



A warm and welcoming scene from the Good Food Collective Holiday Lunch, where we were proud to serve 178 community members! Huge thanks to Chef Cori, our incredible volunteers, and everyone who joined us to share food, conversation, and holiday spirit!

January Round up

[Learn More](#)

As we welcome the new year, we're excited to kick off January with a fresh new look for our newsletter, along with renewed energy, new opportunities, and continued community connection. Inside, you'll find upcoming events, ways to get involved, and the meaningful impact we'll create together in the year ahead.

- **Update: Automated Notifications**
- **Volunteer Spotlight**
- **Call for Volunteers**
- **Questbus Trips**
- **GFC Menu**
- **Program Spotlights**

Important Update: Automated Notifications from Routes

As part of our transition to a new client and volunteer management system (AlayaCare), clients and volunteers may begin to receive automated text messages, emails, or phone calls from Routes Connecting Communities. These messages are sent directly by us and may include service confirmations, reminders for upcoming rides, and occasional surveys to gather feedback.

If you have specific preferences about how you receive notifications, or if you would like to adjust or opt out of certain messages, please contact our team by phone or email and we will be happy to help.

Thank you for your patience as we improve our systems and communication.

Volunteer Spotlight

Risa B.

Tell us about yourself!

Hello, my name is Risa. I love music, animals, gardening, swimming, walking about in the forest, and of course volunteering, which I began doing at the age of nine in school, thanks to the guidance and support of my fourth grade teacher.

How has Routes impacted you?

My favourite memory with Routes is an ongoing one; I truly enjoy the friendships I've made through their Pen pal program, and how Routes has supported me through this program to allow members of our community to send Christmas cards to seniors, and letters to our Veterans on Remembrance Day every year.



My last photo with my "Grandma Carrie". I chose this photo because as well as being a valued family member, she was a Royal Canadian Navy wife, and dedicated her life to caring for so many others. Thank you for everything you gave to others in this world Grandma; I miss you!

Volunteering weekly with the community lunch has had a huge influence on my mental health. Every week as I greet our patrons, I am met with endless smiles and hugs and gratitude from others, who are so grateful for the opportunity to, laugh and support one another, and gather in friendship. Hearing how valuable and transformative this is to them, makes me feel so blessed to be a part of this wonderful project. I would honestly encourage others who may feel alone out there, to try and come to the Good Food Collective lunch, even once please.

What are your goals for the future?

My honest goal for the future is to find some way to be financially secure, so that I can keep doing what I really love, and help as many people (and animals) as I can in my lifetime. My last words are: Please remember that It matters to care, and to reach out to someone every day with a smile! Risa 8)

What is your favourite memory with Routes?

Routes has impacted me in so many ways. Their staff is always so helpful, friendly and supportive, and I'm grateful for the friends I've made through their other volunteer programs. Something very few people know about me, is that I have been living with the effects of a brain injury for over 10 yrs. now. This has greatly affected my life in multiple ways. If you can relate, then you know how living with a hidden disability can be extremely stressful, challenging, and at times painful on a daily basis. Routes has always made me feel like my voice matters in this community, and has given me opportunities to feel included, as well as making me feel valued and appreciated for the impact that I make on others in my own small way, which is something that they do for everyone. I need to commend the Routes team for that. Thank You! My life would be a lot sadder and lonelier and definitely not as enriching and fulfilling as it is, if Routes Connecting Communities did not exist.



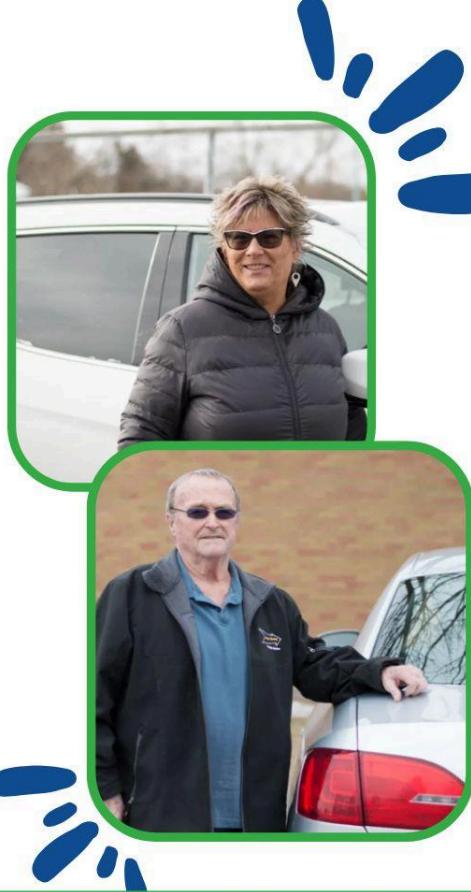
New client drivers: Scott & Jim!

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Become a **Volunteer Driver** and help York Region residents who need assistance due to physical, mental or financial barriers get to their medical appointments and life's necessities.

Benefits

- ✓ Have a local impact in your community!
- ✓ Mileage reimbursement!
- ✓ Flexible Schedule!



✉ info@routescc.org

☎ 905-722-4616

Volunteer!

Questbus Trips!

JANUARY QUEST BUS TRIPS

FOOD ACCESS SUPPORT



GEORGINA FOOD PANTRY

11:00AM | Fridays, Jan. 2, 16 & 30
Free Bus Fare | Call GFP to Book: (905) 596-0557



GOOD FOOD COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY LUNCH

\$5 Bus Fare | \$5 Suggested Dine-In | \$8 Takeout
12:00PM-1:00PM | Wednesdays: Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28



SHOP, SOCIAL & WELLNESS (GEORGINA ONLY)



KESWICK WALMART PLAZA

10AM-12PM or 12PM-2PM | Thurs, Jan. 8 & 22
\$10 Bus Fare



ROAD TO FITNESS & FRIENDSHIP: TRIPS TO THE MURC

OPEN SWIM - ALL POOLS OPEN!

Tuesday Weekly: Jan. 6, 13, 20 & 27 | 11:00AM-12:30PM | Free Bus Fare
Must be Registered | Apply Now: forms.office.com/r/uq9BabupSc
Applications accepted on rolling basis! Different drop-in each cohort.
Comes with **FREE** Rec Pass | For Seniors 55+ in Georgina

ADVENTURE AWAITS - TAKE THE QUEST!



GREAT BLUE HERON CASINO & WHITE FEATHER COUNTRY STORE

12:00PM-4:00PM
Thursday, January 29 | Cost: \$35



PICK-UP FROM YOUR HOME!
CALL 905-722-4616 x 1
TO RESERVE A SEAT!

PROJECT FUNDED BY:
Ontario

GFC Menu



January MENU

GOOD FOOD COLLECTIVE



Globally Inspired Meals with Homemade Flavour & Local Ingredients

20849 Dalton Rd, Sutton | Wednesdays 12-1:30PM | \$5 Transportation avail. upon request

Dine-in: Pay-what-you-can | Takeout: Minimum \$8 (reservations due by 4PM Monday)

Interested in sponsoring a lunch? Reach out to Carolyn at carolyn@routesc.org

January 7

OLD FASHIONED CHICKEN VEGETABLE NOODLE STEW

Sponsored by: The
Thompson Carter
Family



January 14

CABBAGE ROLL IN A BOWL OVER RICE

Sponsored by: Farm
Credit Canada



January 21

PASTA E FAGIOLI CON CARNE

Dessert sponsored
by: Elizabeth
McDonald



January 28

CHICKEN & VEGETABLE FRIED RICE BOWL WITH EGG ROLL AND SESAME SLAW



CONTACT:

(905) 722-4616
info@goodfoodcollective.ca
goodfoodcollective.ca

E-Transfer: finance@routesc.org
Add message "GFC Lunch"

York Region Food Network Affordable Fresh Food Markets

GEORGINA FRESH FOOD MARKET

Drop by and enjoy our affordable fresh fruit and vegetable market. The market includes beautiful produce, veggie tastings and more! This space is open to all and designed to make it easier to access fresh produce.



2026 DATES:

Wednesdays

Jan 21

Feb 4 & 18

Mar 4 & 18

TIME:

11:30 am -

1:00 pm

PLACE: The Link

20849 Dalton Rd, Sutton

CONTACT: For market related questions, please contact YRFN at: MarissaW@yrfn.ca or (905) 841-3101 ext 209

For more information, check out our website: www.yrfn.ca



Ontario Trillium Foundation
Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario
An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



2025 Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Dinner

Thank you so much to everyone who joined us! It was a fantastic event.





FREE/Pay What You Can
Manicure Services Provided by
Sutton High School Students
*Done under supervision



Location: The Link 20849 Dalton Rd,
Georgina, ON L0E 1R0



MANICURE PROGRAM



NEW DATES



Thursday December 11 (2 spots left)

Thursday January 8 (4 spots left)

Thursday January 15 (6 spots left)

1PM - 3PM



Signup via form or
email
karenw@routescc.org



[Register Here](#)

Through one of our Agency Quick Action Grants, Routes Connecting Communities is proud to support this incredible career exploration program offered by the Women's Centre of York Region. ❤



EXPLORING CAREERS

A FREE CAREER EXPLORATION GROUP
PROGRAM FOR WOMEN IN YORK REGION

Where to start?

- Define your dream job.
- Boost your self-confidence and skills.
- Identify your interests, unique personality, and employment options that fit you.
- Develop an Action Plan outlining the steps required to land your dream job.
- 1:1 coaching sessions to assess and improve your career search



Program Date

Thursdays
January 22- Feb 19th, 2026
1-3pm

To Register:



Email Shirley at

info@wcyr.ca

Phone: 905.853.9270 x 1

Online:

www.wcyr.ca/registration

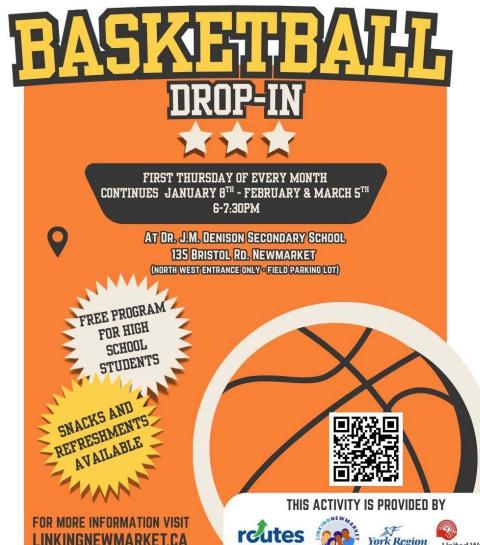


The LINK
20849 Dalton Road,
Georgina



Newmarket CAT Programming

NEWMARKET COMMUNITY ACTION TABLE PRESENTS



Linking Newmarket Presents

FREE BADMINTON SESSION

Join us on the court! Whether you're playing for glory or just love the game, this is your moment! Open to all ages

Thursdays Dec 18, Jan 22 & Feb 19

At 06:00PM - 07:30PM
Dr. JM Denison Secondary
135 Bristol Rd. Newmarket
(North West Entrance Only - Field Parking Lot)



THIS ACTIVITY IS PROVIDED BY



routes
connecting communities



United Way
Greater Toronto



York Region



**FUTSAL
DROP IN**

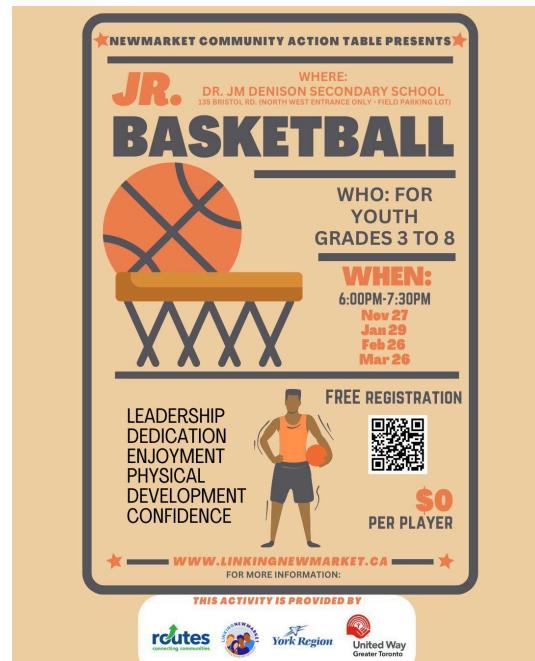
JAN 15 & FEB 12

135 Bristol Road Newmarket
Dr. JM Denison Secondary School Gymnasium
(North West Entrance Only - Field Parking Lot)

6 TO 7:30 PM

FREE PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
SIGN VIA QR CODE TO PLAY!
LINKINGNEWMARKET.CA

THIS ACTIVITY IS PROVIDED BY
  



NEWMARKET COMMUNITY ACTION TABLE PRESENTS

WHERE:
DR. JM DENISON SECONDARY SCHOOL
135 BRISTOL RD. (NORTH WEST ENTRANCE ONLY - FIELD PARKING LOT)

**JR.
BASKETBALL**

**WHO: FOR
YOUTH
GRADES 3 TO 8**

WHEN:
6:00PM-7:30PM
Nov 27
Jan 29
Feb 26
Mar 26

FREE REGISTRATION

LEADERSHIP
DEDICATION
ENJOYMENT
PHYSICAL
DEVELOPMENT
CONFIDENCE

**\$0
PER PLAYER**

WWW.LINKINGNEWMARKET.CA

THIS ACTIVITY IS PROVIDED BY
  



**CAREER
DEVELOPMENT
NIGHT**

A night focused on employable stepping stones for high school students

**SouthLake Hospital & The Ontario Health Team;
Become A Youth Cancer Prevention Ambassador:**
A presentation directed at highlighting healthy habits and the different ways youth can transition into the healthcare field.

**Complete the Jack.org 'Be there' Training,
Receive a Certificate of Completion:**
Students will be provided a space to learn new skills and build the confidence to support those struggling with their mental health.

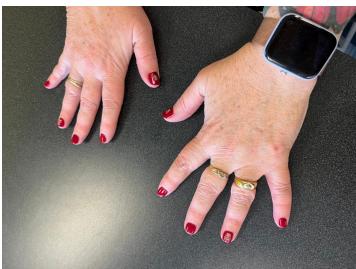
January 8th 2026 - 5:30 to 8:30 PM
135 Bristol Rd. Newmarket - Dr. JM Denison Secondary - CAFETERIA
(North West Entrance Only - Field Parking Lot)

Sign in via QR code to let us know you will be attending.





Year in Review: Georgina Community Action Table



Our Northern Georgina Community Action Tables had a busy and impactful year, made possible by the hard work and dedication of our community. In 2025, we supported 7 resident-led grants and 2 agency-led grants. Congratulations to all the project leads for their outstanding contributions!

We also celebrated the launch of several meaningful initiatives, including a back-to-school supplies event that supported more than 200 individuals, a manicure program that created hands-on learning opportunities for students from Sutton District High School, and engaging youth drop-in programs.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these successes possible. We look forward to connecting with you again in 2026!

To get involved in the Northern Georgina Community Action Tables, please email karenw@routescc.org

Routes CC | 20849 Dalton Road | Sutton West, ON L0E 1R0 CA

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