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GEORGINA Post

February 24, 2020

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GEORGINAPOST.COM

FREE ISSUE

Developer caught marketing waterfront hotel without town approvals

By MIKE ANDERSON

The Unexus Group, formerly known as MSR Lalu or Lalu Group, has been marketing a hotel project it hopes to build in Jackson's Point, without having the necessary approvals from the Town of Georgina.

The site at 20 Bonnie Blvd, part of the original Bonnie Boats Marina property, is registered to MSR Lalu Jackson's Point Inc., which Unexus Group controls.

The three-storey hotel would be built on the parcel closest to the harbour with most of the structure over the water, requiring re-zoning, engineering reports and site approvals to proceed.

The problem is that Unexus Group had been claiming on its corporate website that the project is in the zoning stage, indicating that the Town of Georgina has given the project the green light.

In fact, in an email response to the Post, the town says, "a re-zoning application has not been submitted, and postings on the company web site indicating that a proposal was in the re-zoning stage were inaccurate."

According to a town spokesperson, staff recently contacted representatives of Unexus Group and asked the company to take the posting down until it makes a formal planning application, which would include re-zoning and site plan approvals for the site.



TIM EVERSON, DOUG GILMOUR AND BRAD DIETRICH

Lake Simcoe Championship Ice Fishing Derby raises record \$70,000 for Jumpstart charity

By MIKE ANDERSON

Former Toronto Maple Leafs Captain Doug Gilmour helped launch this year's Lake Simcoe Championship Ice Fishing Derby by signing hundreds of autographs, drawing prize tickets and posing for dozens of selfies at the Canadian Tire in Keswick on Sunday, February 16.

The annual ice fishing derby, now its fifth year under the stewardship of Canadian Tire owners Gary and Elizabeth Johnston, was a huge success with a record 173 teams taking part — up from 120 last year. The entry fee was \$250 per team (2 anglers per team), which helped raise \$43,250.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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UNEXUS GROUP HOTEL RENDERING

DEVELOPER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Unfortunately, the public can't check whether the developer has complied with the town's request, as the webpage is now password protected.

The Post has attempted to contact Lalu Group President, Mr. Lei Guo, as there are no directors listed on the Unexus Group website — Unexus Group and Lalu Group share the same corporate address, contact information and social media feeds. However, as of publication there has been no response.

This is not the first attempt by the town to stop the developer from marketing its projects for Jackson's Point.

In November 2017, MSR Lalu posted a six-storey condo design, located on Bonnie Park, on its website — again, without the necessary town approvals.

This followed unauthorized sample drilling conducted by the developer on the adjacent Bonnie Park property in the spring of 2017.

At the time, Mayor Margaret Quirk expressed her frustration with MSR Lalu's missteps and requested that the project rendering be removed from the company's website.

"When I see the distress this causes our residents and the distrust that it creates towards ourselves here on council, to the staff and to the consultants, it really makes me upset," she said in council.

"Because we all value our

reputations and to have the actions of a developer call into question our honesty, our integrity and our reputation really upsets me."

Mr. Sunny Matharoo, then representing MSR Lalu, made a formal apology for the on-line rendering and unauthorized drilling to Georgina Council on November 22, 2017.

When the Post conducted Mr. Matharoo, he indicated that his company no longer represents the developer, nor does it have any ownership interest in the 20 Bonnie Blvd property.

"My company (MSR Holdings, now DMCC Holdings) has never owned any land in Georgina," he said in a recent email. "Our role has been one of project/development managers. My role as of now is to deliver the YRP marine unit as a Development Manager."

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Letters to the Editor

It was interesting to read last issue's article 'One man's campaign to save Bonnie Park' as we are likely to face another Summer of subterfuge regarding the park. As mentioned, the matter comes up again as a part of the Waterfront Parks Master Plan.

This is in lieu/ instead of the Town following up on Councils recommendation that they should in fact explore the possibility of purchasing the MSR Lulu Jackson's Point property - the property most often proposed to be swapped for the Park.

There was no conclusive feedback on Council's recommendation, and it was arbitrarily decided that it would now be considered instead under the Master Plan. This may seem logical were it not for the fact that the group charged with developing the Plan - The Planning Partnership - are the same group who were paid \$100,000 to deliver the same plan under the Jackson's Point Redevelopment plan, and couldn't provide anything that Council felt they could move on.

The discussions and meetings around the previous attempt at developing a workable plan created some strong dissension from residents and visitors to Jackson's Point and most who attended them felt their opinion was secondary at best and ignored at worst. Many times, during the process there

were calls for transparency and integrity in the process but as far as the consultants were concerned, they fell on deaf ears. This has resulted in much skepticism that the promised public stakeholder consultation and consideration will be nothing more than an exercise in ticking boxes of the process.

As I mentioned I enjoyed the article, but the title was a little bit of a misnomer. Mr. Brady has maintained his position throughout all of these events - but he wasn't alone and was supported by many residents and visitors as can be witnessed by the petition 'Save Bonnie Park' containing over 700 names along with a second petition with over 200 names that was presented to Council just before the conclusion of the ill-fated effort in 2017. It may appear to be 'One man's campaign to save Bonnie Park' but is the hope of many many more that he succeeds.

Cliff Williams - Jackson's Point

Re: Lake Simcoe phosphorus levels spike

There are many things that add to the phosphorus levels of our precious lake. But it seems that the "Powers to be" just find a band-aid solution.

Real money has to be spent on upgrading septic systems, (maybe again allowing the LSRCA's funding to help

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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JOE AND COLSON SCHNEIDER

DERBY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This year's version also featured more than \$95,000 in cash prizes, including a \$10,000 prize for the biggest catch. There was also an ATV giveaway, which got a lot of folks excited.

And, yet another first, the public was able to purchase draw tickets online this year, which helped to boost sales substantially. The total raised this year for Canadian Tire's Jumpstart charities was over \$70,000, topping last year's total of \$59,000, which helped more than 2,000 local children participate in sports and physical activities.

Anglers headed onto the ice at 8 a.m. and fished until 1 p.m.—with weigh-in at 2 p.m. at 50 Lake Drive North. No fishing license was required for Ontario residents for this event, so a lot of first-time participants took part, including Colson Schneider from Bradford, who caught 11 of the 12 perch and won third place with this dad Joe. "It was fun!" Colson exclaimed.

Conditions could only be described at excellent with

sunny skies and temperatures averaging a balmy -2 Celsius. The ice was also solid, and the perch were biting, mostly on minnows.

Putting on an event like this takes a lot of hard work and countless person-hours; indeed, Mr. Johnston was unable to estimate the total volunteer hours that were required, and his wife Elizabeth admitted that she got only two hours of sleep the night before.

Mr. Gilmour, an NHL fan favourite, also made a big effort, hopping on and off an Argo to visit anglers on the ice and pose for yet more selfies -- always smiling and cheerful, even though he wasn't really dressed for the elements.

Hockey fans seemed delighted to meet him and share a few minutes with one of their idols, including last year's \$10,000 first prize winners Tim Everson and Brad Dietrich. For Mr. Dietrich, it was a dream come true: "It was a great moment for me, meeting Doug Gilmour was amazing!"



IRVIN ERB, MEGHAN SAVOIE, MARY MARGARET THORBURN

Keswick woman wins over \$50,000 playing Catch the Ace

Meghan Savoie never considered herself lucky, until she picked envelop number 31.

That envelop contained the Ace of Spades, and Ms. Savoie, 27, won a jackpot that had been accumulating for more than 50 weeks without a winner. The total prize was \$52,525.50.

"I never thought this was going to happen in a million years," says Ms. Savoie, who brought a bouquet-of-flowers for the Hospice volunteers when she picked up her cheque. "I never won something like this, so it's a huge surprise and so much fun."

Ms. Savoie hopes her win will encourage others to play and result in bigger jackpots and more funds raised for Hospice Georgina. "It's such a great thing, and I'm glad to be part of it," she says.

If you haven't played Catch the Ace, it's not complicated. Every week a new set of \$5 tickets is sold, and if your name is pulled, you get to select one of the 52 envelopes from a poster board.

Each envelope contains a playing card. Select the envelope that contains the Ace of Spades, and you win a percentage of

the weekly proceeds, plus the progressive jackpot – the amount that rolls-over each week if there's no winner.

According to Laurie Knapp, Hospice Georgina's office manager, this is the first year the non-profit has run the fundraising raffle, and it won't be the last.

She says the first week started-off slow with just over 100 tickets sold, but by week 50, that number jumped to 3,400.

The first game of Catch the Ace raised more than \$70,000 for Hospice Georgina. Ms. Knapp hopes to have the next game up and running in March, and there are plans to sell the tickets online, which should boost sales.

Since 1994, Hospice Georgina has provided free-of-charge non-medical support for palliative people, people living with life-threatening, life-limiting and chronic illness, their caregivers and families, and the bereaved.

The province funds two-thirds of the organization's budget, but the other third must be raised through fundraising efforts. So, the success of Catch the Ace is a big win for everyone.

It could also help the organization reach its goal of opening a residential hospice in Georgina, which is sorely needed – the closest residential hospice is in Newmarket.

"Every time I call Margaret Bahen Hospice, the beds are full, so maybe this can help us open a hospice in Georgina," says Ms. Knapp.

Ms. Knapp wants to give a big

shout-out to all the volunteers who made Catch the Ace such a success. She says the game wouldn't have operated so smoothly without the countless hours they put in over the 50 weeks.

"They learned as they went, transforming into a well-oiled machine. But most of all, they did what they do best: Sharing the Caring," she says.



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HARRY LUMSDEN (CENTRE) & TRUMPETER VOLUNTEERS

No swan song for thriving Trumpeters

By TINA NOVOTNY

The Trumpet of the Swan is a beloved children's book by E.B. White, but there's another great story taking place at the north end of Lake Couchiching. This past Family Day there was a special event at Washago to celebrate the successful restoration of trumpeter swans, who were hunted to extinction in Ontario in the 1800s. It was also a salute to Harry Lumsden, who led the drive to reintroduce the swans to their traditional Ontario environments.

"Family Day was a meet and greet for families to come and learn about the swans and enjoy their presence. About 200 people attended," said Susan Best, a local organizer. "It was a pleasure to have nearly every volunteer from around Ontario, but especially to have Harry Lumsden (now 96 years young) attend and see the interest in his life's work and legacy."

Trumpeter swans were prized for their meat for food and their feathers for quills, stuffing blankets and fashion accessories. Their feet were used to fashion ladies' purses. The last known swan was shot at Long Point in

1886. In the mid 1980s, Harry Lumsden, then a biologist with Ministry of Natural Resources, had the vision to see the majestic birds returned, and started the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program.

Eggs from Alaska and Wisconsin were obtained and incubated. The resultant cygnets were raised for two years by cooperator farmers - volunteers who agreed to nurture the young swans and ensure a healthy result. 542 swans were released at historically documented wetlands. These were places such as Wye Marsh where the Jesuit diaries chronicled the presence of trumpeter swans.

Washago, at the north end of Lake Couchiching, is the first known wintering area where trumpeter swans congregate where they were not released. It's an open area with healthy currents, shallow enough to provide an abundance of natural forage for the birds. The great turnout of swans and spectators on Family Day reflects the success of the restoration program. But there is always more work to be done.

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TRUMPETER SWANS. PHOTOS: DEB HALBOT

“The restoration program is completely volunteer run,” says Susan Best. “We rely on kind donations from the public for our banding and tagging activities as well as vet care for any sick or injured birds.” To find out how you can contribute to the trumpeter swan count and other conservation activities, please contact Amherst Wildlife Foundation at Trumpeterswan@live.com.

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CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: March 8th, 2020

International Women's Day is a time to celebrate the social, cultural, economic and political achievements of women across the world. It is also a time to acknowledge the challenges women have faced and continue face in the quest for gender equality.

In grateful recognition of International Women's Day, I extend my sincere appreciation to all women and girls across York-Simcoe.

It is important to recognize and support women in our community. If you know of someone who has exhibited leadership, outstanding achievement or influence in York-Simcoe and wish to acknowledge them, please call my office to share their story. I want to hear from you!



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Under The Water Tower

Georgina and beyond

By EWA CHWOJKO

Home is the comfiest place to be said Winnie the Pooh. Jennifer Zsolt, a Georgina artist, agrees! Her paintings of charming Georgina houses basking in sunshine make you smile, and perhaps conjure a story about their past history. Old farmhouses, tiny cottages, mysterious dwellings at the end of winding lanes sparked the artist's imagination, and urged her to capture their allure on canvas.

A farm dweller, an animal lover and a sensitive soul, Jennifer sees beauty in all that surrounds her. Under her paintbrush, familiar places are shown in a new light. A cluttered kitchen or an old barn suddenly look precious because the artist bestowed all her loving attention on them.

While Jennifer Zsolt's paintings show the exquisiteness of rural places and landscapes, Tom Zsolt's black and white photographs capture the disappearing world. Abandoned houses, half-ruined barns, forgotten dwellings overgrown with weeds catch his attention.

Tom has been documenting the changing land, people and lifestyles in rural Ontario, especially in Georgina, for over 30 years.

But it is not just for Georgina that he has created his photographs! He is internationally known. In 2009, his photograph Niagara Falls was selected as the poster image for an extended 10-city tour of China, following a major Canadian exhibition in Beijing, entitled Canadian Cameras at Work.

For the first time this husband and wife team is giving us a joint exhibition, an exhibition where we can admire the painted reality of Georgina houses side by side with the photographed images of days gone by.

IMAGES OF HOME, TWO PERSPECTIVES. Paintings by Jennifer Zsolt and photographs by Tom Zsolt at the Georgina Arts Centre & Gallery. Exhibition dates: March 1 - April 5. Meet the artists: March 1st at Georgina Arts Centre & Gallery, Sutton.



Jennifer Zsolt



Jennifer Zsolt, Rustic Charm (House on Black River)



Tom Zsolt



Photograph by Tom Zsolt

LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

with that). Fix the problems that are allowing effluent to freely run into ditches and into the lake by making permanent solutions.

Stop the destruction of hedge rows which should not be allowed to be removed completely.

Lawn care chemicals should not be allowed anywhere near the Lake Simcoe Watershed.

Keep livestock back from nearby waterways by providing funding for fences and/or some sort of barriers that do not allow their excrement to run into nearby ditches.

Stop the spreading of human waste on farmer's fields by local sewage removal companies.

Although I have lightly touched on SOME of the problems that add to the phosphorus levels on Lake Simcoe, something has to be done and done quickly.

C. H.

Re: Town moves closer to purchasing snow mobile trail

The rail trail as it exists now is in the middle of a private development. The developer wants to buy that part of the rail trail swath of land across from the High School but was unable to reach a deal with Infrastructure Ontario because they are not legally allowed to sell infrastructure to private business interests and developers.

However, the towns purchase of the rail trail would allow the town to sell for profit to the developer Ballymore Homes. We need this trail as a town. However the town should NOT be a part of real estate speculation and sales of any form! My concern is that 300m of historic rail trail will be diverted closer to the river so a developer can build more homes with the Towns overt potentially illegal help. *Caleb McLean*

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A Closer Look

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Connect with Geraldine ((905) 722-4616 ex 5475 or geraldine@acloserlookgeorgina.ca) if you are interested in coming to an information session to learn more about Senior Ladies Living Together with guest speaker and founder, Pat Dunn.

A Closer Look is a two-year community development initiative funded by United Way Greater Toronto and executed by the three organizations: Routes Connecting Communities, Jericho Youth Services and the Georgina Community Food Pantry.

IN & AROUND TOWN



Caroline with son Pierce



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Caroline with brother Ben



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Organizer Dan Magee, Glen Peters and Mark Shearer at weigh-in

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LSCIFD \$10,000 Winners: Andrew Graham & Chris Little



Naomi and dad Fei from Aurora check out perch catch



Doug Gilmore with Derby Volunteers



Kyle & his Grandpa Mr McKeown with Doug Gilmore



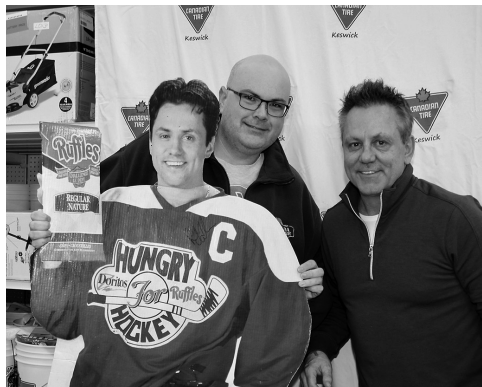
Elizabeth & Gary Johnston present Argo ATV to team 34



Some of the Georgina Minor Atom AE getting autographs from Doug Gilmore



Georgina Minor Atom AE with Hockey great Doug Gilmore



Steve has had this pop-up of Doug Gilmore since he was a kid, so he got Doug Gilmore to sign it

COMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sibbald Point Provincial Park - Perchin For MS Ice Fishing Tournament, Sat., Feb. 29

It's tenth anniversary of Perchin for MS, a charity ice fishing tournament in support of ending MS and bringing awareness to the disease. The tournament is a one day, team event. To register visit: www.perchinforms.com

Georgina-Brock, Beaverton & Cannington Garden Clubs, Seedy Saturday, Feb. 29, 9:30a.m.- 2:30p.m.

Beacon Presbyterian Church, (413 Simcoe St, Beaverton). Guest speakers, seed swap, vendors, kid's table and more.

March meeting of Georgina Pins and Needles, Monday, March 2, 7 p.m.

GTTI, 5207 Baseline Rd. Guest speakers will talk about and demonstrate Rug making. Please bring a mug for tea and treats and slippers to wear. Visitors welcome - fee \$5.00. For more info contact Judith Ferguson at 905-722-5800.

GPL(Sutton), Oscar Encore! Every Tuesday in March - movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

Free, Drop-In: Join us for weekly screenings of some of the contenders for this year's Best Picture category from the Academy Awards (including the winner!). Feel free to bring your own peanut-free snacks and non-alcoholic drinks, pillows, blankets, and a friend. March 3: Jojo Rabbit, March 10: Joker.

Georgina Bingo, Tuesday, March 3, 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Jericho Youth Services presents Georgina Bingo at The Link 20849 Dalton Road, Sutton Minimum cost \$10/person Jackpot \$1000 905.722.5540 #GeorginaBingo

ROC-Men's Night Out Ski and Snowboard, Wed, March 4, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

This event includes a 90-minute ski or snowboard lesson by a certified instructor and a delicious meal, fun games and prizes. Tickets are \$45 +HST each or \$30 +HST for ROC season pass holders. This event is for ages 18 and up. Registration is required.

Community Living Bingo, Thursday, March 5, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Community Living Georgina charity bingo. Event takes place every Thursday at the Kin Community Centre, 15 Fairpark Lane, in Sutton.

GPL(Keswick), The Art of Downsizing & Decluttering, Tues, March 10, 7 - 8 p.m.

Registration Required: Back by popular demand! Dying to de-clutter your space? Arlene Stephenson, The Downsizing Diva, can show you how simple organizational changes can have a big impact! Learn creative and inexpensive techniques that will help you begin the process of organizing or downsizing your home. To register, visit any GPL branch or call the Keswick branch.

GPL (Keswick), Solving Money Mysteries with the CRA: What is the Disability Tax Credit? Wed, March 11, 7 - 8 p.m.

Free, Registration Required: Venus Cheng, Volunteer & Outreach Officer with the Canadian Revenue Agency, will help you better understand the CRA's definition of a disability, Canada's Disability Tax Credit, and much more! To register, visit any GPL branch or call the Keswick branch.

World Day of Prayer, featuring Zimbabwe to be held Friday, March 6, 1:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, 20916 Dalton Road at Black River Road in Sutton.

Wilfrid Hall, Georgina-Brock Garden Club, Monday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Hummingbirds: Nature's Miracles presented by Kristen Martyn of Wild Birds Unlimited. Learn about the fascinating lives of hummingbirds, how to feed and attract them to your yard.

North Durham Nature: "Tracing the Roots of Native Plants" with Paul LaPorte, Tues., March 24, 7 p.m.

Uxbridge Senior's Centre, 75 Marietta Street. Nursery owner Paul LaPorte will present a detailed examination on what defines a "native plant" with a focus on how plants evolved, looking specifically at the connections among Ontario's diverse flora.



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