

September Newsletter!



We had a fantastic August filled with fun, connection, and community! One of the highlights was our annual Summer Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, where we had the chance to celebrate our amazing volunteers, enjoy some great food, and make wonderful memories! Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make it such a special day! 🌞💙

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Volunteer Spotlight & Call for Volunteers
 - Summer Volunteer Appreciation Celebrations & Helen Almond Award Recipient
 - GFC Menu
 - Questbus
 - Georgina Fresh Food Markets
 - The Good Food Collective Harvest Dinner Call for Sponsors
 - Program Spotlights
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Volunteer Spotlight Sandy!

Tell us a little bit about yourself and what inspired you to start volunteering with Routes.

I've lived in Aurora for about 30 years, and I've just retired from my career as a high school Geography teacher. My inspiration to volunteer in the community comes from my mother. She was always volunteering in the community. First, with parent-run nursery schools and eventually working with families who were visiting an incarcerated family member. I started my volunteering when I began coaching rugby to teenagers in Aurora. My reward after 25+ years of coaching was an induction into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame in 2024.

What do you enjoy most about being a client driver with Routes?

I enjoy the conversations with the clients and getting to learn a little bit about each passenger. Everyone has a story to tell and it is a privilege to be able to hear it. The other reason I like volunteering with Routes is because I can set my own



What does volunteering with Routes mean to you, and how has it impacted you personally?

Volunteering with Routes has given me the opportunity to see and meet people I otherwise wouldn't ever meet. I've been awakened to the daily struggles they face, and I know that my driving is helping to make their day just a little bit easier. Volunteering is also a very humbling experience as in, "there but the grace of God go I." In my life, I have benefited from people who took time to help me, and I want to be able to give back.

What would you say to someone who is thinking about becoming a Routes volunteer?

If asked, I would encourage anyone to volunteer for Routes because it is a way to know your community, to give back to the

schedule. It is also very easy to set my own hours. That makes me feel important and not stressed about making a commitment that doesn't work with my schedule.

community, and to learn a little about your self. The people in the office have done a great deal to help me learn the system and to make me feel comfortable when learning the procedures involved in driving our clients to their appointments.

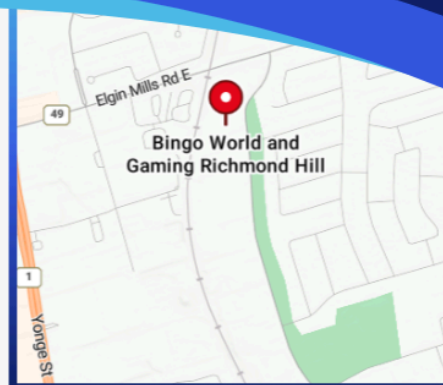
Join the Richmond Hill Bingo Team!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Support our charitable partner Bingo World to raise funds for Routes Connecting Communities

\$50 HONORARIUM
Per 2-hour shift

Support during the event
and cleanup afterwards



Bingo World and Gaming
Richmond Hill
350 Newkirk Road

Join the team!

E-Mail: Emily@routescc.org

Call: 905-722-4616x4



Join the Bingo Team!



New Client Driver, Helen!

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Summer Picnic!



We love any opportunity to celebrate and appreciate our

amazing volunteers! Thank you to everyone who joined us and braved the rainy weather!



Celebrating the 2026 Helen Almond Award Recipient



Each year, Routes proudly presents the Helen Almond Award to a volunteer who demonstrates exceptional dedication to Routes, our clients, and the community they serve.

The award was created in memory of Helen Almond, a valued community member who first connected with Routes as a client. Inspired by her experience, Helen went on to become a volunteer Board member and dedicated an incredible 10 years of service to Routes. She was passionate, compassionate, and deeply committed to making a difference in the lives of others.

Congratulations, Angie Richard!

We are thrilled to announce Angie Richard as the recipient of the 2026 Helen Almond Award! Angie has been a dedicated Routes volunteer since 2013, making her our longest-serving active volunteer. For more than 13 years, Angie has made giving back a priority and has consistently shown what it means to volunteer with compassion, reliability, and heart.

As a client driver, Angie provides approximately 300–400 rides each year, helping ensure that clients can get where they need to go and stay connected to their community. She is also often one of the first to step forward when a last-minute ride needs to be covered. Whether it's providing a ride, helping a client feel comfortable, or supporting fellow volunteers, Angie always goes the extra mile.

Angie is also a strong advocate for her fellow volunteers and has shared her time and perspective in support of Routes, including participating in our Strategic Planning workshop.

Her 13+ years of service, unwavering commitment, and genuine care for others have touched countless lives. Angie is an exceptional example of the dedication, compassion, and community spirit that Routes strives to uphold. Congratulations, Angie! It is our pleasure to present you with the 2026 Helen Almond Award. Thank you for everything you do for Routes and for the community!

The Good Food Collective Volunteer Summer Celebrations!



Back row - Alice - Helen - Debbie - Renae - Nina "C" - Chef Cori - Heidi - Linda - Tamy
Middle row - Bob - Johanne - Darlene - Nina "P" - Martine - Chris - Carolyn
Front row - Karine

The Good Food Collective Menu



September 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@routescc.org

September 2



BLT WRAP WITH WATERMELON AND FETA SALAD

Summer Picnic day
 YRFN Fresh Food Market
 Community Group: Georgina
 Public Library



September 9

CHICKEN MATZO BALL SOUP WITH HONEY CAKE DESSERT

Rosh Hashanna
 Jewish New Year



September 16



CHICKEN STIR FRY WITH RICE

YRFN Fresh Food Market
 Sponsored by: The GFC Harvest
 Dinner
 Community Group: Hospice
 Georgina



September 23

HERO SUB WITH POTATO CHIPS AND A PICKLE

National Comic Book Day
 Sponsored by: Desjardin Insurance
 Community Group: Vaughan
 Community Health



September 30

3 SISTERS SOUP WITH STRAWBERRY AND WILD RICE SALAD

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
 National Seniors Day
 Sponsored by: Town of Georgina
 Community Group: Town of Georgina
 Equity and Diversity Team



GEORGINA



CONTACT:

(905) 722-4616

info@goodfoodcollective.ca
 goodfoodcollective.ca

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

Questbus!

SEPTEMBER QUEST BUS TRIPS

FOOD ACCESS SUPPORT



GOOD FOOD COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY LUNCH

\$5 Fare | \$5 Suggested Dine-In | \$8 Takeout
12:00PM-1:00PM | Wednesdays: Sept. 9 & 23



Thank you to the **Town of East Gwillimbury** for helping bring back trips to the GFC Community Lunch!
Their generous support funds two outings each month.

SHOP, SOCIAL & WELLNESS



KESWICK WALMART PLAZA

*FIRST COME FIRST SERVE, LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE.

10:00AM-2:00PM | **24 SEATS AVAILABLE** | Wed, Sept. 16 | \$10 Fare

PROJECT FUNDED BY:



ROAD TO FITNESS & FRIENDSHIP (GEORGINA RESIDENTS)

OPEN SWIM @ THE MURC

Tuesdays Weekly: Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 2:00PM-3:30PM | **FREE** Fare

Must be Registered | Apply Now: forms.office.com/r/uq9BabupSc

Comes with **FREE** Rec Pass | For Seniors 55+ in Georgina



Thank you to the **Town of Georgina** for funding our recreation shuttle! Their generous support helps residents access fitness and community connection once per week.

ADVENTURE AWAITS – TAKE THE QUEST!



GREAT BLUE HERON CASINO & WHITE FEATHER COUNTRY STORE

12:00PM-4:00PM
Monday, Sept. 28 | Cost: \$35



PROJECT FUNDED BY:



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

Georgina Fresh Food Market

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



2026 DATES:
Wednesdays

Aug 5 & 19

Sept 2 & 16

Oct 7 & 21

TIME:
11:30 am –
1:00 pm

PLACE: The Link
20849 Dalton Rd, Sutton

CONTACT: For market related questions, please contact YRFN
at: Christinal@yrfn.ca or (905) 841-3101 ext 210

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



The Good Food Collective Harvest Dinner is SOLD OUT!!

The Good Food Collective 2nd Annual Harvest Dinner is officially sold out!



Tickets are all gone, but we're still
looking for sponsorships and silent
auction donations!



Call for Sponsors & Silent Auction Items!



2nd Annual HARVEST DINNER

SCAN FOR
TICKETS



OCTOBER 23rd 2026, 5:30pm-9:00pm at The LINK, 20849 Dalton Rd.

CALL FOR SPONSORS

All sponsors will be displayed on signage at the event.
Multiple sponsor slots are open for each level.

Exclusive sponsorships in any category are available upon request. Increase in cost should be expected.

\$1000+ PARTNERSHIP SPONSOR

- Contributes to grocery costs
- Prominent placement of the company logo at event
- 2 complimentary tickets

\$600 DESSERT SPONSOR

- Funds farm-fresh local pies from Homestead Orchards



\$200-\$400 BEVERAGE & DINNERWARE SPONSOR

- Funds beer, wine, and cider as well as dinnerware and party rentals

\$50 TABLE SPONSOR

- Company logo displayed at a dining table

SILENT AUCTION ITEM DONATIONS

- Gift cards, goods, and services

To become a sponsor, contact info@goodfoodcollective.ca
by September 10th, 2026



Inquire about becoming a sponsor here:

Georgina Community Action

Table Programming



SENIOR DROP-INS

A FREE DROP-IN FOR SENIORS 55+

PRESENTED BY THE NORTHERN GEORGINA COMMUNITY ACTION TABLE

**THUR
SEPT 3**

Suncatcher craft

10am-12pm Link EVENT HALL



**THUR
SEPT 10**

Fall vase

10am-12pm Link EVENT HALL



**No Sign Up Necessary for craft days
Light Refreshments Provided**



Lead Agency for the Northern
Georgina Community Action Table:



Quick Action Grants

GEORGINA



DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A PROJECT?



PAST
PROJECT!

We are providing up to two **\$4,000** resident led grants to organize initiatives in Georgina that support employment and/or mental well-being!

THE TIMELINE

Applications open: August 20, 2026
Applications due: September 10, 2026
@ 4PM
Applications due by email to
karenw@routescc.org

Projects must be completed by:
March 31, 2027

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Attend an information session for help with your application!

Drop in (ask your questions, pick up a paper application!)

August 18 1-2pm MURC lobby

August 20 1-2pm LINK lobby

August 27 2-3pm Ice Palace Lobby

Register for an online zoom session

August 26 11:30am-1pm

September 1 6-7:30pm

For more info or to register for an info session: karenw@routescc.org



QUICK ACTION GRANT APPLICATION:

www.linkinggeorgina.ca/quick-action-grant/

Find out more info here:

Newmarket Community Action

Table Programming

Quick Action Grants NEWMARKET



DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A PROJECT?



PAST
PROJECT!

We are providing up to **Three \$4,000 resident** led grants to organize initiatives in Newmarket that support housing stability and/or mental well-being!



THE TIMELINE

Applications open: August 20, 2026

Applications due: September 10, 2026 @ 4PM

Applications due by email to khalil@routesc.org

Projects must be completed by:

March 31, 2027

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Open to Newmarket residents: Attend an Online (zoom) information session for help with your application!

Wednesday August 26 @ 4-5:30 pm

Tuesday September 1 @ 3-4:30 pm

Monday September 7 @ 5 - 6:30 pm

Email Khalil for more information or to register for an information session: khalil@routesc.org



QUICK ACTION GRANT APPLICATION:

www.linkingnewmarket.ca/quick-action-grant/

Check out more info here:



Newmarket CAT Mental Well-Being
Working Group Presents:

Back to School

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026
1:00-5:00PM

NEWMARKET PUBLIC LIBRARY
438 Park Ave, Newmarket, ON L3Y 1W1



**Resource booths
for youth &
families**



**Back to School
safety &
prevention**



**Mental health
Supports**



**Youth
volunteer
opportunities**



**Healthy
relationship
activities**



...and more!



newmarket
library

routes
connecting communities



WOMEN'S CENTRE
OF YORK REGION



York Region

OUR HAPPY PLACE
TOGETHER WE SHINE

Thrive & CONNECT

GROW. CONNECT. THRIVE TOGETHER.

A six-month wellness program designed to support neurodiverse adults in Newmarket through inclusive, community-based experiences that encourage self-expression, confidence, and social connection.



WELLNESS & MINDFULNESS

Support your mind and body through movement and mindfulness practices.



CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Explore your creativity and express yourself through the arts.



SOCIAL CONNECTION

Build friendships and strengthen connection in a supportive community.



WELL-BEING & CONFIDENCE

Develop practical skills and confidence for everyday life.



SIX INTERACTIVE EVENT SESSIONS

SEPTEMBER 2026 – FEBRUARY 2027 • 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM



SEPT 24
DRUMMING
with
Glenn Marais



OCT 15
ZOO TO YOU
@ BASE



NOV 19
DANCE
@ Art Dance Co



DEC 17
COOKING
with
Eleana's Bazaar



JAN 21
ART
@ Lemmy Create



FEB 18
ZUMBA



FEB 25

CEREMONY OF ACHIEVEMENT

Celebrating growth, accomplishments, and our amazing community!

SPACES ARE LIMITED!



IT'S FREE!



REGISTER TODAY!

ourhappyplaceadp.ca



This Quick Action Grant Is Supported & Funded By



United Way
Greater Toronto

routes
connecting communities



York Region

NEWMARKET HEIGHTS SAFETY FORUM

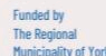
Community Partners • Baked Goods • Giveaways
Safety Information • Resources • Local Programming •

This event is designed to provide resources and community connection to Newmarket residents. Join us for information, giveaways, connecting with residents and community organizations!

September 16 | 6:00pm
Church of Christ
230 Davis Drive



To Register or for questions, email:
laurac@routescc.org



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

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