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NORTH SIMCOE Springwater NEWS

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The Natural Waters of North Simcoe Discovering the Hidden World of Tiny Marsh

By Kari Belcourt

North Simcoe Springwater News

The morning sun glistens across the lily pads as a dragonfly settles gently on a reed. The songs of hundreds of birds fill the air, each carrying on conversations in a language all their own. A painted turtle basks on a fallen log while frogs call from beneath the cattails. Around every bend, another surprise waits to be discovered.

Just a short drive from Elmvale lies one of Ontario's most remarkable natural treasures—Tiny Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area. While many families head to beaches and parks during the summer months, this hidden sanctuary offers something entirely different: the opportunity to slow down, reconnect with nature, and discover an ecosystem that quietly protects both wildlife and our communities.

According to Claire Foran, Communications Specialist with Ducks Unlimited Canada, wetlands are among the most biologically diverse ecosystems in Ontario.

"Where land and water come together, they create essential habitat for waterfowl, fish, amphibians, mammals, pollinators and native plants," Foran explained. "They're incredible biodiversity hotspots and one of the best places to connect with wildlife."

Beyond providing habitat, wetlands quietly perform services that benefit every community. They naturally improve water quality, absorb rainfall, reduce flooding, help mitigate drought conditions and strengthen climate resilience. Foran describes wetlands as "nature's sponges" because of their ability to absorb excess water and runoff during heavy rain events.

A Birdwatcher's Paradise

Despite its name, Tiny Marsh is anything but tiny.

The 2,000-acre wetland and forest complex features hiking trails, picnic areas, observation towers, wildlife viewing decks and some of the best birdwatching opportunities in Ontario. Recognized as one of



approximately 1,200 Important Bird Areas in Canada, it has become a destination for nature enthusiasts throughout the province.

Nearly 250 bird species have been observed at Tiny Marsh, including trumpeter swans, sandhill cranes, osprey, great blue herons, colourful wood ducks and the elusive Least Bittern, a species at risk that depends on

healthy wetland habitat. Visitors may also spot painted turtles, snapping turtles, beavers, frogs, snakes and an abundance of butterflies and other pollinating insects.

Foran recommends visiting early in the morning when bird activity is often at its highest, but notes that wildlife can be found throughout the day for those willing to slow down and observe.

Continued...



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More Than Wildlife

While wildlife often captures visitors' attention, wetlands provide benefits that extend well beyond recreation.

Foran notes that wetlands support agriculture by providing habitat for native bees, butterflies and other pollinators while simultaneously filtering water before it reaches rivers, lakes and Georgian Bay.

Unfortunately, these important ecosystems continue to disappear.

Ducks Unlimited Canada estimates that up to 70 per cent of southern Ontario's wetlands have already been lost or significantly degraded due to development and land-use changes, making conservation efforts more important than ever.

A Classroom Without Walls

Tiny Marsh also offers families an opportunity to experience nature together.

Children can search for frogs, watch turtles bask in the sunshine, identify birds using the Merlin Bird ID app, or log wildlife observations through iNaturalist to contribute to citizen science.

Foran encourages visitors to slow their pace.

"There's a lot happening that you don't initially see," she said. "Look closely at the cattails, the shallow water or the logs. Wildlife is everywhere if you take the time to notice it."

Protecting a Delicate Ecosystem

With more people discovering wetlands each year, protecting these sensitive environments becomes increasingly important.

Foran encourages visitors to follow Leave No Trace principles by staying on designated trails, disposing of garbage properly, leaving natural objects where they are found and observing wildlife from a respectful distance.

One message she especially hopes visitors remember is never to feed ducks or other wildlife.

Feeding animals changes their natural behaviours and can negatively affect both wildlife and the health of the wetland ecosystem.

Conservation at Tiny Marsh is a collaborative effort involving Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and local volunteer organizations that continue to restore habitat and manage invasive species.

How You Can Help

Supporting wetland conservation can be as simple as spending time outdoors.

Foran encourages residents to explore wetlands, share their experiences with others, record wildlife observations through the iNaturalist app, volunteer, participate in Ducks Unlimited Canada fundraising events or become members of the organization.

"Once people experience a wetland firsthand, they understand why they're worth protecting," she said.

Whether it's watching a trumpeter swan glide across the water, photographing a dragonfly resting on a cattail or simply enjoying the peaceful sounds of nature, Tiny Marsh reminds visitors that some of Ontario's greatest natural treasures aren't found in crowded tourist destinations—they're quietly waiting just outside our own communities.

For North Simcoe residents, Tiny Marsh is far more than a wetland. It is a sanctuary for wildlife, a natural defence against flooding, an outdoor classroom for



families and a place where slowing down reveals an extraordinary world hidden in plain sight.

From Marsh to Bay

Every drop of water tells a story.

According to Claire Foran, Communications Specialist with Ducks Unlimited Canada, the water that begins in Tiny Marsh doesn't stay there. It slowly winds through the Wye River system, flows into Wye Marsh, and eventually reaches the sparkling waters of Georgian Bay.

Along the way, it does far more than simply travel downstream. It nourishes forests and farmland, supports countless species of wildlife, creates habitat for fish and waterfowl, filters pollutants, and helps sustain one of Ontario's richest outdoor recreation regions.

Tiny Marsh forms the headwaters of the Wye River, acting as one of nature's most effective filtration systems. Rather than rushing downstream after heavy rainfall, wetlands slow the movement of water, allowing it to soak into the landscape while naturally filtering sediments and nutrients before continuing toward Georgian Bay.

The result is cleaner, healthier waterways that benefit everyone—from local residents and farmers to paddlers, birdwatchers, anglers, and hunters.

Supporting Ontario's Fishing Tradition

Healthy wetlands create healthy fisheries.

The nutrients, insects, aquatic vegetation, and sheltered spawning areas found in wetlands form the foundation of many freshwater ecosystems. Young fish rely on these protected environments before moving into larger rivers, lakes, and bays.

Those healthy waters help support North Simcoe's reputation as one of Ontario's premier fishing destinations. Lake Simcoe attracts anglers year-round with trophy-sized smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, northern pike, lake trout, whitefish, and abundant yellow perch. Kempenfelt Bay and Cook's Bay are especially popular for perch, lake trout, and whitefish, while Georgian Bay offers world-class walleye, pike, and bass fishing. Nearby Lake Couchiching provides another excellent family-friendly fishery.

Behind every successful day on the water is a healthy watershed, and wetlands play an essential role in keeping those waters productive.

Conservation Through Hunting and Angling

For generations, hunters and anglers have also been among the region's strongest conservationists.

Organizations such as the Georgian Bay Hunters and Anglers Association (GBHA) have invested decades in improving wildlife habitat through stream restoration, fish stocking projects, wild turkey reintroduction, and partnerships with the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council.

Their efforts extend well beyond recreation. Volunteers participate in community cleanups, tree planting, stream restoration, and the construction of wood duck nesting boxes, helping to preserve healthy habitat for future generations.

The association also inspires young outdoor enthusiasts through its award-winning Junior Club. Youth ages four to 21 are introduced to fishing, hunting, archery, outdoor ethics, and conservation while participating in habitat restoration, tree planting, litter cleanups, and wildlife stewardship projects. The program has received multiple Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Junior Conservation Awards for its commitment to conservation education.

Every Wetland Matters

Tiny Marsh may appear to be just one wetland on a map, but its impact reaches far beyond its borders.

From its quiet waters near Elmvale to Wye Marsh and ultimately Georgian Bay, every healthy wetland contributes to cleaner water, stronger fish populations, richer wildlife habitat, and countless recreational opportunities for future generations.

Whether someone is photographing trumpeter swans, paddling through Wye Marsh, casting a fishing line into Georgian Bay, heading into the woods for a hunt, or simply enjoying a peaceful walk along the trails, each experience is connected by the same remarkable journey of water.

It is a reminder that conservation is never confined to a single location. What begins in the quiet marshes near Elmvale ultimately benefits an entire region, proving that protecting even one wetland creates lasting rewards for wildlife, recreation, and the communities of North Simcoe.



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Letter from the Editor

Did you notice a difference?

I mentioned in my last letter that there would be a few changes. Did you spot them? Do the pages feel a little sturdier? Do the advertisements and photographs appear more vibrant? Is the newspaper just a little larger in your hands?

What you're seeing is the result of months of hard work, careful planning, and yes—a new printer.

This wasn't a decision we made lightly. Our previous printer, Transcontinental Printing, has shifted its focus toward independent flyer distribution through its Radar program, which many of you may have received in your mailbox. As a result, community newspapers like ours would now need to be printed and distributed from Montreal. Unfortunately, the longer shipping times and additional Canada Post or private delivery costs make that model unsustainable for many independent community newspapers.

For that reason, we have partnered with Huron Web Printing, an Ontario-based printer that specializes in community newspapers. The transition allows us to continue delivering your newspaper on time while also improving the quality of the publication.

The result is what you're holding today—a larger

newspaper with brighter colours, sharper photographs, and higher-quality paper, all while maintaining the same commitment to local journalism that has defined the North Simcoe Springwater News.

We made this investment because we firmly believe community newspapers matter.

They connect neighbours. They provide factual, accessible information to every household, including seniors who may not use the internet, residents with limited access to technology, and those who simply prefer holding the news in their hands. They preserve our history, celebrate our achievements, and give a voice to the people, organizations, businesses, and volunteers who make our communities special.

That has always been our mission, and it always will be.

Behind every edition is a dedicated team of people who work tirelessly—often around vacations, children's activities, family commitments, and full schedules—to ensure your newspaper arrives every two weeks. Their passion, commitment, and belief in local journalism inspire me every day, and I am incredibly grateful for everything they do.

As you turn these pages, I hope this newspaper feels

like home—a place that is always here for you. A place where your stories are told, your voices are heard, and the history and heritage of North Simcoe and Springwater are preserved for future generations.

Thank you for continuing to support local journalism. We are proud to serve this community, and we look forward to bringing you many more editions in this new chapter.

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



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Recreation and Special Events

Taste of Tiny

• August 15, 2026, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Township of Tiny Community Centre
Enjoy a farm-to-table dining experience prepared by a talented chef with all local ingredients. Grab your tickets tiny.ca/TasteOfTiny.



Market by the Bay

• August 15, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Perkinsfield Park
Join us for an outdoor market with a variety of vendors at Perkinsfield Park! Learn more about the event at tiny.ca/Market.

Charity Pickleball Tournament

August 27-30, 2026, at Parkside Park in Balm Beach. Join us to play, sponsor or donate. All proceeds will be distributed to charities and non-profits in North Simcoe. Learn more at tiny.ca/CharityTournaments.

Fall/Winter Program Registration

Residents: August 4, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)
General: August 10, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)
Register online at tiny.ca/PlayPortal

Tiny Fire Reminders



Important boating safety reminder:
Wear your life jacket!

Lifejackets can save your life in a boating incident. It can be the difference between life or death. Wear your life jacket. Legally, you must carry one on board, appropriately sized for each passenger. **Don't just carry it, wear it!**

Seasonal Reminders and Notices



Capital Projects

View our capital projects page to see what roads, water, and parks projects are scheduled for 2026 at tiny.ca/CapitalProjects.



Boating Speed Limit

The speed limit within 300m of shore is 10km/hr in Tiny between Concession 1 and 16. This speed is enforced by the OPP.



Beaches in Tiny

Personal items/private property cannot be left unattended or overnight on municipally owned property. Waterfront structures such as boat lifts on the lakebed are regulated under Provincial law and are not permitted in front of any municipal property.



Entrance Permit

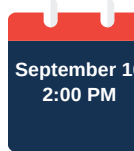
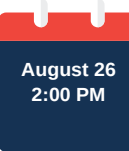
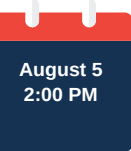
Planning to work on the entrance (driveway) to your property this summer? Apply for your entrance permit first! These works include the installation, relocation, redesign, and paving of an entrance including the installation of a new culvert. The permit is free for simple driveway paving. Apply online at tiny.ca/Entrance.



Garbage at Tiny Parks

Garbage cans at Tiny parks and beaches are meant for waste from your time at the park or beach only.

Council Meeting Schedule



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

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

2026 Municipal Elections



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

Voter List

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



Voter Eligibility

2026 Municipal Election voter eligibility requirements:



Eligible

- A Canadian citizen;
- At least 18 years of age;
- A resident, owner, or tenant of land in the Township of Tiny, or spouse of such tenant or owner;
- Not prohibited from voting under any law.



Ineligible

- A Corporation;
- Serving a sentence of imprisonment;
- Acting as an executor or trustee, or in any other representative capacity;
- Was convicted of a corrupt practice in the last 5 years.

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

2026 Property Taxes

Did you know? We offer e-billing, electronic payments, and pre-authorized payments.



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A Little Community Within Our Communities

What fun these Letters to the Editor have become!

What started as one heartfelt letter from Yvonne has sparked something much bigger. Her memories of community dances and social gatherings have inspired several thoughtful responses from readers. In fact, we've received so many letters that there simply isn't enough room to publish them all.

Since the original letter appeared, several residents from the southern region of Springwater have reached out to say they feel there is a need for more opportunities to bring neighbours together and build a stronger sense of community.

The ideas have been wonderful. Suggestions include community swing dances, local concerts, weekly card and game nights, seniors' coffee socials,

family barbecues, and other opportunities for people to simply spend time together.

Possible locations that have been suggested include Midhurst United Church, the Midhurst Community Centre, the Doran Pavilion, Grenfel Community Centre, and the Minesing Community Centre.

Ideally, this would become a resident-led, non-profit community group, created by the people who live in the area for the benefit of everyone. While the North Simcoe Springwater News is not in a position to organize it ourselves, we are more than happy to help connect interested residents, share information, assist with research, and help coordinate those first

conversations to get the group off the ground.

This is what community is all about—helping one another, meeting your neighbours, sharing a few laughs, and maybe even dancing a little more.

As Yvonne wrote to me after seeing the response to her letter, *"Maybe this is the first step we all need to have a little more fun in life."*

If you are interested in helping organize, becoming a member, volunteering, or simply learning more about this potential community group, please reach out to us. We'd be delighted to help connect Yvonne and the many other interested residents to turn this worthwhile idea into a reality.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DANCE

This is in response to the recent Letter to the Editor from Yvonne Mostowy.

First off let me congratulate you on the Springwater News. I have been a newspaper reader all my life and I enjoy holding a newspaper in my hand, rather than staring at a computer screen. We live at Horseshoe Valley and I always try to pick up a copy of the paper in Craighurst, either at the drug store or the ESSO .

There are still opportunities to dance in the Simcoe County area, but most are not well publicized and some of them are "one offs", rather than regular monthly dances.

I'm an "old time square dance caller and my wife, Sandy plays "old time fiddle". While we are "elderly-I'm 84, we think nothing of travelling 2 hours to get to an event. The travelling is still within our capabilities, so we do it.

In terms of regular dances, there are the Barrie Thornton Fiddle Club and Bond Head Fiddle Club monthly dances. They are fiddle jams/dances and square dances combined. Barrie Thornton does not hold the dances in July and August. Their next jam/dance will be September 8. It will be at the Thornton arena, in the upstairs banquet hall. Starts at 1:00PM and goes to 4:00PM. Admission is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for non-members. Annual membership is \$5.00. The events are always held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Bond Head does hold their monthly jam/dance in the Summer. They are the 4th Tuesday of every month. Their next 2 dances are July 28 and August 25. Starts at 6:00PM and goes until 9:00PM. Admission is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for non-members. Annual membership is \$5.00. The admission will increase to \$7.00 and \$9.00 in Sept. The dances are held at the Bond Head Community Hall at the junction of Hwys. 88 & 27. The dances are usually held in the afternoon, and on Sept. 22 they will revert back to a 1:00PM to 4:00PM time slot. The Summer hours allow the Twp. to run a daytime kids Summer School.

The 3rd Saturday in May is National and World Fiddle Day and for the last 5 years, my wife and I have organized a fiddle jam/dance/square dance at the Eady Community Hall, in Oro-Medonte Twp.

to celebrate the day. We do not charge admission, but it is a fundraiser for COPE Service Dogs and we ask people to make donations. We usually have at least 6 COPE dogs there. Each year, the place is filled to capacity with fiddlers, listeners, dancers and dog lovers. A lot of the people that attend the old time dances affectionately refer to the event as the "Dog Dance". This year the event was on May 16th and we raised over \$9,000. for COPE. Our 5 year total is in excess of \$24,000. We are very grateful for the generosity of the Old Time Music Community. The Craighurst Women's Institute caters the event and it is a fundraiser for them too. Their egg sandwiches are legendary.

The Hall is already booked for May 15th, 2027.

A new event that is taking place at the Eady Community Hall is an acoustic fiddle circle jam. 15-20 musicians sit in a circle, each one gets to call a tune and then they all play it. Listeners are welcome and there is room to dance if people feel so inclined.

NORTH SIMCOE

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Elmvale Co-Ed Soccer would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible local sponsors for their generous support this season: **Tim Hortons, Carquest Elmvale Bakery, Ritchie Feeds & Needs, Whitfield Guardian Drugs, Hardship Acres, Flos Agricultural Society Board & Junior Board, Armco Dairy, B2's Pizza & Life's a Slice Aaron Lalonde Plumbing, Cooper Rentals, Elmvale Library, North Simcoe Springwater News Foodland Elmvale, Springwater Township**

We would also like to recognize the students from Elmvale District High School and surrounding

schools. Thank you for your dedication, enthusiasm, and all the hard work you put into coaching our teams throughout the season.

To our volunteer parent coaches, thank you for giving your time and energy. Our league simply would not be possible without your commitment.

A sincere thank you to all of our sponsors for helping keep our league affordable for local families. The support of local businesses and organizations is what makes living in a small community so special. We encourage everyone to shop local and support those who support our community.

To all of our players, we hope you had a fantastic season and wish you a fun, safe, and wonderful summer!

The Elmvale & District Food Bank would also like to thank everyone who generously donated throughout the season.

Registration for the 2027 season will open in March. We look forward to seeing everyone back on the field next year! Doug & Amanda Elmvale Co-Ed Soccer Coordinators

Craighurst W I July Meeting

Craighurst Women's Institute met for a picnic in the park, but it turned into a picnic in the President's dining room. Threat of rain drove us indoors. "Oh well" cried some members, "Better dry than wet". (I think that was a slogan of the prohibition forces in the 20's.) Nothing daunted the president offered first Vietnamese Tea, and then wine to accompany the picnic. The July meeting was also our planning session. Craighurst Women's Institute doesn't just happen, it takes careful preparation and co-ordination, plus off the wall ideas for speakers and meetings. Like a fund raiser called "The Crockery Smash", where patrons pay money to fling old china at a wall and hear it go bang. That idea got shelved. Behind the crockery. Old crocks might not like it but safety first, right gentle readers? So we roughed out the coming year, including who will bring lunch and who won't, and declared the July get together done. Stay dry all!



Grenfel United Church presents a donation to (on the right) Heather, the Manager of the Essa/Angus Food Bank.



Young Performers Invited to Audition for Children's Chorus in Penetanguishene Panto

Aspiring young performers will have the opportunity to take the stage alongside professional actors this fall as the Drayton Entertainment Youth Academy holds auditions for the Children's Chorus in Snow White and the Seven Tenors: A Panto.

Auditions will take place on Friday, August 14, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre, with registration beginning at 4:00 p.m. The production will be presented this October at the King's Wharf Theatre in Penetanguishene.

Youth ages 8 to 15 are encouraged to audition. Previous experience in singing, dancing, and acting is considered an asset. Participants are asked to learn the audition song provided during online registration. During the audition, performers will also learn a dance routine, perform it in small groups, and sing part of the selected song as a solo.

"Our Panto productions are a wonderful gateway into theatre, for audience members and young performers alike," said David Connolly, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. "We're thrilled to invite aspiring young actors to be part of Snow White and the Seven Tenors: A Panto, where they'll gain invaluable experience by sharing the stage with professional artists and are sure to make life-long friends."

To allow as many children as possible to participate, those selected will be divided into teams and will rotate performances throughout the production alongside the professional cast.

The production is directed and choreographed by



David Connolly, who also led last year's Cinderella: The Panto, and is written by Caroline Smith.

Rehearsals begin in mid-October at the King's Wharf Theatre, with performances running October 21 through November 14. Children cast in the production must be available for all rehearsals and performances assigned to their team.

A traditional British style of family theatre, pantomimes are known for encouraging audience participation while blending fairy tales with popular music, energetic dance numbers, comedy, colourful costumes, and contemporary humour. Snow White and the Seven Tenors: A Panto promises an entertaining

experience for audiences of all ages.

Audition registration and complete details are available through the Drayton Entertainment Youth Academy.

The organization is also launching a new Online Scripted Acting course for young performers looking to build their skills from home. Designed for all experience levels, the program focuses on character development, script analysis, scene study, and performance techniques while making professional acting instruction more accessible to students regardless of location. Registration information is available through the Drayton Entertainment Youth Academy website.



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MORE INFO TO FOLLOW**

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As your federal Member of Parliament, I work to keep you informed on what the 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.

My team and I are happy to greet in person visitors and answer phone calls and emails Monday to Friday in my local office. You can find us at 48 Alliance Boulevard, Suite 104, in Barrie. You can also reach us by telephone at 705-728-2596.

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Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada inquiries
Any other federal matters

How we can help is determined on a case-by-case basis, so the best thing to do is contact my 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

Ontario Invests \$17.1 Million to Support Hospital Operations in Simcoe North

SIMCOE NORTH – The Ontario government has announced a \$17,092,100 investment to support hospital operations in Simcoe North, with funding directed to Georgian Bay General Hospital, Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, and Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care.

The funding is part of the province's \$1.1 billion investment in hospitals outlined in the 2026 Ontario Budget, representing a four per cent increase in annual hospital operating funding for the fourth consecutive year.

According to the province, the funding will help hospitals maintain core clinical services, keep emergency departments operating, address inflationary and wage pressures, and reduce wait times for diagnostic imaging and surgical procedures. Services expected to benefit include MRI and CT scans, cardiac and stroke care, neurology, orthopedics, and cataract surgeries.

"This investment in hospital funding demonstrates our government's commitment to ensuring families across our region have access to the high-quality care they deserve, when and where they need it," said Simcoe North MPP Jill Dunlop in a news release.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones said the funding is intended to improve access to care while reducing wait lists and wait times for patients across the region.

Local hospital leaders welcomed the announcement.

Matthew Lawson, President and CEO of Georgian Bay General Hospital, said the investment comes at an important time as the hospital prepares for a significant seasonal increase in patient volumes.

"As summer travel and vacations begin, GBGH sees a population increase of over 150 per cent within our catchment area," Lawson said. "The funding recently allocated as part of Ontario Investing to Support Hospital Operations will allow us to better adapt during this busy season, as well as help cover annual inflationary pressures and a portion of growth pressures throughout



the year."

Tom Roberts, Interim President and CEO of Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, said the additional base funding will help the hospital respond to growing demand while continuing to build a more integrated health-care system.

Dr. Nadiya Sunderji, President and CEO of Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, said the funding recognizes Waypoint's role in providing specialized mental health, addictions and seniors' care. She noted the investment will help the hospital continue supporting recovery while working with health-care partners to ease pressure on emergency departments and expand capacity across the system.

The provincial government also noted that Ontario plans to invest approximately \$64 billion over the next decade in health-care infrastructure, including more than 50 major hospital projects expected to add approximately 3,000 new hospital beds across the

province.

By the Numbers

- \$17.1 million in new operating funding for Georgian Bay General Hospital, Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital and Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care.
- Part of a \$1.1 billion province-wide investment in hospital operations.
- Georgian Bay General Hospital is a 113-bed hospital serving Midland and communities throughout Georgian Bay.
- Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital operates 213 beds and serves more than 440,000 residents.
- Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care is home to Ontario's only 160-bed maximum secure forensic mental health hospital.
- The province says it will invest approximately \$64 billion over the next 10 years in health-care infrastructure across Ontario.

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

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



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Barrie Celebrates 30 Years of Communities in Bloom

The City of Barrie is celebrating 30 years of participation in Communities in Bloom with a special recognition event on Saturday, July 25, at City Hall.

Running from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the City Hall Rotunda, the event will recognize the contributions of local gardeners, volunteers, and community members who have helped make Barrie an award-winning community for its parks, gardens, and floral displays. Past Communities in Bloom participants and members of the public are invited to attend.

Communities in Bloom is a national non-profit organization that promotes civic pride, environmental stewardship, and community beautification through local involvement and friendly competition.

The celebration will highlight Barrie's many achievements over the past three decades, including several prestigious 5 Blooms Gold awards. Most recently, the City earned a 2025 Healthier, Livable Cities – 5 Blooms Gold award, with special recognition for its ice storm tree recovery efforts. In 2024, Barrie received a 5 Blooms Gold award in the International Challenge Large Category, along with special recognition for its Waterfront Strategic Plan and the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association's Green Cities program. The City also received a Circle of Excellence – 5 Blooms Gold award in 2023 for its outstanding plants and floral displays.

Communities in Bloom committee members and City staff will be on hand throughout the event to share information about the program and celebrate the community's continued commitment to beautification and environmental responsibility.



Barrie Farmers' Market Celebrates 180 Years of Community on August 15

BARRIE, ON – The Barrie Farmers' Market is inviting the community to celebrate a remarkable milestone as it marks 180 years of serving Barrie and the surrounding region.

Originally established in 1846, the Barrie Farmers' Market is one of Ontario's longest-running farmers' markets and has remained a cornerstone of the community for generations. For 180 years, local farmers, food producers, artisans, and small businesses have gathered to connect directly with residents, creating a lasting tradition that supports local agriculture, entrepreneurship, and community spirit.

The anniversary celebration, originally planned for July 18, has been postponed due to weather and will now take place on Saturday, August 15, 2026.

Few community institutions can claim 180 years of continuous service. This milestone is not only a celebration of the market's rich history, but also a recognition of the generations of farmers, vendors, volunteers, Board members, and customers who have helped preserve this treasured community tradition.

The celebration will feature live entertainment, family activities, birthday festivities, and special recognition of those who have contributed to the market's success throughout its history.

Visitors can enjoy live music from local musician

Sean Derraugh, who will perform clarinet selections throughout the morning, along with performances by the Northern Jewel Cloggers bringing energy and tradition to the market square.

At 10:00 a.m., the community is invited to join the official anniversary celebration, including complimentary birthday cake for the first 180 attendees, generously donated by Homestead Artisan Bakery in honour of the market's historic milestone.

The celebration will also welcome Mayor Alex Nuttall and Downtown Barrie Councillor Craig Nixon. As part of the festivities, the Barrie Farmers' Market will recognize several of its longest-standing vendors with milestone awards, celebrating their dedication, hard work, and contributions to the market community.

Families can enjoy children's activities while exploring more than 70 local vendors offering fresh produce, meats, baked goods, handcrafted products, locally made goods, and unique artisan creations.

"Celebrating 180 years is an incredible honour and a testament to every farmer, vendor, volunteer, Board member, and customer who has contributed to the Barrie Farmers' Market's success over the years," said Alison Oakes, Operations Manager of the Barrie Farmers' Market. "This milestone isn't just about our history—it's about celebrating the people who continue to keep the market thriving each and every week. We invite the entire community to join us as we celebrate our past, recognize those who have built our legacy, and look ahead to the future of local food and agriculture in Barrie."



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The Barrie Farmers' Market operates rain or shine, and the 180th Anniversary Celebration will proceed as planned on August 15.

Visitors are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the entertainment, take part in the festivities, and help celebrate 180 years of community connection, local food, and agricultural tradition.

The Barrie Farmers' Market continues every Saturday, bringing together farmers, makers, and neighbours in the heart of Barrie.

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Community Update from Ward 4

By Councillor Anita Moore

One of the many things that makes Springwater Township such a wonderful place to call home is the willingness of neighbours to come together and support one another. The **Wiidookdaadiwin Lookout**, whose name reflects the spirit of *working together and helping one another*, is a beautiful example of that community collaboration.

Located at **2816 George Johnston Road, Minesing**, the lookout has become a special gathering place for residents and visitors alike. To help keep this remarkable landmark welcoming and beautiful, the **Friends of Wiidookdaadiwin** are inviting community members to volunteer during their monthly gardening and maintenance evenings.

No gardening experience is required—just a willingness to lend a hand and enjoy spending time outdoors with fellow volunteers. Upcoming volunteer evenings will be held on:

Tuesday, August 18 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 15 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

In addition, volunteers are also needed to assist with the daily opening and closing of the lookout at **9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.** Even an occasional commitment can make a meaningful difference.

Whether you have an hour to spare or are looking for a new way to give back, your help would be sincerely appreciated. Volunteering is a wonderful opportunity

to meet neighbours, enjoy this beautiful community space, and help preserve it for future generations.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact lookout@wiidookdaadiwin.org.

Together, we can continue to care for this special place and strengthen the community spirit that makes Springwater such an exceptional place to live.



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

Springwater Health Services / Elmvale Community Hall and Knox Building Renewal:

Access to primary healthcare continues to be one of the most important issues facing our community. At the same time, many of the municipal building's residents rely on every day are reaching the point where significant investment is needed to keep them safe, functional, and ready to serve future generations.

To address both needs, Council has approved moving forward with the Elmvale Community Hall and Knox Building Renewal Project. The initiative is designed to expand access to primary care while renewing two important municipal facilities that have been serving the Elmvale community for decades.

Before entering its summer recess, Council approved the next step in the project by establishing a project commitment envelope and authorizing the initial funding needed to begin the research and design phase. This work will be carried out in partnership with the Council-designated Working Group and will provide detailed planning and cost estimates.

The project has two key objectives. The first is to support physician recruitment by creating the opportunity to expand the Township's partnership with the South Georgian Bay Community Health Centre to bring up to three new primary care physicians to Springwater. The second is to renew and preserve the Elmvale Community Hall and Knox Building, ensuring these aging municipal facilities continue to serve residents safely and effectively for years to come.

Council approved proceeding with the project within a commitment range of \$1.625 million to \$3.6 million. As planning advances, staff will return to Council at key milestones with updated project scope and recommendations to ensure transparency and ongoing oversight throughout each phase.

The continued partnership between the South Georgian Bay Community Health Centre and LifeLabs has helped strengthen healthcare services available in Elmvale. Their ongoing collaboration has created opportunities to improve access to primary care close to home and is an important part of the project's goal to support physician capacity in the

community.

Over the past four years, Council has prioritized physician recruitment by allocating funding through each annual budget, advocating with the provincial government and physician agencies, and working alongside local recruiters and family health teams.

By bringing together healthcare expansion and the renewal of important municipal infrastructure, this project aims to meet immediate community needs while preserving valuable public facilities for future generations.



Penetang’s Bert Corbeau is more famous than just winning a Stanley Cup



The rarest and most valuable Bert Corbeau hockey card is the 1923-24 William Paterson V145-1 #25 card. Widely considered the “holy grail of hockey cards”, often compared to baseball’s famous T206 Honus Wagner.

The 1909-1911 T206 Honus Wagner baseball card is widely considered the “Mona Lisa” of the sports collectibles world.

Produced by the American Tobacco Company, it is so legendary because only 50 to 60 copies are known to exist, with most surviving examples being in poor condition.

Production Halt: Honus Wagner legendary shortstop for the Pittsburgh Pirates, had his card pulled from production almost immediately after it

began.

The Tobacco Debate: the most famous theory is that Wagner did not want his image used to market cigarettes to young children. Other historians believed he ordered the halt simply because he wanted better compensation for the use of his card.

Bert Corbeau’s card has only about 10 to 15 copies with market evaluations fetching massive premiums at auction.

The Skate Contest: in 1923 Canadian candy company William Paterson Ltd. Included a free NHL player card inside their “Hockey Bar” wrappers. The Catch: the company promised a free pair of hockey skates to any child who collected the complete 40 card set and mailed them in.

The “Short Print” fix:

To prevent paying out an overwhelming number of prizes, the manufacturer artificially short-printed card #25 featuring Toronto St Patrick’s defenceman Bert Corbeau. This left thousands of frustrated kids permanently stuck at 39 cards.

The “Cancelled” copies: most of the surviving Corbeau cards found today are “canceled” varieties.

When kids actually managed to find the card and redeem their prize, the company would stamp or hole-punch the card to prevent it from being used again before returning it. Uncanceled, clean copies are virtually non-existent.

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



Springwater Sports Heritage Hall of Fame to Honour 2026 Inductees

The Springwater Sports Heritage Hall of Fame will celebrate its 2026 inductees during the biennial Induction Ceremony on Friday, September 25, at the Barrie Country Club's Trillium Room.



George Allen, Builder

For more than five decades, George Allen has been one of Springwater’s most dedicated community sport builders. As a leader in Elmvale Minor Hockey, he served in executive roles including secretary, treasurer and president while helping expand opportunities for young athletes. Beyond hockey, George organized softball tournaments, coached championship teams, developed youth fitness and cross-country programs, and supported track and field success. Following the 1974 Elmvale Arena fire, he played a key role in restoring facilities and ensuring local sports continued to thrive. George also helped lead the redevelopment of the arena, creation of Heritage Park, preservation of local sports history via his “Chapters” books, and numerous community recreation initiatives. His vision, leadership and volunteer service have left a lasting legacy throughout Springwater.



David Drinkill, Builder

An Elmvale native, Dave Drinkill’s lifelong hockey journey advanced from local arenas to the pinnacle of Canadian major junior hockey execution. As a talented goaltender, Dave anchored the Elmvale Guardian Drugs Midgets to back-to-back OMHA Championships in 1999 and 2000. Turning his passion toward executive leadership, he built a distinguished OHL career, serving as Assistant General Manager for the Barrie Colts before becoming General Manager of the Saginaw Spirit in 2015. Under his visionary guidance, Saginaw achieved historic milestones, culminating in the ultimate triumph: winning the 2024 Memorial Cup. Dave further excelled on the international stage, leading Team Canada Red to a U17 World Challenge Gold Medal in 2026. Deeply loyal to his roots, Dave proudly returned home to share the historic Memorial Cup with an appreciative Springwater community.



Kathy McCarroll, Builder

An Orr Lake resident, Kathy McCarroll has spent over 35 years building a more inclusive world through her extraordinary dedication to Special Olympics sports. Since 1991, Kathy has volunteered thousands of hours developing, training, and coaching athletes across a staggering array of sports, including Nordic skiing, track and field, and floor hockey. Her elite coaching expertise guided local athletes to dozens of Provincial and National Games, ultimately training national winners to compete at the World Games in Pyeongchang, Los Angeles, and Almaty. Beyond her on-ice accomplishments, Kathy’s patience and advocacy earned her the Special Olympics Ontario Female Coach of the Year honours in 2018. Her profound legacy reflects a lifetime spent empowering athletes to overcome barriers and achieve their dreams.

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Notice of Complete Application & Public Meeting Concerning a
Proposed Amendment to Comprehensive Zoning By-law 5000
ZB-2026-008 – Housekeeping Zoning By-law Amendment

Take notice the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Springwater will hold a hybrid public meeting (in person at the Township Administration Centre and virtually via Zoom) on **September 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.** to consider a proposed Housekeeping Zoning By-law Amendment under Sections 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P 13 as amended.

Subject Lands: Entire geographic area of the Township of Springwater. **No key map** has been included in this notice as the proposed amendment applies ot the entire municipality.

Purpose and Effect: The purpose and effect of the proposed Housekeeping Zoning By-law Amendment is to clarify, correct and/or make change to various provisions and schedules of the Township’s Zoning By-law 5000, as amended and summarized herein:

1. Technical/Grammatical Housekeeping Corrections text and schedules, including:
 - Spelling and punctuation error corrections;
 - Conversion error corrections;
 - Mapping error corrections in accordance with previous approvals;
 - Section reference error corrections;
 - Removing any duplicate provisions;
 - Updating reference to any applicable legislation/by-laws; and,
 - Numbering or formatting error corrections.
2. Housekeeping Amendments, to create efficiencies in the Zoning provisions, clarify requirements, improvement implementation and address Provincial planning policy changes, on a limited scale. Housekeeping updates proposed are summarized herein:
 - Clarify provisions for Accessory Buildings;
 - Remove height provisions for attached Accessory Buildings to a residential use (attached garage);
 - Clarify that Hot Tubs are subject to the same provisions as Swimming Pools;
 - Remove reference to the area of a Porch within the encroachment provisions;
 - Add provisions related to the location of mechanical equipment (such as pool pumps, air conditioning units, generators, and private ground mounted solar).
 - Clarify and add provisions for Sight Triangles;
 - Add ornamental roof structure and stairwell to height exceptions;
 - Public use section to be amended to remove yard requirements;
 - Clarification on maximum size for Home Occupation/Home Industry;
 - Location provision to be added for Off Street Parking in the Institutional (I) Zone;
 - Amend/clarify the housing/storage of a Commercial Motor Vehicle in the Agricultural (A) Zone;
 - Amend/clarify the Additional Residential Unit provisions to provide more detail on the permitted size, location, permit home occupations and ensure conformity with Provincial legislation;
 - Clarify that multiple Refreshment Vehicles may be permitted on the same site;
 - Remove uncovered, unenclosed Decks from contributing to lot coverage;
 - Remove minimum dwelling unit area requirements from all zones, with the exception of the Residential Estate (RE) Zone;
 - Clarify applicable provisions for the Residential Conversion (RC) Zone;
 - Clarify permitted uses on lots used or intended to be used for a residential purpose within the Agricultural (A) Zone;
 - Review and amend the provisions for storage/parking of special vehicles;
 - Amend/clarify/add the following definitions: Aisle or Drive Aisle; Attached; Animal Daycare Centre; Bed and Breakfast; Building Height; Cellar; Community Garden; Crawl Space; Garage, Attached; Hobby Kennel; Home Occupation; Lot Line, Rear; Main Wall, Front; Model Home; Swimming Pool/Hot Tub; Townhouse Back-to-Back/Stacked; Trailer, Automotive; Trailer, Commercial; and Total Area of Detached Accessory Building/Structures.

Meeting Details: Interested stakeholders/residents can listen to the meeting through Zoom online or by dialling 1-647-558-0588 and inputting the **meeting ID: 820 8142 5964** when prompted or attend the meeting in person in Council Chambers at the Township’s Administration Centre located at 2231 Nursery Road, Minesing, ON. The Council meeting will also be live streamed on the Township’s YouTube channel at: **www.springwater.ca/live**

To Participate and/or Make Comment: Interested stakeholders/residents that would like to comment/participate in the hybrid Council meeting virtually or in person on Zoom will be required to pre-register with the Township prior to Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 5:30 PM, by emailing **publicmeetings@springwater.ca** or calling **705-728-4784 x 2019**. Written and oral submissions will form part of the public meeting record, including the name and address of the commenters, as information collected under the Planning Act. The minutes, written submissions and a recording of the meeting will be posted on the Township’s website. Any person may make a submission in support of, in opposition to, or ask a question regarding the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. Written submissions are recommended and can be made to the Planning Department by email, regular post or the drop box located at the Administration Building. Please ensure all written submissions include your name, address and the application number. If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Township of Springwater to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Springwater before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision. If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Springwater before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so. **If you wish to be notified** of the Council’s decision to approve the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, or of the refusal of a request to amend the Zoning By-law, a written request must be submitted to the Planning Department. A draft By-law text and schedule will be posted on the Township’s website in advance of the Public Meeting for review.

Elmvale Farmers’ Market: Where Community Comes to Life

A walk down Elmvale’s main street on a Thursday afternoon feels like stepping into a festival. Neighbours stop to greet one another. The aroma of fresh baking and locally grown produce fills the air. Children dance to live music while eagerly waiting for another sweet treat from a market vendor. Local artisans proudly display handcrafted creations, and businesses buzz with customers discovering something new.

This is where the life of business and community come together. Mothers stroll through the market with children in tow after running errands or attending story time at the library, only to bump into old friends or even a high school classmate they haven’t seen in years. Parents finishing another busy day of summer camp at the Elmvale Community Hall find themselves lingering to chat with camp counsellors, neighbours and friends while picking up fresh vegetables for dinner. Seniors arrive simply to browse the market but stay to enjoy conversations, music and the welcoming atmosphere. In one corner, a local high school student entertains visitors with familiar classics, raising money for post-secondary education while adding another layer of charm to the afternoon. The Elmvale Farmers’ Market has become far more than a place to buy fresh food. For more than 15 years, it has served as one of Elmvale’s weekly gathering places—a space where local farmers, entrepreneurs, artists and residents connect. Every Thursday, the market transforms the



municipal parking lot at the Elmvale Community Hall into a celebration of local agriculture, small business and community spirit.

Presented by the Elmvale BIA, the 2026 market season runs Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., featuring local produce, handcrafted goods, baked treats, live entertainment and family-friendly activities.

This season also marks a new partnership with Elmvale-based SwoopFiber, which has signed on as the market’s title sponsor. The company plans to provide complimentary public Wi-Fi throughout the market, allowing visitors to stay connected while experiencing one of the community’s favourite summer traditions.

The market continues to evolve each week with new vendors, musicians and community groups. During this week’s market, the Northern Jewels Cloggers drew smiles and applause as they performed energetic routines in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Their appearance also served as an invitation for residents to join them this fall when lessons and demonstrations return to the Springwater Room.

Whether visitors arrive with a shopping list or simply come to enjoy an afternoon in town, they often leave with something more than fresh produce or handmade goods. They leave having shared conversations, discovered a local business, supported a neighbour, listened to live music or reconnected with someone they haven’t seen in years.

That’s the true harvest of the Elmvale Farmers’ Market.



Every Thursday, for a few hours, the market reminds us that thriving communities aren’t built solely by businesses or events—they’re built by people coming together.

And in Elmvale, that tradition continues one Thursday at a time.



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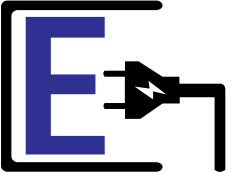
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Second Take: Lights, Camera, Action – Municipal Election Season Begins

By Kari Belcourt, North Simcoe Springwater News

Over the past several weeks, we have continued reviewing documents, interviewing sources, and examining hundreds of pages related to the second Integrity Commissioner report released by the Township of Springwater. Unlike the first investigation, this complaint reaches into the heart of one of the most contentious political disputes in recent municipal history—the Barrie boundary adjustment, the use of Strong Mayor Powers, and the deteriorating relationships around the Springwater council table.

Spanning more than 100 pages, the report examines far more than a series of alleged remarks. It chronicles months of political tension, deteriorating relationships around the council table, and the increasingly personal divisions that emerged as Springwater wrestled with the proposed Barrie boundary adjustment. By the Commissioner's own observation, the investigation became as much about the atmosphere surrounding council as it was about the specific allegations before him.

The Complaint

The investigation, conducted by Integrity Commissioner Benjamin M. Drory of ADR Chambers, stems from a complaint filed on January 20, 2026, by legal counsel Jeffrey P. Shankman on behalf of Mario Giampietri and Geranium Corporation, a member of the Midhurst Landowners Group (MLG). The report was released on June 30, 2026.

The complaint alleges that Mayor Jennifer Coughlin violated Section 4 of Springwater's Code of Conduct by making disparaging remarks during oral conversations with councillors and others.

Among the allegations were claims that the Mayor referred to Geranium and Mr. Giampietri as "the Mafia," suggested the Midhurst Landowners Group had improperly influenced a Simcoe County staff report, described that report as "corrupt," and questioned the financial stability of Geranium and the MLG by allegedly suggesting they were "broke" or "going bankrupt."

The complainants argued these comments were false, damaging to their reputations and inconsistent with the standards of respect required under the Township's Code of Conduct.

More Than One Conversation

The Commissioner quickly establishes that these allegations did not occur during formal council debate. Instead, the complaint focuses largely on conversations that allegedly took place privately—late-night phone calls, hallway discussions following council meetings and informal conversations between elected officials.

That distinction would become one of the challenges of the investigation. Unlike public meetings that are livestreamed and recorded, these conversations relied heavily upon witness recollections, many of which differed significantly.

Some witnesses recalled conversations in great detail. Others remembered only portions. Still others disputed that certain remarks had ever been made.

The report therefore becomes an exercise in assessing credibility while attempting to reconstruct events that occurred months earlier.

The Political Backdrop

To understand the investigation, it is necessary to understand the political climate surrounding it. Throughout much of 2025, Springwater Council was deeply divided over the Province's facilitated discussions regarding a proposed boundary adjustment with the City of Barrie.

Mayor Coughlin supported negotiations that would ultimately see portions of Springwater annexed by Barrie under a framework agreement.

A majority council opposed that direction, often voting 4-3. The disagreement escalated dramatically when Strong Mayor Powers were used to advance the agreement despite council opposition. Council subsequently retained legal counsel, discussed judicial review and passed multiple resolutions contesting the Mayor's decisions.

The Commissioner devotes considerable attention to this background because nearly every alleged conversation occurred during this period of extraordinary political tension.

Looking back, several members of council said the political climate surrounding the Barrie boundary adjustment created an environment unlike anything they had previously experienced.

Councillor Anita Moore said hindsight provides an opportunity for reflection. "Municipal government works best when there is respectful communication, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to resolving issues whenever possible," Moore said. "At the same time, the Integrity Commissioner process exists for situations where concerns cannot be resolved informally or where an independent review is considered appropriate."

Councillor Matt Garwood agreed the language attributed to the Mayor was inappropriate, but questioned whether the matter ultimately required a formal investigation.

"The words should have never been said," Garwood said. "But I also believe the situation could have been handled completely differently. It once again could have been a direct conversation instead of a \$29,000 report."

The Mayor's Response

Mayor Coughlin denied many of the allegations. According to the report, she stated she either had no recollection of making several of the alleged comments or denied making them altogether.

She maintained that the allegations were inconsistent with her character and emphasized that she had served Springwater with integrity throughout her time in public office.

The Mayor also submitted extensive documentation outlining the legal conflict surrounding the annexation discussions, Strong Mayor Powers and the Township's ongoing disputes regarding legal representation and council authority.

Rather than focusing solely on the alleged remarks, her submission places those conversations within the broader context of one of the Township's most significant governance disputes.

Councillor Danielle Alexander said she believes the report itself clearly explains how the complaint arose, but said the language alleged in the report was significant.

"I think the Mayor not using a racial slur, to be quite frank, is the only thing that could have prevented this," Alexander said. "They were very harsh words that she chose to use."

Witnesses Offer Differing Perspectives

The Integrity Commissioner interviewed eight individuals, including the complainant, the Mayor and six witnesses.

Several councillors described conversations they said left lasting impressions. Councillor Anita Moore recalled discussions following council meetings in which she alleged Mayor Coughlin questioned the integrity of the County's report and referred to the influence of the Midhurst Landowners Group.

Part Two: Inside the Integrity Commissioner's Investigation

Councillor Philip Fisher similarly described conversations in which he recalled hearing references to the "mafia" and allegations that such comments appeared intended to influence opinions regarding annexation.

Former Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke confirmed hearing discussions regarding rumours about the financial condition of the Midhurst Landowners Group but stated he had never personally heard the alleged "mafia" comments.

Former County Warden Terry Geddes likewise confirmed discussions regarding financial rumours but said he had no firsthand knowledge of the alleged remarks involving organized crime references.

Councillor Matt Garwood, meanwhile, stated he did not recall hearing many of the comments attributed to the Mayor, although he acknowledged broader discussions had occurred regarding the financial commitments associated with MLG's infrastructure projects.

The varying accounts illustrate one of the greatest challenges faced by any investigator examining conversations that occurred privately rather than on the public record.

The Commissioner's Findings

After reviewing the testimony and documentary evidence, Integrity Commissioner Benjamin Drory concluded that not every allegation met the threshold for a breach of the Code of Conduct. However, he determined that some comments did.

Applying the civil standard of proof—a balance of probabilities—the Commissioner found that Mayor Jennifer Coughlin did refer to Mario Giampietri and/or the Midhurst Landowners Group as the "mafia." In reaching that conclusion, he noted that Councillors Anita Moore and Phil Fisher independently recalled hearing the term used in similar circumstances, while the Mayor denied making the remark.

The Commissioner also concluded that Mayor Coughlin used the term "tentacles" to describe the Midhurst Landowners Group, noting that the Mayor herself acknowledged using that description during her interview.

With respect to comments regarding the financial condition of the Midhurst Landowners Group, the findings were more nuanced.

While the Commissioner accepted that the Mayor likely used words such as "broke" or "going bankrupt" during conversations, he concluded that much of the evidence demonstrated she was asking questions about the organization's financial health rather than presenting those statements as established fact. As a result, those inquiries did not amount to a breach of the Township's Code of Conduct.

The report also addressed allegations surrounding comments that Simcoe County staff or their report had been improperly influenced by the Midhurst Landowners Group. Although these claims formed part of the original complaint, Drory determined that questions involving Simcoe County staff fell outside his jurisdiction as Springwater's Integrity Commissioner. Those matters, he noted, were more appropriately addressed by Simcoe County's own Integrity Commissioner.

Why the "Mafia" Comments Crossed the Line

The Commissioner ultimately concluded that the references to the "mafia" and "tentacles" violated Rule 4 of Springwater's Code of Conduct, which requires members of council to conduct themselves with propriety, decency and respect toward members of the public.

In his written decision, Drory stated there was "no way to interpret either term as being respectful," observing that one referenced a criminal organization while the other compared individuals to subhuman life forms. He further noted that public officials must recognize that comments made in private conversations often find their way into the public domain, as occurred in this case.

Although the Municipal Act permits council to impose either a reprimand or suspend a member's remuneration for up to 90 days following such a finding, Drory stopped short of recommending a financial penalty.

Instead, he wrote that Mayor Coughlin appeared "deeply embarrassed" by the events surrounding the complaint and suggested that the public release of the report itself could serve as a meaningful consequence. In his view, there was little evidence that withholding remuneration would be more effective than a formal reprimand in preventing similar conduct in the future.

Moore declined to comment on the Commissioner's assessment that the Mayor was embarrassed and remorseful, noting that "that was the Commissioner's assessment—not for me to comment on." She added that throughout her time on council she has "endeavoured to conduct myself professionally and respectfully inside and outside of Council Chambers."

Deputy Mayor George Cabral said he accepted both the findings and the recommendation contained in the report.

"The Integrity Commissioner conducted an independent investigation, considered the evidence, and presented his findings and recommendation to Council," Cabral said.

Cabral said he believed "a sincere public apology, acceptable to the aggrieved, to those directly affected, and to the community, would have been an appropriate step toward repairing the harm identified in the report."

Beyond One Investigation

For residents following municipal politics, the report illustrates the distinction between allegations and findings. The complaint contained numerous allegations covering several topics, but the Commissioner carefully assessed each one independently. Some were substantiated, some were not, and others fell outside the scope of his jurisdiction.

Perhaps most importantly, the report paints a broader picture of the political climate that surrounded Springwater Council throughout late 2025. Witnesses described strained relationships, late-night phone calls, disagreements over annexation, legal challenges and competing interpretations of the same events.

As municipal election signs begin appearing across the township, this investigation becomes more than simply a Code of Conduct ruling. It serves as a detailed record of one of the most contentious chapters in Springwater's recent political history—one that voters will ultimately weigh alongside the many other issues facing the municipality this fall.

Council members differed on whether the approximately \$29,000 investigation represented good value for taxpayers.

When asked whether the matter could have been handled differently, Councillor Brad Thompson said:

"Oh, absolutely! It could have. If she had picked up the phone and called the Mayor first, it probably could have diffused the situation right away rather than spending all this money and creating all this contention. So I question the motive. If she was trying to do something good for the community, there would have been a better choice than the one she made."

Moore said the cost reflects the legislated process rather than a discretionary expense.

"The Integrity Commissioner determines if the investigation is warranted," she said. "It is not for me to say what

Continued...

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Second Take: Lights, Camera, Action – Municipal Election Season Begins

Part Two: Inside the Integrity Commissioner's Investigation

Continued...

is appropriate or not appropriate."

Garwood, however, questioned whether the outcome justified the expenditure.

"Whether it was one dollar or \$29,000, it is still a waste of money," he said. "The same resolution could have occurred in the public eye without spending a dime."

Alexander took a different view, saying the investigation itself was warranted.

"I do believe it was a warranted investigation," she said. "The Integrity Commissioner did as well."

Beyond the Allegations

One of the more striking aspects of the report is not necessarily what witnesses agreed upon—but what they consistently described about the atmosphere within council itself.

Witnesses spoke of strained relationships, late-night telephone conversations, political lobbying, public disagreements spilling into private discussions, personal frustration, and emotional exhaustion.

Whether discussing annexation, legal strategy or council procedure, many witnesses painted a picture of a governing body operating under extraordinary pressure.

Several described the annexation debate as unlike anything they had experienced during their public service.

The report does not shy away from presenting these competing narratives.

Instead, it allows readers to see the complexity of municipal governance when legal disputes, political divisions and personal relationships intersect.

Asked what lesson should come from the investigation, Moore said residents deserve "respectful debate, transparent decision-making and a council that remains focused on solving problems rather than creating them." She added that rebuilding trust will require "hard work, strong leadership, teamwork, respect for one another and, most important in my mind, equal and transparent communication."

Confidentiality, Witness Protection and Questions Raised at Council

During Council's July 8 discussion, members also debated whether certain information included in the report—particularly references to Mayor Jennifer Coughlin's health and Councillor Anita Moore's professional background as a registered nurse—raised concerns about confidentiality or professional obligations.

Following the meeting, Integrity Commissioner Benjamin Drory provided council with additional clarification regarding the legal framework governing Integrity Commissioner investigations under Ontario's Municipal Act, 2001.

Drory explained that, unlike an ordinary political discussion, an Integrity Commissioner inquiry is a statutory investigative process. Under Section 223.4 of the Municipal Act, councillors, municipal staff and the municipality itself are required to provide the Commissioner with information he considers necessary to conduct an investigation.

In return, the legislation provides important protections for witnesses.



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Drawing on provisions of the Public Inquiries Act, 2009, Drory noted that evidence provided by witnesses during an Integrity Commissioner investigation generally cannot later be used against them in other legal proceedings, except in cases involving allegations of perjury. The purpose of that protection is to allow witnesses to answer questions fully and honestly without fear that their testimony will later expose them to separate legal consequences.

Drory also clarified that the Commissioner has discretion under Section 223.6 of the Municipal Act to determine what information is necessary to include in a final report. Once completed, municipalities are required by legislation to make those reports public.

The clarification came after discussion at council concerning references in the report to Mayor Coughlin's health during the period in question and comments regarding Councillor Moore's background as a registered nurse.

Councillor Brad Thompson questioned whether information shared by the Mayor with Councillor Moore, and later referenced during the investigation, should have been disclosed. Thompson also questioned whether Moore's professional obligations as a registered nurse created ethical concerns because she said she had been concerned about the Mayor's wellbeing.

Councillor Philip Fisher rejected that interpretation during an interview with the North Simcoe Springwater News.

"Councilor Moore... is absolutely not that person's physician or nurse," Fisher said. "Every councillor—actually every citizen—if questioned by the Integrity Commissioner, has a responsibility to tell the truth."

Drory's clarification did not address whether any individual acted appropriately from an ethical or professional standpoint. Instead, it explained that information witnesses provide during an Integrity Commissioner investigation is obtained under statutory authority, that witnesses are legally protected when giving evidence, and that the Commissioner alone determines what information is necessary to include in the public report.

Drory also addressed suggestions raised during the July 8 meeting that comments made by witnesses during an investigation could themselves become the subject of new Integrity Commissioner complaints. He explained that the Municipal Act does not permit him to initiate investigations on his own initiative. Even if concerns arise during an investigation, the legislation does not authorize the Commissioner to automatically launch a separate inquiry into another member of council based solely on evidence given during the original investigation. An Integrity Commissioner may only investigate matters brought forward by council, an individual member of council or a member of the public.

Looking Ahead

As election signs begin appearing across Springwater this summer, voters will undoubtedly hear these Integrity Commissioner's reports referenced throughout the municipal campaign. Whether residents view them as evidence of misconduct, political division, or simply

the growing pains of a council navigating one of the municipality's most controversial issues, the findings have become an enduring part of Springwater's political history.

Ultimately, it will not be the Integrity Commissioner who delivers the final verdict, but the residents of Springwater when they cast their ballots this October.

For voters, however, the reports offer something more valuable than campaign talking points. They provide a detailed record of one of the most turbulent periods in the municipality's recent history, documenting not only legal disputes and procedural disagreements but also the human side of local government—where relationships, personalities and differing philosophies can influence public decision-making as much as legislation itself.

Over the coming weeks, the North Simcoe Springwater News will continue examining the issues that have defined this council term, including the Barrie Boundary Adjustment, the use of Strong Mayor Powers, the history of political discourse in Springwater, the July 31 Special Council Meeting, and the remaining Question Period from the July 8 council meeting.

Looking ahead to the next term, members of council shared similar hopes despite their differing perspectives.

Councillor Matt Garwood said restoring public confidence begins with remembering why councillors were elected.

"Before I'm a candidate, I am a councillor," he said. "Our oath of office did not stop because an election started."

Councillor Anita Moore agreed that the focus should remain on serving residents.

"Maintaining public confidence in the process is more important than speculating about the timing or motivations behind individual complaints," she said.

Councillor Danielle Alexander said rebuilding trust will require "professional and consistent leadership," while Deputy Mayor George Cabral emphasized that "we are all responsible for the words we choose and the consequences that can follow, particularly as elected officials."

Mayor Coughlin looked ahead to the opportunities facing the municipality.

"We are fortunate in Springwater to have many exciting opportunities, engaged communities and talented Staff who genuinely want to deliver excellence to our residents. Both deserve nothing less than a respectful, supportive Council—and I look forward to working with a collaborative team to deliver it."

Our goal remains unchanged: to separate allegations from finding. To distinguish opinion from evidence. To provide readers with the context necessary to understand one of the most significant municipal stories of this council term.

As Springwater enters another municipal election season, one thing is clear: the campaign has already begun. The decisions made over the coming months—and the conversations that shape them—will ultimately belong to the voters.



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Plastic-Free July: Small Changes Can Make a Big Difference

By Gwen Petreman

July is officially recognized as Plastic Free July, a worldwide movement dedicated to raising awareness about the harmful impacts of plastic pollution on our environment. The movement began in 2011 through the Plastic Free Foundation in Western Australia.

Since then, millions of people across more than 190 countries have accepted the challenge to make simple daily changes to reduce plastic waste. Most importantly, the movement encourages people to stop littering and keep plastic debris out of our precious oceans, waterways, and landfill sites.

Today, scientists around the world agree that plastic pollution is a global environmental crisis that threatens ecosystems and potentially human health. Environmentalist David Suzuki has described plastic pollution as one of the most serious environmental challenges facing the planet.

Plastics can take hundreds of years to break down. While they eventually fragment into microplastics and nanoplastics, they never truly disappear. Some plastics, such as fishing line, may take up to 600 years to decompose.

These tiny plastic particles have now been found almost everywhere on Earth—from the highest mountain peaks to the deepest ocean trenches. Sadly, countless marine animals die from starvation, suffocation, or restricted movement after mistaking plastic for food or becoming entangled in plastic debris.

Researchers have also found that extreme weather events, including wildfires, can accelerate the breakdown of plastics into even smaller particles, increasing their spread through the environment and potentially into our food chain.

Microplastics have now been detected in more than 1,300 plant species, including vegetables and fruits many of us eat every day, such as carrots, radishes, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, wheat, barley, and apples. Scientists continue to study what this means for ecosystems and human health.

Health experts are also concerned because plastics are manufactured using thousands of different chemicals, many of which have not yet been thoroughly studied. Minute plastic particles have been detected in human brain tissue, lungs, blood, and arteries. While scientists have not yet determined exactly what health risks these particles pose, research in this field continues to evolve.

More than 500 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year, yet less than 10 per cent is recycled.

Fortunately, there are many simple habits we can adopt



to reduce plastic waste. Carry a reusable water bottle instead of purchasing single-use plastic bottles. Bring reusable shopping bags whenever you shop. Buying in bulk and choosing unpackaged produce can also help reduce plastic packaging.

Researchers also recommend vacuuming and dusting regularly, as household dust can contain microplastics that may be inhaled or ingested.

David Suzuki notes that approximately 99 per cent of plastics are produced from fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas. As a result, plastic production also contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and the broader climate crisis.

While humans created much of the plastic pollution now affecting our planet, we also have the ability—and responsibility—to reduce it. Today, hundreds of non-profit organizations, businesses, researchers, and governments are working together to reduce plastic pollution using a wide variety of innovative approaches.

One of the most ambitious cleanup initiatives is The Ocean Cleanup, a non-profit organization that deploys massive U-shaped collection systems to remove floating

plastic from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The organization also operates solar-powered Interceptor vessels that collect plastic from heavily polluted rivers before it reaches the ocean. Its goal is to reduce ocean plastic pollution dramatically by 2040.

Here in Simcoe County, we are fortunate to have the Pixie Drone as part of the Great Lakes Plastic Cleanup. This autonomous aquatic robot skims the surface of Lake Simcoe, collecting floating debris, plastics, and even oils before they can travel downstream through the Great Lakes and eventually toward the Atlantic Ocean.

It is remarkable to think that a single plastic bag carelessly left behind after a picnic at Centennial Beach could travel through connected waterways and potentially harm wildlife decades from now.

The next time you go for a walk or hike and notice plastic litter on the ground, consider taking a few extra moments to pick it up. That small act of kindness could help protect wildlife and preserve our environment for future generations.

Sometimes the smallest actions can make the biggest difference.



Mums!) For vegetables, a good natural fertilizer works well. Look for a high middle number to encourage more veggie growth! Lawns will need a slow release, high Nitrogen fertilizer to keep it green and lush until the fall when you want to switch to a low Nitrogen, but high last two numbers to continue with root growth and to keep it healthy through the winter. Every little bit helps!

VIEWS FROM THE COTTAGE

By Melanie Martyn
“ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER THAT YOU’LL EVER DO...”

Takes me back to ‘69, when Three Dog Night first sang this song! They say if you can remember the ‘60’s, you weren’t there! Ha! I remember them well, but truly I see myself as a ‘70’s gal. Thee best times and thee best music, at least in my opinion. Music is central to the memories of the most enjoyable times in my life and listening to the music by way of radio gives me a lift as I recall the ‘where I was and what I was doing!’ Whether listening to a favourite music station, tuning into stimulating interviews or hearing up to date news clips, I find I can stay ‘in touch’. Social media is much more popular these days but it has not taken over everything yet!

Early (about 8 to 9 a.m.) on Saturday mornings on 740AM Zoomer Radio, there is a show hosted by Marilyn Wetston; “From a Woman’s Perspective”. The lifestyle show lends itself to providing its audience, up to date and timely information and options on health, nutrition, personal development etc., for all who listen in. Marilyn also brings in experts on a myriad of relevant topics and provides insightful perspectives on life and living in our sometimes, crazy world. I really enjoy being a part of this show as the ‘north country real estate specialist’, with my tip and ‘deal of the week!’ I especially found her remarks relevant and inspiring a few weeks ago. I felt they were well worth repeating here and I hope you find the same upliftment as I did!

I quote part of Marilyn’s opening remarks here; “Last Saturday (July 11th) marked World Population Day. We talked about an interesting contradiction. There are now more people on our planet than ever before, yet loneliness has become one of the greatest challenges of our time. How can we be surrounded by people..., lots of people and still feel alone. Perhaps the answer isn’t found in how many people are around us. Perhaps it is found in how deeply we connect with one another. That brings us perfectly to this weekend as today it is World Listening Day and tomorrow is New Friends’ Day. Nestled between those two is another reminder that the world is thinking about it’s toss away; the could-haves and the should-haves day. At first glance these three days may seem unrelated, but I think they fit together beautifully. If we’re willing to truly listen, we’ll not only discover people we never really knew, but also learn about the people already in our lives and discover that even our longest relationships can grow even deeper.

Author Stephen R Covey said; “Most people don’t listen with the intent to understand, they listen with the intent to reply”. What a powerful thought. Listening is one of the greatest gifts we can give to another person. When we really listen, we’re saying you matter; your story matters. You are saying I’m here, I’m listening. Sometimes that is all the other person needs.

As children, making friends seemed easy. We’d meet



someone on the playground or at school or wherever, and before long we were friends. As adults, we often hesitate. We become busy. We settle into our routines and tell ourselves that every one else already has enough friends. We wonder whether we should introduce ourselves or just simply walk away. Far too often we walk away and then later think “I should have said hello. I should have invited them for a coffee. I should have picked up the phone.” Those could haves and should haves can quietly keep us living in yesterday instead of embracing today. Every new day gives us another opportunity. We definitely can smile. We can introduce ourselves and welcome a new neighbour. We can reach out to someone who’s new to our community or even to our country. We can ask someone how they are doing and actually take the time to really listen to their answer. We never know where one conversation may lead. Thankfully each and every one of us, regardless of our age, can start a conversation. We can listen. We can be heard and we’re

my inner engineer and began measuring and cutting pieces for the ramps’ legs. The boys kept a steady supply of high-quality lumber coming.

How do you decide on the height of a bike ramp with your kids? Visions of hospital rooms danced in my head. X-rays, stitches, broken bones, the trophy stories of boyhood. Let’s see, four inches would have been an appropriate ramp height.

We went with 16 inches.

I spent a lot of time thinking about risk and reward that day. What’s the risk of this bike ramp? Kids falling off and getting hurt. What’s the reward? Kids having lots of fun! But isn’t that the routine of fatherhood? Moderating kids’ requests to do dangerous things. Jumping off docks, jumping off branches, jumping out of moving vehicles. Some risks are worth it. Some aren’t.

We got the first part of the ramp assembled and ran out of used lumber. The boys said there was more lumber at the old climbing wall but they needed help to get it apart. Me and my Blue Jays flip-flops wandered over to assist.

We pulled out a few screws and got some boards off.

never too old to make a new friend.” (continue hearing the rest of this by looking up the July 18th podcast on Zoomer Radio 740AM)

I agree with Marilyn in her opinion that “friendship isn’t about what someone can get from us. It’s about sharing life’s journey. It is about sharing stories, sharing laughter and being there through life’s ups and downs. Listening, caring and simply showing up!” Making new friends isn’t always easy but with courage and just reaching out, you can build new and meaningful connections that enrich our lives in ways we don’t always expect. Starting those conversations or perhaps performing a genuine act of kindness will bring a little light into someone else’s life and therefor the world becomes a better place for all of us.

‘One is the loneliest number’ might be a great song, but now I’m thinking my new, ‘old-fav’ will be ‘You’ve got a Friend!’ by Carol King. Enjoy your summer!

Then we flipped some pieces over for a better look. I should have taken a better look at what I was stepping on.

There was a nice jagged screw sticking up out of one of the pieces. I knew it was there because it had gone through my flip-flop and into my foot. I dropped like a sack of potatoes. The boys ran inside calling their big sisters to come tend to the wounded.

A limp to the house, some hydrogen peroxide, and one bandage later I was relaxing in the house with my foot in the air. But to the boys’ dismay, no bike ramp. Project abandoned. We’ll revisit that another day.

Things don’t always go as planned, do they dad? But we can’t just sit around. Try building something with your kids. Do a project together. Build a bike ramp. Step on screws. Get up and get out with them. You’ll learn to be patient and they’ll learn to wear work boots.

You’ve got what it takes dad! Time flies. Make every moment count!

Jason Weening builds stuff with his 10 kids and 1 patient wife. Read more in his book, “Yes, Dear...I’m Watching Them” on Amazon.

Jo Knows Nutrition

by Joanne Nijhuis



In the heat of summer, there’s nothing quite like a fresh, vibrant salad to brighten up the table. This Edamame Mango Salad combines crisp vegetables, creamy avocado, sweet mango and tender edamame into a colourful dish that’s sure to wow family and friends. Whether served as a light lunch, a refreshing side dish or the centrepiece of a summer meal, this is one of those recipes you will find yourself making on repeat. So good!

Did You Know?

Edamame are young soybeans that have been enjoyed in East Asian cuisine for centuries, particularly in Japan, where they are traditionally served steamed and salted as a snack or appetizer. Often called a “superfood,” edamame is packed with plant-based protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals, including folate, vitamin K, iron and magnesium. In Ontario, you will find both shelled and in-the-pod edamame in the frozen food section of most supermarkets, making them an easy and nutritious addition to salads, soups and stir-fries.

INGREDIENTS (6 Servings)

Salad

- 2 cups (500 ml) shelled edamame, cooked and cooled
- 1 ½ cups (375 ml) mango, diced
- 1 ½ cups (375 ml) cucumber, diced
- ½ cup (125 ml) red onion, finely diced
- 1 cup (250 ml) avocado, diced
- 1 cup (250 ml) corn kernels
- ½ cup (125 ml) fresh cilantro, chopped
- 2 Tablespoons (30 ml) jalapeño, seeds removed & finely minced (optional)

Salad Dressing

- ¼ cup (60 ml) fresh lime juice
- 3 Tablespoons (45 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 1 Tablespoon (15 ml) fresh garlic, minced
- 2 Tablespoons (30 ml) honey mustard or 1 ½ Tablespoons (22 ml) Dijon or yellow mustard & 1 teaspoon (5 ml) honey
- ½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) salt
- ¼ teaspoon (1.25 ml) black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cook the shelled edamame according to the package

Building a Life for All Seasons (formerly Annie’s Journal)

written by Annie Warner Donnelly



EDAMAME MANGO SALAD SWEET, SAVOURY & DELICIOUS IN EVERY BITE



directions. Drain well and allow to cool completely.

2. In a large bowl, combine the edamame, mango, cucumber, red onion, avocado, corn, cilantro and jalapeño, if using.

3. In a jar or small bowl, shake or whisk together the lime juice, olive oil, garlic, honey mustard (or honey & mustard), salt & pepper until smooth.

4. Pour the dressing over the salad and gently toss until evenly coated.

5. Chill the salad for at least 30 minutes before serving. If preparing ahead, add the diced avocado just before serving to prevent browning.

ENJOY!

PER SERVING: |Calories: 235 kcal | Carbohydrates:

23 g | Protein: 8 g | Fat: 14 g |Fibre: 6 g | Sodium: 245 mg |

Joanne Nijhuis, MSc, RD is a Consulting, Media and Culinary Registered 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 is currently working on her first cookbook.

times. Father, please bind us together in Your love. In these moments, may we experience Your peace that passes all human understanding. May we glimpse the security of heaven.

Please be with those who are fleeing for their lives; with those cornered by fire or war, by terrorists or hunger; with those trying to find food and medical care to keep their children alive; with those whose homes have been destroyed, whose livestock or pets are dead or missing; with those whose loved ones have died and whose bodies are still missing.

In the midst of the world’s suffering, may we experience the joy of Your salvation, the steadfastness of Your love, the faithfulness of Your comfort, the beauty of summer as You created it to be, and the eternal hope that exists in You alone. May we see that it’s still possible to achieve our hopes and dreams.

Please heal everything that is in our hearts, our minds, our bodies and our spirits that needs Your healing touch. May we be a light within our homes, our families, our communities, wherever our footsteps take us. May our praise and worship be a sweet sound in Your ear. Amen.

Bearbells By Leslie Noonan

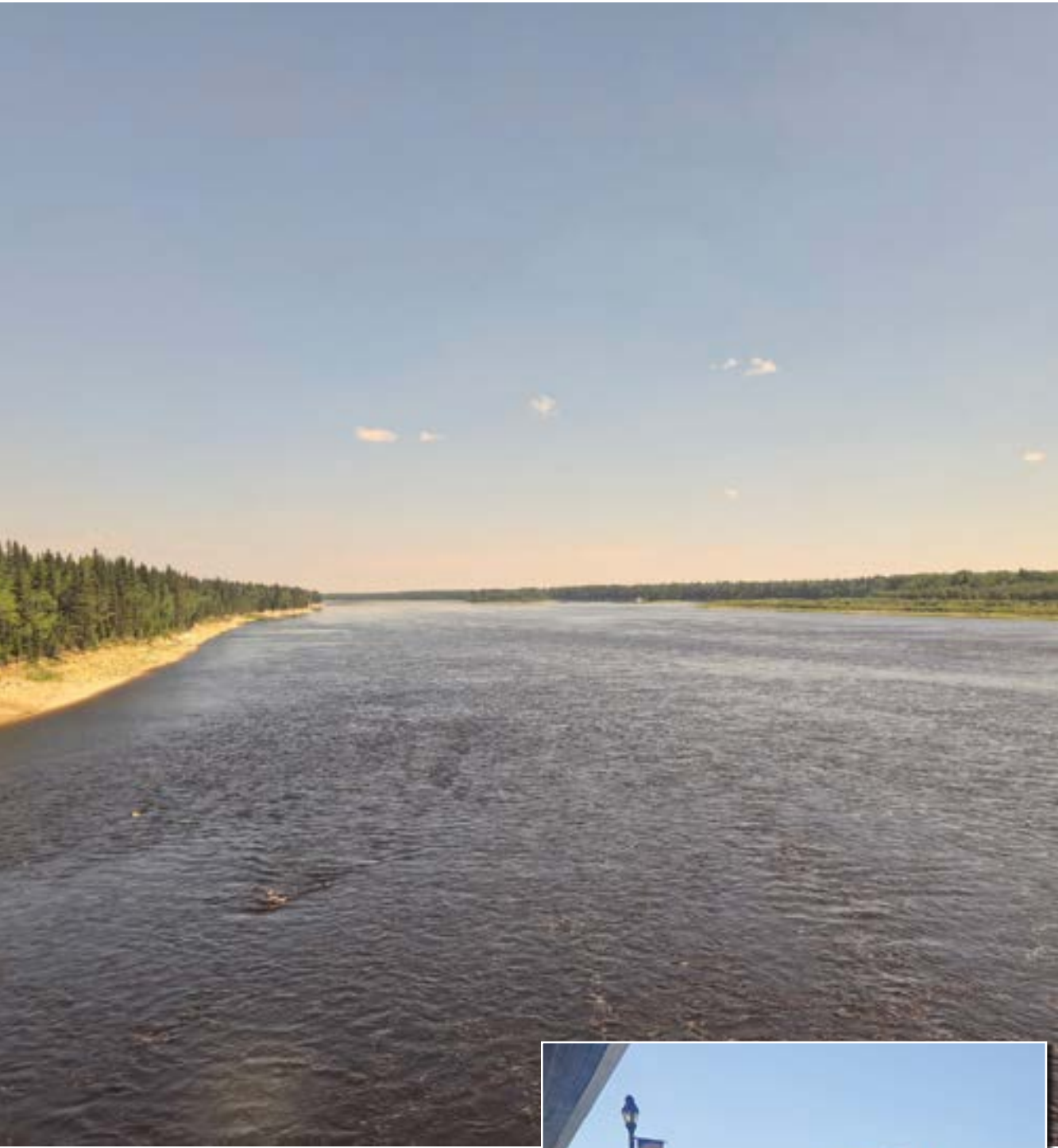


Clickity clack, clickity clack. The train rumbled along the single rail line heading north, all the way to James Bay. The gentle swaying of the car had several people dozing in the comfortable seats, while outside the window, dense forests of tamarack, pine and spruce touched the blue sky. Often the train would cross over large and isolated rivers, white water flowing out the to Arctic Ocean. The undergrowth was thick and dark, ferns and small brushes blocking out the view. Overhead a large bird left its shadow on the land, unconcerned with our passing. Our train made very infrequent stops, at dirt roads going nowhere as there are no continuous roads in this part of the country. Instead, small communities nestled close to the tracks. At one stop a group of workers departed, presumably to work at the hydroelectric dam visible in the distance.

The train continued on its way, and after five hours came to Moosesnee, a small Cree community on James Bay. Once a major port for the fur trade, the area is now a small town only accessible by plane or train, and acts as a transportation hub for the James Bay lowlands. Thirty years ago, I was here with my mom, and have fond memories of not just the train, but of the huge canoes that transported people to Moose Factory, as well as the indigenous locals who taught traditional crafts such as bannock making to tourists. That is all gone now, only the faded tourists sign on an old, decommissioned train car greet tourists as they step off the train. The station is surrounded by metal beams, concrete and dirt. There are no signs pointing to local gift or craft shops, no signs to a nice spot to sit for a cold drink. There is nothing inviting tourists to step off the train, and indeed, we wished we never had.

We walked along the dusty road into the middle of town, expecting to find some of what I remember from my youth. The town had grown, and small homes covered several blocks. I had booked a hotel at...the only hotel in town. The doors are only briefly open, to coincide with the train's arrival. We were warned that after that small window the doors are always locked. We were given several side glances, as no other group of tourists had stepped off the train, only locals, construction workers and a group of hunters. Definitely no one else in flipflops and a wide brimmed hat, no one with older children. One person went so far as to ask, with obvious surprise, if we were tourists. When we said yes, this local gentleman expressed concern, and advised against going to Tidewell Provincial park, as there is no one there and no guarantee that we would be picked up by the local water taxis. This provincial park, the most northerly in Ontario, had been on our list for a day trip, and I was brushing off his concerns, while my very quiet, very deep inner voice was preaching caution.

We left the hotel and headed towards the water, assuming that this is where we would find the taxis and ferry to the island. The heat was brutal, which we did not expect this far north, but it was the giant deer flies that caused my kids the most misery, some as long as a small finger, with bites that felt like chihuahuas nipping at your skin. These monsters were undeterred by any amount of DEET, and I suspect they were immune to bug spray. Tornadoes of these bugs formed around each of my kids, though for some reason they mostly ignored me. Out came the bug hats and shirts, which did nothing to repel these beasts, and only increased the heat. We walked along the waterfront, long grasses swaying in the breeze. The Moose river was smooth and dark, flowing towards James Bay and the Arctic Ocean while along the waters edge small boats moved with the current. We searched for a sign indicating either the water taxis or ferry docking, before conceding retreat and deciding that food was our next stop. Easier said than done. There are no restaurants, no cafes, no food trucks. There is a grocery store, with a takeout only



KFC. Inside the grocery store, people pushed carts with a few items, unlike the overflowing carts we see in the south. Although when a can of coffee is fifty dollars, people would need to be very frugal with their money. We grabbed a few items to eat in the hotel room; a couple sandwiches, water and drink boxes, for the astounding price of sixty dollars. Back in our room, the winged beasts banged forcefully into the windows, determined to have their pound of flesh.

The next morning, we set off determined to visit the historic sites. We called the local Cree tourists director, and she directed us to Moose Factory and the Cree cultural center. Once again, we dared the unrelenting sun and swarms of deer flies and walked along the waterfront, and through more construction sites, and along an active rail line, and still no sign to direct us to the ferry. Instead, we stood on the shore and watched the ferry cross the river and we ran parallel to the vessel to judge where it might dock. There, a dirt and rock track leading to the water and the ferry docking, and we were clambering on board. The ride was lovely, the cool breeze ruffling our sweat soaked hair, and momentarily blowing away the bugs. The reprieve was short lived, and we found ourselves standing on a long dusty road. We walked, and walked and walked, under that hot sun, before finally arriving thirty minutes later at the cultural centre, only to find it closed for lunch. With no bench to sit on, and no shade, I became concerned that my son was experiencing heat exhaustion. We turned back, and after a rest under a tree in a church yard, boarded that ferry and returned to the hotel.

We never made it to Tidewell, the water taxis being too dubious for us, with not a life jacket in site. We never went out at night to see the northern lights, as after several interesting interactions with locals we decided it was too dangerous. We never explored James Bay to look for seals and belugas, as we did not bring cash and never found an ATM. We never saw a cultural

site, as they all remained locked and not open to the public except by calling ahead. This is not a stopover for the regular tourist, instead it is for fishermen and outdoors people who want the rugged experience. Heading back to the train, we saw older couples with walkers getting off and felt it our duty to tell them to go back to the train station to wait for the return trip, as there was no where else for them to sit for a break. Back on the train, I marvelled at the scenery, as the setting sun painted the sky in shades of pink and orange and outlined the black, slender trunks of spruce strutting off to the horizon. Perhaps we did not do any of things that we hoped for, but we did spend time together and have some interesting memories to look back on.

If you do choose to go to Moosenece, plan in advance. Visit <https://northernontario.travel> and book your visit with local tour operators.

ANTEN MILLS By Dennis Gannon

Have you noticed that the sun is going down earlier each night? The last night that saw the sun go down after 9PM was on July 15. Since then we are losing approximately 2 minutes of daylight each day. Today, July 30 the sun will set at 8:45PM with 14:42 hours of daylight. It's time to enjoy it while you can as it's only 7 more weeks until Autumn Equinox on September 22.

As we move into August it is a wonderful time to look to the skies at night as the Perseids meteor showers are now occurring. This annual event starts in the middle of July and the peak is around August 12 - 13 around this area. If you haven't gazed up to the stars and looked for them you are missing an amazing spectacle.

Most people are aware that the municipal elections will be held this year on October 26. Every 4 years we as the electorate decide who will be responsible for our community for the next 4 years. There is a slate of individuals who have put forth their names to run for the positions of ward councillors as well as for the mayor and deputy mayor. In our Ward 3 only one individual has offered their name. Running for council is the grass roots of democracy. While federal and provincial governments look after the big picture, it's our local residents that have been elected by us that look after our immediate needs and interests. Springwater Township website has a page on municipal elections. They are also attending events so that you may ask questions as well as determining if you are eligible to vote. Candidate information is also available and if you think you could make a difference

you have until August 21 to declare your candidacy. Candidates are already out canvassing throughout the municipality and if they come knocking on your door be sure to ask them the hard questions that you have. Informed electors vote for candidates that have the ability to make a difference in our municipality.

If you haven't decided on running for Council for the upcoming term but still have an interest in serving the community then why not consider applying to become a member of one of the committees that assist Council. There are a number that you could consider such as the Committee of Adjustment, the Library Board or the Property Standards Committee. You can find more information about them on the Township of Springwater website.

Last Wednesday the first movie night under the pavilion was held. With the air quality advisory issued the week before the movie was postponed for a week. Thanks to the Chapman family for hosting and to all who came out. Another movie night is being considered for August and when details are available they will be posted on the Anten Mills Community Bulletin Facebook page.

Are you a local artisan or crafter? How about a fabulous chili chef? If you are have you booked your spot for the Anten Mills Autumn Craft Fair and Chili Cookoff? This annual event will be held on Saturday, September 26 at the community centre. It's not too late to enter so if you are interested send Roslyn an email at farmview@on.aibn.com and she can give you the details.

The County of Simcoe updated the construction work being performed at the intersection of Horseshoe Valley Road and Crossland Road. Lane reductions are in place from Monday to Thursday from 9AM to

4PM and on Friday from 9AM until noon. Obviously the County recognizes that there is significant traffic on both roads particularly Horseshoe and it would be prudent for them to look at reducing the speed through the village. Horseshoe is a county road but the traffic volume has increased significantly over the past years such that it's now a highway going through a community and the community deserves recognition. Long before the amalgamation of the former Flos and Vespra Townships, the two townships had petitioned the County to reduce the speed limit from 60 kph to 50 kph. The County declined at that time. If you travel further east along Horseshoe you will observe that in the Horseshoe Valley Resort area the speed limit has been reduced to both a 50 kilometer per hour section as well as a 40 kilometre section as well as a community safety zone. Along our area there is a church, a community centre, a park and a private school, pieces required for a community safety zone. When future members of council come knocking on your door perhaps that's the hard question that needs to be asked. What are they going to do to get the speed limit reduced and enforced?

The Springwater Fire and Emergency Services has relocated their headquarters to the new Midhurst fire station along Snow Valley Road. That should mean for those living along Horseshoe fewer sirens being heard as the the trucks responding to the northern portion of the township will be leaving from the new station and not the Minesing hall. Anten Mills is still covered by the Minesing station and the volunteers who responded to it.

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

SPRINGWATER LIBRARY

Elmvalle Branch (705) 322-1482
Midhurst Branch (705) 737-5650
Minesing Branch (705) 722-6440
VISIT US TODAY!

Library Board Applications Now Open
Join our Library Board! Help us deliver great library services that support all Springwater residents. Committee applications are now open on the Township of Springwater's website, www.springwater.ca.

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 Elmvalle 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 August at Midhurst Branch or Fridays 1pm in August at Elmvalle Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

Duck! Duck! Goose! Program
Waddle over to the library for duck week, a quacking good time filled with duck-themed crafts, games and activities for kids. From silly stories to imaginative projects and playful challenges this program will have everyone flapping with excitement. Tuesday August 4, 10:30am or 5:30pm at Elmvalle Branch and Thursday August 6, 5:30pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

Whale of a good time! Program
Make a splash during whale week at the library with whale-themed crafts, games and exciting hands-on activities for kids. Dive into stories, ocean fun and playful adventures inspired by the amazing giants of the sea. Tuesday August 11, 10:30am or 5:30pm at Elmvalle Branch. Thursday August 13 at 5:30pm, Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

Adult Meditation Class
The Barrie Community Health Clinic will be presenting a Meditation class. This class includes information and education as well as three separate mindfulness meditations. All abilities are welcome!

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SUBMISSIONS

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

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www.landaccounting.com
Facebook: L&R Accounting
landaccounting@hotmail.com

Penetanguishene Library

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

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!

Decorate Seashells - Tuesday July 28th, 2026, 11:00am-12:00pm
Get creative and make some silly seashells! Ages:

- Across**
- 1 "Funny you should ____ ..."
 - 4 Kind of scan, for short
 - 8 Head butt
 - 11 Spectate
 - 12 Atlas stat
 - 13 Basis of some divisions
 - 14 Fan's purchase
 - 15 Vacation rentals
 - 17 At that point...
 - 19 Cold war side
 - 20 Alone
 - 22 Forget the words maybe
 - 24 Gets ready
 - 27 Lodge sport
 - 30 Concurrence
 - 31 Housekeeper
 - 33 Unusual
 - 34 Loathe
 - 35 Key
 - 38 For or what follower
 - 40 Collect
 - 43 Bug on the line
 - 46 Kind of foil
 - 47 Take five
 - 48 Pitcher's stat
 - 49 Remained inactive
 - 50 Meets a bet
 - 51 Condensation

- Down**
- 1 Blaze remnants
 - 2 Perplexed, at ____
 - 3 Kitchen equipment
 - 4 Confront
 - 5 Strong metal
 - 6 Examine thoroughly
 - 7 Snack, say
 - 8 Blow one's top
 - 9 Like some wines and cheeses
 - 10 Clutter

Dr Sean Corsini Orthodontist
No referral necessary



705 527-5570
550 Hugel Ave, Midland

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

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12					13		
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35	36	37				38	39				
40				41	42				43	44	45
46				47					48		
49				50					51		

- 16 Common tattoo spot
- 18 Proceed on one leg
- 20 CIA operative
- 21 Metal underground
- 22 Fashion's whimsical line
- 23 Get to act as a pawn
- 25 Write extra
- 26 Word with "fishing" or "curtain"
- 27 Began
- 28 Emergency ____
- 29 Diamonds, slang
- 32 That lass
- 33 Less than a couple
- 35 Protective floor coverings
- 36 Kabul's continent
- 37 " ____ that special?!"
- 38 Other than mentioned
- 39 Looks over
- 41 Union title, often
- 42 Drone, e.g.
- 44 We ____ the world
- 45 Animal foot



Nail Trims

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* tax

www.jennifersgrooming.ca dogs@jennifersgrooming.ca
(705)322-9583 9 Queen St. West, Elmvalle

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.

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.

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.

Paint 'n Sip with the Baked Painter at the Penetanguishene Public Library
Tuesday September 15th, 2026, 4:00pm-6:00pm
Enjoy the Baked Painter's signature virgin margarita, as you paint a lighthouse picture. Members \$35, non-Members \$40. 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.

CROSSWORD

ANSWER

1	A	S	K		4	F	I	V	E		8	R	A	M	
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Sudbury Barrie Transmission Line project

Notice of Commencement

Class Environmental Assessment and community open house 2



Ontario's demand for electricity is increasing. To meet this demand, Hydro One is investing in the Sudbury Barrie Transmission Line, a new priority line between Sudbury and Barrie. Once built, this critical infrastructure will support new generation opportunities in the north, strengthen reliability, foster economic growth and investments and ensure a dependable power supply for the increased need anticipated in northern Ontario.

and ongoing technical studies and shows where the routes are most likely to be developed and further studied as the Class EA proceeds. The map is also online at [HydroOne.com/SBTL](https://hydroone.com/SBTL).

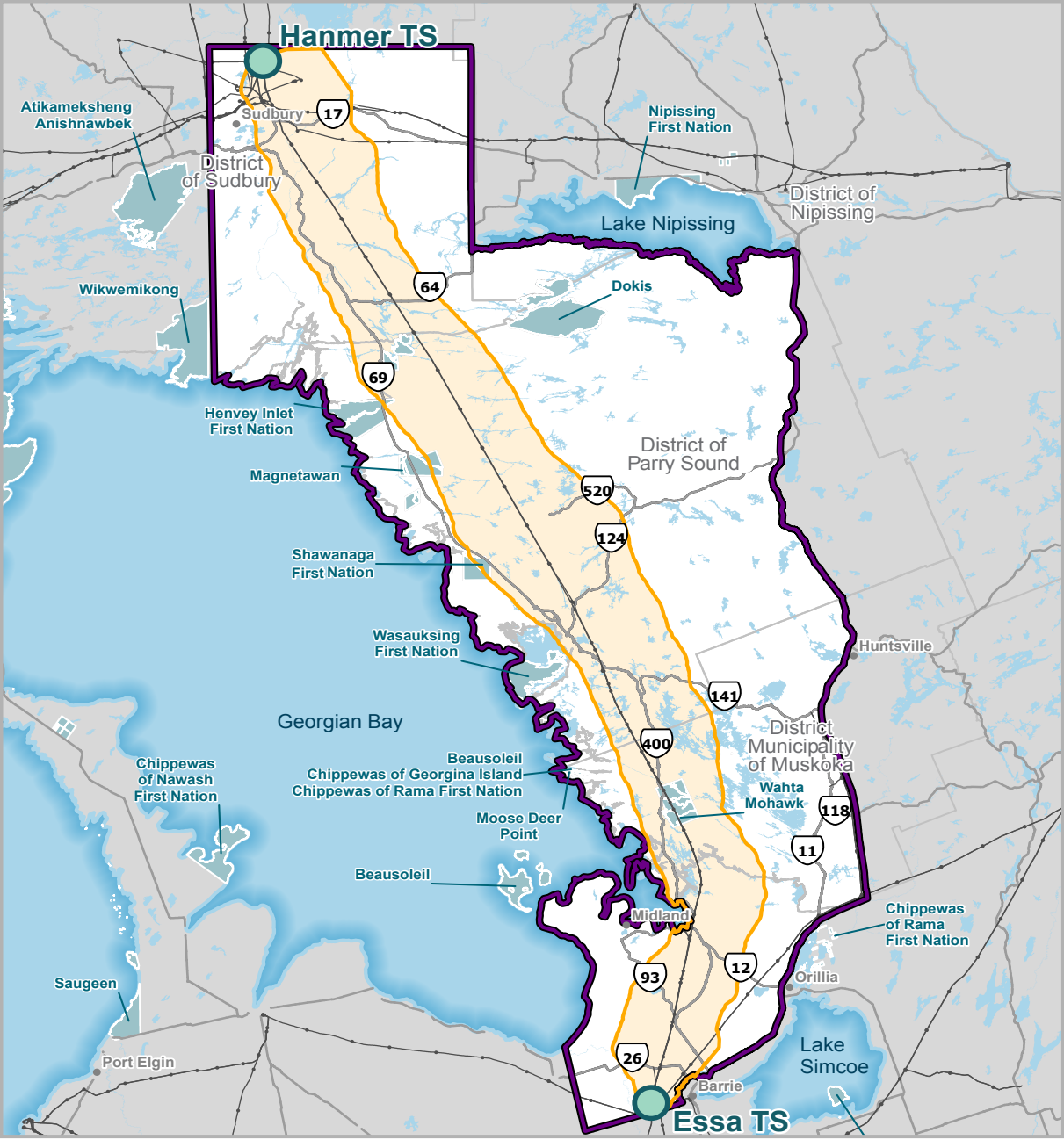
Working with Indigenous communities
Hydro One is committed to collaborating with Indigenous communities throughout this project. This includes taking a community-led approach to engagement, early information sharing, making long-term investments in communities' capacity to participate in the project and working together to advance project milestones.

The Class EA process
Planning for the proposed project will follow the Class EA for Transmission Facilities 2024, established in accordance with the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. Following completion of the Class EA, the project will also require Ontario Energy Board approval under Section 92 (Leave to Construct) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. For more information, please visit [HydroOne.com/ClassEA](https://hydroone.com/ClassEA).

Cet avis est disponible en français sur la page web de notre projet.

Project description
Hydro One is initiating a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed single-circuit, 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will span approximately 300 kilometres from Hanmer Transformer Station (TS) in Sudbury to Essa TS near Barrie, including associated station facility expansions. This line is expected to be in service in 2032. The project includes direction from the Ontario government to complete development work on a second new single-circuit, 500-kV transmission line. A recommended in-service date for the second line will be determined by the Independent Electricity System Operator.

New focused study area
The map below shows how the project study area has been refined into a focused study area. This update is based on feedback received



Map Legend

- Transformer station (TS)
- Project study area
- Focused study area
- Municipal boundary
- Waterbody
- First Nation
- Highway
- Existing transmission line

0 25 50 km

N

Join us this summer at a community open house to learn more and tell us what's important to you within the focused study area.

We will be hosting in-person sessions in the following locations, as well as offering virtual options.

French River	Seguin
Georgian Bay	Severn
Muskoka Lakes	Sudbury
Parry Sound	Oro-Medonte

Please visit [HydroOne.com/SBTL](https://hydroone.com/SBTL) for dates and times.

We want to hear from you
Meaningful, open and ongoing engagement is important to us. If you'd like to be added to the project contact list, share comments or ask questions, please reach out to us anytime.

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



Please visit our online interactive map for a more detailed view and to provide your feedback: [HydroOne.com/SBTL](https://hydroone.com/SBTL)

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

EVENTS

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

Euchre - 7 pm
Elmvale Legion

Askennonia Seniors Centre
Zumba, 9am-10am
Pickleball, 9am-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.
Elmvale Presbyterian Church
All Welcome, Cost: \$3

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

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

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

Wasaga Beach Parkinson's Support Group
1st Thursday of each month 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Wasaga Beach Public Library 544 River Rd W, Wasaga Beach

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

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

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

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

MONDAY to FRIDAY

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

Barrie/Kempfenfelt 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/

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
Elmvale Presbyterian Church
For children who have completed JK through to Gr 5 Registration Forms on the Church website, at the Church and at the Library
Elmvale Legion
Line Dancing is Back at the Elmvale Legion starting in June, below are the dates for dancing, all are welcome, cost is \$5.00 for each night and all starts at 7 pm.
Tuesday, August 11th and Thursday, August 13th
Tuesday, September 8th
Tuesday, September 22nd
Tuesday, October 13th
Unity United Church Roadside Market
Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026
08:00-12:00
Unity United Church, 4967 Vasey Road at the 4th Line North Oro Medonte
Fresh baked goods, garden produce & corn on the cob, peameal on a bun and more!

Great BIG Singer LIVE in Penetanguishene
Séan McCann “The Shantyman” of beloved Newfoundland band Great Big Sea is bringing his arsenal of uplifting anthems to All Saints Anglican Church in Penetanguishene Saturday September 5th.
Armed only with his guitar, and an unwavering commitment to truth, Séan invites audiences into a shared space of reflection, resilience, and release where singing isn't optional, it's essential. So shake off your blues and put your shanty pants on because its time for EVERYONE to SINGALONG!
ANNUAL WASAGA BEACH COIN & STAMP SHOW
Saturday, August 22nd, 2026, 9:30am-3:30pm @ the YMCA RecPlex: 1724 Mosley Street, Wasaga Beach.

Publication Dates
2026
Next Editions
August 13th

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Elmvale Minor Ball U9 Teams Celebrate Playoff Success

It was a memorable weekend for Elmvale Minor Ball as both U9 teams brought home medals from the U9 Playoff Tournament in Vasey.
Congratulations to the Elmvale U9-1 team on capturing 1st Place in the B Division. Their championship performance is a testament to the players' dedication, teamwork, and determination throughout the season. From early practices to playoff competition, the athletes have continued to grow, support one another, and represent Elmvale with pride.
The excitement isn't over yet. The U9-1 squad now advances to the Mary Ann Leonard Playoff Finals, where they will take on Coldwater-2 in the championship game. First pitch is scheduled for 6:45 p.m. in Coldwater.
Elmvale also has plenty to celebrate with the U9-2 team, who earned the Bronze Medal (3rd Place) in the A Division at the tournament.
The U9-2 team has wrapped up an outstanding season and should be incredibly proud of everything they accomplished. Throughout the year, the players demonstrated tremendous hard work, perseverance, and sportsmanship while continuing to develop their skills and confidence on the field.
Congratulations to all of the athletes, coaches, volunteers, and families for a fantastic season. The future of Elmvale Minor Ball is bright, and the entire community looks forward to cheering these young players on for many seasons to come.
Go Elmvale Go!



U9-1 Finishes Season as Playoff Finalists

On Monday evening, the Elmvale Minor Ball U9-1 team wrapped up an incredible season with a hard-fought championship game against Coldwater in the Mary Ann Leonard Playoff Finals.
Elmvale played an outstanding game, holding the lead into the final inning. The championship came down to the final at-bat, when Coldwater managed to score the winning run, narrowly claiming the title.
While the result wasn't what the team had hoped for, the players have every reason to be proud. Their skill, determination, teamwork, and remarkable improvement throughout the season were on full display, and they represented Elmvale with heart from the first pitch to the last.
Congratulations to the players, coaches, and families on an exceptional season. Your dedication, sportsmanship, and positive attitude have been an inspiration, and this is only the beginning.
Congratulations on a fantastic season, U9-1—you've made Elmvale proud, and there's no doubt you'll go far!



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Students from EDHS and surrounding
schools, we can't thank you enough for
all of your hard work and coaching.

To volunteer parent coaches, we
couldn't make this run without you.
Thank you to all the above sponsors,
this is how we can make our league
adorable to all families. Local sponsors
make living in this small community so
special, please shop local!

To our players, hope you enjoyed this
season and have a great, wonderful
summer! Elmvale & District Food Bank
would also like to thank everyone for the
donations.

Registration for 2027 will be in March!
From coordinators,
Doug & Amanda

auctions

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Upcoming Auctions

- July Multi Consignor Auction - Guelph (July 26 - 30)
- The Estate of Norm Ross McAlpine - Caledon (Aug 12 - 19/20)
- Porty Family Estate Auction - Acton (August)
- Autos & Shop Equipment Auction - Guelph (August)
- Currency Estate Auction - Guelph (August)
- The Estate of Kenneth Duncan Fatt Auction - Puslinch (August)

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AUGUST 13/26	HILLSDALE COMMUNITY HALL	6:00 - 8:00 PM
AUGUST 17/26	ANTEN MILLS PAVILION	6:00 - 8:00 PM
AUGUST 20/26	PHELPSSTON PAVILION	6:00 - 8:00 PM
AUGUST 24/26	STONE MANOR PARK Oliver's Mill Road	6:00 - 8:00 PM
AUGUST 27/26	GRENDEL COMMUNITY HALL	6:00 - 8:00 PM
AUGUST 31/26	MIDHURST COMMUNITY HALL	6:00 - 8:00 PM

MINESING COMMUNITY HALL IS UNDER RENOVATION.
Thank you for your understanding!

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IN MEMORY

**In Memory of
Sheri Christine Miller
August 8, 2018**

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and not a day goes by when you
are not loved and missed.
In our hearts always

**Mom, Melody, Kevin,
Gary, Bobbi, Justin, Andrew**



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Penetanguishene.



**JENNETT, Arley
Francis**

**September 5, 1932 –
July 18, 2026**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Arley Francis Jennett, who died peacefully at Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital on July 18, 2026, at the age of 93, surrounded by his loved ones. Arley was born on September 5, 1932, in Oro-Medonte, Ontario, and lived most of his life near Moonstone in the township he loved so much.

Arley was the beloved husband of the late Marion Jane Jennett, who predeceased him just two days short of their 69th wedding anniversary. Above all, Arley loved his wife, and cared for her lovingly until she passed — a doting husband to the very end.

Loving father to Brian (Darla), Wayne (Brenda), Kathy (Bruce), Annabelle, Rhonda (Bill), Bob (Sherrie), Rodney (Leonne), Rose, and Kevin. Cherished grandfather to 24 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Predeceased by his beloved granddaughters Leslie and Megan.

Arley spent his life farming and was also employed at Oakridge Hospital in Penetanguishene. He was happiest driving his tractors, fixing up old tractors and farm machinery, spending time with his horses, and chit-chatting with friends and family. He loved dancing, a good roast beef and potato dinner and rhubarb pie, and could always be found in front of the TV for the Calgary Stampede or a Blue Jays game.

Arley was a legend to everyone who knew him — charismatic, energetic, and forever young in spirit, despite his many years. He never forgot a single detail, loved to tell his old stories, and had a great sense of humour, delivering one-liners right up until the end, always with a twinkle in his eye. He was the type of person who would help anyone with anything, and do it with a smile on his face. Anyone who met him loved him.

A Celebration of Life will be held on September 19, 2026, at his home in Moonstone.

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

Nothing Gold Can Stay by Robert Frost
Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf,
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day
Nothing gold can stay.



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Your life was a blessing
Your memory a treasure
You are loved beyond words
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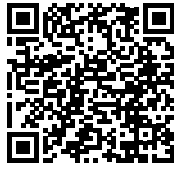


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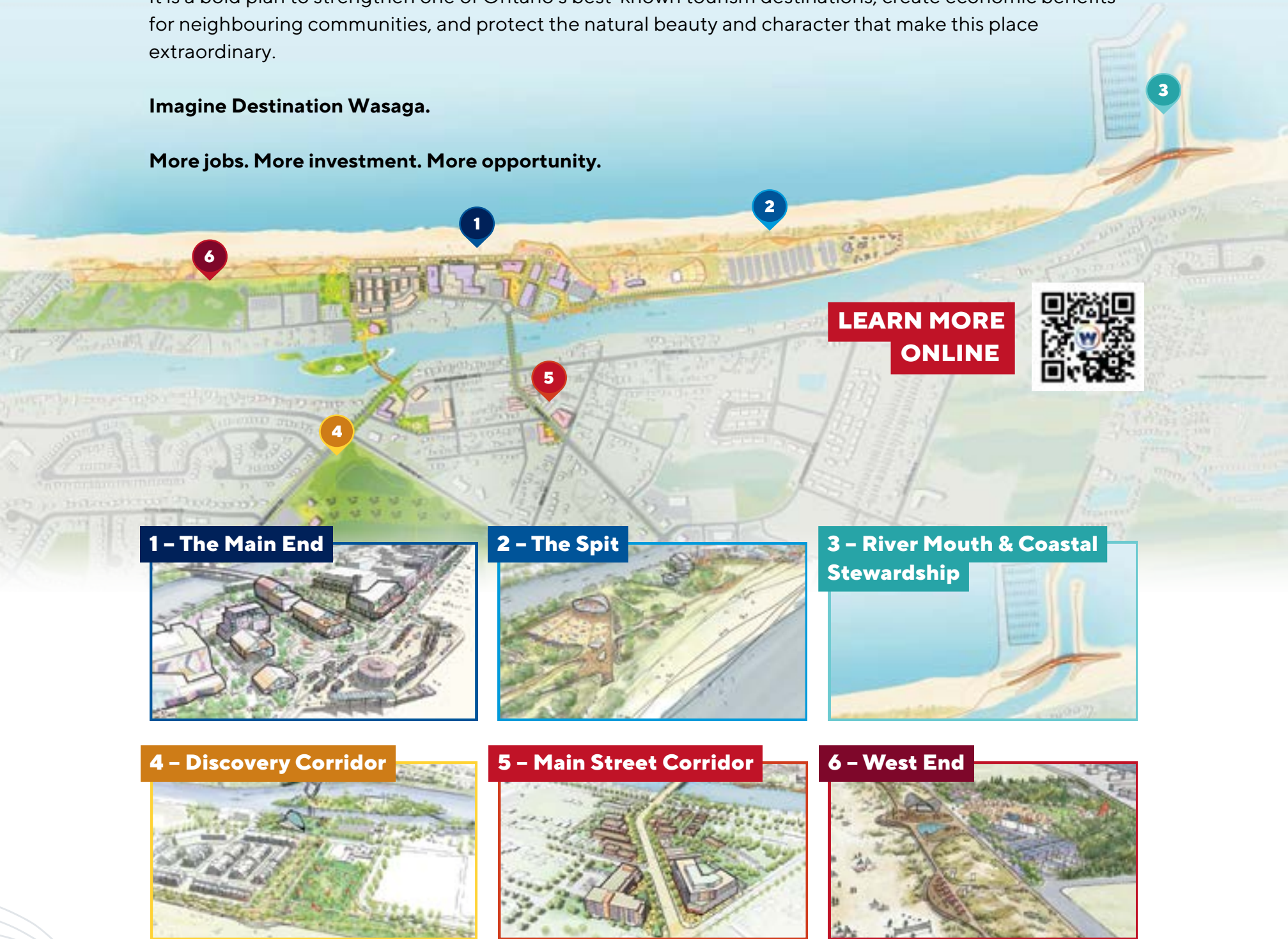
For generations, Wasaga Beach has been where families gather, memories are made and summer begins. Destination Wasaga is about building on that legacy—and creating new opportunities for the people who live, work, play and do business here.

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