



DISPOSAL BIN RENTALS • 705-733-BINS (2467) • www.clarksonbins.com



STEELERS
RESTAURANT & PUB

In Door Dining Open

Open 7 Days a week
705 322 2652
23 Queen St. W. Elmvale

CHEVROLET Cadillac
paulsaddon.com

550 bayfield street, barrie

BUICK GMC

Location of my desk: 44.5864°N - 79.8659°W • Altitude: 224 meters!
4944 kms to Equator • 14,894 kms to South Pole • 5110 kms to North Pole

705 321 2653 • 705 322 2249 • SpringwaterNews@Rogers.com

SPRINGWATER NEWS

www.SpringwaterNews.ca

Customer # 0003684814 / Publication/Admail # 0040027838

Your Locally Owned Community Newspaper

Edition 593 - February 18, 2021 Next Issue Mar. 4 • Deadline is Mon. Mar 1

AWARD WINNING PRODUCERS
Nicholyn Farms

your year-round choice for local organic and traditionally raised foods with a special emphasis on special / alternative diets

local food you can trust

3882 Horseshoe Valley Road, Shelburne, ON L0L 2K0
705.737.4488 www.nicholyn.com

Detached homes in the heart of Elmvale.

GREEN MEADOWS
Still HOMES

REGISTER ONLINE NOW

greenmeadowselmvale.com

Barry McGrady • 100 Donation certificate



In Canada, for a whole blood donation, approximately 500 ml or one-half liter of blood is collected. For donations of other blood products, such as platelet or plasma, the amount collected depends on your height, weight and platelet count. Barry McGrady has given at least 50 litres (11 gallons) of blood.

To become a blood donor in Canada you must be at least 17 years old and meet our minimum height and weight requirements (50 kg/110 lb), particularly if you are between 17 and 23 years old.

You are eligible to donate as long as you are feeling well at the time of your appointment. Remember to bring any prescription medication with you to your appointment.

If you have an infection, you should not donate blood and plasma. When taking medication for an infection, you may temporarily be unable to donate.

To be eligible to donate, your last:

- Whole blood donation must have been 56 days ago for males, 84 days ago for females
- Plasma donation must have been seven days ago
- Platelet donation must have been 14 days ago
- Plasma donation intervals vary depending on the type of plasma donation each donor centre collects.

Typically, you must wait six months after receiving a blood transfusion from another person before you can donate blood.

Your eligibility to donate depends on the type of cancer you had and when it was treated.

You are eligible to donate with a cold if you are:

- Feeling well.
- Able to participate in day-to-day activities.
- Not taking antibiotics.
- Not coughing up phlegm.

If you have the flu, wait until you are fully recovered to donate.

If you have type 2 diabetes and are treated with diet or pills to lower your blood sugar, you can donate.

Pregnant donors are not eligible to donate. There is also a six-month waiting period after giving birth before you may become eligible to donate.

If you are breastfeeding, you are not eligible to donate blood during the first six months after giving birth.

You must wait three months after getting a tattoo (includes microblading and permanent makeup) before you are eligible to donate. The temporary deferral period is due to the increased risk of infections associated with tattoos.

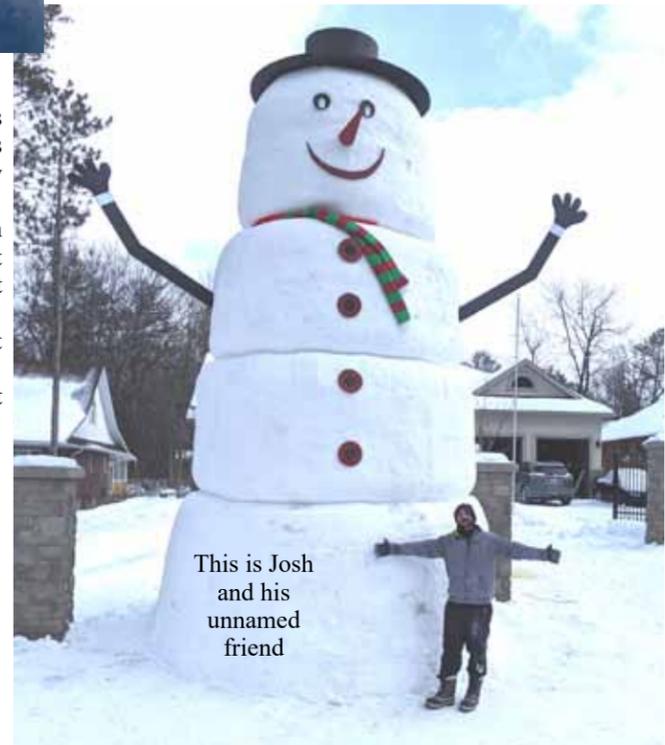
To confirm if you are eligible to donate plasma, call us at 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283).

This Tiny Snowman is BIG



Just off Tiny Beaches Road, as it winds its way down Concession 4 West in the Township of Tiny, on Deanlea Boulevard at the corner of Rosemary Road, there is a luge run on the front yard of the Carmen and Tony Faria's house. Son Josh told us that he built it for his nephews who are 10

and 13. But building a luge run was just the start of Josh and his dad's fun. They figured they would build a snowman. Mother and wife Carman says they started the project on January 23rd. In the past week they completed it. On our 1st visit, the 20 foot giant had no arms or hat. Our next two visits saw it



This is Josh and his unnamed friend

gain a hat, arms, a face, buttons and a scarf. Since that, we notice that there are lights for people to come and see the snow creature at night. Someone said Josh's aim was to build a snowman bigger than one advertised in the Barrie area which was 17 feet tall. We aren't taking anything away from the accomplishments of Josh and his dad but if they want another goal, according to our friend Guinness who wrote a book, the residents of Bethel, Maine, with some help from surrounding towns, built a snow woman 37.21 m/122 feet tall back in February of 2008. It is easily admitted that Josh's friend has a better personality and a friendlier smile. Thanks to the Faria family, there is a continual trail of traffic coming to see this accomplishment. Well done!



will MARSHALL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.

Treating You Like Family Since 1983

Call for Professional Advice
Barrie: 705-726-2551 Orillia: 705-326-5664

Colin Marshall info@wmib.ca

Automobile Residential Business Farm Recreational

www.wmib.ca

Township of Tiny Hires a New Chief Administrative Officer

The Township of Tiny is pleased to announce and welcome Mr. Robert J. Lamb as its new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

"After a thorough recruitment process, Council is very pleased with this outcome and came to the decision unanimously," said Mayor George Cornell. "As a senior executive, Robert has a breadth of experience in the public and private sectors. We are excited to have him join our team to lead the implementation of our strategic priorities with a focus on enhanced customer service."

Prior to accepting the position with Tiny, Mr. Lamb spent several years with the Township of Tay as the Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk. Mr. Lamb also spent four years as Simcoe County's Manager of Economic Development.

Mr. Lamb brings with him an extensive background and aptitude in the public and private sectors and is well versed in many areas, including leadership, management, economic development, and human resources.

Mr. Lamb will begin his employment with the Township on Monday, February 22, 2021. "We look forward to Robert's wealth of experience, talent and knowledge to lead the Township forward," said Mayor Cornell.

Editor's Musings

Thank you! Last fall (October and November), I went to Soldier's Memorial Hospital for cataract surgery.

One of the significant things I notice now is how white some things are. What I thought was white was actually sort of beige.

On the advise of the surgeon and the Doctor from the Eye Centre in Elmvale, we waited a couple of months for my eyes to adjust.

In mid January, I was told that my eyesight was 20/30 for distance and maybe, if I wanted, we could use a pair of 2.5s for reading. It was not necessary but the option was mine.

I decided to buy some new glasses. A week later, my \$600 glasses with arms that would not ever break off, blended lenses (\$\$\$) and automatic darkening (sunglasses\$\$\$) were on my face. I could see better but in these COVID days, glasses may fog up and masks hook unto hearing aids and you risk losing them.

We went shopping (I won a Tassimo coffee maker at Barber and Haskell's in Midland) and delivered some papers. We got home and I realized, I had no glasses. I searched the house, the truck and I called the stores we had been to....all to no avail.

Before leaving Elmvale, I had filled the truck with gas at the Circle K. I noticed that in the store, they had security cameras. Not convinced that I had even wore my glasses, I had a gas receipt dated and timed. I went into the store and started to explain my dilemma. The fellow smiled at me, pointed to my glasses hanging on the plexiglass over the counter. He said that I was gone before he noticed them, did not know me and figured I would be back in.

My THANKS to Dinesh and his great team at the Circle K in Elmvale.

In the last paper I had a picture from Van Vlack school. My contributors could not remember the name of the teacher - after all it was 66 years ago.

Sheldon Culham sent a note telling us it was Florence Jones. Why is he so sure? He married her.

Be careful - the CDC estimates a 99.997% survival rate for those from birth to age 19 **who contract COVID-19**. It's 99.98% for ages 20-49, 99.5% for 50-69 and 94.6% for those over 70. Significantly, those who died of coronavirus, according to the CDC, had an average of 2.6 comorbidities, meaning more than two chronic diseases along with COVID-19. Overall, the CDC says, just 6% of the people counted as COVID-19 deaths died of COVID-19 alone.

But don't be paranoid - notice the above report said who had contracted Covid.

Presently, only about 2% of the Ontario population has contracted Covid-19 so to get the survival rate of those in Ontario, as it stands now, it would be 50 times better than just those who have contracted it. And 80% of the people who test positive have no or very little indication they were ever sick.

I would like to know how this COVID vaccine works. As I understand it, if you get the best one, it is 95% effective. That seems to mean, 5% will get it.

Since 98% of our population has not contacted Covid today, 2% have (actually worldwide 1.4% have contracted

the Covid germ), one might suggest a person is better without the vaccine.

Somehow, I can't to get my head wrapped around that.

Does anyone know Angela James? Apparently, she is an athlete from the Elmvale area whose name is mentioned in a new book called Proud to Play by Erin Silver. If she is really from our area, we should be suggesting her for the Sports Hall of Fame.

In Ontario, approximately 10,000 people per day are getting the second shot of the Covid vaccine...which means that at that rate, in 1500 days, in four years we will all have been immunized the first time.

In Canada, of the 10 provinces and 3 territories, Ontario ranks 9th. Compared to other countries, Canada is in 50th spot as to the percent of the population who have been vaccinated.

We didn't really think we were that bad off and hope was on the way as the leader of our great country came out the door of his mansion/cottage - he has not gone to work in Ottawa apparently for a LONG time so I read - and told us that more vaccines were on their way.

Then shortly afterwards, we learned that he had misspoke. There were not vaccines on their way.

The definition of misspoke is to speak incorrectly, improperly or misleadingly. No where could I find the word lying. But when we looked up lie and lying, I could find definitions that said 'a false statement deliberately presented as being true; a falsehood; to speak untruthfully with intent to mislead or deceive; something that is deliberately intended to deceive.'

If you google 'Trudeau, lies, misspoke' you will get 27,300 results. Try Trudeau lies and you will get 1,910,000 and if you try Trudeau misspoke you will get 22,600 results.

Someone sent me a list of 60 things and we could add more, of the - may I use the mild word - 'mistakes' the inexperienced drama teacher has made.

I know the list does not include the \$50 million he just gave MasterCard so they could set up in Vancouver. It doesn't even have the \$2.7 mill he gave Canadian Tire, the \$12 million he gave Loblaw's or the \$40 mill he gave BlackBerry that they didn't need or even ask for.

He also gave \$4.8 to Huawei, the Chinese company funded by China's Military and Intelligence, which many countries will not deal with because of the accusations of spying. But are you really worried that the phone you use that was made in China, and which will be parlaying information on the Huawei 5G network has any software on it for spying purposes?

If you want the list, send me an email...address at top of page.

A warning - if you were in Collingwood a year ago and bought a Lotto Max ticket with the Encore attached, you have until February 25th to claim your \$100,000 if your encore numbers were 3-8-7-4-5-8-5.

Since this virus hit us, and we have not been able to go to the Doctor's office, virtual visits by doctors have skyrocketed by 5600% in Canada so the article says... followed by what does this mean for the future of Canadian Health Care.

By comparing march to July in 2019 and 2020, they found that the number of office visits per 1,000 per day went to 1.57 from 7.53, for a drop of 79.1 per cent.

The number of virtual visits per 1,000 people per day went to 3.92 from .07, for an increase of 5,608 per cent.

I have had a number of these virtual meetings. I can look at my blood test



Springwater News
 9 Glenview Avenue
 Elmvale ON L0L 1P0
 Publisher/Editor/Owner: Michael and Margaret Ann Jacobs
 Tel: 705 322-2249 • Cell: 705 321-BOLD (2653)
 e-mail: springwaternews@rogers.com
 www.springwaternews.ca

Articles can be dropped off, mailed and/or e-mailed to the above addresses 24 hours a day.
 THE NEXT PAPER will be on March 4th, 2021.
 Publications Mail Contract No. 1443739.
 Unaddressed Admail No. 3684814.

Springwater News is published every two weeks and delivered by Canada Post and available at newsstands throughout the areas mentioned below. The opinions expressed in articles contributed by interested parties and through the 'Letters to the Editor' do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper and/or the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit all submitted articles or letters for clarity and space or to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. All contributions must have the writer's full name, address and telephone number for verification. Copyrights are claimed on all original articles.

Springwater News prints 20,000 papers per edition. 18,850 are delivered by Canada Post to:

- 760 in the Utopia/Grenfell area L0L 1B0 and L0L 1B2
- 3012 in the Barrie City/Rural area
- 4280 in South Springwater Township
- 146 to the new boxes in Minesing / Anten Mills

If you know of someone not getting the paper, who got it before the restructuring, please let me know.

- 625 in Phelpston L0L 2K0
- 640 in Hillsdale including the Rural Routes L0L 1V0
- 2550 in Elmvale including the former R R# 1, 2 & 3 L0L 1P0 which includes Orr Lake, Waverley and some Tiny Beaches Road areas
- 265 in the Wyebridge area L0K 2E0
- 975 in Wyevale L0L 2T0 including Conc. 8 and some TBRS areas,
- 1325 in Perkinsfield including Balm Beach to Whippoorwill
- 1100 in R.R.# 1, L4R 4K3 (775) & 2, L4R 4K4 (300) areas of Midland which includes Vasey, Ebenezer and the area North-West of Wyebridge
- 2900 in Northern Tiny including SS 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8 of Rural Penetanguishene (Postal Codes L9M -1R2, -1R3 & -2H7)
- 150 through mail outs and subscriptions in Canada

Subscriptions are available across Canada for \$60/year and \$100/year in U.S. of A.

Ad*Reach. News Media Canada / Médias d'Info Canada

online (Life Labs) and when they talk about my tested levels, I am understanding better.

I wear a very inexpensive watch that gives my blood pressure, the number of heart beats per minute and the oxygen level of my blood. It even tells me how many steps I take per day, how many calories I have burned and interestingly enough, how many heart beats when I am in a deep sleep. It even tells me that I had 5 hours of REM sleep and the rest was just dozing.

Almost, I am getting better medical care now than before and I don't have to drive 22.2 kilometres each way for an appointment.

I wonder if the doctors are still getting the same pay per patient visit.

As you drive around the countryside - I know, we are supposed to stay home - you may see solar panels covered with snow. I asked about getting up on my roof and cleaning the snow off of my panels but it was suggested

the risk of falling, and the effort to optimize what little sunlight we do have on many winter days, that it was not worth the risk.

The power generated in January and February has always been the lowest with revenues as low as \$30 (\$29.95 this year) compared to the almost \$700 we receive in the month of July.

BTW, I sell it to the Ontario Hydro grid for 10 times what you pay for it.

This January was maybe an exception but it still shows that we need at least 15 times as many solar panels in the winter versus the summer.

As well, wind turbines have been covered with ice so the blades have not been turning there.

Green energy is not rich.

Is the vaccine allotted to Ontario being sent someplace else?

Charles - it looks like we can go shop at Princess Auto and other places again?

HERDABOUT K-9 ACADEMY

OBEDIENCE CLASSES
 Puppy Kindergarten through Open Level Competition Rally Obedience Canine Good Neighbour Program

AGILITY CLASSES
 Puppy Foundations through all levels of Competition Indoor and Outdoor classes

PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS
 Kellie & Jeff Whiteside

(705) 429-0833
 www.herdaboutk9academy.com

MIDHURST PHARMACY

Let's Talk About...
Heart Month & New SaveStation

With Pharmacist Owners Jenna Lougheed and Carolyn Glover

February is Heart month. Heart disease affects more than 1.3 million Canadians and is the second leading cause of death in Canada.

Heart Disease includes angina, arrhythmia, atherosclerosis, atrial fibrillation, cardiac arrest, congenital heart disease, coronary artery disease, enlarged heart, heart attack, heart block, heart failure, endocarditis, long Q-T syndrome, pericarditis, rheumatic heart disease, valvular heart disease and vascular cognitive impairment.

Sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anyone at any time. When it occurs, every second counts.

We are pleased to announce that a SaveStation has been installed on the exterior of our building in memory of Randy Boyle, Midhurst resident who unfortunately lost his life to sudden cardiac arrest in 2014. The SaveStation contains an AED (automated external defibrillator) clearly marked for public use and is available 24/7 for anyone in the neighbourhood to access.

To discuss heart disease or any other health topic or question, please reach out. Our doors are open and we continue to offer curbside service and delivery upon request.

94 Finlay Mill Rd, Midhurst ON
 705.503.7333 | www.pharmasavemidhurst.com
 M-F 9-8, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5

LIVE WELL WITH PHARMASAVE

Covid Chart in Ontario

Day	Total Cases	Death	Resolved	W/virus	Tests
Apr 6	309 = 4,347	13 = 132	1624	2591	
Apr 24	640 (11,184)	50 = 763	7087	5669	
May 6	412 (18,722)	68 = 1429	13,222	4071	
May 19	427 (23,384)	15 = 1919	17,889	3576	
June 18	173 (32,917)	3 = 2553	28,012	2352	
July 21	203 (37,942)	1 = 2753	33,617	1572	
Aug 11	33 (40,194)	0 = 2786	36,456	952	
Sept 12	232 (44,300)	1 = 2814	39,717	1769	
Oct 13	746 (60,692)	9 = 3016		5947	36,473
Nov 16	1487 (95,496)	10 = 3371	79,295	12,830	33,351
Dec 31	3328 = 182,195	56 = 4530	156,259	21,617	63,858
Jan 19	1913 = 242,277	46 = 5479	209,183	27,615	34,531
Feb 1	1969 = 270,180	36 = 6224	244,939	19,017	30,359
Feb 7	1489 = 278,207	22 = 6505	256,903	14,799	51,658
Feb 9	1022 = 280,494	17 = 6555	259,991	13,948	30,798
Feb 10	1072 = 281,566	41 = 6596	261,700	13,270	52,504
Feb 11	945 = 282,511	18 = 6614	263,044	12,853	68,812
Feb 13	1300 = 284,887	19 = 6651	265,893		58,760
Feb 14	981 = 285,868	42 = 6693	267,128		48,701
Feb 15	964 = 286,832	13 = 6706			30,400
Feb 16	904 = 287, 736	13 = 6719	269,413		27,000

RKM MOONEY INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.

- HOME
- AUTO
- FARM
- BUSINESS
- LIFE

"Pride in Service"

705-726-9941

randy@mooneyinsurance.ca
www.mooneyinsurance.ca

GORE MUTUAL
1 GO FORWARD

SHAKELL'S WRECKING YARD AND SALES LTD
SERVING CENTRAL ONTARIO FOR OVER 40 YEARS

GOOD USED PARTS

MECHANICAL REPAIR & BODY SHOP

HILLSDALE, HWY 93: 705-835-1552

www.shakellswreckingyard.com

Tiny Plant Boutique
LEAFY, LEAFY & MORE LEAFY!

Local House Plant & Decor Shop

Find us on Facebook or Instagram
@tinyplantboutique

Or on our website
www.tinyplantboutique.com

20/21 INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH AND RURAL EXPO IS MOVING FORWARD



Directors and staff of the Ontario Plowmen's Association are proud to announce that they will be "Moving Forward" with plans for the 20/21 International Plowing Match (IPM) and Rural Expo. While continuing to honour and respect the health situation and health regulations caused by Covid-19, the organizers will be simultaneously planning both the traditional IPM and a re-envisioned IPM.

Local and Provincial volunteers look forward to welcoming visitors to the Municipality of Kawartha Lakes from Wednesday, October 13th to Saturday, October 16th. As planned, the IPM will be hosted on the Lindsay Fairgrounds and neighbouring farms.

The traditional IPM features such as the BMO Plowing Competition, the Hydro One Education and the Queen of the Furrow Competition presented by Ontario Mutuals may look a little different this year but you can be assured they will be just as exciting and memorable.

Alternate designs for both the Tented City and the RV Park are being developed. The revised designs will protect our exhibitors, volunteers and visitors with additional health protocols.

"Our provincial and local volunteers will be ramping up their committee planning with conference calls and video calls. And, we really look forward to the in-person committee and community meetings that we will be held just as soon as the provincial health situation allows", said Don Priest, vice-president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association.

As part of their commitment to the community, and through the generosity of the Celebrate Ontario grant programme, the Ontario Plowmen's Association was pleased to partner with the Lindsay Agricultural Society to present the "Merry and Bright Festival". The IPM display highlighted some of the features you will be able to see in-person at the 20/21 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo.

Visitors and volunteers are urged to check additional plans and progress at www.plowingmatch.org

For further information, please contact:

ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION
Sheila Marshall, president, Don Priest, vice-president,
ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION
188 Nicklin Road, Guelph, Ontario N1H 7L5
519-767-2928 cathy@plowingmatch.org

NATIONAL BANK
Powering your ideas™

Silvia Berk
Mortgage Development Manager

National Bank of Canada
487 Bayfield Street
Barrie, ON L4M 4Z9

705 790-3351 • silvia.berk@nbc.ca

ANTEN MILLS NEWS by Dennis Gannon

During the outings in the community it's obvious that despite the restrictions placed upon us, families are making the best of it. On a regular basis there are families seen out walking either along the streets, the rail trail or in the county forest. It also seems that many more families have added a pet to their family this past year. Many young dogs are learning their master's instructions and are on leash as required. Also observed is the number of homes that built rinks for their family enjoyment. Big or small, kids and moms and dads are having some backyard fun while the community rink has been shuttered. For many the winter of 2020-2021 will be remembered for the family time spent together.

The County of Simcoe has been doing some selective tree harvesting in the Hendrie Forest towards the south end of the village lately. Selective harvesting of the coniferous trees allows the hardwood varieties to grow tall and strong. In the past many of the logs harvested have been cut into smaller lengths for the mills to handle. What has been seen with this cut is large logs in the 40 foot size travelling down the roadway. It would be interesting to find out what the intended outcome is for these pieces.



The Hendrie Tract of the County of Simcoe forests is almost 100 years old. According to the county website, the first trees were planted on May 8, 1922 and from then until 1927 a total of 1,344,600 trees were planted in the Hendrie Tract. From a barren wasteland of sand we now are fortunate to have one of the best forests in southern Ontario in our backyard. Forestry has for a longtime been occurring here in the community. If you are on the rail trail just near the snowmobile club you will see a history board that recounts the history of the old train station that once was there and how train cars were loaded there making their way to the pulp mills. There is a cairn along Horseshoe Valley Road commemorating the establishment of the first reforestation in Ontario and the 1000 acres that the Hendrie Forest encompasses. It will be interesting to see how the County of Simcoe celebrates the 100th anniversary and if our community will be included.

Looking back to the activities of the Anten Mills Community Association and the 50th anniversary this year we certainly live in an unique community. We have no store, no school, no post office, no cemetery and a closed church. Yet on a somewhat regular basis on social media channels there are posts about families of friends or relatives looking to make their forever home here. Our community has a lifestyle people are looking for. The community association over the years has had a part in making our village a desired destination. In the 1970's, 80's and 90's the community park was a busy place as softball was played on many week nights. Families gathered to watch the children play and catch up with their friends and neighbours. Anten Mills teams won many championships and friendships among the players have lasted for many years. During the early 2000's, softball was replaced by soccer in many areas and baseball as we knew it disappeared from our community as we had no soccer pitch. The community association was key to the softball success and many thanks go to those who kept it alive over the decades.

Winter will be starting to wind down but no doubt there will still be some significant snow to fall yet. If you have a green address sign it is important that you keep it visible for emergency responders. When the 9-1-1 system was introduced in Simcoe County, each property in the municipality was designated their own individual Property Identification Number. The firefighters installed the numbers throughout the township and rely on seeing the number clearly when responding to emergencies. Do your part to help them help you and your neighbours by keeping your PIN number clean and visible.

That's all for this week, Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, Stay Strong. Antenmills1@gmail.com.



Annie's Journal

Written by Annie Donnelly

In 1988, Father Gregory Boyle founded *Homeboy Industries* as a way of improving the lives of former gang members in East Los Angeles. Today, it's the largest gang rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. It stands as a beacon of hope as it provides training and support to previously gang-involved and incarcerated men and women; they learn how to redirect their lives and become contributing members of their communities.

Homeboy Industries went worldwide in 2014 when it launched *The Global Homeboy Network (GHN)*, a blueprint for over 250 organizations and social enterprises around the world, including Canada. *At its core, GHN works to widen the circle of compassion, tenderness, and kinship by fostering community, sanctuary, and family; and by providing hospitality and welcome to those on the margins.*

Father Boyle believes that love is the answer, community is the context, and tenderness is the connective tissue. "There's no *us* and *them*," says Father Boyle. "There's only *us*."

There's only us. Surely this is the approach that, we who call ourselves Christians, should be taking.

Instead, sadly many of us have adopted the spirit of *us* and *them*. We see how this has separated spouses resulting in children being separated from their parents. Friends separate from friends; Christians separate themselves from their God. I don't mean separation brought about by gang-involvement or being put in jail, or the restrictions of COVID-19.

I'm talking about the separations that happen when people put Jesus' words aside.

There's only us and yet, here are common ways we contribute to breaking our relationships: we blame others instead of taking responsibility; we shame others as a way of getting back at them or trying to manipulate their behaviour. These are both forms of judging others which Jesus tells us not to do in Matthew chapter 7, verses 1 to 5.

We withdraw our love from one another. This is against what Jesus taught.

Most destructive of all? We continue to have *us* and *them* relationships. *They* have their opinion, their way of doing things, and *we* have ours. We draw battle lines. We take up enemy positions. This is against what Jesus taught.

Jesus made it clear: we are to follow Him by loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and loving one another as ourself. If we are following what Jesus taught, how could our relationships end up broken?

Based on Father Boyle's over 30 years of experience, he believes that tenderness connects us to each other. There are no broken relationships in tenderness. There's no brokenness in gentleness, in goodness, in kindness, in faithfulness, in patience, in forgiveness that leads to our being forgiven.

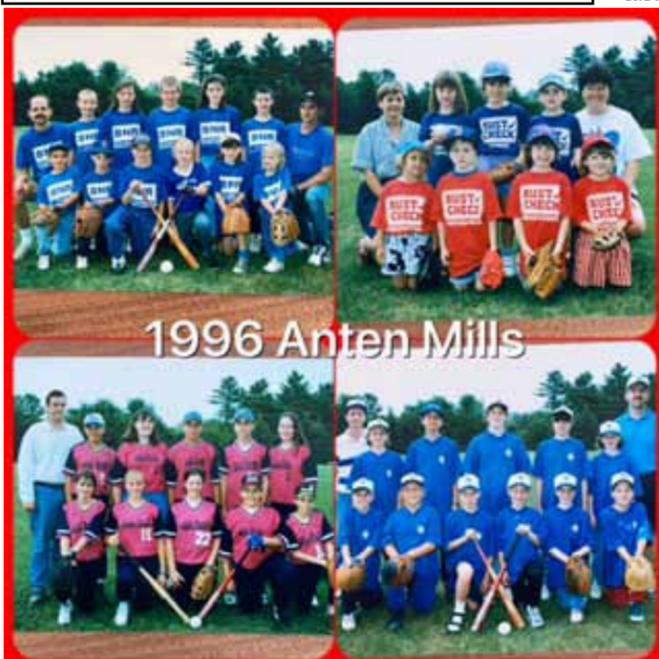
Father Boyle says: "We imagine a world without prisons, and then we try to create that world."

As followers of Christ, what kind of world are we imagining? What kind of world are we trying to create?

May God help us to carefully and purposefully take our next steps in the centre of His will. Amen.

Canada's national weather service, Environment Canada, reported a reading of -51.9 C (or about -61 F) in Wekweeti of the Northwest Territories on Sunday, February 7, the lowest recorded temperature in the country since 2017, according to CTV News. Wekweeti is about 1,900 miles northwest of Toronto.

1. Going to bed early
 2. Not leaving my house
 3. Not going to a party
- My childhood punishments have become my adult goals.



MBP
MURRAY BROTHERS PERFORMANCE

Small Motor Sales & Service
705-725-0975

Sales & Service for all Brands
Lawn & Garden, Snow, Forestry

COVID HOURS - OPEN:
WED TO FRI 8-5 SAT 9-3

4436 Horseshoe Valley Rd. West, Minsing
CALL FOR COVID RELATED INQUIRIES/SERVICES

PICK UP & DELIVERY AVAILABLE

HOME OF THE:
Husqvarna SHOWROOM!

SNOW THROWER BELTS
ELECTRICAL/FUEL PARTS
TUBES & INSTALL
DRIVE WHEELS & RINGS
D.I.Y MAINTENANCE KITS
FUEL & OIL
FORESTRY & APPAREL
SUPPLIES
CHAIN SHARPENING
CUSTOM MADE CHAIN

NEW SNOWBLOWERS IN STOCK!



'The Little Coffee House Restaurant!'

Open 7 to 6 • 7 days/wk

FEATURING

- Organic Teas & Coffee Cappuccino
 - Espresso • Latte • Ice Cream Parlour
 - Hot Bowls 'Soup of the Day!'
 - Wraps • Breakfast Sandwiches
 - Baked Goodies • Our specialty is DONUTS
 - MILK SHAKES best this side of the Mississippi
 - Walk in / call in • Take out orders!
 - Delivery within 2 blocks
- 5 Queen St. E. Elmvale • 705 515 1400**
See us on Facebook - Retro Espresso

FIRE IN THE FOREST

A Message to Simcoe County Residents

As Simcoe County moves forward on their plans to develop a Mega Industrial site in the Freele Forest (Springwater Township), there are many questions that have gone unanswered regarding the appropriate location of such a facility.

At this time, the proposal appears to include a recycling plant, compost depot, truck servicing building, administrative building, parking for garbage vehicles, etc. This all to be located in the middle of a 200 acre forest owned by the County bordered by Rainbow Valley Road to the north and Horseshoe Valley Road to the south.

There are many concerns that have been raised by professionals and citizens of Simcoe County on the location of this facility but this article will focus on the major issue of a reoccurring problem that has plagued these facilities across North America, fire.

Springwater Township has already had a "taste" of the magnitude of fire in a facility such as this when in 2013 BFI Industries experienced a fire in their waste facility in the Bertram Industrial Park. This fire required 150,000 gallons of water, and more than 75 firefighters (shared with Barrie, Clearview, Essa, Tiny and Oro-Medonte stations) required to fight the blaze. Despite the construction incorporating fire walls, sprinkler systems, the type of fuel generated by the recycling material caused a total loss to the building and operation.

The location of such a hazardous industry in the middle of a forest shows a lack of concern to the relationship of our forested areas and its inhabitants, be it winged, four legged or human. This forest is part of a wildlife corridor that connects to hundreds of acres of habitat and the development of this parcel of land will have a definite effect on those who presently inhabit the area.

Of serious concern is the location of the facility in relation to the number of dead end roads which skirt or are connected indirectly through the forest corridors. An air photo of the properties clearly indicate a problem, should a fire occur within the property and spread in any direction. Should a fire spread away from the facility, it could trap many residents who reside presently to the east, north or south on dead end roads.

The planning process was created to ensure compatible communities and areas designated to allow growth according to its use. Any development of established forests has been discouraged with the understanding the importance of their contribution to the community. Placing a highly volatile industry, locating it adjacent to communities with no access to escape in an emergency situation, should not be allowed. The consequences could be life threatening.

The lesson learned in the BFI Industry fire in Springwater should be noted; it was in an industrial park, it had easy access to roadways for access to the building, there was no fear of spread by vegetation close by, it had requirements under the Code for fire separations within the building to inhibit spread, it was sprinklered (which allowed for time before it completely engulfed the building). There was 30,000 gallons of water on site to fight the fire but it fell short of the requirement needed. Now imagine if it had been in a forest with the intensity of the fire loading from the highly combustible material that is stored within the building and waiting to be processed.

This facility should be in an industrial area designated for its use, not in the middle of a forest.

Ontario Helping Keep Seniors Safe and Connected During COVID-19

Government's investment will help older adults maintain their physical, mental and social well-being

TORONTO - The Ontario government is investing \$4.5 million through the Seniors Community Grant Program to support over 180 diverse community projects. This year's funding focuses on helping older adults stay connected with their communities while self-isolating from the safety of their home during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The funding will help non-profit organizations, local services boards and Indigenous groups develop programs by:

- Helping older men and women receive the support they need in their community, reducing demand on acute and long-term care
- Ensuring older adults are less at risk for neglect, abuse and fraud, and that their rights and dignity are protected
- Making sure more seniors are connected and engaged and not as socially isolated

Providing more opportunities for older adults to achieve greater financial security

"The health and safety of our seniors is a key priority for our government, and we are actively working to ensure all programs will make a positive impact on their lives - especially during this difficult time when people are self-isolating," said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "This year's Seniors Community Grants will go towards virtual programs that will help older adults safely access programs while staying socially active and connected with their communities."

Quick Facts

- The application period for this round of the Seniors Community Grant (SCG) Program opened on June 24 and closed on August 7, 2020.
- Unincorporated and incorporated not-for-profit organizations, local services boards, and Indigenous groups were invited to apply for funding from \$1,000 up to \$100,000.
- Since the program was established in 2014, nearly 1,900 grants have been provided which have positively impacted the lives of more than half a million seniors.
- The SCG Program is the only grant program in the Ontario government dedicated to seniors.

It's Me (The Virus)

You didn't listen
I've been yelling at you
You left the door open
I walked right through.

You will pay the toll
I'm now in control
Nothing you can do
I am the COVID flu.

This is an intervention
Did I get your attention?
As you all ran around
Not respecting the ground.

With no cars anywhere
You now have cleaner air
Learn to live cleaner
I can get much meaner.

I'm here to scare
To yell beware
All the things you did
Now deal with COID.

I'm just getting started
Look at all the departed
Now I'm the Boss
For you, your loss.

Too bad you're upset
But I'm not done yet
You have much to dread
Just count the dead.

*Diane Ouellette Botyanski,
Tiny*

If you're in an area where you should have cell phone service but don't, put your phone on airplane mode and then switch back. This will cause your phone to register and find all the towers in your vicinity.

A little Valentine poem

I writes to say I loves ya b'ye!
'Cause I don't say it very much.
Every time I tries to cuddle ya
Ya says 'GIT AWAY, DON'T TOUCH!'
I tried to be more gentle
Took me rubbers off outside,
When I tells ya where I was last nite
Ya always tinks I lied.
Ya knows I loves me fishin'
Ya knows I loves me boat!
But you're da life preserver
I needs to stay afloat!
So I got ya sometin really nice
How much? Please don't ask
But you'll find it a lot easier now
When ya goes to cut da grass!
Just pull da cord, stand behind
Steer 'er as you go
Next Valentines I'll get ya sometin
Dat helps ya shovel snow!
So keep up da cookin' and cleanin'
You're de only one I got
To keep me duds all washed and clean
And me coffee always hot!
You knows dat I appreciates
Your home made buns an' bread
And I hope dat it continues on
Till one of us is dead!

Love, Yer man!

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.
--Marie Curie

Ontario Celebrates the Contributions of Dedicated Volunteers

TORONTO - The Ontario government is recognizing the outstanding contributions and efforts of 6,658 volunteers through 27 virtual Volunteer Service Award ceremonies across the province. The individuals recognized by these awards have demonstrated how critical volunteers are and how they strengthen Ontario's social fabric in our communities, especially with the devastating impacts of COVID-19.

The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards recognizes individuals for continuous years of volunteer service at a single organization, such as a hospital, seniors centre or community association. Volunteers contribute to a wide range of services in Ontario, including supporting seniors and adults through Meals on Wheels, improving communities through local Lions Clubs, and much more.

The government encourages all Ontarians to consider nominating outstanding volunteers for this award. Organizations may submit any volunteer that they wish to recognize. If nominated volunteers meet the eligibility requirements, they will be selected to receive the award. The deadline for 2021 Volunteer Service Award nominations is April 1, 2021. Please visit Ontario's website for more information on how to recognize an exceptional volunteer with the Ontario Volunteer Service Award.

Quick Facts

- Since 1986, more than 250,000 volunteers have been recognized through the Ontario Volunteer Service Award.
- Adult volunteers are recognized for five to 65+ years of continuous service in five-year increments.
- Youth volunteers are recognized for two or more years of continuous service.
- Find out how to nominate a volunteer for the Ontario Volunteer Service Award.

FOODLAND

Fresh food. Friendly neighbours.

Call with your shopping list!
"Seniors - 2% OFF on your DELIVERED order!"

14 Yonge St. North, Elmvale • 705-322-2261

A Tiny Senior Moment...

Well, here we are again for our second column... hopefully you had an opportunity to catch us for our first Senior Moment, back on February 4th, right here in this newspaper.

It would appear that since the writing of the first column back in January, that there has been a number of Senior groups providing a burst of Technology Workshops, Virtual Sessions and Webinars/Podcasts for us to take advantage of while we obey the "Stay At Home" order!

I also wanted to let you know about the Community Paramedicine Program within the County of Simcoe. The program provides opportunities for Paramedics to apply their training and skills in the community outside of their traditional 911 emergency response role.

The Simcoe County Community Paramedicine program offers in-home chronic disease management including preventative care and education which aids in diminishing the frequency of 911 calls. For further information, visit <https://www.simcoe.ca/paramedicine>.

Now, as mentioned, I wanted to bring to your attention all the wonderful programs available virtually for Seniors in Tiny. Remember, if you do not have Internet Service, or a computer/tablet, one can always use their Cell Phone to get these programs. You can even participate in Zoom programs with your phone. All this and more, provided you have a cell phone signal!

For your viewing and participating pleasure...First off, did you know that Tiny Recreation, recently received a grant from the Ontario Government, which in part includes an iPad loaner program...more information will be coming soon.

As well, the Askennonia Senior Centre in Midland also has a Tablet Program, please contact them directly for further information.

Askennonia also has a "How-To" Video Series of "How to use my tablet" videos. The series covers basic functions of a tablet, email, Facebook & Messenger and Zoom. You can view this series (over & over) on the Askennonia YouTube channel.

The Bayshore Seniors who have partnered with Gateway Learning Centre, have Digital Device Coaching for Seniors. Using Zoom Video Conferencing, the Instructor will help you with your device and your list of questions. You will need internet and access to your email account. Call Jen at 705-527-1522.

Our local Red Cross offers a great Telephone Assurance & Friendly (Virtual) Visiting Program. For further information, please contact Tara at 705-721-3313, Ext. 5266 or Askennonia Senior Centre is having a Wellness Program on February 23 at 10:00am on "What Red Cross Offers". This is done through Zoom. Contact Askennonia for further information regarding this series.

Well, as my time fades on this Senior Moment...and they only give me so much room, I wish to leave you with a thought my Mom had as she got older...

"The things you care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care, that you don't care to do them anymore." And always remember that...Today is the oldest you have ever been. Yet the youngest you will ever be again. So, enjoy this day while it lasts...

Until next time...Stay Safe

Written by Chris Greer, Chair
Township of Tiny, Senior Advisory Committee

Upcoming Meetings

Special Council Meeting
Public Meetings for Planning Purposes
Monday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Official Plan Review
Stakeholders Meeting
Tuesday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Recreation Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Committee of Adjustment
Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Cultural Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Midhurst Community Rec. Association
Thursday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Council meetings are live streamed online at springwater.ca/live. A call in option (audio only) is also available.

Board and committee meetings can be accessed via Zoom Conferencing. View the agendas for details.

Bid Opportunity

The Township is currently accepting bids for:
Street Sweeping, Hauling and Disposal of
Winter Sand & Debris
(2021-02-PW)
Closes: February 25, 2021

Front End Articulated Wheeled Loader
(2021-06-PW)
Closes: February 25, 2021

Tandem Truck with Winter Attachments
(2021-07-PW)
Closes: February 25, 2021

25-30 Ton Tag Along Trailer
(2021-08-PW)
Closes: February 25, 2021

Supply & Service of Bulk Highway
Salt and Treated Salt
(GBAPPC 2021-01 / TWSP-2021-10-PW)
Closes: March 9, 2021

Patterson Street Reconstruction
(2021-09-PW)
Closes: March 11, 2021

For details and to register for upcoming opportunities, please visit:
springwater.bidsandtenders.ca

Official Plan Review Stakeholders Meeting



Did you know the Official Plan helps guide development in our community? Join us for a stakeholders meeting to discuss the Official Plan Review process and related studies including the Population-Related Employment Land Market Study, Intensification Strategy and the Bayfield Street Corridor Study.

February 23 at 6:00 p.m., Zoom Conferencing

Learn more about how to participate in the meeting at springwater.ca/OPR or email planning@springwater.ca

Springwater at Home Contest

Have you been active and creative while staying home this winter? Have you built a snow castle, created an obstacle course or turned your snow covered yard into a painted canvas?

Show us what you've been up to for your chance to win one of three, \$50 gift cards to a local Springwater business. Get all of the details and enter at:

springwater.ca/SpringwaterAtHome



#SpringwaterAtHome

Pet Licensing has Changed



The Township has launched a new partnership with DocuPet to provide pet licensing and lost pet services to ensure pets get home safely.

Along with this change, your dog's licence will now be valid for 365 days from the date of purchase!

Learn more and get your licence online at springwater.ca/canine

Interim Tax Billing

The 2021 Interim Tax Bill first installment due date was February 17. The next installment is due April 21.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer from payment of taxes or from liability of penalty charges for late payment. If your mortgage company pays your property taxes, you will not receive a tax bill.

Now Hiring

The Township of Springwater is currently recruiting a:

Building Official
Competition Number: 2021-14
Closes: Friday, February 26, 2021

Get a job description and details online at www.springwater.ca/careers

Seasonal Load Restrictions

The reduced load period in Springwater starts March 1 and ends April 30. By-law 2009-079 restricts loads on most Township roads to 5 tonnes per axle.

The imposed weight restrictions help protect municipal infrastructure during spring thaw, when road damage is most likely to occur.

For more information about the reduced load period contact Public Works at 705-728-4784 x2075 or publicworks@springwater.ca

Water & Wastewater Billing

Water & wastewater bills have been mailed. Payment is due February 25, 2021.

Want to view your account balance, receive your bill electronically or pay online? Register for My Springwater online at: springwater.ca/myspringwater

Juan Orlando Hernández: The Rise and Fall of a Dictator?

Upcoming Trial of Edwin Espinal and Raul Alvarez: Help from MPs

Police Brutality and Murder of Nursing Student in La Esperanza

Five Year Anniversary of Berta Caceres Murder: Impunity in Honduras

Food Programs in El Progreso and Tegucigalpa Continue

President Juan Orlando Hernández comradery, friendship, and business arrangements with the former US President Trump has come to an end. For four years the US/Honduras political relationship has been enhanced through an ‘alliance for prosperity’ and White House administration has turned a blind eye to the allegations of corruption, narco-trafficking, and dirty dealing leveled against the Honduran president. So has the Canada/Honduras political relationship. Now Juan Orlando is attempting to cozy up to President Biden. Will this work, asks the Washington Post in an article entitled, “Honduran President, a Trump ally, implicated in drug trafficking, tries to win over Biden”

According to this article, the change in US administration is worrying Hernández as the allegations of his drug trafficking, funneling drugs through to the US, and using drug money to fund his election campaigns are coming to a head. Being brought to justice now is very possible, as “the stakes are higher for Hernández than perhaps any other world leader.” Since the brother of the president awaits his sentencing for drug production and trafficking, the New York District Court has compiled evidence that points directly to President Hernández.

Documents released by the Justice Department implicates Hernández in working with alleged drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes who operated a cocaine lab in Puerto Cortez in Northern Honduras. Evidence also ties him to working with key drug lords like “El Chapo” Guzman. Hondurans are watching these proceedings of the New York District Court this month and hope the Honduran president will be extradited to the US after his term ends in January 2022, or earlier if President Biden decides to act. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/12/honduras-femicide-keyla-martinez-women-violence>

The Honduran people have suffered greatly from back-to-back administrations that have supported and been involved in blatant cocaine drug trafficking for many years. With the ability to spend millions of US aid dollars to build a military that protects drug lords to move massive amounts of drugs through Honduras to the US, the Honduran people suffer the consequences of living in a country with the highest murder rate in the world, massive poverty, drug gang extortion, heavy surveillance, and long prison sentences for those who speak against this corruption.

In previous articles, the Simcoe County Honduras Rights Monitor has discussed the root causes of migration. One of the most obvious causes of mass migration from Honduras by poor families is the fact that the illicit, illegal, and corrupt dealings of the Honduran government are directly and indirectly supported by our Canadian government and most alarmingly the powerful US government. And it does not seem to matter which political party is in power at the time.

Pending trial of Edwin Espinal and Raul Alvarez: Support from MPs Stanton, Shipley, May

Meanwhile Edwin Espinal and Raul Alvarez are awaiting their court date of March 11-12 for speaking against the narco-regime. If convicted of alleged ‘property damage,’ despite any evidence, they could face up to 25 years in a maximum-security prison, although already having served 19 months in dire, dangerous conditions. This court date will probably be postponed



once again at the last minute to add trepidation, anxiety, and worry to our families and to international human rights organizations who are advocating for human rights in Honduras.

To bring attention to Edwin and Raul’s upcoming trial, and to advocate for their acquittal, the Simcoe County Honduras Rights Monitor committee (SCHR) is meeting this week with MPs Bruce Stanton and Doug Shipley. We greatly appreciate Stanton’s ongoing support of the case as he strategizes to organize meetings and reaches out to MPs regardless of their political party affiliations. The dedication and support he provides his constituents are exemplary.

SCHR is also meeting with MP Elizabeth May and her staff this week to apprise them of the upcoming trial and importance of having a Canadian government voice. MP May also goes above and beyond to advocate for human rights in Canada and around the world.

Murder of nursing student in La Esperanza sparks protests: Protesters arrested

On the night of February 6, 26-year-old nursing student Keyla Martinez was arrested for breaking a COVID curfew and put in a jail cell. She was found hanging in her cell after she had screamed for help. Police officers have been implicated in her murder, which has sparked protests across Honduras.

No investigation into police conduct has been ordered. In Honduras, there is a 90% impunity rate. For police ‘security’ forces the impunity rate is even higher. Yet four students protesting the murder were arrested in Tegucigalpa this past week and are now awaiting trial. In Honduras, protesting or speaking out is an offence and punishable by long prison sentences. Murder by police in the case of Keyla Martinez

Alliston Aquifer Threatened Again By Gravel Washing

By Danny Beaton, Turtle Clan Mohawk, with contributions from John Bacher
In Memory of Alicja Rozanska

Around the community of Elmvale in Tiny Township of Simcoe County, beneath the underground aquifers, is found the world’s purest water. It is created through the cleansing and protection of the glacial deposits that over the hills are known as the Waverly Uplands. The gold standard of the purity of this water has caused it to be used to successfully detect minute pollutants leached from drinking bottles. A 28-year struggle to protect the purity of this water resulted in the defeat of a proposal to build a garbage dump within the Alliston Aquifer, which was to be called Dump Site 41. Before outrage over sediment that was being leaked into the world’s purest water erupted, Danny Beaton, a Mohawk of the Turtle Clan, was imprisoned for four days for blockading construction vehicles.

“Once again, Simcoe County remains the place for profit — not by farmers or Alternative Power Projects, but by developers seeking permission to extract limestone and aggregate for more concrete cement for highways and urban sprawl “ says Beaton. “The County of Simcoe has mighty rivers running beneath the surface ground. Even the Alliston Aquifer is alive and being recharged whenever the Thunder Peoples let us know fresh rainwater. Rainfall will recharge and refill groundwater storage.”

In a letter Beaton received, dated April 16, 2009, it read “Mohawks have always been skeptical of people who believe that their systems will not fail. All too many times in the past, these claims have been made to the Department of the Environment and have resulted in expensive and timely clean-ups. The Alliston Aquifer appears to be one of the pristine water sources in Ontario Protected for over centuries. By forests and natural occurring barriers, this aquifer has survived in this time of industrialization and massive resource utilization. The Source Water Protection Acts were passed by the Ontario Governments to protect the valuable water resources of Canada and Ontario. A lot of emphasis has been placed on the protection of groundwater. I would like to commend the people who have understood the difference between rights and responsibilities. Rights and laws are formulated to protect the minimum amount of the environment, while responsibilities are the ways the Creator expects us to live on Mother Earth for future generations.” Closing, sincerely Henry Lickers, Environment Science Officer, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Department of the Environment.

“Since Simcoe County is full of sand, limestone and water, developers see it as a faster buck than tilling the soil like our grandparents did in the old days,” says Beaton. “Mind you, there are hundreds of farms and farmers tilling the soil in Simcoe County, but they know what they are seeing.



Developers are using their lawyers and cash to buy and profit at the expense of farmland, forests, wildlife, aquifers and endangered species. It’s all collateral damage during urban sprawl and resource extraction.”

The Montreal rock band Arcade Fire has a record out called The Suburbs, which features a song called “Wasted Hours (A Life We Can Live).” As the lyrics go: “First they built the road, then they built the town. That’s why we’re still driving round and round. And all we see are kids in buses longing to be free. Wasted hours, before we knew, where to go, and what to do. Wasted hours, that you made new. And turned into a life that we can live.” Beaton believes these words describe a sadness from urban sprawl and the wasted hours driving round and round, kids sitting in buses longing to be free.

“If you look at the sprawl and development from Toronto to Barrie, you can see the loss of farmland and forest,” Beaton continues. “But if you are an environmentalist, you can also see it happening from Barrie to Georgian Bay. If you are a citizen or farmer, you are able to understand it happening. But we can ask ourselves, does it need to happen? Do we need all these pit mines near pure clean water and aquifers? Are we going to build cities on the last of the Green Belt, so lawyers and developers can make a profit off Mother Earth’s bleeding body? In the old days the country was full of rich forests, creeks, rivers, wetlands, birds, fish, animals and insects. What little that is still alive should be protected and defended for our children’s children and their children. In the song “Modern Man” by Arcade Fire, they sing ‘In my dream I was almost there and you pulled me aside and said you’re going nowhere. Maybe when you’re older you will understand why you don’t feel right, why you don’t sleep at night? In line for a number but you don’t understand. Like a modern man.’”

Today there is a new proposal which threatens the purity of the world’s purest waters. This is a request for Permit to Take Water (PTTW), for the Teedon Pit, a proposed gravel washing operation. It is seeking a permit to take 1.6 million litres a day from this pure water source for the purpose of cleaning clay and silt off of its gravel. The water would then go into a pond, which would inevitably leak back into the world’s purest water. The permit is opposed by the Tiny Township Council, which voted against the “washing of aggregate in an environmentally sensitive area.”

There is a tight appeal deadline to defeat the massive threat to the world’s purest waters. Your letters to enviopermissions@ontario.ca were due by January 30th,

those accused of the crime. For further information on the upcoming trial of David Castillo and the issue of impunity in the Honduran justice system, listen to Honduras Now Podcast: Episode 16 – One of the masterminds behind Berta Caceres’s murder.

The SCHR committee continues to support food programs in Tegucigalpa and El Progreso. (See latest photo of food purchases in El Progreso) Our contacts in both cities report that the need for food is great as COVID-19 restrictions have crushed many small business – market garden stands, small food and clothing stores, entertainment and transportation businesses. Without government

support, families are struggling to survive. Many children are starving as parents have lost their jobs. Homelessness is on the rise as many families lost their homes due to the environmental effects of the two November hurricanes. No government assistance has been offered to repair the damages caused by heavy flooding and high winds. There is no public healthcare. (Photo attached of families still living at the side of the road)

If you are able to donate to the SCHR food program, please contact me at: janetspring7@gmail.com or 705-734-4238. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the grassroots organizers and food recipients. As always 100% of your donations go toward the purchase of food. The need is great.

Lack of government support for environmental disasters and pandemic funds, rampant impunity, drug trafficking, corruption in the justice system, no healthcare and proper education, are the marks of an illegal dictatorial tyrant. The US, Canadian, and European governments must take notice of this devastation attributed to this president. It is now becoming an embarrassment for the Canadian government to turn a blind eye and support the Honduran government. The Canadian government under the leadership of Justin Trudeau must speak out. Justin Trudeau remarks that “Canada stands for human rights.” Here is his chance to make action speak louder than words. Hopefully the Juan Orlando Hernández presidency will end soon.

*Thank you for your ongoing support.
Janet Spring for the Simcoe County Honduras Rights Monitor Committee*

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. --Ralph Waldo Emerson

County announces winners of Rural Innovation Challenge

Midhurst/February 10, 2021 – The County, ventureLAB, and Digital Main Street are pleased to recognize the 2020 winners of the Rural Innovation Challenge. In December 2020, the partners launched a program to encourage local businesses to explore, source, and pilot novel solutions that support main street business continuity in Simcoe County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The winners of the challenge will receive support to help fund, pilot or scale their solutions, with \$10,000 awarded to the winner, and \$7,000 and \$4,000 to the first and second runners-up respectively. The County would like to thank all those who came up with innovative solutions and congratulate the following three winning companies on their innovative ideas that support business continuity in Simcoe County amidst the COVID-19 pandemic:

First Place: TAKU Retail - The [TAKU Retail](#) cloud platform allows established main street retailers to seamlessly move their operations online.

First Runner-Up: Wrmth - [Wrmth](#) provides the first 100% Canadian designed and manufactured outdoor heated furniture to extend the patio season.

Second Runner-Up: delivereh. - [delivereh.](#) is a “new normal” logistics company founded to support small businesses during the pandemic and beyond. The company offers an end-to-end digital solution that can be dispatched by any type of business for any community delivery.

An information session is scheduled on February 12 at 1:00pm to discuss the Community Collaboration Program and give our winners a platform to present their solutions and answer any questions from the community. Please register for free at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GezFBKeYRGyJlQZmJOyIhQ

If one of these solutions would help support your business during the pandemic, please complete the [Expression of Interest form](#) by February 28, 2021, and a member of the ventureLAB team will contact you for further information.

About the Rural Innovation Challenge:

The Simcoe County Rural Innovation Challenge involved a community of organizations. Working with the Centre For Business and Economic Development, North Simcoe Community Futures Development Corporation, Nottawasaga Futures, Orillia Area Community Development Corporation and the Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre, it was determined that successful solutions must seek to address one or more of the following challenge areas:

- Enhance streamlined delivery and order fulfillment services for online purchases made from main street businesses
- Expand and optimize schedule and ticket management services for main street businesses
- Enable main street businesses to better manage and care for the physical and mental well-being of their staff and employees

Funding for this program is made available in part through the [Digital Main Street Future Proof program](#), with support from the [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario \(FedDev Ontario\)](#).

About ventureLAB

ventureLAB is a leading technology hub located in Markham in York Region, Canada’s second-largest tech cluster. At ventureLAB, we grow globally competitive tech titans that build-to-scale in Canada, with a focus on hardware and enterprise software technologies. ventureLAB has enabled thousands of tech companies to scale, and our portfolio of companies have created close to 4,000 jobs that have raised over \$200 million in investment capital to continue their growth and scale. www.venturelab.ca

About Digital Main Street

Digital Main Street is a program that helps main street businesses achieve digital transformation. The program is built around an online learning platform, structured training programs, and our Digital Service Squad, a team of street-level team members who help main street businesses grow and manage their operations through technology.

Digital Main Street was created by the Toronto Association on Business Improvement Areas (TABIA) with direct support from the City of Toronto. Digital Main Street is also supported by a group of strategic business partners, including Google, Mastercard, Shopify, Microsoft, Facebook, Intuit QuickBooks, Square, and Yellow Pages. A [\\$42.5-million investment from FedDev Ontario](#) and an additional \$7.45 million from the Government of Ontario brought together the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas, Communtech, Invest Ottawa, and the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association to expand the Digital Main Street Platform in order to support more businesses to go digital as a response to the impacts of COVID-19.

About FedDev Ontario

For more than 10 years, [FedDev Ontario](#) has worked to advance and diversify the southern Ontario economy through funding opportunities and business services that support innovation and growth in Canada’s most populous region. Learn more about the impacts the Agency is having in southern Ontario by exploring our [pivotal projects](#).

Promote Your Business!

This ad would cost you

- \$45 in b&w or \$55 in colour

The ad will be in **20,000 papers, mailed to 18,800 homes and can be read online at**

www.springwaternews.ca

Send you business card or information to springwaternews@rogers.com

We will prepare a sample for your approval.

County of Simcoe Paramedic Services on the frontlines of emergency response

Midhurst/February 3, 2021 – Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and during this heightened second wave, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services have been on the frontlines responding to the needs of our residents, communities and partners.

Providing medical care and transport during 9-1-1 calls continues to be the main priority for Paramedic Services; however, during the pandemic Paramedics have expanded their roles and utilized their training and skillset to support our regional pandemic response needs. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Paramedics have been providing assistance with swabbing and patient management needs in congregate settings, such as workplaces, long-term care and seniors services facilities, conducting wellness checks in area shelters, providing emergency transport of COVID-19 positive patients, working with area health-care teams in vaccination clinics and expanding in-home wellness checks through the innovative Community Paramedicine programs. Logistics staff have also extended themselves to support our long-term care homes with PPE management.

“The response of our Paramedic staff to the pandemic has been extraordinary,” said Andrew Robert, Director and Chief, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services. “Their roles are challenging at the best of times and dealing with added pressures of the pandemic, and safety measures of being in close contact with COVID-19 positive patients, has been very tough on their physical and mental health. I am very proud and grateful to them for their efforts, adaptability and drive to support their patients and community. All our front-line staff are thankful for the public support they have received. We greatly appreciate how our partners and communities continue to support one another as we all work to end this pandemic.”

New Funding Support

County of Simcoe Paramedic Services (CSPS) is pleased to have received additional one-time funding in the amount of \$456,008 from Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) in relation to the COVID-19 response. This funding will support pandemic activities, such as vaccine administration, existing Community Paramedicine (CP) program expansion and CP education development within Simcoe County. The funding was split between three payments from the Central and North Simcoe Muskoka LHINs and will allow future program growth and sustainability at a crucial time. This funding will be reviewed further by County Council on February 9.

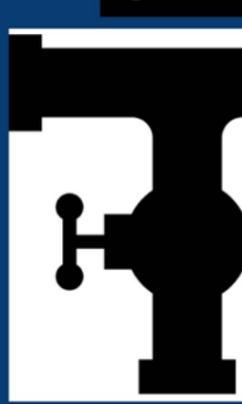
“The support and service of our Paramedics is a cornerstone in our fight against COVID-19 and our eventual recovery,” said Warden George Cornell. “We are immensely grateful to our Paramedics, and we continue to work with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and the Province to ensure that Paramedics are prioritized in the roll out of vaccinations due to their expanded role during this pandemic. We also thank the Province for these additional funds, which will assist the County in providing the necessary increased training, staffing, equipment and administration costs to keep our communities safe.”

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at simcoe.ca.

Readers are plentiful; thinkers are rare.

--Harriet Martineau

💧 **LOCAL PLUMBER** 💧



A.P.S.

T.A. PLUMBING SERVICES

Taylor Archer

705-627-3302

Springwater Council Highlights

February 3

2019 Audit Results

Council received a report from the Finance & Audit Advisory Committee regarding the results of the 2019 draft audited consolidated financial statements. The results of the audit showed an operating surplus, in which Council voted to apply \$890,102 of the surplus towards the purchase of 1132 Snow Valley Road (the Hasty Tract) which will be used for the Community Hub. Doing so will eliminate the debt requirement for the purchase of the land. The remaining surplus of \$179,650 was dedicated to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve.

Snowmobile Trails Agreement

Council has finalized an agreement with the Mid Ontario Snowmobile Trails Association for the use of Township property for snowmobile trails during the winter months. The agreement allows for the permitted use of designated trails and outlines specifics related to insurance, railway crossings, maintenance of approaches to Township roads and rights to trail use.

Downtown Mural

Staff will be reaching out to members of the local art community to gauge interest in creating a mural in downtown Elmvale. The proposed mural would be located on the west wall of the Elmvale Community Hall and Knox Building. If approved by Council, the goal would be to create a public art piece which attracts people to downtown Elmvale, highlights key features of the Township and pays tribute to the history of the area.

Community Hub Contribution

The Midhurst Landowners Group has provided a contribution of \$540,000 for the design, visioning and working drawings of the Community Hub to be located at 1132 Snow Valley Road, also known as the Hasty Tract. Proposed municipal services for the property include, but are not limited to, a new fire station, EMS post recreation complex, library and creative space, meeting and activity space and active and passive recreation areas, as well as additional land to accommodate future needs.

This summary is not a full representation of the meeting. For the official record, please refer to the minutes in the next Council Agenda. Past Council Meetings are available for viewing on the Township’s [Youtube channel](#).

Avoid these 3 things this Valentine's Day

Essential tips to keep your pet healthy and full of love
Sweets for your sweetie aren’t so sweet for your pets. No pet owner wants the stress of a sick pet on Valentine’s Day.

One of the most common pet medical insurance claims around Valentine’s Day is chocolate ingestion. In fact, according to [Trupanion](#), a leader in medical insurance for cats and dogs, **chocolate made up 70% of toxicity-related claims** in the weeks surrounding Valentine’s Day over the last five years.

Keep these **3 things** away from your pets

Chocolate: The number one danger for pets on Valentine’s Day is chocolate - here’s what you need to know:

Theobromine and caffeine—the two ingredients in chocolate that are toxic to pets—are found in greater concentrations in dark chocolate, but any kind of chocolate can be dangerous to our furry friends.

Signs of chocolate poisoning in pets can include vomiting, diarrhea, increased thirst, increased urination, panting or rapid breathing, muscle tremors, and seizures.

Flowers: Valentine bouquets are sweet, but lilies and other toxic flowers can cause kidney disease in curious cats who ingest parts of the flower, or even drink the water from the vase.

Lilies are incredibly dangerous to our feline friends. In fact, lily toxicity is one of Trupanion’s most common and one of the most expensive toxicity claims, with an average claim cost of nearly \$800.

Wine: Alcohol and pets don’t mix. Keep the wine and any other type of alcohol away from your pet. Alcohol affects the liver just as it does humans, but it can do a lot more damage and quickly.

Stefan Thomas, of San Francisco, says he has made peace with forgetting his Bitcoin password that would turn him into a multimillionaire. Thomas, who recently was featured in The New York Times, has about \$220 million worth of Bitcoin locked away on a hard drive that will erase its data after 10 password attempts. Thomas has tried to put in the correct password eight times with no luck. The German-born programmer lost the piece of paper containing the password. "You sort of question your own self-worth. What kind of person loses something this important?" Thomas said during a recent interview. "It was actually a really big milestone in my life where, like, I sort of realized how I was going to define my self-worth going forward. It wasn't going to be about how much money I have in my bank account," he said. Thomas said he told his story to help prevent others from forgetting their passwords

Husband takes wife out for a meal. Husband then says you look great. Then says you look like a parking ticket. Wife says what? Excuse me. Husband then says dam fine

To those people who have been following Gloria Woods TD Bank Quest

On February 12 Gloria received a reply from the ADR Chambers Banking Ombuds Office. The letter was signed by a Kayla Albin, Ombudsman Officer.

I was impressed by the detail of their understanding and thoroughness, of what we are now enduring because of very little service to the Elmvale community from the TD Bank.

When I followed through with the second request to the Ombudsman, I had to sign a "Consent and Confidentiality Agreement". This agreement clearly states that their response is not intended for broader use, circulation or publication. To shorten their lengthy reply, it pretty much states that this situation is outside the ADRBO's mandate. Also they cannot recommend the courses of action that we seek. I wish I could share all their comments without having to write a book.

Simply – they cannot help.

If you have read the past letters, that Springwater News have printed, you will know that I have already made the attempt for some answers through the TD'S Customer Care Department. They too were of no service to us.

The original letter I sent went to Bharat Masrani, the Group President & Chief Execution Officer for The Toronto Dominion Bank. If you google Mr.Masrani, you will learn that he was appointed to this position on November 1, 2014 and earned 15.3 million in total compensation during the year of 2018. I would think he never even read my letter, but instead his staff passed it on to the Customer Care Department. So much for writing to the top with the hope of them seeing or learning what is happening down through the ranks.

The ATM machine has been replaced and operational again. Yeh !

At no time during this exercise did I want to show any disrespect to our Guardian Drugs and their staff. Their service to Elmvale by having the ATM machine in the store is appreciated. I can only imagine the number of nuisance calls they received from people wanting to know when another ATM machine was going to be installed. Thank you to Guardian Drugs staff for tolerating this inconvenience and also thank you to them for putting a notice on their doors stating the ATM was out of order. A duty that 'TD Canada Trust' should have done.

My quest for answers is over. I have thrown my hands in the air.

Good luck to this community with the service of one TD-Canada Trust ATM.

An interesting fact: Did you know that the TD Canada Trust building in Creemore was donated to the community. It was torn down in January 2020 and the property is being prepared for two promenades, a children's green area, a central square and a stage and canopy which will be used for a variety of community events.

Gloria Woods

Dear Editor,

Re-OLA Climate Change Belief System by Roger Graves in the Jan. 7, 2021 Springwater News.

The comments of the author of the article are hard to rationalize as factual from the examples given and the extrapolations to today's analysis of climate change by science proponents. Let's dismiss the fact he uses bloodletting compared to today's science based climate change arguments as a move to profit from, as nonsense. Carbon Dioxide, more stable and heavier than air, and Carbon monoxide, very reactive and lighter than air, are both produced in some processes we all know as "burning". CO2 is of course also produced by respiration of mammals and used in plant growing photosynthesis. But let us examine this quote from Mr. Graves justifying his first three points as he claims,

"First, CO2 is not, never was, and never can be a pollutant."

Wow! Many can refute this by heavier than air CO2 thoughts involving the repair pits under cars that have been outlawed in repair garages in our country and the difficulties encountered by the humans down digging wells where many of us have stories of CO2 damaging or killing acquaintances. Our home fire alarms where measuring of Carbon Monoxide at upper levels warns us of the buildup of exhaust (carbon monoxide and dioxide) from burning. The fourth and fifth points address atmospheric CO2 historically concluding humans thrive when warm which certainly seems true, our now 7 to 8 billion growing population seems to show. The planet needs a certain amount of CO2 to avoid being very cold; but enough (atmospheric CO2 over 400 ppm) to be overheated by our own activities?

Skepticism is what science is about and peer reviews are skeptical and investigative; when agreement is concluded it is hard earned. Climate Change in the "overheating our planet sense" develops into a question to most us but is investigated by a large number of people in very rigorous experiments within a scientific framework of peer review. These experiments are developed as questions to be answered for guidance to solving problems demonstrated, we as humans do not have answers to. The conclusions to the experiments are not the final answer as our journey through COVID times is showing us but understanding improves with effort.

Mr. Graves conclusions in the article are demonstrably not science based. Mr. Graves qualifications for serious scientific argument can be questioned and I think unconvincing if compared to those of Dr. Greg Flato (author of about 70 peer reviewed articles) Senior Research Scientist with Environment Canada and adjunct professor at University of Victoria School of Earth and Ocean Science. I mention Prof Flato because he was featured on the recent Quirks and Quarks CBC segment answering a question about the lasting effect of CO2 in the atmosphere

Prof. Flato explained burning wood or operating an engine, for a few minutes, we release energy in the form of heat and an amount of carbon dioxide. The CO2 goes into the atmosphere and the excesses contribute to an envelope around the planet providing a one way entry for sunlight energy (short wave radiation) and more blockage for exiting heat (long wave radiation). The professor moved on to explain researched information that the CO2 released holds in about 6 to 10 times the heat produced by our little burn every year. And much of the very stable CO2 remains in the atmosphere for a long time and continues to hold heat on the planet amounting to thousands of times the released heat by our little burn. Over consumption of carbon-based energy sources all over our only planet should allow most of us to believe that overheating our planet is extremely likely. Among many Prof. Flato concludes that using carbon based energy sources is a problem we must regulate for survival of many of earth's interdependent species.

JE Lyon

Non-violence leads to the highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution. Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages. -Thomas Edison, inventor (11 Feb 1847-1931)

I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear. --Rosa Parks

Do not accustom yourself to use big words for little matters. --Samuel Johnson

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11			12				13				
14			15				16				
17			18			19	20				
			21		22	23	24		25	26	
27	28	29					30				
31					32	33					
34					35						
			36		37		38		39	40	41
42	43			44	45	46			47		
48				49					50		
51				52					53		

Across

- 1 Boiling equipment
- 4 Refuse
- 8 "___ now or never!"
- 11 Audience
- 12 Shackle
- 13 Down time
- 14 Gobbled up
- 15 "Out of the question"
- 16 Weep
- 17 Bedding linen
- 19 Engine need
- 21 Like some jokes
- 24 Chalices
- 27 Mail carrier
- 30 Notion
- 31 Surface measure
- 32 Rate
- 34 Straight up
- 35 Barker
- 36 Attach, with "on"
- 38 Audubon interests
- 42 Further
- 44 Preferred vintage
- 47 Bowl over
- 48 Recognize
- 49 Stringed toy
- 50 Tell a whopper
- 51 Yea
- 52 Result from
- 53 Reach a conclusion

Down

- 1 They can be sweet
- 2 Swearing-in words
- 3 Christmas decoration
- 4 CSI NY always has one
- 5 Victorian or Edwardian
- 6 Great weight
- 7 Not taken in by
- 8 Consist of
- 9 ___ with the same brush
- 10 Mole
- 18 Lord and lady's home
- 20 Roof hanger in cold weather
- 22 Baseball headwear
- 23 Word with jerk or slapper
- 25 Ink holder
- 26 Remained inactive
- 27 Peter ___
- 28 Iron in the rough
- 29 Annual foursome
- 33 Scattershot
- 37 Methods and means
- 39 Exchange for money
- 40 Matching
- 41 Bird chow
- 42 Transformers, e.g.
- 43 Have bills
- 45 Purchased
- 46 Common to potato or needle

Across Canada, headlines disappear

4 FEBRUARY 2021

Across the country, almost 100 newspapers large and small ran blank front pages on last week, as part of News Media Canada's 'Disappearing Headlines' campaign.

The goal of the campaign was to explain to the public the harm to journalism and democracy created by the dominance of global tech giants, such as Google and Facebook, who refuse to pay a fair price for content created by Canadian news outlets.

Research shows that the duopoly drains off more than 80 per cent of all digital advertising revenue in Canada.

News Media Canada continues to call on the federal government to act. We believe the best solution is for Ottawa to follow the Australian example. We believe Canada should adopt legislation that allows newspapers to negotiate a fair price for use of their content, with massive fines if Google and Facebook refuse to cooperate.

An urgent letter to all Members of Parliament

3 FEBRUARY 2021

We have a very serious situation in this country, and we are delighted to hear that Minister of Heritage Steven Guilbeault said on Monday that the government is preparing legislation to force tech giants to fairly compensate content creators.

Google and Facebook, two of the richest companies in history, control the on ramp to the internet highway in Canada. They decide what we as a sovereign nation see and don't see in the news. To make matters worse, they take the news produced by Canadians and don't pay for it.

Meanwhile, all Canadian news media companies, big and small, are suffering for two reasons:

First, they don't get paid for their content by Facebook and Google; and second, Facebook and Google take over 80 per cent of all Canadian digital advertising industry revenue. These massive American companies get virtually all of the revenue and don't pay for content. Movie content doesn't work that way in Canada. Music content doesn't work that way. TV show content doesn't work that way. So why is news content treated differently?

We only have to look south of the border to see what happens when real news companies disappear, and social media platforms distribute divisive, fake news. We need to support healthy, independent, diverse news companies as the backbone of our democracy.

This is urgent. It's a fact that news companies across Canada are going out of business. COVID-19 is accelerating the decline. Journalism jobs are disappearing. That means real news keeps disappearing and hate and fake news will be all that's left to distribute. Let's not let this happen in Canada.

But there is good news. Australia has figured out the solution. They created a law that forces the trillion-dollar monopolies to pay fairly for news content. This costs the taxpayer absolutely nothing.

We encourage all Members of Parliament to move quickly. Canada needs your leadership.

John Hinds President/CEO News Media Canada

No. - Why is "No." the abbreviation for "number," since there is no "O" in the word? Well, there may not be an "O" in number, but there is one in the Latin word numero, which is where the English word comes from.

Lb - How did the letters "L" and "B" get to be the abbreviation for "pound"? It has to do with the origins of the word. The English word "pound" originates from an ancient Roman unit of measurement called a Libra pondo, meaning "a pound by weight." "Pondo" became the English word "pound," while the "Libra" provided the origin for the "lb" abbreviation.

MO - If you've ever described someone's mannerisms or habits by saying, "That's his MO!" without knowing what the M and the O stand for, you're not alone. It comes from the Latin modus operandi, meaning "method of operating," and was originally used to describe the behavior of criminals.

SIM - If you have a cell phone, it most likely uses a SIM card that allows you to connect to the network. But these cards also carry unique information about each cell user, which is why SIM stands for "Subscriber Identity Module." Since the SIM card holds specific information about the user, it provides a way for the network to distinguish individual subscribers.

Stat - When you spill something and yell, "I need some paper towels, stat!", you're speaking Latin, and you may not even realize it! "Stat" is short for statim, the Latin word for "immediately."

Defrost Meat on Aluminum Trays
The fastest way to defrost meat is under a cold running tap. But if you want to save water and speed things up a bit, place your meat on an aluminum sheet tray or skillet. Aluminum is a great conductor of heat and will draw energy from the surrounding environment into your frozen meat much faster than a wooden cutting board or wood or stone countertop. You can cut defrosting times down by about 30 percent this way. It also works on soups, stews, and anything frozen flat.

Everybody knows if you are too careful you are so occupied in being careful that you are sure to stumble over something. -Gertrude Stein, novelist, poet, and playwright (3 Feb 1874-1946)

**Elmvale Active Seniors Residence
New Sign Capturing Attention**



Doug Jackson, Gary Kuehl, Dan McLean from EASR, standing with Holly Young, Emma Cubitt from IN VIZIJ Architects Inc. at the new sign on the east edge of Elmvale.

In an earlier edition of this newspaper, EASR announced the hiring of the architectural company who will be working closely with the directors of the Not-for-Profit group planning the development of The Elms Retirement Village in Elmvale. The Principal Architect, Emma Cubitt and the Project Architect, Holly Young, recently visited the site, and have met virtually on ZOOM on three occasions in the past month, as the entire team begins the design phase of the project. Meanwhile, a Topographic Survey has been completed, as well as the first phase of the required Environmental Study. The purchase of the first three acres of property has been finalized and the purchase of the remaining 7.7 acres of land is well underway.

The Chairman of the EASR group, Dan McLean, commented, "Our dream in late 2018 has now become our reality. With the purchase of this property, we are able to go forward with our team of architects to design The Elms Retirement Village. We're putting Elmvale on the map!" For additional information about this much-needed project, please go to the website <https://theelms.ca>. Here you will find links to the ongoing and upcoming events plus opportunities to get on our contact list for newsletter updates and becoming an active member in our organization.

Financial Assistance Critical to Help Combat Economic Impacts of COVID-19

TORONTO - Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, issued the following statement in response to today's monthly employment release by Statistics Canada:

"Employment in Ontario decreased by 153,500 in January. In the last eight months Ontario's employment has increased by 739,800. This month's employment numbers underscore the significant economic impacts of COVID-19. These numbers serve as a stark reminder that behind every economic statistic is a family, a worker or a business owner and the work that lies ahead of us to reach a full economic recovery.

The government imposed a provincial Stay-at-Home order in January to stop the spread of COVID-19 and help keep people safe. However, there is no denying that the impacts are being felt throughout the economy. We know that many Ontarians continue to struggle during this challenging time and [that is why we are providing unprecedented support to workers, businesses and families as we plan for our economic recovery.](#)

We recently launched the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant, which provides a minimum of \$10,000 and up to \$20,000 to help eligible small business owners impacted by the Provincewide Shutdown. Each eligible small business can use this funding in whatever way makes the most sense for their individual business.

Eligible small businesses dealing with unexpected costs of personal protective equipment can also apply for one-time grants of up to \$1,000 through Ontario's Main Street Relief Grant. Our government is also providing \$600 million for property tax and energy cost rebates to support businesses required to close or significantly reduce services because of public health restrictions.

We are all in this together. The people of this province continue to step up and make the necessary sacrifices to help slow the spread of COVID-19. By working together, we will defeat this terrible pandemic, restart the job creation engine of Canada, and lay the foundation for a brighter future."

Here are some very general Oven to Crockpot Cooking Time Conversions:

-- 15 to 30 minutes = 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 hours on HIGH or 4 to 6 hours on LOW

- 35 to 45 minutes = 2 to 3 hours on HIGH or 6 to 8 hours on LOW

-- 50 minutes to 3 hours = 4 to 5 hours on HIGH or 8 to 18 hours on LOW

* Most uncooked meat and vegetable combinations will require at least 8 hours on LOW.

* Remember to check the owner's manual for your particular crockpot for full instructions on usage.

DOUG SHIPLEY
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
BARRIE—SPRINGWATER—ORO-MEDONTE

48 ALLIANCE BOULEVARD,
UNIT 104
BARRIE, ON L4M 5K3
WWW.DOUGSHIPLEYMP.CA
DOUG.SHIPLEY@PARL.GC.CA
705-728-2596

A Message from MP Doug Shipley

When can I get the vaccine? This is the big concern that my staff and I hear from you, your friends and your neighbors. We all want to know when the Covid-19 vaccine will become widely available. We do know that we need to reach a high percentage of vaccination in our population to offer safety and to give you the opportunity to enjoy family gatherings, to run your businesses at full capacity and get back to those recreational activities that do so much to improve mental and physical health.

What have we seen so far? We have seen a broken chain of procurement. We have seen Canada fall further and further behind other countries around the world as they achieve levels of vaccination that we are weeks, if not months, away from.

While the current government continues to make announcements, they are not offering any immediate solutions. Recently, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Novavax would produce its Covid-19 vaccine at a facility in Montreal that is still under construction. The Prime Minister reported that this facility could be ready to produce shots as early as this summer. Later this was clarified by Innovation Minister Francoise-Philippe Champagne and we were advised that the real earliest possible production start date would be the end of 2021! Which might lead one to ask, did the Prime Minister deliberately mislead us with that announcement?

Between inaccurate information from the Prime Minister and weeks where no vaccines are being delivered from one source or another, either Pfizer or Moderna, it is hard to be confident in any promises being made by the current government about vaccine procurement and timelines.

Giving Canadians quick access to this tool to fight Covid-19 is critical to rebuilding our economy.

I want to see the Liberal Government succeed in procuring vaccines for every person who wants to be vaccinated. When the opportunity comes for me to receive the vaccine, I am eager and happy to get in line. I just hope that day doesn't continue to be pushed further in the future because of the Liberals failure to act quickly. Without vaccines there is no recovery.

Sincerely,

Doug Shipley
Member of Parliament
Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte

**DRIVEWAYS
CLEARED**

BETCHER
Landscaping
705-527-3883
Commercial-Residential

SNOW! LET US DO IT!

BEE SWARM & WASP REMOVAL **THE HONEY PLACE** LOCAL HONEY AVAILABLE
Beekeeping Farm

Honey, Bee Pollen, Propolis
The Bee Therapy House
Bee Swarm & Wasp Removal
<http://youtu.be/MMWf4nuayWs>

The Honey Place has **FIREWOOD FOR SALE!!**

REALITY CHECK!

Greetings Tiny Neighbours...Here's an invitation to put on your favorite ambient music and lead yourself through a self-guided meditation. Or perhaps, just grab a cup of coffee and enjoy a thought-provoking read!

Pretend for a moment that you came across a virtual reality game. You enlisted yourself and entered to play. This game was so advanced that once you stepped in you thought that everything you experienced was real. You took up various roles interacting with others who were all playing the same game. You either liked or disliked the role you played, but never the less you learned a lot and you gained much insight about your life. You became so immersed in this virtual reality game that you obeyed and played by the rules with minimal or no questions at all. **Think about all this for awhile.**

Now imagine this scenario. "You," being the player in this virtual reality game, after entering "in" completely forgot who you were before the game started. Now, you no longer remember the reality you embodied before pretending to *be and play* the role you took up in the game. Now you think that the virtual reality game is the only reality that exists. Like a dream that never ends, you move from one trial to the next trial with no end in sight. Somehow you know that you are not operating the controls. You might be asking these questions. Who set up this game? Why was it set up? How did you get involved? **Think about this for awhile.**

Are you able to imagine that you could be living your daily life on Earth similar to a virtual reality game? Earth feels real and you have a very real role to play in it here. All the rules, laws and guidelines are written down for you...made solely for your safety and protection. But can you be sure they are? Do these rules truly serve who you are? This current life is all you know isn't it. Is it real? Are you sure? Are you sure of anything?

Imagine this next thought...what if this life/your life here is only part of a much greater reality? What if there are more realities out there, somewhere? Is this hard for you to imagine? What if this current Earth life reality is being played out just like the virtual reality game you stepped into earlier? If it is, then who or what could be the active agent playing "your" role, the role that you are currently caught up in? **Ponder this thought.**

Is it possible for you to imagine this active agent as being You...as being your very own awareness, your consciousness...your soul? Somehow your soul landed in the game. If you can imagine this, can you also imagine that your soul could be "unknowingly" caught up in an earthly game similar to the virtual reality game you enlisted to play? Could this world be keeping you in its own ongoing narrative of what your life should be? Could it be possible that you are far more advanced than what you are being allowed to experience within the game? Could these guidelines, which you are using, be taking you into the center of an illusion? **Could they?**

Now ask yourself this...are you content playing in this earthly game? Are you? Do you really know yourself here? What if there was another part of you who was more real than the "you" in this earthly game? Who would that person be? Where would this person be? What would this person be like? (Would you even want to know?) What if...just what if you could remove yourself from the game to find out? Would you dare step out? And, what if when you did step out that you could instantly see your life from a much different perspective? **Ponder this thought for a moment.**

And now, imagine, with your own conscious thought that you are currently stepping out. See yourself physically stepping out of the game now. Where have you landed? Now that you have exited the earth game what do you see? What do you feel? Is anyone else with you? Do things seem different? Has your perspective changed? Could this be the awakening of your awareness...your consciousness...your soul? Could this new perspective be your freedom from the game? What does "awakened" feel like to you? These thoughts are a lot to take in. **Rest here a while and ponder this imagined "awakening" for yourself.**

Written by Beverley Dujay-Macdonald

STEELERS
RESTAURANT & PUB

In Door Dining Open

TAKEOUT/DELIVERY HOT LINE
705-322-2652
23 Queen St. W. Elmvale

Features updated daily on FB, Instagram, Google

ON LINE ORDERING • steelersrestaurantpub.com

NEW HOURS: MONDAY/TUESDAY 11 AM - 7 PM
WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY 11 AM - 8 PM • FRIDAY 11 AM - 9 PM
SATURDAY 8 AM - 9 PM • SUNDAY 8 AM - 8 PM



DOUG DOWNEY
Member of Provincial Parliament
Barrie - Springwater - Orp. Medicine

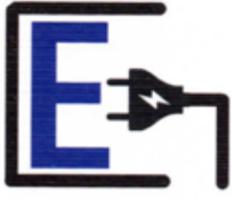
705.726.5538
doug.downey@pc.ola.org
14-20 Bell Farm Rd
Barrie, ON L4M 5L3

CARSON ELECTRIC & CONTRACTING

Jordan Carson
Master Electrician

1087 Rainbow Valley Road
Phelpston, ON L0L 2K0
jordan@carsonelectric.net
705.717.8767

ECRA/ESA # 7011405



Intelligent Communication

"We can disagree without being disagreeable."
Barack Obama

One of the best ways to dramatically improve communication about difficult issues is to respect the right of each individual to have their own point of view, whether we agree with it or not.

Clearly, we all have our own perspective about situations, but so often rather than "communing", that is sharing our views, ego gets in there and tries to prove it is right and the other is wrong. With this, the discussion quickly becomes an argument.

The goal of human communication ideally should understand. We talk with one another to express our thoughts, to share our internal world. What we say is often only a small part of what we think and feel inside.

So, when another expresses a thought, our aim should be not only to hear the idea, but also to get a sense of all that lies behind that thought. We might explore this deeper part by asking the individual to say more about it, or explain why they feel as they do, or how they came to their conclusions.

When we do this, we often find we did not fully understand where they were coming from. We may also gain an insight into the situation we did not have before. An effective communicator learns as much about the other's perspective as possible, and communicates that understanding.

Once the other knows we understand their thinking, they are much more open to listening to the way we see things. We may find there are points of agreement. We may also find that we still disagree, but now we both understand where the points of disagreement lie. This is all about understanding, and not at all about proving who is right or making the other wrong.

This is an intelligent, respectful, and mature approach to dealing with others. Whether we are parents, children, business partners, colleagues or even politicians we would all do well to elevate our communication to this level.

Sometimes we may have a strong emotional reaction to another's viewpoint, and it bothers us to see them think that way. We may even lose respect for them. It feels as though we cannot be friends with someone with a view so opposite to ours.

This is not just a difference of opinion, but instead may be a difference in values. If someone is racist, for example, and espouses their views frequently, we might just not want to be around them. If it is someone we want in our lives, we can ask them to refrain from expressing racist comments around us. If they respect this, then we might feel comfortable being with them.

If not, we can let them go, or learn to live with it. Just know that you will never convince someone they are wrong about how they feel.

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and award-winning psychologist. For permission to reprint this article, or to obtain books, CDs or MP3s, visit www.gwen.ca. Follow Gwen on Facebook for daily inspiration.

Ontario Heritage Week

Every year, during the third week of February, the Province celebrates Ontario Heritage Week, honouring Ontario's irreplaceable heritage resources, and celebrating the many things that make Ontario such an incredible place to live, work and play. Each February, the Ontario Heritage Trust encourages all Ontarians to participate in Heritage Week – to celebrate heritage in all its forms (cultural and natural, architectural, archaeological and collections), and our diverse traditions and cultural expressions.

Heritage week provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals and communities to reflect on their contributions to Ontario, learn how heritage is promoted and commemorated, and think about how it might help to shape the future.

This year's Ontario Heritage Week runs from February 15 to 21, and will focus on our province's natural environment and the natural heritage properties the Ontario Heritage Trust works to preserve and protect. The Ontario Heritage Trust owns 170 natural heritage properties that protect 4,116 hectares (10,073 acres) of provincially significant natural heritage lands across the province. These properties protect a variety of rare and sensitive environments, including wetlands, forested areas, cliffs, and a rare northern Ontario orchid habitat. Some of our natural heritage properties also have provincially significant archaeological sites. The Ontario Heritage Trust works in collaboration with a range of partners, including conservation authorities, land trusts, field naturalists and the Bruce Trail Conservancy to steward these lands.

This year, Ontario Heritage week will be moving to a virtual platform, with the Ontario Heritage Trust, along with local communities, hosting a variety of virtual events, including tours of heritage properties as well as online presentations and discussions. I encourage each and every one of you to take the time this week to learn more about our local heritage through these excellent virtual presentations.

I encourage all of you to virtually visit our local museums, including the Simcoe County Museum, and natural heritage sites. We are lucky to live in such a historically rich area, as Simcoe County is home to 40 Ontario Heritage Trust plaques, including: the Willow Creek Depot, Hewitt Bernard, the Nine Mile Portage, Steamboating on Lake Simcoe and many more. A full list can be found at the Ontario Heritage Trust website.

Learn more about the virtual events and listings in our communities during Heritage Week, and all year long, by visiting the Ontario Heritage Trust's website at www.heritagetrust.on.ca



morning AFFIRMATIONS

- I am important
- Today is going to be a good day
- The world needs me
- Today I choose happiness
- I believe in myself
- Today is a fresh start
- Today I will do my best

Vanishing Barns: Remembering the 18th century gentle giants through photos, stories, diaries and genealogy.



Cathy Johnston Walton

Available from Cathy Walton at 705 728-1388 or snow-flake53@mail.com
Ritchie's Feed or Simcoe County Museum.

Vanishing Barns - Cathy Walton has been researching barns in Flos and Vespra Townships (now Springwater) for the last six years and has published the results in the book "Vanishing Barns".

If you are interested in a copy, please contact Cathy at 705 728-1388 or snow-flake53@mail.com.

Henry and Mary Lynn (Downey) VanderWielen

Owners	Henry and Mary Lynn (Downey) Vander Wielen	Built: August 2, 1911
1990-present	William and Hendrica (Ivits) Vander Wielen	Dimensions: 40 x 60'
1956-1990	(Peter) Edward and Nelly (Curtin) Cavanaugh, Edward changed the spelling of his name	Bents: 4
1921-1956	James and Susanna (McBride) Kavanagh numerous owners	Features: barn bridge on north side of barn removed
1882-1921	William McKee bought from the Crown	Water Source: drilled well
1850-1882		
1850		



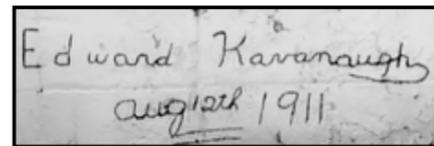
Three inserts in the stable walls were for lanterns.



William Vander Wielen initially had pigs and sold cream. He had pasture, grew hay and oats and barley. In 1963 he switched to milking 20 cows. A milk house and milking stalls were added. In 1973 an addition and pipeline allowed more cows to be milked. An irrigation system was added in 1978 when the fields were so dry there wasn't enough feed for the dairy cattle.

In 1997, hay storage, manure storage, a new milk house and office were built. Henry continued milking cows until 2010. The dairy barn is now used for storage and a wood working shop. He grows corn, soybeans and wheat.

Henry was three when he went for a train ride. He was sitting on the railway tracks behind the barn. The train stopped, and not knowing where he belonged, the engineers took Henry down to Hendrie Road and dropped him off where the Cavanaugh's were farming in the field. Cavanaugh's took him home. After that Henry was tied to a 50' clothes line. Forty-five years later Henry's mother-in-law was at the nearby golf course and heard two men talking about stopping around here because a snotty nose kid was on the tracks.



The inscription on the foundation is just below the window.

Henry Vander Wielen, A History of Vespra Township p. 749.



Siding covers the original barn of 1911.

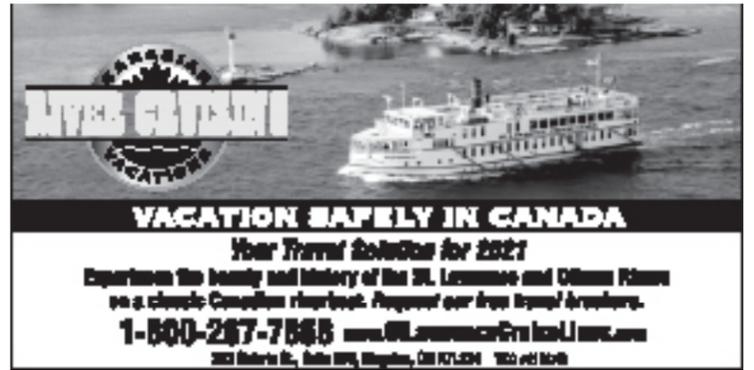


The milk house was added in 1997.



A harmless coffee break can do more harm than you think.

Wear a mask, wash your hands and physically distance to stop the spread of COVID-19.
Learn more at ontario.ca/covid-19



Applications Open for Ontario's New Skills Development Fund

Investment will lead to innovative solutions to get job seekers back to work
Applications are now open for the Ontario government's new two-year \$115 million Skills Development Fund. The fund, which will support workers and apprentices, is specifically designed to address the challenges brought on by COVID-19 and help reduce obstacles to hiring, training and retaining while preparing workers for the province's economic recovery.

"When faced with unprecedented challenges we need innovative solutions, that's why we developed this new Skills Development Fund. It will lead to fresh and creative ideas to help get people back on the job and kick-start our communities," said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. "My message to workers is clear - there is hope and opportunity around the corner. I'm calling on everyone - businesses, union leaders and training providers - to submit your ideas and participate in our economic recovery."

The Skills Development Fund will accept applications from a wide range of employment and training organizations in Ontario, and the focus will be on:

- giving laid-off workers immediate access to training supports or new jobs
- improving the quality of training
- reaching out to traditionally underrepresented groups
- increasing apprentice registrations and completion
- better serving local communities
- supporting the talent needs of small businesses

Examples of projects from the fund could include: a digital career fair that allows employers to connect with job seekers impacted by COVID-19, mentorship programs and career counselling for apprentices while they are training on-the-job, the creation of training materials that teach employers how to accommodate employees who have disabilities, and making workspaces and equipment more accessible.

Applicants, including employers, apprenticeship training delivery agents, unions, post-secondary institutions, community organizations and others can now submit proposals beginning today, until February 28, 2021.

Quick Facts

- The fund will help quickly address the needs of Ontario's employers and workers by offering up to \$100 million in the first application round in February 2021. A second round of projects is planned to provide an additional \$15 million in spring.
- In its 2020 Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover, the government committed an additional \$180.5 million over three years to help existing workers improve their skills. The budget also includes a skilled trades strategy, an additional \$100 million of dedicated investments through Employment Ontario for skills training, a redesigned Second Career program, and \$59.5 million over three years to help workers acquire in-demand skills.
- Employment Ontario: Free Programs and Services for Job Seekers, Workers and Employers

County accepting applications for its 2021 Tourism, Culture and Sport Grant Program

Midhurst/February 16, 2021 – The County of Simcoe is now accepting applications for its 2021 Tourism, Culture and Sport Grant Program. Grants will be awarded to qualified organizations that cultivate collaborations to develop tourism, culture and sport programs and initiatives.

The Tourism, Culture and Sport Grant Program is the result of a merger between the Simcoe County Tourism Development Fund (SCTDF) and the Arts, Culture and Heritage (Built, Natural and Environmental) Grant, and is accessible to municipalities and not-for-profit organizations within Simcoe County. In 2020, the County received 99 applications requesting a total of almost \$1.1 million in financial support. However, due to COVID-19, in April 2020, Council voted to suspend the Tourism, Culture and Sport Grant and apply the allocated \$300,000 for 2020 to the 2021 envelope, increasing the 2021 budget to \$600,000.

Through this grant program, the County will support and enhance tourism, culture and sport in Simcoe County by:

- Investing in tourism, culture and sport activities that promote awareness, access, participation and appreciation of the distinct, diverse offerings within the County of Simcoe
- Building organizational capacity in local existing and new organizations
- Encouraging collaborative opportunities and partnerships
- Contributing to the County of Simcoe's overall economic health and sense of place
- Enhancing participants' experiences by supporting innovative and accessible programming

Interested applicants are asked to submit their forms by Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. Applications will be accepted for photo and/or video production, storytelling, product and/or experience development, marketing, event enhancement, operator engagement, capacity-building activities, cycling infrastructure and tourism wayfinding signage.

All applications will be reviewed by the County of Simcoe's Grant Program Task Force, consisting of appointed County Councillors with support from County staff. The grant program will provide up to \$600,000 in funding, which will be divided among successful candidates based on program requirements, objectives and overall benefit to the entire region.

Details and application guidelines can be found at www.experience.simcoe.ca/resources. Potential applicants can contact the County's Tourism staff via email, at tourism@simcoe.ca with questions.

Georgian surprises applicants with special drone delivery

Is it a plane? Is it a bird? No, it's #AirGrizzly, the drone dropping off an acceptance offer to the doorstep of three very surprised Georgian College applicants this week.

"The past year has been strange and challenging for all of us, so we wanted to do something fun and unique for some of our newest Georgian Grizzlies by delivering their acceptance offers by drone," said Cindy Mutchler, Georgian's Registrar. "We chose three applicants to our new Mechatronics program and delivered the special packages to their doorsteps – to brighten their day, and help create the first of many unforgettable experiences at Georgian."



Marco D'Agnillo of Orillia, Ryan Little of Gilford, and Daniel Podgorny of Newmarket all applied to Georgian's new [Electromechanical Engineering Technology](#) – [Mechatronics](#) three-year diploma program, which starts this fall.

Marco was happy to receive his Georgian acceptance offer – and especially via drone. "I love technology and futuristic kind of stuff, and I'm super pumped about using robots at Georgian," he said. "I know Georgian also has a good reputation and it's local."

He added that he's always liked to build things. "I maybe want to be an engineer of some sort. I had a virtual meeting with a student recruiter from Georgian and he introduced me to the Mechatronics program. I've always been interested in robotics – it's a hidden passion. He told me about the program, which is very new and includes a co-op with it, which I like as well. I was hooked, so I applied – and looks like I got in!"

#AirGrizzly's delivery was especially exciting in the Little household as it coincided with birthday celebrations for Ryan's dad Chris. "I think it's kind of special that I got to have a bit of a celebration this morning and now it's time for my son," said Chris.

Ryan said he's heard good things about Georgian from anyone who's gone there, including his brother who is a student in the [Honours Bachelor of Business Administration \(Management and Leadership\)](#) program. "They loved it – the teachers, the equipment and the programs. And honestly, it's just one of the schools I've had my eye on for a while. It's the only one I applied to," said Ryan.

Ever since he was a kid, Ryan has loved knowing how things work. "I'd always take apart anything in the house and built it," he said. And his dad has witnessed this in action. "First it started with the cupboards," said Chris. "I'd come home and all the doors were off, all the handles were off, all the hinges were off. He'd say, 'I'll fix it. I just need to know how it works.' And that's when he was five. Ever since then, anything that's broken he wants it first."

Ryan's mom Jacquie thought the drone delivery was really cool. "I was inside looking out the window going, 'There's a drone coming up our driveway!' That doesn't happen every day. I'm also very excited for Ryan. He's our youngest, last one to launch, and it's good to see him excited about it," she said.

Daniel said he never expected to receive his offer via drone and thought it was an interesting way to send it. "I'm mainly looking at how machines work – that's where I want to go with my career," said Daniel who chose Georgian because it's close to home. "I like science, I like figuring out how things work. I take things apart every now and then to look at what's inside and how it works. I just took apart my PS4 controller and looked at how circuit boards work. You can see why it's designed this way, and what it gives because of it. It's cool to me."

#AirGrizzly's travel adventures to all three applicants were captured on video. [You can watch how the day unfolded here.](#)

As exciting as the drone delivery was for Daniel, Ryan and Marco, all other acceptance offers from Georgian were sent out starting Feb. 1 the traditional way: via email and mail. Georgian will continue to accept applications and issue offers for upcoming semesters in spring, fall and even winter 2022.

My friend is one... who take me for what I am.
--Henry David Thoreau



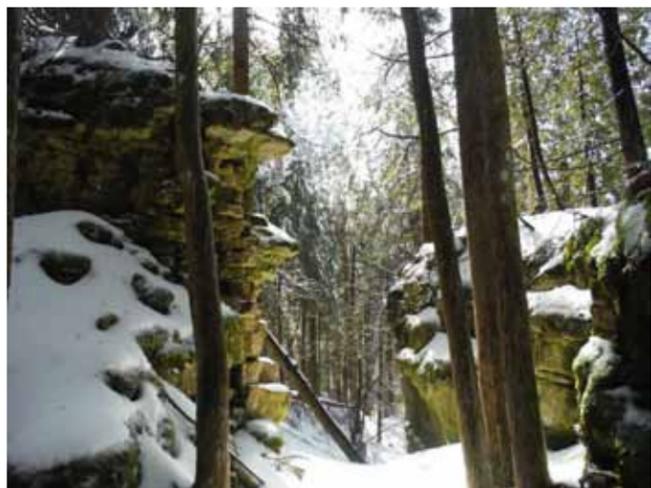
Keep families and pets safe in conservation areas

Keep dogs on leash, stay off the ice and follow public health guidelines



UTOPIA, Ontario (February 4, 2021) – In the COVID-19 pandemic, NVCA's conservation areas offers much solace for nature seekers. However, it is vital that families and pets are safe while enjoying the great outdoors.

"NVCA manages 11 conservation areas in the Nottawasaga Valley Watershed," said Byron Wesson, Director of Conservation Services at NVCA. "In the winter, they are great places to hike, snowshoe, bird watch or simply explore. We're asking visitors to be considerate to others, the natural areas and wildlife while they're there."



While some dogs are great listeners, others may harass wildlife or attack other dogs or small children while off leash. To be consistent, all dogs must be on leash while at NVCA's conservation areas. Dog owners are also asked to place dog poop in available garbage cans. Each week, our Lands team gathers up garbage bags full of dog poop from the trails.

One of nature's wonders is the beauty of frozen ponds, rivers and streams. While it is tempting to walk, skate or play on the ice, NVCA would like to send a stark reminder for visitors to stay off the ice. Even if the weather has been cold, other factors such as water flow, fluctuating water levels, and snow on the ice can contribute to unsafe conditions.

Lastly, visitors are urged to follow [public health guidelines](#) when visiting conservation areas, including group gathering limits, staying 2 metres apart and wearing masks.

[Visit NVCA's website for more information about NVCA's conservation areas.](#)

Expect trouble as an inevitable part of life, and when it comes, hold your head high, look it squarely in the eye and say, 'I will be bigger than you. You cannot defeat me.' --Ann Landers
Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.
--Booker T. Washington

May Court Club of Barrie Thanks Front Line Workers With \$5860.

The May Court Club of Barrie has given each employee in Roberta Place Retirement Lodge – 148, Grove Park Home – 213 and IOOF Seniors Home -225 a personal handwritten card and \$10 in Starbucks Coffee gift cards totaling \$5860. Jen and Jason O'Neil of McDonald's Barrie topped the "Thinking of You" cards with 200 McCafe cards split between the two facilities.

"Members of the May Court Club of Barrie normally volunteer each month at Grove Park and IOOF but haven't been able to since the COVID-19 restrictions have been put in place. We wanted to let them know we are still thinking about them. It was important to include Roberta Place as they are challenged in the worst situation with the spread of COVID-19 variant," President of the May Court Club of Barrie Patricia Manson said while discussing the effort.

"In only 12 days and the co-ordination of 21 volunteers, we placed a rush order on the gift cards, hand wrote individual note cards created by the May Court Club of Barrie artists, pulled together each persons' efforts and delivered the cards before Valentine's. We felt that it was important to let these stressed staff know that someone is still thinking about them even after the Christmas giving season was over."

The May Court Club of Barrie, a registered charity, founded in 1970, has raised and donated over \$2,773,000. to charitable needs in the City of Barrie. The gifts for the front line workers came from their own membership funds as a personal thank you.

Bill C-10 Removal of Canadian's fundamental rights

Canadians have always valued their freedom of speech. Generally, Canadians are respectful and do not violate the laws already present in Canada. If you want to keep that freedom, contact your Federal MP and tell them Bill C-10 needs to stop...NOW!!!

STOP BILL C-10...for the sake of your freedom of expression and speech...

When the Minister of Justice has to do a document in an attempt to show why Bill C-10 can remove your freedom of expression and violate your Charter Rights ... YOU KNOW THE BILL IS CORRUPT and DOES NOT REPRESENT "Canadian true values"...

STOP BILL C-10...for the sake of your freedom of expression and speech...

We all know that prior to the Charter we had freedom of speech and expression...with the Charter we have those rights removed... and it's the Liberal-NDP-Green-Bloc coalition that is doing it...

Here's the link the the Federal MP's contact...be respectful but tell them...ALL to STOP BILL C-10

<https://www.ourcommonsca/Members/en/h?fbclid=IwAR3JKs4JSBgHOIOKz0rHvAqzdGClxYnhsNStqaxC2CZJHG7zaADiADfzFRo>

Normally I am completely non-partisan but this is one issue that everyone should be aware of and everyone should be contacting their Federal MPs to stop. Bill C-10 is a complete violation of, not only one's Charter Rights (failed document) but, all Canadian's fundamental Constitutional Common Law Right to freedom of speech, expression, religion, etc. Please share and contact all Federal MPs to stop this unprecedented attack on Canadians.

Thank you...

Cheryl Gallant Federal MP with more on Bill C-10...video

<https://www.facebook.com/CherylGallant/videos/436852594253274>



Elizabeth F. Marshall, President All Rights Research Ltd., Non-Partisan Advocate Director of Research Ontario Landowners Association Author – "Property Rights 101: An Introduction"

Director – Canadian Justice Review Board
Legal Research – Queen's Counsel, Lawyers, Law Offices, etc.,
Legislative Research – MPs, MPPs, Municipal Councillors,

I am not a lawyer and do not give legal advice. Any information relayed is for informational purposes only. Please contact a lawyer. "The rule is the public interest is always paramount but NEVER when it is at the expense of a private individual." Ontario Legislative Assembly, February 11, 1965 – Vol. 1, p. 478.

DSM ELECTRIC **DON MEHARRIE**
Master Electrician
Owner / Operator

(705) 818-3854
1636 Glengarry Landing Rd. N.
Phelpston, ON L0L 2K0
donmeharrie@gmail.com
www.dsm-electric.ca


7011900
SERVING SIMCOE & MUSKOKA

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • CONSTRUCTION • MAINTENANCE

Ontario Expands Eligibility for Main Street Relief Grant

Helping Small Businesses Access PPE as Province Returns to Framework

The Ontario government is expanding the number of small businesses that can apply for the Main Street Relief Grant to help offset the costs of purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) to cautiously and gradually reopen in parts of the province. Small businesses with 2 to 19 employees in all eligible sectors - expanded from 2-9 employees - including those in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector, can now apply for up to \$1,000 in financial support. The expansion is being made as more parts of the province enter the strengthened COVID-19 Response Framework, which allows for the gradual and safe reopening of in-store shopping at non-essential retail stores.

"This funding will help even more main street businesses stay safe, keep people employed, and continue contributing to our communities, by expanding the accessibility to the Main Street Relief Grant our government will provide up to 60,000 small businesses with support to help them cover the cost of PPE and protective supplies. We continue to encourage businesses to apply and learn more at ontario.ca/COVIDsupport."

This one-time grant reimburses main street businesses for up to \$1,000 in PPE costs incurred since March 17, 2020. Eligible businesses for the Main Street Relief Grant now include those with 2 to 19 employees in the following sectors:

- retail trade;
- accommodation and food services;
- repair and maintenance;
- personal and laundry services;
- gyms and yoga studios; and
- arts, entertainment, and recreation.

"Expanding eligible sectors for the PPE grant that have been significantly affected by COVID-19 is another way we can support our small business community," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. "These businesses often require frequent, in-person contact with coworkers and they have the least space to accommodate physical distancing. They need a steady supply of PPE to function in a sustainable way."

The grant can be used to help cover the costs of a variety of PPE, including installing plexiglass or purchasing gloves and masks. Eligible businesses can apply for this grant and other COVID-19 financial supports - like the Ontario Small Business Support Grant and property tax or energy cost rebates - through a simple online application.

"Ontario's heritage, sport, tourism and culture industries were hit first, hardest, and will take the longest to recover post-pandemic," said Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. "Expanding eligibility of the Main Street Relief Grant to include more business-owners within these sectors will cover added costs and help us explore all that our province has to offer when it's safe to do so."

Small businesses can visit ontario.ca/smallbusiness to learn about the many supports available to them. These include resources to find Ontario-made PPE through the Workplace PPE Supplier Directory, tools to build or expand their online presence through Digital Main Street, tailored local support through the Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Network, and free financial advice.

Quick Facts

- The Workplace PPE Supplier Directory provides businesses with information on personal protective equipment (PPE) suppliers.
- The government has opened applications for the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant. The grant provides a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$20,000 to eligible small businesses that have had to restrict their operations due to the Provincewide Shutdown.
- The government launched the \$50-million Ontario Together Fund to help businesses retool their operations to produce PPE and develop technology-driven solutions and services for businesses to reopen safely.
- Businesses and individuals looking to help in the fight against COVID-19 can submit their proposals through the Ontario Together portal.
- The Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters' Ontario Made program is helping the province's manufacturing base regain and recover revenues lost due to COVID-19 by encouraging manufacturers and producers to register and promote their products on the SupportOntarioMade.ca site and use the Ontario Made logo.

Tirebuster
CARS, light & medium TRUCKS
FARM TIRES • CALCIUM • IN SHOP SERVICE

Sales & Repair of all Brands
Serving North of Barrie to Midland

705-322-0609 Tirebuster@hotmail.ca
7002 HWY 93 & STAMP SIDE RD • SOUTH OF MIDLAND

**We're growing. We need help!
Are you looking for a job? Call!**

Chickens in my Back Yard by Ed Donnelly

*I got a barrel of flour; Lord I got a bucket of lard.
I ain't got no blues, cause I got chickens in my back yard.
Old blues song by Jimmy Rogers*

The hen house

The hen house at L21 Con 10 w/2 Vespra (now Grenfell Rd) was built 12' x 24' out of cement and frame construction. I never thought it was laid out right as the man door was at the farthest corner making it awkward for cleaning out and bringing in feed and straw. It formed one corner of the barnyard about 150' from the barn. Everything had to be carried there, by hand. The cleaning out of the hen house went out through the one small window on the east side. It was always a very dirty dusty job, but a job that had to be done by me and my brother. The manure would have to be wheeled to the main manure pile and added to the rest. It had a row of nests on the remaining east wall, and nests built on the back wall with a loft area that supported roosts. To get under this loft would be my job as it was not very high. You would need a long-handled hoe or something to scrape the cement floor clean.

We kept 30 - 40 hens that laid mostly brown eggs, it was quite an operation that was run by my grandmother, then my mum (until she passed) and then my brother who took over. I was just a helper who had an interest in this operation, but not as much as them. I remember the Government Census coming around yearly, asking questions of how many chickens we raised. It was always good for a laugh as it was filled out 50 roosters and 1 hen, or something. I wondered what they must of thought.

The Brooder House

My dad worked in Barrie and was familiar with the north end of the developing town, as the population read 5000 on the signs. He seen this brooder house free for moving on Penetang St. He fastened 2 large hydro poles underneath this 8' x 16' building and dragged it out to the farm behind the car. It had a better design for chickens as it had 2 exceptionally large windows with the man door in the center. This was used for raising the chicks when they were small. We would order chicks from the Co-op on Innisfil street and these would-be roosters for marketing in the thanksgiving market.

My dad would buy most of the feed from the co-op and bring 3-4 bags home in the trunk and always 2 bags on the front fenders of our 36 Ford car. We never owned a pickup in those days as the car was a family car and truck combined. All produce was sold at the market on Mulcaster street, and of course it was carried again in the family car.

The Turkey Pen

We also raised turkeys for market, they had their own pen that was attached to the barn. It was sparse for describing other than it had a 2 nest and a long pole fastened corner to corner for a roost. It also had a lower pole for the younger ones. It was a big structure as it had been the sheep pen before, I hardly remember that being used for sheep.

The Goose Pen

It was in bad repair, and it was along the path to the barn closest to the house. It had a low slanted roof that leaked and would always have a strong odor because of the moisture getting in, but the geese did not mind that so much. The baby goslings were always cute but need lots of care when they were walking, they would get tired and sit down. All these fowl would have to be locked in every night, sometimes they would need to be found by flashlight.

Other Out Buildings

My brother and I would go to a nearby marsh looking for wild duck eggs. This would require taking off your shoes and wading through bullrushes knee deep in water. We would find some and bring them home quickly and put them under a clucking hen to hatch out. The only kind we found was the black mallard eggs, it was the green mallard we were looking for. This was where we needed another pen, and we got another pen from a neighbor close by and got it home. It was used for these wild ducks and our other tame ducks and was in the orchard close by the well.

The pens all had different roof lines and were all a different color, but I guess that is what you would expect, having come from different locations.

END

Perpetual devotion to what a man calls his business, is only to be sustained by perpetual neglect of many other things. --Robert Louis Stevenson

Ritchie's
Feeds 'N Needs
Garden Centre



1548 County Road 92
just west of Elmvale
(705) 322-2363

Taking Poultry orders now!!

Now accepting applications for Spring
Employment - Cashiers

**Open - Monday to Friday • 8:30 - 5:00
Saturday • 8:30 - 4:30 - Sundays • Closed**

We are taking orders for feed, etc...by phone



My View - Bill French Springwater Official Plan Review - February 23 6 to 8 p.m.

The current **Springwater Official Plan** dates back to 1998 and aside from a number of amendments over the last 23 years, it is based on a different vision of the future development and growth of the Township. It had many holes in the Plan that some clever land speculators exploited to the long-term detriment of Springwater. The Review of the Plan began in the last term of Council and the Council of the day outlined a detailed preparatory process to make sure that everyone interested had input. I had the pleasure of leading Council at the time and since I come from a business background, I knew that an effective plan must have a solid foundation. We began with a Communication strategy, then conducted a number of Visioning workshops that were well attended. This resulted in a first draft of a discussion paper, a Public Meeting, a Section 26 Public Meeting and then the completion of the discussion paper and Growth Management Strategy. Because of the change in Council Leadership and then a year of COVID-19, we are now at the next phase. **On February 23rd from 6 to 8 p.m.** There will be a special meeting to present, review and ask questions about three important aspects of the Official Plan Review. The three background Reports include one report and detailed information on **Population Related Employment** or in simple language businesses and employment based on the growth of the population itself. The second report will be on an **Intensification Strategy** which means, how much more residential and commercial/industrial development can be undertaken within the built boundaries of Elmvale and Midhurst. The third report is the **Bayfield Corridor Study** which has always been a key focus of the future of Springwater, but until this report, has not been well defined. This is your chance to engage in the future of Springwater. You can ask questions during the meeting and all the information is on the Township website and can be found under the Business and Development tab and then click on the Official Plan link and scroll down to the information being presented at the meeting. I want to compliment the drafters of these reports and they are certainly in line with my thinking of how we can develop a vibrant and prosperous Springwater over the next 20 to 30 years. In 2015, I presented an idea to the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Ted McMeekin, with a vision for the Bayfield Corridor which is in line with the concepts being presented at this meeting, which I fully support with some minor changes. I wish the Bayfield Corridor Plan would have been finalized before the residential developments in the Midhurst Secondary Plan had been permitted to advance. My only criticism is that there appears to be no plan for employment and business development in Hillsdale which is our third primary development community which is expecting growth of about 1,500 to 2,000 people over the next 20 years. It has some large tracts of industrial land that could be incorporated for the long term economic growth of Springwater. Following this meeting the consultants will take away the input and start the draft of the Official Plan itself and hopefully a few more public input sessions even though the Planning Act does not require such input. Please don't miss this important step in the development of a new Official Plan for Springwater.

As we are now slowly rising from the lockdown and opening things up cautiously, let me remind you to wear a mask, sanitize and wash your hands regularly after touching anything outside of your home and stay six feet from anyone outside your immediate circle.

Again, please remember these are my thoughts and I am not asking you to agree. I respect your freedom of expression and encourage you to SPEAK UP, before that freedom is taken from us!!

Bill French is a seasoned business leader with over 40 years experience and served in senior positions of International Enterprises. Bill served as Mayor of Springwater and a County of Simcoe Councillor from 2014 to 2018 and has taught business at the college level for over 15 years. You can also read these articles on line at <http://springwatercitizens.blogspot.com/>

One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar. --Helen Keller

TURNVIEW FARM STORE
 now open - come and see our farmhouse pantry



open 7 days a week 9am - 6pm
 6424 Hwy 93, Elmvale

705.627.3378
 turnviewfarm@gmail.com
 turnviewfarmhoney.com

Our honey is now available at Elmvale Foodland!

Health Coalition Calls on Ford Government to Stop For-Profit Long-Term Care Chain Companies from Banning Essential Caregivers: COVID-19

Toronto/Sudbury – The Ontario Health Coalition has been hearing from family members of loved ones in long-term care homes who are being stopped from getting into the homes to provide support and care for their loved ones. This is happening in a range of long-term care homes across Ontario, and the Coalition is hearing it much more frequently from families with loved ones in for-profit homes. In one particularly egregious example, Jarlette, a for-profit chain with 14 long-term care homes across the province, has suspended all access for essential caregivers except compassionate and end-of-life care.

Under Directive #3 Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, has issued directions regarding visitors/essential caregivers. All LTC homes have to have a policy that is compliant with the Directives.

The Minister of LTC's COVID-19 Visiting Policy, December 26, is to assist LTC homes with implementing Directive #3. In it, it is clear that essential caregivers are designated by the resident or their substitute decision-maker. Each resident can have up to two essential caregivers. In areas of high COVID prevalence or in homes with COVID-19 outbreaks, the homes can limit essential caregivers to one at a time. Essential caregivers must follow the homes' policies for infection control and safety, including testing, PPE and training. But LTC homes cannot simply ban all essential caregivers. (Note: Visitors, who are not essential caregivers, can be stopped in homes in outbreak or in areas with high COVID prevalence.)

"At this difficult time, it is more important than ever that residents have access to essential caregivers for assistance and support," said Jane Meadus LL.B Lawyer and Institutional Advocate at the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly. "Under the Resident's Bill of Rights in the LTC Homes Act it is unlawful for homes to interfere with this right."

"While we understand the fear of the spread of the U.K. variant, the fact is that long-term care homes can set a policy of requiring and providing a stronger level of protection and PPE for essential caregivers," said Natalie Mehra, Executive Director of the Ontario Health Coalition. "We all know the suffering and death of residents resulting from isolation and inadequate care. Locking out all essential caregivers is not a solution; it causes harm, and in some cases, irreparable harm. The Ford government must intervene."

"The Elizabeth Centre Friends and Family Council sent a letter to Jarlette Health Services regarding the order to suspend all essential family caregivers, stating that we are concerned with it because of the effect it will have on the emotional well-being of our loved ones," said Roma Smith, Chair of the Elizabeth Centre Friends and Family Council and member of the Ontario Health Coalition Long-Term Care Committee. During the first wave of this pandemic we saw the negative impact of social isolation on our loved ones. We asked Jarlette to reconsider their decision."

What is the difference between an omelet and a frittata? One of the main differences between the omelet and the frittata comes down to a matter of folding the cooked egg around the filling versus mixing the filling into the raw egg mixture.

To make an omelet, the eggs are whisked just until blended before cooking; when making a frittata, the egg mixture is whisked vigorously to help create the custard-like consistency. Both sides of the frittata are cooked while just the underside of the omelet touches the pan. A frittata is cooked slowly over low heat while an omelet is cooked quickly over higher heat.

Whereas omelets are served hot straight from the stove, frittatas are often served at room temperature, making them perfect to make ahead for brunches or larger groups.

The heaviest element known to science is Managerium.

This element has no protons or electrons, but has a nucleus made up of 1 neutron, 2 vice-neutrons, 5 junior vice-neutrons, 25 assistant vice-neutrons, and 125 junior assistant vice-neutrons all going round in circles. Managerium has a half-life of three years, at which time it does not decay but institutes a series of reviews leading to reorganization. Its molecules are held together by means of the exchange of tiny particles known as morons.

County of Simcoe Warden George Cornell acclaimed Chair of Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Midhurst/February 8, 2021 – County of Simcoe Warden George Cornell has been acclaimed Chair of Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC) and is focused on the South Western Ontario Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) initiative as his top priority.

"I am honoured to have been acclaimed for the position of chair of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus to further initiatives that will benefit our group of 15 upper and single-tier municipalities," said Warden George Cornell. "Throughout this pandemic, we have witnessed the strength of working together to tackle the biggest issues that we are facing. Collectively, we will represent the joint interests of Southwestern Ontario municipalities, as we collaborate to build on these learnings and continue our great track record of success. I would like to thank all my fellow Wardens and Mayors who supported me, and to congratulate Dufferin County Warden Darren White on returning as vice chair. Together, the caucus will make progress in our recovery efforts, supporting our entire area through coordinated economic development efforts and rural broadband connectivity enhancements in collaboration with SWIFT."

Simcoe County Councillors continue to go above and beyond to represent local constituents. The County currently benefits from strong voices at key regional venues, including the Association of Municipalities Ontario, Federation of Canadian Municipalities and now the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus.

About Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. (WOWC)

The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus is a not-for-profit organization representing 15 upper and single-tier municipalities in Southwestern Ontario, representing more than three million residents. The WOWC aims to enhance the prosperity and overall wellbeing of rural and small urban communities across the region. Caucus members work collectively to influence federal and provincial legislation and programs through advocacy, research, analysis and education. For more information, visit www.wowc.ca.

Ontario Health Coalition Releases Tracking of UK Variant COVID-19 As COVID-19 U.K. Variant Spreads Ford Government Can Not Fail Us Again: Stronger Enforced Public Health Measures Are Missing

Toronto – The Ontario Health Coalition has tracked all the cases of the U.K. variant (B. 1.1.7) for which we can find public information. The Coalition released the data today with a call for the Ford government to take fast action to protect Ontarians. The spread of the variant in Ontario is happening quite quickly and there are now an initial set of large outbreaks in long-term care (Barrie), food production (North York) and an apartment building (North Bay). It should be of deep concern. Here is a [link](#) to the tracking of U.K. variant cases in Ontario by region with sources.

In the U.K. the variant has been traced back to September 20. By mid-December 60 % of cases were the new variant which spread very quickly across the Southeast, London and the East of England, overwhelming hospitals and resulting in a hard lockdown. The variant is reported to be 40 – 70 percent more infectious. In a new report published in the [British Medical Association Journal](#), two new studies have found it may be associated with a higher death rate.

"The Ford government failed to act quickly enough to stop the huge increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths prior to the second wave. It failed again to do so prior to Hanukkah/Christmas. They cannot fail to do so again," said Natalie Mehra, executive director of the Ontario Health Coalition. "Almost 1,000 staff and residents in long-term care have died since December 31 alone. Many of those deaths could have been prevented with adequate staffing, proper PPE, meaningful consequences for for-profit long-term care homes that do not follow safe infection control practices and provide resources for staffing and care. In addition, high community transmission rates have imperilled the lives of people in long-term care and other congregate care settings. Failure to act quickly enough to reduce the community spread has been a fatal political choice by the Ford government."

"Yesterday the Ford government announced plans to permit more contacts between people in their plans to "open" up but did not announce safety measures to prevent the rapid spread of the UK variant of COVID-19. Our provincial government cannot simply repeat the same mistakes over and over again. We are calling on the Ford government to immediately provide clear, enhanced and enforced safety measures to protect Ontarians."

-- Study: MRI-guided ultrasound treats prostate cancer with few side effects --

An MRI-guided ultrasound treatment is effective against intermediate-risk prostate cancer and causes minimal side effects, according to a study published Tuesday by the journal Radiology.

Of 44 men who received the treatment, 41 were disease-free five months later, with little effect on erectile function and prostate symptoms, the data showed.

"By combining the high-intensity focused ultrasound device with MRI, we can target our treatment to the exact location because we're able to pinpoint precisely where the tumor is," study co-author Dr. Sangeet Ghai said in a press release.

"The results so far have been very good," said Ghai, a medical imaging specialist at the University Health Network Sinai Health and Women's College Hospital in Toronto.

"We treated a smaller area using this device, yet still had very good results, [while] ... the patients preserved their erectile and urinary function," he added.

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer among men after non-melanoma skin cancer, with about 200,000 cases diagnosed in the United States each year, according to the American Cancer Society.

Current treatments such as surgery and radiation therapy that target the entire gland are effective at eliminating the cancer, but often cause incontinence and sexual dysfunction, Ghai and his colleagues said.

A new class of treatments called focal therapy, however, offers an alternative for some men with intermediate-risk disease that is confined to the prostate, the researchers said.

In high-intensity focused ultrasound therapy, the cancer is destroyed by heating the affected tissue by using a probe-like device called an ultrasound transducer, which focuses sound waves to generate heat at a single point.

In the past, the procedure has been performed using ultrasound, but ultrasound does not show an image of the site of cancer within the prostate gland well enough to allow for good targeting. Magnetic resonance imaging improves that targeting.

Since the treatment is targeted at a small area within the prostate, side effects are generally less than those associated with surgery and radiation therapy, the researchers said.

For this study, they used a device that delivers MRI-guided focused ultrasound treatment via a probe placed in the rectum while the patient is under general anesthesia.

Results of the procedure, which takes about four hours, were tracked using MRI, biopsies and surveys of erectile and urinary function. Treatment was successfully completed in all the men, with no major side effects, the researchers said.

Using MRI allows thermal feedback during treatment, which is important because killing the cancerous tissue requires a temperature of more than 140 degrees Fahrenheit. The method also allows surgeons to see whether all the cancer has been eradicated, researchers said.

"MRI almost instantaneously gives feedback as to the temperature that we've been able to achieve at the site," Ghai said.

"If the temperature was not what I wanted to get, I can reheat that area so that chances for successful treatment increase," he said.

The treatment is pending approval by the U.S Food and Drug Administration and Health Canada.

What are the sources and outlet of Lake Superior?

Answer: About 200 rivers empty into Lake Superior, the largest being the Nipigon, from the north, and the St. Louis, from the west. The lake flows out at its eastern end into Lake Huron through the St. Marys River.

BRIDGE BITES from The American Contract Bridge League

A "FREE" FINESSE By: Brian Gunnell

E-W Vulnerable
 South West North East
 1♥ Pass
 1NT Pass 3NT Pass
 Pass Pass

When West led a Spade against 3NT, she offered a "free finesse", allowing Declarer to score three Spade tricks without having to guess which defender held the Queen. But, in actual fact, that finesse came with a hefty price tag.

"How kind of West to lead a Spade", thought Declarer as he played Dummy's Jack, covered by the Queen and the King. Having ensured three Spade tricks, Declarer then paused to look at the whole hand. But it was a bit late for that, wasn't it?

At this point, Declarer could count three Spades, one Heart, and two Diamonds, which got him up to six, so he looked to the Club suit to make up the shortfall, leading the ♠K at Trick 2. But East didn't have to be a genius to duck this, killing Declarer's hopes in that suit. His last hope was a 3-3 Heart break, but that failed too, and Declarer (deservedly) went down in a cold contract.

Declarer would have made his contract if he had given up his free finesse in exchange for setting up the Club suit. He wins the opening lead with Dummy's Ace (goodbye, third Spade trick), and leads the ♠K (hello, second, third and fourth Club tricks, as the ♠K provides an entry to Declarer's hand). Nine easy tricks for those Declarers who paused to think at Trick 1.

Visit www.acbl.org for more about the fascinating game of bridge or email marketing@acbl.org
 For games in Barrie see www.barriebridge.com
 For games in Midland see www.midlanddbc.com

Ontario Extends Off-Peak Electricity Rates to Provide Relief for Families, Small Businesses and Farms

Lower rates will help offset costs as Ontarians continue to stay at home

TORONTO - The Ontario government is once again extending electricity rate relief for families, small businesses and farms to support those spending more time at home while the province maintains the Stay-at-Home Order in the majority of public health regions. The government will continue to hold electricity prices to the off-peak rate of 8.5 cents per kilowatt-hour until February 22, 2021. This lower rate is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week for Time-Of-Use and tiered customers.

The off-peak rate came into effect January 1, 2021, providing families, farms and small businesses with immediate electricity rate relief. The off-peak rate will now be extended until the end of day February 22, 2021, for a total of 53 days of emergency rate relief. During this period, the off-peak price will continue to be automatically applied to electricity bills of all residential, small business, and farm customers who pay regulated rates set by the Ontario Energy Board and get a bill from a utility.

Quick Facts

- Families, small businesses and charitable organizations with overdue electricity and natural gas bills can apply for support through the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). A residential customer can receive up to \$750 to help cover their overdue electricity bill and natural gas bill, while small businesses and charities can receive up to \$1500 for each bill. Customers can contact their utility to apply.
- Businesses can apply for Energy and Property Tax Rebates through the COVID-19 Business Support Grants, if required to shut down or significantly restrict services due to provincial health measures.
- Applications are open for the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant, which helps small businesses that are required to close or significantly restrict services under the Province-wide Shutdown effective December 26, 2020.

County's investment in airport fueling future regional economic growth

Midhurst/February 5, 2021 – The COVID-19 pandemic has led to substantial impacts to the airline industry. Despite these challenges, a recent report to the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport (LSRA) Board highlighted how the LSRA's unique business model and the County of Simcoe's significant investments have helped propel the airport forward during these uncertain times.

In January 2020, the County became the majority shareholder of the LSRA, with a 90 per cent ownership stake, and is leading key strategic investment initiatives to adapt and prepare for the future post-COVID world.

At the onset of the pandemic, LSRA shifted gears to focus on enhancing commercial-aviation to further support the regional manufacturing sector and the movement of COVID-19 supplies. County officials quickly worked with area MPPs and MPs to reopen commercial border services at the airport and expand the critical role the LSRA plays in supporting our area businesses.

Over the past year, the County has taken the lead role in implementing Phase one of its Strategic Plan to support regional economic growth and attract new job opportunities for our residents.

The County's investment and plans to grow the airport has contributed to economic and job creation opportunities such as the Oro Station Automation Park and the MediCA Park development, an 83-acre advanced manufacturing campus which will focus on medical manufacturing facilities with an emphasis on medical, health-care and personal protective equipment in Oro-Medonte. MediCA Park, envisioned as a vertically integrated campus of medical supply, research and testing facilities, will increase the Province's ability to respond to the pandemic and reduce reliance on external imports. Both developments are adjacent to LSRA lands and access to commercial and passenger air traffic and border services will be crucial to these two regionally significant business projects.

Since January 2020, the County has also worked with area partners to advance a critical runway expansion approval and funding process. Phase one of this two-phase runway project, the widening of the runway from 100 ft to 150 ft, proceeded in fall 2020 and consisted of installation of new infrastructure to support the lighting system and drainage requirements. Phase two will include the installation of a new high-intensity LED system, which will start in spring 2021. Phase two also includes a proposal to lengthen the runway from 6,001 ft. to 7,000 ft. The County continues to work through the approval process for the runway lengthening expansion.

The full runway expansion project, which provides significant safety enhancements particularly in adverse weather, is estimated to cost \$6.1 million, with the County's overall investment estimated at \$3.5 million. This important initiative has also received a significant grant of \$1.5 million through the Provincial SWODF (Southwestern Ontario Development Fund) and \$345,000 from the City of Barrie. When approved and completed,

Southern Georgian Bay Association of REALTORS® MLS® home sales set new monthly record in January 2021

Residential sales recorded through the MLS® System for the Southern Georgian Bay region totaled 236 units in January 2021. This was up 9.8% from January 2020 and was a new sales record for the month of January.

The Southern Georgian Bay region comprises two distinctive markets.

Home sales in the Western Region, which includes Wasaga Beach, Clearview Township, Collingwood, The Blue Mountains, the Municipality of Meaford, and Grey Highlands, numbered 128 units in January 2021. This was an increase of 18.5% from January 2020. Residential sales haven't hit this level in the month of January in more than three decades.

Meanwhile, home sales in the Eastern Region, encompassing the Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene, the Townships of Tay and Tiny, Severn, and Georgian Bay Townships, numbered 108 units in January 2021. This outperformed January 2020 by a single sale and is the highest number of sales in the month of January on record.

"Demand for homes across the Southern Georgian Bay region is at an all time high," said Matthew Lidbetter, President of the Southern Georgian Bay Association of REALTORS®. "This has resulted in home prices rising quickly across all property types, although particularly in those property types with more living space."

The MLS® Home Price Index (HPI) tracks price trends far more accurately than is possible using average or median price measures. The overall MLS® HPI composite benchmark price was \$525,200, rising 27.9% in January 2021 compared to January 2020.

The benchmark price for single-family homes was \$546,000, advancing 29.5% on a year-over-year basis in January. By comparison, the benchmark price for townhouse/row units rose by 19.5% to \$437,000, compared to a year earlier, while the benchmark apartment price was \$367,300, a gain of 11.2% from year-ago levels.

There were 255 new residential listings in January 2021. This was a significant decline of 47.3% on a year-over-year basis. This was the lowest number of new listings added in the month of January in more than three decades.

Active residential listings numbered 256 units at the end of January. Declining substantially by 75.3% from the end of January 2020. Active listings haven't been this low in

the extended runway will enable the LSRA to welcome larger aircrafts and is a necessary step in helping the airport to become a premier regional commercial airport that grows both the local and regional economy, encourages investment, creates new opportunities for local businesses and improves the quality of life for residents across the region.

Additionally, since the beginning of 2020, significant infrastructure and operational investments and enhancements have been made, including:

- Purchase of a Type I/IV de-icing truck for approximately \$130,000, which allows the LSRA to safely support winter operations, including ability to "deice" and provide "anti-icing" measures to an aircraft as large as a 737
- Complete modernization of the airport's Automatic Weather Observation System, providing airport users with vital, real-time weather observations. The project was completed for \$167,101.20, bringing the project in at \$28,000 below budget
- Installation of close circuit security camera in the main terminal and outside to enhance airport safety
- Enhancements to the terminal area, including the addition of Da Vinci's Gate by Cravings dining area, which currently offers take-out services to the community and airport users

Quick Facts:

- The LSRA is consistently one of the top five busiest airports without control towers in Canada
- Overall airport site and lands of 595 acres (owned)
- Planning to increase passenger flights for domestic and international travel post-COVID
- Features a v a i l a b l e commercial space and economic lands
- L S R A



Wondering what your home is worth in today's real estate market?
I can let you know!
Give me a call.

Marta Branch
Sales Representative
705-718-6464
martabrand@c21.ca
MartaYour Home.ca

Independently owned and operated. Not intended to solicit properties for sale or buyers under contract.

the month of January in more than three decades.

Months of inventory numbered 1.1 at the end of January 2021, down from the 4.8 months recorded at the end of January 2020 and below the long-run average of 7.6 months for this time of year. The number of months of inventory is the number of months it would take to sell current inventories at the current rate of sales activity.

The dollar value of all home sales in January 2021 was \$198.4 million, improving by 66% from the same month in 2020. This was also a new record for the month of January.

Consult your *Local* REALTOR® for market conditions and home value information specific to your neighbourhood. Our REALTORS® live, work and play in Southern Georgian Bay and have the local knowledge you simply need to know! Encompassing several communities along the shores of southern Georgian Bay, approximately 1½ to 2 hours from Greater Toronto, the area is one of Canada's premier four season recreational playgrounds.

The Southern Georgian Bay Association of REALTORS®

represents more than 600 REALTORS® registered with its member offices. The geographical area served by the Association includes the Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene, the Townships of Tay and Tiny and parts of Severn and Georgian Bay Townships; Wasaga Beach, Clearview Township, Collingwood, The Blue Mountains and portions of the Municipality of Meaford and Grey Highlands.

Provided by:

Matthew Lidbetter, 2021 President
Southern Georgian Bay Association of REALTORS®
matthew@bluemountainproperty.ca

provides support to regular tenants, including Ontario Provincial Police, Hydro One and air ambulance as well as transient support to the DND, Canadian Rangers, Search and Rescue, Canadian National Railway and Ornge air ambulance, employing more than 70 people

- On-site Border Services and Commercial Port-of-Entry for passengers and freight
 - Member of the Southern Ontario Airport Network (SOAN)
 - LSRA is 90 per cent owned by the County of Simcoe and 10 per cent owned by the City of Barrie
- Visit www.lakesimcoeairport.com to learn more.

In March, as the coronavirus pandemic intensified, Americans bought two million guns, the busiest month for sales since January 2013.



MCLAREN EQUIPMENT.com

Turf & Worksite

Great Products... Family Supported

JOHN DEERE 705-734-2424 **STIHL**

3464 Horseshoe Valley Rd, Barrie



**AGGREGATES
EXCAVATION
SEPTIC SYSTEMS
DEMOLITION
TRUCKING**

G. Priest Services Inc.



705-722-6555
gpriestservices.com



Elmvale 322-1482
Midhurst 737-5650
Minesing 722-6440

As always, please refer to our website www.springwater.library.on.ca for information, branch updates and our virtual programs.



CURBSIDE PICKUP

Springwater Public Library remains closed to the public due to COVID-19 but is continuing to offer curbside service during our regular open hours.

Please call your local branch for personalized requests or place holds using our website or app. All materials are quarantined for 5-7 days upon return in book drops. Stay safe and we'll see you soon!

- Elmvale Branch - 705-322-1482
elmvale.library@springwater.ca
- Midhurst Branch - 705-737-5650
midhurst.library@springwater.ca
- Minesing Branch - 705-722-6440
minesing.library@springwater.ca

For more information: www.springwater.library.on.ca



PINTEREST CLUB WITH LINDA AND LESLEY

Linda and Lesley share a cool craft/gift for you to work on. Catch their debut video February 24th on Springwater Library YouTube channel.

The craft is an awesome earthy wood sign project. Kits are available for purchase by calling your Branch and arranging for payment and curbside pickup. \$5 per kit.

For more information: www.springwater.library.on.ca



LOOK WHAT YOU CAN TAKE HOME!

You can now checkout some of our cool new kits.

Colour Blind Corrective Glasses – 3 different pairs

compliments of PILESTONE in the kit to try.

Cognitive Care Kit (Games, activities and books to support those with Alzheimers & Dementia)

Light Therapy Lamp – provides full spectrum light to help you get through winter.

Trekking Poles to help with balance and fitness.

Outdoor Explorers - includes compass, walkie talkies, binoculars and book).

Science Explorers - includes microscope, accessories and books.

Night Sky - includes telescope, attachments and books.

Bird Watching - includes binoculars, walkie talkies and books.

Fidget Toys - includes lots of great boredom buster toys.

Getting Ready to Read, Beginning to Read & Reading Independently kits.

Be sure to place a hold on a kit today!

For more information: www.springwater.library.on.ca



FEBRUARY FAMILY

Win one of 3 Smores Gift Baskets. Request a February Family Challenge sheet from one of our 3 branches. Complete all the challenges. Tick off each item turn in your completed sheet by March 1. Draw will be held

at 5 pm on Wednesday, March 3rd. (changed date so Kaitlyn can call in any last minute Minesing entries to Midhurst.)

For more information: www.springwater.library.on.ca



EGO ANYONE? MONTHLY SERIES

Get the kiddos making lego! It's easy, it's in your house and they could win a lego prize when they watch staff member Amanda's video and then put together a fun creation. February 18th theme is Rainbow. Be sure to follow us at Facebook to catch our monthly series.

Snap a quick picture of your lego creation and send it via email to midhurst.library@springwater.ca or below our Facebook post of Amanda's video for your chance to win!

For more information: www.springwater.library.on.ca



COOL STEM KITS AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) play is now available to be checked out from the library. Miss Amanda shows you how fun and interesting STEM is and how to use our STEM kits at home.

Check our Springwater Library YOUTUBE channel. This month's STEM video play is on **MAGNIFYING BLOCKS** and will come out on Friday, February 26th. More YouTube STEM videos that are available to view include: Introduction to STEM, Magna Tiles and Straws and Connectors and Squiggs. Place a hold on your STEM kit today.

For more information: www.springwater.library.on.ca

MISS AMANDA'S STORYTIME

On our Virtual Programming page and on our YouTube

Elmvale BIA Business Highlights



As our local businesses start to re-open, just a reminder to show kindness and patience as we all adapt to the re-opening and new processes that need to be followed. Some of our businesses will look different then they did before the lock-down as they continue to adapt and adjust to new criteria and a changed retail environment.

While businesses are excited to open, many business owners and their employees are still stressed. Please don't go into businesses and complain about the changes that have been put on them, new protocols or policies. They have been put in place to help keep everyone safe.

Working together, we can/will adapt and support each other through these challenging times.

We are grateful for the continued support of local business and encourage you to continue to work #StrongerTogether There are so many ways that you can continue to support local-

- by shopping in shop (with COVID precautions in place, some businesses require pre-booking times) - Always wearing a mask

- by utilizing curbside pick-up or take out options

- by utilizing online shops for local businesses

- by leaving a great review on social media or online platforms

- by purchasing gift certificates for future use

- by spreading the word about the AMAZING products and services that can be found in Elmvale!

Check out the complete listing of our businesses

www.elmvalebia.ca

Be sure to check local websites or call ahead to determine how the businesses have adapted!



The self-storage industry got its start in the 1960s, when swelling consumerism led Americans to buy more stuff than they had room for.

In the United States, 80,000 acres of wetlands are lost to development annually.

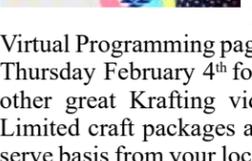


channel you'll find Miss Amanda doing a fun interactive Storytime Program with rhymes, songs and stories.

The next couple of themes for Storytime will be: Snow and Feelings.

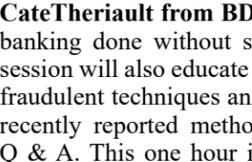
Ask for you free Storytime Kit.

For more information: www.springwater.library.on.ca



KRAFTING WITH KATHY (NEXT ONE March 4???)

Kathy will sharethe whole family to enjoy. This will be on our Springwater Public Library Facebook page, on our Virtual Programming page and on our YouTube channel on Thursday February 4th for all to enjoy. Check out Kathy's other great Krafting videos on our YouTube Channel. Limited craft packages are available on a first come, first serve basis from your local branch. Call or email to reserve your package. For more information: www.springwater.library.on.ca



E-BANKING & FRAUD – ADVANCE NOTICE

Thursday March 4, 3pm on Zoom

Grab your tea and join experts **Kirsten Bradley and CateTherault from BDO** to find out how to get all your banking done without stepping outside your door. This session will also educate the consumer on spotting various fraudulent techniques and how to avoid some of the most recently reported methods. This will be followed by a Q & A. This one hour informative session will be done via **Zoom on Thursday March 4, 3pm**. Please call the library at (705) 737-5650 to register and a link will be sent to you two days before the event

For more information: www.springwater.library.on.ca

Wasaga Beach Denture Clinic

Carlos Melgarejo DD Denturist
682 River Road West, Wasaga Beach
(705) 429-8474 / 1-800-531-6290



Official Plan Review - Stakeholder Meeting

A public engagement session will be held by the Township of Springwater on February 23, 2021 at 6pm via Zoom to provide an update on the Township of Springwater Official Plan Review (OPR) project and an overview of the draft Background Studies completed to date. These major reports include:

- **The Population-Related Employment Land Market Study** – Assesses whether there is an adequate amount of designated lands within the Township to accommodate commercial and institutional growth to the year 2031.

- **The Intensification Strategy** – Builds on the recommendations of the 2018 Growth Management Strategy to identify opportunities to facilitate intensification within the Township in support of meeting targets established by the Simcoe County Official Plan.

- **The Bayfield Street Corridor Study** – Evaluates intensification opportunities along Bayfield Street near Snow Valley Road and provides an urban design approach to ensure an appropriate scale and mix of land uses to meet forecasted needs.

Stakeholders/residents will be provided with a presentation and an opportunity for question and answers. To learn more about how to participate and/or submit comments, please review the [Stakeholder Meeting Information](#) letter.

For additional information on the Township's Official Plan Review, its progress to date and to view the draft Background Reports, please visit springwater.ca/OPR.

Discussing Local Issues Threatening Water Marks the Start of Student-Led Initiative

By: Cara Lintack

On February 3rd, 2021, the Simcoe County Environmental Youth Alliance began their Water Initiative, which focuses on local, provincial, national, and international issues threatening the safety of the water.

A watershed is an area of land that drains precipitation into a common outlet, with Simcoe County's own Lake Simcoe Watershed, spanning 3,400 square kilometres and 20 municipal borders. This local watershed is crucial to the well-being of the surrounding communities, providing safe drinking water to 7 municipalities and generating \$200 million a year for the local economy. In addition to the 450,000 residents living within the area, the watershed provides habitats for 75 different species of fish, with whitefish, yellow perch, and lake trout being popular among anglers.

Unfortunately, due to the pressure of invasive species and human activities, over 32 species within the watershed are at risk, including the red-shouldered hawk, and the Jefferson salamander.

Invasive species unnatural to the local environment can cause irreversible damage to ecosystems and are near impossible to remove. Common carp, zebra mussels, garlic mustard, and the rusty crayfish are all species causing concern within local ecosystems.

As residents relying on this local watershed, we have a responsibility to protect it. Simple steps such as taking shorter showers, fixing leaky taps and pipes, properly disposing of toxic waste, and reducing the use of pesticides and artificial fertilizers will help to conserve watersheds and prevent future damage. To report the sighting of an invasive species, call the toll-free hotline line 1-800-563-7711, or report through the EDDMapS Ontario app.

To support the campaign and learn something new about the world of water, follow them on Instagram @sceyalliance, and contact scenvironmentalouthalliance@gmail.com to learn more about becoming a member of SCEYA.



Mayor Don's Update – February 18 – Springwater News



COVID-19

The Province of Ontario has announced that as of Tuesday, February 16 at 12:01 am, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit area will be moving into the red-control category of the Provincial COVID-19 Framework and will no longer be subject to the Stay-at-Home order.

Under the red-control category organized public events and gatherings are limited to 5 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. Restaurants may resume in person dining but are limited to 10 people seated indoors. There is also a 4-person limit to the number of people who may be seated together. Under the new restrictions, supermarkets and other stores that primarily sell grocery or pharmacy must have a 75% capacity limit in place, whereas all other retail is restricted to a 50% capacity limit.

The Township will be re-opening the Administration Centre to the public as of Monday, February 22. Appointments are strongly encouraged. All staff contact information is available on the Township website at www.springwater.ca/contact. The Township Emergency Community Control Group will continue to meet to determine appropriate measures for the municipality.

Please remember that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a serious situation. The UK variant of the disease is prevalent in our area. If our numbers begin to rise, we may be subject to another lockdown. Please only go out for essentials, avoid public gatherings, and continue to follow the advice of the Public Health Unit.

New Dog Licensing Service Launched

The Township has partnered with DocuPet to provide pet licensing and lost pet services. This change will make pet licensing easier and more convenient by providing an online service for our residents. In addition to a contactless license application and delivery platform, DocuPet also offers dog owners a secure online profile linked to their pet and 24/7 lost pet services to safely reunite lost pets with their owners.

Along with this change, your dog's licence will now be valid for 365 days from the date of purchase rather than a calendar year approach.

Licensing your dog in Springwater is mandatory. The following fees apply to dog licensing:

- Altered (spayed or neutered) \$20.00
- Unaltered: \$25.00
- Dangerous dog (under section 5): \$200.00
- Replacement tags: \$7.00

If you had purchased a lifetime tag prior to December 31, 2020, your tag will remain valid, however owners are requested to set-up their pet's profile online with DocuPet to ensure if they get lost, we can get them home quickly and safely.

To learn more and license your dog, visit www.springwater.ca/canine.

Official Plan Stakeholders Meeting

The Township continues to plan for the future through the review of our Official Plan. The revised plan will guide how the Township grows and changes over the next 20 years, and provide guidance on housing, industry, retail and community amenities, as well as protect the natural environment and heritage features.

There will be a stakeholders meeting held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. The meeting will provide an update on the process and also review three key background studies which have recently been drafted: the Draft Population-Related Employment Land Market Study, the Draft Intensification Study and the Draft Bayfield Corridor Study. Anyone interested in the Official Plan Review is encouraged to attend.

To learn more about the plan, the background studies and how to participate in the meeting, visit: www.springwater.ca/OPR

Springwater at Home Contest

Have you been active and creative while staying home this winter? During the COVID-19 pandemic, our yards have served us with endless hours of fun and entertainment and the Township of Springwater wants to see how you've made the most of it. Have you built a snow castle, created an obstacle course or turned your snow-covered yard into a paint canvas? Show us what you've been up to for your chance to win one of three, \$50 gift cards to a local



Bernie Pilon Construction

Gravel Supplies

**Crushed Road & Cement Gravel
Sand & Gravel Fill • Skid Steer Services
Excavating • Bulldozing • Backhoe & Snow Removal**
7 Simcoe Street Rick's Cell: (705) 623-4209
Elmvale, Ontario Phone: 322-2785
L0L 1P0 Fax: 322-4458

Springwater business. All you need to do is snap a picture and share it with the Township at www.springwater.ca/SpringwaterAtHome to be entered into a draw! This contest closes March 5, so make sure you get your entries in!

County of Simcoe Investment in Lake Simcoe Regional Airport

In January 2020, the County of Simcoe became the majority shareholder of the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport (LSRA), with a 90 percent ownership stake, recognizing that the importance and use of this airport will continue to increase. Over the past year, the County has taken the lead role in implementing phase one of the Strategic Plan to support regional economic growth and attract new job opportunities for residents.

The County has been working with area partners to advance a critical runway expansion approval and funding process which will see the widening of the runway from 100ft to 150ft and new infrastructure to support the lighting system and drainage requirements. Phase two of this project includes the installation of a new LED lighting system, and extending to runway from 6,001 ft to 7000 ft. The full cost of the runway project is estimated at \$6.1 million, with the County's overall investment estimated at \$3.5 million.

Additional investments include the purchase of a deicing truck, complete modernization of the airports Automatic Weather Observation System, installation of a close circuit security camera and enhancements to the terminal area.

Fact or Fiction – Simcoe County Museum Trivia Night

Looking for an entertaining evening with your family? The Simcoe County Museum is hosting Fact of Fiction – Home Edition. Participants will match wits with museum Curators as they reveal stories of mysterious and unique artifacts. This is a great way to complete against family and friends, while staying safe in your homes. At the end of the evening, the players with the highest score will win one of three prize packs of locally sourced goods, totaling \$1,500. Tickets are \$25 and pre-registration is required. Learn more at museum.simcoe.ca

Simcoe Waste Diversion

For the eleventh year in a row Simcoe County ranked in the top ten Ontario Municipalities for waste diversion, placing seventh with a diversion rate of 60.7%. One of the major contributing factors to the County's diversion performance is the significant amount of divertible materials managed at the waste management facilities (19 diversion programs in 2019). The County continues to divert the most non-blue box recyclable material in the Province with about two-and-a-half times the tonnage diverted over the third ranked municipality. The County continues to be a leader in diversion and environmental stewardship with the fourth highest kg/capita diverted of 106 Ontario municipalities. The County ranked 20th with 185 kg/capita of waste disposed – below the provincial average of 245 kg/capita.

211 Services

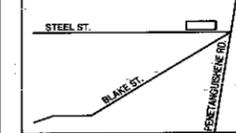
Are you looking for resources in the community - Call 2-1-1. 211 Ontario is a helpline and online database of Ontario's community and social services. Every 2-1-1 call is answered by a highly trained specialist who will work to find you the right resources. They provide information on a variety of topics and services ranging from mental health to family services to food banks to income supports and government services. To learn more about 211 visit www.211ontario.ca

Black History Month

February is Black History Month in Canada. The 2021 theme is "The Future is Now". Black History Month is a chance to celebrate and acknowledge the transformative work that Black Canadians and their communities are doing. To learn more Black History Month or find educational resources visit: www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html.

These are my thoughts and not necessarily those of Council. Stay safe and take care.

ROBINSONS



Serving Barrie and Area for over 80 Years

A Hardware Store with
ALL Your Needs!

Mon-Sat & Sun 10-5
(705) 728-2431

Ontario Strengthens Consumer Protection for New Home Buyers and Owners

Province designates Home Construction Regulatory Authority as new regulator

The Ontario government is designating the Home Construction Regulatory Authority (HCRA) the regulator responsible for new home builders and vendors. The HCRA will help ensure that new home buyers and owners are well-informed and better protected by:

- Licensing new home builders and vendors;
- Expanding the existing Ontario Builder Directory to provide regulatory compliance and warranty information about thousands of builders and vendors across the province; and
- Implementing a formal complaints process for the conduct of new home builders and vendors.

"When our government passed the Rebuilding Consumer Confidence Act, 2020 last July, we committed to establishing a regulator for new home builders that works for the people of Ontario. Today's launch of the HCRA is another great example of our commitment to strengthening consumer protection for our province," said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Government and Consumer Services. "The HCRA will ensure that new home builders and vendors are held to professional standards and that all buyers and owners of new homes are well-informed and feel confident that their homes have been built properly."

The HCRA is designated under the New Home Construction Licensing Act, 2017. The creation of the HCRA as a separate authority addresses consumer concerns about potential conflicts of interest within Tarion, Ontario's new home warranty and protection program administrator.

Quick Facts

- The establishment of a separate regulator for new home builders and vendors responds to the Honourable John Douglas Cunningham's 2016 review of the Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act and Tarion.
- The Rebuilding Consumer Confidence Act, 2020, passed on July 14, 2020, promotes higher quality new home construction, which will reduce defects and new home warranty and protection claims, while better protecting consumers from bad actors in the marketplace.
- The government improved consumer protection for homebuyers in Bill-145, the Trust in Real Estate Service Act, to modernize the rules for real estate brokerages, brokers and salespersons. It was approved by the legislature in February 2020.
- Tarion will administer Ontario's new home warranty and protection program. Together, the HCRA and Tarion will provide stronger consumer protection for Ontarians.

Dog inherits \$5 million

A Tennessee dog is living the comfortable life after inheriting \$5 million from her late owner, who stipulated in his will that his money should go to his pet. Lulu, an 8-year-old border collie, was named in the will of owner Bill Dorris, a Nashville businessman who died late last year at age 84. Martha Burton, 88, a neighbor who often cared for Lulu while Dorris was away, was named as the canine's caretaker in Dorris' will, which states Burton will be reimbursed for "reasonable" monthly expenses. "I don't really know what to think about it to tell you the truth. He just really loved the dog," Burton told local news. Burton said she is perfectly happy to act as Lulu's caretaker. "She's a good girl," she said.

We are always more anxious to be distinguished for a talent which we do not possess, than to be praised for the fifteen which we do possess. --Mark Twain

We are not the same persons this year as last; nor are those we love. It is a happy chance if we, changing, continue to love a changed person. -William Somerset Maugham, writer (25 Jan 1874-1965)



Collingwood Fuels Ltd



PROPANE

- Residential
- Commercial
- Farm

Cylinder Refills

15 Stewart Road, P.O. Box 321
Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 3Z7

(705) 445-4430

1-800-553-5571

FUEL DELIVERY

- Furnace oil
- Diesel fuels
- Gasoline

Oil furnace sales and service

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre
 1-888-495-8501
 (Hours: Mon. - Fri - 8 am to 6 pm)
 www.antifraudcentre.ca

The OPP Report - Scams

NATIONAL 211 DAY TODAY HELP STARTS NOW

February 11 is 211 Day across North America, where we collectively raise awareness of the valuable services offered by 211. In an effort to educate our communities about the services provided by 211, Huronia West detachment is only one of several detachments of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), that have collaborated in this campaign to launch 211 awareness in Simcoe County. The Barrie Police Service, the South Simcoe Police Service, the County of Simcoe and Simcoe County Paramedics are all part of this initiative.

Did you know?

- 211 is a free, confidential, 24 hour a day, 7 day a week helpline
- 211 connects people to local food programs, income and housing assistance, home support services, mental health services, substance use support, and so much more
- 211 offers service in over 150 languages
- 211 navigators can help you navigate the various COVID-19 relief programs
- Across Ontario, 211 is available by phone (dial 2-1-1) or by visiting 211.ca, with a live chat option also available. Texting will be available in the coming weeks.

We understand that during the pandemic people are struggling, and community partners are teaming up to ensure our residents know they are not alone. Help starts now at 211.

As always, 911 is for emergencies.

“Our 211 collaboration with our community partners is yet another innovative way that the OPP is providing service excellence to the citizens of Simcoe County and the Muskoka District. 211 will provide increased access to services for people who are struggling and require information, and connection to supports”- Dwight Peer, Chief Superintendent, Central Region, Ontario Provincial Police

“211 is like the best kept secret that we want everyone to be aware of. 911 is for emergencies. 211 is there with a helping hand, a guiding voice to help you navigate through the day to day challenges many of us are facing.” -Pamela Hillier, 211 Central East Ontario

ICE RESCUE BY SEVERAL OPP UNITS IN BRACEBRIDGE

On February 10, 2021 at 9:15 a.m. Bracebridge Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers responded to a person through the ice near Campbell’s Road and Gravenhurst Parkway in Bracebridge. A Keswick woman indicated that she was out for a hike on Paul’s Lake when she fell through the ice.

Bracebridge OPP patrol members attended and requested additional assistance from the OPP Aviation Search and Rescue (SAR), The Snowmobile, All Terrain Vehicle and Vessel Enforcement Team (S.A.V.E), The Emergency Response Team (E.R.T), The Muskoka EMS and Gravenhurst Fire Department. The 33-year old female was safely extracted from the ice by the OPP helicopter and flown to local hospital where she is currently being treated for potential life threatening injuries. Two officers also received medical attention as a result of the rescue.

This behaviour not only puts the person in harm’s way but when first responders are called to an emergency on ice, the rescue efforts are complicated and puts police, firefighters and paramedics lives at risk. Please remember that NO ICE IS SAFE ICE.

OPP Investigating Theft of Pet Hawk

The Orillia detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating the theft of a pet Ferruginous Hawk from a Ramara residence.

On February 03, 2021, between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., a pet Hawk disappeared from outside a Ramara residence. The bird, a one year old Ferruginous Hawk named Arsenal, was securely tethered outside of the residence at the time. The owner noticed the bird was missing and searched the area, locating shoe prints nearby. The tether is also missing so, in the unlikely event that the hawk escaped, the tether should still be attached to its leg.

If anyone has information regarding the missing hawk or knows of its whereabouts, please contact the Orillia OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit your information online at www.crimestoppersdm.com. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display and you will remain anonymous. Being anonymous, you will not testify in court and your information may lead to a cash reward of up to \$2,000.00.

The Orillia OPP is committed to serving our province, including the Townships of Oro-Medonte, Ramara and Severn and the City of Orillia, by protecting its citizens, upholding the law and preserving public safety.

OPP OFFICERS SAVE OVER 200 LIVES BY ADMINISTERING NALOXONE

DUMP MOVE
 Your Best Disposal Bin Rentals for Barrie and Area
 FAST, EASY DELIVERY!
 Container Rentals For:
 Renovation • Construction
 Site Clean-Up • Yard Clean-Up
 Hauling • and more
 10' & 14' Cubic Yard Bins
 705.795.6514
 info@dummove.com / www.dummove.com

38 percent increase in overdose occurrences (ORILLIA, ON) - The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has saved 210 lives by administering naloxone since frontline officers were equipped in September 2017. The opioid crisis continues to affect people from communities across Ontario, which is evident from the continued increase in opioid-related overdoses as well as the number of occurrences where officers have had to administer naloxone to save a life.

Key statistical information on opioid-related overdoses and naloxone administration from September 2017 to February 2021* includes:

- The majority, 68 per cent, of naloxone recipients were male and 32 per cent were female.
- The average age of naloxone recipients was 34.8 for females and 35.5 for males.
- Most incidences occurred inside a residence.
- The majority of opioid-related overdoses occurred in OPP’s Central and West Regions.
- There was a 38 per cent increase in overdose occurrences attended by the OPP from 2019 to 2020.

The OPP continues to provide victims with referrals to community specific resources and advising the public about harmful substances. See www.opp.ca/opioids for more information. Additional details as well as an officer’s experience with administering naloxone can be found at www.opp.ca/news.

The OPP has created a framework to support those individuals suffering from substance use disorder, while holding drug traffickers who cause these overdoses accountable. Since 2016, the OPP has investigated 23 occurrences where charges have been laid for Manslaughter and/or Criminal Negligence Causing Death in relation to fatal overdoses.

OPP CHARGE WASAGA BEACH INDIVIDUAL WITH CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND WEAPONS OFFENCES

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Child Sexual Exploitation Unit, Digital Forensics and Huronia West OPP Detachment have arrested and charged a Wasaga Beach resident following an online child sexual exploitation investigation.

On February 4, 2021, police executed a search warrant at a residence in Wasaga Beach and seized numerous electronic exhibits for further examination, as well as a prohibited weapon. As a result of this investigation, William Thomas DENNEY-HARPER, 21-years-old, was arrested and charged with two counts of possession of child pornography and one count of unauthorized possession of a weapon.

The accused was released at a bail hearing and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Collingwood on March 9, 2021.

“Children are our most valuable and precious members of society. Many victims of child sexual abuse are so young that they cannot tell their story. Every time an image or video depicting that abuse is shared, that child is re-victimized. Members of the OPP Child Sexual Exploitation Unit will continue to pursue individuals who exploit children on the Internet.” - Detective Staff Sergeant Brian McDermott

Anyone wanting to make a difference is encouraged to go to www.protectchildren.ca and download the “Child Sexual Abuse-It Is Your Business” brochure from the Canadian Center for Child Protection. This is an important first step that can save a child.

Parents are reminded to take a proactive approach to help protect their children from online sexual exploitation by speaking with their children regarding internet safety. Parents and anyone interested in protecting children can find resources to assist them at www.cybertip.ca.

PP Investigates Snowmobile Going Through the Ice on Lake Simcoe

(ORO-MEDONTE, ON) - The Orillia detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a near-drowning involving a snowmobiler that went through the ice on Lake Simcoe.

On February 5, 2021, at approximately 6:30 p.m., emergency services received a 911 call for a snowmobiler who went through the ice on Lake Simcoe near Line 15, Oro-Medonte. Officers attended the adjacent shoreline and were able to assist in directing Oro-Medonte Fire Services to the scene where the snowmobiler was successfully removed from the water and transported to shore. County of Simcoe Paramedic Services (CSPS) then transported the snowmobiler to hospital with severe hypothermia and Ornge air ambulance was utilized to transport him to a Toronto hospital.

D	N	E	M	E	T	S	S	E	L
E	I	L	O	Y	O	Y	N	W	O
E	W	A	D	E	G	A	O	O	T
S	T	S	E	N	W	E	S		
			L	A	E	S	T	A	E
T	N	E	C	R	E	P	A	E	R
A	E	D	I	N	A	M	T	S	O
S	P	U	C	K	C	I	S		
		L	I	O		T	E	H	S
Y	R	C	T	N	A	C	E	T	A
P	A	N	N	O	R	I	R	A	E
S	T	I	O	T	E	V	T	O	P

If you witnessed the incident or have any information, please contact the Orillia OPP detachment at 1-888-310-1122 or 705-326-3536.

HIKER CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING SNOWMOBILE OPERATORS

On January 28, 2021 at 12:58 p.m. Grey Bruce Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to an assault with a weapon that had just occurred on the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs trail near Highway 6 and Sideroad 3, in the Township of Chatsworth.

Two snowmobile operators were assaulted by a pedestrian that was walking on the trail as they rode past. The suspect swung a large walking stick at the riders as they went by. There were no injuries.

As a result of this investigation, Grey Bruce OPP have charged Richard AUSTIN, 60 years-of-age, from Chatsworth, with two counts of assault with a weapon, section 267(a) Criminal Code of Canada.

The accused must attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Owen Sound on March 4, 2021.

OPP Arrests Driver Asleep Behind the Wheel of Stolen Vehicle

The Orillia detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has arrested and charged a driver with impaired operation and possession of a stolen vehicle in Oro-Medonte.

On February 03, 2021, shortly before noon, officers received a call from a concerned citizen reporting a suspicious person asleep or unconscious behind the wheel of a pickup truck in a driveway off of Highway 11, Oro-Medonte. The caller had tried to wake the individual unsuccessfully. Officers arrived, were able to rouse the driver, and subsequently began an impaired driving investigation. As a result, the driver was arrested and transported to hospital for assessment.

During the investigation, it was learned that the pickup truck had been reported stolen and that the driver was in violation of probation order conditions.

As a result, Terry STILLWELL, age 32, from Adjala-Tosorontio Township has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - drugs
- Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000
- Fail to comply with probation order

The accused was released on a Form 10 Undertaking and is set to appear on March 30, 2021, at the Ontario Court of

The rest of this article and many more can be read in the police report at www.springwaternews.ca

-- Benefits of Apple Cider Vinegar--

1. Apple Cider Vinegar can aid in weight loss. Studies show that consuming vinegar before or with a meal may have a small effect. Recent studies have examined the effects of daily vinegar intake on body fat in adults who were obese. At the end of the study, participants who had consumed vinegar had a very modest one-to-two pound reduction in body weight. Body mass index (BMI), waist circumference, triglycerides, and visceral fat were also reduced. Further studies are needed to understand the connection between vinegar and weight.
 2. Soothe a Sore Throat. When you drink or gargle Apple Cider Vinegar, it helps to alleviate the pain of a sore throat. Although there are many different recipes and protocols, a basic drink recipe calls for a teaspoon of apple cider vinegar, a teaspoon of honey, and a small pinch of cayenne pepper stirred in a cup of warm water.
 3. Ease Heartburn and Indigestion. Apple cider vinegar is said to ease some types of heartburn, acid re-flux, and digestive conditions like constipation or diarrhea. For heartburn, apple cider vinegar is thought to work because it is acidic, and a lack of stomach acid is believed to trigger heartburn symptoms in some people. Just like adjusting anything in your diet, you want to be sure to consult with your doctor before.
- How to properly use Apple Cider Vinegar: Since it is acidic, it is important to dilute apple cider vinegar before applying it to body. A recommended 1:10 ratio is suggested when applying it directly to skin. It may need to be diluted a little more if you have sensitive skin.

nobleinsurance
 "For a higher level of confidence."
Jenny Robichaud CAIB, CIP
 Registered Insurance Broker
 Direct • 705 443 5566
 Email • jrobichaud@nobleins.on.ca
 Tel • 705-737-0136 x 1829
 TF • 800-461-9190
 Fax • 705-737-2552
 www.nobleins.on.ca

Barrie
 1004A Carson Road
 Ontario L9X 0T1



Since 1945

S&J Barn Demolition
 We pay cash for barns
 WSIB insured
 For a free estimate
 Call 1 800-291-2276



Ontario Enhances Security at Adult Correctional Facilities

New ion scanners will help reduce the risk of contraband from entering institutions and improve safety

The Ontario government is installing ion scanners at 10 adult correctional facilities across the province as part of an effort to combat contraband entering facilities, enhance security, and improve staff and inmate safety.

"Detecting and preventing the entry of contraband is critical to keeping Ontario's correctional facilities safe," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "Our government is committed to equipping our corrections staff with the modern tools and technology they need to do their job safely and ensure continued security."

Ion scanners are security tools used to detect and identify trace elements of drugs and are an added layer of security available to correctional staff to help prevent illegal substances from entering facilities. Adult correctional facilities in Ontario currently use various methods to prevent, detect, confiscate, and reduce contraband within institutions, including body scanners, hand-held and walk-through metal detectors, strip searches, and canine units.

Ion scanners will be operational in regions across Ontario at the following adult correctional facilities:

- Two scanners in the Central Region at the Maplehurst Correctional Complex and Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre.
- Two scanners in the Eastern Region at the Central East Correctional Centre and the Ottawa Carleton Detention Centre.
- Three scanners in the Northern Region at the Kenora Jail, Thunder Bay Jail and Sudbury Jail.
- One scanner in the Toronto Region at the Toronto South Detention Centre.
- Two scanners in Western Region at the Central North Correctional Centre and the South West Detention Centre.

"This announcement from the government is a testament to their dedication to frontline corrections staff," said Co-Chair of the Corrections Ministry Employee Relations Committee Chris Jackel. "This technological investment will go a long way in providing correctional staff with the added tools to detect contraband before it enters our institutions, enhancing staff, inmate and public safety even further."

Work is underway to train staff at those institutions to have all ion scanners fully operational by summer 2021. This initiative builds on the government's commitment to invest more than \$500 million over five years to transform adult correctional services in Ontario. It is also part of a broader strategy to combat contraband in adult correctional facilities.

Quick Facts

- An ion scanner was first introduced at the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre in 2018 as a pilot and has been successfully used in identifying contraband drugs including fentanyl.
- Correctional facility staff such as security teams, will complete training and ensure the scanners are being used effectively to detect and identify contraband.

COVID 19 SPECIAL



Phil's Catering • 705-528-9679

SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT FOR PICKUP

From the freezer

Loaf of Sunflower Bread	\$5.00
9" meat pie	\$11.00
4.5" meat pie	\$4.00
5" chicken pot pie	\$5.00
10" x 12" chicken pot pie	\$50.00
4" x 6" turkey pate	\$15.00
10" x 12" turkey pate	\$40.00
4" x 6" meat lasagna	\$25.00
10" x 12" meat lasagna	\$75.00
Roast Turkey Dinner	\$10.00
Roast Chicken Quarter Leg Dinner	\$10.00
Roast Chicken Quarter Breast Dinner	\$12.00
Roast Beef Dinner	\$12.00
Stuffed Chicken Breast orange ginger sauce	\$14.00
Salisbury Steak Dinner	\$10.00
750ml Chili	\$10.00
2.2 Litre Chili	\$20.00
SM Bag of ice	\$2.50
LG Bag of Ice	\$9.00

Let us know what you like to see in the near future

Rosie's Devotions
Weather Conditions



As I look out my living room window, I see snow falling again. The white stuff is coming down so heavily that I can't see the land across the bay or the sailboats that were lifted out of the water, settled onto boat stands and winterized for the colder weather. The trees in the park to the right of us, are laden with so much snow that the branches are almost touching the ground. It is a beautiful sight.

Over two years ago, things were quite different for us. I remember having to shovel the driveway, the balcony and deck whenever it snowed. Lugging the recycling bins and garbage containers towards the curb was always a chore, and became increasingly harder the older I got. I also remember the time when our air conditioner stopped working. The outside temperatures reached over thirty degrees Celsius, which brought the inside temperatures even higher, and it was at that time, I wished for cooler temperatures to bring some sort of relief. All of a sudden, it hit me: I was not happy with the amount of snow that fell, and I wasn't happy when it was too hot, just like the Israelites who grumbled against Moses as they were marching through the desert to the Promised Land.

Exodus 16:12 – I have heard the grumbings of the sons of Israel; speak to them, saying, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God." (NASB)

Today, I don't understand why we are getting so much snow in the winter months or why we have soaring temperatures in the summer, but what I do know is that God is in control, and it is for us to let go of our anxieties and trust our heavenly Father, who cares for you and me. I am thankful that I don't have to shovel snow anymore or lug garbage to the curb because now we live in an apartment building and love it.

Matthew 6:26 – Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? (NASB)

Is there something in your life that you are anxious about?

Prayer: Lord God, You have created the seasons for our benefit. Help us to see the beauty in the seasons of spring, summer, fall, and winter. Help us to trust in Your divine providence, in every season and circumstance, now and always. Amen.

I received an email from a reader who said the following:

"Rosie, you assume how others deal with grief. You profess to know what they should do to deal with it. You have no business doing either."

Dear Reader,

I am sorry that my words came across that way. I certainly do not assume how others deal with grief and I honestly do not profess to know how people deal with their individual grief. No one knows what a person is going through unless they themselves have gone or are going through a similar grief. In my life right now, and for the past nine years, I have been grieving the loss of my husband who has vascular dementia. I grieve the loss of intimacy, I grieve the loss of communication, I grieve the loss of time for myself and so on, and will continue to grieve until God, in his mercy, decides to call him home, whereas I will be going through yet another phase of grieving. But, no one understands or knows what I am going through unless they are dealing with a similar situation. Again, I apologize that I came across as a know it all, which I am not—far from it! All I know is that God's grace is holding me up and has helped me to care for my husband for over nine years; although sometimes I do get very frustrated and yell out a few choice words! Thank you for your email of your concern.

Rosemary Hagedorn, Midland
rosyhagedorn@gmail.com

Ways to Kick the Winter Blues

1. Make sure you're taking Vitamin D.

I don't know about anyone else, but I hate taking pills. But, by taking Vitamin D on a regular basis, it will actually help fight any depression as well as help keep your body healthy! Make sure to check the labels so that you're getting Vitamin D with Gamma and Alpha.

2. Up your Omega-3 intake.

By taking Omega-3 pills daily it can help maintain healthy levels of the brain chemicals dopamine and serotonin, both of which increase happiness and reduce symptoms of depression or winter blues! A good Vegan source for Omega-3 is flaxseed, hemp, and walnuts.

3. Get a Sun Lamp!

Some people swear by sun lamps, saying the full-spectrum light is similar in comparison to real sunlight, which people lack exposure to in the winter.

4. Go outside anyways!

While it may be cold and the weather may be crappy, make sure to go outside for at least 10 minutes a day. Believe it or not, even just 10 minutes of exposure to the natural sun light can make a big difference. Because the days are getting shorter, take a break at work once a day, walk around the outside of the building. Even if it is cloudy, the sunlight is going to poke through, increasing your serotonin and dopamine levels.

5. Leave the hermitage.

Resist the urge to sit and do nothing, or to block yourself off from friends. A good book, a new yoga routine, a weekend away with the girls, or even just a night with the girls (or guys), can make a world of a difference Spending time with friends is a great way for you to raise your levels and soothe your soul.

6. Warm up your green drinks and recipes.

When all you want is hot cocoa, sometimes it is hard to want salads, smoothies, and green juices. So, instead, add a bit of kick to it with ginger Or, to get more of your veggies in the colder months, add them to stews or soups. Find ways to change up your recipes, including fruit in your every day schedule. And remember, in the winter months, add a bit of cinnamon to things. It can help keep you from getting sick.

7. Sleep.

Make sure to get your full 8 hours of sleep. By creating a sleep schedule allowing for a full night of sleep, without over sleeping like a teenager, you will be well rested and less likely to be depressed.

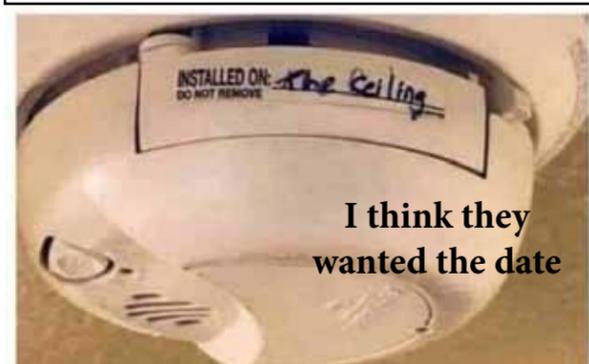
8. Don't eat junk food.

When you eat junk food, it causes you to have sadder thoughts, bad sleep schedules, and leaves you feeling less healthy. We all know when it is cold outside, we want to curl up on the couch and watch a movie and veg out on whatever we have in the house. The more unhealthy the food, the more likely it is for depression to hit.

9. Get Aerobic Exercise.

This may seem like a repeat of #4, but it's not. By allowing for 30 minutes of exercise a day, 5 days a week, you'll give your body a chance to stretch, as well as allow for more sunlight exposure, and it will get your endorphins pumping, which helps increase your serotonin and dopamine levels as well. Get some warm close, take a brisk walk, and decrease your anxiety and stress! It's a win win!

Promote Your Business!
 This ad would cost you
 • **\$45 in b&w or \$55 in colour**
 The ad will be in **20,000 papers, mailed to 18,800 homes** and can be read online at **www.springwaternews.ca**
 Send your business card or information to **springwaternews@rogers.com**
We will prepare a sample for your approval.



JOIN THE 2 DAY CHALLENGE!



NO ALCOHOL ON FEBRUARY 30 AND 31!
 CAN YOU DO IT?

CRISPR tomatoes

Point mutations turning food into a sedative? Report by Testbiotech

Japan granted approval in January 2021 for the first "CRISPR tomatoes" to be used in food production. The tomatoes contain a much higher concentration of a plant compound (GABA) compared to those derived from conventional breeding. GABA (γ -Aminobutyric acid) can diminish the transmission of specific signals in the central nervous system which may, amongst others, cause lower blood pressure. Therefore, the tomatoes will be introduced as a modern "lifestyle" product. At the same time, it is known that GABA has a multifunctional role in tomato plants: it influences, for instance, plant growth, resistance to plants pests and diseases as well as several other metabolic reactions.

The concentration of GABA is naturally enhanced in plants attacked by pest organisms. However, all attempts to achieve a permanent higher level of GABA in the plants through conventional breeding have failed. Due to the multifunctional role of GABA, it has to be assumed that the genetic intervention will affect plant metabolism on several levels. These changes also can cause unintended health effects at the stage of consumption. In addition, the plants can show unexpected reactions to environmental stress conditions, which can again have an impact on the safety of food products.

There have been previous reports on CRISPR tomatoes: In 2018, scientists succeeded in using CRISPR/Cas to change several genes at the same time in non-domesticated wild tomatoes. Six genes were cut with the result that small fruits growing on bushy plants were changed into tomatoes that look similar to the ones currently marketed. This was intended to show that the outcomes of years of conventional breeding are replicable within a very short period of time using new genetic technology. However, there are also greater changes in the concentration of compounds in these GE tomatoes. This kind of gene manipulation, i.e. changing several genes at the same time, is called 'multiplexing'. Even though no additional genes were inserted, the impact was extraordinary: the number of fruits, their size, form and compounds as well as the architecture of the plants were changed in just a few working steps and within a short period of time.

This example shows how it is possible to bring about major changes in the composition of food plants without inserting additional genes. The cultivation and consumption of the tomatoes are associated with a wide range of risks. Therefore, such genetically engineered plants need to be thoroughly investigated before any conclusions can be drawn on health and environmental risks or safety.

Discussing Local Issues Threatening Water Marks the Start of Student-Led Initiative

By: Cara Lintack

On February 3rd, 2021, the Simcoe County Environmental Youth Alliance began their Water Initiative, which focuses on local, provincial, national, and international issues threatening the safety of the water.

A watershed is an area of land that drains precipitation into a common outlet, with Simcoe County's own Lake Simcoe Watershed, spanning 3,400 square kilometres and 20 municipal borders. This local watershed is crucial to the well-being of the surrounding communities, providing safe drinking water to 7 municipalities and generating \$200 million a year for the local economy. In addition to the 450,000 residents living within the area, the watershed provides habitats for 75 different species of fish, with whitefish, yellow perch, and lake trout being popular among anglers.

Unfortunately, due to the pressure of invasive species and human activities, over 32 species within the watershed are at risk, including the red-shouldered hawk, and the Jefferson salamander.

Invasive species unnatural to the local environment can cause irreversible damage to

ecosystems and are near impossible to remove. Common carp, zebra muscles, garlic mustard, and the rusty crayfish are all species causing concern within local ecosystems.

As residents relying on this local watershed, we have a responsibility to protect it. Simple steps such as taking shorter showers, fixing leaky taps and pipes, properly disposing of toxic waste, and reducing the use of pesticides and artificial fertilizers will help to conserve watersheds and prevent future damage. To report the sighting of an invasive species, call the toll-free hotline line 1-800-563-7711, or report through the EDDMapS Ontario app.

To support the campaign and learn something new about the world of water, follow them on Instagram @sceyalliance, and contact scenvironmentalyouthalliance@gmail.com to learn more about becoming a member of SCEYA.

All human beings should try to learn before they die what they are running from, and to, and why. --James Thurber

Btk spray kills native butterflies, moths, and imperils nestlings

By Kate Harries Return of the Native

I don't know where the myth arose that there are no native butterflies or moths out and about in our area in late May and early June, and that this is a time an aerial spraying of the pesticide Btk to knock back the European Gypsy Moth (EGM) can occur without adverse effect on other caterpillars.

Because, it's said, they're not around.

But they are.

The Toronto Entomologists' Association's online records show when many familiar butterflies arrive or emerge here in Simcoe County. Al McNaughton of TEA told me if you see a butterfly or moth in the spring, it will be mating, and there will be eggs or caterpillars on its host plants. They don't waste time, he says.

Here are a few, with the dates after 10 per cent of the early sightings have been set aside, from the TEA site: Red Admiral (April 27), American Lady (May 2), Northern Azure (May 5); Silvery Blue (May 29), Common Ringlet (June 7), Eastern Tailed Blue (May 24), Pearl Crescent (May 25), Viceroy (June 14), Monarch (June 14).

EGM, as its name implies, is a non-native insect, that feeds on a very wide range of trees, with oak a particular target. Outbreaks occur every 7-10 years and last 1-3 years before the population collapses naturally due to a fungus, a virus and other predators/parasites. It's endemic - it's not going to disappear from our environment and spraying will not reduce its numbers in the following year.

Tiny Township has been hard-hit in the last two years. And despite pressure from residents, Tiny Township Council declined to engage in an aerial spraying program. The Severn Sound Environmental Association pointed out the negative impact on native caterpillars and the food web. The County of Simcoe said municipal aerial spraying is not cost-effective.

Disappointed by government inaction, the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations has facilitated an aerial spraying of private properties this year. Residents and cottagers are being invited to sign up with an air services firm, and the township has agreed to provide a waiver forgiving any drift of the spray onto public lands.

Bacillus thuringiensis is a bacterium that resides in the soil. There are various strains, some of which are used in genetic engineering of crops. Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki is the one that targets Lepidoptera (moth and butterfly) caterpillars and no other insect species. Described as "safe," it does not affect humans or any creatures other than caterpillars. It kills all species of caterpillar. It does not affect adult moths and butterflies and it does not kill on contact; it has to be ingested.

Btk gets sprayed from the air in two applications, a few days apart. The caterpillar ingests the Btk that's on its host foliage and dies within a few days. The pesticide is then supposed to degrade within 3-5 days with exposure to ultraviolet light, and no longer present a threat.

Proponents of the EGM-busting treatment say native butterflies and moths will not be affected because the spraying is targeted at the trees where the EGM is feeding. But it's clear many species are in our part of the province by the end of May. And our open woodlands are also butterfly habitat. These are not closed canopies as may be the case in other parts of Ontario where there have been major outbreaks.

How to ensure that the Btk does not drift down to the Milkweed in the clearing that is hosting the Monarch, or to the edge of the trail where vetches and clovers are consumed by the Eastern Tailed Blue, or to the nettles that support the Red Admiral?

How to avoid any other Lepidoptera that, like the European Gypsy Moth, favour the oak and may be present at the same time? The genus Quercus has been found to be

Freeze things flat and stack them, it doesn't matter whether it's soups, stews, or ground meat. The flatter and wider you can get them, the faster they'll freeze and defrost. When freezing raw meat, soups, and stews, if you have a vacuum sealer, use it! Otherwise, place foods in heavy-duty freezer bags, squeeze out all the air, lay the bag flat, and use your hands to work the contents into as flat and even a shape as possible. When freezing vegetables, cut them into pieces 1-inch or less and blanch any green vegetables. Place them on a large plate or sheet tray spaced apart from each other and freeze them solid before transferring to a plastic freezer bag and storing flat.

959 Marshall Rd
Wyebridge ON

Ph - 705-526-0563
www.doublejbfeds.ca

Just north of Mertz Side
Road on Marshall Rd.

Mon- Fri 8:30 - 5:00
Saturday 9:00 - 5:00
Sunday & Holidays
Closed



DOUBLE
JB
FEEDS

Treys
Farm Feed Service

Dairy, Beef, Poultry, Swine, Sheep
Rabbit, Equine rations and Bird seed
ORGANIC FEED AVAILABLE!



Heaslip & Son Renovation
& Handyman Services

705-361-9945

www.heaslipandson.com

the number one plant for supporting caterpillars by Doug Tallamy, professor of entomology at the University of Delaware. His research identifies 557 caterpillar species that feed on oak in the mid-Atlantic region.

What of other trees, part of our forest mix - the Willow and Poplar that also support Mourning Cloaks and Viceroy, the Cherry species that support Northern Azures?

And what of the birds? A theme in my approach to gardening is that we need to landscape for insects in order to support the food web. Flowers are a welcome and essential part of the package but insects are fundamental.

And one reason is that birds rely on one particular order of insect to feed their nestlings - Lepidoptera caterpillars that are soft and digestible and rich in protein and other nutrients. Even the birds that normally visit our feeders for seed turn in spring to caterpillars for their young, with moths a more important part of the diet than butterflies, Tallamy told me when I contacted him last week.

(Cherish your moths when you next see them. They get exhausted by lights left on at night. If you need one, make it motion-activated or use a yellow bulb).

The oft-cited Tallamy statistic is that one chickadee pair needs to forage 6,000-9,000 caterpillars to raise a brood. Multiply that by however many chickadees are in your yard, and however many other birds and you will realize how important it is to make sure you have caterpillars on the menu.

Here, from the Ontario Breeding Atlas, are the dates some familiar bird species start nests in Southern Ontario: Mourning Dove (March 15), Northern Cardinal (April 15), House Finch (April 15), Black-capped Chickadee (April 16), White-breasted Nuthatch (April 20), Downy Woodpecker (April 30), Song Sparrow (April 30), Eastern Phoebe (April 30), House Wren (May 10), Red breasted Nuthatch (May 15), Chipping Sparrow (May 15), Blue Jay (May 15), Purple Martin, Swallows (May 15), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (May 20), American Robin (May 24), Ruby throated Hummingbird (May 24), Evening Grosbeak (May 24), Warblers (14 May - May 31), Indigo Bunting (May 31).

"The end of May is peak breeding bird activity," Tallamy told me in an email. "You will not find a time when more warblers etc. are foraging for their nestlings. This is not debatable. It is also the time when most geometrid caterpillars, the Lepidoptera that fuel breeding bird food webs, are out as caterpillars. That's why the birds breed then."

I'm not about to downplay the distress Tiny residents have gone through for the past two years. Many are my friends and I've heard the tale of their trees being defoliated, some dying, caterpillars everywhere, frass raining down from trees, complete disruption of outdoors enjoyment. Is it a comfort that the population is expected to crash after next year if 2021 shapes up like the last two? That most trees will rebound, even after two or three years defoliation, if not subjected to drought or other stress? Probably not.

Is spraying a useful intervention to bring balance and sustainability to our environment? The problem is that the pesticide is not specific and its effects may be wide-ranging. We just don't know. We do know that birds, butterflies and moths are in decline. My view: that the precautionary principle should apply.

A final suggestion from Tallamy, that the weather be monitored before a decision to spray is made. "Cool, wet springs favour the outbreak of a fungus that controls gypsy moth really well... We are an El Nina year which is predicted to bring a cool, wet spring to the north east."

Kate Harries is the owner of the Return of the Native plant nursery. A longer version of this article appears at www.returnofthenative.ca.

February 15 is [Mardi Gras](#), also known as "Fat Tuesday". A little history: this annual celebration is a Christian holiday (with roots in older pagan religions) and is celebrated the day before [Ash Wednesday](#), which marks the beginning of [Lent](#) — where believers fast and sacrifice luxuries of daily life for six weeks until [Easter](#), which celebrates the resurrection of Christ.

Mardi Gras is celebrated by eating rich & fatty foods, drinking liberally, and other debauchery. No other place in North America celebrates it quite as loudly and as passionately as the city of New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA). Unfortunately, due to COVID Mardi Gras is cancelled this year, but the local residents have still gone all out in [decorating their homes](#) to stay in the festive spirit and keep the party going.

In addition to drinking in the streets, many Mardi Gras festivities also [include using cannabis](#). While there are only a handful of states in the U.S. that have legalized cannabis, there are some cities (including NOLA) that are considered to be more 'relaxed' when it comes to using cannabis in public. It's hard to believe that once-upon-a-time cannabis was considered criminal in our country, too, with activists like [Jodie Emery and her husband Marc Emery](#), the "prince" and "princess" of pot, having to 'fight the good fight' for decades. Their extensive history of civil disobedience and passion for the right to use marijuana is an inspiration. As decriminalization of marijuana has become a reality in Canada, we turn our attention now toward the decriminalization of psilocybin (magic mushrooms). Watch [Psychedelic Summit](#) — Live from Zoomer Hall — on February 25th, where we elevate the discussion around psilocybin and discuss health, business, and the road to legalization.



“Expertise in helping you decide what is right for you and your loved one”

- Finest Handcrafted Monuments
- Premiere Granite Selection
- 5th Generation Family Owned
- Showrooms Throughout Ontario

Elmvale **705-322-2732**

Midland **705-526-2924**

Head Office **1-800-461-0282**

www.SandersonMonument.ca

sanderson.midland@gmail.com

SANDERSON MONUMENT

Thank you!

Bob Storey and family would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming support we received after Marie's passing. Even during a pandemic, the community Gram loved so much found ways to show their support. Amazing. We would also like to thank Kim Birley and Lynn Stone Funeral Home for looking after our needs and carrying on a family tradition of supporting our community during difficult times.

The Miller/ Robertson family wish to thank everyone for their kind messages , cards , and prayers that was received on Ted's passing. A special thank you to the staff of Lynn Stone Funeral Home.

There may be trillions of species of virus in the world. Of them, a few hundred thousand kinds are known, and fewer than 7,000 have names.

Lynn-Stone Funeral Homes Inc.

15 Yonge St. S., Elmvale

705-322-2732

www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com



We Offer Basic Cremation Services as well as Traditional Funerals.

Agent for Sanderson Monument Co.

Obituary

Elaine Audrey Joyce (nee Roworth)



Passed away peacefully on Monday, February 15, 2021, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Elaine was the wife of Kenneth Joyce and they had been married for 69 and a half years. They were true partners in life. Their children David, Brian and Janet we all there on the day of Elaine's passing with their spouses Carol, Mary and Michael. Elaine

also has grandchildren Anne, Daniel, Chris, Jacki, Megan, Alex, Christopher and Devin as well as great-grandchildren Lane and Emmett.

Ken and Elaine moved to Oro-Medonte 35 years ago and Elaine was a participant in several social circles in the area. She loved being a member of the Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society, served time on the executive, helped organize annual garden tours and regularly baked treats to bolster regular meetings. She was a dedicated member of the Women's Institute, Craighurst Chapter, and regularly contributed to meetings with her presence and her baking. Over the years, she made many fast friends through her participation in local golf, tennis, cross-country skiing, her welcoming nature on Cathedral Pines and as a gracious and thoughtful hostess in her home. She loved gardening and the garden at her Cathedral Pines home was always admired by all.

Our family would like to thank Dr. D. Ney, Dr. D. K. Evans, and Bayshore nurses Allison and Valerie for the wonderful, thoughtful care that they provided over the past year and a half. Similarly, staff at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bayshore nursing, and Hospice Simcoe were wonderful to Elaine during her times in each institution. Peaceful Transitions, Barrie has been entrusted with arrangements. A memorial service will be planned in the future, sometime when COVID-19 restrictions are eased. Memorial donations, in memory of Elaine, can be made to Royal Victoria Hospital or Hospice Simcoe would be appreciated.

BISSETTE, David Eric - Passed away peacefully supported by his wife Arlene at the Georgian Bay General Hospital in Midland on February 12, 2021. David Bissette of Midland in his 78th year. Beloved husband of Arlene Bissette (nee Wilcox). Dear father of Chris Bissette (Esther Nagay) and Ian Bissette (Lidia). Proud grandfather of Zach, Codi, TJ, and Ainslee. Brother-in-law of Larry Robertson.

A private service will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2021, the service may be viewed on Youtube starting at 1:50. Memorial donations in David's memory may be made to the Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation or the Georgian Bay General Hospital.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com

RITCHIE, Donald "Boots"

Herbert - Passed away peacefully at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie. Don "Boots" Ritchie of Elmvale in his 81st year. Beloved husband of Anne Ritchie (nee Phillips). Dear father of Cindy Ritchie and Trevor (Michelle)



Ritchie. Proud grandpa of Alexis, Hank and Blayke. Brother of Lois (Peter) McCloskey of Barrie, Ken (Nicole) Ritchie of Windsor, Doreen (Robert) Smith of Wasaga Beach, Marilyn (late Phil) Kenny of Barrie, and Dan (Karen) Ritchie of Elmvale. Brother-in-law of Betty (Perley) Doucette, Bob (Carol) Phillips, Mary (Robert) Foster, and Cathy Dawes. Boots will be missed by his nieces, nephews, large extended family and many friends

A private family service will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. The service may be viewed on youtube starting at 1:25. Please search Youtube for: Lynn-Stone Funeral Home.

Cremation with interment Elmvale Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Elmvale Curling Club or the charity of your choice.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com



CASTON, Vern Walter - Passed away suddenly at home on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. Vern Caston of Wyevale in his 71st year. Beloved husband of Margaret Anne Caston (nee Carruthers). Dear father of Chris Caston (Christina Jackson) and Craig

(Stacey) Caston. Proud grandfather of Jacob (Elise), Spencer (Victoria), Michael (Kaitlyn), Jackson, and Aiden. Brother of Wendy Caston (late Russell), Karen McGee (Wilford), Joan Crawford (late Wally), and the late Gerald (survived by Sheila) Caston. Vern will be dearly missed by his many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held in the spring at the Wyevale Cemetery.

Memorial donations in Vern's memory may be made to the Diabetic Association, or the Canadian Cancer Society.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com

MAW, Ruthann Beatrice

- Passed away peacefully at Hospice Simcoe in Barrie on Saturday, February 13, 2021. Ruthann Maw (nee Greenlaw) of Barrie formerly of Minesing in her 81st year. Beloved wife of the late Floyd Maw. Dear mother of Bonnie



(Peter), Connie (Brian), Jim (Barb), Rosanne, and the late Paul. Loving grandmother of Shannon, Chantel, Kendra, Kristeen, Justin, Garnet and Emma. Great-grandmother of Penny Lane, Pippin, and Claire. Sister of Wally (Myrtle) Greenlaw, Marg (late Bob) Maslen, and Bob (Pat) Greenlaw. Sister-in-law of the late, Ruth (Bill) Rawn, Lorna (John) Marchildon, Betty (Gilbert) Haight, and Lois (Don) Graham.

A private family service will be held at the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home on Saturday, February 20. If you wish, you may view the service on Youtube starting at 10:50 am. A celebration of Ruthann's life will be held at a later date.

Spring interment Minesing Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice Simcoe.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com

Ontario Community Support Program Extended until 2022

This Will Ensure Seniors and People with Disabilities Have Access to Food and Medicine During COVID-19

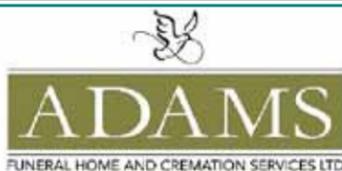
The Ontario government is extending the Ontario Community Support Program (OCSF) until 2022 to ensure that low-income seniors and people with disabilities have access to food, medicine and other essentials during COVID-19. The program was established in April 2020, and involves an innovative partnership with the Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) and its large volunteer base in communities across the province. During that period nearly 800,000 deliveries have been made.

The OCSF operates in communities across the province by matching volunteer services with seniors, people with disabilities and other vulnerable Ontarians through an online registration system. Volunteers are stepping up in significant numbers to give their time and efforts to fellow Ontarians who need support to meet the challenges of COVID-19.

During the Fall Economic Update, the government announced plans to extend the program until March, 2022, in recognition of its positive impact on vulnerable Ontarians.

Quick Facts

- To sign up for Meals on Wheels in your local community or get essentials such as medicine delivered, visit www.ontariocommunitysupport.ca.



445 St. Vincent Street
(just North of Cundles Road)
Barrie, Ontario
(705) 728-4344

Independently Family Owned and Operated

Caring Professional Advisors of At Need and Pre Need Services
Traditional Burial and Cremation Services
Fifth Generation Calling Springwater Area Home

Available 24 Hours
www.adamsfuneralhome.ca



Tompkins & Heels Monuments Ltd.

For Quality & Craftsmanship Since 1932

**Locally owned and operated
Manufacturer of unsurpassed quality granite.**

161 Essa Road Tel: 705-728-7749
Barrie ON L4N 3L2 1-800-465-9900
www.tompkinsandheels.com Fax: 705-728-6149

Mon - Fri 9 - 5 • Sat 9 - 1 pm

Evenings available by appointment

ontariocommunitysupport.ca.

- Services can also be arranged by dialing 211 or 1-877-330-3212 (toll free). TTY service is also available by dialing 1-888-340-1001.
- Seniors, people with disabilities, and others in need of assistance, including mental health supports can connect to essential services in their community by visiting www.211ontario.ca. Services are available 7 days a week in over 150 languages.

I believe in God, only I spell it Nature.

--Frank Lloyd Wright

Anxiety is the dizziness of freedom. --Soren Kierkegaard

We breathe roughly 25,000 times a day.



your community online auction centre

ESTATE OF ELFRIEDE FREESE - BARRIE - FEB. 7-11

Highlights of this estate auction features furniture, including two power lift chairs, small power tools and other shop needs, household items and many lots of books and DVD's to keep you busy these winter nights. There's also electronics, HO trains, telescopes, Wiking collectibles, a WWII gas mask, and even a cello! Lots of unique items in this catalogue. Don't miss out on this one!



UPCOMING AUCTIONS

Mrs. O's Toronto Jewellery Estate Sale, Guelph - Feb. 7-11
 Prominent Brantford Auction - Feb. 14-18
 Norma Nelson Downsizing Auction, Caledon - Feb. 21-25
 Prominent Estate Jewellery Auction #2, Guelph - Feb. 21-25
 February Multi Consignor Auction, Guelph - Feb. 21-25
 Waind Collectible & Moving Sale, Elora - Feb. 28-Mar. 4
 Sim Estate Auction, Guelph/Eramosa - Mar. 14-18
 Waterdown Family Moving Sale - TBD

Full auction listings & information at rapid-sell.ca



Celebrating 37 years in the auction industry!
 10 years experience with online auctions -
 850+ auctions, 210,000+ items sold online!

A Division of David Moore & Associates Inc. Auctions & Appraisals 705-722-6217

GRAIN FARMERS OF ONTARIO WELCOMES NEW BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE

GUELPH, ON (February 11, 2021) – Grain Farmers of Ontario, the province's largest commodity organization, representing Ontario's 28,000 barley, corn, oat, soybean, and wheat farmers, has elected its new Chair of the Board of Directors, Brendan Byrne.

Byrne is the District Director for District 1 (Essex) and has served on the Board since 2015. He farms with his father and family in Essex County.

"I'm honoured to be elected the next Chair of the Grain Farmers of Ontario Board of Directors and commit to building upon this organization's 10 years of being a dedicated, strong voice in agriculture. I look forward to advocating for the broad, varied spectrum of all of our farmer-members to ensure they have opportunities to build successful family businesses in Ontario that produce high-quality, locally grown grains that are nutritious and affordable across our province, nation and internationally," said Brendan Byrne, Chair, Grain Farmers of Ontario. "The value of grain farming, and the health of our farmer-members, to our economy and our sustainability as an industry needs to be emphatically understood by our governments, customers, and the public."

Grain Farmers of Ontario also welcomes its new Executive Committee of the Board. Along with Byrne, Jeff Harrison, director for District 12 (Durham, Northumberland, Kawartha, Peterborough, Hastings) and Scott Persall, director for District 5 (Elgin and Norfolk) will serve as Vice Chairs, and Josh Boersen, director for District 9 (Perth) is the Executive Member.

Outgoing Chair, Markus Haerle

"Over the past three years, Markus Haerle served as the Chair of Grain Farmers of Ontario and has led our Board of Directors through some incredibly difficult and volatile issues. Markus' constant commitment and his passion for championing on behalf of our farmer-members was inspiring. We wish Markus well, and are grateful for his time as chair and continued dedication to Grain Farmers of Ontario," said Crosby Devitt, CEO, Grain Farmers of Ontario

Grain Farmers of Ontario recently released a new [2021 Strategic Plan](#) that will help the organization navigate the needs of its farmer-members over the coming years.

-- Feel Calm and Focused Waking Up --

Boost your focus by adding some happy stretching! Don't just leap out of bed, but take two minutes to stretch out while imagining what a great day you're going to have! Stretching boosts your blood flow to your brain while positive thoughts encourages dopamine.

If you take a morning stroll, treat yourself to a nice, warm, cup o' joe before lacing up your gym shoes. Caffeine boosts muscle strength and flexibility so this tip is ideal for cutting stiffness and achy muscles! Feeling a little anxious when you wake up? Add some vitamin C to your water. Having a glass of water to rehydrate after a nights rest and adding vitamin C to it will help you feel 35% calmer and more relaxed all day. Vitamin C also helps relax your muscles and arteries.

Vic Braden, tennis instructor: "My theory is that if you buy an ice cream cone and make it hit your mouth, you can learn to play tennis. If you stick it on your forehead, your chances aren't as good"

Georgian offering virtual events for people who want to get to know us



Curious about Georgian College and want to find out more about your postsecondary options? We're here to help. The college is offering a series of monthly Get to Know Georgian virtual events – Tuesday, Feb. 16 from 5 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 23 from 6 to 7 p.m., and Tuesday, April 20 from 5 to 6 p.m.

Whether you're thinking about attending Georgian yourself or are a parent or supporter of a future student, this event is your opportunity to connect with our friendly recruitment team about all things Georgian.

Get to Know Georgian is a great opportunity to:

- learn about Georgian's flexible study options, including 130+ programs and opportunities for full-time, part-time and online study
- get information on the many supports available to students
- find out about the Georgian Learning Guarantee
- discover financial aid options
- and more

There will also be a Q&A session where people can ask specific questions about Georgian. Plus, those ready can learn how Georgian will cover the \$95 OCAS application fee so they can apply for FREE!

"Get to Know Georgian is the ideal opportunity to find out what Georgian College has to offer as you or your loved one explore postsecondary options," said Kristy Linklater, Associate Director, Marketing and Recruitment. "Our knowledgeable and friendly student recruitment team is here to answer all your questions, and assist you with applying to college. We can't wait to meet you virtually!"

Register online and get full details at GeorgianCollege.ca/GetToKnowGeorgian.

What causes the phenomenon of fall foliage?

Answer: As chlorophyll, the green pigment in leaves, is destroyed, other pigments create a variety of colors in fall foliage. Red and purple leaves indicate the presence of anthocyanins. Yellow results from xanthophylls, yellow to gold pigments always present in leaves but masked by chlorophyll. Orange comes from carotene and xanthophylls. Brown indicates the presence of tannins.

The brilliance of color, or lack thereof, in any given fall season is influenced by several factors, including each plant's genetic makeup. Red maples, oaks, burning bushes, and ashes produce the most stunning colors.

Cool, sunny fall days are best for foliage color, but conditions early in the growing season also have an effect. Hot, dry spring weather is usually not good, nor is excessive moisture in early spring.

It is difficult to produce a television documentary that is both incisive and probing when every twelve minutes one is interrupted by twelve dancing rabbits singing about toilet paper. --Rod Serling

Drury Well Drilling Ltd.

Licence #1851

No water? No pressure? Call us!

- Wells
- Pumps & Pressure Systems
- Well Inspections
- Repairs & Upgrades

Servicing Simcoe County since 1988

2 DRILLING RIGS

3 SERVICE TRUCKS - no waiting



Year round service and construction!

All Work Guaranteed! • 705.721.1053

Mariposa Folk Festival 2021 Canceled Due to COVID-19



Today, organizers of the storied Mariposa Folk Festival, held in Orillia, announced the cancellation of this year's festival scheduled for July 9-11, 2021, due to COVID-19.

During the past many months, Mariposa Folk Foundation has been in regular communication with the festival community, artist managers, core organizing volunteers and members of the production team. Organizers have also been following the communications of public health and other authorities.

In the spirit of Mariposa's values, including maintaining trust, it was important to us to consider the interests of everyone with a stake in Mariposa Folk Festival as we made the decision on the fate of the 2021 festival.

The 2021 festival, even at reduced capacity and/or programming, no longer seems viable under the current conditions with the number of COVID-19 cases, a continuing lockdown, the unavoidable setbacks in the rollout of vaccines and the low likelihood of receiving permits in time to do the extensive planning that is required. As a result, organizers have determined that cancellation is the only appropriate course of action.

The festival had, once again, planned to celebrate its much anticipated 60th anniversary this year with one of the strongest lineups assembled in decades.

Artistic Director, Liz Scott, stated "It was exciting building this lineup of amazing musicians and of course it's disheartening that we won't be able to gather together to watch it all unfold. But when we do get back together in July 2022, everything will seem sweeter".

In a statement issued to the media, the organization stated that its top priority is the health and safety of the audience, artists, volunteers and other supporters. It also stated that, even though the festival is still some months away, organizers felt that the announcement should be made as early as possible to allow interested parties and ticketholders maximum time to plan accordingly.

Mariposa is offering ticket purchasers a deferral for 2022 festival tickets, a full refund, or the option of donating ticket purchases back to the festival, a non-profit organization and a registered charity. Donations can also be made via Canada Helps.

The President of the Mariposa Folk Foundation and Festival Chair, Pam Carter, stated: "It's very disappointing that we'll all miss Mariposa Folk Festival again this summer, especially considering the incredible lineup. We will begin to plan for a fantastic return and celebration on July 8-10, 2022". Organizers are planning alternate activities for the later part of 2021, which will be announced once plans have been finalized and it is determined that it is safe to proceed.

Carter wishes to assure all that the organization is strong, vibrant, financially sound and ready to gather in celebration as soon as it is safe to do so. We have remained active for 61 years and will continue to be part of the arts community. She also wishes to thank all Mariposa's supporters who conveyed messages of hope and goodwill to the organizers.

FENCERIGHT
 705-428-5158
 Brad & Jenn Price

Local Fencing Company Serving Simcoe County
 Specializing in Wood, Ornamental Iron and Chain Link Fencing
 Over 25 Years Experience
 Residential, Commercial and Agriculture Fencing
 Contact us today to book your free no obligation quote
 Email - Fenceright20@gmail.com

LARRY'S APPLIANCES
• Fridges • Freezers • Stoves • Washers • Dryers • Dishwashers

198 Main Street
Wasaga Beach, ON L9Z 2L2
www.larrysappliances.com
larrysappliances@rogers.com
(705) 429-2560

Announcements

RVH Auxiliary 50/50 winner

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre's (RVH) Auxiliary recently announced the latest winner of their 50/50 draw. Anabela Schoblocher of Coldwater, who is also an RVH employee, was presented with a cheque for \$32,660. The lottery is one of the many ways the Auxiliary is raising funds to support their latest \$5 million pledge to RVH's latest fundraising campaign.



"This is so exciting! When I bought the tickets, it was my way to make a small contribution to support the hospital and the community," says Anabela. "I really

value and appreciate the sacrifice that TEAM RVH is doing every day to keep us all safe and healthy. I feel very privileged to have won and would encourage everyone to play in future draws."

With current COVID restrictions in place, the Auxiliary has pivoted to new ways of raising funds for patient care at RVH and the lottery, now about to launch for the third series has been a huge success.



"Even though the volunteers can't be there in person, the Auxiliary is excited to help RVH with this new fundraising initiative," says Lise McCourt, president, RVH Auxiliary. "We have supported patient care for the past 125 years at

RVH, and look forward to continuing our commitment for many years to come".

Tickets for the next lottery are on sale now. You can buy your tickets online at <https://www.rvhuxiliary5050.com/> (best opened in Chrome), or scan the QR code.

The grand prize draw is on February 25, but there are early bird draws as well. Special thanks to Mayes-Martin Ltd. for sponsoring these draws:

February 4 - \$500 and a \$250 gift card for Mayes-Martin Ltd. for your fuel needs and a \$250 gift card at United Lumber Home Hardware on Bayfield Street in Barrie

February 11 - \$500 and a \$250 gift card at Bill Le Boeuf Jewellers and a \$250 gift card for Canadian Tire

February 18 - \$500 and a \$250 gift card for Mayes-Martin Ltd. for your fuel needs and a \$250 Lifeline Gift Card valid at your choice of Barrie's downtown businesses

Minesing Moments w/Lorrie Norwood

lorachalli@sympatico.ca / 728-9784

A big Happy Birthday goes out to Cameron Johnston who will be celebrating his 25th birthday on February 8th, he's the "official - unofficial Mini-Fest baby" born that year.

Sadly this year Mini-fest won't be taking place due to COVID but we are sure that next year will be an amazing year to celebrate. We hope everyone can celebrate in their own way in their own homes for Mini-fest. It'd be great to see pictures of how you are celebrating with your family, send those pictures to our Minesing Community Facebook page for everyone to see.

A reminder to all who are participating in outdoor activities to do so with care and control. Watch your speed, watch out for other vehicles and do not trust that ice is safe to travel on.

This has been an extremely long year for everyone. Remember to check in with neighbours, family and friends to check on their wellbeing. A phone call, a text or an email can make a difference in someone's day and it only takes a few minutes. Be the reason someone smiles today.

To all the at home parents who are schooling their children...keep up the good work, you are doing great! It can't be easy and I can't even imagine having to do it while trying to do your own job as well. Do your best and remember, your children will still graduate. Hang in there.

Until next time, get outside, enjoy the fresh air and sunshine!

Shocking Shrimp Facts:

Shrimp are all born male, then mature into females. Without fins, shrimp don't actually swim, but when they do move, they can only go backward. Shrimp have high levels of omega-3 fatty acids and low levels of mercury. As with other seafood, shrimp is high in calcium, iodine and protein but low in food energy.

Help Wanted

Hiring - Must have experience in exterior finishes,
Windows, Doors, Siding, Soffit, Facia
Clean driving record
E-mail Steven@rollings.ca

Events

Let's rebuild the events column. COVID had shut down many of the events we had before but we are adapting. Check here for daily/weekly happenings.

As we are abiding by the lock down restrictions currently in place due to the pandemic and in the interest of public safety, Elmvale Presbyterian Church is unable to hold Let's Do Lunch Thur. Jan. 14. We hope that by February 11th things will open up again and we can safely offer you your take-out soup and sandwiches. Check the Feb. 4th edition of the paper for an announcement one way or the other. Until then, stay safe.

TiFT Talk is Free Theatre • TIFT is thrilled to announce new episodes of *In Good Company* featuring distinguished panelists offering exclusive insight on a variety of topics.

For rent (WANTED) - apt., houses, and halls

Available for rent: Senior accommodation in a comfortable home and a clean environment, providing you with peace of mind and friendly atmosphere. Located west of Barrie. Please call 705-728-0094.

Elmvale Legion Banquet Hall. 100% Accessible. Specializing in weddings, all types of parties, business functions and community service groups. We can accommodate up to 125 dinner guests. Catering is available through the branch. Excellent parking. **Call 705-322-1042 for a quotation.**

Registration Now Open for the 5th Annual Charlee's Run in Support of Soldiers'

Virtual Event Raises Awareness of Pregnancy and Infant Loss

ORILLIA, ON - Registration for the 5th Annual Charlee's Run event is now live on CharleesRun.com. Once again, the run will be taking place virtually to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Charlee's Run is an annual fundraising event named in honour of Charlee Clare Holmes, who passed away in 2011 only a few hours after birth. Her parents, Dave and Mallory Holmes, started the run as a way to end the silence surrounding pregnancy and infant loss. To date, the event has raised more than \$185,000 for paediatric and neonatal needs at Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

This year, participants are invited to run or walk along Charlee's parents and any route for any distance event organizers, after on May 8, 2021. Festivities completing their walk in will kick off at 9:45 a.m. on their daughter's memory. Facebook page

with a virtual Bubble Ceremony to celebrate the lives of all the little ones taken too soon. It will be followed by a virtual warm-up and the official event start.

The registration platform is new for 2021 and allows for more personalization from participants than in years past. It also provides an opportunity to follow along with the event's fundraising progress as funds come in. Early-bird registration pricing is in effect from now until March 14th. Children 12 and under are free to register.

Every year, more than 1,000 babies are born at Soldiers' and some of these infants need a little extra help at birth. The funds raised from Charlee's Run 2021 will support the purchase of a Panda Bedded Warmer with resuscitation system.

To register for the event or to make a donation, please visit CharleesRun.com.

About Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Foundation

The OSMH Foundation is a proud partner of Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital and the communities it serves. The Foundation fundraises to purchase medical equipment, sustain programs and assist the Hospital in maintaining its position as a leader in providing quality community-based healthcare.



KEN ARCHER PAINTING
Over 25 years experience painting & wallpapering
Call Ken 705-727-8313

Solutions created by the Rural Innovation Challenge winners may assist your business [for free]

VentureLAB and partners have sourced three (3) Ontario local startups whose solutions are available free of charge until mid-March as part of the Rural Innovation Challenge.

These services may be particularly relevant to local businesses due to the recent public health requirements. The services include:

TAKU is the easiest way for retailers to sell online and in-store with one software. Built by retailers for retailers, TAKU is designed to help traditional merchants bring their physical stores online. As the only retail software to be directly linked to Google, TAKU can even help boost store sales by getting your products to show up on search results automatically. Get your store online in a few weeks and show up when it counts - when local shoppers are searching online for what you sell. Learn more: www.takulabs.io/york-region-dms-offer

Wrmth provides the first 100% Canadian designed and manufactured outdoor heated furniture to extend the patio season. With specially selected, long life, outdoor safe, and weather resistant materials suited to the Canadian climate, Wrmth is the next and best weapon to extend outdoor entertainment seasons and fight COVID-19. Learn more: <https://wrmth.ca/>

Our Canadian on-demand delivery solution will save your business cost; while speeding up the shipping cycle. We deliver, Eh! was founded to support businesses during the pandemic and beyond. End to End digital solution for local retail and food distribution. Learn more: <https://www.delivereh.ca/>

An information session is scheduled on February 12 at 1:00pm to discuss the Community Collaboration Program, present the available solutions and answer any questions from the community. Please register to participate.

Businesses are welcome to apply by filling out this Expression of Interest by February 28, 2021. Upon receipt, the VentureLAB team will reach out and facilitate introductions.

How come longitude lines start in Greenwich, England?

Answer: The Royal Observatory Greenwich is located at the National Maritime Museum in London. The original site of the observatory was arbitrarily chosen as longitude 0 degrees in 1884. A plaque in the original structure marks the zero point from which longitude is calculated. The observatory was founded in 1675 by King Charles II to keep accurate tables of the position of the Moon for the calculation of longitude by English ships. In 1750 those tables were published as the *Astronomical Observations*, and after 1838 they were published annually. Meridian observations of the Sun, stars, and planets also were made at the observatory. Photographs of the Sun were taken daily, conditions permitting, and a continuous photographic record of sunspots was kept starting in 1873. Today the observatory is primarily a museum with a small planetarium

Disney's eight movie studios controlled 40 percent of the domestic box office in 2018.

E - Banking & Fraud Thursday, March 4 - 3 p.m.

Grab your tea and find out how to get all your banking done without stepping outside your door!

This session will also educate the consumer on spotting various fraudulent techniques and how to avoid some of the most recently reported methods. This 1 hour informative session will done via Zoom. Please call the library to register and a link will be sent to you 2 days prior to the event.

BDO Experts Kirsten & Cate will be sharing their expertise followed by a Q & A session.

SPRINGWATER LIBRARY
Springwater Public Library
12 Finlay Mill Rd
Midhurst, Ontario L9X 0N7 | 705-737-5650
www.springwater.library.on.ca



RESTORATION & CUSTOM WORK
CHIMNEY
FIREPLACE
BRICK
NATURAL STONE

ANYTHING & EVERYTHING MASONRY
705-791-0096
Siersmasonry.com

Fishing licence (Canadian residents)

How to get an Ontario fishing licence if you live in Canada.

An Ontario resident is a person whose primary residence is in Ontario and who has lived in the province for at least six consecutive months during the 12 months immediately before applying for a licence.

Ontario resident fishing licence fees.

A Canadian resident is a person whose primary residence is in any part of Canada other than Ontario and has lived in Canada for at least six consecutive months during the 12 months immediately before applying for a licence.

Canadian resident fishing licence fees.

If you are 18 and over or under 65 years old

Before you can start fishing, you will need a valid:

- Outdoors Card (a plastic identification card, valid for three calendar years), and
- a fishing licence (valid for either one or three calendar years)

A fishing licence can be for either:

- conservation (reduced catch limits)
- sport (normal catch limits)

If you are under 18 years old or 65 and older

You do not need to purchase an Outdoors Card or licence to fish. You will need to carry your government-issued identification with you, that includes your name and date of birth, at all times while fishing. Your identification acts as your licence to fish, if you belong to one of these age ranges.

If you are a veteran or active Canadian Armed Forces member

Starting January 1, 2019, veterans and active members of the Canadian Armed Forces who reside in Ontario are able to enjoy free fishing across the province as a token of recognition for their service. In place of an Outdoors Card and recreational fishing licence, veterans and active members will be required to possess and carry one of the following pieces of identification to legally fish in Ontario:

- Canadian Forces Identification Card (NDI 20);
- Record of Service Card (NDI 75); or
- Canadian Armed Forces Veteran's Service Card (NDI 75).

In accordance with other deemed licences, veterans and active members of the Canadian Armed Forces will need to follow the seasons, quotas and limits associated with a sport fishing licence.

For more information on this initiative, please contact the Natural Resources Information and Support Centre at 1-800-387-7011.

Fishing for one day only

If you plan to fish for a single day only, you do not need an Outdoors Card—but you will need a one-day sport fishing licence.

Fishing rules and limits

You must follow certain rules while fishing, including catch and possession limits. These rules determine:

- when and where you can fish
- the species, size and number of fish you can keep
- what you can use for bait and tackle
- what you can and cannot do in specific locations (Ontario is divided into 20 Fisheries Management Zones)

While fishing, you must carry your valid Outdoors Card and Licence Summary listing your valid fishing licence, unless your licence is printed on the back of your Outdoors Card.

Only one type of Outdoors Card is now issued for fishing and hunting.

Where to buy

You must buy an Outdoors Card before you can buy a fishing licence. However, you can buy a one-day sport fishing licence without an Outdoors Card.

When you buy or renew your Outdoors Card, you will get a plastic card mailed to you. This will have your fishing licence printed on the back.

Until you receive your plastic card in the mail, you can use the Licence Summary given to you at the time of purchase to immediately go fishing.

What you'll need

- first and last name
- date of birth
- mailing and residential address (including postal code)
- height and eye colour

To buy online, you will need to:

- pay with Visa or Mastercard
- save your Licence Summary in a digital format (for example, on your smartphone) or print it at home

To buy in person:



1100 Flos Road 4 West, Phelpston
 Complete Repair & Maintenance service
 Cars, Trucks & Trailers
 Motor Vehicle Inspection Station
 Clean & Modern Facility
 Quality Workmanship in Every Job

Marc Schutt • Tel: 705-322-4301
Fax: 705-322-3027
Email: twoguysautomotive@hotmail.com

First Round of COVID-19 Vaccinations Completed in All Ontario Long-Term Care Homes

Accelerated vaccination rollout continues despite supply delays

The first round of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in every long-term care home across Ontario to eligible residents who wanted one. This goal was achieved despite repeated delays and reductions of vaccine shipments. To date, more than 62,000 long-term care residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and more than 34,000 residents have received their second dose.

As the administration of second doses continues, Ontario will maintain the recommended interval of 21-27 days for residents who received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario has invested \$1.38 billion to ensure that long-term care homes have the resources they need to battle this virus. The government has also taken action to address urgent staffing shortages, including enabling the deployment of hospital staff to long-term care homes.

Quick Facts

- The province's vaccine strategy prioritizes the most vulnerable populations first, including residents of long-term care homes and high-risk retirement homes.
- As the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines continues, the Ontario government is investing an additional \$398 million during the second wave of the pandemic to reduce the risk of the virus entering long-term care homes from the community.
- Ontario has taken steps to enhance protection for long-term care homes through the use of rapid antigen tests to increase the chance of detecting the virus earlier.
- To address long-standing staffing challenges, the government has launched one of the largest recruitment and training drives in the province's history to deliver on its commitment to provide an average of four hours of daily direct care for residents.

- visit a participating ServiceOntario location
- visit a licence issuer
- To pay by phone:
- call 1-800-288-1155 to renew an Outdoors Card and three year licence

Indigenous communities

Generally, if you belong to an Indigenous community with established Aboriginal or treaty fishing rights in Ontario, you can fish without a licence when:

fishing within your traditional or treaty area taking fish for food, social or ceremonial purposes

If you are exercising fishing rights, you should be prepared to provide community identification.

If you fish outside your traditional or treaty area, you will need to have an Outdoors Card and fishing licence or permission from a First Nation to fish in their traditional territory.

Get a fishing licence.

If you have a disability

A person who has been issued an accessible parking permit under the Highway Traffic Act or a national identity card by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind may fish without an Outdoors Card or recreational fishing licence if they carry the permit or national identity card with them while they are fishing. If a black and white photocopy or printed version of the accessible parking permit is carried while fishing, the person is also required to carry a Government-issued licence, permit, certificate or identification card that indicates their name and date of birth.

A person who requires the direct assistance of another person to fish and to follow applicable laws due to a disability defined in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act may fish without an Outdoors Card or recreational fishing licence if they carry a Government-issued licence, permit, certificate or identification card that indicates their name and date of birth. The accompanying person does not require a fishing licence if they are only assisting but must have a licence if they wish to engage in fishing.

The seasons and catch and possession limits for a Sport Fishing Licence apply to all situations above.

Updated: June 14, 2020

New or Renovating? Check us out!

Red Brick Kitchens

& Bath

- Cabinets
- Countertops
- Hardware
- Vanities
- Tiles
- Faucets

54 Queen St W, Elmvale
705-515-0133

Ontario Delays March Break in an Effort to Reduce Community Transmission of COVID-19

Decision was made on the advice of public health officials Today, Stephen Lecce, Ontario's Minister of Education, issued the following statement regarding March break:

"In support of our collective efforts to keep schools safe, we are postponing March break until April 12-16, 2021. This decision was made with the best advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and public health officials, including consultations with many local Medical Officers of Health.

Many students have been learning remotely since the start of 2021. It is critical we follow public health advice to protect schools and avoid a repeat of the concerning spike in youth-related cases over the winter break, when students and staff were out of schools for a prolonged period of time. We are taking this precaution based on advice from health experts, including the province's Science Table and the Chief Medical Officer of Health, to help protect against the emerging COVID-19 variants of concern.

We appreciate the hard work of students and staff in the education sector and I want to be clear: March break is being postponed, not cancelled. To keep schools open, we must keep them free of COVID-19. The actions announced today serve to limit opportunities for congregation - while reaffirming the evidence that schools are safe for students. By continuing to follow public health advice, and by introducing additional safety measures and more testing, we are supporting our collective efforts to keep COVID-19 from entering our schools.

With respect to travel, our government's position on this is unchanged. Ontarians should refrain from travelling, particularly given the increase in new variants that pose a direct risk to our country. Please stay at home as much as possible and continue following the direction of public health officials so that we can keep schools open and protect our seniors, frontline health workers and all families.

These decisions - based on the advice of medical experts - are never easy, but they are necessary to keep Ontario families safe."

BACKGROUND

On February 2, 2021, the Ministry consulted with trustees' associations, teacher federations, education worker unions, and principal and vice-principal associations to get their valuable perspectives. Additional feedback was provided from stakeholders via written submissions.

On February 3, 2021, Ontario announced the return dates for in-person learning for all remaining Public Health Units (PHUs). As of February 16, 2021, all students across Ontario will be able to learn in-person.

To support the safe return of in-person learning, Ontario has enhanced new measures to continue to protect students and staff against COVID-19 in the classroom. These measures include:

- Increased provincewide access to targeted asymptomatic testing for students and staff;
- Mandatory masking requirement for students in Grades 1-3, and masking requirement for Grades 1-12 outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained;
- Providing 3.5 million high quality masks to schools as back-up supply for Grade 1-12 students;
- Guidance discouraging students and staff from congregating before and after school; and
- Temporary certification of eligible teacher candidates who are set to graduate in 2021 to stabilize staffing levels.

These new measures build on the more than \$1.6 billion that Ontario has provided in additional resources to protect schools against the spread of COVID-19.

In Belgium, the wealthy Dutch-speaking region in the north and the poorer French-speaking region in the south each have their own governments, political parties and cultures.