



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!

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# 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!

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## 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](https://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:



GFC Menu



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@routescc.org](mailto:carolyn@routescc.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](mailto:info@goodfoodcollective.ca)  
[goodfoodcollective.ca](http://goodfoodcollective.ca)

E-Transfer: [finance@routescc.org](mailto:finance@routescc.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.

CASH  
CREDIT  
DEBIT



Bring a  
reusable  
bag!

## 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](http://www.yrfn.ca)



## 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](mailto:karenw@routescc.org)



[Register Here](#)

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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



**The LINK**  
20849 Dalton Road,  
Georgina



### Program Date

Thursdays  
January 22- Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
1-3pm

### To Register:

Email Shirley at

info@wcyr.ca

Phone: 905.853.9270 x 1

Online:

www.wcyr.ca/registration



## Newmarket CAT Programming

NEWMARKET COMMUNITY ACTION TABLE PRESENTS

**BASKETBALL**  
**DROP-IN**

★★★★★

FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
CONTINUES JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup> - FEBRUARY & MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>  
6-7:30PM

AT DR. J.M. DENISON SECONDARY SCHOOL  
135 BRISTOL RD. NEWMARKET  
(NORTH WEST ENTRANCE ONLY - FIELD PARKING LOT)

FREE PROGRAM  
FOR HIGH  
SCHOOL  
STUDENTS

SNACKS AND  
REFRESHMENTS  
AVAILABLE

THIS ACTIVITY IS PROVIDED BY

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
LINKINGNEWMARKET.CA



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. J.M. Denison Secondary  
135 Bristol Rd. Newmarket  
(North West Entrance Only - Field Parking Lot)



FREE REFRESHMENTS!

THIS ACTIVITY IS  
PROVIDED BY





**FUTSAL DROP IN**

**JAN 15 & FEB 12**

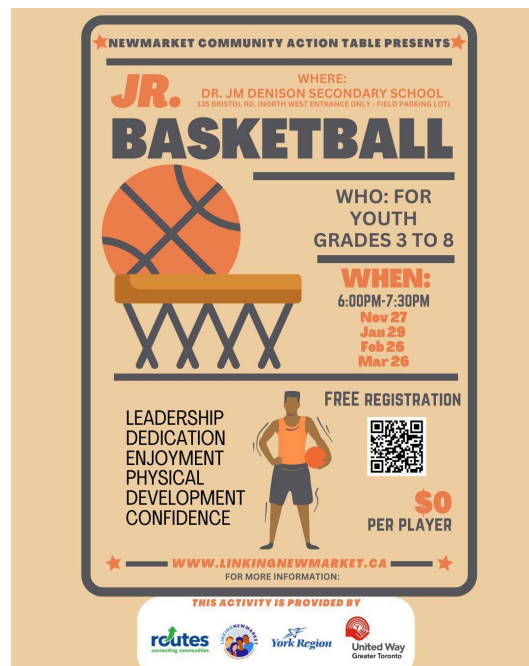
135 Bristol Road Newmarket  
Dr. JM Denison Secondary School Gymnasium  
(North West Entrance Only - Field Parking Lot)

**6 TO 7:30 PM**

FREE PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
SIGN VIA QR CODE TO PLAY!  
[LINKINGNEWMARKET.CA](http://LINKINGNEWMARKET.CA)

THIS ACTIVITY IS PROVIDED BY

routes  
York Region  
United Way Greater Toronto



★ **NEWMARKET COMMUNITY ACTION TABLE PRESENTS** ★

**JR. BASKETBALL**

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

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](http://WWW.LINKINGNEWMARKET.CA)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

THIS ACTIVITY IS PROVIDED BY

routes  
York Region  
United Way Greater Toronto



**CAREER DEVELOPMENT NIGHT**

A night focused on employable stepping stones for high school students

THIS ACTIVITY IS PROVIDED BY

routes  
York Region  
United Way Greater Toronto  
jack.org  
Northern York Health Services

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

QR Code

## 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](mailto:karenw@routescc.org)

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

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