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# GEORGINA Post

September 24, 2019

VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 18

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**FREE ISSUE**

## Demolition By Neglect: Pioneer Village Needs Major Repairs

By MIKE ANDERSON

While the Georgina Pioneer Village is promoted as a tourist attraction, many of its buildings are in disrepair, and at least one has been officially condemned.

Located next to the Civic Centre, the ten-acre site is home to 14 historic buildings that date from 1850 to 1920.

The Cedarbrae School, a one-room schoolhouse built in the late 1890s and moved to the site by the Georgina Historical Society in the early 1980s, is literally sinking into the ground. The only thing holding it up is the brick chimney.

The building has been closed to the public since 2017 after an engineering report found that the building was in such bad condition that it could not be salvaged.

The Town planed to rebuild the schoolhouse this year and promised to have the project completed in time for this fall's Harvest Festival in the village.

However, the project hit a major snag this summer when construction bids came in too high. While the Town budgeted \$200,000 for the rebuild, it wasn't enough to complete the project.

The Town also didn't set aside monies for a contingency fund — generally considered essential in most heritage property restorations — that could have been used to cover the shortfall.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



CEDARBRAE SCHOOLHOUSE

## LCBO Approves More Outlets In Georgina

By MIKE ANDERSON

The wait is finally over for wine, spirit and beer lovers in Island Grove, and on neighbouring Snake Island.

Georgina's first-ever LCBO Convenience Outlet — located in Victoria Convenience at Woodbine Ave and Metro Rd N — opened for business on September 20th. And the first beer sold there was a can of Coors

Banquet!

But there's more good news. The LCBO has approved at least five other local communities where retailers can apply to sell beverage alcohol, including Roche's Point, Virginia Beach, Udora, and Zephyr.

The LCBO's list also includes Georgina, at the intersection of Civic Centre Rd. and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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LCBO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

OWNER STEVE PARK

Baseline Rd., which would allow a retailer in nearby Belhaven to apply — as retailers must be located within five kilometres of the “identified street intersections” to be eligible.

According to the LCBO, retailers in these communities have until October 8th at 2 pm to apply for an authorization to sell beverage alcohol. Submissions can be made through the LCBO's website: www.doingbusinesswithlcbo.com.

However, there are some notable restrictions. Retailers must be an existing business that sells a “variety of goods,” but can't be a pharmacy or a restaurant. They also can't be within five kilometres of an existing LCBO store.

If successful, local retailers will be able to purchase wholesale beverage alcohol from the LCBO at a 10 per cent discount, and retail it for the same price as a regular LCBO store.

While that slim profit margin won't make Steve Park a wealthy man any time soon, he's still happy to offer his Island Grove customers a convenient way to buy wine, beer or spirits.

“I'm very happy to offer my customers this selection,” says Mr. Park. “And when they ask for their favourites, I will make sure to order it for them.”

And his customers are happy too — especially since his store will be open until 10 pm weekdays, and 9 pm on weekends.

“Having it down the street

is nice,” says Garry Woon, who lives in Island Grove and purchased a few cans of Corona. “As for the liquor, there's a lot of what I would normally drink. So it's a bonus.”

“I don't have a problem with it whatsoever. There's no way they would ever sell to minors. So it's a good thing for the community. And it's super convenient,” he adds.



BEER AT VICTORIA CONVENIENCE

# GEORGINA Post

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## Letter to the Editor:

I do know that years ago the Mossington wharf was the scene of many a scintillating summer moment, but in my experience, it has been an eyesore.

Occasionally I see people, having breached the "security" fencing, fishing. It is not my expectation that the fishers are local folk, but tourists who park their vehicles and garbage where they aren't wanted.

Personally, I have never been inclined to take a hike on the wharf and am not aware of any neighbours who want to. Just because it's been there for sixty years does not mean it has value - heritage or otherwise.

After listening to Council discuss the federal funding and what it does or does not cover, I am left with the understanding that the cost of removing the decking (or indeed the

entire structure) would be an acceptable way to use some (or most) of the grant.

This would render the "wharf" unusable and eliminate the trespassers who cause problems for the neighbours and satisfy Council that they have greatly reduced their liability, which seems now to be an issue of the utmost urgency.

Even if the notion that boaters want to use the Black River to get into Sutton to shop is a legitimate one, what use is a wharf to them? Why do we need it? Who does it benefit? This issue, to me, seems like a pretty easy one to resolve and an opportunity for Council to cross one of their longstanding issues off the books.

*Stella Trainor, Sutton West*

## Editor's Note: Canada Votes 2019

On October 21st voters in York-Simcoe will cast their ballots in the federal election.

To help our readers make an informed decision, the Post will run short profiles of each candidate. In the interest of fairness, each candidate will be asked the same questions.

This issue features the NDP and Green Party candidates.

Our next issue will feature the Liberal, Conservative and Peoples Party of Canada candidates.

Our readers should also tune-in to the York-Simcoe all candidates debate on Rogers TV. This two-hour program will be broadcast live from the Link on Monday, October 7th, at 7 p.m.

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## The Chicken Rebels: We will defend our right to raise backyard hens!

By TANYA EDWARDS

A revolution is quietly hatching in Georgina, mainly in backyards, beyond the public eye.

It's being instigated by the owners of un-permitted backyard chickens, united by a common belief in their right to self-sustainability — let's call them the Chicken Rebels.

They are a close-knit group, supporting each other, offering advice and until now, quietly disagreeing with the animal zoning regulations in Georgina. This quiet discontent may soon change.

In 2016, Keswick resident Melody Bertolini lost her plea to convince Georgina to allow backyard chickens to be regulated — much as dogs and

cats are.

Her suggestions included many sound ideas: a limit to flock size, coop regulations, and no roosters in populated areas.

However, her entreaties fell largely on deaf ears. Despite supportive neighbours and a 500 signature petition, she was ordered to remove her flock in 30 days.

She did one better, after living in Georgina for more than 20 years, she moved her entire life and flock to Gravenhurst — outside the restricted zone.

But the truth is hens, although social, are relatively quiet, and a rooster isn't needed to produce eggs.

And for most of Georgina's Chicken Rebels, moving is not

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REBEL "G"

an option. Neither is chicken ignorance. Most anti-chicken complaints are due to noise and smell.

Like any good pet owner, responsible chicken owners need to keep the area clean, the animals safe and dangerous predators at a minimum.

Public Health has produced lengthy reports on the fact that owning chickens would pose no more of a health risk than owning a cat or a dog.

As a result, chicken regulations are changing all over the province. In 2017, Newmarket allowed backyard chickens in all wards.

In 2018, Toronto kicked off UrbanHensTO, allowing regulated chicken coops in 4 wards. Meanwhile, requests to increase the number of wards continues to grow.

Kingston, Brampton, Niagara Falls, Caledon, Etobicoke, all agreed their populace had the right to be more self-sustainable and connected to their food supply. Why not in Georgina?

One Chicken Rebel I spoke with, who insists on remaining anonymous for the safety of her hens, believes we need more "live and let live."

"I want to be able to grow my own vegetables, and I want my own eggs," she says.

She points out that a chicken in a typical factory farm lays for two years, then likely becomes

dog food, while a backyard chicken can lay eggs for up to 10 years and remains a family pet — much kinder and more humane.

'Rebel G' is ready to defend her right to keep her chickens. After all, her neighbour doesn't mind, and she keeps a clean flock.

Her family also enjoys fresh organic eggs, and the children have made pets out of them. It would break their hearts to lose them now.

What divides the "Pro" chicken people and the "No" to chickens people? Misunderstanding? Bad experiences? City vs Country? Coprophobia?

The reasons may vary, but the fact remains, for many, the chickens are wanted.

Is it time for Georgina to step into the new age of backyard chickens? We'll soon see.

The Town plans to hold a series of public meetings this fall. Perhaps a new pro-chicken by-law is in the works? After all, weed is legal now, so isn't time to finally legalize backyard chicken coops? We say "good cluck" to that!



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## Connect to Innovate Information Sessions

The Town of Georgina, together with YorkNet, is holding information sessions to provide an overview of YorkNet's role in implementing the Connect to Innovate (CTI) Program. Connect to Innovate is a Government of Canada Program to bring high-speed internet to rural and remote communities in Canada.

Residents will have the opportunity to speak with internet service providers about connectivity possibilities.

Join us at one of these sessions to learn more:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 15**, 7 to 9 p.m.,  
Udora Community Hall, 24 Victoria Rd., Udora
- **Wednesday, Nov. 20**, 7 to 9 p.m.,  
The ROC, 26479 Civic Centre Rd., Keswick

Information on the Connect to Innovate program can be found at [georgina.ca/broadband](http://georgina.ca/broadband).



[georgina.ca/broadband](http://georgina.ca/broadband)



## Pioneer Village Harvest Festival

By EWA CHWOJKO-SRAWLEY

Our American friends did not invent Thanksgiving: it began in Canada!

In 1578 Sir Martin Frobisher, an English explorer, celebrated the first Thanksgiving in Newfoundland. The Georgina Historical Society has been keeping the tradition alive for over forty years at the Georgina Pioneer Village with their Harvest Festival.

On September 14th — the day of the Harvest Moon — visitors were transported back in time to a period when there were no cars, no electricity, and no municipal water.

There were ladies in bonnets serving cider, gents in suspenders fixing farm tools, and all of them delighted us with stories about olden days.

Hassel Pape greeted guests at the Smallwood cabin, and he revealed that he actually lived

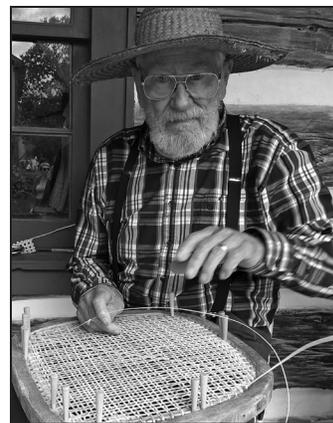
in that building as a child in the early 1950s! He remembers that his parents paid \$25 a month in rent. The cabin was constructed in 1875, and Mr. Pape recalls that some 80 years later life there was not that much different than the life of the early settlers — no electricity, no running water.

Each building at the Pioneer Village tells a story. Drop by the old Post Office house and learn all about spinning from Mary Pape. Open the church door and murmur along with the Voices of Georgina Choir, or come to the General store and grab some home-made candies.

Local musicians entertained guests at several locations, and Georgina artists presented their creations. Sabrina Chianelli, a recent art college graduate who creates beautiful handmade jewelry, took part in the Pioneer Village Harvest Festival for the second time. She said it was her favourite community event, with hundreds of happy visitors savouring the small-town atmosphere.

Even the youngsters immersed themselves in the old ways. They put away their electronics and indulged in good old-fashioned outdoor games of kick-the-can or roll-your-hoop. The young-at-heart could not resist, either!

Jackie Diasio, one of the Society's directors and a Georgina enthusiast, says



HASSEL PAPE

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KATE AND EMMALEE

that these annual September festivities bring the whole community together, and remind the younger generation about our history in a lively way, through games and stories.

Over fifty volunteers dressed in period costumes make the Pioneer Village come alive. Mrs. Diasio stresses that the

entertainers are also volunteers, and all vendors make a small donation to be there and sell their wares.

If you missed it, harvest time comes around every year, and the Georgina Pioneer Village will be waiting for you next time.

REPAIRS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Now the Town will “park” the project while it applies for grant funding to top up the construction budget, and hopefully, complete the construction in 2020. However, it’s not clear where this grant money is coming from, or when it can be obtained.

This latest setback has members of the Georgina Historical Society worried that the Town may never rebuild the schoolhouse — opting to spend the funds on something else.

“We’re disappointed, but not surprised,” says Tom Glover, president of the Georgina Historical Society.

“It’s frustrating when we had consultants and engineers who drew up the rebuild and budgeted that much. We thought it was enough to cover the cost of it.”

He also wonders why the Town didn’t apply for a grant before tendering the job.

“It seems to be a little late

to be seeking a grant,” says Mr. Glover. “We’re just afraid it’s going to be put off and not be done next year either. And the schoolhouse is a focal point of the village. When people come to a pioneer village with their kids, they like to go see the old school.”

Unfortunately, the schoolhouse is not the only building that requires immediate attention.

The pioneer log cabin lacks a roof and is open to the elements. It will probably have to be torn down soon. Other buildings need new roof shingles, structural repairs, and new foundations. The site itself has inadequate drainage and floods every spring.

Despite the need for extensive repairs, the Town’s 2019 budget only allocated \$5,000 for building repairs and maintenance, and a further \$3,800 for property improvements for the 14 buildings.

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# Canada Votes 2019: Your York-Simcoe Candidates

Jessa McLean, NDP



**What can you do to lessen the financial burden on middle-class families?**

Our policies are aimed at making life affordable for everyone, not just the middle-class. Our head-to-toe healthcare, our plan to lower cellphone fees, provide free public transit, and our affordable housing plan will all work towards putting more money in people's pockets, money that can stimulate our local economy. It's time that we start taking care of low-income families and stop giving money to wealthy corporations.

**What will you do to make homeownership more affordable?**

Shelter is unachievable or unaffordable for far too many. We'll help homeowners by reintroducing better terms to CMHC loans for first time buyers, help with closing costs, and facilitate co-housing. We'll also help those struggling to find affordable rentals by creating half-a-million, quality, affordable housing units, and introduce tax incentives for developers to build new rental units. We will make housing a human right in Canada.

**What will you do to ensure more rural residents have access to high-speed internet?**

The NDP has consistently been committed to ensuring all have access to high-speed

internet service. We aim to help municipalities financially in order to get the infrastructure needed. We will also lower costs by ensuring that basic unlimited plans are available and putting a cap on fees.

**What other infrastructure projects will you push for York-Simcoe?**

We will partner with municipalities and provinces using community benefit agreements to ensure any projects undertaken guarantee good jobs, support local businesses, and don't end up lining the pockets of investment firms. At the forefront of all projects will be accessibility, meaning no tolls or user fees, and that they are environmentally sustainable.

**What will you do to ensure rapid urban growth does not impact the health of Lake Simcoe?**

Our approach to Lake Simcoe will mirror our commitment to the environment across Canada. We will implement a national freshwater strategy, fully restore waterway protections that were removed by previous Conservative governments and ensure enforcement of these protections. We will also introduce a federal environmental bill of rights that would have stopped harmful projects like the Upper York

Jonathan Arnold, GREEN PARTY



**What can you do to lessen the financial burden on middle-class families?**

GPC will create fair taxing for large corporations like Facebook and Amazon that pay zero tax through loopholes. Free post-secondary education, universal pharmacare, along with lower banking, internet, and communications fees will help families to get ahead. Developing local and green energy will build small business, create jobs, and keep our wealth within our community, rebuilding York-Simcoe's shrinking middle class.

**What will you do to make homeownership more affordable?**

GPC will enhance federal government contribution to meeting the housing needs of Canadians through direct investment, change tax policies and lending, and granting programs, putting the government's focus where it's needed. Appointing a Minister of Housing to strengthen national strategy so that it meets the needs of affordable housing unique to each province and continue to work on implementation.

**What will you do to ensure more rural residents have access to high-speed internet?**

As a small business owner in a rural area, we continually struggle with the challenges of our internet capability and

overall costs. This is a big issue for York-Simcoe residents and businesses alike. No business should have control of a market. We need to improve infrastructure and create more competition to widen our options. This will strengthen competition resulting in lower costs and better service for the end user.

**What other infrastructure projects will you push for York-Simcoe?**

Creating solar and wind infrastructure projects in York-Simcoe will build up small business, new high paying jobs, and keep our wealth local for generations. A green economy is not only the future for Canadians but globally. We have more potential in Canada for green and sustainable energy but due to lack of leadership, are far behind in these sectors. Our power sector currently does not disperse wealth. It pollutes our air and water, warms our planet, and only allows the ultra-rich to gain wealth.

**What will you do to ensure rapid urban growth does not impact the health of Lake Simcoe?**

Lake Simcoe is a jewel within our community and for York-Simcoe residents. We need to continue to protect land from our Conservative premier and aggressive attempts at development. The Oak Ridges

JESSA MCLEAN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Sewage Solutions in its tracks.

**What is the best way to combat climate change?**

By transitioning away from fossil fuels immediately, lowering our emissions, and becoming a world leader in green energy technology. This would bring unique industry possibilities to York-Simcoe in the form of green jobs. We also have a plan to retrofit homes, put more zero emission vehicles on the road, including our public transit fleets. We will end all subsidies on fossil fuels.

**What is your stance on Canada's current immigration levels?**

What I'm not happy about is the scapegoating of immigrants we're hearing from other parties, when the majority of us come from families who immigrated here for the very same reasons people come today. The truth is our labour force relies on migration, we take in far too few refugees, and all of these people

contribute to our economy and our community.

**Why do you think you should represent York-Simcoe? What can you bring to the table?**

I thrive as a community organizer and an activist, which is exactly what we need in Ottawa. Average Canadians have been consistently ignored in favour of big business, it's time they had a voice on their side. I know what it means to struggle to make ends meet, and I have tirelessly advocated for the most marginalized amongst us, and I will continue to do so.

JONATHAN ARNOLD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Moraine filters runoff to ensure our lake is clean. Lake Simcoe should be federally protected alongside the Great Lakes as it is the same watershed. Let's be clear, we drink this water, and water is life.

**What is the best way to combat climate change?**

This is the biggest issue in our 2019 election and for our civilization. We must stand behind the science and honour our international climate agreements. Hold our politicians accountable, abolish divisive politics, stop corporate interest in our democracy, and create sustainable electricity locally. Canada has vast potential for green energy and it's time for Canadians to demand action for our children's future.

**What is your stance on Canada's current immigration levels?**

My father immigrated in the 70s as did most Canadians to

our country who are looking for a better future for our children. As Canadians, we need to understand that we have an aging population that needs young workers to support their aging needs. With the decrease in birth rates in Canada, we require immigration to fill these roles. We need to improve methods in dispersing and including immigrants into our country and communities.

**Why do you think you should represent York-Simcoe? What can you bring to the table?**

I would be honoured and grateful to work for the residents of York-Simcoe as their public servant in parliament. I was born and raised in York-Simcoe. I live on a farm and I'm a second-generation business owner. I want to inspire people to believe in our leaders and continue to make this an incredible place for generations to come. We have so much to be thankful for and need a leader who will protect it.

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ARTIST THELMA SELLERS

**Preview: Georgina Studio Tour**

No matter where you live in Georgina there is a chance that your next-door neighbour is an artist.

No grab a map of the Georgina Studio Tour, and explore! This year is special, as the Studio Tour is celebrating its 25th anniversary. More than thirty artists will open their studio doors to visitors, including seven who are participating for the first time. Be prepared to admire an astonishing variety of artworks.

Looking for unique handmade jewelry? You've got it! Several

local artists will welcome you in different parts of our community. Need a painting or a sculpture? There are plenty to choose from. Need a small gift? Handmade cards would be perfect. Time to re-decorate your house or cottage? Two local woodcarvers offer designer furniture.

Talented quilters, proficient potters, fabulous fabric artists, skilled weavers, and more will be waiting for you on Saturday and Sunday, September 28th and 29th. Mark your calendar, and discover the artistic hotspots of our town.

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CF MUSIC  
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Linda at Noble House

HARVEST DAY AT THE  
PIONEER VILLAGE

SEPTEMBER 14TH



Helen Rains, Bette Ana Snider and Philip Wellman at the Noble House



Lilienne learns about our history



David, Jo Anne & Juanita



Marco & Lynda



CHALLENGERS

The Newmarket Challengers Special Olympics Softball Team

**COMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GPL (Keswick Branch)**

- Dressed for Downtown, Sept. 25, 6 - 8 p.m.

Celebrate the release of the Downtown Abbey movie with us! Visit any branch to register, only 20 spots available. Payment due at time of registration. \$10 per person, Registration Required

**Georgina Ice Palace**

- Stilettos & Sneakers, Sept 28. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Brings girlfriends together, gives moms a day of rest or introduces the new girl in town to all the resources available to her in her own backyard! The five-hour, free-admission event features vendors, demonstrations and displays devoted to women of all ages.

**Udora United Church - Fall Fantasies Bazaar & Fundraiser, Sept. 28. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Enjoy Bake Sale, Variety of Vendors, Raffle and Hot Dogs & Refreshments at the Udora United Church (14800 Victoria St., Durham Rd. 1) For more information contact Margaret Downes 705-228-1191

**Ravenshoe United Church**

- Fall Bazaar, Sept 28. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Many interesting vendors and a bake table at the Ravenshoe United Church (3252 Ravenshoe Rd).

**Chippewas of Georgina Island**

- Pow Wow 2019, Sept. 28 - 29

Free parking and free walk-on Ferry Shuttle available or Aazhaawe Car Ferry (\$40 return), Virginia Beach Marina, 7751 Black River Rd. Sutton, ON. First Nation

Food and Craft vendors. Grand Entry: Saturday 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Sunday 12:30 p.m. For more info visit Facebook page: Chippewas of Georgina Island Pow Pow 2019. www.georginaisland.com

**GAGAC - Trash To Treasure Competition Award Ceremony, Sept. 29, 1 p.m.**

Everyone welcome! Starts at 1 pm. It's part of the reception for KidzArt Show. Georgina Arts Centre & Gallery (149 High Street). (905) 722-9587.

**GPL (Keswick Branch) Georgina 2SLGBTQ+ Community Sharing Circle, Oct. 3, 6.30 - 8.30 p.m.**

PYAP is hosting a community sharing circle in Georgina! Join other 2SLGBTQ+ youth to dream about our collective future! This event is only for 2SLGBTQ+ youth who are 29 and under, living within the province of Ontario.

**The Wilfrid Hall**

**Magoo & The Liverspots Concert, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.**

The Wilfrid Hall (C20915 Brock Road) is hosting a music concert with Magoo & The Liverspots. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$15 from Bodleys (Pefferlaw), The Music Store (Sutton), The Interesting Music Shop (Wilfrid). Proceeds to Wilfrid Hall.

**The Wilfrid Hall - The Georgina-Brock Garden Club, Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.**

The G-BGC hosts Debbie Gordon of Cloverhill Flowers as she leads a workshop to create your own Thanksgiving table decoration. All the materials are

supplied. Non members \$15.00. Join us for our Silent Auction.

**Knox United Church**

- Knitting/Crochet Group Meeting, Oct. 7, 1 p.m.

The prayer shawl, knitting/crochet group meets the first Monday of each month at Knox United Church (34 Market St, Sutton) at 1 pm. All welcome, wool provided. Call 905 -476- 4445 for more info.

**GTTI**

- Georgina Pins and Needles Meeting, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.

Monthly meeting at the GTTI (5207 Baseline Road, Sutton). All levels of knitters, crocheters, quilters and needle workers are welcome. For more information call Judith Ferguson at 905-722-5800.

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**PERSONALS**

I feel so blessed to celebrate another birthday. A loving thank you for all the work in planning the party held on the occasion of my 90th birthday. Thank you to my family who helped provide the fabulous lunch. To all who attended it was wonderful to see you. To all who could not attend but sent cards, thank you. For all of the cards, gifts, flowers and gift certificates, thank you. There are not enough words to express joy brought to me that day.  
- Georgia Lyons



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