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Springwater NEWS

Edition 622 - March 31, 2022 Serving Springwater & Tiny Townships and surrounding areas

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EASTER IS COMING



Midland Bay Landing Development Corporation Announces Short List of Pre-Qualified Developers For RFP



Midland Bay Landing Development Corporation (MBLDC) is pleased to announce that a short-list of pre-qualified development companies has been established following a Request for Pre-Qualifications

(RFPQ) process that began in February 2022. Selection criteria included demonstrated experience and financial capability to deliver Midland's 40-acre waterfront redevelopment project. The short-listed development companies are:

- **Fram Building Group, Mississauga**
www.framhomes.com
- **Georgian Communities, Barrie**
www.georgiancommunities.ca
- **MDM Developments, Gravenhurst**
www.mdmdevelopments.com

Having qualified for the second stage of the selection process, pre-qualified teams will begin preparing proposals in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be issued before the end of March and is expected to close in May 2022.

RFP Proposals will be submitted to MBLDC's Real Estate Advisor, N. Barry Lyons Consultants, who will evaluate the proposals against the criteria defined in the RFP and recommend a developer to MBLDC for approval. In turn, MBLDC anticipates recommending a preferred developer to Council for approval in late June 2022. An independent Fairness Monitor has been engaged for both the RFPQ and RFP process.

Upon selection, the preferred developer will work in collaboration with both MBLDC and the Town of Midland to revitalize 16 hectares (40 acres) of Midland's waterfront into a vibrant, mixed-use commercial and residential neighbourhood adjacent to Midland's historic harbour and recently revitalized Downtown.

A waterfront promenade and multi-use trail along the entire length of the property will



be the signature feature of Midland Bay Landing, combined with new parks and a large public square that will bring 10 acres of new open space to Midland for public use and enjoyment.

New low-rise residential units blended with boutiques, restaurants, artists' lofts, and commercial spaces will transform Midland Bay Landing into a vibrant, live-work-play community that is closely connected to Downtown and the trail network.

In addition, Midland Bay Landing is expected to generate significant new tax revenue that will enable the Town to expand its tax base and offer increased programs and services to the local community.

More information on project can be found at: <https://www.midland.ca/mbldc>



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Copyrights are claimed on all original articles.

Springwater News prints 20,000 papers per edition. 18,650 are delivered by Canada Post to:

760 in the Utopia/Grenfel area L0L 1B0 and L0L 1B2
3050 in the Barrie City/Rural area
4250 in South Springwater Township
130 to the new boxes in Minesing / Anten Mills
640 in Phelpston L0L 2K0
650 in Hillsdale including the Rural Routes L0L 1V0
2550 in Elmvale including the former R R# 1, 2 & 3 L0L 1P0 which includes Orr Lake, Waverley and some Tiny Beaches Road areas
265 in the Wyebridge area L0K 2E0
975 in Wyevale L0L 2T0 including Conc. 8 and some TBRS areas,
1325 in Perkinsfield including Balm Beach to Whippoorwill
1100 in R.R.# 1, L4R 4K3 (775) & 2, L4R 4K4 (300) areas of Midland which includes Vasey, Ebenezer and the area North-West of Wyebridge
2900 in Northern Tiny including SS 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8 of Rural Penetanguishene (Postal Codes L9M -1R2, -1R3 & -2H7)

110 through mail outs and subscriptions in Canada
Subscriptions are available across Canada for \$60/year and \$100/year in U.S.A.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please submit your letters to the Editor.
Email: info@springwaternews.ca or drop off at office. Contact information is on the right hand side of this page.

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

The opinions expressed in articles contributed by interested parties and through the 'Letters to the Editor' do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper and/or the editor.

Dear Editor;

This June, we in Barrie, Springwater and Oro-Medonte have an opportunity to choose proven, progressive leadership.

While voters in Barrie's north recognize the hard work Mayor Jeff Lehman has done to support business and create jobs and opportunities for Barrie, those in Springwater and Oro-Medonte might not be aware of some of the extremely important things Jeff has been part of that benefit their communities.

The Lynx Transit system that connects Springwater to Barrie and Oro-Medonte to Barrie is a direct result of Jeff working with Simcoe County staff and myself when I served as Warden. Jeff spearheaded the effort that resulted in the Lynx network being able to leverage the resources of and integrate with the Barrie transit system. This system now gives residents from Springwater and Oro-Medonte better access to employment opportunities in Barrie, to educational opportunities at Georgian College and to medical appointments at RVH, along with shopping and entertainment. This transit partnership also allows Barrie residents to pursue educational opportunities at Lakehead University in Orillia. Jeff had the vision to work to link our communities and their resources for the benefit of us all.

While I was Simcoe County Warden, Jeff and I met regularly to discuss how the county and the city could best work together. Jeff recognized that healthy vibrant neighbouring communities benefited not only those communities but the entire region.

Jeff worked with the county on challenging and essential regional items such as affordable housing, long-term care, tourism and paramedic rapid response.

Jeff also worked to help businesses grow – whether they were inside or outside of Barrie. Again, Jeff could see that people and jobs cross borders. Napoleon Home Comfort, headquartered in Oro-Medonte, for example, benefitted from Jeff's advocacy work with the provincial and federal governments.

With his commitment to building a better life for all of us, Jeff has my full support both as a former political colleague and as a current Barrie resident.

A vote for Jeff is a vote for progressive thoughtful leadership, the type of leadership our riding and our province require.

Gerry Marshall

Dear Editor,

It is time for our provincial government to put the needs of the little people above the greed of big business. Specifically it is time to place a moratorium on any further permits for gravel extraction. There are already huge numbers of permits out there for properties not even under development yet! The present aggregates' extraction has more gravel etc ready to go than is needed by industry. I hope that our own MP Jill Dunlop can stand up to her party & demand that no more permits be allowed IMMEDIATELY until an independent panel can review the present state of affairs & make recommendations that will protect our groundwater which is under threat.

The world doesn't have enough pure clear drinking water. It sure has enough gravel. We have to protect our future.

Sincerely, Donna Drapkin

Dear Editor,

March 22 is "World Water Day". It's time we have ground water the respect it deserves! Let's start by placing a moratorium on new ground water permits to grave companies. More importantly locally we have the purest water on earth at French's Hill at the Waverly uplands. This been determined by water scientists, Drs. Shotyk & Powell amongst others. Tiny council foolishly approved the use of this water to wash gravel. With more pits already available then needed this must be stopped! These same researchers have a study ready to got to learn how this pristine water is created; learnings could be applied globally. But the pit is interfering with this research. Why did our council go behind closed doors (first time ever) to approve this usage? As always it falls to citizens to raise our voices and stop this.

We need a moratorium on future permits to allow water experts to assess the potential damage this industry may do to our ground water. At French's Hill this simply must be stopped!

Sincerely, Brent Graham

Dear editor,

The media, oil and gas industry and Conservative MPs' push for expanding fossil fuels to Europe during this crisis is misguided, dangerous and immoral. More fossil fuel expansion guarantees more years of climate destruction that will harm us all

The European Union doesn't want more oil and gas. We need to transition away from building more Oil and Gas Infrastructure. The way ahead is renewables. I will be installing solar panels this spring at my home.

Sincerely, David Jeffery

"The art of art, the glory of expression and the sunshine of the light of letters, is simplicity."
by Walt Whitman

20 21

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TRY THIS...

How smart is your right foot?
This is hysterical. You have to try this. It is true. I guess there are some things that the brain cannot handle.

1. While sitting in a chair, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.
2. Now, while doing this, draw the number '6' in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction.

I told you so! And there is nothing you can do about it! You and I both know how ridiculous this is, but before the day is out I am guessing you are going to try it again, if you've not already done so.

Elmvale Fall Fair

Elmvale Fall Fair is looking for Youth 12-17 years old

Elmvale Fall Fair is pleased to announce that we have been chosen to pilot a new youth program through the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies. This program will have youth (ages 12-17) form a Junior Board of Directors for the Elmvale Fair. They will help organize youth-oriented events for our Fair.

An information meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21st from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Elmvale Presbyterian Church. This is a youth lead program with the assistance of mentors. Volunteer hours will be given for all meetings and activities.

For more information, please call
Linda @ 705-322-5067

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Bearbells and Beagles

by Leslie Noonan



Backcountry camping is a unique and challenging experience. For first timers it often involves over packing and expectations that can't be met. Nope, you will probably not hear wolves howl, see the Northern Lights or have a Kumbaya moment at the fire pit. Instead you will slog through swamps, curse at the bugs and struggle to light the smallest fire. So why do it? Well, you will find yourself, and your ability to overcome obstacles, and to marvel at the play of light on a pristine lake. The quiet...well that quiet becomes intense when you stop listening to the noise in your head and start listening to the world around you; the noise of the wind in the trees, the sound of birds and even the sound of your own breath. The noise in your head quiets and lets you listen to the world that exists all around you. This is an incredibly meditative time when the problems of the world are left behind and you focus on life. Things such as where to find water, when to plan to camp for the night and making sure that bear bag is hung right are more important than that fight with your spouse, money issues, and your new wrinkles. Those new wrinkles are not even worth thinking about when you are alone in the wilderness and need to make camp for the night. Trust me; the bears don't care about your wrinkles. So then neither do you.



Backcountry camping is where you find your true self and realize how incredibly strong you really are.

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SPRINGWATER NEWS
 Office advisor
 on the look out

Easter Egg Hunt
 Good Friday, Wyevale Park

BBQ & Registration: 11:00 – 12:00
 Hunt is at 12:00 Noon
 Ages 0 to 10
 Bring your own bag/basket
 and a donation for Food Bank

Tiny Township Lions Club
 facebook.com/thetinytownshiplionsclub
 www.tinytownshiplions.club

CAREER OPPORTUNITY



DUFFERIN CONSTRUCTION IS CURRENTLY SEEKING A QUALIFIED CONSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENT FOR GENERAL ROAD BUILDING AND ASPHALT PAVING.

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- MTO experience required
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Only candidates under consideration will be contacted for an interview.



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.

Phrag-Free Tiny Marsh!

Determined volunteers were hard at work at Tiny Marsh last year, along with contracted amphibious machines - all part of a three-year project to remove Invasive Phragmites undertaken by the M-T-M Conservation Association.

Why do we want it gone?

Phragmites is an aggressive non-native that outcompetes native wetland plants, degrades or destroys habitat and disrupts natural wetland functions. This adversely impacts both migratory and resident wildlife that we all enjoy when we visit Tiny Marsh.

M-T-M has partnered with government and other organizations to halt the invasion and restore the health of the wetland. Come out this summer and see the progress we've made!



To help, email vol@mtmconservation.org
 To donate, e-transfer to treasurer@mtmconservation.org
 or mail a cheque to M-T-M Conservation Association,
 PO Box 171, Tiny, ON L0L 2T0. Mark the donation 'phrag-free'.



Photos by David Hawke and Robert Codd

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Town of Midland Receives a \$287,100 Community Building Fund Capital Grant

The Town of Midland has received a \$287,100 Community Building Fund grant from the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This grant focuses on assisting municipalities, Indigenous communities, and non-profit organizations in the community sport and recreation sectors by supporting repairs, renovations, and/or retrofitting of existing sport and recreation facilities. The Town's grant will be used to resurface tennis courts at Little Lake Park and the basketball court in Bayview Park. "Investments



in community and recreational infrastructure are essential in supporting community development, socialization, and connection," said Jill Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North. "Through this fund, the Province supports the Town of Midland in revitalizing recreation platforms that will provide residents with upgraded and more accessible courts, building on healthy outdoor activity options for people of all ages." The resurfacing of the tennis courts in Little Lake Park and the basketball court in Bayview Park will be completed in the spring/summer of 2022. For Bayview Park, this will be a year of significant upgrades, as that park is also set to have a new playground installed in the spring.



"As a small municipality, all funding that Midland receives goes a long way to help us complete important projects, and this grant will help ensure some vital outdoor park amenities are improved and available for use by our residents and visitors this year," said Mayor Stewart Strathearn. "On behalf of Council, Staff, and residents I would like to thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Government for their continued support of municipalities in improving and maintaining existing facilities and infrastructure."

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario's non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario's economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit otf.ca to learn more.



Live Theatre Is Back In Penetanguishene

2022 Season Announced at the King's Wharf Theatre

with multiple performance capacity options

Open the doors and cue the stage lights! Operated by award-winning Drayton Entertainment, the King's Wharf Theatre in Penetanguishene will finally welcome audiences back this summer and into the fall. The historic stage located at beautiful Discovery Harbour on Georgian Bay will be alive with memorable music, entertaining stories, joyful laughter, heartfelt applause, and maybe even a few tears as audiences, artists, volunteers, musicians, backstage crew, and more celebrate the return of live theatre with four productions on stage during the 2022 Season, which will run in the summer from June 23 to August 28, with a fall production added from November 10 to November 26.

"It's exciting and emotional at the same time because we've waited so long for the return of live entertainment," says Alex Mustakas, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. "Full recovery will be a multi-year effort, so this season looks a little different in terms of timing as we cautiously resume operations. That said, the top-quality entertainment experience and customer service audiences have come to expect remain the same."

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Drayton Entertainment has made health and safety a top priority.

The charitable arts organization was one of the first theatres across the country to close its doors in March of 2020 to prevent the spread of coronavirus. That commitment continues as the company carefully enacts its reopening strategy. Although the Government of Ontario has lifted restrictions for theatres, allowing for 100% capacity, Drayton Entertainment recognizes that patrons have different degrees of comfort. With the aim of making the return to live theatre as easy as possible for everyone, the award-winning theatre organization will offer show schedules with varying capacities and protocols that gradually change as the season progresses. For June and July, audiences can choose from performances at 100% capacity with no proof of vaccination required, limited capacity (33% reduced) with no proof of vaccination required, and limited capacity (33% reduced) with proof of vaccination required. For August and November, audiences can choose from performances at 100% capacity with no proof of vaccination required and limited capacity (33% reduced) with no proof of vaccination required. The Drayton Entertainment Duty of Care adheres to local and provincial health guidelines and is subject to change in response to current conditions throughout the season.

After spending the pandemic tending to our national security, Constable F. Inkster is funnier than ever in *Sorry, I'm Canadian Too 2!* Armed with some new political material, gifted comedian Neil Aitchison takes the stage as his beloved alter ego and provides hilarious insights on everything that is uniquely Canadian. In between side-splitting topical rants, relive the magic of the Great Canadian Songbook: gems like "Alberta Bound," "Fox On The Run," "Black Fly," "Song of the Mira," "I'se the B'ye," "Sonny's Dream," "Farewell to Nova Scotia," and many, many more. With its charming blend of music, humour, and political satire, this distinctly Canadian production will be on stage from June 23 to July 10 at the King's Wharf Theatre.

Country wit meets city bluster in the rural romantic comedy *Buying The Farm* on stage from July 21 to August 6 in Penetanguishene. An aging bachelor farmer finds himself with mounting debt, some health concerns, and suburban neighbourhoods encroaching from every direction when a young real estate agent arrives at the farm determined to succeed where others have failed. It might be a done deal, except that the farmer's great-niece is unwavering in her resolve that this family farm is NOT FOR SALE. A love note to farming, this multi-generational comedy about

high hopes, last stands, skunks, and love among the chickens is an insightful look at the plight of rural Canada.

Part relationship comedy and part poignant drama, the touching play *On Golden Pond* is on stage next from August 11 to August 28 at the King's Wharf Theatre. Ethel and Norman Thayer return to their summer home on Golden Pond for the 48th year for some much-needed rest and relaxation. But their delightful summer routine is thrown for a loop when their daughter Chelsea visits for her dad's 80th birthday, bringing her boyfriend Bill and his teenage son in tow. *On Golden Pond* is a universal story about life, love, and the importance of family and forgiveness.

The panto tradition continues, just a little later in the year to wrap up the season! Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Penetanguishene because one of the greatest tales ever told is touching down just before the holidays with a brand-new twist – *Wizard of Oz: The Panto*. With its joyous blend of incredible music, lively dancing, extraordinary costumes, audience participation, and of course, a dash of theatrical magic, this playful panto adaptation of the famous family favourite brims with humour, heart, and adventure. Join Dorothy as she takes a surprising new journey over the rainbow and makes her way to Oz with the help of some newfound friends from November 10 to November 26 at the King's Wharf Theatre.

Creative teams and casting will be announced at a later date. "Although we continue to navigate this ongoing pandemic, we're hopeful about the future," says Mustakas. "We know our audiences, tourism partners, and communities love and miss theatre as much as we do, so we encourage everyone to join us in making wonderful memories this season. Years from now we'll all talk about where we were, and what shows we saw, the year that theatre came back."

Tickets are on sale exclusively to Members by phone now. Tickets are on sale to everyone by phone, in person at select Box Office locations, and online 24/7 at www.kingswharftheatre.com beginning on Monday, April 4.

To order by phone, please call 705-549-5555 or toll free at 1-855-372-9866. For more information about Drayton Entertainment's complete 2022 Season on all seven stages, please visit www.draytonentertainment.com.

King's Wharf Theatre Season At A Glance

Sorry, I'm Canadian 2 (June 23 to July 10)
Buying the Farm (July 21 to August 6)
On Golden Pond (August 11 to August 28)
Wizard of Oz: The Panto (November 10 to November 26)

About Drayton Entertainment

Drayton Entertainment is an award-winning, not-for-profit charitable organization (12591 1313 RR0001) operating seven live theatrical venues in five unique Ontario locations – the original Drayton Festival Theatre in Drayton, Huron Country Playhouse (Mainstage and South Huron Stage) in Grand Bend, King's Wharf Theatre in Penetanguishene, St. Jacobs Country Playhouse and Schoolhouse Theatre in St. Jacobs, and the Hamilton Family Theatre in Cambridge.

With over 400 artist contracts issued annually, Drayton Entertainment is one of the largest employers of professional artists in the country – across all artistic disciplines. The organization's sustainable theatre model has emerged as a powerful force for culture and tourism in Ontario and has been recognized by the office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario as well as the Ontario Innovation Excellence Awards.



Township of Springwater Link

2231 Nursery Road
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March 31, 2022

Removal of Mandatory Masking

In line with the Government of Ontario's recent announcement to remove the mandatory masking requirement for most indoor settings, the Township is no longer requiring masks to be worn by the general public at Township facilities effective March 21, 2022. Township staff, however, have been strongly encouraged to continue wearing a mask where physical distancing isn't possible.

Please remain respectful of others, whether or not they choose to wear a mask.

Upcoming Meetings

Cultural Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Bid Opportunity

The Township is currently accepting bids for:

Two New Mid-Size Hybrid SUV's
(2022-14-PW)
Closes: April 1, 2022

Three New 4 Wheel Drive Pick Up Trucks
(2022-15-PW)
Closes: April 5, 2022

Three New 2 Ton 4 Wheel Drive
Diesel Chassis Trucks
(2022-16-PW)
Closes: April 22, 2022

Single, Double & Micro Surface
(2022-18-PW)
Closes: April 22, 2022

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

Job Opportunities

The Township is currently recruiting for the job opportunities:

Recreation and Facilities Coordinator

Various student positions

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



Election 2022

Nominations for Office

Nominations for the Office of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Council and School Board Trustee open on May 2, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Candidate Information Packages, which include all required forms, will be available beginning April 20 at the Township Administration Centre and online at springwater.ca/Election. Appointments for the submission of nominations are strongly recommended. Appointments can be made by contacting the Clerk's department at 705-728-4784 x2015 or clerks@springwater.ca

Summer Camps

Registration Now Open!



For information, visit: springwater.ca/Camps

2022 Spring Watermain Flushing Notice

The Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) will be flushing watermain for the Township on an operated water system in your area. It is very important to **REDUCE** water use from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the dates listed below so that OCWA can effectively complete the maintenance.

April 11 – April 14

Elmvale & Hillsdale

April 19 – April 22

Midhurst & Minesing

April 25 – April 29

Anten Mills, Phelpston & Del Trend (includes Carson Road, Glen Huron Drive, Paddy Dunn's Circle, Anthony Court, Deluca Court, Kanata Court, Channen Court and Wendat Trail)
Snow Valley (includes Highlands, Lowlands and Centre Vespra)

May 2 – May 6

May 5

SWABBING - Vespra Downs*

*For areas being swabbed, we ask that residents **STOP** using water during these hours.

During or after this flushing period, you may experience discoloured water and/or low water pressure. For more information, visit springwater.ca/Water

Springwater Swing

Monday, June 13 | Barrie Country Club

Registration information and sponsorship opportunities at
springwater.ca/SpringwaterSwing



Mayor Don's Update



Removal of Mandatory Masking

In line with the Ontario government's recent announcement to remove the mandatory masking requirement for most indoor settings, the Township of Springwater is no longer requiring masks to be worn by the general public at Township facilities. Township staff, however, have been strongly encouraged to continue wearing a mask where physical distancing isn't possible. Masks will continue to be required in select settings such as public transit, health care settings, long-term care homes and congregate care settings until April 27, 2022.

The removal of the mask mandate is a significant milestone in our community's efforts to fight the spread of COVID-19. While many are excited this day has come, the end of mandatory masking is very concerning for others who may choose to continue wearing a mask. As a society, we must be kind and respect each other's comfort levels, personal choices, and boundaries.

Residents are encouraged to assess their own level of risk and take appropriate precautions when out in public settings. Those who are unable to properly distance themselves and those at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 and other infections are encouraged to continue to wear a mask.

Springwater Swing

Registration has opened for the 14th annual Springwater Swing charity golf tournament taking place on Monday, June 13 at the Barrie County Club. The Barrie Country Club is a scenic, traditional style 18-hole golf course with rolling fairways and beautifully manicured greens that provides a first-class experience for golfers of all levels. Proceeds from this year's tournament will support physician recruitment, our community assistance program, and other worthwhile initiatives.

With the help of our generous sponsors, this annual charity golf tournament has raised thousands of dollars for our community. In addition to helping bring doctors closer to home and supporting community members in financial need, past proceeds have gone towards local food banks, local hospice care, student exchanges, bursary programs, public access AED units and more.

The \$225 registration fee per golfer includes a round of golf, cart, lunch and a delicious dinner. For registration information and sponsorship opportunities, visit springwater.ca/SpringwaterSwing.

Phase 2 Consultation on Growing the Greenbelt

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) is launching the next phase in its consultation on Growing the Greenbelt. Protecting and expanding the Greenbelt have been identified as priorities by the Ontario government and included in its 2020 and 2021 budgets. Last spring, the MMAH conducted the first phase of consultation, which focused on ways to grow the size and enhance the quality of the Greenbelt. Afterwards, the Ministry undertook work to identify potential boundaries to grow the Greenbelt while supporting the need for housing development and job growth.

In the next phase of the consultation (Phase 2), the MMAH is seeking feedback on the proposed changes to the Greenbelt Plan (including the schedules) that could add thirteen new Urban River Valley areas to the Greenbelt. The public and interested stakeholders

can learn more about the proposal and submit their feedback online at ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-4485. The consultation is open for 30 days, closing on April 23, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.

Webinar Presentation on Phragmites

Phragmites australis (European Common Reed) is an invasive perennial grass that is spreading rapidly throughout Ontario causing severe impacts in our communities and ecosystems. The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has developed a Phragmites & Invasive Species Action Plan for dealing with the species in the Nottawasaga Valley Watershed. They have also provided a 1-hour prerecorded webinar for anyone looking for up-to-date information on what has been called "Canada's worst invasive plant". Hosted by Watersheds Canada, this presentation outlines why Phragmites is such a concern and what control methods have been used in sensitive habitats. Furthermore, it highlights successful control programs underway in Ontario as well as plans for implementing a province-wide control program. Access the webinar at youtube.com/watch?v=RQ7mlow3lDg.

A Friendly Reminder to Leash Your Pets

This spring let's make sure everyone enjoys their time outdoors in our parks, trails and other public spaces. Please remember to be a responsible pet owner and pick up after your dog. Dogs must also be leashed and in your control at all times for their protection and the protection of others. Leashed pets are rarely hit by cars or attacked by wildlife, and less likely to run off and get lost, or eat and drink things they shouldn't. Anyone not following these rules could also face a fine upwards of \$205 as per the Township's Animal Control By-law. Thank you for your cooperation.

Register for Summer Camps

The arrival of warmer weather means summer camp opportunities are on the horizon. Springwater Summer Day Camps are open to residents of Springwater who are between the ages of 5 and 12 years old. Our camps will create a fun and safe environment for children to interact and experience games, outdoor adventure, arts and crafts, and other exciting activities. Games and camp activities will be modified to promote physical distancing, with the majority planned to take place outdoors. The camps will run from Monday to Friday through July and August in locations including Elmvale, Minesing and Midhurst. For more information and to register, visit springwater.ca/Camps.

Simcoe County Student Bursary

The County of Simcoe is offering education bursaries of up to \$3000 to Simcoe County students attending a post-secondary institution in Ontario. Eligible applicants must reside in Simcoe County and submit an online application by July 29, 2022. For eligibility criteria and additional information, visit simcoe.ca/StudentBursary.

Elmvale Blood Drive

Sign up to save a life! Canadian Blood Services will be hosting a Blood Donor Clinic at the Elmvale Community Hall on Saturday, April 16 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Every donation counts. Book your appointment online at blood.ca or by phoning 1-888-2DONATE.

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This summary is not a full representation of the meeting. For the official record, please refer to the minutes in the next Council Agenda. Past Council Meetings are available for viewing on the Township's YouTube channel.

LDD Moth Management Options

Council received a staff report containing options as outlined by the County of Simcoe to manage the ongoing LDD (Spongy) Moth outbreak. A further staff report was requested to provide a contingency plan with an identified funding source that could be used to mitigate any major infestation on municipal property. Staff were also asked to identify available vendors that can provide bulk treatment pricing for residents and to develop a method for residents to report large LDD Moth outbreaks. The County of Simcoe, the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, Severn Sound Environmental Association and others have predicted that the current LDD moth infestation is on the decline and project low to moderate defoliation in 2022.

Craig Road Extension Project Update

An update on the status of the Craig Road Extension Project was provided to Council by Staff. Staff are proceeding to implement the project according to the 2009 Class Environmental Assessment Study and 2020 Environmental Study Report. The process to secure a design consultant is underway, and the project will move forward in tandem with the development of Neighbourhood 2. The new two-lane roadway will be approximately 2,750 metres in length, providing an east-west link between Russell Road and County Road 27 as well as an adjacent multi-use trail. It is projected to be open in the fall of 2025.

County of Simcoe Bursary Program

The Township of Springwater will once again participate in the County of Simcoe Bursary Program with a \$1000 donation. The donation guarantees one applicant from Springwater to receive a \$3000 bursary, for which the County of Simcoe will contribute the remaining \$2000.

Municipal Insurance Renewal

The renewal of an insurance policy with BFL Canada for a one-year term at a cost of \$526,380.64 was approved by Council.

Tree Clearing Request – D. Hickling

Council approved a tree clearing request for lands within the D. Hickling Plan of Subdivision. The agreement will allow for tree clearing in authorized areas with no site grading to occur at this stage.

Tree Clearing Request – Midhurst Heights

Council received a request for tree clearing at the Midhurst Heights Subdivision to allow for initial site preparation in Phases 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D. The request was approved with subsequent grading to be subject to a separate agreement once the engineering design is completed.

Animal Control and Pound Services Agreement Renewal

Council approved a two-year agreement ending March 31, 2024 with Devlin Farm Ltd to continue to provide animal control and pound facility services to the Township and its residents at a cost of \$4,500.00 per month.





MIDHURST PHARMACY



Let's Talk About... **Dry Skin**

With Pharmacist Owners Jenna Lougheed and Carolyn Glover

Dry skin or "xeroderma" describes skin that may be rough to the touch, have mild flaking or peeling and is often very itchy. It most commonly affects the thighs, lower legs, and arms. Dry skin can be more common in the winter months when there is less humidity in the air.

Applying a moisturizing cream or lotion at least twice per day can help relieve dryness. If applied just after a bath or shower, these agents can more effectively lock in moisture. Consistency is key. If regular use of moisturizers does not provide relief, products containing urea or lactic acid may be used, however be warned these may sting if cuts or scrapes are present. For extremely itchy areas, steroid creams are useful and some mild steroids like hydrocortisone are now available without a prescription. Staying hydrated is also very important.

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Ontario Investing in Additional Supports for People Experiencing Homelessness in Simcoe County

New Homelessness Prevention Program Helping Break the Cycle of Home Insecurity

The Ontario government is investing an additional \$25 million annually in a new Homelessness Prevention Program to help more people experiencing or at risk of homelessness find the right housing services and other supports. The new program will simplify and streamline operations so municipal service managers can spend less time on paperwork and more time working with their clients to help find housing and other supports and help those at-risk of homelessness stay in their homes. The additional funding brings Ontario's total yearly investment in the program to close to \$464 million - almost half a billion dollars.

This includes a 2022-23 investment of \$11,352,900.00 for Simcoe County homelessness initiatives, up from the \$10.4 million provided last year under three separate programs.

"Too often well-meaning government programs disappoint because they come wrapped up in bureaucracy and red tape," said Simcoe-Grey MPP Jim Wilson. "Ontario's new Homelessness Prevention Program, and the additional funding that comes with it, will address a growing social challenge in our communities and help ensure that everyone in Simcoe County has a safe place to call home."

"Our government inherited a homelessness prevention system administered through several different government programs that was underfunded, fragmented and overly complex," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "With Ontario's new Homelessness Prevention Program, we are simplifying the delivery of services and increasing funding so our municipal partners can spend more time focusing on providing vulnerable Ontarians with the supports they need to stay in their homes or get the housing they need."

The Homelessness Prevention Program launching on April 1, 2022, combines three programs: Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, Home for Good, and the Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program. It will give service managers more flexibility to target funding where it is needed the most and allow for greater financial accountability by

measuring service managers' progress in reducing and preventing homelessness in their communities.

Access to this funding will be based on having in place a By-Name List that meets the provincial requirements and contains detailed, up-to-date information from individuals experiencing homelessness to help connect them to local supports.

The government is also investing an additional \$6.7 million in the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program, bringing the total annual investment to \$30 million.

The shortage of housing supply impacts all Ontarians, no matter their background or budget. The province's ongoing work to increase the supply of market housing complements historic investments to increase the supply of supportive and affordable housing for the most vulnerable. As part of the consultations through the Community Housing Renewal Strategy, the government is working with service managers and housing providers to make community housing more efficient and sustainable – helping to protect essential community housing stock and ensure Ontario's most vulnerable people remain housed.

QUICK FACTS

The new investments can be used to fund the operation of supportive housing units created through the province's \$1 billion Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) – one of the biggest investments the province has made in affordable housing and homelessness supports in Ontario's history. Thanks to Ontario's SSRF, the government is helping to create approximately 1,200 new supportive housing units.

Ontario is also providing the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness with up to \$600,000 in 2022-23 to deliver by-name list training and implementation support related to HPP.

HPP is a direct response to feedback from the 2020-21 Supportive Housing Consultation. The changes made through the creation of the new program address recommendations in the Auditor General's 2021 value-for-money audit on homelessness.

Georgian Offering Virtual Events for People Who Have Questions About College

Thinking about studying at Georgian? The college is offering a Get to Know Georgian series of event on March 29, April 12 and April 19. These events run from 5 to 6 p.m. and they're virtual so you can attend from wherever you are.

At Get to Know Georgian, not only will you learn about our programs and services – we'll waive the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) fee if you apply on the day of the event with a Georgian program as your #1 choice.

Whether you're thinking about attending Georgian yourself or are a parent or supporter of a future student, this event is for you. Get to Know Georgian is a great opportunity to: learn about Georgian's flexible study options, including 130+ programs and opportunities for full-time, part-time and online study; get information on the many supports available to students; find out about student clubs and how you can get involved at college; understand Georgian's admission requirements, our application process and key dates; and discover financial aid options

There will also be a Q&A session where people can ask specific questions about Georgian.

Register online and get full details at GeorgianCollege.ca/GetToKnowGeorgian.

Campus tours are back in Barrie and Orillia! If you're thinking about studying at our Barrie or Orillia campuses you can now book a campus tour.

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RVH South Campus in Innisfil Advancing Through Provincial Support

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre's (RVH) future South Campus is moving ahead with the announcement that the Town of Innisfil's request for a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) was approved by the Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. This will bring enhanced access to healthcare and new jobs to the region. The MZO accelerates this project.

RVH's 83-acre South Campus site, at the southwest corner of Yonge Street and Innisfil Beach Road, was determined following an extensive three-year selection process, supported by ten third-party technical reviews and informed by 63,500 community consultation interactions with a wide range of stakeholders, including, Indigenous partners, environmental groups, vulnerable populations, healthcare partners and patients.

"Community consultation has been foundational to RVH's planning and for three years we've heard from stakeholders in every corner of our region. We understand residents of south Simcoe County want the South Campus built as soon as possible, but developing a hospital is complex and timelines can be long," says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. "The MZO provides provincial planning certainty that the South Campus can be built at this location as we continue to follow strict planning criteria. It also well-positions RVH to more quickly to secure provincial approvals for the plan which will improve the healthcare of area residents for generations to come."

The South Campus is part of RVH's integrated "one system; two site" capital plan which will evolve over the next two decades. The first phase of the South Campus, to be built within ten years, will be a Health Hub, focusing on outpatient care, including an Urgent Care Centre. It will expand to become a full-service hospital, with a 24/7 Emergency Department, operating rooms and a birthing unit within 20 years. At maturity, the South Campus will be about the size of the current North Campus on Georgian Drive, seeing 350,000 patient visits each year.

"This MZO to accelerate the creation of the new South Campus Health Hub is yet another way our government is helping to get shovels in the ground for more hospitals, housing, and long-term care facilities, and build a stronger Ontario for everyone," says Minister Clark. "We will continue to provide our municipal partners, like the Town of Innisfil, with the tools and resources they need to deliver vital projects to their community."

At the same time, RVH's current North Campus will double in size, including a new nine-storey inpatient building. The North and South Campus are completely interdependent; one can't proceed without the other.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us how important it is to have access to hospital beds and healthcare close to home. The future South Campus will change the healthcare landscape in Simcoe County and ensure the care and well-being of our residents continues to be met long into the future," says Innisfil Mayor Lynn Dollin. "We are grateful to have the support from the province in bringing this critical infrastructure to our community."

RVH and the Town of Innisfil continue to seek feedback from residents on the South Campus through their websites RVHPlanourfuture.ca and Get Involved Innisfil.

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Minesing Branch is Re-opening for Public Access!

Springwater Township Public Library is pleased to announce the reopening of our Minesing Branch to the public on Tuesday, April 5. Minesing will be open Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Elmvalle Branch is reopening on Monday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Minesing Branch has been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Curbside pick-up has continued throughout the past two years, allowing Minesing residents to access library materials.

"I am so happy to see our Minesing patrons in person," says Kaitlyn Cragg, Library Technician 1. "I have missed seeing everyone and sharing our new titles and programs with them."

Library Hours starting on April 4, 2022 are:

Elmvalle and Midhurst Branches

Monday, 1:00 – 5:00, Tuesday 10:00 – 7:00, Wednesday 10:00 – 5:00, Thursday 10:00 to 7:00, Friday 10:00 – 5:00, Saturday 10:00 to 4:00

Minesing Branch

Tuesday 10:00 -5:00, Thursday 1:00 – 7:00

Please contact for more information:

Jodie Player Delgado, CEO Springwater Public Library

(705) 220-2496

Jodie.delgado@springwater.ca

History of Libraries

The first libraries consisted of archives of the earliest form of writing – the clay tablets in cuneiform script discovered in temple rooms in Sumer, [some dating back to 2600 BC. About an inch thick, tablets came in various shapes and sizes. Mud-like clay was placed in the wooden frames, and the surface was smoothed for writing and allowed to dry until damp. After being inscribed, the clay dried in the sun, or for a harder finish, was baked in a kiln. For storage, tablets could be stacked on edge, side by side, the contents described by a title written on the edge that faced out and was readily seen. The first libraries appeared five thousand years ago in Southwest Asia's Fertile Crescent, an area that ran from Mesopotamia to the Nile in Africa. Known as the cradle of civilization, the Fertile Crescent was the birthplace of writing, sometime before 3000 BC. (Murray, Stuart A.P.) These archives, which mainly consisted of the records of commercial transactions or inventories, mark the end of prehistory and the start of history. Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/>

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

REOPENING SOON!



Reopening Minesing Branch!!!

Springwater Public Library is thrilled to announce that Minesing Branch will reopen its doors to welcome everyone back in April! Our hours will be **Tuesdays 10am-5pm and Thursdays 1pm-7pm**. Staff member Joanne will be in branch **starting Tuesday April 4th** and Kaitlyn will be there to welcome you weekly on Thursdays. Be sure to come in and say Hi!

Take and Make Card: Spring

This month's free card to pick up and make is spring themed. Be sure to get yours while supplies last!

Smile Campaign ends April 4

You still have a chance to support our local Moms in partnership with the Elmvalle Food Bank. Companies, families, friends can join together and put together a bag (pick up your bag and card from the library) or make a donation and we will shop for you! If you can donate just a few of the following items that helps too! We are looking for: hand cream, nail polish, emery boards, chocolate, mints/gum and notepads. The value of the bag is approximately \$50.

Volunteer Income Tax Program

Phone the Elmvalle branch and receive a call back from this free tax preparation program or drop off your paperwork in a sealed envelope for processing. See the library's website for more details or email the Canadian Volunteer Income Tax Program at: cvitp.elvmale@gmail.com

Krafting with Kathy Spring Sign

Be creative and make your own spring sign. Pick your own bag from the variety offered – each one is different! Available starting Thursday April 7.

Take and Make Washcloth Bunny

Get hoppin' to pick up your cute washcloth bunny before they all disappear! Kits available starting **Tuesday April 12**.

Easter Hours

All branches of Springwater Public Library will be closed on Friday April 15 (Good Friday) and Monday April 18 (Easter Monday). Have a safe and happy holiday everyone!

Simcoe Author Talks: April

This month we host two authors starting with Tara McKenna, and her book, Don't be Trashy: A Practical Guide to Living with Less Waste and More Joy, which outlines how to reduce the waste you produce over a one year period. **Friday April 22, 2pm**. Next is author, Faranza Doctor, and her book, You Still Look the Same which urges us to take a second look at the ways in which human relationships are never what we expect them to be. **Thursday April 27, 7pm**.



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\$13.2 Billion Child Care Deal will Lower Fees for Families

Ontario and Canada have signed a \$13.2 billion agreement that will lower fees for families and deliver an average of \$10 a day child care by September 2025.

Highlights of Ontario's better deal include:

- A federal investment of \$13.2 billion over six years with the province having secured more certainty around out-year funding. The deal includes an additional year of funding of at least \$2.9 billion.
- The flexibility to allocate federal funding in a way that will allow the province to deliver an average of \$10 a day child care, including by spending the initial \$10.2 billion over four years instead of five.
- Enhanced protection against funding shortfalls through a mandated financial review process in year three – the first of its kind in any provincial child care deal – to reconcile the actual costs of the new national child care plan with funding.
- Reduction of child care fees through four steps of reduction to an average of \$10 a day per child five years old and younger by September 2025.
- Parent rebates, retroactive to April 1, will begin in May.
- Protection of all for-profit and non-profit child care spaces, helping to support predominantly female entrepreneurs across the province who provide high-quality child care services.
- Creation of approximately 86,000 new, high-quality child care spaces for children five years old and younger.
- Hiring new early childhood educators and support improved compensation for all Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) working in licensed child care.
- Maintain Ontario's child care tax credit program

that supports 300,000 families with expenses in licensed and unlicensed child care.

- Work with municipalities to enrol 5,000 licensed child care centres and home child care agencies into the program between now and September 1.

“From day one, I said our government wouldn't sign a deal that didn't work for Ontario parents and I'm so proud of the work we've done with our federal partners to land an agreement that will lower costs for families across the province,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Given how complex Ontario's child care system is, we wanted to get this right. Today, we're delivering a deal that will keep money in the pockets of hard-working parents.”

As a first step, all Ontario families with children five years old and younger in participating licensed child care centres will see their fees reduced, up to 25 per cent, to a minimum of \$12 per day, retroactive to April 1, 2022. In December 2022, parents will see another reduction. In total, fees for families will be reduced in 2022, on average, by 50 per cent, relieving parents of \$1.1 billion in child care costs. Families will see further fee reductions in September 2024, culminating in a final reduction to an average of \$10-a-day child care by September 2025.

Additionally, this agreement supports the creation of 86,000 more licensed child care spaces to address increasing demand, including more than 15,000 licensed child care spaces created since 2019. To maintain the province's high quality of child care, the agreement also supports the recruitment of new early childhood educators, stable compensation for all Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) working in licensed child care, including RECEs providing child care for children six to 12 years old.

“We have secured a deal for Ontario families that will significantly reduce child care costs for working moms and dads, and that starts today”, said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. “We were able to deliver a deal for Ontario families that includes billions in additional funding and a longer agreement that respects parents and provides financial support for families.”

To support the child care sector in implementing these new measures, and to ensure the costs of inflation are covered, Ontario is investing \$395 million to ensure RECEs for the 6-12 age group benefit from the wage increases committed to RECEs for the 0-5 age group, as the federal program does not extend support to workers or children age 6-12.

To ensure a sustainable future that protects Ontario taxpayers and puts parents first, the Canada-Ontario agreement also ensures that the cost of implementing the agreement will continue to be monitored by Canada and Ontario with automatic review in year three of the agreement (2024-25). This automatic review mechanism is the first of its kind in any child care agreement in Canada.

Ontario will work with municipalities to enroll over 5,000 licensed child care centres and home child care agencies in the new program between now and September 1. Rebates to parents, retroactive to April 1, will begin in May, and will follow the enrolment of licensed centres and agencies into the new system.

Ontario families will continue to benefit from the province's child care tax credit program, which remains in effect. This program provides an estimated 300,000 families with up to 75 per cent of their eligible expenses for licensed and unlicensed child care in centres, home-based care, camps and other settings.

Ontario's agreement also recognizes its unique position of having the largest child care aged population in Canada and complements the province's world-class, fully funded, full-day kindergarten program for four- and five-year-olds. Over the course of the agreement, Ontario will be investing \$21.6 billion in full-day kindergarten. Together, through the Ontario Child Care Tax Credit (CARE), affordable child care options, and all-day kindergarten, Ontario parents are provided with a full array of options, benefits and supports for early years and child care.

In addition to the investments under the new national agreement, Ontario continues to invest more than \$2 billion a year in early years and child care, including:

- \$1.6 billion to support child care programs, including \$25.5 million for Indigenous-led, off-reserve programming
- \$152 million for early years programs and EarlyON centres
- \$49.5 million for child care and child and family programs in First Nation communities
- \$390 million annually to support the Childcare Access and Relief from Expenses tax credit program, with the government providing a one-time, 20-per-cent top-up for the 2021 tax year
- \$3.6 billion a year to provide free, universal, full-day kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds within school settings.

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Transit Operators and Maintenance Staff Show Dedication to County of Simcoe Communities

Warden George Cornell has officially proclaimed March 18th, 2022 as Transit Worker Appreciation Day. The outstanding achievements of LINX and LINX PLUS+ Transit operators and maintenance staff have shown the pride and dedication that these employees have in their communities, including maintaining critical services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Transit operators and maintenance staff ensure that our communities have a safe, economical way of connecting to one another,” said Warden George Cornell. “The County would like to thank all of our hard working transit operators and maintenance staff



Photo caption: Warden Cornell and Councillor Stewart Strathearn take a ride on LINX to thank drivers for keeping our communities connected

for keeping our communities moving and connected.”

Transit operators and maintenance staff ensure that communities are connected and thriving throughout Simcoe County. Routes include Penetanguishene/ Midland - Barrie, Wasaga Beach - Barrie, Orillia - Barrie, Collingwood - Wasaga Beach, New Tecumseth - Bradford West Gwillimbury, and Midland - Orillia. These essential routes ensure that residents are able to travel between communities to medical appointments, to obtain and retain employment, and doing our part to keep the economy going during difficult times.

Residents of the County of Simcoe are encouraged to thank local transit operators and maintenance staff by using the hashtag #TransitConnectsSimcoeCounty on social media on March 18, 2022. All good wishes will be shared with transit operators and maintenance staff.

About Simcoe County LINX and LINX PLUS+ Transit

Simcoe County LINX is a conventional public transit system with six routes connecting communities across the County that links major urban hubs and local transit services in the County of Simcoe. The LINX and LINX PLUS+ transit system provides citizens and visitors with reliable and courteous transit system in clean, safe and accessible vehicles.

About the County of Simcoe

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

WE ARE CHANGING!

April 1, 2022

To Our Valued and Loyal Customers,

Elmvale Home Building Centre is excited to announce that we have joined forces with the BMR Group and will proudly be rebranding ourselves under the new name “Brae-Con Building Materials” effective April 4, 2022. Our ownership and staff will remain the same, but with new signage and apparel.

We will continue to service our customers in the Simcoe-Muskoka and surrounding area, providing first class service, quality brand name products and a full offering of building materials. With competitive pricing, integrated distribution, many exciting new products and a dynamic marketing program, BMR will provide us with the tools to give our customers an exceptional shopping experience along with great value.

Over the years, we have proudly supported and given back to our community through various sports, service clubs, local fundraisers and events, as well as providing employment to our community. We will continue to do so and look forward to this new and exciting journey ahead. Our customers are our #1 priority and we promise to maintain the best service level and quality materials that you know and expect!

We thank you for your business and look forward to your continued support!

Sincerely,

George & Julie Begley

The entire Management and Staff

BMR Pro

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LOVE NATURE: Can Wetlands Help? Heal Our Sick Lakes?

New research conducted by Ducks Unlimited Canada on Lake Erie provides hope that they can.

The Great Lakes region is home to over 30 per cent of Canadians and contains over one-fifth of the world's fresh water supply. Beyond the provision of drinking water, these lakes provide critical habitat for wildlife and offer recreational opportunities for millions of people.



Unfortunately, the growing presence of blue-green algae blooms are making Canada's most iconic lakes sick—and people, pets and wildlife along with them. As climate change threatens to accelerate the conditions under which these potentially toxic algae can thrive, new research completed by Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is delivering a message of hope along with nature-based solutions to support clean water in Canada and beyond.

After two years of research conducted in the Lake Erie watershed, DUC's science is expanding our understanding of how wetlands effectively retain and filter nutrients like phosphorus from water before they travel to our rivers and lakes—reducing the

threat of water quality problems like blue-green algae outbreaks. DUC's research took place at restored wetlands on the north side of Lake Erie—one of North America's notorious sick lakes—in a region that continues to experience significant wetland habitat loss.

DUC scientists measured the ability of small, restored wetlands to retain nutrients from water before they move downstream. The wetlands were shown to be effective at settling and processing nutrients, especially the most problematic form of phosphorus (soluble reactive phosphorus) known to contribute to the formation of blue-green algae. The research showed significant nutrient reduction in all four seasons. These results bolster findings from past research conducted by DUC, universities and other institutions, offering further evidence that investments in wetland habitat pay off significantly by flowing cleaner, healthier water into our lakes, year after year.

"We're building the case that restoring the lost functions of wetlands in watersheds can empower communities to help heal their sick lakes," says Bryan Page, the DUC research biologist overseeing the Lake Erie study led by DUC's Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided funding for both years of the study. Year two of the study was funded in partnership with the Government of Canada via the Great Lakes Protection Initiative, and year one with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. Support from local participating landowners was integral to the research.

Page's colleague, DUC research scientist Pascal Badiou, is working closely with the University of Waterloo and Ducks Unlimited science colleagues on the U.S. side of Lake Erie on a research partnership



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that will build on and scale up this knowledge and its applications for healthy watersheds, even in highly developed areas.

"Decisions being made today on land-use planning policy and wetland management are impacting our future," says DUC CEO Larry Kaumeyer. "We now know that even small wetlands can deliver ecosystem services like improved water quality, flood attenuation, and carbon sequestration while providing critical habitat for at-risk wildlife species."

DUC used World Water Day, March 22, to celebrate the completion of the study at a virtual event. To learn more about DUC's research and how we're collaborating directly on the landscape with communities across Canada to restore and create highly functional wetlands that support cleaner water visit ducks.ca/healthy-lakes

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is the leader in wetland conservation. A registered charity, DUC partners with government, industry, non-profit organizations, Indigenous Peoples and landowners to conserve wetlands that are critical to waterfowl, wildlife and the environment. To learn more about DUC's innovative environmental solutions and services, visit www.ducks.ca

Anten Mills by Dennis Gannon



Weather the past several weeks has been interesting to say the least. The month of May type temperature followed by early December snow has made for some interesting days. A late night entertainer suggested that someone must have put the weather on shuffle! The major snowmelt has cleared much from the roads and ditches and there certainly has been an increase in the sightings of Robins chirping away. With all of this of course comes soft and muddy ground. It also signals that ATVS and dirt bikes will be out and about. Dirt bike riders have already been seen in the neighborhood and unfortunately not riding safely. This is a time that adults should be impressing upon the youth who ride these vehicles that it must be done safely and by following the rules. Part of those rules are where these vehicles can be ridden. The County of Simcoe has closed all COATV and SCORRA trails within the county forests until May 1. The community park and rail trail also posted that motorized vehicles are not permitted which is enforced by a bylaw. Regrettably there are a few riders who think that the park and trail are their playgrounds and continue to ride their vehicles in these areas. Significant damage was done late last fall and early winter in the park by individuals who failed to follow the simple request, stay out. These are municipal facilities that we all pay for and enjoy the use of. Let's remember that and

respect the rules.

There are many more people out walking with their dogs now that the weather is changing. Not everyone is comfortable with a dog running off leash coming towards them. For the safety of all please keep your dog leashed and remember to clean up after them. No one wants to step on animal excrement. It's not pleasant.

It was just over a year ago that Springwater firefighters came to one of the first grass fires of the season in our community. The ground is still somewhat wet now but that can change quickly and an out of control fire will spread quickly. Everyone who has a recreational fire must obtain a permit from the fire department. It's simple to obtain one either on line or in person. Failure to have a permit and the fire department attends can result in a very substantial bill. Play it safe and get a permit before starting your fire.

Most of us have had someone pass away in our lives. We have felt the grief and sadness that came with the passing. Not all of us have seen the benefit of a person passing in a hospice. Hospice provides a comfortable setting for those nearing the end of life and their family members. And it is done so at no charge. They also provide valuable assistance to families following the passing. A longtime resident of Anten Mills has been a volunteer at Hospice Simcoe for 21+ years and is again participating in the Hike for Hospice on May 1. Marjan de Jong Deller is looking for sponsors for the hike and it is known that Marjan is one of the top hikers and fundraisers. She

is on the Anten Mills Community Facebook group so you can reach her there or by contacting her on her email, five.dellers@sympatico.ca. Marjan is grateful for our community support and Hospice Simcoe is as well. If you can help please do so. Their efforts are appreciated by everyone who has been supported by them.

Springwater Township has started some recreation programs again and there are two taking place at our community centre. Both are on Tuesday starting this coming Tuesday, April 5. Fun + Fit is from 10:45 AM to 11:45 AM and from 12:00 PM to 1PM is Yoga. Participation is limited and to sign up go to the Township of Springwater website and look for recreation programs. Both programs run for 8 weeks.

It looks like the SWIFT high speed internet project is starting to ramp up in the village. More utility locates have been done and cable is being strung along Wilson. A closer watch of the project will continue.

The Anten Mills CRA is still working to hold an Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday April 16. With few community events this past few years, it is difficult to plan and make events happen without volunteers and assistance is needed. Not only for this event but others as well. The old saying of many hands make for light work is certainly true within our community. If you can contribute some time please contact any member of the CRA and keep the date open and watch for more details if the event moves ahead on the Anten Mills Community Facebook page.

That's all for this week. Thanks for reading, Be Well and Stay Safe.



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SRES

HEY DADS!



It's spring! Almost. Springy-winter. Slushy, sloppy, muddy, wintery spring. Ugly yard season. Spring officially began about a week ago. I remember growing up and March Break could bring a couple scenarios. There could be a week of riding GT Snowracers, skating on ponds, rivers and canals, or it could be a week of warmish, melty street hockey weather. You never knew what you were going to get. We lived in town so walking home from school there would be bits of flat melting ice on the side of the road with the water draining beneath it. This left a small gap of space between the road and the ice. If we jumped up and down on the ice pieces they would crack and break apart. We could then chuck the pieces in the air and smash them on the road. I'm not sure why that was so much fun but if you've done it you know that it was.

There's a spring smell in the air that begins this time of year. I remember thinking that baseball season wasn't too far away when I smelled that spring smell. Also on the way were summer jobs and cash flow and not delivering newspapers in the snow. Do kids still deliver newspapers? We stopped getting Barrie newspapers at some point in the last number of years but we still get the most important one - the Springwater News.

Are there any spring activities that you do with your kids? Fun stuff like changing snow tires or pumping water out of flooded basements?

Sometimes we tap a few trees and make our own maple syrup. Sometimes one of the kids dumps it on the floor after we've been boiling it for eight hours over an open fire. I thought we could improve our evaporating efficiency so I hopped on Youtube and found some DIY syrup evaporators. For less than \$90 we made our own evaporator out of an old 50 gallon drum and some stainless trays we bought online. High quality stuff here folks. The evaporator was a great improvement over boiling sap on an open fire between cinder blocks. It was a great improvement over spilling maple syrup into an open fire between cinder blocks. As an added bonus we were able to re-purpose the old piano we had sitting on our junk pile. The kids and I got to play (safely) with axes and it provided much fuel for the boiling process. May it rest in peace.

My dear wife appreciated the new boiling system with its fancy trays. She was very patient with the steady flow of blackened, soot-covered pots and pans coming back in the kitchen from off the fire. Some of those pots and pans disappeared with kids into the backyard never to be seen again. May they rest in peace also.

So enjoy the spring, dads! Do spring things with your kids. Do spring things with axes. Do spring things with fire! Safely of course, as we dads mostly do. Time flies! Make every moment count!

Jason Weening has a pile of blackened kitchen utensils in his shed near Minesing. His nine kids and one patient wife all enjoy home-made maple syrup. Check out heydads.ca if it's still too cold to go outside.

World Water Day

On World Water Day 2022 a group of more than 100 local citizens, activists and representatives from environmental organizations congregated at Queen's Park to rally in support of protecting our water.

"We're here to shine a light on a specific situation in Tiny Township", said Tara Marshall, FOTTSA Director and Rally organizer, as she addressed the crowd. "Our ask is simple, we need our government to stop the extraction of aggregates in our area so we can study and understand the unique environment that allows the Alliston aquifer to maintain its purity."

Guest speakers included Gibb Wishart - Tiny Township Councillor, Dr. Mike Powell - PhD adjunct Professor Department of Renewable Resources University of Alberta, Mark Calzavara - Council of Canadians, Elizabeth Brass Elson - Secretary of the board of the Georgian Bay Women's foundation, MPP Sandy Shaw, MPP Sol Mamakwa, MPP Mike Schreiner leader of the Ontario Green Party and Mike Balkwill the Campaign Director with Water Watchers and Reform Gravel Mining Coalition.



Photo: (left to right) Cara and Lucy from Simcoe County environmental youth alliance, Danny Beaton, Elizabeth Brass Elson (BFN) and Judith Grant (FoTTSA)

This year's a motto for World Water Day was: Groundwater- making the invisible visible and it aligned perfectly with the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations continued fight to protect the pristine groundwater in the North Simcoe Uplands. The saveourwatertiny.com website has been updated to include our most recent launch of a federal e-petition that will eventually be presented in the House of Commons by North Simcoe MP Adam Chambers.

If you could not attend the rally but still want to show your support there are many ways to do so! Go to saveourwatertiny.com sign the petition, donate towards the legal costs of two upcoming Ontario Land Tribunal hearings, donate and get a lawn sign to post on your property, send letters to your local candidates, follow save our water on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Many thanks to those of you who have already donated, rallied at the Flow and continue to raise awareness and fight for our water. Special thanks to the St. John's United Church for their generous donation.



\$1 TURNS INTO \$100,000: VICTORIA HARBOUR RESIDENT CELEBRATES \$100,000

ENCORE WIN

Saying "yes" to ENCORE paid off for Brian Twyne of Victoria Harbour. He matched the last six of seven ENCORE numbers in exact order in the February 11, 2022 LOTTO MAX draw to win \$100,000!

Brian, a 38-year-old father, said he's a regular lottery player who always adds ENCORE. "I was half asleep when I checked my ticket on the OLG App. I noticed the screen looked different and then started counting the zeroes," he shared while at the OLG Prize Centre in Toronto to pick up his winnings. "After the third time scanning it, I showed my wife. She screamed with joy – it was a great way to wake up!"

Brian said this win comes at a perfect time for his family. "We've been impacted by the pandemic, so this means some happier times ahead."

He plans to complete some work around the house, save some, and travel with his family. "We're planning a road trip to Newfoundland in the summer," he smiled.



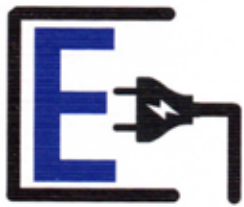
COLLINGWOOD RESIDENT WINS \$250,000 TOP PRIZE WITH INSTANT MONEY BAG MULTIPLIER

James (Jimmy) Lane of Collingwood is \$250,000 richer after winning the top prize with INSTANT MONEY BAG MULTIPLIER (Game #2291).

Jimmy, 58, says he has been a regular lottery player since he was of age to play. "I love all the games. This ticket was a random pick," he shared while at the OLG Prize Centre to pick up his winnings.

The father and chef discovered his big win while playing his ticket at home. "I saw I won \$250,000 right away and thought 'Oh, cool!' he smiled. "I shared the news with my family. They're so happy for me."

Jimmy plans to invest his win and pay some bills. "It feels good to win after playing for all these years," Jimmy concluded.

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Container Gardening Tips with a Master Gardener



*Submitted by: Joanne Nijhuis
MSc, RD, a consulting and
culinary dietitian in Simcoe Grey
Bruce.*

Recently Pat Cook, a gardening expert with the Simcoe County Master Gardeners, discussed healthy container gardening at The Springwater Library. As a dietitian I know the health benefits of growing your own food (i.e., no pesticides), but I have been nervous to commit to caring for a garden when I can barely keep my houseplants alive. After Pat's library lecture the idea of growing food in containers seems doable and less daunting than digging garden beds in my backyard.

If like me you're ready to try container gardening, read on.



Tips for vegetable gardens in containers:

- Include flowers like marigolds, nasturtiums, and sweet alyssum to attract pollinators and beneficial insects (i.e., insects that help to control damaging garden pests).
- Keep in mind how big the mature plant will be at the end of the season and choose the right size pot and location.
- Look for dwarf or patio varieties of tomatoes & peppers.



Use your container space wisely

- Think up, not out and grow vertically. Tomatoes, peas, beans, cucumbers, squash are examples of vegetables that will grow up a trellis, cage or stake and save space.
- Interplant by growing more than one plant in the same container. Tomatoes will grow nicely with basil, or other herbs at their base. Plant fast growing crops like lettuce or arugula between crops such as onions and carrots.

Other

- Containers need careful monitoring for water & fertilizer as they dry out faster and deplete their nutrients more quickly.
- A regular liquid fertilizer every 10-14 days of 10-10-10 is recommended.
- A great way to check if your containers need more water is to lift them up. If they are light weight, they need water.
- Sunlight requirements:
- Full sun (6-8 hours)- tomato, pepper, eggplant,

melons, cucumber, beans, squash.

- Part sun (4-6 hours)- broccoli, carrots, radishes, beets, turnips and potatoes.
- Low sun/shade (3-4 hours)-arugula, kale, spinach, lettuce and other leafy greens.

The Simcoe County Master Gardeners is a volunteer organization that educates and motivates the general public and gardeners in and around Simcoe County about sustainable gardening practices. For more information, please visit their website at www.simcoecountymg.ca.

www.joknowsnutrition.com
Instagram: [jo_knows_nutrition](https://www.instagram.com/jo_knows_nutrition)



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WAR AMPS 2022 KEY TAG MAILING BEGINS IN MINESING

The War Amps begins its 2022 key tag mailing to Minesing and surrounding area this week with the theme "You Make Our Programs Possible."

This is illustrated through the story of 12-year-old Cooper Tidmarsh who lost part of his right leg in a lawn mower accident. Cooper, a member of The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program, receives financial assistance for artificial limbs and devices and also attends regional seminars where Champs and their parents learn about the latest in artificial limbs, dealing with teasing and staring, and parenting an amputee child.

The Key Tag Service was launched in 1946 so that returning war amputee veterans could not only work for competitive wages, but also provide a service to Canadians that would generate funds for the Association's many programs, including CHAMP. The Key Tag Service continues to employ amputees and people with disabilities, and has returned more than 1.5 million sets of lost keys to their owners.

Each key tag has a confidentially coded number. If you lose your keys, the finder can call the toll-free number on the back of the tag or place them in any mailbox in Canada, and The War Amps will return them to you by courier, free of charge.

The War Amps receives no government grants and its programs are possible through public support of the Key Tag and Address Label Service.

For more information, or to order key tags, visit waramps.ca or call toll-free 1 800 250-3030.

Photo: Cooper Tidmarsh has benefited from The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program thanks to public support of the Key Tag Service.



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It's Time to Spring into Clean and Help Get Rid of Litter in Your Neighbourhood

It is officially spring, the weather is getting warmer, and the snow has melted away—revealing litter that was left behind after winter. It's time to get outside and help clean up your community. Registration is now open for the City of Barrie's Spring into Clean events, which take place April 22 to 24.

Friday, April 22: School Participation Day

The City encourages all elementary and high school students to take an active role in this school community clean-up project by cleaning up their property and local parklands. After registering, schools will receive enough garbage bags and gloves for each student to help clean up their schoolyard and surrounding areas.



April 23 and 24: Community Cleanup Days

Barrie residents are invited to participate by registering to clean up a local public space such as a neighbourhood park, ravine, or trail area. Community groups, teams, neighbourhood associations, individuals and families are encouraged to participate! Register online as an individual or a group. By registering, you will receive special litter collections bags, and the garbage picked up will be collected at the pre-determined designated drop off areas.

April 22 to 24: Corporate Cleanup Days

All businesses in Barrie are welcome to participate in this community project by registering to clean up a local public space such as a ravine, trail or neighbourhood park near their business.

Register at barrie.ca/SpringIntoClean before April 4.

Spring into Clean is sponsored by Tim Horton's and garbage collection is donated by Waste Connections of Canada. The Spring Into Clean events coincide with Earth Week and are designed to clean up our community, while raising levels of environmental awareness and social responsibility. In 2019, this event had 300 corporate participants, 200 community participants, and participation from 40 schools (over 17,000 students). The total weight of waste collected in 2019 was 4.95 tonnes. The City's 2020 and 2021 Spring into Clean events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wyevale News

RuthAnn Caston

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Jennilyn Trew, Trevor Archer, Cory Trew, Linda Blow, Travis Desroches, Nancy Chilvers, Mya Dempey, and my friend Marian Fallus who celebrates her 80th birthday.

Those who want anything from MacMillan, please get your orders in by April 7th to Sandy Rawn at 705-322-6955.

Our sympathy goes out to Terry and Sue Truax and family on the passing of Sue's Mother.

The craft group meets on Wednesday nights in the church basement at 7 pm. Bring your knitting or other crafts and enjoy making your crafts with others.

Easter services are on April 14th, Good Friday at 10 am and Easter Sunday service on the 17th at 10 am.

The first Sunday of every month, they will be collecting food for the food bank. Suggestion is canned goods with pull off tabs would be appreciated.

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



CHECKING IN@PPL

News & Events at the
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PD Programs are here!

Sunflower Craft

Support Ukraine with our Sunflower Craft Sunflower craft with coloring pages. Pick up your kit at the library. Price \$1.00 – all money will be donated to the Red Cross to support Ukraine.

Easter Egg Hunt and Craft

Kids will make some Easter crafts for ½ hour. Afterwards, participate in an Easter Egg Hunt. Participants will receive a loot bag. No limit to participants per household. Time: 11:00-12:00 Age limit: 4-7 Please register by April 8th.

Spanish Classes

Spanish classes begin again! Intermediate and advanced classes in person or via Zoom. March 24-April 28, 2022. Time 1:00-2:00 p.m. Register with your library card. New @PPL

Masks are optional every day except on Thursday when immunocompromised individuals are encouraged to visit! Please support immunocompromised individuals and wear your mask on Thursday. Thanks for participating!

Let's Stay Connected!

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Penetanguishene Public Library

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The Royal Canadian Legion Service Bureau Officer

Sherry Culling of Canada Place, Suite 202, 107 Shirreff Avenue, North Bay ON P1B 7K8 will be visiting Branches in your area during the week of April 11, 2022.

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Annie's Journal

Written by Annie Warner Donnelly

There's a story in 1 Kings 12:1-7 that demonstrates how resting certain words provides physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual rest. After King Solomon died: his son, Rehoboam, became king.

And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king. So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it (he was still in Egypt, for he had fled from the presence of King Solomon and had been dwelling in Egypt), that they sent and called him.

Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, "Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."

So he (Rehoboam) said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed.

Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise me to answer these people?"

And they spoke to him saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

The words of the elders seem to be good wisdom for us today. To speak good words means we must lay to rest words of condemnation, words of harmful criticism, hurtful words, confusing words, words of despair - lay to rest every word that is not filled

with the love of God, that is not reflecting, revealing and resembling the character of God.

Following the advice of these elders will make our description of the love of God believable. The evidence will be in our words and actions. Spiritual change in our behaviour is always convincing proof of God's ability to transform our lives.

In our case, being a servant to the people around us helps the Holy Spirit lead them to serve God forever. This is one way we can help the Gospel be alive in the world.

By making the decision to speak only good words, we rest our physical bodies from the upset of negative emotional responses; we rest our minds from the turmoil of negative thoughts and words; and we rescue ourselves from the struggle between speaking good words in love vs the harmful words our human hearts sometimes want to shout.

This doesn't mean that there won't be times when we must speak a word of correction, but by cultivating the habit of speaking good words, even our words of correction can become pearls of wisdom and comfort.

Are you wondering if King Rehoboam heeded the elders' words? The story continues in 1 Kings chapter 12. Unfortunately, verse 8 describes what some of us do from time to time.

May we begin to think of rest as more than just physical rest. God's rest embodies our full being.

May we surrender to His care, by His grace and for His glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Thanks Be To God... Blessings Ed

Annie's Devotions is a very popular Springwater News column. We are grateful for her inspiring words. Her husband has written to the Springwater News in the past and here is his latest update. God bless them both.

Today is my 79th birthday and I am very happy to be able to write about my health. All my life everyone has always asked me how old I was and me being reluctant at disclosing my age, I wouldn't tell, and then in these latest years I would say I will be 100 on my next. But now I am very happy to tell my age, a few years back I asked the Lord to let me live to 82, but now that is to close, an extension to a bigger number is needed.

Since January 2021 I was told I had cancer and it is in my lungs on both sides and probably stage 4, but they are not sure so maybe stage 3. They, {RVH} team which I will say, treated me very well said 6 months to a year to live. And here I am today over that timeline and looking forward to more.

I agreed to do 30 treatments of radiation and 6 treatments of chemo which they recommended. That was finished in August, then I was put on a program of immunotherapy weekly for indefinite time. The pills and the side effects were severe, so they reduced the ratio, which helped, but they suggested that I do 1 strong treatment of radiation on my left side lung as it had increased in size since the last CT scan, followed by another 6 chemo treatments.

I took the radiation treatment and was told that 1 out of three people will experience high pain level. I was one of those, and the pain shot through the roof even with the strong pills I took. But after a few days the pain dropped back better than before, with the hydromorphone pills supplemented with Tylenol


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Ontario REALTORS® Donate \$100,000 to Support Ukraine Relief Efforts



To support the relief efforts in Ukraine, the Ontario REALTORS Care® Foundation (ORCF) announced today that it is donating \$100,000 to the Canadian Red Cross through the Canadian Real Estate Association REALTORS Care® campaign.

"As the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine rages on, we recognize the need to support the people of Ukraine in any way we can and that is why we are donating \$100,000 to assist in the relief efforts," said Heather Arnott, ORCF Board President.

"Through this donation, Ontario REALTORS® wish to express solidarity with the innocent lives being impacted by the devastation in Ukraine. As part of the global community, we are inspired by the strength and bravery displayed by the people of Ukraine fighting for their freedom and we are hoping for an end to the crisis."

The donation will be provided by the ORCF, an organization that has supported shelter-based organizations throughout Ontario since 1977 and receives its funding through the generosity of Ontario REALTORS®. Over the last 40 years, the Foundation has provided more than \$16 million dollars for charities and organizations across the province. Today's donation is part of ORCF's mission to make a real difference, supporting people and communities.

The donation will support the Canadian Red Cross' Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal, helping provide humanitarian assistance and alleviate suffering in Ukraine. It will go towards providing immediate and ongoing relief efforts in the country, long-term recovery, resiliency, and other critical humanitarian activities that arise in Ukraine and surrounding countries, including those who are displaced.

For more information about the Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal, please visit the Canadian Red Cross website. To make a tax-receiptable contribution to the Canadian Red Cross securely using the Canadian Real Estate Association's, please visit the REALTORS Care® donation page.

For more information about ORCF and how Ontario REALTORS® are supporting their communities, please visit the Ontario REALTORS Care® Foundation website.

About the Ontario REALTORS® Care Foundation The Ontario REALTORS Care® Foundation, formerly the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) Foundation was established in 1967. The Foundation supports shelter-based charitable organizations across Ontario, making a difference in the lives of people and communities where REALTORS® live and conduct business

extra strength. Then there was the 6 chemo treatments that were to be very high to deal with. I took 1 of that chemo and experienced very bad side effects along with nose bleeds and very strong pills. I was going to be taking around 15 pills daily for chemo, constipation, cholesterol, and pain management.

Now, again I stopped chemo and am on pain pills to control pain as needed. The cancer has moved into my bones according to the last CT. I felt a very sore spot on my back starting back in October, that had always been cured by the chiropractor, but not this time. I am taking 24mg of hydromorphone daily now and sometimes Tylenol to help me through the 24 hours.

Today on my birthday I feel great, and my appetite is coming back a bit, I weigh 158 lbs. I have been to the mandarin buffet before the latest shut down but come away dissatisfied with the small amount of food I eat, the treatments will do that to you.


The nurse comes by every 2 weeks to check up on me and take my vitals, she is very happy with the results and so am I.

I can cook for myself at the moment and take care of myself, because Ann is recovering from CV19.

Praise be to God that He watches over us all as He promised. But if He let's me live till he comes or puts me to sleep to await His arrival, Thanks be to God.

Blessings Ed

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THE OPP REPORT

Call to OPP Nets Four Theft Related Charges for Tay Township Resident

A Tay Township resident called the Ontario Provincial Police near 5:20 p.m. March 25, 2022 after noticing a theft of building materials from his property on West Service Road , Tay Township. Officers were able to locate the stolen property along with the suspect vehicle and driver nearby. Upon investigation, it was learned that the rental truck being used had also reported stolen.

Charged is Jessie Allan MIRON 40 years of Tay Township with the following offences contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada.

- Theft Under \$5000
- Possession Property Obtained by Crime Under \$5,000
- Theft of Motor Vehicle
- Possession Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 - in Canada

The accused was released from custody on a recognizance to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice on May 19, 2022.

Weekend OPP R.I.D.E. Checks Remove Impaired Driver From Midland Roadways

An R.I.D.E. check stop set up on Brunelle Side Road at Fuller Avenue, Midland operated by members the Southern Georgian Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police was successful in removing an impaired driver from the roadways at 12:44 a.m. March 26, 2022.

Officers entered into an impaired driving investigation after they stopped a vehicle travelling on Fuller Avenue at the R.I.D.E. check stop.

Charged is Charles STORY 30 years of Penetanguishene with Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus) Contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada.

The accused was released from custody on a recognizance to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice on April 7, 2022 and also faces a drivers licence suspension of 90 days and involved vehicle was towed and impounded for 7 days as per the Ministry of Transportation (ADLS) guidelines.

Officers conducted 11 such R.I.D.E. check stops over the weekend at a variety of locations throughout the detachment patrol area resulting in 181 drivers and their vehicles being checked for signs of impairment.

OPP Search Warrant Executed in Midland Seizure Nets Cash and Drugs

A search warrant was executed on a William Street, Midland residence at 5:00 a.m. March 25, 2022 as result of an ongoing Controlled Drugs and Substances Act investigation. Members of the Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) attached to the Southern Georgian Bay and Huronia West/Collingwood Detachments of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) lead the investigation. They were assisted at the scene by uniform members of the Southern Georgian Bay Detachment along with members of the OPP General Headquarters -Tactics and Rescue Unit (TRU), OPP Central Region - Emergency Response Team (ERT) and K9 Unit.

As a result of this investigation, an quantity of Fentanyl, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, prescription pills along with Canadian currency and drug trafficking paraphernalia was seized. (see attached submitted photograph).

The six persons located inside the residence were arrested and charged as follows.

- Warren EDWARDS 38 years of Midland
- Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking,

- Opioid, Fentanyl
- Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking, Cocaine,
- Possession of a Schedule 1 substance, Methamphetamine
- Contrary to the Controlled Drug and Substances Act
- and further Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000.00
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Under \$5,000.00
- Contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada

The accused was released on an undertaking and will appear at a later date before the Ontario Court of Justice.

- Vance SYLVESTER 32 years of Christian Island
- Assault with a Weapon
 - Forcible Confinement
 - Possession of a Weapon for a Dangerous Purpose
 - Fail to Comply with Probation
 - Contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada

The accused was held for a show cause hearing and will appear at a later date before the Ontario Court of Justice

- Stevie HOOK 30 years of Midland
- Obstruct Peace Officer
 - Fail to Comply with Appearance Notice
 - Contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada

The accused was released on an undertaking and will appear at a later date before the Ontario Court of Justice.

Two arrested persons were released to other police services for ongoing judicial processes.

One arrested person was released at the scene of the investigation.

Welcomed Addition to the Local OPP Community Services Program

On behalf of the myself and the members the Southern Georgian Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) we welcome Provincial Constable Elana Durntall to the Community Safety Officer (CSO) program. Constable Durntall is a four year member of the OPP and transferred to Detachment

in February of 2021 from the Orillia Detachment and was later designated as a CSO who has been serving the community at various community events.

As a lifelong resident of Tiny Township, Elana has been an active member of the North Simcoe community. She is a member of the North Simcoe Rotaract Club and has been a participant at various fundraising events and campaigns throughout the years. Elana is a former North Simcoe Capital and continues to play ball hockey here in town throughout the summer and never turns down the chance to lace up her skates.

“I pride myself in community policing and I am excited to give back to my community in my new role as an OPP Community Safety Officer” states P/C Durntall and she can be reached at elana.durntall@opp.ca .

“I am very pleased and the community is very fortunate to have such an energetic and community minded officer to compliment the detachment CSO program”, states Inspector Evans.

THANK YOU

Support for Ukraine

Elmvale Presbyterian Church would like to thank all who supported the ham and scalloped potato takeout “dinner with a purpose” put on to help with the crisis in Ukraine. If you called in your order after we had reached our quota, we thank you for trying.

Through your support of the dinner and many very generous donations, we are able to give \$5122 to be used to help in any way possible.

Please keep Ukraine and its people in your thoughts and prayers.

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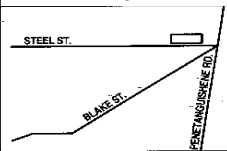
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Estate of James Rigney, Singhampton - Apr. 3-7 - vintage and antique finds, Honda generator, Royal Doulton, Woods BBQ
Prominent St. Thomas Home - Apr. 3-7 - Brunswick pool table, unique lamps (including a Galle), jewellery, Baroque style furniture
Kipp Moving Sale, Brantford - Apr. 3-7 - aviation memorabilia, wooden bookshelves, rolltop desk, Royal Doulton, Fenton milkglass
Estate of Barbara Strodthoff, Wasaga Beach - Apr. 10-14 - 2007 Chev Cobalt, art glass, vintage typewriters, doll house, coin set
Spring Equipment & Multi Consignor Sale, Guelph - Apr. 17-21
Lifelong Collector's Auction, Barrie - Apr. 24-28
Farm Auction for Les & Hazel Morgan, Barrie - Apr. 24-28
Bite Guelph Catering Company Retirement Auction - Apr. 24-28 mixer & dough sheeter, charcuterie boards, stainless steel tables

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Elmvalle Presbyterian Church is looking to rent
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Contact: Reg Cowan 705-322-2290 or
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SOCCER REGISTRATION**Cheezers Co-ed Soccer Registration**

Registration for soccer for ages 3 - 15 yrs old is at
the Springwater Elmvalle Branch Library:

10 am - 1 pm**March 26****April 9****April 23**

\$40 per player for season

Starting Thursday May 12 at 6:30pm

Call **Doug Tinney 705-322-3239** for more
information or Email: elmvaluesoccer@gmail.com

**Elmvalle Wednesday Night
Mixed Slow Pitch League**

Starts May 25, 2022

Call or text Francis for registration
705-818-1741

HAPPY BIRTHDAY**A Heavenly 40th
Birthday Wish
March 31st, 2022**

Lordy Lordy look who would
have been 40.

Our Angel in Heaven, one of the
finest of them all, to think you
would have been 40 today, man,

we would have had a ball.

You'll probably be celebrating your special day
with the many heavenly friends and family that
have come to stay, please say hello to Grandma,
and make sure she finds her way.

Now, as we pause to remember you, and that smile
that could light up the room, please know we think
about you often, you were taken way too soon.

I know how dearly each of us loved him, and oh,
he loved us back the same way.

**Happy 40th Birthday Kenny, you are missed
more than words can say.**

Love Dad, Mom, Robyn, Jackie and Timmy

**Happy 101st Birthday
Viola "Mother" Lamb
April 15, 2021**

Family and friends are invited
to an open house Birthday
celebration on the afternoon of

Saturday, April 16th
between 1.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
@ the Army, Navy and Air Force Club
52 Morrow Rd, Barrie On

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10				11			12		13	
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42	43			44	45	46			47	
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51					52				53	

Across	Down
1 “Valkyrie” star, first name	1 After-bath item
4 “That feels good!”	2 ____ the rainbow.....
7 Elton John, for example	3 Measure (out)
10 University, in Toronto, abbr.	4 Something from the oven
11 Deplores	5 Bird of the Northern Seas
13 Equal	6 Yonder yacht
14 Rent out	7 Raw fish
15 Gumbo vegetable	8 Hostility
16 Back lot construction	9 Abbr. after a name
17 Old Eric Clapton band	12 Latin dance
19 Speed, abbr.	18 Tear into
21 Dupe	20 Before hostilities
23 Fetch	22 Chum
26 Nile’s sacred bird	24 Takeaway game
29 Fatigue may be a symptom of it	25 Discontinuity
31 Handcuff	26 Dennis the Menace type
33 Chicken	27 Farm call
34 Place for aluminum furniture	28 Meantime
35 British break	30 After expenses
37 Freddy Krueger’s street	32 Mixture of things
38 About 1% of the atmosphere	36 Golden or tawny
42 Financial fig.	39 Totally nuts
44 Floater	40 Unlock
47 Gorilla	41 Have to have
48 Grass skirt accessory	42 Tie indicator
49 White House office shape	43 Often frozen vegetable
50 Command to Dobbin	45 Adam’s partner
51 On the ____ (escaping)	46 Fish
52 Cyclone center	
53 Start of an afterthought	

SEASONAL COMMERCIAL VEHICLE HALF LOAD RESTRICTIONS

Heavy commercial vehicle operators are reminded to be aware that seasonal axle weight restrictions are currently in effect from March 1 - April 30, 2022. Check with the municipality that you are working in or the following site - <https://511on.ca/list/seasonalloads?lang=en> for further information.

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

County of Simcoe Meeting Highlights

Earth Hour

Each year, at 8:30 p.m. on the last Saturday of March, supporters from over 190 countries and territories unite to raise awareness of the issues facing our Earth.

On March 26 we once again ask residents to participate in the Earth Hour celebrations by switching off all non-essential lights for 60 minutes. This simple action helps towards a better future for us and our planet. An hour that could change decades.

County of Simcoe Paramedic Services 2021 Response Time Performance and Defibrillator Registration and Public Access Act Update

As per the Ambulance Act, every year all Paramedic Services are required to report their Response Time Performance Plan’s response targets and actuals to the Ministry of Health, to be reported no later than March 31st of the following year.

On March 8, 2022, Council received a report on response time performance, which highlighted that all response time targets were met in 2021 overall. While the report identified some challenges in Q3, these were attributed to peak call volume for the year coupled with staffing challenges across local hospitals, paramedic services and some allied agencies. There was a subsequent rebound in Q4 metrics as call volume slightly reduced.

On March 8, 2022, Council also received a report on the status and implications of Bill 141, which will create a province-wide registry of publicly accessible automated external defibrillators (AED), mandate AEDs are located, ensure they are registered with Ambulance dispatch centres and make the AED locations identifiable and accessible for members of the public to use to offer a greater chance of patient survival. The County of Simcoe has completed a stakeholder survey and await the results of this process, the release of regulations and the final date the Act will come in effect.

Georgian Manor Long-Term Care Home Bed Expansion Announcement

As the regional provider of specialized Behavioural Support Services to all 26 long-term care homes in the North Simcoe Muskoka (NSM) catchment area and as a member of the Specialized Geriatric Services (SGS) program led by Waypoint Centre for Mental Health, the County has been engaged in ongoing planning discussions over the past decade to establish a behavioural support transitional unit (BSTU) in this region.

Following a comprehensive review and consultation process, Ontario Health Central (formally NSM LHIN) has approved Georgian Manor to host a 16- bed BSTU, subject to provincial funding for additional operational costs to support this level of care. The approval to construct an additional 16 beds will ensure Georgian Manor can maintain existing bed capacity for long-term care services as well as operate an additional specialized behavioural support program in the home.

On March 22, 2022, Council approved that subject to provincial approval and operational funding, that a regional BSTU be established and operated. The BSTU will house individuals with greater behavioural needs due to their illness or condition, and as such require more specialized care and supervision.

Simcoe County Forest 2021 Annual Report and Forest Conservation By-law 2021 Annual Report

During the spring thaw period, trail damage is more likely to occur. Motorized trails are closed until May 1. For more information on trail membership and trail closures, please visit COATV.ca (ATV) or SCORRA.ca (Off-Road Motorcycles).

The 2021 Annual Report for the Simcoe County Forest documents annual activities and provides a basis to track progress toward long-term objectives within the management plan, ‘Simcoe County Forest 2011 – 2030’.

On March 8, 2022, Council received the Simcoe County Forest 2021 Annual Report, which highlighted exceptional values attained through timber sales; the planting of 30,750 seedlings, primarily at the Packard Tract; management of invasive species, insects and pathogens; and special projects, such as the Coughlin Stream Crossing and Rehabilitation.



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THROWBACK THURSDAY

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



Remember the Barrel Works Band.....

A lot of people enjoyed the fun and entertaining time at the Barrel Works in Balm Beach. From the Elmvale Lance in 1974....

“Back in Time

The five members of the Barrel Works are in their glory at the Barrel Works last Saturday night. Last Saturday night was greaser night, in honour of the 1950’s, the rock and roll era. Photo by Gord Lang”

OPP Officers Providing Speed Enforcement in Community Speeding and Traffic Complaint

During the month of February 2022, uniform officers from the Southern Georgian Bay detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have responded to public complaints of motorists and commercial vehicles speeding and other related traffic violations on area roadways.

Calls to the OPP Communications Centre and through the OPP Online Reporting have been recorded and acted upon as follows:

- Officers attended 53 complaint areas and issued 294 tickets and warned 192 drivers for their driving infractions.
- 119 Hours of focused patrol in these noted areas.
- Officers conducted R.I.D.E. at 99 check stops checking 831 vehicles for signs of impairment along with trail side R.I.D.E. checks of 568 snowmobiles.
- 8 Charges of impaired driving were issued after investigation.
- 11 Drivers provided breath samples on a Roadside Screening Device (ASD) at those R.I.D.E. check stops.
- 6 Dangerous Driving Charges were issued after investigation.
- 3 Charges of flight from police were issued after investigation
- 2 Drivers were charged with driving while prohibited under the Criminal Code of Canada
- 2 Drivers lost their driving privileges and vehicles after they were stopped and charged for a stunt driving offence - exceeding the posted speeds limits as follows with the introduction of the Moving Ontario More Safety Act, also known as the MOMS Act to increase road safety.

The first change is an increase in the previous seven-day vehicle impoundment period to 14 days. The second change is the introduction of a lower speed threshold for street racing offenders on municipal roads. On roads with a posted speed limit of less than 80 km/h, drivers caught traveling 40 km/h over the speed limit face racing/stunt driving charges (the previous limit was 50 km/h over the speed limit).

Obituaries



MICHAUD, Maureen Marie
Passed away peacefully at Hospice Simcoe on Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 with loving family at her side. Maureen Michaud at the age of 77, loving mother of Heather (Gary) Marshall and Michael (Cheryl) Michaud. Dear grandmother of Susan, Jason, Mike, Amy, Brett and Jessica and great grandmother of Riley, Raelynn and Carson. Maureen is also survived by her sisters Pauline and Kathleen and predeceased by her brother Jimmy. Maureen will be loving missed by her close friend Sylvia.

A special thank you to the wonderful staff at Hospice Simcoe for the care and compassion provided. In accordance with Maureen's wishes cremation has taken place with a private family celebration held at a later date.

Messages of condolence may be forwarded to the family through adamsfuneralhome.ca.

**DUCKWORTH, Garry**

Garry John Duckworth passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, at the West Parry Sound Health Centre, on Thursday, March 17th, 2022. Age 79 years.

Beloved husband of Brenda Duckworth, for 59 years. Loving father of Trudie; Stewart and his wife Melanie; Tammie; and Cameron.

Lovingly remembered by his grandchildren: Chantelle Burke (Neil Thomson); Allison Jonescu (Dillon Meloche) and Nicholas Jonescu (Natalie);

Kate and Alan Duckworth; Austin, Aubree, and Garret Duckworth; Aleisha, Meagan, and Jack Duckworth; and Reid Nechleput.

Great grandfather of Leif, Vilah, and Éowyn. Dear brother of Warren and the late Sharron, and Bryan. Pre-deceased by his parents Harry and Gertrude. Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Friends were received at the Logan Funeral Home (705-746-5855), 81 James Street, Parry Sound, on Sunday, March 20th, from 2:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Funeral Service took place in the Logan Memorial Chapel on Sunday, March 20th, at 3:00 P.M.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the charity of your choice would be appreciated.

To send an on-line condolence, please visit www.logansfuneralhome.com

**CORBIER, Joan Ann (nee Hall) -**

March 24, 1941 - March 19, 2022

Wife of the late Allan Corbier. Daughter of the late Frank and Gladys Hall. Sister of the late Gilbert Hall (Gail), late Francis Hall,

Marion (Tom Williamson), Rita (late Jack Pickering), Grace (Pete McKenna). Mother of Susan (Terry Truax), late Kenny Huggard, Tom Huggard (Laura), Chris Huggard (Tammy), Debbie Harkness (Brian Street), Frank Corbier (Stephanie). Stepmother of Cindy (Tom Foster), Susan Scott. Gma to 18 grandchildren and 15+ great grandchildren. She will be missed by her many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held at a later date.

If desired, memorial donations to Hospice Huronia would be appreciated.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to lynnstonefuneralhome.com

**WOODS, Gwen (nee MERTZ)****The Queen Bee of Hillsdale**

Gwen Woods (nee Mertz), beloved wife of Edward Woods passed away in Barrie, Ontario on Thursday, March 3, 2022

while surrounded by her family. She was in her 92nd year. Gweneth Margaret Alberta Woods (nee Mertz) was born on May 5, 1930 at Mertz Corners, Tiny Township and was preceded in death by her brothers Clarence, Ralph, Arden, and Ron.

She married Edward Woods on September 11, 1954 and worked for 7 years prior to marriage at the Bank of Montreal in Midland, Ontario. As Ed launched his own beekeeping business, Woods Apiaries in 1954, Gwen supported him while also supporting their growing family of six children; four boys and two girls.

Gwen had a real deep love for the Lord and a long time member of the Gospel Hall in Waverley, Ontario. Ed and Gwen regularly welcomed family, friends, and neighbours into their home and upon arrival Gwen would ask: "Have you eaten?" She always had fresh baked buns, cookies and other goodies on hand. Gwen had a great sense of humour and also liked to play jokes on friends and family. Gwen was a hard working woman and tended to large vegetable gardens, canning and preserving fruits and vegetables, helping honey customers and pitching in during honey harvest, all the while caring for the homestead, six kids, hired help, and Ed.

Gwen is survived by her husband Edward, her sons, Tim Woods, Mark Woods (Sandra), Steve Woods (Gayle), Philip Woods (Cheryl) and her daughters Miriam Griffin (Ron) and Debbie Lewko (Joe). She is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Spring interment Gospel Hall Cemetery in Waverley.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Gwen's name to the Gospel Hall in Waverley or the Gideon Bibles.

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

**ANDERSON: Kenneth Joseph "Ken"**

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

Gilchrist, Sharon (late Tim) Cole and Kevin (Carlene) Anderson. Proud grandpa of Lauren, Haley, Tyler, Ben, Chrissie, Paige, Jakob, Mason, Whitney, Jaida and great grand daughter Erin. Survived by brothers Doug (Diane) Anderson, Richard (Wanda) Anderson and sister Mary (late Graham) Strath. Predeceased by brother Bill (Mary) Anderson and sister Isabel (late Bill) Fisher. The family will receive friends at the Doolittle Chapel of Carson Funeral Homes, 54 Coldwater St. E., Orillia (705) 326-3595 on Sunday April 24, 2022 from 1 – 4 p.m. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation and would be appreciated by the family.

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

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Ontario Building a Stronger, More Resilient Stevenson Memorial Hospital

Expanded Services Will Improve Patient Care in Simcoe County

As part of its plan to build a stronger and more resilient health care system that is better prepared to respond to crisis, the Ontario government is expanding services that will be offered at Stevenson Memorial Hospital as part of its redevelopment plan. With this next stage of approval completed, Ontario is one step closer to getting shovels in the ground to upgrade the hospital and improve access to care for patients and families in Simcoe County.

“After decades of under investment from previous governments, we are delivering on our promise to bring communities all across Ontario the quality health care they deserve,” said Premier Doug Ford. “With this redevelopment, Stevenson Memorial will be able to provide the people and families of Simcoe County the critical services they need closer to where they live.”

In 2019, the government provided Stevenson Memorial Hospital with \$1 million for Phase 1 of the hospital’s redevelopment. Since then, the hospital has worked closely with the province to finalize expanded services that will better meet the needs of patients and families. Once Phase 1 is completed, the redeveloped hospital will include:

- a new emergency department that is triple the size of the current department;
- expanded diagnostic and surgical services;
- a brand new birthing suite; and
- space to accommodate nine new inpatient beds at the hospital, increasing the total number of beds from 38 to 47.

“Investing in Stevenson Memorial Hospital is a key part of our government’s plan to build a stronger, more resilient health care system and end hallway health care for all Ontarians,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Patients

and families in Simcoe County can look forward to a new and expanded services that will benefit them for generations to come.”

Ontario is working with Stevenson Memorial Hospital to progress to the next stage of the planning process, which includes designing the new redeveloped hospital and finalizing operational, space and funding requirements for the expanded services.

“We need to meet the health care needs of our community, while we build for the future growth of our region. Preparation is the key to success. Expanding services will mean that we are better prepared to respond and can act quickly, which is especially crucial in the health care field. People want to feel confident that when they need help, help will be available. This redevelopment goes a long way to ensure that in our community.”

Doug Downey,
MPP for Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte

Views from the Cottage



BY MELANIE MARTYN
DON'T BE A SAD SAP! IT'S SPRING AGAIN!

Our family was lucky enough to have a cottage on Bass Lake, near Orillia (off 14th Line Oro then) from the late fifties to the late seventies.

We Torontonians (the Pillings) would head up as early as the unplowed private lane would allow us. At times, we would even park at the end of the lane and trek through a quarter mile of snow just to escape the city, mid-winter.

With Springs’ arrival, there would only be a skiff of



snow and we could actually spend a weekend on the lake in our un-insulated, log style, frame dwelling. It had three small bedrooms and an open area where the oil space-heater was quickly put to use after a peek for mice or other creatures taking good advantage of our absence. Every bedroom had a pee-pot and if brave, you’d get exercise by running outside to the ‘out-house’ (more on those adventures to come).

The kitchen featured a long snack-bar type counter (it actually was one) with 6 vintage stools you could



twirl around on to your hearts content! The kitchen had an old metal pitcher pump where you’d pump about fifty times to get prime from the old dug well out front. The forties style McClary electric stove came in handy because; it was grounded. Now that was important because in a bad lightning storm, there was apt to be a flash of blue light that jumped from the pump’s spout to the stove. You did not, I repeat, did not stand in the kitchen between those two fixtures in a thunderstorm!

The first trip up would always be exciting for myself and three older brothers. After settling in and doing our chores (that’s what we used to call work without allowance lol), we knew we could take off, disappear, escape to the forest! As soon as I was able to whine loud enough to make my brothers take me along with them, I experienced what would be an annual event, the hike to the Sugar Shack!

If I recall correctly, it was the old Langman Farm that would ‘forgive us our trespasses’. The long walk into the woods and over some old stone fences would eventually lead us to a path past a stream and up to an old wooden shack. Along the way we stopped to lift the lids of the pails of water. At least that’s what



I thought it looked like. A few bugs would be doing the backstroke in there and I’d rescue them out of danger for my good deed of the day.

You could smell the sweetness in the air before you saw the generous steam billowing out from above the shack’s weathered tin roof. This was my first time and I’ll never forget it! We peeked in the open door where two old guys (everyone is old when you are five lol) were busy inside. One was stoking the fire and the other pouring pails of what looked like water into a huge metal trough where a rolling boil of amber liquid was the centre of attention. I was too shy to say a word, but I listened well (even at that age). They showed us the wood barrels of sap collected from the Sugar Maples in the forest we had just hiked through. That was a lot of sap! They explained the process to us, and I found it hard to believe that forty barrels would give them only one barrel of the ‘sweet gold’ I was about to taste.

The one fellow (must have been old man Langman himself?) took a soup ladle and dipped us out some sap to slurp up as best we could. I was not too impressed with this myself, as in those days Kool-Aid was King! He then took that same ladle and dipped it into the boiling, frothing mixture to extract a generous sample of pure golden liquid. He held the ladle atop an open barrel of sap for a minute or so to cool. The fun began then as we each took a turn to sip from the ladle. All I can say is “I was hooked!!”. We were just so excited, and they got a kick out of seeing the ‘shy one’ grin from ear to ear! A small bottle was gifted to us and we practically ran the whole way back to the now warm and cozy cottage to share our prize. Surely, pancakes would be the best idea for supper!!

Just to bring back memories, I decided to tap my very own Sugar Maple for the first time ever, here at Orr Lake. With about ten quarts (40 cups) collected over the last few weeks, I expect my ‘cup of gold’ to be the best ever!

Tune into 740am Radio on Saturday mornings (8:30ish) for Mel’s tip/deal of the week and if you find yourself in a sticky situation with respect to real estate, you can always reach out to me at homes@melaniemartyn.com



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