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New Sutton Cenotaph slated for October 2025



WALTER MACKEY

By MIKE ANDERSON

Walter Mackey, recovering from lower back surgery, can no longer carry the Canadian Flag as a member of the Sutton Legion's colour party. But that hasn't stopped him from continuing to honour the soldiers, sailors and airmen who made the

ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Together with fellow Legion member Rod Beswick, Mackey led the charge to have the Sutton cenotaph replaced with a new design he believes

CONT. ON PAGE 4



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EDITORIAL: MULTI-USE PATHWAY NEEDS SAFETY UPGRADES

While the Town's new seasonal Multi-Use Pathway (MUP) along Lake Drive East is intended to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, the opposite may be occurring.

There has been at least one pedestrian clipped by a passing cyclist and a series of near misses, including my 80-year-old neighbour, who was almost struck by a cycle club member.

While many cyclists approaching pedestrians from behind are courteous, some act like they're competing in the Tour de France. They are travelling too fast and are oblivious to their surroundings. There needs to be greater public awareness of MUP etiquette, which includes passing on the left, yielding appropriately, and being considerate of others. Also, the use of a bell should be mandatory. If you don't have one on your bike, consider buying one. At least warn pedestrians you are approaching so they don't step into your path. Try calling out: "On your left!" This will prompt pedestrians to move over to the far right to allow cyclists to pass.

The Town should also consider painting lines or chevrons indicating that cyclists should stay close to the left side of the MUP. They also alert pedestrians not to stray into the path of a cyclist — perhaps this could be implemented with temporary decals that can be easily removed.

There is also the issue of

motorists driving on the MUP. One hopes this is a temporary situation, as more local drivers become accustomed to the one-way eastbound lane. However, the problem may persist with weekend day-trippers trying to make a left-hand turn to access the beaches.

So far, my wife and I have stopped two cars from driving westbound on the MUP. Both drivers apologized and turned around without incident. But my mother-in-law was subjected to F-bombs when she tried to stop another vehicle whose driver insisted she had the right to drive on the MUP.

Vehicles driving on the MUP face significant fines. Motorists can be charged with failing to obey a traffic sign and careless driving. Failing to obey a traffic sign incurs a \$110 fine, plus two demerit points; however, the fine can increase to \$1,000 in a Community Safety Zone. A careless driving fine, for example, ranges from \$490 to \$2,000, including six demerit points.

There is clearly not enough enforcement on Lake Drive East. There should be more YRP cruisers patrolling high-traffic areas on weekends, and offending motorists should be charged and fined accordingly. The Town should also consider stepping up its plans to install ASE cameras along Lake Drive East.



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CONT. FROM PAGE 1

MACKEY SHOWS HOW THE CENOTAPH IS DEGRADING

will inspire a younger generation to remember the sacrifices veterans made to protect their freedoms.

"I feel like we've done something for all the men and women who gave all their tomorrows for our today's," Mackey said.

The new cenotaph will feature a series of five granite tablets commemorating Canada's participation in the Boer War, WWI, WWII, Korea, and Afghanistan, as well as U.N. Peacekeeping Missions. It will also list the names of residents who fell in those conflicts.

The Sutton Cenotaph park, now Peace Park, will also receive a refresh with lighting upgrades, new landscaping and park benches that say "Lest We Forget".

"It's going to be very smart, very modern, and yet it still has the dates and the places where are men and women fought. And, it will be diverse, which the Canadian Armed Forces now are. There will be no religious symbols on it," Mackey said.

Both Mackey and Beswick hope the new cenotaph and park will encourage more school visits and in-class discussions about Remembrance Day.

"Once the cenotaph and park upgrades are finished we're

going around to let the schools know. We'll probably do that close to Remembrance Day, so they might go home and tell their families about it. And, maybe some of their grandparents did serve, and the parents might want to have a look and bring the kids," Mackey said.

Mackie says the Keswick Cenotaph, which was redesigned and moved from Church St. to the Stephen Leacock Theatre in 2018, is proof that a revitalized cenotaph renews interest in Remembrance Day.

"We were lucky to get 50 people at the old one. Our first time we opened to the public for Remembrance Day we had over 400 people show up," he said.

According to Mackey, discussions on replacing the cenotaph have been ongoing with Town staff for almost two years, but with the revitalization of High Street next year, it got moved to the front burner.

"They don't like the way the old cenotaph is falling apart any more than we do. And nobody uses the park anymore. It's too dark. Some people use the cenotaph as a washroom and they also go behind the hedges," he said.

The Town is allocating \$60,000 to build the new cenotaph and upgrade the park, with Veterans

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While there is support for the change, there are also a number of residents, including some Legion members, who believe the old cenotaph, built by local veterans in 1961, should be preserved and not replaced. Some of those Legion members took to social media accusing the Legion Executive of expediting the decision without getting input from most of the members.

However, Sutton Legion President Sheldon Sumners disputes that point of view.

"There is no hidden agenda. It's not a secret. We had to have a committee for it. We did present it. The membership voted on it and agreed to proceed. There were no dissenters. And many of the people that are dissenting right now did not put up their hands," he said.

Paul Brady, President of the

Georgina Historical Society, believes the decision should have been made by the wider community, and not just Legion members, as public funds are being used. "It's an iconic symbol of Sutton's working class past. And to replace it with a somewhat generic looking monument is a mistake," Brady said. "We're losing so many historic things and the older, local population, is just being ignored. They are just trying to erase Georgina's heritage."

Both Mackey and Sumners acknowledge the nostalgia some residents have for the old cenotaph and they want to reassure them that the Legion plans to preserve some of its elements. "It's really dilapidated. It's falling apart. But we're going to try to save some of the bricks and we're definitely saving the plaque. The rest, I'm not sure if it's saveable," Sumners said.



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COMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sutton Legion - Friday Night Dinner (5 to 6:30 p.m.): July 11, Liver & Onion; July 18, Haddock Fish & Chips; July 25, Steak & Baked Potato (\$15) Everyone Welcome. (21 East Street, Sutton).

The Good Food Collective - Community Lunch, Weds, 12 to 1:30 p.m.: July 16, BLT & Seasonal Greens; July 23, Cold Mediterranean Salad. Takeout \$8 with reservation. Tel: 905-722-4616. (The Link, 20849 Dalton Rd, Sutton)

Purple Turtle Art Festival, The Meadow at The Briar's Resort & Spa, Sat, July 12 & Sun, July 13 This two-day festival showcases over 35 artisans from across Ontario. Explore a diverse range of artistic mediums, including painting, jewellery, photography, ceramics, woodwork, glass work, eco-dyeing, fibre arts and more. (The Briars Resort & Spa Meadow, 991 Lake Dr. E. Entrance through the old Red Barn Theatre)

Duck Races & Festival On High - Sat, July 12, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. A fun day for the entire family. Enjoy kids games, vendors, food booths, street performers, the Optimist Club of Keswick Bed Races & the Sutton Kinettes Rubber Duck Races on the Black River. (High Street, Sutton).

Georgina-Brock Garden Club - Preserving Mature Trees, Mon, July 14, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Toni Ellis of Tree Trust will focus on the value and importance of mature trees. Toni will give pointers on how homeowners can keep mature trees healthy and explain what Tree Trust is doing to keep big trees on the landscape. Also judged flower, veggie and design show. (Lions Community Hall, 38 Pete's Lane, Pefferlaw)

Stroke Prevention - OHT NYSS Health and Wellness Education Series, Wed, July 16, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Free Health and Wellness Education Series. (The Link, 20849 Dalton Rd, Sutton)

Georgina Farmers' Market, Sun, July 13 & July 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Features more than 40 + vendors offering a wide range of local products, including produce, meats, baked goods and crafts, all from local vendors. Come out and enjoy live music, great food, and support local! (The Link, 20849 Dalton Rd, Sutton)

Beach Bash - De La Salle Beach, Fri, July 25. Hands-on activities including educational activities on water safety and drowning prevention. Beach Volleyball Tournament to support Lifesaving Society. Teams must pre-register, call the MURC (905-989-3000 or Georgina Leisure Pool (905-722-1429)

Pefferlaw Classic Car & Community Festival, Sat, July 26. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Food trucks, live music, beer tent, kids bicycle parade. Free Admission. (Pefferlaw Lions Park, 38 Pete's Lane)

ClearWater Farm -Homegrown Music Showcase, Sat, July 26, 10 a.m - 7 p.m. A full-day, open-air festival of music, local talent, and lakeside magic. There's a lively beer garden, local product vendors and lot's of delicious food options, including farm-fresh bites. Free admission, but space is limited. (ClearWater Farm, 1614 Metro Rd N, Willow Beach).

Uptown Keswick Parkette Concert Series, Sat, July 26, 3:30 p.m - 7:30 p.m. Featuring Thistle Drew with special guests MacLeod. (Uptown Keswick Parkette, 2 The Queensway S, Keswick)



ROUTES SHUTTLE BUS

A free shuttle and fun for rural Georgina seniors

By ANGIE SULLIVAN

If you've always wanted to try Pickleball, Tai Chi, Yoga, or Aqua Zumba, but have transportation issues, this free recreation program is for you! Routes Connecting Communities is launching a new wellness initiative to bring rural Georgina seniors to local drop-in programs. From August to March, 20 seniors will receive a free rec pass and free monthly bus trip to The MURC and Georgina Ice Palace for drop-in programming.

"We're very excited at Routes to be able to offer a cost-free program to support the health and wellness of Georgina seniors," said Michael Gardiner-Davis, the Routes Supervisor for Transportation Services. "Now more than ever, seniors, especially those on a fixed income, do not have spare cash to spend, and we wanted to ensure that critical social and wellness programming remained accessible."

Each month will focus on different activities, and there is a form (see the bottom of this article for the link) where those interested can check off their primary interests. It's also a fun way to make new friends and

stay healthy.

Spaces in the program will be prioritized for those who most need them, but if there is not enough interest, the free recreation passes will be given to others who may not require transportation. So, even if you do not need the shuttle, feel free to apply!

Gardiner-Davis said, "Being active isn't just good for your body—it lifts your mood and gets you connecting with others. It's critical for healthy aging, and aging in place. We're very proud to help rural seniors get out each week with a free ride and rec pass. It's about staying healthy and feeling like part of the community."

Routes is calling on families, caregivers, and local service providers to encourage the seniors in their lives to apply. They're also exploring optional add-ons to each outing, such as visiting a local café or store to support nearby businesses.

Interested seniors can apply online here: <https://forms.office.com/r/uq9BabupSc>. Those who prefer help applying can call 905-722-4616 or email info@routescc.org.

AROUND TOWN



Bebot was spotted at Sibbald Point Provincial Park on June 23. The Zamboni-like waste collector patrolled Sibbald's beaches till the end of June and has moved on to Inverhuron Provincial Park for July. The robot removes debris like plastic, glass, metal, and paper before it can enter the water and is part of the Great Lakes Plastic Cleanup initiative led by Pollution Probe.

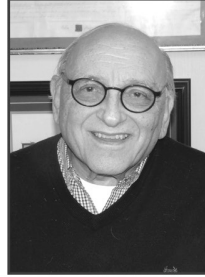


Pefferlaw's Savanna Quiring is offering affordable, fun, fitness classes at Udora Hall -- four days a week, all summer long. Quiring is providing the classes on a donation basis to help cover the cost of the hall rental and purchasing equipment. The suggested donation could be from \$5 to \$10 per visit.



Realtor Christine Burton presents Maureen McDermott with a \$100 grocery gift card as part of The Adopt-a-Fridge campaign started by McDermott to help Pefferlaw residents replace food thrown out when fridges and freezers stopped working during the ice storm. So far, the campaign has raised \$700, with gift cards distributed to families in need by the Pefferlaw Lions.

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JORDAN & NATALIA

Local cartographer puts Georgina on the map

By ANGIE SULLIVAN

Georgina locals Jordan Findlay and Natalia Zammitti have teamed up to bring an artistic hand-drawn map of our region to Sutton. The unique piece of art was finished at the end of June and hangs outside Zammitti's office at 163 High Street.

Zammitti said, "I love the creativity in Jordan's work, and I thought it would wonderful to have a map of our region for tourists. Something that displays our parks, beaches, businesses, and restaurants. Our town should be celebrated!"

The map was created with inlaid drawings of local businesses to showcase the variety of attractions in Georgina. Jordan Findlay said, "I created the design so it pops off the page, and there is also a miniature drawing of Natalia's building to show where you are on the map."

This project is part of the Town of Georgina's Public Art initiative, known as the Economic, Culture, and Community Betterment Program, which provides funding for art that reflects the culture, heritage, and vibrancy of our region.

Findlay's hand-drawn and painted maps are on display every Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., from

now till October, at the Georgina Farmers' Market located at the LINK in Sutton. He sells art pieces, pillows, and blankets, and takes custom orders.

Findlay said, "I got involved with the Farmers' Market because I wanted to showcase my artwork to the community. My sales have been great, and locals love my maps of Lake Simcoe! They also love the idea that they can customize their own map of somewhere personal to them."

The Boondocks Eatery has an entire wall dedicated to his mural of Lake Simcoe, and Turkey Shoot Brewing Company features his artwork on cans of Lake Simcoe Lagered Ale. Much of his cartography features Lake Simcoe. Additional murals grace the main office of Keswick High School and several clients' homes.

Findlay said, "I focus on Lake Simcoe because I grew up in Keswick. I've been here my whole life, and when you grow up in Keswick, the lake becomes part of your culture. I understand it, so I know how much it means to us." Learn more about Findlay's work at www.jjfcartography.com or on Instagram @j.j.f.cartography.



CATHY TOOLE, CAROLE SMITH & JOE CONNORS

Music in the Streets: From local jam to beloved tradition

By EWA CHWOJKO-SRAWLEY

What started as a small-town celebration of local talent has grown into one of Georgina's favourite annual traditions. Music in the Streets, founded by the Connors family nearly three decades ago, has kept the town dancing, humming, and cheering ever since.

Joe Connors, the festival's heart and soul, says, "We had to move the event from uptown Keswick to the Georgina Village Museum three years ago due to provincial safety regulations. We had six weeks to figure it out, and the community really rallied behind us. Huge thanks to Georgina Historical Society and the Town for welcoming us with open arms."

The festival covers a lot of ground — literally and musically — with over 200 performances across 11 stages. There's a little bit of everything: classical, jazz, rock, blues, pop, and even some mandolin and bouzouki.

"This is really about the community of musicians we have in Georgina," says John Connors. "We've got beginners, seasoned pros, and students we've taught from their very first notes. And yes, the whole Connors clan: the Connors Brothers band, my sister Bernadette, and our father Paul with his legendary Flashback band."

Music in the Streets is all about community. Free to attend, run by volunteers, and helping the food pantry. Joe says, "In many ways, this event gives back to the community that supports it. For me, it's a true labour of love."

That love for music and community goes back a long way for Joe. He says, "I remember my very first drum solo back in '99, with my dad and my teacher cheering me on. I was just a student then. Most unforgettable moment? In 2018 I rounded up 20 banjo players for a surprise flash mob performance in Keswick. We called it the Banjo Army. It was totally joyful!"

Performer Cathy Toole, says, "The festival is fabulous. You rehearse for months, and when the moment comes, it's magic. I started lessons with Joe in 2015. He's the most positive teacher I've ever met!"

A musician, Frances "Frantic Franny" Chard, shares, "Music is everything, it's our life. I love all kinds of music, but I especially admire Bernadette Connors. She's an inspiration."

As Music in the Streets gears up for its 30th birthday next year, big plans are in the works. Keep your instrument in tune and stay tuned — 2026 is set to be the biggest celebration yet!



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- **Clearing the Air: Understanding vaping and supporting youth to quit** – Sept. 17, 2025, at the MURC.

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SANA & ARUJAN

Sana's Station: A new stop on Sutton's food map

By EWA CHWOJKO-SRAWLEY

There's a new stop on Sutton's culinary map—and it comes with a side of charm, and one seriously juicy burger!

Recently opened by husband-and-wife team Arujan and Sana, this cozy restaurant is already making waves in town.

Arujan spent 16 years working alongside his father at his family restaurant. He says, "Working with him, I learned how he mastered his recipes, but I've always wanted to make dishes a little differently myself! Opening up Sana's Station with my wife was the best thing I've ever done for my culinary creativity. Not only are all the dishes my own and made from scratch, but I also practice my art every Friday with new specials."

Sana, who left behind a career in project management, handles planning, front-of-house, and just about everything else. "I had to quit my job, so I needed something to call mine," she laughs. "Arujan named the restaurant after me!"

And then there's the "Station" part of the name—chosen because Sutton was once the last stop on the train line.

"We love the rich history of Sutton," says Sana. "We heard

how the railway was a pillar of the community. It felt like a perfect fit."

The menu is a mix of pastas, burgers, and dinners—with an occasional twist, like a house-made Sri Lankan curry special (a nod to their roots). So far, the runaway hit is the classic big and juicy burger made of never-frozen local beef. Another standout is the crunchy chicken burger, packed with fresh ingredients.

"People here really care about local products," says Sana. "We've started working with nearby farms and buying from farmers' markets."

On July 6, Sana's Station is teaming up with Baxter Ryan Real Estate Group and other local businesses to offer free meals.

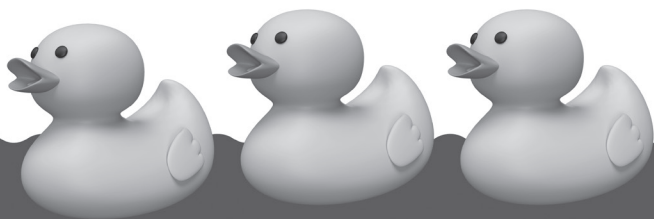
"It's a way to meet the community," says Sana. "Working with small businesses helps everyone. We also donate meal vouchers to local charities."

Whether you're in the mood for a burger, a curry, or just some friendly small-town charm, Sana's Station should be your next stop.

All aboard! This local gem is just getting started. Address: 5189 Baseline Road, Sutton.

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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.

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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