

# The *S*oulvine

FREE

*Uplifting and Encouraging  
News and Events*

Check the table of contents on page 2 to see what's in this month's issue!

January, 2007

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's always nice to look forward to all the new and exciting things ahead in a new year and I may get around to that a little later, but for the moment I need to reflect just a bit about the year 2006.

I have to first say it has been an absolute pleasure for me to have had the opportunity to take my first year of this new business and meet a whole lot of you. Just being able to spend more time around town has given us here at Soulvine Media Ink the time to find out more stuff that we can share with you all in this publication every month. It has been a BLAST. Being a part of the Community Center Board makes me aware of most upcoming events, and even though I don't make it out to all of them, most times that's because I'm at something else going on in town.

When I look back over the first years editions of The Soulvine, for a small town like this, we sure have a lot of fun events going on each year. We at the Center do things like the Canada Day Parade, Washago Fest and Victorian Christmas, not to mention the programs all year for the kids. Then we also have the Local Clubs like The Lions and The Lionesses, The Rotary, The Women's Institute, The Washago Seniors, The Sunshine Seniors, The Garden

Club, The Ramona Hall Agricultural Group, all the Church groups, The Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and then there's The Happening Place across from the Catholic Church. I believe it's supposed to be a retirement lodge, but with all the fun and activities going on around there I would have to say it's definitely not your average home for the elderly. Terry and Maggie have done a fantastic job making every resident in the Muskoka Retirement Lodge feel like they are part of our community, and they love it there. I'm sure I could go on much longer about all the great work these various groups do here in the area and I would like to mention the water tower project by the Rotary, the car rally by the Lions, the Antique car show by Bob (LO EH), and a lot more if I had the time and space but I'm sorry I don't, so to everyone who has helped in any way, in any project, I say thanks for the fun year gone by.

Now we can look forward and say HAPPY BIRTHDAY to us here at Soulvine Media Ink for our first year past and the funtastic one ahead. You can see with all the clubs activities going on all year that we are going to be busy trying to keep you informed, and stay in touch with our local polititians that keep us up to date

with plans and strategies concerning our future in this area. Hopefully our two new representatives, one in Ramara and one in Severn, will keep the future progressive for us here in the north of the two townships and you will be informed of it all.

We are seeing things happening at the on again-off again Community Center renovation project, and we are being told by our afore mentioned councilor that the completion date is scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>. (Is he fooling?) Let's hope not, and that things will again be planned and happening at our beloved center sooner than later.

There is a lot of talk going around about all the exciting things being planned for the upcoming year and I know that we here in and around Washago are in for a lot of fun things to do very soon. So please join me and be encouraged about all the plans coming to fulfillment, that are leading to a very bright future up here in the not so far North.

With the expansion of our paper distribution this month, we are making it an open invitation to all of our new readers in Cumberland Beach and Kilworthy to please join with us here in Washago to celebrate any and all of the festivities coming up this year.

It will be a pleasure for me to again this year spend time meeting more of you wonderful people that are so blessed to be able to live in this beautiful area called "The Gateway To Muskoka".

### FOUR YEARS? TOO BAD!



Frank J. Coyle (Severn)

Now before you two new councilors get all excited thinking that I'm being negative about having you both representing us in the northern parts of the Severn and Ramara Townships, please let me try and explain myself. Now that you will be serving a FOUR YEAR term on council, instead of three, is really not a factor of the TOO BAD. Nor is it that you both are the chosen (one acclaimed, one chosen) two, in those positions. The TOO BAD, I refer to is that I had so much fun with being involved in the whole campaigning thing this time around, it is not going to be happening again for another whole four years. A lot can happen in that much time, and who knows where I'll be by then. I may never experience that pleasure again. So let me now express my gratitude to my friends Marilyn Brooks, Bill White, Frank Coyle, Lucy Stewart and Colin Cooper. You have all played a part in the fun I have had. But now the fun is over for me and just starting for some others. December 7<sup>th</sup> 2006 was the Inaugural day for both Bill White of Ramara Ward 1 and Frank Coyle of Severn Ward 5. The fun I refer to having, will I hope extend to you both during your tender as councilors for however long you choose to be.



Bill White (Ramara)

From what I am hearing on both sides of the river, (in Washago) things are happening in both Council Chambers and good working relationships are expected to operate throughout the upcoming term. If nothing else, I will say you both look pretty good sitting up there behind that chamber desk.

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### CALEB'S CHRISTMAS BLESSING

How Great was that? Not only was the turkey and all the fixings delicious, but the new people and friends that were part of the monthly pot blessing dinner, was fantastic. The number of faces from all around the area that showed up for the free dinner was someplace around 85 or 90 and I didn't here of anyone getting sick from my cooking. That's Good News. These dinners are all geared toward food, fun and fellowship so if you want to meet some of your neighbors come on out. No obligations at all. Our next get together will be on January 28<sup>th</sup> From 4:30 till 6:00 pm. See you there.



### THE MISSION OF STE. ELIZABETH In Washago?

In the year 1643 The Iroquois expansion was pushing many groups of Algonquin's west into Huron territory. With winter fast approaching one of these groups arrived near the village of St. Jean Baptiste (somewhere near Bass Lake in Oro-Medonte Township). From there they were accompanied by Father Jerome Lalemant (who had been with the Huron since 1638) to the Mission of Ste. Elizabeth. The Mission of Ste. Elizabeth was established sometime around 1640 and its location is said to be at the north end of

Lake Couchiching, two to three miles south of the district of Muskoka. The mission was at this time under the care of Father Rene Menard who had previously worked at the Mission of the Holy Ghost (established in 1641 by Father Claude Pijart). Menard had arrived in Canada in 1640 and remained at the Mission of Ste. Elizabeth until the Huron culture was nearly wiped out in 1649. It is assumed that the mission was destroyed at this time as well because Menard then went on to live among the Iroquois around Lake Superior.

Source- The history of Muskoka and Haliburton- Florence B. Murray  
Submitted by Darcy Duggan

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### Washago Glimpses

## JUST-A MERE-WALK IN WASHAGO

By Bob Robertson

Exercising seems to be a way of life these days. It seems like somehow everyone is getting involved. By far, simply walking is the easiest, cheapest and most popular form of exercising one could engage in. The reasons are very obvious. You can walk anytime, day or night, you can walk almost anywhere, you can walk at any pace you choose and wear almost any type of clothing you prefer. During the cold season you can dress warm and during the warm season you can dress accordingly, and if it's raining you can snuggle under an umbrella and keep going. There are no registration fees, no dues and no charges, just your willingness to participate. These are certainly the most common reasons for walking, but let's delve just a little deeper into other reasons people are hitting the side-walks, hiking trails and road-ways. In the Village of Washago I have had the opportunity to talk with many walkers and pass the time of day with them. No I'm not a walker, but I enjoy every minute spent speaking with those doing so. Some are my neighbors, others are my friends and still others are total strangers inquiring of directions, local interests and historical information.

They seem to come from all over. Last week-end, I met some folks from Etobicoke that just parked their car and asked if I knew of a good area to start their walk. Because my home is located near Washago, on a small island with-in an even larger island, I was able to direct them to many dead-end roads with very little

traffic. With-in five miles of the Village there are ELEVEN road bridges along with many rail-road bridges. Although we do not suggest anyone should walk along the rail bridges, I only mention this to indicate the amount of water surrounding the Washago area. The walkers are never very far away from enjoying the various historical water routes. Lake Couchiching, the Severn River, the Black, and Green are all very much in reach for any caliber of walker. Many folks like my neighbors, Nancy Morrison and her friend Betty Erickson, (both retired), walk for exercise and companionship. Although neither one needs to lose weight, they have found the exercise so relaxing, they have made it a way of life and have been walking for many years. Nancy suggested the two of them walk approximately eight kilometers a day. WOW, that's commitment. I see them every morning on my way to work and what a pleasure it is, to stop for a moment and pass the time of day with them. They are always smiling, happy, upbeat and so friendly. Betty confides that the two of them often change their routes to keep the scenery fresh in their minds. Then there's Ken and Stella Schanck, also neighbors, walking with their dog Sheba, forever training the young German Sheppard. Trish and Derek Mader along with sixteen month old J.R. (real name Jacob Ross walk constantly. Day in and day out, the dedicated walkers continue, and the reasons are as varied as the people themselves.

While walking, the use of a walking stick can come in handy for many reasons. Certainly the obvious, would be to ward off any stray dogs you may not be familiar with, but also for balance purposes. Walking allows one to get as close to nature as possible, because of the absence of noise. Enjoying the wild-life in the country is perhaps the most enjoyable benefit of walking. Can you imagine the opportunity to listen to the various birds, watching fish swim, seeing deer jump, and other animals in the wild, on your walk? Witness the spring flowers sprouting up, the wild trilliums, daffodils and early tulips and then watch your neighbors gardens come to life as you pass by each day. Comments from various people I have spoken with, confirm they have seen deer, moose, rabbits, fox, geese, ducks, birds galore, muskrat, beaver, various fish life and very unusual people. Walking can be so exhilarating and certainly the Village of Washago offers so many opportunities to enjoy the exercise and enjoy nature at the same time. I'd like to say, see you on the trails, but chances are I won't. Keep up the good work, and welcome to the world of walking. Next week let's get out on the river and visit with some folks canoeing and kayaking as they paddle along the beautiful Severn River.



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**Thanks Timbr-Mart!**



This is the Season of Giving and we at the Washago Community Center would like to THANK Tim-br Mart's Tom Denne (left), James Elliott (middle) and their whole staff for the more than generous contribution of \$2500 toward the needs of a completed Center. Bill Wylie (right) is all smiles receiving the check, because he knows just how much money we are going to need to complete the massive renovation project. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you too Tim-br Mart

**Severn Treasures Movies**



SEVERN TREASURES Antiques and Wares, located on Muskoka Street in Beautiful downtown Washago, is now offering the latest MOVIES out on DVD. The store will be open till 9pm every night with rental rates at \$3.99+tax and returns by 4pm the following day. For movie availability or reservation please call 705-689-9535.

**NOT THIS YEAR**

Sorry to have to report to all you avid sports fans that look forward to some out door recreation in the winter supplied by the community center ice surface. This year it ain't gonna happen! With the construction going on for the next few months, the danger of accidents happening on the property has made it impossible for public use this season. If all goes well we should have everything in order for next years rink to be the best ever.

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**Pumpkin Fun**



We had a very fun and gooey day carving pumpkins, sipping hot chocolate, and nibbling on cookies!! Participants, enjoyed stories, prizes, and good clean fun at the Washago Community Center's 2nd Annual Pumpkin Carving Workshop! I would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to ZEHRs and NO-Frills for so generously supporting the community by donating all the pumpkins for this much loved event! Thanks to everyone who participated and thanks to all who helped! See you next year!

Submitted by Kara Little



**Rick's Christmas Tree**

Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> was a Lucky Day for Rick Hepinstall. Thanks to Prudential Realtors, The Washago Community Center was again this year able to raise over \$700 on the Christmas Tree raffle. Enjoy Ricky

**Identity Theft - Part 2**

Financial Identity. We are all concerned with our pocketbook, unfortunately so are some others, looking to get more out of that wallet or purse than what's in there, and surprisingly it's easier than you think. Take for example a check you put in the mail. I remember when I was in my early teens my dad bought a 'Checkwriter' for his business. You think a sealed envelope is safe? I watched as the man from the 'Checkwriter' company removed a check from a sealed envelope without opening or steaming the seal then lifted the signature off the check then put the check back in the envelope in less than thirty seconds with no evidence of tampering! Easy with the right tools and knowhow. Ahead thirty or forty years to electronic commerce of today, and believe me every transaction whether you like it or not is electronic, even hand written checks are now electronic. I don't have the space here to explain how that works. So here are things you should always do: 1)keep your cards in your possession at all times when making purchases and if the terminal has to be swiped by the attendant keep your eye on that card. With the technologies of today it is very easy to capture your information, 2)always remove mail in your mailbox as soon as possible, pre-approved credit cards are a favourite of thieves, they take your mail and send it in with their address and obtain access to your credit while leaving you to pay the bill, 3)always retain your right to privacy and do not give out personal information over the phone or elsewhere unless you initiated the call and then never give out your S.I.N. number unless you are talking with Canada Revenue Agency or Employment Insurance, no other organization needs your S.I.N. number. Also ask how the information will be used. 4)Never carry your S.I.N. number or other forms of identification unless absolutely necessary, I.E. when driving you need to carry your drivers licence. 5)use passwords on your accounts and cards that are not easily guessed such as maiden names, phone numbers or portion thereof, birth dates, etc. as all of these are easy to obtain so come up with passwords that are easy for you to remember but very difficult for others to figure out and KEEP IT TO YOURSELF. 6)know your billing cycles and should a bill come late or not at all then call the company and find out why. Thieves that intercept mail can use that information or use your account to gain credit fraudulently. If you move or are away for any length of time, have your mail stopped or rerouted. 7)obtain your credit report on a consistent basis (quarterly) to know where you are at and find out if someone is using or has used your financial identity. I personally know a gentleman in Barrie that owns his own business and house that they have lived in for twenty years and when he received his credit report found out he had another house in Kitchener in his name. Fortunately he had 'Identity Theft Shield' to protect him and restore his identity and clean up the mess the thieves made of his good name and credit. 8)be sure to have some form of 'Identity Theft' protection on you and your family from a reputable company. Financial Identity Theft is only a part of the problem, in fact only 28% of all 'Identity Theft' is financial. Next time a round we will explore your Health Identity. Happy New Year.

Written by Neil Cragg  
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# TIPS TIPS AND MORE TIPS

## Spam Filters

### Yahoo/Rogers --- Set up the junk e-mail filter

The most effective way to prevent spam from entering your inbox is to use SpamGuard. Help increase SpamGuard's effectiveness by sending examples of spam to Yahoo! to review. Yahoo! will use the messages you send using the "Spam" button to constantly improve the SpamGuard technology.

You can choose how long you want to keep messages in your Bulk Mail Folder. You can choose to drop all messages in your Bulk Mail Folder or keep messages for 1 week, 2 weeks or 1 month. The default is one month. To edit the SpamGuard feature:

Click "Mail Options"

Click "Spam Protection"

Here you will have the following two choices:

"Immediately delete these messages upon receipt".

"Save these messages in the Bulk folder".

Select the desired timeframe from the drop down menu.

Important: Occasionally, valid email messages may be perceived as spam and delivered to the Bulk folder. Please note that if you select this option, you will not have an opportunity to review the messages in your Bulk folder before they are deleted.

Click "Save Changes"

### Hotmail --- Set up the junk e-mail filter

The junk e-mail filter helps keep unsolicited messages out of your Inbox. You can specify how restrictive you want the filter to be.

Click **Options**.

On the left side of the page, click **Mail**.

Click **Junk E-Mail Protection**, and then click **Junk E-Mail Filter**.

Click a filter level (**Low**, **Enhanced**, or **Exclusive**).

If you choose the Exclusive level for your junk e-mail filter, make sure that your Contacts list includes all of the e-mail addresses that you want to receive messages from, including your own. Otherwise, messages from those e-mail addresses are automatically sent to the Junk E-Mail folder.

Click **OK**. Note It's a good idea to check your Junk E-Mail folder frequently to ensure that important mail isn't being filtered as junk. If you find a message that you don't consider junk, select the check box next to the message, and then click **Not Junk** on the toolbar.

Tips Submitted by:

Kevin Lehman - Volunteer, Ramara Public Library

## Blaines Automotive Auto Faxx

### Tis the season..... Not for your automobile though

During the height of the holiday season we launch ourselves into a sensory overload. Festive parties, family, shopping for that special gift and spending time with loved ones, besides isn't this what the holidays are all about. During this time we tend to neglect our automobiles, thats to be expected.

The start of the new year we anticipate. The chance to start over fresh if you will. Well why not start off fresh with your auto. I've stated many times before, that the most inexpensive way to keep your auto on the road is with routine maintenance. Call your service provider and ask to book your vehicle in for a "state of health" check. During this inspection your provider will arrange a list of needed repairs or maintenance in order from urgent to passive. This allows you the motorist to take care of the urgent repairs, budget for the passive repairs and provide the comfort of knowing the electrical, mechanical and physical state of your auto.

Most service providers will perform this check at little to no cost to you. Take advantage of what the industry will offer. Happy new years and safe motoring!!!

Respectfully,  
Mark Stein  
ASE Certified Technician

## HEALTH TIP

### Laughter

Laughing improves health. Laughter has been shown to lower blood pressure, reduce stress hormones, increase muscle power, enhance learning, and boost immunity. Laughter releases endorphins, which when flowing in our bodies makes us healthier and happier. Laughing every day will improve your health, much like exercising does. It gives us an overall sense of well being and releases negative emotions that make us sick. The ability to laugh at situations can produce a more positive, hopeful attitude. So why not focus on things that make you laugh as a New Years resolution for 2007?

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## JUST IN TIME

It was getting a bit difficult to get into the feeling of Christmas when all through the week we had been experiencing temperatures of around 10 degrees and sunny. Were we going to be out singing Carols on the street wearing t shirts? It almost looked that way until the very day of the Victorian Christmas celebration that was being done on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December once again this year. As is the tradition every season, most of the shops and stores up and down the main street of Washago were open to the public for some milk and cookies and some good old fashion celebrating. If I am remembering correctly, at about noon a brisk snowfall gave us a beautiful fresh white covering that made the atmosphere a bit more Christmassy. The horse drawn sleigh rides from the Log Cabin Restaurant to the Muskoka Retirement Lodge were perfect with the snow and the not so cold temperature. The street was lit up by all the decorations and lights while people wandered from end to end sharing some Christmas Cheer among their friends and neighbors. The Local Clowns were out keeping the crowds entertained at each Shop and visited the seniors at the Lodge. Even SANTA CLAUSE was a surprise guest at the retirement home giving out more than 125 gifts to the many children that showed up to sit on his knee and share all their dreams and wishes for Christmas morning. Even though there were doubts as to the success of the whole evening, do to more than just one or two circumstances, in the end all seemed to work out very well again this year so I guess I can start on my list of goodies that I plan to ask Santa for at our next years VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.



## TAXES MADE EASIER

Ontario businesses are one step closer to millions in savings with the introduction today of legislation that would designate a single corporate tax collector for the province.

"Corporate tax consolidation is a big win for the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and an even bigger win for Ontario businesses," says Len Crispino, President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. "We estimate that this streamlining will save Ontario businesses \$100 to \$150 million each year in time and money, creating room for more investment in the things that will make our economy grow - like human capital, new equipment and research and development."

The legislation, introduced by Ontario Finance Minister Greg Sorbara, follows from a Memorandum of Understanding signed with Federal Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty in October. It will transfer the collection and administration of Ontario's corporate income tax to the federal government. Under the agreement, businesses would make combined payments starting in 2008 and file a single return beginning in 2009 for taxation years ending after December 31, 2008.

"We have long called for one tax return, one set of rules and one point of contact," explains Crispino. "The single tax collector will mean savings and efficiencies for businesses and government, and ultimately make our province more competitive."

This legislation will reduce compliance costs for businesses and enable the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to streamline service and reduce administrative costs. Benefits to Ontario businesses will include:

- A single tax form.
- A single tax collector. The CRA will collect federal and Ontario corporate income tax and administer the province's capital tax.
- One set of income tax rules.

The federal government already collects corporate income tax for seven provinces and three territories.

## Recipe

### Yummy tea biscuits:

- 3 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 1 tbsp. Baking powder
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 3 tbsp. butter
- 1 egg
- 1 cup milk

Mix flour, salt, baking powder and sugar. Cut in butter with pastry cutter. Beat egg and milk together and add to flour mixture. Pat to 1 inch thick and cut into rounds. Bake at 400\* for approximately 10 minutes until golden.

IF YOU LIKE HAVING A RECIPE SECTION IN THE SOULVINE PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPES TO contact@soulvinemedia.com

## 2007Orillia Zehrs Super Cities WALK for MS

Organization: Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada

When: April 15th, 2007

Time: 8:30am - 1:00pm

Where: Orillia District Collegiate and Vocational Institute, 2 Borland St. E., Orillia

Description: The Super Cities WALK for MS is one of the MS Society's largest fundraising events. Last year over 160 communities across Canada participated to help raise a record \$12 million! The Orillia WALK alone raised over \$44,000.

The money raised at the WALKs helps us achieve our dual mission of supporting research towards finding the cause and cure of multiple sclerosis while enabling those living with MS to enhance their quality of life.

Website: www.supercitieswalk.com

Contact: Andrea Lucas, Coordinator - Fundraising Events

Email: andrea.lucas@mssociety.ca

Phone: 1-800-268-7582 ext. 2318

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**Washago Area Senior Citizens**

Tuesday had their Christmas luncheon at the Royal Canadian legion this past week with 95 of the 140+ bowlers present. Soup, sandwiches were the main fare followed by chocolate cake, tea or coffee. Lois Aston, Jo Dobson and Joan Mascarin each won a gift tin of Werthers candies. Fred Wright thanked Gerry and Jean Balduckie for helping run the league while he was away, Andy and Phil Lee for running the 50/50, and Jack and Vivian McCarron for looking after the secret number every week.



**Washago Sunshine Seniors**

November 28, 2006 (Compiled by Bob Caster as requested by Eric Blough)

We meet at Heritage United Church hall, 3332 Muskoka St. Washago. (at 1.30 pm. On the 4th Wednesday of each month for fun & fellowship.

We also:  
 Teach and enjoy Line dancing every Monday 1.00 pm. to 3.00 pm.  
 Play regular euchre every Tuesday starting at 7.30 pm.

Contact: Eric Blough 689-1033

Foot Clinic on the first Wednesday of the month (by appointment only), 8.30 am to 12.00 noon. Contact Marty Kingsland 689-9464

Misc: Pot luck luncheons, Bar-B-Ques, Bazaars, Day trips, Bid Euchre, Etc. Newcomers are always welcome.

Contact: Wilf or Margot McNiece 689-1277  
 Bob or Joyce Caster 689-2105

**Ramara Seniors Association** recently held their Christmas luncheon at the Royal Canadian Legion. Gifts were handed out by Santa and his Elves, and the guests provided a trunkful of food for the Sharing Place. All enjoyed a turkey dinner and then sang carols lead by Past President Sylvia Head.



**Washago Area Senior Citizens**

Our last meeting of the year had 132 members present with 4 new ones introduced, even Santa came!

The members learned that since August over \$9,000 had been donated by the Club to The Sharing Place, Green Haven, the Salvation Army, to name a few. Again this year the Club sent three children to summer camp through the Moose Lodge.

Ruth Watkins, our Card mailer is away for a few months, should you know of anyone in hospital or very sick please call Phil Lee, 689-0333 to have a card sent to them.

At this point all present were to enjoy a very professional performance of their own Harmony Singers conducted by Joan Johnson with Marg Bower at the piano as they sang many Christmas carols, and of course joined by the audience. Many of the songs were renditions of their own, the theme being Peace On Earth and Building Bridges. Joan Johnson, at one point explained that they would not be singing We Three Kings as they couldn't find three wise men in the audience. Maureen Reid on behalf of the Choir wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. Their last song was Go Now In Peace.

All then enjoyed the friendship of the season sharing Christmas sweets with tea or coffee.



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**Ramona Hall**

On Monday January 29th, 2007, at 7:30pm Ramona Hall Agricultural Society holds its' annual general meeting at Ramona Hall on Fairgrounds Road, 4km east of Hwy 169. This AGM sets the pace and for the 2007 upcoming events, fund raising activities, board elections and general comments from our neighbours and friends within the community. Everyone is welcome to join us for the AGM. You do not need to be a board member to volunteer. Volunteers can be as active as they want! Some neighbours and friends are able to lend a helping hand throughout the year, while others have favourite events they set their time aside for.

Please come on out and join Ramona Hall as a V.I.P volunteer this year!

On Saturday February 10th, 2007 Ramona Hall has it's annual Winterfest. This annual event is all about the families, fresh air and being together. There are 5km of groomed trails through the woods and over the hills with five check points for the famous "Poker Run". You can hike, cross-country ski, snowshoe or walk our beautiful trail anytime between 11:00am to 2:00pm. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Prizes and games are enjoyed by everyone! The hall is open all afternoon. Food and drinks may be purchased in the hall. A friendly euchre tournament begins at 1:30pm, followed by the dart tournament. Come out and enjoy Lake Country's Best Winterfest!

Happy new year from everyone at Ramona Hall !



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**Rotary Club of Washago News**

Re-Cap of 2006

The Rotary Club of Washago & Area – Centennial had a busy year in 2006. New events for our community were born. The Rotary Wild Game dinner was an overwhelming success with plans for a second seating in April of 2007. The Great Washago River Fest was an event that put Washago on the map for competitive Canoe and Kayak Racers from across the country. Pictures of this event can be found on the Rotary Club website [www.washagorotary.ca](http://www.washagorotary.ca).

Your local Rotarians have been hard at work raising funds for the Water Tower Mural project. We are closer than ever to making the water tower mural a landmark for Washago. To date, the club has raised over \$10,000.00 toward the project.

Thank you to the community for purchasing Gift-boxed Rotary Christmas Hams. We raised \$973.00 from the sale of which the majority went to the Water Tower fund.

Internationally, your local Rotary Club donated funds to Project Umbrella Burma, area nurse Carol Keiths' humanitarian project in the Dominican Republic, and to Nu Vision to aid in the construction of a school for survivors of the genocide in Rwanda.

Rotary sponsored three local grade 8 classes to attend a workshop in "real life finances"

Rave reviews were received from parents, students and teachers.

The Washago Rotary Club welcomed three new members in 2006; Scott Brain, Freedom 55 Financial, Alana Robinson, Robinson Haulage and Jason Stanton, Bayview Wildwood Resort.

Once again, the Rotary Club sponsored one hour of ice time at the Rama Mask. Free Skating for area residents from 3pm to 4pm Wednesday December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006

We are hoping 2007 will be just as successful as the previous year.

We have a new bulletin board on the hardware store exterior. Many thanks to Washago Home Hardware for providing the space. Thanks also to the Soulvine for providing the media for Rotary to report our events.

When you see a Rotary event, please keep in mind the good we do not only for our community but for world peace and understanding.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ROTARY CLUB!

**Washago Lions**

The Washago Lions hope that you and your family had a safe and enjoyable holiday season and wish you health and happiness in the New Year.

December was a very busy month for the Washago Lions. Our year ended with a great Christmas dinner for all members and their spouses.

The Lions have hosted Karaoke Sue every Friday night and will continue this into the New Year. Come and check it out and stay for an evening with the finest Karaoke singers in the area. Age of majority is required.

The Washago Lions always welcome new members, male or female. Come and check us out. WE SERVE THE WASHAGO AND AREA DISTRICT.

Call Jim at 689-5629 for more information.

**Washago Women's Institute**

held their Christmas December meeting at Heritage United Hall. Dessert was enjoyed. Roll call was an informal time of readings and singing. Yvonne Jones spoke to the motto, "Blessed are they that give without remembering and those who receive without forgetting".

A short business meeting was held. Toys were brought in and donated to Green Haven, Jubilee House and Salvation Army.

We invite you to our meetings. For more information phone 689-5590

Submitted by Marilyn Fowler, P.R.O.

**Ramara Township  
Bill White  
Councillor Ward 1**



**NEWSLETTER #2**

Dear Ward 1 Residents,  
**Happy New Year !**

In early December the new Council had three days of Orientation at the Township offices. Each department gave a presentation of their functions and responsibilities. We toured a Water and Sewer Plant, Fire Hall, and Works Yard. It was most informative and demonstrated many of the complex functions necessary to run a Township.

The following week the Inaugural took place in the evening of December 7th, 2006. It was a well attended event from the Township and from Officials representing other areas.

At the Council Meeting on December 11th, appointments were made to the nine Volunteer Committees and Boards. A number of new applicants came forward to fill these important positions. Also, each Councillor was appointed as a Council Liaison Person for a different area of jurisdiction. My appointment is Planning and Development Services. In addition I will also sit on the Longford Community Centre Board, Court of Revision, and the Public Library Board.

The Budgeting process will start in mid January. I am preparing now for these meetings.

Please contact me at any time with your concerns.  
Phone: (705) 689-4719 or email [williamwhite@rogers.com](mailto:williamwhite@rogers.com)

Sincerely,  
Bill



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**St. Paul's Anglican – Washago**  
 Service 9:00am  
 Reverend: Maureen Hair  
 Parish Priest

**Heritage United Church**  
 Service 11:15am  
 Sunday School and Nursery during service  
 Minister: The Reverend Toni Birtch

**St. Frances of Assisi Catholic Church**  
 Masses: Sunday 9:00am  
 May – Oct Saturday 5pm

**Caleb's Place**  
 Service starts at 7:00pm  
 Meeting in St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church fellowship hall  
 Pastors Norm and Carol Shepstone  
 (705) 687.9031

**Hope Community Church**  
 Sundays at 6:15 p.m.  
 Lake St. George Community Centre  
 Pastor Steve Barker



**Church Jokes**

A new pastor moved into town and went out one Saturday to visit his parishioners. All went well until he came to one house. It was obvious that someone was home, but no one came to the door even after he had knocked several times. Chuckling to himself he took out his card and wrote on the back: Revelation 3:20 and stuck it in the door. The next day, as he was counting the offering he found his card in the collection plate. Below his message was the notation Genesis 3:10. Revelation 3:20 reads: "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me." Genesis 3:10 reads: "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked."

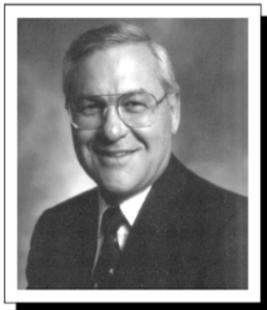
**The Month After Christmas**  
*(adapted from the original poem "The Night Before Christmas by Clement Clarke Moore)*

T'was the month after Christmas, and all through the house  
 Not a looney could be found, we'd scoured the house.  
 We tore apart couches and chairs and car seats  
 But the prospects for supper looked pretty bleak.  
 The refrigerator was empty, the cupboards were bare,  
 And the left over turkey was emitting bad air.  
 Christmas was fun and we'd had a blast  
 We shopped in great fervour, til we had all at last.  
 The tree was stacked high with remarkable treasure,  
 Toys and clothes and those electronic pleasures.  
 The fridge and the cupboards were stuffed to o'r flowing  
 We'd invited our friends and had to make a good showing.  
 The kids had fun getting all on their list  
 But one hour later were bored and all miffed.  
 Now thirty days have quickly disappeared  
 And what to my fearful heart should appear  
 But Canada Post with their truck in low gear.  
 They struggle with sack after sack after sack  
 And I knew it was time to think of taking things back.  
 They spoke not a word but glared in their ire  
 Their backs were all sore as they begin to tire  
 The stack of bills grew into a mountain.  
 But our wallets were empty, with nothin' worth countin'  
 We ripped the bills open and began to cry  
 Oh no not Visa, Home Depot, Staples and Reels  
 Here's The Bay, Sears and C.T.C's gas pump deals.  
 There was, Master Card, Walmart, Zellers and Zehrs  
 and the bill for that platter with all the cheese squares.  
 And look at this one for all of those lights  
 The bills piled high gave us sleepless nights.  
 How would we pay for our extravagant season  
 We look back now and ask, "What was the reason?"  
 We bought gifts for everyone, even the dog  
 And now we felt like we were sinking into a bog.  
 Where was the joy and the peace of the season?  
 We wonder now how we lost our reason.  
 There must be more than this buying and giving,  
 And wondering the rest of the year how we'll be living.  
 God give me the grace to harness my haste  
 And curb my extravagance, Oh what a waste.  
 For You, Lord, are The Gift that makes clear  
 Only what we store in heaven will bring no fear  
 The things we have here will soon disappear  
 But You Lord Jesus are the The Gift  
 That keeps on giving throughout the whole year.

*(adapted by Pastor Norm Shepstone, Caleb's Place)*

One Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going."  
 "Why not?" she asked.  
 "I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "One, they don't like me, and two, I don't like them."  
 His mother replied, "I'll give YOU two good reasons why you SHOULD go to church. One, you're 54 years old, and two, you're the pastor!"

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**SUDOKO**

Sudoku, known as well as sūdoku or su doku is a logical kind of Japanese puzzle.

**Rules** are simple, it consists of a 9x9 grid, divided in 9 blocks of 3x3, that have to be filled up so all rows, columns and blocks (3x3) contain numbers 1 to 9 without repeating.

You obviously start out with some spaces already filled in. There's only one possible solution for each sudoku, so be careful!

They get harder as you go!

A man in British Columbia decided to write a book about churches around the country. He started in his home province, and started working east to zigzag across Canada from there. He went to a very large church and began taking pictures. He spotted a golden telephone on a wall and was intrigued by a sign that read: "\$10,000.00 a minute." Seeking out the pastor he asked about the phone and the sign. The pastor answered that this golden phone was, in fact, a direct line to Heaven and if he were to pay the price he could talk directly to God. He thanked the pastor and continued on his way. Visiting churches in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, he found more phones with the same sign. From each pastor he received the same answer.

Finally, he arrived in a little town North of Toronto Ontario. Upon entering a church, low and behold, he saw the usual golden telephone, but this time the sign read: "Calls: 35 cents." Fascinated, he asked of the pastor, "Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church have found this very same golden telephone, and I have been told it is a direct line to Heaven, and that I could talk to God. However, in the other churches, the cost was \$10,000.00 a minute. Your sign reads 35 cents a call. Why?" The pastor, smiling benignly, replied: "Son, you're in Washago now. It's a local call."

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**Seasons Greetings!**

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Severn Bridge Agricultural Society is in search of a secretary. Meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday. Secretarial duties have been significantly reduced. For detailed information call 689-2492 or 689-3296.

Reliable cleaning lady available weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or occasionally. Call Joanne @ 689-1911

**LOCAL TALENT NEEDED!**

Do you have a talent, interest, skill or hobby that you would love to share with others? The Washago Community Centre is looking for instructors in a variety of areas to teach recreational programs to people of all ages! If you have a talent that you believe would make a great program others would enjoy, and love to work with people, please call Cathy at 689-3581 and let's talk about it!

**Severn Bridge Community Hall** available for rent and catered functions. For rates and dates call Isabell at 689-5519.

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**I wondered that day**

I wondered that day,  
If you would be alright.  
(You're always alright. You have to be.)  
But that day, I wasn't sure.  
The air was dewy against my skin,  
And the wind spoke softly in my ear,  
Yet you were no comfort.  
I waited,  
Pacing, pacing, pacing,  
Across the cold floorboards of my basement.  
Once you told me  
We could feel the presence of a loved one.  
(Do you remember?)  
So I sat down and waited for you,  
I sat long enough to fall asleep.  
Waking,  
Your scent came wafting through the room.  
You were still not there,  
And I wondered if you would be alright.  
I found out, later that night.  
You were safe.  
Lying in bed,  
Your bed,  
Your scent wrapped around me,  
I felt you pass over,  
(You were right,  
Sis, you were right.)  
You flew over me,  
Whispering gently,  
Gliding on.  
Do you remember that?  
I know now what time that was:  
8:46 am.  
I woke,  
And you were in each one of my tears.  
Your face has begun to fade in my mind's eye.  
I'm sorry. I didn't mean for that to happen.  
But I miss you, and I still need you.  
Sometimes, tired, or restless,  
I catch your fleeting image:  
In a piece of glass, or a rose petal  
(Roses were your favourite).  
I'm sorry I wasn't there.  
Mom hasn't moved your room yet.  
Dad drinks.  
And I,  
I write to you.

Poem Submitted by Rebecca Birtch  
Local Washago Resident

Volume 1, Issue 3

December Edition 06  
Created By Paul Beard  
C21 Sparkling Waters Realty Inc.



**Christmas Time "Almost Emptied Your Bank Account"**

Looking for inexpensive ways to spruce up your home, before you put it on the market? Make Your Kitchen Really Cook! The kitchen is still considered the heart of the home. Potential home buyers make a beeline for this room when they first view a home for sale, so make sure your kitchen looks clean and reasonably updated. For a few hundred dollars, you can replace the kitchen faucet set, add new cabinet door handles and update lighting fixtures with brighter, more energy efficient ones. If you have worn looking cabinets and drawers, a simple refinishing with a fresh coat of paint can make your cabinets look like new. If you are handy, for more money, you can replace the cabinet doors and drawer fronts. Buff up the Bath: Next to the kitchen, bathrooms are often the most important rooms to update. They, too, can be improved without a lot of cash. Simple things like a new toilet seat, re-grouting dingy tub and shower tiles and replacing any chipped tiles can really improve the look. Replace old bathroom floor with new vinyl. Flooring: If you have rugs, throughout your home, simple carpet cleaning may be all that's needed. Laminate flooring is a very desirable look that home buyers like. De-clutter: You are going to be moving, so pack away all those nick knacks. The less stuff you have in a room the bigger and neater the room looks. Overall: Go through each room and do a thorough cleaning. When all is done, walk through your home like you were a Potential Home Buyer. Are you Impressed? You are now ready to put it on the market. So shovel the entry walkway, so the Potential Buyers can view your home.

Written by Patricia Cryderman  
Sales Representative Century 21  
Sparkling Waters Realty Inc. Brokerage

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Patricia Cryderman  
Salesperson

**THE SOULVINE**  
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The Soulvine News and Events is distributed the first of every month. Our circulation at present is 3000 homes and businesses from just north of Orillia to a little south of Gravenhurst. Our purpose is to inform the community of what's going on in the area and to give merchants another avenue of advertising. Our first year has been very successful for business that used our service and we would also like to thank those who sent articles for inclusion in the paper. If you would like to include something in this publication, a story, poem, recipe, tip, event, happening or would like to advertise to 3000 local residents please call 689-0689 or email [contact@soulvinemedia.com](mailto:contact@soulvinemedia.com)

Thanks and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.