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RVH welcomes the first baby of 2021



First-time parents Lilia DaSilva Gouvella and Ryan Furtado welcome their baby boy Diego, born January 1, 2021 at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre.

Each year more than 2,000 babies are born in Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre's (RVH) Birthing Unit and while each one is a unique and beautiful miracle, it calls for a special occasion to welcome the first baby born in 2021.

Arriving at 8:49 a.m. on January 1, RVH is proud to present the first baby born in 2021 with an RVH keepsake Teddy bear.

Midhurst residents and first-time parents Lilia DaSilva Gouvella and Ryan Furtado welcomed their baby boy Diego, weighing 6 lbs 8 oz., into the world. Congratulations to the whole family!

Governor General Announces 61 New Appointments to the Order of Canada

On December 30th, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, announced 61 new appointments to the Order of Canada. Recipients will be invited to accept their insignia at a ceremony to be held at a future date.

On this list is John Hartman, C.M., Lafontaine, Ontario For enriching Canadian contemporary art by bringing landscapes and cityscapes to life on printing plates, canvas and paper.

John Hartman was born in 1950 in Midland and lives near Lafontaine. He studied Fine Art at McMaster University. He established his reputation with the exhibition Painting the Bay at the McMichael Canadian Collection in 1993. These were large-scale paintings of Georgian Bay, aerial views of the landscape, painted with thick, juicy paint. In the skies Hartman painted stories about the places depicted. Hartman continued to experiment with works that combined figurative, narrative and landscape. He received national exposure with the exhibition and book Big North which toured Canada between 1999 and 2002.

Hartman's path of painting the intimate and intertwined relationship between people and place, took a turn in 2003. He began to paint aerial views of cities as living organisms. He creates complex landscape and cityscape paintings inspired by the natural environment of his native Canada and the formal qualities of German Expressionism. The artist paints in a thick, energetic impasto to craft compositions from an aerial perspective.



This is John Hartman in his studio, in front of a painting that is now in the collection of the Royal Victoria hospital in Barrie

About the Order of Canada - Created in 1967, the Order of Canada is one of our country's highest honours. Presented by the governor general, the Order honours people whose service shapes our society; whose innovations ignite our imaginations; and whose compassion unites our communities.



More than 7 000 people from all sectors of society have been invested into the Order of Canada. Their contributions are varied, yet they have all enriched the lives of others and have taken to heart the motto of the Order:



DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM ("They desire a better country"). The striking, six-point white enamel insignia they wear symbolizes our northern heritage and our diversity, because no two snowflakes are alike. Appointments are made by the governor general on the recommendation of the Advisory Council for the Order of Canada.

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Editor's Musings

We missed our family Christmas. If everyone of mom's and dad's family had been able to make it, we'd have 50 there. Sometimes, we invite a cousin (born in the west but lives down here) and their family. We rent a place. It is usually in early January. Not everyone is available on any particular weekend before Christmas.

Everyone brings a present and although the value is supposed to be \$10 to \$15, I am sure some might have a more significant value.

We, no matter the age, sit in a circle. The oldest gets the first trip to the gift table, picks whatever he wants (I am the third oldest - a brother-in-law goes first). We watch him open it then the next oldest, a sister, gets the opportunity of taking his or picking another present and opening it. This ritual goes on with each following person having the chance to take any other presents that may have been opened.

Sometimes, someone has read a Christmas story with the words left and right in it. Each time a left or right is mentioned, the gifts move in that direction. There are a lot more rights than left in the story.

Then, since the gift you wanted may be across the room, we go around the circle again and each person gets to do an exchange to get what one wants.

There is a prize for the best wrapped. I won it this past year. I printed off pictures of our families and plastered them all over the wrapping. My prize was a coffee thermos.

We play games. Some are one on one and others are team play. The best one with the most laughs is taking the red (Solo) drinking glasses (plastic cups) and making a pyramid and then tidily dismantling it as you race against three other people.

Everyone brings too much food. We gorge. We laugh! We cleanup. We say a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone and after 5 or 6 hours, we are ready to go home.

With a restriction on even a family Christmas (with more than 5), our little group got to enjoy the Christmas presents. We have a little grand-daughter who turned ten on the day before Christmas in 2019. A few months ago, she began to tell people she was eleven. So on her birthday, we teased her about being 12. She said she was 11. When it comes to patty-wacks, some of us seem to lose track pretty quick. I think she must have got 30 or 40 in some cases.

She gave me the best present. It was a sealed plastic bag with a litre of water inside. She floated it in the aquarium to get a balance in water temperature. In due course, she got a knife, cut a hole in the side of it and two of the nicest little fish emerged from it to intermingle with the other six. Thank you very much Mazie.

I was reading an article about collecting the methane exhaust from cattle to lower the consequences of Global Warming and wondered about the animal population in the world. There is also the drive to develop vegetable based meats, artificial milk and other products to rid us of these methane polluting animals.

Damian Carrington the Environmental editor for the Guardian wrote an article in 2018, "Humanity has wiped

out 60% of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles since 1970, leading the world's foremost experts to warn that the annihilation of wildlife is now an emergency that threatens civilisation."

The Living Planet Index, produced for WWF by the Zoological Society of London, uses data on 16,704 populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians, representing more than 4,000 species, to track the decline of wildlife. Between 1970 and 2014, the latest data available, populations fell by an average of 60%. Four years before, the decline was 52%.

Other recent analyses have revealed that humankind has destroyed 83% of all mammals and half of plants since the dawn of civilisation and that, even if the destruction were to end now, it would take 5-7 million years for the natural world to recover.

A peer-reviewed article from Science Direct points out that 100 years ago in 1920, there were 485,000 climate related deaths (flood, droughts, storms, wildfire and extreme temperatures). The graph declines in every year since showing over a 96% reduction. In 2020, there were 8,086 such deaths.

In a best selling book by Bjorn Lomborg named False Alarm, there is an analysis of how much climate change will affect us by the end of the century if we do nothing. The answer is 3.6% of global GDP. This means that instead of seeing incomes rise to 450% by 2100, you may 'only' see an increase of 434%.

Climate change may be a real challenge, but increased wealth and adaptive capacity vastly overshadow any negative impact. Climate panic crowds out smart climate policies. You can read the first 25p free at <http://ow.ly/HUKU50A9v1o>.

To replace the Carbon motive power (gasoline and diesel), the UK will take 37 million tons of Lithium just for the batteries, at a cost of \$16000 per ton with that price rising massively on scarcity. There is not enough lithium, cobalt, nickel & rare earths to convert the US, let alone the world.

A single electric car battery weighing 500 kg requires extracting and processing some 250,000 kg of materials AND Toyota CEO agrees with Elon Musk: "We don't have enough electricity to electrify all the cars."

50-50 draws - At the World Juniors on Monday night, Jonathon Coutoreille won the 50/50 draw \$130,412. There are no fans tin attendance so to enter your go to hockeycanada.ca/5050.

A couple of years back, we took our grandsons to a Toronto Blue Jay game. There you had to go to certain kiosks to purchase your ticket. You could watch the totals grow as more people participated. It was predicted that the prize money would be approximately a certain amount. It was slow getting there. My grandsons were guarding my ticket. Finally, it reached the predicted amount. I told them they could have anything over that amount. I guess, the purchasers got more anxious. The number grew. By the time of the draw, had I won, the grands would have made more than me. If you had left, apparently you can go onto the website and see what the winning number was and claim your prize then.

Margaret Ann and I (me sounds better)



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625 in Phelpston L0L 2K0

640 in Hillsdale including the Rural Routes L0L 1V0
2550 in Elmvalle 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,
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were in Camrose to watch the Alberta Curling finals. In the 50/50 draw, sellers walked around with little machines and when you paid, either by cash or with a credit card, the hand held printer gave you a slip of paper with your ticket number. The changing grand total was displayed on a screen at the end of the arena. The draw time was announced to be at the end of the final curling game. It seemed that many spectators had already left but the winner was there.

I thought that was a great way of running the draw but for some reason, this did not meet the Ontario Lottery rules.

A recent Leger survey found that 50 per cent of Canadians have had more difficulty hearing now that conversational partners are wearing masks. It is even a higher number for people wearing hearing aids (76 per cent), people don't realize how much they rely on lip-reading. Masks muffle speech, make sounds softer and eliminate high-pitched sounds (s, h, f, t, and th) which are common in the English language. Some mask materials impact speech more than others. The best ones are the disposable blue medical masks.

Another problem is people losing their hearing aids. Hearing aids (rather expensive for their size) get caught on the elastic. Hearing aids do have serial numbers and those who have lost the devices may contact an audiologist so they can help track the item. Apparently, there's also an app for finding lost hearing aids.

So Charles - did you and yours have a MC and a HNY?

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Covid Chart in Ontario

Day	Total Cases	Death	Resolved	W/virus	Tests
Apr 6	309 = 4,347	13 = 132	1624	2591	
Apr 24	640 (11,184)	50 = 763	7087	5669	
May 6	412 (18,722)	68 = 1429	13,222	4071	
May 19	427 (23,384)	15 = 1919	17,889	3576	
June 18	173 (32,917)	3 = 2553	28,012	2352	
July 21	203 (37,942)	1 = 2753	33,617	1572	
Aug 11	33 (40,194)	0 = 2786	36,456	952	
Sept 12	232 (44,300)	1 = 2814	39,717	1769	
Oct 13	746 (60,692)	9 = 3016		5947	36,473
Nov 2	948 (77,655)	7 = 3152	66,407	8096	27,908
Nov 16	1487 (95,496)	10 = 3371	79,295	12,830	33,351
Dec 7	1925 (129,234)	26 = 3,798	109,402	16,034	45,300
Dec 8	1676 (130,910)	10 = 3808	110,951	16,151	39,000
Dec 15	2275 = 144,396	20 = 3992	123,373	17,031	39,566
Dec 21	2123 = 158,026	17 = 4167	134,867	19,019	54,505
Dec 22	2202 = 160,228	21 = 4188		19,300	45,265
Dec 23	2408 = 164,636	41 = 4229	139,010	19,424	56,660
Dec 24	2447	49 = 4278	141,023	19,809	64,600
Dec 27	2005 = 171,416	18 = 4377	147,178	19,861	41,783
Dec 29	2552 = 175,908	41 = 4455	151,562	19,891	34,112
Dec 30	2923 = 178,831	20 = 4474	153,799	20,558	39,210
Dec 31	3328 = 182,195	56 = 4530	156,259	21,617	63,858
Jan 2	3363 = 187,998	44 = 4625	160,241	22,847	61,401
Jan 3	2964 = 190,962	25 = 4650	162,701	23,611	49,803
Jan 4	3270 = 194,232	29 = 4679	164,775	24,778	39,102
Jan 5	3128 = 197,360	51 = 4730	166,790	25,840	35,152

ANTEN MILLS NEWS by Dennis Gannon

How did you start the New Year? Was it by watching the scaled down events on TV or a movie or game night with your family? It definitely wasn't a New Year's Eve celebration that many have had in the past. The world wide health crisis did minimize how the year was brought in but as low keyed as it may have been when the clock struck midnight there were fireworks heard in the community. Pyrotechnics always brighten spirits so thanks to those who fired them off and here's hoping that 2021 will be brighter than 2020.

While 2020 wasn't the year we were hoping for the Anten Mill Community Recreation Association was still actively involved in the community. Through the diligence of community volunteers there was skating at the rink for the season which many participated in. Regrettably the Easter Eggstravaganza became the first casualty and had to be cancelled as we were learning just what the virus was about. The annual general meeting of the CRA was also cancelled and those who previously volunteered maintain their positions currently. Easter saw the community step up with generosity of food bank donations. Three locations were set up in the village and the bins filled several times. The bins stayed out for the summer and continued to support the Elmvale and District Food Bank. The annual roadside cleanup of Wilson Drive and community parks occurred during a cool June weekend.



On July 1st the community welcomed the members of the Springwater Fire and Emergency Services who made their way through the village with their fire truck transformed into an iconic Canadiana theme. Homes were decorated, flags flew high and many were out showing their support. In the late summer a movie night was held under the pavilion which a number of families enjoyed. The success was such that a few more will hopefully occur this year. In September a few members of the CRA met with senior representatives of Springwater Township to discuss the upcoming 50th anniversary of the community association and upgrades to the community centre and park.

Those discussions continued with a delegation to Springwater Council and the Springwater Recreation Advisory Committee.



Halloween concerns were overcome by an extremely successful community Trick or Treat night. Nearly 100 children received treats that were generously donated by the community. On December 12 a virtual Tree Lighting was held with the appreciated assistance of the Springwater Fire and Emergency Services firefighters and of course Santa Claus. New this year is a Light Tunnel which is great for selfie's and family photos. The event is still available for viewing on the Anten Mill Community Facebook page. As a community we are thankful for the volunteers who offer their assistance to keep our spirits alive year round and particularly this past year which was a challenge of a different nature. Event ideas are always welcome as well as individuals who are willing to share their time, experience or donations.

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Wyevale's News Ruth Ann Caston 527-5274

- Happy birthday wishes go out to Heather Hamelin, Rodney Withall, Elaine Hall, Jody Moreau, Mary Anderson, Rick Hales, Garrett Wakelin, Sara Archer, George Stott, Travis Horgan, Amy McNamara, Kenneth Stott and Lindsey Knuff.
- We are in another lockdown, so no news from the church. No school for students, no hairdressers are working.
- One does need to keep busy, going for walks, watching TV, doing puzzles, or reading books, playing cards, or talking to a friend on the phone. So, keep busy and keep safe.
- Sympathy goes out to Joanne Hales and family in the passing of her husband Jim.
- Belated wishes go out to Betty & Bill Hall who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary just before Christmas.
- Anyone with news items for the paper, please call me at 705.527.5274

NO VISITORS ALLOWED AT RVH

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) is currently restricting all visitors.

This measure is being implemented in alignment with the province-wide lockdown and to keep our patients, staff and physicians safe

There are some minor exceptions in place, noted below:

- Inpatient units
 - No visitors permitted
 - Pediatrics/Neonatal Intensive Care unit
 - One adult at a time for a child under age of 18
 - Birthing Unit/Obstetrics
 - One support person only with labouring mother and while in Obstetric unit or the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
 - Special circumstances
 - On compassionate grounds as determined by the care team
 - Emergency Department
 - No visitors permitted unless deemed necessary by care team, or if accompanying a minor
- Any visits that were pre-booked to occur after December 25 will be cancelled.

I'M AT THAT AGE WHERE MY MIND STILL THINKS I'M 29, MY HUMOR SUGGESTS I'M 12 WHILE MY BODY MOSTLY KEEPS ASKING IF I'M SURE I'M NOT DEAD YET.

"I find, these days, that most of my conversations start out with: Did I tell you this already? or What was I going to say?"

In 2020 we saw the passing of several community members past or present. To those families we collectively continue to offer our support and sympathy. Most recently the McNutt Giffen family saw the passing of Stan McNutt. Many will remember Stan from his policing role in Elmvale and then the entire Springwater Township and in particular, his dedication to community safety. To Val, Craig, Aubrey and Devon our most sincere condolences.

While the holiday season is winding down, many in the community have decided to continue lighting up their displays as a sign of support for the Frontline and Essential workers who are ensuring we have the groceries we need and the support we require. For all who have, thank you, your support is certainly appreciated.

Through the efforts of the volunteers, the rink has been started. Weather obviously creates a challenge to maintain the ice and they are doing their best to keep it open. The township has removed the hockey nets and required

that the rink house remains closed. We are fortunate to have access to the rink and it's important to recognize that it can be shut down if social distancing protocols aren't followed. The nets were removed so that hockey/ shinny games are not played. Let's keep the rink in use by all by keeping the numbers on the rink at a reasonable number and those enjoying their hockey skills remembering that the rink is for everyone. Watch the Facebook page for updates.

That's all for now. Remember Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, Stay Strong.
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Annie's Journal

By Annie Donnelly

In the book *Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, she wrote: "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."

It somehow seems appropriate to begin this new year by looking back to see the way the Lord has led us, and what He's been teaching us. It will be different for each one of us, but let's lay a common foundation that we can safely stand on together. Let's look in the book of Lamentations. This book of the Bible reflects on the tragic destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. Now there was trouble, yet in chapter 3, verses 22-26 the prophet Jeremiah wrote these words of hope:

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him." The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

It's good to wait quietly with hope in our hearts and minds. The beauty and tenderness of love can best be expressed when we're quiet in our heartfelt emotions, balanced in our thinking.

Some of our present challenges may be seen as temptations to turn from our faith. Financial problems may tempt us to think that God won't provide for us. Health problems may tempt us to think that God doesn't care about us because, why did we get sick in the first place, and why isn't He healing us? Relationship problems may tempt us to think that some people are too difficult to love or don't deserve our love; may tempt us to stop being faithful to what we know about God's love, about forgiveness.

Let's believe with all our heart, mind, soul and strength that we are safe in God's love; that His mercies are new every morning; that His grace, His wisdom, His comfort, and His everlasting love are sufficient to carry us through every situation every day. Let's let our words and actions demonstrate that we believe this.

When we keep our eyes on God because we trust Him, He keeps us in perfect peace. It's just one of His promises to us.

Let's progress from knowing about God to expressing Christian love to those around us. What is something God has been nudging you to do?

Our loving actions make this a better world. Let's love the people God created by forgiving them, by encouraging them, by investing our resources to help make their dreams come true. Let's accept the forgiveness that He offers to us. Let's make that loving idea we've been thinking about become a reality.

Let's live 2021 with faith and hope grounded in the word of God, expressed in our loving and encouraging words and actions. Amen.

Hole Next To iPhone Camera

If you have an iPhone, you may have noticed a little hole right next to the camera lens. If you don't have an iPhone, get with the times already! In any event, that tiny hole is not a second secret camera that helps Facebook and the NSA spy on you. It's actually a microphone. Starting with the iPhone 5, there are three microphones on every smartphone. One is under the speaker grill, one is on the bottom edge of the phone, and the third is right next to the camera lens. With the three microphones, it's easier to pick up sounds no matter how you choose to hold your phone, which actually comes in handy if you have voice recognition. That third microphone next to your lens is also important when you shoot video with sound on your iPhone.

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Ontario Cancelling Passenger Road Tests Across Ontario

Measures will help protect health and safety and prevent the spread of COVID-19

As a result of the Provincewide Shutdown, on December 26, the Ontario government will cancel all in-vehicle passenger tests across Northern Ontario until January 9 and for all 27 public health unit regions in Southern Ontario until January 23. This action is being taken to stop the spread of COVID-19.

"We know that these measures may be a serious inconvenience for people waiting for a road test," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "However, these are unprecedented times and our number one priority remains protecting the health and safety of individuals, families and workers."

Road test cancellations are without penalty. DriveTest clients will receive a credit in the system in order to rebook their test when the Provincewide Shutdown period ends and the region is at a lower-risk COVID-19 level.

On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, all Ontarians are advised to stay home as much as possible with trips outside the home limited to necessities such as food, medication, medical appointments, or supporting vulnerable community members.

DriveTest centres will remain open for essential indoor services, such as knowledge tests, with capacity limits and COVID-19 preventative measures in place. The ministry will also continue to offer commercial road testing and other commercial vehicle services during the shutdown to ensure the continued safe movement of essential goods and services.

Quick Facts

- The current COVID-19 Response Framework will be paused when the Provincewide Shutdown comes into effect. The impacts of these time-limited measures will be evaluated throughout the 14 days in Northern Ontario and 28 days in Southern Ontario to determine if it is safe to lift any restrictions or if they need to be extended.
- Visit DriveTest.ca for more information about DriveTest services in your area.

The power of Christmas was dramatically demonstrated on Christmas Eve in 1914, when soldiers on both sides of the Western Front sang carols to each other. On Christmas Day troops along 2/3 of the Front declared a truce. In some places the truce lasted a week. A year later, sentries on both sides were ordered to shoot anyone who attempted a repeat performance.

It is hard to pin down exactly what happened. A huge range of differing oral accounts, diary entries and letters home from those who took part make it virtually impossible to speak of a 'typical' Christmas truce as it took place across the Western front. To this day historians continue to disagree over the specifics.

Graham Williams of the Fifth London Rifle Brigade described it like this:

"First the Germans would sing one of their carols and then we would sing one of ours, until when we started up 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' the Germans immediately joined in singing the same hymn to the Latin words *Adeste Fideles*. And I thought, this is really a most extraordinary thing -- two nations both singing the same carol in the middle of a war."

The next morning, in some places, German soldiers emerged from their trenches, calling out 'Merry Christmas' in English. Allied soldiers came out warily to greet them. In others, Germans held up signs reading 'You no shoot, we no shoot.' Over the course of the day, troops exchanged gifts of cigarettes, food, buttons and hats. The Christmas truce also allowed both sides to finally bury their dead comrades, whose bodies had lain for weeks on 'no man's land,' the ground between opposing trenches.

As the Great War resumed, it wreaked such destruction and devastation that soldiers became hardened to the brutality of the war. While there were occasional moments of peace throughout the rest of World War I, they never again came on the scale of the Christmas truce in 1914.

According to the 2019 United Nations World Population Prospects report, **approximately 779** people die every day in Canada. In other words, a person dies in Canada approximately every 110 seconds.

In 2015 around 57 million people died. The world population therefore increased by 84 million in that year (that is an increase of 1.14%).

SPARK WONDER

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YOUR ALLY IN EDUCATION

Safer at Home Programs Provide Relief to Ontario Families

Province Expands Support for Learners Program and Lowers Hydro Bills

Toronto — The Ontario government is providing new financial supports for individuals, families and small businesses, as they do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the province's health care system during the Provincewide Shutdown. The province is expanding the Support for Learners program to include secondary school students and lowering electricity prices to a discounted off-peak rate 24/7 for all time-of-use and tiered customers.

In January 2021, students aged 13 through Grade 12 will be eligible for funding under an expanded Support for Learners program. Parents or guardians will receive a one-time payment of \$200 per eligible student to help offset education expenses. Support will be available for those who attend a public or private school or who are homeschooled.

As part of the Provincewide Shutdown, elementary students will be studying virtually until January 11, 2021. Secondary students in Northern Ontario will be studying virtually until January 11, 2021 and secondary students in Southern Ontario will be studying virtually until January 25, 2021. This additional funding will provide support for families impacted by these recent restrictions. While transmission in schools remains low, these approaches will help further limit community spread of COVID-19. Application instructions will be available on the Support for Learners web page starting in January 2021. Secondary school student applications will be open from January 11, 2021 to February 8, 2021. The application deadline for Support for Learners

for children or youth aged 0 to 12 and for children or youth aged 0 to 21 with special needs is being extended to February 8, 2021.

This support is part of over \$900 million in direct financial support that the Ministry of Education has provided to parents since the start of the pandemic.

To support people as they stay home during the Provincewide Shutdown, the government will hold electricity prices to the off-peak rate of 8.5 cents per kilowatt-hour for all time-of-use and tiered customers on a temporary basis starting January 1, 2021. This low rate will be available 24 hours per day, seven days a week for a 28-day period. The off-peak price will automatically be applied to bills of all residential, small business, and farm customers who pay regulated rates.

The province is also making it easier for families and businesses to get the support they need to help pay their energy bills through the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). Any residential, small business, or registered charity customer with an overdue electricity or natural gas bill will now be eligible to apply. A residential customer can receive up to \$750 to help cover their electricity bill and an additional \$750 for their natural gas bill. Small businesses can receive up to \$1500 for each. Newly eligible customers can apply for these enhanced benefits through their local utility, starting in January 2021.

Quick Facts

- Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover provides a total of \$13.5 billion in direct support for families, workers and employers, in ad-

dition to \$11.3 billion in cash flow support.

- As part of the commitment to keep students safe, the government made available \$1.3 billion to support the safe reopening of schools - the most robust and comprehensive plan in the entire country. This includes an additional \$381 million from the federal government's Safe Return to Class Fund.

- To date, the new Support for Learners program has received almost 1.3 million applications and provided more than \$175 million in funding to support over 850,000 children and students since November 30, 2020.

- According to data reported by school boards as of Friday, December 18: approximately 99.64 per cent of students in Ontario have not reported a case of COVID-19; approximately 92 per cent of schools across the province have had either no cases or one case reported within the last 14 days; and approximately 80 per cent of schools do not have a reported case of COVID-19.

- In March, the government suspended time-of-use electricity rates, holding electricity prices to the off-peak rate of 10.1 cents-per-kilowatt-hour 24/7 for time-of-use residential, small business, and farm customers for a period of 45 days.

- From June 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020, the government introduced a new fixed COVID-19 Recovery Rate of 12.8 cents per kilowatt hour to provide relief to time-of-use customers.

The top 10 New Year resolutions are usually to lose weight, eat more healthily, exercise more, stop smoking, stick to a budget, save money, get more organized, be more patient, find a better job and to just be a better person over all.

Due to the provincial lockdown, the Township Administration Centre is currently closed to the public with the exception of pre-booked appointments. **Appointments are mandatory.**

For staff contact information visit: springwater.ca/contact

Upcoming Meetings

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

Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

SSEA Tree Seedling Distribution Program

Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) and the Township of Springwater are working together to provide property owners within the Severn Sound watershed with reasonably priced, native tree and shrub seedlings for planting in early spring 2021. Tree seedlings must be pre-ordered by Friday, January 15, 2021. A limited number of seedlings are available and the program often sells out of many species - order early to avoid disappointment.

Seedlings are bare-root plants (i.e. not potted) and are sold in bundles of 10. The age, size and cost of seedlings varies by species. Pick-up will be late April or May depending on weather conditions and the nursery's schedule.

For details, including a species selection guide and instructions for ordering, visit severnsound.ca or call SSEA at 705-534-7283 x202.

Water & Wastewater Billing

The Township's third-party contractor, WAMCO Waterworks, will be conducting water meter reads in late January. Water & wastewater bills will be released in early February.

Outdoor Rinks

Help keep our volunteer-run, community outdoor rinks open by following the rules and restrictions posted.

- Maximum capacity is 10 skaters at one time (provincial fines in place).
- No shinny or hockey allowed (including sticks and pucks).
- Limit your time to 30 minutes when others are waiting.
- Be respectful of all skaters on the ice and allow for a minimum of 2 metres (6 feet) physical distancing at all times.

Visit springwater.ca/outdoorrinks for details



Interim Tax Billing

The 2020 Interim Tax Bills will be mailed in late January. Installment due dates are Wednesday, February 17, 2021 and Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

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.

Bid Opportunity

The Township is currently accepting bids for the following:

Part A - Hwy 93 IPS Traffic Signals and
Part B - Yonge Street PXO Traffic Signals
(2020-45-PW)

Closes: February 18, 2021

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

Backyard Chickens

Council has approved the final step to permit a three (3) year pilot program to allow the keeping of backyard chickens. All properties, that meet the setback requirements, within the Township of Springwater now have the ability to keep a maximum of four (4) hens, in accordance with the following By-laws:

- Backyard Chickens Licensing By-law No. 2020-091
- Backyard Chickens Temporary Use By-law No. 5000-323

To be approved to have backyard chickens, you must submit a complete application with the required supporting documents to the Clerks department for approval. Applicants are required to renew their license annually, as it will expire on December 31 of each year. Download an application form or learn more about the pilot project online at: springwater.ca/backyardchickens



Winter Maintenance Reminders

The snow has begun to fly and our Public Works crews are hard at work, now everyone needs to do their part to aid in the Township's snow removal process so that roads and sidewalks can be cleared safely and efficiently.

Winter Parking

Parking is NOT permitted on roads from November 1 to March 31 between the hours of 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. This includes roads in unassumed subdivisions, such as Elmvale Meadows, Stonemanor Woods and Cameron Estates.

Clear the Way

Remove items such as bins, basketball nets and planters from the end of your driveway and do not place steel stakes at the edge of the road to ensure the way is clear for snowplow operators.

Blowing Snow

Don't move or blow snow onto or across the road or into ditches.

For more information contact bylaw@springwater.ca or 705-728-4784 Ext. 2101.



Being Angry is a Choice

Our need as a civilization to learn to deal with anger productively. The traditional response when someone does something we don't like is some level of hostile response, even if it remains at an internal level. The feeling is that the offender deserves our anger, and should not get away with whatever she has done. Now things may be pretty clear cut if someone robs you or assaults you. There are laws which clearly state the acceptable boundaries. But it gets more difficult when we enter the grey area of human relationships. Is it acceptable to be angry with your child because he doesn't like sports, or she chooses not to go to university?

Does a child deserve our anger if they no longer want to attend church, or insist on dressing the way their friends do?

Does a partner or spouse deserve anger if they no longer feel love for us and want to leave? Certainly we may feel angry if any of these things happen to us, and it may even be a normal response initially, but that does not mean that the person deserves to be the recipient of those angry feelings. Each of us is responsible for our own angry feelings, and we should no longer let them run loose any more than we would let a pet tiger run loose.

Anger becomes toxic and dangerous when it moves beyond being an expression of how we feel, and becomes a tool or a weapon to control or intimidate another human being. It is natural at times to feel angry, but it is not O.K. to seek revenge. Such a response only escalates the situation, and on a large scale has resulted in much death and destruction throughout the history of civilization. Seeking revenge seems to be justified by our angry feelings, but this is where it all breaks down.

The world will never be rid of violence by attacking those who trigger anger. Rather, this approach breeds racism, war and genocide. The inappropriate expression of anger is the problem, and that is the responsibility of the one with the anger. Nobody makes us angry. We make ourselves angry, we choose an angry response to a situation.

Wayne Dyer says that if you squeeze an orange, orange juice will come out, because that's what's inside. If someone "squeezes" you, or pushes your buttons, and anger comes out, it's because that's what's inside. So if there's too much anger in your life, now you know where you can start to look for solutions.

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

How can I remove mold from my bathroom ceiling and keep it from coming back? I've tried bleach and water with no luck.

Answer: Buy a commercial cleaner with a mildew remover and clean the area thoroughly. Make sure it dries completely. Then (we hate to say this), you'll have to repaint. Use a paint that contains an additive that fights mildew. A hardware store or paint store can advise you on this. Finally, eliminate the moist and humid conditions that allow mildew to thrive. Make sure your bathroom has adequate ventilation and install a fan if you do not already have one.

The summit of Mount Everest is about the size of two Ping-Pong tables.

Mexico farm lobby blasts ban on GMO corn; organic growers welcome it

Mexico will "revoke and refrain from granting permits for the release of genetically modified corn seeds into the environment"

EXCERPT: Opponents of genetically modified crops celebrated the ban. "It's a huge victory," said Homero Blas, head of Mexico's Organic Producers' Society.



Mexico farm lobby blasts ban on GMO corn; organic growers welcome it

By Laura Gottesdiener Reuters, 2 Jan 2020

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-Mexico-corn-gmo-idUSKBN2970MF>

Mexico's main agricultural lobby on Saturday criticized the government's decision to ban genetically modified corn, while organic growers hailed the move that should protect smaller farmers.

Mexico will "revoke and refrain from granting permits for the release of genetically modified corn seeds into the environment," stated a decree issued Thursday evening, which also mandated the phase out of GMO corn imports by 2024.

Proponents of GMO corn say the ban on domestic cultivation would limit the options of Mexican farmers, while phasing out its importation could imperil the food chain.

"The lack of access to production options puts us at a disadvantage compared to our competitors, such as corn farmers in the United States," said Laura Tamayo, spokeswoman for Mexico's National Farm Council.

"On the other hand, the import of genetically modified grain from the U.S. is essential for many products in the agrifood chain," added Tamayo, also a regional corporate director for Bayer, whose agrochemical unit Monsanto makes weedkiller Roundup and the GMO corn designed to survive application of the pesticide.

Opponents of genetically modified crops celebrated the ban.

"It's a huge victory," said Homero Blas, head of Mexico's Organic Producers' Society.

Opponents of GMO crops say they contaminate age-old native varieties of corn and encourage the use of dangerous pesticides that endanger public health and harm biodiversity.

Mexico is largely self-sufficient in white corn used to make the country's staple tortillas, but depends on imports of mostly GMO yellow corn from the United States for livestock feed.

It was unclear whether the decree will phase out imported GMO corn for livestock, or whether the rules will only apply to corn grown for human consumption.

The rules mandate a phase out by 2024 of the use of the herbicide glyphosate, used in Roundup, the same year that Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador leaves office.

Bayer agreed to pay as much as \$10.9 billion to settle close to 100,000 U.S. lawsuits here claiming that Roundup caused cancer.

Treat hemorrhoids

Witch hazel is really effective at soothing the main symptoms of hemorrhoids: itching, redness, pain, and swelling. It can stop some minor bleeding as well. To use, swab the area with a cotton pad soaked in witch hazel.

Reduce acne

Witch hazel is a common ingredient in skin toners. Its antimicrobial properties as well as the ability to reduce oil and inflammation make it well suited to manage acne.

Treat eczema and skin rashes

It may seem counterintuitive to use an astringent on the rashy patches of eczema, but when paired with something soothing witch hazel's astringent properties may help to reduce inflammation.

Calm an itchy or sensitive scalp

A study in the International Journal of Trichology found that using a witch hazel-based shampoo and tonic on the scalp could help reduce irritation and sensitivity. This was especially helpful for patients who were treating their hair loss with minoxidil, which could lead to an irritated scalp.

Ontario Seeks Public Input on Plan to Improve and Protect Lake Simcoe

Public engagement to help determine next steps for the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

BARRIE — The Ontario government is engaging with local partners, Indigenous communities and residents from the Lake Simcoe area to get their input on the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. The plan is the roadmap to improve the lake's water quality, reduce pollutants such as phosphorus, support sustainable fisheries and address the impacts of invasive species. The feedback received will help determine if the document needs to be amended or updated.

"Thanks to the hard work of local environmental and conservation organizations, advocates and all levels of government, considerable progress has been made to restore Lake Simcoe over the past 10 years," said Andrea Khanjin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and MPP for Barrie-Innisfil. "While this progress is encouraging, we know the watershed is under increasing pressure as the result of population growth and climate change. That's why we are inviting all our partners, including the general public to participate in the review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan to ensure we are doing everything we can to keep the lake beautiful for generations to come."

Members of the public can take part in the 75-day public review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan by completing an online public survey between December 18, 2020 and March 3, 2021 and participating in a virtual town hall early in the new year. For more information and other ways to get involved in the review, visit the Protecting Lake Simcoe webpage.

Based on the engagement and the findings from the review, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will consider making amendments to the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan by the summer of 2021.

Restoring Lake Simcoe and its watershed is a key commitment of the government's Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan.

Quick Facts

- Since 2009, the province's actions to protect and restore Lake Simcoe have been guided by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.
- The province released the 10-year report on Lake Simcoe in July 2020, which highlighted progress towards the government's commitments and results of monitoring programs.
- The province recently invested \$581,000 in four new projects to help find better ways to reduce the amount of pollutants and nutrients, such as phosphorus, from entering Lake Simcoe.
- Over 450,000 people living in 22 municipalities depend on the Lake Simcoe watershed every day.

The whole reason we have seasons is because the Earth rotates on a tilted axis around the sun. But even though the solstice is the shortest day of the year, the coldest week of winter usually takes place the third or fourth week of January. That's because the planet is so big, it takes several weeks to fully react to the loss of daylight.

The solstice is considered astronomical winter. Meteorological winter is a three month period that runs from December 1st to the end of February. It is the coldest three month period of the year in the northern hemisphere.

We have lost a lot of daylight since the first day of astronomical summer back in June - six hours of it. The speed at which we gain and lose daylight increases towards the equinoxes, and then slows down at the solstices.

There is only around nine hours of possible daylight this time of year. We will only gain a few seconds of it each day for the rest of the week. But we will be gaining a minute a day by the end of January's first week, and two minutes a day by the fourth week.

Stonehenge, the prehistoric monument located in Wiltshire, is carefully aligned on a sight-line that points to the winter solstice sunset. Archaeologists believe it was constructed from 3000 BC to 2000 BC and it is thought that the winter solstice was actually more important to the people who constructed Stonehenge than the Summer solstice.

My husband David's colleague at a package-processing center was trapped in a small rest room by a faulty lock.

When he was finally discovered, David and another worker were able to open the door with some difficulty.

The lock was still jammed, so they blocked the door open while a maintenance worker was called. A bit later, David noticed the door was closed again. He jiggled the doorknob and a voice from inside called, "Get me out!" "Don't worry," David replied, "Maintenance should be sending somebody."

"They did," said the voice.

Coronacoaster noun: the ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you're loving your bubble, doing workouts, baking banana bread and going for long walks and the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast and missing people you don't even like.

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

MR & MRS SMITH

By: Brian Gunnell

♠ QJ3 ♥ 3 ♦ T4 ♣ AKJT982	North	♠ 852 ♥ AQT654 ♦ KJ32 ♣
♠ T96 ♥ 987 ♦ Q765 ♣ 543	Mrs Mr Smith	
♠ AK74 ♥ KJ2 ♦ A98 ♣ Q76	Declarer	

Playing bridge is a great activity to enjoy with one's spouse. However, some bridge Clubs have a Mr. and Mrs. Smith in their ranks, and perhaps these couples are temperamentally better suited to chess or backgammon.

At a Club duplicate the entire N-S field was having a bad day and missed the lay-down slam. Instead, they played in 3NT making the obvious 12 tricks, except at the table where a tricky Declarer scored an extra trick from an unlikely source.

Mrs. Smith knew that, after this auction, the lead of a major suit is usually called for. The ♠T was the obvious choice and Declarer won that with Dummy's Queen. Declarer now rattled off Dummy's Clubs, throwing from his hand two Diamonds, the ♥J and the ♥K (cunningly keeping the Heart Two!).

Next, Declarer cashed Spades and the defense lapsed into auto-pilot mode. Declarer seemed to be out of Hearts and so they both felt compelled to hang on to Diamonds. On the last Spade, Mr. Smith, who by now was down to ♥A and ♦KJ, tossed away the ♥A, wondering why Declarer was wasting time playing out the hand. At Trick 12, Declarer cashed the ♦A, and Mr. Smith leaned forward to claim Trick 13 with his ♦K. But Declarer rather took the wind out of Mr. Smith's sails by (somewhat mischievously) announcing "The board's good". And so it was, as the sneaky Heart Two was led to Dummy's Three for the 13th trick.

In the post mortem the Smiths exchanged ideas:

"Why didn't you"
"Did you really think I"
"keep a Heart? No reason"
"pitched Nine-Eight-Seven"
"to keep the"
"and kept the Two?"
"Diamond Queen unless"
"I wish you would"
"you were planning"
"pay attention"
"to win it at Trick 14"

Visit www.acbl.org for more about the fascinating game of bridge or email marketing@acbl.org

Ask a Therapist: On Hindsight 2020



Q: How do I reflect on the past year in a way that will help me move forward in the new year?

A: I'm sure that most of us can't wait to let the challenges, losses, and isolation of 2020 disappear in the rearview mirror! But, one thing we can say is that, somehow, we made it through! And, if we want to have a clear sense of direction for 2021, it's important not to dismiss 2020 outright – at least not just yet!

In order to find your way to a particular destination you must first get your bearings and understand your starting point. So, learning to navigate our way into 2021 requires reflecting productively on and reviewing where we have been in 2020 as an important first step.

Before you set goals or intentions for the new year, take some time to answer the following questions independently in a journal. Don't rush the process. Sit with your responses and add to them as more thoughts come to mind over the next week or two. There is value in percolating for a while to really mine the depths of your experience and current mindset. It may help to scroll through your calendar or your photos to recall highlights and challenges from this past year.

- What surprises were a part of your experience in 2020?
- What did you find the most difficult in the last 12 months?
- What lessons did you learn this year that you want to carry forward?
- What is one thing you determine to leave behind in 2020?
- What habits or wisdom do you want to stay with you in the new year?
- In what ways do you feel you have grown through your lived experience in 2020?*

Once you have completed this journaling exercise, consider gathering a group of trusted friends to talk through your reflections or book an appointment with your therapist to further explore and expand on your learning and to begin to envision next steps for your new year. You will find that making space for productive thinking and reflection is an excellent tool to find meaning and hope for all that 2021 might bring.

After all, hindsight is 2020.

*Note: The questions above are adapted from Mel Robbins' online workshop series available to download for FREE at melrobbins.com/incredibleyear. If you are looking for a great resource to start the year off with intention, this one is an excellent choice.

To submit YOUR question for consideration in a future column or for more information about therapy services that could help you navigate this unprecedented time, email Sarah@SarahJoyCovey.com. We are expanding our team to serve the community better! You can follow us on Instagram @sarahjoycovey for mental health encouragement and for the most current updates related to *A New Leaf: Resources for Growth* – our psychotherapy practice and wellness shop – located at 21 B Queen Street West in Elmvale. **During Lockdown**, we are open for virtual appointments only for therapy and shopping (curb-side pick up and limited local delivery available). Email Tanya at info@sarahjoycovey.com to book an appointment.

The name for January comes from the Roman god, Janus, who is always depicted with two heads. He uses one head to look back on the year before, and the other head to look forward into the New Year!

Originally, the Roman calendar had only 10 months, and it excluded January and February.

King Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome, is responsible for adding both January and February to the Roman calendar. He did this so calendars would be equivalent to a lunar year. Even so, it only had 30 days. Julius Caesar added a 31st day to the month and completed it to the full month of January we practice now!

Some historical names for January include "Wulfmonath," which came from the Anglo-Saxons because it was the month hungry wolves would come scavenging. King Charlemagne would call it "Wintermanoth" meaning 'winter/cold month.'

If you were born in January, your birthstone is a garnet.

One of the most influential events in U.S. happened in January - on January 1st, 1892, Ellis Island opened, allowing for the immigration of over 20 million people!

Scallions a.k.a. green onions, are super simple to grow. Start by snipping off the green part as well as an inch off the root. You should be left with the white base, which you can then place (not submerge) in water. Green onions will start to grow within days when placed in a sunny window. You can let them grow as is or plant in soil.



Rosie's Devotions

A Sacrificial Solution

2 Corinthians 5:15 – And He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. (NASB)

2 Timothy 2:15 – Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word

of truth. (NASB)

With the new millennium at hand, I have thought about doing something — like losing a few unwanted pounds.

I have been on numerous diets in the past, only to realize at the end that short-term diets do not work for me. Eventually, I would regain all the weight that I had lost, plus some! I have come to the conclusion that if I want something like losing weight to last, a diligent, consistent and sacrificial action, on my part, would be required. I know this will be a long process, but the end results will be gratifying.

In the same way, this process holds true in a believer's life. Christ Jesus died for you and me, once for all — God's ultimate sacrifice for mankind. We are called to accept this truth, diligently study His word to us in the Bible and apply the truths revealed to us to our lives. Our consistent and sacrificial actions, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, will produce fruits of love and will enable us each to grow into a more mature man or woman. The end result or our final reward will be most gratifying — we shall be like Him, enjoying everlasting life!

Prayer: Dearest Jesus, help us to be consistent, diligent and sacrificial in everything that we undertake, so that in our daily living, honour is brought to Your holy name forever and ever. Amen.

Submitted by: Rosemary Hagedorn
Midland, rosyhagedorn@gmail.com

Promote Your Business!

This ad would cost you

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

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

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

We will prepare a sample for your approval.

Ontario Trillium Foundation – Resilient Communities Fund

NEWS January 4, 2021

BARRIE – Today, Doug Downey, MPP for Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte announced that six local organizations would be receiving funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF)'s Resilient Communities Fund. The Resilient Communities fund was launched to support the non-profit sector recover and rebuild from the impacts emerging from COVID-19 so they can effectively meet the needs of their communities. OTF is investing in projects of eligible non-profit organizations to aide with their medium to longer term recover efforts, help with their stabilization and build their capacity and resiliency in the aftermath of COVID-19.

The Resilient Communities Fund is providing a flexible range of activities over two deadlines to address the diverse needs of organizations and to support them where they are in the recovery and rebuilding process. The six local organizations to receive approval are part of 486 grants that were approved province wide.

The local organizations receiving funding are:

- Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County - \$150,000
- Theatre by the Bay - \$116,900
- MacLaren Art Centre - \$45,800
- Seasons Centre for Grieving Children \$64,700
- Township of Springwater - \$19,900
- Barrie Soccer Club - \$50,100

For a grand total local investment of \$447,400

"This funding is a great way to support the organizations that support those in need in our communities," said Doug Downey, MPP for Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte. "These organizations continue to serve the needs of our communities, even during these difficult times. It's important that our government invests to keep their doors open and their operations possible in the long-term."

Community organizations are eligible for OTF funding if they are a charitable organization or registered charity, an organization incorporated as a not-for-profit, First Nations or other Indigenous communities, municipalities with populations under 20,000, or a collaboration of two or more organizations where the lead organization meets OTF criteria and accepts responsibility for the application.

Any organizations interested in applying for OTF grant funding should visit the Ontario Trillium Foundation website at www.otf.ca

Impacts of Province-Wide Lockdown on Springwater Municipal Services

Township of Springwater / December 22, 2020 – Premier Doug Ford announced a Province-wide lockdown, effective December 26 at 12:01 am. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, including the Township of Springwater, will remain in lockdown for a minimum of 28 days.

The lockdown is being put in place in an effort to restrict the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The lockdown restricts indoor organized public events and social gatherings, except with members of the same household. Additionally, it prohibits in person shopping in most retail settings, however curbside delivery and/or pickup can continue. Essential retail (grocery stores and pharmacies) will be permitted to operate with capacity limits in place. Indoor and outdoor dining are prohibited at restaurants and bars; however they will be permitted to operate take out, drive-through and delivery services.

As a result of the lockdown, the following restrictions and closures are in place in Springwater:

- The Township Administration Centre will close for the holidays on December 24 at 12 noon and reopen by appointment only on January 4 at 8:30 a.m.
 - Administration staff will continue to work on rotating shifts, in the office and remotely. Staff can be reached via email and phone. Contact information is available on the Township website at springwater.ca/contact
 - Outside staff (Public Works, Recreation, Parks & Facilities) will continue with their current work schedule while practicing safe physical distancing.
- The Elmvale Arena will close to the public as of December 24, and all sports and recreational activities have been cancelled. Users of the arena will receive targeted information regarding the closure. User groups are encouraged to reach out to their minor sports organizations for additional details.
- Outdoor rinks, parks and trails will remain open with restrictions in place.
 - Maximum 10 person gathering limit outdoors. Provincial fines are in place for violators.
 - Physical distancing of 2 metres must be maintained at all times and a minimum of 3 metres when engaged in physical activity.
 - Face masks are recommended at all times. Face masks are mandatory if physical distancing cannot be maintained.
 - Team sports (i.e. hockey or shinny) are prohibited on outdoor rinks.
 - Skate tying and warm-up rooms/huts are closed.
 - Outdoor equipment and structures are not sanitized.
 - Outdoor rinks are unsupervised, use at your own risk.
- Springwater Public Library branches will be closed to the public, however contactless curbside service will be available. Visit springwater.library.on.ca for details.
- Community halls, fire halls and public works yards remain closed to the public.

For additional information on COVID-19 in our area and public health recommendations please visit www.smdhu.org. For additional details on the Province-wide lockdown please visit www.ontario.ca/covid19

Flat Takeout Boxes



We've all ordered Chinese takeout before, brought it home, and dumped it out onto our own plates. Either that, or we just eat it straight out of the carton. However, we're sad to inform you that you're doing it all wrong. The reason that Chinese (and other food) takeout boxes are flat is that they are designed to be their own plate. While the food is still inside the container, you can (easily but carefully) pull the sides apart and set it flat on the table. If you did everything correctly, your meal will be sitting on a flat and perfectly usable plate. It's crazy how easy it is to pull this off and even crazier that more people don't realize why takeout containers are shaped as they are.

Olive oil is a healthy fat which contains essential fatty acids that help skin resist UV damage. These fatty acids are also part of the cell membranes that keep in all that moisture your body loses through heat and sweat during the summer.

In order to protect your skin and keep it supple, consume about 1 tablespoon of olive oil daily or add it to a healthy salad or fish dish in order to get all those essential fatty acids.

Letters to the Editor Please include phone number with any L to E
You might not appreciate seeing your name on something you did not write.

A New Year's tax reduction helps strengthen seniors' financial security

By Deb Schulte - Canada's Minister of Seniors and MP for King—Vaughan

Canadians are ringing-in the New Year with another tax reduction from the federal government—they can now earn more before paying any federal income tax. It's another important step forward for the middle class and those working hard to join it—and for seniors' financial security.

When the Liberal government's increases to the Basic Personal Amount are fully implemented in 2023, 4.3 million seniors will benefit, including 465,000 whose federal income tax will be reduced to zero. Every year, singles will save close to \$300 and couples will save nearly \$600.

These savings will help seniors with everyday expenses, like groceries, hydro and deliveries.

It's part of the Liberal government delivering on their plan to make life more affordable for seniors.

That work started in 2016, when the first act of our new government was to pass the Middle Class Tax Cut to reduce personal income taxes. This saved affected Canadians an average of \$330 a year for singles and \$540 a year for couples.

Seniors depend on strong public pensions, and our government is committed to improving them.

We reversed the previous Conservative government's increase to the age of eligibility for Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), restoring it to 65 years from 67 years. That put thousands of dollars back into the pockets of new seniors.

To help low-income seniors, we increased the GIS by \$947. And to help those low-income working seniors keep more of their benefits, we increased the GIS earnings exemption so they can earn up to \$5,000 without any reduction in benefits and get a partial exemption for their next \$10,000 in income.

To help seniors with extra expenses of the pandemic, we made one-time payments to seniors in April through the GST Credit and July through OAS. Together, they are worth over \$1500 for a low-income couple, all tax-free. We also worked together with provinces and territories to increase the Canada Pension Plan's maximum yearly benefit for future retirees by about 50 percent, meaningfully reducing the risk of not saving enough for retirement. The Quebec Pension Plan mirrored these improvements.

Our policies are showing positive results: 25 percent fewer seniors live in poverty than when we took office in 2015.

As seniors age, they are more likely to outlive their savings, have disabilities, be unable to work and be widowed—all while their health care costs are rising. To help address these pressures on older seniors' quality of life, the Liberal government has reaffirmed our commitment to increasing Old Age Security by 10 percent once a senior turns 75.

Taken together, our government's ambitious and progressive measures are making a real difference in seniors' financial security—however, there is more work to do. Canadian seniors can always count on Liberals to listen, understand their needs and work hard to deliver for them.

Interesting Comment

A reader sent me an interesting comment and although said reader did not go through the proper protocol re Letters to the Editor, said person did make an interesting comment.

Greetings & Happy New Year! Let me summarize the answers to the caring Gloria Woods regarding the T/D in Elmvale.

"WE DON'T GIVE A PINCH OF COON POOP ABOUT THE SITUATION IN ELMVALE, AS LONG AS WE GENERATE HUGE PROFITS FOR OUR SHAREHOLDERS, THANKS FOR WRITING".

That also applies to the T/D Ombudsman office. Michael, have a prosperous New Year & keep up the great work.

Green New Deal

Dear Editor,

I've been reading some of the letters of the Green New Deal proponents and am wondering if these people are as smart as that congresswoman in New York.... AOC.? Do they believe the world is ending in 12...probably 11 years by now?

One has suggested scrapping the TMX... pipeline....because it won't turn a profit??? Don't they realize that government never turns a profit... and pulls money out of nowhere(here in Canada for sure) when it needs it...So they want the money that is lost by our spendthrift government now to reappear in the GREEN NEW DEAL!!!

Maybe some of these people could check with a farmer and see how our Carbon Tax is affecting them? The problem in 11 years will not be the climate (if it ever was) but maybe by pricing farmers out of business we will have a catastrophe of not enough food!!

Canada is still a great country but I think some of these martyr types who think we can save the world by making our great country poorer, are expecting our entire population to lay down on the altar of SOCIAL JUSTICE!!!!

PS...TMX WAS SACRIFICED ON THAT ALTAR!!!

Alan Tarrant

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Across

- 1 Half a married couple
- 4 Consumes
- 8 Light-switch setting
- 11 Symbol of strength
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- 13 Game show giveaway
- 14 Hit the slopes
- 15 Ornamental fabric
- 16 Stab
- 17 Beat
- 19 Lead
- 21 Non-professional
- 23 Boxing-ring boundaries
- 26 Many years
- 30 Cheap way to buy
- 31 Golf club
- 32 Hit the spot
- 34 Control board
- 36 Came out ahead
- 37 Award for a good student
- 39 What's given out
- 43 Pavlova's pivot
- 45 Square
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- 48 Dominate completely
- 49 Knight's apprentice
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Down

- 1 The bulk
- 2 Croupier's implement
- 3 Browse
- 4 Remove cargo
- 5 Adriatic
- 6 A shot
- 7 Bum (bad advice)
- 8 Japanese cuisine staple
- 9 Much
- 10 Cooking method
- 18 Sun circler
- 20 Hood and Williams
- 22 Approved!
- 24 Imp
- 25 Atmosphere, from earth
- 26 Guacamole or fondue
- 27 The Renaissance, e.g.
- 28 Agreement
- 29 Woodcutter
- 33 Lavatory fixture
- 35 Illuminations
- 38 True to life
- 40 Leave a mark
- 41 Encourage
- 42 Watched
- 43 Auto-club service
- 44 Be obligated
- 46 Time long past

Ontario Launches Guide for Residential Condo Purchasers

New guide to help buyers make informed decisions and provide up-to-date information on condominium living

TORONTO — The Ontario government has launched a new Residential Condominium Buyers' Guide to help condo buyers make informed purchasing decisions. Beginning January 1, 2021, developers across the province will be required to provide purchasers of new or pre-construction residential condos with a copy of the guide and the current disclosure statement. The new guide will include up-to-date information on a variety of aspects of condo ownership, such as:

- The condo purchasing process
- Moving into a pre-construction residential condo unit
- Condo living and governance
- Resources for resolving issues with condo living

"Buying a condo is a significant decision, and it is important that purchasers are appropriately informed so they can be confident in their new home," said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Government and Consumer Services. "Our government's new plain-language condo guide contains up-to-date information about condo ownership and the condo purchasing process. We are committed to making sure condo purchasers have the information they need to make the right decision for themselves and their families, and I am very proud of our efforts to further strengthen consumer protection in Ontario."

The guide was developed by the Condominium Authority of Ontario (CAO), and approved by the Minister of Government and Consumer Services, based on consultations with key stakeholders and the public. Stakeholders were overwhelmingly supportive of the condo guide proposal and the benefits for consumers.

Quick Facts

- There are about 900,000 condominium units and over 11,000 condominium corporations across Ontario.
- According to data from the 2016 Census, about 13 per cent of Ontario households live in condominiums.

- According to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, about 55 per cent of homes under construction in Ontario are condominiums.
- Under the Condo Act, purchase agreements for new or pre-construction condos purchased from developers are not binding on purchasers until developers provide purchasers with a copy of the current disclosure statement. As of January 1, 2021, this requirement will change to also require developers to provide a copy of Ontario's Residential Condominium Buyers' Guide (the applicable condominium guide) to the purchasers of new or pre-construction residential condos in certain circumstances.
- The CAO is an administrative authority designated under Ontario's Condominium Act, 1998 (Condo Act) to administer specific provisions and regulations of the Condo Act. A key responsibility for the CAO is to educate the public on rights and obligations under the Condo Act and its regulations. In addition to public education, the CAO's services include administering mandatory training for condominium directors and overseeing online dispute resolution services available through the Condominium Authority Tribunal.

A new survey suggests nearly half of Canadians visited with family or friends over the winter holiday period.

The poll by Leger and the Association for Canadian Studies poll found 48 per cent of those surveyed visited with people outside their home, compared to 50 per cent who did not.

Public health officials had pleaded with Canadians to sharply limit their contacts during the holidays to avoid massive spikes in COVID-19 transmission.

Case numbers are rising and the poll suggests 62 per cent of those surveyed have little or no confidence that we'll limit the spread of COVID-19 over the next few weeks.

But 87 per cent said they would support a total ban on international travel until there are several consecutive days of reduced numbers of COVID-19 cases.

Pollsters asked 1,506 people the questions between Dec. 30, 2020 and Jan. 3, 2021 as news emerged of several politicians who did travel abroad.

A number of politicians have admitted to leaving the country over the holiday period, even as their constituents adhered to public health guidance meant to curb the spread of COVID-19 and hunkered down at home.

Speed up immunizations – that's the message from some doctors in Canada – as no province has administered more than 50 percent of the COVID-19 doses it has received so far.

Data compiled from the COVID-19 Canada Open Data Working Group reveals the country is administering vaccines at a slower pace than some of its peer countries.

Israel, Britain, the United States and Germany have all inoculated a larger share of their populations, despite Canada being one of the first to start authorizing vaccines.

As of January 3rd, Canada has only administered 0.31 vaccines for every 100 residents, well behind world-leading Israel at 14 per 100 people.

Britain is at about 1.4 per 100, while the U.S. is about 1.3 per 100 residents.

Dr. Nathan Stall, a geriatrician at Toronto's Sinai Health System tells the Globe and Mail, province's need to start treating the vaccine administration like the emergency it is.

Ontario has administered the most total doses of any province, nearly 42,000, but that's the fewest per capita. The province's top doctor says that is an undercount because it doesn't include injections of the Moderna vaccine.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW:

13th Amendment ABOLISHED SLAVERY 100% REPUBLICAN SUPPORT 23% DEMOCRAT SUPPORT	15th Amendment RIGHT TO VOTE FOR ALL 100% REPUBLICAN SUPPORT 0% DEMOCRAT SUPPORT
14th Amendment GAVE CITIZENSHIP TO FREED SLAVES 94% REPUBLICAN SUPPORT 0% DEMOCRAT SUPPORT	OBAMACARE 0% REPUBLICAN SUPPORT 86% DEMOCRAT SUPPORT

PLEASE KEEP QUIET

No Money for Food is Cent\$less and Unjust



Over four million Canadians, one quarter of whom are children, do not have adequate access to food. The recent Beyond Hunger report by Community Food Centres Canada highlights the scope of food insecurity, which has been made worse by the pandemic and oppressive systems like institutional racism. One in seven Canadians now struggle to put food on the table due to layoffs and economic downturn.

Food insecurity is a human rights issue and to address the root cause, Urban Pantry advocates for income solutions that make it more affordable for Canadians to meet their basic needs with dignity.

In our work setting up community gardens, teaching food skills and delivering the Barrie Good Food Box, we see the value of community food programs. We also know that food banks assist people with immediate food relief in times of hardship. Unfortunately, food charity - mostly in the form of food banks - has become a band-aid solution that does not get to the root of the problem. Governments at all levels rely on charities to do the impossible task of solving food insecurity through charity alone. We need to support community food organizations and food banks. But more importantly, we need policies that address food insecurity as a poverty issue that can only be solved through income solutions.

We are thankful to work alongside the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit when delivering community food programming. Their No Money for Food is Cent\$less campaign hits the nail on the head; it advocates for an increase in social assistance rates to match real living costs (indexed to inflation); supporting fair workplaces and good jobs with regular hours and benefits; increasing minimum wage; and providing a basic income for all Ontarians. Until these income solutions are implemented, we are unlikely to see any reduction in the number of people who struggle with not having enough money to put food on the table.

What else can be done? The Ontario Dietitians in Public Health recommend asking the provincial government for the release date of their new Poverty Reduction Strategy. Additionally, Community Food Centres Canada (CFC) has identified that the federal government needs to set targets and improve reporting on food insecurity, and ensure progress on food security is achieved equitably. Better data collection is needed, including annual reporting by Statistics Canada and the collection of race-based data. CFC also advocates for an indigenous food sovereignty fund to invest in culturally appropriate forms of food that support local communities and ecosystems.

This is why Urban Pantry has joined Just Recovery Simcoe, an alliance between 40 groups and businesses from across Simcoe County proposing solutions that focus on increasing the health of people, our communities and nature. We envision a future where people can enjoy the foods they want without needing to rely on food charity. We want communities where every person has sufficient income to access fresh, nutritious, culturally appropriate food. After all, there is nothing like food, to connect diverse peoples and keep them working together towards shared solutions. Visit www.justrecovery.com to learn more.

About Urban Pantry: Urban Pantry is a community food security program led by the Canadian Mental Health Association that delivers food skills, urban agriculture, and food access opportunities in Barrie & Simcoe County. Written by Jenna Zardo.

Five Things That Make Us Look Older

1. Stress: Stress really makes us older. It's proven that the stressful situations decrease your protective powers of your organism and the skin cells age faster. If you feel strenuous take a deep breathe and close your eyes for seconds. Stress compromises your ability to fight off disease and infection. Stress tightens facial muscles and cause expression lines. Constant Stress can also contribute to acne by stimulating the glands to plump out more oil leading to more breakouts.

2. Alcohol: Excessive alcohol intake is among the main causes of premature aging. Scientific studies have proven that alcohol dilates the blood vessel in the skin which leads to sagging skin and wrinkling. Excessive alcohol intake worsens acne, causes broken capillaries and leads to skin rashes, red spots and itchiness. Alcohol makes skin appear blotchy and seriously dehydrates your skin and body, which destroys the body's supply of vitamin A Drinking too much also interrupts your beauty sleep.

3. Sedentary Way Of Life: The lack of enough exercising often leads serious health problems. You don't have to spend 3 hours at the gym every day, a 30 minute- walk a day will be enough to keep your body in good shape. Not exercising regularly decrease the blood circulation, influence the venous and lymphatic system which usually leads to cellulite. A sedentary way of life seriously affects our state of health. It results in muscle loss, lowered aerobic capacity, high blood pressure, increase risk of developing dietetics, weight gain, decrease muscle strength and flexibility.

4. Smoking: Smoking is one of the worst things we can do to our bodies and is one of the main reasons for premature aging. Smoking is bad not only for your health, but also for your beauty. It decreases the flow of blood to the skin, leaving your complexion dull, promotes wrinkles and fine lines, deprives your skin of oxygen and robs your body of essential vitamins. Smoking results in broken capillaries, dull complexion, premature aging, reduction of collagen which is essential for a healthy skin, loss of elasticity and thinning of the skin.

5. Excessive Sun Exposure: The sun is enemy number one of our skin. Excessive sun exposure always dries out your skin and increases the risk of skin cancer. The sun is the leading cause of dark, brown spots on the skin which can easily ruins radiant skin. Sun radiation is responsible for most of the unpleasant skin conditions as appearance of brown spots, wrinkles and fine lines, sagging of the skin, premature aging, and enlargement of blood capillaries on

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Beekeeping Farm

LOCAL HONEY AVAILABLE

Honey, Bee Pollen, Propolis
The Bee Therapy House
Bee Swarm & Wasp Removal

<http://youtu.be/MMWf4nuayWs>

The Honey Place has FIREWOOD FOR SALE!!

Tips for Making 2021 a Healthier Year

SATURDAY, Jan. 2, 2021 -- A New Year's resolution to take better care of yourself is one you should keep, especially in the era of COVID-19.

Wearing a mask, maintaining a safe distance from others and washing your hands frequently are going remain important in 2021. But don't forget to prioritize a healthy lifestyle that improves your overall health and quality of life, and helps prevent cancer, according to experts at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

The institute offers the following tips:

Eat a healthy diet and watch your weight.

- For cancer prevention, the American Institute for Cancer Research and the American Cancer Society recommend maintaining a healthy weight, staying active and eating a healthy diet. That's one rich in whole grains, vegetables, fruit and beans, with a minimum of red and processed meats, fast food and processed foods high in fat, starches or sugars. Avoid sugary drinks.
- Cutting out alcohol lowers the risk of many cancers, including breast cancer.

Exercise regularly. It has many benefits for physical and mental well-being.

- Current guidelines recommend at least 150 to 300 minutes a week of moderate-intensity, or 75 to 150 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity.
- Muscle-strengthening activities should also be included.
- Sitting for a long time watching TV or using the computer is discouraged.
- Find fun ways to stay active, such as online exercise classes, or walking or jogging in your neighborhood.

Quit smoking.

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death. Quitting smoking will lower the risk for many cancers, including those of the lungs, mouth, throat, blood, bladder, esophagus, stomach, pancreas and kidneys.

Getting preventive care is an important step to manage your health.

- This includes cancer screenings, which can detect cancer before it spreads.

Springwater - Along with the main centres of Anten Hills, Crown Hill, Elmvalle, Hillsdale, Midhurst and Minesing, the township contains the communities of Allenwood, Apto, Craighurst, Crossland, Dalston, Edenvale, Fergusonvale, Grenfel, Hendrie, Langman, New Flos, Orr Lake, Phelpston, Sandy Beach, Saurin, Snow Valley, Vespra Village, Strongville and Vigo. Two former ghost communities, called Josephine and McKinnon, existed in the Minesing Swamp within the township's borders.

DOUG SHIPLEY

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
BARRIE—SPRINGWATER—ORO-MEDONTE

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BARRIE, ON L4M 5K3
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DOUG.SHIPLEY@PARL.GC.CA
705-728-2596**

A Message from Doug Shipley, MP
Canada Summer Jobs 2021 Funding Application is open! The application period opened December 21st and applications must be submitted no later than January 29th, 2021.

Canada Summer Jobs is part of the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. This federal initiative helps young people to get information and gain skills and work experience that will aid in successful transitions to the labour market.

This program is also beneficial to many local employers from both the profit and not for profit sectors. This program functions by providing wage subsidies to eligible applicants to help create quality summer work experiences for young people from the ages of 15-30. This provides our youth with valuable opportunities to develop and improve skills and improve their access to the labour market. And it builds a greater potential workforce for our community and communities just like ours across Canada.

The program is delivered by Employment and Social Development Canada. Full details can be found online by searching 'Canada Summer Jobs' at Canada.ca

Canada Summer Jobs is one of many programs that people may be trying to access in coming weeks.

Many federal programs that were implemented to assist individuals and businesses during the pandemic are still available and may have been modified. If you have questions about any of these federal programs my staff and I are still here to help during the lockdown. Please contact us by telephone or email if we can assist with any federal matters.

Stay safe!
Sincerely,

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

It is our belief that social justice begins at home.

We want those who have helped us to produce this great institution and are helping to maintain it to share our prosperity. We want them to have present profits and future prospects. ... Believing as we do, that a division of our earnings between capital and labor is unequal, we have sought a plan of relief suitable for our business. -James Couzens, Ford Motor Company treasurer, announcing the doubling of wages to \$5/day on Jan 5, 1914

[The Wall Street Journal said it is "to apply biblical or spiritual principles into a field where they do not belong ... (Ford has) committed economic blunders, if not crimes." Ford actually doubled its profits in two years.]

Ring out false pride in place and blood, / The civic slander and the spite; / Ring in the love of truth and right, / Ring in the common love of good. -Alfred, Lord Tennyson, poet (1809-1892)

Japan's legal system has a 99 percent conviction rate.

STEELERS

RESTAURANT & PUB

DAILY FEATURES

- MON** STIR FRY NIGHT (weekly)
- TUES** BURGER NIGHT (The best burgers!)
- WED** WING NIGHT (voted best!)
- THURS** PASTA NIGHT (weekly)
- FRI** FISH NIGHT (Best seller)
- SAT** STEAK NIGHT (weekly)
- SUN** HOME TOWN COOKING (Fresh turkey, beef)

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NEW HOURS: MONDAY/TUESDAY 11 AM - 7 PM

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY 11 AM - 8 PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 11 AM - 9 PM • SUNDAY 11 AM - 8 PM



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A Year In Review - Doug Downey

This has been an incredibly challenging year for people around the globe. Here at home, Ontarians have sacrificed, supported, and worked hard to adapt to new and changing circumstances. I have heard from hundreds of people locally about how lives and livelihoods have been affected. None of this has been easy, and I want residents to know that I am hard at work behind the scenes every day, making changes and modernizing systems that will benefit them.

I continue to advocate for the people of Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte on all levels. Tens of millions of dollars have been secured for local organizations and municipalities to help them through this year and into next; to build for the future. Thanks to the advocacy of local parents, we were able to secure funds for Shanty Bay School to be rebuilt. I've worked with other Ministers and municipal leaders to ensure a clear path for a senior's living centre in Springwater, plus a medical and automotive innovation park in Oro-Medonte. We've seen investments in mental health resiliency, infrastructure, transportation, policing, post secondary education, health care, and long-term care beds.

As we look toward 2021, our government continues to work toward a more modern, accessible Ontario for all. The government's focus since day one has been to make services more streamlined and convenient across all facets of daily life, including our court systems, digitizing government services, removing red tape and simplifying policies, while protecting public health and safety, and creating more flexible and responsible public services.

Serving Ontarians as Attorney General has also been a unique and fulfilling experience. In the past year alone, my Ministry has appointed dozens of judges, passed 3 bills (one with unanimous consent) affecting 32 statutes and 4 related regulations. We have amended 18 statutes, had 6 regulations put through other vehicles, and 4 private members bills on MAG statutes were introduced, 2 of which received Royal Assent. My team has worked to transform and modernize the justice system decades in a matter of months. This means Ontarians will have an easier, faster, and more accessible justice system.

There is still more valuable work to be done. I am looking forward to finding more new ways to innovate as we come out of 2020 and guide our economy toward a healthy recovery. Thank you to every single person in Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte for all you have done this year to keep our community working together. Front line workers, parents, children, businesses; everyone has done their part to contribute to our safety and well-being as a community. I will continue advocating for you as we focus on growth in the new year.

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

Cathy Johnston Walton

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



In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

Journey Walk into 2021

I close my eyes at my sacred fire pit and place my loaded ceremonial pipe in front of me. I am sprinkling Cedar into the fire and it crackles inviting the spirits to join me on this Journey walk ceremony into 2021.

As I lean back and reflect I remember that ringing in the New Year has always been a cause for celebration, spending time and sharing stories with friends and family, and offering well wishes and yes, let's not forget all those well intention resolutions that we almost, mostly, make an attempt to keep. (LOL)

However, 2020 has been rough and challenging. We have experienced many highs and many lows, feelings of anxiety, depression and panic attacks. Days of many tears, frustrations, loss of sleep and total exhaustion. Yes we can say that some days really sucked.

Looking ahead some of us are really excited to enter into this fresh year we call 2021 with hopes of putting an end to the challenges we have been facing and will continue to face for the next little while however you need to know that helping those in need has made there year very very special with your presence.

As the old of 2020 meets the new 2021 at midnight, I present tobacco into the sacred fire pit and pray to the ancestors for healing and strength as I smoked my sacred pipe. I am reminded that our spirituality is a oneness and an interconnectedness with all that lives and breathes on Mother Earth our Earth mother.

As we smudge ourselves and leave behind all the negativities of the last year we welcome a year that will unfold some good and happy times keeping us and our loved ones safe during these times. As we continue our Journey walk of 2021 we walk arm in arm supporting one another with an open mind and heart.

May the upcoming year be full of new hopes, happiness, and good times. May you find inspirations to help you achieve all your goals and dreams and remember those heartfelt blessings that we need to be grateful for. May the rising sun of a new day spread brightness and that soon we are able to resume our normal lives with smiles and laughter, fun, and dance a little dance and most of all being able to once again give one another those BIG OLD BEAR HUGS.

Take care and be well and stay safe
 Everyone healing under the same sky
 Ernest W. Matton I.C.A.D.C., C.I.A.C., ON.O

Athehsa Niohkwa:rita:a (Little Brown Bear)

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.

Klaus and Linda (Tews) Wendland

Owners	Built:
1982-present Klaus and Linda (Tews) Wendland	1920 by Billy Rowell
1966-1982 Harry (Hendrick) and Tina (Davellar) Van Kolschoten	Dimensions: 60 x 80'
1946-1966 Mervyn (Charles) and Effie (Pogson) Parker	Materials: pine timbers
1919-1946 Charles W.L. and Sadie (Jones) Parker	Water Source: white oak cistern inside barn, 8' high, 12' diameter
1917-1919 children John and Jane Parker	
1901-1917 John H and Susannah (Banting) Parker	
1863-1901 John Kent bought from the Crown, later lot divided and they lived the on SE ¼	



Headley Coles, Mervyn and Harold Parker, Jimmy Coles, Frank Van Cleef, Ralph the dog threshing.



John Parker had bought the E ½ Lot 4, Concession 10 earlier from Simon Armstrong. When he bought this property he also bought the S ½ of E ½ Lot 10, Concession 10 from the John Kent estate. The frame barn built in 1876 had one pine log measuring 60" and 12" x 16". Forty feet of it didn't have a single knot. It was reused in the barn built in 1920.

Charlie Parker was a strong man and it was needed when the barn was built. He and a partner were raising the purlin plate using pike poles. A purlin plate is a horizontal beam which supports the rafters and is supported by posts. The pike pole they were using was 2-3 feet too short. Standing near the top of the barn with his hand under the beam Charlie gave it everything he had and raised it up. This resulted in two hernias which he didn't have fixed until he was 75. Roy Allen was a harness maker in Barrie and made Charlie a big belt to cinch around himself.

The 1920 barn replaced two log barns. In 1952 the inside of the barn was changed with 40 tie stalls, 4 steel pens, and gutter cleaners added to accommodate milk cows. The cistern was taken out and a well drilled. Parkers built a cement silo, adding two poured rings every morning.

Harry and Tina Van Kolschoten came from Holland with three of their four children in 1956. They bought the farm 'lock, stock and barrel'. Harry bought the cows from Parkers, and Klaus bought the cows from Harry. Wendlands milked until 2011.

Harold Parker, Klaus Wendland, A History of the Community of Minesing p. 101, 118.



GBGH resumes some elective and non-urgent procedures and surgeries

December 30, 2020 – Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH) is resuming non-urgent and elective procedures and surgeries after these services were postponed December 7 at the beginning of the outbreak. The resumption of services includes ambulatory care procedures, such as endoscopy, which were also postponed. The decision to proceed was based on no transmission in the surgical and ambulatory care departments and was made in consultation with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

“GBGH has a comprehensive plan to safely and efficiently resume elective and non-urgent surgeries and procedures, ensuring our community once again has access to these important services,” says Dr. Vikram Ralhan, chief of staff and chair, Elective Surgical and Procedural Oversight Committee, GBGH. “We have worked with our physicians and clinical leaders to develop and implement a plan which will enable us to re-schedule procedures and gradually catch up on any waitlists created by this postponement.”

Physicians’ offices or the hospital will contact patients to notify them regarding re-scheduling their surgery or procedure. Urgent and emergent surgeries and procedures have always continued throughout the pandemic and recent outbreak. The hospital does have plans in place should it need to suddenly ramp down services again due to a surge in COVID-19 patients.

As of the end of day December 29, there have been the following cases related to the outbreak:

- 31 patient cases
 - 10 patients admitted in hospital
 - 15 patients discharged
 - Six outbreak-related deaths
- 27 staff/credentialed staff cases
- One visitor related to the outbreak (high risk contact of a COVID positive patient during their period of communicability)

Statistics related to the outbreak are updated daily and can be found on the GBGH website - <http://gbgh.on.ca/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-updates/>

An Opportunity for Landowners, Municipalities, and Conservation Authorities to Work Together

by Shirley Dolan Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario have been relentless in their criticism of the amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act outlined in Bill 229, Schedule 6. Landowners, on the other hand, have eloquently and steadfastly supported the changes.

Bill 229, including Schedule 6, received Royal Assent and became law on December 8, 2020 but not before some changes to the amendments were made. The next step in the process is to develop regulations and to do this the Ontario government has announced a “Working Group to Better Focus Conservation Authorities”. <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59694/ontario-announces-working-group-to-better-focus-conservation-authorities> “Hassaan Basit, President and CEO of Conservation Halton will chair the new group which will provide input on the development of proposed regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act, and on how conservation authorities are governed. Ontario will also be seeking the public’s feedback on regulatory and governance proposals through the Environmental Registry. Public consultation on these proposals is also expected to begin early in the new year.”

Here is an opportunity for CAs to work with landowners and to recognize and use their generational knowledge of the land. Far too often, we see blanket designations of private property as wetlands or flood plains. The designations are done without consultation with the property owners and often with the attitude that people who own property don’t care about the environment and cannot be trusted to make good decisions about how it should be used. Once designated, it is up to the property owner to prove otherwise at their expense.

As EnPointe Public Affairs points out “Ontario is the only jurisdiction in North America that features CAs as a conservation construct out of sixty-three sub-national jurisdictions in Canada and the United States. No other province or state has adopted or is in the process of adopting Ontario’s CA model.”

How is it that these other jurisdictions get along without the need for the “conservation construct” we use in Ontario? EnPointe goes on to say “Without objective measurements conducted by qualified investigators who regularly assess performance and results, CAs themselves cannot be deemed immune from reform or that reform can only emerge from the CAs themselves to be acceptable. This standard does not exist in any other sector of the Government of Ontario in respect of public interests. It is not for a subordinate public entity to dictate terms to the enabling authority if not empowered to do so in law. CAs are not.”

Surely there are other options where organizations work with landowners. Take, for example, Ducks Unlimited Canada, a nation-wide organization that has, since 1938 “completed more than 11,890 projects and conserved, restored and positively influenced more than 163.5 million acres of habitat.” and note that “Landowners are an essential part of the big picture solution”.

Please read about the landowner perspective on the Schedule 6 Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act on our website <https://ontariolandowners.ca/ontario-landowners-association-ola-links-resources/>.

As stated by OLA President Jeff Bogaerts in a letter to Minister Yurek, “the Ontario Landowners Association agrees with the direction your Ministry is taking. We look forward to working with you, your Ministry, and the Government of Ontario to find the balance between the Private Landowner, the environment, and the people of Ontario.”

Ontario Supports Non-Profits Delivering Vital Services

Funding helps organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19

TORONTO — The Ontario government is providing nearly \$41 million to help 486 non-profit organizations across the province to rebuild and recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These grants are part of the first round of funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation’s new \$83-million Resilient Communities Fund.

The Resilient Communities Fund provides grants of up to \$150,000 to eligible non-profit organizations. They can apply for a broad and flexible range of needs, such as mental and physical health and wellbeing supports for staff or volunteers, identify new health and safety processes or purchasing of new technology and personal protective equipment. The fund will also provide grants to support capital needs, such as renovations and facility updates to meet the changing needs of the communities they serve.

Ontario’s Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover sets out a total of \$45 billion in support over three years to deliver critical programs and tax measures to support individuals, families and job creators impacted by the virus, and lay the groundwork for a robust long-term economic recovery for the province.

For more information on the OTF’s Resilient Communities Fund, and for a full list of recipients, please visit the OTF website.

Quick Facts

- The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada’s leading granting foundations. OTF awarded \$115 million to 645 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario.
- OTF has redirected provincial funding previously allocated for the 2020 Grow and Capital grant streams into the \$83-million Resilient Communities Fund.
- The second application period of the Resilient Communities Fund closed on December 9. Information about the approved recipients will be made available at a future date.

County continues to provide essential services during lockdown

Midhurst/December 23, 2020 – The Province of Ontario has announced a 28-day initial lockdown running December 26 to January 23. As the provider of significant regional services, the County is working with the Health Unit and area partners to ensure critical services are maintained while adhering to all safety guidelines.

Effective December 26 at 12:01 a.m. the following services, facilities and programs will be impacted:

CLOSED to the Public:

County Administration Centre (Midhurst)

- The Administration Centre will be closed to the Public until January 23. Staff will continue to serve residents, clients and partners virtually by appointment only

The Service Simcoe Contact Centre will be moving to virtual service only at service@simcoe.ca or 705-735-6901

The Cravings @ Work Cafeteria will be closed to staff and the public during the lockdown

Simcoe County Museum

- The facility will be closed to the public until January 23
- Staff will continue to work towards offering the Skate Trail in late January, weather and restrictions permitting

Simcoe County Archives

- Building access remains closed to the public during the pandemic

Staff will continue to provide remote/virtual services to the public and clients. [Click here](#) for information

CONTINUED Essential/Critical Services:

Landfills and Curbside Waste Collection

- Landfills will remain open on their modified COVID-19 schedule, with holiday closures occurring on the Statutory Holidays only (December 25, December 26 and January 1) and at 12 p.m. on December 24
 - For safety precautions all landfills will move to cashless transactions (debit and credit only with tap preferred)

- Curbside waste collection services will continue. During the holidays, Friday collections on December 25 and January 1 will move to the Saturdays (December 26 and January 2). All other collection days remain the same during the holidays

LINX Transit

- LINX Transit will continue to operate all routes with safety precautions in place
- Holiday hours are in effect with no service on the three Statutory Holidays only (December 25, December 26 and January 1)

Ontario Works Offices

- Due to the essential nature of the service, Ontario Works Offices will remain open to provide limited and modified client support
- Enhanced safety measures and screening will be further implemented
- Clients are encouraged to utilize virtual assistance options to further reduce foot traffic

Emergency Child Care Support

At direction from the Ministry of Education, the County of Simcoe is collaborating with local system stakeholders to facilitate access to targeted Emergency Child Care that will support eligible parents of school-aged children, from January 4-8, 2021. [Click here](#) to learn more

The County will also be supporting child care providers who wish to offer additional hours to support the child care needs of Emergency Workers during the outbreak.

General Services

- The County will also maintain safe operations in Long-Term Care and Seniors Services facilities, Paramedic Services, Economic Development and Tourism, Library Co-operative, Planning, Forestry, Transportation and Engineering, roads and plowing services, Lake Simcoe Regional Airport, Social Housing, Local Immigration Services, Children and Community Services, Customer Service, Legislative and Government Services (including virtual Council meetings) and administrative/support departments. Staff will be working remotely where possible and public/client assistance will be by appointment for relevant services

Given the scope of essential services, continuation of redeployment efforts for those still working in other essential departments, and the ability to continue serving our communities remotely, the County does not anticipate any planned staff layoffs during the lockdown.

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.

Elvis Presley



You may be interested in knowing that Elvis lives on somewhere near Apto, a little hamlet south of the metropolis of Fergusonvale. Here he is doing his rendition of “Jail House Rock.”
(Picture courtesy of the Wagner family.)

250-year-old bottle of cognac sells for \$146k

A 1762 vintage bottle of cognac, one of the oldest surviving cognacs in the world, sold for \$146,000 at an online auction. The Gautier cognac, one of only three surviving bottles of the spirit, was sold by Sotheby’s auction house. The auction house said the bottle is known as the “grand frere,” or “big brother,” as it is the largest of three surviving bottles from the collection. The bottle known as “little brother” was sold at a New York auction in 2014 and the “little sister” is on display at the Gautier Museum in the Cognac region of France. The former owner of the bottles said they were brought to the family by a man named Alphonse, who was adopted by the former owner’s great-grandparents. The family story holds that Alphonse left home to work in the Cognac region and returned with a cart full of bottles a decade later, before his death in World War I.

Why do apples and pears turn brown so quickly after they are peeled?

Answer: First, the peel protects the fruit from the oxidation that occurs when air meets polyphenol oxidase, an enzyme present to some degree in all fruit. Apples and pears have a lot of the enzyme, so you’ll see them turn color quickly when exposed to the air. Bananas are susceptible to even more browning not because of the enzyme, but because air can penetrate their peels easily

Baking soda - Sprinkle it in the bottom of a trash can or directly into the trash to help absorb stinky odors. As an added bonus, baking soda is great for scrubbing out your trash can to remove odors that may have seeped into it.

Some history about Tiny Township

Tiny township was named in 1822 after a pet dog of Lady Sarah Maitland (1792–1873), wife of Sir Peregrine Maitland, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. Two other adjoining townships were also named for her pet dogs, Tay and Flos (now Springwater Township).

Humans have occupied the area now known as Tiny Township for at least 11,000 years. Excavations in what is now Awenda Provincial Park in the 1970s uncovered four archaeological sites dating from the Paleo-Indian period. For much of the Pre-Contact period, the Indigenous peoples of the area would have been hunter-gathers living mostly in small family groupings which would come together in larger groupings during particular times of the year to collect resources such as fish or berries.

Around 1100 C.E., agriculture was introduced to south Central Ontario, with people growing corn, beans, squash, tobacco, and sunflowers. This led to the development of villages centred around longhouses.

By 1600 C.E., the five nations of the Huron-Wendat Confederacy had established their villages in the territory they called Wendake, a part of which included what we now call Tiny Township.

Starting in 1615, French Catholic missionaries, first Recollets and then, in 1625, Jesuits, began proselytizing among the Huron-Wendat. The Jesuits built the mission Sainte-Marie among the Hurons and wrote extensively about the Huron-Wendat culture. In 1636, Jesuit missionary Jean de Brebeuf observed and wrote about The Huron Feast of the Dead which occurred at the Huron-Wendat village of Ossossane which was located in what is now Tiny Township.

Diseases brought by the French in this period had a devastating effect on the Huron-Wendat. It is estimated that circa 1600, just prior to European contact, the total population of Wendake was between 20,000 and 25,000 people. However, a series of epidemics between 1634 and 1642 reduced the population to about 9000 people. Attacks by the Haudenosaunee in 1648 and 1649 dispersed the Wendat people, with most traditionalists joining the Haudenosaunee, while others joined with the related, neighbouring Petun people. The remaining Huron-Wendat who followed the missionaries fled to

French Territory.

In the 1700s, as the threat from the Haudenosaunee waned, Ojibwe people began to move back into the area. In 1798, the Ojibwe (Chippeway) and the British signed Penetanguishene Bay Purchase turning some of the land which would become Tiny Township over to the British who soon after established a naval base at Penetanguishene. A subsequent treaty in 1815, the Lake Simcoe–Lake Huron Purchase turned over the remaining part of the land which would become Tiny Township.

By the mid-19th century, families from Quebec began moving to the Tiny Township area for the cheap and fertile land to farm. The Baldwin Act of 1850 established the Corporation of the United Townships of Tiny and Tay. In 1868, the townships were separated through a Simcoe County by-law.

The township comprises the communities of Ardmere Beach, Balm Beach, Belle-Eau-Claire Beach, Bluewater Beach, Cawaja Beach, Cedar Point, Clearwater Beach, Cove Beach, Crescent Beach, Coutenac Beach, Deanlea Beach, Dorion's Corner, East Tay Point, Edmore Beach, Georgian Bay Estates, Georgian Heights, Georgian Highlands, Georgian Sands Beach, Georgina Beach, Gibson, Ishpiming Beach, Kettle's Beach, Kingswood Acres, Lafontaine, Lafontaine Beach, Laurin, Mary Grove, Mountain View Beach, Nottawaga Beach, Ossossane Beach, Perkinsfield, Randolph, Rowntree Beach, Sandcastle Beach, Sandy Bay, Sawlog Bay, Silver Birch Beach, Sloane Point, Thunder Beach, Tiny Beach, Toanche, Wahnekewaning Beach, Wendake Beach, Woodland Beach, Wyebridge, Wyevale and Wymbolwood Beach.

Lafontaine was originally called Sainte-Croix (French for "Holy Cross"). It was renamed Lafontaine to honour the politician Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine, one of the early Joint Premiers of the Province of Canada.

In honour of the region's French history, Lafontaine hosts the annual *Le Festival du Loup* in July, a festival of francophone music and culture which celebrates the death of a wolf that terrorised the village in the 19th century.

Pitch on the Peak Competition Invites Local Founders to Pitch their Ideas

BARRIE, ONTARIO – As part of the Georgian Angel Network (GAN) Angel Investing Winter Summit, taking place on January 14th, local business founders are being encouraged to apply for the Pitch on the Peak competition for a chance to pitch to angel investors.

"The Pitch on the Peak competition is a great opportunity for early-stage companies to win the opportunity to pitch their ideas to angel investors from across the province," says Michael Badham, Managing Director of GAN. "Having the chance to pitch to so many angels together in one place is not only fantastic exposure for founders, but also gives them a higher chance of attracting funding."

The pitch competition is open to early-stage companies who are "Angel Ready". A small group of 3 - 4 selected founders will have the opportunity to make a 10-minute presentation, followed by 5 minutes of Q&A to the participants of the 3rd annual [GAN Annual Angel Investing Winter Summit](#).

The presentations will be judged by the participants using PitchScore (a polling app) to assess the Angel Readiness and Value Proposition of the early-stage companies for angel investment. There is an Open category and a Local category. The Local category is for businesses based in the Simcoe, Collingwood, Barrie, Muskoka regions. The two winners in this category have an opportunity to pitch at a formal GAN Investor Meeting in early 2021 and will be referred to the selection committees of Capital Angel Network, York Angel Investors and Niagara Angel Investors.

The application process is as follows:

- Online application form to be completed by Jan. 10th, 2021.
- Applications will be screened and given confirmation of their eligibility to attend the Winter Summit to participate in the pitch competition by January 12th, 2021.

To learn more and apply for Pitch on the Peak visit: www.georgianangelnet.ca/wintersummit/

The Pitch on the Peak competition is part of the annual angel investing winter summit which is featuring angel investing subject matter experts from across the country. Participants also have the opportunity to network with leaders in the angel investing ecosystem, watch business founders pitch their ideas in a live-pitch competition and learn about business trends and innovative ideas that will shape our collective futures.

The event is taking place on January 14th beginning at 8:30 am and the first 100 registrants will receive a winter summit experience box.

Georgian Angel Network (GAN) is a not-for-profit organization that connects investors in the Barrie, South Georgian Bay, Orangeville, and Muskoka regions with entrepreneurs needing equity capital to commercialize their innovations. GAN serves as a catalyst for economic development, facilitating deal flow between accredited investors and high-quality opportunities as well as providing investor and founder education. Since 2011 members of GAN have invested over \$20 million in 75 portfolio companies, through initial financings as well as follow-on financings. GAN is supported by the Government of Canada through funding from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario and various corporate sponsors.

To learn more about the Georgian Angel Network, and get involved please visit <http://www.georgianangelnet.ca>.



The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket. (Good thing he didn't have dynamite.)

The Elms' Leaflet

Volume 2 Issue 1 Editor, Doug Jackson

January 1, 2021
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Most of us have been anxious to put the year 2020 behind us. After many months of dealing with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the past year, it was refreshing to get some good news in the last few weeks. The development of new vaccines and the beginning of immunization clinics is good news for all of us.

Those of us working to bring "The Elms" to Elmvalle are also excited about the new year. The forward momentum, which was started by the granting of an MZO, has continued to grow. We have sent out RFP's (Request for Proposals) to some prominent architectural firms throughout the province and are now reviewing their proposals and conducting interviews with the principals of the 'shortlisted' companies. The selection of the architect team who will design "The Elms" will be a major milestone. That team will be working with the Board of Directors of EASR to not only design the project in several phases but to assist with ensuring that all of the guidelines set out by the Township of Springwater are followed. We hope to make the selection soon. We anticipate being able to make an announcement in the Springwater News on January 21, 2021, but those of you on our contact list will be informed first, since you folks have already shown a sincere interest in our project.

Another part of our forward momentum has been increasing the size of our Board of

Directors. At the AGM (Annual General Meeting) we were pleased to add Gary Kuehl and Robert Van Nispen to our Board. Each of them bring a wealth of background and experience to our group.

Gary was employed by, and later became part owner of, International Water Supply in Barrie. He served as Vice President and sat on the board of directors. He is a member of the Professional Geoscientists of Ontario. His project management skills and experience with permits and regulatory issues will be very useful.

Robert brings 25 years of senior executive experience to EASR. His role as Senior Vice President of Administration and Support Operations at Radio Shack Canada prepared him to bring his accounting and administration skills to "The Elms". We are very pleased to welcome these two gentlemen to our group.

2021 is off to a great start!

The Elms' Leaflet is the official newsletter of "The Elms Retirement Village"

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Sports with Patrick Townes

Canada is hopefully on its way to another gold medal at the World Juniors. The majority of the team members are first round picks who most certainly will enter the National Hockey League in the coming years.

After some lopsided games, some are wondering if the tournament itself is valuable for the development of players from other countries. There is clearly a wide

gap between the skill of the top teams and the bottom teams. Much like the same argument for curling, many athletes think that a round robin format that features "lock" games is pointless. No true fan wants to watch a 16-2 game. The tournament format should be changed, and it is a simple solution. There are 10 teams in the tournament. The top 5 ranked teams should be in the top division and the other 5 teams should be in the lower division. The top division competes for the gold medal and the silver medal, while the lower division plays for bronze and 4th place. Each of the divisions would play a 4 game round robin, and the top 4 in each division would make the playoffs (1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3 in the semi-finals). The winner of the top division gets the gold medal, and the loser gets silver. The winner of the lower division gets the bronze medal. And for the next year, the bronze medal winning team moves to the top division and the team that misses the playoffs in the top division moves down to the lower division. Each of the round robin games in this scenario would be more competitive.

Please...Please...Please remember that when you are organizing a tournament, do not make points-for or point differential one of the tie breakers. This encourages teams to run up the score for no other purpose than competing for a tie breaker that may not even happen. Points against is a better stat to use as a tie breaker.

There has also been a debate surfacing of who was the best overall performer for Canada at the World Juniors in tournament history. Many good names top the list, but when evaluating the players, the teams they played against need to be taken into consideration when looking at the point totals. Take this year for example -- Dylan Cozens is the 2nd highest scorer with 13 points. Team Canada has had some easy games throughout the tournament. Tim Stutzle from Germany has 10 points and is 3rd in the scoring race. Players like this tend to get overlooked when considering total points. What Stutzle has accomplished outweighs Cozens performance greatly. Of note, Quinton Byfield has 7 points (7th in scoring) and he had 6 points in one blow-out game. On paper his performance looks great, but there are things to consider other than just the stats themselves.

The International Softball Congress (ISC) used to run a two-tier tournament. The Wyevale Tribe competed at the ISC II level while the top teams competed at the ISC I level. When the two tournaments combined into one, it arguably led to the demise of fastball, as smaller teams could not compete against the top level teams. The early tournament games were used to "pad" the stats of the top teams. The two-tier tournament was great for the sport, and allowed more teams to compete overall. All games were competitive and there were fewer automatic wins and losses.

Tournaments themselves do not always result in the best team winning. Playoffs are the true way to find a winner or the top team in a league. You may win a tournament without necessarily having to play the best team. We all know that many people rush to the tournament board or the bracket to see the match-ups, carefully planning which games they really want to win. For the record, you may as well try to win them all.

Some of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame ballots continue to be a joke. One writer submitted a blank ballot and noted that while the players on the ballot had enough skills and stats to make the Hall of Fame, they lacked the character and integrity to make the cut. This is unbelievable. Some of the writers should be evaluated and removed from this prestigious list. One may question how many games these writers actually watch. It would be interesting for these writers who may hide behind their computers to actually have a conversation with some of the players they are questioning and degrading. It is embarrassing.

The Barrie Baycats have a new interactive scoreboard. This information was provided on their website. It is my understanding that the new scoreboard can play videos and will expand on the stats that can be viewed by fans. Exciting news!

It is exciting that professional sports are talking about playing games outside of the standard confines. The National Hockey League is considering two games on Lake Tahoe, and the recently postponed Major League Baseball game at the Field of Dreams has been rescheduled. This is exciting for fans and should help create additional revenue for the leagues. We were lucky enough to visit the Field of Dreams and it was a very memorable experience.

Kudos to the Toronto Raptors' organization for sitting Pascal Siakam for a game following his outburst and leaving the court early following an ejection. This sends a message to players that there is a certain (minimum) standard that players must follow. Perhaps Nick Nurse should have a conversation with Charlie Montoyo regarding disciplining players after a lack of effort or judgement. To be clear, this should not happen after mistakes, but it should happen when a player has a lapse in judgement, attitude or effort. There was too much leniency from the Jays' bench boss and the way he managed led to an early playoff exit. Players were too excited with making the playoffs in a shortened season and one where the playoffs were expanded, when there should have been a larger goal in play.

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Federal government funds Canadian Red Cross Supporting up to 20 Additional Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes

Through funding provided by the federal government, Canadian Red Cross teams are providing short-term support to an additional 20 long-term care and retirement homes in Ontario. They will assist with ongoing efforts to keep residents, staff and caregivers safe in homes facing significant challenges due to COVID-19.

The Canadian Red Cross will assist each home with their individual needs. In addition to supporting the improvement of infection prevention and control measures, they may also help with daily living activities such as the delivery of meals, house-keeping and light cleaning duties. Resident Support Aides will also continue to socialize and engage with residents so that the home's frontline workers can continue to focus on providing direct quality care to residents.

Conditions at long-term care homes and across the province continue to be monitored and tracked daily. The Ontario government will work closely with the Canadian Red Cross to determine which homes would benefit most from their assistance and what supports are most helpful. Decisions will be made on

a case-by-case basis in consultation with all involved parties.

Assistance from the Canadian Red Cross works hand-in-hand with other measures Ontario has taken on behalf of long-term care residents and staff, including investments of over \$780 million in emergency funding, regulatory flexibility, expanded testing, direction and guidance on outbreak management, and infection prevention and control.

Additionally, the government has released A Better Place to Live; A Better Place to Work: Ontario's Long-Term Care Staffing Plan which delivers on an historic commitment to increase hours of daily direct care to four hours per day for each long-term care resident. To support the plan the province is investing up to \$1.9 billion annually by 2024-25 to create more than 27,000 new positions for personal support workers, registered nurses and registered practical nurses.

Quick Facts

- Since October, the Canadian Red Cross has assisted in seven long-term care homes. They have completed their work in four, assisting the homes to stabilize and return to normal

operations.

- The province's vaccine strategy prioritizes the most vulnerable populations first, including health care workers and residents of long-term care homes, who are at higher risk of contracting the virus.

- Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover sets out a total of \$45 billion in support over three years to make available the necessary health resources to continue protecting people, deliver critical programs and tax measures to support individuals, families and job creators impacted by the virus, and lay the groundwork for a robust long-term economic recovery for the province

- In total, the government has made \$15.2 billion available to support Ontario's frontline healthcare heroes and protect people from COVID-19. This includes supporting 141 hospitals and health care facilities, and 626 long-term care homes since the beginning of the pandemic.

You can't deny laughter. When it comes, it plops down in your favorite chair and stays as long as it wants. --Stephen King

Murders of Newly Announced Libre Opposition Party Members Running for Congress

Environmental Land and Water Defenders Denied Bail • Report from Tegucigalpa, El Progreso Food Donation Programs

The year 2021 brings Hondurans little hope for change as COVID cases rise. With no support from the Honduran government, people also try to rebuild after the devastation of the two November hurricanes of Eta and Iota. Honduran government agencies take international donations, yet the people still wonder why countries continue to support the Juan Orlando Hernandez government as aid does not reach them. They ask, “where is the money?” Our Canadian government sends aid, but it does not reach the people.

Murders and Attacks of Libre Party Candidates and Environmentalists: Raul Alvarez and Others

The year 2021 is an election year. In March, the primaries begin, yet those who announce their candidacy to run in the electoral primaries are at great risk of harassment or even death. Their families also face peril. Running against the National Party is dangerous yet very important to affect positive change for Honduras.

The National Party has had a long history of corruption and repression. In November 2017, President Juan Orlando Hernandez ran for a second term, which is illegal according to the country’s constitution. In addition, he committed electoral fraud, shutting the election down when the vote count was not in his favour. After counting resumed, votes were in his favour; he declared himself the elected president. When the people went into the streets to protest the electoral fraud or spoke out against this, they were teargassed, beaten, murdered, disappeared or imprisoned. Edwin Espinal and Raul Alvarez were arrested for peacefully protesting in January 2018, along with 22 others. They spent 19 months in a maximum-security prison in pre-trial detention. After almost three years, their trials are still pending because of delay after delay. To ensure another National Party victory in November 2021, people understand from past experiences that the government threatens any electoral opposition. As a lead-up to November, the murders and serious threats have already begun. Why does our Canadian government continue to support and provide aid to this corrupt, narco-trafficking regime of Juan Orlando Hernandez that threatens its opposition? According to Brent Patterson of PBI Canada (Peace Brigades International) “Between 2010 and 2016, Canada’s bilateral aid disbursements to Honduras totalled \$175 million, with average disbursements of \$29 million per year.” He quotes human rights defender Dina Meza, “Giving resources to the Government of Honduras is giving them tools so that they continue to violate the population. The focus of the international community is very important to curb all these human rights violations.” In other words, Canada must stop funding this corrupt government and doing business there.



Shortly after Raul Alvarez announced his candidacy this past November to run as a 2021 Libre congress representative for the area of Francisco Morazán, Tegucigalpa, he was attacked and seriously injured. While selling fruit in his neighbourhood, Raul was stabbed in the lower abdomen, eye, and hand. Raul was rushed by pickup truck to hospital with life threatening injuries. He underwent abdominal surgery and is now at home recovering. He fears that he has lost sight in one eye and movement in his hand as he was bludgeoned in the stomach, face, hands, and legs. He still awaits proper treatment yet there is a serious lack of medical care in Honduras. Since perpetrators of violence enjoy a 90% impunity rate, his attacker will never be questioned or prosecuted.

On December 26, 2020, Felix Vasquez, an environmental and human rights defender, was killed at his home in the small village of El Ocotal in Central Honduras. A group of masked men carrying machetes and guns attacked him in front of his family. Vasquez was a leader in his indigenous Lenca community who had already filed complaints over other threats and attempts made against him due to his political work. Vasquez had recently announced his candidacy to run for Congress. He was a true community man, working to better the lives of his Lenca community members and fight for the natural resources of the area being expropriated by Canadian and US companies.

Less than 48 hours after the murder of Felix Vasquez, another indigenous environmental leader was killed.

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Tolupan leader, Adán Mejía was attacked on his way home from tending to his corn crops. Canadian journalist Sandra Cuffe based in Latin America notes that 7 indigenous leaders have been killed in 2020 in Honduras. Many of these land defenders have been executed for defending their communities from Canadian and US mining and hydroelectric dam projects and/or protecting their lands from expropriation for Canadian and US tourist projects.

Persecution of Environmental Land Defenders: Case of Guapinol and Dump Site 41



Another very disturbing case is one that I have mentioned in previous articles – the case of the 8 water defenders from the rural community of Guapinol (see photo attached, courtesy of Karen Spring). These men have been imprisoned for 11 months so far for blocking the road to a mining site under construction illegally by a US steel company. On December 22, 2020 bail was again denied for the men who continue their pre-trial detention in horrific COVID-infested conditions.

The Guapinol defenders merely peacefully blocked the road to the mining site as many Springwater/Elmvale residents did in 2009. In Elmvale, 10 protesters were charged with mischief as they blocked Tiny Concession 2E to stop Dump Site 41 construction trucks. Charges were dropped. Yet in Honduras, similar actions have been met with a year’s imprisonment with more to come and if convicted, a long prison sentence.

Canadian-Backed Dam in Arizona, Honduras

Along the shores of the Jilamito River, a land conflict has continued for the past few years where land defenders of the community of Arizona in Northern Honduras have tried to stop the building of a mega hydroelectric dam by the private company INGLESIA. Community members have been harassed, arrested, imprisoned and even murdered for speaking out. This project will deplete communities’ water supply along the river, cause major environmental disasters, and threaten their livelihood. The dam is funded by the US Development Finance Corporation and the InterAmerican Development Bank using public funds provided by the Canadian taxpayer. The affected communities are begging for strong voices to stop this project.

Report from Tegucigalpa Food Program: Representative - Maria Sanchez



Honduran residents in neighborhoods of the cities of Tegucigalpa and Comayagüela Honduras, who are direct beneficiaries of the bags of basic food, appreciate the donation received by the Canadian solidarity organization of Simcoe County. In times of Covid-19, the government has not provided the necessary help needed for families and

regulates the people trying to go to work in the markets to generate income for their families. Private companies have arbitrarily dismissed thousands of Hondurans nationwide, deepening the crisis.

The last delivery of food was made at the end of November 2020 where 130 bags of food were delivered to families and university students who could not return to their communities for various reasons. The aid was distributed among people who are dealing with situations of domestic calamity - extreme poverty due to job loss, illness, and losses due to flooding– and who support others in their

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community. Each recipient provided our committee with a brief description of their situation so that their needs could be monitored.

Over 130 poor families have benefitted from the monies donated by your highly supportive Canadian organization. Hondurans beneficiaries from El Progreso and San Pedro Sula who were affected by the hurricanes received a donation of 83 pounds of beans. We also thank our volunteers who dedicate their time and expose their lives to the risk of contagion and violence when they enter high-risk neighbourhoods. These volunteers were loaned motorcycles and trucks for the food delivery.

The demand for food is huge and constant. Each community representative provides us with a report on the names of the families who have received packages for our records and for monitoring of future need. The government does assist us with the purchase process, rather, it hinders it; military patrollers threaten to take the packages from the volunteers. Delivery is difficult because of this possibility of harassment and confiscation; officers say that they will complete the deliveries, but volunteers know this will not happen. Thus, our helpers must take small amounts and make more trips. Volunteers run the risk of being stopped and having their motorbikes or cars expropriated; some are asked for circulation authority papers which do not exist.

There are other urgent needs; medication, oxygen, protective gear such as masks, gloves, etc. Our work continues, with support from the Simcoe County Honduras community. We thank you!

Report from El Progreso Food Program: Representative Prisila Alvarado

During and after the critical days of the Eta and Iota hurricanes, 446 affected families have been and continue to be served, with an average of 8 members per family making a total of 3,568 people served. For 30 days during and after the hurricanes, 624 dishes of food were prepared at lunch and the same quantity at dinner, making a total of 1,248 dishes per day, making a global total of 18,720 food dishes. At present, food assistance continues to be given to families, we prepare rations which are distributed to families so that they can prepare their own food. Mats, bedspreads, awnings, and personal hygiene kit clothes have been distributed (See photos attached, courtesy of Prisila Alvarado).

We are grateful for all the collaboration from Simcoe County and Karen Spring through the Solidarity Network. Without your support this would not be possible; infinite thanks for the help for our victims and brothers in distress. Although there is nothing to celebrate due to the hardships caused by hurricanes Eta and Iota and COVID-19, our community wishes your community the best for 2021.

A Personal Note

On New Year’s Eve, Edwin and Karen invited me on FaceTime to watch the fireworks display in Tegucigalpa from their apartment complex balcony which is high on the hill surrounding the city. It was an extraordinary display of lights. Firecrackers lit up the night sky. Despite the hardships encountered in 2020, the Honduran people celebrate the beginning of the new year with hope. They bless their strong family ties and the community solidarity they have built. Edwin, Karen, and their Honduran family wish Simcoe County residents a happy new year and thank you for your solidarity and support of the struggles the Honduran people encounter day to day.

The Simcoe County Honduras Rights Monitor, formed three years ago this January after Edwin Espinal was arrested, also thanks you for your continued support! Happy New Year!

Janet Spring for the Simcoe County Honduras Rights Monitor Committee

I get quiet before I get disrespectful. I'm giving you a chance to leave me alone.

You know all those things people think, but don't say? I say them.

Where does it say I have to act my age? As long as I'm happy I'll act whatever age I want!

TOMORROW IS NATIONAL STAY AT HOME WITH YOUR DOG AND DRINK BEER DAY. IT'S NOTHING OFFICIAL. I MADE IT UP, TELL THE OTHERS.

Governments Support Beef Farmers and Protect Food Supply Chains

Funding program will address Ontario meat processing disruptions caused by COVID-19

WOODSTOCK — The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$5 million in immediate, emergency assistance to help the province's beef farmers manage costs associated with the impacts of COVID-19 and to help protect Ontario's food supply network.

Starting Monday, December 21, 2020, Ontario beef farmers can apply for funding to help cover increased costs of feeding and setting aside market-ready cattle due to COVID-19 related processing delays. This funding flows from an [agreement](#) reached by the governments this spring to support these producers, in a timely manner, in the event that processing disruptions impacted the sector.

"We care deeply about the well-being of our farmers and understand the repercussions that short-term capacity reductions have on livestock producers," said the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "This is another measure we are taking to support our cattle farmers and to continue to keep high-quality and affordable meat products available to Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic."

"We are continuing to work with our farmers and all the agri-food heroes in our food processing network to help them meet challenges posed by COVID-19 and to keep a steady supply of safe and nutritious foods available for Ontario families," said the Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "This is just one of the many ways our province continues to support farmers during COVID-19 and builds on the efforts we have already made in working with the agri-food sector to address urgent needs."

The Canada-Ontario COVID-19 Beef Emergency Feed Maintenance Initiative is being offered through AgriRecovery, under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The provincial contributions are part of [Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19](#) which will provide funding support for eligible farmers. Additional details on program mechanics will be released soon. AgriCorp will deliver the programming and receive applications.

"I commend the federal and provincial governments for moving swiftly to ensure this tool and funding support was made available to Ontario cattle producers to help mitigate the impact of the disruptions we've experienced at processing," said Rob Lipsett, president, Beef Farmers of Ontario. "BFO is committed to working with both levels of government and our industry partners on other measures to help address the current challenges facing our sector."

This funding is in addition to other supports launched this year to assist the agri-food sector in meeting challenges related to the COVID-19 outbreak. This includes:

- a \$4 million [Meat Processors Capacity Improvement Initiative](#);
- a [portal](#) to connect farms and other agri-food sector business with labour needs to job seekers;
- creation of the \$26.6 million [Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program](#);
- a commitment of \$25.5 million to help minimize COVID 19 exposure risks in the workplace and support the province's food supply chain through the Agri-food Prevention and Control Innovation Program; and,
- a [recent investment](#) of an additional \$50 million into the Risk Management Program, one year earlier than originally promised.

Since June 2018, both the federal and provincial governments have committed cost-share support to approximately 4,200 projects through the Partnership to help eligible Ontario farmers, processors, businesses and sector organizations innovate and grow.

-- Secrets to Whiter Teeth! --

Swish away stains: To whiten and brighten your smile, swish a tablespoon of coconut oil in your mouth for 5-10 minutes. Women in India have actually relied on this practice for centuries to erase stains and shield their gums against disease. As a matter of fact, recent research shows it even reduces plaque within seven days.

Detox your teeth: Activated charcoal works just like a detox for the teeth. It draws out toxins, absorbing stains and killing off the bacteria that cause stinky breath. Dentists recommend opting for a toothpaste formulated with micronized activated charcoal to gently absorb stains without the risk of damaging your pearly whites. Tip: Try to avoid charcoal powder for your teeth. It can be harsh on your enamel.

You can add brightening effects by pre-brushing with a dry toothbrush for 60 seconds before adding charcoal toothpaste and water to your brush. This trick should cut yellowing plaque and tartar buildup by 67%.

Chew gum: Typically everyone knows that every sip of coffee or tea that your drink acts like a low-dose dye that builds up on your teeth over time. But if you're an avid caffeine drinker, your habit doesn't have to leave it's dark marks on your teeth. Follow up with chewing gum that is sweetened by xylitol. Chewing produces saliva that will wash away pigments before they settle between teeth. The xylitol is proven to reduce tooth decay up to 60%.

Three Rules for Dodging Fake Storage Cards and Memory Sticks

The cost of computer and mobile storage devices is falling rapidly -- but not so fast that you can pick up a really big one for a really low price. That part of the market is the domain of scammers.

Storage capacity used to be measured in bits (a single unit of memory), bytes (eight bits), then kilobytes (kb -- just over thousand bytes), and then megabytes (mb -- over a million bytes).

That sounds like a lot, but these days, a megabyte is hardly enough to store a single high-resolution photo. So, today's storage devices run into hundreds of megabytes or, more often these days, terabytes (tb -- more than 1,000 gigabytes).

For now, that's enough for most of us, although petabytes, exabytes, and a whole lot of other byte varieties are looming on the horizon. You don't even want to know how many zeroes there are in these numbers! (Go here if you really do want to know: <https://tinyurl.com/Scambusters-2012171>).

Technology has enabled manufacturers to cram all those crazy numbers into tiny devices. These include secure digital (SD) cards, micro-SDs and USB thumb drives. Higher capacity storage, like terabytes, is usually to be found on pocket or desktop hard drives.

All most of us know is that we always seem to need more bytes than we used to. Or, what we used to think would be enough no longer is.

Which is where the scammers come in. Basically, they're producing cards and USB drives that they fake to appear as though they have much more storage capacity than they really do. Then they offer them for knock-down prices on sites like eBay and Amazon.

And there's no shortage of takers, if the feedback from disappointed customers is anything to go by.

For instance, a supposed 1tb micro-SD card was, at the time of writing, being advertised by a third-party seller on Amazon for \$10.99. A more realistic cost for the real thing is around \$200.

The knock-off, which seems to come from China, actually only has 32gb of storage space, but it's doctored to look like 1tb when it's first inserted into a computer, phone or tablet.

Only when the user starts trying to store stuff is the fraud revealed. Once the card is being used, it either fails or, in a worst-case scenario, it starts corrupting, deleting or over-writing existing data. That can be heartbreaking for someone without sufficient back-ups of the data.

Worse -- and this probably won't surprise you these days -- this particular fake has more five-star reviews than it has of all the other scores put together. Of course, these are likely phony reviews. Certainly, each review is only a few words long, sometimes in broken English.

Only when you get down to the one-star scores do you read longer comments like this:

(Quote from an Amazon page)
"Do not buy this item! This is a chinese fake! The card is claimed to be 1 TB (formally, it shows such a volume on a smartphone with a computer), but in fact, when you transfer files to it, it loads a little more than 20 GB, and then empty folders are simply copied. In fact, its capacity is no more than 32 GB."(end quote)

There are hundreds of similar products to be found on the Internet, with equally irate comments from the hoodwinked victims.

Sometimes, especially with USB memory sticks, the sellers claim storage capacities so high they don't even exist yet.

How do they get away with it?

Well, the trouble is that sites like Amazon and eBay don't have the capacity to check

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her

patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.



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third party sellers' claims. So, it's definitely a case of "let the buyer beware."

The best compensation a victim can hope for, even if they lose all their data, is to get a refund or an endless stream of equally phony replacements.

How to Avoid the Tricksters

Here's how to make sure you don't get tricked by these scammers:

- First, apply the golden rule of anti-scaming: If the price looks too good to be true, as in the example we quoted, it's almost certainly a fake.

- Second, buy storage cards and USBs from reputable makers like SanDisk, Samsung, Lexar, and so on. But beware! While most of the fakes are unbranded -- that is, they just have a label that says something like "Micro SD Card" with no other name -- some of them are more cunning. They use tech-sounding names you never heard of. Or, in a couple of nasty examples, they actually fraudulently copy genuine labels.

- So, now it's time to check out the reviews -- not the five-star type but those scoring only one or two stars on Amazon, or a low rate of positive feedback on eBay. Also, on eBay, steer clear of those low-price sellers who have only a handful of feedbacks. If the products are fakes, the seller will have arranged for the first few "positive" scores themselves.

There's another important reason why you need to give these fakes a wide berth: the possibility that they carry malicious code that will be transferred to your computer or mobile as soon as you plug it in.

In this case, your personal data could be stolen or your computer locked up until you pay a ransom. (For the same reason, you should also be cautious about plugging someone else's storage device into your PC or mobile.)

There are some apps that claim to be able to check storage capacity and identify fakes. But if you have to use one of these, then, unfortunately, you've likely already been conned.

Alert of the Week

If you use extensions -- add-ons that are supposed to improve the performance of browsers like Chrome and Edge -- stand by to start deleting some of them.

According to security firm Avast, an estimated three million users have been tricked into using extensions that spy on or steal information from users Avast says it discovered 28 extensions that performed malicious actions.

Do you have one of these crooked extensions? Check here: <https://tinyurl.com/Scambusters-2012172>. And then remove it.



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



COVID-19 UPDATE

Springwater Public Library will be closed to the public starting Monday, December 28 due to the COVID-19 provincial

lockdown.

We are providing contactless curbside service during our regular open hours. Please call your local branch for personalized requests, or place holds using our website or app.

Elmvale.library@springwater.ca, 705-322-1482
Midhurst.library@springwater.ca, 705-737-5650
Minesing.library@springwater.ca, 705-722-6440

In addition to the curbside service, the Library continues to offer a number of online resources including Readers Advisory Service, eBooks and downloadable audiobooks, research databases, online story times, video programs and more. For all online programming check out the Virtual Programming page on our website.

All materials continue to be quarantined for 5 days upon return in the book drops. Stay safe and we'll see you again soon!



YOUR NEXT GREAT READ

We know that with curbside pickup it is hard not to be able to browse the shelves of awesome items in the library. Never fear! Your friendly Springwater Librarian is here... online! Just take a moment and let us

know a few of your preferences and we'll hop right to it and help you find your next favourite author or book! You can find the link on our website: www.springwater.library.on.ca and click on the "How Do I Tab"



WINTER FAMILY CONTEST - 3 Chances to Win!!

Celebrate the season with family fun for a chance to win a hot chocolate basket to share with your family. Arrange to pick up your game card from our curbside table

or print it off from our website anytime between January 2nd – 31st. Place the completed game sheet in our book drop with your name and phone number. Complete all 3 challenges for multiple chances to win. See our website or call for details. Draw takes place February 2nd at 5 pm.

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



STORYTIME WITH MISS AMANDA

On our Virtual Programming page and on our YouTube channel you'll find Miss Amanda doing a fun interactive Storytime Program with rhymes, songs and stories. The theme for January 12th Storytime will

be: "Library".

Ask for your free Storytime Kit to interact with Miss Amanda.

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



KRAFTING WITH KATHY

Kathy will share a Water Bottle Penguin craft project for the whole family to enjoy. This will be on the Springwater Public Library Facebook page, on our

Virtual Programming page and on our YouTube channel on Thursday January 10th for all to enjoy.

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



STEM FUN KITS

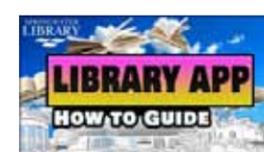
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) play is now available to be checked out from the library! In this new series, Miss Amanda shows you how fun and interesting

STEM is and how to use our STEM kits at home.

Check our YOUTUBE channel:

1. Miss Amanda explains the difference between STEM, STEAM versus STREAM.
2. Our first STEM play video is on Magna Tiles.
3. Our second STEM video play is on straws and connectors.

Place your hold on a kit today.



LIBRARY APP: HOW TO GUIDE

Staff member Katie is happy to show you around our new (and easy to use) Library app! You never have to worry about

having your library card on hand in the library. You can easily place holds, remove holds; manage your account and your children's accounts all on this great new app!

Check out this short video by visiting our website and finding it listed under "Virtual Programs".

Did Santa make it down your chimney on Christmas Eve 2020, or did two Merry Mummers come a-knockin' at your front door instead?



In keeping with the Christmas Eve tradition of house-visiting, two fun loving Tiny residents named Roma and Ray may have made their merry way to your house on December 25th. If they did, you were a very few entertained at a "social distance" by their presence!

Oh yes! And what was all that noise accompanying them?

None other than a homemade Ugly Stick!

An Ugly Stick is an instrument that is crazy fun to play, all decked out with silly noise making paraphernalia. This particular model boasted a single shiny rubber boot at the bottom that toe-tapped along with the Mummer's joyful music.

Likely best to plug your ears and wear your best smile!

Mummering typically involves a group of friends or family members who dress in disguise and come knocking on your door during the twelve days of Christmas. If invited in, they will entertain you with song, dance, music, jokes and jigs. The guests must guess the mummers' identities before offering them food or drink. This year, even though invitations inside the home were prohibited, these two jolly Mummers entertained a few Tiny residents outside their front doors on the cool Eve of Christmas. Doilies covering their faces, pillows adorning their bosoms, jokes a crackin' and jigs a jiggin', these two entertained the brave of heart with the pizzazz of a full blown Second City comedy act. If Santa was near, or at your home, then he surely left the building either out of fright, or for not having enough HO HO HO's to handle them!

Poor Santa.

Anyway, sure hope you you were lucky enough to be a recipient of these mummering shenanigans! Thanks Roma and Ray for delighting the community of Tiny once again! Your efforts and enthusiasm are to be admired.

And finally one last note...remember dear residents of Tiny, "What happens on Christmas Eve in Tiny, stays in Tiny!" Wink, wink, nudge, nudge!

Beverley Dujay-Macdonald, Tiny Resident

When you're stressed, you eat ice cream, cake, chocolate and sweets. Why? Because stressed spelled backwards is desserts.



LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Springwater Public Library Local History Collection is a database with photos and documents that showcase the diverse heritage of Springwater Township. ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS! Take a look.



C-PEN ReaderPen NOW AVAILABLE FOR FREE CHECKOUT

C-PEN ReaderPen is a totally portable, pocket-sized device that reads text out aloud with an English human-like digital voice. Great for students with dyslexia or other reading difficulties to help read or take written exams. Available

for a 3 week checkout period. Reserve one today. For more information please see our website.

Elmvale BIA Business Highlights

Keep on Sending in Your Snowman Picsthe weather is unpredictable...but we keep getting snow!

Build a Snowman! Submit a photo! Win!

Just to clarify a few FAQ -

- Open to all, however we can have limited delivery of kits to Elmvale area

- Now that it is Library has modified operations for COVID lockdown..kits are not available there. You can use your own creativity!!

- enter as often as you wish...through our website

www.elmvalebia.ca or marketing@elmvalebia.ca

Contest closes...January 10th 2021!

Happy Snowman Building!



Experience Elmvale

Elmvale - in the Heart of The Township of Springwater

#SupportLocal #SupportElmvale

Downtown Elmvale, situated with the main streets of Queen and Yonge (and streets beyond), boasts a large variety of businesses offering a vast selection of retail shopping, restaurants, service options and so much more.

While some of our businesses are closed for the lockdown period, other businesses have adapted and adjusted to remain open with COVID restrictions.



Many of the biggest cosmetic and skincare companies began to use natural honey in many body lotions, facial moisturizers, anti-aging creams, serums and many more due to its ability to retain and attract moisture.

Many women prefer to use honey and another natural ingredient for home-facials as it rejuvenates the skin and nourish the skin deeply. Honey is also a natural antiseptic as it contains many antimicrobial agents that kill bacterial immediately.

What are the benefits of honey to the skin?

- Safe for very sensitive or irritated skin
- Eliminates wrinkles and fine lines
- Nourish the skin deeply and prevents infections
- Pure honey doesn't irritate the skin or cause allergies
- Helps attract and retain moisture and prevents skin dehydration
- Brightens dull skin and prevents skin discolorations
- Honey restores damaged skin
- Helps renew skin cells
- Honey treats acne, eczema and other skin conditions as it contains amino acids and enzymes
- Honey fights against skin damage and ageing due to its antioxidant properties

WHAT TO DO WITH OVERRIPENED BANANAS?

* Peel and mash them to use in a quick banana bread or even a corn bread recipe. Mashed bananas over pancakes are mighty tasty and you save some of the calories, too.

A great idea for mashed bananas is to top your cooked cereal in the morning.

* Peel and cut into 1-inch chunks and put in a the blender with some soy milk, dates, raisins, and a little cinnamon.

A tasty shake like this can help get you going in the morning



The Climate Change Belief System by Roger Graves Published January 1, 2021

A couple of hundred years ago and more, the commonly accepted cure for a multitude of ailments was bloodletting. The doctor opened one of your veins and drained a pint or so of blood out of you. If you at the time had the temerity to suggest that bloodletting had no therapeutic value whatsoever, and indeed was more likely to be harmful than not, you would have been dismissed as an ignoramus or a dangerous crank. Medical science, such as it was at that time, firmly supported the practice of bloodletting.

Bloodletting was based on a belief system about the causes of disease. We now know that bloodletting is quite useless as a medical procedure, yet its practice persisted for hundreds of years. Like most belief systems, this one was self-perpetuating. Doctors performed bloodletting, so everyone assumed it must be effective, so medical students were taught it and later practiced it in turn. It was only when scientists such as Louis Pasteur discovered the germ theory of disease that its practice went into abeyance.

Belief systems don't have to be verifiable. As far as I know, no doctor in days gone by ever tried comparing two groups of patients, ones who were bled and ones who were not. It was just assumed that bloodletting worked, so there was no need to put it to the test.

Today we have another belief system, called climate change. Almost every politician and journalist assures us that climate change is real and we must all make sacrifices to combat it. Most of the rest of us assume they must know what they are talking about, so there is a great clamour for the government to do something about it. But like bloodletting, the fact that almost everyone believes it to be true doesn't necessarily make it so. Let's have a look at some facts.

The linchpin of climate change theory is that carbon dioxide (CO2), which is produced by burning fossil fuels such as oil and gas, is a dangerous pollutant which is causing the world to heat up. If average temperatures increase by more than about 2 degrees Celsius, the world will become virtually uninhabitable.

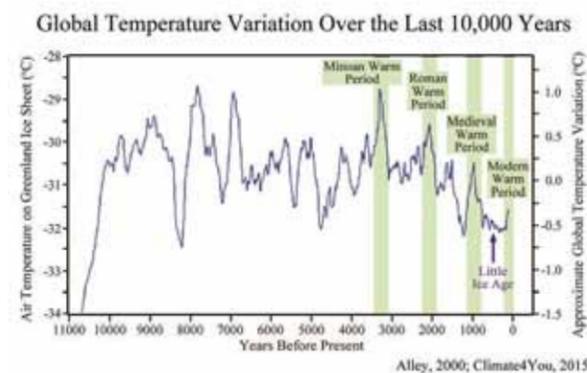
First, CO2 is not, never was, and never can be, a pollutant. It is the basis of life on Earth. Growing plants need water, sunlight and CO2. Take away any one of these and plants will not grow. Without CO2 our planet would be a lifeless ball of rock and water.

Second, we live in a CO2-impoverished atmosphere. We don't have enough CO2, not by a long shot. If you don't believe me, just ask any commercial greenhouse operator.

Commercial greenhouses are run at two to three times atmospheric CO2 levels, because plants grow stronger and faster, and with greater yields, under such conditions.

Third, we know how much a given increase in CO2 will cause the world to heat up, and it is quite a small amount. Computer-based climate models which predict massive heating do so by postulating other effects resulting from CO2-induced warming, none of which have ever been proven to occur in the real world.

Fourth, the Earth has been a lot warmer in the recent past than it is now, and in every case such periods have encompassed a flowering of civilization. The warmer the better, apparently. The Medieval Warm Period and the Roman Warm Period before it were both historical eras in which great civilizations flourished, while the Minoan Warm Period a little over three thousand years ago saw the birth of the early Mediterranean civilizations. In contrast, wars, starvation and disease are more likely in cold periods such as the Little Ice Age.



Fifth, when most people talk about climate change, what they are really referring to is weather, not climate. Weather is the day to day and year to year variation in environmen-

tal conditions, whereas climate is the long-term average of those conditions over many years. Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get. Describing the 2019 flooding in Eastern Ontario as a result of climate change reveals a complete misunderstanding of the nature of climate. There has been flooding in the past, there will be flooding in the future. Some years there is flooding, other years there is not. Merely because something is unpleasant does not make it climate change.

So why is everyone so frightened of climate change? The answer appears to be that it is a belief system that has been skilfully engineered to take hold of people's minds, and is telling them that unless we stop using fossil fuels the world will come to an end in various unpleasant ways. But as we can see, this is complete nonsense. How did we get here?

To begin with, how does a belief system start? The three most important things in getting a belief system going are repetition, repetition and repetition. If all you hear, all day and every day, is how climate change is threatening us, then sooner or later most people will believe what they are told because no other viewpoints are ever put forward.

The climate change belief system is reinforced by blaming climate change every time something unpleasant happens. No evidence is required, just a blanket assurance that it's climate change. Floods, tornados, plagues of frogs – must be due to climate change! The rule is quite simple: if it's nice it's natural variation, if it's nasty it's climate change.

And as always, cui bono? Who benefits by the climate change belief system? Let's follow the money.

To begin with, there is the green energy industry. Since the beginning of this century, more than three trillion dollars has been spent worldwide on green energy, mainly wind and solar. Furthermore, if calls to replace all our existing power generation with wind and solar are acted upon, we are looking at ten to a hundred times this amount. We're talking serious money here. Ally yourself to expenditures of this magnitude and you can be rich beyond dreams of avarice. Now ask yourself how much of this tsunami of money would ever be spent if the concept of climate change did not exist, and you can see one very good reason for encouraging the climate change belief system.

Next there are the politicians who inform us with great earnestness that the world is doomed – doomed! – unless we mend our ways, and only by electing them can policies be put in place to save the world. This does make a rather effective campaign slogan: vote for us, or the world is doomed. Encouraging a fervent belief in human-caused climate change is their path to power.

Then there are the academics and civil servants for whom research into climate change and administration of various climate change-related measures have enabled them to create little, and sometimes not so little, empires. For them, climate change means a comfortable sinecure with generous funding and access to lots of perks, such as travel to international conferences. Disavowing climate change would mean being cast out into the cold.

Last but not least are the environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for whom doom-laden scenarios are central to their money-raising efforts. For many of them, wholeheartedly embracing the climate change belief system has converted them into multi-billion dollar organizations with the ear of governments around the world.

Climate change, whatever its merits, has been sold to us in a very skilful manner. It tugs at our heartstrings with images of the imminent demise of cuddly little animals with big brown eyes, while all the time representing climate related policies such as wind power as opportunities rather than burdens. (Remember all those 'green' jobs which never seem to materialise?)

However, climate change comes with a good cop/bad cop routine. The bad cop part is that if you disagree with it in any way you will be made to feel as if you were tramping through a church in muddy boots. Terms such as 'denier' will be hurled at you, and you will be told that you are jeopardizing your grandchildren's future. And yet, one has to wonder, if climate change and all its desolate scenarios are so self-evident, why the need to sanction dissenters in this way? Could it be that the high priests of climate change are afraid of dissent?

Fear of dissent is usually a sign that the belief system is on shaky grounds. Just remember this the next time you are asked to pay higher taxes because of climate change.



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County of Simcoe Paramedics wrap-up the 2020 Toy Drive

Midhurst/December 23, 2020 – On December 18th, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services wrapped up its 18th annual Toy Drive having collected 3,259 toys, 5,593 lbs of food, \$25,536 in cash, and \$3,100 in gift cards thanks to the generosity of the community and a number of significant donations from businesses and organizations including Toys for the North, Thomson Terminal Limited, Couchiching Jubilee House and Global Medic.

"The generosity shown by local residents through their donations of tens of thousands of dollars in toys, food and cash during this year's Toy Drive is an excellent demonstration of our character, strength and resiliency," said Warden George Cornell. "With Ontario under increasing public health restrictions, many charitable initiatives are suffering. However, these kind donations, combined with the outstanding efforts of our Paramedics who volunteered their time to make the Toy Drive possible, have helped to bring happiness and joy to families across our region, providing another shining example of inspiration and hope for Simcoe County residents to celebrate this festive season."

With this year's totals, the Toy Drive has collected 87,524 toys, 42,773 lbs of food, and approximately \$200,893 in monetary and gift card donations for families across Simcoe County over the last 18 years.

"I am so proud of our County of Simcoe Paramedics who once again gave their time and energy to help those in need and provide for struggling residents during a pandemic. COVID-19 has challenged us all to stand together as one community and this year's results have been truly outstanding," said Andrew Robert, Director and Chief, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services. "Thanks to the Simcoe County Paramedic Association, we were able to create a virtual donation option that allowed our residents to continue to show their support from the safety of their own homes. I'd also like to thank the students from the Paramedic programs at Georgian College and CTS Canadian Career College for helping to promote this year's Toy Drive to their families, friends and followers via their social media accounts."

All donations will be distributed to local children and families in need by charitable organizations working in partnership with County of Simcoe Paramedic Services. Charities supported by the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services Toy Drive include the Salvation Army, Wasaga Beach Kinettes, Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions, and several local food banks including those in Elmvalle, Tottenham, Orillia and Wasaga Beach.

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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When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6." (WOW! I really like this one -- it says I'm only '38!)

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The OPP Report - Scams

ONTARIO RESIDENTS CONTINUE TO BE TARGETED BY INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD (OEB)

Since October of 2020, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in Eastern Ontario have received an increased number of complaints from homeowners who have been solicited by individuals claiming to be associated with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). The OEB does not engage and is not involved in any type of sales activity.

Typically, the individuals will contact a homeowner by way of telephone requesting to attend the residence in order to conduct a green energy assessment to qualify for a green energy rebate or Ontario Rebate Program for COVID-19 relief. Once in the home, the representative will use high pressure sales tactics to have the homeowner purchase products and services in order to qualify for a rebate.

Door-to-door scams continue to pose a threat to Ontario consumers and businesses. Door-to-door salespeople can use high pressure tactics and can be aggressive in nature. Consumers may find themselves in a situation where they purchase a product or sign up for a service contract they neither need nor want.

The OEB has received in excess of 710 complaints related to energy scams in 2020 from consumers across the province.

In 2019, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre receive 1,641 complaints related to service scams affecting 863 Ontario residents, for a loss of \$2,878,898. Door-to-door scams reported to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre include solicitations or a service scam involving the sale or maintenance of an appliance.

On March 1, 2018, Ontario banned unsolicited, door-to-door sales of certain household appliances to better protect consumers from aggressive and misleading contracting at home. The new rules apply to air cleaners, air conditioners, air purifiers, duct cleaning services, furnaces, water filters, water heaters, water purifiers, water softeners, water treatment devices as well as bundles of these goods and services.

On January 1, 2017, Ontario banned energy retailers from signing up customers for an energy contract while at their homes to give consumers the ability to make choices about their energy supply at their own pace and with better information.

Know your rights under the Consumer Protection Act, at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/your-rights-under-consumer-protection-act>

How can people of Ontario protect themselves?

- Ask for photo ID, get the name of the person and the name of the company or charity they represent;
- Be sure to get it in writing, ask for literature and don't feel pressured to make a decision on the spot;
- Never share any personal information or copies of any bills or financial statements;
- Research before you invest. Don't sign anything and always read the fine print;
- An energy retailer cannot sign you up for an energy contract while they are at your home. For more information about the rules that energy retailers have to follow, visit: <https://www.oeb.ca/knockknock>.
- For other contracts signed within the home, you have a cooling off period. For example, consumers in Ontario have the right to cancel a contract for any reason within a 10-day cooling off period. For water heater contracts, there is a 20-day cooling off period; and
- To learn about programs and credits to reduce your electricity bill, visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/youelecricitybill>.

If you believe you have become a victim of fraud, contact your local police service and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 (toll-free) or report online at www.antifraudcentre.ca. You can also call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or report the incident online at www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

No Ice is Safe Ice

On December 19, 2020 at 3:45 p.m. Bracebridge Ontario Provincial Police officers responded to a report from a concerned member of the public about three young people walking out on the ice at the wharf in Gravenhurst and with temperatures hovering around the freezing mark, it is not safe to be playing on the ice. Fortunately the young people came off of the ice safely.

This behaviour not only puts the person in harm's way but when first responders are called to an emergency on ice, the rescue efforts are complicated and puts firefighter, police and paramedic lives at risk.

CENTRAL REGION OPP PROVIDE HOLIDAY GIFTS TO FURY FRIENDS

As a result of a generous donation of a large quantity of pet toys, members from Central Region OPP were able to deliver a holiday toy to many fury friends within our area.

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At the beginning of December, Cool FM/Rock 95 contacted the OPP to advise they had a surplus of pet toys. Detective Sergeant Tanya Tremble, a dog-owner herself, knew that she just had to assist and eagerly travelled to collect all the pet toys. She then delivered the toys to the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) in Midland and Orillia, and to a northern rescue foster home. Just like humans, animals need love, care and attention, and she knew that this would make the holidays extra special for some fury friends who may not otherwise have any gifts.

The OPP would like to remind community members of the Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act:

As of January 1, 2020, the Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act replaced the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) Act. Transitional regulations are in place, such as carrying over the previous standards of care and administrative standards, to ensure animals are protected while long-term regulations are developed through consultation.

Basic standards of care that apply to all animals covered under the act, include requirements for:

- adequate and appropriate food, water, medical attention and care
- ventilation, light and protection from the elements, including harmful temperatures
- sanitary conditions and space to enable natural movement and exercise
- pens or enclosed structures
- humane euthanasia to minimize pain and distress to animals
- transportation in a manner that ensures an animal's physical safety and general welfare

"Just like humans, animals can be vulnerable victims too. If you think an animal is in distress or is being abused, please call 1-833-9-ANIMAL (264625)."

LONG - TERM PARKING

Someone left their car in the long-term parking at San Jose while away, and their car was broken into. Using the information on the car's registration in the glove compartment, the culprits drove the car to the person's home in Pebble Beach and robbed it. So I guess if we are going to leave the car in long-term parking, we should NOT leave the registration/insurance cards in it, nor your remote garage door opener. This gives us something to think about with all our new electronic technology.

2. GPS:

Someone had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard. When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents. Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

3. CELL PHONES:

I never thought of this! This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her cell phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc., was stolen. Twenty minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says, "I received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago." When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text "hubby" in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

Moral lesson:

- Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc
- And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back.



c. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you.

4. PURSE IN THE GROCERY CART SCAM:

A lady went grocery-shopping at a local mall and left her purse sitting in the children's seat of the cart while she reached something off a shelf. Wait till you read the WHOLE story! Her wallet was stolen, and she reported it to the store personnel. After returning home, she received a phone call from the Mall Security to say that they had her wallet and that although there was no money in it, it did still hold her personal papers. She immediately went to pick up her wallet, only to be told by Mall Security that they had not called her. By the time she returned home again, her house had been broken into and burglarized. The thieves knew that by calling and saying they were Mall Security, they could lure her out of her house long enough for them to burglarize it.

Police Investigate House Fire in Midland

(Midland, ON) - At approximately 8:44 p.m. on December 28, 2020 members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Southern Georgian Bay detachment, Midland Fire Department, and Simcoe County Paramedic Services responded to a fire at a residence on Elizabeth Street between Queen Street and Manly Street in the town of Midland.

Upon arrival, first responders observed a home fully engulfed in flames. Midland Fire Department extinguished the fire. All residents of the home were accounted for and

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

Dress for Success Power of the Purse 2021

Dress for Success Orillia and Barrie is holding their popular annual Power of the Purse fundraising event virtually, on Saturday January 30, 2021.

The 5th annual Power of the Purse will be held via YouTube Live and will feature Layne "The Auctionista", hosts Dale and Charlie from Kool FM, and musical performances from Tabitha Johnson of Barrie, a classical pianist currently studying at the Manhattan School of Music.

As with previous in-person years of Power of the Purse, guests will have the chance to bid on designer and one-of-a-kind handbags, jewelry and unique experiences. Many of the auction items are being donated by businesses local to the areas that Dress for Success Orillia and Barrie serves.

The COVID-19 pandemic this year has had an extreme negative impact on women's employment, with female participation in the workforce hitting its lowest in thirty years. 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 via the programs.

Dress for Success Orillia and Barrie is still accepting sponsorships and in-kind donations for the fundraiser. If you're interested in sponsoring the event or donating an item or experience, please get in touch with the organization at 705 252 9200 or at agnes@dfsorilliabarrie.org.

Registration for the event is free and can only be done online at www.dfspowerofthepurse.com. Early bird registration (before January 29th) enters the registrant into a draw to win a designer handbag.

Pre-event day

Silent auction bids start on Jan 23 and end on Jan 30 at 8:15 PM

Premium live auction viewing starts on Jan 23, with bidding only taking place on Jan 30

Event day

Pre-show: 6:30 PM

Main virtual event: 7-8 PM

For more information please call the Dress for Success Orillia and Barrie office at 705-252-9200.

To stay up to date on the Power of the Purse fundraiser and Dress for Success Orillia and Barrie's other news, updates and programs, visit their website and follow them on [Facebook](https://facebook), [Twitter](https://twitter) and [Instagram](https://instagram).

Used Railway Ties • Are they a contaminate?



Off Hwy 26 at Anne Street North, Midhurst, the Canadian Pacific Railway has a yard located beside the tracks.

Many of us have gone there to watch the Christmas Train stop and the professionals onboard entertain us.

Today, there is a pile of used ties beside the tracks and there are concerns about contamination.

Will rain wash through the ties, taking the creosote out of the logs, transferring it into the ground and thence possibly contaminating the wells in that area? There is no municipal water system there. There are many wells.

Or, if a fire erupted in those creosoted logs, will it spread faster through the dried wood which has been treated with a dark brown oil distilled from coal tar and used as a wood preservative? It contains a number of phenols, cresols, and other organic compounds.

How combustible are they and is it a danger because the Springwater Park and the pine trees are right there?

We went down to the site and took some pictures. While there, the train passed by going south. There were 167 cars including two or three locomotives in the group. It included upwards to 200 seacans double stacked, boxcars, tankers and grain haulers.

To get some answers, we went online to CP Railway at www.cpr.ca. Their headquarters are in Calgary. The telephone number is 1 (888) 333-8111. When you call the number, it directs you to an emergency site and gives you two other sources which appear to be shipping related.

There is also a local number for CP Railway at 3582 Penetanguishene Road 705 7222 0635 but when I called it, the telephone rang but no answer.

At another site, it gave a "General Contact Form" and a telephone number of their 24/7 Police Communications Centre at 1-800-716-9132 in Alberta.

Although I was not reporting an incident, the gentleman I talked to was more than helpful. I told him I represented the Springwater News and that we wondered about all the ties beside the track. He asked where? He obviously followed a map because he commented, "There it is!" and



Handel's Messiah. Hope during Covid

While Christmas may look and feel a bit different this year thanks to Covid, we cannot let the pandemic totally control our responses, emotions and thoughts.

There are still things that can be done—differently, perhaps—but still adhering to your "normal" Christmas traditions. Various sites exist to show how you can have meaningful family times at Christmas, even if that means more online presence than physical.

We see a surge in awareness of the need to shop local rather than with massive online retailers or in the giant international big box outlets.

One of the great traditions in our household is our annual attendance at a performance of the great musical masterpiece, *Messiah*. Composed in only 24 days by George Frederick Handel, the piece has morphed from a Lenten composition as he intended, into a Christmas favourite around the world. Orchestras and choirs present the full piece to millions from Beijing to Barcelona, Dublin to Detroit. London to Lima and from Toronto to Tokyo. The resounding and inspiring Hallelujah Chorus is a Christmas staple as is the chorus "For unto us". And Christmas for many will be diminished without that concert attendance.

I confess I love and admire this oratorio. A lot. But I had no idea for many, many years about the incredible back story behind Handel's writing this music.

It's a story totally suited for these pandemic times because it provides hope in the midst of despair. Handel was broke. He was facing debtors' prison. He was surrounded by cultural and political enemies at the highest societal levels. He had physical illnesses and depression weighing him down. As an immigrant he was now hounded by xenophobic 'patriots' who wanted Britain rid of the European influence that was Handel.

The story of his struggle to present his new work to audiences was exacerbated by the fact that his favourite lead singer—one of the top celebrities of her day—was just emerging from a particularly sordid and very public sex scandal. To consider having her "star" in what was

asked how far off the road these ties were and how many were there- I suggested 5000 but it could easily be more.

He must have signalled someone else because I could hear another commotion on the phone. Although he told me to go to another site, the new voice interrupted and in our conversation said...

1. Creosote is a contaminant.
2. Although used ties use to be sold to local people, they do not do it anymore.

I remember as a kid, dad, the hired man and me - too young to do much - cleaning up the used rails beside the railway track along County Road 6. Dad and a neighbour named Gordon Strath raised a 60 foot x 40 barn to put an 8 foot cement block wall under it. As they jacked up the barn, the ties were used as blocks crisscrossed two per row to hold the barn up. Ken Ritchie headed the crew that laid the blocks under the wall. Afterwards, we used the better ties for fence posts and I can remember years later, pulling the fence posts out of the ground as we changed 5 and 10 acre fields into 50 - 100 acre parcels.

Once upon a time, you could buy ties at lumber yards and they were used for landscaping, retaining walls and raised flower beds I said.

The fellow knew exactly what I was talking about and mentioned that you could still buy tie sized posts for the same purpose at some yards but they were not treated with creosote.

3. Usually, once a year - I do not know how long those ties have been at the Anne Street location - they come in with flatbeds and load all the ties and ship take them away I was told that the ties went to a Hydro plant in the United States where they were used to make electricity.

4. He took my name, telephone number and email address suggesting someone would contact me.

He also suggested that I could send an email to media_relations@cpr.ca

I will keep you informed.

essentially a religious oratorio raised hackles amongst the leading churchmen of the day.

That back story fired my imagination. I relate all of this in my book *Musick for the King*, a novel based upon the historical events that brought Messiah first to Dublin then to London and now the world.

The book was published earlier this year in the midst of the pandemic. It meant the normal book launch activities—launch party, book signings, book fairs—were literally out the window. More, I, along with many others, had no idea that the pandemic would last as long and have as many ramifications some nine months in. And the end is not yet fully insight. In fact the short term outlook is depressing.

But as Handel found ways to overcome the obstacles in his path, I consider that it serves as a model for how we too can deal with restrictions, obstacles and negativity and turn them into triumph. What those triumphs are will depend upon you and your individual or family circumstances. But triumph you will!

I cannot go to Roy Thomson Hall this year for the TSO's presentation. There isn't one! So we will enjoy a video version instead. Hopefully, our close friends who always attend with us will be able to join us for dinner and *Messiah*, even if it is in our living room. (Since we do not live in a lockdown area and are allowed a small gathering that's our plan unless restriction change again).

Of course it won't be the same! But as Handel showed, we can overcome even the greatest challenges and threats. It will get better. This too shall pass.

Whether it is something as simple and relatively petty as a concert, or something as impactful as not having large family get-togethers and Christmas parties with friends and colleagues. We will overcome. It will get better. This too shall pass.

It needs a humble but determined approach. Simple gifts from the heart instead of big-ticket items. A stay-at-home vacation instead of basking on the beach. (Especially if you designate one day as a 'beach day' and wear

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It's all on line...."

Hello - is this Gordon's Pizza?"

"No, sir - it's Google's Pizza."

"I must have dialled a wrong number. Sorry."

"No, sir, this is the correct number. Google bought Gordon's Pizza last month."

"Oh! Okay, I would like to order a pizza."

"Do you want your usual, sir?"

"My usual? You know me?"

"According to our caller ID data, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms and meat balls on a thick crust."

"Right! That's what I want."

"May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat, gluten-free, thin crust?"

"What? I detest vegetables!"

"Your cholesterol is not good, sir."

"How the hell do you know that?"

"We cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years."

"No, I don't want a vegetable pizza - I take medication for cholesterol."

"Excuse me, sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database you purchased a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once at Drug sale Network, 4 months ago."

"I bought more from another chemist"

"That doesn't show on your credit card statement."

"I paid cash."

"But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement."

"I have other sources of cash."

"That doesn't show on your last tax return, unless you're using an undeclared income source, which is against the law."

"WHAT THE HELL? ! ! ! !"

"I'm sorry, sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you."

"Well I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp and the others!! I'm going to an island with no internet, no cable TV - some place where there is no cell phone service and no one to spy on me!"

"I understand, sir. But you need to renew your passport first? It expired 6 weeks ago."

summer attire and flip flops inside even it its -20 outside). Traditional Christmas fare on Christmas Day followed by your favourite "foreign holiday" fare on Boxing Day. (For me, that would likely be fish and chips).

There are many great and fascinating ideas out there to keep Christmas traditions alive even in these pandemic days. All it takes is a little imagination and creativity. This is where social media excels—sharing great ideas, crafts, activities and recipes. Take advantage. This is the key to opening a door to your eventual victory over the impact of Covid.

And while you're thinking and creating, take time to listen to the inspirational music created by Handel, even if classical music is not your normal genre.

As the saying goes: Try it. You'll like it!

Kindest regards, Barrie Doyle, www.barriedoyle.com
Author of the Oak Grove Conspiracies novels and "Musick for the King"



Lightning sets about 10,000 forest fires every year in the United States.

Expanding Opportunities for the Ontario Food Terminal and the Agri-Food Sector

Ontario's recovery plan supports local food distribution

TORONTO — Ontario has introduced changes to legislation that would support the distribution of local food and other agricultural products by enabling the Ontario Food Terminal to increase the range of products it sells. This is part of the province's Main Street Recovery Plan, announced on October 7, 2020, to continue helping businesses rebuild, reinvest and create good jobs.

"The Ontario Food Terminal is a key economic driver in our agri-food sector," said Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "Our government is committed to the Terminal's long-term success. We are creating more economic opportunities for farmers and the agri-food sector by expanding the Terminal's role and the diverse range of agri-food products it provides to wholesalers and retailers."

"Thousands of small businesses - from farms to independent grocery stores to local restaurants - rely on the Ontario Food Terminal for their success," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. "By enhancing the Ontario Food Terminal's role in the promotion of locally produced food and other agricultural products, we are encouraging small business growth and the increased sales of the more than 200 kinds of agricultural products produced in Ontario. Changing the definition of what can be sold through the Terminal is a key way we're helping agribusiness weather the storm and seize new opportunities."

The Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, announced Ontario's Main Street Recovery Plan and introduced Bill 215 - the Main Street Recovery Act, 2020 that would support small businesses and modernize rules to allow them to innovate and meet the challenges of today. If passed, the Act will remove hurdles faced by small businesses and allow them to pursue new opportunities — while maintaining or enhancing protections for public health, safety and the environment.

As part of this fall legislative opportunity, the province proposed amendments to the Ontario Food Terminal Act to address legislative barriers and help enable the Board to implement its plan for the long-term sustainability of the Terminal.

Broadening what can be sold at the Ontario Food Terminal from fruit and produce to a larger selection of agricultural products would diversify the array of products available for sale, including for example Christmas wreaths and decorative corn. This would in turn increase economic opportunities for both buyers and sellers at the Terminal.

These changes reflect some of the Terminal Board's recommendations, which are consistent with the goals of the Main Street Recovery Act of making Ontario more Open for Business and supporting local businesses in their recovery from COVID-19.

Quick Facts

- The Ontario Food Terminal, owned and operated by the Ontario Food Terminal Board, is the largest wholesale fruit and produce distribution centre in Canada, and the third largest in North America. The Terminal distributes over 2 billion pounds of produce annually, an average of 5.6 million pounds per day.
- The Ontario Food Terminal supports local farmers, local fruit and vegetable stores, independent and chain supermarkets, retailers, restaurants, food service, caterers, farmers' markets, farm gate markets, florists, garden centres, landscapers, convenience stores and institutions.

Sparkling Clean Drain

When cleaning your kitchen or bathroom the drains are always the hardest to get at. Which is a problem because drains tend to be clogged with hair and grease and can get pretty stinky. However, with a simple solution, you can ease up cleaning these areas. First, you need white vinegar, baking soda, and salt.

For the dry products, you will need a cup each. While for vinegar, you will be needing around half a cup. Mix it all together. Once you hear the fizzing, start cleaning the drain. After you pour down the solution, leave it for about ten minutes. Then, end the process by pouring down hot water. This is to flush and remove any remaining dirt in the drain.

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Who is Dr. Charles Gardner?



Dr. Charles Gardner
Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Charles Gardner, MD,
CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC
Dr. Gardner has been the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for the Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit since 2005, after having served as MOH with the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit for seven years. Prior to that, he worked in general medical practice in New-

foundland, New Brunswick, and Zimbabwe.

In the past Dr. Gardner has been the chair of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health, president of the Association for Local Public Health Agencies, president of the Ontario Council for Community Health Accreditation, member of the Ontario Public Health Leadership Council, and co-chair of the Healthy Environments Both Natural and Built Table for the Ontario Public Health Sector Strategic Plan.

Most recently Dr. Gardner was a member of the Ontario Tobacco Control System Committee and of the Modernization of the Smoke Free Ontario Strategy Executive Steering Committee, and is a member of the Smoke-Free Ontario Scientific Advisory Group and of the Ontario Tobacco Research Network.

Dr. Gardner is active personally and professionally on the promotion of health through green, compact, complete, walkable and cycleable communities.

Since the start of the COVID 19 infections, he has been the individual giving the public in the Simcoe-Muskoka area updates.

From the Simcoe Muskoka website - we find...

In recent years we have come to appreciate the importance of general living conditions. Known as the social determinants of health, they determine 60 per cent of our health status. Our income, education, occupation, early life nurturing, social support networks, and freedom from discrimination all have a powerful impact on our life expectancy and our likelihood of experiencing illness.

We at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit are committed to helping communities address the social determinants of health. Our health status reports include content on topics such as alcohol and healthy weight gain in pregnancy. We review our programs and services to better ensure access to all. We work with community partner agencies to find and address service gaps for those disadvantaged, such as with the development of Simcoe County's community housing strategy. We also advocate for policy to address health inequities, such as those related to food insecurity and smoke-free community housing in Simcoe, Muskoka and Barrie.

People of low income are particularly challenged. They die prematurely more often than those with higher incomes. We are giving special attention to their needs in our program delivery, health assessments, partnership work and advocacy, balanced with our overall population health approach, and with the consideration of other populations with health needs.

The Health Unit uses environmentally sustainable business practices – reduced office space, reduced travel, and environmentally friendly procurement practices – to reduce our carbon footprint. We seek to do our part to help address climate change, an emerging major public health threat. We also support changes in community design to improve health through safe physical activity and improved air quality. These changes also greatly reduce the carbon footprint of communities. Simcoe County's Food and Agriculture Charter, and to continue similar work in Muskoka will help to safeguard local food production and access for all.

Accountability is demonstrated through improving compliance in our Balanced Scorecard, and through perfect compliance on our Accountability Agreement targets with the province (to achieve safe foods sold, safe small water systems, safe pools, less vaccine wastage, rapid response to communicable disease case reports, reduced tobacco sales to youth and increasing breastfeeding supports).

Health unit staff have been trained to work with clients with a wide range of backgrounds, to provide better service. With the launch of the provincial Public Health Sector Strategic Plan, we have the opportunity to augment the capacity of the health unit by working more closely with other health units, the provincial government and Public Health Ontario. The provincial strategic plan's collective areas of focus are well aligned with the Health Unit's 2012–2016 strategic plan priorities.

By working closely with our communi-

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ties and with the rest of the public health community across the province, we will continue to improve the health of the people of Simcoe Muskoka in 2013 and beyond.

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Global News asked him - "What were you doing in 2010 and how does that contribute to where you are today?"

Charles Gardner: In 2009, public health throughout the world responded to an influenza pandemic. This required us to stop most of our regular program delivery and re-deploy our staff to vaccinate the population against this new influenza strain over a six-week period late in the year.

Moving into the new year of 2010, we were recovering from our response to the pandemic and commencing our health protection, health promotion and disease prevention programming. At that time, we also had to continue with our preparations to manage the impacts on our communities from the G8 summit. Responding to communicable disease outbreaks, which happen frequently each year, and to community emergencies will always be the highest-profile aspects of our public health mandate.

GN: How were you hoping things might shape up in Simcoe Muskoka over the last decade in terms of health and wellness (from 2010 until now)?

Gardner: Our staff and board of health had always focused on the full provision of the many programs that we've offered to prevent disease. Our board continued to maintain and fulfill strategic plans, with a focus on the determinants of health, putting a spotlight on municipal, provincial and federal government policy changes needed to create healthy living conditions for all.

Over the last 15 years, our work has included advocacy for healthy public policy and action on tobacco and alcohol control, changing the design of our communities to encourage and support people to safely walk, cycle and use public transit, enhancing green spaces in our neighbourhoods and better ensuring access to the basic needs. In more recent years, this has included advocacy for a guaranteed annual income.

GN: How did events end up shaping up in the last decade?

Gardner: We have always continued to provide our health protection and disease prevention services. These include the enforcement of food safety requirements, drinking water safety and the prohibition of tobacco to minors, [as well as] smoking in designated public and work spaces. Our board of health has been very active in advocating for tighter tobacco control, and in more recent years, in response to youth vaping, they have also focused on advocacy in this area. Over the past decade, we have brought smoking rates in Simcoe Muskoka down, close to the provincial average.

GN: How has the make-up of Simcoe Muskoka changed over the last decade? How does this drive your decisions?

Gardner: New issues arise, and we respond. The legalization of cannabis requires us to provide guidance and support to our municipalities. The tragic and rapid rise of opioid poisoning and deaths in our communities has been a great concern to us, and we've worked with healthcare partners, social service agencies, police agencies, the education sector, upper-tier municipalities and others to create a plan of action. Opioid deaths continue to be alarmingly high, and we continue to put a great deal of our resources behind its control.

In 2020, the provincial grant will be reduced, with an expectation from the province that the municipalities provide a substantial increase in their funding contribution to local public health. Our resource base has [therefore] declined, while the population that we serve increases annually and new issues continue to arise.

GN: What do you think is the biggest challenge facing Simcoe Muskoka over the next decade in terms of health and wellness?

Gardner: Climate change has been identified by the World Health Organization as the defining public health issue of our time. Since 2014, climate change has been a strategic priority of our board, leading us to develop a health vulnerability assessment of our communities, with projections on climate change health impacts into the 2080s. Much of our work with our communities over the years does much to reduce our carbon footprint and to prepare us for the changing climate that will come.

Over the next decade and beyond, our full intention is to work with our communities toward the substantial changes needed to manage the climate crisis, while also reaping the health benefits that come with such changes. In having our communities become less car dependent, to be complete, compact, connected and green, and to employ a just transition that doesn't leave anyone behind, we will go a long way to achieving health for all.

Such changes will not be easy, but also they will not be avoidable if we are to succeed in managing the climate crisis.

We must not allow the clock and the calendar to blind us to the fact that each moment of life is a miracle and mystery. --H. G. Wells

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Announcements

Upcoming Virtual AGM

Flos Agricultural Society (aka Elmvale Fall Fair) will be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday January 26th, 2021 from 7:30 - 8:30 pm, via Zoom.

If you were a voting member in Jan 2020, you are invited to “attend” the upcoming AGM, from the comfort of your home.

Watch your email for further instructions, OR call Linda Murray at 705-322-5067, after Jan 10th.

Happy Birthday Kim

at Lynn-Stone Funeral Home in Elmvale.

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A Very Happy Birthday.

Love and Best Wishes!

Scott, Susan and the rest of this Wonderful Community!
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Many people consider the things government does for them to be social progress but they regard the things government does for others as socialism. -Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court (19 Mar 1891-1974)

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A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and whenever we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

For most of history, Anonymous was a woman. Virginia Woolf

Obituary

Strampel, Emily Ruth (nee Ansley)

- Thankful to Jesus for answering our prayers, He has taken unto Himself Emily. Beloved wife of Taeke. Dear mom of Matthew (Heather), Naomi (John), John Taeke (Nicole) and Katrina (Joe). The greatest Beppe ever to ten wonderful grandchildren. Cremation and private family services have taken place. If desired, a donation to the Royal Victoria Hospital Foundation for the Cancer Centre, World Renew or the Wasaga Beach Ministerial Food Bank would be appreciated. To sign Emily's Book of Memories, please visit

www.carruthersdavidson.com

HEADS, William John 'Jack' -

The family of William John Heads, aka Jack, is saddened to announce he passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, holding his wife's hand, the morning of 25, December, 2020, at the age of 75 years. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 52 years, Carolyn Heads; children: Samantha Zammit and Christopher Heads; grandchildren: Makayla (Jacob), Aislinn, Hazel, Jessica (Allan), Ethan, and Willow; great grandchild: Brooklyn; brother-in-law, Cliff Baker (Barb); sister-in-law, Lianne Manley; special friend to, Terri, Jill (Cindy), Remi and Lexi as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and many other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his loving; sister, Jayne Larose; brother, Craig Heads; and his parents: William and Anne.



Jack will be remembered best for his sense of humor and his compassion towards human life. Even in Jack's last few years he was very full of life and spent his time relaxing on the front porch, keeping an eye on all of the neighbourhood children, and filling every room he entered with laughs and smiles. The room he spent the most time filling with his joy was the dialysis unit, in Collingwood General and Marine Hospital, joking around with the nurses. Our family would like to send a special thank you to the staff in the dialysis unit at Collingwood General and Marine Hospital and to his PSW's; Shania, Heather, Delorse, Joanne, and his RPN; Pat for all of their care, compassion and for surviving all his jokes.

A Private Funeral Service will be held at 1pm, on 8th, January 2021. Due to Covid-19 our family is welcoming you to join us via YouTube (Lynn Stone Funeral Home). A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations to be made in memory of Jack Heads to Kidney Foundation.

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

Hill, David William -

Passed away suddenly at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie on Saturday, December 26, 2020. David Hill of Hillsdale in his 76th year. Beloved husband of the late Ruth Hill. Dear father of Darrell Hill of Hobart, Sheila Johnson (Jeff Hirtzel) of Angus, Jason (Tracy) Hill of Waubaushene and Trevor Hill of Hillsdale. Loved grandfather of Lauren, Spencer, Oliver, and Tyson. Brother of Ruth Gregory, Harvey Hill, John (Linda) Hill, Grace (Gordon) McKay, and the late Joan, Mary, and Harold Hill.



A graveside service at the Hillsdale Presbyterian Cemetery followed by a Celebration of David's life will be held in the spring.

Memorial donations in David's memory to the RVH Dialysis Unit or Sick Kid's Hospital would be appreciated.

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

A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

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Obituaries

McNutt, Stanley Hall - It is with great sadness that the family of Stanley Hall McNutt, announce his passing at Sara Vista Nursing Home in Elmvale, on Saturday December 26, 2020.

Sandra Lynn, his wife of 51 years, was blessed to be by his side.

Stan was born December 9, 1936 in Boston, Massachusetts. At the age of three, his family returned to Canada where he grew up in Debert, Nova Scotia

He is predeceased by his parents Stanley and Nettie McNutt, brothers Joseph, Paul Victor and his sister Florence, and is being remembered by their families in Nova Scotia, California, and Kansas

Beloved father of Heather (Tyrone Penton), Scott, and Valerie (Craig Giffen). Proud grandfather of Carmen and Brooklynn Loisel, and Aubrey and Devon Giffen. He is lovingly remembered by Brother in Laws and Sister in Laws, Nereda and Dieter Rehm, Orillia and Steven and Regina Campbell, Goderich, Ontario.

Stan was a proud member of the Canadian Air Force serving at many Bases including Germany and France, before joining the OPP in 1969. He was stationed in Elmvale until Detachment closed and became Huronia West in Wasaga Beach. He retired as a senior Constable, from the OPP in 1999.

Stan was a Member and Elder of Elmvale Presbyterian Church and an active volunteer in many of Elmvale's organizations. He was proud to call Elmvale home.

A private only family service will be held Tuesday, December 29, 2020. Internment to Elmvale Presbyterian Cemetery. A Celebration of Stan's life will be held at a later date. In Lieu of Flowers please give to and Elmvale Charity of your choice. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com



WILLARD (Lowry), Doris Marguerite (nee Robinson)

Passed away peacefully at the age of 98 at St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Doris was a dedicated and loving mother to 11, grandmother to 24, and great-grandmother to 35. She will be lovingly remembered by



her children Susan Elliott (Colin), Brian Lowry, Kevin Lowry, daughter-in-law Joan Lowry, Allyn Willard (Mary), Gerald Willard (Dorris), Beryl McDougall (John), Gayle Calhoun (Bob) Shirley Rushton (Brian), and Stuart Willard (Monique), along with numerous other family members and friends. She was predeceased by her loving husbands, Irving E. Willard (1996) and James W. Lowry (1970); sons Robert J. Lowry (2009) and Geoffrey Willard (2014); grandson Aaron C. Elliott (2010); her parents Wilfred and Jessie Robinson; brother W. Frank (2010) and sister-in-law Frances Robinson (2020).

In addition to her family, Doris dedicated many hours of service to the United Church Women, Sunday School, Junior farmers' and Women's Institute in her younger years.

As per her wishes, cremation has taken place and a private family ceremony and interment will take place when family can come together again.

Special thanks to the wonderful and caring staff at St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph.

If desired, memorial contributions to CNIB or Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.

Arrangements entrusted to **GILCHRIST CHAPEL - McIntyre & Wilkie Funeral Home, One Delhi Street, Guelph, (519-824-0031)**. We invite you to leave your memories and donations online at: www.gilchristchapel.com and they will be forwarded to the family.

There are more obituaries on page 23



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Ontario Supporting Home-Based Food Businesses During COVID-19

Government providing entrepreneurs with a new "How to" guide

TORONTO — The Ontario government is supporting home-based food businesses by providing a guide on how to start a home-based food business, which includes an overview of public health requirements that need to be followed as a food operator. To further support these entrepreneurs, the government has also made regulatory changes to allow more flexibility to sell low-risk, home-prepared foods. These supports are part of the government's continued efforts to help small, independent businesses succeed and contribute to Ontario communities during COVID-19.

"For many local entrepreneurs, they start with a love of food and a cherished family recipe, whether it's grandma's apple pie or that new take on homegrown pickles, jams and preserves, and try and turn their passion into a successful business," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. "Our government applauds them for their vision and effort and we are doing everything we can to help them seize new opportunities without compromising Ontario's high standards for food safety."

Low-risk foods are considered non-hazardous and do not require refrigeration. They include items such as baked goods, pickles, jams and preserves, chocolates, hard candies and brittles, fudge and toffees, granola, trail mix, nuts and seeds, and coffee beans and tea leaves.

Quick Facts

- All food premises, including home-based food businesses, must adhere to requirements under the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA) and the Food Premises Regulation, as well as periodic inspections by their local public health unit.
- Home-based food businesses that prepare only low-risk foods are exempt from certain regulatory requirements, such as specified handwashing stations in food premises, compliance with commercial dishwashing requirements and food handling training certification.
- See Ontario's guide on how to start a home-based food business.

Another inpatient unit removed from COVID-19 outbreak at GBGH

January 5, 2021 – Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH) is now able to remove the 1 North inpatient unit from its COVID-19 outbreak – a decision made in consultation with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. The 2 North inpatient unit is now the only remaining area of the hospital still considered to be in outbreak. The hospital had previously removed 2 East, ICU and Obstetrics from the outbreak on December 22.

Over the past weekend and within the upcoming week, more than 50 per cent of GBGH staff and credentialed staff will receive the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine from the Barrie Immunization Clinic. GBGH staff and credentialed staff are travelling to receive the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in Barrie due to its temperature sensitivity.

"This week is historic for our hospital as the majority of our staff and credentialed staff will have received their first dose of the vaccine by January 10," says Gail Hunt, president and CEO, GBGH. "Our goal at GBGH is to provide safe, exceptional care and having this vaccine available to us so quickly brings hope and a much-needed morale boost to our team."

GBGH staff and credentialed staff will receive their second dose of the vaccine approximately 21 days after the first dose. Even once the vaccine provides full immunity, the hospital will continue following public health guidelines for personal protective equipment (PPE) and physical distancing to ensure the ongoing safety of patients and team members.

As of January 5, there have been the following cases related to the outbreak:

- 32 patient cases
 - Six patients admitted in hospital
 - 20 patients discharged
 - Six outbreak-related deaths
- 32 staff/credentialed staff cases
- One visitor related to the outbreak (high risk contact of a COVID positive patient during their period of communicability)

Statistics related to the outbreak are updated daily and can be found on the GBGH website - <http://gbgh.on.ca/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-updates/>

It is a wise father that knows his own child. --William Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice, Act II, sc. 2

The word "gullible" is not in the dictionary.

com. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display and you will remain anonymous. Being anonymous, you will not testify in court and your information may lead to a cash reward of up to \$2,000.00. You can follow Crime Stoppers of Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka www.crimestoppersdm.com on Twitter or Facebook.

Police remind snowmobilers that an essential part of the enforcement job is to save lives and reduce injuries on our trails, through community partnerships we educate the public about safe driving practices.

-- Cornell to extract energy from cow manure to meet heating demands --

Engineers at Cornell University in upstate New York are working to develop a system to extract energy from cow manure to meet increased heating demands.

In a paper published Tuesday in the Journal of Renewable and Sustainable Energy, researchers detailed the scientific and economic challenges posed by the prospects of installing such a system.

Cornell is a part of a group of colleges and universities that have pledged to be carbon neutral, completely erasing their carbon footprint, by 2035.

Though no small feat for any large institution, the challenge is especially difficult for colleges and universities situated in places where long, cold winters are the norm.

A sizable portion of Cornell's energy budget is spent heating the university's buildings and laboratories during winter.

Cornell already is working on a geothermal project that will use hot water extracted from nearly 2 1/2 miles underground to provide a sufficient baseline level of warmth.

Unfortunately, as a source of heat during the peak energy demands in winter, the geothermal system doesn't make economic sense.

To meet wintertime energy demands, researchers are working on a system to turn the manure from Cornell's dairy farms, home to about 600 cows, into natural gas.

The system features three stages, the first of which involves the biological breakdown of manure using microbes. The initial stage yields a biogas -- a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide.

During the second stage, the digested manure is converted into biocrude oil plus and a material called hydrochar, which can be used as a soil amendment on the school.

For the final stage, carbon dioxide produced during the first stage is combined with hydrogen gas extracted from lake water using a process called electrolysis, which involves the use of electricity to trigger chemical reactions.

The end product is renewable natural gas, RNG, that can be injected into New York's natural gas grid.

"The proposed system will produce about 909 million liters of RNG per year," study author Nazih Kassem, a biomedical engineer and visiting scientist at Cornell, said in a news release.

"This can provide 97 percent of the total annual peak heating demand. The remainder can be met by purchasing natural gas, increasing Cornell's dairy herd size, or using campus eateries' food wastes for co-digestion.

"Adding 19 more dairy cows would result in enough RNG production to meet the average annual peak heating demand."

The new research suggests that in order for the biomass heating system to make economic sense, Cornell will need help from policy makers in Albany.

"If New York state were to adopt policies to create a carbon market and enable competitive RNG pricing, then the proposed biomass peak heating system would show profitability," Kassem said.

Homeowners find honey leaking through walls

A Pennsylvania family who found a mysterious sticky substance dripping from their walls discovered the thick liquid was honey and their walls were full of bees.

Andrea Isabell said she and her husband first noticed the dark spots on the walls of their home after Tropical Storm Fay passed through the area. Isabell said they initially thought the spots were water damage from the storm, but they soon discovered the dark spots were honey leaking through the walls. "My husband felt this really sticky, syrupy stuff. We were brave and smelled it. He said, 'This is honey. This is honey pouring down our walls,'" Isabell said.

The family enlisted the help of Allan Lattanzi, "The Bee Man" of Yerkes Honey Farms in Collegeville to help extract the bees. "The bees become my girls," Lattanzi said. "I will take them home and they will become a honey producer for me. I will make a colony."

2021 VIRTUAL MARCH CLASSIC REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

GUELPH, ON (January 4, 2021) – Grain Farmers of Ontario, the province's largest commodity organization, representing Ontario's 28,000 barley, corn, oat, soybean, and wheat farmers, is pleased to announce registration for the March Classic is now open.

Grain Farmers of Ontario wants to celebrate the tenacity and perseverance of grain farmers at the 2021 Virtual March Classic. There is a legacy of care, hope, and nourishment to grain farming and we bring that legacy with us into the future as farming shifts and adapts to meet modern needs. We celebrate the new chapters grain farming is writing now and will continue to create in the future. Our best way forward is **Marching Ahead Together**.

"The March Classic continues to raise the bar as a premier event for our farmer-members and the grain industry as whole. We are committed to ensuring that high quality event experience in our new virtual format and being a leader in online events. We look forward to joining our farmer-members online to hear from world-class speakers, network and connect with our industry partners," said Victoria Berry, Manager, Communications at Grain Farmers of Ontario.

The 2021 speaker lineup includes the first Canadian virtual recording of the U.S Farm Report featuring Tyne Morgan as the host. Attendees will also hear from Jim Handman, one of the producers of CBC's Quirks & Quarks who will talk to the disconnect between science and the mainstream media as well as Jo-Ann McArthur president of Nourish Food Marketing to discuss upcoming food trends.

Join us for our two-day virtual March Classic on March 22 and 23, 2021 that will host engaging and interactive content including contesting and prizes; and the ability to virtually network with sponsors, exhibitors and other farmer-members. For more information about our virtual 2021 March Classic and to register early, please click [here](#).

Those that register early can be entered into January and February early bird draws for Grain Farmers of Ontario virtual prizes!

More information can be found at www.gfo.ca/MarchClassic or by calling Grain Farmers of Ontario at 1-800-265-0550 x308.

The OPP Trail Side Report in North Simcoe

(MIDLAND, ON)- As of January 4, 2021 only a very limited number of Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails south and east of our area are open and officers from the Southern Georgian Bay detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are on patrol educating area riders that the trails are still closed. Officers travelled 535 km's between Dec 26, 2020 and January 4, 2021 logging 47 hours of patrol time. 11 R.I.D.E. check stop locations were also set up on the trailside checking 168 riders for signs of impairment with no drivers being charged with Impaired Operation or liquor/ cannabis related offences.

Officers also warned 34 operators and issued offence notices to 14 others for various infractions under the Motorized Snow Vehicle Act and the Trespass to Property Act during their patrols.

Snowmobile operators are advised to check trail conditions prior to heading out and the following internet web sites can provide an insight into those conditions and whether the trails are open or still closed; Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, Mid Ontario Snowmobile Clubs

If you have to travel out onto an ice surface always remember that "No Ice Is Safe Ice" and you need to be aware of current, past weather conditions and possible commercial ice breaking activity along with checking with area residents who have "local knowledge of ice conditions". The following web sites are a must see for those who travel on ice surfaces- Cold Water Boot Camp along with https://twitter.com/OPP_News/status/1342817627077488641

Unlawfully removing trail signs can create some very dangerous situations, if you have knowledge of anyone removing OFSC trail signs please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can submit your information online at www.p3tips.com

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Events
 Let's rebuild the events column. COVID had shut down many of the events we had before but we are adapting. Check here for daily/weekly happenings.

As we are abiding by the lock down restrictions currently in place due to the pandemic and in the interest of public safety, Elmvale Presbyterian Church is unable to hold Let's Do Lunch Thur. Jan. 14. We hope that by February 11th things will open up again and we can safely offer you your take-out soup and sandwiches. Check the Feb. 4th edition of the paper for an announcement one way or the other. Until then, stay safe.

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Sleep is a universal characteristic of complex living organisms and has been observed in insects, mollusks, fish, amphibians, birds, and mammals. In fact, sleep is so important that humans can survive longer without food than they can without sleep.
 During sleep, the brain "consolidates" memories and skills, meaning that the brain strengthens, reorganizes, and restructures memories during sleep.
 REM atonia, or sleep paralysis, occurs in the typical sleeper every night to prevent people from acting out their dreams. Only a few muscles have the ability to move during REM sleep, such as the eye muscles, the auditory muscles, and the diaphragm for respiration.

Obituaries



Handy, Shirley Ruby (nee Archer) - It is with profound sadness that the family announce the passing of Shirley Ruby Handy (nee Archer) in her 88th year. After a brief illness and peacefully with her son Douglas by her side, on Wednesday December 30, 2020 at Soldiers Memorial Hospital in Orillia.
 Beloved wife of 67 years to James Ronald Handy.
 Cherished mother of Douglas (Cynthia) and Shane (Leslie-Ann). Devoted Grandmother to Craig (Samantha), Francesca, Alexander and Matthew. Proud daughter of the late Reginald and Mary Archer. Dear sister of Faye predeceased (Lawrence) Townes and Donald (Margaret) Archer. Dear sister-in-law of Ruby Crowe predeceased and Leonard (Doreen) Handy both predeceased. Shirley will be deeply missed by many nieces, nephews, relatives, friends and all who knew her.

Born at Langman's Corners on May 20, 1933 Shirley enjoyed many a happy time on her family's farm. She attended high school in Elmvale and met her husband Jim there at a street dance. After marrying she put her business certificate and amazing math skills to work as a bookkeeper for Harris Electric, Eaton's and at CKVR until 1960 when she left to start her family. In 1972 Shirley and Jim moved to Jarratt where they as partners successfully ran Handy's Service Center together for 16 years before moving into Orillia. Shirley then worked at the Orillia Co-Op until retiring in 1999.

Shirley was gifted with a talent for baking wonderful treats especially her famous butter tarts. She adored visits and talking with her grandchildren, enjoyed gardening, phone calls and socializing with friends and relatives, as well as camping, motorcycling, boating and snowmobiling. Shirley snowmobiled as recently as March 2020 with the Bass Lake Snowrunners. Board and card games, especially euchre were another of Shirley's favourite activities, played with family and friends.

Shirley will be missed for her love and devotion of family, her kind, gentle and generous soul, quick wit and her genuine caring of others.

Cremation has taken place and no services will be held at this time. Services will be held at a later date when it is safe for us to do so.

As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to The Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society, Soldiers Memorial Hospital or the charity of your choice through Simcoe Funeral Home, 38 Simcoe St. E., Orillia (705) 327-0221

Messages of condolence are welcomed at www.simcoefuneralhome



Frederick Frank Harpell • December 13, 1934 – December 31, 2020

It is with heavy hearts the family of beloved Frederick Frank Harpell announce his peaceful passing on Thursday December 31, 2020 at the age of 86.

Fred will be deeply missed by the love of his life, Evelyn (nee Gilbert), his four beloved children Sheila Stephens (Peter), Joanne Harpell-Player (predeceased by Bill – Dec. 8/20), David (Lisa), Glenn (Jessica), his cherished grandchildren Matthew (Catherine), Trina (Jeff), David, Jeremy (Lindsay), Tosh (Jason), Jasmine, Jade, Jesse, Jenna, Jodie (Gabe), Billie and great-grandchildren Teddy, Christopher, Noah, Rory, Declan, Sarah, Erin, Kirby, Liam and Kennedy.

He is survived by his sister Chrystal Duncan and his sister-in-law Faye Harpell. Predeceased by his father and mother, Captain Frank Harpell and Mrs. Alqua Harpell, brother Doug, sister Joan Cameron (Don) and brother-in-law Russell Duncan.

He will be fondly remembered for his beautiful smile, sense of humour, singing Elvis songs and playing guitar around the campfire by his many nieces, nephews and extended family who were such a significant part of his life.

Fred was born in Midland, Ontario and grew up on Midland Avenue. He had many adventures with his friends exploring Georgian Bay and riding his motorcycle with the Huronia Ramblers which he immortalized in one of his many poems.

Fred had many interesting jobs throughout his life from working on the Great Lakes Steamships with his Dad and brother, to piloting a float plane for Georgian Bay Airways in Parry Sound to eventually settling in Elmvale and becoming owner of Dutcher and Corbett Insurance until his retirement.

He was actively involved in the community of Elmvale serving on Town Council for many years where he held the finance portfolio, was a Lions Club member eventually becoming President and an executive director, he spearheaded the reorganization and inception of the Elmvale Chamber of Commerce, served on the official board of St. John's United Church and chaired or co-chaired many fundraising events. As written in another poem, he said "Do as much good as you can".

Fred and Evelyn enjoyed 60 wonderful years together. They created many special memories raising their adored children, sharing many adventures with their family and friends, travelling the world, camping, boating, endless renovating then retiring to winters in Arizona and summers at the cottage they built on Gloucester Pool.

Fred lived an amazing life and he always felt very fortunate for everything he was blessed with. He was a kind, loving, man of integrity and a true gentleman and we felt very fortunate for the love he gave us and the many happy memories.

A Celebration of Fred's Life will be held at a later date.

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

DID YOU KNOW THAT

THERE ARE MORE AIRPLANES IN THE OCEANS, THAN SUBMARINES IN THE SKY?

Immemorial

In loving memory of **Clifford L. Harris**
 December 25, 1918 - January 6, 2011
 father, grandfather and great grandfather

*Those whom we love go out of sight
 But never out of mind.
 They are cherished in the hearts
 Of those they leave behind.
 Loving and kind in all his ways
 Upright and just in all his days
 Sincere and true in heart and mind
 Beautiful memories he left behind.*

Lovingly remembered
 Ron, Sandra and family

WHY IS A CHARLIE HORSE (LEG CRAMP) CALLED A CHARLIE HORSE?

The origin of this phrase is somewhat unclear. One theory is that it originated with a common occupational hazard of constables. Constables were called "Charleys" in 17th century England and aching legs were a part of the job. It's also possible that the phrase came into usage after a lame horse named Charley pulled a roller across a Chicago White Sox ballpark in the 1890s, and the term stuck to described a common malady among baseball players.

When did ancient cultures celebrate the new year?

In ancient Egypt, the new year was celebrated when the star Sirius rose around the time of sunrise. This roughly coincided with the summer solstice and the annual flooding of the Nile River. * The original Roman calendar contained only ten months, with the new year starting on March 1. * The ancient Celts celebrated the new year (Samhain) beginning at dusk on October 31.



In loving memory of **Luc Desroches** who passed away January 7, 2015.

*We hold you close within our hearts,
 And there you will remain
 To walk with us throughout our lives
 Until we meet again.*

Lovingly remembered by wife
 Leona and family.

Old electronics - Got laptops, cell phones, tablets or other electronics you no longer use? You can now trade them for cash or a store gift card at more and more major retailers. For Target, call your local store or visit TargetTrade-in to find a location that accepts trade-ins near you. For Best Buy call your local Best Buy or log on to TradeIn.BestBuy.com. For Amazon type trade-in in the search bar to find their Trade-In store.



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**GBGH team helping fulfill Christmas
Angel Wishes in our community**



For the past 16 years, team members from Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH) have contributed gifts to families in need through the Christmas Angel Wish campaign with Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions. This year, the hospital was sent a list of 17 wishes for children ranging in age from infant to teenagers, and all are being fulfilled. Special thank you to GBGH team member Kary Miller (Staffing) for organizing the hospital's campaign and R.U.Moving? for helping deliver GBGH's gifts.

Winter Safety Message: Exercise Caution Near All Waterways

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) reminds residents and visitors to our parks of dangers near streams, rivers, ponds and lakes this time of year. NVCA urges people to exercise caution and keep family and pets away from the edges of all waterways and water bodies.

This year more than ever, we want to remind all nature seekers to be extremely cautious when outside this winter. We ask that you "target trails and steer clear of streams".

While temperatures have declined since November's unseasonably warm days, we are experiencing frequent freeze-thaw cycles. It results in the melting of accumulated snow and ice cover. This runoff creates hazardous conditions near all waterways, by contributing to higher water levels and increased water flow speeds in local watercourses. As well, slippery and unstable streambanks and extremely cold water temperatures can also lead to very hazardous and dangerous conditions close to any body of water.

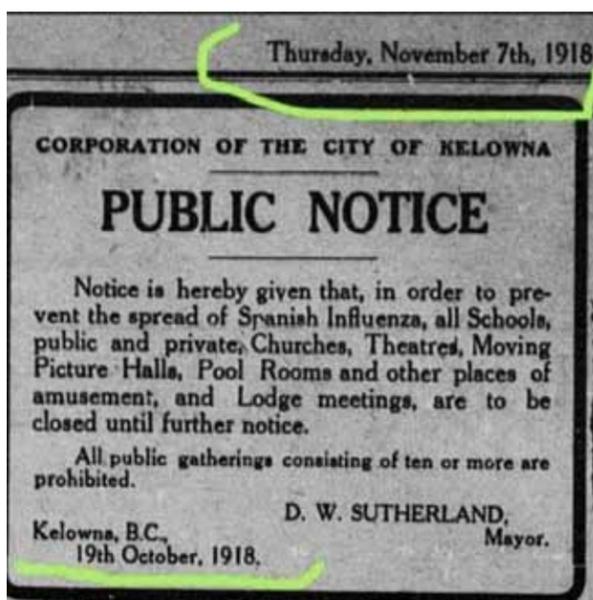
Be safe this winter and remember the following tips:

- Keep family and pets away from all bodies of water
- Avoid all recreational activities in or around water
- Tailor your winter outdoor activities to trails at your local parks and conservation areas
- Follow staff instructions and signage throughout NVCA conservation areas

For more information, contact your local Conservation Authority.

- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (905) 895-1281
- Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (905) 579-0411
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (705) 424-1479
- Kawartha Conservation (705) 328-2271

For more information about our parks, visit nvca.on.ca for the latest updates.



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Ontario Provincewide Shutdown

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise at an alarming rate, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, is imposing a Provincewide Shutdown. Additional restrictions will be put into place and reinforce that Ontarians should stay at home as much as possible to minimize transmission of the virus and prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed. The Provincewide Shutdown will go into effect as of Saturday, December 26, 2020, at 12:01 a.m.

In response to these exceptional circumstances, the Provincewide Shutdown would put in place time-limited public health and workplace safety measures similar to those in other jurisdictions. It would help stop the trend of high COVID-19 transmission in communities, preserve health system capacity, safeguard vulnerable populations and those who care for them, and save lives. Measures include, but are not limited to:

- Restricting indoor organized public events and social gatherings, except with members of the same household (the people you live with). Individuals who live alone may consider having exclusive close contact with one other household.
- Prohibiting in-person shopping in most retail settings - curbside pickup and delivery can continue. Discount and big box retailers selling groceries will be limited to 25 per cent capacity for in-store shopping. Supermarkets, grocery stores and similar stores that primarily sell food, as well as pharmacies, will continue to operate at 50 per cent capacity for in-store shopping.
- Restricting indoor access to shopping malls - patrons may only go to a designated indoor pickup area (by appointment only), essential retail stores that are permitted to be open (e.g. pharmacy, grocery store), or, subject to physical distancing and face covering requirements, to the food court for takeout purchases. Shopping malls may also establish outdoor designated pickup areas.
- Prohibiting indoor and outdoor dining. Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments will be permitted to operate by take out, drive-through, and delivery only.

All Ontarians are advised to stay home as much as possible with trips outside the home limited to necessities such as food, medication, medical appointments, or supporting vulnerable community members. Employers in all industries should make every effort to allow employees to work from home.

The impacts of these time-limited measures will be evaluated throughout the 14 days in Northern Ontario and 28 days in Southern Ontario to determine if it is safe to lift any restrictions or if they need to be extended.

The government is also providing \$12.5 million to implement a High Priority Communities Strategy to contain the virus in high-risk communities. The funding will also allow for the hiring of community ambassadors to make people aware of available services and assistance. Additional funding of \$42 million will also be available to establish isolation centres.

New School Protocols

While transmission in schools remains low, all publicly funded and private elementary and secondary schools are to move to teacher-led remote learning when students return from the winter break on January 4, 2021. This action is being taken in support of the Government's broader efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Elementary school students are planned to be able to return to in-person learning on January 11, 2021, and secondary school students will continue learning remotely until January 25, 2021. During this period, child care centres, authorized recreational and skill building programs and home-based child care services will remain open.

The New Ontario Small Business Support Grant

The government recognizes that small businesses impacted by these necessary public health measures will require additional support so they can continue serving their communities and employing people in Ontario once the COVID-19 pandemic is over. That is why the government is announcing the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant, which will provide a minimum of \$10,000 and up to \$20,000 to eligible small business owners to help navigate this challenging period.

Small businesses required to close or restrict services under the Provincewide Shutdown will be able to apply

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for this one-time grant. Each small business will be able to use the support in whatever way makes the most sense for their individual business. For example, some businesses will need support paying employee wages or rent, while others will need support maintaining their inventory.

Eligible small businesses include those that:

- Are required to close or significantly restrict services subject to the Provincewide Shutdown effective 12:01 a.m. on December 26, 2020;
- Have less than 100 employees at the enterprise level; and
- Have experienced a minimum of 20 per cent revenue decline in April 2020 compared to April 2019.

Starting at \$10,000 for all eligible businesses, the grant will provide businesses with dollar for dollar funding to a maximum of \$20,000 to help cover decreased revenue expected as a result of the Provincewide Shutdown. The business must demonstrate they experienced a revenue decline of at least 20 per cent when comparing monthly revenue in April 2019 and April 2020.

Essential businesses that are allowed to remain open will not be eligible for this grant. More information about the Ontario Small Business Support Grant is available here. Further details, including how to apply, will be announced in January 2021.

Quick Facts

- Currently, hospitalizations for COVID-19 have increased by 74 per cent over the last four weeks and are more than 15 times higher than they were at the beginning of September. Intensive care unit (ICU) occupancy for COVID-19 has more than doubled over the last four weeks and is 20 times higher than at the beginning of September.
- Ontario currently has 915 COVID-19 patients requiring acute care, 265 patients in ICU, with 152 on a ventilator.
- Based on the latest modelling data, cases across the province are continuing to grow and the number of people requiring an intensive care bed is projected to rise well above 300 people within the next 10 days.
- Some jurisdictions around the world, including those in Canada have implemented similar time-limited measures to respond to a dramatic resurgence in cases. Based on their experiences, measures of four to six weeks are expected to interrupt transmission of COVID-19 in Ontario.
- Municipalities and local medical officers of health may have additional restrictions or targeted requirements in their region.
- If you have questions about what will be open or impacts to your business or employment, call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.
- Get tested if you have symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or if you have been advised of exposure by your local public health unit or through the COVID Alert App. Visit Ontario.ca/covidtest to find the nearest testing location.
- The Ontario Small Business Support Grant is part of the Province's more than \$13.5 billion in support for people and jobs outlined in the 2020 Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover. It is also in addition to \$4.8 billion to address critical areas to support a strong long-term recovery that helps workers, employers and communities get back on their feet, while building the foundation for recovery and growth.
- To find the right supports, visit COVID-19: Support for People, which has information about the many available and free mental health services and supports.
- To stay safe you can download the COVID Alert App free from the Apple and Google Play app stores.
- To date, as part of the province's COVID-19 immunization program, over 3,000 frontline health care workers have been vaccinated.
- Schools continue to be safe, and according to data reported by school boards, as of Friday, December 18: approximately 99.64 per cent of students in Ontario have not reported a case of COVID-19; approximately 92 per cent of schools across the province have had either no cases or one case reported within the last 14 days; and approximately 80 per cent of schools do not have an case of COVID-19.

Publication

Jan 7 & 21

Feb 4 & 18

March 4 & 18

Apr 1, 15 & 29

May 13 & 27

June 10 & 24

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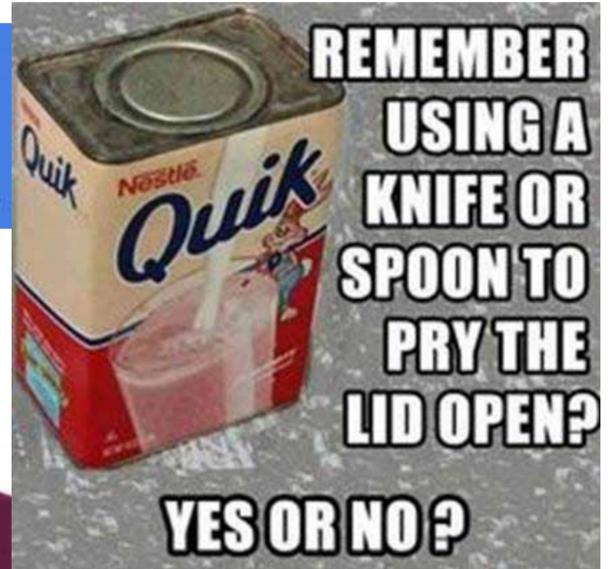
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Just as the graveside service finished, there was a distant lightning bolt accompanied by a tremendous burst of rumbling thunder. The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, "Well, she's there and it's His problem now."



- "For those that missed it, let's Recap:
- 1966: Oil Gone in Ten Years
 - 1967: Dire Famine Forecast By 1975
 - 1968: Overpopulation Will Spread Worldwide
 - 1969: Everyone Will Disappear In a Cloud Of Blue Steam By 1989
 - 1970: World Will Use Up All its Natural Resources by 2000
 - 1970: Urban Citizens will require Gas Masks by 1985
 - 1970: Nitrogen buildup Will Make All Land Unusable
 - 1970: Decaying Pollution Will Kill all the Fish
 - 1970s: Killer Bees!
 - 1970: Ice Age By 2000
 - 1970: America Subject to Water Rationing by 1974 and Food Rationing By 1980
 - 1971: New Ice Age Coming By 2020 or 2030
 - 1972: New Ice Age By 2070
 - 1972: Oil depleted in 20 Years
 - 1974: Space Satellites Show New Ice Age Coming Fast
 - 1974: Another Ice Age?
 - 1974: Ozone Depletion a 'Great Peril to Ute
 - 1976: Scientific Consensus Planet Cooling, Famines imminent
 - 1977: Department of Energy Says oil will Peak in 90s
 - 1978: No End in Sight to 30-Year Cooling Trend
 - 1980: Acid Rain Kills Life In Lakes
 - 1980: Peak oil in 2000
 - 1988: Regional droughts (that never happened) in 1990s
 - 1988: Temperatures in DC Will Hit Record Highs
 - 1988: Maldivé Islands will Be Underwater by 2018 (they're not)
 - 1989: Rising Sea Levels will Obliterate Nations if Nothing Done by 2000
 - 1989: New York City's West Side Highway Underwater by 2019 (it's not)
 - 1996: Peak Oil in 2020
 - 2000: Children Won't Know what Snow Is
 - 2002: Famine In 10 Years If We Don't Give Up Eating Fish, Meat, and Dairy
 - 2002: Peak Oil in 2010
 - 2004: Britain will Be Siberia by 2024
 - 2005: Manhattan Underwater by 2015
 - 2006: Super Hurricanes!
 - 2008: Arctic will Be Ice Free by 2018
 - 2008: Climate Genius AI Gore Predicts Ice-Free Arctic by 2013
 - 2009: Climate Genius Prince Charles Says we Have 96 Months to Save World
 - 2009: UK Prime Minister Says 50 Days to 'Save The Planet From Catastrophe'
 - 2009: Climate Genius AI Gore Moves 2013 Prediction of Ice-Free Arctic to 2014
 - 2013: Arctic Ice-Free by 2015
 - 2014: Only 500 Days Before 'Climate Chaos' Then there's another list with the Polar Bears becoming extinct, and why are thawing glaciers unearthing trees and other habitat



Would you blindfold yourself and eat whatever someone fed you? No? Then stop letting the media do it to you.

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w/ June Everton



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