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June 24, 2024  
VOLUME 20 | ISSUE 12  
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## Town of Georgina installing speed cameras in Community Safety Zones



SPEED CAMERA ON BASELINE RD

By MIKE ANDERSON

The Town of Georgina is gearing up to install speed cameras in community safety zones across the municipality. On June 19, council approved staff recommendations that would allow the first speed cameras to operate by December 2024, with

warning signs posted 90 days in advance.

Council also requested York Region establish a community safety zone in Belhaven, making it eligible for a speed camera.

A follow-up staff report, which will be tabled in

CONT. ON PAGE 6



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# Georgina Angel Moms

Georgina Angel Moms is a workshop series that will focus on healthy body-mind connections, for mothers who are grieving the loss of a child. This resident Quick Action Grant project will create a safe nurturing space for women to talk openly and share about their grief. Through facilitated discussions, casual coffee meet ups and bereavement meditation and yoga, mothers will build a peer directed support system as part of their healing process. These workshop series will take place in Georgina.



Workshops and gatherings will take place at different location in Georgina throughout the Summer.

If you are interested in joining, please email [karenw@routesc.org](mailto:karenw@routesc.org).



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**EDITORIAL**

While the Town of Georgina provides grant funding for non-profit organizations and community groups so they can host events that benefit the community, this funding now comes at a cost. That cost is free speech.

As a condition of a Town grant, non-profit or community organizations are now required to sign a Public Statement Acknowledgement (PSA), which prohibits their personnel, volunteers and/or Board Members from making “disparaging remarks” about the Town “in person or on any media, including, without limitation, any social media channels.”

So, what does “disparaging” mean exactly? According to the Cambridge Dictionary, “disparaging” is defined as criticizing someone in a way that shows you do not respect or value them.” The Collins Dictionary says “if you are disparaging about someone or something, or make disparaging comments about them, you say things which show you do not have a good opinion of them.”

Both definitions are open to interpretation and confusing. What is clear, though, is that this new requirement will have a chilling effect on anyone involved in non-profits or community groups who wants to comment on Town issues. And it will definitely make it more

difficult for local media to solicit commentary from them. They may not want to speak to local media at all, regardless if it’s a personal opinion or not, as they may fear their comments will be misconstrued.

So, how have non-profits reacted to this new requirement? Not well.

The Georgina Historical Society recently returned its grant, in part because it didn’t want to restrict its Board Members’ comments on issues like the Town’s handling of heritage buildings.

During last week’s Pefferlaw Area Residents (PAR) AGM, a Board Member said she would rather resign than sign the PSA, which she called “undemocratic” and a violation of her charter rights.

Both non-profits have made significant contributions to our community, by taking on an advocacy role - saving the Pefferlaw Dam and public water taps (PAR), and helping to preserve the Georgina Pioneer Village (GHS).

If the Town wants to protect its staff, then change the wording to “disparaging remarks” against Town staff.

As it is currently worded, the PSA attempts to control the narrative and curtail free speech, something no municipal government has the right to do.



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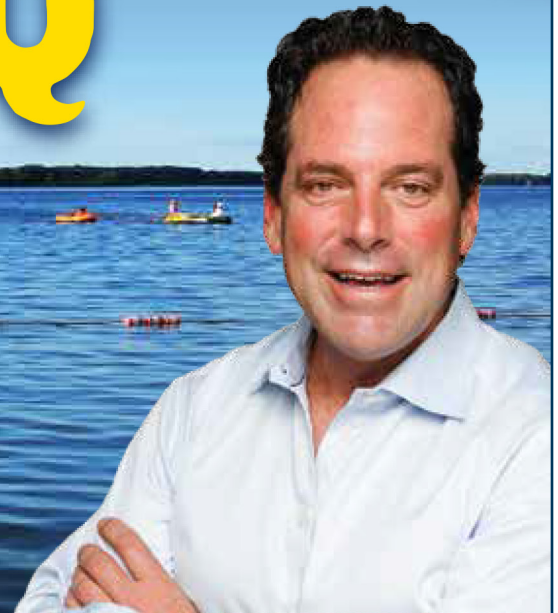
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## Town partners with Southlake and NYSS OHT

By MIKE ANDERSON

The Town of Georgina took a significant step towards improving primary care for its residents during the June 19 council session.

Council approved a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town, Southlake Regional Health Centre, and the Northern York South Simcoe Ontario Health Team (NYSS OHT).

According to Dr. Paul Woods, Southlake's President and CEO, the MOU aims to provide additional wrap-around healthcare services and build a new healthcare facility in Georgina.

This follows Southlake's new "distributed model of care approach," providing additional health care services closer to home and across the communities that Southlake services.

Dr. Woods says this model will improve access and patient experiences while freeing up capacity at Southlake's primary location in Newmarket.

Currently, Southlake provides medical care to over 1.5 million people in communities across the Region and South Simcoe County.

According to Dr. Woods, Southlake is Georgina's preferred hospital by a wide margin.

Last year, Georgina residents had 21,000 Emergency Room (ER) visits in Ontario hospitals. Of those, 78 per cent went to Southlake's ER. Oak Valley Health, which includes Markham Stouffville and Uxbridge Hospital, was a distant second, with 12 per cent of Georgina residents visiting its ERs.

"So when we are trying to make things better at Southlake, we are trying to make things better for the people that we collectively serve, and a big part

of who we serve is the residents of Georgina," Dr Woods said.

"By taking a collaborative approach, we feel that we can improve coordination of the initiatives and reduce duplication of efforts and make a bigger impact for the residents," added Christina Bisanz, NYSS OHT's Joint Executive Steering Committee Co-Chair.

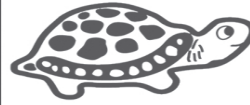
"Central to this collaboration is the development of a new healthcare facility in Georgina to provide a suite of services to residents. Services in the facility will help address the community's most pressing needs. And these services will also be designed to provide high-quality care close to home, reducing the need for residents to travel to Southlake and new market to receive their care."

Mayor Quirk called the MOU a "game changer" and stressed the need for the Town to pivot from its previous goal of attracting physicians to working closely with its new partners to build a new healthcare facility with wrap-around services.

"We aren't talking about a little storefront or a mobile bus or running a program out of a Town facility. This is a bricks-and-mortar facility that we're talking about," Mayor Quirk said.

"This is game-changing for Georgina. People have asked us how we can keep approving all these subdivisions without better healthcare services. This is the type of facility that's going to fill that need. So this is huge for our community."

A further announcement on Georgina's primary care will be made at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, at the MURC, where York-Simcoe MPP Caroline Mulroney will join Dr. Woods, Christina Bisanz, and Mayor Quirk.



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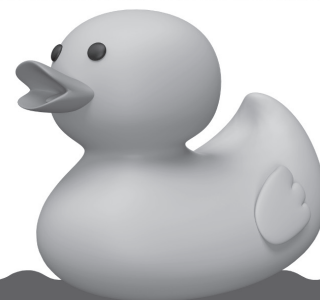
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CAMERA CONT. FROM PAGE 1

the fall of 2024, will outline final details, including the number of speed cameras, possible locations, and a communications plan.

According to provincial legislation, speed cameras, or Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE), can only be introduced in Community Safety and School Zones. Still, last year, council endorsed the City of Cambridge's request to MTO to allow speed cameras anywhere in a municipality, not just in Community Safety Zones.

However, Regional Councillor Naomi Davison said she isn't ready to support the expanded use of speed cameras.

"I don't think the idea of getting into your vehicle and potentially getting any number of tickets between one destination and another because there are speed cameras on every road in the municipality is going to be palatable," Davison said.

"That's not what we are suggesting here. We're looking to impact those Community Safety Zones and ensure that members of the public are well informed that these zones exist. Compliance is the goal."

Speed Camera fines, set by Ontario's Highway Traffic Act, are calculated based on the number of kilometres a vehicle travels over the posted speed limit:

- \$5 per km if you are 1 to 19

km/h over the limit and \$7.50 per km if you are 20 to 29 km/h over.

- \$12 per km if 30 to 49 km/h over, and 50 km/h or more is \$19.50 per km

The total fine will also include a victim component fee and a License Plate search fee. Tickets will be mailed to registered plate owners. They can either pay the fine or challenge the ticket during an administrative hearing, as they can no longer be disputed in court. According to the province, motorists will not lose demerit points, and insurance rates will not be impacted.

The Town is partnering with the Town of Newmarket to roll out speed cameras faster and amortize costs.

Georgina will use Newmarket's ASE processing centre, purchase cameras from its supplier, and use the municipality's Hearing Officers to adjudicate appeals, meaning residents must travel to Newmarket to fight their tickets.

According to the staff report, speed cameras have significantly improved safety for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists by reducing vehicle speeds. But the report provided no data to back up this claim.

However, according to the Ontario Traffic Council website, Quebec reported that its ASE program reduced average speeds by 13.3 km/h and crashes by 15 to 42 percent at ASE sites in 2016.



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## Pump Track & Skatepark opens!

By MARIE SULLIVAN

The grand opening of the Pefferlaw Pump Track and Skatepark had everyone smiling at Pefferlaw Park on Saturday, June 22. Kids on BMX bikes, scooters and skateboards tried out their tricks and jumps, while their parents enjoyed a free barbecue hosted by the Lions Club.

This new, fully-inclusive, fun zone is part of the transformation of the Pefferlaw Ice Pad located at 38 Pete’s Lane.

“This project is part of \$1.4 million worth of improvements here at Pefferlaw Park,” said Mayor Quirk in her remarks, pointing out additional upgrades include community gardens, public wifi access, and an EV charger. There are also more projects in the works like barrier-free washrooms, trail expansion, and exercise stations.

Ty Rodgers, a local BMX rider, had input into the development of the park and said, “When I was growing up riding, we would build little ramps and dirt jumps and they’d get taken away by the Town. We’d get into trouble and cause mischief.”

“To see something like this get built; it’s awesome. The kids are going to love it. My kids are going to love it. Town did a great job.” Another local rider, Micheal Squires said, “The facility is a ten

out of ten. It’s going to be a lot of fun for the summer and all the generations to come.”

Dave Harding, Pefferlaw Lion and former Ward 5 Councillor, was a major supporter of the project. Harding said, “When I was out campaigning and drove through the Woodland subdivision the kids were riding up the side of my little car wanting to talk. So I stopped and talked to them. They said, ‘I understand that you can make things happen. We need stuff around here for us kids.’”

Karen Wolfe, Pefferlaw Area Residents’ (PAR) Advocacy Chair, said, “This is a wonderful facility for our youth and I want to thank former Councillor Dave Harding for his support in getting this approved at council.”

Lee Dale, Ward 5 Councillor said, “We’ve had a lot of community input. It’s going to be a tremendous place.”

“It’s been completely designed by designers who know what they are doing. The skate park is one hundred per cent completely accessible. So if you have accessibility issues you can come over here and participate. It’s a fully lit facility. It gives families security knowing they can come here as a group and everyone will be safe here at the park.”



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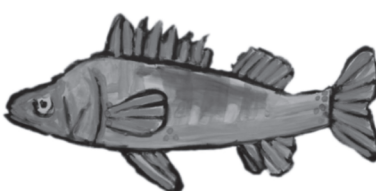
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# THANK YOU

Greg and Carole Forrest extend they're thanks to Violet, Keri and Audree of Forrest & Taylor Funeral Home and Nicole of Park Lawn Corporation for the retirement recognition they facilitated in our honour. We also thank everyone who has offered their sentiments as we enter our next stage of life in our community.

Sincerely,  
Carole & Greg Forrest



CAROLE & GREG

## Greg Forrest retires

By MARIE SULLIVAN

Greg Forrest retired June 1 after serving Sutton for over 30 years at the Forrest & Taylor Funeral Home at 20846 Dalton Rd.

A funeral director since 1989, Forrest's career took him from Toronto to New Liskeard, Wawa, and Haileybury. He finally settled in Georgina in 1992 and joined the Taylor Funeral Home. He and his wife, Carole Forrest, purchased half the business in 2001, and the remainder in 2008, changing the name to Forrest & Taylor Funeral Home.

Forrest has many fond memories and said, "We were going to a small local cemetery and a dog was sitting at the bottom of the dug grave, wagging his tail! He had fallen through the artificial grass and we managed to get him out safely. It gave us all a chuckle."

When asked what he is doing now, Forrest said, "I finally have time to do the odd jobs around the house I was always procrastinating about." He also has a few vacations planned. "The wife and I enjoy travelling and I've always wanted to see the fireworks in Las Vegas on NYE."


Forrest said, "I'm not leaving the business for the good. They've asked me to stay on to supplement staff during busy times. There is a general need for funeral directors and they are hard to find."

York Simcoe Funeral Services, a division of the Park Lawn Corporation, purchased Forrest's business in August 2023. Park Lawn, according to their website is "the largest publicly traded Canadian-owned funeral, cremation, and cemetery provider." Forrest said the new owners assured him, "There will be no changes to the policies and procedures for the foreseeable future."

Violet Grant from Mount Albert, the current Managing Funeral Director said, "Greg is a great member of the community and he is not going away. We are so happy he will still be involved with Forrest & Taylor Funeral Homes. I learned so much from him and am excited to keep providing the same level of care."

When asked about the changes in the industry he's seen over his career, Forrest said, "We've seen a decrease in the traditional casket burial service and cremation increased."


"I prefer a casket burial. When you are buried in a cemetery, the ceremony is finished and there is closure. With cremation, sometimes the remains aren't buried and instead the ashes are scattered. In these cases there is sometimes no monument remaining to show the existence of a person who lived, loved, and contributed to our life history."




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There are a few reasons why you should have a will. If you have any type of asset, including real property or money in the bank, a will is a way to ensure that your debts are paid, and that your remaining assets are divided the way you want. Do you want to make sure that your children are provided for? Or ensure that the family cottage stays in the family? Or that a donation to a specific charity is made in your name? A will is a great way to make sure these things happen.

You also want to make a will if you have any children, especially if they are under the age of eighteen. If your children are under the age of eighteen, a will can set out who you wish to have custody of your children if you die.

In making a will, you get to decide who is the estate trustee. The estate trustee is the person who will oversee the administration of your estate. Do you want to make sure that your responsible child is the estate trustee? Or make sure that your brother is not in control of administering your estate?

Making a will can help give you that peace of mind. If you die without a valid will, then your estate will be intestate which means that the division of your estate amongst your relatives must follow the rules set out in the Succession Law Reform Act.

The division of your estate according to those rules may not be the way you had wanted your estate distributed.

It boils down to this: if you want control over how your estate will be divided after you have died, then making a will is your best option.

If you have any questions about making a will, give our office a call, and one of our lawyers would be happy to answer them. This general legal information (not legal advice) is subject to change, and there may be exceptions based on your specific circumstances.

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

**Marriage contracts**

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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