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A March Break Thaw



Daylight Saving Time began across our communities this week, bringing an extra hour of sunlight to our days. The sun has made quite an appearance, thawing the massive walls of snow into puddles just waiting for a pair of rain boots to send them flying. Robins begin our mornings with their song as they wait for a worm to emerge from the newly softened ground for breakfast. The mix of rain and sunshine in the coming weeks brings growth and new life to our communities. This time of year also offers us an opportunity to pause and take a break—specifically, a March one.

March Break begins next week for school children, with spring break soon following for many young adults. It's a chance to put away the schoolbooks, rest, reset, and reconnect with the things that bring joy to our lives.

For some, the week offers an opportunity to

travel and explore new places and experiences afar. For others, it's a chance to enjoy the quiet comfort and presence of life at home.

Closer to home, our communities provide many opportunities to reconnect and enjoy the break locally. The Midland, Penetanguishene, and Springwater libraries will be hosting several events and activities over March Break for families to enjoy—providing affordable, and often free, opportunities to spend time together.

Families can also visit the Simcoe County Museum to explore Youseum, an exciting temporary exhibit that puts visitors in the curator's seat. This hands-on experience allows people of all ages to discover what it's like to design and build their own museum exhibit.

Visitors can create, experiment, and innovate through interactive challenges—building the

longest marble run imaginable, launching paper airplanes to new heights, and testing whether their egg design can survive the ultimate splat-proof challenge. The museum's B.I.G. Zone also features a collection of oversized interactive games set throughout the Simcoe Gallery for some unforgettable fun.

Many local businesses are also offering March Break camps and activities, giving children the opportunity to interact with friends and peers within their own communities.

Whether you're travelling somewhere new or enjoying the comforts of home, March Break reminds us to slow down and embrace the changing seasons. Before long, the busy days of summer—filled with growth, activity, and new memories—will be upon us.

For now, enjoy the thaw.



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International Women's Day

By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News

Each year on International Women's Day, communities around the world pause to recognize the contributions, strength and achievements of women. From mothers and grandmothers to teachers, volunteers, business owners and community leaders, women help shape the places we call home. The day is both a celebration and a reminder that progress toward equality continues. It is an opportunity to thank the women who guide, support and inspire us while continuing to work toward a future where every woman and girl has the opportunity to succeed. Across Canada, women continue to shape our communities in meaningful ways. Today, women make up nearly half of the country's workforce and represent the majority of post-secondary graduates. Yet the path toward equality is still unfolding. On average, women in Canada earn about 88 cents for every dollar earned by men and remain underrepresented in many leadership and political roles. These numbers remind us that while progress has been made over generations, the work of building equal opportunities for women and girls is ongoing. Days like International Women's Day give us a moment not only to celebrate achievements, but also to reflect on the steps still ahead.

Locally, the Southern Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce and the North Simcoe Business Centre hosted their 3rd Annual International

Women's Day event on Friday, March 6, 2026, at the Bourgeois Community Centre.

With more than 200 attendees, the event featured six local speakers who shared their personal journeys, accomplishments and experiences in life and business. Speakers included Ashely Downs of Saturday Afternoons, Shannon McGregor of Shannon's Kitchen & Irish Pub, Melissa Maurice of Washing Well, Suzanne Marchand of CSC Chigamik CHC, Yvonne Moir of Wayfarer Wellness, and Christy Bell of Gnamia Craft Ceremony Co.

Lunch was provided by MegaMindful Living, and several local dignitaries were also in attendance to show their support for the organizations and the local business community.

The event was presented by Collaborative Haus Marketing and supported by additional sponsors including Kelly Moss - Mortgage Advisors, BDC, Sunday Restoration, Olive Oil Co., ION Print & Promo, and Phil's Catering.

Organizers expressed their appreciation for the continued support of the local business community. With attendance growing each year, they look forward to future events celebrating the accomplishments and leadership of local businesswomen.

The North Simcoe Springwater News was honoured to attend this year's event. It was both motivating and inspiring to see the number of local women thriving in business, politics and



MPP Jill Dunlop and Editor of the North Simcoe Springwater News Kari Belcourt, Southern Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce and the North Simcoe Business Centre 3rd Annual International Women's Day event Friday, March 6, 2026, Bourgeois Community Centre.

other high-pressure careers. Equally powerful was the openness and support shown as speakers shared their personal and professional journeys, offering encouragement and insight to others in the room. Events like this highlight the strength of our local business community and the importance of supporting and celebrating the women who help it grow.



Lea Robillard, Suzanne Marchand, Anna Hartman, Jenna Fitchett, Shannon McGregor, Christy Bell, Janet Metcalfe, Melissa Maurice, Ashley Downs, Yvonne Moir, Lois Irvine

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MONTANA'S BRIER A TRUE CANADIAN TRADITION

By Brian Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News

The 2026 Montana Brier was held at the Mary Browns centre in St John's Newfoundland and Labrador from February 27-March 8, 2026. A total of 18 teams participated in the event. The teams were put into two groups of 9 teams playing 8 round robin games. The top 3 teams from each group advanced to the page playoffs. This year's Brier was well attended as hometown favorite Brad Gushue was playing in his final Brier. Team Gushue from Newfoundland came up short to the heartbreak of the local fans losing to Team Canada Brad Jacob in the playoff. When the Brier was done, the winning team Matt Dunstone out of the Granite CC, Winnipeg Manitoba defeating team Alberta Kevin Koe in the final. Team Dunstone will represent Canada at this year's world championships in Ogden City, Utah.

The Brier determines the Canadian curling men's champion. It has a long history first played in Toronto in 1927. The first championship was sponsored by the Macdonald Tobacco and won by Nova Scotia Murray Macneill. The first Brier had 8 teams, playing round robin format with games

lasting 14 ends. The event was named after the Brier brand of tobacco pipes sold by the sponsor Macdonald Tobacco. The winning team received the Brier Tankard which is the same trophy awarded today.

The Brier has been held Annually since 1927, except for 1943-1945 for WW11. Over time the event expanded, more teams were added from provincial and territories. In 1980 a playoff format was introduced after the round robin. Team Canada was added as well as top-rated teams that make up the 18-team field in today's Brier. It is one of the oldest national championships in Canada with many champions going on to win World Championships.

Many famous Brier champions come from small towns and local curling clubs, such as Team Howard representing the Penetanguishene curling club. You had to win your local club playdowns, then regional to advance to the provincial tankard. By winning your provincial tankard and a purple heart you received the honour to represent your province at the Brier. It has been dominated by western teams from the prairies over its history.

The event is known for having fans from across

the country attending each year. The Brier patch is the main party spot; supplying entertainment and refreshments to the fans attending. Attending a Brier allows you not only see great curling, but to socialize with other fans from across the country. Next years Brier will be held in Saskatoon Saskatchewan.



Paul Marchildon of Tiny with Brad Jacobs of Team Canada



Elmvalle takes on the Brier: Local Elmvalle Residents and Owner of the North Simcoe Springwater News Brian Belcourt with TSN announcers Russ Howard and Vic Reuter at the 2026 Brier

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Citizens Win Big OLT Decision Against Dust and Aggregates

Springwater, ON — The Reform Gravel Mining Coalition is welcoming the release of a long-awaited decision by the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) - which marks a significant victory for residents affected by years of chronic dust pollution from aggregate operations. The OLT, the province's adjudicative body responsible for resolving land-use planning disputes, including matters related to aggregate extraction and environmental impacts on surrounding communities - ruled in favour of residents, in its decision, Galibier Materials Inc. v. Township of Springwater, ordering Galibier Materials Inc. ("Galibier") to implement comprehensive dust monitoring and control measures as a condition of future extraction. For years, residents living near the Lewis Pit reported persistent dust settling on their properties, patios and inside their homes, raising serious concerns about air quality, health and quality of life. Despite repeated complaints and inspections, enforcement actions were never taken. "This is a huge win for us, I didn't think that after putting up with the dust and MNR indifference all these years, we'd ever get justice for our community", said Esther Allen, President of the Springwater Green Community Coalition ("SGCC"), a party to the OLT appeal. "We're hopeful this Dust Management Plan finally provides residents with the kind of bullet-proof solution needed to protect our community from the impacts we've been living with for far too long."

A central outcome of the decision is the Tribunal's order requiring Galibier to conduct

dust monitoring in accordance with provincial air quality guidelines, including the measurement of airborne concentrations of PM10 and silica, both recognized carcinogens. The monitoring results must be reported quarterly and shared with residents on Boothby Crescent as well as the Township of Springwater.

The Tribunal determined that this monitoring is "essential" to permitting any future extraction and that regular reporting will provide residents and municipal officials with the information needed to ensure compliance with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) air quality standards. Until now, many pits and quarries in Ontario have operated without continuous, transparent air quality monitoring tied to enforceable standards.

"This is a huge breakthrough for residents, an important precedent at the OLT, and represents the most comprehensive air quality silica sampling program at any Ontario pit or quarry", said David Donnelly, legal counsel to SGCC.

The appeal arose from Galibier's proposal to expand the existing Lewis Pit by 21 hectares in the Township of Springwater. The proposed extraction area of 17.5 hectares—equivalent to approximately 43 acres or 21 professional football fields—would have allowed for the extraction of up to 750,000 tonnes of aggregate per year, to a total maximum of 15 million tonnes. The extracted material was estimated to be worth between \$100 million and \$200 million. According to Galibier's own "reasonable market analysis," the company anticipated the pit could remain in operation for

more than 60 years. Aggregate extraction is one of Ontario's most lightly regulated industrial activities, often operating close to homes, farmland, and environmentally sensitive areas. Communities across the province have raised longstanding concerns about dust, air quality, and inconsistent enforcement, frequently finding that formal tribunal proceedings are the only avenue to have their concerns fully heard.

The decision also closely examined the role of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). Evidence before the Tribunal showed that while the MNR inspected the Lewis Pit on five occasions, no enforcement action was taken despite extensive documentation submitted by residents demonstrating ongoing dust impacts. The Tribunal accepted residents' evidence that concerns raised by the Auditor General regarding the Ministry's capacity and oversight remain unresolved.

In its findings, the Tribunal stated: "The MNR reports did not appear to reflect the experience of the neighbours. It is clear to the Tribunal that there is an impact being experienced by the neighbours."

"This victory shows the value of community organizing and represents real progress in the fight to reform aggregate production, one of Ontario's most poorly regulated resources", said Mike Balkwill, of the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition. "Springwater citizens can proudly say they got justice for themselves, their children and hopefully, all other communities fighting dust from ruining their lives."

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EDHS Volleyball Team Serves Up A Big Win



Elmvalle District High School's Junior Girls' Volleyball team capped a dominant season with the GBSSA Championship. They opened by winning the EDHS Early Bird Tournament and went undefeated in regular season play to finish first in their division. The team also captured the NPSS Invitational. Elmvalle stayed perfect through SCAA playoffs, defeating Nouvelle Alliance for the title. At GBSSA, they swept Gravenhurst 3-0 in the semifinal before beating Nouvelle Alliance 3-2 in a thrilling final. The team won 38 sets and lost only 9 all year.

Hot Chocolate with Heart: Jaiden Raises \$3,732 for Dog Rescue in Memory of Logan

A cup of hot chocolate may seem like a small thing, but for one Elmvalle youth it became a powerful way to turn grief into kindness. Twelve-year-old Jaiden recently hosted a hot chocolate stand at Homer Barrett Park and raised an incredible \$3,732 for Tyson N Friends Dog Rescue. The fundraiser was held in memory of Logan Everton, who tragically passed away last year at the age of 22 in a snowmobiling accident.

Logan was the boyfriend of Jaiden's aunt and shared something special with Jaiden—a deep love for dogs. After experiencing the loss, Jaiden wanted to do something positive to honour Logan's memory. What began as a simple idea quickly turned into a meaningful community effort.

With the help of his mom, Brittany, Jaiden served cups of hot chocolate to visitors while raising funds for dogs in need. This marks the second year Jaiden has organized the fundraiser, continuing the mission of giving back in Logan's name.

The community once again stepped forward with generosity and support, helping Jaiden raise thousands of dollars for the rescue organization.

For Jaiden, the event is about more than fundraising—it's about remembering someone special while helping animals who need care and compassion.

The community sends its condolences to Logan's family and gratitude to Jaiden for turning a difficult loss into something that helps others.

Great job, Jaiden—and thank you to Brittany and everyone who supported this heartfelt effort



Tensions Surface at Springwater Council Meeting Amid Legal Concerns

By Kari Belcourt, North Simcoe Springwater News

Viewing a Springwater Township council meeting can sometimes feel unpredictable — you never quite know what will unfold.

Recent meetings have featured heated debates, allegations, accusations and pointed exchanges among councillors and residents. However, the most recent meeting escalated further when a confrontation involving the mayor's husband and residents opposing the mayor required intervention from township staff.

The tension began early in the meeting during question period when township resident Lori Hanna read a letter to council on behalf of fellow resident Roy Monk.

In the letter, Monk described how he had submitted a letter to council several weeks earlier that was not read aloud because Mayor Jennifer Coughlin cited the township's procedural bylaw prohibiting "slanderous" remarks from being presented.

After Hanna finished reading the letter, Coun. Phil Fisher moved to waive the procedural bylaw so three letters from residents could be entered into the official record — Monk's letter and two others written by Roberta Watt and John Spring.

Mayor Coughlin indicated that a fourth letter would also be included if the procedural bylaw was waived.

Council voted 4-3 in favour of waiving the rule, allowing the letters to be entered into the record. Monk's letter was read again, and submissions from Watt and Spring were recorded along with a letter from resident Wendy Lingenfelter.

The letters from Watt and Spring addressed a cease-and-desist letter sent to Mayor Coughlin in December by Jeffrey Shankman of Shankman Law that has since been shared to social media. The letter alleges the mayor made "disparaging, derogatory, defamatory statements" about a developer who is part of the Midhurst Landowner Group.

The issue had already surfaced earlier in the evening during the introductory portion of a closed session held prior to the public meeting.

Before council entered the closed session, Deputy Mayor George Cabral and Coun. Fisher questioned Chief Administrative Officer Stacy Forfar about why the cease-and-desist letter had

not been shared with all members of council.

"The reason we're sitting here today is because of a petition of counsel and because I asked for this specific item to be put on the agenda," Cabral said.

"So what I'm asking is, you had an opportunity to review this letter for a lengthy period of time, yet did not have the courtesy to provide it to the members of council. So I'm just once again asking you why council wasn't provided with that information prior to this meeting so that we could have a fulsome discussion with our legal?"

Forfar responded that the township did not initially view the letter as a concern for the municipality.

"The content of the letter was not considered to be of concern of the township at that time and, as such, the decision was made to stop the process," she said, adding that the township had a lawyer available to discuss the matter during the closed session.

Fisher expressed frustration with the response. "If the CAO sees that we need to actually consult a lawyer on it — and I've read the letter again, because it's out in the community — I would say that definitely council should have been apprised of it," Fisher said.

"I also think that I found it a bit evasive that it was asked for going into this meeting. That is material that we should have had, even confidentially going into this meeting."

About 10 minutes after Hanna read Monk's letter and council voted to waive procedure, Mayor Coughlin's husband, Mark Coughlin, entered the council chambers and sat beside Hanna in the audience.

A brief verbal exchange followed. Hanna, appearing upset, moved to another seat beside her husband, Jack Hanna, a former Springwater councillor. Mark Coughlin then moved into the seat she vacated.

Coun. Fisher, who had been observing the interaction, called for Mark Coughlin to be removed from council chambers.

Mayor Coughlin said she had not witnessed the exchange and attempted to continue with the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Cabral suggested that if the mayor was not prepared to ask someone to leave, council itself could take action.

"I didn't see what happened, but obviously folks

in the audience are quite alarmed, as well as Coun. Fisher," Cabral said.

Mark Coughlin then moved to a seat in the front aisle away from the Hannas. The meeting continued despite the tension in the room.

However, when the meeting adjourned, Jack Hanna and Mark Coughlin confronted one another, reigniting the earlier conflict. Councillors and attendees quickly became involved in the heated exchange.

Township Deputy CAO Renee Ainsworth stepped in and separated the individuals before the confrontation became physical.

Springwater council's next meeting is scheduled for March 18 at 6:30 p.m.

What This Means for Residents

Council relations under scrutiny: The discussion reflects ongoing tensions within council that some members say could affect how effectively council operates.

Legal risks: References to defamation and legal threats highlight the potential legal consequences that can arise from public debate at council meetings.

Focus on governance: Despite disagreements, council continues to move forward with regular township business and decision-making.

Public transparency: Residents can watch council meetings online to follow discussions and understand how local decisions are made.

Why it matters at council meetings Municipal council meetings are public forums where elected officials debate issues, question decisions and sometimes criticize actions or policies. While open debate is an important part of democratic governance, councillors noted that comments directed at individuals could lead to allegations of defamation if they are seen as damaging to someone's reputation.

Concerns raised by councillors During the discussion, members of council highlighted:

- The increasing tension in council debates.
- Warnings or references to potential legal action.

Tensions Surface at Springwater Council Meeting Amid Legal Concerns

• The importance of choosing words carefully during public meetings.

Legal protections and limits Council members speaking during official meetings typically have a degree of legal protection under "qualified privilege," meaning they can speak openly while performing their duties. However, councillors noted that maintaining respectful and factual debate helps avoid unnecessary legal disputes.

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Why Councillors Allow These Opinions to Be Read at Meetings

During Springwater Council meetings, councillors sometimes permit statements or opinions from residents, delegations, or correspondence to be read into the public record. While these comments may include criticism or strong opinions, councillors often allow them to be presented as part of the township's commitment to transparency and public participation.

Public input is part of local government Municipal councils are required to provide opportunities for residents to share their views on issues affecting the community. Delegations, letters and statements allow residents to express concerns, ask questions or offer opinions directly to council.

Creating a public record When correspondence or comments are read during a meeting, they become part of the official meeting record. This ensures council discussions remain transparent and that residents can see what issues are being raised in the community.

Council does not necessarily endorse the opinions Allowing a comment or letter to be read does not mean council agrees with the statements being made. Instead, it reflects council's role in hearing different viewpoints before making decisions.

Balancing openness and responsibility Some councillors have raised concerns that strong accusations or personal claims could create legal risks. As a result, council members sometimes discuss how to balance open public dialogue

with the need to avoid potentially defamatory statements.

How Much Does Springwater Spend on Legal Fees?

Like most municipalities, Springwater Township maintains a budget line for legal services to support council and staff with matters such as by-law enforcement, planning appeals, contract review and governance issues.

Legal costs can vary significantly from year to year depending on the number and complexity of issues facing the township. Routine legal advice is often provided through retained municipal lawyers, while more complex disputes or court proceedings may require additional outside legal counsel.

Typical municipal legal expenses may include:

- Legal advice for council and staff
- Representation at tribunals such as the Ontario Land Tribunal
- By-law enforcement matters
- Contract and policy review
- Litigation or dispute resolution

When legal disputes arise involving council decisions, governance issues or allegations raised during meetings, the township may incur additional legal costs beyond its normal operating needs.

Municipalities often carry liability insurance, which can offset certain legal expenses depending on the type of claim. However, deductibles and uncovered costs may still fall to the municipality.

For residents, legal spending is part of the township's overall operating budget, which is funded largely through property taxes. As a result, extended legal disputes or governance conflicts can potentially increase municipal legal costs.

Because of this, several councillors have stressed the importance of maintaining productive council meetings and focusing on the work of governing the township.

2026 Property Taxes

For the 2026 budget, Springwater approved a tax increase that results in about:

- ~\$242 more per year for a typical home assessed at \$497,000
- That equals roughly \$20.10 more per month on the property tax bill.
- Questions Raised as Taxes Rise
- The discussions around potential legal disputes come at a time when Springwater residents are also seeing increases in their property taxes.

Council recently approved the township's budget, which includes a tax increase for the year. While municipalities regularly face legal and administrative costs as part of governance, some residents have begun asking whether ongoing disputes and legal warnings during council meetings could lead to additional expenses for the township.

Legal matters involving municipalities — whether through litigation, legal advice or formal complaints — are typically funded through municipal operating budgets, which are supported largely by property taxes.

As a result, questions have been raised about whether heightened tensions at council could result in legal costs that ultimately fall to taxpayers.

At the same time, others note that council meetings are designed to allow open debate among elected officials and that raising concerns, even when contentious, is part of the democratic process.

For residents following the discussions, the broader question remains how council can balance open debate with maintaining a productive working environment while managing municipal costs.

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Message from MP Doug Shipley

It's that time of year again. You're probably wondering whether I mean March Break or tax season. Well, I mean both. Each requires you to get things organized, do some planning.

For March Break you might be finding a March Break camp for the kids, creating a schedule for the week if you're staying home to enjoy the snow, or packing a suitcase to head into the sun. For filing incomes taxes you're getting T4s together, charitable donation receipts, and other pieces of tax documentation.

I admit, I don't have advice for March Break; however, for those of us that need assistance filing taxes, there is a Volunteer Income Tax Program offered in conjunction with the CRA through the Elmvale Branch of the Springwater Library. The program is for the following tax brackets: \$35,000 for one person, \$45,000 for two people, and up to \$50,000 for a family of four. Call the Elmvale branch at 705-322-1482 to book in-person or phone appointments. In-person appointments are available on these dates:

- Saturday, March 14, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Thursday, March 26, 10:30am to 1 pm
- Saturday, March 28, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Monday, March 30, 2 pm to 5 pm
- Thursday, April 9, 10:30 am to 1 pm
- Saturday, April 11, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Monday, April 13, 2 pm to 5 pm

- Saturday, April 18, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Thursday, April 23, 10:30 am to 1 pm
- Monday, April 27, 2 pm to 5 pm

For friends and family outside the immediate area there are other free tax clinics available. Simply search – FREE TAX CLINICS – online and you'll find the Government of Canada website (Canada.ca). At the website you can search for clinics in your area.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) can be reached at 1-800-959-8281 for general and personal tax information.

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

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

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Community Update from Ward 1 Councillor Matt Garwood

Matt Garwood, Township of Springwater Hello Springwater residents. I'm pleased to share updates on recent decisions and developments that are shaping our community. My goal with these columns is to inform, not to offer opinions, so you can stay connected with what's happening in Springwater.

Elmvale District High School Fitness Centre: Council approved up to \$32,000 from the Elmvale District High School Donation Fund to purchase new fitness equipment. Staff will report back with options for providing public access to the upgraded facility.

Fire & Emergency Services Station 5 (Elmvale) Renovations:

Council approved funding for interior renovations at Fire Station 5 in Elmvale,

including the construction of a new bunker gear room.

Restructuring Compensation Agreement: Council authorized the Springwater-Barrie Restructuring Compensation Agreement valued at \$22,080,000, along with an additional \$850,000 dedicated exclusively to economic development staffing and initiatives.

Water Billing and Leak Detection Enhancements:

Council directed staff to report on the adoption of automated meter reading to provide real-time water data and improve leak detection and conservation. Staff will also assess the feasibility of monthly or bi-monthly billing, as well as a potential leak forgiveness program, cost estimates, funding sources, and operational impacts.

Digital Speed Signs for Community Groups and Stakeholders:

Council directed staff to develop and implement a community cost-sharing program for the installation of additional digital speed signs. This model would enable organizations, community groups, and stakeholders to proactively contribute to local road safety enhancements.

community's progress.
Councillor Matt Garwood



Thank you for staying engaged in our

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Melissa Gauer | ACCOUNTANT

Melissa brings nearly 20 years of accounting experience in both corporate and personal tax work. With extensive knowledge of QuickBooks and Sage, she will be available to assist our clients with all accounting and bookkeeping needs.

She looks forward to meeting our clients in the coming months.

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MIDLAND FLYERS are moving on to Round Two of the PJHL Schmalz Cup Playoffs



By Heather Burbridge
The Midland Flyers are moving on to Round Two of the PJHL Schmalz Cup Playoffs after a hard-fought opening series against their longtime rivals, the Penetang Kings.

The matchup had all the ingredients of classic playoff hockey. Physical battles along the boards, relentless forechecking, and tight defensive play defined a series where neither team gave an inch. Game after game, both clubs traded momentum swings, forcing every puck battle and every shift to matter.

For Midland, the series win represents more than just a playoff victory. It marks another step in a full organizational rebuild that began earlier this season after they tragically lost their head coach and GM, Dave Gillespie. The Flyers underwent significant changes from top to bottom, including adjustments within the coaching staff, a reshaped roster in the dressing room, and renewed leadership at the executive level. The focus was to build a competitive culture grounded in accountability, work ethic, and team-first hockey. That identity was on full display throughout the series.

Midland's defensive core played a steady, disciplined brand of hockey, limiting high-danger chances and clearing the front of the net when it mattered most. The forwards matched that effort with relentless pressure in the offensive zone, finishing checks, forcing turnovers, and creating opportunities through a strong forecheck and consistent puck support.

Strong goaltending also played a key role in the series. The Flyers relied on both of their netminders throughout the seven-game battle, with each stepping in when called upon to keep Midland in the fight. Kevin Pearson delivered a standout performance in the crease, allowing just eight goals across five appearances while making several key stops at critical moments in the series. His calm presence and ability to shut the door when momentum hung in the balance gave the Flyers confidence night after night.

With Round One behind them, the Flyers now turn their attention to the next challenge as they face the Stayner Siskins in Round Two. Stayner finished first in the Carruthers Division and enters the series as one of the league's strongest teams. The Flyers know they will need their best hockey yet to compete against a disciplined and well-structured opponent.



Midland remains confident in the structure of its game, the depth throughout the lineup, and the resilience this group has built throughout the season. If the Flyers continue to play their

brand of responsible defensive hockey while generating pressure up front, they believe they have the pieces in place to push the pace and compete shift for shift with the division leaders.

Round Two begins this weekend as the Flyers head into another chapter of Schmalz Cup playoff hockey, ready for what promises to be another hard-fought series.

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Elmvale Coyotes U15BB Show Heart, Growth, and Team Spirit in Their Inaugural Season



Written by Heidi Meyer
The Elmvale Coyotes U15BB hockey team, proudly sponsored by Beacocks Auto, may be new, but they are quickly proving that hard work, passion, and teamwork matter just as much as wins and losses.

As a newly formed team, the Coyotes have faced a challenging season, however, what truly stands out is their dedication, steady improvement, and strong friendships. Each week, the players continue to grow — both individually and as a team — showing noticeable development as the season progresses.

One of the most meaningful moments of the year took place on November 14th, when the Coyotes travelled to Markham to participate in a Hockey Fights Cancer game in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. Prior to the game, the players taped their sticks with lavender hockey tape and created posters reading "I fight for..." honoring loved ones or groups affected by cancer. Uniting to dedicate their play to a cause is a powerful reminder that hockey is about more than the game — it's about community, compassion, and support.

On the ice, the Coyotes' coaching staff has focused on recognizing progress through "Highlights of the Game," showcasing strong plays and drills practiced in action:

- November 30 vs. Upper York featured a textbook goal by Ben, made possible by a strong faceoff win from Lincoln and quick puck movement by Jack — a perfect example of teamwork. Troy was also impressive with a confident defensive rush, while Caiden's line demonstrated an effective 1-2-2 forecheck, supported by Cameron and Carson cutting off passing lanes.

- December 7 vs. Orangeville saw Anabel shine with smart defensive awareness, dropping deep to support the defense, pressuring the puck, and turning it into an offensive chance. In that same game, James gained the zone while rushing the puck, he was pressured, pulled away from the pressure, assessed his options and dumped it low, leading to a pass out front (exactly what we practiced).

- January 7 vs. Barrie highlighted true team play, with Harry winning a key battle, Blake and Cole executing clean passes to exit the zone, and a smart

dump-and-chase leading to a scoring opportunity — everyone doing their job to create success. In this same game, Seamus was also doing what it takes in the third diving in front of pucks!

- January 28 vs. Newmarket showcased Nathan working hard in the defensive zone protecting the net and battling in the corners helping wherever needed. Our defensemen responded to Newmarkets' offensive approach. This game Ethan harnessed his never-give-up attitude, battling for position in the corners regardless of the size of his opponent. Maks used his size to help clear the front of the net and found an extra gear when needed to backcheck or keep opponents to the outside.

- In every single game, we have a human highlight reel, Chad in between the pipes. He faces a lot of shots and deals with a lot of traffic in front of the net. Every time our coaches shake hands with the other teams' coaches, they comment on what a great game Chad has.

The Coyotes have gained valuable experience competing in two tournaments this season: the Glancaster Bombers Veterans Memorial Tournament November 7-9 and the Joe Bentolila Classic Tournament January 9-11.

Off the ice, the team has been giving back. Through fundraising initiatives at Elmvale Harvesters games, the Coyotes have raised money running the 50:50 draw to support the Harvesters and Elmvale Minor Hockey Association (EMHA) - a fun and meaningful way to support local hockey.

The team's growth would not be possible without its dedicated volunteers. A heartfelt thank you goes to Head Coach Adam Kuypers, assistant coach Anthony Lalonde, trainers Rick Hales, Dustin Hales, Ryan Cardwell, helper Shane Sharpe, and team manager Sarah Daniels. The Coyotes also extend their gratitude to Jason Monck for generously donating his time in January to provide stride and edgework training for the players.

The Elmvale Coyotes U15BB continue to show resilience, determination, and true love for the game. With each practice and game, they are proving that success isn't only measured by wins — but by growth, teamwork, and the bonds formed along the way.

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Flyers Jump Out to 2 Game Series Lead Over Penetang



Submitted by Jamie Robillard
The Midland Flyers have jumped out to a 2-0 series lead over the Penetang Kings in the Provincial Junior Hockey League Carruthers Division play-off action. Midland downed the Kings 5-2 in Penetang on Friday February 20th and followed up with a tidy 4-1 victory at the Bourgeois Community Centre on Sunday February 22nd.

In the first game on Friday Penetang scored first on a goal by Camron Hutchinson at 7:09 of the first period but Midland rebounded quickly with a shorthanded marker from Nathan DeGazzio less than one minute later to tie the score at one goal each. Sam Thurston of the Flyers fired home a goal just two and a half minutes into the second period to give Midland a lead that they would not relinquish followed up by DeGazzio's second goal of the game with under three minutes remaining in the period, staking the Flyers to a 3-1 lead at the intermission. Wyndam Brownlee scored on the power play for the Kings eight minutes into the third period for Penetang but once again the Flyers responded quickly with Patrick LaForge finding the back of the net just two minutes later to restore the Flyers two goal cushion. DeGazzio capped off the evening with his third goal of the game into an empty net with 2:09 remaining on the clock. Matthew Laframboise had assists on both Kings goals.

Kevin Pearson was sharp in the Midland net stopping 34 shots while Landon Simec turned aside 30 shots in the Penetang goal.

On Sunday in Midland the Flyers truly came out flying and jumped out to a 4-0 first period lead before Penetang woke up. Scoring for Midland were Beckham Reynolds at the 2-minute mark, Carter Weissflog at 9:42, LaForge on the power play at 13:01 and Nathan Schaap at the 16-minute mark.



Feb 20th Flyers Seth Goble beats Kings Camron Hutchinson on the face-off

The Kings began the second period with Simec replacing Owen Moreau in goal and it seemed to spark the attack but resulted in only one goal by Brownlee just 1:09 into the period. From that point on Pearson again was a standout in the Flyers net shutting the door for the remainder of

the game while recording 33 saves. Simec made 23 saves in relief of Moreau, who stopped six shots. If Penetang hopes to get back into the series, they will need to respond on home ice on Wednesday February 25th with a win.

Notes: The series continues with game four on Thursday February 26th in Midland at 8:00 pm. Should game five be required it is scheduled on Friday February 27th in Penetang at 8:00 pm. Games six and seven if necessary are slated for Midland on Sunday March 1st at 2:30 pm and Wednesday March 4th in Penetang at 8:00 pm.

In the other league quarter-final action, Stayner leads Innisfil one game to none, while Alliston is two games up on Huntsville and Orillia is also up two games to none on Muskoka.



Feb 20th Kings Mathew Laframboise battles two flyers Josh Underwood and Lucas Mclean

Kings Storm Back to Lead Series 3 Games to 2 Over Flyers

Submitted by Jamie Robillard
The Penetang Kings have stormed back with three straight wins to lead the Midland Flyers three games to two in the Provincial Junior Hockey League Carruthers Division quarter final play-off action. Penetang got past Midland by a 3-1 score in game three on Midland ice on Thursday February 26 and followed that win up with a pair of home wins on Friday February 27th 5-2 and Sunday March 1 4-1.

The original game three of the series scheduled for Wednesday February 25th was declared no contest after Midland appealed an officiating rules error and the PJHL upheld the appeal and ordered the game to be replayed. The officiating error was made with Midland up by a 2-1 scored when the on-ice officials applied an incorrect formula in cancelling penalties assessed to both teams on the same stoppage of play. The error resulted in the Kings gaining a two-man advantage for two minutes instead of a one man-power play for four minutes. The Kings scored with the advantage to tie the game before going onto to win by a 5-3 margin. The PJHL ruled an error in penalty cancellation was made that directly affected

the games outcome and ordered a replay of the contest.

In game three in Midland on February 26th, Penetang scored just 2:10 seconds apart midway into the second period to jump in a 2-0 lead. Wyndam Brownlee, on the powerplay and Matthew Laframbois scored the goals with assists going to Caiden Pattenden, Carter Wilson and Owen Fuller. Midland's Nathan Schaap with assists from Cole Warren and Nolan Rosko-Fong narrowed the margin to 2-1 before the end of the second period but Pattenden scored on the power play for the Kings just 51 seconds into the third period to restore the two-goal cushion. Brownlee and Wilson assisted on the Pattenden marker.

Landon Simec made 22 saves in the Penetang goal while Kevin Pearson stopped 32 Kings shots. Pattenden was name the Kings Canadoor Garage Doors player of the game.

Game four on February 27th saw the Kings jump out to an early 1-0 when Fuller scored on the power

Continued

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 play at 7:32 of the first period. Logan Tucker and Gavin Pich gathered assists on the goal.
 Carter Weissflog tied the game with just over two minutes remaining in the second period for the Flyers with an assist from Cal Virtue-McCague before Midland went ahead at the 5:54 mark of the third period with a goal from Ben Armatage. Lucas McLean and Nathan DeGazio assisted on the second Flyers goal.
 Penetang then responded in a big way with Camron Hutchinson tying the game at two goals apiece at 7:13 of the third followed by Wilson scoring his first goal of the game 59 seconds later. Assists on the two Kings markers were collected by Cole Rumbolt, Brownlee, Laframboise and Spencer Walker.
 Wilson then scored two empty net goals in the final 1:02 to salt the game away for the Kings with assists going to Lucas Dubois, Fuller, Blake Weicker and Pich.
 Simec was outstanding in the Penetang goal turning aside 37 Flyer shots while Jack Pinder made 27 saves for the Flyers. Fuller was named the Kings



March 1 Aiden Pethick Kings Player of the game



Kings player of the game Feb. 26 Caiden Pattenden



Feb. 27 Owen Fuller Kings Player of the game

Canadoor Garage Doors player of the game.
 On Sunday afternoon in Penetang the Kings skated to a 4-1 victory over the Flyers as Simec as again strong in the Kings goal stopping 28 shots. Penetang got on the scoreboard early at just 5:35 of the first period when Dubois found the twine with assists from Laframboise and Fuller. Midland tied the score at 13:34 of the first stanza when Garrett Faye hammered home a rebound with Schaap and Patrick LaForge assisting. Penetang regained the lead before the first period ended when Brownlee connected from Rumbolt and Hutchinson. Aiden Pethick made the score 3-1 for the King with just two seconds remaining in the period with assists from Wilson and Brownlee. Pethick scored again in the second period with assists from Hutchinson and Weicker. Pinder kept the game close, making 46 saves for the Flyers. Pethick was selected the Kings Canadoor Garage Doors player of the game for his two goal effort.

Game six is scheduled for the Bourgeois Community Centre on Tuesday March 3rd at 7:40 pm and if game seven is needed, it will be at the Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre at 8:00 pm on Wednesday March 4th.
 Notes: In the other league quarter-final action, Stayner, Alliston and Orillia have all advanced in four game sweeps to the league semi-final series. Stayner will play the Kings-Flyers winner while Alliston and Orillia will meet in a rematch of last year's championship series.
 The Kings Landon Simec was named the Carruthers Division Goaltender of the Year for the second consecutive season. Midland Garrett Faye received Rookie of the Year honour's and the Midland coaching staff was selected as the Coaching Staff of the Year.
 If you can, come out and see some great hockey action while supporting the two local clubs and their players.

Kings Eliminated in 7 Game, Flyers to Face Stayner

Submitted by Jamie Robillard
 The Midland Flyers eliminated the Penetang Kings in seven games to capture their have Provincial Junior Hockey League Carruthers Division quarter final play-off series. The Flyers shut out the Kings on Tuesday March 3rd at the Bourgeois Community Centre and followed up with a 5-2 victory at the Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre on Wednesday March 4th to win the best of seven series 4 games to 3. Midland now moves on to face the Stayner Siskins in the divisional semi final series beginning with game one Sunday March 8 in Stayner at 1:30 pm.
 Midland came out firing on all cylinders in Game 6 outshooting Penetang by an 11-1 margin in the first period and took a 1-0 lead to the locker room on a goal by Sam Thurston at the 2:23 mark.
 In the second period the Flyers added goals from Ben Armatage and Garrett Faye before Carter Weissflog added a third period insurance marker. Kevin Pearson recorded the shutout in the Midland net, stopping 20 shots while Owen Moreau turned aside 18 shots in the Kings goal.

In Game 7 Midland again jumped out early on Beckham Reynolds goal just 2:36 into the opening period and scored again in the first on the power play as Seth Goble deflected home a shot by Armatage. Midland's Reynolds with his second of the game made the score 3-0 3:24 into the second period before Aiden Pethick scored on a Penetang power play midway through the period. Midland restored the three-goal lead when Cole Warren scored with 4:18 remaining in the second period.
 The Kings narrowed the score to 4-2 when Caiden Pattenden fired home a power play tally, but Midland's Goble scored the final goal into an empty net with only 1:18 remaining in the game for the 5-2 final.
 Notes: The best of seven semi-final series will see game two in Midland on Tuesday March 10 at 7:30 pm, game 3 on Thursday March 12 at 8:00 pm in Stayner and game 4 on Friday March 13 at 7:30 pm at the Bourgeois Community Centre. Should the series extend past four games game 5 will be played on Sunday March 15 in Stayner at 1:30 pm, game 6 in Midland on Tuesday March 17 at 7:30 pm and



Feb. 26 Flyers Kevin Pearson smothers a shot as teammate Cameron Roberston and three Kings Lucas Dubois (7) Carson Thayer (18) Ryder Thomas (14) look on



Feb. 27 Flyers Cameron Robertson defends against Kings Owen Fuller

game 7 in Stayner on Thursday March 19 at 8:00 pm.
 In the other semi-final series Orillia will open the series in Alliston on Friday March 6.



Feb. 27 Kings Cole Rumbolt eludes Flyers Cal Virtue-McCague (5) & Nathan DeGazio (21)



The Elmvale Harvesters saw their inaugural season come to an end this past weekend after falling in four games to the Minto 81's in Round 2 of the Ontario Elite Hockey League playoffs.
 The series opened on February 28 in Palmerston where the Harvesters battled hard but came up just short in a 3-2 loss. Noah Featherstonhaugh-Gowe was named first star in the Will Marshall Insurance Broker Three Stars of the Game, with Jordan Fuller earning second star honours and Austin Pope named third star.
 Game two shifted to Elmvale on March 1, where Minto took a 5-2 victory. In the Will Marshall Insurance Broker Three Stars of the Game, Ted Nichol of Minto was named first star, Ryan Hackett earned second star for the Harvesters, and Minto's Jordan Alexander was named third star.
 Back in Palmerston on March 7, the Harvesters once again showed determination but ultimately fell 6-4. In the Will Marshall Insurance Broker Three Stars of the Game, Minto's Ted Nichol was named first star, while Elmvale's Derek Sweeney and Andrew Best were named second and third stars respectively.
 Facing elimination, the Harvesters returned home for a do-or-die Game 4 on Sunday, March 8 in Elmvale. Minto secured the series with an 8-1 win to close out the matchup, with all three of the Will Marshall Insurance Broker Three Stars of the Game awarded to Minto players.
 While the result wasn't what the Harvesters had hoped for, the end of the series also marks the close of a historic inaugural season for the Harvesters in the Ontario Elite Hockey League.
 From the very first puck drop in October, the team began building a list of memorable "firsts" for the young franchise. The Harvesters recorded their first win in team history on October 3 in Saugeen Shores, winning in a shootout after a 5-5 game. Jordan Fuller scored the shootout winner, while Noah Featherstonhaugh-Gowe earned the victory in goal. The team's first goals in franchise history came from Jordan Fuller, Ryan Young, Jacob Kelly, and Dylan Palomaki, with Kelly scoring twice in the game.
 The season also featured other memorable moments, including Ryan Young scoring the Harvesters' first Teddy Bear Toss goal, and the team capturing its first playoff series victory with a four-game sweep of the Georgian Bay Applekings in Round 1.
 From the very first puck drop at Elmvale Arena, the support from the community was nothing short of incredible. Night after night, fans packed the stands, creating an atmosphere that quickly became one of the most exciting places to watch hockey in

SPORTS From Vision to Reality: The Harvesters first season.



the league. Off the ice, the players developed a family among themselves while also connecting with the community, attending events such as the Elmvale Fall Fair, the Santa Claus Parade, and the Family Day Public Skate.
 The organization would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the players and coaching staff for their dedication and commitment throughout the season. Their hard work laid the foundation for what promises to be a strong future for Harvesters hockey.
 The team would also like to recognize the many volunteers, sponsors, and members of the executive who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the first season possible. Launching a new franchise takes an incredible amount of effort, and the success of year one would not have been possible without the many people who stepped up to support the team.
 Most importantly, thank you to the fans. Your energy, encouragement, and unwavering support helped make this inaugural season one to remember. What started as a vision among the founding members has quickly grown into something bigger than anyone could have imagined, with the Elmvale community embracing the Harvesters and helping turn a dream into reality.
 Although the playoff run has come to an end, the excitement surrounding Harvesters hockey is just beginning. With the foundation now in place, the organization looks forward to building on the momentum of year one and returning even stronger next season.

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Team Marshall	4	2	1	43
Team Townes	4	3	0	38
Team Lambie	3	3	1	35.25
Team Allen	3	3	1	35
Team Pullen	3	3	1	35
Team Scott	3	5	0	31
Team Murphy	2	5	0	24
Team McClung	1	5	1	21.5
Team Smitham	0	7	1	16
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Bearbells By Leslie Noonan

February 23, 2026

It was another frigid day, with the temperatures dropping into -20 C. I had already booked my next get away, but was reconsidering my choice of a northern Ontario

yurt. For those of you that don't know what a yurt is, it is basically a rather large tent with wooden supports that makes it more durable than a regular tent. Yurts are the traditional abodes of central Asian nomads such as Mongolians, and are easy to disassemble for nomadic tribes. Here in Ontario, yurts are more a glamping fad, but an option I am glad to have for this cold winter night. Even better, my yurt has a wood stove!!

Of course I needed to find a hike before I even heading to my yurt, and the small town of Kearney had plenty of trails to choose from. This little town is on the western edge of Algonquin Park and provides a starting point to access several trails. Off I went to find the Bare Rock route, considered an easy 3.3 km trail. I parked at the somewhat plowed parking area and gathered my gear with fingers that quickly became numb from the cold, and clipped on my snowshoes. I headed east along the trail, the snow slightly packed from a random snowmobile, through forests sparkling in the cold sun. While easy to navigate, I quickly worked up a sheen of perspiration, as what started as a gentle incline quickly became a more intense slope, so much so that even with the picks on my shoes I was sliding backwards at the steepest sections. Halfway up this never-ending hill, the Bare Rock trail turned left. Hmmm, the snow was deep, and fallen trees lay prone across the trail. No one else had been this way and the trail was difficult to traverse, as often my snowshoes would tangle in the hidden twigs and limbs. I choose to return to that original trail instead, to see where it led, and to avoid a broken ankle.

Back out on the main trail, I continued to climb, snowshoes crunching across the frozen snow. It was a brief moment of elation when I breached the summit, only to find that the never ending hill went straight down and up again. With the sun low on the horizon, I thought it prudent to head out of the bush. I stood at the top of that long hill, the trail twisting and turning around trees, and had a "Eureka" moment. Why slog my way down that hill, when I could sit on my coat with my gear and slide down like a toboggan! With excitement I started to unzip my coat, until my mostly dormant common sense sat up with alarm and began to shout at my exuberant impulsive self. I hesitated, hand on my partially opened zipper, and listened to the dueling sides of my psyche duke it out. Sadly, common sense won out, with a quick plea to my ego, reminding

me that it would be an ignominious ending to my adventure if this middle aged woman needed to be rescued for coat sledding injuries. Fine, and with a regretful sigh I zipped my coat back up and started the slow climb back to my car.

Once at my car the gear came off and was tucked into my trunk, but as I removed my hat, my sweat soaked hair froze almost instantly, creating some interesting style choices. Time to find my yurt and warm up by a cozy fire. A short car ride later and here I am, trudging cross a cold field surrounded by dark woods, and with the wind stinging my face, pulling my sled holding my gear behind me. The smell of wood smoke drifted up from the yurt, a fire started by my lovely host to chase away the cold. The yurt was surprisingly large, with a king sized bed, two easy chairs and a small kitchenette. Instead of electricity, the tent was lit by the setting sun, and by the dancing flames of the fire. The big bed was calling me, and the soft mattress and heavy blankets had me feeling warm and snug. I dozed off to the crackle of flames and the last faint rays of the setting sun.

It was my cold nose that wakened me several hours later, and a need to scurry to the outhouse. The sky was clear and the stars were bright in the darkness, the faint starlight reflecting back from the white snow. Though the cold was intense, I spent a few minutes marveling at the beauty of a winter's night, with no lights to break the darkness and no noise to disrupt the silence. Marveling at a winter's night is even better when you have a warm place to hibernate, and with that I ducked back into the yurt, throwing another log on the fire and snuggling back under the blankets, content to sleep the night away, while dreaming of tobogganing with abandonment down that sleep hill. Tomorrow was soon enough for reality.



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ANTEN MILLS by Dennis Gannon

In like a Lion, out like a Lamb. If you recall that ditty you will know that it refers to the month of March. Should March start off stormy and cold weather, like a Lion, it will end with calm, warm Spring like weather, out like a Lamb. March definitely started out like Lion, the temperature only reached a high of 1.9 C with an extremely cold low of -24.9 C. Light snow also fell that day. Does it fit with the ditty definition, likely. Will it end with warm, calm weather? Let's hope so as if you recall, the end of March last year came with an ice storm that caused major power interruptions and significant damage.

Last Wednesday evening the Anten Mills Community Recreation Association met with a great contingent of community members in attendance. Conversations around last year's events and what could happen this year were discussed and supported. The major events of the year will kick off with the annual fun Rabbit Run and Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 4 and end with our Christmas in the Village the weekend of December 12th. Continuing until the end of June when they will take the summer off are the Knotty Knitters who meet on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 until 3:30 and weekly euchre which is held on Thursday evenings starting at 7. Both are held at the community centre and everyone is welcome.

Easter is early this year and the weather can be a bit unpredictable. That won't stop our fabulous volunteers as they plan the annual Rabbit Run and Easter Eggstravaganza. Both events will take place at the community centre and park and this year there are some minor changes.

The Rabbit Run will again have 3 different levels for the runners as they travel throughout the village. Preregistration will be required and the runners will be asked to make a \$5 donation to participate. Funds received will be supporting this and future community events and thanks to Napoleon Home Comfort, a reward will be provided. This event begins at 10 AM and registration information can be found on the Anten Mills Community Bulletin Facebook page.

Following the run it's time for the Easter Eggstravaganza. There will be crafts, games, a scavenger hunt and of course the fun Easter Egg Hunt. You can have your photo taken with the Easter Bunny and take home a treat. As a community we proudly and regularly support the

Elmvalle and District Food Bank. Annually through our efforts we donate in the area of 1000 pounds of food and several hundred dollars. To keep this generosity going there will be a slight change to the Easter Eggstravaganza this year. Each participant will be asked to bring a food bank donation to the registration desk or make a minimum \$5 donation. Thanks to the Anten Mills CRA and the Chapman family through their inDrive Automotive business, great treats will be provided. With your giving, we can make a substantial donation to the food bank, so everyone is asked to please donate generously. Preregistration will also be required and information will be provided on the community Facebook page.

With the weather changing, access to our community announcement board on Wilson will be much easier for our letter changing volunteer, Kelly. The sign is the primary fundraising program that the CRA has. It doesn't cost much to have your announcement placed on the board and it can be for personal messages or if you have a business it's also a great way to get your message out. To get your message up all you need to do is send an email to antenmillsign@gmail.com and Karis will get to you with all the information you need. Book now and avoid any disappointment.

A great venue to have a function is the community centre. Be it a shower, a wedding, a birthday party or any other type of celebration the community centre is a great place to host it. In addition to the hall, the pavilion is also available to rent out for your family events. To rent out either or both you need to contact the Township of Springwater Parks and Recreation Department either by email or call them at 705 728 4784 ext 2078.

There will be a community wide Garage Sale on the second Saturday in June this year. More details will be available in the future.

Just a reminder that the township is holding a Town Hall meeting Wednesday on March 25 from 7 to 9PM at the municipal office. This is an opportunity to speak directly with senior staff and members of Council on the current and future goings on. If you have an interest in our township then this is the place to obtain the information that you need. If you don't attend, you won't get the information you want.

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

CROSSWORD ANSWER

1	B	A	D	4	S	E	T	7	8	O	A	10	K			
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March Break Registration is NOW OPEN!

Don't miss out on our amazing all ages March Break programs this year! We've got activities for family, children and teens! Check our website for details and registration. Space is limited so be sure to save your spot! Monday March 16: Community Scavenger Hunt, Magic Wand craft. Tuesday March 17: Make a Mug. Wednesday March 18: Tween/Teen Mystery Board. Thursday March 19: DIY Button Making. Friday March 20: Sword Demonstration, DIY Pet Bandanas.

Volunteer Income Tax Program

In person, phone appointments and drop off processing of taxes are available for those within the tax brackets of: \$35,000 for one person, \$45,000 for two people, up to \$50,000 for a family of four.

If you are using the drop off method of tax processing (starts Monday February 23), please ensure your documents are in a sealed envelope labelled with your address, phone number and email address. This program operates in collaboration with the Canada Revenue Agency. In person 30 minute appointments are available in March and April at the Elmvale Branch, please call us to book your in person or phone appointment at (705) 322-1482.

- Thursday March 5, 10:30am-1pm
- Monday March 9, 2pm-5pm
- Saturday March 14, 10:30am-3:30pm
- Thursday March 26, 10:30am-1pm
- Saturday March 28, 10:30am-3:30pm

Penetanguishene Library

24 Simcoe Street 705-549-7164

www.penetanguishene.library.on.ca

Book Club

1st Thursday of every month 4:00-5:00p.m. Join fellow readers for a relaxed discussion of selected titles in a friendly, welcoming environment. Register in person at the Library or complete our online registration form.

March Break Programs

Jet Off to Space! - Monday March 16th, 11:00am - 12:00pm

Light Up the Library! - Tuesday March 17th, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Candy Sushi - Wednesday March 18th, 11:00am - 12:00pm

Green Thumbs! - Thursday March 19th, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Mario Party - Friday March 20th, 11:00am - 12:00pm

\$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members. February 23rd - 28th Registration open for Penetanguishene taxpaying members with a valid library card. After Feb 28th registration is open to everyone. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program, non-transferable, non-refundable.

Learn How to Crochet - Every Wednesday in March - 10:30-11:30

\$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members. A

Dr Sean Corsini Orthodontist
No referral necessary



705 527-5570
550 Hugel Ave, Midland

- Monday March 30, 2pm-5pm
- Thursday April 9, 10:30am-1pm
- Saturday April 11, 10:30am-3:30pm
- Monday April 13, 2pm-5pm
- Saturday April 18, 10:30am-3:30pm
- Thursday April 23, 10:30am-1pm
- Monday April 27, 2pm-5pm

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! This month, design and create your own sublimation Cricut coaster. Friday March 13, 11am-12noon at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

Elmvale Easter Egg Hunt

The Elmvale Co-operative Nursery is hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt and Springwater Library will be there! Visit Danielle on Sunday March 29, 10am-12pm, Bishop's Park (50 Amelia Street).

Easter Holiday Hours

Please note, all branches of Springwater Public Library will be closed Good Friday April 3 and Easter Monday April 5. Elmvale and Midhurst branch locations will be open during regular hours on Saturday April 4 from 10am-4pm. We wish you a happy Easter weekend!

minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program.

Easter Egg Hunt - Sat, March 28 | 10:30-11:30

\$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members. February 23rd- 28th, registration open for Penetanguishene taxpaying members with a valid library card. After Feb 28th registration is open to everyone.

Learn to play American Mahjong - Every Tuesday in April, 10:30-12:30

\$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members. All sessions must be attended. February 23rd- 28th, registration open for Penetanguishene taxpaying members with a valid library card. After Feb 28th registration is open to everyone. A minimum of 4 participants is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable. Please check the website/social media for cancellations due to inclement weather.

Available Now at Penetanguishene Public Library, free with your library card:

- Wye Marsh 2026 Family Passes
- Provincial Park Passes 2026
- Toronto Zoo Passes
- Tonic Box and Story Dream Machine

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(705)322-9583 9 Queen St. West, Elmvale

Hey Dads!

Hey Dads! This has probably never happened to you but I'm going to ask anyways. Did you ever get a call or text telling you that one of your kids left something somewhere? Maybe at school or at the hockey rink or at the soccer field or at a friend's house. Believe it or not, I got a text like that the other day. We had gone up to visit a local camp for a winter family day. Visiting a camp in the winter is very different than in the summer. Instead of sandals we wore giant boots. Instead of snorkels we packed skates and sticks. Instead of bathing suits we packed snow pants. With 10 kids you can imagine how many skates, sticks, and snow pants we need to cart around. And the chances of returning home again with 100% of those items is far less than 100%!

The good news is that we got most of the stuff home. The bad news is that someone found a set of snow pants at camp with the wonderful name, "Weening" written on the tag. So now the game begins: How to retrieve the lost pants. Who do we know that is going to the camp, coming back from the camp, coming to our house, visiting our city, or traveling somewhat generally close to the approximate vicinity of someone we know? And once we find that person and connect those dots, how do we ensure that the lost pants make the journey without further emotional trauma?

But it looked like things were going to work out. Someone who works at the camp was going to be visiting our church and could handily deliver the pants unharmed. A simple plan was set in place. Very few moving parts. He would bring the pants to us. We waited with bated breath for the fateful day to arrive. (I'm actually not sure I told anyone else in the family about the missing snow pants since the winter around here has been pretty warm and grassy since camp. So, I guess to be factually accurate, I was the only one waiting with bated breath.)

The day finally arrived! I saw the pants rescuer walk into the church and knew that this emotional saga was about to come to an end. I was somewhat nervous to ask about the missing pants, what if he forgot them? Unlikely! It was a simple plan that required few meetings for pants transfers to execute efficiently. Man brings pants. I get pants. The end. I worked up the courage to ask him for the pants and...

He forgot the pants. We won't be back at camp until the dog days of summer so I honestly don't know if we're ever going to see those snow pants again. But sometimes we need to press on through the difficult times of life. Could this tragedy have been prevented? Perhaps with proper parental planning. But such is life, dad! Time flies, make every moment count! Even the lost and not found ones.

Jason Weening, his 10 kids, and his one patient wife have lost clothing items all over the planet. Well, maybe not his wife. Grab his funny book, "Yes, Dear...I'm Watching Them," on Amazon.

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Jo Knows Nutrition

by Joanne Nijhuis



Without question, poutine is one of Canada's most beloved comfort foods enjoyed at fast food joints and food trucks across the country. With this recipe, Quebec's culinary claim to fame is reimagined and lightened up by swapping the

traditional deep-fryer for a high-heat oven roast and keeping the skins on the potatoes for added fibre and crunch. It delivers the same iconic "squeak" of cheese curds and the richness of savoury gravy, but with a far healthier nutrient profile. C'est délicieux!

Did You Know?

Potatoes have a bad reputation for their carb content, but this vegetable is actually quite nutritious and low in calories if prepared correctly. In addition to carbohydrates, potatoes are a good source of fibre with the skins left on and they are high in potassium and vitamin C. How potatoes are prepared and what they are paired with are the real reasons potatoes are not considered a healthy choice. Clearly, consuming potatoes as potato chips at home or as fries when dining out adds extra calories. This is especially true when paired with pop, chicken wings or other fried foods. Boiled or roasted, potatoes should be celebrated for their low cost, nutritional value and versatility.

INGREDIENTS (4 Servings)

- 2 lb (900 grams) unpeeled, washed russet potatoes
- 2 Tablespoons (30 ml) olive oil
- Sea salt & black pepper to taste
- 3 Tablespoons (45 ml) unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup (83 ml) all-purpose flour
- 3 cups (750 ml) mushroom broth or 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) beef broth & 1 1/2 (375 ml) cups chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) fresh cheese curds

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Slice the washed, skin-on potatoes into 1/2-inch (1.25 cm) thick wedges or sticks.
2. Remove the cheese curds from the fridge and bring to room temperature.
3. Soak the potato wedges or sticks in a large bowl of cold water for 30 minutes.
4. Preheat oven to 425F (220 C).

Annie's Journal

by Annie Warner Donnelly



Annie's Journal
Written by Annie Warner Donnelly

Hello Everyone. According to Statistics Canada, in recent decades "... religious affiliation, the frequency of participation in group religious activities, the frequency of engaging in religious or spiritual activities on one's own, and the importance placed on religious and spiritual beliefs in one's life, have all tended to decline ... Compared with individuals born in Canada, those born outside Canada were more likely to report

LIFE STYLE
HIGH-HEAT OVEN ROASTED POUTINE

5. Drain the potatoes and pat dry with paper towels or a clean dish towel.
6. Toss the potatoes with the olive oil and salt and pepper and spread on a baking sheet. Do not overcrowd.
7. Roast the potatoes in the oven until golden and crispy for 30-45 minutes, flipping halfway through.
8. While the potatoes are roasting, make the gravy by melting the butter in a large frying pan.
9. Add the flour and stir into the melted butter. Cook and continue to stir on medium heat for 2-3 minutes.
10. Slowly whisk the broth in the butter flour mixture on medium heat until the broth has thickened and the texture is smooth.
11. To plate, pile the hot skin-on potatoes into 4 bowls and top each with the room temperature cheese curds. Ladle the steaming gravy over the potatoes and cheese curds. Serve immediately.



PER SERVING: |Calories: 475 kcal | Carbohydrates: 48 g | Protein: 16.5 g | Fat: 25 g |Fibre:4.8 g | Sodium: 670 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.

ENJOY!

having a religious affiliation, to consider their religious and spiritual beliefs important to how they live their lives, and to engage in religious activities in groups or on their own."

Why the decline? Could it be that with an increase of more than 120 denominations in Canada since 1980, people are wondering who to believe?

Maybe with so many Bible translations - some literal "word-for-word", some functional "thought-for-thought" and some modern language updates - people can't decide which translation to trust.

Might people be longing for love that accepts them; joy in their relationship with God; peace that passes all understanding; patience when they make a mistake; kind, gentle words when someone corrects them; actions embedded in goodness; faithfulness to the word of God; self-controlled leaders; and not be finding these characteristics in a church? (Galatians 5: 22-23)

Maybe it's because church leaders are guilty of doing what Jesus spoke against, specifically, "... they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers." (Matthew 23:4)

Maybe it's because people live in a world of distractions that have caused them to lose focus. Might life-threatening illnesses, the wars and the rumours of wars have caused them to lose hope, to stop believing that God is love and that He personally cares for them?

Many people, not just seniors, are being left behind by social media and new technologies. Many families are displaced from their homelands; some families are splintered by separation and divorce. Might these factors be contributing to the decline that is showing up in the statistics?

May God help us find the reasons for the decline and the wisdom to address them. Amen.

CLASSIFIED

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HALL RENTAL
Palace Tavern available for your function at \$0 cost to you. Includes bartender. 200 person capacity. Also available: **DJ, Karaoke Live Band** by request Call Francis 705-322-1741 to check availability

EVENTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Grenfel United Church
3457 Grenfel Road
Sat. March 21 2026
9 - 11AM
Adults \$10.00
Children under 10 \$8.00
Info: call. 705-790-4376

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The more dust they have, the better they are!
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Or Call Jason at 705 735 1850

REGISTRATION

Cheezers Co-ed Soccer Registration
Registration for soccer for ages 3 - 15 yrs old is at the Springwater Library, Elmvale: **10:30 am - 1 pm**
February 28 (Open to Springwater Residents)
Limited spaces available
\$55 per player
Starting Thursday May 7 at 6:30 pm
Call Doug Tinney 705-322-3239 for more information or email: elmvalsoccer@gmail.com. The soccer play time is at 6:30 pm

FOR SALE

For Sale
A Janome light weight, portable, sewing machine modelSUV 1108 in excellent condition. Includes a quilting foot., zipper foot, straight stitch foot, hemming foot., extra machine needles, oil and tools, 12 bobbins, pinking shears, cover, and instruction book. total package is \$100. Phone contact (705) 526-6983. Midland


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Tuesday 6:00-8:00pm,
Wednesday 3:00-5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am until noon
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CLASSIFIED

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AUCTION NOTICES


ONLINE AUCTIONS
Upcoming Auctions
• Premier Medical Spa Asset Auction (March 13 - 17)
• Merrill Moving Auction - Ariss (March 15 - 19)
• March Multi Consignor Auction - Guelph (March 22 - 26)
• Business Relocation & Downsizing Auction - (March 22 - 26)
• Coins, Precious Metals & Currency Auction - Guelph (April 5 - 9)
• Estate of Gail Ford - Alliston (April)
www.rapid-sell.ca
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RENTALS

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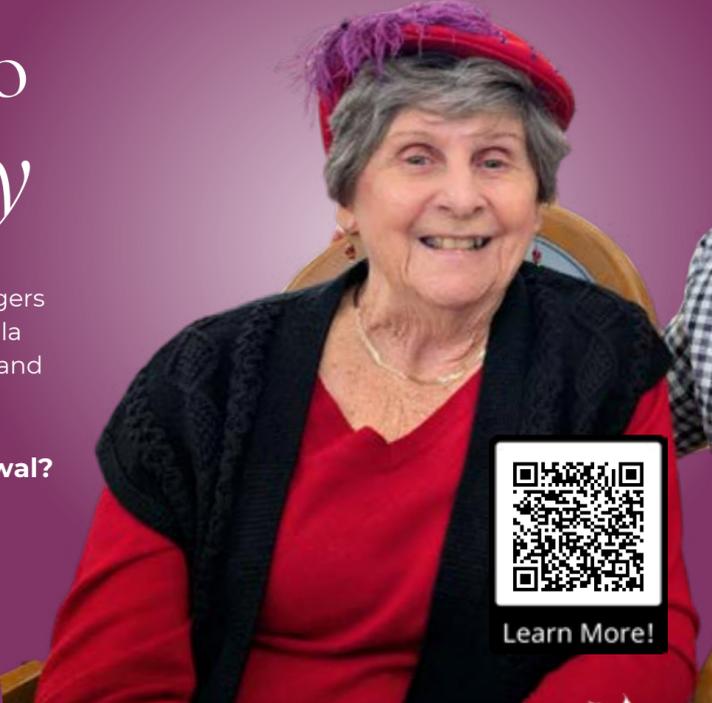


It doesn't have to feel this heavy

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EVENTS

Community Events Ongoing

SENIOR CLUBS

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

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

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

MONDAY
Elmvale Seniors Drop In
Elmvale 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

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-3:30pm
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 arrival. 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

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

Bay Shore Seniors Club
Pool/Billiards - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Indoor Pickleball - 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Crafts - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Bid Euchre - 6:30 - 9:30 pm

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

Bay Shore Seniors Club
LifeStyles - 9:00 am - 10:30 am
Access Art - 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Indoor Pickleball - 4:00 pm - 5:30 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
Tai Chi, 9am-10am
Step Class, 9am-10am
Line Dancing Advancing, 9:15am-10:30am
Chair Yoga, 9:15am-10:15am
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 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

Ganaraska Hiking, Barrie Club
Start: Feb. 25, 2026 10:00
End: May. 27, 2026 10:00
Location: Various locations
Description:
Guided forest hikes every Wednesday as detailed in the GHTA website calendar.

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-1:30pm
Men's Shed, 10am-12pm
Cardio Drums Alive, 10:15am-11:15am
Chair Pilates, 10:30am-11:30am
Writers Circle, 1pm-3pm
Uke and Guitar Jam, 1pm-3pm

Bay Shore Seniors Club
Choir - 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Book Club (last Thursday of the Month) 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Darts - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Cribbage - 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

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.

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

Bay Shore Seniors' Club
VON SMART Exercises - 9:30 am - 10:30 am - FREE
Pool/Billiards - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Indoor Pickleball - 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Guest speakers, DIY aquarium related projects
Wood Carving - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Shuffleboard - 1:00 am - 3:00 pm
Indoor Pickleball - 4:00 pm - 5:30 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.
For information contact Kris 705-435-8593.

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

MONDAY to FRIDAY

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.

FREE EVENTS PAGE
Please submit your event on this link:
<https://www.springwaternews.ca/submit-event/>

Special Events One Time

: Elmvale Co-operative Nursery School's 11th Annual Easter Egg Hunt FUNdraiser
Start: Mar. 29, 2026 10:00
End: Mar. 29, 2026 12:00
Location: Bishop Park (50 Amelia St., Elmvale)
Description:
Tickets are \$10 each! Available from ECNS families or from ecnsvp@gmail.com
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Grenfel United Church
3457 Grenfel Road
Sat. March 21 2026
9 - 11 am
Adults \$10.00
Children under 10 \$8.00
Info call. 705-790-4376

O'Bay's St. Patrick's Day Pub at Bay Shore Seniors Club
Saturday March 14th
Bay Shore Seniors Club, 2000 Tiny Beaches Road S, Woodland Beach
Open Event - Everyone Welcome!
Last Day to get tickets is March 10th - Don't Delay!
Tickets with Lunch \$25.00 - Without Lunch \$15.00
Choice of Irish Stew and Soda Bread, Ultimate Nacho Dog or nachos, cheese sauce and toppings. Call Bayshore at 705 361-1331 for more details, or email bayshoreseniors@gmail.com

Hotel California: The Original Eagles' Tribute Concert
Start: Mar. 13, 2026 19:00
End: Mar. 13, 2026 22:00
Location: King's Wharf Theatre, Discovery Harbour
Description:
Tribute Concert takes the stage at King's Wharf Theatre on March 13 at 7 p.m.!

Soup Luncheon
Unity United Church
4967 Vasey Road at Line 4 N Oro Medonte
Thursday March 19 from 11:30am - 1pm
Dine in or take out
\$10.00
Soup, tea biscuit & dessert
In support of The Guesthouse Shelter
All welcome. Tell your friends Friends of the **Springwater Library AGM**
Your library is more than just books-it's the heart of the community! All members and residents of Springwater are invited to attend the Friends of the Springwater Library's AGM. It will be held on March 23rd at 5:00pm at the Elmvale Library. This is your opportunity to hear about our successes over the past year and discuss our upcoming community events

Publication Dates
2026
Next Editions
March 26

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EVENTS

ECNS's 11th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

For nearly four decades, Elmvale Co-operative Nursery School has been a cherished part of our small-town fabric. It is the generosity and spirit of the local community that truly help the school flourish. That spirit will be on full display at ECNS's 11th Annual Easter Egg Hunt FUNdraiser on Sunday, March 29th from 10:00 to 12:00 at Bishop Park in Elmvale. This beloved tradition brings families together for a morning of springtime fun, while raising funds to support the nursery school. Tickets are \$10 each for children ages 10 and under and each ticket includes a goodie bag. Multiple egg hunt times will be offered throughout the morning. Guests are encouraged to bring cash for raffle tickets, face painting, and snacks. This rain-or-shine event promises something for everyone!



Creemore Cattleman's Bonspiel



On February 11th, Don Camack lead(of Minesing), myself (Colin Marshall) second (of Elmvale), Will Marshall skip (of Elmvale) and Gord Wilson Vice (of Anten Mills) won the Creemore Cattleman's Bonspiel this 2026.

This bonspiel consists of two draws, each draw having three games on Creemore's legendary two sheet curling club. We represented Elmvale and despite giving up a three ender in two of our games, came out with the most points to win the spiel. The ice was lightning fast and the front end certainly were on their toes making sure to read the ice just right. The entire team made some fantastic shots when it mattered the most. In the past as a similar team we have seen second place, this was out first complete victory. More importantly, the food at lunch and at dinner are second to none, the prize table very generous. Always such great food and more than you can eat with many great friends and fellow curlers. Special thanks to all the volunteers and the organizing committee, we had a great deal of fun and intend to attend next year.

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The Thompson Trophy

A.B. Thompson was a provincial member of parliament and a leading member of Penetanguishene's community in the early part of the century. It was in 1909 when he donated a magnificent trophy for competition between the curling gentlemen of Midland, Penetang and Elmvale. A thing of beauty, it was a splendid example of silversmith's art. Solid sterling silver, embellished with stylized brooms beneath the gleaming bowl which was mounted on mahogany plinths.

The first competition was played at the old icehouse which was located at the foot of Main Street in Penetang where the present-day beer store is located. After the spiel, the gentlemen curlers adjourned to the old Canada House Hotel for a prestigious banquet. Sadly, the Canada House, which stood where the French Centre is burnt down.

Over the eventful intervening years, the Great War, the great depression and World War II, the Thompson Trophy slipped into obscurity. It was around 1957 when a well-known gentleman Mac McAllen discovered the trophy in the basement of

the Midland Curling club, obviously the home of the last winner. Mac called Nora Thompson and told her what he had found and returned the trophy.

Mrs. Thompson was participating in the women's curling league at the time, when she and other ladies met, planning to resurrect the Thompson trophy into a ladies competition. The Thompson family has embraced the tradition which has been on-going for over 75 years. In previous scenarios' the bonspiel would be composed of 12 teams, four from each town, Midland, Penetang and Elmvale. Over the last several years Coldwater has been added into the

mix. This years theme 'WOMEN'S POWER' was won by non-other than the Coldwater team.

Each year the ladies create a theme, plan with significant work and effort to enjoy the comradery and friendly competition.

Seen in previous spiels is A.B. Thompson presenting the ladies with the Thompson trophy. A.B. seen on the left, a hero from WWII and part of the Great Escape keeps the inspiration alive through his children.

L. Waxy Gregoire...Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame



Thompson Trophy



Thompson Cup 1985

Penetanguishene curling women won the most points after their scores were added up Wednesday night at the conclusion of the annual Thompson Cup curling bonspiel held at the Penetang Curling Club.

Members of the Penetanguishene rinks gather here with A.B. Thompson at the left who presented the trophy on behalf of the Thompson family of Penetang. His family first sponsored a bonspiel in the early part

of the century. The cup was later misplaced and not found again until the late 1950's. It's resurfacing led to the resurrection of the tournament in 1960. Winning skip is in the front row.



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TINY SENIOR TIMES

Tiny Unveils New 2025-2030 Age Friendly Community Plan

The Township of Tiny is proud to introduce its new 2025-2030 Age-Friendly Community Plan. This Plan builds on the success of the former 2017 Local Aging Plan and broadens the township's goals to strengthen inclusion, accessibility, and connection for residents at every stage of life, with a focus on seniors and their wellbeing.

In 2023, Tiny was recognized as an Age Friendly Community by the World Health Organization (WHO) and in 2026, Tiny was recognized as an Age Friendly Community by the Government of Ontario.

The new plan is guided by the WHO's eight Age-Friendly Community domains: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Housing; Respect and Social Inclusion; Communication and Information; Transportation; Social Participation; Civic Participation and Employment; and Community Support and Health Services.

Development of the updated plan was made possible through a \$20,000 grant from the County of Simcoe's Age Friendly Municipal Grant Program. With this support, the Township engaged J Consulting Group to lead a thorough community engagement process. Input was gathered through focus groups and interviews with the Senior Advisory Committee, Seniors Active Living Centres and clubs, Township staff, and organizations serving Indigenous residents. Additional outreach included a one-page information sheet distributed at municipal facilities and events, a dedicated webpage, and

promotion through Tiny Connect, social media, newsletters, digital signs, and newspapers such as the North Simcoe Springwater News.

Community feedback played a key role in shaping the updated plan by highlighting changing needs, best practices, and opportunities for improvement. The annual Township of Tiny Senior Symposium in June 2025 provided the perfect opportunity to present the planned update to over 120 older adults, caregivers, and senior-serving organizations. A community survey held from August 1 to September 2, 2025, collected responses from 376 participants, including 200 telephone interviews with residents aged 55+ and 176 online or paper submissions.

"The Age-Friendly Community Plan outlines specific activities that we can work on over the next five years to continue to improve the lives of all Tiny residents. As a recognized Age-Friendly Community we are dedicated to providing services and programs for people of all ages and abilities," said Mayor David Evans. "This Plan is a refreshed commitment to the Tiny community, and particularly our older adult population, that we will continue to look for opportunities to support aging in place and connection for seniors, while also focusing on accessibility and inclusion."

The Age-Friendly Community Plan provides a modern and actionable strategy to support seniors today while preparing for future growth and demographic change. It honours past

accomplishments, responds to current needs, and lays the foundation for a thriving, inclusive community for years to come.

To read the Age-Friendly Community Plan, visit www.tiny.ca/AgeFriendly.

The information in this article is provided as a public service by the Township of Tiny Senior's Advisory Committee. We invite and welcome your feedback and suggestions on how we can make Senior Tiny Times a valuable information resource for our Seniors.

Website: www.tiny.ca/seniors
Phone: 705-526-4204
Email: seniors@tiny.ca

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

Do you know someone who would like to be featured in our paper? Submit your photos, events or the good news you'd like to share with your community.

Please submit your photos to the Editor. Email: info@springwaternews.ca

Full name, phone number and address must be supplied.

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O'NEILL, Donna Rose

Passed away peacefully at Hospice Huronia on Friday, February 27, 2026. Donna Rose O'Neill (nee Court) of Phelpsston in her 75th year. Beloved wife of Michael O'Neill. Dear mother of Robert (Colleen) and Richard (Janice). Proud and loving Grandma of Braden, Logan, Katie, and Taylor. Sister of Douglas (Suzanne) Court. Sister-in-law of Joseph (Edith) O'Neill, Helen (Bill) Large, and Carol (Paul) Grenier.

In keeping with Donna's wishes, there will not be a funeral service.

Our thanks to Dr. Heidi DeBoer, Megan Kenny and all the staff at Hospice Huronia.

Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or Hospice Huronia Tomkins House.

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

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ARCHER, Kenneth Grant

Kenneth Grant Archer, known to many as Ken, Kenny, or Arch, passed away peacefully at his home in Wasaga Beach on February 25, 2026, at the age of 63. He was surrounded by the love of his wife and children, held close until his final breath.

Born on February 8, 1963, and raised in Elmvalle, Ken carried his roots with him throughout his life. He was a man defined not by noise, but by steady presence. His quiet strength anchored those around him, and his quick wit could lift a room in seconds.

Above all else, Ken was most proud of the life he built with his beloved wife, Shannon, and their children. His family was his greatest accomplishment and his deepest joy. Ken's life was forever shaped by his love for Shannon. What they built together was more than a marriage; it was a partnership anchored in trust, laughter, and a love that never wavered.

He will be deeply missed and forever loved by his devoted wife, Shannon; his children, Kristen, Jillian (Rick), Colleen, and Dylan; and his cherished grandchildren, Aryana, Owen, Jude, Ryder, and Bentley, who brought him immeasurable pride and joy. He is also lovingly remembered by his sisters, Tammy and Terry (Bob), along with many nieces and nephews who will carry his memory forward.

He was predeceased by his parents, Betty and Roy, and his brother, Neal.

Ken will be remembered for his devotion to family, his sharp humor, and the quiet determination he brought to everything he set his mind to. His love was steady, strong, and enduring.

His presence will be deeply missed, but the foundation he built in love will continue through the family he cherished.

A Celebration of Life will be held on March 7th from 2pm-5pm at the Elmvalle Legion.

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

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51					52				53			

Across

- 1 Not stay put
- 5 Greyhound
- 8 "Water ___ Elephants"
- 11 ". . . ___ the wild blue yonder"
- 12 Worker in a colony
- 13 Be in the hole for
- 14 Come together
- 15 Bow
- 16 Yeller's adjective
- 17 Best-selling
- 20 Million year old imprint
- 23 Line on a repair bill
- 26 Printer fuel
- 27 Took the initiative
- 29 "Truth" alternative
- 30 Bloom holder
- 32 Firm
- 34 Kid
- 35 Stories can be full of them
- 37 Seashore finds
- 39 Tournament participants
- 41 ___ scan (diagnostic aid)
- 43 Not yours alone
- 44 Faxed
- 48 In the past
- 49 Cock-and-bull story
- 50 Zone
- 51 Porker pad
- 52 Tip
- 53 Bore

Down

- 1 Boundary
- 2 A wee hour
- 3 Wolfed
- 4 Ones attracted to flames
- 5 Fights
- 6 Standard quantity
- 7 Symbol of strength
- 8 Pigskin
- 9 Tawny, for example
- 10 Spectrum hue
- 18 Engine need
- 19 Lamentable
- 20 Ocean inhabitant
- 21 Knowing
- 22 Halloween costume
- 24 Rigorous test
- 25 Cabs on a menu
- 28 In demand
- 31 Rest room sign
- 33 Not just "a"
- 36 Committed larceny
- 38 Certain English assignment
- 40 Wreckage
- 41 Gown partner
- 42 Mature or ripen
- 45 History chunk
- 46 Just released
- 47 Beach color

OBITUARY INQUIRES

Obituary notices can be placed in the paper at a custom cost of size. Please submit your notices to the Editor. Email: info@springwaternews.ca or drop off at office. Contact information is on the bottom of page 1. **Full name, phone number and address must be supplied.**

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