

# Getting things done for seniors - Creation of National Seniors Council delivers on another election promise

Canada's New Government has delivered on another key election promise by announcing the creation of the National Seniors Council.

During the last federal election, our government promised to create a Council to allow Canadian seniors to have a say in the issues that mattered to them.

We have delivered on that promise and will continue to deliver real results to Canada's seniors.

The National Seniors Council will advise the Government on seniors' issues of national importance. It will help ensure that government policies, programs and services meet the evolving needs of seniors

Canadian seniors have spent a lifetime building our great country. With selfless determination and dedication they established careers, raised families and paid their taxes.

Now that their careers are behind them, they deserve to enjoy a long and healthy

retirement.

The Seniors Council will build on the work that Canada's New Government has already been doing to improve the health and well-being of our seniors, including:

- Allowing pension income splitting for couples;

- Increasing the age credit by \$1,000 (from \$4,066 to \$5,066);

- Doubling the pension income credit to \$2,000 which will put almost \$900 million back in the hands of seniors over the next two years and remove 85,000 pensioners from the tax rolls;

- Increasing the maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement benefit which will assist more than 50,000 seniors;

- Proposing legislation to make it easier for seniors to apply for and receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement;

- Increasing the Refundable Medical Expense Supplement tax credit by more than 30 per cent to \$1,000;

- Expanding the Compassionate Care Benefit to make more Canadians eligible; and

- Reducing the GST to 6%.

Other Government of Canada seniors-focused initiatives include projects to make cities more accessible for seniors, help seniors become prepared for emergencies, prevent fall-related injuries, and develop

guidelines on seniors' mental health issues.

We owe our seniors a debt of gratitude. The actions for seniors by Canada's New Government have been guided by its profound respect for their service to Canada and we will continue getting things done for Canada's seniors and pensioners.

## Essa calls for province to enact pesticide legislation

by Richard Blanchard

Essa council has called on the province government to consider enacting provincial legislation regarding the use of pesticide and herbicides in built up areas.

Councillor Sandie Macdonald said at last week's council meeting that she has already received requests from local residents for restrictions on their use for this coming year.

Mayor Dave Guergis said that the situation seems similar to the demand for restrictions on smoking which were presented to municipalities a few years ago.

"We saw all these municipalities introduce anti-smoking legislation piece meal and then the province introduced a province wide bill," he said.

He said that it would be better for the province to do a uniform bylaw covering all municipalities.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

A directory of what is happening in your community

The community event calendar is provided as a free public service to non-profit organizations to announce upcoming events. Deadlines are no later than Monday for that week's issue to

COMMUNITY EVENTS,  
P.O. Box 310, Beeton, Ontario L0G 1A0

Submissions by mail, fax or e-mail and will not be received by telephone.

### ISSUES & INTERESTS

The York-Simcoe Naturalists is a young club looking for new members. Contact: Cathryn Rees at 905-775-7021, e-mail: wilcor@sympatico.ca.

South Simcoe Community Information Centre "CONTACT" at 146 Victoria St. W. Alliston. Call (705) 435-4900, Fax 705-435-1106. Website: www.csolve.net/-contact, or Email: contact@focusdc.on.ca.

Be a face in the fight against cancer

The Innisfil Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society needs volunteers. Their involvement enables the Canadian Cancer Society to fund cancer research, provide information, services and to support people living with cancer. Call: 436-1060 or 726-8032.

The Canadian Mental Health Association of Barrie-Simcoe supports the development and continuance of self-help groups as a viable community resource for individuals experiencing difficulties. Self-Help groups can provide; support and understanding through difficult times; an opportunity to meet with others who have experienced similar difficulties; information and education; a safe and comfortable environment; suggestions regarding coping strategies that help to get through difficult times.

For further information contact the Canadian Mental Health Association, Barrie-Simcoe Branch at 705-726-5033 or 1-800-461-4319.

### MONDAYS

Friends of the Innisfil Library, Stroud Branch, meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m.

Gilford and District Horticultural Society meets second Monday of the month from March to November at Churchill Community Centre at 7:30pm. New members are always welcome. Call Judith Rogers at 431-9278 or Kathy Barraclough at (905)853-8785 for more info.

Al-Anon meetings take place every Monday at Innisfil Community Church at 8:00 p.m. If you have a problem with someone else's drink, come and join the discussion group.

Innisfil Pipes & Drums meet for practice at the Legion in Bell Ewart, 1017 Robinson St. at 1 p.m. Always looking for new members. Phone Ken at (705) 456-3717.

### TUESDAYS

Job Search Assistance, help with job search, resumes, interview tips, job bank internet assistance at the Thornton Library 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and the Alcona Library from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Services provided at no charge by The Employment Outreach Team call Marilee or Kathy at (705) 728-0897 for more information. This initiative is funded by the government of Canada.

Cookstown Computer Club drop-in program for elementary students, 4 to 5 p.m. at the library.

T.O.P.S. (Take off Pounds Sensibly) from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Library, Robert St., Thornton. For information call 739-9226.

Stroud Seniors invite persons 55 + to join them for an afternoon of bid and progressive euchre, refreshments and companionship. 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall, Painswick. Call 436-1628.

St Paul's Anglican Church, located on the corner of Mapleview and Yonge Street, has two new youth and young adult programs. From 6:30 - 8:00 pm will be informal musical jamming sessions for anyone with a voice or instrument. If you are learning to play an instrument or like to sing and would enjoy having some fun and social time with similar minded people, come and join us. For more information, please call (705) 722-7755

St. Paul's Church, Innisfil (corner of Mapleview and Yonge Street), Playgroup for tots, moms, dads, caregivers, and grandparents from 9:30-11:30 am. Come for a social time, friendship, play and snacks. For information, call (705) 431-1694.

The Beta Classes will be held at the Innisfil Community Church starting January 9th at 1pm. Beta is a life changing program and the twelve week course will enable you to live free from fear, stress anxiety and the pain of past hurts and traumas. This program is offered at the Church from 1:00 - 2:30 pm. For more information, call Sherri McLaughlin at (705) 436-1611.

### WEDNESDAYS

Friends of the Innisfil Library, Lakeshore Branch, meet the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. New members are most welcome.

Euchre, bid euchre, Scrabble and cribbage is played at Alcona Seniors club every Wednesday at 12:30 to 3 p.m. at

the ABC Hall on the 25th Sideroad below Innisfil Beach Rd. Refreshments and fun days. Bring a bag lunch.

Euchre every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30, Newton Robinson United Church in aid of Gwen Taylor Library. Refreshments.

Weight Loss Group. The Alcona Chapter of TOPS meets at 7:15 at Goodfellow Public School. Call Joan Davies at 436-3197 after 6 and on week-ends.

Job Search Assistance, help with job search, resumes, interview tips, job bank internet assistance. On Wednesdays, the mornings are alternated between the Churchill and the Cookstown Libraries from 10:00 a.m. to noon., and every Wednesday afternoon at the Stroud Branch from 1:30 - 3:30. Services provided at no charge by The Employment Outreach Team Please call marilee or Kathy at (705) 728-0897. This initiative is funded by the government of Canada.

Euchre at St. Peter's Anglican Church. Churchill is held every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the parish hall. Please call Reg at 705-456-6801 for information.

The Cookstown Co-Operative Playgroup is at St. John's Anglican Church in Cookstown located on Hwy 89, east of Hwy 27. All pre-school children and their care-givers are welcome, as well as new members. The hours will be 9:30 to 12:00 every Wednesday & Thursday. Come out with your pre-school aged children (senior kindergarten and younger), have a snack, make a craft and meet some new friends. For more information please call Brian Haas at (705) 458-8468. See you there!!

### THURSDAYS

Euchre - Progressive and Bid, every Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion - 1017 Robinson, Bell Ewart 705-436-1144, Betty.

Register for Book Book a six week afterschool program for ages 6 and up from 5-6 p.m. Call Innisfil Public Library, Cookstown Branch at 458-1273.

Job Search Assistance, help with job search, resumes, interview tips, job bank internet assistance at the Alcona Library from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Please call Marilee or Kathy at (705) 728-0897. Services provided at no charge by The Employment Outreach Team 728-3757, this initiative is funded by the government of Canada.

Barrie Chapter of Schizophrenia Society of Ontario family support group meets the last Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Barrie-Simcoe Building, 39

High St., Barrie. For info contact 726-5033.

Painswick Horticultural Society meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at St. Paul's Anglican Church. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. New members welcome. For info call Linda Lewer at 436-3908.

The Parish of Churchill and Cookstown youth group meets every Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Youth between the ages of 9-12 years are welcome to attend regardless of denomination. Please call Pam Gervais for information at (705) 735-3484.

St Paul's Anglican Church, located on the corner of Mapleview and Yonge Street, has two new youth and young adult programs. From 6:30 - 8:00 pm we are beginning a study comparing the gospels and learning how and why they developed. For more information, call (705) 722-7755.

### FRIDAYS

The Cookstown United Church Community Youth Group will begin meeting as of October 20th. They will be meeting weekly from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Cookstown United Church on 37 Queen Street. Come for crafts, games, movies, fellowship and fun! All are welcome. For more information, call (705) 458-9701.

### SATURDAYS

Barrie Farmers' Market, outside and inside Barrie City Hall. From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fresh produce and fruit in season. For info please call 739-4204.

### SUNDAYS

Cookstown United Church welcomes all young people from preschool to grade 8 to join in Sunday school at 11am. Sunday's are cool at Cookstown UC, so come and join as we grow in faith and have fun. New this year - join us in making scrapbooks celebrating God's gifts in our lives. For more information, please call Rev. Heather or Kieran Power at (705) 458-9701.

Overeaters Anonymus meets at the Mapleview Community Church at 7pm. Do you eat when you are not hungry? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? It's not what you eat, it's what's eating you! For more information, call Anne at (705) 436-7921.

The Teen Youth Group of the Parish of Churchill and Cookstown meet at St. John's Anglican Church every other Sunday in the parish hall from 12:30 - 2:30 pm. All teens aged between 13-18 years are welcome to join regardless of denomination. Please call Pam at (705) 735-3484 for information.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH

Barrie Thornton Old Tyme Fiddlers Night at the Lions Hall on Barrie Street

in Thornton. The doors open at 6pm and the music starts at 7pm sharp. Admission is \$3 per person and children are free. All fiddlers, singers, callers, dancers and listeners are welcome. call Cec denney for more info at (705) 458-9996.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH

The Barrie Ballroom Dance Club is holding a dance from 8pm until midnight at the ANAF Hall, 7 George Street in Barrie. Admission, which includes sandwiches, sweets and coffee is \$12 for members, \$18 for non members. For more information contact Barb at (705) 726-2651 or go to www.bbdc.ca.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 15TH

Man to Man, a prostate cancer support group, will meet at 7:30pm at the Canadian Cancer Society Office, 64 Cedar Point Drive, Unit 1406. The group meets on the third Thursday of every month. Ladies are welcome and will meet separately. For more information, call (705) 726-8032.

The Alzheimer Society of Greater Simcoe County will be holding a support group meeting at The Spoke in Sandy Cove Acres from 1 - 3pm. Caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia can be a challenging yet rewarding journey. The Alzheimer Society of Greater Simcoe County holds a monthly caregiver support group where caregivers can discuss issues and successes in a confidential and supportive matter. For further information call the Alzheimer Society of Greater Simcoe County at (705) 722-1066.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH

Davidson's Restaurant is hosting a silent auction fundraiser for JJ the Swan. There will be a book displaying all of the items up for auction, and bidding closes at 10pm. Drop by Davidson's on Big Bay Point Road to view the items and place your bid.

The Irish Claddagh Club of Barrie and district are having their annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance at the South Shores Centre on Kempenfelt Bay. The cost is \$30 per person and includes a traditional Irish dinner. - corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, veggies, dessert and coffee and tea. For tickets, call Reg at (705) 722-3644.

The Churchill United Church Annual St. Patrick's Day Ham and Scalloped Potato Supper will be held from 5 until 7pm. Enjoy food, fellowship and the largest leprechaun in the Town of Innisfil. The cost is \$12 for adults, \$6 for kids or \$30 per family.

A St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance for the Innisfil Winterhawks will be held at the Lefroy Arena. The buffet dinner starts at 7pm followed by a DJ'd dance,

Tickets are \$15 per person and you can get them through your Irish Board of Director Memer or by calling Linda Caringi (705) 436-7765, Jenn Quinlan (705) 721-8710, or Colleen Carter at (705) 431-2330.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH

Stroud Presbyterian Church is pleased to host a chili dinner from 4:30 - 7 pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 10 and under, preschoolers are free.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 27TH

The Bond Head Olde Tyme Fiddle Club will be holding their monthly fiddle dance and jam sessions. All musicians, dancers and listeners are welcome. The fun will take place at the Bond Head Community Hall. It starts at 7pm and admission is \$4. For information, call Ralph Finch at (905) 859-2746 or Ralph Price at (705) 853-3159.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28TH

The Canadian Cancer Society, Innisfil Branch, will be hosting their 3rd Annual Daffodil Tea at The Wheel in Sandy Cove Acres. Tickets are \$4 per person which includes coffee/tea and sweets, and the tea will take place between 1:30 - 3:30pm. Daffodils will be on sale for \$6 per bunch or 2 for \$10.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST

The Lefroy United Church UCW will be holding a craft sale from 9am until 2pm at the Grange Hall in Lefroy. There will be crafts, baking and lunch. Have a fun time shopping for gifts from yourself and others, and have a break for lunch. Tables for rent for \$10 and \$15. For information call (705) 456-0255 and (705) 456-2098.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH

The Sandycove Tap and Jazz Dancers are sponsoring a special craft show and tea room from 10am until 3pm at The Wheel. Admission and parking is free and there will be craft tables by over 30 residents and there will be draw prizes. Sandycove Tap and Jazz Dancers are a non profit group of women who perform at Sandycove Acres, retirement homes, hospitals, church and other non profit organizations. The money raised will upgrade and add to their costumes.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH

David Wilcox will be performing at Stroud Arena - a fundraiser for the new Rec Centre, in conjunction with ICE Corp.. Tickets will be going on sale in March. For ticket information, call (705) 436-5066 or 1-877-803-2121.