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NORTH SIMCOE Springwater NEWS

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FREE

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Sept 1956 Elmvale Fall Fair "Memories Then"

September 1959

Elmvale Fall Fair

By Linda Belcourt, Editor and Huronia Museum and Huron Quendat Village, Sep 21, 2025

Last year the theme of the Elmvale Fall Fair was "Memories: Then & Now". This year's theme is "Canadian Made". We are celebrating the 163rd year. This page represents last year's theme.

Come out in your red and white on October 10th and 11th to the Elmvale arena fairgrounds run by the Flos Agricultural Society. Lets paint the town with red and white and put up your Canada Flags to show our town's pride.

Hope to see you at the fair. Don't forget Lioness Lions are serving peameal, hotdogs and drinks while you sit and rest your feet. Access is at front of arena and up the stairs.

Huronia Museum holds the stories of our past! Visit the museum, OPEN DAILY from 8:30am to 4pm.

Experience Simcoe County BruceGreySimcoe
#northsimcoe #brucegreysimcoe #georgianbay
#simcoecountyhistory #tourismsimcoecounty #Elmvale



Queen for a day was Peggy Waples of Elmvale, centre, flanked by her princesses Peggy Robertshaw, Waverley, left, and Joy Ingleton of Elmvale R.R., right. Miss Waples queen was named "modern queen" for the Elmvale centennial fair this week.



Donald Beardsall literally got Freeman Bumstead's goat (s) and drove them as part of Saurin School's float at Elmvale school fair Sept, 22. The goats, "knee-high to a grasshopper", are only five months old."



Sensation of Elmvale's centennial fair in 1956 was 12-year-old Sheila Elliott of Phepston and her Holstein calf, Avinda. Sheila and Avinda swept all the major prizes at Elmvale 4-H Calf Club's achievement day, including a grand champion calf. It was Sheila's first year in club work.



Three members of the Elmvale 4-H Calf Club are seen with their prize-winning dairy calves at the Elmvale Fall Fair. Calder Hunter, left, had the best calf and placed second in showmanship, Barbara Strath had the third place calf but placed first in showmanship and Donald Palmer took second with his calf and third on showmanship.



Mrs. Clarence Ritchie of Elmvale, chosen centennial queen at Elmvale fall fair, rides in her 'coach,' one of the highlights of the parade Wednesday afternoon which marked the 100th birthday of the Flos Agricultural Society's show. Her escort is her nephew, Jack Fleming.


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Newspapers aren't "junk mail"

By Gordon Cameron is the Executive Director of the Ontario Community Newspapers Association, Sep 17, 2025

The best newspapers have a special bond with their readers. They're trusted, because they're trustworthy. They tell it like it is, not to curry favour or push an agenda, but because they know that the truth, no matter how unpalatable or inconvenient it might be, is better than falsehoods. They're always there for their communities no matter what, and will move heaven and earth to cover the places they call home. It's not easy work, but, for those who have it as a vocation, there's no life like it.

To borrow liberally from the unofficial creed of the

U.S. Postal Service: Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these newspaper people from the completion of their weekly editions.

So it's perhaps ironic that the biggest headache for many newspapers is the post office. When it works, mail is largely an efficient way to get the paper into readers' hands. However, too often decisions made by Canada Post and/or its largest union, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), make delivery difficult – whether it's the frequent strikes or lockouts, or having unaddressed newspapers capriciously reclassified as "junk mail."

As part of its on-going contract dispute with Canada Post, CUPW is refusing to deliver flyers. This can be a boon for some newspapers as it will

inspire flyer customers to switch to their local papers. However, it also means unaddressed newspapers aren't being distributed. These publications are the mass media of their communities, often sent to every household. So, while the union and Canada Post fight it out, it's readers who are taking it on the chin.

Under the leadership of News Media Canada, the Ontario Community Newspapers Association and several of its sister organizations have called upon the heads of both CUPW and Canada Post to make sure that newspapers continue to be delivered. The associations have also brought this to the attention of the relevant federal ministers in the hopes that they will intervene on behalf of Canadians.

However, for the moment, papers like this one will do whatever it takes to get copies into the hands of readers. Unfortunately, it will mean asking readers to do more to get their papers, which is not something publishers take lightly. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and remind all involved just how vital the paper is to the community.

This paper will keep delivering news to its readers come what may, and hopefully when you come to collect your copy you won't be troubled by snow, rain, heat or gloom of night.

After all, as the last postal strike showed, the strong bond between this paper and the community goes both ways.



Community newspapers are NOT junk mail.

Community newspapers are trusted local voices that keep Canadians informed, connected and engaged. They are local businesses that report news that matters most to the communities they serve. CUPW and Canada Post need to ensure that the processing/delivery of unaddressed community newspapers resumes immediately.

newsmediacanada.ca

 News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The opinions expressed in articles contributed by interested parties and through the 'Letters to the Editor' or 'Open Letters' do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper and/or the editor. Please submit your letters to the Editor or open letters. Email: info@springwaternews.ca or drop off at office. Contact information is on the right hand side of this page. **Full name, phone number and address must be supplied.**

Congratulations to the organizing committee of this past Saturday's celebration of the 150 year anniversary of Anten Mills.

It was indeed a wonderful event of which the 'forefathers would have been very proud' of how their settlement has continued to evolve into a robust, friendly community focussed on both preserving the past and ensuring that the community continues to thrive.

An event of this type requires many hours of planning, and there wasn't a detail forgotten! The thoughtful, careful restoration of the school house over the years and the displays of the

school and community history as well as the celebration historical information booklet for attendees, commemorative buttons, decorative/delicious cookies contributed significantly to the event. The attractive banners adorning the area along the Horseshoe Valley Road celebrated both the history of Anten Mills and the festiveness of the occasion. The activities (for all ages) organized outside contributed to the day's success as well as the excellent entertainment in the pavilion. A big thank you to the volunteers staffing the various areas, including preparation and serving of food.

Thank you sincerely for a wonderful event, the future of the Anten Mills Community is in great hands and will continue to prosper!

Yours truly,
Wanda Muir Percival, Lindsay, ON

Thank you, Springwater News, for the valuable coverage of local events and concerns. The paper delivers an important service, and I know that paid advertisements are critical in supporting journalism.

I'm not asking the paper to reject the full-

page advertisement touting a brand-new Ontario Place. Instead, I am asking readers to consider that this "revitalization" is a project that was exempted from the Environmental Assessment Act, the Environmental Bill of Rights, 1500 trees were cut down, the land razed, a local ecosystem destroyed – all opposed by local communities. Public waterfront will be privatized. Canadian Architect reported that the total tally for the project is estimated at \$2.37 B taxpayer dollars, and includes a taxpayer funded parking garage for the Therme Group spa.

If you think that Toronto and Ontario Place are not in your back yard, consider the proposed transfer of provincial park land to Wasaga Beach. To date nearly \$900,000 taxpayer dollars has been committed to consultants with the goal of revitalizing that waterfront.

If you love the Wasaga Beach landscape and are concerned about the loss of public land, stay informed. However, if Ontario Place is an example, your opinion may not matter but you will be paying, nonetheless.

Janet Griffiths-Maxymiw

NORTH SIMCOE SPRINGWATER NEWS

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THE NEXT PAPER WILL BE ON OCT 9, 2025



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THE SCOOP By Linda Belcourt, Editor

RETRACTION

North Simcoe Springwater News regrets the error in the last edition Sep 11, 2025 Edition 712. The discounted price was suppose to be 15% off not 50% off on Foster Lawn Care Ad. The correct ad is in this current edition on the back page. Ray Foster has dedication to excellence in all your landscaping needs.

The Township of Springwater Council continues to be disconnected and the behavior is appalling. I hope the community chooses a council next term that actually works together and strives to get community approval. There are many people that are so embarrassed and angry at the unprofessional behaviour of four councillors. Why do we even have an integrity commissioner if the council votes against the recommendation? Behavior does not change if four councillors vote against recommendation. Happy Reading!

Anti-annexation group in Springwater calls for politicians to resign

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

The accusations are severe, the remedy even more so.

According to the folks who run the anti-annexation Springwater Simcoe Facebook group, Springwater Township Mayor Jennifer Coughlin and Councillors Brad Thompson and Matt Garwood are "failing to serve the best interests" of the township and "betraying constituents" when it comes to the City of Barrie's municipal boundary expansion proposal.

The group is calling for all three township politicians to resign, based on its interpretation of the legal opinion from the municipality's legal counsel, Loopstra Nixon LLP, which was posted to the township's website late last week.

In its Facebook post on Sept. 7, the Springwater Simcoe group said the legal opinion “does not mince words,” concluding that “the Barrie proposal is not fair and not in keeping with principles applied in other boundary adjustments.”

For context, the same legal opinion offered this: “We are of the opinion that there is merit to both the Barrie proposal and to the Midhurst expansion. Each option presents distinct advantages, and when all relevant factors are considered, either could yield positive outcomes for the township.”

According to the Springwater Simcoe group, which includes Springwater residents John Spring, Jim Sales, Roy Monk and former township councillor Jack Hanna, Barrie's proposed annexation of Springwater land is not needed, is costly and would be too slow.

"In the face of this clear and devastating information of which the mayor and her two council supporters were aware of, we believe it is time for them to resign," the group stated. "As a result of mayor's powers, Mayor Coughlin, Councillors Thompson and Garwood are now controlling the township."

Coughlin was one of 169 municipal leaders who had strong mayor powers bestowed upon them by Ontario's premier on May 1. Under strong mayor powers, the mayor requires support of one-third of council plus one. With Springwater having a seven-person council, the mayor requires the support of at least two councillors.

The Springwater Simcoe group contends the legal opinion was being suppressed and only came to light when township council voted unanimously to post the legal opinion after coming out of a closed session on Sept. 3.

“Mayor Coughlin received the legal opinion on Aug. 5 and kept it from the public until Sept. 4,” the group alleged. “On Sept. 3, council stood up to the mayor and passed a motion to make the legal opinion public.”

According to the minutes from the council meeting, the legal opinion was originally requested through a notice of motion, brought forward by Coun. Anita Moore during the May 21 council meeting.

Her motion directed staff to send all relevant documents and information on Barrie's boundary proposal to Loopstra Nixon LLP so the law firm could work up an opinion. As part of her motion, a subsequent meeting was to be scheduled to receive the opinion.

According to Thompson, the request was made in an open session of council, but the report would come back in a closed session because it would be considered confidential. Additionally, he noted, council was on summer recess when the legal opinion arrived.

The last official council meeting of the summer was held on July 2, he said.

"We all got (the legal opinion) at the same time," Thompson said. "We didn't have any secret meetings, they were closed sessions. We voted unanimously to release it to give the residents as much information as possible."

Garwood concurred with Thompson's recollection.

“To clarify, the legal opinion was initially considered confidential, council unanimously voted during a special meeting on Sept. 3, 2025, to make the legal opinion public in the interest of transparency,” Garwood wrote in an email to BarrieToday.

Thompson said within days of receiving the legal opinion, Coughlin reached out to the other members of council to arrange a meeting to discuss it.

According to Coughlin, she tried to convene a meeting to discuss the legal opinion, but couldn't get it done.

“It was an exhausting process, especially as some members of council chose not to respond to my requests/emails directly with me,” she wrote in an email to BarrieToday. “Instead, they created political roadblocks.

"Yet, I still made myself available to the will of council," the mayor added.

Coughlin said she received three replies in writing, each one advising her that if a full council was not in attendance, they wouldn't be, either.

"During the most significant negotiations and discussions in Springwater's history, antics took precedence over foresight," she said. "To suggest these 'op-ed' releases are anything but another attempt to erode the trust I have been diligently building in Springwater is laughable.

"It's pure sophistry and pretense."



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SUNDAY, NOV. 9TH, 2025

The image is a promotional graphic for Barrie Hill Farms. At the top, the text "session on Sept. 3." is partially visible. The main graphic features a green border. Inside, the "BARRIE HILL FARMS" logo is centered, with "BARRIE HILL" in a green serif font and "FARMS" in a larger, bold green serif font. To the left of the logo is a red strawberry, and to the right is a bunch of blueberries. Below the logo, the tagline "Pick local. Live green." is written in a smaller green font. On the left side, the text "Pick Your Own Pumpkins" is written in a large, bold green font, and "Ready Now!" is written below it in a large, bold red font. On the right side, there is a circular inset image showing a large, ripe orange pumpkin with a green stem, set against a background of other pumpkins and green foliage.

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|--|--|--|---|
| <p>1 LIZ LASKY - Painting
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90 Thompsons Road, Unit 11, Penetanguishene</p> <p>3 LORIE DESROCHES - Pottery
MONICA IRONSIDE - Painting
69 Therrien Court, Penetanguishene</p> <p>4 ROSALIND DASCHUK - Stained Glass, Mobiles
93 Goldfinch Crescent, Tiny</p> <p>5 INGRID LUPP - Glasswork
72 Concession 12 East, Tiny</p> <p>6 MELANIE ROBITAILLE - Photography
LAURA KULSON - Jewellery
11 Asselin Drive, Tiny</p> | <p>7 KIM MATICIW - Fibre Artist
ARTHUR KARASIK - Abstract Painting
77 Forest Road, Tiny</p> <p>8 RACHEL GELDERBLOOM - Jewellery
29 Tiny Beaches Road North, Tiny</p> <p>9 JULIE MCGREGOR - Painting
BRET CULP - Photography
66 Tiny Beaches Road North, Tiny</p> <p>10 CAROL HALLMAN - Stained Glass
45 Sherwood Crescent, Tiny</p> <p>11 JERRY (YARKO) KULYK - Painting
63 Brook Avenue, Tiny</p> <p>12 CYNTHIA BLAIR - Painting
JANA CAISSIE - Artisan Bath & Beauty
10 Blair Lane, Cawaja Beach, Tiny</p> | <p>13 DON PETTIT - Painting
12 Castleton Drive, Tiny</p> <p>14 ROD PROUSE - Painting
10 Quesnelle Dr., Wahnkewaning Bch, Tiny</p> <p>15 BARBARA SIMMONS - Painting
26 Wolfe Trail, Tiny</p> <p>16 CHRISTINE MARSHALL - Painting
16 Desroches Trail, Tiny</p> <p>17 WENDY MARCHAND - Painting, Sculpture
130 Moreau Parkway, Tiny</p> <p>18 ANTJE GAGNÉ - Pottery
SHARON MacKINNON - Painting
39 Rue Vanier, Tiny</p> | <p>19 SAM SGRO - Wood Carving
HEATHER KERTZER - Painting & Jewellery
1632 Tiny Beaches Road North, Tiny</p> <p>20 HILARY SLATER - Painting
ROGER BEAUSOLEIL - Woodturning
650 Concession 17 West, Tiny</p> <p>21 STEPHEN ST. AMANT - Pottery
87 Silver Birch Drive, Tiny</p> <p>22 KAREN AMOS - Stained Glass
922 Concession 16 East, Tiny</p> <p>23 LINDA BRUBACHER - Painting
135 Peek A Boo Trail, Tiny</p> <p>24 OLGA ZIOUZINA - Painting
1700 Champlain Road, Tiny</p> |
|--|--|--|---|




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Recreation and Special Events

Pumpkin Trail and Halloween Movie Night

When: Saturday November 1, 2025 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Where: Township of Tiny Community Centre (91 Conc. Rd 8 E).

Enjoy a family-friendly Halloween evening starting with an outdoor walking trail lined with glowing jack-o'-lanterns, festive inflatables, and seasonal décor. After the trail, head indoors for a free screening of *The Addams Family*.

Drop off your carved Halloween jack-o'-lanterns to be part of the event by 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at one of three locations:

- Lafontaine Community Centre – 342 Lafontaine Rd W, Tiny
- Township of Tiny Community Centre (TTCC) – 91 Concession Rd 8 E, Tiny
- Wyebridge Community Centre – 8340 ON-93, Tiny

Learn more at www.tiny.ca/pumpkintrail.



Nature Connect: Outdoor Adventures for Seniors

- Free guided outdoor excursions such as hiking, canoeing, kayaking, forest therapy walks, and wild edibles foraging, and snowshoeing
- An 8-week slow sensory walking program in Tiny
- Access to specialized walking equipment, including urban poles and snowshoes, available for use through our Sport Loaner Program
- The creation of a senior walking group, with opportunities for volunteer leadership and certification training

Learn more at www.tiny.ca/seniors/programs.



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Fire Prevention Week (Oct 5 – 11)

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- Charge** devices safely by: only using the charging cord that came with the device, charging on a hard surface, do not over charge your device, and unplug it when fully charged.
- Recycle** batteries responsibly - don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash because they could start a fire. Look up the closest hazardous waste depot at www.simcoe.ca/waste to safely dispose of lithium-ion batteries.

Council Meeting Schedule



October 8
2:00 PM



October 29
2:00 PM



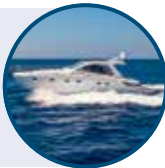
November 19
2:00 PM




Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers and are open to the public. The Meeting of Council Schedule is subject to change. For complete details, visit the Community Calendar at www.tiny.ca/events.

Boating Speed Limit

The boating speed limit within 300m of shore is 10km/hr between Concessions 1 and 16 in the Township of Tiny.



Updates to rural Canada Post mailbox standards on the roadside in Tiny



The Township of Tiny has a new policy that helps to standardize roadside mail-boxes to withstand winter conditions and regular road maintenance ahead of the winter season. Some of the key updates include:

- mailboxes should be a minimum of 105cm (42") above the shoulder and at least 5m (16' 6") away from the centre of the roadway to allow for the blade of the plow to easily pass
- mailboxes need to be sturdy enough to withstand the movement of snow from regular road maintenance including windrows
- in the rare instance that a township plow damages a mailbox that conforms to this policy, it will be replaced with a standard, medium sized rural-style unit constructed from weather-resistant copolymer plastic, that meet Canada Post specifications

To review the full policy, visit www.tiny.ca/roads.

Wyebridge Park Survey

Provide your feedback to help guide the development of a strategy for the ongoing maintenance and potential enhancements of Wyebridge Park and Community Centre (8340 Highway 93). Take the survey by Monday, October 13, 2025 at www.surveymonkey.com/r/WyebridgePark.




Beaches Reminder

Residents and visitors are reminded that personal items/private property cannot be left unattended or overnight on municipally owned property. Waterfront structures such as boat lifts on the lakebed that are regulated under Provincial law and are not permitted in front of any municipally owned properties.

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By Helmut Paddags, Sep 9, 2025
For too long Georgian Seniors have kept their activities hidden inside “The Place” in Balm Beach. Now you can see them all day in front of the building at 300 Balm Beach Road West.
There is a group of people ready to greet and encourage new members to join in the many activities that are available at the club. There is an exercise group staying fit while another lady is working on her sewing. On the other side is

a shuffle boarder practising a shot and a couple dancing, surrounded by musical notes and refreshments. Always reminding those who wish more social activities there is a sign advertising TGIF, a book club and cards.
Come and see the new mural at Georgian Shores Seniors Club and be drawn into the fun.
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The supplied items include robotics kits, a K'nex building set, a circuit market kit, board games, and various arts and crafts supplies like bracelet making kits and Play-doh. These resources support the program's goal of building strong relationships between mentors and their mentees.
“We believe in the power of connecting our community, and that starts with investing in our youth,” said Alexia, CMO of SwoopFiber. “By providing these STEM and creative supplies, we hope to empower students to explore new interests, build confidence, and forge meaningful relationships with their mentors. It’s about helping to build a brighter future, one connection at a time.”
SwoopFiber encourages others to support the vital work of Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe. For more information on their programs or to find out how you can contribute, please visit their website at <https://northsimcoe.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/>.
Let’s come together as a community to ensure every child has the support and resources they need to thrive.

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By Simran Hotwani, Swoop, Sep 22, 2025
Reinforcing its commitment to community enrichment, SwoopFiber donated a variety of STEM, arts, and crafts supplies to Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe on September 9, 2025. This partnership will directly benefit the In-School Mentoring Program in Springwater and Wyevalle schools for the 2025-2026 school year.
The donation is designed to provide engaging, hands-on activities that foster creativity and learning for youth between the ages of 6 and 17.

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2024 Elmvale Fall Fair Ambassador m participants

By Rowan King, Sep 17, 2025

Sharing tradition is what this community is known for. Tradition is something that holds us together, it ties people to an anchor that holds community enthusiasm. As the Fair approaches it always makes me appreciate and savour the traditions that make Fair weekend a homecoming for so many. From the parades to the tractor pulls to the contests we all find something to bring us home. For the youth in our community we have the Ambassador contest. This gives our youth an opportunity to pass along tradition and learn how the tradition of the fair continues to bring us home each year.

We are seeking youth for the Jr. and Sr. Program. Find the application on the Elmvale Fall Fair website.

By Tanya King FAS President, Sep 22, 2025

Mark your calendars! Our beloved Elmvale Fall Fair is just seven weeks away, and we're gearing up for a spectacular weekend of community, tradition, and fun. From October 9th to 11th, we will be celebrating our in true homegrown style. This fair has been a staple of our community since 1859, bringing people of all ages together to celebrate our roots and showcase our talents. This year, more than ever, we invite you to join in the spirit of togetherness and show your Canadian pride. It's a homecoming weekend where we come together, not just as individuals, but as a community united by our shared heritage and love for this great land.

Calling All Participants: Get Involved in the **Monster Parade!** One of the most exciting events of the weekend is our Saturday Monster Parade, and we want YOU to be a part of it! Whether you're a local business, club, organization, or individual, we encourage you to show your Canadian loyalty by entering a float, marching, or getting creative with a themed costume. This parade is a highlight of the fair, and we want it to be bigger and better than ever! It's a chance to let your creativity shine and showcase what makes our community so special. Whether you're honouring our Canadian heritage or celebrating the unique spirit of our town, we want to see your ideas come to life in the parade!

Traditional Events: The Best of Country Fun. Get ready for the tractor pulls, horse shows, sheep and livestock competitions, and the always popular mini tractor pulls for the kids. And this year, we're adding a special treat: a bumper car exhibit presented by our junior board. It's a free activity for those who meet the height requirement, and it

promises to be a blast!

Exciting Entertainment Line-up! We have an incredible lineup of entertainment this year, including performances by local hometown star Graham Scott Fleming on Friday night as well as a toe tapping performance by the Northern Jewel Clogging Group. Ron White a talented solo songwriter and singer will perform on Saturday. Gwyneth Covey will also be performing, and we are thrilled to welcome Gary Austin, our Magician, who will surely leave you spellbound! And don't forget local favourites – the HCES choir, EDHS choir, and the EDHS band will all be performing throughout the weekend.

Homecraft and Junior Competitions: Show Your Talent! Our Homecraft competition is always full of breathtaking, handcrafted items, delicious baked goods, and preserves. Meanwhile, the junior school competition continues to impress, showcasing the incredible talents of our young people. We encourage both the newcomers and seasoned competitors to submit your entries – you won't want to miss the chance to see your work display for all the enjoy!

Let's Make This Year's Fair, the Best Yet! This year's Elmvale Fall Fair promises to be a celebration of all that makes our community great – our pride, our talent, and our shared history. Let's come together to make this year's fair one to remember. Whether you're participating in the parade, or simply enjoying the events, we can't wait to see you there!

Get involved, show your Canadian spirit, and be part of something special!

October 10th & 11th

Kick Off Thanksgiving Weekend Fun!

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Midland garden award winner seeds ‘inspiration’ in community

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: MidlandToday.ca, Sep 15, 2025

If ever curious about what ‘inspiration’ looks like, take a drive through the western corner of Midland to check out this year’s local garden of the year.

Irena Boucher received the annual award for her front-yard garden on Dina Crescent, and told MidlandToday that the surprise came after she and her husband John returned from a health-related visit to Toronto.

“We came back the next day, and suddenly I saw a letter,” said Boucher. “It was a really big surprise for me, yes.

“For years, all our neighbours were always telling me: ‘It’s a good garden, it’s a beautiful look, gorgeous.’ From the spring, they started to bloom; after summer, the flowers were blooming; and now it’s fall, and they’re blooming as well.”

In 2004, Boucher moved from Mississauga to be with her husband, back when the yard was weeds and dirt, she said. Over the years, she learned how to grow her garden through adverse winter conditions unique to Midland, aided with friendly assistance from neighbours and local garden centres.

“My neighbours across the street were inspired,” said Boucher pointing to one nearby yard, and then two others. “Before there weren’t flowers here; now the whole street took inspiration from me.”

On hand to present a lawn sign signifying Boucher’s work as the 2025 garden of the year was Midland Garden Club board member Jenni McKeown, as well as the 2024 award winner Susan Ash. Boucher also received a one-year membership into the Midland Garden Club, with Ash stating she herself would become a proper member and also apply for a position on the board.



“Susan and I drove around, and we chose this garden after driving past many times,” said McKeown.

“There were probably about six candidates,” said Ash. In choosing what criteria was required, Ash replied: “Colour is good; and not a lot of weeds. This is so nice and clean.”

McKeown added: “It just stood out. There are so many beautiful gardens, and a lot of really big gardens. Sometimes it’s nice to give smaller gardens a chance.”

Boucher shared that due to health issues, it was sometimes difficult to tend to the garden over the past year.

“For me and for my family last year, it was a very hard year. I was very sick, I couldn’t even get out,” she says, noting her two daughters and grandchildren encouraged her with their support.

“Baba, you need to be good. Take care of yourself,

you will go to work in your garden’, they said. It inspired me, to give me a chance... to look toward the future, to look forward,” said Boucher.

Her husband John also noted the improvement to Irena’s outlook. “It’s amazing. She’s become extremely bubbly, proud, smiley and talkative. It’s augmented since she got the award, and it’s caused a lot of smiles.”

For those wanting to begin their journey into gardening, Boucher advised to start small with flowers in pots, online research, and visitations to garden centres.

“Join the garden club,” said Boucher. “The girls know what they are doing, and they can give you advice.”

Further information on joining the Midland Garden Club can be found on their Facebook page.

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Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Proposed Boundary Adjustment

Springwater, ON / September 18, 2025 – The Township of Springwater will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.** to discuss the proposed boundary adjustment.

Throughout the jurisdictional areas of The Township of Springwater, The City of Barrie, and the County of Simcoe, facilitated discussions are being held regarding proposed boundary adjustments. To enhance these efforts, the Office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator has been appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to aid these discussions, ensuring they align with Provincial priorities such as fostering housing development and employment growth.

Initiated in the spring of 2024, the facilitation process has involved discussions among the municipal leaders of the Township of Springwater, the City of Barrie, and the County of Simcoe. The process has included technical studies by consulting experts, examining the demand for additional residential and employment lands in the Township of Springwater and the City of Barrie. Preliminary results were introduced to all Councils by late 2024. Recent studies include urban expansion land delineation, environmental mapping and constraint analysis, and infrastructure servicing needs and costs. Additionally, technical memorandums, inclusive of the joint land needs assessment and an update from the Office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator, will be released publicly on September 24, 2025. On September 25, 2025, the draft restructuring (boundary adjustment) proposal, including mapping of the proposed areas will be released. All materials will be posted on the Township's website.

A final restructuring proposal will not be considered for approval by Council at this meeting. The proposal will be considered at the next Council meeting, on October 15, 2025, after considering comments received as part of the public meeting and engagement process, outlined in the Municipal Act.

This public meeting is an opportunity for the public to review and provide comments on the restructuring proposal between the Township of Springwater and the City of Barrie. All interested parties are invited to attend in person or electronically.

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers, Administration Centre, Township of Springwater, 2231 Nursery Road, Minesing, ON L9X 1A8


Livestream: www.youtube.com/@springwatertwp

Any person may attend the public meeting and make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the studies and proposal.

If you wish to make a written submission concerning this matter, please email or mail written comments to clerks@springwater.ca or Administration Centre, Township of Springwater, 2231 Nursery Road, Minesing, ON L9X 1A8 (attention: Township of Springwater Clerk). Written comments must be received by **October 6, 2025, by 4:00 p.m.**

If you wish to provide comments in person at the public meeting, please register in advance by emailing: clerks@springwater.ca or calling 705-728-4784 ext. 2304 during regular office hours prior to **October 8, 2025, by 2:00 p.m.** You may participate either in person or electronically via zoom. Those participating via Zoom will be provided with connection instructions upon registration and will require access to a computer with internet connection or a telephone. Each person may speak once, with a maximum limit of 5 minutes. It is recommended that groups designate a single spokesperson to represent their organization. Those not registered in advance to make comment at the meeting will be provided an opportunity to do so, once all registered participants have had the opportunity to speak.

Notice of Collection/Use/Disclosure: Personal information is being collected as part of the public meeting process pursuant to Section 173(3) of the Municipal Act and will be used to form part of the public record. Questions regarding the collection of this information and how it is used may be directed to the Clerk, Clerks Department, Township of Springwater by emailing Clerks Department or 705-728-4784 ext. 2304.



Notice of the Passing of a By-law to Repeal and Replace By-law 2019-066, as Amended

Take notice that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Springwater passed By-law 2025-071 on the 17th day of September 2025, under Section 42, 51.1 and 53 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13, as amended.

Subject Lands
Entire geographic area of the Township of Springwater.

Purpose and Effect
The purpose and effect is to repeal and replace the Township’s current Parkland Dedication By-law 2019-066 to maintain compliance with the Ontario Planning Act. The Township’s Parkland Dedication By-law regulates the conveyance of land for parks or other public recreational purposes, and/or the payment of cash-in-lieu, as a condition of approval for development/redevelopment, Consent (severance) or Draft Plan of Subdivision.

And take notice that any person or organization may appeal the By-law to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT), under subsection 42 (4.9) of the Act, as applicable, in respect to all or part of this By-law Amendment by filing a notice of appeal with the Township’s Secretary Treasurer either via the Ontario Land Tribunal e-file service (first-time users will need to register for a My Ontario Account) at <https://olt.gov.on.ca/e-file-service/> by selecting the Township of Springwater as the Approval Authority or by mail to 2231 Nursery Road, Minesing, ON L9X 1A8, no later than 5:30 p.m. on October 27, 2025.

The filing of an appeal after 5:30 p.m., in person or electronically, will be deemed to have been received the next business day. The appeal fee of \$1,100 can be paid online through e-file or by certified cheque/money order to the Minister of Finance, Province of Ontario. If you wish to appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) or request a fee reduction for an appeal, forms are available from the OLT website at www.olt.gov.on.ca.

If the e-file portal is down, you can submit your appeal to brooklynn.paolucci@springwater.ca

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council or, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

The Complete By-law is available for inspection at the Township of Springwater Administration Centre during regular business hours or can be mailed or emailed upon request.

Planning Services Department
Township of Springwater, Administration Centre
2231 Nursery Road, Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
Tel: (705) 728-4784 x 2019
E-mail: planning@springwater.ca
Website: www.springwater.ca

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Across

1 “I see!”

4 Deface

8 Any ship at sea

11 Go astray

12 Animal with big ears

13 Foot the bill

14 Acquire intelligence

15 Snowball

17 Produced

19 Narrow country roads

20 Rotten fish have one

22 Combine

23 Algebra data

26 It’s in the ____!

29 Honorarium

30 Enchilada holder

32 ____ stop

33 Empty, mathematically

34 Record company

37 Saluters’ needs

39 Retired with title

41 Bad type of acting

44 Game trap

45 Rushed headlong

46 Vowel in Greece

47 Paternity identifier

48 Toby Keith song: “____ Smile”

49 Hangout

Down

1 Prime example of stubbornness

2 Not square

3 At present

4 Slough off

5 Etui

6 Kind of welder

7 One who sees the obvious

8 Bridge

9 Love’s opposite

10 Ophthalmologist’s study

16 Inattentive

18 Escort’s offering

20 Not at work

21 Anonymous Jane

22 Impair

24 Electric company, e.g.

25 Parking place

26 Showed embarrassment

27 The whole

28 Hoedown participant

31 Hostel

32 Singly

34 Grant, temporarily

35 Call from the flock

36 Phi____ Kappa

37 Money adviser

38 ____ friendly

40 Also

42 Dug in

43 Spider or He

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- Provincial Government Programs
- Seniors Issues
- Small Business Issues
- Transportation
- Trillium Drug Program (OTDP)
- Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB)



JILL DUNLOP
MPP – Simcoe North/Nord

705-326-3246 • Jill.Dunlopco@pc.ola.org
JillDunlopMPP.ca

Message from MPP Dunlop

By Office of Jill Dunlop, MPP – Simcoe North/Nord, Sep 15, 2025

As the vibrant colours of fall arrive across Simcoe North, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful and safe October. It's a time to enjoy our beautiful trails, support local farmers at markets and fairs, and spend time with family and friends as we head into Thanksgiving.

At Queen's Park, important work continues to support the health, prosperity, and future of all Ontarians, and I'd like to share a few highlights of recent provincial initiatives that may impact you and your family.

This fall, Ontario is launching a first-of-its-kind health screening program in Canada to protect people from life-threatening abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA). This new initiative will help identify those at risk early, before symptoms appear, and can prevent potentially fatal ruptures. It's a major step forward in saving lives through early detection and prevention.

Ontario is also investing \$3 million through the Francophone Community Grants Program to support economic and cultural initiatives across

the province. These funds will help Francophone organizations and small businesses enhance services, grow community programs, and celebrate our rich French-speaking heritage.

We're also investing in Ontario's future workforce through the Level Up! career fairs. These events are giving a record number of students, educators, and jobseekers hands-on exposure to careers in the skilled trades, helping address labour shortages while inspiring the next generation of skilled workers.

Finally, I'm proud to share that Ontario is investing \$9.6 million through the Wetlands Conservation Partner Program to protect and restore wetlands across the province. Wetlands play a vital role in flood prevention, water purification, and wildlife habitat, especially in regions like ours. This funding will support local conservation efforts, create green jobs, and protect our natural environment for future generations.

As always, I remain committed to advocating for the needs of families, workers, and businesses here in Simcoe North. Thank you for your continued engagement and enjoy everything this beautiful season has to offer!



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As your federal Member of Parliament, I work to keep you informed on what the federal government is up to in Ottawa. While I am always happy to answer your questions about policy, a significant part of my job is to help constituents navigate federal government programs and services.

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.

We can assist with the following matters:

- Passports
- Canada Revenue Agency Inquiries
- Employment Insurance
- Canada Pension Plan and Canada Pension Plan Disability
- OAS and the Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada inquiries
- 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

Penetanguishene mayor sees community support after addressing staff harassment

*By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter, Source: MidlandToday.ca, Sep 17, 2025*

Penetanguishene Mayor Doug Rawson and CAO Jeff Lees spoke to Midland Today regarding an update to an issue of harassment against town staff highlighted in a recent Midland Today article

(‘Rawson blasts ‘rude, belligerent’ residents for boorish behaviour’).

For two consecutive regular council meetings in July and August, Rawson had drawn attention to a small number of Penetanguishene residents that had escalated unpleasant discourse to members of town staff. Rawson addressed the resident comments as 'rude, ignorant, distasteful', 'belligerent', as well as 'getting downright despicable'.

After the recent council meeting, Rawson cited a positive swell of support from the community.

"In the last year, that's probably the one article I've had the most outreach on, where people came to me and said: 'I had no idea,'" Rawson told MidlandToday. "I think it's brought another level of awareness to people, that said: 'it's unfortunate'.

“These past couple of days,” Rawson added, “a person that toured the region from eastern Ontario shared with us how great it was to come here: friendly and warm, welcoming to people, how much they loved the environment. They even said they would consider moving to this area based on the response.”

Rawson stated that the visitor produced a copy of the MidlandToday article with compliments on how the municipality had handled the approach against harassment. He also reiterated that the

complaints were from a small number of residents, and were not indicative of the larger town populace.

"We probably should do a little more to appreciate and applaud the 'goods', instead of just highlighting the few 'bads,'" said Rawson.

Lees stated that since the original article had been published, Penetanguishene's approach to handling the matter had been effective.

"The trend seems to have flatlined," said Lees. "I think this is happening not only just in North Simcoe, (but) municipally across the province."

"I don't think any municipality is sitting down and doing nothing," Lees added. "I hope that collectively as municipalities we can work together to support one another, because I think this trend is not going favourably."

Rawson offered that it wasn't just a municipal construct but an overall behavioural sense of entitlement, and cited the hospital sector – specifically increases of physical abuse toward on-call paramedics.

"I think we as service providers have accepted that up to a point, and I think we're at the boil-over point where we've now got to say: 'hey hey, enough is enough,'" said Rawson. "I think it's a societal problem, and we've got to stop accepting it. We've got to start saying: 'no, you don't have the right'."



ANTEN MILLS

by Dennis Gannon



Sep 21, 2025- It was a tremendous success. There are no other words to describe the Anten Mills Celebrating 150 Years than to say that it was a tremendous success. Literally hundreds of current and former residents of the community descended on the community centre to help celebrate 150 years as a community.

Early in the morning a small army of volunteers showed up to prepare the grounds for the event. Before 1PM visitors started arriving and made their way into the hall where displays and registration took place. By 2PM the grounds were buzzing with friends meeting up with old and new friends. Shortly afterwards, the opening ceremonies began. It was demonstrated that we truly are Canadian as people rose and joined in the singing of O Canada. Greetings were brought forth from MP Shipley, MPP Downey, Mayor Coughlin, Ward 3 Councillor Brad Thompson and Lawrence Pavan, Chair of the Anten Mills Community Recreation Association. The day's events were outlined and the official



opening and grand re-opening ceremony was held. Three former students of the school, Don McRae, Nancy Priest Coutts and Susan Muir Coulter whose families have deep rooted connections to the community were invited to ring the school bell along with Mayor Coughlin and Chair Pavan. The bell, it is believed, had not been rung in over 50 years. It had been removed from the bell tower earlier this summer and was cleaned up as it awaits future restoration with the bell tower. The activities then began in earnest. Visitors were entertained by local talent under the pavilion. The kids zone was busy with face painting, a bouncy castle and the very popular rock climbing wall. Inside the hall people mingled and reviewed the history of our community that was on display. Favourable comments were received on the new floor, ceiling and lights all which transformed the hall back to its semi original style. Current and former residents were encouraged to register their families to preserve their heritage in the village. In turn, they got to receive a delicious 150 decorated cookie and the Anten Mills Celebrating 150 Years commemorative booklet. Back outside a mini fun cornhole tournament was held and the souvenir 150 pop up booth was busy taking orders for 150 clothing and selling smaller items. Following a great performance by local band Stir it Up, the skies were lit up with a fantastic fireworks show at dusk that left everyone in awe.

Out front of the community centre a new feature was uncovered. Thanks to Monument Restoration, the 150 years of history has been forever preserved with a rock monument featuring the official 150 logo. September 13, 2025 will go down in our history as a day to remember and the 150 celebration committee is grateful for all who attended and the memories made and shared. There is still more to come so watch for future updates.

Saturday, September 27 will be another great day in the community as the Anten Mills Craft and Food Fair will take place at the community centre. Over 30 vendors will be participating under the pavilion, along the pathway and in the hall. Returning this year will be the chilli cookoff. This is a great and fun way to see who has the best chilli in the village. There will be judges and bowls of chilli will be available

to try for a nominal price which will determine the community favourite. Make sure that you come hungry as the pancake breakfast in support of the Elmvale and District Food Bank is occurring as well. While they last, you can get 2 pancakes, 2 sausages, all the fixings for 2 toonies. It's a great way to start the day and support the food bank as well. If you missed the 150 celebration and are interested in the great clothing and other merchandise then stop by the CRA booth at the fair. You will be able to purchase items, pick up a 150 celebration booklet and learn more about what the CRA sponsors and does in the community. The fair takes place at the community centre from 10 AM to 2 PM so drop by and perhaps start your Christmas shopping early.

Next on the list will be the Halloween events the weekend of October 24. Event sponsors have taken charge and more details will be posted here and on the Anten Mills Community Bulletin Facebook page so watch for more details.

Springwater Fire and Emergency Services is recruiting volunteer firefighters. This is a great opportunity to serve our community. Details are available on the Township of Springwater website.

In Midhurst this Saturday the Midhurst CRA is holding their Autumnfest. Springwater Vespra Lions will be there with their Duck Race tickets available for purchase. The race happens that afternoon so consider supporting the Lions and the great work they do.

There hasn't been much activity from the bears this year. As they prepare for the winter season and hibernation do be mindful of your bird feeders as they do like to stock up on bird feed.

On a personal note, my family and I were humbled by the announcement at the 150 celebration when the gardens at the community centre were renamed as "The Gannon Gardens". This came totally unexpected and we are very appreciative of the announcement. We have been part of the community for over 44 years and do what we can for the community because we are grateful to be part of it. Thank you for your thoughtful gesture.

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

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Remote voting under scrutiny as Springwater debates election bylaw

By: Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: BarrieToday.com, Sep 20, 2025

Springwater Deputy Mayor George Cabral is no fan of remote voting.

At Wednesday night’s council meeting, he said he was concerned with the security, or lack thereof, of an electronic system that could be vulnerable to hacker attacks and lacks the ability to verify the person who’s voting is actually the registered voter and is allowed to cast a ballot.

“It’s kind of, you know, jump on board and do it,” he said before introducing an amendment to the draft bylaw regarding alternative voting methods for the 2026 municipal election that was before council.

Cabral referenced research on the subject done by Orillia Coun. Jay Fallis, who had found a 2024 thesis called Cyber Risks in Ontario Online Elections, by James D. Brunet of Western University. The thesis was submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the master of engineering science degree in electrical and computer engineering.

Brunet’s paper looked at a variety of electronic voting systems currently in use across Ontario municipalities that do not meet European standards for cyber-security.

“There are potential risks at many stages of the online voting process,” Brunet wrote. “Computer systems that count votes could be tampered with, voters could be intimidated into voting a particular way, voters could be impersonated, the secrecy of the vote of voters could be compromised, etc.”

Despite the potential risks, Brunet said, not much research has been done into how these elections are conducted in Ontario, as well as how well municipalities in Ontario are doing in addressing these risks.

At its Aug. 11 meeting, Orillia city council opted for paper ballots over electronic options.

“One fraudulent vote, in my opinion, is one too many,” Cabral said Wednesday night.

He added that until the provincial government provides guidelines for remote voting, he wants the option removed.

His amendment called to remove remote voting

and to ensure the township’s regular advance polls at standard locations continue to happen and that the regular election day polls continue to happen at their locations.

Mayor Jennifer Coughlin said she wasn’t in favour of changing the bylaw until residents had a say.

“If this is something we’re actually altering, how our residents are able to vote, I feel this should be a standing item on the agenda with information, with correspondence,” she said. “That at least gives us information as to what percentage of our voters utilized the mechanisms that we’re about to take away.”

“I think electors should have a say in how they get to pass the vote,” the mayor added.

Coughlin suggested the bylaw be deferred to the next meeting so staff could prepare a report. She said council’s goal should be to make it as easy as possible for everyone to vote.

Cabral said he wasn’t interested. His only concern was to ensure remote voting is 100 per cent accurate.

“I can tell you right now, there were people who voted in the 2022 election that should not have voted and that’s the reason why I’m putting this forward,” he said.

He didn’t name them and he wanted the motion to go forward as delivered.

“As a resident, I want to ensure that the voting that takes place in Springwater Township is 100 per cent accurate and only those people who are allowed to vote get the opportunity to vote by being challenged, verified and then, given that opportunity,” Cabral said.

Township clerk Jennifer Marshall addressed the issue of security in the report she drafted to accompany the draft bylaw.

“Technical protective measures, such as fire-walling, user authentication techniques, failover connectivity and server redundancy, all decrease the likelihood and effectiveness of these threats,” Marshall wrote. “Proper testing and auditing throughout the various implementation phases also serve to protect the voting system from external threats.”

She said internet voting platforms utilize the same stringent access methodologies and encryption principles which protect internet banking sites and electronic medical records (EMR) systems.

“Although there have been documented cases of malicious attempts designed to comprise an online voting system, there are no known controverted elections resulting from the use of an internet voting channel,” Marshall wrote.

She also addressed the issue of validating voter identification. She said voter authentication practices commonly exist as part of any online voting system and can be customized to include use of personalized security questions, CAPTCHA challenges, and/or unique identification codes.

“There are also procedural controls in place to authenticate potential electors,” Marshall wrote. “For example, only electors on the voters list receive credentials which can be used to register to vote and/or vote online.”

“An individual may be added to the voters list, but first must validate their identity by submitting an acceptable form of personal identification to a designated Election Official,” she added.

According to her report, one ballot from the 2022 municipal election was quarantined by the election vendor, Scytl. The ballot was spoiled and caught by the system as the elector made more than one selection for one race when not permitted. The system initially allowed the ballot to be cast, but through the verification process, it was identified and quarantined for auditing.

“As such, this ballot was not included in the final count,” Marshall wrote. “The refusal of this ballot did not affect the outcome of the election.”

Of the township’s 17,506 eligible voters in the 2022 municipal election, 5,756 votes were cast (one was rejected), representing a voter turnout of 32.88 per cent, the lowest level since 2006.

At the end of the night, Cabral relented and agreed to refer the item. The motion was referred to staff for more information and will be dealt with at an upcoming meeting.



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Driven JiuJitsu Fighter, 18, Brings Home Championship Belt



By Sabrina Jatsura, Sep 13, 2025
On Saturday September 6th, 2025, Keyden McCue 18 years old, of Honey Harbour ON and member of Beausoliel First Nations, hit the mats representing Driven JiuJitsu Midland ON at The Global Combat JiuJitsu competition in Toronto ON, he prevailed victorious in his amateur Superfight, gaining his first Championship Belt.

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Elmvalle Harvesters Set to Hit the Ice – The Countdown is On!

By Adrianna McGinnis – Secretary, Sep 19, 2025
Excitement is building in Elmvalle as the community gears up for the inaugural season of the Elmvalle Harvesters Senior AA Hockey Team. With the first puck drop just around the corner, the countdown is officially on!
Over the past months, countless hours of planning and preparation have gone into bringing this team to life. None of it would have been possible without the incredible support from our sponsors, community partners, and the fans who have been behind us from day one. From financial contributions to in-kind donations, your backing has helped us build a strong foundation both on and off the ice. The Harvesters truly represent Elmvalle, and we are proud to carry that spirit into every game.

Team Roster

Goalies: Andrew Best, Noah Featherstonhaugh Gowe, Reid Hamilton
Forwards: Devon Edmonds, Derek Sweeney, Jordan Fuller, Owen King, Dylan Palomaki, Cameron Cochran, Austin Pope, Jacob Kelly, Brad Boudreau, Ryan Hackett, Brad Kuepfer, Tanner Mayne, David Pearce, Kaden Laverdiere, Ryan Young
Defence: Steve Hlusiak, Devin Shoreman, Taylor Murphy, Riley Pitt, Derick Robertson, Jeremy Robertson, Joseph Franzin, Jared Robertson

Hockey Operations Staff & Executive Hockey Operations:

- Director of Hockey Operations; Chad Moreau
- General Manager; Jared Robertson
- Head Coach; Andrew Shipley
- Assistant Coach; Derick Robertson
- Scouts; Alex Nagel, Rick Hales
- Trainers; Erich Hunting, Justin Maw
- Equipment Managers; James Elliott, Everette Truax

Executive

- President Scott Thomson
 - Vice President; Darrin Robertson
 - Secretary; Adrianna McGinnis
 - Treasurer; Mike Kelly
 - Game Day Operations; Rori Valender
 - Directors; Curt Graham, Steve Kenney
- Don't miss your chance to be part of Harvesters history! Season tickets are available online and information can be found on our website at elmvalleharvesters.com. Single-game tickets can also be purchased online prior to each matchup, with a reserved number available at the door on game day.

Come see the Elmvalle Harvesters at the Elmvalle Fall Fair! Visit our booth to meet the team behind the scenes, ask questions, and take part in a fun activity for kids and kids at heart. We can't wait to share the excitement of our very first season with you.

Join us in the stands and help make our first season unforgettable. The Elmvalle Harvesters are more than a team, we're a community united by our love of the game. See you at the rink!

For any questions, inquiries, or further information, visit elmvalleharvesters.com or email info@elmvalleharvesters.com.

Elmvalle Harvesters 2025–26 Schedule

Pre-Season Exhibition Game

Sat. Sept. 27 @ 7:00 PM
Wasaga Stars Arena vs. Creemore Coyotes

Home Games

Sat. Nov. 1 @ 8:00 PM
vs. Ripley Wolves
Sat. Nov. 8 @ 8:00 PM
vs. Georgian Bay Applekings
Sun. Nov. 23 @ 4:30 PM
vs. Minto 81's
Sat. Dec. 6 @ 8:00 PM
vs. Saugeen Winterhawks
Sat. Dec. 13 @ 8:00 PM
vs. Creemore Coyotes
Sun. Dec. 21 @ 4:00 PM
vs. Durham Thundercats
Sat. Jan. 3 @ 8:00 PM
vs. Lucknow Lancers
Sun. Jan. 11 @ 4:30 PM
vs. Minto 81's
Sat. Jan. 17 @ 8:00 PM
vs. Georgian Bay Applekings
Sat. Jan. 31 @ 8:00 PM
vs. Shelburne Muskies

Away Games

Fri. Oct. 3 @ 8:30 PM
at Saugeen Winterhawks
Fri. Oct. 17 @ 8:30 PM
at Georgian Bay Applekings
Sat. Oct. 18 @ 7:00 PM
at Ripley Wolves
Fri. Oct. 24 @ 8:30 PM
at Durham Thundercats
Sun. Nov. 9 @ 1:00 PM
at Minto 81's
Sat. Nov. 15 @ 7:30 PM
at Lucknow Lancers
Sun. Nov. 16 @ 1:30 PM
at Shelburne Muskies
Sat. Nov. 29 @ 7:30 PM
at Creemore Coyotes
Sat. Dec. 20 @ 7:30 PM
at Creemore Coyotes
Sat. Jan. 10 @ 7:00 PM
at Ripley Wolves

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SPORTS

Rocky Start to the Season for the Penetang Kings



Submitted by Jamie Robillard, Sep 21, 2025
The Penetang Kings opened the regular season dropping their first game in overtime by a 3-2 score to the Stayner Siskins on Friday September 12th and followed up with a loss to the Alliston Hornets by a 4-2 score on Friday September 19th. In their home opener on September 12th Landon Simec showed why he was named the 2024-25 Carruthers Division Most Valuable Goalie in the Kings net stopping 45 shots in the loss. Stayner

scored the winning goal just 1:27 into overtime on a two on one break out when Caleb Tiffin-Seminara beat Simec from about 25 feet with a wrist shot. Scoring for the Kings were Caiden Pattenden and Wyndam Brownlee. Simec was named the Canadoor Garage Doors Player of the Game for the Kings. Penetang secured one point in the standing with the overtime loss. On September 19th the Kings travelled to Alliston and came out on the short end of a 4-2 score with Camron Hutchinson and Cole Rumolt each finding the twine with single markers. Owen Moreau was named the King’s Canadoor Garage Doors Player of the Game making 34 saves in the Penetang goal. The Kings now travel to Bracebridge on Saturday September 27th to face the Muskoka Bears and then Sunday September 28th they are in Innisfil to tangle with the Spartans before returning home on Friday October 3rd when they meet the Midland Flyers and Saturday October 4th when they clash with the Innisfil Spartans.



Canadoor Garage Doors King's Player of the Game: September 12 - Landon Simec, September 19 -Owen Moreau (no photo available)

Penetang Kings Schedule 2025–26 Schedule				
Date	Visiting	Home	Venue	Time
Sat, Sep 27	Penetang	Muskoka	Muskoka Lumber Community Centre	7:00 pm
Sun, Sep 28	Penetang	Innisfil	Innisfil Recreation Complex	3:30 pm
Fri, Oct 3	Midland	Penetang	Penetang Memorial CC	8:00 pm
Sat, Oct 4	Penetang	Innisfil	Innisfil Recreation Complex	7:30 pm
Thu, Oct 9	Penetang	Stayner	Stayner Memorial Arena	8:00 pm
Fri, Oct 10	Penetang	Huntsville	Canada Summit Centre	7:30 pm
Sat, Oct 18	Muskoka	Penetang	Penetang Memorial CC	8:00 pm
Fri, Oct 24	Orillia	Penetang	Penetang Memorial CC	8:00 pm
Fri, Oct 31	Penetang	Alliston	New Tecumseth Rec Centre	7:30 pm

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Royals Capture Rowat Trophy for First Time Since 1998



By Taylor Klein Gebbinck, Sep 7, 2025
The Royals battled hard this past weekend and emerged victorious, winning the Paul “Gummy” Rowat for the first time since before 1998. Coming together at just the right time, the team agreed it was the best baseball they had played all season. Royals beat the Selects in the finals 4-0; Semi final game between Selects beat the Merchants 4-3 and took 14 innings, normally 7 innings are played. 1st semi finals Royals the Legion 15-4. Legion was top team in the regular season

Honourable mention goes to the Selects and Merchants, who fought through a thrilling 14-inning semi-final game, showcasing the grit and dedication that define this league. A special thank you is extended to Tim and Tom McGinnis and Andrew Priest for their tireless work maintaining the diamonds, managing groundskeeping, and ensuring the league runs smoothly. Their commitment—week after week and especially on tournament weekends—makes this community tradition possible.



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Bearbells By Leslie Noonan

Sep 14, 2025

While social media can be entertaining, it can also be overwhelming. I found myself in a funk from the bombardment of hate and horror scenes from around the world, and thus I made a

snap decision to head into the backcountry for some unplugged time. Now, I just learned to kayak, but what the heck, outfitting a kayak couldn't be much different from fitting out a hiking bag, right?! I mean, how hard could it be? Here is the proof about my impulsivity and recklessness that I may have mentioned before.

A quick review of my hiking gear and a short trip to top up some of my supplies and I was ready. I was confident that I could take more with me in a kayak than I could hike in, so small conveniences started piling up in my gear. A string of solar lights, extra water and even a camp chair were previously unheard-of luxuries. Even a paperback novel passed muster. I naively decided that I didn't need a test run for stowing the gear in the kayak and making sure it wouldn't sink, no worries, I got this! Next up, figuring out how to put the new kayak rack on the car and which I had yet to test on the highway. No problem, it was not far, just about an hour to get to Massasagua provincial park, up a highway with a wobbly kayak on top. It is just about the time that I am driving ninety with traffic zipping along beside me, keeping a close eye on that bright red kayak that seems to be inching farther down the front of my roof, that common sense pipes up and suggests that this could have been better planned out. Luckily, little impulsive personality shoves common sense back down and we are pulling up to the park entrance.

I wasn't expecting such an audience, as several groups of people were either unloading or just setting out. Of course, I made a great introduction when I lost control of my kayak as I pulled it off the car. A loud bang rang out across the still lake, and all heads turned towards me. Sigh. Next step was to fit everything in that kayak. By the time I had loaded everything on top and in the kayak, it was decidedly low in the water. A young boy had been sitting on the dock watching me, and I looked at him and inquired if he thought it would stay afloat. His answer was not reassuring, as he grinned and shook his head several times. I sidled up the kayak, hoping that I would not topple off into the water. Several panicked moments and there I was, sitting mostly in the kayak. My feet hung over the sides as there was no room for my legs, and the water line was a mere few fingers distance below the lip of my boat. I spent the next hour balancing on my gear, trying to steer what feels like a bathtub around the lake, and loving every moment. The peace and quiet, sunshine sparking on the water, and the warm breeze had all released the tension in my body.



Eventually I came to my site, a lonely little spot jutting out into the lake. A small stone beach made it easy for me to roll off my kayak. I set up under a small copse of oak trees with a few out onto the lake. I grabbed my chair and book and set myself up a short distance down the beach to enjoy my solitude. A sharp "bang" had me jumping, as the only metal up at my site was the bear storage unit. I sat up and stared at my site, but the deep shadows had me unable to see what might be happening. Then another bang, but this one around the bend where my kayak was. By now I am getting frazzled but determined to find out if there was a bear at my site. I folded up my camp chair and held it like a spear, flimsy paperback in the other hand like some kind of sad shield. Cautiously I made my way to the spot under the trees, heart hammering in my chest, and found...nothing. I stood, looking around in bewilderment. Nothing looked touched. Huh. That is when I was hit in the head, by an acorn thrown by a screeching red squirrel sitting above my head. His challenge was met by a chattering chipmunk on the other side of my tent. Acorns rained down as more rodents chased each other and I realized my tent was set up in between two warring factions. The entertainment would continue well into the night.

I sat in my chair, staring out over the lake as the shadows began to lengthen. A sound from above and behind me, the sound of powerful muscles powering the wings of a bald eagle that flew just above my head. A few minutes later a flock of Canadian goose flew into the last of the sun's rays, turning their white feathers golden. Closer by small fish broke the water's surface, small circles spreading out in ripples. A great blue heron stood in the shallows, long sharp beak ready to stab the waters for a fish meal. I started a small fire as darkness began to lay heavy in the forest and watched the yellow and orange flames keep back the darkness. I slept well despite the occasional nut that bounced off my tent and woke the next morning to the sunrise in the east, my heart and mind at peace.



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Notice of Ontario Regulation 206/25

(Zoning Order – Township of Springwater)

Take notice that on August 29, 2025, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing filed a Minister's Zoning Order made pursuant to clause 47(1)(a) of the *Planning Act*, with the Registrar of Regulations as Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 206/25.

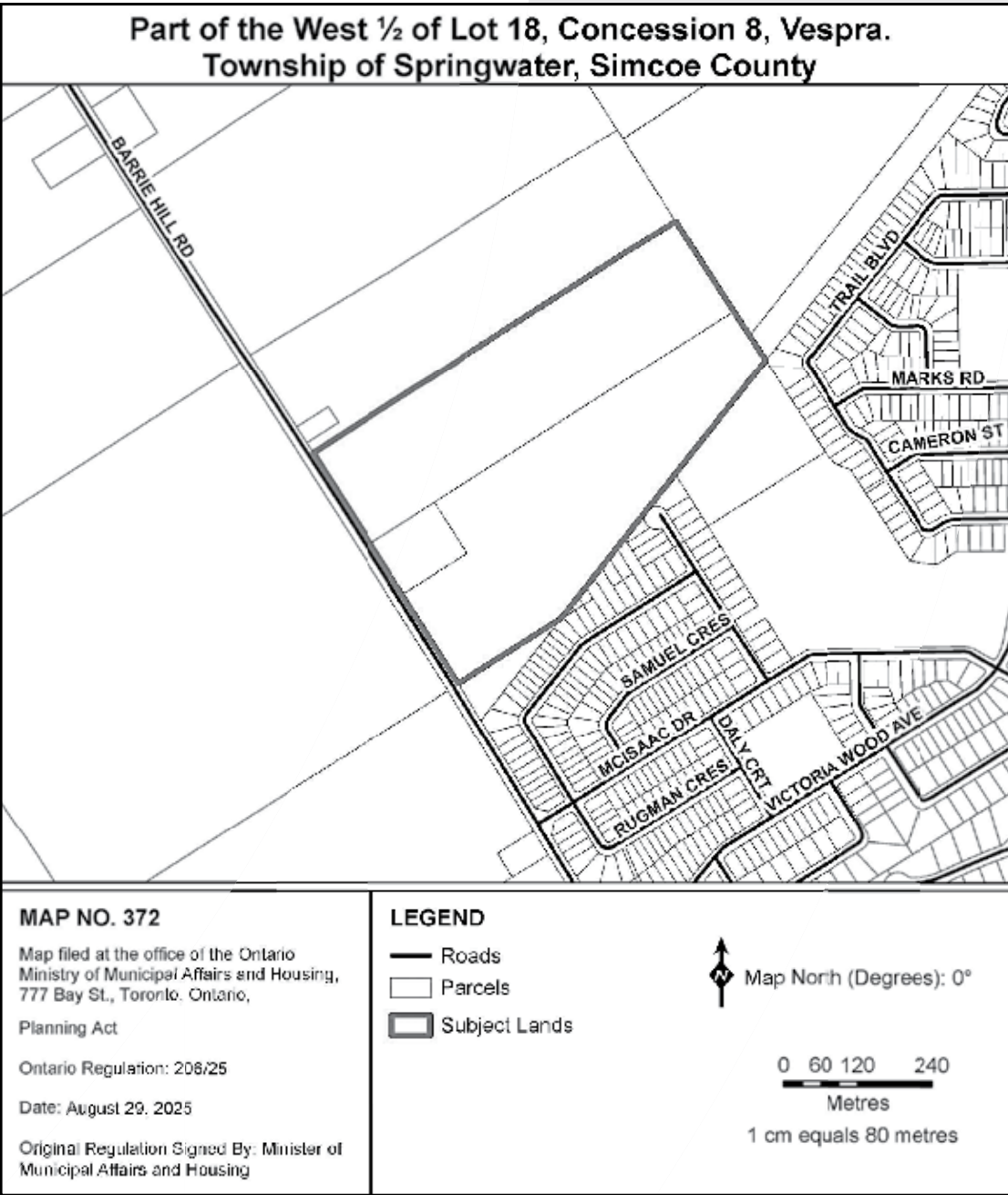
A Zoning Order regulates the use of land and the erection, location and use of any buildings or structures on the land.

O. Reg. 206/25 facilitates a residential subdivision by permitting the uses in the Township of Springwater's zoning by-law's Urban Residential (UR2) zone and Environmental Protection (EP) zone, as well as home occupations, public uses, and model homes. O. Reg. 206/25 also provides some relief from the Township's zoning by-law with respect to minimum side yard setbacks, calculation of building height, and encroachments into yards.

O. Reg. 206/25 applies to approximately 26.42 hectares of land located at 3169, 3193, 3207 Barrie Hill Road, in the Township of Springwater. The subject lands are adjacent to the settlement area of Centre Vespra.

Pursuant to subsection 47(4) of the *Planning Act*, and except for the purposes of section 24, the Minister deemed O. Reg. 206/25 to be a by-law passed by the council of the Township of Springwater.

For illustrative purposes, the subject lands are shown in the map below.



Jo Knows Nutrition
by Joanne Nijhuis



Whether you've grown your own or scooped up a basket at your local farmers' market, this relish is the perfect way to showcase tomatoes at their sun-ripened best. Forget complicated preserving techniques! This no-canning recipe is wonderfully simple and prepped in under 30 minutes. Serve alongside your favourite grilled mains or as part of a charcuterie board. So good!

Did You Know?

Tomatoes are one of the best sources of heart healthy lycopene, an antioxidant that gives them their bright red colour. A staple of the Mediterranean diet, tomatoes are an excellent source of Vitamins C, A, K, B6 and folate and also, a great source of fibre for digestive health.

INGREDIENTS - 2 cups (500 ml) yield

- 3 large tomatoes, diced
- ½ cup (125 ml) onion, finely diced
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 teaspoons (10 ml) olive oil
- 1 ½ teaspoons (7.5 ml) fish oil
- 1 Tablespoon (15 ml) rice vinegar
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) honey or maple syrup
- ½-1 teaspoon (2.5-5 ml) red chilli flakes, optional
- 3 Tablespoons (45 ml) fresh cilantro, finely chopped
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper, to taste

INSTRUCTIONS



1. Heat a frying pan on medium-high and add the olive oil, tomatoes, garlic and onions.
2. Cook until the tomatoes and onions are softened and slightly browned. Transfer to a mixing bowl.
3. Stir in the fish oil, rice vinegar, honey or maple syrup, red chilli flakes (if using), and salt and pepper to taste.
4. Fold in the fresh cilantro.
5. Chill for 30 minutes before serving. Keeps in the refrigerator for up to 4 days.

NUTRITION

SERVING: ¼ cup (63 ml) | Calories: 25 kcal
Carbohydrates: 4 g | Protein: 0.6 g | Fat: 1 g |
Sodium: 140 mg from fish sauce/added salt |
Fibre: 0.8 g
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Neighbouring townships ill-equipped to deal with homeless exodus from Barrie

By: Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter,
Source: BarrieToday.com, Sep 16, 2025

Springwater Coun. Phil Fisher says he has no issues with Barrie Mayor Alex Nuttall's decision last week to declare a local state of emergency to address homeless encampments across the city.

Fisher is, however, concerned with what impact Nuttall's decision will have on the folks who live in his Ward 5, which includes the community of Midhurst, just north of Barrie's city limits.

"I don't begrudge him for trying to deal with the problem," Fisher said during an interview with BarrieToday. "But I have to be fair. When you dismantle an encampment in Barrie, those people still exist and they're still homeless."

"They'll migrate somewhere else, whether it's Shanty Bay, Ward 4 in Springwater (Bayfield Street west to Essa Township's eastern border) or Midhurst," he added. "The fear is, and I think it's a legitimate fear, that when those encampments are dismantled in Barrie, will we see a mass migration?"

According to Fisher, homeless people living in Midhurst is nothing new. He said there have been reports in the community for a couple of years.

He said he's heard from residents who have come upon homeless people sleeping on the bench outside of the Midhurst branch of the Springwater Public Library, and others who have seen members of the homeless community trek into the wooded areas off Bayfield Street and St. Vincent Street, pushing shopping carts that contain their worldly possessions.

Fisher says he's empathetic to their plight but adds the township doesn't have the resources to help them.

"Because we're a smaller and typically more rural municipality, we definitely don't have those programs on the same scale that a Barrie would," he said. "We're not properly equipped to deal with this."

Oro-Medonte Mayor Randy Greenlaw echoed Fisher's concerns. He said he doesn't expect to see an impact on his township, because it is a sparsely populated, rural area that doesn't have the infrastructure available to deal with transient arrivals.

"Given the rural landscape of Oro-Medonte and vast size of the township, it is reasonable to anticipate people currently experiencing homelessness located in Barrie would choose to relocate to a more urban area, where access to services is easier from a geography/distance perspective," he said in an email to BarrieToday.

"If (Oro-Medonte) is impacted by the City of Barrie's declared emergency, the township will take appropriate action and steps to address potential challenges," Greenlaw added.

While Essa Township is in the same boat as Springwater and Oro-Medonte when it comes to not having the resources needed to deal with the issue, Essa Mayor Sandie Macdonald has a number of steps she says she's prepared to take.

"If persons were to try to locate or start an encampment in Essa, we would promptly co-ordinate with the county, provincial partners, local social services (and) emergency management teams to understand the scope of the situation and the support required," Macdonald told BarrieToday in an email.

She said Essa would evaluate its available resources, but because its resources are limited, it would rely on the mandated services of the County of Simcoe, such as social housing, outreach programs, and all agencies that are educated experts in dealing with these situations.

The county is responsible for efforts to help homeless people throughout the region, including Barrie, which involves both funding and programs.

Macdonald said Essa would create a transparent communication program to ensure residents are well

informed about the situation, ensuring the safety and well-being of both residents and those seeking assistance.

"The County of Simcoe has taken an active role in helping to provide accommodations to many of the individuals who were homeless, living in the encampments," Macdonald said. "The county continues to work diligently with positive developments."

She said Essa is committed to treating all individuals with dignity and respect, especially during times of crisis.

"We would work collaboratively with the county and emergency services to achieve a positive outcome," she added.

According to an article published Monday on BarrieToday, Barrie's decision to declare a state of emergency to deal with homeless encampments last week has already sent shock waves north into Orillia, about 35 kilometres north of Barrie, where front-line workers say the effects are being felt in real time.

At The Lighthouse, Orillia's main shelter and outreach centre, staff say they have started to see new faces arriving, some of whom have come from Barrie. That movement, while not unusual in itself, is straining a system that was already at its limit, say officials.

Rosemary Petersen, managing director of The Lighthouse, said she was caught off guard by Barrie's move to elevate the issue to an official state of emergency but also said she recognized the declaration as a reflection of a worsening crisis.

"We do have to recognize that there is a housing crisis and that shows up in the fact that there are encampments in our communities," Petersen said. "Seeing that there's a state of emergency in that sense means that there is a necessary response, and we absolutely recognize that."

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93 North Strikes a Chord for Charity

By Neil Lafaive, Sep 13, 2025

93 North donated almost \$400.00 on behalf of those who donated during their Bayside Soirée performance. The Penetanguishene St. Vincent de Paul wishes to thank all those who donated to the cause. The money will be used by its food bank. The band thanks all who attended the performance, and the town for once again having it perform. In conjunction with Big Chill, 93 North's next fundraising event will be a November 1st Halloween soirée in the Penetanguishene Legion. Contact the Legion for advanced tickets and information.



Craighurst WI Tackles Conservation, Quilts, and Community Concerns

By Sheila Craig, Sep 19, 2025

Craighurst Women's Institute met Tuesday Sept. 16. We began as usual, with the Ode and Mary Stewart Collect. Role call was "what do you do for conservation?" Answers ranged from turning the tap off when brushing teeth to making old tee shirts into rags to drying clothes on a line. Minutes were deferred to October meeting, treasurer gave her report, and all settled in. We dealt with the big quilt Simcoe Area is making, for which CWI has already embroidered our names, with by-laws upcoming at Area W I level, and with an honorary Life membership awarded to Joyce S.

We talked over the state of Horseshoe Valley train crossing (deplorable) and the need for lowered speed limits through Craighurst. "Oh wait", cried some members. "It will be us who get nicked." We observe that it's the 6 am motorcycle that zooms through the village and never gets caught that we worry about. OPP constables take notice, we are watching. Then the program, "Sustainable Style, Mindful Consumption". President Brenda led us through an Initiative by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. First we took a quiz, then listened. One big change in our way of thinking is the R's - Reduce, reuse, recycle, regift, refuse, repair. "Oh"

cried some members, "We could add renovate, rehash, repossess, repatriate, relax, rum and ...no wait we have got recarried away." Still good ideas and great facts. For instance, one sheds fewer microplastics into the wash water by running full loads. One must try to buy ethically - no sweat shop labour, no dodgy factories. And best fabric is linen. It's natural, sustainable, cool to wear and yes you have to iron it. That's what the Women's Institute is all about, education. Hope you gleaned some, gentle readers. Next month it's "Navigating the Health Care System". See Craighurst Foodland Outdoor Craighurst W I Bulletin Board for more details.

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Elmvale 4-H Dairy Club Polishes Skills Ahead of Fall Shows



*By Tyler Phillips*Sep 18, 2025
On Sunday August 10th, the Elmvale 4-H Dairy Club had our fifth meeting at the Elmvale Fairgrounds. We started off the meeting with Emi Lange and Grace Finch explaining how to make beet pulp and how to feed our 4-H calves to prepare them for the show ring. Next, we had four people dressed in whites and reviewed what to wear and what not to wear in the show ring for showmanship and confirmation. Then, we had an opportunity to show a calf in the ring to review how to present our 4-H calf. Jay Robertson went around and gave everyone tips to improve our showmanship skills. We would like to thank everyone that helped out in our meeting and thank you to Dave and Angela Bertram for a great lunch!



For more than 160 years, Indigenous children were forced into Indian Residential Schools.

September 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to learn about the 150,000 childhoods lost to Canada's Indian Residential School system.



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Sep 18, 2025
PA Day Program: Comic Book Contest
Visit your local library branch to participate in this awesome contest! Templates for hand-drawn comics and the use of laptops will be supplied. Friday September 26, 10am-5pm at Elmvale and Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. No registration required for this drop-in program.

Ages 4-6: Using pre-filled templates, contestants will draw pictures to accompany the text.

Ages 7-9: Using the blank templates contestants will create their own comic. Comics must tell a story with a beginning, middle, and end.

Ages 10-13: Contestants will be able to use computers to create their own comic book on canva. Comic must be at least 5 pages long.

National Truth and Reconciliation Day
Please note, all branches of Springwater Public Library will be closed Tuesday September 30 in observance of National Truth and Reconciliation Day. We will resume normal branch hours on

Wednesday October 1.

Take and Make Craft Kit
Every month the library will have a new FREE craft kit for you to take home and make! Each month be sure to stop by and ask staff for a kit! October is a Skeleton Wednesday October 1. Kits are only available while supplies last.

Board Game/Puzzle Swap
Come and join us for our first ever board game and puzzle swap! Bring up to 10 puzzles and/or board games that you would like to swap. For every item you bring, you will receive a ticket which you can use to exchange for new-to-you items. Saturday October 4 from 11 am - 2 pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Swap guidelines: No missing pieces, no damaged or moldy items. Items must be dropped off the day before the event Friday October 3 and you will receive ticket(s) which can be redeemed the next day at the event.

Local Author Event
Wendy McQuaig, local author and psychotherapist, will be in person at the library to share her story of

yesteryear, her struggles and life altering decision. Hot drinks provided. Tuesday October 7, 6pm at Midhurst Branch.. Cost: \$2.00 Registration required.

Firefighter Storytime
Come join us for a special Firefighter Storytime! Sparky the Fire Dog, fire fighters and a fire truck will be there for you to meet and take pictures. Sparky and a fire fighter will also be reading stories in the library. Don't forget to pick up your free Storytime craft before you go! Tuesday October 7, 10:30am at Elmvale Branch. Cost: Free. No registration required for this drop in program.

Senior Social Coffee and Crafting
Drop by the library for a fun afternoon of crafting and socializing! One morning a month we will have a simple craft activity set up in the branch along with light refreshments. This is an excellent opportunity for seniors in the community to connect for a fun morning of creativity! Friday October 10, 11am-12noon at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

October 10th & 11th



Kick Off Thanksgiving Weekend Fun!

Parades

Farm Animals

Homecraft

Truck and Tractor Pull

Heavy Horse Show

Midway

Baked Goods

Entertainment

Celebrate Our Theme: Canadian Made!

The **163rd** Elmvale Fall Fair is happening on the Elmvale Community Arena grounds, 14 George Street.

Admission:
\$13 Adults
\$8 Students



Visit our website for details at:
elmvalefallfair.com



Elmvale Fall Fair, Hosted by Flos Agricultural Society, 14 George St., Elmvale, ON - elmvalefallfair.com

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

Sep 12, 2025

Programs at the Penetanguishene Public Library

We're Hiring!

We are looking for a student position to be filled here at the library. Applicants must have abilities in customer service, technology, programming, working with the public and telephone skills. Send your CV to lkeenan@penetanguishenepl.ca by Tuesday September 30th, 2pm.

Book Club

First Thursday of each month, 4:00pm – 5:00pm

The book club is resuming this fall. We meet once a month at the library to discuss a pre-selected book. October's book is 'Long Island' by Colm Toibin. If you have any questions about the book club, please contact the library.

A minimum of 5 participants is needed to run the program.

Nancy Duval Author Talk
Monday October 20th, 3:00PM

Local author Nancy Duval is back to discuss her book 'Whispers from beyond : a spiritual journey of healing, happiness, and mediumship'. In honour of Public Library Week, this event is open to all members of the public.

Penetanguishene Public Library Open House
Wednesday October 22, 10:00-1:00

Learn about programs, databases, sponsors, seasonal materials, park passes, equipment, library apps, and community partners. Crafts, prizes, and refreshments throughout the day.

Legacy Cleaning
Thursday October 23, 10:30 – 11:30

Learn about decluttering while preserving your most precious memories. \$2 for members, \$5 for non-members. Non-transferable and non-refundable. September 8th - September 15th registration open to Penetanguishene taxpaying members with a valid library card. After September 15th registration open to everyone. Minimum of 5 participants required to run the program.

Day of the Dead Craft
Friday October 24th 10:30-11:30

The Day of the Dead – Dia de los Muertos is a Mexican holiday to honor those who have passed away. This celebration has become very popular in Canada in the past few years.

Registration is open for Penetanguishene taxpaying members with a valid library card. After September 18th Registration is open to everyone with a valid library card.

The program includes painting a skull, learning about tradition, and making a bookmark.

Ages 4 and up \$2.00 for members, \$3.00 for non-members. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program.

Swift Party
Friday, October 24th, 2:00-3:00

Join us for a fantastic Swift party. Make a bracelet, a bookmark, sing and have some fun! Ages: 4-14, \$2 for members, \$3 for non-members.

September 11-September 18: Registration open to taxpaying members with a valid library card. After September 18: Registration for everyone. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program. Parents/guardians must stay in the building for the duration of the program.

OPP Seek Assistance in Identifying Suspect in Overnight Robbery of Penetang Convenience Store

By OPP, Sep 22, 2025

(PENETANGUISHENE, ON) - Officers from the Southern Georgian Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are asking for assistance in identifying a suspect from an overnight robbery of a Penetanguishene convenience store.

Uniform officers responded shortly after 7:43 p.m. September 21, 2025, to the Circle K store on Main Street after an unknown individual entered the store and brandished a sharp edged weapon toward the clerk demanding cash. Suspect left the store with a small amount of cash from the cash register and fled the scene on foot.

Suspect was not located in the area after a search by members of the

OPP Emergency Response Team (ERT), Canine (K-9) unit and the OPP Remotely Piloted Aerial System (RPAS)

Suspect is described as being male white, grey eyes, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, blue pants, work gloves and a ski mask.

Investigators seek your assistance in identifying the suspect. (See attached photographs 1-3)

Anyone who may have dashcam video or surveillance video or has or made observations of the suspect person is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, opp.southern.georgian.bay@opp.ca or by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your information may lead to a cash reward of up to \$2,000.00. File E251288849

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EVENTS

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
Elmvale Seniors Drop In
Elmvale Library 10 am - 12 noon
Call Lynn for info, 705.322.3309

Midland Jam
Monday, May 5
Free Admission, Show 7:00, Doors 6:30

Bid Euchre
Elmvale Community Hall 1 pm - 4 pm
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

Bay Shore Seniors Club
Bingo - Starts July 30th
Adults Start at 7:30
Bay Shore Seniors Club

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

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

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

Bay Shore Seniors Club
Bay Shore Mini Putt
May 20 - Aug 26th 9:30 - 11:00 am
Skull Island Wasaga Beach

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

Seniors Springwater Golf Club
every Tuesday at 8:00 am, May 13 to September
Best ball with mixed foursomes changed weekly

WEDNESDAY
Elmvale District Garden Enthusiasts
4th Wednesday from March to November
7:00 pm Elmvale Legion, 7 John St.

Bay Shore Seniors Club
Access Art - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m

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

Midland Ganaraska Hiking Trail Club
Meets Wednesdays to hike, snowshoe, go camping or enjoy nature outings led by qualified hike leaders. Check the hike schedule on https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/?page_id=13455. For information contact Kris 705-435-8593.

Ganaraka Hiking Club-Wasaga Beach
Weekly hikes Wednesday at 9:30 am from various locations, year round. Both levels of hikes offered, intermediate and easy. Snowshoeing in winter. Please contact Lorraine at 416-606-5081 or lorvanvlymen@gmail.com for information.

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

Probus Club of Simcoe North
Meetings monthly 2nd Thurs. 10 a.m
For women & men in retirement or semi-retirement.
Penetang Legion, 2 Poyntz St.
Mary Grise 705-526-6349 marygrise0@gmail.com

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

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

Wasaga Beach Parkinson's Support Group
1st Thursday of each month 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Wasaga Beach Public Library meeting room
All persons living with Parkinson's Disease and their care partners are welcome. For more info. contact Dwight (705) 795-6952 or Phil at Bender.philip@gmail.com

FRIDAY
Bay Shore Seniors' Club
Woodcarving 10:00 - 3:00 pm
Billiards/Pool 10:00 - 12:00 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

WEEKENDS
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)

Midland Ganaraska Hiking Trail Club
Meets **Sat and Sun**, snowshoe, go camping or enjoy nature outings led by qualified hike leaders. Check the hike schedule on https://ganaraska-hiking-trail.org/?page_id=13455. For information contact Kris 705-435-8593.

Ganaraka Hiking Club-Wasaga Beach
Weekly Sunday hikes at 1:30 pm in the Wasaga Beach Prov Park from Ansley Drive. Please contact Lorraine at 416-606-5081 or lorvanvlymen@gmail.com for information.

gmail.com for information.

MONDAY to FRIDAY
VON SMART Exercise Program
Low impact gentle fitness classes
Adults 55+ FREE
Call 705-355-2200 for class locations and times

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.

Food and Winter Clothing Collections
Until 15 Dec. 20, 2025 6:45am
NFP Insurance (Beside KFC)
Collecting non-perishable food items & winter clothes Drop off Tues-Thurs

MIDLAND CULTURE CENTRE
Colin Linden
Thu, Oct. 9, 2025 from 7:30-10pm

Circle of Friends: A Canadian Kitchen Party
Sept 19, 2025 from 7– 9:30pm

Guy Davis
Thurs Nov. 13, 2025 from 8-10pm

Celebrating the Music of Kenny Rogers, Lionel Richie & Smokey Robinson
Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025 from 3-5pm

FREE EVENTS

PAGE FOR

NON PROFITS

Email submissions may not be included. Please submit your event on this link:

https://www.springwaternews.ca/submit-event/

Special Events One Time

Coldwater Fair
Sept 26-28, 2025
Celebrate local food, farming and fun!
Digital tickets now available! coldwaterfallfair.com

The Guesthouse Shelter open house
Oct 1, 2025 from 1-4pm
522 Elizabeth St. Midland
The Guesthouse Shelter is pleased to offer a community open house

OPP Recruitment Event for Women
Oct 3, 2025 from 8:30-4 pm
OPP Headquarters, 777 Memorial Ave, Orillia
OPP Bound, Women's Edition is dedicated to women (including those who are cis, trans, assigned female at birth and non-binary) and the unique challenges they face when considering a career in policing.

The Bay Studio Tour
Oct 4-5 10-5 pm
16 Desroches Trail
32 Artists at 24 Studio locations. Painting, sculpture, pottery, jewellery, etc

SPCA Paint with Your Dog Workshop
Oct 4th from 1 -4 pm
Huron Museum Midland

8th Annual Bridget's Run
Oct. 18, 2025 09:00 to 12 pm
Centennial Beach Park, Barrie
A community celebration of love for those we have lost in pregnancy or infancy.
Visit bridgetsbunnies.ca/bridgetsrn to register or volunteer and learn more

Take-Out Roast Beef Dinner
Oct 25, 2025 from 4-6pm
Midhurst United Church 91 Doran Road
Pick up a roast beef dinner with all of the fixings. \$35. Call 705-722-7208.

Barrie's Culture Days celebrate creativity and colour
September 19 to October 12, 2025

Culture Day events include the following:

- **September 27:** The Muscape Room: Let the Music Free You!
- September 27 and 28: Mural Paint "A Street in Barrie"
- October 4: Islamic Heritage Culture – Unity through Art Expression
- October 4: Landscape Painting Experience & Live Instrumental Music
- October 11: Poetry Night (ages 16+)

Visit barrie.ca/CultureDays for a complete listing of events and activities

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Annie's Journal by Annie Warner Donnelly



Sep 22, 2025
Hello Everyone. Recently, I read these words written by Steve De'lano Garcia. "One of the rarest and most beautiful languages of love is the quiet act of self-healing done, not just for ourself, but for our relationships ... When someone chooses to work on themselves, to look honestly at their wounds, their triggers, and their patterns, they are speaking a love language that is quiet, but profound. It is the language of responsibility, of ownership, of saying, "I see the ways I could hurt you, and I choose to do the work so that I don't." This kind of love is not loud. It does not demand recognition. But it builds a foundation for lasting intimacy that nothing else can match ... In the quiet, uncelebrated acts of self-healing, we find the truest form of love – a love that does not demand, but gives; that does not blame, but takes responsibility; that does not withhold, but shares the journey of becoming. May you always remember that you deserve this kind of love."

If self-healing is new to us, how do we begin our transformation? We're blessed to know that Jesus is the creator of transformation. In Him, we're transformed by the renewing of our minds. In Him, we're a new creation; the old has passed away. In Him, all things have become new. In Him, all things are of God.

Let's remember the words in Philippians 4:8 - "Finally, Brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things."

Let's allow these words to fill our hearts and minds permanently. These words help us to self-heal; to grow; to build each other up; to encourage one another. They help us enable God to pour love through us to our families and to people everywhere.

We need help to self-heal, and God's Word is just the place to find that help.

Let's open our Bibles today. As always, the choice is ours. Amen

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to check availability

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474 King St., Midland
Available for all functions.
Fully LCBO Licensed facility
bartender available.
Main Lounge 126 capacity
Arena: 330 capacity
Caterer and Bands available upon
request

Call 705-526-5631 to book

NOTICE

Lifelabs Elmvale is closed
Tuesday Sept. 30, 2025
Alternate locations:
121 Wellington St. W., Barrie 6:30-2:30pm
11 Lakeside Terrace, Barrie 9-5 pm
We apologize for the inconvenience.
Thank you.

AUCTION NOTICES

Upcoming Auctions

- First of Fall Multi Consignor Auction - Guelph (Sept 28 - Oct 2)
- Erdman Moving Auction - Kitchener (Sept 28 - Oct 2)
- Moving Auction for Heide Cockshutt - Rockwood (Oct 5 - 9)
- Jeanette Julie Moving Auction - Kitchener (Oct 5 - 9)
- The Estate of Tunney Moriarty - Waterloo (Oct 12 - 16)
- Wilson Moving—Woodstock (Oct 12 - 16)
- Farmstead Classics & Collectibles - Oro - Medonte (Oct 19 - 23)

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Please call 705-533-0998
Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

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FALL GIVE AWAY
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November 1, 2025
9 am to 12 pm

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27 Yonge St S, Elmvale

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COMMUNITY

Bass Pro and Cabela's Funds River Revival in Nottawasaga



Volunteers help to plant trees on an NVCA restoration project funded by Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund

By Office of NVCA, Sep 19, 2025
UTOPIA, Ontario - The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is proud to announce support from Bass Pro Shops and the Cabela's Outdoor Fund for the Reshaping Rivers for Resiliency project—an ambitious initiative aimed at restoring river ecosystems in the heart of the Nottawasaga watershed.
Part of NVCA's award-winning Nottawasaga River Restoration Program (NRRP), now in its eighth year, the project restores habitat for native and sport fish such as Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Chinook Salmon, and species at risk by improving degraded rivers and engaging communities through hands-on action.
Funding supports restoration at three key sites: the Nottawasaga River near Alliston, Sheldon Creek in Adjala-Tosorontio, and the Mad River at Carruthers Memorial Park in Clearview Township, along with fall tree planting events.
“Restoring our rivers means creating a more resilient watershed,” said Laura Wensink, River Restoration Technician with NVCA. “This grant is helping reshape damaged rivers into thriving



ecosystems—and creating real opportunities for the community to be part of that story.”
Through summer and fall 2025, work will include stabilizing eroding banks, creating an oxbow wetland for amphibians, birds, and juvenile fish and rebuilding a side channel for young trout. Native trees and vegetation will be planted to cool water and stabilize soils, with volunteers joining restoration and stewardship activities.
These efforts will enhance nearly four hectares of aquatic and riparian habitat, protect another four from degradation, and prevent over 1,100 tonnes of soil from entering the river—reducing sediment and phosphorus pollution and improving water quality.
At Carruthers Memorial Park, a straightened stretch of the Mad River will be re-naturalized. On the upper Nottawasaga River, restoration will reconnect the river with its floodplain, stabilize banks, and create a new wetland. Tree planting and bank repairs along Sheldon Creek will protect the river from livestock impacts.
This partnership between NVCA and Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund supports the shared mission to inspire people to enjoy, love, and conserve the outdoors. Volunteer events will highlight the Outdoor Fund's contribution, linking conservation with outdoor recreation.
Community members can join three upcoming restoration events. Dates and registration will be posted on NVCA's website and social media as scheduled. Learn more at nvca.on.ca.

THANK YOU



A Heartfelt Thank You from the Family of Luella Simpson (née Stone)
We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Elmvale and surrounding communities for the outpouring of love, support, and kindness shown following the passing of Luella on September 7, 2025. Luella's life was a synthesis of adventure, devotion, and unwavering love for her family and community. The tributes, stories, and shared memories offered during her visitation, funeral mass, and reception reminded us of the profound impact she had on so many lives. Your presence, shared nourishment, words, and gestures, whether through attendance, condolences, phone calls, flowers, mass intentions, or donations to the RVH Cardiac Unit, furnished comfort during our time of profound sorrow. To the beautiful soloist, whose voice lifted our hearts, thank you for adding your grace and beauty to Luella's farewell. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the first responders, the ambulance team, police, and coroner, whose professionalism and kind-heartedness helped sustain us through Luella's final moments with care and dignity. To the compassionate personnel at Lynn-Stone Funeral Home, Father Ricardo, St. Patrick's Church in Phelpston, Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Elmvale, and especially the CWL Honour Guard, which Luella was always so proud to be part of, thank you for helping us honour her life with dignity and warmth. To relatives and friends near and far, thank you for being part of the journey. We are forever grateful to live in a community that embraced Luella so warmly.



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JUNEAU, Murray Ronald Joseph
March 28, 1941 - September 9, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we share the peaceful passing of Murray Juneau on Tuesday, September 9, at Georgian Bay General Hospital, at the age of 84.

Born to Alvin and Roseanne Juneau, Murray grew up surrounded by the love of his many brothers and sisters.


He was a devoted husband to the late Gertrude Mason Juneau, and a proud and loving father to Murray “Butch” (predeceased), Jennifer, Terry (Sue), and Robert “Bruce”. Murray will be remembered fondly as a proud grandfather to Ashley, Donny, Robyn (predeceased), Brandon (Charlene), Tina Jennifer, Chenise, Amanda, Chantelle, Jennifer, Trista (Chris), Kaitlyn (Dan), Madison, Brooklyn, Sierra and his 16 great grandchildren. He also leaves behind many loving nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends.

Murray had a heart for others. He was the kind of man who showed up, helped out, and never asked for anything in return. Known for his compassionate nature, he lived boldly and unapologetically — always honest, always true to himself. He loved to talk, to laugh, and to share stories; if he came by for a visit, you knew you were in for hours of good company. He loved fiercely and completely, stood by his values, and left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him. To be loved by Murray was to feel it deeply — and he will be missed more than words can express.

Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be held at the Waubaushe Royal Canadian Legion on Saturday October 4th from 12pm - 3pm.

In honour of Murray’s generous heart and lifelong support of charitable causes, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation are welcomed in lieu of flowers.

Memorial Condolences may be made at www.leclaircremationcentre.ca



HUTCHINSON, Ethan Carlos Francis

With broken hearts we announce the sudden death of Ethan Carlos Francis Hutchinson on September 11th, 2025 in his 27th year.

Left to mourn are his parents Cindy Francis and Carlos Hutchinson. Ethan also leaves behind his brothers William Farr, Lucas Hutchinson and Samuel Hutchinson.

He will be forever missed by his grandparents Iain and Haydee Hutchinson, Charlene Francis (pre deceased) as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Ethan was known for his insatiable love of reading and his passion of languages. Ethan was not only fluent but self taught in five different languages.

A celebration of Life will be held in the Spring of 2026.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Waypoint Centre for Mental Healthcare would be greatly appreciated.

Rest in peace Ethan - your suffering has ended.

Arrangements entrusted to Carson Funeral Homes J.H. Lynn Chapel 290 First St, Midland Ontario (705) 526-6551. Online condolences and memories may be left at www.carsonfuneralhomes.com

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OBITUARIES



McGRATH, Brian De Courcey

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Brian McGrath on Monday, September 22, 2025, at home in Wasaga Beach.

Brian was the beloved husband of Sandy (Ford Dalton) McGrath, devoted father to Scott (Lyndsay) McGrath and Mark (Jill) McGrath; he was step-father to Jon Dalton, Joel (Missy) Dalton and Martha (James) Walker; he was cherished grandfather to Logan, Parker, Blayke and Poppy and Papa to Harriet, Daniel and Katie.

He was predeceased by his first wife Joanne (nee Bishop), his parents, Rupert and Ruth (Lockhart) McGrath, brothers Don and Bev, sister Joanne Rawson, sister-in-law Lorna and niece Kelly.

Brian will be fondly remembered by his brother Rod (Nancy) McGrath, in-laws Marion McGrath, Bev (Caroline) Rawson, Olga & Bill Bishop, Cathy (Trevor) Bishop, Linda (Joseph) Ryan and MaryAnn (Peter) Bastin, as well as many dear nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and countless friends.

Brian was born in Barrie on February 29, 1948. He grew up on the family farm on the Baseline Rd. in Elmvale. Brian always did his share of the chores and was rewarded with many simple pleasures like hunting with his dog, riding his pony and being spoiled by his mother and older siblings.

Brian moved away from home to find work. After a brief time at Canadian General Electric Wholesalers in Kitchener, he went to Eatons where he spent 16 years working in many capacities from the warehouse to fleet manager and had opportunities to travel broadly across Canada. After several years selling insurance for Aetna, Mutual Life and Will Marshall Insurance Brokers, Brian became a broker and worked for 24 years from his home office. He was well liked and respected in the community.

Brian loved baseball. He pitched for men's teams wherever he lived, most recently the Elmvale Brewers. He was an avid fan of the Montreal Expos (back in the day) and the Toronto Blue Jays. Brian also loved golf. His move to Country Meadows gave him a chance to play nearly every day, and weather permitting sometimes he got a second round in. Brian also enjoyed crokinole, racketball and squash, plus he loved his classic cars.

He spent countless hours coaching and managing his sons' hockey and baseball teams as a way to display his love and devotion. Scott and Mark were such a big part of his life and he relished the time they could spend together on car trips, in arenas, and on baseball fields.

Brian loved to go to a party. He was a quiet guy who didn't like to be the centre of attention. The only departure from that was hosting his own going away party, Brian's Last Hoorah. He got a chance to see his nearest and dearest one more time.

Hey Dads!

Sep 2, 2025 - Do you work on your own vehicles or do you spend much of your hard-earned dollars at mechanics and car dealerships when you have a problem? I would fall into the second group. But I was talking to a dad recently who said he is intentionally doing work on his own vehicles to help his sons learn how to do it...and to save money. I thought I'd take a shot at it too since that clunking at the front of the van has gone on long enough!

First I had my mechanic friend confirm what the problem was. It was a shock absorber that no longer absorbed shocks. With no shock absorption you get loud clunking. He didn't have time to fix it but he said it's only three bolts. How hard could it be? I asked the boys if they wanted to help fix it and they answered in the affirmative.

The next step was to scour YouTube for another dad who had done this job before. Found him! I was somewhat concerned as he pulled out a torch when one of the three bolts wouldn't come loose. The torch didn't solve the problem so he had to cut it off with a grinder. I wasn't feeling any more confident. I am torchless. I do have a grinder, however, but there's a lot of important-looking wires and tubes down there. I would probably do enough damage without torches and grinders.

In a pre-emptive strike against the torching and grinding I went to the local auto parts store and asked for their most super-duper rust-killing WD-40-type spray can. For a few days before we attempted the fix I gave those three bolts a lot of attention with that spray can. Early Saturday morning the boys and I were out by the garage with high hopes. Ideally, you would crawl around under a giant van on a nice, clean garage floor. Since the garage is full of important and valuable stuff we opted for a less ideal gravelly-grassy spot just outside the garage. We got the tire off the van and could see the bolts covered in a fine coating of rust-killer. This was the moment of truth. We grabbed a pile of wrenches because the first one you use doesn't ever fit. Then you try the next one and so on until you get it.

I attempted to turn the rusty-looking nut and... BOOM! It spun like a top! A few minutes later it was off. Bolts two and three were even easier because we could fit an impact gun in there. The boys loved BRRRRRAATTING the impact gun as they crawled under the van. Old shock absorber out. New shock absorber in. A few more BRRRAAAATTS and the three bolts were back in place. Tire was put back on and we were feeling good. It was still before 10am and we were cooking. Literally. It was a hot morning and remember we were out in the yard not in the garage.

Dad, maybe there's a job you've been avoiding. Maybe there's a job you've been fearing because you don't have the foggiest clue what a shock absorber is. Well, YouTube is only a few clicks away and much instruction resides there. If you're lucky one of your kids will be able to figure this stuff out and actually enjoy it! Maybe learn how to do it together. Time flies! Make every moment count! Even the greasy ones!

Jason Weening drives a giant van with his 10 kids and one patient wife.



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