

The Creemore ECHO

FARM EDITION

Friday, April 17, 2026 Vol. 26 No. 16

www.creemore.com

News and views in and around Creemore

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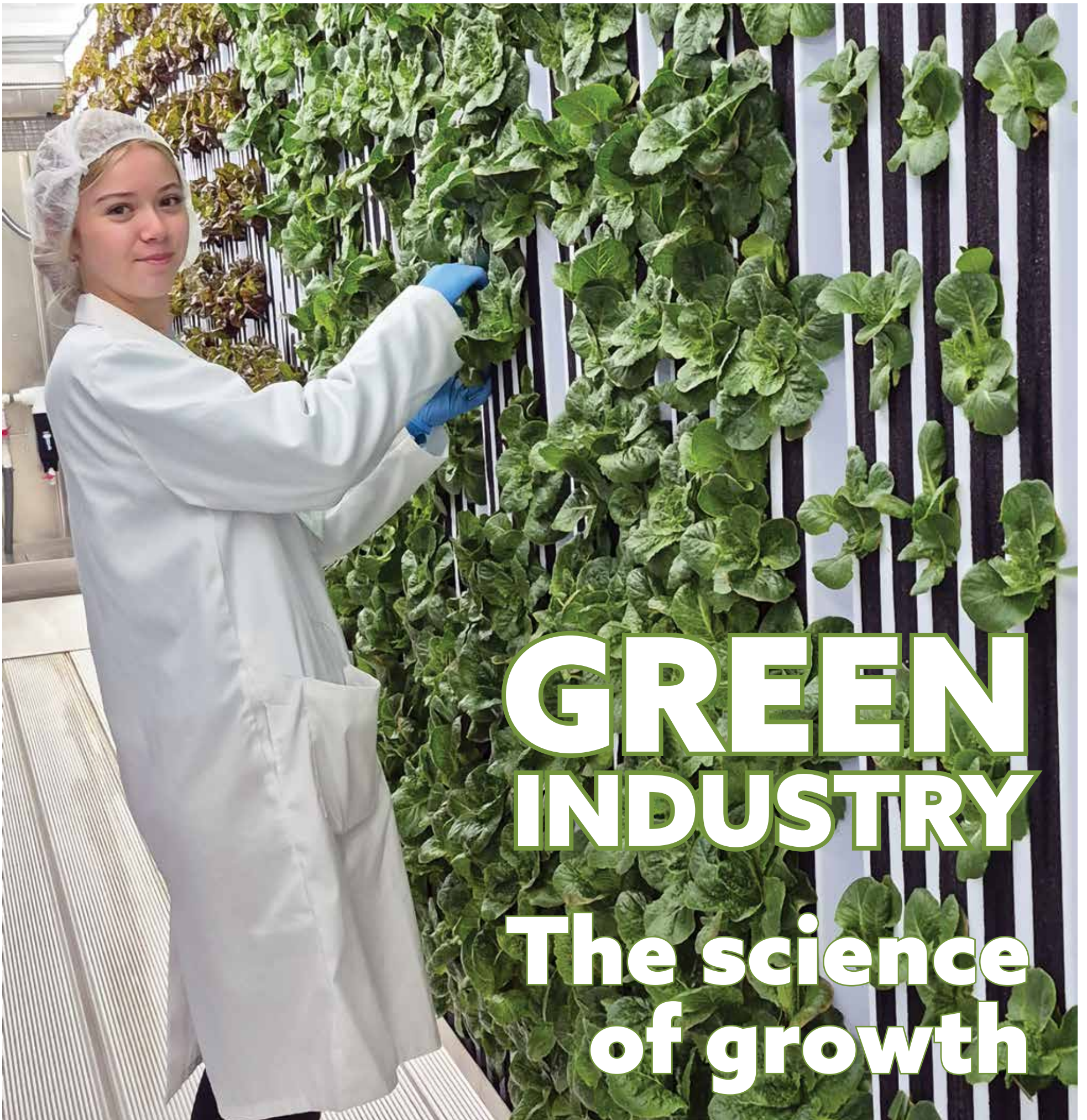


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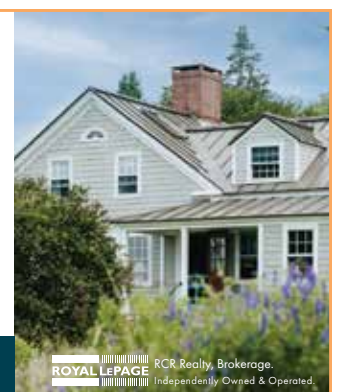
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COMMUNITY Calendar

Submit your community events
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Friday, April 17

- **Line dancing** lessons at Avening Hall this week from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. \$15 per person. Beginner-friendly; bring your water bottle. Sign up at the Creemore 100 Mile Store or call/text Linda at 705-794-0638.

Saturday, April 18

- Sunnidale Corners Community Centre's spring **pancake breakfast** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information please call 705-428-0223 or 705-428-5063.
- Mono Mulmur Citizens' Coalition hosts **Safe & Sustainable Water For Mono's Future** at Mono Town Hall, 347209 Mono Centre Rd., Mono, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. For more information contact info@monomulmur.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.

Tuesday, April 21

- **Pub Trivia Night.** For more information, call 705-466-5244, visit theoldmillhousepub.com, or join the Pub Trivia Facebook group.

Wednesday, April 22

- **Double Toonie Lunch** at St. Luke's from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come and enjoy delicious soup and visit with your neighbours.
- Climate Action **recognition ceremony.** Please join Clearview Township's Climate Action Advisory Committee to recognize and celebrate individuals, businesses, and organizations from our community who have made meaningful contributions to environmental stewardship and climate action in 2025. Council chambers, 217 Gideon Street, Stayner. All welcome.

Friday, April 24

- Clearview Public Library **PA Day and Weekend Workshop:** April flowers bookmark. Free for children 10 and up. Creemore branch from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. New Lowell, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and in Stayner on Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Register at 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.

Wednesday, April 29

- Creemore Springs Brewery presents **Neighbours Night** from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. featuring complimentary samples of the new Winding River West Coast IPA and Lime Gose, a soft pretzel and beer combo, board games, and vinyl music. Bring your favourite records and give them a spin on the new taproom record player.

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.
- Badjeros United Church annual **Scrap Metal and Bottle Fundraiser** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Drop off at the shed beside the church. All metals, appliances, vehicle batteries, bottles and aluminum cans accepted. For info, contact David Culham, 705-446-7203 or Barbara Black, 705-441-2466.
- In celebration of Mulmur's 175th anniversary North of 89 Alliance invites you to **Run for Honeywood**, a 5km and 10km run/walk and kids relay held in support of the Honeywood Arena. Participants can choose between the 5km or 10km routes or the youth-focused relay. Starting at The Honeywood Arena. For registration and more information, visit zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/run-for-honeywood.

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

- The 39th annual **Ramp Romp** at the Singhampton Community Centre. Dine on luscious leeks, pork, veggies and pie served from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Adults, \$25; students, \$20; under 12, \$12; under six, free. Cash only bar. No advanced ticket sales. Contact singhamptonhall@gmail.com.
- 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.
- Stayner Collegiate Institute **annual plant sale** in the greenhouse at the school from 9 a.m. to noon. 7578 Highway 26, Stayner. Cash only.

Sunday, May 10

- **Mother's Day Breakfast** at the Manito Shrine Club from 8 a.m. to noon. Adults, \$20; children under 12, \$5. 2265 Fairgrounds Rd., Collingwood.

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.

Friday, May 29

- **Trivia on the Green** gives you a chance to test your general and local knowledge with friends, family and neighbours. Rain or shine, join Creemore Village Green for a night filled with community fun to kick-off the summer season. Cash bar opens at 6:30 p.m. and questions start at 7 p.m. Maximum of six people per table. Tickets at ticketscene.ca.

June 6, 2026

- The Creemore Collective **clothing exchange** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Station on the Green. Fill a bag for \$10, or by donation. For more information, visit www.creemorecollective.ca.

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Industry analysis

by Bonnie MacPherson

The first phase of a new Economic Development Strategy for Clearview Township is complete, and points to the continued importance of agriculture to the local economy, and our way of life.

Consulting firm McSweeney and Associated launched stakeholder engagement in March 2026 as part of its discovery phase, the findings of which were presented to council this week. The goal of the report is to establish an understanding of the current economic landscape, demographic profile and competitive position within the broader region. The analysis incorporates data from Statistics Canada, private and provincial data bases, and regional labour market sources.

According to the report, there were 506 jobs in agriculture in Clearview in 2014, compared to 370 in 2024. This represents a decrease of 27 per cent, which is attributed to industry automation and changing job needs over the last decade.

Even with the decline, community economic development officer **Briar Kelly** says agriculture is still key to the local economy.

“Agriculture employs 5.7 per cent of residents in Clearview, compared to 1.1 per cent of Ontario residents,” she said. “This reiterates how important agriculture is to the community. The sector touches a much higher percentage of families and residents in Clearview, than the province as a whole.”

Export sales flowing into Clearview from the agricultural sector totalled \$139,390,184 in 2023.

Agricultural enterprises in Clearview purchased \$54,313,445 worth of goods and services in 2023 with 52 per cent of that total spent within the township and 48 per cent going to outside suppliers.

“When you look at other sectors in Clearview with large purchasing power and their expenses, a smaller percentage of their spending is spent in our community,” said Kelly. “With the agricultural sector and its operational expenses, over half of their dollars are spent here in Clearview. When a farm spends money, it stays local. The data tells us that a dollar spent by the agriculture sector has a greater impact on our local economy than any other sector.”

The total population of Clearview Township was 13,734 in 2011. By 2021 it had grown to 14,814, and rose again to 16,036 in 2025. It is projected that by 2051, the population of the township will be 21,820.

Clearview Township residents are slightly older than the population of Ontario at large. The median age for Ontario is 40 and the average age is 42. In Clearview, both the median and average age is 43.

The median employment income in Ontario is \$45,590 and average annual income is \$63,116. For workers in Clearview, the median income is \$43,628 and the average is \$58,987.



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

A truck is loaded at a grain elevator in Clearview Township.

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OPINION & Feedback

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COLUMN

Soaring costs present a crop protection quandary

Two schools of thought are emerging about farmers' use of crop protection products, such as pesticides, this growing season. And they're at either end of the spectrum.

One school says farmers will use more products than usual. That sounds like unconventional thinking, given how production costs have soared – crop protection is expensive and farmers traditionally watch every dime leaving their bank accounts. It's not what crop protection product companies were forecasting earlier this year; they thought low prices would force farmers to reduce product use.

But through the winter, things have changed. An emerging argument is that farmers can't afford not to invest in products that will enhance their crops' production to the max.

Indeed, expenses are high but the prices farmers get for their crops are not keeping pace with inputs that increase the cost of production – which in some cases, like fertilizer, is not an option. That may mean that farmers must pull out all the stops to coax every possible bushel they can from their fields, without exhausting the soil or themselves.

Some people think that scenario will lead farmers to use products they might not normally use – legal, researched, commercially available products that some other year, they feel they could do without and still make a decent living.

And it's not just crop protection products; rather, all farming strategies are getting a second look. Low crop prices, high costs and unexpected twists and turns like we've seen over the past year or so require farmers to consider efficiencies in every aspect of their operations.

The other school of thought reflects farmers' traditionally economically minded way of growing food. People who subscribe to this way of thinking believe high costs might lead to farmers using fewer costly crop protection products.

They'll scout their fields, keep an exceptionally close eye on the arrival of pests and disease, and use crop protection only when the balance sheet works out in their favour.

Thanks once again to research, farmers and agronomists know how much of an infestation crops can handle. Fields don't need to be entirely weed-free, pest-free or disease-free. Crops have varying tolerance to pests and disease, depending on the variety, severity of the infestation and growing conditions.

An experienced eye can determine if crop protection is necessary to stop insects or disease in their tracks, or if the crop is hardy enough to handle it, so pesticide or herbicide use can be withheld or localized.

Scouting is not a new phenomenon. In fact, it's
(See 'Weighing' on page 5)

FOOD & FARMING



Owen ROBERTS

THE WAY WE WERE



Pruning apples trees at the Morrison Farm in 1910.

OPINION

Food security starts in Ontario's disappearing farmland

by Drew Spoelstra

As Earth Day approaches, it's a good time to reflect on something that doesn't always get the attention it deserves but underpins everything we do in agriculture: our soils.

In Ontario, we are fortunate to have some of the most productive farmland anywhere in the world. That natural advantage allows Ontario farmers to grow and raise more than 200 different commodities, supporting a diverse food system that feeds people here at home and around the world.

Soil is not just dirt. It's a living, dynamic system that supports crops, stores water, cycles nutrients, and plays a critical role in environmental sustainability. It's also a finite resource. Unlike other assets, we can't simply replace it or recreate it somewhere else, so once farmland is lost from agriculture, whether to urban expansion or other permanent uses, it is gone for good.

That's why protecting our farmland is fundamental to maintaining our ability to produce food, now and into the future – something the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has long been advocating for.

Food security has become a bigger part of the conversation in recent years, and for good reason. Global instability, supply chain disruptions, and economic uncertainty have all highlighted how important a strong, resilient domestic food system is.

Food security is not just about having enough food on store shelves; it's about having the capacity to produce that food in the first place – and increasingly, it's being recognized as a matter of national security.

Recently, for example, Canadian business leader Arlene Dickinson has been speaking out about this connection, pointing to the importance of supporting Canadian production and reducing reliance on external sources for essential goods like food.

At the heart of that conversation is farmland – and the soil that makes it productive.

That's why it is so nice to see that soil health is gaining attention at the national level. The federal government has committed to developing a National Agricultural Soil Health Strategy, recognizing that healthy soils are critical to long-term sustainability, environmental outcomes, and food production.

We also welcome the recent passage of Bill S-230 in the Senate. Championed by Ontario Senator Rob Black, it aims to establish a coordinated, national approach to protecting, conserving, and enhancing soil health nation-wide.

The Bill builds on the Senate's 2024 report on soil, led by Black, which laid out 25 recommendations to better recognize soil as a strategic national asset.

Farmers have long understood the importance of soil health. My family and I farm in Binbrook near the city of Hamilton, and just like many farm families across Ontario, we invest time and resources into practices that protect and improve the land.

That means rotating crops yearly to maintain soil nutrients and break pest cycles, planting cover crops to keep soil protected and build organic matter between growing seasons, reducing tillage to minimize soil disturbance and prevent erosion, and
(See 'Soil' on page 5)

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“Soil is the most important asset we have”

(Continued from page 4)

making sure we handle nutrients like manures and fertilizers responsibly.

These practices are not always visible, but they are essential to maintaining productivity, improving resilience to weather extremes, and supporting environmental outcomes over the long term.

That’s the nature of farming. It’s about thinking not just in seasons, but in generations.

Soil is one of the most important assets we have, but it’s also one of the easiest to overlook. It doesn’t generate headlines in the same way as new technology or market developments, but without it, none of those things matter.

As we mark Earth Day, it’s worth recognizing the role that healthy

soils play in supporting not only agriculture, but the broader economy, environment, and communities across Ontario.

It’s also a reminder that protecting this resource requires more than good intentions. It requires thoughtful land-use planning, strong policies that prioritize farmland preservation, and continued support for farmers as stewards of the land.

We have an opportunity right now to elevate the importance of soil health in Canada and to take meaningful steps to protect it for future generations.

Because at the end of the day, everything we grow – and everything we eat – depends on it.

Drew Spoelstra is president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

Weighing harm against cost to reduce threats

(Continued from page 4)

been recommended for farmers and practiced for years. But it’s another example of how the current economic situation is making everyone take another look at stepping up their management practices.


The farm media is promoting a measured approach. In a story headlined *Will it pay to kill these insects in 2026?*, one of my former students Ava Splear wrote, “just because a pest creeps into your field during the season doesn’t mean it’ll pay to spray insecticide on

the whole field. Economic thresholds can help you figure out whether you have enough pests to cause economic damage, and that will take extra scouting.”

Either approach described here means more work for farmers. And either is yet another example of what it could take this year to keep farms viable.

Owen Roberts is an agricultural journalist from Guelph. He regularly visits family in Creemore.

New drop-off location!



The Big Book Bash is back!


Saturday May 2, 2026
9:30 am to 3:00 pm
 Creemore Station on the Green

Starting April 20, please drop-off donations ONLY between 9:30 am and 2:30 pm, Monday to Friday, at the Creemore Community Arena curling rink (north entrance)

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Staff photos: Trina Berlo

Above: Rotational grazing controls erosion on sloped land. Below: The New Farm Centre's herd of Black Angus is wearing e-collars to control grazing.



Rotational grazing

by Trina Berlo

“It’s a good time to be a beef farmer,” said **Jim Whitley**. “Grazing, and cattle in general, are back in vogue.”

After a period of bad press, cattle are now being viewed as beneficial to land stewardship. Also, due to a number of factors, retail demand for beef is the strongest it has been in 40 years. Low cow inventory across North America, combined with high consumer demand due to changing dietary trends toward dense proteins, and a growing population, have caused the price to soar to a 35-year high of \$742 per head.

With his family, Whitley operates a 40-head commercial Charolais cow-calf herd on 136 acres in Avening.

They background half of their calves and finish the remainder for the local freezer beef market. Whitley works across the country as a Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) program auditor for Beef Farmers of Ontario, where he sits on the board as the cow-calf director.

He is part of a grazing network group and has just completed a multi-year research project being done by the University of Guelph and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness to calibrate a rising plate metre – a tool used to measure pasture height and density – as a baseline for pasture yields. The goal is to benchmark pasture utilization rates on Ontario beef,

sheep and dairy farms. Throughout the process Whitley has become more and more of a believer in the practice of rotational grazing. His goal is to go 180 days without supplemental feeding, extending the grazing season into the spring and fall.

Some farmers graze their cattle year-round. Whitley said there are some savants in the grazing community who are wholly tuned in to their herd’s movements and behaviour, ensuring they are well fed by analyzing manure, water intake and even counting the number of times a cow chews its cud.

Rotational grazing is beneficial to the farmer because it reduces feed costs, controls erosion on sloped land, liberates them from feeding schedules and makes for cleaner and healthy animals. Even as a knowledgeable fourth generation farmer Whitley said pastures require courage and discipline.

Whitley is working with **Brent Preston** at the New Farm Centre near Dunedin, which earlier this year put out a call for landowners interested in collaborating with farmers by allowing access to their dormant lands for grazing as a way of restoring soil health and revitalizing pasturelands as part of a Regenerative Transition Support Program.

Initial interest was higher than expected with 61 sign-ups, resulting in about a dozen landowners who are seriously considering fencing and



RAYs invites members of the community to attend the **Annual General Meeting** **Sunday, May 3rd, 2026** **3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

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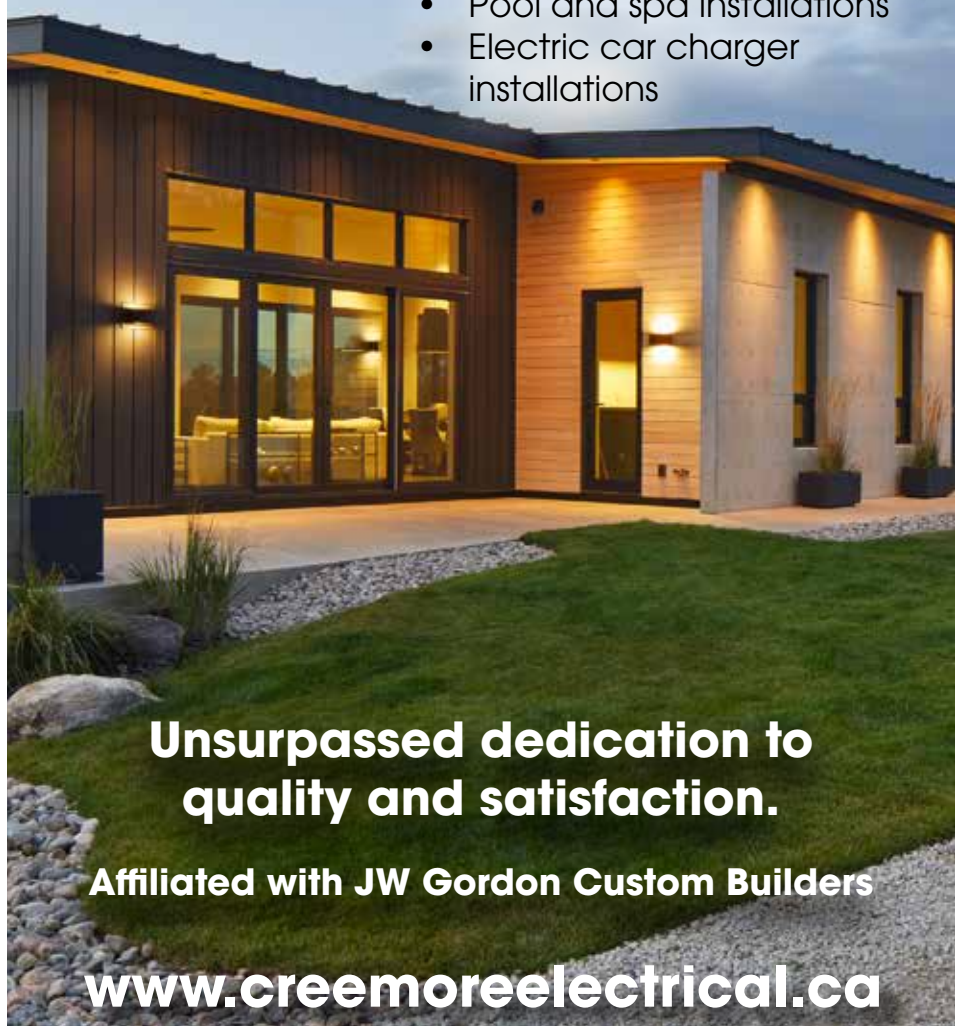
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prepping their land for grazing.

“We were happily surprised by how much interest there has been,” said Preston, who has been working on the promotion of rotational grazing with Farmers for Climate Solutions.

He said rotational grazing has been gaining traction across the country. He sees it as one of the few ways that young people can get into agriculture in an affordable way in this area because of the high price of land.

“You can use rented land and with this kind of grazing the farmer does not need to invest in a lot of expensive machinery,” said Preston.

To aid with rotational grazing, which requires precise control of the animals’ movements, both Whitley and Preston are using e-collars, an emerging technology that is gaining popularity. The collars restrict the cattle’s movement, similarly to an invisible fence. With a natural inclination to advance, the e-collars restrict the herd by letting it move ahead bit by bit.

The e-collars, worn around the neck and weighing about 30 pounds, allow the farmer to precisely control the animals’ movements. Whitley said because it is possible to set up exclusion zones, he is able to keep the animals away from streams, trees or trails, which makes it more appealing for landowners to open their properties to rotational grazing.

Strict control of the herd’s movements helps control the growth of the pasture.

“If you don’t control the cattle’s movements they will wander around eating the most delectable plants,”



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

Jim Whitley will be utilizing e-collars when his herd goes out to pasture this spring.

said Whitley, adding that ideally the cattle can access the grass when it is about 10 inches tall because they eat by wrapping their tongue around the plant and tearing it off, leaving it at about four inches.

There is a lot of interest in this type of technology as demonstrated by high demand for federal funding that could be applied to e-collars. The Government of Canada first announced in 2021 a \$704.1-million On-Farm Climate Action Fund to help farmers tackle climate change. Demand in Ontario’s allocation was immense and available funds were snatched up within 90 minutes.

Grassland ecosystems

“Grassland ecosystems don’t exist without grazing,” said Preston. “It’s the grazing that maintains the ecosystem as a grassland. If you want the environmental benefits from healthy grasslands – carbon sequestration, biodiversity, flood control and drought mitigation – you need animals for that system.”

Rotational grazing imitates natural systems.

“Way back we had giant herds of bison on the prairies. The way the grassland ecosystems evolved with these big herbivores is you’d have periods of intense grazing with big densely packed herds of animals followed by long periods of rest and recovery when the grass could regrow,” said Preston. “All we’re doing with rotational grazing is imitating that system.”

The grasses and plants benefit from the manure, urine and even from being trampled. It stimulates the plants to grow deep compact root systems and store lots of energy from the sun underground.

The process is a form of carbon sequestration, removing it from the atmosphere and using it to feed the microbes they rely on to grow. Soil carbon capture (or sequestration) works by transferring atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the soil through photosynthesis, where it is stored as organic matter. Plants absorb

CO₂, convert it into sugars to feed their roots and soil microbes, and leave behind carbon-rich organic matter when they die or shed roots, effectively storing the carbon.

As a result the land is more resilient to adverse weather conditions. It can absorb rain better and hold moisture during droughts.

“It’s a way of building resilience against climate change and all the changes in the weather that we’re seeing,” said Preston. “It also stores a lot of carbon in the soil. A healthy grassland can store as much carbon as a tropical rainforest.”

Healthy pastures also support biodiversity by creating habitat for birds and insects, microbes and having a healthy mix of vegetation.

At one time, cattle were seen as a detriment to the environment.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, said Preston, adding, “Cattle do produce methane, there’s no getting around that but we can mitigate the amount of methane they produce and get a whole bunch of other environmental benefits if we’re grazing them really carefully. A cow that’s grazing on really healthy, productive pasture just naturally produces less methane and the methane they produce is largely offset by the carbon that’s sequestered in the soil. And then we look at all the other co-benefits of having animals on the landscape.”

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2026 Candidate information sessions

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Virtual
Hosted by Dufferin County’s lower-tier municipalities and facilitated by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Registration: orangeville.ca/CandidateSession

In person
Hosted by Dufferin County’s lower-tier municipalities and facilitated by Clerks on Call. Attend either date. Stay after the session to connect with the trainers and ask questions.
Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 7 p.m.
Monora Park Pavilion,
500 Monora Park Pavilion Road, Mono, ON L9W 0E1

Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 10 a.m.
Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex,
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Notice of Nomination Period for Interested Candidates

Are you thinking of running for office in the next municipal election?

The 2026 Municipal and School Board Election will take place on **October 26, 2026**. The deadline to file the required Nomination Forms for the offices of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor and School Board Member is Nomination Day, August 21, 2026.

The nomination period for candidates begins on **May 1, 2026** and ends on Nomination Day, **August 21, 2026**. Nomination forms may be led in person by the candidate or by their agent during normal office hours. On Nomination Day, nominations forms may only be led between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

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Crop protection

by Trina Berlo

Crop protection is the science and practice of managing weeds, pests, diseases, and other environmental stressors to safeguard agricultural crops, ensuring high yields, food security, and economic viability through the use of chemical, biological, and cultural methods to maintain crop health, quality, and productivity.

In an agricultural sector farmers rely on the expertise of crop advisors like **Lydia Noordegraaf** who help them develop crop plans and monitor crops from start to finish. Even though most crop plans are decided on in the fall things can change, she said, depending on the markets, crop rotation plans, and a number of other factors.

Noordegraaf is a certified crop advisor for Holmes Agro, an agricultural crop inputs retailer with a location in Stayner. She grew up on a farm just down the road and did a high school co-op placement at Holmes Agro, which led to summer jobs. After college she joined the staff and is now 10 years into her career, and has a farm of her own across the street.

When asked what draws her to the job, Noordegraaf said it's the relationships she forms with her customers and helping them to succeed.

Success is ultimately measured in crop yields. Holmes Agro has a goal to increase crop production by 150 per cent by 2040 across its customer base, something Noordegraaf says is achievable based on some data.

Crop yields show a clear upward trend. In the past 20 years yields for corn, soybeans and winter wheat have increased by 20 to 40 per cent. This has been

achieved through advancements in farm equipment technology, crop inputs like fertilizer, seeds that are genetically designed to tolerate drought and disease, fungicides and herbicides, timing and the weather.

Noordegraaf said a lot of research and thought goes into choosing a variety that is right for a certain field. The growing season is measured in crop heat units – the amount of heat required for crops to reach maturity – with Clearview Township being in the 2,600 to 2,800 range.

Every crop requires certain nutrients to grow, said Noordegraaf. The big three macronutrients in fertilizer are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Crop advisors make sure the soil is in balance and optimized for nutrient absorption. Laboratory soil testing measures the soil's base fertility analyzing nutrient content, pH, and organic matter to determine nutrient availability for plant growth. Each crop has a removal value for determining fertilizer application rates and managing soil fertility, as failure to replace these nutrients can lead to declining soil test levels over time. Noordegraaf helps clients determine the best fertilizers to replenish the soil based on the farmer's yield expectations and soil type.

Marieke Patton said she fell in love with agriculture while growing up on a small farm in Essa Township.

It wasn't until she got to the University of Guelph that she discovered crop farming and started to

(Continues on next page)



Staff photos: Trina Berlo

Holmes Agro can custom blend 1-40 tons of fertilizer at the Stayner facility. The building holds 4,500 tons of fertilizer which is either broadcast on the field or dug in with the plant, depending on the variety and type.



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Marieke Patton

(Continued from page 9)

learn about all that goes into crop protection and boosting yields.

While at school she got a summer job working on a Bayer research farm.

“I was blown away by the science and what it could do,” said Patton, who was part of one of the company’s first herbicide trials. “I was really impressed.”

She continued to work there in the summers and went on to be part of the sales team for more than 20 years, working with the products from the development stages, before taking over BJS Farm Supply in Stayner in July and rebranding it Clearview Ag.

The seed brand DeKalb is a prominent agricultural brand specializing in high-performance seed, which has been a subsidiary of Bayer since 2018 following Bayer’s acquisition of Monsanto.

“It’s pretty amazing how much research goes into it,” said Patton, adding that it can take up to 10 years for a new product to go to market. On a research farm, a new product is tested first on a small scale and then scaled up before being tested on a working farm. The test plots are measured against the existing crops and then weighed at harvest time. Each cycle takes an entire year and there are no guarantees the product will ever be marketable.

Patton said success is measure in yield, standability (strong stalks), relative maturity (maturity reached during the available growing season based on crop heat units, calculated based on daytime temperatures versus nighttime temperatures).

“With agriculture you only get one cycle per year, one chance to evaluate,” she said.

As a result yields have gone up significantly, especially for corn and soybeans.

“It’s about getting a lot of things right,” said Patton. “It’s all very sophisticated.”

Crop protection is about using products that will

make the crop resilient to disease, pests, fungi, weeds, and drought.

“Otherwise you would have a downgraded product that would result in less revenue and would take it out of the human food supply,” said Patton.

She said she decided to take over the retail store because she really enjoyed working with the farm community. Her services include “scouting,” where she walks the fields to check on the health and vitality of the crops. For example, Patton said winter wheat that can be seen coming up in the spring is susceptible to fusarium head blight, or “scab,” a mold that can cause wilting. A biofungicide is used to colonize the root systems, where it competes with harmful pathogens for resources, thereby reducing their populations. The fungus produces enzymes and metabolites that fight plant pathogens, such as fungi, bacteria, and nematodes.

When developing a plan, Patton will take into account the growing conditions, farm history, location and weather patterns, in an attempt to get the best quality crops. She may help farmers choose the right seed based on yield goals, risks and crop rotation.

Farmers place their orders the previous fall and the warehouse at Clearview Ag is full of pallets stacked with seed orders ready for spring planting. So sometimes she is working a year ahead, although she also responds to emergencies whether its stripe rust on winter wheat, tarspot on corn, or spider mites on soybeans. Threats may be identifiable with the naked eye, or samples are sent to the lab for analysis.

“It’s complex,” said Patton. Farmers care about the environment. They’ll invest money into the acreage that they might not see back but they know they are paying it forward to the next generation.”

“Herbicides get a bad rap but there’s so much benefit,” she said. “You have to look at the risk-reward. These products are expensive so farmers aren’t going to overuse them.”



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Women in agriculture

by Bonnie MacPherson

Growing up in Chesley, Taylor Legge never imagined a career in agriculture. She was – and still is – passionate about climate change, and headed off to the University of Guelph to study Environmental Science. One year into the program, Legge had an epiphany. She thought she could do more to impact climate change working directly with farmers, and transferred to the Bachelor of Science/Crop Sciences program.

After graduating in the spring of 2025, Legge signed on as an agronomist at Holmes Agro in Stayner. She is one of a new generation of women in agriculture.

“Out of my graduating class of 160 people, roughly 60 per cent were women. The majority of my co-workers at Holmes Agro are women. Currently, there are more women on the consulting side than in operations,” said Legge. “I am seeing more and more women working in agriculture, but so far, there are not a lot of older women.”

Legge said since so many farms are family businesses, there is a lot of tradition.

“My family had a feed lot and beef operation which my younger brother now runs together with my parents,” she said. “My parents never pushed me toward a career in agriculture. I came to it later out of my own interest. I think you have a better understanding of all

the challenges involved if you do it because you love it.”

On a typical family farm, she said, there is no HR department, “So you become the accountant/customer service rep/ technician. It’s not just a career. It’s a lifestyle.”

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture puts female farm ownership at around 30 per cent. Legge said there have been big strides toward equality for women in agriculture in recent years.

She said the situation is better here than in developing countries with women leading the way in innovative, science-based approaches to agriculture. But on a typical farm, there is still lots of unpaid, undervalued work done by women. She said she has no interest in actually becoming a farmer, but is excited to be doing cutting edge work.

“My role is half sales, half consulting,” she said. “I assist my farmer clients with crop planning and soil sampling to develop fertility plans. We recommend and provide fertilizers and crop protection products. Women in agriculture have a lot of knowledge and expertise. I’ve had to work hard to earn credibility. Perhaps part of that is because I’m a woman, but a big part of it is being new at my job.”

While she was a student at the University of Guelph, Legge headed a group called Women in Agriculture. She keeps in touch with many former

(Continues on page 13)



Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

Taylor Legge demonstrates the use of a probe to take a soil sample. Legge says soil sampling is at the root of everything she does. Samples are analyzed at a lab in London, Ontario to determine base fertility levels. Agronomists then determine optimal soil additives to ensure peak productivity.

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(Continued from page 11)

student colleagues, who are employed in a variety of roles throughout the industry.

“I would say a quarter or less of my graduating class actually became farmers,” said Legge. “Farming has become highly technical and more knowledge based, which is creating a lot of opportunities for women with the right skills.”

Legge is one of only two women directors on the board of the North Simcoe Crop Improvement Association.

“I’m so proud and lucky to have grown up on a farm and to now work in agriculture,” she said. “I think it’s a very rewarding industry to work in, and women are the backbone – and have always been. We have more opportunity now than ever to work outside of primary labour, as agriculture calls for so much science, business, and other skilled labour forms. As an agronomist I use my university degree every single day. In Clearview Township we are uniquely positioned for innovation in agriculture and that women have a huge place in that. As developing countries get better at producing commodity crops like corn, soybeans, and wheat, it gives us an opportunity to leverage our climate in Ontario to grow higher value food crops and to do something different. We’re lucky at Holmes Agro to work with producers in Simcoe County who grow apples, potatoes, root vegetables, cabbage and broccoli, food grains, and edible beans – just to name a few. Coupling that with the opportunity for agritourism, we have



Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

Taylor Legge examines the root of winter wheat. She says most wheat grown in Ontario is winter wheat. It is planted in the fall and needs a period of extreme cold to trigger a reproductive growth process called vernalization. With the arrival of spring, wheat fields are beginning to turn green.

a huge opportunity for value-added agriculture and I do think women will be at the forefront of that. Through my time as Ontario Queen of the Furrow, being a student at Guelph, and working as an agronomist, I could tell you discouraging stories about being a woman working in agriculture; but I could also tell you so many great stories about the community and opportunity that it offers. Globally, different areas of the world are not as fortunate as we are, but 2026 is a very exciting time for Ontario agriculture.”

2026 declared International Year of the Woman Farmer

2026 has been designated as International Year of the Woman Farmer by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations hoping to raise awareness of the role of women in agri-food systems and the challenges they face, including land tenure, financial and technical constraints, and limited access to services and education. It also seeks to encourage policies and investments that empower women in agri-food systems and to promote greater synergies among international initiatives supporting women farmers. According to The United Nations, “women play essential roles across agri-food systems, producing, processing and trading food that sustains families, communities and economies. Yet their contributions often go unrecognized, and persistent inequalities limit their access to resources, opportunities and decision making.

“The International Year of the Woman Farmer highlights these realities, calls for collective action and increased investments to close gender gaps, strengthen women’s livelihoods and promote their leadership across



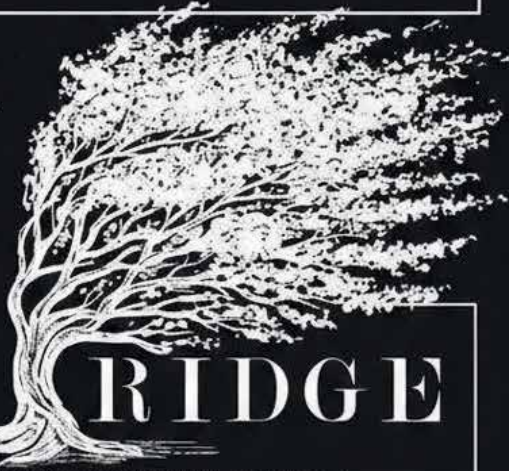
agri-food value chains. By advancing gender equality and creating conditions for women and girls engaged along agri-food value chains to thrive, the Year contributes to building fairer, more inclusive and sustainable agri-food systems for all.

“Empowered women farmers are key agents of change in transforming agri-food systems. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over land, finance, technology, education and decision-making enhances the well-being of women and their households, boosts productivity, strengthens resilience to climate change and drives progress towards the sustainable development goals.”

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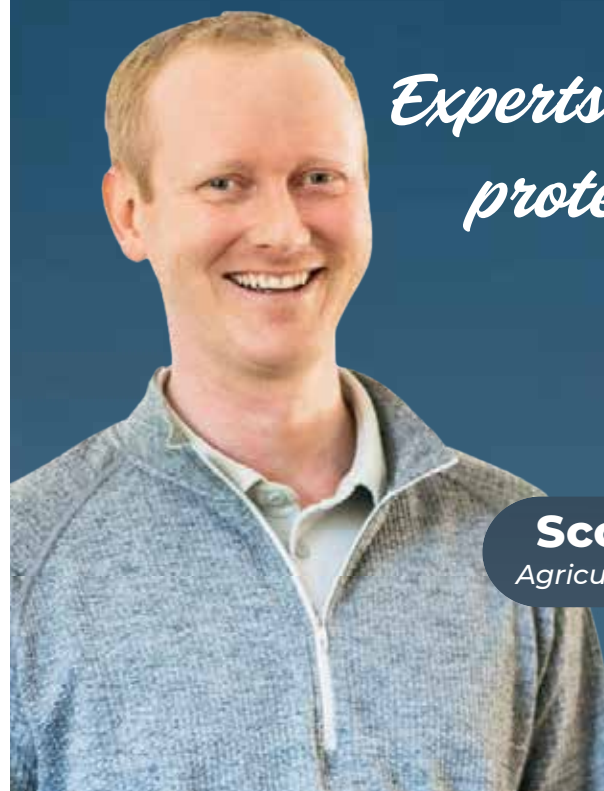
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Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

Zach Raaphorst with seed starters and samples of parsley, spearmint, Thai basil and coriander grown at Cornucopia Farms. On the front page: **Jenna McCannell**.

Hydroponics

by **Bonnie MacPherson**

Cornucopia Farms is deliberately low key. Situated on Highway 26, just east of Stayner, there are no flashy signs proclaiming its presence but within three customized containers at this site, lives an experimental operation that may represent the future of farming.

Farm operations manager **Penny Towndrow** said each of the three 320-square-foot containers is referred to as a farm. With advanced hydroponic technology, each farm can yield crops comparable to 2.5 acres of conventional farmland. And because the environment is strictly controlled to ensure optimal conditions, the growing season is year round. For example, the lettuce farm can cycle 10-12 crops per year.

Municipal zoning rules do not permit on-site retail so for now, everything they produce is either donated to local food banks or supplied to high-end restaurants. Towndrow said the hope is that produce from Cornucopia Farms will eventually be sold direct to consumers and at local farmers' markets, in farm boxes and via subscription services. For now, they are focused on getting the farms up and running.

"The farms had been in storage since the original owner in Boston went into receivership," she said. "Owners, **Stacey and Susan Schacter**

are passionate about finding solutions to food insecurity. They bought the farms from the receiver and moved them to the Clearview Township location. We got them set up here in mid-November and started to get serious about growing in December."

Towndrow said roughly 60 per cent of the food we eat is grown in other countries.

"Growing indoors locally means produce can be picked when it's ripe and delivered to consumers quickly," she said. "Because we're growing indoors, there is no need for pesticides. I don't even wash the greens that come from the farm because there is nothing harmful on them. Our produce is not certified organic because there is no soil involved. During 'bug season,' we use an air curtain to protect the crops and in the unlikely event we do get an infestation, we can simply increase the amount of water and heat, and get rid of pests naturally."

Each farm uses about five gallons of water per day which is filtered and recycled. Energy consumption is a big expense. Towndrow said each farm uses roughly five to 10 times as much electricity as an average Canadian home heated with gas or about two to five times as much as a home with electric heat.

"We schedule growing with red and violet lights for 12-14 hours overnight, when electricity is most

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affordable, then during the daytime, when power rates are higher, we have just enough light in the farms for our staff to work. Down the road, we might be able to partner with a small data centre to use their CO2 output to grow our plants,” said Towndrow.

“Plants spend two to six weeks on the wall,” according to Towndrow. “We stagger planting so there is a constant supply of plants ready for harvest. Because we are not affected by weather volatility, we will be able to offer restaurants and small stores stable supply and pricing. Whereas costs at the Ontario Food Terminal can vary up to 100 per cent per week, we will be able to offer price stability for several months.”

Currently, Cornucopia Farms has one farm devoted to herbs like sweet Thai basil, cilantro, parsley and mint. The two remaining farms are planted with fast growing greens. Towndrow said plans are in the works to add a fourth farm that will be devoted to mushrooms.

American entrepreneur Stacey Schacter, founder, president and CEO of VION Investments – a specialty finance company offering receivables portfolio purchasing and asset disposition, receivables-based funding, and valuation advisory services – has been studying hydroponic farming operations around the world.

“My vision is to learn what’s required to have small, local farms

that work,” said Schacter. “We’d like to grow specialty crops and free up valuable farmland for things that can’t be done indoors. We know that there are medicinal native plants that haven’t been adequately studied because it is impossible to control growing conditions in the wild. With controlled environment agriculture we may be able to grow native plants like ramps which are at risk of over-harvesting.”

He said, “Power is a big challenge. In Europe, they’re using geothermal heat for hydroponic operations. We’d like to develop technologies like roof mounted wind turbines that can withstand Canadian weather.”

Schacter and his wife are in the process of applying for resident status in Canada. In the meantime, they split their time between Clearview Township and their home in the United States.

“We’d like to be able to grow enough to break even,” he said. “At some point, the business should be able to invest in more farms. Right now, I’m paying people to do my hobby.”

Currently, Cornucopia Farms employs eight staff, mostly part time.

Seeing the potential for cooperative ventures with community groups, Schacter said the business is currently providing produce to food banks in Collingwood and Creemore, and he would like to expand those relationships.



Staff photos: Bonnie MacPherson

Above: During the night fast growing greens are lit to optimize growth. Below: Plants mature on the wall with a five-week period.



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On a national scale

by Trina Berlo

As president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), Nottawa farmer **Keith Currie** travels the world as a representative of Canadian farmers, always trying to get the ear of whoever is making decisions around national policy that impacts agriculture.

Currie has been at the helm of the federation since being elected chair of the board in 2023. The eighth generation farmer is a long-time advocate of the agriculture industry with more than 30 years of political lobbying, having served as president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) from 2016-2020 before taking the helm at CFA.

Founded in 1935, the federation acts as a unified voice advocating on behalf of Canadian farmers. As a farmer-funded, national umbrella organization comprising of provincial general farm organizations and national and interprovincial commodity groups, it represents more than 190,000 farm families across the country.

When asked how he got involved on the policy side of agriculture he said it's in his blood.

His father "had his finger in politics," said Currie, and his mother, **Carol Currie**, was the first mayor of Clearview Township.

Currie said all he ever wanted to do was farm. In 1982, after college, he returned home to manage the family farm, where he and his wife **Janice** raised four children.

His family had a dairy farm back then and while in his early 20s, Currie got involved in a dairy organization, which

led him to the OFA.

"I've always been a bit of a political junkie," he said. "I saw a path in some small way to advocate for agriculture."

He said part of the struggle is that agricultural industry in Canada is huge. The CFA represents more than 250 commodities and finding a one-size-fits-all approach to policy is almost impossible.

"There aren't a lot of wins," said Currie with a laugh, "but when you get that win it's like a drug and you're on to the next one."

"You'll only win one per cent of issues," he said. "The trick is to have a narrow focus and find umbrella topics and priorities that encompass common issues... The goal is to convince the government to invest in agriculture in a way that benefits the entire country while applying whatever lens meets the agenda, whether its climate or trade," he said, adding that Canada exports half of what is grown domestically, with Ontario being the heart of food production in Canada.

According to the Government of Canada, the agriculture and agri-food system generated \$149.2 billion in Canadian gross domestic product (GDP) in 2024, and accounted for one-in-nine jobs, employing 2.3 million people.

Currie is buoyed by a current shift in the political climate because, he says, agriculture is being recognized as a strategic driver for the first time in a long time.

"Make no mistake, farming is a business and it makes up seven per cent of Canada's GDP. **Doug Ford**, whatever you think of him, he has reduced red



Contributed photo

Canadian Federation of Agriculture president **Keith Currie** (from right) with federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food **Heath MacDonald** and Railway Association of Canada president **Eric Harvey** at the president's reception during the CFA's AGM in Ottawa in February.

tape," said Currie.

"The heart of any economy is small business and that's what farming is," he said, which begs the question, "How do we make life better for farmers?"

"The rural fabric of Canada has been eroded," said Currie, "to the point that it is difficult to find agricultural services so an increase in the funding of infrastructure to attract skilled labour is needed to help the agricultural sector, and create spin-off benefits for the country as a whole."

Currie counted 70 flights last year, taking him across Canada and to Italy, Brazil and Ireland, to name a few. He says he loves the chance to travel and visit other farms. Although he puts most of his seed in by moonlight, he said he does appreciate it when he gets to come home and work his own fields.

Canadians are highly regarded in the industry, according to Currie.

"Canadians are viewed as leaders – they look to us to champion causes,"

he said.

Acknowledging that economic and politics of the day can create a divide between the global north and south – and the ongoing concerns about trade relations – he is fan of centrist political climates.

In a non-partisan role, Currie can list the pros and cons of working with and against elected officials from all parties. He said he has friends and allies on all sides of the House and has been asked to run by all three political parties at both the provincial and federal level.

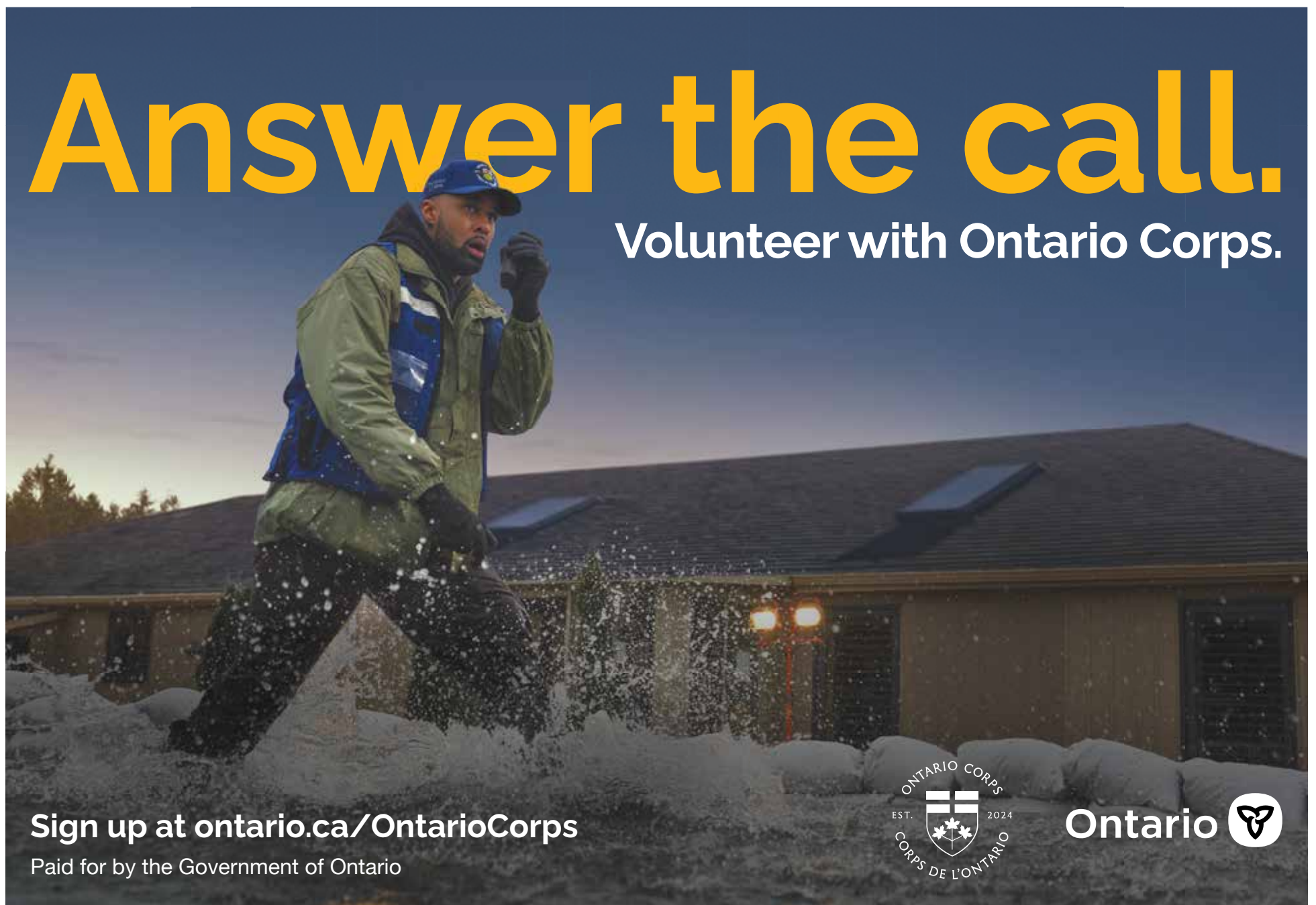
"I feel I can accomplish more on this side of the table," said Currie, where it's a journey as opposed to a race.

"It's about trust. When you are dealing with elected officials it's the hardest thing to earn and the easiest thing to lose."

"It's our job to be in the government's face and say how they should invest in rural Canada," said Currie. "I'm pretty proud of the organization. I wish we could do more."



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Staff photos: Trina Berlo

Above left: **Simeon Perry** and **Samuel Dixon** water plants in the greenhouse at Stayner Collegiate Institute during their green industries class. Right: **Peyton Whitley** and **Cali Collicutt** plant lettuce in preparation for the May 9 sale at the school.

Plant sale helps fund green industries projects at high school

by **Trina Berlo**

Students in the green industries program at Stayner Collegiate Institute (SCI) are busy preparing for the annual plant sale.

It is a chance to share their newly learned horticultural skills with the community and support the program financially.

Natalie Graham, a green industries student who is also in charge of media relations, said there will be about 800 plants available at the sale, including annuals, perennials, house plants, and vegetables. All the plants are student-grown.

Graham said after taking her first year of green industries she went home and convinced her father to put in a vegetable garden at home.

“It was really fun to get into it and learn about how things grow,” she said, adding that she grew cucumbers last summer and made her own pickles.

Graham said the sale is run by student volunteers (with teacher supervision) who can provide growing instructions and advice. Careful planning has gone into sowing the seeds and caring for the plants so they are at the right stage for planting later in the spring.

Proceeds from the sale go back into the program to augment the budget for growing materials, tools and supplies.

“That’s why the students work so hard to make sure the sale is a success,” said Graham.

SCI is one of only two high schools in the province with a fully functional greenhouse classroom. A green

industries course provides students with knowledge and practical skills, and aims to equip them for various green industry roles. The curriculum includes safe working practices, environmental and social issues, and career pathways. In combination with an agriculture day hosted by the school each fall, the green industries program can help connect students with professionals in the industry, possibly leading to careers in horticulture and agriculture through co-op placements and summer jobs.

The May 9 sale is held in the greenhouse from 9 a.m. to noon, with many varieties selling out at last year’s sale.

Stayner Collegiate Institute is located at 7578 Highway 26. Sales are cash only.



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Number: #2026-017
Vacancy Status: Existing Vacancies
Posting Date: April 14, 2026
Deadline: May 8, 2026

CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM LIBRARY ASSISTANT
2 Student Positions - Job #2026-017

Start Date: June 23, 2025

The Clearview Public Library (Stayner, Creemore and New Lowell Branches) is seeking two (2) students for our Children's summer reading and outreach programs (summer festivals).

Qualifications and Abilities required:

- Must be enrolled in a secondary or post-secondary program in a recognized academic institution and will be returning to school on a full-time basis in the fall of 2026
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to communicate with children effectively
- Excellent reading ability
- Must have reliable transportation
- Ability to work in all three library branches located in Creemore, New Lowell and Stayner
- Be legally entitled to work in Canada as a student
- Age requirement is between 15 and 30 years of age at the time of hire
- Be in possession of a valid Social Insurance Number at the time of hire

Hours of work: 30 hours per week. The position includes evening and weekend shifts.

Wage Rate: \$22.00 per hour, plus 4% vacation pay.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit their resume and a covering letter quoting **Job # 2026-017** by **May 8, 2026**, to:

Jennifer La Chapelle, CEO
269 Regina St., ON L0M 1S0 or
Email: jlachapelle@clearview.ca

*We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. Please note: 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 Clearview Public Library does not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology at any stage of the recruitment process.*

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 Lightheart, Water & Sewer Supervisor
Clearview Township
(705) 428-6230 ext. 303
dlightheart@clearview.ca

Theatre Georgian Bay celebrates 10 years with a celebratory community event

Theatre Georgian Bay is celebrating 10 Years of creativity, collaboration, and Shakespeare by the bay.

On Sunday, April 26, Theatre Georgian Bay invites community members to join the celebration at the Simcoe Street Theatre in Collingwood. Taking place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., the party will include complimentary food and beverages, games, and a silent auction. The event will feature a presentation of live music, highlights from the history of Theatre Georgian Bay, and the official cast announcement for the upcoming summer production of Twelfth Night.

Twelfth Night was the inaugural show presented by the founding members of the Theatre Georgian Bay Collective,

and is now being revisited as a part of year-long anniversary celebrations.

A performing arts collective made up of theatre professionals and arts workers from across the region, Theatre Georgian Bay is best known for its annual outdoor productions of William Shakespeare's works. Bard on the Bay takes place annually in July and August at the Shipyards Amphitheatre in Collingwood, and over the last decade the company has presented well-known titles like *Romeo & Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, among many others.

Donations will be gratefully accepted. Drop-ins and walk-ins welcome.



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NOTICE

Hunting in the Dufferin County Forest

All users of the Dufferin County Forest are hereby advised that April 25-May 31 is the spring shotgun/archery season for wild turkey in 2026. Wild turkey hunting may occur only from ½ hour before sunrise to 7:00 p.m. During this time there will be a number of hunters using the Dufferin County Forest properties. Please use caution in the forest and wear bright-coloured clothing. There is no hunting allowed at any time in the following tracts: north portion of Amaranth, Hockley, Leening, Levitt, Little, Main, Mono, Thomson, and River Road. Suspected violations of the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Act should be reported to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at 877-847-7667 (877-TIPS-MNR). Other inquiries should be directed to the County Forest Manager at 877-941-7787.



**FUN &
Games**

Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 23

FRED'S FUNNIES

Why do cows have hooves instead of feet?

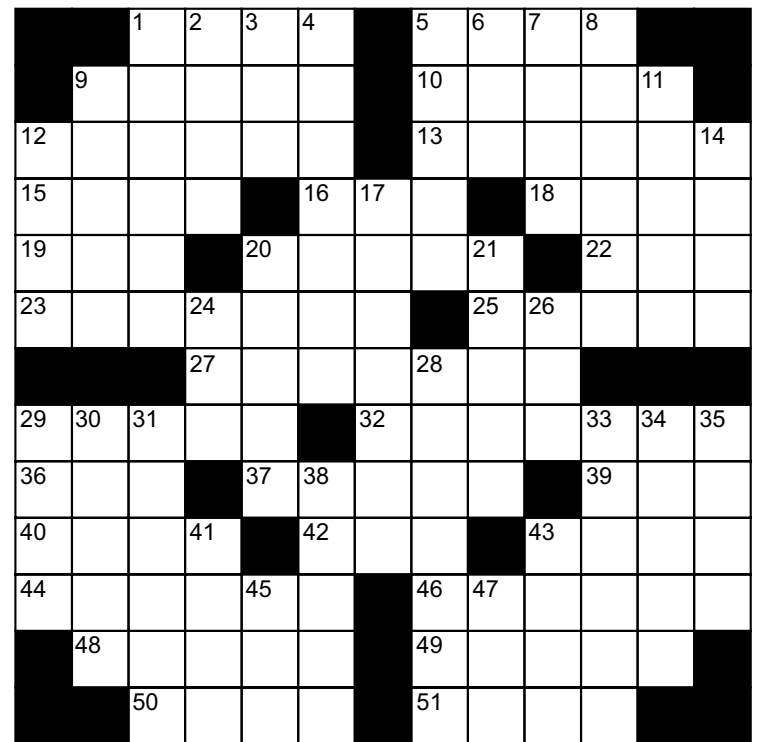
Because they lactose

Thank you to all the fabulous farmers

Canadian Criss Cross by Walter Feener

ACROSS

1. Bend in a sink pipe
5. Angel costume accessory
9. Alternative to frozen
10. Put to use
12. Like some dresses
13. Long for
15. Knife handle
16. Become less elastic
18. A plant grows from it
19. Anointing substance
20. Dead on one's feet
22. Be a nuisance to
23. Say what will happen in the future
25. Showing signs of wear and tear
27. Tasteless
29. Leafless flower stalk
32. Gathering to say goodbye
36. Road surface
37. Lower part of the leg
39. Foot digit
40. Energy units
42. Word used to connect words
43. Very serious
44. Short summary
46. Out of the country
48. Pass a law
49. Like a crowd, sometimes
50. Chart of family lineage
51. Kind



DOWN

1. Unimportant thing
2. Money for the landlord
3. Inquire about
4. Science that deals with matter and energy
5. Property divider
6. Lumberjack's tool
7. Smaller amount of
8. Countries of the East
9. Natural ability
11. Unexpected gift
12. Place where things are sold
14. Nervous
17. Craftsperson
20. Fork prongs
21. Alcoholic beverage
24. Partner's dance move
26. Go on to say
28. Hanging ornament
29. Kind of aerobics
30. French square
31. Silver, in heraldry
33. Being at leisure
34. Initial venture
35. Food for farm animals
38. Unnecessarily quick action
41. Disfigurement
43. Faucet annoyance
45. Bartender's "rocks"
47. Baby in blue

Trivia: How many stomachs does a cow have?



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Climate Action Recognition Program nominees recognized

Eight organizations and individuals are being recognized for their inspirational efforts in addressing climate change and other positive environmental initiatives by the Clearview Climate Action Advisory Committee.

The committee will recognize the following:
Student category: **Evening Martin.**
Citizen category: **Diana Wisniewska, Adam Pearce, and Brenna Lattimore.**
Business/organization category: The Keep Refillery, Mpowered Solutions, Highlands Nordic, and Friends of the Clearview EcoPark.

The ceremony will take place on Wednesday, April 22, which is Earth Day, starting at 5 p.m. at the Township of Clearview Administration Centre, 217 Gideon Street in Stayner. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mansfield Outdoor Centre hosts free community open house

Mansfield Outdoor Centre is hosting a free community open house on Saturday, April 18. Visitors can explore the property, enjoy free trail access, and take part in a fun-filled day featuring live music with The Pearl Motel, a barbecue and drinks, and hands-on children's programming led by Camp Mansfield staff. Activities include hiking and biking, a guided ladies' mountain bike ride from 10 a.m. to noon., and tours of Camp Mansfield.

Mansfield Outdoor Centre offers on-site cabins and camping, plus a full calendar of events and activities throughout the year for families and outdoor enthusiasts.

Mansfield Outdoor Centre is located at 937365 Airport Road, Mulmur. The event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain or shine (with indoor options available). For more information, contact info@mansfieldoutdoorcentre.ca, www.mansfieldoutdoorcentre.ca or call 705-435-4479.



Georgian Good Food Box chair **Lynn Black** presents **Mark Redmond** with a certificate of recognition for his work with the GGFB.

Georgian Good Food Box founder honoured

On April 11, The Georgian Good Food Box recognized volunteer, co-founder and former director **Mark Redmond** for his vision, dedication and service that spanned more than two decades.

"In honour of Mark's tremendous achievements and his passion for education, teaching and addressing food insecurity, the Georgian Good Food Box will be donating a good food box to each of the schools in our service area in Mark's name, on a rotating basis starting in September," said Georgian Good Food Box chair **Lynn Black**.

The Good Food Box is a non-profit buying club that purchases fresh fruits and vegetables for monthly distribution in the Southern Georgian Bay area. For more information visit ggfb.ca.

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Seasonal Farm Worker

Location: Clearview / Creemore
Term: Seasonal
Compensation: \$22-\$25/Hour

Seeking a seasonal summer worker for a private farm property near Creemore. The role would primarily include outdoor physical work such as garden maintenance, lawn maintenance and farm related work. Excellent working conditions and competitive compensation. This role would be ideal for a university/college student on summer break.

Qualifications/ Skills:

- Valid drivers license required.
- Work experience in a related field an asset.
- Independent worker and quick learner.
- Comfortable with animals and basic machinery.

To apply Please forward your CV and personalized cover letter to the attention of **Kate Leman at kleman@burgundyasset.com.**

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IN MEMORIAM



CULHAM, Douglas M. – Dec. 14, 1932 - April 15, 2015
Everyday in some small way, Memories of you come our way, Though absent, you are ever near, Still missed, loved, always dear. Much love, *Martine, Jennifer, and Ashley*



Spring Sale

Fri May 8 to Sun May 10
(weather permitting)
Fri May 15 to Mon May 18
Fri May 22 to Sun May 24
Fri May 29 to Sun May 31
Fri June 5 to Sun June 7

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The Creemore Echo is seeking candidates for a paid summer internship beginning in June 2026.

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Minimum 35 hours per week for nine weeks, in-office employment with flexible hours, evening and weekend work required.

Applicants must:

- hold, or be in the process of earning, a diploma or degree in journalism from a college or university;
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Send resume, cover letter, references and two writing samples to editor@creemore.com by May 19.

See full job posting:



The Creemore Echo is an independently owned and operated newspaper produced weekly in Creemore, ON.



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This week's answers

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

	T	R	A	P		H	A	L	O			
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				I	N	S	I	P	I	D		
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E	R	G	S		A	N	D		D	I	R	E
P	R	E	C	I	S		A	B	R	O	A	D
E	N	A	C	T		N	O	I	S	Y		
	T	R	E	E		T	Y	P	E			

Trivia: one stomach with four distinct compartments



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Number: #2026-015
 Vacancy Status: New Vacancy,
 Existing Position
 Posting Date: April 13, 2026
 Deadline: April 27, 11:59 PM

YOUTH CENTRE ASSISTANT '1'

Clearview Township is currently seeking one (1) permanent part-time (approximately 25 hours per week) Youth Centre Assistant '1'. This is a unionized position within the CUPE Bargaining Unit. The primary location of work is currently based at the Stayner Arena, located at 269 Regina Street, Stayner; however, day-to-day work locations may vary across the Township or be out of town based on operational requirements or scheduled outings.

Key Accountabilities:

Reporting to the Youth Centre Coordinator, the Youth Centre Assistants are responsible for supporting the safe and smooth daily operations of the Clearview Youth Centre. The Youth Centre Assistants actively participate in youth activities and programs, effectively overseeing, guiding, and directing the youth members. The Youth Centre Assistants are also responsible for ensuring controlled entry access for every youth member arriving, conducting opening and closing procedures, registering and updating new member information, and responding to public inquiries.

Qualifications:

- Secondary School Diploma and a recognized post-secondary certificate in Recreation and Leisure studies, Youth Work, or Social Services with one (1) year of previous related work experience working with youth aged 12 to 17.
- Strong interpersonal, communication, leadership, conflict management, and organizational skills.
- Knowledge of the procedures involved in recognizing youth at risk in accordance with the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, and proven knowledge of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Ability to handle sensitive situations with innovative thinking, sound judgement, and effective negotiation and dispute resolution skills.
- Ability to work constructively in a team environment and act independently as required.
- Flexibility and willingness to work afternoons, evenings, and weekend shifts, including traveling within the community and out of town as required, to meet operational requirements.
- Current and valid First-Aid, CPR-C, and AED certification required, as well as current WHMIS certification.
- Satisfactory Vulnerable Sector Check.
- Valid Class "G" Driver's License in good standing with a clean Driver's Abstract and reliable personal transportation.
- Experience delivering services within a Youth Centre is a definite asset.
- Non-Violent Crisis Prevention Training and/or Applied Suicide Intervention Skills training is a definite asset.

Note: The preferred candidate must be willing to provide consent for the Township to conduct a Vulnerable Sector Check prior to finalizing an employment offer.

Wage Rate:

Currently: \$38.90 per hour (2026).

How to Apply:

Interested candidates are invited to forward their resume and a covering letter quoting **job # 2026-015** to Human Resources **by April 27th, 2026, at 11:59 pm** to: hr@clearview.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls, please. The Township of Clearview does not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology at any stage of the recruitment process. The Township of Clearview is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation will be provided in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

Please visit: www.clearview.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Number: #2026-016
 Vacancy Status: Existing Vacancy
 Posting Date: April 13, 2026
 Deadline: April 27, 11:59 PM

SEASONAL ROADS OPERATOR

Clearview Township is currently seeking one (1) seasonal full-time (40 hours per week) Roads Operator from May 15th, 2026, to October 1st, 2026. This is a unionized position within the CUPE Bargaining Unit. The location of work varies based on the needs of the Township; however, the primary location of work is located at the Clearview Public Works Yard, 5833 County Road 96, Stayner, ON.

Key Accountabilities:

Reporting to the Roads Supervisor, the Seasonal Roads Operator is responsible for assisting the Public Works Roads Department with roadside grass maintenance, traffic control, machine sweeping, regular maintenance on tools and roads infrastructure, construction projects, and transporting gravel to and from various job sites. The Seasonal Roads Operator is also responsible for performing other related duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Minimum Grade 12 education with a minimum of one (1) year of experience operating heavy equipment.
- Valid DZ Driver's License in good standing with a clean Driver's Abstract.
- In addition to operating heavy equipment, must possess the ability to operate utility trucks, pumps, compressors, generators, common hand and power tools, shovels, wrenches, two-way radios, and phones.
- Current WHMIS training.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and in a team environment.
- Knowledge of safety standards and precautions pertaining to the use of tools and safe work practices.
- Ability to understand, read, and follow written and oral instructions.
- Ability to perform heavy manual labour, including bending, stooping, reaching, and lifting heavy objects.
- Physical strength and ability sufficient to meet job requirements for extended periods under uncomfortable conditions in all types of weather.
- In case of urgent call-ins, must be able to respond to the workplace within 30 minutes.

Note: The preferred candidate must be willing to provide consent for the Township to conduct a Criminal Record Check prior to finalizing an employment offer.

Wage Rate:

Currently: \$30.96 per hour (2026), plus 4% vacation pay.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates are invited to forward their resume and a covering letter quoting **job # 2026-016** to Human Resources **by April 27th, 2026, at 11:59 pm** to: hr@clearview.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls, please. The Township of Clearview does not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology at any stage of the recruitment process. The Township of Clearview is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation will be provided in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

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