Essa responds to Canada-wide bridge report

By Richard Blanchard

Essa township is vigilant on maintaining its bridges after a study was released last week which said that Canadian municipalities face a major deficit in infrastructure expenditure.

Township Public Works manager Greg Murphy said Wednesday night that the township is constantly monitoring its bridges to ensure their safety.

"We have our engineers undertake structural inspections of the bridges every two years and our road foremen do visual inspections of them on a regular basis," said Murphy. "We went a step further this year and identified four bridges for further inspection and had their concrete road surfaces checked., There were no problems."

Murphy said that the township has embarked on a number of major projects in recent years to ensure that the township bridges are kept to the highest level.

"We have made major improvements to the fifth line bridge north of the 30th sideroad and we are presently replacing the Nicolston bridge on the fifth line."

Councillor Rick Newlove also noted that the county was planning to replace the Drysdale bridge on County Road 56.

Township mayor Dave Guergis said that the township has been helped with the provincial and federal infrastructure programs over the past several years.

"Bridge construction is not cheap. We can always use some help from the higher level of governments," he said.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

A directory of what is happening in your community

The community event calender 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@ focuscdc.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.

Donations are needed for Music Fun Night at the Gilford United Church. If you have any old or unused music instruments like tambourines, shakers, chimes, drums or other fun instruments, call Dawn at (705) 456-2555.

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 7 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 (705) 424-9433 or (705) 458-0937.

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 simular minded people, come and join us. For more information, please call (705) 722-7755

St. Paul's Church, Innisfil (corner of Mapleview and Younge 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 aniexty 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 weekends.

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 snakc, 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.

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

Overeaters Anonymoyus 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.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28

The Alzheimer Society of Greater Simcoe County is looking for volunteers to gift wrap in local malls from Dec. 14 to 24. A variety of daytime, evening and weekend shifts are available. Volunteers are required to attend an orientation session Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. For more information, call 722-1066.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 1

St. James United Church will host A Christmas Cantata, The Promise of a King and pot luck dinner at 2 p.m. Residents are asked to bring their own plates, cutlery and mugs. For more information, call 436-5225.

The Simcoe County branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society is holding a meeting at 2 p.m., at the LDS church. The church is located at 79 Ferris Lane in Barrie. Bring your family treasures and research discoveries for "show and tell". Everyone is welcome. The book table opens at 1:30 p.m. For information, call Ken Reese at 728-1170.

Thornton Community Turkey Shoot, starting at 10 a.m. Only a 12 gauge is allowed. The event costs $3 per shot. A lunch booth will be available. Proceeds will be donated to the Royal Victoria Hospital's regional cancer centre. Pie slices are being sold for $2 each at many local businesses, for the chance to win a turkey, ham or peameal bacon. Call Mike at 452-9279 for more information.

The Thornton Lions Club wants to notify everyone in the community that we will begin selling Christmas trees on Dec. 1, on County Road 27, just north of the traffic lights in Thornton. Pine and fir trees are only $ 30, your choice.

The Friends of the Innisfil Public Library are hosting a Festivities With Friends program from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Stroud branch. Everyone is cordially invited to come and meet the Friends, as they decorate the Stroud branch. This event will also include a craft and holiday program for the children, seasonal music and refreshments.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 2

Christmas in the Village at the Thornton Creek gazebo on Robert Street in Thornton, starting at 6 p.m. Tree lighting, visit from Santa, enjoy hot chocolate and treats and visit with your neighbours. Everyone is welcome.

Old Tyme Fiddler Lloyd Preston will be playing his fiddle at Stroud Presbyterian Church at 10:30 a.m. Everybody is welcome to come out and celebrate this first Sunday in Advent. Donations to the food bank would be gratefully received. Call 436-7939 for more information.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 4

Taste of Judaism will take place at the Am Shalom Synagogue, beginning at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Come and learn more about Judaism, join and ask questions. For more information call 792-3949.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 7

Free turkey and ham dinner at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Churchill. The event will take place between 5 and 7 p.m. There is no cost to attend the dinner, however a cash donation or some non-perishable food items to support their annual Christmas for Kids outreach program will be accepted. The church is located at 6254 Yonge Street. Limited space is