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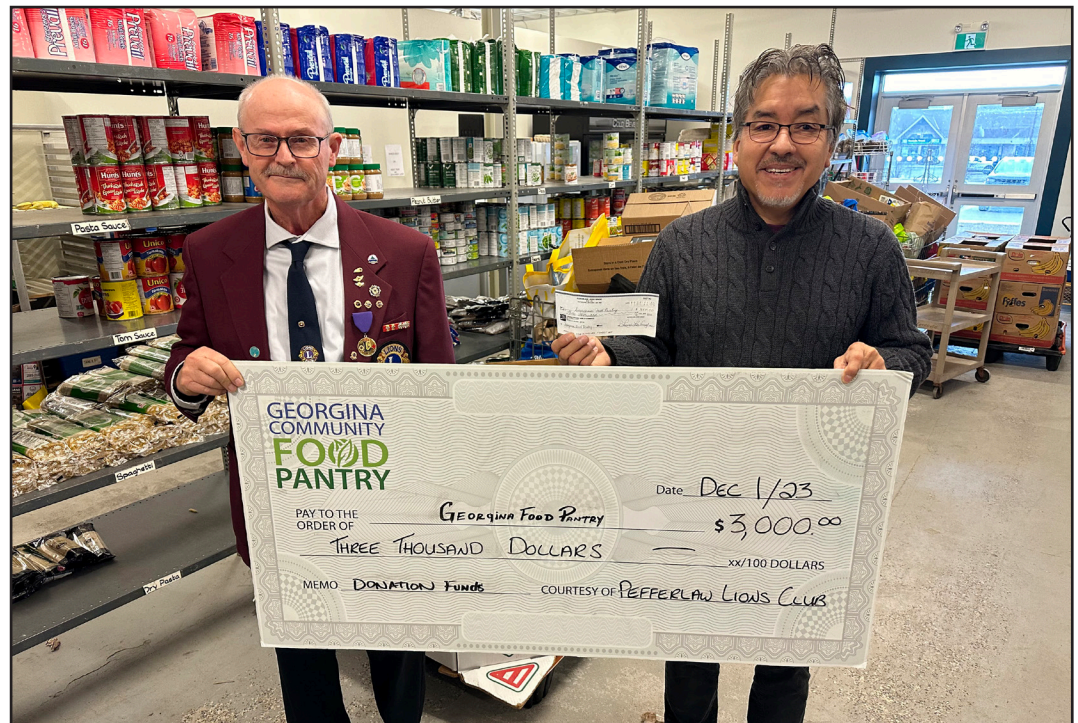


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Pefferlaw Lions challenge service clubs to support Food Pantry



DAVE HARDING PRESENTS CHEQUE TO CESAR CANEDO

By MIKE ANDERSON

Dave Harding, past president of the Pefferlaw Lions, has a message for other local service clubs. He's challenging them to raise funds and food for the Georgina Community Food Pantry (GCFP) this holiday season.

Harding made the appeal after presenting the Food

Pantry with a \$3,000 cheque from the Pefferlaw Lions on December 1.

"Our bingos and cornhole nights and different projects we do for the community are bringing in money that needs to go to a worthy cause," Harding said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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LAKE DR. ONE-WAY PROJECT (TOWN OF GEORGINA)

Town's 2024 budget passes in record time

By KAREN WOLFE

Due to the new rules that came with Bill 3, the Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, council was able to compress a traditional, two-day budget negotiation process into little more than five hours.

In the end, nothing was removed from the \$118,317,110 draft budget and discussions around five separate projects meant an additional \$438,600 was added to the now adopted budget.

As a result, tax payers will be faced with a 5.51 per cent increase in their property taxes which translates to an additional \$140 a year for a property with an

assessed value of \$448,000.00.

Georgina will collect approximately \$55.3 million in tax revenue in 2024 to help fund operating expenses of close to \$75,443,650 and capital expenditures of around \$18.6 million.

Water and waste water rates will increase 8.9 per cent next year and will support \$19.7 million in operating expenses and \$4.4 million in capital costs.

Two projects were added to the budget during negotiations and received extensive discussion among council members. One was a \$120,000 business case

CONT. ON PAGE 7



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FOOD BANK CONT. FROM PAGE 1

"If the people in the other clubs can kick in, it's a win-win for everybody."

"These donations are very important," said Cesar Caneo, GCFP's executive director. "Food is a basic necessity, and it's essential to support those who are food insecure in our community, especially in these unprecedented times."

According to Caneo, more than 850 households have been served in 2023 -- a 35 per cent increase over 2022. And more than thirty percent of those are new or first-time households who have never used a food bank before.

Caneo says the Food Pantry has set a goal of raising \$150,000 this holiday season. As of December 1, halfway through the funding drive, it has raised \$80,000.

"The remaining four weeks will be critical," he said.

Harding, former councillor for Ward 5, would also like to see the Town step up with a donation.

"We used to take some money out of a discretionary fund, and any councillor could donate. And that would come from the Town," he said.

"I'm not sure what's going on this year. It would be nice if there were an allotment of money put into the budget, and the Town could support it, whether it's monthly, quarterly, or yearly," he said. "Past councils have done a great job of getting this up and running, and it would be nice to see some more support coming through."

The Post asked Mayor Margaret Quirk if council would be donating to the Food Pantry this holiday season.

According to Mayor Quirk, the Town has provided funds to help kick off the new Keswick Community Fridge, a partnership between the Town and GCFP, located at the Georgina Ice Place. Mayor Quirk said the funds were initially earmarked for a

Community Initiative Fund Grant awarded to the Mansion House, a local restaurant which was planning to host a fundraising dinner for GCFP on behalf of the Mayor. However, that event was cancelled due to poor ticket sales. Although Mayor Quirk did not disclose the grant amount, according to the Town's website, the maximum Community Initiative Fund Grant is \$1,000.

According to a Town spokesperson, the Food Pantry is also eligible for a new Non-Profit Organization Grant, which is non-repayable and provides \$5,000 to \$100,000 per year.

However, while GCFP will apply, Caneo says short-term grant funding may not be enough to sustain GCFP going forward.

"We are asking for a conversation with our local government because we see the need in the community will continue," he said.

"Our visits are increasing, including families who have never visited food banks. So it's important as a community we continue to address this issue."

Harding acknowledges the problem of food insecurity is not limited to Sutton and Keswick. He's prepared to work with Caneo to help set up a food distribution hub in Pefferlaw, serving communities in Ward 5.

Harding promised to bring the idea forward at the Lions next meeting. He says a distribution hub, run by volunteers, could be located in the Pefferlaw Lions Community Hall.

According to Caneo, while most GCFP clients are from Keswick (57%) and Sutton/J.P. (31%), approximately 12 per cent are from other areas, including Pefferlaw and Udora.

Caneo says a food distribution hub in Pefferlaw would help service clients who must travel, in some cases more than 20 km, to access the Food Pantry in Sutton.



To all our valued staff, clients and their families, may your hearts and homes be filled with all of the joys and blessings the festive season brings.



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Carolyn P. Crate

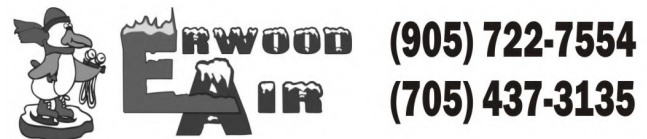
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Our office will be closed from December 25, 2023 to January 5, 2024 inclusive and will reopen on January 8, 2024

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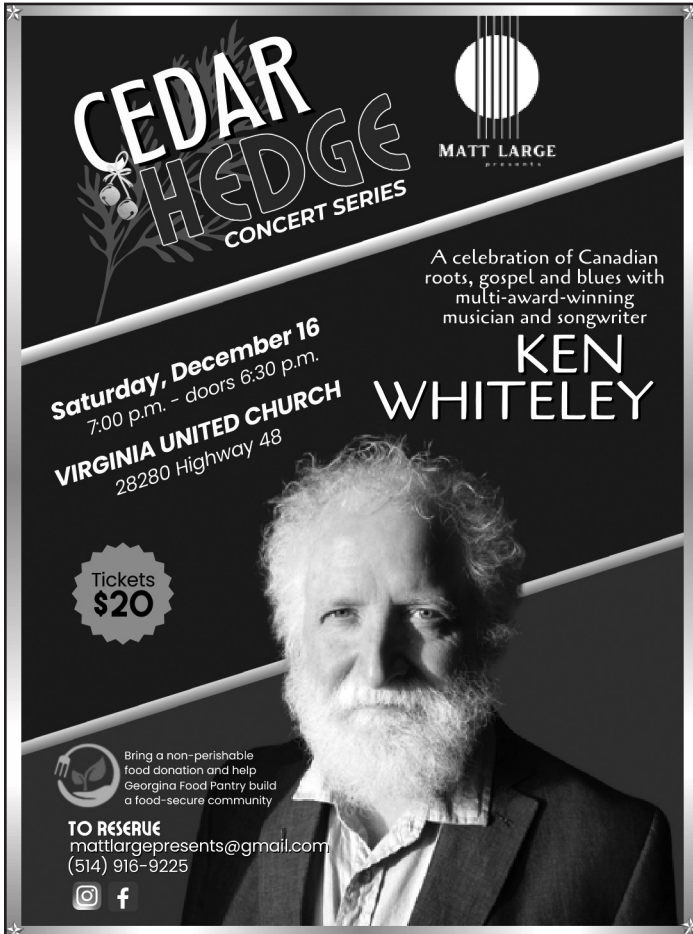
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TEILHARD FROST

Virginia church hosts folk, blue grass, and gospel music

By EWA CHWOJKO-SRAWLEY

Nothing says ‘community’ better than a bunch of folks clapping, stomping, and sharing good vibes together through the magic of music.

Teilhard Frost, maestro of old-time music, created a spirit of togetherness by belting out familiar tunes and jamming on multiple instruments, including a compostable banjo.

He kicked off the Cedar Hedge Concert Series on November 25 at Virginia United Church, brought to Georgina by Matt Large, a musician and music presenter.

Matt Large returned to Georgina from Montreal about a year ago with the desire to sprinkle a bit of that musical magic right here in our community. His goal is to unite and energize Georgina through a shared love for live music. The series focuses on traditional country, blues, blue grass, gospel, soul, and old-time music with guitars, fiddles, banjos, and voices. Large says, “I have been touring as a blue grass musician for over 30 years, and in that time, I have been lucky to make friends with some of Canada’s finest performers. When it came time to select

musicians to perform in our new series, I turned to those friends first.”

After Teilhard Frost, we will enjoy Ken Whiteley, Zachary Lucky, The Barrel Boys, John Showman, and Chris Coole. Deirdre Range from the Virginia United Church community was instrumental in bringing the Cedar Hedge Concert Series to this cozy venue. She says, “I grew up with folk music; it’s my passion. I go to concerts in various places, so I am thrilled to now have it right here, at home.”

Get ready for some more musical magic on Saturday, December 16. Ken Whiteley, who has recorded over 32 albums, will bring the folk, blues, and gospel vibes. With a trophy shelf full of prizes, including a Canadian Folk Music Award, seven Juno nominations, and Lifetime Achievement Awards from various folk festivals, he’s all about making connections. He loves getting folks singing along with him, so be ready for a musical joyride. The Cedar Hedge Concert Series take place once a month until April 2024. All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

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BUDGET CONT. FROM PAGE 1

to implement the first phase of improvements to Lake Drive North and Lake Drive East.

A previous staff report recommended this roadway be redesigned to offer a single, one-way, general purpose vehicular lane on one side of the road and a bi-directional, multi-use lane for pedestrians and cyclists on the other.

The first phase of the work will include a collection and analysis of additional data on traffic, traffic movements, parking and the impact on side streets.

A second debated project received approval to spend \$225,000 to retain a health expert to lead the development of a Made-in-Georgina Health Care Strategy and Action Plan.

The project would also see the establishment of a Core Project Team and Task Force, in consultation with various health care stakeholders, to develop

a high-level project plan that would guide the future direction of improving access to health care in Georgina.

New initiatives in the adopted budget document also included plans to develop a Climate Change Action Plan, washrooms at Holmes Point Park, a remediation program for West Park and \$3.7 million for road repairs.

Although no line items were removed from the budget during negotiations, Ward 4 Councillor Dale Genge did attempt to find savings of \$437,000 when she suggested delaying the replacement of four staff vehicles with low mileage for a year.

Her motion failed to find support around the council table and staff countered by saying the recommendation to replace the vehicles was designed to provide a safe, reliable and well maintained fleet for staff.

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COMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sutton Legion - Friday Night Dinner (5 to 6:30 p.m.): Dec 15, Liver & Onions or Hot Hamburg (\$15) Everyone Welcome. Next Dinner will be January 12. (21 East Street, Sutton)

Make Your Own Holiday Ornaments - Keswick, GPL, Tue, Dec 12, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Create 3 personalized ornaments out of clay or wood slices with a variety of paint, ribbons, stencils, pre-cut decals, yarn, beads, and more! Register: Eventbrite. (90 Wexford Dr, Keswick)

Georgina Fresh Food Market - The Link, Wed, Dec 13, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come by to enjoy our affordable fresh fruit and vegetable market, which includes beautiful produce, veggie tastings and more! (20849 Dalton Rd, Sutton)

Youth Drop In - The Link, Room 1, Wed, Dec. 13, Noon - 1 p.m. Free lunch! Free supplies! Gently used clothing, hygiene kits and more. (The Link, 20849 Dalton Rd. Sutton)

First Act Youth Company - Cabaret Night, Friday, Dec 15, 7 to 9 p.m. Join us as the talented members of the 2023/24 FAYCompany take centre stage in an evening filled with music, laughter, and unforgettable performances! Entry by donation. (Udora Community Hall, 24 Victoria Hall, Udora)

Breakfast with Santa - Jericho Youth Services, Sat, Dec 16, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. General Admission \$10; One-year old and under FREE. Families (up to 6 people) \$50. Join us for a morning of fun activities, gifts and a special visit from Santa! Register online: Eventbrite (The Link, 20849 Dalton Rd. Sutton)

Last Call Holiday Market, Sun, Dec 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Unique gifts, home decor, stocking stuffers! Entry \$2. Raffle ticket with Entry. In support of the Upper York Admirals Hockey Team. (Georgina Ice Palace, 90 Wexford Dr, Keswick)

Pefferlaw Lions - Kids Shopping Christmas Market, Sun, Dec 17, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Kids can shop for gifts, wrap it and choose a card to surprise a loved one on Christmas Day. Gifts range from \$0.50 to \$3.00. Free Entry. (Pefferlaw Lions Hall, 38 Petes Lane, Pefferlaw)

Community Christmas Day Dinner, Egypt Hall, Mon, Dec 25, 12 p.m. Join us for a FREE traditional Christmas meal. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by Dec 22. Contact Laura at 905.806.1388 or Laura.kay@live.ca.

Birthday Open House - Egypt Hall, Sun, Jan 7, 1 to 4 p.m. For June (Marritt) Charpentier (85th) and Bill Marritt (75th) Best wishes only.



CHLOE AT GOLDEN HORSESHOE BOWL

Keswick teen first female footballer to win championship

By MICHELLE POIRIER

Chloe Winterton, a grade 12 student at Newmarket's Huron Heights Secondary School, made school board history last month, becoming the first female YRDSB student to win an OFSAA football championship.

Winterton, 17, plays wide receiver for the Huron Heights Warriors, who won the Golden Horseshoe Bowl in Windsor on November 28 with a decisive 37-2 win over Burlington's Corpus Christi Longhorns.

"I'm very honoured; it's never happened before, and I'm proud to say that I'm the first female athlete who has won a provincial football championship with YRDSB," Winterton, who lives in Keswick, said.

Still, Winterton, who played junior football with the Warriors, York Region Lions, and Team Ontario women's team, admits her mom was reluctant at first about her playing football. But that changed when they reached out to Heath Weir, the Warrior's head coach, who encouraged her to try out.

Weir first met Chloe in 2019 when she attended a Skills and Drills Camp for grade 8 students. "She came to that camp and was adamant about playing high

school football," Weir said.

"I told her, of course, you can come out for football, and she was like, are girls allowed to play? And I said, yeah, sure."

"She came out and practiced with everyone and got into a game this year, catching a pass," Weir said.

According to Weir, Winterton is the first female athlete to put up a stat in a Warriors senior football game.

"Chloe was a valuable team member; she's a great teammate. And we've enjoyed having her with us," he said.

While there have been some negative social media comments, Weir doesn't see a problem with having a female player on a senior boy's football team. "I would say the bottom line is if they can play, then let them play," Weir said.

"I respect people's opinions on whether women should play football," Winterton adds. "But I've developed the toughness to play on a senior boy's team and learned a lot throughout my four years of playing football."

"I'm pretty confident in my abilities to hold my own on the football field, even if I'm the only girl there."

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Warm wishes for a joyous, safe, and happy holiday season to you and your family!



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AROUND TOWN



The Sutton Santa Claus Parade held on December 2, organized by the Kinsmen, was one of the best ever featuring 64 floats - up from 58 last year. Many of the floats were decorated by the Kinnette Club of Sutton, who also collected 350 lbs of non-perishable food items and cash donations for the Food Pantry.



Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in style at the Pefferlaw Fire Hall for the annual PAR Christmas Tree Lighting held on December 3. Over a hundred merrymakers, including dozens of children, were treated to carols, a cup of hot chocolate, free gift bags, and a visit with Santa. The event was organized by Pefferlaw Area Residents (P.A.R.) and supported by the Town.



GCAC Artistic Director Charlotte Hale (3rd from left) is joined by some of the 25 artists featured in The Red Show, a celebration of the dynamic colour that continues to inspire artists everywhere. The Red Show, the last exhibition of the season, runs until January 7 at the Georgina Centre for Arts and Culture. (149 High St, Sutton)



THE CONNORS BROTHERS

The Connors Brothers release new 'Family Album'

By EWA CHWOJKO-SRAWLEY

Connors Music is a family-run business in the heart of our community.

In this remarkable family, everyone has musical talent, and over two decades ago three family members, Joe, John and David, formed the band called the Connors Brothers, joined later by Melissa Harrigan.

The band tours Canada and Europe extensively, but no matter how far they go they end up back home in Georgina.

From rocking big stages to spreading cheer in the Sutton Santa Claus parade they bring their tunes everywhere with a truckload of smiles and enthusiasm!

Their musical style spans folk, Irish, blues, rock, and funk. Their songs celebrate Canada, making it feel like one big family.

The latest album, aptly titled 'Family Album,' delves even deeper into this theme, focusing on the bonds within a close-knit family.

Joe Connors says, "In this album, we've included songs that hold a special place in our hearts, reflecting our experiences as family members and individuals with our own families. The

themes touch on parenting and relationships."

John Connors adds, "It's like having a family photo album, but instead of pictures, it's a collection of songs. Every song has a story behind it, sometimes funny, sometimes dramatic."

The music, whether on CD or as a download, comes with a genuine photo album filled with the Connors' own family pictures and stories.

"We hope listeners experience this music album like flipping through a photo album—reliving stories and moments. Take the time to listen to it as a whole, just as you would with cherished memories."

The musicians have already received lots of feedback from listeners. People say they connect easily with the stories and relate to them.

The band's loyal fans also appreciate the musical evolution of the Connors Brothers, noting the addition of new elements, such as more fiddle tunes.

To get all the details visit <https://www.theconnorsbrothers.com>. Family Album is also available on Spotify.

Ask The Expert

with Kevin Zaldin



Do you want your fiancée to sign a Marriage Contract?

If your upcoming wedding is not stressing you out yet, should you ask your soon to be spouse to sign a Marriage Contract? When planning a bright and romantic future together should you have that non-romantic or even hostile conversation about protecting your assets in case of Divorce?

The Ontario Family Law Act tells us what can be included in a Marriage Contract.

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52 (1) Two persons who are married to each other or intend to marry may enter into an agreement in which they agree on their respective rights and obligations under the marriage or on separation, on the annulment or dissolution of the marriage or on death, including,

- (a) ownership in or division of property;
- (b) support obligations;
- (c) the right to direct the education and moral training of their children, but not the right to custody of or access to their children; and
- (d) any other matter in the settlement of their affairs.

Simply put, a Marriage Contract allows the spouses to determine for themselves what happens if the couple divorces, instead of using the standard property and support formulas.

There are exceptions such as which parent your future children will live with, dealing with the Matrimonial Home, etc.

If you and/or your future spouse have that asset that you want to protect, both future spouses should each hire a lawyer to negotiate a Marriage Contract. If the rules of negotiation and drafting the Marriage Contract are followed, a Court should hold the separating spouses to their previously negotiated agreement if the spouses separate.

You will need more than a simple line of, "What's mine is mine and what's yours is yours."

If you own your own home or want to protect your wealth for yourself and even for your children from a previous relationship, you should be having that unromantic conversation and talk about a Marriage Contract.

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