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NORTH SIMCOE Springwater NEWS

Edition 667 - December 21, 2023 Serving Springwater & Tiny Townships & Midland Areas

Customer # 0003684814 / Publication/Admail # 0040027838

Merry Christmas

*From the staff of the
North Simcoe Springwater News*

Elmvale BIA to Operate Springwater Farmers' Market – Elmvale in 2024

ELMVALE BIA TO OPERATE SPRINGWATER FARMERS' MARKET - ELMVALE IN 2024

The Elmvale BIA is pleased to announce the return of the Springwater Farmers' Market – Elmvale, presented by the Elmvale BIA in 2024.

A formal motion was passed at the November 23rd meeting of the Elmvale Business Improvement Area (BIA) to take over operation of the local Farmers' Market ahead of the 2024 season.

“The Springwater Farmers’ Market - Elmvale has been a staple in our community for 14 years. The Farmers’ Market brings farm fresh food closer to home while providing a gathering place for local artisans, musicians, and community groups. After countless conversations with local business owners, it is evident the Farmers’ Market attracts visitors to our downtown core and assists in the economic growth within our community. I commend the Elmvale BIA for supporting our growing Farmers’ Market” – BIA

Board Member, Councillor Matt Garwood

“We are excited for the Springwater Farmers’ Market - Elmvale to be held Thursday evenings in 2024 and believe this will allow more families and visitors the opportunity to experience our community” – BIA President, Crystal Graveson

In 2024 the Springwater Farmers’ Market – Elmvale, presented by the Elmvale BIA will operate on Thursday evenings, commencing mid June and wrapping up for the season before Labour Day in August. With moving the Farmers’ Market to the evening on Thursdays, the new hours of operation will be 5:00pm – 8:00pm, located at the Elmvale Community Hall municipal parking lot.

Additional details will be released over the coming months.

Submitted by Matt Garwood, Ward 1 Councillor

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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

Having taken time to read over the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Deal (CUFTA), it seems, this deal is not a very good deal for anyone – Canadians or Ukrainians. Not only does this agreement seem an attempt to bind future Canadian governments, it also seems to violate provincial jurisdiction.

Firstly, if you heat with firewood this really restricts you, as it was agreed, in 2016, by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, President Barack Obama, and President Enrique Peña Nieto, to reduce “black carbon” which includes deploying renewable energy and efficiency alternatives to firewood, in particular, remote communities.[1] With the CUFTA agreement, Parties are attempting to restrict their citizens from using firewood, to heat their homes (see Article 13.14 of the agreement).

Secondly, this agreement contradicts itself as to whether it is binding or not. In Article 13.3 it states that “the Parties recognize the sovereign right of each Party to establish its own levels of domestic environmental protection and its own environmental priorities, and to establish, adopt, or modify its environmental laws and policies accordingly;” but then in Article 13.4 it states:

“3. Without prejudice to Article 13.3(1), the Parties recognize that it is inappropriate to encourage trade or investment by weakening or reducing the protection afforded in their environmental laws. Accordingly, a Party shall not waive or otherwise derogate, or offer to waive or otherwise derogate, from its environmental laws in a manner that weakens or reduces the protection afforded in those law in order to encourage trade or investment between the Parties.

4. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to authorize a Party to enforce its environmental laws in the territory of the other Party.”

In other words, Canada is fully bound by this agreement and the present laws established under this government. And the Ukraine, if we change governments and/or the rules, can take issue with Canada, including demanding a Panel be struck for dispute resolution (see Article 13.29). This includes the “carbon tax” issue (Article 13.10 para. 8).

Thirdly, provincial jurisdiction. Most certainly the federal government can enter into agreements as it did for soft-wood lumber – but when it comes to forest management – that is completely under provincial jurisdiction. So, when this agreement speaks to “Sustainable Forest Management,” in Article 13.22, expressing that “each Party shall encourage trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested in accordance with the law of the country of harvest,” in Canada, it isn’t the “country of harvest” laws – it would be the province of harvest laws. This would mean the federal government is attempting, through this agreement, (i) to bind the various provinces to an international bilateral agreement, and (ii) interfere, again, in provincial constitutional jurisdiction.

In light of this, it seems the Conservatives weren’t only trying to protect the Ukrainians, but were, also, trying to protect Canadians. Perhaps an entirely different agreement should be struck leaving out the entirety of Article 13, considering Canada and the Ukraine already have international agreements, either pending or in place pertaining to all subjects in Article 13, wouldn’t one agree? *Elizabeth Marshall*

Season's Greetings

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Rick Gascon *Steven Gascon*

CORRECTION: Northern Spirit Music is a new non-profit organization based in the Penetanguishene area. It offers engaging classes in fiddling, incorporating the opportunities to learn other stringed instruments like cello and bass. These classes are proving to be very popular and are held every Thursday evening. The phone number was incorrect in the last edition and the correct number is 705-209-5058. The group apologies for this error.

EDITORIAL by Linda Belcourt, Editor

I am pleased to bring you this Christmas edition of the North Simcoe Springwater News. It really is a wonderful time of year.

There are a few days left before Christmas and I hope you find some ideas to enjoy the Holiday Season. Shown to the left, are a couple ways to get into the Holiday Spirit. Christmas lights are beautiful and lets hope some snow comes to make them sparkle. I am hearing great things about the Magic of Lights so to order tickets visit www.magicoflights.com. Enjoy a drive through the Battle of the Bulbs for some family fun.

Remember to be kind to one another and enjoy the family and friends that surround you this Christmas, Check out the events on page 19 for some other Christmas fun.

Cindy McQuirter-Fairley added a new photo.
Posted by Michelle Rogers WillowGraphix
32m •

MIDLAND

- 1504 Golf Link Rd.
- 643 Sheridan St.
- 274 Sarah Burke Way
- 359 Queen St.
- 496 King St.
- 324 Hillcrest Lane

PENETANGUISHENE

- 117 Poytitz St.
- 33 Robert St. W.
- 17 Rogers Rd.
- 430 Murray Rd.
- 25 Burke Ave.
- 5 Yeo St.

BATTLE OF THE BULBS HOUSE ENTRY

GREAT DISPLAY, NOT AN ENTRY

TINY

- 47 Andrew Dr.
- 629 Mertz Sideroad
- 28 Pansy Dr.
- 559 Marshall Rd.
- 28 County Rd. 6
- 140 County Rd. 6
- 189 Concession 9 E.

TAY

- 42 Bayside Ave., Victoria Harbour
- 2235 Ron Jones Rd.
- 567 Barnes Ave., Port McNeill
- 104 George St., W
- 108 George St., W
- 6157 Line 9 N., Waukegan

ELMVALE

- 35 Centennial Ave.

PORT SEVERN

- 421 Lone Pine Road

BATTLE OF THE BULBS MAP

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THE NEXT PAPER will be on Jan. 4, 2024

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Publisher/Editor/Owner:
Linda Belcourt

Number of Papers	Area of Distribution	Postal Code
950	Barrie, South Springwater	L4M
3000	Barrie, Minesing area	L9X
640	Phelpston	L0L 2K0
2550	Elmvalle, Orr Lake, Waverley and some Tiny Beaches Road	L0L 1P0
650	Hillsdale	L0L 1V0

Number of Papers	Area of Distribution	Postal Code
295	Wyebridge	L0K 2E0
975	Wyevale, Tiny Beaches	L0L 2T0
2500	Penetanguishene	L9M
1325	Perkinsfield	L0L 2J0
6800	Midland, Vasey, Ebenezer and area North-West of Wyebridge	L4R

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Phelpston Fun for Christmas

Dec. 8, 2023 - Thank you to all who came out to the annual Phelpston Christmas Wagon ride on Fri. Dec. 7, 2023. We ended the wagon ride with a car parade through down. Lots of fun had by all. A big thank you to all who helped out to make this event possible including the Phelpston CRA & Councillor Alexander. Merry Christmas to all Phelpston residents.
By Taylor Shewell

Elmvale Lioness Lions Sleigh Ride in the Village



Dec. 8, 2023 - There was over 600 people that enjoyed a Horse and Wagon ride through the streets of Elmvale. There was a lack of snow but no lack of attendance. Carolers entertained the long line up of folks. Inside the community hall, there was hotdogs and hot chocolate being served. Children enjoyed the face painting, craft table and winning a chance at a free gift. Thank you to the adults that paid for the Market Gifts. On Dec. 9, 2023 the 36th Sleigh Ride in the Village was put on by the Lioness Lions but the sponsors and volunteers made the event possible. Many thanks to Elmvale Foodland for donating the hotdogs! Elmvale Lions paid for two horse teams, and the other sponsors were Elmvale Jungle Zoo, Elmvale Pharmasave, Solly Family Dentistry, Whitfields Guardian, Make Great Wine, Jack's on Queen, Tim Hortons, McDonalds and Springwater News. The Sleigh Ride started many years ago by the Elmvale Focus Group (now BIA) to help bring Christmas shopping to the downtown and stores remained open during the event. It was taken over by the Lionettes (renamed Elmvale Lioness, a branch sponsored by Elmvale Lions Club and renamed again to the current, Elmvale Lioness Lions).
By Linda Belcourt, Editor



Tiny Lions Gather Food for Foodbank

Dec. 8, 2023 - Full House at Wyevale United Church on December 9, 2023 at the Tiny Township Lions Club Breakfast with Santa!!!! #WeServe
Submitted by Tiny Lions



Photo above: Anten Mills Santa Clause Parade on December 10, 2023 showing MP Shipley and members of Council.

Photo below: Minesing Christmas Tree Lighting on December 8, 2023 showing Members of Council and members of the Minesing CRA



Township of Tiny Welcomes 400 Attendees to Tree Lighting Celebration

Dec. 8, 2023 - On Tuesday, November 28, the Township of Tiny kicked off the holiday season with approximately 400 guests at the Tree Lighting Celebration held at Perkinsfield Park. The evening featured live entertainment, a chance to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, an array of activities for children and adults, a variety of delicious food and beverage options, including food from the Toonie Food Trucks, and last, but not least, the lighting of six trees.

The Township of Tiny would like to thank Lafontaine Iron Werks for their loan of fire pits, the Business Association of Balm Beach for their financial contribution, the BGC North Simcoe and Springwater Public Library for hosting the craft activities, the Midland Public Library for providing the outdoor winter activities, Tim Hortons for the hot chocolate, and the Tiny Township Lions Club for collecting non-perishable food donations to distribute to those in need.

“We saw 400 community members embrace the snowy weather to create memories with family and friends while enjoying a festive evening. It was a lot of fun to see so many families making crafts or smores by the fire, enjoying a BeaverTail or sausage on a bun, listening to the carolers, or talking to and taking pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus” said Mayor David Evans. “On behalf of the township, I would like to thank all of our volunteers, performers, and sponsors, but more importantly, you, our residents, for making this community event possible”.
Submitted by Township of Tiny

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Report an Issue

Notice of Budget Public Meeting

The Town’s 2024 Budget Public Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 17th at 6:00 p.m. as required under the Town’s Notice By-law and Procedural By-law.

The meeting is being held in person and via Zoom (hybrid).

This is your opportunity to formally comment about the proposed 2024 budget. If you wish to make comments via Zoom, please pre-register with the Clerk’s office at clerks@midland.ca. No pre-registration required for in-person attendance. Written comments can be submitted to clerks@midland.ca by noon Tuesday January 9, 2024.

Council and Staff budget deliberations will take place January 30, 31 and February 1, 2024 at a Special Meeting of Council.

Please visit our website at midland.ca/budget2024 to view the Draft 2024 Budget.

midland.ca/budget2024

Office Holiday Closures and Service Interruptions

- **Municipal Office** will be closed Dec. 25, 2023 to Jan. 1, 2024.
- **NSSRC** will be closed Dec. 24, 2023 to Dec. 26, 2023.
Closing on Dec. 31, 2023 at 8pm, and closed Jan. 1, 2024.
- **Mid-Pen Transit Service** will not be running Dec. 24, 2023 to Dec. 26, 2023, as well as Dec. 31, 2023 and Jan. 1, 2024.

midland.ca/closures

Mid-Pen Transit Service - Trial Route

Mid-Pen Transit North Route will undergo a trial route change starting January 2 until May 31, 2024. The North route will stop on Bayshore Drive outside of Chigamik Waypoint Community Health Hub.

Visit our website for more information and to view the updated map.

midland.ca/transit

Join a Town Committee!

Make a difference - See committee vacancies on our website.

midland.ca/apply

Parking in Midland

The Paid Parking Program is on hold. All paid parking locations in the downtown and including Harbour are free until further notice.

Find more paid parking information on our website.

midland.ca/parking

Public Skating and Shinny in Midland

See our website for info on skating and shinny at NSSRC.

midland.ca/skating

Upcoming Council Meeting



Regular
Council
Meeting

Regular Council meetings take place virtually and in person (hybrid) and can be viewed on RogersTV (cable 53) or on RogersTV live stream.

Town of Midland midland.ca/council



www.midland.ca 705-526-4275 ext 2255 service@midland.ca

575 Dominion Avenue
Midland, Ontario L4R 1R2



TOWN OF MIDLAND NEWS

Dec. 11, 2023 - What's happening to the Paid Parking Program?

Midland's Paid Parking Program is on hold for 2024 until further review based on a decision of Council at their December 6, 2023, Council Meeting. Subscribe to our Parking in Midland webpage to stay updated.

Is Parking Downtown Free Now?

- Parking on downtown streets, Midland Harbour, Bayshore Drive and the Pete Pettersen Boat Launch is free during the day until further notice.
- Most streets have a 2 hour parking limit – see By-law 2021-24.

What about the Municipal Lots Downtown?

- Parking in the downtown municipal lots has been free since September 2022 and will remain free during the parking program review. There is no overnight parking in municipal lots year-round.
- There is an 8-hour parking limit - see By-law 2021-24.

What about Overnight Parking on Town Streets?

- All parking by-laws remain in place.
 - No overnight parking on street in the downtown core year-round.
 - No overnight parking in the downtown municipal lots year- round.
 - No overnight parking at the Harbour Nov. to April.
 - No overnight parking on Town streets starting November 15 between 12:01am and 7am until April 1 every year.

Could I still get a parking ticket in Midland?

- Put simply, yes. Parking enforcement within the

Town will not change, other than the paid program. All parking by-laws are enforced, including winter parking restrictions, overnight parking in the municipal lots, parking over the permitted time limit, and any other illegal parking, which may result in a fine and/ or tow.

- Get to know the Traffic By-law and Parking By-law on the Town’s website here. It’s every motorist’s responsibility to know where they can legally park in Midland.

What’s happening to the parking machines?

- The paid parking terminals will be shut down but remain in place until the review is completed. Sinage will be posted to advise visitors the program is on hold.
- The decision to leave the machines in place was to avoid the cost to remove and store the machines, and the cost to restore pavers and asphalt until the review is completed.

How is the parking program being reviewed?

- Council directed staff to create a new Ad-hoc Parking Committee to include staff, BIA members, Council members and a member of the public. A terms of reference will be created, committee members will be appointed, and the new Committee will start meeting in 2024. Look for further information in the new year.
- Once the Committee has completed their review in 2024, they’ll make recommendations to Council for consideration of a new Paid Parking Program, which will start in 2025.

Submitted by Town of Midland

Ontario Connecting People Throughout Georgian Bay and Simcoe Muskoka to Mental Health Care Close to Home

New inpatient unit at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care will provide faster access to urgent care

Dec. 18, 2023 - The Ontario government is connecting communities throughout Georgian Bay and Simcoe Muskoka to mental health supports by investing in a new inpatient acute care unit at the Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care. The new unit will expand access to specialized urgent mental health and addictions services, making it faster and easier for people and their families to connect to care closer to home.

“All Ontarians deserve to receive convenient care close to home, no matter where they live,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “By investing in a new inpatient acute care unit at Waypoint, our government is ensuring that people in the Georgian Bay region will have faster access to specialized mental health services and supports, when and where they need it most.”

Ontario is working with Waypoint to continue to advance this project. As a next step, a fair, open, and transparent tender process is expected to begin in the new year with construction starting shortly after.

Submitted by Ministry of Health

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Council Meeting Schedule and Time Change

January 10
5:30 PM
Regular


January 22
5:00 PM
*Special

January 31
5:30 PM
Regular




NEW!


Regular Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings now begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers and are open to the public. The 2023 Meeting of Council Schedule is subject to change. For complete details, visit the Community Calendar. This ***Special** Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m., is open to the public, and is pending the December 18, 2023 meeting.



Township of Tiny

www.tiny.ca/events


IT'S EASY TO GET DISTRACTED
WHEN YOU ARE COOKING!



Cooking is the leading cause of fires during the holidays.


This holiday season, **always stay in the kitchen** while cooking.

If you must leave, **turn off the stove.**




Recreation Events and Programs

Save the Date -
Carnival D'Hiver!




Sat., February 10
Perkinsfield Park
(43 County Road 6, South)

Winter Program Registration




The 2024 Winter Recreation Guide is on our website. Registration is open!
www.tiny.ca/recreation/register

Outdoor Rinks




Public skating is coming soon - weather dependent. Check out the schedule at
www.tiny.ca/rinks!

Snow Angels



Volunteer-driven snow removal program.
www.tiny.ca/snow-angels

Winter Maintenance Reminders



Snow Removal

- Higher speed roads with heavier traffic are plowed first based on Provincial Maintenance Standards.
- Property owners are responsible for removing snow that accumulates at the end of driveways.
- Disposing of or piling snow from private property onto a Highway or municipal lands, is strictly prohibited.
- Sand is only applied to roads at major intersections, hills and corners during freezing rain/ icy conditions. Sand is not applied to straight-a-ways as drivers must drive according to weather and road conditions.

Winter Parking

- During the winter months, parking on the road is strictly prohibited at all times as it interferes with snow removal practices. The Township of Tiny does not have an allotted time of day to which parking on the road is allowed as snow removal can happen at any/ all times of day. Cars that are found to be parked on the roadside during snow removal operations will be ticketed and charged.


Hazards

- Ensure children refrain from building tunnels or forts inside snow banks by road ways.
- Township will not replace items (including mailboxes and garbage bins) that are damaged as a result of snow accumulation or force of snow off the plow blade. Please be sure to place items far enough back onto your property to keep them out of reach of this area to avoid destruction.

New Online Payment Options


The Township of Tiny is pleased to announce a new payment option for residents to make tax or water bill payments via credit card through the township's payment service provider, Paymentus. Please note a 2.5% service fee per transaction is charged by Paymentus to cover their handling and processing fee.

Scan the QR code or visit
tiny.ca/onlinepayments






Interim Control By-law for the Tiny Shoreline




Did you know? The Interim Control By-law 23-044, as amended, prohibits the erection of any structure, fence, or sign through the duration of this by-law. This includes, but is not limited to, boathouses, retaining walls, patios, landscaping, decks, fences, walls, or shoreline alteration that are in proximity to the 178-metre contour elevation of the Georgian Bay Shoreline. Before you construct, visit www.tiny.ca/InterimControl for more information.






If you have witnessed a violation of the Interim Control By-law and wish to file a complaint, please contact the Municipal Law Enforcement Department at 705-526-4136.


For further information: Planning and Development Department
E: interimcontrol@tiny.ca T: 705-526-4204 ext. 258

www.tiny.ca



www.tinyconnect.ca





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Submitted by Town of Midland



Committee of the Whole (Committee) facilitates the decision-making process of Council. The Committee

for staff to implement the operating recommendations and to bring forward to future meetings recommendations that are governance in nature for a

By Sarah Marshall, COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

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A TINY SENIOR MOMENT

By Carol-Lynn Lepard, Township of Tiny. Senior Column Writer

The holidays are upon us, and with them come our hopes for a happy and healthy 2024. We'll soon be thinking about what we can do through the winter months to keep well and active. In this third column focusing on Tiny's fitness programs and the people who make them possible, we're highlighting Samantha Edmonds and the Zumba® program.

If you had to describe Samantha Edmonds in a single word it might be "caring". This mother of two has been an Educational Assistant with the Simcoe County District School Board for more than two decades. Currently, she hangs her hat at a local elementary school, and finds it highly rewarding to encourage young children as they begin their academic lives. She provides supervision and support to students from kindergarten all the way up to grade 8, who have various learning styles and abilities. It's a big change from the work she did with older students in her 19 years at Elmvale District High School.

About 14 years ago, Edmonds and a friend, who both loved to dance, were looking for a way to have fun and get some exercise when they found a Zumba® class. Edmonds says she was never a sports or fitness enthusiast when she was younger, but quickly came to love Zumba®.

Overcoming beginner's shyness, she made her way from the back of the class to the front as she discovered the advantage of being able to see the instructor's every move. After years of practice, she started to think about sharing her passion for Zumba® with others in her community. But COVID hit just as she was due to attend her instructor's program. To avoid delay, she took the online course. With certificate in hand, she was able to access all Zumba® had to offer in terms of music and choreography. Supported

by mentors, Edmonds taught with two other instructors to gain experience and confidence. Soon she was teaching on her own, often recruited as a resource for her high school's phys. ed. classes.

Now, fortunately for residents of Tiny, she shares her knowledge and enthusiasm at Monday nights' Zumba® classes.

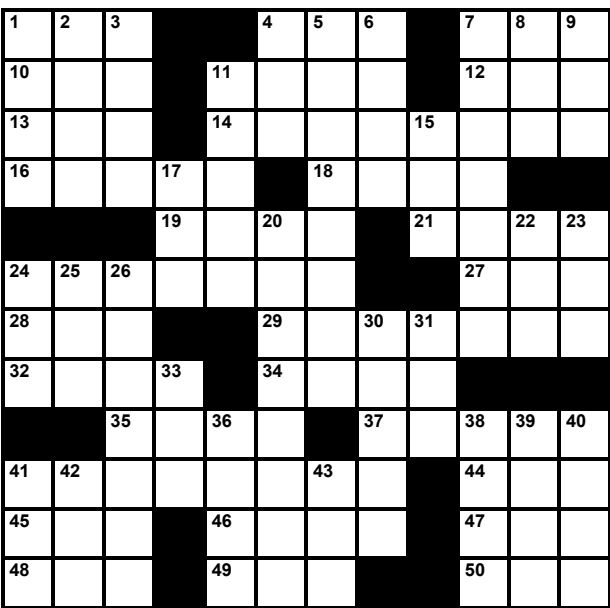
For those who aren't familiar with it, Zumba® was started by Columbian dancer Beto Perez in 2001 and involves various Latin dances including Salsa, Merengue, Samba, and Mambo. The name has no specific meaning, but to people around the world, it's synonymous with high-spirited fun. Part of its appeal to all ages is also its ability to help reduce stress, improve coordination, and boost heart health.

Edmonds says a lot of participants come to meet new people and like learning the steps to the lively music, which she assembles from the huge corporate collection. She says that while students follow the choreography, everyone develops their own Zumba® style, and she delights in watching people approach the routines from their unique perspectives.

Registration for Zumba® opens December 4 and weekly classes start Monday, January 8, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., at the Township of Tiny Community Centre. To register, visit the website: www.tiny.ca, visit the Township office in person, or call the Recreation Department at 705-526-4204 ext. 290.

Programs, Activities & Events

Township of Tiny Lions Club Polar Dip: Join in the fun and frolic or sponsor a participant, in support of Dog Guides, at this annual event, January 1, 2024 at Balm Beach. Registration starts at 11:00 am, and the dip is at 12:00 pm. For registration see the website at <https://tiny-township-lions-club.square.site/>



Across
1 "Big Bang Theory" character

4 Informal, though

7 Pearson arrival

10 Went to Timmies

11 Medicine bottle

12 Crew member

13 _____ the line

14 Pastime

16 Offshoot

18 Mint

19 Hurry

21 News squib

24 Metal cutter

27 Grazing area

28 Good wood

29 Self-sacrificing ones

32 Horse prodder

34 New Delhi nanny

35 Rock band's travel

37 Going against

41 Largest of the Canaries

44 "____ the rampart's...

45 Anger

46 Seashore soarer

47 Binary number

48 Interrogate

49 Large bird

50 Pray

Down

1 "Darn it all!"

2 Superimposed on

3 Raspberry

4 Accidental movement

5 Deck opening

6 Miscellany

7 Together

8 Dine

9 Undertake

11 Nerve

15 One of the King

Henry series

17 Aggravate

20 Rare metallic element

22 Suffix with "ballad"

or "puppet"

23 More (Sp.)

24 Dupes

25 Nile slitherer

26 Indian relish

30 "Bolero" composer

31 Lord's Prayer pro-

noun

33 Caviar component

36 Importune

38 Tad

39 Latest information

40 Understand

41 Steer

42 Be off

43 Viral disease



MPL Evening Book Club

Every other month – 3rd Wednesday of the Month
Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 17, 6:30-7:30pm

Our MPL Evening Book Club meets every other month at the library to discuss our latest book club pick.

For January's meeting we're reading: The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray

For more information or to register for this upcoming session, visit us online or call (705) 526-4216. Space is limited.

Book Pairing with Local Business Featuring The Elegant Gourmet

Wednesday, February 21, 6:30-7:30pm

Chanel your inner Willy Wonka and join MPL for an evening of sweet tasting notes and book talks as we chat (and taste!) sweets & books with our friends from The Elegant Gourmet. Visit us online or call (705) 526-4216 to register.

K-Pop Trivia for Teens

Tuesday, January 2, 3-4pm

Ages 12-18

Are you a K-Pop expert? Test your knowledge in this fun & friendly trivia competition.

Visit us online or call (705) 526-4216 to register.

Musical Theatre Performance for Teens

Thursday, January 4, 2-4pm

Ages 12-18

Performing artists from The Travelling Stage will guide participants through all aspects of musical theatre: dance, vocal and stage acting, as they work on a pre-selected production number from the Musical Theatre repertoire.

Visit us online or call (705) 526-4216 to register.

Learn to Play Coyote & Crow for Teens

Friday, January 5, 1-5pm

Ages 12-18

Join our TAG members to play an introductory session of Coyote & Crow, a new Indigenous-created tabletop role playing game. No experience necessary. Snacks & beverages provided.

Space is limited. Visit us online or call (705) 526-4216 to register.

Bringing Balance to Your Budget for Older Adults

Tuesday, January 23, 2-3pm

Kirsten Bradley leads participants through the importance of identifying your financial goals, understanding the balance between spending, saving and borrowing, and financial fraud protection to ensure you get the most from your retirement savings. Visit us online or call (705) 526-4216 to register.

Using Your Library Online

Thursday, February 15, 2-3pm

You can access so many of the library's collections & services from the comfort of your own home. In this workshop we'll show you how to use library online resources to manage your library account, find your next read, learn a new skill or pick up a new hobby!

Patrons are encouraged to bring their own devices to learn more about cloudLibrary, the Simcoe County Libraries' App or many of our other eResources. Visit us online or call (705) 526-4216 to register.

Cupcake Making Workshop for Teens with Fresh Baked Consulting

Tuesday, February

20, 3:30-4:30pm

Ages 12-18

Join MPL for a hands-on cupcake decorating workshop with Fresh Baked Consulting! Learn tips & tricks for perfecting your piping skills!

Please note, our cooking classroom uses nuts, dairy, eggs, wheat, soy & other foods that may cause allergic reactions. Space is limited. Visit us online or call (705) 526-4216 to register.



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Monday Dec 25th CLOSED
Tuesday Dec 26th 10-4
Sunday Dec 31st 10-4
Monday Jan 1st CLOSED
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Mon-Fri 9-7 Sat 9-4 Sun 10-4

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Springwater Council Approves 2024 Budget
Township of Springwater

Dec. 6, 2023 – Springwater Council officially adopted the Township’s 2024 Budget & Business Plan at a meeting held on December 6.

The Township’s 2024 Budget was approved with a 1.22% net tax increase over 2023 rates. When combined with the County of Simcoe’s approved tax increase of 3.7% and the education rate which is assumed to remain neutral, residents can expect to see a 1.83% blended tax increase on their 2024 property tax bill.

For an average home in Springwater assessed at \$497,000, the approved blended rate amounts to a \$79.34 increase over 2023 levels, or \$6.61 per month .

- For every tax dollar spent:
- \$0.49 is retained by the Township of Springwater
 - \$0.33 is retained by the County of Simcoe; and
 - \$0.18 goes towards Education.

The budget includes gross expenditures of \$70.9 million, comprised of \$24.9 million in tax supported operating expenses, \$20.9 million in carry forward capital projects and \$19.3 million in new capital expenses, \$3.2 million for water operations and \$2.6

million for wastewater operations.

The 2024 Capital Budget includes \$9.9 million in funding for Fire Station 2 construction and furnishings; \$8.5 million for the construction of Craig Road; and \$4.4 million in wastewater treatment plant upgrades. Additionally, residents can expect to see road, traffic and infrastructure improvements throughout the Township and will receive the same or improved levels of service with respect to fire and emergency services, winter road maintenance, libraries, planning, building services, recreation and by-law enforcement.

Since 2016, the operating budget has included 1% to support capital infrastructure and reduce the infrastructure gap identified in the Township’s 2022 Asset Management Plan. These funds will be dedicated to the future replacement of roads, bridges, fleet, facilities and parks.

To learn more about Springwater’s Budget, please visit www.springwater.ca/Budget

By Nicole Audette, Communications Officer, Township of Springwater



Notice of Application for Approval to Expropriate Land

Expropriations Act

In the matter of an application by The Corporation of the County of Simcoe for approval to expropriate land being part of Lot 6, Concession 10 (Geographic Township of Flos), designated as Part 1 on Plan 51R-43505, in the Township of Springwater, County of Simcoe, for the purposes of the North Elmvale Trail Gap project and works ancillary thereto.

Notice is hereby given that application has been made for approval to expropriate the land described as follows:

Part of Lot 6, Concession 10 (Geographic Township of Flos), designated as Part 1 on Plan 51R-43505, Township of Springwater, County of Simcoe.

Any owner of land in respect of which notice is given who desires a hearing into whether the taking of such land is fair, sound and reasonably necessary in the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority shall so notify the approving authority in writing,

- (a) in the case of a registered owner, served personally or by registered mail within thirty days after the registered owner is served with the notice, or, when the registered owner is served by publication, within thirty days after the first publication of the notice;
- (b) in the case of an owner who is not a registered owner, within thirty days after the first publication of the notice.

The approving authority is:

The Council of The Corporation of the County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario, L9X 1N6

The expropriating authority is:

The Corporation of the County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario, L9X 1N6

THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF SIMCOE

Jonathan Magill, County Clerk

This notice first published on the 7th day of December, 2023.



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



Holiday Hours
Please note all branches of Springwater Public Library will be closed Monday December 25 and Tuesday December 26. We will reopen to regular hours on Wednesday December 27. We will also be closed Monday January 1, 2024 and return to regular branch hours on Tuesday January 2, 2024.

Yarn Ornaments
Make your own yarn ornament at this free drop in craft Friday December 22, Elmvale and Midhurst Branches. While supplies last.

Scavenger Hunt
Bring your eagle eyes to the Elmvale and Midhurst branches and see if you can find all our hidden items in a library wide scavenger hunt happening all through the school break. Friday December 22 – Saturday January 6.

Hot Chocolate Craft
Drop by the library for this sweet, easy craft on Thursday December 28, Elmvale and Midhurst Branches.

Cork Gnome Craft
This drop in craft will be available while supplies last starting Tuesday January 2 at all branch locations.

24/7 Library
During the holiday and winter season don’t forget that we have online Storytime programs available (including our latest visit to the Springwater Fire Hall!) on our YouTube channel as well as online e-books and e-audiobooks available everyday all day at cloudLibrary. Happy watching and happy reading!

2024 Tree Seedling Distribution Program

Dec. 13, 2023 - Severn Sound Environmental Association and the Township of Springwater are working together to provide property owners in the Severn Sound watershed (Orr Lake/Elmvale area) with reasonably priced, native tree and shrub seedlings for planting in early spring 2023.

Tree seedlings must be pre-ordered. The deadline for ordering is Friday, January 12th, 2024.

Program details are available online at: www.severnsound.ca/Pages/tree-seedling-distribution.aspx

Submitted by Township of Springwater



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Ontario Supporting Small, Rural and Northern Communities

Local infrastructure funding will help create jobs and support economic growth in Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte

Dec. 13, 2023 - BARRIE— The Ontario government is investing \$5,956,561 to help renew and rehabilitate critical infrastructure in Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte. The funding is being delivered through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) and is part of the government's plan to support economic growth and job creation.

This funding includes:

\$4,439,360 for Simcoe County

\$1,053,595 for the Township of Springwater, and

\$463,606 for the Township of Oro-Medonte

“Ontario Community Infrastructure Funding helps our government in strengthening economic growth and job creation by providing funding to address critical infrastructure needs, including road, bridge, water and wastewater projects,” said Doug Downey, MPP for Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte. “This funding is vital for our small rural communities to be able to address their infrastructure needs as they face growth challenges, and help to build more resilient communities for tomorrow.”

In 2024, the government will allocate \$400 million in OCIF funding to help 425 small, rural and northern communities pay for critical infrastructure projects, including road, bridge, water, and wastewater projects. If necessary, a community may accumulate its funding for up to five years to address larger infra-

structure projects.

“Small, rural and northern communities need stable funding for their unique infrastructure needs and to provide safe and reliable services,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “That’s why our government continues to provide funding, especially during these challenging economic times. Our investments in community infrastructure are helping to create jobs, build stronger local economies, and lay the foundation for a stronger, more resilient Ontario for generations to come.”

OCIF provides funding for local infrastructure projects in communities with populations under 100,000, as well as all rural and northern communities. Funding allocations are based on a formula that takes into account the different needs and economic conditions of each community.

QUICK FACTS

- In 2023, the Ontario government provided \$400 million in funding through OCIF to 425 communities.

- The government doubled its annual investment for OCIF to nearly \$2 billion over five years in 2022 to support more local infrastructure projects in small, rural and northern communities.

- As announced in Ontario’s 2023 Fall Economic Statement, the government is also protecting communities and unlocking new housing opportunities by investing \$200 million over three years to help municipalities repair, rehabilitate and expand critical water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. Eligible municipalities will be able to nominate housing-enabling water and wastewater projects in early 2024 through the new Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund.

- The 2023 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Building a Strong Ontario Together continues the government’s responsible, targeted approach, providing the flexibility needed to help address ongoing economic uncertainty and build critical infrastructure in growing communities, while laying a strong fiscal foundation for future generations.

*The office of MPP Doug Downey
Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte
Doug.Downey@pc.ola.org
705-726-5538*

Buy Beer, Cider, Wine and Low-Alcohol Ready-to-Drink Beverages at Convenience, Grocery and Big Box Stores

Province will ensure a stable and responsible transition to new marketplace that promotes Ontario-made products and local jobs.

Dec. 14, 2023 - Today, the Ontario government announced that beginning no later than January 1, 2026, consumers will be able to buy beer, wine, cider, coolers, seltzers, and other low-alcohol ready-to-drink beverages at all participating convenience, grocery and big box stores across the province. This new, more open marketplace will introduce up to 8,500 new stores where these products can be purchased, the largest expansion of consumer choice and convenience since the end of prohibition almost 100 years ago. Spirits like vodka, gin and whisky will continue to be sold at the LCBO.

“We made a promise to the people of Ontario to deliver more choice and convenience,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Today, we’re delivering on that promise. There’s no reason why Ontario consumers shouldn’t enjoy the same convenient shopping experience as Canadians in every other province when buying some wine for their holiday party or a case of beer or seltzers on their way to the cottage.”

As a first step in the transition to a new retail marketplace, the government has informed Brewers Retail Inc. (The Beer Store) that the Master Framework Agreement (MFA), signed and extended for ten years by the previous government in 2015 and limited the number of retail stores that could be authorized to sell alcohol, will not be renewed after it expires on December 31, 2025. The Beer Store and LCBO will continue their retail operations in Ontario’s new marketplace.

“The people of Ontario will soon have more choice and convenience on where they can buy alcohol,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “As we move towards implementing this expansion, our government will be taking a responsible, measured approach so we can ensure our transition to a new marketplace is smooth, safe and stable.”

(see complete article on website: www.springwaternews.ca) Submitted by Premier’s Office

29 Sperling Immunization Clinic Closing Dec. 20

Dec. 13, 2023 - SIMCOE MUSKOKA – After three years of operation and more than 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine provided to the public, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) will close the immunization clinic at 29 Sperling Dr. in Barrie at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 20. Until then, the health unit will continue to offer COVID-19 vaccinations by walk-in and appointment on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are available online through the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre or by calling 1-833-943-3900.

The clinic closure comes as health units across Ontario resume their core programs and local pharmacies are now providing the majority of COVID-19 vaccinations to residents. Individuals aged six months and older are able to receive the COVID-19 XBB vaccine formulation free of charge at participating local pharmacies and some health care providers. Since September 2023, 75 percent of COVID-19 vaccinations have been administered at local pharmacies across Simcoe Muskoka.

For more information about COVID-19, and immunization, visit our website or contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

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JOHN DEERE STIHL



Dec. 7, 2023 - Christmas is only a few sleeps away and, like past years, the holiday got here faster than I thought it would. Even the most organized of us are rushing to get last minute things checked off the list. I hope that in the sprint to the big day you get to relax a little, chat with friends and neighbours, share a hot chocolate with your family, or maybe bake some cookies with your kids.

We all need the gentle reminder to take time for ourselves, whether that is time alone to read, start a new hobby, go skating on a frozen pond (providing it is safe to do so), or have a nap. However you choose to spend your time during the holidays, I hope you make some good memories, laugh out loud, hug the people you love, and celebrate the season with a smile. This Christmas, I look forward to spending time with my wife and my sons, and our dog Ollie. We’re going to watch some of our favourite movies, eat too much, and likely shovel some snow, maybe a lot of snow. I’m also going to walk our dog on the amazing trails near our home, hopefully in softly falling snowflakes rather than a blizzard. Either way, Ollie needs to spend time outdoors.

As the new year approaches, we should embrace the highs of the past year and learn from the lows, which I know is much easier to say than it is to practice. To help practice embracing the highs, let’s get out there and celebrate life, celebrate the holidays, and celebrate our communities. I wish you and yours a spectacular Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. I hope to see you around town or maybe on the trails.

As always, if you or your family have concerns with any federal matters, please contact me at 705-728-2596 or at Doug.Shipley@parl.gc.ca

Merry Christmas everyone!

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

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Music for Cash for Salvation Army

Dec. 16, 2023 - Midland - Last Saturday’s 93 North Dinner-Dance, hosted by the Library Restaurant in the Quality Inn Ballroom, raised \$660.00. On Dec. 15, 2023, Suzanne Carlson, Dave Atkinson (now officially retired from the band) and Neil Lefaive (shown in photo above) went to the Salvation Army in Midland and donated the cash. The band would like to thank Dave’s daughter and her partner, Kate and Johnny, for they were the ones who went around selling tickets for the prizes which the band and the Library Restaurant that donated for the cause.

By Neil Lefaive



Lions Partner with United Way for Christmas

The Elmvale Lions were very proud in partnering with Kimberly Clarke and The United Way Simcoe Muskoka in taking delivery of over 8000 boxes of Kleenex. Our delivery driver Sheryl Truax, made short work of dropping off these many items to, Georgian Bay Food Network, Elmvale Foodbank, Hospice Huronia, Midland Salvation Army, Shelter Now, St. Vincent DuPaul, Rosewood and Community Living Huronia. Kleenex is considered a luxury item so was well received.

Submitted by Murray Truax

4H Award Banquet

Dec. 18, 2023 - Elmvale Lions donate to cost of 4H Banquet. The Elmvale Fall Fair awards went to the to the Elmvale Dairy Club, Beef Club and Crops Club. The Banquet was held at OLOL Church in Elmvale on Dec. 14, 2023 . Congratulations to all!

By Linda Belcourt, Editor



Photo above: Grand champion showman ship Faith Walker



Photo above: Champion calf , Faith Walker



Dec. 8, 2023 - Midland- On December 3, 2023, Mike & Melissa Robinson and their family visited the GBGH Foundation to make an incredible heart-felt donation to honour the memory of their daughter Celia.

Each year, Melissa, along with some help from family & friends, spends the month of November baking a large assortment of treats for her annual bake sale. This year, she made 3,840 individual items including muffins, cheesecakes, cookies, banana breads and the fan-favourite, peanut butter balls. This year, \$7,250 was raised in memory of Celia, and the funds will help to purchase a new Neonatal Resuscitation Monitor for Georgian Bay General Hospital.

Celia Marie Robinson passed away at GBGH on Christmas Day 2019 from an undiagnosed genetic immunodeficiency. You can watch the Robinson family’s amazing story here: <https://youtu.be/vtO-Jvr699TY>. Submitted by GBGH



Photo above: Top member Beef, Faith Walker



Photo above: Top member Dairy, Sydney Robinson

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Penetang Kings Lose 3 of 4 Games, Drop to 7th Place.



Dec. 1, Ceremonial Faceoff



Dec. 1, Rumbolt Faceoff



Ben Kelly
Aim Performance
Player, Dec. 1 game



Issak McGinnis
Aim Performance
Player, Dec. 3 game



Owen Collins
Aim Performance
Player, Dec. 7 game



Sawyer Lemmie
Aim Performance
Player, Dec. 8 game



Dec. 7, Action Around the Net



Dec. 8, Wilson Goal

Submitted by Jamie Robillard, Penetang Kings
The Penetang Kings played four games between December 1st and December 8th losing three of the contests and now sit in seventh place in the nine team North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League.
On Friday December 1st the Kings lost a 4-2 decision to the Huntsville Otters, falling behind 3-0 in the first period before scoring two second period goals. Isaak McGinnis and Carter Wilson both scored power play markers to get the Kings close trailing 3-2 before the Otters scored one more second period tally. The Kings pressed for more goals in the third period without any success while holding the Otters off the score sheet for the remainder of the game. Goaltender Sawyer Lammle stopped 30 of the 34 shots that came his way for the Kings. Assists for the Kings were collected by McGinnis, Wilson, and two by Tanner Thayer. Benjamin Kelly was named the Aim Performance Player of the Game for the Kings.
On Sunday December 3rd the Kings got three goals from Isaak McGinnis including the overtime winner as they edged the Midland Flyers by a 3-2 score. Replying for Midland were Mackenzie Selbie and Matthew Connolly. Wade Monague made 26 saves for the Kings while Owen Moreau stopped 22 shots in the Flyers net. Owen VanDusen, Tanner Thayer, Matthew Campbell, and Tristan Sanders had one as-

sist each for Penetang. The Kings Aim Performance Player of the Game went to McGinnis.
The Kings travelled to Schomberg on Thursday December 7 to face the Cougars and were outgunned from the opening face-off with Schomberg building a 5-0 lead before the game was 11 minutes old enroute to 9-1 win. Owen Collins scored the lone goal for Penetang with a helper from Tristan Sanders. Both Wade Monague and Sawyer Lammle shared the netminding for Penetang. Collins was selected the Aim Performance Player of the Game for the Kings.
Finally on Friday December 8th the Kings hosted the Innisfil Spartans at the Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre and came out on the short end of the 3-2 score. With the score tied 2-2 Innisfil's Tyler MacNeil scored the winner with just one minute remaining in regulation time. Carter Wilson and Isaak McGinnis scored the Kings goals with assists from Lars Derstroff, Owen VanDusen, Carter Weissflog and McGinnis. Sawyer Lammle who made 23 saves in the Penetang net was named the Aim Performance Player of the Game for the Kings.
The Kings have 20 points in the season and are one point behind Huntsville and Caledon who sit in fifth place. Penetang's next home games are Friday December 22 against Schomberg and then after an extended break for the holiday season, Friday January 12 vs the Alliston Hornets.

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LIVE BAND DEC 23**
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Ontario's Top Baby Names
in 2022

By Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
Olivia and Noah continue to top the charts as Ontario's most popular baby names in 2022. Olivia has held the top spot for girls for over a decade, with 14 consecutive years as number one. This year, we also welcome Chloe to the top 10 list for the first time, tied with Isla for 7th place.
When it comes to boy names, once again Noah is in the top spot for the fourth year in a row, with Liam following closely behind as the second-most popular name. Theodore inched up two spots this year.

Girls	Boys
1. Olivia	1. Noah
2. Charlotte	2. Liam
3. Amelia	3. Oliver
4. Emma	4. Theodore
5. Sophia	5. Jack
6. Ava	6. Benja-min
7. Chloe/Isla	7. Lucas
8. Evelyn	8. William
9. Lily	9. Ethan
10. Mia	10. Leo

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'Twas the Night Before Christmas

By Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

**The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,**

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

**"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and VIXEN!
On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONNER and BLITZEN!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"**

**As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.**

**And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.**

**He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.**

**His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;**

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!

Santa Claus Is Coming To Town

You better watch out
You better not cry
Better not pout
I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town

He's making a list,
And checking it twice;
Gonna find out Who's naughty and nice.
Santa Claus is coming to town

He sees you when you're sleeping
He knows when you're awake
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake!

O! You better watch out!
You better not cry.
Better not pout, I'm telling you why.
Santa Claus is coming to town.
Santa Claus is coming to town.



"Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" is a Christmas song. It was written by J. Fred Coots and Haven Gillespie, and was first sung on Eddie Cantor's radio show in November 1934. It became an instant hit with orders for 100,000 copies of sheet music the next day and over 400,000 copies sold by Christmas.

Two elements in this song have made it of particular interest to children as well as adults. First is the attention-getting opening-line warning, "You better watch out," and second is the delightful promise of an upcoming event, "Santa Claus is comin' to town." Coupled with a bouncy and catchy melody, these teasers have made the 1932 composition by lyricist Haven Gillespie and musician John Frederick Coots one of the most successful of all popular Christmas carols. Only "Rudolph" and "White Christmas" have outsold this depression-era joyful gem. "Santa Claus Is Comin'" was the best-known piece by either Gillespie or Coots, although both had other successful hits.*Source:www.christmas-lyrics.org/*

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart
Prepare Him room
And Saints and angels sing
And Saints and angels sing
And Saints and Saints and angels sing

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns
Let Saints their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, Repeat, the sounding joy

Joy to the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders and wonders of His love
No more will sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;

He'll come and make the blessings flow
Far as the curse was found,
Far as the curse was found,
Far as, far as the curse was found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And gives to nations proof
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love;
And wonders of His love;
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Rejoice! Rejoice in the Most High,
While Israel spreads abroad
Like stars that glitter in the sky,
And ever worship God,
And ever worship God,
And ever, and ever worship God.

"Joy to the World" is one of the best-known and best-loved of Christmas carols. It contains a message of joy and love replacing sin and sorrow. It may also be interpreted to be about life after the second coming of Christ. The hymn is significant for its widespread use throughout Christian denominations and for the musical stature of the people who created it. *Source: www.christmas-lyrics.org/*

Wishing our community a very safe and Happy Holidays. No matter how you celebrate the season, may your days be filled with love and joy.

Matt Garwood, Ward 1 Councillor

Merry Christmas
and Season's Greetings

The True Meaning of Christmas!

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations — extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise. So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment — songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes, and good cheer.

So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title. Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row-center stage — held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love." The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down —totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W."

The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W." Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together.

A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood — the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.



For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear: "CHRISTWAS LOVE"
By Anonymous



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Merry Christmas

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Christmas For Teens Campaign Gets \$1,289 Boost from Maycourt

By Marianne Schall

(Dec. 12, 2023 At the May Court Shop - Ladies Consignment Clothing. 54 B Maple Ave. Barrie). The members of the May Court Club of Barrie pulled together to contribute \$1289.00 for Samaritan House - Christmas For Teens campaign. Many families who are even working and need to decide between paying the rent or buying gifts, Ukrainian families or unemployed are reaching out for help during this season of giving.



Photo above (Lto R): Christel Martin, Linda Norman, Kerry Ploughman - Executive Director Samaritan House, Lenore Hamley - President May Court Club of Barrie, Cathy Frechette, Sue McDonald, Marianne Schall, Gilda Hogan. Missing: Sharon Fitzsimmins - Fundscript Co-ordinator. Photo by Kathie Macmillan.

May Court Members Donate \$2514 to Barrie Food Bank

By Marianne Schall

(Dec. 7, 2023 -Barrie)The members of the May Court Club of Barrie came together to purchase \$2514.00 in gift cards for the Barrie Food Bank Christmas Gift Card Campaign. The Food Bank is in need of donations such as canned tuna, canned meats, peanut butter, pasta sauces, feminine hygiene products and toilet paper.



Photo above (LtoR): Val Carson, Hanni Mieke, Sharon Palmer - Executive Director Barrie Food Bank, Linda Lomano, Sonia Faryna, Lenore Hamley - President May Court Club of Barrie. Missing: Sharon Fitzsimmins - organizer Fundscrip program. Location: May Court Shop - Ladies Consignment Clothing. Photo by Marianne Schall.

HCF Announces Heart of Georgian Bay Community Forward Fund Recipients



Huronian Community Foundation (HCF) is excited to announce the recipients of the FIRST ANNUAL Heart of Georgian Bay Community Forward Fund (HoGBCFF). This new fund supported through the M. Wayne and J. Coleman Family Fund at HCF is part of this family's commitment to the future of Huronia.

The HoGBCFF was established to provide grants to support and advance needs in a broad range of areas in our community from Creativity in Arts and Culture, Education, Literacy and Training opportunities, Environmental Leadership, Food Security, Healthy Living Activities and the Promotion of Mental Health.

"The Wayne/Coleman Family strongly believes in the importance of supporting our local communities and paying it forward. We hope that others will join us in growing this fund annually. The Heart of Georgian Bay Community Forward Fund is an incredible investment in the future of North Simcoe and Southern Georgian Bay."

The following nineteen local charities will share over \$ 91,000 in funding through the Heart of Georgian Bay Community Forward Fund:

Georgian Bay Food Network, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe, YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka Employment Service, Midland Public Library, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, The Midland Salvation Army, We Are The Villagers, Gateway Centre for Learning, Scientists in School, CLH Foundation, Askennonia Senior Centre Inc, Severn Sound Environmental Association, Chigamik Community Health Centre, Midland Cultural Centre, St. Theresa's Catholic High School, Huronia Transition Homes, Brookside Music Association, Huronia Seniors' Volunteer Care Team and BGC North Simcoe. Congratulations to all!

By Scott Warnick

Holiday Wish List for Wise Financial Planning

Nov. 29, 2023 - It's that time of year when people make requests of loved ones. There is a list for this holiday season for the people to pay attention to.

Wish list:

- 1) Update your Wills and Powers of Attorney in the past 5 years with a lawyer.
- 2) Beneficiary designations are checked and cross checked for accuracy.
- 3) Parents of small children have life insurance to replace their income and pay off debts.
- 4) \$100k+ income earners embrace duality – save it once, use it twice.
- 5) Self-employed individuals put a strategy in place to protect their pay cheque.
- 6) Corporate business owners make a long-term tactical plan in place to move assets tax free through their capital dividend account using an alternative asset class.

The wish list is not long, but it can be overwhelming. If anything on this list causes you to stop in your tracks because you haven't done it, investigated it or are not even sure what is being referred to, then take action. Wrapping up 2023 and heading into 2024 should be done so with financial literacy and confidence.

By Taivi Tayler



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Ontario Connecting People Throughout Georgian Bay and Simcoe Muskoka to Mental Health Care Close to Home

New inpatient unit at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care will provide faster access to urgent care

Submitted by Ministry of Health

Dec. 18, 2023 - The Ontario government is connecting communities throughout Georgian Bay and Simcoe Muskoka to mental health supports by investing in a new inpatient acute care unit at the Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care. The new unit will expand access to specialized urgent mental health and addictions services, making it faster and easier for people and their families to connect to care closer to home.

"All Ontarians deserve to receive convenient care close to home, no matter where they live," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By investing in a new inpatient acute care unit at Waypoint, our government is ensuring that people in the Georgian Bay region will have faster access to specialized mental health services and supports, when and where they need it most."

This investment will support planning and construction to renovate over 10,000 square feet of existing space at Waypoint. Once complete, the new acute mental health inpatient unit will add an additional 20 beds to the facility and connect more people and their families in the region to a team of health care professionals that provide a full range of services in the main campus, including psychiatry, psychology, occupational and recreation therapy, and addictions counselling. - Jill Dunlop



DEVILED EGGS REVISITED – A NEW TAKE ON AN OLD CLASSIC

Seriously retro, deviled eggs are making a comeback and why not? They are inexpensive, quick to whip up and so delicious as a snack or an appetizer. Traditionally laden with mayo, this versatile recipe offers up three healthier interpretations that are sure to delight at your next gathering.

It was originally thought that eggs should be avoided if you had high cholesterol, but this isn't so. In fact, research studies have not shown a direct link between consuming eggs and elevated cholesterol levels in the blood. However, if you do have a history of heart disease, high cholesterol or type 2 diabetes, it is recommended that you consult a registered dietitian or your healthcare provider to review your diet including your intake of eggs, saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol.

Ingredients:
Traditional Deviled Eggs:

- 6 hard-boiled eggs (peeled, halved lengthwise, yolks reserved)
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) mayonnaise (regular or vegan) or yogurt (Greek or vegan)
- 2 teaspoons (10 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) lemon juice
- 1 clove fresh garlic, minced or 1/4 teaspoon (1.25 ml) garlic powder



Ingredients:

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- 2 teaspoons (10 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) lemon juice
- 1 clove fresh garlic, minced or 1/4 teaspoon (1.25 ml) garlic powder

Jo Knows Nutrition by Joanne Nijhuis

- 2-3 dashes hot sauce, optional
- salt and freshly ground pepper to taste, optional
- Sprinkle of paprika for garnish, optional

Tuna Deviled Eggs:

- 6 hard-boiled eggs (peeled, halved lengthwise, yolks reserved)
- 1 can (170 g) tuna, drained
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) finely diced white or red onion
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) sweet green relish
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) mayonnaise (regular or vegan) or yogurt (Greek or vegan)

- 2-3 dashes hot sauce, optional
- salt and freshly ground pepper to taste, optional
- Green onions, slivered for garnish, optional

Avocado Deviled Eggs:

- 6 hard-boiled eggs (peeled, halved lengthwise, yolks reserved)
- 1 avocado, peeled and pitted
- 1-2 tablespoons (15-30 ml) freshly squeezed lime juice
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) finely diced white or red onion
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) chopped cilantro
- salt and freshly ground pepper to taste, optional
- Sprinkle of paprika for garnish, optional

Instructions:

Traditional Deviled Eggs:

- 1 Place the halved egg whites on a serving platter.
- 2 Combine with a masher or a fork the yolks, mayonnaise or yogurt, mustard, lemon juice, garlic, hot sauce (optional), and salt and pepper (optional) in a mixing bowl.
- 3 Place the mixture in a pastry bag or make your own with a clear plastic storage bag. To do this, cut a small hole in one corner of the bag after you have put the yolk mixture in the bag. Pipe the mixture onto the egg white halves.
- 4 Garnish each egg half with a sprin-

kle of paprika, if desired.

Tuna Deviled Eggs:

1. Place the halved egg whites on a serving platter.
2. Combine with a masher or a fork the yolks, tuna, onion, relish, mayonnaise or yogurt, hot sauce (optional), and salt and pepper (optional) in a mixing bowl.
3. Place the mixture in a pastry bag or make your own with a clear plastic storage bag. To do this, cut a small hole in one corner of the bag after you have put the yolk mixture in the bag. Pipe the mixture onto the egg white halves.
4. Garnish each egg half with slivered green onions, if desired.

Avocado Deviled Eggs:

1. Place the halved egg whites on a serving platter.
 2. Combine with a masher or a fork the yolks, avocado, lime juice, onion, cilantro and salt and pepper (optional).
 3. Garnish each egg with a sprinkle of paprika, if desired.
- Enjoy!

Joanne Nijhuis MSc, RD is a consulting, media and culinary dietitian in Simcoe Grey Bruce on a mission to entertain and educate through her love of food. In addition to recipe development and writing for several publications, Joanne offers nutrition talks and cooking demos/classes – in person and online via Zoom. For more information, email Joanne at jo.knows.nutrition@outlook.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Eggs are an economical and high-quality source of protein. Delish for breakfast, eggs are equally great as a quick mid-week lunch or dinner entrée. Applauded as a nutrition powerhouse, the yolk provides several essential nutrients including vitamins A, D, E, B12, folate, and riboflavin. High quality protein is found in the egg white while the fat content is predominantly in the egg yolk.

Order Your Spring Tree Seedlings Now Deadline January 12th, 2024



Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is once again working with local municipalities to implement our Tree Seedling Distribution Program for spring 2024. The 2024 Tree Seedling Distribution Program is open to residents in the Severn Sound area of the following municipalities: Georgian Bay, Midland, Oro-Medonte, Penetanguishene, Severn, Springwater, Tay, and Tiny. Residents can purchase reasonably priced, native tree and shrub seedlings for planting in early spring 2024.

Visit <https://www.severnsound.ca/programs-projects/public-involvement-and-stewardship-2/tree-seedling-distribution/> for full program details (including a price list, species selection guide, and answers to Frequently Asked Questions), or email Travis van Engelen, Severn Sound Environmental Association at tvanengelen@severnsound.ca.

Tree seedlings must be pre-ordered. The deadline for ordering is Friday, January 12th, 2024.

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ORGANIC FEED AVAILABLE!

Dec. 17, 2023 - There is a saying attributed to Mark Twain that goes “if you don’t like the weather, wait 5 minutes ”. Here in Anten Mills, that quote had significant meaning as the Anten Mills Community Recreation Association watched the weather as preparations were underway for the Christmas in the Village weekend. After a nice dumping of snow which would have been perfect for the SnoTube slide, warm weather all but melted it away. Then there was concern that it was going to rain heavily on both the tree lighting and the parade. But in true Anten Mills fashion and not being concerned about the weather, the weekend went off without a hitch. On Saturday evening, with the temperature being in the plus 7 degrees range, the 9th annual Christmas Tree Lighting was held. The night started off with the Snow Valley Resort SnoTube slide in operation. All evening long, kids climbed the ladder to get their tube and take a run down the slide which mimics the tube ride at the resort. There were lineups for the delicious hotdogs from the grill and the hot and tasty hot chocolate. The kids were offered dancing lights to add to the excitement. Then at 6:30, accompanied by the members of the Springwater Fire and Emergency Services, Santa Claus arrived on a fire truck to the wide open eyes of the children. Santa greeted the children and they had an opportunity to meet with him and have their photo taken. At 7, Santa started the countdown and with the flip of the switch, the lights on the large tree in front of the pavilion and the ground displays were turned on for the holiday season. Almost immediately, the skies over the ball diamond lit up with an outstanding fireworks display.

Sunday, the temperature dropped to almost seasonal and there was no rain to be seen. Soon the marshalling area for the 26th annual Santa Claus parade was filling up with all the entries for the parade. At 1 o’clock the parade headed off through the village. At street corners and in driveways people gathered to watch and welcome the creativity of those who joined in the parade. Santa Claus of course was escorted by the members of the fire department and this year Mrs. Claus made the trip down from the North Pole to be part of the parade.

Once the parade was finished, there was hot chocolate served back at the community centre. Season greetings were offered by MPP Downey, Councillor



Thompson and CRA President Lawrence Pavan. No parade would be complete without some acknowledgment of the excellent efforts by the entrants. There are no 2nd places in the Anten Mills parade and so prizes were awarded randomly. The big winners were the Barrie Dance Conservatory for the best dance troupe, the best Canadiana theme went to Ladies Lane and the most outrageous float went to the Wilson family.

Our parade was featured by CTV Barrie News and by At The Scene Photography, a videographer from Barrie. You can see the clip on the CTV website and At The Scene did an excellent job with still photos and a drone video both of which can be found on the Anten Mills Community Bulletin Facebook page.

The weekend was made possible by our community and CRA volunteers and through the generous donations received from, Snow Valley Resort, McLaren Equipment, Full Moon Plumbing, Springwater - Vespra Lions, the Watkins family, the Williams family, the Dunn family and the Wilson family. The weekend support from our volunteer firefighters is greatly appreciated as well as the OPP and the auxiliary officers. Their assistance made for a fantastic fun weekend and the community thanks them. Your contributions to the Elmvale and District Food Bank was great with a vehicle full of food delivered along with cash donations. Next year the Christmas in the Village weekend will be December 7 and 8th and it’s not too soon to start planning now to join in.

Anten Mills official “unofficial “ Christmas Decoration contest is a tremendous success this year. There



are many homes with fantastic displays and once again the decision is one that you will need to make. To help you out, and in case you haven’t seen all the lights, a short video will be posted on the facebook page for everyone to see. Anten Mills residents certainly outdid themselves again this year and a sight to see.

Today, December 21 is the start of the Winter Solstice. Winter officially begins tonight at 10:27 PM. The shortest day of the year for sunlight is tomorrow and then on Saturday, we start the climb to longer days. By January 4th, we have gained an extra minute and the days will get longer until June. No doubt everyone will be looking forward to that.

Christmas Eve has seen the members of the fire department escorting Santa Claus on a tour for 4 decades plus. This year it has been confirmed that he will again be riding with them bringing greetings and telling the little ones it’s time to get to bed. Usually they get to our village around 6:30 PM. They can’t be missed as sirens are blaring and lights are flashing. It’s a quick visit so be ready to be outside. Watch our facebook page for updates as well.

That’s it for this week and year. From my family to yours, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year full of joy and happiness and good health. THANKS for READING, BE WELL and STAY SAFE.

Severn Sound Environmental Association Secures \$25,000 Grant from The Commonwell's L.E.A.F. Program

Dec. 13, 2023 - Port McNicoll, Ontario – The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is thrilled to announce a \$25,000 grant from The Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group’s Learning Engagement & Accelerator Fund (L.E.A.F.) for its “Project SSEED – Severn Sound Engagement and Education” project. This grant provides the funding required to bring free environmental education and volunteer opportunities to the communities in the watershed region.

“Mental health concerns including climate anxiety and ‘ecological worrying’ are issues among young people. Education empowers people and communities. Empowering young people in our communities

provides them with education and knowledge equipping them to make informed decisions and understand their role in and ability to protect their local environment. Thanks to The Commonwell’s L.E.A.F. Grant, we’re able to take the next steps to provide this education to our communities,” says Jon Main, Sustainability and Climate Action Coordinator at the Severn Sound Environmental Association.

Administered by The Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group, the L.E.A.F. program invested \$350,000 in grants this year, scaling from previous years. Tim Shauf, President of The Commonwell, emphasizes the program's impact, stating, "We received over \$2.7

million in funding requests this year, highlighting its crucial role in supporting communities." Shauf adds, "We believe in fostering strength and resilience within the communities we serve, and this year's projects are positioned to make a lasting positive impact."

L.E.A.F.'s mission is simple: cultivate community resilience and capacity through program development and facility/resource upgrades in places where residents learn, play, engage, and gather.

For more details about Severn Sound Environmental Association’s “Project SSEED – Severn Sound Engagement and Education” Project visit <https://the-commonwell.ca/leaf/>. **Submitted by SSEA**

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Minesing Moments *By Lorrie Haywood*

Dec. 17, 2023 - Greetings Minesing and Springwater friends and neighbours. I write this edition on a day that is dark and dreary, and I know I will get some grief on this, but I would really like there to be some snow for Christmas. The feelings that go hand in hand with a white Christmas just mean so much more and feel so much brighter. These dismal days really take their toll. Think of it this way, snow means kids can get outside and make forts and snowmen! The Christmas lights shine even brighter when there is snow! So many people in our area participate and hang lights for all to enjoy. Come on mother nature....give us some pretty snowflakes for the 25th!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 4th Annual Tractor Parade that was held on the 8th of December in Minesing. Wow! What a display for everyone to admire. I don't think I caught the exact number of tractors, but I believe it was maybe the most we have had in the four years of the parade. Congratulations to Roger Gethons with his beautiful display in the parade, I understand he was the winner this year. Well done by the organizer, Shannon Giffen, the participants who all spent time decorating their tractors and trucks who are our local farming families and neighbours and to all of the folks who made donations to the Elmvale Food Bank that were collected at the Community Centre and throughout the parade route. The donation collecting Elves were amazing and did a super job loading up the Rowland Brothers Moving Truck. Thank you so very much to all! We look forward to next year!

I also send out a huge kudos to the organizers and participants of the Anten Mills community for a fantastic Santa Claus Parade! It was one of the best I have seen in many years. Well done everyone! It's great that we live amongst these great little communities that have such spirit to organize these kinds of events for all to enjoy. Springwater really is a wonderful place to live!

The week before Christmas can take a toll on a lot of people. The cost, the hustle and bustle and the overall countdown to the 25th can be overwhelming. As I get older I don't care about the presents, I know my family will laugh at this because I was a big lover of the presents growing up, and secretly, who doesn't love a gift? As I get older I just want my family and friends to be together, enjoy some food and drinks and just have fun! I know, it's easier said than done. We like to do as much as we can in as little time that we have off from work. Sometimes it's ok to say you know what? Let's not have a full sit-down turkey dinner, let's cook the turkey ahead of time, buy some rolls, have turkey on a bun, have everyone bring something to your gathering instead of one person doing all the work and clean up after.

Ontario Connecting People Throughout Georgian Bay and Simcoe Muskoka to Mental Health Care Close to Home

New inpatient unit at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care will provide faster access to urgent care By Ministry of Health

Dec. 18, 2023 - The Ontario government is connecting communi-ties throughout Georgian Bay and Simcoe Muskoka to mental health sup-ports by investing in a new inpatient acute care unit at the Waypoint Cen-tre for Mental Health Care. The new unit will expand access to specialized urgent mental health and addictions services, making it faster and easier for people and their families to connect to care closer to home.

“All Ontarians deserve to receive convenient care close to home, no matter where they live,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “By investing in a new inpatient acute care unit at Waypoint, our govern-ment is ensuring that people in the Georgian Bay region will have faster access to specialized mental health services and supports, when and where they need it most.”

This investment will support planning and construc-

Traditions are always wonderful, I love them! But maybe this is your year to make that change. Don't overwhelm yourself with doing things because that's the way your family has “always done it”. Break the mould, try something different. If it doesn't go over well, go back next year. My family has changed our tradition as we have grown in numbers and it's so much work for the host to do all the work. We now bring appetizers and spend the time playing some fun games. Give it a try, it's fun and lots of laughter for sure.

Christmas through the eyes of children is so amazing. I see short videos online and it melts my heart to see babies reacting from seeing the first glimpse of lights on a tree or a glimpse of Santa. A child's mind must just be in such delight, excitement, and curiosity. Bright colours, shiny decorations and lights are all things they love. Then when they begin to see the outside Christmas lights and decorations when they are out in the evenings, Christmas surrounds them. The music in the malls, the visits with Santa and the glimpse of one of Santa's elves around the house checking up on them. It makes me smile when you see the excitement of the little ones as they await on the side of the road for that last float in the parade to hear Santa bellowing Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas, and the wave right at them from the big guy in the red suit. If Christmas is getting you down, or you maybe feel alone, close your eyes and remember the days when you were a child or think of any child who is having their first Christmas, or maybe their fifth Christmas and how Christmas is so exciting. I'm hope these memories or thoughts can bring a smile to your face. Maybe listen to some Christmas music, sing along, hum or whistle if you don't know the words. Many of the songs have beautiful meanings and give the true meaning of Christmas. What is your favourite Christmas Carol? I know mine.... it's “O Holy Night”, the version specifically sung by Martina McBride. It's beautiful.

In these last few days before December 25th, sit and reflect on the year you just had. I hope that there were more good days than bad for you. I know that there were hurdles cleared and unfortunately there are going to be hurdles ahead from time to time as well. Remember to reach out to friends and family to touch base and catch up. Put the past behind you and remember that the future is something to be explored. Make the most of your days, and always be kind. Kindness is free and it is very contagious. It's one thing that we don't mind catching these days.

From my family to yours, I wish you all the best of the Christmas Season, or whatever celebratory event that your family shares, Cheers!

tion to renovate over 10,000 square feet of existing space at Waypoint. Once complete, the new acute mental health inpatient unit will add an additional 20 beds to the fa-cility and connect more people and their families in the region to a team of health care professionals that provide a full range of services in the main campus, including psychiatry, psychology, occupational and recreation therapy, and addictions counselling.

“Our government continues to take action to build a recovery-oriented con-tinuum of care for mental health and addictions that serves the unique needs of people across the province,” said Michael Tibollo, Associate Min-ister of Mental Health and Addictions, “With this new inpatient unit at Way-point, those in the region who are in need of immediate and urgent mental health care will be able to quickly access it.”p to Wellness: A Plan to Build Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions System. Supported by a commitment to invest \$3.8 billion over 10 years.

Submitted by Ministry of Health

SPIRITUAL

Annie's Journal *by Annie Warner Donnelly*



Dec. 18, 2023 - In Matthew 9:35-36, we read: “Then Jesus went to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them because they were weary and

worn out, like sheep without a shepherd.”

We may not feel like a “sheep without a shepherd”, but many of us know what it's like to feel “weary and worn out.” Sometimes, in our stubbornness to “do it all on our own”, we extend ourselves beyond what we can reasonably accomplish. Sometimes, we say “yes”, when we should say, “Let me think about that, or let me pray about that.” Both responses give us time to consider the details of the request and to be certain it's something we can accomplish in the time we have available.

Sometimes, we turn down help because we believe we can do it better than others. Sometimes, we push ourselves past our ability to complete tasks in relation to a deadline because we believe it's what we have to do so others can see how capable we are. Sometimes, we become lost in the never-ending maze of trying “to do it all to have it all”. Compassion for others dwindles as compassion for ourself is minimized.

We don't know why people in the crowds were weary and worn out, but we do know that Jesus came to show us how much God the Father loves us. It's good news that the compassion that flows out of God's love has no expiry date!

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are filled with the stories of Jesus' life on earth including His conception; His birth; and His growing years. The many signs, wonders, and miracles He performed during His ministry demonstrate His compassion for people. His death and resurrection are vital components of the story of salvation. Some Bibles place these events in chronological order which helps us to take a fresh look at His life.

Before Jesus was taken up into heaven, He said He was not leaving us as orphans. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is ours for the asking; He never leaves us nor forsakes us. Then Jesus said in John 14:18: “... I am coming to you.”

The Apostle Paul describes Jesus' second coming in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

As we recall Jesus' time on earth through the words of the familiar hymns and Bible readings, let's be encouraged and remember – Jesus is coming to us again. Amen.

WYEVALE NEWS

by Karen Moreau

Dec. 18, 2023 - MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL: I like to wish all my friends and family for their support after taking on the small job of reporting for the Springwater News. Thanks to the editor for all her support, the people that I meet when out are thankful for bringing back the Wyevale News to this paper.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Santa Clause Parade in Wyevale. Thanks to the Township of Tiny for the participation after the parade for serving hot chocolate at the church centre. This year's parade was mostly likely the biggest parade that we have every seen In Wyevale. The approximate number of floats were around thirty.

FOOD BANK: People are asked to bring food for the Food Bank on the first Sunday of the month to the Wyevale Church. Please call the church if interested in donating food 705-322-1451. They prefer pop open cans. This makes it easier for people who do not have a home.

PLAY GROUP: Thursday mornings at 9 am until 11 am. Call Pat Smith for further information at 705-543-9043.

BIBLE STUDY: Join us Wednesday afternoon 2 pm to 3:30 pm at the church. All are welcome.

YOUTH GROUP: Watch for dates or contact Pat Smith.

Next submission date is Jan. 1st, 2024.

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705.322.2282 Elmvale ON
lee@thebodyworks.ca L0L 1P0

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Community Events

MONDAY

Bid Euchre
Elmvale Community Hall 1 pm - 4 pm
Every Monday.
Call Anne for details 705-322-1232

Barrie District Stamp Club
2nd Thursday of each month, 1:00pm – 3:00 pm
East Bayfield Community Centre, 80 Livingstone St. E., Barrie L4M 6X9
For more information: m.widner@sympatico.ca, or 705-726-9624

Elmvale Senior-Drop In
Dec. 11. from 10am-noon
Basement of the Elmvale Library. NEW hours are from 10am to noon. This will be our final session before Christmas. Come out to enjoy conversation, Euchre, Scrabble and goodies!

TUESDAY

Elmvale Legion
Tuesdays at 1 pm
Table Shuffleboard, Cost \$1
Every Saturday at 5 pm
Meat Darts- \$ 10.00 for 3 games

Palace Tavern Elmvale BINGO
Every Tuesday night
Midland Rotary proceeds 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Barrie Rotary proceeds 8 pm to 9:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Learn How To Play Bridge
Bay Shore Seniors Club is offering five (5) bridge lessons, Wednesday’s starting October 18th through to November 15th from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Cost is \$3.00 per session. It doesn’t matter if you are a beginner or want a refresher. If you are interested, please call Bay Shore at 705-361-1331. Located at 2000 Tiny Beaches Road South, Tiny

E.D.G.E. Elmvale District Garden Enthusiasts
Meetings held **4th Wed. of each month, 7:00 pm** at Elmvale Legion, 7 John Street Elmvale
Guests always welcome, no charge bring a friend.

THURSDAY

Probus Club of Simcoe North
Meetings monthly 2nd Thurs. 10 a.m
For women & men in retirement or semi-retirement. Penetang Legion, 2 Poyntz St. For more information email klarkins@csolve.net or call Joyce (705)526-3424

SUNDAY

Good Vibes
First Sunday 2-5, 023 from 2 to 5 p.m.
An open-mic music event Our location is the little white schoolhouse at the corner of Mount St. Louis Road and the 4th Line of Oro Medonte. Admission is a donation of \$5.00.

THURSDAY

Let’s Do Lunch \$5:
Elmvale Presbyterian Church
2nd Thursday of the month. Eat in: 12-1pm. \$5
For take-out & town delivery \$6 call 322-1411 between 9 & noon on the Monday previous.
Pick-up Thursday 11:15 – 11:45 at East side of the church.

Coffee Party
Last Thursday of the month 9:30 - 11a.m.
Elmvale Presbyterian Church
All Welcome, Cost: \$3

Wasaga Beach Parkinson’s Support Group
1st Thursday of each month, 12:30-2pm
Wasaga Beach Public Library meeting room, 120 Glenwood Dr. All Parkinson’s patients & caregivers welcome. For more information contact Phil Bender 905-703-6248 bender.philip@gmail.com

BARRIE-KEMPENFELT PROBUS CLUB
Meets at 10:00 am, third Thursday of month
Canadian Legion, 410 St. Vincent Street in Barrie
Main Contact: Chief Information Officer, Robert Newby, barriekempenfelt72@gmail.com (705) 220-3501

MONDAY to FRIDAY

Low Impact Gentle Fitness Program
VON SMART Program
Adults 55+ FREE
Mon. 9am @ Springwater Room (arena)
Wed. 9am @ Elmvale Community Hall
Fri. 11am @ Elmvale Community hall
Also available – pole walking at Heritage Park on Wednesdays 9:15am
Times and locations all subject to change.

Bring good support (running) shoes and water
Call 705-355-2200 to register or walk ins

Midland Bridge Club
427 William St, Midland
Mon. 12:45pm: Duplicate Bridge, **Tues 6:45pm:** Social Bridge, **Wed., 12:45pm** Duplicate Bridge, **Thur. 12:45pm** Duplicate Bridge, **Fri. 12pm:** Bid Euchre. Contact Vern 705-730-9998. Possible lesson if desired. midlandbridge@gmail.com

GANARASKA HIKING CLUB.-Wasaga Beach
Weekly, **Wed hikes 09:15-09:30am** at various locations., year round. Also a casual hike, same time. Winter can be snowshoes. Weekly, hikes **Sunday 1:30pm** from a park near Foodland, WB.Weekly, Monday morning bike tours from various locations. Seasonal. Please contact Lorraine for info. 416-606-5081. Or lorvanvlymen@gmail.com

Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club
3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Prime Time Club,1724 Mosley St., Wasaga Beach
1st Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm - 8:30pm
(North Simcoe Chapter) Penetanguishene Memorial Arena, Brian Orser Lounge, 2nd floor. 61 Maria St. For more info.: www.geobaycoinstampclub.ca

Open Gym Drop-In
Mondays: - 5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Drop-in basketball - All ages are welcome.
Tuesday: 5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Drop-in pickleball - All ages are welcome.
Drop-in programs will be no charge for July and August.
The Township is pleased to offer sessions at Elmvale District High School (25 Lawson Avenue)

ALL DAYS

Bay Shore Seniors Club
Indoor Pickleball Sun. at 2pm, Wed, at 4:30 pm, and Friday at 4pm. Beginner Line Dancing - Thurs. 11:30-12:30pm

Low Impact Gentle Fitness Program
- VON Exercises Friday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
2000 Tiny Beaches Road South, Woodland Beach in Tiny, Ontario 705-361-1331
www.bayshoreseniors.ca

One Time Events

Santa’s Firetruck Run
Dec. 23 & 24
Springwater Provincial Park Firefighters and Santa Claus will drive through the neighbourhoods of Springwater.

Free Christmas Turkey Dinner
Sat. Dec. 23, 2023 at 11am - 1 pm
All Saints Anglican Church, 1 Peel St., Penetanguishene 705-549-2223

Santa’s Firetruck Run
Dec. 23 & 24
Springwater Provincial Park Firefighters and Santa Claus will drive through the neighbourhoods of Springwater. Elmvale and Phelpston on Dec. 23 and visit Anten Mills, Midhurst, Minesing, Grenfel, Centre Vespra, Snow Valley and Hillsdale on Dec. 4. Listen for the sirens and watch for the lights as they head to your street!

Christmas Eve service
Grenfel United Church at 11am Sunday December 24, 2023

Annual Candlelight Vigil
December 24, 2023 at 5 pm to 6 pm
Penetanguishene Legion, Branch 68

Free Christmas Dinner (take- out only)
Dec. 25, 2023
Elmvale Presbyterian Church
Dec.15 call 705-322-1411 to order from 9-3
Pickup Dec.25 from 11:45-12:15

Annual Polar Dip
Jan. 1, 2023 at noon
At Balm Beach.
Township of Tiny Lions Club Polar Bear Dip:
Sponsor a participant, in support of Dog Guides, at Jan. 1, 2024 at Balm Beach. Registration starts at 11:00 am, and the dip is at 12:00 pm. For registration see the website at https://tiny-township-lions-club.square.site/

Carnivel D’Hiver
Feb. 10, 2023
Township of Tiny Save the Date

Mid- Winter Social
Family Day Weekend from 11am to 4pm
Discovery Harbour



20,000 copies distributed to Townships of Tiny and Springwater and beyond these borders. Published every two weeks. On-line visits average 19,000 visits.

info@SpringwaterNews.ca

WANTED

DOWNSIZING?- SETTLING AN ESTATE?
We pay cash for VINTAGE & ANTIQUE items dealing with - Fishing (old lures, fish baskets, rods) - trains (model, lanterns) - boat steering wheels - horse items (saddles, brass, harness, chaps, stirrups) - old toys - radios - musical instruments - Militaria - advertising signs & tins - old stained glass windows - ironware - pictures - crystal - fine china - knives - Small wooden furniture - First Nation’s art - Bar decorations - old hats & accessories - fine jewelry & other items of sterling silver & gold - coins - Asian art - clock & watches - old scientific & medical pieces - maps - oil lamps - crocks & farm items or ANYTHING FROM 1970’s & BEFORE. **PLUS** CDs & LPs of Rock & Roll & Jazz from the 1950’s to present day.
Please call Peter at 705-322-3484

Attention Woodlot Owners

- Looking to purchase hardwood and pine trees
- Minimum 50 trees
Please call Rej (Springwater Forestry) at 705-790-6506

ESTATE FIREARMS SPECIALISTS
FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2023 AUCTION PROGRAM
Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques, Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items for Auction or Possible Purchase
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Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609
Email Us @ sales@switzersauction.com
Visit Us @ www.switzersauction.com

EVENT

Flos Agricultural Society Dinner & AGM

Tues. Jan 23, 2024 at Elmvale Presbyterian Church
Dinner starts at 6:45 pm
Tickets \$25 ea, available from Ariel @ 322-1975, after Jan 1st
Guest Speaker



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CLASSIFIED

HIRING



TOWNSHIP OF CANTON DE
Tiny

**Roads Operator 2
(Full time, Permanent Position)**

The Corporation of the Township of Tiny

The Township of Tiny is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Roads Operator 2 in the Public Works Department. The most northerly township in the County of Simcoe, the Township of Tiny offers 70km of coastline along Georgian Bay, and is home to Awenda Provincial Park, Tiny Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area, and the 23-kilometre long Tiny Trail. Our diverse network of communities throughout the municipality offer our residents a four-season destination with activities for all ages. Under the supervision of the Roads Operator Working Lead Hand, the Roads Operator 2 performs the operation, maintenance and monitoring of roads in compliance with applicable legislation and Township standards.

For complete details, including necessary qualifications, please visit www.tiny.ca

Individuals having the required qualifications are encouraged to submit a resume and letter of application by noon on January 5, 2024 to:

**Human Resources
Township of Tiny
130 Balm Beach Road West
Tiny, Ontario L0L 2J0
Fax: (705) 526-2372
Email: humanresources@tiny.ca**

We thank all applicants who apply for this position but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Corporation of the Township of Tiny is committed to a barrier-free recruitment and selection process. Please inform us should an accommodation be required at any point in the recruitment process.

Personal information collected will only be used for candidate selection, in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act R.S.O., 1990, c.M.56.



ELMVALE: 35 Queen St
Location will be CLOSED Tues, Dec 26th
and reopening on Thurs. Dec 28
Regular hours of operation are
Tuesday & Thursdays 7-9am.

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on behalf of Tara Rayner, application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario for an Act to revive 100015830 Ontario Inc. The application may be considered by the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. Any person who has an interest in the application and who wishes to make submissions, for or against the application, to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs should notify, in writing, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A2.

Dated at Waubauskene Ontario this 7th day of December, 2023

Tara Rayner
1000151830 Ontario Inc.

HIRING



TOWNSHIP OF CANTON DE
Tiny

Human Resources Specialist

The Corporation of the Township of Tiny

The Township of Tiny is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Human Resources Specialist.

The Township of Tiny is situated at the southern tip of beautiful Georgian Bay at the northern end of Simcoe County. The municipality's approximate population of 12,500 residents at least doubles in the summer as the region is a popular destination for both tourism and cottagers due to its beautiful waterfront areas and small-town appeal.

The Human Resource Specialist is responsible for providing technical expertise and administrative support in all areas of human resources management including the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all related policies, programs and procedures.

Additional duties include responsibility for all aspects of the recruitment process, participating in workplace investigations as required and corporate training and development responsibilities including ongoing Health and Safety training and maintenance.

For complete details, including the necessary qualifications, please visit www.tiny.ca

Individuals having the required qualifications are encouraged to submit a resume and letter of application to:

**Human Resources
Township of Tiny
130 Balm Beach Road West
Tiny, Ontario L0L 2J0
Fax: (705) 526-2372
Email: humanresources@tiny.ca**

Resumes will be accepted until Friday, January 5, 2024, 12 noon. We thank all applicants who apply for this position but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Corporation of the Township of Tiny is committed to a barrier-free recruitment and selection process. Please inform us should an accommodation be required at any point in the recruitment process. Information received relating to accommodation needs of applicants will be addressed confidentially.

Personal information collected will only be used for candidate selection, in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act R.S.O., 1990, c.M.56.

AUCTION NOTICES



Upcoming Auctions

Turf Care Plus Surplus Inventory Reduction Sale - Guelph (Jan)
Sweet & Savoury Gourmet Shop Closing - Hamilton (Feb)
Lane Moving Sale - Guelph (February)



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info@rapid-sell.ca

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Capacity indoors: 125 in hall
Capacity with outdoors: 184
Call Lion Bob Coe to book 705-322-4484

LOST and FOUND

Girl's bracelet found on sidewalk near McDonalds in Elmvale on Dec. 7th. Call Terri: 705.321.4240.



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Solly Family Dentistry is growing and we are in need of staff members to help us take care of our community.

*We are excited to be adding a Sterilization Technician to our amazing team. Our new member will be responsible for duties in our sterilization department and clinical floating. Experience is not required but Level 1 and 2 Dental assisting would be an asset. Paid onsite training will be provided.

*We are also looking to add a full-time hygienist to our team at Solly Family Dentistry.

For more information, please contact Kari at kari.sfd.elmvale@gmail.com.

OPP REPORT

TRAFFIC COMPLAINT TO THE HURONIA WEST OPP LEADS TO THE ARREST OF AN IMPAIRED DRIVER WITH YOUTHS IN THE VE

(Dec. 13, 2023 - TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH, CLEARVIEW AND SPRINGWATER TOWNSHIPS, ON) - Members of the Huronia West Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested an impaired driver who had youths in the vehicle, following a traffic complaint.

On Saturday December 9, 2023, at approximately 6:10 p.m., officers from the Huronia West OPP received a traffic complaint in the Town of Wasaga Beach for a vehicle that was driving in the wrong direction on a one-way road and swerving into on-coming traffic almost hitting other vehicles. A short time later, the vehicle was located, and the officers began an investigation.

As a result of the investigation, the driver, who had two youths in the vehicle, was arrested and brought to the detachment.

Ibtisan DUALEH, a 34-year-old from the Town of Wasaga Beach has been charged with:

- Adult Operation While Impaired - Alcohol and Drugs
- Adult Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (80 Plus)
- Adult Drive Vehicle or Boat with Cannabis Readily Available
- Adult Driving Motor Vehicle with Open Container or Liquor

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Collingwood in January 2023 to answer to the charges. Furthermore, their licence was suspended, and the vehicle was impounded.

Choosing to drive while impaired by drugs or alcohol puts everyone at risk, including the occupants inside your vehicle. Driving conditions can change quickly anytime of year, however the winter weather often poses very dangerous conditions. It is imperative that drivers are alert, focused and are in the position to get themselves and their occupants to their destination safely.

OPP Seeking Assistance with Overnight Midland Mischief Investigation

(Dec. 13, 2023 - MIDLAND,ON)- Investigators from the Southern Georgian Bay OPP Detachment are seeking assistance from the public in their investigation of a series of overnight mischief complaints in Midland. The OPP Communication Centre received an initial complaint from a community member near Robert and Manly Streets at 2:45 a.m.on December 13, 2023 of damaged Christmas ornaments and shopping carts on the roadway. A further report cited damage to a Colborne Street residence window followed by another two more reports of damage to Christmas lights at a Wellington Street home and car windows smashed at a second Robert Street residence.

Investigators are seeking information from the public of any further victims as they continue their investigation into these mischiefs and residents in this area are asked to check their video surveillance cameras for any suspicious activity during the noted incident date and time

Despite Annual Festive R.I.D.E. Programs Two Area Crashes Result in Charged Drivers

1(1-Dec-2023- MIDLAND, ON)- Despite the efforts of officers from the Southern Georgian Bay OPP Detachment committing time to conducting over 100 Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) programs throughout the detachment area since November 9, 2023, two drivers from North Simcoe have been charged after investigation with impaired driving related offences in relation to the crashes they were involved in recently.

Officers responded at approximately 1:48 a.m. December 10, 2023 to a report of a pick up truck that had struck a utility pole on Tiny Beaches Road South near Spruce Street in Tiny Township. Attending in-

vestigators located and arrested the lone driver of the pick up and conducted an impaired driving investigation.

As a result, John Andrew SCHOEBER 27 years of Springwater Township has been charged criminally with the following driving related offences.

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

And Further with

- Fail to report accident Contrary to the Highway Traffic Act

On December 6, 2023 at 6:52 p.m. OPP officers were dispatched to a two vehicle crash resulting in personal injury to a driver at the intersection of Fuller Avenue and Tay Point Road in the Town of Penetanguishene. Attending officers, County of Simcoe Paramedics and Penetanguishene Fire Service arrived on scene to find a Lincoln Navigator that had struck another vehicle and further struck a utility pole causing service wires to fall down upon it with the driver suffering from injuries sustained in the crash. Investigators, upon removing the driver and having paramedics triage the injuries entered into a drinking and driving investigation.

As a result of this investigation the driver of the Lincoln Navigator, Leszek WOJTAL 60 years of Midland has been charged criminally with the following driving related offences.

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

Both accused persons were released from custody and will appear before the Ontario Court of Justice on December 21, 2023. They also face a 90 day driver's licence suspensions as per the Ministry of Transportation (ADLS) guidelines and both vehicles were towed and impounded for 7 days.

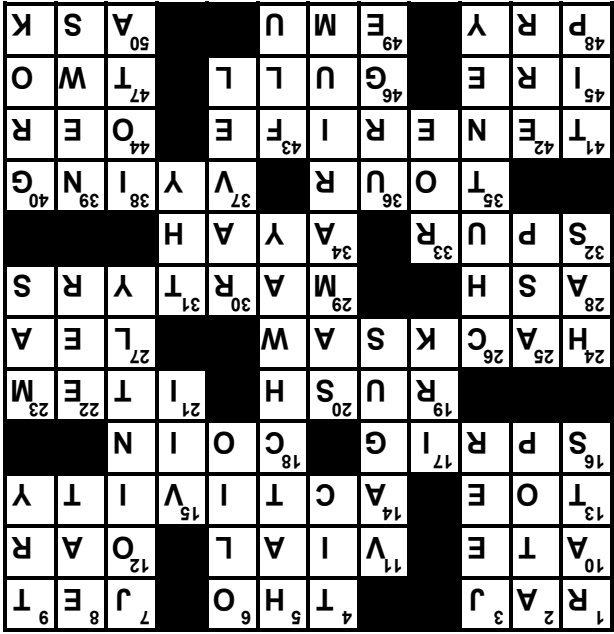
OPP Investigators Seeking Assistance In Solving Midland Shoplifting Incident

(11-Dec-2023 - MIDLAND,ON)- Investigators from the Southern Georgian Bay OPP Detachment are seeking assistance from the public after staff of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario store on Jones Road, Midland contacted the OPP Communication Centre on November 30, 2023 to report a shoplifting incident.

The two suspects believed to be driving a dark coloured late model Audi Q5/7 entered the store at approximately 7:00 p.m. and removed approximately \$2000 worth of liquor and wine product.

Please see the attached photographs of the two suspects in this theft.

Anyone who may have information about a property crime is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, opp.southern.georgian.bay@opp.ca or by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your anonymous information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/submit-a-tip/submit-a-tip>. You can follow Crime Stoppers of Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka www.crimestopperssdm.com on X or Facebook.



In the interest of increased public safety, Southern Georgian Bay OPP Detachment interim Detachment Commander Todd Pittman is very pleased to notify the residents of North Simcoe that the detachment has implemented a technology based community safety resource named CAMSafe. CAMSafe is a program aimed at creating a database of residential and commercial security cameras within a community that may function as a resource for police when investigating offences and crimes.

When a police officer uses the CAMSafe database, they will see a map of the local area of the incident showing registered participants. Officers will be able to click on registered addresses to view further details, such as property owner contact information. Officers will not be able access your security cameras or cloud-based accounts to examine camera footage unless they make a request to the property owner using contact information from the database.

Interested community members are only required to provide basic contact information and camera location but, can include more details if desired, such as direction the camera faces, footage retention details or screenshots of the camera view. Registrants can only view their own information and can delete their account or change their information at any time.

“This technology partnership will help front line police officers patrolling our communities be more effective in solving crimes with the support of area residents and businesses that affect our property and citizens providing a safer community along with the positive attributes it brings to the area for tourism and business. I urge residents and business owners to review the CAMsafe website and I hope you support this worthy community safety partnership.” quote of Inspector Todd Pittman, interim Detachment Commander of Southern Georgian Bay Detachment.

To learn more about the CAMSafe program and to register security cameras please visit <https://camsafe.ca/>

By Provincial Constable David Hobson



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Bearbells by Leslie Noonan



Wolf Bells

Dec. 14/2023 - I love finding unexpected hiking areas. I am always on the lookout for trails leading off and into the new and unknown, and on to new adventures. Often this involves another Simcoe County Forest trail, of which there are 150 properties, encompassing 33,726 acres! More than enough land for a quiet and peaceful hike away from the crowds.

There is a very large tract of Simcoe County Forest just outside of Midhurst. I first noticed this forest while taking Nursery Road to avoid the traffic on Highway 27, and while driving past the thick forest I happened to look to my left and see a very large canine sitting just inside the gloom. This large beast sat shoulder high to the fence post he was standing next to, his brown and black fur forming a thick ruff around his broad shoulders. I stopped dead in the middle of the road, rolled down my window, and stared in wonder at this magnificent creature, and he stared right back with his intelligent amber eyes. At times like this the world ceases to exist beyond

the moment of that connection. The spell was broken by another car coming down the road, and the canine turned back to the dark forest and disappeared between the brown tree trunks. Goosebumps swept down my arms and I felt an incredible awe that still stays with me today.

Now, people that I tell this to insist that it must have been a large coyote that I saw, and that there are no wolves near Barrie. I disagree to both those statements. I have seen my share of coyotes and they are a fraction of the size of the large canine I saw. Coyotes also have slender muzzles and larger pointed ears while the fellow I saw had a short blunter nose and rounded bushy ears. I have heard of the possibility of hybrids in this area, wolf and dogs mixes. Perhaps, but I remain staunch in my opinion that I was very lucky to have had a close encounter with a wolf. Only one thing was left to do, to find a trail into that forest and see what other encounters I could have.

That encounter was several years ago, and though I have never seen any other large canine except for those with thick pet collars, I continue to return to explore this large expanse of forest. For a quieter trek park off Nursery Road, as there are several different trails that lead off along thick mixed forests

deep with leaf litter. There are also trails leading off from the parking lot of the Simcoe county administration trails near the gazebo. This section is very popular with dog owners and is much too busy for me to be interested in. Today I started at the car pool parking at the corner of Hwy 27 and 26. This trail is narrow and leads down into the ravine. At first the only sounds are the cars on the highways, which disappears the further down you go, until it is the sound of the infant Nottawasaga River that you hear. The trail winds along the river and through deep cedar forests before travelling back up the ravine to those well-trod trails. From here I turn right and continue along the top of the ravine next to a precipitous drop, and in some places the trail has started to erode. Ugh, I stand well back from the edge with a sick feeling in my stomach and inch my way past. From here there is a plethora of trails to explore over many hours, both easy and mostly level trails and others that wind up and down that ravine. I have yet repeat my previous encounter with the wolf, though I often wonder if those amber eyes have followed me along this quiet trail.

Springwater Council Meeting Highlights

December 6 Meeting
Contribution to Elmvale Minor Hockey Nordic Experience
Council will donate \$750 to support the Elmvale Minor Hockey Nordic Experience. The Nordic Experience includes 29 children taking a 10-day trip to Sweden and Finland where they will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the local culture and engage in exhibition games with local teams. The donation will be funded through the proceeds of the 2023 Springwater Swing Golf Tournament.

In-Kind Donation to Elmvale Minor Hockey Food Bank Fundraiser
Council has approved an in-kind donation of a 1-hour ice rental and an evening reservation of the Springwater Room for a fundraising event benefiting the Elmvale & District Food Bank. The Elmvale Minor Hockey Association will be hosting this event, scheduled for February 14 and will feature a Saginaw Spirit practice, an autograph session, and photo opportunities with the Memorial Cup.

Midhurst Heights – Stage 3 Subdivision Agreement
Council received a delegation from Clarose Midhurst GP Inc. requesting a Stage 3 Subdivision Agreement for the Midhurst Heights neighbourhood. Council has requested a staff report regarding the Stage 3 Agreement be brought forward at the January 17, 2024 meeting of Council. Additionally, Clarose Midhurst GP Inc. is to complete community engagement and

a Public Information Centre prior to the January 17 meeting.

2024 Budget Approval
The Township's 2024 Budget was approved with a 1.22% net tax increase over 2023 rates. When combined with the County of Simcoe's approved tax increase of 3.7% and the education rate which is assumed to remain neutral, residents can expect to see a 1.83% blended tax increase on their 2024 property tax bill. For an average home in Springwater assessed at \$497,000, the approved blended rate amounts to a \$79.34 increase over 2023 levels, or \$6.61 per month.

Old Orchard Road Speed Reduction
The speed limit on Old Orchard Rd has been reduced to 60 km/h, 500 meters west of the CP railroad crossing to 250 meters east of the CP railroad crossing. This adjustment aims to offer motorists more warning time due to insufficient sight-stopping distance.

Water & Wastewater Rate Study
Council has approved a 4% annual increase for water rates and a 10% annual increase for wastewater rates for 2024 to 2028, as well as the necessary front-ending required for Elmvale wastewater projects. The new rates are being implemented following a Water & Wastewater Rate Study completed in 2023. Not all residents of Springwater are connected to municipal water and/or wastewater services; only those benefiting properties are charged the water and/or wastewater rate. A by-law with the new rates will be submitted for final approval at the December 20 meeting.

The new rates will be effective February 1, 2024.

Remington Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) Request Endorsed
Council has voted to endorse Remington Group Inc.'s request to locate a seniors medical campus on lands known as 727 Bayfield Street North though a Provincial Land Use approval process. The senior's medical campus as proposed includes Long-Term Care facilities, retirement residences, hospice care, life leases, and associated medical office and retail opportunities.

Tender Awards
Council has awarded the tender for a new Tandem Truck to Currie Truck Centre in the amount of \$400,635 plus HST.

The tender for two (2) ¾ Ton Crew Cab Pickup Trucks was awarded to Haliburton Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM Ltd. at a cost of \$165,535 excluding HST.

Elmvale Hanging Basket Program
Following Council's direction, the Township will assume the coordination and implementation of the Downtown Elmvale memorial hanging basket program. The program includes the purchase, coordination and maintenance of 65 hanging floral baskets in downtown Elmvale from May through September. The program was previously run by the Elmvale District Garden Enthusiast (EDGE).Queen St W for the market.

Submitted by Nicole Audette, Township of Springwater

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Midland Cultural Centre (MCC) Announces Opening of a New Exhibit at the Gallery of Indigenous Art

Dec. 12, 2023 - The MCC is pleased to announce that a new exhibit will be opening at the Midland Cultural Centre Gallery of Indigenous Art on Saturday, December 16, 2023. The upcoming featured exhibit at the MCC Gallery of Indigenous Art will be 'Abwaudung: A Spiritual Journey' – a William Monague retrospective, and will be open from December 16th, 2023 until March 1st, 2024.

William Monague (1956 – 2019) grew up with the People of Chimnissing on Christian Island. With no access to formal education or training in the arts, he was inspired by the traditional teachings of Mother Earth, the Spirit World and by the beauty of the Georgian Bay shores that surrounded him. This is the first exhibition of his artwork since his passing in October 2019.

This exhibition has been made possible through the generous loan of artworks from the William Monague family, private collectors, Georgian Bay Islands National Park, Christian Island Elementary School, Enaachtig Healing Lodge, the Martyrs' Shrine, and the Simcoe County Museum. The MCC Gallery of Indigenous Art will proudly host this unique exhibition, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in Monague's artistic legacy from December 16th, 2023, to March 1st, 2024.

"William Monague's art brilliantly illuminates the beauty of Indigenous culture. Through each painting, Monague invites us to walk the path he tread, where the shores of Georgian Bay meet the echoes of ancestral wisdom," says John Hartman, committee member. "His brush, guided by the hands of heritage, leaves an indelible mark, reminding us that art is not just about what is created but also about the spirit that carries it forward. In the tapestry of Indigenous art, William Monague's contribution is a vibrant thread, weaving tales of resilience, connection, and the boundless power of creative expression." We invite you to join us in celebrating the opening of "Abwaudung: A Spiritual Journey" on Saturday, December 16th from 2 to 5pm at the Midland Cultural Centre Gallery of Indigenous Art. *By Jess Klug*



Upcoming Shows and Events at the MCC!

Argentinian Tango - 4 weeks of classes starting January 10, 2024 at 6:30pm

Learn something new in the new year with this introduction to authentic Argentine Tango taught by world class teachers.

Jack de Keyzer on February 3, 2024 at 7:30pm

Two time Juno and seven time Maple Blues winner, Blue Star recording artist Jack de Keyzer returns to the MCC with his band for the Tribute tour.

With 12 albums, 2 Junos and 7 Maple Blues Awards under his belt, De Keyzer's music is steeped in Chicago blues, with a broad range of influences ranging from Detroit's Motown, Muscle Shoals deep soul, Memphis' rock and roll, Philadelphia's funky soul jazz and London, England's (where de Keyzer was born) blues rock. His latest recording TRIBUTE (2020) features twelve new original blues, rock and soul songs and is a tribute to all the great influences de Keyzer has been inspired by through the years. See and hear Jack de Keyzer with his incredible blues, rock and soul band on the TRIBUTE tour. A show not to be missed!

Becoming the Beatles on February 23, 2024 at 8pm

This theatrical event weaves together over 300 stunning projections, 20 live songs and fascinating behind-the-scenes stories. Yale-educated musician/storyteller Haley Marie orchestrates these elements as she guides you through the history-making events and heartbreaking moments of the Beatles.

With years of research and musical analysis at her fingertips, Haley Marie delivers a world-class performance about four lads, how they rose to incredible fame, their connection to classical music and how they changed the world forever. *By Jess Klug*



Obituaries



HAMELIN, Sally

We are sad to announce the passing of Sally Hamelin on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at the Georgian Bay General Hospital at the age of 90. Beloved mother of Garry (Laurie), Gayle, Ken (Gail), Al (Karen), Dave (Sue), Gregory (Monique), and Kevin (Rose Marie). Loving grandmother to Tyler (Tabitha), Tim (Jessica), Tammy (Kevin), Shawn (Sherry), Kyle (Theresa), Chris, Marissa, Reyna (Mike), Rhonda (Shaun), Peter (Trisha), Kayla, Spencer (Leighton), and Shawn. Cherished great grandmother to 9 great grandchildren. Sally will be dearly missed by her sister in laws Carol Palmer and Joyce Hamelin and all extended family and friends. Predeceased by her beloved husband Albert "Pete", her parents Charles and Jennie, and her siblings Charles Palmer Jr., Jacaleen, Jean, and Ross. Cremation has taken place. A visitation was held on Sunday, December 17th from 2 – 5 p.m. at Nicholls Funeral Home (330 Midland Ave., Midland). If desired, donations may be made in memory of Sally at Hospice Huronia – Tomkins House, or the Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre.



MOREAU, Clair Richard

Passed away peacefully at the Georgian Bay General Hospital in Midland on December 15, 2023. Clair Moreau of Penetanguishene in his 78th year. Dear father of Stephen (Cynthia) Moreau, Nicole (Tim) Moreau-Dalpee, and Brian (Hein) Moreau. Papa of Theurn, Rachel, Andrew, Alexander, Lorelai, Vincent, and Quinn. Great-papa to Theo and Archer. Brother of Rosemarie, Anita, Rita, Raymond, and the late Cecile, Bernard, Gene, Gilbert, and Frank. Clair will be missed by his many nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held at the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home in Elmvalle from 2-4 and 7-9 pm on Wednesday, December 20, 2023. A funeral service will be held at St. Mary's Church in Barrie on Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 10 am.

Cremation with interment at St. Mary's Cemetery in Barrie.

Memorial donations in Clair's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Society or Christmas Cheer.

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

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Obituaries



MILLER, Karl Gilbert
April 26, 1936 – November 26, 2023
It is with great sadness that the family of Karl Miller announce his passing on November 26, 2023, at RVH, after a short illness, with his family by his

side.
Born and raised in Mt St Louis, Karl didn't stray far from his roots. He spent his entire 87 years within a stone's throw of his childhood home.
Beloved husband of 65 years to Pauline (Edwards) and proud father of Ivan (Petra), Sally (late John), and Bill (Shari). Popa and Grampa to Samantha, Alex (Amy) and Ashley. Great Grampa to Emmet.
Predeceased by his parents, William and Dorothy, his brother Dale, and sister Jane, brother in laws John Chevel, Murray Edwards, Don Edwards, and Bob Lambie. Survived by his sister in laws Bette Miller, Joy Edwards, and Doreen Lambie. Karl will be missed by his many nieces and nephews.
Growing up in a farming family and community, it was an important part of his life and values. From the early years of threshing, right up until late in his retirement, Karl maintained his love for farming. Even during his years of working away from the farm, Karl kept some form of livestock.
Karl was in his element when he was outside working, either in his gardens, maintaining his lawn, or cutting firewood. He enjoyed providing enough produce from his garden for all his family. When Karl couldn't be outside, he could be found at his desk working at history, whether it was family, community or local cemeteries. He was a quiet man, but when it came to history, he would be busting at the seams with knowledge.
Cremation has been entrusted to Nicholls Funeral Home, Midland. A Celebration of life will be held on Sunday May 5, 2024, at Wyebridge Community Hall from 1 to 4pm.
Donations if desired, can be made in memory of Karl through the RVH Foundation.
<https://www.rvhkeeflifewild.ca/donate-today/> or by calling RVH Foundation Direct Line 705-739-5600. Memorial condolences may be made at www.nichollsfuneral.ca



PHILPOTT, Peter Davie
On November 30th, 2023, Peter Davie Philpott died peacefully at the age of 71 after a long journey with cancer. Peter was born on August 2, 1952 to Stuart MacGregor Philpott and Marjorie (Davie) Philpott. From his first week of life, Peter spent every summer at his Thunder Beach cottage where he was full of life and love, surrounded by friends and family.
Survived by his loving wife Joan (Howard) Philpott, two children Heather (Philpott) Bugden, and John Philpott, and five grandchildren Jack, Holly, Lennon, Etta, and Shea. Sister Lynn (Philpott) Butler and brother Don Philpott, beloved Uncle Pete to 13 nieces and nephews, their spouses, and their many children.
Peter and Joan married in August of 1978 and shared countless experiences of love, travel, and family. Moving from Toronto, they lived in California, New York, and Connecticut before settling in their dream home in Carefree, Arizona. In Arizona, Peter loved hiking, sunsets, and the outdoors. Their home was marked by lively stories, laughter, and song.
Peter had a successful career in sales management at Kodak, and then drew on that experience traveling the world as a trainer, coach, and mentor to his clients. He forged relationships and bonds wherever he went, including on the tennis court, curling ice, and in the boardroom with his colleagues and clients. He had a unique positive energy that will be dearly missed. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Hospice Huronia - Tomkins House in Peter's memory. Memorial condolences may be made at www.nichollsfuneral.ca



Obituaries

SARE, Alfred Robert "Fred" – Passed away peacefully at Sunrise of Richmond Hill on Wednesday, December 6th, 2023, at the age of 88. Loving husband of 35 years to Barbara, and the late Anita (1984).
Loving father to Pamela (Ralph), Patricia, Shari-Lynn (Jeff), Michael (May), Mark, Stephen (Sara) and Linda. Loving grandfather to Beth, Heather, Sarah (Jason), Justin (Lindsay), Michelle (Shaun), Falon, Brandon, Sandy (James), Tanya, Maddison, Reagen, Ben (Robyn) and Olivia. Great grandfather to MacKenzie, Grayson, Caden, Adalyn, Ad-disyn, Everett, Kassidy and Michael.
Predeceased by his parents, Anthony and Antonia, sisters Victoria, Maria and Helen, brother Charles and sister-in-law Mary Edelweiss, and cousin Michael. Will be missed by his brother Joseph and sister-in-law Margaret, cousin Violet, and his many nieces and nephews.
Fred was born in Malta and came to Canada at the age of 18. He worked at McDonnell Douglas for 28 years, and in his retirement, built a beautiful home in Hillsdale with Barbara, and played an active role in the community. You could always count on Fred to help fix this or that, whether it be at the church or for his family, friends and neighbors.
A funeral mass was held on Friday, December 15th at 11:30am at St. Louis Mission Church, Mt. St. Louis (4790 Line 4 N. Hillsdale) followed by a celebration of life in the parish hall next door.
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Fred's memory may be made to Parkinson Canada, the Canadian Cancer Society or the Heart & Stroke Foundation.
The family wishes to thank the staff at Sunrise of Richmond Hill for their love, compassion and care during Fred's stay at the home.



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Obituaries

ROBITAILLE, Richard Donald
Passed away in Barrie on November 30, 2023 at the age of 52 years. Predeceased by his parents Donald and Grace, his older brother Maurice and sister Yvonne. Survived by his sisters Claudette, Caroline and Elaine, his many nieces and nephews and their children. Cremation has taken place. Burial at Ste. Croix Cemetery will be held in the spring. Memorial condolences may be made at www.penetangfuneral.ca



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A VERY CHEERFUL AND EXCITING EXPERIENCE FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

Dec. 11, 2023 - On Sunday, December 10, 2023, members from the Huronia West Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police(OPP), the Wasaga Beach Fire Department and the Wasaga Beach Municipal Law Enforcement and Property Standards Department, had the privilege of pairing up with students from the local area schools to participate in our annual "Shop with a Cop" event at the Canadian Tire in the Town of Wasaga Beach. *(Picture on far right)*

The "Shop with a Cop" event is designed to provide gifts and a fun-filled experience to elementary and high school children and their families. Each school in the Town of Wasaga Beach, Township of Springwater and Township of Clearview was asked to select two students to participate in the event.

Each student was given the opportunity to spend time with an OPP member, fire fighter or bylaw officer, while they completed their shopping. They were able to shop for gifts for their families, their pets and they were able to pick out something special for themselves. Each student was allotted a sum

of money that had been graciously donated by local businesses clubs, and private sponsors.

Following the shopping, the students and volunteers took a bus to the Station One Fire Hall in Wasaga Beach, where breakfast was prepared and served by Wasaga Beach fire fighters, had their picture taken with Santa Claus, had their faces painted, made holiday greeting cards for their families, decorated a Christmas tree, made special cookies and ornaments, played with an OPP K9 dog, and explored fire trucks. While everyone was enjoying this festive and action-packed morning, all their gifts were wrapped, tagged, and prepared in a gift bag by volunteers to take home.

The Huronia West OPP would like to give a special thank you to all the volunteers and the following businesses, clubs, and individuals who helped to make this event a great success and a day that these students will cherish forever.

- Canadian Tire - Wasaga Beach
- Individual community members (Private do-

nations)

- Stonebridge Town Centre - Developer
- Barrie Hill Farms
- Stayner Kinsmen Club
- Stayner Lions Club
- Stonebridge Tim Hortons
- OPP Youth Foundation
- Lake Side Auto - Wasaga Beach
- BMR Pro - Elmvale
- Home Depot - Collingwood
- Beach Booster - Wasaga Beach
- Carruthers and Davidson Funeral Home - Stayner
- Real Canadian Superstore - Wasaga Beach
- Landmark Bus Lines
- FaceART

We look forward to next year's "Shop with a Cop" event! Wishing everyone a joyous and safe holiday season.

By Provincial Constable Lindsay Griffin, Media Relations Officer, Huronia West OPP

Elmvale Legion Donates to Adult Day Out Services and Elmvale Foodbank

Elmvale Legion donates \$900.00 to enhance the programming at the Elmvale Day Out Program.

Photo below: Graham Simmons, President Elmvale Legion, Carol Williams, 1st Vice Elmvale Legion, Peter Verduin. Supervisor of seniors services and Larry Trahan. Special thanks to Larry Fallon, Tammy and Loretto

Elmvale Legion donates to Elmvale Foodbank

Photo below: Graham Simmons, President Elmvale Legion, Carol Williams, 1st Vice Elmvale Legion, Deb McLean and Larry Trahan.



Elmvale Legion Card Winners



Photo above: 2022 Runners Up for Euchre were Pete Kenny and Rob Kenny. 2nd place Dan Ritchie and Eddie Valender. 2023 results next edition.

Photo below: 2022 winners for Crib, Dodie Hesh and Donna Sullivan. 2nd place Rob Beauchamp and Eddie Valender.





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Photo above: North Simcoe Springwater News in Runaway Bay, Jamaica taken November 26th, 2023 with Randy and Charlene Neilson-Rennie, Randy's Plumbing. Submitted by Randy Neilson-Rennie