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## Baskets, Bunnies, and Big Smiles Across the Region

By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News

There's a fluffy white bunny tail that we've been following around our local communities. As he hops along, he's been scattering brightly coloured eggs for children to discover among friends. Parents, grandparents, and family friends gather nearby, sharing in the children's excitement and enjoying the company of their neighbours.

In Elmvale, the Elmvale Co-operative Nursery School held their 11th Annual Easter Fundraiser on March 29 at Bishop Park. Under sunny spring skies, children ran about enjoying all the event had to offer—collecting Easter eggs to receive a goodie bag, enjoying freshly popped popcorn and pizza on a park bench, taking part in face painting and craft activities, and touring a Springwater Township fire truck. The warm weather made for a lively and cheerful atmosphere. Funds raised go directly to supporting the ECNS program, reflecting how local events give back to families and children in small-town communities.

In Wyevale, the Tiny Township Lions Club hosted their Easter Egg Hunt on April 3 at Wyevale Park. Another beautiful day brought out a strong turnout. Children enjoyed inflatable bouncy castles provided by the Township of Tiny, a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog, and the opportunity to explore a Township of Tiny Fire and Emergency Services fire truck. At noon, the annual egg hunt began, with children gathered in age-organized sections as excitement built. When the fire truck siren sounded, they raced to collect brightly coloured eggs, with parents close behind. Following the hunt, families gathered to enjoy a BBQ and spend time exploring the park. Admission was a food donation to the Elmvale Food Bank, with proceeds supporting the Tiny Township Lions—highlighting how community fun can support local causes.

In Midland, the Huronia Museum hosted their 15th annual Glow-in-the-Dark Easter Egg Hunt on April 4. Children searched through the darkened museum for glowing eggs while also enjoying activities such as an Easter basket raffle, colouring contest, crafts, and games.

In Penetanguishene, the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum held their Easter Eggstravaganza on April 4, offering children the chance to participate in an egg hunt, meet the Easter Bunny, receive a goodie bag, and take part in crafts and games.

In Anten Mills, the Anten Mills CRA hosted the Rabbit Run on April 4, a great event for all ages featuring 0.5 km, 1.5 km, and 3 km routes, followed by a community Easter egg hunt.

In Phelpston, the Phelpston CRA held their annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 4. Despite the rain, the event moved indoors where children enjoyed Easter crafts, treat bags, and a hot dog lunch with the Easter Bunny.

At the Simcoe County Museum, the Easter Egg-venture on April 4 invited attendees to take part in an outdoor Easter trail, complete a craft, and receive a prize at the end.

While Easter is often celebrated with egg hunts, chocolate treats, and visits from the Easter Bunny, it also holds deeper meaning for many in our community. For Christians, Easter marks a time of renewal and hope, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of new life. More broadly, it aligns with the arrival of spring—a season of growth, fresh beginnings, and time spent reconnecting with family and neighbours after a long winter.

Across our region, these local events reflect both the joy and spirit of the season. Whether through shared meals, laughter in the park, or supporting local causes, Easter continues to bring communities together in meaningful and lasting ways.




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# LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

## Community Commitment: Adrianna McGinnis' Lifelong Dedication to Giving Back in Elmvale

By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News

For some, volunteering is something they discover later in life. For others, it's a value instilled early—something that becomes a lifelong commitment. For Adrianna McGinnis, that passion for community service began in childhood and has grown into an inspiring example of leadership, dedication, and hometown pride.

Raised in a family deeply rooted in community involvement, McGinnis' journey into volunteering started at a young age. Watching parents and relatives give their time to local causes left a lasting impression. That early exposure sparked a passion that continues to guide her contributions today.

Her first experiences came during elementary school, lending a hand at beloved local events such as the Elmvale Fall Fair and the Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival. These events, staples of the community calendar, not only created lasting memories but also laid the foundation for a lifelong commitment to service. Years later, she remains actively involved in supporting these traditions.

In high school, McGinnis continued her dedication through participation in the Student Athletic Association, balancing school leadership with ongoing involvement in community initiatives.

A significant milestone came in 2013 with her involvement in the North Simcoe Junior Farmers. What began as helping at events soon evolved into leadership, serving as Treasurer by 2015. This role opened the door to a position on the Junior Farmers of Ontario Provincial Board as a Provincial Director. During her tenure, she was part of a team that achieved a major milestone—earning Provincial Club of the Year in 2020, a recognition of exceptional growth, leadership, and community engagement.

Her passion for sports and youth development has been equally impactful. Beginning in 2010 with Elmvale Minor Ball, McGinnis started by assisting and learning alongside her father. Over time, that involvement grew into a leadership role on the executive, where she now serves as Registrar and Social Media Coordinator. With approximately 180 youth registered for the upcoming season, the organization continues to thrive, offering opportunities for young athletes to grow both on and off the field.

In 2017, she expanded her impact by



volunteering with the Township's Women's Ball Hockey League, taking on responsibilities that included player communication, scheduling, and league operations. When the Township stepped away from organizing the league following the COVID-19 pandemic, McGinnis stepped up—forming a small team to ensure the league could continue. Today, the league is stronger than ever, with eight teams competing throughout the spring and summer months.

Her dedication to local recreation extends further through involvement with the Elmvale Ball Park Committee, where she played a role in fundraising efforts for the "Light the Ball Park" campaign—an initiative aimed at improving facilities and enhancing the experience for players and spectators alike. She also continues to support

community sport by assisting with the long-running Friday night mixed three-pitch league.

Most recently, McGinnis has taken on a new challenge with the Elmvale Harvesters, joining during the team's inaugural season. Serving as Secretary on the board and assisting with game day operations, she is helping to build a strong foundation for the organization's future.

Through years of consistent involvement, Adrianna McGinnis has demonstrated that community building doesn't happen overnight—it's the result of dedication, leadership, and a genuine desire to give back. Her story is a reminder that strong communities are built by individuals who are willing to step forward, lend a hand, and make a difference—one event, one team, and one initiative at a time.

### Call for Community Spotlight Nominations

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond in our community? We're looking for nominations for our Community Spotlight feature, celebrating the people, businesses, and organizations that make a difference every day.

Whether it's a dedicated teacher, a caring babysitter, a local business owner, a volunteer, or a community group making an impact—we want to

hear their story. Big or small, every act of kindness and commitment helps shape the place we call home.

If there's someone you feel deserves recognition, please reach out and share a brief description of who they are and why they stand out. Let's come together to highlight the incredible individuals and organizations that make our community stronger.

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# The Good Deeds Project Bringing Compassion to Simcoe County

By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News

A grassroots movement rooted in kindness and community is quietly making a powerful impact across Simcoe County.

Founded by Elmvale resident Sacha Gendron, The Good Deeds Project is dedicated to helping individuals and families facing hardship by filling immediate gaps in support—often through simple, meaningful acts of care.

From delivering groceries to single mothers and providing baby formula to families in need, to offering rides, companionship, and essential supplies to those experiencing homelessness, the initiative focuses on meeting people where they are.

"I wanted to create something that reminds people they're not alone," said Gendron. "Sometimes it's not about solving everything—it's about helping in that moment."

The project has already touched countless lives. In one instance, Gendron paid for a stranger's groceries when they fell short at the checkout. In another, she delivered food, a birthday cake, and gifts to a mother celebrating her special day while struggling to make ends meet.

For those experiencing homelessness, the project's outreach includes distributing backpacks filled with food, blankets, and necessities. Even small gestures—like providing gloves on a cold day or simply sitting and listening—have made a lasting difference.

"One woman told me she had never felt truly helped before," Gendron shared. "That connection meant everything."

The initiative also emphasizes the power of community involvement. Donations from local residents—whether financial contributions or everyday items—help fuel the project's ongoing efforts. In one case, a donation made in memory of a lost loved one was used to support a struggling mother and child, providing not only supplies but a renewed sense of hope.

The ripple effect of these acts is evident. Families who receive help often express a desire to "pay it forward" once they are back on their feet. In



Sacha Gendron with a local father and son dropping off donated items to families in need

another example, a father and his young son joined Gendron on delivery runs, turning the experience into a lesson in compassion and community care.

"It showed him what it really means to give back," she said. "That's how we build stronger communities—by modeling it for the next generation."

Now expanding into Midland and across Simcoe County, The Good Deeds Project is in the process

of becoming a registered non-profit organization, with hopes of reaching even more people in need.

At its core, the project is built on a simple belief: small, consistent acts of kindness can create lasting change.

"Every moment matters," said Gendron. "When people feel supported, it gives them the strength to keep going. And that can change everything."

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# Live Music and Weekly Entertainment at Palace Tavern

There's always something happening at Palace Tavern, as the popular local spot continues to bring the community together through music, fun, and weekly entertainment.

Every week, the tavern keeps the energy going with Thursday Night Jam Sessions, inviting musicians of all levels to come out, play, and connect. On Fridays, the stage turns over to the crowd for Karaoke Night, where locals can showcase their vocal talents in a lively and supportive atmosphere.

Saturday nights feature an exciting lineup of live bands, drawing music lovers from across the area: April 11 - The Ben Hudson Band April 18 - Misery Parade & Apt 25 Maple Syrup Season Special - Outlaw Sons From rock and country to crowd-favourite covers, the Palace Tavern continues to offer a diverse mix of live entertainment that keeps patrons coming back week after week.

With great music, familiar faces, and a welcoming vibe, the Palace Tavern remains a cornerstone of Elmvale's nightlife—proving that you don't have to go far to enjoy a great night out.

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# Log Sawing Competition a Standout Success at Winterama 2026

The 2026 Winterama festival in Penetanguishene once again delivered community spirit and friendly competition, highlighted by a hugely successful Log Sawing Competition coordinated by Doug Kirton.

Kirton extended his gratitude to the Town of Penetanguishene and the dedicated Winterama Committee—Cole and Marla—for the opportunity to organize the popular event, which drew strong participation and enthusiastic crowds.

The competition was made possible through the generous support of local sponsors, including Ritchie Forest Products, Lakelands Irrigation, Elmvale Rental Supply, McLaren Equipment, and McGill Excavating.

Teams representing a wide range of local organizations took part, including various levels of government, paramedics, the Ontario Provincial

Police (OPP), the Penetanguishene Fire Department, and the Penetang Kings. Spectators gathered to cheer on participants, adding to the lively festival atmosphere.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated group of volunteers ensured the event ran smoothly. Kelly handled statistics, Alex served as timer, and Leah assisted throughout the competition. The Lumberjack Crew—Steve, Tim, Tom, and Brady—also played a key role in delivering an authentic and entertaining experience.

In the end, it was the Penetanguishene Fire Department that claimed top honours, finishing with an impressive winning time of 25.7 seconds.

With another successful year in the books, organizers and participants alike are already looking ahead to next year's Winterama festivities.

# Local Readers Catch Spring Training Spirit in Florida

Rachel and Francis Horgan recently combined their love of local news with America's favourite pastime during a visit to Dunedin, Florida for spring training.

While soaking up the sunshine and excitement of pre-season baseball, the Horgans were spotted enjoying the Springwater News, proving that even while away, they like to stay connected to what's happening back home. With the Toronto Blue Jays holding their spring training in Dunedin, the

setting made the moment even more fitting.

Surrounded by the buzz of baseball and the energy of Blue Jays fans, the pair's snapshot perfectly captured a blend of hometown pride and spring training tradition.

It's always great to see our readers taking a piece of Springwater with them on their travels. If you've brought the Springwater News along on your adventures, be sure to share your photos—we'd love to feature you in an upcoming edition!



# Cedar Ridge Classical Pops Endowment Fund Supports Wendat Community Programs

Press Release – March 27, 2026

On March 23, The Huronia Community Foundation presented a cheque in the amount of \$1,570.59 to Wendat Community Programs from the Cedar Ridge Classical Pops Endowment Fund. The funds are designated to be used for operating costs at the Lorna Tomlinson Residence for Senior's which is owned and operated by Wendat Community Services.

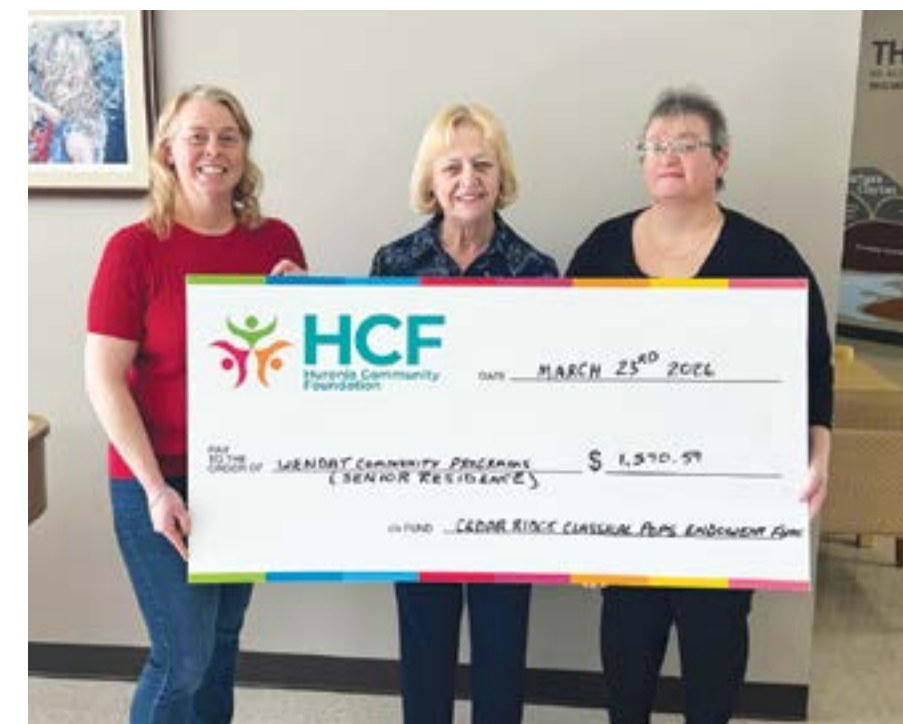
"We are very grateful to Cedar Ridge Classical Pops for their generous support," says Zina Thomson, Director of Senior's Services at Wendat Community Programs. "There are many older adults in North Simcoe in need of affordable housing and the programs and supports we provide."

The Lorna Tomlinson Residence for Seniors, located in Penetanguishene has been operating since February 2016. Currently, 21 low income, older adults with care needs live at the residence. Priority is given to those over the age of 75. Each resident has their own bedroom with a private bathroom designed for mobility and comfort. There are common spaces for socializing, watching TV or lounging. A structured day program provides social and recreational activities. Meals are provided in a central dining room.

Since 1987 Wendat Community Services has been providing high quality care and support services to adults experiencing mental illness or age-related challenges in the Simcoe-Muskoka area.

For further information about Wendat contact Andrea Abbott-Kokosin Executive Director

at andrea@wendatprograms.com or 705 526-1305 ext. 1223



# The Elmvale Farmers' Market Returns for 2026 A Fresh Season of Community, Commerce, and Connection

The Elmvale Business Improvement Area (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.

A summer tradition for over 15 years, the Market will run Thursday evenings from June 11 to August 27, offering fresh local produce, handcrafted goods, music, and a welcoming space for friends and families to gather. This year's time — 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM — gives residents and visitors alike the perfect opportunity to stop in after work, enjoy the atmosphere, and support local makers and growers.

"The Farmers' Market is one of those special places where you can really feel what makes Elmvale unique," says Councillor Matt Garwood, BIA Board Member. "You see neighbours catching up, kids eating fresh berries, and visitors discovering our small-town charm. The energy here helps fuel downtown Elmvale, it draws people in, supports our small businesses, and reminds us how strong our community truly is."

"This is more than just a market, it's a weekly celebration of Elmvale's heart and creativity," adds Crystal Graveson, BIA President. "We're thrilled to welcome everyone back for another great season. Whether you're grabbing local produce, browsing handmade goods, or just enjoying live music on a summer evening, the Elmvale Farmers' Market is the place to be."

The 2026 Elmvale Farmers' Market, presented by the Elmvale BIA, will be held at the Elmvale Community Hall municipal parking lot each Thursday from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, beginning June 11 through August 27.

Come for the produce, stay for the people.

We're back for 2026!

A Fresh Season of Community, Commerce, and Connection



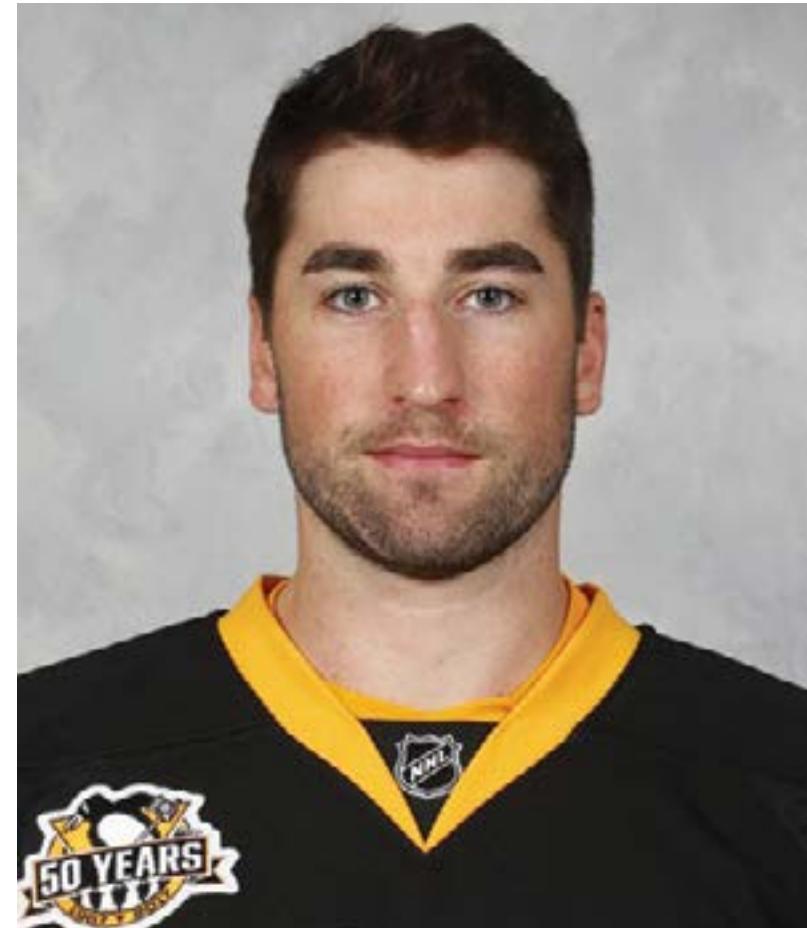
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# Flyers Sign Garrett Wilson; Involved in Early-Game Fight with Ryan Reaves



By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News  
The Philadelphia Flyers have signed veteran forward Garrett Wilson to a two-way NHL contract for the remainder of the 2025-26 season, according to General Manager Daniel Briere. Wilson has been placed on waivers for assignment to the Lehigh Valley Phantoms of the American Hockey League (AHL).

Wilson, 34, has played parts of the last six seasons with the Phantoms, serving as captain for the past three seasons after three years as an alternate captain. In 338 games with Lehigh Valley, he has totaled 62 goals and 86 assists for 148 points. His career-high season came in 2022-23, when he recorded 18 goals and 43 points, ranking fourth on the team in both categories, while also leading the AHL with 195 penalty minutes. This season, Wilson has 16 points (4 goals, 12 assists) in 51 games, missing just one.

The 6-foot-3, 218-pound forward has played 751 AHL games over 15 seasons with multiple teams, including the San Antonio Rampage, Portland Pirates, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, Toronto Marlies, and Lehigh Valley Phantoms, recording 353 points (156 goals, 197 assists). Originally from Barrie, Ontario, Wilson was drafted 107th overall by the Florida Panthers in the 2009 NHL Draft and has appeared in 84 NHL games with Florida and the Pittsburgh Penguins, totaling eight points (2 goals, 6 assists).

On Saturday, March 21, Wilson engaged in a fight with veteran enforcer Ryan Reaves during the Flyers' game against the San Jose Sharks. The fight came minutes into the game following a face-off with Reaves suffering a gruesome finger injury during the altercation. He grimaced in pain and required assistance from the Sharks' trainer to manage the injury, highlighting the physical risks of the enforcer role in hockey.

Springwater Connection

Wilson grew up in Elmvale and attended Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School, then went on to Elmvale District High School. He played in the Elmvale Minor Hockey Association until Major Bantam. His parents and siblings still reside in Springwater Township, maintaining his strong connection to the community.

## Elmvale Foodbank Spring Update

By Debra Mclean  
I believe, Spring has finally sprung, so I wanted to provide an update regarding activities at Elmvale & District Food Bank. Most business strive for an increase in customers or members. This is not the goal of Elmvale & District Food Bank. However, this is what is happening at EDFB. Based on our statistics, for the first three months of 2026, we have had an increase of over 33% in 2026.

Although the EDFB does not host any "spring" collections, we are not forgotten by the community, individuals, churches and organizations. This article would be very long if I were to mention all of the wonderful donations. I would like to highlight a few - the creative idea for the "giant

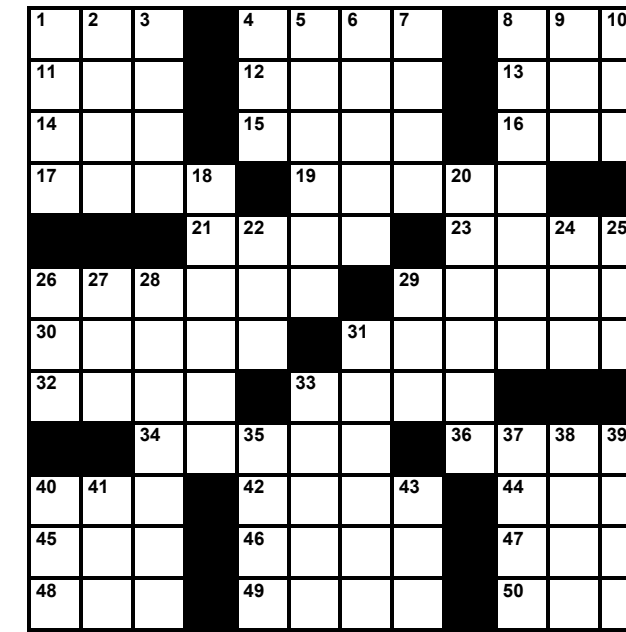
snowman created by Josh and Antonio Faria brought in over 1200 lbs of non-perishables and almost \$1,000. An anonymous donor who always remembers us during seasonal holiday - bringing in over \$1,000 worth of products. The CRA's throughout the Township that host various community activities and collect food on our behalf and the Elmvale Lioness who provided Easter baskets and chocolate bunnies for children.

I would be amiss not to acknowledge the passing of our wonderful volunteer, John Potts. John's compassion touched many of our clients and his presence at the Food Bank and throughout the Community will be greatly missed. John made life brighter for anyone who had the pleasure

of knowing him. EDFB is thankful for all the donations made in John's memory.

Going forward we look forward to receiving our Mother's Day bags provided by Springwater Library through the Smile Campaign. I am sure everyone will want to be well dressed for the 58th Maple Syrup Festival wearing a "Sweet Syrup" sweatshirt from Our Village with proceeds being donated to EDFB.

Please follow us on Facebook where we try to acknowledge events and donations. Your generosity is never taken for granted and we are constantly overwhelmed by the support EDFB receives.



### Across

- 1 Cake of soap
- 4 Fix
- 8 Electricity attraction
- 11 Part of the verb "to be"
- 12 Opportune
- 13 Pitcher's performance gauge
- 14 Roulette bet
- 15 Ragout, e.g.
- 16 Stayed in front
- 17 League division
- 19 Hurry
- 21 "... happily \_\_\_ after"
- 23 Commuter carrier
- 26 Criticize severely
- 29 Little bit
- 30 "Cleopatra" setting
- 31 Most outspread
- 32 Pink table wine
- 33 Christmas tree
- 34 Teach
- 36 Like some coins
- 40 Eroded (with "away")
- 42 Caroled
- 44 "The \_\_\_ We Were"
- 45 Vehicle
- 46 \_\_\_-high boots
- 47 Guarded secret, for some
- 48 Go (for)
- 49 Organize
- 50 Word with "dear" or "sir"

### Down

- 1 Just sufficient
- 2 Calculus calculation
- 3 Crimson colors
- 4 \_\_\_ Jones
- 5 A choice word
- 6 Javelin
- 7 Fixes a hem
- 8 Film event
- 9 \_\_\_ tanker
- 10 Stay-at-home \_\_\_
- 18 Disposition
- 20 Business person
- 22 Examine thoroughly
- 24 Belonging to something
- 25 Rented out
- 26 The other woman
- 27 "Give it \_\_\_!"
- 28 Book genre
- 29 Bronze, in part
- 31 Champion
- 33 Elton John's medium
- 35 Sets a price
- 37 Not home
- 38 Seeing-red state
- 39 Make-up accentuates them
- 40 Portray
- 41 Old salt
- 43 Understand a joke

## Clubs Unite for 2026 Chris Lewis Memorial Day of Service

Chris Lewis Memorial Day of Service Set for May 9 in Elmvale Communities across the region—and increasingly across the country—are preparing to come together for a meaningful day of giving back as the 2026 Chris Lewis Memorial Day of Service will take place on Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In Elmvale, the day's activities will be hosted at the Elmvale Lions Clubhouse, where residents are invited to gather for a day focused on community spirit and service.

Formerly known as the District A-12 Lions Day of Service, the annual event has been renamed in honour of Past District Governor (PDG) Chris Lewis, whose passion for helping others sparked a movement that continues to grow. The initiative is now being considered on a Canada-wide level, with the goal of establishing it as an annual event held on the first Saturday of May. Lions Clubs throughout District A-12 are being encouraged to take part in a unified "show of Solidarity in Service," focusing entirely on hands-on community work. In keeping with the spirit of the day, clubs are asked to set aside fundraising efforts and instead dedicate their time to service projects that directly benefit their communities.

Adding to the Elmvale event, visitors can enjoy a free community barbecue and browse a craft sale running throughout the day. The gathering offers an opportunity to connect with neighbours, support local makers, and celebrate the power of volunteerism.

What began as a local effort quickly expanded across multiple districts, throughout Canada, and even into the United States and parts of Europe.

Today, the Chris Lewis Memorial Day of Service stands as a powerful tribute to a lasting legacy. Through every act of service, organizers say the memory of PDG Chris Lewis continues to inspire communities to come together and make a difference.

A highlight of the day will be the strong presence of local vendors, showcasing products made right in the community. Attendees can expect to find familiar names such as Lalonde Maple Syrup and Birch Farms, along with other area artisans and producers. By featuring local businesses, the event not only celebrates community service but also supports the people and families who contribute to the region's local economy.

The origins of the Day of Service date back to May 2014, when PDG Chris Lewis helped launch the initiative across District A-12.

Today, the Chris Lewis Memorial Day of Service stands as a powerful tribute to a lasting legacy. Through every act of service, organizers say the memory of PDG Chris Lewis continues to inspire communities to come together and make a difference.

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# Tiny Township Residents Speak Up on Taxes, Infrastructure, and the Future

By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News

Tiny Township residents are making their voices heard. At a recent Committee of the Whole meeting, council reviewed the results of the Tiny 2050 Community Engagement Survey, along with reports on infrastructure, emergency services, and municipal planning initiatives. The meeting provided a window into what residents value most—and what they hope council will prioritize moving forward.

Mayor Evans opened the session with a reminder that the meeting was being audio and video recorded, asking attendees to turn off their cellphones. The agenda included a wide range of items, from firefighting infrastructure and recreation programming to election signage and fee schedule by-law updates.

### Survey Highlights: Residents Care About Lakes, Roads, and Taxes

The Tiny 2050 survey, conducted online between February 4 and March 18, received nearly 680 responses from permanent and seasonal residents. It explored everything from community values to perceived challenges and opportunities facing the township through 2050.

Survey results indicate that residents value Tiny's lakeside and waterfront setting, its "quiet and safe" environment, and abundant outdoor spaces. More than half highlighted the friendliness and community spirit of their neighbors, and many reported active participation in township events, public meetings, and planning discussions.

Residents also shared a wide range of concerns. While some responses were brief—like "Keep Tiny affordable" or "Reduce government spending"—others were more pointed:

"Keep our taxes low. Actually fix the roads. Stop this new municipal building. Too many rules for building on your own property," one respondent wrote.

Another criticized the survey itself, warning that the results could be used to justify decisions residents do not support:

"You're going to use this data to support your decision to build an unnecessary new office and claim 85 percent support it, when the reality is residents want roads and infrastructure, not a huge building. This survey is a joke and a slap in the face to all citizens."

Firefighting and Infrastructure Under Review  
Engineers from Agile Infrastructure, including Nick Larson and Jody Lee, presented findings from the township's Water Supply Study, highlighting the need for adequate resources to support firefighting across Tiny. Council also reviewed proposed amendments to the fire alarm fee schedule, designed to reduce nuisance calls and ensure emergency services are deployed effectively.

### Administrative and Council Reports

- Council examined several reports, including:
  - The Proposed Remuneration Framework for elected officials for the 2026–2030 term.
  - The 2026 Fee Schedule By-law review and a proposed election sign by-law.
  - The Recreation and Special Events Department Report, highlighting programs and upcoming community events.
  - Participation in the Joint Compliance Audit Committee for municipal elections.

Other items included resolutions and communications from surrounding municipalities and organizations, covering issues such as food protection, library resource distribution, and reform of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry.

### Resident Priorities: Cost of Living, Climate, and Services

Survey responses also highlighted top priorities for the township's future. About a quarter of respondents said the cost of living is Tiny's biggest challenge, while technology

improvements, diverse and affordable housing, and climate change preparedness were also highly ranked.

Residents provided extensive input on climate action, emphasizing shoreline protection, increased tree cover, better infrastructure, public education campaigns, and reduced municipal emissions. Support was strong for expanding social services (71 percent) and recreation programming (66 percent), though opinions were mixed regarding public transportation and maintaining a library branch.

### Motions and Public Input

During the meeting, councillors discussed motions related to a potential Southern Georgian Bay OPP Detachment Centre and new parking restriction guidelines, reflecting ongoing safety and traffic concerns. Residents had a chance to speak during the public comment period, focusing on agenda items and pressing issues in their neighborhoods.

### Looking Ahead

The 2050 survey results and all reports presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting will guide council's decision-making for years to come. Residents are clearly paying attention, making sure that priorities like roads, affordable living, environmental protection, and reasonable governance remain front and center.

As one resident summed it up: "Stop with all of the rules for building on your own property. Too many rules. Keep costs down and focus on what really matters—roads, services, and our community."

With the next steps in planning and infrastructure underway, Tiny Township council faces the challenge of balancing long-term vision with the immediate concerns of residents who want to see their priorities reflected in municipal decisions.

# Community Update from Ward 1 Councillor Matt Garwood

## 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. My goal with these columns is to inform, not to offer opinions, so you can stay connected with what's happening in Springwater.

### 2026 Municipal Election Voting Method:

After months of public consultation and feedback, Council has approved In-person Electronic and Remote Internet Voting using a One-Envelope System with ID Verification for the 2026 Municipal election, focusing on a balance between accessibility and security, supporting higher voter participation, and reflects the strong public support for electronic voting methods.

### Award of Homer Barrett Park Accessible Washroom Facility:

Council has approved the project to address a clear service gap at Homer Barrett Park with a prefabricated, accessible washroom facility near the splash pad in this high-use area. This AODA-compliant, universally designed amenity will serve families, caregivers, and persons with disabilities effectively. The turnkey contract includes an accessible trail connection to the splash pad, funded through the Homer Barrett Washroom Project and Trails Development capital budgets, with completion targeted for Fall 2026

### Elmvalle Community Hall / Springwater Health Services Centre Roof Replacement:

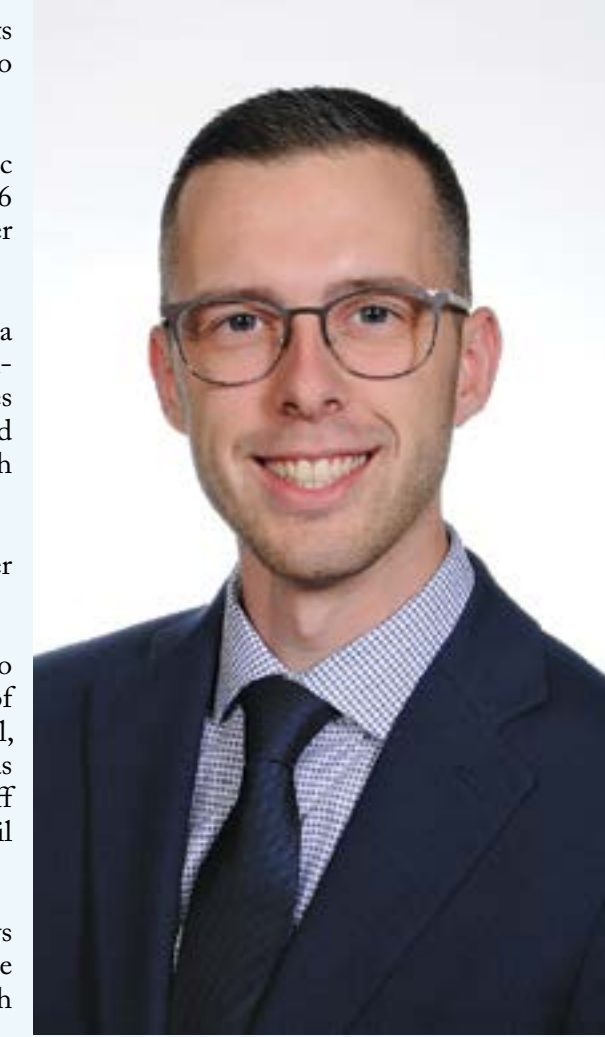
Council awarded the roof replacement contract for the Elmvalle Community Hall / Springwater Health Services Centre to Sinclair Industrial Roofing Inc. for approximately \$321,000.

### Flos Agricultural Society Collaboration and Ontario Trillium Fund Application:

Council, through the 2025 budget, directed staff to work with the Flos Agricultural Society to explore expanded recreational uses at the Elmvalle fairgrounds while preserving its role as home of the Elmvalle Fall Fair. Together, they developed a concept for a new multi-sport court for pickleball, tennis, and basketball, partly using the current skateboard park area. The Agricultural Society has applied for an Ontario Trillium Foundation Capital Grant of up to \$200,000, with Township staff support, to complement the Township's \$150,000 commitment for new facilities, pending Council approval.

### LifeLabs Expands Hours in Elmvalle:

Beginning March 16, 2026, LifeLabs Elmvalle offers expanded hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Springwater Health Services Centre. This collaboration with the Township of Springwater improves local access to vital lab services and supports residents' health and wellbeing



## MPP Dunlop Announces Ontario Increasing Local Emergency Preparedness in Simcoe North

Province investing in emergency equipment and training to protect communities

SIMCOE NORTH —The government is taking action to protect Ontario by investing almost \$150,000.00 in Simcoe North to help prepare for and respond to emergencies. Funding is being delivered through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG), which strengthens emergency preparedness by helping communities improve their local resilience.

"As MPP for Simcoe North and Ontario's Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, I'm proud to see investments through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG) making a meaningful impact locally and across the province," said Jill Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North and Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response. "These funds are

helping ensure communities are better equipped to prepare for and respond to emergencies, whether through modernized emergency operations centres or critical infrastructure like generators for warming centres. Our government remains committed to strengthening readiness at every level so we can better protect the people and communities we serve."

"We are extremely grateful to be a recipient of the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant from the Province. These funds will be used to purchase portable air supported structures, which will significantly strengthen Tay Township's ability to protect and support our residents during emergencies." – Mayor Ted Walker, Township of Tay

"This funding is a major step forward for our emergency response capabilities across Tay Township, having direct impact on how we serve our community during critical incidents. These air supported structures will give responders a portable and secure operating space during emergencies such as ice water rescues, prolonged power outages, and winter storms, while most importantly increasing our capacity to safely support and shelter residents during extended emergencies." – Fire Chief Shawn Aymer, Township of Tay

## Letter to the Editor

As Chair of the now disbanded Ad Hoc Citizen's Committee on Council Remuneration, I am disappointed, but not surprised, that Council chose not to adopt the Committee's recommendations. What is surprising, however, is the emerging criticism that the Committee failed to address how to attract a younger or more diverse group of candidates. That was never our mandate.

The Terms of Reference were clear and public: review current council remuneration, examine comparator municipalities, and recommend an appropriate level of remuneration. Nowhere were we asked to solve demographic representation, nor to design incentives to attract candidates.

From the outset, I raised concerns about relying on peer group comparator analysis. It is a labour market tool, and elected office is not a labour market. There is no credentialed entry, no hiring process, no meaningful labour mobility, and no competition between municipalities for candidates. Treating council compensation as if it exists within a conventional labour market is not just imprecise, it is conceptually wrong.

If the exercise were simply to determine "what others pay," there would have been no need to strike a citizen committee. That information is already public and could be compiled by staff in short order. Benchmarking against peers may be easy, but it is not analysis, it is imitation.

To its credit, the Committee chose a more rigorous path. We asked a different question: not what will attract candidates, but what level of

compensation ensures that serving on Council is not a financial barrier. In a democratic system, that distinction matters. Compensation should not function as an incentive; it should function as an enabler.

The model we proposed was straightforward, transparent, and defensible: anchor remuneration to the local living wage and apply clear multipliers to reflect responsibility. This grounded compensation in the economic reality of the community, not in the circular logic of municipalities benchmarking one another.

Council has every right to reject that approach. But it should be clear about what it is choosing instead. Peer comparator analysis offers political cover, "we are in line with others", but it does not answer the fundamental question of what the role is worth or what level of pay ensures fair access to public office.

Consistency is not correctness. If every municipality is referencing the others, the result is not a market, it is an echo chamber.

It is more than a little disingenuous to fault the Committee for failing to answer a question it was never asked. The Committee fulfilled its mandate with rigor and independence, and it did so by grounding its recommendations in first principles rather than convention.

Council may prefer convention. But it should not confuse that with sound policy.

Ray Millar

### Letter to the Editor Disclaimer

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# BEAUTY OF MOTHER EARTH

Story by Danny Beaton (Turtle Clan Mohawk)  
In Memory of Alicja Rozanska  
www.dannybeaton.ca

Wilmer Nadjiwon never stopped working to help build his tribe into a self-sufficient nation, fishing, hunting and creating art from Mother Earth. The old elders knew the importance of always being positive and always bringing positive energy to the people. Wilmer knew the importance of bringing hope to his nation; the old elders knew how essential positive energy was to the survival of their tribe and youth. But the old elders taught the youth never to lie and that the truth was what made all their culture and ceremonies real. It was the old elders that kept telling us everything we have is a sacred gift from our Great Creator, the Great Mystery.

Tom Porter was our best teacher and still is for the Mohawks. When we think back thirty or forty years ago what our elders told us at the kitchen table or sitting by the sacred fire, it was everything that their elders, chiefs and clan mothers told them about what was important to our people and Mother Earth, that our farms could feed us and our hunting rights were sacred because they feed our people; all our freedom and rights came from our sacred culture and treaties our ancestors made with non-indigenous people and that was the way we would get along and survive, like The Two-Row Wampum said, in the old days, way back then.

If we remember all the things our elders told us when we were young, we will have truth and respect to look to for our well-being and strength. Because of what is happening now to our people and Mother Earth, we need to remember the truth in everything our elders said. But things are changing fast, because our forests, rivers, lakes and fish and animals are being polluted and contaminated. Creation depends on humans to protect them, and we are their protectors and the voice for all natural life.

Mining corporations are a serious trouble to indigenous people of the world, they are getting the rights and permits to extract the resources they need to make profit like in the old days; during the Gold Rush in California and the Klondike Gold Rush in 1896 there were over 1,000,000 prospectors in Yukon, Canada, seeking to get rich. Our government is now inviting foreign corporations to come and take all they want from Mother Earth. These kinds of activities need to be addressed at the kitchen table and around a sacred fire with our elders, chiefs and Clan Mothers. The planet/ Mother Earth can only take so much abuse and exploitation; our chiefs are saying Climate Change and Global Warming are out of control, and mining is making things worse by cutting forests down for extension roads and highways. We are creating a super crisis.

Bruce Cockburn has a song, Dream Like Mine, where he sings: "When you have a dream like



Wilmer Nadjiwon, June 2007  
Photo by: Danny Beaton

mine, nobody can take you down. When you've got a dream like mine, nobody can push you around. Today I dreamed of how it used to be. Things were different before. The picture shifts of how it's going to be. Balance restored. When you know for even a moment that it's your time. Then you can walk with the power of a thousand generations. Beautiful rocks, beautiful grass, beautiful soil, where they both combine. Beautiful river, beautiful sky. Never thought of possession, but all this was mine".

When we were young, our elders, chiefs and clan mothers said: "Our Sacred Mother Earth gives us everything we need to survive. All we have to do is take care of Mother Earth." Our ancestors gave this same message over and over again when the Pinta, the Niña, the Santa Maria and the Mayflower came to our shores hundreds of years ago, but everyone forgets. We as Indigenous People must focus on what our elders and ancestors valued, because it will give us direction and vision. This world and society have lost its positive direction and vision. All the truths our elders talked about and shared in the sacred circle are about peace and harmony, respect and power with natural forces.

In the old days everything we did was with Thanksgiving. Our Thanksgiving ways of respect can bring the people back to a vision and righteousness, unity and harmony. Our positive creativity can be one with Mother Earth, not with something that kills life and is negative. Everything that is positive cannot hurt life, only negative activity can. Beauty, Mother Earth and our sacred values and culture must be protected

by all forms of culture/Ceremonies, art, education and communication. Our elders and ancestors are inside our minds, body and Spirit. We need to believe this and defend the sacred life species: plant life, oceans, lakes, rivers. Creation needs clean fresh water to drink the way it used to be back in the old days.

We can have a vision like Bruce Cockburn sings in Dream Like Mine. We can still live a healing life by doing what our elders talked about, eating our Traditional diet, finding time to eat Three Sisters soup and cook healing food, so we can focus on being real again: deer meat, moose, buffalo and fish diet to energize again. We can see that fast life hurts us and all indigenous people. Indigenous People of the world come from cultures of deep respect for the forces that give us life: earth, air, fire and water, the sacred forces that we are in awe of, the universe, cosmos and Creation. Mother Earth gives us all the medicine we need to heal with. With their sacred way of life, indigenous people can look to positive and honest allies and NGOs environmentalists, who care for Mother Earth, species and Indigenous Cultures that are holding onto the sacred life. All people need to look to each other in unity and harmony. The beauty of Mother Earth is all around us: from the very first day we are born to the last breath she can feel our love. If the corporations contaminate our rivers and lakes, our fish will die and then we will die next.

Thank you all.  
In Memory of Wilmer Nadjiwon, a great leader of his people Ojibway Tribe/Nation and a father and Grandfather, Artist and Chief.

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# The Famous JELL-O "Car Wheels" and "Airplane Wheels"

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Jell-o released its car series in 1961, on the heels of a similarly style 1960-61 Shirriff hockey coin set.

The car wheels set came first with illustrations of the cars from 1769 to present day 1961 and were color coded into 8 - 25 different picture wheels in each decade.

The coins were popular enough that other special interest series popped up. Jell-o/Hostess followed the car series by producing a Canada only plastic airplane set in 1962.

The USA got into the act with sports discs from Salada Tea/Junket pudding, which produced plastic baseball coins in 1962.

The famous aircraft of the World series is divided into 8 series. The back of each coin depicts an airplane propeller along with the Jell-o and Hostess logo.

There was a 'mail in offer for 50 cents, general forms would mail collectors a circular plastic carrying case that looks an awful lot like a poker chip holder, along with a 76-page fact book [cars]. Authored by Ralph A Turner, President of the Antique and Classic Club of Canada. The 60-page airplane fact book

the-top background hues. Watt took great pains to put most of the depicted aircraft in its appropriate context.

Both of these sets were marketed with the 1960's in Canada newspaper, publications, magazines, pudding boxes, etc.

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

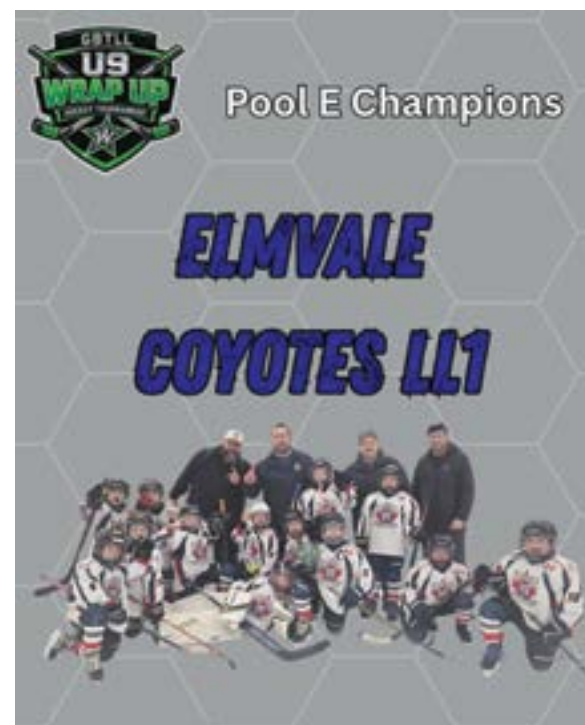


## LET US KNOW WHAT NEWS COVERAGE YOU WANNA SEE

### A Big Step Forward for Our Team

by Corrine Reynolds  
It has been an exciting stretch for our U9 LL1 team as we move into full ice games and continue to grow together. The players have been learning a lot about positioning, teamwork,

pace, and how to compete over a full game, and that progress has been great to watch. All of that learning came together at our recent tournament, the Coyote Cup, where the team won all three games to take home the championship. One game in particular showed the heart of this group. After two tough periods, the team found themselves down 5 to 1. Instead of getting discouraged, the players stayed focused, supported one another, and kept battling.



The third period was an incredible example of teamwork and determination. Shift by shift, the kids worked together, trusted each other, and slowly clawed their way back into the game. The result was an exciting 7 to 6 comeback win that showed just how much they are learning and growing as a team.

This tournament was not just about winning. It was about resilience, learning how to respond when things are hard, and coming together in big moments. The players should be proud of the way they competed and supported one another.

A big thank you to Key Mortgage Partners for their generous sponsorship and continued support of our team. Congratulations to everyone on a well-earned Coyote Cup win and an amazing start to the season.

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# Ritchie's Feeds 'N Needs U18 LL2 Season Recap

By Jenn Morrow  
The Ritchie's Feeds 'N Needs Elmvale Coyotes U18 LL2 hockey team closed out their season with resilience, growth, and a renewed sense of pride after battling through a challenging year on the ice. Facing a tough schedule and stiff competition early on, the Coyotes struggled to find consistency in the first half of the season. Despite the results, the team remained committed, showing determination at every practice and

game while continuing to build chemistry and confidence. That persistence paid off in the second half of the season, which proved to be the team's defining stretch. The Coyotes turned things around with an impressive 5-2-1 record, showcasing a much stronger, more cohesive style of play. Improved teamwork, sharper execution, and a never-quit attitude helped the group compete at a higher level and earn well-deserved results. The season concluded with a year-end

tournament in Goderich, where the Coyotes proudly represented Elmvale. While the games themselves were competitive and hard-fought, the tournament also offered an opportunity to bond, celebrate their progress, and enjoy the game together. As they hang up their skates for the year, the team would like to thank parents and coaches for their support as well as their sponsor, Ritchie's Feeds 'N Needs and Garden Centre for making it all possible.



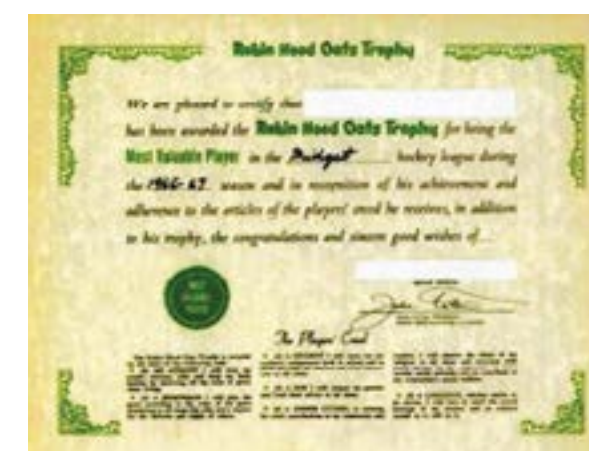
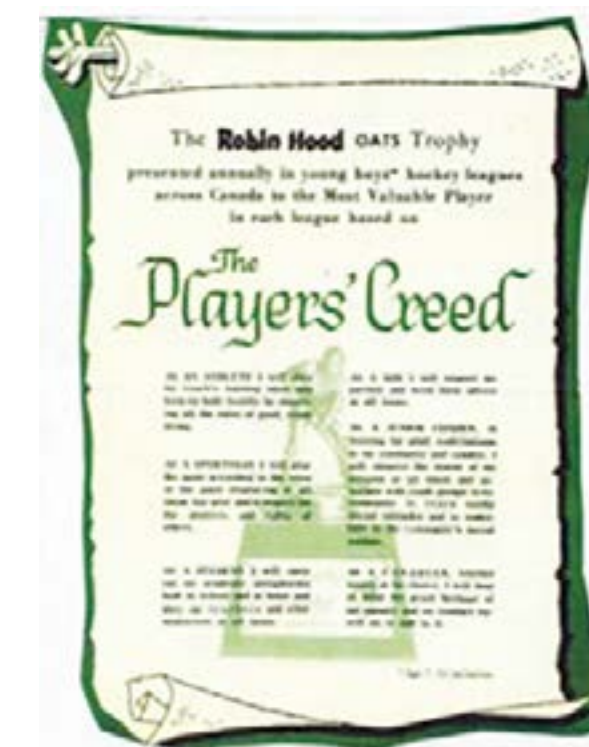
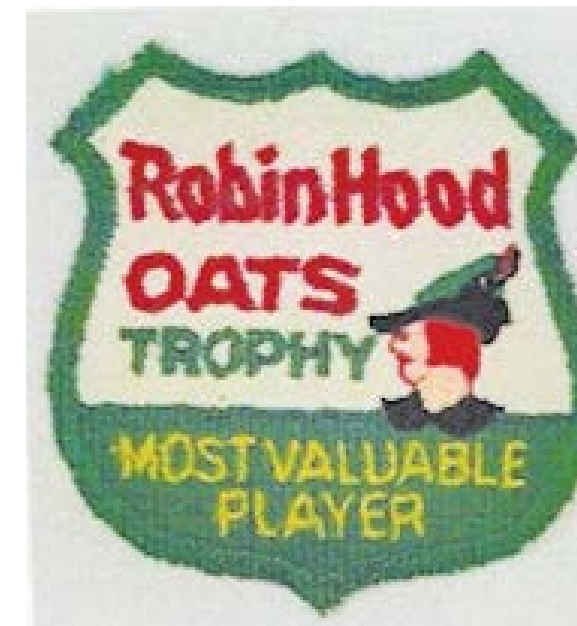
# U11 LL BC Roofing Coyotes Wrap up a Great Season

By: Corinna Draper  
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 Robin Hood Oats 'Most Valuable Player Award'



In March 1959, one of the smartest marketing strategies ever conceived was launched by the Robin Hood Mills Limited. Canada was a growing hockey nation and there were lots of little boys whose breakfast composed of cereal and oats as a staple. Seeing an opportunity, the company developed and offered an individual hockey award, the 'Most Valuable Player Award' becoming known as the 'Robin Hood Oats Trophy'. It would be awarded annually to young boys hockey leagues across Canada. The Penetang Little NHL committee had to apply to receive these trophies which is

essence saved them some money. Upon receipt of the application the trophy was delivered to hundreds of hockey communities and was awarded throughout the different divisions. Along with winning the trophy you also received the Robin Hood Oats crest and certificate. The company set high ideals and enacted a 'Players Creed' by which their awards would be judged at the local level, setting high standards for the company's reputation. This Players Creed, for boys aged 7 to 14, ideally touched aspects for a good young citizen and the expected behaviour within the family, school, and community as a hockey player. The award was given out to the most valuable player who exemplified the true spirit of the Players Creed, which meant that it didn't necessarily go to the player who had the most points or goals. That gave kids who were not the most skilled a chance. In the town of Penetanguishene, the best on ice hockey player didn't always win and I think that was the intent of the award.

There were not many trophies given out and to receive one of these trophies was a highlight and a thrill. A trophy to be cherished. L. Waxy Gregoire...Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame

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## Bearbells By Leslie Noonan

March 23, 2026

Just outside the small village of Creemore there is a side road off county road 9, little more than a dirt track, that leads to a beautiful hiking area. If your car makes it up the small, but steep hill, you will find the parking area for the Creemore Nature Preserve, which itself is a part of Nature Conservancy Canada. These groups aim to preserve natural spaces, while removing invasive species and reintroducing native plants. All worthwhile causes, with the bonus of hiking trails to admire their important work.

I parked my car and grabbed my gear. Soft flakes of snow drifted around me as I started up the track, made slippery by the temperature fluctuations and many feet, both human and canine. Tall and straight pines marched off in the distance, with a warning sign that the trees in this part of the forest were being logged. On my left an old cedar fence marked private land filled with mature spruce and maple. A scent wafted on the cold wind, pungent and musky. Intrigued, and of course lacking common sense to avoid animals, I followed the odor into the forest to find the source. The prints of many deer hooves merged into an area of churned up snow, and the source of that scent became clear. That infamous yellow snow that you should not eat, though the smell is more than enough deterrent in my opinion. Curiosity satisfied, and not having been eaten by a ravenous Wendigo, I returned to the track and the last few hundred meters to the entrance to the preserve.

The icy trail was pockmarked by human and dog tracks, frozen into ankle-breaking paths that had me gripping my poles for stability. Thickly crevassed bark of maple and smooth grey trunks of beech were predominant in this forest, with the occasional evergreen adding some color. Off in the distance two ravens were engaged in conversation, the deep "gronks" and croaks provided no clue to what they were discussing. Small chickadees hopped along low branches, their calls higher and more musical. Further on, the trail began a downward descent into a small valley, and a pond frozen over. A small brook flowed over rocks, adding to the forests symphony with its babbling and murmuring as it danced over the rocky stream bed. A majestic pileated woodpecker contributed the bass notes, as it drummed on a nearby dead tree, the sound echoing through the forest.

I left the melodic forest behind as the trail ascended out of the valley and up onto a ridge of land between two hollows. Up here the only sound was the wind in the bare upper branches. The light flakes of snow became thicker and heavier until visibility was limited to only a few meters. I was mildly concerned as I had never been here before and there were multiple routes to take, and that fictitious Wendigo might not be so fictitious. There had been some previous melting of the snow up here, and around every tree trunk was a deep depression, exposing moss and ferns that were still verdant. Though the thick snow was dampening most sounds, I could still hear the tinkling noise of another stream down in the hollow. I gingerly made my way down to the stream flowing across rocks of brown and grey. These cold streams are essential habitat for trout, especially in the deeper pools that never freeze. Thick planks crossed over the moving water, overlaid with metal sheeting for better traction. I spent time admiring that cold and clear waters, soothed by its musical tones.

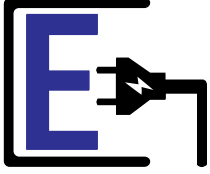
The red trail that I had been following encircled the preserve, and after leaving the stream, the path led up, and up and up. An extensive hill to traverse up to the next ridgeline, and while this trail was much less used, the frozen length added to the challenge. Once, ok maybe twice, I stopped to admire the scenery, and to catch my breath. The snow finally lost its snow globe like quality and became more of a light dusting. As the temperature was hovering around zero, the snow was much preferable to a drenching cold rain. As I completed the red circuit and returned to the entrance, a large shape materialized in my peripheral vision. Oh my god, the Wendigo! Ummm, ok, maybe not. Instead, I turned my head to watch a majestic large deer bound and leap through the forest and across my path. Probably running from that Wendigo, though I should definitely stop watching late night television shows about (mostly) mythical creatures.

Kudos to the visitor to this preserve, as there was no litter, not even the ubiquitous poop bags usually found where people walk their dogs. The trails were well marked and maintained, and I would hazard a guess that in summer this is a forest filled with birds and flowers and people, though today I had it to myself. Once at the car I removed my gear and got in the driver's seat and backed out of the parking lot. I glanced in my rearview mirror as I was leaving, and I am sure that I saw a shadowy figure back the way I had come, though I am positive it was not a Wendigo, but maybe a bigfoot. Enjoy nature and this lovely trail, just don't watch scary programs before heading out on your own!!



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## ANTEN MILLS by Dennis Gannon

There is a rhyme that goes "April showers bring May flowers." What impact does snow, cold winds and below seasonal temperatures have on the flowers? The season of spring, while only a few weeks long, has certainly not been very spring-like. Over a few days this past couple of weeks almost 44 millimetres or 2 inches of rain has fallen. Fortunately most of the snow has disappeared in many places but it still may be a few more days before it is all gone. Hopefully the latter part of the month will bring some sunshine and warm weather.

On Saturday, April 4, the weather, while not spring-like, held on long enough for the Anten Mills Community Recreation Association two Easter events to be held. The first, the annual Rabbit Fun Run started the morning off. With the temperature a very cool 2 degrees celsius and strong winds from the west it didn't deter almost 100 runners from taking to the streets. A fun warmup followed by the blast of the fire truck siren got the runners out onto the roads of the village. Becca and the volunteers did a terrific job of getting the runners ready, organized and on the run. Once back the runners all received a fabulous gift bag from the run sponsor, Napoleon Home Comfort.

As the morning progressed the next event was the Easter Eggstravaganza. There were crafts, egg hunts, photos with the Easter bunny and treats for those who signed up. Thanks to Lindsey and the volunteers who helped, it was a fun morning for those who came out. While the numbers were down from previous years, perhaps due to the weather and demographic changes in the community, a nice cash donation received from the attendees will be made to the Elmvale and District Food Bank along with food donations to help them out.

The CRA thanks everyone who attended the events, donated and volunteered. A community is as good as those who take the time to volunteer and participate with the events. Our community parks, laneways and road ditches all took a beating this past winter. Unfortunately there is a fair amount of litter that is lying around. Many in the community step up on their own to take the time and clean up the mess. Everyone appreciates the effort. It has been a few years since a community wide organized cleanup has been done. If there is an interest in holding one please reach out to me or any other member of the CRA and we will do our best to make it happen.

In addition to the area wide cleanup, the gardens at the community centre will soon need to

get ready for the flowers and plants to bloom. Judy has again agreed to lead the task so watch for posts advising when help is needed.

Each year the Springwater library takes on the responsibility to help out the less fortunate women of the community on Mother's Day. Our Anten Mills Knotty Knitters assist this program with their donations. Monthly they also make donations to the Elmvale and District Food Bank, Furry Friends, Victoria Village and soon the RVH Cancer Care Clinic and various long term care facilities. They meet Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 until 3:30 at the community centre and knitters and those interested in learning how to knit or crochet are encouraged to join in the fun.

On April Fools day the Anten Mills Community Bulletin Facebook page had a post that was seen over 1000 times! It was posted in good fun and there were a number of humorous comments. Perhaps the seed has been planted for the next exciting project for the future in the community.

While he may be getting a bit thinner, the Anten Mills snowman at the Laycock home is still standing strong and big. With the temperature staying cooler than normal, he may be around until May. Watch for further updates.

That's it for now. Listen for the robins chirping, the kids on their bikes and wildlife crossing the roads. Until the next time, THANKS for READING, BE WELL and STAY SAFE.



**Volunteer Income Tax Program**

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

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

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

**AI Literacy**

Not sure what AI is? Come learn: What AI is, what AI can and cannot do, how to use AI tools effectively, how to protect confidential information, how to stay safe and recognize AI scams. Thursday April 9, 6:30pm at Elmvale Branch. Cost: Free.

**Senior Social Coffee and Crafting**

Drop by the library for a fun time of crafting and socializing! One morning a month we will

have a simple craft activity set up in the branch along with light refreshments. This is an excellent opportunity for seniors in the community to connect for a fun morning of creativity! This month, we will be making a DIY book bag and plant hanger from T-shirts. Friday April 10, 11am-12noon at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

**Drop-In Craft**

The Library will be offering a fun drop-in craft at both its Elmvale and Midhurst Branches. Participants can make a paper roll race car! This program will be available as long as supplies last. Starting Thursday April 16, 10am.

**Death Café**

Join Tracy from the North Simcoe Muskoka Hospice Palliative Care Network for an uplifting and interactive afternoon of conversation. Death Cafes provide discussions about death in an open environment without a set agenda. Light refreshments will be provided. Friday April 17, 1:30pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

**BCHC Meditation Workshop**

The Barrie Community Health Clinic will be presenting a meditation class. This class includes information and education as well as three separate mindfulness meditations. Thursday April 23, 11am-12pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

**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.

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 taxpayers 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.

## Penetanguishene Library

24 Simcoe Street 705-549-7164

www.penetanguishene.library.on.ca

taxpayers 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.

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 taxpayers 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.

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## Jo Knows Nutrition

by Joanne Nijhuis

Perogies are often seen as a treat, but they don't have to be reserved for special occasions. With a few creative additions, they can become part of a healthy, everyday lifestyle. This recipe incorporates extra protein and vegetables to boost the nutritional value and keep you fuller for longer. Flavourful and surprisingly nutritious, even picky eaters will enjoy these upgraded dumplings, bringing both comfort and balance to your plate.

**Did You Know?**

Pierogies are a beloved Eastern European staple with a rich history dating back to the 13th century. While often seen as a simple comfort food, they offer great nutritional value through complex carbohydrates for sustained energy and gut-healthy resistant starch from the potato fillings. Traditional varieties like sauerkraut provide essential probiotics, while meat or cheese fillings offer a significant boost of protein and iron. Whether boiled for a lighter meal or pan-fried for texture, they remain a versatile source of vitamins B, C, and K.

**INGREDIENTS (6-8 Servings)**

- 1 package (907 grams) store-bought frozen pierogies of choice



## LIFE STYLE

# PIEROGI CASSEROLE

SAY YES TO MORE VEGGIES & PROTEIN

- 1 Tablespoons (15 ml) olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 red or white onion, diced
- 1 - 1 ½ cups (250 - 375 ml) button mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 2 red peppers, diced
- 1-2 cups (250 ml-500 ml) fresh spinach leaves
- 1 - 1 ½ cups (250-375 ml) cooked back bacon or ham, diced (optional)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 Tablespoons (30 ml) butter or coconut butter
- ½ cup (125 ml) cow's milk or plant-based milk
- 1 Tablespoon (15 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1 cup (250 ml) cheddar cheese, shredded

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Cook the frozen pierogies in salted boiling water according to the package directions. Drain and set aside.
2. In a large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat and sauté the garlic and onion until translucent.
3. Add the sliced mushrooms and diced bell peppers and cook for a few more minutes. Stir in the baby spinach and back bacon or ham, if using,

- and cook until wilted.
4. Season with salt and pepper and transfer the mixture to a large oven-safe casserole dish.
5. In the same skillet, melt the butter or coconut butter and lightly brown the cooked pierogies.
6. Add the milk, and flour to the skillet with the pierogies. Bring the mixture to a quick boil to thicken the sauce.
7. Transfer the pierogies and sauce into the casserole dish with the vegetables. Stir gently to combine.
8. Sprinkle the shredded cheese over the top of the casserole and broil in the oven 1-3 minutes until the cheese is melted and golden brown.

**ENJOY!**  
**PER SERVING:** |Calories: 420 kcal | Carbohydrates: 42 g | Protein: 18 g | Fat: 21 g |Fibre: 4 g | Sodium: 780 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



Annie's Journal  
Written by Annie Warner Donnelly

Hello Everyone. Jesus provided the definition of "disciple" when He said in Luke 6:40, "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher." What was Jesus training His

disciples to do? To become Emmanuel – God with us - like He is? To become the Bread of Life, the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace like He is? No. In John 10:14-15, Jesus said, "I am the good

shepherd. I know My own sheep (meaning those people who decide to follow Him), and they know Me as the Father knows Me and I know the Father." Was Jesus training His disciples to become shepherds like He is? Let's find out.

In John 21:15-17, we read that after they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My lambs." Jesus said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep."

Jesus said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because

Jesus said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And He said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

Peter was asked to feed Jesus' lambs and to tend and feed His sheep. This is clearly the work of a shepherd. Understanding what he was to do, Peter spent his life telling people about Jesus, making disciples and teaching them to observe all the things that Jesus had taught and commanded. Peter's life is an example of a disciple of Jesus who became a shepherd of God's flock.

Are we willing to be trained as Jesus' disciples were? Do we know someone who would be helped by knowing Jesus? When might we tell that someone about Him? Amen.

**Dr Sean Corsini Orthodontist**  
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**NOTICES**

A big thank you to the Town of Penetang and to the Winterama Committee (Cole & Marla) for inviting me to co-ordinate the hugely successful Log Sawing Competition at the 2026 Winterama.

Thank you to local sponsors: Ritchie Forest Products, Lakelands Irrigation, Elmvale Rental Supply, McLaren Equipment, & McGill Excavating.

Participants: teams represented various levels of government, Paramedics, the OPP, the Penetang Fire Department, the Penetang Kings, and spectators.

Volunteers: Kelly(stats), Alex(timer), and Leah(assistant).

The Lumberjack Crew: Steve, Tim/Tom & Brady.

For those keeping score, the winning team was the Penetang Fire Department with a time of 25.7 seconds.

See you next year, Doug Kirton

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- April Multi Consignor Auction - Guelph (April 26 - 30)
- Langevin Downsizing Auction - Orangeville (April 26 - 30)
- Motoko Moving Auction - London (April)
- Coulman Moving Auction - Guelph (April)
- Murphy Moving Auction - Brampton (April)

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Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm  
12 Queen Street East, Elmvale @ Elmvale Community Church

**Moving, Indoor Garage Sale**  
**April 18 8:30 2290 Crossland RD phelpston. Cash only**

**NOTICES**

**ELMVALE DISTRICT LIONS CLUB**  
**CHRIS LEWIS DAY OF SERVICE CRAFT SALE & FREE BBQ**  
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**LIONS CLUB 1979 FLOS RD 7W**  
**SAT MAY 9TH**  
**10AM-4PM**

**PHOTO SUBMISSIONS**

Do you know someone who would like to be featured in our paper? Submit your photos, events or the good news you'd like to share with your community. Please submit your photos to the Editor. Email: info@springwaternews.ca **Full name, phone number and address must be supplied.**

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## EVENTS

### Community Events Ongoing

#### SENIOR CLUBS

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

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

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

**MONDAY**  
**Elmvale Seniors Drop In**  
Elmvale Community Church  
10 am - 12 noon  
Call Lynn for info, 705.322.3309

**Midland Jam**  
Free Admission, Show 7:00, Doors 6:30

**Bid Euchre**  
**Elmvale Community Hall 1 pm - 4 pm**  
Call Anne for details 705-322-1232

**Georgian Shores Seniors Club**  
Billiards/Pool, 9:00 – 11 am  
Seniors in Motion Fitness, 10:00 – 11:00 am  
Hustle and Muscle, 11:30 – 12:30 pm  
Bid Euchre, 1 – 3:30 pm

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

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

**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**  
LifeStyle - 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](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

**St. James on the Lines 190th Anniversary**  
Sunday April 12th 10am  
come and be welcomed by costumed Interpreters from Discovery Harbor and the Penetanguishene Museum. Following the service stay and wander through the historic cemetery where you will find the graves of veterans, children and boys from the Reformatory.

For further information check The Parish of Penetanguishene Webpage [www.anglicanparish.ca](http://www.anglicanparish.ca)

**In Grandmothers Hands Annual Pasta Dinner**  
Apr. 10, 2026 17:30

St Paul's United Church, 308 King Street, Midland, Ontario  
By Donation. All proceeds go to Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign of the SLF

**Spring Guided Tours at Discovery Harbour**  
Apr. 03, 2026 10:30-Apr. 26, 2026 17:00

Discovery Harbour  
Guided Tours from April 3 - 26 on Fridays to Sundays at 11am, 1pm, 2pm, and 4pm

**Spring Guided Tours at Nancy Island Historic Site**

Apr. 03, 2026 10:30-Apr. 26, 2026 17:00  
Nancy Island Historic Site

Guided Tours on Fridays - Sundays from April 3 - 26 at 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 4pm

**Soup Luncheon**  
Unity United Church

4967 Vasey Road at Line 4 N Oro Medonte  
Thursday April 16 from 11:30am - 1pm  
Dine in or take out  
\$10.00

Soup, tea biscuit, bread and crackers & dessert \$5.00 for an extra bowl of soup  
In support of Hospice Huronia  
All welcome. Tell your friends

**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](mailto: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

**Publication Dates 2026**  
Next Editions  
April 23rd

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## EVENTS

### Knights of Columbus Hosting Fundraiser Concert in Support of Local Charities

The Knights of Columbus Barrie Council 1626 is inviting the community to an evening of live music and giving back at an upcoming fundraiser concert set for Friday, April 24.

The event will take place at 93 Berczy Street in Barrie, bringing together music lovers and supporters of local causes for a night of entertainment with purpose. All proceeds from the concert will go directly toward supporting local charities and community initiatives.

Taking the stage for the evening is Cabin Fever, a talented group known for their engaging blend of folk, roots, and country music. With rich harmonies and a warm, authentic sound, the band promises a performance that will appeal to a wide range of audiences.

Tickets are available for \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Those interested in attending can purchase tickets by e-transfer to [financial.secretary@KOFc1626.ca](mailto:financial.secretary@KOFc1626.ca) or online through TicketScene.

Organizers encourage residents to come out, enjoy a great night of live music, and support the important work being done within the community.

For the Knights of Columbus, the evening represents more than just a concert—it's an opportunity to bring people together while making a meaningful difference close to home.



### Elmvale Skating Carnival a Huge Success, Raises \$8,500 for Local Youth Programs

Elmvale — The Elmvale skating club hosted an unforgettable skating carnival, showcasing the talent, dedication, and hard work of its skaters throughout the season. Families and community members filled the stands to cheer on performances that highlighted both skill and passion on the ice.

A heartfelt thank you went out to the skaters for their incredible performances, to the coaches for their guidance and encouragement, and to the volunteers whose countless hours behind the scenes made the event possible.

Thanks to the support of the Elmvale community, the carnival fundraiser raised an impressive \$8,500. These funds will benefit the skating club directly, helping to cover ribbons, badges, and awards, while also contributing to the North Simcoe Junior Farmers Fund. This ensures that every skater has the opportunity to participate, regardless of financial barriers.

Club organizers expressed their gratitude to everyone involved in making this year's carnival a memorable success and look forward to another exciting season ahead.



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# GARDENING MADE EASY

By Kelly McNamara, Ritchie's Feeds 'N Needs and Garden Centre

As the temperatures rise and the snow recedes, our gardens awaken with little nubbies of tulips and daffodils. We look forward to those pops of early colour, especially after the long winter we just had.

Once those Spring flowers fade away, what next? Whether creating new gardens, expanding old ones, or simply adding to spruce things up, finding the right plants to fit your space doesn't have to be a daunting task.

Let's start with the difference between an annual and a perennial.

Annuals are also known as bedding plants. These are plants that only last for the season, but can give you long lasting colour. Use them to border your gardens, add colour where it might be missing, or create a fabulous planter

to brighten up your outdoor living spaces. These give immediate reward, but the downside is you will need to replant them every year. Another thing to consider is height. If you are looking to add tall colour, a lot of annuals tend to be more on the shorter size, like Pansies or Begonias. You can find taller annuals like Sunflowers, but 3 to 4 feet tends to be your average taller plants, like Cosmos or Canna Lilies. If you choose annuals, remember that they will need a little extra attention, like watering and deadheading (pinching off of dead flowers). They are not native or naturalized to our climate.

Perennials will keep coming back year after year. They come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. They can be a shrub (bush or multi-stemmed woody plant), tree, flower, or simply a green leafy plant. Once established, these plants require little maintenance, but years of enjoyment. The

downside is most perennial plants that flower have a shorter bloom period, so keep that in mind when choosing your plants. Planting perennials that bloom at different times of the summer will give you the constant colour you may be looking for. Spirea (like the beautiful white Bridal Wreath variety), Lilacs and Primrose will bloom early in the Spring, with Wegeila and Iris following on its heels. Mid-season blooms can include Daisies, Coneflowers and Daylilies. Later season beauties like Hydrangeas, Black-eyed Susans and Hardy Hibiscus can take you into the cooler season perennials including Mums, and Asters.

This is just a very short list of what you can use to create a welcoming, inviting space in your yard. Keep in mind, all plants also have a preference for sunlight and soils, but we can cross that bridge in the next article!

## Starting Your Own Seeds

By Nancy Lockhart, E.D.G.E. Media

Are you looking out your window and wondering when you will see your flower beds and garden again? Plants peeking out of the ground. The first part I can't help you with, but the second - I have a suggestion. Start growing your own plants from seed. While looking at different gardening pages, I might have come up with this idea a little late. Every one of them said to start in February. They also said to count back 6 weeks from the last frost date. And when I put in my postal code, it said on average June 1st.

Anyway, if you are an old pro at this or wanting to try for the first time, I chose a few pointers for you. Always read the back of the seed packet. It gives you all the information you need. Give yourself time to start. And don't give up on your seeds too early. Different seeds need different growing times and germination periods. Grow lights, either LED or something that "gives off the full spectrum of the sun". Two to three inches above your seedlings for 10 hours or so. Follow the natural sun pattern. As always, don't over water.

I found lots of suggestions for what to plant your seeds in: cardboard egg cartons, paper cups, toilet paper rolls, yogurt cups, milk and juice cartons and plug trays. Use a seed starting mix, it's designed for starting seeds.

And finally, when you have your seedlings all ready to go, don't forget to harden them off. They've been indoors all this time, cozy and warm. And you shove them outside without a coat. They are not going to like it. All your hard, loving work will be for nothing. One site said two weeks and the two weeks before planting them.

As always, your local garden center will be there to help you with seeds and soil and questions.



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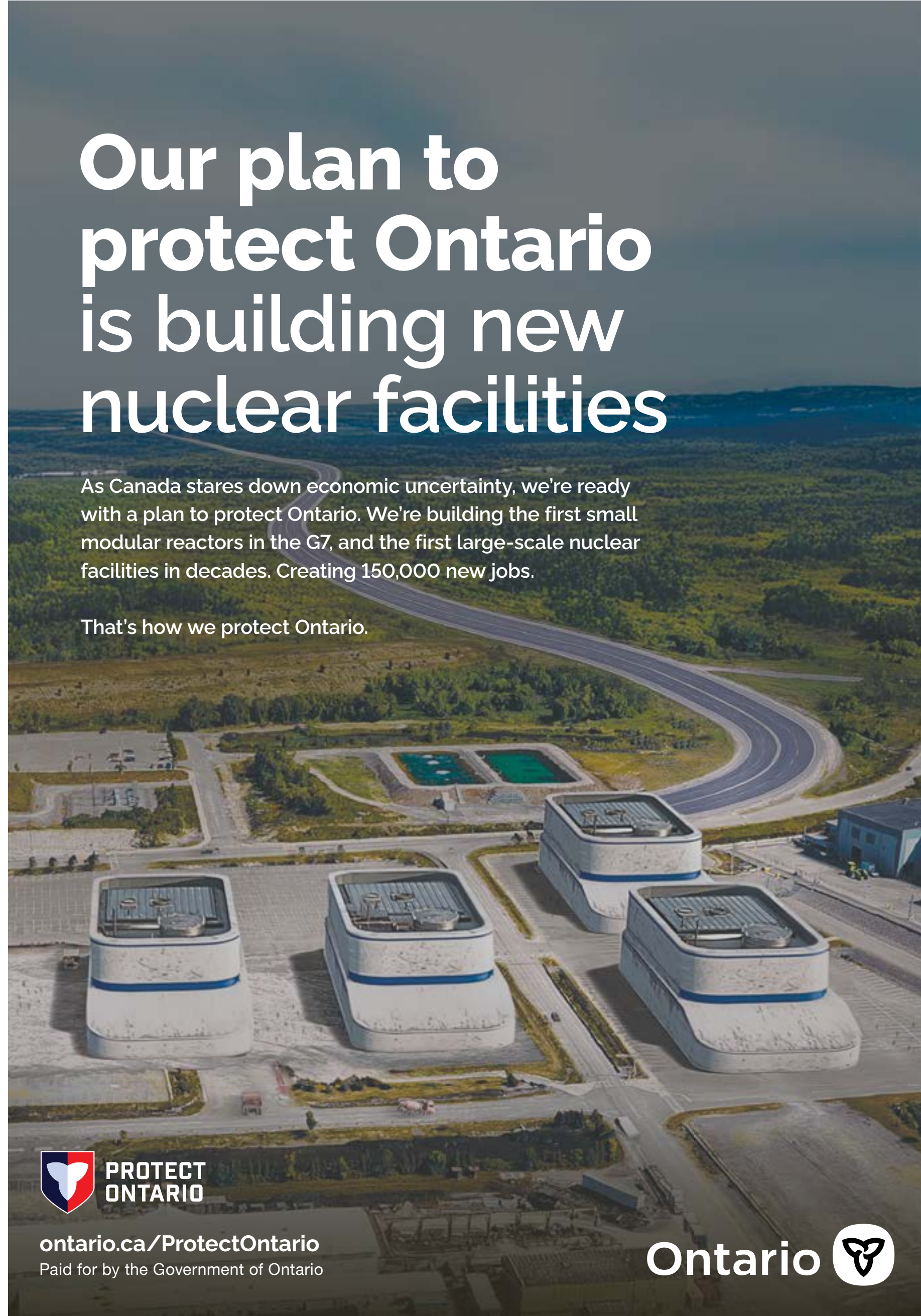
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# Hey Dads!

## CROSSWORD ANSWER

1	B	2	A	3	R	4	M	5	E	6	S	7	S	8	R	9	O	10	D		
11	A	R	E			12	R	I	P	E				13	E	R	A				
14	R	E	D			15	S	T	E	W				16	L	E	A				
17	E	A	S	18	T	19	H	A	S	20	T	E									
				21	E	22	V	E	R				23	R	A	I	L				
26	H	27	A	28	M	29	M	E	R				30	T	A	S	T	E			
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40	A	41	T	E				42	S	A	N	43	G			44	W	A	Y		
45	C	A	R					46	K	N	E	47	A	G	E						
48	T	R	Y					49	S	O	R	T				50	Y	E	S		

Have you noticed any spring happenings around you lately? I saw a robin the other day, geese are flying by, and baby animals are making an appearance. To be precise, 15 baby animals made an appearance in our house. You may recall reading about our cat having kittens under our bed less than a year ago. Well, we just learned that kittens can have kittens less than a year after being born. The math worked pretty good. Each of our 3 cats had 5 kittens for a total of 15. This was multi-generational cathood in real-time. The original cat mother had a new batch of kittens and her two kittens from last year each had a batch, making her a grand-cat. These cats have it made. With 10 kids running around our house there were many hands prepared (and very excited) to tend to the kittens. We didn't know if the mother cats would like the other kittens or attack the other kittens even though they're all related and will probably visit each other at Christmas to exchange fruitcakes and other cat gifts. So, each family of mother and kittens was moved to it's own room. Now our daughters all had a new family of cats to keep them company in their rooms. Three high quality cat-beds were made from cardboard boxes and old blankets. You may be asking, "But how long will you allow cats, cats, and more cats to live in your house?" Great question.

And the answer is...until they start to destroy things. Which is about a month. We were gone for a few hours the other day and when we got home we found the cats giving us signals that they were ready to move out. They were trying to move themselves out by digging through the carpet under the bedroom door. But carpet does not dig up. It just gets shredded. I declared it was time to move these felines out to the garage before they tore the whole house apart. "Out with them!" I shouted. Or something like that. Much disagreement erupted from the younger children about the viability of kitten survival in the garage. It has heat. They have fur. They will be fine. I think they could have gone out to the barn and been cozy in the hay but I wasn't going to push my luck.

So, blankets and kittens and food bowls and water bowls were transported to the garage. The kids even built them a lovely play park out of cinder blocks and old pieces of wood. A cat paradise. Now you may be asking, "But how long will you allow cats, cats, and more cats to live in your garage?" Another great question. Yet to be answered. But if you'd like your very own cat or five just let me know. For you, my friend? I'll give you a really good deal. Maybe it's time for you to get a nice pet for your kids, dad? Time flies! Make every moment count! Even the cats-killing-carpet ones.

Jason Weening cares for cats and other creatures with his 10 kids and one patient wife. Read about their other animal adventures in his book, "Yes, Dear... I'm Watching Them", on Amazon.

# AL'S SENIOR TIMES

## The SCHWARTZ CHRONICLES - REVISITED WHERE HAVE ALL THE LANEWAYS GONE?

Allan Schwartz is a 79 year-old, retired Canadian entrepreneur who spent decades owning and operating a successful manufacturing company specializing in stainless-steel food service, medical and laboratory equipment. After selling the business, he spent some 5 years as a Business Broker before shifting his attention to writing during the Covid years. Married for 56 years, he is the proud father of adult children and grandfather to five and continues to enjoy exploring new interests in his retirement

Volume 11 – July 31, 2024

As some of us attain a certain age demographic, there is a tendency to sometimes reflect back on our life experiences as opposed to looking forward and I found this to be very much the case as I took a stroll the other day through my childhood neighbourhood. Talk about the apple not falling far from the tree, here it is some 70 years later and my wife and I now live in a condo that is less than one-half a mile from where I grew up!

Many images flooded back into my mind as I walked through streets some of which have had name changes and others are just as I remembered.

Flinging back the pages of time my mind superimposed what I, as a youngster witnessed at a time when radio serial programs such as Amos'n Andy, Fibber McGee and Molly and the Great Gildersleeve captured our imagination, before the infamous television test pattern arrived and earlier programs such as Howdy Doody, The Plouffe Family and I Love Lucy.

I probably could not have been more than four or five years old, probably four because I distinctly remember going to the hospital to have my tonsils out and that entailed an overnight stay with hospital nursing staff bringing me both ice cream and ginger ale in a distinctly-striped juice glass to ease my throat discomfort. My first experience with elective surgery, but by no means my last.

Growing up in a neighbourhood that developed just after the end of World War Two, Supermarkets, Superstores and Wholesale food clubs did not exist as we know them today. Of course there were small grocery stores consisting of perhaps five or six aisles of basics and staples and then there were specialty stores such as Butcher Shops, Fish Mongers, Fruit and Vegetable vendors and even some higher end Pastry shops.

Usually three to four times a week we had a horse-drawn wagon come right up our laneway to delivery fresh milk and on alternate days, I could swear it was the same horse, the same wagon but the driver in a different uniform, complete with hat, delivering bread, again to our side door. Rarely did the horse fail to leave evidence of his attendance.

These were simpler times and the honour system prevailed... money for milk purchases was left in empty milk bottles and the bread deliveryman ran a tab for the week. There were always corner stores for any last minute requirements and often my grandfather who lived next door to us would send me on an errand to pick up his filterless, Sweet Caps cigarettes which were selling for twenty-five cents a package. No-one asked to see my proof of age. Today those same packages of twenty cigarettes sell for close to \$15.00 a pack.

There were other deliveries made directly to our house and these included blocks of ice for our pre-refrigerator ice-box. Perhaps two to three times a week a very muscular delivery person with a huge

set of tongs would lug the square blocks of ice into our home, each of which were about a cubic foot in size and weighed some 60 lbs. Never saw this man again once we acquired our very first electric refrigerator.

Finally, there was coal delivery. Most of our homes in the early 1950's were heated with coal which was delivered by truck to the front of our house and shovelled down a chute through an access door leading into our basement coal storage room. The coal dust was everywhere.

How our family all escaped black lung disease is beyond me. As kids, it was our job to take a wheelbarrow load of coal every day to the furnace and throw it in and of course, the next morning, collect the ashes which had cooled by then into pails and bring those up to the garbage shed. No-one complained about child labour, especially if we wanted to stay warm.

Continuing down memory lane, how could I forget about our Inglis wringer-washer? Granted, it was still necessary to run the washed clothes, using Rinso detergent, maybe Fab in later years, through the rubber wringers to eliminate excess water before hanging everything out to air dry on a unique system called a clothesline, consisting of a wire cable strung between two pulleys about sixty feet apart and the clothes suspended from the cable by funny little hinged wooden pegs called clothes pins. These very same clothes pins were used by my friends and I to secure the cardboard dividers found in egg cartons to our bicycles to simulate an engine sound when the dividers flapped repeatedly against the spokes of the bicycle wheels.

There were no "devices" in those days, other than a rotary, landline, Northern Electric telephone. No smart phones, no flip-phones, no I-pads, no laptops, no Nintendos nor Gameboxes.. we children had to generate our own fun and excitement. Parents would often send us off to the park or playground with the simple admonition to come home.... when it got dark.

Those of us with backyards would often flood them in the winter and create skating rinks where the boys would play shinny hockey and the girls would practice figure skating. This was obviously before women's hockey became popular. I do remember that my father came home one day with a big box to surprise me. In it was a brand new hockey uniform, the shirt, shorts, stockings, even a helmet. I opened the box and was totally dismayed. The uniform was that of the New York Rangers hockey team, not my beloved Montreal Canadiens nor even that "other" Canadian team, the Toronto Maple Leafs whose most famous player ultimately started the Tim Hortons Coffee shops. What could my father have been thinking when he purchased this hockey uniform?

In the summers that same backyard became the venue for home-made circus acts performed on swing sets, teeter-totters and slides by my siblings and I and our nearby neighbours. Again, we created our own fun with our parents as a built-in audience.

Saturday afternoons were special. My mother would give me a quarter and send me off to the neighbourhood movie theatre, sometimes accompanied by friends and sometimes even with my sisters where fifteen cents was the price of admission and the remaining ten cents was used to buy popcorn and a drink. Entering the

theatre around noon, we would exit, bleary and blurry-eyed around six in the evening after having watched four films, a News of the World clip, a Fitzgibbons travelogue and two cartoons.

Arriving home just in time for dinner, I could visualize the predecessor to Swanson's TV dinners. The plate put down in front of me was tastefully arranged with peas in one sector; mashed potatoes in another; chicken or beef in the 3rd area and perhaps corn on the cob or niblets to fill up the balance of the plate. No foodstuffs could touch or mix with each other, heaven forbid.

There were a number of other memories that skittered across my mind as I continued my walk. Mail delivery came twice a day and on Saturdays as well. Streetcar fare for kids my age was such that you could buy five tickets for twenty five cents and transfers were valid for the entire day. Sometimes we would simply get on the streetcar to see where it went and watched in awe as the conductor manually rotated the streetcar using some sort of geared-crank device at the end of the track so it could return the same way it had come.

Telephones, as I mentioned before, were rotary dial. Before that, although I don't remember having one in our house, the phones used a crank to call the Operator. One telephone set was sufficient for the entire household. The telephone numbers always started with two letters and then five numbers, such as CE (for Central) 45528 or SH (for Sherwood) 78989 and between my sisters who never strayed far from the phone in anticipation of calls from potential dates, or my father who was expecting business calls, or my mother who was involved with charitable and social events, I rarely used the phone or even anticipated a call. I would simply strap on my Roy Rogers cap pistols and holsters and seek out my friends to play Cowboys and Indians before that delineation became politically incorrect.

As my stroll took me past the house in which I was raised, I looked for... the lane! In our "hood" there had been numerous easements and service lanes intersecting the streets behind our houses, presumably used by the utilities to service water, hydro and gas. There was no lane to be seen. I walked from one block to the next looking through yards to see if "our lane" existed and it simply was no longer there! In their wisdom, the city fathers and mothers, had, over the years, no doubt sold off or gifted the lane property to the adjacent homeowners.

That had probably the most telling impact on me as I returned from my walk because once a lane is gone, it's gone and all the memories associated with it.

## The proposed Sudbury Barrie Transmission Line

### Join us at a community open house to learn more about this project

Ontario's long-term demand for electricity is increasing. To meet this demand, Hydro One will invest in a new priority transmission line between Sudbury and Barrie.

The proposed priority project is a new single-circuit, 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will span approximately 300 kilometres from the Hanmer Transformer Station (TS) in Sudbury to the Essa TS near Barrie, including associated station facility expansions. The line is expected to be in service in 2032.

The project includes the direction from the Ontario government to complete development work for a second new single-circuit, 500-kV transmission line. The proposed transmission line will be developed in partnership with First Nations and help support new generation opportunities in northern Ontario, strengthen reliability and prepare the system for future growth. A recommended in-service date for the second line will be determined by the Independent Electricity System Operator.

This critical infrastructure will support reliability, foster economic growth and investments and ensure a dependable power supply for the significant increase in electricity use anticipated in northern Ontario.

### Next steps

Join us in person or online in April to learn more about the project.

This project will be subject to the Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Transmission Facilities (2024), a planning process that includes opportunities for public and community input. Later this year, Hydro One will issue a Notice of Commencement to formally start the Class EA. At that time, we will also invite you to a second round of community open houses where we will share a project update, including route alternatives for the proposed lines.

If you'd like to be added to the project contact list, share comments or ask questions, please reach out to us anytime.

### Community Relations

1-877-345-6799 Community.Relations@HydroOne.com



Join us at a drop-in community open house to meet the team, ask questions and share your input.

Monday, April 13  
4 to 7 p.m.

East Bayfield Community Centre  
80 Livingstone St. E., Barrie

Tuesday, April 14  
4 to 7 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 117  
30 Mary St., Parry Sound

Wednesday, April 15  
4 to 7 p.m.

Centennial Arena  
4333 Centennial Dr., Hanmer

Thursday, April 16  
4 to 7 p.m.

Bracebridge Sportsplex  
110 Clearbrook Trail, Bracebridge

You can also attend an online community open house:

Please register at  
HydroOne.com/SBTL  
Tuesday, April 21, 6 to 7 p.m.  
Platform: Microsoft Teams

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# Hospice Simcoe Hike

Hospice Simcoe Hike – May 3, 2026  
 It's that time of year when I am on a mission to raise money for Hospice Simcoe. After volunteering for 25 years, I truly understand the importance of the house and all the programs offered free to everyone in our community.  
 The Hospice Simcoe residence has 10 private rooms for those living with a life-limiting diagnosis, giving them the opportunity to live with dignity and comfort during their final journey. There is 24-hour nursing care, and we also have a C.O.P.E. dog, Kyle, who helps support clients and their families during this difficult time.  
 Hospice Simcoe provides many important services and programs, including:  
 Community Visiting – Volunteers visit clients in the community, giving caregivers time to do

something for themselves while knowing their loved one is being cared for.  
 Living Well Program – Provides participants with an opportunity to connect with others in similar situations and receive support.  
 Caregivers Program – Allows caregivers to receive support from others who are going through similar experiences.  
 Advance Care Planning – Provides resources, education, and support to help people plan their wishes for end-of-life care.  
 Grief and Bereavement Programs – Offer emotional, spiritual, and psychosocial support.  
 I would like to share a heart-warming story about a client I supported this year who benefited from Hospice Simcoe's services.  
 Eric (82) first became a community client after being involved in a car accident with his wife, who sadly passed away a few days later. Eric spent three months in hospital recovering from his injuries, and during that time doctors discovered he had cancer and approximately a year to live.  
 Since he was now alone at home, a Hospice Simcoe volunteer began visiting him regularly to spend time together. Eric had a dog, but since he had been in hospital for so long, a family member had taken care of it. Because Eric was unsteady on his feet, it was decided the dog should remain with family. He missed the dog, but it was what was best.  
 Eric enjoyed making knives and would show me almost weekly how he did it. We often made meals together and sometimes treated ourselves by going out for lunch. As time went on, his health deteriorated and his quality of life became very poor. He was in and out of hospital several times due to falls.  
 Eventually, Eric was admitted to Hospice Simcoe. After a few days there, he made the decision to proceed with MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying). For his last meal, he asked for iced tea, grapes, and a plate of bacon—which he thoroughly enjoyed.  
 Kyle, our C.O.P.E. dog, joined Eric on the bed and lay across him at the end. Eric was delighted to have Kyle with him during his final moments. Eric's family found great comfort in the care and compassion provided by Hospice Simcoe during his final months and through his passing at the

**Continued**  
 residence.  
 All of Hospice Simcoe's services and programs are provided free of charge, and the money I raise through the Hike for Hospice stays right here in our community.  
 To help keep these programs and the residence running, please support me for the Hike. You can sponsor me in one of the following ways:  
 Donate online: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/hospice-simcoe-seasons-centre/p2p/Hikeforhospice2026/team/the-dutch-connection/captain/marjans-hike-for-hospice>  
 E-transfer: [dellermann@gmail.com](mailto:dellermann@gmail.com)  
 (This saves the CanadaHelps processing fee.)  
 Call or email me: 705-737-2796 and I will gladly pick up your pledge.  
 Thank you in advance for any support you can give. Every dollar helps Hospice Simcoe continue the amazing work they do in our community. Volunteering here has made me a better person, and I feel honoured to support families during their final journey—something we will all face one day.  
 As always,  
 Marjan de Jong Deller



Margaret (PEGGY) Anne O'Rourke

Peggy was born January 1, 1955 in Chatham, Ontario, and passed away peacefully on March 27, 2026 at the Chatham Hospital. Peggy is predeceased by her father Bernard A. O'Rourke and mother Norma (Campbell) O'Rourke, as well as sister Colleen O'Grady. Peggy leaves siblings Kathy Speers (Doug) of Barrie, Kevin of Ottawa, Mary Ann of Toronto, and Julia Goodfellow (Frank) of Parham. Also grieving are her nephews Brendan O'Grady, Jake Kennedy, and Franklin Goodfellow, and niece Erin O'Grady. Peggy was a nursing graduate from St. Lawrence college in Kingston and began her nursing career at Kingston General Hospital, and subsequently with Comcare providing in-home IV therapy for community clients. In 1994, Peggy moved north to help operate the Phepston General Store and Post Office. In 2004, Peggy and her mother returned to their Chatham roots to enjoy a shared retirement. Volunteering, bridge, church life and reuniting with family in the area allowed Peggy a chance to garden, build lasting friendships and contribute to her community through Riverview Gardens, genealogy projects and meeting neighbours for dog walks with her beloved miniature schnauzer, Lucy. She volunteered with fundraising, funeral lunches, communion services, cemetery walks, restoration projects, and the Catholic Women's League. Family and friends were received at the Funeral Home 459 St. Clair St, Chatham, on Tuesday March 31, 2026 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm and 6:00pm - 8:00pm. Funeral Mass was held at St. Ursula's Catholic Church 205 Tweedsmuir Ave West, Chatham on April 1, 2026 at 11:00am. Cremation has taken place with a private family burial at a later date. In lieu of flowers family welcomes donations to Catholic Missions in Canada, Chatham Outreach for Hunger or a charity of your choice in memory of Peggy.

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