

North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance is demanding answers

A group that has been trying to save the North Gwillimbury Forest from a 1,074 unit residential development for years is demanding the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) make a decision on a Section 28 application filed by the DG Group-the last hurdle before the developer can proceed with the project. The 500 acre Maple Lakes Estate (MLE) development has planning approvals from the Ontario government, York Region and the Town of Georgina. However, the Section 28 approvals process requires the LSRCA to ensure the plans meet the natural hazards and heritage protection guidelines. And herein lies the crux of the matter. The Section 28 permit application by the DG Group was first filed in 2015 and is being considered by the LSRCA under a set of policies that were in place at that time. But the application was put on hold until the provincial government reviewed a request sanctioned by the Town of Georgina, York Region and the LSRCA to facilitate a development rights swap from the MLE lands to lands owned by the DG Group on Deer Park Road north of Keswick.

The provincial government to date has refused to allow the "swap" but the LSRCA and the Town of Georgina continue to lobby for a change in the province's position. Recently the North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance, the group which has fought against the development and the land swap idea, sent a letter from their lawyer, Leo F. Longo

demanding a decision on the Section 28 application from LSRCA. According to Mr. Longo's letter, he pointed out that pursuant to the Watershed Guidelines, the LSRCA must either approve an application or refer it to a hearing within 90 days of written confirmation of a complete application. But Mr. Rob Baldwin, the General Manager of Planning and Development for the LSRCA, told the Georgina Post that the Section 28 application is being reviewed under a previous set of policies that do not specify a deadline for a decision. "Mr. Longo's letter is mixing up two sets of policies. The policy they refer to is the current set and the DG application is under the old set and there is no legal timeline for a refusal or an approval," Mr. Baldwin said, adding, the 90 day timeline in the new guidelines is only an ad-hoc guideline and not a legal requirement.

Mr. Baldwin said he is not at liberty to say when a decision will be announced because it is an active file. However, the LSRCA continues to hope the province will reverse its decision to allow the development rights swap.

"That would be the ultimate solution," he said. "We have tried and I know the DG Group continues to try".

Mr. Baldwin said the DG Group as the proponent for the application, could ask for a decision "at which time we would probably have to give them one" but to date, they have not formally requested one.

Vehicle through ice being investigated

York Regional Police are investigating an incident involving a brown Ford Explorer that had fallen through the ice a few feet from the Malone Wharf in Jackson's Point. According to Acting Sgt. C. Thomas, a patrolling police vehicle observed two individuals walking along Malone Road away from the Wharf at 2:00 am on Thursday, February 22. "These individuals were visibly wet and hypothermic and required medical attention," Sgt. Thomas said, add-



ing, they are both local residents. Upon questioning, police were led to believe "there was more going on than a simple mistake," he said. Police believe a third individual may be involved and a dive team was requested to attend the scene. Anyone with information is requested to contact York Regional Police.



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Own agenda which sometimes doesn't jive with ours.

water resources.

Recently she showed her superiority when days of rain and mild temperatures caused these rivers and creeks to swell over their banks and threaten dozens of homes.

OK, so Georgina boasts 52 kilo-

metres of lake frontage and has

the Black River and the Peffer-

law River) all of which run into

various creeks and tributaries

that feed into the rivers). In other words, we are a commu-

And while most of the time

these resources offer a huge

benefit to this community, we

all know Mother Nature has her

Lake Simcoe (not to mention the

nity with an amazing amount of

three rivers (the Maskinonge,

I live on the shores of the Pefferlaw River and even though this swollen waterway breached its banks on my property, it never became a threat. That, however, was not the case with a neighbour of mine.

She is widowed and lives alone taking care of her elderly mother so when she called me to take a look at the flooding on her property, it was immediately obvious that the rising water levels could well reach the walkout from her basement within hours.

I had just received a Flood Warning from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority encouraging residents to take "precautionary" measures to protect their properties at risk of flooding.

Based on past experience on this street, I was well aware of the risk because in 1990 an ice jam backed up the river and filled the basement of this particular home with eight feet of water. I suggested she call the Town to ask for sand and sand bags—a service they provided to homeowners on the street in 1990 and which were effective in keeping four feet of water at bay from entering my own home. But imagine my surprise when the Town told her that no such program existed and there was nothing they could do to help her.

I'm having problems with this one...

It is hard for me to imagine a municipality that has so much flood potential not being prepared with an emergency response program that offers sand and sand bags to residents. I was struck dumb! Even more incredible was the advice she got from both the LSRCA and York Region. She was instructed by both to call the Town of Georgina. I took a look at other communities which also face a flooding risk and found many that do offer this service to residents. My neighbour eventually purchased bags of sand from Pefferlaw Peat and together with friends and neighbours, she was able to shore up her home. But seriously, Georgina...you can do better than this!

Karen Wolfe, Editor

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Meeting was too late for Udora residents

Organizing a meeting to explain the rationale after the installation of a four-way stop in Udora did not sit well with those attending the Udora Hall on February 20.

Residents, as well as various members of Uxbridge council, were upset and vocal regarding York Region's decision to host the meeting after the fact. "This meeting should have happened prior to anything happening and the public should have been consulted," said Uxbridge Mayor Gerri O'Connor. "We are on one side of this intersection and you are on the other side of the intersection and we were not informed, we were not asked anything about this." Mayor O'Connor also supported residents who were critical of the lack of forethought and planning by York Region for not anticipating the traffic problems the 404 extension would cause Udora.

"We all knew that the 404 was coming up and Udora was going to get hit," she said. "And I think there could have been probably a lot more thought put into how we are going to deal with this intersection." Long-time resident Margaret Burrows reflected on the numerous meetings Udora resi-

dents have had with York Region in the past to deal with increased traffic and safety concerns and said York Region has a lot to answer for in terms of planning and thinking through the appropriate solution and communication. "It wasn't rocket science to know this was going to happen," she said. "So it defies all logic why this meeting wasn't held at least three months ago...to treat us this way is almost an insult."

Georgina's Mayor Margaret Quirk responded by saying once all of the data had been collected and analyzed to support the decision to install an all -way stop, it was imperative to move quickly due to liability issues.

"Certainly it wasn't meant to be an insult to put the all-way stop in and then have a meeting," she said.

The data revealed that the intersection at Victoria Rd. and Ravenshoe met 92 per cent of the criteria assessed to justify the four-way stop.

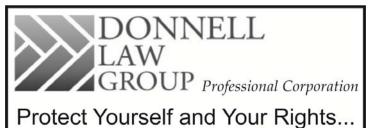
Nelson Costa, York Region's Manager of Road Safety and Traffic Data Management, said the all-way stop was a safety measure that will help reduce serious collisions and slow traffic down through the village. However, several residents raised concerns over the amount of truck traffic that would need to negotiate the tight turns that plague the intersection. Others worried that hazardous winter driving conditions would present a problem for motorists since the four-way stop is located on a steep grade. Mr. Costa said the Region would continue to monitor the situation.



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After taking first place at two local fairs this fall, this quilt won the District 4 Ontario Association of Agricultural Society's (OAAS) competition and went on to compete in an all-Ontario event. Called the Maple Leaf Forever, and quilted by Carol Wolfe of Pefferlaw, it competed against 14 other quilts during a convention at the Fairmont Hotel in Toronto on February 15.

TENNYSON TIDBITS

Happy Birthday greetings go out to Christine Neufeld who will celebrate her special day on February 25. Cheers from Jane and Ken.

If you happen to see Pastor Jeannie Neufeld on March 1 please wish her a very Happy Birthday.

Jane Clodd of Sutton will celebrate her special day on February 25. Happy Birthday, Jane, and we hope you get well soon!

Congratulations to York Regional Police who raised approximately \$30,000 for the Special Olympic athletes during their annual Polar Plunge. The event was held "Under the Stars" this year on Thursday, February 15 at the York Regional Police Association "shed" and attracted 85 plungers. The event exceeded expectations and was considered an overwhelming success.

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Georgina receives First Link Care Navigator to help residents with Alzheimer

The Town of Georgina now has its own First Link Care Navigator to help those with Alzheimer's disease navigate Ontario's healthcare system.

The First Link Program connects newly diagnosed people living with dementia and their families to information and support. In late November, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term care announced it was expanding the Alzheimer Society's First Link program, investing just more than \$8 million over three years to enhance the First Link program across the province. The Alzheimer Society of York Region (AS York) was one of nine sites to receive initial funding. AS York decided to focus this investment in the Town of Georgina.

"New First Link Funding will help us enhance the crucial role that local Alzheimer societies play in supporting Ontarians living with dementia and their care partners from the moment they are diagnosed," said Chris Dennis, CEO, Alzheimer Society of Ontario in a release. "Dementia is an incredibly complex condition and it can be difficult for families to navigate the system. First Link helps ease the pressure."

More than 15,000 people live with dementia in York Region, a number that is expected to double by 2021, according to AS York. For every person diagnosed with dementia, 10 to 12 more people are directly affected.

And it is these people the AS York's new First Link Care Navigator – Joanna Thompson - will help by providing referrals to programs, services and healthcare providers as well as information and support throughout the person's journey.

"The possibility of reaching more people is a good thing," said Thompson, who said being the caregiver to her daughter who has Down syndrome, as well as nine years of foster parent experience, offers her firsthand knowledge of the complexities of the healthcare system and the knowledge of how to access services.

When people contact the AS York after a diagnosis – they are often referred to the society by their family doctor or a caregiver - they are connected to Jonathon Macri, the First Link coordinator, who provides initial information and refers Georgina residents to Thompson. Thompson herself will then connect with the client, offering them and their family information and providing support throughout the person's journey with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. "(Clients) are grateful we happened to reach out to them," Macri said. "That is one less phone call they have to make," one less

thing they have to do at a time that is often already overwhelming.

The Ontario government is investing in programs to help people with dementia access the right care to live better throughout all stages of the disease. The announced \$101 million Dementia Strategy over the next three years will expand dementia services across the province.

Call 1-888-414-5550 to connect to the First Link Program or visit www.alzheimeryork.com for details about programs and services.

This article was written by Lisa Day, communications coordinator from the Alzheimer Society York Region.

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MS is slowing down Perchin for MS organizer

Now, confined to a wheelchair full-time due to the progression of his MS, Perchin for MS organizer Doug Poirier is finding it difficult to get around to all of the sponsors he has counted on for nine years to help him raise more than \$125,000 for MS patients at his annual ice fishing tournament.

"Unfortunately, this year has been the hardest yet to organize and get sponsors," he said. "Normally I am able to get out and visit businesses and the great people in our communities. We have always had amazing local support...be it from real estate agents, lawyers, accountants, big stores, little stores, restaurants, etc. everyone usually kicks in and helps out. It can be anything they donate, too-products, gift cards, services or cash—it all counts."

those who would like to sponsor his ice fishing tournament to contact him at (289) 231-2132. Either he or a friend will arrange to pick up a donation. "With only a couple of weeks to go, this has never been more important," he said. Perchin for MS is now attracting 500 competitors and will take place at Sibbald Point Provincial Park on Saturday March 3, 2018. "Everyone is invited to come and watch the teams weigh in

and watch the teams weigh in their fish and join us at our BBQ and charity auctions starting at 1:00 pm.," he said adding, two very special guests will be attending this year's event. Mr. Poirier also advises that

Sibbald Point Provincial Park will be charging full day use fees for each vehicle. Registration information can be found at www.perchinforms.com

This year Mr. Poirier is asking

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Rain, rain, go away...

After two straight days of rain and warm temperatures, concern by residents began rising

with the creeks and rivers which started to overflow their banks on Wednesday, February 21. "I'm starting to get concerned," said April Lensen an Otter Cove resident as she watched the river and creek tributary move 100 feet beyond its issued a flood warning on Wednesday, February 21 after receiving reports of flooding in

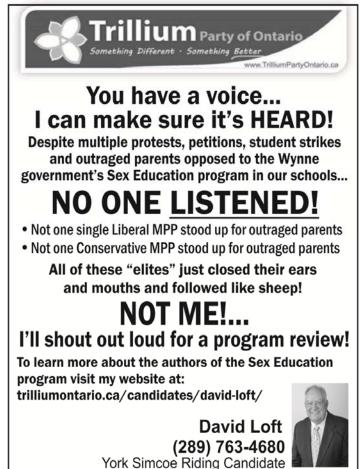


Rain and mild temperatures caused the Pefferlaw River to overflow on Otter Cove.

banks and inch closer to her back door.

Ms. Lensen reached out to the Town of Georgina to request sand and sand bags and was told, unlike other municipalities, that no such program existed.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) low-lying areas along the Lake Simcoe shoreline and Pefferlaw River. "All watercourses in our area will experience higher than normal water levels. Residents are advised to take immediate precautions to protect themselves, their pets and their property." The warning was in effect until Friday.



Employment up 3.3 per cent in York Region–0.9 per cent in Georgina

Findings from the 2017 Employment and Industry Report show that York Region continues to grow at a steady pace, securing jobs for more than 620,000 people.

Between 2016 and 2017 a total of 19,780 jobs were created, representing a 3.3 per cent increase year-over-year. According to sources at York Region, employment continues to outpace national, provincial and Greater Toronto Area averages, "establishing York Region as Ontario's

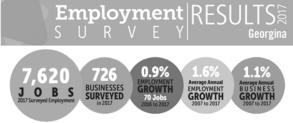
third largest business hub".

The report also analyzed the employment data for each of the nine municipalities and Georgina demonstrated a growth rate of 0.9 per cent from 2016 to 2017. The average annual employment growth rate since 2007 was 1.6 per cent.

The Georgina report was based on a survey extended to 726 businesses, each with a physical office location in the municipality. The respondents represent businesses of varying sizes, industries and locations throughout town.

Transportation and warehousing and edu-

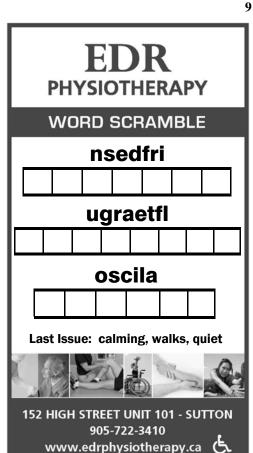
cational services were the top growth sectors between 2016-2017, each increasing by over 50 jobs. Service-oriented jobs accounted for the majority of employment



Source: York Region Planning and Economic Development Branch, 2017

fastest growing large municipality and the in the Town at 96 per cent. As expected, the retail trade, accommodation/food services and educational service sectors were the top three employment sectors in 2017. Since 2007, full-time employment in Georgina grew by approximately 600 jobs and accounted for 59 per cent of the Town's employment in 2017. Four thousand four hundred and eighty individuals were reported as full-time employees in 2017.

> Small sized businesses in Georgina accounted for 88 per cent of total businesses surveyed in 2017.



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Ice Fishing Derby raises \$50,000 for Jump Start



Congratulations to the winners and organizers of the Lake Simcoe Championship Ice Fishing Derby held on Sunday, February 18.

Approximately \$50,000 was raised to support the Canadian Tire Jump Start sports charity and over \$17,000 in prize money was awarded to anglers. The event attracted 129 teams who were angling to weigh in the heaviest catch of the day on Cook's Bay.

The winning team (shown above with event organizers Garry Johnston and Elizabeth Johnston, were Calvin Perry and Kyle Perry with a catch of 12 perch weighing 10.29 lbs. David Murray won an underwater camera in the Early Bird Draw and the heaviest single perch at 1.51 lbs. was won by Kevin Hayes and Clinton McKenzie.

How sweet it is—fire fighters cook and serve a Valentine's Day meal for Club 55

A popular event, which has now become an Annual Valentine's Day tradition at Club 55 in Keswick, is the culinary and serving skills of members of the Georgina Fire Department.

This year the force prepared Shepherds Pie, Greek salad and served approximately 130 Club 55 members who paid \$5 each for the meal. Club 55 also donated \$100 to the department's charity fund.

Above, Captain Jeff Day, who was also the main chef, is seen ready to serve the Shepherds Pie.

Cadets score big in provincial competition



Eight members of 2799 **Oueen's York Rangers** Army Cadet Corp. made their way to Sault St. Marie earlier this month to compete in the all-Ontario Regional Biathlon. Of the eight biathletes, six will advance to the national competition in March in Prince Edward Island. The competition is an Olympic style event which includes cross country skiing and shooting .22 calibre rifles at falling plate targets.

In the Junior male relay team category, MCpl. Daniel Rivera and Cpl. Kevin Chang captured first place, winning four minutes and 22 seconds ahead of the second place team. The Open female team of Sgt. Jessica Matile and MCpl. Vivian Mullins

placed second in their team relay event narrowly beating out the third place team by five seconds.

WO Adrian Poncelet and Georgina resident Alex Bolduc placed second in their team relay edging out the third place team by two seconds.

Individual medal winners were Cpl. Kevin Chang for the junior male category, Karen Poncelet won bronze and Vivian Mullins won silver in the Junior female category and MWO Yeonsu Choi won he bronze medal in the Youth female category. The six Queen's York Rangers competitors moving on to the National competition will participate with 14 other cadet members that make up the Ontario team.



200 MEMORIES

I arrived as a young boy from Ireland in Nov. 1955 and thought I had gone to heaven. There was snow, a frozen lake and we got our first dog. My brother and sister walked to Keswick school from just past Keffers marine and were always excited by finding huge snow drifts and animal tracks. In the spring we could catch garter snakes and huge June bugs. Everyone caught perch. The IGA always sent a truck to the school, full of oranges and each kid got one. The owner, Tommy Johnson, made a lot of kids happy.

When the water warmed, the young people from the Red Cross came to Keffers and instructed all the kids on swimming and diving,(yes the water was deep enough to dive).

Later in the summer the Optimist club would take two of Keffers boats and all the neighbourhood kids were allowed two turns on water skis in the small bay. The population of Keswich was 210 and we wanted to change it to 216 but nobody listened. Summer we had movies at Royola beach park on the weekends and field days at Craigmawr beaches. Our first home on Lake Drive didn't have a number but a name. "Bavview Villa." and we picked our mail up at the post office on Church St. The arena behind the post office had natural ice and when you got older you could help clean the ice and apply water for the overnight freeze. We also had our trip to Dr. Crawley, not a nice dentist with no patience for kids. What a life.... Sorry I rambled on but there is enough from the 50/60's to write a book-forgot to mention all the dances in the 60's, Mossingtons, Peppermint lounge (Jacksons Pt), the Lighthouse, Hornesville Hotel dance, Clarlyn Lodge, Miami beach, Elmhurst Beach. **Tony Tallon**

Local historian, Nena Marsden, dies at 92

Her passion, her commitment and her dogged tenacity is enshrined within the historical buildings and documented archives at

the Georgina Pioneer Village. It is her legacy-erected out of love and tireless energy to protect our heritage for future generations.

Nena Marsden, 92, passed away peacefully at Southlake Hospital on February 14, 2018.

On April 17, 1968, Nena Marsden together with a

group of civic-minded residents formed the Lake Simcoe South Shore Historical Society, the fore-runner to the now Georgina Historical Society. As its founder, past president and life-time member, Nena spent 50 years bringing to life her vision of a place where people could touch the past. Thousands of hours were spent fundraising --hosting antique shows, selling raffle tickets and conducting bake sales. Thousands more were spent negotiating for donations for historical buildings, documents, artifacts and land. Her persistence and her dream of a pioneer village began to take shape in 1975 when two heritage buildings--the Smallwood log cabin and the Free Methodist Church (both purchased by the Society)--were moved onto 10 acres of land at the Civic Centre.

She and Society members kept the dream alive, eventually saving 16 buildings from demolition and moving them to the village. They worked endlessly restoring, decorating and maintaining the historical significance and integrity of each one--making sure they reflected the true story of Georgina's past.

Ten years ago, the Georgina Historical Society received a grant from the Hudson's Bay Company to restore a room in the previously acquired Noble House to exhibit



donated Anderson family artifacts which included a jacket given to Georgina pioneer James Anderson by First Nations members

> when he worked for the Hudson's Bay Company. It was one of her proudest achievements.

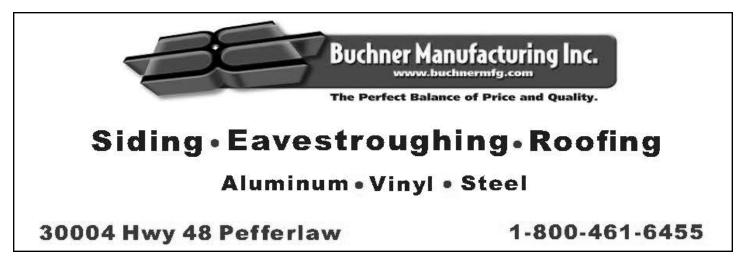
In 2008, Nena's 40-year contribution to preserving Georgina's history was recognized by the Province of Ontario when she received the prestigious Lieutenant-Governor's Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement. At that time,

she was only one of 18 Ontario residents to ever win the award. Her devotion was also acknowledged when a street in the village was named "Nena Marsden Way" in her honour.

For many, Nena's fearless determination meant she never shied away from a challenge. As president of the Society, she met then Mayor Rob Grossi head on and convinced him and council to set aside the land for the village. "She never gave up," he said and a bond of mutual respect and deep friendship took over their once adversarial relationship.

"I remember Nena bringing her homemade cookies with her whenever she sold raffle tickets," he said. "And after she offered you a cookie, you couldn't say no to buying a ticket."

It is hard to imagine that Nena had time for other community volunteer activities but she was a former member of the Library Board and the Sutton Fair Board and she spent endless hours quilting and knitting for various fundraising events. The community will gather to honour her exceptional life during funeral services at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Sutton on February 24 at 11:00 am. We offer our sincere condolence to Nena's many friends and her loving family.



Coming Events & Announcements

All are invited to the Keswick United Church 45th Anniversary celebration on Monday, February 26 at 7:30 pm. Finger food and conversation.

Routes invites you on a bus trip to the Cookstown Outlet Mall on Wed. February 28. Cost is \$5 per person. On Wed. March 14 they are heading to Canada Blooms. Pick -up locations are in Pefferlaw, Sutton and Keswick. Call (905) 722-4616 for details.

"An Afternoon with Alva" a well known medium and psychic is hosting a fundraising event in support of Shades of Hope on Sun. Feb. 25 at 1:00 pm at the Canadian Academy of Therapeutic Arts, 120 Newkirk Rd. Richmond Hill. Book tickets at www.shadesofhope.ca

On Friday, March 2 the Udora Leaskdale **Lions Club** invites you to their community spaghetti dinner at 5:30 pm at the Udora Hall.

The GTTI on Baseline Rd. invites you to a Paint Nite on Sat. Mar. 3 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Cost is \$45 and includes materials and a light snack.

Save the Date for the Pefferlaw Association of Ratepayers Spaghetti Dinner on March 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the Pefferlaw Hall.

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YORK-SIMCOE

Bonspiel on Sat. March 3 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Call (905) 722-9333 for details.

The Perchin for MS ice fishing derby will be held at Sibbald's Point Provincial Park on Sat. March 3. Visit http:// www.perchinforms.com/

The Georgina Pins and Needles monthly meeting will be held on Tues. March 6 at 7:00 at Knox United Church in Sutton. All quilters, knitters, crocheters and needleworkers welcome. Bring a mug for tea break.

Free Community Dinner at Cedardale Church Wed. March 7 at 6:00 pm.

A St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser for the Wilfrid Hall will feature live Irish music food and much more fun on Sat. March 10 at 7:00 pm. \$12.00 per person.

On Monday, March 12 the Georgina Brock Garden Club will feature "Planting Care and Maintenance of Fruit Trees and Berry Bushes" at 7:30 pm at the Wilfrid Hall.

March Break Camp at Cedardale Church for kids SK-Gr 6.Mon. Mar. 12 & 13. 9:00 am-3:00 pm. No cost & lunch provided. Crafts, sports, cooking, planting. Lots of fun. Call (705) 437-2170.

> The GTTI invites you to their 2nd Annual One Stop Shop Spring Edition on Sat. March 17 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. You can shop for one-of-a-kind gifts and children can visit with the Easter Bunny and hunt for Easter Eggs.

Shine Through the Rain, a charity that provides financial support for patients with

life-threatening illnesses, invites you to a fundraising Euchre Tournament on Fri. March 23 at the Market Brewing Company in Newmarket from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Visit eventsshine throughtherain.ca

An Evening of Comedy and Magic with Jason Palter at the Link on Sat. March 24 at 6:30 pm. \$25+ HST. Licensed event. Tickets at georgina.ca-code 13552.

"Paint Event" hosted by Trinity United Church in Cannington on Sat. March 24 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm is a fun fundraiser for the Mission and Services Fund. Cost is \$45 per person. Contact Nancy Henderson at nancy.henderson@hotmail.com

P.A.W.S. of Georgina is holding its annual "Cat Spay/Neuter Blitz" during the months of March and April for Georgina residents when increased rebates will be available for female cats \$75 and \$50 is rebated for male cats. Limit is three per household. Veterinary proof of spay/neuter must be sent to P.A.W.S. Georgina, Box 154, Keswick, L4P 3E2. The regular rebate program is still in effect for Georgina residents who spay/ neuter either their cats or dogs. Proof of dog licence also required.

Vendors are wanted for the 2018 edition of **BBQFest**, a charity event at the ROC on July 28, 2018 featuring entertainment, sports tournaments and much more. Call (905) 251 -3564 for details.

Don't forget the Royal Canadian Legion Branch in Sutton offers Friday night dinners at 5:00 pm with a meat roll at 6:00 pm and Bid Euchre at 7:00 pm.

Save the Date for April 7 so you are free to attend the Annual Sutton Fair Silent Auction Fundraiser at the Kin Hall in Sutton from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

Alpha is coming to Cedardale Church! Tuesday evenings 6:30-8:30 pm. No cost. Supper, movie & discussion. 437-2170.

