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Patio Economy and the Bustling Life of Downtown Elmvale

By Kari Belcourt, North Simcoe Springwater News

There is a sense of nostalgia that greets visitors as they take their first steps into the beautiful historic streets of Elmvale. Children stroll along, admiring the colourful flowers as they make their way to a library activity. Requests for a treat stop are almost a necessity on a warm summer day. Old classmates pass one another, reminiscing about the building that once housed their favourite pool hall after school. They pause to admire the new storefronts before exploring the businesses that now occupy those familiar spaces and continuing their trip down memory lane over a cup of tea.

There is a long history woven into the streets of Elmvale. Years of community gatherings and memories shared with families, friends, neighbours, and visitors have left their mark. The heartbeat of these streets is as strong as ever, where cherished memories meet opportunities to create new ones. Summer in Elmvale is brief but vibrant, and the downtown comes alive with activity.

The Village of Elmvale has undergone remarkable growth over the years. Anyone returning after several years away would immediately notice the improvements that have transformed the community while preserving its small-town character.

The contrast is even more striking when compared with Elmvale's earliest days. Prior to 1847, the flat lands of Flos Township—where Elmvale, Fergusonvale, and Phelpsston now stand, as well as the area stretching west to the Nottawasaga River—were dense wilderness, rarely visited by European settlers.

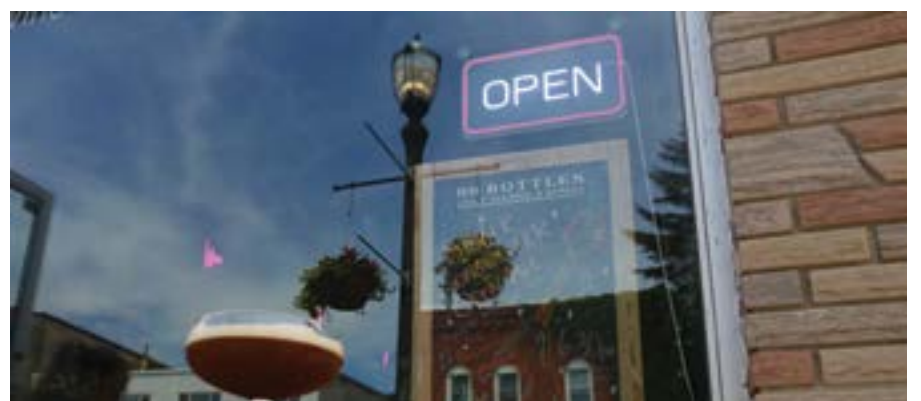
In 1847, James Harvey emigrated from Northern Ireland and settled along the banks of the River Wye, approximately 1.25 miles east of the present-day village. His son, William Harvey, later served as superintendent of Flos Township schools from 1858 to 1871 before becoming township clerk and treasurer for many years.

Another early pioneer, John Ritchie, arrived from Dumfriesshire, Scotland, with his family in 1849, settling near the Harvey homestead. William Ritchie and Edward Archer followed in 1851. Around 1853, John McGinnis established himself on the north half of Lot 6, Concession 8—land that would later become part of Elmvale. The settlement was then known as the "Four Corners."

Additional families, including the Straths, Grahams, Patersons, Dickeyes, Drysdales, Lambies, Kerrs, and Malcolms, soon followed. Gabriel French was another prominent early settler, establishing himself on the high ground northeast of Elmvale, where many of his descendants remained for generations.

Over the following years, these pioneering families cleared the forest, cultivated the land, and built homes, laying the foundation for a thriving agricultural community. Around 1859, Thomas Stone opened the first general store at the Four Corners, followed a few years later by a second store operated by Joseph Lambie.

The community's first Presbyterian church was built in 1864 beside the cemetery east of the village, where many of Elmvale's earliest settlers were laid to rest.



Continued...



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Elmvale's first major period of growth came with the arrival of the North Simcoe Branch Railway in 1879, creating new opportunities for trade and transportation.

In 1887, G. Copeland & Sons constructed a flour mill capable of producing 150 barrels of flour each day. The attached grain elevator held 30,000 bushels of wheat, reflecting the importance of agriculture to the local economy.

Much of the township's early history was preserved through local publications. Wm. Rowley Sr. contributed an article titled Early Settlers of Flos to the Elmvalle Lance on Sept. 27, 1906, followed by a broader township history in the Dec. 13, 1906, edition.

Elmvale was officially established as a Police Village through a bylaw passed by County Council in June 1894, marking an important milestone in the community's development and local governance.

Today, Elmvalle stands as a vibrant community where small-town charm meets rich history, thriving local businesses, and year-round celebrations. Originally known as Elm Flats, downtown Elmvalle has been the heart of the community for nearly 200 years. Its streets are lined with unique boutiques, locally owned restaurants, professional services, artisan shops, and welcoming businesses that reflect the village's strong community spirit.

From June through August, the Elmvalle Farmers' Market fills the downtown with fresh local flavours and entertainment. Built on the philosophy that vendors must "make it, bake it, or grow it," the market offers seasonal produce, handcrafted goods, baked treats, maple syrup, and much more.

Community remains at the heart of life in Elmvalle. Residents enjoy baseball, pickleball, cycling, swimming, splash pads, parks, walking trails, and playgrounds throughout the warmer months. Colourful hanging flower baskets, popular Bike Nights, and the memorial banner program all contribute to the welcoming atmosphere that draws people downtown.

One of the biggest additions to downtown life in recent years has been the growth of local patios.

99 Bottles has opened its summer patio, welcoming visitors with a new culinary experience in the heart of Elmvalle. Its selection includes beer, wine, spirits, seltzers, non-alcoholic beverages, coffee, lattes, appetizers, snacks, and easy-to-prepare meals. Throughout the season, the business also hosts karaoke, open mic nights, culinary experiences, pairings, and tastings.

Owner Abbey Warren said the patio has become much more than an outdoor seating area.

"Not only is it fabulous to sit out and enjoy a cold beverage on a hot day, but it also gives people the chance to interact with each other. Just the other day I witnessed two friendships begin simply because they were sitting on the patio and a passerby sparked a conversation. This kind of thing brings me such joy!" Steelers has also opened its expansive patio for the



season, creating additional event space for community favourites such as the weekly Bike Night, which brings more than 100 motorcycles to Main Street every Wednesday throughout the summer.

Owner Susan Gilson said the patio not only beautifies the downtown but also creates a welcoming space for customers and their pets while significantly increasing business during the busy summer months.

The Palace Tavern will once again open its side-alley patio during the summer months for its weekly Jam Night. Guests can enjoy the colourful murals, classic rock, and a cold drink while taking in another summer evening in downtown Elmvalle.

Owner Francis Horgan said the patio has become a gathering place for both residents and visitors. While locals regularly enjoy the space, he noted that seasonal visitors account for nearly three times the patio's revenue during the summer months.

"There is a financial spin-off to the other businesses in town while people are enjoying the patio," Horgan said. "They are discussing visiting the other businesses in town."

He added that the patio encourages visitors to spend more time downtown, benefiting neighbouring shops, restaurants, and local businesses.

Ward 1 Councillor and Elmvalle BIA member Matt Garwood said the growth of downtown patios reflects the village's continued investment in its business community. "In recent years, Elmvalle has experienced meaningful growth, with renewed investment and energy bringing Queen Street to life," Garwood said. "The revitalization of the BIA has played a key role in strengthening that momentum and connecting our business community. "Our expanding patio culture, both on Queen Street and beyond, is a big part of that. Whether you're at 99 Bottles, The Palace, or enjoying the outdoor oasis at

Steelers, these spaces bring people together. Supporting local businesses has never been more important, and patios create opportunities for residents and visitors to stay longer, explore more, and directly contribute to the success of our downtown during the summer months." His comments echo those of local business owners, who say the growth of outdoor patios has created more than additional seating—it has strengthened Elmvalle's downtown economy, encouraged visitors to explore neighbouring businesses, and reinforced the sense of community that continues to define the village.

As patios fill with conversation, live music, and visitors, they have become an important part of Elmvalle's summer economy. They encourage people to spend more time downtown, support local businesses, and create the community connections that have long defined the village.

Elmvale offers more than places to shop or events to attend—it offers a way of life. It is a place where history is honoured, neighbours support one another, businesses thrive, and traditions continue to grow. Whether you're here for a weekend, a festival, or a lifetime, Elmvalle invites you to discover its story—and perhaps begin writing your own.



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Letter from the Editor
I must admit, I'm beginning to enjoy this little note between all 23,000 of you and me. What I've enjoyed even more are the notes you've sent back.

As a jack of all trades and a master of none—as I've said before—I truly appreciate your feedback, compliments, interest, and contributions to this publication. Many of you have commented on the tone of the paper. While I spend most of my time writing about our community and for our community, this column is the one place where I allow myself to write directly to you. So I thought I would share a little of my perspective.

There are times when I find myself longing for a quiet place on a dock—a place where the noise of the world fades into the background, where the warm air clears the mind, and where silence becomes less something to endure and more something to embrace. I like to imagine that somewhere in that stillness, life's bigger questions begin to reveal themselves. Not all at once, and perhaps never completely, but slowly enough that you learn to appreciate the journey as much as the answer.

The funny thing is, I don't really want to leave. Home is here. It is found in conversations on

Main Street, the familiar faces at community events, the stories of neighbours helping neighbours, and the small moments that remind us why local journalism matters. We don't have to travel far to discover meaning. Sometimes we simply have to look more closely at the place we've always been.

Each week, as we gather the stories that fill these pages, I'm reminded that life is made up of far more than headlines and deadlines. It is built on kindness, determination, creativity, and the quiet perseverance of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Victories deserve celebrating, but so do the setbacks that teach us resilience and the challenges that reveal character.

In today's fast-moving world, it is easy to become consumed by conflict, distracted by outrage, or discouraged by uncertainty. Yet our communities continue to show us another way forward. We see volunteers who never ask for recognition, small businesses investing in their neighbours, young people chasing ambitious dreams, and seniors whose wisdom reminds us that patience and perspective are just as valuable as progress.

These are the stories worth telling.

This newspaper exists not simply to report what happened, but to preserve what matters. Facts inform us, but stories connect us. They remind us that beyond politics, economics, and the routines of everyday life are the things that give those pursuits meaning: compassion, beauty, hope, laughter, and love.

Perhaps the greatest lesson I've learned is that we can hold both ambition and humility, conviction and compassion, success and disappointment, without allowing any one of them to define us. Character is built not in extraordinary moments alone, but in the quiet decisions we make every day—to listen, to understand, to persevere, and to care.

As you turn these pages, I hope you'll find something that makes you pause. Something that inspires you, challenges you, or simply reminds you that even in uncertain times, there is still much worth celebrating.

Thank you for reading, for supporting local journalism, and for continuing this journey with us.

— Kari Belcourt
Editor

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Could bringing back community dances help strengthen connections and reduce social isolation? Inspired by a recent wedding celebration, one local reader reflects on the important role dance halls and community gatherings once played in bringing people of all ages together. The letter also poses a question to our readers: Would you support regular community dances or social events in Springwater, Barrie, Midland, or the surrounding area? We invite you to read the letter below and share your thoughts. If there is enough interest, perhaps this conversation could be the first step toward making it happen.

Dear Editor:

I recently attended a backyard wedding where people of all ages danced, laughed, and enjoyed each other's company until midnight. The music was wonderful, the dance floor was full, and young and older people danced together. Friends laughed, visited, and celebrated with obvious joy. The party continued until midnight, and nobody wanted it to end.

As I watched the dance floor full of happy faces, I couldn't help but wonder: Where have all the dance halls gone?

When I was younger, dancing was a regular part of life. We had community halls, dances, live bands, and places where people gathered simply to enjoy themselves. Friendships were formed, relationships began, and communities grew stronger. It gave us something to look forward to. Today, many of those places have disappeared.

As a senior who spends part of the year in Florida, I've noticed that many adult lifestyle communities in the United States offer regular dances, social gatherings, fitness programs, educational opportunities, and countless ways for people to connect with one another. People remain active, engaged, and socially connected well into their 90s and beyond. This is not simply entertainment—it is community, and it helps people stay active and engaged in life and, in many cases, gives them the will to live.

Here at home, I often hear people say they feel isolated and forgotten. They miss having places to meet others, enjoy music, dance, and simply have fun. And this is not just a senior issue. Young adults are often looking for alternatives to bars and online socializing or dating. Middle-aged adults whose families have left home would

welcome the opportunity to socialize with people their own age. Single adults looking to make new friendships would welcome the opportunity to meet prospective partners face-to-face instead of through an online dating app.

Perhaps what many of us are missing is not another program, but more opportunities to simply get together, enjoy music, make friends, and have fun.

I would be interested in hearing the thoughts of other readers. Would there be interest in monthly or biweekly dances in Springwater, Barrie, or Midland? Would people attend events featuring music from different generations? Would they welcome more opportunities to socialize face-to-face rather than through online screens?

I know what my answer would be, but I would be interested to find out if other people feel the same way I do. I suspect many people between the ages of 55 and 85 have been thinking exactly the same thing but haven't had anyone to articulate it.

For years now, I have been distressed by the lack of social activity available to our older generation. I see how healthy and active seniors are in Florida because the programs are there to support them, and they enjoy life through regular social interaction.



This is a photograph of Mark Sternberg's cousin Jeanette Müller from a town of 350 people in Schlusselfau in Frensdorf, close to Bamberg Germany. She enjoyed her time here in Elmvale so much she took the Springwater news home to catch up on what she saw while she was here!

I have many ideas to offer, but I am just one voice. In my opinion, governments need to step up and provide more opportunities for the generation that helped build this country, while also offering our young people alternatives to spending their social lives online. Everyone I talk to acknowledges that our senior population lived in a special time. Life was simpler, people cared about one another, older people were respected, and young people had safe, social places to gather. This is what we need in our communities today, and I would be very pleased to help make it happen.

I do understand the complexities of a project of this magnitude, but I think it is both necessary and needed in today's world, where so many people experience anxiety and insecurity. After reading your editorial letter and seeing your dedication to the well-being of our communities, I feel you could be instrumental in helping start this worthwhile initiative, because that is, after all, what community should be about.

Your comments would be welcome. Many thanks.

Yvonne Mostowy
Midhurst, Ontario

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Last night Craighurst Women's Institute had dinner out, our usual June fun fest. No opening Ode, no Mary Stewart Collect, no minutes, no treasurer report. The members all sighed with relief that they could eat, drink and be merry without much formality. Talk ranged from archeological digging in Craighurst to the state of the CPR crossing on Horseshoe Valley Road (like the Canadian army has been driving tanks across it, followed by 50 gravel trucks followed by Hannibal and his elephants. Although come to think of it I haven't seen much wild life cross the tracks, because it's too bumpy. Are you reading this CPR and County of Simcoe?) I have got off topic. The digging is finding sites I call "middens". It's old English for garbage piles. The Huron/Wendat had them too, when their clay pots broke, or their tobacco pipes or their tv remotes - just checking, gentle reader, that you're paying attention! Anyway before building new homes one must check underground for things of interest and "bordenize" the whole area. Now back to dinner out. We wished all the absentee members well, made plans for the Planning Meeting, the Craighurst Brochure we intend writing, and for picnics in the Park this summer. Till next month - adieu.



ECNS Congratulates 2026 Grads



Elmvale Co-operative Nursery School would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to all of our preschool graduates! We are so proud of everything our students have accomplished this year and wish them all the best as they begin their next exciting chapter.

As we celebrate the end of another fantastic year, we are excited to announce that registration for the 2026-2027 school year is now open. Families interested in joining our nursery school community are encouraged to visit elmvalenurseryschool.ca for program details and registration information.

We look forward to welcoming new and returning families this fall! See you in September!



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Huronia Historical Parks Celebrates National Indigenous Peoples Day with Culture, History and Community

MIDLAND — Huronia Historical Parks welcomed hundreds of visitors to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day with a series of immersive events highlighting the rich traditions, history and contemporary culture of First Nations and Métis communities.

The celebrations, held at both Sainte-Marie among the Hurons and Discovery Harbour, continued a tradition of more than 20 years of recognizing National Indigenous Peoples Day through educational programming, cultural performances and hands-on activities that encouraged learning and reflection.

At Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, visitors experienced a full day of interactive programming featuring Indigenous knowledge keepers, performers and artisans. Drum performances by the Eagle Flight Singers, Segmekwe Métis hand drummers and Haudenosaunee water drummers were among the highlights, alongside gathering ceremonies marking the significance of National Indigenous Peoples Day and the summer solstice.

Guests also enjoyed longhouse storytelling, Indigenous games, traditional crafts and demonstrations of canoeing techniques and bow-and-spindle fire-starting. Indigenous vendors were on site throughout the day, while the cookhouse served traditional dishes including Three Sisters soup.

The celebrations continued with Legends of Lacrosse, which honoured the Indigenous origins of the Creator's Game. Professional



A large drum group will perform at Sainte-Marie as part of National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations on June 18.

lacrosse player Brad Kri of the Toronto Rock joined renowned lacrosse historian and former world champion Jim Calder to share the history and cultural importance of the sport.

Young athletes also participated in skills development sessions led by Kri, while families enjoyed traditional games, lacrosse challenges, corn husk doll-making, miniature clay pot crafts and freshly roasted bannock prepared over an open fire.

Meanwhile, Discovery Harbour hosted the annual Métis Rendez-vous, organized by the Georgian Bay Métis Council. The free community celebration featured Métis music, artisans, cultural demonstrations, a children's activity zone and interactive experiences that showcased the traditions and heritage of the local Métis community.

The event took place at a site recognized by many as the birthplace of Simcoe County's Métis community, where Métis families settled following the War of 1812.

This year's programming also introduced visitors to Huronia Historical Parks' new "Stay the Story" overnight experiences, allowing guests to extend their visits in waterfront cabins at both historic sites. The overnight packages offered opportunities for additional reflection, self-guided learning and deeper connections to the region's Indigenous history and landscapes.

General Manager Will Baird said the annual events reflect Huronia Historical Parks' ongoing commitment to celebrating Indigenous cultures in ways that are authentic, educational and community-driven.

"From the resonant sound of the drum to the enduring spirit of the Creator's Game and the artistry of Métis traditions, each gathering offered a meaningful opportunity to learn, connect and celebrate the cultures that continue to shape the region," Baird said.

The annual celebrations continue to be among Huronia Historical Parks' signature events, bringing together local residents, visitors and Indigenous communities to recognize the enduring contributions of First Nations and Métis peoples while fostering greater understanding through shared experiences.



The Métis Rendezvous at Discovery Harbour offers a free celebration of Metis traditions and culture on June 21.



Brad Kri of the Toronto Rock will be leading skills workshops for young lacrosse players at Legends of Lacrosse on June 21.



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Message from MP Shipley



federal government is up to in Ottawa. While I am always happy to answer your questions about policy, a significant part of my job is to help constituents navigate federal government programs and services.

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office by telephone or email to discuss your specific situation. Then we can let you know what steps we might be able to take to assist you.

When contacting my office, you will often reach one of my knowledgeable team members as I am juggling responsibilities both here in Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte and in Ottawa. If you would like to reach me directly to share your concerns around policy, legislation, or government service the fastest way to connect with me is by sending an email to Doug.Shipley@parl.gc.ca

With the various demands on my time every day I may not be able to respond immediately. I do review all emails and if I think that you will be best served by a direct conversation with a member of my team then I will ask them to follow up. Otherwise, you will receive a response from me.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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

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2026 Municipal Election Candidate List

Public Notice: 2026 Municipal Election Candidate Nominations Underway

Residents across North Simcoe are beginning to see the field of candidates take shape for the 2026 Municipal Election.

Municipalities continue to accept nomination papers for mayor, deputy mayor and council positions, with additional candidates expected before the nomination deadline of 2 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 21, 2026. The official list of certified candidates will be released following the close of nominations.

Below are the candidates who had filed nomination papers as of June 30, 2026.

Penetanguishene Councillors (5 to be elected)
Mayor (1 to be elected)

Douglas R. Leroux
Marie Richardson
George Vadeboncoeur
Bill Waters

Deputy Mayor (1 to be elected)
Midland
Mayor (1 to be elected)

Dan La Rose
Suzanne Marchand
William (Bill) Gordon

Deputy Mayor (1 to be elected)
Beth Prost
Councillors (7 to be elected)

Tyler Downer
Blain Dusome
Sheldon East
Jerry Gagnon

Eric (Howie) Major
Cody Oschefski
Jaz Patel
Springwater Township

Mayor (1 to be elected)
Jennifer Coughlin (Incumbent)

Mike Douglas
Liz Grummett
Anita Moore

Ward 1 Councillor (1 to be elected)
Matt Garwood

John Spring
Drew Ironstone
Sean Miskimins
Councillors (3 to be elected)

Don Anthony
Mario Galluzzo
Jessie Garland
Kelly Peter Helowka
Irene Jankowski
Stephen McNamara
Karen Zulynik

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Danielle Alexander
Gregory Davidson
Ward 3 Councillor (1 to be elected)
Wanda Maw-Chapman
Ward 4 Councillor (1 to be elected)
Alex Saldana
Christine Spellman
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Mike Campbell
Phil Fisher
Tiny Township
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Dave Brunelle
David Evans
Deputy Mayor (1 to be elected)

The North Simcoe Springwater News will provide ongoing election coverage leading up to voting day, including candidate profiles, interviews, municipal issue coverage and opportunities for readers to submit questions for local candidates.

Readers are encouraged to stay informed and participate in the democratic process as communities across North Simcoe prepare to elect their next municipal councils.

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Midland Declares Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic

By Kari Belcourt
North Simcoe Springwater News

MIDLAND — The Town of Midland has officially declared intimate partner violence (IPV) an epidemic, a move that Huronia Transition Homes (HTH) says recognizes a long-standing crisis affecting individuals, families and communities across Simcoe County.

The declaration, made by Midland council on June 24, follows years of advocacy from organizations across Ontario calling for governments to recognize intimate partner violence as a public safety, public health and human rights issue rather than a series of isolated incidents.

"This declaration matters because naming the crisis is a critical step toward changing the systems that allow it to continue," said Haily MacDonald, executive director of Huronia Transition Homes. "For years, survivors and advocates have been clear: intimate partner violence is preventable, femicide is preventable, and women are not disposable. Midland's declaration honours those whose lives have been taken, validates survivors who continue to live with violence and coercive control, and creates momentum for the resources, accountability and coordinated action our community urgently needs."

According to Huronia Transition Homes, intimate partner violence has far-reaching impacts on physical and mental health, housing stability, financial security, children's well-being and overall community safety. The organization notes that Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and gender-diverse people, racialized women, women with disabilities, low-income women, rural women and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community face increased risks due to systemic barriers including poverty, discrimination, housing shortages and limited access to support services.

Huronia Transition Homes says its own statistics highlight the scope of the issue. During the 2025-26 year, the organization served 891 women, answered 2,818 crisis calls, provided 7,362 hours of counselling, facilitated 995 group sessions and recorded more than 6,000 instances of women participating in support groups. Staff also spent more than 67,000 hours working with women experiencing violence, nearly 47,000 hours supporting women facing homelessness and more than 16,000 hours assisting survivors of human trafficking.

The declaration also reflects recommendations from the Culleton, Kuzyk and Warmerdam Inquest, which examined the 2015 murders of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam in Renfrew County. Among its recommendations was a call for Ontario to



formally declare intimate partner violence an epidemic.

Huronia Transition Homes is encouraging all levels of government to build on declarations with tangible action, including increased investment in violence prevention programs, shelters, affordable housing, income supports, Indigenous-led services and training for police, health care providers, legal professionals and social service agencies.

"Today is an important moment for Midland, but it cannot be the final step," MacDonald said. "A declaration must be matched with action. Survivors need safe places to go, meaningful financial security, trauma-informed and culturally safe supports, and systems that believe them rather than blame them. Our community has the knowledge and the responsibility to prevent violence before it becomes lethal."

Huronia Transition Homes has served women and children experiencing violence in Simcoe County for more than 40 years. What began as an emergency shelter in Midland has expanded into a range of wraparound services supporting more than 1,000 women and nearly 200 children each year.

The organization's 24-hour crisis line is available throughout Simcoe County at 1-800-461-1750.

Banana Café Bike Opens at Johnson's Beach for Summer Season

By Kari Belcourt
North Simcoe Springwater News

BARRIE — Beachgoers visiting Johnson's Beach this summer can now grab a specialty coffee while enjoying the waterfront, as Banana Café Bike has officially opened for the season.

The mobile café is offering a selection of hot and cold beverages, including its signature Iced Banana Cream Latte, cappuccinos, espresso, iced Americanos, hot chocolate, tea and bottled water, providing convenient refreshments just steps from the shoreline.

Banana Café Bike is also making local history as the first approved food and beverage vendor to operate directly at Johnson's Beach, supporting the City of Barrie's efforts to expand amenities and services along the waterfront.

Unlike many mobile food vendors, Banana Café Bike operates without a traditional generator. Instead, the café uses a combination of propane and solar power, creating a quieter and more environmentally friendly experience for visitors.

"Johnson's Beach is one of Barrie's hidden gems, and we're thrilled to bring a unique café experience to the waterfront this summer," said Shaun Cann, founder and CEO of Banana Café Bike. "Whether you're heading out for a morning walk, spending the day at the beach, or cycling along the shoreline, we wanted to create a place where people can pause, connect, and enjoy a great cup of coffee."

Banana Café Bike first launched in 2025 as Barrie's first café-on-wheels concept, serving handcrafted espresso from a compact, customizable mobile setup. Since then, the business has become a familiar presence at community events, festivals, corporate functions and charitable fundraisers throughout the region. Johnson's Beach, located along Kempenfelt Bay, is a popular summer destination known for its sandy shoreline, waterfront trails and scenic views.

Banana Café Bike will operate at Johnson's Beach throughout the summer season, weather permitting.



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.

Swoop Fiber Public Wi-Fi:
Council supported expanding the agreement with SwoopFiber to provide free public Wi-Fi at the Elmvale Community Hall and parking area, supporting events like the Elmvale Farmers' Market. Staff will review technical, privacy, safety, and accessibility requirements before considering expansion into local parks and other public locations.

Utility Billing Frequency, Costs & Savings:
Staff have been directed to report back on the feasibility, costs, and timelines for moving to a monthly or bi-monthly utility billing cycle.

Water Leak Adjustment Policy:
Council has adopted the Water Leak Adjustment Policy, effective retroactively to January 1, 2026. Property owners who believe they may qualify for an adjustment are encouraged to contact the Township Finance Department for more information. The policy establishes a formal process for requesting financial relief in eligible circumstances. While property owners remain responsible for maintaining their plumbing systems, Council recognizes that unexpected water leaks can result in significant financial hardship, providing a fair and transparent process to support residents when qualifying situations arise.

Parking on Train Avenue East:
Council approved to restrict parking on the south side of Train Avenue East between Yonge Street South and Simcoe Street due to safety concerns.

Hydroseeding in Elmvale:
Hydroseeding was approved to restore areas in northeast Elmvale following ditching work, based on resident feedback about soil conditions.

ALL SPRINGWATER COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT A BRIEF INFORMATIONAL, COMMUNITY FOCUSED PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THEIR WARD

Letter to the Editor Disclaimer

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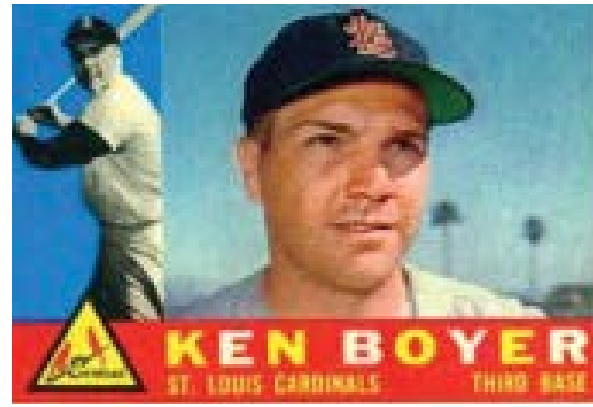
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Is the Baseball Card Industry Finished!



It was 1980 when a cataclysmic event occurred with baseball cards. One US District Judge ruled that Topps, the sole producer of baseball cards since 1956, had "unlawfully restrained and monopolized trade in...pocket-sized pictures of active major league players [some minor league players] to five-year contracts, giving Topps exclusive rights to their photos and facsimile signatures to be sold with confectionary products or alone.

The compensation from Topps to the players for these contracts was \$5 to sign and \$125 a year. That was it. No percentage of sales, nothing. For years the players, who didn't know any better, were happy with the \$125 just to be part of the Topps baseball card set.

Marvin Miller, the newly appointed first executive director of the Players Association came across a number of these contracts with Topps, he was aghast.

Miller told the players they were grossly being short changed. So, he began to negotiate a substantial improvement in the terms of their contracts with Topps, doubling the payment of \$250 annually and giving them 8% of the annual sales up to \$4 million and 10% on sales above that.

The Judge's ruling allowed other card companies to seek the right of an agreement with the Players Association to produce their own baseball cards.

All of a sudden Donruss [confectionary company] and Fleer introduced sets in 1981 and in 1986 Donruss introduced the 'Rated Rookies' knowing that elite rookie cards would jump in price.

By the 90's, the baseball card industry had exploded. In 1988 Score became the fourth card company to obtain a license and the following year, Upper Deck burst onto the scene with a mammoth 800 card set. Not only were there five licensed baseball card companies, but all of them were flooding the market with numerous subsets to their main product.

Between the over production of cards and the proliferation of all the different sets in the market, people got turned off by all the greed in the baseball card industry.

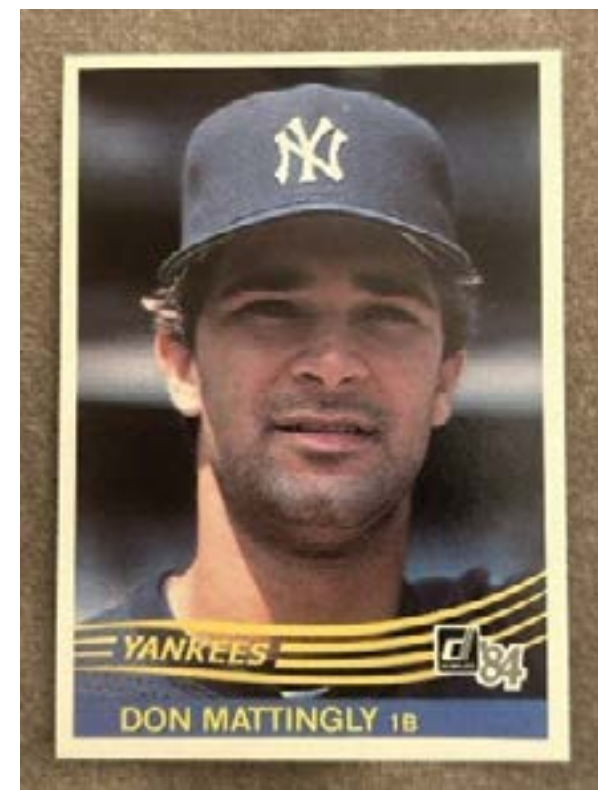
The mass market hobby for children largely vanished, the industry has since consolidated into a high premium, tech-integrated collectors market for adults. The "Bubble-gum pack" era is dead.

Mass production by the industry giants has flooded the hobby with more retail boxes, causing every day base cards and common inserts to hold almost no resale value. We now have the [controversial] modern grading system.

Where is the baseball card hobby headed...

which leads hockey, football, basketball, non-sports in the same direction?

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



BARRIE BAYCATS UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Thu. July 2 – 7:38 p.m.
vs. Guelph Royals
Athletic Kulture Stadium

Fri. July 3 – 7:30 p.m.
at Toronto Maple Leafs
Dominico Field at Christie Pits

Sat. July 4 – 4:08 p.m.
vs. Hamilton Cardinals
Athletic Kulture Stadium

Thu. July 9 – 7:38 p.m.
vs. Welland Jackfish
Athletic Kulture Stadium

Fri. July 10 – 7:07 p.m.
at Brantford Red Sox
Arnold Anderson Stadium

Thu. July 16 – 7:38 p.m.
vs. Toronto Maple Leafs
Athletic Kulture Stadium

Fri. July 17 – 7:35 p.m.
at Hamilton Cardinals
Bernie Arbour Memorial Stadium

Sat. July 18 – 4:08 p.m.
vs. London Majors
Athletic Kulture Stadium

SPORTS Baycats Belt Nine Home Runs in Dominant Win Over Panthers

The Barrie Baycats delivered a record-setting offensive performance on June 21, blasting nine home runs in an 18-7 victory over the Kitchener Panthers. Barrie took control from the opening inning when Francisco Hernandez launched a two-run homer to put the Baycats ahead 2-0. Clayton Keyes followed with a two-run shot in the second inning before Barrie broke the game open in the third.

Noah Hull connected for a three-run home run, and Nolan Machibroda followed immediately with a solo blast as the Baycats built an 8-0 lead.

Kitchener got on the scoreboard with a solo home run by Rafael Gross in the bottom of the third, but Barrie answered in the fourth. Brandon Hernandez hit another solo homer before Hull drove in an additional run with an RBI single to make it 10-1.

The Panthers added solo home runs from Josh Williams and Petey Kiefer in the fifth inning, but the Baycats quickly ended any hopes of a comeback.

Hull delivered the biggest blow in the sixth, crushing his second home run of the afternoon—a three-run shot that extended Barrie's lead to 13-3. Canice Ejoh added another solo homer in the seventh, while Kristyan Puyol-Genossar drove in Ryan Rijo with a sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Barrie capped its remarkable offensive display in the ninth when Carson Barker launched a three-run home run, giving the Baycats their ninth long ball of the game and an 18-4 advantage.

Kitchener scored three late runs, but the outcome was never in doubt.

Hull led the Baycats at the plate, finishing 3-for-6 with two home runs and seven RBIs. Machibroda also collected three hits, including a home run, while Francisco Hernandez, Clayton Keyes, Brandon Hernandez, Ejoh and Barker each homered.

Saul Vasquez earned the win on the mound for Barrie, while Samuel Quintana was charged with the loss for Kitchener.

The Baycats return home Thursday to host the Brantford Red Sox at Athletic Kulture Stadium. First pitch is scheduled for 7:38 p.m.



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We are proud to unveil the new logo of the Flos Agricultural Society, the home of the Elmvale Fall Fair.

For over a century and a half, our Society has been built on hard work, dedication, and a deep commitment to the Elmvale community. This new logo reflects that legacy while looking confidently toward the future.

The refreshed branding honors our agricultural roots through the imagery of the barn, silo, and flowing fields, symbols that have long defined our landscape and way of life. The Canadian leaf represents our strong and proud connection to our country and the land we are fortunate to call home.

The colors draw inspiration from the warmth and beauty of fall, our season of homecoming and celebration, capturing the spirit of the Elmvale Fall Fair that brings our community together year after year.

This new logo will carry us forward for decades to come, reflecting our ongoing commitment to agriculture and to this cherished annual event.

Here's to many more sunny fall days at the Elmvale Fall Fair. – Flos Agricultural Society Executive, Tanya, Matt, Sally, Brenda, Pat, and Jan



Hey Dads!

Did you ever have pets that gave birth to more pets at your house? Did you ever have to give any of them away? Or maybe you were very smart and intentional to have valuable pets so when those pets had more pets you could sell some of the new pets. You might recall one of my other stories that described our three cats each giving birth to five kittens for a total of 15 kittens.

Despite what some of the small people in my house wanted, we weren't going to keep all those kittens. We've got a barn with some hens and ducks and the occasional cow and pigs in the past so we can use a few cats to keep the mice under control. But not EIGHTEEN! And cats cannot live on mice alone. Keeping mice away can get expensive when you add a \$30 or \$40 giant bag of cat food to each grocery bill.

We started spreading the word (well, I did most of the spreading) that we had kittens to give away. I told friends and family but that didn't make much of an impact on the pet population around here. So, I put up a post on social media, being careful with my words, as I would soon learn that social media frowns upon the sale of "animals and animal parts". I

was not even "selling" animals or animal parts! I was just trying to give them away out of the goodness of my heart!

After about a week we had managed to free ourselves from the frenzy of felines...almost. Five left. We were going to keep two (Runty, Tubby, or Louie, which is short for "Mangy Illusion", an affectionate name given to a kitten by a teenager in my house that wasn't even mangy at all). A nice lady asked if I could deliver 2 into town. Of course I could!

As I was getting ready to go to town I asked the kids to collect kittens. We realized we would have to give away 2 of the kids' favorites – Runty, Tubby, and/or Louie. This resulted in tears and pleading and protesting and chanting and children going on strike with fists in the air wielding signs and shouting in unison, "Keep The Kittens! Keep The Kittens!" Or at least that's how it seemed to me.

Here I had a dad decision to make. I had an opportunity to free our family from the remaining cabal of cats. I asked the boys to load up Tubby and Louie into a nice, ventilated box. This we soon learned was Mission Impossible. No matter how fast we folded cardboard or taped seams those kittens would scramble out of that box! We first tried both

in one box then we tried each one in their own roomy box then we tried both in a bigger roomier comfortier box but to no avail. I was now late for my meeting with Nice Lady. Finally, with four of us herding kittens and being lacerated by claws we were able to get them in a nice big box and keep it shut. I jumped in the van for the 20-minute drive to town. You'll never guess what happened...2 minutes down the road and Tubby and Louie were perched on my lap gazing out the window as the pastures rolled by. And there they sat like royalty until we got to town and they went to their new home. So long, Louie and Tubby.

As I finished my errands in town I reflected on the day and felt like a bad dad. Why would I give away the kittens the kids wanted to keep? Maybe it was a mistake and I apologized to the kids when I got home. They forgave me and haven't brought it up since. They still have Runty and a couple others to keep them company. Maybe you've made a mistake and need to apologize to your kids about something. Just do it, dad! Time flies! Make every moment count! Even the kittens-in-the-car ones.

Jason Weening counts kittens with his 10 forgiving kids and 1 forgiving wife. Get his book on Amazon, "Yes, Dear...I'm Watching Them".

Minesing Moments

Greetings everyone! Summer is here and the forecast for this week sounds like it really means it. It will be great for those on vacation and for the kids who are out of school and into day camps.

Mary Downey is Turning 90! Mary Downey is having a "Come and Go" party to celebrate her 90th Birthday. Family and Friends are invited to help Mary celebrate this special milestone. The party is on Sunday July 26th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Elmvale Lion's Club (1979 Flos Road 7 West, Springwater). No gifts please.

Recent activities in our area have brought attention that there are "sales people" coming to people's doors that may be questionable. Please be aware of this and decline if you aren't comfortable with speaking with them. Remember that you do not have to open your door to anyone you don't want to. If you aren't expecting someone, don't feel the need to open the door. Also a good reminder is to keep your vehicles locked in the driveway and to also keep your outbuildings secure. With more traffic coming through the village during the summer months, it may lead to unwanted crime. If you see anyone around the village who appears suspicious, try to get

the best description of them and of any vehicles they may be using and report it to the OPP.

The baseball diamond has been a flurry of ball games and it's fantastic to see. A lot of great ball players have come out of Minesing and I bet many of these young players will join in the journey with baseball as it seems to be bread into the genes of Minesing kids. Come out to watch a game or two, they are always looking for spectators and watching little ones learn the sport is pretty funny to watch.

Until next time, travel safe wherever you may go! Slow down, keep a safe distance between cars and leave in plenty of time so you aren't rushed. Cheers!

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|  7PM/19H Fri, July 17th /vendredi 17 juillet ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH Les Rugissants Voices of Ukraine | |
|  7PM/19H Fri, July 31st/ vendredi 31 juillet MIDLAND ALLIANCE CHURCH Festival Strings | |
|  7PM/19H Thur, Aug 6th/jeudi 6 août MIDLAND ALLIANCE CHURCH Eternal Romantics | |
|  2PM/14H Sun, Aug 9th/dimanche 9 août MIDLAND CULTURAL CENTRE Kevin Chen ♦ Piano | |

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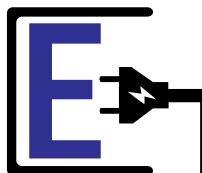




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Municipal Politics

By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News
 As municipal election season begins across North Simcoe, residents once again have the opportunity to shape the future of their communities. Municipal government influences many of the issues closest to home—from roads and recreation to housing, development, taxation and community planning.
 At North Simcoe Springwater News, we want to hear directly from residents. Whether you live in Midland, Penetanguishene, Springwater or Tiny Township, your voice matters. What issues should your next council focus on? What changes would you like to see over the next four years?
 This series will examine the key issues facing each municipality leading into the 2026 municipal election.

Springwater Township: Balancing Growth and Rural Identity
 Springwater Township has experienced significant change over the past decade. Previous council terms have seen debate surrounding transparency, council decorum, political alliances, the Barrie boundary adjustment and the use of Strong Mayor Powers. While these issues will continue to receive attention throughout the election campaign, another topic is increasingly shaping the township's future—growth and development.
 At the June 17, 2026, council meeting, two major planning applications generated considerable public interest.

The first involved a proposed zoning by-law amendment for lands at 5 Finlay Mill Road and 1153, 1159 and 1167 Bayfield Street North, submitted on behalf of Chattha Group Bayfield Ltd. The second involved a zoning by-law amendment for 1662 George Johnston Road, submitted on behalf of Tiny Hoppers.
 Following the public meetings, council referred both applications back to staff for further review after receiving comments from residents and public agencies.
 The meetings attracted a large turnout, particularly from Midhurst residents, who voiced concerns regarding traffic safety, neighbourhood compatibility, noise, lighting and the overall impact of future development. The level of participation reflected the growing interest residents have in shaping how their communities evolve. These discussions raise broader questions that extend beyond individual planning applications.
 What kind of community do Springwater residents want in five, 10, 25 or even 50 years?
 For more than two centuries, Springwater has been recognized as a rural municipality rooted in agriculture, heritage and close-knit communities. Small villages, established neighbourhoods and a strong sense of local identity have long defined the township.

However, population growth continues to reshape the municipality. According to Springwater's Growth Management Study, the township's population is projected to reach approximately 32,500 residents by 2056—an increase of roughly 11,000 people from 2021.

Growth is expected to occur unevenly throughout the township. Hillsdale, Snow Valley, Elmvale, Centre Vespria and Midhurst are all expected to experience significant residential expansion, while smaller communities such as Minesing and Phelpston are projected to see more modest growth.

The Midhurst Secondary Plan continues to guide one of the township's largest growth areas, addressing future housing, transportation, servicing, environmental protection and community infrastructure.
 Springwater also continues to navigate the long-term effects of the Barrie boundary adjustment and ongoing infrastructure challenges, including wastewater capacity that has affected the pace of development.
 Another consideration is Springwater's proximity to Barrie. Less than five kilometres from parts of the township, Barrie continues to address significant urban challenges, including homelessness and encampments following the declaration of a municipal State of Emergency in September 2025. As Barrie continues to grow, some residents question how Springwater can preserve its rural character while accommodating provincial housing targets and increasing development pressures.

Many residents support additional housing, childcare facilities, healthcare services and community amenities. The challenge may not be whether Springwater should grow, but rather how that growth should occur.

Should future development maintain the township's traditional village character? How can council encourage new housing while protecting agricultural land, heritage and established neighbourhoods? What investments are needed in roads, recreation, emergency services and infrastructure to support a growing population?

Elmvale remains the township's only traditional Main Street, serving as a commercial and community hub for residents across Springwater. As other areas continue to develop, residents may ask what future community centres will look like. Will they become commercial plazas centred around traffic corridors, or will they reflect the walkable, community-oriented downtowns that have long characterized rural Ontario?

These are questions the next council will likely face throughout its term.
 As election campaigns begin, many want to hear from Springwater residents.
 What is your biggest concern for the future of your community? Is it growth, taxes, infrastructure, transparency, recreation, roads, environmental protection, housing or something else entirely?
 Your voice will help shape our ongoing municipal election coverage throughout North Simcoe.

Tiny Township: Permanent Residents, Essential Services and the Future of Rural Living
 Tiny Township enters the 2026 municipal election with several high-profile issues already dominating public discussion. While the proposed administration centre has become one of the defining political debates of the current council term, many year-round residents are asking a broader question:

Are the essential services they rely on every day keeping pace with the needs of the community?
 Tiny Township is unlike many municipalities in Simcoe County. Home to approximately 13,000 permanent residents, its population nearly doubles during the summer months as seasonal property owners and visitors arrive. Tourism remains a vital part of the local economy, supporting businesses, restaurants and recreational amenities throughout the township.

However, permanent residents often have different priorities than seasonal visitors. While tourism contributes significantly to the local economy, those who call Tiny home year-round depend on reliable emergency medical services, safe winter roads, healthcare access, childcare, transportation and other essential services every day of the year.

Emergency Medical Services

in North Simcoe

Tiny Township's rural geography presents unique challenges for emergency response. Simcoe County Paramedic Services cover a large geographic area, meaning travel distances can result in longer response times than those experienced in urban municipalities.

Current data indicates that approximately 90 per cent of emergency calls in Tiny Township receive a paramedic response within 18 to 23 minutes, depending on the location and severity of the emergency. By comparison, the nationally recognized benchmark for life-threatening emergencies, such as cardiac arrest, is eight minutes or less, recognizing that survival rates decrease significantly with every minute without advanced medical intervention.

Volunteer firefighters are frequently dispatched alongside paramedics, providing life-saving care before an ambulance arrives. While this integrated response has improved outcomes in many rural communities, residents continue to question whether current service levels are sufficient as Tiny's permanent population grows and ages.

For many permanent residents—particularly seniors, young families and those living farther from major service centres—emergency response is more than a statistic. It is a quality-of-life issue that can determine how quickly someone receives life-saving care.

Although emergency medical services are delivered by Simcoe County, municipal councils play an important role in advocating for improved service levels and ensuring residents' concerns are heard. As the election approaches, voters may wish to ask candidates how they intend to advocate for better emergency medical services for Tiny Township.

Winter Road Maintenance
 Winter road maintenance remains another significant concern for permanent residents.
 Tiny Township maintains approximately 470 kilometres of roads across one of the largest rural municipalities in Simcoe County. Heavy snowfalls can make travel difficult, particularly on secondary roads where residents often wait longer for snowplows to arrive.

Unlike urban municipalities, where essential services are often only minutes away, many Tiny residents must travel considerable distances simply to reach work, school, daycare, medical appointments or grocery stores.

For permanent residents, snow removal is more than a seasonal inconvenience. Delayed road clearing can affect emergency response, employment, school transportation and access to essential services.

As development continues throughout the township, residents may question whether current winter maintenance services remain adequate or whether future budgets should prioritize additional investment in snow removal equipment, staffing and road maintenance.

The Administration Centre Debate
 The proposed municipal administration centre remains one of the most debated issues in Tiny Township. Supporters argue the new building is a necessary investment that replaces aging municipal offices dating back to 1967 while improving accessibility, operational efficiency and service delivery.

Opponents, including members of the Stop the Build movement, have questioned both the size and cost of the approximately 32,000-square-foot facility. They argue the project represents an unnecessary long-term financial burden for taxpayers and have expressed concerns regarding consultation and municipal spending priorities.

The debate has extended well beyond council chambers, resulting in public demonstrations, legal proceedings and ongoing discussions surrounding transparency and governance.

Taxes, Growth and Community Priorities
 Like municipalities across Ontario, Tiny faces increasing infrastructure costs, inflationary pressures and growing demands for community services while maintaining one of the lower municipal tax rates in Simcoe County.

Residents continue to debate whether municipal spending reflects the priorities of permanent residents. Should future investment focus on administrative infrastructure, or should additional funding be directed toward emergency medical services, winter road maintenance, healthcare access and other essential services?

Beach access also remains an ongoing topic of discussion. Historical shoreline deeds have created a unique situation where much of the waterfront is privately owned to the water's edge, leading to continuing conversations about public access and shoreline management.

At the same time, Tiny continues to experience gradual growth while working to preserve its rural character and natural environment.

Looking Ahead
 For many voters, this election will not simply be about one building or one budget. It will be about determining how Tiny Township balances fiscal responsibility with providing reliable everyday services for the people who call the township home year-round.

Can emergency medical response be improved? Is winter road maintenance meeting residents' expectations? How should tax dollars be prioritized? What investments are needed to support permanent residents while continuing to welcome seasonal visitors?

As North Simcoe Springwater News continues its municipal election coverage, we invite Tiny Township residents to share their perspectives.

What issues matter most to you? Is it emergency medical services, snow removal, roads, taxes, healthcare, beach access, environmental protection, growth or another concern entirely?

The future of Tiny Township will ultimately be shaped by the priorities its residents choose to bring to the ballot box.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
 What municipal issues matter most to you?
 As we prepare our 2026 Municipal Election Coverage, we're asking readers to help guide our reporting.
 Tell us what you want us to investigate.

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Foxes in the Garden

By Cathy Krar, Master Gardener

Some plants are simply beautiful. Others carry a story.

Foxglove is one of the rare few that holds both myth and medicine in a single stem.

Botanically known as *Digitalis* (Latin for “finger”), foxglove has long been wrapped in folklore. An older name, “folk’s glove,” hints at its connection to fairy lore. It was once believed that wherever foxgloves grew, fairies were close by.

With their tall spires of tube-shaped, “mitten-like” flowers, foxgloves certainly look the part. Legend tells us that fairies gave these floral mittens to foxes, granting them invisibility or heightened stealth. With this magical advantage, the fox could quietly raid henhouses, steal eggs, and slip past even the most watchful hunter.

Beyond the stories, foxglove is a striking addition to the garden. Most varieties are biennial, taking two years to grow from seed to maturity. In their second year, they can produce up to two million seeds before completing their life cycle. They prefer full morning sun with afternoon shade, and thrive in well-drained soil rich in organic matter. Typically found in shades of purple, pink, and white, they grow three to four feet tall and are well suited to zones 4 to 9.

Foxgloves bring an unmistakable English cottage garden feel. Paired with contrasting textures and complementary blooms, they create a soft, woodland effect. Try planting them alongside hosta, ferns, astilbe, hydrangea, salvia, echinacea, columbine, or astrantia.

They are also a favourite of hummingbirds and bumblebees, blooming from late spring through mid-summer.

But this is where the story shifts.

Foxglove is toxic to humans and pets and may cause skin irritation. In rare cases, ingestion could prove fatal. Gloves are recommended when handling, and it is best planted away from edible crops.

At the same time, foxglove has played an important role in modern medicine. Compounds derived from *Digitalis* are used to produce digoxin, a prescription drug commonly used in cardiology.

For me, that connection is deeply personal.

My daughter was born with two holes in her heart. Before surgery could be attempted, she needed to gain strength, and digoxin became part of her daily care for many months. At just nine months old, she underwent successful open-heart surgery at SickKids Hospital.

It is hard not to see a little magic in that.

Historically, foxglove was used in the 18th century to treat conditions such as epilepsy, inflammation, and tuberculosis, though these uses are no longer supported today. Research continues to explore its potential in more



Caption: Foxgloves, *Digitalis purpurea*
Credit: Matthijsa van den Berg, via wikimedia commons

targeted cancer therapies.

Foxglove has always lived at the intersection of story and science. It appears in fairy tales, poems, and mysteries. Some say planting it near your home offers protection against mischief and bewitchment. Just don't pick it. Legend warns that doing so invites bad luck and the displeasure of fairies and pixies.

Foxglove reminds us that a garden can be more than a collection of plants. It can hold

stories, memory, and meaning. And every now and then, a little bit of magic.

Consider This: If you love the look but prefer a non-toxic option, consider penstemon, lupin, larkspur, delphinium, fireweed, or snapdragons.

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

June is National Pollinator Month

June is National Pollinator Month initiated to raise awareness of the incredible role

350,000 species of pollinators play in pollinating over 180,000 plant species.

This means roughly 75% to 90% of all flowering plants globally depend on insects, birds, and mammals for pollination. (University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Apr. 21, 2025)

Here in Barrie we will celebrate National Pollinator Week June 22- 28. Residents have the opportunity to become involved in virtual and in-person gatherings, webinars, planting sessions, community parks celebrations. For specific details check City of Barrie Bee City Page.

Barrie officially became the 30th Bee City in Canada in July, 2019. Since the designation, Barrie has removed the use of cosmetic pesticide from their operations. Bee boxes and bee hotels have been installed in various parks and community gardens have been increased and recently Barrie launched Barrie Native Plant Explorer.

It is hard to believe that our health, well-being, and future existence here on Earth depend on precious pollinators like bumble bees, native bees, honey bees, birds, beetles, fruit bats, moths, flower flies, wasps, butterflies, and even rats. (Pollinator Partnership)

Pollinators have an incredible important job as they transfer pollen among flowers when they're looking for nectar. This transfer of pollen allows the flowers to reproduce and produce the seeds needed for future fruits, vegetable, and nuts on which we depend for our food sources

(www.insectlore.com)

Were it not for our pollinators, we would not be able to eat nutrient-rich foods such as apples, almonds, blueberry, squash, or drink coffee.

As a matter of fact, one out of every three mouthfuls of food, we eat, depends entirely on the pollinators. Today, 75% of global food crops rely entirely on animal pollinators. (World Economic Forum, Nature Biodiversity, Dec. 9, 2019). We would lose most fruits,

and vegetables, if bees became extinct United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

Not only do the pollinator provide a food source for humans, but they also provide a primary food source for countless other species of birds, mammals, and insects. Pollinators, also support industries that rely on plant materials such as cotton, timber, and life-saving pharmaceuticals.

When I first start started gardening, I wanted to create a garden with dazzling floral displays of colourful hues. I specifically chose hybridized flowers that were showy, frilly, and eye-catching.

I have since learned that many of the hybridized flowers that people eagerly put in the gardens are so hybridized that they contain very little nectar, and some of them contain no nectar at all! As well, some of them are so frilly that the pollinators like bees and butterflies simply cannot access the nectar. (Doug Tallamy, Fine Gardening)

I started to do research and discovered which flowers are very high in nectar. Now, I make a concerted effort to plant annuals like sweet alyssum, Mexican sunflower, cosmos, salvia, zinnia, sweet alyssum and calendula.

It turns out that native plants are one of the best sources of nectar for our declining pollinators. Native plants and pollinators have co-evolved together for thousands of years, and they can grow in most soils. As a bonus, native plants develop very deep roots systems which help prevent erosion and keep carbon deep in the soil helping to reduce greenhouse gases. (David Suzuki Foundation)

Native plants are extremely adaptive as they are drought tolerant, disease, and pest resistant. My favourite native plants are Gaillardia, cone flowers, black-eyed Susans, coreopsis, and cup plants. I am especially fond of cup plants as they are top pollinating plants that will attract butterflies, native solitary bees, honey bees, bumblebees, chickadees, goldfinches, sparrows, and hummingbirds. Their leaves wrap around the square prism stem providing a cup-like container that fills with

rainwater for birds and insects. As well, stem-nesting bees and moths lays eggs in the huge square prism stems - make sure you leave the stems standing all winter. As, an added bonus cup plants will grow 8-10 feet tall! (Native Plants, Healthy Planet, Aug. 5, 2024.)

Here in Ontario, we have over 270,000 km of roads with roadsides dominated by a riot of naturalized and native flora which are an incredible food sources for our pollinators. Researchers have demonstrated that pollinating insects such as bees, moths, beetles, wasps, and butterflies all visit roadside flowers frequently.

It is estimated that pollinators provide upwards of \$ 235 to \$ 800 billion USD to the world economy. Pollinators rights here in Ontario alone are responsible for \$ 800 million dollars worth of agricultural crops per year. (Growing Forward 2 Guide)

If the townships eliminated their regular, widespread mowing, not only, will there be more opportunities for pollinators to feed on readily available food sources, but there will be a significant reduction of GHG when the use of mowers is reduced. (Growing Forward - Managing, Enhancing, Restoring Pollinator Habitats Along Roadsides)

Managing, Enhancing, Restoring Pollinator Habitats Along Ontario's Roadsides is a federal-provincial-territorial initiative in Partnership with Pollinator Partnership Canada, which outlines in great detail and with specific examples how townships can help our precious pollinators to survive and thrive. One way we can help protect our precious pollinators is to ensure that our pollinators have many opportunities to gather nectar from biologically diverse green spaces. You are encouraged to plant as many native and non-native nectar-rich plants as possible.

Now, when I plant garden my motto is, “First, we feed the pollinators and then they will feed us.”

“WITHOUT POLLINATORS, THE HUMAN RACE AND ALL OF THE EARTH'S TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS WOULD NOT SURVIVE.”

THE FINNISH PHILOSOPHY BEHIND SIMCOE COUNTY'S GROWING WELLNESS RITUAL



As summer begins to settle into Simcoe County, more people are rethinking what recovery actually looks like.

Not the once-a-year escape kind. The kind you build into your life before burnout forces the issue.

That shift is happening at Vettä Nordic Spa, located in Horseshoe Valley, where hydrotherapy is becoming less of an occasional indulgence and more of a regular wellness practice for many local guests.

Rooted in authentic Finnish sauna culture, Vettä Nordic Spa was designed around a philosophy that has existed in Finland for generations: that rest, nature, and sauna are not luxuries, but essential parts of maintaining wellbeing. Guests move through cycles of heat, cold, and rest intended to support physical recovery, mental clarity, stress reduction, and nervous system reset.

“We’re seeing people approach wellness differently now,” says the Vettä team. “People are realizing recovery works better when it becomes part of a rhythm, not something reserved for the point of exhaustion.”

That mindset is becoming increasingly common among people looking for quieter, more intentional ways to recover without having to leave the region.

Some visit after work to decompress and replace

another night of screen time with something more restorative. Others come during quieter weekday mornings for movement, recovery, and social connection.

To support more regular wellness routines, Vettä Nordic Spa currently offers several weekday initiatives throughout the summer, including promotions for healthcare workers, seniors, and teachers, along with its Twilight evening hydrotherapy offering Sunday through Thursday after 5 p.m.

Memberships offering unlimited Monday through Thursday hydrotherapy access have also become increasingly popular among guests embracing sauna culture as an ongoing wellness

practice rather than an occasional escape.

That connection to Finnish tradition will be especially visible during Juhannus on June 19 and 20, the traditional Finnish midsummer celebration marking the longest days of the year. The event will feature “Sauna with a Finn” experiences led by founder Eric Harkonen, flower crown workshops, patio gatherings, and programming inspired by Finnish midsummer traditions rooted in nature, community, and seasonal living.

Because recovery shouldn't only happen once you've hit empty.

Learn more about seasonal offerings, memberships, and Juhannus celebrations at Vettä Nordic Spa. <https://vettaspa.com>



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GARDENING MADE EASY

By Kelly McNamara
 Since many of our customers are cottagers in the summer, I often get asked if a plant can do without water for a week, until they come up the next weekend. My quick answer is always NO!

Whether it is a hanging basket, planter, or newly planted garden, going a week without water leads to disaster. We as humans are told to hydrate daily, so why wouldn't we do that for another living thing like plants? Hot sunny days, with no rain will start with stress, then dried leaves, dying flowers.

Hanging basket and planters need to be deeply watered at least once a day. I always tell my customers to water until the water drips out the drainage holes. Depending on the size of the pot that could mean up to an entire watering can of water. Water straight down the centre of the pot, with some watering around the edges if it is a large pot. Water in the morning or in the evening. If you water during the heat of the day, water droplets on the plant can lead to burning...think of the droplets as little magnifying glasses.

If you have planted in the ground, you first need consistent watering to establish the roots. Every other day is usually sufficient for the first week or so. After that, if the ground still looks moist, you are usually okay. When it is hot and sunny,

however, that soil is going to dry out faster. If you dig down and only the top inch or so is wet, then you are not watering enough. A light sprinkle with the hose is not enough, you need to soak the area around the plant.

Every plant is different and require different amounts of water. If you have a shady area, the soil will not dry out as fast. Sunny area? Water needs are higher. A hydrangea will tell you if it is dry, when you see the leaves start to droop. They need more water than you realize! A sedum, with its fat, thick leaves will need very little water.

Annuals like geraniums and petunias will do best with daily waterings. Begonias and impatiens require less.

Vegetables and fruits require consistent watering. Remember their fruits are made up of mostly water. Inconsistent watering of these plants can lead to all sorts of problems like blossom end rot in tomatoes (the bottom of the tomato turns brown and mushy). Fruits can dry up and fall off.

All living things need water. Without it, we can't thrive. Human, plant or animal. Providing water provides life. And grows beautiful things!



Jo Knows Nutrition by Joanne Nijhuis



Get ready to elevate your taco game with this dish inspired by coastal California cuisine. Not only is this recipe a feast for the senses, but it also packs a nutritional punch whether served as a main at lunch or dinner or as an appetizer at your next backyard, beach or dock party.

Did You Know?

Shrimp are an excellent source of protein and relatively low in calories. Rich in heart healthy omega-3 fatty acids, shrimp also contain the micronutrients selenium, vitamin B12 and iodine. Avocados are rich in fibre and are good for digestive health. Packed with healthy fats and antioxidants, avocados are also a good source of essential vitamins and minerals, including vitamin E, vitamin K and folate.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb (454 g) shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) olive or coconut oil
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) smoked paprika or chili powder
- 2 cloves garlic minced or ¼ teaspoon (1.25 ml) garlic powder
- 2 ripe avocados, peeled, pitted and diced
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and diced
- ¼ cup (63 ml) red onion, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup (63 ml) fresh cilantro, chopped
- Juice of 1-2 limes
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 8 small wheat or corn tortillas
- Optional toppings: shredded lettuce, sour cream, hot sauce

Instructions:

1. In a bowl, combine the shrimp with the olive or coconut oil, smoked paprika or chili powder, and fresh garlic or garlic powder.
2. To make the avocado salsa, gently mix in a bowl the avocado, red pepper, red onion, cilantro and lime juice. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
3. Cook the shrimp in a skillet over medium-high heat or on the BBQ for 2-3 minutes per side

or until pink and opaque.

4. To assemble the tacos, place a few shrimp on each tortilla and top with a generous spoonful of the avocado salsa.

5. If desired, serve the tacos with shredded lettuce, sour cream and hot sauce.

Enjoy!

Joanne Nijhuis MSc, RD is a consulting, media and culinary dietitian in Simcoe Grey Bruce on a mission to entertain and educate through her love of food. In addition to recipe development and writing for several publications, Joanne offers cooking demos/classes and individual counselling – in person and online via Zoom Health. For more



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 Instagram: [jo_knows_nutrition](https://www.instagram.com/jo_knows_nutrition)
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Building a Life for All Seasons (formerly Annie's Journal) written by Annie Warner Donnelly



Hello Everyone. On Monday, June 22, 2026, my friend died by suicide.

Are you thinking about suicide? Have you attempted it? Are you thinking about attempting it again?

Please don't do it! You are valuable to those who love you. Your smile can't be replaced. The warmth of your hug mustn't disappear. Look around you. Which child will be sad growing up without you, won't understand what happened? What older person will regret not knowing your need?

Someone will miss you every day for the rest of their lives. Go to that person now, the one who loves you unconditionally, the one who will love you as long as they have breath. Tell them how you feel. Take this article with you. Together, check out the Mental Health Commission of Canada - <https://mentalhealthcommission.ca/resource/where-to-get-mental-health-care/> or call or text this number: 9-8-8, the Suicide Crisis Helpline. Lasting help is available.

If someone comes to you for help, please remember the "3 Cs of crisis response developed by leading expert Dr. John Draper:

1. Connection: Ensuring the individual in

crisis feels understood, heard, and not isolated. It involves listening without judgment and showing them they are not alone.

2. Collaboration: Working alongside the individual to identify potential solutions and building a constructive plan forward (such as reducing access to lethal means).

3. Choice: Empowering the person by actively involving them in the decision-making process for their own care and recovery."

You may feel that you can't help the person with all three Cs, but you can begin with connection and comfort; you can begin with love and the truth that faith the size of a mustard seed works! Hopefully, you can help them decide to go to a safe place that offers the help they need.

Another valuable website is: <https://mentalhealthcommission.ca/suicide-prevention/>.

Remember, if you are in immediate danger, or someone is in immediate danger or actively attempting to harm themselves, call 911 immediately, and remember to pray.

A final thought: God never leaves us, nor forsakes us. There is a way out of our darkest moments. He will help us find it. Just ask Him. Amen.

Bearbells By Leslie Noonan



June 24, 2026

Sunlight glinted off the metal hull of the spacecraft, which was a dull white etched with scrapes and scratches from its voyages. Small portholes encircled the ship, black holes that didn't reveal what, or who, might be inside. The thin legs held the alien vessel off the ground, just beyond the highway where the traffic whizzed by, most people oblivious to the UFO in their midst. I coaxed my adult kids closer and insisted on photos as they reluctantly flashed me nervous smiles. My daughter gasped then gave out a high-pitched screech as she noticed a green face peering out of one of the windows. Another great photo opportunity here in the town of Moonbeam Ontario!

It is unknown how exactly the town Moonbeam got its name. One theory is that pioneers saw beams of light stream down from the sky, which may have been Northern Lights, or maybe aliens. Another (boring) theory is that early train passengers traveled through thick forests until this clearing, where the train lights would have reflected off the white snow. I disagree, as it was obviously aliens! Which is why we find ourselves here in Northern Ontario in the land of moose, bogs, mosquitoes and aliens. This particular UFO, or to use the current term UAP, is found at the well-maintained visitors' centre. Inside are walls covered with racks of t-shirts and sweaters featuring a smiling green cosmonaut, along with key chains and bumper stickers, one of which is now firmly attached to my car. There is also a full-sized alien in the corner, just waiting for a cuddle and a photo.

Moonbeam offers a surprisingly abundant number of trails to explore, almost 38 km in total. Some of these are a short one km, while the longest main trail is eleven km. These routes are a mix of pavement, gravel and dirt of easy terrain. The visitor centre offers free bikes to explore these paths, another reason why this is one of the best visitor centres we have been too. However the local provincial park was calling us, and we set off for Rene Brunelle park, sadly named after the railway worker who drowned in the lake. The park itself is beautiful, with stunning lakes and beaches that were deserted during our visit. Small waves lapped on the stone and sand beaches, dislodging small rocks embedded with fossils of ancient sea creatures. The poplars were just releasing their seeds, and the air was filled with white fluff wafting on the cool breeze off the lake. Huge dragon flies flitted by, iridescent wings flashing in the sun. The sky was a clear cerulean, reflecting in the dark waters below.

The first trail we explored was the La Vigilance trail, and easy 1.5 km trail that starts in the forest of black spruce, birch and poplar then continues out to the lakeshore. Though the trail was well maintained, it was lightly trodden and grass covered. Of course, the lightest touch on those grasses

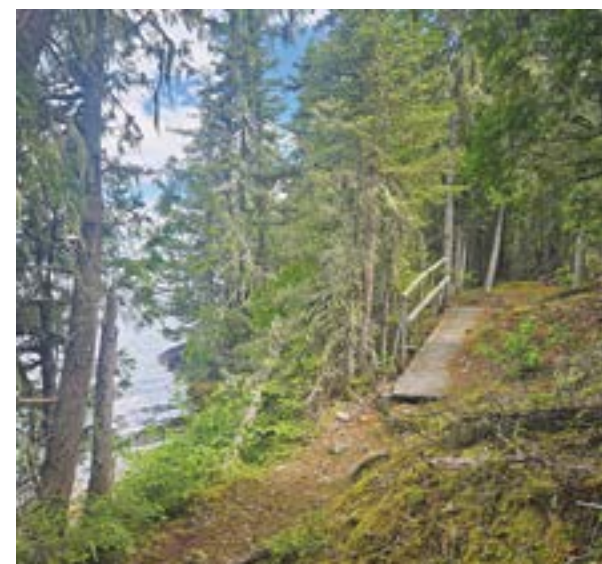
released a swarm of mosquitoes and blackflies, and the hordes kept us moving at a swift pace through the forests and fields. Blissfully the trail led out to the shore, studded with large boulders. Grey moss hung from the spruce, tangled clumps dangling from the branches like unkempt beards. Large mounds of brown nuggets, looking disturbing like giant tater tots, covered the trail. We marvelled at the view, as we stood on granite boulders looking across a still lake to a shoreline untouched by people. Forests stretched to the horizon, tall pine and spruce etched across the sky.

Once back in the main park we were approached by two rangers, very friendly men eager to talk about this park they have been caretakers of for more than twenty years. As to those mounds of tater tots? Moose poop. The rangers believe that the moose spent the winter in this part of the park and then remained here after the thaw. Standing still brought back those annoying insects, so we left our gregarious friends and headed to the next trail to explore.

The Spruce Lowland trail is another short 1.6 km trail, that passes through boreal forests of spruce, tamarack and balsam fir. A spruce bog supports an uncommon grove of black ash, here at its most northern perimeter. Of course, what loves bogs? Those mosquitoes and black flies. We donned our netting to cover our heads and upper bodies, but even then the drone and buzz was enough to drive us to distraction. With record speed we traversed the wooden boardwalks over thick black mud and through trees bent and broken over the trail. An unintentional detour had us on the wrong route, which turned out to be blocked off as it ends at a bear den. An abrupt about face and we were quickly back on the right trail and with a great deal of relief returned to the car without any unwanted encounters.

Our Airbnb beckoned, and after a full day we were looking forward to an evening of rest and

relaxation around a small fire while the sun set on the lake. Tomorrow was another hike in a different Provincial Park, and a close encounter with a polar bear, but that is a story for next time.



ANTEN MILLS By Dennis Gannon

A quick trip around the neighborhood this past weekend and it was great to see so many homes decorated in red and white. What a perfect way to celebrate our country's birthday. As this article is prepared several days before you receive it, a full report on Canada Day and the activities here in the community will be published in the next edition.

There was some significant work completed at the community centre and park over the last couple of weeks. First, the anniversary gardens got a big cleanup and are looking fabulous. Weeding and edging was done and the flowers are starting to bloom. The gardens will soon be in full bloom and will be spectacular. Thanks to Judy for again taking this under her wing and to the volunteers, Karen, Helle, Joan, Cathy and Brian for your support and efforts.

The rink house area was cleaned up and the multipurpose pad ready for play. Max and Matt can take the credit for this project.

Next to the rear door of the community centre the garden berm has been removed with the support of the township. This will make it easier to access the park and after discussion with the township staff, a winter walkway will be available. Last winter a pilot project was undertaken and the walkway was well received making it a viable option. There will be temporary bollards installed which can be removed for the winter and keep vehicles from driving over the septic field.

Oftentimes at our community events sponsored by the Anten Mills Community Recreation Association it would be nice to have a bit of extra things. Through the generosity of the community who play euchre, rent the sign or just make donations over the past several years equipment such as a screen for the movie nights, a button machine, a huge thermos for the hot chocolate, a BBQ and other items have been obtained. Recently the CRA has added to the collection and at Canada Day you might have seen them. Cornhole is extremely popular and a set has been purchased. Popcorn would be great at all of the events and now a popcorn machine will be available. Pickleball is a popular activity. Several years ago the township painted a court on the multipurpose pad. A few people have brought their own net but in most cases it has been a case of playing pretending that there was a net. That changed as of Canada Day as well. The CRA has purchased a portable net that has wheels that can be moved if necessary.

As it is a multipurpose pad, the hockey nets have been moved to one end providing a half surface.

Instructions have been posted on keeping the net in shape and it is expected that care will be taken to allow for several years of operation before requiring replacement. It is hoped that everyone will enjoy the new additions.

Some more news about the Fry Guy. Michael has advised that the equipment has been serviced and updated, the permits obtained and they are just awaiting final inspections. Anticipation is high that the opening will occur, soon, very soon and it will be announced on Facebook.

What is Summer without a movie under the pavilion? Lindsey and family are happy again this summer to host a couple of movie nights. The first will be on Wednesday, July 15. Watch the Anten Mills Community Bulletin Facebook page for more details when they become available.

A quick note about the Facebook page. There are currently 1686 members. Over the past few months there have been many requests to join and many have been declined. The page is private for the benefit of the community. Businesses that are owned and operated by community members are welcome to join and any others are reviewed on a case by case submission. There are rules and questions that must be answered before requests to join are accepted. If the questions are not answered, the request is automatically denied. This goes as well for people who are invited to join. Please ensure that anyone who you are suggesting join understands that they are to follow the rules and answer the questions.

Congratulations go out to Steve Kocsis who has now joined the "R" club. Steve has been a great contributor to the annual Anten Mills Santa Claus parade ensuring that McLaughlin St is well represented. The "R" club welcomes Steve to the group and hopefully he will join in some of the more mundane but important contributions the community needs.

That's all for this week. As always THANKS for READING, BE WELL, STAY SAFE and SAY HI to YOUR NEIGHBOUR!



FESTIVAL DU LOUP 2026

LE SAMEDI 18 JUILLET / SATURDAY JULY 18

PERFORMANCES

- PORT-POUTINES
- LE TERRA-NEUTR
- LE TERRA-NEUTR
- LE TERRA-NEUTR
- LE TERRA-NEUTR

Parc de Lafontaine Park
342 Lafontaine Rd W.
Tiny, Ontario
www.festivalduloup.ca

STAGE PERFORMANCES SUR LA SCENE
TRACTORS PARADE DE TRACTEURS
KIOSQUES D'ARTISAN / ARTISANS BOOTHS
PRODUCTION IN VIVO
ENCAN DE LOUP / WOLVES AUCTION
ZONE JEUNESSE "MON AVENIR" YOUTH ZONE
FOOD COURT - BAR - FOIRE GOURMANDE

PRIX D'ENTRÉE:
15\$ PAR PERSONNE, 15 ANS ET PLUS

ADMISSION:
15\$ FOR 15 YRS AND OVER

DE 10 H À 20H ACTIVITÉS POUR TOUTE LA FAMILLE!!!
FROM 10 AM TO 8 PM ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!!

OPEN to the PUBLIC

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SPRINGWATER LIBRARY

Elmvale Branch (705) 322-1482
 Midhurst Branch (705) 737-5650
 Minesing Branch (705) 722-6440

VISIT US TODAY!

Summer Reading Tracking and Prizes
 Track your reading throughout the summer and earn exciting prizes! Log into ReadSquared and earn an Epic rubber duck prize right away with your registration! Other prizes will be awarded at 500 and 1000 minutes of reading. 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!

Chalk the Block
 Our annual Chalk the Block program is back at the library and finishes Saturday July 11, we will have chalk available for anyone/everyone of all ages to create beautiful, colourful artwork on the sidewalk/ areas surrounding our library entrances. We've seen some amazing artwork over the years and invite you all to come be a part of the fun! Parent supervision is required.

Teen Summer Book Box
 Sign up to receive a teen book box filled with a bunch of summer fun freebies! Each box will contain two library books that need to be returned, and a surprise stack of free items that include sassy stickers, savory summer snacks and more! Registration for these free boxes closes Friday July 10.

Adult Summer Bingo
 Can you beat the Adult Summer Reading Challenge? To beat the challenge, register on the ReadSquared app. You must complete one row of our bingo card and log and review five books this summer. Participants will be entered to win fun prizes! Participants must be 18 or older to qualify for the draw. Start reading/filling out your bingo card on Monday June 29. The final day to participate/

play is Monday August 31. Visit ReadSquared and register at: <https://springwaterlibrary.readsquared.com/>

Lego Building Challenge
 Get ready to build, design and imagine during the library Lego Challenge where each week features a new theme to inspire inventive creations and exciting ideas. Kids will use their problem solving skills and imagination. Mondays 10:30am at Elmvale and Midhurst Branches. Cost: Free. No registration required for this drop-in program.

STEM Program
 Discover the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through hands-on experiments and creative challenges at the library STEM Program. Open to curious minds, each week will explore new things! Wednesdays at 1pm in July and August at Midhurst Branch or Fridays 1pm in July and August at Elmvale Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

Shark Attack! Program
 Dive into an ocean of excitement during Shark week at the library where kids can enjoy shark-themed crafts, games and hands on activities full of "fin-tastic" fun! From creative art projects to exciting challenges and stories form the deep this program is perfect for young shark enthusiasts ready for new adventure! Tuesday July 7, 10:30am or 5:30pm at Elmvale Branch, Thursday July 9, 10:30am or 5:30pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

Narwhal and Jellyfish Program
 Join us for a splashy Narwhal and Jellyfish adventure at the library inspired by the beloved

graphic novels featuring crafts, games and tons of undersea fun! Kids will celebrate friendship, imagination and silliness through artistic activities and playful challenges. Perfect for fans of the cheerful duo.

Tuesday July 14, 10:30am at Elmvale Branch, Thursday July 16, 10:30am or 5:30pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

Escape Room
 Oh no! Ariels' treasure chest has gone missing! Dive in and race against the clock (and those pesky stealing pirates!) to help her find it before time runs out. Solve clues, riddles and puzzles in our Deep Sea Escape Room. This program is designed for children ages 6+. Younger children are welcome but must have a parent/caregiver with them. Time slots are 45 minutes each with a maximum group of six people per session. Tuesday July 21 or Friday July 24 at Elmvale Branch. Wednesday July 22 or Thursday July 25 at Midhurst Branch. Registration required.



Penetanguishene Library

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

Penetanguishene Public Library
 Kids Programs this summer;
 Parents/Guardians must remain in the building for the duration of the program. Please visit the website/social media for more information. A minimum of 5 participants is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable.

Summer of Soccer Summer Reading Challenge 2026
 June 29th- August 11th Join us for arts & crafts, and sports programs!

Make a Hair-tie Headband - Monday July 6th, 10:30am-11:30am

Create a stylish hairband using hair ties . Ages: 4-12, \$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members.

Decorate a Soccer Ball - Thursday July 9th, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Get in the spirit for soccer this summer and decorate a ball! Ages: 4-12, \$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members.

Magnetic Soccer Bowling - Tuesday July 14th, 2026, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Join us for a fun magnetic square bowling match! Ages: 4-12, \$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members.

non-members.
Earring Workshop - Thursday July 16th, 2026, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Join us and create your own pair of earrings. Ages: 10-12, \$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members.

Cooking Class - Tuesday July 21st, 2:30pm-3:30pm

Join us in our kitchen and prepare a delicious meal! Menu : Lasagna Cups, Salad, Decorated Brownie Bites. Ages: 8 and up, \$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members.

Pickleball - Thursday July 23rd 2026 meet at McGuire Park at 9:45am for a 10:00am-11:00am session. Ages: 4-14, Free. Bring your own water, sunscreen and snacks. Parents must remain on site for duration of the program.

Decorate Seashells - Tuesday July 28th, 2026, 2:30pm-3:30pm

Get creative and make some silly seashells! Ages: 4-12, \$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members.

Make a Jelly Fish Lamp - Friday July 31st, 2026, 11:00am -12:00pm

Join us and create a light-up jellyfish. Ages: 4-12, \$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members.

Make a Pizza! - Wednesday August 5th, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Join us in our kitchen and make your own personal size pizza! Ages: 8-12, \$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members.

Create a craft - Self-led - August 19th, 2026, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Use your imagination and create a fun craft. While supplies last. Program Free of Charge. Ages: 4-12.

Make a Backpack charm - Wednesday August 26th, 2026, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Create a charm for your backpack. Ages: 4-12, \$5.00 for members, \$7.00 for non-members.

All other Programs; 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.

Learn to Assemble Blanket from Granny Squares - July 8, 10:30-11:30am
 \$5.00 for members \$7.00 for non-members

A minimum of 5 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.

We Lend a Hand: The forgotten story of Ontario Farmerettes
 Wednesday September 23rd 5:00-6:30pm

Join us at the Library for a screening of the documentary film that tells the extraordinary story of 40,000 teenage girls who volunteered on Canadian farms and helped win the Second World War.

Students : \$10.00, Adults : \$20.00. A minimum of 20 people is required to show the movie.

Preserving with Martha - Wed. Sept. 9th, 2:00-4:00

Join Certified Master Food Preserver Martha Rogers at the Library.

- Learn safe canning at home
- The 4 Pillars of food preservation
- How to choose the right recipes
- Myth Busting
- Canning demonstration

And More..... Members \$20- Non-Members \$25, A minimum of 20 participants is required to run the program. Non-transferable, non-refundable.



Nerf Game Night @ MPL
 Ages 9-14

Bring your Nerf equipment (no darts, please!) and join us for an action-packed evening featuring a scavenger hunt, a few rounds of capture the flag and freeze tag, and taking over the library after hours. We'll provide the darts and snacks. Snacks & beverages provided.

Monday, July 20, 6—8PM
Monday, August 10, 6—8PM
 Registration waiver required; space is limited.

Persian Bread Making
 Saturday, July 11, 1—3PM

Join the Barrie Persian Association for this hands-on workshop on making barbari bread, a flatbread with a golden, crunchy exterior and a beautiful, pillowy interior. Free, drop-in!

With thanks to the Heart of Georgian Bay Community Forward Fund.

Anishinaabe Knowledge about Water with Trish Monague

Saturday, July 18, 2PM
 Join Elder Trish Monague to learn more about Anishinaabe understanding of and care for nibi, water. Free, drop-in!

With thanks to the Heart of Georgian Bay Community Forward Fund.

Adult Summer Reading Program
 June 26-Sept. 7

No registration required.

Why should kids have all the fun? Collect your ballot at check out or via our website and tell us about your reading experience for your chance to win 1 of 3 gift certificates to local Midland businesses. Be sure to check out the MPL Summer Reading Guide for great reading recommendations for all ages.

Midland Summer Movies
 Thursdays at Dusk

MPL is joining up with the Town of Midland to show some great movies this summer! Join us in Little Lake Park at Rotary Stage with your snacks! When it starts to get dark, the movie will start! (Weather permitting; movies subject to change).

Thursday, July 9, 8:30PM start—Finding Nemo—

- Across**
- Miss after marriage
 - Fax, say
 - Legume
 - Wood floor material
 - On the mark
 - Low-quality paper
 - Water ____
 - Miles per hour, e.g.
 - Tramcar lode
 - Common ____
 - Place
 - Bakery product
 - Approach
 - Lecturer
 - Get weary
 - Put up
 - Clearly outlined
 - Ford car
 - Start of plant
 - Wood for a bat
 - Ancient stories
 - Shirt label
 - Major land mass
 - Bowler or sombrero
 - Be behind in payments
 - Blab
 - Stopped for lunch
 - Fuse
 - Markdown
 - Unprecedented

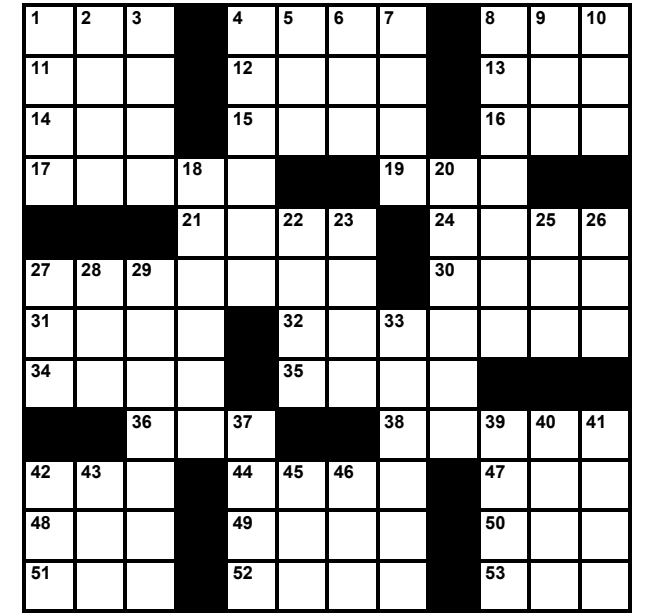
- Down**
- Green growth
 - Don Juan
 - Hot milk drink formation
 - Fashionable hair color splash
 - Baseball card stat
 - Bar-counter snack

Sponsored by Bryson Bumstead, Realtor
 Thursday, July 16, 8:30PM start—The Little Mermaid (1989) - Sponsored by Morden Construction
 Thursday, July 23, 8:30PM start—Atlantis
 Thursday, July 30, 8:30PM start—Luca
 Thursday, August 6, 8:30PM start—Elemental
 Friday, September 11, 6PM, 8:30PM movie start—Summer Reading Wrap Party—Finding Dory

Georgian Bay Forever
 All Ages
 Tuesday, July 14, 2—4PM
 Join us for an open-house style event focused on water quality. Explore topics like pollution, microplastics, and local research, and learn how these issues are shaping the health of our waterways.

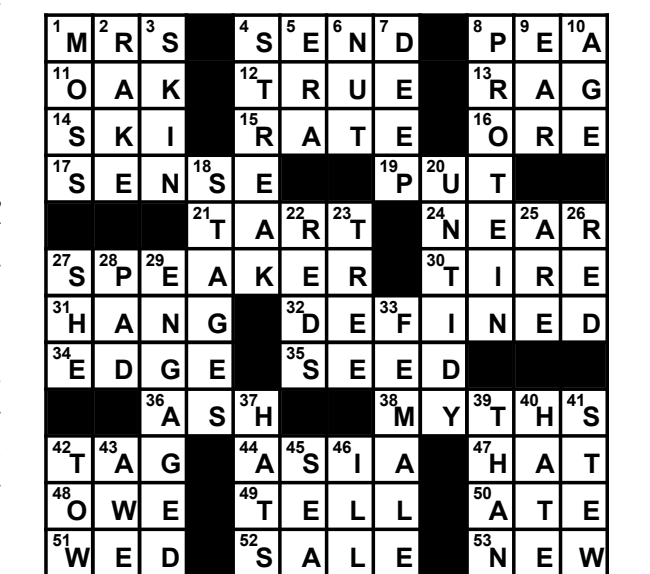
Teen Pet Painting
 Monday, July 13 OR August 10, 4—5 PM
 Ages 12-18

Make a unique painting of your pet! We'll paint a black and white line drawing of a photo of your pet directly onto the glass of a picture frame, and then add a fun background. Registration required. Pet photo must be submitted at registration.



- Like the ocean
- Dietary essential
- ____ candy (pop music)
- Guarded secret, for some
- Old Wells Fargo vehicles
- Needing neatening
- Wine store section
- Dogwood, for example
- Is following you?
- Cerise or cardinal
- Cyndi Lauper's "____ Bop"
- Piece of football gear
- Set to wed
- Like mares and fillies
- Millinery items
- Comparison word
- Abhor
- Ragout, e.g.
- Haul off
- Knock one's socks off
- Irish or Baltic, e.g.
- Ailing

CROSSWORD ANSWER



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Community Events Ongoing

SENIOR CLUBS

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

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

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

MONDAY
Elmvale Seniors Drop In
Elmvale 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 Advancing, 9:15am-10:30
Fun Fit Circuit, 9:15am-10:15am
Coffee Break, 10:00am-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-3:30pm

Bay Shore Seniors Club
Bingo - Starts July 6th
Kids Start at 1:00 pm
Adults Start at 7:30

TUESDAY
Askennonia Seniors Centre
Pickleball, 9am-12pm
Cardio Drums Alive, 9am-10am
Quilting, 9am-12pm
Watch Clinic, 10am-12pm
Photography Club, 10am-12pm first
Tuesday of every month
Dart Club, 10am-12pm
Zumba Toning, 10:30-11:30
Circle of Friends, 1:30pm-2:30pm

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
Elmvalle Legion
7 John Street Elmvalle
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, Elmvalle

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 Elmvalle Legion, 7 John St.

Bay Shore Seniors Club
Access Art - 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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

Askennonia Seniors Centre
Table Tennis, 9am-11am
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
Chair Pilates, 10:30am-11:30am
Drumming Social, 10:30am-11:30am
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

EVENTS

Midland at 10am For information contact Kris 705-435-8593.

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

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 Elmvalle Palace
Thursdays at 9 am-1am
13 Queen St. W, Elmvalle

Euchre - 7 pm
Elmvalle Legion

Askennonia Seniors Centre
Zumba, 9am-10am
Pickleball, 9am-12pm
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

Coffee Party
Last Thursday of the month 9:30 - 11a.m.
Elmvalle 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:
Elmvalle 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 Elmvalle BINGO
Karaoke 8:30 pm Every Friday
13 Queen St W, Elmvalle

July 2, 2026 Edition 731

Bay Shore Seniors' Club
Pool/Billiards - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wood Carving - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

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

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

WEEKENDS
Elmvalle 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 Elmvalle

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

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

MONDAY to FRIDAY

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

Barrie/Kempfenfelt Probus 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

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

July 2, 2026 Edition 731

Special Events One Time

Probus Club of Simcoe North
Aug. 13, 2026 10:00- 12:00
Penetanguishene Legion
Monthly on the second Thursday. Fellowship, friendship & fun for seniors.

Coffee Party in the Park
Start: Jun. 25, 2026 09:30
End: Aug. 27, 2026 09:30
Location: Heritage Park
Last Thursday Jun-Aug. 9:30 am - 11 am
All Welcome. Organized by Centre Flos W.I
Rainforest Falls VBS
Aug 10-14 9-noon Free
Elmvalle 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
Elmvalle Legion

Line Dancing is Back at the Elmvalle 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 Elmvalle Legion, Saturday, June 27th @ 8 pm, Entrance fee is a donation to the food bank. Doors open at 7:30 pm.
Trivia Night - Tuesday, June 16th @ 7 pm, \$5.00
Karaoke - Saturday, June 27th @ 8 pm, Donation to Elmvalle Food Bank

Canada Day Celebrations, Wednesday, July 1st, doors open at 2 pm, BBQ, Entertainment - DJ Rob, come out and help us celebrate Canada's Birthday
Legion 100 Year Anniversary, Friday, July 17th - Open House - Doors Open at 2 pm. Come out and help us celebrate 100 years of the legion with a BBQ and a dance

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
July 16, 30th

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3464 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Phepston
705 734 2424 info@mcclarenequipment.com

EVENTS

Community Celebrates Jack Dyer's 95th Birthday

Family, friends and neighbours gathered recently to celebrate an incredible milestone as lifelong Elmvalle resident Jack Dyer marked his 95th birthday. The celebration drew an impressive turnout, filling the room with laughter, stories and the unmistakable warmth of a community coming together to honour one of its own.

Jack's family expresses their heartfelt appreciation to everyone who attended, sent well wishes and helped make the day so memorable. The friendly atmosphere reflected the respect and admiration so many people have for a man who has spent a lifetime giving back to his community.

Jack's roots in the area run deep. Born on June 27, 1931, he grew up on the Dyer family farm, part of the historic Dyer Farms, which has been a fixture in the Elmvalle area since 1902. Farming has always been an important part of his life, and he has long been recognized as a hardworking farmer whose dedication and work ethic have earned the respect of generations.

Beyond the farm, Jack has made lasting contributions through community service. A dedicated member of the Elmvalle Lions Club since 1972, he has spent more than five decades volunteering and helping improve life in the community.

Many local residents also know Jack for another passion—flying. For years, the familiar sound of a small airplane overhead often prompted people to look to the skies, knowing there was a good chance it was Jack Dyer enjoying another flight. His love of aviation became one of his trademarks and is a familiar part of life in Elmvalle.

Those who know Jack describe him as a devoted family man, loyal friend and someone who always embraces life with enthusiasm. Whether working the farm, volunteering, taking to the skies or sharing a glass of Scotch with family and friends, Jack lives a life filled with purpose, generosity and good humour.

As stories were shared throughout the celebration, one theme became clear: Jack Dyer continues to touch countless lives over the years. His kindness, work ethic and community spirit have left a lasting legacy, and those gathered were proud to celebrate not only his 95th birthday but a lifetime well lived.

Happy 95th birthday, Jack!



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HALL RENTAL

ELMVALE LIONS HALL RENTAL
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AUCTION NOTICES



Upcoming Auctions

- Royal Doulton figurine, abstract art canvas - London (July 5 - 9)
- 1968 Mustang and 1969 MG MGC GT - Guelph (July 12 - 16)
- Ultrastar by Champion Motorhome - Brantford (July 12 - 16)
- The Estate of Norm Ross McAlpine - Caledon (July)

UNRESERVED Multi Parcel Real Estate Auction
Mount Forest - June 28th - July 15th

INSPECTION DAYS - SATURDAY / SUNDAY / MONDAY

Heritage Victorian Residence Auction

- 1900's Victorian Home **2,470 Sq. ft.**
- Saturday, July 4th, 2026 from 1pm - 4pm
- Sunday, July 5th, 2026 from 12pm - 3pm

6-Unit Mixed-Use Investment Property Auction

- 2 Commercial Units - 1,297, 2,009 Sq. ft.
- 4 Residential Units - 1,025, 984, 984, 400 Sq. ft.
- Saturday, July 4th, 2026 from 9am - 12pm
- Monday, July 6th, 2026 from 12pm - 3pm

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NOTICES

Jack Dyer (and family) would like to express sincere gratitude to all the friends, neighbors, and relatives who came to the farm to make the day so special.

Thank you for the wonderful company, the shared laughs, the beautiful cards, and the warm wishes.


Jack

NOTICES

MOVING SALE
Everything must go!

Large and small tools
Some furniture
Fisher Price/Play School Toys in original boxes
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Saturday, Sunday,
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NOTICES

Come and Go Celebration for Mary's 90th Birthday



Family & friends are invited to celebrate this special milestone with Mary Downey

Sunday, July 26, 2026
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Elmvale Lions Club
1979 Flos Road 7 West
Springwater

No gifts, please.

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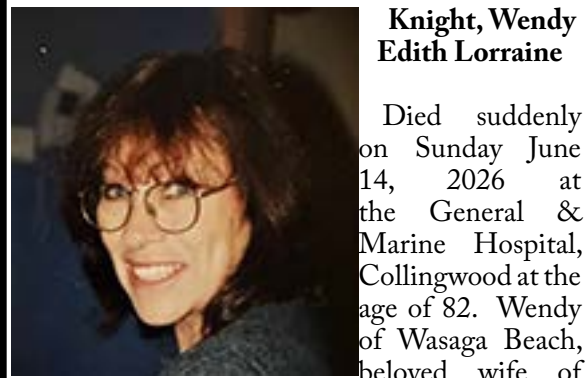
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Knight, Wendy Edith Lorraine

Died suddenly on Sunday June 14, 2026 at the General & Marine Hospital, Collingwood at the age of 82. Wendy of Wasaga Beach, beloved wife of Jack Knight for 64 years. Loving mother of Lisa, James (Aleks) and Christopher (predeceased). Much adored grandmother of Taylor, Jack (Luca), Emily (Phil), Conlan (Nicole), Reese, Gabrielle, Ariel, Joel, Cayleigh and Liam and great grandmother of Francine. Wendy was predeceased by her brothers Richard and John. Wendy was a force of nature with boundless energy and a warm, outgoing personality. She made friends easily, spoke to strangers as if they were family and her kindness was ever-present. She enjoyed gardening, bargain hunting and preparing for the next big meal with her family. She will be forever cherished.

Friends were received at the Carruthers & Davidson Funeral Home – Wasaga Beach Chapel, 509 River Road West, Wasaga Beach on Saturday, June 20 from 2 pm for the Funeral Service in the Chapel at 3 o'clock. Cremation. To sign Wendy's Book of Memories, please visit www.carruthersdavidson.com



Cormier, Jeffrey Christopher

Jeffrey Christopher Cormier passed away at Georgian Bay General Hospital on Monday June 8, 2026, at the age of 63. Jeff was born in Etobicoke, lived in Midland last 9 years. Worked for City of Toronto for 32 years before retiring. Jeff is survived by his loving wife Debbie Cormier (nee Freeman); brothers Richard (Christine) Cormier, Clifford Cormier, Michael (Leah) Cormier, many nieces and nephews; predeceased by brother Randy Cormier, Mother Freda Cormier (nee Melanson) and Father Leo Cormier.

Cremation has taken place and a private Celebration of life to be held in September 2026. Arrangements entrusted to Nicholls Funeral Home – 330 Midland Ave, Midland, Ontario. Memorial donations can be made to Georgian Bay General Hospital, or the Georgian Bay Cancer Centre would be appreciated by the family if desired.



RONALD, Douglas Mark ("Mark")
July 29, 1948 – June 21, 2026

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Douglas Mark Ronald ("Mark"), age 77, on June 21, 2026. Born in Midland and raised in Hillsdale, Mark shared 55 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Donna Ronald (née Dunn). He was a gifted athlete and well-known pitcher in the Simcoe Rural Fastball League, a dedicated businessman and technician, talented musician, and devoted family man.

Mark will be lovingly remembered by his wife Donna; daughter April King (Jody); son David Ronald (Justine Fallis); grandchildren Hayden, Rachel, Hudson, Sawyer, Allison, and Deacon; siblings Gary Ronald (Mae), Robert Ronald (Lucy) and Elizabeth Shakell (Terry); as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Cremation has taken place. A celebration of Mark's life will be held on July 25, 2026. Arrangements entrusted to Lynn-Stone Funeral Home. For service details, condolences, and the full obituary, please visit the funeral home's website. A life well lived and legacy that will never be forgotten.



Kristeen "Krissy" Lorraine Brenda Maw
28-Jul-1987 – 14-Jun-2026
In Loving Memory

The family of Kristeen Lorraine Brenda (Krissy) Maw is deeply saddened to announce her passing on June 14, 2026, at the age of 38. She is lovingly remembered by her children Penny and Pippin, her Partner Shawn Desrochers, her parents Jim and Barb Maw, siblings Kendra (David, daughter Claire), Justin (Narelle, daughter Peyton), Hayley (Johnny, daughter Charlie), Heydon (Jax), and Daniel (Derek).

Krissy is lovingly remembered by her grandma, Sandra Breedon (late Ken) and is predeceased by her grandparents Floyd and Ruth-Ann Maw. She is remembered by all her aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Krissy had so many talents she could play every instrument she ever picked up without a single lesson. She had an amazing voice and there was not a song she could not sing. She had a great love for her pets and plants. She and her family loved live theatre and attending concerts. She followed her grandmother Sandra's amazing talent for sewing, never needing a pattern. She had the most infectious laugh and a smile that lit up every room she entered. She had recently gone back to school receiving her Liberal Arts degree at Georgian and was completing an English degree at Lakehead, where she was honored with a position on the dean's list.

Krissy's final act of kindness was being an organ donor; we are so very proud of her for this.

The family extends a heartfelt thanks to Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre ICU, as well as to the Trillium Gift of Life Network for their time and effort throughout the management of her care. We would also like to extend our gratitude to Adam's Funeral Home for all of their help along the way.

The family will be honoring Krissy with a celebration of life on Sunday, August 16th, 2026 from 1pm to 4pm, at Elmvale & District Lion's Club, Flos Rd. 7 W, Elmvale.

In Krissy's memory donations may be made to Hospice Simcoe, Seasons Centre for Grieving Children or Matthews House Hospice.



info@springwaternews.ca
705-790-1993

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- SEPT 18-20** **Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues Festival**
- OCT 03-04** **Mayor's Charity RAM Rodeo**
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June 2 - October 6
- TUE 7PM** **Music in the Park**
June 16 - September 1
- WED 9PM** **Movies Under the Stars**
July 8 - August 26
- FRI & SAT 7PM** **Summer Sets** 🎵
July 3 - August 29



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