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Springwater NEWS

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Edition 726 | April 23, 2026

Customer # 0003684814 / Publication/Admail # 0040027838

April Showers Bring May Flowers



By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News

There's a quiet kind of magic in this time of year. It begins with the gentle rhythm of dripping water—snow melting, earth softening, and the first signs of life returning after a long, harsh winter. The days stretch a little longer, the sun lingers a little warmer, and suddenly, the world feels as though it is waking up alongside us.

Spring never arrives all at once. It comes in

layers—sunshine one day, rain or even a late snowfall the next. But even those grey, rainy days carry promise. They remind us that growth is underway, that renewal is happening just beneath the surface. And if we're lucky, a rainbow follows, a brief but beautiful reward for our patience.

There's a reason the phrase "April showers bring May flowers" has endured. It speaks not just to nature, but to perspective. After months of cold and confinement, the simple warmth of

the sun feels like a gift. Even a walk in the rain can feel refreshing, a chance to reconnect with the outdoors we've missed.

Nature, too, is embracing the change. Robins return, hopping across damp lawns in search of an easy meal. Wetlands and fields begin to stir with activity. Our communities follow suit—neighbours reappear, exchanging friendly waves, conversations begin again, and the sense of

Continued...



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Continued...

connection that winter often quiets starts to rebuild.

The Wildlife at Tiny Marsh

One place where this seasonal transformation is especially vivid is Tiny Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area. As one of the region's natural treasures, the marsh offers a front-row seat to spring's return. From the sounds of migrating birds to the subtle movement of wildlife emerging from winter, it is a reminder of how interconnected we are with the natural world around us. Ongoing conservation efforts—like turtle nest protection, invasive species control, and wildlife monitoring—highlight the role local volunteers play in safeguarding this delicate ecosystem.

The Living Landscape of Minesing Wetlands

Spring's arrival is perhaps nowhere more dramatic than in the vast expanse of the Minesing Wetlands, one of the largest and most ecologically significant wetlands in southern Ontario. As floodwaters spread across the lowlands each spring, the wetlands transform into a thriving, dynamic habitat that supports an incredible diversity of life.

More than 200 bird species have been recorded here, with many returning each spring to nest and raise their young. The calls of warblers, the sight of herons returning to long-established colonies, and the movement of waterfowl across the marsh all signal a landscape coming alive again. Along the forest edges and open meadows, deer, fox, and other wildlife re-emerge, while the waterways host fish species that depend on these seasonal floods for spawning.

The wetlands are not just a place to observe nature—they are a reminder of its scale and resilience. At the same time, they require careful stewardship. Visitors are encouraged

to tread lightly, respecting sensitive habitats, particularly during nesting and breeding seasons.

Sweet Traditions: Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival

Spring in our region isn't only marked by natural renewal—it's also celebrated through long-standing community traditions. Few events capture the spirit of the season quite like the Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival.

For more than five decades, this beloved event has brought together residents, visitors, and families to celebrate one of Ontario's sweetest seasonal treasures: pure maple syrup. What began as a local fundraiser has grown into a vibrant community gathering, with proceeds supporting schools, youth programs, libraries, and countless local initiatives.

On festival day, the village transforms into a bustling hub of activity. The scent of pancakes and sausages fills the air, vendors line the streets with local goods and crafts, and live music adds to the festive atmosphere. Visitors can hop on a bus to nearby sugar bushes to see firsthand how sap is transformed into syrup—a process still guided by the rhythms of nature.

For many, the festival is more than an event—it's a homecoming—a chance to reconnect with friends and family and celebrate the season together.

Spring in the Fields: Agriculture & Road Safety

Beyond the wetlands and woodlots, another sure sign of spring is unfolding across our rural landscape—farmers returning to their fields. As the ground softens and temperatures rise, tractors, planters, and other equipment begin to appear on local roads, marking the start of a busy agricultural season.

This renewed activity is essential to our community, but it also requires heightened awareness from motorists. Farm equipment often

travels well below typical road speeds, frequently under 40 km/h (25 mph), and is marked by flashing amber lights and the familiar red-orange slow-moving vehicle triangle.

Sharing the road safely comes down to patience and caution. Approaching vehicles can close the distance quickly—sometimes three to four times faster than the machinery ahead. Keeping a safe following distance—at least 15 metres (about 50 feet)—is critical, as is resisting the urge to pass in unsafe conditions.

Passing should only be done where it is clearly permitted and when visibility is unobstructed. It's important to remember that when a farmer moves slightly to the right, it may not be an invitation to pass—they could be preparing for a wide left turn into a field entrance. Watching for turn signals or even hand signals can help prevent dangerous misunderstandings.

Rural roads present additional challenges this time of year. Narrow bridges, soft shoulders, and ditches leave little room for error, particularly when oversized equipment may take up most—or all—of the roadway. Farm machinery also has significant blind spots, meaning operators may not see vehicles following too closely or approaching from behind.

In the end, the few moments saved by rushing simply aren't worth the risk. A little patience goes a long way in ensuring everyone—farmers and motorists alike—arrives safely.

April is a bridge—a transition between what was and what's to come. It asks for patience, but rewards us with renewal. Whether you're exploring local wetlands, enjoying community traditions, or simply taking a mindful drive through the countryside, this is a season to reconnect—with nature, with community, and with each other.

After all, the flowers are on their way.

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.

THINK FAKE NEWS DOESN'T HAVE REAL CONSEQUENCES? ?! Misinformation can divide communities. Local newspapers bring people together with facts that connect, inform and strengthen. Trust verified news from real journalists, not algorithms, because facts matter.

Award-Winning Documentary "We Lend A Hand: The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes" to Screen in Elmvale May 22, 2026

Elmvale, ON - A largely forgotten chapter of Canadian history will be brought to light as the 50-min documentary film We Lend A Hand: The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes screens in Elmvale, Ontario. The film has been selling out theatres across Ontario and will now be screened at the Elmvale Community Hall (33 Queen St W, Elmvale, ON L0L 1P0) on May 22, 2026.

Created by Director/Producer Colin Field and Historical Producer (and Exeter resident) Bonnie Sitter, the documentary tells the extraordinary story of 40,000 teenage girls who volunteered on Canadian farms during and after World War II and helped sustain the nation's food supply when young men left to fight overseas.

Bonnie Sitter, an author, was searching through old family photographs when she found a captivating image of a group of young women taken on her late husband's family farm near Thedford with a caption on the reverse that read: "Farmerettes 1946."

This led Bonnie to research the Farmerette story, and publish an article in The Rural Voice asking for women who served as Farmerettes to get in touch with her. Shirlean English, a retired London Free Press journalist, read the article and wrote a letter to the editor, explaining her own experience as a Farmerette, and how it remained the best summer of her life. Bonnie and Shirlean would go on to co-author the book Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz: Memories of Ontario Farmerettes in 2019.

"We wanted to capture the story of how the Farmerettes helped win the Second World War by volunteering to aid farmers with food production," says Bonnie. "Most of these girls had never seen a farm. They came from all over Ontario as volunteers. They weren't conscripted. They chose to roll up their sleeves and do their part for Canada, and their efforts have largely been forgotten."

Director Colin Field first met Bonnie in 2019 and was inspired by her research and desire to bring this forgotten Canadian story to life. He proposed a documentary film, and Bonnie agreed to fundraise to bring the project alive. Colin interviewed 20 Farmerettes - now in their 90s - for the documentary, and after two years of work, and with the help of sponsors and generous donors, We Lend A Hand: The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes is finally complete.

"It has been a privilege to travel throughout the province and hear the stories of these surviving Farmerettes," Field said. "If it wasn't for these girls, the soldiers wouldn't have had food to eat and the economy would have ground to a halt".

After the screening there will be a Q&A with the filmmakers and a chance to acquire film autographed copies of Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz: Memories of Ontario Farmerettes, Shirlean English and Bonnie Sitter's amazing book.

Tickets for the May 22nd, screening at the Elmvale Community Hall can be purchased through the link below.

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/we-lend-a-hand-the-forgotten-story-of-ontario-farmerettes-elmvale-tickets-1982972811058?aff=oddtcreator&ke ep_tld=true Watch the trailer here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ImJcqxZg5

This event is brought to you by the Springwater Township Public Library, Flos Agricultural Association, Elmvale Community Recreation Association, Centre Flos Women's Institute, Friends of the Springwater Township Public Library, and the Simcoe Federation of Agriculture.

For more information please visit welendahand.ca Colin Field - Producer/Director, Albireo Films 519-619-7940 albireofilms@gmail.com, Bonnie Sitter - Historical Producer 519-235-1909 bonnie.sitter@gmail.com



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Participate - hear about community events, recreation programs, and public meetings

Be Prepared - receive alerts about pending and existing emergencies

Recreation and Special Events

Charity Tournaments

Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament
• June 11, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. at the Orr Lake Golf Club
Charity Pickleball Tournament
• August 27-30, 2026, at Parkside Park in Balm Beach
Join us to play, sponsor or donate. All proceeds will be distributed to charities and non-profits in North Simcoe. Learn more at tiny.ca/CharityTournaments.

Senior Symposium

• June 17, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Tiny Community Centre
Admission is free, registration required. Register at tiny.ca/SeniorSymposium.

Canada Day

• July 1, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Balm Beach
Live entertainment, family-friendly activities, and an evening drone light show. Learn more at tiny.ca/CanadaDay.

Summer Camps, Spring/Summer Program Registration

Registration is open for residents and non-residents at tiny.ca/PlayPortal.

Community Garden

Plots are still available for rent! Register at tiny.ca/PlayPortal.



Council Meeting Schedule

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------|
| May 13 2:00 PM | June 3 2:00 PM | June 24 2:00 PM | YouTube |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------|

Watch the live-stream on Tiny's YouTube channel!

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

2026 Municipal Elections

The next municipal elections in Ontario will be held on October 26, 2026.

Voter List

Registration is open! Make sure you are on the voting list and update your information by visiting RegisterToVoteOn.ca.

Update and Check Your School Support

Make sure you check your school support by June 1, 2026. This will ensure that the correct School Board Trustee candidates will be available for you during the election period. Visit mpac.ca/SchoolSupport.

Visit the source for all information about the Township of Tiny Municipal Elections at tiny.ca/Elections.

Beaches in Tiny

Residents and visitors are reminded that personal items/private property cannot be left unattended or overnight on municipally owned property. Items left unattended or stored on municipal property will be removed by the township at the owner's expense.

Waterfront structures such as boat lifts on the lakebed are regulated under Provincial law and are not permitted in front of any municipally owned properties.

Volunteer Working Groups

We have volunteer working group positions open related to community events, pickleball, and soccer! Share ideas, offer feedback, help with planning, etc. Learn more or apply at tiny.ca/Volunteer.

2026 Property Taxes

Register for e-billing and pre-authorized payments!

Installment Due Dates
• June 30 • September 29

Have questions? Contact us at taxdepartment@tiny.ca or 705-526-4204. Learn more at tiny.ca/Taxes.

2026 Education Bursary

Tiny's 2026 Education Bursary Program applications are open! Five bursaries valued at \$1,000 each are available to students entering their first year of post-secondary education for degree, diploma, certificate, and vocational programs. Open to children of Tiny residents/property owners. Apply at tiny.ca/Bursary.

SheLeads Georgian Bay 2026 Returns May 2 A Day of Inspiration, Connection, and Community Impact

Get ready for a powerful and uplifting day as SheLeads Georgian Bay returns on May 2, 2026, at Georgian Bay District Secondary School in Midland. This vibrant, feel-good event is designed for all ages. Inclusive and accessible, SheLeads Georgian Bay is proudly low-cost, with free tickets available to ensure that everyone in the community can attend.

Attendees can look forward to an engaging and diverse lineup of interactive workshops designed to spark creativity, and offer support and connection. Sessions include Zumba, resilience-building, personal safety, gardening and the joy of flowers, health and wellness, cupcake decorating, improv and more—ensuring there's something for every interest and energy level.

The morning keynote will feature author and founder Anette Lan, who brings a deeply meaningful and timely message. Drawing from her book *Enso, A Tree Still Grows*, Anette shares a powerful reframe rooted in her Japanese heritage and shaped by her journey through aerospace, fintech, and building an AI company.

Adding a touch of style and celebration, the lunchtime fashion show by Cashmere Blue will be a highlight of the day—showcasing local fashion while celebrating confidence and self-expression.

As a volunteer led, non profit event, SheLeads Georgian Bay is deeply rooted in community impact. All proceeds are reinvested directly into the local community and future events. In 2024, SheLeads Georgian Bay proudly established the She Leads Georgian Bay Scholarship Fund through the Huronia Community Foundation

providing scholarships to local high school students each year. SheLeads Georgian Bay has also proudly supported GBGH Foundation, the local Smile Cookie campaign, Askennonia Seniors Centre fashion show, Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre Ride for Hope, and the local AA annual women's retreat.

"SheLeads Georgian Bay would not be possible without the incredible support of our sponsors, partners, and volunteers," notes event co-leads Teresa Smith and Jennifer Dusome. "We are

especially grateful to our lead sponsors—the women lawyers of HGR Graham Partners LLP and Ferguson Deacon Taws LLP, TeamJordan, Northcott Professional Law, and Wyevale Jug City—whose generosity and belief in our mission help make this event accessible to all and allow us to continue investing back into our community."

Come be inspired, make new connections, and celebrate together. For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.sheleadsgeorgianbay.com/>



The SheLeads Georgian Bay 2026 organizing committee putting the final touches on plans for the May 2nd event

Tiny Fire Reminders

May 3 to 9, 2026
Emergency Preparedness Week
canada.ca/get-prepared



During this Emergency Preparedness Week, make sure that you and your family are prepared for any season. Visit our tiny.ca/Prepare resource centre for tips on how to be prepared for emergencies such as printable checklists.

Seasonal Reminders and Notices

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reduced Load Restrictions (Half-Loads) | Reduced load restrictions (half-loads) are in effect until April 30, 2026 (unless extended due to weather conditions). No vehicle or trailer can weigh more than five (5) tonnes per axle, no exceptions. Learn more at tiny.ca/Roads . |
| Capital Projects (Construction) | 2026 capital projects including road, water, and park improvements can be viewed at tiny.ca/CapitalProjects . |
| Spring Road Maintenance | Spring road maintenance is underway. Staff are working to repair roadways from the winter season including potholes and flood management. Please be patient as crews work through the community. Learn more about road maintenance at tiny.ca/Roads . |
| Municipal Water Flushing | Municipal water flushing has been delayed to start on April 27th. Crews will be making their way through the municipality. View the schedule and more information at tiny.ca/DrinkingWater . |



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Court Grants Injunction in Tiny Township Trespass Case

By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News

A judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice has ruled in favour of a Tiny Township resident, granting an injunction that temporarily halts enforcement of a municipal trespass notice and parts of a controversial bylaw.

In a decision released April 10, 2026, Justice A.A. Casullo sided with applicant Karen Zulynik in her legal challenge against The Corporation of the Township of Tiny. The ruling stems from a Notice of Trespass issued to Zulynik in November 2025, which barred her from municipal offices, council meetings, and township events until June 1, 2026.

Background to the Dispute

Zulynik, a long-time Tiny Township resident and active participant in local politics, has regularly attended council meetings since late 2023 and plans to run in the 2026 municipal election.

The dispute traces back to an October 2025 protest at the site of a new township administration centre, a project that has sparked public debate. Zulynik organized the demonstration, which drew approximately 100 attendees. While she maintains the protest was peaceful, the Township later alleged inappropriate conduct and issued the trespass notice.

The notice not only restricted her access to municipal properties but also limited her ability to attend council meetings in person and participate in local governance activities. Zulynik intends to run for municipal election this fall and with the trespass being issued till June 2026, she would not be able to file her nomination for the election in person in May should the trespass notice stand.

Court Findings

Justice Casullo found that Zulynik met the legal test required for an injunction, including demonstrating a serious issue to be tried and the likelihood of irreparable harm.

The court emphasized that preventing Zulynik from filing her nomination papers in person at the start of the election period could place her at a disadvantage compared to other candidates.

The judge also raised concerns about the lack of evidence supporting the Township's claims of misconduct, noting there was no clear proof that

Zulynik engaged in behaviour warranting such restrictions.

Charter Rights at Issue

Central to the case is whether the trespass notice and the Township's Citizen Code of Conduct bylaw violate rights protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, particularly freedom of expression.

In her decision, Justice Casullo cautioned that while codes of conduct may be necessary, they must not be used in ways that suppress legitimate public discourse.

Administration Centre Project Update

Meanwhile, Township Council has also received a detailed progress report on the construction of the new Township of Tiny Administration Centre (TTAC), the same project at the centre of public debate.

According to Public Works Report PWR-030-25, construction is now underway at the Concession 9 East site. Preparatory work—including environmental, traffic, hydrogeological, and archaeological studies—has been completed, along with site clearing, installation of access roads, and foundation groundwork. Concrete foundation work began in December, with multiple major construction tenders already approved.

The project design has also undergone accessibility review in accordance with AODA standards, and an advisory committee has been formed to assist with planning public spaces within the facility. Township staff and consultants continue to look for cost-saving measures as the project advances.

Financially, the latest Class C cost estimate places the project at approximately \$27.5 million, including a contingency of about \$2.2 million. This reflects an increase from earlier estimates, partly due to expanded public space within the building. Additional costs, such as hydro servicing—currently estimated at \$600,000—are still being finalized.

To finance the project, the Township has approved a \$28 million interest-only construction loan, with long-term borrowing options still under consideration. Based on current projections, the estimated impact on residential taxpayers is about \$38.14 annually for every \$100,000 of assessed property value under a 30-year debenture model. For a home assessed at \$350,000, this equates to roughly \$133 per year.

The Township is also pursuing federal funding

support through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, with an initial grant application already submitted.

Construction of the new administration centre is expected to be completed in late 2027.

Municipal Budget and Legal Cost Pressures

The broader financial context for residents comes as The Corporation of the Township of Tiny approved its 2026 municipal budget on January 7, 2026, with a 3.99 per cent blended tax increase.

For the average residential property assessed at \$350,000, the municipal portion of the increase amounts to approximately \$7.11 per month. However, officials note that a year-end surplus from 2025 could reduce the final tax rate later this spring.

The \$53.3 million gross budget includes \$22.5 million funded through the tax levy and features significant investments in infrastructure, including \$4 million for roadwork, \$6 million for the Lafontaine watermain (pending grant funding), and continued work on the new administration centre.

Mayor David Evans said Council worked to balance affordability with the need to invest in essential services and long-term infrastructure.

At the same time, ongoing legal disputes—such as the Zulynik case—highlight the potential for additional financial pressures on the municipality. While specific legal costs have not been detailed publicly, litigation can require significant municipal resources, including legal representation and administrative time.

As the case proceeds, residents will be watching closely not only for its political implications, but also for any downstream impact on municipal finances and future budgets.

Broader Impact

Along with granting the injunction, the court ordered that the Township take no further action under its Citizen Code of Conduct bylaw against Zulynik until the broader legal challenge is resolved.

The ruling allows Zulynik to resume full participation in municipal affairs, including attending meetings and preparing for her anticipated election campaign.

The case will continue as the court considers Zulynik's application to quash the bylaw entirely.

Georgian Bay General Hospital Launches Baby Bundle Program for New Families



Families welcoming a newborn at Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH) will now head home with a little extra support, thanks to the hospital's newly launched Baby Bundle program.

Announced April 9, the initiative provides each family with a thoughtfully curated gift box designed to help ease the transition into those first days at home with a newborn. The bundles include practical essentials such as diapers, baby wipes, hygiene products, and a "Baby on Board" magnet, along with keepsakes like a "Born at GBGH" onesie, a cuddly sloth stuffed animal, and a hand-knitted blanket and hat.

"This is a meaningful moment for families, and we wanted to recognize it in a special way," said Matthew Lawson, President and CEO of GBGH. "These Baby Bundles are a small but heartfelt gesture from both the hospital and our community partners."

The program is rooted in strong local collaboration. The knitting group at the Askennonia Senior Centre has taken on the task of creating blankets for every bundle, while GBGH volunteers contribute by knitting hats.

"For many of our members, this is about more than knitting," said Blair Randolph Flood, Executive Director of the Askennonia Senior Centre. "It's about giving back and knowing their work will bring comfort to new families."

Additional support comes from an anonymous donor through the GBGH Foundation, who supplied diapers and wipes—further

highlighting the community-wide effort behind the initiative.

Community Support Powers Local Healthcare

Behind programs like the Baby Bundles is the ongoing work of the GBGH Foundation, which plays a critical role in ensuring the hospital has access to modern equipment and resources.

While hospitals in Ontario receive government funding for day-to-day operations, essential medical equipment and technology—such as MRI machines, diagnostic imaging tools, and other specialized equipment—are largely funded through community donations. The Foundation works to bridge that gap, raising funds that directly enhance patient care across North Simcoe.

This means that many of the tools used to diagnose, monitor, and treat patients at GBGH are made possible through the generosity of local donors, businesses, and community partners. Initiatives like the Baby Bundle program reflect not only compassionate care, but also the strength of a community that continues to invest in its local hospital.

The Baby Bundle program reflects GBGH's ongoing commitment to compassionate, patient-centred care. In the past fiscal year alone, 215 babies were born at the hospital, each marking a new beginning for families across North Simcoe.

With this program, GBGH is not only celebrating those milestones but also strengthening the connection between the hospital and the community it serves—one newborn at a time.



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Message from MP Doug Shipley



Do you find yourself discussing the weather more often these days? Weather seems to be at the top of my list of things to talk about.

Now that we can see our gardens, backyards, and balconies again, it is time to start planning and visiting garden centres as they open throughout our region.

I was reviewing my calendar and looking at some upcoming events and I am counting down the days until the Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival.

competition that you would like to share.

I encourage you to get outdoors. Whether you want a leisurely hike or to make it a workout, we have amazing trails throughout the region that can accommodate you, and there are benches on the shores of our many lakes where you can relax and simply appreciate the scenery.

Please know that my staff and I are always on hand to assist you with any federal matters or to hear your comments and feedback.

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

Community Update from Ward 1 Councillor Matt Garwood, Township of Springwater

Hello Springwater residents. I'm pleased to share updates on recent decisions and developments that are shaping our community.

LifeLabs Expands Hours in Elmvale:

LifeLabs Elmvale has expanded its hours to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Springwater Health Services Centre.



Presentation to the Elmvale Harvesters:

Council welcomed the Elmvale Harvesters and congratulated them on their inaugural Ontario Elite Hockey League season.

Award of Elmvale Arena Dehumidification System for Phase 2:

The contract to improve dehumidification and atmospheric control at the Elmvale Arena has been awarded at \$273,612.30, including non-recoverable HST.

Rural Intersection Illumination:

Council directed staff to consult with the County of Simcoe and the Ministry of Transportation on adding lighting at rural intersections.

Examples of intersections under review include:

- CR19 (South Orr Lake Rd) and Baseline Rd
CR29 (Crossland Rd) and Flos Road 5 West
Flos Rd 10 East and Hwy 93

Award of Minesing Community Hall Basement Foundation Remediation: The Township has awarded the contract for basement foundation remediation at the Minesing Community Hall at \$450,661.46.

Proposal for a Springwater Endowment Fund:

Council directed staff to invest \$22.8 million from the Barrie Restructuring Compensation Agreement into an endowment fund over the next five years.

Award of Tender for Road Rehabilitation Program – 2026 Various Roads: A contract has been awarded to Georgian Paving (a division of Miller Paving Ltd.) for road rehabilitation on multiple roads and one municipal parking lot.

The Elmvale Farmers' Market Returns for 2026:

The Elmvale BIA is excited to announce the return of the Elmvale Farmers' Market for the 2026 season, a celebration of local food, creativity, and community spirit that continues to grow each year.

2026 Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival:

Discover the joy of the Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival, a beloved Ontario tradition featuring pancake breakfasts, artisan vendors, and immersive sugarbush tours.

Message From MPP Jill Dunlop

Providing Provincial Support in Simcoe North

- Anniversary, Birthday & Special Event Scrolls
Birth, Death & Marriage Certificates
Family Responsibility Office Issues (FRO)
GAINS (tax credits for disabled persons and seniors)
Health Care
Health Cards/OHIP Issues
Natural Resources & the Environment
Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
Ontario Student Assistance (OSAP)
Provincial Government Programs
Seniors Issues
Small Business Issues
Transportation
Trillium Drug Program (OTDP)
Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB)

JILL DUNLOP MPP – Simcoe North/Nord

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Published every two weeks. Online visits average 19,000 visits. Springwater News prints 23,000 papers per edition. Delivered by Canada Post to mailboxes in Township of Springwater, Tiny, Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene.

WE WANNA HEAR FROM YOU!

WHAT POLITICAL AND NEWS COVERAGE MATTER TO YOU?

As the days grow longer and the signs of spring begin to bloom across Simcoe North, I'm reminded of the resilience and strength of our community.

At my office, we continue to focus on delivering results that matter most to residents. This spring, the provincial government is advancing key initiatives aimed at strengthening our healthcare system.

Affordability remains a top priority. Recent measures to provide relief for families, seniors, and small businesses are helping to ease the cost of

living. From energy rebates to targeted tax relief, our goal is to ensure that Ontario remains a place where people can live, work, and thrive.

I'm also pleased to invite you to one of our most anticipated community events of the year, the Annual Seniors Day. Taking place on May 20th at Barnfield Point Recreation Centre, this free event is designed to celebrate and support the seniors in our community.

Seniors Day is a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate the contributions of older adults in Simcoe North.

As always, my office is here to support you. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas.

Springwater Council Addresses Infrastructure, Growth, and Long-Term Financial Planning

SPRINGWATER – A wide-ranging agenda at the April 15, 2026 meeting of Springwater Township Council highlighted major investments in infrastructure, long-term financial planning, and continued growth across the municipality.

Council recognized community achievements early in the meeting, with a presentation honouring the Elmvale Harvesters, led by Councillor Matt Garwood.

Asset Management Plan and Proposed Levy A key item on the agenda was the Township's 2025 Asset Management Plan and Strategic Asset Management Policy.

As part of the discussion, Council will consider introducing a dedicated 2.6 per cent annual asset management levy beginning in 2027.

Major Infrastructure Investments Council reviewed and approved several significant infrastructure projects, including:

- Minesing Community Hall repairs, with a contract awarded for basement and foundation remediation at a total project cost of approximately \$495,700.
Purchase of new tandem and single axle snowplows, together exceeding \$850,000, to support winter road maintenance.
A bridge replacement and culvert rehabilitation project valued at over \$1.2 million.
The 2026 Road Rehabilitation Program, awarding nearly \$1.7 million for resurfacing roads and improving municipal infrastructure.

Upgrades are also planned for municipal facilities, including:

- A \$268,000 dehumidification system upgrade at the Elmvale Arena.
An \$82,000 roof repair program for the municipal administration building, with a full replacement forecasted within the next eight years.

Long-Term Financial Strategy: Endowment Fund Proposal

One of the most notable items was a proposal to establish a Springwater Endowment Fund, using \$22.08 million from the Barrie Restructuring Compensation Agreement.

If approved, the fund would:
Protect the principal investment permanently
Reinvest a portion of annual returns
Help stabilize property taxes following boundary adjustments

Offset future debt for capital projects Staff have been directed to return with a finalized policy in May.

Development and Planning Matters Council also addressed several development-related items, including:

- Progress on the Carson (Thompson Lands) subdivision in Midhurst, including a reduction in securities tied to completed earthworks
Approval steps for subdivision agreements and zoning amendments
A Community Improvement Plan grant supporting Chelsea Chocolates with signage improvements

Emergency Services and Facilities An additional \$31,000 was requested and recommended for upgrades to Fire Station 5, including renovations and improvements to firefighter facilities.

Looking Ahead Council will also consider a motion regarding rural intersection illumination, exploring costs and feasibility for improved lighting at select County road intersections in partnership with the County of Simcoe.

The meeting is scheduled to adjourn with the next regular Council session set for May 6, 2026.

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U11 LL BC Roofing Coyotes Wrap up a Great Season

By: Amy Smith
Almost at the end of another hockey season, who's excited?

By the time your child reaches U11 hockey, most families have accepted that the arena is their second home. The other hockey families become the people you see more than anyone else on weekends. To someone outside the hockey world, that probably doesn't sound the best way to spend the winter—but for hockey families, it's all part of the routine and becomes something we genuinely look forward to.

This year that has been especially true as we cheer on the U11LL Coyotes, proudly sponsored by BC Roofing. Watching this group of young players grow—both as teammates and as individuals—has made all the hours (and hours...and hours...) at the arena worthwhile.

The Coyotes' lineup features a hardworking group of forwards: Lucas Chaisson, Ben Cooper, Rhys Moreau, Wayde Branson, Maverick Crump, Blake McNaughton, Addison Holden, Bentley Dupuis, Massimo Casalnuovo, Cole St. Germain, and William Draper. On defense, the team relied on Tristan Moreau, Ronan Waldron, Ryker Smith, Rowan Murphy, Audrey Trace, and Addison Carney. Proving himself in net was our young goalie, Lincoln Brown.

Throughout the year, these players showed a lot of heart. They worked hard on the ice and built strong friendships off the ice. A highlight was the tournament this year in Brantford! We pulled off some great victories, had some heartbreaking losses.



Though it all we watched our kids grow stronger and show tremendous support to each other. This is really what local league hockey is all about.

Of course, much of this growth is thanks to the dedication of the team's incredible coaching and management staff: Chad Moreau, Jeremy Smith, Mark St. Germain, Mark Carney, and Amy Smith.

Your time, energy, and commitment to these players is truly appreciated, and the progress the team made this season speaks volumes. We also need thank everyone who pitched in to help with practices;

Marshall Kitchen, Brody Coram, Everett Bennett, and Lincoln Moreu, thanks for being great role models.

The Coyotes have their sights set on the playoffs, where they will face Oro, and they team is ready for the challenge!

As the season winds down, it's hard not to feel both excited and sad. We say goodbye to the early mornings, long weekends, and great memories at the rink. This leaves us with one big question to answer: What are we going to do with all our spare time?

The Elmvale Coyotes U8 MD hockey team finished a great season!

The kids experienced growth, friendships, and a whole lot of fun both on and off the ice.

By Jodi Alexander
From the first puck drop to their final game, these kids showed huge development as players and teammates. Over the course of the season, the boys-built confidence, sharpened their skills, and embraced new challenges. Whether learning positioning, strengthening both offensive and defensive play, or simply gaining a better understanding of the game, each player took huge strides forward.

A key part of the team's success was the supportive and encouraging environment created by the coaching staff and team manager. Their dedication ensured that every player had the opportunity to learn, improve, and enjoy the game. Practices were filled with energy and purpose, focusing on skill development but also on teamwork, sportsmanship, and a love for hockey.

Special thanks go out to our sponsor, Ritchie's feeds and needs! The season was also highlighted by exciting tournament experiences that brought



the team even closer together. Our tournaments were possible because of Blue Jay Homes who generously covering the additional costs for the team's tournaments.

Beyond wins and losses, friendships grew stronger with every game, practice, and shared moment, creating memories that will last far beyond this

season.

As the year comes to a close, it's clear that this was a successful season for the Elmvale Coyotes U8 MD team. The growth seen in each player is something everyone should be proud of! We wish every player continued success wherever their hockey journeys take them. and

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Elmvale Coyotes U11B 2025 Season Update

The 2025 season has challenged the Elmvale Coyotes U11B in the best ways. This group has experienced both highs and lows, but more importantly, they have continued to grow with each game and practice. Effort, resilience, and a willingness to learn have become more consistent as the season has progressed.

The development of the players has been noticeable. Skills have improved, confidence has grown, and the team has begun to play with greater cohesion and purpose. This progress reflects the commitment of the players and the steady guidance of an outstanding bench staff who have focused on development, accountability, and building a strong team culture.

We would like to sincerely thank our sponsor, Fence Right, for their continued support of the Elmvale Coyotes U11B. Their involvement plays an important role in providing a positive and meaningful experience for our players.

As the season moves into its final months, the Coyotes continue to build on their progress and move forward together.



Dynamic U18 LL1 BMR

When you go into the Elmvale arena next year, look up in the rafters to find a new, unique banner hanging up there from the U18 LL1 BMR 2025/2026 team!

Before we discuss their fantastic year, we need to give a huge thanks to BMR hardware for supporting the U18 Local League 1 team. Thank you SO much for your support

As the U18 first half of our season began to wind down just before Christmas, Elmvale Coyotes BMR U18 LL1 team found themselves in third place behind two very strong Oro teams. We finished playing Oro in Elmvale on December 7th and got prepared for our first away tournament in Lakefield, Ontario.

At the Tournament, we played on Friday December 12th against Colbourne at 8:00 p.m. (Colbourne is the team that came in second at the Elmvale Brian English memorial tournament 2025/2026.) Colbourne was a tough team to begin the tournament against, but we ended up winning 5-1

The tournament began the next morning at 10:00 a.m. against Sterling. At the beginning of the 3rd, it was 3-2 for Elmvale. The 3rd period was extremely exciting as Brady Ter Steg scored a hat trick in ONE SHIFT. What an exciting moment for the team and for Brady.

We ended up winning the game 7-2!
In the afternoon, we played the home team Lakefield, with the final ending up being 2-0 Elmvale. Elmvale was headed to the semi-finals on Sunday!

Sunday morning the semi-final games got underway against the Pembroke Kings at noon. It was a nail biter of a game with many scoring opportunities going both ways but no goals. We finally got on the scoreboard at 2 minutes and 34 seconds left in the 3rd period for a 1-0 lead. The final ended up being 2-0 for Elmvale. The team was ecstatic. Everyone was so excited and it was a long 2 hour wait until our championship game.

The final championship game ended up being against Colbourne, the first team we played against. In the first period, it was 0-0. Second period it was 3-1 Elmvale. After a tie 3-3, Elmvale scored with 3 minutes and 6 seconds left in the 3rd period. The final was Elmvale 4-3! There was mayhem on the ice, but Elmvale shook hands and congratulated the Colbourne team for a great game. It was very well deserved

After Christmas Break, the Georgian Bay triangle Local League second half of the season, we played new teams from the West division and were tied for 5th place which moved us to the B group round robin. More about this later...

The end of March Break we were off to Niagara Falls for our last tournament (Ange Gajnorio Memorial Winter Thaw House League 2026). It turned out to be another very exciting tournament with a mathematical decision having to be made to



see which team in our round robin group would go on to the semi-finals on Sunday morning, and it was in Elmvale's favour!!

The first game of the tournament was Friday afternoon against the Thorald Blackhawks and we won 2-0 against them. The second game Friday night was against a very strong Mount Forest Rams and we tied that game 4-4. Saturday morning we played against the Sturgeon Lake Thunder and we won 4-1.

It was after the 3rd game that we had to wait and see who was going on to the semi-finals on Sunday morning. The Mount Forest Rams and the Elmvale Coyotes had both won their games against the other 2 teams and tied against each other, so the tournament organizers had to look at points for and against, etc... It was decided after a very slim mathematical decision of 0.02% in our favour!! Sunday morning here we come!!!

Sunday's game was against the Glanbrook Blue. We came up against a great goalie and refs who decided to not call too much. Unfortunately, we lost the game 2-0 and we were on our way home. (Glanbrook did end up winning the tournament.)

Back in Elmvale, we were second in our Round Robin and were in the playoffs against the Essa Eagles. Essa and Elmvale have been very close in our standings for the second half of our season, so the team knew that it was going to be a very close play off run.

Tuesday March 24, the team laced their skates up for a best out of 3 games against Essa. We traveled to Angus for our first playoff game and Elmvale won 6-2!

The second game was on Friday March 27 and the team knew that Essa was going to come out strong as they needed to win this game. Essa did come out strong, however, Elmvale kept up and at the end of 2nd period, Elmvale was winning 3-2. At 46 seconds left in the game, things turned and several players were kicked out of the game. The Elmvale goalie was also kicked out and we played the rest of the game 4 vs. Essa's 6 players (they pulled their goalie). The game finally ended with Elmvale winning 4-2! Elmvale had won the Group B playoffs! Congratulations everyone!!!

Well done to our U18 Local League 1 BMR

team! Your excellent sportsmanship and talent showed what we're made of! They team finished the year with 17 - 7 - 4 record!

Congratulations to all the players as they all were on the scoresheet with either goals or assists!! Go Coyotes Go!!

Once again, a very special thank you goes out to our sponsor BMR, Coach Cameron Krause, Coach Cole Desbarress, Trainer Teala Ritchie and Manager Melissa Peterson!

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Elmvale Curling Club Celebrates Season of "Fun with Friends"

The Elmvale Curling Club continues to live up to its motto of "Fun with Friends," offering a welcoming environment for both seasoned competitors and those new to the sport.

Founded in 1870 on natural ice, the club has a long and proud history in the community. In the

1950s, the facility was relocated a few hundred metres to its current site, where modern artificial ice sheets were installed. Today, the club remains a hub of activity, with leagues and programs designed for all ages and skill levels, while fostering friendships throughout Elmvale and surrounding

areas.

While some members compete at regional and provincial levels, the club places equal importance on social connection and community spirit.

Mixed Competitive League

Held on Thursday evenings, the Mixed Competitive League allows participants to form their own teams and enjoy the game with friends. Teams are divided into A and B flights, with monthly evaluations determining movement between divisions. The format keeps play balanced and engaging, while maintaining a fun and social atmosphere. This year's winners were Kevin Faye, Randy Mooney, Corrine Mooney and Rob Ritchie.



Tuesday Men's League

The Tuesday Men's League runs with two schedules throughout the season and offers a slightly competitive environment that also supports beginners. Teams are organized by the league coordinator, allowing newer curlers to learn alongside experienced players.

This year's Elmvale Pharmasave Tuesday Night Men's Curling champions were Paul Lambie, Tye McCutcheon, Bart Claasse, and Ian Sutherland.

Friday Mixed League

Friday nights at the club are all about fun and socializing. The non-competitive mixed league attracts both men and women, making it especially popular with couples looking to enjoy a weekly outing together.

The Waterside Retirement Lodge League wrapped up its season on April 8. The championship team featured Randy Mooney (Skip), Brian Uprichard (Lead), and Bruce Lloyd (Second), with Vice Larry Camack absent for the final. Presentations were made by Waterside representatives Marina Cuglietta and Alisa Toma.

The Consolation Championship was won by Russ Madore (Skip), Joe Rossignol (Vice), Larry McMann (Second), and Dan McLean (Lead). The league enjoyed a successful season thanks to the continued support of Waterside Retirement Lodge.



Monday Men's Masters

The Monday Men's Masters League runs weekly from 9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is open to curlers aged 60 and over. This non-competitive league focuses on participation, fun, and camaraderie. Many members are newer to the sport, with some using delivery sticks to enjoy the game.

The final playoffs took place on April 6, with the championship team earning the Harold Townes Memorial Trophy. The winning team included Lou Belcourt (Skip), Mike Trace (Vice), Scott Lewis (Second), and Vern Beacock (Lead). The trophy was presented by Mike Townes. Team Belcourt completed an impressive undefeated season.

The Consolation winners were Paul Lambie (Skip), John Stevenson (Vice), Dan McLean (Second), and Mark Fairbairn (Lead).

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Bearbells By Leslie Noonan

April 16, 2026

The sky was grey and overcast. Thick tendrils of fog slithered out of the snowy forest to hover over the road. The previous days rain had collected in the road's hollows, forcing the car to swerve around them, until the puddles became a river. The car inched through this, water swooshing under the tires as the windshield wipers whipped away the spray. The road, narrow and winding, seemed to go forever through the still forest. Finally, a red stop sign emerged through the mist, and the car turned right, then right again, before pulling into the parking lot for Kettle Lake in Awenda Park.

The sound of our footsteps were deadened by the decaying leaves littering the trail in drab hues of brown and orange. The air smelt moist and loamy, with a slight dank smell wafting in from the water's edges. The forest of oak and maple was quiet, with not even a whisper of wind through the upper branches. Fallen trees were draped in green moss and last year's withered fungi. Off in the distance a pileated woodpecker let out a shrill series of cries that echoed hauntingly among the forest. Between the tree trunks, the lake's calm waters mirrored back the surrounding trees and sky. A pair of merganser ducks swam by, leaving a shallow wake across the surface. Brown cattails lay bent and broken by the shore and a chorus of spring peepers rang out as the first amphibians of the spring made their presence known.

Soon the hard wood forest gave way to an area of dark cedars and pines. Pockets of snow lay under the protective boughs, and more thick fog hovered over them, undulating like a living thing. The trail ahead was thickly littered with bright green shoots from the topmost branches of the spruce and pine, neatly clipped by little teeth. What creature could have done this? We continued, out of the forest and onto the wooden plank bridge crossing the shallow waters between the lake and a marsh. Thick reeds had been flattened into a large trench by some unknown creature, using them to move between the waterways. Across the lake, the land rose up to an area of thick trees and dense undergrowth.

We followed the trail upwards towards this ridge, which was still deep in some areas with snow, necessitating that we step off of the trail to keep our feet dry. Twice we passed the scat of a large carnivore, matted with the fur of some unfortunate creature. As the snow levels in the forest increased, so too did those moving tendrils of fog. The distance was a soft blur of shapes and shadows, twisting and turning as the white fog roiled through the trees. My son paused to bend down to examine a fungus on an old log, when a sound rang out from the bridge we had been at only minutes before. A long single note, echoing across the lake that sent the waterfowl exploding from the dark waters. Goosebumps rose on our flesh as the birds screeched in terror. My son slowly turned to me, eyes wide and mouth open in shock, where my expression was just as startled as his. Without a word we moved quickly back onto the trail, the trees blocking the view of the lake and what ever made that terrifying sound. The fog thickened around us, blocking our view of behind us as well. Another loud cry rang out, closer than before. Our steps were almost fast enough to be running, our feet slipping on the snow patches as we struggled to stay upright. Finally, our pace slowed as we found ourselves on the opposite side of the lake, laughing at our nervousness. The trees thinned and the shore where we had heard the noise was visible, but thick reeds and dark spaces under the trees hid any possibility of seeing what might be there still. A crack, like a broken branch, sounded out from that space, but with no further noise we continued to our car, frequently checking that far shore.

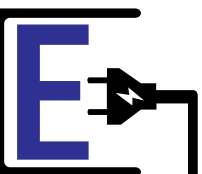
The animal's eyes watched them from under the shadows, watched them laugh at their foolishness. It stepped forward, snapping a twig. It froze and watched the woman raise her head and look across the water, searching the darkness under the trees for movement. It watched her hesitate, then continue with her son along the trail, looking back over her shoulder at its hiding spot. It watched them get in their car and drive away through the thick mist, before it left its hiding spot.

OK, spoiler. This did happen, so of course I had to find out some answers to the unusual events on this trek. I had no idea what kind of creature would neatly snip all those buds off the tops of trees. Turns out that would be those pesky red squirrels who like the young buds in early spring. As to that noise, well, that I am not so sure about. I have the calls and howls of bear, elk, deer, coyotes and wolves, but I have never heard a sound like this. I asked a hunting co-worker, who played a number of vocalizations for me to see if I could identify it. The closest sound was a female moose calling for her calf. Though it was not perfect, so there could still be some mystery animal out at Kettle Lake!



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ANTEN MILLS by Dennis Gannon

Will those April showers bring May flowers? Let's hope so but there is no question that we received those showers. Since the last issue until this past Sunday we have recorded 101.6mm, or 4 inches of rain. Last year's ice storm resulted in a number of homes having water damage due to a lack of hydro and sump pumps not working. This year there are again many homes struggling with water as their pumps are not keeping up with the deluge of water they are receiving. Many ditches have been full of water to the road level, a sight not seen in this community where there is a tremendous sand base. With any luck this will be the last of our issues this year.

This week, from Sunday April 19 to Saturday April 25 is National Volunteer Week in Canada. The year 2026 has also been declared International Year of Volunteers by the UN General Assembly. We are fortunate that in our community we have a variety of volunteers who are able and willing to help us with our community events. Many work behind the scene at events and there is a core group that most people don't know about. As we celebrate National Volunteer Week let me introduce you to some of them and the contributions that they make.

The Anten Mills Community Recreation Association is the group responsible for all community activities. As a board of the township they are accountable to the township and are to abide by the appropriate bylaws. Lawrence Pavan is the chair. A longtime resident Lawrence has served as the chair for over 6 years and been a member for 10 or more. Karis Able stepped up several years ago to be the secretary for the association. At the time Karis was a relatively new member of the village but saw the benefits and joined right in. There are to be 3 directors of the association but at this time there are just 2. Rick Hutchinson, like Lawrence, has had many years of association experience. As a director and volunteer he assists with directing the needs of the community. The final spot is currently held by myself. Along with being a director other responsibilities include being the community events coordinator and liaison to municipal staff and Council. Membership as an active member and volunteer goes back to the early 1980's when our family moved to the area. According to bylaw, the CRA is to have an annual general meeting at which time the directors are to be appointed or elected. It has been difficult over the past several years to have sufficient members attend a meeting resulting in the current volunteers remaining in the position they hold.

Many hands make light work. If you think about how active the community is then you need to know who is making it possible. Let's start with the sign board along Wilson. Celebrations, announcements and business postings all assist in raising needed funds for our community activities. Under new leadership, Karis is the individual who responds to the emails and arranges the post. New to helping out but another longtime resident is Kelly who puts up the post. You can get more information on the sign by emailing antenmillssign@gmail.com.

Another popular means of connecting is the Anten Mills Community Bulletin Facebook page. There are 4 administrators who approve posts and messages. That duty falls to Lawrence, Karis, Becca and myself. As volunteers we all strive to check and approve posts and members as quickly as possible.

Have you been to Thursday night euchre? After many years of looking after it, Pat and Gord relinquished their responsibilities last year. Now the responsibility lies with Judy and Laurie who reignited the event and are doing an amazing job



with great results.

One group that is making a huge social impact are the Knotty Knitters. What is perhaps unique about this group is that they collectively decided who and what they are donating to. There is one attendee who liaises with the CRA but all attendees take responsibility.

If you took in the Rabbit Run or Easter Eggstravaganza this year you can thank Becca and Lindsey and the group of people who helped out. This is one of the primary events and largest of the year. Lindsey and her family also look after the movie nights in the summer. Becca served a term as the chair and is always ready to assist with graphics or other duties.

We had a tremendous ice season this past year. The work Casey and Matt, Paul, Max and Miles did was outstanding. They spent many hours keeping the rink in great shape. It was the earliest and perhaps one of the longest seasons in many years.

Keeping the anniversary gardens in top shape is thanks to Judy. Last year she accepted the challenge and calling on others the gardens looked superb. She will be looking for help soon for this season.

September will see Roslyn heading up the annual Artisan, Crafters and Food Fair. Running now into its 5th year it's a great morning when combined with the pancake breakfast that supports the Elmvale and District Food Bank.

As you can see our community has a tremendous core group who are supported by many others. On this National Volunteer Appreciation Week the community salutes all of you. Congratulations and a huge thank you. It would be remiss not to acknowledge our Springwater volunteer firefighters. We are fortunate that we can call on them to assist us when we ask. Thank you as well for your work in the community when those in distress call upon you. May 1 is First Responders Day in Ontario. We appreciate all that you do.

By the time that you read this the Laycock snowman will be like Frosty the Snowman, gone. The rain did a number on it and it won't be around until May like I predicted. His departure is to be celebrated as we don't need any more snow and cold weather until November at the earliest.

Who doesn't like butter tarts? Did you know that they got their start locally in Barrie? There is a movement about having a National Butter Tart Day on April 19, the birthday of the lady who created the recipe. A petition has been started with the support of local MP Adam Chambers. 500 signatures are required to get it before the House so if you are interested check Adam's website or Facebook page.

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

PA Day Program: Simcoe County Waste Education Workshop

This PA Day our special guest is the Simcoe County Waste Department! They will be teaching us all about the environment and how we can make sustainable choices to help our earth. This workshop will be interactive and includes a take home craft for all participants. Friday April 24, 11am at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

Hunger Games Trivia Tweens/Teens

Do you volunteer as a tribute? Have a grudge against the capitol? Join us for a fun trivia night based on all three of the Hunger Games original trilogy. Friday April 24, 5:30pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: \$5 per team (up to 5 people per team). Registration required (please register once per team).

Tween/Teen Iron On Sublimation Patch Program

Unleash your creativity! Join us for an afternoon full of technology, crafts, and creativity! Perfect for tweens and teens, all skill levels welcome. Create your design on Canva, print with our sublimation printer and iron on your fabric patch. Tuesday April 28, 5:30pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: \$2.00 for two patched.

Registration required.

Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival Book Sale
Our annual big book sale will take place in the Elmvale branch (McGuire room downstairs) during the town Maple Syrup Festival on Saturday April 29, 10:30am-3pm. Come browse and stock up on your beach books!

Emergency Preparedness Workshop

Do you want to be prepared for an emergency? They can happen anywhere at any time. The Be Ready Workshop will teach: The potential hazards and risks for your area, how to create an emergency plan, how to assemble an emergency kit, the importance of social and support networks during emergencies. Tuesday May 5, 10:30am at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

Get Ready for Kindergarten

Join us at the library to get your child ready for kindergarten. This is a four week series; however, feel free to sign up for the specific week(s) that your child needs. Please register your child (parents do not need to register but a care giver's attendance is required). Cost: Free. Tuesdays at Minesing Branch. This program will also run on Mondays in June at Elmvale Branch. Kits are

available upon request.

Week 1: Tuesday May 5 Basic First Steps: Getting dressed without help, Toileting, Eating without help, and Nap weaning.

Week 2: Tuesday May 12 ABC's, Phonics, and Printing their name: Practice saying and printing their ABC's, practice the sounds that the letters make, and recognising and printing their name.

Week 3: Tuesday May 19 Numbers, Shapes, and Patterns: Practice counting abilities (from 1-10), recognition and printing of numbers, recognition of shapes by name, and practicing with simple patterns.

Week 4: Tuesday May 26 Packing lunches and Backpack needs: Learn what to pack and how to pack your child's lunch and backpack to make it easiest for them and the teachers at school. For this session please bring your child a lunchbox and any containers you plan to use for lunches and their backpack (if they have one).

Senior Social Coffee and Crafting

Drop by the library for a fun gathering of crafting and socializing! One morning a month we have a simple craft activity along with light refreshments. In May, make your own spring cards, including intricate paper flowers. Friday May 8, 11am at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

Penetanguishene Library

24 Simcoe Street 705-549-7164

www.penetanguishene.library.on.ca

Book Club

1st Thursday of every month 4:00-5:00pm
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.

Author Talk - Vanessa Dewsbury - Tuesday, April 28 at 4:00pm

Author Vanessa Dewsbury will be speaking at the Penetanguishene Public Library about her book 'Living a Quiet Life'. March 17th- March 24th registration open for Penetanguishene taxpaying members with a valid library card. After March 24th registration is open to everyone. Program is free of charge.

Mother's Day Plaques

Cost - \$10.00
Choose between two different designs. Name on plaque is customizable. One picture can be added if emailed by May 1st. Non-Refundable. Order deadline May 4th. Limited quantities available.

Learn to Crochet a Headband - April 29, 10:30-11:30

\$5.00 for members \$7.00
April 8 - April 15, registration open for Penetanguishene taxpaying members with a valid library card. After April 15 registration is open to everyone. A minimum of 5 participants

is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable for non- members. Please check the website/social media for cancellations due to inclement weather. Parents/guardians must stay in the building for the duration of the program.

Puzzle Competition

Are you puzzled by this "spring weather"? Participate in our puzzle competition!

Pick up a puzzle from our collection. Complete your puzzle, snap a shot, send it to ccabrera@penetanguishenepl.ca

Winner will be chosen at random on April 30.

Button Bouquet for Mom - Friday, May 1, 4:00-5:00

\$5.00 for members \$7.00 Ages: 0 - 12 years old
March 30- April 7, registration open for Penetanguishene taxpaying members with a valid library card. After April 7 registration is open to everyone. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable for non- members. Please check the website/social media for cancellations due to inclement weather. Parents/guardians must stay in the building for the duration of the program.

Weaving and Crochet Canvas Purse - May 20 and 27, 10:30-11:30

\$12.00 for members \$15.00, 2 Session project
April 8 - April 15, registration open for Penetanguishene taxpaying members with a valid

library card. After April 15 registration is open to everyone. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable for non- members. Please check the website/social media for cancellations due to inclement weather.

Be Prepared for a Medical Emergency Offered by County of Simcoe - Wednesday, May 13, 10:30-11:30

Free seminar. Topics: Recognize emergencies, how to help the paramedics, the difference between stroke, cardiac arrest, and heart attack. Registration required. Open to everyone. Spot is non-transferable. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program.

Stronger Pelvic Health: Improve Bladder Control Without Surgery - Fri, May 29, 10:30-11:30

\$5.00 for members \$7.00
March 30- April 7, registration open for Penetanguishene taxpaying members with a valid library card. After April 7 registration is open to everyone. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable for non- members.

Jo Knows Nutrition by Joanne Nijhuis

Not all chocolate cakes are created equal and this one stands out for all the right reasons. Rich, fudgy and deeply satisfying, this torte leans on dark chocolate and nutrition-packed ingredients like almonds instead of flour. The almonds lend both structure and a subtle, nutty richness while the dark chocolate offers depth and decadence without being overly sweet. So simple to make it is the kind of recipe that quietly becomes a tradition for life's big and small celebrations.

Did You Know?

Almonds aren't just tasty - they are one of the most nutrient-dense nuts you can eat. Packed with plant-based protein, fibre, heart-healthy fats and important nutrients including vitamin E and magnesium, almonds are a smart addition to everyday eating. Almond meal is simply almonds ground into a fine consistency, offering an energy dense, gluten-free baking option to all-purpose flour. If you have a food processor or a high-powered blender, you can make almond meal in minutes at home. Just be careful to not over-process or you will end up with almond butter instead.

INGREDIENTS (10 Servings)

- 2 Tablespoons (30 ml) cocoa powder
- ½ cup (125 ml) unsalted butter
- 12 ounces (340 grams) dark or semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 6 Tablespoons (90 ml) strong brewed coffee, cold
- 2 large eggs, separated into whites and yolks
- 1 ½ cups (170 grams) finely ground toasted almonds
- ¼ teaspoon (1.25 ml) cream of tartar
- ½ cup (125 ml) granulated sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 300 F (150 C).
2. Grease a 9-inch (23 cm) springform pan with butter and dust with the cocoa powder. Tap out excess.
3. In a heatproof bowl, melt the chocolate and butter in a microwave in short bursts, stirring until smooth. Alternatively, use a double boiler to melt the chocolate and butter. Let cool slightly.
4. Whisk into the chocolate mixture the cold coffee, egg yolks and almond meal until fully combined.
5. In a separate bowl beat the egg whites with

LIFE STYLE FLOURLESS CHOCOLATE TORTE DENSE, DARK AND DEVINE



the cream of tartar until frothy. Gradually add in the sugar and continue beating until stiff peaks form.

6. Gently fold the egg whites into the chocolate mixture until just combined. Do not overmix.

7. Pour the batter into the springform pan and bake for 35-40 minutes until the edges are set, but the centre is still slightly soft.

8. Cool the torte and chill for several hours. Serve with berries and a dollop of whipping cream, vanilla ice cream or lemon sorbet, if desired.

ENJOY!

PER SERVING: |Calories:400 kcal | Carbohydrates: 24 g | Protein: 9.6 g | Fat: 31 g |Fibre: 4.7 g | Sodium: 18 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.

Annie's Journal by Annie Warner Donnelly



Hello Everyone. Given how the past few columns have talked about being disciples of Jesus and shepherds of God's flock, are you wondering how many of God's flock we might be asked to shepherd?

Like the parable of the Lost Sheep found in Luke 15:3-7, let's care for the 99 who are safely in the fold and look for the one who is lost. I checked eight translations and together they used the phrases "go after that which is lost"; "look for the lost sheep"; and

"search for the lost one". The point is they all refer to someone who is lost. Some of us were lost once. We know how that feels. Can we name the person God used to "find" us? Is there someone God is prompting us to "go after" or "search for"?

I often think about the effort that Desmond Doss made to live his faith. When he was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II, he refused to carry a gun. He became an Army Medic to save lives.

During the Battle of Okinawa - an intense, 11-day battle that ended May 6, 1945 - American soldiers had to use cargo nets and ladders to reach the top of Maeda Escarpment (referred to as Hacksaw Ridge) because it was between 30 and 60 feet straight up, or straight down. At the

top, Japanese soldiers were waiting to kill them.

Desmond Doss, a disciple of Jesus and a shepherd of God's flock, did everything he could to bring the wounded men off that Ridge so they could receive medical treatment. Every time he would save one, he would pray, "Lord, please help me get one more." God helped him get an estimated 75 wounded soldiers to safety. He continued to rescue men after he was wounded. Perhaps you'll discover this true story on the desmondoss.com website, read the book, or watch the movie.

With a few added words, can Desmond's prayer become our prayer too? Can we pray, "Lord, please help me get one more disciple for You?" It's just a thought. Amen.

Dr Sean Corsini Orthodontist
No referral necessary

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NOTICES

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NOTICES

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LIONS CLUB 1979 FLOS RD 7W SAT MAY 9TH 10AM-4PM

CLASSIFIED

AUCTION NOTICES

Rapid-Sell

ONLINE AUCTIONS

Upcoming Auctions

- April Multi Consignor Auction - Guelph (April 26 - 30)
- The Estate of Marion Haller - Kitchener (April 26 - 30)
- Langevin Downsizing Auction - Orangeville (April 26 - 30)
- Coulman Moving Auction - Guelph (May 3 - 7)
- Murphy Moving Auction - Brampton (May 17 - 21)
- May Multi Consignor - Guelph (May 24 - 28)
- Signature Event Rentals Auction (May)
- Estate of Shirley Randal (May)
- Executive Home Content Auction - Kitchener (June)

www.rapid-sell.ca
519-763-1856
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12 Queen St E, Elmvale

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

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Call Alisa Today! (705) 429-8626

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

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.

Ganaraska 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
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.

Ganaraska 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 Maple Syrup Festival

April 25th
Elmvale Arena

Cabin Fever Band Fundraiser Concert

Apr. 24, 2026 18:30- Apr. 24, 2026 21:30
Location: 93 Berczy St. Barrie
Cabin Fever Band \$30 at Ticketscene.ca or email edward.banville@gmail.com

Chris Lewis Day of Service

May 9th
10am-4pm
Lions Clubhouse 1979 Flos Rd 7 W
Free BBQ and Craft Sale

Chili Lunch

Sat. April 25 11am-2pm
Elmvale Presbyterian Church, 22 Queen St. E
Chili, roll treat and drink. Adults \$10, children 4-10 \$5, 3 & under free

OPP Chorus presents Music for Spring

Apr. 26, 2026 19:00- 21:30
Elmvale Presbyterian Church, 22 Queen St. o
Directed by Caroline Hill. Refreshments. Free will offering

Infant and Early Mental Health: A Community Conversation during Mental Health Week

May. 07, 2026 18:30- 20:00
Midland Public Library Assembly Room
A free event to learn from infant and early mental health leaders.

Soup Luncheon

Unity United Church
4967 Vasey Road at Line 4 N Oro Medonte
Thursday May 21 from 11:30am - 1pm
Dine in or take out

\$10.00, \$5 for an extra bowl of soup
Soup, tea biscuit, bread & crackers and dessert
In support of The Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre

All welcome. Tell your friends

Elmvale District Garden Enthusiasts Plant Sale

May. 23, 2026 09:00-12:00
Heritage Park

Locally grown reasonably priced Perennials, Annuals, Hostas, Herbs etc for sale.

Wyevale Untied Church Spaghetti Supper on May 2,2026 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Eat in or Take available.
Tickets are at the Wyevale Jug City

Hike for Hospice

Start: Apr. 16, 2026 10:00
End: May. 31, 2026 13:00
Location: Little Lake Park, Midland
Join us for our memorial walk and key Hospice Fundraiser! www.hospicehuroncia.ca

Publication Dates 2026

Next Editions

May 7 & 21

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Brookside Music Association Announces Expanded

2026 Festival of the Bay

Brookside Music Association Announces Expanded 2026 Festival of the Bay Featuring International Artists and Free Bandshell Concerts

Midland, ON – Brookside Music Association is delighted to announce the return of its Festival of the Bay, an exciting summer celebration of music that brings internationally acclaimed artists and diverse cultural traditions to audiences across the region.

New this year, the festival expands to include the One World Music Festival in a series of free Saturday evening concerts at the Little Lake Park bandshell, highlighting global music traditions and community celebration.

“We are thrilled to expand the Festival of the Bay this summer by incorporating the One World Music Festival,” said Artistic Director John French. “This initiative reflects our commitment to accessibility and cultural diversity—bringing outstanding artists from around the world to Midland, and creating opportunities for the entire community to experience live music in welcoming, informal settings.”

The 2026 festival features an extraordinary range of artists—from internationally celebrated classical performers to vibrant world music ensembles, choirs, and jazz groups.

Festival of the Bay – Indoor Concert Series

- July 11 – Sharon Riley and Faith Chorale

A powerful gospel ensemble known for uplifting performances rooted in the rich traditions of sacred and contemporary gospel music.

- July 17 – Les Rugissants: Voices of Ukraine

A compelling a cappella vocal ensemble presenting music that reflects Ukrainian cultural identity and resilience.

- July 31 – Festival Strings

A dynamic chamber ensemble presenting beloved works from the classical repertoire with artistry and precision.

- August 6 – Eternal Romantics

Featuring acclaimed English actor Christopher Gaze

Renowned for his work in classical theatre, Gaze brings poetry by Lord Byron to life in a unique program combining spoken word with Romantic-era chamber music.

- August 9 – Kevin Chen, piano

One of Canada’s most exciting young pianists, Kevin Chen has rapidly gained international recognition, winning major competitions in Geneva, Tel Aviv, and Budapest, and most recently capturing the Silver Medal at the 2025 International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw ().

Praised for his poetic sensitivity and technical brilliance, Chen has performed at leading venues including Carnegie Hall and with major

orchestras worldwide ().

This is a rare opportunity to hear a rising global star at the height of his early career.

One World Free Bandshell Concerts (Little Lake Park)

- July 4 – Orillia Silver Band

A celebrated community brass ensemble performing a special program honouring Midland’s connection to water, in partnership with the Celebrate Water Festival.

- July 18 – Neema Children’s Choir (Uganda)

An inspiring youth choir known internationally for sharing messages of hope through music and dance rooted in African traditions.

- July 25 – Star Dust Jazz Trio

Bringing classic jazz standards and contemporary flair in an intimate and engaging performance.

- August 15 – Toronto All-Star Jazz Band

A high-energy ensemble featuring the sounds of the Big Band era, showcasing top jazz talent and timeless swing repertoire.

- August 22 – Pan Fantasy Steel Band

A vibrant steel pan ensemble delivering the rhythms and spirit of Caribbean music.

- August 29 – Huronia Hot Strings

A lively local favourite blending folk, swing, and bluegrass influences in a spirited season finale.

From gospel and Ukrainian choral traditions to Caribbean steel pan, African choral music, jazz, and world-class classical performance, the 2026 Festival of the Bay celebrates music as a universal language that connects cultures and communities.

Brookside Music Association continues its mission to enrich the cultural life of the region by presenting outstanding artists in accessible and inspiring settings.

For tickets and more information:
www.brooksidemusic.com

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By Lorrie Norwood
Greetings from downtown Minesing! I'm back at it, I hadn't written in some time and thought I better touch base.

Personally, I have always enjoyed the wintertime, but this year has felt especially long and I am just about ready for the cold and wet weather to end. The arrival of warmer days, the sounds of birds, and the fresh scents of spring are a welcome change. Of course, in true Canadian fashion, it won't be long before we're complaining about the humidity and the mosquitos. I suppose we could be complaining about worse things, right?

Pickle Ball - There have been some inquiries about pickle ball here in the village and yes,

Hey Dads!

By Jason Weening
Hey Dads! Do you know how much laundry gets done at your house? I learned some interesting stats this week...from an appliance repairman...as he took apart our washing machine. Now before you judge me for calling a repairman please note that we attempted to fix it ourselves first. The boys and I (mostly the boys, actually) had already taken the washing machine apart to do some self-diagnosis. We thought we were close to solving the problem but we had failed so I relented and called in the big guns...that is, Mr. Appliance Repairman. Please forgive me for the amount of mathing we are about to partake of.

On to the statistics: A family of four people does about eight loads of laundry each week. I don't know if your family is above average or below average (I suspect in most areas your family is above average). I know our family is

there is Pickle Ball. Activities will begin in May when the weather warms up. The games take place in the Pavilion where the skating rink is located. For those interested, dates and times will be posted on the Minesing Community Facebook page.

Minesing Otters Baseball League - Once the remainder of the snow melts, the grass greens up and the ball diamond is ready for play, the Minesing Otters will back at it on various nights throughout the summer. Residents are encouraged to come out and support the teams as they face off against other local teams. You can check out their website for schedules at www.minesingminorball.ca

Village Garage Sale - Plans are underway for above average in at least one area...the quantity of laundry done each week. I don't always use math but when I do I conclude that we do 24 loads of laundry each week. Our family has 12 people and so we triple that fascinating statistic we learned earlier.

My memory may be going downhill as my age climbs uphill but I think the friendly repairman also said that a washing machine should last about 10 years. Going back to the math this means washing machines in our house will only last about 3.3 years. I think that's an accurate stat. I think we've been married about 21 years. A quick trip down memory lane suggests we've gone through six washing machines. We've lived in three houses and I'm pretty sure I can remember bringing a washing machine into each of those homes. Granted, a few of them were purchased used so perhaps some of their best years were already behind them. So 21 years divided by six washing machines equals 3.5 years per machine. There we are, above average again!

a village garage sale. There has been considerable interest and the date has been set for Saturday, June 6th. If you would like your address included on the list, please send it to LorrNor71@gmail.com. It makes sense for everyone to hold their sale on the same day to attract more visitors and buyers searching for hidden treasures.

I'm always looking for things to write about that are happening in the village, whether it's an upcoming event, birthday, or anniversary, please feel free to message me and I will get it into the next edition of the Springwater News. Send to LorrNor71@gmail.com.

Until next time, enjoy your day and keep smiling

But now we get to machine number seven. Unfortunately, Mr. Repairman informed me we were headed to somewhere around \$6-\$700 for parts and labour to replace the gearbox in the washing machine. I also paid him for the friendly visit. My patient wife visited the local appliance store and found we could buy a new machine for not much more than that so we decided against repair. In a few days we'll be able to take all these piles of laundry and begin the cleaning process.

At the end of the day, dad, sometimes we can fix the stuff and sometimes we can't. But the boys and I learned a bit more about washing machines and maybe in 3.5 years we'll have to implement the lessons on this washing machine...or just buy another one. Is there something you and the kids can try fix this weekend? Or even better, just take them shopping for a new one. Or even BETTER...take your wife shopping for something. Oh man, so many good ideas. Time flies, dad. Make every moment count! Even the appliance repair ones.

WEED EM AND REAP

GARDENING MADE EASY

By Kelly McNamara
Often times, I will have a customer bringing me pictures of recently purchased plants, asking what is wrong with it. This is when I bring out my list of questions. What is the soil like? Where is it planted? How much sun does it get? How much water does it get? The answers to these 4 questions are key to determining if the plant will thrive or die.

What IS your soil like? There are basically 3 types of soil. Sandy, clay-like, and loamy. How can you tell? That part is actually quite easy. Many experts will use the clump method. When you pick it up, and then squeeze it, does it slip through your fingers? Does it remain a clump? Or is it a looser clump that doesn't slip through your fingers? Unfortunately this method can be slightly misleading if we've had too much rain or even not enough rain!

I like to use the dig method. When you dig

into the ground, is it hard to get your shovel in, then remains a hard ball? If you answer yes, then your soil is more clay. Most areas in Elmvale have this type of soil. Clay soil retains moisture, and does not allow for a lot of oxygen to get to your plant's roots.

Is it easy to dig, and then just scatters when you put it in a pile? Your soil is quite sandy. You will find this type of soil in most of Wasaga Beach, and areas like Wyevale and Penetanguishene. Sandy soil drains too much, and dries out much quicker. Because it drains so well, you also lose a lot of the nutrients you may have added to your soil.

When you dig your hole, is it relatively easy, soil remains dark and easy to break apart, but still can form a ball? Lucky you! You've got the best loamy soil. Loamy soil tends to be the most fertile. You don't have to spend as much time or money amending your soil to work the way you

want it, Next is where is it planted? Too close to the house can heat it up too much, provide too much shade, or not get enough water (look up, check where your roof's overhang is). Our in the open may be giving it too much sun, too much wind, not enough water (if you don't have a sprinkler system, and rely on mother nature). Is it plant near a tree? It maybe competing with the tree for sun and water.

The third question is how much sun does it get? Rule of thumb is anything more than six hours of direct sunlight is considered full sun. Anything less is part shade to shade. A Daisy wants at least six hours of sun. If it doesn't get it, your daisy will become too tall and may not flower. Most Hostas, if planted in full sun, will get burned and dry up.

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Georgian Bay MyLife Retirement Residence offers a welcoming and supportive environment

The grand opening and ribbon cutting of Georgian Bay MyLife Retirement Residence took place on April 18th, with local mayors and Dr. Sunjay Gupta, President of MyLife Retirement Living, in attendance to mark the official celebration of the new community.

Nestled in the heart of Penetanguishene, Georgian Bay MyLife Retirement Residence offers a welcoming and supportive environment where seniors can enjoy comfort, care, and community. Built on a foundation of dignity and respect, the residence provides professional seniors' care tailored to meet a wide range of needs.

A key feature of the residence is its enriching Memory Care Program, designed for individuals requiring additional cognitive support. Located within a secure wing, the program ensures peace of mind for residents and their families. With 24-hour supervision from trained cognitive care professionals, residents receive compassionate, specialized attention in a safe and comfortable setting.

At Georgian Bay MyLife Retirement Residence, daily living is made easy. Dedicated staff are available around the clock to assist with housekeeping, laundry, medication management, and personal hygiene. Residents also enjoy three nutritious and delicious meals each day, allowing them to relax and focus on enjoying their retirement.

The residence promotes an active and engaging lifestyle through its wellness-focused community design. A variety of amenities and programs encourage residents to stay social, active, and fulfilled. Its convenient location adds to the appeal, with the Penetanguishene Public Library just across the street, along with nearby restaurants, retail options, and a neighboring church—all contributing to a vibrant and accessible community experience.

Georgian Bay MyLife Retirement Residence is part of MyLife Retirement Living, a physician-founded organization led by Dr. Sunjay Gupta. The residence is owned and operated by Sunray Group,



a family-run company with an established portfolio of respected hospitality brands worldwide. This background in hospitality is reflected in the high standard of care and service provided to residents.

At its core, MyLife Retirement Living believes in empowering individuals to live life on their

own terms. Whether it's enjoying a quiet moment with a book, participating in social activities, or building new friendships, residents are encouraged to shape their days in ways that bring them joy and fulfillment.

Centre Flos W.I. meet

7, April 2026 - Nineteen members of the Centre Flos Womens' Institute enjoyed a delicious pot-luck luncheon, before their Annual General Meeting. Reports from the various Committees highlighted our year of activities. Donations have been made to the HCES Breakfast program, Elmvale Food Bank, Salvation Army, Elmvale Fall Fair Junior classes, & GBGH. The ladies will be

sponsoring the snacks for the upcoming "We Lend a Hand - the Untold story of the Farmerettes" film which will be presented at the Community Hall on Friday May 22nd at 7 p.m.

Executive for 2025-2026 includes: Past President: Margaret-Ann Jacobs, President: Linda van Russell, Vice President: Betty Cook, Secretary: Jocelyn Woodcock, Treasurer: Mary Jean Edwards



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Senior Tiny Times - Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre

Lise Pilon - Township of Tiny Senior Advisory Committee

The Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre is a vital community-based organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by cancer in North Simcoe and the surrounding Georgian Bay region. Located in Penetanguishene, it serves communities such as Midland, Penetanguishene, Tiny, and Tay. In addition to its main location, the organization is committed to expanding services into nearby communities to maximise its reach and impact across the region, including a new location in Collingwood.

The Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre's mission is to offer compassionate, holistic support that enhances quality of life throughout the cancer journey for both people fighting cancer, their caregivers, and those who have lost a loved one to cancer. The Centre plays an important role in complementing medical care by addressing the emotional, social, and psychological challenges that accompany a cancer diagnosis. Rather than delivering medical treatment, the Centre focuses on creating a welcoming environment where individuals can find connection, encouragement, and understanding. The Centre has become a trusted resource for those navigating the complexities of diagnosis, treatment, recovery, and support. The Centre is often described as a "Home for Hope," reflecting its role as a safe and supportive space for healing. It has been

recognized as one of Ontario's first rural cancer support centres, expanding access to services outside major urban areas.

A defining feature of the Centre is its wide range of accessible, no-cost programs, all designed to support physical, emotional, and social well-being.

These programs include:

- Support groups for patients, caregivers, and specific demographics (such as men's groups)
- Educational sessions to help individuals better understand their diagnosis and care
- Wellness programs focused on stress reduction, nutrition, and overall health
- Recreational and creative activities, such as art classes and card-making
- Social events that foster connection and reduce isolation

The Centre emphasizes a whole-person approach, recognizing that cancer impacts more than just physical health. Its services address:

- Emotional well-being through peer support and counseling-style programs
- Social connection by building a strong sense of community
- Physical health through wellness and activity-based programs
- Spiritual and psychological resilience during difficult stages of illness

This integrated model helps individuals build strength, cope with uncertainty, and regain a sense of control during their cancer journey.

In recognition of Cancer Awareness Month this April, the Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre is pleased to share that all donations will be matched, up to \$40,000. With this generous matching opportunity, the Centre aims to raise more than \$80,000 to support essential programs and services for its members.

The Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre stands as a beacon of compassion and resilience in Penetanguishene and the surrounding region. By offering free, holistic support services, it fills a critical gap in cancer care, addressing the emotional and social needs that medical treatment alone cannot meet.

Through its programs, community focus, and commitment to accessibility, the Centre empowers individuals and families to face cancer with strength, hope, and connection.

To find out more about the GBCSC or to make a donation to support its work, go to www.gbcsupportcentre.ca. If you have additional questions or want to access support services, email info@gbcsupportcentre.ca.

The information in this article is provided as a public service by the Township of Tiny Senior 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.

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Welcome to our Huronia Centennial Elementary School's "Hawk Talk!"

Written by: Emma Cole Grade 5 Student

April has been a very busy month at HCES. It is Earth Month so our school is doing lots of fun outdoor activities. Some of the activities include scavenger hunts, soccer, painting pet rocks, and playing in the sand and these will be organized and led by the grade sixes and our school's Eco Team. The goal of these fun outdoor activities will be to help us all to understand the importance of taking care of the planet. Some classes took the opportunity to unplug electronics and turn out the lights for an hour to give back to our planet. Some classes even challenged their families to do this at home and had fun spending time with candles and playing board games.

In sports, we have girls' and boys' basketball running, as well as lunchtime intramurals. Our teams are doing great. Our Grade 5-6 girls' team recently attended a mini-tournament where they won both games. The team includes 13 players, along with two red-shirt players who step in when needed and are coached by Mrs. Isaac. The girls demonstrate excellent sportsmanship and team spirit, cheering each other on while continuing to grow their skills. The boys' team have an impressive 5-0 record and look forward to their regional tournament at EDHS on May 5th. Coach Cook commented that his team is really working like a team and getting each player involved in the game.

Coming up soon we have the Maple Syrup festival which takes place on April 25th. Our school choir and band will be performing - be sure to check them out!

In March, our school proudly took part in the



Great Big Crunch, a Canada-wide eco-initiative sponsored by FoodShare in celebration of Nutrition Month. Schools across the country participated by crunching into a locally grown

apple at the same time to promote healthy eating, environmental awareness, and the importance of supporting local farmers. A big thank you to our parents for purchasing all the apples for us.

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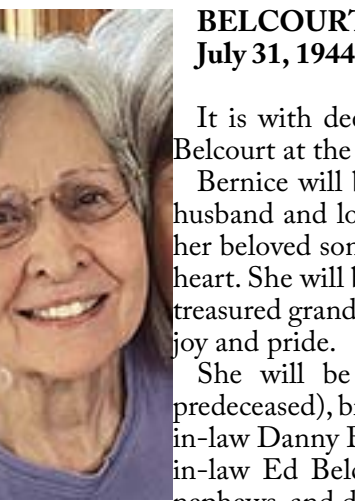
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BELCOURT, Bernice Doreen
July 31, 1944 – April 14, 2026

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Bernice Doreen Belcourt at the Royal Victoria Hospital on April 14, 2026, at the age of 81.

Bernice will be forever remembered and deeply cherished by her devoted husband and love of her life for over 65 years, Leo. She was predeceased by her beloved son, Shawn, whose loss left a profound and indelible scar on her heart. She will be lovingly remembered by her daughter-in-law Kelly and her treasured grandsons, McKenzie and Mitchell, who brought her immeasurable joy and pride.

She will be dearly missed by her sister-in-law Rita McLean (Ross predeceased), brother-in-law Louis Belcourt (Annette predeceased), brother-in-law Danny Belcourt (Ruth Anne). She is also predeceased by her brother-in-law Ed Belcourt. She will be fondly remembered by her lovely nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Bernice was predeceased by her parents, Henry and Irene Dumont, and her in-laws, Omar and Viola Catherine Belcourt. She was one of a large family, with seven sisters – Marie, Isabelle, Estelle, Teresa, Irene, Margaret, and Joyce – and four brothers – Stanley, Russell, Richard, and Henry.

Born in Barrie, Bernice was a true lady in every sense of the word. Her grace, warmth, and kindness touched everyone fortunate enough to know her. She worked diligently throughout her life, holding positions at Copaco, General Electric and the Simcoe County District School Board. She also gave generously of her time as a volunteer at Royal Victoria Hospital for 10 years.

Bernice built a life rich in friendship through her community, church, golf, and curling. Above all, she was a deeply loving mother and an exceptional grandmother. She delighted in time spent with her grandsons – playing board games or indoor hockey, building forts, or sharing laughter in the sunroom.

Her grandsons will remember her for her boundless love and generosity – shopping for school clothes, supporting their education, celebrating every birthday, and for the little traditions that made her so special, like always having Pillsbury crescent rolls and strawberries with dip.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the doctors and nurses who cared for Bernice, especially Colleen. A special and sincere thank you to Peter and Debbie for their extraordinary kindness and unwavering support to Leo and Bernice in recent months.

A visitation will be held at the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home in Elmvale from 5 pm – 8 pm on Monday, April 20, 2026. Funeral Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Phelpston on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 11 am.

Reception to follow at Our Lady of Lourdes Church hall.
In lieu of flowers, donations to Hospice Simcoe would be sincerely appreciated.

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

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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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Theresa "Angela" Lorraine Marley
March 4, 1952 – April 2, 2026

It is with great sorrow to announce the passing of an amazing woman whose life work was dedicated to helping people with disabilities. Angela Marley in her 74th year, initially from Phelpston, passed away peacefully at Baycrest Hospital in Toronto on April 2nd, 2026 after a short illness and due to complications with MS. Her sister Margaret Thomas and her niece Sheila Thomas were at her side.

Born at RVH in Barrie on March 4, 1952, to Frank and Bertille (Hall) Marley (both predeceased) of Phelpston Ontario. Angela is survived and will be missed by siblings Joseph (late Deloris), Margaret Thomas (late David), James (late Colleen), and Phil Marley. Angela is predeceased by her siblings Edward, Mary Ellen, Bernadette (Bunny) Snider (late Ken), Michael (late Goldie), Bill, Leo, Patrick (Heather), Peter (Liz) and Paul (Cathy). She will be missed by her many nieces and nephews. She will also be missed by friends, associates, and colleagues from the University of Guelph, Rehabilitation Worker CNIB Winnipeg 1976 – 1981, retired Social Worker, (STEP UNIT), Whitby Mental Health Centre 1983 – 2006, was a volunteer at the North York Seniors' Centre and a Member of The Transit Commission Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT). Angela worked on many projects with (ACAT) where her legacy lives on helping people with disabilities by having detailed station descriptions and announcing the stop as you enter and leave the vehicles.

Angela enjoyed gardening, canoeing, photography, genealogy and bridge. She enjoyed compiling all the family photo books and documenting all the family history. The family would like to thank Toronto Western Hospital, and Baycrest Hospital, particularly all staff and doctors for all her care this last year and palliative care. She was always appreciative of those who cared for her and cannot thank you enough.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, The North York Seniors' Centre, Baycrest Hospital, St Patrick's Church Cemetery Fund in Phelpston, St Edward's Church in Toronto or Charity of your choice.

Visitation will be at Lynn-Stone Funeral Home at 9am, (15 Yonge St S, Elmvale On L0L 1P0) on Saturday May 30, 2026. A Funeral mass will follow at 11am at St. Patrick's Church, Phelpston (1600 Flos Rd 4 W, L0L2K0), interment at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Phelpston. Friends and family are invited to a reception immediately following the burial at Our Lady of Lourdes (106 Yonge St N, Elmvale, ON L0L 1P0)

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

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