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## Elmvale Lioness Lions Sleigh Ride in the Village

*By Linda Belcourt, Editor, Dec 15, 2025*  
(Elmvale) The horses were ready and the people came out in droves to take a horse wagon ride, eat hot dogs, drink apple cider and enjoy hot chocolate. There was face painting and kids crafts. The adult draw and market along with the toy draw were a great success with everyone that come out to enjoy a free night.

Thank you to the sponsors that enable the Lioness to run this event; Elmvale Lions, Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival, North Simcoe Springwater News, Ritchie's Needs n Feeds, BMR Pro, Elmvale, Pet Value, Solly Family Dentistry, Elmvale Dental Care, Healing Hands, 99 Bottles, Four Corner Tea Room, Steelers, Valley Farms and G&S Computers.



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## Feeling the holiday blues? Local mental health supports can help

*By Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care , Dec. 10, 2025*  
(PENETANG)

The holiday season is often portrayed as joyful, festive and full of fresh beginnings. But across Ontario — including right here in Simcoe County — many people experience the winter months very differently. Stress, grief, financial pressure, loneliness and reminders of past trauma can make this time of year especially difficult.

Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care is reminding residents that it's completely OK if the season doesn't feel "merry and bright." For some, the new year may not feel like a fresh start, and long-held traditions may feel overwhelming rather than uplifting. Wanting more quiet than celebration, stepping back from gatherings, or finding that joy feels different this year are all legitimate experiences.

"We want people to know their feelings are real and valid," said Dr. Carolyn Houding, a psychologist at Waypoint. "Reaching out for help is a sign of strength — and no one has to face these challenges alone."

Winter weather and shorter days can intensify mental health struggles, particularly in colder regions across Central and Northern Ontario. To help residents stay safe and supported, Waypoint is sharing a list of crisis lines and community services that remain available throughout the holiday season and into the new year.

### IMMEDIATE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SUPPORT (24/7)

9-8-8: Canada's suicide prevention helpline for anyone in crisis or worried about someone else.

9-1-1: For emergencies requiring immediate assistance.

Kids Help Phone: Text 686868, call 1-800-668-6868, or visit KidsHelpPhone.ca.

Assaulted Women's Helpline: 1-866-863-0511 | TTY: 1-866-863-7868.

Talk4Healing (Indigenous Women): 1-855-554-4325.

Huron Transition Homes (Rosewood): Text 705-999-0012 (24/7) | Crisis Lines: 1-800-987-0799 (South Simcoe) | 1-800-461-1750 (North Simcoe).

### NON-URGENT MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SUPPORT

- Ontario Structured Psychotherapy (OSP): Free CBT-based services for adults experiencing depression, anxiety or trauma-related concerns. Visit [therapyontario.ca](http://therapyontario.ca).
- Frontline Wellness: Mental health supports for health care workers and organizations. Visit [waypointcentre.ca/services/frontline-wellness](http://waypointcentre.ca/services/frontline-wellness).

- 1door.ca: 24/7 online access to free counselling referrals.
- Patient/Client and Family Council: Peer support at 705-526-4569.
- North Simcoe Youth Wellness Hub: A safe space for youth ages 12-25 seeking support for mental health, substance use, employment, education and more. Visit [waypointcentre.ca/services/north-simcoe-youth-wellness-hub](http://waypointcentre.ca/services/north-simcoe-youth-wellness-hub).

### ADDITIONAL HEALTH RESOURCES

8-1-1: Call or visit [Health811.Ontario.ca](http://Health811.Ontario.ca) for health advice from qualified professionals.

Virtual Urgent Care Clinic: Nurse practitioner support for non-life-threatening concerns, open daily from 1-9 p.m. for residents of Central Ontario. Visit [regional-virtual-urgent-care.ca](http://regional-virtual-urgent-care.ca).

2-1-1: Connects residents to community programs, services and local supports.

Waypoint encourages anyone who is struggling — whether during the holidays or at any time of year — to reach out.

"Support is confidential, local and available when you need it," said Dr. Houding. "It's OK to ask for help."

For more information on mental health services in Simcoe County and across Ontario, residents can connect with any of the resources listed above.

### About Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care

Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care is a 315-bed academic and teaching hospital that provides specialized mental health, addiction and geriatric care. Located on the shores of Georgian Bay, we serve some of the most complex and disadvantaged individuals in Ontario and are the sole provider of high-secure forensic mental health services in the province.

Waypoint's 1,300+ staff improve lives and bring hope to people with mental illness and substance use issues. The care we deliver on site, in the community and through partnerships is informed by our innovative practices and — importantly — patient voices. We are sponsored by the Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario. Each patient's journey is unique, and we support their recovery with compassion, dignity and inclusivity.

Waypoint staff are internationally recognized for their leadership and research, which they approach with professionalism and humility. This dedication deepens understanding of mental health and addiction, and helps to build a better future for patients, their families and care partners, staff, the community and the health care system.

Contact: Travis Mealing, Communications Officer, 705-333-2552, [tmealing@waypointcentre.ca](mailto:tmealing@waypointcentre.ca)

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# "We Are So Grateful": Local Family Praises Springwater Fire Department's Heroic Response

To the Springwater Fire Department,

We are so appreciative of all of your efforts the day of our house fire on November 11. You were already helping other members of our township and raced to our home to ensure our safety. Working in frigid temperatures, battling the wind and the unique rooflines of our beautiful English cottage, we saw your professionalism, skills and expertise.

Thank you to Deputy Fire Chief Jeff French for continuously explaining each step of the fire to our son, Cal. That information kept the family apprised of the situation and made us feel confident in the process. You maintained such an orderly and calm scene during a difficult fire and a tense situation for us. You never hesitated to speak to any of the family and gave good hugs along the way. Thank you for contacting the Red Cross on our behalf. We were amazed to see them in the early evening with kind words and a generous donation to help us over the initial few days.

Thank you to Fire Prevention Officer Karen Jamieson who also helped greatly with communication that day with the family. We appreciated how both Jeff and Karen came to us once the scene was secured to carefully explain to us everything that had happened over the course of the day. You were exhausted and frozen, yet still took the time to make sure we understood what happened and what to expect going forward.

Thank you to Karen and Deputy Chief of Prevention Jeff Corriveau for entering the home later into the evening to search for John's hearing aids and locating them quickly! Understanding the importance of hearing was essential for John to navigate the following days and your compassion is appreciated.

There are so many of you that did so much for us and we are sorry that we can't mention each of you by name. We thank you for every job you did; fighting the fire, providing and maintaining equipment, driving to other stations for provisions, maintaining security at the scene, keeping the roads closed and for many other things we may

not have seen. We recognize so many of you, but are overjoyed to see many new faces here tonight. When we selected Elmvale, Ontario from a teaching abroad magazine in 1968, we didn't know what a wonderful community we'd be joining. Our new faces were quickly welcomed and supported upon our arrival. This encouraged us to volunteer in various capacities in Elmvale to give support to others and to help our community grow. We are so grateful that you volunteer your precious time to not only respond in emergencies, but to maintain your training, educate children, support community groups and lift others when they are down. Thank you for sacrificing time from your families and for putting yourselves at risk to ensure the safety of others.

We would also like to say thank you to the outlying fire departments that covered our township for other emergencies while Springwater

THANK YOU

On the morning of November 11, we lost our beautiful home to fire. While we have lost the majority of our possessions, we continue to hold on to each other and all of the memories we've created during over 50 years on Amelia Street. We would like to thank Scott Meesters for his heroic actions of entering the home and getting Margaret to safety. Thank you to the Springwater Fire Department for battling strong winds and frigid temperatures as they valiantly tried to mitigate the damage to our home. We are eternally grateful for the support from our family and our incredible community. Our Amelia St. neighbours immediately gave us love, shelter, warmth and food as our home burned. We would like to thank the Red Cross for their financial and emotional support. Our community of Elmvale has been so generous and thoughtful . We thank you for your meals, gifts, clothing and well wishes.

In this season of giving, we encourage you to make donations to the Flos Elmvale Firefighters Association, Sharewear and the Red Cross.

**John and Margaret Potts**

Fire worked on our home.

We are grateful to Mayor Jenny Coughlin and Councillor Matt Garwood for all of their work behind the scenes to help us to navigate recognizing the key people who supported us that day. We also thank you for advocating for our fire department, to ensure that they have up to date equipment and training. You do a lot to make our township a positive and welcoming place for all those who live here.

Yours truly,  
John and Margaret Potts





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**Be Prepared** - receive alerts about pending and existing emergencies


Recreation and Special Events

**Winter program registration is open!**

Register online at [www.tiny.ca/playportal](http://www.tiny.ca/playportal), or contact the Recreation and Special Events Department at [recreation@tiny.ca](mailto:recreation@tiny.ca) or 705-526-4204.

- Line Dancing for Absolute Beginners
- Line Dancing Beginner Improver
- Basketball Training (child and youth)
- Aging Backwards (55Y+)
- Tiny Fun Art

- Chair/Chair-Assisted Yoga (55Y+)
- Yoga - Hatha and Restorative (16Y+)
- Tai Chi (16Y+)
- Zumba® (16Y+)
- Babysitter/Home Alone Courses



**Carbon monoxide (CO) Alarm Changes to the Ontario Fire Code**

Tiny Fire has launched an education campaign regarding carbon monoxide (CO) awareness to provide residents with information about changes to the Ontario Fire Code.

**What are the Changes?**

As of January 1, 2026, all residential occupancies (homes, apartments, etc.) that have a fuel burning appliance, fireplace, or attached garage, must have:

- a carbon monoxide alarm adjacent to each sleeping area, and
- a carbon monoxide alarm on each storey (floor) without a sleeping area.

Learn more about these changes at [www.tiny.ca/fireprevention](http://www.tiny.ca/fireprevention).

Need help to understand the changes? Book a free in-home fire safety inspection with Tiny Fire by emailing [fireofficeadmin@tiny.ca](mailto:fireofficeadmin@tiny.ca) or calling 705-322-1161.

**Winter Maintenance Reminders**



**Snow Removal**

Do not dispose of or push snow from your driveway onto roadways, across roadways, or into ditches. This can create unsafe driving conditions for all drivers, damage snow removal equipment, and lead to a fine.

**Parking**

No parking is allowed at any time that interferes with snow clearing. Snow in the forecast? Avoid street parking and potential tickets or your vehicle may be towed. If your car is on the road, plows cannot properly clear the snow.

**Garbage, Green Bin, and Recycling**

Place bins back from the roadway (up to 8ft or 2.4m) and avoid placing bins on sidewalks to ensure sidewalk plows and road plows can clear the snow without risk of damage to your bins. Remember to take bins in from the road as soon as possible. Collection can not occur if the bins are placed on top of snowbanks.

**Hazards**

Ensure children refrain from building tunnels or forts inside snowbanks by roadways. These are not a safe place for children to play.

**Driving**

When approaching a plow, use caution, reduce your speed, and stay to the right. If you are following a plow, keep a safe distance (12-16 car lengths), remember that plows may need to backup for snow clearing activities. If you cannot see the mirrors on the side of the plow, they cannot see you and you are too close.

For more information about snow removal operations in Tiny, visit [www.tiny.ca/snow](http://www.tiny.ca/snow).

**Development Charges By-law**

Development Charges By-law 25-054 was passed on November 19, 2025 with new rates. These fees help to fund various programs and services such as roads, policing, fire protection, and parks and recreation opportunities as the Township of Tiny's population grows. To learn more, visit [www.tiny.ca/DC](http://www.tiny.ca/DC).

**Council Meeting Schedule**

January 7  
2:00 PM

January 28  
2:00 PM


February 18  
2:00 PM



**Township of Tiny**

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](http://www.tiny.ca/events).

**Save the date! Winter Carnaval d’Hiver**



Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026  
from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Location: Perkinsfield Park,  
43 County Road 6 South

**Shoreline By-law – Site Alterations**

The Township of Tiny enacted three by-laws to regulate site alteration activities within Tiny's shoreline through a permit process. One of these by-laws is currently under appeal, so the rules from the Interim Control By-law 23-044, as amended, remain in effect. The By-law prohibits the erection of any structure, fence, or sign through the duration of this by-law. This includes, but is not limited to, boathouses, retaining walls, patios, landscaping, decks, fences, walls, or shoreline alteration that are in proximity to the 178-metre contour elevation of the Georgian Bay Shoreline. Before you start your construction project, visit [www.tiny.ca/interimcontrol](http://www.tiny.ca/interimcontrol) for more information or contact us.

If you have witnessed a violation of the Interim Control By-law and wish to file a complaint, please contact the Municipal Law Enforcement Department at 705-526-4204.

Planning and Development Department  
E: [interimcontrol@tiny.ca](mailto:interimcontrol@tiny.ca) T: 705-526-4204

**Tiny Fire: Winter Safety Tips**



**Clear the vents!**

Avoid a potential build-up of deadly Carbon Monoxide (CO). Keep intake and exhaust vents for furnaces and heating appliances clear of ice, snow, and debris.




**Be prepared for emergencies**

- 72-hour emergency kit
- vehicle emergency kit
- pet emergency kit

Download our checklists at [www.tiny.ca/prepare](http://www.tiny.ca/prepare).

**2026 Municipal Elections**

The 2026 municipal elections in Ontario will be held on October 26, 2026. Registration is open - make sure you are on the voting list by visiting [RegisterToVoteOn.ca](http://RegisterToVoteOn.ca).



**Register today.**



# Elmvale Coyotes U15B Run Wild to Capture the Midland Silver Stick.



Team: Dan Bartle, Brody Coram, Sam Dennis, Evan Dziama, Everson Fay, Mason Fralick, Preston Kenney, Eli Latour, Caleb Lesperance, Ethan Makad-Smith, Carson Mogridge, Charlie Morrison, Hayden Parnell, Gavin Sloss; Blake Waschenko . Coaching Staff: Cullen Fay, Jaret Coram, Serge Lesperance, Ben Kelly, Trent Peterson  
Sponsor: Lynne Stone Funeral Home

**By Susan Hamilton, Dec 2, 2025**  
(Elmvale) The Elmvale Coyotes U15B, sponsored by Lynne Stone Funeral Home, stormed through the Midland Silver Stick tournament this weekend, proving that determination, teamwork, and a little bit of bite go a long way. The Coyotes opened the event by stealing the luck right out from under the Shamrocks, controlling the pace and setting the tone early. In their next matchup, the Vipers tried to strike back, but their venom had nothing on Elmvale’s speed and puck pressure.

From there, the Coyotes outshone Newcastle’s

Stars, skating with confidence as they continued their undefeated run. The semifinals brought the South Muskoka Bears, but the Coyotes showed no fear, devouring their opponents with relentless offense and airtight defense to punch their ticket to the championship final. In the gold medal showdown, Elmvale faced the Lindsay Muskies in what became the Coyotes’ biggest catch of the tournament. With disciplined play, clever passing, and undeniable heart, the Coyotes “hooked” the Muskies to secure the championship title.

The Elmvale Coyotes now set their sights on an

even bigger stage as they head to the International Silver Stick Tournament in Forest, Ontario, from January 9–11.

## Elmvale Curlers Make History with Rare 8-Ender

**By Mike Townes, Dec 12, 2025**  
On Tuesday November 25th, an 8-ender was scored by a team skipped by Russ Madore. It was the first 8-ender at the Elmvale Curling Club since 2012. Rob Priest, Bill Claasse and Tim Fitzmaurice were the other members of the team. The team that gave up the 8-ender will not be mentioned in this article! Congratulations guys on a job well done. An 8-ender happens when one team scores all eight of their stones in a single end—with none of the opponent’s stones counting in the house. Each team throws 8 stones per end and to score all 8, every stone must be positioned closer to the button than any opposing stone. It requires exceptional shot-making, smart strategy, and often a bit of luck



| Waterside Retirement Lodge Friday Senior Curling Standings Elmvale Curling Club |      |        |      |        |
|---|------|--------|------|--------|
|   | Wins | Losses | Ties | Points |
| Team Pullen   | 6    | 1      | 2    | 64.75  |
| Team Townes   | 6    | 3      | 0    | 57.5   |
| Team Don  | 6    | 2      | 0    | 54     |
| Team Madore   | 5    | 2      | 1    | 50.5   |
| Team Belcourt   | 5    | 4      | 0    | 46.5   |
| Team Johnstone  | 4    | 4      | 0    | 38.75  |
| Team Lambie   | 7    | 1      | 0    | 65     |
| Team Scott  | 3    | 4      | 1    | 36     |
| Team Marshall   | 2    | 5      | 1    | 28.5   |
| Team Allen  | 2    | 5      | 1    | 28.5   |
| Team McClung  | 2    | 7      | 0    | 27     |
| Team Murphy   | 2    | 6      | 0    | 24.5   |
| Team Huth   | 1    | 7      | 0    | 18.5   |

6 points for a win, 0.5 Points per end, 3 Points for a tie, 0.25 points for a blank end

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The Township of Tiny is proud to announce Nature Connect: Outdoor Adventures for Seniors, funded through a \$22,000 grant from the Government of Ontario.



# Suppression or engagement?

## Springwater council divided on voting methods

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

Citing security and fraud concerns, Springwater Deputy Mayor George Cabral was looking for council to buy into his argument that the township should do away with internet and telephone voting and go back to paper ballots and special mail-in ballots to decide the 2026 municipal and school board elections.

When the topic came up on the agenda at Wednesday's council meeting, he said he's been looking into remote voting recently and is not convinced it's the way to go.

"I really have some concerns and I know there are other councils in Ontario that are also looking at this with an eye to determine whether or not it's something that should be engaged in," Cabral said. "There are no guidelines from the provincial government; the provincial government does not use remote voting, the federal government does not use remote voting."

"So, I'm very leery of going down that road," he added.

Cabral says remote voting has not increased voter engagement and he argued there are alternative ways to ensure people who can't get to a polling station can still cast their vote — the special mail-

in ballot.

Coun. Matt Garwood disagreed. He considered Cabral's motion akin to voter suppression.

He pointed to the statistics that were included in the report titled '2026 Municipal and School Board Election – Alternative Voting Methods,' which was prepared for council by the township's former clerk and delivered to council at its Sept. 3 meeting.

In it, there is a chart from the 2022 municipal election that tracks the various voting methods that were in place at the time.

According to the chart, 474 electors (roughly eight per cent) cast their ballot in person, 631 (about 11 per cent) did so via telephone and 4,651 (almost 81 per cent) used the internet.

According to information compiled by the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) after the 2022 municipal election, Springwater's internet voter use far surpassed the provincial average of 57 per cent.

"Over 90 per cent of electors in 2022 cast their votes via telephone or internet," Garwood said. "Of that 90, 80 of that was internet completely — not in person, not on the phone outside of this chamber or any polling location."

"If we're sitting here talking about removing the option in which 80 to 90 per cent of our residents participated in the last election, to me, I don't see how that's anything other than suppressing the vote," he added.

Garwood noted 14 municipalities in Simcoe County use some version of internet voting.

According to the AMCTO survey, 58 per cent of municipalities in the province used internet voting and 93 per cent of folks who voted via the internet in 2022 were very satisfied with their choice.

That's not to say everyone was satisfied.

The survey notes that 20 per cent of municipalities that used internet voting had some challenges, including issues related to incorrect voter list data, issuing voter cards and software providers.

Coun. Danielle Alexander, who works in IT, said one of her big concerns was the technology offered by vendors. She said many of the vendors who provide voting solutions are choosing not to use the technology that is available for multi-factor

authentication because it affects their profitability.

"They don't want to pay for it because it's going to affect their bottom line," she said. "The technology is there, we could do this properly, but the companies are choosing not to."

Garwood, who also works in IT, countered Alexander's claim.

"My concerns regarding security equal my concerns for accessibility and access and participation," he said.

Garwood said removing all other forms of voting would be regressive.

"We are just going down such a bad path here and it's very disappointing," he said. "We are not moving forward in the direction that 444 other municipalities are across the province."

"Springwater is taking a step backward in time," the councillor added.

Springwater Mayor Jennifer Coughlin was not in favour of Cabral's motion. She said taking away internet and telephone voting, something 90 per cent of the township embraced, was not in the township's best interest.

She said the discussion council just had should have been a public discussion where residents could provide input.

With Cabral's motion still on the floor and discussion around the council table to provide an alternate amendment to get public feedback and consultation before making a final decision, Coughlin sought procedural advice from the township's clerk.

"Whether this amendment passes or fails, a referral of the entire motion could be tabled," the clerk responded.

Cabral's motion was defeated in a recorded 4-3 vote.

Garwood then proposed a referral that would seek public engagement on all voting methods, including a survey during an open house and further information regarding costs to be provided to council in February 2026. The referral passed.

According to the township's clerk, a decision must be made by May 1. If no decision is made, the election would automatically revert to a paper ballot.

Municipal elections will take place in Ontario on Oct. 26, 2026.



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# Bill 76 passes, transferring thousands of acres to City of Barrie

*By: Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: BarrieToday.com, Dec 09, 2025*

For those who have been following Barrie's boundary expansion proposal for the past two years, today's passing of Bill 76 is either a wonderful present or a lump of coal.

Tuesday afternoon, the Ontario legislature passed Bill 76, the Barrie-Oro-Medonte-Springwater Boundary Adjustment Act, 2025.

Effective Jan. 1, 2026, the legislation will transfer 4,132 acres from the townships of Oro-Medonte and Springwater to the City of Barrie to support long-term housing, employment and infrastructure growth.

This breaks down to 3,004 acres from Springwater and 1,129 acres from Oro-Medonte.

"For too long, Barrie residents have had to leave the city to find good jobs. Today's passed legislation is a decisive step toward changing that, and it shows real leadership from the province," Barrie Mayor Alex Nuttall told BarrieToday late Tuesday afternoon.

"Unlocking these lands gives Barrie the ability to attract major employers, grow our local economy and build the kind of job opportunities our residents deserve right here at home."

Springwater Mayor Jennifer Coughlin said she has mixed emotions on the passing of Bill 76.

"It's a combination of relief and excitement. This process has been all encompassing, but it's been worth every step. The passing of Bill 76 finally allows us to move forward — in full partnership with the City of Barrie — and get shovels in the ground," she said.

"It's progress that will benefit our residents and businesses for generations."

BarrieToday reached out to Oro-Medonte Mayor Randy Greenlaw for reaction to the passing of Bill 76 but didn't hear back from him prior to this story being published.

Barrie city council approved draft framework agreements with Springwater and Oro-Medonte on Oct. 1, 2025. It included Barrie paying its neighbours \$15,000 per developable acre, or more than \$33 million in total, paying the county \$5 million for regional economic development initiatives and paying Springwater another \$850,000, also related to economic development initiatives.

But with the introduction of legislation, Bill 76, those agreements no longer form the basis for the boundary expansion — though many of the provisions included in the draft framework agreements are reflected in the legislation.

According to the legislation, "the City of Barrie shall make such payment or payments, or provide such other forms of compensation, as required and determined by the regulations, if any, to the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater and the County of Simcoe."

In a BarrieToday story that was published last week prior to the passing of Bill 76, both Coughlin and Greenlaw felt their municipalities should receive compensation.

Greenlaw said Oro-Medonte still expects to be compensated by Barrie for land annexed under Bill 76, to the tune of \$15,000 per developable acre.

He said that amount was determined and

proposed by the City of Barrie, and was negotiated in good faith, accepted and endorsed by Oro-Medonte at its special council meeting Nov. 4.

"The township has been and continues as an active and willing participant throughout the facilitation process, with the objective of reaching a mutually beneficial solution for the province, County of Simcoe and all parties involved," he said.

"This has been the objective from the onset of the facilitation process. We continue to work toward this outcome."

Coughlin said the province introducing Bill 76 triggers compensation talks.

"We will work towards finalizing compensation details with the City of Barrie based on the (Springwater) council-approved framework agreement, to which we remain fully committed," she said.

"Under the negotiated 'mutual prosperity' framework, the total compensation package for the Township of Springwater is valued at approximately \$22 million, based on a rate of \$15,000 per developable acre."

Coughlin said she will work with Nuttall and the province "to finalize these details and get shovels in the ground for the housing and services our region and residents need."

Nuttall was equally amicable.

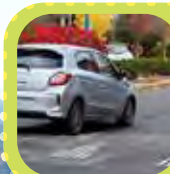
"We're grateful for the province's strong action, and we will continue working closely with our neighbouring municipalities to ensure this next phase delivers the best possible results for the people of the greater Barrie area," he said.

— With files from Bob Bruton

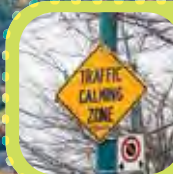
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## Penetanguishene Council Approves 2026 Budget

*By Town of Penetanguishene, Dec 11, 2025*

(Penetanguishene) On December 10, 2025, Penetanguishene Council approved the 2026 operating and capital budgets and the 2027 capital budget totaling \$32.5 million (\$16.8 million operating & \$15.7 million capital). Opportunities for public input were provided throughout the annual budget process and all budget information was published on connectpenetanguishene.ca. The budget focuses on key areas such as roads, water and wastewater network and equipment upgrades and includes funding for the next steps towards a new multi-use recreation facility.

After careful consideration and analysis, the approved budget results in an operating increase of 2.41%, a capital increase of 1.16% and a 0% increase for Policing, as the Town's Policing Stabilization Reserve was used to reduce the financial impact on residents in 2026. The total overall tax bill impact is 3.22% or \$52.64 per

100,000 of typical residential assessment for Municipal, County and Education property taxes.

Finance & Corporate Services Chair, Councillor Suzanne Marchand stated "The annual budget represents months of collaboration, analysis and careful consideration to ensure that the Town's financial plans align with the priorities of our Community, while maintaining fiscal responsibility. I'm excited to move forward with Council on the 2026 priorities identified."

The Town's capital investment in 2026 and 2027 totals \$15.7 mil. Notable capital projects include:

- Reconstruction of Peel Street (Robert St E to Brock St)
- Relining of the Waterfront Park Sanitary Sewer (the Town received a \$675,000 grant)
- SCADA Network and Cybersecurity Upgrades
- Arena/Curling Club Equipment and Structural Upgrades (the Town received a \$190,000 grant)
- Charles Scott Playground Upgrade
- Housing Strategy
- Asphalt Resurfacing of Brunelle Sideroad
- Culvert Relining on Champlain Road

- Reconstruction of Lucy Street
- Memorial Park Concept Design and Engineering

Council approved a \$16.8 mil total operating budget that includes \$2.2 mil for Policing and \$5.2 mil for the Water, Wastewater, Building and Wharf rate-supported divisions. Upgrading equipment, technology, recreation programs and road maintenance continues to be a priority. Free transit for seniors, free public skating and recreation subsidies for low-income families will continue in 2026.

"Thank you to our Community, Council and Staff for their collaboration and dedication during the annual budget process. We have accomplished this together and our annual budget process always has been, and will continue to be, a team effort. Continued transparency, accountability and enhanced communication remain a priority. This budget is not just about 2026 as it sets the foundation for long-term stability with multi-year capital and financial planning. The approved budget includes priorities identified by Council and our residents as approved in the Town's Community-Based Strategic Plan and reflects our shared vision for Penetanguishene," said Mayor Doug Rawson.

## Tiny settles on 5.8% take hike with budget that closes infrastructure gap

*By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: MidlandToday.ca, Dec 12, 2025*

(TINY) Tiny council arrived at a 3.99% blended tax rate increase during the third and final day of their 2026 budget deliberations.

Council had delayed their third day of budget talks for a week to become better informed on their decisions, and were presented at the start of the meeting with staff providing several updates and follow-up answers.

Notably: MPAC property assessment values held stable for 2026; \$40,000 in added tax revenues were projected as a result of MPAC; \$515,000 in various reserves was identified from roads capital projects completed under budget; and a \$3.24 million OPP billing cost held at Tiny's capped rate of 11% to stay at \$3.049 million instead.

"We have a very low crime rate, we have even lower call volume, and that's not being reflected,"

said Mayor Dave Evans. "We're paying now on a standardized basis for resources that we're not using, and we need to reform... and modernize this OPP billing model to reflect the realities of rural communities."

With the starting amount of a 3.22% blended rate on a live-tracking chart, council began adding and subtracting items in the budget.

A look at parking machine usage and replacement was deferred to a future report for more information. The option to pave Old Schoolhouse Rd. was instead transferred to other roads projects, and with additional funding from the aforementioned various reserves, several items were added including: Microsealing at Balm Beach Rd W.; repaving of Champlain Rd. from York St. to Conc. 17 E.; and repaving Cedar Pt. Rd. from Conc. 16 to #467.

A high-level surplus estimate of \$170,000 had been identified and noted in the operations portion of the funding gap tracking list. When it was addressed, the tentative blended rate was at 3.55%.

Coun. Steffen Walma reminded council that

prior to the start of budget talks, staff were asked to bring an at-or-below 4% increase to the budget; with the 3.55% and surplus \$170,000, he pitched that the amount should be put into enhancing the township's infrastructure funding as per the asset management plan.

"I don't want to add it to the tax rate," said Walma, "I want to close that infrastructure gap." A suggestion to purchase fire hall generators (\$40,000) and put money into a long-deferred upgrade project for Wyevalle Park ball diamond lighting (\$130,000) was approved.

That brought the tally to the 5.80% municipal tax rate increase and 3.99% blended tax rate increase. Council voted in favour of the changes, with the understanding that finalized tax rates for 2026 would occur at a council meeting in April.

"I'm very confident and very happy with what we have produced as a team," said Evans as the budget passed.

The 2026 draft budget report can be viewed on the agenda page on the Township of Tiny website.

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



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'Right where I wanted it to be': Midland ratepayers face 3.44% tax hike next year

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: MidlandToday.ca, Dec 11, 2025

Midland residents can expect a 3.15% blended tax rate budget increase in 2026.

During a 10-hour special meeting on Tuesday, Midland council stuck close to a target budget and almost landed on the bullseye. The municipal tax rate increase was 3.44% upon approval by Mayor Bill Gordon.

Council began the day thinking it would be the second of a three-day process, having engaged with agencies, boards and commissions the week prior. At the start of Tuesday's process, the proposed municipal tax rate increase was 4.08% and the blended was slated as a 3.61% increase.

While the NT Power substation land sale matter held variables due to uneven figures, the simplest explanation was that four properties sold for roughly \$200,000 each for \$800,000 total, as negotiations by NT Power warranted purchasing land their substations were located on.

As per the speed cameras, staff anticipated drawing from the community safety reserve as a one-time funding injection, but early cancellation of the program meant \$250,000 less money needed to be withdrawn.

"That actually caused us to go in the negative one per cent," said CAO Rhonda Bunn. "That helped out in this year's budget. The contributing factors were staff being really diligent in cutting budgets and finding smarter but more innovative ways to do things."

A 90-minute discussion which removed two

potential firefighting positions (at \$195,683) lowered the blended tax rate increase to 3.14%; however, the conversation was charged at times.

Coun. Bill Meridis scrutinized collected fire matrix data for his perspective, fire chief Richard Renaud responded that through decisions based on "numbers against statistics, you can manipulate it to show whatever you want", and Meridis firing back that "I didn't manipulate the numbers" but he wouldn't hand out a blank cheque.

Meridis cited his core ethos and problem during the exchange which carried through the budget process, stating that despite promised growth for Midland in the years ahead no shovels were in the ground as of yet, and he wouldn't approve budget requests for further staffing without hard proof of their need.

Coun. Jamie-Lee Ball was lightly reprimanded several times, and called on a point of order once, while attempting to whittle the budget so certain staffing positions could be altered or created, described by Gordon at one point as going beyond the weeds into "the bugs on the weeds" for micromanagement of costs.

ForyearsMidlandcouncilhadputoffcontributing to a festival in 2028 for the town's 150th birthday, and a request for \$54,000 (\$162,000 total over the next three years) to reserves was suggested by Ball as better spent by defunding the 2028 Tall Ships visit to aid the sesquicentennial; the comment was met with backlash by council and staff defending the \$10 million economic impact and unique value of the Tall Ships weekend.

Council voted to remove \$650,000 in upgrading lighting infrastructure at Galloway Park soccer field, referring it to an upcoming parks master plan; as well, a \$500,000 project to design and site prep a new fire hall was defeated and bumped to the new council of 2027, as the current council tiptoed around what could be openly said in public

around land acquisition for its location. A \$202,000 community vision project, described by Ball as aiming council's "north star" toward 2050 and praised by Gordon as "bang on" for the accurate analogy, was just one of many projects perceived by Meridis as suffering "study overload", and met with resignation by Coun. Howie Major who said: "I'm consultant out"; the project was approved.

Shortly after 6 p.m., council approved the budget along with fees and charges.

Due to the Strong Mayor Powers granted by the province, Gordon had 30 days from November 14 to provide amendments which were accomplished early at the meeting; and Gordon vowing to sign a mayoral decision to further waive a 10-day period to adopt the budget and do so as soon as possible.

"It's right where I wanted to be," Gordon told MidlandToday following the meeting. "For us to end at 3.15% without having to do any forceful things really is wonderful; it speaks to the cohesiveness of this council. This was not a rubber stamp exercise, and yet we still ended up there."

"For our folks at home, it means that the MPAC assessment that's still frozen in time because of the province, at 2016 levels, that impact on their pocketbooks in 2026 – which by all accounts looks like it's going to be an ugly year financially, especially around the cost of food and other things – the municipality will have done its damndest to keep giving them the services they count on and things we're legally obliged to supply – water, wastewater, those kind of things – at the lowest responsible increase.

Detailed information, timelines and reports on the 2026 budget can be found on the budget and finance page of the Town of Midland's website.

The 2026 budget deliberation is anticipated to be available on the Town of Midland's YouTube channel.

TRI-CULTURAL EXHIBITION

Quest Art School + Gallery is inviting artists to submit proposals for our Tri-Cultural Exhibition, a powerful celebration of Midland's living heritage, where three large-scale 2D works will tell the story of our region through Indigenous, French, and English perspectives.

From the Huron-Wendat and Anishinaabek peoples to French settlers and English builders, these intertwined histories have shaped our community, our landscape, and the ways we connect today. Now, we're looking for artists to bring those stories forward through their own contemporary lens.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

December 15<sup>th</sup>



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This exhibition has been made possible through the generous support of an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow Grant.



Dec 11, 2025 - The holidays always get here faster than we think they will. Even the most organized of us will rush to get last minute things checked off the list. I hope that in the next



few days you make some time to relax a little, chat with friends and neighbours, share a hot chocolate with your family, or maybe bake some cookies with your kids.

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

As 2025 winds down, we should embrace the

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

As always, my staff and I are available to discuss any federal matters that may be of concern to you and your family. Please do not hesitate to get in touch by phone at 705-728-2596 or email at Doug.Shipley@parl.gc.ca.

Merry Christmas everyone!

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

## Taking Next Steps to Unlock Free Trade Within Canada

### Mutual recognition of goods and services will reduce costly trade barriers and build a more competitive and self-reliant economy

**By Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade December 15, 2025**

TORONTO — As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario and unleash its full economic potential, the province is taking the next steps to implement mutual recognition of goods and services from other reciprocating Canadian jurisdictions by publishing a draft regulation under the Ontario Free Trade and Mobility Act, 2025 (OFTMA). Building on Ontario's national leadership in supporting free trade and labour mobility across Canada, the mutual recognition of goods and services will play a substantial role in supporting economic integration across Canada and removing internal trade barriers that cost the economy up to \$200 billion every year.

"For decades, red tape and burdensome regulations have held Ontario's economy back, increasing the cost of goods and services for manufacturers and families alike and limiting the ease with which Ontario-made products could be traded with our provincial and territorial partners," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Mutual recognition will play a pivotal role in unlocking new market opportunities for Ontario goods and services, and further advance Ontario's leadership in strengthening trade security and diversification."

A key component of the government's Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025, which was passed in June 2025, Ontario's approach to mutual recognition ensures that if a good or service meets the regulatory requirements in other parts of Canada, it will be recognized here in Ontario. To activate its mutual recognition framework, Ontario has introduced a new draft regulation that will allow the province to recognize goods and services from other Canadian jurisdictions, provided those jurisdictions are taking similar actions at home. Ontario's approach to mutual recognition is designed to be both ambitious and reciprocal:

Goods approved for sale or use in a reciprocating jurisdiction will be treated as if

they have met Ontario's standards and will not require additional testing, approvals or fees.

Businesses that are authorized to provide a service, in a reciprocating jurisdiction will be entitled to the equivalent authorization in Ontario.

The regulation will clarify that OFTMA's mutual recognition rules will prevail when there is a conflict with other Ontario laws.

The regulation will set out parameters to guide implementation of mutual recognition and clarify that Ontario laws on how goods are sold or used will continue to apply.

The draft regulation is posted on the Ontario Regulatory Registry and is open to feedback from the public, regulators and industry stakeholders through a 45-day consultation period.

"By implementing mutual recognition under the Ontario Free Trade and Mobility Act, we're moving at speed and encouraging a pan-Canadian pivot to mutual recognition which will unlock new domestic markets for Ontario businesses," said Stephen Crawford, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement. "This means less paperwork and lower costs, faster approvals and market entry, and more customers across Canada for Ontario-made products and services. Our Team Canada approach accelerates growth and jobs while keeping clear rules in place for safety and for how goods are sold and used."

While Ontario's new mutual recognition rules will focus on goods and services, the province is also making significant progress as a national leader when it comes to streamlining labour mobility to help workers from other parts of Canada work and live in Ontario. Opening up opportunities for in-demand professions will create a more unified and competitive Ontario and Canadian workforce. This means that qualified doctors, architects, engineers, land surveyors, electricians and more can practice their profession in Ontario for up to six months while completing

registration with their respective regulatory body.

These expanded "As of Right" rules also help strengthen Ontario's health-care workforce by making it easier for skilled health professionals to work in the province while also supporting patients who will benefit from faster access to care and a more robust health-care team across settings such as hospitals, long-term care homes and community settings.

Starting January 1, 2026, Canadians in certified professions will be able to begin working in Ontario within 10 business days, once a regulator confirms credentials and requirements. "As of Right" rules will apply across professions covered by more than 50 regulatory authorities and 300 certifications, including 16 additional health regulated professionals.

The proposed regulation on mutual recognition builds on the momentum of November's Committee on Internal Trade meeting, at which federal, provincial and territorial partners signed the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Goods under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and Ontario affirmed its commitment to make free trade a reality across the country. Ontario will continue working with other provinces and territories and the federal government to fully implement this agreement, and in the meantime will continue moving forward to implement mutual recognition with reciprocating jurisdictions.

As Canada's largest interprovincial trader, Ontario is unlocking access to new internal markets and customers in the face of global market instability and volatility. By eliminating the need for businesses to meet multiple sets of regulatory requirements, Ontario is reducing red tape and accelerating market access for Ontario businesses. Mutual recognition slashes compliance costs, speeds up approvals, drives efficiency and increases competitiveness for businesses. The province encourages all Canadian jurisdictions to follow with the same degree of speed and ambition as Ontario.




*All the best for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

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- GAINS (tax credits for disabled persons and seniors)
- Health Care
- Health Cards/ OHIP Issues
- Natural Resources & the Environment
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

- Ontario Student Assistance (OSAP)
- 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](mailto:Jill.Dunlopco@pc.ola.org)  
**JillDunlopMPP.ca**



**Merry Christmas**  
**DOUG DOWNEY**  
1A - 20 Bell Farm Road  
Barrie, ON  
L4M 6E4  
705-726-5538  
[doug.downey@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.downey@pc.ola.org)

Message from MPP Dunlop

By Office of MPP Jill Dunlop, Dec 15, 2025

(North Simcoe) I’m pleased to share some of the key provincial initiatives from the past month that are creating real benefits for families, businesses, agriculture and communities across our region. As we enter the holiday season, it’s also a perfect time to reflect on what we’ve achieved together and look forward with hope for the year

Earlier this month, the government released the 2025 Fall Economic Statement: A Plan to Protect Ontario which sets out investments and tax-relief measures to help workers, families and businesses.

• Tax deferral measures for some 80,000 businesses, providing up to \$9 billion in liquidity relief, helping companies to retain jobs and weather challenging times.

• An expansion of tax-credits and enhanced supports for manufacturing and innovation, including increased flexibility in the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit.

• A rebates and relief focus: for example, the full provincial portion (8 %) of the HST will be rebated for qualifying first-time buyers of new homes up to \$1 million, a big win for families looking to take their first step into home ownership.

• Significant infrastructure and community investments, including more than \$201 billion in capital investments over 10 years to strengthen roads, housing, transit and municipal services.

For agriculture and rural communities, we’re also seeing meaningful supports that help strengthen the backbone of our region:

• The province recognised the 2025 Excellence in Agriculture Awards, honouring 12 winners and 7 honourable mentions for their innovation and leadership in Ontario’s ag-food sector.

• Earlier in the year the federal-provincial investment of up to \$14.6 million through the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) was announced, helping farmers improve soil health, build natural infrastructure on their lands, and enhance long-term sustainability.

These initiatives reflect our government’s commitment to keep costs down for families, support local businesses, reinvest in our infrastructure and help our agricultural sector remain competitive and resilient.

As we look ahead to the new year, I invite you and your family to join me for some fun community activities! Come out and enjoy our Free Skating Events across Simcoe North on January 2nd, and don’t miss our Free Roller-Skating Event on Family Day.

Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!

MPP Dunlop Announces Ontario Continuing to Support Hospitals in Simcoe North

Investment of \$3,650,000 to support 20 hospital beds at Champlain Manor Retirement Residence

By Office of MPP Jill Dunlop, Dec 9, 2025

ORILLIA - The Ontario government continues to build hospital capacity across the province by investing \$3,650,000 this year to support 20 hospital beds in Orillia, ensuring people and families have ongoing access to high-quality care, close to home,

“This investment in Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital and Champlain Manor is a clear demonstration of our government’s commitment to strengthening care close to home,” said Jill Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North. “The 20 existing beds funded through the bedded capacity initiative helps reduce pressure on the hospital and ensures seniors receive the appropriate level of care they deserve. This funding supports a more seamless transition for patients and enhances the overall quality of our local healthcare system. I’m proud to stand behind this initiative, which will bring meaningful, lasting benefits to families across our

community.”

This funding is part of Ontario’s investment of over \$229 million this year to support the continued operation of over 3,500 acute, post-acute and critical care beds across the province. This is another step the government is taking to improve access, expand capacity and decrease wait times at Ontario’s hospitals, building a health care system that better serves patients both now and into the future.

“Our government is making historic investments in Ontario’s hospitals to ensure people and families have access to fast and convenient care, where and when they need it,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “This investment builds on our work to enhance capacity in our hospitals and will provide communities with the beds they need to deliver high-quality health care close to home, for years to come.”

Through Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care, Ontario is making it easier and faster for people of all ages to connect to the care they need, where and when they need

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39 Trophy  
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41 Fired up  
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Harvesters Stay Hot, Climb into First-Place Tie

The Elmvale Harvesters continued their strong run of play with two big home-ice victories since the last edition of the paper, combining offensive firepower with memorable theme nights to keep fans buzzing.

On December 6, Elmvale welcomed the Saugeen Shores squad for a high-energy matchup that ended in a 9-7 Harvesters win. The night doubled as a Food Bank Donation Night, which proved to be a huge success thanks to the generosity of Harvesters fans and community supporters. The game also featured a Hardship Acres Platinum Sponsor Takeover, adding to the festive atmosphere inside the arena.

On the ice, Elmvale's offence came alive in a back-and-forth contest. Riley Pitt earned First Star honours, while Rob Flick of Saugeen Shores was named Second Star, and Jacob Kelly rounded out the stars with a Third Star performance.

The momentum carried over to December 13, when the Harvesters hosted Creemore for a lively Country Night at the rink. Fans, players, and staff embraced the theme, dressing in their best country outfits, while the team sported special warm-up jerseys sponsored by the North Simcoe Junior Farmers for the duration of the game.

Elmvale once again came out on top, securing a 7-5 victory. Jacob Kelly led the way and was named First Star, followed by Dave Pearce as



Second Star and Devon Edmonds as Third Star. The night also featured a special milestone, as Harvesters captain Derick Robertson scored his first goal as a Harvester, drawing a loud response from the home crowd.

With the two wins, the Harvesters now find themselves tied for first place in the standings with Saugeen Shores, marking a strong push as the season continues.

Elmvale returns home on Sunday December 21 at 4:30 p.m. when they host Durham in Elmvale. The game will feature a Kentstruction Platinum Sponsor Takeover and serve as the team's Christmas Theme Game. Fans are encouraged to come out, show their support, and wear their Christmas colours for what promises to be another exciting afternoon of Harvesters hockey.





### Palace Tavern

Francis Horgan and his family and staff from the Palace Tavern would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New year.

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### Elmvale Harvesters 2025-26 Schedule

#### Home Games

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

Sat. Dec. 20 @ 7:30 PM  
at Creemore Coyotes  
Sat. Jan. 10 @ 7:00 PM  
at Ripley Wolves





# Kings Work Overtime Taking 8 of 10 Possible Points

Submitted by Jamie Robillard

The Penetang Kings played five games between December 5th and December 14th with four of the games going to overtime. The Kings won three contests while taking two overtime losses and accumulating either of a possible ten points from the five games.

With the hot streak the Kings solidified their hold on third place in Provincial Junior Hockey League Carruthers Division.

Beginning with their home game on Friday December 5th Penetang played with a great deal of effort in what looks like a division that any team can win on any night of the season. With the Huntsville Otters in town the Kings dropped a narrow 5-4 decision in overtime as the Otters Rhett McFarlane fired home the winning goal six minutes into the extra frame.

Penetang's Luca Dubois, Wyndam Brownlee, Camron Hutchinson and Spencer Walker each counted single markers while Hutchinson, Cole Rumbolt and Matthew Laframboise added two assists each. Single assists were collected by Brownlee and Owen Clennett. Hutchinson was named the Canadoor Garage Door Kings player of game. Penetang managed 50 shots on the Otters goaltender, Darian Willis, while Penetang netminders Owen Moreau and Landon Simec turned aside a total of 34 shots.

On Saturday December 6th Penetang travelled to Orillia to face the Terriers and came out on top with 2-1 overtime win. Team Captain Carter Wilson scored both Penetang goals with the winner being



Cole Rumbolt in action.  
December 7 Canadoor Garage Doors Player of the Game – Cole Rumbolt



December 5 Canadoor Garage Doors Player of the Game – Camron Hutchinson



December 13 Canadoor Garage Doors Player of the Game – Tyson Berry



December 12 Canadoor Garage Doors Player of the Game – Matthew Laframboise



December 6 Canadoor Garage Doors Player of the Game – Carter Wilson

just 32 seconds into the extra period. For his efforts Wilson was named the Kings Canadoor Garage Door player of the game. Assists in the game from Owen Fuller, Aiden Pethick, Dubois and Rumbolt.

Simec held the Kings in the contest making 41 saves. Penetang managed 36 shots on Orillia netminder Wilson Mackey.

The Kings followed up the trip to Orillia with another road game on Sunday December 7th in Stayner and got past the Siskins again in overtime by a 2-1 score as Rumbolt scored the winning tally at the 5:57 mark of the extra stanza. Once again Simec was outstanding in net for Penetang stopping 54 Stayner shots while Penetang had 26 shots on Aidan Jerry in the Stayner goal. Ethan Barron scored the Kings long regulation time goal on an assist from Tyson Berry. Simec and Hutchinson had helpers on the Rumbolt overtime winner. Rumbolt playing in his 120th PJHL game was named the Kings Canadoor Garage Door player of the game.

Penetang returned home on Friday December 12th and dropped a 4-3 decision in overtime to the Siskins. The Kings had built a 3-1 lead going to the third period on goals from Caiden Pattenden, Laframboise and Clennett before Stayner stormed back with two third period markers and the OT winner. Laframboise also had two assists in the contest, while Pethick, Dubois, Barron and Walker had single assists. Simec made 39 stops in the Penetang goal with the Kings firing 28 shots on Stayner's Jerry. Laframboise was named the Kings Canadoor Player of the Game.



Owen Fuller in action  
Aidan Pethick in action

Finally on Saturday December 13th the Kings travelled to Bracebridge and topped the Muskoka Bears 6-4 to wrap up a busy nine-day span. Pattenden led the attack with two goals followed by single markers from Fuller, Laframboise, Brownlee and Berry. Assists went two Simec, his second of the season, Fuller, Wilson, Laframboise, Rumbolt, Brownlee and Clennett. Simec made 38 saves in goal for Penetang while the Kings had 40 shots on Bears netminder Kyle Downey. Tyson Berry was named the Kings Canadoor Garage Door player of the game.

Notes: The Kings game scheduled for Wednesday December 10th in Alliston was postponed due to inclement weather and has been rescheduled for Wednesday February 4th.

Alliston continues to lead the division with 40 points in 26 games followed by Stayner with 37 points in 26 outings. Penetang is now third with 34 points out of 25 games and Orillia with 29 points in 21 games are in fourth place. Midland is in 5th place with 22 points in 25 games; Muskoka sits in 6th with 16 points while Huntsville with 15 points and Innisfil with 13 points round out the standings.

The Kings have two games remaining before the Christmas break, on Friday December 19th they face the Orillia Terriers in an important game in the battle for third place and then Sunday December 21st they travel to Bracebridge for an afternoon tilt with the Muskoka Bears.

Penetang resumes the season in the New Year at home on Friday January 2nd against Innifil.



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## Penetang Kings 2025–26 Schedule

| Date        | Visiting | Home     | Venue                | Time    |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------------------|---------|
| Fri, Dec 19 | Orillia  | Penetang | Penetang Memorial CC | 8:00 pm |
| Sun, Dec 21 | Penetang | Muskoka  | Muskoka Lumber CC    | 2:00 pm |
| Fri, Jan 2  | Innisfil | Penetang | Penetang Memorial CC | 8:00 pm |



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Matt Garwood, Ward 1 Councillor



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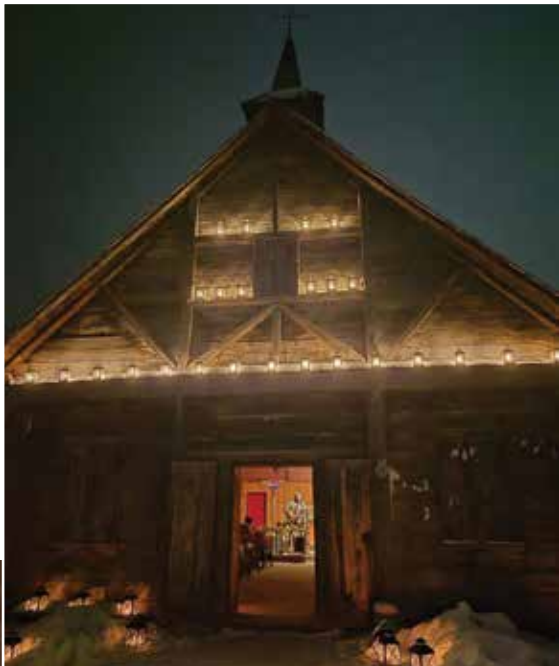
**Bearbells** By Leslie Noonan

December 11/25

Thick snowflakes fell from the night sky, illuminated by the hundreds of lanterns lining the snowy path. The air was cold, numbing the tip of my nose. A welcoming warmth radiated out from the roaring bonfire, thawing my tingling fingers as I stood in front of a teepee. Further ahead Christmas music filtered out from two long buildings built of fieldstone. Inside the first building was two rows of beds made of rough-hewn timbers and covered with warm woolen blankets. Next door a dark room holds stiffened furs, and fish weirs lit with soft blue lights. Through the low rooms and out into a snow-covered courtyard, while a large bon fire lit up the timber buildings surrounding the open space, shadows dancing under the eaves. Soft light escaped from open windows and doors, beckoning travellers to enter. The door lintels were low, requiring those entering to duck their heads. Inside candles covered hearths and shelves, the soft light flickering fitfully in the stray breezes. Wooden benches offered a spot to sit and listen to the music, guitar and song sung for anyone wanting to listen. People moved in and out, staying for a quick moment or perhaps longer for a few songs, feet tapping in time.

Once again out in the night air, still following those bright lanterns. Past tall wooden palisades jutting up into the dark sky, pointed tips a reminder that this was once a Jesuit settlement, and the first settlement in what was to become Ontario. Clang, clang, clang. The ringing of metal sounded loud in the quiet, echoing between those tall stakes. Another fire, with a large man using tongs to heat the cold hard metal into a bright orange ingot, malleable with repeated strikes of his tools. The rhythmic movement of the bellows was hypnotizing, as the shadows danced with each movement of the blacksmith's arms. Heat danced out from the flames, warming cold toes. The moment felt suspended in time, with groups of people stopping, leaving, in constant motion as I stood rooted to the spot, while I was mesmerized by the ring of metal on metal. Eventually the moment passed, and I searched out

the lights to lead me onto the next path. The lanterns guided the way to a large building, long with a rounded roof. Smoke lazily drifted up into the sky while inside the fire lent its warmth to those listening to traditional indigenous stories. With faces lit from only the fire, children listened to how bear lost his tail on a cold winter night like, just like this one. As with most traditional stories, there was a moral to be learned, this time about pride and humility. The woman telling the story wove her tale with skill, compelling her listeners to lean in close with bright eyes. It was easy to feel lost to time, imaging this longhouse hundreds of years ago with people listening to the same stories on past winters nights. Shadows became phantoms, as I envisioned families snuggled under those warm furs, sharing companionship with others to pass the long winter nights. Back outside, the air was crisp and clean, the sky now clear. The constellation of Orion lay low in the northeastern sky, tilted on his side. My breathe formed small clouds of condensation as I walked slowly among the bright lanterns, leading the way through the darkness. Another building, golden light shining on the white snow. Inside, a large fireplace warming the fingers of a harpist as she delicately plucks the strings, her clear voice rising to the rafters. Tall glass jars holding the candles reflected the lights back and forth, as though the stars from outside had been made anew here.



Photos courtesy of Cathy Louis,

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# ANTEN MILLS by Dennis Gannon



Dec. 14, 2025 - The Anten Mills Christmas in the Village was a tremendous success this year and a great way to cap off our Anten Mills Celebrating 150 Years. Saturday night the community park was a buzz with kids of all ages. While hot chocolate, hot dogs and cookies were served they played in the snow and lined up to ride the Snow Valley SnoTube slide. With the cold temperature and lots of snow they received a fun ride with lots of speed and distance. At the appointed hour, the jolly old elf with all clad in red with a flowing white beard made his appearance escorted with our volunteer firefighters. Children lined up to tell Santa what they wished for this Christmas and of course Santa reminded them that the better be good and stay off the naughty list. At 7 PM Santa led the count down and the tree was lit up with over 1000 glowing lights along with the ground displays. The sky was then filled with sparkles of red, white and green as the evening concluded with a fantastic fireworks display.

Sunday with clear blue skies and cold weather, it was time for the 28th annual Santa Claus parade. Starting at the intersection of Laddies Lane and Pinery the parade wound its way through the streets of the village. Groups were gathered all along the route waving at the participants and accepting the treats they handed out. Of course everyone was waiting for Santa and again escorted by the members of the Springwater Fire and Emergency Services he along with Mrs Claus didn't disappoint. Santa brought greetings to all and even caught the attention of some who were on his nice and naughty list reminding them that he would soon be filling their stockings and bringing gifts under the tree.

Before the parade started, Mayor Coughlin along with Councillors Thompson and Garwood had the opportunity to check out the parade participants before they headed off. This was to determine what group was "The Elf of the Village " or on "The Naughty or Nice List" or perhaps who received them" Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer Award". After much discussion the banners were awarded in order to Carter Hay, the McLaughlin Street gang and to the Tantalo family. Each group got the start of a pizza party from our generous sponsors.

The spirit of giving was evident at both events and the Elmvale and District Food Bank received a truckload of items to fill their shelves. As well the Simcoe County Paramedics Toy Drive had a bounty of gifts for them to share.

Our community events are successful because of the support of our volunteers and sponsors. A big thanks goes to Joan, Becca, Jase, Georgia, Callia, Gord, Pat, Mike, Judy, Judy, Andy, Karen, Teddy, Lindsay, Izzy, Harry, Brian, Irene, Chris, Ally, Megan, Rick, Brad, Doug, Brent and Lawrence for their support in making the weekend a success. To the Wilson family a big thank you for your continued

donation of the fireworks and as well to McLaren Equipment, the Springwater Vespra Lions Club and to an anonymous community family for their financial support. Snow Valley Ski Resort is thanked as well for being great supporters for a number of years by bringing the SnoTube ride which is enjoyed by all. The Christmas in the Village was a fitting end to the Anten Mills Celebrating 150 Years events.

There was great news on Saturday from the ice rink volunteers. For the first time in an unknown number of years, the rink is open very early in the season and well before the holiday season. The cold weather and snow has made for perfect conditions to make ice and after many hours of work it was officially set to be used for the season. Thanks go out to the Cruises, the Cunliffes, Pearls and Kants for their work. The rink is open to all at all times and should shinny hockey and recreational skaters be on at the same time, sharing the ice by separating them is expected. It is early in the season and if it is posted or signed closed, please respect the information and remain off of the ice.

There are only a few more days before the amount of daylight starts to get longer. Sunday, December 21 is both the shortest day of the year and has the longest night. It will be nice to have longer daylight hours again.

Over the Christmas holiday season there is an event bird watchers may be interested in. On Sunday, December 28 there is a bird count at Matheson Creek Camp on Gill Rd. The event is free and begins at 9AM with hot drinks and snacks provided. More information can be found on their Facebook page.

If you have travelled along Horseshoe Valley Rd in the village lately you may have seen the start of a very large snow person. Keep watching and in the next edition there may be an announcement of great interest for everyone.

Christmas Eve is always special. Families and friends join together in anticipation of Christmas. On Christmas Eve the volunteer firefighters of Springwater Fire and Emergency Services have a special task. For close to 50 years, Santa Claus has asked them to transport him around the communities so he may wish them a Merry Christmas. This year is no exception and around 6:30 PM there is a good chance that Santa will be here in Anten Milis. Check the Anten Mills Community Bulletin Facebook page for the map and updates on Santa's arrival. Of course should there be any emergencies that the firefighters need to attend, Santa wants them to look after those first.

That's all for this week and for the year 2025. On behalf of my family and myself we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

THANKS for READING, BE WELL and STAY SAFE.



# Chartwell Tiffin Celebrates 100 Years of Life and Service for WWII Navy Veteran Warden Shaw

*By Chartwell Tiffin, Dec 12, 2025*  
(MIDLAND) Chartwell Tiffin was thrilled to hold it's first centennial birthday for WW2 Canadian Navy Veteran and long-standing resident, Warden Shaw. Tiffin welcomed Ivan Miller who performed the bagpipes, followed by an afternoon celebration including champagne toast, speeches (including a brief speech from Ward himself), visiting family and friends, including Legion representatives, birthday cake and concert with local musician Adrien Robitaille. The celebration then continues to the dinner hour with Ward's favourite meal - prime rib buffet.

**A bit about Ward:**  
Ward was raised in Woodbridge, ON where he was educated, played and worked.  
At the age of 18 years, Ward joined the Royal Canadian Navy undergoing extensive training over the course of 2 ½ years. During WW2, Ward was a seaman in a Frigate style warship escorting cargo ships across the ocean, ensuring there weren't any German submarines in area. It was during this time, he suffered extensive hearing loss letting off depth charges. After the war, Ward married his wife and they raised their family in Weston, when he started his second career of 30 years building aircrafts for Boeing. Ward then retired at age 65, and they sold their house in Weston and bought

a house in Florida, splitting their time between Canada and the United States. Winters were spent in Florida and then moved to the family cottage in Waubaushene where they spent summers over the course of 35 years.  
After the loss of his wife, Ward eventually moved to Tiffin where he continues to enjoy activities, coffee with friends, watching sports and going on a daily walk.  
At 100 years of age, Ward notes he is very fortunate to live a good life, with good health. Wards likes to stay very active, both physically and mentally, have a good laugh and catch up with family and friends.  
Ward's advice to make it to 100 years of age: "work hard and stay active".



## Legendary Media Officer Passes the Torch at Southern Georgian Bay OPP

*By OPP, Dec 12, 2025*  
(MIDLAND, PENETANGUISHENE, TOWNSHIPS OF TAY, TINY AND GEORGIAN BAY) - The Southern Georgian Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police announces that Provincial Constable David Hobson, a well-known and respected media spokesperson, will be passing the torch to fellow officers who will carry forward his legacy of public engagement.  
For many years, Dave has been the trusted voice of the OPP in communities including Midland, Penetanguishene, Tiny, Tay, and Georgian Bay Townships, ensuring that our municipalities remained informed and engaged. His dedication to transparency and open communication has strengthened trust between police and the community. Dave was always willing to put anything aside to fulfill his media duties, demonstrating his commitment to public safety and information sharing.  
Dave began his policing career in 1985 and retired in 2015, he later served with the Anishinabek Police Service before returning to Southern Georgian Bay OPP as a part-time media officer. Beyond his policing role, Dave has been deeply involved in community initiatives, including serving as a longtime member of the Georgian Bay General Hospital Foundation, leading the Safe and Sober Awareness Committee, and earning MADD Simcoe County's Outstanding Policing Award for his efforts in the fight against impaired driving in 2024.



OPP Superintendent Todd Pittman, who worked closely with Dave, shared:  
"Provincial Constable Dave Hobson has been an outstanding ambassador for the OPP and the communities we serve. His professionalism, integrity, and passion for public safety have set the standard for what it means to be a media officer. We are grateful for his years of dedication and wish him all the best as he moves into this next chapter. Dave Hobson has given not only years of dedicated service but also has an enduring spirit of generosity and community. Always available, always willing, Dave has been a steady and trusted voice for public safety - both within the OPP and beyond. His commitment to integrity, compassion, and community service truly exemplifies what it is



to be a Provincial Constable. I would like to thank him for continuing to lead by example, reminding us of what it means to serve with heart."  
As Dave moves into new responsibilities at detachment and enjoys more time on his farm with family, the OPP extends sincere gratitude for his decades of service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to community safety.  
Thank you, Dave, for your outstanding contributions to the OPP and the communities of Southern Georgian Bay.

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# Elmvale Lions Honour Local Youth and Farmers at Annual Achievement Banquet

*Submitted by Lions Adam Langman and Dave Spring, Dec 14, 2025*  
(ELMVALE) The Elmvale Lions Club is once

again happy to sponsor the Achievement Banquet for the Elmvale 4H Dairy, Elmvale 4H Beef Club, and The North Simcoe Soil and Crop Club. The

Lions wish to congratulate every member on another successful year and wish them all the best in 2026.



**Elmvale Dairy**  
Top Member: Grace Finch. Champion Showmanship: Emi Lange. Reserve Champion Show: Grace Finch. Grand champion calf: Grace Finch. Reserve champion calf Emi Lange



**North Simcoe Soil and Crop**  
Top Member Caleb Van Casteren



**Elmvale Beef, Top Member: Brooklyn Cramp**  
Champion Showmanship: Brooklyn Cramp  
Reserve Champion Showmanship: Brody Cramp  
Grand Champion Calf: Brooklyn Cramp  
Reserve Champion Calf: Jacob Ball

## Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie Campaign - A Sweet Success

*By Laura Awrey Dec 14, 2025*

(Elmvale) Thanks to an incredible partnership between Elmvale Tim Hortons and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, the Holiday Smile Cookie Campaign raised an amazing \$11,128.50! This achievement means that benefactors Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School and Tim Hortons Camps will each receive \$5,564.25.  
For Our Lady of Lourdes, these funds will go toward much-needed Chromebook upgrades, helping students access better technology for learning. A special thank you goes to the Trude

family for making this opportunity possible!  
We're also grateful to the Township of Springwater and Councillor Matt Garwood, who generously donated an additional \$1,000 toward the Chromebook upgrades.  
The success of the Holiday Smile Cookie Campaign would not have been possible without our incredible community. Thank you to the volunteers who decorated cookies and collected donations at the drive-thru, and every community member who supported us - one cookie at a time. Thanks to your generosity and effort, this campaign became a true community achievement, making a meaningful difference for our students and our school.



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**Holiday Fun**  
Join us for activities and crafts! Free! Drop In! On Thursday December 18 we will have a variety of unique winter crafts available at our branches for those last minute gift ideas. On Friday December 19 we invite you to participate in our large community colouring page that will be out and available all through the holidays. On Saturday December 20 come to the library and enjoy some yummy holiday popcorn!

**Holiday Hours**  
Wednesday December 24 Elmvale/Midhurst open 10am-1pm  
Thursday December 25 all branches closed

Friday December 26 all branches closed  
Saturday December 27 Elmvale/Midhurst open 10am-4pm  
Wednesday December 31 Elmvale/Midhurst open 10am-1pm  
Thursday January 1 all branches closed  
Regular branch hours resume Friday January 2, 2026.

**Online Resources**  
Even when the library doors are closed for the holidays, we are still open online! You can stream programs like Storytime from our YouTube channel, visit our online movie/tv series platform Kanopy, and cloudLibrary is always open to

download your next great book to read or listen to! You can find all our online resources on our website on the Digital Library page.

**Senior Social Coffee and Crafting**  
Drop by the library for a fun time 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 January 9, 11am-12noon at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

## Elmvale Bike Night Riders Give Back with \$1,004 Donation to Legion



*By Graham Simmonds, Dec 15, 2025*  
This is a donation from the Elmvalle Bike Night of \$1004.00 to Elmvalle Legion.  
Starting left to right is Louise Robertson, Graham Simmonds, President Bbr 262 and Bruce Robertson. Missing from photo is Jeff Tress. Elmvalle Legion is grateful for this donation and will put it to good use towards our vet programs.

**Annie's Journal**  
*by Annie Warner Donnelly*



Dec 15, 2025  
Hello Everyone. December includes a celebration that not everyone acknowledges but is difficult to ignore. Children, especially, need answers to the questions it generates in our multicultural society.  
School children hear others talking about seeing Santa Claus at the mall and asking him for toys they hope to receive under their Christmas tree. Who is Santa Claus? What is a Christmas tree? Where do these trees come from?  
Some children talk about Mary and Joseph and the birth of the baby Jesus. Others call Him Emmanuel meaning "God with us". Who is God? Why does Jesus have two names? Is Jesus important?  
The Bible tells us in 1 John chapter 4, verses 7-17:  
"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God – for God is love.  
God showed how much He loved us by

sending His only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each another.  
No one has seen God, but if we love each other, God lives in us, and His love has been brought to full expression through us. And God has given us His spirit as proof that we live in Him and He in us ... So we will not be afraid on the day of judgement, but we can face Him with confidence because we are like Christ here in this world."  
December's celebration of the baby Jesus being born in Bethlehem reminds us of God's real love for us.  
May we answer every child's questions about the real love of God in his or her life. May we demonstrate the difference God's love - brought to full expression through us - makes as we lovingly care for others in our families, in our communities and in our world. Amen.

**Merry Christmas from our Family to Yours**





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Jo Knows Nutrition

by Joanne Nijhuis



BAKED MUSHROOM RISOTTO

MINIMAL STIRRING REQUIRED

Creamy risotto is an indulgent comfort food that is traditionally heavy on the butter, cream and constant stirring. This oven-baked version proves that you can achieve the same satisfying texture with far less effort and healthier ingredients. Using broth instead of cream allows for the natural starches in the Arborio rice and the savoury richness of the mushrooms to shine. Baking the risotto makes this recipe far less labour intensive and more approachable for the busy home chef to prepare. Finished with freshly grated parmesan and paired with a mixed green salad, this nourishing winter meal will warm you from the inside out.

Did You Know?

Mushrooms-with their savoury “umami” flavour-are incredibly nutritious and a satisfying alternative to meat. They’re loaded with vitamins and minerals including B vitamins, potassium, magnesium and zinc. Considered a nutritional powerhouse, mushrooms are known to support your immune system which is of benefit as we head into the winter flu season.

INGREDIENTS (4 Servings)

- 3 cups (750 ml) cremini or white mushrooms, sliced
- 1 medium white onion, finely diced
- 2-3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) fresh or ½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) dried thyme
- 2 Tablespoons (30 ml) olive oil
- ½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) black pepper
- Salt to taste

- 1 cup (250 ml) Arborio rice
- 4 cups (1 litre) vegetable or mushroom broth
- ¼ cup (63 ml) freshly grated parmesan cheese
- Garnish with additional freshly grated parmesan cheese and a sprig of thyme, optional.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F (190 C).
2. In a un-covered casserole dish or Dutch oven, add the mushrooms, onion, garlic, thyme, olive oil, salt and pepper. Roast for 25-30 minutes, stirring halfway through.
3. Once cooked, add the Arborio rice and broth to the other ingredients and stir to combine.
4. Cover and bake for 45-60 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes until the rice is cooked through and creamy.
5. Mix in the parmesan and add more salt and pepper to taste.
6. Plate and garnish with additional freshly grated parmesan cheese, optional.

ENJOY!

PER 1½ cups (375 ml) SERVING: |Calories: 330 kcal | Carbohydrates: 44 g | Protein: 9 g | Fat: 11 g |Fibre: 3 g | Sodium: 420 mg |

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





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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 Community Church  
10 am - 12 noon  
Call Lynn for info, 705.322.3309

**Midland Jam**  
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  
Line Dancing Advanced, 9:15am-  
10:30  
Fun Fit Circuit, 9:15-10:15am  
Coffee Break, 10:00-12pm  
Chair Pilates, 10:30am-11:30am  
Intro to Line Dancing- Baby Steps,  
10:30am-11am  
Walking Club, 11am-12pm  
Line Dancing Basic, 11am-12pm  
Hand and Foot Card Game, 1pm-  
3pm  
Writers Workshop, 1pm-3pm

**TUESDAY**  
Table Shuffleboard  
**Tuesdays at 1 pm** Cost \$2  
Elmvale Legion  
7 John Street Elmvale

**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

13 Queen St W, Elmvale  
**Penetanguishene Legion**  
**Lunch and/or Regular Euchre**  
luncheons 11:30am arrivial. It fills  
up. Lunch served 12 pm.  
**Euchre**  
**Tuesdays, 1 pm - 4 pm**  
\$4, Drop-in, Legion #68, 2 Poyntz  
Street, Penetanguishene

**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**  
Pickleball, 9am-12pm (starting  
October 14)  
Cardio Drums Alive, 9am-10am  
Quilting, 9am-12pm  
Photography Club, 10am-12pm first  
Tuesday of every month  
Darts Club, 10am-12pm  
Zumba Toning, 10:30-11:30  
Badminton, 1pm-3pm  
Circle of Friends, 1:30pm-2:30pm

**Music Bingo**  
5:30-6:30 pm  
Steelers Restaurant, 23 Queen Street  
West, Elmvale

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

**Bay Shore Seniors Club**  
**Pickleball** 12:45 pm  
Access Art - 1:00 - 4:00 pm

**Georgian Shores Seniors Club**  
Billiards/Pool, 9:00 – 11 am  
Chair/Floor Yoga, 9:30 – 10:30 am  
Zumba Gold, 11:30 – 12:30 pm  
Games Afternoon, 12:30 - 3:30 pm  
2nd Camera Club, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

**Askennonia Seniors Centre**  
Table Tennis, 9am-11am  
Pickleball, 9am-11:30am (starting  
October 15)  
Step Class, 9 am-10am  
Line Dancing Advanced, 9:15am-  
10:30am  
Chair Yoga, 9:15am-10:15am  
Men's Shed, 10am-12pm  
Cribbage, 10am-12pm  
Intro to Line Dancing- Baby Steps,  
10:30am-11am  
Line Dancing Basic, 11am-12pm  
Walking Club, 11am-12pm  
Creative Crafting, 1pm-3pm  
Bid Euchre, 1pm-3pm  
Woodcarving, 1pm-3pm

**Midland Ganaraska Hiking Trail**  
**Club**  
Meets Wednesdays to hike,  
snowshoe, go camping or enjoy  
nature outings led by qualified hike  
leaders. Hikes meet at Food Basics  
Midland at 1 p.m For information  
contact Kris 705-435-8593.

**Ganaraka Hiking Club-Wasaga**  
**Beach**  
Weekly hikes Wednesday at 9:30  
am from various locations, year

**EVENTS**  
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.

**Georgian Shores Aquarium Club**  
**2nd Wed Sept-June**  
North Simcoe Sports and Recreation  
Centre in Multipurpose Room  
Monthly meetings  
Guest speakers, DIY aquarium  
related projects

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

Euchre - 7 pm  
Elmvale Legion

**Askennonia Seniors Centre**  
Zumba, 9am-10am  
Pickleball, 9am-11:30am  
Corn Hole, 10am-11am  
Tai Chi, 10:15am-11am  
Chair Pilates, 10:30am-11:30am  
Writers Circle, 1pm-3pm  
Uke and Guitar Jam, 1pm-3pm  
Card Games, 1pm-3pm

**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.  
Dec. 4 Pot Luck at Wasaga Beach  
Community Presbyterian Church,  
208 Mosley St. Jan meeting on Jan. 8  
Wasaga Beach Public Library  
meeting room  
All persons living with Parkinson's  
Disease and their care partners are  
welcome. For more info. contact

December 18, 2025 Edition 719  
Dwight (705) 795-6952 or Phil at  
Bender.philip@gmail.com

**FRIDAY**  
**Palace Tavern Elmvale BINGO**  
**Karaoke 8:30 pm** Every Friday  
13 Queen St W, Elmvale

**Bay Shore Seniors' Club**  
Woodcarving 10:00 - 3:00 pm

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

**Askennonia Seniors Centre**  
Knit'n Needles, 9am-12pm  
Cardio Drums Alive, 9am-10am  
Pickleball, 9am-11:30am  
Badminton, 9:30am-11:30am  
Tabata, 9am-10am  
Chair Zumba, 11:10am-12pm  
Card Making, 1pm-3pm  
Musicians Jam Circle, 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), 7 John Street Elmvale

**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](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  
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at 416-606-5081 or lorvanvlymen@  
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  
northsimcoebridge@gmail.com.

**MIDLAND CULTURE CENTRE**  
333 King St., Midland  
705-433-2321  
**Canadian Improv Showcase**  
**BORN RUFFIANS**  
**Dec 31, 2025 from 9pm -12:00am**

FREE EVENTS PAGE

Please submit your event on  
this link:

[https://www.  
springwaternews.ca/  
submit-event/](https://www.springwaternews.ca/submit-event/)



Special Events  
One Time

Carol Sing

Dec. 17, 2025 7-8:30pm

Elmvale Presbyterian Church, 22 Queen St. E  
Join in singing your favourite carols and enjoy fellowship, cider and cookies

North Simcoe Emergency Services Food/Toy Drive

Upcoming Date and Locations

(MIDLAND, PENETANGUISHENE, TAY, ON.) - Members of the Southern Georgian Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police will be joined by members of the Penetanguishene, Midland, Tay Township and Tiny Township Fire Services collecting food and toy donations for those in need on the following dates and locations.

This event has been occurring during the festive season for 15 years and is a great community support for local food banks including Georgian Bay Food Network, Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul.

Collection Dates and Times

- Dec 20 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Collection Locations

- No Frills (Jones Road location) - Midland
- Canadian Tire - Midland (December 6 and 20 only)
- The Great Canadian Superstore - Midland
- Foodland - Midland, Penetanguishene and Victoria Harbour

Jurassic Jump Inflatable Funzone + Dinosaur Interaction

Dec. 27, 2025 10:00 to Dec. 30, 2025 17:00

4346 County Rd 90. Springwater

Inflatable Kidzone, Dinosaur Interaction and More!

Come celebrate Christmas!  
Church Services

MIDLAND

St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church

589 Hugel Ave, Midland

Christmas Eve Mass: 5:00 pm (Family), 8:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass: 11:00 am

Dec. 27 Feast of the Holy Family: 5:00pm

Dec. 28 9:00am, 11:00am

Dec. 31 Vigil Mass - 5:00pm

Jan. 1: 11:00am ONLY

St. Paul's United Church

308 King St, Midland

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 7:00 pm

Midland Alliance Church

829 Yonge St, Midland

Christmas Eve Family Service:

4:00 pm, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm

Knox Presbyterian Church

2942 Crossland Rd, Elmvale

E-mail: knoxfospres@gmail.com

PENETANGUISHENE AND TINY

All Saints Anglican Church

1 Peel Street, Penetanguishene

Call for info. 705-549-222

Paroisse St. Ann Parish

28 Robert Street West, Penetanguishene

Horaire des Messes de Noël et du Jour de L'an

Christmas Eve Mass: 5:00 pm

English, 19h00 Français

9:00 pm English ((Our Lady of Rosary Mission)

Christmas Day: 19h00 Français, 11:00 am English

Paroisse St. Patrick Parish

10 County Road 6 South, Tiny

Horaire des Messes de Noël et du Jour de L'an

Christmas Eve Mass: 17h00 Français,

5:00 pm English

Christmas Day: 9:00 am English, 11h00 Français

Paroisse Ste. Croix

Horaire des Messes de Noël et du Jour de L'an

La veille de Nol: 19h00 Français,

9:00 pm English

Le jour de Noël: 10h30 Français

ELMVALE

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

Christmas Mass: 11:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes,

106 Yonge St, Elmvale

Elmvale Presbyterian Church

22 Queen Street, E, Elmvale

Call for info (705) 322-141

St. John's United Church

27 Yonge Street South, Elmvale,

Call for info 705-322-1472

PHELPSTON

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Christmas Mass: 9:00 am Saint Patrick, 1600 Flos

Rd 4 West, Phepston

MIDHURST

Midhurst United Church, 91 Doran Road

Call for info 705-722-6331

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Barrie will ring in the New Year with Kim Mitchell



By City of Barrie, Dec 5, 2025

(Barrie, ON)- Barrie will ring in 2026 with multi-platinum, JUNO award winning, Canadian rock icon Kim Mitchell! Mitchell will headline Barrie's New Year's Eve Celebration along with an evening packed with free, family fun from 5 to 9 p.m. at this year's new location, Meridian Place, in the heart of downtown Barrie.

"Downtown Barrie is the place to be for our community to come together and celebrate the New Year," said Mayor Alex Nuttall. "Welcome 2026 with Kim Mitchell, along with an exciting line-up of entertainment, a variety of family activities and of course, the grand finale, a spectacular fireworks display! With the new location, join us to be part of this tradition in our amazing city and make great memories."

Festivities include:

- Live music on the Meridian Place stage
- Busker Performances
- Inflatables
- Interactive Games
- Face Painting
- Button Making
- Bonfire warming zone
- Food Trucks (\$)
- Fireworks Finale at 9 p.m. (from Heritage Park)

Kim Mitchell has won three JUNO Awards and achieved gold and multi-platinum status over his career, from his time as lead of Canadian rock band Max Webster in the 70s to a long and successful solo career. Mitchell was inducted into the Canadian Songwriters' Hall of Fame in 2021.

Since 1998, Barrie's New Year's Eve festivities have drawn thousands from near and far to welcome the new year. The much-anticipated free event has been recognized as a Top 100 Festival and Event in Ontario!

Barrie Transit bus service will be free on New Year's Eve starting at 5 p.m. with hourly service extended to 3 a.m. Extended schedules will be available at myridebarrie.ca, closer to December 31.

Barrie's NYE Celebration is supported by Alectra. For more information and announcements to come, visit barrie.ca/nye.



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Live Band

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jewelry, broken or working pocket and wrist  
watches, jewelry boxes.

OLD ADVERTISING – Including wood and  
metal signs, tin cans and posters for Pepsi,  
Coca Cola, tobacco and automotive gas  
and oil.

FANCY TEACUPS – Royal Albert china,  
Royal Doulton figurines, teapots, Blue  
Mountain and other decorative pottery,  
colored art glass/signed crystal.

SILVER – Individual coins (silver dollars) or  
coin collections, jewelry, watches, cutlery,  
tea sets, candle sticks, trophies and trays.

MILITARY – Medals, swords, bayonets,  
knives, helmets, uniforms, photographs,  
old military and other antique guns.

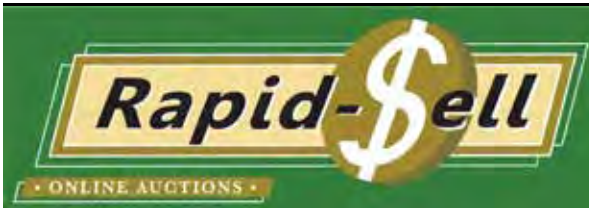
COMIC BOOKS – Toys, fountain pens,  
musical instruments, sporting items, duck  
decoys, record albums, old bottles/jars and  
lighters.

FURNITURE – Scandinavian style furniture  
made of teak and rosewood.

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AUCTION NOTICES



Upcoming Auctions

- Spiers Moving Auction - St. George (2026)
- Spring Boots Inventory Auction - Guelph (2026)
- Spiers Coin Collection - Guelph (2026)
- Toys + Collectibles - Guelph (2026)
- January Multi Consignor Auction - Guelph (2026)
- Estate of Albert Vallis - Elora (2026)

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9A Queen Street East Elmvale

FREE and NEW TO YOU

Elmvale Community Church  
27 Yonge St S, Elmvale

Our hours are:

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

New Year Eve Party

Dec 31, 2025 from 8pm to 1pm

Elmvale Legion 7 John St,  
Elmvale

Upstairs Hall. Tickets \$25 available at bar.  
Light snacks served.

Booze bucket Draw

If you would like to participate, please  
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Your name will be in the draw and winner  
takes home the bucket.

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# Hard Work Takes Brooke Rind-Lediard to the World Stage with Team



By Pam Rind-Lediard Dec 15, 2025  
(MIDLAND) Recently on November 28th & 29th 2025, a local student athlete, Brooke Rind-Lediard competed with Team Canada for Dance in De Panne, Belgium at the World Championships with the International Dance Organization (IDO) along 30 other nations! She competed in the Ballet Junior Group with her 5 teammates and made it into Finals. The final outcome was 5th at the World Championships of out 11 entries.

Since the age of 3, Brooke Rind-Lediard, has been dancing with the Dancers Studio in Midland owned by Ms. Cathy and Ms. Jordyn. The teaching staff at the Dancers Studio are like family for Brooke. Brooke auditions yearly to join the Images Dance Company (IDC) at the same Studio and has been competing since the age of 7.

Auditions for Team Canada were in February and March of 2025. Brooke found out at she made the Team Canada - East in the spring. In preparation for Team Canada, Brooke trained in the GTA for many weeks over the summer and from September and on, every weekend. The Team Canada Dance organization hire only the best choreographers

they can. Her team is led by choreographer Irina Egorova and coach Breanna Willis. Practices were very long and intense to make these dances performs their best.

While training for Team Canada, Brooke was also dancing on her regular team IDC and the high school team at GBDSS. Juggling 3 teams and 3 jobs were a lot to handle this past fall! Fortunately, Brooke has a large family and friends that have supported her on this journey. Leading up to the event, her hometown studio has offered her a place to practice and she did, even at 10:00pm some nights right before we left to Belgium!

For Brooke, competing at the IDO World Championships, was her dance career highlight, being able to perform with the best of the best representing Team Canda East. She has made close friendships and had an amazing experience being on that huge professional stage in De Panne, Belgium. She will never forget this opportunity she has and is grateful for her community that supported her.

Dedication, determination and especially hard work does pay off.

# Snow Falling on Cedars

By Nora Dixon Orr Lake Rate Payers, Dec 12, 2025

That was the title of a very popular book and screen play but it's also very fitting for life at Orr Lake these days. For sure, there will be a white Christmas this year.

The Orr Lake Ratepayers Association did not go into hibernation when it got cold! We are busy building a team to address the concerns about the Orr Lake environment that have been raised by local taxpayers.

In October, the OLRA Board attended a Springwater Council meeting, to introduce ourselves and to raise awareness of matters related to the well being of Orr Lake. This was an important first step towards working collaboratively and productively with Council.

In November, Springwater Councillor, Danielle Alexander attended the OLRA Board meeting and we had a spirited conversation about a variety of issues facing the lake. These included unsafe driving practices on area roads, followup from the 2024 septic inspections, development around the lake, measures to monitor runoff, and licensing of short term rentals. Our new Board of dedicated volunteers will continue to build stronger relationships with the right people at the various agencies that manage the lake. With this in mind, we are working with Councillor Alexander on a list of contacts or departments related to specific concerns, and ultimately to develop a working group with the aim of monitoring and improving the lake environment.

Over the winter, we will continue to focus on these objectives, and to prepare for the spring membership drive. Stay tuned for that! You can check our Facebook page: Orr Lake Ratepayers Association and our chat group: Orr Lake Currents for updates.

We wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons, and the very best for 2026. Enjoy winter activities in a safe, fun way. "Lake First, Community Always"

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Annexation means Barrie Country Club  
to get a new Barrie address

By: Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: BarrieToday.com, Dec 13, 2025

Barrie's newest golf course is one of the area's oldest.

Originally founded more than 100 years ago on a tract of land that is now Sunnidale Park, the Barrie Country Club moved to its current location in the southern-most part of Springwater Township in the late 1960s.

On Thursday, Bill 76 - Barrie-Oro-Medonte-Springwater Boundary Adjustment Act, 2025 received Royal Assent. The annexation, which goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2026, will move the club from Springwater Township into the City of Barrie.

While the new address won't have any impact on how the members play the course, it will impact how much they pay to play the course.

"Our taxes at the club will be going up by about 50 per cent and that will be phased in over five years," Michael Keogh, president of the Barrie Country Club told BarrieToday during a recent interview. "While it sounds like an enormous amount of money, it will cost each member about \$50 a year."

According to Keogh, the initiation fee for an individual is \$15,000. Annual dues are about \$5,000 and there is a minimum food and beverage charge of about \$1100 per year.

Keogh noted the initiation fee for a couple is \$22,500.

The increase probably won't cause any of the 600

or so members to abandon the club.

"This has been going on for over two years and we've had a few members express concerns with the city annexing the property," Keogh said. "But it's a case of 'what can we do about it?'"

Keogh said the biggest concern he's heard is what's going to happen to the property that sits in front of the club - between the parking lot and St. Vincent Street.

It's owned by Sean Mason, principal of Sean Homes.

According to the sean.ca website, Mason has three developments currently for sale in Barrie - two on Rainwater Lane and another on Essa Road.

BarrieToday reached out to Mason for more information on what type of development would be built on the St. Vincent Street property and what the projected timeline would be.

He didn't respond with any details.

Keogh said the country club leadership is more than willing to work alongside Mason to create something that benefits both parties.

"The challenge for us is we're going to probably have construction out there for two or three years," Keogh said. "What that looks like we're not sure."

"Our concern is how do we put ourselves in a position to have the least amount of impact on our members," he added.

Keogh described the club's membership as "very blue collar."

He said it's made up of regular folks - plumbers, firemen, police officers and even a journalist - who love to play golf on a great track and enjoy time with pals.

"The atmosphere here is pretty laid back," Keogh said. "It feels like you're going out to have a beer and a round of golf with your buddies, which is what it should be."

"I've been here 15 years now and I love it."



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Hey Dads!

Did you ever have one of those days? Maybe your car wouldn't start or you slid into a ditch or you lost your phone. Some days are like that. Today was one of those days. One of those days when all three of those things happened to me... and more! But everything turned out just fine at the end of the day. Here's how it went down.

Two weeks ago we got a little car, a used Honda Civic. For the last three years our family of 12 has had one vehicle – a giant full-size van. With four teenagers in the house (three of them now driving) it was time for another vehicle. The Civic has been great but the alternator just died on it so it was at the mechanic and we were going to pick it up today. So my plan was to drive the big van into town with my oldest daughter, Annabelle, and pick up the good-as-new car. We also had a decent amount of snow overnight which will become relevant at the ditch part of the story.

I went out early to warm up the van, brush the snow off, and scrape the windshield. Don't be fooled! I don't always do such preparatory things. Sometimes I just crouch down in the driver's seat and look through the bottom inch of the windshield where the defrost fan is really making an impact. But the van would not start. I could just boost it with the newish car. Oh ya. Picking up the car was on today's to-do list. But I own a small tractor which has a battery and I needed it to plow the driveway anyways. Boom! Van started via tractor boost.

We drove into town and I dropped Annabelle off at work. The plan was to pick her up at lunch and go get the car. That plan was in place but she wanted to go for a little drive first so she could eat her lunch before getting the car. We drove just outside of town to the cemetery (It's a very nice place to eat your lunch. People are dying to go there.) Unsure of how plowed the cemetery was I commented to Annabelle, "We should probably turn around. I don't want to get stuck in there." (Not yet, anyways.) Being the cautious and not-aggressive driver that I am, I slowly backed up to turn around in a dirt driveway close by. But even closer than the driveway, under a foot of snow that looked like the driveway, was a lovely ditch which I promptly backed down into. When I realized what was happening I really floored it to get some momentum and fly out of the ditch. Only I didn't. My tires spun really fast in the deep snow and we went exactly nowhere. Actually, we did sink down into the snow a bit more. That's almost like progress.

I called my good friends at the Auto Club for a tow. I've got to know them pretty good over the years. They must have been really busy with bad drivers in ditches because I was put on hold. Annabelle and I began to walk back into town while I listened to the inspiring hold music. Just then, a jolly old elf in a 4-wheel drive truck pulled up! "You need a pull? I saw you get stuck over there." A Christmas miracle! Before you could say, "There's a lot of bad drivers out there," he had pulled us out of the ditch. We thanked the Christmas angel and hit the road.

Driving Annabelle back to work, I asked her if she had my phone. She did not. You'll have to come back next time to find out where my phone went. Annabelle and I made a good memory and she even took a picture of us stuck in the ditch. Thanks, daughter. Take some time to be with your little children or your grown-up children or your grandchildren this Christmas season. It's almost here and time flies! Make every moment count! Even the ditchy ones!

Jason Weening mostly avoids ditches with his 10 kids and one wife. There might be time to get dad or grandpa his book for Christmas on Amazon: "Yes, Dear...I'm Watching Them"



**FURLONG, Shirley**  
Passed away peacefully Wednesday, December 3, in her 94th yr.  
Loving wife to the late Stanley Furlong. Wonderful Mommy to Linda (Jim Abrey) & the late Janice Furlong.  
Much loved Grandmother of Shawn (Kathleen), Connie (Dennis), Doug (Rebecca), Lisa (Graham), Brian, Randy, Candace (Matt) & Brittany (Ted)  
Very proud Great Grandma (Big Grandma) to Dennise, Danielle, Brooke, Briar, Brandi, Callie, Carter, Evelyn, Cynthia, Dalton, Linkon, Sofia, Charlee, Jaxon & Great Great Grandma to Scottie, Miller & Jameson.  
Pre-deceased by her brothers Allan & John.  
Shirley loved to travel & saw much of the world with her friends. She was very honoured to be inducted into the Springwater Sports Hall of Fame. In her younger years she enjoyed curling, cross country skiing, baseball & golf. Later she was very involved with the Bayshore Seniors, the Food Bank & always with her church.  
Visitation Sunday Dec.7th 4-7 & Funeral Monday Dec.8th at 1 pm at Lynn-Stone Funeral Home.  
Donations would be appreciated to the Food Bank  
*Expressions of sympathy may be sent to [www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com](http://www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com)*

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*Love, Cindy, Bonnie, Ann Marie, Joey and families*

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## Changes in province-led recycling transition goes into effect January 1, 2026

*By County of Simcoe*  
Midhurst/December 10, 2025 – Residents and businesses within Simcoe County are reminded of upcoming changes to recycling services beginning January 1, 2026, as part of the province-wide transition to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). These changes are being implemented under a provincial mandate, requiring municipalities to adjust their programs. As directed by the Province, this includes changes to curbside collection for businesses and institutions as outlined below. Additionally, a new disposal fee system for recycling dropped off at County waste facilities will be implemented.

New recycling drop-off fees  
Effective January 1, 2026, recycling drop-off at County transfer stations will include a disposal fee. This change is necessary because the County will no longer receive provincial funding to offset recycling costs. As a result, the County must now cover the costs of hauling and processing these materials to maintain service.

- Minimum charge: \$10
- Rate: \$200 per tonne
- Fee applies to all residents who currently receive curbside recycling collection services and all industrial, commercial, and institutional properties.
- Learn more details by clicking here.

Reminder for businesses and institutions  
Starting January 1, 2026, businesses and institutions will no longer receive curbside recycling collection, as mandated by the Province

under Ontario’s transition to EPR. Businesses wishing to remove their carts can contact the County directly. While garbage and organics collection provided by the County will continue as usual for this sector, recycling must still be separated from garbage and disposed of properly. IC&I properties can drop off recycling at County waste facilities, subject to the fees described above, or arrange for private collection.

Simcoe County, along with many other municipalities, strongly advocated for the continued curbside recycling collection of small Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional properties. Despite this advocacy, the Province confirmed through formal notification in October 2025 from the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks that Circular Materials would not be able to accommodate this direction



**Robert Robitaille Memorial Volunteer Award**

**Corrie Hamelin Memorial Community Volunteer Award**

**Senior of the Year Award**

**Youth of the Year Award**



# Citizen of the Year Awards

Applications are now open until January 5, 2026.

To learn more about the awards, and to submit a nomination, please visit: [tiny.ca/volunteer](https://tiny.ca/volunteer)

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