

Pefferlaw THE POST

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

Is it? Or isn't it? - Anglers showing respect for round goby threat

With a heightened awareness around the round goby issue, anglers and fish hut operators alike are being mindful of catching anything that suspiciously resembles a goby and as a result, the Ministry of Natural Resources has been receiving a number of calls to check out suspected invasive specie catches in Lake Simcoe.

But according to Peter Waring, the York-Durham Area Supervisor for the Ministry of Natural Resources, all reports to date have been negative.

"So far, every time we respond to one of these calls, it has turned out to be a false alarm," Mr. Waring said.

This is particularly comforting to the Ministry since the Rotonene application to the Pefferlaw river last fall was conducted to prevent the spread of the round goby into Lake Simcoe. To date, there has never been a confirmed report of round goby in the lake.

One of the reasons for the confusion is the close resemblance two small native fish called a sculpin have to the round goby. It is the same size, has identical markings and acts as aggressively on a line as a goby would. A tell-tale difference however, is a single shell-shaped pelvic (bottom) fin. On a sculpin, this fin shows up as two separate fins.



The difference between sculpin and a round goby is that the sculpin (above) have two separate pelvic (bottom) fins opposed to one shell-shaped fin on the underside of a round goby (inset).

The sculpin, also known as "stone fish" are native to the Lake Simcoe area and pose no threat to other native fish.

Ministry officials have distributed a number of posters to help anglers ID the round goby and have initiated a hot line to encourage calls whenever a catch is suspicious.

According to Mr. Waring however, experiences in Lake Erie where round goby are known to exist, suggest that they are dormant in the winter and are not often reported during the winter fishing season. Anglers are cautioned not to collect baitfish from the Great Lakes for use in inland waters.

To report a suspicious species, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Invasive Species Hotline number is: 1-800-563-7711.



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A perfect afternoon on the island

I want to take this opportunity to thank Karen Foster and Lynn Mooney, staff members of the Georgina Island Public Library, for inviting me to lunch recently where I was able to participate in a very delightful and humbling experience.

The island library was chosen to be the second of three First Nations libraries to receive a visit from First Nations children's author, Larry Loyie. Mr. Loyie, with his partner Constance Brisenenden, wrote a book called *As Long as The Rivers Flow*, an autobiographical story about a young 10-year old native boy who recalls a summer with his family before being sent away to an Indian boarding school in 1944.

In honour of Mr. Loyie's visit, Karen Foster and Lynn Mooney arranged for the visiting dignitaries to participate in two story-telling gatherings—one by the island's school children and another by the winners of an island story writing contest. I was lucky enough to be invited to lunch when some of the contest winners read their winning entries aloud.

Each story was to chronicle a true story about life on Georgina Island and many of the entries were written by band elders—thereby giving the audience a unique and treasured snapshot of native life in days of 'yore'.

One of the elders who shared her winning story was Elaine McCue. Her memory involved the installation of a telephone service—in 1949—into her mother's house. Her mother never liked the new telephone very much and commonly hung up before saying good-bye. In Elaine's story, her mother's manner on the telephone becomes symbolic when her mother dies before she has a chance to say good-bye. Another moving and vivid recollection of earlier island days was presented by elder Barb McDonald. Barb shared memo-

ries of herself as a young girl growing up with her cousin and spending the lazy hazy days of summer exploring the island and doing chores.

Carol Taylor's entry was read by her sister Lynn and described a family's boating and picnic outing that ended in hysteria when dozens of water snakes began attacking Carol and her siblings. And yet another winning entry described the antics of a nasty-natured rooster.

The story-telling was not only entertaining and amusing, it was so well done that I was transported back in time from my chair in the library to another era when telephones were wooden boxes and little girls climbed apple trees.

In addition to the delightful story-telling and socializing, I was given an opportunity to sample scone—a native bread once considered a staple in the native diet. It was made by Carol Taylor and was simply delicious. I was also presented with a beautiful, hand-made beaded dream catcher, made by Lynn Mooney who teaches beading every Tuesday evening at the library.

I can't remember an afternoon I have enjoyed more. Thank you again to our gracious and gifted island neighbours.

Karen Wolfe, Editor.

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Two local women take on literacy fundraising project—others needed

Two local women who are determined to raise the \$10,000.00 needed to fund a Literacy Plus program at Morning Glory Public School (MGPS) are poised to launch the first in a series of fundraising programs—and are challenging local businesses to sponsor their own fundraising events.

Christine Green, the chair of the MGPS Council, and Rosa Sharpe, the former organizer of the successful Turkeys and Toys Gala, make a formidable fundraising team. So when it became clear that the Morning Glory Literacy Plus program would be put on hold for five years until the school could raise the money required to purchase program books and materials. Ms. Green and Ms. Sharpe devised a strategy to kick the fundraising activities up a notch.

“The teachers are already trained for this program and now all they need are the books and resources to move forward with it,” Ms. Green said. “The school had a five-year plan in place to raise the \$10,000 and I thought that was too long for children to wait to enhance their personal literacy skills.”

The Literacy Plus program is designed to provide additional reading resources that are tailored to the specific needs of individual students thus giving each student enrolled in the pro-

gram an opportunity to reach his or her optimum level of literacy proficiency.

Ms. Sharpe, most recently the organizer of the highly successful Turkeys and Toys Fundraising Gala has purchased several collectable Mario Lemieux coffee-table books entitled Over-time 66. The proceeds from the sale of these will be donated to the school in support of the Literacy Plus program.

“I think we can donate approximately \$1,200 just on the sale of these books,” Ms. Sharpe said, adding that she is anxious to hear from other business people in the area who would like to sponsor a fundraising event or who might have a fundraising idea.

According to Ms. Sharpe and Ms. Green, individual local businesses could sponsor a small dinner party, donate a portion of their daily sales receipts or organize an auction. “More than anyone else, the business people in this community should be able to recognize the benefits of improving the quality of literacy resources and the impact that will have on our children’s ability to succeed,” Ms. Green said.

Anyone interested in offering a fund-raising idea or sponsoring a fund-raising event is invited to contact Christine Green at (705) 437-3738 or Rosa Sharpe at (705) 437-1175.

FREE March Break Science Lab

The Pefferlaw Library will sponsor a fun, hands-on science lab during March break for school children age eight and older.

The “free” one hour program will engage students in several different experiments that will help them understand chemistry and polymers.

Students will learn how to make slime, how to turn a liquid into a

solid, how to make a balloon shish kabob and how to clean up an oil spill.

The program will be offered at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14.

Those interested in conducting fun and exciting experiments are asked to register for this program by calling the Pefferlaw Library at (705) 437-1514. All materials will be supplied.

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Pefferlaw Lions looking for help as ice rink becomes possibility

Hot on the heels of an announcement that the Town of Georgina will allocate as much as \$189,000 toward the cost of an ice pad in Pefferlaw, the Pefferlaw Lions Club is now organizing to help make that possibility a reality.

According to Lion Dave Harding, the group is looking for civic minded residents who would be willing to volunteer to sit on a committee that would help develop plans for an artificial ice pad that would be installed on the grounds of the Pefferlaw Lions Community Centre.

"We already know that it would cost approximately \$180,000 for an artificial surface to be installed and we want to investi-

gate how much it would cost to have that surface covered," Mr. Harding said. Possibilities include everything from a pagoda-style covered structure to a fabric membrane sports covered system to a conventional structure.

When the Pefferlaw Lions Community Centre was built, the architectural design was chosen because it incorporated plans for a future arena. According to Dave Harding, all of the piping requirements were put into the ground at the time the present building was erected. (The piping system is currently buried beneath the asphalt surface beside the community centre.)

"We want to explore the costs of a covered structure," Mr Harding said, adding that members of the volunteer committee will be expected to source suppliers and request quotes.

Additionally, "we will need a lot of fund-ing raising support," he said. "If we decide to install a covered structure, we will need to come up with the money ourselves," he said.

The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for March 8, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pefferlaw Lions Hall.

Interested parties are asked to contact Dave Harding at (905)955-1425 (local call) for further details.

Georgina Island library hosts luncheon for First Nations author

First Nations children's author Larry Loyie was the guest of honour at the Georgina Island Public Library on Wednesday, February 15. Mr. Loyie and his partner Constance Brissenden met with band members and island school children as part of a book tour he is conducting to commemorate First Nations Library Week.

His recent work entitled "As Long As the Rivers Flow", has been designated a First Nations Communities Read and tells the autobiographical story of a 10-year-old native boy who spends a final summer with his family hunting and fishing in the bush before being sent to an Indian boarding school in 1944.

Mr. Loyie, born in a community near Slave Lake in northern Alberta, has written a number of plays—Fifty Years Credit, No Way to Say Goodbye and Ora Pro Nobis (Pray for Us)—a play that was based on his experiences as a young native boy at St Bernard's Mission (residential) School in Grouard, Alberta. Mr. Loyie, (his Cree



Mr. Larry Loyie, First Nations author and playwright.

name is Oskiniko) left the school at the age of 14 and went to work on farms and in logging camps before he joined the Canadian Armed Forces at the age of 18.

By the mid 1980s, he had begun pursuing his dream of becoming a writer.

Today, Mr. Loyie is working on two more children's books, "When the Spirits Dance" and one that will chronicle the history of residential schools in Canada. "My goal is to build on the knowledge of our traditional lifestyles through my writing," Mr. Loyie says.

The First Nations Public Library Week, celebrated February 13 to February 18, observes the traditional snow-on-the-ground time for storytelling. The Library Week theme for 2006 is "Preserving Our Cultures Story by Story...Building Our Communities Book by Book". The words "story" and "book" acknowledge the importance of both oral story tradition and the sharing of "story" through print.



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Group plans Georgina Township Police Band and Royal Rangers reunion for the summer

A group of former members of the Georgina Township Police Band and the Royal Rangers is planning a band reunion to be held at the Pefferlaw Lions Community Centre on August 26, 2006.

Both versions of the band were the creation of Len Donner, a former police chief for the Township of Georgina and a member of the York Regional Police. The Georgina Township Police Band and the Royal Rangers were a collection of drum, fife, majorettes and colour party involving as many as 128 local members at its peak.

"The band was such a big part of our lives during the 50s, 60s and 70s," said Wendy Schell, Chair of the Organizing Commit-

tee. "We wanted an opportunity to thank Len Donner for the contribution he made to this community during a time when there was little else for young people to do."

The Georgina Township Police Band was originally formed in 1957 and won many awards in marching competitions across Ontario during its 15 year reign. It re-emerged in the 1970s as the Royal Rangers and folded in 1986 just before Mr. Donner retired from the police force in 1987.

"We are very excited about this reunion," Ms. Schell said. "We have such good memories about our experiences in the band that it will be a lot of fun to sit and

reminisce with past members we have lost touch with."

One of the difficulties the group is facing is contacting those members who have left the area. "So if anyone knows where some of these people are, we are hoping former band members who still live here will let them know about the reunion," Ms. Schell said.

In addition, the group is looking for photos and memorabilia to display at the event.

Anyone in possession of any of these items is being invited to email Barb Scott at barjscott@rogers.com or call (705) 437-1821 or call Mary Norton at (705) 437-3935.

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The winner will be randomly drawn from all correctly completed entries.

See the Official Entry Form for further details.



Georgina-Brock Garden Club hosts first meeting of the new year

Members of the Georgina-Brock Garden Club met at the Wilfrid Community Hall on Monday, February 13 where the results of a club photographic contest were announced.

Joanne Beamish judged the event which featured a variety of themed categories and congratulated the group on their choice of themes. David Mitten was chosen as the winner for the Best-in-Show category and Dorothy Shier received honours for her win as Top Exhibitor. Ms. Beamish addressed the group and provided tips on how to compose a photo when entering themed photo contests. "The photo should be true to the theme and provide impact," she said. "I go by the feeling the photo creates when I look at art even though everyone has their own interpretation of excitement," she said.

The Georgina-Brock Garden Club hosts monthly meetings throughout the year, except in August and January, and as a group it takes on a number of community beautification projects.

Anyone interested in becoming a member is invited to contact Dorothy Shier in Wilfrid at (705) 437-1358.

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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 Fishing Report
Jason Foster of Dan Hales Fish Huts tells me anglers in his huts are consistently catching two to three fish per day per hut at the white fish and trout grounds. With approximately 14 inches of ice to run his bombardiers, Jason has huts as far out as eight miles from Holmes Point. Perch anglers are happy as well because the action about a mile or so off-shore is good "and picking up every day," Mr. Foster said. It was a slow start for the season and even today business is down by about half. According to Mr. Foster, media reports involving other areas on the lake have affected everyone in the Pefferlaw area. "The trouble with Lake Simcoe is, it is almost like having 10 lakes. What we have here for ice is not the same as they have in Sutton or Keswick. It is all different." As fish hut operators are out on the ice on a daily basis, anglers are advised to check with a local operator for ice conditions before venturing out

A sweet Happy Birthday to **Kara Mooney** who turned 10 on February 16, 2006. Kara happily celebrated her birthday with her friend "**Ted**" who turned four on February 15.

Congratulations to **Carol Taylor** who will celebrate her birthday on March 8. Carol didn't divulge her age, but sends her best wishes to son **Caleb Taylor Warren** who will be two on March 10. Cheers to you both.

On March 5, Georgina Island band elder **Barb McDonald** will celebrate a birthday. Congratulations Barb.

Proud parents, **Kevin James and Tanya Sarasin** welcomed their new addition, son **Broden Kenneth James** on February 5. Broden weighed 6 lb. 14 oz. and is a brother to Dillon. Proud grandparents are **Paul and Sandra**

James, Mike and Danielle Kerr and George Sarasin.

Bill Armstrong turns 85 on March 4. Bill and his family will welcome friends at the Cedardale Church to help celebrate the occasion between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Congratulations Bill.

A very Happy Birthday to **Ashley Landers** who turns 21 on February 24 and to **Mike Jubb** who turns 24 on February 28. Ashley and Mike will celebrate with friends out on the ice on February 25 where they will host an ice-fishing party.

More birthday greetings to **Dave Clyde**. Dave will turn 63 on February 28. Cheers, Dave.

Congratulations also go out to **Paul Whetter** who turns 48 on March 1. Happy Birthday Paul.

Our special birthday wishes go out to **Warren Pettifer** who turns 75 on February 26. Barbara tells me the family celebrated early but that shouldn't stop the community from sending their congratulations whenever Warren is out and about spreading his usual good cheer. Happy Birthday, Warren.

Next on the birthday podium is **John Barnes**. John turned 22 on February 20. Happy Birthday, John.

Clive McFarlane called me to relate a story of a good Samaritan. It seems Clive wanted give some visitors from Toronto a new experience by driving from the mainland to Georgina Island across the ice but ran into a snow drift on the way over. A number of good Samaritans stopped in a pick-up truck to shovel him out and he wanted to publicly thank them for their help. Clive also told me that he will be running in the next municipal elections for the Ward 5 councillor.

Don McIntyre from the Pines of Georgina has announced that **Helen Viau** formerly of the Cottage Country Restaurant has been hired as the Kitchen Manager at the **Pines of Georgina Restaurant**. Good Luck Helen. It's good to have you back.

Interesting Music Shoppe lives up to its one-of-a-kind reputation

The sign on the door of the Interesting Music Shoppe in Wilfrid gives customers a hint of the laid-back atmosphere inside. It says, “Hours Subject to Adjustment During Ski Season”.

The self-proclaimed truant from work when cross-country ski and snowshoe conditions are good, is Jeff Elias. In 1988 he moved to Wilfrid and took ownership of a 1888 Victorian home once owned by William Griffith, a renowned blacksmith in Wilfrid.

Initially Jeff had no intention of starting his own music shop but in 1991, when the music store he worked for in Toronto turned his three-day work week into a five day commute, he thought he would give it a try.



Jeff Elias, 52, proprietor of the Interesting Music Shoppe in Wilfrid since 1991.

“I started out mostly doing repair for home electronics such as VCRs, tape decks etc.” he said, adding that his meagre entry into the musical instrument retail business began with “some of my own instruments and a few boxes of strings.”

Today, that humble beginning has turned into a going concern with shelves overflowing with unique and “interesting” musical instruments and accessories. Prominent among the rows and rows of new acoustic guitars, banjos and mandolins are a number of vintage and unusual instruments like the Charango, a stringed guitar-like instrument made from the shell of an armadillo. Or, a Sitar made from a gourd—and a three-string triangular shaped guitar from Russia called a Balalaika—not to mention a Didgeridoo, a long wooden mouth-blown instrument once used by

tribes in Australia to communicate with each other.

In addition to Jeff’s penchant for the unusual is his passion to populate his shop with old, antique collectables—particularly music memorabilia and snow shoes.

“I collect snow shoes and I have a lot of non-functional instruments,” Jeff says. “It is getting harder and I have to really dig to find stuff, especially older pieces.”

Over the past 15 years, Jeff’s musical instrument stock and his collection of antique memorabilia has pushed the entrepreneur further and further into cramped living quarters.

“The whole house has about 1,750 square feet and the store takes up about 1,700,” he says, “leaving me with a little corner at the back for living area.”

But it is a manageable size and its evolution has been carefully orchestrated by him as he was guided by a simple but strategic business philosophy.

“I started small with a bit of stock and doing some repair,” Jeff said, “and I used the money I made to purchase more stock as I could afford it so now, there is no debt maintenance or overhead.”

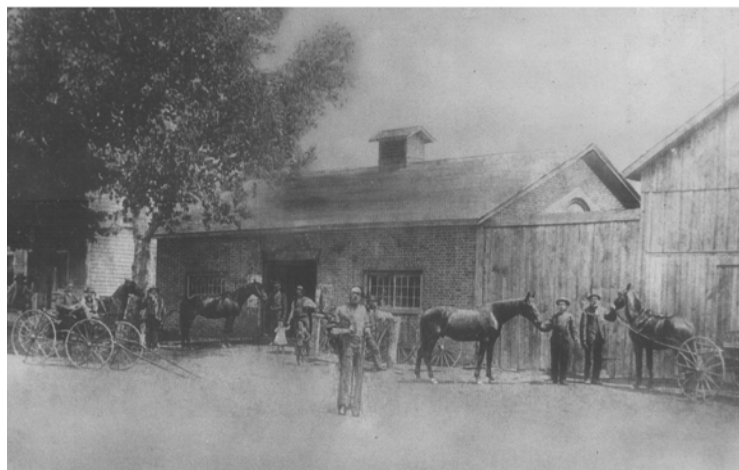
While acoustic instruments such as Canadian-made Norman, Seagull and Simon



and Patrick guitars are his bread and butter, Jeff stocks many high-end guitars such as Gibsons and finds he is selling approximately one a month of these classics. Another hot item is his stock of vintage instruments. According to Jeff, the value of these products is increasing steadily—as collectors begin to use them as a hedge against inflation.

Not to be outdone in popularity is his stock

of drum and percussion instruments. “In December 2004, I sold 18 drum sets. I didn’t do that many this year but there seems to be a lot of drummers out there,” he said. With little competition in the immediate area, Jeff is finding his customers enjoy the experience of browsing through his eclectic collection, certainly discovering that it is worth the trip to Wilfrid.



The Interesting Music Shoppe is located in the former home of one of Canada’s most renowned blacksmiths, William Griffith. Students studying the art of blacksmithing today regularly visit the home to study a wrought iron fence made by Mr. Griffith in 1906. In the photo above Mr. Griffith (centre) is seen in front of his blacksmith shop located directly across from the Victorian home Jeff Elias now resides in.

Coming Events

March Break is coming up and the Pefferlaw Library will be hosting a special science lab involving a number of hands-on experiments

The **Pefferlaw Library** also has a number of ongoing activities:

1. **Stretch Your Body and Mind** with Ingrid on Thursday mornings 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
2. **Yoga**—Beginner to advanced for fun and fitness. Tuesday from 7:00-8:30 p.m.
3. **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 Pefferlaw 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.

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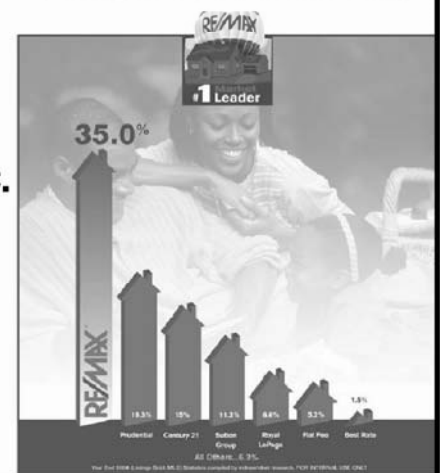
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