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Wild Winter in North Simcoe



Photo taken on February 8th in downtown Midland courtesy of local Midland Artist Denise Pahlke.



Photo courtesy of OPP on February 8th, 2025 outside Midland detachment

By Linda Belcourt, Feb. 10, 2025

Winter can be so calm and peaceful. Strolling along with snow crunching under our feet with the large flakes slowly coming down creates a magical feeling. It can also be quite the opposite with biting winds and frostbitten fingers and toes that ache from the cold.

The large amount of snow that snowmobilers, skiers, snowshoe enthusiasts all rejoice over can also be back breaking amount of work that comes with shoveling.

Stormy winter weather affects various aspects of daily life. Roads become hazardous due to black ice and blizzards, causing accidents and travel delays. Power outages may leave homes in the dark and cold, and extreme temperatures can pose serious health risks, including frostbite and hypothermia. Damage can happen to our homes from too much snow on the roof. People are at a health risk if they can't get medications or goods from the stores may run out.

On the other hand winter is good. As of February 10, 2025, school children of North Simcoe are enjoying the 14 snow days so far this winter.

When we experience a storm and people come together. I don't know a single person that would

not open their doors to someone stuck in the snow. Friendship and bonding happens when people help people. It makes us feel good.

On January 29th, 2025 there was an unexpected storm that blew through the Elmvale region. Highway 93 was suddenly closed from the beach to Elmvale. The alternate route of popular choice was the concession 10 west of Springwater. People should have stayed off the roads as warned but did not heed to the warning. As a result, there were an estimated 100 cars stranded. The locals came to the rescue and got every out safe. Martin Thiffault brought out his tow truck, Doug Graham got his loader into motion while Joe Moir attempted to stop people from going on the road.

Other local heroes were Ward 1 Coun. Matt Garwood and Mayor Coughlin as they had the Elmvale Community Centre opened as a warming station and the stranded people were given refreshments and snacks.

There were many more local heroes that day and that is a great example of what makes us proud Canadians that help neighbours without hesitation. Good or bad, winter is a big part of what makes us Canada.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please submit your letters to the Editor.

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Dear Editor,

The latest estimate for the new Tiny Township administrative building is \$28M. This amount must be borrowed and repaid with INTEREST, bringing the total PROJECT taxpayer cost closer to \$50 million in addition to the current 3-year 26% tax increase

Council, and concerned residents continue to be at odds; with heated, emotional and heartfelt exchanges during Council meetings. The INTENT of the residents is their desire to scale back and consider less expensive options to improve township office conditions. Many Township homeowners are on limited income and are already struggling financially

Not everyone receives cost of living increases while costs of EVERYTHING and taxes keep going up. We live in serious economic times, in a post COVID world, which saw many people's savings being severely depleted and debts rising. Concerned residents, want Council to be more understanding, compassionate, realistic and to consider less expensive approaches.

Council repeatedly comes across as not caring, not listening, moving forward way too fast, without public understanding of "why". In addition, Council does not have a "clear" mandate to proceed with such a huge, opulent, expensive building. This has accelerated anger, frustration, and despair. Council's unwillingness to listen to residents, to take deputations seriously, lack of fulsome disclosure, acknowledgment of concerns and the lack of a clear mandate to run with an over the top, unaffordable, unneeded, unjustified new building, is at the root of the current turmoil. Council's approach/attitude of "It's moving ahead no matter what" and "NO to a petition" is driving the on-going frustrations and is stirring the pot of the current disrespectful atmosphere.

It's about accountability to taxpayers on this single most expensive, unfunded project the township has ever tackled, which lacked a clear mandate to proceed with a new building of this magnitude and cost.

Dear Editor

Firstly, I would like to express my sincerest thank-you to those Canadians, who are looking to shop Canadian. With the cost of living so high, we all need to understand that some household margins are very tight and any increases, in costs, will affect everyone's pocket-books. Some just cannot afford any increases. This can mean people losing their homes, food bank use increases, cutting back on medications, heat, etc. These retaliatory tariffs aren't bringing a recession to Canada - they're bringing a depression.

Canadians need to understand how "tariffs" work. When the U.S. puts tariffs on Canadian goods, going into the U.S., it is the Americans who pay - not Canadians. But, if our government foolishly puts retaliatory tariffs on, particularly dollar for dollar, all they are doing is "taxing" Canadians. That's what a tariff is - a tax.

There have been a number of economists declaring - Canada will not win this tariff war. Our population is too small and so is our financial abilities, therefore the retaliatory tariffs will only decrease the spending power of Canadians.

An example. If the U.S. implements a 10% tariff on Canadian oil and gas, the Americans will be paying that. This will increase the cost of our oil and gas, because we send our oil and gas to the U.S. for processing. So that 10% will be paid by the U.S. but if our politicians do retaliatory tariffs, we will have to pay, basically double the tax. Their share and ours. These taxes go to the federal government harming our economy and Canadians. Any increases harm Canadians and that's why these retaliatory tariffs will basically put Canadian businesses out of business. Jobs lost and the cost of living goes up.

That said, there are other ways and means to ensure the U.S. get's the message. Canadians are already doing that with the "Buy Canadian" and looking at labels. This should extend to China and Russian goods, etc. What Canadian businesses could do, if it's affordable, is merely stop buying from those countries and finding Canadian alternatives.

This boils down to "supply and demand." If there is no "demand" the "supply" side dries up. One merely has to look at the various provinces taking American liquor off the shelves. Many of the provinces decided that they would use this fundamental of removing the supply and the demand would cease. That's how Canadians can stop the political carnage of our nation, and still send a message to the U.S.

To be clear this government does not support oil and gas. Without oil and gas there is no industry, there are no ships, planes, buses, computers, any industry. That means fewer jobs, smaller pay-cheques, more homelessness, etc. Now we need to look at other taxes and the mismanagement of this government. This mismanagement left us unprepared for what is happening.

Tariffs are taxes and it's only government that gains. Continue to be patriotic but don't let them fool you into harming yourselves.

Elizabeth Marshall

FATAL COLLISION ON COUNTY ROAD 27



Photo Courtesy of At the Scene / Michela Ellis

By Huronia West OPP Detachment, February 9, 2025

(Huron West, ON) - Members of the Huronia West Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) closed County Road 27 for a serious collision involving three vehicles, on February 8, 2025.

On February 8, 2025, at approximately 11:55 a.m., officers responded, alongside with local Firefighters and EMS, to a head on collision involving three motor vehicles on County Road 27 between Flos Road 11 East and Baseline Road.

An 80-year-old male and a 77-year-old female, both of Midland, were pronounced deceased at the scene, two others were transported to local area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, and one was transported a Toronto Area Trauma Centre.

County Road 27 remained closed for most of the day on February 8, 2025, while members of the OPP Traffic Incident Management Team conducted a reconstruction investigation.

As of February 9, 2025, County Road 27 has been reopened and if you were a witness or have video footage of the collision, we ask you contact the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122 or your local area Crimestoppers.

The Ontario Provincial Police is committed to serving our province by protecting its' citizens, upholding the law and preserving public safety.

EDITOR'S NOTES

This edition is created in Canada but edited in Costa Rica. It is a great year to be in a rain forest with 30 degree weather. I have filled pages with snowy issues while sitting in a bathing suit. I love technology (when it works). Next edition ,there will be a contest to find the chickadees and have a chance to win Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre's Sweetwater Festival tickets. Special thanks to the Springwater News boots on the ground in Canada that put this edition together.



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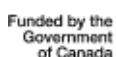
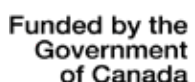
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Snowmobilers bask in local conditions during 'comeback season'



By: Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: BarrieToday.com, Feb 06, 2025

The trails are alive with the sound of sleds.

Coming from near and far to experience the trails of Simcoe County, snowmobile enthusiasts are thrilled with this year's winter wonderland.

"This is shaping up to be the best snowmobiling season in five years," Kris Puhvel, executive director of Orillia and Lake Country Tourism (OLCT), told BarrieToday.

"So far, we have received close to 300 centimetres of snow and with a thick base. Barring any major warm-ups, it looks like conditions will be excellent well into March," Puhvel added.

That's great news for Burlington's Clint Stock, because his annual goal is to sled until his birthday — which is at the end of March.

"I've been sledding since 1967 and that's the plan every year," Stock said this past Saturday at the Simcoe County Administration Building on Highway 26 in Midhurst, where he was loading up his sled from a morning ride.

"We did about 105 miles this morning — went up to Wasaga Beach, Midland and Orr Lake and then back here," he added.

Stock said he wanted to keep sledding, but he had a commitment back in Burlington that night, so he was only going out for a quick day trip.

His morning ride took five hours.

Stock has been out 10 times already this season and he tries to get out every weekend. His itinerary changes based on commitments, but normally he leaves Burlington behind for the weekend, preferring to stay overnight in a hotel close to the trails.

"Normally, we'd go out on a Friday and find a hotel for a couple of nights and go from there," he said. "We'll grab something to eat in the morning and then again at night. We spend the day riding."

According to the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC), this year's conditions will have a positive impact on the local economy — a boon to make up for last year's bust.

"This is the comeback season we all wish for and did our snow dances for and La Nina is not disappointing," Lisa Stackhouse, director of programs and partnerships at OFSC, told BarrieToday. "The economic benefit of snowmobiling is huge."

According to Stackhouse, full-season and multi-day in-season permit sales are up over last year and the OFSC is seeing an upward sales trend every weekend as more trails become available.

Last year, according to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Transportation, the OFSC sold 86,000 permits. The specific number of permits per available category was not provided.

A season permit for sleds made after 2000 is \$294 plus a \$7.50 processing fee. A classic permit, for sleds made in 1999 or earlier, is \$201.20 plus a \$7.50 processing fee. A multi-day pass is \$45 per day, with a two-consecutive-day minimum.

As more permits are sold, the economic impact increases, trickling down to sled manufacturers, clothing makers, hotels, restaurants and a variety of sundry industries, including gas stations and convenience stores, officials say.

"This machine, all in, cost about \$40,000," Stock said of his winter ride, a fully equipped sled that has power steering and heated seats, among other luxury extras. "Add in permits, gas, hotels, meals and travel costs and it starts to add up."

A 2023 report called 'The Economic Impact of Snowmobile Trails in Ontario,' based on expenditure data from the 2022-23 season and commissioned by the OFSC, shows that the provincial network of more than 30,000 kilometres of OFSC-prescribed snowmobile trails is Ontario's "most valuable recreational trail network and a key pillar of our winter tourism economy."

The report found that in the 2022-23 season: expenditures by snowmobilers riding OFSC trails increased to \$1.48 billion, up from \$843 million in 2019 those expenditures resulted in an estimated \$3 billion of snowmobiling-related economic activity for Ontario snowmobile trails directly supported 9,307 full-time jobs snowmobiling generated \$538 million in taxes across three levels of government: \$239 million in federal taxes, \$258 million in provincial taxes, and \$41 million in municipal taxes.

The study also found that the \$3 billion of 2022-23 economic activity was almost double what was reported in two previous studies — \$1.6 billion in 2019 and \$1.7 billion in 2014.

"The new study estimates that OFSC snowmobile trails have the potential to generate a total annual economic impact of between \$3 billion and \$6 billion in any given season, dependent on factors such as weather," wrote the report's authors, Harry Cummings & Associates, an evaluation and planning consulting firm based in Guelph.

Some riders are reporting this year's conditions are providing additional value for permit purchasers, something that was basically non-existent last year.

Daryl Alexander, who hails from Bethany, near Peterborough, has been sledding for 15 years.

He said he paid the same amount for his permit this year as he did last. The only difference, Alexander added, is that he's actually getting out this year.

"Last year was a terrible season," he said as he prepped his ride last Saturday in a county parking lot just north of Midhurst. "I got out once."

This year, he's hoping to cover about 4,000 kilometres of trail before the snow melts, what he considers an average year.

"Today we'll go out for probably five hours or so and we'll do about 160 to 170 kilometres," he said. "On the trails you get to see stuff you've never seen before because the trails go through areas roads don't."

"It gives you something to look forward to over the winter rather than staying indoors all the time."

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Elmvale baseball committee hits request for lights out of the park

Photo above: Elmvale and district residents showed up to show support for the need of funds to replace the ball park lights. The funds are not from tax dollars but from the sale of transfer station.



By: Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: BarrieToday.com, Feb 10, 2025

As a general observation, it would be fair to say not many children attend Springwater council meetings.

So it came as no small surprise then to find some among the packed chambers at the township's most recent meeting, most of them sporting ball caps with either a capital 'E' or the word 'Elmvale' somewhere on them.

Ranging from youngsters to teens, they sat and listened as the Elmvale Ball Park Committee presented its case for township council's support as it looks to replace the lights at the Elmvale ball diamond, located behind the arena on George Street.

Ball park committee members Jeff Lees and Andrew Priest headed up the delegation and laid out the situation. Almost half of the ball park's lights are burnt out and obsolete and it's going to cost about \$70,000 to fix, they said.

They were looking at a one-time request to split the cost, to a maximum of \$35,000, with the municipality and recommended the township's portion of the funding come from the Springwater Hydro reserve fund.

"From our perspective, bylaw 2002-020, which talks about the Springwater Hydro Reserve Fund, is a technical slam dunk," said Lees.

According to Lees, for funding to be considered, the bylaw requires a potential project to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Facilities or services which provide for the health, safety or well being of the community
- Facilities or services for the general public, youth, seniors or volunteer organization
- Facilities or services which promote the economic health of the community.

He said the lights project meets all three.

Lees noted the committee has already raised \$22,000 and has more than 50 individuals, businesses and groups committed to the project.

Faced with a compelling presentation and a chamber full of supporters, council moved quickly and decisively to support the request.

"All I can say is thanks for coming out, great presentation," Deputy Mayor George Cabral said when the delegation finished. "I'd like to say this is the perfect fit for that particular fund.

"It's not township property, but we maintain the diamond, so it really is a symbiotic relationship and that particular fund really embodies what that money should be for," Cabral added.

Admitting he was sold on the idea before they made their presentation, Cabral applauded not only the presenters but also the packed house that came out to support the request.

"You've brought the community together and they're putting some skin in the game," Cabral said. "It's heartwarming."

Cabral's praise for the initiative and the organization that brought it forward was echoed by his fellow council members.

Coun. Danielle Alexander kept her comments short and to the point.

"I think this is a great initiative — the whole community is involved," she said. "Great job. Happy to move forward with it."

Coun. Matt Garwood, who represents Elmvale on Springwater council, said he was "eager" to support the request, not just for the sake of the players, coaches and parents, but also the Elmvale business community.

"You've seen the Elmvale BIA (business improvement area) happily supporting this project because it is significantly important to our local businesses," Garwood said. "They have said without the arena, without the ball diamond, without recreation as a whole in our community, our businesses might not be able to open their doors.

"This is so incredibly important," he added.

Township council approved a one-time request for \$35,000 from the Springwater Hydro Reserve Fund and an additional \$3,000 from councillor discretionary funds to support the project.

Hey Dads!

Feb. 10, 2025 - There's no denying it anymore. It's winter. If you've ever had a teen daughter who recently got her license maybe you'll appreciate some of the newfound stress winter seems to bring. I'm not a worrying type of dad. I was a young driver once. I drove into a snowdrift once. I spun out across the highway once (or twice). So far my three licensed teen daughters have done none of those things. I'm not sure what that says about my driving.

The girls were out at the church youth group last night and it was getting late. It was close to 11pm and honestly I was starting to wonder where they were. They're usually home by 10:30. It was a windy winter night and I looked out the window a few times thinking I saw the van lights pulling into the driveway. Nope. No lights. My patient wife sent a text to one of the youth leaders to see if our girls had left yet. They had.

Then we saw the van lights. Through the trees at the end of our long driveway. Not moving. Actually, they were moving a little bit. A little bit forward and then a little bit backward. I began to laugh. They were stuck in a snowdrift at the end of the driveway. I was curious to see how this would end. Suddenly, the van lights went out and I heard doors slam. I suspected I would not be climbing into my warm bed to snuggle with my cute wife anytime soon.

The back door opened a moment later and two laughing teenagers came inside. They came bearing gifts. "Here, Dad, we thought we would give you this first before asking you to help with the van." Joy, oh, joy. My own Amazon order they had picked up at the post office. I went to grab my coat.

The three of us trundled out to the end of the driveway in the blistering prairie winds. One of them grabbed a shovel. I'd use my expert driving skills and they could use their expert digging skills. They cleared out some of the snow and we gave it a shot. They pushed the front of the van as I tried to back out. Those all-season tires just couldn't get the job done. More digging. More pushing. No moving. We switched jobs so I could do some digging and pushing while they did the driving. Same result. Still stuck. "Girls, it's cold and dark. We'll come back in the morning to get it out."

I was sure to wake them up bright and early the next day. While they got dressed I went outside with the shovel and got to work. Light makes jobs so much easier. I could see where the snow was piled up under the van and dug for a few minutes. Hopped in the van and backed right out on the first try. I could almost hear the shouts of jubilation in the house as I pulled up. They were just getting snowpants on as I walked back in the door. "Thanks, Dad."

Winter will be around a bit longer, dad. Why not grab your winter gear and head outside to make a fort with the kids? Time flies! Make every moment count! Even the windy, wintery ones!

Jason Weening just published a new book, "Yes, Dear...I'm Watching Them" all about the injuries and adventures of dadhood. Get it on Amazon!



Much ballyhooed citizen code of conduct pulled for future Tiny meeting

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: MidlandToday.ca, Feb 07, 2025

A proposed citizen code of conduct report anticipated at a recent Tiny Township meeting was pulled off the agenda for additional information, according to Mayor Dave Evans.

The verbal report from Barriston Law and following matter for consideration was addressed early in the regular meeting of council to a large number of attendees in the chamber, when Evans said: "That item has been pulled for some updates and could potentially come up again for another meeting in the future."

The item was mentioned by Evans in early January, as individuals connected to 'alt-right' threats with Pickering council members made appearances in Tiny and Tay Township council meetings.

"The township has harassment and bullying policies in place that ensure Tiny remains a respectful workplace for everyone," Evans told MidlandToday at the time. "The township is also drafting a Citizen Code of Conduct that will be brought to an upcoming council meeting for consideration."

While average council meetings in north Simcoe have relatively few attendees at any time in a given year, Tiny Township has had a large number of residents at nearly every council meeting to voice concerns regarding an upcoming administration

centre set for completion in 2027.

Since the article, many Tiny residents who have appeared regularly in council meetings and provided deputations have expressed disagreement that there is any connection between their group to "stop the build" and associations with antisemitic parties, or instances of unruly conduct despite 'cyberbullying' instances in their early protests.

At the recent meeting when open deputations regarding agenda items were addressed, some deputants were informed that the proposed citizen code of conduct had been pulled from the agenda.

"It was a last minute pull," Evans explained. "We want to make sure we have it all perfect before – as much as we can. It'll be included in a future meeting."

Of note: Tiny Township council recently approved an amended start time of their regular meetings, to begin at 2 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for February 19.

The 15-page proposed citizen code of conduct report 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.

MZOs not a four-letter word for Midland council, 'excited' by proposed 455-unit development

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: MidlandToday.ca, Feb 07, 2025

While the term ministerial zoning orders (MZOs) might leave a sour taste for some given its association with the Greenbelt scandal, its use for a proposed 455-unit development locally has Midland council 'excited'.

Developers Delbrook Group, represented by Jamie Robinson of MHBC Planning at the recent committee of the whole meeting, had proposed the residential development on Balm Beach Road in 2021 and multiple requests were made to the county and province for a policy addition to Simcoe County's Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 7.

However, with no decision by the province on OPA 7 as time progressed, Delbrook was left hanging.

According to CEO Mehdi Shafiei, various requisite studies (environmental, archaeological, et cetera) were done on the property in anticipation of development approval, including a partnership with Habitat for Humanity who would potentially receive donated lands for affordable housing.

"(We) request that a report be brought back to staff in the future that considers these lands, and considers a request for (an MZO)," said Robinson, providing details and explaining "why this is a unique situation" worth consideration.

The proposed 455-unit development, located on the south side of Balm Beach Road near the Salvation Army location, was pitched by Robinson as a residential usage mix of apartment townhouses, semi-detached and single-detached units.

"Delbrook is ready to build... and bring homes to Midland," Robinson summarized.

When asked by council how a municipality played into MZO requests, Robinson said that following the Greenbelt scandal, the province had revisited how MZO approvals were explored.

"The idea is if you have a willing municipality and willing developer – either a residential or employment

user come to bring jobs to your community – that everybody's sees there's a clear public interest in the proposal," said Robinson, "(and) demonstrated that there's no environmental impact associated with it... and there's a clear reason why an MZO was necessary... to advance development and advance housing quickly, I think there's a good prospect of success."

Members of the committee of the whole expressed support for the request to send the presentation back to staff for a future report.

"I'm excited to see this thing move forward for a whole bunch of reasons and I personally believe – for what that's worth – that your company has the integrity to follow through on what it's saying," Mayor Bill Gordon said. "And you're not sending any of the traditional signals of land bankers, or people that have no interest on moving forward on development."

Following the meeting, Gordon told MidlandToday that the request "checked all the boxes" for MZO approval, including adhering to the province's growth plan and providing affordable housing.

"It is a good intent, and like any tool you can't pull it out of your toolbox and use it indiscriminately," said Gordon.

The MZO request and presentation for 565 Balm Beach Road, including slides and correspondence, is available in the council agenda on the town of Midland website.

Council meetings are held every third Wednesday, and can be viewed on Rogers TV cable channel 53 when available, or through the livestream on the Rogers TV website. Archives of council meetings are available through Rogers TV and on the Town of Midland's YouTube channel.

Springwater councillors back 'in-house solution' amid boundary talks

By: Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: BarrieToday.com, Feb 06, 2025

Springwater Township council has thrown its unanimous support behind an "in-house solution" for growth, and is prepared to update and expand its Official Plan to make it happen.

At Wednesday night's meeting, township council backed a motion introduced by Coun. Anita Moore that would have staff investigate what would be needed to consider an expansion of the Midhurst Secondary Plan area to the east of Midhurst to include the Highway 400 corridor.

She said the joint land-needs assessment and study that was done by Hemson Consulting as part of the City of Barrie's boundary expansion proposal confirmed that Barrie and Springwater are part of the same regional market, and that housing growth in Springwater's Midhurst Secondary Plan area "may necessitate the expedited designation of employment lands" to maintain balanced community development.

"All of the objectives of the joint land-needs analysis and study can be achieved if Springwater, rather than Barrie, were to approve the proposed annexation land for both residential and employment purposes," Moore said.

The councillor explained that, under the new Provincial Planning Statement (PPS), a policy document outlining how Ontario will use and develop its land, "major transit station areas have a new section policy and councils can set targets for those areas and protections for those high transportation corridors," identifying "strategic sites"

for investment, as well as pushing for intensification of employment uses.

"We are protecting employment areas near major goods movement facilities and corridors while protecting settlement areas for housing," she said.

According to Moore, the PPS gives Springwater council the authority to expand settlement area boundaries.

"Specifically, planning authorities, which is what a council would be considered, are to identify strategic growth areas and make them the focus of growth and development with a view to accommodate significant population and employment growth," she said.

"Councils are to assess and update employment areas and official plans to ensure the designation is appropriate to the planned function of those areas," Moore added.

To that end, township council directed staff to:

- Report back to council with information regarding the planning process necessary to consider an expansion of the Midhurst Secondary Plan area specifically to the east of Midhurst to include the Highway 400 corridor
- Report back regarding the provincially significant employment zones
- Report back with the confirmed capacity of the ultimate treatment facility to verify Springwater's ability to independently service the identified study area and the potential settlement area expansion
- Report back with an update on the status of the Growth Management Study that is currently underway

- Prioritize and expedite the initial focus of the study to include the Midhurst settlement area expansion over to Highway 400
- Return the report no later than June 2025.

Moore's motion was praised by her fellow councillors.

"Moving forward in this direction gives us the opportunity for Springwater to look at developing both residential and employment lands in line with the province's mandate," said Coun. Danielle Alexander. "It allows us to do it ourselves as opposed to having Barrie annex the lands and do it for us."

"It puts us in a place where we can go down that road and do this work ourselves," she added.

Coun. Phil Fisher said he found the motion "very innovative" and was thrilled that council was forging ahead.

"I think the motion speaks for itself," he said. "I think many of us have long since thought that Springwater needs to find an in-house solution, a solution for ourselves."

"I think it has amazing potential for not only future growth but future employment," Fisher added.

According to Doug Herron, Springwater's interim chief administrative officer and director of planning and development, Moore's motion is about realizing the growth potential of the township.

"This discussion tonight is largely related to where are we going to grow," Herron said following council's decision. "Where are we going to exercise growth?"

"We're going to try and investigate other opportunities where Springwater can basically hold its own fate in its own hands."

'Deeply honoured': Springwater library chair wins provincial award

By: Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: BarrieToday.com, Jan 31, 2025

The award-winning Springwater Public Library has earned yet another feather in its cap.

Adrian Graham, chair of the library's board, was awarded the James Bain Medallion at the Ontario Public Library Association's Super Conference Awards Gala last night in Toronto.

The medallion is awarded to a library board member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in governing a public library in Ontario and is named in recognition of the Ontario Library Association's first president, who was also the chief librarian of the Toronto Public Library.

"I am deeply honoured and humbled being named the recipient of the James Bain Medallion," Graham said in an email to BarrieToday. "This recognition is not only a reflection of my individual efforts, but also the hard work and dedication of the entire library board with whom I have had the privilege of working. "We do everything as a team," he added.

Graham was nominated for the award by Jodie Delgado, the library's chief executive officer.

According to the nomination criteria, Graham had to demonstrate significant contributions to at least two of the following categories:

- Cohesive leadership in library governance resulting in an effective and responsible library board
- Significant accomplishments toward the advancement of library services and the development

and implementation of sound policies

Strong advocacy for the significance and importance of the library's role in community development and for strengthening the image of the library as a contributor to the economic and cultural development of the city, town or county

Awareness of the changing needs of the community and evidence of community partnerships

Good judgment in implementing ideas which have increased service delivery and efficiency

Ability to motivate, inspire and influence civic or provincial leaders to ensure that the library meets the informational, educational and recreational needs of all citizens with adequate financial support

Awareness and vision of innovations and opportunities available within the library sector to meet the needs of their future patrons.

"Adrian fulfilled multiple categories the past year," Delgado said. "Under his leadership, the board adopted a new strategic plan and financial control was transferred to the board."

Additionally, Graham has been involved in growing the Friends of the Library group, negotiating the library's first collective agreement with its newly unionized employees and reviewing the results of a community survey.

While the volume of work has increased for Graham and his fellow board members, he believes it's well worth the extra effort as it's improving library services for residents who, Graham admits, can be quite adamant about their needs.

"Our community members were very vocal that they love our library system and staff," Graham said of the survey. "In a growing community, they also made it clear that they want increased hours, upgraded facilities, more space, more staff, and more resources."

Graham said the library will now focus on the four



priorities that have been identified in its strategic plan:

- Infrastructure and facilities
- Responsible governance and fiscal responsibility
- Connection to community
- Planning for and managing growth.

"Everything we do moving forward will be tied to these four priorities," he said. "A good example is planning for the library section of the new community hub. That's exciting work."

Delgado described Graham as a calming voice at the board table, a strategic thinker who sees the big picture and makes decisions based on data.

"He embodies the values of equality for all and freedom of speech and is concerned about the library's standing in the community," Delgado said. "He is aware of our changing community and how that will impact library services."

According to Delgado, the award, even though it's for one member, demonstrates the high level of expertise and knowledge the board provides.

Graham agreed.

"As a board, our goal has been to ensure that our library system remains independent of local politics, is recognized and treated as an independent corporation and is accessible, inclusive and an innovative space for all members of our community," he said. "I believe that winning this award recognizes and substantiates our efforts at a provincial level."

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www.springwaterlibrary.on.ca

New Hours

The Springwater Public Library Elmvale and Midhurst branches are now open Monday mornings at 10 a.m.

Creative Adults: Fondant

Learn some tips and tricks of working with fondant. Tuesday February 18, 2pm at Elmvale Branch. Cost: \$10. Registration required.

Gratitude Box

Children can make a gratitude box and fill it with things they are thankful for at this fun, drop-in program running while supplies last. Thursday February 20, starting at 10am while supplies last. Cost: Free. No registration required for this drop-in program.

Registration for March Break Programs

Registration for our March Break programs opens on Monday February 24 at 10am. Be sure not to miss out and register early!

Swap and Shop

At this fun adult event there will be food, clothes, fellowship and laughter! Bring five items in excellent condition to trade and enjoy hot drinks, dessert plus 10 chances to win a prize basket! Items can be in-style clothing, purses, footwear, re-gifts, scarves etc. Please bring your own bag to carry items. Tuesday February 25, 6:30pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: \$10. Registration required.

Adult Book Bingo

Can you beat the adult winter reading challenge? Complete a bingo card line to be entered to win fun prizes! Participants must be 18 or older to qualify

for the draw. This book bingo program runs until Friday February 28. The bingo card is available online through our ReadSquared app here: <https://springwaterlibrary.readsquared.com>

Volunteer Income Tax Program

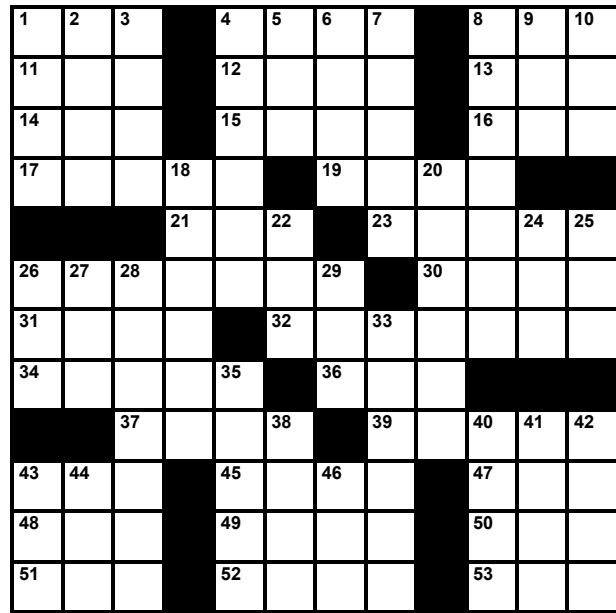
In person, phone appointments and drop off processing of taxes are available for those within the tax brackets of: \$35,000 for one person, \$45,000 for two people, up to \$50,000 for a family of four. In person appointments are available in March and April at the Elmvale Branch, please call us to book your in person or phone appointment at (705) 322-1482. If you are using the drop off method of tax processing (starts Monday February 24), please ensure your documents are in a sealed envelope labelled with your address, phone number and email address. This program operates in collaboration with the Canada Revenue Agency. In person 30 minute appointments are available in March and April.

Magic Card Club

Ages 9-13 join us for fun filled mornings learning how to play magic cards and build a deck. Saturdays starting March 1, 10:30am at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

Sprouts and Microgreens

The South Georgian Bay Health Team will be at the library to teach you how to grow your own sprouts and microgreens at home. These superfoods are nutritionally dense and are a great source of vitamins and minerals. Tuesday March 4, 2pm at Elmvale Branch. Cost: Free. To register call (705) 422-1888 ext 143.



Across

- 1 Upscale hotel amenity
- 4 Dissertation
- 8 Old vinyl records
- 11 Goes with eggs for breakfast
- 12 "Say ___"
- 13 Brain scan, for short
- 14 Minable material
- 15 Mollify
- 16 Granola morsel
- 17 Committee
- 19 Pupil's ordeal
- 21 Movie format
- 23 2000 Sam L. Jackson film
- 26 Prominent, as a feature
- 30 Locality
- 31 Freeway off-ramp
- 32 Honored with
- 34 Voice
- 36 Like one or five
- 37 Great times
- 39 Phrasing
- 43 Lapidary's concern
- 45 It's owed on some roads
- 47 Reel companion
- 48 Ended a fast
- 49 Give off
- 50 Playground chasing game
- 51 Cookware component
- 52 Meets a bet
- 53 ___ and the Family Stone

Down

- 1 Look around for best prices
- 2 Legal prefix
- 3 "You got that right!"
- 4 Noon or midnight
- 5 Cry of detection
- 6 "___ we forget"
- 7 Athletes often have trouble with them
- 8 Jane Fonda's work-out outfit
- 9 Tiny veggie
- 10 Military rank, abbr.
- 18 Mag employee
- 20 Pieces
- 22 Genetic code
- 24 License's cost
- 25 Little shaver
- 26 Pin down
- 27 Logger's tool
- 28 Some footballers
- 29 This plus that
- 33 Grown-ups
- 35 Hotel posting
- 38 "___ Like It Hot"
- 40 Martial ___
- 41 Hockey score
- 42 Nervous
- 43 Breach
- 44 Posting at JFK
- 46 Depart from the truth


Triple the impact of donations* to bring care closer to home

January 30, 2025 – Submitted by GBGH
 For the first two weeks of February, the Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH) Foundation is raising funds for surgical tools and instruments to help expand the type of surgeries available at GBGH. This year's Kickstart Your Heart campaign will be supported by two incredible match gifts of \$25,000 each, tripling the impact of every donation given between January 31 and February 15, 2025.
 Since 2021, GBGH has been focused on increasing surgical volumes to reduce wait times for patients. To achieve this, the hospital has strategically invested in specialized surgical instruments and technology for gynecology, orthopedics, urology and ENT (ear, nose and throat). This year, the hospital will be investing in additional laparoscopic instruments and scopes that will allow for even more procedures to take place at GBGH.
 "Growing our surgical program means that new specialists can come to our hospital and perform procedures on patients in our community in our operating rooms at GBGH," shares Bonne Shum, chief of surgery, GBGH. "Patients can receive a more comprehensive range of care all while travelling less and staying closer to their homes. The addition of new operating tools this year also allows our surgical teams to provide excellent patient care that is in keeping with current standards in a setting where medicine and technology is constantly evolving and improving."
 In its first four years, the Kickstart Your Heart campaign raised more than \$500,000 to replace all the defibrillators and crash carts at the Midland hospital, update the cardiac monitoring system and purchase a cardiac coil for the hospital's new MRI. The annual campaign was first inspired by the Hubers, who consider their support of the campaign a gift to each other.
 Fifteen local businesses are also stepping up this year, offering special promotions that kick back a portion of sales to the GBGH Foundation. Individuals can show love for local businesses, the community and the hospital by supporting one of the participating businesses during the first two weeks of February.

Bell Media's Pure Country 106 and Bounce 104.1 are also collaborating with the GBGH Foundation to get the entire community involved.
 "We love how the community comes together for Kickstart Your Heart each year," shares Josh Duncan, program director, Bounce 104.1 and Pure Country 106. "To make it even bigger, we are offering a contest to encourage people to get out and support the businesses. Take a photo with the Kickstart Your Heart balloons found in any of the participating businesses, and submit it for your chance to win a gift pack worth more than \$600."
 For more information on the campaign, contest and business partners, or to have a gift matched*, you can visit GBGHF.ca/KickstartYourHeart.
 *The first \$25,000 in donations to the campaign will be tripled.
 Cutline 1: Conrad & Donna Huber will match all donations to the Kickstart Your Heart campaign from February 1st to 14th, 2025, Thanks to another local couple, Steve & Brenda, each donation will be matched again to triple the impact for surgical services at Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH). In partnership with Bell Media's Pure Country 106 and Bounce 104.1, the GBGH Foundation has a goal to raise \$75,000 this year.



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Annie's Journal

by Annie Warner Donnelly

February 9, 2025

Hello Everyone. As our country seeks unity within its borders, is it our desire to go one step further? Do we desire to maintain unity with the people within the borders of our lives?

Changing the way we think about things is hard for us. Some of us grew up knowing about God from a young age. Others grew into knowing Him at an older age. God chose where we would be born; what language, traditions and style of worship we would learn. God chose the colour of our eyes and our skin; how the features of our faces and our bodies would develop. We look different and yet, in Christ, we are the same.

May God help us to understand that although we look different; come from different places; speak different languages and hold to different traditions and styles of worship, in Christ, clothed in His righteousness, we are God's dearly beloved children, called to be unified in His Family even as we live here on earth. We are meant to be one in the Spirit. Yet often we judge others and find them lacking in some way.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father, when we judge others and withdraw our friendship from them, please forgive us for hurting Your children and You.

When we fight with others, please forgive us for hurting Your children and You.

Please forgive us for how it must hurt You when we refuse to forgive others after how faithful You've been to forgive us.

Your word says that we do not have because we do not ask. Father please, grow us into your image, into Your character and help us to forgive as we are forgiven. Help us to love as You loved us so completely before we ever knew You. Help us to value and protect Your Family's unity as Your children and as the dear, irreplaceable Bride of Christ.

Thank you that, in Christ, we have the ability to exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit to one another moment by moment; that we can choose to exhibit love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control in all our interactions with others.

Father, we invite You to work miracles in our midst. Please, help our unbelief. Right now, we know there are people in our families and in our communities who are grieving. Some are sick; some are unemployed; some are lonesome; some are financially drained; some are cold; some are hungry; and world events are frightening many. Please help us to believe that you will lovingly respond to the prayers You hear Your children pray for themselves and others. Please provide us with Your comfort, Your help and healing, Your wisdom and Your strength. Please grow us into a faith that believes You are still a miracle working God.

In the coming weeks, help us to care for each other with love. May our words and actions maintain unity with all the people within the borders of our lives. Amen.

It's official! The Town of Wasaga Beach has a second high school on the way.

"The Town of Wasaga Beach welcomes this latest investment by the Ontario government to ensure that kids in Wasaga Beach can go to high school right here in our fast-growing community," said Mayor Brian Smith. "Our Town and Council have been relentless in advocating on behalf of students and families in Wasaga Beach, and in less than nine months, we are thrilled to welcome over \$116 million in provincial funding for not just one, but two high schools in Wasaga Beach. This government continues to listen and invest in new schools and improved infrastructure in Wasaga Beach that will positively impact our community for generations to come."

WASAGA BEACH – It's official! The Town of Wasaga Beach has a second high school on the way.

Mayor Brian Smith welcomed the good news today during a media event with MPP for Simcoe-Grey, Brian Saunderson, at the Town's new Wasaga Stars Arena.

The Ontario Ministry of Education will invest more than \$59.3 million to build a high school proposed by the Simcoe County District School Board, which has the full support of the Town and Council. This will support the creation of 1,145 secondary student spaces in Wasaga Beach.

This will be the second high school to be approved by the Ontario government for Wasaga Beach in less than nine months. Construction on the Town's first provincially-funded high school started today.

Since taking office in November 2022, the Town and Council have been relentless in advocating at the county and provincial level on behalf of students and families in Wasaga Beach. This advocacy has continued right up to the most recent ROMA conference on January 20, 2025. As a result, in less than nine months, Council has welcomed over \$116 million in provincial funding for not just one, but two high schools in Wasaga Beach.

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Jo Knows Nutrition by Joanne Nijhuis

HEALTHY RAMEN NOODLES DITCH THE PRE-PACKAGED FOR THIS SLURP-WORTHY RECIPE



Feb. 10, 2025 - Ramen has come a long way from the instant noodles of our student days! While the convenience of pre-packaged ramen is tempting, the salt load and lack of nutrients does not make for a healthy meal. With the right ingredients, ramen can be a nutrient-dense powerhouse filled with gut-friendly broth, lean protein and vibrant veggies. Ready in no time, this recipe is perfect for a cozy night in!

DID YOU KNOW?

A package of store-bought instant ramen noodles contains a whopping 1,500-2,000 mg of sodium which is very close to the daily recommended limit for adults who are not on a sodium restricted diet due to high blood pressure or other health-related concerns. Most packaged ramen lacks high-quality protein, fibre and essential vitamins and minerals. Making ramen from scratch allows you to control the ingredients and avoid the preservatives, artificial flavours and MSG that are commonly found in instant ramen seasoning packets. When shopping, look for ramen noodles that are made from whole grains and discard the seasoning packet if it comes with one.

INGREDIENTS

- 6 cups (1500 ml) low-sodium vegetable broth
- 2 Tablespoons (30 ml) white miso paste
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 ½ teaspoons (7.5 ml) sesame oil
- 1-inch piece fresh ginger, grated or 1 ¼ teaspoon (6.25 ml) ground ginger
- 2 cloves garlic, minced or ¼ teaspoon (1.25 ml) garlic powder
- 1 cup (250 ml) shiitake, porcini, oyster, cremini or portobello mushrooms, sliced
- 1 large carrot, julienned
- 1 block (200 – 400 grams) extra-firm tofu, cubed
- 1 cup (250 ml) bok choy, chopped
- 2 servings whole wheat or brown rice ramen noodles
- Green onions, sesame seeds, chopped peanuts or chili flakes for garnish
- 1 soft-boiled egg (optional), halved

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a large pot, heat sesame oil over low heat. Add ginger and garlic and sauté for 1 minute.
2. Pour in the vegetable broth and bring to a simmer. Whisk in the miso paste and soy sauce.
3. Add the mushrooms, carrots, and tofu to the pot. Simmer for 5 minutes.
4. Stir in the bok choy and ramen noodles, cooking for another 5 minutes until the noodles are tender.
5. Serve hot, garnished with green onions, sesame seeds, chopped peanuts or chili flakes. Add a soft-boiled egg for extra protein if desired.

ENJOY!

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



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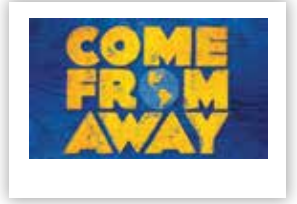


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Day Trips: (Price includes meal, admission ticket & HST)

Tues., March 4 & Thurs., May 8 - Niagara Fallsview Casino
Includes: a 4 hour stay at the Casino & \$35.00 in slot play (no meals)
Cost: \$77.00

Fri., March 21 - Come from Away at the Royal Alex Theatre,
Includes: an early lunch at the "HotHouse Restaurant", followed by the 1:30p.m. performance, excellent centre, orchestra level seating. **Cost:** \$246.00



Thurs., March 27 - Spring One of a Kind Show at the Enercare Centre, Toronto & Shopping at Vaughan Mills Centre
Includes: Admission ticket to the show & Vaughan Mills Shopping Centre **Cost:** \$94.00

Wed., May 14 - La Vida Loca with the TSO Pops at Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto
Includes: table service lunch followed by orchestra level seating for the 2:00p.m. performance. **Cost:** \$238.00

Thurs., May 29 - St. Jacobs Day Tour
Includes: a visit to the Market & Outlet Mall, lunch on your own at the Market, free time in the Village with stops at The Poultry Place & Picard Peanuts. An early evening dinner at "Anna Mae's Restaurant & Bakery" completes our day. **Cost:** \$118.00

Thurs., June 5 - Annie at Stratford Festival
Includes: lunch at "Anna Mae's Restaurant & Bakery" followed by the 2:00p.m. performance, orchestra level seating at the Festival Theatre **Cost:** \$233.00

Thurs., June 19 - Shake Baby Shake, direct from Chicago at the Walters Music Venue
Includes: buffet lunch at "Quehl's Restaurant" in Tavistock, followed by the entertainment program at the Walters Music Venue near Bright, Ontario. **Cost:** \$184.00

Tues., July 22 - Blue Jays vs New York Yankees -7:07p.m. game
Includes: tickets in section 232 rows 5 to 11, parking at the Rogers Centre & motor coach transportation to the game. (No Meals)
Cost: \$186.00

Sun., September 14 - Blue Jays vs Baltimore Orioles -1:37p.m. game
Includes: tickets in section 134, rows 26 to 29, parking at the Rogers Centre & motor coach transportation to the game. (No Meals)
Cost: \$190.00

Overnight Tours

Contact the office for complete itineraries

May 5 to 9 - "A Little Bit Country & A Little Bit Rock & Roll" Spring Quilting Tour to Berlin & Cleveland, Ohio

May 20 to 22 - Springtime in Ottawa staying at the Fairmont Le Chateau Montebello

June 13 to 23 - Newfoundland - In the pursuit of Icebergs & National Park Beauty

June - Kingston, Ontario

August 21 to September 5 - Scotland featuring Highlands, Islands and Cities including the Edinburgh Tattoo

September 4 to 15 - Newfoundland - Experience the Geography & Culture



Departure Points include: Barrie, Bradford, Orillia, Alliston, Stayner & Wasaga Beach upon request



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Lions Roaring for Housing



By Randy Hargrave, Feb. 8, 2025
 Guatemala—A team of Lions has traveled to Guatemala to help build homes for families in need. The initiative, part of an effort to address housing insecurity, has brought together people from different backgrounds with the goal of providing stable shelter for those who need it.

The project, now in its 12th year, was undertaken by members of Lions International in the village of San Pedro La Laguna. It is led by Len Day of the Barrie South Lions Club, a nonprofit service club focused on improving living conditions in vulnerable communities, locally and worldwide. Lions from Ontario including Penetanguishene and Tiny Township have participated in constructing durable homes to enhance the quality of life for Guatemalan families.

“For many of us this experience has been significant, it’s the most rewarding service project I have ever done,” said Len. “Seeing the families’ reactions to these homes has been rewarding and very moving.”

Guatemala faces housing challenges, with many families living in structures that provide little protection from the elements. This initiative aims to address this issue by providing sturdy homes made from sustainable materials, ensuring longevity and safety.

Local community members have also participated

in the building process, working alongside Lions to construct homes tailored to their specific needs. This collaboration helps ensure that the new housing aligns with local customs and preferences.

“The impact of these homes extends beyond just providing shelter,” said Efraín Alva Calvo, a community leader in Guatemala. “It brings security and a foundation for the future.”

In addition to construction efforts, volunteers have engaged in cultural exchanges, learning about Guatemalan traditions, cuisine, and daily life. Many have appreciated the opportunity to contribute while gaining perspectives from the people they are helping.

With plans to continue the project in the coming years, organizers hope to expand efforts and build more homes, relying on ongoing support from donors and volunteers.

For those interested in getting involved, Lions Guatemala Community Development Project encourages donations, sponsorships, and participation in future builds. Contact the Barrie South or Penetanguishene Lions Club through their Facebook pages for more information.

As hammers swing and foundations are laid, the volunteers in Guatemala are demonstrating that collaborative efforts can make a substantial difference—one home at a time.

One-of-a-kind Chinese New Year

By Michael Chorney, At the Scene Photography
 Feb. 9, 2025

On Sunday February 9, 2025 at noon this one-of-a-kind Chinese New Year event takes place at Centra food market on Bayfield Street in Barrie. The dragon’s Dance to bring in the New Year and the cabbage hanging represents wealth as the dragon climbs up and eats the cabbage then sprays it out to spread prosperity. Accompanying the dragons are percussionists and drummers as they make their way through the store. This is part to bring good luck in the Chinese culture as well as celebrating the New Year.



Penetanguishene Lions Roaring for Health

By GBGH, Feb. 7, 2025
 On January 22, 2025, the Lions Club of Penetanguishene presented a cheque for \$5,200 to Victoria Evans, community Giving Officer, Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH) Foundation. The donation will fund a new Smart IV Infusion Pump for GBGH, to ensure safe, effective medication delivery for every patient.
 GBGH is investing in 50 new IV Infusion Pumps this year, to support the significant increase in patient visits to the hospital. This gift brings total giving from the Penetanguishene Lions Club to \$61,000.



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Affordable Housing Solution in Elmvale, One Place at a Time



By Murray Truax, Jan. 29, 2025
 The Elmvale Lions are very proud to support \$2,000 to the Elmvale Community Church to bring affordable housing to Elmvale. Their current project is to update an apartment over Sharewear at 9 Queen St. East in Elmvale. It is a bright, spacious 3 bedroom apartment that will become home for a larger family unit. Affordable housing is very scarce in Simcoe County. Pastor Steve said the community support has been overwhelming for this project. He thanks the community for their generosity. Elmvale Lioness Lions also donated \$1,000 to the project.



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“Cancer Talks” Series One of Two New Programs at Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre Thanks to Ontario Seniors Community Grant

By Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre, Feb. 3, 2025
 The Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre (GBCSC) launched two new programs in the second half of 2024 thanks to an Ontario Seniors Community Grant. The grant of \$24,225 is allowing the GBCSC to provide valuable information and a sense of community for people impacted by cancer locally.
 Cancer Talks features local experts, story-tellers, and other speakers discussing topics relevant to people facing cancer. Each talk is followed by Soup for the Soul, a drop-in soup lunch which provides people impacted by the disease to connect over lunch with others who can relate to their experiences in a comfortable and informal setting over lunch.
 Both programs take place monthly every other week at the GBCSC in Penetanguishene at 45 Edward Street. Cancer Talks happens at 11:30 a.m. followed by Soup for the Soul at 12:30 p.m. Both are free to all and the GBCSC encourages anyone dealing with cancer to come out for some talk, some soup, or both.
 Angela Lee Harrison, Volunteer Coordinator/ Interim Member Services and Program Coordinator, GBCSC, says the programs offer those who are fighting cancer and their caregivers not only helpful information, but a connection to others on the same journey.
 “The Cancer Talks Speaker Series coupled with Soup for the Soul is a powerful forum for those individuals

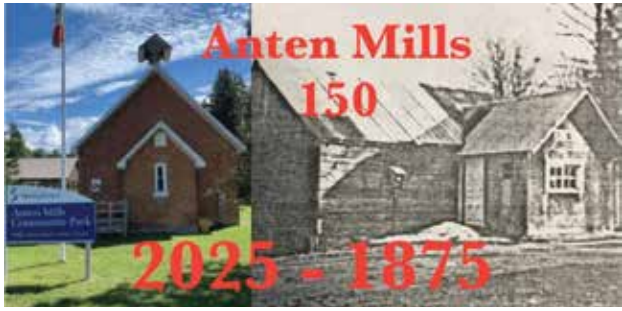
affected by cancer to gather and share their life altering journey. The deep bonds of friendship that are established often supersede the test of time.”
 A range speakers are scheduled for Cancer Talks for later this winter and early spring. On Valentine’s Day, February 14, counsellor Jay Sutton will be speaking about Relationships. On February 28, Terry Day and the GBCSC’s Legacy Group will speak about Legacy Writing and how to write your unique story and share it with others. Other upcoming talks include:
 March 14 – Jocelyn Rasmussen – Singer, composer, teacher, author, speaker, and cancer survivor speaks about dealing with the impact of a life-threatening illness.
 March 28 – Sandy Cornell – Cancer survivor and GBCSC founder will speak about her journey and her inspiration for starting the GBCSC.
 April 11 – Brittany Gagnon – Registered dietician will talk about nutritional care during the cancer journey.
 April 25 – Ilene Shiller – Social worker from Wellspring Cancer Foundation will focus on “Brain Fog/Chemo Brain.”
 All Cancer Talks are followed by Soup for the Soul. Everyone attending are welcome to stay for soup and socializing.
 To find out more about Cancer Talks, Soup for the Soul, and other GBCSC programs and services, go to gbcancersupportcentre.ca.

FROM COMPASSION TO ACTION A Visit to “Life4Kids” in Kenya



By Fred Hacker, Jan. 27, 2025
 In late October, a group of 11 local residents departed to travel to Nairobi Kenya. The purpose of the visit was to visit the Life4Kids Children’s Home. The vision of Life4Kids Canada is that “no child be left homeless or abandoned.” The mission of the organization is “to provide a loving home for homeless and abandoned boys in Nairobi Kenya.” Life4Kids finds boys who are living on the streets, destitute, abandoned, and alone. The boys are brought into a home where love, acceptance, and belonging are key components. The home provides loving care, healing from trauma, emotional nurturing, excellent education, healthcare, and quality housing.
 There are currently 26 boys living in the home as a family unit. In addition, 3 boys aged 18 or older are financially supported in their community as they complete high school. A further 4 boys are enrolled in post-secondary education. So, Life4Kids currently supports a total of 33 boys.
 The travellers did not anticipate the warm and emotional reception that they received when they arrived at the home. As the group arrived at the gates to the home, the staff and boys came running down the roadway, singing, dancing, cheering, and waving Canadian and Kenyan flags.
 The travellers brought 12 bags of gently used clothes and shoes.
 The Canadian group built a library and computer lab with materials paid for by the Midland Rotary

Club and Rotary District 7010. The boys had never had a computer at their disposal, either at home or at school. Now they have 5 desk top computers which will greatly enhance their academic pursuits. The computer lab/library was dedicated to the memory of Pastor Martin Giebel who died tragically this past summer. He had been a Director of Life4Kids Canada. Tribute was also paid to the Rotary Club of Midland and Rotary District 7010 for their support.
 The other project for the travellers was establishing a fruit and vegetable garden. Preparing the garden was arduous work for the more than 30 staff, boys, and travellers. But the result is a flourishing vegetable and fruit garden. The garden was named “the Rotary Garden of Love.” And the garden is already yielding produce to feed the boys.
 The group had three significant outings while visiting the Life4Kids home. The first was a visit to the slum. Most boys in Life4Kids were found living alone, abandoned in alleys or in a garbage dump in the slum. While visiting a slum, the local group were part of the identification of two boys who were subsequently brought into the home.
 The second outing was to experience a worship service at the church where the boys attend.
 The third outing was to take the boys to the Nairobi National Park where the group saw many of the wild animals of eastern Africa living in the wild. The boys were also taken to a swimming pool for what one boy described as “the best day of the year.”



SS# 11/14 Anten Mills School

By Brian Keyes, Feb. 9, 2025

In 1871 the Ontario government passed the Ontario School Act. This meant that education was now universally paid through tax dollars and attendance was compulsory. The province was divided into School Sections (SS) which usually measure 5-8 sq kms. The Anten Mills school established in 1875 consisted of two school sections (SS#11 Vespra and SS#14 Flos). Children from north & south of the village came to school swelling the 1st year attendance to 90 children which would have resulted in one noisy classroom.

The 1st schoolhouse was a converted driving shed from the local sawmill where teams of horses were previously tied up. There was a wood stove in the middle of the 1-room school that was stoked with 4 ft logs for heating. A local person would start the fire each morning so the schoolhouse was warm when the children arrived. There was no indoor plumbing so everyone used the outhouse for bathroom facilities resulting in occasional 'accidents' especially when the

weather was cold. The 1st teacher was Ms. Cronan and her salary was \$112.50 per year. Teachers often boarded with a local family.

In 1892 a new 1-room school was built using lumber from the Anderson-Tennant sawmill and bricks from Maw's local brickyard with a total cost of \$1500. Teachers varied in their approach to teaching. One male teacher was a disciplinarian as he carried a cane that he slapped on the desk to keep students on task. Another male teacher taught religion and love all day to improve student morals (rumour has it his tenure was short). Highlights of the school year were the Fall Fair, Christmas Concert, Arbor Day (modern version is Earth Day) and in June a closing picnic after which report cards were handed out. Stella Muir taught at SS# 11/14 and was a co-author of The History of Vespra Township.

One of the unique aspects of early schools meant that children walked to/from school each day. My neighbour Edward Wilson told me that one day when he was walking home from SS# 11/14 to the Golf Course Rd, a neighbour/relative came out to ask him to help her build a bookcase. After the bookcase was built Ms. Alden told Edward he was very good at the job and should consider that as a career. As many of you know, Edward did become a very skilled Cabinet Maker. This is a story of great inspiration.

As school enrolment dropped and larger schools were built, SS# 11/14 closed in 1968. 400 teachers and students attended a reunion that June with the oldest former student being 93 years young. In

1972 the Anten Mills school was sold by the Board of Education to Vespra Township for \$1. The 1892 schoolhouse became the Anten Mills Community Centre. The school (community centre) along with the park/pavilion will be the focus of the Sept 13, 2025 Anten Mills 150th anniversary celebration.



Anten Mills

by Dennis Gannon

Feb. 9, 2025- If there were ever to be a fire in a structure in our community what might you expect? Obviously the first thing would be the fire department and their trucks and the great contingent of volunteer firefighters. With those trucks would be the senior officer vehicles, a couple of pumpers that pump the water to the fire hoses and the fire as well as many tankers which transport water as the officer in charge decides is required. Where do the pumpers get their water from? If there is a fire hydrant nearby, firefighters could hook up to them. If hydrants are not available, which is common in the village, water would either be nursed from the tankers or they would use port-a-tanks where they would dump their water into. The tankers would then travel to a fire hydrant and refill and return. So where are the fire hydrants in the community? Primarily where there is municipal water available like the newer sections of Luella and Ghibb and then on Pinery and on Laddies Lane. There are singular hydrants on Wilson and Pineview. Why is it important that we know where the hydrants are? Unfortunately with the significant snow that we have seen this winter, most of them are buried. Fire spreads quickly. So much that firefighters face a challenge when they arrive on the scene. They shouldn't have to worry about digging out a fire hydrant so they can get water. If there is a fire hydrant in front of your property or nearby, please take the time to dig out a clear area 1 meter by 1 meter all around it. Hopefully we don't need the firefighters to access a fire hydrant anytime soon but if they do, know that you did your part in helping them by clearing the snow and making them accessible.

While the weather prognosticator groundhogs provided a mixed prediction of when Spring may appear, there is no question about when the Anten Mills Autumn Artisan and Crafters Fair will be this year. Roslyn has posted an invitation to those

interested in participating on the event Facebook page, Anten Mills Artisan Craft Fair. The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 27 and those interested in participating are asked to submit their intent and preferred location by May 30. This has become a sought after venue for vendors and if you are interested or know someone who might be, check it out and sign up.

As we move closer to the Anten Mills celebrates 150, information about the requested upgrades to the community centre has become available. The flooring and ceiling upgrades were approved in the 2025 budget and contractors are being sought to do the work. The school bell and tower still remain a challenge but the township believes they have found an expert who can provide the necessary information on its restoration. It is believed that the tower structure is sound and the clapper in the bell is intact and moves. The bell and tower restoration are important elements of the 150 and the community is counting on the township to make certain that this comes to fruition.

Saturday, February 15 is an important day in Canada. It was on February 15, 1965 at the stroke

of noon, our National Flag was raised for the very first time on Parliament Hill. This year marks the 60th anniversary that we have had our own national flag. Lester B. Pearson who was our Prime Minister during the 60's wanted our own national flag in time for our centennial in 1967. A number of designs were submitted and the flag as we know designed by George Stanley became our independent symbol. When the flag was raised for the first time Pearson said " May the land over which this new flag flies remain united in freedom and justice ... sensitive, tolerant and compassionate towards all."

As we celebrate our flag and its 60th anniversary it is imperative that we all fly our flag with pride, respect and honour particularly during this time.

This weekend will be busy with Valentine's Day, the Family Day weekend and of course National Flag Day. Hopefully you can enjoy the celebrations and weekend with your family and friends. The community rink pad is in superb condition and if you are looking for some family fun, check it out.

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



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Elmvale Lions Club U13B Black and Gold Hockey Tournament

Written by Theresa Dermott, Feb. 5, 2025

The U13 B Elmvale Lions Club Coyotes travelled to Powassan Ontario for the Black and Gold "Hawkey" Tournament. The boys made a strong debut against the highly ranked East Nipissing Vipers with defensemen Finten Seney scoring the first of the tournament with a rocket from the blue line. Cooper Knelsen, Charlie Coughlin, William Thorn, L.J. Noble and Max Champion added to the strong defensive play with their zone clearing, back checking and holding the blue line. Star goalie, Eli Daniels saw lots of action but held the Vipers to 2 goals. Elmvale with their first win 3-2! Goal scorers were Cameron Lalonde with a beautiful snipe as well as Kohen Weiss who earned player of the game.

Early Saturday morning, saw the Coyotes back in action versus the Porcupine Junior Gold Kings where the Coyotes had many scoring opportunities but struggled with penalties. Jack Burke capitalized on an empty net which sealed the fate for Elmvale 4-2. Linemates Ryan Dziama and Oliver Van Loosen displayed great passing and play throughout the game and tournament. Seamus Wicksted earned player of the game with his goal and determination. Elmvale earned 1st place in their pool going undefeated into their third game Saturday evening against the Deep River Knights. W 5-2 where Ray Duckett was named the player of the game for his strong offensive play and goal.

Onto the semi-finals match-up against the Renfrew Wolves. The Coyotes knew it would be a tough matchup against the team who led the tournament in penalty minutes. The Wolves came out strong with an early goal that was soon answered by the Coyotes. With lots of power play opportunities and great hustle, center Gibson Godin scored Elmvale's 2nd goal with linemate Reed Dermott getting the 3rd in the game. Unfortunately the Coyotes came up short, losing 3-5 to the Wolves.

The Coyotes led by coaches Brandon Godin, Darryl Van Loosen, A.J. Champion,

Logan Noble and John Seney should be proud of their great play, hard work and determination. The U13 B Elmvale Lions Club Coyotes had an amazing weekend creating lifelong memories and mini-stick battle wounds and team bonding. They look forward to further success in their playoffs.



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My team and I are happy to greet in person visitors and answer phone calls and emails Monday to Friday in my local office. You can find us at 48 Alliance Boulevard Suite 104 in Barrie. You can also reach us by telephone at 705-728-2596.

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 - Any other federal matters

How we can help is determined on a case-by-case basis, so the best thing to do is contact my office by telephone or email and discuss your specific situation. Then we can let you know what steps we might be able to take to assist you.

When contacting my office, you will often reach one of my knowledgeable team members as I am juggling responsibilities both here in Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte and in Ottawa. If you would like to reach me directly to share your concerns around policy, legislation or government service the fastest way to connect with me is by sending an email to Doug.Shipley@parl.gc.ca

With the various demands on my time every day I may not be able to respond immediately. I do review all emails and if I think that you will be best served by a direct conversation with a member of my team then I will ask them to follow up. Otherwise, you will receive a response from me.

We look forward to hearing from you.
Sincerely,
Doug Shipley
Member of Parliament
Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte

Elmvale Resident Wins Record-Breaking \$796,932 RVH Auxiliary 50/50 Jackpot

By GBGH, February 3, 2025

The Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) Auxiliary recently announced the winner of their largest Community 50/50 jackpot ever. Greg Scanlan of Elmvale was over-joyed to accept his cheque of \$796,932.

“I have supported this draw for about two years now,” says Scanlan. “I love knowing that my ticket purchases help RVH and local healthcare. My family has a long history with the hospital dating back about a century as my mom and dad, my wife and I as well as our son were all born at RVH!”

Proceeds from the community draw go toward the Auxiliary’s \$5-million pledge to support RVH Foundation’s Keep Life Wild Campaign, which helps the health centre enhance healthcare services in our growing region—including funding for a much-needed third MRI.

“We are so incredibly excited for Greg and his win,” says Lise McCourt, RVH Auxiliary president. “This jackpot prize makes our patients winners as well. The Auxiliary continues to move closer to reaching its goal of raising funds for a third MRI. We are so thankful for the support from our community. We couldn’t do this without them.”

The next grand prize draw takes place on February

28. Throughout the month, \$28,000 will also be given away with early bird draws taking place every Friday.

The Auxiliary has launched a new membership program, so you don’t miss your chance to win! Visit rvhauxiliary5050.com for more information and to sign up.

Get your tickets before 11:59 p.m. on February 27 at rvhauxiliary5050.com, in person at RVH’s food court lotto booth (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.), or at Mayes-Martin Ltd. in Barrie (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.).



Photo: Greg Scanlan and his wife Julie accepted his cheque from Lise McCourt, RVH Auxiliary president, after winning more than \$796,900 in the RVH Auxiliary 50/50 community draw.

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Applications Now Open for the Glen Newby Scholarship Fund Supporting Youth in Simcoe County

Submitted by Dominika Zapolnik, Manager of Communications, New Path Youth and Family Services, The Common Roof, Feb. 4, 2025

Simcoe County, ON – The Glen Newby Scholarship Fund, a collaborative initiative between The Common Roof and New Path Youth and Family Services (New Path), is now accepting applications from youth in Simcoe County. \$5,000 in scholarships is available, including one \$2,500 scholarship and two \$1,250 scholarships for eligible applicants.

This scholarship is dedicated to empowering youth who have faced adversity, providing them with financial support to pursue post-secondary education or apprenticeship opportunities. It celebrates the legacy of Glen Newby, the former CEO of New Path, who spent nearly 50 years championing child and youth mental health in the region. This scholarship honours Newby's vision of offering supportive environments that enable young people to overcome challenges and achieve their potential.

"We're excited to offer this scholarship as a way to support young people in reaching their educational and career goals," says James Thomson, President and CEO of The Common Roof. "Our partnership with New Path strengthens our commitment to fostering opportunities for youth in Simcoe County."

Applications are open until April 30, 2025. Eligible candidates include youth up to 24 years old residing in Simcoe County who are entering or continuing post-secondary studies or apprenticeship programs.

"We are fortunate to partner with The Common Roof to provide this important opportunity," says Jim Harris, CEO of New Path Youth and Family Services. "This scholarship allows us to support youth in their academic pursuits while honoring the incredible legacy of Glen Newby and his work in the child and youth mental health sector."

For more information and to apply, visit: www.thecommonroof.ca/scholarship.

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Bearbells

by Leslie Noonan

February 2/25

Not all my adventures start on the trail. Often it is on the route to or from the trail that is most interesting. On a last trek out towards Barrie I stopped to take a picture of a young porcupine sitting in a small fir sapling on the side of the road. He must be quite young, as normally porcupines keep under cover during the day and come out at night. Today I took the same route, and there he is, still munching his way across a line of immature firs by the side of the road. I am not sure what he will do once that last tree is gone, as he will need to head across the road or slog through the snow covered fields, but I will be watching out for him.

We headed down towards Midhurst to a section of the Ganaraska Trail off of Gill Road. There is a parking area but with all this snow, parking might be difficult. Once on the trail the snow is perfect for snow shoeing, soft and fluffy, and crisscrossed with the tracks of small animals. The path is also bisected by many snowmobile trails that run through this section of Orrock Forest Tract. Despite the cold weather we have been having, there are still areas of mud and water from springs, and several times we had to make some detours. Eventually we left the Ganaraska trail altogether and heading east and north along side trails. The trees were heavy with snow, occasionally falling with a thump around us. The silence was otherwise complete except for our breathing, until the same train that travels through Copeland forests roars by, shattering the silence.

We continued on, following the path north to parallel Old Second Road. This trail is little used and the snow was thick and heavy. A great work out for the leg muscles even on this flat terrain. This had been an uneventful trek, until we started to go past a fence decorated with signs that warned us about trespassing, and even better when the signs mentions guns. Turns out that we were behind the Hunters and Anglers Club of Midhurst. I had visions of stray bullets spraying the snow around us as we dive for cover. Luckily it was only my fanciful imagination and we never heard a single gunshot. This was a little disappointing, as I didn't get a chance to practice my matrix moves, or more likely, fall on my face. Instead we headed back the way through the softly falling snow, with the wet flakes sticking to our clothing.

I had mentioned that some of the best stories don't necessarily happen on the trail. We made our way to a home décor store to find an item for our accent table. I was leading the way, examining vases, when my husband pipes up "I want the monkey". That comment stopped me in my tracks, and I turned around to see my husband standing next to a faux brass monkey. Nope. "You are not getting a monkey". My husband tried to convince me that this was the only monkey in the store because it was so wonderful. Nope. "You are still not getting a monkey". I walked away with my husband in pursuit, "I really want the monkey". NO. "The monkey is perfect". NO NO NO. "I really like the monkey". By now people in the store are turning to look at



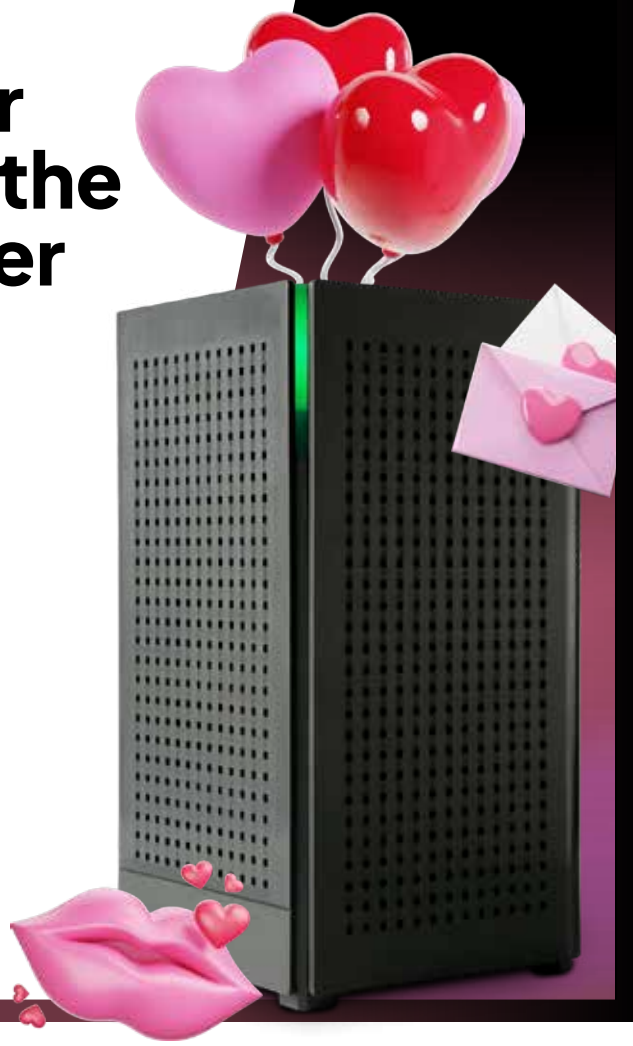
us with a mixture of bafflement and amusement, as the conversation is repeated several times. I finally gave up, "get the darn monkey then". Before I had even finished the sentence, my husband gleefully bounded away to grab the monkey. We now have a brass simian holding limes. Sigh. What is more concerning is that when we told people that we had bought a monkey, everyone assumed that it was real, because it would surprise no one if we really did bring home a monkey. We are that kind of people.

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Another year has passed since I first wrote this article many years ago on the murder of Michael Kent, and his death has still not been solved.

Michael's body was discovered in the arena parking lot on a snowy Friday night 59 years ago as of February 11, 1966.

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

Mike Townes

Who Murdered Michael Kent?

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

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

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

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

After a quick look inside the arena, a search party moved outside in the hope of finding

Michael. At about 8:40 pm, he was found outside lying near the hydro pole on the west side of the Curling Club. (The addition to the Curling Club was not there in 1966.)

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

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

I can remember being at the Arena that night. I had refereed my youngest brother's hockey game from 6-7 pm and had stayed around the rink because I played at 8:00 pm. I played goal, so halfway through the game I was called to the bench for a goalie change. That is when I first heard about the murder of Michael Kent. I will never forget that night. Life in Elmvale changed that night.

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

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

After fifty-nine years, the murder case of Michael Kent is still an open investigation. Over that time span, numerous leads have been followed up, but these did not lead to any arrests. Officers involved in the investigation over the years have met to see if anything has been missed. A few years ago, an officer traveled to the east coast to interview the family just in case any new facts about the case had surfaced. I was told that any new investigation tools that were not around in the 60's also were not of any help in solving the murder of Michael Kent.

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

It is good to know that the investigation of this case is still active, even after such a long time. It is a day I will never forget. Michael Kent will always be part of my life. Hopefully, if still alive, the person responsible will come forward, or anyone who has information leading to that person(s) will contact the authorities for further investigation. If you can help, please make the call to Crime Stoppers.

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

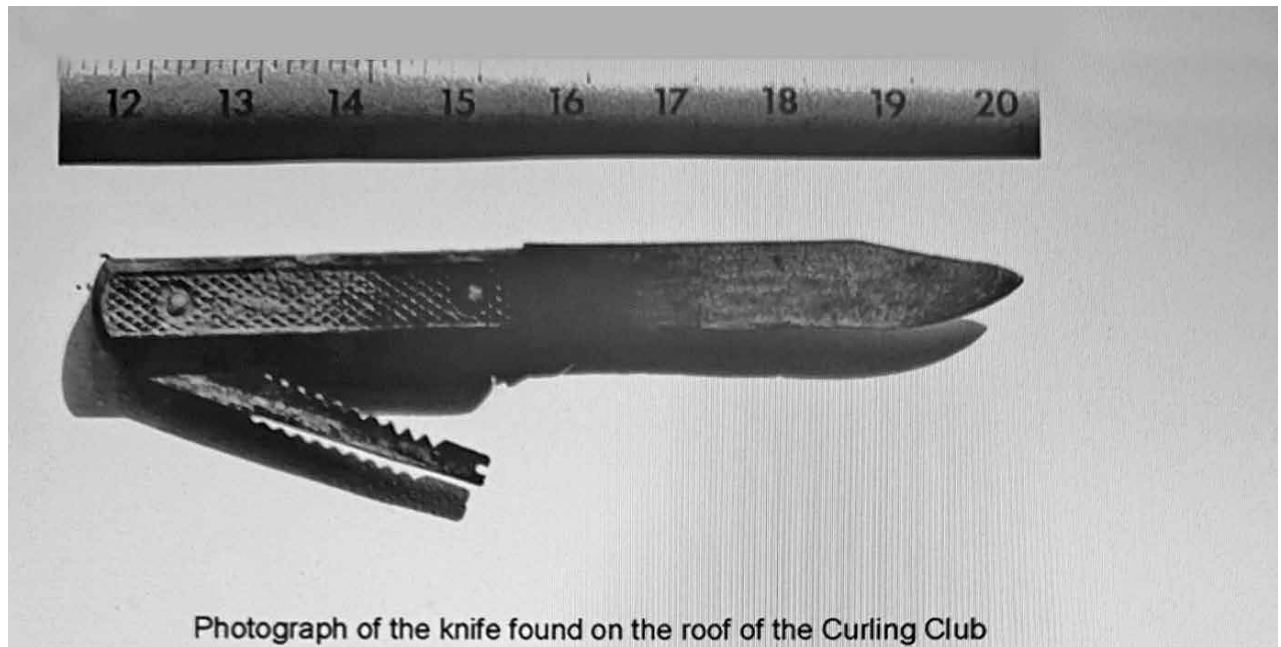
**Town of Penetanguishene
Accepting Community
Improvement Plan Applications**

The Town of Penetanguishene is accepting applications under the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) from March 1 to March 31. Town Council has allocated \$60,000 to support a range of improvement projects that benefit the community. Eligible projects can receive thousands of dollars in funding through various grant and loan programs.

Eligible residential improvement projects include energy efficiency upgrades (e.g. solar panels, heat pumps, insulation) or creating new rental housing (e.g. basement apartments, detached unit in the backyard).

Commercial properties located in Downtown Penetanguishene are also eligible for funding including improvements to the building facade, signage, building and fire code compliance, and landscaping.

To find out more about the CIP and to check eligibility requirements, visit penetanguishene.ca or contact the Planning and Community Development department at planning@penetanguishene.ca or 705-549-7453.



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52	S	E	E	53	S	54	E	55	S	56	E	57	S	58	L	59	S	60	L	Y

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 Elmvalle 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 Elmvalle Palace

Thursdays at 9 am-1am
13 Queen St. W, Elmvalle , 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 @ Elmvalle Community Hall
Fri. 11am @ Elmvalle 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

\$5 UP & DOWN Sale

Feb, 11 to Feb. 22
May Court Shop - Ladies Consignment Clothing
44 Penetanguishene Rd, Barrie
Shop an incredible selection of tops, pants, coats,
purses and more!

Valen-Wine

Feb. 13, 2025 2-3pm
Live music by Dylan Lock, one free drink, only \$20
for members \$25 for guests
Askennonia Senior Centre, 527 Len Self Blvd,
Midland

Valentine's Day Spaghetti Dinner and dance

Elmvale Legion. 7 John St, Elmvalle
Feb. 14, 2025 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Happy Hour 5-6 pm, Dinner 6 pm
DJ Dance 8 pm - 11:00 pm
Tickets - \$25.00 per person
Purchase tickets at the Legion or call 705-322-1042

Trivia Night

Elmvale Legion
Feb. 19, 2025 7pm - 9pm \$5 each
Call to reserve a table 705-322-1042

Lov'in in a Small Town

live with Graham Scott Fleming
Fri. Feb. 14, 2025 8pm-10pm
Elmvale Community Recreation Association
Tickets \$35, go to facebook to purchase:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjsFg-qw4e_7-bZ47zkqldV8pW0QPN7A_HLsNwpBRc_j0wSA/viewform

Valentine Dinner

Feb. 14, 2025 -6-8pm
Midhurst United Church, 91 Doran Road
Fine dining. Gluten free options available. Limited
seating. Donations.
Call 705.722.6331 to reserve tickets

Coldest Night of the Year

Feb. 22, 2025
The Guesthouse Shelter
St. John's United Church Elmvalle 12:30 pm
St. Paul's United Church Midland 4 pm

Georgian Shores Seniors Club

February 28, from 1 to 3 pm.
The Place, 300 Balm Beach Road West, Tiny
Open House - all welcome
Visit the many activities on display,
705 526 5074 Georgianshoreseniorsclub.ca

MCC Presents: Molly's Comedy Cabaret

March 2nd at 2:00 pm
A musical variety show blending Wilson's
powerhouse vocals with comedy, camp, and a mix of
beloved Broadway, pop, and rock hits.
midlandculturalcentre.com

Adventures in Time Travel

March Break at the Museum
Mar. 10-16 from 10am - 4pm
Travel back in time at Sainte-Marie among the
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Bounce Bonanza

March 12 to 15th 10 am to 5 pm
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to check availability

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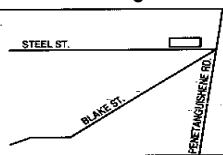
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- Winter Thaw Multi-Consignor - Guelph (Feb 23 - 27)
- Iron & Grit Equipment Auction - Maple (Mar 2 - 6)
- Lisenchuk Moving Auction - Hanover (Mar 9 - 13)
- Sears Moving Sale - Oro-Medonte (Mar 16 - 20)
- Pot of Gold Coin & Jewellery - Guelph (Mar 16 - 20)
- Turnkey Fishing Business - Guelph (Mar 16 - 27)

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Springwater Fire Responds to Residential Fire on Penetanguishene Road

By Township of Springwater / February 7, 2025



– Just before 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2025, Springwater Fire & Emergency Services received reports of a structure fire on Penetanguishene Road.

Two stations and two additional tankers, as well as firefighters from Barrie Fire & Emergency Services responded. Upon arrival, crews observed heavy fire

along the main floor. Crews completed a fast attack and managed to knock down the fire quickly.

One individual was transported to Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre and treated for smoke inhalation. A number of pets were rescued from the residence, however sadly one dog and one bird perished.

“Crews made an aggressive attack upon arrival and were able to get the fire under control quickly, despite challenging weather conditions,” says Deputy Fire Chief Deputy French. “Thank you to our partners at Barrie Fire for their automatic aid assistance today.”

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, however is not considered suspicious. Damage is estimated at \$300,000. Springwater Fire remains on scene completing overhaul.



Both photos courtesy of Michael Chorney, At the Scene Photography

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PENETANG KINGS STILL HOLD 4TH PLACE AS PLAY-OFFS NEAR

The Penetang Kings continue to remain in fourth place in the Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League as the Play-offs near after games played until February 8th, 2025.

Submitted by Jamie Robillard, Feb. 9, 2025

On Friday January 31st the Kings travelled to Innisfil and could not get anything going offensively dropping a 3-0 decision to the Spartans. Penetang netminder Landon Simec turned aside 27 shots in the loss while the Kings fired 34 shots on Spartans goalie Aidan Lindsay. Ashton Kirwin playing in his 100th PJHL game was named the Kings player of the game.

On Sunday February 2nd in Midland the Kings again struggled to score, dropping a 2-1 overtime decision to the Flyers. Penetang peppered former Kings goalie, Kevin Pearson with 37 shots but were only able to beat him once on a goal by Kirwin. The



Friday January 31 at Innisfil

• **Player of the Game - Ashton Kirwin (100th PJHL Game)**

Saturday February 8 vs Huntsville

• **Player of the Game - Ashton Kirwin (Hatrick)**



Sunday February 2 at Midland

• **Player of the Game - Max Geere (OT Winner that Officials Missed)**



Wednesday February 5 at Alliston

• **Player of the Game - Landon Simec (58 Saves)**

Kings thought they had won the game in overtime when Max Geere's shot beat Pearson cleanly, but the on-ice officials missed the puck entering the net and Midland went on a counterattack to score the winning goal by Cal Virtue-McCague just seconds later. Penetang's Simec turned aside 15 shots in goal. The player of the game for Penetang was Geere (no head shot available).

The Kings then finished their long road trip in Alliston on Wednesday February 5th when they faced the first place losing by a 4-1 score. Camron Hutchinson scored the only goal for the Kings. Simec was outstanding in the Penetang goal, stopping 58 of the 62 shots he faced and for his efforts he was named player of the game.

On Saturday February 8th, finally back home in the friendly confines of the Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre the Kings responded with a 5-1 win over the Huntsville Otters. Ashton Kirwin scored a natural hat-trick as the Kings opened a 3-0 lead early in the third period. Huntsville then narrowed the score to 3-1 at 6:17 into the third period before Cole Rumbolt and Max Geere cemented the victory with single markers. Simec again was strong in the Kings net making 32 saves. Penetang had 35 shots on Otter's goalie and former King Michael Purkhart. Kirwin was named the Kings player of the game.

The Kings have a busy weekend ahead to finish the regular season with four games in four days beginning on Friday February 14th at home against the Muskoka Bears at 8:00 pm followed on Saturday February 15th again at home against the Stayner Siskins at 8:00 pm. On Sunday February 16th the Kings travel to Orillia to face off against the Terrier and then on Family Day, Monday February 17th, the Kings are in Midland to meet the Flyers for a 2:30 pm contest to conclude the regular season.

Notes: The Kings game scheduled for Friday February 7th was postponed due to inclement weather and was rescheduled to Monday February 10th in Penetang. Game results from this contest will be reported in the next edition of the North Simcoe Springwater News.

The standings after the games played on February 8th have the Alliston Hornets leading the division with 71 points followed by Orillia with 63 points, Stayner with 54 points and Penetang with 36 points in 37 games. Huntsville is fifth with 31 followed by Innisfil with 31 Midland 18 and Muskoka 10 points respectively. If the standings remain as is Penetang would face Huntsville in the opening round of the play-offs with Penetang controlling their own destiny to wrap up fourth place by winning two of their remaining games.

Photos by: Russell Zmijowskyj



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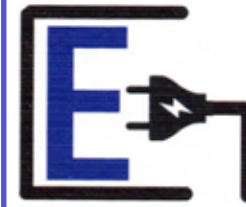
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Springwater News found in Guatemala



Feb. 8, 2024 - Springwater News in San Pedro La Laguna, Guatemala during the recent mission trip Randy Gargrave took to build houses in Guatemala.

OBITUARIES



SWAN, Mary-Rose
Mary passed in her 72nd year on Wednesday February 5 2025 surrounded by her girls after a brief, but strong fight.

Mary-Rose is survived by her 4 daughters, Tanya (Kyle Fox), Tricia (Stacey Felske), Amanda (Brian Carroll) and Mariah (Jordan Chapman) and her beloved and cherished grandchildren, Nicholas, Olivia, Jackson, Hayden, Hayley, Hanna, Sofie, Ayvah and Jamison.

Mary-Rose is the daughter of the late Terrance Loftus and the late Mary (Minnings). She will be missed by her siblings, Carol (Bob Phillips), Francis (Gary Kenny), David (Jane), Marcia (Paul Ryther), Jackie Suszter and Mary-Rose will be happy to meet her brother Kenny at the gates of heaven.

Mary was a proud mother, grandma and a hard-working woman.

Mary moved to Prince Edward County in 1972 from Phelpston Ontario with her husband Barry Swan to raise her family.

Mary brought joy to the farmers of Bloomfield by making them breakfast every morning at The Junction. She was also a part of the Bloomfield social committee, which was instrumental in bringing smiles to the town by bringing them the first nighttime Bloomfield Santa Claus parade. And she continued to bring smiles to everyone she met for the rest of her life.

Mary will be missed for her sense of humour and her ability to light up every room.

Mary's family would like to extend our warm thanks to the staff at Collingwood and Orillia hospitals who provided mom with tremendous support and care.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, February 9 from 1 pm – 4 pm at the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home in Elmvale.

A Celebration of life will be held in Prince Edward County on Saturday, May 10, 2025. Further details to follow.

Memorial donations in Mary's memory may be made to the Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital.

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



In Loving Memory of Michael J. F. Haring
June 30, 1940 – January 24, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Michael Johannes Franciscus Haring, who was surrounded by loved ones at the Georgian Bay General Hospital in Midland, ON, on January 24th at 5:05 pm.

Michael was born in Delft, Holland, on June 30, 1940, to his parents Jacomina and Johannes. He is lovingly remembered by his devoted wife of 59 years, Catharina (Tini) Van Opzeeland. He was a cherished father to his two sons, Mark (Debra Cyr) and Ryan (Christa Zwaan), and a proud Opa to his three beloved grandchildren: Annaliese, Raymond, and Emma. He is also remembered with love by his brother Hans and his wife Gilda, who reside in Delft, Holland.

Michael served nearly two years with the Dutch Marine Corps in New Guinea before marrying Tini in Delft in 1966. Together, they later immigrated to Canada, where he built a fulfilling career as a toolmaker in Barrie. Throughout his career, he worked with several companies in Simcoe County, including Canadylet, Plastomer, Canplas, IRDI, and Techform. He also shared his expertise as an instructor at Georgian College.

A man of many talents, Michael built the family's first home in Canada on Highway 93, where he and Tini raised their children. Later, they moved to Anten Mills, settling on Binnie Drive, where many cherished family memories were made. The family also enjoyed summers at their beautiful beachfront home on Georgian Bay, where Michael loved spending his time boating, fishing, and making memories with his grandchildren.

Outside of his career, Michael found immense joy in his many hobbies. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved golfing, fishing, camping, hunting, and taking boating trips on Georgian Bay. He also had many creative talents, spending much of his time making pottery, jewelry, and glassblowing in his earlier years. He was a talented craftsman and a gifted teacher in his crafts.

After retiring, Michael and Tini enjoyed winters in Florida, where he spent his days golfing, playing bocce ball, and enjoying cocktail hour with friends. In more recent years, they settled in the Park Place Retirement Community in Wasaga Beach, ON, where they continued to enjoy their time together.

Michael was a beloved husband, father, brother, opa, and friend. He lived a wonderful, long life surrounded by loving family and friends, making beautiful memories along the way and touching the hearts of many. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring, with details to follow.

BIRTHDAY

From 22 to 102!



The family of Marion Clute would like to wish her a very happy 102nd birthday on February 17th, 2025.

Here is a picture of Marion in 1945 at age 22, when she was a school teacher before she was married, and again at age 101 at the Memorial Cup celebration at the Elmvale Legion last summer with her grandson, Dave Drinkill, GM of the Saginaw Spirit.

Happy 102nd Mom!
You are an inspiration to all of us!



Elmvale curling club
fun with friends

WATERSIDE RETIREMENT LODGE FRIDAY SENIOR STANDINGS @ ELMVALE CURLING CLUB

	RECORD	POINTS
TEAM MURPHY	4-0-2	23.5
TEAM KENNEY	2-2-2	19.5
TEAM MADORE	3-2-1	19.0
TEAM JOHNSTONE/ BELCOURT	3-1-1	17.0
TEAM SCOTT	2-4-0	16.5
TEAM HUTH	3-2-0	15.5
TEAM TOWNES	3-2-0	15.0
TEAM DON	2-3-0	14.5
TEAM MARSHALL	2-3-0	14.5
TEAM McCLUNG	2-4-0	13.5
TEAM ALLEN	0-3-2	11.5

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OBITUARIES



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ADAMS, Grace Lily

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the passing of Rev. Grace Lily Adams, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sibling, and friend, who went to be with the Lord on January 27, 2025 at the age of 83.

Grace was the cherished wife of Glen Adams who predeceased her, and loving mother to Barb Barnum, Dawn Dekker (Thomas), Joy Laughland (John), and Tim Adams (Sara). She was a proud grandmother to Jared and Lara (Wes); Marissa (Curtis) and Josiah (Caitlin); Shaun (Marisa) and Emma; Rebecca (Dan), Sophia, Gabriella, Annalia, and Savannah. Grace was the caring daughter of her deceased parents, John and Tynne Spillenaar and the dear sister of Rose Harmer (Bob, deceased), Daniel Spillenaar, and David (Shirley) Spillenaar.

A woman of deep faith and unwavering commitment, Grace dedicated her life to serving others. Her journey in ministry began early, following the example set by her parents, who instilled in her a passion to introduce people to Jesus Christ and guide them in developing personal relationships with God. For many years she served faithfully as a pastor's wife, an advocate for women's ministry, and a passionate chaplain. Later in life, she oversaw a seasonal outdoor church and proudly earned her credentials as an ordained minister with the PAOC.

One of Grace's greatest joys was in mentoring and nurturing others to grow in their faith. Whether through a kind word, a listening ear, or a prayer, she touched countless lives and demonstrated the love of Christ in all that she did. Her legacy is one of compassion, service, and unwavering faith.

A celebration of Grace's life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at Midland Alliance Church. Visitation will be Friday, February 7, 2025 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Hospice Huronia or River of Life Church (you can choose Tithe Fund and add a Memo specifying In Memory of Grace Adams).

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



KENNEY, Paul Vincent

1933-2025

Passed away peacefully at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie on Wednesday, January 29th, 2025. Paul Kenney of Phelpston in his 92nd year. Beloved husband of Lilian (nee Richmond).

Dear father of David and Sarah (Scott). Loving grandfather of Andrew, Nicole, Josh, Quinn and Tansy. Paul is survived by his sisters Peggy (late Egon) Conrad and Pat (late Joe) MacNeil. He is pre-deceased by siblings, Joan (Al) Stevens, Mary (Guy) Cloutier, Monica (Peter) Zimak, and Teresa Kenney. Paul will be missed by his many nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held at the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home in Elmvalle from 2-4 and 7-9 pm on Thursday, February 6. A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Patrick's Church in Phelpston on Friday, February 7 at 11am.

Memorial donations in Paul's memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

Spring interment St. Patrick's Cemetery Phelpston.

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

Wyevale Community News

By Karen Moreau
February 10, 2025

Bible Study: Every Wednesday at 2pm in the church basement. We are studying the book of Revelations.

Youth Group: Students from Grade 2 to 8 are welcome from 7 to 9 pm. A donation of a toonie to cover snack costs would be welcomed. Contact Pat 705-543-9043 for more information.

Shrove Tuesday: Tuesday March 4th: Hot & Delicious Pancakes. Continuous sittings from 5 – 7 p.m. Tickets at the door Adults \$8, Kids 5 and under eat free. Cash at the door.

We gather for Worship on Sunday mornings @ 10:00 a.m. Please join us.

Ball Registration: Early bird pricking if registered by Feb. 28th. Regular price March 1st. Watch for information about registration by going to wyevaleminorball.com

Extending Sympathy to all who have lost a loved one this past two weeks. Also extending Well Wishes to all who a family member adult or a child.

If you have a special person who has a birthday or anniversary, please call or email; 705-322-2069 or e-mail moreau1949@rogers.com

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OBITUARIES



SMEDING, Jerry (1953-2025)
 Death....the Final Frontier, and so ends the voyage of Jerry (Gerald/Geert) Smeding. His 71-year mission: to explore new interests with passion, vigor, and enthusiasm; to seek out great community and even greater music; to boldly sing,

loud and proud, wherever a willing ear was to be found.

Jerry passed away suddenly and peacefully at Stevenson Memorial Hospital on January 27th, 2025, ending a decades-long battle with a laundry list of serious health crises. Though he survived heart attacks, triple-bypass, cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, tachycardia, and was in the end felled by lung disease, he hated being defined by his illnesses. His first grown-up pay cheque as a young man went almost in its entirety to purchasing a beautiful Ibanez guitar that remained his pride and joy until the day he died. When he wasn't playing that guitar, cheering on the Jays, designing t-shirts, drawing, carving, writing, or constructing cardboard creations for his grandkids, he could often be seen strolling around the neighbourhood with his signature fedora, red glasses, and red cane. He was a performer - and a bit of a ham - and loved sharing his musical and comedic talents in various settings, whether onstage with his fellow Mad Cappers at the Barrie Lions Club, performing with the Bravado show choir, or jamming out in later years on Friday nights with his beloved Green Briar 'Jammers'.

Jerry started his working career in the financial industry but he was, at heart, most dedicated to his second career as a teacher. He counted himself blessed, right up until his retirement, to be able to go to work every day at Georgian College. Jerry probably still holds the record there for the most different courses taught by a single person but he was particularly proud of his signature sci-fi course and he always smiled when given the opportunity to declare that he was a Professor of Science Fiction.

Jerry leaves behind his partner and co-captain of 47 years, Heather Lynn (Downey) Smeding; his 'favourite son' Tyler John Smeding (partner to Maureen), and his 'favourite daughter' Rachel Lynn Minke (Smeding) Drews (partner to Thomas). He is survived by his three siblings in the Netherlands, George, Rita, and Theries Smeding, and their families.

The only item on Jerry's Bucket List was to become an Opa before he died and his wish came true three times over. He will be dearly missed by his grandsons, Jack Vance (9), Quinn Kenneth (4), and Oskar Bennett (4) with whom he shared many a summertime popsicle on the back deck.

Jerry chose Canada but he was always proud of his Dutch roots and language. Some of his most treasured and long-lasting friendships were ones that were forged during his formative years in the Netherlands.

Family and friends will gather to remember him in the Spring when the sun returns and the frost is out of the ground - burial to take place at Minesing Union Cemetery. Memorial donations can be directed to the cemetery, or to your favourite hospice.

Go boldly, Jerry/Dad, into your next adventure. You will be greatly missed...but your next great story is only just beginning.

Arrangements entrusted to Legacy Funeral Home, Barrie. 705-728-8282

Messages of condolence may be forwarded to the family by visiting www.legacyfuneral.ca



MOREAU, Nancy June (Young)
 November 4, 1952 - February 2, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we share the news that Nancy June Moreau (Young) of Wyevale has passed away peacefully at the age of 72, surrounded by family & her closest friends on February 2, 2025. This ends a short battle with cancer, but a long battle with many other health ailments.

Nancy was a dedicated and loving wife to Jerome (Doc), whom she shared 42 amazing years of marriage with. She was a proud mother to sons Jeff (Brooke) and Jody (Beth). A loving Granny to her grandchildren William, Henry, Amelia, Olivia, Alison and Eric.

Nancy was a very kind, generous person who always put her family first above her own needs. Simply put, she was the heartbeat of the family and held a beautiful and special relationship with each member. She rarely missed an opportunity to spend time with her grandchildren and was often seen in the stands cheering them on in their chosen endeavors. Her guidance, advice, and expertise will forever be missed.

Nancy will be missed by life-long friends Susan, Kathie, Chris and Tanya; her brother and sister-in-laws, the late Lawrence (Karen), the late Angelle, Herb (the late Linda), Isabel, Yvonne, Russell (Nancy).

Nancy is predeceased by her parents Ron and June, brothers Wayne, Allan and David, as well as her mother and father-in-law Angelina and Ferdinand. She will remain in the hearts of her nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbours and many friends. Nancy had a way of leaving an imprint on those she met along the way.

Nancy worked for Bell Canada for over 30 years; 25 as a manager- paving the way for women in management in her industry. In the later years, she enjoyed socializing at her coffee club at Wyevale Jug City. Nancy took pride in both her family and her community. She was involved over the years in Elmvale Minor Hockey as an executive and the Wyevale Cemetery Board.

Nancy took pride in being an advocate for those without a voice in many avenues. No cause was too small. She was a force to be reckoned with at times. She often inspired her family and close friends to leap without bounds. She possessed many great talents, including teaching through her story telling, listening and being an unwavering supporter of all that sought her guidance.

The life of this extraordinary woman will be celebrated on Saturday, February 22nd, from 1pm - 5pm at the Elmvale Community Hall, 33 Queen St W, Elmvale. Speeches will begin at 3:30pm.

If you wish to offer a memorial donation, know that Nancy would appreciate donations to any of the following:

- Wyevale United Church
- Elmvale & District Food Bank
- Elmvale Minor Hockey
- Ball Park Maintenance Fund (To support relighting the Elmvale Ball Park)

Cheques can be mailed, if not received by Lynn-Stone Funeral Home.

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

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Carrie-anne and Terry Cleaver in Rivera Maya Mexico with the NS Springwater News

Arbor Memorial Legal Will Guide

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Closure notice for Elmvale Lifelabs Nurse is on vacation Feb 10-14 2025

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Tay Township Seniors Advisory Committee Presents
Seniors Talk

Wills, Estate, & Funeral Planning
Presented by
Jennifer Goldsmith & Katie Gadd
(Nicholls Funeral Home)

Waubauskene Royal Canadian Legion
26 Willow St, Waubauskene
Tuesday 25 February 2025
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Transportation is available. Please contact Lacey McKay at 705-534-7248 x257 or lmckay@tay.ca by Friday, February 21st


Seniors Talk on Wills, Estate, and Funeral Planning
Tuesday February 25, 2025—1pm to 2:30pm
Waubauskene Royal Canadian Legion (26 Willow St, Waubauskene)
Transportation is available for Tay residents who require it by contacting clerk@tay.ca or (705) 534-7248 ext.257



OPEN HOUSE
Interested in joining the Georgian Shores Seniors Club? Join them at their open house
Thursday, February 28th, 2025
1pm to 3pm
Georgian Shores Seniors Club is located at 300 Balm Beach Road West in Tiny Township




TAY TOWNSHIP Programs for Seniors
They have programs like Seniors Zumba, Chair Yoga and more that can help keep you active safely!
See all the programs and register:
www.tay.ca/living-here/seniors/



Wendat Community Programs Social Club
The Social Club provides programs enhancing social, physical, emotional and cognitive wellness components. Located on the lower level of the Wendat building at 237 Second Street in Midland.
For more information, call (705) 526-1305



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ENTERTAINMENT BY AN
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Give us a call or send us an email to learn more about volunteering with Community Reach: (705) 528-6999 or admin@communityreach.ca
To find out more about Community Reach, check out our website at www.communityreach.ca.

Funding for this project is provided by the Ministry of Employment and Social Services to help seniors age well at home.

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Gouvernement du Canada

