

Pefferlaw THE POST

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Serving Pefferlaw, Virginia, Port Bolster, Udora, Wilfrid and Georgina Island

Move over Bell and Rogers—Here comes a local solution to high-speed internet connection

A local solution, designed to provide fast wireless access to the internet has moved from the drawing board to the testing stage and promises “live” access in Pefferlaw and the surrounding area by May 2006. The South Shore Community Broadband company is a not-for-profit organization that has been trying to solve the information technology void in this area for three years.

According to General Manager Margaret Hyvarinen of Moore’s Beach in Pefferlaw, the new broadband technology will address the broadband divide that exists in rural areas.

“This venture grew out of a common need,” Ms. Hyvarinen said. “Companies in Georgina were losing market share and they needed broadband access because their competitors have it,” she said.

As a result, a few Georgina business leaders, the Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Georgina, the Chippewas of Georgina Island and a number of others became founding members of the South Shore Community Broadband organization which has a mission to make affordable broadband universally available in Georgina and Georgina Island.

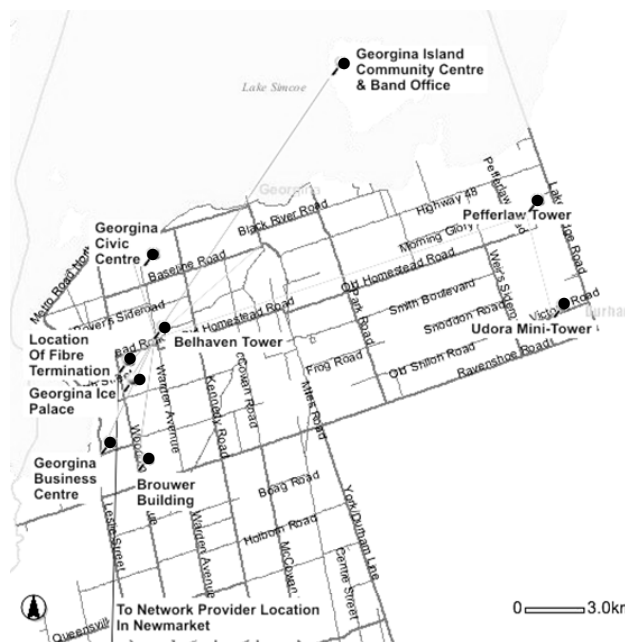
Broadband technology is a wireless network that competes with cable and tele-

phone connections to the internet. As a wireless connection, the speed with which it uploads and downloads information is

initially expect to upload and download information at 10 mega bits per second on a consistent basis.

“The advantage that broadband offers is there is no difference between the uploading speed and the downloading speed,” said Ms. Hyvarinen. “And it will also mean that people can go to the park or the beach and go online because the whole town will be hot,” she said.

The first phase of the South Shore Community Broadband project involves building the infrastructure to support the network. This will require a number of towers to be built in the area—the first of which is located in Belhaven at the municipal roads yard. At



The above map identifies location sites for current and future tower installations throughout the broadband broadcast area.

not hindered by the physical restrictions of wired technologies. Subscribers who sign up for the new broadband network can

140 ft. high, it provides wireless connection from a fibre optic termination
Continued on page 5...

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Hello...anybody there?

I've come to calling the hill project in Keswick the "Grossi knoll". Since President Kennedy was shot in 1963, the "grassy knoll" in Dallas has always been shrouded behind a veil of mystery and suspicion—not unlike the veil that currently surrounds the growing "Grossi knoll" at the Georgina Civic Centre.

I was at the council meeting where resident after resident stood up and voiced their opposition to this recreational hill—a project that could potentially cost a few million dollars. And I was very surprised that, despite this opposition, council went ahead and passed a motion to put the monies in place to help cover costs already committed.

At that meeting the plans that described the "hill" were a little obscure. Different people seemed to have different ideas for it and those dissenters in the crowd asking for a public meeting before council committed any monies to the project were bang on.

If Georgina council has \$3 million dollars to spread around on a recreational project that few seem to support, why not look around for a project that will garner wide-spread support? I can think of a few projects residents at this end of Georgina would support, given that recreational facilities here are almost non-existent.

How about a covered skating rink or a skateboarding park? Or even, how about sidewalks along Station Rd. so kids, dog walkers and joggers don't have to take their life in their hands every time they go into town? I can't imagine anyone opposing that idea.

I got the impression at that meeting that it didn't matter what anyone said or did. Council was predisposed to move forward on this project and that was that.

And that behaviour was similar

to the ATV by-law vote that was held at the same meeting. Dozens of supporters for this by-law had attended three different council meetings where this issue was discussed—by far outnumbering anyone opposing it—and their voices weren't heard either.

No wonder Canadians don't trust politicians. Once they're elected, they seem to forget the platform they used to get them elected in the first place and do what they want to do anyway. Turning a deaf ear on residents is a heck of a way to run things—to which residents in the former USSR and East Germany could attest. Fortunately, in this country there is one day every three years when they have to listen to us.

Karen Wolfe
Editor.

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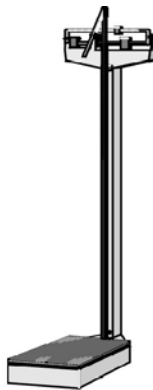
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The Pefferlaw Post serves the residents and businesses of Pefferlaw, Virginia, Port Bolster, Udora and Georgina Island.

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Free youth air cadet program prepares members for life

Flying high in a glider out of Markham Airport twice a year, spending two weeks during the summer at CFB Borden and taking weekend camping trips to learn survival training are just some of the activities the 35

they are 18," he said.

Throughout the program cadets can progress through five levels of training and work to achieve promotions through the ranks—from air cadet to Warrant Officer First Class.

"They normally achieve one level per training year and at level 5 they can become instructors," Major Leski said.

The program is funded by the Department of Defence and all expenses, including uniforms, travel, accommodation and activities, are free of charge.

Major Leski, a Queen Commissioned Offi-



Four members of Squadron 659 practice marching drills at the Pefferlaw Lions Community centre during Thursday night Air Cadet training.

members of the Georgina-Brock Royal Canadian Air Cadets experience for free every year.

Squadron 659 meets every Thursday evening at the Pefferlaw Lions Community Centre and engages in learning and training programs that help develop skills members can use the rest of their lives, says Squadron Commanding Officer Major Dan Leski.

"And it is all free."

The Royal Canadian Air Cadet program, which began in 1941, is designed to promote good citizenship, leadership, physical fitness and to stimulate the interest of youth in aviation and aeronautics. Many well known Canadians were Air Cadets including astronaut Marc Garneau, Olympic gold medalist Myriam Bedard and actor Jim Carrey.

"We prepare them for civil life and military life should they choose that route," Major Leski said. "They can start at the age of 12 and the program runs until

cer, is supported by four military staff and two civilian staff members.

Cadets who sign up for summer courses can attend summer training centres throughout the country, including CFB Borden and CFB Trenton. Courses run two, three and six weeks and cover a wide range of subjects from basic training to music, athletics, leadership and flying. There is no cost to attend the summer programs. However, because space is limited, the Commanding Officer establishes a priority list for each summer course.

Locally, the Squadron becomes involved in community events such as Remembrance Day ceremonies, Santa Claus parades and Civic Duty Days. In Georgina, during Cadet Caring for Canada week, the group donates one day to the Town to work cleaning the pool, conducting yard work and repairing and painting picnic tables.

"Everyone in the squadron will

go gliding twice a year at the Markham Airport and participate in a weekend survival program at CFB Borden in April," Major Leski said.

"Last year during March break we spent three days at CFB Trenton and the year before that at Fort George in Niagara Falls."

According to Major Leski, Members in the Georgina-Brock Air Cadets attend from Keswick, Sutton, Beaverton, Woodville, Lindsay and Pefferlaw and all communities in between.

"We can take everyone that wants to come," Major Leski said.

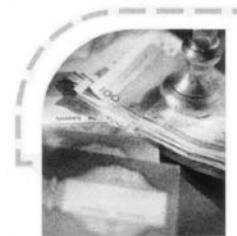
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Georgina Island News

New Parking and Launch Tolls

The Chippewas of Georgina Island are installing a new parking gate on band lands on the mainland across from the ferry launch and expect to have it operational by spring.

According to band Chief Brett Mooney, the parking facilities will also be equipped with new light standards and video surveillance cameras.

“We’ve had a few instances of vandalism to our cars when they are left on the mainland during freeze-up and break-up when we can’t check our vehicles,” Chief Mooney said.

Additionally, the band is installing a gate

on the boat launch at Virginia Beach which will require users to pay a fee for the use of the launch. Chief Mooney says rates for both the boat launch and the parking facilities have yet to be determined.

Library Partnership

Chief Brett Mooney and Georgina Island library staff Karen Foster and Lynn Mooney met with the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario James K. Bartleman and City of Pickering dignitaries to celebrate the successful partnership of the Pickering Public Library and the Georgina Island Library. Chief Mooney addressed the group (photo right) and praised the cooperative venture



which is the first of its kind. In this collaboration, the Pickering Public Library periodically re-directs titles that are du-

plicated, donated or no longer needed to the Chippewas of Georgina Island Library. In exchange, the Island Library assists Pickering in developing a First Nations collection and will provide access to cultural resources. The partnership won a Minister’s Award for Innovation in 2004.

Loyal locals bid Port Bolster restaurateur adieu



A group of loyal customers who have been frequenting Kindness Café in Port Bolster for more than two years were on hand for a farewell party on Saturday evening, January 28, to thank restaurant operator, Joanne Brown (left) for her service to the community. Ms.

Brown is closing down her establishment on Durham Road #23 for the time being but hopes to find another location in the near future. Some of those attending the Farewell Party were Joanne’s husband Greg, her two daughter’s Karlee and Alannah, her mother Edna, Allan and Tracey Pelletier, Nancy and Wayne Brown, Brandon Moffatt, Sylvia and Don Hoare, Steve and Lorraine Hales, Claire Bigger, Mary Norton, John Lloyd, Vickie and Gary Morgan, Orville Schell, Wendy Schell and Elliott Cullen.

Eaglewood Folk Festival sponsors fund raising event

In an effort to raise funds in support of the annual Eaglewood Folk Festival, event organizers are hosting a fund raising event on Saturday, February 25, 2006 at the Wilfrid Church Hall. Dubbed the Nostalgia Café, the event will feature new music from a number of Canadian singers and songwriters who will perform in an nostalgic atmosphere created to achieve an 1960s coffeehouse ambience.

On the bill are Alyssa Wright, Ed Winacott, Ken Allen, Ron Belanger, Dave Hadfield, Aaron Howes, Bob Ardern, Jennifer Ives, Sean

McGaughey and Lorraine McDonald.

The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and snacks, desserts, coffee and other treats will be available throughout the evening.

“The Eaglewood Folk Festival is a very important event in Georgina and the Nostalgia Café is designed to help us

raise the money that is needed to help us stage that event,” said Nicholas Morcinek, Eaglewood Folk Festival treasurer.

Tickets will be available at the door. However, interested parties are asked to call Ed Winacott at (705) 437-2425 for reservations.





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Peter Van Loan wins York-Simcoe vote

Peter Van Loan, a long-time resident of Georgina and the incumbent candidate running for re-election in the January 23 federal election, has won the right to represent this area again in Ottawa, but this time as a member of the ruling party's government.

And, according to Mr. Van Loan, this makes all the difference—especially when it comes to one of his pet projects—protecting Lake Simcoe.

"I've been working on getting mandatory ballast water regulations to prevent the introduction of invasive species into Lake Simcoe," Mr. Van Loan said, "and it will be easier now because I'm on the government side and since I succeeded in getting the party to adopt this as policy, it should be quickly."

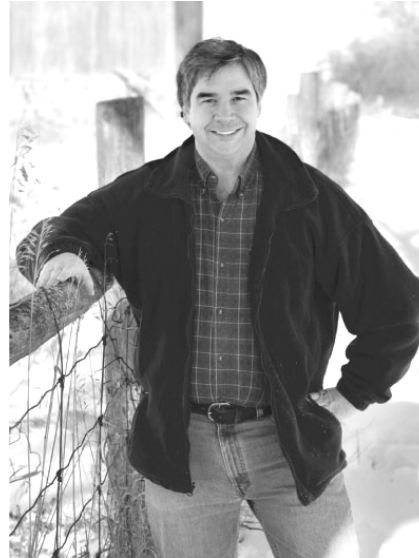
Another Lake Simcoe priority for Mr. Van Loan is to work on having it identified as an Area of Concern and he hopes to have this issue bumped up on the gov-

ernment's agenda.

"I will benefit from having party colleagues around Lake Simcoe and I will be able to enlist them in common causes," he said.

"Getting an Area of Concern designation for Lake Simcoe opens the door to environmental funding through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement because this is where the funding comes from," he said.

Other issues, which Mr. Van Loan said residents identi-



fied as local concerns, have been raised as national issues by the Progressive Conservative Party and include safer communities, crime and a reduction in the GST. "These seemed to be popular issues in Pefferlaw," he said.

Mr. Van Loan lives on the Baseline Road between Sutton and Keswick on a family farm once owned by his grandfather. At the age of 43 and a bachelor "with a nice girlfriend who has discovered that a church supper and Legion dance can be a good date," Mr. Van Loan started in politics as a volunteer at the age of 12.

"I have also been the president of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, the President of the Conservative Party of Ontario and President of the Riding As-

sociation," he said.

First elected as an MP in the 2004 election, Mr. Van Loan said local area residents should be able to take comfort in the fact that someone local is in Ottawa representing them.

"I will be a Member of Parliament that knows the community well and shares concerns for the things they are worried about," he said. "I will work with those issues in mind in Ottawa and hopefully, continue to stay in touch."

Mr. Van Loan was a frequent visible dignitary at many Pefferlaw area events in the past and given that he was the only Progressive Conservative candidate elected in York Region, he believes that "when people are familiar with their PC candidates, they feel quite comfortable and as a result, we were able to gain success across the country."

Broadband internet connection coming to Pefferlaw area

Continued from page 1.

point in Keswick and wireless connection to towers at the Georgina Ice Palace, the Town of Georgina offices in Keswick and the Georgina Island Community Centre and Band Office on Georgina Island. "Right now we have two test users in Belhaven and we expect a general roll out there within two weeks," Ms. Hyvarinen said.

Other future tower locations include Sutton, Pefferlaw and a mini tower in Udora. Once the towers have been constructed small access nodes will be installed to allow point to point connection. Other access nodes will then be installed throughout the access areas to allow point

to multi-point connection and to broadcast the system into peoples homes.

"People should be aware that we will be coming into their area to check elevation points and to ask if we can put these nodes on their property," Ms. Hyvarinen said.

The cost for the service will start at \$39 per month for a residential package and business plans will begin at \$42 a month and go up to \$78 depending on the number of users.

As part of the group's not-for-profit mandate, they have established a community service program called No One Without

Continued on page 6...



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Broadband internet connection coming to Pefferlaw area

Continued from page 5.

Access (NOWA) which is designed to provide access to those households in the community which cannot afford computers or internet access. "We will be working with social services agencies and partners to provide these free of charge in exchange for a promise and follow-through of a program that has a measureable outcome," Ms. Hyvarinen said. For example, the program may help a single mother achieve her high school diploma through distant learning programs conducted on the internet. Complete details on the program are available on the organization's website at:

www.communitybroadband.ca

In addition, the broadband network being installed by South Shore is being scrutinized by Industry Canada as a potential model that could be rolled out in other remote communities, Ms. Hyvarinen said. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if Georgina, with local talent and volunteers, achieved something that the provincial and federal governments have been trying to do since 1999 and haven't been successful with?"

STAY TUNED!

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CALLED WITH THEIR IDEAS FOR MY CONTEST.

GREAT STUFF!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO NANCY MARR IN UDORA WHO CAME UP WITH AN IDEA THAT SHOULD BE GREAT FUN FOR EVERYONE.

DETAILS WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PEFFERLAW POST.

Tennyson Tidbits

This column rips a page out of history during a time when Mrs. Tennyson wrote a weekly column for the old Lake Simcoe Advocate in the 1960s. It was a society column that featured the news and views of local area residents. We resurrect this column in her honour as a regular feature in this publication and dedicate it to her memory.

Lake Simcoe Ice Report

This warm and wet weather hasn't done the ice fishing business any favours. While ice conditions are sloppy at best, the amount of ice still in the bays and shorelines between Port Bolster and Virginia is still between 10 and 12 inches. Huts have been reported as far out as the gravel pit off the north end of Georgina Island, but most anglers are staying closer to shore where the perch fishing is active. Certainly the tragedy involving three young people riding dirt bikes between Fox and Snake island recently, should be a warning to all that conditions are unpredictable.

For those of you who have a keen eye, you will notice that I have added **Wilfrid** to the masthead of the Pefferlaw Post. This makes sense since they are Pefferlaw's closest neighbour and many of the activities there are supported by other local neighbourhoods and vice versa. **Dorothy Shier** has agreed to keep me abreast of activity there and **Jeff** at the **Interesting Music Shop** has agreed to be a drop-off spot for the papers. And, thanks to Bryce Parks for the suggestion.

Congratulations to **Jim and Mary Arnold** of Virginia who welcomed their new 8 lb. 9 oz. baby daughter, **Evelyn**

Karen Verna into the world on January 4, 2006. Excited siblings of Evelyn are sister Vivian, 6 and Olivia, 5.

Also celebrating the birth of a new baby are **Jann (nee Berlenbach) and husband Rod Richards**. Daughter Ashtyn Margaret was born on January 21, 2006. She weighed 8lbs and is a baby sister for Ryann, 3. Proud grandparents are Karen Wolfe, Will Berlenbach, Ann Richards and Ian Richards..

Happy Birthday to little Brook **Marchand**. She turned 7 on February 6 and weather permitting, will celebrate with a skating party in her back yard.

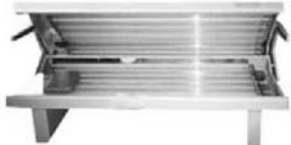
Speaking of skating, I dropped by the community skating surface the Town has put inside the tennis courts beside the hall on Pete's Lane. **The Pefferlaw Fire Department** put the initial pad down and a number of community minded citizens, including **Don Carr and Wayne Doner** have graciously agreed to keep the surface cleared and maintained. Don tells me it can take up to four hours to flood the surface each and every time it is required.

Helen Viau has decided to close her Cottage Country restaurant on Pefferlaw Road. Helen came to Pefferlaw just over a year ago and introduced a French Canadian flavour to Pefferlaw cuisine and culture. I sure am going to miss her fruit cocktail cake. Good Luck Helen.

Congratulations to **Anna Silva** and her partner **Alvin** on the birth of their baby boy, **Leland** who weighed 6 lb. 8 oz. when he was born on January 25, 2006.

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Peninsula Resort—a one-stop shop for Lake Simcoe recreation

What started out as a day trip to Sunnybrook Beach from Toronto 44 years ago, has turned into a life-long journey as the owners and operators of Pefferlaw's only private lakefront retreat—the Peninsula Resort.

In 1962, Steve and Helen Kucharchuk accompanied a Toronto neighbour to a private park at the end of Holmes Point Road where the then owners, Alex Mercer and Mr. Baisley, offered lakefront log cabins for rent in the summer and fish huts in the winter.

After the Kucharchuks inquired about the price of real estate in the area, Baisley and Mercer suggested the couple consider buying their seven-acre recreational retreat called Sunnybrook Beach.

"We didn't know anything about the ice fishing business then," Helen says. "I thought the fish huts were change rooms."

But with the help of Alex Mercer, who stayed on to show them the ropes that first year, Steve and Helen soon fell into the swing of things and went on to build one of the most successful resorts in the area on one of the most prestigious beaches on Lake Simcoe.

Initially, the couple commuted back and forth to Toronto in the winter—coming up on weekends to rent fish huts, transport customers to their huts and operate the snack bar. In summers, they converted one of the cabins into a summer home and managed the business on-site until the season was over.

Within a few years, the couple was managing a thriving ice fishing business that required three Bombardiers to service their 40 fish huts that were fuelled with wood. "In those days, night fishing was a big thing," Helen remembers. "There was a time when Steve took some guys out onto the lake at 8:00 p.m. and we decided to close down for the night when he got back. But, by the time he returned there was another group wanting to go out. He took them out and got back about 11:00 p.m. and there were still more wanting to go. By the time he got back from taking them out it was 1:00 a.m. in the morning," she said. By 1972, the small log cabins had all but disappeared and Steve and Helen began

building a 22-unit motel with modern efficiency suites that featured unobstructed views and access to Lake Simcoe. By then the couple had two sons, George and Jerry, and in 1974 the family moved from Toronto to take up permanent residence on the property.

Eight years later, now firmly established as a popular vacation resort and over-night camping facility, the Kucharchuks converted their snack bar into a full service restaurant.



Circa 1965—Pefferlaw Fish Hut owner Steve Kucharchuk checks on ice-fishing clients. His original

By 1988 their youngest son, Jerry, had graduated from his history studies in university and began taking an interest in helping his parents run the resort. He had learned the business from the bottom up—collecting parking fees at the gate as a kid and transporting fishermen out to the huts as he grew older.

"It sort of took me over," Jerry said adding, "it's not a life, it's a lifestyle." Today, Jerry and his wife Jacqueline take pride in the fact that the restaurant has

been the only eatery in York Region that has won the Eat Smart Award for 11 years in a row.

"Only a handful of restaurants are nominated by the Department of Health," Jerry said, adding that the nomination

is a measure of the cleanliness of the establishment and their safe handling of foods among other safety standards.

In addition to the restaurant, the day park (the resort no longer offers overnight camping) and the ice fishing business, Jerry operates a catering business and offers paralegal services.

Another source of pride which all members of the family take great satisfaction in is the sense of tradition the resort has become for its customers and guests.

"We have people coming here who have been coming as long as we have been here," Helen said, "and now there are people who come who are second and third generation."

According to Jerry, the draw that the Peninsula Resort offers is its one-stop-shop convenience and its waterfront location.

"We offer fishing, fish licenses, launching, sleep accommodations and eating facilities right on the lake," Jerry said. "When people come here they don't have to go anywhere else."

But convenience, location and awards aside, the family isn't ready to rest on its laurels.

"We have to keep up with the times," Jerry said. "People expect a certain standard and they want internet access because they are bringing their laptops with them when they go out on the lake," he said. As a result, he is working on getting a tower so he can offer wireless connection.

For Helen and Steve, the journey has been a good one—rich in memories both good and bad. They have watched people come and go and change over the years—a fact that has instilled in Helen a direct and non-nonsense approach to the business, but she says, "You have to go with the flow...and with a lot of hard work and a lot of understanding, we've come a long way."



Jerry (right) and his wife Jacqueline, (left) carry on the family tradition his parents started 44 years ago and now manage their award winning restaurant at the Peninsula Resort in Pefferlaw.

Pesky Pepperlaw Possum predicts early spring



Forget Wiarton Willie! This adult possum was caught on February 2—without a shadow—by Doug Andrews of Pepperlaw who has been trying to live trap bothersome raccoons who insist on making a home in his attic. Doug has been using sardines to attract the critters but has ended up catching two possum, two squirrels, a chipmunk and a neighbour's cat. No shadow means a short winter and for our furry friend here, spring can't come soon enough.

Coming Events

The **Wilfrid United Church** is hosting a Pasta Dinner on Friday, February 10, 2006 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Wilfrid Community Hall. Adults—\$8.00; Children—\$5.00; Family—\$25.00—Tickets will be sold at the door.

The **Pepperlaw Library** has a number of ongoing activities:

- Stretch Your Body and Mind** with Ingrid on Thursday mornings 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Yoga**—Beginner to advanced for fun and fitness. Tuesday from 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Learn to Knit or Crochet with Nora** on Thursdays beginning January 12 at 1:30 p.m.

The **Georgina Public Libraries** are hosting "Story Times" for families at the Book Nooks. Visit the Port Bolster Hall on Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m.; the Egypt Church of the Nazarene on

Thursdays @ 1:15 p.m.; and the Bethany Co-op on Mondays @ 10:30 a.m. for 40 minutes of stories, songs, finger plays, activities and more.

For children ages 0 to 3 and their siblings, there is a **Little Bookworms and Story Hour** at the Pepperlaw Library on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

For children three and older, The Peter Gzowski (Sutton) Branch Library is hosting a **School Readiness Program**. For information contact Bev Walsh at (905) 476-5762 x107.

Calling all garden enthusiasts. Attend the next meeting of the **Georgina-Brock Garden Club** on February 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wilfrid Community Hall. Pot luck dinner and photo competition. Everyone welcome. Call Dorothy Shier for details, (705) 437-1358.

HELP WANTED

Dental Assistant

Required for maternity leave. H.A.R.P. certified for family practice. Potential for full-time position when maternity leave contract is fulfilled. Fax resume to (705) 437-3715.



Eaglewood Folk Festival
Presents the

Nostalgia Café

Saturday, February 25

7:30 p.m.

Wilfrid Church Hall

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Georgina's favourite festival invites you to an evening of new music served up in the atmosphere of an authentic '60s coffeehouse (except for the 'smoke'). There will be music all night with this line-up of great singer/songwriters!

**Alyssa Wright • Ed Winacott • Ken Allen
Ron Belanger • Dave Hadfield
Aaron Howes • Bob Ardern • Jennifer Ives
Sean McGaughey • Lorraine McDonald**

Snacks, desserts, coffees and other treats will be available throughout the evening.

All proceeds support the Eaglewood Folk Festival

Tickets are only \$15.00

For reservations all: Ed Winacott (705) 437-2425

Great music! Great time!

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102.7

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