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There's the Burk Operation near Coldwater, 130 buckets. Bob's behind the wheel, Charles Jacobs is gathering and I suppose he's telling me how to do it.



Then there's the Hamillville operation, maximum # of neighbours, 30 trees, gathered with an ATV, boiled down with a home made furnace and pan then scientifically boiled and monitored to the perfect 218C degree.

Rotary Club of Penetanguishene Donates to Wendat



Recently, the Rotary Club of Penetanguishene donated \$2,000 towards operating costs for the Lorna Tomlinson Residence for Seniors, owned and operated by Wendat Community Program.

This facility houses 21 low income, frail seniors. It opened in 2016 and Wendat has been working hard to pay off the mortgage on the facility since then.

Andrea Abbott-Kokosin, Executive Director of Wendat says that the organization is very close to paying off the mortgage in full. "It will be a huge accomplishment and a relief to us to have the challenge of paying the mortgage behind us. We could not have done it without the support of service clubs, businesses and individual donors.

The Rotary Club of Penetanguishene's donation of \$2,000 is part of this success and has helped to ensure the sustainability of the residence into the future" she said.

Wendat Community Programs was founded in 1988 to provide community mental health care and rehabilitation services to persons affected by mental illness who reside in the North Simcoe communities. The organization has grown substantially since this time and now has, two target populations, eleven programs, seventy employees and a much larger service area. Wendat currently serves close to 2,000 persons a year throughout

Simcoe County and Muskoka. Programs and services assist persons with mild to severe mental health challenges as well as seniors with care needs.

Pictured from left to right are of Shelly Price of Rotary Club of Penetanguishene and Andrea Abbott-Kokosin, Executive Director of Wendat Community Programs.

Win Yourself an Eastern Bluebird Nesting Box Week 2

In the last issue, we had phase one of the contest in which you counted bluebirds through out the paper. The response was phenomenal and the answers came with all kinds of comments about how much fun it was. Everyone is eligible to enter again.

But this time, you're counting the nesting boxes as shown to the right. Send your answer, your name, your address and telephone number to one of
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- Buy a bird house for Wrens
- Chickadees
- Tree Swallows
- Eastern Bluebirds
- Wood Ducks
- Buffleheads
- Hooded Mergansers
- Common Goldeneyes
- American Kestrels
- Barred Owls
- Common Mergansers

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- think globally and act locally (the best approach for making a difference)

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Editor's Musings

Daylight Savings time - there is always discussions about whether we should dispense of the time change. One article, in defence of keeping it suggested that the change just led to the spending of more money. Take golf for instance. Without the DST change, there is not enough time after your work day to get in a complete round of golf. With the change, from the office to the golf course is possible. DST is worth between \$200 to \$400 (American money) to the industry in United States.

You just gotta love the Liberal Party. At their upcoming convention, they will be discussing a Universal basic income. Some in the party are suggesting that each and every citizen gets \$2000 per month. If you worked 40 hours a week at 13.33 an hour, for four weeks, you would make \$2000 a month.

The general minimum wage right now is \$14.25. Many of these minimum wage jobs are part time. If you worked 35 hours a week at \$14.25, you would make exactly what the Liberal Party is suggesting as a universal income.

And you don't make \$14.25 anyhow with all the deductions that are levied against wages.

So why not stay home. You don't have to pay for transportation. You may not have to own as many clothes. You can make your own meals and, by goodness, the list goes on. Best of all, you get to sleep in.

And if four of you live together, there's \$8000 a month which would pay the rent or the mortgage, the cable, the telephone services, the hydro and possibly car payments.

By staying home and doing nothing, you would be living better than any of our seniors who with OAS and CPP, on average, make maybe \$1300 a month after having had paid 5.25% of their income (an amount matched by the employer - and if you were self employed, you paid 10.5%) into the government coffers, not into a retirement fund that good managers might make 5-10% on. In 2020, the OAS payment was \$614.14. In 2021, the OAS payment is \$617.37 or \$1.23 more a month - a \$14.76 raise for a whole year (in perspective, 1% would have been \$61.41 so they got a .22% raise) - look into it - it sucks and seniors do not get back the amount of money paid into, supposedly THE PLAN!

Yes - you just gotta love the Liberal Party.

Saurin School was located on Flos Concession 11 West in Springwater Township or really in those days up until about 1966, it was Concession 11 in Flos Township just north of Elmvale. The school district was called SS 13 and in those days, Flos probably had about 13 rural schools.

Each school had their own school board and in the 50s and 60s, when seven of his children were attending that school, dad was one of the unpaid trustees.

The 60s were supposedly progressive years in the education system so instead of one teacher teaching 30-40 kids in all 8 grades in one classroom, it was decided to consolidate into a larger school where one teacher taught each grade. This meant that all these school boards were redundant. Not only did Flos lose maybe 13 school boards, all the boards in the townships, towns and cities in Simcoe County became one. This new board was elected at the same time as the municipal elections ran which back then was every two years. Over time, municipal elections

became every three years then became once every four years. In the process of amalgamating boards, the public board consisted of just Simcoe County and their office is now located north of Midhurst on Highway 26.

The separate board that consisted of the Catholic schools amalgamated with Muskoka and their board office is off Bell Farm Road in Barrie.

I have no complaints with either board really. My wife retired out of the one board and my three boys have long since graduated. I do have three grandchildren split between the two boards and my daughter-in-law helps at one of the schools in Elmvale.

The only one that complains is an 8 year-old boy who suggests that recess is the best period of the day. He may be transforming a bit because when I asked him on Sunday how school was, he said great.

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association has now joined their colleagues and partners in the Manitoba School Boards Association in denouncing the Manitoba government's plan to abolish their school boards.

Trustees play an important role in publicly funded education they say and all conversation in the press release centres on the trustees - but nothing about the bloated board offices. There are more than 80 school boards in Ontario. My complaint might be that there are 80 superintendents and their help deciding how to implement a new course in each of their schools. What's the cost and why the duplication?

There were 277,276 deaths in 2019 in Canada. In 2020, there were an estimated 296,373 deaths.

This represents an excess of 13,798 deaths above and beyond what would have been expected had there been no pandemic, or this is about 5% more deaths than expected in that period, after accounting for changes in the population, such as aging.

There were 15,606 deaths attributed to Covid 19 in 2020. There are various opinions as to whether our lock downs are for the good of the people.

On the one side, it makes sense that if we social distance and wear masks, it should at the very least help.

Unfortunately, there are various jurisdictions and countries that did not lock down and their results are similar, in fact maybe even better when you take in the better mental health, the better economies, higher employment and the fewer closures and bankruptcies.

But then, in Ireland, you are not permitted to go more than 3 miles/5 kilometres from home and they have 94.1 deaths per 100,000. The United States has 162.8 per 100,000. Canada has 60.6. Sweden with almost no lockdowns, 130 deaths per 100,000 according to the day old data at www.bbc.com/news/world-51235105.

I would suspect that in any reviews of the situation in years to come, it will say they did the right thing...no one wants to admit they made a mistake so there will be lots of positive press.

Surveys from some places suggest 53% of the American servicemen don't want the needle. On June 30, 2020, 50% of the people surveyed said they would not get the vaccine but on December 3rd, the number had risen to 61%. On January 2, a survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 29% of health care and Frontline Workers were hesitant to receive the vaccine. On January 19, in a poll of



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200, 15% of health care workers had refused the vaccine. On January 1, at two places in California, 50 to 60% of the frontline workers had refused their shot.

In Ontario, on December 8th, it was suggested by the health minister that people who refuse to get the vaccine could face restrictions a day after Premier Doug Ford said he believes it unconstitutional to force people to get the vaccine and he does not believe in mandating it.

After much review, and finding that generally the majority says okay, I will be getting my vaccine when people my age become eligible. Maybe, that is the only way I can

stop wearing the mask and start going out and visiting people.

But still everyday, you can find the questions - Google Dr. Mark Trozzi. He is a medical doctor who graduated from the Western University and went on to become an Advanced Trauma Life Support Professor some twenty-five years ago. His practice is located in Harrow. He speaks of the days in the Trauma Ward where he did nothing. He indicates that since this started, he has never seen a case of Covid 19. He almost suggests he was embarrassed to go into a grocery store and because he was supposedly an exhausted frontline worker get ushered to the front of the line. While you're at it, maybe you should look up the Rockefeller Foundation's 2010 planning called Operation Lockstep.

The really good news - Ontario pharmacies are on track to administer one million Covid-19 vaccinations a week once there is enough vaccine.

Charles, how is the Maple sap and syrup boiling past-time going?



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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 19	427 (23,384)	15 = 1919	17,889	3576	
June 18	173 (32,917)	3 = 2553	28,012	2352	
July 21	203 (37,942)	1 = 2753	33,617	1572	
Aug 11	33 (40,194)	0 = 2786	36,456	952	
Sept 12	232 (44,300)	1 = 2814	39,717	1769	
Oct 13	746 (60,692)	9 = 3016		5947	36,473
Nov 16	1487 (95,496)	10 = 3371	79,295	12,830	33,351
Dec 31	3328 = 182,195	56 = 4530	156,259	21,617	63,858
Jan 19	1913 = 242,277	46 = 5479	209,183	27,615	34,531
Feb 17	847 = 288,583	10 = 6729	270,869	10,985	33,730
Feb 28	1062 = 300,816	20 = 6980	283,344	10,492	48,185
Mar 3	958 = 303,763	17 = 7014	286,352	10,397	52,613
Mar 4	994 = 304,757	10 = 7024	287,424	10,309	65,643
Mar 5	1250 = 306,007	22 = 7046			65,000
Mar 6	990 = 306,997	6 = 7052	289,735		57,829
Mar 7	1299 = 308,296	15 = 7067	290,840	10,389	48,586
Mar 8	1631 = 309,927	10 = 7077	291, 834	11,061	38,063
Mar 9	1185 = 311,112	6 = 7083	292,806	11,223	33,264
Mar 10	1316 = 312,428	16 = 7099	294,018	11,311	54,149
Mar 11	1092 = 313,520	10 = 7109	295,128	11,283	60,619
Mar 12	1371 = 314,891	18 = 7127	296,252	11,512	64,611
Mar 13	1468 = 316,359	11 = 7138	297,403	11,818	54,431
Mar 14	1747 = 318,106	15 = 7153	298,570	13,565	47,618
Mar 15	1268 = 319,374	9 = 7162	299,684	12,528	33,975
Mar 16	1074 = 320,448	11 = 7173	300,769	12,506	28,526

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Only Most Expensive ERRC Option Passes Smell Test:

Simcoe County Council should reconsider placing its proposed Environmental Resource Recovery Facility (ERRC) in the middle of Freele Forest because it will be too expensive to mitigate the excessive odours produced by this waste management facility.

The Facility Characteristics Report prepared for Simcoe County includes a preliminary Odour Assessment to determine if it is likely this facility will meet provincial environmental requirements. While the report concludes it is possible for the facility to comply if it is "carefully designed and operated", a closer examination of the report paints a very different picture.

The report considered six different configurations of facilities to calculate the likely level of odour production (see Table 7.1 of the Facility Characteristics Report). A facility that produces more than 1 Odour Unit (OU) at sensitive receptors more than .5% of the time would not comply with provincial requirements. Two configurations significantly exceeded these levels, and a third only passed because it did not include the Organics Processing Facility (OPF) in its calculations.

Two other configurations appear problematic as well. One only qualifies as a pass by .01%, equivalent to operating less than an hour below standard per year, based on preliminary estimates. Actual measurements could easily exceed this level, and it would be irresponsible to approve construction in the hopes of maintaining that precise reading.

The other problematic option shows the facility operating at a significantly reduced flow rate. No suggestion as to how this low level would be achieved is given; is it by the use of special filtration systems or by operating the facility at a reduced level of production? No details are provided in the report; every other option bases its calculation on a high flow rate.

That leaves just one option that meets provincial standards, and the report wording suggests this will be the most expensive possible facility configuration (see section 7.4 of the Facility Characteristics Report). There is no way to know what the potential cost of this ERRC might be. Based on the Odour Assessment produced for the County, it seems clear the only option that will satisfy provincial regulations will push his facility to the higher end of any financial estimate.

The amount of odour filtration required to place this facility in the middle of a forest surrounded by family homes and farms is going to make this a very expensive project. They've produced this report that makes it appear they have several options, but the only one that truly works is the most expensive of the bunch."

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Ontario Launching Provincial Booking System for COVID-19 Vaccines

Individuals 80 Years of Age and Older Will Be Able to Schedule Appointments Online or By Phone

The Ontario government is launching a provincial booking system and customer service desk to support COVID-19 vaccination appointment bookings. The portal will be live on Monday, March 15 at 8:00 a.m. and will be accepting appointment bookings at mass immunization clinics, starting with individuals aged 80 and older.

Beginning Monday past, individuals who will be turning 80 or older in 2021 (born in 1941 or earlier) and wish to make an appointment — or an individual trusted to make an appointment on their behalf — can visit Ontario.ca/bookvaccine. On this page, they will be guided to make an appointment through the provincial booking system, or their local public health unit if there is a local public health unit booking system or call centre in place. When booking an appointment, individuals will be asked for information from their green Ontario health card, birth date, postal code and email address and/or phone number. At the time of booking, eligible individuals will schedule their first and second vaccination appointments.

Individuals who still have a red and white health card, or who require assistance with booking, can call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line number at 1-888-999-6488 beginning on Monday, March 15.

At this time, vaccination appointments are only available for individuals turning 80 or older in 2021 as part of Phase One of Ontario's vaccine distribution plan. Starting in April, the online booking tool and call centre will extend to additional age-based groups that are part of Phase Two.

The province is expecting a high volume of traffic to its online booking system. We know everyone is eager to receive the vaccine, but we are asking those not yet eligible to avoid accessing the booking system or calling the service desk to allow those that are eligible the opportunity to book an appointment.

Phase One of Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine rollout is nearing completion, and the Ontario government is preparing to move into Phase Two of its COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan next month, with a focus on vaccinating populations based on age and risk.

Quick Facts

- For individuals turning 80 or older in 2021 who do not have internet access, please call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line at 1-888-999-6488, open Monday to Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Eligible individuals can visit the provincial booking system to find out how they can schedule their vaccine appointments, or check the website of their local public health unit.
- To book an appointment, individuals will need to have a green photo health (OHIP) card as both numbers on the front and back of the card are required. Expired cards will be accepted. The provincial booking system will direct individuals without a health card to their public health unit for identity validation, and will provide contact information.
- To support the administration of the vaccine, 255 vaccination sites across the province are planned for March, including 153 mass immunization clinics.
- A pilot for pharmacy vaccine administration began on March 12 in select regions, including Toronto, Windsor and the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington region. To book an appointment, eligible Ontarians aged 60-64 can visit ontario.ca/pharmacy-covidvaccine to find a participating pharmacy.
- Vaccinations in primary care settings and community locations, such as physician offices, began in Hamilton, Toronto, Guelph, Peterborough, Simcoe-Muskoka, and Peel as of Saturday, March 13, 2021. Primary care providers will not be taking appointments by request, but will be contacting eligible Ontarians aged 60-64 directly to book an appointment starting March 10, 2021. They will only be offering the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine at this time.
- To date, over 1.1 million vaccine doses have been administered across the province, including over 127,000 doses administered to long-term care home residents. Over 285,000 Ontarians are fully immunized, including over 60,000 long-term care home residents. Ontario is leading the country in the total number of vaccines administered and has fully immunized more individuals than all provinces and territories combined.
- For the month of March, Ontario is expecting to receive 870,480 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 483,700 doses of the Moderna vaccine. Ontario has also received 194,500 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine the week of March 8.

Sometimes when I reflect on all the beer I drink I feel ashamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. The people who produce the bottles. The truck drivers who deliver the beer and the retailers who sell it. If I didn't drink this beer, they might be out

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Annie's Journal



Written by Annie Warner Donnelly
As we celebrate Youth born in Canada and those coming to live in Canada from all over the world, we're called upon to do at least 3 things:

1. Every chance we get, say positive uplifting words to our Youth. Remind them of what they're good at, and ask how we can help them. COVID-19 is taking a toll on our Youth. Our help and encouragement can be beacons that lead them to a better day.
2. Learn about the challenges that Canadian Youth are facing. Watch for these challenges in our own Youth, and pray about how we can connect with them and help them.
3. Provide kind, compassionate wisdom to them, and love – lots and lots of love!

On May 8, 2019, Statistics Canada released updates to a report called, "A Portrait of Canadian Youth". Here are excerpts from it.

Today's Youth are unlike any generation before! They're more diverse, connected, socially engaged, and educated. Many Youth are reaping the benefits, but others face challenges such as finding a full time job, social exclusion, and in the past five years, 1 in 5 has been cyber bullied. They face mental health challenges and addiction, and a higher risk of being obese. It is important to remember that Canada's Youth, well over 7 million people, will become Canada's future parents, prime-age workers, and seniors. Their early experiences and vulnerabilities can shape their outcomes later in life.

Here's some statistics regarding those who are aged 15-30:

- Nearly 100% use the Internet on a daily basis or own their own smartphone.
- 77% use the Internet to follow news and current affairs.
- One half conduct transactions on the Internet at least weekly – almost twice that of older Canadians.
- 48% volunteer. This adds up to 23% of all volunteer hours in Canada.
- 71% gave to a charitable or non-profit organization.
- Almost 74% have friends from another ethnic group.

In many ways, Canada's Youth are well positioned to succeed in today's complex global society ... but not everyone feels included.

We understand what it feels like when someone is unwelcoming, when social distancing is because of COVID-19, and because of our race, our country of origin, our colour, our religion, our sex. We understand what it's like to not feel included, don't we? Yet, the example Jesus showed us is this: He was all about including everyone! Jesus mingled with people because He genuinely cared about them. He had sympathy for them. He cared for their needs.

So let's do this: let's start with the need of our Youth to feel included. Let's ask them: Do they feel they have a special place in our family at home? In our family at church? Let's pray about what we can do if they say No.

With suicide as the leading cause of death among children aged 10 to 14, and the second leading cause of death among Youth aged 15 to 24, their lives may depend on it. Let's pray about this. Amen.

There was a farmer who had many pigs. One day someone came to the farm and asked the farmer, "What do you use to feed your pigs?" "Well, I give them acorn, corn, vegetable scraps and things like that. Why?" "Because I am from the Animals Protection Association and I think you don't feed them like you should, they shouldn't eat wastes." Then he fined the farmer. Some days later, another person arrived and asked the same question. The farmer answered, "Well, I feed them very well. I give them fish, whole grains, hot corn mash and as much fresh fruit and vegetables as I can get my hands on. Why?" "Because I am from the United Nations Organization and I think it's unfair that you feed your pigs like that when there are people dying with nothing to eat." And he fined the farmer. Finally, another man came in and asked the same question. The hesitant farmer answered after a minute of careful thought: "Well, I give five dollars to each pig so they can My three favourite things are eating my family and not using commas.



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of work and their dreams would be shattered. Then I say to myself, "It is better that I drink this beer and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver."

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In a 2010 survey of 9,617 women, 51% said they offer to pay on the first date, 32% offer to pay on the 2nd or 3rd date, 7% between 46 dates, 2% after 6 dates, and 7% believed that man should always pay. One study found that while most men believe they are "supposed" to pay for dates, and a fair number of women let them, nearly half of men say they would dump a woman who never offered to help pay.

Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you. -- RW Emerson




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Thought of the Day

Recently, posted on the Ontario government web-site is a search for public input pertaining to “increase[d] accountability of council members.” We, in Ontario, should be looking at this from a vantage point that there does seem to be a need for our Municipal Councils to be held accountable – after all we elected them to ensure a number of things and yet the province seems more concerned with municipal labour relations than it does with actually holding Councillors responsible and accountable.

In reading this page one may be of the thought that this is merely a bureaucratic request from staff, to the bureaucrats in Queen’s Park, to grant said municipal staff even greater power. And one may be correct in that thought.

In Nov. 2020 there was an inquiry ruled on in one Ontario municipality. From the recommendations it would seem that there are even greater problems with staff than there is with Councillors. Albeit Council is to, according to the Ontario Municipal Councillor’s Guide, understand the restrictions on their authority. Would this not also include “labour relations”?

Moving forward. In the Guide, Councillors are to understand that their by-laws cannot violate; the Constitution; the Human Rights Code; the Municipal Act including provincial statutes; the Criminal Code of Canada and other Federal statutes; and Court rulings. The Guide goes on to explain to Councillors they must “review your municipality’s existing by-laws. Municipal non-legal staff, ..., should not be expected to provide you with legal advice; that is the responsibility of your municipal solicitor...” and “Become familiar with how to access federal and provincial statutes, regulations and orders online,” and yet who are recommending by-laws – none other than staff, so, it would seem, this is a contradiction of statement. And yet, throughout the Guide it constantly tells Councillors to listen to staff, to work with staff and basically do what staff instructs Council to do.

Then comes in the recommendations of Associate Chief Justice Marrocco from his Inquiry.

This isn’t the first time these types of recommendations have been made throughout the past 10 years, or so. In his ruling, he doesn’t merely make recommendations on the behaviour of Council, he also makes some critical recommendations pertaining to staff. These include:

- “97 Staff must not conceal or manipulate information. Staff must never intentionally misrepresent facts or information.
- 101 Staff should be prohibited from participating “in the analysis of information” or making any “decisions on an issue or matter in which” staff have “a real or apparent conflict of interest”.
- 102 The Code of Conduct should prohibit staff from using their positions at the Town...”to further their private interests”.
- 104 Staff “shall not use information for personal or private gain” or the gain of family, relatives, or friends.
- 109 The Code of Conduct should state that staff reports must be objective and identify a full range of options for Council to consider. The risks associated with options must be clearly and fully presented. At no time should the fiscal impacts of any option be minimized by staff.
- 112 The Code of Conduct should state that staff should not summarize or explain the findings of a consultant’s report. A consultant should be available to speak to Council and respond to questions and issues that arise from the consultant’s report..
- 124 Any staff “found to have violated the Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action,” “including discharge from employment.” A clear message must be sent that ethical misconduct by staff is serious misconduct and the penalties should reflect this principle.”

That being said, with some By-laws using sections of the Municipal Act which had been repealed years before the by-law was introduced to Council; with some by-laws not having any legislative authority to support it; with the continued harassment by enforcement under said egregious by-laws, perhaps Council should merely do what is lawfully, ethically and morally right, wouldn’t one agree?

Unfortunately, some Councillors are

- (i) not willing to correct staff and
- (ii) they are more concerned with supporting staff than they are with the people who elected them.

Perhaps, instead of worrying about labour relation accountability, the province should be more concerned with the abuses staff causes towards the people of Ontario, including abusing the tax-payers with onerous fees, fines and property tax increases.

Recently, posted on the Ontario government web-site is a search for public input pertaining to “increase[d] accountability of council members.” Isn’t it time to ensure all government is “accountable” including the staff and bureaucrats who work in government? That is for you and your elected officials to decide.



Elizabeth F. Marshall, President All Rights Research Ltd.,
 Director of Research Ontario Landowners Association
 Author – “Property Rights 101: An Introduction”
 Director – Canadian Justice Review Board
 I am not a lawyer and do not give legal advice. Any information relayed is for informational purposes only. Please contact a lawyer. “The rule is the public interest is always paramount but NEVER when it is at the expense of a private individual.”

Ontario Legislative Assembly, February 11, 1965 – Vol. 1, p. 478.

Poor sleep: Tossing and turning all night long? Or maybe you only manage to clock in a couple of hours of shut-eye every night despite going to bed at a reasonable hour? Insomnia or disturbed sleep could be a sign that your gut health is out of whack. Here’s why: The majority of serotonin is produced in the gut, and when less serotonin is produced, it can lead to difficulty sleeping.

How to fix it: According to the National Sleep Foundation, adults should be getting between seven and nine hours of sleep each night. To give yourself the best chance of a good night’s slumber; be consistent about sticking to a bedtime and give yourself time to unwind before going to sleep.

Increased anxiety and brain fog: Microbial imbalance alters certain chemicals in the brain that directly impact mood. These changes can lead to increased anxiety and depression. They may also bring about a change in eating habits, thereby causing a further imbalance of the gut.

How to fix it: People who are chronically stressed tend to have more microbiome imbalance, even when they eat a good diet. Take measures to reduce stress levels (like taking a stroll) and try not to worry too much.

I still need more healthy rest in order to work at my best. My health is the main capital I have and I want to administer it intelligently. --Ernest Hemingway



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Upcoming Meetings

Special Council Meeting -
Planning Public Meetings
Monday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Planning Advisory Committee
Wednesday, March 24 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Agricultural Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 25 at 10:00 a.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.

Construction Notice

Residents located on St. Vincent Street and in the surrounding Midhurst area are advised the Township is proceeding with the rehabilitation of the St. Vincent Street bridge.

When will the work happen?

Construction will commence in early spring (on or about March 29, 2021) and will be completed by July 30, 2021.

How will my home be affected?

All work will take place within the existing municipal road allowance. To facilitate the work, it will be necessary to implement a single lane detour across the bridge with traffic being managed using temporary traffic signals. Appropriate construction signage will be in place to direct traffic during construction. At no time will the bridge crossing be closed to vehicle traffic. Access to private driveways and entrances will be always maintained.

Questions?

Brad Kalus, LEL, C.E.T., Project Manager
Planmac Engineering Inc.
705-653-0323 (office) / 647-523-9227 (cell)
bkalus@planmac.com

Bid Opportunity

The Township is currently accepting bids for:

Facility Assessment Study
(2021-04-RPF)
Closes: April 8, 2021

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



Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Springwater is working with our neighbours to create a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan that addresses mental health and addictions, attainable housing and access to services.

Your input is important. Please take a few minutes to complete a survey and share your thoughts and experiences: <https://surveymonkey.com/r/SGBandSP>

Off-Road Vehicle Trails are Currently Closed

Trails in Springwater are currently closed for off-road vehicle use (including ATVs, UTVs and dirtbikes). Please respect these closures until trails can be properly maintained. For additional information please contact the Central Ontario ATV club or the Simcoe County Off Road Riders Association.



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Advertise your business in our new Business Directory with three simple steps:

- 1 Register online
- 2 Fill out your business & contact details
- 3 Click submit and get noticed by shoppers

It's free, easy-to-use and helps residents know your business! Sign up at directory.springwater.ca

Student Bursary

Applications are now being accepted for the 2021 Simcoe County Student Bursary Program. Up to twenty-one \$3000 bursaries are available to students living in Simcoe County.

To review eligibility criteria and learn more visit simcoe.ca and search for 'Bursary Program'.

Annual Drinking Water Reports

The Safe Drinking Water Act outlines a number of obligations for municipal drinking water systems and inspections occur regularly to ensure the Act is being followed.

The Township of Springwater routinely passes these inspections with high marks. The 2020 reports are now available online at: springwater.ca/WaterReports

Now Hiring

The Springwater Public Library is currently recruiting a:

Library Technician 1 - Casual
Closes: March 22, 2021

For a job description or to apply online, please visit: springwater.ca/careers

Backyard Chickens

Interested in keeping backyard chickens this year? All properties that meet the setback and coop requirements within the Township, now have the ability to keep a maximum of four hens.

To be approved to have backyard chickens, you must submit a complete application form along with the required supporting documents.

Download an application form or learn more at: springwater.ca/BackyardChickens



Seasonal Load Restrictions

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

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

For more information please contact Public Works at 705-728-4784 x2075 or publicworks@springwater.ca

The intensity of job search in Ontario has reached the pre-pandemic level

Ontario province has been experiencing numerous restrictions aimed at preventing and controlling the spread of the virus. Gradual reopening in March gives a silver lining. People are reacting to the changes in the colour-coded system of the province with cautious optimism. The whole situation with pandemic dynamics still looks unstable, but one thing remains firm - job search. What are the trends in this sphere nowadays? Specialists from Jooble - the second-biggest job search engine worldwide analysed the labour market situation in Ontario. They figured out how actively users seek new jobs, what vacancies they look for, which industries are eager to employ, and where to start the career path.

If you are looking for options in different cities, check out Toronto first. It's an absolute leader in terms of job postings over the past two months. More than 33 000 new positions! Ottawa and Mississauga are following but with a big gap - a bit over 8000 vacancies each. Then go Brampton, Markham, Hamilton and London.

Job search intensity is stably high. It decreased dramatically only once over the past year - in March-April 2020 when the wave of chaos and uncertainty stuck the whole country. But as soon as the first shock wore off in May, users reinforced their attempts. The high season fell on August-September 2020. These months users were 32% more active at looking for a job than during the same period in 2019.

As the number of cases went up in autumn, activity slowed down, reaching its minimum in December. However, since the beginning of 2021, when the case rate started declining, job search reached its pre-pandemic level.

Part-time jobs, night shifts options and vacancies where you get paid in cash are on-trend. In January, users in Ontario also actively considered jobs for governmental institutions. In February top search inquiry was an elderly caregiver. Then went cashier and customer experience associate vacancies. Truck and delivery driver positions were right behind.

Employers are looking for workers in retail. The most frequent job titles posted in January-February were department managers, merchandising store associates, administrative store support, fresh food store associates and cashiers.

As of the beginning of spring, the situation has not changed much. People in Ontario keep eagerly looking for partial employment opportunities and those which assume a fast learning process.

A Failed Marriage

I shudder when I hear the term 'failed marriage,' or that someone 'failed' a grade at school. To 'fail,' according to the dictionary, is "to not succeed; be unable to do or become what is wanted, attempted, or expected; come out badly". According to this definition we must all be failures at something. Education and marriage are two of the most important aspects of many lives, and it would be healthier if we abandoned the concept of failure in relation to both of them.

If someone attempts to climb Mount Everest and does not make it all the way to the top, we do not consider that climber a failure. A marathon runner who does not complete the course is not said to have failed the race. The skater who does not claim a medal is not deemed to have failed at the sport. We do not need to make others, or ourselves, feel like failures because things did not go the way we had hoped.

No doubt almost everyone who marries intends to stay married forever. It is painful when it does not work out that way. It can take a lot more courage to be truthful about the fact that the marriage is no longer a happy union, than to pretend to the world that it is. It can be just as honorable to separate and spare the children from living in an atmosphere of tension, as it is to attempt to hold it together so that they will not have to experience their parent's divorce.

In retrospect couples might see that there were many good years and feel thankful for the children that they share. It is wrong to condemn the entire marriage as a failure simply because it did not reach the 25-year mark. We are all learners here, and no one has the right to judge how others should live. If a marriage dies, we might do well to handle it with the same respect we accord when a person passes on. We can grieve for what is lost, celebrate what was good and wish the survivors well.

A marriage that ends in divorce may be less of a failure than one that continues in name only, for there may be more truth, more honesty and more healthy communication. The partners may go on to find true happiness.

No one could disagree that remaining happily married is the best scenario, and one worth working for. Marriage vows are not to be taken lightly. But when life does not go according to plan, perhaps we could adopt a more encouraging attitude. If a couple has made the decision to part, we could honor that, saying that we are sure that it must have been difficult decision, and we will support them however we can. It is hard enough for a couple to deal with this between themselves, without feeling that the whole world views them as having failed.

Let's become more real, honor our humanness, and

County of Simcoe welcomes new employment opportunities at the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport

County's investment in the local economy and the LSRA continues to drive new investments and job creation

Midhurst/March 9, 2021 – Today, County Council approved a proposal from Volatus Aerospace, one of the largest tech-enabled drone solution and unmanned aerospace technologies providers in Canada, to locate a significant portion of its domestic and international assembly operations and research and development initiatives to the LSRA through the development of the 'Volatus Aerospace Centre of Excellence'.

The initial investment by Volatus Aerospace is anticipated to generate 17-20 high paying jobs in the aerospace sector, helping to transform the LSRA into an economic and innovation hub, creating strong synergies and encouraging further sector/industry development while enhancing talent attraction to Simcoe County.

"We welcome the team from Volatus Aerospace to Simcoe County and thank them for recognizing the potential of our region and the LSRA towards their ongoing success," said Warden George Cornell. "It was important that we acted quickly to leverage this exciting opportunity and avoid missing out on new jobs and investment. Utilizing the airport as a key driver for economic growth, we're taking a proactive approach to positioning our region as a leading hub for innovation and manufacturing. We are also balancing these efforts to attract new investment with continued support of our current businesses who are facing challenges during this pandemic."

"In looking for the right place to locate this strategic facility, our interest was piqued by a number of potential advantages and synergies that can develop," said Glen Lynch, President & CEO of Volatus Aerospace. "The available hangar is the right size; the neighbouring, innovation-oriented neighbours provide the potential for excellent cross-platform experience sharing; some of the best education organizations with capability to contribute to our industry are located in close proximity and CFB Borden as the largest training base in the DND will surely prove advantageous in available talent and opportunity for public/private partnering."

Through the County's LSRA Aerospace Development Fund, the project will be eligible for up to \$100,000. The LSRA Aerospace Development Fund is a new annual fund to stimulate private sector investment and drive innovation at the LSRA. Eligible investment projects must attract private sector investment, develop the aerospace sector in Simcoe County, create jobs and build talent, lead to broad positive economic impacts, while also encouraging research, innovation and collaboration. County Council approved this initial grant funding program quickly as they recognized the immediate need to create this modest program so that County staff could bring this tremendous opportunity and potentially other fulsome opportunities to the LSRA Board of Directors for their information and consideration. The County's Economic Development Committee will be considering the future structure of the grant program in terms of expanding and building on it.

"I'm excited about the impact our efforts and investment at the airport are already having," said County Councillor and LSRA Board Chair Richard Norcross. "I look forward to working with fellow Board Members to facilitate the details and operations of the opportunities created by this new grant program."

About Volatus Aerospace Operations at the LSRA

Volatus Aerospace has headquarters in Quebec and offices in seven Canadian cities, as well as offices in Colombia, South America, and Albany, NY. Through the 'Volatus Aerospace Centre of Excellence' the company plans to

lease a currently available hangar (32,000 sq.ft.) at the LSRA, for assembly/integration of drone components and systems integration, along with research and development. Additionally, their manned aircraft business would operate as a charter service out of the LSRA. Expected employment for the assembly/integration of drone components will continue to double for the next 2-3 years, based on projected growth. Volatus Aerospace is expected to begin renovations of existing hangar space at the LSRA as early as April 2021 and be operational by September 2021.

County's Investment in LSRA

In January 2020, the County became the majority shareholder of the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport (LSRA), with a 90 per cent ownership stake, and is leading investment initiatives to help propel the airport forward. In addition to the Volatus Aerospace project, the ongoing investment in the LSRA strategic plan has supported the progression of the MediCA Park development and the Oro Station Automotive Innovation Park development, both adjacent developments to the LSRA that utilize airport services.

The County has completed the first phase of an investment of more than \$3.5 million towards widening the LSRA runway from 100 ft to 150 ft, and other upgrades including LED high intensity runway lighting. The widening is expected to be completed in summer 2021. Future phases of the airports expansion include a proposal to lengthen the runway from 6,001 ft. to 7,000 ft., which will allow for larger aircrafts to utilize the airport. The County continues to make other strategic investments to enhance airport operations and support the needs of key industries in the area.

Supporting local businesses and individuals during the pandemic:

Through tourism, economic development and social and community services, among other departments, the County continues to support local businesses/industry as well as individuals during this global pandemic. Funding and supports include:

- \$600,000 in available funding through our recently launched Tourism, Culture and Sport grant program to support not-for-profits and municipalities with tourism development with a focus on recovery
- Co-ordinate the Digital Main Street & Beyond Program (going beyond provincial program to support eligible businesses throughout Simcoe County with digital pivoting supports)
- Manage Covid-19 Business Resources Portal - resources, funding programs, events and education available to support the business community
- Represent region on Boards to provide direction and support, relaying information on all relief programs to Simcoe County stakeholders and operators
- Administration of the Canada Recovery Benefit, Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)
- Co-ordination of the Ontario Works Financial Support program for qualifying individuals who are temporarily unemployed or experiencing a business closure
- Co-ordination of the Housing Retention Program to support qualifying individuals who are experiencing rental, utility or mortgage arrears

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.

Georgian College to Begin Accepting Students for Accelerated Personal Support Workers Program

New PSWs Will Be Ready to Work in Long-Term Care by Fall 2021

NEWS March 9, 2021

BARRIE — Georgian College will begin accepting applications to Ontario's new accelerated training program for Personal Support Workers starting yesterday. The program is part of the Ontario government's \$115 million investment to train up to 8,200 new personal support workers (PSWs) for high-demand jobs in Ontario's health and long-term care sectors. In collaboration with Colleges Ontario, all 24 publicly assisted colleges will offer this innovative, fully funded program. This is part of the government's Long-Term Care Staffing Plan, one of the largest recruitment and training drives in the province's history.

The province is also offering tuition assistance to in-process PSW students who started the program at one of Ontario's publicly-assisted colleges in January 2021. These students will be eligible to receive a \$2,000 tuition grant to help them complete their studies, as well as a stipend to complete the clinical placement part of their training.

This PSW training program is yet another way Ontario is collaborating with its partners to provide innovative services and end hallway health care, build a 21st century long-term care system, and respond to the impact COVID-19 has had on seniors and their families.

Additional Resources:

- Learn more about becoming a PSW https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/programs/healthfood-and-medical/personal-support-workerpsw?utm_source=direct&utm_medium=announcement&utm_campaign=psw
 - Apply to an Ontario College
 - Learn more about Ontario Colleges
- For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOline at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR TAXES THIS YEAR. OTHER COUNTRIES ARE DEPENDING ON IT.

embrace the view that no one fails at life. Brakes, memories, and hearts might fail, but people learn and grow.

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.

If you say "gullible" slowly it sounds like "oranges."

THE WHOLE WORLD IS WRONG AND I KNOW IT!

Hello Tiny Neighbours! “The whole world is wrong and I know it,” is a statement my father-in-law made once as we sat around the dinner table to celebrate his 80th birthday. Conversations with him always revolved around solving the problems of the world and we had a really good time inserting our own opinions into some of his brainstorming ideas. Listening to the wisdom and stories of our elders can often get us thinking out of the box especially when things seem bleak.

The young can teach us a lot as well. My “living off the grid, self-taught philosopher son” once told me that humanity is nothing but a big human experiment and that most of us are just guinea pigs stuck in a lab project. Pretty grim statement! I laughed at the time, but today I am beginning to wonder if his observations were somewhat correct? He was the same person who told me that computers get viruses and I couldn't wrap my head around that at the time either. Words can have many different meanings depending on the way they are used. Companies can get away with a lot of misdoings because of the way language has been created. One example would be the way our food products are labeled. Manufacturers can tell us something is good for us when it actually isn't simply by the way they present their wording. A computer virus is totally different than a human virus, yet both use the same word. It can be very confusing to say the least!

Today, as we listen, read and observe the current state of affairs in our world, it's easy to lose ourselves with so many different versions of information coming at us. What does it all mean? How do we sort it all out? Do we, (i) go with the flow and do as we are told...sort of like taking the blue pill and remaining asleep, (ii) fight back and get censored or perhaps killed...like taking the red pill and waking up, (iii) become despondent with despair and self-destruct, or (iv) change ourselves, the way we think, the way we respond and the way we live? Likely there are a multitude of choices. Knowing what to choose and how to respond is perhaps born of “freewill,” something most of us have come to believe is humanity's special gift. But fear seems to have us in its grip these days. What are we to do? What are we to believe? Perhaps both intellectual intelligence (those book smart folk!), and social intelligence (them street smart folk!) need to be combined in order for us to become awakened to the whole truth and for us to get along with each other. I guess this type of thinking could be akin to listening to our elders and those younger than ourselves. Maybe then we can create a happy, safe place to live within our own small communities if we behaved like the free humans we were created to be. Maybe we can “live” choice number four by simply “doing it.”

Perhaps my son had a valid point. Has an experiment gone wrong? And like my father-in-law suggested, is the whole world wrong? I don't know! But wait a minute! We have the on-line platform called “Fact Check” to tell us what to believe. How lucky are we! No need to think for ourselves anymore, simply look it up on Fact Check. That's a fact! (Sorry for the sarcasm...couldn't help myself!)

Beverley Dujay-Macdonald

RVH eases visiting restrictions

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) is moving to the Red Zone – Phase 1 of its visitor restrictions beginning Friday, March 12. Visitors can begin booking today – March 11 – for visits resuming tomorrow.

These visitor restrictions are a safety measure to limit non-essential entry to the health centre, contain the spread of COVID-19 and protect patients, visitors and care teams. Exceptions will be made for compassionate reasons, such as critical or palliative patients; patients who require the presence of an essential support person; partners of patients in labour; parents of paediatric patients or at the discretion of the care team.

“We recognize the important role a loved one plays in a patient's recovery and we are now once again permitting limited visitors in to the building,” says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. “Safety remains RVH's highest priority, so these strict measures will remain in place until it is safe to once again gradually allow more visitors.”

In this phase of the visitation plan, admitted patients will be permitted one visitor, once a week for one hour during specific, pre-booked blocks of time.

The visitation plan includes the following protocols:

- Each admitted patient will identify one visitor (minimum 16 years of age) and an alternate to minimize the number of people entering the health centre.
- Visiting times will be scheduled in advance by the calling the inpatient unit directly by 6 a.m. on the day of the visit or the day prior.
- Patients will be allowed one visitor, once a week during one of the daily visitation blocks; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 5 to 8 p.m. daily. Mental Health visiting hours are 4 to 8 p.m. Visits will be limited to one hour at a time.
- All visitors will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and those who fail screening will be denied entry to the health centre.
- Visitors must now wear a hospital-provided face mask at all times. Cloth masks or any other face covering brought from home will not be accepted.
- To ensure safe physical distancing all visitors must maintain at least two metres distance between patients and members of the care team at all times.
- Visitors must follow safety precautions such as hand-washing and wearing of Personal Protective Equipment, if required.
- Visitors must go directly to and from the unit they are visiting and should not use common areas of the building, other than designated washrooms.
- Ambulatory patients coming to RVH's Emergency department or for an outpatient procedure or clinic visit will be allowed one essential support person if assistance is needed. That support person should be identified at the time the appointment/treatment is booked.
- In Emergency, visitors will continue to be restricted unless patients require assistance such as communication, end-of-life or mental health support.

For more information, please visit the RVH website – www.rvh.on.ca.

It is equally offensive to speed a guest who would like to stay and to detain one who is anxious to leave. --Homer

Health Unit launches follow up survey on COVID-19 impacts

SIMCOE MUSKOKA – The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is launching a second local impact survey to gain more insight into how individuals and families have been affected by the pandemic.

The online survey is a follow up to the first survey conducted last fall. Results collected from that survey are still being analyzed and are expected to be shared in April. Results will be used to inform communities, services and programs about the adversities residents have faced during the pandemic.

“As the pandemic continues, so too does the impact on our residents and communities. While we have learned to adapt in some ways, the prolonged nature of the restrictions are directly affecting mental and physical health, livelihoods, the economy and our residents' ability to get appropriate services,” said Dr. Charles Gardner, Simcoe Muskoka's medical officer of health.

“Learning about the impacts of the pandemic on the residents of Simcoe Muskoka provides opportunities for organizations to improve programs and provide enhanced support to those who need it most. Sharing this information with community partners and to the political decision makers will also help to ensure we can coordinate and cooperate as needed.”

Residents of Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka are encouraged to provide feedback on their experiences, behaviours and opinions related to:

- Ability to get healthy food, or maintain living arrangements

A California brewery broke a Guinness World Record when they used a catapult to launch a keg a distance of 438 feet. The Sierra Nevada Brewing Company said it took on the Guinness record for the farthest distance thrown by a trebuchet, a type of catapult that features an extra long arm, and they selected a “Big Little Thing” keg to comply with the record's requirement that the projectile weigh at least 44 pounds. “They are not full of any beer,” said Terance Sullivan, brand manager and official lever-puller for the trebuchet, said. “We didn't want to sacrifice any beer. Beer is for drinking so we loaded them up with water.” Officials said the company wanted to do something big to celebrate the release of the Big Little Thing IPA. “When we launch a beer we have live sampling or bring the beer to music festivals and other events,” Sierra Nevada communications director Robin Gregory said. “But obviously with COVID, we can't do that.” The third launch with the trebuchet launched a keg a distance of 438 feet, enough to beat the previous record of 253 feet.



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A Tiny Senior Moment...

Where does the time go...here we are mid-March already and I just don't like it when I have to give back an hour of sleep...can't we just stay on one standard time?

It seems that Covid and Vaccines is on everybody's minds these days. That said, by the time this column goes to print, it will be a year since our first shut down.

Now a year later, and we are still wearing masks and keeping our distance. One week we could have a get together of twenty-five, the next, it was ten people and then five, right down to no one. Zoom meetings and family game nights became a real thing. Now, subsequent shutdowns were not as scary.

The good news of all this is that we have four vaccines on the horizon, a couple of which are now getting into people's arms.

So, this is what I know right now...

- As the vaccine supply becomes more stable the Health Units goal is to vaccinate thousands of people each day, by offering vaccine clinics 7 days a week (in most areas), with hours extending into the evenings.

- Planning is underway for other types of clinics such as drive-thru clinics, as well as other sites in the community.

- The health unit is hopeful that there will be more opportunities for people to be immunized in primary care and pharmacy settings down the road when there is more vaccine available. As vaccine supply comes in they will ramp up clinics and appointments.

- Those who are 80+ will be able to book directly online using the new provincial booking system, which is expected to launch soon.

- The Health Unit is in the process of planning for seniors who are unable to leave their homes. More information will be forthcoming in the weeks to come.

- Those people who aren't capable of standing in line at the vaccination clinic can inform staff upon arrival and if mobility assistance is needed, the clinic co-ordinator or screener will be able to help.

- All clinics are wheelchair accessible.

- Pre-registration for select eligible groups based on the province's Phase 1 roll out plan is now open on the Health Unit's website.

Eligible groups who can pre-register include highest, very high and high priority frontline health care workers in accordance with the [Ministry of Health's Guidance on Health Care Worker Prioritization](#); essential caregivers of residents in long-term care and retirement homes; all Indigenous adults and their household members; and adult recipients of chronic home care.

It will take a whole community approach with many agencies and individuals sharing the work, to vaccinate the majority of the over half million people in Simcoe Muskoka. A local, targeted vaccination plan has been created by SMDHU, with the input and expertise of many partners through the Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Advisory Committee. Considerations by the committee include; health system risks, understanding how to reach vulnerable community members, and exploring resources to increase capacity and coordination between organizations. In the meantime, be patient, stay safe, we will get our vaccinations!

I do want to mention a great program being introduced by the Township of Tiny's Recreation & Culture Department through funding from the Ministry of Seniors & Accessibility. Four technology workshops will be offered, along with a weekly ‘Coffee & Connect’ program. The Coffee and Connect program will kick off on April 9th at the Wyebridge Community Centre and occur weekly on Fridays from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. It is a safe space for older adults to visit during scheduled times, to use Wi-Fi or borrow an iPad to connect to the internet. To register or for more information, contact Lisa, Project Coordinator at lpater@tiny.ca or 705-529-1789. For more information about senior services in Tiny, contact Maggie, Community Engagement Coordinator, at 705-427-7285 or moff@tiny.ca.

Fading into the last moments...some thoughts to ponder. *Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom; and Why are sport grounds called stands when everybody sits?*

Until next time...Stay Safe

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

What's the different between a cat and a comma?
A cat has claws at the end of paws;
while a comma is a pause at the end of a clause.

The Springwater News

Dear Sir

Although I'm not directly involved with your publication, living in Wasaga Beach, I do look forward to picking up a copy from our son who lives in Snow Valley, every opportunity I get. I find your paper informative, interesting and even helpful in some areas of general interest, so with that in mind I find it distressing that 3 people on council would vote to not support your paper.

We have the same situation in Wasaga Beach, where a LOCAL newspaper is struggling to keep being printed. In both communities, the other choice is a "Throwaway", whose sole purpose is to keep the profits for its corporate owners in Toronto, namely a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Toronto Star. Both these "throwaways" only purpose is to distribute flyers in an area on a weekly basis, which cannot be done by a LOCAL paper that comes out every 2 weeks, or in our case in Wasaga Beach, on a monthly basis. In both cases, the "throwaways" make excellent profits in flyer distribution, which incidentally, make their way into the coffers of a huge corporation.

Any news content about the area in which they distribute flyers, is almost non-existent & usually handled by a "stringer" who is a part time reporter picking up the very odd bit of news off a news service and often not about the community that they service. Your "throwaway" will have a story about the sad closing of the Elmvale Beer store, but that will have been picked up from another source, NOT a Local reporter. The "throwaways" are also careful not to alienate the local council, as they generate a great amount of their profits from the advertising that a local council has to put into a weekly paper re: bylaws etc., as they do in our case in Wasaga Beach. At least the Springwater News gets a little bit of that, as it would make no sense to put it in a Barrie paper.

Elmvale & immediate area has already lost 2 important local businesses (T/D & Beer Store) whose Toronto based corporate head offices decided were not profitable enough, so please, please make sure that you don't lose the most important one, your LOCAL newspaper. The Springwater News brings you not only your local area news, but it brings you the FLAVOR of the Community, which comes with this publication, through the many local people who make it an enjoyable read. And in the future, especially during voting time, remember those folks who thought that dropping support of the LOCAL paper was in order & VOTE THEM OUT.

Regards, George Potopynk, Wasaga Beach.

Letter to the Editor

Re: Win yourself a free Eastern Bluebird nesting box

Dear Mike,

I'd like to clarify the reason given to Mr. Quick for not continuing the nesting box contest in the Farm View newspaper. The explanation given is directly quoted as 'With the readership expanding even further though subscriptions, it would mean substantial travel time to deliver them.'

Farm View is not, at this time, increasing its distribution area as was stated in your article. The distribution of Farm View will remain the same as it is, every farm household in Ontario from North Maple to Sudbury.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this clarification.

Sincerely,

Roslyn Watkins Publisher, Farm View newspaper

Springwater News vs Barrie Advance

My vote goes to Springwater News



I read, with amusement, Bill French's comments on the relative merits of *Springwater News vs Barrie Advance*.

I agree with him that, *Springwater News* is so obviously the most appropriate vehicle for providing information to the residents of Springwater, that it is surprising that it took our council so long to make the obvious decision. But then politicians have a propensity for deliberation.

Bill was lucky to have survived the depth charge attack by *Barrie Advance* on his snow blower. He only lost his shear pins. In contrast, the shear pins in my Canadian built snow blower remained in perfect condition, while the auger was transferred from a helix into a cone. I did of course write to *Barrie Advance* requesting that they instruct their delivery team not to leave the newspaper on the driveway when snow is expected. Their response was only to discontinue the delivery of the paper to my address!

I wonder how many more snow blowers have been wrecked in this way?

David Strachan, Midhurst

Cultural Dynamics - Letter to the Editor

During a one hour T V show over 50 commercials filled time slots. More than half of the actors selling everything from shampoos to automobiles were selected because they were from a visible minority. And the husband / wife representations were almost all mixed racial couples. If a group of people were gathered around a swimming pool, I would be sure to see the requisite complement of mixed races. Racial diversity is the new norm, and everyone is smiling, young, attractive, and healthy.

Interesting that of Canada's population only 24% falls into the visible minority sub group, (Stats. Can. 2020) but mainstream television presents a very different picture. Looking back, in 1980 4% of the population were recognized as a visible minority. Looking ahead, Immigration Canada projects that by 2035 approx. 40% of our population will be made up of minorities having different religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds with the graph continuing upward. Our politicians are making purposeful decisions to make Canada a multicultural / multiracial destination. But will these newcomers integrate well or will they isolate themselves in enclaves while maintaining their values, traditions, language, and religion? Will they demand that the curriculum currently taught in schools be changed? Will they allow their wives and children the freedoms currently enjoyed by Canadians?

Yes, Canada needs immigrants. This year we resettled 341,000 new arrivals and these newcomers will help drive the Canadian economy and bring a refreshing element of diversity to the workplace. But more than 60% of these immigrants come from India, China, and the Philippines and a further 10% from Pakistan, Syria, Nigeria, and Eritrea. In the past the majority of our immigrants arrived from Europe and today if we placed billboards in the central marketplaces of Madrid, Kiev, Dublin, and Sofia advertising for immigrants we would fill our quota by tomorrow. But our government is selectively choosing to allow entry to people of different religions, ethnicity, and culture. The current immigration policy is purposeful, our government is striving to reshape Canada into a racial mosaic. Whether the results will enhance the fabric of Canadian society or fragment and undermine it will be determined in the future.

Last year 23,900 unprocessed asylum seekers arrived in Canada to claim refugee status. (Gov. Can./ Asylum Seekers) The majority walked across from the United States where they claimed they were oppressed or persecuted, and felt threatened if they returned. Once on Canadian soil we are obligated to support them with food, clothing, medical care, housing, employment, and an allowance to begin life in their new home. Canada resettled the highest number of refugees per capita in the world. And if we accept what is projected on television, Arab and Jew, Black and White, Muslim and Christian are living together in harmony, enjoying prosperous tension free lives.

And our government tells us that within 15 years, White Christians with a European background will be the visible minority. How far down this road do we want to travel?

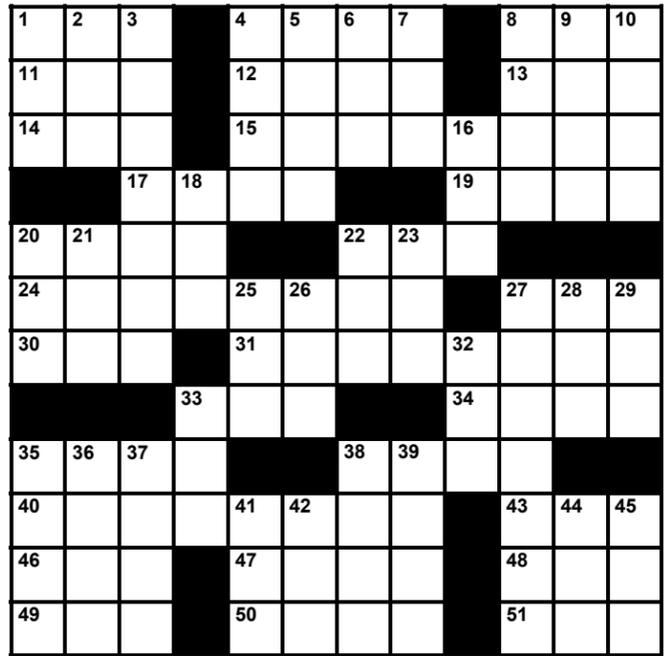
Joffre McCleary, Barrie

Springwater News

Dear Editor

When I read our dear Editor's musings in edition 594 I was very disheartened to read that our Springwater News was voted not to be supported by certain council members and as a result may experience some difficulties in its future stability. Further, I applaud Bill French and his excellent commentary...page 11, on same topic and certainly appreciate his good research in defense of our beloved newspaper. The Springwater News with all its down to earth folksy reads, superb up-to-date important information, well-researched articles, great funnies, and much, much more is an elixir to the spirit as well as being the glue that binds our small community together. We are neighbours! And so why I ask, is another good thing possibly being taken away from us? Surely there are those who see the value that a small community newspaper offers. Do we really want to lose ourselves, our identity in the midst of this current world crisis? We truly need to hold on to this community treasure. The future needs us. *Springwater News...we love you!*

Beverley Dujay-Macdonald



Across

- 1 ___ Beta Kappa
- 4 "___ springs eternal"
- 8 How you might refer to your car affectionately
- 11 React to a ghost, perhaps
- 12 Ended
- 13 Swine
- 14 ___ man (always agrees)
- 15 Being on charge of
- 17 Teenage heartthrob
- 19 Abrogates
- 20 Assistant
- 22 Modern bank "employee", abbr.
- 24 Screenwriter's start
- 27 Quarter of eight
- 30 Lady
- 31 In 24 hours
- 33 ___ Zeppelin
- 34 Small golf course hole number
- 35 Testimonial dinner, perhaps
- 38 Head
- 40 College milieu
- 43 Globe
- 46 Calligraphy need
- 47 Slant
- 48 Needle part
- 49 Ball holder
- 50 Woodcutters' tools
- 51 Condensed moisture

Down

- 1 Delve into
- 2 Paint swatch option
- 3 Clique member
- 4 Sapiens or novis
- 5 White House office shape
- 6 Bic
- 7 Vintage
- 8 Public relations effort
- 9 Female deer
- 10 Grocery dozen
- 16 Solitaire
- 18 Daddy's sanctuary
- 20 Furniture wood
- 21 Hot gems
- 22 Shout before firing
- 23 Overly
- 25 Got the food down
- 26 Reel companion
- 27 Like tidy beards
- 28 Emerged victorious
- 29 Be in the red
- 32 Genetics lab study
- 33 Fellow
- 35 Trot or canter
- 36 High school breakout
- 37 Central watery feature
- 38 Portfolio
- 39 Feedbag feed
- 41 Airport info
- 42 Throw it into the ___?
- 44 Parliament vote
- 45 Nave bench



The Springwater News

I was saddened to read that three members of Springwater Council voted to withdraw its advertising/support for its community newspaper. As the past editor of the Tiny Ties community paper I am aware of the time & dedication in producing each edition. In Springwater as in Tiny Township, the ability to reach constituents on your local issues is imperative. Communication is vital. There is a saying, 'You don't know what you have until you lose it.' Advertising for running a paper alone is a huge undertaking, then comes content, printing & distribution. We all should be indebted to Mike Jacobs for his efforts over the years. To the members of Springwater Council who supported this, SHAME..... George Lawrence. Tiny resident

Luv the Paper!

Just a quick note to say how much my wife and I enjoy reading the bi-weekly edition of The Springwater News.

It's insightful, informative and humorous all at the same time.

Our son took the journalistic route in University and College and is the current Editor of the Merritt Herald, a small town in B.C.. His introductory column to his subscribers extolled the virtues and need for a small town newspaper vs online news. His and your papers prove his point.

Keep up the good work! Looking forward to the next edition.

Regards, Rod Courtepatte

Defunding of the Springwater News

I read in the Springwater News that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Moore voted to cancel or remove funding from the Springwater News. I am asking you to use or forward my SEVERE objection to such a move. I understand that they want to use the Barrie Advance. I don't get the Barrie Advance (my choosing) as they did nothing but litter my property with their misguided throw of their paper delivery. Also, I truly enjoy the Springwater News and its many connections and articles referencing Springwater and the generosity of Michael Jacobs toward supporting all local events. This is our paper, it's the SPRINGWATER NEWS!

It is imperative that the message gets out that we support our local community and elected officials have no right to question that support. I thank you for your support of the Springwater News and our local community and your tireless efforts in representing our community. Please request Council to act accordingly and continue support of our newspaper.

Barry Williams, Midhurst

To the Editor - I have meant to write several times to say thank you for publishing the bi-weekly column by Bill French. I have great respect for our former Mayor - and while I might not always agree with him politically - I think his interpretation of the current council of Springwater is right on the mark. My thanks also to Mr. French for his commitment to our township - without him we would have a very one-sided view of the happenings down in Minesing.

D.R. Moulden

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

Your newspaper

Read something about support being withdrawn by Mayor Allen, Deputy-Mayor Coughlin and Councillor Moore. What the heck? This is the best newspaper ever. Many, many people look forward to getting this paper and I'm one of them. So newsy. I can't begin to think of the times I have circulated some news item of interest to other people and usually pass the paper on to friends who think it is the BEST! No other community has such a great paper. Many people have stopped taking the Barrie paper because it is all ads and no real items of interest. I walked in Barrie yesterday and I lost count of the papers in plastic still in driveways or on the side of the road--not worth bringing in to the house. That wouldn't happen to the Springwater News.

I will "VOTE NO" for Allen, Coughlin and Moore at election time for even suggesting withdrawing funding.

Just so you know how much we appreciate the Springwater News.

**Comment on Mr .Doug Shibley, MP
Message Edition 594, 4 March 2021**

I would like to thank Mr. Shibley for his article bringing the Liberal's Bill C-21 to the attention of your readership. I agree that this piece of legislation, if allowed to pass, will do nothing to reduce gun crime as it targets the law abiding citizens who have willingly submitted to the already stringent regulations required to purchase, store, use and transport firearms in Canada.

Bill C21 is a continuation of Mr. Trudeau's 1 May, 2020 Order in Council that dictated as of 1 May so called "assault weapons" and 1500 variants thereof will no longer be legal in Canada. In my opinion this is nothing more than ruling by decree, as Parliament, the shooting community and other interested parties were not consulted.

Mr. Trudeau delivered this edict after the Nova Scotia shooting, making the case that these so called "assault weapons had no place in society as they serve no sporting purpose and were designed only to kill as many people as possible in the shortest period of time". This ignores the fact that all of the firearms used were illegally obtained and possessed. It also ignores that there is no legal definition of what constitutes a so called assault weapon making his ban arbitrary, and that those rifles used in the shooting are routinely used for competitions and hunting. (Alberta MP David Yurdiga has launched a petition to ban the term "assault rifle" in the House of Commons as it is not an accurate description and demonizes gun owners.)

The Order in Council and C21 make reference to a buy back program, where the government will allegedly purchase from their rightful owners those now banned firearms at "fair market value". However, no budget has been offered, and now we learn that the Liberals want to include an evergreen clause that means they can add, at their whim, another list of firearms they deem prohibited. More personal property seizure--more taxpayer dollars funnelled into an ineffective solution. Industry estimates for this buyback is in the BILLIONS. One must remember that this buyback will have to not only take into account the personal firearms, but stock on the shelves of suppliers, importers, businesses that deal in training, repair....all left with assets that Mr. Trudeau made worthless on 1 May as there is no one to sell them to. Bill C21 has also swept the Airsoft and Paintball community into its net, which will have a profound effect on facilities devoted to their play such as our local Wasaga Beach Adventure Park. Many businesses across Canada will be forced to close under this new reclassification of what was, until just a few weeks ago, considered a recreational toy.

There is much more contained in this onerous, damaging bill. Even if you are against, or neutral on the gun issue, please consider this: If the Liberals determine that they are falling behind on their Climate Change agenda, Mr. Trudeau could issue an Order in Council to "buy back" -using tax dollars at their determination of value--your collector car(s), ATV, tractor, pickup, RV or boat. Crazy? Facetious? Madness? On April 30th I would have agreed with you, but on 1 May, 2020 by Mr. Trudeau's Order in Council that is EXACTLY what happened to the law abiding firearms community. When you blow away the smoke, and shatter the mirrors--there are some very serious issues with Bill C21 and the OIC that goes way beyond its alleged public safety mirage.

It has much to do with setting a precedent on how Canada will be governed in the future.

Paul J. Peca, Elmvale

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



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705-728-2596

A Message from Doug Shibley, MP

Canadians and Canadian businesses have been struggling through the pandemic and lockdowns across Canada.

Canadians are looking for real leadership during this time and while there are supports in place for people and businesses as Canadians and as a Parliamentarian, we have not had the benefit of a comprehensive budget in 727 days.

The Trudeau Liberals have not tabled a budget in almost 2 years and yet they have been spending money and making financial commitments with no scrutiny of Parliament.

Reporter, David Aikin said in an article "This extraordinarily long lapse between budgets raises important issues about how parliamentarians hold the government to account and about the very value of budgets themselves."

While the government is mandated to table the Main Estimates, these financial items lack any context or vision that Canadians have become accustomed to when governments table budgets for debate.

Budgets act as a pathway for governments, if you didn't have a household budget how would you be able to save for your children's education? Or how would you know what your financial goals are?

Tabling a budget for Canadians to review and Parliamentarians to analyze is the only mechanism available to ensure the government is held accountable.

The previous record holder for longest lapse between budgets was the Chretien Liberals at 651 days. There are some records you want to break and others you don't. Breaking Wayne Gretzky's points total or Usain Bolts 100-meter sprint record would be exciting moments. Breaking the record for longest lapse between federal budgets isn't one of those records you want to break, yet the Trudeau Liberals are content with laughing in the face of our democracy.

My colleagues and I, under the leadership of Erin O'Toole have been asking the tough questions that the Trudeau Liberals don't want to answer -- that is not fair to Canadians.

It is important for Canadians in these unprecedented times to have the support packages needed to ensure people stay afloat. It is equally important we have a checks and balance on the spending and the contracts to administer these programs. Without a budget being tabled and a clear vision for spending with a lens of recovery, how are Canadians to be sure the money is being spent as effectively as it could be?

"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them to become what they are capable of being." Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Proposed Garbage Depot in Freele Forest

Dear Sir:

On the February page of the County's 'Waste Management Calendar', I note County Staff's boast of completing reforestation/restoration of 11 hectares of land elsewhere, to mitigate the negative environmental impact of placing the proposed garbage depot in the middle of an environmentally sensitive forest. In the interest of full disclosure and transparency, I have the following questions:



1) Was that 11 hectares in addition to the County's usual reforestation activity, or was it simply a portion of the existing activity being arbitrarily designated as mitigation for the negative impact on the Freele Forest, i.e. 'window dressing' so as to give a favourable impression?

2) A forest is comprised of more than a group of trees. How many decades will elapse before the reforested/restored land will be able to support the wildlife which is displaced from the Freele Forest, while the garbage trucks roll in at the rate of 210 per day, 6 days per week (excluding only Sundays), 13 hours per day (from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm). That equates to 1 large diesel truck arriving or departing that forest every 1.86 minutes. During the period of 40 to 60 years that is required for the trees which are planted elsewhere to mature beyond the stage of 'understory trees', where will these creatures reside? Those creatures include 3 species designated as "at risk" by the Ministry of Natural Resources, and 1 species which had been resident there and which may now be extinct. As an aside, it is not clear as to why County Staff failed to disclose the existence of those species until AFTER a local citizen's group laid out its own funds to hire a competent field scientist who identified and reported their existence.

3) Given that existing industrial sites are available, closer to the centre of most waste generation in the County and on route to the existing market for the processed product, why the fixation on shipping garbage 15 km north into the heart of a forest, only to ship it back that same 15 km to reach its ultimate destination? You are aware, aren't you, that the majority of County residents are opposed to mis-using one of our forests in this manner, when existing industrial sites are available?

4) Your Mr. McCullough recently announced that a temporary transfer station is to be built at/near an existing landfill site, to be used until the proposed garbage depot is in operation. When asked about the end usage of the transfer station, he indicated that it would likely be used to service/maintain the fleet of garbage trucks. Given that the expected cost of this temporary transfer station was disclosed at \$5 million, and given that the proposed garbage depot is to include a similar maintenance facility, is this really a responsible usage of ratepayers/taxpayers' funds? Why not simply build the entire facility on that "temporary" site, thereby saving \$5 million, while also saving the forest which is being threatened? It should also be noted that 2 similar facilities have been constructed on former landfill sites, 1 on Christian Island and 1 that was the subject of a tour which had been arranged by your own staff. Again the same question with regard to the "temporary" transfer station to be built on/near an existing landfill site, why not construct the entire garbage depot there?

These are all matters of due diligence and, in the absence of clear and transparent answers, it appears that the said due diligence may be lacking.

I would hope that you are able to provide clear, transparent and succinct answers to each of the foregoing questions. A response which 'bundles' everything into one generic reply, expressing good intentions but falling short of specific answers, would simply be less than County residents deserve. Also, in the absence of evidence to the contrary (i.e. the results of a poll to counter the petition of 1,200 residents who are opposed to siting the facility in any of our forests), I ask that you address the assertion that the majority of County residents are opposed to any such usage of our forests.

Yours truly,

R.W. Wagner Homeowner Simcoe County

To support your paper

Hi Michael,

I took a subscription to the Springwater News because it is a paper that not only reports local issues but allows free speech. I was disappointed to learn about the challenges your paper faces this year.

I thought my subscription price was very low in comparison with other paper and magazine subscriptions. I can only speak for myself, but I would be willing to top up my subscription payment in order to keep your paper going, and I wondered if other residents might feel the same way. Even if it was just to bridge you through till everything reopens.

If you cannot continue to print a paper version, then I hope you can switch to online and count me in as a subscriber.

Yours truly, Nancy Moysiuk

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Provincial Vaccine Booking Portal Now Open

The roll out of the three-phased vaccination distribution implementation plan has begun in Ontario. Beginning with our most vulnerable populations in December 2020, our vaccination plan has focused on the residents and workers in Long Term Care facilities, ensuring they are protected, and reducing the risk of outbreaks. This stage of the plan is well underway, with over 1 million vaccines administered, and 279,000 Ontarians fully immunized. This includes 88% of all Long Term Care residents.

With the arrival of 194,500 doses of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine, beginning on March 10th, over 325 pharmacies began booking appointments to start to administering the vaccine as part of a pilot program in three public health unit regions:

Toronto, Windsor-Essex, and Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington. Further expansion to other public health units and pharmacies will continue as vaccine supply increases.

To ramp up capacity for vaccination, the province is also working with primary care professionals to offer vaccinations in primary care settings and community locations such as physician offices, in collaboration with Simcoe Muskoka Public Health Unit, as of March 13, 2021. Primary care providers will not be taking appointments by request, but will be contacting eligible Ontarians aged 60-64 directly to book an appointment. They will offer AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine only.

On March 15th, the Provincial Booking System for COVID-19 Vaccines went live, allowing for vaccination appointment bookings at mass immunization clinics, starting with individuals aged 80 and older. Those eligible residents (born in 1941 or earlier) who wish to make an appointment can visit www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine, where they will be guided to the provincial booking system, or to their local public health unit to make an appointment. Pre-registration is also now available for those in Phase 2 of the distribution plan.

For any individuals still in possession of a red and white health card, or for those who require assistance with booking, please contact the Provincial Vaccine Information line 1-888-999-6488.

With vaccine supply stabilizing, and over two million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine expected from the federal government before the end of March, the province will enter Phase Two of its vaccine rollout next month. Between April 2021 and July 2021, up to nine million Ontarians will be vaccinated.

In stage three of the vaccine roll out plan, the vaccine will be widely available across Ontario for anyone who wishes to be immunized. Beginning in June 2021, all Ontarians over age 16 will be able to access the vaccination portal to book an appointment and get themselves vaccinated. We're currently working with public health units to ensure that every Ontarian will know when it's their turn to be vaccinated. Please visit our website, www.ontario.ca, or contact your public health unit directly to find out when it's your turn to receive the vaccine.

Ontario leads the country in the number of vaccine doses administered, and as we continue to ramp up capacity, we are committed to administering all doses received, as quickly as possible, to every Ontarian who wants a vaccine. This achievement is a true Team Ontario effort, with particular thanks to the incredible work of our public health

Time between first and second dose of COVID-19 vaccines extended

SIMCOE MUSKOKA – As of March 10, the majority of people who have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine will get their second dose 16 weeks later. The move is intended to allow more people to be protected from COVID-19 during this time of limited vaccine supply.

The extension follows confirmation from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization that extending the interval between doses for two-dose vaccines will still give people a strong and sustained level of protection from COVID-19. The two dose vaccines include Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD.

Anyone from the following groups -- deemed most at risk for severe illness and death -- will still be receiving their second dose as scheduled 21 to 27 days of their first shot. They include:

- o Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges and Assisted Living facilities who are at the greatest risk of both exposure to COVID-19 and serious illness and death; and

- o Remote and isolated First Nation communities given the potential seriousness of COVID-19 infection in these communities with limited available health care facilities and resources.

Anyone who has an appointment scheduled for their second dose before 16 weeks will have their existing appointment cancelled; more information will be coming regarding how to reschedule their appointment.

For more information about COVID-19 and the vaccine roll out visit www.smdhu.org.

"I played in a rock band. I climbed trees. I did stuff that made my parents wonder, 'What the hell is she doing?' But I also was a good student and a good daughter, so I never brought shame on the family. And I was lucky that the men in my family thought the women should have an equal shot at everything." --Indra Nooyi

Sadly, I do my best proof reading after I hit send.

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

Cathy Johnston Walton

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

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

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

Susan Holler Nicholson

Owners		
2014-present	Susan Holler Nicholson	Built: the original barn was torn down and another barn built around 1950
1966-2014	Warner and Elsa (Loosen) Holler	
-1966	Kilsdonk	Water Source: dug well. In the 1940s and 1950s milk was lowered down into the well to keep it cool in summer.
1955-	Joe van Galle	
1943-1955	Frank and Amy (Sulley) Holmes	
~1895-1943	Robert Allen and Myrtle (Johnston) Holmes	
1865 ~1895	Allen and Mary Jane (Gauley) Holmes	



The family still has the Allis-Chalmers tractor. Research showed that although Frank bought it new in 1951 it had been made in 1949. Frank took a short cut on the CPR tracks to bring the tractor home.

In 1942 Frank used the team to bring in a load of hay.

Allen Holmes was born in Ireland in 1835 and died in 1895. According to the Crown Deed Allen, yeoman, bought the farm in 1865. It is not known when he started farming.

Frank bought a new Allis-Chalmers tractor from Walter Downey Farm Equipment in Minesing. It was March 1951 and Concession Road 10, Vespra (George Johnston Road) did not go through to Highway 90 and Portage Trail wasn't plowed in the winter. Instead of driving the tractor from Concession Road 10, across Snow Valley Road to Concession 7 (Wilson Road), down to the Sunnidale Road, around to Highway 90 and down Concession 13, Vespra, Frank took a short cut. He put the tractor on the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks and drove from the 10th to the 13th.

Frank Holmes was forced to sell the farm in order to pay for back surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital in Toronto. The experimental operation of taking a piece of leg bone and fusing it to his spine was successful. Frank bought 40 acres from his mother-in-law Martha Sulley on Highway 90 and continued to farm there.

Helen (Holmes) Marshall, Crown Deed.



Neighbours, including Maurice Baldwick helped put up the new barn for Frank Holmes.



Frank Holmes is shown here in front of the original barn. (Photos courtesy of Helen Marshall)



Ontario Provides Additional Protection for Retirement Home Residents and Staff

Investment will help cover costs for COVID related expenses

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$30 million to help the retirement home sector cover COVID-19 related costs such as hiring, training and testing additional staff, and sanitizing residences and purchasing supplies to prevent and contain the spread of infection. This funding is in addition to the \$30.9 million that the province provided retirement homes earlier in the pandemic.

Ontario has more than 770 licensed retirement homes and many are run by small operators who urgently need the government's support to deal with rising costs related to fighting COVID-19. Ontario's retirement homes have been working cooperatively with public health officials across the province to ensure best practices are being followed to prevent and control COVID-19 and to help get residents and staff vaccinated.

Under the leadership of General (Ret'd) Rick Hillier, Ontario's three-phase vaccination plan is making steady progress. To date over 56,000 residents and over 23,000 workers in retirement homes have received the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and of them over 35,000 residents and 15,000 staff have received both doses.

Healthy people are essential for a healthy economy. On March 24, the government will release the 2021 Ontario Budget. It will focus on protecting people's health, with a plan to defeat COVID-19, and support for people and jobs.

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario has more than 770 retirement homes with capacity to house more than 66,000 residents.
- Visit Ontario's website to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from COVID-19.
- By 2023, there will be 3 million Ontarians over the age of 65 - older adults are the province's fastest growing demographic.



"When were you born, who are your parents, where did you grow up? None of us earns these things. These things were given to us. So when we strip away all of our luck and our privilege, and we consider where we'd be without them, it becomes much easier to see someone who's poor and say, 'That could be me.' And that's empathy."
--Melinda Gates

"I am not lucky. You know what I am? I am smart, I am talented, I take advantage of the opportunities that come my way, and I work really, really hard. Don't call me lucky. Call me a badass." --Shonda Rhimes



My View – Bill French

Springwater News – Deputy Mayor
Facebook Rant – Yikes!

My lead in on this one is "Holy Crap!"

This is what Jennifer Coughlin Deputy Mayor published on her Facebook Page. Her words are in italics and my comments in parenthesis and bold print. You decide if she really is supporting local business.

Coughlin Writes:

Absolute BLATANT LIE! Absolute BLATANT LIE!

In today's edition of the Springwater News, (referring to the March 4th edition) owner/editor Michael Jacobs states that I was one of three members of Council who "voted not to support local businesses in their municipality."

This entirely false statement pertains to a vote of Council regarding a print media report on February 17th. Jacobs, in his self proclaimed bias musing, does elaborate on comments made by other members of Council, however failed to mention the following.

..... I affirm that I would not support an increase to the print media budget and indicate that we could redistribute the existing budget to include communication in the Barrie Advance (Doesn't that take away half of the Springwater News Revenue, a Springwater business and give it to a Barrie Business?) I suggest that we reach out to our residents to determine how they would prefer to receive municipal updates. (Idea has merit but that was not the subject matter of the Report. The Report specifically was on the use of Print Media, nothing else.) I state that "under no circumstance am I suggesting that we pull out of print media" and subsequently indicate my support for option three in the report (Option 3- That the Township advertises on a weekly basis shared between the Barrie Advance and the Springwater News.) with no budget increase. (How can you do that unless you cut the Springwater News budget in half?) Again ... I say that the township needs to "remain present in every issue of the Springwater News", and yet again two minutes later reiterate that "we remain visual in the Springwater News". (How do you do that with no budget increase and be in two Print Media at the same time? I guess she thinks Springwater News will merrily still provide all the free space that they have for years for the Mayor's column, Library and other announcements, even though the Township would have turned their backs on them. I wish I lived in her fantasy world along with her mentor?)

I voted against option one, the status quo "that the

Township continue with the ongoing services of the Springwater News on a bi-weekly basis and does not engage the regular services of the Barrie Advance". (I don't think that is a vote of support.)

Just as there are some residents who either can not get or choose not to receive the Advance, there are residents who choose not to open the Springwater News (Well we know by her post that our Deputy Mayor reads it.) Just as there are residents who rely fully on electronic news sites and social media to keep up with what's happening locally. (This was not the subject of the Report. Possibly an attempt to distract the audience I guess)

Jacobs also states that "to lose the income from the township would shutter the Springwater News". The Beer Store just announced it is closing. Should the township start bulk orders in an attempt to subsidise this local business too? (I don't think we use the Beer Store for Print Communications and since when did advertising in a local newspaper become a subsidy?)

I personally and professionally support our local businesses. (Not doing a good job with Springwater News!) What I do not support is a less efficient, less effective use of taxpayer dollars in order to maintain a status quo. If we can reach more residents for the same money, why wouldn't we? (Sounds logical but the Report was only on the use of Print Media? If the Report had been a review of communication media in general, then her comments would have made sense.)

I also take exception that her Facebook heading states Deputy Mayor. Doesn't that make her caustic comments an official position of Springwater Council?

Township Support for Business

When the Council was discussing broadband over a month ago, there was some discussion of possibly dipping into the Community Improvement Program (CIP) funding. In these times of COVID maybe we can learn something from our friends in Barrie. One thing they did at the beginning of the COVID crisis was to provide a COVID kit. It included, floor stickers for physical distancing, samples of signage, "shop local" stickers for doors, face shields and even some small containers of hand sanitizer. I know this as I volunteer and manage an organization's hall in Barrie and I touched base with the City and the next day they delivered my COVID package. As far as Springwater over the past year, I didn't see a lot of applications for some of the improvements funded under the CIP, so why not take some of that money and develop a special relief program for local business? I know of some local businesses that have spent thousands on glass and plexiglass barriers, special sanitizing and fogging equipment and other PPE's. With a motion from Council some of this funding could go to help our businesses as they struggle through this pandemic. Maybe grants of 50% of their costs up to a \$1,000 might be an idea. I would even suggest using some of the funds to launch a media campaign on radio, TV and yes local print to encourage all of us to shop local. If we are in it together, which seems to be the elected official catch phrase these days, shouldn't the Township belly up to the bar and not just hide out with Zoom meetings until COVID passes?

A special note to the Coughlin Posse. Again, please remember these are my thoughts and I am not asking you to agree. I respect your freedom of expression and encourage you to SPEAK UP, before that freedom is taken from us!! One of our previous Councillors (Coughlin's self proclaimed mentor) tried to do that about 7 years back and tabled an unsuccessful gag bylaw resolution, just so you know.

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

An Australian athlete broke a world record when he ran a marathon in 16 hours and 12 minutes -- while pulling a 1.6-ton truck. Corey Phillpott, 23, of Glenbrook, pulled the 3,300-pound Ford Ranger truck for a distance of 26.2 miles through Jamison Park in Penrith, New South Wales, to take the new world record title for the World's Strongest Marathon. Phillpott's time of 16 hours and 12 minutes was enough to beat the previous record of 17 hours, which was held by U.S. athlete Justin True. "I've got no injuries, I feel great, I'll go for a run tomorrow," Phillpott said after the attempt. Phillpott said he wanted to pull a truck because he was inspired by Ross Edgley, the British man who set the original World's Strongest Marathon title while pulling a truck in 2016. He finished with a time of 19 hours and 36 minutes.

The term "chivalry" is from the Latin word caballus, meaning "nag, pack-horse," and is related to the word "cavalier."

Many feminist scholars dismiss chivalry as a type of benevolent sexism because it relies on the assumption that women are weak and in need of protection while men are strong. They argue that chivalry perpetuates gender inequality.

Can you think of a word that uses all the vowels including the y? Unquestionably!



Dufferin Construction is an industry leader across Canada with extensive operations in Ontario.

We are expanding our newly acquired operations in Simcoe / Muskoka.

Resumes are now being accepted for:

- All Heavy Civil (Grade) positions
- All Asphalt Paving positions
- All Sewer and Watermain positions

DCC will support any Non-Union successful candidates in the Union application process for Local 183 and Local 793.

Application by resume only, please forward resumes to

Gerald.Sullivan@ca.crh.com, only successful candidates will be contacted.

Ontario Taking Action to Expand Access to Reliable Broadband

The Ontario government is introducing the Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021 which, if passed, would help connect more communities to reliable, high-speed internet sooner. This legislation proposes to reduce costs to broadband providers associated with attaching broadband wires to hydro utility poles, and would provide timely access to poles and to municipal rights of way to install broadband on municipal land.

As many as 700,000 households and businesses in Ontario lack access to adequate broadband speeds, or have no internet connection at all. These proposed measures would help communities connect to reliable broadband sooner, so people can work from home, learn online, connect with family and friends, and access vital services.

These proposed measures build on the province's Up to Speed: Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan. As part of the 2020 Budget, the Ontario government announced a historic investment of almost \$1 billion to improve broadband and cellular services, which is an additional \$680 million on top of its previous commitment.

Quick Facts

- Internet and telecommunications service providers based in Ontario face the highest hydro utility pole attachment rates in Canada.
- This legislation builds on the Ontario Rebuilding and Recovery Act and the Building Transit Faster Act to help accelerate the building of key infrastructure projects to create jobs and lay the foundation for a strong economic recovery.
- Last year, the Province launched the Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) program, a multi-year program that aims to support approved broadband and cellular projects as early as Spring 2021. Ontario announced in November 2020 it was doubling funding in the program to \$300 million.
- The Province has invested in initiatives to improve connectivity across Eastern and Southwestern Ontario. It has also invested in broadband projects through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and the Next Generation Network Program.
- Expanding access to broadband is part of Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-Focused Government, which includes more than 30 projects that will change the way people and businesses interact with government.

ANOTHER SCAM WARNING

Costly NEW AREA CODE: READ AND PASS ALONG 809 Area Code
The complainant actually received a call last week from the 809 area code. The woman said 'Hey, this is Karen. Sorry I missed you- get back to us quickly I have something important to tell you.' Then she repeated a phone number beginning with 809

They did not respond. Then this week, they received the following e-mail:
Do Not DIAL AREA CODE 809, 284, AND 876 from the U.S. or Canada. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THEM BY AT&T.

DON'T EVER DIAL AREA CODE 809

Be sure you read this and pass it on. They get you to call by telling you that it is information about a family member who has been ill or to tell you someone has been arrested, died, or to let you know you have won a wonderful prize, etc..

In each case, you are told to call the 809 number right away. Since there are so many new area codes these days, people unknowingly return these calls.

If you call from the U.S. or Canada, you will apparently be charged a minimum of \$24.25 per-minute and you'll also get a long recorded message. The point is, they will try to keep you on the phone as long as possible to increase the charges.

WHY IT WORKS:

The 809 Area Code is located in the Dominican Republic. The charges afterward can become a real nightmare. That's because you did actually make the call. If you complain, both your local phone company and your long distance carrier will not want to get involved and will most likely tell you that they are simply providing the billing for the foreign company. You'll end up dealing with a foreign company that argues they have done nothing wrong.

Please forward this entire message to your friends, family and colleagues to help them become aware of this scam.

Georgian celebrates Indigenous culture with first Pow Wow At Home Virtual Festival

Students, faculty, staff and the public are invited to Georgian College's very first Pow Wow At Home Virtual Festival to celebrate and learn about Indigenous culture, songs and dance.

The event, organized by the Barrie Campus Indigenous Resource Centre's students and staff, features virtual dance competitions throughout the month of March.

"Every year we have amazing dancers, drummers and crafters come together for a really special event but naturally we needed to do things a little differently this year," said Special Events Co-ordinator Beedahsiga Elliott. "So, we've moved the Pow Wow virtually and also made it a fun dance competition. We're asking our dancers to submit video of their style of dance and to choose their own music. All the videos will then be compiled together and we'll have a contest to see who danced the best."

Elliott explained that dance is very important – not only to who they are as a people but to their very souls. "When we dance, we're expressing our gratitude to Gichi-Manito, the Great Spirit, for having the ability to dance on Mother Earth," he said. "We're also showing our appreciation for another day above ground and another day on this plane of existence. We dance to share, to laugh and to gather as a people."

The dance categories have been broken up between women, men, and teenagers who will be competing over the next three weeks. All the dancers have to follow a specific set of guidelines with the first-place winners in each category winning \$750.

Everyone is invited to follow the hashtag #GCPowWowAtHome on YouTube and other social media platforms. Enter the hashtag into your search bar and you can find the dancers and drummers who have entered the contest and even help pick the winners by liking and commenting. Points will be allotted based on the number of likes and comments made on each video. A judging panel made up of students, alumni, faculty and staff will also add additional points and make the final call on winners.



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

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



Sports with Patrick Townes

It was fourth time's a charm for team Bottcher at this year's Brier. After losing in the finals for the last three years, it was their time to win the coveted Brier Tankard. The skill set of these professional curlers is unbelievable.

Admittedly, I did not stay up for the last four ends of the final game between team Bottcher and team Koe.

The blank ends were getting to me and the wide open game put me to sleep. A true curling fan can appreciate the effort and "cleaning-up" a blank end requires, but there are way too many of them happening. A lot of true curling fans say blank ends are a very important part of the game and there are absolutely no concerns with having so many in a game, but when I watch sports highlights in the morning or recaps of the 50 best curling shots, there never seems to be a shot to blank an end included. Fans are attracted to the game when they see those big shots. Those who would watch curling regardless seem to be alright with watching three to five blank ends a game.

If blank ends are a problem, how do you solve it? Discussions have taken place at the player and Curling Canada level on how blank ends could be addressed.

The most straight forward suggestion was that if a team chooses to blank an end, they lose the hammer. This was not taken well amongst players and was shot down immediately. Mark Kennedy stated that blank ends are part of the game, and they are not always easy to come by, which is true.

Sometimes two or three multiple hit shots are required to clear the sheet before a team carries the hammer to the next end.

How else could this be addressed?

The opposing team could be awarded 0.5 points if the other team blanks an end -- seems weird at first thought, but this would work. The team with the hammer wants to score two or more points, if they have to give up 0.5 points to reset and try for a multiple score, they may be willing to do that.

Blank ends are played much quicker than other ends. If a team blanks an end, they could have to give up one or two minutes on their time clock. This would sink a team like Koe who takes a lot of time to think during a game. If they lose time from the clock for a blank end, they for sure would be less willing to do it.

Young curlers should take note of what Scott Howard accomplished over this past week. With Middaugh at his side instead of his father, Scott solidified himself as one of the top thirds in the game. Scott had great confidence in his abilities, including shot making and line calling, and really took that next step where he is not intimidated by anyone else on the ice.

Why should you take note?

Scott started his professional career at lead, and then moved to the second position for a number of years before taking that next step to third. A lot of young players want to jump immediately to the third or skip role before they learn the ropes and the game. Scott gained valuable experience, especially by playing with guys like his father and Middaugh, which prepared him for the third position, and next, the skip position. Players need to learn the game before jumping into a back end position.

It was hard to tell, but one can assume Glenn Howard had a smile under his mask for the whole week during the Brier. Well, maybe there was one exception. Middaugh stepped in for the team and led the Penetanguishene squad to a fantastic spiel. They were a joy to watch. If you do not know how brushing has changed the game, go talk to Middaugh and ask him. He made one comment on a take out that the shot should have missed completely before Tim March "carved" the rock back in to make the hit. This just exemplifies the importance of a team and you need all four team members to win. Unfortunately for the team they came up a little short -- but what a week!

Curling aside, it would have been fun for that group hanging out for a week in the bubble, especially when they were winning games.

Congratulations to team Howard/Middaugh on a great performance. One thing I noticed when I watched this team play was that they still bring a competitive demeanor like the others, but deep down you can tell they are from a small town and like to have fun, and at the same time, win.

Does your lender actually service your loan?

If it is a third party that handles these payments you might be under the impression that your balance is reducing every two weeks, but the 3rd party service could be debiting your account every 2 weeks and then sitting on your money AND making interest. At the end of each 2 week debit period they now have a full payment and apply that to your lender. It may not be ethical, but it is legal and it does happen. Biweekly mortgage payments are a good idea only if the principle is actually coming down with every extra payment. So if you want to switch to a biweekly payment schedule MAKE SURE every check is going toward your mortgage balance. And remember, even if you cannot make biweekly payments you can still reduce your principle by paying extra each month and indicating "apply to principal" on each payment. Even an additional \$20 or \$50 will further reduce your interest and pay off your loan faster, and it doesn't cost you one cent in fees or servicing!

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RIPPLE OF KINDNESS MARCH DONATION



We are happy to let you know that last night, Thursday March 11th, 2021, Ripple of Kindness Barrie and their membership of over 260 women made their donation to RVH - Breast Imaging, in the amount of \$ 26,000, taking the lead in supporting

women's health as RVH launches their Moments Matter campaign. Mammograms save lives. Our members heard from Rebecca Truax, Director of Philanthropy and Heather Gillis, Operations Director, Medical Imaging + Laboratory Medicine.

Ripple of Kindness was founded in 2016 by Barbara White and Mary-Anne Frith, who both saw the need for community giveback and kindness in their community. To date the Barrie Chapter of Ripple has donated back into the community \$400,700 to 14 different charities. Some of the other charities that have benefited from Ripple were Gilda's Club Cancer Support Community, Hospice Simcoe, OSPCA and the Barrie Food Bank to name a few.



Two other Ripple of Kindness Chapters began in 2019, one in Orillia, who have donated \$86,200 and one in Muskoka with their first donation of \$ 5000.00, bringing the organization's give back to their communities at almost \$500,000

As there are no limits to kindness, there are also no limits to membership. If you are interested in connecting with the group of like minded women please reach out. The commitment is \$400.00 per year. Visit their website at www.rippleofkindness.ca or email them at rokbarrie@gmail.com for more information #rippleofkindness #rippleyourkindness

In Kindness
 Barbara White & Mary-Anne Frith
 Co-Founders of Ripple of Kindness
 Initiating Kindness in Our Community
 Giving is about making a difference not just a donation.
 #rippleofkindness
 #makingadifference

What is the difference between grade A and grade B in the classification of eggs?

Answer: Grades AA and A are nearly identical. The main difference is that Grade A eggs are slightly older than Grade AA eggs. Grade B eggs have stained or abnormal shells, minor blood or meat spots, and other defects.

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Apply in store for 'Spring Employment' cashiers, greenhouse and loader positions

Open - Monday to Friday • 8:30 - 5:00
Saturday • 8:30 - 4:30 - Sundays • Closed
We are taking orders for feed, etc...by phone

Be a guest at Barrie HomeShare's virtual community feast on March 25

Barrie HomeShare is extending an invitation for a fun evening of cooking, comedy and community at its virtual HomeFeast on March 25. Participants will have the opportunity to cook, then share a meal together online.

"We're encouraging anyone who's feeling isolated or looking for a fun way to break bread with other community members to be our guest," said Nicole Norris, Manager, Centre for Changemaking and Social Innovation at Georgian College. "The goal of HomeFeast is to connect adults 55+ with a Georgian student to cook a meal together online and participate in a community feast."

Business student Laura Moote shows off one of the ready-to-go meal kits you can order for the upcoming virtual Feast



on March 25. Laura is helping to organize the event as part of her co-op with the Centre for Changemaking and Social Innovation at Georgian College.

Families or caregivers with parents or family members in the Barrie area who are 55 or older can order a meal kit and participate as a family. There are four delicious meal kit options: Salsa chicken and rice; chickpea and sweet potato curry; one dish beef and mushroom stroganoff; or a vegetarian sheet pan dinner.

The ready-to-go meal kits are being prepared by staff at Georgian's on-campus restaurant – The Last Class. The kits can be ordered online and either picked up at the Barrie Campus or delivered to your door if you live within the Barrie city limits All meal kits cost \$20 with proceeds going to the Georgian Food Locker, which supports students facing food insecurity. The deadline to order the meal kits is March 18.

"HomeFeast is more than just sharing a meal – it's about connecting our city's diverse, differently abled, and inter-generational members together in the spirit of community," said Norris. "So, even if you're not interested in ordering and cooking one of the meal kits you're still invited to take part. We're also able to accept pre-purchased meals kits as gifts to support community members in need."

HomeFeast runs from 5 to 6 p.m. and participants are encouraged to cook their meal beforehand. The event will be hosted by local comedian Andrea Murray with musical entertainment provided by Owen Sound musician Kailey Hawkins.

You can order your ready-to-go meal kit and register online at EventBrite. If you have any questions about the HomeFeast or your meal kit, please reach out to ccsi@georgiancollege.ca.

Barrie HomeShare is an initiative out of Georgian's Centre for Changemaking and Social Innovation, in partnership with the City of Barrie's Office of the Mayor and supported by United Way Simcoe-Muskoka. It's dedicated to helping adults 55+ and Georgian students connect, with the goal to support adults with help around things like technology or simple household chores, and empower students to feel better connected to their community through volunteerism and affordable housing, post pandemic. For more information, visit barriehomeshare.org.

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Southern Georgian Bay Association of REALTORS® MLS® home sales reach another record in February

Residential sales recorded through the MLS® System for the Southern Georgian Bay region totaled 365 units in February 2021. This was an increase of 14.1% from February 2020 and was also a new sales record for the month of February.

On a year-to-date basis, home sales totaled 601 units over the first two months of the year. This was an increase of 14.1% from the same period in 2020.

The Southern Georgian Bay region comprises two distinctive markets.

Home sales in the Western Region, which includes Wasaga Beach, Clearview Township, Collingwood, The Blue Mountains, the Municipality of Meaford, and Grey Highlands, numbered 198 units in February 2021. This was an increase of 26.9% from February 2020. Residential sales haven't hit this level in the month of February in more than four decades.

On a year-to-date basis, home sales in the Western Region numbered 326 units over the first two months of the year. This was an increase of 23.5% from the same period in 2020.

Meanwhile, home sales in the Eastern Region, encompassing the Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene, the Townships of Tay and Tiny, Severn, and Georgian Bay Townships, numbered 167 units in February 2021. This edged up 1.8% from February 2020. Residential sales haven't hit this level in the month of February in more than four decades.

On a year-to-date basis, home sales in the Eastern Region numbered 275 units over the first two months of the year. This edged up 1.5% from the same period in 2020.

"A small boost in new listings helped sales climb even further, raising them to the highest February on record," said Matthew Lidbetter, President of the Southern Georgian Bay Association of REALTORS®. "An influx of new listings may have pulled the market back from the tightest conditions on record, but we are still very much in seller's territory."

The MLS® Home Price Index (HPI) tracks price trends far more accurately than is possible using average or median price measures. The overall MLS® HPI composite benchmark price was \$555,500, a large increase of 31.6% in February 2021 compared to February 2020.

The benchmark price for single-family homes was \$579,500, a large increase of 33.7% on a year-over-year basis in February. By comparison, the benchmark price for townhouse/row units was \$452,600, rising 21.2% compared to a year earlier, while the benchmark apartment price was \$370,300, up 8.7% from year-ago levels.

There were 533 new residential listings in February 2021. This was down 5.2% on a year-over-year basis.

Active residential listings numbered 372 units at the end of February, a large decline of 67.1% from the end of February 2020. Active listings haven't been this low in the month of February in more than three decades.

Months of inventory numbered 1 at the end of February 2021, down from the 3.5 months recorded at the end of February 2020 and below the long-run average of 6.3 months for this time of year. The number of months of inventory is the number of months it would take to sell current inventories at the current rate of sales activity.

The dollar value of all home sales in February 2021 was \$288.3 million, a large increase of 54.5% from the same month in 2020. This was also a new record for the month of February.

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

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

Provided by: Matthew Lidbetter, 2021 President
Southern Georgian Bay Association of REALTORS®

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Executive Assistant

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Southern Georgian Bay Association of REALTORS®

243 Ste. Marie Street, Collingwood, ON

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F: 705.445.7253 Hours: Monday -

Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Cleanest Groundwater in the World AT RISK

On top of French's Hill, the upland recharge area of the World's Cleanest documented ground water source there, is tremendous upheaval.

Despite 133 comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario and 5113 emails opposing CRH Canada Group Inc's Permit To Take Water

-- Despite concerns expressed by a leading Canadian Scientist

-- Despite affected landowners speaking out

-- Despite a respected hydrogeologist's reports stating that the current water user is causing problems when aggregate is dug and washed in the Teedon Pit, in Concession 1 of Tiny Township

Nonetheless, Minister Yurek of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks issued a Permit on January 14, 2021.

Here are the details about the Permit issued to CRH Canada Ltd. / Dufferin Aggregates:

Permit Type - renewal - Category 3

Sources of water for aggregate washing:

- Well PW1-09
- maximum rate per minute (Litres): 950
- maximum number of hours of taking per day: 24
- maximum volume per day (Litres): 1,368,000
- maximum number of days of taking per year: 210
- for 10 years

Wash Pond

- maximum rate per minute (Litres): 7,274
- maximum number of hours of taking per day: 12
- maximum volume per day (Litres): 5,237,280
- maximum number of days of taking per year: 210
- for 10 years.
- In total as much as 6,605,287 litres per day!

Luckily on January 27th, Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Association's and their pro bono lawyers from the Canadian Environmental Law Association submitted a Leave to Appeal to the Environmental Review Tribunal and on January 29th, the Township of Tiny submitted its Leave to Appeal as well.

Now there has been another application for a Permit to Take Water (PTTW), this one by the Sarjeant Company Limited.

This proposal is for a new Permit to Take Water from two ponds for the purpose of aggregate washing.

Here are the details:

Source name: Pond A

- purpose of taking: aggregate washing
- maximum rate per minute (litres per minute): 1,140 litres

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turnviewfarm@gmail.com
turnviewfarmhoney.com

Our honey is now available at Elmvale Foodland!

- maximum number of hours of taking per day: 24
- maximum volume of taking per day: 1,641,600 litres
- maximum number of days of taking in a year: 180
- earliest calendar date of taking (mm/dd): 03/01
- latest calendar date of taking (mm/dd): 12/31
- length of taking: 10 years

Source name: Pond B

- purpose of taking: aggregate washing
- maximum rate per minute (litres per minute): 1,140 litres
- maximum number of hours of taking per day: 24
- maximum volume of taking per day: 1,641,600 litres
- maximum number of days of taking in a year: 180
- earliest calendar date of taking (mm/dd): 03/01
- latest calendar date of taking (mm/dd): 12/31
- length of taking: 10 years

This application was recently posted on the Environmental Registry and we have only until April 23rd 2021 to comment.

However, the Province is denying us **the right to see the PTTW Application or the supporting documents.**

What you can do:

- 1) Find out more: saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com
- 2) Contact your elected representatives: use our email template

• Premier Doug Ford doug.fordco@pc.ola.org 416-325-1941

• MPP Jill Dunlop, Simcoe North – jill.dunlopco@pc.ola.org Tel 705-326-3246

• MPP Doug Downey, Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte doug.downeyco@pc.ola.org Tel. 705-726-5538

Your local MPP, if different

• Hon. Jeff Yurek Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks minister.mecp@ontario.ca Tel 416-314-6790

3) Donate and help finance the legal fight
Interac e-transfer: fotttsadonation@gmail.com

Paypal link on website or cheque made out to FoTTSA: Treasurer, 42 Haslemere Road Toronto, Ontario M4N 1X6

Write to the ERO

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to a matter posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario:

ERO number: 019-3146

Ministry reference number: 7577-BY4LDA

I would like to see a full copy of the PTTW application, plus all supporting technical documents. Please let me know how I can obtain these as quickly as possible, as the commenting deadline is April 23rd.

Yours sincerely,

I always try to be optimistic, I hope that the Ministry will do the right thing. I have written my concerns repeatedly to Minister Yurek and other MPPS.

Minister Yurek response was disappointing and could have come out of a George Orwell book **"The purpose**

of the Permit to Take Water Program is to provide for the conservation, protection and responsible management of the waters of the province." If that's the case Minister you have to shut these permits down.

The only people that can stop this now is the People who care about the health of the local groundwater for their children and their children's children. Please join me and the many, many others who are working hard to protect your groundwater resources.

Thank you

Sincerely, Anne Ritchie Nahuis

"Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral". Paulo Freire.

When I see rich, snooty looking women at the grocery store, I pretend I need something and say, "excuse me, do you work here?" just to help keep things real.



BRIDGE BITES from The American Contract Bridge League

HERO OR ZERO

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ 75 ♥ A52 ♦ K72 ♣ AJT62 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ T86 ♥ J643 ♦ QJ3 ♣ Q74
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ K3 ♥ KQT8 ♦ T986 ♣ 853 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ AQJ942 ♥ 97 ♦ A54 ♣ K9



By: Brian Gunnell

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

4♠ is an iron-clad contract, and the play is simply a battle for overtricks. Not a big deal if you are playing rubber bridge, but in the world of duplicate bridge, overtricks are important. You are West, do something brilliant!

All the West players led the ♥K (nothing brilliant there), won by Dummy's Ace, after which it was a routine matter for Declarer to lose the Spade finesse. West cashed a Heart, and Declarer won the Diamond shift in her hand. Trumps were drawn, then came the ♠K, the ♠A and the ♠J. When the ♠Q tumbled down, Declarer had 11 tricks.

The resulting -650 was the standard E-W score around the room, except at one table, where West did something wickedly clever. Yes, no doubt you spotted it right away, West ducked the ♠K on the first round of trumps! Of course, Declarer had no way of knowing that West now had the unprotected King, so she crossed to Dummy's ♠K and repeated the finesse. West won the King, cashed a Heart, and shifted to a Diamond and, although Declarer had made her contract, there were no overtricks and her score of +620 was worth zero matchpoints. That diabolical duck by West had persuaded Declarer to waste a valuable Dummy entry on a futile finesse.

However, West's play was not without risk, and he would hardly have been a hero if his Partner's trumps were, for example, Jx or JTx. But, if that had turned out to be the case, then at least he would have had an amusing story to tell on himself later. And he could no doubt count on Partner's legendary sense of humor as they ruefully scored -680 and zero matchpoints.

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

ANTEN MILLS NEWS by Dennis Gannon

Tonight, Thursday March 18, the Anten Mills Community Recreation Association is holding a virtual meeting on Zoom starting at 7PM. There are a number of items to be discussed this evening including upgrades to the pavilion, rear deck, new tables and chairs and most importantly the 50th anniversary celebration of a community association. Most of us have had the opportunity to use Zoom but for those who may feel intimidated, don't. To join search for Zoom on the internet, select join a meeting and enter the meeting number Meeting ID: 853 5224 5043 and the password, Passcode: 091151 and you are a participant. You can choose to not be seen and heard by looking for the video and microphone icons and selecting to mute or not show video and you are able to hear and see what is going on. If you just want to listen you can do that as well by calling 1 647 558 0588 and muting your phone. Community participation is key to the success of activities in the village so please join in and be part. The next edition of this paper will have a recap of what was determined.

This past week marked the one year anniversary of the world wide health crisis. It was good to see that the Township of Springwater recognized the National Day of Observance for Covid-19 by lowering the flags to half mast including here at the community centre. Purposely the word COVID has not appeared frequently in this column and it is done so with a reason. While the effects have had a toll on most, the outstanding work of our first responders and essential workers and the efforts of those who have tried to make the best of the consequences is to be celebrated as well. For those who are keeping us safe, employed and fed our sincere thank you. Hopefully with the vaccines becoming more available, next year at this time we will be celebrating the end of this event.

The weather this past week was outstanding. A significant amount of snow disappeared and during our walks through the village certain signs of spring were alive with kids motoring along the streets on their bicycles. As they are full of energy and perhaps not as cautious as they should be, motorists are asked to be extremely vigilant and keep your speed down with a keen eye out for our youth. Better to be slow and cautious than fast with damaging consequences.

With spring in the air animals are on the move as well as the skunks and racoons are out looking for mates. Also seen in the community are fishers and ermines. Keeping an eye out for them with your pets safety is key. And speaking of pets, please remember to clean up any excrement that your dog may leave as you are out walking particularly along the trails. No one wants to step in dog poop so do the courtesy act of cleaning up and keep everyone happy. Now if we could just find diapers for the horses that walk on the trails.



It wouldn't be Spring if the Fry Guy didn't open. Matt informs me that he will be making a decision soon and anticipates an early April start. Keep an eye out on his facebook page and when more information is available it will be posted here.

The photos published of late have been an interest to many. More softball team pictures have been located and they are here for your viewing. As other photos of events

are found they will be posted as well and please feel free to send any you have of community events so that they may be enjoyed and bring back memories for many.

Next week my family will celebrate the 40th anniversary of our arrival in Anten Mills. Coming from a much larger community in south west Ontario we undertook a move into the community without knowing anyone. For those who took us under their wing or offered guidance we thank you. For those that became our friends and acquaintances, thank you for doing so. Over the years opportunities presented themselves that would have required a move away. Community and home always took preendent and this is where we wanted to be. Anten Mills is a great community and it's even better if you get involved. Thanks for allowing us to be part of the community and we look forward to many more years being a piece of the fabric of a great place.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, Stay Strong. antemills1@gamil.com.



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MP Doug Shipley announces funding to support Elmvale Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 262

March 15, 2021: Doug Shipley, Member of Parliament for BarrieSpringwater-Oro-Medonte, announced \$10,845,05 in funding from the Government of Canada to support the Royal Canadian Legion #262 in Elmvale. This funding will assist the Elmvale Legion branch with their operational costs so they can continue providing important support for Veterans.

The Veterans Organizations Emergency Support Fund is part of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan to protect jobs, provide emergency support and keep businesses afloat through the pandemic. Organizations such as the Elmvale Royal Canadian Legion play a critical role in the well-being of Veterans, their families and the community.



Pictured above are John Windley, CD, Sgt-at-Arms, Larry Trahan, Lottery Nevada Chair, Milt Walters, 1st Vice President, Doug Shipley, Member of Parliament, Carolyn Heads, Past President and Service Officer and Frank Beasley, CD, Past Zone E-4 Commander and Branch Secretary

The Government of Canada provided \$14 million to the Royal Canadian Legion's Dominion Command to allow for the rapid distribution of financial aid to individual branches across the country. Dominion Command was responsible for determining which branches would receive funding.

Organizations receiving these funds will have access to the support they need to replace charitable and other revenue lost because of the pandemic and will be able to continue their work with Veterans and their families during a time when it is needed most.

"I am very pleased to see the delivery of these funds to the Elmvale Legion. Our legions are a community hub for our military members, their families and supporters. They deserve our support. I will continue to advocate for more funding support to ensure they have the means to continue." said Shipley. "A special thank you to the volunteers and staff that dedicate their time and contribute greatly to its success."

"Our branch is very thankful for the support that we have received, not only from our membership, but also our community during the periods of time that we have been impacted by Covid-19 protocols. The Veterans Organization Emergency Support Funding received from the Federal Government will do much to allow us to remain viable over these uncertain open/closing times." said Legion President Graham Simmonds. "We do continue to support our Veterans even though closed and look forward to being able to open again shortly."

For more information, contact Doug Shipley MP
Doug.Shipley@parl.gc.ca or 705-728-2596

Are you congested and achy? Spoon up Grandma's delicious chicken soup!
Chicken is rich in immunity-boosting zinc, and all the veggies deliver hundreds of anti-inflammatory nutrients.
Research shows this ever-so-popular comfort food cuts symptoms by 55%. Even better...have it before bed - women who do drift off 30 minutes sooner and sleep 25% more deeply.

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As always, please refer to our website

www.springwater.library.on.ca

for information, branch updates and our virtual programs. Programs and Videos on Facebook and YouTube (search Springwater Library)



CURBSIDE PICKUP CONTINUES

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

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

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

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM



Due to the current pandemic, our tax program looks a little different this year but through our curbside services as well as email/phone we can help facilitate your contact with the volunteers who run this program. Call the Elmvalle Library at 705 322-1482 during business hours to get set up with this great service.

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

SPRING FREE TAKE AND MAKE



Welcome to Spring by sending a friend this pretty Spring card to assemble. Ask for us to include this simple craft in your curbside pickup bag. Limited quantity, while supplies last.

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

springwater.library.on.ca



SPRING BOREDOM BUSTER BAG

These fun Spring Break bags come in two age groups: Ages 3-6, and 7+ and are only \$10 each! Each bag contains activities, crafts and games for two kids for the whole week.

Limited quantities are available, so reserve and prepay for your bags ahead of time before you pickup. Available March 26th.

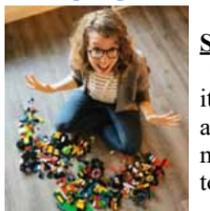
For more information please see our website: www.springwater.library.on.ca



KRAFTING WITH KATHY

Kathy will share an adorable Bug-themed Spring Card craft for the whole family to enjoy. This will be on our Springwater Public Library Facebook page, on our Virtual Programming page and on our YouTube channel on Thursday April 1st. Check out Kathy's other great Krafting videos on our YouTube Channel. Limited craft packages are available on a first come, first serve basis from your local branch. Call or email to reserve your package. For more information: www.springwater.library.on.ca

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



LEGO ANYONE? MONTHLY SERIES

Get the kiddos making lego! It's easy, it's in your house and they could win a lego prize when they watch staff member Amanda's video and then put together a fun creation.

March 18th theme is Dogman.

Be sure to follow us at Facebook to catch our monthly series.

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

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



HAVE FUN WITH MISS AMANDA'S STORYTIME

Miss Amanda will be doing a fun interactive Storytime Program with rhymes, songs and stories. You can find her on our Virtual Programming page and on our YouTube channel.

The next couple of themes for Storytime will be: Movement, and Bunnies. Ask for your free Storytime kit that goes along with her theme of the week.

Limited quantities available.

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



STORM CHASING IN ONTARIO WITH DAVID T CHAPMAN

Advance notice: APRIL 15th, 6:00 pm. ONLINE

Experience the entire life cycle of thunderstorms with this exciting and educational presentation. See how they form and develop into powerful lightning and wind storms. Watch an Ontario Supercell Tornado from start to finish as it cuts a path

Preserving Ontario's Waters

By: Lucy Duncan - Did you know that 1/5 of the world's freshwater is located right here in Ontario? The Great Lakes make up the largest freshwater system on the globe, and provide drinking water to over 40 million people. Here in Canada we are lucky enough to have extensive access to the lakes for drinking water, recreation and industrial use. Yet every day, the lakes are straying further and further from the crystal blue waters we know and love.

In February, the Simcoe County Environmental Youth Alliance (SCEYA) began their Water Initiative. The goal of this campaign was to raise awareness and work to preserve our natural waters, on both a local level and a larger scale. One important aspect of this campaign was Ontario's Great Lakes, which are sustaining more and more damage each year. Preserving the Great Lakes means preserving thousands of species, ecosystems, and waters for drinking, swimming, fishing and more.

The Great Lakes are victims of enormous amounts of pollution. There are more damaging chemicals and plastics in the lakes than ever before, and levels have increased drastically since the 1950s. This pollution poses a threat to the natural wildlife of the lakes, damages important ecosystems, and threatens human health and drinking water supplies. The main sources of this pollution are manufacturing, industry, and agriculture. A great way to help preserve the lakes is to choose to support businesses that use sustainable practices.

It's also incredibly important to discuss that although most Canadians take for granted their water, many of Canada's Indigenous populations do not have access to drinkable water. Several drinking water sources, including many connected to the Great Lakes, are contaminated and unsafe to drink, 73% of water in First Nations communities is at medium to high risk of contamination, and there are currently 59 boil water advisories in place across the country. Despite government promises to lift all advisories by March 2021, several will remain well into the future. We all must speak out to ensure that every person in this country has access to clean water.

If you want to show your support for this campaign and learn more about the world's beautiful waters, follow SCEYA on Instagram @sceyalliance, or contact scenviromentallyouthalliance@gmail.com to become a member.

The main problem in any democracy is that crowd pleasers are generally brainless swine who can go out on a stage and whup their supporters into an orgiastic frenzy -- then go back to the office and sell every one of the poor bastards down the tube for a nickel apiece. -Hunter S. Thompson, journalist and author (18 Jul 1937-2005)

through the countryside near Arthur, Canada as well as two other tornadoes to hit our province. A very powerful presentation explaining the effects storms have in Ontario. This will be followed by a Q & A. with David T. Chapman.

This 1 hour informative session will be done via Zoom. Please call the library to register and a link will be sent to you 2 days before the event. Call 705 322-1482.

Cost: FREE

For more information please see our website:

www.springwater.library.on.ca

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

Check our Springwater Library YOUTUBE channel. This month's STEM video play is on the Science Explorers Kit, and will come out on Friday, March 26th. Many more STEM kits and Videos to view on our YouTube channel **Place a hold on your STEM kit today.**

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

WOW! LOOK WHAT YOU CAN TAKE HOME.

You can now checkout some of our cool new kits.

Bird Watching - includes binoculars, walkie talkies and

books.

Chess Game and Books.

Colour Blind Corrective Glasses - 3 different pairs compliments of PILESTONE in the kit to try.

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

Fidget Toys - includes lots of great boredom buster toys.

Getting Ready to Read, Beginning to Read & Reading Independently kits. **Light Therapy Lamp** - provides full spectrum light to help you get through winter.

Night Sky - includes telescope, attachments and books.

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

Science Explorers - includes microscope, accessories and books.

Sewing Machine with intro book.

Snow Shoes - Adult and kid sizes.

Trekking Poles to help with balance and fitness.

Youth Guitar includes beginner book, strap, case and picks.

Be sure to place a hold on a kit today!

Ask for you free Storytime Kit. Limited quantities.

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

Elmvalle BIA Business Highlights



It's going to be amazing... Stay tuned for more details

Save the Date - July 17, 2022

Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks about this year's Virtual Sci Fi Fantasy Masquerade So many fun things are being planned....

- costume contests
- art contests
- poetry and writing contests
- amazing panelists coming to our virtual event - live!
- work shops

And so much more....!! July 17th

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ELMVALE BIA BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

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Next BIA Monthly Meeting
THURSDAY, MARCH 18th
5:30 PM
 Email marketing@elmvallebia.ca for ZOOM link and password

-- Avoid Joint-Pain Flares --
 Stretch, Stretch, Stretch! Keeping your muscles and ligaments flexible by regularly stretching your back and legs will reduce your joint pain by 45% in six weeks!
 Tip: Sit on the floor with your legs extended. With hands on your shins, gently pull yourself forward. Hold for 30 seconds and release. Repeat three times daily. Daily stretching could cut your risk of stiffness and joint pain by 67%.
 Coconut Massages: Coconut oil contains a rare group of healing compounds called medium-chain fatty acids (MCFAs). These absorb easily through the skin. When MCFAs get into your tissues, they block the production of pain triggering hormones called prostaglandins.
 Tip: Gently massaging tender joints with a dab of coconut oil for at least two minutes twice daily could cut pain and stiffness by as much as 53% in three days.
 Sip Mango Smoothies...Yum! Mangoes contain an orange pigment that cuts joint stiffness and pain by 46% if you enjoy three cups weekly. The colorful nutrient known as betacarotaxanthin, is a natural, side effect-free anti-inflammatory and pain killer!
 Tip: Frozen mangos work just as well as fresh ones!

Mayor Don's Update



March 18 – Springwater News Congratulations and Thank You

We are most pleased and proud to congratulate our Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Jeff Schmidt on his recent award by the Ontario Municipal Administrators' Association (OMAA). Jeff has been recognized by his peers with a special OMAA achievement award for his commitment to the Simcoe Muskoka CAOs and District Health Unit Team in responding to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic with exemplary leadership, innovation, and professionalism. Jeff was humble as usual in receiving congratulations for this and emphasized the hard work and dedication of Township staff over the past year contributed to his winning this award. Great work and thank you ALL for your contributions and making Springwater great.

COVID Vaccines

There has been a lot of information coming out about vaccines lately and the number one question on everyone's mind seems to be, when will I get one?

The province has launched a new online booking system to help people schedule their appointments. Currently, anyone **over the age of 80 is able to book an appointment online**. To book an appointment you will need a green photo health (OHIP) card, an email address and an updated web browser. To book your online appointment visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>. Eligible residents are also able to call 1-888-999-6488 to register. If you are not 80+ please avoid accessing the online booking portal or call desk to allow those that are eligible the opportunity to book an appointment.

Primary care physicians in Simcoe-Muskoka will also be contacting anyone aged 60-64 years of age to book an appointment. These recipients will receive the Astra-Zeneca vaccine. This vaccine is not recommended for anyone over the age of 65 and that is why the age category of 60-64 was selected.

For the month of March, Ontario is expecting to receive 870,480 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 483,700 doses of the Moderna vaccine. Ontario also received 194,500 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine the week of March 8.

Last week Prime Minister Trudeau announced that increased shipments of Pfizer are expected in the coming months, with 1 million doses of the vaccine being delivered each week from March 22 – May 10. These numbers do not include any vaccines from Moderna, Johnson and Johnson or Astra Zeneca. This expedited delivery schedule is welcomed news, as more vaccines become available, additional appointments can be booked and further eligibility will open up. It is expected that some Phase 2 recipients will be able to register for their vaccine appointment beginning in April.

Cannabis Production Facility Review Study

WSP Group were retained by the Township to do this study and their final report came to Council this week. This is a culmination of notification, studies, a public survey and draft report presentation which occurred throughout 2020. On June 3, 2020, Township Council initiated an Interim Control By-law (ICBL) which placed a 1-year temporary moratorium on the establishment of new Cannabis Production Facilities within Springwater. The purpose of the ICBL was to provide the municipality with time to review land use matters associated with cannabis production facilities and to prepare a recommendation report to guide future planning processes/policy.

Staff are recommending that the Cannabis Production Review Study ("Study") prepared by WSP Group be received by Council and that staff be directed to initiate a process to amend the Township Official Plan, Zoning By-law and Site Plan Control By-law in line with the findings of the Cannabis Study over the coming months. The process will require public meetings as per the statutory requirements of the Ontario Planning Act.

The recommendations of the Study include:

Official Plan Amendment

Cannabis cultivation and processing should be defined and considered as an agricultural use. I do not agree with this and feel that Springwater needs more control over where cannabis production occurs. Oro-Medonte is working to permit it in only Economic Development and Rural Industrial Zones and has further specified that "An Agricultural Use (Specialized) does not include a Cannabis Production and Processing Facility or outdoor growing of Cannabis". This is currently being reviewed



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L0L 1P0 Fax: 322-4458

by them with the Local Planning Appeal tribunal (LPAT). Barrie currently permits a cannabis production facility only within its General Industrial Zones. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs considers cannabis as an agricultural crop but the Provincial Policy states that "Agricultural Resources are to be managed for food and fibre production" and cannabis is neither of these. Although the Study claims that some of the municipalities they reviewed regard cannabis cultivation as an agricultural use, some don't. I believe doing something similar to Oro-Medonte or Barrie would provide more control over ensuring that undesirable results do not occur with cannabis production.

Indoor cultivation could be permitted as an industrial or agricultural use. Should it be permitted indoors as an industrial use, the facility would need to accommodate a smaller yield and include the processing of everything grown on-site. This should also be determined on a case-by-case basis, through a rezoning, which gives the Township control over where facilities may be permitted as an industrial use.

Cannabis processing independent from any growing operation should be defined and considered as an industrial use. Complete application requirements should be updated, as needed and applicable, to require details relating to lighting, fencing and security, and odour control/ventilation to address nuisance issues, which are atypical of an agricultural use. These uses should be subject to site plan control to mitigate the potential non-agricultural issues like lighting and fencing.

Official Plan Amendment

New definitions related to Cannabis cultivation and processing should be added to the Zoning By-law.

Cannabis cultivation and processing should not be permitted as-of-right in Industrial zones; however, it may be considered on a case-by-case basis through a rezoning depending on the scope and scale of the proposed facility.

Cannabis cultivation should be permitted as-of-right in the Agricultural Zone and processing should be permitted as-of-right in the Agricultural Zone provided it is associated with cultivation. Again, I do not agree with this for the reasons stated above and feel there should be designation in only Economic Development and Rural Industrial Zones. If there is required adjustment to zoning, that can be accommodated in the Official Plan Review presently ongoing.

Specific lot and building requirements, such as minimum lot area, setbacks, separation distances, security, fencing, parking, and loading spaces specific to Cannabis facilities are recommended.

New and Existing By-laws

Nuisance By-law to regulate potential odour, light or noise impacts of existing facilities and establish penalties for non-compliance. It is within the authority of a municipality to enforce such a by-law for legally licensed cannabis facilities.

Property Standards By-law is another option to address the issues of odour, light or noise impacts.

Amend existing Site Plan Control By-law to introduce provisions that would address issues that are specific to all new cannabis production facilities, which are generally atypical of an agricultural use, including, lighting, fencing, landscaping, and location of certain infrastructure, as needed, associated within these facilities.

Amend existing Site Plan Control By-law to apply to Cannabis production facilities within the agreed upon zones.

Staff will seek to prepare amendments to the Township Official Plan, Zoning By-law and Site Plan Control By-law as well as schedule a Statutory Public Meeting prior to the June 3, 2021 Interim Control By-law (ICBL) lapse date.

Hillsdale Intersection Pedestrian Signal and Yonge Street Pedestrian Crossover

In 2020, Council approved the installation of an



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Intersection Pedestrian Signal (IPS) in Hillsdale at the intersection of Albert Street and Highway 93, as well as a Pedestrian Crossover (PXO) for Yonge Street North at George Street in Elmvale. These locations were proposed due to residents voicing concerns regarding crossing safely at these intersections.

At the March 17 meeting, Council will receive a report recommending the tender be awarded to Guild Electric Limited in the amount of \$222,569.22 including HST. The approved 2021 Capital Budget includes funds to cover these projects.

Small Business Webinars

Dimensions of Diversity: Keys to Building a Thriving Workforce

On March 24 from 8:30-10:30 a.m., the County of Simcoe will be hosting Dimensions of Diversity: Keys to Building a Thriving Workforce, a virtual event highlighting how cultural awareness and diversity helps enrich workplaces, increases productivity, and attracts and retains talent.

Participants will learn practical tips and gain new insights on how workplaces can effectively leverage the dimensions of diversity.

This is a free event, however pre-registration is required. To register, visit <https://keystobuildingathrivingworkforce.eventbrite.ca>

Ask an Expert: Navigating the 2021 Tax Season

Navigating the 2021 tax season may be more complicated for many small businesses and employed and self-employed individuals that had had to pivot employment, shut down for periods of time, or alter operations in 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. There may also be different forms of income for 2020 depending on subsidies received.

On March 25th, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., the "Ask an Expert" webinar series invites interested parties to join Allen Lloyd, Tax Advisor, Consultant and founder of Lloyd Management Services (LMS) for a free virtual webinar that will help individuals and small businesses prepare to file a tax return.

This is a free event, however pre-registration is required. To register, visit https://askanexpert_2021taxes.eventbrite.ca

These are my views and not necessarily those of other Council members.

Stay well.




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1976	April 3rd	1993	April 26th	2007	April 22nd
1980	April 8th	1994	April 19th	2008	April 19th
1981	April 2nd	1995	April 12th	2009	April 11th
1982	April 20th	1996	April 20th	2010	April 4th
1983	April 13th	1997	April 27th	2011	April 11th
1984	April 6th	1998	April 3rd	2012	March 22nd
1985	April 8th	1999	April 6th	2013	April 18th
1986	April 15th	2000	March 25th	2014	April 29th
1987	April 16th	2001	April 19th	2015	April 19th
1988	April 18th	2002	April 12th	2016	April 1st
1989	April 26th	2003	April 21st	2017	April 9th
1990	April 20th	2004	April 16th	2018	May 3rd
1991	April 7th	2005	April 20th	2019	April 24th
1992	April 29th	2006	April 12th		



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The OPP Report - Scams

OPP REPORTS COLLISIONS DOWN, TRAFFIC FATALITIES UP IN 2020 Date March 15, 2021

(ORILLIA, ON) - The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is releasing its 2020 collision and fatality data, noting historic highs in deaths among some vehicle user classes.

During an unprecedented year that saw a significant reduction in traffic on OPP-patrolled roads, collisions in 2020 resulted in a higher fatality rate than in the previous year. Of note is that there were 26 per cent fewer collisions in 2020, but the fatality rate was 22 per cent higher when compared to 2019 collisions.

2019	2020
------	------

Fatal Road Collisions: 304	Fatal Road Collisions: 285
Fatalities: 335	Fatalities: 305
Total # Collisions: 75,128	Total # Collisions: 55,581

A significant number of the fatalities were preventable and attributed to careless and dangerous driving behaviours. Among the deaths, 62 were linked to speed, 51 to alcohol/drug use and 45 to driver inattention. Lack of seat belt use contributed to 55 driver/passenger deaths.

Transport trucks (or other commercial vehicles) were involved in 6,145 of last year's collisions.

Forty-two (42) motorcyclists were killed, marking a sharp increase over the 27 deaths in 2019. Failing to yield right-of-way and excessive speed were leading factors. In 37 of the incidents, no other vehicles were involved, underscoring the fact that motorcyclists are vulnerable road users who cannot afford to take any unnecessary risks.

Marine fatalities reached a 12-year high and were almost double over 2019, with 32 people killed in boating incidents. Capsized vessels (17) and falling overboard (12) were leading primary causes, with paddlers accounting for half of those who died. As is the case every year, the majority of the deceased (29) were found not wearing a life jacket - a simple measure that could have significantly reduced the number of deaths.

Last year's 23 off-road vehicle fatalities marked the highest number of deaths in 14 years. Eight (8) of those who died were not wearing a helmet. Four (4) of the riders were wearing a helmet, but with the chin strap unfastened. Alcohol/drugs was a factor in approximately one third of the deaths.

The OPP has responded to 15 snowmobile fatalities so far this season, surpassing the 13 deaths during the 2019/20 season. Driving too fast for the conditions was a factor in half of the fatalities. The OPP is reminding snowmobilers to avoid riding on frozen waterways, especially this late in the season. To date, three (3) people have died after their snowmobiles broke through the ice or were driven into open water.

The OPP is reminding Ontarians that safe, defensive driving and full compliance with traffic laws while operating any type of motor vehicle or marine vessel is the only way to significantly reduce the number of preventable deaths.

The OPP remains committed to saving lives on roads, waterways and trails through targeted enforcement and education on traffic laws that are designed to keep people safe.

Midland Commercial Building Damaged after being Struck by Recycling Truck

Members of the Southern Georgian Bay detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were dispatched at 7:50 a.m. March 12, 2021 to a report of a large truck that had struck a commercial building at 6:45 a.m. earlier that morning. Officers along with members of the Town of Midland Fire Service attended the scene on the north east corner of Hugel Avenue at Borsa Lane where a recycling truck was resting against the front exterior wall of the commercial building. Investigators along with an OPP Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector are looking into how and why the vehicle picking up recycling products reversed while unattended from Borsa Lane on the south side of Hugel Avenue then crashed into the commercial building on north side of Hugel Avenue.

Building Inspectors and Bylaw officers from the Town of Midland are also at the scene assisting with the investigation and setting up a safety perimeter around the building which sustained significant structural damage from the crash. Borsa Lane between Hugel and Dominion Avenues was closed to pedestrian and vehicular traffic and remained closed until the structural integrity of the building could be fully checked. No injuries were reported as a result of this crash which remains under investigation.

OPP WARNING OF FRAUD SCAM AIMED AT SENIORS

On Thursday, March 11, 2021, members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a fraud call involving a senior who has fallen victim to an on-going fraud scam.

The senior was contacted through email advising that his Amazon account had been compromised. To rectify

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the issue, he was instructed to purchase gift cards in large denominations. He was advised to send photos of the card numbers after he purchased them. In this particular incident, a diligent cashier called Police to report the suspicious transaction. Police were able to locate the male prior to the gif card information being passed on to the suspects, who remained on the telephone with the senior throughout the entire transaction.

March is Fraud Prevention Month, and as such, the Nottawasaga Detachment will be continuing to deliver fraud awareness presentations utilizing our Virtual Studio. Seniors are among the most vulnerable population groups in Ontario to be targeted or victimized by criminals perpetrating various fraudulent activities or schemes.

The aim of the presentations is to provide information to local residents to create a greater level of understanding and awareness of how the various schemes are targeted towards seniors. During the presentations, officers provide a basic overview of the various fraud schemes, valuable fraud prevention tips, and numerous resources that are available in the event that one falls victim. Officers engage with the attendees by answering any questions that may arise during the presentation.

If your community group or organization would like a presentation on fraud and cybercrime prevention, please contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 705-434-1939, and ask to speak with a Community Safety Officer.

Knowledge is power. All consumers - regardless of age - can take basic steps to better protect themselves from becoming victims of fraud. The OPP recommends that those who have aging relatives, or who are involved with seniors either for employment purposes or as community members, be familiar with a valuable resource, "The Little Black Book of Scams, which is available at <https://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/04333.html>. The book is available in various languages and has a printer-friendly version.

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or report online at <http://www.antifraudcentre.ca>.

21 NEW OFFICERS HAVE JOINED COMMUNITIES ACROSS CENTRAL REGION

Twenty-one new Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have joined communities across Central Region after graduating from the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ontario, and attending the Ontario Provincial Police Academy in Orillia last month.

The officers received demanding training and skills needed to protect the communities they are sworn to serve. They bring diverse life and work experiences, professionalism and compassion that will greatly assist the officers with building community connections, and serving the public.

Central Region members of the OPP provide police services from 13 detachments across the Region. All of the detachments remain heavily engaged in strengthening partnerships with community groups and leaders.

The newest Provincial Constables have been deployed to the following OPP Central Region Detachments:

- Caledon (eight);
- Huronia West (six);
- Orillia (three);
- Southern Georgian Bay (two);
- City of Kawartha Lakes (one);
- Northumberland (one).



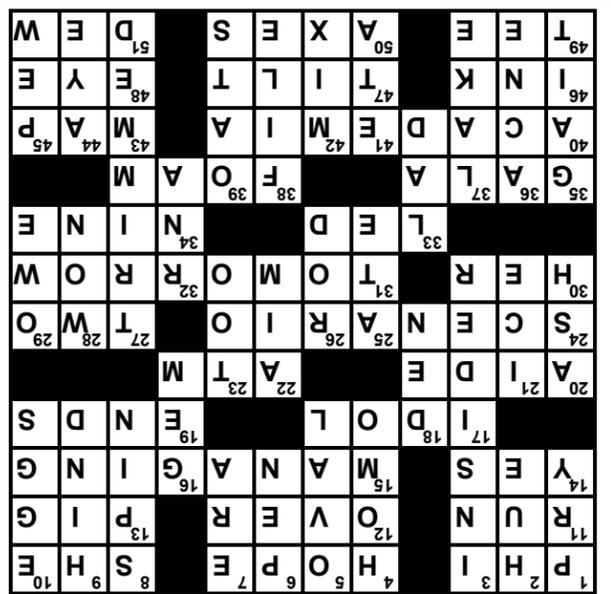
"Professionalism, fairness and respect are all integral components of policing that our new officers have already demonstrated throughout their training. The officers are eager to be joining their local communities to make positive and tangible impact on the community safety and well-being. On behalf of Central Region, I would like to welcome the officers to our police family and wish them a safe and positive career serving our communities with honour and pride!"

- Chief Superintendent Dwight Peer, Central Region, Ontario Provincial Police.

The OPP actively recruits and interviews potential candidates throughout the year for placement in one of three intakes annually at the Ontario Police College. Upon successful completion of the Recruitment Process, each Provincial Constable recruit must successfully complete the required training programs at both the Provincial Police Academy and the Ontario Police College. For more information on the OPP hiring process, visit www.opp.ca/careers.

Orillia OPP Seek Public Assistance in Theft of Construction Equipment

(ORILLIA, ON) - The Orillia detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is looking for the assistance of the



public for information regarding the theft of construction equipment in the Township of Severn.

On March 06, 2021, between 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. a male driving a white Ford F350 cut the lock on a fenced compound behind a business on Antonio Court, Severn. The male then drove into the compound, attached a trailer to his truck which contained a Bobcat excavator and drove away. The theft was discovered on March 08, 2021 and surveillance footage was reviewed by officers.

The suspect is described as:

- White with short red hair

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

Policy For Protection By Avery Murrell

Canada is not immune to the effects of climate change. In fact, Canada's largest industry contributes to it: oil and gas.

According to the Government of Canada, greenhouse gas emissions rose 20.9% between 1990 and 2018, brought on by the increase of emissions produced by the production and transportation of oil and gas.

But what does this all mean?

To begin, greenhouse gases trap heat from the Sun within the Earth's atmosphere and have led to the greenhouse effect, through which the heat trapped inside Earth's atmosphere warms the Earth's surface. Since the Industrial Revolution, the world's rate of greenhouse gass emissions has increased exponentially, causing a rise in ocean temperatures and levels, global temperatures, and natural disasters.

So, what does Canada's oil and gas industry have to do with this? A lot. Canada's oil comes primarily from the Alberta tar sands, and tar sand mining releases greenhouse gas emissions upon extraction. They also produce toxic tailings, which have been seeping into Canadian rivers, lakes, and impacting surrounding life for decades. The extraction of oil requires large quantities of water, which has been drawn from the Athabasca River in Alberta, but the lack of regulations surrounding withdrawal rates has allowed tar sand developers to continuously draw water until the river can no longer support its surrounding ecosystems. Transporting the oil has created the need for oil pipelines, which cut through thousands of kilometres of Canadian wilderness, destroying it during its construction, and put the land further at risk of oil spills, which are nearly impossible to clean up. The lack of oversight of provincial regulations has allowed companies to economically benefit from land that is held sacred and depended upon by both people and animals. Even more shocking is that 70% of these companies are owned by foreign companies, and they continue to ignore governmental regulations for their own profits.

First Nations in Canada are currently fighting to stop these excessive industrial projects from expanding and destroying more of Canada's natural and beautiful land. The cultural heritage, land, ecosystems, and health of countless First Nations communities are being sacrificed for the growth of the economy, yet expansion continues to devastate these lands.

How does this impact climate change?

Greenhouse gas emissions contribute to melting permafrost, which is irreversible. Permafrost is rock or soil that has been at or below 0 degrees Celsius for two or more years and it covers 50% of Canada, meaning that when it melts, we quickly see the visible effects on ecology, hydrology, and northern communities in Canada. Permafrost has trapped carbon within its ice for centuries, but if even a fraction of it melts, more greenhouse gases would be emitted and scientists warn that the impacts of climate change we already experience would continue at a more rapidly disastrous rate.

So what can you do?

There are a number of activities, big and small, that you can do to prevent climate change. Call your local, provincial and federal government and demand change and policy to create stricter regulations and be persistent. Invest in energy-efficient appliances, carpool, use less plastic, but ultimately change will happen when policy happens, so use your voice to demand justice. The planet has been screaming for help and it's beyond time we listen.

When a Girl has an Eating Disorder

It is extremely challenging for friends and family members to watch a loved one caught in the trap of obsessive behaviors that surround eating disorders. There may be an obsession with exercise, weight or with the calorie count or fat content of foods. There may be guilt about food eaten, or the victim may set up a competition within herself to eat less than the day before.

When people become concerned and comment about how little is being eaten, or how much weight is being lost, this is interpreted as success. The young woman feels that her attempts to control diet and weight are working, because others are noticing. Being described as too skinny is music to her ears. All the while, though, she most often will deny that there is an eating disorder, saying that she's just not hungry.

After a while those wanting to help become angry and frustrated, because they know there is a problem, but they are being blocked from talking about it. Parents will sometimes begin to monitor what is eaten or try to force their daughter to eat. This increases her anxiety and guilt about eating. She now must redouble her efforts to lose weight and to compensate for whatever she was forced to eat. This might begin the cycle of bulimia, where she will eat, but throw up immediately afterwards. Or she might double her exercise time in order to burn more calories.

As she goes deeper into the disorder, and continues to lose weight, loved ones begin to panic. They strengthen their efforts to intervene, and the more they do, the more the girl resists. A vicious cycle is underway.

There are no pat answers as to how to handle this situation. If the child is young, parental control may be the answer to stopping the problem before it gets worse. A visit to the doctor to validate the seriousness of the situation may be all it takes. If the girl is older, the most one can do is to tell her directly that you are concerned about an eating disorder. You may ask that she go with you to the doctor or a psychologist to discuss your concern, after which you will leave the issue to her and the doctor. There are also groups for people with eating disorders.

However, she may resist all help, because the bottom line is that getting well means eating properly and gaining a few pounds. That thought terrifies her. Until she is ready to acknowledge the problem, everyone who cares feels totally helpless. You can tell her that you are there to support her, and whenever she is ready to deal with the problem you will help in any way that you can.

If the problem gets out of control, she will end up with the doctor anyway, or even in hospital. Continue to let her know she is loved. Do not judge her. Do not pressure her. Tell her that it is hard to watch her like this, and that you do not want to make it worse. Ask what you can do to help.

If she does not want your help, you must honor that. You just do not get into a power struggle with someone with an eating disorder. If it starts to drive you crazy, you must get help and support for yourself, so you can cope with one of the most difficult situations a parent can face

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.

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Long-term care homes seeking donations to support virtual programming and engagement

Midhurst/March 15, 2021 – The COVID-19 pandemic has forced staff in long-term care and seniors services to reinvent how they connect, and provide programming and support to residents and families. To assist with these changes, County of Simcoe Long-term Care and Seniors Services homes are seeking donations from the community to support with virtual programming and engagement for residents.

Just a year ago, community groups and volunteers would come into the homes to provide various services such as entertainment, spiritual programming, and social interactions. With the enhanced safety measures put in place to protect our vulnerable seniors, staff have embraced technology, including SMART TVs and tablets, as a way to continue to connect with residents, both one-on-one and in small groups and also to connect residents with the world. Many volunteers have continued to engage with residents, taking them along for virtual dog walks, cooking classes or sing-alongs.

“With the enhancements in technology, SMART TVs and tablets allow residents to engage with the world beyond our doors,” said Jane Sinclair, General Manager, Health and Emergency Services. “By using video chat applications like Skype and FaceTime, residents can see and speak with a family member across the world or a friend in the next room. They can also read the news, watch movies, or enjoy games, or take part in spiritual services, and volunteer programs from the comfort and safety of their own rooms, helping to keep them connected even when we can't all be together.”

The County's homes are seeking donations of SMART TVs (preferably 40" or greater to assist with visual challenges) and tablets. The homes will also gladly accept radios with AM/FM (large font), or old iPods or MP3 players that can be used as part of their Mind and Melody Program.

For more information or to make a donation, please contact the home directly at:

- Christina Thorpe, Georgian Manor, Penetanguishene, 705-549-3166
- Rosa Athanassoulis, Simcoe Manor, Beeton, 905-729-2267
- Jenn Baulke, Sunset Manor, Collingwood, 705-445-4499
- Crystal Rosewell, Trillium Manor, Orillia, 705-325-1504

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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Rosie's Devotions

Snow Tracks

I was looking out our living room window the other day and watched as the snow fell gently to the ground, covering the path below with a white soft blanket. Millions of tiny diamonds sparkled on the snow's surface as the sun shone down on this white blanket.

As I gazed at this fantasy that lay before me, I noticed various tracks in the snow. One set of tracks was made by a rabbit, another by a black squirrel, and there was still another set that I couldn't make out. Paths of tracks leading somewhere, and I wondered where they led. Were these tracks made by the animal perhaps searching for food, or were they made by the animal going back to its individual home to keep warm? The path was known only to the animal and its Creator.

In the same way, the paths that we take are known only to us and our Creator. Paths direct us to whatever choices we make. Sometimes we make a good choice, which leads to success; sometimes we make a choice that leads to a disappointment, a failure, or a loss. Yet, all our paths and choices are known by God and allowed by Him. He is with us in whatever path we choose.

Proverbs 16:9 – The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps. (NASB)

Matthew 28:20b – And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (NASB)

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for walking with us as we venture into the unknown by the choices that we make. You already know the consequences that our choices will bring into effect, sometimes good and sometimes bad. Yet in whatever circumstance in which we find ourselves, You are there with us, in all things, always.

Rosemary Hagedorn Midland, Ontario.

rosyhagedorn@gmail.com



"CANADA" IS AN IROQUOIAN LANGUAGE WORD MEANING "VILLAGE."

If you think about how often you go out, order delivery, and throw away leftovers, it's clear where most of our wasteful spending is going: food.

Americans' excess spending on food doesn't just come from eating out at restaurants, but from "convenience packaging" purchases, and actually throwing out or wasting the food we purchase from the grocery store. In all, there are potentially thousands of dollars to be saved every year by changing our consumption habits.

The study says, "the majority of Americans say they waste money on unnecessary expenses: too many restaurant meals, wasted groceries, and credit card interest charges."

According to the study, "One fewer restaurant meal per week can save over \$600 a year."

Interestingly enough; the next biggest expenditure after food? Alcohol! Maybe skip that martini or whiskey sour before dinner. It's better for you anyway.

The theory of democratic government is not that the will of the people is always right, but rather that normal human beings of average intelligence will, if given a chance, learn the right and best course by bitter experience. -W.E.B. Du Bois writer (23 Feb 1868-1963)

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Simcoe County Honduras Rights Monitor Report: March 18, 2021

The Importance of Springwater News to our Community: The Voice of our People

Ever since Edwin Espinal, spouse of Karen Spring of Elmvalle, was arrested in January of 2018, the Simcoe County Honduras Rights Monitor (SCHRM) has reported bi-weekly in the Springwater News. Springwater News has been our voice. We have covered the stories of Edwin and fellow political prisoner Raul Alvarez and the ongoing issues that Hondurans face politically, economically, socially, and personally. We have related what is happening in Honduras to Canada, the role that our government plays in Honduras, and the role the United States assumes in this Central American country. Without Springwater News, which is delivered free to over 18,000 homes and businesses every two weeks, our story would not be heard.

Like the SCHRM, many other Springwater community groups and individuals have the opportunity to report on the important issues that are occurring in our town of Elmvalle and surrounding areas. Personal stories bring people together to rally everyone to the front lines. A wonderful example is the recent story of the Junior Farmers' 50/50 draw that was organized in honour of Josh Parnell to give support to the Parnell family. This brandished the front page of Springwater News.



Currently there are approximately 1000 print community newspapers in Canada. As a small area, we are so fortunate to be one of those communities with this media support. Springwater News circulates in our community; the newspaper also appears worldwide. See the photo of our Canadian delegation holding a copy of Springwater News in La Esperanza Honduras.

We are fortunate to have our local municipal representatives on Springwater Council who understand the significance of Springwater News to its readers. Support from federally and provincially elected officials for our community paper is also greatly appreciated.

We appreciate the paper's owner and editor Michael Jacobs who understands the importance of community. He writes, "If you or someone you know would like to write anything, whether it be an article, an opinion or something about your community, please do so. All contributions are gladly accepted." This welcoming message by Jacobs inspires many residents to contribute and most certainly builds community spirit and organization which is essential for a healthy society!

Primary Elections in Honduras: Candidate Raul Alvarez: Running for Congress in a Corrupt Country

The SCHRM is very proud of Raul Alvarez who is running for a seat in the Honduran Congress. Edwin and Raul first met in La Tolva prison where they both spent 19 months in horrific conditions. As they were both labeled 'political prisoners,' they spent a lot of time together for friendship and support as they were incarcerated with many violent, desperate prisoners. Raul was only 27 years old and Edwin 12 years his senior. Edwin mentored him, trying to keep his spirits up and to remain positive as the 19 months were very difficult and dangerous.

Raul and Edwin are very community oriented and both assist those who are in trouble and need support. Both men are involved in the community food programs that are supported by Springwater readers. Raul has decided to enter the political scene to bring attention to the corruption that exists in the government and to fight for the Honduran people. He is running as a pre-candidate for a seat in

Congress to represent the Libre Party for his area of Francisco Morazan.

Running for congress in the electoral primaries that was held this past weekend, is a very dangerous undertaking. In the context of the primary elections where candidates announced their running, there have been over 16 acts of violence against pre-candidates and their family members. Political violence escalates during this time. Raul is one of these statistics; he was brutally attacked in his neighbourhood in early February, suffering severe knife injuries that has left him blind on one eye; he has restricted movement in his hand and leg. Despite the fact that Raul reported this

to the police, video cameras captured the attack, and witnesses provided the attacker's name, nothing has been investigated. This demonstrates the failure of the judicial system in Honduras where police powers arbitrarily investigate some cases to move forward and others not.

Running for political office is difficult for someone who doesn't have access to large amounts of money. Raul is up against those who are supported by drug cartels and corrupt networks inside the electoral system. With widespread corruption in the political arena in Honduras, someone like Raul must be an entrepreneur, become well-known by attending and speaking at as many events as possible. The pandemic however has made this difficult. So, Raul must build a strong profile on social media yet continually keep his eye open for danger. It is a very difficult position to be in yet with Raul's enthusiasm and drive to make change in Honduras, the SCHRM believes he will be successful in politics in future. Yet there often is no hope for many candidates due to the lack of a democratic process.

Update from Karen Spring: Live Report from New York Courtroom

Karen Spring sends her greetings to Springwater News readers from New York City. After traveling to NY from Tegucigalpa Honduras on March 5th, quarantining for 4 days, and two negative COVID-19 tests, she has been attending the trial of Honduran businessperson in the drug trafficking sector, Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez. This is a very important trial as there is evidence coming out this week that further implicates President Juan Orlando Hernandez in cocaine trafficking. New York Times, Reuters, and Associated Press will be attending, as they are not interested specifically in the Ramirez case, but will report on most damning evidence that is expected to come regarding Juan Orlando Hernandez. Court documents confirm that Ramirez and Hernandez were business partners in trafficking cocaine. Large shipments were produced in Honduran labs then delivered to US drug markets.

Karen is representing the Honduras Solidarity Network, reporting daily on the trial. Refer to aquiabajo.com for these detailed reports. SCHRM will provide further details on the Ramirez case in our next article.

November Hurricanes Continue to Impact Lives of Women and Children in Honduras



According to Canadian journalist Sandra Cuffe, the plight of women and children in Central America is dire. Interviewing women living under a highway bridge, she recounts how women and girls have limited to no access to healthcare. Food is scarce as they live in makeshift tents under the busy highway. See attached photo of a makeshift community, courtesy of Jose Cabezas (Reuters).

With the devastating effects of the hurricane on top of the pandemic and having lost everything, they must rely on donations and the help of others living in the same situation. High winds and water levels damaged or destroyed over 400 health clinics leaving "an estimated two million people with limited or no access to healthcare."

Cuffe reports that food insecurity causes health issues in young children. According to the World Food Program (WFP), it "increases risks of cognitive development, as well as physical and mental health problems. During pregnancy, food insecurity has been connected to low birth weight, iron deficiency, and gestational diabetes." For further information, refer to Cuffe's article found at: <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2021/3/9/central-america-women-and-girls-bear-brunt-storm-aftermath>.

The SCHRM continues to support food programs in Tegucigalpa and in the hardest hit areas of El Progreso, southeast of San Pedro Sula. If you wish to donate to this program, please contact us at: janetspring@gmail.com or 705-734-4238. This donation will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Springwater News for allowing us the



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Community feedback wanted on additional supervised consumption site locations

BARRIE – The Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) Selection Advisory Committee has added new sites to the existing options for an SCS in Barrie and is currently looking for community feedback on these additional proposed sites. An expanded search for additional potential sites was undertaken based upon consideration of feedback received from the consultation process to date. After the additional search process and a scoring exercise of the site location options, three new locations were identified for a future SCS.

People who live, work, own a business or go to school in Barrie are invited to offer their opinion on the newly proposed SCS locations, 11 Sophia St. W., 80 Bradford St. Unit 940, and 192 Bradford St. by filling out an online survey at www.smdhuorg/SCS. The survey is open from March 10 to March 31, 2021. To request a paper copy of the survey be mailed to you call 1-877-721-7520 ext. 7333 and leave a voice mail.

The survey, which is voluntary and anonymous, is one part of public consultations on a proposed SCS in downtown Barrie as a service for people who use drugs. In April, virtual neighbourhood consultations will also be offered for addresses of people who live, work or own a business nearby the potential site locations. More information about these sessions will be released in the coming weeks.

Between January and mid-September 2020 there were 94 confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths in Simcoe Muskoka, 47 of which were in the City of Barrie. The rate in Barrie was twice as high for this time period in 2020 to date compared to the average of 2017- 2019.

"Opioid use, addiction and overdose continue to be an urgent and complex problem in Barrie and the application for an SCS remains a high priority for our two organizations," said Dr. Lisa Simon, Associate Medical Officer of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, which will be the co-applicant for the SCS along with the Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe Branch, as the lead applicant.

Supervised consumption sites (SCS) help save lives and create safer communities. They provide a safe and clean space for people to use their own drugs under the care of nursing staff. They can connect clients to treatment for addictions and mental illness, and other health and social services.

"The Supervised Consumption Site will provide a safe and compassionate space to reconnect our most vulnerable citizens with society and much needed health and social services. We look forward to hearing your voices about where to make this happen," said Dr. Valerie Grdisa, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Mental Health Association, Simcoe County Branch.

The application for a SCS is part of the Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy's (SMOS) Action Plan. SMOS is a large partnership of agencies, organizations and individuals working to address the crisis of opioid use and overdose in the region. For more information on the [SMOS Action Plan](http://www.preventod.ca) and related work, visit www.preventod.ca

For more information on SCSs, including the local SCS application history and the recent work of the Advisory committee, visit www.smdhuorg/SCS.



platform to apprise our community of the dire food shortage situation in Honduras. And thank you to those who have donated to the food program so far! To date we have sent over \$13,000 to grassroots organizations to help those in need.

Janet Spring, Kate Harries, and Christine Nugent for the Simcoe County Honduras Rights Monitor Committee

Thanks to Elmvale & Community

Who would have imagined a year ago that our world would be knocked on its rear by something generated thousands of miles away. Who would have imagined a year ago that so many of us would have to stay at home to keep ourselves safe, that so many lives would be taken, jobs and livelihoods would be put in jeopardy, schools would close and on-line learning begin. Who would have imagined that during this year we could not come together to worship in church or gather as families to rejoice in the birth of a grandbaby, grieve the death of a loved one or eat together at Christmas, Easter or Thanksgiving. That we would not be able to celebrate and showcase our community at Maple Syrup Festivals, skating carnivals, hockey and ball games and the Fall Fair and so much more.

The residents of Elmvale and the surrounding community have been diligent in keeping themselves, their families and their neighbours safe by staying home and adhering to the safety regulations set down by the health officials. Stores that could open initiated measures to keep us safe. Our nursing home staff has worked hard to keep themselves and the residents healthy. We have all worked together.

Elmvale Presbyterian Church would like to honour and thank Elmvale and community residents for their diligence by offering a FREE Easter dinner on Sunday April 4th.

It will be take-out and all safety protocol will be observed.

Orders can be phoned to 705-322-1411 between 9 am and 4 pm Monday March 29th.

Your order can be picked up between 11:45 and 12:00 pm on Sunday Apr. 4th at the East side of the church, 22 Queen St E. Delivery in town only.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Easter blessings to you all!

Immementoria

Joe Cobbett - June 21, 1941 - March 11, 1996

25 Years - Where have they gone?

Forever in our Hearts.

We will never stop missing you.

Lorraine, Ron, Jolene, Karen and Families

In loving memory of Clara (Graham) Ritchie

a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, who passed away 10 years ago on March 21st, 2011.

*If we could have a lifetime wish
and one dream that could come true
We would pray to God with all our
hearts just to see and speak to you
A thousand words won't bring you back
We know because we've tried
and neither will a million tears
We know because we've cried
You have left behind our broken hearts
and precious memories too
But we've never wanted memories
We only wanted you*

Always loved and remembered by Bob, Allan & Jennifer, Sherry & Tony, Anne & John, Penny and her many loved Grandchildren, & Great Grandchildren.

TOMPKINS, Thomas Robert (Bob)

Thank you for being the kind of man others looked up to, respected and were happy to have known.

We remember your gentle soul, your sense of humour and how you always tried to make others smile.

When one tries to find their way in the world you left a path to follow of how to be a father, a friend, a person, and throughout life challenges always kept a positive attitude.

We move forward knowing you have re-united with the love of your life and are at peace once again.

You instilled in all of us the values of hard work, the importance of family, and how to handle life's challenges.

Rest in peace father and friend!

Sharon, Mark, Steven, Melissa, Donna, Darren, Jessica, Amy, Ryan, Devin, Kaleigh, Allison, Kordell, Jake, Ryley, Bennett, Len, Paul and Terry.

Paul Frederick Dobson

March 30, 1945 – November 10, 2020

Thank you to each one of you for your acts of kindness and generosity at the time of Paul's passing. Your support will be remembered and cherished forever.

The professionalism and caring guidance provided by Adams Funeral Home at this most difficult time was greatly appreciated beyond words.

Due to ongoing COVID restrictions and uncertainty of a timely celebration of life, would you kindly honour the special life of Paul by giving an act of kindness to someone in need around March 30, Paul's birthday.

*I often lie awake at night
when the world is fast asleep.
And take a walk down memory lane
with tears upon my cheek.*

Remembering Paul is easy.

I do it every day.

*But missing him is a heartache
that will never go away.*

*I hold Paul tightly in my heart
and there he will remain.*

Life must go on without him.

But it will never be the same.

Reta, Maggie, Sebastian, Daisy and May
(our four-legged family members).



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Obituaries



ARCHER-COLE, MARJORIE

- Passed away peacefully at the Sara Vista Nursing Home, Elmvale, on Thursday, March 11, 2021 in her 91st year. Marjorie is predeceased by her husbands Ambrose Cole (1996) and John Archer (1984). Dear mother of Janice (Chuck) Jordan of Elmvale, Ken (Dorothy) Archer of Barrie, Bonnie (Martin) Schepers of Alliston and Paul (Eileen) Archer of Elmvale. Proud grandmother of 9 and great grandmother of 13. She is predeceased by brothers Leonard, Everett, Donald and Orville and her parents William and Marjorie Edwards. At her request there will be no visitation. Cremation has taken place.

The family will hold a spring graveside service at Elmvale Cemetery. If you wish to make a donation in Marjorie's memory please consider the Royal Victoria Hospital Foundation-Cancer Care Centre.

Messages may be sent to the family at

lynnstonefuneralhome.com

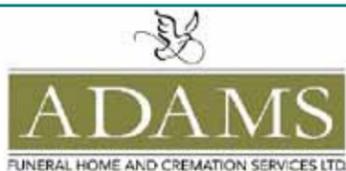


Cooper, Valah Mildred (nee Parnell)

- It is with Great Sadness but also in Celebration of her long life that we announce Valah's peaceful passing at the Leacock Retirement Lodge on March 12th, 2021 in her 99th year. Loving wife of Ken (Deceased 1997) and Dear Mother of Lyn Kitchen (Bruce), Grace Hoover (Brian), Earl Cooper (Heather), Allan Cooper (Carole Deceased), Doris Foster (Ian). Proud Nana/Grandma of Brad (Julia), Brenda (David), Phil (Jen), Jeff (Jenn), Scott (Grace), Jennifer (John), Kate (Thomas), Laurie (Kyle), Kristen, Julie. Proud Great Grandmother of 13.

A private family service will be held at a later date. If desired, Memorial Donations may be made to the Elmvale Presbyterian Church.

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



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McKee, Evelyn Marlene (nee Want) - Passed away of complications due to Covid19 with family by her side in her 83rd year. Beloved wife of James Albert McKee (deceased 2002), much loved Mom of Deborah (Bernard Michaud), Richard McKee (Donna), Mary Ellen (Wayne Leechford), dear Gramma to Patrick (Lindsay), Alexander (Sara), Philip, Madeleine, Sydney and Ava, great Gramma to Aiden and great granddaughter due in June. Sister to Joyce (Trevor Irons), Fred Want (Betty), Sister in Law to Patricia (Bill Jarvis), the late Sharon (survived by Peter Kolopack), and the late Marilyn (Carl Daniels), and Aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Mom trained as a Registered Nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in London, ON, and loved being a nurse. Mom and Dad were married on February 20, 1960 and farmed on the McKee family farm outside of Millbank, ON and in 1998 they retired to Wyevale and built their home. Mom was well known for serving her community in many ways and used her baking and crafting skills, which she was so well known for. She made many Teddy bears for friends and family and was always cooking and baking for a family or church function. Mom loved to sing in the choir at church and could often be heard singing a favourite song from the musical "Oklahoma" or "The Teddy Bear's Picnic" while she worked. For many years mom was very active in the Women's Institute and the ACW and led 4 H clubs all while nursing part time, full time farming as Dad's right hand in the barn and the field, raising three children, canning and gardening.

In the last few years Alzheimer's disease took its toll on Mom but she never lost her enjoyment for serving others, her love of singing and her playfulness. She will be deeply missed by us all.

A private family funeral will be held on Saturday March 20 at 1:30 at the Lynn-Stone Funeral home. Live streaming of the event will take place and we would love for you to join the service, search Youtube: Lynn-Stone Funeral Home.

Interment will take place at the Grace Anglican Church Cemetery in Millbank in the spring.

A celebration of life will take place when safe to do so.

Memorial gifts may be given to the Elmvale Foodbank (as farmers, always concerned about feeding people Mom and Dad volunteered together at the foodbank)

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

As we watch the Moon move across the sky, how much is it moving, versus the Earth's own movement?
Answer: When you watch the Moon move from east to west, it travels its own diameter in about 3 minutes. The speed at which we see it move is mostly due to the Earth's movement, not the Moon's. The Earth's movement accounts for 95 percent of the shifting position of the Moon. The other 5 percent is actually the Moon itself moving



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UPCOMING AUCTIONS

- March Multi Consignor Auction, Guelph** - Mar. 21-25 - coins from Mrs. O's Estate, vintage furniture, décor, tools and much more
- Ravina Crescent Downsizing, Ancaster** - Mar. 28-Apr. 1 - dolls, collectibles, glassware, vintage items and more
- Quality Waterloo Downsizing Sale** - Mar. 28-Apr. 1 - garden benches, collectibles, ceramic Christmas trees, LP's
- Duncan/Miller Moving Sale, Cambridge** - Apr. 4-8 - Flow Blue china, LP collection, harvest table, vintage Pyrex & Le Creuset
- Unique Collectibles, Jewellery and More** - Apr. 4-8 - 14K and 10K gold jewellery, watches, coins & bills, art and more
- Gore Road Downsizing Auction, Flamborough** - Apr. 11-15
- Spring Equipment & Multi Consignor Auction** - Apr. 25-29 - now accepting consignments, call our office today!
- Vintage Pocket Watch Collector's Auction, Guelph** - Apr. 25-29

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Ontario Offers New Sign Language Courses to Secondary Students

Province to become one of the first in Canada to provide these second-language opportunities

Ontario is becoming one of the first jurisdictions in Canada to offer high school students in the province second-language courses in American Sign Language (ASL) and Langue des signes québécoise (LSQ).

Details were provided today by Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education and Raymond Cho, Minister of Seniors and Accessibility.

"By expanding second-language course options for students, our Government is cementing its role as a leader in providing innovative learning opportunities," said Minister Lecce. "By offering students the chance to learn ASL or LSQ, they can expand their language skills while developing greater understanding of Ontario's ASL and LSQ culture."

Starting in September 2021, high schools may offer American Sign Language as a second language and Langue des signes québécoise langue seconde to provide students with the opportunity to develop new language and conversation skills, gain cultural understandings, and learn about ASL or LSQ literary works and texts.

ASL and LSQ are distinct languages, each with unique histories, cultural references and distinct grammar and syntax. To ensure linguistic accuracy, and to include authentic ASL and LSQ stories, the Ministry of Education consulted with the ASL and LSQ communities on the course content.

"By giving high school students the opportunity to learn ASL and/or LSQ, we are increasing language and cultural skills," said Raymond Cho, Minister of Seniors and Accessibility.

"This new curriculum is much needed and will be a rich addition for students across the province. It will enhance students' understanding of the language and identity of ASL people in Ontario: ASL peoples' sense of self, of membership, of culture, and of humanity and encourages students to develop respect for human diversity. We want to recognize that the Ministry of Education's commitment to developing this curriculum is a step in the right direction. We were very pleased to have been asked to participate in its development and we look forward to future opportunities of working together."

- Donald Prong, Executive Director, Ontario Association of the Deaf

Quick Facts

- Ontario is the first jurisdiction in Canada to release ministry-developed LSQ curriculum to support second-language learners, and one of the first to release ministry-developed ASL second-language curriculum.
- To support teachers in delivering the new ASL as a Second Language and LSQ langue seconde courses, the Ministry of Education has been working with the Ontario College of Teachers to add new additional qualifications to the College's regulations so that teachers can receive training in how to teach ASL as a second language and LSQ langue seconde.
- The Ministry of Education launched the Curriculum and Resources in June 2020, which provides access to curricula and resources for educators and parents, including the new ASL and LSQ second-language courses.



Relieve sinus pressure with a homemade rinse

Researches have found that flushing your sinuses with a salt and baking soda rinse twice daily reduces congestion by rinsing away compounds that cause nasal swelling. Mix 1 Tbs. of kosher salt and 1 tsp. of baking soda into 4 cups of boiled, cooled water. Add the blend to a neti pot or spray bottle and rinse sinuses morning and night.

NEW PLAYER ASSIST PROGRAM TO HELP FAMILIES FINANCIALLY IMPACTED BY COVID-19

Loaner equipment helps 10 associations across province reduce barriers for children under 7 to enter game

Richmond Hill (March 16, 2021) - The Ontario Minor Hockey Association has announced a new Player Assist Program, presented by Egg Farmers of Ontario, as a new pilot project to help families who may be feeling the pinch because of COVID-19 participate in the game.

The program will eliminate the cost of equipment for 350 hockey families across 10 minor hockey associations for players under 7 entering the game.

The sets will include skates, shin pads, pants, shoulder pads, elbow pads, neck guard and helmet. Local minor hockey associations will apply to be one of the 10 associations for the pilot project based on meeting a number of criteria. The associations will retain the 350 sets of equipment at the conclusion of the hockey season to loan to players in following years, similar to loaning out a library book.

"Cost is sometimes identified as a barrier for some families to get involved in our great game. We thank our partner the Egg Farmers of Ontario for launching this initiative to help hundreds of families for years to come," says OMHA Executive Director Ian Taylor.

Since 2018-19, the Egg Farmers of the Ontario has supported the OMHA's Playdowns where more than 31,000 minor hockey players compete on 6750 teams from January through March. With Playdowns unable to take place this year because of the pandemic, the Egg Farmers of Ontario wanted to support OMHA participants in a new way.

"The pandemic has taken a toll on Canadian families and hit them in the pocketbook. Families are going to have to make some difficult choices in terms of how they spend their money going forward. We want to help hundreds of young people around the province enter the game without the barrier of having to purchase equipment," says Scott Helps, Chair of the Egg Farmers of Ontario.

Learn more about the program on the OMHA website.

GOALIE ASSIST PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE FOR ITS 10TH YEAR

The new Player Assist Program is similar to the OMHA's Goalie Assist Program, which the OMHA has also announced will continue for its 10th year.

That program loans out CCM goalie equipment to associations, which allows 5-7-year-old players to try out the position without the burden of making a full financial commitment.

In the past decade, the program has provided 480 full sets of goalie equipment with associations retaining the equipment at the end of the season to loan to players in the following years.

This season, there were 156 applications received from OMHA member associations, with 80 sets distributed across the province.

"The Goalie Assist program has given hundreds of young players a chance to get between the pipes and to see what it's like to be a goalie without their families having to make a big financial commitment. We have heard stories about how many of them have fallen in love with the position," says OMHA Executive Director Ian Taylor.

Each goalie kit is equipped with a set of CCM youth pads, catcher/blocker, stick, chest protector and bag. Catching hands and sticks are available with common left/right combinations.

ABOUT THE OMHA

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association, founded in 1935, is a leader in community sport and oversees a participant base of more than 300,000, consisting of players, coaches, trainers, officials, hockey volunteers and parents across the province. The OMHA works with its 225 local minor hockey associations and annually coordinates 28 leagues to create the best minor hockey experience in Canada. For more information, visit <http://www.omha.net>.



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The rarest metals you never heard of.

Unless you're a real science geek, chances are you never knew these elements even existed. Nonetheless, many of them form the foundations of modern life.

Europium (Eu) - Euro paper banknotes contain tiny amounts of this hard, silvery metal as an anti-counterfeiting measure. It is also used to produce a strong, rich red color in television and computer screens.
Scandium (Sc) - In the 1970s, metallurgists found that aluminum-scandium alloys are strong and lightweight, making it useful in aerospace components. It wasn't long before sporting-equipment manufacturers started using the alloys in everything from baseball bats to lacrosse sticks.

Beryllium (Be) - Beryllium is recognized as a carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. In another form, however, beryllium is highly desirable, even priceless. When combined with trace amounts of chromium, beryllium takes on a beautiful green hue as the gemstone commonly known as the emerald.

Gallium (Ga) - Few elements are weirder than gallium: A relatively soft, glittering metal, it's widely used today in semiconductors and other electronics, as well as in the pharmaceutical industry. But in years past, gallium (atomic number 31) was a key part of a favorite parlor trick for magicians because it melts when it's just slightly warmer than room temperature. Thus, spoons that are made of gallium look normal, but when dipped into a cup of hot tea will instantly dissolve.

Tellurium (Te) - Tellurium, a silvery-white metal first discovered in Transylvania, is often used in solar panels, computer memory chips and rewritable optical discs. Its name comes from the Latin word for earth (tellus).

Dysprosium (Dy) - Dysprosium (atomic number 66), is named after the ancient Greek dysprositos, meaning "hard to get," appropriately enough. The soft, metallic substance is in big demand for electric motors, especially those in electric vehicles and wind turbines, which has earned dysprosium a place on the U.S. Department of Energy's list of critical materials for the green economy.

Quiet a cough with ginseng tea

For a cough that won't quit, sipping a cup or two of this earthy brew can put an end to a coughing fit and shorten the duration of your illness by days. Potent compounds called ginsenosides relieve throat swelling that can contribute to a cough, plus they power up virus-fighting immune cells.



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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.

TiFT Talk is Free Theatre • TiFT is thrilled to announce new episodes of *In Good Company* featuring distinguished panelists offering exclusive insight on a variety of topics.

Haven't had a chance to look through EDGE's Facebook page? You will find articles on a whole variety of topics. Such as: tips on caring for plants - indoor and outdoor; how to work with sandy soil or clay soil; what plants attract birds, bees; backyard projects - trellis's, planter ideas, garden's; articles on birds and how to attract them to your garden and some laughs. So take a stroll through EDGE's Facebook page, you'll never know what you will find.

2021 Induction Proceeds
 At its February 17th Board Meeting the Springwater Sports Heritage Board approved an extension of the 2021 Inductee Nominations deadline from March 31, 2021 to April 30, 2021. Following the closure of the nominations on April 30th the Board will proceed to determine the 2021 Springwater Sports Heritage Hall of Fame Inductees. Once the selection process is completed the formal announcements will be prepared and released to the media. The usual promotional material will be developed and distributed including the addition of the Inductees' relevant and valued information being added to the website. It's expected each of the steps will take place, as they normally would, but for the actual Induction Ceremony. The Board recognizes and strongly supports the value of hosting an exceptional celebratory Induction Ceremony that recognizes and honours the extraordinary achievements of the Inductees. To ensure the desired celebration can safely and successfully take place, the Board will delay the Induction Ceremony until the danger of Covid-19 has diminished to a safe and acceptable level.
 Updates will be provided as more is known



With the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Simcoe County Branch Executive will offer online webinars utilizing the Zoom platform. Both members & non-members are welcome.

Sat. April 10, 2021 2:00 to 3:00
 Speaker: Thomas MacEntee
 Topic: Smarter Search Strategies for Genealogy
 You will need to Register by going to the Events tab on the Simcoe County Branch Meetings web page (<https://simcoe.ogs.on.ca/branch-meetings/>), or our Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/827393414004460/>) for information about other online events until we can meet in person again.
 We hope you will be able to join us virtually.

War Amps "key tags at work" for 75 years

Dear Editor,
 The War Amps Key Tag Service is celebrating a milestone this year – its 75th anniversary! The service has not only been reuniting Canadians with their lost keys, it has been helping to make a difference in the lives of amputees. To date, more than 1.5 million sets of lost keys have been returned to their owners. Although it's a free service, donations enable the Association to operate its many programs for amputees, including veterans and children.

I lost my right arm and part of my left hand in a lawnmower accident and was enrolled in The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program at the age of 2. The CHAMP Program is there to support amputees through every stage of life. It has encouraged me to try new activities whether it is crafts, sports or dancing. With every new experience, I have gained confidence and I try to share what I have learned with fellow amputees.

The War Amps 2021 key tags are being mailed to Southern Ontario residents next week and I would like to personally thank everyone for their heartfelt support of the Association. Your donations go a long way in making a difference in the lives of amputees.

Denise Swedlo
 War Amps Regional Representative, Ontario

Nothing endures but personal qualities. --Walt Whitman

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RETIRED COUPLE SEEK NEW HOME
 Recently, our rental house and land was sold. After renting here for more than 30 years, we must move by May 31st. Over the years, we have done major renovations, improvements and repairs to make our current house livable as well landscaped the property into a tidy and well maintained state.
 Since we have a collection of antiques, including farm and vehicle collectables, we are searching for a long term reasonably priced rental home, a farm or rural property, keeping in mind our "handyman" skills are up to challenges. We are trustworthy, honest and dependable tenants and would welcome an opportunity to be considered. **Please give us a call at 705-737-6162 (Cell) or 705-728-8459 (Hm).**

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Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte Greens Recruiting Candidate, Volunteers

Are you inspired by Canada's newest federal party leader Annamie Paul and her appeal for new voices to be heard in Canadian politics?
 Do you support a Guaranteed Livable Income, Affordable Housing, Environmental Justice, Fair taxation, Indigenous Sovereignty, Electoral Reform, Renewable Energy, and Universal Pharma and Dental Care?
 If these issues are important to you, consider putting your name forward for the upcoming federal election. The Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte Federal Green Party Association is accepting inquiries from potential candidates and campaign volunteers like you! Contact Eric.Loewen@GreenParty.ca for further information. Candidate nominations will accepted until March 31.

Want to be part of Annamie Paul's Green Party of Canada team in the upcoming election?
 While a federal election has yet to be called, many expect the current minority government to fall some time in 2021. The Green Party is not waiting, and has put out the call for candidates in all ridings across Canada. Expressions of interest are being accepted by the Green Party association of Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte to be the local candidate or join the campaign team.
 Marty Lancaster was the Green candidate for BSOM in the 2015 and 2019 elections. "Our support more than doubled in the past election, putting our riding among the strongest 25 Green results in Canada with powerful momentum moving forward," stated Lancaster. "With Annamie Paul as our popular and dynamic new federal leader, I think we are set for a breakthrough in 2021," he added. "I am eager to see who may step forward this time to inspire local voters to an even stronger election result."

Since winning leadership last fall and immediately stunning observers with a huge surge of support in a by-election in her home riding, Paul has continued to make waves and put the party on the political map with a focus on basic income, affordable housing, universal pharma and dental care, compassion in seeking CERB repayments, and in general strengthening Canada's social safety net in these unprecedented times. A special focus has been on addressing chronic issues with senior care homes, a crisis in Ontario.
 Eric Loewen, CEO of the BSOM electoral district association, is overseeing a candidate nomination process. Loewen states "If you have strong Green values and a desire to see them advanced politically, please carefully consider the opportunity to become the Green Party candidate in the upcoming election. The nomination process is open, and we'll accept expressions of interest until March 31."

He adds "There are also many other ways to participate; you can join our board or the election campaign team or become a party member and sign up to volunteer for when the election is announced."
 Contact at Eric.Loewen@GreenParty.ca

A local newspaper is a local newspaper is a local newspaper

Hello Michael, just to let you know your newspaper has been read cover to cover every couple weeks in our household for as long as i can remember. Save for random content under "Editors Musings" (eg climate change) we thoroughly enjoy and understand the importance of this periodical. The decision by some members of Springwater Council to not fully support your efforts is a disappointment and a mistake. Let's hope that moving forward all involved take a closer look at their surroundings.
 Sincerely, Byron Wesson Phelpston

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 E-mail Steven@rollings.ca

Groundskeeper/Maintenance Assistant @ Georgian Bay Park
 The Resort Groundskeeper/Maintenance Assistant performs a variety of landscaping maintenance. They regularly mow lawns, weed, plant flowers, remove debris from property grounds, trim limbs from low lying branches, rake leaves and overall ensure our resort is well-maintained and looks presentable.
 Location – Georgian Bay Park, 4230 Crossland Road, Tiny, Ontario
 Time Frame – Late April to Labour Day - 35-40 hours per week
 Wages: \$15 - \$16 per hour, with end of season bonus
Qualifications and Skills

- Student returning to Post Secondary School
- Demonstrated knowledge in general grounds maintenance techniques
- Proficient skills in operating various hand tools, power equipment, and commercial machinery
- Ability to operate equipment with manual transmission
- Ability to provide legible written reports
- Ability to work well independently as well as on a team
- Ability to lift at least 25 pounds
- Basic computer proficiency including the ability to use email and the internet

Please send resume to Mike Salter, GBP Camp Host, msalter@cyg.net

HELP WANTED - Full/part time hours
 for outdoor property maintenance work---clean-ups, grass cutting, weed whacking, etc.
 Must have own transportation to Wyevale and be dependable.
 McNeil's Property Maintenance 705-361-3176

Work in Simcoe County: Career exploration tools

The [Work in Simcoe County](#) portal also aids recruitment efforts by highlighting which jobs are in current demand to employers and local government, and helps fill market gaps using the Edge Factor Community Hub, housed under the [Career Exploration](#) tab.

Jobseekers

The [Edge Factor Community Hub](#) provides local job seekers, parents and educators a suite of free multimedia tools, including interactive activities and inspiring stories for various STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) careers focusing on skilled trades. The tools help jobseekers explore diverse, modern industries to discover what careers are of interest to an individual.

This page is available to anyone in Simcoe County (via local postal codes). Secondary schools in the Simcoe County District School Board and Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board are actively using this tool in their virtual classrooms.

Local Businesses

Want to showcase your company and opportunities to local schools, jobseekers and families across our region? Eligible businesses can create a free profile to showcase their company and opportunities to jobseekers and local secondary school students. Visit workinsimcoe.ca/explore-careers today to determine if your business is eligible and create your free profile.

Me thinking about the last time I went out and had fun



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Canadian Tire Midland Donates to the Elmvale & District Food Bank



Pictured left to right: Michael Ferris, Associate Dealer – Midland Canadian Tire, Dave Don – Director, Elmvale & District Food Bank, and Scott Toole – Canadian Tire Employee who volunteered his time for the Toy Drive. Mr. Ferris presented a cheque for \$5,500 to the Elmvale & District Food Bank. The money was raised as part of the Midland Canadian Tire Christmas Toy Drive.

In the run up to Christmas the Canadian Tire Store in Midland hosted a Toy Drive for both the Elmvale & District Food Bank and the Midland Salvation Army to insure that many children would have smiles on their faces come Christmas morning. In addition to toys, monetary donations were accepted for the Food Bank. Volunteering their time to make the Toy Drive so successful were members of Elmvale Coronation Masonic Lodge, Midland Salvation Army and Canadian Tire Staff.

On March 4th the Canadian Tire Store in Midland presented the Elmvale & District Food Bank with a cheque for \$5,500 which comprised of funds donated by the community and a donation from Michael Ferris the Associate Dealer of the Midland Canadian Tire Store.

The Elmvale & District Food Bank would like to thank Midland Canadian Tire and everyone that donated.

The reason why worry kills more people than work is that more people worry than work. --Robert Frost

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A 41-year-old man in Great Britain is suing his parents in a bid to force them to pay him "maintenance" for life. Despite being a trained lawyer and having a degree from Oxford University, Faiz Siddiqui claims he is completely dependent on his wealthy parents. For 20 years his Dubai-based parents have let him live rent-free in a \$1 million flat they own near London's Hyde Park. They also helped to cover other bills. But now that his parents want to cut him off, Siddiqui claims that his upbringing has made him "vulnerable" and that cutting him off financially would be a violation of his human rights. A case against his parents was rejected last year by a top family court judge. It has now gone to the Court of Appeal.

County Long-Term Care and Seniors Services shares learnings to support partners

Midhurst/March 10, 2021 – The COVID-19 pandemic has had global impacts. While it has affected all sectors, it has presented significant challenges for long-term care and seniors services (LTCSS). With increased rates of transmission, outbreaks and many tragic situations, governments across the world are responding with enhanced funding and expanded support to further assist this vulnerable sector.

The County of Simcoe has experienced these challenges first-hand, and amidst this global emergency, staff have continued to enhance their knowledge and expertise. The County is now making these learnings and resources available to other homes and health-care sector organizations to provide support in their fight against the impacts of this pandemic.

“Historically, the long-term care and seniors services sector is much different than a hospital or acute care setting, as staff act as caregivers, upholding quality of life while helping residents to maintain their independence and feel at home,” said Jane Sinclair, General Manager, Health and Emergency Services.

Managing four large long-term care homes and a continuum of seniors housing and services, the County of Simcoe has navigated through several outbreaks and continues to work hard to build and strengthen from these experiences. The world was not prepared for COVID-19 and only through our collective efforts have we been able to develop strategies and move forward with new vaccines that will help conquer this virus. Now is a time for supporting one another so we can all be stronger together.

In an effort to support our industry partners, the County has compiled their knowledge, guidelines and IPAC related materials into a virtual compendium of resources.

A full Compendium of resources and aids has been developed through hands-on experience battling outbreaks and through the knowledge sharing and support from partners at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Ontario Health LHINs, our local Health Teams, and our community hospitals.

Components of the outbreak resources have been shared with various organizations and associations and we are pleased to launch the full compendium of all of our materials produced to date. With the evolution of this pandemic, these living documents will continue to be updated as this situation changes.

- Background:**
- The County of Simcoe offers a continuum of adult lifestyle housing and services combined with a unique opportunity to age-in-place serving over 1,300 seniors across the region. These housing options include four long-term care homes, consisting of Simcoe Manor in Beeton, Sunset Manor in Collingwood, Trillium Manor in Orillia and Georgian Manor in Penetanguishene
 - To support resident safety and continuous quality improvement, all County long-term care homes and seniors services participate in a voluntary accreditation process conducted by Accreditation Canada and have been recognized with Exemplary Standing
 - County staff provide a number of direct services to older adults through adult day programs, assisted living and supportive housing, home-care, Meals on Wheels, transportation, paramedic services and the coordination of programs through the Simcoe County Age-Friendly Initiative
 - More than 18 per cent of Simcoe County residents are 65+ years of age. Seniors represent the fastest growing age demographic in Simcoe County, outpacing the average provincial growth rate

Numerology is the study of numbers and how the occult may influence them. Numerology is to numbers what astrology is to stars. A numerologist will believe that each person has a numerological “reading” that can be deduced from his or her birth date, and the resulting reading means something, much like a star sign is said to influence a person born under it. In numerology, a reading of 8, for example, means that person will be self-sacrificing, among other things.

Message to the Community from RVH President & CEO Janice Skot

It's hard to believe that it's been a year since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a worldwide COVID-19 pandemic on March 11th, 2020. Sadly, that was the same day an elderly RVH patient died from complications related to the virus.

It was the first COVID-related death in Ontario and that tragic milestone shaped RVH's aggressive response to the pandemic, a plan guided by a steadfast commitment to keeping our patients and TEAM RVH safe.

In those early days, directives and guidelines changed constantly as the world learned more about the novel coronavirus. It was uncharted territory and hospitals had to shift direction on a dime. The uncertainty was overwhelming as we tried to imagine the pandemic's path.

Hospitals went into lockdown, with screeners at entrances and strict visitor restrictions. Scheduled surgeries were cancelled to create bed capacity. RVH's beloved 'Blue Brigade' volunteers were suspended and, sadly, are still not present in our health centre.

Facing a global shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) we worked with suppliers around the world to ensure our staff, physicians and patients were protected. Little did we know that our team would still be wearing the hot and exhausting protective equipment a year later, unable to gather strength from the smiles of our colleagues hidden behind masks and eye protection.

We introduced new process, protocols and renovated spaces to ensure safety. We hired hundreds of healthcare professionals including nurses, infection control specialists, and cleaners, while retraining TEAM RVH on our strict safety measures. RVH expanded its lab so we could process COVID swabs in-house, and opened a testing clinic, first at the health centre and then offsite. In December we opened a vaccine site where clinic and mobile vaccinators have given more than 50,000 “shots of hope” to people from across the region.

We also helped our partners. RVH's “Rapid Response Team” has provided onsite support to 25 long-term care and retirement homes as they battled this deadly virus. Meanwhile we cared for almost 100 patients transferred to RVH from the GTA To ensure our region had enough beds, we built a 70-bed field hospital in our parking lot and created additional critical care beds.

In the past year RVH has cared for more than 230 COVID patients and, sadly, we have seen 40 COVID-related deaths. Those sobering statistics weigh heavily on our staff and physicians.

As I reflect on this past year, we have learned many lessons. Most of all, I'm struck – and humbled – by the incredible strength, compassion and resilience of TEAM RVH. This has been a gruelling, scary year during which our staff and physicians worried for their own safety and that of their families. Yet their commitment and courage never wavered, and their spirits were buoyed by our region's outpouring of gratitude and encouragement.

As we mark this sober milestone, we look to the future with hope and optimism. Community vaccination clinics are open throughout Simcoe Muskoka. Agencies are working more closely together as true partners. New case counts across the province have declined significantly since January. Treatment options have improved, and fewer people are dying from this virus.

The threat of a third wave in the face of high-transmissible variants is very real, and we must all remain diligent in following safety practices. This global health crisis will continue to test us, but it also brings out the best in people. And there are brighter days ahead.

For 50 million years our biggest problems were too few calories, too little information. For about 50 years our biggest problem has been too many calories, too much information. We have to adjust, and I believe we will really fast. I also believe it will be wicked ugly while we're adjusting. -Penn Jillette, magician, actor, musician, inventor, television presenter, and author (b. 5 Mar 1955)