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Awakening of the Midland Downtown

By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News

There is a beauty in the breeze that blows off the waters of Georgian Bay as it drifts through Midland's downtown streets. The sun shines brightly over storefronts as friendly faces stroll along King Street, meeting new visitors and neighbours alike. Store owners greet customers with warm smiles while bringing out summer displays and merchandise, signalling the arrival of another busy season.

The patios are beginning to fill, flower baskets are appearing along the streetscape, and local businesses are preparing for the influx of residents and tourists who make Midland a destination each summer. There is a renewed energy in the air — a sense that the community is awakening after another winter and embracing all that the warmer months have to offer.

Yet Midland's story stretches far beyond its vibrant downtown of today. Beneath the bustling storefronts lies a rich history that has shaped the community for generations.

A Downtown Built on History

Long before Midland became the thriving waterfront community it is today, the area was part of Huronia and home to the Huron-Wendat people. Just outside present-day Midland stands Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons, established by Jesuit missionaries in 1639. It was the first European settlement constructed inland from the St. Lawrence Valley and served as a base for missionary work among the Huron-Wendat until its abandonment in 1649.

Permanent European settlement would not arrive until the 1840s. The area was known by several names over the years, including Mundy's Bay, Hartley's Landing and Aberdare, named after the Welsh hometown of local merchant and postmaster Thomas Gladstane.

The modern story of Midland began in 1871. That year, Gladstane built a store while entrepreneur H.H. Cook established a major lumber operation along the shoreline. The same year marked a turning



point when the Midland Railway Corporation selected the community as its western terminus and port on Georgian Bay.

Recognizing the area's potential, Adolphe Hugel and George Cox formed the Midland Land Company and acquired much of the surrounding farmland. Surveyor Peter Burnett laid out a new village in 1872 with wide streets, large lots and ambitious plans for growth. They named it "Midland City."

The arrival of the railway transformed the settlement. Lumber operations expanded, businesses opened, and residents arrived seeking opportunity. By 1875, the Chew brothers had established a grist mill, and just three years later the community's population surpassed 1,000 residents. Midland was incorporated as a village on October 24, 1878.

Growth continued rapidly. The railway officially opened for passenger and commercial service on July 1, 1879, while grain elevators and shipping facilities soon made Midland an important transportation hub on Georgian Bay. In recognition of its success, Midland was incorporated as a town

on January 6, 1890.

Industry, Resilience and Reinvention

Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Midland flourished as a centre of commerce, manufacturing and transportation. Business leaders such as James Playfair, David Pratt and Douglas White helped drive expansion in retail, wholesaling and industrial manufacturing.

While the community's prosperity was closely tied to the region's pine forests and lumber industry, Midland diversified through enterprises such as Canada Iron Foundry and an active shipbuilding sector. The harbour became a vital economic engine, connecting the town to markets across the Great Lakes.

Like many Canadian communities, Midland faced significant hardship during the Great Depression. Businesses closed, industries declined and economic growth stalled. Recovery would come through the Second World War and the revitalization of local shipyards, which provided jobs and renewed economic activity.

Another challenge arrived in 1954 when the shipyards relocated operations to Collingwood.

Continued



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Despite the setback, Midland once again adapted. Through industrial diversification and federal economic development programs introduced in the 1960s, the town continued to grow and evolve.

A Community Looking Forward

Today, Midland remains one of Georgian Bay's most vibrant communities. Its economy is supported by tourism, healthcare, retail, service industries and manufacturing. Visitors are drawn to local attractions including Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons, the Huronia Museum, the Martyrs' Shrine, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre and the stunning waters of Georgian Bay's famed Thirty Thousand Islands.

But perhaps the greatest attraction is the community itself.

The downtown core continues to serve as Midland's gathering place — a location where history and modern life intersect. Historic buildings stand alongside new businesses, while festivals, markets and community events bring residents and visitors together throughout the year.

As summer approaches and the downtown awakens once again, Midland's story continues to unfold. From its Indigenous roots and railway beginnings to its modern waterfront charm, the town remains a place shaped by resilience, opportunity and community spirit.

On any given day, one only needs to walk through the downtown, feel the breeze from Georgian Bay and watch the activity along the streets to understand why Midland has remained a special place for generations — and why its future continues to look bright.

The Sweetest Day of the Year

Few events showcase Midland's vibrant downtown quite like Ontario's Best Butter Tart Festival. On June 13, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the downtown core and waterfront parks will transform into one of Ontario's largest and most celebrated festival destinations.

Presented by Chapman's, the festival will welcome more than 230 vendors and food trucks along King Street, David Onley Park and Harbourside Park. Since 2019, the event has been recognized by Festivals and Events Ontario as one of the province's Top 100 Festivals and Events, drawing visitors from across Ontario and beyond.

What began as a modest celebration in 2013 has grown into a remarkable success story. During the inaugural festival, the available 10,000 butter tarts sold out by 11 a.m. Today, attendance exceeds 60,000 visitors and vendors collectively sell approximately 300,000 butter tarts in a single day.

Festival-goers can sample an incredible variety of butter tarts ranging from traditional plain, raisin, pecan and walnut recipes to creative flavours such as maple bacon, Skor, coconut, chocolate-covered, pumpkin cheesecake, s'mores, peanut butter and jam, vegan, gluten-free and many more.

One of the festival's most anticipated attractions is the Egg Farmers of Ontario Butter Tart Contest, where both professional and amateur bakers compete for the coveted title of Ontario's Best Butter Tart. Traditional and Wild Style categories showcase the creativity and talent of bakers from across the province before culminating in the Best in Show competition.

The day begins with the unique Piping of the Tart Ceremony at 9 a.m., when the previous year's winning butter tart is escorted from the waterfront to the Midland Cultural Centre by the Midland Pipes and Drums. There, Mayor Bill Gordon officially opens the festival and welcomes visitors to what has become Midland's signature celebration.

Beyond the butter tarts, visitors can enjoy live entertainment at Harbourside Park, food trucks, buskers, family activities in the Faris Team Kids Zone, a free WFCU Photo Booth, complimentary transit, bicycle valet service and shuttle transportation throughout the community.

For downtown businesses, the festival represents more than just a celebration of a Canadian favourite dessert. It is an opportunity to showcase Midland's unique shops, restaurants and hospitality to tens of thousands of visitors. Many merchants offer special promotions and festival-themed treats, creating an atmosphere that extends well beyond the vendor booths.

As Midland's downtown continues its seasonal awakening, the Butter Tart Festival stands as a symbol of the community's ability to blend history, culture, entrepreneurship and community spirit. Much like the town itself, the festival has grown from humble beginnings into something that attracts attention from across the province while remaining proudly rooted in Midland's welcoming



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waterfront character.

For one sweet day each June, Midland's downtown becomes the centre of Ontario's butter tart universe — and a shining example of how a historic community continues to reinvent itself while celebrating the traditions that bring people together.

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Letter From the Editor

By Kari Belcourt, North Simcoe Springwater News

After 10 editions, I suppose it is time to formally introduce myself. You can only hide behind a keyboard for so long.

I am the volunteer behind this publication, a role I took on out of a deep love and gratitude for my mother, my family, and the community I call home. There is truly something special about our local area and the people who live here. Through the many seasons and storms of life, one constant has remained: good things grow here. There is something in this soil that nurtures good people, strong communities, and places worth coming home to.

My vision for the North Simcoe Springwater News is to help readers connect with their local community and the people within it. Local history reminds us of the traditions, stories, and culture that have shaped our region. Independent investigative journalism promotes transparency and fair

reporting on issues that matter to residents. Public information and community event coverage help readers stay informed about developments and opportunities in their neighbourhoods. Reader submissions provide a platform for community voices, while our lifestyle features offer a chance to explore local culture, food, and the unique character of our area.

At a time when trust in the media is increasingly being questioned, we remain committed to delivering factual, balanced, and community-focused reporting. Many readers have expressed concerns about misinformation, misleading online content, and media coverage that appears driven by particular viewpoints. Local newspapers have a long and proud history of serving rural communities, documenting achievements, preserving local heritage, and reporting on the issues that affect everyday lives.

Our commitment is simple: to be a trusted source of local news and information. We believe

quality community journalism should be accessible to everyone, which is why we will continue to offer our publication free of charge in both print and digital formats.

Thank you for welcoming us into your homes, supporting local journalism, and sharing in the stories that make North Simcoe and Springwater such remarkable places to live. We look forward to continuing to serve this community and to telling the stories that matter most to you.

Sincerely,
Kari Belcourt
Editor
North Simcoe Springwater News

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Center Flos W.I. supports Community Project

Center Flos W.I. partnered with several local organizations to bring the film "We Lend a Hand" to Elmvale on May 22, 2026. A wonderful way of celebrating the International Year of the Woman Farmer!

Thanks to generous local sponsorship, a FREE private viewing was held in the afternoon, for over 150 local elementary students. Their thoughtful questions were well received by the hostess.

It was an incredible evening at the Elmvale Community Hall for We Lend a Hand – The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes. With nearly 200 people in attendance, it was a sold-out crowd with people from across the region who came together to learn, reflect, and honour an important part of our history.

The documentary was a powerful reminder of the vital role more than 40,000 young women played during the Second World War, stepping up to help maintain Canada's food supply while so many men were overseas serving in the war effort. Their contributions helped feed both our communities at home and soldiers abroad, yet for decades, their story remained largely untold.

We were honoured to welcome Bonnie Sitter, author of *Onion Skins* and *Peach Fuzz: Memories of Ontario Farmerettes*, who joined us in Elmvale for the screening and shared in this meaningful evening of remembrance and recognition.

A sincere thank you to all the community partners who helped make this special evening possible:

- Springwater Public Library
- Flos Agricultural Society (Elmvale Fall Fair)
- Center Flos Women's Institute
- Elmvale Community Recreation Association
- Friends of the Springwater Public Library
- Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture.

In true W.I. fashion, the ladies provided free refreshments to all who attended the evening viewing, as part of our annual R.O.S.E. programming.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Leonard
Public Relations Chair
Center Flos W.I.

Dear Editor,

Springwater Township Public Library partnered with the Flos Agricultural Society, the Centre Flos Women's Institute, the Friends of the Springwater Township Public Library, the Simcoe Federation of Agriculture and the Elmvale Community Recreation Association to host the documentary, *We Lend a Hand: The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes* on Friday, May 22 at the Elmvale Community Hall.

There were two screenings, the first at 1:00 for all the grade 7 and grade 8 students from Our Lady of Lourdes and Elmvale District High School. The Flos Agricultural Society, the Friends of the Springwater Township Public Library and the Simcoe Federation of Agriculture sponsored the screening to ensure that there was no cost for the students. The 7:00 screening quickly sold out. The co-author of the book *Onion Skins* and



Peach Fuzz: Memories of Ontario Farmerettes, Bonnie Sitter was on hand for both screenings to answer questions and explain more about the Farmerette program.

I would like to thank all the people who came together in the community to bring this program to Elmvale. First off, library patron Janice who suggested showing the documentary, and Councillor Garwood who immediately offered the ECRA's screen and speaker system and was at the Elmvale Community Hall at 8:00 a.m. to set it up. The Flos Agricultural Society sponsored the students and provided many volunteers to set-up and take down the chairs, helped with ticket taking, and the Junior Fair Board members who helped with refreshments. The Centre Flos Women's Institute signed on immediately for the refreshments. The Friends of the Springwater Township Public Library and the Simcoe Federation of Agriculture paid for the students.

All of the organizations promoted the screening through their channels. The two schools jumped at the chance to bring their classes over, thank you to the teachers for joining us and Mr. Mackenzie's class for helping with chairs. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event, it could not have happened without you!

As well, thank you to Bonnie Sitter for attending the screening and answering questions. The library has two copies of her book, and both she and the film producer can be contacted through the film's website: <https://welendahand.ca/>

It is very important to know our history, and I am happy that the community came together to learn more about the Farmerettes. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Sincerely,
Jodie Player Delgado
CEO, Springwater Township Public Library

Joseph Broadstreet
Account Executive

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New owners of IHD Design Build have a shared vision to invest in community

Immediate Release
 Midland, ON – May 25, 2026 – The Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH) Foundation is proud to welcome IHD Design Build as a new Business Cares Strategic Partner, thanks to their commitment of \$25,000 over five years to help the Midland hospital make excellent care personal.

IHD Design Build is a boutique design studio and custom home builder serving the Georgian Bay region, known for creating distinctive, thoughtfully designed homes tailored to each client. With more than 20 years of experience in the industry, the company was recently purchased by three dedicated employees — Jacob Lalonde, Brad Hauser, and Shana Payne — bringing fresh energy while continuing a legacy of quality, trust, and craftsmanship.

“As new business owners, giving back to the community where we live and work is incredibly important to us,” says Lalonde. “Supporting the GBGH Foundation felt like a natural choice.”

“Almost everyone in our community will need

care at GBGH at some point in their lives,” adds Hauser. “A strong hospital is essential to a strong community.”

“And as builders, we believe in investing in the places that support people for the long term,” says Payne. “This partnership is our way of helping ensure local care is there when it’s needed most.”

What sets IHD Design Build apart is its turn-key approach. The team offers in-house architectural design, engineering coordination, and high-quality construction under one roof, delivering a calm, collaborative, and transparent experience from start to finish. From custom new builds and large-scale renovations to light commercial projects, IHD Design Build is driven by a passion for artistry, technical expertise, and thoughtful detail — creating spaces their clients truly love to live in.

Through this partnership, IHD Design Build becomes part of the We See You campaign, a \$20 million community driven initiative focused on strengthening care at GBGH and ensuring every

patient is seen, supported, and cared for — inside and out.

“IHD Design Build’s commitment reflects a genuine desire to invest in the well-being of the community they’re helping to shape,” says Robyn Blanchet, Key Relationships Officer, GBGH Foundation. “As new owners, Jacob, Brad, and Shana are leading with purpose — recognizing that strong communities are built not only through beautiful spaces, but through accessible, compassionate health care for everyone.”

Through Business Cares, IHD Design Build joins a growing network of local businesses who see the importance of health care and choose to invest in its future. Together, these partners are helping to build a stronger hospital — and a stronger community — for the families, neighbours, and teams who depend on GBGH.

To learn more about the We See You campaign, visit: <http://weseeyougbgh.ca/> or to learn more about Business Cares, visit: <https://gbghf.ca/get-involved/business-cares/>



Jacob Lalonde, Shana Payne and Brad Hauser, new owners of IHD Design Build, have joined the Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH) Foundation’s Business Cares program as a Strategic Partner, making a \$25,000 commitment over five years.

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GOOD FOR YOU CWI May Update

May Meeting of the Craighurst Women’s Institute began with non stop chatting. So much to talk about and so little time. Since we were under a severe thunderstorm warning we thought we should practise an emergency manoeuvre, like all diving under the tables and then hanging on. No, said some, better to go to the basement. But the tea and such are up here said others. So we did neither, but we had a plan. The President called a halt to the chat and started the meeting. We opened the Meeting by singing the Ode, and reciting the Mary Stewart Collect. Minutes, treasury, correspondence next. We think the Head office has lost our address, since the inbox is bare. Report on the World Fiddling Day event and the egg salad sandwich marathon came next. All involved came home humming Debbie’s Waltz, and Boil the Cabbage....you can look those tunes up, gentle reader. The day was in aid of COPE dog training. Three dogs were there to show off. Such a nice well behaved trio of black labs. They did not eat egg salad by the way. Report on the improvements to our sidewalk was hailed by all. Such a step forward for active transportation (that means “walking”) We voted to send a letter of disapproval to the Premier about his idea of

conserving Conservation Authorities by axing the local entities. “Don’t mess with water, Doug, don’t squeeze it dry” was the gist of our letter. Next the Report on the presentation of Bears and Blankets kits to the Ambulance. 34 kits from us! Then the fun began, as we split into tables and played euchre. One group had lessons on “Bid Euchre” (there are

4 bows in that game) and the other group just played good old euchre. The Games chair had dishes of nibblies and prizes, and an explanation of how the game came to Canada (Sam Plain traded a deck of cards for a beaver pelt). The meeting ended and we were happy we hadn’t needed to run for the basement. Til next month.



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Message from MP Shipley



When summer arrives, I will have more time to spend in Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte connecting with residents at community events and milestone celebrations. As important as the time spent in Ottawa is to my position as Member of Parliament there is value in being here at home, meeting with community groups and hearing feedback from constituents and the many organizations serving our communities.

June is just beginning, but prep for the end of the school year is in full swing. The end of the school year brings with it many changes for local students. Even if it is just the excitement of a seemingly endless summer days. Some students may be looking forward to a new grade and new teacher in September, others may be preparing for high school or getting ready to start their first summer job. High school graduation leads to big changes as our grads embark on the next great adventure life has in store for them. Our office has prepared hundreds of congratulatory certificates

for local high schools. To all the graduates in our surrounding communities, and their proud family members, I say congratulations and best wishes to each of you on your future path.

While times of change can be exciting, they can also raise questions, and often we do not know where to start looking for answers. That is where my staff and I can help. My dedicated and knowledgeable constituency team might not have the answer to every question you have about government services and resources, but often they know where to look, or who might be best suited to help you.

If you have federal matters to discuss, please contact us by emailing Doug.Shipley@parl.gc.ca or calling 705-728-2596. No matter the season, we are always here and ready to help.

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

Message from MPP Dunlop

As communities across Simcoe North welcome the summer season, there continues to be strong momentum around community development, support for seniors, and local engagement across. June is Seniors Month in Ontario, providing an opportunity to recognize the important role older adults play in our families, workplaces, volunteer organizations, and communities.

Our government continues working alongside municipalities and community partners to strengthen age-friendly initiatives that help residents remain active, independent, and connected close to home. Programs supporting accessible housing improvements, seniors' services, and community engagement continue to make a meaningful impact throughout Simcoe County.

I am also continually inspired by the many local volunteers and organizations that support community life throughout Tiny, Tay, Midland, Wyevale, and surrounding communities. From service clubs and cultural groups to youth programs and local events, volunteers remain the backbone

of many important initiatives that strengthen our region.

Summer is also an important time to support local businesses, tourism operators, and community events that help drive our local economy. Whether visiting farmers' markets, trails, waterfront attractions, or local festivals, there are countless opportunities to enjoy everything North Simcoe has to offer while supporting local families and businesses.

Residents of Simcoe North are also encouraged to save the date for my Annual Community BBQ being held Sunday, June 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hewitt's Fun Farm in Severn. This free family event is open to everyone and offers a great opportunity for families and neighbours from across the many communities to come together

and celebrate the summer season.

Thank you to everyone who continues working together to build strong, welcoming, and connected communities across Simcoe North.

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

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EDHS/Nuxalk Youth Exchange

A Tribute to Honourable Murray Sinclair, C.C., O.M., M.S.C., K.C.

It is with admiration and respect for our youth that we write this article following the departure of our new Nuxalk First Nation friends. We again recognize, with deep appreciation, the strength and generosity of the communities that supported our most recent exchange.

Since 2016, Elmvalle District High School has embarked on an ambitious exchange program that has been heavily supported by Experiences Canada, a federal agency who this year are celebrating their 90th year and by our community members and stakeholders. Through this program, over 120 EDHS students have made friendships and experienced life in Cambridge Bay (Nunavut), Kluane, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (Yukon), James Smith First Nation (Saskatchewan), Taloyoak (Nunavut); Sagkeeng First Nation (Manitoba), O'Chiese First Nation (Alberta) and Nuxalk First Nation (British Columbia). Through Experiences Canada, EDHS has been supported with over \$360,000 in transportation funding. Through our community, EDHS has been supported with over \$140,000 to help host our guests. These numbers do not include transportation funding for our twins, nor the program funding in our host communities. We have been very fortunate to have been able to offer this for \$250-\$450 per youth and have always been able to make arrangements for additional support. To our sponsors, thank you. You have not only made this program possible, but also accessible regardless of financial ability.

For our community members, we know that our social media photos have shown stunning landscapes, engaged youth, beautiful ceremonies, learning, laughter and a few

"good-bye for now" tears. This exchange is so much more than a "bunch of youth having a great time" (although that is definitely the case), it is



also about Truth and Reconciliation. Our youth have continuously identified commonality but also intense inequalities in access to healthcare, food security, education, housing and control over a sustainable land base. They have learned that European contact brought devastation through smallpox, influenza, and tuberculosis, to name a few. They have learned that reserve land and traditional land are not the same thing and that local decision making is better than control from Ottawa. They have learned about resilience. Despite this, in everyA community we visited, what stood out most was not hardship, but a powerful sense of identity, culture, and connection. Their strength, pride, and commitment to community continue to affirm that when culture thrives, so do the people.

The Honourable Murray Sinclair, in his position of Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, outlined four key questions essential to all of us, especially youth.

Where do I come from?

Where am I going? Why am I here?

Who am I?

In the context of residential school students and survivors, the answers to these questions and the ability to pursue the answers were denied to them. The answers to these questions, or at least the ability to pursue these answers, is essential to all of us at every stage of our lives. When youth from different parts of the country have the opportunity to see, learn, talk about, and share some of the answers to these questions, they feel connected. Canadians see the potential to build our connections through respect, appreciation and admiration. We are connected because we believe in pursuing the answers to these questions: as individuals, as communities, and as a country.

Youth exchanges are a coming together of generations; we learn from our elders, are cared for by our hosts and parents, and celebrate youth. We learn to get along and understand through travel, experience, adventure, craft, shared meals and quiet moments of conversation. It is those things that provide our youth with an opportunity to be part of individual and group successes. This means



that they will better know what to do when the next opportunity, or hardship comes along. Work together, solve problems, and enjoy the ride.

We leave this exchange proud to have been part of something so meaningful, but even more proud of the students who accepted the challenge with open minds, courage, and respect. They stepped beyond what was familiar, built genuine connections, and represented their communities with compassion and integrity. This exchange may be over, but the growth, understanding, and relationships they carry forward will continue to shape the future.

Greg Davidson, EDHS Teacher Nicole Wilson, EDHS Teacher



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Senior Tiny Times
Jennifer Gray, Volunteer Writer
For a senior, their care givers, or family members, many age-related issues can arise where critical information is needed to meet the needs of the individual. Important topics such as housing, healthcare, meal and food programs, in-home support, transportation and social programs are common areas of concern and not always easy to navigate.

The North Simcoe Directory of Senior Services is a must-have resource. It is a comprehensive guide, that connects residents with health, recreation, and support services across the region. The directory contains all the information that seniors require to find the assistance they need. Developed collaboratively, by the Township of Tiny, Town of Penetanguishene, Tay Township, and the Town of Midland, this directory provides seniors with the information they need to access local assistance.

The 56-page booklet is available online or in hard copy. It is well organized, easy to read, and regularly updated. The directory has recently undergone a full English and French revision and redesign to ensure older adults have access to accurate and current information presented in a clear and accessible format. It serves as an essential tool for connecting seniors and care partners with local programs, services, and supports.

The directory was originally created in response to requests for available senior services in North Simcoe and surrounding areas. This need was identified through public consultation during the development of the Township of Tiny's initial Local Aging Plan, as well as through collaboration with Senior Advisory Committees in neighbouring municipalities.

Senior Tiny Times

To view the directory online, visit www.tiny.ca/seniors. By accessing this resource digitally, you can browse the booklet and simply access direct links to websites and email addresses.

If you wish to receive a printed copy, please visit your local municipal office.

Additional resources are available through the County of Simcoe, including the Calendar of Activities for Older Adults, adult day programs, volunteer opportunities, and long-term care information. Visit www.Simcoe.ca/residents/seniors to learn more.

For more information on the Directory of Senior Services please contact the Township

of Tiny's Recreation and Special Events Department by phone at 705-526-4204, email at seniors@tiny.ca, or visit www.tiny.ca/seniors.

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

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

Community Update from Ward 1 Councillor Matt Garwood

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.

Endowment Fund Policy and Investment Policy Amendments:

Council approved the Springwater Endowment Fund Policy and amendments to the Township's Investment Policy. These updates are intended to strengthen financial stewardship and provide a clear, structured approach to managing the \$22,080,000 from the Barrie Restructuring Compensation Agreement.

Feasibility of Establishing Dog Parks in the Township of Springwater:

Recognizing the benefits of safe, designated off-leash spaces for dogs, Council directed staff to explore the feasibility of developing dog

parks within the Township of Springwater. The review will examine potential locations, associated costs, operational requirements, and implementation strategies, with findings and recommendations to be brought back to Council.

Communication Strategy - Orr Lake Health Updates:

Council directed staff to work with the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) to implement a coordinated communications strategy regarding water quality in Orr Lake. With both seasonal and permanent residents in the area, the goal is to ensure clear, consistent communication that informs and educates the community about lake conditions.

Request to Expand Primary Care Services at Springwater Health Services:

Council received a presentation from the

Southern Georgian Bay Community Health Centre regarding the opportunity to expand primary care services at the Springwater Health Services building in Elmvale. Council approved the formation of a working group and up to \$50,000 for concept plans for the Springwater Health Services Centre in Elmvale, with funding to be released once resources are confirmed.

Additional Crossing Guards:

Council directed staff to report back on the possible implementation of crossing guards near school zones at the marked crosswalk on Simcoe Street and at the Kerr Street/Shaw Street intersection. The report will include program requirements, traffic warrant information, and any related budget impacts, and will be brought to Council at the regular meeting on June 17, 2026. Council also invited the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to present the On the Move Program to Council.

Baxter Ward Lions Club Donates to the GBGH Foundation

On May 19, members of the Baxter Ward Lions Club visited the GBGH Foundation to present a donation of \$3,680.30 from their International Women's Day Luncheon in March. The event featured inspiring guest speakers, door prizes, gift bags and lunch at Restaurant Sainte Marie.

From left: Sharon Walton, Baxter Ward Lions; Robyn Kaczanowski, community giving officer, GBGH Foundation; Lisa Buck, Fundraising Chair & Catherine Browne, President, Baxter Ward Lions.



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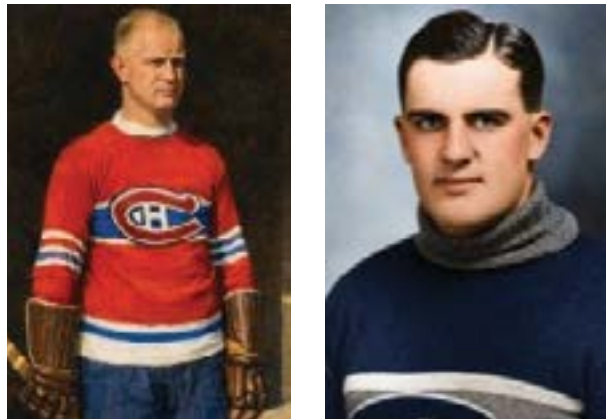
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- Mike Holmes

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Penetang Legends Winners of the Stanley Cup



The Montreal Canadiens went on a hot streak, winning 10 of their final 11 games, capturing the O'Brien Cup and setting up the play for the Stanley Cup with the Portland Rosebuds of the PCHL [Pacific Coast Hockey League] at the Westmount Arena in a five-game series. Games 1, 3 & 5 would be played under NHA rules which allowed six men on the ice, whereas, games 2 & 4 to be played under PCHL rules which allowed seven players, the regular six plus a rover.

Not all was rosy in the Canadiens camp. It was reported in the "The Star" that three of the best-known players on the team were overheard to state in public that they did not care how the Stanley Cup matches went and did not feel inclined to play at all since Managing Director, George Kennedy, of the Montreal club, had not kept his promise to pay the players \$1,000.00. Apparently, Kennedy had promised to pay the players \$1,000.00 if they won the NHA championship.

"That there is dissension in the Canadien camp as admitted by Canadien players, but at the same time two of the men stated that they would do their best to win tonight.

Howard McNamara and Bert Corbeau, while they would do their utmost to win tonight's game, claimed there was not the same harmony in the clubhouse that was there when they played and won the NHA championship.

Corbeau later explained that it was decidedly to their advantage to win the present series, as the winners will receive 60% as their share of the gate, whereas the losers only get 40%.

The Final Game...March 30th 1916 - the Canadiens scored first in the opening session on a goal by substitute Skene Ronan. The Flying Frenchmen



held the advantage until the third period. In the third period Portland cranked up the pressure resulting in a spectacular goal by Tommy Dunderdale. Following the goal, it was clear to everyone that the players were exhausted in this gruelling contest. Ready to drop, the players became desperate in their efforts and thus failed to capitalize on many scoring chances.

The checking was very close and allowed for few end-to-end rushes. Right from the start of the game, the players showed ill-feeling by slashing and cross checking one another. Newsy Lalonde and George 'Goldie' Prodgers, picked up the puck and started up ice for the Canadiens. Lalonde was given a rough journey as the Portland players went after him. Left alone, Prodgers took a pass, drew the goalie Murray out of his net, skated around him and easily lobbed the puck in for a goal. With less than 4 minutes to play, the Flying Frenchmen had little trouble holding the fort.

The Canadiens won the game 2-1. Their first Stanley Cup. L. Waxy Gregoire...Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame

Late Rally Falls Short as Baycats Drop Tight Contest to Barnstormers



Credit: Bob Hurley

By Kari Belcourt, North Simcoe Springwater News

The Barrie Baycats nearly pulled off another dramatic comeback Saturday afternoon, but this time the rally came up just short.

After falling behind early, Barrie battled back in the late innings before ultimately dropping a 3-2 decision to the Chatham-Kent Barnstormers at Athletic Kulture Stadium. The loss ended the Baycats' four-game winning streak and handed them their first home defeat of the season.

Chatham-Kent established control from the opening inning and never looked back. Evan Morrison reached base after being hit by a pitch and later crossed the plate on a Greyson Barrett groundout. Following an error that allowed Kian Johnson to reach, Mitsuki Fukuda delivered an RBI double to right field, giving the visitors a quick 2-0 advantage.

The early offence was enough to support Barnstormers starter Yuri Yokoyama, who kept Barrie's bats quiet throughout his outing. The right-hander worked five scoreless innings and repeatedly escaped trouble as the Baycats struggled to generate sustained offence.

Barrie starter Juan Mejia settled down after the first inning and turned in another strong performance. The veteran right-hander struck out eight batters across seven innings while allowing only two runs, one earned, keeping his team within striking distance all afternoon.

The Baycats threatened in the seventh inning when Ryan Rijo singled and Nolan Machibroda doubled to put two runners in scoring position. However, Chatham-Kent's defence came through with a key out to maintain the two-run lead.

An insurance run in the eighth inning proved to be the difference. Morrison reached base again and eventually scored when Barrett lined a single into left field, extending the Barnstormers' lead to 3-0.

Barrie finally found its breakthrough in the bottom half of the inning. Kristyan Puyol-Genossar opened the frame with a double before Canice Ejoh sent a towering two-run home run over the left-field fence. The blast energized the home crowd and suddenly made it a one-run game heading into the ninth.

The Baycats appeared poised for another comeback

when Francisco Hernandez singled to begin the final inning and moved into scoring position on a wild pitch. With the tying run standing at second and nobody out, Chatham-Kent closer Konsta Kurikka rose to the occasion. He struck out the next two hitters before recording the final out on a ground ball to preserve the victory.

Ejoh paced Barrie's offence with two hits and both RBIs, while Rijo continued his strong stretch at the plate with another two-hit performance.

Tempers flared during the contest, resulting in an ejection for each club. Barrie's Clayton Keyes was removed following a heated exchange after a tag play involving Chatham-Kent first baseman Owen Constantineau. Later, Barnstormers centre fielder Austin Gurney was ejected after disputing a close call at first base.

Yokoyama earned the win for Chatham-Kent, while Kurikka secured the save. Mejia suffered his first loss of the season despite another quality outing.

With the victory, the Barnstormers snapped a three-game losing streak and improved to 2-3 on the year. Barrie fell to 5-2 overall and 3-1 on home turf.

The two teams won't have to wait long for a rematch. The Baycats will welcome the Barnstormers back to Athletic Kulture Stadium on Thursday, June 4, with first pitch scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Beyond the action on the field, Athletic Kulture Stadium continues to provide a family-friendly

atmosphere that has become a popular summer destination for local residents.

Fans were able to enjoy a variety of food and beverage options throughout the ballpark, including local craft beer selections and traditional ballpark favourites from the concession stands. From hot dogs and fries to cold drinks on a warm afternoon, the stadium offered plenty of options for spectators looking to make a day of the event.

Young fans also had plenty to keep them entertained between innings. Interactive contests, on-field games and family-oriented activities helped maintain the energy throughout the afternoon, with children eagerly participating for prizes and the chance to be part of the game-day experience.

The combination of competitive baseball, community involvement and affordable family entertainment continues to make Baycats games a popular attraction in Barrie. Whether fans come for the action on the diamond, the food and refreshments, or simply a fun outing with friends and family, the atmosphere at Athletic Kulture Stadium offers something for all ages.

Even with the Baycats coming up short on the scoreboard, the afternoon showcased why summer baseball remains a cherished local tradition, bringing together sports fans, families and community members for an enjoyable day at the ballpark.



Credit: Bob Hurley

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Bearbells By Leslie Noonan

May 27, 2026

This has been a wonderful week to be on holidays! The sun is a welcome change to the miserable spring we had been having, and not yet too hot to complain about, perfect

led back into the forest. Down we went, into the coolness under the new leaves opening on the trees, and into a swarm of mosquitos. Fallen trees crossed the trail and in places the dark mud was deep, requiring us to make some short detours. We began to suspect that we had taken a wrong detour, and as the forest opened up to homes and a parking lot we knew we had gone astray. I guess that is why we had seen no familiar blazes on this section of trail. Back up we went, up out of the forest and onto the rocky trail, leaving the ravenous blood suckers behind.

The trail does indeed do an abrupt turn, and if you actually follow the blazes and avoid detours, you will take a parallel trail for a short distance before the routes spread out. We found ourselves on the southwest face of the rocky high land, looking out to blue lakes crisscrossed with the wake from boats. The mature trees blocked most of the view, until we came upon two colorful Muskoka chairs placed in the perfect place to admire the view. We each took a chair, smiled at each other and leaned our heads back, taking a moment to enjoy the warm sun and solitude in this special place. I am not one for sitting still for long, and soon we were back on the trail to finish our hike.

The return trip was a gentle downward stroll, and we admired the cedar and pine trees twisted into contorted shapes by the weather, and marveled at a gnarled old tree growing on top of a large boulder, roots exposed and buried deep in the rocks crevices. Some of the beech trunks were scarred with hearts and initials, and I had to wonder how old some of the markings were, as this trail had been in use for over a hundred years. My over active imagination had me picturing young couples dressed in styles long gone, meeting here secretly for a stolen kiss. I was quickly brought back to reality by the roar of traffic on the local highway. Our trek ended back at the parking area, happy with our short but beautiful hike along the Huckleberry Rock Lookout Trail.



for a hike. My son and I headed north, as I vaguely recalled a sign for a hiking area somewhere on highway 118 heading to Bracebridge. I could have done an online search, but where is the fun in that! Instead my son and I drove around, enjoying conversation and the lovely day, and after a few missed turns here we are at the entrance to the Huckleberry Rock Lookout Trail.

There is ample parking, with no fees, and a beautiful grand structure to begin your journey. The wooden open-aided building stands tall, brown wood beams and bright red roof sheltering a massive boulder, inscribed with information on the natural formations found in this area. It is hard to comprehend that these are the oldest surface rocks on earth, formed over a billion years ago. For perspective, the first animals only crawled out of the sea 500 million years ago. I reached out and touched that cold stone, filled with awe and feeling a bit miniscule in the grand scheme of things. Perhaps a bit of humility on both mine and humanities part is not a bad thing, as I take note of the tossed plastic bottle. I tucked the litter in my day pack to throw out in the garbage on our way out and we off we went.

The well maintained trail begins with a gradual ascent through forests of junipers, pines and beech. It was once a paved trail, though some of the asphalt has eroded away with the rains, and some areas are wet and muddy even in this dry spell. A little mud was a small price to pay for what is described by local as the best place for a scenic view of the surrounding area. Donations from local land owners have expanded this park to a total of 120 magnificent acres, with this short 2.5 km loop trail being the highlight for visitors. The paved trail gave way to the steep rock of the Canadian Shield, grey granite and Gneiss, and the darker grey basalt. Trees became short and stunted, and junipers filled in the underbrush, while out on the rocks, pale green and grey lichens cling to the exposed surface.

Up here the sun is hot, and the welcoming breeze off of the local lakes brings relief to our shiny foreheads. There are several benches spread out along the trail for weary walkers, placed in the perfect spot to look out and over the scenery. We followed the white blazes that mark the trail across the rocky terrain. However a faded blaze had us confused, as it indicated an abrupt about face. With a bit of searching we found a trail that



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ANTEN MILLS By Brian Keyes



June is named after the Goddess Juno, the god of women and marriage. Perhaps this is why June is traditionally favoured as the month of summer weddings. Speaking of weddings and anniversaries, I am pinch hitting for Dennis this week as Joan and Dennis are taking a well deserved vacation in western Canada to celebrate their 50 years of marriage. Best wishes and thanks to this power couple for all they do for our community.

The community gardens at the park have received their spring cleaning/thinning and they look awesome. A big thank you goes out to Judy Tantalo who captains our community garden group. Helen Hogan and Karen Lillie were also on duty to lend a huge helping hand. I joined in to provide some comic relief for the ladies. Gardens will continue to need weeding/tilling throughout the summer. More volunteers are needed and you don't need a green thumb to join in. You can private message Judy (Judy Matheson Tantalo) on Facebook to let her know you would like to help.

As has been noted the village is blooming with spring flowers and shrubs. For example, I see lots of daffodils, bleeding hearts, tulips and phlox all over the village. Now with June comes the Lilac bushes bursting with white and lavender along fence lines, back yards and roadways. I will remind you that the Lilac was the official flower of the former township of Vespra (now part of Springwater Township). It is encouraging to see residents making improvements to their homes and properties as I travel around the village. Kudos to the five residents who recently had their driveways freshly paved as they look great.

Speaking of pavement, it reminds us all that this time of year is very busy with local traffic on our roads. We see lots of construction vehicles with new housing starts on Cottonwood Drive & Davis Way. The farm community is busy with planting and seeding crops so we see lots of slow moving farm vehicles on our roads. There is a lot of extra activity to be aware of when you add in walkers and bikers! This is a reminder to slow down and drive the speed limit plus stop at all stop signs to take that extra time to look for oncoming traffic. We can set a good example for visitors passing through the village plus build a culture of safety for all our residents.

Dennis has mentioned the community sign board on Wilson Dive many times in the past and I am pleased to note that there has been an uptick in usage with various announcements on the board. June is a month with many new graduates, so why not recognize these special events with a posting on the board. Remember the contact information is antenmillsign@gmail.com so just let the folks know!

Knotty Knitters have continued their enthusiastic gatherings at the hall each Tuesday afternoon. They will be taking a summer hiatus with their final meeting on June 23rd featuring a potluck lunch before starting again in September.

Canada Day is just around the corner. Remember to get the Maple Leaf out to celebrate our 159th national birthday. July 1st falls on a Wednesday and most people will have a holiday for one day so it would be easy to have our own community party at the park. We need a volunteer to step forward to quarterback this event. There will be other volunteers so just put up your hand and you can be the leader of the band. Call Dennis or message him. Sports, games, food (BBQ, strawberries?), music are all themes that will make a fun, community driven celebration. Ball hockey is already on the agenda and it could just be a two hour event, over the luncheon.

Next Saturday, June 12 is the annual community wide garage sale in the morning. Karis has indicated that the numbers are down a bit from last year but it is still a good event and if you haven't signed up yet there is plenty of time. Just check out the information on the Anten Mills Community Facebook page.

Finally to echo Dennis, THANKS FOR READING, BE WELL, STAY SAFE and SAY HI TO YOUR NEIGHBOUR!



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Minesing Branch (705) 722-6440
VISIT US TODAY!

Get Ready for Kindergarten

Join us at the library to get your child ready for kindergarten. This is a four week series; however, feel free to sign up for the specific week(s) that your child needs. Please register your child (parents do not need to register but a care giver's attendance is required). Cost: Free. Mondays in June at Elmvale Branch, 10:30am. Registration required. Topics covered include: ABC's, Phonics, and Printing their name, Numbers, Shapes, and Patterns, Packing lunches and Backpack needs.

Summer Reading Program Registration

Registration opens Monday June 1 at 10am. Dive into a summer of discovery with our TD Summer Reading Program, where readers explore the depths of the sea through books, stories, and hands-on activities inspired by marine life and underwater exploration. There are two separate registration options: Online Reading Log at ReadSquared to track their reading throughout the summer and earn exciting prizes! Your parents can read to you, you can

read to your parents, you can read by yourself, you can listen to a book on a trip. There's no wrong way to spend time with a good book! In-Person Program Registration through our online calendar is also required for our weekly library programs, which include a STEM program and an ocean-themed program with crafts, games and activities at both the Elmvale and Midhurst branches. Programs are offered in the morning and in the early evening. For further details see our website: springwaterlibrary.ca

PA Day Program: Games Day

This PA Day play old favourites, learn a new game, or bring one to share! There is no registration required for this drop-in program. Friday June 5, Elmvale and Midhurst Branches. Starts at 10am.

Senior Social and Crafting

Drop by the library for a fun gathering of crafting and socializing! This is an excellent opportunity for seniors in the community to connect for a fun morning of creativity! Friday June 12, 11am 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. This program will be available as long as supplies last. There is no registration required for this free program. Thursday June 18: Rainbow fan

Creative Adults: Paint a Pot

Relax and get creative at the library! Adults are invited to paint and personalize a clay pot perfect for gardens, herbs, or houseplants. All supplies provided - no experience needed. Enjoy a laid-back afternoon of art and leave with a pot that's uniquely yours. Tuesday June 23, 2pm at Elmvale Branch. Cost: \$10.00. Registration required.

Father's Day Card

Come to the library and make a Father's Day card. We will provide all the supplies, you provide your own unique creativity! Saturday June 20, 10am at Elmvale and Midhurst Branches.

Penetanguishene Library

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

Book Club

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

Join fellow readers for a relaxed discussion of selected titles in a friendly, welcoming environment. Register in person at the library or complete our online registration form.

Learn to Crochet Granny Squares - June 10, 10:30-11:30

\$5.00 for members \$7.00 for non-members

May 1st to 8th Registration opens for Penetanguishene taxpayers members with a valid library card. After May 8th registration is open to everyone. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable.

Father's Day Edible BBQ Craft - Friday June 12th 4:00 - 5:00pm

\$5.00 for members \$7.00 for non-members

May 11th to 18th Registration opens for Penetanguishene taxpayers members with a valid library card. After May 8th registration is open to everyone. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable.

Sizzle Book Club - June 18th 6:00-6:30pm

A Spicy Book Club held the last Thursday of every month

6:00pm - 6:30pm

Discuss the latest books and trends in the spicy book world.

This is a patron led program. Nonalcoholic beverages will be available.

Father's Day Breakfast - Saturday June 20, 2026, 10:30am-11:30am

\$5.00 for members \$7.00 for non-members

May 1st to 8th Registration opens for Penetanguishene taxpayers members with a valid library card. After May 8th registration is open to everyone. A minimum of 10 participants is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable.

Registration closes on June 6th.

Card Games

Euchre - Mon, June 22, 2026, 2:00 - 3:00pm

500 - Mon, June 29, 2026, 2:00 - 3:00pm

Free. Registrations are open now. You must have a valid library card to register.

A minimum of 4 participants is required to run the program.

Jean Decorating - Wed, June 24, 10:30-11:30am

\$5.00 for members \$7.00 for non-members

May 11th to 18th Registration opens for Penetanguishene taxpayers members with a valid library card. After May 8th registration is open to everyone. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable.

Walking Group - Starting June 16 - Every Tuesday at 10:15am

Join us for a short walk, meet new friends, come back to the library to socialize with the group. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program.

Walk will be cancelled due to extreme summer weather.

Learn to Assemble Blanket from Granny Squares - July 8, 10:30-11:30am

\$5.00 for members \$7.00 for non-members

May 1st to 8th Registration opens for Penetanguishene taxpayers members with a valid

library card. After May 8th registration is open to everyone. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable.

Gardening Workshop - Wed, July 15, 2:00pm

Learn about raised beds and container vegetable gardens with Pat Cook, Simcoe County Master Gardener.

\$5.00 for members \$7.00 for non-members

May 21st to 28th Registration opens for Penetanguishene taxpayers members with a valid library card. After May 8th registration is open to everyone. A minimum of 10 participants is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable.

Stay Sharp: speaker: Keeping your mind active as you age - Thursday, July 30, 10:30-11:30am

Join us for this interactive workshop and explore brain-friendly activities designed for older adults. Speakers are from the North Simcoe Muskoka Specialized Geriatric Services Program. Registrations are open now. Free. A minimum of 5 people is required to run the program.

Library Crawl

Join the Penetanguishene Public Library for the 2026 Library Crawl from June 1st to August 31st. Present all six library cards at the Penetanguishene Public Library circulation desk by Friday September 4th to be entered into a draw for two (2) passes to Ripley's Aquarium (\$100.00 value). Participating libraries; Clearview Public Library, Essa Public Library, Ramara Public Library, Severn Public Library, Springwater Public Library, Tay Township Public Library. Please contact libraries for hours. One card per library is required - not per branch.

Jo Knows Nutrition

by Joanne Nijhuis



Eating healthy on a budget does not mean you have to sacrifice big, bold and satisfying flavours. In fact, one of the most exciting culinary trends of the season costs just a few dollars. Yes, the humble cabbage is undergoing an incredible gourmet transformation on the backyard BBQ. A generous dusting of smoky paprika pairs flawlessly with the natural caramelization of pure maple syrup. Each bite offers a perfect balance of smoky warmth, sweet glaze and tender, charred crunch. Long live the grill!

Did You Know?

Versatile cabbage is an affordable, low calorie nutrition dynamo containing fibre and vitamins K and C. Whether red, white, savoy or Napa, cabbage keeps well for weeks and tastes great raw or cooked. It is best to store a head of cabbage, unrinsed in the vegetable crisper of your refrigerator. If wrapped in plastic, a cabbage can stay fresh for up to 2 months this way. Did you know that a dash of smoked paprika does far more than just mimic the flavor of an open-fire grill? This deep-red pantry staple—scientifically known as *Capsicum annuum*—is actually a nutritional powerhouse. Just a pinch or two delivers a massive dose of Vitamin A to boost your immune system. Even better, it contains natural anti-inflammatory compounds that can help soothe aching joints and protect your heart.

INGREDIENTS (4 Servings)

1 medium cabbage (2lb / 900 g)
1 ½ Tablespoons (22 ml) olive oil
1 Tablespoon (15 ml) pure maple syrup
2 teaspoons (10 ml) smoked paprika
1 teaspoon (5 ml) garlic powder
1 teaspoon (5 ml) onion powder
½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) salt
½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) freshly ground black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut cabbage into 1-inch (2.5 cm) steaks.
2. Whisk together the olive oil, maple syrup, smoked paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, salt

LIFE STYLE

GRILLED CABBAGE ON THE BBQ

SMOKY PAPRIKA & PURE MAPLE SYRUP

MAKE THIS RECIPE SIZZLE



and pepper.

3. Brush generously on both sides of each cabbage steak.

4. Grill over medium heat on the BBQ for 5-7 minutes per side.

5. Brush with any remaining marinade during the last few minutes of grilling.

6. Remove the cabbage steaks from the BBQ when the edges are caramelized and slightly crispy.

7. Serve with grilled chicken, fish, black bean burgers or your favourite anything.

ENJOY!

PER SERVING: |Calories: 121 kcal | Carbohydrates: 18 g | Protein: 3.3 g | Fat: 5.2 g |Fibre: 6.2 g | Sodium: 300 mg |



Joanne Nijhuis, MSc is a consulting, media and culinary nutritionist 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 is currently working on her first cookbook. For more information, email Joanne at jo.knows.nutrition@outlook.com.

Building a Life for All Seasons (formerly Annie's Journal) written by Annie Warner Donnelly



Hello Everyone. Completing the questions in this year's census document made me wonder about Canada's first census. According to "The Great Canadian Factbook, it happened like this.

"Jean Talon, Indendant of Justice, Peace and Finance for the country of New France, conducted the first North American census in 1665 and 1666. He collected much of the data himself by visiting the homes of settlers. Talon's census, however, ignored those serving in religious orders and included only those of European descent. At the time, New France consisted of three major settlements: Montreal, Trois Rivieres, and Quebec (the latter with the largest population of over 2,100 people)."

The exclusion of Indigenous Canadians and members of religious orders reduced the population of New France to 3,215. This year, 360 years later, we all have the privilege of being counted.

Here's a question: Does everyone we meet have the opportunity to count - to mean something to us, perhaps even to become our friend - regardless

of their country of origin, their religious affiliation, or their social status?

Do we view a doctor, a lawyer, an accountant or a dentist with the same respect as the cashier who often serves us at our local grocery store, or the bank teller who welcomes us with a smile of recognition, the mechanic who fixes our car, the bus driver, or the person who cleans our hotel room when we're travelling?

Or like Jean Talon, do we judge people by the country they come from or their religion? If we do, we are teaching our children to categorize people. We are teaching them the opposite of loving our neighbour as ourself (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:39). Children often build the foundation of their lives on a foundation that is similar to ours. What kind of world do we want our children to live in; a world where they, and we, are categorized by a profession, a birth country, a colour, a culture?

While its origin is unknown, we often hear the saying, "What goes around, comes around." As always, we get to choose how we will build our lives. Amen

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

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AUCTION NOTICES



Upcoming Auctions

- Victorian Restoration Arm Chair - Kitchener (May 31 - June 4)
- The rare Horikawa Robot Astronaut - Guelph (June 7 - 11)
- Regal BBQ by Broil King, Patio Set - Alliston (June 14 - 18)
- June Multi Consignor Auction - Guelph (June 21 - 25)
- Vintage Stepback Cupboard - Mount Forest (June 21 - 25)
- Royal Rochester Collection - Guelph (June 28 - July 2)

Multi Parcel Real Estate Auction - Mount Forest

Heritage Victorian Residence Auction
1900's Victorian Home
Detached Residential **2,470 Sq. ft. - loaded with charm!** *June Dates*

6-Unit Mixed-Use Investment Property Auction
2 Commercial Units
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NOTICES

GARAGE SALE

Saturday & Sunday
June 6th & 7th
9:00 am- 6:00 pm
970 Yonge St. Midland



9A Queen Street East
Elmvale

FREE and NEW TO YOU

Elmvale Community Church
12 Queen St E, Elmvale

Our hours are:
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Tuesday 6:00-8:00pm,
Wednesday 3:00-5:00pm
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NOTICES

THANK YOU

The family of the late Marlene Tinney wish to extend our deep appreciation to those who have offered such kindness, support and messages of sympathy and comfort in our bereavement. We would like to thank Kim and the staff of the Lynn Stone Funeral home for their guidance and care during this difficult time. Thank you to Rev Colin MacDonald for capturing the spirit of Marlene in the celebration of her life with all who attended the service. Thanks to the Ladies of St John's United Church who served the delicious lunch. A special thank you to everyone who donated food and the ladies who served dinner to the family allowing us time for reminiscing. Thanks to everyone who sent cards, flowers and made memorial donations in Marlene's name. Thank you to Dr Heidi DeBoer and the staff of GGBH for their gentle care of Mom in her final days.

We are overwhelmed and humbled by the support we have received from the community that mom held so dear in her heart. We are truly grateful for all our blessings.

Doug, Denise, Linda, Peter, Dan, Geraldine and families

NOTICES

Jack Dyer's 95th Birthday!

Friends, Family and neighbours are warmly invited to celebrate Jack Dyer's 95th Birthday!
Fly in or drive in!
After having such a wonderful time at his 90th, Jack is excited to gather again and celebrate with everyone.

Please join us at the family farm on Sunday, June 28, anytime between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM for cake and a visit.

We look forward to seeing you there!
No gifts, please.



NOTICES

100th ANNIVERSARY Woodland Beach

Community Church at 2071 Tiny Beaches Rd South is celebrating its 100th year anniversary on Saturday, July 4th between 7-8:15 pm with a music night and a special service on Sunday, July 5th between 10:30-11:45 am.

Everyone is welcome!!!

CLASSIFIED INQUIRES

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. CLASSIFIED ADS ARE AT COST**

you're Invited!
OPEN HOUSE!

Experience Retirement Living In A New Light

Enjoy live music on the patio, guided Lodge tours, a resident plant sale, and information booths from SilverFox Pharmacy and HME Home Medical Equipment featuring comfort and accessibility solutions for independent living.

Friday, June 12th, 2026 | 7:00 PM -8:30 PM

All Community Members Welcome. Kindly RSVP
With Chantelle: cgranlund@jarlette.com | (705) 549-9259



RSVP Today!
We Can't Wait To Meet You



Learn More!




Bayfield House Retirement Lodge
5 Beck Blvd, Penetanguishene, ON L9M 1C1
Call Chantelle Today! (705) 549-9259

EVENTS

Community Events Ongoing

SENIOR CLUBS

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

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

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

MONDAY
Elmvale Seniors Drop In
Elmvale Library Lower Level
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
Bay Shore Seniors Club
Bay Shore Mini Putt, Members Only
May 19 - Aug 25 8:30 - 10:00 am
Skull Island 104 Main Street Wasaga Beach
Table Shuffleboard
Tuesdays at 1 pm Cost \$2
Elmvale Legion
7 John Street Elmvale

Penetanguishene Legion
Lunch and/or Regular Euchre
luncheons 11:30am arrival. It fills up. Lunch served 12 pm.

Euchre
Tuesdays, 1 pm - 4 pm
\$4, Drop-in, Legion #68, 2 Poyntz Street, Penetanguishene

Georgian Shores Seniors Club
Billiards/Pool, 9:00 – 11 am

Line Dancing, Prog. Beginners 9:30 – 11:00 am
Line Dancing, Easy Intermediate, 11:30 – 1:00 pm

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

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

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

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

Bay Shore Seniors Club
LifeStyles - 9:00 am - 10:30 am
Access Art - 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Indoor Pickleball - 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

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

Askennonia Seniors Centre
Table Tennis, 9am-11am
Pickleball, 9am-11:30am
Tai Chi, 9am-10am
Step Class, 9am-10am
Line Dancing Advancing, 9:15am-10:30am
Chair Yoga, 9:15am-10:15am
Cribbage, 10am-12pm
Intro to Line Dancing- Baby Steps, 10:30am-11am
Line Dancing Basic, 11am-12pm
Walking Club, 11am-12pm
Creative Crafting, 1pm-3pm
Bid Euchre, 1pm-3pm
Woodcarving, 1pm-3pm

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

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

Georgian Shores Aquarium Club

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

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

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

Euchre - 7 pm
Elmvale Legion

Askennonia Seniors Centre
Zumba, 9am-10am
Pickleball, 9am-1:30pm
Men's Shed, 10am-12pm
Cardio Drums Alive, 10:15am-11:15am
Chair Pilates, 10:30am-11:30am
Writers Circle, 1pm-3pm
Uke and Guitar Jam, 1pm-3pm

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

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

Georgian Shores Seniors Club
Billiards/Pool, 9:00 – 11 am
1st: Movie and Lunch, 12 noon - 3:30 pm
2nd & 4th: Tiny Stitchers, 9:00 - 3:00 pm
3rd: Book Club, 1:30-3:30 pm

Let's Do Lunch \$5:
Elmvale Presbyterian Church
2nd Thursday of the month. Eat in: 12-1pm. \$5
For take-out & town delivery \$6 call 322-1411 between 9 & noon on the Monday previous.
Pick-up Thursday 11:15 – 11:45 at East side of the church.

Connecting Together - Fellowship with Others
Thursdays 2-3:30 pm call 705-526-6077
St. Pauls United Church Atrium, 308 King St Midland

Wasaga Beach Parkinson's Support Group
1st Thursday of each month 12:30-2:00 p.m.

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

Bay Shore Seniors' Club

June 4, 2026 Edition 729

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 pm - 3:00 pm
Indoor Pickleball - 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

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

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

WEEKENDS
Elmvale Legion
Saturday at 5 pm
Meat Darts- \$ 10.00 for 3 games
3 prizes per game and a meat draw prize after \$1.00 a ticket (\$25.00 value), 7 John Street Elmvale

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

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

MONDAY to FRIDAY

North Simcoe Bridge and Games Club
Brooklea Golf and Country Club
Mon. 12:45pm: Duplicate Bridge,
Tues 6:45pm: Social Bridge,
Wed., 12:45pm Duplicate Bridge,
Thur. 12:45pm Duplicate Bridge,
Fri. 12pm: Bid Euchre. Contact northsimcoebridge@gmail.com.

Barrie/Kempfenfelt Probuc Club
Social Club for retired seniors
Monthly Meetings: 10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
Third Thursday of every month
Royal Canadian Legion
410 St. Vincent Street
(Parking lot entrance — off Ferris Lane)
Yearly Club Membership — \$60.00
Further Information may be had online at: <https://www.barrie-kempfenfelt.com> (705) 220-3501.

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

Special Events One Time

St. Louis Bake, Plant & Treasure Bazaar
Saturday June 6, 10 - 1:00,
823 Mt. St. Louis Rd. W.

Bake Sale
Jun. 06, 2026 08:00-12:00
Midhurst United Church 91 Doran Road, Midhurst, ON
Cookies, cakes and pie, oh my! Don't miss our delicious bake sale!

St. Margaret's Tuttertart luncheon and Bake Sale
Saturday June 13th from 11-2
589 Hugel Ave. at 3rd St. Midland
\$12 lunch with homemade sweets and a drink
Buttertarts \$12 per ½ dozen

North Simcoe Eco-Summit
Jul. 11, 2026 10:00-2:00pm
1474 Woodrow Road, Coldwater, ON, L0K 1E0.
Family-friendly eco event with BBQ, booths, music, and kids activities

Rainforest Falls VBS
Aug 10-14 9-noon Free
Elmvale Presbyterian Church
For children who have completed JK through to Gr 5

Registration Forms on the Church website, at the Church and at the Library

Elmvale Legion
Line Dancing is Back at the Elmvale Legion starting in June, below are the dates for dancing, all are welcome, cost is \$5.00 for each night and all starts at 7 pm.

Tuesday, June 9th and Thursday, June 11th
Tuesday, July 14th and Thursday, July 16th
Tuesday, August 11th and Thursday, August 13th
Tuesday, September 8th
Tuesday, September 22nd
Tuesday, October 13th
Karaoke at the Elmvale Legion, Saturday, June 27th @ 8 pm, Entrance fee is a donation to the food bank. Doors open at 7:30 pm.

EVENT 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.

Publication Dates 2026
Next Editions
June 18th

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EVENTS



Georgian Bay Festival Returns with Music, Food, Vendors and Family Fun

By Kari Belcourt
North Simcoe Springwater News

The Georgian Bay Festival is set to deliver a full day of entertainment, community spirit, and local celebration as organizers prepare for one of the area's most anticipated summer events.

More than just a music festival, the Georgian Bay Festival brings together live entertainment, food vendors, local artisans, classic cars, agricultural showcases, and family-friendly activities in a celebration of creativity, culture, and community connection.

Festival-goers can enjoy free daytime access to a wide range of attractions, including live performances on the Paul Sadlon Stage, food trucks, vendor displays, agricultural and RV showcases, a classic car showcase, and the popular festival beer garden.

Throughout the afternoon, attendees can relax with food and refreshments while enjoying performances from local and touring musicians. Organizers say the Beer Garden serves as the heart of the festival, creating a welcoming atmosphere where visitors can gather, enjoy great music, and connect with friends and neighbours.

As the day transitions into evening, the festival's concert series takes centre stage. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., concert tickets will be required to access the evening musical performances and Beer Garden area.

Early Bird General Admission tickets are available for \$30 plus HST before March 31, increasing to \$35 plus HST afterward. VIP tickets are available for \$45 plus HST before March 31 and \$55 plus HST after March 31.

VIP ticket holders receive several premium benefits, including fast-lane entry, a collectible event laminate, access to an exclusive VIP area, preferred bar service and washrooms, premium front-of-stage viewing, and an additional chance to win a meet-and-greet experience with the festival headliner, including autographed merchandise and a photo opportunity

Families are encouraged to attend, with children under 13 admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

Food lovers will find plenty to explore, with a variety of food trucks and vendors offering everything from local favourites to creative culinary creations. Organizers emphasize fresh, locally sourced ingredients and a diverse selection designed to satisfy every palate.

The festival's vendor marketplace is already generating significant interest. Featuring arts and crafts, jewelry, clothing, beauty products, specialty foods, and more, the vendor area provides an opportunity to support local businesses and artisans. Organizers report vendor spaces have already sold out for the 2026 event.

New this year is the Classic Car Showcase, offering visitors the chance to admire vintage vehicles and take a stroll down memory lane. Members of the Wasaga Beach Cruisers may display their vehicles free of charge, while other participants can enter their classic cars for a nominal fee.

With live music, local vendors, great food, family activities, and an exciting evening concert lineup, the Georgian Bay Festival promises to be a memorable celebration of summer on Georgian Bay.

For ticket information and event updates, visitors are encouraged to follow festival organizers online.

CROSSWORD ANSWER

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47	E	N	D	S	48	S	A	D	49	S	O	N				

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Sat 8-5:30, Sun 10-5
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Your Community, Your Vote: The Importance of Municipal Politics

By Kari Belcourt, North Simcoe Springwater News

Federal and provincial elections often capture the spotlight, but municipal elections are where some of the most important decisions affecting our daily lives are made. From roads and recreation facilities to housing, emergency services, local businesses, and property taxes, municipal councils shape the communities we call home.

The decisions made by local councils have both immediate and long-term impacts on residents. Whether it is road repairs, traffic safety improvements, new parks and recreation programs, or proposed housing developments, municipal governments influence the quality of life in our neighbourhoods every day.

Municipal councils are also responsible for guiding future growth in partnership with provincial guidelines. Through decisions on zoning, residential and commercial development, infrastructure investments, environmental protection, and community services, local governments determine how communities evolve and prosper.

Across North Simcoe, growth has been significant in recent years. According to the 2021 Census, Midland's population increased by 5.4 per cent between 2016 and 2021, while Tiny Township grew by 10 per cent, Penetanguishene by 12.4 per cent, and Springwater Township by 13.9 per cent. With that growth comes increased demand

for roads, water and wastewater infrastructure, emergency services, recreation facilities, and other municipal programs. These pressures have contributed to rising operating and capital costs, leading municipalities across the region to increase tax rates through their 2026 budgets.

Municipal governments manage millions of taxpayer dollars each year. Elections provide residents with an opportunity to hold elected officials accountable, share their concerns, and choose leaders they trust to make responsible financial and policy decisions on behalf of the community.

Despite the importance of local government, municipal elections often see lower voter turnout than provincial or federal elections. This means that a relatively small percentage of eligible voters can determine who will make critical decisions affecting the entire municipality.

Democracy functions best when citizens participate. When a large portion of the population chooses not to vote, important decisions are left in the hands of a smaller group of residents. Low voter turnout is often associated with voter apathy, a lack of interest or motivation to participate in the electoral process.

Several factors can contribute to voter apathy. Political alienation occurs when individuals feel the political system does not represent their interests or that their participation will not make a meaningful difference. Voter fatigue can also

play a role, particularly when people become disengaged due to the frequency of elections, political messaging, or a lack of connection to candidates and issues.

Yet local elections can be decided by remarkably small margins. In many municipalities, council seats have been won by only a handful of votes. A single vote may seem insignificant on its own, but collectively, voter participation determines the direction of a community for years to come.

As North Simcoe prepares for the 2026 municipal election, residents have an opportunity to become informed and engaged in the democratic process. This means learning about the issues facing their municipality, attending candidate meetings and debates, asking questions, following council discussions, and understanding how municipal decisions affect their daily lives.

Municipal elections are more than political contests—they are opportunities for residents to help shape the future of their communities. The roads we drive on, the parks our children play in, the services we rely on, and the growth that defines our towns and townships are all influenced by decisions made at the municipal level.

When election day arrives, casting a ballot is more than a civic duty—it is a chance to ensure your voice is heard. The future of North Simcoe will be shaped by those who choose to participate.

Plant Now for Colour Later!

By Anna Sauve, Master Gardener

Flowering shrubs and small trees add so much to our gardens. I choose my favourites based on shape and form, seasonal interest, ease of maintenance, disease resistance, hardiness to Zone 5 or lower, and - of course - colour! Here are a few to consider for your garden.

Forsythia (Forsythia spp.) is the most reliable flowering shrub for early spring colour. The bright yellow flowers appear all along the stems before the leaves emerge. Forsythia is a low-maintenance shrub, perfect for experienced and novice gardeners. They prefer full sun and should be pruned immediately after flowering to maintain size, shape and encourage next season's blooms.

The cultivar 'Northern Gold' is a popular and hardy variety growing upwards of seven feet. There are numerous varieties better suited to smaller gardens.

Beautiful, fragrant lilacs (Syringa spp.) are stars of the mid-spring garden. Blooming from May to mid-June, their fragrant flowers span a colour palette from white to pinks to purples to deep burgundies. Plant lilacs in average soil with full sun and good air circulation. Prune below the flowers immediately after bloom. For smaller gardens, consider dwarf varieties. One of the most popular is the Korean lilac (Syringa meyerii) 'Palibin'. This reliable shrub reaches a maximum height of five feet and features long-lasting purple blooms.

Lesser known are, my favourites, the Preston hybrids, developed by Isabella Preston, one of Canada's pioneers in ornamental plant breeding. The Prestons are large (eight-ten feet), fast-growing shrubs, do not sucker, are cold-hardy, pest resistant, and make good windbreaks. The cultivar 'Miss Canada' is one of Preston's best.

Our native Serviceberry (Amelanchier canadensis spp.) is ideal for smaller gardens, and is adaptable to various growing conditions. Serviceberry is a multi-trunk shrub or small tree reaching heights of about 15 feet. They truly provide three-season interest: masses of white blooms in spring, red berries for birds in late summer, and brilliant colourful foliage in fall. Once they have reached maturity, serviceberry can be pruned in early spring to maintain shape and height.

Another garden staple is dogwood (Cornus spp.). Eight species are native to Ontario, one of the most popular being Red Osier dogwood (Cornus sericea) whose bright red stems are a standout feature in the winter garden. There are also numerous cultivated varieties of dogwood. Dogwoods are fast-growing tough, hardy shrubs adaptable to a wide variety of soil and light situations, including partial shade.

Common ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius), is a native shrub with four-season interest. White flowers on arching branches appear in early summer, turning to seed clusters in fall for feeding birds, bronze-yellow



fall foliage, and textured exfoliating bark for winter interest. Ninebark tolerates many soil and light conditions, is fast-growing and good for screening.

Lastly, don't forget that reliable June bloomer, weigela (Weigela florida). Hummingbirds love the long-lasting, bell-shaped flowers which blanket the shrubs. Heights span 18 inches to 10 feet and the leaf colour palette is broad. Weigelas like deep, well-drained soil and full sun. Prune to shape after they bloom - never in the fall.

Consider this: Adding colourful shrubs and small trees to your garden can provide multi-season interest throughout the growing season. Many support biodiversity, and the selection of compact varieties means they can be suitable additions to even the smallest garden.

This series of gardening articles is brought to you by the Simcoe County Master Gardeners, members of the Master Gardeners of Ontario. For more information, visit www.simcoecountymg.ca.

GARDENING MADE EASY

By Kelly McNamara

Trees are life. They kind of act like the Earth's lungs....purifying our air. Without them, Earth wouldn't be able to continue helping us breathe or sustain the natural cycles we depend on. Not to mention the wildlife dependent on trees for their homes or to hide from predators. We need trees.

Trees can provide us with shade, or an anchor for our landscape. However, there are a few things we need to remember when adding trees to our landscape.

I remember driving past a property one time and seeing three baby Spruce trees planted about four feet apart from each other. They looked cute, but the gardener in me rolled her eyes, and shook her head. Why? Because those baby Spruce trees will grow up and each one will have a width of at least 20 feet. Those trees were doomed.

So, when we go and purchase a tree, we need to think of how wide and tall it will be when it grows up. One Spruce tree needs a wide open space. Not too close to the house, driveway, or road. One day it is small and cute and next you look and it is scratching the side of your car!

Too close to the house and your tree's roots can invade your foundation. That becomes a dangerous and expensive problem. Not to mention, it could end up blocking the view from a window. Always remember, the mature width of a tree indicates how far the main roots will spread. A Maple tree can have a spread of 30 to 50 feet, depending on the variety, which means the big strong roots will spread just as far.

Another thing to decide is, do you want year round privacy/greenery? Or do you want a full, majestic tree providing shade and elegance?

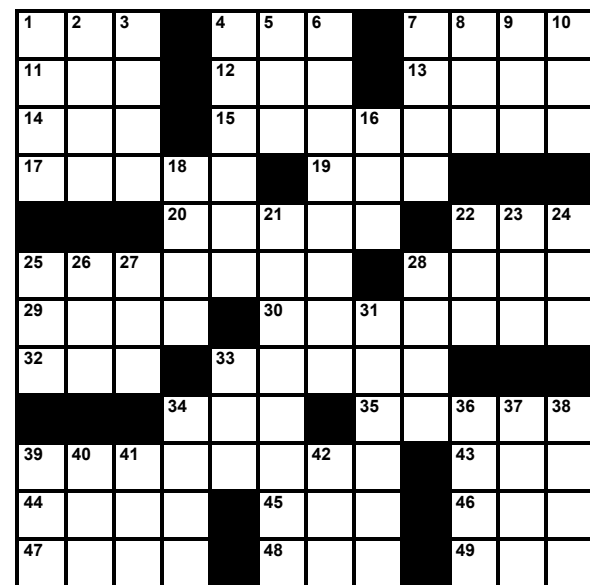
Evergreens or Coniferous trees like Cedars or Spruce will keep their green year round, providing green even in the winter. The bonus is there are no leaves to clean up! Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall, provide a canopy of shade, and usually beautifully coloured leaves in the fall.

Both types of trees come in all shapes and sizes, big and tall or short and narrow. Knowing which type of look you want before you start shopping is always a good idea, then you just need to look for something that makes you happy!

Always remember, when planting your tree, you need to make sure you loosen up the root ball as best you can. Otherwise the roots will continue to grow around in circles, essentially choking your new tree to death. Water is your friend. Take a deep breath. That tree is helping!

Across	Down
1 Rental in a high-rise, abbr.	1 Queen and her servants, maybe
4 Driving location	2 Whitman, for one
7 Wind	3 Food holder, often
11 Easter starter	4 It sets very hard
12 Southpaw's stat	5 Have a position
13 Catch ___	6 Family reunion activity, perhaps
14 Kind of tray	7 Mint
15 Most jubilant	8 It has four quarters
17 Look	9 "... for what ___ worth"
19 Container for recyclables	10 Auctioneer's sale part
20 Terminated	16 Do away with
22 1, 3 or 5, e.g.	18 Comparative word
25 Credit card, in slang	21 Feelings of anxiety
28 On vacation, perhaps	22 Be shy
29 Dumbo's likeable trait	23 Hoover or Roosevelt
30 Chief	24 Fabric colorer
32 Fitness center	25 Place to hang your hat
33 Cook clams, say	26 Nonprofessional
34 ___ capita	27 Quarterback's asset
35 Uses the keyboard	28 Battling group
39 Most melodious	31 Touched gently
43 Drink cooler	33 Adjust the time
44 Allude to	34 Guinea pigs, maybe
45 Understand	36 "The worst!"
46 English article	37 Bounce back, in a way
47 Terminates	38 Taken in
48 Depressed	39 Gal
49 Sequel title starter	40 Acquire
	41 Tail
	42 One of a salty seven

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Hey Dads!

Do you like your food spicy or mild? My friend's dad is from Trinidad and he can pound down spicy food like nobody's business! How about your kids, can they handle the heat? This weekend we accidentally learned that our 2-year-old, Juniper, probably prefers less spicy food.

We were out for brunch with another family and were waiting for our meal order to arrive. In situations like this, the youngest member of our family, Juniper, is sometimes passed around between her older siblings and her older parents (but not that old). Usually, the most responsible Juniper-watchers are, in order of expertise in attentiveness: Mom, older sisters, older brothers, younger sisters, younger brothers...Dad. It was still early in the restaurant visit and Juniper was sitting with a family member who will remain unidentified. This unidentified family member is very responsible and carries a small first-aid kit in her purse should one of her offspring be injured along the way. It's sort of a healthy-natural-

organic-crunchy-hippie type of first aid kit. It contains some rather standard items like band-aids and some less standard items like a small jar of powdered Cayenne Pepper. If you're like me you may have no idea why Cayenne Pepper would be in a first aid kit. If you're smart, you'll already know that Cayenne Pepper helps to stop bleeding. It does other things as well if your two-year-old happens to get into your purse and get into the first-aid kit and get the lid off the pepper jar in a restaurant and dump the powder all over herself.

Like any self-respecting two-year-old, Juniper began to brush the powder off herself. It began to float around in the air causing some sneezing and sniffles from the closest family members. Then Juniper wiped her eyes with her hands which may or may not have had pepper powder on them. Judging by her reaction, they probably had pepper powder on them. She began crying and rubbing her eyes more and we gave her a soother and judging by her next reaction it seemed to have pepper on it too so you can see how this jolly restaurant visit is going. Being the responsible type, I took Juniper to the bathroom when an

unidentified family member asked me to. I helped wash off Juniper's hands and face and soother and clothing. She recovered pretty quickly once we got her cleaned up and the meal continued without further incident. I refrained from asking why Cayenne Pepper was in a first-aid kit until much later in the day when all identified and unidentified family members were in a much healthier emotional state.

Now that we've had this experience with the pepper I'm not sure if I should really hope it gets used in a future emergency or if I should really hope it doesn't get used in a future emergency. In my humble opinion, it's created enough emergencies as it is. Well, dad, everyone in the family is recovered, healthy, and not blaming anyone about anything. Maybe it's a good day to take your family out for a meal. Time flies. Make every moment count! And maybe leave the Cayenne Pepper at home.

Jason Weening rarely visits restaurants with his 10 kids and one spicy wife. Read more stories in his book, "Yes, Dear...I'm Watching Them," on Amazon.

Elmvalle Curling Club Fundraiser Set for June 13

Mark your calendars! Saturday, June 13 is quickly approaching, and the Elmvalle Curling Club is inviting the community to come out for a day of fun while supporting a great local cause. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the club will host a fundraising event featuring a cornhole tournament, vendor market, car and truck show, live music, BBQ, and a beer garden. There will be something for everyone to enjoy. The cornhole tournament is nearly full, so anyone interested in registering should act quickly. Registration is \$90 per team and includes two drink tickets and two lunch tickets. The fundraiser supports the Elmvalle Curling Club, a community hub that prides itself on having "Fun with Friends." While the club is home to many competitive curlers who participate in regional and provincial competitions, it is equally focused on fostering friendships and bringing together residents from Elmvalle and surrounding communities. Whether you're competing, shopping the vendor market, admiring the classic vehicles, or simply enjoying great food and live entertainment, this promises to be a fantastic day for the whole family. Come out, support your local curling club, and help keep this valued community organization thriving.



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About the poet

Midland resident Diana Callaghan is a young 89-year-old who decided to follow her passion writing poetry in her mid 80s. She also does standup comedy in and around the region although she warns she now uses a walker to get on stage. Her poetry can also be found on YouTube thanks to a young friend (Bensen. Creates) whom she met over their interest in poetry at the local poetry circle which is hosted at Midland's Georgian Bay Books.

Slow Down
At one time I begged my mind to slow down
My overthinking was robbing me of my joy in living

But it was so hard, I thought the world was changing in a rapid way
And my mind was in turmoil most of the time
Joy and laughter were harder to find
I tried yoga and meditation, and drugs with some hesitation
But growing old has solved my problems
I'm slowing down in mind and body
No longer do I try to solve all the all the problems in my world
I'm probably more at ease that I have been in a long, long time
So I sit, and read, and sip my wine
I've learned to accept that I cannot change the problems in my life
So, it's all up to me
Acceptance is the key.
So let it go.
Take it slow
And go with the flow.
Diana Callaghan

OBITUARIES



Debbie McGowan
Sadly, Debbie McGowan passed away peacefully on April 30, 2026. Beloved wife of the late Paul McGowan, loving sister of Pamela Brady and Sheila Breen (wife of Paul Breen). Cherished Aunt of Trish, Meaghan, Sally, Terry, Dillon and Riley and Great Aunt to all their children (eight in total). She will be remembered fondly by extended family and friends, especially her neighbours in Tiny Ontario and her many sailing friends from around the world. Debbie and her late husband Paul McGowan were avid sailors and spent many years sailing in Ontario and around the Caribbean. She will be missed by her adoring primary grade students.

Memorial condolences may be made at www.leclaircremationcentre.ca.
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to **Hospice Huronia, Tomkins House at 948 Fuller Ave., Penetanguishene ON L9M 1G7**



TINNEY, MARLENE ETHEL (nee TURNER)
Passed away peacefully at the Georgian Bay General Hospital in Midland on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. Marlene Tinney (nee Turner) of Elmvalle in her 94th year. Beloved wife of the late Cecil Tinney. Dear mother of Doug (Denise), Linda (Peter) Desroches, and Dan (Geraldine). Proud grandmother of Kaitlin (Warren), Jessica (Jarek), Lindsay (Trevor), and Ryan (Emily). Great-grandma of Ellis, Jaxton, Wyatt, Joziah, Bryson, Jaylyn, Ryder, Julian, and Ren. Sister of Muriel (late Harold) Townes, late Stanley (Joan), late Louis (survived by Doreen), late Dennis (Ellen), and the late Garry (survived by Wendy) Turner. Sister-in-law of the late Fay Tinney, Joan Tinney, and the late, Ruth (Wally) Robinson, Arden (Marjorie), Eldon (Lois), Rex (Mildred), Manley (Betty), Morley (survived by Phyllis), Jack (Mary), Marie (Gil) Baker, Doreen (Gordon) Flear, Delsie (Joe) Jennett, and Zona (Don) Pilon. Marlene will be fondly remembered and missed by her many nieces and nephews.

The world has lost a bright light in the passing of Marlene. She was a hard working mother, devoted wife, avid sportswoman as well as a devoted volunteer in her beloved Elmvalle community. Marlene could be counted on to participate and support any community event. She held the position of Secretary - Treasurer of the Flos Agricultural Society for 47 years officially retiring in 2004.

Marlene was an excellent athlete excelling in baseball and curling. She has been inducted into the Springwater Sports Hall of Fame for being a member of the 1954-55 Elmvalle Comets Women's Softball team. She also was inducted as a member of the 1996 Diamond Senior Ladies Curling team that was the first team representing Elmvalle Curling Club to win a provincial championship. Marlene was a well known member of the community who could be found cheering on teams at the arena, the ball diamond or enjoying an afternoon or evening at the curling club.

Marlene was a devoted parishioner of St Johns United Church using her talents to support in the kitchen the making of many home cooked meals. She was always ready to be an active participant in other church committees and activities.

In honouring Marlene's legacy please any donations in her name would be appreciated to be directed to the Elmvalle Curling Club or St Johns United Church.

A visitation will be held at the Lynn-Stone Funeral Home in Elmvalle on Monday, May 11, 2026, from 2-4 pm and 7-9 pm. A funeral service will be held at the St. John's United Church in Elmvalle at 1 pm on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. Reception to follow at St. John's United Church. Interment Elmvalle Cemetery.

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

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THOMPSON, John David (Jack)



It's with broken hearts we announce that, after a brief illness, our sweet, kind Uncle Jack passed away peacefully at Hospice Huronia on May 21, 2026, at the age of 88 years young. John was the much-loved baby brother of Irene Beckerson and Marilyn Majoros, both recently predeceased. He was the adored uncle, great-uncle, and great-great-uncle to many nieces and nephews, all of whom he was extremely proud of. He was a friend to all and loved meeting new people, always striking up conversations with complete strangers wherever he went. He cherished his retirement years living full-time on Orr Lake. We would like to thank his wonderful neighbours; the amazing staff and volunteers at Hospice Huronia; Dr. Sanders and Dr. DeBoer; and for his outstanding "care at home" helpers Victoria, Stephanie, Kelly, Megan, and Johanna. Special thanks as well to the staff at Foodland and Whitfield's of Elmvale. As per John's wishes, cremation has taken place and he will be buried with his parents, Cyril and Edna. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. "Love you, I love you's all." — J.T. Donations to Hospice Huronia or to a local charity of your choice would be very much appreciated.

Memorial condolences may be shared at www.leclaircremationcentre.com

OBITUARY NOTICES

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

Pacôme Léger- April 27 2026

It is with profound sadness that we share that on April 27, 2026 our beautiful baby boy Pacôme Léger was born silent into this world. Although he only spent brief moments in our arms, he will live for eternity in our hearts.

Second heart beat to his loving mother for nearly 8 months, his departure leaves a void that could never be replaced. Now forever guardian angel to his siblings, Éli, Dax, and Todd, his spirit will live on through their joyful lives.

Present and future moments will be missed by many. He will forever remain deeply loved and remembered in the hearts of his family.

Cherished son of Benoit Léger and Victoria Edwards.

Beloved little brother to Éli, Dax, and Todd.

Lovingly remembered by his grandparents:

Normand and Louise Léger

Greg and Leslie Edwards

Dearly missed by his aunts and uncles:


Marc-André Léger (Mélika)

Hannah Davis (Matt)

The love surrounding him will last forever. He will always be a part of our family, carried in our hearts with every passing day.

The Léger family.
Tiny Twp.

YOUNG, ANNE MAY (nee BOWMAN)




Passed away peacefully at the Georgian Bay General Hospital in Midland on May 13, 2026. Anne May Young (nee Bowman) of Midland. Beloved wife of the late Stuart "Sonny" Young. Dear mother of Raymond Richards, Stuart (Frauke) Young, Annemarie Young, Terry (Brent) Adair, Debbie Anne Cousineau, Sherry (Harvey) Cousineau-Krul, Cindy (Shawn) Cousineau, and Kimberley Cousineau (Kevin). Lovingly remembered by 21 Grandchildren and 21 Great Grandchildren. Loving aunt of Donna Brasseur.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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

MURRAY, Donald Gordon



Peacefully at the Sara Vista Long Term Care Home in Elmvale, ON Donald Gordon Murray in his 82nd year. Predeceased by his parents Margaret Murray (1999) and Gordon Murray (2000). Left to mourn his passing are his sons David (Jane) and Daniel (Tamara) and their mother Patricia, his grandson Randall (Bunkie) (Kourtney) and great-grandson Asher, along with his brother Ronald (Theresa). He was pre-deceased by his sister Connie (Ken) Brown (2021) and his brother James (Patricia) (2023). He leaves his nephews Tim Brown, Jason Murray and Derek Kearney and his nieces Tammy Vaters, Melissa Rowsell, Amanda Murray, Tammy Grant, Deidrew McCloskey and was great-uncle to their children.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Elmvale Legion on Saturday, June 27 from 1 pm – 4 pm.

If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Simcoe Hospice (hospicesimcoe.ca) or Canadian Alzheimer's Society (alzheimers.ca/donate).

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


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Micaela Da Rocha Amaral Rebelo



Micaela Da Rocha Amaral Rebelo passed away at Providence Healthcare in Scarborough on May 20, 2026, at the age of 90, surrounded by her loving family.

She was predeceased by her dear husband, Dinis Jacinto Rebelo, and several siblings. She leaves behind her brother, Luis Amaral (Evelina), and four children who brought her endless joy: Helena Rebelo (Mike), John Rebelo, David Rebelo (Ming), and Josefina Brooke (Andrew). She was a devoted grandmother to Mikaela Lefaiwe (Jean-François), Alicia Lefaiwe (Catherine), Perseus Rebelo (Calvin), Geneviève Lefaiwe (Dexter), Nathanael Rebelo (Cypress), and Owen Brooke, and a proud great-grandmother to Arthur and Florence Robitaille.

At age 30, Micaela arrived in Canada with three young children and a light spring jacket — in March. She left the semi-tropical island of São Miguel in the Azores to join her husband in snowy Manitouwadge, Ontario. Despite the shortage of olive oil and fresh produce, they built a warm and welcoming home. From her tiny kitchen came endless meals that nourished not only her family, but anyone fortunate enough to sit at her table. Though she loved her adopted country, she never stopped longing for her homeland — especially during stretches of -40 weather.

Micaela was a devout Catholic, a loyal Blue Jays fan, and a dedicated viewer of The Young and the Restless. Her house was always neat as a pin and carried the scent of lilacs, simmering garlic, or fresh bread. When she was not cooking or cleaning, she could often be found doing yoga, walking her neighbourhood, or knitting while cackling at Jackie Chan movies or slapstick comedy.

Despite her profound wisdom, she rarely offered advice. So when she did, everyone listened. It almost always began with: "You know..."

She will be deeply missed by all those lucky enough to have been loved by her.

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