

Pefferlaw THE POST

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

Extrufix plastics film plant to close July 2005

The plastics film plant that has operated in Pefferlaw for 30 years is scheduled to close down on July 30, 2005 according to a statement released by Extrufix-owners, CPI Plastics Group Inc.

The plant employed approximately 40 Pefferlaw-area residents and produced a variety of plastic film products including kitchen waste disposal systems. Extrufix, the largest employer in the Pefferlaw area, ships between \$10—\$12 million worth of plastic film products, like their proprietary Roll and Rack, around the world annually from its plant on Hastings Road.

According to a company spokesperson, the Extrufix product line will be sent to a Wisconsin plant to be manufactured there. The plant was founded by Frank and Oonagh McNerney in 1975 after they purchased the license to market the Roll and Rack in Canada from a manufacturer in Denmark in the early 70s. Joined by daughter Susan and son Michael, the company remained a family-run business until 2002 when CPI Plastics Group Inc. in Mississauga purchased the plant. Mrs. McNerney, as the founding president of Extrufix, strongly believed that the success of her company was tied directly to the spirit and commitment of her loyal employees.

“Our employees are close, loyal, stable and reliable,” she once said. “We have gone through everything together.” Long-time resident and former Extrufix plant manager, Sandra James, laments the closing of the plant. “I think it is a shame that they are closing this plant,” she said. “It is going to affect a lot of people here.” According to Mrs. James, Extrufix employed up to 104 permanent and part-time employees at one time.

Kevin Epp of CPI Plastics Group Inc. said the import of plastic film products from China into the Canadian market had an impact on the company’s decision to close the plant.

“China was not the only contributing factor but it was a big one,” Mr. Epp said. “We have found that on certain product lines, we just couldn’t compete with them.”

Mr. Epp confirmed that the company is trying to sell the land and buildings.

Area residents give generously to hospital

Jane Clyde and her team of 30 volunteers were outside local-area retail outlets last month canvassing for donations for the South Lake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, Ontario.

According to Mrs. Clyde, the group raised in excess of \$2,500 during the two-day campaign.

“We more than doubled the amount of money we have collected in previous years,” Mrs. Clyde said, “and we are particularly grateful to the Pefferlaw Lions for their generous donation of \$1,000.” Monies raised at the four locations throughout the Pefferlaw area will go toward the purchase of new equipment for the emergency department at the hospital.

“It is part of a five-year project to raise \$1 million for emergency equipment,” Mrs. Clyde said. Communities throughout the service area of the hospital participated in the campaign.

The Pefferlaw-area volunteers represent the Mission and Outreach Committee of Wilfred United Church, a community service organization that sponsors a number of local area programs for families in need.

“We offer a ‘hand-up’ to individuals and families in the area,” Mrs. Clyde said, adding that a future program the group is working on includes developing a “necessity kit” for organizations that provide shelter for both men and women.

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Welcome to your new community news source

I have long felt that Pefferlaw and the communities surrounding it, such as Virginia, Udora, Port Bolster and Georgina Island, deserved their very own news vehicle. This is such a vibrant and active community that many stories and news items get buried in the bowels of newspapers serving much larger communities—or the stories don't even make it to the editorial pages of these publications.

The idea for the Pefferlaw Post came to me one morning over coffee with my father at the Virginia Beach Restaurant. We were watching a barge with a pile driver on it load a number of steel posts for what we supposed, was a dock construction somewhere. At the same time, we watched six police officers pile into the police boat and take off for, what we supposed, were police manoeuvres somewhere. All of the time these two events were unfolding, the Georgina Island ferry was running back and forth from the island with a load full of cars and trucks travelling to and from the island.

As I watched, I wondered what was going on with the barge, the police officers and the ferry passengers. And, I marvelled at how so much was going on in such a short period of time in such a small corner of my community. I wondered what else I was missing. Having lived in Pefferlaw all my life and been formally educated as a journalist, a vocation I have spent 25 years working in, I decided I had the tools to find out more about what was happening in my community and share that knowledge with you.

So, here it is. The Pefferlaw Post. I have designed it to feature community-oriented stories and news items. I have even resurrected a column that used to be

printed in the old Lake Simcoe Advocate for Pefferlaw residents. It was written by Mrs. Tennyson in the 1960s and contained personal tidbits of information on residents and social engagements. I remember that almost every item ended with the phrase “and a good time was had by all.”

Of course for me to stay on top of everything, I will need your help. Please feel free to call me with any and all of the news you come upon. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy your new community news source.

Karen Wolfe, Editor.

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

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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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Residents debate mosquito control program at PAR

A number of Pefferlaw and area residents met with town and provincial government officials at a Pefferlaw Rate Payers (PAR) meeting recently to debate the benefits and risks of continuing to spray the area with Malathion to control the mosquito population.

PAR was instrumental in convincing the Town of Georgina to fund and administer the mosquito control program 25 years ago and now some residents want the program stopped. According to Mike Baskerville, Engineering Manager at the Town of Georgina, Malathion is a pesticide that has been approved by the federal government and has been used by the town safely in the Pefferlaw area for the past 25 years.

"We use approximately five gallons of this pesticide in a month and we try to spray three times week," Mr. Baskerville said.

However, some area residents are concerned about the health

effects of the pesticide and have decided to post No Fog signs on their property. As a result, no spray will be administered for 250 feet on either side of the No fog sign.

When a demand was made at the PAR meeting to cancel the spray program, Mayor Rob Grossi said council would not stop the program until an opinion survey of Pefferlaw residents was conducted. He proposed a plebiscite on the issue be included for Pefferlaw residents for the next municipal election.

"If it is determined that the majority of residents no longer want the program, then council will certainly comply with their wishes," he said.

While this year's spray program should have started at the beginning of June, Mr. Baskerville said they are waiting to hire a driver who has completed and passed the necessary Ministry of Environment tests to ensure the product is handled safely.

Udora and Pefferlaw are subjects for historical projects

The hamlet of Udora held its first meeting with the Alliance for a Better Georgina (ABG) recently to discuss the launch of a Georgina community Mapping Project that will see eight Georgina communities "map-out" their most significant features. The program is funded by an \$86,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant.

According to a statement released by ABG, a pilot community mapping project took place in Baldwin last year and resulted in a colorful map featuring significant local features.

With the success of that pilot, the group is now targeting Udora and Pefferlaw as their next mapping candidates.

"There are many benefits to this mapping project," said ABG Chair Bob Matthews. "Each

community will produce a detailed, accurate map. The maps will be produced on paper and digitally."

In time, Mr. Matthews said, these maps and the information on them, will be posted on a website.

In addition to the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, other funding partners include the Town of Georgina, York Region, TD Friends of the Environment, South Lake Community Futures Corporation. The project also has technical support from other partners.

Lyn Mallon who operates the Udora General Store said approximately 20 people attended the first information session in Udora and all were eager to participate.



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258 Pefferlaw youth drop-in at Youth Centre in four months

When Kevin Costner convinced his wife to help him build a baseball park in the middle of a cornfield by claiming "build it and they will come," he could easily have been talking about the Pefferlaw Youth Centre. In the four months that the centre has been open, it has become a familiar and comfortable setting for many Pefferlaw area youth—258 to be exact have signed in during drop-in.

Kevin Gough from Jericho, a registered charity organization responsible for staffing this centre and others in Georgina, has been supervising the Pefferlaw Youth Centre since it opened last February. He firmly believes the centre is doing what it set out

to do and he is enjoying the relationship he has established with many of the kids who use the facility.

"I am pretty much on a first name basis with everyone coming in," he said, "and it seems that they like having a place to go." The centre, which is located in the old Cooke's United Church building on Pefferlaw Rd., is owned and operated by the Town of Georgina. Now that the renovations have been completed, the centre features a computer lab with seven computers and a printer, a fully equipped kitchen where volunteers offer cooking classes, a games room with a pool table, a foosball table, air hockey table, vending machines,

karaoke machine, T.V. and stereo plus a large area upstairs where martial arts, dance and art lessons are offered.

"During drop-in, we usually have somewhere between 15 and 25 kids a night," said Mr. Gough. This, in addition to the number of kids signing up for town-offered programs such as dance and art classes, means the facilities are being used for their intended purpose, Mr. Gough said. "It is a place for the kids to go that is supervised," he said.

However, as much as the youth in the area appear to like the centre and take advantage of all it has to offer, it is not without its critics.

Not surprisingly, some people who live in close proximity to the centre, have had a few negative experiences and complain about increased noise and vandalism. On the other hand, the majority of residents interviewed felt the centre was responsible for fewer incidents of vandalism and they support the decision to convert the church into a youth centre.

"Certainly the police support the centre and the positive effect it has had on the community," said Mr. Gough, adding they make a point of coming into the centre whenever they are on patrol in the area.

Udora site of new housing development

A new housing development, located in the south-end of Udora, has begun construction on 26 estate homes on the east side of Durham Rd. 1.

Owned by Gino Testa and Carlo Risi, Udora Estates will involve the construction of bungalows and two-storey homes on lots ranging from 1.5 acre to three acres. According to Jim Corrigan of the Sutton Group, the bungalow estate homes will start at 1,500 sq. ft. and the two-storey

homes will go up from 2,400 sq. ft. "We expect to have a couple homes completed by October of this year," Mr. Corrigan said.

The property was purchased by the developers in the 1980s and with the demand for real estate within commuting distance of Toronto still going strong, the owners made the decision to begin construction, Mr. Corrigan said. "Prices have not yet been determined," he said.



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Georgina Island library wins top award for innovation

In a competition that involved 36 submissions from public libraries across Ontario, the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Public Library won top honors in the 2005 Minister's Award for Innovation (small library category). The award, which was shared with their non-native library partner, the Pickering Public Library, recognizes successful new approaches that demonstrate a positive impact in the community.

In an interview with Georgina Island librarian, Karen Foster, the recognition from the Ontario Ministry of Culture comes from the library's groundbreaking decision to partner with a non-native library in an attempt to increase cultural awareness and exchange new ideas.

"The partnership with the Pickering Library means that we get new materials for our library here and it is also an opportunity for cultural exchange," said Ms. Foster, adding that there is a plan in the future to switch roles for a day. "This will increase awareness of the differences between native and non-native libraries," Ms. Foster said.

In addition to providing the typical library functions to the island community, Ms. Foster and literacy co-ordinator Lynn Mooney provide native literacy programs, beading classes and often visit neighboring libraries to tell stories and discuss native life on Georgina Island. Another library resource that has helped disseminate information on the Georgina Island First Nation, is a six-volume curriculum resource guide for grade six students. Conducted in co-operation with the Ogemawahj Tribal Council, the course curriculum is an educational resource package that includes profiles of the six First Nations communities that make up the Tribal Council. The 42-page volume that describes the Georgina Island First Nation provides a section on the history of the band and lessons on governance, contemporary life and issues.

The Georgina Island First Nation territory measures approximately 3,499 acres and includes Snake Island, Fox Island, Georgina Island and two small areas of land on the mainland at Island Grove and Virginia Beach. Nearly 200 first nation people reside on the island.

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 honor as a regular feature in this publication and dedicate it to her memory.

Garry and Debbi Greavette on Regent Street are building a new home on the site of their Big Bald Lake cottage near Buckhorn, Ontario. The Greavettes plan to move in once their home on Regent Street is sold.

Bev and Cliff Warner of Regent Street were surprised by a 25th wedding anniversary party given in their honor last month. More than 50 guests assembled to congratulate the couple "and a good time was had by all."

The grand-daughter of **Marion and Gord Calvert**, owners of Port Bolster Natural Stone has joined the Canadian Armed Forces. Currently based in Barrie at Camp Borden, **Daphne** hopes to become a member of the emergency medical service once her boot camp training is over.

Cheri and Duncan McLarty's daughter, Nicole, was accepted at Laurier University in Sudbury where she will begin studies in Haematology in the fall.

Congratulations are in order for **Ian Clyde** and his fiancée, **Julie Labbe**, who will be married in St. Catharines on September 24 this year. Ian is the son of **Dave and Jane Clyde**.

Little **Anderson O'Neill** of Regent Street celebrated his second birthday last month at a BBQ garden party given to him by his parents **Amanda and Tim O'Neill**.

Ron and Barb Scott on Durham Rd., 23 tell me their German Shepherd dog, Zipper, is over 20 years of age. I checked the internet for the oldest German Shepherd on record and the only mention I could find was one for a German Shepherd that was also 20.

Dean and Laurine Fullbrook came back to Pefferlaw for a surprise visit from Australia to help celebrate Dean's father's 80th birthday on June 16. Dean and Laurine have been living in Australia for several years.

Next time you see **Warren Pettifer** and his lovely wife, congratulate them on being happily married for 35 years on July 25, 2005.

Gail Middleton of 119 Pefferlaw Rd. looked out the window one morning last month and saw a black bear lumbering across the road. It took a short cut through her back yard before disappearing into a field.

Nancy and Albert Henderson on Pefferlaw Rd. have announced that their daughter, **Ashley** is engaged to **Jason Kirkos** of Cannington. The couple plan to be married in 2006.

Congratulations to **Clara Dorak (nee Hanna)**, a former resident of Port Bolster, and to Georgina Island resident **Paul Bigcanoe** who were married on the island on July 2, 2005.

C. B. "Bernie" Fairbairn of Port Bolster turned 80 years old on July 6, 2005. Happy Birthday "Uncle Bernie!"

Monroe and Fran Wolfe of Station Rd. in Pefferlaw celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on June 24, 2005.

Virginia United Church held their 25th Strawberry Social dinner at Egypt Hall on June 29, 2005. Many attended and a good time was had by all.

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Large crowds attend Morning Glory School celebration

Hundreds of current and former Pefferlaw area residents participated in a variety of planned events last month to mark the 50th Anniversary of Morning Glory Public School (MGPS). Included in the line-up was a golf tournament, a scavenger hunt, a gala dance, a classic car show, an open house and tree planting ceremony where local dignitaries and guest witnessed the opening of a 25 year-old time capsule. A time capsule for 2005 was also buried at the site.

"The weekend events were great and

we truly enjoyed every minute of the activities,"

said Brian Smockum, a former

MGPS student and teacher. "The opportunity to view the visual displays and to reminisce with so many folks



MGPS golfers pose before teeing off at the Pines of Georgina.



MGPS principal Steve Young addresses 200+ guests at open house.

was simply awesome," he said.

The Pines of Georgina hosted the anniversary golf tournament which was won by Tom Knox, Steve Knox, Dwayne Anderson and Doug Boettger. The scavenger hunt, a great success by all accounts, was won by four sisters, Janice Pringle, Nancy Henderson, Gail Moore and Susan Palmer..

The classic car show and the open house were also well attended. More than 25 owners of vintage cars participated and over 200 pieces of school memorabilia drew crowds to the school gym. Approximately 170 people attended the dance at the Lion's hall.

MGPS is located on the site of the old Morning Glory Hotel that operated in the 1880s. When the site was excavated for the school in 1954 a number of human remains were found. Local folk lore has it that the human bones were the remains of the innkeepers wife, who disappeared after she was caught in an uncompromising position with one of the hotel guests. The story however, has never been substantiated. MGPS opened its doors 50 years ago to 67 students who attended grades seven and eight in the then partially completed four-room schoolhouse. Today, the school houses more than 700 students in 20 classrooms and has 32 teachers.



The Griffith sisters won 1st prize at the Scavenger Hunt.

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Belvedere Hotel reopens after extensive restoration by new owner

Meet Jack Beaudrow and his niece Nicole—one of the hottest new business teams in Georgina. After taking one daring and tentative step into the hospitality industry a few years ago when they renovated and reopened the Mansion House in Sutton, the team has now ripped a page from that playbook and applied it here, in Pefferlaw.

Again, they've taken an old village landmark—in this case the Belvedere Hotel—and renovated it and launched it as a unique and prominent restaurant and pub. It comes complete with a country and western saloon theme where everything from the menu to the music to the hoof prints in the floor, gently reminds patrons of another time and era.

"When we looked at this place we saw a historic hotel sitting here and it seemed to have so much potential", Ms. Beaudrow said. And so, buoyed by the experience of the Mansion House endeavor, the two decided to repeat their former success and began an 18-month crusade to convert a tired old village landmark into a bustling and vibrant restaurant and bar. And, it seems to have worked—again. Many times since the new Belvedere opened, the staff has had to turn patrons away when the numbers have reached the licensed limit.

"We wanted to create a warm, comfortable homey feel," Ms. Beaudrow said. "Something that said, 'Welcome—this is YOUR home town'."

One feature that exemplifies Pefferlaw

'yore, is the trail of horse hooves that is embedded into the concrete floor and runs from the front door to the back door. "This is a tribute to Doug Doner who lives upstairs and did ride his horse through the old Belvedere one night many years ago," Ms. Beaudrow said.

According to Ms. Beaudrow, the reaction from the community toward the new Belvedere has been very positive. "At first, some people were a little apprehensive about the changes, but now, most people

see that it is a change for better."

And, as much as the Belvedere is a coun-

tries Mrs. Beaudrow the confidence to believe that she and her uncle have another winner.

For Jack Beaudrow, 53, the Belvedere venture has allowed him to return to his Pefferlaw roots. He is one of 10 Beaudrow siblings who lived at one time, on the old Murphy farm located on Highway 48 across the river from Johnston's Marina. The house has since been torn down and the farmland now forms part of Marina Estates. He started grade one at Black River School, a one-room school-house formerly located on the corner of River-view Beach Rd. and Highway 48 near the Pines of Georgina golf course.

Today, among other things, Jack is a successful contractor and lives on Highway 48

just east of Sutton. Nicole Beaudrow, 34, the daughter of Jack's older brother Pat,

was born and raised in Sutton where she was introduced to the hospitality industry at an early age. "I worked in the kitchen of the Irish House when I was 15," she says and although she was formerly educated in the arts where she studied costume design she was never far from the bar scene. "I came to help my Aunt Lisa when the Mansion House opened and I never left," she said.

Today, Nicole lives with her partner, Lorne and their two children, Dylan 13 and Chloe 4 in Sutton, Ontario.



...Then

And Now...



try and western venue in Pefferlaw and the Mansion House is a Rock and Blues bar in Sutton, Ms. Beaudrow believes they are both in the right place

at the right time. "You couldn't switch the two bars and have them be as successful as they are," she said.

While the restoration took "way more" time and money than either she or her uncle anticipated, Ms. Beaudrow is very proud of the outcome and what it took to get them here.

"There was a family member involved in the process from beginning to end," she said. "And we make a very strong team." This, coupled with the fact that the Belvedere staff are committed to the success of the business and are extremely loyal to her,

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Port Bolster community celebrates life of town's oldest resident

The friends and neighbors of Mrs. Ivy Godfrey, who died last month at the age of 105, gathered at the Port Bolster Community Hall on June 25 to celebrate her life during a memorial service led by Rev. Kathryn McIntosh.

Mrs. Godfrey was born in November 1899 and lived in Port Bolster most of her life. Her husband, George Godfrey predeceased her by 40 years. According to many who attended the memorial service, Mrs. Godfrey lived by a simple philosophy and was fond of using clichés when queried about her life. When asked what her secret for longevity was, she answered, "I've always worked hard. Hard work is good for you

and it never killed anyone." When asked how she was doing, she often answered, "Everybody I can so you better watch out."

While Mrs. Godfrey had no children or immediate family, she was cherished and admired by many neighbors and friends. During the blackout in the summer of 2003, one of Mrs. Godfrey's neighbors remembers waking up in the middle of the night, worried about how Mrs. Godfrey would be making out without hydro. Finally, at morning's first light, she took over a pot of tea with water she had boiled on the BBQ, only to find six other pots of tea waiting on Mrs. Godfrey's doorstep. "This community really cared for her," the neighbor said.

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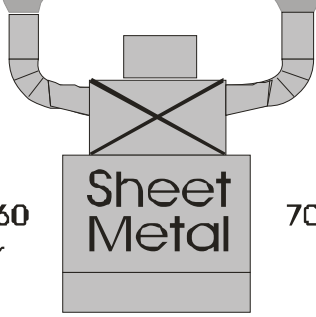
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