



Sports & Leisure



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Innisfil Beach Rd
Crossroads Plaza
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Support Innisfil Minor Hockey at Family Skate

On December 31st, there will be a family skate at the Stroud Arena. The skate runs from noon until 2pm and the cost is \$3 per person. Sobey's has donated hot dogs and Pizza Pizza has donated 10 pizza's for the skate.

There will also be lots of prizes, including a chance to win a pair of platinum seats to a Toronto Maple Leaf's game and a Toronto Raptor's game. You will be

able to tour the fire truck on site and have a chance to meet your local council member.

The fun, refreshments and prizes have been sponsored by Sobey's Alcona, 241 Pizza, Spring Tree Farms, TD Canada Trust, Horodinsky Farms Inc., Lou Kelly/Homelife Kempfenfelt Kelly, Peoples Credit Union, Eisses Farms Ltd., Coffee Time, and Geranium Corporation.

Lefroy hockey notes

Lefroy Novice 1 played in Beeton on Dec. 15. Captain Ryan Rijo scored the 1st goal, and with 52 sec. remaining in the 1st period Lucas Reimer put one in assisted by Jake Heenan. In the second period Ryan Rijo scored his second. A goal by Noah Chapman rounded out the period. The 3rd period saw 4 more goals, 1st by Rian Scrimgeour then Jacob McNeil assisted by Rian Scrimgeour. Hayden Peacock got the next 2 with an assist by Lucas Reimer. The final score 8 - 0! Thomas Griffith got his 1st shut-out! A great team effort and hard work by all players really paid off. Keep it up Lefroy.

Conservation corner

I planted my first tree with my mom when I was four. It was a white spruce, small and to be honest more than a bit pathetic looking. The tree from a Charlie Brown's Christmas had more going for it. Noticing my skepticism, my mom said it would outlive us all. Decades later, as I go home each holiday season, it is the first thing I notice. That spruce now towers well over the house. Since then, I have planted many more trees and love them all, but that first tree shaped me. Perhaps Nelson Henderson expressed what I still feel best, when he said "The true

meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

Since 1964, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has offered tree planting services to landowners. One of our longest running public outreach programs, it has increased forest cover, created windbreaks and streamside plantings. Landowners gain many benefits on their own property, but all of us benefit from improved water quality, reduced erosion, and more bird and wildlife habitat.

If you are interested in tree planting next spring, it

Local competitive soccer team gives back



The U14 Innisfil Stampede's Competitive Girls Soccer Team would like to thank the residents of Innisfil for the support they received as they made their way around the Wallis Mills & Victorian Village subdivisions in Alcona. They collected a large amount of non-perishable food items to support the local food bank. If they missed you, donations can be dropped off at any Innisfil Fire Station. **submitted photo**

is time to book your planting for next year. The spring planting window is very small when bare-root tree-stock can be planted. In order to avoid disappointment call now. You will get to meet our forester, Rick Grillmayer. Rick has worked with us for the last twelve years and lives-and-breathes trees. Working with landowners, he has planted over half-a-million trees!

The cost of tree planting varies between \$910-1300/-acre for hand planting and \$770-1200/acre for machine planting. Costs vary due to differences in tree planting sites. A variety of grants are available to offset costs,

ranging from 30-90%. Our services include site visits, species and preparation recommendations, a planting plan, tree planting and letting you know about grants.

NVCA planting projects require at least 1000 trees (about 1.4 acres) to be eligible. Landowners wanting to plant trees themselves, can buy up to 100 trees at our Arbour Day Tree Sales in early May. For larger orders please directly contact local tree nurseries.

Remember that tree seedlings are fragile, living plants. Many things affecting tree survival are hard to control such as drought, insects, disease,

plant competition, browsing by wildlife. Some loss is natural; the planting densities chosen allow for some loss. Improved tree survival comes with careful site preparation, planting and post-planting care.

When planning your planting, keep in mind:

- Site preparation is key; suppressing competing vegetation increases survival
- Bareroot stock is best planted mid-Apr to mid-May.

- Pick tree species suitable to your site!

- Native species are better adapted than introduced species.

- Seedlings should be planted 7-10 feet apart (700

trees per acre)

- Machine planting has higher survival rate and costs less than hand planting

- Hardwoods are more expensive and difficult to grow than evergreens

- Rows make maintenance and post-weed control easier

"Conservation Corner" is a monthly column that looks at the theory, practices, technology and benefits of land & water stewardship. For comments or suggestions about this column, contact Shannon Stephens at the NVCA at (705) 424-1479 ext 239 or e-mail us at sstephens@nvca.on.ca.

Warning - Lakes and streams not frozen

The York Regional Police Marine Unit would like to remind you of the importance of staying safe this winter season in any outdoor activity you do. Through awareness, enforcement and public education, police are warning citizens to be diligent and stay off the ice until it is safe.

The unseasonably warm weather and rain we have experienced over the last week has prompted York Regional Police to again warn the public that lakes

and streams are not frozen and NOT SAFE.

There are still many areas of open water on Lake Simcoe and ice fishermen and snowmobilers are reminded that conditions are still too dangerous to be out on the ice.

York Regional Police is also reminding parents to be diligent and to teach their children to stay away from lakes and streams. The mild weather can result in higher water levels and faster-flowing

currents.

Remember no ice is completely safe. Any individual who decides to go out onto a frozen body of water must make a personal decision to do so, realizing that there is a degree of risk associated with this choice. Ice seldom freezes at a uniform rate.

What constitutes a safe depth of ice is difficult to apply in all cases. While three inches of ice on a farm pond may pose little danger, that same three inches on a moving

stream or lake with currents could be very dangerous.

If you are testing for ice thickness follow these safety precautions:

- Wear proper floatation attire
- Don't fish or snowmobile alone

- Tell someone about your plans and specifically where you are going.

- Know the condition of the ice before you go out and take into consideration the recent changes

the weather may have had on the ice

- Be suspicious of gray, dark or porous spots in the ice as these may be soft areas. Ice is generally strongest where it is hard and blue

York Regional Police reminds the public that snowmobiling and ice-fishing are inherently risky activities occurring in an uncontrolled and unpredictable natural setting.