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Midland Waterfront Festival Showcases the Beauty, History and Culture of Georgian Bay

By Kari Belcourt

North Simcoe Springwater News

The sound of music carried across the harbour as boats rested along the docks, vendors welcomed passing crowds and the smell of food drifted through Harbourside Park. Along the water, families wandered between the waterfront, market tents and colourful murals, while the Georgian Bay breeze moved through the heart of the celebration.

For a weekend, Midland's waterfront became more than a place to watch the boats come and go. It became a gathering place — where maritime history, local art, music, food, business and community came together against the backdrop of Georgian Bay.

Rain or shine, residents and visitors made their way to the shoreline August 8 and 9 for the inaugural Georgian Bay Waterfront Festival, a free, family-friendly celebration at Midland Harbour and Harbourside Park.

The new festival offered visitors a chance to experience several of the things that have come to define Midland: its connection to the water, its rich history, its growing collection of public art and its increasingly active downtown.

The weekend featured antique vessels, working tugboats, live music, food trucks, local vendors, mural tours and hands-on artistic activities, creating a festival designed as much around experiencing the waterfront as it was around the individual events.

For a community whose identity has long been tied to Georgian Bay, the location was fitting.

The festival also arrives during a period of continued investment and revitalization in downtown Midland. Improvements to the downtown and waterfront have helped create welcoming public spaces for the festivals, markets and community events that bring residents and visitors into the area.

Midland has already established itself as a destination for summer events, including the Ontario's Best Butter Tart Festival and Midland Ribfest. The Georgian Bay Waterfront Festival adds another event to that calendar, placing the city's waterfront and maritime heritage



firmly at centre stage.

At the Town Dock, festivalgoers could explore antique boats presented by the Georgian Bay Heritage League, while rolling tugboat tours offered an opportunity to get out on the water. The Red Hot Stove Pipe Band performed throughout the weekend, adding music and energy to the harbour.

Across the park, the festival shifted from maritime history to public art.

Midland is home to more than 30 murals and sculptures that help tell the story of the community. Guided and self-guided mural tours gave visitors the opportunity to discover the history, artists and inspiration behind the works found throughout the city.

Visitors could also become part of Midland's next chapter of public art through the community mural project at Harbourside Park. Working alongside professional artists, festivalgoers of all ages and skill levels were invited to pick up a brush and contribute to new murals.

The Entertainment Stage kept the park active throughout the weekend, with live performances running from late morning into Saturday evening and throughout Sunday afternoon. Food trucks and a licensed area gave visitors a place to sit, eat and enjoy the waterfront atmosphere.

Local vendors also filled Harbourside Park, creating an opportunity for businesses and organizations to



connect directly with the crowds while showcasing what the community has to offer.

While the festival may be new, the setting is anything but.

For generations, Georgian Bay has shaped Midland — its history, its economy, its recreation and its identity. The waterfront continues to be a place where people gather, businesses grow and stories are shared.

The Georgian Bay Waterfront Festival simply gave residents and visitors another reason to come down to the water and experience it together.

With boats in the harbour, music in the park and Georgian Bay stretching out beyond the shoreline, Midland offered a celebration that was uniquely its own — a weekend where the community could look out across the water and see a little bit of its past, present and future all in one place.




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Summer Eating in North Simcoe

By Kari Belcourt, North Simcoe Springwater News
Summer has a way of making us hungry.

Maybe it's a long day at the beach, an afternoon at the ball diamond, a trip to the zoo, a day spent exploring back roads, or simply trying to keep up with the never-ending list of summer activities. By the time dinner rolls around, the last thing many of us want to do is heat up the kitchen and start cooking.

Fortunately, you don't have to look far for a summer meal in North Simcoe.

From classic chip trucks to fish and chips, burgers, poutine, ice cream and some more adventurous street food, local food trucks are a big part of the summer experience. They're quick, casual and, best of all, they give us another reason to get out and enjoy our own backyard.

Just outside Hillsdale on County Road 93 at 2334 Cassell Drive, Springwater, you'll find Freddie's Dam Good Fries, a Springwater favourite that has been serving up fries for more than 29 years.

With crispy fries, loaded poutines, burgers, hot dogs and plenty of other classic favourites, it's the kind of roadside stop that has become part of the summer routine for many local families.

In Anten Mills, locals were excited to see The Fry Guy return for another summer season. Located on Horseshoe Valley Road West, the popular food truck has once again become a stop for both residents and seasonal travellers passing through the area.

Open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., it's another easy option when you're looking for something quick without sacrificing the summer experience.

Further north, Perky's Fries has locations in both Perkinsfield and Elmvale. The roadside fish and chipper serves up classic favourites including hamburgers, hot dogs and, of course, fish and chips.

Their haddock and fries are a standout choice and make for a great meal after a trip to the zoo or as you make your way toward the beaches of Tiny.

Perky's Fries – Perkinsfield
165 County Road 6 S, Tiny

In Waverley, The Goofy Newfie is back for another summer at the four corners. Along with fries and fish, the popular stop is known for its big scoops of ice cream — perfect for cooling down on a hot summer afternoon.

It's also more than just a grab-and-go stop. Visitors can sit and enjoy the outdoor seating area, challenge friends to a game of cornhole or take part in some of the lawn games.

Over in Wyebridge, The Hungry Hustler is bringing elevated street food to the community this summer.

Tucked away near the bridge off Highway 93, the food truck has developed a following for favourites such as brisket and lobster rolls. If you're planning a visit, check their Facebook page before heading out and consider arriving early — some of their most popular items can sell out quickly.

And in Penetanguishene, summer visitors can once again find Clarence's Classics, better known to many as the Red Bus.

Located at Penetang Waterfront Park beside the splash pad, the big red bus offers the classic chip-truck experience and is perfectly situated for families spending

a summer day at Rotary Park.

From Hillsdale to Penetanguishene, and from Elmvale to Wyebridge, these seasonal food stops are more than just convenient places to grab dinner. They are part of what makes summer in North Simcoe feel like summer.

There's something about eating outside, sitting at a picnic table, watching the traffic roll by and enjoying a meal you didn't have to cook.

So, the next time the calendar is packed, the sun is shining and nobody feels like making dinner, take the scenic route home.

Follow the smell of the fries. Try somewhere local. And make a summer memory while you're at it.

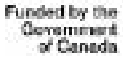
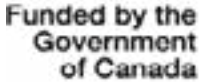


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Letter from the Editor

What have I gotten myself into?

I was warned I was stepping onto a slippery slope. Unfortunately, no one told me how far the fall was—or where to connect the safety harness.

When I got into political science, I wanted to be a political advisor. Do you know why? No one tries to assassinate the advisor, even though they make most of the policies.

And apparently, if you become a journalist, you get your own special cell in political prison.

Yet, here we go.

The North Simcoe Springwater News will be hosting an All-Candidates Meeting for the 2026 Springwater Municipal Election.

After receiving feedback from both residents and candidates, we have decided to move forward with hosting the meeting. And while I may have questioned my life choices somewhere along the way, I believe this is an important service we can provide to the community.

This meeting is not about telling residents who to vote for. It is not about promoting one candidate, one issue, or one political position. It is about giving residents an opportunity to hear directly from the people asking for their vote.

To ensure the event remains fair, transparent, and focused on informing voters, the meeting is not being organized in collaboration with individual residents or local businesses.

This approach is intended to help ensure the format and information presented to the community remain balanced, accurate, and impartial.

The meeting will be held Thursday, September 24, in the evening at Snow Valley Ski Resort.

The event will be moderated by an individual who is not a resident of Springwater, providing an independent perspective and helping to ensure that the discussion remains focused and impartial.

The purpose of this event is simple: to provide residents with a respectful, informative and welcoming forum to learn more about the individuals seeking public office.

We ask all candidates, attendees and participants to contribute to a professional atmosphere.

Personal attacks, slanderous or defamatory statements, harassment, intimidation, disruptive behaviour and disrespectful conduct will not be tolerated.

The moderator will have the authority to enforce these expectations so that the discussion remains focused on the issues that matter to the residents of Springwater.

Your Questions Matter

Questions for the candidates will be submitted by residents through local media sources.

Questions will be reviewed and edited only where necessary for clarity, duplication, relevance and transparency before being presented during the event. No question will be altered in a way that changes its original intent.

Questions will be provided to candidates prior to the event.

Readers are encouraged to submit their questions to info@springwaternews.ca.

This meeting is not an attempt by the North Simcoe Springwater News to become part of the political discourse taking place during this election.

Quite the opposite.

Our role is to provide residents with information and

an opportunity to hear from those seeking to represent them. What residents do with that information—and who they ultimately choose at the ballot box—is their decision.

And perhaps that is the most important part of this entire undertaking.

I sincerely hope you will attend.

This is an opportunity to hear directly from each candidate, understand their priorities, ask questions that matter to you, and make an informed decision when you head to the polls.

For me, this is personal.

Springwater is where my family has lived for generations. It is home to the village of strong women who raised me, keep me sane, and continue to be a constant part of my life. It is where I am raising my children and where I try to involve them in the schools, sports, events, heritage, church and culture that make this community what it is.

This community has given me—and my family—so much.

It has supported us, welcomed us, challenged us and, more times than I can count, reminded me why local community matters.

So, yes, perhaps I have stepped onto a slippery slope. Perhaps I should have listened when I was warned.

But if this is the fall, and the result is giving residents a better opportunity to understand the people seeking to lead the community we call home, then I suppose it is the least I can do in return.

I hope to see you there.

And if anyone knows where I can buy a safety harness, please send me the information.

SPRINGWATER NEWS
ALL-CANDIDATES MEETING
September 24, 2026 - Snow Valley Ski Resort
ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME

Join us for an opportunity to hear directly from the candidates seeking to represent Springwater Township. This all-candidates meeting will provide residents with an opportunity to learn more about the candidates, hear their perspectives and ask questions in a transparent, respectful, informed and welcoming environment.

Questions may be submitted in advance to:
info@springwaternews.ca

We look forward to bringing candidates and residents together for an informative evening ahead of the municipal election.

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HCES SUBMISSION

The end of a school year is always a busy and exciting time, and it certainly was at Huronia Centennial Elementary School. As the final weeks flew by, our school community was filled with celebrations, special events, student achievements, and memorable experiences that highlighted another successful year of learning and growth. From classroom projects and field trips to athletic accomplishments and school-wide activities, students and staff were very busy. Our school was buzzing with excitement and school spirit.

Our student leaders deserve special recognition for their hard work in organizing and running this year's Heart Healthy Play Day activities. Their planning, teamwork, and leadership helped create a fun-filled outdoor day for all our students. We have the best leaders at our school!

A cherished tradition at our school continued this year with our annual Kindergarten Mud Day, now celebrating its 14th year. We are grateful to Mrs. Sokach, who introduced this wonderful tradition and helped create an experience that generations of Kindergarten students have enjoyed. It provides our youngest learners with a unique opportunity to explore, play, and learn through outdoor experiences. A heartfelt thank you goes to Springwater Fire Department and Karen Jamieson, Division Chief of Fire Prevention and Programming for bringing the pumper trucks and generously spraying countless gallons of water into the air. Our parents provided wonderful nutritious snacks and donated many items for our students to use. Students delighted in running through the streams of water, splashing with friends, bathing in the mud and enjoying a truly memorable day outdoors. It was a wonderful example of hands-on learning, exploration, and community partnership.

Another beloved school tradition, The Dodge-Off, returned this year for its 18th season, bringing excitement, school spirit, and friendly competition to our Grade 4-6 students. The Dodge-Off has become a cherished school tradition thanks to the vision, dedication and tireless efforts of Mr. Ozerkevich - "Mr. O". This highly anticipated event has become a well-loved part of our school culture. As excitement continues to grow each year, Mr. O is already planning something special for the event's 20th anniversary. Be sure to keep informed about this as a future article as a student reporter will interview Mr. O to learn how the Dodge-Off began.

In the weeks leading up to the tournament, classes eagerly selected creative team names and designed their own "uniforms" to showcase their team. This year's lineup included the Cookers, Uni-Pirates, Hailstorms, Sharks, Cobras, Dodgers, and the Bumblebees. Students demonstrated outstanding teamwork, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm both on and off the court.

After an exciting season of competition, Mr. Cook's team, The Cookers, captured first place in both the regular season and the championship tournament. Their accomplishment was especially noteworthy, as they became the first team in Dodge-Off history to complete the entire season undefeated.

Our Leadership Team hosted a special Volunteer Appreciation Celebration to recognize the many individuals who generously give their time and talents to support our school community. The event featured songs, poems, and heartfelt performances by several classes, providing a wonderful opportunity for students to express their gratitude and entertain our honoured guests.

There isn't a day that goes by without seeing volunteers

actively involved in our school. From regular reading and academic support, assisting with special classroom activities and field trips, supporting our Mindful Morning program, and helping with the many "behind-the-scenes" tasks that keep our school running smoothly, their contributions make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and staff.

We are incredibly grateful for the dedication, kindness, and commitment of all our volunteers. We would also like to extend a special thank you to our School Council members, who play such an important role in supporting school initiatives and enhancing opportunities for our students. Your partnership and support are deeply appreciated.

Throughout the year, many students participated in Knowledgehook, an online mathematics learning platform. The students' dedication and excitement for mathematics led to many students earning recognition and awards for their achievements. Mrs. Lethbridge, our Principal, proudly shared their accomplishments during the morning announcements and students were presented with certificates and medals in recognition of their hard work.

Our Eco Team received Platinum certification, the highest designation from Ontario EcoSchools, for the second year in a row. Many initiatives contributed to our school achieving this recognition. From the composting and recycling awards created by Mrs. Dumais that were given to the classes that worked hard to do this each day, to our Pitch-In Days that help clean our school and community, the clothing drives, the annual Treasure Sale and the milk bag collection program, all of these contributed to our success.

We are especially grateful to Ruth Reynolds of St. Mark's Anglican-Lutheran Church in Midland who coordinated the collection of countless milk bags donated by members of her church community. These bags will be repurposed into sleeping mats for people in need. She went above and beyond by carefully ironing all of these bags! We appreciate Ruth and the congregation of St. Mark's Anglican-Lutheran Church for their dedication to helping our school keep milk bags out of the landfill and supporting those in need.

As our students and staff are off for the summer, we give a huge round of applause to our Custodians, Mrs. Dumais, Mr. Bittman and Mr. Kenney who are working very hard over these hot summer days to make our school clean, bright and sunny.




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Pirates Take Over Nancy Island for ‘Awaken the Isle’ on August 15

WASAGA BEACH — Nancy Island Historic Site will transform into a bustling pirate port on Saturday, August 15, as “Awaken the Isle” brings a full day of free, family-friendly adventure to the shores of Wasaga Beach.

Running from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the event invites visitors to step into the world of pirates through immersive activities, historical demonstrations, entertainment, hands-on crafts and roaming performers.

Set against the backdrop of the historic hull of the H.M.S. Nancy, the island will be decorated as a pirate port, with visitors encouraged to dress in their best pirate gear and let their imaginations take over.

The adventure begins at the Pirate Recruiting Station, where guests can receive a pirate name and a “pirate passport” — a fold-out map and activity guide designed to lead visitors around the island and introduce them to the various activities.

“Who wouldn’t jump at the chance to join a spirited crew of pirates for a full day of island adventure?” said Will Baird, General Manager for Huronia Historical Parks and Nancy Island Historic Site. “It’s a fun way to bring history to life with experiences the whole family can dive into.”

Throughout the day, visitors can move between themed areas and participate in activities including making pirate hats and hooks, testing the golf ball cannon, walking the plank and taking part in Pirate Academy.

Creative activities such as Sand and Sea will explore stories and myths surrounding mermaids and sea monsters, while roaming pirates and staff will help keep the island’s atmosphere lively.

The event will also offer a connection to the island’s history. Live demonstrations, including blacksmithing and musket drills, will be held throughout the day, while visitors can explore exhibits inside the Nancy Island Museum.

Entertainment will take place on the central stage, including a Sea Shanty Sing-Along at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and an interactive Pirate Trivia Game at 1:30 p.m.

Three times during the day — at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. — visitors can take part in the signature Awaken the Isle ceremony. The island-wide experience will feature sound effects, including the ringing of a bell, before culminating in a pirate rallying cry.

While admission to Awaken the Isle is free, several additional pirate-themed experiences will be available for purchase. These include parrot and exotic animal performances, face painting and a temporary tattoo parlour. Organizers note that space for some activities is limited and encourage visitors to purchase tickets in advance online.

The Buccaneer Bazaar will also feature vendors selling colourful goods, wearable treasures and artisanal treats. Food and beverage options will be available throughout the event, including the specialty “Pirate Lemonade,” served in a souvenir glass bottle.

Organizers say Awaken the Isle is designed to appeal to visitors of all ages, combining history, entertainment and hands-on activities in a waterfront setting.

Nancy Island is home to the remains of the H.M.S. Nancy, a historic vessel that played a role during the War of 1812. The event provides an opportunity for visitors to experience the historic site in a different way while learning more about its past.

For more information about Awaken the Isle, visit NancyIsland.ca.



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Jessica Klug new Executive Director Of Huronia Community Foundation

Midland, Ontario, July 30, 2026 --- She’s been a councillor, a senior town planner, digital strategist, and soon Jessica Klug will be adding to her long record of public and community service the Executive Director role of local super charity Huronia Community Foundation (HCF).

HCF has been led by former Tay Township mayor Scott Warnock since 2019. A celebration to mark his retirement will be held Sept. 24, 2026. Ms. Klug’s appointment was announced at a special

gathering on July 29th. She takes on leadership following the September celebration, building on HCF’s 25+ years of success in promoting local giving and working with donors to create funds that are awarded to deserving charitable organizations in our area.

“Scott is leaving big boots to fill, so I’m very honoured to be given this opportunity,” says Jessica. “It brings together so many of the things I’m passionate about—meeting people, hearing their stories, and being part of something that makes a real difference in our

community.”

“I’m looking forward to working closely with Scott and the Board, learning from their knowledge and commitment to HCF, and getting to know the fund holders, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and community partners who make the Huronia Community Foundation so special.”

Laurene Hilderley, Chair of the HCF board, says there was considerable interest in the Executive Director position and thanks all of the applicants as well as the dedicated recruitment committee. “We were excited with Jessica’s local family history and commitment to public service. She comes to HCF with a strong background of caring about our North Simcoe communities as a former Penetanguishene councillor, in her municipal career working for both Penetanguishene and Midland, and with the Severn Sound Environmental Association and Midland Cultural Centre - two HCF partners.”

Laurene adds that Jessica has shown strong community leadership and vision as the founder and board president of the local, volunteer-run Georgian Bay Women’s Cycling

Club. She has a degree in Political Science and Geography and a Masters of Science in Planning, valuable resources for the next Vital Signs report and Strategic Plan. “As well, her skills in digital strategy, marketing, sponsorships and social media, along with building strong relationships and partnerships with businesses, local organizations and volunteers, the foundation for fundraising, will be strong assets as HCF aims for new goals.”

Generous citizens and companies are the benefactors who fund the Huronia Community Foundation. Working with 205 other members of Community Foundations of Canada, HCF builds financial legacies through endowments, scholarships and donor advised funds spent annually in our community. Since 2000, HCF has distributed \$4.3 million so North Simcoe residents have a better place to live, work and play.

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For further information, contact: Laurene Hilderley, President Huronia Community Foundation laureneh@huroniacf.com



HCF welcomes incoming Executive Director Jessica Klug who will take over from current ED Scott Warnock on September 24, 2026. Pictured here at a special gathering on July 29th to announce Jessica’s appointment are, from right, Laurene Hilderley, HCF President, Carol Lambie, HCF Treasurer, Jessica, Scott and volunteers Jackie Stott and Miranda Weicker.

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

Orr Lake Currents: Teamwork for a Healthy Lake

Submitted by Orr Lake Ratepayers Association
Sharing opinions and ideas is the theme of summer 2026! There are a lot of conversations and activities happening around Orr Lake that demonstrate the power of teamwork.

Kari's feature article on the Tiny Marsh in the last edition of Springwater News reminded us of the value of the environmentally protected wetland at the west end of Orr Lake. Where we let Orr Lake live its best life, there is ecological diversity and habitat for wildlife, and protection from runoff during extreme weather events. The wetland is part of the Wye River system. After passing over the infamous Orr Lake dam, the water of the lake slowly filters through 200 acres of wetland, meanders past century farms, through Elmvale and onwards to Georgian Bay. To quote Kari "what begins in the quiet marshes around Elmvale benefits all communities."

The Orr Lake wetland is watched over by a team that includes the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, the Township of Springwater, the Severn Sound Environmental Association and residents of Orr Lake. They respect the wetlands as an important key to sustaining a lake environment that we can love and enjoy.

OLRA's partner organizations are the heart of the team that pays close attention to the wellbeing of the lake. For example, SSEA has installed Zebra Mussel traps under a few docks in the lake. The mussels will be collected in the fall and taken into the lab. Because they feed on the lake bottom, those little mollusks can tell us a lot about the current health of the lake and what it means for the future.

We also need strong representation on Springwater Council to help us take care of Orr Lake. The upcoming municipal election gives us all an opportunity to select candidates who will work with us to protect the wetlands and our properties. This year, voters at Orr Lake will be included in the Township's most northern constituency, Ward 1. As the campaigning ramps up, residents have been discussing issues such as the boat launch, the speed of

A MESSAGE FROM DOUG SHIPLEY

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

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

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How we can help is determined on a case-by-case basis, so the best thing to do is contact my office by telephone or email to discuss your specific situation.

Then we can let you know what steps we might be able to take to assist you.

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

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



traffic around the lake, septic system maintenance and other priorities for our next Council. Seasonal residents can help choose a team on Council that cares about Orr Lake. Even if Springwater Township is not your primary residence, you can vote in Springwater elections if you own property in the municipality. See www.springwater.ca for details on how to register to vote in October.

Just as candidates have been canvassing in the past few weeks, the Orr Lake Ratepayers Association has been going door to door distributing the new Handy Guide for Navigating Orr Lake and accepting memberships for 2026-27. We have been listening to residents and taking notes for the conversations that the community will be having with our elected officials. We are a small team of volunteers committed to paying a visit to everyone in the watershed, so watch for us during the month of August. If you would like us to send you a membership form, please email us at orrlakeratepayers@gmail.com and you can e-transfer your \$20 membership fee. We have been buoyed by the enthusiasm for the Association and thank everyone who has joined our efforts to share information, build community and sustain the health of the lake.

While the volunteers are on the trail, summer activities are in full bloom at the lake. We are monitoring the boat launch and pleased to see that most boaters are on the

team - draining and cleaning their boats with care. This is so important to prevent the spread of invasive species that damage the lake and contribute to declining fish populations. We encourage visitors to the boat launch to take their empty cans and bottles and other garbage with them when they leave. Unfortunately, not everyone does.

OLRA sends a big thank you to those who pick up the garbage left at the boat launch, at the park and along the sides of the roads. That's being a team player! We also appreciate Orr Lake's monarch butterfly caregivers who are rescuing milkweed plants ahead of the Township mowing machines on North Orr Lake Rd. No matter how many times residents ask for consideration of the local ecology on our rural road, we continue to be frustrated by the destruction of the habitat for butterflies, frogs, birds and other beautiful little creatures. At Orr Lake we strive to create a strong lake environment and know that takes an informed team. We are encouraging the Township to put more resources into slowing down the cars and trucks rather than slowing down the butterflies.

We invite you to be part of the team! Join OLRA and help put our motto into action.

"Lake First, Community Always"

Our newest team member – a Great Egret!

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

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

Full name, phone number and address must be supplied.



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Applications Now Open
2026–2030 Committee and Board Member Recruitment

Your Voice. Your Springwater. Your Impact.

The Township is seeking applications from residents interested in serving on **Township of Springwater Committees of Council and Boards for the 2026-2030 Term of Council.**

Community members play an important role in supporting Council by providing recommendations, professional knowledge, lived experience, and community perspectives on a wide range of Township initiatives, services, and strategic priorities. Committees and Boards help inform local decision-making and contribute to the continued growth and well-being of the community.

Serving on a Committee or Board is an excellent opportunity to become more involved in Springwater, share your voice, contribute your skills and experience, and help shape the future of our community. Whether you have previous volunteer experience or are interested in serving for the first time, the Township encourages residents from all backgrounds to apply.

2026-2030 Committees and Boards Available Appointments

Help shape your community by serving on a Township of Springwater Committee or Board for the 2026-2030 Term of Council. The following positions are available for community members to apply for.

Committee of Council/Board/Ad Hoc	Vacancy(s)
Agricultural Advisory Committee	5
Cultural & Heritage Advisory Committee	6
Committee of Adjustment	5
Elmvale District High School Donation Fund Ad Hoc Committee	2
Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee	1
Livestock Evaluator	1
Professional Health Services Complex Ad Hoc Committee	2
Property Standards Committee	5
Springwater Public Library Board	5-7

To view past agendas and minutes from the various Committees of Council and Local Boards visit the Township's **CivicWeb Portal.**

Who Can Apply?

The Township encourages interested residents from all backgrounds to apply. Specific eligibility requirements, qualifications, and meeting commitments may vary depending on the Committee or Board. Please review the information for each Committee or Board before submitting your application. Committee and Board mandates, Terms of Reference, meeting schedules, eligibility requirements, and the online application form are available on the Township's website.

How to Apply

Applications for the 2026-2030 Term of Council for Committees and Boards can be submitted online by visiting **www.springwater.ca/committees** to access the **online application form**. Alternative formats are available upon request by emailing **clerks@springwater.ca** or by attending the Township of Springwater, Administration Centre, located at 2231 Nursery Road in Minesing, during regular business hours, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The deadline to apply is **Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.** Applications will be considered by Council following the 2026 Municipal Election and will take effect for the 2026-2030 Term of Council.

Township of Springwater, **Clerks Department**
Administration Centre
2231 Nursery Road, Minesing, ON L9X 1A8

Tel: (705) 728-4784 x 2304 **Fax:** (705) 728-2759
E-mail: clerks@springwater.ca
Website: www.springwater.ca/Committees



Senior Tiny Times Township of Tiny Senior Speaker Series

This coming Fall, the Township of Tiny's Senior Advisory Committee is pleased to present our annual Senior Speaker Series event – a series of informative workshops on issues pertaining to seniors, older adults and their caregivers. The four sessions will be held in partnership with local clubs and service providers. Admittance to the following presentations is free with pre-registration.

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 - 2-PART - Move Well, Feel Well: Discover Qigong and Reflexology

Join Monica Marquis, a Certified Medical Qigong Practitioner with over 20 years of teaching experience, and Janet Thorpe, Reflexology Practitioner and Reiki Master, for a two-part introduction to these wellness practices. Learn about Qigong (pronounced "chi-kung"), an ancient movement practice and precursor to Tai Chi that is enjoyed by people around the world for its potential benefits, including improved balance, flexibility, strength, energy, and overall well-being. Participants will have the opportunity to try simple standing Qigong movements suitable for all abilities. No floor work or special equipment required.

The session will then introduce reflexology, a natural touch therapy based on the principle that specific points on the feet, hands, and head correspond to different areas of the body. Learn about the principles of reflexology, how sessions are typically conducted, and why many people incorporate this practice into their personal wellness routines. Whether you are looking for new ways to stay active, manage stress, or support healthy aging, this informative and interactive presentation offers practical wellness strategies in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Time 10:00am-12:00pm

Location: Township of Tiny Community Centre (91 Concession 8 East, Tiny)

Thursday, October 1, 2026 - The Benefits of Being in Nature

Spending time in nature can have powerful benefits for your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Join Karen Chaplin, a Certified Forest Therapy Guide, for an informative indoor presentation exploring how

simple, accessible experiences in nature can help reduce stress, improve overall well-being, and support healthy aging. Karen will share practical ways to connect more deeply with the natural world and incorporate nature into your everyday life.

Following the presentation, participants who wish to do so are invited to take part in an easy, guided outdoor walk around the community centre designed to encourage mindfulness, relaxation, and appreciation of nature at a comfortable pace. After the walk, enjoy tea and an opportunity for discussion and reflection. Whether you choose to attend the presentation only or also join the optional outdoor experience, you'll discover how spending time in nature can contribute to a healthier, more balanced, and more mindful life.

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Location: Township of Tiny Community Centre (91 Concession 8 East, Tiny)

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 - 2-PART - Navigating the Health Care System and Learn How to Stay On Your Feet!

Join us for a two-part presentation focused on helping older adults stay informed, healthy, and independent. In the first session, April Le Blanc, Community Health Ambassador with Chigamik Community Health Centre, will introduce the Community Health Ambassador program and explain how it helps residents navigate the health care system, access primary care, and connect with valuable health and social services. Attendees will also learn about the free programs, resources, and supports available through Chigamik to help enhance well-being and quality of life.

In the second session, Lori Ververs, Registered Kinesiologist with the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) and the Simcoe County SMART Program, will share practical information on fall prevention and healthy aging. Learn key strategies for maintaining independence, reducing fall risk, and improving confidence in everyday activities. The presentation will also highlight the important role exercise plays in building strength, mobility, and balance, helping older adults stay active and safely on their feet. Whether you're looking to better understand available community health supports or learn ways to maintain your independence, this informative session offers valuable tools for healthy

aging.

Time: 1:00-3:00pm

Location: Georgian Shores Seniors Club (300 Balm Beach Rd West, Tiny)

Thursday, November 5, 2026 - 2-PART - The Future is Old: Confronting Ageism for Better Health and a Brighter Tomorrow and Mindful Downsizing

Join us for a thought-provoking two-part presentation focused on aging with confidence, purpose, and preparedness. In the first session, Jenna Wickens of MatureMinds, CFS Counselling and Wellbeing, will explore the impact of ageism, one of the most common and often overlooked forms of prejudice. Learn how age-related stereotypes affect our health, well-being, relationships, and communities, and discover practical ways to recognize and challenge ageist attitudes in ourselves and others. Together, we'll explore how changing the narrative around aging can create better health outcomes and a brighter future for everyone.

In the second session, Lorraine Jordan will present on mindful downsizing, offering practical guidance for those considering a move into retirement living or preparing to sell and transition from a longtime family home. Learn strategies for simplifying your living space, organizing possessions, reducing stress, and making informed decisions throughout the downsizing process. Whether you're planning a move soon or simply looking to prepare for the years ahead, this informative presentation will provide valuable tips to help you navigate change with confidence and peace of mind.

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Location: Township of Tiny Community Centre (91 Concession 8 East, Tiny)

Senior Speaker Series registration is free, but participants must reserve a ticket in advance.

For more information and to register, visit www.tiny.ca/seniors/programs.

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



Ward 4 Community Update from Councillor Anita Moore

Fort Willow: Preserving Springwater's History

Located in Ward 4 at 2714 Grenfel Road, Fort Willow is one of Springwater's significant heritage sites, connecting visitors with centuries of local history.

Long before European settlement, Indigenous Peoples used the Nine Mile Portage as a transportation route linking Lake Simcoe, Willow Creek, the Nottawasaga River and Georgian Bay. Fur traders and French explorers later travelled the route. During the War of 1812, the site became a British supply depot, helping move people, equipment and supplies toward Georgian Bay and the western Great Lakes.

Archaeological work continues to deepen our understanding of the site. Excavations have identified structures, including barracks, a cookhouse, blacksmith's shop, stable, commandant's house and brick kiln. Springwater Council has supported this work, including funding assistance for the St. Joseph's High School archaeological program. Students combine classroom study with supervised excavation led by a licensed archaeologist.

Council has most often supported the Festival at Fort Willow, which traditionally brings the site to life through historical demonstrations, displays and

reenactments. Hoping to see the return of this great event in September 2026

Visitors can explore the timber outlines and interpretive displays, take a self-guided audio tour, picnic, or connect with the Ganaraska, North Simcoe Rail and Trans Canada trails.

Preserving Fort Willow ensures that future generations can continue learning from this historic place in our own community. Fort Willow is open year-round, daily from dawn to dusk - please come to visit



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

Hello Springwater residents. I'm pleased to share updates on recent council decisions, community events, and improvements that are shaping our community. My goal with these columns is to inform, not to offer opinions, so you can stay connected with what's happening in Springwater.

New AED at the Elmvale Ball Park

A new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has been installed at the Elmvale Ball Park and is available to assist in responding to a cardiac emergency should one occur.

While we hope it is never needed, having an AED on-site ensures that life-saving equipment is readily accessible during a critical situation. This gives first responders and bystanders the best possible opportunity to provide assistance until emergency services arrive.

The AED is clearly marked and located in an easily accessible area of the park so it can be retrieved quickly if required. Thank you to the Elmvale Ball Park Committee for prioritizing safety and for their efforts to support the community.

Seeking Crossing Guards for New 2026 Locations

Subject to the successful recruitment of qualified crossing guards, Council has authorized two additional school crossing guard locations beginning with the Fall 2026 school year. With these additions, Elmvale will have four staffed crossing guard locations:

Queen Street East and Simcoe Street.

Yonge Street South near John Street and Houden Street.

NEW: Simcoe Street marked crosswalk across from HCES.

NEW: Kerr Street and Shaw Street intersection near OLOL.

The Township is currently seeking crossing guards for the new 2026 locations!

Bike Night in Elmvale

For many years, Thursday nights have meant Bike Night in Elmvale, a chance for the community to come

together while supporting the Elmvale Legion and the Elmvale & District Food Bank.

Over the years, this weekly tradition has raised thousands of dollars for two important local organizations that consistently give back to the community. This is what small-town life is all about.

Thank you to Jeff Tress and Bruce Robertson for organizing the event, and to sponsor Steelers Restaurant & Pub for your continued support and for helping make this tradition possible.

New Fire Hall on Snow Valley Road

The Township of Springwater Fire and Emergency Services has officially moved into the new station at 1116 Snow Valley Road in Midhurst.

Congratulations to Springwater Fire & Emergency Services, our dedicated volunteer firefighters, and the entire community on the completion of this important municipal facility.

This project represents a significant investment in the safety of our residents and supports the volunteers who serve our community with commitment and professionalism.

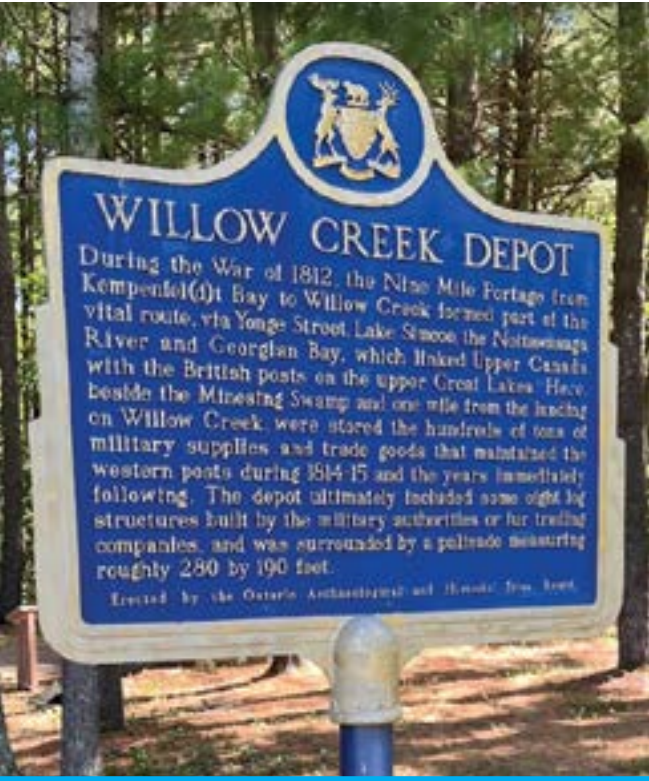
The Township has four active fire stations located throughout Springwater to provide emergency response to the community. Midhurst Station 2 joins our stations in Elmvale, Hillsdale, and Minesing as part of our ongoing commitment to keeping Springwater safe.

Traffic Calming Update

Thank you to Springwater residents for sharing their feedback.

The bollards on Shaw Street, Centennial Avenue, Nash Avenue, Graham Street, William Street and Allenwood Road in Elmvale will be adjusted. In the meantime, the centre bollard will remain in place, while the outside bollards have been temporarily removed and will be reinstalled shortly.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as these adjustments are completed.





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PRESS RELEASE
2026 Bob Bald's Hometown Heroes
August 2026 PENETANGUISHENE – The Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame will be recognizing eight new individuals as “Hometown Heroes” on October 17, 2026. In 2018, at the urging of Committee treasurer Bob Bald, the PSHOF created a new honour separate from Inductees, called ‘Hometown Heroes,’ a category meant to recognize individuals whose volunteer efforts in sport went undocumented, but who still deserved to be recognized.
“These are not ‘Inductees’ of the Sports Hall of Fame but ‘Hometown Heroes,’ who worked behind the scenes in a supportive way who we want to recognize,” said PSHOF chairman, David Dupuis.

The 2026 Bob Bald Hometown Heroes
Mark Timmons, original and longtime board member of Little NHL. Was responsible for assembling and printing of the minor hockey programs given out at the end of each year through the 1950s and 60s.
Bob Stewart, original board member of Little NHL. Sponsored many minor hockey teams throughout 1960s-1980s. Stewart's Gulf on Main St. was the meeting place for all rep teams travelling in the 1960s and 70s.

Joseph “Buster” Somers, original minor hockey board member, longtime coach, and referee in chief, one of the leaders in building the present Memorial arena.
Liz Bagnell, decades long involvement as volunteer, board member and president of the Penetang Jr. “C” Kings.
Ray Robillard, longtime supporter of minor hockey, served on minor hockey executive, sharpened thousands of kid's skates in his home from the 1960s into the late 1990s.
Nick Boudouris, decades long supporter and sponsor of countless minor sports teams and sponsor of the Penetang Kings.
Sabin Charlebois, decades long supporter and sponsor of minor sports teams and twice sponsor of the Penetang Jr. C Kings.
Martin “Mutt” Robillard, decades long coach in Penetang Minor Hockey, culminating in the 1968-69 Midgets going to the All-Ontario finals and the 1975

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2026 Bob Bald's Hometown Heroes



Penetanguishene Midgets to the International Silver Stick Championship.
At the inaugural dinner in October of 2018, the committee recognized 21 “Hometown Heroes” which included a group called, “Hockey Moms/coaches,” Marlene Brunelle, Joan Butson, Veronica Cowan, Verna Dusome, Yvonne Ladouceur, Zita Lefaive, Red Marchand, Shirley McDonald, Joan Press, Pat Quigley and Frances St. Amant. Other Hometown Heroes recognized were Kitty & Lorne Perrault, Maurice “Pitt” Legault, Len Tugwell, Bill Puddicombe, Ken Gauthier, George “The Greek” Koniditsiotis, Mary Dubeau, Mike Desroches and Francis “Dee-Dee” Marchildon
The new plaques will hang in the adjacent hallway outside the Brian Orser Hall, upstairs in the Penetanguishene Memorial Community Center. The PSHOF will now have 86 “Inductees” recognized in the Hall of Fame and 29 “Hometown Heroes” displayed beside the Brian Orser Hall.

This year's 2026 Hometown Heroes Dinner & Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2026 in the Brian Orser Hall at the Arena. Tickets are \$35 each and now available by calling Waxy Gregoire at (H) 705 549-7912, cell 705 528-9230 or email at agnus@csolve.net.



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Lou Belcourt, Athlete
A lifelong resident of Flos Township and Elmvale, Lou Belcourt forged a legendary multi-sport legacy fuelled by an elite competitive spirit. As a premier All-Star catcher, Lou teamed with his Hall of Fame brother, Leo, to form a formidable, celebrated battery, backstopping eight championship fastball teams including the Elmvale Palace Hotelmen. A cleanup powerhouse, his strategic leadership and clutch 18th-inning RBI drove the 1977 Elmvale Merchants to the historic OASA Intermediate “C” Provincial Championship. On the golf course, Lou captured multiple club championships and recorded six holes-in-one, while simultaneously representing the Elmvale Curling Club in competitive provincial playdowns. A versatile community builder, Lou served as Curling Club President and coached the 1962 Elmvale Bantams to a Little NHL Provincial Title.

Matthew Beleskey, Athlete
Raised in Midhurst, Matt Beleskey carved out an exceptional 12-year professional hockey career defined by his relentless physical presence as a premier NHL power forward. After developing with Barrie Minor Hockey, Matt excelled in the OHL, captaining the Belleville Bulls to the 2008 Finals and earning OHL All-Star honours. Drafted by Anaheim in 2006, he went on to play 477 regular-season NHL games with the Ducks, Boston Bruins, and New York Rangers, recording 162 points. A clutch playoff performer, Matt suited up for 65 Stanley Cup playoff games, notably scoring eight goals during Anaheim's 2015 Western Conference Finals run. Today, Matt resides in Springwater and mentors the next generation through Key Athletic Performance, developing skill and character in local youth.

Jaimie Clarke, Athlete
A lifelong resident of Phelpsston and Elmvale, Jaimie Lynn Clarke achieved elite multi-sport success through a rare combination of grace, athleticism, and determination. She began her competitive journey with the Elmvale and Mariposa Figure Skating Clubs, culminating in impressive elite Ice Dance finishes, including 4th at the Skate Canada Nationals and 5th at the Canada Winter Games. Transitioning to softball, Jaimie excelled as an elite second baseman. She secured a U18 Ontario Summer Games Championship before a stellar collegiate career at Durham College, capturing three OCAA Provincial titles, a Canadian University National Silver medal, and All-Star honours. Today, Jaimie brings that same dedication back to her home

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Robert Conn, Athlete
Born and raised in Springwater, Robert “Rob” Conn was an exceptional multi-sport athlete who forged a hockey legacy defined by elite versatility, immense heart, and exemplary leadership. Following his late father George, a 2024 Hall of Fame inductee, into Springwater sports history, Rob was a standout product of the Elmvale Minor Hockey Association. He anchored an Atom team and two Bantam squads to OMHA Championships, notably leading his 1988–89 Bantam team in scoring and earning Best Defensive Player honours at the Silver Stick tournament. His exceptional versatility allowed him to seamlessly excel at both centre and defence. Rob made a smooth transition to junior hockey with the OHA Junior B Barrie Colts, serving as Assistant Captain and earning praise as one of Simcoe County's brightest, most unselfish prospects. Rob later brought his leadership skills to the Ontario Provincial Police, serving with distinction as a Detective Sergeant.

Graham McNabb, Athlete
A resident of Minesing, Graham Allan McNabb forged a spectacular two-sport legacy defined by elite leadership and an unrelenting work ethic. Graham rose from local minor hockey to the OHL, playing four seasons as a defensively masterful forward and Assistant Captain for the Brampton Battalion. Renowned for his toughness, he earned the legendary "Ironman" moniker by playing a franchise-record 205 consecutive games.

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On the fastball diamond, Graham dominated the Simcoe Rural Fastball League as an elite pitcher and outfielder with Toanche, Wyeval, and the Minesing Mallards, capturing multiple league championships, a Junior Canadian Championship Silver medal, and two regular-season MVP awards. He seamlessly balanced his high-level athleticism with academic excellence on the University of Prince Edward Island Dean's List.

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~WELLS~
PUMP REPAIRS

Bearbells By Leslie Noonan



July 21,2026
As the wildfires spread their destruction across the Thunderbay area and beyond, and with the heavy smoke blanketing Ontario, it was with trepidation that we headed an hour north of Sudbury to Halfway Lake provincial park. However, the air was clear with a blue sky, and not even a

fire ban in place to dampen the idea of a small campfire. The sites are very private and large, easily fitting our ten-person tent as well as a screened tent for eating in. Though setting up the tents was not so straight foreword, with a strong wind threatening to turn our tent a very large kite. Added to that was the rocky ground, and after several bent tent pegs, we were only able to get half the stakes in place, while that tent danced and flapped in the heavy wind. Finally, we sat down to enjoy a lovely camp meal, and the campfire was lit and we settled in for the evening. Off in the distance the sound of thunder rumbled, and brief flashes of lightening lit up the under bellies of the dark clouds with bright pink lightening bolts. The first warning drops of rain pattered down on the tent, which was flailing in the storm like an angry animal leashed and eager to be off. We quickly dashed into the tent, disappointed to have to spend the evening inside, but prepared with books to read and games to play. However, as the saying goes “the best laid plans....”. Sigh.

The storm beared down on us with its full intensity, shaking the tent and threatening to rip up the few tent pegs we were able to secure. Inside we were warm and comfortable on our sleep pads and sleeping bags. It was my son's “oh oh” that had me groaning. He was looking up at the dome of our tent, watching a small drop of water collect, then fall onto our bedding. One drip, then another, coming faster and faster. The rain was deafening in its fury and our thirty-year tent could not handle this deluge. We attempted to move our gear out of the way and hope that the drips would only cause a small puddle, but it was a very short time before that puddle grew to proportions that portended a wet night for us. Conceding defeat, we grabbed what gear we could and dashed to the car to spend a restless night crunched up in the seats.

The morning sun woke us from our fitful sleep, and stepping out of the car we were rewarded with a world was newly washed and shining. Small white clouds scudding across the bright blue sky and drops of rain sparkled on the foliage like diamonds. Our old tent remained standing through the night, but was more of an indoor pool now, with random gear gently floating in it. Although we were supposed to spend another night, without a tent it would be more car camping, and we opted to head out, but not before exploring one of the parks hiking trails. The longest trail recommends an overnight camping experience, so we instead decided on a combination of the Moose Ridge and Echo Ponds trails. The trail head is easy to locate, with a large map and information on the landscape the trails pass through. Echo pond trail is known for its moose sightings, and we had our fingers crossed for an encounter, at a distance. Only six km's long, we had assumed this was a relatively easy hike, especially as the trail was well maintained.

All three trails begin at the trailhead, and we walked among ferns and thick trees, on a dirt path that was soft underfoot. While the storm had passed, the air was heavy and thick with humidity. Mosquitoes and blackflies swarmed up from the slightest touch on the foliage. Within a short distance the trail splits, and the shorter Moose Ridge trail veers away to the left, while we continued to the Echo Pond trail. Now the trail was less used, and the wet vegetation closed over the trail in some sections, soaking our legs and shoes. We followed the trail next to another lake, blue waters stretching off into the distance. Our trail turned into a quagmire of mud from last nights torrential rains, and in some



sections the trail seemed merely an extension of the marshy land around the lake. Initially we were grateful when the route moved inland and uphill, but the rocky trail and steep sections had us panting with exertion. That humid air weighed down on us, making those deep breaths feel like we were underwater as rivulets of sweat dripped down our foreheads. A delight to all those biting beasts.

Up and up we went, skirting rocks and roots through dense forest. It was the tiniest breeze brushing against our faces that gave us hope for a cooling breeze. More uphill climbing, and there it is, a breeze rustling the leaves on the trees and chasing away the pesky insects. We were now on the ridge above the lake we had started on and had a view out to the east. A view of trees and water, and no houses, no cottages, no boats, just the beautiful Canadian landscape. We took a moment to rest, before moving on and following the trail down, and back up again. At one point our trail turned left, away from the much longer overnight trail that I did not want to mistakenly end up on. Our route continued west and up, along another ridge of rock. Short and dense bushes thrived in the cracks and crevices of the rock, small blue berries ripe on the stems. We walked down slowly, savoring the little berries by the handful, conscious of any other creatures looking for a snack. My sons dislikes the store-bought blueberries, which are double the size but with little of the flavor of these wild grown berries. He surprised himself by how much he liked these smaller and sweeter berries. Bigger is not always better.

At Echo Pond the air is again still and stagnant, with dragon flies cutting the air with a flash of their translucent wings. Small green frogs sunbathed on lily pads, jumping into the murky water at our approach. We tried to call out to the Echo, but she slumbered on today, refusing to answer back, and while we spotted plenty of moose droppings, the moose themselves remained elusive. A quick stop at the lookout tower and we were back at the trail head, tired, sweaty but satisfied with our days trek. Time to head home, buy a new tent and decide on the next adventure.

ANTEN MILLS By Dennis Gannon

You likely don't know it but there is a significant amount of new home construction going on in the village. What, where, I haven't seen anything is the most likely response. Unless you purposely drive down Davis Way, the new street running between Wilson Dr and Luella Blvd you wouldn't know. Davis Way is blocked at Luella so you can't drive between the streets but recently a short tour saw that there are 7 homes under construction of the 14 lots on the street. Many of the homes are well underway and will be occupied no doubt prior to Christmas. The development, by First View Homes, is the second in the community. Their primary development just south of the village proper has almost built out stage one with most of the lots on the north side of Cottonwood constructed. There is believed to be a hold on the stage two development but the company is currently offering new lots. Soon there will be new neighbours in the community.

By definition, we are now past the “Dog days of Summer “. That period is from July 3 until August 11. Summer certainly isn't over by any means as there will still be many warm and potentially hot days. This summer we have seen hot humid days with temperatures over 30 C and humidity in the low 40 degrees C along with heavy rainfall. What is the lookout for the future? According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, September is going to be cool and wet. Hopefully that's one forecast that is wrong.

Candidates for the upcoming municipal election are out and about. In the last column one candidate was noted for our ward, Ward 3. Since then another individual has submitted the required documents and it is now a two person race. As a reminder, it is important to ensure that you are on the voters list as it is our democratic right to vote and this election may bring a change to the landscape of our municipal government. More information can be found on the Township of Springwater website.

A movie under the stars is a great way to enjoy some family time. With the success of the movie night in July the Chapman family is going to host another

movie under the pavilion in August. This one will be on Wednesday, August 26 starting at 8PM. What will be shown isn't available yet so watch the Anten Mills Community Bulletin Facebook page for details.

Our community utilizes facebook to promote community activities and events and share news. As a private group there is no ability to share posts. Over 1700 members have access to the site. Frequently as administrators we see individuals being invited by members to join. It is a nice gesture but unfortunately the invited individual will always be declined. As a private group those wishing to join are screened and must answer all the questions before they are allowed to join. Failure to answer all the questions results in an immediate decline. It is amazing to see how many spammers try to join and through the diligence of the administrators they are declined. If you have someone that you think would enjoy our posts, have them go through the proper process and suggest to them that they provide full responses.

Gardening was done at the community centre this past week and the gardens are flourishing. If you haven't been to the community park lately go for a walk and check them out. They are a great backdrop for photos. Thanks to Pat, Judy, Brian and Joan for your support.

September will be busy in the community with a number of activities and events occurring. More will be reported in the next edition but remember that the Autumn Craft and Food Fair is on Saturday, September 26 and there are details on the Facebook page.

Is there someone who needs a shoutout for an accomplishment or celebrating a birthday or anniversary? Besides the signboard on Wilson, why not send me some details and they can be included in this column. The title of the column is Anten Mills News and it's about our community. Send an email to antenmills1@gmail.com and have that information shared with not only our community but all the readers of this paper.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This Isn't Exceptional — It's the Bare Minimum
Dear editor,
While it's nice to see additional funding announced for our local hospitals and \$17.1 million sounds like a lot of money, this is not evidence of exceptional support for healthcare in our community.
As many local residents know, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care has faced severe underfunding and understaffing for many years. And anyone in the Midland area who has welcomed a new baby into their family recently may already know that Georgian Bay General Hospital's labour and delivery unit regularly has days when it has to completely shut down because of — again, understaffing and underfunding. That is not what a well-supported healthcare system looks like.
After years of neglect, \$17 million spread across three hospitals may sound substantial, but it's difficult to see how it does much more than move these institutions closer to the minimum resources they need to actually function.
In the future, it may be helpful to include the voices of the people actually providing the care. This article quotes hospital CEOs and government officials, but not the nurses, midwives, personal support workers, or other frontline staff who experience the consequences of inadequate funding every day.
Provincial government funding for hospitals is not a charitable gift, nor is it an extraordinary favour being done for local communities. Providing accessible, adequately funded public health care is a core responsibility of the Conservative provincial government. So yes, let's welcome funding that helps keep our hospitals operating.
But let's not confuse a photo op with a solution — or a substitute for an honest assessment of the state of healthcare in Simcoe North.
Let's not kid ourselves. After eight years of chronic underfunding of public healthcare, this is not going above and beyond. For many patients and frontline workers, it may not even be the bare minimum.

Sincerely,
Grace Lau
Midland, Ontario

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Prepare to Battle the Tiny Invader Killing our Boxwoods

By Susie Cosack, Master Gardener

With the discovery of the box tree moth in Toronto in 2018, beloved garden stalwart, boxwood, is now a high-risk plant choice for many gardens. The white and brown-tipped box tree moth is a lethal predator. It produces multiple generations of caterpillars each season, and these green, white-striped larvae can strip plants bare in days. Healthy, mature shrubs can be completely defoliated if not monitored closely.

The box tree moth is not native to Canada so has no natural enemies here. Without predators to control populations, box tree moth can overwhelm plantings quickly and repeatedly. If you choose to plant boxwood, assume you will be managing this destructive insect for years.

Boxwood is no longer a “set it and forget it” shrub. Plants must be inspected weekly from May through November. Gardeners need to recognize eggs, caterpillars, webbing, and frass (caterpillar droppings). Control depends on the targeted application of insecticides such as Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*), applied multiple times per season. Timing is critical: sprays must directly contact young caterpillars to be effective. Gardeners must be comfortable with repeated applications, careful adherence to label directions, and awareness of potential impacts on non-target insects if products are misapplied. If you prefer low-input or no-spray gardening, boxwood is no longer a suitable choice.

While boxwood can survive a single attack, severe or repeated defoliation often leads to dieback, patchy hedges, and eventual plant death. Replacing large, established hedges can be costly.

No boxwood cultivar is truly resistant as all boxwood species are hosts. Planting newer varieties does not eliminate the risk. The moth spreads through



movement of nursery stock, clippings, and yard waste. Infested material must be tightly bagged and left in the sun to destroy larvae before disposal.

Fortunately, there are excellent alternatives that provide the look of boxwood without the threat of destruction or the need for intensive pest management. Here are just a few:

Junipers (*Cupressaceae*), including creeping varieties, and Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) provide hardy, pest-resistant evergreen structure, though with a different texture than boxwood.

For lower or informal hedges, Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) offers nectar for pollinators and white winter berries for birds. Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*) provides yellow summer flowers and supports pollinators. Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*) and New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) add seasonal bloom, berries, and fall colour in naturalized plantings.

In conclusion, plant boxwood only if you are prepared for an ongoing pest management battle. For gardeners seeking low maintenance and stronger ecological value, native alternatives are now the wiser choice.

Consider this: Grow Natives! If you want a formal clipped evergreen look, Inkberry Holly (*Ilex glabra*) or Canadian Yew (*Taxus canadensis*) are among the best native options. If you are open to mixed or informal hedges, combine evergreen structure with deciduous natives for greater resilience and biodiversity.

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



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Jo Knows Nutrition

by Joanne Nijhuis



Granita is a Sicilian specialty that has been enjoyed as a refreshing frozen dessert for generations. This recipe features coffee granita, a quintessential Italian staple, as well granita made with fresh, locally grown Ontario fruit at the peak of summer. With just a few ingredients, this icy delight captures the bright, natural flavours of summer. Whether served

after dinner or enjoyed as an afternoon treat, granita is a delicious way to unwind and savour time spent outside with family or friends.

Did You Know?

Coffee makes a wonderful granita flavour and provides a rich source of antioxidants. Research has associated moderate coffee consumption with improved alertness, concentration and several potential health benefits. However, excessive caffeine may interfere with sleep or cause nervousness and headaches. In Canada, healthy adults (not pregnant or lactating) are advised to keep their daily caffeine intake from coffee, tea, energy drinks and pop to 400 mg or less.

INGREDIENTS (6 Servings)

- Coffee Granita
- 2 cups (500 ml) strong brewed coffee
 - ½ cup (125 ml) granulated, turbinado or coconut sugar
 - Coffee beans for garnish, optional
- Fruit Granita
- 4 cups (1000 ml) chopped strawberries, raspberries, mixed berries, peaches, or watermelon
 - 1 cup (250 ml) juice of choice or water
 - 1/3 cup (83 ml) granulated, turbinado or coconut sugar
 - Sliced fruit for garnish, optional

INSTRUCTIONS

1. To make the coffee granita, stir the brewed coffee with the sugar until the sugar is dissolved.
2. For the fruit granita, combine the fruit, sugar and water or juice into a blender or food processor and blend for 30 to 60 seconds until smooth.
3. Pour the coffee or fruit mixture into a casserole or baking dish that is at least 8 x 12 inches (20.3 x 30.5 cm) and place in the freezer for 1 hour.
4. Scrape the mixture with a metal fork like using a



- rake to break up the mixture. Return to the freezer for another 30 minutes to 1 hour.
5. Repeat the scraping with a fork to again to break up the mixture. Continue to do this every 30 minutes to 1 hour until the granita is fully frozen and has a fluffy granulated texture.
 6. It should take the granita about 2 to 3 hours to reach the correct consistency.
 7. Scoop the granita into chilled serving glasses or bowls and garnish with either a coffee bean or fresh fruit, if using.

ENJOY!

Coffee Granita Per Serving: |Calories: 97 kcal | Carbohydrates: 25 g | Protein: 0 g | Fat: 0 g |Fibre: 0 g | Sodium: 0.01 mg |

Fruit Granita Per Serving: |Calories: 100 kcal | Carbohydrates: 26 g | Protein: 1 g | Fat: 0.3 g |Fibre: 2.5



g | Sodium: 0.01 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. No matter when or where we're born, no matter what circumstances we're born into, everyone in the world has, at least, two facts in common.

Fact Number 1: God created all of us, barring injury or accident or genetic difficulties, to be born with five senses: the ability to see, to hear, to smell, to taste, and to touch. These remarkable abilities enable us to sense the environment around us: hot in some places, cold in others making it possible for different plants and animals to thrive; and different occupations and cultures to develop.

Our five senses keep safe us from what can harm us. They tell us how tall to make our doors and which foods are safe to eat. Our senses are the source of our feelings like happiness, sadness, grief, depression and pain. Our five senses are valuable to us in multiple ways.

Fact Number 2: Although we're born not knowing God, we're born with the capacity to recognize His presence in our lives, to get to know Him, and to develop a personal relationship with Him.

Our senses recognize that, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them, yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the end of the world.” (Psalm 19:1-4)

Everywhere we look we see what God created for us. He poured His love into everything He created, including us. Because of our ability to see, we can read God's word in the manuscripts that were created for us. God is love in every language and in every country in the world.

Truly, we do have the capacity to recognize His presence in our lives, to get to know Him, and to develop a personal relationship with Him.

God's word asks us to get to know our neighbours and to love them as ourself. What would this world look like then? It would look like peace. Amen

By Kari Belcourt, Editor
North Simcoe Springwater News
Springwater Township's battle over the Barrie boundary adjustment has become a dispute that appears to be holding the Township hostage — financially, politically and procedurally.

The questions came into sharper focus during a contentious July 29 special Council meeting filled with discourse, multiple breaks to regain decorum and several interruptions, where councillors voted 5-2 to move forward with an independent review of legal and related professional expenditures.

The dispute stems, in part, from the provincial government's implementation of Strong Mayor Powers, granted to Mayor Jennifer Coughlin in May 2025. The Township subsequently retained Loopstra Nixon LLP as legal counsel in connection with the boundary adjustment and related matters.

What began as a municipal response involving engineering, development, planning and financial analysis expanded into substantial legal work surrounding the boundary bylaw, Strong Mayor Powers, court proceedings and the authority to direct municipal legal counsel.

The question now is not simply how much the Township has spent, but why.

At the centre of the dispute is Loopstra Nixon LLP and a question that has remained unresolved since November 2025:

After Mayor Jennifer Coughlin directed the firm to cease its engagement with the Township, who authorized the firm to continue working — and who authorized the Township to pay for that work?

Where the \$416,288.90 went
Township records show \$416,288.90 in paid-to-date professional costs related to the Barrie boundary adjustment as of June 25, 2026.

- The largest expenditures include:
- Loopstra Nixon LLP — \$207,165.30, with invoices spanning November 2024 through December 2025, for legal work involving Strong Mayor Powers, the boundary bylaw, court proceedings, legal research, resolutions and a potential judicial inquiry.
 - Affleck Greene McMurtry LLP — \$100,122.83, with work documented from November 2025 through March 2026, involving legal strategy, court-related matters, review of Loopstra Nixon invoices, the Mayor's veto and a proposed judicial inquiry.
 - Aird & Berlis LLP — \$27,940.38, with invoices dated June through November 2025, for legal advice concerning Strong Mayor Powers, Council and matters connected to the proposed boundary adjustment.
 - Watson & Associates — \$33,940.91, with work documented during 2025, for financial impact assessment.
 - Hemson Consulting — \$19,067.79, with work documented during 2025, for land-needs analysis and planning.
 - Ainley Consulting Engineers — \$13,376.38, with work documented during 2025, for engineering peer review.
 - Municipal Tax Equity Consultants — \$10,381.31, with work documented during 2025, for development valuation and financial analysis.
 - WeirFoulds LLP — \$4,294, for an invoice dated December 31, 2025, covering legal services and related communications.

The Township has indicated that \$416,288.90 is not necessarily the final cost, with additional invoices expected as the boundary-adjustment process continues.

The November 7 question
The dispute over Loopstra Nixon dates back to November 2025.

On November 5, Council voted 4-3 on a motion brought forward by Councillor Phil Fisher directing Loopstra Nixon to challenge the validity of the boundary bylaw and pursue legal proceedings.

Two days later, Coughlin used Strong Mayor Powers to veto the confirming bylaw.

The Mayor subsequently directed Township staff to

terminate Loopstra Nixon's engagement, effective 12:15 p.m. on November 7, 2025, and instructed the firm to cease work immediately. The directive stated that the Township would not be responsible for costs incurred after that time.

According to reporting published at the time, Loopstra Nixon partner Quinto Annibale advised the Township that, in his opinion, the Mayor's action did not override Council's underlying resolution authorizing the legal proceedings.

The firm subsequently continued its work, relying on the November 5 Council resolution as authority.

The firm's billing records show legal work continuing after November 7.

A Loopstra Nixon billing report for the matter titled "Barrie Annexation Discussion" records \$53,639.80 in fees from November 8, 2025, to December 12, 2025.

The entries include legal research, preparation of court documents, correspondence with the court, work concerning a proposed judicial inquiry, preparation of resolutions and communications with Township representatives.

The billing records also contain references to communications with elected officials during this period.

On November 18, the invoice specifically records a telephone conference with the Deputy Mayor, followed by an office conference involving members of the legal team. Other entries that day reference discussions and correspondence concerning the matter.

The invoice establishes that the communication occurred. It does not establish what was discussed or whether the Deputy Mayor authorized legal work.

Council divided over authority
Councillor Phil Fisher was contacted for comment but did not respond.

Deputy Mayor George Cabral said he understood why questions had been raised about the Loopstra Nixon invoice entry referencing him.

"I understand why you are asking about the Loopstra Nixon invoice entry that references me as Deputy Mayor. With an independent review now authorized by Council, I believe it is fair and appropriate that any communications identified in the legal invoices — including those involving me — be examined objectively, transparently and in the same manner as all other invoice entries."

Councillor Matt Garwood told the North Simcoe Springwater News that his understanding was that Loopstra Nixon no longer represented the Township after November 7.

"Accordingly, no work should have continued beyond that date," Garwood said.

Garwood said he had not independently contacted Loopstra Nixon or another legal firm in his capacity as a councillor. He also questioned whether individual members of Council had the authority to engage municipal vendors independently.

"Such engagements require direction and authorization from Council, and this was not provided," he said.

Garwood said he was not aware of conversations between Council members and Loopstra Nixon until the invoices were released.

Councillor Brad Thompson expressed similar concerns, describing the Mayor's November 7 direction as "simple and clear" and questioning why billing records showed work continuing afterward.

Thompson said he was not part of what he described as a "subsection of council" dealing with Loopstra Nixon and questioned who was involved and who authorized the continued work.

Councillors Danielle Alexander and Anita Moore provided a different account.

Alexander said Loopstra Nixon was initially retained unanimously by Council and that a dispute subsequently arose over whether the Mayor's Strong Mayor Powers extended to terminating legal counsel retained by Council.

"Council subsequently considered questions about whether those powers extended to terminating legal counsel that had been retained by Council as a whole,"

Alexander said.

She said Council voted to continue working with Loopstra Nixon and ultimately approved payment for work that had been completed.

Moore similarly said Council unanimously retained the firm through formal resolutions and that Council later reaffirmed the retainer.

Moore said she did not direct or instruct any legal firm after November 7 and said the related bills have been settled.

Cabral said Council subsequently authorized payment of the Loopstra Nixon account.

"Council authorized payment of the Loopstra Nixon account. The Mayor vetoed Council's decision to pay that account in February 2026 through the use of Strong Mayor Powers. That veto resulted in Loopstra Nixon bringing a second application for judicial review, which resulted in additional legal costs to the Township."

Both Alexander and Moore support an independent external review, although Moore said the cost of the review should also be considered.

Council seeks independent review
The July 29 special meeting considered an Independent Forensic Governance Review of significant legal and related professional expenditures.

The proposed review would examine invoices from Loopstra Nixon, Affleck Greene McMurtry and Aird & Berlis, along with other related legal, governance, communications, procurement and professional services.

The proposed scope includes reconstructing the chronology of events, examining the purpose of the work, determining what authorizations and governance processes were followed, examining the roles of professional advisers and identifying potential duplication or overlap.

The reviewer would also be able to examine Township records reasonably necessary to complete the work and would have to be independent of the Township and have had no involvement with the matters under review.

Council voted 5-2 to proceed with the procurement process.

The decision was not without controversy.

Garwood opposed the review, arguing that taxpayers should receive a transparent accounting of the expenditures without potentially adding another significant professional bill. Noting that both he and the Mayor tried to suggest an alternate internal review that would be at a significantly less cost to taxpayers.

He also criticized the process by which the proposed Terms of Reference were presented.

Garwood said Council received the Terms of Reference only when the special meeting began and therefore did not have sufficient time to review them.

"The Terms of Reference drafted by the Deputy Mayor should have been circulated in advance of the meeting," Garwood said.

Under the proposed procurement process, staff are to return to Council on August 19, 2026, with compliant submissions, comparative evaluations, proposed Terms of Reference, estimated costs and a proposed timeline.

No contract will be awarded without further Council approval.

What remains unanswered
The invoices establish that significant legal work continued after the Mayor directed Loopstra Nixon to cease its engagement.

An independent review could answer several questions: Who authorized Loopstra Nixon's continued work after November 7?

What instructions were given to the firm after the Mayor directed that its engagement cease?

Did Council's November 5 resolution continue to authorize the legal proceedings despite the Mayor's subsequent action?

What role did Township staff and individual members of Council play in directing the legal work?

Were the expenditures incurred in accordance with the Township's procurement, financial and governance requirements?

Why was payment authorized?

The involvement of Affleck Greene McMurtry adds another layer.

AGM later reviewed Loopstra Nixon's invoices, including questions surrounding the firm's dockets and the division of work before and after November 7. Its work subsequently expanded into judicial review proceedings and other litigation matters.

The result is a growing legal bill and a continuing dispute over the authority behind it.

Another dispute reaches Council
The July 29 special meeting also revisited a separate Integrity Commissioner matter involving Coughlin and comments concerning developer Mario Giampietri, Geranium Homes and the Midhurst Landowners Group.

The matter produced conflicting outcomes from two Integrity Commissioners.

The County of Simcoe's Integrity Commissioner, Principles Integrity, closed a related complaint after finding no evidence that Coughlin publicly made the alleged statements. The report stated that, if the comments were made, they occurred during a private conversation where the Deputy Mayor was in a vulnerable state and found no evidence they were made with the intention of targeting or damaging the reputation of those involved. Springwater Township's Integrity Commissioner reached a different conclusion on a complaint concerning the comments.

At its July 8 meeting, Council accepted the finding of a contravention and imposed a reprimand that included a request for a meaningful public apology.

Coughlin maintained that she had already provided a sincere and voluntary apology at the July 8 meeting, as well as a previous apology at a March meeting, before Council imposed its reprimand.

"As Council will note at the July 8 meeting, an apology was given," Coughlin said. "Although it was not through direction of counsel, it was voluntary and sincere."

Coughlin said she intended to provide the requested public apology at the September 2 Council meeting and had contacted legal counsel for the affected parties to clarify what would constitute an acceptable apology.

"It is never my intention to escape this," Coughlin said. "I do have remorse and I will provide that same apology again. I am not attempting to evade Council's direction."

Council ultimately voted 4-2 to impose a financial penalty in addition to the public apology. Coughlin did not participate in the recorded vote.

Based on the Mayor's annual salary, the 90-day suspension is estimated at approximately \$15,000.

The Integrity Commissioner matter is separate from the proposed forensic governance review.

Public money, public answers
The Barrie boundary adjustment has become much more than a dispute over municipal borders.

It has produced hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal, planning, financial and engineering costs, competing interpretations of Strong Mayor Powers and a Council divided over who had authority to direct legal counsel.

The released invoices provide a record of the work performed.

They do not provide the complete chain of authorization behind that work.

That is now the central question.

For taxpayers, the issue is not simply whether \$416,288.90 was spent.

It is whether the Township can demonstrate who authorized the expenditures, why the work was necessary, whether proper governance processes were followed and whether the public received value for the money spent.

The breakdown of the expenditures further illustrates where the money has gone:

Legal / governance / litigation
\$339,522.51 — 81.6%
Planning / infrastructure / development analysis
\$76,766.39 — 18.4%

The numbers raise another question for residents.

If the boundary adjustment is being driven by a provincial mandate, how much of the resulting cost should municipal taxpayers be expected to bear?

And as the Township considers spending additional money to determine how the first \$416,288.90 was authorized and spent, taxpayers may reasonably ask another question:

How much will it cost to find out how much this dispute has already cost them?

As Thompson put it, "It's the public's funds, not Council's."

The proposed external review may ultimately provide the answers.

It may also reveal how much more the Township will spend to get them.

When the Province Takes the Decision Out of Municipal Hands

For nearly two years, Springwater Township's debate over the proposed Barrie boundary adjustment unfolded through reports, technical studies, negotiations, public meetings — and an increasingly complicated collection of legal opinions.

At the centre of that debate was a question that, in October 2025, Springwater Mayor Jennifer Coughlin warned could ultimately be answered by someone other than the Township.

"If we don't make a decision, the province will make it for us."

At the time, those words came during a contentious council meeting in which councillors once again stopped short of making a final decision on Barrie's boundary proposal.

Looking back, the warning provides important context for understanding what happened next.

It also helps explain why the current dispute over hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal and professional expenses cannot be separated from the history of the boundary fight itself.

A decision delayed
By October 2025, Springwater had already spent considerable time examining Barrie's proposal.

Council had received technical information, reports, peer reviews and multiple legal opinions. Yet the October 15 meeting ended without the decision many expected.

Coun. Anita Moore proposed that staff obtain still more information, including further legal advice regarding the potential use of Strong Mayor Powers and a possible judicial review.

Moore said she was concerned the Township could expose itself to significant costs if it proceeded without sufficient legal certainty.

Her concerns were not without basis. Council had received competing legal opinions about whether Strong Mayor Powers could be used in relation to the boundary proposal.

One opinion from Aird & Berlis lawyer John Mascarin concluded that the mayor's powers could be exercised in relation to Barrie's restructuring proposal, citing the connection between municipal servicing and the provincial priority of constructing infrastructure to support housing.

Legal opinions obtained by parties supporting the boundary adjustment similarly argued that the Strong Mayor legislation provided broad authority where a mayor believed a bylaw could potentially advance a provincial priority.

But Loopstra Nixon, Springwater's counsel, raised concerns that contributed to the debate over whether the Township should expose itself to further litigation.

The result was a council increasingly caught between competing interpretations of what the law permitted and what course of action was safest.

Coughlin expressed frustration.

"We have the information," she told council. "What's going to change is legal opinions and when we don't like that one, we'll get another. We have them."

Her concern was not simply that council was taking too long.

She feared the province could ultimately interpret continued delay as an inability or unwillingness to make

a decision.

"It is my fear that the province absolutely will look to this as a non-decision," Coughlin said, "and that decision will be made for us."

The decision that council did not make
When the boundary proposal returned to Springwater council in November, the Township was finally presented with what appeared to be a straightforward choice: accept or reject Barrie's final proposal.

But again, the decision did not proceed as expected.

Coun. Moore introduced a motion requesting that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing review a different map — one presented at a County of Simcoe special council meeting — and asking that the framework agreement be modified to remove a reference to cross-border servicing.

The motion passed with the support of Deputy Mayor George Cabral and Couns. Danielle Alexander and Phil Fisher.

According to the Township's deputy chief administrative officer, Renee Ainsworth, the change was material enough to remove the option of simply accepting Barrie's proposal from the table.

Council was therefore left with the question of whether to reject it.

In a recorded vote, Cabral, Alexander, Moore and Fisher voted to reject the proposal.

Coughlin, Coun. Brad Thompson and Coun. Matt Garwood voted against rejection.

The proposal had effectively been rejected by a majority of council.

That, however, was not the end of the matter.

Strong Mayor Powers enter the dispute

Coughlin then exercised the Strong Mayor Powers that had come into effect in Springwater earlier that year.

"The province has asked us to vote on a framework," Coughlin said. "That framework has formed an agreement. A boundary adjustment is going to happen one of two ways — it's going to be annexation/legislated or it's going to be an agreement."

Coughlin advised the clerk that she was forwarding her bylaw and reasons to council as required under the Strong Mayor legislation.

Her position was that the boundary agreement could potentially advance provincial priorities, including the construction of 1.5 million homes and infrastructure supporting housing.

The mayor's proposed bylaw was then brought forward by Thompson and seconded by Garwood.

The subsequent vote produced the threshold required under the Strong Mayor legislation: the mayor's vote plus the two councillors supporting her provided the one-third of council plus one vote necessary to pass the bylaw.

The Township had accepted Barrie's proposal.

The decision, however, lasted only moments before another battle began.

The lawyers enter the next round

Immediately after the boundary proposal was accepted, Fisher brought forward a motion directing Loopstra Nixon LLP to challenge the validity of the bylaw.

The motion gave the solicitor broad authority to pursue whatever legal action it considered necessary to resolve the matter.

It contemplated an application to quash the bylaw on grounds of potential illegality, judicial review and an injunction preventing the municipality or others from acting on the agreement until the courts determined the matter.

The motion passed 4-3, with Fisher, Cabral, Moore and Alexander supporting it.

Thompson opposed it — and his objection was notable because it focused not on the merits of the boundary dispute, but on the cost.

Springwater had already spent tens of thousands of dollars on lawyers and consultants.

"The people who are going to be most upset that this

Continued

A Township Held Hostage by a Boundary Adjustment?

Continued
negotiation is over is the lawyers and the consultants, because they're getting rich on it," Thompson said.

"I see no point in spending any more of taxpayers' money on this."

"As a taxpayer, it offends me," he added.

At that point, the Township had already incurred approximately \$82,000 in legal fees from Loopstra Nixon related to the boundary proposal through August 25.

It had also incurred approximately \$52,000 in consultant costs, representing Springwater's share of joint land-needs and fiscal-impact studies.

The Township had not yet been invoiced for legal opinions concerning the Strong Mayor Powers and the boundary proposal, nor had it calculated the internal staff costs associated with the negotiations.

Officials warned that the legal bill could rise substantially because of the broad authority granted to Loopstra Nixon by Fisher's motion.

The boundary may have been accepted.

The legal battle was just beginning.

The mayor vetoes the legal challenge

The conflict escalated again within days.

After council authorized the legal challenge, Coughlin used her Strong Mayor Powers to veto the confirming bylaw.

Her stated reasoning was that the legal challenge could potentially interfere with provincial priorities concerning housing and infrastructure.

Loopstra Nixon disagreed with the mayor's interpretation of the veto.

Quinto Annibale, a partner with the firm, advised township staff that, in his opinion, the mayor's veto did not override the council resolution authorizing the legal proceedings.

The dispute had now moved beyond the question of whether Springwater should accept Barrie's proposal.

It had become a dispute over who had the legal authority to decide what happened next: council, the mayor or the courts.

Coughlin subsequently directed township staff to terminate Loopstra Nixon's engagement and retain new external legal counsel.

The municipality was now paying lawyers to fight over the boundary while simultaneously becoming involved in a legal disagreement over the authority of its own elected officials.

Then the province stepped in

This is where the October warning from Coughlin becomes particularly significant.

The mayor had warned that continued municipal indecision could result in the province making the decision.

That is, ultimately, what happened.

In November 2025, the Ontario government introduced legislation dealing directly with the Barrie-Oro-Medonte-Springwater boundary adjustment.

The province's intervention changed the nature of the dispute.

The boundary was no longer simply a matter of municipal negotiation.

The provincial government had the authority to legislate municipal boundary changes, and it exercised that authority.

The legislation ultimately provided for the transfer of approximately 1,673 hectares from Springwater and

Oro-Medonte to the City of Barrie.

The boundary adjustment took effect January 1, 2026. The municipalities' ability to determine the ultimate outcome through negotiation had therefore reached its limit.

What does "the province will decide" actually mean?

That history matters because it is easy to look at the dispute today and see only a fight between Springwater councillors.

It was never only that.

There were at least three levels of authority involved.

There was Springwater Council, representing local taxpayers and attempting to determine what it believed was in the municipality's interests.

There was the City of Barrie, pursuing additional land for growth and development.

And there was the Province of Ontario, which had established housing and infrastructure as provincial priorities and possessed the legislative authority to alter municipal boundaries.

The Strong Mayor Powers added another layer.

They created a mechanism through which the mayor could act in circumstances where the mayor believed a decision could potentially advance a prescribed provincial priority.

That changed the traditional balance inside municipal government.

In Springwater, that power became directly connected to the boundary dispute.

A majority of council voted to reject the proposal.

The mayor used Strong Mayor Powers to advance it.

Council then voted to challenge that decision.

The mayor vetoed the confirming bylaw.

The municipality's legal counsel disputed the effect of the veto.

The mayor terminated that legal counsel.

And ultimately, the province legislated the boundary adjustment.

This sequence is critical context for understanding what residents are now being asked to consider when looking at the Township's legal bills.

Did the province force Springwater's hand?

The answer requires some care.

It would be inaccurate to say that the province simply ordered Springwater to accept Barrie's proposal in November.

The province had established a framework and provincial priorities, while Springwater was still participating in negotiations.

Coughlin's use of Strong Mayor Powers was her interpretation of how those provincial priorities applied to the boundary proposal.

Council disagreed.

The resulting conflict was political and legal.

But the province also had a much larger lever available: legislation.

Once Queen's Park legislated the boundary adjustment, the question of whether Springwater would ultimately agree to the transfer was effectively removed from municipal control.

That is the distinction residents should understand.

The municipality could negotiate.

It could obtain legal opinions.

It could challenge decisions.

It could debate servicing agreements.

It could disagree internally.

But the province retained the authority to determine the municipal boundary.

And eventually, it did.

The cost of resisting — and the cost of continuing

That brings the story back to the issue now before Springwater.

The Township's legal and professional expenditures associated with the boundary dispute have grown far beyond the figures being discussed in November 2025.

The question is not whether Springwater had legitimate reasons to obtain legal advice.

It did.

A municipality facing a proposed boundary transfer, new provincial legislation, competing legal interpretations and Strong Mayor Powers would reasonably require legal counsel.

The question is where the line should have been drawn.

How many legal opinions were necessary?

When did legal advice become litigation?

When did litigation become a response to political disagreement?

And after the province ultimately legislated the boundary, what legal work remained necessary — and why?

Those questions are particularly important because councillors were raising concerns about costs before the province had even legislated the boundary.

Thompson warned that lawyers and consultants were benefiting financially from a dispute that, in his view, should have ended.

The larger lesson

The Barrie boundary dispute illustrates a difficult reality of municipal government in Ontario.

Municipalities have elected councils.

They make local decisions.

They represent local taxpayers.

But they do not have the same constitutional independence as provinces.

Their powers are granted by provincial legislation.

When provincial priorities collide with local preferences, the province ultimately possesses the authority to change the rules — and, where legislation permits, to change the boundaries themselves.

Springwater's experience demonstrates what that can look like.

A municipality can spend months negotiating.

Council can seek technical reports.

Councillors can obtain competing legal opinions.

A mayor can exercise Strong Mayor Powers.

Council can challenge the mayor.

Lawyers can challenge the mayor's interpretation.

The mayor can change legal counsel.

And after all of it, Queen's Park can legislate the outcome.

That does not make the municipal debate meaningless. It makes the decisions made along the way even more important to scrutinize.

Because once the boundary was legislated, the question was no longer whether Springwater could stop the transfer.

The question became how much the Township would spend, and how far it would go, fighting a decision that ultimately belonged to the province.

That is the history residents need to understand before judging the legal bills now before them.

The boundary dispute may be over.

But the questions about discourse, municipal autonomy, Strong Mayor Powers, legal strategy and accountability for public money are not.



Library Board Applications Now Open

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

Lego Building Challenge

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

Across

- "Funny you should ____ ..."
- Kind of scan, for short
- Head butt
- Spectate
- Atlas stat
- Basis of some divisions
- Fan's purchase
- Vacation rentals
- At that point...
- Cold war side
- Alone
- Forget the words maybe
- Gets ready
- Lodge sport
- Concurrence
- Housekeeper
- Unusual
- Loathe
- Key
- For or what follower
- Collect
- Bug on the line
- Kind of foil
- Take five
- Pitcher's stat
- Remained inactive
- Meets a bet
- Condensation

Down

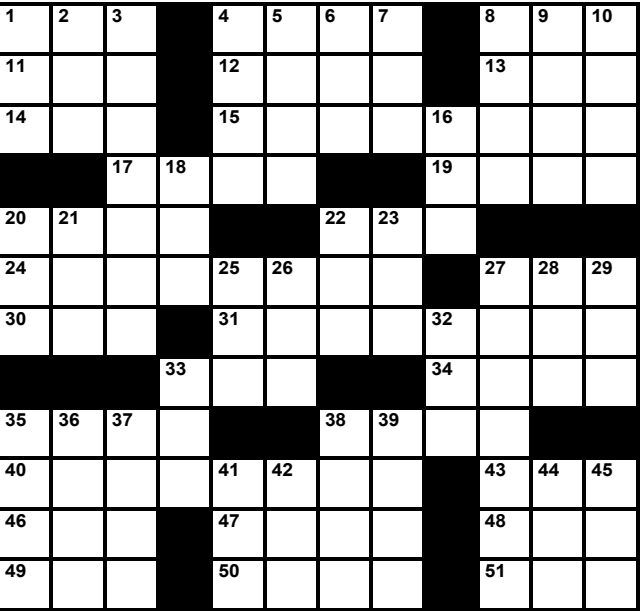
- Blaze remnants
- Perplexed, at ____
- Kitchen equipment
- Confront
- Strong metal
- Examine thoroughly
- Snack, say
- Blow one's top
- Like some wines and cheeses
- Clutter

STEM Program

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

Adult Meditation Class

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



- Common tattoo spot
- Proceed on one leg
- CIA operative
- Metal underground
- Fashion's whimsical line
- Get to act as a pawn
- Write extra
- Word with "fishing" or "curtain"
- Began
- Emergency ____
- Diamonds, slang
- That lass
- Less than a couple
- Protective floor coverings
- Kabul's continent
- " ____ that special?!"
- Other than mentioned
- Looks over
- Union title, often
- Drone, e.g.
- We ____ the world
- Animal foot

Friday August 14, 11am at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

You're "Otterly" Amazing! Program

Snuggle up for a paws-itively adorable program at the library filled with otter-themed crafts and games that are sure to make a splash. Kids will enjoy silly, fun sweet stories and hands-on adventures inspired by everyone's favourite furry little swimmers. Tuesday August 18, 5:30pm at Elmvale Branch or Thursday August 20, 5:30pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

TD Storywalk: Hillsdale Park

Come to Hillsdale park, and enjoy a fun story while you walk. This self-directed program will be available for families to read all week! Monday August 24-Friday August 28.

HEY DADS!

Hey Dads! Are your kids driving yet? I've got 10 kids and as of today 30% of them are legally licensed vehicle operators. My 14-year old son, Sterling, is chomping at the bit but his dirt bike will have to suffice for a little while longer. Many children and many drivers requires many vehicles. Or at least two. We drive a large people-mover and a small people-mover, a large 15-passenger van and a small Honda Civic. Usually, one of these automobiles is available for me, the esteemed patriarch, to drive.

But there comes a point in the life of a father when he needs to drive somewhere and he looks out the window into the driveway and...it's empty. No van. No car. My patient wife and I try to stay on top of the schedules and locations of most of our children, drivers and non-drivers. So far, so good. We've only forgotten a few kids at a few places a few times. I really shouldn't say "we" because more truthfully it has been "me" doing the forgetting.

If you've been reading these stories for any length of time you may recall instances of my poor attempts at cow containment. I won't go into the details now but let's just say that our cow, Rosie, has been staying at the neighbours for a few months. Rosie recently had a calf, Telemechus, and it was time to bring Rosie and "Telly" home. My newly purchased steel fencing should solve the containment chaos.

The other day I got the call that Rosie and Telly were ready to come home. I was going to zip over to the neighbours to help round them up and load them up but when I looked out the window for a vehicle...alas, none was to be found. It was only a mile down the road so I scoured the yard for a rideable bicycle. There's a few lying around our property in various states of disrepair. Last year, my 12-year-old son, Justice, saved up to buy a brand new bike and I spied it unguarded and all alone. Not a child in sight to witness the theft.

Before you could say, "Fat guy on a little bike", I was off in a cloud of dust across the yard and down the road. I estimate it's been 25 years since I owned a bicycle. Boy, those seats are uncomfortable. Boy, those pedals take a lot of effort to turn. Boy, I wish there had been a motorized vehicle to drive. The neighbours said they wondered what they saw fly down the road at breakneck speeds. It was just middle-aged me on my kids' bike. After much sweat and exhaustion I arrived and they were almost done loading the cows. I offered them the bike to ride back to my place but all declined. We put it in the back of their truck.

Cows came home. Bikes came home. An exhausted father came home and all is well. The cow containment system is working 100% and I'm starting to get the feeling back in my leg muscles. Dad, maybe you should go for a bike ride with your kids today! Time flies, make every moment count! Even the vehicle-less ones.

Jason Weening and his one patient wife try not to trip over 10 kids' worth of bikes. 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 GHITA 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

Coffee Party in the Park
Start: Jun. 25, 2026 09:30
End: Aug. 27, 2026 09:30
Location: Heritage Park
Last Thursday Jun-Aug. 9:30 am - 11 am
All Welcome. Organized by Centre Flos W.I
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!
ANNUAL WASAGA BEACH COIN & STAMP SHOW
Saturday, August 22nd, 2026, 9:30am-3:30pm @ the YMCA RecPlex: 1724 Mosley Street, Wasaga Beach.

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
Music Marathon
Oct. 03, 2026 10:00-4:00pm
Midhurst United Church 91 Doran Road, Midhurst, ON
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Publication Dates
2026
Next Editions
August 30th

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Rain or Shine – Nothing Stops the Ringer Dinger



PHELPSTON — Rain or shine, nothing stops the Ringer Dinger.

The annual Phelpston Ringer Dinger returned August 2, bringing residents and people from surrounding communities together for a day of horseshoes, food, drinks and friendly competition — all while remembering a man who played an important role in the tournament and the community.

The long-standing event is organized by the Phelpston Community Recreation Association (CRA) and was renamed last year as the Paul Craddock Memorial Horseshoe Tournament in honour of Paul Craddock. Paul was instrumental in running the tournament over the years and was also a successful competitor, winning the men's division numerous times.

Even with rain throughout the day, participants came out to take part and honour Paul's memory.

This year's men's division was won by Romeo Pilon and Kevin Craddock, with the trophy presented by Dennis and Ralph Craddock. It was a particularly impressive win for Pilon, marking his third consecutive year winning the men's division.

The women's division winners were Dianne Cox and Michele Odnoc, with their trophy presented by Jason and Ken Craddock.

The tournament was made possible through the work of numerous community volunteers and supporters. Rick Drinkill and Bernie Pilon Construction provided the sand needed for the horseshoe pits, while volunteers helped set up the grounds, build shelters to protect players from the rain, bring tents, run the barbecue, sell tickets and tend the bar.

A number of local businesses and community members also donated prizes, including Northern Automotive Solutions, Klink A Team Mechanical, Carquest, Currie Truck Centre, Currie Towing, Valley Farm Market, Birch Farms, Meatland Midland, Craddock's Garage, Dianne Cox, Brampton Brick, Vanden Bussche Irrigation, Grizzley, Century Masonry and ICF Construction.

Special thanks were also given to Councillor Danielle Alexander and Dave Alexander for their continued support of community events in Phelpston.

Greg Adams, Ken Craddock and Anita Moore handled bartending duties, while Dianne Cox helped with bringing tents, running the barbecue and selling tickets. Matt Garwood also brought tents to help keep players dry.

Mike Kelly was responsible for setting up and running the tournament games, with Cory Kelly helping organize the event.

While the horseshoe competition remains the



centrepiece of the Ringer Dinger, the day is ultimately about community. Neighbours, families and friends came together despite the weather to enjoy an event that has become a cherished Phelpston tradition.

The turnout was also a meaningful tribute to Paul Craddock.

Those who organized the tournament expressed their appreciation to everyone who came out despite the rain to honour and remember Paul, noting that the continued support says a great deal about the community — and about how much Paul meant to the people of Phelpston.

The Ringer Dinger once again demonstrated that community traditions are not easily washed away. Rain may have made the day a little wetter, but it certainly did not dampen the community spirit.



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- Day One - The Estate of Norman Ross McAlpine - Caledon - Wednesday, Aug. 19th
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- Autos & Shop Equipment Auction - Guelph (Aug 23 - 27)
- Chaarani Welding Shop Auction - Guelph (Aug 23 - 27)
- Serious equipment for serious welding and metalworking professionals!
- Richardson Moving Dispersal Auction - Brantford (Aug 30 - 3)
- August Multi Consignor Auction - Guelph (Aug 30 - 3)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to thank our family for the
wonderful party they gave for us on the occasion of
our 60th wedding anniversary. To all our family and
friends, thank you for the gifts and well wishes. A
big thank you to Gail, Amanda and Lizee. It was a
great party.

Raymond and Marg Hamelin

LANGMAN
100th
FAMILY PICNIC

DATE: AUGUST 30th

THE DAY'S SCHEDULE:

- ⌚ 2:00 PM: FUN STARTS
- ⌚ 4:00 PM: MEETING STARTS
DINNER TO FOLLOW

LOCATION:

3600 Vigo Road,
Arthur Langman Homestead

WHAT TO BRING:

- 🍽️ PLATES & CUTLERY
- 🍲 A DISH TO SHARE
WITH EVERYONE



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OBITUARIES

August 13, 2026 Edition 734



Kenneth William Ritchie (Ken)
December 2, 1942 - July 19, 2026

"A life well lived"

Ken Ritchie, a man whose kindness, generosity, and love for others left an unforgettable mark on everyone who knew him. Kenny offered support and gave his time freely, never expecting anything in return. His generosity wasn't something he talked about; it was simply the way he lived.

Growing up on a farm taught him the value of hard work, perseverance, and caring for the land.

He found peace and joy tending to his gardens. Family and friends will always remember his famous pickled beets, apple, or pumpkin pie. They weren't just recipes; they were traditions, made with care, and shared with pride. No one could quite match "Pepe's peaches".

Ken had a love for sports, especially the Toronto Maple Leaf's. His passion was unmatched. He faithfully cheered them on through every season, celebrating the victories and enduring the disappointments. Kenny could recite statistics and remember players from years gone by better than most. Kenny taught us that the greatest measure of a person isn't found in wealth or recognition, but in kindness, hard work, and generosity.

Though our hearts are heavy with loss, we are grateful for the privilege of having known Ken. Kenny will be forever loved by his late wife, Nicole, dog "Ella" and bird "Kiwi". Cherished by his "daughter" by choice, Sheila Lepad (Jean-Francois) and children Emilie and Mathieu Lepad Ken's memory will live on through his Sisters, Lois McCloskey, Marilyn Kenny Brother Danny Ritchie (Karen)

Dear Friends, Gloria Napier(Bill), Donald Cadarian(Robyn), Dawn Lessard(Bob) Gaetan Proulx(Mary), Patricia Thorburn(Gary) Many nieces, nephews, neighbors and friends.

Predeceased by his brother Don (Anne), sister Doreen Smith (Robert) and brother-in-laws, Peter McCloskey and Phil Kenny

Celebration of life
Saturday, August 22, 2026
12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
The Hook & Ladder Club Windsor
3690 Seminole St. Windsor, On n8y1y4

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August 13, 2026 Edition 734



In Loving Memory
Robert Giffen of Minesing, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, and lifelong farmer, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at the age of 80 with his family by his side.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Cornelia, children Stephen (Camilla), Andrew (Anita) and Mark (Crystal); grandchildren Isaac, Emma (Greg), Abby, Chloe, Alex, Iris and Ira; his brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Predeceased by his loving parents Aubrey and Dorothy Giffen.

Born on March 4, 1946, in Barrie, Ontario, Robert was raised on the family farm in Edenvale with his five brothers and sisters. In 1983 he moved with his wife and sons to a dairy farm in Minesing and dedicated his life to the land he loved. For more than 43 years, he worked tirelessly from sunrise to sunset, caring for his crops and livestock. Farming was not simply his occupation; it was his heritage and the legacy he proudly carried forward.

Known for his strong work ethic and sense of humour, he believed in the value of hard work and perseverance, lessons he passed down to his sons. Whether driving a tractor through the fields, creating with metal, or sharing stories with friends, he touched countless lives with his kindness.

Robert's footprints remain in the fields he cultivated. Though he has laid down his tools and taken his final rest, the seeds of love and commitment he planted throughout his life will continue to grow for generations to come.

"A farmer's work is never truly finished; it lives on in every harvest, every lesson, and every life touched along the way."

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre Foundation in his memory.

CROSSWORD
ANSWER

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47	E	D	G	E		N	O	D		49	B	E	D			



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OBITUARIES

www.SpringwaterNews.ca 27



Sandra Jean Tuck
September 2, 1952

Sandra passed away peacefully at GBGH on Friday, July 24, 2026. She leaves behind her son Shane Bottineau and 5 grandchildren. She is predeceased by her parents Ray and Eva Tuck. She was 1 of 7 children; Ralph Tuck (deceased), Steve Tuck, Janice Belanger, Sharon Tuck, David Tuck and Catherine Tuck. She will be greatly missed by many nieces and nephews. She worked for 42 years for TRW until her retirement. There will be no funeral according to her wishes. She will be buried in the Elmvale Cemetery with her parents.

Memorial condolences may be shared at www.leclaircremationcentre.com

4TH ANNUAL
Ride with an Angel
CHARITY EVENT

My ride is to honour the memory of a truly loved and lost, whose love lives on.

We invite the community to join the ride of life and remember our loved ones. Riding our ride for our loved ones.

AUG. 22, 2026

LOCATION: 1336 French Rd. R.R. 1, Elmvale, ON L3L 1P9

REGISTRATION: 10:00 AM
RIDE TIME: 11:00 AM
LUNCH AT: 11:30 AM

PROCEEDS WILL GO TO: **ELMVALE FOOD BANK**

RIDER \$30 | PASSENGER/WALKERS \$20

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CONCERTS & EVENTS

- JUNE

19-20

Cruise Fest '26
Classic cars, poker run, and car show
- JULY

01

Canada Day Celebration & Symphony Fireworks
- JULY

11-12

Not So Pro Volleyball
Serving up sun, sand, and a little friendly competition
- JULY

18

5K Foam Fest
2.5 million cubic feet of foamy fun
- JULY

23-26

Wasaga BeachLife Festival
Midway rides, The Carpet Frogs, Jukebox Heroes and more

NEW 2026
- AUGUST

15

Awaken the Isle
Set sail for a swashbuckling adventure at Nancy Island

NEW 2026
- SEPT

03-05

Memories of Summer
featuring The Yacht Rock Show, Wing Night, and Legends of Motown
- SEPT

18-20

Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues Festival
- OCT

03-04

Mayor's Charity RAM Rodeo
Trade in your flip flops and sunglasses for boots and spurs

WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT

- TUE

3PM

Farmers Market
June 2 - October 6
- TUE

7PM

Music in the Park
June 16 - September 1
- WED

9PM

Movies Under the Stars
July 8 - August 26
- FRI & SAT

7PM

Summer Sets 🎵
July 3 - August 29



SUMMER FUN MAP

Beach. Eat. Play. Repeat.



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