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NEWS

Edition 670 | February 1, 2024

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**WOMEN'S
WORLD RECORD**

ON FEBRUARY 17-18

Lisa Whiteman challenges the
Women's world record for
Most miles in 24 hours

Can she beat the
WORLD RECORD?

ALL PROCEEDS
for the 1000 MILE
CHALLENGE
CHILDREN'S
CAMPS

4TH ANNUAL
1000 MILE
CHALLENGE
2024

Lisa Whiteman

FIRST FEMALE TO
COVER 1000 TRAIL
MILES NONSTOP IN
ONE DAY



By Lisa Whiteman

Jan, 23, 2024 - Elmvale - After a successful but gruelling journey through The 1000 Mile Challenge in New Brunswick, Elmvale's very own Lisa Whiteman will be once again showing women everywhere exactly what is possible. For those who did not follow Lisa's first 1000 mile endurance snowmobile ride, her and her partner Jeffrey O'Donnell navigated 1015 miles of rugged New Brunswick snowmobile trails to raise money to send underprivileged children to summer camp. Lisa and Jeffrey fought ungroomed trails, twelve hours of white out snowstorm, fatigue, police checks and aggressive moose encounters in the middle of the night during their daunting ride. Lisa was the first female to ride in and successfully complete The 1000 Mile Challenge and proudly contributed to the raising of over \$150,000.

On February 17th to 18th of this year with the support of dozens of companies, friends and her family, Lisa will be attempting to break the current world record for greatest distance in 24 hours on a snowmobile bringing this record to Canada. While she knows this record will be daunting she feels she has the grit, heart and determination to be successful.

Her ride will begin at 10am Saturday February 17th

and she will ride 24 consecutive hours until 10 am Sunday. While Lisa is riding spectators can enjoy the many vendors in attendance from snowmobile gear to hot sauce to trailers. No admission will be required because Lisa wants everyone to have an event they can enjoy with their family and is instead asking for donations to the local foodbank. "Multi-benefit" Lisa says is the goal of her event, if she is going to the trouble she is for this record then people should be benefit from it.

It takes a strong ability to ride a snowmobile and an incredible amount of mental grit. Lisa will have a put crew considering of her husband Bobby and five of his close friends where they will fuel and oil the machine roughly every 200 kms. On these pit stops Lisa will be leaning into nutrition and consuming high protein shakes provided by Revolution nutrition. Pit crew will be stationed in the center of the track under a Dayco motorsports tent.

Any companies or individuals wanting to support Lisa's ride and continue her initiative of sending underprivileged kids to camp can visit www.ledridingco.com. Any companies looking to join the event as a vendor can also register and attend by donation only.



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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.

An on-line petition with over a 1,231 participants, many with lengthy and thoughtful comments, a protest complete with signs in front of the Township Hall on a cold late afternoon on Jan 10th, 2024, has had little impact on Tiny Township's Council and administration who are intent to proceed full speed with the construction of a new Administrative Complex at the 9th Concession and Baseline Road. Widespread public concern about the lack of information and public involvement in considering all options to the construction of a new building have fallen on deaf political and bureaucratic ears. These options could include renovation and/or expansion of the existing Town Hall or construct an additional small building at the current location. And the option of having hybrid workplace policy; allowing staff to work from home....an alternative resulting post Covid.

In fact, there was a somewhat heroic effort by Councillor Steffen Walma, the Chair of this Committee. In a, closed to the public, meeting of the New Township Hall Building Committee (NTHBC) on December 18th, he attempted to add another member to the committee, hopefully a citizen, which was rejected by the other members. I quote; "the current membership should remain as in its current form, and additional external input will continue to be gathered through public consultation process."

For those who are not aware, this Committee consists of seven members, only two of which are elected officials and five senior management staff members who are employees of the municipality. An eighth member, Janet Stewart is representing the consulting firm Lett Consulting. A review of all past and current meetings of this Committee and its earlier "Building Needs Assessment Committee (BNAC)" will show that never more than two Council members are present. If more than two Council members had participated in this Committee, it would have become an "official meeting of Council" and would have been required to be open to the public.

For those who attended any one of the three "engagement" sessions on December 11, 2023, you probably won't be surprised that in the same December 18th meeting referred to above, the Committee "agreed that the next public engagement session will be held virtually, with advance attendance registration required." Not all citizens within the Township are comfortable with this technology nor do all citizens in the Township have access to high-speed internet.

This attempt to limit or restrict Township residents from being involved is not simply limited to the issue of a New Administration Building. At the same time Township staff are bringing forward a new Procedural By-law which deals with how a resident or group of residents can make their views known to Council. In simple terms, the new by-law would reduce both the opportunity and the time available to citizens by approximately half of what is available now. This will be brought up at the Jan. 31, 2024 Council meeting where Nicholas Leblovic will be doing a scheduled deputation.

Municipal employees should be treated properly, compensated fairly and be provided with a safe and appropriate working environment. However, unless the world is completely upside down, they are civil servants answerable to us; the tax paying residents through our duly elected officials. Unless you are happy having decisions made or directions given in closed meetings by a Committee composed mostly of municipal employees, with only token 'engagement' available to you, that could result in substantially higher taxes, become involved!

If 1,231 signatures on a petition isn't enough, maybe 2,000 or 3,000 will be. Maybe if virtual engagement is what they want, more and larger protests at the current Town Hall is what is needed, until municipal staff realize who they work for and Council realizes who they represent.

Spearheading the Petition to stop the construction of a new administration building at a new site.

By Karen Zulynik, Tiny

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EDITORIAL by Linda Belcourt, Editor

I love the positive feedback I am receiving. Thank you readers and advertisers alike. I am happy the ads are reaching new customers and the readers look forward to each issue. Thank you for letting me know through the numerous calls and e-mails. For anyone that does not get this copy in the mail, I have added a few pick up spots. One is at the Water Stop in Midland. There is another one at the spring water flow located just south of the tenth concession in Springwater. I also have copies at the Tim Hortons and Foodlands in our area along with numerous other drop off at stores, libraries and retirement homes. There are 53 news stands in Springwater, Tiny, Midland and Penetanguishene that have copies of the North Simcoe Springwater News. If you know someone that does not get it but loves to read it, please email me at info@springwaternews.ca and I will let you know the closest location.

I want to send a huge thank you to Councillor Anita Moore. I was getting many phone calls from this ward saying that people miss the Springwater News. I reached out to Anita to ask for help in establishing a location where folks could pick up a copy of the North Simcoe Springwater News locally. Anita reached out and came up with a great solution of putting a news stand at Grenfel Community Hall. The stand should be there by the print date of the next issue. The township staff have been working with me to come up with a solution for getting the paper to folks at the border communities.

Happy Valentine's Day! Love one another and we are all better off. Smile at a stranger and say Hello!

Elmvale BIA
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Our BIA member businesses & the community are always welcome to attend our monthly Board meetings.

3rd Thursday of each month @ 5:30pm

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The BIA is currently looking for volunteers to join our awesome group.



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PARADE - 12:30pm - Starting on Ronald Rd. Theme this year is "Vegas!"

BEER GARDEN, SOUP COOKOFF, PENNY AUCTION & FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT - 1:00pm - 4:00pm

ADULT MIXED BOWLING FINALS - starting 1:00pm @ Minesing Community Centre

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More Information



winterama.ca



Community Events Calendar

Penetanguishene, Ontario

Why This Petition Matters


Started by Brian Feldman

Please sign this petition to show your support for the Simcoe County District School Board returning to formal final exams during a dedicated final exam period starting with the end of Semester Two of this year in June of 2024.

With educational structure impacted by COVID-19 from the spring of 2020 through to the end of the 2020-21 school year, it made sense not to administer formal exams during that time. The 2022-23 school year was the time to return to the inclusion of exams in the school calendar. While the SCDSB opted not to do so, other school boards, including the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, have incorporated exams in their annual academic plans.

For academic/university/college level courses, exams are a valid part of assessment and student experience that will prepare them for post secondary programs, where formal exams continue to be used in evaluation.

Common feedback from students who started university or college last year or this year is that they have found examinations to be stressful and frustrating, and they wished they would have had prior exam experience. Exams continue to be a major component of post-secondary programs. Preparing for and writing exams in high school would only help them with the process. The SCDSB is putting its students at a disadvantage in relation to students coming from school boards that hold final exams. That is a disservice to our students and will continue to have a negative impact on them if the no-exam policy continues. Universities and colleges, as well as skilled trades, are competitive environments where students are striving to pursue select programs. The SCDSB needs to provide its graduates with a pathway to a level playing field.



Please sign this petition now, to send a strong message to SCDSB decision makers that action is needed prior to the start of second semester of this school year.

Township of Tiny Recognized as Age-Friendly Community by the World Health Organization

By Jaelen Josiah, Recreation Services Coordinator

Jan. 29, 2024 -The Township of Tiny is proud to announce that we have received an Age-Friendly Community designation from the World Health Organization (WHO), officially marking our inclusion in the prestigious Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

This recognition is a result of the township's dedicated and ongoing commitment to enhancing the well-being of our senior population. Since 2017, the Township of Tiny's Senior Advisory Committee has actively worked towards this designation through the implementation of the Local Aging Plan.

The Local Aging Plan is a comprehensive framework that outlines goals and objectives across eight essential themes, focusing on improving the overall quality of life for older adults in the community. These domains include outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, and community support and health services.

The township fosters a vibrant, inclusive community through various initiatives such as celebrating June is Seniors Month, the Senior Symposium every June, the Seniors' Speaker Series every fall, and recognizing outstanding seniors with the 'Heart of Tiny' award which is part of the annual Citizen of the Year awards.

The township continues to promote senior-friendly activities including pickleball, shuffleboard, Coffee and Connect technology drop-ins, and the cooperative art circle, ensuring there is a diverse range of opportunities for older adults to stay engaged and active.

The establishment of partnerships with local senior centres and the creation of volunteer opportunities for seniors further emphasize the township's dedication to building a community where older individuals are valued and can enjoy good health, happiness, and fulfillment.

"The Township of Tiny is proud to be the first municipality in Simcoe County to join the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities and remains committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for our senior population," said Mayor David Evans. "It is important to the township that we enhance access to inclusive spaces and programming for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities to enjoy, and this achievement is a testament of multiple councils' commitment to our seniors community".

To learn more about senior services in the township, visit www.tiny.ca/seniors or join us on June 4, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Township of Tiny Community Centre for our annual Senior Symposium. Get notified when tickets are released by subscribing to Event Updates on Tiny Connect, the township's free notification system.



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A TINY SENIOR MOMENT

The Township of Tiny Hosts Winter Carnaval d'Hiver

What do you like to do in February? There are lots of options. Maybe you'll build snowmen with your children or grandchildren, or by yourself to help you keep feeling young at heart. Perhaps you'll attend one of Tiny's local recreational programs, to meet up with neighbours and keep fit and healthy. You might decide to skate or ski, or stay at home to read that book you put aside before the holiday rush started.

However you plan to spend your time this month, keep this date in mind for some outdoor fun. On Saturday, Feb. 10, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., the Township of Tiny hosts the annual Winter Carnaval d'Hiver, at Perkinsfield Park, 43 County Road 6, and all are welcome.

You can watch a terrific performance by the Elmvale Skating Club at 11:30 a.m., and participate in a public skate right after that (if you don't have your own, skates can be borrowed from the Township).

S'mores and Bannock will be roasted on the open fire, and a free pancake lunch is served at noon, donated by Phil's Catering (while supplies last).

A highlight of the day is a performance by Bex in Motion, at 12:30 p.m., that will flame your heart.

Bex is a performer who combines acrobatics, juggling, comedy, hula hoop movements and, yes, fire, to produce a show that is sure to delight all.

How did Bex come to develop such an unusual and inspiring repertoire? She started out at teaching college where she participated in an after-school program in hoop dance. After spending many years working with children and completing a degree in kinesiology - the science of human movement, performance, and function - she combined those experiences with her background in yoga and gymnastics. She also worked with experts in the field of circus entertainment, including trainers at the Ecole Nationale de Cirque in Montreal.

Although her show has been a hit on four continents, Bex is as well known for her personal warmth as her expertise, and her appearance at Winter Car-

naval d'Hiver is one you won't forget.

As if that wasn't enough, there are lots of other activities to enjoy at the Township's Winter Carnaval d'Hiver. They include:

- Carnival games
- Snow Tubing slide, provided by Snow Valley Ski Resort
- ROCK 95 will be live on location to spread news of the event
- Snowshoeing for first-timers, provided by the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre,
- A maple syrup station, featuring taffy making and syrup sales, by Windlee Farms Maple Syrup,
- Mini-sticks arena, hosted by the Tiny Lions Club,
- Many activities for families and children hosted by community groups and the Midland Public Library, Springwater Public Library, Penetanguishene Public Library, and Severn Sound Environmental Association.

Programs, Activities & Events

There are lots of programs and activities coming up in the next few months, including a return of the very popular Coffee and Connect, that helps seniors improve online skills, in April.

For now, with the recent change in weather, here's a reminder about an important national program.

Snow Angels offers help for seniors and persons with disabilities who need assistance to keep their driveways and windows clear of snow. This program gives volunteers the chance to find neighbours or community members who need help during the winter months. It is a neighbours-helping-neighbours program that works to build strong and connected communities.

The Township of Tiny does not own or operate this program, but encourages residents to find out more about it and to sign up as clients or volunteers. Information is available on the Township website at www.tiny.ca/recreation-community/volunteer-opportunities/snow-angels# or call the Recreation Department at 705-526-4204 ext. 290. Contact Snow Angels directly at <https://snowangelscanada.ca/>

MPP Jill Dunlop Visits Revitalized Boardwalks at Wye Marsh

By Kim Hacker, Wye Marsh ED

Midland, ON (January 22, 2024) On Friday, MPP Jill Dunlop met the representatives from the Friends of Wye Marsh to see the results of a \$130,000 Capital grant awarded in 2022 by the provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation. Local Naturalists and Birders will be thrilled to know that the repairs to the Muskrat and ID Trail boardwalks have been completed at Wye Marsh. After a three-year closure, the Muskrat Trail Loop is whole once again.

"I extend my sincere congratulations to Wye Marsh and their commitment to environmental education and public access to their expansive property," said Jill Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North. "This funding plays a crucial role in repairing the boardwalks, ensuring that the community can continue to explore and appreciate the pristine beauty of the remote areas within Wye Marsh."

Thanks to the grant, people will have the chance to see rare birds, otters and other creatures in their natural habitat when hiking the Muskrat Trail. From Golden-Crowned Kinglets in the winter to colourful Wood Ducks in the summer, the transition zone between forest and wetland is the perfect place to escape, explore and experience the wonders of nature.

"We are excited to be continually improving visitor experiences, as well as our ability to conduct educational programming and research at Wye Marsh," said Kim Hacker, Executive Director of the Friends

of Wye Marsh. "We are working to obtain other funding for more trail maintenance and hope to re-open the ID Trail this summer."

"Non-profit organizations across Ontario deliver programming that makes a difference," said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. "That's why funding that my ministry is providing through the OTF is so important. Our government wants to ensure that these programs and spaces remain the heart of communities across our province."

"This opens up a significant part of the marsh," said Dave Robertson, a long-time Wye Marsh volunteer.

The Friends of Wye Marsh is a not-for-profit charitable organization taking care of 3,000 acres of provincially significant wetlands and federal forests in the Heart of Georgian Bay. Located at the mouth of the Wye River, near Midland, this National Wildlife Area and internationally recognized Important Birding Area is home to a vast array of species, including Trumpeter Swans. The Wildlife Centre and trails are open year-round. For more information please www.wyemarsh.com for more information or call 705-526-7809.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) mission is to build healthy and vibrant communities across Ontario. As an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations, last year, OTF invested over \$110M into 1,022 community projects and partnerships.



Council Meeting Highlights:

January 17, 2024

Next Council Meeting:

February 7, 2024

By Nicole Audette, Communications Officer

Jan. 19, 2024 - This summary is not a full representation of the meeting. For the official record, please refer to the minutes in the next Council Agenda. Past Council Meetings are available for viewing on the Township's YouTube channel.

Road Needs Study

During a special meeting, Council received a presentation on the Road Needs Study completed in 2023. The Road Needs Study examined all roadways within the Township's jurisdiction. The study provides Council and staff with a working tool to determine maintenance and construction needs with associated timelines and budgets. The study rated the Township roads at a satisfactory level and indicated that in order to maintain the current level of service, approximately \$3.3 million is required annually.

Midhurst Heights Stage 3 Subdivision Agreement

Council authorized the execution of the Stage 3 Subdivision Agreement related to the Midhurst Heights neighbourhood. The subdivision is planned to consist of a total of 1,440 residential units located in Neighbourhood 2 of the Midhurst Secondary Plan. The agreement allows for external servicing related to sanitary sewer installation and road reconstruction along Gill Road, Doran Road, Finlay Mill Road and Snow Valley Road. The agreement will be amended to include phase 1 stormwater infrastructure, with construction not able to commence until authorization has been received from all relevant agencies including the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Further negotiations will take place with respect to the Craig Road stormwater outlet and the transfer of a portion of 2228 Russell Road prior to finalization of a Stage 3A Amending Agreement.

Town Hall Meetings

Council has voted in favor of resuming Town Hall Meetings. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Town Halls were hosted twice each year in various wards throughout the municipality. Moving forward, the Town Halls will be held annually in March at the Township Administration Centre. The purpose of the meetings is to offer updates on ongoing projects and initiatives throughout the municipality in an informal drop-in format.

Family Physician Recruitment

With the intent of attracting a family physician to the area and in an effort to expedite and simplify the process, Council has directed staff to determine a suitable office location for a doctor within a municipal facility and draft a lease agreement. The agreement should highlight considerations for rent, utilities and possible other benefits for the future recruitment of a family doctor.



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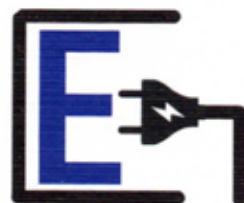
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Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre Bringing Hope Home to South Georgian Bay

By Paul Eichborn, Manager, Fundraising & Stewardship, Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre

Jan. 26, 2024 - For residents of Collingwood and the surrounding communities across South Georgian Bay who are dealing with the life-changing impacts of cancer, support is on the way. Three new cancer support groups will be launched in Collingwood over the coming weeks. This initiative is being brought forward by the Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre (GBCSC) along with a dedicated team of local volunteers. It's a much-needed resource in the community, and one that Executive Director Eric Walter believes is long overdue.

"With roughly two in five Canadians expected to receive a cancer diagnosis, you'd be hard pressed to talk to someone who hasn't been closely impacted," says Walter. "We have some amazing treatment centres and excellent cancer care across the province, but when you're going through that battle outside of those bigger cities where those hospitals exist, the journey can feel lonely, and it can be hard to access the resources that serve as a complement to the medical side of cancer. That's the gap we aim to fill."

The groups are open to those who have been diagnosed with cancer and their caregivers to connect with others on a similar journey, share their stories, and develop new skills to adapt to the challenges that accompany that cancer journey. The initial program (free for all) will feature three ongoing cancer support groups: a Men's Support Group, Women's Support Group and Caregivers' Support Group.

At its "Home for Hope" in Penetanguishene, the GBCSC offers upwards of 50 hours of monthly group programming, individual counselling, massage, wig fitting, and a range of other services. Those who sign up for a membership (which is free) will have access to all services offered by the GBCSC in Collingwood as well as Penetanguishene, including some offered remotely by phone or virtually. As a

registered charity, funding for these services is provided entirely by extensive fundraising efforts across the region, ensuring costs are never passed on to those using the services.

The three support groups, which are seen largely as a first step to improving cancer support resources in the area, are a welcome opportunity for those in the community fighting cancer. Frank Tilley, who is now battling prostate cancer and has volunteered with the GBCSC to help spearhead the initiative, says having these programs close to home is a lifeline for people in his position.

"When I was diagnosed with stage four cancer nine months ago, I sought out local sources of peer support for encouragement. This inspired me to contact GBCSC to work with our team of volunteers in establishing an opportunity to help patients and caregivers close to home in our local area."

Like Frank, there are hundreds of individuals across South Georgian Bay currently fighting cancer. Thanks to this important first step, they'll have somewhere to go for that support close to home.

The Women's Cancer Support Group begins on Tuesday, January 30 at 4 p.m. and continues on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. A Caregivers' Support Group will run on alternating weeks, also at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays beginning on Feb. 20. The first meeting of the Men's Support Group is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31 at 4:30 p.m., and will continue on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month thereafter.

All groups will take place at The Journey's Blend Café, located at 30 Old Mountain Road in Collingwood. Those interested in joining the GBCSC and attending groups can visit www.gbcsupportcentre.ca and register under the "Join Us" tab, email collingwood@gbcsupportcentre.ca or call 705-549-6444.



Gail Little and Jonathan Scott lead NVCA Board of Directors

By Maria Leung

UTOPIA, Ontario (January 29, 2024) – Last Friday, Gail Little, Deputy Mayor for the Township of Amaranth, and Jonathan Scott, Councillor for the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury were acclaimed to lead the 2024 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) Board of Directors as Chair and Vice Chair.

"I'm honoured to carry on as the Chair of the 2024 NVCA Board of Directors," said Little. "Staff at NVCA are dedicated, passionate and knowledgeable about protecting and enhancing the rivers, streams, forests, groundwater and wetlands in the Nottawasaga Watershed. I look forward to working with my fellow board members to support the work that this amazing group people does in coming year."

A healthy watershed supports resident's health, homes, farms businesses and drinking water. NVCA works with many partners, funders and volunteers to maintain a healthy Nottawasaga Watershed. They also lead efforts in restoring rivers, wetlands, forests and grasslands, as well as inspiring youth to protect our environment.

"Friday was a day to celebrate the hard work that NVCA's staff did in the past year to protect our local environment, fight climate change and protect our natural heritage," said Scott. "I look forward to working with our board members to ensure this work continues to be a priority in the Nottawasaga Watershed."

To learn about NVCA's accomplishments, watch this Year in Review video.



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COUNCIL MEETINGS

Township of Tiny

February 21 Councillor Brunelle
March 13 Councillor Helowka
Meetings will be consolidated and commence at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise advertised. Closed Session Meetings, when required, will commence as early as 4:00 p.m. and are not open to the public.
2025 Special Committee of the Whole (Budget) Meetings to be determined.
Planning Public Meetings, as required, will be held at 5:30 p.m. on the Wednesday of the week following a Committee of the Whole/Council Meeting and will be advertised by public notice.
The 2024 Committee of the Whole and Meeting of Council Schedule is subject to change.

Township of Springwater:

Jan. 31, 2024 6:00 pm: Special Meeting - Closed Session
Feb. 5, 2024 7:00 pm: Springwater Sports Heritage AGM
Feb. 7, 2024 6:30 pm: Council Meeting
Feb. 8, 2024 5:30 pm: Cultural and Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting
Feb. 15, 2024 5:30 pm: Elmvale BIA Meeting
Feb. 21, 2024 6:30 pm: Council Meeting

Town of Penetanguishene:

Mon., Feb. 5, 2024 9:00 am: Economic Advisory Committee
Tues., Feb. 13, 2024 6:00 pm: Special Council – Workshop
Wed., Feb 14, 2024 7:00 pm: Council Committee of the Whole
Mon., Feb. 26, 2024 7:00 pm: Committee of Adjustment

Town of Midland

Feb 1, 2024 Budget: Special Meeting of Council
Feb 14, 2024 6:00 pm: Regular Council
Feb 28, 2024 6:00 pm: Regular Council



Families of Elementary Students Reminded to Update Vaccination Records

By Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Jan. 22, 2024 - SIMCOE MUSKOKA – Are your children’s routine immunizations up to date? Have you updated their immunization records?

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMD-HU) is reminding the families of elementary students in Grades 3 to 5 to update their child’s immunization record with the health unit to comply with the requirements of Ontario’s Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) and to protect their children and others from contracting vaccine preventable illnesses.

Together with local school boards and private schools, the health unit is mailing 10,000 letters to parents and guardians of children in Grades 3 to 5, asking them to ensure that their child’s immunizations are up to date and their immunization records are updated with the health unit.

In Ontario, parents and guardians are responsible for reporting their child’s immunizations to public health to keep records up to date per ISPA standards as health care providers do not automatically report immunizations to their local public health unit.

If students received their routine and required immunization through their healthcare provider, they need to report this information to the health unit. This can easily be done online at smdhu.org or by calling the health unit’s Health Connection line.

Families who do not have a healthcare provider can book an immunization appointment at any of the health unit’s offices in Collingwood, Cookstown, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Midland and Orillia, or at the at 80 Bradford St. clinic in Barrie.

For more information about routine and required vaccines for students and the diseases they prevent, please visit smdhu.org. To speak with a public health professional, call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Your Life is Your Own

Jan. 21, 2024 - Life is a gift that is given to us. It is like giving someone a blank canvas and telling them that they are free to use it however they please. If they want to draw or paint, they can go for it. It doesn’t even have to look great to anyone else.

Maybe they want to use it for something different. Perhaps they will sew the canvas into something, or maybe make it into a sign with a message for whoever cares to read it. Perhaps for a time they will choose to leave it blank, to do nothing with it.

Imagine that is you with the canvas, and you just don’t know yet exactly what you want to do with it. Imagine people coming to you and telling you what to do with your canvas. You look around and see so many different things that people have done with theirs, and you don’t know who to listen to.

Some people tell you to do your own thing, and others want you to decorate your canvas just like theirs (because they think theirs is best, or because they want you to be like them).

Or imagine that you have your very own idea about what you want to do with yours, and people keep telling you to do something different. You know that this is your canvas, and it is the only one you’ll get, and you really want to try out your idea. But people get mad, or make you feel dumb or uncooperative if you don’t do what they want. Some even accuse you of not loving them or caring about them if you won’t do what they want. So, you either do nothing, or do what they want, and then become angry or depressed. You might not even do it very well because it wasn’t what you wanted. Or you do it well, because that is your way, but you are not happy, and maybe get ulcers or headaches.

How much easier it would be if people would tell you that you must treasure your canvas, and whatever you create, to make sure that it reflects your heart and soul. How much better it would be if they told you that they loved you, and honored whatever choices you might make, because making this canvas reflect your essence is what you came to this Earth to do. How wonderful if they told you that your canvas did not have to be perfect, nor did it have to please anyone else.

Life is like a blank canvas, and how we live it is our work of art. We are created, and we belong to ourselves. Our life is our work of art. We mustn’t make anyone color between the lines we have drawn. The greatest gift we can give to another is the gift of freedom to be and express who they are. This is the path to wholeness.

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

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Across

- 1 Long-lived Middle-earth denizen
- 4 Kind of party
- 7 Floral arrangement locale
- 11 Nay’s opposite
- 12 Met display
- 13 What comes to mind
- 14 Grab a bite
- 15 Desk item
- 17 Command to a dog
- 19 Time of one’s life
- 20 Stick
- 22 The Mafia
- 25 Carefree
- 28 Used to be
- 29 Till fill
- 30 Popped in on
- 32 _____ behind the ears
- 33 Poop
- 34 Clear
- 35 Get through to
- 39 Immeasurably large
- 43 “Here’s the proof!”
- 44 Prepare
- 45 Be in the red
- 46 Kan. neighbour
- 47 Advantage
- 48 Untrue
- 49 Entirely

Down

- 1 Prized bone
- 2 Canyon sound
- 3 “___ there, done that”
- 4 Juilliard major
- 5 Little League coach, often
- 6 Like a lot, in the 60s
- 7 Arbitrator
- 8 Sweep
- 9 Dull
- 12 Get through to
- 18 Wave makers
- 20 Eagle type
- 22 Name
- 24 Scarfed down
- 25 Took the initiative
- 26 Maroon 5 song “The Way I ___”
- 27 TV host ___ Lin-kletter
- 28 Coffee residue
- 30 Crumpet accompaniment
- 32 Demands
- 36 Spill
- 39 Healthy look
- 40 Penny ___; 1967 Beatle song
- 41 Watched
- 42 Sheeplike memory!
- 43 Ozone
- 45 Faded
- 46 Squirt gun

Springwater’s Community Hub Gains Momentum

Township of Springwater / January 25, 2024 – The Township’s Community Hub will move on to the next phase of the project following Council’s approval of a Master Plan Concept Design presented by Weston Consulting at a special meeting held on January 24.

Located at 1132 Snow Valley Road, also known as the Hasty Tract, the Community Hub will include various amenities, including a recreation center offering both active and passive recreational opportu-

nities. Additionally, the land will also be home to a new fire station and Simcoe County EMS post.

The concept is broken down into a multi-phase development with phase one proposing a swimming pool, therapeutic pool, gymnasium with two full-size courts, change rooms, multi-purpose fitness room and library. Phase two proposes a twin-pad arena, change rooms and storage.

“We are thrilled to see this project continue to move forward,” says Mayor Jennifer Coughlin. “The Com-

munity Hub will offer a wide range of amenities that cater to the various interests of our residents and will allow them to maintain healthy active lifestyles.”

The next step in the project includes a detailed design of the facility, as well as a feasibility study. The Fire Hall was approved for construction last year and is expected to be completed in early 2026.

To learn more about this project, visit www.springwater.ca/CommunityHub

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Pharmacists are able to assess and prescribe for eczema. Same day appointments are available. Inquire today!

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www.springwaterlibrary.on.ca



Family Literacy Day

To celebrate Family Literacy Day, the kindergarden classes at HCES came to the library for a tour, listened to a story and picked up their very own library card with our brand new kids card design! The library created 77 new library cards that day and had an awesome time meeting everyone!

Cricut Class

In this two-part class, learn how to make a project with heat transfer vinyl. Bring your own t-shirt, bag or pillowcase and learn how to create a design in Cricut Design Space. Vinyl can be purchased from the library for \$2 per 12 x 10-inch square sheet. Monday February 5, 2pm-3pm at Midhurst Branch and Monday February 12, 2pm-3pm at Midhurst Branch. Registration required.

Teen Game Night

Each month, bring your friends and try out some of the trending board games the Library has purchased for Teen Games Night. Tuesday February 20 5:30pm at Elmvale Branch. No registration required for this drop in program.

Creative Adults: Watercolour Painting

Create a beautiful watercolour painting of the night sky aurora borealis with local artist/instructor Wendy McIver. Thursday February 29, 6pm at Elmvale Branch. Cost \$10. Registration required.

Prediabetes/Diabetes Seminar

In partnership with South Georgian Bay Community Health Centre, this informal workshop is for anyone who has recently been diagnosed with diabetes or prediabetes, who cares for those living with this chronic health condition, or those who would benefit from a review of management strategies. This workshop will cover a wide variety of topics including medication, exercise, nutrition, mental health and preventing complications. Caregivers are also welcome to attend. Tuesday March 5, 6pm at Elmvale Branch. Walk-ins are welcome but registration is required. You can register at www.southgeorgianbaychc.ca/program or call (705) 422-1888 ext 143

English Learners Club

All are welcome! Meet new people, increase your fluency and vocabulary. Mondays 1pm at Elmvale Branch. Registration required.

COMING SOON: ONLINE PROGRAM REGISTRATION!!!!

Starting Monday February 26, our new online program registration service will begin. From the comfort of your own home, 24/7 you can browse our programs calendar and register for the events/programs you love. Watch for more exciting details coming soon!

Tiny Township Membership at Springwater Public Library

Springwater Library will be continuing library services for Tiny patrons as of January 2, 2024. For a membership at Springwater Public Library, Tiny residents must fill out a form (one per household) which will allow membership for one year from the date of the membership being activated. You can visit any branch of Springwater Library to fill out your form and become a member. Thank you for your continued support of our library and we hope to see you soon!

News & Events at the Penetanguishene Public Library

24 Simcoe Street 705-549-7164
www.penetanguishene.library.on.ca

PD Programs are here!

Technology Sessions for Seniors
We will be holding technology sessions for Seniors interested in learning how to use Android and Apple Tablets. Must have a valid library card to participate. Android tablets –Feb.9th from 9:30-10:15
Apple iPad: Feb. 23rd, Mar.8th and Mar. 22nd from 9:30-10:15
Programming fee is \$2:00. Please register in person during library hours with your library card.

Peddling with Linda

Join us for our peddling classes for Adults 55+. You will floor peddle virtually through the forest! Light stretching afterwards. This program is free. Please sign up with your library card. The program takes place on February 6th and February 13th from 10:00 – 11:00.

Author Talk

Tanya Deschambault will be introducing her book “The Love Bracelet” on Tuesday, February 27th at 10:00. A charming book about a special bracelet filled with parents’ love can help children cope if they are away from a parent. Registration is required. Free. Copies will be available for purchase.

Valentines Day Craft Bags

Pick up your Valentines Day Craft bag containing materials to make a card and pot of pipe cleaner flowers. The cost is \$2.00. Valid library card required.

Spanish Lessons

Learn Spanish in 6 weeks! Starting Feb. 6th, 3 levels of Spanish will be available. Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. Register in person with your library card. Cost: \$30.00 per level.

Coming Soon: March Break 2024 (registration with library card is now open)

Monday, March 11th

Make a Birdhouse: 10:00-11:00
Pancakes and Koolaid: 1:00 – 2:00

Tuesday, March 12th

Cupcake Decorating: 10:00 – 11:00
Paint a Squishmallow: 2:00 – 3:00

Thursday, March 14th

Play at Candyland: 10:00-11:00
Movie and popcorn: 1:00-3:00

Friday, March 15th

Easter Bunny visits the library: 10:00-11:30
Drag Queen Storytime: 12:00-2:00

Lego: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri.: 3:00-4:00

New @PPL

2024 Park Passes are available at the library. Check-out with your library card for one week and enjoy winter walks through the park.

Town of Penetanguishene Winterama Buttons available for purchase at the library. Cost. \$3.00 each.

SHOULD I INVEST IN RRSP TO LOWER 2023 TAXABLE INCOME

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Brian Belcourt (705) 220-3942
BelcourtFinancial@gmail.ca

By Brian Belcourt

Jan. 28, 2024 - As we start 2024, we have too prepare for the 2023 tax filing season. Soon our tax slips from employment income, investments income, income from real estate and other sources will start arriving. Then it will be time to complete your 2023, tax returns, to see how much money you need to pay in taxes or receive in your return.

If you must pay taxes, or would like a larger tax return amount, you have until February 29, 2024, to contribute to a RRSP, Register Retirement Savings Plan. This will lower your income that needs to be reported for 2023, which will affect your tax return positively. You can contribute to your own RRSP until December 31 of the year you turn 71 in age.

Should you invest your funds in a RRSP or a different investment account such as a TFSA, Tax Free Savings account? The government determines the different investment accounts we can invest in. Each investment account has different taxation rules, which influences why you would make the choice to invest in that type of account.

RRSP will allow you save the amount of tax you need to pay at the time of contribution but are 100% taxable at the time of redemption. RRSP's were created for residents of Canada to save for their retirement but can also be used for First Time Homeowner to purchase a house HBP or help pay for an education by borrowing money from the account LLP.

The advantages of investing in a RRSP are that your contributions may be deducted from your income resulting in lower taxable income. Your money grows tax sheltered; you don't pay tax on income earned.

RRSP are better for individuals who have a high income when they are contributing as it will result in less money being paid in taxes, but the funds are 100% taxable on redemption.

This is why a RRSP is not the right choice for everybody. If your income is higher in retirement, you will be paying a higher tax rate as redemption will raise your taxable income. This could also affect the amount of government benefits you would receive. Too much income could lower your OAS, old age security payment and other tax refunds. It is never a bad idea to consult an accountant if you have questions about tax issues. No one likes paying the government extra taxes.

You must also have contribution room, as there are penalties for over contribution to a RRSP. Your notice of assessment from the previous tax year lets you know your contribution room limit. Funds contributed to your work Pension Plan or deferred profit-sharing plan also affect your contribution room available.

At the end of the day both a RSP and TFSA helps you save for your retirement. I recommend talking to investment advisors to make the right choice as investment choices such as bonds and equities can be the same, but taxation is greatly different for each investment account type.

Don't forget you have until February 29, 2024, to contribute to a RRSP to lower your 2023 taxable income.

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HEY DADS!

Jan. 29, 2024 - Do your kids help you paint? What could be cleaner than opening up cans of paint, leaving them on the carpet and giving small hands rollers and brushes to spread it around? The last few weeks have been painting weeks around our house. You know, when the colours on the walls aren't good enough for your wife's liking? Our walls are all brownish-beige so they're not really to my liking either.

What's the first step in painting? Picking out paint colours. Talk about decision fatigue! Too many options to make a decision. How many shades of white can there possibly be? My wife used to be more picky and we'd analyze dozens of those paint sample strips from Home Depot to pick the right colours. But after three houses and ten kids, this time she was just like, "Let's get the same white my sister got." I wasn't going to argue so off to Home Hardware we went. Give them name of paint. Buy paint. Bring paint home. Begin painting. Almost.

When we started discussing the idea of painting the house the kids started asking a series of questions, "Can we help paint?" "Can I use a brush?" "Can I use a roller?" "Can we paint a giant rainbow on the wall?" The answers to all those questions were yes. But one does not simply give a child a paint brush and let the child start painting. Lessons must be taught. All the kids except Mabel, our 2-year-old, understood the concept of moving the brush or the roller in the same direction. Mabel just couldn't grasp it. Splat left, splat up, splat right, splat down. So we had to be strategic. She could help on the wall that would be behind the triple bunk bed. We let her paint the bottom of the walls just ahead of us and she happily swish-swished away in all directions of the compass. Then we followed her and happily roll-rolled over her swishes quite nicely. Finally, the bunk beds were put in place and everything looked beautiful.



Middle sisters and identical twins, Pearl and Emerald, seriously wanted a rainbow on the wall. It was the picture right out of the paint flyer so that's a win for the Home Hardware paint marketing department. How do you paint a nice, even, concentric rainbow on the wall? In another life I had drawn circles with a 100-ft. diameter for our church stage backdrop so I was familiar with large circular circles. A nail in the floor at the middle of the wall provided an anchor to which we tied some string. We tied a pencil to the other end and drew some nice, equal arcs to create the twins' rainbow.

We were happy to get the job done. A few drips spilled on the carpet but carpet won't survive long in our house anyway so we weren't too upset. All the kids got a turn paint brushing and paint rolling so it was a win-win. Gather up your kids for some jobs around the house dad. Your list will get shorter and your kids will get smarter. Time flies! Make every moment count! Even the messy ones.

Jason Weening has a few more rooms to paint for his ten kids and one wife. Read more at beydads.ca.



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CANVASES OF COMPASSION ANNUAL ROTARY AUCTION TO FEATURE EXTRAORDINARY ART FROM QUEST COMMUNITY

By Judy Goode
Jan. 28, 2024 - What began as a modest one-year experiment has grown into a cherished community-wide event celebrating its 45th year.

The Midland Rotary Auction was first held in February 1979, broadcasted over the radio. Later years saw the auction move to a television broadcast, with bids called in over the phone, hand written, and posted on a board. Most recently, the auction has moved entirely online.

The auction's technology has certainly changed over the years, but the Rotary Club of Midland's goal has remained steadfast: pour as much money back into the community as possible. Rotary uses 100% of the net proceeds from the auction to support community endeavours as well as international charitable initiatives. Over the past 45 years, the auction has proudly contributed more than \$1,000,000 to local causes.

Proceeds have benefited projects like the Rotary Trail, the pavilions on the Midland Town Dock, and the performance stage in Little Lake Park. Donations have also been made to the Georgian Bay General Hospital, the Midland Cultural Centre, Community Living Huronia, the YMCA, CSC CHIGAMIK CHC, the Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre, as well as many others.

This year, Rotary has partnered with Quest Art School & Gallery to bolster the artistic offerings in the popular online auction. In a touching display of solidarity, Quest launched an initiative urging its community of artists to donate their work to the worthy cause.



Art above:John Hartman, Bay Fine Entrance, 2019



Art above: Erika Lacroix, Silver Birch Forest

Donated art will take center stage in the Mezzanine Gallery at Quest Art, providing participating artists with multiple avenues of exposure for the duration of the online auction. The art will be on display February 6th to 29th, and the auction will be live February 15-February 29.

The Rotary Club of Midland has been a generous supporter of Quest Art and recently awarded the nonprofit with a grant that will allow them to further extend their impact in the community. An exciting new project launching on the ground floor of the Midland Cultural Centre is in the works and anticipated to launch in March. Visit www.questart.ca to stay in the loop.

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



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WWW.DOUGSHIPLEYMP.CA
DOUG.SHIPLEY@PARL.CC.CA
705-728-2596**

Jan. 26, 2024 - During the current cost-of-living crisis, I've received countless communications from members of our community who are concerned about the added costs of the government's carbon tax.

When the carbon tax was first introduced by the Liberal government, they claimed it would fight climate change, that it would be revenue neutral, and that it wouldn't cost you a cent because the government would rebate whatever you spent.

Unfortunately, under Trudeau's carbon tax the Liberals have missed every single one of their environmental targets and the independent Parliamentary Budget Officer confirmed that you pay more in the carbon tax than you get rebated back.

In response, my Conservative colleague MP Alex Ruff has introduced Bill C-358, which will make life more affordable for Canadians by removing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from the Liberal carbon tax. Currently in Canada, the Liberal carbon tax is subject to the GST, which is effectively a tax on a tax. Bill C-358 will remove this double tax.

If passed, the positive impact of this legislation will be felt across the country, especially in rural areas, where cars, trucks, and tractors are not a choice, but a necessity. In fact, the Parliamentary Budget Officer recently found that Bill C-358 could lead to \$1 billion dollars in savings for Canadian taxpayers.

While many Canadians would prefer to axe the carbon tax altogether, this is a common-sense interim measure that will provide relief to millions of Canadians. I will continue to stand up for the residents of Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte and request that the government cancel all planned tax hikes.

As always, my constituency office is available to assist you with any matters related to the federal government. Please contact my office at Doug.Shipley@parl.gc.ca or 705-728-2596 for assistance.

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

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Photo above: First Place winners at 37th Lush Curling event. Jamie Healy, Cindy Schutt, Sue Patton and Paul Archer.

Photo below: Second place winners, John Degroot, Leslie Stroud, Chris Leonard, and Brad Greenlaw.





2024 “Not The Scotties” Bonspiel, Elmvalle Curling Club

By Sue Henry

The Women's Afternoon Leagues held their annual bonspiel on Saturday, January 13. The theme this year was "Pink at the Rink" and all the participating teams were very creative in their interpretation.






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Photo above: Jan. 12, 2024 game vs Alliston showing Owen VanDusen on goal.



Photo above: Jan. 14, 2024 game at Caledon. Faceoff: LW - Owen Collins, C - Carter Wilson, RW - Tanner Thayer.



Photo above: Jan. 18, 2024 game at Schomberg showing bodycheck delivered by Carter Wilson.



Photo above: AIM Power Performer - Tanner Thayer for Jan. 12, 2024 game vs Alliston



Photo above: AIM Power Performer - Carter Wilson for Jan. 14, 2024 game vs Caledon



Photo above: AIM Power Performer - Carson Thayer for Jan. 18, 2024 game at Schomberg



Photo above: AIM Power Performer - Ashton Kirwin for Jan. 20, 2024 game vs Huntsville



Photo above: Jan. 20, 2024 game vs Huntsville. Cole Rumbolt & Kaleb Seaman in action.

Penetang Kings Win 3 of 4 Games

Submitted by Jamie Robillard, Penetang Kings
The Penetang Kings played four games between January 12 and January 20 winning three and solidifying their hold on fifth place in the North Caruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League play.
On Friday January 12th the Kings hosted the first place Alliston Hornets and dropped an 8-4 decision to the visitors. Alliston led 2-1 after the first period and 7-4 heading into the third period. Kevin Pearson faced a total of 38 shots in the Penetang goal, many of them from point blank range, while the Kings only managed 26 shots on Alliston netminder Parker Barnard. Scoring for Penetang was Tanner Thayer with two goals along with Carter Wilson and Cole Rumbolt with one each. Assists were collected by Lars Derstroff (2), Thayer, Wilson, Isaak McGinnis, Nolin Derstroff and Owen Collins. Thayer was awarded the Aim Power Performance of the game.
On Sunday January 14th the Kings traveled to Caledon to meet the Golden Hawks and Carter Wilson

led the charge, scoring three times and assisting on the three other Penetang goals in a 6-2 win. For his efforts, Wilson was awarded the Aim Power Performance of the game. Rounding out the Kings scoring were Collins, McGinnis and Lars Derstroff with assists going to Collins and Matthew Campbell with two each and singles from Lars Derstroff and Kaleb Seaman. Sawyer Lammle turned aside 21 of the 23 shots fired this way in the Kings goal.
Thursday January 18 again saw the Kings on the road, this time in Schomberg to face the Cougars. Penetang opened the game strongly, building a 5-1 lead before finishing with a 5-4 victory over the fourth place Cougars. Defenseman Carson Thayer and forward Seaman both scored twice to pace the Penetang offence. Collins added a single tally along with two assists. Rumbolt, Ashton Kirwin, and Lars Derstroff each had single assists for the Kings. Lammle made 38 saves in the Penetang nets. The Aim Power Performance of the game went to Carson Thayer.

January 20 saw the Kings play a rare Saturday night home game when they hosted the sixth place Huntsville Otters. Penetang came out roaring in the tough hitting affair and scored a decisive 8-2 win. Eight different Kings scored one goal each for Penetang: McGinnis, Aiden MacDonald, Wilson, Collins, Campbell, Owen VanDusen, Carson Thayer and Kirwin. Assists went to Wilson and Collins with three each, Harrison Holroyd with two and singles to VanDusen, Tanner Thayer, McGinnis, Ethan McCallum, and Lars Derstroff. Once again Lammle stood tall in the Penetang net stopping 36 shots in the win. Kirwin collected the Aim Power Performance of the game for Penetang.
For fans wanting to see the Kings at home their February schedule is as follows, Friday February 2nd vs Stayner, Friday the 9th vs Schomberg, Friday the 16th vs Caledon and Friday the 23rd vs Midland in the regular season finale. All home games will be held at the Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre.



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Who Murdered Michael Kent?

By Mike Townes

Everyone has events and dates that have taken place in their lifetime that they will never forget. If you are around my age, born in 1953, you will remember Elvis and the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show, the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Neil Armstrong walking on the moon and yes, even the Toronto Maple Leafs winning the Stanley Cup.

The above events were all seen on television and were many miles away, but closer to home, most people my age in our area will remember February 11, 1966. That is the date that Elmvale went from a sleepy, innocent small town to the place where six-year old Michael Kent was murdered.

February 11th was a normal busy Friday night at the Elmvale Arena and Curling Club. The weather was a little snowy but the parking lot was full of cars as teams from Midland came to play hockey against Elmvale.

Michael came to the arena with his father and mother to watch his older brother play against Elmvale. At some point, he became separated from his parents. Investigators are not sure if Michael was taken from the arena or if he had followed his father outside. The family’s car had become stuck in the parking lot, so, after getting the family inside, his father had gone outside to try to get the car out of the snowbank.

After a quick look inside the arena, a search party moved outside in the hope of finding Michael. At about 8:40 pm, he was found outside lying near the hydro pole on the west side of the Curling Club (The addition to the Curling Club was not there in 1966.)

Michael was rushed to the office of the late Doctor Douglas Patchell located were Superior Cleaning

is now situated. At the time, the search party had thought Michael had been hit by a car, but after removing his snowsuit, Dr. Patchell soon realized that the young boy had been stabbed several times. Doctor John McKenzie was called to rush down to the office to assist, but it was too late to save the six-year old.

Almost instantly, the Ontario Provincial Police were everywhere in Elmvale, especially at the Arena. Everyone leaving or coming had their cars searched for the murder weapon or clues that would help find the murderer. Eventually, the knife was found on the roof of the Curling Club. The knife had no fingerprints and could not be traced to any stores or owners in the area.



Photo of the knife found on the arena roof

I can remember being at the Arena that night. I had refereed my youngest brother’s hockey game at approximately 6:00 p.m. and had stayed around the rink because I played at roughly 8:00 p.m. I played goal, so halfway through the game I was called to the bench for a goalie change. That is when I first heard about the murder of Michael Kent. I will never forget that. Life in Elmvale changed that night.

Kids that walked to the arena or any other place in town were now driven or accompanied by an adult. Neighbours looked at each other differently as rumours ran rampant on who was being investigated for the murder.

All the kids and adults that were at the arena that night were interviewed by the O.P.P. We were mostly asked if we had seen anything unusual in the lobby or outside. I remember, after telling the officers that I had arrived at the arena 2 ½ hours before my game, why I was there so early.

After fifty-eight years, the murder case of Michael Kent is still an open investigation. Over that time span, numerous leads have been followed up, but these did not lead to any arrests. Officers involved in the investigation over the years have met to see if anything has been missed. A few years ago, an officer traveled to the east coast to interview the family just in case any new facts about the case surfaced. I was

told that any new investigation tools that were not around in the 60’s also were not of any help in solving the murder of Michael Kent.

Police still cannot reveal details of the case because the investigation is still open and the case is being looked at periodically when new information becomes available. I had a chance to talk to police several years ago about my memories, the rumors, and the weapon used but, again, since it is still an open investigation, understandably, they could not confirm or deny most of my questions.

It is good to know that the investigation of this case is still active, even after such a long time. It is a day I will never forget. Michael Kent will always be part of my life. Hopefully, if still alive, the person responsible will come forward, or anyone who has information leading to that person(s) will contact the authorities for further investigation. You can call 24-Hour Police Services at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers 1-800-222-8477 with information on this case or any other case that is still open. If you can help, make the call.

Today, we still do not know who murdered Michael Kent. I hope the person responsible for this crime is still not walking among us. If they are, they must have been living their life with a guilty conscience eating away at them for almost 60 years. The family of Michael Kent needs closure. Elmvale needs closure. I know I do.

Over the years, I have hashed over that night thousands of times.

Was the murderer local or from the Midland area?

I feel that whoever committed this crime had to return to inside of the arena and that is why the knife was thrown on top of the Curling Club. They did not want to be caught with the murder weapon. This makes me lean more towards an out-of-towner, as a local would just leave the area with the weapon. This seems like a planned crime as the murderer brought the knife, and if a local, they would not have planned to return to inside the arena.

Why commit the crime on the west side of the arena?

There was a street light next to the curling club near where the body was found on the west side. If the murderer went to the east side, there was less chance of someone exiting the curling club or arena and catching them in the act or being seen. The east side was very dark with lots of room to commit the crime and a lot less chance of being caught. This again, would make me lean towards a non-resident who did not know the lay of the land around the arena. But a resident could have used the curling club to lure Michael to the west and then pull him around the west side when they realized there were no witnesses. A person taking a child around the corner on the east side would not have an explanation for their actions if caught.

Why pick Michael Kent?

Another year has almost passed since I first wrote this article many years ago on the murder of Michael Kent and his death has still not been solved almost 58 years after his body was discovered in the arena parking lot in 1966.

I will continue to republish this article every February until hopefully someone will finally come forward to police with information to finally punish the person(s) involved in this crime.

Any given night at the arena, kids were everywhere. If the murder was planned by bringing the knife, I think the chances the murderer had picked Michael in advance would not be reasonable. The murderer likely waited until the right opportunity and Michael was in the wrong place at the wrong time. A local that would have stood out at the arena would be less likely to commit this crime, but a visitor would be less visible to the crowd.

There are lots of questions that I cannot answer about this crime. If you know anything, please call Crime Stoppers right away. It may be just a little thing that solves this case.



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Honouring the Canadian Military Members Who Played Hockey



By Patrick Townes

The Canadian Hockey League’s Memorial Cup, established in 1919, holds a storied history as one of Canadian junior hockey’s most prestigious trophies. Initially created to honour the Canadian military members who played hockey who lost their lives in World War I, the tournament has evolved into a symbol of excellence and achievement in junior hockey. The inaugural Memorial Cup took place in 1919, featuring teams from the Ontario Hockey Association and the Pacific Coast Hockey Association. The University of Toronto Schools emerged as the first champions, setting the stage for decades of intense competition.

Over the years, the format and participating leagues changed, reflecting the growth and development of junior hockey in Canada. The Memorial Cup eventually became the championship for the Canadian Hockey League, which comprises the Western Hockey League, Ontario Hockey League, and the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. Notable moments in Memorial Cup history include the introduction of round-robin play in the 1970’s, allowing multiple teams to compete for the coveted trophy. The tournament’s prestige skyrocketed, attracting attention from scouts and fans alike.

In 2005, the Memorial Cup adopted a new format, featuring a host team and representatives from each of the three member leagues. This change aimed to provide a fair and balanced opportunity for teams across the Canadian Hockey League to compete on equal footing. In 2024, the Memorial Cup will have a distant yet local flavour. This year’s host of the event is the Saginaw Spirit who are currently toe to toe with the London Knights for the top spot in the league. At the lead of the organization is Elmvale native Dave Drinkill who has served as the General Manager in Saginaw since 2015. When previous articles surfaced in the newspaper, Drinkill and his

teams vied to win first the Ontario Hockey League championship and then the coveted Memorial Cup. Disappointment occurred when the Spirit were tops in the league prior to the cancellation of playoffs and the Memorial Cup at the onset of Covid. Cole Perfetti was a member of these teams who was drafted 10th overall in 2020 and now plays for the Winnipeg Jets. The team has restructured and now is in a position at the top of the Canadian Hockey League rankings with the goal to win the league.

Drinkill and the Spirit’s focus is on winning the Ontario Hockey League, with the Memorial Cup looming in the background. A tremendous amount of work and preparing went into bidding for the huge event which has never been held south of the border in the United States of America. Drinkill, along with ownership and staff submitted their bid and were successful, on the promise of delivering an amazing event and arena improvements to showcase what the community of Saginaw has to offer visitors and hockey fans.

Excitement is building locally and within Elmvale, where the Spirit are scheduled to visit the Elmvale Community Area on Wednesday, February 14th for a practice and autograph session. This event starts at 6:00 pm and the team practice will last an hour before the players head upstairs so all fans can get autographs from these young up-and-coming stars. The price of admission to this event is a non-perishable food item for the Elmvale Food Bank. The Elmvale Food Bank welcomes all donations, however supplies are running low on the following: jello mix, cream corn, cream of mushroom and chicken soup, canned meat, pasta and fruit. Drinkill’s mother Jan is a volunteer and big part of the Food Bank and what it offers the community. Jan and father Rick were thrilled when they heard that the Spirit were making the trip to Elmvale. They see this as a great opportunity for Dave to give something back to the area, a community that has played such an important role in his life. Further details of the event can be found on the Elmvale Minor Hockey website and Facebook page. There is also an ongoing fundraiser where the organization is selling tickets for the next day when the Spirit visit the Barrie Colts, scheduled for Thursday, February 15th at 7:00 pm. Please contact carolynshank_102@hotmail.com for tickets and details.

When asked about the upcoming practice in Elmvale, Drinkill’s main response was how proud he was at the opportunity for the team to visit Elmvale and skate in the same rink he has watched and played hockey in. Both staff and players are overjoyed at the chance to support the community and put on a show for the local fans, Drinkill confirmed that the players know how much this means to him and are ready for a hard workout in order to prepare for the battle with the Colts the next day.

Drinkill highlighted the talented roster that this year’s edition of the Spirit have to offer, and there are many players to look at closely when they come to the Den. Misa wears #77 for the Spirit and was granted exceptional player status in the Ontario Hockey League for the 2022-23 season, becoming the 8th player to be granted exceptional status, following Shane Wright who did it last. He is eligible for the 2025 National Hockey League entry

draft. Alongside teammate Zayne Parekh, he won a gold medal representing Canada in the 2023 Hlinka Gretzky Cup in 2023. Parekh wears #19 for the Spirit and is anticipated to be a top ten pick in the upcoming National Hockey League entry draft. Drinkill remarked what a purely talented defenseman the team has in Zayne, and he puts his potential up there with the best. He leads the team with 66 points and has tallied 22 goals in the season to date. Owen Beck who wears #62 was brought over before the trade deadline from Peterborough and has played games with the Montreal Canadians. Many others have played in the World Junior Tournament and you are encouraged to check out the Saginaw Spirit’s website for a full roster and player descriptions before the event.

The emotional resonance of the Memorial Cup remains palpable, honoring not only the sacrifice of those who served in World War I but also the dedication, skill, and passion of the junior hockey players who vie for the cup each year. As the tournament persists in shaping the future of Canadian hockey, the Memorial Cup stands as a testament to the enduring SPIRIT and legacy of the sport. Although the team is still chasing the league championship and the Memorial Cup, the trophy will also be making the trip, and its journey will start at the Elmvale Legion Branch 262 on John Street around 3:00 pm on February 14th.

For those also looking to collect more information on the team, “Spirit Rising” is a video series following the team and there are four episodes that have been released so far. Camera crews will be here in Elmvale taking footage for future episodes. You can view these videos on the Ontario Hockey League app, website or on youtube. Nothing would please the Spirit team, coaching staff and Drinkill himself than packing the Elmvale rink and showing support for such a great event. Drinkill highlighted again what a great event this will be, and wanted to thank everyone in advance for attending and supporting the Elmvale Food Bank.

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Wednesday Night Dart League Donates to Lions

By Linda Belcourt, Editor

Jan 27, 2024 - Elmvale- Every Wednesday in the winter a group of dart minded folks gather at the Elmvale Lions Hall to play a fun game of darts and to help to raise funds for the Lions Club that helps the whole community. On Wed. Jan. 24 Rick Verhaegan, a dart club organizer hands over \$250.00 cash to the Elmvale Lions Club. Each player donate at the start of each game. The bar proceeds also go to the Elmvale Lions Club.

Photo above: (left to right) Lion Jim Elliot and Rick Verhaegan

Photo below: (left to right) Organizer Denise Verhaegan and Lion Jim Elliot shown bar tending at the Christmas Dart Party. Thank you for your volunteer time, Jim!



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Owl Prowl

By Jason George

Jan. 23, 2024 - Year one of the JGP PROWL is in the books and was awesome! So, we've started our second year off early meeting on January 21, 2024. All the active members from last year are back plus we have added four new ones and still have space for more. We have 3 awesome events you can join with us Beach Clean-up ~ April 21(10-11 am), visiting a taxidermy location ~ July 7, and visiting the Natural History Museum and hike ~ Oct 27.

The group of nine kids and three adults were eager to go on the owl prowling as most of them showed up early. We went over a few rules and expectations, and then we boarded the Free Spirit tour bus and the journey began. For a couple in the group, this was their highlight, Thank you Free Spirit! We were blessed with a lovely day it was a bit cold but the sun was shining so it made us feel amazing.

We drove around looking for animals on our two-hour adventure in Wasaga Beach. The goal of this trip was to find a snowy owl. We got excited as we spotted 20 turkeys in two groups. Unfortunately, this year, no one has seen a snowy owl in this area, so this was going to be tough. The day before on a scouting trip, I spotted an Eastern screech owl in a hole, but today was not meant to be a day for owls. We did not get lucky seeing any of the 3 species that we were looking for. We saw a few hawks, and some crows and everybody on the trip had a great time and lots of laughs. They understand that wildlife is meant to be wild. You're not guaranteed to see things just because you go out, but we learned about where and what to look for to increase chances.

Once we were back at headquarters the group received their JGP PROWL packages which included – their membership card, a free kid entry to the Wye Marsh, an engraved coaster, and a USB with 50 of my favourite images. Plus, any Beach BOOSTER newspapers that they had been in last year. We end our meetings with everybody's favorite part - Prizes that they can pick from just for attending the meeting.

JGP PROWL is all excited for the Beach Clean-up as it should be warmer than today (-8). The Beach Clean-up will be running from 9 am – 12 pm on Beach Area 2 and everyone is welcome!! Bring a cup and grab a FREE hot chocolate, plus a FREE signed photo from Jason George and a photo with Bones the Teddy Bear!

Subscribe to my YouTube channel @JASON-GEORGEPHOTOGRAPHY and join the JGP PROWL on there Owl Prowl and so many other exciting animal encounters.

Until next time, Stay safe, have fun, and enjoy the wildlife!

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Town of Wasaga Beach Scores Junior A Hockey Team

By Sandra Watts, Director of Strategic Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs, sandra.watts@wasagabeach.com

Jan. 25, 2024 - Wasaga Beach - Inaugural Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League game scheduled for February 12th to celebrate: Bradford Bulls vs. the Meaford Knights

Wasaga Beach – The Town of Wasaga Beach is thrilled to announce that it is now home to a Greater Metro Hockey League (GMHL) Junior A hockey team.

Mayor Brian Smith made the announcement today on centre ice at the Town's new twin-pad, NHL size Wasaga Stars Arena.

"We are excited to announce that the Town of Wasaga Beach is now the proud home of a yet-to-be-named Junior A hockey team. This team will be playing their home games out of the new Wasaga Stars Arena, right here at 544 River Road West in Wasaga Beach," said Mayor Smith. "There's amazing passion for hockey in the Wasaga Beach community. Our residents have wanted a local team to identify with for a long time, and Council made that a priority. Today, our passion and persistence has paid off."

"Our new Junior A hockey team will provide opportunities for our community's young players to develop their skills close to home, and it will help bring our community closer together as we watch, support and celebrate their hard work and success," concluded Mayor Smith.

The yet-to-be-named Wasaga Beach GMHL Junior A hockey team was awarded to Brandon Billie, who is also the owner of the GMHL Bradford Bulls. He will be bringing in a coaching staff behind the bench with years of playing experience at the Pro and Junior levels.

"We're excited to be here, and look forward to building a great team that the community can call their own," said team owner, Brandon Billie.

Inaugural GMHL game: February 12 at 7pm

To celebrate, the team's owner in partnership with the Town of Wasaga Beach and Wasaga Beach Minor Hockey will host the Town's first GMHL hockey game at the new Wasaga Stars Arena on February 12 at 7pm, as part of the Town's Breaking the Ice Festival.

This game will pit the Bradford Bulls against the Meaford Knights. 100 per cent of proceeds from ticket sales will go to support the Wasaga Beach Minor Hockey Association. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the door. Wasaga Beach Minor Hockey players may enter free with an accompanying adult.

Here's what happens next:

- On February 12, 2024 the Town will launch a contest to help name Wasaga Beach's new GMHL Junior A team. Stay tuned for details!
- In spring 2024, a special prospects tournament will be organized where the coaching staff and general manager will be able to identify local players ready to take the jump to junior 'A' hockey when the team officially begins playing games next September.

Background

The Town of Wasaga Beach aims to be a place where people come to create memories that will last a lifetime. The twin-pad arena and library project – together with other tourism and sport-related projects, including recruiting a Junior A hockey team to Wasaga Beach – supports this vision and Council's priorities.

Jo Knows Nutrition by Joanne Nijhuis



ITALIAN RICE BALLS – PUTTING LEFTOVER RICE TO GOOD USE

Arancini or Italian rice balls are a great way to use up leftover rice. Typically made with risotto, this healthier version uses long or short grain brown rice instead. Easy to prepare, Italian rice balls are delish as an appetizer or snack, served with your favourite pasta sauce, mustard or hot sauce.



Ingredients:

- 2 cups (500 ml) cooked brown rice
- ½ cup (125 ml) freshly grated mozzarella or cheddar cheese
- ¼ cup (63 ml) grated parmesan cheese
- 1 small onion finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic minced or ¼ teaspoon (1.25 ml) garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) dried Italian seasoning, basil or oregano

- 1/2 teaspoon (2.5 ml) kosher salt, optional
- 1/2 teaspoon (2.5 ml) freshly ground black pepper, optional
- Pinch or 2 of cayenne pepper, optional
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup (250 ml) panko breadcrumbs
- 2-3 tablespoons (30-45 ml) olive oil for frying
- 1 cup (250 ml) pasta sauce of choice

Instructions:



1. Combine the brown rice, cheddar or mozzarella cheese, parmesan cheese, onion, garlic, Italian seasoning, basil or oregano, salt and pepper and cayenne, if using. Add one egg until thoroughly mixed.
2. Put the remaining 2 eggs, beaten into a separate bowl. Add the breadcrumbs to yet another bowl.
3. Use your hands to form balls the size of a golf ball.

4. Roll each ball in the eggs, followed by the breadcrumbs.
 5. Place the rice balls on a cookie tray and freeze for about 20 minutes.
 6. Prepare a frying pan with the olive oil and cook the rice balls on medium heat until golden brown in batches. Add more olive oil for frying as required.
 7. Drain the rice balls on paper towels.
 8. Serve immediately with pasta sauce, mustard or hot sauce.
- 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?

Rice can be prepared in a variety of ways and is a staple in many cultures around the world. It is an inexpensive carbohydrate that comes in long, medium, and short grains as well as in brown, red, black or white. To manufacture white rice, there is a milling process that removes the fibre. This is why brown, red or black rice is slightly more nutritious than white. The filling fibre leads to a lower glycemic index in the body as the sugar in the rice is more slowly absorbed in the digestive tract.

Bearbells by Leslie Noonan



Jan. 28, 2024 - As we move into the New Year, we all have those resolutions that we try to keep. My resolution is like most other people, to get out and get more fit. Generally, my fitness involves hiking and other outdoor activities. This year I decided to add the local Y to my repertoire. Unfortunately, it

did not go well.

I dislike gyms. The smell, gag. The same exercises over and over while staring at some boring wall. The weird grunting noises of some highly muscled person next to me with sweat beads flying at my head. Nope, nope, nope. Unfortunately, I have a knee injury that requires me to strengthen my leg muscles and here I am in purgatory. That is not to say the Y is not amazing, because it is. The staff are phenomenal and provide great direction and there are so many different classes for me to attend. But....but....I want to be outside, in the bush, alone.

I started with a swim in the pool. Good lord, when did I displace so much water!! This chubby bunny is moving into the world of hippo swimming! That knee injury has devastated my normal hiking routine, and I am starting to pack on the pounds. I left the pool and headed into the showers, intending to remove my bathing suit and change into my sports bra and gym wear. Ummm, I did peel off the swimsuit, but ran into some serious issues once I tried to put on my sports bra. I was still wet, and as I tried to pull on the sports bra, it rolled down my arms and stopped. There I was, stuck, with my sports bra rolled over my upper arms and shoulders, where it stopped, trapping my arms above my head. So there I am, ladies out to the world, wondering how I will get myself out of this situation. I spent several moments considering my options and came to the realization that I could



not unroll myself without help. Sigh. This is why I prefer bush problems, as no one would ever know. Instead, here I am with my tatas free to the world, my arms caught in my sports bra and stuck straight up in the air, and no way to get out of my predicament without help. I started out with a meek “help”, not sure that I really wanted someone to find me. After several moments I finally let out a loud “help” and there help comes to the rescue.

I am so grateful to the older woman who responded to my call for help, and only looked shocked for a moment before laughing at my predicament and helping me out. There is nothing like bonding between women that involves some seriously embarrassing moments. While I love the opportunities that the Y offers, I need to head out to the bush, where my embarrassing moments are only known to me. So there I am heading to Wasaga beach and the many trails off Veterans drive that lead into the large provincial forest.

So after my adventures at the local Y, I headed west to the large provincial park in Wasaga Beach that includes Blueberry Hills Nordic ski Centre and over fifty kms of hiking trails. There is limited parking along Veterans road next to the trail entrances, and the surrounding concessions also have trail systems to explore. The forest is mostly pine and underbrush, and many of the trees have a blue grey lichen clinging to their upper branches. While it is prudent to look where you are walking, I often stop to look at the tree limbs above my head and have been surprised by the number of animals I have seen, including porcupines, owls, fishers and entire families of raccoons. The fisher was by far the most shocking animal to spot only 6-7 feet above my head. Those creatures have very large teeth that he was only too happy to show off. Today it was only the occasional chickadee to be seen, although evidence of other creatures could be seen by the stripped bark on the trees. Both porcupines and deer will strip off the bark, and bears will scratch the bark off with their huge paws to get at the sugary sap. The trail was wet and slushy in many places, though it was easy enough to walk around these areas. I left the lower main trails and headed south and up the larger dunes. The paths here are much narrower and less used, as they meander across the tops of the small hills before dipping down into the gullies between. For the most part these trails are dryer than the more popular routes. With more than fifty kms of trails to explore, it was no surprise that I didn’t meet or see any other people out on the trails despite the number of cars parked on the side of the road. I returned to my car by using a loop trail that travelled approximately five kilometers. This is definitely an area I would return to, to explore further.

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Welcome to February! Most of us will remember that February is the month that heart health was the prominent focus as we had Heart and Stroke month with flag raising and door to door fundraising by wonderful volunteers. While it may not be as prevalent any longer, we still all need to be aware of heart health and take stock of our own health. Sudden Cardiac Arrest is one form of heart health we need to be more aware of. Sudden Cardiac Arrest is often confused with a heart attack. They are both very different. With a heart attack the individual usually remains conscious and can be treated as the heart is still functioning and can survive. With Sudden Cardiac Arrest, the person becomes unconscious, stops breathing and the heart stops working. Only Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can turn things around. When CPR was first introduced many years ago it was a very tedious course emergency personnel and medical staff had to take. Since then we now can do compression only CPR and AED's are common. In fact Springwater Township was the first community in Canada to move their AED's from inside mainly locked buildings to the outside where they can be accessed 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Here in Anten Mills the AED is located at the front door of the community centre and is available not only for events at the community centre but any time it is required. Take the time to learn compression only CPR if you don't know how it is done as there are many videos and online courses available. As far as the AED is concerned, all you need to do is follow the verbal instructions that the machine provides. Using an AED is simple and you can never hurt anyone as it will not work on a beating heart.

The roller coaster weather we have had this year has unfortunately put a hopefully temporary halt to our community ice rink. Hard work and effort went into creating the rink and some people got to enjoy it. Hopefully it can be resurrected for a little longer. One thing to note is that should it regain its life and the weather turn mild again that people need to stay off the rink. Footprints and partial shoveling make the job of getting the rink back more challenging. So please parents, ask your children to remain off of the rink now and if it gets back, follow the messages on the Anten Mills Community Bulletin facebook page as to when it is open and closed.

The snow that we got did result in one Anten Mills family getting the opportunity to return to building an unforgettable sight. The Laycock family on Horseshoe Valley Road have built one huge snowman again this year. While exact measurements aren't available, it looks more imposing than last year's build. It was suggested last year that perhaps some sort of fundraising challenge on when it would melt in support of the Elmvale and District Food Bank could happen. Anyone interested in taking up this task is welcome to do so. In the meantime check the snowman for yourself.



Over the past several weeks there were reports of off road vehicles travelling in areas where they are not permitted. This is not a new problem in our community and regrettably it is often locals who wish to either disregard the rules or they are not aware of them. The Township of Springwater recently held an open house on the findings and recommendations on the Trails Master Plan. Unfortunately it was not well attended. Some of the recommendations centered around e-bikes, connecting trails to others, the wetlands, North Simcoe Rail Trail, entrance barriers and the use of off road vehicles on local roads and the trails. The township is still seeking input before the final draft goes to Council. You are encouraged to go onto the township website and complete the survey. Your opinion does matter particularly when many enjoy a more passive use of the trails and considering that we will soon be home to another 100 families in the not so distant future and we need to have some harmony in how our trails are used.

In the last column the story of Hendrie Lake located along Golf Course Road was started. We learned that there were two lakes at one time, Black and White Lakes and how only one survived. That is White Lake, the one which we see now. From the A History of Vespra Township book, the lakes were an area where relaxation occurred. Fishing was a favorite pastime and bass, perch and catfish were caught. Nightlines were used for pike and according to the book, a 24 pound pike was caught by Harold Hill of Barrie who apparently built the first cottage on the lake. More on the story of Hendrie Lake in the coming columns.

A reminder that the Knotty Knitters are meeting Tuesday afternoons at the community centre and all knitters and crocheters are welcome. They are enjoying a good turnout so feel free to join in the fun. As well, euchre is played every Thursday evening starting at 7 PM and they too are having a good showing of people.

Tomorrow, February 2, is Groundhog Day. Will Wiraton Willie not see his shadow and Spring be on its way or will it be a sunny morning and he returns to his shelter for 6 more weeks of winter. With this winter, that will be a hard one to predict.

That's all for this week, as always, THANKS for READING, BE WELL and STAY SAFE.

Discover Winter Fun at Discovery Harbour’s Mid-Winter Social on Family Day Weekend

Jan. 25, 2024 - “Discovery Harbour is one of Ontario’s truly unique historical sites, and the Mid-Winter Social provides a wonderful opportunity for a one-of-a-kind cultural experience with friends and family,” said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. “I encourage everyone to take a trip to Penetanguishene this Family Day Weekend to enjoy all the hands-on winter fun Discovery Harbour has to offer.”

The Mid-Winter Social includes activities and events for visitors of all ages and interests!

- Embark on a charming journey through Discovery Harbour’s wintry landscape with tractor-pulled wagon rides.
- Engage with skilled historical interpreters in pe-

riod costumes, providing an authentic glimpse into 18th century life during the winter season, while sharing fascinating stories and presentations.

- Witness the thrill of black powder demonstrations showcasing historic muskets and firing techniques.
- Explore the rich history of Discovery Harbour through guided tours of meticulously preserved historic buildings, including the original Officer’s Quarters.
- Delight in the curated artisan market, featuring local craftsmen and artists, offering unique, hand-made treasures.
- Immerse yourself in the soulful tunes and melodies of talented local musicians creating a lively and festive atmosphere.

- Satisfy your taste buds with delicious snacks served up at the Snowshoe Cafe, offering a selection of winter treats.
- Children can enjoy interactions with some of their favourite costumed characters, adding a touch of whimsy and magic to the event, perfect for family photo memories.
- Weather permitting, children can also experience the thrill of the snow tube run, while everyone can engage in the timeless winter activity of snowshoeing.
- Rise to the thrilling challenge of the Bosun's Brig Escape Room, which offers a one-hour, traditional escape room experience for groups of 4-6 people in

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Town of Penetanguishene Schedule 'B' Class EA



Town of Penetanguishene Class Environmental Assessment Schedule "B"
Municipal Snow Storage Location
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

The Town of Penetanguishene ('Town') has initiated a Schedule 'B' Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for the selection of a Town owned storage location for snow that is removed from the road network and Town owned parking lot areas during winter maintenance operations. Currently, the Town utilizes one (1) privately owned snow storage site situated on Fuller Avenue between Robillard Drive and Laurier Road, which has been the solitary storage area for snow since 2018.

Preliminary Class EA Report:

A Preliminary Study Report has been completed and has identified a preferred snow storage location and an evaluation of multiple locations according to the Schedule "B" Class EA guidelines. The results of the preliminary report are to be presented to the public through a Public Information Centre ('PIC').

A PIC is being held to provide an opportunity for the Public to review and provide input on the new snow storage preferred location. The PIC will consist of a short presentation followed by a question-and-answer period. Representatives from the project team will be present to provide the presentation and answer questions regarding the preliminary study report.

For those members of the public that wish to attend the PIC virtually, please contact Sarah Marshall, Communications and Technology Coordinator, at smarshall@penetanguishene.ca.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE:

Date: Thursday, February 8th 2024
Time: 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM (Presentation at 7:00 PM)
Location: Council Chambers, 10 Robert Street West, Penetanguishene, ON
If you are unable to attend or require further information, please contact or provide comments to:

Brad Parker, P. Eng. Consultant
Project Manager
Greenland Consulting Engineers
120 Hume Street
Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 1V5
Tel: (705) 444-8805
Email: bparker@grnland.com

Bryan Murray, P.Eng
Director of Public Works
Town of Penetanguishene
10 Robert Street West
Penetanguishene, ON L9M 2G2 Tel:
(705) 549-7992
Email: bmurray@penetanguishene.ca



Figure 1 - Snow Removal Areas Priority Map

WYEVALE NEWS

BIBLE STUDY: Join us Wednesday afternoon 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the church. All are welcome. We are studying the Parables of Jesus.

PLAY GROUP: Thursday mornings play group will start again. February 1st; mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Contact Pat Smith for further details, 705-543-9043.

YOUTH GROUP: Next meetings are scheduled for February 9th. Contact Pat Smith for more details, 705-543-9043.

Annual Congregational Meeting: February 4th, after Church and Potluck lunch.

Lunch Bunch: February 8th at Sensationally Delicious in Midland.

Worship Committee: Meeting February 11th after Church.

Pancake Supper: Tuesday, February 13th from 5 to 7pm. Adults \$8.00 Kids 5 and under free. Cash at the door.

Remit Discussion and Vote Re: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization February 18th after Church.

We extend Sympathy to the Wallis family on the passing of their son Adam. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this sad time.

After serving as Administrator of the Wyevalle United Church. Karen Moreau am now retired. I served in this position for 22 years and the very first Administrator for the church. Next submission date is Feb 11th 2024.

SPIRITUAL

Annie's Journal

by Annie Warner Donnelly

**International Correspondent
for the North Simcoe
Springwater**



I've been in Tanzania for just over a month now. A few days ago, I thought of a word that best describes my life here.

Literally, God lifted me out of my life in Canada with all its technology and appliances; a place that after all my years of living there had become familiar to me. Now I live in a kaleidoscope of sights and sounds, of new people, places and experiences. Now I have first-hand experience of what it means to come to a country where the culture and the language and the way of life are unknown (even though they've been read about) until they are experienced.

Last Sabbath, I got to do something I am familiar with wherever I am in the world: I was invited to preach the sermon during the church service held for the children at the Mugeta School – with a translator, of course. Because I was able to choose my topic, I chose a topic that is near and dear to my heart: the unmatched love of God! Here's an excerpt.

God's love is full of joy ... God's love is full of peace. Peace is how we feel when we get along with others, when we trust God so we're not afraid. People with peace in their hearts don't fight with anyone.

God's love is full of patience ... God's love is full of kindness.

God's love is full of goodness. We can choose to do things the way God's Word tells us to do things because God's Word and His ways are always full of goodness!

God's love is full of faithfulness. We show we are faithful when we do what we say we will do, when we finish what we start, when we love others even when it is hard because God asks us to be faithful to His way of caring for people.

God's love is full of gentleness ... God's love helps us have self-control ... God is love so He is full of forgiveness. When we do something wrong and then we ask God, with our whole heart, to forgive us, He forgives us! Then we forgive others when they ask for forgiveness and even if they don't ask.

... When I came here, I didn't know anyone. I am far from my home in Canada. I am far from my family, but I've never been far from God, and God has never been far from me. Even when I don't know what people are saying to me because I don't speak Kiswahili very well yet, God's Holy Spirit is with me; God's Holy Spirit is helping me to make my home here ...

It is my prayer that we will love others as God loves us; that we will forgive others as God forgives us; that we will receive God's love and commit to sharing it with others. It is within our power, moment by moment with God's help, to make this world a better place. Amen.

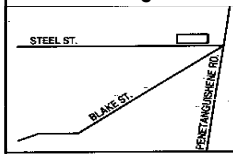


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Rosie's Devotions
by Rosemary Hagedorn

Forever Lost?

I watched in horror as my saved emails in their various folders started to disappear. I quickly shut off my iPad. I remembered someone telling me that if for some reason the iPad didn't work properly, that I was to shut it off, wait a few moments, and then restart it again. My heart was beating fast as I restarted my device. I opened my email and opened one file folder at a time just to watch my emails being deleted one by one. I then went to my main folder where all my emails were stored just to watch them disappear one by one.

Once in a while I clean up my files, deleting stuff that I don't want to keep. I am guessing that I pressed something which set this whole deletion process into motion. I googled for help and found out that once I delete a file manually, it is gone forever. Emails voicing my concerns, special emails from friends, important information, writings, and so on; all gone. Reality set in: They were gone forever, and at the same time perhaps to remind me to let go, forgive and start anew.

This incident reminded me of something that I read in the Bible and what Jesus had done for us.

Mark 3:28-“Truly I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons and daughters of men, and whatever blasphemies they commit;”

Hebrew's 8:12-12 -“For I will be merciful and gracious toward their wickedness, And I will remember their sins no more.”

Prayer: God of all that we see and yet do not see, You know where everyone and everything is. Help us to let go of penned up grievances so that we are able to forgive and forget those who have wronged us.

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
10am-noon
 Basement of the Elmvale Library. NEW hours are from 10am to noon.

Seniors Activities
 Hustle and Muscle, 11:30 – 12:30 pm
 Bid Euchre, 1 – 3:30 pm
 Bayshore Srs Club, 2000 Tiny Beaches Road S, Woodland Beach

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

Seniors On The Move
 Line Dancing, Beginners, 9:30 – 11:00 am
 Line Dancing, Easy Intermediate, 11:30 – 1:00 pm
 Seniors in Motion Fitness, 2:00 – 3:00 pm
 Bayshore Srs Club, 2000 Tiny Beaches Road S, Woodland Beach

WEDNESDAY

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.

Bridge - 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.
 Bayshore Srs Club, 2000 Tiny Beaches Road S, Woodland Beach

Seniors On The Move
 Chair/Floor Yoga, 9:30 – 10:30 am
 Zumba Gold, 11:30 – 12:30 pm
 Games Afternoon, 12:30 - 3:30 pm
 2nd Camera Club, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
 Bayshore Srs Club, 2000 Tiny Beaches Road S, Woodland Beach

THURSDAY

Smart Seniors
 1st Movie and Lunch, 12 noon - 3:30 pm
 2nd & 4th Tiny Stitchers, 9:00 - 3:00 pm
 3rd Book Club, 1:30 - 3:30 pm
 Bayshore Srs Club, 2000 Tiny Beaches Road S, Woodland Beach

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

FRIDAY

Fun Friday
 1st Bingo & Lunch, 12 noon - 3:30 pm
 TGIF social, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
 Bayshore Srs Club, 2000 Tiny Beaches Road S, Woodland Beach

SUNDAY

Good Vibes
First Sunday 2-5 from 2 to 5 p.m.
 An open-mic music event. For winter months, relocated to Hackney Horse Bed & Breakfast, 3276 Penetanguishene Rd. near Craighurst. \$5 donation, tea, coffee & baking at a small extra cost.

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

Connecting Together - Fellowship with Others
Thursdays 2-3:30 pm call 705-526-6077
 St. Pauls United Church Atrium, 308 King St Midland

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

Ganaraka Hiking Club-Wasaga Beach
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

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

Indoor Pickleball
Sun 2:00 p.m.; Wed 4:30 p.m. and Fri 4:00 p.m.
 Bayshore Srs Club, 2000 Tiny Beaches Road S, Woodland Beach

Billiards/Pool, 9:00 – 11 am
 Bayshore Srs Club, 2000 Tiny Beaches Road S, Woodland Beach

One Time Events

Button Art Heart mixed media project
February 5, 2024
 Meeting 1pm. Doors open 12:30
 Simcoe County Museum
 Canvas workshop. 8 x 10 canvas and all supplies included. Members \$10. Guests \$15 (Cash only)
 Register with Betsy to attend: littlerockimages@simcoe.net or 705-727-7389

Not Your Ordinary Church Fundraiser Dinner
Feb.9, 2024, 6-9:30 pm, “pay what you can”
 Midhurst United Church
 Reserve office@midhurstunitedchurch.ca or 705-722-6331

Winter Carnivel D'Hiver
Feb. 10, 2023, 11am - 2 pm
 Activities: Family public skating, live performances by talented skaters and others, a snow tubing slide, lots of hot chocolate and cider, and a lunch to keep you fueled for fun. For information call 705-526-4204 ext. 290.
 Township of Tiny Perkinsfield Park (43 County Road 6 South, Tiny).

“A TINY Month of Giving” Food Drive
2nd Annual Food Drive Feb. 11 - 25. 2024
 The Baha'i Community of Tiny
 Drop-off locations: Tiny Township Office, Wyevale Central P.S., Ecole Sainte Croix
 Call Darlene Paterson at 705-361-1075 or email lsatiny@yahoo.com

All You Can Eat Pancake Supper
Tues., Feb 13, 5-7 pm at Elmvale Presbyterian Church, 22 Queen St. E. Adults \$12, kids 10 and under \$5 and 3 and under will eat free. Proceeds in support of The Friends of Sara Vista.

Mid-Winter Social at Discovery Harbour
Sat. Feb. 17 to Mon., Feb. 19, 2024 at 11am – 4pm
 Discovery Harbour, 93 Jury Drive, Penetanguishene, ON, L9M 1G1
 Tickets: \$12 tax included. Children 5 and under FREE.

Elmvale Legion Dance
Sat. Feb. 24, 2024
Live Music: Bustin Loose
 Cost: \$5 at Door,
 Everyone Welcome!

World Day of Prayer
Friday March 1, 2024
 2:00 pm at St. Margaret's Church
 589 Hugel Avenue, Midland

Please consider attending the Elmvale BIA Board Meeting...

Thursday, Feb. 15 @ 5:30pm
Elmvale Library

ELMVALE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

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Tiny

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Tax & Revenue Clerk (Revised)

The Corporation of the Township of Tiny

The Township of Tiny is currently seeking a qualified applicant for the full-time permanent position of Tax & Revenue Clerk.

Reporting to the Deputy Treasurer, this position is part of the Corporate Services - Finance team and is the first point of contact for walk-in, telephone and emailed Tax and Accounts Receivable questions/issues/payments. The Tax & Revenue Clerk assists tax payers and other customers with inquires and tax related documentation, payment processing, administration of tax records and MPAC changes, tax certificates and is the back up for the front counter cashier as well as assists the Treasury department with other tax related functions.

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

Individuals having these qualifications are encouraged to submit a resume and letter of application by noon, February 15, 2024 to:

Human Resources Township of Tiny
130 Balm Beach Road West
Tiny, ON 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. Information received relating to accommodation needs of applicants will be addressed confidentially.

Personal information collected shall 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.



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ELMVALE FOODBANK

Did you know... now that Christmas is in the rear view mirror the Elmvale & District Food Bank has Easter on the horizon? The shelves have been cleared and are ready to be stocked. Please consider making a donation in the next few weeks so that we can continue to aid those living with food insecurity. Thank you for your continued support. Following is a list of much needed items but this is not limited, and items that have not passed the best before date are very much appreciated.

- o Creamed corn
- o Cream of chicken soup
- o Cream of mushroom soup
- o Canned fruit
- o Canned stew
- o Canned meat
- o Canned black beans
- o Canned chickpeas
- o Canned pasta
- o Pancake mix
- o Jello mix



Tiny

TOWNSHIP OF / CANTON DE

Public Notice

130 Balm Beach Road West,
Tiny, Ontario, L0L 2J0

Township of Tiny to Enact New Procedure By-law

Date: February 1, 2024

The Council of the Township of Tiny will consider a new Procedure By-law governing the proceedings of Council and its Committees, at its regular Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, with the intent to enact the By-law at its regular Meeting of Council on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. In terms of the proposed new Procedure By-law, Council will consider the following:

- The consolidation of previous Procedure By-law amendments;
- The current deputation process; and
- The process for the receipt of petitions.

For more information:

Sue Walton, Director of Legislative Services/
Clerk
Township of Tiny
130 Balm Beach Road West
Tiny, ON L0L 2J0
T: 705-526-4204 ext. 225
E: swalton@tiny.ca



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Landscaping equipment, tools and so much more! Get Ready for Spring!

Moving Sale for Doug & Susan Lane - Guelph (Feb 4 - 8)
MCM furniture, household items, Pyrex, Le Creuset and more!

Estate of Gwen Beetsen - Guelph (Feb 18 - 22)

Radiant Treasures - Diamonds, Gems & Gold - Guelph (Feb 18 - 22)

www.rapid-sell.ca
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Capacity with outdoors: 184

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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 Waubashene Ontario this 7th day of December, 2023

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OPP REPORT

FEDERAL OFFENDER WANTED- Cory PETERSON

25-Jan-2024 - SUDBURY, ON - The Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement (R.O.P.E.) Squad is requesting the public's assistance in locating a federal offender wanted on a Canada Wide Warrant as a result of a breach of their statutory release.

Cory PETERSON is described as a Indigenous male, 56 years of age, 5'7" (170 cm) 176 lbs (80 kg) with thinning brown hair, a greying goatee and brown eyes. He has several tattoos, a Unicorn and Eagle Sun on his left arm. A skull and "FTW" on his upper right arm. He also has a Tiger and an Eagle head on his right arm. He has a Bear on his chest. He also has a tattoo on the left side of his neck.

PETERSON is serving a four (4) year sentence for: Possession Schedule I/II Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking

The offender is known to frequent Barrie, Sudbury, North Bay, Midland, Blind River and Sault Ste Marie.

Anyone having contact with this offender or in-

formation in regards to their whereabouts is asked to contact the Provincial R.O.P.E. Squad at 416-808-5900 or toll free at 1-866-870-7673 (ROPE) or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or call 9-1-1.

various roadway and snowmobile trail locations during the same time frame resulting in over 300 drivers and 60 snowmobile operators being checked for signs of impairment.

OPP Arrest Tay Township Resident After Theft Investigation At Midland Car Dealership

(MIDLAND, ON)- John Joe Danny GANNY 44 years of Tay Township was arrested on January 20, 2024 by members of the Southern Georgian Bay OPP Detachment in relation to a theft of property from a Midland area car dealership that was reported on December 27, 2023.

Through investigation, the accused was identified and later arrested on a warrant for the charge of Theft Under \$5000 and held for a bail hearing to later appear before the Ontario Court of Justice on a future date.

Property owners are always reminded to view the following security links see Safeguard Ontario Property Security Program.

Weekend OPP Snowmobile Patrol Garners the Attention of Area Sledgers

Jan. 22, 2024 -MIDLAND,ON- Snowmobile patrol officers from the Southern Georgian Bay OPP Detachment were out and very visible to riders on open North Simcoe area OFSC trails over the weekend, checking riders for signs of impairment and their sleds for required 2024 registration validation stickers & proof of insurance along with 2024 OFSC trail passes.

Officers were also having an ear for modified exhaust systems and an eye for sleds trespassing on closed trails or farmers planted fields as these two issues are well known to raise the ire of landowners and neighbours to busy trail routes.

As a result of the patrols on Friday, Saturday and Sunday past, officers checked over 300 sleds and riders resulting in 33 riders being educated and 24 riders being charged for a variety of offences involving modified exhaust systems, sled registration validation, OFSC trail passes, suspended drivers' licence and speeding.

In an effort to improve trail safety for all users, riders can expect to see OPP officers on the trail system day and night hours as well as road patrol officers conducting Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) programs at trail heads. The Detachment also works with area safety partners such as MADD Canada, Arrive Alive, The North Simcoe Safe and Sober Awareness Committee and area snowmobile clubs, Georgian Bay Snow Riders (GBSR) and the Baxter Snow Riders (BSR) and the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC).

The sport of snowmobiling has many associated inherent risks, dangers and hazards caused by the changing terrain & environment, your machine, and others on their machines to name a few. To help reduce these risks, riders are reminded to always check the Interactive Trail Guide before heading on the trails and wear all of the required safety equipment including floater suits if travelling on frozen water surfaces. It is highly recommended to have a fully charged cell phone with you, let a family member know where your heading to and a return time, load a location app on your cell phone such as What3Words and/or the Interactive Trail Guide and remember that "No Ice Is Safe Ice" . Self rescue maybe your only way out for reasons depicted in the following link - https://twitter.com/OPP_News/status/1342817627077488641

DRIVER COMES THROUGH RIDE WITH OPEN ALCOHOL WHILE IMPAIRED

(Town of the Blue Mountains, ON) - Members of



the Collingwood and Blue Mountains Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested an individual and laid charges in an impaired driving investigation stemming from a RIDE conducted near Blue Mountain Village in the Town of the Blue Mountains.

Shortly after 2:00 am Saturday January 20, 2024 while conducting a RIDE officers stopped a motor vehicle and observed open alcohol in the centre console and driver side door. A roadside test was conducted with the driver using an approved screening device resulting in a fail. The driver was subsequently arrested and transported to Collingwood detachment for a breath test.

A 37 year-old male from Caledon was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus) contrary to the Criminal Code
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs contrary to the Criminal Code
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor contrary to the Liquor Licence and Control Act
- Fail to surrender permit for motor vehicle contrary to the Highway Traffic Act

The accused has been served a 90-day Administrative Driver's Licence Suspension, the vehicle has been impounded for seven days and he will appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Collingwood at a future date.

Members of the Collingwood and Blue Mountains Detachment will continue to proactively conduct RIDE spot checks all year around looking for drivers who operate any vehicle or conveyance while impaired. If you suspect someone of driving while impaired, call the OPP 1-888-310-1122 or dial 911 to report it.

OPP and YRPS Provide Quick Recovery of Stolen Trailer and Sleds from Midland Industrial Property

(MIDLAND, ON.) - Officers from the Southern Georgian Bay OPP Detachment responded at approximately 9:00 a.m. January 12, 2024 to a reported theft of a enclosed trailer containing two Polaris snowmobiles valued at \$44,000.00 from a Midland industrial property. (see attached photograph)

Through investigation with the assistance of the Southern Georgian Bay and Muskoka Community Support Crime Units (CSCU), the Aurora and Highway 407 OPP Detachments and members of the York Regional Police Service, the stolen property was located and taken into police custody and returned to the victim by 5:30 p.m. January 12, 2024.

The investigation is still ongoing and anyone with information of this crime is asked to call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or opp.southern.georgian.bay@opp.ca . If you wish to remain anonymous please call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) and anonymous tips can also be provided online at CrimeStoppers



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Argentinian Tango: Beginner and Improver Classes

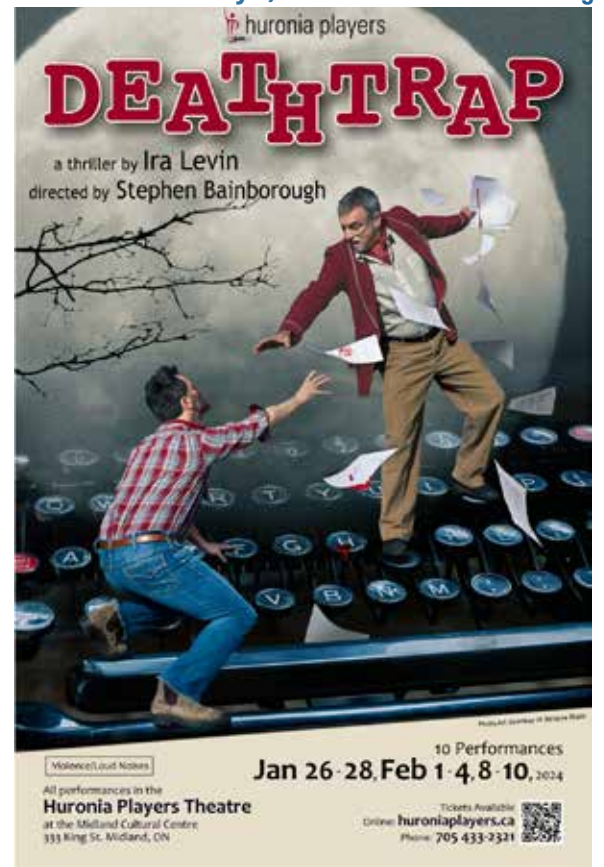
Warm up your winter and beat the cold weather blues by adding a dash of excitement to your days through lively dance classes that will have you moving, grooving, and forgetting all about the winter chill!

Authentic Argentinian Tango is a dance like no other, free from the constraints of ballroom formality and stage show theatrics. It's the real deal, and we're bringing it to you! Meet our dance instructors - Carlos and Alison - Winners of the prestigious 2014 Buenos Aires Tango Championship, these dynamic instructors have been dazzling audiences around the globe for over 15 years!

**The classes run 4 Wednesdays in February:
February 7, 14, 21, 28.**

- Beginner Tango class will run Wednesdays from 6:15pm-6:45pm - For those new to Tango classes.

- Improver Tango class will run Wednesdays from 6:45pm-7:45pm - For those that participated in the January Tango classes and want to continue improving their skills.



MCC Presents: Becoming the Beatles - The Live Musical Documentary

Submitted by Jess Klug

Jan. 26, 2024 - MIDLAND - The Midland Cultural Centre is thrilled to announce an exciting live musical documentary event, "Becoming the Beatles," featuring the remarkable talents of Yale-educated musician and storyteller, Haley Marie. This captivating performance is set to take place on Friday, February 23rd at 8pm at the Midland Cultural Centre.

Becoming the Beatles is definitely not a tribute act. It's a show about four boys: one born during an air raid, one who had to reverse the strings on his guitar to make sense of it, one who stayed up late practicing with tears in his eyes and another who couldn't read or write until he was eight. It's also the story of a visionary young producer who was desperate to find his way out of the 'comedy division' at Parlophone records.

With a blend of musical analysis and years of research at her disposal, Haley Marie delivers a world-class performance, exploring the extraordinary rise to fame, the connection to classical music, and the transformative impact the Beatles had on the world.

Hear first-hand how the band used flour and water to fasten their logo to the side of their van en route to Germany. How that same band was turned down by 80% of the English recording market yet defied the odds to become the most successful musical group in history.

Haley Marie, a Yale-educated performer, musician, playwright, and storyteller, brings her passion for breaking the rules in a meticulous way to the stage. Haley Marie and Aurelia Productions have toured extensively through North America, Canada, and Europe, captivating audiences with their unique blend of music, storytelling, and visual art.

Don't miss this unforgettable experience as Midland Cultural Centre presents "Becoming the Beatles" on February 23rd at 8pm. Join us for a night of music, history, and the extraordinary journey of the Beatles.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.midlandculturalcentre.com.

The Gordon Lightfoot Tribute

Submitted by Jess Klug

Jan. 26, 2024 - MIDLAND - Classic Lightfoot Live stands as Canada's premier tribute to the legendary folk rocker, Gordon Lightfoot. Led by the remarkable ensemble of vocalist and guitarist John Stinson, music director and bassist Bob Doidge (Gord's record producer), lead guitarist Eric Kidd, bassist Steve Eys (Gord's nephew), this show whisks you down a nostalgic journey through Lightfoot's iconic music.

Founded in 2012 by lead vocalist, John Stinson, a long time Ontario musician. John has been entertaining audiences around Ontario for over 30 years. He has been widely praised for his uncanny sonic resemblance to Gord, and his attention to replicating Gord's original studio recordings. John was mentored to play Gordon Lightfoot music by the legendary Lightfoot lead guitarist, Red Shea.

Playing 6 and 12 string guitars, just like Gord, John is backed by the CLASSIC LIGHTFOOT LIVE band, this stellar cast of seasoned musicians delivers an infectiously enthusiastic and historically inspired show. Don't miss this exceptional tribute show, CLASSIC LIGHTFOOT LIVE!

Visit www.classiclightfootlive.com for continuing updates on shows and dates.



Obituaries



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LEES, Murray Alexander
Passed away peacefully with his family by his side at RVH in Barrie on Saturday, January 27th, 2024. "Murr" in his 74th year, was a lifelong Boston Bruins fan who was proud to be born and raised on the 3rd line of Oro-Medonte.

Murray was the beloved husband of Jane Lees (nee Bertram) and dear father of Greg (Tina) and Jeff (Katelyn). He was an extremely proud and loving grandpa/grampi of Isla, Callum, Emmett, and Emerson and will be dearly missed by his father-in-law Don Bertram. Murray is pre-deceased by his parents Keith and Orma Lees and mothers-in-law Mary Bertram and Thelma Bertram-Harvey. He was a beloved brother of Wanda (Richard) Anderson, the late Lynda (Russ) Ritchie, Allan (Victoria) Lees, and Faye (Clark) Sheardown; brother-in-law of Judy (Wayne) Paxton and Joan (Larry) Klein Gebbinck. Murray will be fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews. Murray's friends and relatives from all over always looked forward to visits and conversations about camping, hockey, baseball, or golf. His absence will be deeply felt by his numerous golf and curling buddies during post-game social gatherings.

A visitation will be held at the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home in Elmvale from 2-4 pm and 7-9 pm on Friday, February 2nd, 2024. A funeral service will be held at 1 pm at the St. John's United Church, Elmvale, on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024 followed by interment at the Elmvale Cemetery.

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



LEBLANC, Robert
Robert (Bob) LeBlanc passed away while surrounded by family and friends by his side at Georgian Manor on January 20th, 2024, at 6:25pm.

Predeceased by his loving wife Annette, Robert is survived by his three children, Susan (Brian), David (Mary), Carol (Brett), 14 grandchildren, great-grandchild, and sister Yvonne (Edward).

Robert, born in Penetanguishene, Ontario was an identical twin with ten siblings. He became very independent at an early age and started earning his way as a bike courier in downtown Toronto. He went on to sailing the Great Lakes, working in the mines, and eventually settled in with General Motors in Oshawa where he raised his family and retired with 37 years of service. He was a kind and loving father, grandfather, uncle, brother, and friend. His humour was contagious. He was always there if someone needed help. Whether it was to change a tire, fix a car, or repair a leak, he would never turn you down. Robert loved spending time in Haliburton with his family and enjoyed cruises and travelling with his wife. He enjoyed being outdoors, hunting, fishing, motorcycle riding, gardening, playing baseball, and restoring cars, snowmobiles, and motorcycles.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, February 3rd, at Saint Ann's Parish in Penetanguishene at 11:00 am, following with a celebration of life. Burial will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County or to another organization of your choice supporting children and adults with autism.

Memorial condolences may be made at www.penetangfuneral.ca





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Obituaries



ROBITAILLE, Violet

With the same grace, courage, and dignity that she lived 96 years here amongst us, on Wednesday January 10, 2024, Violet Robitaille (nee Moreau) slipped from the grip of this world, let go her daughters loving hands, and joined hands in Heaven with her husband Bernard. They are now together in the next life as they were in this one, raising the bar for what it means to love one another.

While we already miss her warmth, her quick and genuine laugh, her readiness to help others around her, and her undying love for her family, she has won the battle of dementia, for she knew as she left us that her family were at her side. Now we are left to shed a tear and raise a glass to a life well lived, well loved, and forever in our hearts.

Violet was known to friends, neighbors and former coworkers as Vi, to her family as Mom or Memere, and of course to Bernard as Sweetheart. Her light first brightened the world on December 6, 1927 on the Moreau farm in Perkinsfield Ontario, and grew up happily in a large family of brothers and sisters. Eventually she moved to Toronto to work, returned to Perkinsfield to marry, then back to Toronto to raise her family. She returned often to the region of Tiny Township where her roots and her large extended family were, and in the early 1980's, she and Bernard bought land in Balm Beach and built a modest family cottage, which is now the home of her daughter Joanne and her husband Dean. Vi had four children who will all miss her terribly. Steven, Donna, Joanne, and Donny. Stevens' two daughters Michelle and Nicole were blessed to know Memeres' special love during many summers spent at the cottage in Balm Beach being pampered and, unknowingly, taught life lessons that help guide their lives to this day. Later, Danae, Joanne and Deans daughter, also basked in the warmth of her affection and has nothing but fond, loving memories of the time they shared.

Violet had many sisters and brothers but sadly only one remains, Justin Moreau of Midland. However, those many siblings had many children who knew her affectionately as Aunt Vi and will also feel that the world has become a colder and darker place with her gone.

While some families will ask for a donation to a charity, we would ask that anyone who can, please reach out to an elderly relative, a neighbor, or just someone you see on the street, and give them some of the love and warmth that so many of them shared openly with their families for so many years. Vi was the first one to offer a kind word or a ready ear to anyone in distress, and in honour of her nearly 100 years of caring and sharing, it is only fitting that we ask to pay that love forward.



CRADDOCK, Allan Joseph

Passed away peacefully on January 22, 2024, at the age of 74. Son of the late Adrian and Patricia Craddock. Beloved husband of Ann for 51 years. Loving father to Travis Craddock, and Alexandra Sullivan (Jordan). Cherished PopC to Will, Max, Eli, Ainsley, and Waverly. He was also a dear brother to Danny (Carla), Frank (Sandy), MaryAnne, Ralph, Bernadette (Mike), Theresa (Steve), Dennis, and the late Micky. Allan will also be remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Allan's most enduring legacy was his vibrant spirit and the warmth of his beautiful smiling eyes. Quick-witted and known for his playful sense of humor, he was a joker who brought joy to those around him. Allan's stubbornness, always wielded in a good way, showcased his resilience as he overcame life's challenges. His strength of character endeared him to everyone fortunate enough to know him.

In accordance with Allan's wishes, a private cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who loved him. Friends and family are invited to share their online memories and condolences at www.peacefultransitionca.



BOWEN, Mike "Butch"

Passed away surrounded by his family at home on January 16, 2024 at the age of 73. Predeceased by his wife Patricia "Patsy" Bottineau. Loving father of Michael and Marie. Dear brother of Jack, Jim (Yvonne), David, Brian (Lynn), Nanette (Charles), Nancy and predeceased by his brother Wayne. He will be greatly missed by his many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

A celebration of life will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion, 2 Poyntz St, Penetanguishene, on Saturday, February 10th from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

If desired, memorial donations to the Royal Canadian Legion would be appreciated by the family.



HIRSCHFELD, Patty Ann, 64, of Midhurst
November 26, 1959 - January 22, 2024

On January 22, 2024, the world lost a beloved wife, mother, and daughter, Patty Hirschfeld, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Patty passed away peacefully at the Royal Victoria Health Centre surrounded by her loving family.

Patty was the loving wife of Ron and much loved mother of Ronald Jr. (Lindsay), Casey (Tim), Kyley (Justin), and Cody (Val). Proud and loving Nan of Carson and Walker; sister of Roger (Monique), Sylvia (Danny), and Kim (Hank); and daughter of Alice Mills.

Patty was predeceased by her dad Richard "Dick" Elliott, father-in-law Art Hirschfeld, and grandparents Cyril Mills and Audrey Dwinell.

Patty's greatest love was her family. She married Ron on August 17, 1985, and they had 45 wonderful years and four beautiful children together.

Patty will be remembered for her selflessness, compassion, and devotion to her family. She was an extraordinary cook and baker, and especially loved to cook for her loved ones. Patty's laughter could brighten anyone's day. Patty was also an avid gardener and enjoyed movie nights and listening to classic country music on Sundays.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. She asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County as mental health is a cause that was near and dear to her heart.

Online memories and condolences may be shared at www.peacefultransition.ca



BENNIE, Ian Allaister

Bennie, Ian Allaister, 76, passed away suddenly on Sunday, January 28, 2024.

Ian, a former member of the Royal Canadian Navy, and retired from Bell Canada, was a resident of Elmvale for 38 years.

He enjoyed his morning coffee and banter with the locals, and was often found sitting on his front porch offering up a friendly wave to all those who passed by his house on Stone Street.

He is predeceased by his parents Catherine Bennie (Rodger) and John Stanley Bennie, sister Heather Bennie-Hyrnevich, and his best friend and golf partner David Lambie.

Ian will be greatly missed by his brother Roger Bennie, daughters Jessica (Ben) Irwin and Laura (Shawn) Brabant.

He was a very proud YaYa to Austin, Spencer and Ryker. He often attended their wrestling tournaments and hockey games, and could always be found sitting under a tree cheering them on at their football games.

As per Ian's wishes, there will be no funeral service.

A celebration of life and a round of golf in his memory will be had at a later date.

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

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\$15,280 Handed Out in December's 50/50 Draw



Gisela Laurin of Penetanguishene was the lucky winner of \$15,280 from the December GBGH 50/50 Grand Prize Draw. Gisela received the call about her win from Santa Claus, who dropped by the Foundation office on December 28th, while his sleigh was in the shop at Tom Smith Chevrolet.

Gisela has many aspirations for her unexpected windfall, including a possible cruise for herself and her daughter. When visiting the GBGH Foundation to pick up her winnings, Gisela shared her gratitude for GBGH and emphasized the need for continued community support to our local hospital.

Tickets for the next jackpot (grand prize draw on February 29) can be purchased at <https://gbgh5050.ca/>.



RVH Hosts Career Fair

By Lisa Cooper

Jan. 26, 2024 - Looking for a new career opportunity in healthcare? Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) is looking for you!

RVH is hosting a career fair on Wednesday, January 31 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 80 Bell Farm Road, in Barrie. Applicants planning to attend are asked to pre-register online. Walk-ins will be welcomed and are asked to bring a copy of their resume.

RVH is currently hiring for Nursing, Patient Support, Allied Health, Medical Imaging, Laboratory and Clinical Externs.

There are many exciting opportunities throughout the health centre including full-time, part-time, and casual positions.

“At RVH, supporting and mentoring new hires is paramount,” says Leanne Weeks, Vice President, Clinical and Chief Nursing Executive. “We encourage an environment where experienced healthcare professionals actively engage with and guide our in-

coming staff.”

Being a member of TEAM RVH means you work side-by-side with people who are passionate about delivering high-quality, patient-centred care to the 490,000 patients we see each year.

“We are committed to building a healthy workforce that ultimately contributes to the delivery of exceptional patient care,” adds Dara Marcoccia, Vice President, People Experience and Chief Human Resources Officer. “We strive to create a culture of equity and inclusion where people feel safe and valued, and can be their true, authentic and genuine selves.”

Participants will be asked to complete a questionnaire upon application to identify areas of interest which will guide us in connecting them to the right opportunity. All qualified applicants will be contacted to schedule an in-person or virtual interview on January 31. Candidates who are successful in their interview will be made an offer on the spot.

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An aerial photograph showing a large, diverse crowd of people walking across a wide city street. The people are casting long shadows, suggesting it's either early morning or late afternoon. In the center of the street, there is a small, round planter with a green tree. The overall scene conveys a sense of a busy, active urban environment.