

Pefferlaw THE POST

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

'Poverty in Africa' benefit dinner at Lions' hall raises \$5,000

A local charity event, designed to increase awareness and funding for impoverished children in Africa, raised in excess of \$5,000 at a recent 'Mayor's Dinner for Africa' held at the Pefferlaw Lions' Community Centre on July 16, 2005.

The event, which attracted more than 120 people, was conceived by the Youth Group of the Cedardale Nazarene Church who wanted to help two local area youths, Johnny Buchner, 17, and Jeremy Buchner, 14, raise money to build a dorm and a basketball court in a small village in Kenya. The two boys, accomplished basketball players and coaches, took on the cause last year upon hearing of the plight of Kenya's homeless children and their need for housing and recreational activities.

"We learned that hoops and balls had been donated, but no one knew how to play the game and they didn't have a place to play," said Johnny Buchner. Then, after receiving his coaching certification, he decided the time was right to do something about it.

At the same time, the boys decided to try and raise enough money to build a dorm that would house 100 orphaned children. To date, the two have raised \$40,000 toward their goal of \$72,000.

"One hundred per cent of all money raised will go directly to these children in Af-

rica," said Vikki Buchner, the boys' mother and co-ordinator for the Hopes and Dreams Team, a charity organization dedicated toward helping to relieve the suffering among children in Africa.

Mrs. Buchner travelled to the region last summer and came back armed with startling statistics on the future of Kenya's orphaned children.

"Approximately 700 people in Kenya die of HIV AIDS every day," she said, "and that means that by the year 2010, 43 million children will be left orphaned."

On August 5, Mrs. Buchner will accompany her sons back to Kenya to witness the results of their fund-raising efforts and to watch as they teach local youth how to play the game of basketball. .

Bell Canada set to offer high-speed internet service in Pefferlaw

Rumour has it that Bell Canada will extend their high-speed internet service to some Pefferlaw area residential and business customers in the fall of this year. A Bell Canada spokesman said "Bell Canada is committed to providing broad-band internet service to urban and rural Ontario and we are currently evaluating high-speed to this region," but would not confirm or deny if the service would be available in Pefferlaw by fall.

However, a recorded message on the company's Sympatico high-speed service number, suggests the service will be available in this area "soon".

In order for Bell Canada to provide high speed internet service, the area must be serviced with fibre-optic cable, a service

Pefferlaw has had for some time. The difficulty however, has been that the technology inside the Pefferlaw central office is outdated and did not support broad-band communications through the fibre-optic service. Up to this point, the central office was not large enough to accommodate the new technological upgrades required without expanding the building. Now, with the miniaturization of new communications technologies, the Pefferlaw central office can be updated without costly additions and renovations.

The Pefferlaw "437" telephone exchange has approximately 2,600 customers and extends from parts of Udora to Port Bolster, Virginia and Georgina Island. technologies.



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Your response was overwhelming

I am absolutely overwhelmed by the positive response I have received from you. More than anything else, it tells me that you also feel that there is room in this area for a dedicated news vehicle that will help us document and record our progress, our history and our news. In response to some of the suggestions I received, I am including a column in this issue entitled "Remember When...". It seems some of my readers would like to know more about our history. Although I have written the first instalment for Remember When, I am inviting guest columnists to contribute by sharing their memories and stories of the past.

Out of the many emails and telephone calls I received, I wanted to reprint a Letter to the Editor which, I think, summarizes the overall tone of the comments.

Dear Editor:

Congratulations, Karen, on your initiative to publish a newspaper specifically for the Pefferlaw area. It's about time a publication like this was started here. The Pefferlaw Post will be an excellent vehicle to communicate within our village and the surrounding area. There are only positives in a project of this sort:

1. It will develop further that atmosphere of small-town Ontario and richen the community spirit that has been diminishing over the past few decades.
2. It will provide opportunities to support local organizations and businesses.
3. It will help us to get to know the neighbours better that we don't know so well.

I wish you all the best, Karen, for a very successful endeavour. From the buzz in town, there have only been superlatives. May I suggest a subscription series in order to receive

every issue and enjoy the convenience of having the Pefferlaw Post mailed to my home?

Sincerely, David Weir.

P.S. I still remember Mrs. Tenyson's articles in the old Sutton Reporter—several of my birthday parties were mentioned there!

Ed. Note: As you know, the Pefferlaw Post is free of charge and is only made possible through the support of the advertisers. It is my hope that as the publication grows, I will be able to mail every household a copy.

Karen Wolfe, Editor.

Pefferlaw THE POST

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

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

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Pefferlaw dam to undergo safety review

The Town of Georgina, in partnership with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), will fund a dam safety review study to provide information on the condition of the dam and to identify safety deficiencies which could lead to improvements.

Part of a province-wide capital investment program totalling \$10 million, the Pefferlaw dam study will cost approximately \$18,000—a cost that will be split 50/50 between the Town and LSRCA.

In a document prepared by LSRCA to request funding from the Town, LSRCA writes that the main objectives of the dam safety program are as follows:

1. to enable the consistent evaluation of dam safety deficiencies leading to the construction of improvements which contribute to dam safety;
2. to define requirements and outline guidelines so that the

safety of existing dams can be evaluated in a consistent and adequate manner across Ontario, and new dams can be designed and constructed to be safe;

3. to provide a basis for dam safety legislation and regulation, and;

4. to provide a framework for undertaking dam operation, dam maintenance, dam inspection, monitoring and emergency response during accidents and other emergencies including flooding.

According to Mr. Tom Hogenbirk, Manager of Engineering and Technical Services for LSRCA, the dam will need to be drawn down for the study and LSRCA is trying to coincide their work with the Ministry of Natural Resources' Gobi program this summer so the dam will not have to be drawn down twice. "We are just waiting to hear from MNR," he said, "and then we hope to start in August."

Remember When...

In response to a request by, Ashley Shearer and others, this column will take a regular look at some of the community's history and the people responsible for it. In this issue, I will profile one of Pefferlaw's first families, The Johnston Family and for future issues, I invite guest columnists to send me articles that profile their families or events that helped shape our community in some way.

William Johnson (originally spelled with a "T" but removed by William when he joined the navy), was a retired captain from the British navy who founded Pefferlaw in 1819 when he was 35 years old. Folklore has it that he was tracking a lost cow and came upon the river Muckatoo (its name before it was changed to the Pefferlaw River) which would later become the site of the Johnson grist mill and the Johnson saw mill and the Johnson woollen mill. William married Roxanna Smalley and had nine children, one of whom was George Johnson. George Johnson, the man who built the Belvedere Hotel in 1884, married Mary Lapp and also had nine children. Their oldest child was William H. Johnston who build the old Johns-

ton residence on Main Street.

Their youngest child was named C. Kingsley Johnston (by now the "T" was put back into the Johnson name) and Kingsley married Margaret Harrison. Two of their children were Fred and Charlie Johnston of Highway 48 Johnston's Marina fame. Charlie still lives in a house that was originally used as a cottage by his father Kingsley on the Pefferlaw River. Throughout the town's history, many of the old buildings still standing in Pefferlaw today, were at one time owned by a Johnston family member. For instance, the site of Bodley's Furniture, was originally a store owned and operated by George Johnson, Kingsley Johnston and Fred Johnston. The Pefferlaw Supermarket was once owned by Fred Johnston and his brother Charlie. The building that Ina's Hairdressing is now in, was once owned by George Johnson and his son, Kingsley Johnston. Johnstons Marina Restaurant was once owned by Fred and Charlie Johnston. Just think what would have happened if the cow had not gotten lost.



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Local bear sightings on the increase—or not

It seems a week doesn't go by before someone reports seeing a bear somewhere in the local area. In fact, scrutiny of the Ministry of Natural Resources' logs suggest that approximately 8,730 nuisance bear reports were logged in the province of Ontario all of last year—that is approximately 23 reports every single day. However, trying to determine if these numbers actually represent an increase in the black bear population in Ontario—and specifically, the Pefferlaw area—isn't that easy and greatly depends upon to whom you are speaking.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) adamantly believes that the black bear population in Ontario has increased and that the "bear areas" have expanded considerably since the spring bear hunt was cancelled in 1999.

Terry Quinney, the provincial manager of the Fish and Wildlife Service for OFAH quotes a 500 per cent increase in the number of nuisance bear telephone calls to five Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) offices over the past 10 years. "In the four years prior to the cancellation of the spring bear hunt (1995-1998), 2,600 nuisance bear telephone calls were received by five

MNR offices in Ontario," he said. "In the same offices, during the four years after the cancellation of the spring bear hunt program (1999-2002), the number of nuisance bear telephone calls was 12,731. That is a 500 per cent increase."

And, while Mr. Quinney is quick to suggest that this increase in calls is directly connected to an increase in bear population that is directly connected to the cancellation of the spring bear hunt, officials at MNR prefer to look at other phenomenon.

Mr. John Almond, a Senior Wildlife Technical Specialist with the MNR office in Aurora, Ontario—the office in charge of wildlife management in the greater Toronto area which includes Pefferlaw—explains that while his office has no official records that identify the number of black bears in the greater Toronto area or their growth patterns, he suggests if their numbers have increased over the past years, other factors may be to blame.

"First of all, this wildlife management area has never had either a spring or a fall bear hunting season," he said adding that reports of black bear sightings coming into his office in 2005 have actually gone down

compared to reports during the same period in 2004. From April 1 to June 15, 2004, 75 sightings were recorded. In 2005, during the same period, only 30 sightings have been reported. Historically, a total of 5 calls were received in all of 2000, 45 calls in 2001, 68 calls in 2002 and 75 in 2004. No data exists for 2003.

"Sometimes, an increase in reported sightings could be attributed to food failure issues," Mr. Almond said adding that recent conservation initiatives to protect the habitat of Ontario wildlife are also having a favourable effect on the animals. "For instance, we are also seeing an increase in reports of otter and fisher sightings," he said.

According to Mr. Almond, the closest geographical areas to Pefferlaw that are engaged in bear hunts are Ramara Township and the Kawarthas but only 10 to 12 black bears have ever been harvested in each of those areas, he said. "We're not saying that their numbers haven't increased, but we cannot say the cancellation of the spring bear hunt is the reason," he said.

Jolanta Kowalski a Senior Information Officer with MNR concurs and suggests there are between 75,000 and 100,000 bears in the province of Ontario. "Before the spring bear hunt was cancelled, approximately 7,000 bears were harvested every year. Now, approximately 5,000 bears are harvested," she said, adding that not all of the 1,500 to 2,000 bears that are no longer harvested, survive. She also said that bears are very slow in reproducing as sows will only give birth every two or three years. Asked whether or not the cancellation of the spring bear hunt would be a contributing factor in the increase of bear population she said, "It may, but I can't categorically say that is the case." A report recently released by MNR suggests that there is no correlation between any increase in nuisance bear calls and the cancellation of the spring bear hunt. But, to help MNR record future sighting patterns, they have implemented the Bear Wise program. This program offers community information seminars where human/bear conflict issues are discussed and how to avoid them. It also funds a telephone hotline (1-866-514-2327) where residents can provide information on bear sightings.

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PAR and Lions Picnic to feature mapping project

The Pefferlaw Ratepayers Association (PAR) and the Pefferlaw Lions' Club are joining forces again to sponsor the Second Annual Pioneer's Picnic on Monday, August 1 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Lions' Community Centre. The outside activities will feature the Lions' Classic Car Show, a bicycle decorating contest, a fish pond and many other exciting events.

Inside, various local crafters and artisans will display their handiwork. New this year will be a booth called "The Best of Pefferlaw" where visitors will be asked to identify what they like most about their town in an effort to help the Alliance for a Better Georgina begin their mapping project.

"Visitors are being asked to bring their photos and stories of Pefferlaw's history and share their views and knowledge about the town", said Roslyn Moore, the co-ordinator for the mapping project. The mapping project will result in a map of the town that will highlight those buildings and features considered most notable by the residents.

Other activities at the picnic include a karaoke contest, a mini putt, Lions' Bar B. Q., face painting, and cow patty bingo.

"This is an opportunity for everyone to come out, bring a picnic lunch, meet your neighbours and have a good time," said Fronie Harpley, PAR president.

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

Ashley Landers, formerly of Routely Ave. in Pefferlaw has taken a job with the Banff Springs Hotel in Banff as a grounds keeper for the golf course. Ashley signed a six-month contract with the option to stay on for a further six months.

Filomena Hastings on Lindell St. in Pefferlaw is pleased to announce the marriage of her son, Jeffrey to Julie Stenabaugh of Huntsville. The couple was married in Huntsville on July 16, 05.

Lillian O'Neill on Highway 48 in Virginia celebrated her 76th birthday with her family at a picnic held in her honor on July 10, 2005. As an added birthday present, Lillian's granddaughter, **Jessica Grayson**, gave birth to a baby girl, Tristyn, 7lbs. 3oz on the same day. Congratulations to all.

Judy and Wayne Butler on Pefferlaw Rd. celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on July 9, 2005.

I hear **Shirley Jakonen** on Rosemary Lane celebrated a milestone birthday this month. Happy Birthday Shirley!

Gary and Fronie Harpley welcomed their new little granddaughter, Kayla, into the world on July 12, 2005 on Grandpa's 60th birthday.

The **Virginia United Church** raised approximately \$2,000 at their 25th Annual Strawberry Dinner last month. Good job!

Club 55, a seniors' group that meets at the Lions' hall in Pefferlaw, welcomes anyone who is interested in playing cards and carpet bowling to join them on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The group will also start serving lunch beginning September 20, 2005.

Congratulations to **Terri Cranswick** who celebrated her 50th birthday on July 16, 2005 with family and friends at a surprise birthday party at her home in Pefferlaw. Her surprise took on a third dimension when her mother and her best friend both arrived for the party from Alberta.

Happy Birthday to **Chloe, 3, and Gregory Sondrop, 6**,—both children shared a birthday party given by parents John and Dawn on Otter Cove on July 9, 2005.

Tamy and Dave Shearer on Adelaide St. in Pefferlaw recently celebrated their 23rd anniversary. Congratulations Dave and Tamy.

Carol Wolfe from Holmes Point proudly announces the graduation of her daughter, **Tracey Chandler**, from Durham College where she graduated on the Dean's List.

Erin Clyde, daughter of Jane and Dave Clyde has graduated from the University of Guelph with a BSc. Erin will be attending Queen's University in the fall for her Masters.

Melissa Kortko, daughter of Dave and Elaine Kortko has graduated from the University of Western in London, Ontario with a B.A.

Jim Griffith and his wife Cynthia (nee Koskinen) and sons Thom and Rob recently spent three weeks in Europe. Their son Thom has been selected to play for the national lacrosse team in Finland and will represent that team when they participate in the world championship lacrosse games in London, Ontario next year.

Nick and Linda Laviolette hosted a pool party and Bar B. Q. on Sunday, July 17 for the **Pefferlaw Lions and Lioness** to celebrate the end of another service club year.

In deepest sympathy, we send our condolences to **Rob Valm** and his family on the sudden loss of his father on Sunday, July 17, 2005. Pete Valm was 57.

Members of Georgina Island First Nation elect new Chief

Meet Brett Mooney—husband, father, avid golfer and Toronto Maple Leafs fan—and the new Chief of the Georgina Island First Nations Chippewa band.

At the age of 42, Mr. Mooney hopes to draw on his experiences as a six-year council member, to lead his people along a path of progressive self-government and increased self sufficiency. But, he doesn't plan to do it alone or in a vacuum.

"It is a very humbling experience to be a leader of a community," he said, "but I believe that I don't oversee this community as much as I am an employee of the community and I take my direction from them."

In a tightly contested election, that saw Mr. Mooney win by a 149 to 109 vote margin against Cynthia Wesley Esquimau, his plat-

form was simple but direct—stay close to home, stay involved in the community and be visible.

"If someone wants to contact me, I say come on in—no appointment needed," he said.

He believes that by staying close to home and involved, he can stay on top of the issues he and his constituents are facing on their island home. And, there are issues that require close monitoring and expert negotiation skills.

For one, the island is undergoing an incredible growth spurt, one that brings with it a number of concerns and anxiety.

"Because of the growth in cottages on the island, we are striving to do everything correctly from an environmental perspective and care for the island properly," he said. "It is something of a double edged sword, because we want to be progressive but at the same time, we want to maintain

the serenity of the island."

Another pressing issue that is a consequence of this growth, is the increased demand on their transportation system. Everything from increased traffic on the island roads to increased traffic on the Aazhaawe (the island ferry) has to be carefully monitored and kept in balance. "We have initiated some schedule changes to the ferry to make sure that our members



New Chief Brett Mooney

are not stuck in line for hours," he said, adding that he is still in the process of monitoring the schedule to see if more changes are required.

In addition to his responsibilities as Chief, he also manages a number of portfolios which include transportation, the radio station, Nish 102.7, and the Coldwater Treaty negotiations in Ottawa. He is supported by four councillors, Bill McCue, Patricia Big Canoe, Donna Big Canoe and Andy Big Canoe who also share the portfolio load which includes, lands, economic development, education, health, finance, housing, public works, culture and the environment. According to Mr. Mooney, the First Nations of Georgina Island are a long way down the self-government road, so much so, that they have dropped out of the Seven Nations land management agreement negotiations on-going in Ottawa. "We have ventured out a lot in island management already," he said, "and I take great pride in just about everything we have accomplished—our education system, our progressive ways and especially our community."

He gives the credit for much of what has been accomplished to date to his predecessor, Chief Bill McCue and in this period of

transition, he continues to rely on Chief McCue's experience and knowledge, especially when travelling to Ottawa to sit as a delegate of the Three First Nations negotiating team for land claims associated with the Coldwater Treaty. "Bill is a good friend and I rely on him for support when I go to Ottawa," he said. "He knows everyone and is well liked there."

But home, and his island community, is where his heart and passions are. "When trying to come up with solutions to issues, I look at what is best for the entire community," he said, "and not what is best for the individual. I feel comfortable with the mandate I have when I stay close to the community and deal with community issues first."

Brett's 'the whole is greater than the sum of its parts' philosophy could probably be traced back to his family background growing up in a family of 10 and he fondly remembers the influence the island had on him as a young child. Although raised and educated in East York because of his father's job, his roots and his extended family were included in regular family visits home. He moved "home" permanently in 1981 and married Lynn Taylor, a coordinator at the island library. The couple has three children, Sheri, Michael and Cara and one granddaughter, Elanya.

Mr. Mooney will sit as Chief for two years, a rather short period of time in light of the mandate he's sworn to deliver. But, he is optimistic that there are ways to help make the Georgina Island First Nations people more self-sufficient despite increased government cutbacks. As an island nation, they have always had to be creative and resourceful in finding solutions for the challenges they've faced. For Mr. Mooney, "it's community first, and if that philosophy changes, I shouldn't be doing what I'm doing."



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Bodley's—five generations of service and Pefferlaw's oldest family business

When Thomas H. Bodley opened his first general store in Pefferlaw over 100 years ago no one had heard of a VCR, a TV or a DVD. A dishwasher was his wife and a microwave was a small gesture of greeting. Today, five generations later, his descendants are still managing the legacy he began—and they are proud of the role their store has played in the town's growth and progress.

The first Bodley's General Store was located across the street from the present location at 247 Pefferlaw Rd. and was a two-storey frame building that served as a store and living quarters. The stock, as unfamiliar to us today as the 2005 product line would be to them, included wincey, alpaca, blacklead, hat pins, butter

paper and cruet stands. By all accounts the store was a success until a fire destroyed the building in 1912.

By 1914, Thomas was back in business when he purchased a building located on the present Bodley's location. It was a two-storey brick building

that again, served as a general store with living quarters above. History records suggest this building was one of the first buildings in Pefferlaw to be equipped

with a Delco 32 volt generating system which provided electricity to Bodley's store.

In 1948, fire would again destroy Bodley's General Store. At the time, the store was being run by Thomas's sons, Clarence and Howard, and the family moved the store to the Town Hall where they conducted

their business until the old store was rebuilt. The new store, a one storey, modern self-serve general store, is the building where Clarence's daughter, Dianne Roberts currently operates an appliance and furniture store with the help of her family, daughter Cheri and son Randy. Diane fondly remembers begging her father Clarence, to let her work in the new store stocking shelves when she was nine years old.

Today, on 3,500 sq. ft. of display space, Bodley's store features state-of-the-art consumer electronics, appli-

ances and furniture. And, according to Randy, the hardware, dry goods and grocery line ceased in 1974 when his father, Jim Roberts, started making more money

selling TVs than he was selling groceries. "My father was the butcher and would walk out from behind the meat counter

with his apron on to sell the odd TV," Mr. Roberts said. "And it evolved from there."

Jim Roberts, known far and wide for his keen negotiations skills and his fondness for giving his customers a deal, grew the business into one of the leading retail outlets in the area.

Cheri and Randy joined the family-run operation in the early 1980s and since then, two of Dianne and Jim's grandchildren have joined the ranks, Kirsten McLarty and Hayley Rob-



Bodley's General Store after the fire in 1948 that destroyed the old brick building erected in 1880 by George Johnson. The new store featured modern appliances, china, groceries, linens and clothing.



Dianne Roberts carries on the legacy her grandfather, Thomas Bodley, started over 100 years ago.



New Frigidaire line-up in 2005.

erts—each representing the fifth generation of Bodley to work at the store—a family legacy that is still going strong.

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Stage set for Eaglewood festival

The entertainment billing for the 16th Annual Eaglewood Folk Festival is set for the 3-day event which takes place August 26-28, 2005. This year's line-up includes 16 well known artists plus a showcase of local talent. Billed as Canada's Premier Songwriter's Festival, the Eaglewood Folk Festival not only features singers, songwriters, instrumentalists and storytellers from across Canada, it is also a venue for crafts, displays and workshops.

"Performers come from across Canada to perform at Eaglewood because it is a small personal venue," said Sue Wakeling, president of the Eaglewood Folk Festival. Ms. Wakeling recently replaced Eaglewood owner and operator, Marilyn Oldfield who retired as president in May.

Since last year's event, festival organizers have hired a new

artistic director, Holmes Hooke, an award winning poet and highly regarded spoken word artist, to help recruit talent and produce the show.

In addition, the Town of Georgina has agreed to provide \$10,000 in funding to support the festival which draws more than 75 volunteers, 50 performers and 1,000 festival patrons from all over Canada.

"The town is very excited to be involved with the Eaglewood Folk Festival," said Rob Grossi, mayor for the Town of Georgina. "Not only does the event highlight great talent and is fun for the whole family, but it also serves to showcase the Town of Georgina to visitors from outside our community."

Gate prices for the festival start at \$15 for an evening pass, \$30 for a day pass, and \$60 for a weekend pass. Campers will pay \$10 for overnight parking.

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