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People and groups make a community great

As a member of this community for seven years now, and the editor for your community newspaper, it has been my pleasure attending meetings, events, dinners (oh yeah!) and more on your behalf - that has been my job - to bring the information to you.

On Friday I received a job in Leduc, Alberta, so this is my second last paper for The Scope.

Although I had taken journalism in college, I had never worked for a paper before, so diving right in there was really important. I have to admit, I had never been to a council meeting, never visited the library, and had no idea how important local groups were to this community.

And now that I have gotten to know many of you, it will be hard for me to leave you.

First of all, the Town of Innisfil has the best library I have ever seen. They are more than just books - the people at our various branches go to great lengths to make learning fun, productive, and provide programs parents can be proud of signing up their children for. I would like to let all the librarians know it has been a pleasure working with them - and thanks to the parents,

Comment

by Michelle Minnoch

whom I may not know by name, but greeted me with a smile when I attended an event.

There are various community groups and committees I have worked with that really bring people together, while working for the greater good of Innisfil. The Innisfil Historical Society, the Heritage Committee, and the various Horticultural Societies (to name a few) work hard to ensure the community treasures what they have, and make it that much better. The people of these committees and groups really do work hard for the betterment of the town.

As the lone reporter attending the monthly board meetings of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, I found the information, delegations and presentations imperative for my work. With concerns regarding Lake Simcoe, I was often surprised I was the he only reporter

usually attending the meetings.

Of course, I have to mention the hard work of the South Simcoe Police. Taking part in ride-alongs really opened my eyes as to what the officers face when going out and dealing with the public. Kudos also to the Innisfil Fire Fighters and the Volunteer Fire Fighters. I always enjoyed covering their events, as they not only make sacrifices for their community, but take part in fundraising and local events.

Besides, many of you who know me know that I am a sucker for a man in a uniform.

Over the past two years I have gotten to know our municipal officials, which are made up of a great group of men and women. These people work for our community and strive to see it continue forward.

Although I had made a few phone calls Friday to inform some people personally, I know there are a few people I have forgotten. All I know is that by Saturday morning, I had four phone calls and 16 emails from people asking me if what they had heard was true.

Man, I'm really going to miss this place.

Simcoe County Museum making changes for the better

by Margaretta Papp-Belayneh,
Chair IAAC

At the Innisfil Accessibility Advisory Committee (IAAC) meeting of August 28th, I had the golden opportunity of sharing my experience of visiting the Simcoe County Museum in Minising. The facility had undergone major renovations and expansion. The Museum is now more accessible to persons with mobility problems and require assistive devices, such as canes, elevator, wheelchairs and scooters.

This is really exciting news as it opens up a new world to persons with disabilities, especially people in wheelchairs to access the museum. Four years ago, the Simcoe County Accessibility Advisory Committee conducted a facility audit of the museum and

many barriers to access were identified. The museum was not an all inclusive facility meeting the needs of persons of all ages and abilities.

Some of the barriers included no accessible parking, no ramps for wheelchair access, no accessible washroom, and the aisles between the displays were very narrow. But all that is history now!

The museum is a real gem of a jewel - you really have to see it to believe it! The Simcoe County Accessibility Advisory Committee conducted a facility re-audit on August 27th. Museum Curator Gloria Taylor gave the Committee the guided tour.

Usually facility audits take approximately one hour, but the museum took over two hours. Gloria had great pride in showing off their

lovely modern and new facility with all of its accessible features such as ramps for wheelchairs, hand railings, a rest area in the coffee shop and patio area, wide aisles, good lighting, accessible washrooms with good turn around circumference, accessible showcases at a level that young people and persons in wheelchairs can view. There are many "touchy feely" artifacts to enhance the experience.

The Simcoe County Museum is truly a gem in our backyard!

The museum still has two barriers. The printed information in the show cases and displays are very hard to read, event by persons who are sighted, but it is a real barrier for people with loss of vision.

The technology is out there - wireless verbal cueing devices that would assist people with loss of

vision, by describing the content of the show cases.

There is only one draw back and that is the lack of funding. Donations of money or technology are gladly accepted.

The other barrier is that the museum does not have its own wagon or trailer to view distant displays on the scenic grounds.

If there are any builders or developers who might be able to donate a flat bed trailer that may be converted to a wheelchair accessible trailer, it would be appreciated.

Golf carts are also needed. Please contact the museum for more information.

Moms and dads with strollers are welcome. Bring your grannies and grandpas with their canes and walkers. People in wheelchairs are welcome.

Essa Library news

TD Summer Reading Club Wrap up!

Enrolment for this summer's TD Summer Reading Club, Lost Worlds, exceeded all our expectations! We offered three levels for the children, including a preschoolers' Jr. Lost Worlds. Here's a wrap up of our prize winners and statistics.

Grand prize winners were: Emily P. (Level 1-Angus); Melissa L. (Level 2-Angus); Emma Y. (Junior Level-Angus).

Tyler C. (Level 1-Thornton); Kiara E. (Level 2-Thornton); Katelyn S. (Junior Level - Thornton). These lucky participants were chosen, by random draw, from all the 1,366 reading ballots entered during the program!

"Name the Mummy" Contest Winners were: 1st prize name "Muwie" suggested by Bailey (Thornton); 2nd. prize name "Sur TutsALot" came from

the imagination of Devon (Angus); and 3rd. prize went to Tyler (Thornton) with his name-sake, "Tyler Kaman".

"Mystery Critter Jar" Contest Winners were: Tiana B. (Angus) and Eric M. (Thornton) with their brilliant, exact guesses of 133 critters in the Mystery Jar!

For some statistics on our TD Summer Reading Club, we had an increase of 13.3% over last summer with almost 350 children participating in the Club. These children read 3,109 books, spending 87,792 minutes=1,463 hours as their Summer of 2007 passed!

Finally, some well-earned "thank you's"--first of all to our "Lost Worlds" support from the TD Bank Financial Group, Southern Ontario Library Service, Library & Archives Canada, Toronto Public Library. Congratulations and big thanks to our two Essa

Public Library Program Assistants, Stacey & Dawn, for all their hard work and enthusiasm for the TD Summer Reading Program (and the Reach for the Stars Reading Program); and finally our local area business sponsors, who provided us with support and prizes for the program, Marlene & Don Cotter of Giant Tiger, Angus; Rory & Marlene MacKinnon of McDonald's, Angus; & Rounds Ranch.

Good For Life Family Fun Night!

Program Assistants, Stacey & Dawn presented a Family Fun Night at our Angus & Thornton Branches with a number of activities that families could participate in together! These events were held on August 22 in Thornton and August 23 in Angus. Families who participated were eligible for a prize draw and the winners of those prizes were The Ferguson Family of Thornton (\$25 gift card at Sobey's); and The Hughes & Sandford Families of Angus

(each family received a Good Food Box for 3 months).

Storytime sessions start again soon...

Registration for the next Storytime session at the Essa Public Library branches starts on September 17. Storytime is for 3-5 year olds and is \$2 per child and pre-registration is required at the Essa Public Library. See our handout for dates and times or call us at 424-6531/458-2549 for more information.

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.

Enjoy one of the many homemade sandwiches and goodies for sale by the members of the Grenfel 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).