

The Creemore ECHO

Friday, April 10, 2026 Vol. 26 No. 15 www.creemore.com

News and views in and around Creemore

INSIDE



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PAGE 10

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Staff photo: Trina Berlo

Two-year-old **Theresa Fairfield** collects Easter eggs at a hunt hosted by Creemore Village Green and Clearview Community Church on April 4. Despite the foul weather, thousands of eggs were scooped up in a matter of minutes. For more photos, see page 9.

Creemore's food bank in desperate need of lunch supplies

St. Luke's Community Food Bank is in desperate need of items for student lunches including items like peanut-free granola bars, crackers, pudding, apple sauce, yogurt cups and tubes.

To donate, drop items off at St. Luke's Anglican Church on Friday mornings or call Rev. **Lorna May** at 705-352-2759 or leave a message at the church, 705-466-2206.

Transport Canada's headlight survey

Transport Canada wants to learn how headlight glare affects road users and what vehicle or lighting features may influence how people experience it at night.

The survey, at tc.canada.ca, closes April 20.

Anyone wishing to send feedback directly can e-mail comments to MVS-SA@tc.gc.ca, make sure to include "Headlight glare" in the email subject line.

Upcoming consultation for parents/guardians and Black students

In response to the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Dreams Delayed Addressing Systemic Anti-Black Racism and Discrimination in Ontario's Public Education System report, the SCDSB is holding consultations for parents and families of Black students. The upcoming consultations are intended to gather feedback from the community on how the recommendations from the report can be incorporated at the SCDSB. Locally, a session will be held at Collingwood Collegiate Institute from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on April 22. There will be a virtual session from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on May 7. Register at www.scdsb.on.ca. Find the link under the 'about' tab, and click on The Human Rights and Equity Office.

Minister to appoint next county warden

by **Bonnie MacPherson**

The province has introduced legislation which, if passed, will significantly alter the composition of Simcoe County council. The *Better Regional Governance Act* would reduce the size of council and allow the minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to appoint a warden.

Under the current system, county council is composed of 32 members including the mayor and deputy mayor of each of the 16 member municipalities. The warden is elected from within the membership.

A resolution passed by the county last March called for one representative from each municipality, with the warden elected at large.

Clearview Mayor **Doug Measures**

is opposed to the reduction in council size.

"I was vocal at the time that the reduced number of councillors and the weighted vote provision is not consistent with the objective to serve all people in the county equally and fairly," he said. "Weighted voting does not serve the interests of rural municipalities."

Measures says awarding votes based on population ensures that the five larger municipalities in the county can impose their will on smaller municipalities.

"For example, we know that rural municipalities have a great need for paramedic services, but a vote could be made to devote all available resources to larger urban centres," he cautions.

"Everyone is committed to the goal of establishing more long-term care facilities in the county, but we could easily see all of those facilities built in urban centres as opposed to throughout the county where they are needed."

Measures expressed further concern about having the warden appointed by the province rather than selected from among elected representatives.

"Right now, everyone who sits on county council has a mandate but with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing appointing the warden, the head of council will be someone with no actual mandate given by the electorate. This is just ineffective leadership," he said.

The proposed legislation, expected (See 'Proposed' on page 3)

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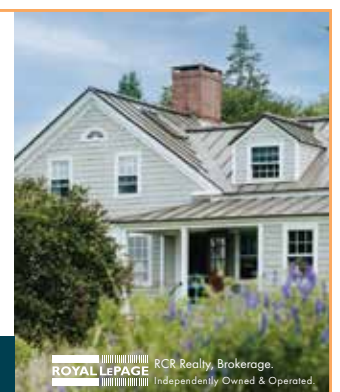
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COMMUNITY Calendar

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 fax: 705-466-9908

Friday, April 10

- **Acoustic Open Mic** with host Bob Marek at the Dunedin Pub. Musicians encouraged to bring their talent and acoustic instrument of choice. 19+ event, cash bar, 7 p.m. Facebook @dunedinvillagehall.

Saturday, April 11

- Creemore Farmers' **Spring Market** indoors at the Station on the Green from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Centennial United Church is hosting a **craft and craft supply sale** from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There will also be finish artisan products as well as craft supplies and baking. 234 William St., Stayner.
- Intuitive Spiritual **Art Workshop** with Annette Chiappe at the craft, art supply and bake sale at Centennial United Church hosted by "day dreamers." Create, learn and inspire wellness at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

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.

Tuesday, April 14

- **Pub Trivia Night is on hold until April 21.** For more information, call 705-466-5244, visit theoldmillhousepub.com, or join the Pub Trivia Facebook group.

Wednesday, April 15

- The Creemore Horticultural Society presents "**Growing Veggies in Containers**" with Master Gardener Pat Cook at Station on the Green. Doors open at 7 p.m. Presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. Membership of \$25 is now due. Payable by cash, cheque or e-transfer to Treasurer.CreemoreHort@gmail.com.

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.

April 17-18

- 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.

Saturday, April 18

- Sunnidale Corners Community Centre's spring **pancake breakfast** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sausages and pancakes hot off the grill with Ontario maple syrup. For more information please call 705-428-0223 or 705-428-5063.
- Mono Mulum Citizens' Coalition hosts **Safe & Sustainable Water For Mono's Future** at Mono Townhall, 347209 Mono Centre Rd., Mono, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Guest speaker Andrew McCammon, executive director, Ontario Headwaters Institute, will present, followed by a town hall meeting with the mayor and council members. For more information contact info@monomulum.com.
- Rob Martine, **the singing DJ** at the Stayner Legion from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. 7149 ON-26, Stayner 705-428-3809.
- Songstress Amy Millan of Stars and Broken Social Scene graces the stage of the Avening Community Centre, 3401 Cty Rd 42, as part of her You Went Out Tour. Don't miss this opportunity to see one of Canada's great talents in an intimate hall setting. Tickets are \$35 plus tax and fees at aveninghall.ca. This is an all-ages, licensed event.

Wednesday, April 22

- Celebrate Earth Day with Seeds, Soap and Stories **children's workshop** from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at The Keep Refillery in Creemore. \$30/child or \$50 for a family with two or more children. Contact meg@ferngullyfarm.com to book your ticket.

Friday, April 24

- Clearview Public Library **PA Day and Weekend Workshop**: April Flowers Bookmark. Free for children 10 and up. Creemore 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. New Lowell 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Stayner Saturday, April 25 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. To register go to clearviewpubliclibrary.ca for more details email ehamerton@clearview.ca.

Saturday, April 25

- Rob Roy United Church's **Annual Fisherman's Breakfast, Yard and Bake Sale** from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Breakfast includes eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, toast muffins, juice, coffee and tea. Adults \$12, children 12 and under \$6, preschool free.
- 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.
- A special evening performance by the **Deep Tracks Rock Band** at the Stayner Legion from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. 7149 ON-26, Stayner 705-428-3809.

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*. As of April 20 donations will be collected at the Creemore Curling Club between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. For info or book pick-up contact Kate at 416-460-1154.

Friday, May 8

- **Dunedin Swag night.** Come meet the locals, come be a local. Wear or buy Dunedin swag to support the community hall. New design to be revealed. 19+ Event, cash bar, 7 p.m. Facebook @dunedinvillagehall.

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.
- Ganaraska Mad River Hiking Club **Interpretive Mansfield Forest Hike** from 10 a.m. to noon. Leisurely 6km hike at Main Tract, 937513 Airport Rd. (east side, 5km north of Mansfield). Turn off Airport Road, immediately right, follow driveway south past gate to open field; continue to gravel parking area on left before closed gate. Meet at parking area. No dogs. Waivers required. Register: Sharon, 705-351-1571.

Thursday, May 28

- 2026 Municipal Election Candidate and Third Party **information session** presented by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing at 5:30 p.m., Clearview Township Council Chambers.

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Proposed change advances responsiveness, cost efficiency: warden

(Continued from page 1)

to be passed in advance of the May 1 opening of nominations for this fall's municipal elections, would also create "strong chair" powers (comparable to strong mayor powers) which are intended to provide more efficient, streamlined local decision-making, enabling council to deliver faster results for residents and support efforts to advance shared provincial-municipal priorities.

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing **Rob Flack** says the changes will support lower costs for municipal taxpayers. In a news release from the province, Flack said, "These changes provide the necessary tools for local leadership to advance our shared priorities and better serve our communities, including by expediting housing and infrastructure development."

Simcoe County Warden **Basil Clarke** said in a statement, "While our governance model has served the county effectively for many decades, there is recognition that further streamlining decision-making will better support the

needs of our communities.

"This reduction in the size of council, which was previously recommended by county council, advances our ongoing efforts to be responsive and cost efficient for residents, while continuing to ensure strong local decision-making at county council through the leadership of our 16 lower-tier mayors and representatives from the separated cities," he continues.

"With growth in our efficient regional services, there is also a strong need for a full-time head of council to focus on the interests of our residents and communities every day. These changes will help strengthen our ability to serve our growing region effectively. We look forward to the province sharing more information about the process of appointment of the full-time warden position."

Simcoe County is responsible for regional services such as maintenance of county roads, provision of paramedic and social service programs and waste collection. Its operations are funded with contributions from member municipalities.



Joan Gordon photo

Residents concerned about flooding were appeased by a March 27 meeting with officials from the County of Simcoe and Clearview Township who are taking steps to improve ditches after a dramatic melt in early March caused some of the homes along the stretch of County Road 9 west of Creemore and east of Riverside Drive to experience higher than normal flooding around their properties and on the roadway. Rapidly rising ground water caused some flooding issues in the homes.

The residents asked for a meeting that the township helped facilitate, said Clearview Township director of public works **Dan Perreault**, adding. "The County explained that they are planning to create a more defined ditch on the north side of County Road 9 from #7876 to the west to help the water get away better in the future."



Happy Birthday to us!

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

We invite you to join us in celebrating on Saturday, May 16 at Creemore Village Green.

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OPINION & Feedback

Feedback and old photos welcome
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HEALTH

Demystifying public health food safety inspections

by Dr. Michelle Quaye

Health inspections take place in many different settings, but they all have the same goal: making sure that the right steps are being taken to protect people from getting sick, injured, or, in the most serious cases, dying. One of the most noticeable ways this work is done is through food safety inspections in restaurants throughout the community.

Signs are posted at all places the health unit inspects, including restaurants and other food businesses. The signs include a QR code and information on where you can see the results of the health unit's inspections. These results are posted on the health unit's website, and news outlets will sometimes share stories about recent inspection results. All of this is done to help the public make informed choices about where they may want to eat or visit.

In 2025, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit public health inspectors completed more than 8,300 inspections at food premises, including restaurants, food trucks and kitchens in long-term care homes. This includes routine and follow-up inspections, and responses to complaints made by the public.

All health units in Ontario are required under Ontario Regulation 493/17 Food Premises of the Health Protection and Promotion Act to make inspection reports available to the public. These reports remain online for two years and include what the inspector found, and the actions required by the restaurant.

When an inspector identifies conditions or practices that could put people's health at risk, they document the problem (infraction) using words from the legislation, but the specific details are not publicly accessible to protect confidentiality and maintain consistency with legal requirements. What is included is the severity of the problem, such as whether it is a critical issue, meaning it could cause illness, or a non-critical issue, meaning that it is required by law but does not pose an immediate health risk.

Once the inspection is complete, the inspector will prepare a report and share it with business and provide feedback. When no problems are found, the report will say "satisfactory." However, if a problem is found, the business is given instruction and a deadline to correct it, and the report will say "action required."

Some of the terms used in health inspection reports are straightforward, while others can be confusing without context. For example, "education provided" means that the health inspector took time to explain the issue to the business operator and offered guidance on how to correct it. Other terms such as "equipment/product seized and destroyed" can sound alarming, but it can often refer to routine steps such as throwing out hazardous food or damaged
 (See 'Goal' on page 5)

THE WAY WE WERE



A promotional ashtray from Crest Hardware in Creemore. The Hardware store was purchased by Lloyd and Marie Freethy in 1949 from HG Curscadden. In 1952 it moved to 153 Mill St., and in September 1965 it was rebranded as a Crest Hardware. It didn't become a Home Hardware until 1974. From the collection of Colleen Stamp.

LETTER

Endangered species left unprotected

Editor:

I've been privileged to live in the Clearview area since 2011, and even more privileged to explore the beautiful natural landscapes that Clearview has to offer.

Through my exploration, I've learned that Clearview and the surrounding area is home to an incredible number of endangered plants and animals; the piping plover at Wasaga Beach, butternut trees and American hart's tongue fern on the escarpment, lake sturgeon in the bay and map turtles in our rivers, just to name a few.

When I learned that the Ford government quietly replaced Ontario's *Endangered Species Act* with the less strict *Species Conservation Act* in late March, I became extremely concerned about the future of our endangered species, not just in Clearview but the whole province.

I don't believe that the new *Species Conservation Act*, which prioritizes faster development approval and greater government discretion, will provide

sufficient protections for the endangered plants and animals that call Ontario home. In summary, the new Act reduced the list of provincially protected species from 277 to 168 (many of which are found locally), it allows the government to bypass the previously established Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) independent board of experts, and significantly speeds up the permitting process for projects that are likely to harm, kill, or destroy habitat that is critical to endangered species.

I want to make it clear that I am not against progress. I am 25 years old and struggling to find affordable housing in the area, so I fully understand the need for new housing developments and support the move for affordable housing. However, housing cannot be built at the expense of our most vulnerable wildlife. I don't want to live in a province without our endangered species.

Hannah Stockford,
 Stayner.

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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LETTER

Liberals doing more to violate rights than curve crisis

Editor:

Why is the federal government more focused on restricting our rights than protecting them? If you're wondering what's going on in the "commons" recently, you might be surprised on which side is fighting to protect Canadians. While Poilievre's Conservatives have been focused on economic and justice system reform with such legislation as C-242 (*Jail Not Bail Act*) and C-269 (Heat Recovery Tax Credit) in their "government in waiting" strategy, Carney's Liberals have been focused on the opposite.

Before voting that refugees, asylum claimants, and specific vulnerable groups should get more free healthcare including government funded vision care than Canadian citizens are allowed with House Vote 72 (Interim Federal Health Program), the federal government introduced more bills to violate our charter rights than to curve the economic crisis. For example, the government introduced Bill C-2 (*Strong Borders Act*) which would allow Canada Post to open any letter without a warrant, which then

proceeded to Bill C-8 (*Act respecting cyber security*) in which the government can turn off the internet of any citizen they wish, C-9 (*Combating Hate Act*) criminalizing sections of the *Bible, Torah, Quran* and other holy texts, C-15 (*Budget Implementation Act*) allows any minister to exempt anyone they wish from non-criminal laws, and C-22 (*Supporting Authorized Access to Information Act*) which would force telecommunication providers to create a surveillance system that can be activated and accessed by the government at any time.

But government bills aren't the only way the government breaches fundamental freedoms. With the Iran war causing public confusion after our prime minister changed his position more than five times, it was revealed that on March 1, Canadian forces were targeted by the Iranian regime during a bombing of the "Camp Canada" section of the Ali Al-salem Air Base in Kuwait. It wasn't March 12 that Canadians were made aware when a French newspaper exposed the attempted cover-up of the bombing. Our own defence

minister first said he didn't know about the attack until the news report, then walked that back and admitted he was told immediately after the strike.

Even with all of these crises, Carney is more focused on getting a parliamentary majority than anything else. With the back-room deal floor-crossing by former NDP MP Lori Idlout, Carney is two seats shy of a majority government, allowing him to pass any legislation he wants. And with the two by-elections in GTA Liberal strongholds, Carney is set to be the first prime minister to undemocratically achieve a majority government.

So why is our prime minister more focused on destroying our fundamental rights than fixing the country his party broke?

Daniel Pinsk,
Stayner.

Editor's note: On Wednesday Conservative Member of Parliament for Sarnia-Lambton-Bkejwanong Marilyn Gladu crossed the floor to join the Liberals leaving the party one seat shy of a majority government.

Goal is to ensure identified problems are corrected promptly

(Continued from page 4)

equipment, like a cracked cutting board that can't be cleaned properly.

Public health inspectors work closely with business operators to resolve issues quickly. Their goal is to ensure that any problems identified during an inspection are corrected promptly so operators can continue serving the community safely while protecting the health of the public.

For more information about public health inspections, visit SMDHU's Inspection Connection.

Dr. Michelle Quaye is a public health physician at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. Her primary responsibilities are in the areas of environmental health, family and community health, population health assessment and health equity.



Contributed photo

The Creemore 55+ hockey club celebrates the end of a successful season at the Old Mill House pub.

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JULY 17TH Coins (?)

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K-W symphony members return for chamber music series

Next up in the Chamber Music Series is a Schubert Octet on April 12 featuring musicians from The Kitchener Waterloo Symphony and friends.

The first half of the concert features an Octet, a group of eight musicians, often featuring a combination of strings, woodwinds, and brass. In this case, Schubert's Octet in F major will be performed by two violins, a viola, a bassoon, a French horn, an oboe, a clarinet, and a cello.

The other half of the program features a septet, a group of seven musicians, performing Beethoven's Septet in E-flat major.

"A septet is a rare and unique ensemble size, allowing for a rich and nuanced sound that is perfect for showcasing these exceptional musicians," said organizer **Sandra Reynolds**.

"Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society is committed to bringing high-quality musicians to Creemore," said Reynolds, a member who made it her personal mission to bring chamber music back to Creemore. "We want musicians who bring depth, passion, and precision to every performance."

"We believe that our Chamber Music Series is an opportunity to be treated to world-class talent, normally reserved for big-city stages, right here in Creemore," she said. "Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society is committed

to continuing to bring internationally acclaimed musicians to our doorstep, offering the opportunity to experience exceptional music in an intimate setting."

Reynolds said the second concert in the series performed on March 29 featuring violin and guitar duo **Jung Tsai** and **Daniel Ramjattan**, two internationally known musicians enraptured the crowd to a standing ovation.

"It was truly an unforgettable afternoon of music-making, one that will linger in the hearts of those who were lucky enough to be there," said Reynolds.

The third concert in the series is at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 12 at St. John's United Church, located at 192 Mill St. in Creemore. Tickets cost \$40 at phahs.ca or \$45 at the door.



Contributed photo

Violin and guitar duo **Jung Tsai** and **Daniel Ramjattan** performed during the second chamber series concert on March 29.



Contributed photo

SPRING FLING Attendees at the inaugural Spring Fling at Avening Hall on March 28 packed the dance floor all night, captivated by the DJ Savage Good. The event was hosted by The Rainbow Club of South Georgian Bay. The club is extending its reach throughout the region as part of its mission to reach out to the 2SLGBTQ+ community, friends and allies, and create safe, inclusive, fun, celebratory spaces.

Mountainside Gallery - 201 Hurontario St - Collingwood

Palette of Hope Art Fundraising Event

Supporting CGMH Foundation

May 7 - May 9
Art exhibition & silent auction

Thursday May 7 - 11 to 3:
Live painting by local artists John W. Burton, Holly Kee, Bill Franks, Jill Stevenson, and more
Original works donated by participating artists



Friday May 8 - Gala
4 to 7pm - Tickets \$20.00

All proceeds are entirely to the CGMH Hospital Foundation

Battle of the Brushes with local artists John W. Burton and Jason Alexander.

ABOUT THE EVENT:
Palette of Hope is a three-day fundraising event hosted by Mountainside Gallery in support of the Collingwood General & Marine Hospital Foundation. The gallery is donating three full days to this event, with 100% of proceeds supporting the hospital's \$100+ million fundraising goal. Because everyone will need the hospital at some point — let's help build the best one possible.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

Thursday 11am to 3pm
Live painting and artist presentations

Friday - 11am to 7pm
Gala night - 4pm to 7pm
The Battle of the Brushes between John W. Burton and Jason Alexander
Art exhibition & auction
\$20 per ticket (non-refundable) - Cash bar
Sponsored by: Burger Bob, Creemore Springs, Georgian Hills Vineyards and Ardiel Cider House

Saturday - 11am to 3pm
Exhibition and Silent Auction closer

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE GALLERY OR WWW.CGMHF.COM/EVENTS.COM

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Member of PHAHS are invited to The Opening Reception at Gallery Lagom Friday, April 24, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy an advance viewing of the artwork and be among the first to purchase your favourite pieces.

Support art in the community. Become a member today,
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Village as muse in new book about relationships

by Trina Berlo

A new novel by **Cecily Ross** explores one woman's relationships with her mother, sister, daughter, husband, female friends, and the small town in which the story is set.

Attachment Disorders is the humorous fast paced story of 57-year-old Hattie who moves from the city to a farm near the small village of Avalon, "a tree-lined, red-brick gingerbread and false store-front cliché" on the Mad River. Although fictionalized, the village is very much inspired by Creemore and long-time residents will be transported back in time as Hattie and her friends catch up at the Eggplant Café.

The title pokes at the therapy speak oversimplifying attachment styles, often blaming the mother. The mother-daughter relationship is central to the story, as the protagonist balances responsibility for her aging mother and fledgling daughter.

Ross said most of the characters are completely fictional with the exception of the protagonist, who is "channeling her own outlook on life in an exaggerated way," and the character of Florence, Hattie's mother, wholly based on her own mother who was a "big character."

"When you're writing it all, it's kind of a collage of your life and other people's stories they've told you, and characters, I mean, you combine them," said Ross, who like her main character mines her own life and relationships for inspiration.

Hattie, a self-described "failed novelist" resents the anti-aging freelance writing assignments that come her way and is trying to prioritize a novel about menopause entitled *The Beginning of the End*. She is trying to balance the care of her daughter and aging mother while finding time to write.

"Women are seen as unproductive after menopause, because they are no longer childbearing.

What's a woman for if she can't have children? She's seen as being useless to society," said Ross. "So I'm saying that after menopause, this is when women can be their most productive, because those things, the small children and the really big career are waning, and so I see those years as the most productive years for a woman, because she's not as distracted and she can focus on those things."

Attachment Disorders is meant to be a satirical look at the publishing industry, with which Ross has much experience. She is the author of two published books *Love in the Time of Cholesterol*, a memoir, and *The Lost Diaries of Susanna Moodie*, historical fiction, in addition to being a journalist.

"As a fiction writer you have to go through this whole ridiculous thing with agents and publishers, and if you've done something successful, they want you to do the same thing again. They're always just looking for the next big thing," said Ross.

"[Hattie's] first book didn't earn out its advance or came out at the wrong time of the year. And so her career is over, but because that happened to me, I wanted to have her redeem herself," said Ross.

Unable to find a publisher for her novel Ross committed to self-publishing through a Montreal based press. Books can be ordered directly from boutique.bouquinbec.ca.

They are also for sale at Curiosity House Books, Nottawa Cottage Bookstore and Booklore in Orangeville.

Ross will be the guest at Curiosity House Books' first author event "Wine & Words" on April 23. Admission costs \$25 or \$45 including a signed copy of the book.

Ross is also hosting a book launch at Gallery Lagom in Creemore from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on May 1. Admission is free and open to everyone. Ross will be doing a reading and signing copies.



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Staff photos: Trina Berlo



EASTER EGG HUNT The Watoto Children's Choir had the crowd up and dancing in the rain on April 4 during a performance at Creemore Village Green following the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The choir, in town at the invitation of Clearview Community Church, gave a sampling of their performance before a full service at the Legion the following morning. For the egg hunt, thousands of colourful eggs were scattered in the park for the little kids, and across the street for the older kids. Other activities included crafts and face-painting.



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Contributed photo

Cybergnomes brought home a blue banner from the First Robotics Competition in North Bay.

Robotics team wins district championship

by Lenora Danby

On the weekend of March 20-22, the Cybergnomes Robotics Team 2013 travelled to North Bay for their first district event of 2026 and came home as champions. The high school aged students compete in the First Robotics Competition. There are 119 teams registered in Ontario.

Each team competes in two district events accumulating points to pursue qualification for Ontario Provincial Championships held April 16-19 in Niagara Falls. Worldwide there are over 3,600 teams that compete in regional and district events for a chance to compete in the World Championship held in Houston, Texas.

Each year a new game is released in January,

and teams must build a robot to complete certain tasks. This year's game called *Rebuilt*, involves scoring using foam balls just under six inches called fuel into a six-foot hub. There are 540 balls on the field at the beginning of the game, and they can be used continuously as they pass through the hub to be picked up and used to score again. It is a very exciting game to watch.



Earlier in March the team travelled to Vancouver to compete in a regional event competing against teams from Canada, China, the U.S., Taiwan and Vietnam. Competing with 24 other teams at the North Bay Competition, winning is no small feat. At the tournament, the team faced many challenges, (See 'Hard' on page 11)



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Hard work earns team alliance spot for the win

(Continued from page 10)

including having the infeed arm that collects fuel break off, coding being a little faulty, and getting stuck surfing on the fuel. Despite that, back in the repair pits, every member of the team worked hard repairing and improving the robot. After a couple of rough matches, the Cybergnomes thought they were defeated, but all their hard work paid off.

They were chosen by the second place team to form an alliance and after gruelling elimination matches, they beat the first place alliance in two straight matches, winning first

place in the tournament and earning the three teams in the alliance a blue banner. It is the first blue banner the team has won since 2016, and the entire team – including mentors and alumni – were ecstatic.

Just because the team came home as winners doesn't mean the work is done, actually quite the opposite. The Cybergnomes have been preparing for their second event in Welland and are tirelessly working on their bot to get it perfect.

Several new improvements are being made to the robot, for example removing the revolving

turret shooter and replacing it with a wider, stationary, and higher-powered shooter. This will maximize the speed and volume in which fuel can be shot into the scoring hubs. In addition to that, their infeed table, which is responsible for moving fuel into the shooters, has been redesigned in a way that fuel will not get stuck or stranded in the middle of the robot.

The Cybergnomes team 2013 are a small team based in New Lowell, but members reside from Collingwood all the way to Angus. The Cybergnomes are also fundraising even more to cover the cost of going to the next

round of competitions.

They'd like to thank their top sponsors the Rotary Club of Wasaga Beach and Weld Experts, as they have contributed greatly to the team and have made things like overnight travel possible.

Cybergnomes Robotics Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that organizes and operates robotics programs for students aged 10-18. Donations and sponsorship for the team is appreciated. For more information, mentors can be contacted at cybergnomesteam2013@gmail.com.

Local students eligible for County of Simcoe bursaries

The County of Simcoe is committed to working with member municipalities to support the pursuit of higher education. Through the county's long-standing Education Bursary Program, 21 bursaries worth \$3,000 each are available to County of Simcoe students attending a post-secondary institution in Canada. One bursary is guaranteed for a resident of each of the County of Simcoe's 16 member municipalities.

Bursaries are available to full-time and part-time Simcoe County students entering any year of a postsecondary education in Canada. Students from all 16 of the County of Simcoe's member municipalities are eligible to apply for

a bursary.

The program provides those residents accepted into the program with financial assistance to access post-secondary education and training. This program is consistent with the County of Simcoe's commitment to education, as well as encouraging community involvement and civic responsibility.

For the fifth straight year, the County is partnering with Georgian College to offer local students additional financial support. Georgian College is offering an additional \$1,500 for up to five students attending their institution who receive a student bursary through the County of Simcoe.

Eligible applicants must reside in the County of Simcoe, and:

- Be a resident of a participating County of Simcoe municipality and a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- Have graduated, or be eligible for graduation in the year of application, with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma in the County of Simcoe;
- In the year of application, be enrolled and commencing studies in an undergraduate program at a Canadian university or college as a full-time or part-time student;
- Demonstrate interest in, and contribution to, their community

through active participation in extracurricular activities at their school and/or in community organizations.

Eligible applicants are invited to complete an online application, which includes the submission of a 750-word essay on a pre-determined topic. Applicants must also provide a copy of their Grade 12 or most recent post-secondary transcript, or other proof of high school graduation and proof of enrollment at a Canadian university or college in an undergraduate program. Applicants must submit their online application by July 29. For more information about the program, visit simcoe.ca/studentbursary.



Help Shape the Future of Dufferin County!

Dufferin County is updating its Official Plan, and we want to hear from you.

An Official Plan is a long-term plan that guides how Dufferin County and its communities grow and change by helping to decide things like where housing, jobs, and infrastructure go, and how we protect farmland, address climate change, and build great communities.

Join us for a kickoff open house to learn about the project, share your ideas, and help identify what's working well, and where changes may be needed. This Official Plan update will focus on:

- Updating maps and policies that protect natural areas
- Looking at how much land is needed to support future growth in local communities
- Making general updates to keep the Plan current and in line with provincial rules.

This open house is an early opportunity to:

- Learn how the County is planning for growth and change
- Share your thoughts on key issues and priorities
- Help shape the direction of the Official Plan update

Whether you live, work, or run a business in Dufferin, your input is important! Join us on:

April 23rd starting at 6 pm at the Dufferin County Administration Office Atrium, 55 Zina Street, Orangeville

Can't make it to the open house? There will be more opportunities to get involved as the project continues. For more information on the project and how you can participate, please visit the project webpage at: <https://joinindufferin.com/official-plan-amendment-five>

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Stayner Care Centre hosts celebrates new location

by Bonnie MacPherson

The first thing that strikes you upon entering the new Stayner Care Centre on Junction Road is colour. Bright, cheery colours and lots of welcoming, open spaces. **Julie Heidman** says that is no accident. Heidman is butterfly manager at the new facility, in charge of everything from paint colours and décor to staff training, all with the goal of making the long-term care facility feel like home for the residents.

“We do eight days of education with every staff member, from dietary staff to personal support workers, and nursing staff, to ensure that we learn about each person individually,” she said. “Imagine you were moving in here tomorrow; What would you want me to know about you?”

Heidman says redevelopment of the Stayner Care Centre has involved years of preparation and vision. It replaces the downtown facility, which since COVID had housed 36 residents. The new facility is home to 128 residents, and there is already a waiting list.

Simcoe Grey MP **Terry Dowdall**, on hand for the ribbon cutting, commended everyone involved for creating a space where seniors can feel safe and connected to their community.

Heidman says staff do not dress in scrubs, which tends to create an “us” and “them” dynamic. Instead, staff and residents are all part of a community. For the grand opening celebration on Wednesday most were dressed on theme in roaring 20s attire prompting Dowdall to joke that the staff have the best uniforms ever.

Heidman noted, “A house is a dwelling. A home is characterized by emotional connections, and this feels like a home.”

Part of what makes it feel homey is a series of tableaus ranging from farming implements to vintage vinyl that pay homage to the lives residents led before moving in. Each resident room is decorated with a “front door”, further making each space feel individual.

Ivan Da Costa, a resident since last October, and a member of the resident’s council commented on the vibrant colours and many displays, saying “They are impeding my efforts at speed walking, because there is so much to look at.”

Harrison Jarlette, president of Jarlette Health Services which operates the facility, is the third generation of his family involved in long-term care.



Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

Stayner Care Centre staff in fancy dress, from left, **Simran Mall, Joanne Badong-Xhani, Brianne Friesen, Joanna Maeki-Koivisto, Anita Nicholson, and Melissa Hunt.** In front: **Julie Heidman.**

“Without the residents, it’s just a building,” he said. “They make it home.”

Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe Grey, told the gathering that long-term care has been a priority of this government since it was elected in 2018.

“The pandemic taught us that we have a lot of work to do, and I congratulate everyone involved with this project for all the hard work and planning that clearly went into creating this facility,” he said.

The province has committed \$6.4 billion to build 58,000 new or upgraded long-term care beds by 2028 to reduce wait lists and alleviate capacity pressures on hospitals.

Clearview Mayor **Doug Measures** noted that the original site plan for Stayner Care Centre called for a second building, creating a campus of care and expressed the hope that there will be further development at the site in the future.

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Registration opens for Hike & Bike for Hospice Georgian Triangle

Registration is now open for the 2026 Hike & Bike for Hospice Georgian Triangle, inviting the community to come together for a day of fun, fundraising and compassionate support for local hospice palliative care. The event takes place Sunday, May 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Collingwood Curling Club. Participants can choose to hike 6 km, bike 6 km or bike 20 km along the beautiful Collingwood trails.

Hosted by Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation, the annual Hike & Bike raises funds to support hospice palliative care for individuals with life-limiting illnesses and their families across South Georgian Bay. Every dollar raised helps ensure care and support remain available when and where they are needed most.

“Each year, the Hike & Bike brings out the very best in our community,” said **Sandra Sullivan**, executive

director, Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation. “It is a chance for families, friends, co-workers and neighbours to come together, get active and make a real difference for people facing some of life’s most difficult moments. We are so grateful to everyone who registers, fundraises, sponsors or donates.”

The need for hospice palliative care and grief support in South Georgian Bay continues to grow. In its 2025 Impact Report, Hospice Georgian Triangle reported caring for 302 individuals and families at Campbell House, delivering 3,080 visits through its community care team, and providing grief and bereavement support to 1,721 people. The organization also recorded 12,877 volunteer hours over the past year.

Last year’s event raised \$223,620, with more than 650 participants taking part on the Collingwood trails. Those funds helped keep hospice care and grief

support free of charge for patients and families.

Participants can register, form a team, donate or learn more by visiting the event registration page at hospicegeorgiantriangle.com. For event information, contact Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation at 705-444-2555 ext. 7527 or hgtf@hospicegeorgiantriangle.com.

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

Answers on page 15

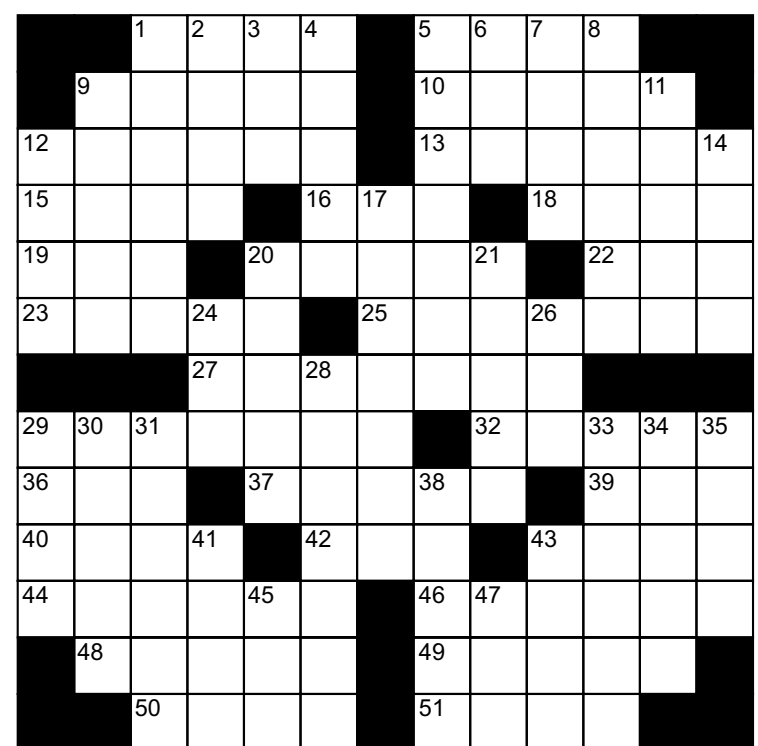
FRED'S FUNNIES

What do you call a bee that drops things?
A fumble bee

Thank you Reece and Reid D. For the joke

Canadian Criss Cross by Walter Feener

- ACROSS**
- Narrative of heroic exploits
 - Serious attention
 - Indulge in boisterous festivities
 - From one end to the other
 - Uninteresting
 - Tranquil
 - Surrounded by
 - Stubborn animal
 - Change the position of
 - Tiny
 - Put new life into
 - Mister in Yiddish
 - One who draws the short straw
 - Electric heater part
 - Internal organs
 - Replace with another program
 - Shipping container
 - Liquid fat
 - Dry out
 - Be out having fun
 - Flattened circle
 - Common drink
 - Group grazing together
 - Expand a waistband
 - Explanation based on thought
 - Verb form
 - Like a pig's tail
 - Animal with antlers
 - Pay attention to advice



- DOWN**
- Things one after another
 - Greedy
 - Old Testament book: abbr.
 - Aquarium problem
 - Medicine container
 - The whole lot
 - Rack up higher cell phone charges
 - Audience's demand
 - Male lover
 - Bestowed as a gift
 - Cry loudly
 - Money owing
 - Ghost
 - Groom in a fussy way
 - Sit rather high
 - Adam's wife
 - Spoil the beauty of
 - Fly in drops
 - Collective resource
 - Girder fastener
 - Overjoyed
 - Ancient
 - Delay leaving
 - Small whirlpool
 - Simple ball game
 - Being the only one
 - This place
 - Take liberties with
 - Colour

Trivia: Cirque du Soleil is based out of what city?

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DEATH NOTICE



ISDALE, Graeme William. It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Graeme William Isdale at Campbell House Hospice in Collingwood on Friday, March 13, 2026. Graeme was the beloved husband of Ellen Martyn, in his 79th year. He will be deeply missed by his daughter, Heidi Cooksley (Matt) of England; and his step-children, Matthew Kourniotis (Leanne) and Victoria Kourniotis (Chris). He was a proud and loving grandfather to Trudi, James, Nicholas, and Oliver, and great-grandfather to Leo, Marlo, and Ernie. Graeme will be fondly remembered by his in-laws, extended family, and many friends. Predeceased by his infant daughter, Trudi. Graeme had a love for the outdoors and, in earlier years, enjoyed running marathons and cycling. In more recent times, he found quiet contentment in life on the little farm he shared with Ellen, especially tending to his vegetable garden and enjoying the home they made there together. Cremation has taken place. An interment of his ashes will take place in the spring at Terrace Lawn Cemetery, North Bay. Online condolences may be shared at www.martynfh.com.

DEATH NOTICE



CLEARY, Dalton Robert Nov. 19, 1941 – March 25, 2026. Dalton Robert Cleary passed away unexpectedly at his home in Orillia, in his 85th year. Beloved husband of Shirley, and later Sherrie, and dear friend of Donna. Loving father of Robbie and the late Christopher. Predeceased by his parents, Gordon and Mammie, brothers Ernie and Raymond and sisters Doris and Cora. He will be sadly missed by his brothers Lorne (late Isabel), Melvyn (Nancy), and Lyall (Isabel) Cleary, and by his sister Bonnie Hartman (late Peter). Dalton was born and raised in the Dunedin area. He attended school in Dunedin and Creemore, and high school in Collingwood. After finishing school, he moved to the Brampton-Toronto area where he worked various jobs before returning home. He later established his own carpentry and handyman business, where he became well known and in high demand for his high-quality workmanship. Dalton was a pleasure to work with and was friendly with everyone he met. Time spent in his company made the days go by quickly, and he will be fondly remembered by all who knew him. A graveside service will be held at a later date.

DEATH NOTICE



REDPATH, Arden James passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family. Born in Collingwood, Arden was the beloved son of Earl and Minnie Redpath. He was a devoted husband to the love of his life, Sheila (nee Lockhart). Arden was a loving father to Jim Fike (Lee-Ann) and Marjorie Bain (Jeff), and a proud and cherished grandfather to Patrick, Benjamin, Brandon, James, and Chloe, who brought him immense joy. He shared a close and special bond with his dear sister, Catherine (Jonathan) Brown, and was a wonderful uncle to Martha (Rob), James (Melanie), and Sarah (Anna), as well as their children. He was Uncle Arden and cousin to many relatives. Arden wore many hats throughout his life – from band member at CDCI, worker to dedicated New York Rangers and Yankees fan – but above all, he was known as a loyal friend and a kind soul. As the proud owner and operator of Redpath Fruit Market, he was a familiar and welcoming presence in the community, always ready with a smile, a wave, and a story to share. Arden treasured his time with the 10th Line coffee club and deeply valued the brotherly friendship and brotherly support he found there. The family extends their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Dr. Mark Enright and nurse Christine for their compassionate care, as well as the caregivers from Bayshore and St. Elizabeth Health Care. Special thanks are also extended to the wonderful staff at Campbell House, where Arden spent his final days, and to the staff at Fawcett Funeral Home for their guidance and care. As per Arden's wishes, cremation has taken place, and a private family remembrance will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations in Arden's memory may be made to the Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation or a charity of your choice. Friends may visit Arden's online Book of Memories at www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com.

DEATH NOTICE



KITCHEN, Alice Kathleen "Kaye" In loving memory of Alice Kathleen "Kaye" Kitchen (nee MacKay) who passed peacefully after a very brief stay at Hospice Georgian Triangle April 2, 2026, at 91 years of age. She was the beloved wife of the late Bob Kitchen. Predeceased by siblings Art (Joyce), Jim (Pat), Bob (Berniece), Margie (Ralph). She will be sorely missed by her son Paul (Saundra), grandchildren Christopher (Jenn), Jeremy (Nicole), Nicholas (Crystal), Michelle (Colm), Brett Munroe (Jenn), great-grandchildren Abigail, Isabelle, Charlette, Oliver, Everly, her dearest friend and caregiver Ruth Kitchen and many extended family and friends. Previously of Creemore, Kaye worked at the switchboard before furthering her career at the TD Bank in Creemore where many often commented, "I didn't know the Queen worked in the bank" due to her uncanny resemblance to the Queen. She was well respected for her selfless participation with the church in Creemore often found at Bible study or singing in the area churches with her dear friend Doreen. Kaye and Bob were often found at the local arena where Bob coached and Paul played, or off to many arenas in Southern Ontario for games and tournaments following Paul as a goalie. They were often transporting other players as well and had a huge impact on many people in the community. Vowing often that she hated moving and was never leaving Creemore, upon her retirement Bob and she moved to Collingwood to be closer to family. Once the grandchildren arrived, if you saw the kids, Grandma and often Grandpa weren't far behind, following them through sporting events, driving them to work or simply helping with homework. Kaye has been a constant and loving grandma and has had an incredible impact on their lives. Kayes' greatest achievement in life was being a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. Her loyalty and dedication was unyielding. We would like to thank the staff at Bay Haven for welcoming her the last few years and making her feel at home. There will be no formal funeral service at this time. A private graveside service will happen as the spring evolves, when she will be able to rejoin her husband Bob at their final resting place at Creemore cemetery. Friends may visit Kaye's online Book of Memories at www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com.

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This week's answers

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

Job Numbers: #2026-005, #2026-010
 Vacancy Status: Existing Vacancies
 Posting Date: March 30, 2026
 Deadline: April 20, 11:59 PM

SUMMER STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

The 2026 Summer Student Employment Opportunities with Clearview Township are now open! The following positions are available:

- Job #2026-005: Pool Instructors / Lifeguards (2 positions)**
- Job #2026-010: Student Roads Workers (2 positions, Co-Op eligible)**

For full job details, job requirements, and eligibility criteria, please visit www.clearview.ca/careers

Hours of Work:

The hours of work for all positions are up to 35-40 hours per week (for the period of approximately May 4th to September 4th, 2026).

Wage Rates:

All positions are paid \$18.01 per hour, including 4% vacation pay. An extra \$1 an hour is given to returning students to the same position for each year they have previously worked at Clearview.

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are invited to send their resume and a covering letter by email to: hr@clearview.ca by **Monday, April 20th, 2026, at 11:59 pm**. All resumes must be received electronically.

Please indicate the job number in the subject line of your application; if applying for multiple positions, please indicate the job numbers in the order of your preference.

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. In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, please contact Human Resources for accommodation inquiries or requirements at 705-428-6230 x. 255.

The Township of Clearview does not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology at any stage of the recruitment process.

NOTICE – 2026 SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Township of Clearview Water Department will be flushing hydrants between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM on the following dates and locations:

- Stayner: April 13- May 15
- Creemore: May 4-6
- New Lowell: May 6-8
- Nottawa: May 13-15
- Colling-Woodlands: May 20-22
- Buckingham Woods: May 25-27

Please be advised that there may potentially be water interruptions, and discoloured water could stain laundry during these times. If your water remains discoloured or dirty, run water until clear. It is recommended that water softeners be left in bypass mode during these times.

For more information, please contact:

Dale Lighthouse,
Water & Sewer Supervisor
 Clearview Township
 (705) 428-6230 ext. 303
dlighthouse@clearview.ca

DEVIL'S GLEN LOCAL'S DAY AT DEVIL'S GLEN SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH

Devil's Glen is hosting their annual Local's day. We invite all local skiers and snowboarders to come and mingle with the members for a day of skiing at Devil's Glen. No sign ins required, lift tickets will be offered to all of Clearview Township!

WE'VE GOT LOTS OF SNOW AND WE ARE NOT AFRAID TO USE IT.

Lifts open from 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
 Reduced lift tickets for all our local neighbours.

CONTACT SANDRA GEE FOR FURTHER DETAILS
 705.445.4890 x 257 | sandra@devils Glen.com

PURPLE HILLS ARTS & HERITAGE SOCIETY PRESENTS

AN OCTET

APRIL 12, 2 PM

Ian Hopkin, bassoon

Jung Tsai, violin

Peter Shackleton, clarinet

Ian Whittman, double bass

Beethoven Septet, Op.20

Schubert Octet, D.803

Marie-Sophie Corin, French horn

Xingbo Yang, violin

Miriam Stewart-Kroeker, cello

Judy Davenport, viola

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