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January 10, 2023

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Sutton Curling Club set to rock this winter



SUTTON CURLING CLUB

By MIKE ANDERSON

With membership returning to pre-pandemic levels and building and equipment upgrades completed, thanks mainly to Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grants, the Sutton Curling Club is rebounding nicely from COVID.

“We’re really happy that our membership is back up from COVID and things are going well,” said Steve Dover, President of the Sutton Curling Club.

“Our ice is really good. And we just had our Christmas bonspiel, which was sold out.”

Dover is particularly grateful for the OTF grants the club has received.

While past grants helped to repair the building’s roof, Dover says the most recent \$10,400 grant allowed the club to purchase medical-grade HEPA air filters for the lounge and change rooms.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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EDITORIAL

Greenbank Airport's legacy

If you want to see what can happen when a waste management company gets involved in civil aviation, take a 40-minute drive to Greenbank Airport near Uxbridge. While it has a few planes, a landing strip and a hangar, most of the airport is now an abandoned dump site with a mountain of fill stretching across the property.

One neighbour told the Post the mountain is so high it reduces his view of the sunset by at least 30 minutes. But that is the least of his worries. The mountain contains more than a million cubic metres of fill, much of which is contaminated.

Under former Mayor Tom Rowett, the Township of Scugog conducted its own soil testing on the site after it decided it wasn't happy with D.L. Services Inc., hired to test the site's fill by the airport's new owner Robert (Bob) Munshaw - whose day job is corporate development at GFL Environmental Inc., Canada's largest waste management company. The Township's test results indicated that 22 of the 45 samples, representing 12 out of 16 borehole locations, exceeded provincial standards. When a remediation plan fell apart in 2016, legal proceedings were brought against the Township by Greenbank Airport. One sought to squash the Township's bylaw

regulating fill, the other sought \$10 million in damages. The Township countersued GFL and D. L. Services for \$ 105 million, the cost of cleaning up the site. Seven years later, the lawsuits haven't been settled. Greenbank Airport has become not only a massive eyesore but a potential environmental disaster.

All the more reason for Georgina residents to sign the petition opposing the Baldwin East Aerodrome, whose owners have established ties to the waste management industry - one has been cited for dumping contaminated fill - and stand to make a fortune off tipping fees from 1.2 million cubic metres of fill. After all, small aerodromes are not very profitable, while landfills can be incredibly profitable.

GEORGINA Post

PUBLISHER | EDITOR
Mike Anderson
mike@georginapost.com

ADVERTISING | SALES
416.859.6291
mike@georginapost.com

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MPP MULRONEY JOINS JOHN ANDERSON & STEVE DOVER (R) TO ANNOUNCE OTF GRANT

CURLING CONT. FROM PAGE 1

There's also a \$55,000 OTF grant to replace the building's humidifier and heater.

Dover says the new air purification equipment should encourage more people to join the club.

"The filters will help address people's concerns about air quality," he said.

"This grant enables us to provide a safe environment for our members to participate in the sport they love."

Dover says the grants have been a lifesaver.

"There are clubs that are folding because they don't have the funds or the members," he said.

"We're a non-profit. Membership is around 200 and change. We have a lot of expenses to run the club. We also have equipment that's getting old and has to be replaced."

According to Dover, the grants have allowed the club to make upgrades without raising fees.

"We try to make it reasonable. I play four or five times a week and pay \$500 for the year. Playing four or five times a week works out to less than \$10 a time. What can you do for \$10?"

According to Curling Canada, there are more than 1.4 million active curlers in Canada.

The sport is also growing as community curling clubs promote inclusivity and build a

more diverse membership base.

"Curling gives you something to look forward to in the winter months. So you're not sitting at home watching TV," Dover said.

"People don't think it's a physical sport. But if you're sweeping up and down the ice, you feel like you've had a workout."

Curling has also adapted to accommodate people with limited flexibility or mobility issues.

Stick curling removes the need to kneel on the ice to throw a curling rock.

This means people of all ages, particularly those with bad knees, hips and backs, can participate equally on the ice.

The club recently held its Try Curling For Free session on January 7, which attracted more than a dozen people.

It also offers several Learn to Curl clinics.

"We're a welcoming club. We're always looking for new members," Dover said.

"We're still taking people on if they want to get in. So if they want to try it, there's still an opportunity."

The curling season runs from October to April, with 2nd Half Registration ending on January 14. To register, email Diane Jones at learntocurl@suttoncurlingclub.ca.

For more information, visit www.suttoncurlingclub.ca.



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Brazen thieves target Sutton, pocketing \$800 bank deposit

By MIKE ANDERSON

A group of shoplifters targeted at least three Sutton retailers last Friday afternoon, stealing an \$800 bank deposit from one store.

The three suspects, possibly a family unit, included a woman in her 60s and a man and woman in their late 30s, believed to be either the older woman's son or daughter, were captured on one of the store's security cameras.

Unfortunately, the suspects were all wearing hats or head coverings and medical face masks, making it difficult to identify them. However, the camera footage has been uploaded to a YRP server and will be shared with police divisions across York Region.

The suspects entered at least two stores on High St. on January 6, The Sutton General Store and Sweet Pea Boutique, before driving to Solace Serenity Healing on Baseline Rd., where they stole the \$800 bank deposit.

At each store, one of the suspects attempted to find out how much cash was in the till by purchasing an inexpensive item with a large domination bill. Then another suspect would distract the store owner, allowing the others to steal.

At Sweet Pea Boutique, camera footage shows the suspects moving a clothes rack by the cash area, allowing two suspects to walk into the store's backroom without being detected. According to owner Debbie Macina, there was nothing valuable in the backroom as she had already made her bank deposit.

"They came in and separated right away. They created a kind of chaos, trying to distract me," Macina said.

"Luckily, another couple came



SHOPLIFTING SUSPECTS

in after them, and they realized there was nothing to steal, and they left."

However, the owner of Solace Serenity Healing wasn't that lucky. Stephanie Matthews, trying to close early, left her wallet with an \$800 bank deposit on the counter next to the till.

According to Matthews, the suspects entered the store separately, the two women first and the male after.

One woman bought a pair of tights with a large domination bill forcing Matthews to make change from her wallet.

Then, the other woman asked her about a blouse in the store's back corner. When Matthews was distracted, the male suspect went behind the cash and took the money out of her wallet.

It wasn't until the three suspects had left that she realized she'd been robbed.

"They were all together. I just got a weird feeling like I knew something was off, but as a small business owner, you can't tell them to leave," she said.

"They knew what they were doing. They were in and out in 10 to 15 minutes."

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CLEMENTSON, WALKER & DIRENFELD AT GTTI

GTTI helps entrepreneurs achieve their dreams

By MIKE ANDERSON

It takes a lot of planning to start a successful small business. Besides having a solid business plan, there are also licensing, taxation and legal liability issues to consider.

It's a daunting proposition, especially for someone who doesn't have much business knowledge or experience. But now there's help for Georgina's budding entrepreneurs, and the good news is it's free.

Starting on March 8, Georgina Trades Training Inc (GTTI) is hosting Entrepreneurism in Georgina. It's a series of free two-hour seminars and workshops geared to entrepreneurs that runs for eight weeks, with participants able to attend in-person or virtually via Zoom. Topics include entrepreneurship, business plans, legal issues, tax and accounting, employment law and business coaching.

The project is the brainchild of Alan Drenfeld, a Toronto-based lawyer who owns a home in Willow Beach.

Drenfeld, whose legal practice caters to entrepreneurs, developed the seminar series and launched it with GTTI last fall.

But this time, he's added a few more topics and guest lecturers, many of whom are successful entrepreneurs.

"The program gives you an understanding of what it means to be an entrepreneur, what it means to be a risk taker. And the only people you're going to learn that from are entrepreneurs. People who are building their businesses and facing the challenges," he said.

While the topics covered benefit start-ups, he says they will also help existing business owners.

"We are here to share information with, and offer guidance to, new entrepreneurs and those who are already beyond start-up but would appreciate a few new insights," he said.

"Our past attendees included single-person-at-home enterprises to those planning to establish manufacturing facilities. We cover and cater to them all."

Steven Clementson, co-owner of Grandma Bears Treats, a home-based bakery in Sutton, attended the fall seminar and says the knowledge he gained was invaluable.

"I had some stuff in place already, just through searching on the Internet. But thought the course I learned some of the stuff wasn't sufficient to run a business," he said.

"We had insurance in place,

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but it wasn't near enough. We're also in the process of certifying the kitchen, so we're 100 per cent legal. It's a bit of a process, but it's worth it. We want to do it right."

Clementson advises anyone starting a business should register for the seminar series.

"I don't think people realize what they're getting into. It is an eye-opener as to what you have to do and the time you have to spend to make it work."

Direnfeld believes his program will encourage entrepreneurial activity in Georgina and help local businesses survive.

"I see Georgina growing, but I don't see the business and industrial base growing. We don't have a lot of entrepreneurs who are opening up new businesses and lasting. You see many businesses just come and go."

Direnfeld says some businesses fail because their owners often don't understand basic business practices, like managing cash flow.

"They don't understand the ebb and flow of cash. Am I going to be short of money in a month or two? Even though I might be profitable at the end of the year, how will I get to the end of the year?"

"And wouldn't it be nice to know how much money I need to budget for the business and my personal living expenses?"

He also stresses the need to understand the pros and cons of various legal business entities, like sole proprietorships.

"They don't understand their choices regarding business entities and how to limit risk," he said.

"I tell people all the time, if you open up a sole proprietorship and fail, you will lose your house, car, or even your dog. You will lose it all. And when you lose all of that, there's a high probability you'll lose your family. So you need to know how to structure yourself."

Direnfeld also believes the seminar series can benefit people in the trades, including those currently enrolled in GTTI skills training.

"They're offering welding in February. So wouldn't it be great for a couple of those welders to create more employment instead of just getting employed? They could create a brand, open their own business and market their services outside Georgina."

Ashley Walker, GTTI's Executive Director, agrees.

"It's a good fit for GTTI because we try and give people employment skills. This is kind of the next step for those people. They've got the skills and can now find out how to open their own business."

She also says feedback from last fall's seminar has been great.

"Everybody who participated last fall has been grateful for the opportunity. They've learned a lot. They liked being able to ask a lot of questions. And the entrepreneurs even provided information after the series was over. Alan's talked to quite a few people who attended."

Walker says there is a need for this type of program in Georgina because there is no access to post-secondary business education.

"We're lacking that here. So being able to have these free or lower-cost opportunities is important," she said.

"Georgina is blessed with bright and energetic people with the vision and desire to create and operate their own businesses," Direnfeld adds. "I want to share what I know and what my associates know with people who have a desire to learn."

"I've been a lawyer for 44 years. I've seen a lot of people succeed. I've sadly seen a lot of people fail. I don't like to see people fail."

For more information on the entrepreneur seminar series and how to register, visit www.gtti.com.

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TRUMPETER SWAN. PHOTO: HEATHER MCKAY & JOE SEARA



MERLIN. PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK

2022 Sutton Christmas Bird Count Report

By PAUL & DEBRA HARPLEY

The Annual Sutton Christmas Bird Count was held on December 27 with a total of 11,994 individual birds of 55 species in the count area, which included parts of Georgina, East Gwillimbury, northwest Uxbridge districts, and southeast Simcoe County.

A total of 33 participants were involved in observing on the day, which started as overcast at 6:30 a.m. for those "owling".

The air temperature was -5 degrees Celsius. As the day progressed the temperature rose only slightly to -3 degrees by 1:15 to 2:00 p.m. when the sun came out briefly for one hour and continued cloudy to the end of the day.

Winds began from the southwest at 8 km/hour, changing to 10 kph from southwest at 10 a.m. continuing the rest of the day.

Lake Simcoe, and most moving rivers and streams were partially open of ice, except Cook's Bay which had mostly become ice covered with snow, from the previous 3-4 days very windy/snow-Storm Bomb that hit our area December 24, and most of Southern Ontario. The lake was fully open north of

Roche's Point.

We had good geographic coverage of participant observers for the count area this year, and better than the last two COVID-19 pandemic years, as was typical of many counts. It was great to be back to past normalized annual count circumstances.

The total 55 species on the day (2 species less than the 2021 Count), and 1 count week bird species recorded, was within the typical historical range of annual species documented.

With more snow on the ground before the count than usual, and seasonal temperatures, it was noted by participants that some feeders were not stocked up with seed as much as in recent years, and birds were more dispersed feeding on natural forest/field food.

Highlights and notables for the count day were American Black duck (7), Redhead duck (3), Hooded merganser (1), Bufflehead (2), Trumpeter swan (36), Merlin (1), Great Black-backed gull (4), Northern harrier (2), Great Black-capped gull (4), Belted Kingfisher (1), Brown creeper (3), American robin (303), White-throated sparrow (3), and Common redpoll (2).

Black-capped chickadee (290) but no Boreal chickadees a few of which have been seen in Southern Ontario this early winter. Two land birds of interest with high numbers for our count were Eastern bluebird (10) and Red-breasted nuthatch (14).

Groups of Trumpeter swans were seen swimming along the lake in the week of the count, providing exciting waterbird viewing spectacle for holiday walkers.

One bird species expected on count day but not seen, though documented for count week was Ruffed grouse (1). Bald eagles (8) was good but in some years we have got more on count day.

The cold, intense wind and snowy weather before the count may have influenced results with migrants heading south, moving out of our area faster than usual.

The arrival of Snow buntings, appearing in the area a couple of days before count day, in fields and flying across roads, riding in from the northwest on the storm,

were certainly more prominent than in some years.

Winter finches, though projected to have some flights south in the eastern Canada, were not strongly represented in South Lake Simcoe this year.

Three of the four expected owls were recorded on count day: Great Horned owl (3), Barred owl (4), and Snowy owl (3). Usually more Snowy owls are seen on the Sutton Count and a generally more northerly flight of Snowy owls in eastern Canada has been observed this year by some.

Thanks to all participants on the Christmas Bird Count this year as a field birders or feeder watcher/property observers.

South Lake Simcoe Naturalists members' contributions, and local or 'from further afield' birders' efforts always result in documenting birds that would otherwise not be found.

Your collective efforts on the day are vital to annual count success.



SNOWY OWL. PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK



JOHN BURROWS TEACHING CHESS

Georgina Chess Academy: Free lessons and a fun night

By MIKE ANDERSON

Chess, one of the world's most popular and ancient games – dating back some 1,500 years, takes only minutes to learn but a lifetime to master.

John Burrows, a retired teacher and co-founder of the Georgina Chess Academy, should know.

He's taught kids how to play chess for nearly 20 years, running chess clubs in Toronto-area public schools.

With a \$1000 Quick Action Grant offered through the Georgina Community Action Table and the United Way, Burrows and his wife Alice launched the Georgina Chess Academy on January 4.

The free eight-week program, available to kids between the ages of seven and 16, offers instruction for beginners and coaching for more advanced players.

It meets on Wednesday nights, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Salvation Army's Georgina Community Church at 1816 Metro Rd. N. in Jackson's Point.

According to Burrows, chess is good for a kid's cognitive development and a great way to have fun and meet new friends.

"Not everybody plays hockey; not everyone is an athlete. But every kid can learn how to play chess," he said.

"It's a social activity you can

do with your friends.

"If a friend comes over and says, you want to play chess? They'll be able to do so."

"It also improves IQ. And it's proven to improve attention spans, the ability to sit still, focus, and stay on task."

"It's really good for kids to play chess. There are all kinds of skills involved, including math skills, and it's fun," adds Alice, who hopes they can also offer the program in the spring and fall.

"We're pleased with the turnout. But if we could get a few more kids and cap it at 20, that would be manageable because we want them to learn how to play."

Parents seemed delighted that free chess lessons were now available during the winter months.

Vik Scott brought her two daughter's Milana, 7, and Mariah, 8, to the first night.

"It's a good idea for them to learn. I think it's basic knowledge that everyone should have," she said.

"I taught them at home a little bit. But I thought maybe a professional teacher would be better." Lisa Samoy from Sutton agrees. She brought her own two kids, plus three kids from different neighbours.

OBITUARY

Gooderham, Patricia Amelia (Life member RCL Branch 356, Sutton)

Peacefully on Friday, December 16, 2022 at the age of 85 years. Pat Gooderham (nee Drolet) beloved wife of the late John Gooderham of Sutton. Dear mother of Fran Gooderham (Don O'Day)

of Brechin, Greg Gooderham (Jennine) of Bowmanville, Theresa Ward of Toronto and Stephen Gooderham (Melinda) of Oshawa. Loving grandmother of Greg (Camille), John, Jacquelyn, Steve (Marla), Chris (Allison), Karly and Tyler and great grandmother of nine. Survived by her sister-in-law Gloria Gooderham. Predeceased by her sister Priscilla Gamble and brothers in law Kenneth Gamble and Paul Gooderham. Lovingly remembered by her nieces, nephews, extended family, Legion comrades and many friends. A Memorial Visitation was held in the chapel of the Forrest & Taylor Funeral Home, 20846 Dalton Road, Sutton, Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. with Memorial and Legion Service in the chapel at 2:00 p.m. Memorial Donations to the Poppy Fund of Branch 356, Sutton, would be appreciated by the family. Memorial Condolences may be made at www.forrestandtaylor.com



COMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sutton Legion - Friday Night Dinner, Fri, Jan 13, 5 - 6:30 p.m. Lasagna, cesar salad & garlic bread (\$15)

Sutton Legion - Friday Night Dinner, Fri, Jan 27, 5 - 6:30 p.m. Roast Beef, Roasted Potatoes & Vegetables (\$15)

Take Charge - Awareness & Intuition, Jan 19, 1 - 3 p.m. Learn how to overcome fears and empower yourself by tapping into your intuition and following your inner guidance. Free session. (Hospice Georgina at The Link, 20849 Dalton Rd, Sutton)

Mayor and Council New Year's Eve - The ROC, Sat, Jan 14, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Enjoy a free breakfast, cooked by ROC staff and served by Georgina Council. Also free tubing, skiing, snowboarding

and tobogganing, 10 a.m. to Noon. (The ROC Chalet, 26479 Civic Centre Rd)

Jericho 6th Annual Trivia Night at The Link, Sat, Jan. 21. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. Game starts at 7:00 p.m. \$40 per person/table of 4-6 including Chili Dinner. Cash Bar. To purchase tickets, send e-transfer to info@jerichoys.org. 905 772-5540.

The Pop-Up Vendors Winter Market - Kin Community Hall, Sun, Jan 22, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lot's of vendors, bakers, empanadas, spices, live music. Thepopuguy100@gmail.com (15 Fairpark Lane, Sutton)

AROUND TOWN



Rabbi Yossi Vorovitch is joined by local dignitaries for a menorah lighting at the Jackson's Point Parkette on December 21. The menorah is dedicated to the memory of a holocaust survivor, Larry Breiver, by his family.



Lt. R. David Hipperson and Lauri Cunningham at Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle Campaign Kick-off. The 2022 Kettle Campaign surpassed its goal of \$44,000, reaching \$45,373. The funds will be used to buy food and grocery gift cards for the churches local food bank.



Georgina Community Food Pantry Exec. Dir. Cesar Caneo holds one of the grocery bags donated during the holidays. The Pantry reached its fundraising goal of \$100K. In 2022, Caneo says the Pantry experienced its highest service volumes since 2017.

CHESS CONT. FROM PAGE 9

"I read somewhere that the three best things you can do for your children are getting them to learn an instrument, learn another language and play chess. So, here we are!"

While Samoy worried her youngest wouldn't get into chess that much, she was pleasantly surprised.

"They've obviously worked with children before. They're making her feel very welcome and accepted."

Samoy says Georgina needs more diverse recreational

programming for kids.

"We have swimming and skating, but we need to expand a bit," she said.

"I think it's nice of the Salvation Army to provide this space. So it's a free program for everybody. It's wonderful that they've allowed them to come in here and are doing this for all the right reasons, other than monetary reasons."

For more information email John Burrows (jrb@rogers.com) or call 905-830-2443.

From days gone by ...

By ROB URQUHART

The old-timers in Georgina, particularly the avid fishermen, will certainly remember the 'heyday' of ice fishing in this fine town ... especially with yet another season on the horizon.

Remember the two terms of Mayor Bob – Bob Johnston – former long-time editor of a local paper who catapulted into the mayor's chair.

In his first year, Mayor Bob accomplished a quite a bit – including the creation of The Great Lake Simcoe Ice Fishing Derby, which not only offered prizes, but had a massive end-of-season celebration, usually at Sutton Arena.

Another brilliant move by Mayor Bob was to appoint the late, but great Charlie Johnston as Georgina's Goodwill Ambassador, with his main aim to promote the Great Lake Simcoe Ice Fishing Derby. And it wasn't long before the town featured a massive 15 to 20-seat ice fishing hut, which Mayor Bob was smart and diplomatic enough to invite the entire regional council up for a day of fishing and discover the wonders of Georgina.

And, with Mayor Bob and



Charlie Johnston, they designed one heck of a 'media day' each year, of which I attended as a member of the press, and there would be all kinds of Toronto media there enjoying some ice fishing, including Glen Cochrane.

Now, old-timers certainly remember Cochrane, a definite 'colour' man with CTV Toronto, who would not spend the day fishing, but his film crew at the end of the day, would film him with Charlie and always two huge fish, and the banter between those two, captured and shown later than night on CTV was not only hilarious, it helped put Georgina on the map.

Mayor Bob is gone now, so is Charlie, but I can tell you in those days, the Town was bustling with tourist dollars enjoying the great 'Great Lake Simcoe Ice Fishing Derby!'

(Rod's four books are available at the Georgina Centre for the Arts on High Street).

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Q: In a marital separation where spouses are joint owners on title to their matrimonial home, and one spouse wants to put the home up for sale on the market, is there a right of first refusal permitting one spouse to force the other spouse to buy the other's interest instead of a sale?

A: The answer is "no" if the other spouse does not consent to such right of first refusal, according to a recent Ontario Court of Appeal ruling in a case. The Court of Appeal reaffirmed its previous ruling in 1992 in another case and stated that the Courts do not have jurisdiction to make such orders. It went on to say "...a right of first refusal is a substantive right that has economic value. It falls outside the boundaries of what is ancillary or what is reasonably necessary to implement the order for sale of the matrimonial home. It distorts the market for the sale of the matrimonial home by eliminating the need to compete against any other prospective purchaser, thus potentially reducing the amount the joint owning spouse realizes on the sale. In the absence of consent, the right of first refusal should not have been granted in this case. If the [spouse asking for a right of first refusal] seeks to purchase the matrimonial home, [he/she] must compete with any other interested purchaser".

The only possible exception (in the absence of the parties' agreement to any right of first refusal) under Ontario law is under Section 10 of the Ontario Family Law Act, which exception is limited to cases where there has been an application to the Court to determine a question of ownership or possession of the home. If the parties did not raise any question of ownership or possession the Court does not have the jurisdiction to order a right of first refusal.

Furthermore, if a spouse wants to force the sale of the home, that spouse usually applies for such relief from the Court (i.e. the Ontario Superior Court of Justice) under the provisions of another Ontario law known as the Partition Act, which states, in part: "All joint tenants, tenants in common, and coparceners, all doweresses, and entitled to dower, tenants by the curtesy, mortgagees or other creditors having liens on, and all parties interested in, to or out of, any land in Ontario, may be compelled to make or suffer partition or sale of the land, or any part thereof, whether the estate is legal and equitable or equitable only. R.S.O. 1990, c.P.4, s. 2."

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