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**NEWS**

Edition 692 | December 5, 2024

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**Local Community Brings on**

**CHRISTMAS CHEER**

By Kari Belcourt  
Dec. 2, 2024 - As we watch the snowflakes begin to settle on the frozen ground and the tinkling lights begin to appear, we are left to reflect on what the holiday season brings. The lamp posts and local businesses line the streets with beautiful holiday decorations. The houses begin to shine brightly, lighting up our communities. A town Christmas tree becomes a beautiful public display bringing people together. All of which brings the holiday spirit to our communities. The most beautiful sight in our streets this Christmas season is the community spirit. The true meaning of Christmas is the opportunity to give pause and give thanks for the love, joy and hope in our lives. Over the past 2 weeks we have seen a wonderful example of Holiday spirit in the Waubauskene, Wyevale, Midland and Elmvale Santa Claus Parades. The joy seen throughout the crowds as children collected candy canes and giving thanks brought smiles to many. The tradition to give pause in our lives and pass down the joy of sitting on Santa's knee and the simplicity a single candy cane can bring is beautiful to see passed on in so many of our communities. We have also seen holiday spirit in our communities with the lighting of the town Christmas Tree in Tiny, Elmvale and Midland. These events are wonderful to bring our community together. Many tree lightings focused on supporting local businesses during our Christmas shopping season. This helps our local businesses, the local economy and creates an opportunity to create relationships between residents and local businesses. Another focus of many tree lightings and Santa Claus parades was the call and opportunity to donate to our local food banks during the holiday season. The giving nature of the holiday spirit is beautiful to witness. Neighbours lining the streets with joy, empathy and compassion for one another and to give to those less fortunate in our communities. We will continue to see wonderful examples of the true holiday spirit in our communities in the upcoming weeks. The Elmvale Lioness will be providing holiday spirit December 6th from 6pm-9pm at the Elmvale Sleigh Ride in the Village. The community of Penetanguishene will be providing



Wyevale Santa Claus Parade



Midland Civitan Santa Claus Parade



Waubauskene Santa Claus Parade

holiday spirit through the Festival of Lights, with a tree lighting beginning at 5pm at the town docks followed by Christmas activities at the Centennial Museum & Archives from 5:30pm-7:30pm. The town of Hillsdale will be providing Christmas spirit at their Christmas tree lighting December 7th at 5pm. The community of Anten Mills will be providing Christmas spirit through the Anten Mills Christmas in the Village December 7th at 5pm and the Anten Mills Santa

Claus parade December 8th at 1pm. The residents of Minesing will be providing Christmas spirit to the community through the Minesing Tree Lighting and Tractor Parade of lights December 13th at 5pm. Our streets will continue to glow, not only from the tinkling holiday lights but from the joy and love within our community. Let joy, kindness and connection be our guide this holiday season. Presence will always outshine any present.

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If your business would like to be a pickup location, please contact us. If you would like to volunteer to help distribute the paper, please contact Linda. Contact information is at bottom of this page.

EDITORS NOTES

The strike is still on and the news stands will continue as the last edition. We keep filling the news stands so I am happy you readers are finding the paper copy. The website has had a ton more hits proving that people are reading online as well. Around 600 people a day go to the website so the community news demand is strong in our area. I welcome all submissions.  
I can't thank my advertisers enough as only one customer has paused their ad until the strike is over. The support is appreciated. Hopefully the next edition will hit the mailboxes. as negotiations have begun again. Let's keep our fingers crossed and I am hopeful. Canada Post update on Dec. 2, 2024, "CUPW Negotiations: Canada Post presents comprehensive framework to reignite talks and reach agreements...".  
The holiday events are in full swing and you can read all about them in the following pages. The ton of snow we have are adding to the shine of the Christmas lights and create a festive mood. My your holiday events be safe and joyful.  
Pet Value is hosting a Santa Photo with your pet on Sunday December 15, 2024. This inspired the pet photo contest. The best photos will be published in the next Christmas edition on December 19, 2024 in the centre spread. Your submitted address' will not be published. You could receive the \$50 gift certificate from Pet Value courtesy of the NS Springwater News.

CONTEST FOR PET OWNERS  
Send a Christmas or Winter Themed  
photo of your pet for the  
Christmas edition on December 19, 2024



To win a  
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**THE NEXT PAPER WILL BE ON DEC. 19, 2024**



PUBLISHER/EDITOR/OWNER:  
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Grenfel Community Hall 1989 Sunnidale RD Minesing  
Four Cedars Café 1605 George Johnston RD Minesing  
Minesing Library 2347 Ronald Rd, Minesing

**MIDHURST**

Linda's Eating Place 1027 Bayfield St, Midhurst  
Midhurst Library 12 Finlay Mill RD, Midhurst  
Pharmasave 94 Finaly Mill RD, Midhurst  
Nicholyn Farms 3088 Horseshoe Valley RD W, Phelpston  
Apto Esso 13103 Simcoe County RD 27, Phelpston

**ELMVALE**

Elmvale Foodland 14 Yonge St N, Elmvale  
Elmvale Library 50 Queen St W, Elmvale  
Whitfield's Pharmacy 16 Queen St W, Elmvale  
Steelers Restaurant 23 Queen St W, Elmvale  
Tim Hortons 68 Yonge St S, Elmvale  
Pharmasave 70 Yonge St S, Elmvale  
Clover Variety 34 Yonge St S, Elmvale  
Ritchie's Feed N Needs 1548 County Rd 92, Elmvale  
Esso 2236 County Rd 92, Elmvale  
Spring Water Flow North of Elmvale before Flos Rd 10

**WASAGA BEACH**

Tim Hortons 720 River Rd W, Wasaga Beach  
Wasaga Beach Foodland 711 River Rd W, Wasaga Beach

**CRAIGHURST**

Craighurst Esso 3406 Penetanguishene Rd, Craighurst  
Craighurst Foodland 2106 Horseshoe Valley Rd W, Craighurst  
Guardian Drugs 2054 Horseshoe Valley Rd, Craighurst

**HILLSDALE**

Elan Pizza 2 Mill St., Hillsdale  
Orr Lake General Store 5639 Penetanguishene Rd, Elmvale

**TINY**

Township of Tiny Office 130 Balm Beach Road West  
Wyevale Jug City 870 County Rd 6, Tiny  
Binghams General Store 5 Tiny Beaches Rd S, Tiny  
T's Market 345 Lafontaine Rd W, Tiny  
Tirebuster 7002 Hwy 93 Stamp Sideroad, Wyebridge  
Wye River Flooring 8262 ON-93 Wyebridge  
Binghams Variety Store 5 Tiny Beaches Road N

**PENETANGUISHENE**

Town of Penetanguishene 10 Robert St., Penetanguishene  
Penetanguishene Library 24 Simcoe St, Penetanguishene  
Rawson Meat & Deli 27 Main St, Penetanguishene  
Tim Hortons 132 Main St, Penetanguishene

**MIDLAND**

Town of Midland 575 Dominion Avenue, Midland  
Midland Cultural Centre 333 King St, Midland (on Elizabeth)  
The Water Stop 780 Balm Beach Rd W, Midland  
Tim Hortons 9225 Hwy 93, Midland (maybe in reno)  
Midland Foodland 795 Balm Beach Rd, Midland  
Tim Hortons 475 Bay St, Midland  
Midland Recreation Centre 527 Len Self Blvd, Midland

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

Please submit your letters to the Editor.  
Email: [info@springwaternews.ca](mailto:info@springwaternews.ca) or drop off at office. Contact information is on the bottom 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.

Editor,  
I am a retired military veteran and along with my wife have been living in Wasaga Beach for the last 18 years. One of my secondary duties during my period of service was as a base newspaper editor/publisher. Recently, while grocery shopping at our local Foodland, I happened to pick up the latest (Oct 24) issue of THE North Simcoe Springwater News, took it home and read each page from front to back. You have many more interesting articles and stories [than another local paper] and no tendency to self promote or aggrandize ... Congratulations on a very well laid out and balanced publication. I look forward to the next issue.  
Capt. Mario C. Bonifacio (ret'd).



# The irony at Springwater Township's budget meeting Wednesday afternoon was palpable.

By Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Barrietoday.ca  
Nov. 28, 2024

In an effort to identify and squeeze out every last possible dime from a budget that has caused nothing but consternation for Springwater councillors, Coun. Anita Moore shut down all forward momentum when she decided to do a deep dive and go over various parts of the budget, line by line, to get clarity on the items that concerned her. As she did, others involved in the budget discussion — members of council, senior management, including chief administrative officer and three department directors, and at least eight other township employees, many of them managers — sat and waited to either be called upon for further explanation or just sat waiting. “Before we’re put in a position to vote on something, I would really like to go through the capital plan, or the capital project justifications, so that we can maybe review what is being asked for,” Moore said in her preamble. “If you’ll just indulge me, I’m going to go through some.” She also noted that she wanted to address the roads need study and the \$3.5 million that was passed by council resolution earlier this year to see “if there’s any room there where we could defer to 2026 some of that work.” For the next three hours plus, Moore peppered various staffers with questions that could have been addressed during the various one-on-one sessions township directors offered to all members of council when the budget process began Nov. 6. Moore, however, has a full-time job and wasn’t able to make time for the sessions. The majority of her queries were focused on the possibility of deferring some of the expenses in the 2025 budget to 2026.

When she wrapped up her portion, she had identified four road projects: Walt Road, Rosewood Avenue, Flos Road 3 and Rainbow Valley Road — worth \$464,000 that she felt could be delayed until 2026. Additionally, she identified another \$400,000 that could be saved if the township passed on buying a new truck (\$80,000), robotic grass cutters (\$80,000) and reduced the investment in the Phelpston pavilion renovations/repairs by \$250,000, from \$750,000 to \$500,000. (Removing these items from the budget would have no impact on the township’s municipal tax levy as they’re funded through debt reserves or development charges.) That’s my proposal,” Moore said.

Before moving forward, Mayor Jennifer Coughlin sought clarity. “Understanding that there is a resolution from council that says we’re requesting \$3.5 million, would that then mean that that commitment is still before staff and you would then reassign different roads to that project or is it the intent of council to pull back on the 3.5?” Coughlin asked, directing her question to Moore. “Whichever is simpler for staff, but which is also more palatable for council,” Moore responded. “Whatever works. “The \$3.5 million already for roads, I assumed that these were incorporated, so if we have to do a reconsideration for that, I’m fine with that,” the councillor added.

“My understanding is the direction that was provided earlier this year, staff had provided for that in the current budget,” said Jeff Schmidt, the township’s CAO. “If council wishes to change that, I believe they have the purview to do that.” He added a cautionary note, however. “That said, for 2026, unless council reconsiders that direction, you will see staff come forward with \$3.5 million in the 2026 budget,” Schmidt said. “Just so we’re clear, that for 2025 we’ll do it, but if there is no reconsideration, then you will see us come back in 2026 with the \$3.5-million investment unless you reconsider that direction,” he added.

Coughlin then checked with staff to confirm the roads that were identified by council were roads that could be left as is for another year. Dan Eberhardt, the township’s manager of capital



Springwater Township staffers, from left, Dan Eberhardt, Doug Herron, Dean Collver, Greg Bedard and Jeff Schmidt are shown during Wednesday's budget meeting.  
Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

infrastructure delivery, told council the four roads identified by Moore could be deferred to next year, but doing so will have a domino effect. “Next year, we will come back, as CAO Schmidt outlined, with \$3.5 million plus a three per increase for road resurfacing projects,” Eberhardt said. “A deferral on this project will defer projects for next year on to the following year and so forth. “Just keep that in mind,” he added.

Coughlin wondered if it would be simpler to reduce the tax funding for the \$3.5 million by \$500,000. “If we were to simply pull back \$500,000 out of the tax-supported portion of that, what would that look like?” Coughlin asked Greg Bedard, the township’s finance director. “If we were to reduce that by the \$500,000 that’s been mentioned, we’re in a very similar situation to where we are this year,” Bedard said. “We’re not contributing tax dollars to our roads infrastructure and we will be back before council next year requesting tax dollars again in order to meet the \$3.5-million goal, should that still stand. “We could accomplish what’s before council and we would work within that pot of money, for lack of better words, and allocate it to each project that has made it thus far,” he added. “But again, the implication is that we are not sustainably funding our roads infrastructure.”

Deputy Mayor George Cabral suggested there were a few big-ticket items that have impacted the 2025 budget that may not be in play next year. “I think we might find ourselves in a slightly better position come next year,” he said. “Because those costs are already embedded in this budget going forward. We won’t have these large, large expenditures that were in the magnitude of \$1

million plus.”

Coughlin was part way through asking Bedard a question about the big-ticket items — labour and investment in capital funded from taxation — when she was interrupted by Schmidt. “I just want to clarify with members of council the comment about expenditures,” he said. “I will advise you that in 2026, \$47.4 million in capital is proposed. In 2027, \$44.4 million is proposed. In 2028, 50 million plus is proposed and the same in 2029. “Deferring projects just continues to build those expenditures in future years,” Schmidt stressed. “I get it, we have pressures, it’s a tough budget, but you’re kicking the burden down the road is what you’re doing.”

Springwater council will meet again on Tuesday, Dec. 3 beginning at 3 p.m. to continue budget deliberations. The final budget is scheduled to be approved at the township’s Dec. 4 council meeting.

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# 'Sad day': Iconic downtown Midland store closing, ending nearly 125-year legacy

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Midlandtoday.ca  
Nov 22, 2024

Jeffery's Hardware, one of Midland's oldest businesses, is shutting its doors at the end of the month.

Owner Shari Miller inherited the business at 526 Dominion Avenue when her father Ron Jeffery passed away in 2022. "The business started in 1901 with my great-great-grandfather, so I'm the sixth generation," Miller explains. "From 1901 to 1958, we were on King Street; in 1959 we moved here."

The Jeffery Block was the historic name given to the original location of the hardware store, started by Fredric William Jeffery and sons at the corner of King Street and Dominion Avenue. The current location at the corner of Dominion Avenue and First Street was built in 1959 under the ownership of Miller's grandfather, William Jeffery, who had taken over the business from his brother Edward. When William retired, he handed the reins to his son Ron Jeffery. "Dad was a big steamship guy," Miller says, pointing out the numerous hung photographs of steamships in the main office. An additional pegboard near the cash register was ornamented with further photos of steamships, nautical measurement devices and calendars of Jeffery's Hardware throughout the past century. "Over the years it's been me, my dad and my daughter," said Miller, who had been involved with running the hardware store for roughly 35 years. "We've had off-and-on staff over the years. Lately, it's just been me with my daughter helping out when she's home."

Miller gave her reason for closing the doors on November 30th as being worn out from retail. While not knowing what would be ahead for her, she was confident it would be a fresh change of pace. To one curious customer, Miller admitted she was "winging it."

Several customers continued to enter during the interview, purchasing from the store's remaining items listed at 50 per cent off. Miller's pet dog Reba barked in attention with whatever caught her keen eye. Some customers had been bringing Miller small thank-you gifts and presents since the out-of-business announcement, which she was shy to accept. Miller

couldn't remember any interesting tales or customers when asked, stating that her father would have been the one for those stories.

However, she did say that in the past few years, caring for a goat from her farm had been something she had done in the store with the goat resting behind the main counter. Antiquated hardware such as lumber saws, augers, scale rules and more adorned the upper walls above the merchandise. "My dad collected them, he enjoyed that. I'm not sure what

I'm doing with them yet," Miller says. The loss of Jeffery's Hardware will mean loyal customers will need to find another place for their supplies. "They're going to have to go somewhere, but I'm not sure where. A lot of (my customers) don't like big box stores," she says. "They ask me the same question: 'Where am I going to go?' I don't know. 'I'm going to miss them...' and the long chats with a lot of my customers. It's a sad day after so many years, but none of the kids after me want it," Miller shares.



Shari Miller, with pet dog Reba, stand outside the family store Jeffery's Hardware which is closing on November 30 after 123 years of serving Midland. Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter As parting words for those who had shopped at Jeffery's Hardware, Miller simply says: "Thanks for the business over the years."



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# Springwater council debates what new jobs should be added, what can wait

By Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Barrietoday.ca  
Nov. 26, 2024

Many are called, few are chosen. Fewer still will be approved.

With 15 program changes (budget additions) suggested, representing a net tax impact to Springwater residents of \$975,474 or 5.12 per cent, township council spent Monday evening debating the value of the suggested additions versus the cost to taxpayers during its most recent budget meeting.

With the exception of the first item on the list — which was a need not a want, being new fire department management dispatch software worth between \$15,000 and \$25,000 annually — all of the requests were for additional personnel. According to senior management, this is required to right-size the township’s workforce.

The fire department’s request was approved to move on to the next round of approvals, which will be held Wednesday starting at 1 p.m. at the township’s administration centre on Nursery Road. At council’s direction, the township’s senior management prioritized each of their requests based on the following criteria:

- impacts on service delivery
- revenue-generating capability
- address current and future growth requirements

“The list of program changes encompassed a collective means, in order of magnitude, that the leadership team feels the township requires to move forward,” finance director Greg Bedard said as he introduced the evening’s agenda.

On the list to be considered were a manager of recreation and culture; two “operator one” positions for parks and recreation; one “operator two” position for parks and recreation; director of people and talent; tax and utility co-ordinator; development engineering technologist; public works support assistant (moving a part-time role to full-time); two equipment operators for public works; economic development officer (EDO); junior financial analyst; co-ordinator of culture and events and Elmvale District High School recreation program staff.

Eliminated Monday night from consideration were manager of recreation and culture, director of people and talent, two “operator one” positions for parks and recreation, equipment operator (public works) and co-ordinator of culture and events. The manager of recreation and culture and the co-ordinator of culture and events were positions Mayor Jennifer Coughlin thought were worth investing in. Coughlin said staff has been volunteering for years to support the township’s many events, from Autumnfest to tree-lightings. She said it wasn’t fair. “This is staff stepping outside of their role, above and beyond, and that’s what this corporation has been doing for far too long,” the mayor said. “Because the juggling balls haven’t hit the floor or exploded doesn’t mean that we don’t need to right-size.”

Deputy Mayor George Cabral said the township doesn’t need the roles at this moment. “When you

look at Springwater Township, it’s not like some other areas farther south where they really do have a cultural and ethnic diversity that is explicit,” he said. “Schools, activities, temples, religious festivals — all those kinds of things. “We’re just on the cusp of that and I really, to be quite frank, don’t know if we’re at the stage where this particular piece, with the word ‘culture,’ like we’re going to have a culture department, is really where we’re at just yet,” Cabral added. “Especially when we’re already looking at 14.7 per cent increase, even though we’re trying to pare it down somewhat.”

And while council was in a paring mood, it did allow one returning item — an economic development officer — to move on to the next round for consideration. The role has been a recommended addition to the township’s personnel roster for years, but has been defeated for a variety of reasons.

Coun. Danielle Alexander, who was against adding the position last year, said she talked about the role with Doug Herron, the township’s director of planning and development services. She said that discussion swayed her opinion somewhat. “He had some very good thoughts and I was very intrigued in how he sees this position moving forward,” she said. “The position is directly related to increasing the revenue of the organization,” Herron said, “but it should be understood that it will take a number of years to build a program to realize those returns in terms of successful growth of business in the township. “Two key goals would be to champion small business and to bring new investment and new business to the municipality,” he added. To do that, Herron said the first step would be building connections at the regional level and updating the township’s economic development plan. “In that plan, what I would be looking for is what are the specific industries that we can go out and solicit to bring here that would be successful,” he said. “And higher again, that position would be charged with going out and making connections with the ministry of industry, ministers of tourism at both the provincial and federal level and getting to know their staff so we would have higher connectivity to grant monies,” Herron added.

Coun. Anita Moore wondered if it would be best to put off making a decision on the fate of the economic development officer role until the township got back the growth management study that was commissioned by the township’s growth and economic viability ad hoc committee. The committee hired WSP, an engineering and professional services firm, to complete the growth management study at a cost of just under \$200,000. “The sooner the township endeavours to hire an EDO and start creating programs to grow our economy, the sooner we’ll gain traction on that economy,” Herron said. “How soon does council want to see traction to begin to grow the economy and adjust our tax base so it’s less residential heavy and a little stronger on the commercial, industrial side?”

## MPP Jill Dunlop Announces That Ontario is Building More Electric Vehicle Chargers in Simcoe North

**New electric vehicle chargers will make life easier and more convenient for drivers.**

Submitted by Office of Jill Dunlop, MPP  
Nov 19, 2024

SIMCOE NORTH — Ontario is building nine (9) new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in Simcoe North. This marks a major milestone in the province’s plan to increase access to EV chargers outside of large urban centres and support the electrification of transportation across the province. As the province continues to see substantial job creation and investment in the growing EV and EV battery manufacturing sector, these new charging stations will provide critical supporting infrastructure in communities across the province, including for EVs made right here in Ontario.

“For EV drivers, finding a charging station that’s close by and available can mean the difference between a quick stop and a time-consuming detour that takes time away from work, school or family,” said Jill Dunlop, MPP Simcoe North. “I’m proud to announce the delivery of these nine new EV charging stations in Simcoe North to make life easier and more convenient for drivers.”

These new chargers, part of the government’s \$63 million EV ChargeON Program Community Sites Stream, will be located at:

- Washago Community Centre in Severn – four (4) stations
- Walmart Midland – four (4) stations
- Mac Lang Orillia Ram Jeep Dodge Chrysler – five (5) stations
- Bayview Wildwood Resort, Ascend Hotel Collection – three (3) stations
- Orillia, adjacent to 400 Memorial Avenue – three (3) stations
- Penetanguishene Community Centre – three (3) stations
- Penetanguishene Town Dock – four (4) stations
- Coldwater Community Centre in Severn – three (3) stations
- Severn Municipal Office – seven (7) stations

“With more than 201,000 electric vehicles on the road in Ontario, we’re putting shovels in the ground to build more charging stations and make life easier for drivers,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Electrification. “That includes a focus on smaller and underserved communities across our province where we are providing more certainty for parents and workers during their commutes.”

Each new EV charging site will include Level 2 charging stations, Level 3 charging stations, or a combination of the two. The government has also launched a new Ultra-Low Overnight Electricity Price Plan and is exploring options for an Electric Vehicle Charger Discount Electricity Rate to further support EV adoption and reduce emissions. The new Ultra-Low Overnight Electricity Price Plan is helping customers who use more electricity at night, including those who charge their electric vehicle, save up to \$90 per year.

“Improving EV charging infrastructure is essential to ensuring drivers are confident in electric vehicles,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “By focusing on smaller and medium-sized communities, we’re filling gaps in underserved areas to build a more connected charging network for everyone in Ontario.”

### QUICK FACTS

The government is investing a total of \$91 million through the EV ChargeON program which consists of two streams: the Community Sites Stream and the Government Sites Stream. Through the Community Sites Stream the government is building over 1,300 chargers. Requests for bids for the Government Sites Stream closed in September 2024.

Businesses, not-for-profit corporations, municipalities, Indigenous communities and organizations, and broader public sector organizations (such as hospitals, universities, and colleges) were invited to submit funding applications for the Community Sites Stream.

As of October 2024, there were more than 201,000 EVs registered in Ontario, including both battery-electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. By 2030, over one million EVs are expected on Ontario’s roads.



A lone spectator takes in Springwater Township's budget deliberations at the township's Administration Centre Monday night. Photo by Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter



# Future Tiny municipal building gets more scrutiny by councillor

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Midlandtoday.ca  
Nov 25, 2024

In most municipalities, the minutes of committee meetings are passed along to a committee of the whole with little to no comments, while larger discussions are centred around thoroughly researched staff reports.

However, Tiny Township is preparing for an upcoming multi-million dollar municipal building to replace seven of their outdated or obsolete facilities, and opposition to the build has taken to scrutinizing details that go well above standard municipal discussions. At the recent committee of the whole meeting, the mid-September minutes for council and several committees were provided with the usual intent to adopt the items as distributed. However, Coun. Dave Brunelle requested that the Tiny Township administrative centre committee meeting minutes be pulled; when asked if he wanted to amend the minutes, he replied it was for discussion purposes. Over the span of 15 minutes, Brunelle fired seven delving questions with additional side questions at staff that had senior management scrambling through documents and websites to keep up for response.

Deputy CAO and corporate services director

Haley Leblond clarified that financial information returns were annual requirements to receive Ontario Municipal Infrastructure Fund operating grants; and that a 300-page report from April contained estimates prior to a Class D cost update, with future building costs to be forthcoming.

Public works director Tim Leitch clarified that a project roadmap on the township website contained Phase 1 and Phase 2 steps toward the goal, adding that the hiring of a construction manager at risk would also include a timeline for the project's checkpoints.

Brunelle prompted his final question, causing members of the gallery to get excited as they whispered in preparation to each other. "Should we not wait until council gets the results of the site studies and assessments, in particular the Endangered Species Act assessment, before we hire a construction manager?" asked Brunelle. Ice age grass had been a sticking point for opposition to the project. Once the go-ahead was given by council to green-light the project, ice age grass was frequently cited as the primary reason why no administration centre should be constructed in "Stop the Build" protests.

Leitch explained that the natural heritage study (for the entire subject property) and environmental

impact study (specific to the administration centre construction), would be a component which the future construction manager would utilize to know where to develop the site; he added that the studies were currently in review with the committee to be released in early January for the public. "For the record," said Leitch, "this is not the only location in the township of Tiny that does have ice age grass; it's probably in about 8 or 10 different locations noted on the national site and the airport. "Through all the three public information centres, it's been very clear that the township will be celebrating the fact of finding these. This property has been used for many, many years. It's been – for decades if not 100 years – clear cut, it's been farmed, all sorts of activities happened on this property over the last over-100 years, and the ice age grass is there, it's healthy and alive." He added that the township would celebrate discovery of the grass with the new build.

With questions concluded, Mayor Dave Evans thanked Brunelle with appreciation for asking them.

The meeting minutes of the mid-September Tiny Township administrative centre committee can be viewed on the agenda page on the Township of Tiny website.

# Springwater council given options to reduce budget hike, cover shortfall

By Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Barriertoday.ca  
Nov. 22, 2024

Isaac Newton's third law of motion states that for every action in nature there's an equal and opposite reaction.

This past week, Springwater Township council discovered Newton's third law applies to budgets as well as nature. Facing a tough slog to keep 2025's tax hike from being onerous, township council directed senior management to deliver multiple budget options following a Nov. 6 budget meeting where staff presented council with a proposed budget that featured a 14.16 per cent increase to the municipal levy. That levy, when combined with the proposed four per cent increase from the County of Simcoe (since reduced to 3.625 per cent), would've resulted in a blended tax bill increase of 8.31 per cent. Facing an uproar from residents, council directed staff to bring back three budget options that reduced the municipal levy portion from 14.16 per cent to 12 per cent, 10 per cent and eight per cent.

Staff presented the reworked options to council Wednesday afternoon. In all three cases, staff reduced the increase, but they can't stave off the need. Jeff Schmidt, the township's chief administrative officer, took a few minutes near the beginning of the meeting to lay out some unvarnished realities. First, he defended the proposed budget that was presented at the Nov. 6 meeting. "By no means did senior management want to bring forward a budget that included a tax increase at the level you saw on Nov. 6," Schmidt said in his preamble. "That being said, I respectfully submit, senior management is responsible for providing our best professional advice to council and it's council that has the ultimate responsibility to make the final decision and provide direction. "What was presented to members of council was a direct result of decisions and directions that have been previously made around this table," he added. With that out of the way, Schmidt started to present the numbers. "The township's net expenditures exceed our net revenues in the amount of \$2.8 million," he said.

The CAO listed six key influencers affecting the \$2.8-million shortfall — labour, general operating expenses, the township's one per cent infrastructure levy, its investment in capital funding from taxation, service-partner costs and assessment growth.

Labour, Schmidt said, will cost the township an additional \$1 million in 2025.

The second major pressure is general operating expenses of \$310,000, which basically help the township maintain 2024 service levels.

The third item is the township's one per cent infrastructure levy which amounts to \$190,000. The municipality has a portfolio of assets worth \$1.07 billion that it's required to maintain, and this money is earmarked for that purpose.

Next up is the township's investment in capital funded from taxation — the amount of money that is funded from the township's operating budget to

support its capital budget. "In our capital budget, we have a number of different funding sources — development charges, reserves, reserve funds, debt. If we don't have any other money then it essentially comes out of taxation or operating budget," Schmidt explained. "So of the \$2.8-million shortfall, we have \$1.3 million that's in our operating budget to fund capital." Schmidt reminded council that it provided direction earlier this year to increase the township's annual investments in road resurfacing projects to \$3.5 million. "As a result, the annual capital and operating budget for this area has increased by just over a million dollars, which is what you're seeing here," he said.

Next on the list of impacts is the township's facilities assessment study. It recommends significant investments in the township's corporate and community facilities. It's a roughly \$200,000 impact on the budget. The final pressure at play in Springwater is the cost of service partners: Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Severn Sound Environmental Association, Springwater Public Library and Ontario Provincial Police.

Of the \$657,610 needed to fulfill the requests from the township's service partners, about 85 per cent of it — \$575,000 — is for the increased cost of policing.

Schmidt closed on an optimistic note, advising council that the township should realize about \$713,000 in revenue based on estimated assessment growth. Greg Bedard, the township's finance director, took council through the three new budget options after providing the guidelines staff used to arrive at the new options.

The first consideration was to maintain 2024 service levels. "To that extent, currently we are not presenting any changes to the operating budget that impact service levels," he said.

Next criteria was council's resolution with respect to the roads rehabilitation capital plan spending target of \$3.5 million. "This represents council's endorsement of the roads need study and the tax-increase scenario to maintain the required \$3.5-million investment that the council resolution requires," Bedard noted.

The last criteria was to defer 2025 capital projects that were funded through taxation. "This speaks to CAO Schmidt's previous comment with respect to looking to bring down the tax increase," Bedard said. "This is primarily achievable through a reduction in the capital plan that is funded through taxation. When staff looked to defer or reduce 2025 capital projects to a future year, this included a prioritization of projects funded through taxation."

Bedard cautioned that doing so would further build on the township's current infrastructure deficit. He then presented the three options. He started off on a positive note by advising council that the township will receive \$115,000 from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) next year. The money will be used to offset operating expenses and represents a savings against the \$2.8-million shortfall. To achieve a 12.62 per cent increase in the municipal levy, the township would apply the \$115,000 to the shortfall

and remove the one per cent compounding of the infrastructure levy of \$190,000. This would result in a blended tax increase of 7.42 per cent.

To achieve a 10.51 per cent increase in the municipal levy, the township would apply the \$115,000 to the shortfall, remove the one per cent compounding of the infrastructure levy of \$190,000 and remove taxation funding from roads capital for a realized savings of \$418,000. This would result in a blended tax increase of 6.38 per cent.

In the final scenario, which would result in an 8.29 per cent increase in the municipal levy, the township would apply the \$115,000 to the shortfall, remove the one per cent compounding of the infrastructure levy of \$190,000, remove taxation funding from roads capital and fund from debt for a realized savings of \$418,000 and remove taxation funding from facilities capital and reduce the scope of the facility condition assessment program in the amount of \$210,000.

This would result in a blended tax increase of 5.29 per cent.

Springwater council will continue with budget deliberations on Monday, starting at 5 p.m.

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# Tiny council pushing for fibre connectivity for inland residents

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Midlandtoday.ca  
Nov 22, 2024

The only thing faster than fibre-connectivity in Tiny Township is municipal staff putting together a request on why the township hasn't received full high-speed internet installation as of yet.

During the recent committee of the whole meeting, Coun. Dave Brunelle raised the topic of attending the 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference in January as a delegate, but wanted fellow council members to put together a reason to ask the province to help Tiny Township. "I know we did a delegation at AMO; it was quite successful and productive," said Brunelle, referencing a joint-meeting with Midland which resulted in a potential solution to septage issues the township faced.

When asked by Mayor Dave Evans what the timeline would be to craft a delegation proposal, members of council replied five business days which resulted in muted laughter from many in the room. Evans asked CAO Robert Lamb if it would be feasible have something within that period, which Lamb affirmed.

Conversation went to various topics that the township could address to provincial ministers in attendance, but Brunelle cautioned that their suggestions were on a higher provincial level such as municipal insurance, increased OPP billing costs, reduced infrastructure funding and others; Brunelle asked that something tailored more to Tiny specifically be considered.

After further consideration, Lamb proposed that Tiny could request an update on the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (or SWIFT) project introduced in 2022, a non-profit, municipally-led broadband expansion project aimed at bringing high-speed internet to rural communities across Ontario. Many locations along the Georgian Bay shoreline received fibre installation in recent years, but not many interior areas of Tiny Township. "There are large portions of our community still that we have been waiting, for I think almost three years now," said Lamb, "...for applications that were submitted to bring a form of high-speed (internet) to all of our concession roads." He added: "The provincial government has just made a big deal out of a \$100-million deal with Elon Musk with his satellite stuff, yet there are very easy wins that wouldn't cost nearly that much to be getting – even if it's fibre on the poles rather than buried on the ground on a lot of our concession roads.

Lamb stated that a request could be submitted within the timeframe, which the committee of the whole accepted.

Following the meeting, MidlandToday asked Lamb about the importance of high-speed internet in rural areas. Lamb replied that the Simcoe County Access Network was an early form of high-speed that connected municipal offices with libraries, schools and hospitals, and it was time to fill remaining gaps.

"One of the largest adopters of technologies that you have out there is actually the agricultural community," said Lamb. "When you see the large production farming that takes place now, the technology those farms are utilizing – and then not having the ability to potentially download that information and get it as quickly as they would – it has productivity means to it as well."

The 2025 ROMA conference delegation correspondence can be viewed on the agenda page on the Township of Tiny website.

Archives of council meetings are available to view on the township's YouTube channel.

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Across

- 1 Boy
- 4 Godsend
- 8 Family canine
- 11 "A Kiss Before Dying" novelist Levin
- 12 Indian princess
- 13 Iron in the rough?
- 14 Commit a bad deed
- 15 Hawaiian strings
- 16 "Holy smokes!"
- 17 Polytheist of sorts
- 19 Penetrate slowly
- 21 Sword
- 23 Frost
- 26 Elton John or Billy Joel
- 30 Take on
- 31 Leaning against
- 32 Jumping up and down
- 34 Midnight treat
- 36 To the right
- 37 Mouse-like rodent
- 39 Mythical maiden of the woods
- 43 Neck adornment in Hawaii
- 45 Impulse
- 47 Pub order
- 48 \_\_\_\_ all over
- 49 Layer
- 50 Drink that can be hot or cold
- 51 Aswan for one
- 52 \_\_\_\_-Jones ("Chicago" star)
- 53 Something to lend or bend

Down

- 1 Speak like Daffy
- 2 Operatic solo
- 3 "Drat!"
- 4 Borneo sultanate
- 5 Common deciduous tree
- 6 They are found in wallets
- 7 Japanese-American
- 8 City destroyed by Mount Vesuvius
- 9 Victorian, e.g.
- 10 What X might mean
- 18 Magnet material
- 20 Tending to repeat sounds
- 22 Cause of Cleo's demise
- 24 Coffee holder
- 25 Hit the nail on the head
- 26 Family men
- 27 Posada
- 28 Throwback
- 29 Dress (up)
- 33 Biological classifications
- 35 Clumsy person
- 38 View from Toledo
- 40 Game-ending announcement
- 41 Kind of bargain
- 42 When repeated, a cry of approval
- 43 Cap
- 44 In-flight announcement, briefly
- 46 Secure

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# Tiny racing to revise friendly e-bike bylaw for trail system

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, MidlandToday.ca  
Nov 21, 2024

The tires were spinning at Tiny Township committee of the whole as a potential bylaw amendment to allow certain e-bikes on the Tiny Trail system gained some traction with council members.

From a recommendation by the parks and recreation advisory committee, e-bikes up to 32 kilometres per hour were requested to be included into the Tiny Trail bylaw regulations for allowable activity.

Members of council were wary on the topic with concerns on 32 kilometres per hour as a top speed.

Public works director Tim Leitch explained that the proposed amendment would remove two of the four e-bike classes from the trail, leaving Class 1 and 2 power-assisted bicycles, or e-bikes. “What this gets rid of is the scooters and those types of bikes, and that’s what we’re really concerned about on the trails,” said Leitch, citing the Vespa brand as an example. “32 kilometres per hour; that sounds fast but when you go down the trails people are riding on their bikes faster than 32 kilometres per hour.”

The primary reason Leitch initiated the conversation, he said, was due to an interaction he’d had with visiting seniors over the summer who were travelling from Wasaga Beach to Penetanguishene for lunch by using e-bikes. “It struck me at that moment, I thought this is really what’s going to get our seniors active, get them out,” said Leitch, who jokingly admitted he had difficulty pedalling to the top of Concession 9 under his own power. “We have such a large seniors population in Tiny, and this is what’s

going to get our seniors out.”

Further questions involved liability risks and definitions of e-bikes. From his perspective on the parks and recreation committee, Coun. Dave Brunelle explained that the reason the committee waited nearly a year before bringing the recommendation to council was due to waiting on the province for that definition; the group finally decided instead to simply lift wording from the provincial website regarding riding an e-bike.

Leitch added that council approval would allow the parks and recreation committee to look at everything and report back early in the new year.

Mayor Dave Evans stated he was in favour of the recommendation, agreeing with increased mobility for Tiny residents around the township. In his comments, Evans made reference to Midland Mayor Bill Gordon utilizing an e-bike during the recent Terry Fox Run, as well as the speed of snowmobiles on the trail exceeding 32 kilometres at times. On the visitors from Wasaga Beach, Evans said: “I think that’s incredibly liberating, and why wouldn’t we try to find a way for people to do that, (to) get outside and get fresh air? I think that far outweighs the safety concerns; those can be updated and monitored on an ongoing basis.”

Given the thorough discussion, a unanimous vote was given to have staff investigate further and report back at a future meeting.

The Tiny Trails e-bike provisions bylaw amendment recommendation can be viewed on the agenda page on the Township of Tiny website.

## Group against pro-active climate change speak to North Simcoe councils

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, MidlandToday.ca  
Dec 02, 2024

Delegations to North Simcoe councils from anti-globalist group KICLEI have begun meeting with local municipalities and asking them to cease involvement with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as well as the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program.

Both townships of Tiny and Tay heard from delegates representing the group, presenting similarly worded requests with township-specific tailoring at council meetings.

Tiny Township heard from resident Glenna Ritchie in mid-November, while Tay Township received a deputation from residents Taudie McLeaming and Gerald Auger at month’s end.

For both delegations, KICLEI supporters attended the council chambers in Tiny and Tay; KICLEI flyers were distributed to those seated.

Not to be confused with KICLEI, the original ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, established 1990), also known as Local Governments for Sustainability, focused on networking local and regional governments around the world to commit to sustainable development.

North Simcoe councils received an update on Simcoe County and Sustainable Severn Sound municipal climate action plans in April of this year through heavily detailed, data-filled deputations from the Severn Sound Environmental Association.

The core of KICLEI originated with Peterborough resident Maggie Braun, described as a ‘Canadian activist’ during a promotional notice that appeared for a Tiny Township pig roast in September as a gathering of the Ontario Landowners Association.

Also appearing with Braun at the pig roast were People’s Party of Canada representative Stephen Makk speaking on freedom and survival, and Tiny Township Coun. David Brunelle on land-use planning. Information booths were set up by political communication company iMatr, anti-vaccination and antisemitic publication Druthers, the Midland Community Hub, TinyTRA, and Civis4Reform.

Ritchie, McLeaming and Auger were also in attendance at the September gathering, as was Tiny protest organizer Karen Zulynik.

Brunelle had attended a ‘Finding Our Voice’ town hall in June where he encouraged citizens to become

involved in local councils and committees; that meeting also included anti-globalist concerns and was attended by former Ontario Party candidate Auger as well as others sporting ‘Make Canada Great Again’ and ‘Action4Canada’ hats.

In attendance during the November deputations were Makk at both, and Auger and Zulynik at the Tiny delegation. No councillors made a declaration of pecuniary interest during either delegation.

The KICLEI requests noted that financial burdens of municipalities addressing climate change through PCP were costly; withdrawing from the program would allow a local focus for environmental stewardship.

In Tiny, the delegation was received for information, and could be addressed at an upcoming regular meeting of council.

At Tay, Coun. Paul Raymond clarified to the organization that while North Simcoe and surrounding municipalities became PCP member municipalities through the Local Climate Change Action Plan of the Sustainable Severn Sound project in 2018 (through the Severn Sound Environmental Association), what appeared on the KICLEI website was a list of ‘participating municipalities’ across Ontario which he implied could be mistaken as KICLEI participants if taken out of context – of which Tay, Tiny, Midland, Penetanguishene, and the townships of Severn, Georgian Bay, Oro-Medonte, and Springwater were not KICLEI members.

Tay council also received the deputation, with Mayor Ted Walker informing MidlandToday after the meeting that he noted McLeaming and Auger as Tay residents but “didn’t recognize anyone (else) that I could say for sure came from Tay Township.”

He added that research on the topic would need to be done with members of the SSEA, with a future decision which would address justified reasons and associated costs.

“I think they (SSEA) do a little more on environment than they (KICLEI) may have realized,” said Walker. “I attended a seminar on climate prevention the other day that the SSEA had, which really had nothing to do with the watershed.

“We don’t have electric vehicles; we have done upgrades with lighting (and similar items),” added Walker. “We think we’re pretty green as far as that goes.”

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Public Library**  
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**Book Club**  
While Book Club regularly meets the first Thursday of the month at 4:00pm there will be no book club meeting held for the month of January. Book Club will continue in 2025 starting February 6th at 4:00pm and we will be discussing ‘The Art Thief: a true story of love, crime and a dangerous obsession’ by Michael Finkle.

**Gingerbread House Decorating**  
December 12th, 11:00 am  
Member \$7.00, Non-Member \$ 14.00

**Christmas Cookie Decorating for kids**  
December 17th 2024, 4:00 pm  
Members \$5.00, Non Member \$7.00, Ages 5-13

**Santa Visits the Library**  
Monday December 23rd at 10:00am  
Bring your child to meet Santa, get your picture taken and enjoy Storytime, cookies, milk and a small gift. Registration required. Cost is free.

**Holiday Hours**  
The library will be open on Christmas Eve 9am to 12pm  
We will be closed December 25th and 26th and open again December 27th 9am to 6pm.

**Library Open House**  
Friday January 3rd, 10:00am to 4:00pm the library will have open house info session. Come in a learn about programs, materials, equipment, learning about volunteering or joining The Friends of the Penetanguishene Public Library or take a tour of the library.  
Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be available.

**Spanish Classes**  
6 weeks- 3 levels  
All classes are from 1:00-1:45  
cost: \$40.00 for members  
\$60.00 for non-members  
Beginner- Level 1: Fridays, Jan 24- Feb 28  
Intermediate- Level 2: Tuesdays, Jan 21- Feb 25  
Avanzado- nivel 3: Jueves, enero 23- febrero 27

**GBGH Board of Directors  
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Dec. 2, 2024 – Guided by our purpose statement of We Make Excellent Care Personal, Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH) is committed to providing excellent care to the residents of the broader North Simcoe region.

GBGH is seeking applicants to fill vacant Board of Director roles. The Board is skills-based, volunteer board.

The GBGH Board of Directors welcomes applications from individuals with varying experiences and expertise areas but has identified that the following three areas are areas of particular interest: - Government Relations/Public Policy - Information Technology/Cyber Security - Capital Redevelopment & Large Scale Capital project

Board of Directors has a strong desire to have our Board closely reflect the diverse populations served by the hospital. We invite applications from all genders, all races and ethnicities, people of all abilities, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ2S+ persons and bilingual or multilingual individuals. For more information, visit [www.gbgh.on.ca/board-of-directors](http://www.gbgh.on.ca/board-of-directors)

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[www.springwaterlibrary.on.ca](http://www.springwaterlibrary.on.ca)

#### Inter-Library Loan Service On Hold

With the Canada Post Strike currently in effect, all inter-library loan service is on hold at this time. We invite you to try using our extensive online database of ebooks and eaudiobooks available at cloudLibrary and hopefully we can reinstate this service again soon. Thank you for your patience.

#### Temporary Closure for Painting

The Elmvale branch will be getting a fresh set of paint on the walls and as a result, this branch will be closed the first week of December (Monday December 2 to Saturday December 7). We will reopen our doors on Monday December 9. During our closure programs such as Storytime and EarlyON Stay, Play and Learn will run in the McGuire room downstairs but circulation of library items will not be available. Returns of books, DVDs etc. are welcome that week via our return box outside the front door of the building.

#### Take and Make Craft

Every month the library will have a new FREE craft kit for you to take home and make! Each month be sure to stop by early as these kits are only available while supplies last. Thursday December 5: Sock Snowman kit.

#### Holiday Craft Bags

Starting on Monday December 9 our very popular holiday craft bags for kids will be available at the library! Great for ages 5-10 these bags include seven activities to enjoy. Cost \$10 per bag while supplies last.

#### Holiday Music

Join us for live holiday music, card making and hot chocolate! Tuesday December 10, 5:30pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free for all ages. This is a drop-in program with no registration required.

#### Cookie Decorating Party!

Get in the festive spirit and enjoy the live holiday music in the library while decorating a yummy gingerbread cookie! This program will run while supplies last Tuesday December 10, 5:30pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: \$1 per cookie. This is a drop-in program with no registration required while supplies last.

#### Tween/Teen DIY Water Bottle Decal

Have an old water bottle? Spruce it up at the library using our Cricut machine. Create your own personalized decal! Participants, please bring your own water bottle to decorate. Thursday December 12, 4pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

#### Santa Storytime

Santa is coming to the library! He will share some stories, answer your questions, sing carols, and you can even tell him what you would like for Christmas this year! Photos and videos are welcome. A take home craft will be available as supplies last. Saturday December 14, 10:30am at Elmvale Branch or Saturday December 14, 1:30pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

#### Q-Tip Snowflakes

Come on into the Midhurst or Elmvale branches and make some q-tip snowflakes! Instructions and supplies will be provided by the library. This drop-in program is available as supplies last. Thursday December 19, 10am at Elmvale and Midhurst Branches. Cost: FREE.

#### Holiday Hours

Springwater Public Library branches will close on the following holiday dates in 2024: Christmas Eve: Tuesday December 24 close at 2pm, Christmas Day: Wednesday December 25, Boxing Day: Thursday December 26, New Years Eve: Tuesday December 31 close at 2pm, New Years Day: Wednesday January 1, 2025.

# Springwater urges county to repeal ‘incredibly out of touch’ councillor pay hike

By Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Barrietoday.ca  
 Nov. 22, 2024

Nothing sparks the ire of the masses like politicians giving themselves a raise.

When Simcoe County council voted to up councillors’ remuneration during an Oct. 22 council meeting, critics of every stripe came out of the woodwork to castigate the councillors, including the province’s top politico, Premier Doug Ford. “It’s like the fox taking care of the henhouse,” Ford said in an interview a couple of days after Simcoe County councillors voted to give themselves a raise that will take their current councillor salary — \$12,054 with an additional \$6,025 in per diems — to a base salary of \$41,717, not including per diems, in 2027. “This has to stop,” the premier added.

On Wednesday night, Springwater Township council condemned the raise and passed a resolution to “urge county council to repeal their wage increase to all members of county council.” A copy of the resolution, which was brought forward by Coun. Danielle Alexander, will be sent to Ford, Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte MPP Doug Downey and all municipalities within Simcoe County. “I feel that the 165 per cent wage increase given to oneself, is incredibly out of touch,” said Alexander, who, like all councillors on Springwater council, earns \$28,471 annually for her township duties. “Certainly don’t see that very often.” Alexander said she wanted to bring her concerns to township council because she thinks if enough municipalities do the same, the increase might be rolled back. “If we can resolve as a council that we’re not happy about it, and potentially other municipalities within the county push back as well, then there’s the ability to affect change,” she added.

Coun. Phil Fisher, who seconded Alexander’s motion, said it spoke for itself. “When people take a look at county councillors electing to give themselves some pretty hefty raises, 165 per cent, it doesn’t sit right with people and I, certainly as a taxpayer and a municipal politician, I can’t justify it,” he said. “I definitely don’t think it’s right and taking a stand or making our voices known is something we should do,” Fisher added.

Neither of Springwater’s representatives on county council — Mayor Jennifer Coughlin or Deputy Mayor George Cabral — were in favour of the raise. “I spoke against this on the county floor,” said Coughlin. “I am in favour of county councillors increasing their wage next term. “The huge problem I have with it is that, as county councillors, we knew what the pay was getting into it,” she added.

According to county officials, the raise — the first

in 10 years — will bring current councillor salaries, among the lowest in Ontario, into the mid-range of compensation among similar-sized municipalities. “Our councillors were clear, when approving the phased adjustment for the first time in more than a decade, that they wanted to remain within the average or middle rate of pay, not the top of the list,” Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke said in an email to BarrieToday. “Regarding the matters being brought forward at Springwater council, we do not comment on the lower-tier legislative process, nor do we feel it’s appropriate for them to comment on ours,” the warden added. Clarke, however, did offer a correction to the Springwater Township motion. “The county tax levy does not impact lower-tier municipalities or the budgets they set in their local municipalities, as suggested in the motion,” he said. “It’s a separate line on residential bills, just like the school board. “Property owners, who are also Simcoe County residents, contribute directly to the county tax levy for services such as waste collection, road operations, landfills, transit, long-term care, paramedic services, social services and housing, economic development, airport services and much more,” Clarke added.

According to a chart that catalogued councillor wages at 10 counties/districts/regions that was included with the warden’s comments, the remuneration for such councillors across Ontario is random at best. Of the 10 areas included on the list — the counties of Simcoe, Dufferin, Oxford and Wellington, the District of Muskoka and the regions of Durham, Halton, Niagara, Peel and Waterloo — Simcoe County councillor salaries were at the bottom.

In Simcoe County, which has a budget of \$774 million, councillors are paid \$18,079. In Oxford County, a councillor earns \$35,344. Oxford County’s budget is about \$350 million, less than half of Simcoe County’s budget. In Durham Region, councillors are paid \$62,143 each. Durham Region has a total budget of \$2.18 billion. Peel Region, which has the largest budget on the list at \$5.9 billion, pays each of its councillors \$63,665 annually, the highest of the counties/districts/regions included in the chart.

“We are among the fastest-growing regions in Ontario, managing an annual budget approaching \$1 billion while overseeing critical public services and significant infrastructure projects,” Clarke said. “As a collective group, we felt this was an opportunity to further attract the best possible politicians to this level of government. We want diverse representation that aligns with the demographics of our region,” he added.

## HEY DADS!

Do you have your Christmas tree up yet? Or are you skipping a tree this year because they cost hundreds and thousands of dollars? Nothing says it’s the holidays like the fresh smell of coniferous Christmas scents wafting through the house. And the fresh feeling of pine needles sticking through your socks and into your flesh. We like the real, live, sap-dripping Christmas trees.

In years past, we’ve cut down trees at a farm and we’ve even cut the top six feet off our own pine trees in the yard a few times. But this year would be different. There are no tree farms within an hour of us and I really like the look of the top of the pine tree in my front yard so I can’t use it.

The kids usually start asking for a tree somewhere mid-November. We’ve also got a couple birthdays near the end of November. Past precedent has been to have a Christmas tree set up before the birthdays. I was picking up some groceries at No Frills the other day for my patient wife and noticed a lovely line of wrapped up festive bushes leaning against the outside wall as I walked in. I was tempted to get one. They were so easy to attain! No saw needed! No tree-climbing necessary! No dragging a tree for miles through the snow! I convinced myself it was the right thing to do.

But how do you choose a tree that’s wrapped up with 3 kilometers of twine? The voices of my 10 kids echoed in my head, “Get the biggest one!” It was a total gamble what the branches would look like when we unwrapped it but I could easily see the tallest one. I loaded it in the van and heard shouts of joy as I got home and carried it into the house. “Dad got a tree! Can we decorate it? Where’s the decorations? Where’s the tree stand? Someone get the decorations!”

Good thing I got the tallest one because they always get taller when you bring them in the house. Between the top and bottom trimming, I cut off about two feet of height so we’d have room to put the angel on top. Once it was in the stand we cut off all those kilometers of twine. All the beautiful branches flung out and dropped down in a beautiful conical form...or something like that. They mostly stayed up until the weight of 30,000 decorations began to pull them down. Since the three to eight-year-old kids are most excited about decorating the tree, 90% of the decorations end up on the bottom 50% of the tree. But that’s fine with me.

We got the tree. We decorated the tree. Memories were made. And I only had to spin the tree about 6 times until my beautiful wife could see the most beautiful side of the tree. Whether your tree is real or artificial, enjoy these moments with your kids. Time flies! Make every moment count! Even the tree-trimming ones.

Jason Weening decorates trees with his 10 kids and one patient wife. If you need a Christmas gift for your 8-12-year-old, check out his adventure book for kids at HEYDADS.ca. -



# KINGS GET PAST STAYNER FOR BIGGEST WIN OF THE SEASON

Submitted by Jamie Robillard, Nov. 11, 2024.  
The Penetang Kings came from behind to beat the Stayner Siskins by a 6-3 score on Friday November 22nd at the Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre for their biggest win of the season.

The Kings trailed by a score of 3-1 midway through the contest before Tanner Thayer scored his first of two goals on a breakaway before the second period ended. Owen Fuller then scored for Penetang at tie the score at three before Max Geere gave the Kings the lead with just over five minutes remaining in the game. Thayer then scored into an empty net followed by Ashton Kirwin's empty netter to preserve the 6-3 win. Carter Wilson scored the Kings first goal of the game in the second period. Landon Simac made 38 saves in the Kings goal in the win. Penetang managed 29 shots on the Stayner goal. For his two goal and two assist effort Thayer was named the Kings player of the game.

On Thursday November 14th the Kings dropped an 8-4 decision to the Siskin in Stayner with Cole Rumbolt, Wilson, Thayer and Kirwin each scoring single goals. Goaltender Kevin Pearson was busy in the Kings net facing 38 Stayner shots while the Kings had 23 shots on Siskins William Belitski. Wilson received player of the game honours for the Kings.

On Friday November 15th the Kings hosted the league leading Alliston Hornets and came out on the short end of a 4-1 score. Simec was again strong in the Penetang goal stopping 46 of the 49 shots fired his way. Penetang trailed 2-1 late in the contest on a goal by Jesse Bain midway through the third period before the

Hornets scored a power play goal with just 1:04 remaining in regulation time and sealed the game with an empty net goal with 11 seconds remaining. Simec was the Kings player of the game.

Penetang remains solidly in fourth place in the Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League after 21 games with 20 points, four points ahead of the Innisfil Spartans and trailing the third place Stayner Siskins by 12 points at the team's midway point in the schedule.

The Kings' next home game will be on Friday December 6th when they will face Innisfil at 8:00 pm. followed by an afternoon road game on Saturday December 7th in Alliston. The Kings have to remaining December games at home on Saturday December 14th against the Huntsville Otters and Friday December 20th when they meet the Midland Flyers. Both of those games begin at 8:00 pm.

The team will then take the annual Christmas break with their next game coming Friday January 3rd when they face the Muskoka Bears.

Notes: The Kings Program and Yearbook is printed and waiting for distribution once Canada Post returns to full operations. In the meantime, Programs can be picked up at Kings home games.

The Alliston Hornets, who are undefeated, lead the league with 18 wins for 36 points followed by Orillia with 33 points and Stayner with 32 points. Innisfil is fifth with 16 points followed by Huntsville with 13, Midland 11 and Muskoka 5 points respectively. Alliston is the only undefeated team in the 63 team PJHL.

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| TEAM MADORE          | 3-3-0  | 20.0   |
| TEAM JOHNSTONE       | 4-1-0  | 20.0   |
| TEAM BELCOURT/TOWNES | 3-1-2  | 19.5   |
| TEAM McCLUNG         | 3-2-0  | 16.0   |
| TEAM MURPHY          | 1-4-1  | 14.75  |
| TEAM MARSHALL        | 1-3-1  | 13.5   |
| TEAM KENNEY          | 2-3-0  | 12.75  |
| TEAM ALLEN           | 1-4-1  | 12.0   |
| TEAM HUTH            | 0-5-0  | 4.0    |



Tanner Thayer Scores on a breakaway



Thursday November 14 @ Stayner  
Player of the Game - Carter Wilson

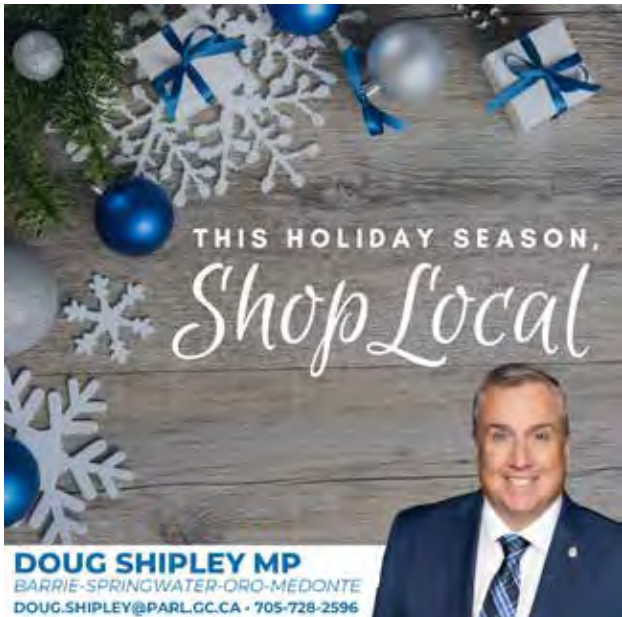


Saturday November 15 vs. Alliston  
Player of the Game - Landon Simec



Friday November 22 vs. Stayner  
Player of the Game - Tanner Thayer





Dec 2, 2024

December is a busy time of year. We find ourselves with a lot of things to do before we can settle down to enjoy the holidays. We are busy with school recitals, holiday parties, shopping, cleaning, decorating...the list can seem endless. And, before we know it, the holidays are here.

As we head into the holiday season, I encourage you to shop local as you work to check items

# A message from Doug Shipley, Member of Parliament, Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte

off your lists. There are many local food shops where you can pick up appetizers, main courses, and desserts. Many businesses in the area where you can find a gift for that special someone. Need a hostess gift for a friend that hosts the entire group every December? Stroll down any of the local main streets and you are sure to find the perfect item. Or check out the Township of Springwater’s website, the business directory can assist in your search for local businesses.

I encourage you to fit in some of the local holiday events taking place in and around our communities. There are a few local Santa Claus parades taking place in the next couple of weeks. My team and I will be handing out candy and wishing the attendees a Merry Christmas as we walk the routes, please say hello if you see us.

In addition to the parades, pick an evening when the weather is clear and enjoy the twinkling

Christmas lights around your neighbourhood. Maybe take a drive through the Magic of Lights display at Springwater Park. There are 2.5 kilometers of twinkling lights to enjoy. The display is on now and goes until January 4. There are also many vendor markets happening in the lead up to Christmas, always a good place to pick up one-of-a-kind gifts. Any of these events are sure to kick your holiday spirit into high gear.

As always, my constituency office is available to assist you with any federal matters. 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

## Ontario Increasing Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund to \$600 Million \$100 million increase will support 390 municipalities across the province

November 22, 2024, Ministry of Finance  
 UXBRIDGE — As part of the provincial government’s historic increase to financial support for Ontario municipalities, the province is increasing the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) by \$100 million over two years, bringing the total funding envelope to \$600 million by 2026. The OMPF is the province’s main general assistance grant to municipalities.

The 2025 OMPF grant includes an immediate increase of \$50 million to provide \$550 million in unconditional funding to 390 municipalities. The \$50 million enhancement has been targeted to small, Northern and rural municipalities and those with a limited property tax base, with the aim of assisting municipalities so they can provide critical municipal services to people across the province.

“We have heard from small, Northern, and rural municipalities that they need more support to meet the financial challenges they face in delivering services to their communities and that’s exactly what this significant increase to OMPF, which is being delivered through our recent Fall Economic Statement, will help them do,” said Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy. “Municipalities are critical partners in delivering important local services and we will continue working together to build more homes, support economic growth and strengthen Ontario’s communities in a way that is sustainable and responsible.”

Ontario has been steadily increasing support to municipalities. From 2019–2023, key provincial support to municipalities grew by over 45 per cent. In 2023 alone, the government provided almost \$10 billion to Ontario municipalities through key transfers. This includes increasing

the Homelessness Prevention Program to \$654 million annually, as well as enhanced support for Northern and rural communities, such as the introduction of the \$15 million Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) program in 2021 and the investment of an additional \$1 billion for the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) over five years, starting in 2022.

“We will not leave any part of the province behind as we work together with our municipal partners to create stronger communities,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “By increasing our infrastructure investments for small, Northern and rural municipalities, we are helping lay the groundwork for more homes for the hardworking people of Ontario.”

“Today’s announcement continues to demonstrate our government’s commitment to rural and Northern municipalities,” said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs. “We have created a stand-alone ministry dedicated to rural affairs and we are listening and taking action as well as building supports that will enable small towns and rural communities to thrive and prosper. Increased funding through the OMPF will ensure small, rural, and Northern Ontario municipalities receive additional base funding needed to address local priorities.”

**Quick Facts**

- The OMPF is a formula-based program that incorporates annual data updates to ensure the program is responsive to changing municipal circumstances.
- As the enhancement to the program is phased-in, all core grant recipients will receive

100 per cent or more of their 2024 OMPF allocation in 2025.

- Beginning this winter, Ontario will consult with municipalities on their priorities for the OMPF as well as the implementation of a reporting framework to gain a better understanding of how the OMPF is supporting local communities.
- The province is working with municipalities to support building more homes for people and families. Ontario is investing nearly \$2 billion in housing-enabling infrastructure through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund and Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program, complementing support already being provided through the Building Faster Fund.
- Investing in key local infrastructure through programs like the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund and the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program is part of the province’s capital plan of more than \$191 billion over 10 years to build critical infrastructure and get more homes built faster to support growing communities and lay a strong foundation for future generations.



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# ANTEN MILLS

Nov. 28, 2024 - There is no question now that Winter is here. In the last column it was noted that the weather forecast indicated that there would be no significant snow until early December. It's now December and this past weekend we were under a snow squall watch and warning. And snow did come along with seasonal temperatures. It's beginning to look like Winter now and as of December 1, the meteorological season of Winter began. According to the long range forecast, December will return to what we recall as normal with seasonal temperatures and an abundance of snow. January and February will see swings in the temperature and less than normal snow falls. We will just have to see what comes.

This past several weeks has seen a flurry of activity at the community centre as the Anten Mills Community Recreation Association prepares for the annual Christmas in the Village weekend. The star was placed high atop of the tree and the lights strung on the tree. Our thanks goes out to the volunteer firefighters who did the work and to the fire department for the use of their equipment. The tree should look great this year. Then during the week a small group of volunteers got the ground displays installed and wired up. All this will make the park dazzle for the Christmas season.

The Christmas in the Village officially begins with the Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 7. This will be the 10th edition of the event which began in 2005. Activities begin at 5 PM when the Ski Snow Valley Barrie SnoTube slide opens up for the night. For the past several years a lack of snow slowed down the tube riders a bit as they whizzed down the slide. This year with the snow on the ground, they should fly even further and enjoy their trip. Around 6:30, with the assistance of the Springwater Fire and Emergency Services volunteer firefighters, Santa will arrive by fire truck.





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This will be a perfect opportunity to get a photo with the jolly big man for those who want one. At 7PM the countdown will begin for the tree lighting followed by the lighting up of the sky with fireworks. As long as they last, hot dogs and hot chocolate will be served for everyone. There is no cost for this evening of fun but everyone is requested to bring a generous donation for the Elmvale and District Food Bank as the CRA is collecting for them.

On Sunday the fun continues as the 27th annual Santa Claus parade takes to the streets of the village. There is a good contingent of entrants already who have indicated that they will join in the fun and more entries will be accepted. The parade will start off at the intersection of Laddies Lane and Pinery making its way through the community and ending this year along the new section of Ghibb St. The change this year is for the safety of the parade participants as the traffic along Horseshoe has increased dramatically over the past several decades and the CRA wants everyone to be safe. At the end of the parade along Ghibb, there will be hot chocolate and cookies available for everyone and of course the seasonal greetings from the local parliament representatives and Springwater Council. The Simcoe County Paramedics Toy Drive will be accepting donations along the parade and food donations will be accepted to the Elmvale Food Bank. The parade route is posted to the Anten Mills Community Bulletin Facebook page and watch the page for updates. For those hosting driveway parade parties, it is asked that you work with your neighbours and friends and keep parking off the route or to one side so that safe passage can be found.

The community's efforts to support the food bank have been greatly appreciated to date. Until December 16 there are 3 drop off locations accepting donations on the weekends. They are 2 Alexander, 8 Luella and 7 Ghibb. If you can share with those less fortunate, please do so in order that the food bank can continue to help well into the new year. For those wishing to make a financial donation the link is <https://elmvaldistrictfoodbank.net/donation>.

The South Springwater Fire Fighters Association Christmas tree sale continues on Thursday and Friday evenings and all day Saturday and Sunday at 1027 Bayfield St.N., Midhurst at the site of the Ice Cream Hut and Linda's. If you are looking for a live tree this is the place to go. Proceeds from the sale go to the local charities that the firefighters support.

Minesing will be hosting their annual Christmas Tractor Parade on Friday, December 13 beginning at 6:30. This is a great new tradition and it's a sight to see. Donations for the food bank are accepted during the parade as well so consider taking it in.

There are many wonderful Christmas displays lighting up our community at this time of the year. On a snowy evening photos will be taken and a short movie will be posted on the facebook page so everyone can enjoy them.

Remember to check the Facebook page for community updates as the administrators are working diligently to keep the community informed.

That's all for this week, looking forward to a fun Christmas in the Village weekend so until then, THANKS for READING, BE WELL and STAY SAFE.

## LOCAL AUTHOR RELEASES FIFTH BOOK IN POPULAR HILDEGARD PROPHECIES SERIES

By David Dupluis, Nov. 25, 2024  
Award-winning author David Dupuis will release his fifth book, "The Besieged," in his popular contemporary historical-fiction series, "The Hildegard Prophecies," on Saturday, December 21, 2024, at the Penetanguishene Arena Sports Hall of Fame between 2-5 p.m.

A dream fifty years in the making, the original one-book story about a boy destined to be the last pope at the end of time, at Armageddon, has metamorphosed into a nine-book series. "I had handwritten 2,000 pages in the late 1970s," Dupuis said. "A friend's sister typed it in the mid-1990s and I put it away, pulling it out occasionally to tinker with it, but life got in the way."

Dupuis would publish biographies of hockey stars Terry Sawchuk, Pierre Pilote and Red Kelly with mainstream publishers Stoddart Publishing and ECW Press. His Sawchuk story would be made into a 2019 movie and his Kelly tome would win the 2016 Ontario Speakers Book Award.

Dupuis' two grown children urged him to get back at his novel. So, he did, researching historical figures who had visions of the endtimes and found Saint Hildegard of Bingen, a medieval nun. Inspired by similar books such as The Thorn Birds, The Celestine Prophecy and The DaVinci Code, Dupuis self-published Book 1, "Of Mercy and Of Death" in 2018.

"Self-publishing is hard," Dupuis says. "It must have a good story, good book design, formatting, editing, etc. Lack of editing is a big knock against indie authors. It had to be professional on par with mainstream books and it is."

"A few story scenes occur in Penetanguishene and Tiny Township. They're very important. I've made this 'churchy' story of popes, cardinals and bishops more character driven, appealing to a wider audience. Non-religious readers love it which I find amazing."

Dupuis' series has even garnered early interest from a couple of television producers. Locally, Dupuis' books are sold in Midland at Georgian Bay Books and McCarthy's Shell, online at all Amazon sites. Penetang Home Hardware will host a January signing. Date and time are yet to be determined.







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Seniors Community Grant Program Applications Now Open

Community organizations can apply for funding to help deliver programs and services benefiting Ontario’s seniors

November 29, 2024, Submitted by Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility  
TORONTO — Applications are now being accepted for the 2025-26 Ontario Seniors Community Grant Program which supports local community groups and not-for-profit organizations to deliver programs and learning opportunities for Ontarians aged 55+.  
“Our government is committed to improving

the well-being of Ontario’s seniors by providing learning opportunities and social and physical activities in their communities,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. “That’s why we’re proud to support the Seniors Community Grant Program, which gives so many people the opportunity to learn new skills, socialize and take part in community life.”  
Every year, the Ontario government provides hundreds of Seniors Community Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 for projects that help older adults live independently, ensure their safety and security, connect them to their community, and help them achieve greater financial security and social connections.  
The 2025-26 Seniors Community Grants Program will focus on the following three key priority areas:

- Providing opportunities for older adults to stay active and connected in their communities, such as weekly physical activities and social engagements.
- Developing technology and digital solutions to support seniors’ social engagement and access to programs and services.
- Increasing access to information and supports for health prevention and promotion.

Organizations can apply online through Transfer Payment Ontario until January 16, 2025.  
Since 2018, the government has invested over \$34 million in the Seniors Community Grants Program, supporting over 1,800 grassroots projects that help seniors stay socially and physically active in their communities.

**Quick Facts**

- The Seniors Community Grant Program is dedicated to promoting health, community engagement and well-being for Ontarians aged 55+.
- Applications are open now and will be accepted until 5 p.m. on January 16, 2025.
- Seniors are Ontario’s fastest growing demographic.
- Eligible organizations must apply for a Seniors Community Grant through Transfer Payment Ontario.

Governments Announce Available Funding to Enhance Ontario’s Agri-Food Sector

By Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, Nov.27, 2024  
TORONTO – The governments of Canada and Ontario are still accepting applications for three initiatives designed to enhance the province’s \$50.7 billion agri-food sector through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP).  
The following three initiatives support greater workforce diversity and supply and on-farm sustainability improvements:

- Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative (deadline is December 3, 2024)
- Labour Force Management Strategies Initiative
- Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program.

“There’s no doubt that the programs under our Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement are making a real difference in the lives of our hardworking producers and processors right across Ontario,” said the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. “By helping them address the challenges they face, we’re making the sector more sustainable and competitive for generations to come.”  
“By 2028, \$569 million in Sustainable CAP funding in a broad suite of initiatives will have flowed to Ontario’s rapidly growing agri-food sector, with over 1,500 Ontario agribusinesses already having benefitted from these dollars,” said Rob Flack, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. “We strongly encourage Ontario agri-food stakeholders to apply to these programs and to seize the opportunities they offer for long-term growth and competitiveness.”  
More information on initiative details, delivery partners, and application requirements is available on the Sustainable CAP webpage, and can be obtained by contacting the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300, or ag.info.omafa@ontario.ca.

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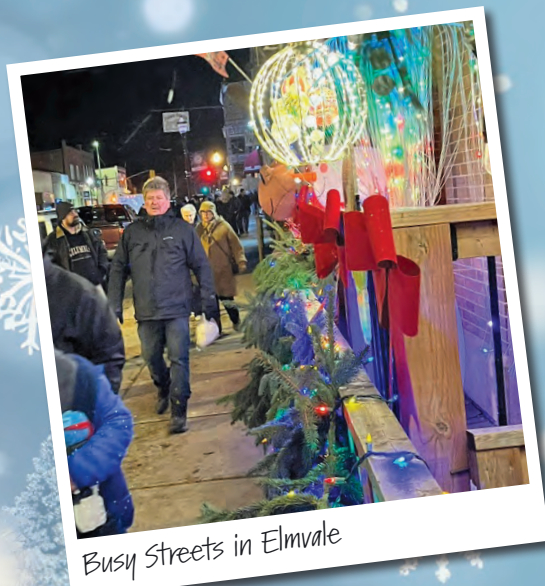


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# November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Elmvale Christmas Market WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!



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Bloom was busy



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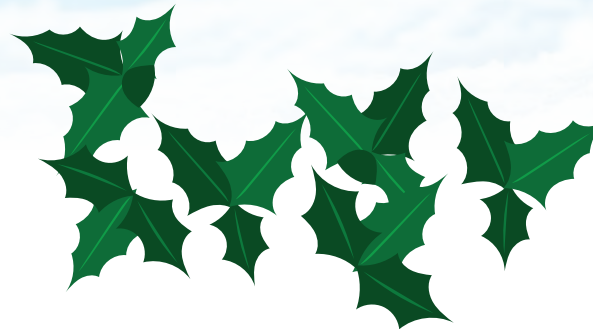
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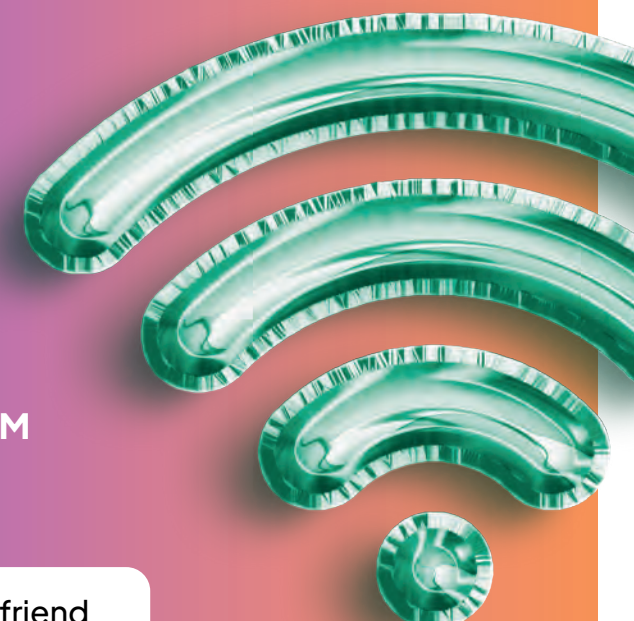
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# Bearbells

by Leslie Noonan



November 18/24

I was in Creemore for an appointment, and thought I would wander back to some trails that I vaguely remembered from my youth. Those dirt roads were now populated with million-dollar homes, set back against the beautiful Maple Valley. I turned up another dirt lane until the road finally ended with a muddy tract that led deep into the forest. The dirt road became a water eroded tract, and I had to steer my old girl around huge holes, jagged rocks and up onto the bank to avoid bottoming out my CRV. This is not a road for the faint hearted, and I imagine even some trucks would turn around, but not me! My old car is just like me; aged, battered, but damn stubborn!

I parked just off the muddy trail and headed out to the Noisy River Provincial Park. Initially the trail is easy to follow, leading through mixed forests to a small and still pond. This is an amazing spot to stop and take a deep breath

to still the mind. I spent several minutes here, enjoying the solitude, then turned and continued along the scant trail that meandered above a high bank with a small brook burbling in the low areas. There are no blaze marks, and the trail is covered in detritus, making it almost impossible to find the trail. I wandered through the forest, following the creek, until I was no longer able to find any sign of a trail. With great disappointment I returned to my car, but refused to give up my hike. Instead, my old car and I pushed on along the narrow road. Often, I would need to stop and use my hiking poles to gauge the depth of the puddles I was considering plowing through. It was only once I crested a hill and looked down on the most formidable mud puddle I had ever seen, stretching wide and deep across the trail, that I conceded defeat. Thus began a half kilometer drive, backwards, through those same deeply rutted trails, and often I would have to drive with my door open so I could navigate

around those deep potholes. Eventually I was able to find a small area to turn around, branches scratching along my poor car, and headed back out to the main road.

Once on the main road I had no idea where to go, but chose to head up Maple Valley along a twisting road towards spots I remembered as routes for the Brue Trail. I turned up another dirt road, and there it is, the Bruce Trail, tracing a route through forests, fields and wetlands. I opted to head west and up, hoping for a spectacular view of Maple Valley. Someone has nicely made stairs to navigate the steepest portion of the trail, and once up on top of the escarpment the trail continues along fallow fields. It is here, that I feel the worries of the world drop away. My fears around my doctor's appointment slip away, and with each step my breaths become deeper, my thoughts become clearer, and that gimpy left leg becomes looser and my stride stronger. The trail goes up hill, then down and up again, which sounds suspiciously like what our grandparents said that they went through to go to school, uphill both ways.

A light rain settled around me, which I loved. I have no problem with hiking in the rain and love the quiet it brings. The silence is peaceful. There are so many old maples here, ancient trees often hollow with age. I stopped and stuck my head up one trunk, only to be warned by the grunting of some denizen that this was her winter abode. Respect. Instead I turned around and headed back down to my car, eye glasses misted over, clothing damp, and mind refreshed.

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# SEGBAY Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament

Nov. 12, 2024 - On Thursday, August 15, 2024, the community came together at Oak Bay Golf Club for the SEGBAY Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, in partnership with Pure Country 106 and BOUNCE 104.1. Through registration, sponsorship, live & online auctions and raffle, the event raised \$31,000 in total for its charity partners: the GBGH Foundation and the Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre.

This year, the \$26,606 raised for the GBGH Foundation will support Kickstart Your Heart, which is raising funds to grow the surgical services program at Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH).

From left: Robyn Kaczanowski, communications officer, GBGH Foundation; Rachelle Miller, RN, GBGH; Lisa Buck, SEGBAY Chamber of Commerce; Catherine Browne, Baxter Ward Lions Club; Arthur Christakos, president, SEGBAY Chamber of Commerce; Robyn Blanchet, community giving officer, GBGH Foundation; Fred Wareing, tournament chair; Lisa Nolan, Bell Media; Michelle Blake, manager of surgical services, GBGH; and Dr. Bonnie Shum, chief of surgical services, GBGH.



# Elmvale Women's Institute Gives to Local Family

Nov. 19, 2024 - WI members Mary Jean Edward's, Mary Stone, Dianne Ritchie and Margaret Ann Jacob's were pleased to present a cheque for \$540. to Emma and her dad Ryan Reynolds in support of their ongoing costs regarding care for Emma. Thank you to all those who supported our coffee parties at Heritage Park last summer and contributed to our outreach efforts in the community. Hope to see you next summer.

*By Margaret Ann Jacobs*



# Elmvale Lions purchase refrigerator for Mariposa Hospice House

Dec. 1, 2024 - Lion Brian Belcourt, Lion Murray Truax, Hospice Staff, Lion Mark Columbus and Lion Tim Crowe were on hand to give the cheque for a new refrigerator for families to use. This will make the visits more comfortable and affordable for families and friends struggling at that difficult time. Thank you Elmvale Lions Club. By Linda Belcourt, Editor



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# Event raised \$3,500 for Georgian Bay General Hospital



From left: Anne-Marie Walker, event volunteer; Erin Kominek, manager, diagnostic imaging, laboratory and cardiorespiratory, GBGH; and Adele Newton, director, GBGH Foundation board. On November 10, 2024, a group of 55 women came together at Rawley Resort in Port Severn for an Afternoon Tea to raise funds for Mammography equipment. The event raised \$3,500 for the hospital through silent auction, raffle and tea leaf readings from Just Believe Boutique & Team Room.

## Craighurst W I had our November Meeting usual place usual time.

By Sheila Craig, Nov. 21, 2024 - We were happy to welcome Jay Beech, Vice- President Georgian Communities, to give us an update on the Craighurst Crossing project, as they turn the village into a small town. Look out, Elmvalle! Here we come!

Attention Creemore! We are on our way! Jay explained some of the process that he and his company have gone through, to get to the stage where there are model homes and streets and the start of infrastructure. A

long and winding road I'd say. We congratulated him on the ideal sidewalk stretch, and lamented to him the rest of the sad story. (refer to last month's CWI news, gentle reader). There are plans for commercial space,

community "hall/meeting" place, green features, denser parts with "skyscrapers" (OK three stories). He gave us a very thorough and inspiring talk.

After we bid Mr. Beech adieu, we started our business meeting with I Ode and the Mary Stewart Collect. Minutes, treasury, correspondence, all flowed perfectly. We made plans for the Christmas Meeting and Pot Luck. We made plans for baskets for "shut-ins". We had a sidewalk committee report. They had met with Oro-Medonte Township officials on site, and were assured by Mr Flannery that the project to replace it all along the Penetang Road was in the budget, on the books, on their radar, in their face, top of mind, no kidding. "Wonderful" cried some members. "Show me" cried other members. Oh yes, said Dylan and Justin. It will be memorable, a nomination for the Hall of Fame, sidewalk division. The Committee will keep the project under scrutiny. We then considered applying for a grant to run a project for Seniors' Health and Welfare, but decided to wait till next year. Meeting adjourned.





# Council approves 2025 County of Simcoe Budget

Midhurst/November 26, 2024 – On November 26, 2024, County of Simcoe Council approved a \$962 million budget, which focuses on the resources necessary to maintain existing services and address significant growth in our communities. The 2025 budget also includes strategic allocations that enable the County to continue to invest in services and assets such as infrastructure, long-term care, paramedic services, museum, transit, affordable housing, the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport, waste collections, economic development, tourism, and enhancements to our road network.

At the direction and approval of County Council, residents will see a 3.625% increase (1.625% per cent increase for operating and a 2 per cent increase for infrastructure and asset management) on the County portion of their municipal property taxes in 2025. This represents an impact of approximately \$10.86 per \$100,000 property assessment across the region. \$224.6 million of the County’s budget comes from Simcoe County residential property taxes and the remaining amount from other revenues and funding streams.

“County Council and staff worked hard to limit the impact of this budget on our residents, while ensuring we maintain the ability to meet service demands and infrastructure needs as our communities continue to grow,” said Warden Basil Clarke. “When times are challenging, the demand for County services is greater than ever. As we head into 2025, we look forward to opening more affordable housing units, creating new spaces for those living unhoused, making driving easier and safer across our road network, supporting the environment through waste management and sustainability programs, creating more transit connections, supporting more seniors in need of care and services and creating more jobs as we build up Simcoe County.”

The County maintains a strong financial position having received an AA+ long-term issuer credit rating from S&P Global Ratings, a provider of high-quality market intelligence in the form of credit ratings and research.

While pressures continue, the 2025 budget ensures the County continues to address areas of growth, as well as initiatives directed by Council to enhance and maintain critical service levels for the region, support infrastructure, increase efficiencies, and prepare for the future of our region.

The County’s 2025 budget includes key projects to continue building up Simcoe County, including,

- New LINX Transit route to serve south Simcoe communities
- Continued progress at the Simcoe Village Campus redevelopment
- A large affordable housing build in Barrie and completion of other sites
- Phased road work on CR4, 21 and 22
- A new Paramedic Station in Waubaushene
- Museum expansion for the C. Matthews Innovation and Transportation Gallery
- Redevelopment of the Bradford West Gwillimbury waste drop-off facility

2025 Budget Highlights include:

Total County operating and capital expenditures for 2024: \$962 million (\$694 million operating and \$268 million capital)

- LTC Homes \$188 million
- Seniors Services \$12 million
- Paramedic Services \$83 million
- Children Services \$151 million
- Social Housing \$120 million
- Ontario Works \$85 million
- Community Services \$30 million
- Transportation and Engineering \$89 million

- Solid Waste Management \$82 million

Attached to this news release is the 2025 County of Simcoe Budget Overview.

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

*Submitted by County of Simcoe*

# Penetang Main St. plan provides ‘growth and development’ opportunity

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: [MidlandToday.ca](http://MidlandToday.ca)  
Nov 19, 2024

Penetanguishene residents attending a recent public meeting for 200 Main Street and 35 Thompsons Road West were able to get a look at what could be future commercial and residential development within the town.

Applications for an official plan amendment and zoning bylaw amendment were the subject of the meeting, allowing the public to share their thoughts and concerns for consideration. A presentation by Sajecki Planning pitched the 11-building, three-phase proposal.

The parcel north of Thompson Road West, called Phase 2, would contain two six-storey rental buildings and two six-storey condominiums each with dedicated underground parking and additional parking at grade.

The parcel south of Thompson Road West would be split, as Phases 1a and 1b would contain two commercial buildings along Main Street, a nine-unit commercial plaza, and a standalone building with drive-thru.

Phase 3 was proposed on the eastern half of the southern parcel, to contain six-storey condominiums with underground parking and three three-storey townhouse blocks with individual driveways and garages. As well, an open space was included within the render.

Through the public meeting, a request was made to remove the ‘future study overlay’ designation of the official plan and amend that to mixed use and commercial area; as well as to request a zoning bylaw amendment for mixed use commercial exception zone, to permit townhouses, dwelling units above commercial units, and a maximum height of six-storeys.

While the opportunity for residents was given to speak, one neighbour provided ample content for planners to consider.

Holly Bryce spoke at length with varying concerns including: Adjacent housing and subdivisions; impact to the town entrance visually and regarding traffic; inclusion of existing businesses to review information; inconsistencies in documents; and more. “I feel the value of the wetland area to the southwest of the development lands has been undervalued and minimized to suit the development plans,” said Bryce. “How will redirecting this natural water flow affect the existing wetland area, and how will the proposed underground parking and underground water retention area affect the water table, which is already an issue in the Bellisle subdivision?”

Bryce concluded her 10-minute scrutiny with comments that she was not opposed to development or growth in the town, but requested consideration be given to impact on the existing community and an ask that it would reflect current community heritage and culture. Planning and engineering representatives thanked Bryce for the comments, reiterating that the feedback would be taken into consideration.

Later in the council meeting, a request was made by Coun. George Vadeboncoeur for an upcoming report to include further information on the waterway indicated in the documentation, as well as how the proposed site would accommodate grading at the bottom of the hill.

MidlandToday asked Mayor Doug Rawson after the council session what impact a large development such as was proposed would have on Penetanguishene. Rawson declined to comment on the Sajecki proposal, but praised the developer for being open to public consultation. “I think from a growth and development perspective,” said Rawson, “this could provide opportunity for the community because everyone’s talking about business and economic development opportunities and housing tools, and I think this solves a lot of what we’re looking for. “I think a lot of thought’s gone into this, but I want to pause and hear what the community has to say before we get recommendations to move forward,” Rawson added.

The 200 Main Street presentation, including conceptual render and amendment applications for official plan and zoning bylaw, can be located on the agenda page of the Town of Penetanguishene website.

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# Annie's Journal

Written by Annie Warner Donnelly

Dec. 2, 2024 - Hello Everyone. Here's a question: when we were younger, what did we learn about love? Did we learn that love is performance based - if I do everything perfectly, I will be loved?

Having to be perfect to be loved is one of the worst things to believe. Certainly, our world rewards us when we do things perfectly whether at home or

school, at work and even at church. An allowance, certain privileges, good grades, a raise, a promotion, being elected to positions - these rewards are often the ways we measure our worth, our value, our self-esteem.

We may believe these successes make us worthy of being loved, make us loveable. We may even do loving things in the hope that we'll be loved in return. But, this isn't what God's love looks like.

Before we ever heard about God, He loved us. One of the most quoted verses in the Bible says: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

And let's not forget John 3:17 - "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

No matter who we are or what we've done, 1 John 1:9 says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

We don't need to strive to earn God's love. He had it waiting for us before we were born! Every moment of every day, His love waits to be received by us. We don't have to prove ourselves or be perfect to receive it. We don't have to win it. We don't have to wonder if we're good enough. We just need to believe God's words are true.

Our Creator's love is different from our human ability to love. His love transcends every worldview. God is love and He loves us dearly. This is wonderful news! Let's talk to Him about this in prayer today. He'll be listening. Amen.

## No Contact for the Holidays: Protecting Your Mental Health May Mean Staying Away

By Christine Korol, Ph.D., Registered Psychologist, Nov. 26, 2024

The holiday season often paints the picture of family gatherings full of joy and togetherness, but for many, it's a season fraught with tension, conflict, and emotional strain. While gatherings can offer warmth and connection, they can also reopen old wounds, trigger anxiety, or even put individuals in emotionally or physically unsafe situations.

As a psychologist, I've helped many patients face the difficult decision of stepping away from family events during the holidays. This choice—whether temporary or permanent—can be one of the hardest decisions to make. Yet, for some, it's a necessary step toward safeguarding mental health and breaking cycles of toxicity.

When Boundaries Aren't Enough

Before opting to forgo holiday gatherings entirely, it's worth considering whether healthier boundaries and communication can make family interactions manageable. Techniques like assertiveness, mindfulness, and empathy can sometimes defuse tension and empower individuals:

- Be direct but kind: Phrases like, "I'm not comfortable discussing that" or "Let's change the subject" can help set clear limits with pushy relatives.
- Practise patience: Staying calm amid provocations can help you weather difficult moments without taking them personally.
- Lean on mindfulness: When baited by antagonistic comments, staying present and breathing deeply can prevent reactive outbursts.
- Tap into compassion: Trying to see things from a family member's perspective—considering their fears or the information they consume—may foster empathy and reduce anger.
- Take the wind out of their sails: Refusing to argue in the first place can often de-escalate. For example, if you have a gloating relative after the election, you could say something like, "Well, I want what's best for everyone, too and now I'm on board and hope that he does good work for the country."

However, these tools don't always diffuse a situation. When attempts to set boundaries repeatedly fail or interactions escalate into harmful territory, taking a break—or even going "no contact"—may be the best option.

Signs It's Time to Step Away

Choosing to distance yourself from family isn't about punishing others but protecting yourself. Here are some clear signs that no contact might be the healthiest choice:

- Severe emotional distress: If gatherings consistently leave you feeling depressed, anxious, or even suicidal, it's time to reassess.
- Physical safety concerns: If someone's behaviour makes you fear for your safety, avoidance is essential.
- Attacks on loved ones: If your partner, children, or chosen family are subjected to verbal or emotional harm, stepping away becomes necessary.
- Failed boundaries: If repeated efforts to address issues only escalate conflicts or lead to retaliation, the situation may be untenable.
- Estrangement Isn't Uncommon
- Family estrangement is more prevalent than

most realise. Research by Karl Pillemer, author of Fault Lines: Fractured Families and How to Mend Them, reveals that 27% of Americans have cut off contact with at least one family member. While no contact can reduce stress and improve mental health in toxic relationships, it often comes with grief, guilt, or feelings of loss. Therapy can be invaluable in navigating these complex emotions.

How to Handle the Holidays Alone

- If you decide to forgo family gatherings, focus on what you'll gain, not what you're leaving behind. Here are some ways to make the holidays fulfilling:
- Create new traditions: Host a friends' potluck, volunteer, or indulge in a cozy movie marathon.
- Prioritise self-care: Use the time to relax, reflect, and engage in activities that bring you joy.
- Connect with others: Reach out to friends, join community events, or participate in virtual holiday celebrations.
- Limit social media: Avoid triggering posts, like photos of gatherings you're skipping or idealised depictions of other families.
- Remind yourself why: Write a list of what you won't miss—criticism, toxic remarks, or emotional manipulation—and revisit it when doubt creeps in.

Exiting Gracefully

- When stepping away, avoid dramatic announcements. Abrupt declarations can heighten conflict, especially with volatile family members. Instead, consider using neutral, low-conflict excuses like:
- "Work is overwhelming, and I can't take time off."
- "Travel is too stressful this year."
- "We're keeping it quiet and local this holiday."

This approach can help you withdraw without escalating tensions.

Finding Peace on Your Terms

Choosing no contact is never easy, but it's a powerful act of self-preservation. While it may bring initial challenges—feelings of loneliness or guilt—it can also pave the way for a calmer, more joyful holiday season.

If you're grappling with this decision, consider speaking with a therapist. They can help you explore alternatives, process emotions, and create a plan that feels right for you.

Above all, remember this: the holidays are about peace, love, and renewal. Sometimes, protecting your mental health means redefining what those values look like—and giving yourself the gift of distance.





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## CRA Announces \$7,000 increase to TFSA in 2025

By Brian Belcourt, Springwater News Reporter  
Dec. 2, 2024 - The Canada Revenue Agency announces that there will be a \$7,000 contribution limit increase in Tax Free Savings Account contribution room for 2025. Starting January 1, 2025 Canadians 18 years old or older, will be able to contribute an additional \$7000 into their Tax-Free Savings Account. The \$7000 increase matches the increase in 2024.

The Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) was introduced in 2009 with a contribution limit of \$5,000. Each year since the Canadian Revenue Agency announce what the increase will be for the following year. The contribution limits have been: 2009 to 2012 was \$5,000, 2013 and 2014 was \$5,500,

2015 was \$10,000, 2016 to 2018 was \$5,500, 2019 to 2022 was \$6,000, 2023 was \$6,500, 2024 and 2025 is \$7,000.

Canadians 18 years old or older are eligible to contribute toward a TFSA. If you were 18 years old in 2009 and have not contributed towards a TFSA, your contribution room would be \$102,000 in 2025.

If unsure how much contribution room you have to maximize your contribution, you can find out by using your CRA account or calling tax information phone service at 1-800-267-6999. It is important not to over contribute as you will have to pay a tax equal to 1% of the highest excess TFSA amount in the month, for each month that the excess amount remains in your account.

Depending on the type of investments held in your TFSA, you can generally withdraw any amount from the TFSA, at any time. Withdrawing funds from your TFSA dose not reduce the total amount of contributions you have already made for the year.

Withdrawals, excluding qualifying transfers and specified distributions made from your TFSA in the year will only be added back to your TFSA contribution room at the beginning of the following year. If you decide to replace or contribute all or a part of your withdrawals into your TFSA in the same year, you can only do so if you have available TFSA contribution room. If you re-contribute but don't have contribution room, you will have over contributed to your TFSA in the year. You will be subject to a tax equal to 1% of the highest excess TFSA amount in the month and each month the excess remains.

Which plan should I contribute to first – my RRSP or TFSA? Generally, RRSPs are a good choice for longer term goals like retirement, while TFSAs

work better for more immediate ones because you can access your savings for things like vacations or renovations. But TFSAs also offer tax advantages, so don't overlook yours as a vehicle for your retirement savings. If you expect to be in a higher marginal tax rate in the future, it might be a good idea to contribute to your TFSA now, when you're paying less income tax, and an RRSP later, when you'll be subject to a higher marginal tax rate and your RRSP contribution will generate more income tax savings. Your advisor can work with you to help determine a strategy tailored to your needs and circumstances.

There are two ways a TFSA can help you grow your savings faster than an ordinary savings account or a non-registered account.

1. Tax-Free earnings, investments grow tax-free while inside the TFSA, so you don't have to include any earnings on your Canadian income tax return.

2. Tax-free withdrawals can be made from the TFSA at any time for any purpose. Withdrawals are generally not considered as a taxable income and are not subject to tax.

Should I invest in a RRSP or Tax-free savings account? The answer is that it depends on your situation as both have tax advantages. A RRSP can also have tax liability as 100% of withdrawals are taxed as income, for example high income earners in retirement will pay higher tax rate on withdrawals and withdrawals could also trigger old age security claw backs. It is best to get advice from your financial advisor or accountant when deciding were to invest.

In conclusion your TFSA contribution room should be maximized if you currently have non-registered investments, this will help you pay less tax on capital gains.

## Township of Tiny's Mayor and Deputy Mayor elected to chair and vice-chair of County committees

Date: November 27, 2024

(Tiny, Ontario) On Tuesday, November 26, 2024, Township of Tiny's Mayor David Evans and Deputy Mayor Sean Miskimins were elected to be chair and vice-chair respectively of two different County of Simcoe committees. The mid-term business section election occurred at the County Council and Committee of the Whole meeting.

The County of Simcoe's Committee of the Whole reports to County Council, and has three business sections: Performance Management, Human Services, and Corporate Services. Each business section committee has sub-committees that report through them to County Council. The committees provide guidance to County Council to make informed decisions and work

to better the Simcoe community.

Mayor Evans was elected to the position of Chair of the Performance Management business section that has the following reporting committees: Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Audit and Finance Committee.

"I am honoured to accept the nomination for the Chair of Performance Management," said Mayor David Evans. "I look forward to working with Vice-Chair Richard Norcross, Mayor of New Tecumseth, as we find new and innovative ways to improve accessibility across the County and help to ensure we are financially responsible as Simcoe's population and need for resources both continue to grow."

Deputy Mayor Miskimins was elected to the position of Vice-Chair of the Corporate

Services section that has the following reporting committees: Agricultural Liaison Committee, Economic Development Sub-committee, Planning Advisory Committee, and the Grant Task Force.

"It is my absolute honour to accept the Vice-Chair position for Corporate Services," said Deputy Mayor Miskimins. "I am thrilled to work with Town of Innisfil's Mayor Lynn Dollin on all of the exciting initiatives surrounding agriculture, economic development, planning, and grants, and also to apply all of the best practices learned from these committees on a local level in Tiny as well."

For more information about the County of Simcoe's Council and Committees, visit [www.simcoe.ca/government/clk/aboutcc](http://www.simcoe.ca/government/clk/aboutcc).





OPP REPORT Submitted by OPP

FEDERAL OFFENDER WANTED-

Brandon ROY

(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.

Brandon ROY is described as an Indigenous Male,



30 years old, 6ft / 183cm, 160lbs / 73 kg, Black Hair and Brown Eyes.

Brandon ROY is serving a 2 year and 1 day sentence for:

- Robbery-Armed Robbery
- Assault
- Fail to Comply with Order at Large-3 counts
- Fail to Comply with SOIRA Reg Order
- Fail to Attend Court-2 Counts
- Theft Under-5 counts
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime-Over \$5000

The offender is known to frequent Timmins, Thunder Bay and Kenora, Ontario.

Anyone having contact with this offender or information 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.

Sunday Morning Crash into Utility Pole Results in Driving Charges for Tiny Township Resident

(TINY TOWNSHIP, ON) - While travelling along Champlain Road in Tiny Township on Sunday December 1, 2024, at approximately 2:51 a.m. a community member came upon a single vehicle crash of a Tesla into a utility pole at the intersection of the 17th Concession Road.

A call was placed to the OPP Communication Centre, and officers from Southern Georgian Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) attended to investigate. The lone occupant was located and upon speaking with the uninjured driver, an impaired driving investigation was commenced by the officers.

As a result, Varchas SRIRANGAM 37 years of Tiny Township has been charged criminally in connection to this investigation with the following offences.

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

And further with the Provincial Offences of

- Fail to remain
- Fail to report accident

The accused was released from custody to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice on the December 19, 2024, and was served a 90 day drivers licence suspension. The involved Tesla was towed and is the subject of a 7 day vehicle impound in accordance to the Ministry of Transportation (ADLS) guidelines.

Since the Festive R.I.D.E kick off on November 21, 2024, officers have conducted the R.I.D.E. program at fifty five separate locations stopped over 746 vehicles checking their drivers for signs of impairment

WEATHER EVENT

November 30

OPP ISSUES WARNING ON ROAD CONDITIONS BETWEEN GRAVENHURST AND ORILLIA

(ORILLIA, ON) - The Central Region of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is advising drivers about weather conditions creating unsafe roadways between Gravenhurst and Orillia.

Highway 11 Southbound is closed between Doe Lake Road and Washago due to weather and road conditions. The OPP strongly advises the public to avoid traveling on Highway 11 and in these areas until further notice.

OPP officers are currently on scene managing traffic and will provide updates as they become available. Updates will be shared on Central Region's social media platforms: X @OPP\_CR, Facebook @OPPCentralRegion, and Instagram @OPP-CentralRegion.

December 2

HIGHWAY 11 REMAINS CLOSED BETWEEN ORILLIA AND HUNTSVILLE

Reopening Times Expected

(AURORA, ON) - Snow clearing efforts are continuing on Highway 11, between Highway 60 in Huntsville and West Street in Orillia.

HURONIA WEST OPP LAYS CHARGES IN RELATION TO A HISTORICAL SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATION

(TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH, ON) - The Huronia West Detachment Major Crime Unit of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has charged an individual in relation to a historical sexual assault.

On April 2, 2024, an investigation began after a victim reported a sexual assault that occurred at Stayner Collegiate Institute between 1978-1979. At the time, the accused was a teacher.

As a result of the investigation, Paul Neill LANZ, 77-year-old of Clearview Township, was charged with:

- Adult Rape
- Adult Sexual Intercourse with a female between 14 and 16 years of age

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Collingwood on December 17, 2024, to answer to the charges.

The OPP are concerned there may be more victims in relation to this investigation. Anyone with information about this or a similar incident is urged to call the Huronia West OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit your information online at [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com). Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display, and you will remain anonymous.

There is no statute of limitations on sexual offences and a report can be made to police at any time, regardless of how much time has passed. If you do not wish to make a report to police or need more time and support to make that decision, there are community partners available to help. Ontario 211 provides information on Ontario's community, social and health related government services. Simply call 2-1-1 or visit [www.211ontario.ca](http://www.211ontario.ca) for more information.

CARING GRANDPARENTS, DON'T ACT TOO QUICKLY!

(ORILLIA, ON) - Grandparent or emergency scams are common scams that target loving grandparents, taking advantage of their emotions to rob them of their money.



Fraudsters are targeting seniors by calling and pretending to be a family member in distress, the police or a justice official claiming that a loved one or grandchild is in trouble and needs money immediately. In other cases, the scammer will pretend to be an old neighbour or a family friend in trouble. Common misfortunes include having been in a car accident, getting locked up in jail, or trouble returning home from a foreign country.

The caller will ask you questions, getting you to reveal personal information. They'll also swear you to secrecy, saying that they are embarrassed and don't want other family members to find out what's happened. A scam call commonly starts as follows:

**Victim:** Hello?

**Suspect:** Hi Grandma/Nonna/Oma (depending on last name on Canada411 or potential accent).

**Victim:** Johnny? Is that you?

**Suspect:** Yes, it's Johnny. Grandma, my voice sounds different because I have a cold. Grandma, can you keep a secret? I really don't want my parents to know. I'm so scared and I need help.

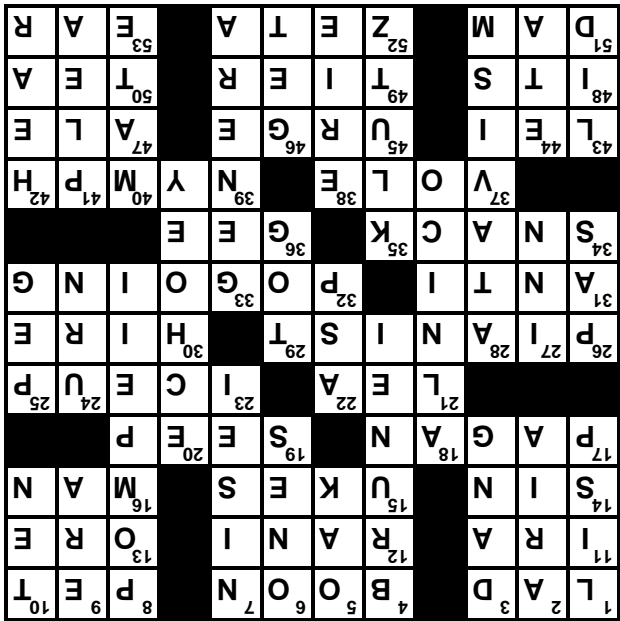
**Victim:** Ok... What's going on? Are you okay?

**Suspect:** My friend picked me up to take me to the store and we were in his brother's car... (story about a car accident or other misfortune) and now I'm in jail and they won't let me out...

If you receive a suspicious call, remember:

- Be suspicious of calls that require immediate action. Hang up and contact the family member directly.
- The caller either doesn't provide a normal jail location for the area if asked or mistakes the local police service. Call the non-emergency number of the police service to verify the story or confirm the name and badge number of the officer calling.
- When at the bank, tell the truth about why you're taking out large sums of cash as bank tellers are very familiar with scams.
- The courts won't ask for cash to bail out someone in custody and will require people to be present in court.
- Never send cash, cryptocurrencies or any other funds to unknown person, unverified addresses or bank accounts.
- Take time to verify the story by asking the caller a few personal questions or pressing your caller for details. Scammers are counting on you wanting to quickly help your loved one in an emergency.

If you believe you have been scammed, contact your local police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or [antifraudcentre.ca](http://antifraudcentre.ca).



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1979 Flos Rd 7 W, Elmvale

Cost: \$350.00

Fully LCBO licenced facility.  
Bartender available for hire.  
Commercial kitchen and all meal  
serving items are included. Stage.

Capacity indoors: 125 in hall

Capacity with outdoors: 184

Call Lion Bob Coe to book 705-322-4484

Elmvale Legion Hall Rental

Available for all functions.

135 person capacity.

Bar available upon request.

Contact 322-1042 to book

Life Labs Elmvale

Holiday Hours

Dec. 24 Open 7-9pm

Dec. 25 Closed

Dec. 26 Closed

Dec. 31 Open 7-9pm

FREE



FREE and NEW TO YOU  
CLOTHING, SHOES, HATS, SCARFS

Our store is at 9A Queen Street East Elmvale.

Our hours are:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am  
until 1 pm, Tuesday 6:00-8:00pm,  
Wednesday 3:00-5:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am until noon

Flags at Tiny fire  
stations lowered  
to honour the  
life of Jesse  
Marchand

Date: November 22, 2024

(Tiny, Ontario) The Township of Tiny is saddened to learn of the passing of Jesse Marchand, a former firefighter with Tiny's Fire and Emergency Services. Marchand was a volunteer firefighter at Station 3 from December 2017 to October 2022. After moving, they joined our neighbouring Fire Department in Tay Township.

In honour of Marchand's dedication to the community, the flags at all Tiny fire stations have been lowered to half mast.

"It is with profound sorrow that we mourn the loss of one of our past firefighters. This tragedy has deeply affected our entire department," said Fire and Emergency Services/Fire Chief Dave Flewelling. "Though their time with us was short, their impact was immeasurable. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family, friends, and fellow firefighters during this heartbreaking time."

FOR RENT

ELMVALE APARTMENT FOR RENT

2 available immediately

2 available December 1

2 Bedroom Apartment

\$1,690 per month plus hydro

located Downtown Elmvale

Includes fridge, and stove. No pets.

Extensive credit check will be done.

Mostly seniors living in building.

Call Craig 705-322-3008

WANTED

UNWANTED GUNS?

I am fully licensed for possession of restricted and non-restricted firearms.

I will safely and legally take possession of or purchase rifles, shotguns, gun safes, or happy to advise on estate or collections.

Text or call Rob 705-716-6873

HIRING



Come join our team in Elmvale!

We are excited to be adding a full-time hygienist to our team at Solly Family Dentistry. We are located in the heart of Elmvale.

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

BAZAAR

St. Louis Church Christmas  
Bazaar & Bake Sale

Sat. Dec. 7 from 9.30 am. - 12.30 pm  
Line 4 at St. Louis Rd.

Treats & treasures for everyone!

Sara Vista  
Lights Up for  
Christmas

Submitted by Debbie Craddock

On Wednesday December 4th at 6pm the staff and residents of The Sara Vista Long Term Care Centre gathered outside of the nursing home to witness the official annual lighting of their Christmas lights. For a few years the Elmvale & District Lions Club have sponsored the installation of the Christmas lights and they have generously supplied and installed lights in the courtyard themselves. The Lions Club will once again put up lights in the courtyard and we sincerely thank them for all that they do. This year however, The Friends of Sara Vista, through generous donations, have financed the professional installation of Christmas lights on the building. For a reduced fee, The Shack Shine company installed the lights on the building in November. The Friends of Sara Vista is a non-profit group of volunteers who, through efforts of fundraising, endeavour to enhance the environment and lifestyle, through services, equipment and other requested assistance, of all residents and staff of The Sara Vista. Donations are gratefully accepted anytime of the year. Please contact Karen Locke at karen.locke@exeassist.ca for more information. On behalf of The Friends of Sara Vista we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

AUCTION NOTICES



Upcoming Auctions

The Estate of Walter Boyd - Innisfil

The Estate of Walter Boyd auction features a unique collection of high-quality farm equipment, antiques, and vintage treasures. Among the standout items are a 2020 John Deere XUV835M Gator, a John Deere 3033R Tractor with a 320R loader, and a Kubota GR2120 Lawn Tractor. Antique enthusiasts will appreciate rare finds like the Perin & Gaff Cast Iron Bell, a historic plane propeller, and a vintage Mission Oak China Cabinet. Other sought-after lots include a Fairbanks-Morse Trolley Cart, classic wood boxes, cast iron implements, and various brass bells, making this auction an exciting opportunity for collectors and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

- Business Surplus Assets Auction - Mount Forest (Dec 15-19)
- Merry & Bright Multi-Consignor - Guelph (Dec 15-19)
- The Olympic Coach Collection Auction - Guelph (Jan 5-9)
- The Estate of Fred Walker - Orangeville (New Year)
- Murray Hobbs Moving Auction - Maple (New Year)

www.rapid-sell.ca

519-763-1856

info@rapid-sell.ca

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FOR SELL



Firewood For Sale

Available in 12"/16"/24"/48"

Seasoned hardwood

\$350/bush cord delivered

Call Flo- 705 209 9246

Attention Woodlot Owners

- Looking to purchase  
hardwood and pine trees
- Minimum 50 trees

Please call Rej (Springwater Forestry)  
at 705-790-6506

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone involved in making our first Christmas bazaar a huge success.

Winner of the basket was Cathy Jamieson and winner of the planter was Beth McKae.

Thanks from the Elmvale Legion and The Ladies Auxiliary.

Radon may be a silent health  
risk in your home

By SMDHU, Nov. 19, 2024- Radon is an invisible, colourless, and tasteless radioactive gas that naturally occurs when uranium in the soil and rock decays and can enter your home unnoticed, posing a risk to your health. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer after smoking, causing nearly 16 percent of lung cancer deaths annually which is equal to about 850 lung cancer deaths each year in Ontario. The gas is naturally found in the environment and can enter your home through cracks in foundation walls, gaps around pipes, drains, or sump pumps — often undetected.

Long-term exposure to radon can increase the risk of lung cancer depending on the amount of radon present, the length of time you are exposed, and whether you smoke. Smoking, combined with radon exposure, significantly increases your risk of developing lung cancer.

Checking you home for radon can be done with a do-it-yourself kit. If you detect higher levels of radon in your home, contact a certified radon professional to help you reduce the radon levels in your home.

Contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520



Community Events - Ongoing

SENIOR CLUBS

**Askennonia Seniors Centre**  
Rec. Centre, 527 Len Self Blvd, Midland  
P: (705) 526-7609

**Bay Shore Seniors’ Club**  
2000 Tiny Beaches Road S., Woodland Beach  
Call 705-361-1331 or info@bayshoreseniors.ca

**Georgian Shores Seniors Club**  
The Place, 300 Balm Beach Road West, Tiny  
Call 705 526 5074 or gssseniors2016@rogers.com

MONDAY

**Midland Jam**  
**Mondays 6:30-10 pm** Free, Bring food bank item,  
1st come, first 15 minute play  
Midland Cultural Centre, 333 King St, Midland

**Elmvale Seniors Drop In**  
**Monday’s**  
10 am - 12 noon  
Elmvale Library. Call Lynn for info, 705.322.3309

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

**Georgian Shores Seniors Club**  
**Billiards/Pool**, 9:00 – 11 am  
**Seniors in Motion Fitness**, 10:00 – 11:00 am  
**Hustle and Muscle**, 11:30 – 12:30 pm  
**Bid Euchre**, 1 – 3:30 pm

**Askennonia Seniors Centre**  
**Table Tennis**, 9am-11am  
**Yoga**, 9am-10am  
**Fun Fit Circuit**, 9:15-10:15am  
**Coffee Break**, 10:30-12pm  
**Intro to Line Dancing- Baby Steps**, 10:35-11am  
**Walking Club**, 11 am-12pm

TUESDAY

**Elmvale Legion**  
**Tuesdays at 1 pm**  
Table Shuffleboard, Cost \$1

**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

**Bay Shore Seniors Club**  
**Billiards/Pool** 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.  
**Indoor Pickleball** 1:00 - 2:30 pm  
**Bid-Euchre** – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

**Georgian Shores Seniors Club**  
**Billiards/Pool**, 9:00 – 11 am  
**Line Dancing, Prog. Beginners** 9:30 – 11:00 am  
**Line Dancing, Easy Intermediate**, 11:30 – 1:00 pm

**Askennonia Seniors Centre**  
**Badminton**, 1pm-3pm  
**1:30 Circle of Friends**, 1:30pm-2:30pm

**Probus Club of Simcoe North**  
**Penetang Legion, Poyntz St., Penetanguishene**  
Monthly meeting for fun & fellowship every second  
Tuesday. Mary Grise (705)526-6349 marygrise0@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY

**Bay Shore Seniors Club**  
**LifeStyles** - 9:00 - 10:30 am  
**Bridge** – 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.  
**Access Art** - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m  
**Indoor Pickleball** - 4:00 - 6:00 pm

**Georgian Shores Seniors Club**  
**Billiards/Pool**, 9:00 – 11 am  
**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

**Askennonia Seniors Centre**  
**Step Class**, 9 am-10am  
**Chair Yoga**, 9:30am-10:30am  
**Cribbage**, 10am-11am  
**Men’s Shed**, 10am-12pm  
**Walking Club**, 11am-12pm  
**Creative Crafting**, 1pm-3pm

THURSDAY

**Jam Night Elmvale Palace**  
**Thursdays at 9 am-1am**  
13 Queen St. W, Elmvale , 705-322-1741

**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.  
Mary Grise 705-526-6349 marygrise0@gmail.com

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

**Bay Shore Seniors’ Club**  
**Choir** 10-11:30 am  
**Book Club** (4th Thurs) 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
**Darts** 2:00 - 4:00 pm  
2000 Tiny Beaches Road S., Woodland Beach  
Call 705-361-1331 or info@bayshoreseniors.ca

**Georgian Shores Seniors Club**  
**Billiards/Pool**, 9:00 – 11 am  
**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

**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.

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

FRIDAY

**Bay Shore Seniors’ Club**  
**VON Smart Exercise (FREE)** 9:30 - 10:30 am  
**Woodcarving** 10:00 - 3:00 pm  
**Billiards/Pool** 10:00 - 12:00 pm  
**Indoor Pickleball** 10:30 - 12:00 pm/ 3:30 - 5:00 pm  
**Shuffleboard** 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Georgian Shores Seniors Club**  
**Billiards/Pool**, 9:00 – 11 am  
**Table Tennis**, 9:30-11:30 am  
**3rd Bingo & Lunch:** 12 noon - 3:30 pm  
**TGIF social**, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

**Askennonia Seniors Centre**  
**Knit’n Needles**, 9am-12pm  
**Drumming Alive**, 9am-10am  
**Pickleball**, 9am-11:30am  
**Chair Yoga**, 9am-10am  
**Badminton**, 9:30am-11:30am  
**Game Club**, 10am-11am  
**Tabata**, 9am-10am  
**Card Making**, 1pm-3pm

SATURDAY

**Elmvale Legion**  
**Saturday at 5 pm**  
Meat Darts- \$ 10.00 for 3 games  
3 prizes per game and a meat draw prize after \$1.00  
a ticket (\$25.00 value)

SUNDAY

**Bay Shore Seniors’ Club**  
**Indoor Pickleball** 2:00 - 3:30 pm

**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.

MONDAY to FRIDAY

**S.M.A.R.T Exercise Program with V.O.N.**  
Mon 9:30-10:30am  
1724 Mosley St - Hall 1A Recplex gym  
Wed & Fri 1:00 - 2:00 pm 44 River Road West  
Re/Max Room (Stars Arena)

**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

**North Simcoe Bridge and Games Club**  
**Brooklea Golf and Country Club**  
**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 Gail Chapman @ 705-361-9222 or  
northsimcoebridge@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

Special Events - One Time

**Boxes of Hope Campaign - Youth Haven**  
**Nov. 14-Dec. 17, 2024**  
Annual online event raising donations to help youth  
experiencing homelessness.

**The Barrel Boys, Carols**  
**Dec. 7 at 7-8pm, \$25 +tax**  
MCC, 333 King St, Midland

**First Light**  
**November 21st to December 8th, 5:30pm to 9pm**  
Sainte-Marie among the Hurons and Martyrs’  
Shrine! 16164 Highway 12 East, Midland

**St. Louis Church Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale**  
**Sat. Dec. 7, 9.30 am. - 12.30 pm**  
Line 4 at St. Louis Rd, Hillsdale/Medonte

**Holiday Vendor & Craft Fair**  
**Dec. 7 10am - 3pm, Midhurst United Church**  
Join us to honour Elaine, support cancer research &  
get holiday shopping done!

**An Improv-able Christmas**  
**Dec. 10 at 7pm, \$15 +tax**  
MCC, 333 King St, Midland

**Kitchen Party Christmas- East Coast Themed**  
**Dec. 12 at 6:30pm, \$40 +tax**  
MCC, 333 King St, Midland

**Let’s do Lunch and Bake Sale**  
**Dec. 12, 2024 11-1 pm. \$5 take out and delivery**  
Elmvale Presbyterian Church, 22 Queen St. E  
Call 705-322-1411 on Dec. 9 from 9-12 pm to order.

**Santa Comes To Steelers**  
**Dec. 14, 2024 1-3pm**  
23 Queen St. W, Elmvale

**Good Lovelies Christmas - Classic and Timeless**  
**Dec. 14 at 7pm, \$50 +tax**  
MCC, 333 King St, Midland

**Love Came Down at Christmas, Huronia Choir**  
**Dec 14, 2024 1:30pm**  
Cost \$20, age 16 and under - free  
St. Paul’s United Church, Midland ON

**Free Christmas Dinner**  
**Dec. 25, 2024 12 pm dine in or takeout/delivery**  
Elmvale Presbyterian Church, 22 Queen St. E  
Call 705-322-1411 on Dec. 17, 9-3pm to order.

**Inflatable Kidzone and Dinosaur Display**  
**Dec. 27, 10-5 pm**  
Bradford Greenhouses 4346 County Rd. 90, Barrie  
Inflatable Kidzone and Dinosaur Display with  
Tattoos, Fun Foods, Balloons + more

PARADES

**Coldwater Santa Claus Parade**  
**Sat. Dec. 7, 2024 at 5:30 pm** . Starts on Gray St and  
travels down main street.

**Anten Mills Santa Claus Parade**  
Sun. Dec. 8 at 1 pm

TREE LIGHTING

**Penetanguishene:** Dec. 6, 2024 5-7:30 pm  
**Hillsdale:** Dec. 7, 2024 at 6 pm 4517 Penetang Rd  
**Anten Mills:** Dec. 7, 2024, 5 pm Snow Tube, 6:30  
pm Santa arrives, 7 pm Tree lighting and fireworks  
**Minesing:** Dec. 13, 2024 at 5 pm



# Madeline ‘Maddy’ Tannahill...

by Waxy Gregoire

Madeline Tannahill from Penetang sits back and reminisces about those days when she excelled in the sport of golf.

It all started in 1966 at the Ashburn Country Club in Halifax where she qualified for the tournament by being among the top 16 players in Ontario.

From 1968 to 1979, she competed in Ontario Open Tournament with fields of 90 golfers with her best finish coming in fifth.

Maddy played in many Canadian Ladies golf championships beginning in 1970 at the Oakdale Country Club in Toronto with a five handicap and then in 1974 in Winnipeg. She competed in Ontario Match Play four times.

For a person to qualify for Ontario Match Play, a player had to be in the low 16 in the Ontario Open. In order to do that she had to win a berth on the Huronia District team which in turn dictated four match play playdowns.

Maddy was in the top eight Ontario amateur ladies from 1974 to 1977 which allowed her to be a member of the Ontario Match team.

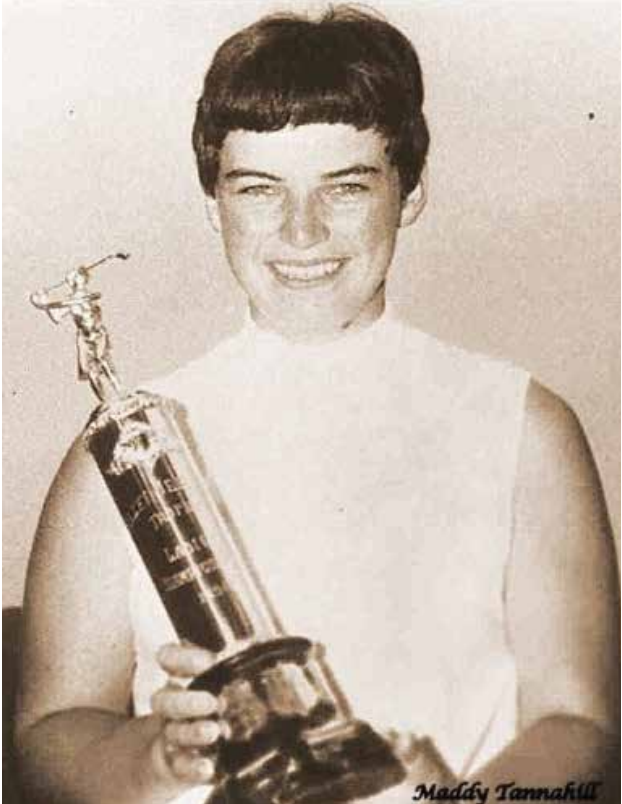
Maddy captured the Huronia District championship eight times from 1968 to 1979 playing two matches a day over a two day period, beating the best golfers from Shanty Bay, Barrie, Midland, Orillia, Collingwood, Brooklea and Horseshoe Valley golf clubs.

It was quite a year for the Tannahills in 1968, Maddy is Don's twin sister and it was the same year he won the Memorial Cup in hockey.

The same year she won the Midland Golf and Country Club ladies championship and then did it a total of 10 times.

During the 1980 tournament Maddy had recorded 75 on both her first rounds, going into the second day she had a 20 stroke lead over second place.

Madeline held a Canadian Professional Golfers Association Certificate as a teaching pro...what a player.





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Rev. John Stokes (705) 534-3251

### Join #TeamUpWalk

#### OPERATION BRAIN HEALTH



**ENLIST**

Nov. 27, 2024This is about an initiative from the Concussion Legacy Foundation Canada to encourage Veterans to take daily walks to foster physical and mental health. Walking not only boosts your mood but also improves brain function.

In the veteran sphere, there has been a lot about brain health and traumatic brain injuries and how VAC has been denying claims saying there is no evidence linking concussive explosions, such as IEDs, to brain injuries such as Post Concussion Syndrome. I have a few appeals right now, as they are referring to us for assistance now. Once I determine the best way forward with these claims and appeals, I will bring forward. There is a lot of research in the states about how it does affect white matter in certain areas of the brain.

If you come across any veteran struggling or was denied a claim, please feel free to reach out to me. There is great support from this organization.

VAC will likely still deny a claim for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) as this is the injury itself, similar to knee injury vice Osteoarthritis of the Knee, and a medical diagnosis will be needed, such as Post Concussion Syndrome.

Stay tuned for more info in the future. In the meantime, here is a link to their website. <https://concussionfoundation.ca/>

Submitted by Michael Jacobs, written by Betty-Jean Murray

### Dr Sean Corsini, Orthodontist

No referral necessary



**705 527-5570**  
550 Hugel Ave., Midland

### EVENTS



#### Sleigh ride in the Village

**FRI. DEC. 6, 2024**  
**6 PM—9 PM**

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COMMUNITY**

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Sleigh Ride

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Hot Chocolate

**FREE**  
Toys and Draws

**FREE**  
Face Painting  
Crafts

**FREE**  
Gift Bag

### HILLSDALE TREE LIGHTING

**SATURDAY DEC 7TH 6PM**  
AT HILLSDALE COMMUNITY HALL



• Hot Chocolate • Crafts  
• Free Baked Goods

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PRESENTS

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DECEMBER  
7TH 2024  
11 AM



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### Township of Tiny Lights Up Perkinsfield Park at Tree Lighting Celebration

Submitted by Township of Tiny, Dec. 2, 2024

On Tuesday, November 26, 2024, the Township of Tiny kicked off the festive season with our annual Tree Lighting Celebration held at Perkinsfield Park. The event featured live entertainment including the Bay Sound Singers and the École élémentaire catholique Sainte-Croix Lafontaine choir, the opportunity to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, exciting activities for children and families, a variety of food and beverage options including Toonie Food Trucks, and the lighting of several trees.

New for this year, the township added an Elfie Selfie station and a Grinch themed inflatable game.

The township would like to thank the following community partners for making this community event possible: Lafontaine Iron Werks for lending the Township their fire pits, BGC North Simcoe for hosting craft activities, the Midland Public Library for providing outdoor winter activities, Elmvale Tim Hortons for their hot chocolate donation, Midland Foodland for the apple cider donation, and Perkinsfield Pizza Pizza for donating pizza to feed our volunteers. We would also like to thank the Tiny Township Lions Club for hosting the food drive that will help those in need in our community. Donations collected from the food drive will be delivered to the Georgian Bay Food Network.



OBITUARIES

**HAMILTON, Arthur David**  
Passed away peacefully at the Georgian Bay General Hospital in Midland on Tuesday, November 19, 2024. Art Hamilton of Midland in his 92 year. Beloved husband and sweetie of Joan Ruscica, pre-deceased by wife Sheila Hamilton. Loved father of Catherine (Peter) Belanger and Robert (late Carolyn) Hamilton. Proud papa of 5 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. Brother of the late Bill (Marie) Hamilton, Tom (Sylvia) Hamilton, and Barbara (Fred) Daniels. Art will be missed by his many friends.

A Masonic service will be held at the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home in Elmvale at 11 am on Saturday, November 23, 2024. Refreshments to follow.

Private family interment at Waubaushene Protestant Cemetery.

If desired memorial donations may be made to the Shriner's Hospital for Children.

*Expressions of sympathy may be sent to [www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com](http://www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com)*



Elmvale Tree lighting (above) was held on Nov. 29 and the Elmvale Lions Santa Claus Parade was on Dec. 1 with Sargeant Co. Ltd. float (photo below). Both events were a big success. The crowds were large for all the communities events. Holiday spirit is alive and well. By Linda Belcourt



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OBITUARIES



**HORNE, Larry**

It is with heartbreaking sadness and heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Larry Horne at his home in Mexico on Sunday October 27, 2024 at the age of 75.

Beloved son of Edith Horne and the late Robert Horne of Stroud Ontario. Larry leaves behind his loving wife Lois, his daughter Sherri (Stephen) and his step daughters Sonya and Crystal.

Larry was the oldest of 10 children and will be sadly missed by his siblings. Lois (Sandy), George (Sepi), Jimmy (John), Andy, Johnny, Brenda (Alex), Brian (predeceased), Robby and Greg and many Nieces and Nephews.

Larry grew up in Stroud Ontario and later moved to Edmonton Alberta. He then traveled to Kelowna BC. He fell in love with Kelowna where he developed many properties. He was very talented and built each house as a showcase one after another. He then decided to move back to Ontario and became the owner of the carpet shop in Elmvale. Operating a business didn't stop him from building more homes.

In 2015 Larry and his wife moved to their cottage in Creston BC and in 2019 to Vulcan Alberta. In 2020 Larry and Lois started their retirement dream, and that was travelling. They took their comfortable RV and headed to Daytona Beach FL. After travelling state to state, their adventure ended at Chapala Mexico. Once more he started rebuilding what would become his final home.

Larry travelled a lot and saw many beautiful places but the place that always made him happy was the Big White Ski Resort in BC where Larry and his friends had many adventures.

Larry will be missed by everyone who knew him. He touched everyone's life in his own unique way.



**Irene Anna Voegele (née Zinnicken)**  
**May 27, 1940 – September 28, 2024**

Irene Anna Voegele of Port McNicoll Ontario passed away on September 28th, 2024 in her home. Irene is survived by her three children, Heidi, Harry, Ramona as well as her husband Wolfgang Voegele. Stepmother to Wolfgang, Nina, and Karen. Irene emigrated to Canada in the 60s with her three children. She met her husband Wolfgang in 1983 and were married in 1987. Irene moved to Port McNicoll in 1986, where she lived out the rest of her years with Wolfgang.

Irene was a beloved mother to all three of her children, she was Omi to Adam, Madelyne, Zachary, Beckett and Emerson, her beloved grandchildren. Loving step-grandmother to Andreas, Steven, Kenny, and Jimmy. Great grandchildren Kane, Lilly, Ferrin and Athen will miss her in their lives but she is in their souls.

Irene was the best mother, she was a devoted wife to Wolfgang, a homemaker who loved to garden and bake and be with her family, she was filled with warm light, laughter and hugs for everyone she knew.

Irene was born and raised outside of Koln, Germany in the small farming village of Mechernich. She is one of five sisters and the daughter of Maria and Johanne Zinnicken also deceased and from Mechernich, Germany.

Born near the beginning of World War II, Irene was named for "peace" and that is what she was.

Peace and love is Irene Anna's legacy, we will all miss her a great deal.

To plant trees in memory of our mum, please visit [info@wyemarsh.com](mailto:info@wyemarsh.com) or please visit:

Wye Marsh in Midland and make a donation in our mum's name.

*Memorial condolences may be made through [www.leclaircremationcentre.com](http://www.leclaircremationcentre.com)*



**CADEAU, Iris Rose Aileen (nee Sovey)**

It is with a heavy heart that Carol, Wendy and Hannah announce the peaceful passing of their mother Aileen on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at Hospice Huronia – Tomkins House, Penetanguishene at the age of 85. Loving grandma of Madeleine Stobbs, Derrick Stobbs, Rachel Agnew (Cory) and Eden Hall. Cherished great grandma of Soraya Pinnock. She will be dearly missed by her sister Elizabeth Arbour. Aileen (Aunt Nee Nee) will be missed by her many nieces and nephews as well as cousins and friends. She is predeceased by her parents, Herman and Madeleine Sovey and her siblings Ann (Bill) Doerksen, Charlotte (Michael (Mickey)) McIntaggart and brother-in-law Robert Arbour.

Friends and relatives joined the family at Nicholls Funeral Home, Midland, Ontario on November 26, 2024. A Funeral Mass was held at St. Margarets Roman Catholic Church, Midland, Ontario on November 27, 2024. A Spring Internment will be held in 2025. Charitable donations in honour of Aileen can be made to Covenant House Toronto and Hospice Huronia – Tomkin's house. To leave a message or a condolence on Aileen's Memorial page please visit our website.



**MOREAU, Josephine (nee Pilkey)**

Passed away peacefully at Woodspark Nursing Home, Barrie, on November 26, 2024 in her 85th year. Josephine Moreau (nee Pilkey) of Barrie, beloved wife of the late Eugene Moreau.

Lovingly remembered by her children, Kenneth (Maddi), Glenn, Diana, and Douglas (Ami). Proud and loving grandmother of Eric, Reiva, Scott, Emerald and Dalton. Dear sister of John (Marg), Richard (June), Roni Flannigen and the late Florence (Alan) Smith, William, Lois Hanis, and Jacqueline Daley.

Friends may call at the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home, Elmvale, on Friday, November 29 from 5-7 pm.

Funeral Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Phelpston on Saturday at 11 am.

Spring interment St. Patricks Cemetery.

Memorial donations to the Diabetes Society, the Canadian Hearing Society or the charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

*Expressions of sympathy may be sent to [www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com](http://www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com)*



**PILON, Martin**

We are sad to announce the passing of Martin Pilon on Monday November 25, 2024 at the age 69. Dear brother to Linda Berriault, Paul Pilon (Susan), Rick Pilon (Karen) and Cathy Carriere (Richard). Predeceased by parents Andrew and Rose

Pilon and siblings Ann Grenier and John Pilon. Martin will be missed by his nieces and nephews and extended family and friends. Cremation arrangements entrusted to Penetanguishene Funeral Home. If desired, donations in memory of Martin may be made to Hospice Huronia – Tomkins House and Heart and Stroke.

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# Seniors Community **OUTREACH** Helping Seniors Age Well at Home

Information, Services, Programs and Events for Seniors

## Classes & Upcoming Events



**Hospice HURONIA**  
TOMKINS HOUSE

**Gingerbread House Decorating**

**Hospice Huronia Gingerbread House Decorating**  
Thursday December 12th—4:30pm to 6:00pm  
This will be for their 5th Annual Children's Holiday Grief Activity.  
Call (705) 549-1034 for more information and to pre-register.

**Hospice HURONIA**  
TOMKINS HOUSE

**YOGA FOR GRIEF**

**Hospice Huronia & The Yoga House**  
**YOGA FOR GRIEF**  
Every Tuesday from 11am to 12pm.  
Virtually or in-person at The Yoga House and focuses on gentle meditation.  
To register, call Sarah at (705) 549-1034.



**Join Midland Public Library for a festive craft!**  
**Make your own paper clay ornament or gift topper**  
Friday December 13th from 10am to 11am  
Register online or by calling (705) 526-4216



**Bake Sale**  
The Georgian Shores Seniors Club  
**Bake Sale and Frozen Food Sale—Saturday, December 14th**  
For more information, call the Club at (705) 526-5074

## TOWN OF PENETANGUISHENE RECREATION & EVENTS

### By the Bay Rug Hookers

January to the end of March  
Wednesdays—10:00am to 12:00pm  
Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre  
Cost: \$8.85 +HST  
Note: No instructor but the group is happy to help beginners!



### Shuffleboard

January to mid-May  
Mondays & Wednesdays  
1:00pm to 3:00pm  
Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre  
Cost: \$13.26 +HST



### Indoor Walking

November to March  
Tuesdays & Thursdays—11:30am to 1:30pm  
Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre (Arena)  
Cost: \$8.85 +HST

### VON SMART

A gentle exercise program focusing on balance, strength, flexibility, and mobility. This is a free program. Interested participants must call VON to register: (705) 355-2200. Please arrive about 15 minutes early to complete the registration forms.

For more information about programs, please contact  
(705) 549-7453 [recreation@penetanguishene.com](mailto:recreation@penetanguishene.com)



### Penetanguishene Legion New Year Celebration

**December 31st at 8pm**  
There will be live music, party favours, food and more. Live music by the Renaissance Band. Tickets can be purchased at their location at 2 Poyntz St in Penetanguishene or call (705) 549-4126.

## Community REACH

Keeping seniors healthy by connecting them to medical care, food and social events.

Making sure our seniors stay a part of the North Simcoe community.

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