Region could be starting to see rise in COVID-19 curve

Community transmission is a growing concern for public health officials

by Trina Berlo

Health officials continue to urge people to stay home.

This week the province cracked down on public gatherings, reducing the allowable number to five, parks were closed to stop people from congregating, school closures were extended until the beginning of May, and people over 70 are urged to stay home, even avoiding trips for essentials.

At press time, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) was reporting 66 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ten are in hospital, 34 are self-isolating at home, four have died and 17 are classified as recovered, including two Clearview residents with COVID-19. Ten are in hospital, 34 are self-isolating at home, four have died and 17 are classified as recovered, including two Clearview residents with COVID-19.

While the majority of cases are affecting people in the 35-64 age group (37), the health unit is reporting a first case in a teenager.

SMDHU Medical Officer Dr. Charles Gardner said, with nine cases logged on April 2, the district’s curve is possibly starting an upward rise, as is expected at this time. Community transmission remains a major concern.

Municipal officials are warning people to stay off playground equipment in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The majority of the cases (33) are linked to travel, 12 are categorized as having close contact with a case, and 19 are thought to be community-acquired, having no known contact with anyone infected with the virus.

Much uncertainty about financial aid rollout

by Trina Berlo

With new information from the feds about pandemic financial support, Simcoe Muskoka MP Terry Dowdall said there is a lot of tension in the community that he expects will rise until all the details are ironed out and cheques are in the mail, so to speak.

The government is spending billions of dollars in aid through tax credits and benefits for parents, employees, the self-employed, businesses, Indigenous communities, the homeless, women’s shelters and those who are quarantined, ill or caring for people who have contracted the COVID-19 virus.

“There are a lot of unknowns, and that is the frustrating part,” he said referring to the administrative details of pay-outs, and realistic time frames.

Dowdall has been inundated with calls from residents and businesses. With the first of the month came concerns from both tenants and landlords about rent, and the uncertainty about paying and getting paid. With the announcement of funds, he said there is a perception that people will start seeing the money right away, but they may take time, which is tough for people who were already having trouble making ends meet.

“My biggest concern over the next period of time is, until those cheques come in, is that people have avenues or routes to make sure they are able to get food and things of that nature. A lot of people need the money today and they are going to the mailbox thinking it’s coming immediately and I just don’t see that happening in the confusion I have seen happening so far,” said Dowdall.

Throughout the process, as official opposition, the Conservatives have been pushing back against what they saw as unfettered financial powers to reign in the government and push for “constructive solutions to ensure that no one falls through the cracks.”

Dowdall said he is very happy about the employee wage subsidy increase from 10 to 75 per cent, an incentive for businesses to keep employees on the payroll, rather than lay them off. The application process is set to open April 6. He said the problem is that because of the timing a number of people have already been laid off and have already applied for employment insurance.

“You can’t roll out a program and get people all excited and not know the details or how it’s going to work because a lot of people are falling through the cracks, depending on what they do, and the type of business they are in,” said Dowdall.

He said his office is hearing from many concerned residents, and the (See “Stress” on page 3)
WE'RE 20!

On April 1 The Creemore Echo marked its 20th year of operations. We feel humbled to be part of the time-honoured tradition of printing community news.

It was our intention to celebrate this milestone with all of you as a way of thanking you for your ongoing engagement and support with the paper.

We wanted to share our gratitude to all our advertisers, readers, subscribers, boosters, champions, patrons, community organizers and contributors... and we will, but not as originally planned.

Until we can invite you into our office, cut some cake, raise a glass and share a hug we extend our thanks to you for two decades of sharing news and views in and around Creemore.

We look forward to being together again soon.

Stay well.
Partners call for protective equipment

Municipal and health partners in Simcoe and Muskoka, including the County of Simcoe, the District of Muskoka, and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, are working together to launch a donation campaign for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and critical supplies that are essential for the provision of safe medical and community care to patients and residents.

Health and emergency services, such as paramedicine, long-term care, home and community care, hospitals and public health, have been impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak and have dramatically increased their use of PPE to protect residents, patients and health care workers. To counteract this rapid increase in demand for medical supplies and equipment, health partners are working collaboratively to implement a donation campaign to leverage strong local business and community ties and utilize all available stock within the community.

Partners are looking for donations of: N95 masks, surgical masks, face shields, protective goggles or safety glasses, Nitrile gloves (latex-free), reusable or disposable gowns, medical thermometers, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes with a DIN# or bleach cleaner, and hand soap.

Any businesses or community members looking to donate items can e-mail EmergencyManagement@smdhu.org. Information about how and where to send donations is available at www.smdhu.org/donations. Donations received will be collected in central depots in Simcoe and Muskoka and will be issued to local health care providers in order of priority, as determined by the Province of Ontario. Pick-up or delivery can be arranged. Businesses supplying goods for purchase can also reach out to individual partners.

Stress levels rise, waiting for payment

(Continued from page 1)

answers just aren’t there.

“The reality is people have to be patient, they have to wait but it doesn’t really help people’s stress level to be waiting on the phone for four hours. We need to have more people answering those calls,” said Dowdall.

He commends other levels of government for finding other cost savings for people, such as hydro and relief from tax payments. He said all levels of government are working together to make sure no one falls through the cracks.

Dowdall encourages anyone wanting to get in the queue for any of the financial support programs to register with the Canada Revenue Agency. For details, see the Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan at Canada.ca.

Getting help

The Echo has put together a list of trusted sources of help for those who need support with mental health support, food services, financial assistance, access to employment insurance or other financial supports. For details about 211Ontario, how to access and support the Clearview Stayner Food Bank, reaching out to Creemore Caremongering, visit creemore.com.

Missing neighbourly chit chat?

How about a friendly phone call?

Local volunteers are collecting the names and numbers of people who are interested in making or receiving a phone call from a neighbour with the goal of reducing social isolation, sharing information, and understanding community experiences and needs during the COVID-19 physical distancing period.

For more information or to participate contact:

The Creemore Echo
Sara 705-466-9906

Barb Mann
705-466-6233

Vanessa Pierson
647-998-5748
Community shines during dark times

As the reality of pandemic life sets in and the shock begins to wear off, people are looking for small ways to connect with their community, without any physical contact.

Blessed technology is helping people share ideas for how to safely partake in community activities, in order to entertain children and show support for people ‘on the front lines.’

It is now illegal for people to congregate in groups larger than five and we have all been told to stay home, with the exception of trips for essential supplies and a brief period of outdoor exercise. During those walks, people can feel a sense of community in the inspirational messages attached to lampposts, and notes in sidewalk chalk.

All over the world, kids stuck at home have been placing drawings of rainbows in their windows. Other colourful drawings and messages can be seen around town, intended to boost morale.

The Raibles drew our attention to a bear hunt that has caught on in New Zealand where people put teddy bears in their windows, arranged in different scenes, entertaining the designers and passersby alike.

Locals have also joined a campaign to show healthcare workers some love by banging pots every evening, when shift changes would be occurring at hospitals. Others have decorated a tree outside Creedan Valley, some are delivering groceries, and there are even people sewing protective equipment for healthcare workers. There are so many examples of people stepping up and doing what they can.

These types of connections are going to be more and more important as our isolated lifestyle is prolonged. Please let us know what you are doing to stay in touch with neighbours and friends. Share ideas and photos with us on Facebook or e-mail editor@www.creemore.com

The Creemore showed waste collection crews some love last week, placing notes on their bins.

Editor:

We need high speed, unlimited internet so that my parents can work and so that I can follow my passion and excel at it. And it needs to be affordable – when me and my brother tried to play online games, we went over our internet Every. Single. Month. Our internet bills were $200-$300 every month for all of us to use the amount we needed. What we have is not enough for a family of four, especially if I have to now do my schoolwork online so I can have a future. I want to follow my passion to compete in online gaming. I want to watch movies with my family, and listen to music. And I want to stay safe in this pandemic. Rural internet needs to be fixed now!

Griffin Lucas, Dunedin.

Nature preserve littered with dog excrement

Editor:

We recently took our dog for a hike on the Creemore Nature Preserve. We were both very disappointed and disgusted to have observed the unpleasant sight that we observed.

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Community rallying to achieve wonderful things

Editor:
The main street of Creemore ON, which is visibly practicing social distancing, has hand made signs in the trees encouraging everyone to think positively and think of each other in this time of need.

Many houses have kid’s drawings in the windows to give positive message to their buddies. The toy store, Cardboard Castles, has a finger maze on its window to engage families, with gloves of course.

When we called to order pizza the other night, the one restaurant had run out by 3 p.m., the other was being kept too busy to answer the phone and finally the local bistro had only one kind of entree left. Clearly the community was rallying to support their restaurants.

On a previous night we learned that the local brewery was supporting employees to purchase local takeout meals. The local grocery store has organized volunteers to deliver to those who are isolated or unable to shop. And Creemore Crememongering has organized groups to supply the most vulnerable.

Overall, Creemore continues to be an example of how the entire community can achieve wonderful things. A real antidote to the binary perspective so common today.

Peter Halsall, Creemore.

Large corporations should be contributing to the economy

Editor:

It’s time we stopped treating corporations like children. With children, we expect them to obey the rules we set down but know that because of their immaturity, they will stretch those rules and get away with whatever they can. They will steal dad’s car and drink and drive without a licence, and do it past their curfew. They are not yet ready to reflect on how their actions impact their parents and friends. They are focused on self gratification and are still learning to adopt a social conscience.

Yet many large corporations have a reputation of thinking only of themselves and their shareholders. They stretch rules to the limit and cannot self regulate. They still need society to set guidelines and to employ large bureaucrats to monitor their behaviour. They are capable of inflicting pain on the community by polluting our air and rivers. They can manufacture products that are dangerous to our well being.

They sometimes underpay employees. At their whim they have left communities to reestablish themselves in more tax friendly havens.

It is time for corporations to grow up and accept adult responsibility for the role they play in our society.

In this current crisis, the federal government representing Canadian citizens has borrowed $200 billion from our children in order to maintain our usual standard of living. Some of that money will no doubt find its way, with justification, into corporate coffers.

I am asking that large corporations, who command great stores of wealth, contribute an equivalent amount, in cash or in kind, to the local economies in recognition of the role they play as adult members of our community.

Many small towns in Canada have a bank, an insurance company, a drugstore and a supermarket and these companies are ideally located to evaluate the needs of the community which they serve and to effectively deliver prompt aid.

An article in Pivot, a magazine for Canadian Professional Accountants states the case for corporate maturity. In a roundtable, 181 CEOs from America’s most powerful companies affirmed that the essential role of corporations is to serve, not only shareholders but all stakeholders including customers, employees, suppliers and the public at large. This about face marks a paradigm shift from the companies are ideally located to evaluate the needs of the community which they serve and to effectively deliver prompt aid.

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Efforts underway to locate and assist those in need

Editor:

I was delighted to read in The Echo about the establishment of a Careemongering Facebook group for Creemore and the surrounding area. As founder Jenn Hubbs outlines in her original post, it is “a place to post if you would like to offer help, or if you are in search of assistance.”

How wonderful to see all elements of the community – village residents, farmers, business owners, weekenders – coming together to help one another.

In more tax-friendly havens.

Communities to reestablish themselves

isolation, domestic violence, etc. Food needs (and medicine delivery) can be addressed in part by the kind volunteers in the Careemongering group doing pickups and deliveries. The Clearview Stuyner Food Bank is working extremely hard to satisfy increased demand, and of course the women’s shelter My Friend’s House in Collingwood is always available to assist victims of abuse. Clergy from the various religious institutions in the area are experienced in assisting with spiritual and other guidance for those in distress. For some of the other needs, connections with local volunteer professional counsellors would be extremely helpful.

The situation we are faced with is entirely unprecedented, but it is wonderful to see the community coming together as it attempts to assist and protect its most vulnerable members.

Barbara Mann, Creemore.
Local Mechanic Seeking New Clients

Thieves make off with $35,000 in cigarettes

About $35,000 worth of cigarettes were stolen from the Shell gas station at Sunnidale Corners, during an early morning robbery on March 29. Police say two unknown suspects broke a window in the front door to gain entry to the store, located at 12384 County Road 10. A third unknown suspect is believed to be driving the getaway car. The suspects fled eastbound on Highway 26 in a White 2008 or newer cube van, possibly a Ford E-series model with a White 2008 or newer cube van, possibly a Ford E-series model with Multivans truck body, a Black stripe approximately two inches wide along the front fender and door, just under the window on the driver’s side.

The first suspect is described as a Caucasian male with a heavy build, between five feet, seven inches and six feet in height. He was wearing dark jeans, black hooded sweater, mask, and gloves.

The second suspect is described as being possibly female or youth with a slim build, about five feet tall, wearing dark jeans, black hooded sweater, mask, and gloves.

Huronia West OPP is looking for witnesses. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or visit www.crimestopperssdm.com.

Surveillance footage of a robbery at the Shell station on Highway 26.

COVID-19 outbreak at Dufferin Oaks

A second staff member at Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care Home in Shelburne has tested positive for COVID-19.

Both staff members have not been onsite since first exhibiting symptoms and are currently isolating at home. Dufferin Oaks, a non-profit long term care home owned and operated by the County of Dufferin, is working closely with public health to identify any resident or staff that may have been in close contact with this staff member.

Dufferin Oaks has implemented stringent screening protocols, directing staff who are unwell in any way not to report to work. The unit has been closed and all residents are self-isolating in their rooms.

Dufferin Oaks is following the guidance of public health by isolating residents in the impacted units; taking temperatures of all residents and staff; all staff are required to wear surgical masks and other protective equipment.

Collingwood assessment centre moves

The COVID-19 Assessment Centre in Collingwood has been relocated to the Georgian Bay Family Health Team Same Day Clinic in order to free up much needed staff resources at CGMH and improve the flow of patients requiring emergency care.

Patients who have been directed by public health or their family physician to be tested will be contacted directly by the Family Health Team (FHT). Those who have been directed by Telehealth or wish to self-refer can contact the FHT at www.gbht.ca for the COVID-19 waitlist. Alternatively they can call 705-444-5885 to book a time to be seen. Walk-ins will encounter signage on the doors with instructions on how to access a waitlist app or how to telephone the assessment centre to be registered. There will be a person on site to assist those who are having any difficulty with the registration process. Patients will then wait in their vehicles until the assessment centre contacts and registers them. At the time of their appointment patients will be contacted to proceed in their cars alongside the tent for testing. Assessment and testing will be undertaken while patients remain in their cars. The assessment centre, at 186 Erie St., will be open seven days per week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Testing protocols for COVID-19 will remain the same, following guidelines established by Ontario Health.

The tent at the front of CGMH will remain in place as a screening centre for Emergency patients. Each patient requiring emergency care will be screened for symptoms before entering the emergency department.

Only pre-booked urgent clinic appointment patients should continue to enter and be screened through the CGMH main lobby

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Music to life the spirits, album proceeds go to health care

by Trina Berlo

It may not be the album release party they had hoped for but Mad River band is proceeding with the launch of Love Grows, releasing its energy into the community at a time when it may need it most.

The band, made up of Neill Lanz, Rick Garner and Craig Smith, with John Hall on drums and Nelson Beattie on sax, records at Lanz’s home studio Mad River Music in Duntroon and members are from the Clearview and Collingwood area.

Lanz said the band is thinking of this second album as positive energy, and to put it out now makes sense.

“It’s ready to go. We’ve been working on it for a year and it just seems like if there is ever a good time to have people listen to music this is that time. We think our music is uplifting, and it has a very positive message and hopefully it lifts spirits,” said Lanz. “In the creative process, there are two parts to it; the creation of it in the studio is fun for the artists but at some point, when it’s finished, you hang it up and you want to share it.”

The album contains 10 songs about the human condition, at times whimsical, and at times more serious. Lanz said it explores universal themes, and songs are arranged in an order to tell a story. Love Grows is the first song on the album, and Time Passes is the last song, creating a vignette of the human journey.

Readers may remember Mad River’s song Body & Soul, also from the new album, was entered in last year’s CBC Music’s Searchlight contest.

The band never imagined they would be releasing their album during a global pandemic but it inspired them to direct all proceeds to the local health care efforts through Collingwood General and Marine Hospital Foundation, with “appreciation of the selfless dedication and courage of all our frontline Healthcare professionals.”

During the recording process in the Mad River Studio, the band did not anticipate having to release their album during the angst of a global pandemic. However, especially during difficult times, music has the capacity to soothe and uplift our spirit, and the band is hopeful that their music can offer this.

All Mad River band members “are wishing our community strength, resilience and good health as we all unite to fight this virus.”

The album was posted to streaming sites on April 1, where people can pay and download. The band does plan to perform live at area venues once they re-open and CDs will be available for purchase at Mad Dog Vinyl Café. All proceeds will be donated to the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital Foundation.

For all the links, and free download of the songs Love Grows and Tag Along, visit madrivermusic.ca.

Author releases book about coping with altered world

by Trina Berlo

The pandemic has prompted Creemore author Simon Heath to release the second book in the When Everything Falls Apart trilogy in an early digital-only format.

In Book One: The End, released last year, the story starts when a solar flare knocks out the world’s power supply. Book Two: The Middle is about a family living in an off-grid house in Monom, learning how to survive with their local community without any of the infrastructure they are accustomed to.

The story follows Brian, Karen and their nine-year old daughter Robin through an epic journey as they escape a crumbling Toronto, welcome a new baby, learn how to survive without power, become part of a new rural community, and ultimately return to help rebuild a devastated city.

From splitting wood, to grinding wheat, building an ad hoc abattoir and constructing a one-room schoolhouse, the community must go back to traditional ways to survive.

“When the power goes out and you don’t have a job anymore, all of your abstract qualifications aren’t necessarily applicable when it comes down to how do you just survive day-to-day, and feed your family. So, what you are left with are your basic human relations,” said Heath in an earlier interview.

Heath said he wanted to release the second book now, knowing that people may have extra time on their hands, and that some of the themes are very timely.

“While the premise… is different than what we are experiencing with COVID-19, many of the challenges the characters face in learning how to cope with a world that has been drastically altered are very much the same,” said Heath.

Anyone wanting to order a pdf of the book by e-mail is asked to contact simon@simonheath.ca. Heath is charging $10, which he said will go toward the eventual printing of the book.
It is the duty of every BIA to make sure that our streets are bustling and busy, with many people walking through the doors of our shops but for now we are happy that Mill Street is quiet and many doors are locked.

That said, our Creemore businesses are working hard to continue to serve you in a way that is helpful and mindful of the rules around physical distancing.

The support that you are offering with your ongoing purchases from local retailers, restaurants and professionals is helping maintain our business core and preserve the livelihoods of the dedicated people, and their staff, who are so much a part of the community we all know and love.

The BIA would like to commend our essential service providers and thank you, as customer for your respect and care when accessing groceries, prescriptions and other necessities.

Our members are not just the owners of your favourite shop or restaurant - they are your neighbours. They both need support and are there to support others. We encourage you to continue being physically distant, but fully engaged with local businesses.

WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

TAKE OUT
Local restaurants continue to provide delicious options for you to enjoy in the comfort of your own home.

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Some of our retailers are still able to fulfil orders remotely.

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THE SANCTUARY : YOGA & PILATES STUDIO
www.theprechurch.ca • 705-466-6616 • Offering online yoga & pilates classes starting in April.

THE CREEMORE 100 MILE STORE
705-466-3314 • info@100milenstore.ca • Mon. 10 am - 5 pm, Tues. closed, Wed. & Thurs. 10 am - 5 pm, Fri. 10 am - 6 pm, Sat. 10 am - 5 pm, Sun. 10 am - 4 pm. In store shopping for one person at a time. Call-in or email a request for boxed groceries for store-front or in-store pickup.

THE CREEMORE ECHO
705-466-9906 • saracencreemore.com • Mon. to Fri. 9 am to 4 pm. The weekly paper will continue. Advertising, printing, fax, photocopying and office supplies. Please call or email in advance as our doors are locked.

JUG CITY CREEMORE
705-466-2025 • Mon. to Fri. 6 am - 9 pm, Sat. 7 am - 9 pm, Sun. 8 am - 8 pm. Gas, coffee, convenience - no bottle returns.

Open to essential only. Call ahead to place orders for prescriptions.

CREEMORE SPRINGS BREWERY
705-466-2240 • retail@creemoresprings.com
Daily 12 pm - 4 pm, Curbside pick up only. Call to pre-pay & schedule pick-up.

FERRIS & CELHOFER PROFESSIONAL CORP.
705-466-3888 • john@ferrislaw.ca
Mon. to Fri. 9 am - 5 pm • Contact us by telephone or email, to schedule a consultation.

KEITH BOUTLER LAW
705-466-5454 • kcb@keithboultlaw.com • By appointment. Wills, real estate transactions, refinancings, corporate, commercial and estate work.

MIDWEST METALS
(705) 466-5227 • Open with special precautions in place.

THE CREEMORE 100 MILE STORE
705-466-3314 • info@100milenstore.ca • Mon. 10 am - 5 pm, Tues. closed, Wed. & Thurs. 10 am - 5 pm, Fri. 10 am - 6 pm, Sat. 10 am - 5 pm, Sun. 10 am - 4 pm. In store shopping for one person at a time. Call-in or email a request for boxed groceries for store-front or in-store pickup.

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JUG CITY CREEMORE
705-466-2025 • Mon. to Fri. 6 am - 9 pm, Sat. 7 am - 9 pm, Sun. 8 am - 8 pm. Gas, coffee, convenience - no bottle returns.

Send Encouragement to Local Business Owners by Phone, Mail or Email.

Our members miss seeing your friendly faces. Connecting with you is one of the reason our members love their work. Your kind words can make a difference.

WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

TAKE OUT
Local restaurants continue to provide delicious options for you to enjoy in the comfort of your own home.

ORDER BY PHONE OR ONLINE
Some of our retailers are still able to fulfil orders remotely.

SEND ENCOURAGEMENT TO LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS BY PHONE, MAIL OR EMAIL.

Our members miss seeing your friendly faces. Connecting with you is one of the reason our members love their work. Your kind words can make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to your continued patronage.

Keith Boulter Law
705-466-5454 • kcb@keithboultlaw.com • By appointment. Wills, real estate transactions, refinancings, corporate, commercial and estate work.

Midwest Metals
(705) 466-5227 • Open with special precautions in place.

The Creemore 100 Mile Store
705-466-3314 • info@100milenstore.ca • Mon. 10 am - 5 pm, Tues. closed, Wed. & Thurs. 10 am - 5 pm, Fri. 10 am - 6 pm, Sat. 10 am - 5 pm, Sun. 10 am - 4 pm. In store shopping for one person at a time. Call-in or email a request for boxed groceries for store-front or in-store pickup.

The Creemore Echo
705-466-9906 • saracencreemore.com • Mon. to Fri. 9 am to 4 pm. The weekly paper will continue. Advertising, printing, fax, photocopying and office supplies. Please call or email in advance as our doors are locked.

Jug City Creemore
705-466-2025 • Mon. to Fri. 6 am - 9 pm, Sat. 7 am - 9 pm, Sun. 8 am - 8 pm. Gas, coffee, convenience - no bottle returns.

Opening to essential only. Call ahead to place orders for prescriptions.

Creemore Springs Brewery
705-466-5500 • Creemore.pizza.co@gmail.com
Phone lines open daily 12 pm - 7 pm. Don’t be disappointed, order early. Curb side pickup/ free in-town delivery.

Chez Michel
705-466-3331 • info@chezmichel.ca
Wed. to Sat. 11:30 am - 7pm, Sun. 11:30 am - 4 pm

Please call if requesting a special pick up time outside of operating hours.

Remote Orders
Creemore House of Stitches
www.creemorequiltsandyarns.com • 705-466-6616 • Call or email in advance as our doors are locked.

Other
Bank Cafe
Our carrot cake and cinnamon buns can be found at the 100 Mile Store.

Colours of Creemore Hair Studio
We are currently closed.

Royal LePage Locations North Real Estate Brokerage • Vicki Bell
ringabel@royallepage.ca • 705-446-4539
Available via email and cell. Consultation, Evaluations, property research, viewings limited at this time. Please email or call directly to discuss.

Royal Lepage RCR – Suzanne Lawrence
705-446-2115 ext. 2 • info@suzannelawrence.ca
If you need assistance with any real estate questions call or email.

Royal Lepage RCR Realty – Basia Regan
416-346-0290 • basiaaregan@royallepage.ca
Available via phone or email for all your real estate needs.

Strandz Hair & Aesthetics
Joanne -705-446-7746  • Kirstin 705-717-6611
We are now closed and will contact everyone when we know more.
Stayner landfill opens

The County of Simcoe has opened select landfill sites to the public, including the Nottawasaga Landfill Site in Stayner, for essential use only.

The Stayner site is only open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday to Friday, until further government restrictions occur or staffing challenges arise. The County says it has significantly enhanced procedures at four sites to provide additional safety and physical distancing measures for staff and customers.

Residents are encouraged to store materials at home if possible and not to make any unnecessary visits to the sites.

Read the full story at creemore.com.
211 Ontario can connect people with the help they need

211 Ontario is stepping up support during the pandemic in an attempt to alleviate stress on the public health system and emergency services by helping people find access to non-emergency services. The service is designed to refer people to supports in their community, whether they are in need of mental health support, food services, financial assistance, help accessing employment insurance or other financial supports, or are struggling to cope with the stress of self-isolation. Services can include virtual mental health support, financial supports, and access to food. 211 is a telephone helpline and online database of Ontario’s community and social services. The free and confidential service is available during COVID-19. “Everything is changing by the day, and our teams have been working diligently to sort out what services and supports are available to Ontarians, so individuals don’t have to. A simple call to 211 will connect people with one of our community navigators who can point people in the direction that is right for them. We have also set up a dedicated microsite that will be updated regularly. You can find it at www.211ontario.ca.”

To access the service by phone, dial 2-1-1. 24 hours a day, seven days a week to communicate in 150 languages, or visit www.211ontario.ca and click the ‘live chat’ button. Chat service is available 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday. Search the online listing of services at www.211ontario.ca and search by location and topic. New programs, services and financial supports are added regularly to the listing.

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### Service Directory

#### GRAVITY SUN POWER
Solar generation for energy savings and income professionally designed and installed
Jeff Williams • 466-5741

#### Valley Auto & Tech
180 Main St., Stayner, ON 705-466-3888
Garry Stumpf, Owner/Operator

#### CREWSON INSURANCE BROKERS
1-800-392-1151
crewsoninsurance.com

#### T. NASH PLUMBING
705-466-5807
Licensed and insured

#### Station on the Green
HOST YOUR PARTY
Kings Street at 110th St.
EVENT PRICING AVAILABLE
sas@creemore.com • 705-466-9906

#### Siers Masonry
ANYTHING & EVERYTHING MASONRY
Natural Stone

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### The Old Mill House Pub
Meat/Food BULK SALE

- 6 Cartons of TL Homogenized or 2% Milk $22.00
- 8 Leaves of White or Whole Wheat toast bread $3.00
- AAA LEAN GROUND CHUCK: (Ground Beef) 4.9kg-10LB. Case $53.00
- AAA TOP SIRLOIN STEAK 1/2” Rib. Each steak is $12.00
- Ground Chicken 4.5kg - 10LB $49.00
- Boneless Skinless Chicken Thigh 11LB $55.00
- LASAGNA MEAT TRAY 10.5”x12.5” SLB- 8-10 servings. Per Tray $39.00 (Just warm and serve)
- COOD LOIN: 4oz (approx 40 pieces) Case $95.00
- BACON PREMIUM CENTER CUT: 4.5kg -10LB Case $48.00
- CHICKEN BREASTS: Skinless/boneless, 5oz, 4.54KG-10LB Case. (ap.30pcs) $60.00
- FLOUR UNBLEACHED 20KG $38.00
- YEAST DRY FLEISCHMANN’S 1LB PACK, Vacuum Sealed - $8.00
- TOILET PAPER: 48 Ply rolls $39.00 **NEW PRICE**
- DISH SOAP 3.78LTR (approx. 7.5 bottles of regular sized dish soap). $25.00
- Bleach 4L Jug $6.00

Call in your order on Sunday 5th, Monday 6th and Wednesday 8th from 10am-12pm.
Pick-Up your order on the following Saturday from 10am -2pm.

705-466-5244 Visit our facebook page for an updated list

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### 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**What you need to know to help you and your family stay healthy.**

- Only visit an assessment centre if you have been referred by a health care professional.
- Avoid non-essential travel.
- Monitor for symptoms after travel.
- Avoid large gatherings.
- Be prepared, but avoid panic stocking.
- Caring for those who are ill! Take precautions.
- Clean high-touch surfaces regularly.
- Order your prescription medication.
- Practice cough and sneeze etiquette in transit.

**If you have symptoms,** take the self-assessment at ontario.ca/coronavirus. Or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 (TTY: 1-866-797-0007) or your public health unit.

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Paid for by the Government of Ontario
HELP WANTED

Seeking an Apprentice or Licensed Heavy Equipment Mechanic for Field Service for a busy Toronto based company, to start immediately. Must have minimum D Licence. Background check and references required. Please email fixyork@gmail.com or call 416-688-2102.

FOR RENT

Three bedroom brick house with attached garage on a quiet Creemore street. Fridge and stove included. Two driveways and large back yard. Available immediately. References required. Phone for particulars. 705-466-6931.

THANK YOU

A HUGE thank you to Granett Madill for his support of the Creemore Echo. We so appreciate your contribution and your regular phone call.

DEATH NOTICE

MACDONALD, Marie - On Sunday, March 15 heaven welcomed another angel. Our mom Marie MacDonald formerly of Collingwood and Stayner, joined our other angels who have gone before her, our father Ralph MacDonald (still a friend and always remembered), brother Art Gibson (Laura), Donna MacDonald (sister in law), Les Davison (brother in law), Clara and Syd Gibson (parents).

Mom was a very determined, strong lady who fought hard with countless physical struggles in the past eight years. Instead of complaining she worried about her family. There are no words to express how much we loved and respected her. We were so fortunate to have such a great mom who always remained selfless and strong. Mom was the glue and strength of our families.

We wish to thank the staff of Sunset Manor, Collingwood for all of their kindness and support. To all of mom’s family and friends, a big Thank You from the bottom of our hearts, for making mom laugh. We will think of her every day and miss her deeply.

John Bennett (partner), her six children, Debbie, Dianne (Ken), Ronnie (Merle), Lori (Dennis), Larry (Astrid), Sherry (Joe) and families, including 13 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren – with number 28 on his way in July – and two great great grandchildren, Brother Ken Gibson (Marlane), Pat Davison (sister in law), Dean MacDonald (brother in law) and many nieces and nephews who will always hold her dear to their hearts.

As per mom’s wishes she was cremated and a Celebration of Life will follow at a later date.

Thank you to our Heroes

In these unprecedented and challenging times we take this opportunity to give a shout out to all our front-line workers. There are lots of folks on the front lines, but in particular, our doctors, hospital staff and other health care providers, police, firefighters and paramedics are at the front of the front lines.

At the front of the front line is where the heroes hang out. Know you are appreciated.

To everyone in our community, stay healthy and safe.

IRONSIDE LAW FIRM, our lawyers, staff and families

Submit your classified ad by 5 p.m. Tuesday: call 705-466-9906, fax 705-466-9908, email info@creemore.com. 5/7 for 25 words.
School board rolls out distance-based continuity of learning plan

The government of Ontario has announced that schools and child care centres will remain closed past the initial two-week shut-down, due to the spread of COVID-19.

Public schools will remain closed to students until Monday, May 4. The Declaration of Emergency, only allows closures to be extended for one 14-day period at a time so there is a possibility of further extensions, based on advice from public health professionals.

“The decision to extend school closures was not made lightly. We know from the medical experts that the next two weeks will be critical in the fight against COVID-19 and that’s why we’re taking further action to keep our kids safe and healthy by having them stay home,” said Premier Doug Ford. “At the same time, we cannot put the school year in jeopardy. That’s why we’re providing additional tools for at-home learning and ensuring students from kindergarten to Grade 12 to postsecondary education can finish their academic year and get the credits they need to graduate.”

In a letter to parents dated April 1, Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) said its staff is finalizing a distance-based continuity of learning plan. Teachers are touching base with their students and parents to see how they can facilitate learning at home, asking if they have a device that can connect to internet, with the intention of working off the Google classroom or similar platforms.

SCDSB said the plan will not rely solely on the use of technology and that, beginning the week of April 6, students and families can expect to receive direction from their teachers. The government said it will leverage partnerships with the telecommunication sector to provide innovative, low-cost and high-impact solutions to solve technology equity challenges facing some students.

“We will do whatever it takes to keep students safe from COVID-19 - which is why we have extended the school closure period and why we have unveiled a teacher-led program that keeps students learning while at home,” said Education Minister Stephen Lecce. “By providing clarity for parents, enhancing support for students and enabling the teacher-student relationship, we are ensuring our children continue to safely learn - providing some sense of stability and hope for them amid this difficulty.”

The government is launching the second phase of Learn at Home. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 can expect five hours of work per week (focus on literacy and math); Grades 4-6: five hours of work per week (focus on literacy, math, science and social studies); Grades 7-8: 10 hours of work per week (focus on math, literacy, science and social studies); Grades 9-12: three hours of work for each course per week for semestersed students; 1.5 hours of work per course per week for non-semestersed students (focus on achieving credits/completion/graduation).

NOTICE - COVID-19 IMPACTS ON CLEARVIEW PUBLIC TRANSIT

In response to the COVID-19 Provincial Emergency, Clearview Council voted on March 26, 2020, to implement temporary changes to the Clearview Public Transit system to ensure residents using the system adhere to the advice from medical professionals on social distancing.

Route 1, Stayner
Will operate on Sunday hours of 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM seven days a week & transit fares will be waived until further notice.
Riders are reminded to only use transit if absolutely necessary for groceries, medical appointments or to go to work if you are an essential service and can't work from home.

Route 2, Creemore
Is discontinued temporarily until further notice.
We continue to monitor the situation and will reassess our Transit service levels on the advice of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and the direction of the County of Simcoe.

For more information, please contact:
Dan Perreault, Deputy Director of Public Works
Clearview Township
(705) 428-6230 ext. 230, dperreault@clearview.ca

NOTICE - WATER & SEWER ACCOUNT PENALTIES WAIVED

To ease the burden on our residents and taxpayers, Clearview Council voted on March 26, 2020 to waive the penalty on overdue Water and Sewer Accounts beginning with March 2020 billing cycle and lasting until the COVID – 19 Response is over.

For more information, please contact:
Kelly McDonald
Treasurer, Clearview Township
(705) 428-6230 ext. 236
kmcdonald@clearview.ca

Ron Mather
Deputy Treasurer, Clearview Township
(705) 428-6230 ext. 225
rmather@clearview.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
TAX COLLECTOR

Clearview Township is currently seeking a permanent full-time Tax Collector.

Qualifications:
Recognized Diploma in Accounting or Business with 3 to 5 years related experience in municipal taxation. In addition, a Municipal Administration Program diploma and a Municipal Tax Administration Program diploma are required for this role.

Responsibilities:
Reporting to the Deputy Treasurer, the Tax Collector is responsible for all aspects of the tax billing and collection function within the Treasury Department, including administration of all billing procedures, mandatory and optional tax policies, collection of revenues, receivables and responding to enquiries and complaints handling/resolution. Supervises part-time Office Clerk. The preferred candidate will possess a thorough knowledge of applicable legislation, acts, statutes and regulations. As well, excellent communication and customer service skills. Supervision experience would be a definite asset.

Salary:
The salary range offered for this position is $54,399 to $66,120 per year plus a competitive benefits package.

Note: The preferred candidate must be willing to provide consent for the Township to conduct a criminal background and vulnerable sector check prior to finalizing an employment offer.

Interested candidates are invited to forward their resume and covering letter quoting job # 2020-010 to Human Resources by April 10, 2020, tohr@clearview.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls, please. The Township of Clearview is an equal opportunity employer.

Accommodation will be provided in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Please visit: www.clearview.ca