

The Creemore ECHO

Friday, March 27, 2026 Vol. 26 No. 13 www.creemore.com

News and views in and around Creemore

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Watoto Children's Choir
Two appearances in Creemore
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Staff photo: Trina Berlo

Ivan Duggan rubs his cheek on a soft chick held by his brother **Axel** after listening to stories read by children's author **Carolyn J. Morris** at the Creemore branch of the Clearview Public Library on March 20, the final day of March Break.

Artists of all abilities invited to participate in 10x10 show

Purple Hill's Arts and Heritage Society's 10x10 community art show will be exhibited this spring at a new location.

The popular community collaboration will be shown from April 24 to May 3 at Gallery Lagom.

PHAHS members will be invited to an opening reception the evening of Friday, April 24.

Canvases and wood panels are currently available for pick-up at *The Creemore Echo*. The fee to participate is \$25.

The idea is that everyone, no matter the level or artistic bent, is encouraged to create a piece of art on a 10-by-10 inch surface. It can be any medium, on any theme. The finished pieces are to be returned to *The Echo* office by Saturday, April 18.

Memberships are available at phahs.ca. Membership fees help fund a number of arts and culture events in the community including Tea and History, youth art programs, and Creemore Festival of the Arts.

Gallery Lagom is located at 178 Mill St., Creemore.

Easter Egg hunt in Creemore is a real scramble

by **Bonnie MacPherson**

Peter Cottontail is preparing for his annual visit to Creemore. This year's Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, beginning at 10 a.m.

Jeremy Mantesso, manager of Creemore Village Green, says volunteers will be out very early on Saturday helping the bunny stash thousands of chocolate eggs.

The event is a joint venture of The Village Green Foundation and Clearview Community Church. A portion of Mill Street will be closed during the egg hunt to allow children to cross the road safely. Mantesso says

those under the age of four will be encouraged to search for treats within the park, while older children will be directed to the Gordon property across the street.

"But we will accommodate siblings who wish to stay together during the event," said Mantesso.

In addition to the thousands of chocolate eggs, there will be special eggs redeemable for other Easter treats and trinkets from local merchants. These are redeemable on Saturday only, so children are encouraged to inspect their stash right away. Last year there were more than 1,000 of these special eggs.

Both **darci-que** and Imaginarium will be on site with free activities including arts and crafts and balloon animals. There will be face painting and a special appearance by the Watoto Children's Choir which will make a stop in Creemore as part of an international tour. The choir, one of six touring companies composed of children from Uganda who have lost one or both parents, often as the result of AIDS, will be performing at 11 a.m. Their appearances raise funds for orphanages in Kampala.

Immediately prior to the choir's performance, the winning ticket in the raffle for a giant chocolate bunny from

YF Patisserie will be drawn. Mantesso says, "You must be there to win." Last year roughly 400 children showed up for the Easter egg hunt. "It's a bit of a scramble," says Mantesso, "so you don't want to be late."

Children are asked to bring their own baskets. Participants are encouraged to return their eggs for re-use by bringing them to the stage after the hunt.

The Watoto Children's Choir is also performing a free show at the Creemore Legion at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 5, hosted by Clearview Community Church.

See story on page 8.

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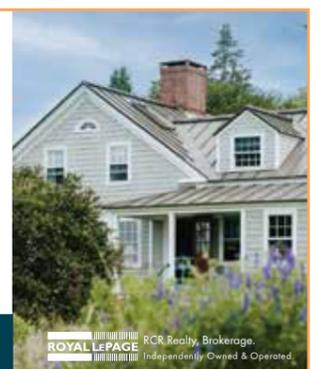
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COMMUNITY Calendar

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Friday, March 27

- The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 457 Stayner hosts **dart night** every Friday at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. Stayner Legion, 7149 ON-26. For more information, call 705-428-3809.
- St. John's United Church hosts a **chili dinner** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Family \$25, adults \$10, children \$5. All welcome.

Saturday, March 28

- New Lowell United Church will host a free community **Easter egg hunt** from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 5227 County Road 9, New Lowell. The event is open to children ages two to 12 accompanied by an adult. Children can hunt for eggs and trade them for a treat. Crafts, games and light refreshments will be available. Bring a camera for photos with the Easter Bunny. Register with Sandra at sandra@bednarek.ca or 705-424-6497.
- **Spring Fling - The Gay Thing** at Avening Hall hosted by the Rainbow Club of South Georgian Bay and Area. Doors open at 7 p.m. with DJ Savage Good starting at 8 p.m. Dance until midnight and bowl on retro bowling lanes. Tickets cost \$30 and are available at ticketscene.ca.
- Stayner Skating Club **Year End Carnival** - "Show me the Money" at 3:30 p.m. at the Stayner Arena. General admission is \$10. Seniors and students, \$7, children 4-12, \$5, ages three and under are admitted free. Tickets are available at the door.
- Local firefighters and Clearview Canucks coaches will face off in the "Fire vs. Ice Showdown" **charity hockey game** at the Creemore Arena at 3:30 p.m. The family-friendly event supports the local food bank, firefighters, and Clearview minor hockey, with admission by food or cash donation.

Sunday, March 29

- Stories with Octosprinklepuess at Curiosity House Books from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Monthly story time with the world's most charming and huggable octopus. Free for all kids. Come get lost in a tale or two, have a sprinkle cookie or three, and some wiggly fun. Visit on Instagram @ [curiosityhousebooks](https://www.instagram.com/curiosityhousebooks).
- Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society presents the second concert in the **Chamber Music Series** - a guitar/violin duo featuring Jung Tsai and Daniel Ramjattan. The concert takes place at St. John's United Church at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$40 at phahs.ca or \$45 at the door.
- Creemore Skating Club presents its annual Carnival **Ice Skating Show**, 1:30 p.m. at the Creemore Arena. This years' show features club members (three years of age and older) skating to music from the 1950s to the 1990s. Tickets are available at the door. Cash only. Adults, \$8, seniors, \$5 and students, \$2.

Tuesday, March 31

- **Pub Trivia Night** takes place every Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Old Mill House Pub, 141 Mill St., Creemore. A \$10 cover includes entry, answer sheets and a chance to win prizes. For more information, call 705-466-5244, visit theoldmillhousepub.com, or join the Pub Trivia Facebook group.

Saturday, April 4

- Clearview Community Church presents their annual **Easter egg hunt** at four locations around Clearview. Locations are Creemore Village Green Creemore, Centennial Park, Stayner, 20 Batteaux Rd., Nottawa and 800 Sunnidale Rd., Wasaga Beach all starting at 10 a.m. Bring your own baskets and come out for crafts, music and more.

Sunday, April 5

- Watoto **Children's Choir** Live. Join the Watoto Children's Choir for a free concert at the Creemore Legion starting at 10 a.m. as they sing, dance, and share their stories of restoration and hope. Contact clearviewcommunity.church for more information.

Tuesday, April 7

- The Clearview Public Library's **Tech Tutor** will be making an appearance once a month at the Creemore Branch from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the first Tuesday. If you need help navigating the internet, connecting on Facebook or completing documents in cyberspace, Judah Page is here to help you. No reservation required - just drop in.

Friday, April 10

- Creemore Curling Club **annual general meeting** at the Creemore Legion. Dinner, \$25. For more information, visit www.creemorecurling.ca.

Saturday, April 11

- Creemore Coyotes **cornhole tournament** fundraiser at St. Patrick's Hall Stayner starting at 2 p.m. \$40 per team. Licensed bar, cash prizes. Limited space available. Please email Angie at clearviewcornholeleague@gmail.com to register or call for more information, 705-606-0973.

Sunday, April 12

- Purple Hills Arts & Heritage Society presents the third and final **concert** in the 2026 Chamber Music Series - an OCTET with an eclectic mix of instruments featuring works by Beethoven and Schubert. The concert takes place at St. John's United Church at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$40 at phahs.ca or \$45 at the door.

April 17-18

- Clearview Community Theatre celebrates its 30th anniversary with "The Best Of," a fundraising **concert and silent auction** Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, April 18, at 3 p.m., at Clearview Community Church in Stayner. The show features music for all ages with Broadway and popular hits, ukulele favourites, and a mini-musical by the children's troupe. Tickets cost \$20 at the door. For information, email clearviewcommunitytheatre@gmail.com.
- Centennial United Church will host a free **spring clothing swap** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day at 234 William St., Stayner. Gently used clothing, footwear and accessories for women, men and children will be available. Donations of clean items will be accepted Monday, April 13, to Friday, April 17, at the church. Please use front entrance donation box. Optional cash or canned food donations for the church food pantry are welcome. Volunteers are also needed. Contact JoAnne at 705-446-4514.

Friday, April 17

- Knox Presbyterian Church's **Quilt Raffle** event at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 each or three for \$10. Nancy Loveless, will be speaking about sleeping children and the quilt draw will take place at 8 p.m. Raffle tickets available at *The Creemore Echo* office.

Saturday, April 25

- St. John's United Church's **Beef and Lamb Dinner** from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adults \$25, youth 6-12 years \$15, and children five and under admitted free. All welcome.

Saturday, May 2

- **The Big Book Bash** is back, at the Station on the Green from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Drop off gently read fiction and non-fiction books, hardcover, paperbacks and puzzles at *The Echo*. For info or book pick-up contact Kate at 416-460-1154.

Saturday, May 9

- Creemore Springs hosts Turas Mor, a community focused gravel **cycling event** for eccentric, adventurous cycling enthusiasts, celebrating small town hospitality and fresh beer. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit Creemore Springs Brewery, www.creemoresprings.com/en-CA/turas-mor for more information.

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Agricultural advisory committee approved

by Trina Berlo

Clearview Township council has approved the creation of its first Agricultural Advisory Committee, which will convene at the beginning of the next term of council.

The terms of reference, approved at the March 23 meeting, states the committee will provide advice and recommendations to council on matters affecting agriculture and rural communities within the township.

It will be comprised of four community representatives and one council rep.

Councillor **Robert McArthur** said he has already had three inquiries about participation.

“I don’t think we’re going to have any trouble filling this committee. As we all know, with the radar, this is

Council News

a timely topic,” he said, referring to the Department of National Defence’s development of the Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar (A-OTHR) on agricultural land in Clearview, which took farmers by surprise.

Deputy Mayor **Paul Van Staveren** said he likes how the committee has been structured to represent all agriculture in Clearview. He said he has heard interest in adding representation of the various commodities.

“We can always help it grow later if everything continues on,” he said.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will be asked to provide input on: the implementation of provincial and federal legislation,

policies and guidelines related to the agricultural industry; agricultural and rural policy directions, providing advice on official plan amendments, zoning bylaw updates, and other policy matters related to agricultural lands and rural issues; the implementation of programs to encourage public awareness and education of agricultural related issues; and identify emerging issues affecting agriculture and rural communities, including matters related to land use, infrastructure, and agricultural sustainability and provide input to council where appropriate.

With a municipal election scheduled for October, it will be up to new members of council to review applications and appoint the members in December or January.

Council assured water quality is top notch

The Township of Clearview has received a perfect mark for drinking water inspections and annual management of the system.

Compliance coordinator **Warren Raymond** reported 100 per cent compliance rating on all Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks inspections for the 2025 inspection period.

“It’s a testament to the township’s high standards, dedication, knowledge and competency of operational staff and the commitment from both management and top management who support those efforts to provide safe drinking water,” he said.

The report included four incidents of adverse drinking water tests (three incidents of low pressure and one case of coliform detection in raw water samples.)

“I think it’s important that people are aware, we are not infallible,” said Deputy Mayor **Paul Van Staveren**. “We have situations that happen but our staff was able to handle them so thank you very much.”

Ice jam causes erosion at Carruthers Park

Don Little, NVCA’s manager of stewardship and restoration services, said a report received last week from a river morphologist outlined the erosion at Carruthers Memorial Park in Avening caused by the spring thaw.

He said 10 metres of the 80-metre bank stabilization project washed away as a result of an ice jam that occurred 1.5 kilometres upriver of the park

“That ice jam diverted the stream flow through an agricultural field, right

through the middle of Carruthers Park and it caused head-gutting right at the top end of that bank stabilization project,” said Little.

“The remaining 70 metres fared pretty well,” said Little. “When we design these habitat features we design them to resist the water in its natural state of the stream. It’s hard to predict these types of events where you never know where the water is going to come from. In this case it came from

behind that habitat feature and eroded in behind it and undermine those rocks and eventually washed that 10 metre section away.”

He said they are looking into next steps to repair the eroded section.

New vegetation hadn’t had much time to establish so he was encouraged to see that most of it fared well. He expects it will be adequately strengthened once it is more established.

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OPINION & Feedback

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COMMUNITY

Youth in Policing initiative applications now open

Huronia West OPP is accepting applications for the 2026 Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI), an eight-week summer employment program designed to provide youth with meaningful work experience while strengthening community safety and engagement.

Running from July to August, the YIPI program places students in OPP detachments across the province, where they work alongside officers and civilian members supporting both administrative and community-focused initiatives. Originally created to strengthen relationships between police and youth, YIPI has grown into a valuable community-building and recruitment program.

During their placement, YIPI students assist with a wide range of duties, including administrative tasks such as records management, reception support, document processing, presentations, and information cataloguing. Students also support community events and outreach initiatives by participating in public safety programs, crime prevention education, youth and senior engagement, mentoring initiatives, and local partnerships.

YIPI participants have opportunities to contribute to special projects, develop media and engagement materials, assist Auxiliary and Fleet Management units, attend court, and observe select police functions, where appropriate. The program also offers professional development through leadership training, certifications, goal setting, and exposure to specialized OPP units such as Investigation, Marine, K9, and Forensic Identification.

Priority consideration is given to youth who may face barriers to employment or who reflect the diversity of the communities the OPP serves.

Many former YIPI students have gone on to pursue careers with the OPP as police officers, special constables, and civilian members, often citing the program as the catalyst for their career path.

Applicants must be between the ages of 15 and 18; eligible to work in Canada; currently enrolled in secondary school; successfully complete a background clearance; be a resident of Clearview Township, Wasaga Beach, or Springwater Township.

For more information, call the Huronia West OPP detachment at 705-429-3575, visit 1000 River Road West, Wasaga Beach or go to OPP.ca.

THE WAY WE WERE



The Creemore Echo celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2011. Cutting the cake is Brad Holden, from left, Georgie Denison, Sara Hershoff, and Craig Simpson. *The Echo* is planning a celebration to mark its 25th anniversary on May 16, and yes, there will be cake.

My Friend's House seeks passionate community leaders

My Friend's House is looking for new members to join its board of directors.

My Friend's House is a non-profit organization based in Collingwood, providing safe shelter and support services for women and children experiencing abuse. Through compassionate care and community partnerships, the organization works to break the cycle of violence and build a safer future for all.

As the demand for safe shelter and support services continues to grow, My Friend's House is seeking committed, community-minded individuals who are passionate about making a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by domestic abuse.

Board members play a critical role in guiding the organization's strategic direction, ensuring strong governance, and supporting its mission to provide safety, hope, and healing. Individuals with experience in real estate development, construction project management, fundraising/capital campaign

management and finance are encouraged to apply.

"We are looking for leaders who are willing to contribute their expertise, knowledge, and time in support of the women and children living in our community who are experiencing violence", said board chair **Paulette Soper**.

"Serving on the Board is a powerful and concrete way to support their journey toward safety and independence."

My Friend's House provides emergency shelter, outreach services, and prevention programs, offering a lifeline to individuals and families in crisis. Board service offers an opportunity to support this essential work while collaborating with a dedicated team of professionals and volunteers.

Interested candidates can learn more about the role, expectations, and application process by visiting myfriendshouse.ca/governance. The application deadline is April 3.

Send letters to the editor to editor@creemore.com. All letters must be signed with the writer's full name and include a phone number (which will not be printed.) Deadline is 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

We appreciate submissions for our *They Way We Were* feature. Bring in your old photos and we will scan them and get right back to you. We also accept submissions by e-mail to editor@creemore.com. Thank you.

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An insincere apology for 25 years of tomfoolery

The Creemore Echo has been summonsed for an April 1 court date to answer to the charges of being a public nuisance. The newspaper is facing a sweeping lawsuit over every April Fools' article it has published during its 25-year history.

Despite articles not being published online, for fear of litigation, some high powered lawyer weekending in the hills has been working behind the scenes to mount a class action lawsuit on behalf of the dozens of people who have suffered as a result of The Echo's shenanigans.

The claim was filed by a group identifying themselves as "Citizens Against Fun" alleges that the beloved small-town newspaper has "repeatedly and enthusiastically misled readers since its founding." The suit seeks unspecified damages, and a public apology.

"This lawsuit is being mounted on behalf of everyone who felt duped – and those who were not entertained – by the duplicitous articles," said Meghan Blah, a partner with Blah, Blah, and Blah. "This lawsuit is for those who tried to subscribe to all the publications they claimed to be launching, and felt betrayed when they reported they would turn all their jobs over to AI."

"We trust them to stick to the facts," said lead plaintiff Margaret Smith, who admits she tried to buy cannabis at The Echo after an article was published claiming that the newspaper's office had received an exemption for cannabis retail. "It's all fun and games to them but they should apply their resources more appropriately to the boring stuff that no one cares about but really matters," she said.

The lawsuit spans articles written by staffers past and present over a quarter century, many of which have achieved near-legendary status among readers.

There was that time The Echo printed an article about Canada's Wonderland relocating to Creemore

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(which really did result in a warning), and another claiming a cougar had been apprehended. During the height of the windmill wars, The Echo published a story claiming there would be a moratorium, and in 2011, to mark its 10th anniversary, The Echo published plans for its office tower on Caroline Street. Another year, The Echo eerily predicted what the Creemore Springs Brewery expansion would look like, causing brewery officials to suspect their plans had been leaked.

As a result The Echo has received many complaints by people fooled by the stories and long-time advertisers called to cancel their ads (in jest, as payback.)

"We intend to plead guilty," said publisher Sara Hershoff, who has shouldered most of the fallout from the shenanigans. "We really are sorry and we have learned our lesson. It's just that we can't help but see the absurdity in the daily goings-on here at The Echo and sometimes we get a little carried away."

She committed to reigning in her staff and plans to tell the judge that The Echo will never publish another April Fool's article ever again.

Despite the legal pressure, longtime readers appear divided. Some have expressed support for the paper, calling the annual prank a cherished tradition.

"Let them have some fun," said one reader, "They are slogging day in and day out, drumming up stories in a small community, dealing with constructive feedback. They have to blow off some steam somehow."

Fight Ford Protests March 28

Activists from across the province will join forces on March 28 in protest of Premier **Doug Ford**'s position on a number of democratic and environmental issues such as OSAP cuts, privatization of healthcare, the greenbelt and limiting access to freedom of information.

"Fight Ford Protests" are planned at MPP constituency offices, city centres and Queen's Park at various times. The Stayner protest at MPP **Brian Saunderson**'s office will be at 2 p.m.

Coalition of civil society organizations calls for a halt to the consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities

In anticipation of the introduction of legislative changes to enable the consolidation of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into nine, a broad coalition of civil society groups, individuals and a local elected official are calling on the Government of Ontario to halt plans and listen to experts and local voices to re-empower the Conservation Authorities.

"This proposed consolidation threatens the livelihoods and conservation efforts of farmers and Ontarians as a whole. We oppose legislative and regulatory changes that erode protections for farmland and natural heritage lands, and that diminish transparent, democratic decision-making," said **Josh Suppan**, president of the National Farmers Union – Ontario (NFU-O).

The coalition of organizations and individuals urges the province to work collaboratively and meaningfully with municipalities, Conservation Authorities, First Nations and civil society organizations to develop real solutions that protect public safety, support smart planning, maintain local trust and enable effective watershed management.

Could rule changes ease alcohol restrictions?

by **Bonnie MacPherson**

As the province prepares to ease the rules on bring-your-own alcohol at certain events, it is unclear whether Clearview Township intends to get on board.

The Ontario government is expanding bring-your-own event permits for municipally designated cultural or community outdoor public events including farmers' markets, movie screenings, art exhibits and the like. The new rules will allow attendees to bring their own alcohol for consumption in designated areas.

Attorney General **Doug Downey** says the intent is to give communities more flexibility to safely and responsibly enjoy cultural and outdoor events.

"The bring-your-own permits will help save attendees money, lower overhead costs for event organizers and contribute to local economies."

In order to participate, municipalities will be required to pass a bylaw authorizing the use of alcohol in public and establish a process for determining whether an event qualifies as community or cultural.

Jeremy Mantesso, Manager of Creemore Village Green, approached Clearview Township council last June with a proposal for an Open Air Alcohol policy in the park.

The idea, modelled on a successful pilot program in Toronto, would have council designate specific areas for personal alcohol consumption.

Although permitting and other controls would be necessary during special events when alcohol is sold in the park, at all other times people would be able to bring their own unopened alcohol into the park and consume it there between specific

times, currently proposed to be between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Mantesso envisions residents and tourists taking advantage of the policy by purchasing some local beer or wine to enhance their picnics in the park, giving people another reason to linger in the village, and providing local businesses another revenue source.

He said, "I think, not only would it benefit Creemore, but Clearview as well. It positions our area as forward thinking, with an openness to explore change for the positive."

At the time, reaction from councillors was lukewarm with some expressing concerns about possible increases in drinking and driving and underage drinking.

Mantesso believes such misbehaviour would in fact be minimized because of the high visibility in public spaces. He reported that the Creemore Community Foundation – the park's managing body – has already secured liability insurance and is committed to communicating with the public should there be a change in policy. He said he hopes that a constant staff presence in the park and security surveillance should deter unruly behaviour.

Mantesso believes that far from easing rules on open air consumption, Clearview may be headed in the other direction. The township's current Alcohol Risk Management Policy requires licensed security personnel for any licenced events with anticipated attendance of more than 100 people.

Mayor **Doug Measures** said, "Clearview staff are considering the potential impacts to our parks, festivals and events. I expect there will be a report on this topic on a future council agenda."

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Township hands out community assistance grants

Clearview Township has allocated \$31,100 in Community Assistance Grants and Sponsorships during the first Intake Period of 2026.

The grants are allocated annually to volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organizations providing service to Clearview residents.

The Clerk's office received a total of 23 applications totalling \$40,200 in requests.

The Community Assistance Grant & Sponsorship program's total fund was at \$92,200, including carry-over from previous years, leaving \$61,100 available for the fall intake.

The request from RAYS sparked a discussion about Mayor **Doug Measures**' desire to see an education scholarship provided by Clearview Township. As a result, council subsequently passed a motion directing staff to research the creation of a scholarship or partnership for a post secondary student in the amount of \$1,000. Measures suggested that it could possibly be made available for the upcoming school year.

2026 community assistance grants, first intake:

- 1944 RCACC Creemore, \$1,000
Funding will be used to purchase additional snowshoes to support winter snowshoe hikes. With an uptake in interest, more snowshoes are needed.
- Brad's Place Addiction Treatment of Southern Georgian Bay, \$1,000
Funds will support the annual Overdose Awareness Run on August 15, 2026, in Stayner. The grant will help cover permits, insurance, safety supplies, signage and materials.
- Breaking Down Barriers, \$2,500
Funding for the support of Connecting with Seniors monthly hybrid program. This programming offers virtual and in-person formats with activity kits available to participants.
- Brentwood Horticultural Society, \$700
Funding will support planting and maintaining several community gardens within New Lowell and Brentwood. As well as, assist with the cost of guest speakers' for educational opportunities that the society hosts.

- Creemore Firefighters Association, \$5,000
Funds to assist with the Canada Day firework show. The funds will offset the total event cost which is approximately \$9000.

- Creemore Horticultural Society, \$1,500
Funds to support the volunteers maintaining and enhancing public gardens in Creemore. This includes the purchase of bulbs, plants, shrubs, fertilizer and tools. (The committee had recommended that the Creemore Horticultural Society be allocated \$1,000, half of what it requested, but Mayor **Doug Measures** asked that the amount be raised to \$1,500.)

- Creemore Minor Baseball Association, \$1,000
Funds will be used to replace essential baseball equipment, such as helmets, catcher's gear and a pitcher's screen. This will help maintain safe and functional equipment for players.

- Creemore Village Green, \$2,500
Funds will support the signature summer concert series, Sundays in the Park. These concerts are free live music gatherings.

- Cybergnomes Robotics Inc., \$1,000
Funds will support the purchase of essential robotics equipment and program delivery. This will enhance hands-on learning opportunities for participants.

- Evergreen Christian Ministries, \$500
Support the Stayner Camp: Family Festival 2026, which features concerts, bouncy castles, food vendors, and other interactive events and activities. The festival is free to attend.

- Fifth Street Creative Initiatives, \$500
Funds will help to keep fees low so families can take part in events. This will also allow the organization to subsidize participation in special circumstances.

- Habitat for Humanity, \$800
Funding will provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for volunteers at the Collingwood ReStore. This will help maintain a safe working environment.

- Home Horizon Georgian Triangle Transitional Program, \$2,000
Funding will be used to support Home Horizon's Youth Thrive Program to reach homeless and vulnerable youth in the Georgian Triangle.

- Purple Hills Arts & Heritage Society, \$1,000
Funding will support a community Tea & History event focused on Women in Farming. The event will provide educational and cultural engagement.

- RAYS - Resources for Area Youth Success, \$1,300
This grant will provide a scholarship to a student pursuing a trade or apprenticeship.

- Royal Canadian Legion Stayner Branch #457, \$1,000
Requested funding will go towards new tables to better accommodate patrons with mobility issues

- Senior Wish Association - Clearview Chapter, \$500
Funding will support programs that benefit seniors in Clearview. Examples include Christmas gifts, granting wishes, and other supportive initiatives.

- South Simcoe 4-H Association, \$500
Funds will be used to offset the reimbursement of a part of the registration fee for the yearly membership, if the member participated in February Rally Nights.

- Stayner Heritage Society, \$800
Funds will support ongoing costs of maintenance and installation of the Veteran's Memorial Banners and other documentation, storage and safeguarding of items in museum space.

- Stayner Horticultural Society, \$1,500
Funds will help purchase flowers and supplies for Township gardens, hosting Tulip Days festival and parade participation.

- Stayner Kinsmen, \$2,500
The requested funding will offset the costs of facilitating the annual Stayner Santa Claus Parade and the Small Business Christmas Dinner.

- Stayner Lawn Bowling, \$1,000
Funding will purchase equipment and resources to improve the lawn bowling green. This will enhance the maintenance and upkeep of the green.

- Stayner Minor Lacrosse, \$1,000
This grant will help support the addition and programming of two youth lacrosse age groups.

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Children's choir supports Watoto ministries

By Bonnie MacPherson

The renowned Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda will be in Creemore to share their stories of restoration and hope over the Easter weekend.

The choir will be hosted by the Creemore campus of Clearview Community Church. Worship director pastor **Micah denBok** says the congregation normally meets at St. Luke's Anglican on Caroline

Street but will move their Sunday service to the Creemore Legion to accommodate more people.

"The service will be Sunday, April 5 at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome," he said. "We can accommodate between 300 and 400 people at the Legion."

The Watoto Children's Choir is a singing and dancing ensemble composed of children and

orphans, from Uganda. Touring internationally, they perform to raise awareness for the Watoto child care ministry, showcasing stories of resilience, faith, and transformation. The choir is part of the Kampala-based Watoto church founded in 1984 by Canadian missionaries Gary and Marilyn Skinner to care for Uganda's vulnerable women and children.

Each year, six touring companies of the Watoto choir tour the world, seeking support for Watoto villages which provide homes, education and medical care. DenBok says their work includes lots of humanitarian aid.

"They focus on child survival programs and help single moms and kids. They rescue and minister to child soldiers," he said.

While this is the choir's first appearance in Creemore, they have performed at Clearview Community Church in Stayner in the past, and denBok says he found their message inspirational. Over the past 30 years, they have performed at Buckingham Palace, the White House and major venues throughout Asia, Australia, Brazil, Canada and China.

Watoto means children in Swahili. The choir is made up of children who have lost one or both parents, often as a result of AIDS or war. Their 'Concerts of Hope' are a blend of African rhythms, contemporary gospel music, creative dance and story-telling. They have released several albums including *Mambo Number 5*, *Beautiful Africa*, and *What Is Love*. Their latest album *Wherever You Will Go* features live music played throughout the concerts on most of the tours.

DenBok says all are welcome at the Sunday service. There will be a voluntary donation to support the work of the Watoto ministries. The choir will also perform at Saturday's Easter egg hunt at Creemore Village Green.

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BETTER DAYS

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Easter

CHURCH SERVICES

MARCH 29 - PALM SUNDAY

St. Noel Chabanel Mission, Wasaga Beach
Mass: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Clearview Anglican Church, Duntroon
Palm/Passion Sunday: 10 a.m.

St. Patrick's Church
Mass: 11 a.m.

APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY

Holy Trinity Clearview Anglican Church, Duntroon
Liturgy: 10 a.m.; Stations of the Cross: 2 p.m.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Service: 10 a.m.

St. Luke's Anglican Church, Creemore
Service: 10 a.m.

Compass Life Church, Stayner
Service: 10:30 a.m., communion

Church of Jesus, the Lamb and the Lion
Service: 11 a.m.

Creemore & New Lowell Pastoral Charge
Service: 11 a.m. at St. John's United Church

Knox Presbyterian Church, Dunedin
Service: 11 a.m.

St. Noel Chabanel Mission, Wasaga Beach
Service: 11 a.m.

St. Patrick's Church
Service: 3 p.m. (fasting & abstinence)

Clearview Community Church, Creemore
Service: 6 p.m.

APRIL 5 - EASTER SUNDAY

Creemore & New Lowell Pastoral Charge
New Lowell: 9:45 a.m.; St. John's: 11 a.m.

Clearview Community Church
Service: 10 a.m. at Creemore Legion

Holy Trinity Clearview Anglican Church, Duntroon
Resurrection Sunday: 10 a.m.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Service: 10 a.m.

Compass Life Church, Stayner
Service: 10:30 a.m. (breakfast prior; call to register)

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Nottawa
Service: 10:30 a.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church, Dunedin
Service: 11 a.m., communion

St. Patrick's Church
Mass: 11 a.m.

St. Luke's Anglican Church, Creemore
Holy Eucharist: 11:15 a.m.

Church of Jesus, the Lamb and the Lion
Service: 3:30 p.m.



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**CREEMORE
CURLING
CLUB
STANDINGS**

Right: The Ladies' curling season wrapped up with a fun-filled evening featuring a taco extravaganza and a mini bonspiel. Thank you to Christina of Butter and Basil Catering for the wonderful meal, as well as to Marie, Gayle, and Gabe for providing delicious desserts. Thank you also to Megan at MB Soap Co. for providing lovely handmade soaps as prizes.

Katie was missed on the ice, but for a very special reason—congratulations on the arrival of Baby Blake Falls!

The evening also included a presentation of the Husker House Trophy. Thank you to Lorna May for joining us to present the award to Team Millsap, winners of the spring session. Pictured from left to right are **Taylor Legge, Gayle Millsap, Lorna May, Celeste Dunford, and Gail Martens.**



Contributed photo



Contributed photo

Left: The Creemore Curling Club men's league's Team Fuller finished the curling season with a win on Tuesday night to take home the Paul and Glenn Millsap trophy. Thanks to all the guys for a great season. From left: **Marty Beelen** - vice, **Gord Fuller** - skip, **John Millsap** presenting the trophy, **Adam Versteegen** - lead. Absent: **Brett Falls** - second, and **Jonathan Filion** who shared lead position.

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The Big Book Bash is back!



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Applications open for Dufferin County's Bill Hill Scholarship Program

Applications are now open for Dufferin County's 2026 Bill Hill Scholarship Program.

The scholarship was introduced by former Warden Bill Hill in 2015 and is intended to recognize outstanding students from the county who will be pursuing post-secondary education and/or training.

Seven one-time \$2,500 scholarships will be considered for Dufferin County students entering a university, college or trade/apprentice program. To address the social and economic systemic inequities that continue to disadvantage and prevent Black, Indigenous, and LGTBQIA+ youth

from accessing post-secondary education, three of the seven scholarships will be awarded to students who, in addition to meeting the eligibility criteria, identify in their application as belonging to one of three communities: Black or racialized; Indigenous/First Nations (Status, Non-Status), Métis or Inuit; LGTBQIA+.

The deadline for applications is May 31. More information on the program and the application form can be found at www.dufferincounty.ca.

Applications will be reviewed by the selection committee using a scoring matrix and applicants will

be notified shortly after. Scholarship funds are transferred directly to the successful applicant's post-secondary institution.

Successful applicants will be invited to attend a reception in July to be presented with their award.

Applicants are required to provide the following as part of their application:

- Maximum 500-word essay that answers the following questions:

Explain why you think your chosen field is important in Dufferin County?

How do you believe you could give back to your community using the skills learned?

How will you apply the skills that you've learned and the knowledge that you've acquired towards the enhancement and betterment of your community?

- Letter of reference from one of the following: Staff member at current school; current employer; coach; mentor.

- Proof of admission to post-secondary institution or training program.

Applications can be completed online or by contacting the Clerk's department at scholarship@dufferincounty.ca or 519-941-2816 ext. 2500.

Applications open for Simcoe's age-friendly seniors housing grant

Applications for the County of Simcoe's 2026 Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant are open until May 31. Now in its ninth year, the program provides \$500,000 in annual funding to support seniors in remaining independent, safe, and connected within their communities.

The grant is a cornerstone of the County's Positive Aging Strategy, which was first introduced in the original plan and reaffirmed in the renewed Simcoe County 2025-2030 Positive Aging Strategy. It supports homeowners and landlords across the region in making accessible, adaptable, and inclusive upgrades for residents aged 60 and older. These projects range

from mobility-friendly renovations to adaptable living spaces and inclusive design features, helping older adults remain independent and safely at home for as long as possible.

In 2025, the County approved 93 applications, highlighting a significant need throughout the community.

"Supporting our aging population is one of the County's most important responsibilities," said Warden **Basil Clarke**. "We are grateful that the Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant continues to make a meaningful difference by helping older adults remain safe, independent, and connected in the homes and communities they love."

To be eligible for the grant,

projects must be located within the 16 municipalities of the County of Simcoe (excluding the cities of Barrie and Orillia), applicants must be homeowners of principal residences or landlords renting to individuals aged 60+ and applicants can not have received an Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant in the past three years, or other county capital funding for the same project. Individual grant amounts will be determined based on the number of applications received and the applicant's ability to meet program criteria.

Full program details and application forms will be available at simcoe.ca/age-friendly.

Recognized by the WHO, the Age-Friendly Simcoe County initiative was established in 2016 to increase awareness of the County's aging population and help businesses and organizations evaluate their environment and service delivery. The county continues to provide resources and assessment tools to help organizations implement age-friendly goals and strategies and adapt to our aging population.

For more information about the Age-Friendly program, along with the Business and Individual Recognition Awards, visit www.simcoe.ca/age-friendly, email agefriendly@simcoe.ca or call 705-726-9300 ext. 3127.



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Celebrate Easter at the Simcoe County museum with an Egg-Venture

Simcoe County Museum is inviting everyone on an Easter Egg-venture on Saturday, April 4, an outdoor celebration for all ages.

From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., families can take part in a cheerful Easter craft, then follow the festive Easter trail, with a special prize at the end.

Admission: \$8 for adults (21-64); \$6 for seniors (65+); \$6 for youth (12-20); \$4 for children (4-11); Free for preschoolers and museum members.

The museum is located at 1151 ON-26, Minesing.

Municipal election candidate and third party information session

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is offering a 2026 Municipal Election Candidate and Third Party Information Session on May 28.

The session will cover topics including an overview of the *Municipal Elections Act*; campaign rules and municipal election campaign finances; third-party advertising rules; key dates; and an outline of various roles/responsibilities, including elected officials and municipal staff.

The session is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at Clearview Township Council Chambers, 217 Gideon Street, Stayner



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Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

2		8			5				3
5	3				1				
6				8				2	
	5								
9		1	3		6	4			8
								7	
	4			2					5
			6					9	2
3			5			6			7

Answers on page 15

FRED'S FUNNIES

What did 20 do when it was hungry?
Twenty eight

Canadian Criss Cross by Walter Feener

- ACROSS**
- That guy
 - Winning tennis serves
 - Restless desire
 - One ___ million
 - ___ noire
 - Go away!
 - Baby carriage
 - Hamlet in Alberta
 - Large fishing nets
 - City in Poland
 - Animal that looks like a large mouse
 - River in France
 - Proper behaviour
 - Born first
 - Soft grey powder
 - Customary
 - Lyric poem
 - Despite what has just been said
 - Exclude as a possibility
 - Toronto Maple ___
 - Circle segment
 - Take away the weapons of
 - Landing area for airplanes
 - Part of the inside of a house
 - Soak in a seasoned sauce
 - Volcano in Sicily
 - Like a wing
 - Scatter newly mown hay for drying
 - He played Danny Dallas on Soap"
 - River in Africa
 - Compass direction

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
18							19	20				
	21				22	23						
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			38		39				40			
41	42	43					44	45				46
47					48	49						
50					51					52		
53					54					55		

- DOWN**
- Exclamation of disapproval
 - Money paid on borrowed money
 - Mexican street band
 - Good at something
 - Scale for measuring temperature
 - French word for summer
 - Twilled fabric
 - Jordan's neighbour
 - Soon afterward
 - People in prison
 - You can catch fish with it
 - Aware of
 - Amusing in an odd way
 - Blue creature
 - "___ Boot"
 - Tool for measuring length
 - They let other people treat them badly
 - Provides schooling for
 - Soaks flax
 - Coming from the south
 - Woolly-haired animals
 - Be worthy of
 - Capital of Jordan
 - Made a picture of
 - Small amount
 - Male children
 - River in England
 - Surrender
 - Boxer Muhammad

Trivia: Who wrote the English epic 'Paradise Lost'?

Find out what you've missed at Creemore.com



Happy Birthday to us!

April 1, 2026 marks 25 years of service to the community.

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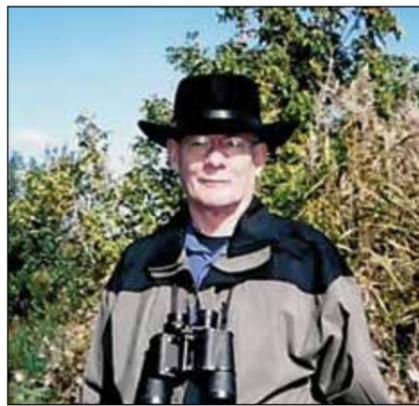
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DEATH NOTICE



STEPHENS Donna Joan Berneice (née York) passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at Campbell House Hospice. Donna Joan was the devoted wife of 50 years to her beloved husband, Doug. She was a proud and loving mother to Brian, Blake, Mark, and Chad (Emily), and an amazing grandmother to Tegan, Scarlett, Silas, Adelio, Alessandro, Andreas, and Cadence, who brought her immense joy. Born in Collingwood, Donna Joan was the daughter of the late Malcolm and Berneice York. She will be deeply missed by her brothers Rodger (Stella), Angus (Linda), and Dennis (Lois), and fondly remembered by the Stephens family, as well as her many nieces and nephews. Donna Joan was a natural caregiver who always put others before herself. She had a generous spirit and would help anyone in need, always seeing the best in people. Her sons, and later her grandchildren, were the center of her world and her greatest source of happiness. She had a love for collecting antiques and never missed a chance to wear a little sparkle. Donna Joan connected easily with others and treasured sharing stories, laughter, and time with family and friends. A loyal and caring friend, she leaves behind a legacy of kindness and warmth. Donna Joan will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. As per her wishes cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers donations in Donna Joan's memory may be made to the Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation. Friends may visit Donna Joan's online Book of Memories at www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com.

DEATH NOTICE



SHROPSHIRE, James (Jim) Winston Dec. 18, 1940 – March 19, 2026. Jim Shropshire passed away peacefully after a brief illness at Hospice Simcoe, Barrie, ON, on March 19, 2026, at the age of 85 years. Born in Newmarket to Charles and Mildred, the middle child of five siblings, Jim left home to join the military in 1958, serving with the 8th Canadian Hussars, an armoured regiment, until 1965, both in Canada and Germany. Jim started his own family with Dorothy in 1965, settling in the Creemore area of Ontario. Never limited to one direct path, Jim's artistic and creative nature was often reflected in his work choices, including being a mold maker at Blue Mountain Pottery, and later the stitcher of quality hockey equipment at John Brown's in Collingwood. His interest in history, heritage and the outdoors led him to be an excavator on various Ontario archaeological projects, and to join the Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS), holding executive positions in the Toronto Chapter for a few years, and writing a number of published papers. Jim's adventure continued in Toronto with the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires; postings at government offices, a university college and upscale condos provided Jim with many interesting experiences and encounters. His respect for duty and his efforts to fulfil responsibilities stood him in good stead. Shortly after he retired in 2010, Jim and his longtime partner Marjorie Clarkson relocated in Barrie, ON. Jim's lifelong hobby of building model planes and boats, as well as detailed Christmas decorations for family and friends, kept him busy well into retirement. Gardening, long walks, and road trips to historically interesting locales, and the occasional overseas trip to the UK kept him engaged and produced many affectionate and humorous tales. Jim was pre-deceased by his parents, his older brother Lorne (and wife Jean) of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and granddaughter Michelle. He was a loving father to Margaret (Craig) of Barrie, and Andrew of Creemore, and a proud grandfather to Michelle (Brandon), Kristine (Justin) and Leah, and great-grandfather to Brinley, Fiona and Cullen, and uncle to Bill (Sofia) of Winnipeg. Friends and family may recall Jim's quiet charm, shy smile, and his enjoyment of relating stories and his elegant collection of hats. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations will be appreciated to Hospice Simcoe, the Huronia Chapter of the OAS, or a charity of your choice. Online condolences and memories may be shared via www.steckleygooderham.com.

DEATH NOTICE



PRENTICE, Leona passed away peacefully with family by her side at Campbell House Hospice in Collingwood on Monday, March 9, 2026 in her 93rd year. Beloved wife of 63 years to the late Norman. Loving mother of Terry (Maureen), Dana (Wendy), Lynnette (Dan) McIntyre, Paul (Jana) and Leanne (Jamie) Doig. Cherished grandma of Michelle (Skee), Heather (Diptesh), Carley, Andrew (Janelle), Ryan (Kristi), Jesse (Jill), Emma (Rob), Eric (Keith), Evan, Dakota (Jena), Dylan (Sierra), Jordan (Sophie), Zackary (Ellie), Leighton (Kyle), Aidan, (Paige) and Devan (Katie). Great-grandmother of Hana, Eleanor, Silas, Atlas, Makayla, Matthew, Nathan, Sophie, Sam, Savannah, Nicholas, Gracie, Sadie, Lauren, Brady and Blair. Great-great grandmother of Adelyne. Survived by her sisters-in-law Sonia and Audie and brother-in-law Bill. Predeceased by her grandson Kyle, her daughter-in-law Barb, her parents Cecil and Lena Henry, sister Gloria, brothers Mel (Leona), Elmer (Gladys) and Gord. Leona was born and raised in Riverview. After her marriage to Norm in 1955, they lived and raised their family on the potato farm in Melancthon. Leona was passionate about her family, genealogy and her love of animals. She was an avid poet; joke teller and she loved to dance. She had a keen eye for fashion and never missed the opportunity to dress up for Halloween. Her compassion touched many lives, and she will be missed dearly. The funeral service was held in the Jack & Thompson Funeral Home Chapel in Shelburne on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 1 p.m. A come and go reception and visitation followed in the Warrior's Hall at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 220 on Tuesday from 2-5 p.m. There will be a private family spring interment at Honeywood Cemetery at a later date. If desired, donations to Honeywood Arena or Honeywood Cemetery would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy. Online condolences may be placed at www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com.

This week's answers

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Trivia: John Milton

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