


# The Creemore ECHO

## HOME & GARDEN EDITION

Friday, May 15, 2026 Vol. 26 No. 20

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# COMMUNITY Calendar

Submit your community events  
 sales@creemore.com  
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## Saturday, May 16

- **Mixed Grove** performs at Stayner Legion from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. All shows no cover, just great music. \$5 Legion beers and hot dogs during the show. Come out and support your local Legion. Everyone welcome. You don't have to be a member to attend. Just take your hat off at the door.
- Centennial United Church **trunk and table sale**. An unconventional yard sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 234 William St., Stayner. Email fundraisers@ucstayner.ca or call Geoff at 519-546-3991 to rent a spot in our parking lot – \$20 to sell junk out of your trunk or rent a spot in the church for \$30 and sell treasures off of your table. Everyone welcome.

## May 16-17

- **Art sale** by Jody Buda/Bowle-Evans at her studio (being turned into a rentable apartment shortly) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. located at 1818 Nottawasaga Conc. Line 6 S. Glen Huron – .5 miles north of Smithdale or 4 km south of Hwy 91 on west side – 705-466-6337. All money raised will be sent to MSF (Doctors Without Borders) either directly by the buyer or by Jody.

## Tuesday, May 19

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

## Wednesday, May 20

- The garden of weeden' is needen.' The Friends of the Eco Park and **community garden** need you! Meet weekly on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to dusk. If other times of the week work best for you please reach out by emailing friendsofecopark@gmail.com for more information. Build community, enjoy nature and, when the vegetable harvest is ready, it is donated to the local food bank. If you know a high school student who needs volunteer hours this event does qualify.
- Creemore Horticultural Society's **meeting** at the Station on the Green starting at 7:30 a.m. Guest Speaker Jane Yingi-Stunning Easy care plants for your dream garden.

## Friday, May 22

- **Pasta dinner** at St. John's United from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. All welcome. Family, \$25; adults, \$10; youth 5-12, \$5.

## Saturday, May 23

- Creemore Farmers' Market **opening day** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Station on the Green parking lot.
- Brentwood Horticultural Society's **annual plant sale**. 8 a.m. to noon at Brentwood Community Centre, 9926 County Road 10. Cash sales only. Come and get some great additions for your gardens.
- Stayner Lawn Bowling Club's **garage sale** starting at 8 a.m. at 205 Ontario St. south of Hwy 26.
- **Local musician** Wayne Fennell performs at the Stayner Legion from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. All shows no cover, just great music. \$5 Legion beers and hot dogs during the show. All welcome.
- **The Creemore Echo's 25th birthday celebration** at the Creemore Village Green from 10 a.m. to noon.
- *Seven Years at Sea: A Family's Voyage Around the World: A fireside conversation*, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Mansfield Outdoor Centre Pine River Café. Join Michael Buratynksy and Cornelia Manske as they share the incredible story of setting sail with their three children to circumnavigate the globe. \$20+ tax includes admission, baked goods, coffee and tea. Register at www.mansfieldoutdoorcentre.ca, events@mansfieldoutdoorcentre.ca.
- **Bus trip** to see *Romeo and Juliet* 2 p.m. show at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto – bus pickup at Stayner Church of the Good Shepherd at 10 a.m. and Innisfil Beach Commuter Car Park at 10:45 a.m. Cost \$190 includes ticket (Dress Circle – stair access only) and bus. To reserve a seat and for more information please contact Gren Bray at grenvillebray1@gmail.com. If you would like to, purchase a ticket only and provide your own transportation.

## Sunday, May 24

- Join the Creemore Horticultural Society at Creemore Village Green for free **guided garden tours** featuring native plants, rare species, pollinators, and bloom cycles. Poetry readings by Cecily Ross at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m.

## 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

- Brentwood **Farmers Market**, at the Brentwood Hall, 9926 County Road 10. Every Friday, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. until Oct. 9. Enjoy the sights, smells, and flavours of the season featuring everything from fresh-picked produce, honey, and maple syrup to baked goods, preserves, and one-of-a-kind artisan creations. Contact Robert Thomas, 705-730-9410 rob1976dart@gmail.com.
- Creemore's second annual **Trivia Night** returns to Creemore Village Green. Cash bar opens at 6:30 p.m., questions start at 7 p.m. Bring your own snacks. Limited tables available at *The Echo* or TicketScene.ca.

## Saturday, May 30

- Stayner Garden Club **plant sale** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Stayner arena. Cash only.
- Mad and Noisy Quilt Group is celebrating 25 years of tea parties, quilts and friendship with a **tour and tea party**. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pick up a passport at Creemore Log Cabin. \$10 per person.
- Stayner Lawn Bowling Club's **open house** at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 205 Ontario St., south of Hwy 26. For more information visit www.staynerlawnbowlingclub.ca.

## Sunday, May 31

- Community Healing Collective - **Wellness Day** at Station on the Green from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. An event where community can discover wholistic modalities to gain and keep optimum health. Free entry plus one free raffle ticket for free offers from vendors. For more information contact communityhealingevent@gmail.com.

## Tuesday, June 2

- Escarpment Corridor Alliance's **Annual Community Update** from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the The Marsh Street Centre, 187 Marsh St., Clarksburg. Special guest speaker is Mike Hendren, executive director of Ontario Conservation Accelerator. Visit eca-community-update-event.raisesite.com for more information.

## Saturday, June 6

- 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.
- GNE **Steak Dinner and Dance** at the GNE Fairgrounds from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Great food, a dance floor that all ages will enjoy, plus a silent auction. Tickets cost \$50. E-transfer Collingwood Agricultural Society admin@greatnothernex.com.
- **Party in the Garden** celebrating the 20th anniversary of Grandmother's Garden from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. 165 Library St. Creemore. RSVP to Nancy Falconer, nancy@nancyfalconer.com.

## Sunday, June 7

- Creemore's inaugural **10K** welcomes runners of all levels. Race starts at 10 a.m. at Creemore Springs Brewery with live music, food vendors, and cold beer after the run. Register at RaceRoster.com.
- Parkinson's South Georgian Bay 2026 **June Festival** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Collingwood Curling Club. A bold, one-day experience built around exercise, educate, empower. Fee to attend One Hell of a Ride event, Free for DocTalk and The Parkinson's Plan Forum. Parkinson's South Georgian Bay, 705-607-6933, www.pasg.ca.

## Thursday, June 18

- **Beer and Books** – Terry Fallis presents *The Marionette*, a comic thriller full of wit, suspense, and Canadian ingenuity. At Creemore Springs Brewery from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more info visit Curiosity House Books curiosityhousebooks.com/events or hello@curiosityhousebooks.com. Tickets cost \$25.

## Friday, June 19

- **Summer Solstice party** hosted by the Creemore BIA at Creemore Village Green from 5 p.m. Performance in the Village Green by Shania Twink, line dancing, floral crowns with Creemore Horticulture Society, performance by the Creemore Drumming Collective and more.

## Saturday, June 20

- Camphill Communities Ontario and Camphill Foundation Canada will hold their **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** at Novalis Hall, 7841 4th Line, Angus. New members are invited to join; membership is \$15. To be eligible to vote at the AGM, the membership application deadline is May 22.

# Election update: McArthur to challenge for Mayor

by **Bonnie MacPherson**

Clearview Ward 2 Councillor **Robert McArthur** has declared his intention to seek the office of mayor in this fall's election.

McArthur has served one term on council and feels he can contribute in a larger way.

A farmer and a lifelong resident of the township, McArthur is a familiar figure at events like the Santa Claus Parade, appearing with his team of horses. He says, as he attends events throughout Clearview he gets the feeling there is an appetite for change.

"Agriculture is certainly coming to the top of people's agendas, and I am proud to have led the drive to resurrect the agricultural advisory committee in the next term," said McArthur. "Cooperation with neighbouring municipalities will be very important. Collingwood is bursting at the seams and we have a sewage agreement in place with Wasaga Beach. Now that the Klondike Park water project is underway, we could soon see another 2,500 homes in Stayner and the Creemore subdivision is getting closer to reality."

McArthur, a 30-year employee at Reinhart Foods in Stayner, is the council rep on the Avening Hall Board, the Dunedin Hall Board and the



**Robert McArthur**

Committee of Adjustment.

Ward 1 councillor **Phyllis Dineen** will seek another term.

In Mulmur, incumbent mayor **Janet Horner** is seeking another term and current councillor **Patricia Clark** has announced her intention to run for the deputy mayor post. **Shirley Boxem** who ran unsuccessfully for deputy mayor in 2022 will be back to seek a seat on council.

**Shawn Cooper** has filed nomination papers for a seat on the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. **Eric Lapointe** is vying for a seat on the Conseil Scholaire Viamonde.

Nominations close August 21, and Election Day is Oct. 26.



Contributed photo

The team at Stayner Post Office – **Brandi Crowder**, from left, **Valentina Pellico**, **Brandon Finlayson**, **Michelle MacKay** and **Katie-Ann Reevie** – is once again raising funds for Canada Post Community Foundation. The staff is holding a 50/50 draw, a raffle of items donated by local vendors, and a yard sale this Saturday with items donated by employees. Postmaster Brandon Finlayson said the community responds very positively to the annual campaign, which raised \$1,000 in the first week. The May 16 yard sale is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Stayner Post Office, 247 William St.



Contributed photo

The Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign raised \$8,337 for the Singhampton Community Playground project. Volunteers are grateful to everyone who helped spread the word and drive cookie sales to help bring a new playground to life for local children and families to enjoy for years to come.

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# OPINION & Feedback

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## EDITORIAL

### Feeling at home

It is so nice to see the leaves unfurling and the dandelions popping.

Emerging from a cold winter and below seasonal spring temperatures, it feels like everyone is ready for a little warmth and sunshine.

Here we present our annual Home and Garden special edition of *The Creemore Echo*, a celebration of all things spring. It is a time when we throw open the doors and windows and begin to blur the lines between indoor and outdoor living. A sure sign of spring is when the dining room is abandoned for the patio table, the oven passed over for the barbecue, and the kitchen starts to spill out onto the deck.

In this year's Home and Garden edition, we celebrate the past and future.

We have been fortunate enough to have been invited inside some of Creemore's century homes to learn what people are doing to preserve and enhance them.

In doing so a theme has emerged about the feeling of home. It comes through each story in one way or another.

Getting a good feeling from a home is tricky to describe and even harder to explain but we've all experienced it. Being at home may cause someone to exhale fully and settle the nervous system. Sometimes it is about the people in the home and the memories made there, and sometimes that good feeling could be the result of being surrounded by a pleasing palette, heirlooms, or good books. Whatever may be the cause, it is to be acknowledged and cherished. Comfortable homes are not to be taken for granted in this economic climate.

It's nice to see homeowners appreciate the craftsmanship of the homes they occupy, even if for a relatively short time.

The village is steeped in history shaped by people doing small things to build the community. For example, while researching 198 Mill St., we found that the original resident Thelma Thomson was a founding member of the Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society and was instrumental in launching Scouting in Creemore. She and her contemporaries put in motion programs that still define and enhance the community. What better legacy could there be?

We also feature people who are sharing their creative talents from their home-based businesses. Most artisans create work that is meant to be enduring but there is a segment that puts just as much time and energy into something that is then devoured (in the case of food) or smashed (in the case of piñatas) yet they are likely the thing that is most remembered after a big celebration.

Others in this issue are advocates for land stewardship, whether creating a healthy ecosystem for plants and birds, or inspiring youth to care about gardening.

We hope this package of local stories helps usher in a spring awakening of community engagement and celebration as we look ahead to some warmer weather and summer vibes.

## THE WAY WE WERE



The Beinn Gorm Highlanders parade through the arbour at the 'Hort Park' in 2014.

## COLUMN

### Interest in event exceeds expectations

by Jim Campbell

On the evening of May 12 an excellent compilation of tradespeople, designers, architects, municipal staff and building aficionados poured into Creemore Station on the Green to attend the first ever Southern Georgian Bay "Boots on the Ground" event. The attendance far exceeded what was thought to be possible for this inaugural event ... maybe the lure of Creemore beer, Creemore coffee, and Creemore pizza helped.

Clearview Sustainability Network had teamed up with Passive Buildings Canada (a national non-profit organization supporting the passive house community to build a more sustainable Canada and planet) and Evolve Builders (pioneers and leaders in the world of green construction) to bring high-performance building products, knowledge, and discussion to those within our community who are interested in building better and building for a changing climate.

The dozen event sponsors showcasing their high-performance building products and skills at trade-show tables surrounding the locally sourced all-you-can-eat pizza were inundated by the enthusiastic crowd of attendees, the majority of whom had never attended a 'BOG' before.

Bookended by two one-hour eating/drinking/networking/trade show sessions were three excellent presentations by members of the local building community.

Homeowner **Angus Doughty** and carpenter **Bruce Green** presented *From Updating a 1959 Floor Plan to Net Zero: A Boots on the Ground Homeowner Experience* on Angus and his wife Sian's journey of planning to purchase a turn-key house but ending up

embarking on a year-long home renovation and deep energy retrofit of a 67-year-old Collingwood bungalow. Angus described how the confluence of people, dire climate warnings, and a desire to "do their part," led them into the project, while Green explained some of the detailed construction manoeuvres that resulted in the home being calculated to be net-zero-energy, and possibly Collingwood's most efficient renovation.

Next, retired architect **David McAuley** presented *Passive, Low Carbon and Healthy Come Together in a Secluded Forest Retreat*, his own recently built home on a quiet rural property between Creemore and Mansfield. The home was inspired by **Paula Baker-Laporte's** EcoNest and built with natural, healthy materials using low-carbon, low-tech construction methods. McAuley expertly illustrated his design approach, the construction process and some of the details of the comfortable, accessible, quiet get-away that has the honourable distinction of being net-positive.

The finale presentation, skillfully prepared and executed by project manager **Ashley Leimgardt** of Ed Leimgardt Contracting and design associate **Andrew Winters** of Rockside Campbell Design, was titled *Building Better Together: Effective Collaboration in High Performance Projects* and beautifully explained the critical role and processes of good communication and cooperation between design and construction teams in order to deliver successful high-performance buildings. The subject of their talk was a recently completed pair of buildings on a regenerative organic farm in Tiny Township for clients who presented a very

(See 'Attendees' on page 23)

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# This plant is a real dandy

by Cathy Krar, Master Gardener

It's spring, and I throw up my hands in despair when I see those ubiquitous, sunshiny flowers with serrated leaves dotting my yard. I can't decide whether the stubborn dandelion is a weed or a wildflower. Friend or foe?

Dandelions are members of the *Taraxacum* genus which translates to "bitter herb." Dandelion leaves, roots, flowers and stems are chock full of medicinal properties that our ancestors used to cure a number of ailments. This "sunny herb" wasn't a complete cure-all, but it was used routinely for diarrhea, scurvy, rickets, anaemia, liver disease and hangovers. One dandelion plant contains more Vitamin C than a tomato, more Vitamin A than spinach, as well as significant amounts of potassium, magnesium, calcium and iron, all of which contribute to overall human health.

Dandelion tea and supplements aid in digestion, while their peppery leaves - similar to arugula - can be used in quiches, pesto, and on pizza. A tasty honey-like jelly can be made from the flowerheads.

Beyond their medicinal and culinary benefits, dandelions are useful in other ways. They are used to make dyes, and the stems and leaves contain latex that is harvested for making adhesives.

When I was a child, my grandpa paid me five cents a basket to collect dandelion heads for liqueur and wine making. I remember bringing my mother dandelion bouquets for display on the kitchen table. It was delightful to blow the fluffy white parachute seeds or 'pappas' to the four winds and watch as they travelled to places unseen.

Dandelions are nutritious for humans; less so for insects. However, they do provide a source of nectar which helps insects survive in early spring after our long winters. Dandelions help attract beneficial insects that will pollinate our gardens. Finches, sparrows, grosbeaks, pine siskins and redpolls all enjoy feeding on dandelion seeds.

Dandelions have some positive traits, but we must acknowledge that they are also invasive. Each plant can produce about 15-20,000 seeds over the course of a growing season. They are adaptable to various soil conditions and grow quickly. Removing the carrot-like taproots is always a challenge. So how do we control these cheery invaders?

Personally, I reject chemical methods as they can cause greater ecological harm. After I throw up my hands, I throw down my garden knife, and get to work, manually removing this yellow

nuisance from my yard. At minimum, lopping off flower heads prevents seed spread. Repeated, targeted use of natural methods like boiling water or vinegar work well as spot treatments. Hand-pulling is much easier after watering or a rainfall. Unfortunately, there is no quick fix and reducing dandelion populations requires patience spread over a few seasons.

Consider this: If you let your grass grow three or four inches tall, it shades out the sun-loving dandelions. Whether you consider dandelions as friend or foe, leave a few for early springtime feeding.

*This series of gardening articles is brought to you by the Simcoe County Master Gardeners, member of the Master Gardeners of Ontario. For more information, visit [www.simcoecountymg.ca](http://www.simcoecountymg.ca).*



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*Clearview Wildflower Project Garden*

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Saturday, May 16  
10 am - 1pm  
Creemore Log Cabin  
Rain or Shine

Brenna will be giving away free seeds, answering questions about the Creemore Log Cabin's new Clearview Wildflower Project Garden and available for general native plant gardening advice.

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**Yoga Schedule - May 2026**

**Monday:**  
10:30 am Gentle Yoga + Core (Angel)  
7:00 pm Prana Restore (Tara)

**Tuesday:**  
5:30 pm Creative Flow (Angel)  
7:00 pm Restorative Yoga + Sound (Sass)

**Wednesday:**  
10:30 am Gentle Yoga Flow (Sass)  
6:00 pm The Fitness Class (Jess)

**Thursday:**  
5:30 pm Strong Flow (Sinead)  
7:00 pm Slow Flow + Restore (Sass)

**Friday:**  
10:30 am Gentle Yoga + Strength (Sass)

**Saturday:**  
10:30 am Yoga Flow (Sass)

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:30 classes may also be attended virtually

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28 Big Tree Circle, Mulmur  
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Architect-designed 4 bed, 3 bath home on a private 1-acre forested lot with over 2,500 sq ft finished, walk-out lower level, treetop views & detached double garage. Minutes to Mansfield Ski Club & trails. Four-season living at its finest.



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79 Caroline St. W, Creemore  
**\$1,185,000 MLS® S12837852**

Multi-Generational potential with a 4-bedroom, 3 bathroom home on a private 1-acre lot with multiple living areas, walkout lower level & heated garage.



154 Mary St., Creemore  
**\$1,050,000 MLS® S12879082**

Cape Cod-style home offering 3,000+ sq ft, 4 bedrooms, finished basement with in-law potential, detached workshop and a private landscaped yard in the heart of the village.



299 Harvie Rd., Barrie  
**\$799,000 MLS® S13115590**

Raised bungalow—approx. 2,040 sq ft with finished basement & gas fireplace, 3+2 beds, 2 bths updated kitchen and more. Deck & saltwater pool. Close to schools, parks & Hwy 400. schools, parks & Hwy 400.



\*19 62nd St. S, Wasaga Beach  
**\$649,000 MLS® S12731806**

4-bedroom, 1 bathroom home or cottage on a 100 x 132 ft double lot near Beach Area 6. Renovate or explore severance potential in a fast growing area.



\*11 62nd St. S, Wasaga Beach  
**\$299,000 MLS® S12731894**

50 x 132 ft serviced building lot in a growing west-end Wasaga Beach 6 neighbourhood—ideal for your custom home or investment. Water, sewer, gas to property line.



\*5509 Concession Rd 7  
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Staff photos: Trina Berlo

**Steph and Cam Fryer** moved in to the “Thomson House” in 1997; The classic entrance features a fanlight transom. The house was on a 1999 Home and Garden Tour hosted by Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society. The brochure noted, “Of special beauty is the wainscotting bordering the front hall staircase. The burlled birch panels were cut from a single tree on the Thomson farm.” Below: the couple on move-in day.

# Historic home built by lumber barons

by **Trina Berlo**

Throughout their adult lives, **Cam and Steph Fryer** have never found a house that gave them that feeling of being home like the one they occupy on Mill Street. During their residency, going on three decades, they have been open to the idea of moving, but nothing could compare.

Having many connections to the Creemore area, Cam and Steph were well acquainted with the village. As newlyweds, they said they would come into town and admire the white house at 198 Mill St.

Steph said she loved the Dutch colonial revival architecture, defined by its symmetrical layout, sunroom, central doorway and a barn-like gambrel roof with flared eaves – although the curved roof on their house is illusionary.

One day in 1996 they were having lunch at the tea house that used to be across the street and noticed a for sale sign on the lawn. Seeing that real estate agent Pat Prime was showing the house to perspective buyers, they asked if they could see it.

“We were just being nosy at the time,” laughs Steph.

The young couple had no plans to buy a house.

Prime agreed to take them on a tour. “We felt like we were coming home,” said Steph. “We came out thinking, how do we make it work?”

Cam said they put in an offer with a long closing date so they could save up.

They purchased the house from Thelma Thomson, the original owner.

Greg and Thelma Thomson built the house in 1929. The Thomson family operated a successful lumber business. At the time, Greg was managing Peter Thomson and Sons Planing Mill, Creemore’s largest employer with a staff of 12. It was located on the south side of Francis Street and produced pine sash, windows, and doors, mainly for use in local homes and Base Borden during the 1940s, and baseball bats.

The house is trimmed with wood from the family farm in Mulmur, the burlled birch panels are said to have been cut from a single tree, according to local history.

When the Fryers purchased the house it was 1,800



square feet with three bedrooms and one bath. Raising two daughters, the family was in need of more space so a plan to build a back deck in 2003 turned into a 1,400 square foot addition out the back.

Always wanting to preserve the character of the house, they ordered custom made siding to match the unique bevelled two-width design. The Fryers say it takes a lot of paint to keep it looking good.

A professional decorator, Steph is constantly tweaking and updating the interior but they have left the wood panelling in the dining room, the panelled stairs, banister and doors unpainted. In fact, the door to the cellar still holds Thelma Thomson’s chalk board and when they needed to update the kitchen, they agonized over removing a wooden banquette, a portion of which is now in the mudroom.

When the Fryers first moved in the house was constantly referred to as the Thomson house. As the years go by they hear that a little less frequently but in some ways it will always be the Thomson house to them.

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# Warmth of wood

by Trina Berlo

With a strong local lumber industry, it's not surprising that many of Creemore's historic homes were built with impressive staircases and unique wood features.

On Elizabeth Street West, the Hentsch family, with the help of friend **James Webster**, is restoring the stairway as authentically as possible.

The house was built circa 1890 and still has the original trim and doors, with most of it having escaped the paintbrush.

When asked what drew them to the house when they bought it in 2020, **Jessica** points to the secret basement door that is inconspicuously built into

the staircase paneling. The door leads to a stone foundation basement that serves as **Devin's** music studio, storage area and rec room.

Last year they had the main level floors refinished and recently, Webster has been refurbishing the stairs and trim to match the rich colour that he said can only be replicated using traditional methods and products.

He learned his craft from his father, **Glen Webster**, who was an antiques dealer and refinisher in Primrose. His father was his first employer and he learned to appreciate the finer qualities of old materials.

"It's a lost art," said Webster.



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

**James Webster** (left) has been restoring some of the woodwork at the Elizabeth Street West home of the Hentsch family (above) **Devin** and **Jessica** with their sons **Oscar**, 7, and **Otto**, 4.

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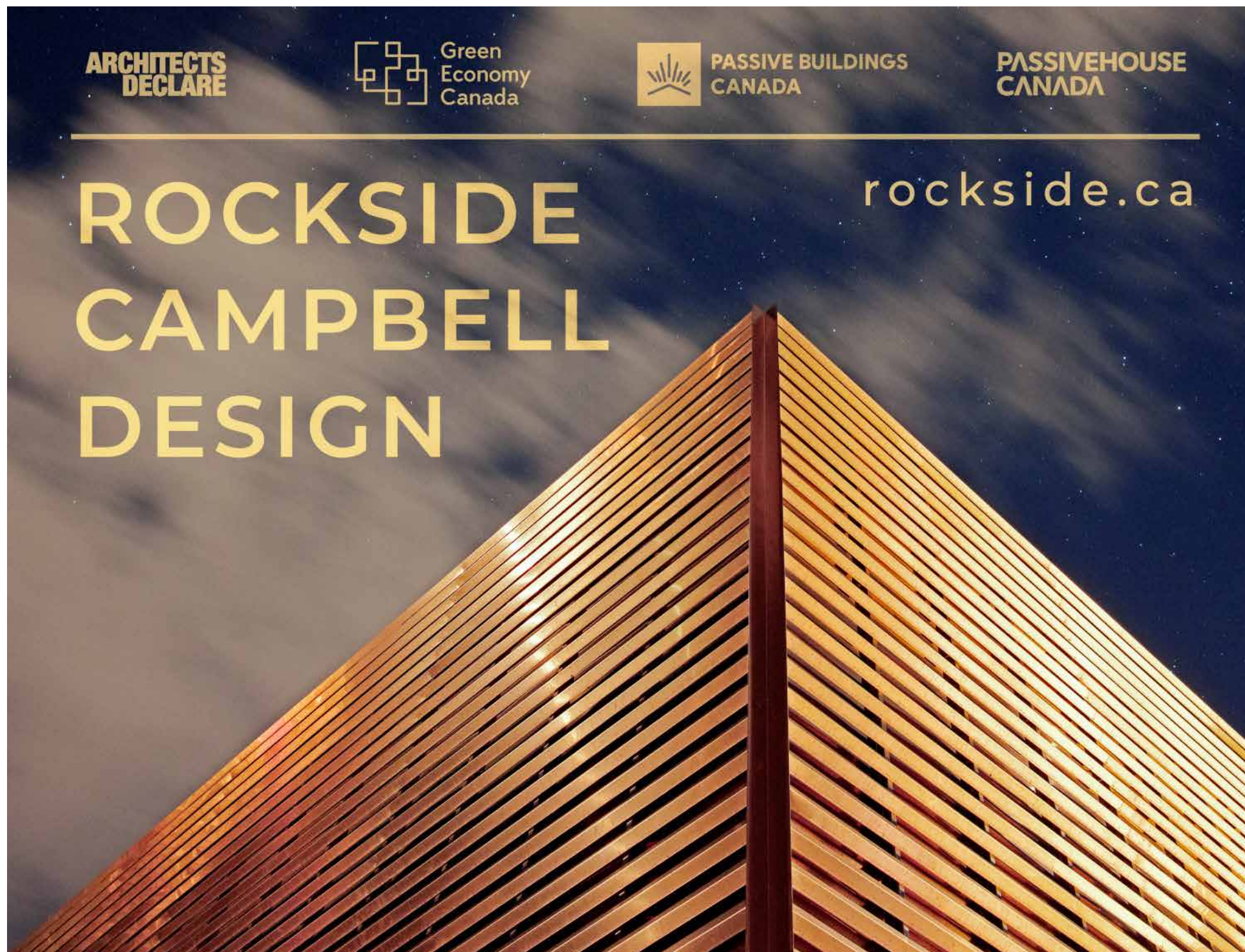


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# Budding young gardeners

by Trina Berlo

At Clearview Meadows Elementary School in Stayner, there is a crop of young gardeners who voluntarily spend some of their recesses with the school's garden club.

Building on the legacy of kindergarten teacher **Claudia Chandler**, the club formed this year, in collaboration with Grade 4 teacher **Lisa Courtney** and parent volunteer **Irina Proper**, to expand the school's focus on fostering future gardeners.

All three are passionate gardeners and they hope that the students will build on their skills when they transition to high school next door at Stayner Collegiate Institute (SCI) by enrolling in the green industries program.

"The goal is to foster a love of the outdoors, getting outside and being together," said Courtney.

The garden club has 10-15 dedicated members who are learning how to start seeds inside, and which ones can be sown directly into the raised beds at the front of the school. During recess, they water and weed the beds and can already see peas, spinach, and radishes popping up through the soil. Marigolds have been planted for pest control and there was some debate this week if the

carrots had sprouted or not. The garlic that was planted in the fall is more than a foot tall.

For many years, Chandler has been planting garlic and potatoes with her kindergarteners, along with a three sisters garden of corn, beans and squash, using an Indigenous companion planting method. In the fall, the class will make a soup eaten with bannock and garlic butter, using the ingredients from the garden.

Chandler said the goal is to instill a respect for the land and learn how to be self sufficient.

There is a focus on food production with the bounty supporting Chandler's after school cooking club.

Some of the students say they have family gardens at home but others don't.

Thanks to a grant from the Simcoe County District School Board, Clearview Meadows is currently working with SCI to build more garden boxes so they can expand their beds, and cold frames to extend the growing season.

Proper and Courtney say their team has a lot of ideas and they are always finding ways to expand the program, hopefully further integrating it into the curriculum.



Staff photo: Trina Berlo



Above: Mrs. Chandler's kindergarten class. Below: Members of the garden club; When students decided they wanted to build birdhouses, a fundraiser was launched to buy materials. A seed sale exceeded fundraising targets, allowing additional funds to be directed toward garden infrastructure. Students led workshops on how to build a birdhouse, open to any classroom that wanted to participate. The community will see the completed birdhouses being installed along municipal trails.



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# Red Door Cottage

by Trina Berlo

Marilyn Badger describes her approach to gardening as ‘stimulus response.’

Her home and garden are peppered with little things that bring her joy. It is one of the reasons she adds a pop of red to most rooms. A favourite colour of her’s, it is the inspiration for the Red Door Cottage, a name she chose over a glass of wine with friends. The George Street house with the red door is also noteworthy for its circular path, hydrangea lined fence and little library.

Badger loves to entertain and describes the cottage as a very social home, with it’s large dining room table and multiple spots for outdoor socials.

A sunroom overlooks the backyard, where guests can gather for a barbecue or a bonfire in cozy spots nestled among the rock gardens filled with perennials and annuals, and a memorial to her beloved aunt. The room is heated by the sun in wintertime and shaded by a big black locust in summer, a perfect spot to watch the birds. At the back of the deep lot there’s a small barn, original to the 136-year-old house. She describes comically how she was gifted some ‘free’ lights and has recently invested in having strung on the barn, creating a nighttime glow and further extending the habitable spaces of the yard.

Badger says she is very glad that she



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decided to add the sunroom, increasing the main floor space, all part of a strategy to ensure she could stay in the home as long as possible.

Badger moved into the village in 2006 after the death of her husband Gordon while they were honeymooning in Ireland. They had been splitting their time between Badger Hill Farm near Creemore and Melbourne, Florida. Widowed, Badger returned briefly to her home in Toronto but she wanted to be back in Creemore.

“Within the month I was talking to Pat Prime about finding a place,” she said.

There were only three houses on the market at that time and although in need of some fixing up – both cosmetically and structurally – she settled on George Street.

“The gardens were beautiful,” she said.

When she bought the house, the raised gardens were full of prize roses and there were a number of wild roses, some of which persist.

“I knew nothing about gardening,”

said Badger. “I knew nothing about roses and how difficult they are. They require a lot of attention and they were not getting it.”

Her mother, a talented gardener, did not want her to buy the house. She had a feeling it would be a lot of work, and it was.

“I have learned a lot in 20 years,” said Badger. “You do learn a lot by trial and error.”

As a golfer, Badger says she has other priorities so she doesn’t spend all her time in the garden and she now hires someone to help her with the heavy lifting and more intense labour.

The Red Door Cottage gardens will be included on this year’s garden tour, organized by **Paul and Charlotte Vorstermans** (see details on page 13.)

When Badger participated in the tour two years ago, she recalls one gentleman sat in the shaded backyard throughout the afternoon while his party carried on to the other venues. Badger said seeing him so content and comfortable was a genuine compliment.



Contributed photos above and opposite page



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

Marilyn Badger holds the door at Red Door Cottage open for Daisy.

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## Climate change results in new plant hardiness zones

by Bonnie MacPherson

The most recent update to Canada's plant hardiness zone map was a bit of a non-event for local gardeners. While some regions in Western Canada saw their ratings change by as much as two full zones, the Creemore area remains at zone 5b. **Gail Crocker**, of the Creemore Horticultural Society, says there was a disappointing lack of information available when the new ratings were issued in July 2025. One change she has observed is the different pests moving into our area.

"One of the most noticeable effects of milder winters and warmer temps is that pests are moving northward," said Crocker. "We are now dealing with, or have risk of spotted lanternfly which poses a grave threat to grape and fruit tree producers. We can blame the increase in the tick population on the longer autumns and the rise in the average winter temperature. Long periods of sub zero weather used to kill off these insects, but now they are thriving."

Another peril which is relatively new to our area is Oak Wilt, according to **John Pedlar** of Natural Resources Canada (NRC). Oak Wilt is a deadly fungal disease which leads to rapid leaf wilt, defoliation and often tree death. Pedlar is one of a team of NRC

scientists based in Sault Ste. Marie. Their primary responsibility is to monitor climate data for the Canadian Forest Service. Plant hardiness mapping is not their day job, jokes Pedlar.

In Canada, a multivariate plant hardiness index was developed in the 1960s that incorporates several temperature- and precipitation-related variables. The original maps were created in 1960, using 30 years worth of climate data. Weather stations are not evenly spaced across the country, so scientists analyze available data then use modelling to "fill in the blanks." Seven variables go into determining plant hardiness zones, including extreme temperatures, frost, snow, and wind. An overall value between 1 and 100 is assigned. Thirty years ago, the Creemore area had an index of 55. In last year's update, that had risen to 58, still within the zone 5b bracket. Once the index reaches 60, the plant hardiness zone will increase to 6a. Pedlar says the local growing season has increased by 10 days over the last 30 years. There has been very little change in other factors, including a half degree change in minimum temperature.

**Dan McKenney**, another NRC scientist stresses that these are long (See 'Species' on page 25)

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## Country Living, Reimagined

One thing I've noticed over the last few years is that buyers are craving more than just a nice house. People want connection. They want space, access to nature, kids outside again, trails nearby, and communities that still feel genuinely connected. What's interesting is how differently that can look depending on the area.

In places like Georgian Meadows in Collingwood, community is front and centre. At 23 Connor Avenue, one of the things that struck me most was how many kids are outside all the time. Bikes everywhere. Scooters. Groups of children heading to the park together. It reminds me of the way neighbourhoods used to feel. The homes there are substantial family homes with good layouts and generous space, but the lifestyle is equally important. You're close to trails, Blue Mountain, schools, Side Launch Brewery, and everything Collingwood offers, while still feeling tucked into a true family neighbourhood.

126 Brambel Road in Shanty Bay offers a slightly different version of that same idea. It's on a quiet family road where properties have more breathing room. The lot itself is just over two acres, directly across from Lake Simcoe with easy water access nearby, and only minutes to Barrie and the new Shanty Bay school. What I love about this property is that it doesn't feel like a cottage, and it doesn't feel suburban either. It sits somewhere in between. There's privacy, mature trees, walking trails, and this incredible 100-plus-year-old log cabin that gives the property real warmth and character.



23 Connor Ave, Collingwood



126 Brambel Rd, Shanty Bay



\*28 Big Tree Circle, Mansfield



1943 Fairgrounds S, Creemore



2566 Concession 5 S, Creemore



Then there are communities like Mansfield and Mulmur, where outdoor living becomes part of everyday life. 28 Big Tree Circle is a great example of that. The area is known for its larger one-plus-acre lots, the river, trails, and the longstanding culture around Mansfield Ski Club and the Outdoor Centre. The house itself fits perfectly into the landscape — chalet-style with soaring ceilings, huge windows, natural light everywhere, and decks that make you want to sit outside year-round. It's the kind of place where people ski in the winter, hike in the summer, and genuinely use the outdoors as part of how they live.

And for many buyers, the sweet spot right now is actually smaller country acreages — one-and-a-half to five acres — where you still get privacy, views, and quiet roads without the responsibility

of managing a large farm. Properties like 2566 Concession 5 and 1943 Fairgrounds Road really speak to that shift. They offer beautiful rolling landscapes, privacy and stunning views, but they're still close to town, schools, cafés, and community life in Creemore. A sweet balance. Enough land to feel like country living, but manageable enough that life doesn't become all maintenance. And a lot of the time the neighbouring farmers let you hike and cross-country ski on their large properties!

I think that's what connects all of these properties in the end. They aren't just houses. They offer a way of living that feels a little slower, more outdoors-oriented, and more connected — whether that's through neighbours, trails, lake access, skiing, kids playing outside, or simply having enough space to enjoy where you live.



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# The Story of Grandmother's Garden

by **Kathy Meeser**

Some years ago, **Dorothy Shropshire** said to me, "We should make a heritage garden somewhere in the village." Thus the seed was sown. After much thinking, it seemed that the obvious place would be at Creemore's oldest public building, the tiny jail built in 1892.

The idea evolved from a true heritage garden into Grandmother's Garden, a North American, cottage-style garden. A proposal was submitted and we obtained Clearview Township's approval.

The garden beds were made in 2006 and planted on a rainy day the following spring. Our plan included an arbour and a picket fence. I was talking about it with a friend, Sylvia Gale, a local historian whose family, the Jordans, had roots in the Creemore area. She and her siblings – Pat, Jerry, and Jim – bought the materials for the arbour and Jerry, a carpenter, built it. The beautiful arbour was completed in time for the garden's dedication ceremony held on a lovely day in September 2007, with officials from Clearview Township and Ontario Horticultural District 16 in attendance.

The picket fence was added later. Due to the persuasive efforts of **Pat Raible**, it was paid for by **Robin Fitzgerald** in memory of her two grandmothers. As usual, **Bob Ransier**



Contributed photo

**Kathy Meeser and Dorothy Shropshire** under the arbour at Grandmother's Garden, located between the library and North America's Smallest Jail. Creemore Horticultural Society is celebrating the garden's 20th anniversary, which has been nurtured and cared for by Meeser and Shropshire, the garden's creators.

generously stepped up to install the fence.

Not surprisingly, the fence and arbour eventually needed some repairs and a new coat of paint. We are grateful to **Andrew Shropshire** for repairing and painting them in 2025, at no cost to the Creemore Horticultural Society.

The garden has evolved over the years; as plants matured and spread,

some things needed to be tamed or removed, and others added. However, many of the original plants remain: the glorious tree peonies, heritage irises, and blue and yellow hyacinths, among others.

**Victoria Huntley** is my dedicated helper in the garden. Dorothy still comes and does what she can. **Judi Parker** comes often when a bigger clean-up is necessary.

This year's Creemore Garden Tour is on July 18-19. Five or more gardens will be open both days from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Gardens included on the tour are at 113 Mill St. (**Paul and Charlotte Vorstermans**); 3 Elizabeth St. W. (**Bev Stableforth**); 17 Elizabeth St. W. (**Jaki Skillings**); The Red Door Cottage at 4 George St. (**Marilyn Badger**); and Grandmother's Garden, located between North America's smallest jail and Creemore Log Cabin at 165 Library St.

Grandmother's Garden is celebrating its 20th anniversary on June 6, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Grandmother's Garden. Last July, we obtained an elegant sign – made by **Jayce Fox** and installed by Ransier – that identifies the garden and CHS's role in its founding and maintenance.

We receive many nice comments when working there, and we hope Grandmother's Garden continues to delight locals and visitors for decades to come.

Everyone is invited to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Grandmother's Garden, located at 165 Library St., from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 6.

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# Edit and purge

by **Bonnie MacPherson**

Every designer has them, according to **Kimberley Seldon** – the things that a client didn't love, or the size was not quite right, so she's hosting a 'designer edit' sale in Creemore.

On June 27-28, she and a group of designer friends from Toronto, Barrie, King City, Collingwood and beyond, as well as local retailers Lagom and Heirloom 142, will take over the Creemore Legion to clear out some of their inventory. The sale will feature items that didn't quite make it into the projects they were originally purchased for and will be a great opportunity to score some bargains on real treasures.

"We'll have lots of random, beautiful things – chairs, ottomans, hardware – mostly new but with some vintage," said Seldon. "Whether you're a homeowner, a collector, a design professional, or just someone who loves to shop and poke around you'll love your time at our sale. It's a place to discover well-chosen items with personality—pieces for the home, for yourself, and perhaps a little something you never expected to fall for. We'll feature mostly interior design items plus some little things like special jams so that no one needs to leave empty handed."

Seldon is a Santa Monica, California native who moved to Toronto after

she met the Canadian who would eventually become her husband. She launched Kimberley Seldon Design Group more than 25 years ago and is well known to TV audiences as host of shows such as HGTV's Design for Living, and for her regular appearances on City Line.

Seldon's love affair with the Creemore area began many years ago when she hosted a Christmas special here.

"At that point, we had been looking for a cottage in Muskoka for three years," she said. "I came to Creemore and was immediately taken with all the lights and twinkly stuff and the magical atmosphere. I called my husband and said you have to get up here and see this."

The couple decided they wanted a weekend home where they could escape the pressures of the city and unwind. Seldon began working with local realtor **Ginny MacEachern**, who predicted that they would soon decide they would want to live here full-time.


"I said, no way. We are city people. There's no way we would ever live here full-time. But very quickly, we started making great friends in the area, and discovered a real community. Before long, this felt like home," she said.

Seldon recounts how she took out a



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**Kimberley Seldon**

  
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map and circled her favourite café and the bookstore, knowing she wanted to live within 10 minutes of those locations.

“I think we actually wound up about 12 minutes away,” she laughs.

Seldon and her husband purchased a property in Mulmur in 2004, and started construction of their dream home in 2007. Since then, they have enticed several friends from Toronto into making the move.

“People come up here for a visit and fall in love,” she says.

Seldon still has family in California. In fact, her daughter moved there after finishing school. Her son lives in Toronto but she’s working on getting him to relocate to Creemore. She divides her time between three homes, and works with clients in each market. Currently, she is working with a friend whose home burned in the Pallasades fires.

Her approach to design is simple.

“I’ve always felt there has to be a happy marriage between the landscape and the architecture and what the client wants,” she said. “Everything I design is situated to take advantage of the best views. I design holistic, authentic spaces for the those that crave unique surroundings and a sense of place. I love to create harmonious homes, where you feel safe and cared for, with design touches attuned to the features of your property. I love the excitement of a new build where you start from nothing but every new build is at least a two-year commitment. There is much faster gratification

when you’re renovating an existing structure. It’s nice to have a mix of both.”

Her website says, “You’ll often find me at home in the Mulmur hills, hosting a waffle breakfast, or a movie night with friends. Lately, I’ve been reflecting on what it truly means to be fortunate enough to have a home. Aesthetically, it’s pleasing to have a beautiful space, but authentic interior design is having everything in place when you need it, whether alone or entertaining a crowd. Ultimately, it’s about creating a sense of safety, security, and feeling well cared for.”

Her chief loves include hanging out at her Creemore area home with her husband, tap dancing and tequila.

Seldon is impressed with the calibre of the local workforce. “I’ve been a bit spoiled by the quality of tradespeople in this market- builders like **Ed Leimgardt** and **John Gordon**. There are some good builders in the city too, but there are also some bad ones.”

She has done other designer edit sales in Toronto, but is looking forward to meeting some new people at the Creemore sale. “I’m anticipating we’ll see some of the Toronto crowd who have weekend homes plus some people from closer to home.”

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society.

Kimberley Seldon’s Designer Edit on June 27-28 is at the Creemore Legion, 22 Elizabeth St. W., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission costs \$5 at the door. Lunch available for purchase.



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# Country Sweets

by Trina Berlo

Thinking back on it, it was likely an Easter cake in the shape of a bunny made about 25 years ago that set **Paula Marsilla** on her current path as a baker. The cake's wow factor had her friends and family encouraging her to share her talents and led her to go through the steps of certifying the kitchen of her New Lowell home, and launching Country Sweets two years ago.

Early inspiration came from her own two sons, nieces and nephews, for whom she would make elaborate cakes to go with their birthday party themes.

She said she has always loved to cook and began baking with her mother at a very young age.

Marsilla says there is a lot of creativity that goes into making custom cakes and cookies, from the detailed icing work to the mixing of flavours, creating her own versions of classics like carrot cake and red velvet – and fillings like salted caramel.

Marsilla rises to the challenge of just about any request she receives.

"There is very little I say no to," she says with a chuckle.

Princess cakes, a highland cow, a "birchbark" wedding cake, she will figure out how to execute it.

She has also invested in a special printer that can reproduce images on paper made of wafer or sugar using food colouring to create photo transfers for



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cakes and cookies. She can apply any photo to the client supplies.

When it comes to sugar cookies, if she doesn't have the cookie cutter in her extensive stash, she will order it. In one case, an order was placed for cookies in the shape of rainbows and suns so, unable to source the right cutters, she cut them all out by hand.

It is perhaps her skill with royal icing that is most impressive.

"It can take a couple of days to finish a cookie," she said, explaining that royal icing needs to be added in stages. Her royal icing has only three ingredients but requires craftsmanship to apply.

"The consistency has to be perfect," says Marsilla.

She buys powdered sugar in 50-pound bags, and has come to rely on her go-to brands to ensure consistency.

With a reliable outcome, she can then apply her artistic skill to get a predictable result whether it's sculpting fondant flowers, airbrushing, or detailed icing work.

Country Sweets cookies are for sale at the Creemore arena canteen during the hockey season and at the market in Angus. Marsilla's regular menu includes cinnamon buns, loaves, cookies, cakes, seasonal treats, cupcakes, sponge toffee, chocolate-dipped treats, cake pucks and pops, including gluten-free options. Her newest item is macarons.

When it comes to custom orders, Marsilla said she is open to trying anything and welcomes requests.

To learn more, find Country Sweets on Facebook and Instagram, phone 705-817-1039, or email [pdmarsilla@gmail.com](mailto:pdmarsilla@gmail.com).



Contributed photos above and opposite page



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

As a home daycare provider and certified esthetician, Marsilla has a busy professional life but rises to almost any challenge when it comes to custom baking.

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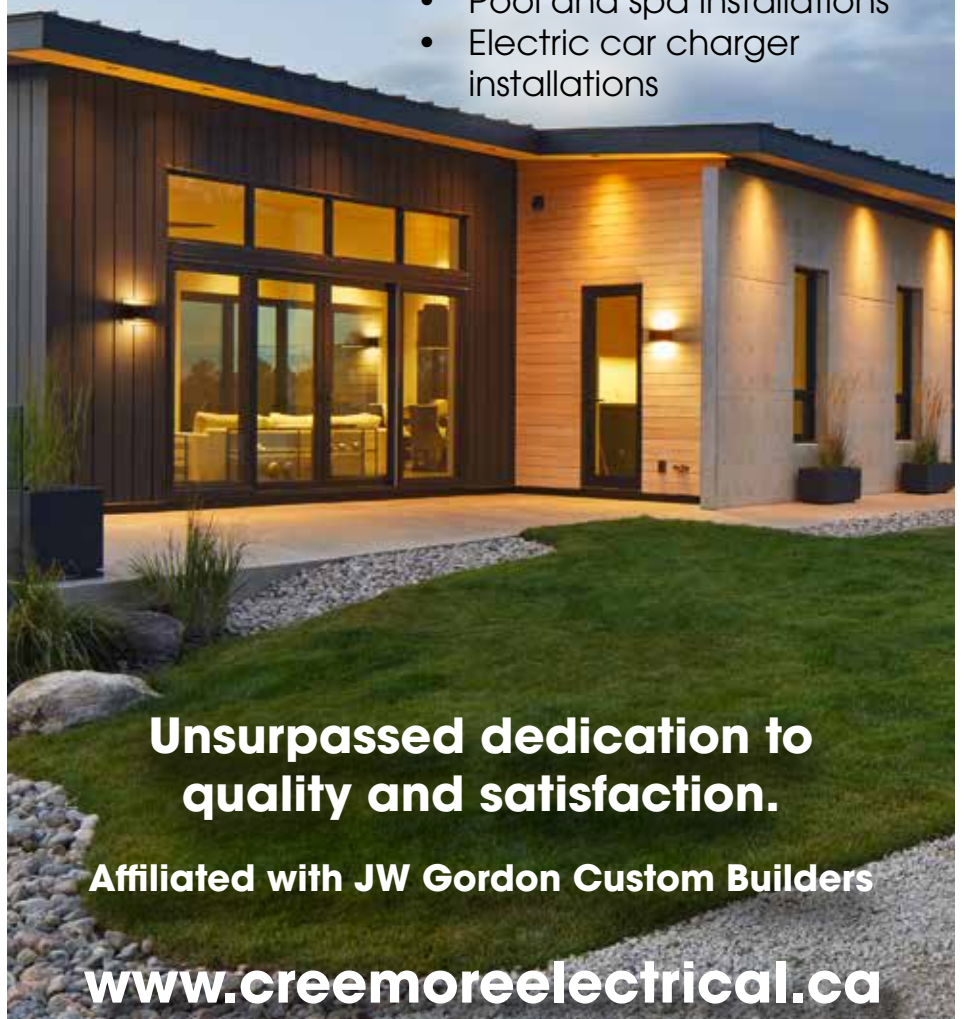
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August 10 - 15

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Contributed photo

Volunteers gathered in the Model A Room at Creemore Springs Brewery on May 7 to decorate brooms, in partnership with Creemore BIA. The idea came from **Marilyn Badger** who is inviting people to pitch in and sweep in order to keep the village tidy for residents and visitors alike. There are now 50 colourful brooms on the main street ready for use.

*Creemore Celebrates*

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Friday, June 19 • 5 pm to 10 pm

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7:30 pm to 9 pm

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# From The Piñata Patch

by Trina Berlo

Ashley Shannahan said a series of small things led to her making piñatas but really it's about her dedication to making events special.

Shannahan said she loves a theme.

"I have always gone full out for birthdays and holidays," she said.

The piñata project started when her eldest son had his first birthday. Going with a Minecraft theme she made a piñata in the shape of a creeper with its signature pixel face.

"The piñata got smashed within seconds," she recalls. "You have to be willing to part with the things you make. Not everything is meant to last forever but the memories they help create are."

When she made another piñata for her other child she started to get more positive feedback from people who encouraged her to branch out.

Shannahan and her family moved to Creemore in the summer of 2024.

"I realized very quickly how supportive the community is," she said.

That and a motivational talk with her mom just before she died led her to launch The Piñata Patch, offering custom piñatas and piñata-making workshops.

A busy mom of three, Shannahan has been slowly building a brand package and social media presence.

She has developed a method of building the piñatas using 'chipboard,' a thick brown paper, and tape.

Shannahan thinks of the assembly as a form of active meditation, which she does in the evenings after her children are in bed. The artful decoration is layered with cut streamers and paper flowers. She can also make creative banners and other party decor to suit a theme, upon request.

For more information find The Piñata Patch on Facebook and Instagram, or email [thepinatapatch@gmail.com](mailto:thepinatapatch@gmail.com).

From top: **Ashely Shannahan** constructs a sugar skull piñata in preparation for a promotional giveaway for her business The Piñata Patch; the finished product was the prize in a Cinco de Mayo draw; Easter piñatas made for her three children, **Hudson**, 9, **Hayden**, 7, and **Harper**, 18 months.



Staff photo: Trina Berlo



Contributed photo



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+ Spotlight**  
Thursday, May 28  
7-10pm

- COCKTAIL RECEPTION**  
Walk the red carpet and enjoy a complimentary hospitality before the film.
- DANCING ON THE ELEPHANT**  
Dir. Julia Neill, Jacob Z. Smith; Canada  
Two women in a retirement home forge a life-changing bond that leads to one last, unforgettable adventure.
- LIVE Q&A**  
Stick around after the film for an exclusive Q&A with film star, **Sheila McCarthy** who will be in attendance.



**Saturday Night  
Feature +  
After Party**  
Saturday, May 31  
7-10pm

- YOU HAD TO BE THERE**  
Dir. Nick Davis; Canada  
A rapturous reunion of the 1972 Toronto Godspell cast celebrates the half-century long legacy of a musical that launched the careers of many comedy greats.
- LIVE Q&A**  
Stick around after the film for an exclusive Q&A with film star, **Jayne Eastwood** who will be in attendance.
- AFTER PARTY**  
Celebrate in true 70s style at the after party, dress for the decade, and enjoy cocktails, late-night bites, and a live set by Holly Clausius featuring hits from ABBA to Bowie.

BLUE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE [bluemtnfilmfest.ca](http://bluemtnfilmfest.ca) BLUE MOUNTAIN

# Bathed in blue

by Bonnie MacPherson

There is something magical about immersing a piece of paper into an iron salt bath and watching an image emerge, according to Cyanotype artist **Patricia Vega**. At her studio, nestled near the bottom of the Mansfield Ski Club, Vega creates prints on paper, wood, glass and fabric, many featuring botanical themes. She describes cyanotype as a process where art and science meet, using the power of sunlight.

Originally from Argentina, Vega studied fine art and print making. She immigrated to Canada 36 years ago and spent time in Brampton, Mississauga, and Palgrave before falling in love with the Mansfield area. She opened her Mansfield studio after the pandemic, and now conducts workshops for aspiring artists.

Cyanotype is a historical photographic printing process that produces distinctive blue images using iron salts and ultraviolet light. The process was invented in the 1840s by English scientist Sir John Herschel who discovered that certain iron salts darken when exposed to ultraviolet light. The technique was popularized by the work of Anna Atkins who used it to produce the first photographically illustrated book, *Photographs of British Algae*, documenting botanical specimens. It is the same technique traditionally used by architects and engineers to create blueprints.



Cyanotype on fabric

Vega says a big part of the appeal of cyanotype is that it requires little in the way of equipment, and the chemicals involved are non-toxic and easily available.

"It works well on natural surfaces that absorb liquid," said Vega. "The first step is to prep the surface with a solution of Potassium Ferricyanide and Ammonium Citrate to make it photo sensitive. At this stage, the background becomes grey-green. Once it dries, away from light, subject matter, often dried plants can be arranged on the surface."

Vega uses a system of glass plates to press found objects onto the background. "You are working with negatives here," she said. "The items that you

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Cyanotype on paper

place on the background will remain white or shades of grey as they develop depending how opaque they are and how tightly they are pressed to the background material. The background will ultimately be blue. You are not working with colour, you are working with shape.”

Occasionally, she enhances images with selective application of watercolours.

Vega likes to layer bits of plant material, lace, fabric and occasionally stencils. Once she is satisfied with the composition, the piece is exposed to UV light, either inside the studio or outside in the sun. At this stage, the background becomes more grey than green. Then it is immersed in the iron salt solution which produces the distinctive Persian blue pigment. Once the image is fully developed chemicals are rinsed off and the piece is left to dry.

Vega conducts workshops for groups of up to five participants at her Mansfield studio. The next workshop, Saturday,

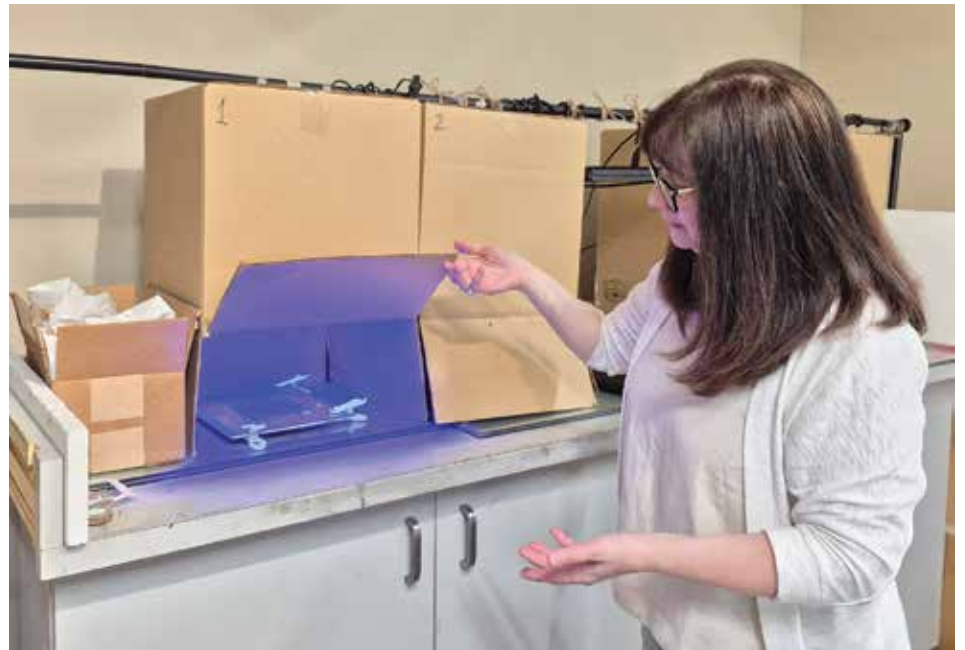
May 30 from noon to 4 p.m. will teach the basics of print making on paper. All materials are supplied, although she does recommend that you come prepared with old clothes, an apron and a hat. In the event it's a clear sunny day, pieces will be taken outside for exposure to sunlight. Otherwise, the magic will all happen indoors. Each participant will leave with several pieces ready to frame or mount on greeting cards. Participants will learn the basics of the cyanotype process and some basics of design and composition. Vega encourages people to bring flat objects such as dried or fresh flowers and leaves, feathers, lace, and other interesting flat textures to experiment with.

On June 13, the focus will shift to print making on textiles. Vega does recommend taking the paper workshop first. Each workshop is \$110 per person. Should those dates not be convenient, she can arrange special group sessions. For registration and workshop details, go to [www.patriciavega.ca/workshops](http://www.patriciavega.ca/workshops).



Staff photos: Bonnie MacPherson

**Patricia Vega** uses a system of glass plates to press found objects onto a photosensitized background before exposing them to UV light, either in the studio or outside in the sun.



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Staff photo: Trina Berlo

Jennifer Fry and Ralph Cochrane get ready to head off on the 60 km cycling route at Turas Mor on May 9, hosted by Creemore Springs Brewery.



Contributed photo

Boots on the Ground event sponsors showcase their high-performance building products and skills on May 12.

## Attendees share goal to build better

(Continued from page 4)

admirable criteria list that included no toxic materials such as foam insulation and pressure-treated lumber, ultra-low energy use, and emphasis on sourcing local and Canadian building materials.

The camaraderie and enthusiasm for 'building better' definitely energized the room, and thanks to all the sponsors for having faith that this 'first-time-in-the-area' event would draw attendees, the incredible volunteers of Passive Buildings Canada and Evolve Builders, and Clearview Sustainability Networks own 'boots on the ground' for the event:

**Jennifer Vopni, Jamey Hubbs, Esmé Campbell, Alan Riddell, Suzanne Wesetvik.** Everyone involved is looking forward to hosting another 'BOG' in the spring of 2027.

*Jim Campbell is the lead for the Building and Development team of Clearview Sustainability Network, an inclusive and optimistic citizen-led group bringing together members of the community to help our local government and community adapt and evolve in the face of a changing climate. Visit [www.clearviewsustainabilitynetwork.ca](http://www.clearviewsustainabilitynetwork.ca).*

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Thanks to Creemore First Scouting and community volunteers, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority got 220 trees planted along the Pine River on May 2 to help benefit the river and surrounding ecosystem. The initiative was sponsored by TD Friends of the Environment Fund, HJ McDonald Foundation and donations.



**Louie Kay**  
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**AUG 7TH - Gas and Oil / Toys / Sports Memorabilia**  
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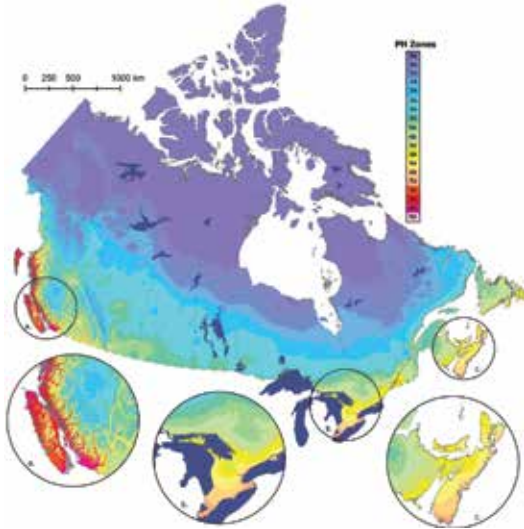
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## Species may be threatened by changes in temperature and precipitation

(Continued from page 12)

term averages using the most recent data. Most areas around us have changed since the last maps were issued in 2015. The fact that Creemore remains largely unchanged may be due in part to the sheltering effect of the surrounding hills and the moderating effects of our proximity to the great lakes. Of those areas which have seen a change in rating, roughly 80 per cent have shown an increase in hardiness zone. People often think of increases in hardiness zones as a positive thing, allowing for a broader range of plants that may thrive in a given area. Heat loving plants that were once considered unsuitable for certain regions are now being successfully cultivated. Conversely, species which have traditionally done well in our area may be threatened by changes in temperature and precipitation.



Contributed photo

Stayner Collegiate Institute's May 9 plant sale raised \$4,200 for the green industries program. Students grew and cared for hundreds of plants leading up to the sale. Organizers are grateful for the community support. Proceeds from the sale go back into the program to augment the budget for growing materials, tools and supplies. The program's motto is... Plant it... Grow it... Eat it!

# FUN & Games

## Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 27

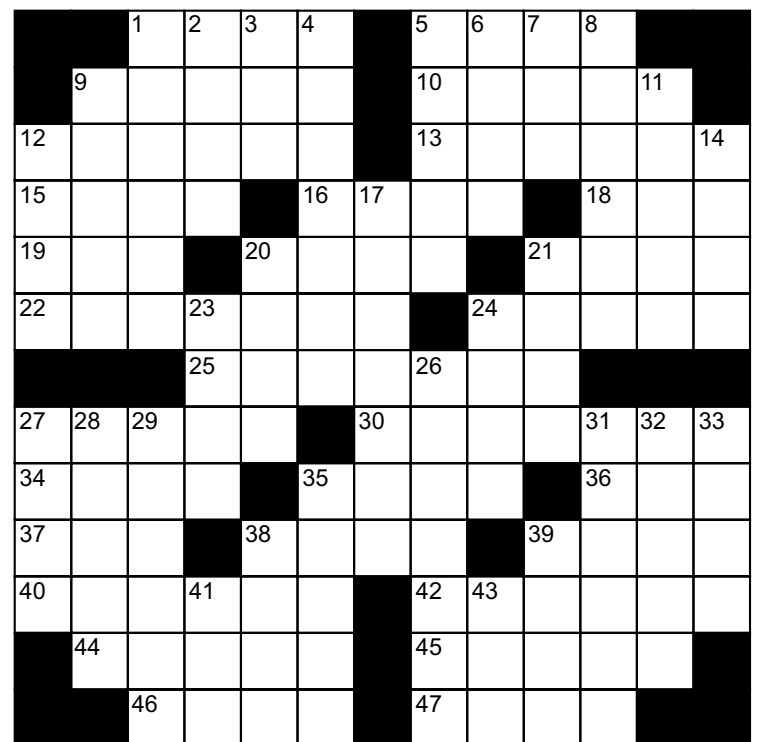
## FRED'S FUNNIES

Which vegetable did Noah leave off the ark?  
Leeks!

## Canadian Criss Cross by Walter Feener

### ACROSS

1. Scandinavian rugs
5. One's own person
9. Velvety leather
10. States to be true
12. As a whole
13. One who shows off their learning
15. Cry out in pain
16. At most
18. Teen's wish
19. Stretch, with "out"
20. Covered with frost
21. Be fearless
22. Legislative meeting
24. Airplane seat choice
25. Units of a baseball game
27. Burn with hot water
30. Tall hairdo
34. Duck's place
35. Piece of chewing tobacco
36. Extinct bird
37. Bristle-like appendage
38. Boot out
39. Roasting rod
40. Place to hide an ace
42. Monopoly purchases
44. Pitching stats
45. Don't answer directly
46. Gave for a while
47. Still red, as a steak



### DOWN

1. July birthstones
2. College cheer
3. Bustle
4. Part of a newspaper
5. Overly sentimental
6. Former premier of Ontario
7. Called the shots
8. Noisy disturbance
9. Legless reptile
11. Angry growl
12. Rams' mates
14. Arboreal animal's home
17. Anthology
20. Orange cover
21. Antenna type
23. Young herring
24. Old-looking
26. Nor's partner
27. Health resorts
28. Monks' hoods
29. Make glass less brittle
31. Slow the progress of
32. Curtain material
33. Snack food
35. Adventurous journey, in olden days
38. Kitchen appliance
39. Part of a constellation
41. Adam's wife
43. Eggs

Trivia: What is Neil Young's hometown?

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Clubhouse at the New Lowell Campground, 2894 Hogback Rd.

Mom weathered a heart attack and stroke in March and continues to enjoy each day. She would love to see everyone for birthday cake. At Marie's request, please no presents, flowers or cards, just a smile and a hug.

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 wood chipping • stump grinding  
 bush hogging • trail maintenance

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 registered and insured

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 Account Manager

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 lydia.henderson@telus.com

**TO BE PART OF THE SERVICE DIRECTORY, CONTACT NATALIE SALES@CREEMORE.COM, 705-466-9906**

# ECHO Classifieds

Submit your classified ad by 5 p.m. Tuesday:  
call 705-466-9906, fax 705-466-9908,  
email sales@creemore.com  
\$20 + hst for 25 words or less

## SERVICES

**ELLIOTT PAINTING AND DECORATING**, over 30 years experience with excellent references. Interior and exterior painting. Now booking for spring. Call for free estimate at 705-466-2356.

**WHITLEY FENCE** builds and repairs all types of agricultural or residential fences. Cedar rail, equine paddocks, dog pens, farm fence, post install, gate supply and install. Call Clay, 705-627-8900 or email claytonwhitleyprojects@gmail.com. **NOW BUILDING DECKS.**

**BARN RENOVATIONS**, beam replacements, stone and poured concrete, all types of roofing repairs, new siding and flooring, jacking up barns, new steel roofs. All types of horse and cattle fencing. Custom barn and shed painting. All types of excavation and demolition. Contact 647-248-8987. Servicing local area.

**CONTRACTOR REPAIRS** Barn repairs and jack ups; stonewall and brick repointing; cement repairs and parging. Contact Aaron, 416-666-0104.

**LADY PAINTER** Quality indoor painting with excellent references. Call Janis at 705-441-4150 for free estimate, or email janis.wilson64@yahoo.ca.

Retired **PLUMBER**, 54 years experience. Fully licensed and insured. Service only. Clearing drains, repairs, replacing fixtures. Call Bruce for free estimate, 705-734-8372.

Home owners! Do your trees need attention? Call Nortree **ARBORISTS**. Tree removal, pruning, chipping, emergency/storm work. Local, affordable and professional. Instant free quotes and **\$150** off for first-time customers. Call or text 705-440-0507.

No job is too small. Just name it, we do it! Anyone in need of transportation for shopping, medical, etc., service can be provided. Now seeking winter and spring jobs, power washing decks, etc. For best in gardening, pruning, leaf blowing, painting, patio stone and brick work, tree cutting, **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**, spring cleaning and where beauty is concerned call Desmond at Herron's Landscaping, 705-430-6613 or 705-606-6633 or email herronslandscaping563@gmail.com.

**RENOVATIONS AND HOME PROJECTS** made easy. Carpentry, yard work and home repairs. Leblond Project Management. Call or text Matt Leblond, 705-888-2012.

The Slow Kitchen — **COOKING CLASSES** with Alissa, where cooking becomes a small act of attention. Privately booked spring cooking classes include edible flower cookies, handmade pasta, cheesemaking and seasonal preserves. Cooking for your table is offered in limited bookings. TheContemplativeCook.com.

**PAINTING, PARGING**, Power Washings, Masonry Repair. Why wait? Your project starts with a free estimate. Call Don at 705-424-0708 or 705-816-0708.

## FOR SALE

**CREEMORE HILLS WINERY** – Sip, Savour, and Unwind – Wine tastings and country picnics by appointment only. Escape to the vineyard for a relaxed afternoon of wine tasting and rustic charm. Enjoy a guided tasting of our estate wines or linger over a picnic basket and a bottle of wine, all set against a backdrop of rolling hills and open skies. For bookings, wine pick-up or delivery: Call/text 647-588-8931, cmorrissey0708@icloud.com.

*stonehedge*  
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647-224-9500

## YARD SALE

May 16-18, starting at 8 a.m. Century Farms **CLEAN-UP SALE**: County Road 10 and Con. 7 4858 (first farm West) Classic three-speed bike, cabbage patch kids, train caboose light, 1895 16" bell, John Deere-Tonka- Caterpillar toys, 14' fiberglass canoe, camping and sports equipment, pictures, birdhouses, wood art and more. Many items free. Cash only. David Rogers, 705-424-0398.

## FOR RENT

**HOUSE FOR RENT** — Three-bedroom unit with one washroom, kitchen and dining area. Fenced backyard, new deck and shared parking for two cars. \$2,200/month. Tenant responsible for hydro, internet/cable and gas for living room fireplace. Unit currently vacant.

## WANTED

Quiet, respectful family of three w/ dog **LOOKING FOR A PLACE** to stay in or around Creemore for July, August. References available. Myriam, 647-528-6508.

**LOOKING FOR ROOM** for rent or individual to rent an apartment with. I'm a 30's male working in Creemore looking for a small room to rent, or someone to rent a two-bedroom with. Quiet, bedroom dweller, you will probably never see me! Contact at M1.EV.MOORE@gmail.com.



**John Noble**  
SEPTIC SERVICE INC.  
705.466.2929  
Creemore  
johnnobleseptic.com



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**NEIGHBORHOOD Garage Sale**  
Multi Family Sale  
Items available include: Large variety of brand-name clothing, tools, kitchen items, garden supplies, home decor and much more!  
**Saturday May 16 at 9AM**  
Corner of Mary & Nelson Street  
Creemore  
Rain Date: Sunday May 17 at 9AM

**TELL THE TOWN WITH A CLASSIFIED AD**  
**CONTACT ANNA**  
**SALES@CREEMORE.COM**

**WWW.CLEARVIEW.CA**  
Communications available in alternative formats upon request.  
**217 Gideon Street, Stayner ON L0M 1S0**  
Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
705.428.6230

## 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

## This week's answers

3	9	5	7	2	1	8	4	6
6	1	7	8	4	9	2	3	5
8	2	4	3	6	5	9	1	7
2	3	1	5	9	7	4	6	8
7	4	6	2	8	3	5	9	1
9	5	8	4	1	6	3	7	2
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Trivia: Omeme



**WWW.CLEARVIEW.CA**  
 Communications available in alternative formats upon request.

**217 Gideon Street, Stayner ON L0M 1S0**  
 Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
 705.428.6230

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Number: #2026-018  
 Vacancy Status: New Position  
 Posting Date: May 11, 2026  
 Deadline: June 1, 2026, 11:59 PM

### MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – LICENSING

The Corporation of the Township of Clearview

Clearview Township is currently seeking one (1) permanent full-time (35 hours per week) Municipal Law Enforcement Officer - Licensing. The primary location of work is on-site at the Township's Administration Centre, located at 217 Gideon Street, Stayner.

#### Key Accountabilities:

Reporting to the Supervisor, By-Law, the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer – Licensing is primarily responsible for administering and enforcing Township licensing by-laws and regulations. The position investigates and responds to licensing-related inquiries and compliance matters involving vendors, short-term rental licensing, special events, and other regulated licensing activities. Additional responsibilities include enforcing municipal parking by-laws, addressing property standards and zoning concerns, carrying out animal control duties, and preparing detailed reports and maintaining accurate records.

#### Qualifications:

- Diploma in Law and Security Program or Police Foundations, or related field, together with minimum three (3) years of experience.
- Preference given to certificate of completion of the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer Certification (MLOE) and Certified Property Standards Officer
- Thorough working knowledge of Microsoft Windows and Office applications and the ability to produce detailed reports and ensure good record keeping.
- Proven ability with enforcement, investigation and inspection practices and procedures.
- Proven conflict management skills required.
- Excellent analytical, problem solving, decision making, public relations and customer services skills.
- Excellent organizational, time management, interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to multi-task, cope with interruptions and work under pressure to meet multiple deadlines, exercise discretion and good judgment particularly when handling highly confidential/sensitive information.
- Possess a high level of initiative and personal integrity.
- Ability to work evenings and weekends.
- Satisfactory Criminal Record Check.
- Valid Class "G" Driver's License in good standing is essential.

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

#### Salary:

Salary range offered for this position is \$68,720 to \$84,370 per annum and includes a comprehensive benefit package.

#### How to Apply:

Interested candidates are invited to forward their resume and a covering letter quoting **job # 2026-018** to Human Resources **by June 1, 2026, at 11:59 pm** to: [hr@clearview.ca](mailto: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](http://www.clearview.ca)

# TRIVIA ON THE GREEN

FRIDAY, MAY 29 AT 7PM  
 AT CREEMORE VILLAGE GREEN:

A FUNDRAISER FOR PARK PROGRAMMING



**RAIN OR SHINE**

SPRING INTO ACTION! TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND BREEZE THROUGH CATEGORIES THAT WILL MAKE YOU HAIL WITH EXCITEMENT.

WHETHER YOU'RE A TRIVIA HIGH-PRESSURE SYSTEM OR A LITTLE BIT FOGGY THIS WILL BE THE PERFECT ATMOSPHERE.

THE SHINING TEAM WILL BECOME THE "RAINING" CHAMPIONS!

MAX. TEAM/TABLE SIZE IS 6 PEOPLE.  
 \$15 PER PERSON OR \$70 PER TABLE.

CASH BAR OPENS 6:30 PM  
 QUESTIONS START 7 PM  
 BRING-YOUR-OWN SNACKS.

**TICKETS AND INFO AVAILABLE AT THE CREEMORE ECHO OR SCAN HERE**



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[www.environmentalpestcontrol.ca](http://www.environmentalpestcontrol.ca)