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June 10, 2024
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Willow Beach Park first-in-line for redevelopment



CONCEPT DRAWING OF WILLOW BEACH: TPP

By MIKE ANDERSON

The Town of Georgina is moving forward with redeveloping its major waterfront parks.

On May 29, Town council endorsed in principle the third part of the Waterfront Parks Master Plan (WPMP), which provides an implementation strategy, prioritizing capital improvements, and

outlines construction costs for the Town's major waterfront parks, including De La Salle, Willow Beach and Holmes Point.

The WPMP, developed over three years, recommends site-specific improvements at seven destination waterfront parks, nine community

CONT. ON PAGE 4



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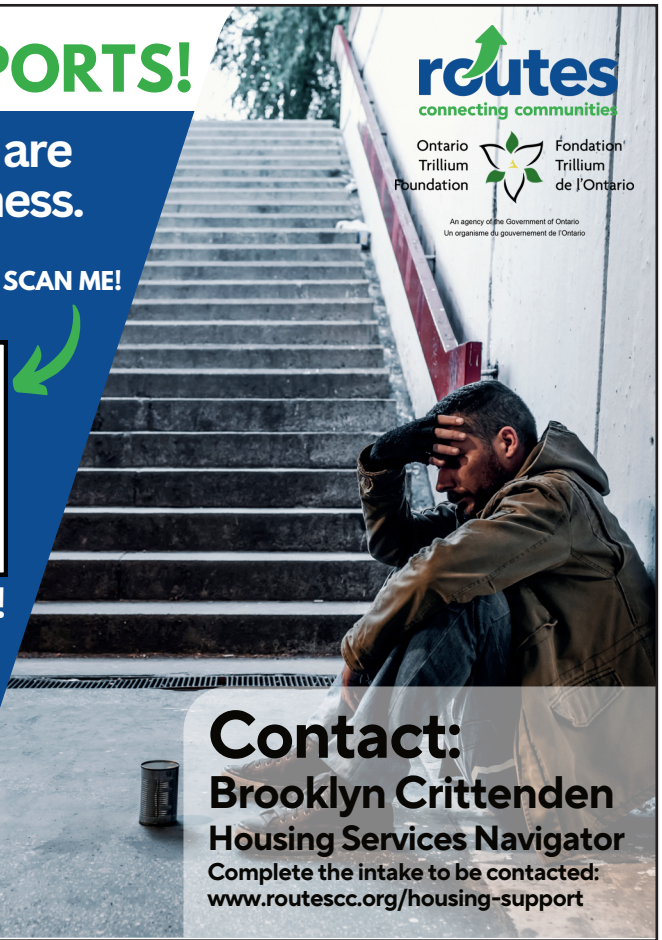
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ranking Georgina's High Schools: I read with deep interest the editorial regarding school rankings. It mentions the abysmal scores of the high schools in Georgina, which gives us only part of the picture. The "feeder" public elementary schools fare even worse. Black River is 2.2; Morning Glory is 3.6, and Sutton Public is 4.5. My granddaughter is in Grade 6 at Black River and they are frantically working with students "teaching them to the test" ongoing this week and next. I have watched these scores over the 8 years she has been in Black River and it has gone from a 3. something to a very worrisome 1.1 in the past. However, the point I am trying to stress is that if the students come out of elementary public schools with such a low literacy and numeracy score, it is no wonder the grade 9 scores are so low. There is no magic between Grades 7 and 8 that can teach them basic math and literacy skills. The high schools can only work with what they receive. I have worked at a college for 35 years and have been on the receiving end of working with high school grads without basic numeracy and literacy skills. It has to start with JK, SK, Grade 1 etc. A hot topic in academe for sure. Thanks for your article - it brings some of these issues to the forefront.

*Beverly Hartford MED
Pefferlaw.*

Stormwater Surcharge:

Historically, stormwater management costs came out of the Town's dedicated Stormwater Management (SWM) Reserve, which was funded by property taxes (the general levy) every year. But now I hear that a surcharge is needed because property taxes can no longer sustain the costs needed in the stormwater management reserve. So, why is that?

Certainly our taxes have been steadily increasing every year and the Town should be prioritizing the appropriate allocation of money into the SWM Reserve first, before it starts funding anything else. So, are the increased operating costs for the MURC responsible for eroding the funding that should be going toward SWM? The MURC is costing us taxpayers \$2 million annually--costs we were never responsible for in the past and that money has to come from somewhere.

Or, maybe the Town's argument to justify a new surcharge for stormwater management is based on the \$55 million in taxes they will spend to build a new civic Centre. This scenario seems more likely because they have already come out and told us that they will "use existing annual reserve contributions that have been set aside previously for the purpose of replacing facilities" to fund the

CONT. ON PAGE 5



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PUBLISHER | EDITOR

Mike Anderson
mike@georginapost.com

ADVERTISING | SALES

416.859.6291
mike@georginapost.com

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- Pefferlaw Dam Restoration
- Fixed Link Update
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- PAR Elections
- PAR bylaw changes
- Events

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WILLOW BEACH CONT. FROM PAGE 1

parks, and 27 road ends.

According to the staff report, it provides an action plan to address park overcrowding, improve pedestrian access, resolve parking issues and add infrastructure, like public boat launches.

The total cost of all capital improvements identified in the WPMP is more than \$39 million, which doesn't include construction contingencies or design and engineering fees.

The report adds that while some capital improvements could be completed in the short term (2024-2030) or medium term (2030+), they could also be deferred in the longer term, depending on the Town's 10-year capital budget.

"Staff will need to re-prioritize, remove, or make adjustments to the recommended capital work plans, based on the fact that economic conditions and the needs of the Town's waterfront parks may change over time," the report reads.

Council also passed a recommendation, proposed by Ward 3 Councillor Dave Neeson, requesting staff bring the design for Willow Beach forward during the 2025 budget deliberations, placing it first-in-line for redevelopment. Neeson argued that bringing a shovel-ready design forward might open the door to partnerships with other levels of government.

"I've been investigating partnerships at both the provincial and federal level," Neeson said. "And everyone knows you need shovel-ready projects to find funding partners to help with some of that cost."

A further recommendation, suggested by Regional Councillor Naomi Davison, passed by the council, requested staff to consider the feasibility of advancing Keswick's Young's Harbour, excluding parking, earlier than suggested in the WPMP's implementation plan.

While Davison agreed that Willow Beach should be first, she was concerned that resident access also needed to be prioritized, specifically for those living near Young's Harbour.

"That end of town is an older area. It doesn't have the amenities that a new subdivision would have. But, in that area, there are enough people who can walk or cycle there. So, I would like to see Young's Harbour moved up," Davison said.

The two additional recommendations followed a presentation by Donna Hinde, one of the principals of The Planning Partnership (TPP), a Toronto-based consultant hired by the Town to develop the WPMP in 2019. Hinde outlined TPP's implementation plan for capital improvements, assigning destination parks a priority score ranging from 4 to 12, with 12 being the highest priority. Willow Beach, Jackson's Point Harbour, Bonnie Park, and Malone Wharf each received a top priority score of 12.

TPP estimates the cost of redeveloping Willow Beach is \$6,555,000, while the Young's Harbour redevelopment is \$3,337,500.

Mayor Quirk said while the council endorsed the report in principle, the scope of the capital improvements may change.

"Nothing in here is cast in stone," she said. "What you see as a design still has to be refined and go through the final design stage."

"The full budget for this is a huge amount. So, I look forward to seeing what staff bring back as those priority items."

"This is another one of those big elephants you must bite off a piece at a time. It's key that we are strategic in what we do. We don't have \$40 million sitting in the bank ready to do all these projects at once."

LETTERS CONT. FROM PAGE 3

new Civic Centre. They will also use the “annual infrastructure levy for 2023 and 2024” for the Civic Centre building. That means if the reserves are being raided to pay for the Civic Centre, the money needed for the amenities those reserves were supposed to support (such as stormwater management) must be found elsewhere.

So it seems we aren't just going to be hit with a tax increase every year—we will also be hit with a surcharge to replace the tax-funded reserves that were supposed to be used for other services and amenities. Can a surcharge for road maintenance be far behind?

Karen Wolfe, Pefferlaw



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Off-Road Vehicle Pilot Project extended into next winter

By MIKE ANDERSON

On May 29, council approved a staff recommendation to extend the Town's Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Pilot Project into next winter.

The project will run from December 15, 2024, to April 15, 2025, allowing off-road vehicles, like ATVs, to use Town roads within the Waterfront Park Buffer Zone (WPBZ), which includes the entire shoreline and Town roads in lakeside neighbourhoods, to access Lake Simcoe for ice fishing.

It also includes Town roads in the Ward 5 catchment area, bordered by Park Rd, Old Homestead Rd, Weir's SR, Ravenshoe Rd, Lakeridge Rd and Highway 48, to cross Highway 48 to access the lake or rivers.

According to the staff report, warmer weather hampered this year's pilot project by restricting the number of off-road vehicles that could access the lake.

As a result, YRP and the Town's municipal bylaw officers

observed fewer ORVs on Town roads than expected.

"Extending the pilot project would give staff another opportunity to collect data and evaluate the program with the hopes that the weather would be more favourable for ORV use," the report reads.

Still, according to the report, the lack of complaints indicates that most ORV users were riding in compliance with the bylaw's provisions, which include driving 20 km per hour when the stated speed limit is 50 km or less.

YRP also reported that all the ORV users they stopped within the WPBZ and Ward 5 Catchment Area were riding in compliance with the Highway Traffic Act and ORV bylaw.

While the pilot project excludes dirt bikes, the report says they continue to be used illegally on Town roads. Nine of the 16 complaints received about violations of the ORV bylaw were about dirt bikes.



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YRP seeks suspects in home invasion

By MIKE ANDERSON

Investigators with York Regional Police's Hold-up Unit are seeking suspects following a Sutton home invasion that occurred on Sunday, June 2.

Police were called at 5:38 a.m. to a detached home in the new Cedar Ridge subdivision, near Smockum Boulevard and Highway 48, after suspects broke into the house while the resident was sleeping.

The resident woke up with two suspects inside the bedroom.

According to the YRP media release, they assaulted the resident and demanded money. They fled the scene, after taking various valuables.

The resident was treated by York Regional Paramedic Services for minor injuries.

The suspects are described as

males, mid 20s, wearing black tracksuits, black gloves with their faces covered. The suspects fled the scene in a white four-door sedan.

The investigation is ongoing and police would like to speak to anyone with video surveillance or dash-cam footage in the area of the time of the incident.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the YRP Hold-up Unit at 1-866-876-5423, ext 6630.

They can also call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-Tips or leave an anonymous tip online at www.1800222tips.com. For tips on how to secure your home against home invasions and break and enters, visit <https://www.yrp.ca/en/crime-prevention/Home-Security-and-Protection.asp>.

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COMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sutton Legion - Friday Night Dinner (5 to 6:30 p.m.): June 14, Steak & Parmesan Potato; June 21, Haddock Fish & Potato Wedges (\$15) Everyone Welcome. (21 East Street, Sutton)

The Good Food Collective - Community Lunch, Weds, 12 to 1:30 p.m. June 19, (Filipino Heritage Month) Filipino Pancit; June 26, (Canada Day Celebration) Mediterranean Pasta Salad. Takeout \$5 with reservation. Tel: 905-722-4616. (The Link, 20849 Dalton Rd, Sutton)

Georgina Farmers' Market, Sun, June 16 & 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 30 plus local vendors offering a wide variety of local products including: produce, meats, baked goods, and handmade products. (The Link 20849 Dalton Rd. Sutton)

Udora Leaskdale Lions - Spaghetti Dinner, Friday, June 21, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. \$15 for adults; \$5 for kids (5-12) Free for kids under 5. All proceeds fund community services. Bring non-perishable food items for Food Bank (Udora Community Hall, 24 Victoria Rd, Udora)

Music in the Streets, Georgina Pioneer Village, Sat, June 22, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A free public event showcasing live music from local students, instructors and musicians from Connors Music. Enjoy music, kid's entertainment, vendors and food. (Georgina Pioneer Village, 26557 Civic Centre Rd, Keswick)

Free Spirit Fest, ClearWater Farm, Sat, June 22, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. This one-of-a-kind festival will include a variety

of exhibits, speakers, and music that celebrate freedom of expression, movement, voice, and love through community connection. (Clearwater Farm, 1614 Metro Rd N, Willow Beach)

Military Day, Georgina Military Museum, June 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Browse war memorabilia displays, restored WW2 trucks and equipment, and experience re-enactments from 1812 to WW2. Tickets \$10 (Pre-Sale: Zehrs, Home Hardware Sutton, GMM) \$15 at the door. (26061 Woodbine Ave, Keswick)

Grand Opening - Pefferlaw Pump Track and Skatepark, Sat, June 22, 1 - 3 p.m. Join Mayor Quirk for a celebration, fun activities and a chance to try out the park. (Pefferlaw Park, 38 Pete's Lane)

Juried Art Show & Sale - The Georgina Centre for Arts & Culture (GCAC), until July 15. Featuring local and regional art that has been carefully selected by Nancy R Chalut and Jacques Bergeron. Live performance on June 16, 1 - 4 p.m. featuring Joe Mcleod & Derek Reilly. Tickets \$20. (149 High St, Sutton)

Summer Flower Show, Lake Simcoe Gardens - June 24, Keswick United Church. Topic is "Trees & Shrubs in a Changing Climate" by Kevin Kavanaugh. (177 Church St.)

Club 55 Pefferlaw BBQ, Tue, Jun 25, 12 - 2 p.m. Celebrate Recreation & Seniors month as well as Canada Day. We are serving sausage, burgers and veggie burgers along with salads, drinks and cake for dessert! \$10 per person (all welcome) (Lion's Community Centre, 38 Pete's Lane, Pefferlaw)



YRP RACES GEORGINA ROLLER DERBY

Optimist Club of Keswick celebrates its 75th anniversary

By MIKE ANDERSON

You could feel the love in the room as the Optimist Club of Keswick celebrated 75 years of community service at the Link on Saturday, June 8.

Residents packed the main hall to express their appreciation for the club, which has enriched the lives of thousands of children over the years with its many programs, toy drives, and support for local sports teams.

President Sheril Thomson estimates the club, which has just 24 members, reaches about 3,500 kids a season through its programs.

"They're learning skills, not just educational skills, but leadership skills and the importance of teamwork," Thomson said. "Through volunteering, they also learn that everybody is part of a family collective."

The fun-filled event featured youth appreciation awards, vendors, a kid's zone with a bouncy castle, BBQ'd hot dogs, delicious cake and much more.

But the highlight was the tightly contested bed races held behind the Link.

This was the second year for the bed races, which featured local teams from York Regional Police (District 3), Georgina Roller Derby, Nurses Next Door, Georgina Ice Junior Hockey Club, Premier North Windows & Doors, and the Sutton Kinettes.

Teams competed in heats, pushing one member on the bed across the finish line.

While most teams dressed for the race, the YRP team was in full uniform, with each officer carrying nearly 30 pounds of gear. But that didn't stop them from a bit of trash-talking.

"We're going to win because we work well as a team. It's what we've trained for; we've been pushing a bed for four years now," joked one YRP constable.

"The Roller Derby team looks pretty fierce. But the nurses don't look so tough. I think we got them."

In the end, Georgina Ice was the fastest team, defending its title from last year, and the Sutton Kinettes received the award for the best-decorated team.

While it was all great fun, an important underlying message was that kids need to be engaged and involved in our community.

"Any service group that brings kids out of their homes into the community plays a critical role," Thomson said.

"Instead of sitting behind a computer, kids connect with people they may never meet. And then they learn respect, responsibility, and how to be empathetic to others."

"One of the biggest things about being an Optimist is you get to watch kids grow, and that's what makes us optimists."



Supercharge your soul at Georgina's Free Spirit Festival

By EWA CHWOJKO-SRAWLEY

Mental health affects everyone. Within our families, among our friends, and in every corner of our community, there is a growing call for spiritual healing and supporting our mental health.

According to festival organizer Jennifer Aves, the 2nd annual Free Spirit Festival, on Saturday, June 22 at ClearWater Farm, will help meet that need.

"I have been in touch with several local wellness advocates dedicated to practices that promote overall well-being. We realized that one-on-one or small group sessions are not enough," said Aves, who is also a holistic practitioner and owner of Balance Health Solutions.

"We wanted to reach a larger audience to send the message that you are not alone. There are many ways to connect with your inner self, and with one another."

Aves adds that this year's festival is dedicated to promoting understanding and empathy towards individuals experiencing severe depression, including suicidal thoughts.

That is why a strong emphasis is placed on multiple resources aimed at relieving stress and finding balance.

At the festival, attendees will explore the world of yoga for a

deeper mind-body connection, try meditation to unwind and quiet the mind, and groove to the rhythm of drumming and dancing.

They can also soak in wisdom from inspiring speakers, including Apryl Jones from Naturally Enchanted, who will be on hand to share tips on using your body to tune into your intuition.

Of course, throughout the day, there will be plenty of musical entertainment by local musicians.

And art workshops for kids and adults to get the creative juices flowing and help shake off any stress.

That is for your spirit. But there will be plenty for your body, too!

With several food stands and special sessions, you will be inspired to better connect with the fuel that keeps you going.

And don't miss out on the local vendors offering treasures you won't find anywhere else!

Tickets are \$10 (kids 12 and under are free). Parking is \$5. But if you bring a food donation for the Food Pantry, it's free!

To find out more info and purchase tickets visit, <https://freespiritfest.ca/>

(ClearWater Farm, 1614 Metro Road N, Willow Beach)

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SHANNON LAFROMBOISE

Lucy's Diner opens in Pefferlaw

By ANGIE SULLIVAN

Lucy's Diner opened its 1950s-themed doors on June 1 to a crowd hungry for eggs and bacon.

The decor is bright and cheery, with pop culture pin-ups as decor and a colour theme of red, white, and black.

Owner Shannon Lafromboise is thrilled with the community's reception to her reinvented greasy spoon.

"We sold out of everything on the first day! The only things left were a few home fries," she said.

The location at 246 Pefferlaw Rd was home to another breakfast place several years ago, and Lafromboise worked there as a weekend waitress.

"When the doors closed, there was no good place to get coffee in the morning," she said. "Now I am going to be open every flipping day!"

When asked about the name of her business, she tells a heartfelt story.

"Bob Harlop, who passed this May two years ago, used to sit on the same stool with his coffee and toast. He'd be there for three hours daily, cracking dirty jokes. His nickname for me was 'Lucy,' from the TV show I Love Lucy, and we named the diner in his memory."

Her sidekick and co-worker, Emily Revells, is nicknamed "Ethel," also a throwback to the iconic comedy.

"If you want a classic breakfast made with love, you come to see Lucy!" Revells exclaimed.

They laugh and tell me a story about the trouble they get into, just like on the old TV show.

"When we were trying to fill condiment bottles, things went sideways, and we sprayed ketchup everywhere! Just like that famous episode," Lafromboise said.

Although she's a busy mother of three, Lafromboise promises to be there every day, and says the diner's hours of 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. work well with her family's schedule.

And the insider's secret? The Eggs Benedict and feature Strata, a baked egg casserole, are fan favourites.



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Ask The Expert

with Morgan D. Lipchitz



What are my obligations when stopped by police?

Police in Ontario are entitled to stop you in three general circumstances: (1) they see you committing a crime or offence; (b) they reasonably suspect you've committed a crime or offence; or (3) you are driving.

Police are allowed to approach any person and ask them questions. Unless you are being detained to investigate a specific offence, you are not required to answer any of their questions.

If you are detained, section 10(a) and 10(b) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms grants all persons the right to be promptly informed of the reason for their detention and to retain and instruct counsel without delay.

You should ask the officer why you are being detained and then request to speak to counsel. Do not answer any questions until you have spoken with your lawyer - you have the right to remain silent, use it.

It is good practice to keep the business card or contact information of your lawyer on your person. If you do not have a lawyer, you have the right to phone a family member or friend to get the name and contact information for a lawyer. Most often people are not expecting to get stopped by Police. If you do not plan ahead, you will not have the information necessary to contact your lawyer when you need it most.

Do not mislead police – while you are not required to answer questions, it is the criminal offence of “obstructing justice” to provide police false information including a false name or address.

While Driving:

All motorists in Canada are required to stop for police when directed to do so. Drivers are required to provide their driver's license, registration, and insurance. The police are also entitled to ensure the mechanical fitness of the vehicle.

If Police suspect you've been drinking and driving, upon request you are required by law to provide a sample of your breath into an approved roadside screening device (either drugs or alcohol) and/or to comply with a field sobriety test.

If you are involved in an accident, you are required to report the accident and provide the necessary information.

Drivers stopped at roadside do not have an immediate right to counsel unless they are being charged with a criminal offence.

Passengers of a vehicle are not required to provide any information or answer any questions unless they are suspected of committing an offence.

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