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Another successful Summerfest

With next to perfect weather, this past weekends Summerfest, presented by Area Productions, proved to be another successful one. With an array of activities and events for the young and the young at heart, there was plenty of fun to go around for everyone.

The Friday and Saturday night bands, Legend in Black and Legends of London, were a great choice. People (including myself) danced the night away, had a few drinks and sang along to the tunes we know and love. The opening band on Friday evening, the Rick Greendale Band featuring Catherine Watson, was fabulous and here's hoping they are invited back again next year.

As you may well remember, last year the Barrie paper's labeled the event "Drunkfest" and focused on the trouble at the park. Well, this year, with the increased police presence and the signs stating the "Zero Tolerance" rule for the park, little trouble was to be had. Sure, there will always be a few in the crowd; there's always a bad apple in the bushel. But focusing on the few individuals that decide to act unacceptable in public is not what it's about - it's about the other 99.99% that had a great time and acted

Comment

by Michelle Minnoch

accordingly.

While I was there to "work" – get photos of the bands, people having a good time – I can honestly say everyone I spoke to (and there were a lot, as I heard "Hey Scope" on more than one occasion) were there to have a drink or two, and listen to some great music.

About 1900 people attended the show Saturday night, and more were in the area, watching the fireworks light up the sky just after the sun went down.

The Kids Fishing Derby on Saturday morning was another family favourite this year.

Kudos goes out to the organizers and the sponsors of the kids fishing event. The prizes given to all participants were outstanding, again, made possible from the sponsors and those running the derby, ensuring everyone went home with something, even if the fish weren't going

after their bait that morning.

With the South Simcoe Police and the Fire and Rescue Paramedics on-hand giving demonstrations, residents were able to witness first hand how these important members of our community work, ensuring safety for all.

The Innisfil Pipes and Drums, celebrating their 30th year this Sunday with a tattoo at the Lefroy Arena, performed on Sunday, giving us a taste of their talents and what we can expect at the free event. Under the hot sun, they played flawlessly, dressed in their tartan, marching on cue, and entertaining the crowd.

Innisfil Community Events Corporation (ICE Corp.) should be applauded for putting in tireless hours over the course of the three day event. Made up of volunteers, members of ICE Corp. work their regular jobs during the week, and donate their time to ensure residents have a successful event. Without these dynamic citizens of our community, events such as these would not be possible.

With summer into full swing, remember there will still be many more activities for you to get out and enjoy.

ABA responds to Town's Action Plan 2010

In Response to the Town's Action Plan 2010 we would like to comment that we feel the Town is on the right track in implementing such a plan to achieve positive and constructive goal oriented results after the four year mandate given the council by the residents of Innisfil.

Innisfil and many other towns now share a common thread since many of the towns now are comprised of many small towns within a town.

This common thread poses many challenges for council seeing they now have many more groups of people with varying interests, desires and requirements.

In the action plan it was noted that transportation within Innisfil itself will need to be addressed. Yes, absolutely. We are building a beautiful state of the art recreational facility with no imminent transportation plans. Parents who are commuters would like to know there is safe and reliable transportation to and from the Rec. Centre for their children.

We have associations and numerous groups raising monies to help offset the cost of this wonderful facility but if no one but those who's parents are available to drive them can attend, what good is this complex if is not being properly used.

Another suggestion is a safe bicycle/ sidewalk path from Alcona and Stroud and of course safe sidewalks all over Innisfil.

One of the main reasons we wanted this Rec Centre is to provide our young

community alternatives other than hanging around the plazas.

Solid, consistent transportation will help us fulfill the purpose of having this complex built. If much of our community have transportation restrictions, and many for which the facility was designed, it's full potential is not realized.

Another one of the main items we would like to see more input from the town is in reference to the town's transportation needs to other job markets.

We noted there was absolutely no mention of the GO Train project in the Action Plan 2010.

We feel the GO Train would certainly relieve a major portion of the unemployment that Innisfil now experiences providing our community a means to find and obtain suitable jobs and occupations.

We understand that one of the Town's main mandates is to provide an increased job to resident ratios. This is admirable and welcomed and an absolute requirement. Having said this though we need to look to the present and not just the future to address this need.

Again having convenient and affordable transportation to major retail, industrial and commercial areas is needed now for our residents in order to provide needed income to our community. If we don't do our part our people will move to major population areas in order to find the required work.

We also understand that GO Train want to locate their station further south

from the major growth area of Innisfil which is Alcona. We are not sure why these decisions are made but an informed community would go along way in helping the town reach their objectives to get the GO Station where it belongs, Alcona.

Our closest major employment source is Barrie. Why not provide some type of transportation link to Barrie's transportation system.

It doesn't have to be large scale at the beginning but at least an attempt at doing something for our community to reach a more plentiful job market.

Another major issue which affects many aspects of the town is the difficult time the community is given with regard to building permits. We have spoken to some of the town's councillors and they readily acknowledge this is a major problem but only minor changes have been implemented. Costs for permits continue to escalate as well as major time loss by home owners and the business community.

This needs to be pursued further and given the highest priority. Until these issues get resolved, there may be countless businesses turning to other cities and towns with a more streamlined process to open their businesses there. This also may cause businesses/residents to be less inclined to obtain permits resulting in below code construction/renovations to homes and /or businesses.

The Alcona Business Association realizes that you have been given a difficult task to liaise the many

current and pending aspects of such a thriving and growing community.

We applaud what you have done and what you plan to do. Please do not take this as negative criticism but as positive critiquing.

Thank you for acknowledging publicly the work the Alcona Business Association has done to affect positive change in our beautiful town. We live and work here because we love Alcona and Innisfil.

We thank you and welcome any future comment you require from us from our distinct and

varied perspective. We wish you complete success in leading us into a prosperous future.

Sincerely,
Richard Ellis, President
The Alcona Business Association

We want to hear from you!
Email your letters and your comments to
thescope@rogers.com

Help the turtles

Dear editor:

MNR staff remind drivers that turtles are heading out to their nesting sites and may be crossing roads to get there. We should be particularly mindful along roads that are between wetlands or cross water.

Turtles are particularly vulnerable this time of year as the females search for areas where they can lay their eggs. This often brings them onto highways and roads seeking suitable habitat.

Turtles can live for decades but cannot compensate for high losses of adults in the population.

Motorists can help turtles and other wildlife by slowing down and watching carefully, especially during morning and evening.

Only if it is safe to do so, motorists can stop and move a turtle off the road in the direction it was heading.

People who intentionally kill turtles are breaking the law. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act prohibits the use of a vehicle to injure, kill, capture, harass or pursue any wildlife in the Province of Ontario.

The maximum fine for a conviction for this offense is \$25,000. MNR urges anyone who witnesses any illegal activity to contact the MNR TIPS Line (1-877-847-7667) with as many details as possible.

For more information on turtles in the GTA, you may contact Aurora District Ecologist, Emma Followes at (905) 713-7369.

Jane Sirois
Ministry of Natural Resources