

Library adds ServiceOntario to website: Key information found at your fingertips

by Michelle Minnoch
Never one to disappoint, the Innisfil Public Library is offering yet another service to make life easier and a bit more manageable for members of the community.

ServiceOntario is a link you can find on the Innisfil Public Library's website, www.innisfil.library.on.ca.

ServiceOntario is where you can access government information and services online.

Some of the services offered include applying for a birth certificate, address change for your health card, driver's licence and outdoors card, and much more. There is education and employment information and access to over 400 government forms.

The school link has a great assortment of information for students, including apprentice information, independent learning, distance learning, student assis-

tance program, awards, youth opportunities, and much more.

"Many people come into the library and ask us, for example, where they can get a marriage certificate, or where the nearest passport office is," said Lakeshore Branch Manager Marilyn Pillar. "Now all the information is at their fingertips."

She said staff has been trained on the system by government trainers and can guide any one through it if assistance is needed.

"There's parenting and teaching tips, and a kid's zone," she said.

Other information you can get from the site include information on driving, recreation, health and social services, life events (births, marriage, death, divorce, lost wallet, personal loss, moving, retirement, changing your name upon marriage, vacationing in Ontario), newborn service

information, adoption information regarding disclosure, and various links for business owners, including WSIB (Workplace Safety Insurance Board).

There is also information about current laws on the table in the House.

"You can view laws and see the status of bills going through the legislature," said Pillar.

She said there is not just provincial links, but federal as well.

"It is great for the library to be involved in this. The library is where people go for information."

Pillar said the ServiceOntario at Libraries Initiative grant the library received for the program totaled \$9,600. The money was used for additional computers, promotion and advertising of the service and staff expenses for learning the system.

Simcoe County Quilt, Rug and Craft Fair

The Simcoe County Quilt, Rug & Craft Fair is a wonderful showcase of heritage crafts from many different craft Guilds of our region. Beginning centuries ago, these crafts were passed on from generation to generation as everyday life skills. These skills are now used to create beautiful works of art out of enjoyment and not just necessity.

The show takes place September 14, 15 and 16.

Beautiful quilting, embroidery, spinning, handweaving, and rug hooking will be on display and for sale by the Guild members who handcrafted them. The Simcoe County Arts and Crafts Association Members Boutique is a must see as well with folk art painting, knitting, beadwork, and more for sale. Discover new skills at one of our hands on demonstrations, talk to the experts and get advice, or simply shop for some unique gifts for yourself or others.

Stop by the Merchant Mall to purchase your own supplies to take home, and visit the museum grounds to view some of our permanent displays and Heritage Buildings. Enjoy one of the many homemade sandwiches and goodies for sale by the members of the Grenfell United Church. Show hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$4.00 per person, per day; children under 12 are free. A free shuttle service will be provided from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All three days from the Kozlov Centre in Barrie (outside of the Daily Perk Café). For more information about the Simcoe County Quilt, Rug and Craft Fair, please call the Simcoe County Museum, (705) 728-3721.

Lake a priority this election year

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targets for the care of the lake. He added the charter will include legislative and regulatory provisions.

He also said this won't be a top-down exercise.

"It's not about government," he declared. "It's about government showing leadership."

Tory said the party's commitment to the lake was laid out in black and white weeks before McGuinty made his announcement. He added the Premier's announcement seemed to be decided upon a couple of hours before it was made, pointing out there wasn't even a draft bill announced. He thought that was odd, given the importance of the lake, both in terms of the species it supports and its vitality to the local economy.

York — Simcoe MP Peter Van Loan was on hand for the announcement, and he said he was "particularly delighted to see the proposal to match the federal commitment of \$12 million."

"It will go a long way to meeting the challenges that the lake faces," he added. "Here, you've got real dollars and a real action plan."

"Years of Liberal inaction have taken their toll on Lake Simcoe's sensitive ecosys-

tem," Van Loan remarked. "Our Conservative government is taking action to ensure Lake Simcoe is protected and preserved for future generations. I am pleased that John Tory is willing to take similar action if he becomes Premier in October."

York North MPP Julia Munro (who will be running in York — Simcoe for the PCs in this fall's provincial election) was also pleased with the announcement.

She stated McGuinty has only indicated his legislative intentions to do something for the lake. "That isn't what I believe is necessary," she commented.

She said a commitment of funding and realistic targets are needed, and that's what Tory's announcement will provide.

Munro was another who had not been too impressed with McGuinty's announcement last month. She had been on her way to the Summit herself when she heard the Premier was going to put in an appearance. "It did seem as though it was a spur-of-the-moment decision," she recalled, adding that was about a month after the PCs had identified the need to do something about sewage getting into waterways. "We can't allow the level of pollution that comes from improper treatment," she remarked.

Candidates for other parties weren't as impressed.

"Nice of them to catch up," commented John Gilbank, who is running for the Liberals in York — Simcoe. "He's about three weeks late."

"The point of this is not politics," he said. "It's about the health of the lake. So if he wants to support the McGuinty proposal, that's great."

As well, he charged the Conservatives voted against the Clean Water Act, even though it delivered on 12 for the recommendations from the Walkerton inquiry.

"Hopefully, the Conservatives' belated interest in Lake Simcoe will mean speedy passage for Premier McGuinty's legislation to protect it," he commented. "But the Conservatives' misguided desire to scrap the Clean Water Act puts the lake and our drinking water at risk."

"Finally, the other parties are catching up to the NDP concerning environmental issues," commented Nancy Morrison, NDP candidate in York — Simcoe, who also charged it was the PCs under Mike Harris who cut back on conservation authorities.

She also wasn't impressed with McGuinty's announcement last month, stating it "shared no specific plans, nor budget regarding Lake Simcoe, so it was just another McGuinty promise, and I know first hand how much his promises mean."

35th Anniversary of PHS

Come and join us for the 35th Anniversary of the Painswick Horticultural Society on Thursday August 16th at 6 pm.

We will be starting from the St. Paul's Anglican Church in St. Paul's on a visit to our society's five beautification sites ending at Knock School at 7:30pm for refreshments and other surprises. Many of our former presidents will be there as well as specially invited guests. Don't miss this once in a lifetime occasion. All of you are welcome including any former members of our group. For more information, please contact John at 436-5292.

The offices of the

**The
Scope**

will be closed on
**Monday, August 6 for
the Civic Holiday**

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Thanks from

Love To Fish Simcoe

It's hard to believe that four years have passed since we opened up the bait and tackle store in Belle Ewart. To show our appreciation for the support that you, our customers, have given us to make the business a success, we are hosting the

First Annual

Customer Appreciation Day
to be held on Sunday, August 5, 2007

from 6:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Please stop by for coffee and doughnuts
from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm

and hamburgers, hotdogs and pop
from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

There will be three prizes drawn at the end of the BBQ and Deputy Mayor, Gord Wauchope of Innisfil has kindly agreed to do the draw.

Thanks again, Vito and Sue Villani