

What's Happening in Muskoka!

Written by Administrator - Last Updated Wednesday, 11 December 2013 13:19

Ongoing until Wednesday December 11th: Sundridge is a semi-finalist in the Aviva Community Fund online contest! The town is asking residents to vote in support of promoting their entry. Voting begins at noon on Monday, December 2nd and runs until noon on Wednesday December 11th. To vote visit <http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf16820>.

Ongoing until December 16th: There is an Art Exhibit at The Active Living Centre to view the wonderful works of Huntsville's budding artists! Come on in and see that with a little instruction, you can be an artist too! New sessions start in the New Year and you can find your art side! See the exhibit, demonstrations and talk to these artists. For more information, contact Simone.babineau@huntsville.ca.

Ongoing until Saturday December 21st: The merchants of Downtown Bracebridge welcome jolly ol' Santa Claus Dec 7th, 14th and 21st. Kids can come see Santa and have their picture taken. Santa will be at Applause! Toy Store in Downtown Bracebridge all three Saturdays from 10:30am until 1:30pm. Come see him before he heads back to the North Pole!

Ongoing until December 23rd: When you've purchased that special gift don't forget to stop by the charity gift wrapping station at The Huntsville Place Mall. One of 19 non-profit, register charities, church, schools and community organizations will be on hand to help wrap your gift.

Ongoing until December 23rd: Come support the Salvation Army and their holiday kettles located beside the Huntsville Place Mall food court.

Ongoing until December 24th: Hailey's Wish is still collecting teddy bear donations at The Huntsville Place Mall. Drop off your new or un-used excellent condition teddy bear or stuffy, in one of two teddy bear donation boxes located at the mall and help give a smile one hug at a time.

Ongoing until January 2nd: Help support three local charities at The Festival of Trees in The Huntsville Place Mall. The funds raised from the Coles/ Indigo love of reading tree will go directly to The Huntsville Public School Library. There is also a tree for Muskoka Shrine Ladies, and Christine's Place the Pregnancy Resource Centre. All secret ballot bids will be accepted at

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the ballot station located behind Santa.

Wednesday December 11th: The Town of Huntsville is hosting a Christmas Holiday Luncheon and Social at The Active Living Centre. The event runs from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. Tickets are \$20.00 (plus Tax), which includes the holiday feast, dessert, tea, coffee and cider. Carols, entertainment and social activities immediately follow the lunch. It is a full afternoon of Christmas celebrations. If you can't make it for noon, you can buy a dessert and social ticket for \$10.00 (plus tax). Be sure to register at the front desk for your ticket in advance by December 9th

. For more information contact: simone.babineau@huntsville.ca.

Wednesday December 11th: The Bracebridge Fire Department and Salvation Army Bracebridge Community Church are hosting a fundraiser with Boston pizza to raise funds for the Annual Salvation Army Food and Toy Drive. The event is being held Wednesday December 11th from 5:00pm until 8:00pm at the Boston Pizza in Bracebridge. At the end of the three hours, all receipts will be collected with 10% of all food sales being donated to the Salvation Army Church. Boston Pizza is also offering a \$5 off coupon to anyone who brings in a non-perishable food item from now until December 11th. All foods donations will go to the food drive.

Wednesday December 11th: Trinity United Church in Gravenhurst presents a Christmas presence concert. The concert is free to high school music students as well as the general public. This concert of meditative minimalist music will remind you to stop and take a deep breath this holiday season. Dan McCoy plays Philip Glass's "Mad Rush" on the renowned, newly-refurbished Casavant pipe organ. Jeff Moellman plays the piano and Marie-Caroline Bourque plays the violin. Show starts at 1:00pm.

Thursday December 12th: The Church of The Holy Spirit, Burks Falls' 90 plus choir will be presenting a Christmas Canata at 7:30pm.. Free admission, and refreshments to follow.

Friday December 13th: Friends of Fairvern host their annual winter bake sale from 9:30am until 2:00pm at The Huntsville Place Mall.

Friday December 13th: The grade 2 class at Riverside school is having a bake sale over the

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lunch hour to raise money for the salvation army Christmas.

Friday December 13th:Huntsville High School's Robotics team is hosting a Programming Challenge for girls all day at the University of Waterloo building. The goal is to inspire and recognize girls' participation in science and technology. Sponsors and Mentors who are interested in working with the Robotics team are welcome. Contact the school at 705-789-5594 for more information.

Friday December 13th: There will be Christmas carolling in the rotary gardens starting at 6:30pm. The rotary gardens are at the corner of Taylor Rd and Pine St in Bracebridge. This event is sponsored by the rotary club of Bracebridge and will feature the Salvation Army band and choirs from around Muskoka. Hot beverages will be served and all ages are welcome. This is a free event so just come and enjoy.

Friday December 13th: Friends of Fairvern is hosting a Craft and Bake Sale at The Huntsville Place Mall. It all starts at 9:00am. You can drop off your donations at the Fairvern Hobby Kitchen, 23 John Street or at the mall after 8:00am.

Friday December 13th:The Huntsville Social Group invites you to their Black Tie Dance with music by Jeff Fowler. It runs from 8:00pm to 1:00am at the Royal Canadian Legion, 21 Veterans Way. Tickets are only \$10 at the door. For more information call Anne at 705-788-9365 or email n.ennest@live.ca.

Friday, December 13: The Cellar Singers, Parry Sound Stockey Centre, 7:30pm. A Festival of the Sound presentation. Celebrating the 100th birthday of Benjamin Britten with a Ceremony of Carols, the companion suite by Conrad Susa (who just passed away November 21), Carols and Lullabies, and Charpentier's stunning Messe de Minuit (Midnight Mass) in French Latin. The Cellar Singers originated in Bracebridge in Dr. Monk's basement and today are an auditioned choir featuring vocalists from across Muskoka and Simcoe. Tickets \$25 or \$30 on seat selection.

Saturday, December 14: The Cellar Singers, St. Paul's United Church, Peter Street, Orillia. 'Sound Bite' Discussion series at 7:00pm, concert starts at 7:30pm. Celebrating 100th birthday of Benjamin Britten with A Ceremony of Carols, the companion suite by Conrad Susa (who just

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passed away November 21), Carols and Lullabies, and Charpentier's stunning Messe de Minuit (Midnight Mass) in French Latin. The Cellar Singers originated in Bracebridge in Dr. Monk's basement and today are an auditioned choir featuring vocalists from across Muskoka and Simcoe. Adults: \$30. Students: \$15. Bus from Muskoka to Orillia concert leaves Bracebridge post office at 6pm and Gravenhurst McDonald's parking lot at 6:15pm.

Wednesday December 18th: In light of the season of giving, the students of BMLSS are hosting the 2nd Annual Community Christmas Dinner. The dinner is roasted turkey with all the trimmings and is open to anyone who wishes to attend. There will also be musical entertainment from the BMLSS band. The event runs from 5:00pm until 7:00pm and is located in the BMLSS cafeteria at 100 Clearbrook Trail in Bracebridge.

Wednesday December 18th: The Almaguin Highlands Ontario Provincial Police are participating in the second annual United Way Hockey Game with Land of Lakes Senior Public School students at the Burk's Falls, Ryerson and Armour Arena. There will be no cost and/or admission fee for the event, although any donations to the United Way would be greatly appreciated.

Friday December 20th: The Muskoka Community Church will be carolling from one end of The Huntsville Place Mall to the other and making sure everyone's celebrating the Christmas spirit. It starts at 7:00pm.

Wednesday January 1st: Ring in the New Year with a dip in the lake. The 3rd annual Polar Bear Dip is happening at The Hidden Valley Resort in Huntsville at Noon. Funds raised will go towards Habitat for Humanity Muskoka. If you want to take part or donate, go to The Huntsville Polar Bear Dip on Facebook.

Thursday January 2nd: Love United Dominican Food bank would like all your empty cans, and refundable bottles. You can all help by letting your empties fill bellies. Also a great way for those in need of community hours or groups looking for a great cause. A roadside pick-up happens January 2nd, 2014. Send them your address and mark the bags or boxes with a big X and Write for Love United. Every bottle counts. Just \$5.00 feeds an entire family one meal a day for a whole week. For more info and to arrange a pick-up, email loveunitedfoodbank@gmail.com or call 705.571.1394 or 705.783.6018.

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Wednesday January 15th: Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group (MWAG) has new Children's Voices sessions starting January 15th at Monck Public School in Bracebridge. It's a nine-week program for kids ages five to 12 and their moms, who've left abusive homes. Topics include abuse, safety planning and healthy problem solving. It runs from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Transportation in Muskoka and childcare assistance available. For more information and to register contact Marion at 1-800-461-1740.

Ongoing Events in the Community:

Blood Donor Clinics: You can help save lives by giving blood. Blood donation is something that doesn't take much time and costs you nothing. You can only donate a maximum of six times per years. Consider being a blood donor and bring a friend or family member too.

Women's Drop-In: A free drop-in for all women is held every Monday at the Women's Resource Centre, 29 Manitoba Street, Bracebridge, 9:30am to Noon. Make new friends, learn new skills. For more info to go www.daphnewymn.com.

BEWT (Battle excess weight together): Meets on Tuesdays from 6:00pm to 6:30pm at the Dorset Recreational Centre to weigh in. Cost is \$1.50 weekly fee. Call Lori at 705-766-2745.

Muskoka Animal Rescue is in need of volunteers and foster homes for animals awaiting adoption. They are a not-for-profit, volunteer based group with the goal of finding homes for animals that have been abandoned or surrendered. They do not have a shelter, and rely on a network of foster homes to temporarily house animals awaiting adoption. This allows for the animals to live with a caring family while they await their forever home. For information about becoming a foster home or joining them as a volunteer, please call 705-224-0112 or email info@muskokaanimalrescue.com.

The Gravenhurst Public Library has a number of free programs for the whole family happening this fall. From kids story hour, book clubs, computer lessons and Travel presentations. Call the library for all the details and to register for any events, at 705-687-3382.

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Muskoka Victim Services is currently accepting applications for volunteer crisis responders. Victim Services is a non-profit community based organization working in partnership with police and emergency services to meet the short term needs of victims of crime and tragic circumstance by providing emotional support, practical assistance and referrals to community resources. All volunteers are fully trained and certified. Training is free and time commitment is reasonable. For further information, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 705.645.5444 or e-mail eva@muskokavs.ca

The YWCA of Muskoka is now taking registration on their website. The programs are Women in Business and Business of life. Business of Life runs from October to December on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from January to March on Mondays and Wednesdays. Then the Women in Business happens on Mondays and Wednesday from late September to December and Tuesdays and Thursday from January to March. For more on the courses and for registration info visit <https://www.facebook.com/YwcaMuskokaProgramsForWomen> [ht](#)

Mondays: A free drop-in for all women is held every Monday at the Women's Resource Centre, 29 Manitoba Street, Bracebridge, 9:30am to Noon. Make new friends, learn new skills. For more info to go www.daphnewymn.com .

Wednesdays: Each Wednesday, head to the Adult and Older Adult "Diners Club" at Huntsville's Active Living Centre. Kim prepares lunch – something new each and every week. You must call and RSVP the day prior to be included. Cost is \$8.00 at the door. Fall Diners Club Begins Wednesday September 11th and runs every Wednesday until the end of June. Note that on the last wed of the month Diners Club is a Pot Luck and only costs \$1.00. T RSVP or for more information, Contact Simone at 705-789-6421 x3022.

The Women's Own Resource Centre (WORC) Board is currently seeking volunteer candidates for positions on its Board of Directors. The mission of the Women's Own Resource Centre is to provide women with opportunities and choices to achieve success. Meetings are held in South River on the third Wednesday of each month (excluding July, August & December). Interested persons can pick up an application package at the WORC office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday. For more information, please call 705-386-9672 or email info@womensownresource.org.

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Red Cross: Are you a caring individual with some time to spare? The Red Cross is looking for Volunteers to help with their Transportation Program. If you're interested in learning more, contact Tara Bone at Tara.Bone@redcrossca. Volunteers will be reimbursed for mileage.

Every Thursday The Dwight Public Library and Rhythmic by Nature present an **After School Drum Program**. It is from 3:30 to 5pm and is \$10 per person. Join them for drumming, community and fun! No previous drumming experience is necessary and all instruments are provided by the facilitator. To register and get more information, please contact the Dwight Library at 705-635-3319, dpl@vianet.ca

Lions BINGO: The Bracebridge Lions Club is pleased to announce that they will be continuing to host their Bingos in 2013. The first Tuesday of the month, Bingo will be held at the Rotary Centre for Youth at 131 Wellington Street. There is over \$2400 in prizes, including a \$1000 Jackpot. Doors open at 5:30pm and the games begin at 7pm. All proceeds go to support our community.

Looking for something to do this winter? Go to the Bracebridge Public Library and update your computer skills! Learn how to send email, surf the web and explore the exciting world of social media. Become a wiz at Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. To set up a free, 1 hour, one-on-one training session, call Katrina at the Bracebridge Public Library: 645 4171.

Sharing Suppers: Pine Grove Baptist Church, Monday nights.

The Salvation Army Food Bank in Huntsville is in need of the following items: healthy snacks for kid's lunches, cereal, peanut butter and jam. Donations are greatly appreciated, and can be dropped off at Salvation Army Family Services on Mary Street, or at the Salvation Army Church on Mary Street. The Family Services offices are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am-12p, and 1-2:35pm.

Almaguin Bowling leagues in the Almaguin Bowl in Burk's Falls are looking for new members. There is a league every day so there's a time to suit everyone. From very young to old, all are welcome. You don't have to be an expert!

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Muskoka is currently recruiting volunteers. If you are interested in making a lasting difference in the life of a child by acting as a mentor, role-model and friend please call 705-644-9914 or visit www.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/muskoka.

Car Seat Clinics: Clinics are offered monthly in Huntsville and Gravenhurst, and are run by trained car seat technicians with the OPP, Huntsville Community Policing, local Fire Departments and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. Huntsville clinics are held the first Thursday of every month at the Huntsville Fire Department, 1 Payne Drive, from 12pm-2pm. Gravenhurst area clinics are held at the Gravenhurst Fire Hall, 190 Harvie Street, from 12pm-2pm. Appointments are not required.

South River Lions Organization holds monthly Bingo the Second Thursday of every Month. Early Bird Game starts at 6:45 p.m. and regular bingo starts at 7pm. Bingo is held at the South River Arena, upstairs (full use of elevator available for seniors and/or disabled persons).

Scouts Canada welcomes children and teens aged 5-17, with programs geared to 4 different age categories. Adults are also needed to get involved with Scout leadership programs, and offers comprehensive training/coaching programs to all volunteers. For information, contact 1-888-scouts-now, or visit www.scouts.ca.

The Art Space Gallery is located on Queen Street, across from River Mill Park in Huntsville, and is open Thursday through Saturday at 11:00am. The mission of The Art Space is to enrich local and regional culture by providing a showcasing forum for local and national artists, providing continuous exposure to the visual arts and encouraging community involvement through outreach, education and service. In addition to exhibitions, The Art Space also offers a wide range of educational activities, and creative experiences for children, teens and adults. More information on upcoming events is available at www.huntsvilleartsociety.ca.

The Huntsville La Leche League has a new meeting location at the Ontario Early Years Centre in the Active Living Centre. Moms and their children are invited to gather on the second Monday of each month to share their breastfeeding and parenting experiences from 10 am until noon. No registration is required.

Employment North can help with your job search or staffing needs at their new

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Resource Centre at 104 Main Street, Sundridge, and open Monday thru Friday. On Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday each week, employment-related workshops are open to the public. They also provide outreach services to Ahmic Harbour, Powassan, and Port Loring. For more information, visit their website at www.employmentnorth.com or call them at 384-1110 or 1-800-461-5541.

The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka Employment Service - Huntsville offers employment services in Lake of Bays. Self-help job search resources are available during all Dorset Community Centre, Dwight Public Library, and Baysville Public Library hours. These include access to a computer with word processing and internet, resume templates, job search information, and access to the Huntsville Employment Service staff during office hours via web cam. An Employment Specialist is on site twice a month to offer employment assistance in person. Watch for them on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month in Baysville (1- 4 pm) and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in Dorset (9:30 am - 12:30 pm) and Dwight (1 - 4 pm). For more information call 787-0349.

Let's Grow Screening Centre- Do you have a question or concern about how your child is developing? Emotional growth, physical coordination and speech and language skills are common sources of worry for parents. A professional at the Let's Grow Screening Centre can screen your child's development and, if necessary, can connect you to further assessment and support services. All parents of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers are welcome. And it's free! To book an appointment or to find out more about the Let's Grow Screening Centre nearest you, call Your Health Connection at 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To check scheduled screening clinics, visit the health unit website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org. Look for the Screening link under Services. If you cannot access one of the scheduled times or locations, call 705-645-2412 x 308 to book a Let's Grow screening in your community.

The Muskoka Tourette Syndrome Support Group meets the first Tuesday of the Month at Muskoka Falls Public School from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Individuals with TS, family members, educators, and interested community members are welcome to attend the meetings. For information, please contact Shawn at 645-2530 or visit the website at www.tourette.ca

Dabber Bingo has expanded, and now takes place at the Gravenhurst Legion on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Start time is 7pm.

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Bingo! The Armour, Ryerson & Burk's Falls Agricultural Society hosts monthly bingo upstairs in the Karl Crozier Hall at the Burk's Falls Arena on the first Saturday of each month. An elevator is available, doors open at 5pm with mini games starting at 6pm. Regular games start at 7pm. 2 card strip minimum to play. The maximum jackpot is \$500. All proceeds go to junior entertainment and prizes for their annual Fall Fair.

The Emsdale Men's Cancer Support Group meets the second Tuesday of each month from 7pm to 8pm at Perry Township Public Library, at 25 Joseph Street, behind the Community Centre in Emsdale. The group is open to males who have experienced any type of cancer and who are willing to share individual experiences. Members of the group are at different points of their journey, and the information shared can be of great value to someone who is newly diagnosed. For more information contact Frank at 705-636-7127, or the North Bay Canadian Cancer Society at 1-888-208-2125.

A Breast Cancer support group meets on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00pm-9:00pm in Bracebridge. For more information call Marilyn at 705-646-1259.

The Muskoka MS Support Group meets on the second Monday of the month from 1:30pm - 3:30pm at Pinegrove Fellowship Baptist Church in Bracebridge. For more information please contact Karen Frontin, Coordinator - Education and Training (MS Society of Canada) at 1-800-268-7582 ext 3125 or karen.frontin@mssociety.ca

The Huntsville Norseman Air Cadet Squadron meets on Wednesday nights from 6:30pm to 9:00pm at Huntsville Public School. If you are a youth between the ages of 12-18 you are eligible to join free of charge. To learn more about the cadet program please contact Captain Wordragen at 705-789-7858, email co.844air@cadets.gc.ca or drop by any Wednesday night from September to May and meet the cadets and see what the program has to offer.

"Getting Ready for Baby" prenatal classes: Many parents-to-be have a lot of questions about what life will be like with their new baby. Join other parents-to-be and a public health nurse for free classes to get some answers. Getting Ready for Baby classes run weekday evenings or Saturdays. Register early in your pregnancy as classes fill quickly. To register call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or toll free 1-877-721-7520.

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Immunizations - The Simcoe Muskoka District Health unit provides regular immunization clinics at all office locations for infants through to seniors. Please contact Your Health Connection at (705) 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. if you have questions or to book an appointment.

Do you have a question about how to manage your diabetes or pre-diabetes? Everyone is welcome to attend the Bracebridge Diabetes centre drop in and Meter check every Monday from 2-4pm. The centre is located at 205 Hiram Street on the second floor. For more information call 705-645-8824. A certified diabetes nurse educator and registered dietician will be available.