

Since 1998

East Gwillimbury's

# Bulletin

**MAGAZINE**

MARCH 2013, VOL. 15, NO. 2



**HOME DECOR • GREAT FOOD • EAST GWILLIMBURY • SPORTS**

**HOLLAND LANDING, SHARON, QUEENSVILLE, MOUNT ALBERT & AREA**

# YOUR GUIDE TO MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVALS

## Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival

It's a sure sign of spring. Come out and 'tap into nature.' Demonstrations, wagon rides, activities and, of course, pancakes and maple syrup! Check our special March Break and Easter activities.

March 2 to April 7, 2013

Kortright Centre, 9550 Pine Valley Drive, Woodbridge

Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, Stouffville

## PURPLE WOODS CONSERVATION AREA, OSHAWA

With the approach of spring a person may be sure of several things: birds will be singing and pancakes will be flipping at the 38th Annual Maple Syrup Festival at Purple Woods Conservation Area in Oshawa. See how maple syrup was made over 400 years ago through to the modern methods of today, take a horse-drawn wagon ride and enjoy some hot pancakes. Please wear appropriate footwear. Sorry no pets allowed at the Festival. (Service animals allowed.)

Sat. & Sun. March 2, 3 March Break: March 9 to 17 Sat.& Sun. March 23, 24, 2013

10:00 am to 2:30 pm

## Horton Tree Farms Maple Syrup Festival

Enjoy the simple pleasure of being in the fragrant maple woods on a crisp March or April day. Smell the sweet aroma from the sugar shack as the maple sap is boiled down to syrup. Savour the hot pancakes fresh off the griddle smothered with our homemade maple syrup in the old log cabin. We have been welcoming people to our traditional, family-run operation since 1963.

Saturdays and Sundays: March 9 to April 7 and Good Friday March 29

9am to 4pm • 5924 Slater Road (Warden Ave & Aurora Rd)

## Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival

People travel great distances each year to see what riches the little town of Sunderland has to offer. They come to join in the festival fun and to be part of a small town community filled with love, drive and spirit. Everyone enjoys the exciting variety of events taking place during the festival weekend. Available for your pleasure: all day pancakes, horse and wagon rides, lots of delicious food, Arts and Crafts at the School, Fine Art Show in The Town Hall, bus tours to the Sugar Bush and Salem Alpacas, Maple Syrup for sale, variety of vendors, Dances and Storytelling by the Chippewa Native Indians, Military displays and activities by Blades of Glory, wood carving and blacksmith demonstrations and much more!

April 6 and 7, 2013 • 10:00 am to 2:30 pm



# Enter to WIN

The first four (4) correct answers to the question below will win a ticket to attend the East Gwillimbury Women's Show on April 13, 2013 at the Holland Landing C.C.

Please email your answer to [info@thebulletinmagazine.com](mailto:info@thebulletinmagazine.com) with your name and phone number with 'Contest' in the subject line.

Question:  
What is the name of the founder of the East Gwillimbury Women's Show?

GOOD LUCK!

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Contributors: Susan Crema-Martin, Anne Hill, Lee Landers, Susan Boyne-Bird, Ian Hawkins, Vicki Pinkerton, Brandi McCarthy

### **ON THE COVER:**

Winter has a beautiful side to it...  
Branches covered with ice after a storm.

Photo: Christine Bennis

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*March is going to be a busy month... Not only do the clocks change for Daylight Savings (spring forward); St. Patty's Day, March Break and even Easter will be taking place this month... check out all the fun things to do locally.*

*It's been a busy month, well few months around our home!*

*As some of our readers may have heard about the new wakeboard cable park opening in East Gwillimbury.... Ross (hubby), Ian Bowie and myself look forward to welcoming you all to the wake park this summer! It will be great fun.*

*One of the first things I'm asked when someone hears about our new venture... and the answer is YES! The Bulletin Magazine will carry on as usual... serving the community of East Gwillimbury as it has for the last 15 years. Till next time,*



*Christine*

# NOTEWORTHY...

## EAST GWILLIMBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wants you to tell us how you would improve your library. Email us at [info@egpl.ca](mailto:info@egpl.ca)  
Send us a message on Facebook  
Come in & fill out a comment card  
Get your copy of the library's Strategic Plan 2012-2017 at your local branch today!

## TRAVEL ALERT APP

Download the York Region Travel Alert App and get personalized, traffic reports providing informative, real-time traffic updates on York Region roads. Hands-free visual and audio feedback provides alerts to delays on your route and provides alternate detour routes to avoid traffic delays.

Personalized traffic reporting providing informative, real-time traffic updates on York Region roads.

Hands-free option alerts you to any unexpected delays on your route.

Includes safety landmarks such as community safety zones and speed limit reductions. Travel Alert also comes with a list of pre-loaded community favourites for popular destinations such as Richmond Hill to the Hollidge Tract in the York Regional Forest, Toronto to Canada's Wonderland, Stouffville to the 404 and Highway 7 Business Area.

Travel Alert provides alternate detour routes giving you time to adjust your route to avoid delays.

## YORK REGIONAL POLICE FREE COMMUNITY SKATE

Join us between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., at the Georgina Ice Palace located at 90 Wexford Drive. Skate with police officers and the YRP mascots. Free hot chocolate and snacks are available. Admission is a non-perishable food item for the Georgina Food Bank.



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# What's On

## **Saturday, March 9**

### **E.G. Trail Walk**

Bendor Graves Regional Forest Tract.  
Kennedy Road, 500 metres north of  
Davis Drive. Meet at 9 am, dressed for  
the weather.

## **Sunday, March 10**

### **Writers' Community of York Region**

Meeting featuring literary agent Meghan  
MacDonald Newmarket CC and Lions  
Hall, 200 Doug Duncan Dr, 12:30 pm  
[www.wcyork.ca](http://www.wcyork.ca)

## **Tuesday, March 12**

### **York Simcoe Naturalists Club**

General Meeting  
7:30 pm. Speaker: Gloria Marsh,  
Executive Director of York Region  
Environmental Alliance talking about  
organic lawn care. River Drive Park  
Community Centre, 20 Oak Avenue in  
River Drive Park (off the Queensville  
Sideroad, north of Holland Landing).  
Refreshments will be served. Please  
lug a mug. [www.ysnaturalists.ca](http://www.ysnaturalists.ca) or  
[ysnclub@yahoo.ca](mailto:ysnclub@yahoo.ca).

## **Wednesday, March 13**

### **Tuesday March 26**

### **Free CA Tax Clinics**

EG Public Library - Holland Landing  
19513 Yonge Street. 6 - 8 pm  
Saturday March 16 from 10 to 1.  
Pre-qualification and pre-registration  
required. Call 905-836-6492 or visit the  
branch for info.

## **Tuesday, March 19**

### **Mt. Albert U.C. Community Luncheon**

41 Alice Street  
11:30 am to 1:00 pm., Cost \$7

## **Tuesday, March 19**

### **East Gwillimbury Gardener's**

7:30 pm. WAKING THE GARDEN with  
Sabrina Selvaggi. All welcome visitors

pay \$2. Mount Albert Community  
Centre, 53 Main St. 905-478-8450 or  
visit <http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/mountalbert>

## **Tuesday, March 19**

### **Newmarket Horticultural Society**

8:00 pm. Guest: David Naylor - The  
Wonderful World of Cacti and other  
Succulents. 905-898-2635 or [www.gardennewmarket.ca](http://www.gardennewmarket.ca)

## **Wednesday, March 20**

### **Mount Albert Village Association's Monthly Director's Meeting**

7pm-9pm. \$10 membership anytime.  
Mount Albert Community Centre Hall  
Lower Level. All Welcome!  
[www.mountalbert.com](http://www.mountalbert.com)

### **Every Monday and Wednesday Holland Landing Storybook House**

A free resource centre for families/  
caregivers with children from birth to 5  
years of age. Join us for socialization,  
stories, songs, fingerplays, waterplay,  
playdough, music and movement. 930  
am – 11:30 am at Holland Landing  
Public School, 16 Holland River Blvd.,  
Holland Landing. 905-836-8916. Closed  
school holidays and July/August.

### **Every Wednesday of the Month Self Employment Benefit (OSEB) Program**

The Ontario Self Employment Benefit  
program helps eligible, unemployed  
individuals to start their own business.  
To learn more or to register for a session  
call 905-952-0981. Job Skills, 17915  
Leslie Street. [www.jobskills.org](http://www.jobskills.org)

### **Every 3rd Thursday of the Month H.L. Country & Western Jamboree**

Holland Landing Community Centre.  
7 pm to 11 pm. All are welcome.  
Jacquie or Walt at 905-473-7072 for  
info.

### **Now Until the End of March EG Group of Artists Show & Sale**

Newmarket Theatre, 505 Pickering Cres  
1-5:30 Monday-Friday, 12-4 Saturdays  
Paintings, pen and ink work, and  
photography hanging in the theatre  
foyer. All art work is for sale, with a  
percentage of sales going to support  
the theatre.

## **Saturday, March 23**

### **9th Annual Cabin Fever Reliever**

Silent Auction Charity Fundraiser  
7:00 pm, \$20/ticket  
Mount Albert CC, 53 Main Street  
Full proceeds go to the programs and  
operational costs of The Family Place-  
YNFRP. [www.ynfrp.org](http://www.ynfrp.org) or 905-473-5929

## **Tuesday, April 2**

### **Mount Albert Village Association's Special Members' Meeting - Strategic Direction Discussion**

- Everyone is welcome to attend and  
share your thoughts and ideas. Please  
note: Annual membership donation  
will be required for non-members  
attending.

## **Tuesdays & Saturdays**

### **April 20-June 25**

Ltd. Cycling Spring Training Camps  
NCCP certified training coach Paul  
Cooney offers a program to introduce a  
fun, positive and affordable grassroots  
youth cycling program. For info contact  
[paulcooneyltd@yahoo.ca](mailto:paulcooneyltd@yahoo.ca)

# What's On

## OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP

Join the Town of East Gwillimbury Environmental Advisory Committee April 19-21 in the 7th Annual Town-Wide Litter Clean Up Initiative. To register and for more information visit [www.pitch-in.ca](http://www.pitch-in.ca) or [www.eastgwillimbury.ca](http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca). By registering, your group will receive free gloves, garbage bags, garbage bin locations and be rewarded with a community involvement recognition certificate.



## E-WASTE RECYCLING EVENT

**Saturday, April 6**

10 am to 4 pm. No Cost, No Data Risk  
GO STATION located at 845 Green Lane, East Gwillimbury. Bring all your unwanted, broken or obsolete electronics. Holland Landing Lions Club will be hosting a BBQ. For info visit [www.artexenvironmental.com](http://www.artexenvironmental.com)

## MARCH BREAK PUBLIC SKATING @ EG Sports Complex

Monday March 11 • 10:00am-11:50am  
Tuesday March 12 • 1:00pm-2:50pm  
Wednesday March 13 • 1:30am-3:20pm  
Thursday March 14 • 10:00pm-11:50am  
Friday March 15 • 1:00pm-2:50pm

Adults \$2 - Youth (under 16) \$1

## Author Reading with Camilla Gibb

*Internationally acclaimed author Camilla Gibb has written four novels. Her books have been published in 18 countries and translated into 14 languages. She was named by the jury of the prestigious Orange Prize as one of 21 writers to watch in the new century. She is probably best known for 'Sweetness in the Belly', which was short-listed for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and won the Trillium Award. Her latest book, 'The Beauty of the Humanity Movement', is a fictional portrayal of contemporary Viet Nam.*

*Camilla was born in London, England, and grew up in Toronto. She has been writer-in-residence at the University of Toronto and the University of Alberta. She is currently an adjunct faculty member of the graduate creative writing programs at the University of Guelph-Humber and the University of Toronto, and is the Barker Fairley Distinguished Visitor at the University of Toronto this fall. She is currently working on a memoir and a new novel.*

*Join her on Thursday March 7 at 7:30 pm at the Civic Centre on Leslie St. in Sharon (beside the Sharon Temple). Tickets are \$10 (\$8 for members) and include a reception and book signing. They will be available at the Holland Landing and Mount Albert branches.*

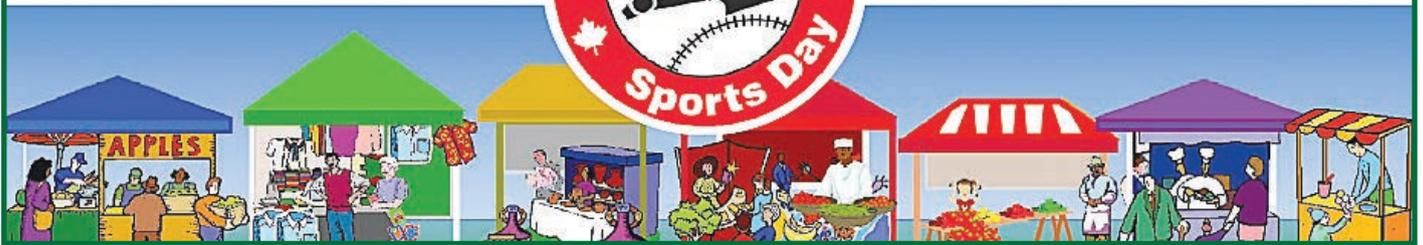
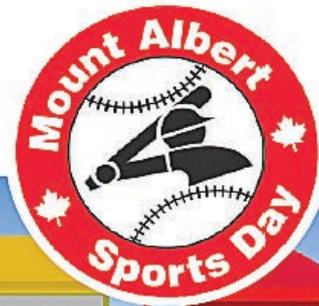
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# VENDORS, ARTISANS, CRAFTERS, COMMUNITY GROUPS

Register now for the all new Vendors' Street Market **June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
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## Could This Help Your Arthritis?

Do you have any of the these arthritic problems?

- Osteoarthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Bursitis/tendonitis
- Degenerative joint disease
- Lumbar disc problems
- Aching pain in the arms or legs

**Joint Pain Is Not Just 'Old Age'**

Have you had one health professional after another telling you arthritis is just the natural process of the body getting older - that you should expect to have arthritis. Sure, if you don't take care of your damaged joints now, as you get older they will be worse (which is why you shouldn't wait any longer to see if I can help you.)

However, old age is not the cause of your arthritis. I'll venture to say all 360 joints in your body are the same age, yet arthritis and joint degeneration has not affected every one of them - only your previously injured joints that never healed properly.

My name is Dr. Chad Morton, owner of Mount Albert Chiropractic and Wellness Centre. Over the past 10 years since we've opened the doors, I've seen hundreds of people in the East Gwillimbury area come in suffering with arthritis and leave the office pain free.

Here's what some of the top medical researchers had to say about chiropractic:

"Manipulation [chiropractic adjustments], with or without exercise, improved symptoms more than medical care did after both 3 and 12 months." - *British Medical Journal*

"Chiropractor's manipulation of the spine was more helpful than any of the following: traction, massage, biofeedback, acupuncture, injection of steroids into the spine and back corsets, and ultrasound." -- *Stanley Bigos, MD, Professor of Orthopedic Surgery*

Here's your opportunity to find out what chiropractic care can do for your arthritis. Just call before **March 21** and you'll get my "Arthritis Evaluation" for only **\$35**.

- An in-depth consultation about your arthritis where I will listen to your health concerns.
- A complete nerve, muscle and spinal exam to assess the "cause" of your problem. (X-rays if necessary)
- A thorough analysis of your exam and x-ray findings so I can show you how to fix the problem.

I'll answer all your questions about chiropractic and arthritis pain.

To take advantage of this special offer, you must call before **March 21, 2013**.

Phone: **905-473-2176** - Email: [drchad@entertobewell.com](mailto:drchad@entertobewell.com)



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## SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES

Approximately 20% of the Town's total 56 km of sidewalks receive this service.

All bus stops have snow removal service.  
Canada Post only clears in front of super mailboxes that face the road (where there is no sidewalk) or where they face a sidewalk that is cleared by the Town.

Council reviews all requests for sidewalk snow clearing with the following prioritized policy guidelines in mind:

- Major arterial roads servicing commercial areas and major pedestrian links
- Transit routes
- School and seniors homes access

NOTE: Public walkways between sidewalks or roads are not cleared



Join us for our Easter service on **Sunday, March 31, 2013 at 10 am** as we investigate how the resurrection of Jesus some 2,000 years ago changes everything!



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**Ltd Cycling** is based on the Long Term Development model of coaching. We offer fun, positive, and affordable cycling programs for both junior (10-18 years) and master (19+) cyclists. Register now for our 10 week spring camp running from mid-April until the end of June.

Contact paulcooneyltd@yahoo.ca or "like" LTD Performance Cycling on Facebook!

# East Gwillimbury Athletes

## Ontario Gold

*EGs Shiver Synchro Team placed 1st at the Ontario Regionals on the weekend (Feb. 8-9).... and competed in the Canadian Championships in Calgary on Feb. 21-22....*



## NATIONALS RESULTS

*Shiver Intermediate Synchronized Skating team participated at Nationals in Calgary on February 21 and 22. Fourth in Canada!!!*

*Sixteen teams from Newfoundland to Edmonton competed.*

*Shiver missed the podium by .33 of one point. We are so very proud of their accomplishments.*

---

**We count on Coaches, Parents and the Community to submit stories to feature!  
Thanks for your contributions - email: [info@thebulletinmagazine.com](mailto:info@thebulletinmagazine.com)**

# March is Fraud Prevention Month



PC Laura Nicolle, YRP Seniors Safety Officer, presented an information session for seniors at Royal Oak Court Seniors Residence this past month discussing topics such as; elder abuse, fraud, and senior safety. PC Terry Mansholt and a few volunteers from East Gwillimbury's Police Centre were on hand to help out with the event.

(Right) Recently the Mount Albert P.S. Parent Council held "Be Healthy, Be Active; Hop, Skip and Climb into Life" event with guest speakers and members of the community. Bucky Beaver, YRP mascot along with Paige Broughton, volunteer at the EG Police Centre greeted those that attended.



# IN THE KITCHEN

WITH  
**MOIRA SANDERS**

There are a couple of things you should keep in mind when making a chicken curry, or any spicy food for that matter. The fresher your spices, the better the flavour of your dish. When I have time, I toast cumin and coriander seeds and then grind them myself. When I'm a little more hurried, I use pre-ground spices – no problem. But if you don't use these spices very often, smell them to make sure they are still fresh enough to give lots of flavour. The other tip is to remember to count the whole spices that you are adding to the pot and when it is time to remove them, make sure your count is equal to the amount you added at the beginning.

## My Favourite Chicken Curry

Serves 4-6

1/3 cup grapeseed oil  
 2 cups chopped onions  
 5 garlic cloves  
 1-inch piece of ginger, peeled and chopped  
 1 red hot chile pepper (use as much or as little preferred)  
 2 cups diced or crushed tomatoes (canned)  
 2 green cardamom pods  
 1 large cinnamon stick  
 5 whole cloves  
 5 black peppercorns  
 2 Tbsp ground coriander  
 2 Tbsp ground cumin  
 ¼ tsp turmeric  
 1 ½ tsp sea salt  
 3 ½ to 4 pounds chicken thighs, skinned  
 ¼ cup sour cream  
 ½ lemon  
 1 bunch fresh cilantro, chopped  
 Plain yogurt

Heat the oil in a large saucepan or Dutch oven over medium heat. Process the onions in a food processor. Add the onions to the saucepan. Brown over medium heat, stirring frequently, until the onions are a deep

golden brown, about 15 minutes. Stir in a tablespoon or two of water to keep the onions from burning. Do this as often as you need to.

Meanwhile, without rinsing the work bowl of the food processor, process the garlic, ginger, and chile pepper until finely minced. Set aside until needed.

Once the onions have browned, add the ginger/garlic mixture and sauté for a minute or so, adding a little more water if needed to prevent sticking.

Add the whole and ground spices and continue to brown for another 2 minutes or so. Add the diced or crushed tomatoes and their juices and cook until the solids separate from the oil, about 5 minutes or so.

Add the chicken pieces and cook well on medium-high heat, about 5 minutes. Add the salt and about ½ cup water. Cover and simmer for about 45 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through. Add a little more water if needed during the cooking process. The curry should have the consistency of thick gravy.

Remove the chicken pieces from the curry mixture. Remove the whole spices carefully. Let the chicken cool on a plate and when it is cool enough to handle, remove the meat from the bones and return the meat to the curry mixture. Cook for another 10-15 minutes over medium-low heat.

Before serving, add the sour cream and stir it in thoroughly. Add the freshly squeezed lemon juice and half of the chopped cilantro. Use the remaining cilantro to serve at the table. Serve with hot Basmati rice and plain yogurt.



*Moira Sanders has made a career of food which gives her inspiration for her local cooking classes, her website [www.moirasanders.com](http://www.moirasanders.com), and cooking for her busy family. Moira co-wrote the ward-winning cookbook "The Harrow Fair Cookbook" published by Whitecap Books. Moira can be reached at [moira@moirasanders.com](mailto:moira@moirasanders.com).*



# Tax Credits – are they a political sham?

There are two types of tax credits:

1. Refundable , and
2. Non-refundable

The important thing to remember is that you only get 15% of the tax credit. It sounds great in a press announcement when the minister states; “We are introducing a \$10,000 tax credit...”but the reality is the most you will get is a tax reduction of \$1,500.

## Watch the fine print

Ontario has a nice little collection of refundable tax credits but are they actually worth anything? If you check the fine print you will see that some of these are income tested. The irony of this is that, if you have the income which allows you to participate in the program you cannot get the credit because you earn too much. Those that are low income and who spend nearly all their income on food and shelter do qualify for the programs but are the least likely to participate in them. It would be great to see some statistics on how much was actually accessed under these programs. My favourite example is Ontario’s Children’s Activity Tax Credit.

## Catch 22

The idea with non-refundable tax credits is that if you do not have enough income you lose any benefit from them. There is a long list of these credits and they include:

- Basic personal amount
- Age amount
- Infirm/caregiver
- Disability amount

A low-income senior who qualifies for the disability tax credit and who receives CPP and OAS may get no benefit from the tax credit due to insufficient income. The rules allow for the transfer of this credit to a caregiver but if that person has no income (because they are caring full-time for the relative) they cannot get any benefit from the credit either. There is a caregiver tax

credit but the same thing applies. If the caregiver has to stay home to give the care and has a low or no income, there is no benefit from the credit.

The same applies with medical expenses. Chances are, the person qualifying for the disability credit has high medical expenses. If they have very little income, this tax credit does nothing for them either. Are these not the very same people this complex and convoluted tax credit system was supposed to help?

## 2012 Example:

Widow lives alone

### Income:

Old Age Security	6,511
CPP	6,171
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>12,682</u></b>

### Non-refundable tax credits:

Basic personal amount	10,822
Age amount	6,720
	<u>17,542</u>
<b>Credits at 15%</b>	<b><u>2,631</u></b>

Tax payable	1,902
Non-refundable tax credits	<u>2,631</u>
	<u>-</u>

As credits exceed tax payable by \$729, you might be excused for thinking this person should get a refund of \$729 – but no. This just disappears. She gets nothing.

Fiddling with the tax system by adding tax credits may be politically attractive but is also blatantly cynical when large numbers of Canadians cannot benefit from the credit due to low income. The other issue is that all these credits complicate the system. How many taxpayers are aware of all the credits and are they

# NOTEWORTHY...

## GOLDEN ANCHOR SENIORS CLUB

The Golden Anchor Seniors' Club was officially formed on July 25, 1985. A Social Club for seniors 50+ in East Gwillimbury and neighbouring communities. Non-members are welcome to enjoy all club activities, however

our club does offer financial subsidies to certain activities throughout the year, so it pays to be a member.

Club activities include: bid euchre, euchre, high/low bid euchre, carpet bowling, day trips, special events dinners, dinner theatre trips, extended overnight travel trips and of course their widely participated quarterly bid euchre

tournaments.

Club membership is only \$10 per year, plus additional user fees for certain Club activities. Located in the Golden Anchor room, downstairs in the Holland Landing Community Centre, 19513 Yonge Street, Holland Landing.

The club provides a valuable service to the residents of East Gwillimbury and neighbouring communities by giving seniors a place to meet other people of their age group.

Contact the Club by email [GoldenAnchorSeniorsClub@yahoo.ca](mailto:GoldenAnchorSeniorsClub@yahoo.ca)

## Child Fitness Tax Credit

Beginning in 2007, the Government of Canada introduced a non-refundable tax credit of up to \$500 paid by parents to register a child under 16 in an "eligible program of physical activity".

For more information about this tax credit, check out the following Canada Revenue Agency web site: [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whatsnew/fitness-e.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whatsnew/fitness-e.html).

## YOUTH ASSISTANCE FUND

If you or someone you know has a child under age 19 who would like to take part in an organized sport, take music, karate, or art lessons, attend an out of town sporting activity with their group, or register for a Town sponsored program, but is unable to do so due to financial constraints, please remember that this fund is available. Council wants to

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**19513 Yonge Street**

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11:30 am - Zumba with Body Design  
12:00 & 1:00 pm - Epicure Selections Cooking Classes by Melissa Martin  
1:00 pm - Pinkshoe Blueshoe Canada's Fashion Footwear Store  
2:00 pm - Jockey P2P Spring 2013 Line Fashion Show  
*Pre-registration required as spaces are limited. All events \$10 donation includes a chance to win over \$500 worth of prizes! Visit [www.egwomensshow.com](http://www.egwomensshow.com)*

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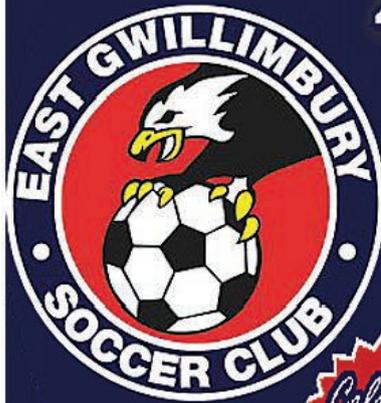
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## DID YOU KNOW

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- ... the smallest bones in the human body are found in your ear
- ... M&M's chocolate stands for the initials for its inventors Mars and Murrie
- ... your tongue is the fastest healing part of your body
- ... all the clocks in the movie "Pulp Fiction" are fixed at 4:20



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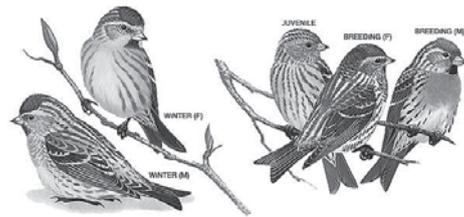
*Valued over \$600*

# Hort Happenings March 2013

By Anne Hill

What are your favourite early signs of spring? I'm impatient for colour this year so I have cut some forsythia branches and brought them inside to force them to bloom early. They are in a bucket with warm water for a couple of hours to wake them up, then I'll transfer them to a vase with some flower preservative in the water and in a week or two they should open and provide a welcome touch of yellow. I'll cut a flowering quince branch, too, and with the same treatment there will be a flash of orange to go with the forsythia.

The Great Backyard Bird Count took place last weekend, with over 5,000 lists submitted in Ontario so far – fourth



highest among provinces and states in Canada and the U.S. In my backyard I counted over 100 redpolls and many other birds.

The redpolls don't come this far south every year. Friends have also seen snowy owls locally. The goldfinches are already beginning to get their brighter yellow colouring for spring.

This is a restless time for gardeners; the days are getting longer and we'll be itching for the snow to go and the soil to warm. With this in mind we have invited Sabrina Selvaggi to be the speaker at our meeting on Tuesday March 19th at 7:30 at Mount Albert Community Centre.

Sabrina's experience with the Water for Tomorrow program makes her an ideal person to talk about waking the garden – getting off to a good start in the spring.



Our actions in the early spring can give us a head start on a successful year with the lawn and the garden. Sabrina will have a lot of information on helpful spring practices. This would be a good meeting for beginning gardeners as well as those of us who can use tips to help us with water conservation and generally treating our soil well in a changing environment. The ban on harmful pesticides has certainly given us some challenges to deal with. Lawns were really torn up last year with raccoons and skunks digging for bugs.

Our junior gardeners potted up growing spring bulbs into planters at their February meeting. On March 19th at 7:00p.m. at Mount Albert Community Centre they will learn about forcing branches for early bloom and in April they'll be planting seedlings and potting up cuttings in preparation for the spring plant sale. If you have youngsters aged 6 – 16 in your life, we'd love to meet them. A youth membership is just \$5 per year and a family membership is \$30.

We welcome guests and new members. An adult membership is \$20 a year, \$25 for a couple. For more information call 905-478-8450 or visit our website at <http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/mountalbert>

---

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual - Canada Blooms / March 15-24

### The Magic of Spring

*"Ah, Spring! The most awaited for season. After our long Canadian winters, we look forward to the warmth of the sun, and clear days. We shed our layers, feel active, and light hearted. With Spring comes revival, rejuvenation, romanticism, growth, hope, beauty, colour, and gardening, at last! Come explore and celebrate The Magic of Spring at Canada Blooms in March!"*

— Colomba Fuller  
Canada Blooms Artistic Director

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## The Best Weight Loss Tool You Have

Ever wonder what one thing could make your weight loss journey as successful as possible? I'll give you a hint; it's not something you eat, it's not even exercise and it's definitely not weight loss pills and potions. Nope, it's even simpler than that. It's a pen. Yup, just a pen and a piece of paper can make you more successful than you ever thought possible. Study after study have shown that people who simply write down what they eat (good or bad) lose more weight and keep it off longer than those who choose not to write it down.

### Success made simple

All you need to get started is a journal or a pad of paper, heck even a napkin will do in a pinch and start to write down everything you eat in a day. It's best to keep track of times and portion sizes as well, but if the thought of tracking everything in minute details seems overwhelming, just start with the food. This simple act of writing things down will help you create and awareness about what you are eating. When those cookies you have every day after lunch stare back at you in black and white from the page, it's hard to ignore the bad habit and you are more likely to make a change.

### Timing is key

Try not to save all that writing for the end of the day; you are likely to underestimate what you really had. If you can, write it down right after eating, that way you are sure to be accurate. If the end of the day is the only time you have, it's better than nothing at all, but don't wait until the next day! Studies have shown that we can underestimate our total food intake by as much as 25% when we wait more than 24 hours to record it.

### Don't forget the liquids!

We all know that water is important to our health and I would highly suggest tracking it so that you are sure you are getting enough, but don't forget the other liquids you consume as well. Not only can liquid calories really add up, they can often point to unhealthy

patterns and stress. No time to go for lunch but you managed to down two double-doubles? Maybe it's time to start packing a lunch. Can't get through the evening without a glass of wine? Maybe you can find some better ways to manage stress. Nobody likes their bad habits pointed out by someone else, but if you bring it to your own attention it may be a lot easier to swallow (pun intended!)

### Add in some extras

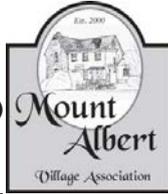
If you are enjoying the "food journal" experience, why not extend it to other areas of your life? I include exercise and sleep in mine. It never ceases to amaze me that when I get less than optimal sleep I crave sugars and carbs the next day. If I'm exercising regularly I tend to naturally eat better. Huh. Interesting. Simply writing it down really will help you identify good and bad behaviours, and identifying them is the first step toward correcting them! (Try tracking your TV hours if you don't have time to exercise....that one can be a shocker!)

I do hope you give a food journal a shot, even if it's just for a week! The first week that you do it, please don't change anything! You want to get an accurate picture of a real week before you try and make any changes at all. Remember, you are not trying to scold yourself for being "good" or "bad", you are just creating awareness about what you are eating, and that's never a bad thing! Who knows, maybe the secret to your success is all about the pen!



*By Brandi McCarthy, RHN. Brandi is a Registered Nutritionist and certified Personal Trainer at Body Design. Body Design offers personal training, nutrition and lifestyle coaching to assist individuals achieve their fitness and weight loss goals. [www.bodydesign.ca](http://www.bodydesign.ca)*

# Mount Albert Village Association (MAVA) NEWS



**REMINDER:** The Mount Albert Village Association is open to all residents and businesses. There are 3 levels of annual membership; \$10, \$50 & \$100. To find out which suits your needs, or for more details contact membership@mountalbert.com or drop in to The Corner Décor & More or Mad Hatter's Bistro on Centre St.

- A shout out to all former MABA (Mount Albert Business Association) members – You have NOT been forgotten. Someone will be contacting you shortly.
- In preparation for the revamped Mount Albert website, we are updating some historical information. If you have any tidbits or photos that you'd like to share, please forward them to info@mountalbert.com - Subject: history - or drop it off at The Corner Décor & More. Thank you in advance.
- On Tuesday, April 2nd – join Mount Albert Village Association Special Members' Meeting - Strategic Direction Discussion - Everyone is welcome to attend and share your thoughts and ideas. Please note: Annual membership donation will be required for non-members attending.

*A bit about Mount Albert > Did you know that Elizabeth Street was previously noted as William Street on the Mount Albert Map by The Women's Institute, Tweedsmuir History Committee.*

Who remembers when the street numbering on Centre Street changed from a 3-digit format to 5 digits?

Dates to remember: March 10th - Daylight Savings Time begins; March 20th – Spring Equinox; March 23rd – Earth Hour; March 31st – Easter

MountAlbert.com is in the process of being updated... Watch out for our new and improved site launching in April!

Hope to see you at the next meeting,  
Wednesday, March 20th @ 7:00 pm  
Mount Albert Community Centre (LL)

**YOUR VILLAGE, YOUR HOME, HAVE A SAY TOO!**

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# Doing Good Does Your Heart Good



NeighbourhoodNetwork  
Building Better Communities Together

Everyone knows about all of the benefits that volunteering brings to the community. But did you know that volunteering is also a heart-healthy activity that's good for your emotional well-being?

A number of studies during the past decade have shown a strong link between volunteering and enhanced health. The Corporation for National and Community Service in the US published a comprehensive report titled "The Health Benefits of Volunteering" that examined the results of more than 30 studies on the subject of health and volunteering.

According to the report, volunteers live longer, have lower rates of depression and less incidence of heart disease, among a number of other health benefits. The report highlighted two separate studies that showed that volunteering just two hours per week translated into improved health, particularly among adults age 65 and older.

Dr. Stephen Post, co-author of *Why Good Things Happen to Good People* and a strong proponent of volunteering, had this to say about the report: "There is now a convergence of research leading to the conclusion that helping others makes people happier and healthier."

Dr. Post's statement is supported by a wide range of similar studies. Consider, for example, a study carried out by Boston College which showed that patients with chronic pain felt better when they helped other patients. Researchers documented that the volunteer patients experienced less pain, fewer feelings of depression and reduced disability.

Or consider the landmark survey published in *Psychology Today* that analyzed women who regularly volunteered. The researchers found that these women experienced what they called a "helper's high" – a positive physical response triggered by volunteering that was similar to vigorous exercise or meditation. The strongest physical effects came from volunteers who had direct contact with other people – for example, helping children or seniors.

So if you'd like to feel better and boost your health, why not consider adding volunteering to your activities?

As mentioned in the last edition of *The Bulletin*, Neighbourhood Network is in the business of volunteering! We help volunteers identify what skills they have to offer and then connect them with one of our 200 partner charities and nonprofit groups.

East Gwillimbury has been partnering with Neighbourhood Network for over a year now, and I am the EG ambassador for the program. A long standing EG resident and former school principal, I have a passion for volunteering! You can read more about my background and experience on our website: [www.neighbourhoodnetwork.org](http://www.neighbourhoodnetwork.org).

*If you are interested in exploring volunteer opportunities or if you're a non profit organization who would like to partner with Neighbourhood Network, you can get in touch with me at 905.473.9617 or at [stboyne@sympatico.ca](mailto:stboyne@sympatico.ca).*



TAX CREDITS (FROM PAGE 13 CONTINUED)

claiming what they are entitled to? The tax system is such that your return is usually assessed as submitted. CRA will alter it for information they possess that means you owe more but the reverse does not apply. If you fail to claim a credit that will reduce your taxes – TOO BAD! They will not tell you.

A case in point here is RSP contributions. If you forget to claim all your contributions for a particular year CRA will not put these in for you despite the fact they are copied on the slips by the financial institution that issues you with a receipt for your contribution. It's a one way street leading to the coffers of Ottawa and Queens Park.

If you are a low income couple, you may qualify for this seldom advertised program

**The Allowance Program** The Allowance is a monthly benefit for low-income seniors (aged 60-64) whose spouse or common-law partner is eligible for, or currently receiving, the Old Age Security (OAS) pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). Apply at Service Canada.

*Ian and Dorothy Hawkins own and operate Mount Albert Tax Company and Holland Landing Tax Company.*

*"Thank you" to our firefighters*



Marlene Johnston  
East Gwillimbury Councillor

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# Step it Up with a Welcoming Stairway

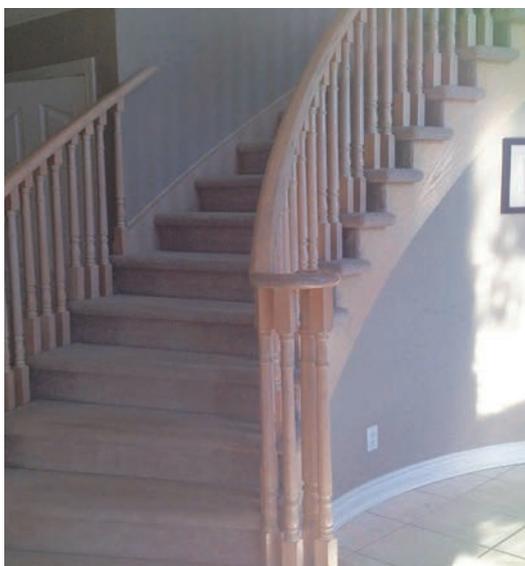
By Susan Crema-Martin

If you are planning to put your property on the market it goes without saying that you are hoping to sell your home as quickly as possible and for the most amount of money. Setting the stage for a successful sale requires planning so in this issue I wanted to share a few ideas on one of the first things buyers see when they enter your property.

Entry stairs and railings establish the first impression of a home's interior. Derek from Rowan Hardwood Floors says, "staircases are a keystone feature in a home because they can break up flooring styles and if done right they marry one type of flooring to another. Hardwood stairs are very versatile when clad in wood and have great advantages for keeping clean when people suffer from allergies".

Below is an example of a dramatic updated renovation in Sharon that we worked on.

**SHARON**



**NEWMARKET**

A recent Newmarket client had a dated staircase in light oak that did not blend in with the upgrades in the rest of the house. The architectural features of this staircase were dramatic to the look and feel of this property. Once the bannister and pickets were painted out, the house was transformed into a more modern feel and our clients wished they had completed this project 10 years ago.

## TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND:

### Carpeted Stairs

- Remove out-dated or worn out carpet, replacing steps with neutral tone carpeting
- Cap stairs with solid wood
- Carpet runners should be securely fastened to the stairs and the rest of the exposed staircase is clean and finished properly

### Railing/Bannister

- Check if the staining is still in good condition
- Should it be painted or restained

### Walls going up the steps

- Remove wallpaper on the walls especially if it is dated and worn
- Remove photos going up the stairs, not a family gallery area

### Lighting in the stairway

- The light fixture in the hall is very important to showcase the staircase



Susan Crema-Martin is a Certified Master Canadian Staging Professional – CCSP Mentor. If you have a question for Susan, send your questions to: info@thebulletinmagazine.com




Town of East Gwillimbury



Environmental Advisory Committee

# ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING EVENT

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# REALTY-WISE

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## **Selling This Spring?**

Are you considering selling your home this Spring? Traditionally the next few months are the busiest time in the Real Estate calendar. But that doesn't mean it's a bad idea to be selling your home when everyone else is also. In fact if done right the busy Spring market can actually be a benefit to you.

The key to a successful sale is being able to position your house as the obvious choice for buyers faced with many houses to pick from.

To start with, there are some tried and true steps to follow in advance to help make your home stand out in the crowd:

Cut the clutter.

Buyers are drawn to a tidy and organized house. Remove, discard, sell, or donate the things that clutter your home. If that seems daunting, break the task into small pieces - shelf by shelf, drawer by drawer, room by room - and you'll be surprised how quickly your entire house has been de-cluttered. Get rid of the clothes that are no longer worn; you'll have less packing for moving day and your closets will appear bigger to potential buyers. A garage sale is a great way to purge unnecessary items before putting your home on the market.

Visually a home with minimal furniture and a lack of knick-knacks and other personal items will look much larger compared to the exact same house packed wall to wall with stuff.

*One reason for buyers to choose your home.*

Fix what's broken or damaged.

Simple repairs are well worth the effort; things like dripping faucets, broken light switch and receptacle cover plates, squeaky door hinges, burnt out light bulbs are easy and cheap to fix yet bring vast improvements to the overall perception of your home's condition. Fresh paint and caulking will also show you home is in good repair and routine maintenance has not been neglected.

Consider having a pre-sale home inspection performed so you can remedy any issues that a buyer's Home Inspector will eventually uncover anyway. Taking care of these issues in advance will likely result in reduced cost and inconvenience compared to waiting for them to end up as part of a time-limited Purchase Offer Condition. In addition, the presence of a pre-sale inspection report could provide additional confidence in your home's condition for buyers.

Either way, buyers are typically already concerned about the hidden problems [whether they exist or not] so it's important to not give them any additional reasons to walk away from your home.

*OK...so your home is ready to go on the market. How do you take advantage of the work you have done to make your home Sale-Ready?*

Marketing Strategy

Often overlooked is the significance of a properly designed marketing strategy. As with most things, complete and accurate information is critical to ensuring your home will be well positioned in the market you are competing in. Despite what you may or may not hear on the news or from friends, relatives, and neighbours, it's usually not a question of just putting up a sign and sitting back waiting for the offers to come rolling in.

You need to have the facts about current market conditions and trends. You need to be aware of how your home stacks up

against your local competition. You can be sure that buyers will know about the other homes for sale in your neighbourhood and will attempt to use them to their advantage when negotiating an offer with you.

You also need to evaluate the most advantageous time for your home to hit the market. Since it's well known in the real estate world that the first two weeks a home is available for sale are critical, choosing the wrong time by a week or two either way could have costly results. For example, it may or may not be a good idea to launch your home into the market during the March Break or over the Easter long weekend.

Finally you need to determine exactly how you will market your home. Today's technology provides so many ways to expose your home to buyers. Free online classified websites, local newspaper advertising, Realtor.ca, printed flyers, photographs, virtual tours, panoramic views, text-for-info, open houses - which are best for your home, local market, property type, and typical buyer demographic?

As noted above, timing is crucial so it could be very costly to lose two weeks using a strategy that doesn't work. For maximum efficiency, it would be wise to engage the services of a professional Realtor who is actively practicing in your area. They already understand the current wide-area and local market conditions based on the facts not simple conjecture, and likely already know which marketing strategies will be most effective for your home.

Perhaps more importantly, top-producing Realtors are highly-skilled negotiators who use all of this market intelligence to successfully produce the outcome you are trying to achieve.

Whatever the case, its important that the value in your home is sufficiently highlighted so that buyers get excited.

#### First Impressions

As the saying goes you only get one chance to make a first impression; following these steps will help make a great first impression and in the busy Spring market help make your home the obvious choice for prospective buyers looking to move into your neighbourhood.

Successful real estate transactions do not happen by accident; they are the result of in depth market knowledge, disciplined execution of strategy, and keen negotiation skills. Don't be fooled into thinking its easy. After all its very likely your biggest single investment and it should be protected at all costs.

After all, you don't want to end up being just the house that buyers use to negotiate offers on other homes.



*Lee Lander is a Broker with Keller Williams Realty Centres Inc. Brokerage {Independently Owned & Operated} and has been an award winning, top producing, full time Realtor every year of her career. As a long term East Gwillimbury resident, Lee focuses her attention on the northern York and South Simcoe Regions, and boasts a vast list of satisfied customers and associates who's referrals make up over 95% of Lee's business activities.*

Contact Lee directly at [lee@leelander.com](mailto:lee@leelander.com).

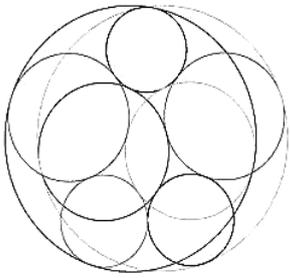
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# Circles

## Shadows and Snowstorms

On February 2nd, the groundhog didn't see his shadow and prepared himself for an early spring. Most people don't believe in that lore but sighed a sigh of relief anyway. The winter, mostly mild with few surprises, would not be missed. That's when an Alberta Clipper blew in stopping up the roads and airports and everyone except the skiers and snowmobilers put on their winter faces and started to complain bitterly.

I spent my 'snow days' tucked up by the fireplace in my mother's home in St. Marys Ontario, the centre of that area's snow-belt. As the wind howled around the house causing white out conditions we were happy to drink hot tea and wait for it to blow over. The dog of course, had other ideas. Don't get me wrong, she loved the fireplace but after a few hours, she stood up, stretched and walked to the door. Then she walked back and stared at us huddling under our blankies. The conversation went something like this. "She's your dog. Today I'm glad I don't have one." The dog in question gave a hopeful wag. I stood up, pulled on snow pants, a warm coat, a scarf, toque, goggles, mittens and my snowshoes. By that time Mom was pacing. "You will get lost in the storm...you can't see the nose in front of your face...you will freeze to death in a snow bank." I grumbled but pushed on. The dog, once out the door, threw herself down in the soft fluff and rolled, her version of a snow-dog angel.

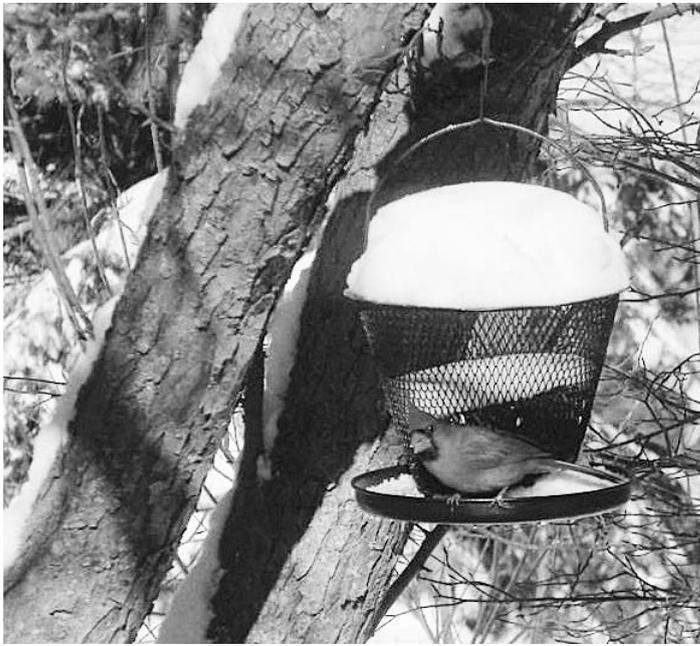
The verdict? Well I am glad I wasn't driving but I am grateful I had a dog to get me outside. The wind was wild but it wasn't too cold. After wading through deep snow and breaking trail for a short time, I found I was overdressed and started to unwrap. We had the streets and back trails almost to ourselves. The few people I did see were enjoying themselves. It was a good day to be outside. We hiked for about 2 hours making long snowshoe trails that the wind wiped out immediately. The cold air in my lungs woke me up. I traveled down into an old railway bed where the wind couldn't reach us. In that momentary quiet I found a hawk perched

in a low bush to escape the gale. She was at eye level with me and didn't move as I walked toward her. I got within reaching distance. We stared at each other for a long moment and then she ruffled her feathers and flew about 200 feet ahead. We repeated the process 3 times and I was feeling lucky to be at that spot in that moment.

I tromped home thinking about winter and our relationship with it. We are Canadian, a winter people and yet many of us are eagerly awaiting global warming, sand beaches and tee-shirt weather in January. Most of us view the months of November to April from behind windows or windshields. We listen to the weather forecasters shivering in anticipation of the run from the door to the car and then the drive from here to there in the sloppy slime of the southern Ontario 'dark' months.

Before I get to the end of this piece, I need to confess that I love winter; the cold, the snow, the long starry nights. I love it all. When others are packing their bikini's and heading south, I pull out my down jacket and my woolies and head north to the Yukon to get my dose of dry, white snow and brilliant Yukon winter sunshine. It is a 'dry' cold and sometimes -30 there, doesn't seem as grueling as -5 high humidity and a howling wind here. I have often been heard to say that southern Ontario winters are hard to deal with and I whine with the best of them.

On the other hand, I am Canadian. Winter is part of what defines me so there is a small voice inside of me that says "quicherbitchin', get outside and like it." I have found that winter endured from inside of the house, the car, the office, is long and hard to take. People suffer from seasonal affective disorder because the light inside is not enough to keep us alert. We just want to lie down and hibernate until the bears or groundhogs wake us up. So, my prescription for an enjoyable winter? First, turn off the weather reporters, they make their living off our discomfort. Then go outside. If you have to drive, make sure you have snow



tires and the car is winterized. Walking is better. Dress for comfort, not style. Stylish may be cool but it is also cold. Put on footwear with grip. I personally, love snowshoes and walking poles because they stabilize my ankles and knees; but for sidewalks, traction devices that strap over your boots can make the difference between skidding along and walking normally. Once you get outside, if you don't know what to do, watch kids, puppies and birds. They have the techniques down pat for wonderful winter experiences: Walk to the store, slide down a hill, shovel the neighbours driveway, find an outdoor rink, walk in the dark and watch the winter sky. Make it fun.

In our neck of the woods, winter is at most a four month affair. It doesn't warrant all of the power we give it to make life miserable. It is an amazing time of the year filled with clear, crisp air and surprises. I am writing a book about winter and have interviewed

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people from newcomers to the country to old timers. I have found out a few interesting things. One is, as a general rule, winter babies grow up to do better in winter than summer babies. Another is that people in rural areas of the country, far from big cities, seem to enjoy it more. They also find they pull together as communities, taking care of each other in a different way once the frosty blanket pulls over the land. I wonder if our proximity to the city, long commutes and inside work makes it harder to appreciate this time of year. I will keep working on that and let you know what I find out.

By the time you read this, the groundhogs' prediction will probably be coming true. Winter will be loosening its grip and we will be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel. We can let the coming warm days dull the animosity that we have toward the later part of the year but as Halloween creeps up on us next year, try to shift your way of thinking. Don't let one third of your life be wished away, waiting for spring. Connect with your community, get outside, find the snap that winter can bring to life. Rediscover your love of white. You can save your Florida money and plan a stay-cation in the snow. It will help you embrace your inner Canadian.

*Please help: What do you share within your neighbourhood or community? I am doing an article about sharing and am finding most of my information in Toronto and Barrie. If you have a local story about something shared, please share. [vickipinkerton@gmail.com](mailto:vickipinkerton@gmail.com)*



Vicki Pinkerton lives on a small farm just outside of Mount Albert when she is not driving the roads of Canada. She is a practicing life coach, a writer and adventurer who wonders about many things. [www.questacrosscanada.com](http://www.questacrosscanada.com) or [lifelinescoaching.org](http://lifelinescoaching.org)

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The expression, "mad as a March hare," comes from a fictional character. There are many versions of the March Hare, a character originally created by Lewis Carroll in his famous book, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. The Disney classic and modern renditions portray the hare as distracted and frantic, possibly modeled after cultural perceptions of rabbits' behavior in spring.



## ADVERTISEMENT

# Through the Hayes

My name is John Hayes and my wife Julia and I own and operate Blackwater Golf on Highway #48.

This month I want to revisit a huge boondoggle that I first publicly talked about in 2006. It was then that the Town Council of the day negotiated the purchase of the neighbouring property of 19040 Leslie Street supposedly for “future development”. Despite the knowledge that the property had just been assessed by MPAC for \$349,000 and had failed to sell at auction for less than \$400,000, the Town Committee (headed I believe by our current Mayor) through skilled negotiations beat the price up to \$800,000. Then, unlike almost every other real estate transaction, handed the Agreement to an estate agent. The Town, not the seller, paid the commission. How’s that for negotiating skills?

Now, how small a percentage of the home buyers in East Gwillimbury would have overlooked the fact that the house at 19040 Leslie was uninhabitable, given that the guy who owned it resided in a trailer parked on the property next to the Town. Or that the mechanical and electrical systems were substandard. How many would have ignored the identified UF foam insulation (urea formaldehyde – a known carcinogen) – who knows? However don’t you think it should have triggered some sort of bells and whistles and some hint of the oodles of coin it would take to fix up? That was in 2006. Fast forward to 2013. The Judah Doane House at 19040, owned by us, has been lying vacant for eight years (ie. no tax revenues) and is now being considered for repair. As a truly qualified Heritage home in our community it certainly deserves to be refinished, don’t you think? The Town staff has hired a consultant (betcha he wasn’t free) to identify which parts of the Doane house are worthy of preservation.

So, what’s the budget for this little piece of paradise..... \$1.6 to \$1.9 million dollars – yikes!!!!!! Add on the purchase price and you are almost \$2.7 million. How in the world did they get to that number? I have been told that a couple of builders have said that a reno and build out would cost about \$200 - \$250 a square foot. Hey, this building is about 2,000 square foot which would bring to the total to \$500,000 or so – Hmmmmmmm - what a puzzle?

Thank God the Sharon West Landowners Group stepped in with \$750 large (\$750,000) as a donation leaving the Town (us) on the hook for only about \$1.2 million. Saaay, who are these guys at the Sharon West Landowners Group anyway????? Now I may not be the sharpest tool in the drawer, but even I can Google the Sharon West Landowners Group only to discover that they are the front name for Delta Urban Inc. - experts in Consulting, developing approvals, management, etc. Now, “lemme” get this straight. Is the \$750,000 just a donation with no strings attached? If so, these guys are great - What a bunch of troopers for such a worthy cause. Just call me cynical for having such a suspicious mind. Would it be too crass of me to suggest this is a fee to oversee the complete project i.e. charge to consult, charge to specify the work to be done, charge to get the approvals, charge to manage the work, charge to do the work and charge to bill out the work, and then receive the \$1.9 million plus extras from the Town for this heritage reno. Shame on me – shame, shame for thinking such thoughts.....Why wouldn’t the Town just put the work out to competitive tender and save us a bunch of our own money? Guess that’s just not how it’s done in East Gwillimbury.

Finally what is the proposed use of the Doane House at 19040 Leslie Street. Well, the Town feels the need for at least sixteen more work stations for as yet unhired staff. You alone can assess if you feel this is a good idea. I think, since we the tax payers of East Gwillimbury are going to wind up paying for it in the end that the Heritage house should be used as a Heritage Museum, to act in concert with the Sharon Temple, staff it with volunteers and use it to feature and promote East Gwillimbury’s rich and rural past..... As I said previously – what a boondoggle.....

Well that’s enough for now. Please feel free to contact me at Blackwater Golf (905) 473 5110 or [contact@blackwater-gc.ca](mailto:contact@blackwater-gc.ca) No rude emails please or I can’t forward them.

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