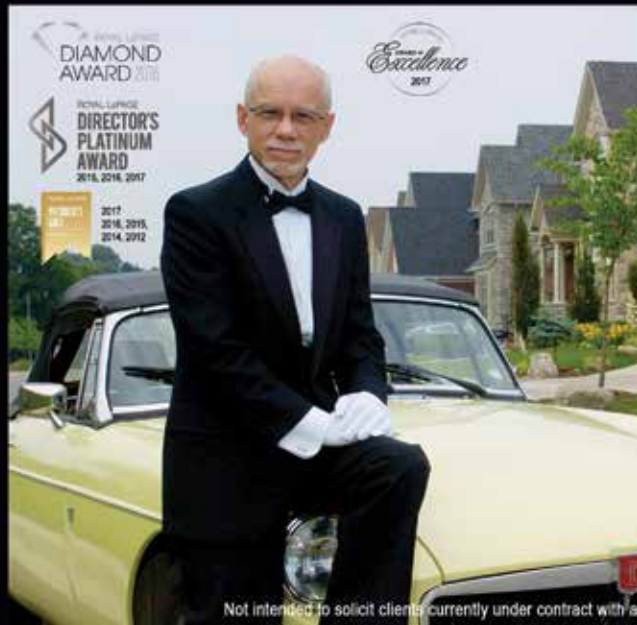
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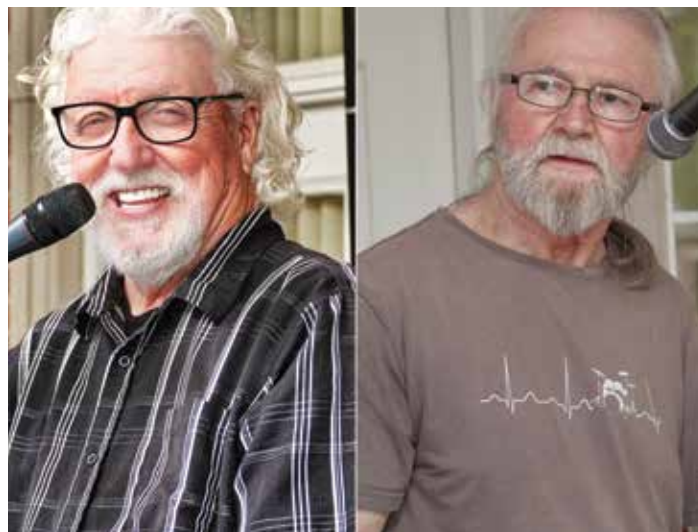
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Sweet Caroline, *Ba-Ba-Ba*

BY BLAIR TULLIS



It started with Raffi and ended a week later with the Beatles. What a great week of music!

One thing consistent with cover bands that play for our audience is the core of great dance songs from the 60s, 70s and beyond. The Games week's groups played a variety of pop, country, rock and R&B hits covering more than four decades. While they tend to throw in some lesser-known favourites, the Beatles, Creedence, Elvis and Wilson Pickett always populate the set lists of each. The difference is in the style, execution and sound system brought by each band. The constant in our first post-pandemic games was an audience eager to party.

Opening this year for the Games was left to the 40 million Spotify library of the PC Doctor himself, Al Moldon. He acted as DJ for the day, taking us from *Baby Beluga* to *More Than a Woman*, providing family-friendly music for the many kids in attendance and following up with some old familiar tunes to backdrop the fun, games and competitions.

Sunday brought the live bands to the outside stage for the next week. Each day from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., the outdoor patio became the focus for music, dance and general good times.

The Overtime Band, familiar to many folks in the community, brought us the first conga line of the Games, led by head cheerleader Elwood Blake, with a rousing rendition of *Louie, Louie*, the 60s hit by the Kingsmen.

Old home week continued with the good time music of the Chapman Family Band, brothers and friends of Condo 4 resident Terry Chapman. They brought their unique style of country-flavoured rock to the patio, combining acoustic guitar with electric bass and guitar.

Tuesday saw the first of two appearances by Ballantrae's own Pacemakers. The boys were in fine form, with a solid sound system making it easy to hear from all parts of the patio. The tradition

of having guest musicians sit in saw Ballantrae residents Betsy Duffy on sax and Jim Miller, sitting in on bass for an ailing Tom Clarke, come to the stage.

Wednesday's featured band was Brian Larter, the Piano Man, accompanied by drummer Dave Lyon. Having entertained our Ballantrae residents at our Christmas dance last year and on many weekends at the Coach House Pub, Brian brings decades of experience tickling the keys around Toronto. He reads his audience with a veteran's eye and never fails to make his music fit the mood of the crowd.

Clayton & Company brought more good dance tunes to an eager crowd. Led by Russell Clayton on guitar, their music kept us away from *Runaround Sue* and took us in the end to *Sweet Home Chicago*, with a well-balanced set of familiar hits.

Clayton was back the next night with the Flailing Shilaleighs, laying a feast of East Coast music on the Friday crowd. Nothing like a kitchen party to bring friends together. The only thing missing was a boiling pot of lobsters.

Saturday's wind-up patio show was again by the Pacemakers. Everyone was in a party mood and the dancing went on with gusto through three or four encores. The band line-up was Sam Guadagnolo on keys and guitar, Bob Ross on guitar and vocals, Tom Clarke and Ray Stadnick on bass, guitar and back-up vocals and Al Gillan and Blair Tullis on leads. Jim Miller and his friend, guitarist Peter Occipento, sat in on a number of tunes. BSG Chairman, Phil Bannon, said it best: "Can you think of a better way to go out, than to have the Pacemakers at full volume!" It rocked!

The music of the games is the music of our lives – rich, varied and oh so fulfilling.



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