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NORTH SIMCOE
Springwater NEWS
SERVING SPRINGWATER, TINY TOWNSHIP, MIDLAND, AND PENETANGUISHENE

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Fun in Fundraising, 80 lengths for 80 years young

By Linda Belcourt, Editor
On January 17th, 2025 Gwen, a member of Therapeutic Paws of Canada swam 80th lengths in the Midland YMCA's pool for her 8th birthday. Gwen is raising funds to support ongoing needs of Therapeutic Paws of Canada (TPOC).
Gwen explained, "For years, I have been privileged to witness priceless gifts given to the aged, the sick, and afflicted of our communities. Involvement with Therapeutic Paws of Canada (TPOC) has opened my eyes to the miracles that pets and their handlers bestow on people of all ages in hospitals, seniors' homes, long-term-care facilities, and schools.
The unconditional and non judgmental love these pets impart to people brings extraordinary results. Children that struggle are able to build reading skills, when their efforts are enthusiastically appreciated with wagging tails and sometimes even kisses. These pets ease pain, lower blood pressure, relieve anxiety and depression, and even provide peace to those in palliative care.
People respond so readily to the comfort of petting and talking with our furry, four-legged friends.
But behind the scenes, these priceless gifts do come at a monetary cost. Like all charities who are in the business of miracles, TPOC needs donations to help make the miraculous possible.
Please join me in support of TPOC. Every donation

will help so much to further bring healing to people in need of the friendship of a tail-wagging, happy furry friend. Many thanks to you all."
Help support the teams that continue their wonderful work in pet therapy. Your donations will help our dogs and handlers spread cheer, unconditional love and healing to the people in our hospitals, courts, seniors homes, long term care residences and schools.
Make your donation directly through e-transfer or Thereapeutic Paws of Canada at chair@tpoc.ca or

CanadaHelps.org at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/14719>
Please specify your donation mentions Gwen's name.



Please specify your donation mentions Gwen's swim.
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At the end of the 2 km swim, Gwen Crump mentioned that her arms were like rubber. Robert Birkett mentioned, "She did really, really well."




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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please submit your letters to the Editor.

Email: info@springwaternews.ca or drop off at office. Contact information is on the bottom of this page. **Phone number and address must be supplied for all letters to the editor.** The opinions expressed in articles contributed by interested parties and through the 'Letters to the Editor' do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper and/or the editor.

Dear Editor,

I am a constituent of North Simcoe and an attendee and participant in some of the events outlined by journalist Derek Howard in his recent articles: "Tiny reaction to supposed alt-right presence heated on both sides" and "Rising alt-right appearances at North Simcoe councils cause security considerations."

I am offended by the broad and harmful labelling of the concerned North Simcoe constituents as "alt right" by journalist Derek Howard... and the publication of his work by you, the editor of Midland Today, Andrew Phillips.

I am offend by Howard's slanderous and defamous association of North Simcoe constituents with the "alt right" movement... and its reputation as white nationalists displaying racism and bigotry... and participating in violence and extremism. This type of rhetoric could be considered "hate speech" towards an identifiable group.

I am offended when local municipal constituents, who want to hold their elected representatives fiscally accountable, are labelled "alt right."

I am offended when local municipal constituents, who want to preserve their private property rights through the Ontario Landowners Association, are labelled "alt right."

I am offended when local municipal constituents, who desire that their local, elected officials represent their interests... instead of the interests of unelected, global bureaucrats, are labelled "alt right."

By framing a range of concerns—such as opposition to globalist policies or criticism of government actions—as "alt-right," the discourse risks marginalizing valid concerns. The labelling may serve as a distraction from substantive debates on governance, policy, and transparency, which are essential for healthy democratic processes.

The media coverage of Midland Today is a poor example of how a journalistic organization should treat tax-paying, municipal residents who are trying to participate in the democratic process. Howard's rhetoric incites prejudice through negative associations with the "alt right" movement. Journalism needs to be held to a higher standard, where reporting is objective, and not designed to promote one viewpoint as superior. Where journalism is informative... and not manipulative.

Further, it is inappropriate for Howard to draw parallels between the controversial events at Pickering Town Council and the Municipality of Tiny. When councils rely on controversial labels to justify actions such as moving to virtual meetings or enacting

new codes of conduct, it risks eroding public trust. Citizens may perceive these measures as attempts to suppress opposition rather than genuinely addressing safety concerns, potentially undermining confidence in local institutions.

While addressing safety, cyberbullying, and harassment in council chambers is essential, the use of the "alt-right" label as a catch-all for dissenting views or controversial figures is problematic. It is imperative to foster dialogue and address threats constructively without resorting to divisive and potentially harmful labelling.

Taudie McLeaming, Tay Township

I would like to thank Derek Howard for his clear and clean reporting on the Tiny Township administration centre issue. I am a resident of Tiny Township and feel that it is only fair to provide our staff with a decent, safe and healthy workplace. The uproar from some of our very vocal residents seems overblown to me when our council is simply trying to provide a modern and efficient workplace for our staff. I appreciate their efforts and again, your balanced assessment of the situation.

Thanks again,
Pamela Fulford

County Councillors approve next step in process to adjust the size of County Council

Submitted by County of Simcoe

Midhurst/January 14, 2025 – County Council today revisited a previous decision regarding the size and composition of County Council. A motion was approved to support adjusting the size of County Council from 32 members to 17 (inclusive of a full-time, appointed Warden).

If approved, the elected Mayors of the County's 16 member municipalities will serve as the default County representatives starting the next term of County Council. Currently, and historically, local Deputy Mayors also sit on County Council. As proposed previously, the full-time appointed Warden will be chosen by the incoming Council among eligible electors who choose to put their name forward for Warden.

To take effect, these decisions must be approved through a triple majority process (as outlined below). If approved, these decisions would take effect for the 2026-2030 term. The current structure will continue for the remainder of the current term.

"Our long-standing structure, with our Mayors and Deputy Mayors both serving on County Council, has served our communities well," said Warden Basil Clarke. "However, we recognize that our Council is large in size, and that it's prudent to make this change going forward. With advancements in technology, we have more ways to connect as a Council, with staff and residents, making this potential change more possible than it was years ago. If approved, I'm confident that we will continue to see efficient, effective and fair

representation and decision making at County Council. I'm also pleased Council maintained our decision to pursue a full-time, appointed Warden starting next term. The position of Warden requires full-time attention to Simcoe County residents and business."

Triple Majority Approval

Approval by County Council to proceed with these changes is the first step in the legislative process. The next step is a requirement to hold a public meeting to consider a draft by-law that would change the composition of County Council. If the by-law is ultimately passed by County Council, it would then be sent to the 16 lower-tier member municipalities where a majority of their Councils must consent to the by-law (the majority of municipalities consenting must also represent a majority of electors in the County).

It is important to note that County Council may address further guidelines for the role of Deputy Warden at future meetings and review more information regarding committee structure and the process for Council alternates. Representatives from the County's two separated cities will continue to sit on the Human Services Business Section of Committee of the Whole.

The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at simcoe.ca.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Wow what a winter! It reminds us of the good old days of standing on snowbanks, an arm reach from hydro lines. Were the banks higher or the poles shorter? Do children have the same freedoms as us? Is the world any more dangerous or are we being helicopter parents? All the answers are opinions until there is solid proof.

The next goal of this paper is to publish local history. History is the written word of man and not always what has really happened. There are many ways to interrupt the truth. The world sure needs some solid truth.

I still strive to deliver good news and to keep the community aware of the local issues, events and stories. Send me your old photos and stories. Let's build some history in these pages for all to learn from.

Many seniors have some great memories and stories of our local history. Please share them or they will be lost forever.

Let's discover if the walk to school many years ago really was uphill both ways. Let's really find out if "kids these days" are really any different from past generations. I need your input and your stories.

Newspapers are our history, so let's get it right!

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THE NEXT PAPER WILL BE ON FEB. 13, 2025



PUBLISHER/EDITOR/OWNER:
LINDA BELCOURT



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It takes a village



Submitted by Flos Agricultural Society, Matt Garwood

The saying, "It takes a village," perfectly captures the spirit of our fair. From our dedicated board of directors to the invaluable volunteers in our community, this event would not be possible without their steadfast commitment.

At the heart of our mission is the goal of uniting rural and urban communities, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of agriculture in its most authentic form. It is truly inspiring to witness so many passionate individuals coming together to advance our agricultural society.

Looking ahead, may we engage in thoughtful dialogue, find fresh perspectives, and draw renewed

energy to propel our shared goals forward. Let us continue to collaborate with mutual respect, open minds, and a collective spirit of cooperation to overcome challenges and seize new opportunities.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all of our fair volunteers, directors, honorary directors, and executive, many of whom have generously dedicated their time to ensure the continued success of our fair. We also congratulate the new directors who have joined the Flos Agricultural Society in 2025.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday January 21, 2025. Together, let's continue to sow the seeds of progress and innovation.

HURONIA WEST INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST AND DRUG SEIZURE

Submitted by OPP, Jan. 25, 2025
(TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH, ON) - Members of the Huronia West Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested and charged one individual with drug related charges.

Huronia West/Collingwood Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) initiated a drug trafficking investigation after numerous complaints from the public in relation to an address in Elmvale. After several weeks of investigating CSCU were able to form grounds and identify the occupant of the residence suspected of selling cocaine and fentanyl.

On January 21, 2025, members from the Huronia West and Collingwood CSCU teams executed a search warrant at the residence.

Investigators seized fentanyl, cocaine, an air pistol, and paraphernalia related to drug trafficking. Five individuals were located inside the residence at the time of execution. One individual had two outstanding warrants and was also charged with possession of a schedule I substance.

The Huronia West OPP is committed to serving our province, including the Town of Wasaga Beach and the Townships of Springwater and Clearview. If you have any information about crime in our community, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit your information online at www.crimestoppersdm.com. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display, and you will remain anonymous. You will not testify in court and your information may lead to a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

The Ontario Provincial Police is committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities.



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Untwist Your Thinking Therapy

Struggling with Mental Health Concerns? Need Help?

Hi, I am Sarah Butterworth, a Registered Psychotherapist with the College of Registered Psychotherapists in Ontario and the owner of Untwist Your Thinking Therapy. My associates and I have helped many clients with various mental health concerns, including anxiety, depression, OCD, and more. We are here to help.

We are here to listen.

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Find Town applications and forms online
 Visit midland.ca/forms to find a list of uploaded Town forms. Contact us for any support.

Join a Board or Committee

Make a difference in our community - see our website for more

- Midland Penetanguishene Transit Committee
- Midland Active Transportation Committee
- Southern Georgian Bay OPP Detachment Board

midland.ca/apply

Family Day Closures and Interruptions

On Monday, February 17, 2025, the Municipal office will be closed, and Mid-Pen Transit will not be running.

midland.ca/closures

Stay Informed - Subscribe to Midland.ca

Keep updated on closures, service interruptions, town and community events, and more. Subscribe to receive emails directly to your inbox.

midland.ca/subscribe

Contact your Council

Get in touch with Town Council through our website. Council is elected at large, and they are here to help with any questions, comments, or concerns.

midland.ca/meetcouncil

Upcoming Council Meeting

	Regular Council Meeting		Regular Council Meeting		Regular Council Meeting
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Council meetings take place virtually and in person and can be viewed on RogersTV (cable 53) or on RogersTV live stream.

[Town of Midland](http://TownofMidland.ca) midland.ca/council

Winter Operations in Midland

The snow just keeps on falling and the Operations team have been working around the clock to keep up. Thank you to the community for supporting the team.



Everyone plays a role in keeping Midland safe and moving:

- No overnight parking, learn about the winter parking restrictions, midland.ca/wpr.
- Be a good neighbour - make sure snow stays on your own property, refrain from pushing snow onto Town roads and sidewalks.
- Stay a safe distance away, the plows are big!
- Your patience and understanding is appreciated.

When the snow is falling, the high traffic roads are cleared first. These priority roads include emergency routes and roads near the hospital and schools.

- Main roads are cleared 3-8 hours after snow has stopped.
- Residential roads and sidewalks are cleared 8-24 hours after snow has stopped.

Plowing is completed to the Minimum Maintenance Standards set by the province.

midland.ca/snow

Property Taxes

Interim property tax bills are in the mail. Contact us if you do not receive your bill. Upcoming due date is **February 20, 2025**.

Property taxes are due each year in:

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midland.ca/PayTaxes

How can we help? [705-526-4275](tel:705-526-4275) service@midland.ca www.midland.ca 575 Dominion Avenue Midland, Ontario L4R 1R2

Imposing building vacancy tax a no-go in downtown Midland

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: MidlandToday.ca, Jan 20, 2025

It turns out, much to Midland council's dismay, that the province likes to encourage commercial building owners to fix their vacant buildings rather than penalize them if left abandoned.

At the heart of the matter is a commercial building in Midland's downtown core that has been vacant for over three decades. Last May, council directed town staff to explore implementation of a vacant building tax/fee on vacant commercial storefront buildings facing King Street in the downtown.

The item was described by Mayor Bill Gordon as a "bit of a letdown bummer report, but it makes perfect sense." According to the report, staff and the county's tax consultant looked at the appropriateness of implementing such a tax. "The long and short of it is that type of tax would violate the Municipal Act," explained CFO Lindsay Barron, "(which is) our governing body for 443 of the 44 municipalities within Ontario, and currently that is not a provision of the Act. "Typically we'll see commercial properties of that

nature are given tax rebates instead of additional tax when those vacancies occur, as more of an incentive program to try to revitalize the downtown area," Barron added.

Coun. Bill Meridis, a downtown landlord with family connections to storefronts as well as being the council representative for the Downtown Midland Business Improvement Area, noted that he had introduced the motion but hadn't asked to be connected to paying for such building owners to have their properties repaired through the resident tax base. "In particular, there's at least one that's been vacant for 30-plus years," said Meridis, adding he didn't know why it was that way. "In my eyes, that is the responsibility of the building owner; to make our downtown thrive we don't want to see buildings left vacant for 30 years. "By no means would I support an incentive for building owners to fix up their buildings. They've bought their investment, and they should take care of their investment."

Meridis pointed out that the Downtown BIA provides an incentive paid for by building owners and not the tax base, that will contribute \$5,000 for a business in their membership to fix up their

storefront.

Gordon praised Meridis for his comments and supported the move to keep any renovations off the shoulders of the Midland taxpayer. "We'll find other ways, and one of the tandem ways we spoke about," said Gordon, "is beefing up our property standards bylaws. Especially as it comes to vacant buildings left to decay with nasty old mouldy paper in the window – just making the place all look like a ghost town.

"That's coming in a rewrite of our property standards and how that will be enforced," Gordon added. "That may help to some degree, although it doesn't help to occupy the building – at least it won't look like the scene of a horror movie."

The commercial vacancy tax report is available in the council agenda on the town of Midland website.

Council meetings are held every third Wednesday, and can be viewed on Rogers TV cable channel 53 when available, or through the livestream on the Rogers TV website. Archives of council meetings are available through Rogers TV and on the Town of Midland's YouTube channel.

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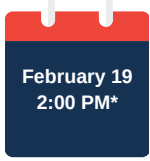


Participate - hear about community events, recreation programs, and public meetings

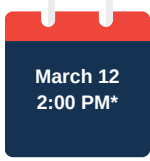


Be Prepared - receive alerts about pending and existing emergencies

Council Meeting Schedule



February 19
2:00 PM*



March 12
2:00 PM*

Township of Tiny  www.tiny.ca/events

*Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting times are anticipated to change from 5:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. beginning on February 19, 2025.

The meetings take place in the Municipal Council Chambers and are open to the public. For complete details including the new time confirmation, visit the Community Calendar at www.tiny.ca/events.

Recreation and Special Events

Winter Carnaval d'Hiver

Date: Saturday, February 8, 2025

Time: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Perkinsfield Park, 43 County Road 6 South



Lithium-ion Battery Safety

Tiny Fire and Emergency Services has joined the Ontario Fire Marshal's 'Charged for LiFE' public education campaign to raise awareness about lithium-ion battery safety. These batteries can be found in many household technology products such as cellphones, smartwatches, cordless vacuums, e-bikes, laptops, and power tools such as drills.

- Batteries - Only purchase certified batteries and continuously monitor the battery health
- Charging - Lithium-ion batteries can be a fire hazard when improperly charged (too hot or too cold)
- Tampering - Never attempt to modify, tamper with, or build your own lithium-ion batteries
- Disposal - Lithium-ion batteries are household hazardous waste and should never be placed in the garbage

Learn more about lithium-ion battery safety at www.tiny.ca/ChargedForLife.

Winter Maintenance Reminders

Snow Removal

- Crews start with the busiest roads to help ensure Fire and Emergency Services can reach those in need. After the main roads are cleared, crews will move to residential areas.
- Do not deposit snow onto the roadway or sidewalks, or across the road into the ditch.

Winter Parking

- Avoid parking on the street during snow events.
- Avoid parking on or near the sidewalk to give our sidewalk plow drivers space to work.

Hazards

- Ensure children refrain from building tunnels or forts inside snow banks by roadways.
- Place garbage and recycling bins back from the road to avoid being damaged by plows, and keep them off of sidewalks.

2025 Property Taxes

Installment Due Dates



- March 31
- June 30
- September 29

Have questions?



T: 705-526-4204
E: taxdepartment@tiny.ca

Learn more at: www.tiny.ca/taxes

Changes to Mortgage Company Tax Payment Services

We have noticed an increase in mortgage companies that no longer offer a property tax payment service. **It is the property owner's responsibility to ensure that property taxes are paid. As per the Municipal Act, penalties and interest due to late payments cannot be waived.**

There are several alternative payment options:

- Pre-authorized payment (PAP) plan
- Online or telephone banking
- At financial institutions
- By credit card
- In-person/drop-box



You can also sign up for e-billing!

Visit our website at www.tiny.ca/taxes for details or contact taxdepartment@tiny.ca.

Commissioner of Oaths

Need a document commissioned? We can help.

We would like to remind the public to book an appointment for Commissioner of Oath services to ensure that staff are available to assist you.

For complete details, please visit www.tiny.ca/Commissioner.

Dynamic Beach Management Project

Tiny is hosting two (2) hybrid Public Information Centres (PICs) to seek input on the township's draft Dynamic Beach Management By-law and related updates to the township Zoning By-law 22-075 and Official Plan. Learn more at www.tiny.ca/DynamicBeaches.



Date: Monday, February 3, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Township of Tiny Council Chambers

Virtual: The Zoom link will be posted on the day of the meeting to participate, or watch the presentation on our YouTube Channel



Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Township of Tiny Council Chambers

Virtual: The Zoom link will be posted on the day of the meeting to participate or watch the presentation on our YouTube Channel

2025 Dog Licences



Reminder to get your 2025 dog licence! Apply online at www.tiny.ca/doglicence or in-person at the Township Office (130 Balm Beach Rd W).



Seasonal Positions – Spring and Summer 2025

The Township of Tiny is accepting applications until **12:00pm on Friday February 14, 2025**, from summer students interested in the following positions:

- Building Summer Student (1)
- Environmental Programmer (1)
- March Break Day Camp Assistant Supervisor (1)
- March Break Day Camp Counsellor (3)
- Municipal Law Enforcement Admin Assistant (2)
- Municipal Law Enforcement Officer (13)
- Municipal Law Enforcement Shift Supervisor (2)
- Parks Labourer (14)
- Recreation Programmer (1)
- Roads Engineering Student (2)
- Special Event and Volunteer Programmer (1)
- Summer Day Camp Assistant Supervisor (5)
- Summer Day Camp Counsellor (13)
- Summer Day Camp Supervisor (2)
- Water Department Co-op Student – 4 month (1)
- Water Department Co-op Student – 8 month (1)
- Waterfront Lifeguard and Instructor (2)

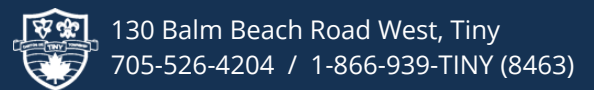
For complete position details, including necessary qualifications and hourly wage rate, please visit: www.tiny.ca/employment.

Applications should **clearly identify the position being applied for** and should be forwarded to:

Human Resources
 The Township of Tiny
 130 Balm Beach Road West
 Tiny, ON L0L 2J0
 Fax: 705-526-2372
 Email: humanresources@tiny.ca

We thank all those who apply but only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Corporation of the Township of Tiny is committed to a barrier-free recruitment and selection process. Please inform us should an accommodation be required at any point in the recruitment process. Information received relating to accommodation needs of applicants will be addressed confidentially. Personal information collected will only be used for candidate selection, in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act R.S.O., 1990, c.M.56.



Tiny looking to move council meetings to afternoons

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Source: MidlandToday.ca, Jan 13, 2025

New year, new beginnings... for Tiny Township council meeting starting times in February of 2025.

Although council had thoroughly discussed how deputations would be managed in March of last year, further changes to the township's procedure bylaw and meeting times were considered by a majority on council. Discussions continued at the recent committee of the whole meeting around proposed amendments to the township's procedure bylaw, namely the shift to a 2 p.m. start time from the current 5:30 p.m. allocation, as well as rearranging how deputations will be addressed.

Red-line revisions were presented to council in anticipation of passing the bylaw on January 29, with other time changes listed for closed council sessions and public meetings. Also included under decorum was a proposed citizen conduct section which would become available on the township website if approved.

Current deputations are held near the beginning of the regular meeting 5:30 p.m. start time, with scheduled deputations following those; committee of the whole meetings occur once regular meetings conclude.

Coun. Steffen Walma began the conversation by offering that deputations be moved to the end of the committee of the whole meeting, usually hours after the initial start time. "If moved, those concerned citizens would have had a chance to see what the discussion is and provide their input for council," said Walma. "And then there is still that three-week waiting period for council to deliberate on those inputs from those open deputation processes."

Deputy Mayor Sean Miskimins supported the proposal. "It also gives them a chance to consider whether they wish to do a deputation," he said. "Maybe the experts haven't had a chance to speak yet; and I'm finding people are jumping the gun, and we're kind of letting the cat out of the bag sometimes before we get to that topic. Miskimins added: "It's one thing reading words on a page when we get the agendas in advance, but it's another thing to hear the context that goes along with that."

Mayor Dave Evans noted that the current start time of regular meetings allowed for fairly regular accessibility, but the fluctuating unknown of the end for committee of the whole meetings could be a problem. "I like the accessibility perspective of it;

I like the chance for people to gain some additional information before making their decision," Evans said. "The downside is that... these meetings are by no means regular in terms of timing."

While Coun. Kelly Helowka supported having deputations remain in their current orientation for the upcoming timeframe, Dave Brunelle suggested a split of deputations at the beginning of regular meetings, but open deputations for the end of the committee of the whole. "I don't think there'd be a problem if people are willing to wait to be part of the full procedure of meetings," said Brunelle, "and want to listen to the experts because they are not quite sure what they were going to say at the open deputation. Perhaps their decision will be swayed from hearing additional information, which would be a good thing, to get as much information before you can do a deputation."

The purpose of the procedure bylaw amendment, as noted by staff, was to have the evening's committee of the whole approve the bylaw with amendments and suggestions to staff to return with further red-line revisions for council's potential ratification at the January 29 meeting; the motion was carried. The procedure bylaw amendments report can be viewed on the agenda page on the Township of Tiny website. Archives of council meetings are available to view on the Township's YouTube channel.

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 Minesing Branch: 705 722-6440
www.springwaterlibrary.on.ca

New Hours

The Springwater Public Library Elmvale and Midhurst branches are now open Monday mornings at 10 a.m.

Teen Book Boxes

Sign up to receive a teen book box filled with fun and mystic goodies and some fantasy books! Each box will contain two library books that need to be returned, and a bunch of fun freebies to keep! Registration is limited. Pick up of the boxes starts in February, you will be contacted when your kit is available

Blind Date with a Book

Don't judge a book by its cover! Take a chance and try something new with our books covered in brown paper and some teaser lines from inside – you never know, you might fall in love when you least expect it! These books are available starting Saturday February 1-14 while supplies last. Each blind date book you take out comes with a ballot for a prize draw happening February 15.

Take and Make Craft

This month's free take and make craft kit are Self-Love Hearts. Available while supplies last starting Thursday February 6.

Minesing Minifest

Minesing Minifest is Friday February 7 and Saturday February 8 with the theme Disco. The Minesing Branch will be open Saturday February 8 from 9am - 2pm for a fun Swampy craft and a jellybean guessing game! Good luck and see you there!

Outreach: Tiny Winter Carnival

Be sure to drop by and visit staff member, Danielle, at the Tiny Winter Carnival taking place on Saturday February 8 at Perkinsfield Park (43 County Road 6 South). Get outside and have fun with Snow Valley's Snow Tubing Slide, carnival games, and enjoy bannock bread and marshmallows by the fire. Stay warm with a hot chocolate or apple cider while skating on the rink and visit Danielle for some freebies from the library!

Drop-In Valentine's Day Card

Drop by the library for a fun afternoon of card making! All day we will have a card making station set up in the library for you to make a seasonal valentine card for your friends and loved ones! Saturday February 8, starting at 10am.

Vision Board Workshop Elmvale

South Georgian Bay Health Team is at the library to facilitate a vision board workshop, participants will create their own vision board – focusing on specific areas in their lives such as career, home life, spiritual growth, health and wellbeing or relationships. All materials will be provided. Tuesday February 11, 6pm at Elmvale Branch. Cost: Free. To register call (705) 422-1888 ext 143.

Best Intentions Book Club

Join this fun book club that is designed for moms that have the best of intentions to finish a book, but sometimes don't. This non-judgemental group is a fun way to meet other parents and talk about books (or at least the parts we read). Please know that spoilers happen in this book club. Tuesday February 11, 6pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: Free. Registration required.

Make a Bookmark

Create a custom bookmark using Canva and our sublimation printer. Thursday February 13, 6pm at Elmvale branch. Cost: \$2 per bookmark. Registration required.

Creative Adults: Fondant

Learn some tips and tricks of working with fondant. Tuesday February 18, 2pm at Elmvale Branch. Cost: \$10. Registration required.

Gratitude Box

Children can make a gratitude box and fill it with things they are thankful for at this fun, drop-in program running while supplies last. Thursday February 20, starting at 10am while supplies last. Cost: Free. No registration required for this drop-in program.

Swap and Shop

At this fun adult event there will be food, clothes, fellowship and laughter! Bring five items in excellent condition to trade and enjoy hot drinks, dessert plus 10 chances to win a prize basket! Items can be in-style clothing, purses, footwear, re-gifts, scarves etc. Please bring your own bag to carry items. Tuesday February 25, 6:30pm at Midhurst Branch. Cost: \$10. Registration required.

Adult Book Bingo

Can you beat the adult winter reading challenge? Complete a bingo card line to be entered to win fun prizes! Participants must be 18 or older to qualify for the draw. This book bingo program runs until Friday February 28. The bingo card is available online through our ReadSquared app here: <https://springwaterlibrary.readsquared.com>

Volunteer Income Tax Program

In person, phone appointments and drop off processing of taxes are available for those within the tax brackets of: \$35,000 for one person, \$45,000 for two people, up to \$50,000 for a family of four. In person appointments are available in March and April at the Elmvale Branch, please call us to book your in person or phone appointment at (705) 322-1482. If you are using the drop off method of tax processing (starts Monday February 24), please ensure your documents are in a sealed envelope labelled with your address, phone number and email address. This program operates in collaboration with the Canada Revenue Agency. In person 30 minute appointments are available in March and April.

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
10				11				12		
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41	42					43			44	
45					46				47	
48					49				50	

Across

- 1 Getaway
- 4 1 or 11, in blackjack
- 7 Bruise treatment
- 10 Show appreciation for
- 11 Stole, e.g.
- 12 Soul artist, Charles
- 13 "Give it ___!"
- 14 Hang back
- 16 Cadence
- 18 Use binoculars
- 19 Word after who or what
- 21 Impinge on
- 24 Check for quality
- 27 Blow away
- 28 Haul behind
- 29 Renewable fuel
- 32 Fuss
- 34 Uncluttered
- 35 Baby's first word, maybe
- 37 Carpenter's tool
- 41 Fleeting
- 44 Time of anticipation
- 45 Admission factor, at times
- 46 Rewards for waiting
- 47 Cake pan
- 48 Negative alternative
- 49 High school dance
- 50 Glory or guard preceder

Down

- 1 Minor dustup
- 2 Alert electronically
- 3 Elemental particle
- 4 "These ___ the times that ..."
- 5 Song holder, formerly
- 6 Movie that might have a cast of thousands
- 7 Shiraz resident
- 8 Has nine lives
- 9 Look at
- 11 Unbroken
- 15 Items purchased
- 17 Spirit
- 20 Screenwriter's start number
- 23 Dragon roll fish
- 24 The "I" of T.G.I.F.
- 25 Untrue
- 26 Michael Phelps, e.g.
- 30 Things to deck
- 31 Wasn't fasting
- 33 Strike smartly
- 36 Sweater eater
- 38 Refuse
- 39 Santana song, "___ Ways"
- 40 Extend credit
- 41 Beachgoer's goal
- 42 Self concept
- 43 Phone download

News & Events at the Penetanguishene Public Library
 24 Simcoe Street 705-549-7164
www.penetanguishene.library.on.ca

Reading Challenge 2025 – Around the World in 12 Books

Not sure what to read this year? Participate in the Reading Challenge Around the World in 12 Books and learn about different cultures. Fill out a ballot for each book you read. There will be a draw at the end of the month. Happy reading!

Adult Reading Bingo

Step by the library to pick up an Adult Reading Bingo Card for a chance to win a \$50 gift card from Foodland. Contest closes February 28, 2025.

New to the Library:

Wye Marsh Passes, members can check out Wye Marsh passes for three days. (2 adults, 3 children) This program is in partnership with the Wye Marsh. Provincial Park Passes 2025, Once again, you can borrow a Provincial Park Pass at the library for one week. We also have snowshoes, walking sticks, and backpacks for your hike that can be checked out with your library card.

Wills and Powers of Attorney Info Session

Friday, February 7 @ 10:30-11:30
 Limited spots. Free for members. \$5 for non-

members. Refreshments will be served during the session.

Valentine's Day Cookie Decorating Class
 February 11th 2025 @ 10:00am-12:00pm
 \$10.00 for members, \$15.00 for non-members

Chocolate Tasting
 February 13 from 9:00am-11:00am

Join chef Jennifer and make delicious chocolate treats for Valentine's Day.
 \$10 members, \$15 non-members. Location: 188 A Yonge St, Midland.


Hat Burning
 February 20th, @ 10:00am-11:00am

\$25 members, \$35 non-members. All supplies provided.

Looking for Volunteers for Income Tax Time

To help eligible low-income individuals and families. We are seeking friendly, patient and detail-oriented individuals to assist with intake and tax preparation for the months of March and April. We offer schedule flexibility. Want to make a difference, contact the library for more information: 705 549 7164 or lkeenan@penetanguishenepl.ca

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LIVE WELL WITH PHARMASAVE

Barrie Bowls for Brain Health During Alzheimer's Awareness Month

Submitted by Alzheimer Society, January 21, 2025
 January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month, and the local Simcoe County Society hosted a Bowling for Brain Health promote active living and the benefits of staying socially engaged in one's community.

On January 19th, 100 participants from ages 4 to over 74, gathered in Barrie to take part the first "Bowling for Brain Health" event. Community Teams, volunteers, Society staff and fans came together and raised over \$5,000 for the charity! "We are so grateful for the fundraising support by 14 bowling teams and very generous business partners who donated beautiful prizes for our raffle draw. This was such an enjoyable family-friendly accessible event, thanks to the great organization and support by Tom and his team at Bowlerama Barrie", says Ann-Marie Kungl, CEO of the Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County.

Teams were encouraged to show off their style by dressing up and bringing friends to cheer them on. The event ended with trophy presentations and medals for each team MVP. Laura, a supporter of the event shared, "Brian and I had a great time being part of Bowling for Brain Health. A satisfying morning spent being active, meeting new people, laughing and supporting a good cause. Can't wait to do it again next year." The feedback has been so positive that the Society is already planning to do it again.

Participant Sheri Patfield shared, "I had a great time bowling. Alzheimer's has impacted my family, so this charity is near and dear to my heart. Families need the support provided by the Alzheimer Society, and I'm always happy to help raise money for our community. Spending time with my friends, keeping active and helping to support a great cause at the same time is a win!"

There are over 11,500 individuals across Simcoe County living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias and support to the Society with donations made locally, stay local. "We wish to thank all those that attended and supported this fundraiser, which will help us fund social recreation programming for individuals living

with dementia and their care partners", says Jaime Grant, Special Project and Program Support Staff.

The Society continues to welcome businesses and residents across Simcoe County, the City of Barrie and City of Orillia, to Light it Up Blue to put a spotlight on dementia awareness. All are invited to shine a blue light on porches and storefronts and share photos on social media with the Society using #LIUB and #BrainHealth in support of dementia friendly communities, which is a cross Canada education initiative. Free training is available through the Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County.



PORT MCNICOLL RESIDENT WINS \$183,313 INSTANT TOP UP JACKPOT

By OLG, January 27, 2025

Toronto, ON – Sharon Davidson of Port McNicoll seized the moment, playing INSTANT TOP UP to win the jackpot, which had grown to \$183,313.80 when it was won on December 15, 2024!



Sharon, a retiree, is a weekly lottery player with OLG. She enjoys playing a variety of INSTANT tickets, as well as LOTTO MAX and LOTTO 6/49. While the mother of two once won a \$1,000 lottery prize, nothing could have prepared her for the thrill of winning the INSTANT TOP UP jackpot!

"I was at the convenience store when I asked the clerk to add INSTANT TOP UP to my INSTANT ticket purchase," Sharon recounted, while visiting the OLG Prize Centre in Toronto to pick up her winnings. "When the lottery terminal froze, I couldn't believe it! The clerk had to convince me that I'd really won."

"I shared the incredible news with my son, daughter, and siblings," Sharon smiled. "Everyone was so kind, saying I deserved this win. This has been a surreal experience. I'm proof that regular people do win."

With her windfall, Sharon plans to share with her children, add to her savings, and treat herself.

INSTANT TOP UP can be added to any eligible INSTANT ticket purchase for \$1 more. The top prize is a jackpot that starts at \$25,000 and grows with each play purchased across Ontario until it is won. Free Play and cash prizes are also available. The retailer scans the barcode on the back of the INSTANT ticket and collects the \$1 to activate the INSTANT TOP UP video on the lottery terminal screen. If the video displays three matching tiles, win the corresponding prize. If a "TOP UP Bonus" tile is revealed, win a Bonus prize.

The winning ticket was purchased at Garrett's Convenience on Talbot Street in Port McNicoll.

OLG supports safe play and wants to keep the fun in the game. That's why OLG is proud to be a leader in promoting responsible gambling with our globally recognized PlaySmart program.

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Jo Knows Nutrition
by Joanne Nijhuis

CREAMY GNOCCHI SPINACH CASSEROLE

A ONE-DISH WONDER FOR COLD WEATHER WARMTH



Few dishes bring people together like a casserole and this creamy gnocchi spinach recipe takes a classic supper to new heights. Packed with pillowy gnocchi, fresh spinach and a velvety sauce, this combo offers a beautiful balance of indulgence and nutrition. Perfect for a cozy dinner or a potluck, this dish is so easy to prepare and a sure-fire hit!

DID YOU KNOW?

Spinach is a nutritional powerhouse that is high in fibre to promote gut health and contains the vitamins A, C, and K for strong immunity, glowing skin and bone health. So versatile, spinach is equally delicious raw or cooked and when it's added to your soups, stews or smoothies, an easy way to boost your overall health.

INGREDIENTS

- 16 ounces (450-500 grams) gnocchi
- 2 Tablespoons (30 ml) butter
- 1-2 cloves garlic, minced or ¼ teaspoon (1.25 ml) garlic powder
- 2 Tablespoons (30 ml) flour
- 1 ¼ cups (313 ml) cow's, oat, soy or almond milk
- 3 cups (750 ml) fresh spinach
- 1 cup (250 ml) shredded cheese (cheddar, Swiss, gruyere or plant-based)
- ½ cup (125 ml) grated parmesan or ¼ cup (63 ml) nutritional yeast
- Salt and pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Boil the gnocchi according to the package directions. Drain, set aside.
2. In a large pot, melt the butter over medium heat.
3. Add the garlic and sauté for a minute or two.
4. Add the flour to the butter and garlic and whisk to combine for 2 minutes to remove the raw taste from the flour. Do not brown the flour.
5. Slowly whisk in the milk, continuing to stir for 3-4 minutes until the sauce has thickened.

6. Add the fresh spinach to the sauce and stir for several minutes to combine the ingredients and wilt the spinach.
7. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
8. Removed the pot from the heat.
9. Place the gnocchi in an oven-safe casserole dish. Pour the spinach cream sauce on top of the gnocchi.
10. Add a layer of shredded cheese over the spinach sauce and sprinkle the grated parmesan or nutritional yeast on top.
11. Bake in the oven for 30-40 minutes on 375 F (190.5 C). Serve immediately.

ENJOY!

Joanne Nijhuis MSc, RD is a consulting, media and culinary dietitian in Simcoe Grey Bruce on a mission to entertain and educate through her love of food. In addition to recipe development and writing for several publications, Joanne offers cooking demos/classes and individual counselling. For more information, email Joanne at jo.knows.nutrition@outlook.com.
Jan. 27, 2025.



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Future Penetanguishene rec centre could skate past 2033 build target

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: MidlandToday.ca, Jan 21, 2025

Two reports on Penetanguishene's recreation facilities were discussed at the recent committee of the whole meeting in Penetanguishene, addressing issues of maintaining current facilities while preparing for a future centre.

The aging 1954 Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre (PMCC) and the 1973 Penetanguishene Curling Club (PCC) were explored in recent years as needing replacement rather than upkeep. In December 2023, council put a tentative 2033 placemaker for construction of a new multi-use recreation centre (MURC) which was projected to cost up to \$49 million (as per a 2021 study).

Within the recreation and community services section, the first report was a 170-page update on the MURC project since 2023, which included its location at 51 Dunlop Street as well as a failed attempt to partner with the county, province, and Protestant Separate School Board last year.

However, the bulk of conversation was kept for the 170-page recreation facilities assessment report which recommended that annual capital budgeting exercises maintain function for the

PMCC and PCC through to 2033; additionally, capital projects for the PCC would be brought to council for considerations.

As a suggestion, Mayor Doug Rawson pitched that the PMCC could follow an example he had observed from Oshawa where the ice surface could be converted to a dry court during the transition, which could save costs and increase usage within the facility while allowing staff to explore potential partnerships with other municipalities.

Recreation and community services director Sherri Desjardins replied that all options would be explored by staff as they looked at a future recreation master plan for the town, which could include the potential selling of the two facilities to help fund the larger MURC.

Coun. George Vadeboncoeur raised the question of the noted 2033 timeline, asking if any consultant had provided a projected end-of-life for the facilities as a council target; Desjardins replied there wasn't.

It was a leading question toward the potential \$49-million cost, with a date of 2033 being floated. "I think we're a ways away," Vadeboncoeur said, noting his conversations with interested residents wanting more information. "I tell people to be

patient. I see this 2033 date in there and I'd like to be an optimist... but that's (substantially) less than 10 years away. "To raise the kind of money that we're talking about, I think we're really being unfair to ourselves and potentially the public in terms of raising expectations," he added.

Vadeboncoeur suggested that if a consultant noted a date of non-function for the PMCC and PCC, "Then we have something we can say: 'Look community, look government, we've got to do something because we may be shut down.' And that would be the worst thing is to be shut down in the middle of the season."

On the 2033 timeline, chair Coun. Doug Leroux quipped: "It's not something that's written in stone; it could be on ice."

The MURC update report and recreation facilities assessments report can be located on the agenda page of the Town of Penetanguishene website.

Meetings of Penetanguishene council are held on the second Wednesday of each month, and can be watched live on Rogers TV cable 53 when available, or on the Rogers TV website.

Archives of council meetings are located on the Town of Penetanguishene YouTube channel.

Health unit immunization clinics open to Gr. 4, 5 and 6 students to help avoid suspension

By SMSDU, Jan. 23, 2025

SIMCOE MUSKOKA – Did you receive a suspension order from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit notifying you that your child in Grade 4, 5 or 6 may be missing required routine immunizations and their record with the health unit is not up to date?

On Friday, Jan. 24, the health unit is offering vaccination "catch up" appointments at its clinics in Barrie, Collingwood and Orillia for students

in Grades 4, 5 and 6 to receive any missing immunizations before the Feb. 4 reporting deadline. Additional appointments are also available online or by calling 705-721-7520 or toll-free 1-877-721-7520.

The health unit is also offering several walk-in "catch up" clinics at its Barrie, Cookstown, Collingwood, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Midland and Orillia from Feb. 3 to 5. Visit our website to find a clinic available near you.

Under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA), public health units are required to maintain vaccination records for every student attending school and enforce suspension for incomplete vaccine information. Having up to date records allows the health unit to respond more effectively to prevent and control disease outbreaks in our communities.

For more information, visit www.smdhu.org.

MPP Jill Dunlop Announces Ontario Improving Hospital Infrastructure in Midland

Improving hospital infrastructure at Georgian Bay General Hospital will connect more people to quality care closer to home

Submitted by the Office of MPP Jill Dunlop
January 27, 2025

MIDLAND—The Ontario government is supporting critical upgrades and renovations at Georgian Bay General Hospital through the planning, design and implementation of the hospital's Air Handling Unit Replacement Project, ensuring families in Midland and surrounding communities can connect to the care they need, close to home.

"I am proud to be part of a government that recognizes the value in investments like these critical upgrades at GBGH, ensuring that essential infrastructure like the Air Handling Unit Replacement Project is in place to provide high-quality care for our community," said Jill Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North. "These improvements will not only enhance the hospital's efficiency and safety but also contribute to a more comfortable and reliable healthcare environment for patients and staff alike. By investing in our local healthcare infrastructure, we are securing the future of care for families in the area and demonstrating our commitment to the health and well-being of all Ontarians." Through this investment, space will be renovated and the air handling units that are original to the hospital will be replaced with modern units at Georgian Bay General Hospital. This critical infrastructure project will bring the space up to current standards and ensure that the hospital is better equipped to provide connected, convenient care, close to home for families in the region. As a next step, the ministry is working with Georgian Bay General Hospital to complete early planning and design for this project. Once future planning is complete and

the project is tendered and awarded, a construction schedule will be confirmed. "Our government is making record investments to modernize and expand Ontario's hospitals to connect people of all ages to fast, convenient care, no matter where they live," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "This investment will allow Georgian Bay General Hospital to address priority infrastructure needs to better deliver high-quality care to people in Midland and the Georgian Bay region, for years to come." Through Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care, the Ontario government is expanding and modernizing Ontario's hospitals, making it faster and easier for people of all ages to connect to the high-quality care they need, where and when they need it.

QUICK FACTS

- Georgian Bay General Hospital is a 113-bed hospital with a full emergency department, diagnostic imaging, general surgery, obstetrics, ambulatory care, complex continuing care and rehabilitation, dialysis and outpatient day surgery.
- The hospital serves 65,000 full-time residents and more than 150,000 residents and visitors during the summer months, from the communities of Midland and Penetanguishene, the Townships of Tiny, Tay, Springwater, Georgian Bay and Oro-Medonte, and the Beausoleil First Nation community on Christian Island.
- Through Your Health, Ontario is getting shovels in the ground for over 50 hospital developments across the province.

Township politicians split on reducing size of county council

By: Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: BarrieToday.com, Jan 17, 2025

When Springwater Township's Deputy Mayor George Cabral was campaigning in the last municipal election, he advised potential supporters that one of the reasons he was running for that position was to represent their interests at the county level, where both the mayor and deputy mayor have a seat.

It often ignited a spirited conversation.

"I can't recall any of the hundreds, if not thousands, of residents I spoke to, at their front doors, during that campaign that didn't wonder why two representatives were attending county when one seemed to make more sense to them," Cabral said in an email to BarrieToday. "While cost reduction was certainly a consideration for many, some suggested that leaner would mean more efficient, with fewer cooks involved," he added.

Well, fewer "cooks" may be overseeing the menu in the future.

Earlier this week, county council voted on adjusting the size of council from 32 members to 17, including a full-time, appointed warden.

The recorded vote finished in a 16-16 tie, with the weighted vote resulting in 88 in favour of reducing the size of council with 57 against.

To take effect, these decisions must still be approved through a triple-majority process.

Cabral says he's in favour of adjusting the size of county council, even though there may be some merit to maintaining the current size. "I will admit that there are some very good arguments, as provided by many learned county councillors in debating this issue, to remain status quo at 32," he said.

Essa Township's Mayor Sandie Macdonald and Deputy Mayor Michael Smith voted in favour of maintaining the status quo. Macdonald said there was not enough information available for her to make any other decision. "I'm a facts-based person," she

said. "There weren't enough answers to the questions councillors had. Without that, I had to support the status quo."

Oro-Medonte's Mayor Randy Greenlaw and Deputy Mayor Peter Lavoie said they were "indifferent to the size of council provided there are sufficient advantages provided for any changes to its size."

Responding to questions from BarrieToday together via email, Greenlaw and Lavoie said the group of councillors who supported the adjustment provided two benefits — a savings on council wages, which they say represents about \$1.50 per resident per year — and more efficiencies. "They did not provide what those efficiencies were," they said.

Greenlaw and Lavoie provided more than a dozen reasons why county council shouldn't be contracted, including the breadth of expertise among its current members, the advantage of "institutional knowledge," the importance of having two representatives available at the local municipality who have full knowledge of county affairs, and having sufficient councillors to fill the committee and board positions.

They also noted that a larger council improves the chances that the council will be more culturally representative of the electorate. "Reducing its size will, as council is currently constituted, make council less representative," they said.

Greenlaw and Lavoie said the current council size prevents overloading of the mayor position.

"In addition to the support needed at county, mayors will need more support at their local level to operate effectively," they said. "This will be particularly the case for smaller municipalities." They added that while local council positions are believed to be part-time, in the case of the mayor and deputy mayors, this may not hold true.

Springwater's Mayor Jennifer Coughlin is in favour of cutting county council's numbers in half. She sees it as a return to county council's roots. "I

think it's important to note that at the inception of the County of Simcoe council in 1843, one mayor, one reeve from every municipality would sit to make decisions," she said during a break in Wednesday night's township council meeting. "It wasn't until the 1990s, when amalgamation happened, that there was two (representatives) from each municipality. "It worked for over a hundred years," Coughlin added.

She says she doesn't support the suggestion that the workload for individual councillors would double if the size of council was cut in half. "I don't read half an agenda, I read the whole agenda," Coughlin said. "My workload is not going to double, but the cost to the taxpayers will be cut." According to a news release from the county, if the adjustment is approved, the elected mayors of the county's 16 member municipalities will serve as the default county representatives starting the next term of county council.

As proposed previously, the appointed full-time warden will be chosen by the incoming council among eligible electors who choose to put their name forward for the position.

The triple-majority process needed for the changes to take effect includes:

- approval by county council to proceed with the changes
- holding a public meeting to consider a draft bylaw that would change the composition of county council
- if the bylaw is ultimately passed by county council, it would then be sent to the 16 lower-tier member municipalities where a majority of their councils must consent to the bylaw (the majority of municipalities consenting must also represent a majority of electors in the county).

If approved, these decisions would take effect for the 2026-30 term. The current structure will continue for the remainder of the current term.

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Hendrie Forest ... a first of it's kind in Ontario

By Brian Keyes, Jan. 26, 2025

The first thing most visitors to the village of Anten Mills mention are all the beautiful trees. Following the clear cutting of forests in the late 1800s and early 1900s by the lumbering industry, the landscape of Vespra Township around Anten Mills looked like a wasteland. The light sandy soil was eroded by wind and rain. The stumps from the trees were eerie looking remnants that often caught on fire presenting hazards to local residents. On this poor land known as the Commons, local farmers used to graze their cattle on the grass that grew between the stumps. Under the direction of Ontario Premier E C Drury (from Crown Hill) and Chief Forester E J Zavitz the revised Reforestation Act was passed in 1921.

One thousand acres of land in Concession 7, bordered by Horseshoe Valley Road in the north, Nursery Road in the East, Hendrie Road in the south and Wilson

Drive in the west was acquired by local governments to become the Hendrie Tract. In 1922 this was the first reforestation project in Ontario under the new Act. Red Pine, Scotch Pine and Jack Pine followed by White Pine & Red Oak were planted. This was believed to be the only way to restore the health of the land. Today this crown jewel landmark provides a wonderful nature reserve on our doorstep for the residents and visitors of Anten Mills.

In 1922 the care & nurturing of the new forest was entrusted to a hard working man named Sidney Cox who was the first superintendent. Much work from planting new seedlings to building firebreaks was required while watching for fires, disease & insects. The Cox family lived in the Superintendent house that still partially stands just east of Wilson Drive/Horseshoe Valley Road (Currently the Vowels house). Sidney's son Arthur was also Superintendent after his father. Later Arthur Cox and his family moved to a house on the corner of Wilson/Horseshoe and fittingly beside Hendrie Forest.

The Hendrie Forest hosted a Reform Camp on Horseshoe Valley Road from 1960 to 1975 when it became a Jr. Rangers Girls Camp until 1975. Thinning operations have been ongoing over the years with softwood trees removed for pulpwood allowing the hardwood trees to grow. The once valuable water tower used for fire suppression was removed in 1950 when the trees became taller than the tower.

Today people use Hendrie Forest for snowmobiling and cross country skiing in the winter while in the

summer there are walkers, many with their dogs. The forest is also popular for off road vehicles year round.

In 1937 on the 15th anniversary a stone cairn was dedicated along Horseshoe Valley Road just west of Nursery Road near the spot of the first tree planting. If you have a minute, stop by to read the inscription and admire the full grown trees behind the cairn in Hendrie Forest.



Anten Mills

by Dennis Gannon

We have many talented people residing in our community. When we look at the offerings at the annual Autumn Artisans and Crafters Fair there are watercolour and oil painters. There are book writers and card makers. There are wood workers, knitters and people who make preserves. Interestingly enough we don't seem to have sculptures. There is one person in the village who has created a fabulous sculpture on their front lawn again this winter. Dennis Laycock has again this year built and sculpted a huge snowman. This is the third year that I have seen his creation and every year it gets bigger and better. There is a significant amount of work that goes into creating this piece. A base has to be created and maintained. There is the packing of the snow. The snow has to be the correct consistency and then there is the task of getting it up as high as the sculpture is. The temperature is always a challenge as we experienced a melt earlier that took out a big chunk of the work. Dennis has done a great job and if you are travelling along Horseshoe Valley Road have a look at the masterpiece. Knock on the door and see if you can take a selfie or family photo. After all, the Anten Mills snowman is a sight to see and hopefully it lasts until April.

The community ice rink is in full operation now. It took a little longer to get it going with the heavy snow dumps and the cold temperatures. There is a small core of volunteers who are keeping it up and we thank them for their support. Remember if you use it please shovel off any snow and everyone shares the rink at the same time.

One of the ways that funds are raised for our

community events is through the signboard along Wilson Drive. If you want to celebrate an occasion, birthday, anniversary or your business this is the place to have it seen. The rates are extremely reasonable and while Roslyn isn't fond of the snow, you can get your notice booked by emailing antenmillssign@gmail.com.

The Family Day long weekend will soon be here and you may be wondering what to do. There are no activities planned for our community but there is one that may be of interest and fun. The Springwater Vespra Lions Club has an evening event planned for Saturday, February 15 called Moonlit Trails and Fireside Tails. It's a 2.5 kilometre walk, hike, snowshoeing or skiing under the stars and with lanterns guiding the way. You can find out more by checking their Facebook page.

Our neighbours in Minesing are celebrating their 53rd annual Minesing Minifest the weekend of February 7 and 8. It's always a great weekend with events for the entire family. We have some serious euchre players in the community and on Friday night they are having a euchre tournament. Head over to the Minesing Facebook page for more details.

Our Anten Mills Community Facebook page is a valuable source for information related to our community. We have over 1500 members. In order to become a member there is a questionnaire that needs to be answered and the administrators do an excellent job at keeping out spam. There are some very important but simple rules that are needed for the benefit of everyone and you are encouraged to read them.

In case you aren't aware, Saturday, February 1 is

National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day. Instead of bacon and eggs or cereal why not have ice cream for breakfast. Certainly the kids would get a kick out of it. Sunday February 2 is Groundhog Day. Will we have 6 more weeks of Winter or is Spring around the corner?

This week Brian Keyes has an extremely informative story about how Anten Mills became a leader in forest rehabilitation. Make sure you read his article.

That's all for this week, as always THANKS for READING, BE WELL and STAY SAFE.



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Georgian College and Meta collaborate on intelligent tutoring system using AI

Imagine a personal mentor in the form of smart glasses connected to AI that can help you study throughout your entire college experience, or using a virtual reality (VR) headset to walk through a real-life scenario of what you just learned in class.

That's what's in store for Georgian College students through a new, cutting-edge collaboration with Meta. Georgian is among the first Canadian colleges to team up with global technology giant Meta to advance the development of Intelligent Tutoring Systems (ITS) using Generative AI (GenAI) and extended reality (XR).

At the forefront of innovative, hands-on learning, Georgian is using Meta's Llama 3 platform, one of the world's leading open source artificial intelligence (AI) large language models, to develop an intuitive AI tutor. The first courses in development are anatomy and physiology, with plans to expand to more programs.

"This ambitious model blending ITS with adaptive learning envisions a flipped classroom approach, where educators shift from delivering content to fostering case-based problem-solving and critical analysis," said Yael Katz, VP Academic, Georgian College. "Georgian's initiative could be the blueprint for education's next frontier, where student learning and learning assessment is dramatically enhanced with more visual, auditory and tactile experiences, combined with computer analytics."

Georgian has a long standing relationship with Meta, and has earned a reputation as an innovative and future-focused postsecondary institution through its unique and immersive programming.

"Georgian College is giving students a new way to experience course content that integrates naturally with their physical world," said Kevin Chan, Global

Policy Campaign Strategies Director at Meta. "We've seen Llama deployed across industries, from education and healthcare to start-ups and large enterprises. It's encouraging to see Georgian College innovate alongside some of the most forward-thinking companies, advancing student learning with AI, and preparing them for the future of work."

Meta provided Ray-Ban Meta glasses and financial support as part of a three-year collaboration. Now, through Georgian's Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship department and the Centre for Teaching and Learning, staff, faculty and students, led by Rob Theriault, Immersive Technology Manager, are developing three distinct phases of the project.

In phase 1, students will use the smart glasses with a forward-facing camera coupled with AI and computer vision to study and learn concepts for their courses. For example, a student studying anatomy can ask the AI to identify organs on an anatomical model and how they function. The AI draws on datasets from the course outline, syllabus, an open source textbook specified by the course professor and other open source datasets that have been vetted for validity and reliability.

In phase 2, students can use an augmented reality (AR) headset coupled with AI to ask further questions about course material they wish to understand better. In response, the platform can provide visual personalized material, such as animated graphs within the student's field of view.

Finally, in phase 3, students might ask a question that requires an auditory, visual and tactile experience. The AI might suggest that the student don their VR headset to view computer-generated 3D content created in real time. For example, an animated patient on a ventilator in the intensive care unit appears and the student can have a conversation with the AI about the patient's clinical presentation. They would also be able to pick up a stethoscope to listen to the patient's chest. All of this combined, helps better prepare students for what they'll encounter in the workforce.

"This uniquely adaptive, interactive learning platform promises to push students through all levels of learning, from basic recall to higher-order analytical skills," said Rob Theriault. "We're very excited to embark on this multi-year applied research project to discover and develop Intelligent Tutoring Systems which will ultimately transform the way students learn and the way learning is assessed."

The Georgian research team for this project consists of students, faculty and staff, including Clinton D'Almeida, Swaroop Sanjeev Ingavale, Laleh Khodaparast, Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Sean Madorin, Sweta Jitendra Pandit, Dr. Mira Ray, Andrea Vargas, Dacorie Smith, Yash Solanki, Rob Theriault, Alina Viju, and Brunilda Xhaferllari.

Learn more about Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Georgian.



Photo 1: Some members of Georgian College's research team who are leading an intelligent tutoring system project with Meta, are inside the research lab to program the Ray-Ban Meta Smart Glasses they're wearing with anatomy course curriculum to aid in student learning. From left to right: Andrea Vargas, Sanjeev Kumar, Rob Theriault, Dr. Sean Madorin, Clinton D'Almeida and Alina Viju.

Bay Shore Seniors Club's 50th Anniversary



Submitted by Lorri Watson, Jan. 15, 2025. Bay Shore Seniors Club's hosted their 50th Anniversary Open House on January 1st, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. There were guest speakers, Barrie's Poet Laureate, and our Time Capsule. It was a celebration and a kick off a year for the exciting monthly events.

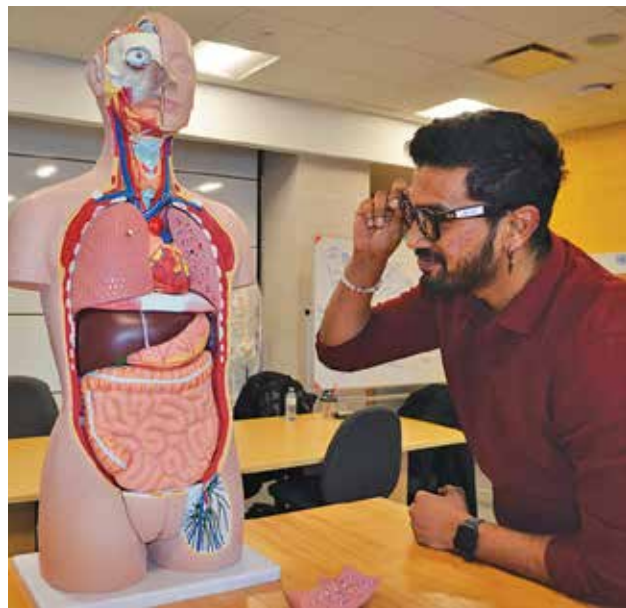


Photo 2: Georgian College student researcher Clinton D'Almeida uses his Ray-Ban Meta Smart Glasses to study the function of the heart in the anatomical model.



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A message from Doug Shipley



As your federal Member of Parliament, I work to keep you informed on what the federal government is up to in Ottawa. While I am always happy to answer your questions about policy, a significant part of my job is to help constituents navigate federal government programs and services.

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

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- Any other federal matters

How we can help is determined on a case-by-case basis, so the best thing to do is contact my office by telephone or email to discuss your specific situation. Then we can let you know what steps we might be able to take to assist you.

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you.
Sincerely,
Doug Shipley
Member of Parliament
Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte

Ontario Expanding Access to Palliative Care in Barrie

Two New hospice beds in Barrie will connect more people to end-of-life care close to home

Submitted by office of MPP Doug Downey, January 24, 2025

BARRIE — The Ontario government is connecting more people in the Barrie to comfortable and dignified end-of-life care, close to their community and loved ones by adding 2 new hospice beds at Hospice Simcoe. This is part of an expansion of 84 new adult hospice beds across the province, bringing the total number of publicly funded hospice beds in Ontario to 768. “This funding will ensure that more residents in Barrie and the surrounding areas have access to dignified end-of-life care,” said Doug Downey, MPP for Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte. “These additional beds will ensure that Hospice Simcoe is able to meet the growing needs of our community and continue to provide the compassionate care that has affected so many families.” “Our government is ensuring people have access to the complete care that they need in their

community, close to their loved ones and families, at every stage of life,” said Andrea Khanjin, MPP for Barrie-Innisfil. “This investment will provide Hospice Simcoe with two additional hospice beds, bringing the total of hospice beds to 12.” This expansion is part of the province’s up to \$19.75 million capital investment to add 84 new adult hospice beds across the province, bringing the total number of publicly funded hospice beds in Ontario to 768. When these 84 new beds are open, the province will provide an additional up to \$16.03 million per year to support the operation of these beds.

“Our government is ensuring people and their families have access to the comprehensive care they need in their community, close to their loved ones, at every stage of life,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “By investing in the expansion of end-of-life care in communities across the province, we are taking another step to

connect Ontarians to compassionate and specialized care closer to home.” Once opened, these new adult hospice beds will bring the total number of beds at Hospice Simcoe to 12.

As a next step, the ministry is working with Hospice Simcoe – Seasons Centre to complete early planning and design for this project. Once future planning is complete and the project is tendered and awarded, a construction schedule will be confirmed. Through the Ontario government’s Your Health plan, the province is making it easier and faster for people of all ages to connect to the care they need, where and when they need it. This includes investing up to \$147.4 million over three years to expand access to palliative care services, including increasing funding by 45 per cent for all hospice beds across the province, with additional increases for hospice beds in smaller sites of six beds or less.

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A Memorable Journey Through Helsinki and Stockholm by the Elmvale Coyote U15 Nordic Team

Written by: Chrissy Forigo, Jan. 20, 2025

This past Dec/Jan the EMHA U15 Nordic Team had the incredible opportunity to explore two of Northern Europe's most captivating capitals: Helsinki, Finland, and Stockholm, Sweden. Each city offered a unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty, making this trip an unforgettable experience.

The team played 4 games in Finland against Espoo where we quickly learned that Finnish hockey places a premium on defensive structure, fast-paced play, and physicality. The Elmvale Coyotes came out hungry for each win and walked away with scores reflecting just that. The final scores ended up as 15-0, 4-1, 6-3 and 6-2 which left us undefeated but also showcased the players ability to adapt and overcome unique challenges travelling brings to the game.

The players and families then boarded the Sija Cruise Ship on a trip across the Baltic Sea. The next morning the Coyotes were headed straight to the rink in Stockholm Sweden. Värmdö was our next opponent and met us with the warmest of welcomes. Hockey parents and players from this center were awaiting our arrival with warm drinks, Swedish cookies, candies and a bbq lunch. The players dressing rooms were adorned with New Years decorations and healthy snacks for each player. The warm feeling of hospitality and excitement filled the cold air as we geared up to play two more games. Unfortunately, Varmdo was a tough opponent and they were able to sneak in the wins resulting in a 7-4 and 3-2 loss for the Coyotes.

The next day the Coyotes travelled to two different centers Jarna and Farsta. These centers also went out of their way to make sure that players and families felt welcomed and at ease. Jarna offered delicious baked goods and Farsta prepared a traditional meal for parents and players to enjoy. Elmvale played a great game against Jarna and won 6-0. The game against Farsta ended as a 3-1 loss but the score did not reflect the hard work shown throughout the game by all the players.

While in Stockholm the Coyotes welcomed in the new year in the center of the city watching an unforgettable display of fireworks. We visited Old town in Gamla Stan, the Vasa Museum and the Avicci Experience. The cobbled streets and colourful buildings captivated our hearts and will forever be etched into our memories.

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We would like to thank all our silver, bronze sponsors and community partners and supporters and all those who helped with this event over the last two years. We are extremely grateful to have had this experience and could not have done it without each and every one of you. These young players will continue to share their memories and carry forward the spirit of this kindness that they have been shown by this incredible community.



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Bearbells

by Leslie Noonan

January 17/25

I always keep my snowshoes and poles in my car, as you never know when you will happen upon a place to stop and get some fresh air. My husband and I were driving back from London along highway 89 when I recalled a place where I used to cross-country ski, and a quick twist of the steering wheel brought us up Airport Road instead of out to the 400 highway. Here we are, at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre on Airport Road in Dufferin

County. If you are coming here for the first time, make sure you are going to the Outdoor Centre and not the Mansfield Ski Club which is across the highway.

The parking lot was fairly full, and even this late in the day people were still heading out onto the trails in cross country gear and on fat bikes. There is over thirty kilometers of trails to explore and most of them begin with the monster hill that I remember scrambling up, and sliding down, when

I was young and fit. With only two hours of day light left, it would take me that long just to get up that behemoth!! Luckily, the dedicated snow shoe trail avoided it and spared the world the sight of me huffing and puffing up that hill. Instead we followed the pink trail around the parking lot and out to flat ground.

The trails are clearly marked and easy to follow, at least they should be. I blame the minus 30 temperatures for freezing my brain and dulling my senses. The trail split in two and my husband pointed out the right hand trail, but me being the great outdoorswoman disagreed and headed down the left hand trail. Like I said, frozen brain. The trail was well groomed, which should have been my first indication that I was going the wrong way. Nope. We followed the trail through snowy fields with that frigid wind blowing around us, and through a bare campground deep under the snow. The Pine River flowed past, shallow and fast with thin ice on its edges. This would be a beautiful area in the summer, private with just a few camp sites surrounded by forest. We continued on, following the river bank for a short distance until the trail ends at a small turn around. By now I was fed up with snowshoeing on a firm groomed trail and stopped to take off my snowshoes and carried them back to the parking lot.

It was too late now, with dusk coming on, to follow the correct snowshoe trail out on the lovely snow covered trail that was more what I was hoping for. With regret we left for home, and my husband never even gloated about my mistake. Thanks hunny! Once home I looked at the on-line map and saw that we had left the pink trail and headed down the two kilometer orange trail. Apparently the cold had affected my eye sight. If we had followed the pink trail, we would have gone two and a half kilometers through the forest with some uphill sections. Well, it just means that I have a reason to return in the future, when the temperature is less icy and my brain less frozen.



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As tax hike looms, residents stay silent at Midland budget public meeting

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: MidlandToday.ca, Jan 17, 2025

Joking that he “lost money on that bet” as no one spoke up at a public meeting regarding Midland’s upcoming 2025 budget, Mayor Bill Gordon later noted that nearly 500 residents did provide input through the budget survey.

In anticipation of the upcoming three days of budget deliberations, a public meeting was scheduled for the recent regular meeting of council. A dozen attendees sat in the audience as preliminary council agenda items were addressed one by one.

Gordon began with casual introductions to four public meetings in the agenda, starting “with the most important one which I think we probably have folks in the house for,” being the 2025 budget.

Expecting attendance at the podium, Gordon told the crowd that council “are effectively all ears and pens.” He added, “I’m so happy that there’s people here this time; we had nobody last year – sorry, one drunk guy came in.”

Parking study parked as Penetanguishene staff go for second look

By: Derek Howard, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Source: MidlandToday.ca, Jan 22, 2025

When it comes to parking in Penetanguishene, politicians are picky about pickup trucks.

More specifically, the issues of size, space, blockage of sight lines at the top of Main Street, and sticking out into traffic as a hazard were brought up as concerns that council members had during two reports surrounding a town parking study and its recommendations.

Parking availability was just one concern held by town council from previous years when exploring the town dock renovation project which anticipated a redesign with potential cost of \$8 million over the next 10 to 15 years.

Whereas consultants had recommended greater green space areas for the redesign, the community and council countered that parking availability was a greater need; the discussion precipitated an overall parking study for further information.

An October 2024 parking strategy study was presented at the recent committee of the whole meeting through LEA Consulting Ltd. senior vice-president Christopher Sidlar. The study looked to the downtown area and town dock, and provided recommendations on optimizations, enforcement, and future planning.

Two weekends were spent surveying the boat launch, in May and in July of 2024, which observed how full the estimated 146 passenger vehicle spaces and 55 vehicle with boat-trailer spaces occupied. The strategy study suggested that only 109 vehicle spaces (37 space decrease) and 53 trailer spaces (2 space decrease) were needed due to non-peak demand, with further suggestion that any overflow could park further up in the downtown.

Deputy Mayor Dan La Rose challenged the suggestion, calling himself a large user of the boat launch area and having witnessed peak capacity. “How would that affect our parking?” asked La Rose. “(If parked on Main Street), then we have the businesses saying ‘now it’s more of a problem because I’ve got all these people parked for four hours’. And

While laying out the rules but playfully reiterating that no one would be kicked out for doubling on another’s comments or speaking to a previously submitted written comment, Gordon asked if any one would like to approach the podium.

One audience member cleared their throat in the silence. Laughter followed.

“Nobody’s here for the budget meeting?” asked Gordon to further laughter. “Okay. I’m a little depressed because I really was optimistic, because literally last year somebody staggered in by accident.”

After learning no one had registered online, he said: “I thought this was going to be the year.” “Anybody want to take a stab at it now that you’re thinking about it? Budget?” Gordon prompted to more laughs. “Taxes are going up, I guarantee you that. You want any say, (or) just trust us to spend your tax dollars wisely?” When no one spoke up, Gordon said, “Thank you for that vote of confidence.”

In fact, none of the attendees spoke to any of the four public meetings which surprised Gordon, who admitted, “I lost money on that bet.”

Many filed out shortly after the public meetings concluded.

After the meeting, MidlandToday asked Gordon what the benefit was of having residents contribute to annual budget discussions. “I can take some solace in the fact that we had a record number of respondents to our budget survey this year,” said Gordon. “Surveys

then your (solution) to that is... to hire more staff to ticket more cars; and then you want us to get into a shuttle bus system for a tour boat.”

Sidlar replied that the focus of passenger vehicle overflow could go to underutilized parking lots. “It is a spreading of the demand during that peak hour, but not in a way of having trucks and trailers being spread across the on-street parking,” he said. “Rather than (passenger vehicles) being parked specifically at the town dock, they may be 400 or 500 metres away from the town dock at that point.”

Coun. Suzanne Marchand praised the study and its recommendations, and pointed out that the town’s annual Winterama festival had closed off access to the town dock entirely in previous years with visitors still able to find parking and attend.

Angled parking on Main Street were recommended for restrictions if vehicles exceeded 5.4 metres (or roughly 17 ¾ feet) in length; further recommendations would have the initial three spaces at the top near Robert Street removed in the long term.

Later in the meeting, the study recommendations were brought for consideration and bylaw changes to be ratified for a future council meeting. However, discussion became lengthy as council members each held views around pickup truck length restrictions in on-street parking spots.

Council recommendations included hosting a public information session, separating the town dock component, and more. As a solution to the confusion, La Rose suggested that the study be deferred back to the planning and community development services section, to return in an upcoming committee of the whole meeting; it was approved.

The parking strategy study and recommendations can be located on the agenda page of the Town of Penetanguishene website.

Meetings of Penetanguishene council are held on the second Wednesday of each month, and can be watched live on Rogers TV cable 53 when available, or on the Rogers TV website.

Archives of council meetings are located on the Town of Penetanguishene YouTube channel.

typically have low uptake, so we really did get good feedback and a good number of respondents; almost 500.”

Admitting that public meetings could sometimes be intimidating at the podium and that greater attendance was usually reserved when meetings involved neighbours surrounding a contentious matter, as seen with the recent Yonge Street development attendance, Gordon said that providing questions and comments online was a better option for some. “I jokingly said (during tonight’s meeting): it’s either a sign of confidence and endorsement that there’s enough good eggs on council that we’re managing expenses as best we can, and we’re doing a good job explaining it throughout the year leading up to this,” said Gordon, “or it’s just complete apathy and people just figure we’re going to do whatever we want anyway so why talk to us. I’m hoping it’s not the latter.”

Information on the 2025 draft budget is available on the town website, with Gordon encouraging residents to bring their comments and concerns through the portal for finance staff to receive and properly address.

Council meetings are held every third Wednesday, and can be viewed on Rogers TV cable channel 53 when available, or through the livestream on the Rogers TV website. Archives of council meetings are available through Rogers TV and on the Town of Midland’s YouTube channel.

What's the Rules on Passing Working Snowplows

Submitted by OPP Southern Georgian Bay Detachment, January 21, 2025

(MIDLAND, ON) - Roads in North Simcoe have seen their share of snow so far this winter season and the plow operators have been out doing a great job. How many times have we witnessed an impatient driver pass a snow plow and nearly cause a collision!

Did you know that in September 2023 Ontario passed a law making it illegal to pass a working snow plow. The law was changed to reduce unsafe passing maneuvers and collisions.

What is the law you ask?

- Drivers can't pass snow plows working in echelon formation on multi-lane roads or highways with a speed limit of 80 km/h or more
- Drivers can only pass if the lane is completely clear of any part of the plow, including its blade

Could I be get a ticket for passing a working snow plow?

- YES! Drivers who pass a working snow plow illegally could face a fine ranging from \$150 to \$1,000
- Other charges could include stunt driving, careless driving, and dangerous driving
- A driver's license could be suspended and their vehicle could be impounded.

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WYEVALE NEWS

Submitted by Karen Moreau, Jan. 27, 2025

Wyevalle United Church: We gather for worship every Sunday for worship at 10:00 a.m. Sunday school is provided. All are welcome. Bible Study: Every Wednesday at 2pm in the church basement. The Book of Revelations is being studied. All are welcome. **Youth Group:** Students from Grade 2 to 8 are welcome from 7 to 9 pm. A donation of a toonie to cover snack costs would be welcomed. Contact Pat 705-543-9043 for more information.

Annual Congregational: Feb 9 after service.

We will have a potluck lunch after service. Fundraising Committee: Is looking for suggestions on fundraisers for the year. Please pass your ideas-- even crazy ones to Pat, Sandy, or Kim. **Pickle Ball:** Registration for Pickle ball in open to the public on Feb. 3rd @ 12:00 p.m. Spots are limited. Please contact www.tiny.ca The program is held in the Wyebridge Community Hall in Wyebridge. The Wyevalle rink is now open. Enjoy it while you can. I read a post on Facebook, “only 45 days until the sunsets at 7:00 p.m. and I can’t wait. Thinking of all those who have lost loved ones during these past few weeks. Many Happy returns to those who have been Celebrating Birthdays.

Next submission February 10th, 2025

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 gsseniors2016@rogers.com

MONDAY

Midland Jam

Mondays 6:30-10 pm Free, Bring food bank item,
1st come, first 15 minute play
Midland Cultural Centre, 333 King St, Midland

Elmvale Seniors Drop In

Monday's
10 am - 12 noon
Elmvale Library. Call Lynn for info, 705.322.3309

Bid Euchre

Elmvale Community Hall 1 pm - 4 pm
Every Monday.
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
Fun Fit Circuit, 9:15-10:15am
Coffee Break, 10:30-12pm
Intro to Line Dancing- Baby Steps, 10:35-11am
Walking Club, 11 am-12pm

TUESDAY

Elmvale Legion

Tuesdays at 1 pm
Table Shuffleboard, Cost \$1

Palace Tavern Elmvale BINGO

Every Tuesday night
Midland Rotary proceeds 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Barrie Rotary proceeds 8 pm to 9:30 pm

Bay Shore Seniors Club

Billiards/Pool 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.
Indoor Pickleball 1:00 - 2:30 pm
Bid-Euchre – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Georgian Shores Seniors Club

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

Askennonia Seniors Centre

Badminton, 1pm-3pm
1:30 Circle of Friends, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Probus Club of Simcoe North

Penetang Legion, Poyntz St., Penetanguishene
Monthly meeting for fun & fellowship every second
Tuesday. Mary Grise (705)526-6349 marygrise0@
gmail.com

WEDNESDAY

Bay Shore Seniors Club

LifeStyles - 9:00 - 10:30 am
Bridge – 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Access Art - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m
Indoor Pickleball - 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Georgian Shores Seniors Club

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

Askennonia Seniors Centre

Step Class, 9 am-10am
Chair Yoga, 9:30am-10:30am
Cribbage, 10am-11am
Men's Shed, 10am-12pm
Walking Club, 11am-12pm
Creative Crafting, 1pm-3pm

THURSDAY

Jam Night Elmvale Palace

Thursdays at 9 am-1am
13 Queen St. W, Elmvale , 705-322-1741

Probus Club of Simcoe North

Meetings monthly 2nd Thurs. 10 a.m
For women & men in retirement or semi-retirement.
Penetang Legion, 2 Poyntz St.
Mary Grise 705-526-6349 marygrise0@gmail.com

Coffee Party

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

Bay Shore Seniors' Club

Choir 10-11:30 am
Book Club (4th Thurs) 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Darts 2:00 - 4:00 pm
2000 Tiny Beaches Road S., Woodland Beach
Call 705-361-1331 or info@bayshoreseniors.ca

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

FRIDAY

Bay Shore Seniors' Club

VON Smart Exercise (FREE) 9:30 - 10:30 am
Woodcarving 10:00 - 3:00 pm
Billiards/Pool 10:00 - 12:00 pm
Indoor Pickleball 10:30 - 12:00 pm/ 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Shuffleboard 1:00 - 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
Drumming Alive, 9am-10am
Pickleball, 9am-11:30am
Chair Yoga, 9am-10am
Badminton, 9:30am-11:30am
Game Club, 10am-11am
Tabata, 9am-10am
Card Making, 1pm-3pm

SATURDAY

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)

SUNDAY

Bay Shore Seniors' Club

Indoor Pickleball 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Good Vibes

First Sunday 2-5 from 2 to 5 p.m.
An open-mic music event. For winter months,
relocated to Hackney Horse Bed & Breakfast, 3276
Penetanguishene Rd. near Craighurst. \$5 donation,
tea, coffee & baking at a small extra cost.

MONDAY to FRIDAY

S.M.A.R.T Exercise Program with V.O.N.

Mon 9:30-10:30am
1724 Mosley St - Hall 1A Recplex gym
Wed & Fri 1:00 - 2:00 pm 44 River Road West
Re/Max Room (Stars Arena)

Low Impact Gentle Fitness Program

VON SMART Program
Adults 55+ FREE
Mon. 9am @ Springwater Room (arena)
Wed. 9am @ Elmvale Community Hall
Fri. 11am @ Elmvale Community hall
Also available – pole walking at Heritage Park on
Wednesdays 9:15am
Times and locations all subject to change.
Bring good support (running) shoes and water

Call 705-355-2200 to register or walk ins

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 Gail Chapman @ 705-361-9222 or
northsimcoebridge@gmail.com.

Ganaraka Hiking Club-Wasaga Beach

Wed hikes 09:15-09:30am at various locations,
year round. Also a casual hike, same time. Winter
can be snowshoes. Weekly, hikes **Sunday 1:30pm**
from a park near Foodland, WB. Weekly, Monday
morning bike tours from various locations. Seasonal.
Please contact Lorraine for info. 416-606-5081. Or
lorvanvlymen@gmail.com

Special Events - One Time

MCC Presents: Jack De Keyzer

February 1st at 8:00pm
Two-time Juno and 7X Maple Blues winner, Blue
Star recording artist Jack de Keyzer returns to
MCC with his band for the 2025 Blues Powered
tour. midlandculturalcentre.com

Porch Sitter Workshop

Feb. 3, 2025 1-3pm
St. Paul's Anglican Church, 5 Noraline Avenue,
Midhurst
Paint a Love themed Porch Sitter 10" x 36".
Cost \$10 Members. \$15 Guests.
Contact: Betsy Waterson, Please register at
littlerockimages@simcoe.net or 705-727-7389

Online Safety Lunch and Learn

Feb. 5, 2025 from 11-2pm
Free lunch and learn with Gateway to learn about
online safety!
Askennonia Senior Centre,
527 Len Self Blvd Midland

MCC Presents: Moulettres

February 6th at 8:00pm
Cellist and Songwriter, Hannah Moule, leads
the ever-evolving folk/progressive collective,
MOULETTES – all the way from England!
midlandculturalcentre.com

Tim Hicks and Sam Roberts Band

Feb. 7, 2025
Wasaga Stars Arena
Tickets are on sale now through Ticketmaster and
at wbse.ca. Prices range from \$80 to \$125 (plus fees
and taxes).

Valen-Wine

Feb. 13, 2025 2-3pm
Live music by Dylan Lock, one free drink, only \$20
for members \$25 for guests
Askennonia Senior Centre, 527 Len Self Blvd,
Midland

Lov'in in a Small Town

live with Graham Scott Fleming
Fri. Feb. 14, 2025 8pm-10pm
Elmvale Community Recreation Association
Tickets \$35, go to facebook to purchase:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjsFg-qw4e_7-bZ47zkqIdV8pW0QPN7A_HLnNwpBRc_j0wSA/viewform

Valentine Dinner

Feb. 14, 2025 -6-8pm
Midhurst United Church, 91 Doran Road
Fine dining. Gluten free options available. Limited
seating. Donations.
Call 705.722.6331 to reserve tickets

Georgian Shores Seniors Club

February 20, from 1 to 3 pm.
The Place, 300 Balm Beach Road West, Tiny
Open House - all welcome
Visit the many activities on display,
705 526 5074 Georgianshoresseniorsclub.ca

MCC Presents: Molly's Comedy Cabaret

March 2nd at 2:00pm
A musical variety show blending Wilson's
powerhouse vocals with comedy, camp, and a
mix of beloved Broadway, pop, and rock hits for
a cocktail of deliciously funny entertainment.
midlandculturalcentre.com

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by request

Call Francis 705-322-1741

to check availability

Ontario Energy Rebate

Submitted on request from office of MPP Doug Downey, Jan. 15, 2025

There is an Ontario Energy Rebate program for upgrades to your home insulation, heat pumps, windows and a few others. There is a link below with more information on how the rebate program works and how to know if you are eligible. You will first need to schedule an initial home energy assessment. This is done by a registered energy advisor and will generate a list of recommended upgrades for your home. You may then choose your own contractor to install your desired upgrades. Once completed, you will then need to schedule a follow up energy assessment in order to receive your rebates. In this, you will be reimbursed the \$600 fee for the energy assessment.

<https://ontarioenergyrebates.com/#howitworks>

https://www.enbridgegas.com/ontario/rebates-energy-conservation/home-efficiency-rebate#section_2

Please see below link for more information on all the new and current energy programs offered in Ontario.

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1005539/ontarios-new-and-expanded-energy-efficiency-programs>

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AUCTION NOTICES



Bryant Estate Moving Auction - Paris

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Upcoming Auctions

- Gloster Moving Auction - Ancaster (Feb 16 - 20)
- Winter Thaw Multi-Consignor Auction - Guelph (Feb 23 - 27)
- Iron & Grit Equipment Auction - Maple (Mar 2 - 6)
- The Big Catch: Turnkey Fishing Business Inventory (Mar 2 - 6)

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EVENTS

Put Your Thinking Caps On



February 19, 2025

Elmvale Legion
7 John Street

Organize your own team of 6 (please reserve a table) or join a team when you arrive at the Legion
Call 705-322-1042

7 pm - 9 pm

\$5.00 per person

Closure notice for Elmvale Lifelabs Nurse is on vacation Feb 10-14 2025

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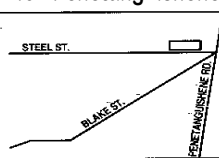
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PENETANG KINGS DROP THREE IN A ROW

The Penetang Kings remain in fourth place in the Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League after dropping three games played between January 16th and 24th.

Submitted by Jamie Robillard

On Thursday January 16th the Kings travelled to Stayner and came out on the short end of a close 3-1 score to the third place Siskins. Ashton Kirwin scored the lone goal for Penetang. Landon Simec turned aside 31 of the 33 shots he faced in the Kings goal, while Penetang fired 32 shots at Stayner netminder Chad Walker. Stayner's third goal was to go into a vacated Kings net with only 22 seconds remaining in regulation time. The Kings player of the game was Ashton Kirwin.

On Saturday January 18th the Kings faced the first place Alliston Hornets on home ice and were outclassed by a 10-2 score. Penetang goal scorers were Cole Rumbolt and Owen Fuller who each scored third period markers once the game was well in hand for the Hornets. King's goaltender Simec made 66 saves on the 76 shots fired his way. Penetang had 35 shots on Alliston goalie Seth Ronan. Alliston led 3-0 after the first period and 5-0 after two stanzas. The Kings player of the game was awarded to Owen Fuller.

Penetang managed to come out of a road game in Bracebridge on Friday January 24th with one point as they dropped a 4-3 overtime decision to the Muskoka Bears. Noah Saye led the Kings' offence with a pair of goals while Fuller netted one goal in the loss. Former King Owen Van Dusen scored in overtime for the Bears to send the home crowd home happy. Owen Moreau took the loss in the Penetang nets making 24 saves. For Moreau it was his first start with the Kings after being acquired earlier in the month from the Midland Flyers. Penetang fired 40 shots at Bears netminder Gabriel Donohue. For this two goal effort Noah Saye was awarded the Kings player of the game (no photo available).

The Kings now go on the road for three games beginning January 31st in Innisfil followed by a February 2nd game in Midland against the Flyers and then finally a February 5th game against the Hornets in Alliston. The next home game for the Kings at the Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre is on Friday February 7th against the Orillia Terriers followed by a Saturday February 8th game against the Huntsville Otters. Both games begin at 8:00 pm.

Notes: The standings after the games played on January 25th have the Alliston Hornets leading the division with 65 points followed by Orillia with 53

points, Stayner with 50 points and Penetang with 33 points in 33 games. Huntsville is fifth with 28 followed by Innisfil with 27 Midland 16 and Muskoka 10 points respectively. Photos courtesy of Russell Zmijowskyj.



Thursday January 16 at Stayner
• Player of the Game - Ashton Kirwin



Friday January 18 vs. Alliston
• Player of the Game - Owen Fuller
Friday January 24 at Muskoka
• Player of the Game - Noah Saye
(no headshot available)



Ashton Kirwin Pots One

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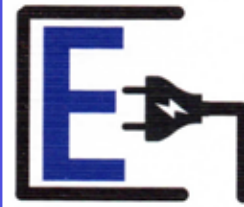
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Owen Moreau Finds the Puck Through Traffic

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Angelos Ntavanangelis and Victoria Fitzgerald went to Athens Greece and are shown with the North Simcoe Springwater News

Winterfest at The Place

In celebration of winter, volunteers of Georgian Shores Seniors Club decorated the entrance and the main hall with spruce trees, snowshoes, skis and snowmen. Members and guests enjoyed the winter atmosphere indoors with a delightful dinner of schnitzel, potato pancakes and sauerkraut with apple cake for dessert. Dancing and door prizes followed concluding a delightful evening.

For more information visit Georgianshoreseniorsclub.ca.



Curling "witches" flew into the Elmvale Curling Club

A coven of curling "witches" flew into the Elmvale Curling Club on Saturday, January 11 for the annual ECC women's bonspiel: "Not the Scotties". Eight teams from Elmvale, Coldwater, Stayner, Midland, Penetanguishene and Creemore competed for cash prizes in two draws.

Team Brinkmann (Vicki Marianchuk, Brigette Quesnelle, Betty Lou Rothwell, Leanna Foster) from Midland prevailed in the 1st Draw and Elmvale's own Team Kenney (Diane Kenney, Mary Lynn Vander Wielen, Gwen Tjart, Carol McMann) were victorious in the 2nd Draw. Congratulations to all!

All participants, volunteers and spectators embraced this year's "Wicked" theme enthusiastically!

Thanks to Bryan Wilson of IceHoss Curling and Courtney Ross for their kind prize donations of a Goldline Curling Broom and curling themed door mat!



Elmvale curling club
fun with friends
WATERSIDE RETIREMENT LODGE FRIDAY SENIOR STANDINGS @ ELMVALE CURLING CLUB

	RECORD	POINTS
TEAM MADORE	3-0-1	17.0
TEAM MURPHY	2-0-2	15.5
TEAM McCLUNG	2-2-0	12.0
TEAM KENNEY	1-2-1	11.0
TEAM HUTH	2-1-0	10.5
TEAM JOHNSTONE/BELCOURT	2-1-0	10.0
TEAM TOWNES	2-2-0	10.0
TEAM ALLEN	0-2-2	10.0
TEAM SCOTT	1-3-0	8.5
TEAM DON	1-2-0	8.0
TEAM MARSHALL	1-2-0	7.5



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OBITUARIES



BELESKEY, Ronald Derwood

Passed away peacefully at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie on Saturday, January 18, 2025. Ron Beleskey of Hillsdale in his 80th year. Dear husband of Linda Beleskey (nee Ball). Beloved father of Jim

(Dianne), Travis, and Brandy (Dave) Reynolds. Loved grandfather of Jordyn, Taylor, Kaitlyn, Kurt, Dawson, Nisa, Cole, and Samantha. Brother of Joe (late Helen), late Mary (survived by Ed), John (Helen), David (Leanne), and brother-in-law of Evelyn (Gerry).

In keeping with Ron's wishes, there will not be a funeral service.

If desired memorial donations may be made to the Salvation Army in Barrie.

Heaven Your Home

*Your time on earth has come and gone
And yet the memories will linger on
You've made your mistakes, as have we all
It's not what will be remembered
when God will call
Just know that you are very loved
Forever past the clouds above
Husband, Father and a son
You will be so missed while you are gone
So go to loved ones and be not alone
For now, you will call, Heaven your Home
-Love your son, Travis*

Annie's Journal

by Annie Warner Donnelly



Hello everyone. It's true. There's a lot of unrest in the world.

In Luke 21:8-11 Jesus tells us, "When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away ...

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven."

We may not be in a position to bring peace to the world, but we can know the One who can bring peace to our hearts and minds. His name is Jesus. In John 14:25-27, Jesus tells us, "All this I have spoken while still with you, but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

In John 16:33, Jesus said, "I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble but take heart, I have overcome the world."

Jesus' death and resurrection did for us what we cannot do for ourselves. In Him, we can have life everlasting and right now, in this moment, we can have the peace that passes all understanding, the peace that only Jesus can provide.

We only need faith the size of a mustard seed – that's a small amount of faith! He will do the rest. In Isaiah 26:3, we read that when we trust Him steadfastly, He will keep us in perfect peace.

The Bible provides testimonies of people living then, and we can hear testimonies of people living now. Each testimony is evidence that the peace Jesus gives to us is not a myth or a pleasant story. His peace is real. He can provide it in every situation we face. Let's increase our trust in Him today. He won't disappoint us. Amen.



Elmvale Legion Ladies Auxilliary
Presents
HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY
♥ DAY ♥
SPAGHETTI DINNER and DANCE
Elmvale Legion Branch 262
5:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Happy Hour @ 5 pm - 6 pm
Dinner @ 6 pm
DJ Dance @ 8 pm - 11:00 pm
Tickets - \$25.00 per person
Purchase tickets at the Legion
or by calling 705-322-1042

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OBITUARIES



CRADDOCK, PAUL JAMES "SHOE"
September 23, 1957 – January 13, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we let you know that Paul James Craddock of Elmvale has died after a brief illness. Paul has been married and loved deeply for 43 years to Debbie (nee King), the love of his life. Together they made a home and raised their children in the most amazing community that a family can belong to. Love is shown in many ways and Paul has loved his family beyond measure. He truly believed that his greatest accomplishments were his children and he was proud to hold beautiful relationships with each of them. His daughter, Jessica-Lynn, her husband Adam Kuypers and son Marc will forever miss his advice and expertise. The pride he felt for his grandchildren was tenfold as many know. Ella, Harry, Ben and Rosey Kuypers and Paisley and Linden Craddock are heartbroken that he is no longer with them, but they are looking forward to hearing stories about their cherished Pops for years to come. Please, if you meet them share a special memory that you have. Paul will be missed by his mother Annette Martin (the late Harvey), siblings Ken (Marilyn), Angie, Janice (Roger Spence), Gerry, Stephen (Ann) and his in-laws, Michelle (Willie) Schepers and Chuck (Tanya) King. Shoe is predeceased by his father Russell "Chief" Craddock. Also predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Nelson and Ruth King. He enjoyed the company of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbours and oh so many friends.

As a father he encouraged sports, music and fun with his kids. Annual family camping trips are cherished memories with special friends and family. Being a Pops has given him the opportunity to enjoy many of the same traditions with his grandkids. He loved to watch them at hockey, soccer, baseball, music and dance recitals.

Paul shared a special bond with so many people through hockey, baseball, horseshoes, golf, broomball, lacrosse, pickleball, and football. His kids think the shorter list would be sports that he wasn't involved with. His passion was coaching, and he acted in that role for over 40 years with Elmvale Minor Hockey Association where he has made lifelong friends with generations of players and their families who still call him "Coach" to this day. Paul worked at General Tire in Barrie until it closed, and after a short stint with Rowntree Coffee, he attained his Gas Fitters licence and found a second passion. He worked for Scott's Heating, R & S Heating and more recently kept busy on his own maintaining fireplaces and furnaces in Elmvale and beyond. He was well respected in the industry being called on to diagnose problems that more seasoned technicians couldn't.

The life of this extraordinary guy was celebrated on Saturday, January 18th, from 1 pm – 5 pm at the Elmvale Lions Club Hall, #1979 Flos Rd. 7 West, Elmvale. Eulogies will begin at 3:30 pm.

If you wish to offer a memorial donation, know that Paul would appreciate donations to any of the following:

- Celiac Canada (He has grandchildren living with Celiac)
- Jumpstart (He believed that every kid should be able to play a sport)
- Ball Park Maintenance Fund (To support relighting the Elmvale Ball Park)
- Cheques can be mailed, if not received by Lynn-Stone Funeral Home, to: Tanya King, 2769 Baseline Rd, Elmvale ON L0L 1P0
- Elmvale Minor Hockey Association (No explanation needed)
 Cheques can be mailed to: 14 George St, Elmvale, ON L0L 1P0

Arrangements have been entrusted to Lynn-Stone Funeral Home. Messages to the family may be left on that website, <http://www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com>



FIEGEHEN, GREGORY NEIL
In loving memory of Gregory Fiegehen
May 16, 1965 - January 13, 2025

On January 13th, 2025, Gregory Neil Fiegehen passed away peacefully at home with family by his side after a valiant battle with cancer. He was 59 years old. He is survived by his wife Siao-Lie and his children Josh (Tiffany), Trevor (Kylee), Alysha, and many extended family members.

Greg was known for his love of adventure and was always willing to help others. He travelled extensively as a young man and during one of his travels, he met his wife in Australia. They later shared their passion for travelling with their children. He spent almost 40 years as a well respected and trusted automotive mechanic. He leaves behind many good memories and a lasting impact on the people he met throughout his life.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the RVH cancer centre, Canada Prostate Cancer Foundation, or the OSPCA.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Expressions of sympathy at
www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com

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Bringing unity to all. Teaching love and compassion for humanity in a caring environment.

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Where community is our passion!

Call for details:

- Father Tony Vandervechte (705)549-0241
- Rev. Mother Denyse Wigglesworth (705) 529-4291
- Father Don Dorion (705) 528-4513
- Rev. John Stokes (705) 534-3251

THANK YOU

Sandy Conn and family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to family, friends and members of the Elmvale community for your sympathy and compassion. The outpouring of love and support we experienced was abundant and much appreciated. George would be grateful for the very generous donations made to the Elmvale Ballpark Lights and the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

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Official Family Registry



Seniors Community
OUTREACH

Helping Seniors Age Well at Home

Information, Services, Programs
and Events for Seniors

Stay Active - Stay Connected!

OPEN *February 15*
Cribbage
TOURNAMENT



Royal Canadian Legion Cribbage Tournament

134 William Street, Victoria Harbour
February 15th—Beginning at 12 noon
Doors open at 11am with the tournament beginning at noon.
For tickets, please call (705)209-9674 or (705)534-0374



**Wendat Community Programs
Social Club**

The Social Club provides programs enhancing social, physical, emotional and cognitive wellness components. Located on the lower level of the Wendat building at 237 Second Street in Midland.
For more information, call (705) 355-1022

TAY TOWNSHIP

Programs for Seniors

They have programs like Seniors Zumba, Chair Yoga and more that can help keep you active safely!
See all the programs and register:
www.tay.ca/living-here/seniors/



North Simcoe's most valuable resource for recreational, educational & social programs designed for people ages 55+

LUNCH AND LEARN

ONLINE SAFETY Presented By: **GATEWAY**
CENTRE FOR LEARNING
Putting the Unity in Community

Wednesday February 5th

Lunch served at 11:30am—Session starts at 12:00pm
Join this online safety course including: understanding internet safety, creating strong passwords, avoiding spam, safe online shopping.
Pick up your free ticket at Askennonia reception before January 31st.



Thursday February 13th—1:30pm to 3:30pm

Featuring live music and a drink ticket and light refreshments.
Members \$20 and Non-members \$25

For more information about Askennonia or their programs, please call (705) 526-7609

FREE
BLOOD-PRESSURE CLINIC



FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Next date—Monday February 3rd—10:30am to 12pm
Askennonia Senior Centre will be hosting Nurse Next Door to offer monthly free Blood Pressure Clinics the first Monday of every month.



Dance Classes for all levels

Chigamik Community Health Centre

Every Thursday—10:30am to 11:30am Location—La Cle

Whether you're looking to improve mobility, strength, or simply get moving with joy, this program provides a supportive environment where everyone can express themselves and stay active!

Visit www.chigamik.ca or call (705) 527-4154



INDOOR WALKING TRACK

Tuesdays and Thursdays—11:30am to 1:30pm

The Town of Penetanguishene has different senior programs this winter to keep you active and social. Walk indoors and upstairs in the large hall at the Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre.

Visit www.penetanguishene.ca or call (705) 549-7453



Community
REACH WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to join a team of amazing volunteers making a difference in our North Simcoe community? Community Reach is looking for Volunteer Drivers. This is a rewarding opportunity to improve the quality of life for residents experiencing barriers to transportation. Our drivers take clients to medical appointments, shopping, and social engagements within North Simcoe and to out-of-area medical appointments. Our volunteers tell us when they are available and where they are comfortable driving. Drivers are compensated for mileage.

Give us a call or send us an email to learn more about volunteering with Community Reach: (705) 528-6999 or admin@communityreach.ca

To find out more about Community Reach, check out our website at www.communityreach.ca.

Funding for this project is provided by the Ministry of Employment and Social Services to help seniors age well at home.

Funded by the
Government of Canada's
Age Well at Home Initiative

Financé par l'initiative
Bien vieillir chez soi du
Gouvernement du Canada

