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Springwater NEWS

Edition 617 - January 20, 2022 Serving Springwater & Tiny Townships and surrounding areas

Customer # 0003684814 / Publication/Admail # 0040027838

Canadian Food Grains Bank



It has been said that a farmer must be an optimist or they wouldn't still be a farmer. This is true of a group of farmers in the Elmvalle area who continue to raise crops in support of the North Simcoe G.R.A.I.N. Project. GRAIN stands for Grain Raised Aiding International Needs and all the money raised goes to help hungry people around the world through the Canadian Food Grains Bank.

The 2021 growing season brought its challenges with a dry spring but the timely rains in July filled out the crops and we had a successful year.

Income

Personal donations \$12,650.00, Church donations \$5,211.75, Sale of Wheat \$46,827.41, Sale of Corn \$14,313.34, Corporate donation \$3,302.64

Expenses

Land Rent \$5,750.00, Fertilizer and Spray \$9,052.75

Money Raised to Relieve Hunger in 2021
\$67,502.39

A huge THANK YOU to all of our supporters. BJS Farm Supply provided all the crop care spray and Veolia Water donated three loads of fertilizer pellets. David Spring planted the wheat, Justin Jarick spread the fertilizer, Langerest Farms had land in the project and harvested the wheat, and Addis Grain trucked the wheat to market. The Kapetyn family donated one load of corn through Floridale Feed. Our treasurer Morley Minty continues to crunch the numbers and help organize. Roger Spence is our production manager who continues to plan and farm the crops including plowing, spraying and fertilizing.

We bring the sad news of the passing of our founder, coordinator and promoter of this project Sam Langman. He brought much energy and passion to this hunger relief effort through church visits, the interactive booths at the Elmvalle Fall Fair and the donuts at harvest. As the need arises, we will continue to build on the past. In it's 22 years the North Simcoe GRAIN Project has raised \$1,431,000 and with a 4:1 match by the government this number means that \$ 7,155,000 has gone to increase food security around the world.

Please contact us if you would like to contribute.
Luke Langman 705 716 7744



Lovebirds Valentine's Day Giveaway for 42 Black-capped Chickadee Nesting Boxes

This year's bird nesting box contest is twice as much fun as the 21 Eastern Bluebird boxes we gave away last year ... 42 Black-capped Chickadee boxes made and donated by John Quick and his wife Norma Costas. They're members of the Ontario Woodlot Association, and keep very busy conducting tree inventories, marking sugar bushes & woodlots & plantations for improvement logging, and restoring Apple trees to productive health. Such varied outdoor work provides lots of fresh air, exercise and ample opportunities for bird watching. Their side business is Luddite Environmental Nestbox Technologies (see ad below) started to address habitat loss and declining populations of Ontario's native birds.

Luddite Environmental Nestbox Technologies

"Old World solutions to modern problems"



Are you ...

- troubled by our declining songbirds?
- worried about Boreal Forest warming?
- anxious regarding deforestation in Central America?
- fretting over pesticide overuse?
- apprehensive of Climate Change drought?
- stressed by Great Lakes pollution?
- concerned about freshwater wastage?
- depressed regarding saltwater microplastics?
- stewing over disappearing hedgerows?
- fearful of woodlot mismanagement?
- bothered by the Cormorant population explosion?

- Buy a bird house for Wrens
- Chickadees
- Tree Swallows
- Eastern Bluebirds
- Wood Ducks
- Buffleheads
- Hooded Mergansers
- Common Goldeneyes
- American Kestrels
- Barred Owls
- Common Mergansers

We can help you ...

- offset your large environmental footprint for a greener and more diverse future
- educate your children and grandchildren about the life cycles of our native birds
- improve the wildlife habitat for birds around your house, cottage, and farm
- empower yourself, your family, and your friends with positive outdoor changes
- think globally and act locally (the best approach for making a difference)

Come on birdwatchers - put your hands together and give it up



for L.E.N.T.

quercus.jmquick@gmail.com • (705) 321-3762

L.E.N.T. boxes boast the following attributes: 3/4" White Pine construction for insulation from Summer heat, screws instead of nails, 3 coats of light grey stain to reflect sunlight, ample roofs to shield the entrance holes from rain, floor vents to draw cool air in and roof vents to let warm air out, and side-opening doors for observation & photography & clean out. Such functional nesting boxes will be used every year for decades (if re stained periodically), and provide entertainment and education for all ages.

Count the number of Chickadees in this issue and have a chance to win one of 42 Black-capped Chickadee nesting boxes.

Send your answer, your name, your address and telephone number to:

info@springwaternews.ca
Text or Call: 705-790-1993



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EDITOR’S COMMENTS

I would like to thank my advertisers for their patronage to the Springwater News. I have received very positive messages from the readers and advertiser alike. I am grateful for that. I do welcome any feedback.

I am receiving feedback that the readers and advertisers like the new fresh layout of the paper. Thank you as I have strived for that improvement. I am getting feedback from younger generations moving into our beautiful area and they like the scientific, nature content and factual aspects that are published.

I owe a big thank you to the regular contributors of this paper. I could not do this without them. THANK YOU!

I have a few new contributors such as Hey Dads!. I love his wit and his ability to be humble. I think we can all relate to him. Another new contributor is Melanie Martyn, CIPS that writes humorously on the back page with “Views From the Cottage”.

I have started a new Nature Column called “Love Nature”. I welcome any contributors for this. I have written the first one on “I Love Owls”. I picked this subject because I am healing, Grace, my Harris Hawk right now with an injury attributed to my local neighbour Great Horned Owl. I hope you enjoy the edition of the Springwater News and please send me your Letters to the Editor, an interesting article that you wrote or even some pictures of people in our community.

Correction Notice: In Edition 616 Jan. 6, 2022 incorrectly identified the unknown curler. Evidence now shows it was the late George McGinnis of Wilderness Club. No wonder he is hiding his face. Jamie puts his own hat on George in this picture.



20 21

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Count the
number of
Black-capped
chickadees




LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Phone number and address must be supplied for all letters to the editor
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.

SUPER SAMARITAN STEPHANIE
A huge THANK YOU to a young Lady who noticed my car door was open as I left Foodland, and that some of my groceries had fallen out. She not only picked up the groceries, but caught me at my next stop to make sure I got them back! What Kindness!
Bless you, From a grateful senior.




**Springwater News**
1058 Flos Road 10 East
Elmvale, ON L0L 1P0
Publisher/Editor/Owner:
Linda Belcourt
Tel: 705.790.1993
e-mail: info@springwaternews.ca
www.springwaternews.ca



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Copyrights are claimed on all original articles.
Springwater News prints 20,000 papers per edition.
18,650 are delivered by Canada Post to:
760 in the Utopia/Grenfel area L0L 1B0 and L0L 1B2
3050 in the Barrie City/Rural area
4250 in South Springwater Township
130 to the new boxes in Minesing / Anten Mills
640 in Phelpston L0L 2K0
650 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)



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**Book an appointment to get your COVID-19 Vaccination here**

COVID-19 Vaccine available for
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5-11 years - by appointment only.

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GO FORWARD



COVID-19 Vaccines Walk-ins Now Available for Children Aged Five to 11

First and second paediatric COVID-19 vaccine doses for children aged five to 11 years are now available by walk-in at health unit community vaccination clinics in Simcoe and Muskoka.

Parents and guardians who prefer to schedule an appointment may continue do so through the COVID-19 vaccination portal or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900. Additional vaccination options include appointments through the Couchiching Ontario Health Team Clinic, Barrie Family Health Team, some health care providers and family health teams, select pharmacies, the GO-VAXX Bus, and some Indigenous-led clinics.

In keeping with provincial guidance that is informed by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), children aged five to 11 years are recommended to receive the paediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Two doses of the vaccine are recommended with eight weeks between the first and second doses as this results in a stronger and more robust immune response. Optimizing the immune response of children is important for their long-term protection against COVID-19 as Omicron or future variants are likely to continue to circulate beyond the next several months. Other benefits of vaccinating children for COVID-19 include:

- A lower risk of a child becoming infected with COVID-19 and spreading it to others.
- It protects a child from getting very sick from COVID-19 and potential complications, hospitalization and death (although these risks are low, there are both short and long-term health complications from COVID-19 recorded in children).

To support parents and caregivers in making make an informed choice, information about the vaccine is available on the health unit's website, including how and where to get the vaccine, answers to frequently asked questions, and resources about making vaccination a positive experience.

Anyone who has a scheduled vaccination appointment and is unable to attend because they received their dose in another setting or has become ill, is kindly asked to cancel their appointment by logging into the COVID-19 Vaccination Portal or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.

RVH COVID-19 Outbreak Update



Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH), in collaboration with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, declares the COVID-19 outbreak in Surgery 3 over and a new outbreak in the In-centre Dialysis Clinic.

It is important to note that when an inpatient tests positive, they are moved to a unit that specializes in caring for

COVID patients. All other patients on the unit are isolated, on contact precautions, tested frequently and closely monitored for symptoms as well as caregivers tested and monitored closely. Each unit is closed to visitors and enhanced cleaning protocols are in place.

Current situation – COVID-19 positive cases related to unit outbreaks:

- RVH – IOOF
 - 24 patients
 - 15 staff
- Transitional Care Unit
 - 4 patients
 - 6 staff
- Cardiac Renal
 - 7 patients
 - 6 staff
- In-centre Dialysis Clinic
 - 2 patients
 - 2 staff

BOOST UP.

Book your booster today.

Protect yourself against COVID-19.

It's up to all of us.



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Municipal Impacts of Modified Step 2 of Roadmap to Reopen

Due to provincial direction, Springwater municipal facilities including the Township Administration Centre, the Elmvale Arena, Fire Halls and public works yards are closed to the public until further notice. Staff are available to provide assistance by phone or email. Contact details are available at springwater.ca/Contact.

The Elmvale, Midhurst and Minesing branches of the Springwater Public Library are open for curbside service only.

For more information on what's open and closed, visit: springwater.ca/COVID19

Career Opportunities

The Township is currently recruiting for the following positions:

Senior Project Engineer
Closes: January 26, 2022

Development Engineering Technologist
Closes: January 26, 2022

Support Assistant to the Infrastructure & Operational Services Division
Closes: January 26, 2022

Municipal Law Enforcement Officer / Administrative Assistant
Closes: January 28, 2022

For details, consult the job descriptions at springwater.ca/careers

Book Your COVID-19 Booster Dose Appointment

Booster dose appointments can be booked via ontario.ca/BookVaccine, by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900, or through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, select pharmacies and primary care settings. For local schedules and information, visit: smdhu.org/covid19



Outdoor Rinks

Outdoor community ice rinks are open with physical distancing measures in effect. Weather permitting, outdoor rinks are available for recreational use daily until 10:00 p.m. Help keep these volunteer-run spaces safe and fun for everyone by following the posted rules and restrictions.

Details at springwater.ca/OutdoorRinks

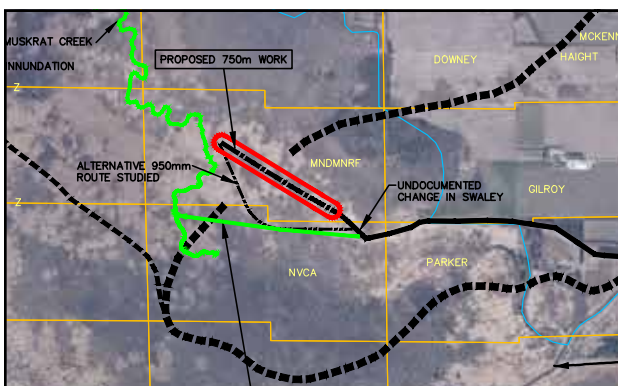
Upcoming Meetings

Committee of Adjustment
Wednesday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Midhurst CRA Annual General Meeting
Thursday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Council meetings are live streamed online at springwater.ca/live. A call-in option is also available. Board and committee meetings can be accessed via Zoom Conferencing. View the agendas for details.



Notice of Construction on the Swaley Drain

Extension works on the Swaley Drain under section 78 of the Drainage Act are now underway following all necessary approvals by the municipality and related authorities. The project involves extending the outlet of the Swaley Drain 750 metres downstream and further into the Minesing Wetlands where water levels are lower, to alleviate current drainage issues. Under the supervision of the Drainage Engineer, all works are being completed from a barge by Dan Higgs Excavating & Marine Services over the winter period.

For more information on the project, visit: springwater.ca/SwaleyDrain

Summer STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

The Township has a variety of summer employment opportunities for students available and upcoming in the following departments:

- Roads
- Recreation, Parks & Facilities
- Building Services
- By-law Enforcement
- People and Talent
- Day Camp

Applications will be accepted until Monday, February 7, 2022. For details, visit: springwater.ca/Careers

Bid Opportunity

The Township is currently accepting bids for:

One Fire Service Full-Sized SSV - Special Utility Vehicle (2022-01-FES)
Closes: January 27, 2022

For details and to submit a bid, visit: springwater.bidsandtenders.ca

Interim Tax Billing

The 2022 Interim Tax Bills will be mailed in late January. Installment due dates will be in mid-February and mid-April 2022.

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.

Water & Wastewater Billing

Residential water meters will be read at the end of January by the Township's third-party contractor, Wamco Waterworks. Bills will be mailed at the beginning of February with a due date at the end of February.

Show Your Love for Local

- Buy local and visit online shops
- Follow capacity guidelines
- Take advantage of curbside pick-up
- Order takeout
- Leave a positive review
- Spread the word
- Purchase gift cards for future use



Mayor Don's Update



Swaley Drain Update

I am pleased to report that after an extensive consultation and approval process, extension works on the Swaley Drain have now commenced. The Township received the NVCA permit just prior to the holidays, which was the last hurdle in the finalization of this project getting started. The work involves extending the Swaley Drain 750 metres downstream and further into the Minesing Wetlands where wetland water levels are lower. Though two possible routes were proposed by the Drainage Engineer, the 750-metre route was chosen because it follows an existing channel and will therefore minimize wetland disturbance. Dan Higgs Excavating & Marine Services has been contracted to complete the work, which will be done from a barge over the winter 2022 period. The project is estimated to cost a total of \$357,000, with \$127,000 paid by Springwater, \$35,000 assessed to the Province, \$27,000 to Simcoe County and \$165,000 to the resident landowners (averaging a net cost of \$17 to \$25 per acre, after the consideration of a grant provided by the Township). Included in the above cost are agreed upon environmental enhancements, a 5-year monitoring program of the work, and “brushing” of the Downey Drain by the Drainage Superintendent to be completed as a separate project.

Hasty Tract Update

A drive through the intersection of Snow Valley Road and HWY 26 is looking very different these days given the ongoing tree clearing and grubbing work at the Hasty Tract property. These site preparations are part of Phase 1 of the Township’s Community Hub project, which includes the construction of a new Fire Station 2 and Simcoe County EMS post. At the end of last year, Council awarded Phase 1 of the new Fire Station 2 design to Masri O Inc. at a cost of \$193,008.19. The Phase 1 design works include geotechnical and hydrological investigations, preliminary designs and tendering, all being carried out pursuant to environmental rules and regulations. Staff and Council may revisit the award of Phase 2 at a later date, which would include contract administration and field review during the Design-Build and construction phases.

Concurrent to Phase 1 of the Community Hub project, Phase 2 development has also seen some recent progress. At our last Council Meeting on January 19, the Community Hub Master Plan contract was awarded to Weston Consulting in the amount of \$183,002.64. As part of this Master Plan, the consultant will be responsible for public consultation, which will occur shortly, preparing a long-term concept plan for the property, site servicing, cost projections and design criteria for future facility development. We look forward to working with them to progress our new Community Hub, which has been many years in the making.

Cart Exchanges

The County of Simcoe is introducing a new cart request program that will allow residents and businesses to exchange their garbage and/or recycling carts for smaller sizes. Cart sizes available for selection include:

- Recycling – 360 L (default size), 240 L, 120 L
- Garbage – 240 L (default size), 120 L
- Organics – 120 L only

Residents and businesses will be able to submit their cart exchange requests starting January 17, 2022. To submit a request, visit carts.simcoe.ca and go to the ‘Cart Exchange’ section. This page provides all the relevant information about swapping carts as well as a link to an online portal where you can make your request. For those without internet access, requests can be made through the County’s Contact Centre at 1-800-263-3199.

If you are considering swapping your carts, please keep in mind the following:

- Requests can only be made by home/property-owners. Renters should contact their landlords or property managers for assistance.
- The first exchange for each eligible County household is free until July 30, 2022.
- For any subsequent exchanges (maximum once annually) or exchange requests made after July 30, 2022, there is an administration fee of \$50 per cart, unless you are a new homeowner.
- Exchange deliveries will commence in early March and may take several weeks to complete.
- You will be notified prior to delivery to have your current EMPTY cart(s) at roadside for the exchange to occur.
- Please carefully select the best size for your household. If smaller carts are selected and the location has consistent overflow of materials or overstuffed carts, the location will be required to revert to a larger size cart and the \$50 per cart administration fee will be applied. Overflow garbage must have a \$3 tag affixed.

New Ontario Business Support Programs

The Ontario government has announced new supports for businesses most impact by the public health measures imposed in response to the Omicron variant, including:

1. **Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant** - focuses on small businesses that are subject to closure under the modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen. The grant is to provide eligible small businesses with a grant payment in the amount of \$10,000.
2. **Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program** – provides eligible businesses that are required to close or reduce capacity with rebate payments for a portion of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to these measures.
3. **Improving Cash Flows for Ontario Businesses** - provides additional support to help improve cash flows for Ontario businesses by providing a six-month interest and penalty-free period to make

payments for most provincially administered taxes. The six-month period will begin January 1, 2022 and end July 1, 2022.

For additional information on the programs, please visit ontario.ca or call 1-866-668-8297.

Central Shelter Access Intake Line

Anyone in need of shelter or warmth can contact the Central Shelter Access Intake Line at 705-828-3795. Shelter is available in the City of Barrie and throughout the region.

Centralized Shelter Access is a support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness who require immediate emergency shelter. This winter pilot program includes coordinated shelter support and placement, with family shelters and shelters for single female identified and single men identified, gender fluid individuals and youth 16 years and older. Those who do not have access to a phone can connect with the Busby Centre's Detour Street Outreach Team or the sheltering agencies directly.

Springwater Restaurant Directory

Show your support for our local Springwater restaurants who have been required to shut down their in-person dining services until January 26 at the earliest. Many are offering take-out and/or contact-less delivery options in an effort to continue operating under the latest restrictions. The Township has put together a directory of the local offerings, which you can find online at springwater.ca/COVID19.

Outdoor Rinks

As of the writing of this update, outdoor rinks are permitted to be open under the modified Step Two of Ontario’s Roadmap to Reopen. We are grateful to our dedicated community volunteers who are working hard to build and maintain the rinks, so we all have a way of staying active this winter. Most locations are now open, with the exception of a few that are still under construction. Find out more by visiting springwater.ca/OutdoorRinks. Residents are asked to follow all public health recommendations and maintain a distance of 6 feet from others while using the rinks. Wearing a mask on the ice is strongly recommended. Please also respect the hours posted for public skating and do not play shinny/hockey during these times. Your support and consideration are appreciated.

Municipal Service Impacts of Modified Step Two

As a result of the framework under the Province’s modified Step Two, all Township facilities including the Township Administration Centre, the Elmvale Community Arena, Fire Halls and public works yards are closed to the public until further notice. Staff are available to assist residents by phone or email. Contact information is available at springwater.ca/Contact. The Elmvale, Midhurst and Minesing branches of the Springwater Public Library are open for curbside service only. For more information on what’s open and closed, visit springwater.ca/COVID19.

Enjoy winter and stay safe.

Welcoming Wyevale

By RuthAnn Caston
Happy Birthday wishes go out to Rick Hales, Garrett Wakelin, Sara Archer, George Stott JR., Lindsey Knuff, Kenneth Stott, Sheila Webb, Joan Price, Tracey Blow, Marg Hamelin, Cameron Archer, Kirk Hastings, Rob Wakelin, Betty Hall and Isabel Moreau.

Sympathy is goes out to the Eccles Family on the passing of Steve’s Mother.

Sympathy goes out to June Ritchie on the passing of her husband Herb.

Bible study starting January 17, every week on Monday until May 2, 2022.

We hope the children are all happy to get into school, to see their teachers and friends again.

Anyone with news items for the paper, please call me and leave a message at 705-527-5274.



What they look like: The Black-capped Chickadee is a small, short-billed songbird with a black cap and throat. The cheeks are white and the underparts are light brown. Wings and tail dark grayish. The upper wing feathers have white edging. The female looks exactly like the male. Size: 12-15 cm (5-6 in). Wingspan: 16-21 cm (6-8 in).

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ACHIEVE YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS IN 2022

At the start of every year, we set goals that we would like to achieve, and financial goals are no different. Too often these goals are usually unsuccessful. To be successful, use 5 basic rules to help achieve your goals for 2022.

1. **Specific** (simple, sensible, significant). Be specific on what you would like to achieve and why it is important.
2. **Measurable** (meaningful, motivating). Measurable goals will help you stay on track and stay motivated.
3. **Achievable** (agreed, attainable). Achievable goal also needs to be realistic and attainable to be successful.
4. **Relevant** (reasonable, realistic, eand resourced, results-based). Relevant goal ensures that your goal matters to you
5. **Time bound** (time-based, time limited, time/cost limited, timely, time-sensitive). Time bound goal needs a target date, so that you have a deadline.

THE SPIRITUAL SIDE

Annie's Journal



Written by Annie Warner Donnelly

The photo on the front cover of the December, 2021, issue of Maclean's magazine shows a baby being lifted over an airport wall. Shannon Gormley, author of the Maclean's article wrote:

Millions of people would witness a video of an anonymous baby being lifted over a wall ... But only one viewer of the viral video, Farhan's grandmother watching in Afghanistan, immediately knew the identity of its subject, a baby lifted like a backpack over a blast wall. Where the world saw a victim of harrowing conflict, she saw her grandson ...

Shannon explained: They don't know who sees them first ... "They have a baby!" (It's) A call from the crowd. The throng outside the wall at the Kabul Airport has trampled some of its members into dirt and shoved others into ditches, but the presence of an infant breaks the fever of their own panic. More shouts.

Take the baby ...

The crowd knows that those chosen by American soldiers are often waving American papers. This family doesn't have American Papers. Still, the beseeching shouts grow louder, in English. "Take the baby!"

Then the nursing pillow he was resting on is empty. It falls to the ground. The four-month-old baby is gone. The crowd has chosen this baby for rescue, and the Americans have taken him from the crowd into the complex. His parents are left behind, and their baby is gone.

Shannon Gormley's story about baby Farhan and his family deserves to be read. Farhan's story brings to life the realities affecting children around the world, and the God who loves them.

Surely it was God who protected little Farhan as the American soldier lifted him by his tiny arm, his diaper ripped in the jostling of the crowd. Surely it was God who enabled him to be re-united with his parents. Surely it was God who made it possible for them to be granted permanent residency in Canada. Surely, His hand was on them during their frightening

ordeal.

If you turn to page 51 of the December issue of Maclean's magazine, you'll see a picture of this brave and beautiful family. You can read their story beginning on page 42. By the way, Farhan means happy, rejoicing, joyful, cheerful, just as a baby should be.

Let's pray that we can be like the tall stranger who lifted Farhan up to the soldier who pulled the baby to safety. We don't know if that tall man made it into the airport and onto a plane to somewhere safe, but he made sure that baby had a chance. The soldiers who allowed Farhan's parents into the airport made sure that baby had a chance.

Our prayers can make sure that someone, somewhere has a chance. We don't need to know them to pray for them. We can ask God to keep that tall man and his family safe wherever they are.

And let's ask God how we can help Him as He makes sure that everyone, everywhere has a chance.

Amen.

Simcoe County to Participate in Provincial Point-in-Time Homelessness Count

In January 2022, Simcoe County will take part in a coordinated effort to measure homelessness across Ontario. The homelessness enumeration project is delivered locally in partnership between the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness (SCATEH) and the County of Simcoe.

Over three days, service providers will count and survey individuals who are staying in shelters, short-term housing, temporary accommodations, and sleeping rough (without shelter). The Point-in-Time Homelessness Count (PiT Count) will provide a "snapshot" of homelessness in Simcoe County.

The survey will indicate the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in our community. Other forms of homelessness, such as people staying temporarily with friends, are difficult to count in a PiT Count.

The PiT Count will improve the community's understanding of the needs and circumstances of the people who are affected by homelessness in the region. The survey will provide key data on gender, age, ethnicity, veteran status, and more.

Results from the PiT Count will be made publically available at www.simcoe.ca/enumeration and www.scateh.com/enumeration. The County of Simcoe and SCATEH will use the results of the PiT Count to improve local response to homelessness. In the future, successive counts will allow the County of Simcoe and SCATEH to measure progress towards the shared goal of ending homelessness in Simcoe County.

Quotes

The Point-in-Time Homelessness Count goes a long way to gauging where we are in our communities as we continue to build additional affordable rental units across the County. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of 2,685 new units between 2014-2024 under Our Community 10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy. This is an important tool to ensure that we are providing the vital support required where it is needed the most. – Warden George Cornell, County of Simcoe

Through this Point in Time Count, we are able to collect key data that helps us better understand those experiencing homelessness. This information moves us one step closer to finding solutions together for those who need one. – Jen Fleury, Chair, Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness (SCATEH)

About homelessness enumerations in the County of Simcoe

Additional information about homelessness enumerations in Simcoe County is available at: www.simcoe.ca/enumeration and www.scateh.com/enumeration

About the County of Simcoe

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.

GIVING LOCALLY CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES AT HCF

Huron Community Foundation (HCF) launched the GIVING LOCALLY campaign in June, 2021 through a Community Grant from the Town of Midland. The campaign highlighted the importance of supporting our local charities by GIVING LOCALLY.

As the year came to a close, indications were that North Simcoe residents did exactly that. Online donations to Huron Community Foundation alone totalled almost half a million dollars in 2021. This show of generosity enables HCF to continue to provide financial support to the local charities and organizations that provide services to our communities.

"We would like to thank everyone who made a donation to a local North Simcoe charity last year. Every dollar goes a long way in helping them continue to do the great work that they do, even under less than ideal circumstances" said Scott Warnock, Executive Director, Huron Community Foundation.

"With the generous financial support from the Town of Midland and their Community Grant, HCF has been able to spearhead our Giving Locally campaign and spread the word about the importance of GIVING LOCALLY", commented Don McCready, HCF President.

Huron Community Foundation believes that a thriving charity sector means a thriving community for all. For more information on how you can help now and in the future visit www.huroniacf.com or call 705-427-0339.

Scott Warnock, Executive Director, Huron Community Foundation, ScottW@HuronCF.com



GBGH welcomes New Year's baby

After much anticipation and eight days into the New Year, Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH) welcomed the first baby of the year. Baby Beau was born on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., weighing in at 7 pounds and 10 ounces. Proud parents Kendra Kennedy and David Taylor reside in Tiny Township.

From April 2020 to March 2021, 133 babies were born at GBGH.



Call: suggests name "chick-a-dee-dee."

County of Simcoe Opens Skate Trail to the Public

After a successful soft launch to the season, the County of Simcoe skate trail has officially opened for the 2022 season. It remains a popular winter destination for residents across the region with over one kilometre of peaceful solitude through Simcoe County forests. With current provincial COVID-19 protocols in place and to ensure physical distancing is able to occur, skaters are limited to 100 at one time, up to a limit of two hours.

2022 Hours of Operation

The skate trail will be open on the following days, weather permitting:

Tuesdays: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Thursdays: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Fridays: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Saturdays: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 – 4 p.m.
Sundays: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 – 4 p.m.

Tickets

Tickets may be purchased online at museum.simcoe.ca on the same day as the reservation. Booking in advance is not available to ensure trail conditions remain optimal throughout the season.

In order to create a safe and fun environment, we are limiting skate trail numbers for each session

to 100 people and asking skaters to wear face coverings while using the trail. Skaters will also be required to follow a one way direction and maintain a 3 metre distance when on the trail. As this is an outdoor activity with a masking requirement, proof of vaccination is not required. Enhanced cleaning of all outdoor touch surfaces (picnic tables, railings, etc.) will be completed between each skating session. Warming stations and indoor change areas will not be available for use this year.

About the Simcoe County Museum

Take the Infinite Journey with the Simcoe County Museum, a cultural exploration of our historical past and exciting future. The Simcoe County Museum is owned and operated by the County of Simcoe and offers year round exhibits, events and educational programs for visitors of every age. Visit our website at museum.simcoe.ca for further details.

About the County of Simcoe

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.



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Ontario Launches Virtual 2022 Budget Consultations

Today, Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy announced the launch of 2022 Budget consultations and encouraged Ontarians to share their ideas for making Ontario the best place to build a career, a family and a future.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the government engaged people and businesses in a series of consultations to help inform the Province's ongoing response to fight this virus. This is a critical time for the government to protect Ontario's progress against COVID-19 and, more specifically, the newer threat posed by Omicron. The government will continue its conversations with the people of this province by asking them what they want to see in the 2022 Budget.

"It is clear that while the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet, our government will continue to make decisions that will lay a strong, stable fiscal foundation that Ontario workers, families and entrepreneurs can build on," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "We are looking for ideas that will help us continue to build Ontario's long-term prosperity and create jobs, while supporting workers and communities in every corner of our province."

People and organizations are welcome to share their ideas via an online survey, emailed or mailed submissions to the Ministry of Finance, or through a series of virtual consultations across the province that begin Monday, January 17.

Visit Ontario.ca/budgetconsultations to learn how to submit your ideas by email, mail, or by filling out a survey. The 2022 Budget consultations will close on February 11, 2022.

The 2022 Budget will be delivered by March 31, 2022.

Quick Facts

People can participate in this year's Budget consultations by:

- Sharing ideas online by participating in the online survey
- Emailing written submissions to submissions@ontario.ca
- Mailing submissions to the Minister of Finance
- Attending a virtual consultation session

Additional Resources

Learn more about the 2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario. Visit Ontario's website to learn more about how the province continues to protect people from COVID-19.



Behavior: The Black-Capped Chickadee hides seeds and other food items for later recovery during colder weather. Each item is placed in a different spot and a bird can remember the hiding places a month after caching the food.



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Springwater Township Public Library is now Fine Free!

After almost two years of not charging fines for late materials, Springwater Township Public Library is making the change permanent. There will be no late fees for materials returned past the due date. Fees will still be charged for material that is lost or damaged. Borrowers are responsible for returning materials before or on the due date, so they are available for other patrons. Previously accrued late fees have been deleted from library accounts.

Late fees for materials block access to those who need the library the most, which goes against Springwater Township Public Library Board's mission of providing equitable service to all. Springwater Library is joining the many libraries across Simcoe County and Canada who have stopped charging late fines. The revenue brought in by late fees was less than 1% of the entire budget, and in 2021 was made up with fundraising. No late fees allow staff to provide information and materials to patrons instead of policing fees, therefore giving better customer service to all.

Some library patrons have been worried about late fees in the past which caused anxiety and kept people from checking-out materials. "We as a library endeavour to remove any barriers that would prohibit us from serving all people. I have seen even the smallest fine cause people to cease using our resources. What a wonderful way to serve our community in these times, to ease stress, bring joy, and to show belief in the good intentions of our patrons," says Kathy Cook of the Midhurst Branch. Springwater Township Public Library is excited to remove barriers to access for our community.

Please contact for more information:

Jodie Player Delgado,
CEO Springwater Public Library
(705) 220-2496 Jodie.delgado@springwater.ca

TIPS FOR HOUSEHOLD PLANTS

Using wooden matchsticks is a great way to make



your houseplant look healthy again. Take the matches and put them in the soil tip down, around the plant's roots, will help the plant to produce healthier leaves. The reason is in the head of the matches,

more specifically what they are made of. The phosphorus and sulphur will get rid of bugs safely and reliably. If your plants aren't getting enough light, the plant will not flower, it will show little new growth or spindly (leggy) growth, or it will lose its lower leaves. But if the edges of the plant's leaves are scorched, or bleached out or appear dull, then the plant is getting too much light. Believe it or not, more houseplants die from over watering than from anything else. Most houseplants can not tolerate soil that is always wet. If a plant sits in wet soil for too long, it can develop root rot and die. One interesting way to get rid of bugs in houseplants, push a clove of garlic into the plant's soil. If the garlic sprouts and grows, just cut it back. If your houseplants' leaves are dusty, gently wipe them down with a wet paper towel and let them breathe.




Elmvalle Branch: 705 322-1482
Midhurst Branch: 705 737-5650
Minesing Branch: 705 722-6440
www.springwaterlibrary.on.ca
information, branch updates and our virtual programs. Programs and Videos on Facebook and YouTube (search Springwater Library)

All kits/supplies and programs offered below are FREE for you to enjoy!

Curbside Kits

Highlighted in the picture above are some of the awesome kits we now have available to check with games such as Spike Ball, Ring Toss and Laser Tag. We've also got card games, a Karaoke machine, Telescopes, Snowshoes, Trekking poles, an acoustic guitar and more!

Lego Building Challenge with a PRIZE!

Follow along and build with staff member Amanda, take a quick picture and email it to the library to win a Lego figurine!! The Lego video this month is Squidward a character from the SpongeBob series!

Creative Seniors: Cake Decorating & Chocolate Making

Join award-winning chef Dimu Perera of Andro Cakes and learn decorating techniques for your sweets on Monday January 24, 1 pm, then register for the second event with Chef Andro on the fine art of chocolate making Monday February 7, 1 pm.

Family Literacy Day Kits

These kits are perfect for families of all ages. Inside you will find fun games and information on literacy. Enjoy a bag of popcorn to eat while watching a movie with your family (yep! you can make movie watching full of literacy).

No Sew Snowman

Got socks? We'll provide everything else you'll need to make a cute no sew sock snowman! These take home and make kits are available at the library starting Friday January 28 while supplies last.

Family Winter Challenge

From star gazing to living room slumber parties, our January Family Winter Challenge will have you enjoying various activities all month! Every family that completes and hands in their challenge sheet by January 31 will win a FREE glow stick per child!

Friends of the Library

We are hosting an open virtual meeting on Monday, February 7 at 1:30 pm or Wednesday, February 9 at 7:00 pm to learn more about the Friends of Springwater Public Library. Register at your library branch or email Jodie.delgado@springwater.ca for the Zoom link




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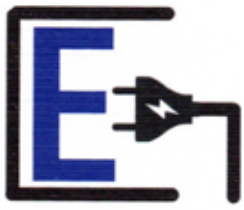
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705-728-2596**Love Nature****I Love Owls.***By Linda Belcourt*

Many people are fascinated by owls. They are majestic, mysterious, and quite cute. Owls are in almost every culture as far back as we know. They are in art, myths, and stories. They are used in advertising, on castle walls and in churches. There is a Greek coin dating back to 400 B.C.E. with an owl on it. They are very cool and have some great attributes that make them fascinating.

They fly silently because they have soft edges to their feathers. They can catch their unsuspecting prey by flying silently at night. Their night vision and incredible hearing give them a great advantage. Owls hunt mostly by their keen sense of hearing. They

**GREAT HORNED OWL**

can land accurately on a mouse through deep snow and do not require to see the mouse. When you observe an owl, it will move its head from side to side. They are triangulating, very accurately, the distance and location of a focused noise they hear.

The turfs you see on the top of the head of an owl are not ears. These tufts act more like eyebrows. The ears are found at the side of the head. They have a facial disc that concentrates the sound to the edge of the disk much like a satellite dish. The ear is located where the facial disk meets the side feathers. If you spread the feathers back a little here, you can see that the ears look a lot like ours. I do not recommend that you do this. Leave this one to the professionals. One ear is lower than the other to help in triangulation of sound.

The Great Horned Owl can take prey larger than themselves. It will hunt for mammals and birds but will also eat rodents, and frogs.

Their piercing eyes coloured, light yellow, give owls that majestic appeal. Eyes that are light coloured like yellow generally can see better in the dark than dark coloured eyes. Owls (and most hawks) can rotate their head almost 360 degrees. They need this ability to turn their head because their eyes do not roll around like us humans. Our eyes are round. Owls' eyes are oblong and don't rotate. Their eyes almost

fill their skull and are very large. The Barred Owl appears larger than the Great Horned Owl but the body is actually smaller with larger feathers. Their facial disk is larger than the Great Horned.

The Barred Owl call is known by the hooting "Who

**BARRED OWL**

Cooks for you?" The Great Horned has a loud distinctive drawn-out Hoot than is sort of husky. The Barred Owl is known for returning your call if you Hoot to it. We have many Great Horn and Barred Owls in our area.

Many people don't realise that Great Horn Owls and Barred

Owls are nesting right now.

"Males generally find a territory by December and a nesting site by January. Despite the cold, eggs are laid at the end of January through February, as this gives the large bird's chicks enough time to develop before spring arrives." Tom Warren. "Get to Know the Habits of Barred and Great Horned Owl!" Old Farmers Almanac. Almanac.com/nesting-season-owls.

I love Owls but keep in mind that when owls are nesting, they are very territorial. If an owl swoops down near you, they're just focused on mating and nesting—and will chase away intruders while hooting loudly. They are hunting aggressively and will take all opportunities to take any available prey at this time of year. I recommend supervising your smaller pet's activities at this time of year. They need to feed their young night and day. If you are walking in the bush and an owl swoops down at you then take the cue and leave their nesting area immediately. It is illegal to capture any native species including owls so love them from a distance, shoot only with your camera.

Linda Belcourt has been a licensed Falconer for fifteen years and has handled permitted owls such as Barn Owls, Snowy Owl, Great Horned Owl and Eurasian Eagle-Owls. Her experience at Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre inspired her love for nature.

Tourism Simcoe County Tourism Service Delivery to the Heart of Georgian Bay

The Economic Development Corporation of North Simcoe (EDCNS), comprised of the communities of Midland, Penetanguishene, Tay and Tiny, was formed in 2014 with four strategic objectives for economic development in North Simcoe: Agriculture, Advanced manufacturing, Healthcare and Tourism. The Heart of Georgian Bay (HGB) is a Destination Marketing Organization mandated by EDCNS to promote these municipalities and increase visitation to the area.

In 2021, the EDCNS analyzed the productivity and efficiencies of the HGB and the decision was made that it would be far more effective to have Tourism Simcoe County (TSC) deliver tourism services for the region, rather than the EDCNS. TSC is also known as Experience Simcoe County, and is a service group within Service Simcoe. TSC continues to serve a growing role of supporting tourism operators and partners, while increasing efforts to grow tourism visits with direct operator support, visitor marketing, experience and product development, and media relations.

On January 11, 2022, Council voted to enter into a Service Delivery Agreement to deliver on an outline and plan for Tourism Simcoe County to provide Tourism destination marketing and management services to the Heart of Georgian Bay.

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Photo: Lion President, Jim Elliot presenting Melvin Jones Award to Lion Fred Eros.

Submitted by Jenn Rebidoux

The Melvin Jones Fellowship is the backbone of our Foundation. It's recognition of a commitment to humanitarian work. (It is not an award in the tradition of Lions awards presented for specific accomplishments.) The fellowship is an honour given to individuals who contribute the equivalent of US\$1000 to LCIF, Lions Club International Foundation, and persons for whom such donations are made by others.

Recently (Elmvale Lions Club) made a donation to LCIF to help those effected by the flooding and landslides in BC. This donation was made in the honour of Lion Fred Eros.

The fellowship is the foundation's highest honour and represents humanitarian qualities such as generosity, compassion, and concern for the less fortunate.

No better way to commemorate the birthday of the original Lion, Melvin Jones who founded Lions Club international over 100 years ago. Today Lion President Jim Elliott presented Lion Fred Eros with this fellowship.

Congratulations Lion Fred for receiving this well deserved honour, thank you for your commitment to serve others.



HEY DADS!

So Christmas is over, the gifts have been bought and the Visa bill is on the way. Apparently, the start of the new year is depressing for a lot of Canadians. The weather is colder, the days are shorter and the credit card balances are higher. I learned a little trick a few years ago that made our post-Christmas life much more enjoyable. Pay off debt.

Dave Ramsey, an American radio talk-show host, puts it this way: Debt is dumb. I agree with him. I used to have a lot of it. I read a few of Dave's financial books and began to take his advice to heart as I thought about my debt. He uses financial baby steps to coach people into living debt-free. The first baby step is to save \$1,000 for an emergency. About 10 years ago we took the first step and saved \$1,000 for an emergency fund. It's amazing how many emergencies that will help with. New bearings in the car, new car seat for baby number 5, new oven if the old one has molten Lego in it or new shoes for mom. Maybe that last one isn't quite an emergency. But really, \$1,000 cash made it so we didn't need to pull out the Visa to pay for emergencies when they came up.

The next baby step is to start paying off debts, starting with the smallest debt and working your way up to the biggest one. It's called the debt snowball and the ball gets smaller and smaller as you pay it off. We had a few credit cards and some other debts that we began to pay down. Around this time we found out we were going to have twins so our 8-passenger van was going to be too small. We wanted to pay cash for our next van so we drove around in 2 vehicles until we could save enough for the big van.

We'd need to upgrade to the full-size A-team van. A 12 or 15 passenger van that turns soccer moms green

with envy. Or not. We began to save little by little so that we could pay cash for our fashionable full-size van. After a couple years we were close to having what we needed to buy the van. Coincidentally it was about the same amount we needed to pay off the rest of our debts outside our mortgage. After some "cheerful", "chipper" and "marriage-enhancing" debates with my patient and wise wife we decided to take all the money we had saved for the van and use it to pay off the rest of our debts. We then began our saving again. Although now the savings seemed to grow faster as our debt payments were completely gone. That was a relief to us for sure.

After another year we were again able to save enough cold hard cash for a monster van. I then told the kids the way you should pay for a vehicle:



Get a briefcase. Fill it up with cash. Walk into the dealership and buy your vehicle. And that's exactly what we did. In hindsight we should have worn cool suits and sunglasses. Maybe next time. Hopefully the kids remember the lesson as we sat in the dealership while they counted so many five, ten and twenty-dollar bills. Life lessons!

Dads, let's have fun with our kids but let's also teach them about things. Time flies! Money flies! So pay off your debt as fast as you can and make every moment (and dollar) count! It feels so good!

Jason Weening drives around Springwater in a giant van full of 9 kids and a wise wife. There's even 1 extra seat if you need a ride sometime. To read more d-adventures check out heydads.ca

There Goes a Landmark, Osbourne Beach Store, Balm Beach



Photos: (top left) Osbourne Store just before demolition;

(left) Store half way down; **(Top right)** There it goes, only our memories remain.

Email: info@springwaternews.ca any photos of this store throughout the years or drop it off for copying.

It is so sad to see an icon of our lives being destroyed. So many of us remember this store. It was filled with beach toys, beach towels and inflatable floating toys of all sorts. It was a joy to go to this store for a treat. Many locals would use this store as a reference for directions. It was easy to meet up at Osborne's before finding a good stop at the beach for the day. We can wonder what will be happening with this spot next. Please report any updates to the Springwater News.



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James (Jim) Allen Ford



Born November 4th, 1945,
passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones
on Saturday January 1st, 2022

Tribute to Jim Ford

Jim was a kind soul and smart man. I always look up to him as a great pharmacist and a sincere friend. He will be missed dearly at the Whitfield pharmacy and the community. Our sincere condolences with his wife, Kathie, and the family.

Alex Nasr

Jim had a magnificent knowledge base and interests in many things and pursued the Toronto Star Daily and enjoyed many TV series and sporting events. He always checked with us when the next TV series was starting, “only two more sleeps until the start of Virgin River” or touching base on the Raptors and Leaf’s games. (Kathie is a Canadian fan). What I miss most about Jim was his enthusiasm for work. He truly enjoyed coming to work. It was his passion. At the end of every shift, he would check with each of us when he would see us next. “You in tomorrow?” And always acknowledged when that would be, “I’ll see you Wednesday”. Marg

Although we have only known Jim since the summer of 2021, he’s always been a great leader. His patience and dedication were extremely valued by the staff and the community. He took time to know everyone on a personal level and their passions. There wasn’t a single person he didn’t know. We will always miss his smiles and thumbs up. Camryn and Livia

The loss of Jim has left a hole in the pharmacy, the community and hearts of all that loved him. Tiffany

Although I only got to work with Jim for a short time, his sincere attitude and bright eyes have touched my life in such a positive way. You will be sorely missed Jim. Love Laura

Always had a hug and big smile for me. Not only a coworker but a dear friend who will be dearly missed. Love Janette at IDA

Rest easy my friend, I will surely miss our chats and good laughs. Angie & Family

To a dear friend and co-worker from Whitfield’s Pharmacy, Jim Ford, you were a pleasure to work with on the weekends that we were together! You will be truly missed by so many. Wish I could have said good bye. Until we meet again. Love Melissa Chapman

Bright summer-blue eyes, A heart-filled smile, The gentlest and kindest of men. I miss you, Jim! Love, Kathryn L.

He will be deeply missing by his loving partner of 35 years, Kathie Hamelin and his sister Val Stinson (Dallas). He was a caring stepfather to Vicky, Cyndi (Steve), and Carrie (Mike), adoring grandfather to Taylor, Trevor, Alannah, Ryan, Peyton and Daniel, and great grandfather to Brooke.

He will be missed by his many nephews, nieces, friends and coworkers. Many who were close to him knew him as “Skip”. Jim is deceased by his parents, Marguerite Ford (Nicholls) and James Ford of Allenwood Beach and his sister Donna Walker (Dave). Jim will be fondly remembered for his love of adventure and as a versatile entrepreneur with his many talents and interests, He was a producer, promoter, publisher and photographer. His commitment to capturing every family memory on film earned him the well deserved nickname “Paparazzi Papa”.

In addition to his many accomplishments, Jim also had a private pilot license for many years and had a love of flying.

He was also extremely passionate about his career as a pharmacist and worked at Whitfield Guardian Pharmacy in Elmvale for over 20 years. Prior to this, he practiced relief pharmacy all over Ontario and as far as Nunavut. Anyone who had the pleasure of meeting Jim would describe him as extremely caring, genuine, and selfless.

His true passion, however, was the quality time spent with the love of his life, Kathie, his step daughters and grandchildren; who are left with countless amazing memories of their time with him.

He was most happy when surrounded by loved ones watching the sunsets at his family cottage on Woodland Beach.

Our family would like to thank the staff at Royal Victoria Hospital for their compassionate care. Donations can be made to Royal Victoria Hospital or the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Messages of sympathy may be sent to the family at lynnstonefuneralhome.com

“To see a setting sun
is to know that
somewhere else it is rising”


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THROWBACK THURSDAY

Photos and Editorial courtesy of Admin: Ric Archer, Facebook Group, You might be from Elmvale...If you...



Photo: an advertisement with a thermometer and calendar from December 1954.

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Throwback Wyevalle

Elmvale Lance 1987

Winter Camping

The 1st Wyevalle Boy Scouts spent the last Saturday night camping on the Wye River, east of Wyevalle. The campers are, left to right, Steve Ogden, Mark Houston, Richard Ogden, John Fleming, Tony Withall, Darrell Janet, Rick Hales, David Flewelling, Jim Flewelling and Ryan Donaldson

Minesing Moments

Greetings readers!

Rink Update: Our skating rink has a good base on it and is now ready to go! Our volunteer crew has been working hard on it and now it can be enjoyed. A reminder that the rink house will be closed but there are benches outside where you can change. If we have warmer temperatures there will be no lights as we want to keep the good base. Rules for the rink are posted on the door. Be mindful of social distancing and wear a mask. Be respectful to each other on and off the ice. Garbage cans are provided so please use those and keep the area clean so everyone can enjoy.

Mini-Fest: Plans are in motion to celebrate our

50th Minesing Mini-Fest. We anticipate it to be a one day event due to the current Covid restrictions.

Mark the date: Saturday February 12th.

The Theme for the parade is Memories of the past 50 years. If you are interested in entering a float or participating in the parade, please contact Mike Priest or leave a message on the Facebook page. Nominations for Citizen and Youth of the year can be sent to Wanda Maw-Chapman. Watch for Swampy and his colouring contest—more details to be provided soon. Buttons are on their way soon, locations of sales will be announced in the near future.

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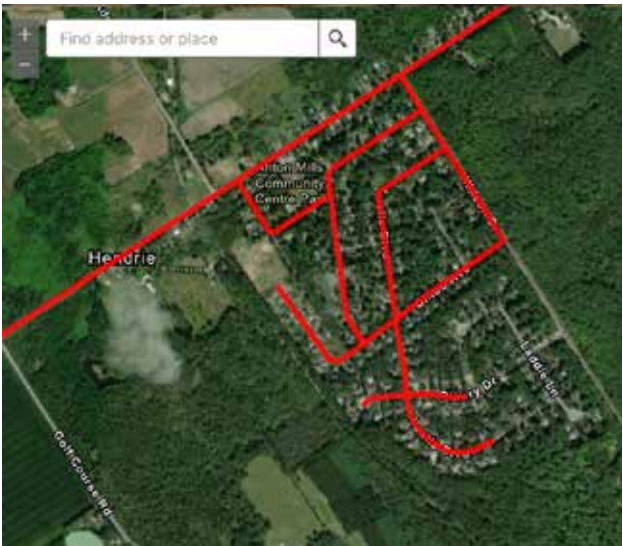
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Anten Mills News by Dennis Gannon

There has been lots of activity down at the community park now that the skating rink is in operation. Many thanks to the volunteers who have worked diligently over the past several weeks to prepare a foundation for the rink and the countless hours of flooding to make the ice. Their collective efforts have made a place that families can go and enjoy some outdoor activities for the next month or so. Unlike other rinks in the township, the decision was made many years ago that everyone can be on the rink at the same time and that they would respect each other. That means that if there are pleasure skaters and those looking to play shinny or hockey that they each get half the ice surface. This arrangement has worked out well and it is asked that it be continued to be respected by everyone. The rink house is not available to be used for warming or skate changing but bleachers were moved down so they may be used. Springwater Township staff will be monitoring all the outdoor rinks to ensure that COVID protocols are being followed and as well assisting in the maintenance of the rink when there is snowfall. On the township website more information on all outdoor rinks and safety protocols are listed. Flooding of the rink occurs usually after 9PM and working together and acting responsibly the rink will be an area of enjoyment for all. It should also be noted that outside of the parking area that will be created once there is sufficient snow on the ground, snowmobiles, atv's and cars are not permitted in the park. For some unknown reason there have been individuals who have cut or pulled down the snow fencing and driven these vehicles in the field causing damage that will need to be repaired in the spring. This disrespect for the property of all of us should not be tolerated and if you see such activity do not hesitate in supplying the township bylaw department with as much information as you can so that those responsible can be held accountable for their actions.

Travelling through the more mature areas of the community you may have noticed that there are coloured flags and lines sprayed on lawns and roadways. After some contemplation and research



it was remembered that similar utilities locating was done in Minesing last year and it resulted in fibre optic cable being installed. With many people working from home over the past two years it was a common question on who was the best internet provider and why speeds were so slow. Back on August 9, 2021, there was an announcement from SWIFT, that five high speed fibre-optic projects were being undertaken in Simcoe County. SWIFT in case you were wondering is the acronym for Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology, a nonprofit municipally led broadband expansion project created to improve connectivity in underserved and rural areas in Southwestern Ontario. The announcement noted that Bell Canada would be the project lead for Springwater Township. By June of 2022, high speed internet access would be available. In the first project

in which Anten Mills is included, 100 kilometers of roadway and 2,850 locations would be connected. For our community it would appear from the map, it includes the older section of the village while some of the newer sections and part of Horseshoe already has high speed fibre. The map of the streets to have the work done is included with this column and if you are looking for more information check the SWIFT website, swiftruralbroadband.ca. It will be interesting to see when the work actually begins in the community as some upgrades have already been seen on the telephone switching station along Wilson.

In the last column it was noted that we were not the recipients of a grant to install outdoor exercise equipment at the community park along our new trail. Research has been continuing and new grant applications have been looked for. Through that, contact was made with a small community in the Ottawa Valley that had a somewhat similar request as ours and a trail of similar size. They will be constructing low impact exercise equipment built from heavy lumber along their trail. This is of interest as it fits in with the natural surroundings of the park, is environmentally friendly and is significantly lower in costs. Further, with the assistance of community members, it can be constructed and installed by us making it an unique community project.. Each of the 10 stations has a workout routine associated with it that is well illustrated and likely could be computer programmed so that a QR code could be used. Community input is desired for this before moving forward which includes fitness instructors so please contact me directly by email or message me on Facebook and let's see if we can make this a reality by summer.

That's it for this week, Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, Stay Strong. antenmills1@gmail.com

Hidden Gems

Beyond Our Borders Gems 1: Wye Marsh

Many folks are very familiar with all that Wye Marsh has to offer in the spring, summer and autumn months but winter packs just as much of a punch, albeit a rather frosty one. Located in close proximity to Saint Marie Among the Hurons at 16160 Highway 12 East in Tay Township, the marsh is beyond being well worth the trip. With Midland nearby, a Tim Horton's is just moments away to indulge in your favourite hot beverage and treat post chilly adventures.



Make the Visitor's Centre your first stop. Helpful and friendly staff are always ready to share handy tips and to provide maps with additional suggestions as to which routes may be most suitable depending on whether or not you are hiking, cross country skiing, or snowshoeing. For instance, if you are cross country skiing or snowshoeing, they will often suggest staying off of main or highly frequented trails as the snow is quite hard packed from the larger amount of foot traffic. While at

the Visitor's Centre, it is highly recommended to make use of the facilities before venturing out. As always, layering clothing and bringing an extra pair of socks or mittens as well as some easily noched snacks is always wise.

Most trails can be initiated from the Visitor's Centre via the Hardwood and Return Trail. The trail itself is only 0.4 km but is a great place to immerse oneself in a cathedral of trees and to feed the ever present chickadees. Sunflower seeds are available at the centre. For those never having had this experience, prepare to be enchanted by the sensation of tiny feet grasping onto your hand as they daintily select the perfect seed before flying off to allow friends and family to enjoy a nibble. Their signature call and varied chirps offer a serenade of pure joy and gratitude.



Slightly west of the Hardwood and Return trail is the Waterfront I.D. Trail. Skirting the water's edge, this path is fabulous for those with an interest in overwintering waterfowl. The highlight of this trail is a stop at the Waterfowl Monitoring Station to embrace the elegance and cacophony that is the Trumpeter Swan. Mallards can also be spotted paddling amongst these downy and statuesque beauties whose feathery coats echo the surrounding wintry hues. The more woodsy John Lucas I.D. Trail, located a tad north and west of the Visitor's Centre, offers opportunities to sight birds of prey, including snowy owls, if you are among the fortunate few. These trails are 0.9 km in length. At 1.5 km in length, the Woodland Trail is located just south of the Hardwood Trail and briefly skirts the Service Rd. before heading deep into the woods. Prepare to be greeted by more chickadees, red squirrels and the odd bunny as you wind your

way through the forest. This trail requires trekkers to walk, ski or snowshoe single file. From this trail, you can access the Graham MacDonald Snowshoe Trail which takes you even further into the woods and offers much peace and quiet for those wishing to remain far from the madding crowd. This trail is 2.72 km in length.

The Muskrat Loop can be accessed from the Woodland Trail and is 1.6 km in length. For those who like to mix it up, this trail offers a little bit of everything. While part of the trail is forested, the other sections offer you wide open spaces and long range views as you navigate your way through the wetlands. The Boardwalk is an extension of this route and is a great place to seek out gorgeous winter vistas. Those enjoying the thrill of identifying the footprints of wildlife in the snow will not be disappointed. Two lookout gazebos as well as a tower structure are also located within the boundaries of this route to enhance your viewing pleasure. Before venturing forth on this path, please ensure this area is "open for business" by consulting with staff as parts of it either go across or are in very close proximity to water and a keen knowledge of ice conditions and thickness is essential.

For those wishing to completely immerse themselves in the forest, the Beaver Trail (1 km) and Arboretum Trail (0.6 km) are located just east of the parking lot and are also great routes to include in your cross country skiing or snowshoeing adventure.

Wye Marsh is truly an amazing spot for the winter outdoor enthusiast and well worth the \$10 entrance fee. To further support the marsh, be sure to checkout the gift shop before heading off to warm up with a well deserved hot bevvie.



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IBL Announces Home Openers



MISSISSAUGA - The Intercounty Baseball League (IBL) today announced 2022 regular-season home openers for all 8 member teams.

The 168-game IBL regular season opens on Sunday, May 15 with action in Toronto as the Maple Leafs welcome the defending champion London Majors to

Christie Pits. Opening Week action continues on Thursday, May 19 with two home openers followed by an additional two on Friday, May 20 and two others on Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22.

The entire 2022 Intercounty Baseball League regular-season schedule will be released on Thursday, January 13 at 10:00 am.

FULL LIST OF HOME OPENERS, 2022 SEASON:

- Barrie Baycats: Thursday, May 19 vs. Toronto at 7:30 pm
- Brantford Red Sox: Friday, May 20 vs. Hamilton at 8:00 pm
- Guelph Royals: Saturday, May 21 vs. Toronto at 1:00 pm
- Hamilton Cardinals: Sunday, May 22 vs. Guelph at 2:05 pm
- Kitchener Panthers: Monday, May 23 vs. Barrie at 5:00 pm
- London Majors: Friday, May 20 vs. Kitchener at 7:35 pm
- Toronto Maple Leafs: Sunday, May 15 vs. London at 2:00 pm
- Welland Jackfish: Thursday, May 19 vs. Brantford at 7:30 pm

The Intercounty Baseball League (IBL) is the top-level baseball league in Canada, boasting ex-major league professional and elite NCAA college baseball players. The 2022 season will mark the IBL's 103rd in operation. The IBL is one of the longest continuously operated baseball leagues in the world and serves as a valuable training ground for coaches, umpires, and front office staff. More than 40 IBL players have advanced to Major League Baseball or returned to the IBL following their MLB careers. The league is comprised of teams from Barrie, Brantford, Kitchener, London, Toronto, Guelph, Welland, and Hamilton. For more information, visit www.theibl.ca

Sports with Patrick Townes



Both Ontario Curling and Canada Curling faced very tough decisions over the past couple weeks. Due to Covid, the organizations and their representatives were forced to select a women's team to represent Ontario at the Scotties and to select a mixed-doubles team to represent Canada at the upcoming Olympics.

Before the recent Covid rules came into effect, I was sitting with my mom and dad and told them no matter what decision is made; it is going to be a contentious one and potentially a wrong decision in the eyes of many. This would not be an easy position for representatives from these organizations to be in, but, at the end of the day, a decision had to be made.

Whenever organizations like this are faced with a tough decision, they should be thinking and brainstorming ways to take the "heat off" them when a final decision is rendered. Curling Canada had already been taking heat from pretty much all the men's and women's teams when they decided to implement new rules on a trial basis at the Canadian championships. This included changes to the time clock rule where time would be kept per end and not during the whole course of a game, and implementing the no tick shot if a rock was touching the centre line in the last end. Teams were beyond furious that these rules would be used for the first time in final championship bonspiels before they were tested at the league or bonspiels level first.

So onward to the decisions that were made on the issues above. Firstly, Ontario selected Team Homan to represent Ontario at the Scotties. But wait, this decision was conditional on whether Rachel Homan qualified for the mixed-doubles event at the Olympics. If Homan was selected for the Olympics, then Holly Duncan's team would represent Ontario and the Scotties, leaving the three remaining players on Homan's team high and dry. This decision was off base to say the least. If you are selecting Homan's team, it should not matter who is attending. Teams have extra players for a reason, and especially during these unique times players may get sick or may not be able to attend anyway. Because a team is missing one player (potentially missing one player) is no reason to make a conditional selection. It was not fair to Homan, her team, or Holly Duncan to be put into this scenario.

So indeed Homan was selected for the Olympics and Holly Duncan was "selected" to represent Ontario at the Scotties. All the while when this was going on, the Scotties found themselves in a predicament. Both the teams of Chelsey Carey and Tracy Horgan

were on the outside looking in for the last wildcard spot. It seemed that the organizing committee was not ready to make a decision on this last selection and time went on without anyone knowing who would be filling the last spot. Another contentious decision loomed. So what was the decision? A decision was made to expand the number of teams that would compete at the Scotties by three, so that Homan, Carey and Horgan could all participate. What a whirlwind of decision making. And now you have more teams participating in an event when Covid could be a large issue.

Lastly, to Canada's decision to select a mixed-doubles team -- a selection committee was to choose a team to represent Canada, just after Brad Gushue and Jennifer Jones went through the battle to advance to the Olympics. This decision would be the toughest. In the end it was John Morris and Rachel Homan who were selected. Another decision met with very strong criticism from other mixed-doubles teams. Teams near the top of the points standings who played over 170 mixed doubles games over the season were left dumbfounded when they found out they did not even stand a chance of making the Olympics based on the criteria and weighting system that was used. This system included past international and Olympic experience, both of which Homan and Morris have. However, this was too heavily weighted and, at the end of the day, it was only really Homan and Morris who would meet the criteria, rather than a mixed-doubles team who had prepared for the last 4 years to get to the Olympics. Essentially, if you had not been to the Olympics before (which only happens every four years) you did not have a chance. Four years wasted?

Now back to the main point here -- how could all of this pressure been taken off the selection committees? The answer is easy. Curling is continually looking at ways to grow the game and looking for ways to get and keep fans involved. Strategies are being investigated to eliminate blank ends to make each end more exciting for fans, and game lengths are being shortened so fans are able to watch a whole eight end game instead of ten ends. What better way to get fans involved than to let them select who represented Ontario and Canada at the championships. Teams could have taken to social media to try and get fans to vote for who would be chosen. This would have been huge on television, the news, and on social media. It would have been an easy way to take the pressure off who was selected, and let fans have a vested interest on who would be representing our Province and Country. An easy solution to a big problem!

Dress for Success Orillia and Barrie

Local women's non-profit Dress for Success Orillia and Barrie is holding their popular annual Power of the Purse fundraiser virtually, on Saturday, January 29th, 2022.

The 6th annual Power of the Purse features Layne "The Auctionista", hosts Dale and Charlie from Kool FM, and musical performances from local singer-songwriter SAMMY, who was honoured recently as the top emerging artist at the Orillia Regional Arts and Heritage Awards.

Guests will get the chance to bid on designer and one-of-a-kind handbags, as well as unique experiences and prizes- all from the comfort of their homes. Many of the 80+ online auction items have been generously donated by independent businesses; and from purses to Sephora to a gift certificate for sporting goods, there will truly be something for everyone. During the live event, there will be five live auction items to bid on, including exciting experiences and a gorgeous limited edition Strathberry bag.

The proceeds from the Power of the Purse fundraiser will go towards running Dress for Success Orillia and Barrie's three programs that provide a network of support to women who are entering or re-entering the workforce. The organization's aim is to help local women thrive in work and in life. As they put it, "Our vision is a world where women do not live in poverty; are treated with dignity and respect; and are strengthening their families and shaping their communities."

Registration for the event can only be done online at www.dfspowerofthepurse.com. Limited VIP tickets are available, with many perks courtesy of local businesses. The VIP experience for two includes

a bottle of red wine (can be substituted for white) from PICNIC in Orillia, a handcrafted charcuterie board made by Innisfil artisan RM83 Designs, and delicious charcuterie for two from Eclectic Cafe by Melanie Robinson Catering. Plus, VIP ticketholders get a \$31 charitable tax receipt and will be entered to win a beautiful designer handbag.

The silent auction bidding and the live auction viewing open this weekend, on Saturday, January 15th. During the live event on January 29th, it is highly recommended that guests have two devices for participating: a phone/tablet/laptop for bidding on auction items on the website, and an additional screen to watch the event live via a Zoom link.

Dress for Success Orillia and Barrie hopes to hit their fundraising goal of \$40,000, to help them continue supporting their clients through their Professional Clothing Assistance, Breakfast Club, and Professional Women's Group programs. The organization will also be launching a new mentorship program in 2022.

Pre-event day

Silent auction opens on Jan 15 at 8AM and closes on Jan 29 at 9PM

Premium live auction viewing opens on Jan 15, with bidding only taking place on Jan 29

Event day

Virtual event: 7-8PM

For more information please visit www.dfspowerofthepurse.com or contact kim@dfsorilliabarrie.org.

To follow Dress for Success Orillia and Barrie news and Power of the Purse updates, visit their website and follow them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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HEALTH and WELLNESS



Let Others Speak for Themselves

There is a practice that has the power to sabotage communication and relationships. We all do it or have done it. It is so prevalent in the way we think about others that we are scarcely aware we are violating others when we do it. It is like a computer virus that has the potential to disable all of our programs.

What could it be? It is when we make assumptions about what others are thinking. How often sentences begin with, “you think”, “she thinks”, “they think”, or even, “everyone thinks”. It is not an assumption when you report directly and accurately what another has said. Telling someone your preschooler thinks there are monsters under the bed may be a statement of fact, if that is what she told you. However, to say that your teenager thinks everyone should pick up after him, because he never puts anything away, is an assumption, unless he actually made that statement.

Statements such as, “You think you can just walk all over me”, “You think the world revolves around you”, or “You just don’t care”, are actually very invasive, hostile and judgmental. It is hard for the recipient of such messages to respond in any reasonable way. Denial of the allegation generally invites further judgments, as the speaker tries to prove his or her assumption is

accurate. Saying, for example, that he does care, may cause the speaker to cite a litany of examples “proving” that he does not. Unable to respond reasonably, the one attached may resort to tossing out a few assumptions of his own, reacting angrily, or simply walking away. Of course this “proves” to the initiator that she was right all along.

Right? Wrong! This is what we call crazy-making. It distorts the communication process and takes on a life of its own. We must let others speak for themselves. We honour them when we take the time to ask what their thoughts and feelings are. We must accept what they say as their truth. There is simply no point in arguing with someone about what they think, because we cannot get into their heads. If there is any doubt in your mind about how this affects others, just try to remember a time when someone either told you what you thought, or otherwise insisted he knew more about what is in your head than you do. It is to communication what a red flag is to a bull.

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 inspiration.

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Available from Cathy Walton at 705 728-1388
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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.

The Priest Farm - Built 1910s

Concession 8, NW ½ Lot 6, Vespra Township
1958 Vespra Valley Road, Springwater Township

Concession 8, NW ½ Lot 6, Vespra Township
1958 Vespra Valley Road, Springwater Township

Owners

1995-present John and Jennie (Clemmens) Priest
1952-1995 Henry (Harry) and Grace (Fleming) Priest
1912-1952 William and Arvella (Chappel) Priest
~1873 Frederick Stephen and Jane (Howard) Priest

Built: 1912, date on cement wall
Dimensions: 36 x 56’
Materials: ash and elm
Water Source: 125’ artesian well, now 150’

When ploughing in the 1940s, the plow would sometimes snag on the tops of trees that had sunk into the muck and resurfaced with frost upheaval. These were tree tops that had come down in the wind and been missed when Will cleared the land.

Will moved a log house on Concession 9, Lot 1, Vespra Township to this farm before he was married. He used rollers, planks and two teams of horses. Will helped with the building of many of the barns in the area under the supervision of Billy Rowell and oversaw the building of his own barn. Part of the lumber came from the property and part from the Minesing Swamp. When the barn was almost completed he did a hand stand, holding onto two rafters. Another time, before the floor was in, Will was near the top of the barn and fell, landing in the stables. He was often heard to remark, “I wasn’t going very fast. I hit every beam going down.” He escaped with some bruises.

Will had half a dozen cows, a team of horses, mixed grain and hay, pigs and some fowl including chickens and guinea hens. He had a large vegetable garden and took vegetables and dressed chickens to the farmers market on Mulcaster Street in Barrie. His son Fred would carry 2-3 turnips to school during the winter and sell them in Minesing for 5-7¢ each.

Another barn in the centre of the farm had no foundation and stored hay. Harry moved this 30 x 50’ barn up beside the larger barn around 1954. The carriage at the top of this barn was built by Beattie and the carriage at the larger barn was a Loudon carrier. The stanchions in the barn were built by the Wind Engine Pump Company from Illinois, who also built pumps for windmills. The stanchions were replaced with horse stalls for John’s Clydesdales and his cows and calves.

Fred Priest, John Priest, A History of the Community of Minesing p. 119.



The barn to the left was moved and put on a cedar block foundation.
It has since been insulated and covered with plywood.



Fred Priest milking a cow
and holding his pitch fork.



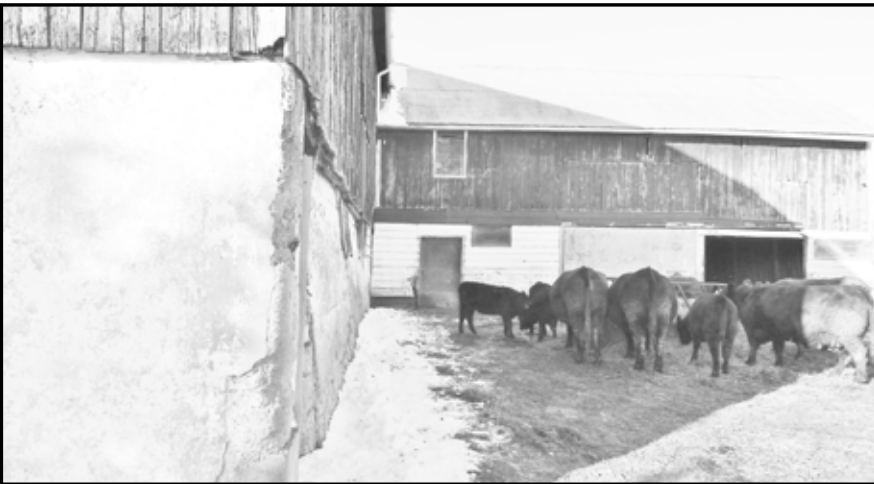
Harry Priest used this vice to
make and mend harness.



(Photos courtesy of Fred Priest)



The 1953 Oliver is still running and used for raking.



The beams for the floor were cut too short, so the foundation was leaned in to accommodate the length.

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THE OPP REPORT

OPP Investigating Fatal Snowmobile Crash in Georgian Bay Township

Officers from the Southern Georgian Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were dispatched at 4:22 p.m. January 16, 2022 to a report that a snowmobile with a lone operator had left the trail and crashed into the trees. The location of the crash is near the intersection of Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails 11 A & C, south of Hanson Road, Georgian Bay Township or using the What3Words app <https://what3words.com/misfortune.intends.multiple>.

Emergency Services attended and assisted officers and other trail riders in triaging the 58 year old female operator of North York who tragically passed away at the scene from injuries sustained in the crash.

OPP investigators have identified the deceased operator of the snowmobile as 58 year old Carrie GLASS of North York. The location of the crash scene has been updated to the following using the What3Words app <https://w3w.co/serene.spout.reactors>. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

Investigators are being assisted by members of the OPP Central Region Traffic Unit who specialize in serious crash investigation.

To view area OFSC snowmobile trail conditions please view the following link - <http://www.ofsc.on.ca/>

Commercial Icebreaking Operations into Midland Bay Have Been Completed until March 2022

The members of the Southern Georgian Bay



Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police have worked together for many years in a unique partnership to keep the community aware of ice breaking activity in waters of Georgian Bay near Midland. As of January 16, 2022 it has been learned that recent ice breaking operations have been completed and will restart in the latter part of March 2022 when the spring shipping season opens.

Please remember that ice surfaces can only be summed up with the phrase “No Ice is Safe Ice” and



it is so very important to “Know Before You Go” before venturing onto frozen ice surfaces that there is sufficient ice for you and your equipment. Please check with area residents, anglers, fish hut operators and area marinas as “we are all in this together” if you go through the ice. Emergency services

will respond once they are advised but the effects of ice cold water on your body mean that “self rescue” is likely your best and possibly your only chance to get out of the water. Please review the following made in Canada links for further information - Cold Water Boot Camp and The Canadian Red Cross Ice Safety Tips

Driving Complaints from the Public Net OPP Two Impaired Drivers over the Weekend

OPP officers always appreciate information about possible impaired drivers and this past weekend was no different. Officers from the Southern Georgian Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police received information from the public of two possible impaired drivers as follows.

On January 16, 2022 at 8:32 p.m. officers attended the area of the Mountainview Plaza and the Huronia Mall on Simcoe County Road 93, Midland to observe

for a possible impaired driver which was located in the Shoppers’s Drug Mart parking lot. After a drinking and driving investigation was completed, the driver Ryan STEVENSON 19 years of Innisfil was charged with Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus) and further with Operation while impaired - alcohol contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada.

On January 14, 2022 at 5:51 p.m. responded to several driving complaints involving a green Dodge pick-up on Robert Street East, Penetanguishene which resulted in the suspect vehicle being stopped on Maria Street. After an drinking and driving investigation, Joshua GREEN 39 years of Tiny Township has been charged with Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus) and further with Operation while impaired - alcohol contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada.

Both involved vehicles have been towed and impounded for 7 days and the accused’s drivers licences have suspended for 30 days as per the Ministry of Transportation (ADLS) guidelines.

Both accused persons were released from police custody on a recognizance to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice on January 27, 2022 on these charges.

Educating the public about safe driving practices with our community safety partners is a priority, if you see a possible impaired driver or operator please “Make the Call” and dial 911 and help prevent a crash. If you are heading out on the town, please make a plan to get home safely.

G2 TEEN DRIVER CAUGHT STUNT DRIVING OVER TWICE THE SPEED LIMIT

An officer from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Huronia West Detachment stopped a high speed pick-up truck travelling more than twice the speed limit on St. Vincent Street in Midhurst.

On Thursday, January, 2022, just before 8:00 pm, an officer out patrolling the Township of Springwater observed a vehicle that was travelling at an extremely high rate of speed. The officer captured a speed reading on this vehicle of 134 km/hr. The area is residential and has a posted 60 km/hr speed zone.

The driver, a 17 year old G2 driver from Barrie has been charged with:

- Race A Motor Vehicle - Excessive Speed

The driver received an immediate 30 day driver’s license suspension and his vehicle was impounded for 14 days.

MURDER CHARGE LAID IN COLLINGWOOD DEATH

Members of the Collingwood and The Blue Mountains Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid charges in relation to a homicide investigation in the Town of Collingwood.

On January 14, 2022, at approximately 8:20 a.m., Collingwood OPP officers responded to a residence on Hurontario Street in the Town of Collingwood. Officers located a deceased adult male inside the residence and an individual was arrested.

The deceased has been identified as Donald CAINES, 57 years of age, of Collingwood. A post mortem examination is scheduled for January 16, 2022 at the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service in Toronto.

As a result of the investigation, Lawrence Robert CAINES, 54 years of age, of Collingwood, has been charged with First Degree Murder, contrary to section 235(1) of the Criminal Code. The accused has been remanded into custody.

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

VARIATION ON A THEME

By: Brian Gunnell

♠ 54

♥ 5

♦ 763

♣ AJT8765

♠ Q87632

♥ 9

♦ K52

♣ Q32

♠ JT9

♥ T876432

♦ Q4

♣ 4

♠ AK

♥ AKQJ

♦ AJT98

♣ K9

North opened 3♣, after which every South player in the room charged into slam. Some got to 6♣ or 7♣, but could manage only 11 tricks after East’s opening Diamond lead.

Other South players tried 6NT on the grounds that, if both slams made, 6NT was the better-scoring contract. If you read last week’s Bite, “East to the Rescue”, then the Club suit may look eerily familiar, and our question to you is “How do you play 6NT?”

An opening Diamond lead holds no terrors for 6NT, that merely hands Declarer 12 tricks without needing the long Clubs. Instead, West led the less helpful ♠J, won by Declarer. At this point most Declarers took the simple approach, laying down the ♠K, then leading another Club. When West showed out, and when there was no good fortune in the Diamonds (such as doubleton or singleton honor with East), Declarer was down.

Declarer has a better line of play. At Trick 2, he leads the Club Nine and overtakes with Dummy’s Jack. East, perhaps a regular reader of Bridge Bites, knows that it would be fatal to take her ♠Q, that would give Declarer access to all those Club winners in Dummy. So she cleverly plays low on this trick. The good news for East is that she has deprived Declarer of a bunch of Club winners, the bad news is that now Declarer has two entries to Dummy. Those entries will be used to finesse twice in the Diamonds, allowing Declarer to bring home 12 tricks in a different way (two Spades, four Hearts, four Diamonds and just two Clubs).

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The investigation is being conducted by the Collingwood OPP Crime Unit, under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), with assistance from the OPP Forensic Identification Services (FIS) Unit and in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Collingwood OPP at 1-888-310-1122. You can also contact Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca. 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.

OPP Search Warrant Executed in Tay Township Seizure Nets Cash and Drugs

A search warrant was executed on a Talbot Street, Port McNicoll residence at 5:40 p.m. January 13, 2022 as result of an ongoing Controlled Drugs and Substances Act investigation. Members of the Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) attached to the Southern Georgian Bay and Orillia Detachments of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) lead the investigation.

The warrant resulted in the seizure of quantities of Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Opioid pills, Canadian currency along with associated drug paraphernalia and stolen property.



Charged in connection with this investigation is Jordan Maitland 29 years of Tay Township and Dylan RAYFIELD 22 years of Barrie with the following offences-

Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine contrary to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act

Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Methamphetamine contrary to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act

Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking-Opioid (other than heroin) contrary to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and further with

Possession Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada

Both accused persons were released on an recognizance to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice on February 24, 2022.

1	J	2	O	3	B		4	I	5	M	6	A	7	M		8	I	9	V	10	Y
11	E	K	E				12	N	O	N	O					13	N	E	E		
14	E	R	A				15	R	O	A	D	S	I	G	N						
17	R	A	D		18	I	O			19	P	E	A	T							
					20	O	A	T	H			22	G	I	V	24	E				
25	S	O	A	N	D	S	O									28	A	I	M		
29	H	E	N					30	A	R	G	Y	L	E	S						
33	E	R	I	N				35	R	A	R	E									
					36	M	A	G	I			38	I	T		39	C	H	Y		
42	D	I	A	G	O	N	A	L								45	H	O	E		
46	A	C	T					47	B	A	W	L				48	I	L	L		
49	B	E	E					50	I	S	L	E				51	P	E	P		

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The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society Urges Caution in Cold Weather to Keep Animals Safe

Stouffville, ON (Jan. 10, 2022) – With temperatures forecasted to plummet, the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society wants to remind anyone with an animal to take extra precautions to keep them safe during extreme winter weather.



1. Supervise outdoor time – Some dogs want to be outside, regardless of the weather. Even if your dog has a thick coat, keep an eye on them when they are outside playing to watch for early signs that they're cold, such as holding up paws or shivering.
2. Modify outdoor activities – Limit the length of time spent outside and choose walking routes that loop past your house, in case you or your pooch need to come in to get warm.
3. Leave pets at home – Leave your animal at home where they are warm and safe when you're running errands. Cars cool down quickly and don't hold in body heat, which can lead to animals suffering from cold stress, hypothermia or frostbite.
4. Watch for cats seeking warmth under vehicle hoods – Knock on the hood of your car or sound the

horn before starting the engine. Cats hiding under hoods can be injured or killed by the fan belt.

5. Keep paws clean – Use a damp towel to wipe your pet's paws and underside if they've walked along salted sidewalks or roads. Salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice on roads and sidewalks can irritate and burn your pet's sensitive paws and can cause illness if ingested.

6. Clean up car spills – Keep an eye out for antifreeze, or other automotive leaks in your driveway. Antifreeze has a sweet taste that can be attractive to animals and can be fatal if ingested.

7. Know your animal's unique needs – Cats, puppies and short-coated dogs are particularly vulnerable in cold temperatures. Some dogs, especially short-coated breeds, puppies and elderly dogs may benefit from a dog sweater or coat as an extra layer of warmth.

"Our furry friends depend on us to look out for their needs," says Dr. Julia Hughes, Shelter Health & Wellness Veterinarian with the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society. "In cold winter conditions, it's important to consider every part of your pet's daily routine to ensure they are comfortable and safe at all times."



For more winter pet safety tips, visit ontariospca.ca

\$36.4 MILLION LOTTO 6/49 JACKPOT WINNING TICKET SOLD IN BARRIE

Additional ENCORE prizes won across Ontario
 Check your tickets Ontario! The LOTTO 6/49 jackpot and other ENCORE prizes were won across the province from the Wednesday, January 12, 2022 draw.

The LOTTO 6/49 jackpot winning ticket worth a whopping \$36,449,852.60 was sold in Barrie.

Several ENCORE tickets each worth \$100,000 were sold in:

- Timiskaming/Cochrane District
- Sarnia
- OLG.ca

OLG reminds players that they can check their tickets from home on OLG.ca, by using the OLG App on their mobile device, signing up on OLG.ca for winning number email alerts or by calling our WIN! Line at 416-870-8946 (Toronto area) or toll free at 1-866-891-8946 (outside Toronto area).

OLG is booking in-person prize claim appointments at the OLG Prize Centre in Toronto. As there are limited appointments, we strongly encourage those with claims between \$1,000 and \$49,999.90 to submit their claims online or mail them. Submitting claims online is fast, secure and enables OLG to process the claim in a timely manner. Customers with prizes over \$50,000 are asked to call 1-800-387-0098 to discuss available prize claim options.

LOTTO 6/49 players in Ontario have won over \$13.5 billion in prizes since 1982, including 1,413 jackpot wins and 395 Guaranteed \$1 Million Prize draws. LOTTO 6/49 is \$3 per play and draws take place on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The next LOTTO 6/49 draw is on Saturday, January 15, 2021 for an estimated \$5 million jackpot and the Guaranteed \$1 Million Prize Draw. Players have until 10:30 p.m. to purchase their tickets at OLG.ca or at authorized OLG retailers.

OLG Winners

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www.penetanguishene.library.on.ca

PD Programs are here!

March of the Penguins Take-Away Craft

Jan 20th is National Penguin Day!

Make a penguin with a paper towel and put six penguins on a string. Kit contains construction paper, string and googly eyes. Membership required. Limit of 2 per household. This program is Free.

Easy "Knit" Winter Hat Take-Away Craft

Construct a decorative winter hat from paper and yarn. Instructions included. Free to library members. Limit of 2 per household.

DIY Vicks Shower Bombs Take-Away Craft

Kit includes k-cups for molds, corn starch, baking soda and Vicks Vapo Rub. Membership and pre-registration required.

New @PPL

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Newell Moving Sale, Woodstock - Jan. 30 - Feb. 3 - collection of bone china cups & saucers, sterling silverware, Belleek collection

Estate of Alex Robertson, Guelph - Feb. 6-10 - original art, LP's, sideboards, wool runner, vintage brass scale, vintage newspapers

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THANK YOU

With my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home for their sincere care and compassion towards me after the passing of my husband Bev Bunn. I would also like to thank Father Jim Bussanich of St Patrick's Catholic Church in Phelpsston for the beautiful service. Special thanks to my family, friends and wonderful neighbours from Maplecrest Condo's for their assistance and kind gestures towards me during this difficult time. *Marie Bunn*

EVENTS

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Please call Peter at 705-322-3484

NOTICE

Elmvale Presbyterian Cemetery Board

The Elmvale Presbyterian Cemetery Board has submitted amendments to its by-laws to the registrar of the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services act 2002. Any interested parties may contact the board's secretary, Dave Snedden at 705-322-9637 or fax 705-322-8337 for information. By-laws or amendments may be reviewed or copied by appointment at 56 Archer Crescent, Elmvale, On. These by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act 2002 and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario. (647-483-2645))

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Obituaries



ANDERSON, Ken

Peacefully at Orillia Soldier's Memorial Hospital on January 13, 2022 at the age of 83. Beloved husband of the late Elva. Loving and devoted father of Susan (Scott) Gilchrist, Sharon (late Tim) Cole and Kevin (Carlene) Anderson.

Proud grandpa of Lauren, Haley, Tyler, Ben, Chrissie, Paige, Jakob, Mason, Whitney, Jaida and great grand daughter Erin. Survived by brothers Doug (Diane) Anderson, Richard (Wanda) Anderson and sister Mary (late Graham) Strath. Predeceased by brother Bill (Mary) Anderson and sister Isabel (late Bill) Fisher. Cremation has taken place and a celebration of Ken's life will take place hopefully in the near future when we can all gather together safely. The family would like to take this opportunity to especially thank Dr. Aaron Barnett and Dr. Jennifer Guan for all of their wonderful care, support and guidance given to Ken and his family. Arrangements entrusted to the Doolittle Chapel of Carson Funeral Homes, 54 Coldwater St. E., Orillia (705) 326-3595

Online Messages of Condolence are welcome at www.CarsonFuneralHomes.com

Obituaries



SWAN, Lois Isobel

Passed away peacefully at home on Friday, January 14, 2022. Lois Swan (nee Draper) of Phelpsston in her 76th year, loved wife of Brian Swan. Daughter of the late Don and Veda Draper. Cherished mother of Kevin (Linda) Swan of Midland, Tim (Robin) Swan of Wyebridge, Tammy (Dan) O'Neill of Elmvalle and Sheri (Len) Brunson of Phelpsston. Proud and loving grandma of MacKenzie (Ashley), Myles (Brittany), Fraser (Emma), Rob (Danielle), Wesley (Emily), Colton (Amber), Bryton (Sara), Derek, Jennifer (Cody) and Charlotte. One of her greatest joys was becoming a great grandmother to Ryer, Alivia and Evelyn. Lovingly remembered by her siblings, Fran Lucas (Gord Schlamb) of Barrie and Trace Draper of Onaping and her sister in-law Brenda Swan (Paul Beaulac). Predeceased by Barry Swan. Lois will be missed by extended family and many friends.

Lois loved being surrounded by her family. She enjoyed the fruits of her labour from her expansive vegetable and flower gardens. And she loved to host friends and family and always made any of her guests feel welcome.

Visitation will be held at the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home, Elmvalle on Tuesday January 18th from 4:30 to 7 pm. Masks and proof of vaccination are mandatory. Capacity restrictions will be in place. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Spring interment Elmvalle Cemetery.

If you wish to make a donation in her memory, please consider donating directly to the Elmvalle and District Food Bank (elmvalleanddistrictfoodbank.net) or Hospice Simcoe (hospicesimcoe.ca). Please notify lynnstone@sympatico.ca so that the family can be notified.

Messages of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com



FRASER, Kenneth Edward Oct 17, 1947 – Dec 9, 2021

Surrounded by family, Ken passed away peacefully at home after a short courageous battle with cancer at the age of 74.

Ken is predeceased by his parents Wilfred and Rita of Wiarton.

Beloved husband to Cathy. Dear father of Andrew (Heather) and Janissa (Kyle). Stepfather of Wendy (John) and Adam (Andrea).

Proud and loving grandfather of Reece, Gregory, Anthony, Bradley, Payton, Travis, Dylan, Cadence and Bentley. Stepgrandfather of Victoria and Andrew.

Ken will be fondly remembered by his sister Joyce Boychuk (late Alex), in-laws Ralph and Ann Edwards, brothers-in-laws Daniel Edwards (Maryann), Victor and Keith (Debbie), along with many nieces and nephews.

Former employee of Molson, Barrie and Toronto, Ken put his heart and soul into his own company Moonstone Mechanical Inc. His recent years were spent enjoying semi retirement on Stonecrop Estate in Foxmead, with many family, friends and neighbours.

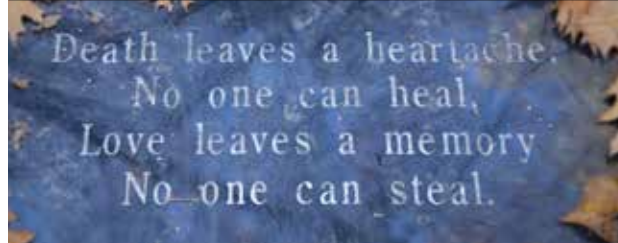
Special thanks to Bayshore Nursing, Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital, RVH Cancer Centre, and Couchiching Family Health Team for all the great care given to Ken.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date.

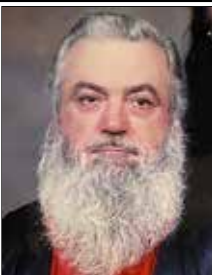
Memorial donations in Ken's memory can be made to Mariposa House Hospice or a charity of your choice.

Arrangements entrusted to the Doolittle Chapel of Carson Funeral Homes, 54 Coldwater St. E., Orillia (705) 326-3595 .

Online Messages of Condolence are welcome at www.CarsonFuneralHomes.com



Obituaries



STONE, Kevin Francis
Passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Kevin Stone of Elmvale in his 77th year. Beloved husband of Elva Stone (nee Robillard). Dear

father of Sheila Stone (Daniel La Rocque), Shawn (Melissa) Stone, and Loretta Ferris (Max Neiman). Loving grandfather of Jessica (Nick), Lydia (Mathieu), Jean-Marc (Emilie), Kelsey, Alexandra, and Hannah. Great-grandfather of 4. Kevin is survived by his siblings, Buck, Simone, Terry, Joan, and Louis. Pre-deceased by his brother Larry.

A private visitation will be held at the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home in Elmvale. A funeral mass will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Elmvale on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 11 am.

Spring interment St. Patrick's Cemetery.

If desired memorial donations may be made to the Cancer Society or the Alzheimer's Society.

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



FISHER, Mary Margaret (nee McGirr)

Passed away peacefully in her sleep at Serenity Retirement Residence Barrie on Saturday, January 8, 2022. Mary Fisher in her 89th year will be laid to rest next to

her beloved husband Percy Fisher and infant son Roy. Mary was born in Sundridge to Norman and Bertha (nee Sinclair) McGirr. Cherished mother of Fern (Jack) Haughton, Carson (Heather) Fisher and Orville (Cathy) Fisher. Dear grandmother of Callie (Wayne), Samantha (Cameron), Randi (Mike), Carla, Mark (Morgan) and Michael (Emily) and honorary grandmother of Shelby Gray, great grandmother of Blair, McKinley and Madisyn. Mary will be remembered by her sisters Hilda (the late Stan) McLean, Laurena Thompson, Linda (the late Dave) Slyzuk and also her sister-in-law Vera McGirr. Predeceased by her brothers Keith McGirr and Laurence McGirr. Mary will be fondly remembered by her nieces, nephews and many friends. A private family graveside service will be held in Mount Pleasant Cemetery Bradford. Memorial donations to the C.N.I.B., Salvation Army or the Veterans Assistance Program would be appreciated.

Messages of condolence

may be forwarded to the family through adamsfuneralhome.ca

Most sincere and loving appreciation to Donna Stiles and her caring, attentive and professional staff at Serenity Retirement Residence.

HANCOCK, Eleanor Margaret (née SMITH)

Passed away peacefully on January 10, 2022, in her 101st year, surrounded by family in her home near Elmvale, ON. Eleanor was predeceased by her husband Jim and son Jamie, and she leaves behind a legacy of intelligence, wit, and strength. She will be forever missed by her children Margaret; Susan (Archdeacon Jim Sandilands); David (Padma); Mary; Helen (Brad Thompson); Tom (Colleen); Ted (Jane); and Catharine. Fourteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren also treasure her memory. A celebration of Eleanor's life will take place in Elmvale later this year, followed by interment of ashes in Bowmanville Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to Amnesty International or St. John's United Church in Elmvale. Please notify Lynn-Stone Funeral Home of your donation lynnstone@sympatico.ca.

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



Herb Ritchie passed away peacefully on Friday January 7, 2022 at Hillcrest Village with family by his side in his 81st year. Beloved husband of June Ritchie nee Truax. Dearly loved Father of Michael and Robert, proud Grandpa

of Cheylee. Son of the late Allan Ritchie & Gladys Kidd. Much loved Brother of six sisters, Mary & the late (Pat) Stone, Sandra & (Ray) McElwain, Bonnie & (Rod) Marson, Bev & (Herb) Farrell, Jan, Cathy & (Stu) Kerr and 1 Brother, recently deceased Bob Ritchie (Joanne and the late Clara Anne) Herb was a man with a big heart and a warm smile and was loved by many nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends. Until recent years Herb was active in his Church serving as an Elder, Chairman of Finance & Maintenance, Youth Leader and on the Cemetery Board. Hard working member of the local Odd Fellows Lodge, the District and he served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ontario in 2003-2004. He was a past Director of the Ontario Fur Breeders Association and worked on many community projects in Waverley and Elmvale over the years. Over the last few years Herb & June have enjoyed camping and spending time with their friends for weekend camping adventures and jam sessions.

The family would sincerely like to thank the caring and compassionate staff at Hillcrest Village. Special thanks to the folks on Heritage Wing who looked after Herb since May. The team has the special knack of treating each resident as though they are a very important part of their own family.

Visitation and Viewing will be held Sunday Jan. 16, 2022 1-4 & 6 -9 at the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home in Elmvale with times scheduled in 1/2 hour intervals. Proof of Vaccination required and Masks are mandatory. To book your time of visit please call 705-322-2413 or 705-730-9426

A Memorial Service/ Celebration of Life will be held when Covid restrictions permit.

In lei of flowers Donations would be gratefully accepted for the Elmvale Presbyterian Church or the Alzheimer's Society.

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



JOHNSTON, Robert Wesley 'Bob'

Passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by the love of his family, on Saturday, January 15, 2022, in his 74th year. Bob Johnston of Vasey, dearly loved husband of Joan (nee Beaman).

Will be loved and forever missed by his children, Rob (Karen) of Ottawa and David (Carrie) of Elmvale. Very proud grandfather of Ryan, Ethan and Mathew. Lovingly remembered by his siblings, Karen (Dave) Ritchie, Paul, Tim (Trish), Darlene (Roger) and Kevin (Sue) and his in-laws, John, Steve (Sharon), Barb and Janice. Predeceased by his parents Allan and Joyce Johnston, brothers Winston and Ken and sisters Linda Moreau (survived by Herb) and Marion. Uncle Bob will be missed by many nieces and nephews. Cremation has taken place and a Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

Bob's family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to Dr. Helt and Shelley for their phenomenal support throughout Bob's illness.

Memorial donations to OSPCA (ontariospca.ca), Toronto General Hospital Foundation (support.tgwhf.ca) or Women's College Hospital Foundation (womenscollegehospital.ca) will be greatly appreciated. Please send your donation directly to the charity and email lynnstone@sympatico.ca (donor/address) so that the family can be notified of your donation.

Most importantly, Bob's family would love for you to visit beadonor.ca and register to become a tissue and organ donor.

Messages of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com

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In Memoriam

In Memory of Harold Townes

In loving memory of our Husband, Father and Grandpa T. who passed away on January 28, 2012. Ten years have gone by but your memory will never fade. We love you and forever hold you in our hearts.

Muriel, Mike, Marc, Steve and families.



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Views from the Cottage, Orr Lake

IT WAS A COLD, COLD JANUARY DAY...

Everyone knows that it can be very lucrative to renovate an investment property and resell it or just update your home and enjoy the benefits of your labour of love. Many look for tired and worn-out residences and bring them back to a former glory. Perhaps they rent them out for years and plan to retire easily on the ‘down the road’ sweat equity. Whatever the impetus, you can be proud of your accomplishment and reap many rewards.

In the countryside, a long, long time ago, I bought my first ‘fixer’. Prices were low and interest rates were high (20-22% were not unheard of) but in those days, you could still buy a home for under \$40,000. As I was starting out small, the price tag of \$21,000 for a tiny, two-bedroom, century home constructed with an 1850’s log timber foundation on bare earth, seemed just the ticket!

As we gutted the single storey, stucco structure, it was fascinating to read the ancient newspapers that padded the exposed wood frame walls (some as early as the late 1800’s). Sadly, they shredded as fast as they were freed. I’m just citing this one experience because I learned a very valuable lesson very early on with this project. When forced air heat is not an option due to space and other considerations, you have no choice but to go electric base board. Discussions between spouses can have many outcomes and try as I might to have that larger heat unit placed in the pump room, the decision to leave the smaller one in place won out on a warm, sunny afternoon in September. With new insulation, wiring, drywall, windows, kitchen, washroom and a whole groovy, updated décor, our new tiny house was born. We moved in to our cozy new paradise with two toddlers and our Australian Shepherd.

Changeable winter weather is a great teacher it seems. Drafts can appear out of nowhere and the snow at the back door in those days could pile up higher than the shiny new doorknob. Despite the hours spent shovelling out the long, winding driveway (pre-snowblower, at least for us), the winter wonderland proved a delight for the kids in the sleigh as we slid

them around on our spacious half-acre lot.

Back to the lesson. On a cold, cold, cold - and did I mention very cold minus 25-degree (Celsius) January night - the well water pump froze. As I got up that next morning to fill the kettle for a much-needed cup of tea, it was a little perplexing to see the tap just spitting air. I knew right away what had happened and a quick peek into the utility room greeted me with the sight of two copper pipes split but also joined by a six-inch tube of ice.

I don’t think anyone would be surprised by this, or the fact that a big ‘I told you so’ was being carefully wrapped, ready for any occasion. I just let out a big sigh, put on my coat and boots and scavenged a big pot of the now plentiful snow to melt and heat up on the woodstove. It was the woodstove that I insisted had to be the focal point in our country kitchen. Make do was my middle name (still is). Truly though, the next discovery really drove home the valuable lesson about ensuring your plumbing will withstand a January deep freeze. I ventured into the washroom to grab a few towels and, low and behold, the toilet bowl was now a mini ice rink. I swear I saw the little mice that hid in the back wood shed, now twirling in circles with glee and sipping hot chocolate along the sidelines. Ok, that was a stretch but in the end (pun intended), plan for all eventualities for any investment or the term ‘frozen assets’ may be in your future!

After a day of melting snow for water, we were happy to see the damage repaired and a larger heater installed so this was not going to be a yearly event. Later that week, I discovered the neighbouring vacant lot had an actual outdoor well with a working hand pump. Now that would have been nice to know sooner, lol! As for the ‘I told you so’ gift; it never got delivered but I think the message did. Heh heh.

I’ve spent many, many years helping clients buy, sell, and/or stay put. I hope to answer any questions you may have so feel free to email me. One common query of late: “Should I buy first and then sell, or sell first and then buy?” I’ll address this question in the next issue so stay warm and stay tuned!

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FOREVER HOME NEEDED:



Kayla is a 2 year old Shepherd / Heeler cross who was abandoned while still with puppies. She cared tirelessly for her litter but now the puppies have all been adopted and she has mourned this loss I’m sure judging by her picture. She is house trained and almost crate trained. She has

been practicing her basic obedience skills while hoping to find her own forever family.

Kayla is great with people and children but can be particular about her dog friends. She loves gentle play and would prefer to spend time with another low-key dog or dogs.

Outrun dogs are vaccinated, dewormed, defleaed, microchipped and spayed/neutered. The adoption fee is \$650 which helps to cover these costs. An application form can be found on their website at www.outrunrescue.com where you can see Kayla and other hopeful adoptees! Thank you for spreading the word!



Reduction in Elective and Non-Urgent Procedures and Surgeries Coming to GBGH

January 7, 2022 – Effective immediately, Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH) is ramping down elective and non-urgent procedures and surgeries as directed by the Ontario government. This provincial direction is intended to preserve bed capacity and healthcare staffing levels in response to rising COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant. Urgent and emergent surgeries and procedures will continue at the hospital.

Areas impacted by the reduction in non-urgent and elective services include surgery, ambulatory care and diagnostic imaging. GBGH and physicians are working together to determine which procedures and surgeries will be postponed in the coming weeks. If a scheduled procedure or surgery is postponed, patients will be contacted by the hospital or their physician’s office. If a patient has not been contacted about postponement, their procedure is continuing as scheduled.

If an individual has a requisition from their family physician for a non-urgent diagnostic imaging procedure (i.e. X-ray, ultrasound or CT), GBGH is asking that they delay walk-in visits to have this procedure completed at the hospital.

“We understand the postponement of surgeries and procedures can be frustrating and stressful for patients and their families, but it is essential to preserving both bed and staff capacity in the hospital system right now,” says Gail Hunt, president and CEO, GBGH. “We are facing one of the most challenging times during the pandemic and must make difficult decisions to ensure resources can be directed where they’re needed the most.”

Postponed surgeries and procedures will be re-scheduled once the directive is lifted by the provincial government. Once full services resume, GBGH will make every effort to re-schedule postponed surgeries and procedures in a timely manner.



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