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Pefferlaw
THE POST

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YRP Chief recommends charges be dropped in Keswick High School fight

At a press conference on May 6, 2009, Chief Armand La Barge admitted his officers acted "hastily" in laying a charge of assault causing bodily harm against a 15 year old grade nine student at Keswick High School after a fight broke out in gym class. As a result, Chief La Barge has recommended to the Crown Attourney's office that the charges be dropped.

The charge was the direct result of a verbal confrontation that escalated into a physical fight with punches thrown by both youths after an aggressive game of speedball during gym class on April 22. The altercation left one boy with a broken nose and the other, a victim of a racial slur and bloody lip.

When two York Regional Police School Resource Officers initially investigated the incident at the request of school officials, they charged a Korean youth with assault causing bodily harm when a punch to the face of his opponent resulted in a broken nose, a separated septum and a mild concussion.

The following day, more than 400 students left their classrooms at the school and staged a demonstration outside protesting the police decision to charge only one youth.

Chief La Barge credited the student demonstration with his decision to order a full investigation of the incident—an investigation that included interviewing 35 witnesses over a two-week period.

"We still believe there were reasonable grounds to lay the charge. However, upon further investigation and review of the facts surrounding the fight in question including the provocation in the form of uttering a racial slur...I have recommended that the crown attorney review the charge that has been laid against the boy in order to determine if it is in the public interest to proceed with the prosecution of this young person," Chief La Barge said.

The student demonstration protesting unfair treatment of the Korean youth by police and school officials attracted a media storm of publicity and Chief La Barge said he has received feedback on the story from across Canada and as far away as Australia.

When asked by the Pefferlaw Post if he accepted responsibility for the damage the resulting publicity did to the reputation of the community, Chief La Barge handily admitted he shouldered the blame.

"I accept full responsibility for all the actions of my officers and all of the consequences that flow from that," he said, adding... "I think the officers discounted the impact that the racial slur had on the situation...and that needed to be taken into consideration and needed to be investigated. That type of investigation needed to take place and I was disappointed that it did not take place at the onset," Chief La Barge said.

Initially both students were suspended from classes for 20 days and the 15 year-old Korean youth that was charged was sent a letter saying the board was considering expulsion from all York Board schools. The Manager of Public Affairs for the York Region District School Board, Russ Virgo, however, admits that letter was sent out in error.

Both youths and their parents met with school officials on Monday, May 4 for a restorative justice conference where both students had their suspensions lifted after apologizing to each other and expressing remorse. They began attending classes again on Tuesday, May 5.

In an interview with the Pefferlaw Post on Monday, May 4, the 15 year-old Korean youth said he was happy to be going back to class and is glad his attacker apologized and admitted to throwing the first punch. "Now everyone knows the truth of what happened," he said. "I just want to go back to school and not talk about it anymore but I do want to thank everyone there for their support."

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Are ER wait times worse instead of better?

It seems to me that every time a new provincial budget comes out, the party in power tells us that they are investing more and more money to reduce wait times in the emergency rooms of our hospitals. Take the latest one for example. The 2009 Liberal budget has assigned $361 million to implement an ER Wait Time Strategy which is supposed to speed up the processing of patients that find themselves in hospital emergency rooms.

To my way of thinking, the bottleneck in an ER room seems to be the front line support system (doctors and nurses) together with bed availability. I've looked at the ER Wait Time Strategy and I don't see very much in there that speaks to breaking up that bottleneck.

The strategy includes implementing a Chronic Disease Prevention Management Strategy; developing a Health Care Options website; implementing a Health Care Connect program; creating Long-Term Care Outreach Teams; establishing an Aging at Home Strategy; and increasing Home Care.

While I don't rebuke these initiatives, I fail to see how they directly address the shortage of doctors, nurses or hospital beds—three factors which directly impact ER waiting times. Instead, these initiatives seem to be focused on reducing the number of emergency room visits a hospital experiences in a year. That is a hard sell when a person who becomes ill has no other option than to hurry to his local hospital emergency room because his doctor no longer has health care professionals on call at all hours.

So it is time our elected officials faced the fact that when an Ontario resident falls ill beyond regular office hours for a doctor, their first impulse will be to go to the closest hospital emergency room.

There is a new emergency room reporting website that provides average wait times in hospitals across Ontario.

I took a look at the site and here is some of the information I uncovered on local area emergency rooms.

First of all, the provincial target for waiting time for a complex condition is eight hours and four hours for a minor condition.

According to the ER Reporting System on the website, the provincial reality is 13.1 hours for a complex condition and 4.7 hours for a minor condition.

On a hospital by hospital basis, Southlake Regional Health Centre processes 5,830 ER visits a year and has a 14.8 hour wait time for complex and 3.9 hour wait time for minor.

Uxbridge Cottage Hospital processes 1,223 patients and has a 7.9 hour wait time for complex and a 4.2 hour wait time for minor.

Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay looks at 3,163 patients in ER and posts a 19.8 wait time for complex and 4.3 hours for minor.

I don't know about you, but a 14 to 19 hour wait time in an emergency room is unacceptable to me especially when 43 cents of every tax dollar I pay goes toward the health care system. Obviously it isn't going where it is most needed.

Karen Wolfe, Editor

Pefferlaw THE POST
Serving Pefferlaw, Virginia, Port Bolster, Udora, Wilfrid, Sutton, Jackson's Point and Georgina Island

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Bti application completed

It only took three days to cover more than 1,195 hectares (nearly 3,000 acres) of mosquito breeding sites in Pefferlaw with the biological larvicide known as Bti (bacillus thuringiensis israelensis) using a Bell 250 helicopter for the aerial application and back packs for ground crews.

Pestalto Environmental Health Services, the company contracted by the Town of Georgina to deliver the mosquito control program, used a Zimmer Air Services helicopter to deliver 5,700 kilograms of the granular larvicide commonly known as Vectobac 200G between April 23 and April 26. Ten litres of VectoBac 1200L were used by ground crews.

A pilot with Zimmer Air Services prepares to lift off in his Bell 250 helicopter to deliver Bti coated corn granules to mosquito breeding sites

The helicopter was equipped with a geographic information system (GIS) which was preloaded with the coordinates of areas to be treated and areas not to be treated. Crew members loaded a specially designed hopper attached to the helicopter with VectoBac 200 which was then fed through a delivery system incorporating a boom to distribute the granular material.

According to Kevin Taylor, a regional coordinator for Pestalto, the 2009 mosquito control program is expected to be quite effective since crews were able to monitor the development of the mosquito larvae before hand and were able to determine the most optimum time to treat them.

"Ideally what we wanted was the spring species to be in the third and fourth instar stage of development," Mr. Taylor said. "And I think our timing was very good because we got the spring species and the start of some of the summer species."

Crews will be out monitoring until May 15 taking samples inside and outside the protected zone. Their findings will be the basis of a report to council sometime in June which will spell out the level of mosquito population reduction the program achieved.

According to Mr. Taylor, the Pefferlaw area has between 30 and 40 types of mosquito species. Only 52 species are known to all of Ontario.

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Red Barn season will go ahead

After much deliberation and reviewing of options, the board of the Lake Simcoe Arts Foundation has agreed to stage the 2009 60th Anniversary season of the Red Barn Theatre at the Sephen Leacock Theatre in Keswick after a devastating fire reduced the historic Red Barn to ashes on Saturday, April 18.

The season will kick off with the Glass Menagerie on June 18 to July 4, a production that was originally performed during the inaugural 1949 season at the theatre.

From July 9 to 25, the Red Barn Theatre will present the comedy, The Melville Boys, followed by one of the world's longest running musicals, The Fantasticks, from July 30 to August 15.

The season will close out with another comedy called Harvest which will run from August 20 to September 5.

According to Executive Director of the Red Barn, Wendy Fairbairn, the Lake Simcoe Arts Foundation is committed to keeping the spirit of the Red Barn Theatre alive and well in Jackson's Point during its temporary relocation to Keswick.

"A series of events will take place on the Red Barn site this summer under a tent which has been generously donated by All Reasons Party Rentals," Ms. Fairbairn says. "Expect some great things happening in Jackson's Point this summer."

A number of fund raising events that are designed to raise money to construct a new building for the theatre on the historic Red Barn site are already underway and include collections during the production of Anne of Green Gables in Aurora, a 50s & 60s dance in Newmarket and a Gala Fundraising event at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts.

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Pefferlaw River Canoe Run

Hospice Georgina will be the beneficiary of a $2,500 donation from the Udora Leaskdale Lions Club after pledges were collected from the 67 entries participating in the club sponsored Annual Pefferlaw River Canoe Run.

According to club member Russ Burton, the event attracted 55 canoe and 10 kayak teams which ran 15 kilometers of Pefferlaw River from Zephyr to the Pefferlaw dam. First in was kayaker Ed Winacott with a time of one hour and 17 minutes. Ed said that was his best time for this event. Mr. Winacott is a member of the National Wild Water Team and was using the run as a worm up for his competitive events.

"I usually average five minutes per kilometer and so much can affect your speed. But the current was good this year and there was only one section of snags," he said.

Coming in second was Mark Harnett and his brother Craig. They admitted to pulling over three times during the run to bail out their leaky canoe but still managed to do the course in under two hours.

Ed Winacott, a member of Canada's National Wild Water team paddles easily to the finish line at the Pefferlaw dam with a time of 1:17.

Despite stopping three times to bail out their leaky canoe, brother team Mark (left) and Craig Harnett (right) come in second with a time of just under two hours.

Tennyson Tidbits

David Weir welcomes home **Carolina Munoz** and daughters Vanessa, Nicole and Victoria who have just returned from a three week visit to Caracas to visit Carolina's mother.

Happy Birthday greetings go out to David Kortko who celebrated his special day on May 4. Cheers David.

And **Tracey Chandler** will celebrate a birthday on May 13. Hope it is a good one Tracey!

The community of Udora will bid a fond farewell to **Lynn and Mark Washington** on May 12 at the Udora Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Lynn has operated the Udora General Store for 17 years and recently sold it to Sylvia Lents and Mark Ratte who take over on May 14. Lynn and Mark will make their new home in Burlington.

Wendy Schell received a surprise visit from her daughter **Chantelle** who lives in Iqualuit in Nunavut. Chantelle was able to visit Mom and spend some time with her grandfather, Orval Schell, who has been ill recently.

The Pefferlaw Library has announced that they stock **bottles for water testing**. Filled bottles can be delivered to the Civic Centre.

Congratulations to the locally sponsored **Buchner Bucaneers** upon defeating Fenelon Falls to win the Victoria County Women's Hockey Championship. Thank you girls for a successful season.

Get well wishes go out to **John Dalimore** who returned home recently to recover from a hip operation. I hear Velvet was glad to have him home.

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GTTI the Learning Centre for Georgina & Sutton Employment Resource Centre would like to introduce a program to improve the Skills, Education & Training of participants. Become job ready in four months for a career in the service, motive power, and construction sectors.

There is NO COST to enroll in this program.
Space is limited.

Support for this program was made possible through the York Region Community and Health Services Department's Community Development Investment Fund.

WHMIS Awareness **$10.00**
May 14th, 2009 9:30 am—11:30 am
Location: GTTI-5207 Baseline Rd., Sutton

Smart Serve Training **$30.00**
May 21st, 2009 9:30 am—1:00 pm
Location: GTTI–5207 Baseline Rd., Sutton

To register or for more information on any of the above courses or sessions please contact GTTI

Ooops! I goofed

And, I can't explain it.
I was invited by a member of the Pefferlaw Anglers Club to go down to the Pefferlaw River to photograph the spawning of the pickerel. But when I got back to my office to write a short story about this for the April 24 issue, I mistakenly called them "speckled trout" instead of pickerel. I guess it is what I could politely call a "brain burb".
I apologize for any inconvenience this error may have caused and I particularly want to apologize to Charlie Cowperthwaite and the Pefferlaw Anglers Club.
As penance, I promise to write out the word "pickerel" 100 times.

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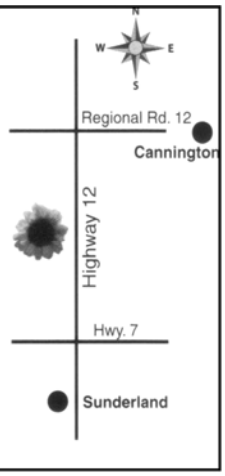


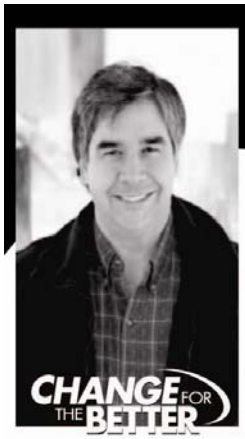
Cryderman's Chronicles

Nicole Beaudrow tells me that the **Mansion House** in Sutton has been sold to Hua Lu a.k.a. Louis. Louis took over the business on April 30 and he says that he has no immediate plans to make any drastic changes outside of revising the menu a little. Congratulations Louis and welcome to Georgina!

The Community Oriented Response Unit of the York Regional Police in partnership with the York Region Branch of St. John Ambulance are inviting residents of Georgina to attend a **Car Seat Inspection Clinic** at the Civic Centre from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 23. Volunteer technicians will conduct inspections on a first-com, first-served basis and each inspection will take approximately half an hour.

Congratulations to the **Sutton Ladies Bowling League** who recently celebrated 60 years of bowling during a party at Jackson's Place in Jackson's Point. The league was presented with a plaque by Ken Hackenbrook and early bowlers Irene Sedore, Grace Cooper and Audrey Whitcombe were present to cut the cake. The league started at the Kaiser Bowling Alley on High St. in Sutton which is now a convenience store and moved to the Island Grove Bowling alley in 1971. With the collapse of that building last year, the league moved to Rock and Bowl in Baldwin. Audrey Whitcombe tells us that the pin boy at the Kaiser Bowling Alley would make $4 **a year** setting up pins! How times have changed. Congratulations Ladies!

Looks like we have another **public water source** in addition to the one on High St. User can now fill up at a community water tap located on Black River Rd. on the east side of Park Rd.



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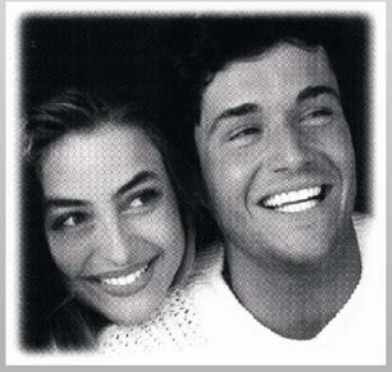

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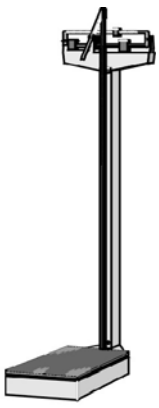

Pefferlaw travel agency to open office in Keswick

Valhalla Travel, a Pefferlaw-based travel agency, will be opening an office in Keswick at 131 The Queensway S. on June 1.

According to Valhalla spokesperson John Sondrup, the company has experienced significant growth from within the greater Pefferlaw area, including Beaverton, Cannington and Sunderland, and is excited to be offering their services to the residents of Keswick.

"We are starting to see the business come back from on-line bookings and with Keswick expanding into a metropolis, we want to be able to offer them our services," Mr. Sondrup said adding, as a TICO approved agency, customers would be fully covered and insured against travel disruptions experienced by the recent fall of Conquest.

Valhalla Travel will celebrate a soft opening ceremony on June 1 and it has scheduled its grand opening for August 6.

Georgina to host six medical students

For the third year in a row, the Georgina Community Health Care Committee (GCHCC) will participate in Rural Medicine Week by playing host to six medical students from the University of Toronto.

According to Dr. Bob Bebbington in Pefferlaw, Georgina is underserviced by eight physicians and Rural Medicine Week is one recruiting tool that has proven successful in other communities.

Members of the recruiting committee have made arrangements for the medical students to live in the community from May 31 to June 5. As hosts, GCHCC will provide gift baskets, meals and social activities for the students while showcasing the Georgina community.

"The GCHCC has recently adopted the recruiting slogan 'Practice Where You Play' and Rural Medicine Week is an exciting opportunity for us to showcase our community to these students as a great place to practice and live," said Dr. Bebbington.

"We are inviting local businesses to show their support during Rural Medicine Week by making a donation to our basket of local goods," Dr. Bebbington said.

As an underserviced area with the potential to experience a population growth in coming years, Dr. Bebbington says the GCHCC is concerned about the increased strain on the healthcare system in the area.

"Physician recruitment is a significant problem for our community and many others, hence, there is a huge competition for both current and graduating physicians," he said. "Those of us who have a family doctor are very lucky but thousands of local residents are without a family physician."

The medical students scheduled to participate are Phil Xu Zhang, Chris Gilchrist, Susanna Zachara, Karen-Rose Wilson, Matthew Orava and Stephano Chang.

"We want them to have a great experience so they will remember Georgina for future training and again when they are ready to set up a practice," Dr. Bebbington says.

"The students will be working with doctors, nurse practitioners and other local health professionals."

Businesses wanting to contribute to the gift baskets can call Deb Hare at (905) 722-9534.

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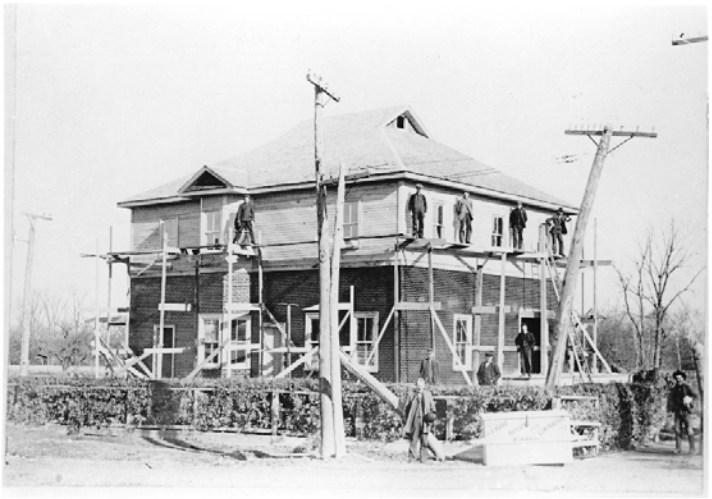

This photo, circa November 1908, depicts the construction of the old Sutton Radial Train Station located on the corner of Dalton Rd. and High St. in 1908.
It was one of two train stations belonging to the Toronto and York Radial Railway Co. that was constructed as a two-storey building to house the station agent and his family, After the radial trains ceased running in 1930, the building was retained by the hydro company and was known for years as the Sutton Hydro building. Since then the building has been home to various real estate firms and is currently up for sale.

Celebrating growth at the Big Tig

Over 10,000 customers and well-wishers came out on Saturday, May 2 to help the staff at Giant Tiger in Sutton celebrate the grand opening of their new expansion on Dalton Road.
Balloons, a BBQ and over-grown mascots were on hand throughout the day and according to Dave Thorpe, VP of Marketing, the event raised $1,135 in hotdog and soft drink sales to be split evenly between the Food Pantry and Sandgate Women's Shelter.
The new Giant Tiger store now boasts 14,500 sq. ft. of retail space offering customers a greater selection of goods in a more spacious environment.

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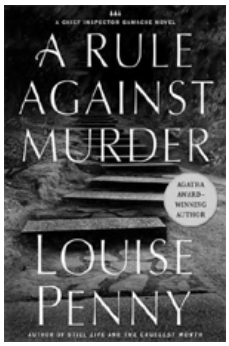
Library One Book One Community

Georgina Public Libraries have selected to feature the works of celebrated Canadian author Louise Penny for their One Book, One Community reading event this year.



The "One Book, One Community" event resonates like a community book club offering residents an opportunity to read and discuss a variety of mystery novels written by Louise Penny. The selections include "A Rule Against Murder", "The Cruelest Month", "Fatal Grace", and "Still Life".

"Rule Against Murder" is the fourth in a series of mysteries which plot the investigations of Chief Inspector Gamache. The first in the series was "Still Life". Ms. Penny recently won the Agatha for Best Novel award for "The Cruelest Month", her second in a row.

The Georgina Public Libraries have organized a series of literary events around the books which are designed to engage readers in activities that complement the books.

First up is a mystery dinner theatre at the Egypt Hall on Saturday, June 6 at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are $40 each and that includes dinner and the show.

Next, readers will be invited to participate in a Geo-caching Summer Mystery event that will require participates to use GPS coordinates to locate clues hidden throughout Georgina.

The Grand Finale on October 23 will give readers an opportunity to meet author Louise Penny.

The Louise Penny titles are available at all Georgina library locations in a variety of formats.

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South Paw Trading Post responds to the call of the wild

Owner Karen Freels likes unique things and has spent months researching suppliers and manufacturers throughout North America to stock her new enterprise, South Paw Trading Post, with just the right collection of lodge and cottage décor.

Located on the bend of Highway 48 at Sutton beside the Anchor Restaurant, Ms. Freels is convinced that her prime highway location and her eclectic collection of cedar log furniture, Navajo pottery, wildlife themed artwork and house wares will be a hit among tourists and locals alike.

Karen Freels is getting ready for the grand opening of her new trading post by stocking items that are unique and complement the store's natural atmosphere and old world charm.

Ms. Freels said she was anxious to offer patrons a wide range of price points and her new shop provides shoppers with an extensive selection of both high end items and lower priced stock.

"The items in my store include some higher end products but I also have less expensive items. If someone wanted to spend $500 they can and if someone wanted to spend $25 and under, they can," Ms. Freels said.

In terms of quality, she shies away from offshore, imported items from China and prefers to showcase North American made items. Discerning buyers will recognize product lines from Mill Creek Studios, Leanin' Tree and more.

Ms. Freels has also made a point of stocking the South Paw Trading Post with objets d' art by local artisans and locally produced specialty products. In particular, she offers a full line of hand-made spirit lures by native carver Alfie Fishgap of the Salish First Nations and Todd Jamieson, a native painter of the Oneida Nation.

Patrons will also find the artwork of Sutton resident and wild life artist Lisa Charlton in the store together with chain saw sculptures from a character carver from Bolsover. In addition, the South Paw Trading Post offers a full line of hot sauces and condiments from Pefferlaw supplier, Hot Mamas.

With 1,400 sq. ft. of retail space, Ms. Freels presents her array of goods on shelving and display cases made from 100 year-old barn boards and hand-hewn logs—a feature that helps create the trading post atmosphere, she says.

"There is no place locally that has what we have," Ms. Freels says. "We have a good location here and there are so many people coming up to the provincial park and it's the first trading post they hit north of Toronto," she said. "I wanted to create something unique with a warm welcoming atmosphere that offers fair prices and personal customer service," she said.

In addition to the lodge and cottage décor, visitors to the South Paw Trading Post are able to buy old English fudge, maple syrup, cow hide rugs and pillows, greeting cards, fishing tackle, T-shirts, sweatshirts and even firewood for a campsite.

"For me, this is something I love—I love wildlife, the lodge look, the warmth of the wood and nature," Ms. Freels said. "So I guess I'm living vicariously through my store."

The South Paw Trading Post will celebrate its grand opening on May 8, 9, and 10 and Ms. Freels expects to be open year round changing her stock to reflect the changing seasons.

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Coming Events & Announcements

The interactive re-enactment of the **1837 Rise to Rebellion** takes place on May 8, 9, 10 at the Georgina Pioneer Village. May 8 is education day and the public is welcome to join the commotion on May 9 and 10 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. A special Mother's Day Tea is being offered at the Noble House on Sunday, May 10 for only $4.

Jericho Youth Services is hosting a dance for youth from 9 to 13 years of age on Friday, May 8 at Black River/St. Bernadette's gym. Tickets cost $5.

Visit the **Georgina Home and Lifestyle Show** at the Ice Palace in Keswick this weekend. Open May 8 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm; May 9 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and May 10 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Celebrate **Police Week** (May 9 to May 16) with a tour of the York Regional Police District Headquarters in Sutton from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

There will be a **Mother's Day Breakfast** on May 10 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Beaverton Legion on Mara Rd. Legion staff will be holding a Chinese Auction and draws for Moms. Call (705) 426-7852.

The Georgina Brock Garden Club's **Annual Plant and Pie Auction** at the Wilfrid Hall takes place on Monday, May 11. Viewing at 6:30 pm and auction at 7:00.

The Georgina **Lawn Bowling Club** is inviting youth 10 years old and up and adults to come out and join the fun. Free Lessons. Call (905) 722-9534.

On the Victoria Day weekend, the **Ontario Artists Arts Festival** will be held at the Sharon Temple Historic Site & Museum on Leslie St. in Sharon on May 16 and 17. Show open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

On May 13, Knox United Church in Sutton will host a free presentation by Southlake Regional Health Centre on the new **Regional Cancer Centre**. Starts at 7:30 p.m.

The **Georgina Damselflyers Dragon Boat Team** is hosting a fundraising yard and bake sale on May 23 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at Community Living on Hwy. 48.

The **Georgina Historical Society** will present a discussion on Mystery of Mounds, a First Nations collection of antiquities on Sat. May 24 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Pioneer Village.

The Pefferlaw Ice Pad Committee is hosting a **car rally** on May 24 that encompasses all of Georgina. 9:00 a.m. start. $30/vehicle. To pre-register call (705) 437-4409.

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