And a good time was had by all...

Snowy weather, cooler temperatures plus a few days off school provided the perfect storm scenario for a visit to the ROC during the holidays.

The tube and terrain hill at the Civic Centre opened on Wednesday, January 2 and kids of all ages equipped with all types of downhill paraphernalia either slid their way down the free toboggan hill, raced down the tube run or perfected their snowboarding skills on the terrain features.

(Photos) Smiles, flushed cheeks and fun was the order of the day as Kyle Adams (right) takes his snowboard over a jump feature on the terrain hill.

(Top Right) Amy Jaeger from Newmarket takes her premiere run down the tubing hill and squeals with delight.

(Bottom Right) Olivia Warton from Sutton received a ROC season’s pass for Christmas and loses no time as she takes a run down the toboggan hill.

IT’S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD...

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Teresa Millar

Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract.
I have been very fortunate. For most of my life I have been very healthy (I haven’t even had chicken pox) and outside of having two children, my experiences in hospital have been quite limited.

Whether or not my luck has run out I’m not quite sure, but over the past three months, I have found myself a patient in two Ontario hospitals and what an eye opening experience both of them were.

Remember, my point of reference here goes back to the 70s when you stayed in hospital for five days after delivering a baby and you were only allowed visitors between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Well, in today’s health care environment, we all know you are sent home with your new baby the day after delivery and apparently, visitors are welcomed at any time throughout the day or night.

Because it seems that if you are hospitalized you had better have a support network made up of family and friends if you need any kind of attention at all in a hospital. Here is what I witnessed…

Food trays for sick and elderly patients would go back to the kitchen untouched unless a family member was there to make sure the patient ate… calls for a nurse from sick patients without family support went unanswered for more than six hours… a nurse told me they preferred to have family stay in the room with patients so nurses could be relieved from routine care… family provided general hygiene care to elderly patients or patients too ill to look after themselves… a microwaved package of handi-wipes was offered to patients capable of using them… promised medical supplies were never delivered.

I had some serious problems with family and friends looking after incontinent loved ones as I constantly found myself walking through and being exposed to bodily fluids on the floor and bathroom facilities. I had to clean the bathroom each and every time I went to use it—without gloves! I suspect if hospital staff were providing this kind of care, they would do the necessary clean-up afterward.

I spoke to the family of a very ill and elderly Italian grandmother who had limited English language skills. The family worked on a visitation schedule which meant someone was with her from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. every day. Even though they all had full-time jobs, the family felt their touch-tag schedule was necessary to ensure that their mother received the proper care. “This is what it used to be like in the old country years ago,” one of her daughters told me.

Although we are spending more and more money on health care, we seem to be regressing instead of progressing. And as more and more baby boomers age, it is only going to get worse.

So hang on to your Depends and be kind to your kids.

Karen Wolfe, Editor.
Colleagues and friends offer words of praise to outgoing Georgina fire chief

Firefighters, friends and colleagues from across the region gathered at the Keswick fire hall on Wednesday, December 19 to bid adieu to retiring Georgina fire chief Bill O’Neill. Chief O’Neill handed command over to Deputy Steve Richardson on December 31 after a warm and emotional send off.

(Photo Top) Assistant Barb Griffith with Chief O’Neill. (Photo Centre) Chief O’Neill accepts a framed print complete with badge from Keswick firefighter Tim Macrae.

(Above left) Mayor Rob Grossi presents Chief O’Neill with commendations from the Town of Georgina. (Above right) Chief O’Neill is escorted home one final time in a fire truck after turning in his pager and town car on December 31.
New round of funding announced for Lake Simcoe/Georgian Bay clean-up

A new $29 million freshwater clean-up fund will pick up where the previous $30 million Lake Simcoe Clean-up fund left off and will expand the scope of projects to include south-eastern Georgian Bay initiatives.

MP Peter van Loan made the announcement on Monday, January 7 in Jackson’s Point and said the new funding program will support work that includes fighting blue-green algae, collecting water quality data, monitoring and phosphorus reduction projects that will improve conditions for aquatic species and habitats to help

Continued on page 5...
New funding for watershed clean-up

Continued from page 4.

restore populations of native fish and wildlife.

“We have found that the lessons learned through research, information collection and innovative approaches in and around Lake Simcoe can be applied to the entire region,” Mr. van Loan said. “So we have expanded the scope of the new fund to include the south-eastern portion of Georgian Bay. As a result, federal funds will encourage projects in and around the Lake Simcoe/South-eastern Georgian Bay watersheds.”

Lake Simcoe is the largest inland lake in southern Ontario outside of the Great Lakes system and is often referred to as the “sixth” great lake. More than 400,000 people depend on the lake for drinking water and it is said to contribute more than $200 million a year to the tourism industry.

“However, Lake Simcoe’s ecosystem health has suffered from excess phosphorus and low oxygen levels and we’ve seen adverse effects on the populations of coldwater fish,” Mr. van Loan said.

He said the first five-year $30 million federal Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund successfully supported 160 community-based projects which reduced phosphorus discharges to Lake Simcoe by an average of three tonnes per year and consequently improved conditions for fish and wildlife.

“In addition, several municipalities benefited from retrofits to storm water ponds using engineered wetlands and innovative technologies,” he said.

“We’ll build on this success with the 2012-2017 Lake Simcoe/South-eastern Georgian Bay Clean-up Fund.”
Volunteers at the Pefferlaw Ice Pad made sure the skating surface was good to go over the holidays. (Above) Tyler Budd helps Sam Carbert with his skates as Reuben Goodwin looks on. (Right) Dad Jason Carbert takes a rest on the ice with daughter Sydney Carbert and friend, Hillary Poplinger (right). Those wanting to help out at the ice pad should contact Joanne at cutlerdrummond@sympatico.ca

THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

From the Pefferlaw Lioness Club and the CHRISTMAS ANGELS COMMITTEE to the Communities of Pefferlaw, Port Bolster, Udora and Sutton for once again so generously supporting THE CHRISTMAS ANGELS PROJECT. We couldn’t have done it without you.

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR KINDNESS:

For Donations to the Toy Boxes and Coin Jars...
- the employees of Langstaff Cards, Buchner Manufacturing and Braids and Laces, and the many residents of the area who donated to the boxes and coin jars at the following locations and the businesses who accepted boxes for the collection of new unwrapped toys and coin jars:
  - Bank of Montreal BMO, Sutton
  - Bodley’s Furniture & Appliances
  - Harry & Ginger’s Pizzeria
  - Pefferlaw Dental Office
  - Pefferlaw Medical Centre
  - The Sutton Curling Club
  - Udora Gas & Convenience Store
  - Belvedere Cookhouse
  - Lim’s Variety Store
  - Maxi Mart on Highway 48
  - Pefferlaw LCBO
  - Residents of Rixon Manor, Pefferlaw
  - The Pefferlaw Post Office
  - Udora General Store

To those who donated money, gift cards and other items...
  - Day Program Staff Community Living
  - Employees of CIBC Pefferlaw
  - Giant Tiger, Sutton
  - Joanne Grozdanovski & Scholastic Books
  - John & Carol Kennedy
  - Sheila MacKenzie
  - Pefferlaw & District Lions Club
  - Dave & Debbie Van den Brink
  - Nicole Beaudrow—Belvedere Cookhouse
  - Diane Golding, Pefferlaw Chiropractic
  - Yvonne Josephson
  - 725561 Ontario Ltd. (Maxi Mart)
  - The Mariage Family
  - Port Bolster Community Hall
  - The Pefferlaw Post Office
  - Karen Wolfe — The Pefferlaw Post

ALSO THANK YOU to Jane Clyde for her assistance, to Steve Askew of Steve’s No Frills for his donations and for coordinating and assembling all the food boxes...to Glen Dixon, Howard Jobin and the staff at Giant Tiger for their donations and to Faye Wilkinson and the Wilfrid Hall Board for the use of the hall to sort and pack all the boxes.

THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING THE CHRISTMAS ANGELS SUCH A SUCCESS!
(Photo top right) Marion Calvert (left) and Gail Moore (right) begin the process of packing up Christmas Angel gift boxes and food hampers from donated by a generous community. Each delivery to needy families represented hundreds of dollars of support. (Photo bottom right) Carol Wolfe serves up a delicious Christmas meal with all the trimmings to George Comartin and other members of the Pefferlaw Club 55.
Unfortunately I wasn’t able to attend the Mayor’s New Years’ Levee (a bout of pneumonia and a visit to hospital sorted that one out for me) but I heard more than 150 people attended the event at the ROC this year. Mayor Grossi takes the opportunity every year to greet residents and offer them a pancake breakfast and this year, attendees were able to take a slide down the hill. By all accounts it was a very successful event and kudos to the Community Events Department of Enbridge Consumers Gas who donate their time and equipment. And Tricia Richens from Green River Coffee was there providing the java.

Happy Birthday greetings go out to Rachelle Malo (owner of the Wild Wing restaurant in Pefferlaw) who celebrated her special day on December 30. Cheers Rachelle.

We also want to send birthday wishes to Marc Carleton. Marc turned 42 on January 5. Hope it was a good one, Marc!

And, I hear Jaclyn Grossi hit a milestone birthday on January 7 when she turned 18. Congratulations, Jaclyn!

Congratulations to Amy and Andrew Menezies who recently found out they are expecting a baby later this year. Congratulations you two!

We send our sincere condolences out to Joe McDonald and his family upon the news that his wife Karen, passed away on Sunday, January 6 at the age of 60. Details on a celebration of Karen’s life will be forthcoming.

I hear council approved themselves plus non-unionized employees and management (with the exception of the CAO) a two per cent raise effective April 1, 2012. This means that the Mayor’s annual pay packet from Georgina is $50,715. Georgina pays the Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor $31,270 a year and councillors each receive $21,676 a year. In addition, both the Mayor and Regional Councillor receive $50,104 a year from the Region. Councillor are paid $40 for every committee meeting they attend which could end up netting them an extra $1,500 a year at the committee level. I don’t know about you, but $23,000 or $24,000 a year for the amount of time a councillor spends managing the affairs of the municipality is not a lot of money.
Winter Magic...

AN ESCAPE TO DRINKWATERS LOUNGE

Winter is the perfect time to warm up with a hot drink by the fire in our cosy Drinkwaters’ Lounge. Choose from traditional favourites like our Signature Burger, Grilled Swordfish Sandwich or Pan Seared Trout. Or how about a dessert made by our Pastry Chef Duncan McLarty: Sticky Toffee Pudding, Apple Caramel Creme Brulee or Chocolate Molten Cake. All served in a relaxed setting with views of the lake.

SATURDAY DINNER & DANCING

Enjoy an evening away with your sweetheart or a group of friends for a relaxing dinner in The Briars Dining Room. Choose from Canadian fare like Maple-glazed Ontario Pork Chop, Sautéed Wild Pacific Halibut or Angus Strip Steak. Afterwards, dance to the music selections of DJ Dave Harwood. Reservations are required for the Saturday Dinner-Dance.

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The legendary and iconic music of Johnny Cash and June Carter will be celebrated at the Beaverton Town Hall on Friday and Saturday, January 18 and 19 at 8:00 pm.

The performance, called “Johnny Cash: From Memphis to Folsom” features Jim Yorfido in the lead role as “the man in black”. Mr. Yorfido has won rave reviews across North America for his portrayal of Johnny Cash and has been cast in an upcoming Hollywood movie called “Resurrection of the Guitar Hero”.

Mr. Yorfido says “From Memphis to Folsom” is a professionally scripted show that mixes wit and humorous dialogue woven together with great music.

“When you combine that with the real-life chemistry I have with the other cast members, it is a very entertaining combination,” he says.

Tickets for the performance are on sale for $25 and can be purchased on-line at www.BeavertonTownHallPlayers.com or from Maxine’s Fashions in Beaverton.
North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance wants a temporary freeze on Development until Town brings Official Plan into compliance

At the January 28, 2013 council meeting, North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance (NGFA) chair Jack Gibbons will ask Georgina council to pass an Interim Control By-law that could freeze development in eight specific areas of the North Gwillimbury forest and plug a development “loophole” for up to two years. The Maple Lake Estate lands owned by Metrus is one of the eight areas that would be affected by such a by-law.

In an interview with Mr. Gibbons, NGFA board member Jim Keenan and Tony Usher a planning consultant with Anthony Usher Planning, they explained that a freeze on development (until the Town of Georgina brings its Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw into conformity with the new environmental policies of the 2010 York Region Official Plan) would prevent development on lands that currently have “incompatible” zoning permissions.

“The Town needs to plug this loophole as soon as possible to ensure that all of the North Gwillimbury Forest’s wetlands and significant woodlands will be protected—forever,” Mr. Gibbons said.

According to Mr. Gibbons, the 2010 York Region Official Plan that was published in September 2012 includes a number of new natural heritage policies that protect the woodlands and wetlands within the North Gwillimbury Forest.

“Now that the regional Official Plan has been approved, the Town has to go back and review its Official Plan and zoning bylaw to bring it into conformity,” Mr. Gibbons said.

He says Georgina’s review process could take up to two years and the Interim Control Bylaw will prevent developers from moving forward with pre-approved or new development plans on the eight targeted sites while the review process is taking place.

“This will ensure that these ecologically sensitive areas remain intact as the Town works toward revising its Official Plan and zoning bylaw to bring them into compliance with the new regional plan and its prohibitions on development in these areas,” he said.

“We are talking about an opportunity for the Town to preserve a very crucial relationship between the land and the lake for future generations,” Mr. Keenan said.

Currently Metrus has a 25-year-old zoning approval to develop a 500 acre property into an adult only, trailer park community. In a previous statement from the company, they believe the 2012 York Region Official Plan does not affect these approvals. However, according to Mr. Usher, an Interim Control Bylaw would take precedence over previous approvals.

“It has the effect that despite anything else in the zoning bylaw it takes precedence over anything else for the period of time it is in effect which can only be a maximum of two years,” Mr. Usher said.

Although an Interim Control Bylaw has the power to temporarily freeze development, affected landowners can appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board to have the Interim Control Bylaw removed from their property. If council does not pass the bylaw, Mr. Gibbons says they could ask the Region to step in.

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The Sutton Kinettes are calling it the “hottest” event to hit Sutton all year! It’s a Zumba PJ Party to be held at the Kin Hall on Friday, January 11 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $20 each and there will be a “Penny Auction” and a door prize for those that come in their PJs. There will be five instructors for the 1.5 hour class. Funds raised will go toward Cystic Fibrosis and local community groups and projects.

The first Town of Georgina council meeting of 2013 will be held at the Civic Centre at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 14. Please check the Town’s website at www.townofgeorgina.ca for the agenda.

The first Morning Glory School Council Meeting will be held on Monday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the school. These meetings are open to all parents and everyone is welcome.

On Friday, January 18 and Saturday, January 19, the Beaverton Town Hall will be the place to be if you want to catch the Johnny Cash: From Memphis to Folsom performance starring Jim Yorfido.

Performances start at 8:00 p.m. and you can get tickets by visiting www.BeavertonTownHallPlayers.com or at Maxine’s Fashions in Beaverton.

It is a blast from the past. Take a look a yesteryear when you visit Antiques on Highway 48 during their store-wide sale on Saturday and Sunday, January 19 and 20. 20% off everything!

Patsy Cline’s 50th Anniversary Show is coming to Keswick on Saturday, February 2 at 8:00 p.m. The music and life of legendary Patsy Cline will be portrayed by Marie Bottrell, a Juno nominee and Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame inductee. Tickets can be purchased by calling (905) 476-0193.

Pefferlaw Ice Pad Committee is still looking for volunteers. Please call (705) 437-1080.

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