

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

December, 2006

We Wish You A Very Merry Victorian Christmas

It's hard to believe that one-year has gone by since we last celebrated this festive time of year. As a matter of fact, WE here at Soulvine Media Ink, have much to be Thankful for, because if I'm remembering correctly, it was this very night of Dec. 1 2005 that our office opened its door for the first day of business. So we would like to THANK ALL who have been influential in making our first year (we think) successful. My bank may not agree, but I guess it's all in what you consider success. Your participation toward a new and hopefully informative newspaper in the area has been very much appreciated and we look forward to continuing to serve you in the future. We hope as we grow with the community that more of you will feel that this paper is part of our existence, so your involvement in it is encouraged. As is this night of celebration in Downtown Washago. For a number of years now we have withstood in climate weather etc... to get out and celebrate our Great Community efforts of putting together some sort of gathering that all can partake of the Festivities. Again this year our Community Center is coordinating local business owners to stay open a bit later and celebrate the start of this most festive time of year. I hear there are a number of activities planned, like caroling, sleigh rides, some clowns may show up and there are even whispers of Santa Clause paying a visit. One never knows just what the committee has up their sleeves, for the variety of events that they plan each year. I guess in order to find out what is in store for this one we will all have to get out tonight and check it out. I know we will be there. Hope you will be there too.



We're On Hold AGAIN!

PLEASE DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER!!! I'm sorry to say folks that every time you get an update on the progress of the renovations happening at The Washago Community Center, it's usually with a bit of hesitation that I write. You see I believe that at the present time the Severn



Township Council is being gathered to again address a complication that has arisen, and I, not being privy to that information, am not able to give you the complete details up to the moment. All I can tell you is that things are definitely happening. If you cruise by the structure still standing, it will appear to many that it has shrunk somewhat. Well, yes it has and even more than we were once expecting. It appears that a wall that was supposed to be a support wall was not in good enough condition to support a new roof so more of the building

has had to come down than first thought. Now again it looks like some plan is going to have to be rearranged to enable construction to continue. The general consensus I get is that it's just a small hiccup so there's no need to fret just yet. The Community Center board of directors are in the process of creating a team that will meet with council in regard to the construction and further plans to the direction of the completion of renovations. When these plans come to fulfillment it will be much more informative to us all concerning details that we all would like to know. So stay tuned, I hope my next report will be a little clearer regarding completion details. Clearer than mud that is.

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Do We Need This?

A letter to the editor came across my desk the other day and I don't know what to do with it. In my short life span I have not yet had the involvement necessary to make a decision as to whether this Ratepayers Association, being proposed by some local residents, is something that I should be supporting. It seems the longer I live here the more stories I hear of how Washago has been neglected by the townships it has been a part of in the past. I have heard of associations around this area that have tried to make proposals of needed improvements to living conditions, but have gone by the wayside when little or no action has been taken toward achieving their goals. Is this

just another effort that will fall, to the same lack of response by those in power to make the changes reality? Or are these individuals really committed to doing whatever it takes to get some proposals completed toward the betterment of our community. If so, more power to them. If not, let's hope that the new powers that have just come out of the very controversial Ramara, and the not so eventful Severn Elections, will be able to direct a bit more attention of the governing councils toward the needs of the north end of the townships. Preferably Washago!!! As it stands today, we are now being represented by a local resident in each. Bill White in Ramara and Frank Coyle in Severn. If there is a

recount for Mayor in Ramara, there is still a chance of even one more representing us in the person of Marilyn Brooks. With these new councilors (and maybe Mayor) being officially empowered as of December 7th, are we even going to need any kind of association to be able to get some recognition here? Let's hope not, but if we do could someone please enlighten me as to what it is that a Ratepayer's Association is supposed to do for us. I do plan on meeting with Mardy Mendelow, 689.6351 or Bernie Hallett, 689.8883 in the very near future to try and get some knowledge implanted, but in the mean time, I'll keep on believing that our government officials are looking out for the best they can do for every individual, in every situation. IF I CAN!!!

If you have driven out through Coopers Falls lately, I'm sure you would have seen the improvements made to the stretch of road that winds along the Black River. Lorraine Masters is responsible for those improvements and she has dropped by our office to say thanks to all those who signed her petition that circulated this area. She says she is very happy that the

Lorraine Say's Thanks

speed limit has been dropped and the new roadside markers make it hard to miss the edge of the pavement, whether day or night. It has been promised to her that more changes are to come in the next couple of years concerning the safety factor of transportation along that dangerous rivers edge. Many stories of

near tragedies were told to her while she collected more than 375 signatures supporting her efforts toward the cause of possibly saving lives. I personally have driven that stretch of road recently at night and I must say thanks rite back at you Lorraine for it is now a much safer and more comforting drive than it was not so long ago.

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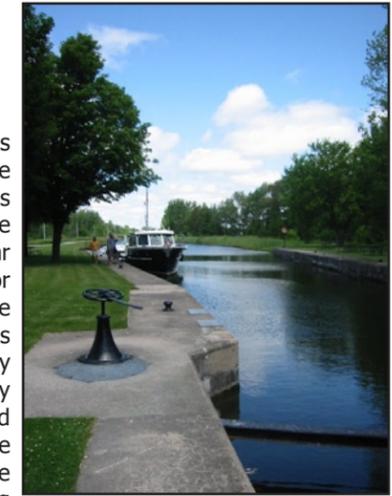
Washago Glimpses

THE TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY

“A RESPECTABLE DITCH”

The Village of Washago has experienced some of the most fascinating years history. True to its geographic location The Village played a huge part in the the Mid-North. Records go back to the late 1700's and early 1800's as various through the area on their way to the big waters of Georgian Bay and Lake route they paused at Washago (known to the natives as Sparkling and Clear replenish supplies and trade various items with the Indians in exchange for the mid 1800's the momentum switched from trapping and fur trading to the need for lumber as the area became a beehive of activity associated with this Thousands came to the area to become a part of this lucrative industry. History growth of The Village, as various Hotels, Saw Mills, Lumber camps and supply up all over the small Village. During this same period tourism was booming and Canada developing an in-land water-way connecting the Eastern waters to the of Ontario was to become a reality. Although the original plans were to have traveling the entire length of Lake Simcoe, engineers determined that diverting the north end of Lake Couchiching and using various parts of the Severn River, that already was dumping into Georgian Bay, would be the most economical route, thus once again putting Washago on the map. Construction of the Trent-Severn Waterway originated with the first of numerous locks and natural waterways at Bobcaygeon in 1833, and the completion of the entire system at Lock 42, Washago, in 1920, a whopping eighty seven years later, (including being interrupted for nearly six years because of "the great war". Indeed, the Waterway is in many ways a series of quite distinct waterways, each serving local needs and each with its own history of construction. The term "A RESPECTABLE DITCH" was coined in 1988 by historian James T. Angus in a book with the same title, and many quotes throughout this submission is a credit to Mr. Angus's research, and I thank him. I encourage all interested in learning more about the history of this fascinating water-way, to get the book from your local library and read of the trials and tribulations of this amazing project accomplished by large, with man-made tools, horse and draggers and virtually millions of laborious hours, by virtually generations of laborers. History records some families seen three generations contributing to work on this huge project. In order to put the massive project into its correct perspective, consider this! As previously mentioned, the Canal was eighty-six years in construction, (most likely the longest construction project in Canadian history), it leaves Georgian Bay and climbs to an astonishing height of eighty metres (over 260 feet) at Kirkfield, using a total of nine locks and then drops a mind-boggling 182 metres (over 591feet) as it uses another thirty-three locks and ends at Lake Ontario, an incredible 386 kilometers (over 241 miles). Is there any wonder that the entire Trent-Severn Waterway has been classified as a National Historical Site? Certainly, The Waterway was a product of a huge vision by many intelligent people, a vision expected to promote a major commercial water highway, carrying grain, timber and other freight from the interior of the continent to the shores of Lake Ontario. Although this dream never became a reality, during the years following the War, there was an explosion of recreational boating and The Waterway suddenly achieved the importance its supporters had prophesied for it. Today tens of thousands of boats pass through its locks each summer, locks constructed by laboring men, many of them immigrants to Canada, working for a dollar a day, breaking rock and living in their draughty boarding houses. But for all intent purposes our focus will be on "LOCK 42" at Washago, as we concentrate on the projects impact, on the economy, historical and future ramifications locally. Watch for Part two in a future issue of "THE SOULVINE".

Part One



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Controversy Continues

It never ceases to amaze me how much a big city boy like me can learn about a vast era of topics in a small town atmosphere. I have always heard about supposed wrong doing in politics and government officials, but never really had any exposure to it. Until now. The campaigning that I have witnessed in this election is a real eye opener to me. Not to say that anything I saw was illegal, or anything like that, but it has become very clear to me how and why people would and even could do things that may influence others to make decisions that favor ones political position. Being part of the bantering going on with the renovations happening at the community center has opened my thinking to many conspiracy possibilities that have been now expanded to include the whole electoral system. Because I have a business in Severn Township and I am part of the center, the happenings of the Severn Election campaigns were

of some interest to me, but I do live in Ramara and the events of this election to this point have been fascinating. Being asked to be a scrutineer for a ward councilor allowed my entrance into the closed room counting of the mailed in voters ballots. Aside from the fooling around that went on to try and keep the atmosphere light around our table, it was not difficult to see why there have been so many spoiled and declined ballots throughout this whole exercise. The counting was done, then on to the Legion for the results. The crowd moaned and groaned as the computers continued to flash up the new tally's every couple of minutes. When all was said and done for the evening some of us were happy and some weren't as we all headed out to our vehicles pondering what we had just witnessed. Some like myself, for the very first time. Though it was a fun time for me, with nothing at stake, others are relieved the whole venture of being in the heat of the battle has come to a conclusion. Favorable or not, I now can see and I think understand somewhat why so many politicians, if not when they are elected, soon afterwards have a few more gray hairs on their heads. I definitely sympathize with Marilyn Brooks in all this confusion and (conspiracy theory treatment). My words and thoughts. No one else's. I have probably seen too many James Bond type flicks.

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Identity Theft

Part One of a six-part series on Identity Theft.

Welcome to this series aimed at preparing you for the consequences of Identity Theft. In a time not so long ago, I would think nothing of handing a credit card to a server, or giving personal information over the phone, but no more. You see our world is changing, not people, but the world in which we live. From the beginning brother slew brother, parents lied, thievery, and corruption have been around since Adam and Eve. Nothings new in the world it's all old hat. However the change comes as mankind becomes more 'sophisticated'. Here's my disclaimer for this series, 'it is not my intention to scare you or manipulate your thoughts in any way but only to inform you as to what is really going on out there'. When we think of Identity Theft we think of credit cards, debit cards etc. but it is much bigger than that. We are going to show you there are five areas of Identity, 1) Financial 2) Social Insurance Number 3) Health Identity 4) Drivers Licence 5) Personal Identity - Your Good Name. We will also explore the old adage 'it will never happen to me'. Do we have any thing to be concerned about? Well the RCMP recently stated that one in four - hold it a minute that's ONE IN FOUR!... Canadians are affected in some way with Identity Theft. That is every fourth person you meet or talk to has been affected in some way with Identity Theft. We will also show you how to reduce the risk and prepare for the possibilities. In 2002 in Ontario alone there were 'reported' 4045 victims for a loss of \$7,208,066.27 and in 2003 'reported' 6234 victims for a loss of \$12,843,700.92. This is a 54% increase for known Identity Theft issues, not including those cases where the person is not aware this has happened or simply did not report the incident.

Next issue we will explore your Financial Identity. In the meantime here is an assignment for you to check out, Phonebusters www.phonebusters.ca, 1-888-495-8501 Box 686 North Bay Ontario P1B 8J8 and R.C.M.P. www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca, 1-800-472-4848

* Phonebusters is an organization set up to combat Identity Theft and other scams. Operated by the R.C.M.P. in conjunction with the Ontario Provincial Police, The Competition Bureau Canada, and the Government of Canada. (www.phonebusters.ca)

Written by Neil Cragg
Identity Theft Deterrence Advisor
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TIPS TIPS AND MORE TIPS

We would like to thank our faithful tipsters for their monthly tips and tricks, and also extend an invitation to ANYONE out there who has knowledge in an area that they think the rest of the community can benefit from. We would love to add your monthly tip to this page.

HEALTH TIP – GOJI BERRIES

The Goji berry is a deep-red, dried fruit about the same size as a raisin. It's very sweet and tastes something like a cross between a cranberry and a cherry and has amazing health benefits. It is found in the mountains of China and has been famous as an anti-aging elixir for thousands of years. These "immortality berries" have a unique group of polysaccharides found nowhere else, that are a super source of essential cell nutrients. Goji helps facilitate the release of HGH or Human Growth Hormone. HGH has been shown to increase concentration, more restful sleep, faster healing and increased sex drive & performance.

Goji facts:

- Contains 19 amino acids, the building blocks of protein, including all eight that are essential for life.
- Contains 21 trace minerals, including germanium, an anti-cancer trace mineral rarely found in foods.
- Contains more protein than whole wheat
- Contains a complete spectrum of antioxidant carotenoids and are the richest source of carotenoids of all foods.
- Contains beta-carotene (a better source than carrots)
- Contains vitamin C – 500 times more per ounce than oranges.
- Contains B-complex vitamins, necessary for converting food into energy
- Contains Vitamin E (very rarely found in fruits, only in grains & seeds)
- Contains essential fatty acids, which are required for the body's production of hormones and for the smooth functioning of the brain and nervous system.
- Contains polysaccharides which fortify the immune system.
- You can buy goji berries at Zehrs and health food stores.

By Joanne Barton

Blaines Automotive Auto Faxx



TPMS

Tire Pressure monitoring Systems

Unbeknownst to their respective owners most modern automobiles (2004 and newer) on the road today are equipped with one of two forms of tire pressure monitoring systems. The objective of such is to warn the motorist of a low tire condition before a possible problem.

The NHTSA (National Highway Safety Administration) allow two forms of monitoring, active and inactive. The active system uses a transmitter mounted inside the tire as well as a receiver in the vehicle and communicates via radio frequency, not unlike your television remote. Inactive systems use the vehicles wheel speed sensors to pick up on the low tire culprit. Both systems notify the motorist with a standard corporate protocol icon on the dash of a " low tire."

Studies have shown that One in Four vehicles on the road today are running on underinflated tires. Not only a safety concern, but an increase in fuel consumption as well as premature tire wear are reason alone for such a device. An active system will notify the motorist of a 25% decrease in pressure as an inactive will notify at 30%.

Motorists should be aware as a simple tire repair or even a rotate will be subject to a recalibration in order to turn the low tire icon out. This comes with a fee. The competent service provider has had to purchase a recalibration tool and software in order to do so.

The US government has mandated every vehicle manufactured in 2007 must be equipped with such a system, so one must presume Canada will be close behind. Should you wonder if your current vehicle is equipped with such a system, stop by your local service provider and they will be happy to fill you in.




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Washago Community Centre is having a New Year's Dance!!!

It will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on Muskoka Street from 8 pm to 1 am

" Forte" Swing Band will provide fantastic dance music to hits from the 50s' 60s' 70s' etc.

Food, Fun, Prizes and a Gift Basket Raffle. \$25.00 per person. Call 689-4719 or 689- 6424 for tickets. All proceeds are to the Washago Community Centre.

Don't forget to get your ticket to win the fully decorated Christmas Tree donated by Prudential Lifestyles Real Estate. The Draw will take place on December 15th at the Prudential Office, Washago. The Tree was in the Orillia Rotary Festival of Trees. Tickets are 1 for \$2.00 and 3 for \$5.00. Tickets are available at Prudential Real Estate on Muskoka Street or from 689- 6424. Proceeds are going to the Children's Programs at the Washago Community Centre. Come into the office and see the tree during the evening of the Victorian Christmas on Dec. 1st. Happy Holidays!!

Sunday, December 3 @ 7PM – Caleb's Place Worship.

(Meeting at St. Francis of Assisi Church) We are excited to have **Brother (Apostle) Russ Moyer** founder of Eagle World Wide Ministries as our speaker. Brother Russ walks in a powerful prophetic and deliverance ministry. He is increasingly in demand for ministry throughout North America and other parts of the world. Don't miss this opportunity to be ministered to by an anointed and Spirit empowered man of God.

Caleb's Place Community Christmas Dinner

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come out to St. Francis of Assisi Church on December 3, 2006 from 4:30 to 6:00 for a free Christmas Dinner. This is an excellent opportunity to come out and meet people in the area. There are no obligations. This is not just for members of our church, we want to get to know our community. For more information call 689-1911

Come to St. Paul's Anglican Church, Washago

Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. for the Muskoka Men of Song Christmas Concert.

Free will offering.

Sunday, Dec. 24, 9 a.m. to celebrate the fourth Sunday in Advent with a Festival of Readings and Music that helps us prepare to welcome the birth of Jesus.

All are welcome.

Sunday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. for the Christmas Eve service where we welcome the birth of Jesus: hear the story, sing the carols, share in the first communion of Christmas.

All are welcome.

Advent & Christmas Worship at Heritage United Church 2006

Advent is the time of preparation for Christmas, a time of spiritual reflection and preparation for the birth of the Christ in our lives in a new way.

Advent I, December 3rd, 2006

We light the First Candle on our Advent Wreath

Sermon: Good News: Revolution!!

Worship Service at Heritage 11:15 am

Special Seasonal Music

Advent II, December 10th, 2006

11:15 am. White Gift Service led by our Youth and Children

Please bring a "White Gift," of non-perishable food, a toy or money (placed in a white envelope) for distribution to The Sharing Place Food Bank and The Salvation Army.

Advent III, December 17th, 2006

Worship Service at Heritage 11:15 am

Sermon: The Future is coming! What shall we do?

Join us for an Old Fashioned Christmas Concert at 3:30 pm followed by a Pot Luck Supper

Advent IV, December 24th, 2006

Sermon: Unto Us, a Child

Morning Worship at 11:15 am

Christmas Eve Dec. 24th, 2006

Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.

Join us for our beautiful Candlelight Service and the singing of sacred Christmas music. Come, anticipating once again, the birth of the Christ Child. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Christmas 1, December 31st, 2006

Sermon: When Christmas Came to Simeon and Anna

Worship Service at 11:15 am.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to get out to these events.

Washago - Rotary Offers Free Family Skating

The Rotary Club of Washago & Area – Centennial is hosting "FREE" Holiday Family Skating on Wednesday, December 27th between 3:00 PM & 4:00 PM at The Mnjikaning "Mask" Arena in Rama. The event is free and open to all area residents, families and friends. The snack bar will be open during the event where you can purchase coffee, hot chocolate and snacks.

Muskoka Retirement Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas bazaar was a huge success at the Muskoka Retirement Lodge of Washago with the residence bringing in \$1380.00! Everyone pitched in making it a fun day for all who attended.

Wally, the head chef of the lodge, stirred up some delicious baked goods that didn't last long on the table. Mickey, their part time chef also baked some yummy treats that seemed to disappear rather quickly. Debbie Casey is to be thanked for her luncheon of hot coffee and sandwiches for anyone who wished to have some. Debbie just recently joined the kitchen crew.

Thanks to Barbara for the wonderful bake goods she donated to the goodies table. Along with Barbara was her daughter Maggie, who brought in a couple of absolutely delicious looking cakes! Maggie, and her husband Terry are the proud owners of this friendly lodge.

Without Annie there'd have been no outdoor Christmas lights making for a warm welcome to all of the visitors. A Christmas tree stood in the lobby looking gorgeous awaiting the arrival of Santa, Christmas Eve. Word has it that Maggie herself decorated this one!! On the lower level, which is also at ground level for easy access, another tree was brilliantly lit up and decorated by Barb and Susan, daughter and granddaughter of Helen and Tiny, who reside at the lodge. Barb and Susan were the runners for anything and everything required by Verna and Helen for the crafts.



Speaking of Helen, it was Helen and Verna who worked like Elfs, making and arranging some fantastic looking crafts for the sale. Verna also was on cash bringing in dollar after dollar for all of their hard work.

Verna's friend Jackie, had a lot of women checking out and buying her lovely Moo moo's she sews herself. At only \$15. a piece, it was a steal to get your hands on one of them!

Ollie Casey, had some warm looking knitting displayed on a table. There were scarves and socks of every colour. Winter is just around the corner!

Without the help of Mary Rogers and Rod Harth of:

Century 21 Sparkling Waters in Washago, there would not have been the overflowing Christmas Box that they so graciously donated to the bazaar. With Irma Robertson, a resident, and Gloria on sales, it pulled in a pretty amount of \$232. Thanks to all who contributed their tooney on a chance to win such gift. Many thanks to the gentleman who came in and bought five tickets ...putting the wrong phone number on each saying it was "just a donation" how nice was that? And we can't forget to mention Heather Post, the winner of the Christmas Box! Lucky you!! Irma escorted Heather the following day through the lodge to hand over the gift.

Last but not least, there was Maggie, Terry, and Marlene giving the grand tour of:

The Muskoka Retirement Lodge of Washago to anyone interested. Maybe there will be new friends to meet in the near future?

Thanks so much for all of the hard work done by all, the donations, and the support of the wonderful Washago community. Merry Christmas to all!!!

For the month of December the Washago Lions will be having *Karaoke with Sue* every Friday night. Come and check out this event. Its lots of fun and you can be a STAR - doors open at 8p.m.

Want High Speed Internet but it's not available down your street? There is another option other than from the telephone and/or the cable companies for High speed Internet, and I'm not talking about Satellite Internet either.

I have been searching for a way to get High Speed internet to my house just south of Washago for months now, and thought I would share what I have found with my fellow residents who are searching for the same thing. It's called 'Wireless Internet'. It sends and receives the high speed internet 'signal' via radio waves off of a tower to your house. Now, before I get too far ahead of myself here, it is NOT available in this area...yet. One company I have contacted is Candlelight Broadband (<http://www.candlelight.ca/>) as they service areas just a bit north and south of this area. In fact, they have a main office located in Gravenhurst. In my discussions with them, I have found that if enough people wanted high speed Internet in this area, they would consider putting in the necessary equipment (Tower to broadcast the signal etc..) to provide us with FAST (way faster than dial-up) Internet access. All they need to know is who wants it, where you live so they can determine the best area to locate their tower, and enough households interested in signing up, which isn't as many as you might think!

So if you want High Speed Internet at a reasonable cost

(monthly charges are similar to regular High Speed access), please visit their Website (<http://www.candlelight.ca/>) for more information, and put in your request for service. Who knows? If enough people are interested, High speed access can be a reality to the areas of Washago that are not serviced by the Telephone/Cable companies. One note: I am in no way affiliated with Candlelight Broadband in any way. I'm just a rural resident tired of being ignored by the Telephone and Cable companies.

Petri Keppo

Washago Lions

November was a very busy month which included Karaoke with Sue and our annual Grey Cup party.

This year's 50-50 draw was won by John Mathers of Alton, Ontario in the amount of \$1668.00

The Lions would like to thank everyone who supported this event.

The Washago Lions would like to welcome Marianne Gibson, our new member for the month of November 2006.

The Washago Lions would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Severn Bridge Women's Institute

Dec. 4th

luncheon of lasagna - 12:00 noon

\$6.00 - at the Severn Bridge Community Hall

Kusharu

Rocks
Old souls
Speak to me of times past.
Was I here before
Walking through woods
Basking in the sun of summer
Sometime long ago?

Rocks
Old friends
Guardians of the Earth
Protectors of our sacred space
Memories of ancient days
When water carved your faces
You smile
In the warm sun.

Johanna Ntiforo
Birch Drive Cottager

Washago Rotary

2 NEW ROTARY MEMBERS!

ALANA ROBINSON

On Wednesday October 17th, the Rotary Club of Washago & Area Centennial inducted local area business woman Alana Robinson into their membership. Alana is Secretary Treasurer of Robinson Haulage of Kilworthy. Alana was sponsored into Rotary by club member Glenys Hepinstall of Washago.



JASON STANTON

On Wednesday November 22nd, the Rotary Club of Washago & Area Centennial inducted local area businessman Jason Stanton into their membership. Jason is General Manager of Bayview Wildwood Resort in Port Stanton, Ontario. Jason was sponsored into Rotary by club member Domenic Quercia of Washago.



A Busy Foundation Month for Washago & Area Rotary

The Presidential Citation is awarded to a club that meets or exceeds one or more criteria set forth by the President of Rotary International. Past President Dan Herbert is shown here with the Award received for a GREAT FIRST YEAR'S achievements here in Washago and area. Dan has done such a good job, he has accepted the position of Chairman of Membership Development for Rotary District 7010. Congrats



Chairman of the Rotary Foundation Committee for Washago and Area, Domenic Quercia, presents The Paul Harris Fellowship Recognition Award to the well deserving recipient, Kevin Leatherdale. Given in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance to the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations between peoples of the world, Kevin has contributed both financially and by participating as tour guide and friend to many visitors to our local chapters of Rotary.



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Ramara Seniors

Ramara Seniors Association November meeting was attended by 127 members, 3 new that day. Half the 50/25/25 draw was won by Winnie Brooks, she then proceeded to draw the next winner by pulling her own ticket, she declined the win and another name was drawn. She went on to explain the same thing happened at euchre the other day, with that kind of luck she hopefully went out and bought Super 7 or 649 tickets. The speaker was John Warkentin, Ministry of Transportation, Safety Policy & Education Branch presenting a slide show and many statistics. If you are over 70 and have an accident you will be required to take 3 tests, eye, written and driving. Those drivers between 65 /74 have 20,000 accidents yearly in Ontario, over 74, 11,000+, ages 16/19, 31,000. He then carried on describing the problems that older drivers must learn to recognize and deal with, Macular Degeneration (centre vision), Glaucoma (lack of peripheral vision) and Cataracts (blurry or centre blind). He cautioned to leave 3 seconds between vehicles, wear narrow boots in winter and don't drive in the other driver's blind spot, eliminate distractions, cell phones, talking, etc., expect the other driver to err. Alcohol takes longer to wear off, adding medications can be a dangerous mix. Some of the warning signs that you are not the driver you once were are people honking at you, difficulty seeing at night, your range of motion is less, trouble reading signs, help offered from passengers, slow or poor decisions, getting lost in familiar surroundings, lane drifting, stopping for a green light or running stop signs or red lights, mixing peddles, overwhelmed in busy areas, your children don't want to drive with you, collisions, if many of these are true, get an evaluation, or if you know someone like this suggest they be checked by a physician. Men tend to outlive their driving ability by 6 years, women 10. The session ended with many, many questions.



4-H Clubs

We couldn't decide on club names so I guess we are stuck with the Severn Bridge Cookers and Crafts for all Occasions. Arlene B., Pat C. and Kaaren B. are our leaders. The first meeting we talked about healthy eating and how we were fine the way we are. During this meeting we made: Banana Bread (Elizabeth and Sydney), Chocolate Chip Cookies (Rebecca and Lisa) and Fully Loaded Carrot Muffins (Adrienne and Katelynn) with help from Chris B (parent volunteer) Everything we made was excellent! The Second meeting was pizza and crafts. Lisa, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Billie and Sydney made the pizza dough and we separated it so we could personalize our own pizzas. We made some gifts using wood burning and leather stamping techniques with help from Karen C. (Parent Volunteer) (Coasters and Key chains). Meeting three was cancelled because it was going to be at someone's house and they felt under the weather. We made up for it in meeting 4. We want to thank Karen Fish of Studio K (Bracebridge) for coming down to us so we could paint ceramic Mugs. Some for gifts, some for ourselves. We all enjoyed it and some of us learned new skills and that we had hidden talents. When we were done we had Apple Cider (Katelynn and Keith) and Harvest Soup (Karley, Susan, Tori) with help from Joanne W. (Parent Volunteer). WELL DONE!!!! Our Awards Ceremony is being held on December 2 at the Muskoka Retirement Lodge in Washago. We would like to thank the Residents and Staff in advance for allowing us to celebrate our achievements with them. Written by Adrienne B-B. Press Reporter

Washago Seniors



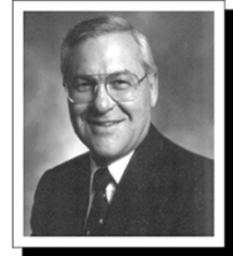
At the mid November meeting of the Washago Area Senior Citizens Club with 151 members at Ramona Hall Lois Aston was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for services to the Club by Vice President Barb Spencer. The speaker that day was Christine Manners, B.A., LL.B. of HGR Hacker Gignac Rice, law firm, her topic, "Best Kept Secrets of Wills & Powers of Attorney". She advised that paying Probate Tax is good planning so as to not lose control of the estate, also in Ontario there is no "Estate Tax". It is very important you get advise about your wishes concerning loans to beneficiaries, eg. is the loan forgiven or is it to be taken from their share? RRSPs and RRI's are subject to 46% income tax when you pass on, these taxes are paid by the Estate not the recipient. You cannot legally disinherit a dependent child, all other children, yes. Your dependant child is receiving government benefits that could be terminated should they receive a bequest, a Hansen Trust is the answer to the problem. You want your bequest protected from your child's spouse, the funds should be put into a separate bank account and not used in anything jointly owned or ask them to enter into a marriage contract. Take the time to pick a person you trust in regards to your Powers of Attorney as it is in effect the day it is signed, not when you become incapable. You and your spouse should have Powers of Attorney for Property regardless of whether all of your assets are owned jointly as the Government will take control as soon as one of you becomes incapacitated. Many questions were asked after the presentation, one of which concerned Title Fraud, title insurance was a partial solution to this problem.

Washago Sunshine Seniors

Winners of the Sunshine Seniors Surprise Draw and Hamper Draw held on November 4. TV: Haeven Hepinstall Bath Set: Meta MacDonald Bowl Set: Herta Mulder Large Hamper: Sandy Jones Small Hamper: Barb Wills

www.washago.ca

**Ramara Township
Bill White
Councillor Elect Ward 1**



NEWSLETTER #1

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in electing me as your Ward 1 Councillor. It will be a privilege to serve as your representative. I am looking forward to the challenge of the next four years.

I am dedicated to looking after the interests of our Ward. My overall mandate is to work with Council for the betterment of our Ward and Ramara Township as a whole. A Township is like operating a multi - million dollar corporation. Through organized quality type growth, we can increase the revenue side. We must have some growth to keep taxes in line. On the other side we must analyze every expenditure to maximize value. What services can we offer more efficiently? Find ways to do more for less. Where Council decides to promote growth will be critical. We must go to areas that offer the best potential and return for the Township. Establishing goals in which Council can work effectively together to reach them is essential. If you need to reach me call: (705) 689-4719 or e-mail me at williamwhite@rogers.com. I would like to wish you a Joyful Holiday Season. All the best for 2007. Sincerely, Bill

LOST BUT NOT A LOSER

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who put their trust in me to do the job they elected me to do. I was very honoured by the number who did vote. Part of the problem was not being known over the whole area. I will work hard to rectify that over the next four years and in the meantime I will keep trying to solve problems when asked. I did run for under \$4000.00 which is what I said I would do. I would like to thank Soulvine Media Inc. for the support and fast service on all my printed media. Your prices were well within the range of your competitors. Thank you once again. Watch for my letters to the editor both in this publication and the local newspaper as I will be attending as many council meetings as weather will permit and when something of interest that I feel you should know about I won't hesitate to write about it. I will also be actively working with Habitat for Humanity as Chair of the family selection committee and sitting on the board. I feel this is a very important position as we do need more affordable housing in this area. If there is anyone out there who would like to join me as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity you would be more than welcome.

Thank you once again Loretta Dick

Thank you to everyone who supported me in the recently past election. Congratulations to all the new counsellors, and to their respective competitors. It was an interesting and exciting election.

Marilyn Brooks

Financial Consultant
Personal and Corporate Tax Returns
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e-mail maguirejm@encode.com

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



Choices, Plans, & Jesus Christ?

Canadians are unique in many ways. So often we get "lumped in" with our American friends, that we fail to realize there is more to us than just being north of the USA. It has been said that the typical American is content if they can wake up each morning and accomplish a predetermined task that will help accomplish their goals. The typical Canadian is content if we wake up each morning and there are multiple options that we can choose from that day to accomplish our goals. The point being, Canadians want options, and Americans want a single focused task. I realize that these statements are generalized and over simplified, however when it comes to Jesus Christ there are parts of his life and message that will appeal to us or offend us based on our cultural bent.

Jesus Christ was the man who came to bring "peace on earth & goodwill to mankind". He also came to bring life and life in abundance. As Canadians, we tend to love a warm and fuzzy Jesus who is there for us when we need Him, but who keeps quiet when we're not asking for his opinion. A problem arises when we realize that the same Jesus who desires to bring abundant life, peace and goodwill, also makes claims like...

He is the only & exclusive pathway to God.
 He has come to divide families (over their allegiance to Him).
 He wants us to surrender our free will to Him.
 These kind of concepts tend to shunned by our choice loving society. So where does that leave us? Exactly with two plans and two options. We can reject some of the claims of Jesus and figure out our own path for peace, abundance and life or we can accept Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives (the whole package) and experience His blessings. The whole package thing is risky and it will cost us, but the benefits are everlasting. It asks us to trust in something that we can't completely "touch & feel". Let me leave you with a few spiritual concepts from Jesus that don't make sense to our culture, but that are very much at the heart of how God works...

Surrender = Victory
 Slavery = Freedom
 Denial = Abundance
 Giving = Receiving
 Strange concepts, but in Jesus Christ they are proved true over and over. Jesus Christ says this in Luke 9:13-14 (NIV) ..."If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it."
 I hope that God blesses your life, and that you find the peace and abundance that Jesus offers, but please remember, He only offers it as a package deal. May God bless you as you prepare for this busy holiday season.

Steve Barker
 Hope Community Church - Cumberland Beach



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For more info or to receive a FREE ESTIMATE please call 689-5984.

We're going to replace the typical crossword this month with the new game craze that's sweeping the nation. You've got it...

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!

Let's start easy...

	4		6	7		2		
8								9
		2	5		4	1		
	7		8	3	5		6	
	5						8	
	9		7	4	6		5	
		4	3		9	7		
7								5
	8		4		1		3	

harder...

	7	4	2		9	8	1	
5	9						6	4
		5	6		3	9		
	2			1			8	
		8	4		5	7		
8	3						2	6
	5	9	3		1	4	7	

Jokes

A minister, a priest and a rabbi went for a hike one day. It was very hot. They were sweating and exhausted when they came upon a small lake. Since it was fairly secluded, they took off all their clothes and jumped in the water. Feeling refreshed, the trio decided to pick a few berries while enjoying their "freedom." As they were crossing an open area, who should come along but a group of ladies from town.

Unable to get to their clothes in time, the minister and the priest covered their privates and the rabbi covered his face while they ran for cover.

After the ladies had left and the men got their clothes back on, the minister and the priest asked the rabbi why he covered his face rather than his privates. The rabbi replied, "I don't know about you, but in MY congregation, its my face they would recognize."

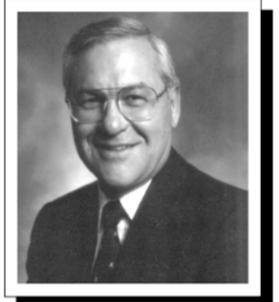
Two missionaries in Africa get apprehended by a tribe of very hostile cannibals who put them in a large pot of water, build a huge fire under it, and leave them there. A few minutes later, one of the missionaries starts to laugh uncontrollably. The other missionary can't believe it! He says, "Whats wrong with you? We're being boiled alive! They're gonna eat us! What could possibly be funny at a time like this?"

"The other missionary says, "I just peed in the soup."

hardest!

	2	8		5				3
	6					8		
3		5		7	2			
		9	3			2		
			4		9			
		1			8	6		
			1	9		7		4
		4					6	
2				4		9	3	

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In a small town everyone made fun of the local idiot. They would hold out a dime and a nickel to him and ask him which he wanted. They would guffaw at him as he always picked the nickel. One day someone asked him why he always chose the nickel. "If I ever took a dime, they'd quit giving me nickels."

Babysitting/Child Care available in my home. Children of all ages welcome. Two children of my own Sara-Lynn 8 and Michael 2 1/2 who would love a playmate. Healthy meals and snacks. Please contact Dana 689-0571 Washago (just of Coppers Falls Road) anytime.

Free barn cats and kittens to a good home. 689-2799

For Sale - 1995 Mercury Mystique, needs transmission, good condition and good motor. \$300.00 Call 689-1911

Free Employment Resource Services Drop in to the Century 21 Office Washago Thursdays 9 - 12. Get help with your Job Search, Resume Writing, Career Planning. Call 325-9299 for more information Funded by the Government of Canada

1961 Thunderbird Needs TLC. Original body and paint. 5'000 obo. Can be driven away.



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

Lake St. George Community Hall For hall rental call: 689-5526

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!

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

54"x30" solid pine table. Complete with 2 chairs and bench. \$250 or best offer. Call 689-6169

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Draws, Door Prizes, Refreshments
Dec 6,7,8 1-8
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Call for directions

Looking for a sitter? Available for baby-sitting, pet-sitting, dog-walking in Washago area. Theresa - 689-8271 or 689-6905

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

BLACK FOREST CHEESE CAKE

CRUST:
1 Cup flour
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter
1 egg yolk
1/2 tsp vanilla

CHEESE MIXTURE:
1 1/2 lbs (3 pkgs.) cream cheese at room temp
1 cup sugar
1 1/2 tbsp flour
1/4 tsp salt
1/2 tsp vanilla
4 eggs
1/4 cup whipping cream
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven: Crust 400, Cake 350. Prepare crust: Combine flour and sugar. Cut in butter with pastry blender until mixture is crumbly. Add beaten egg yolk and vanilla and stir well with fingers. Using 1/3 of mixture line bottom of spring form pan. (remove sides) Bake in a hot oven until golden brown. Butter sides of pan & assemble mould. Using balance of mixture line sides of pan. Prepare cheese filling: Using electric mixer, cream cheese well. Add sugar, flour, salt, and vanilla. Beat at medium speed until well blended. Add eggs one at a time beating well after each addition. Fold in cream. Beat in melted chocolate. Pour into crust and bake in moderate oven until centre is cooked. Remove from oven and cool on rack. Remove side of pan and chill over night. Top with cherry pie filling (in centre) and whipped cream around edge. This is a nice Christmas recipe. Joanne Barton



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Curb Appeal



Happy Holidays To Our Neighbors & Friends



It's been a pleasure seeing you this past year. I hope to see you in the spring of 2007. Best Wishes This Holiday Season.

Renie Reddick
Sales Representative

One thing commonly overlooked when selling a home is curb appeal. It is the first impression of your property and will probably be a lasting one. We are truly blessed to live here in the Washago area where there is an abundance of natural materials to decorate your home for the holidays. Take a walk, carry a large bag and a pruning shears. Look for the bright orange-red winterberries commonly found in low-lying areas and roadsides. Sumac berries bring a lovely burgundy colour to exterior planters, wreaths and garlands The Sumac common to our area is the Staghorn Sumac (rhus typhina). This is not the poisonous variety. It is easily identifiable by the velvet textured branches and berry heads. Hydrangeas or snowball flower heads make a nice addition to wreaths and garlands. Hang flower heads in a dry place for a few weeks. These can be spray painted any colour with florist paint. Evergreens are plentiful for making garlands. To make a garland you require several evergreen boughs, twine the length of the desired garland, green florist wire, found at craft stores and wire cutters. Lay the evergreen boughs in one direction on the twine and wrap securely with florist wire. Continue overlapping to the desired length and fullness. Add colourful berries, sumac or hydrangeas for colour. Voila! Make your first impression memorable!



Rod Harth
1706 Peninsula Point Rd.
Sparrow Lake Waterfront
Western Exposure,
Great sunsets
Winterized Cottage, Double Garage
Drilled Well, Newer Septic
MLS #060771
Asking **\$239,900.00**
Air Miles Points 480



Mary Rogers
Stop! Before you Build...
6 year old Cape Code style 3+1 bedroom home on 2.5 acres. Cathedral ceilings, stone gas fireplace. 4 season Muskoka room, with finished basement, double garage.
MLS #061492
Asking: **\$329,900.00**
Air Miles Points 658



Paul Beard
Ranch Bungalow
Deeded Access
1.52 Acres
Sunken Livingroom
3 bedroom
MLS# 061907
New Price: \$219,900.00
Air Miles Points 440



Patricia Cryderman
Ranch Bungalow on 6 Acres
1 1/2 year old home, open concept kitchen, vaulted ceiling in living room with slate fireplace. Large master bedroom, walk-in closet, ensuite and sitting area.
MLS#062468
Asking: \$399,000.00
Air Miles Points 798



Rod Harth
Broker of Record



Mary Rogers
Broker



Paul Beard
Salesperson



Patricia Cryderman
Salesperson