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NORTH SIMCOE Springwater NEWS

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A Farewell to Summer Break

By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News
Well, it has come yet again — the final stretch of summer vacation.

The days of ice cream cones, playing in the dirt and soaking up the warm summer sunshine are quickly coming to an end. Labour Day marks the closing of one chapter and the beginning of another.

Before long, the backpacks will be out, school will be back in session and our calendars will begin filling up with municipal elections, Thanksgiving plans, harvest season, canning, sporting activities and, heaven forbid, spring cleaning!

It doesn't sound quite as appealing as a day at the beach with an ice cream cone in hand.

But rather than mourn the end of summer, let's celebrate what we've enjoyed. We made the most of the sunny days, long evenings and warm weather — and

there are still a few more to enjoy.

The Labour Day long weekend is our final big celebration of summer, and there are plenty of local events happening across our communities to help us send summer off in style.

So, before the leaves begin to turn and our routines return, get outside, enjoy the sunshine and make a few more memories.

Annual Mixed Slo-Pitch Labour Day Tournament
Minesing is getting ready to wrap up summer with plenty of action on the ball diamond during the Annual Mixed Slo-Pitch Labour Day Tournament, hosted by the Minesing Community Recreation Association (MCRA).

This tournament is a favourite annual tradition for locals, giving them one last chance to gather with friends and family before the summer ends for a day of fun.

Running from Friday, September 4 through Sunday, September 6, the tournament will bring together 24 local teams for a weekend of good competition, community spirit and fun.

The weekend kicks off Friday night with a dance featuring DJ Greg Whalen. There will also be a return of the popular food truck, catered by Century Delight, along with a candy booth hosted by the Boy Scouts and a beer garden.

Of course, the main attraction will be some good ball, with all tournament finals taking place Sunday, September 6 at the Minesing diamonds.

The MCRA extends a special thank you to all of the sponsors and volunteers who help make this annual Labour Day tradition possible said Wanda Maw-Chapman.

Continued...



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Continued...
September 4-6 | Minesing Diamonds
Secrets of Séance
Looking for something a little different this Labour Day weekend?

Step into the mysterious world of Victorian Spiritualism with Secrets of Séance, an immersive experience at Discovery Harbour.

In the 1800s, séances were more than quiet gatherings. They were dramatic events where religion, science and showmanship came together in an attempt to explain the unexplainable.

Guests will discover how séances captured the imagination of the Victorian era while experiencing ghostly sights, eerie sounds, unusual scents and mysterious objects.

It's an intriguing glimpse into a fascinating chapter of history — with just enough mystery to keep things interesting.

September 5, 2026 | 5-6 p.m.

Discovery Harbour
Carnival Barrie

The Barrie waterfront will be filled with music, food

and culture during Carnival Barrie on September 5 and 6.

The event celebrates Latin American traditions through live music, performances, authentic cuisine and community entertainment.

It's a great opportunity to experience the energy and diversity of Latin American culture while enjoying the waterfront.

September 5 & 6
Barrie Waterfront
Memories of Summer

If you're not ready to say goodbye to summer just yet, Memories of Summer in Wasaga Beach offers one more reason to head to the beach.

The three-night beachfront music festival features live performances, family-friendly entertainment and plenty of lakeside fun.

So grab the family, head to the beach and enjoy some music while making a few final summer memories.

September 5
Wasaga Beach
Stonebridge Breakers Summer Concert Series
The music continues Sunday, September 6, with the

Stonebridge Breakers Summer Concert Series at Beach 1 in Wasaga Beach.

Presented by SoberFriends Canada, the event features live music, good company and a chance to enjoy one of the final summer afternoons by the water.

September 6 | 3-7 p.m.
90 Mosley Street, Wasaga Beach
Cruise Night

And for those who enjoy a little horsepower, the Wasaga Beach Cruisers are hosting another Cruise Night on Labour Day Monday.

Come out to see the vehicles, chat with fellow car enthusiasts and enjoy a relaxed evening with the community.

September 7 | 4-7 p.m.
Nancy Island, 119 Mosley Street, Wasaga Beach
Summer may be coming to an end, but that doesn't mean we have to rush it out the door.

There is still time for one more swim, one more campfire, one more walk along the beach and, of course, one more ice cream.

Enjoy it while you can.
Fall will be here soon enough.



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COLLECTION OF LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

We all should have known there wouldn't be a deal with the U.S. That kind of goes without saying, particularly, when the U.S. representatives continue to equate Canada with China. We hear, time and again, that only Canada and China placed retaliatory tariffs on the U.S. We, also, can't forget the deal our federal government made with China, again, placing us at the mercy of one of those "hegemons" Carney continues to spew about.

All of that said, here in Ontario, it's municipal election time. Quite a few people are suggesting that government needs to spend its way out of this. We can't afford for government to do this. Nor can we afford to subsidize everyone, so, what can be done?

Firstly, we need to reduce administration staff. One municipality in this province, with a population of around 9,500 +/- had, in 2025, 47 +/- administration/fire personal on the Sunshine List. That's over \$6 million a year on just wages – not including benefits. The tax-payers cannot continue to afford this nonsense.

Secondly, the "recreation services" need to stop. We're heading into dire times, folks, and to have municipal staff promoting their jobs all in the name of "sensory gardens," "art installations," "tourism," that, because if government is involved it costs way more and takes years to do. We need the basics, right now, like roads, fire, police, sewer, water, schools, health care – we don't need wasted money on fluff. I understand that's harsh, but it needs to be said. Volunteers are needed to fund through donations and get the job done – not government.

Thirdly the bureaucracy has been very successful with protecting their jobs and it's taken quite a few years, but democracy is at stake with the continued enlargement of government jobs. From the report "Investing in People: ... Panel on Government," in 2004:

"Direct democracy permits individual citizens to make choices about specific policy issues. However, direct democracy raises serious concerns about the ability of referenda to address complex policy issues, the role of money in the voting process, the loss of democratic debate and the hindering of rational policy making. Given the experience with direct democracy in other jurisdictions (e.g., California), we believe that its role should be very limited and carefully structured. It should not be used for general policy decisions manageable by representative democracy, such as the desirable level of taxes."

This kind of society has led to the downfall of global economies. It has also removed the foundational reason for democracy, removing the people's right to just say "No." Municipal governments are becoming merely the voice of the bureaucracy, all because it has taken this long for the above types of statement to solidify its roots in our local governments. We now have an opportunity to stop this vicious circle and elect those who will stop the red tape bureaucratic bleeding we have seen so often. The time is imminent - we all need to act now for our own financial security.

Elizabeth Marshall

Minesing Resident Isabella Villaroman Earns

Pageant Honours

Minesing resident Isabella Villaroman recently celebrated a double achievement at the PIDC pageant, held in Toronto on July 25.

Villaroman was named Best Smile and also earned the title of First Runner-Up, bringing home two honours from the competition.

Her mother, Cherry Villaroman, said she is proud of Isabella's accomplishments and hopes the recognition will help celebrate her daughter's talent and dreams.

Isabella is also a vlogger and has previously been invited by Tim Hortons to create content featuring one of the company's new tarts. Her family says she hopes to continue pursuing opportunities in entertainment and building her career.

The Villaroman family is proud to celebrate Isabella's accomplishments and her connection to the Minesing community.



Letter from the Editor

Well, I've survived the first trek down this slippery slope — thank you for the safety-harness recommendations and the map. They have been very much appreciated.

I thought I would take a break here on this little flat spot for a minute and enjoy the last few sunsets before the summer sun floats away yet again. It's peaceful here, watching the sun disappear behind the horizon, with the sound of crickets and loons for company.

So, I thought I might share a little more about the girl behind the keyboard.

Some of you seem a little taken aback when we first shake hands — and Lord knows, there will be plenty of hands to shake once I make it down this beast of a beautiful mountain.

Now, where do I start without making this sound like a living memoir?

I suppose I'll start with the first misconception: it's Kari, like the name Carrie from the scary movie, the verb "carry," but definitely not Karl. Female, by the way. I suppose I'll have to add my photo eventually!

I'm 30 and often have two kids in tow. They're my interns, my best friends and, of course, my children. Although most of my professional experience has been in healthcare — and many people professionally know me from my eight years working at a local long-term care facility — journalism has always been something I've been drawn to.

My formal education began at Carleton University in Ottawa, where I pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science. Ultimately, I chose not to continue in those fields because of the employment opportunities available at the time, but I've never lost my passion for either.

Now for the question some of you really want to know: Where do I politically stand?

Well, my Grandma taught me that it is rude to speak about church and state.

But I can't preach transparency without practicing it. I believe politics are largely emotionally driven. I believe narratives can play as big a role as facts. I believe political discourse can sometimes become so divided that it creates fractures within the system itself.

Personally, I tend to agree with a more moderate approach to most things, which is one of the reasons I find the Nordic political model interesting. The facts and statistics surrounding those systems are certainly worth looking at.

So, you wanted to know so badly?

I believe in the Nordic political model. Just a waitress serving both sides of the aisle for great results.

As for municipal politics, I don't pay taxes to any municipality, so I don't have a personal municipal political position to declare. My role here is not to tell you what to think, but to make sure you have access to information and, hopefully, enough of it to make up your own mind.

And, in regard to the All Candidates Meeting, the detailed schedule, moderator and additional event details will be announced closer to the event. There are good reasons for that, and I hope that answers some of the questions I've been receiving.

If you have any more personal questions, well, you'll just have to wait for the memoir — whenever I finally get around to writing it.

Until then, I'll keep navigating this mountain, one edition at a time.



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EDITOR: **KARI BELCOURT**



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2026 Municipal Elections



Tiny

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2026 Elections

The Township of Tiny is offering Internet and Telephone Voting from 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, until Monday, October 26, 2026, at 8:00 p.m.

Register to Vote

You can register to vote up to and including Election Day. Until October 12, 2026 you can visit tiny.ca/Elections to register or verify your information. After this date, eligible voters can come to the Township Office to register with valid ID. Assistance is available, please contact us.

Voter Instruction Letters

Registered voters can expect to receive their Voter Information Letters (VILs) in early October in a Tiny Votes branded envelope. These will be mailed through Canada Post by our contracted service provider.

Have Questions? Contact Us.

Our appointed election officials are here to help. Please contact us with questions at 705-526-4204, elections@tiny.ca, or in person at the Township Office.

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

Tiny Fire Reminders



Reminder: The rules regarding Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms have changed. All homes that have a fuel burning appliance, fireplace, or attached garage, must have:

- a carbon monoxide alarm adjacent to each sleeping area, and
- a carbon monoxide alarm on each floor without a sleeping area.

Learn more about these changes at tiny.ca/FirePrevention.

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

September 16
2:00 PM

October 7
2:00 PM

October 28
2:00 PM

YouTube

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

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

Recruiting

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We're accepting applications for Paid-On-Call Firefighters. Apply online at tiny.ca/Fire.

Questions? Contact us by phone at 705-322-1161 or by email at fireofficeadmin@tiny.ca.

Recreation and Special Events

2027 Through the Seasons Calendar

Submissions are open for original artwork and photographs as well as advertisements from local businesses at tiny.ca/ThroughTheSeasons

Fall/Winter Program Registration

Registration is now open at tiny.ca/PlayPortal

Senior Speaker Series

Registration is now open at tiny.ca/Seniors/Programs

Events and Festivals Public Engagement Session

September 15, 2026, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Township of Tiny Community Centre. Join us and provide your feedback to help shape the future of events in Tiny. Learn more or register at tiny.ca/EventSurvey.

Fall Municipal Water Flushing



Reminder to municipal water users that the fall flushing of the municipal water systems will begin on September 8, 2026. Work will take place Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Learn more or view the schedule at tiny.ca/DrinkingWater.

As the cottage season comes to a close, please ensure your cottage is properly winterized to help prevent damage. If you are unsure how to properly winterize your property, contact a licensed plumber for assistance.

2026 Property Taxes

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

Installment Due Dates

- September 29

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

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Springwater Businesses Need an AI Log

Springwater's economy runs on farms, trades, small employers and local shops. Statistics Canada reports that 19.2% of businesses used AI to produce goods or deliver services in the second quarter of 2026, up from 12.2% a year earlier.

The Township and County already focus on helping businesses retain, expand and find the skills they need. And the Elmvale Farmers' Market, running on Thursdays through August, keeps local enterprise visible.

As more owners try AI, they should keep a one-page exception log: what the tool suggested, what a person changed, and whether the change prevented an error or saved time. That turns AI from a novelty into a managed process.

For Springwater businesses, the useful measure is not how often AI gets used. It is whether it removes real work without creating hidden rework.

Gleb Tshipursky, PhD, a behavioral scientist, CEO of Disaster Avoidance Experts, and author of *The Psychology of AI Adoption at Work: From Resistance to Results* (Georgetown University Press, 2026). <https://disasteravoidanceexperts.com/aibook>

Gleb Tshipursky, PhD
gleb@disasteravoidanceexperts.com

For the first time in a long time, I find myself genuinely excited about the future of the Township of Springwater.

Not because our challenges have disappeared. They haven't. But because this municipal election gives residents an opportunity to elect a Council with the experience, energy, integrity and willingness to work together to move Springwater forward.

Over the past term, residents have witnessed a Council that has too often appeared divided. Different opinions are not the problem — healthy debate is essential to good government. But there is an important difference between disagreement and dysfunction.

A strong Council does not need to agree on everything. It needs people who can disagree and still work together.

People who listen. People who respect different perspectives. People who ask difficult questions, challenge ideas constructively and then find a way forward.

This election gives Springwater an opportunity to put that kind of team around the Council table.

Jennifer Coughlin brings experience, municipal knowledge and proven leadership to the position of Mayor. Continuity matters, particularly in a growing municipality facing important decisions about infrastructure, taxation, development and the future of our communities.

Liz Grummet offers an opportunity for strong, positive and collaborative leadership as Deputy Mayor, just as she demonstrated in her role as School Board Trustee. A Deputy Mayor can play an important role in helping build relationships around the Council table and ensuring different voices are heard while keeping Council focused on moving forward.

Matt Garwood brings experience, dedication and thoughtful representation. His knowledge of municipal issues and commitment to the community provide an important foundation for the next Council.

Wanda Maw-Chapman brings experience, community knowledge and an understanding of the people and communities that make Springwater unique. That perspective is invaluable as our township continues to

Reader Tyler Tkachyk is enjoying the North Simcoe Springwater News while soaking up some summer sun on the beach in PEI! We're thrilled to see the NSSN travelling along on summer vacations and adventures. Whether you're at the beach, exploring somewhere new, or visiting friends and family around the world, we'd love to see where our readers are taking their paper. Send us your photos of the NSSN on your trips and travels! You might just see yourself in a future edition or on our social media. Thanks, Tyler, for taking us along on your PEI adventure!

grow and change.

Greg Davidson brings another important voice and perspective to the table, along with the opportunity for new ideas and a constructive approach to the decisions ahead.

Christine Spellman brings community commitment, a willingness to listen and the potential to contribute a thoughtful and collaborative voice to Council.

Mike Campbell brings community involvement, enthusiasm and a desire to make a positive difference — qualities that can help create a Council focused on solutions rather than division.

Individually, each brings different strengths. Collectively, imagine what they could accomplish.

Springwater is at an important point in its history. Growth is bringing opportunities, but also significant challenges involving property taxes, infrastructure, roads, recreation, responsible development, agriculture, local businesses and protecting the rural character that makes Springwater such a special place to call home.

Meeting those challenges will require more than seven individuals occupying seven seats.

It will require a team.

Not a team that votes the same way on every issue. Not a team that avoids difficult conversations. And certainly not a team that simply agrees for the sake of agreeing.

Springwater needs a Council whose members respect one another enough to debate the issues, listen to residents, consider different perspectives and ultimately find solutions.

We need representatives who understand that leadership isn't about winning an argument around the Council table.

It's about getting results for the people of Springwater. That is why this election matters.

Consider the experience and leadership of Jennifer Coughlin for Mayor.

Consider the collaborative leadership Liz Grummet could bring as Deputy Mayor.

Consider returning the experience and community commitment of Matt Garwood and Wanda Maw-Chapman to Council.

And consider the new perspectives and strengths Greg Davidson, Christine Spellman and Mike Campbell could bring to the Council table.

Then ask yourself a simple question: Could these seven individuals, with their different strengths and experiences, give Springwater the collaborative Council it needs to move forward?

I believe the opportunity is there.

But ultimately, that decision belongs to the residents of Springwater.

Learn about the candidates. Ask questions. Attend meetings. Read their platforms. Look beyond signs and slogans and consider not only what each candidate promises individually, but what kind of Council we could create collectively.

And most importantly — vote.

Municipal government touches our lives every day. Our taxes, roads, parks, recreation, development, services and the future character of our communities are shaped by the people we elect locally.

Your vote matters.

Springwater has an opportunity to turn the page — not toward a Council without differences, but toward a Council with the maturity, respect and leadership to work through those differences.

A Council that listens.

A Council that respects.

A Council that collaborates.

A Council that works together for Springwater.

This election isn't simply about filling seven seats around a table.

It's about choosing the people who can move Springwater forward — together.

Brenda Stnaley



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ELMVALE & DISTRICT FOOD BANK

By Deb McLean

It's been a while since I have provided any news on the happenings at Elmvale & District Food Bank. I am not sure where summer has gone but we are approaching the last week!

We have all read the headlines regarding Food Bank usage and rising costs across Ontario. Elmvale & District Food Bank is no different from the "big guys". In comparison to the first seven months of 2025, we have seen an average increase between the number of families served and the number of people served of 35% in 2026.

With the busy summer months our donations are down, but we greatly appreciate that lots of organizations, businesses and individuals stop in with both financial and grocery donations. A special shout out to the local soccer leagues, Elmvale Legion and members of the community who hosted special events with the Food Bank in mind.

With thanks to all of Springwater Firefighter Associations, the annual Firefighters "Stuff the Truck" food drive will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd. This is a great kickoff to the busy season at the Food Bank as we think ahead to Thanksgiving and Christmas. The younger generation enjoys seeing and hearing the fire trucks as they make their way throughout different locations in the Township. More details will be provided over the next few weeks on social media.

Many hands make light work and all the Volunteers at Elmvale & District Food Bank appreciate the support it receives.



Craighurst Women's Institute

Craighurst Women's Institute upped sticks and moved on down the Penetang Road to explore Chappell Farms. We held our August meeting in the "barn". It was a first for some and a "so what" for others - have you never spent time in a barn, Gentle Reader? There's the hay, the straw, the animals, the ice cream freezer, the movie screen. Aah the memories.

We first watched the movie "Philomena", a story of a character portrayed by Judy Dench, hunting for the baby she gave up 50 years or so ago. Wonderful acting, love the Irish bits. We et our lunch while the movie played. ("et" is Irish for "ate") Then we held the meeting, Ode and Collect included. Financial report accepted, minutes deferred. Planning for the year was tweaked. Questions from the Wasaga Beach division, answers from the know alls, comments from the gallery - it's the CWI at its best. We will be at Oro Fair (Sept 18 and 19) working in the "Baby's Feeds n' Needs" tent. Also our own Marg Patterson will be in the parade to open the fair as Oro's Citizen of the Year. We are chuffed (Irish for agog). A few more remarks and we realized the Meeting was done. Several members high-tailed it out to see the animals, and several other "we've seen that all before" had a nice ice cream cone scooped by Pauline.

Sure and it was a great day in the life of the CWI



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May Court Club Gives to Barrie Food Bank and Youth Haven

The May Court Club of Barrie members held a successful Trunk Sale in May and a Fundscrip Christmas-in-July drive. As longtime community supporters of the Barrie Food Bank, members donated the proceeds to help fill the shelves with much-needed food and supplies.

At the Barrie Food Bank: L-R: Karen Shuh, Executive Director, Barrie Food Bank; Patricia Manson; Barb Guglielmi; Rosemary Johnston; Darlene Mooney; Val Carson, President, May Court Club of Barrie; and Barb Watts.

The club also raised funds through a sold-out High Tea held in June. May Court Club members have been supporting the new Youth Haven build by purchasing kitchen appliances, a washer and dryer, and under-bed storage drawers.

The funds raised through the High Tea will help provide groceries and other necessities for the teens receiving support through Youth Haven.

At Youth Haven: L-R: Val Carson, President, May



Court Club of Barrie; Barb Guglielmi; Barb Watts; High Tea Convenor; and Lucy Gowers, Executive Rosemary Johnston; Patricia Manson; Darlene Mooney, Director, Youth Haven.

New Local Business Support Coming to Springwater

By Kari Belcourt, Editor
North Simcoe Springwater News

Entrepreneurs and small business owners in Springwater Township will soon have a new opportunity to access free, local business support through the North Simcoe Business Centre (NSBC).

The NSBC is launching its Springwater Business Pop-Up: Coaching & Conversations on Wednesday, September 16, at the Elmvale Branch of the Springwater Township Public Library. The pop-up will take place on the third Wednesday of each month.

The initiative is designed as an informal, drop-in opportunity for local business owners to meet with NSBC advisors, ask questions and learn more about the resources available to them. No formal presentation or appointment will be required.

NSBC staff will provide short, informal introductions to services such as business coaching and financing guidance, giving entrepreneurs an opportunity to better understand how the centre can assist with their business goals.

"This is about making business support feel easy to access and genuinely useful," said Kevin Culhane, General Manager of the North Simcoe Business Centre.

"Springwater has a strong mix of home-based businesses, sole proprietors, and small companies. By showing up locally and keeping things informal, we're creating more



At the Barrie Food Bank: L-R: Karen Shuh, Executive Director, Barrie Food Bank; Patricia Manson; Barb Guglielmi; Rosemary Johnston; Darlene Mooney; Val Carson, President, May Court Club of Barrie; and Barb Watts.

opportunities for entrepreneurs to connect, ask questions, and take their next step."

From Pop-Up to Ongoing Support

The September event will mark the beginning of ongoing monthly business support for entrepreneurs in Springwater.

Following the launch, the NSBC plans to offer Springwater Business Coaching & Conversations on a monthly basis at the Elmvale library branch.

The sessions will include scheduled one-on-one coaching appointments as well as drop-in opportunities for business owners who have a quick question, need informal guidance or simply want to talk through a business issue.

Virtual coaching and question-and-answer sessions will

also be available monthly, providing an additional option for entrepreneurs who prefer to connect online.

"Some business owners want a focused coaching session, while others just want to talk something through," Culhane said. "By offering both in-person and virtual options, we're making it easier for entrepreneurs to connect in the way that works best for them."

Further details about the September pop-up, monthly in-person coaching and virtual sessions are expected to be released in the coming weeks.

The North Simcoe Business Centre provides free business coaching and access to financing for entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout the region.

For more information, visit www.nsbcentre.com



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A MESSAGE FROM DOUG SHIPLEY

Is anyone else shocked at how quickly this summer has passed? It feels like we just started summer and suddenly it is August and 'Back to School' sales are popping up everywhere. The great news is there is still time to make memories and enjoy summer here in Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte.

I really enjoy this time in the summer when I am home from Ottawa. Not only can I see my family every evening, I also have more chances to connect with the constituents I serve.

Please remember that I do enjoy commemorating milestones with residents and businesses. If you are planning a celebration for a milestone birthday or anniversary, or a grand opening for a new business, please contact my team by calling 705-728-2596 to share details so I can provide my congratulations too.

While it might seem early to talk about preparing calendars for next year, my staff and I have already started working on my annual calendar so that we can have it printed and in your hands in January. We have been using original artwork, including paintings and photographs, to fill the calendar in recent years and people really loved it. My team and I are looking forward to doing it again. So please remember to keep sharing your original photos and art with me for consideration in our 2027 calendar. You can email pictures to: Doug.Shipley@parl.gc.ca

I hope each of you finds time to get out and enjoy your favorite summer activity here in our community. Please contact my office if there is any federal matter with which my team and I can assist.

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

Here to help!

My office is here to assist with any federal programs including CRA, Passports, Service Canada, and Immigration.



DOUG SHIPLEY MP
BARRIE - SPRINGWATER - ORO-MEDONTE
DOUG.SHIPLEY@PARL.GC.CA • (705) 728-2596
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MESSAGE FROM MPP JILL DUNLOP

JILL DUNLOP
MPP – Simcoe North/Nord

Providing Provincial Support in Simcoe North

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- Health Care
- Health Cards/OHIP Issues
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- Ontario Student Assistance (OSAP)
- Provincial Government Programs
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- Small Business Issues
- Transportation
- Trillium Drug Program (OTDP)
- Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB)



Jill.Dunlopco@pc.ola.org
705-326-3246

As summer turns to fall, I hope everyone had an opportunity to enjoy some of the many events, festivals, parks and beautiful outdoor spaces that make North Simcoe such a special place to call home.

Over the past several months, I have had the privilege of visiting communities across Simcoe North and seeing first-hand how provincial investments are making a difference for residents.

Health care continues to be one of our government's most important priorities. This summer, Ontario announced more than \$6.9 million for infrastructure upgrades and repairs at Georgian Bay General Hospital, Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital and Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care. These investments will help our hospitals address important infrastructure needs while ensuring patients and health-care professionals have safe, modern and reliable facilities.

This year, 11 organizations and communities across Simcoe North are receiving more than \$1 million through the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Capital Grant stream. These investments are helping local organizations improve facilities, increase accessibility and create welcoming spaces where people can participate, connect and belong.

Supporting our seniors remains equally important. Through the Seniors Community Grant Program, local projects are creating opportunities for older adults to stay active, learn new skills, volunteer and remain socially connected. I have enjoyed seeing the creativity and dedication behind these programs and the positive impact they have in our communities.

As we head into the fall, I want to thank our municipal leaders, health-care professionals, volunteers, service clubs, community organizations and residents who work every day to make Simcoe North stronger.

There is always more work to do, and I look forward to continuing to advocate for the priorities of our communities and ensuring Simcoe North remains a wonderful place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

ANITA MOORE
FOR DEPUTY MAYOR
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For the past eight years, I have been committed to serving Springwater with integrity, respect, and accountability.

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Senior Tiny Times

and has over 36 sanctioned events that are sure to entice you no matter where you live or what you are into. They are always looking to include more participants, volunteers, and supporters. Contact them today and get involved in the fitness for fun of the OSGA Games!

The OSGA is preparing for the Summer Games in Brockville, Ontario from August 17 – 19, 2027. The summer games events include Bid Euchre, Billiards, Bocce Ball, Carpet Bowling, Walking/Running, Cribbage, Cycling, Darts, Euchre, 5 Pin Bowling, Floor Shuffleboard, Golf, Lawn Bowling, Pickleball, Slo-Pitch, Swimming, and Tennis. The interesting thing about this special event is that anybody over the age of 55 can register for any of the above events and even try more than one. The only criteria to be a participant is to be a member of the OSGA. They have an Opening and Closing Ceremony just like the Olympics and present gold, silver and bronze medals for all events.

These Games occur every two years and have been designed to attract amateur athletes to help promote an active and healthy lifestyle. The District Summer

Games occur annually in 41 Districts across Ontario. The OSGA encourages Seniors to stay physically active through this friendly competition in their favourite sports and promotes the opportunity to try new ones. Participation in sports and activities can broaden your social network and contribute to your cognitive health by connecting you with individuals who share similar interests.

Find out more on how to get involved by contacting the OSGA at:

Tel: 905-232-8581
Email: info@osga55plus.ca
Website: www.osga55plus.ca

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

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

Ontario Senior Games
Seniors in the Heart of Tiny
By Lynn Moon, Township of Tiny Senior Advisory Committee Chair
As we grow older, we tend to become less active. However, this is not the best approach to aging. There are some of us who investigate ways to maintain our health and make the extra effort to join activities that encourage us to be more active and social. It has been proven that this is one of the best ways to stay healthy both mentally and physically. One such organization that is specifically for Seniors aged 55+ is the Ontario Senior Games Association (OSGA). This organization provides events that are similar to the Olympics for Seniors.

The Ontario Senior Games Association is a welcoming and inclusive organization for older adults in Ontario looking to join in friendly, local competition with the opportunity to progress to both Provincial and National competitions in the sport or activity of their choice. This organization is active in over 30 geographic Districts

Monarch Butterflies and Milkweeds

By Gwen Petreman
Soon on our walks we will see lots of Monarch butterflies busily searching out high energy flower nectar to prepare for their very long journey to Central Mexico. Some native flowers often visited by Monarchs in the autumn are New England asters, Joe Pye weed, goldenrod, blazing star, and iron weed.

I do believe that the Monarch butterfly with its unmistakable striking colours of vivid orange and black veined wings and its ability to fly

1,000's of kilometres, is probably one of the most recognizable insect in all of Canada.

Most people who marvel at the Monarch's flight all the way to Central Mexico believe erroneously that it is the SAME Monarchs that fly from Ontario in the fall to Central Mexico and then fly back to Ontario the early summer. Most of the summer Monarch butterflies that you might spy fluttering about gathering nectar only live 4 to 6 weeks! The final generation of Monarch butterflies that are ready to fly south in the autumn are able to live up to 9 months. This journey covers over 4,000 kilometres and takes about two months. On the way to Mexico, the Monarch butterflies stop every single night to rest in trees and gather nectar. (iNaturalist, Sept. 7, 2023)

What is truly fascinating about the Monarch's extremely long journey to Central Mexico is the fact that the Monarchs fly across either Lake Ontario or Lake Erie which may mean flying non-stop for up to 50 miles.

If you ever visit Point Pelee Provincial Park in the Autumn you will be mesmerized by watching 1,000's of Monarchs resembling dead autumn leaves covering all the trees as they gather waiting for ideal conditions to start their 30- 50 mile journey across the lake.

Then, as the sun shines on the closed grey- brown wings of the Monarchs, all burst open their wings at

once and magically they transform to fiery glowing orange. If there is a cold front or southern headwinds the Monarchs will hunker down and wait for favourable weather. (Parks Canada, Sept. 17, 2024)

And once, they arrive in Central Mexico, they spend their winter there roosting in trees. Then in the spring, those same survivors will wake up fly north to the southern United States. They will lay eggs on milkweed plants and then they die. It may take up to 3 to 4 more generations of short-lived summer butterflies to breed and finally arrive in Ontario.

These Monarch butterflies usually arrive in Ontario in mid May to early June, just when the milkweeds are ready to bloom in many locations. It is the great grandchildren, and the great-great grandchildren of the Mexico winter Monarchs who will be the ones that fly back south to Central Mexico in the autumn.

Years ago, people thought of milkweed plants as something that needed to be eradicated because it was a weed. Now, of course, entomologists will tell us that the milkweed is a host plant for the Monarch butterfly. What does that mean? It means that all the 1,000 of species of plants that are naturalized all over Ontario, the milkweed plant is the only plant in which Monarchs will lay their eggs. Once the eggs hatch, the caterpillars' only source of food is the leaves of the milkweed plant. The Monarch caterpillars simply cannot eat the leaves of any other plant!

I find it fascinating that birds learn that monarch caterpillars are poisonous due to the bright warning colours on the caterpillars. The Monarch caterpillars have striking yellow, pitch black, and white stripes which signal danger to the birds. It turns out that if a young bird has not yet learned the danger and eat the leaves, it will get sick. And, from that day on, they will avoid Monarch caterpillars forever. (Monarch Watch. org Nov. 5, 2020)

As more and more gardeners and nature clubs learn that our precious pollinators, which we need for food production, are in decline, there is a movement to

protect our milkweed plant and grow as many as we can in our home gardens and in naturalized areas.

Historically, milkweed fluff played an incredibly and fascinating role in World War II. Sailors depended on life jackets for survival when their ships had been destroyed. In WW2 the fibres for the life jackets were made from a tropical tree called the kapok tree. Then in 1942, when Japan invaded Indonesia, the allies were no longer able to get these fibres for their life jackets.

Luckily, it turns out that milk weed fluff known as milkweed floss is a natural wonder. It is six times warmer than wool, is water resistance, as well as, buoyant. Then the US military went on a campaign to acquire as much milkweed floss as possible. Millions of school children here in Canada and in the United States gathered over 11 million pounds of milkweed pods.

It turned out that two onion bags of pods could fill one vest and keep a soldier afloat for 40 hours. In their campaign, they used the slogan, "2 bags saves 1 life".

Today, adults as well as children are encouraged to gather ripe milkweed pods. It is recommended that you broadcast the milkweed seeds in late autumn, just before the ground freezes. The seeds need a natural winter cold treatment called cold stratification, which they must have to grow in the spring. You want to make sure that the ground is cold enough so that the seeds do not sprout. The best place to broadcast them would be in an open area with full sun, and not too many weeds. Since the seeds do need to have contact with the soil, you can just walk back-and-forth on the area where the seeds were broadcast. (Endangered Species Coalition, June 10, 2019)

I will end with some fascinating facts about monarch butterflies.

Next time you see a Monarch on a native flower it might be collecting nectar with its proboscis, breathing through its abdomen, smelling with its antennae, and tasting with its feet!

And, if you spy two small distinct black small spots on its hind wings it is a male.

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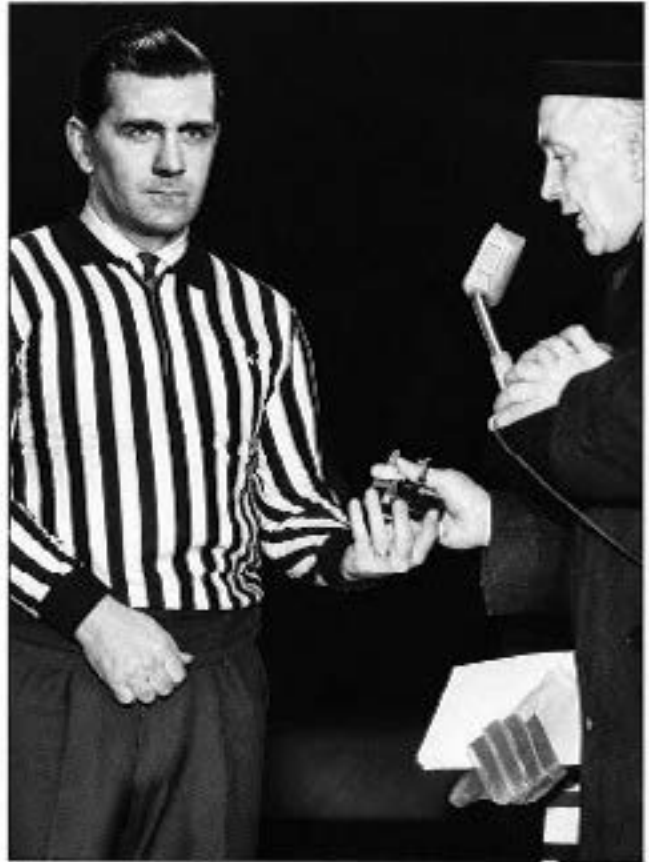
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KEY TO TOWN — Mayor Jerome Gignac, right, is shown presenting a key to the town of Penetanguishene to “Rocket” Richard during his recent visit. ‘Rocket’ complimented town on fine minor hockey effort — Staff photo. **December 13, 1960**





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The “Rocket” Maurice Richard visits Penetang - November 1962



It was an historic moment when “Rocket” Richard visited the town of Penetanguishene and refereed a couple of Little NHL hockey games. The rink was packed with children who had come in classes with their teachers. Following a couple of games, on his way down to dinner, he detoured by way of the General Hospital where he paid a short visit to the children and spent a few moments with Monsignor J.M. Castex. At the beginning of the two evening games, Mayor Jerome Gignac presented a golden key mounted on marble base to the “Rocket”. During the evening, Doug Rogers President of the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion presented a large box full of head-guard helmets to the Little NHL. Bob Stewart also presented a set of helmets as new regulations for the town required kids to wear one of



these helmets for safety reasons. It was a culture shift, as early players resisted helmets, viewing them as a sign of weakness due to the hyper masculine culture. The earliest era of head protection in ice hockey, originally borrowed the idea from rugby and football, these primitive leather caps offered very minimal compact absorption. Early models were simple ‘soft leather skull caps’ stitched together with minimal padding. General Leather Goods company, sold the business to Jack Cooper and Cecil Weeks in 1949. They introduced the SK model of leather helmets. In 1954 Jack Cooper bought the operational shares and became “Cooper Canada Ltd”. Cooper Weeks officially introduced a hard plastic shell hockey helmet in 1963. Not to left out goalies required protection as well in the development of facial/head protection. Cooper came up with a mask similar to a baseball's catcher mask. L. Waxy Gregoire PSHOF

Penetang Kings Set to Hit the Ice for 50th Anniversary Season



Submitted by Jamie Robillard
The Penetang Kings are preparing to hit the ice for their 50th Anniversary Season in the Provincial Junior Hockey League's Carruthers Division. The Kings will once again play a 42-game schedule which begins on Friday September 11th on home ice when they face-off against the Muskoka Bears at 8:00 pm at the Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre. The opening weekend will also include a game at home on Saturday September 12th at 8:00 pm against the Huntsville Otters and Alumni Festivities throughout the day to help celebrate the 50th anniversary. This weekend will bring generations of Penetang Kings hockey together to The Castle as they officially open the 2026-27 season. The Kings will unveil their 50th anniversary jersey which are proudly sponsored by MAGNA. These purple and gold jerseys have been specifically designed for this milestone season using the original team colours. Alumni games begin at 3:00 pm on Saturday September 12th followed by light refreshments and speeches as the team recognizes the past five decades of Kings hockey. All former players, team staff and executive members are welcome to attend and participate. Please contact Lix Bagnell at liz_n@hotmail.com or Justin Curnew at justin.curnew@yahoo.com to join in the festivities.

The eight team Carruthers Division will again also include the Alliston Hornets, Orillia Terriers, Innisfil Spartans, Stayner Siskins, Huntsville Otters and long-time local rival the Midland Flyers. The Kings roster will include returning veterans Carson Thayer, Blake Weicker, Brycen Kingma on defense, forwards Logan Tucker, Wyndam Brownlee, Camron Hutchinson, Cole Rumbolt, Ty Hutton, Owen Fuller, Owen Clennett and goalies Landon Simec and Owen Fuller. Newcomers include Josh Hutton and Max Geere, returning to the team after one season playing Junior B in Listowel and Ayr on defence and forwards Brody Coe, Alex Sajan, Brendan Williams. Also signing full-time with the Kings this season are two affiliated players from the 2025-26 season Ryder Thomas and Lucas Sibley. The Kings will be off to Alliston beginning August 27 to participate in the Alliston pre-season tournament. On the 27th at 8:30 pm they will face off against the Georgina Ice followed on Saturday August 29th at 1:00 pm when they meet the Innisfil Spartans and at 7:00 pm when they clash with the Uxbridge Bears. Semi-final and Final action will take place on Sunday September 30th. More details on the season will be released soon.



After years of narrow misses and hard-fought battles, the 1984 Elmvale Juveniles put everything together to capture the OMHA Juvenile "C" All-Ontario Championship. Having played together since Novice, this dedicated group capped off their minor hockey careers by bringing provincial glory to Elmvale Minor Hockey and Springwater Township. Defined by deep lifelong friendships, resilience, and an unwavering team-first attitude, the squad overcame critical injuries during the finals to secure the title. Their enduring legacy remains a proud testament to the power of community, family support, and hometown pride.

1986-87 Elmvale Hapamp Bantams, Championship Hockey Team
The 1986–87 Elmvale Hapamp Bantams captured community hearts during an unforgettable, gritty run to the OMHA "C" All-Ontario Championship. Exhibiting remarkable resilience under pressure, the squad conquered a grueling postseason defined by dramatic road victories, including a thrilling ten-minute overtime semi-final triumph and a decisive sixth-game series finale in Belmont. This exceptionally talented roster produced numerous future junior and professional standouts. The team's historic provincial victory stands as an enduring milestone of competitive spirit, teamwork, and athletic excellence within Springwater Township.

Springwater Herritage Sports Hall of Fame 2026: Teams



Back (L to R): Ed Robertson (trainer), Brian Swan (manager), Kenny Graham, * Kevin House, Wayne Allen, Rodger Allen, Dan Clement, Mike Hall, * Jim Hall, George Allen (coach), **Front:** Larry Amos, Dave Bannerman, Sandy Clarke, Bill Lord, Steve Cochrane, Dean Robertson (captain), Paul Steele, Steve Chalmers. **Missing:** Murray Frankcom, Randy Greenlaw, Roger House, Tom Luck, Kevin Swan.



Back (L-R) Jim Martin, Jim Ball, Scott Kirton, Todd Belanger, Shane Bywater, Jim Pottage, **Middle:** George Allen (coach), Jason Tapscott, Fraser Bell, Jamie Grant, Andy Lee, Murray Archer (manager), George Conn (assistant coach and trainer), **Front:** Rob Waples, Scott Archer, Craig Cochrane, Mike Rossel, Rob Conn, Steve Dove



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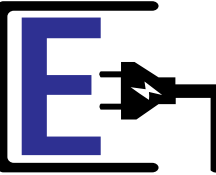
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Bearbells By Leslie Noonan



August 12, 2026
In the kitchen the dish sit empty, the water covered with a film of dust as it sits undisturbed. The dog beds, piled on each other to give more comfort to an old dog, sit empty by the fireplace. The red leash hangs by the door, waiting for a familiar collar that will never come. Silence fills

the home, with no more clicking of nails on the wood floors when the front door opens. Grief fills our hearts as we say goodbye to our last beagle, as he passes over the rainbow bridge to join his sisters. In time the heaviness in our hearts will lessen, to be replaced by laughs and memories of our gentle Mr. B. Until then, grief stalks me with constant reminders, so I will travel four hours south to spend time with my stepdaughter Brianna, to let time and distance build a band aid on this wound.

Initially we had planned on doing some kayaking, so I strapped that infamous red kayak to my roof rack with some trepidation, as I have never travelled far with it before. I am now a pro at setting up the removable roof rack but chose back country roads down to Norwich, just south of London, to avoid having to drive fast. This is Mennonite country, and while other drivers may have been irritated by the many buggies and farm vehicles, I was happy to not be the one holding up traffic. About three hours into my trek I started to hear strange noises from my roof, like the pitter patter of small feet running on the metal. A vision of my cat curiously crawling into the kayak back home, and now riding down the highway in terror, had me pulling off next to a corn field. With a great deal of relief I found the culprit, not my cat but a whistle I had tied to the kayak bouncing on the roof. I noticed that the kayak had a strange tilt to it, but in my hurry I didn't really investigate, because hey, it wasn't a cat.

By the time I reached Norwich, the grey clouds hung low in the sky. Small drops of rain plopped on the ground, and my stepdaughter and I decided a hike would be safer in this weather. The Chesney wilderness area seemed perfect, with just a small loop trail through forest to shelter us from the rain. Off we went, dodging the occasional branch of a low hanging sugar maple, and staying relatively dry under the many tree limbs. This trail is known for its mature sugar maples and hemlocks, which we would have slowed to admire but the rain had also brought out the mosquitos. In the middle of a pine planation, within the rows of straight trees, someone has



built a substantial long house. The inside was surprisingly dry, though large drops of rainwater fell through the leaning branches to form pools on the dirt floor. The mosquitos had a lack of manners, and followed us into the shelter, intent on our blood. Perhaps someone uses this as an outdoor survival training area, or considering the cost of housing, maybe this is an alternative? Still hounded by those mosquitos we moved on.

From here the trail moves down hill, into a cedar swamp. Surely those mosquitos are chuckling at their devious plan to herd us to this wet area. Besides the abundant insects, mushrooms and fungi sprouted from the dark soil in a rainbow of colours. Reds, bright yellows, oranges and every shade of white and brown. Brianna was the first to notice the tiny brown toads, some only the size of your thumbnail, sitting in the middle of the trail. Once we saw one, we began to see them everywhere, which reduced our speed to a snail's pace as we gingerly tried to avoid stepping on the small amphibians. If any one had been watching us, they would have been confused by the two females tiptoeing through the forest, with the occasional hop and jump and even a squeal as a foot almost squished a small toad. At the same time our hands never stopped moving, smacking our arms and legs and waving through the air in a failed attempt to deter the mosquitoes. All together not a dance move that will ever become popular.

While this was to be a single loop, the main trail began to diverge several times, with no clear indications of which was the main track. Some of the trails taper off to nothing more than a dead end, one went past a memorial to a man loved by his family, another ended at the road. We knew that this trail had a boardwalk, so when the wooden planks appeared through the thick green foliage, we were convinced that we were on the right track....until we moved closer. The boards were green with moss, loose, broken or missing. Old nails, rusty with age, sprouted along the broken walk, inviting the unwary to a round of tetanus. Walking beside the boardwalk was nearly impossible, as the ground was a quagmire of mud and the vegetation was incredibly dense. Gingerly I lead the way, holding on to overhanging branches. We had hoped that this was short section, but that proved to be wrong. It was the thump, "oof" and sudden quivering of the few remaining boards that indicated that Brianna had taken a tumble. She was unharmed, though she would be sporting a lovely bruise on hip later in the day.

With a sigh of relief, we left the boardwalk, or what was left of it, and we emerged back on the main trail. By now we were done with the mosquitoes, rain and mud, and headed back the way we had come but bypassing that deathtrap of a boardwalk. We were almost back at the trail head when a flash of white on the forest floor caught my eye. A puffball!! Delicious in butter and garlic. As to my kayak, I finally stopped to see why it was sitting at such a weird angle and realized I had forgot to secure half the straps. The kayak was leaning dangerously off the roof of the car, and I imagine a corner taken too sharply would have had me looking in the corn fields for my kayak. I'm sure it is not everyday that the Mennonites find women wandering the fields in search of a red kayak. We returned to Norwich, with that kayak firmly secured to my car, and my heart a little bit lighter for spending time outside with Brianna.

ANTEN MILLS
By Dennis Gannon

Did you hear the roar this past Saturday afternoon just after 1:30? It sounded like there were lots of motorcycles going past. Was there a motorcycle gang coming to invade our village? In fact there was a huge contingent of motorcycle riders going but they weren't part of a gang. This year the Canada 911 Ride Foundation held its annual tribute to the fallen ride in our area. Close to 150 motorcycles made the ride and on Saturday they drove through Anten Mills along Horseshoe Valley Road and then through to Minesing and down George Johnston Road. It was a sight to see and hear and many residents came out to show their support. Leading the procession was one of own residents, Elizabeth Newton who rides with the OPP Golden Helmets and is their Ride Master. That's quite a feat and responsibility. From the riders we heard that they were extremely appreciative of the people they saw out from Anten Mills and as well as Minesing showing their support. That was one event that won't happen again around here soon.

Here it is the end of August. September begins in a few short days and summer will be over. It's hard to believe that summer went by that quickly, perhaps as we get older we see time differently. Personally, I've always thought of September as the beginning of the new year. It was a time when school returned, activities like hockey, football, bowling and curling began, and we got to enjoy the harvest from a long summer. It is also the opportunity to return to some familiar activities and to join in something new. Here in our community the Anten Mill Community Recreation Association is pleased to announce the return of two favourite pastime activities for the fall and winter.

First up are the Knotty Knitters. This group will startup on Tuesday, September 8 at 1:30 in the community centre. While there is no admission fee, participants are requested to bring a donation of items directed towards women which are donated to the Elmvale and District Food Bank. Since the Knotty Knitters started they have made significant donations to support the RVH oncology, Victoria Village, Furry Friends along with the neonatal units at area hospitals as well as other organizations. Knowing how to knit isn't a requirement as the group is always willing to help you out and everyone is welcome.

Next up is the return of Thursday night Euchre. For \$2 a player you can have a fun evening playing cards. Euchre will begin on Thursday, September 10 at 7PM at the community centre thanks to the great volunteers who are leading the event. It's a social evening and the group will be happy to have you join them.

Up next will be our annual Anten Mills Craft Fair and Chili Cookoff. Roslyn, who is coordinating the event, indicated that there are spaces available along the walking path for those still interested in participating. Email Roslyn at farmview@on.aibn.com. Chili chefs are still needed and you can join in or get more information by emailing Alden at alfoth@gmail.com. This event is on Saturday, September 26 from 10AM until 2PM at the community centre.

Come October, it will be time for our Halloween party for the kids. Sunday, October 25 has been set aside for the event and a planning session will happen in early September to discuss what the party will look like.

After all that, then comes our traditional Christmas



in the Village. Held the second weekend in December, which this year is December 12 and 13, we will have our Tree Lighting on the Saturday night followed the next day by our Santa Claus parade. It's not too early to think about contributing to the event and getting an entry into the parade.

None of these community events would be possible if it wasn't for the community members who volunteer their time to make them occur so a huge thank you for your support.

Now you know why come September, it feels like the beginning of the year!

Neighbours report that the pickle ball net at the multipurpose pad at the community centre has been a great addition this year. They report that almost every day they see people playing. As the season is approaching the end, the net will stay up for a couple more weeks then be put away until next year.

For many years we have received weather warnings or advisories that have been issued and are in many cases not even close to where we are. That changed a couple of weeks ago when Environment Canada changed the way they send out advisories or warnings. No longer will we get a tornado warning in our area when the danger is more likely to occur in Flesherton. Environment Canada has changed to a polygon system when sending notifications and they are more precise than before. Locally we received one of the first notifications on August 12 for a severe thunderstorm. While we didn't get the storm, in the skies just to the north and west of us you could see that the storm clouds were nearby. If you receive a notification in the future take heed as it likely will be close by.

While the blueberry season has passed you may want to get some farm fresh corn and other vegetables. Locally we are lucky to have a farm stand where you can pick up what you need and then e-transfer if you don't have the correct amount of cash with you. Head over to Nursery Road and check out what the Clarke's have, you won't be disappointed.

Our neighbours in Minesing will be hosting their annual ball tournament next weekend. This yearly event is a fundraiser for the Minesing CRA. If you can get by the Minesing community centre on the Friday night or Saturday to watch some of the action, do so and help support our friends and neighbours.

On September 8 school classes start. School buses will be on the road and the kids will mostly be excited to get on them. Please take notice and drive safely.

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



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Ward 4 Community Update from Councillor Moore

Springwater's Ward Boundaries
Springwater Township's ward boundaries have been updated effective this upcoming election
Following an independent review, Township Council approved a revised five-ward configuration on October 1, 2025. The review addressed population differences among existing wards and supported fair and effective representation as Springwater grows.

Under the previous structure, Ward 4 included Snow Valley, Centre Vespra, Grenfel, Carson Ridge and surrounding rural areas. The review estimated Ward 4's 2024 population at 7,660—the largest among Springwater's five wards and approximately 58 per cent above the ward average which ultimately prompted the ward boundary review.

Ward 4 is also home to approximately 19 development projects/partners at various stages of planning and construction, approximately 13 licensed aggregate sites, and several of Springwater Township's largest

agricultural operations. The ward also includes several popular tourist attractions and well known trail systems. Its communities reflect a significant mix of farming, aggregates, residential development, employment and tourism.

Contrary to some descriptions, Ward 4 was not the smallest geographically. At approximately 97.9 square kilometres, it was the third-smallest. Ward 5 was the smallest at approximately 34.8 square kilometres.

Under the updated boundaries, Ward 4 has an estimated 2027 population of 5,430, projected to reach approximately 5,690 by 2034, and will cover a significantly smaller geographic area.

Serving as Ward 4 Councillor has required balancing multiple competing priorities involving roads, infrastructure, water and wastewater services, agriculture, aggregates, development and tourism. As growth pressures increase and municipal resources remain finite, decisions will continue to require careful consideration

of immediate community needs, long-term planning and the responsible use of limited resources ongoing.

You will see that shifting population to Ward 5 along with additional expected significant growth will necessitate another review likely long before 2034 !

New Ward Population Today vs Tomorrow		
New ward	2024 estimate	2034 projection
Ward 1	4,970	6,180
Ward 2	3,440	5,190
Ward 3	4,950	4,650
Ward 4	7,660	5,690
Ward 5	5,510	17,970

Community Update from Ward 1 Councillor Matt Garwood

Hello Springwater residents. I'm pleased to share updates on some wonderful upcoming community events that bring our neighbours together and celebrate the spirit of our township.

Elmvale Farmers' Market – Final Market of the 2026 Season

The Elmvale Farmers' Market and Elmvale BIA are grateful for a very successful market season. For the third year, the BIA has operated the Market with the help of many incredible volunteers from our community.

The Elmvale Farmers' Market runs each Thursday until August 27 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm at 33 Queen Street West, Elmvale (Elmvale Community Hall municipal parking lot). This weekly gathering has become a cornerstone of summer in our ward, bringing together families, friends, and neighbours to support local growers and artisans.

What makes this market special is how it strengthens our local economy while promoting agriculture across Simcoe County. When you shop here, you're directly supporting families in our community who grow, raise, and create the products we enjoy.

Thank you to our dedicated vendors who travel from across the region to be here, and to our visitors who

make this such a vibrant community hub. We will see you again in 2027!

Elmvale Community Recreation Movie in the Park
Join the Elmvale Community Recreation Association (ECRA) on Thursday, August 27 for the annual Movie Night in the Park at Heritage Park in Elmvale. You are welcome to join us starting at 7:00pm for kids' activities, popcorn, snacks, and much more, with the movie Shrek starting at 8:00pm under the stars.

The ECRA has been a driving force in keeping our community active and connected, and events like this give families wonderful summer memories.

Thanks to event sponsor SwoopFiber for their continued support of community programming. Local business sponsorship like this makes it possible to offer these events at no cost, ensuring everyone can participate.

Elmvale Fall Fair

The Elmvale Fall Fair returns for its 164th year this October 9 and 10 at the Elmvale Community Arena, 14 George Street. This remarkable milestone makes it one of the longest running agricultural fairs in Simcoe County, a testament to the enduring spirit of our farming community and the volunteers who keep this tradition alive.

Enjoy a perfect weekend with fun for the entire family including:

- Midway rides and games
- Parades celebrating our community
- Homecraft competitions showcasing local talent
- Baked goods from our talented home bakers
- Farm animals and agricultural displays
- The ever-popular tractor pull
- Entertainment for the entire family!

It's a weekend full of fun for everyone, and it's also a chance to celebrate the agricultural heritage that has shaped Springwater for generations. Get your tickets online soon to ensure you don't miss out on this celebration of our community's roots.

Staying Connected

These events are more than just activities on a calendar, they're opportunities to meet your neighbours, support local businesses and farmers, and build the kind of connected community that makes Springwater such a wonderful place to live. I encourage you to attend, volunteer, and help spread the word!

See you at the market, the movies, and the fair!

Jo Knows Nutrition

by Joanne Nijhuis



If your barbecue routine could use a little adventure, reach past the usual burger fare and give tuna a turn on the grill. Wallet-friendly canned tuna gets a flavourful Asian-inspired makeover with the addition of fresh ginger, soy sauce, sesame and grilled pineapple slices. The combination of savoury, sweet and spicy makes for a delightful culinary indulgence. Best

of all, these burgers are easy enough for a weeknight dinner, but special enough to serve at your next dock or backyard gathering.

Did You Know?

Canned tuna is an affordable, shelf-stable and nutrient-dense pantry item that provides lean protein, essential omega-3 fatty acids and key micronutrients like vitamin B12, vitamin D and selenium. A preferred choice is canned light tuna as it is made with smaller fish species like skipjack tuna. Smaller fish generally do not contain high levels of mercury as is sometimes the case with larger fish species. Although Health Canada has no restrictions on eating fish lower in mercury or a weekly limit, it is always best practice to eat a variety of foods with an emphasis on lean proteins, whole grains and fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables.

INGREDIENTS (4 Servings)

Patties

- 2 cans (170 g per can) tuna, drained well
- 1 large egg
- ¼ cup (63 ml) Greek yogurt
- ¾ cup (188 ml) panko breadcrumbs
- 2 Tablespoons (30 ml) green onions, sliced
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) grated fresh ginger or ginger paste
- 1 Tablespoon (15 ml) soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) sesame oil
- ¼ teaspoon (1.25 ml) black pepper

Burger Sauce

- ¼ cup (63 ml) Greek yogurt
- 1 Tablespoon (15 ml) mayonnaise
- 1-2 teaspoons (5-10 ml) hot sauce of choice

Grilled Pineapple

- 4 thick pineapple rings
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) olive oil

Condiments & Assembly

- Whole wheat burger buns, toasted

ASIAN TUNA BURGER - A BEYOND BEEF BURGER WORTH GRILLING



- Thick pineapple rings, grilled
- Lettuce
- Avocado slices
- Burger sauce

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Drain and flake the tuna into a large bowl.
2. Add the egg, Greek yogurt, panko breadcrumbs, green onions, ginger, soy sauce, sesame oil and black pepper.
3. Mix gently until just combined and divide into 4 equal portions. Shape into patties that ¾ inch (2 cm) thick.
4. Place the patties on a plate, cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.
5. To make the spicy burger sauce, mix together Greek yogurt, mayonnaise and hot sauce of choice in a small bowl. Refrigerate until serving.
6. Heat your BBQ or grill on medium high (400-450 F; 200-230 C).

7. Brush the pineapple slices with the olive oil and grill 2-3 minutes per side to create grill marks. Set aside.
8. Lightly oil the BBQ or grill and cook the chilled tuna patties for 3-4 minutes per side or until nicely browned. Set aside.

9. To assemble, spread the burger sauce on both halves of a toasted bun. Layer the bottom bun with lettuce, avocado slices, the tuna patty and a grilled pineapple slice. Top with the top bun and serve immediately.

ENJOY!

Per Serving: |Calories: 370 kcal | Carbohydrates: 47 g | Protein: 23 g | Fat: 15 g |Fibre: 8 g | Sodium: 600 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. For more information, email Joanne at jo.knows.nutrition@outlook.com.

Building a Life for All Seasons

written by Annie Warner Donnelly



Hello everyone. Because of what happened in the garden of Eden, (Genesis 3) humanity's deep and enduring connection that God meant for us to have with Him, was broken. It wasn't severed, but it was broken.

Those who do not yet know God are living with that broken connection. They may not yet realize that they need to re-connect to their heavenly Father, but the world is full of evidence that there is no real peace for any of us until we re-connect with Him.

This means that the way that human beings give and receive love is broken until we develop our relationship with God. Only then does our capacity to love develop as God created it to be.

Our inability to love others as God created us to love - our difficulty forming intimate, trusting and enduring relationships - shows up in our society in people of all ages, all cultures, all ethnicities, and all countries.

Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and our neighbour as ourself, but here's the question: What does human love look like? Our answer depends on whether we follow the feelings generated by our five senses or we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Without God, beliefs about love are based on what we have learned through our senses, through our observation of some combination of cultural, ethnic, societal, religious, family, and traditional perspectives added to romantic yearnings.

God's love is different. It transcends every worldview. It's impossible to love others, deeply and unconditionally, until we understand the love God offers to us, and we agree to receive it; until we replace our old beliefs about love with the truth of God's Word.

1 John 4:10, 11 says - "This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other." Let's think about this. Amen.

By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News
TINY TOWNSHIP — Taxes, municipal spending and the controversial new administrative centre took centre stage Sunday as a large crowd gathered to question candidates seeking office in the October municipal election.

The all-candidates forum, hosted by the Tax Ratepayers Association, was held August 23 at 91 Concession Road 8 East. Candidates faced questions on taxation, infrastructure, short-term rentals, shoreline regulations, municipal spending and communication. The tone was at times heated, with several reminders for attendees to maintain decorum.

Participating were mayoral candidates Dave Brunelle, David Kohler and Chuck Stradling; deputy mayor candidate Karen Zulynik; and councillor candidates Don Anthony, John Bryant, Jessie Garland, Kelly Helowska, Laura Hughes, Stephen McNamara, Ray Millar, David Sparrock and Steffen Walma.

Candidates David Evans, Sean Miskimins, Rob Panasiuk, Mario Galluzzo and Irene Jankowski were among those who did not attend.

Taxes Under the Microscope

A question most candidates couldn't answer was how Tiny, Tay and Springwater taxes compare

Tiny approved a 3.99 per cent blended tax increase for 2026. For a residential property assessed at \$350,000, the Township estimates that represents approximately \$7.11 per month on the municipal portion, or \$85.32 annually.

Tiny's 2026 budget totals \$53.3 million, with \$22.5 million supported by the tax levy. It includes \$4 million for road paving and preservation, \$1.45 million for the Toanche pavilion and rink, and \$1.85 million for fleet and vehicles.

By comparison, Springwater's 2026 blended increase is 5.29 per cent, while Tay's is 3.45 per cent. Springwater's increase represents approximately \$242 annually, or \$20.10 per month, for a typical \$497,000 assessment. Tay estimates an increase of approximately \$68.98 annually for its median \$220,000 single-family detached residence.

Candidates offered different approaches to controlling spending.

Chuck Stradling argued tax increases should not exceed the cost of living, while David Kohler called for greater scrutiny of discretionary spending, litigation and other expenses. John Bryant compared municipal finances to managing a household budget, using the phrase "monopoly money" to describe spending simply because funds are available.

David Sparrock called for a line-by-line review of municipal departments to identify discretionary spending and potential savings. Don Anthony emphasized taxpayer accountability, while Jessie Garland stressed responsible decision-making and community protection.

Deputy mayor candidate Karen Zulynik, citing her accounting education, also called for greater financial scrutiny.

Administrative Centre Sparks Debate

Perhaps the sharpest disagreement centred on the new administrative centre at 255 Concession Road 9 East.

The Township's August 2025 project FAQ placed the preliminary cost at \$25.6 million, including design, construction, site work, interior costs and a five-per-cent contingency. The Township estimated the financing impact on a \$350,000 residential assessment at \$76.68 annually, or \$6.38 per month.

The project now appears in the 2026 budget, with TTAC debt financing representing four per cent of the allocation of municipal tax dollars.

Steffen Walma defended the project, pointing to space limitations, HVAC issues and accessibility concerns at the existing municipal building, which has been in use since 1967.

Dave Brunelle questioned the decision-making behind the project, describing the borrowing as generational debt and arguing residents should have had a direct say in such a major expenditure.

Karen Zulynik suggested that if the new building ultimately became too expensive, the Township could consider selling it and renovating the existing facility.

The debate highlighted the difference between the project's overall cost and its annual tax impact, as borrowing spreads the cost over many years.

Short-Term Rentals and Shoreline Setbacks

Short-term rentals were another major issue.

David Kohler argued current regulations can penalize responsible operators, while David Sparrock supported maintaining limits but called for stronger enforcement against problematic properties.

Ray Millar said licensing fees should reflect the cost of providing the regulatory service rather than becoming a general revenue source. Chuck Stradling suggested bringing back a committee to examine density concerns.

Karen Zulynik also pointed to residents operating rentals without permits, saying approximately 150 of 300 permits were being used, noting the cost of the program.

Shoreline regulations produced another divide, particularly the 45-metre dynamic beach setback.

Majority supported returning to a 15-metre setback, while others defended the 45-metre requirement as science-based and necessary to protect the environment and public beach access.

Steffen Walma supported the requirement, noting that property changes within the setback require permits and consultation.

Dave Brunelle argued that litigation surrounding the regulations represents a significant expenditure of taxpayer money.

Roads, Communication and the Next Council

Infrastructure remained a consistent theme, with Stradling identifying road paving as a priority and Millar emphasizing long-term planning. Tiny's budget includes \$4 million for 15.9 kilometres of road paving and preservation projects.

Several candidates also called for greater communication between council and residents. Proposals included regular town halls, budget surveys, improved online information and more direct public engagement.

For Laura Hughes, community engagement was central, with residents encouraged to provide ideas before decisions are made.

The forum gave residents an opportunity to compare candidates on issues likely to dominate the campaign: taxes, the administrative centre, infrastructure, short-term rentals and shoreline regulations.

With nominations closed August 21 and voting scheduled for October 26, the meeting was one of the first major opportunities for Tiny residents to put candidates on the record.

While the forum focused heavily on those issues, they are not the only concerns being discussed across Tiny. Other residents are looking for answers on beach access, ambulance response times, infrastructure and services in Tiny, and the future of education and organized sports.

Tiny's seasonal cottagers and long-standing families do not always share the same priorities. As the campaign continues, voters will have the opportunity to weigh the candidates' positions against the broader concerns being heard throughout the community and decide who they believe is best equipped to shape Tiny's future.



By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News

SPRINGWATER — The Barrie Boundary Adjustment was the culmination of nearly three years of stalled negotiations, renewed talks, legal battles and, ultimately, provincial intervention.

The dispute became public in late 2023, when Barrie sought additional land in Springwater and Oro-Medonte for industrial and employment growth. In November 2023, Springwater Council was in agreement and unanimously ended boundary and cross-border servicing discussions.

By March 2024, however, Council had reopened talks, focusing on water and wastewater servicing for the Bayfield Street area. At the time Springwater lacked sufficient servicing capacity, while Barrie made clear it would not provide cross-border servicing without an agreement involving industrial land.

The dispute continued through 2024 and 2025 as the municipalities, Simcoe County and the province became involved in land-needs studies and negotiations.

When local talks failed, the province intervened.

Strong Mayor Powers Enter the Fight

Springwater received Strong Mayor Powers on May 1, 2025. The expanded authority became a controversial factor in the final stages of the boundary and servicing negotiations. Specifically to pass the Barrie Boundary in November 2025. Which in turn resulted in Council passing a resolution that lead to the Judicial Reviews and growing legal bill through late 2025 into 2026.

Ultimately, Ontario passed the Barrie-Oro-Medonte-Springwater Boundary Adjustment Act, 2025, transferring approximately 3,004 acres from Springwater and 1,129 acres from Oro-Medonte to Barrie. The new boundaries took effect Jan. 1, 2026.

More than 100 properties, involving fewer than 200 residents, were affected. Judicial reviews and legal disputes continued.

A Costly Fight

The dispute also generated significant legal and consulting costs.

Coun. Brad Thompson said Springwater received "very poor value" for approximately \$416,000 spent on lawyers and consultants.

"Had this council worked together from the beginning, we would have gotten revenue sharing from lands caught up in the boundary adjustment," Thompson said.

Coun. George Cabral took a different view, arguing the extraordinary costs resulted from the original effort to move Springwater lands into Barrie. He said independent legal advice was necessary to protect the township's interests, while questioning whether every dollar spent represented value.

Coun. Danielle Alexander similarly said legal advice was necessary during an unprecedented process, although the costs were significant.

The Strong Mayor Debate

Cabral remains opposed to Strong Mayor Powers, arguing they concentrate authority that traditionally belonged to Council.

"Every councillor is elected to represent residents," he said, adding that reducing councillors' role diminishes the voices of the residents who elected them.

Coun. Moore also questioned the model, saying major decisions should be made collaboratively with

meaningful public input.

Coun. Matt Garwood offered a different perspective. While saying Strong Mayor Powers should not normally be necessary, he argued divisions within Council weakened Springwater's negotiating position and credited Mayor Jennifer Coughlin with making difficult decisions on the township's behalf.

Was It a Good Deal?

Under the final agreement, Springwater will receive approximately \$22.93 million in compensation, paid over five years, including \$850,000 for economic development.

The township also secured cross-border water and wastewater servicing for approximately 449.5 acres in the Bayfield Street area. The arrangement is intended to support a proposed seniors' continuum-of-care campus at 727 Bayfield St. N., including retirement and long-term care facilities, a palliative care hospice and other uses.

Barrie has said the servicing arrangement will operate on a full cost-recovery basis, with capital, operating and maintenance costs paid by Springwater and the development community.

Garwood called the agreement "well negotiated and executed."

Thompson also praised the outcome, pointing to the \$22.93 million compensation, economic-development funding, a 20-year property-tax phase-in for farmers, protection for environmentally sensitive lands and the value of the servicing agreement. He also cited the planned medical campus as a major benefit.

Alexander and Cabral, however, questioned whether cross-border servicing was the best long-term option. Both argued Springwater could potentially have developed its own servicing system, keeping greater control over infrastructure and future growth while expanding its municipal tax and user base.

Cabral pointed to the Bayfield Street corridor's potential, with previous analysis estimating approximately \$675 million in assessment, \$54 million in development charges, \$6.8 million annually in combined property taxes and 700 jobs if fully developed.

A Different Deal from Oro-Medonte

Oro-Medonte received approximately \$10.1 million, also based on the \$15,000-per-developable-acre formula. Springwater's larger package reflects the greater amount of land transferred, while its agreement also included the \$850,000 economic-development allocation and cross-border servicing.

Comparisons with Central Elgin are more difficult. That boundary adjustmet was tied to the Volkswagen battery plant and included major infrastructure commitments.

Unlike Central Elgin, Springwater did not want to give up its land. For much of the boundary dispute, Council's position was that the township should retain the land and control its own growth.

That changed for some councillors once the province stepped in and made the boundary adjustment a reality. For others, it did not.

And that distinction is important when judging the final agreement.

Springwater was not negotiating to voluntarily sell land or trade it for the best possible package. It was negotiating after the province had decided the land would be transferred.

That fundamentally changed the bargaining position.

A Compromise Born of Provincial Intervention

The final agreement cannot be separated from how the township arrived at the negotiating table.

Springwater's original position was that it should retain its land and control its own growth. As provincial intervention, land-needs studies and legal considerations changed the landscape, the township's bargaining position changed with it.

Barrie Mayor Nuttall later acknowledged the city expected to be compensated for the transferred lands and estimated they could eventually generate approximately \$200 million or more annually in tax revenue once developed.

For Springwater, the question is therefore not simply how much money it received, but what it surrendered verses what options it had and whether taxpayers recieved value for the money spent obtaining these differing opinions.

The township ultimately secured \$22.93 million in compensation, \$850,000 for economic development and a cross-border servicing agreement that could enable significant development, including a major health-care campus.

Whether it was a good deal depends on the starting point.

If the starting point is Springwater's original 2023 position — that the township should not give up its land — the outcome is difficult to call a victory.

If the starting point is the province's decision to impose the boundary, the compensation and servicing agreement represent an effort to protect Springwater's interests under difficult circumstances.

The township did not get the deal it wanted in 2023.

It got the deal it could negotiate after the province intervened.

What Comes Next for Springwater?

With the boundary settled, legal battles hopefully behind it and a new cross-border servicing relationship beginning, Springwater must now determine what this history means for its future.

The questions go beyond the boundary: Were taxpayers' legal costs worthwhile? What role should Council and provincial authority play in major decisions? Can Springwater accommodate growth while providing the infrastructure and services residents will need?

Growth brings demands for health care, education, childcare, employment, transportation, community services, emergency response, water and wastewater infrastructure and public safety.

Barrie's recent struggles with homelessness and encampments also highlight the pressures that can accompany rapid growth and urbanization.

As southern Springwater develops, residents will ultimately judge the boundary agreement not only by the dollars received or acres transferred, but by what comes next.

Can Springwater support growth while preserving its rural character and ensuring existing and future residents have the services they need?

The boundary battle may be over. The next chapter for Springwater is only beginning.



Seniors BBQ

Thursday, September 3rd

**11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

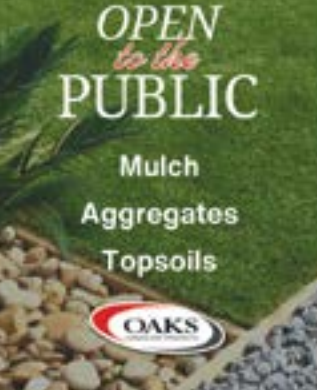
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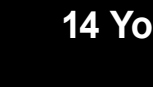
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Springwater Council Rejects Forensic Review, Orders Legal Invoice Review

By Kari Belcourt North Simcoe Springwater News

SPRINGWATER — Questions surrounding legal expenditures related to the Barrie Boundary Adjustment dominated the August 19 Special Council meeting, with council rejecting an independent forensic review but unanimously agreeing to examine the Township's records and correspondence.

Council had been considering a \$92,000 contract with Resolution Economics Canada for an independent forensic governance review of legal and professional expenditures. The proposal followed a 5-2 vote at the July 29 special meeting to obtain quotes.

After discussion, council unanimously rejected the outside review. Instead, Councillor Fisher brought forward a motion directing Township staff to compile information and correspondence involving Township staff, council members and the mayor relating to the legal invoices. The motion was very similar to the one presented by Garwood that did not pass at the July 29th meeting. This time it was unanimously passed. The information will be reviewed through the closed-meeting process and provided to council by September 16.

While councillors agreed questions remain, their concerns differed. Councillor Danielle Alexander told the North Simcoe Springwater News that clarification should come before conclusions.

“When questions arise regarding invoices or the work performed, I believe it is reasonable for Council to seek clarification before drawing conclusions.”

Councillor Matt Garwood said residents have been asking questions for almost a year, including who is identified as “Springwater People” in billing records and which council members used the legal firm’s services.

“These bills were ultimately paid by the people of Springwater, and taxpayers have every right to know how their money was spent.”

Councillor Brad Thompson said he wants answers about which council members dealt directly with vendors, how much was spent without council direction and who was involved in the dealings.

Deputy Mayor George Cabral said his concern is “clarity, accountability and being able to understand the work taxpayers paid for.”

Cabral said he found a clearer connection between Loopstra Nixon invoices and matters council had directed, including the boundary adjustment, Strong Mayor Powers and judicial review. He said invoices from AGM raised additional questions because council had not retained the firm for the original judicial review.

Cabral emphasized he was not alleging wrongdoing. “I’m not suggesting from the invoices alone that anything improper occurred. Those are the very questions I wanted independently examined.”

Confidential documents remain under review Council also considered releasing, with redactions, two previously confidential Loopstra Nixon documents: a July 19, 2024 proposal concerning municipal annexation/ restructuring and a January 12, 2026 letter concerning invoice No. 185609.

The discussion was connected to a confidential email referenced at the July 29 meeting by Deputy Mayor Cabral and questions surrounding the “Township People” referenced in billing.

This issue caused discourse during both issues at the table that night as multiple councils felt they should not be spoken publicly but included in the first motion. Mayor Coughlin and Councillor Thompson argued that it was a separate motion before council and was pertaining to the confidentiality of the remarks in the last meeting.

Deputy Mayor Cabral requested the matter be discussed in closed session, while Councillor Fisher cautioned that releasing the documents could have legal implications.

The CAO did note that released document would be in compliance with FIPA and propriorty information would be redacted to protect the Municipality.

Councillor Alexander moved to combine the document review with the legal invoice review, with Councillor Moore seconding.

Council voted in favour. The documents will not be publicly released at this time. They will instead be reviewed by council as part of the broader examination of the legal expenditures.

The information is expected before council by September 16, keeping the issue alive as the October 26 municipal election approaches.

For taxpayers, the dispute now extends beyond the boundary adjustment itself and continues onto questions of authorization, accountability and how public funds were spent. It also highlights the history of differing perspectives during the Boundary Adjustment and how those issues have resulted in the large legal bill.



Elmvale 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.

Library Board Open Houses
Are you interested in joining the Springwater Library Board? Come and chat with our current board at an open house. All open houses will run from 6:30pm-8pm.
Monday September 10, Minesing Branch
Tuesday September 14, Midhurst Branch
Tuesday September 15, Elmvale Branch

Storytime at the Library
Join Kaitlyn (Elmvale and Minesing Branch) and Katie (Midhurst Branch) for weekly Storytime in the library! We will be singing songs, reading stories and having fun! At the end of each Storytime program, families can take home a free craft! Mondays 10:30am

at Elmvale Branch (starting Monday September 14), Tuesdays 10:30am at Minesing Branch (starting Tuesday September 15) and Wednesdays 10:30am at Midhurst Branch (starting Wednesday September 16). No registration required for this drop-in program.

After School Open Play
Every Thursday come in for our open play session. Games, toys, LEGO and colouring are all available to use with friends and family. All ages are welcome to join in the fun! Thursdays 3:30pm at Minesing Branch. No registration required for this drop-in program.

Tech Help for Seniors
With new technology being released daily, it can be hard to keep up! Sign up for an appointment for seniors to receive one-on-one tech help. Bi-weekly Mondays 10:30 am - 11:50 am (40 minute appointments) at Midhurst Branch or bi-weekly Thursdays 3pm-5pm (40 minute appointments) at Elmvale Branch. Cost: Free.

Penetanguishene Library

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

Library Crawl
This Weekend is your last chance to join in on the 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.

We are Hiring!
The Penetanguishene Public Library is looking is currently seeking a person to fill the position of casual/ on call assistant librarian position. Check out our social media for more information.
The deadline is September 11th 2026 at 5pm.

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.

211 @ the Penetanguishene Public Library – Thursday September 17th, 10:30am – 11:30am
Join 211 for an information session at the Penetanguishene Public Library. 211 is a three-digit dialing code (like 911) answered by Community Navigators to help people access needed services. Registrations are open now. A minimum of 5 people is required to run the program.

First Aid and CPR Workshop for Seniors - Tuesday Sept. 29th, 10:00am -12 noon
Break at 11 with light refreshments
Presented by First for Safety. This is not a certification program. Minimum 5, Maximum 15 participants. Cost of \$5.00, non-transferable and non-refundable.

Hand Knit a Blanket with the Baked Painter at the Penetanguishene Public Library
Tuesday October 13th, 4:00pm-6:00pm
Members \$35, non-Members \$40. A minimum of 5 people is required to run the program.

Needle Felting Workshop - Monday October 19th, 2:00pm-4:00pm
Make a Pumpkin trio with felt to Celebrate Fall.
Members \$35, non-Members \$40. A minimum of 5 people is required to run the program.

Paint a Snowman with the Baked Painter at the Penetanguishene Public Library
Tuesday November 17th, 4:00pm-6:00pm
Enjoy the Baked Painter’s signature virgin margarita, as you paint a snowman picture. Members \$35, non-Members \$40. A minimum of 5 people is required to run the program.

Registration required.

Home Children Canada Presentation
Did you know that over 100,000 children came to Canada from Britain between 1869 and 1948? They came to work on Canadian farms which they were never prepared for, and many were treated poorly.

There were Home Children here in Springwater Township! Over 4 million Canadians today are descended from Home Children, yet their story is not often told. Lori Oschefski from the Home Children Canada organization will share their stories and legacy. Saturday September 12, 1pm at Midhurst Branch. Registration required.

Creative Adults: Mandala Painting
Join our Creative Adults program and dive into a colourful world of self-expression; no experience needed! Tuesday September 15, 2pm at Elmvale Branch. Cost \$10.00. Registration required.

HEY DADS!

Hey Dads! Do you work on your own car? Van? Truck? Growing up I never did much mechanic work with my dad. He was tractor handy but didn’t much care for working on cars. So I’ve spent a lot of money paying mechanics to do stuff. I’ve got three boys and a couple of them are pretty handy with tools so for the last couple of years we’ve been trying to do most of our own vehicle fixes.

I had a friend who was pretty smart. I haven’t seen him in 20 years but I assume he’s still pretty smart. He would only drive Volkswagens and instead of paying some guy to fix them he would buy the tools and fix them himself. Following his example, the boys and I are buying some tools and trying to fix them ourselves. We’ve got a Honda Civic that’s had a bit of a clunk going on in the front end. According to the smart dads fixing their cars on YouTube, it’s probably the strut. They made it look easy: remove three bolts at the top, one at the bottom, and BOOM! Fixed.

So, we did that and I may or may not have let one of the boys drive the car around a bit to see if the clunk was gone. We had high hopes but...still clunking. Grumbling under my breath, I went in the house to voice my frustration to my wise and patient wife. She had some thoughts: “You know, hon, there are some dads who spend hundreds of dollars to go do some challenging father-son retreat together. Just think of this like a father-son retreat.” She was right about spending the hundreds of dollars. And she was right about the challenging. I considered her words as I went back to the auto supply store to spend more money on parts for the next father-son event in the garage. Lower ball joints this time.

But as we were attempting to disassemble the lower ball joint, we spied with our little eye that the upper ball joint looked worn out. Back to the auto parts store for more parts and even a “tie-rod end puller” to remove ball joints. Who knew such a thing existed? We had tried with hammers and punches but couldn’t get it separated. With the puller it took about 2 seconds to get the job done. Lesson learned: The right tools are super helpful. Now the clunking must be gone!

Out we went with high hopes for a quick test drive! But it was not to be. The clunking remains. Looks like more father-son garage retreats in our future. I’m really trying to have a good attitude about this. On the positive side, the boys are learning more mechanic-stuff that I never learned. Also on the positive side, we’re spending time together doing productive things on father-son “retreats”. How about you, dad? Is there something your kids can help you with out in the garage? Round them up and give it a shot because time flies! Make every moment count! Even the clunking ones.

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



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Community Events Ongoing

SENIOR CLUBS

- Askennonia Seniors Centre**
Rec. Centre, 527 Len Self Blvd, Midland
P: (705) 526-7609
- Bay Shore Seniors' Club**
2000 Tiny Beaches Road S., Woodland Beach
Call 705-361-1331 or info@bayshoreseniors.ca
- Georgian Shores Seniors Club**
The Place, 300 Balm Beach Road West, Tiny
Call 705 526 5074 or gssseniors2016@rogers.com

MONDAY
Elmvale Seniors Drop In
Elmvale Library Lower Level
10 am - 12 noon
Call Lynn for info, 705.322.3309
Midland Jam
Free Admission, Show 7:00, Doors 6:30
Bid Euchre
Elmvale Community Hall 1 pm - 4 pm
Call Anne for details 705-322-1232
Georgian Shores Seniors Club
Billiards/Pool, 9:00 – 11 am
Seniors in Motion Fitness, 10:00 – 11:00 am
Hustle and Muscle, 11:30 – 12:30 pm
Bid Euchre, 1 – 3:30 pm
Askennonia Seniors Centre
Table Tennis, 9am-11am
Yoga, 9am-10am
Line Dancing Advancing, 9:15am-10:30
Fun Fit Circuit, 9:15am-10:15am
Coffee Break, 10:00am-12pm
Chair Pilates, 10:30am-11:30am
Intro to Line Dancing- Baby Steps, 10:30am-11am
Walking Club, 11am-12pm
Line Dancing Basic, 11am-12pm
Hand and Foot Card Game, 1pm-3:30pm
Writers Workshop, 1pm-3:30pm

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

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

Bay Shore Seniors Club
Bay Shore Mini Putt, Members Only
May 19 - Aug 25 8:30 - 10:00 am
Skull Island 104 Main Street Wasaga Beach

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

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, September 8th
Tuesday, September 22nd
Tuesday, October 13th
UGreat 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!
Boots and Boards: Wednesday Line Dancing at Sainte-Marie
Sep. 02, 2026 6pm-8pm
Sainte-Marie among the Hurons
A lively evening of line dancing, history, and country inspired fun
BBQ & Corn All U Can Eat
Sep. 05, 2026 11:00-1:30
Elmvale Presbyterian Church, 22 Queen St. E
Adults \$15, 8 & under \$6. Rain or shine. Proceeds in support of Ontario fires
Bagel Making Class
Sep. 27, 2026 1:00-4:00
Wyevale United Church, Stott Centre
Wyevale United Church . Bagel making class. As well as Soup in a Jar.
\$35.00
Calling all Book Worms--Lesley Crewe live ZOOM presentation
Sep. 29, 2026 11:00-12:30
Amica Little Lake
Calling Book Worms--join us for an interactive chat with Cdn Author Lesley Crewe
Music Marathon
Oct. 03, 2026 10:00-4:00pm
Midhurst United Church 91 Doran Road, Midhurst, ON
Come listen to our musicians and vocal performers. Light refreshments provided.
THE BAY STUDIO TOUR 2026
Oct. 03, 2026 10:00-Oct. 04, 2026 5:00
Throughout Tiny Township and Penetanguishene
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Across

- 1 Baltic, for one
- 4 Umpire's call
- 8 Consider visually
- 11 Sculler's prop
- 12 Busboy's aid
- 13 Door sign
- 14 Application
- 15 Land measurement
- 16 Embellish
- 17 Flinch, say
- 19 "Here's the proof!"
- 21 Rolling in dough
- 24 Horse of a sort
- 27 Otalgia
- 30 Fledgling pilot's challenge
- 31 Got on
- 32 Hospital worker
- 34 McCoy adjective
- 35 Strip
- 36 Early morning droplets
- 38 Barbecue leftovers
- 42 Gulped down
- 44 Group of buffalo
- 47 "Sister __" Whoopi Goldberg film
- 48 Swe. neighbor
- 49 Word-of-mouth
- 50 It's definite
- 51 Go word
- 52 Numerous
- 53 Bygone school dance

Down

- 1 Go bad
- 2 Slip (into)
- 3 Ground
- 4 Radio broadcast interference
- 5 Football's flight
- 6 Much

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12					13		
14				15					16		
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42	43			44	45	46			47		
48				49					50		
51				52					53		

- 7 Holes in needles
- 8 Beethoven's fifth piano concerto, familiarly
- 9 Formal vote
- 10 Swan song
- 18 Landline telephone part
- 20 Display props
- 22 Karate blow
- 23 "Take one!"
- 25 The sum of ___ fears
- 26 Girl's counterpart
- 27 Place for a plug
- 28 Word with Victorian
- 29 Circulation, essentially
- 33 Kind of sins
- 37 To ____ it may concern
- 39 Hell __ no fury....
- 40 Sound in an empty hall
- 41 Dance move
- 42 One or some
- 43 Part of a club head
- 45 History book chapter, perhaps
- 46 Bled

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- Craftex CT046 3 Cyclone Dust Collector - Acton (Sept 6 - 10)
- Grand Piano by Kurzweil - Baden (Sept 6 - 10)
- 1999 Chevrolet Corvette C5 Convertible - Grimsby (Sept 23 - 30)
- Kubota BC23S 4W Tractor / Can-Am - Guelph (Sept 27 - Oct 1)

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In Loving Memory of Luella Stone-Simpson

One year ago, on September 7, our guiding light dimmed, yet her loving influence continues to provide timely illumination while keeping us in line. Through all the days since, it is the power of Luella's love and the warmth, kindness, and support of a caring community that has given us the light and gifts to carry on. To all who have held Luella in your thoughts, shared memories, or offered a comforting hand, we thank you for surrounding us with such care and keeping her memory so brightly alive. With heartfelt gratitude, Larry and Family

A LIFE WELL-LIVED, A HEART SO LOVED

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE, BEST FRIEND WHO SHARED UNCOUNTED DAYS OF JOY AND EXPLORATION WITH US BY THE WATER'S EDGE.

Though your path is now elsewhere, your shadow remains in our hearts, and your spirit is part of this lakeside. May you find eternal paths and clear waters. We will always cherish you. Rest In Peace.



This is George, Jim & Lisa Strong laid him to rest on August 13, 2026. Approximately 3:15pm He was loved by everyone he met on his walks around Orr Lake, and Milton previously. His last day was filled with love, bacon, kabasa and treats. Although he would not eat the chocolate. He will be remembered forever in our hearts



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NIGHT**
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MOTOWN**
SEPTEMBER 5



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