

# The Creemore ECHO

Friday, May 22, 2026 Vol. 26 No. 21

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News and views in and around Creemore

## INSIDE



Party Time  
The Creemore Echo turns 25  
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Staff photo: Trina Berlo

The Creemore Drumming Collective visited Creedan Valley long-term care centre on Wednesday. Leader **Lesley Joosten**, above, engages with residents who were provided shakers so they could play along.

## Matthew Vorstermans takes part in 20th Walk for Alzheimer's

Creemore resident **Matthew Vorstermans** is taking part in his 20th Walk for Alzheimer's at Springwater Provincial Park on Sunday, May 31.

Since joining the Walk for Alzheimer's in memory of his beloved grandmother, Vorstermans has raised a total of \$85,217.

In honour of the milestone, he is striving to raise \$7,600. Donations can be made by cheque payable to Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County, or by donating online via [alzheimer.ca/simcoecounty](http://alzheimer.ca/simcoecounty) which links to the IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's - Simcoe County donation page. Click on "Learn more, Register to walk or donate here" Choose the "Donate Now" tab and search for Matthew Vorstermans.

# Strong mayor powers fast track boundary changes

by **Bonnie MacPherson**

The full Stayner Boundary Expansion Study recently approved by Clearview council will take far too long, and cost too many taxpayer dollars, according to Mayor **Doug Measures**.

Measures has invoked strong mayor powers bestowed by the provincial government to approve funding for a study with smaller scope to be completed within the next 90 days. The *Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act* gives the mayor authority to instruct council to consider a matter which could potentially advance a prescribed provincial priority - in this case, the province's plan to build 1.5 million new residential units by December 2031 and to construct and maintain infrastructure to support housing, transit, roads, utilities and servicing.

At its April 27 meeting, council passed a motion directing staff to proceed with the Stayner Secondary Plan, in development with consultants, that would

examine a study area extending roughly one kilometre around the existing built boundary, for potential long-term growth and development through to the year 2071. That study was expected to take up to 28 months and cost nearly \$675,000.

Measures says that plan would examine the entire settlement area in one parcel, which doesn't make sense at this time.

"Why would we spend a whole lot of money on the west end when we know there is currently no interest and no developable lands," he said.

"We already have specific interest from three developers in lands adjacent to the northeast corner of the existing settlement. These are areas that will be served by the Klondike Park water project when it comes on stream. There are agreements in place with the developers to contribute financially to the infrastructure project, subject to the Stayner Settlement Area Boundary Expansion. In short, they will delay

payment until those lands are included in the settlement boundary."

Measures says water will start flowing from the new Klondike Park well by 2027, so the township needs to get these lands recognized as part of the Stayner settlement area.

"It could be 25 or 30 years before we see any substantial changes in the area but the reality is, we have to start sometime," he said. "We could study all the lands included in the larger Phase 2 study, but we know that the law of gravity means water will not be available in the area west of County Road 42 without expensive pumping stations. Therefore, the decision was made to proceed with the smaller study now and get the developers to pay their share, and delay the larger study until some point in the future."

The mayor has approved a budget of \$150,000 to complete technical studies including a servicing feasibility study, agricultural impact assessment and First



Land outside the Stayner settlement area boundary identified as having long-term development potential known as the 'Growth Reserve Overlay (GRO)' are being fast tracked for development in order to cash in on developer agreements.

Nations and Indigenous consultation strategy to commence immediately. Any overruns will be covered by reserve funds designated for the Official Plan and zoning review.

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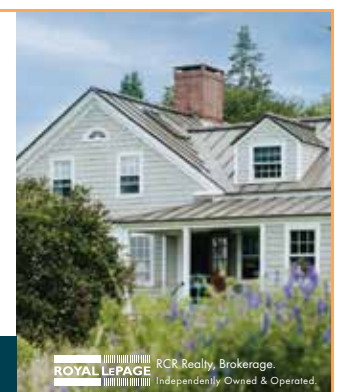
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# COMMUNITY Calendar

Submit your community events  
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## 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.
- *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](http://www.mansfieldoutdoorcentre.ca), [events@mansfieldoutdoorcentre.ca](mailto:events@mansfieldoutdoorcentre.ca).
- **Storytelling** with resident storyteller Laurie Vandenhurk at the Creemore Log Cabin 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Laurie will be sharing some of her art and sharing some of her experiences as a Canadian who participated in development work in Africa.

## 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.
- **Lilactree Farm Garden**. 547231 Sideroad 8, Mulmur. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2.5 acres on the eastern edge of the Escarpment overlooking the Boyne Valley. Hedges, fences, trees create long vistas within the garden, long views into the surrounding landscape. More than 70 species of deciduous trees, many rare/unusual, including *Sorbus commixta* (Japan), *Pyrus ussuriensis* (Siberia), *Acer triflorum* (China). Flowering plants include species' peonies in profusion, pulsatillas, anemones, *Trillium luteum*, *Helleborus foetidus*, *Daphne giraldii*, *Arisaema sikokianum*. Glorious magnolias, a five-path Goosefoot. Hart Massey sculptures contribute to the garden's design. For details or directions contact [lilactreefarm@gmail.com](mailto:lilactreefarm@gmail.com).

## Monday, May 25

- Stayner Garden Club's **Visitor's Night** David Hawke, 34 William St., Stayner (Centennial United Church) Meeting time starts 7 p.m., Social, 7:30 p.m. Speaker with meeting to follow (lug a mug!) Membership cost: \$10

## Tuesday, May 26

- 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](http://theoldmillhousepub.com), or join the Pub Trivia Facebook group. Thank you to our sponsors Beaus Brewing Co., Side Launch Brewing Co., and Quayle's Brewery.

## Wednesday, May 27

- **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. Last one until September.
- **Wireless Technology: How It Impacts Your Health** with Dr. Magda Havas at Station on the Green from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Minimum \$10 cash donation. [insightfulevents77@gmail.com](mailto:insightfulevents77@gmail.com)
- Better Company **Launch Party** from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Creemore Springs Tap Room. Big things are brewing. Join for the new Discovery Series launch featuring a tropical wheat ale and hop-infused ice cream at launch events in Creemore.

## 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](mailto:rob1976dart@gmail.com).

## 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.

## Sunday, May 31

- There will be **no service at St. Luke's**. The Regional Ministry is meeting at Prince of Peace in Wasaga Beach at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate their 75th Anniversary. Suffragan Bishop the Rt. Rev. Ryscilla Shaw will be celebrant and homilist.
- Rob Roy Cemetery **Memorial Service** at 2 p.m. Special music. Fellowship to follow.
- 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](mailto:communityhealingevent@gmail.com).
- **Stories with Octosprinklepuess** at Curiosity House Books from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Monthly storytime with the Creemore's most charming and huggable octopus - free for all kids, the last Sunday of every month. Come get lost in a tale or two, have a sprinkle cookie or three, and have some wiggly fun. Instagram: [@curiosityhousebooks](https://www.instagram.com/curiosityhousebooks).

## Saturday, June 6

- 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](mailto: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](mailto:nancy@nancyfalconer.com).
- **Trail Tunes** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Celebrate International Trails Day with Trail Tunes, a regional event connecting over 100 km of trails and live music across Clearview, Collingwood, and Wasaga Beach. Hike, bike, or dance between stops and enjoy free live performances at trailheads throughout the region. Concerts are staggered so you can explore and experience multiple locations along the way. For more information visit [discoverclearview.ca](http://discoverclearview.ca). For questions contact [tourism@clearview.ca](mailto:tourism@clearview.ca).

## 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](http://RaceRoster.com).

## 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](http://curiosityhousebooks.com/events) or [hello@curiosityhousebooks.com](mailto:hello@curiosityhousebooks.com). Tickets cost \$25.

## Friday, June 19

- **Summer Solstice party** hosted by the Creemore BIA starting at 5 p.m. Performance in the Village Green by Shania Twink at 7:30 p.m, line dancing, floral crowns with Creemore Horticulture Society, and a performance by the Creemore Drumming Collective. Bring a picnic or enjoy something from a local restaurant or food vendor.

## June 27- 28

- Love to shop? Come out to Kimberley Seldon's **Designer Edit** Creemore at the Creemore Legion from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. One weekend only. Designer inventory, boutique surplus, artists, makers and vintage. Visit [www.kimberleyseldon.com/designer-edit](http://www.kimberleyseldon.com/designer-edit).

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**Check out these listings!**

# Celebrate with us: Creemore Echo marks 25th anniversary

by Trina Berlo

The Creemore Echo newspaper is celebrating 25 years in print, and its continuation of a long legacy of local news reporting, ensuring the community has been well covered for 140 years.

On Saturday, May 23, *The Echo* is hosting a casual come-and-go birthday party to celebrate the milestone and the loyalty of readers, contributors, and advertisers.

“Our community really shows up for us, whether it’s advertising or submitting information for the community calendar or the stories, all the elements that it takes to run a newspaper, they’re here for us – the financial elements, the community elements, and there’s always a story to be told,” said publisher **Sara Hershoff**, who joined the staff in 2002. “We started out as a very humble one-sheet newsletter, and over the years, as the community has supported us, we’ve been able to develop the paper into something that’s more dynamic with better stories, better community coverage. We really hope to see everybody there.”

The current incarnation of *The Creemore Echo* was born in 2001, when retired businessmen **Craig Simpson** and Phil Stevenson purchased the business from John and Sylvia Wiggins, who were shutting down the newspaper. After *The Creemore Star*, established in 1886, was shuttered,



Maja Mackenna photo

The Creemore Echo team is in party planning mode, from left, sales rep **Natalie deRuiter**, editor **Trina Berlo**, publisher **Sara Hershoff**, and reporter **Bonnie MacPherson**.

Sylvia Wiggins launched *The Creemore Echo* in 1997. At a time when people relied almost entirely on newspapers for news and information, and with an election on the horizon, she felt a need to fill the void left by the closure of the local paper. And the rest is history.

When *The Echo* was resurrected by Simpson and Stevenson, with the help of **Georgi Denison**, it was circulated by mail as a double sided one-page

print-out with a community calendar, classifieds and advertising. By 2002, it was eight or more pages with news, photos and contributed articles and in June of that year, it was printed as a broadsheet on newsprint.

Eventually, *The Echo* was purchased by Jim Vandewater. At the time of the change in ownership, Simpson stayed on as publisher and, with editor **Brad Holden** and assistant **Fred Mills**,

the team continued on its mission to provide a professional newspaper to serve the community.

Since 2012, Mills has contributed 52 jokes per year for his popular *Fred’s Funnies* feature – that’s about 700 jokes. *The Echo* has had other long-time contributors including poet **Tim Armour**, and **Helen Blackburn**, who wrote for *The Creemore Star* and whose history columns continue to delight readers to this day.

*The Echo* has also had numerous longtime advertisers including Terry Nash Plumbing and Stephens Fuels who have run their ads consistently since publication began – and their ads have not changed.

“Without all of the people who have backed us from the very beginning, we couldn’t be here today,” said Hershoff. “It takes a long time to build the momentum needed to be publishing a newspaper, and there’s people that have believed in us from the very beginning, and there are people who are coming to us now and helping out. We need everybody involved.”

Each spring *The Echo* holds a subscription drive to encourage voluntary subscriptions from those who receive their newspaper in the mail. The party will also serve as the kick-off to this year’s drive.

Help us celebrate on Saturday, May 23, from 10 a.m. to noon at Creemore Village Green. Join us for cupcakes and outdoor activities.

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# OPINION & Feedback

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## EDITORIAL

### Why so grim, Doug?

Does anyone agree that the tone of the Ontario Government ads is all wrong?

Since the ads for job protection, nuclear power, pipelines, and the Ring of Fire, started coming to us through our provincial newspaper association's ad distribution service we have questioned the effectiveness of the dreary, somewhat apocalyptic feel. The aesthetic somehow evokes a sense of danger, despair and hopelessness rather than security and optimism, which one would expect from a government at the beginning of a third term.

Don't get us wrong, we love the revenue but why is the government choosing to use their ad dollars in this particular way, instead of sharing valuable information about health care, changes in services, and – what everyone really wants to know – how the heck am I supposed to remember to renew my licence and health card if I don't receive reminders in the mail? And do I have to renew my licence plate? The answer is yes.

Back in 2024 when as part of the provincial government's effort to promote Ontario-made products, services businesses and workers, it directed its four largest agencies – Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO), the Ontario Cannabis Store, Metrolinx and the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) – to allocate a minimum of 25 per cent of their annual advertising spending for Ontario publishers.

The reason? The agencies spend more than \$100 million on marketing each year. "By ensuring that a minimum of 25 per cent of their advertising budgets are reserved for Ontario-based publishers, the government is helping to support these publishers and their workers, who are creating local news content for people across the province. The government is also making similar commitments with its own advertising spending, helping to provide even more support for Ontario jobs and promote Ontario culture."

As a Qualified Canadian Journalism Organizations (QCJO) *The Creemore Echo* has been privileged to qualify for the ad buys.

We have long held the position that the best way for government to support newspapers is to advertise. As an advertiser there is total control over messaging. That is why we are appalled by the messaging. This is the campaign that the government has chosen to blanket the province with?

Until now we have cringed at the ads but this week's crosses a line. It takes aim at homelessness and points to a website that makes no obvious connection to the topic of clearing encampments from Ontario's parks. It is part of a Protect Ontario campaign that misses the mark entirely. Are we in danger? No, we have a housing crisis and a drug crisis that required compassion and care.

In our opinion the ads are nothing but bleak fear-mongering and don't represent us as Ontarians.

## THE WAY WE WERE



In 2011, *The Creemore Echo* celebrated its 10th anniversary with Mary Vandewater (from left), Tom Vandewater, Georgi Denison, Thom Paterson, Brad Holden, Sara Hershoff and Craig Simpson.

## LETTER

### Wow! *The Creemore Echo* turns 25

Editor:

Congratulations to Sara and all the *Echo* staffers past and present for this amazing achievement. Also to the village of Creemore, which as always been a special place that both deserved and supported a newspaper.

I am proud to have been part of the *Echo*'s early days, and even prouder to witness its continuous growth and contribution to the area. What started as a four-page newsletter with a circulation of about 200, surrounded by established papers in all the neighbouring communities, has become what you see today, with the incredible circulation of 7,900.

Meanwhile all those other papers are gone.

The *Echo* was founded on two guiding principles which remain to the present day. First was to cover and accurately report on all the local news, from council meetings to church suppers. The second was to be a community hub, promoting, supporting, and bringing together all things Creemore. The *Echo*'s success is the direct result of the *Echo* staff working very hard every week to deliver on those principles.

Once again, my heartiest congratulations and have a joyous 25th anniversary celebration.

**Craig Simpson,**

Former editor and publisher of *The Creemore Echo*.

### Allocation is about equitable access

Editor:

I would appreciate the opportunity to respond to the recent discussion surrounding Clearview Township's ice allocation policy, as I believe it is important that council, township staff, and the broader community fully understand the regional role Collingwood Girls Hockey plays in providing opportunities for young female athletes across our area.

In response to the May 8 article, *Ice allocation policy cause for concern by long-time users*: While some have framed this discussion as being specifically about Collingwood Girls Hockey, the reality is much broader. This is about equitable access to youth sports programming and ensuring

young athletes across our region have opportunities to play and develop in their home communities.

The Collingwood Girls Hockey Association proudly serves families from Collingwood, Clearview, Wasaga Beach, Blue Mountains, and surrounding areas. More than 100 Clearview families currently participate in our association — families who pay municipal taxes, volunteer countless hours, support local facilities, and contribute to the broader recreation community.

As the officially recognized representative girls hockey association for this region through the Ontario Women's Hockey Association, our responsibility is to provide opportunities for female athletes across

(See 'Youth' on page 5)

The Creemore  
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Letters to the editor should be sent to editor@creemore.com. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

To receive a weekly copy of *The Creemore Echo* by mail outside of the circulation area or e-mail version please contact us at info@creemore.com or visit creemore.com.

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# Youth sport issue is regional

(Continued from page 4)

these municipalities. Unlike some traditional sports organizations, girls hockey often requires a broader regional model to create sustainable teams and meaningful development opportunities for players.

This conversation should not become about “outsiders” versus “local users,” nor should it focus solely on whether the association name is “Collingwood” or “South Georgian Bay.” The fact remains that we are the designated girls hockey association serving these communities, and the families we represent are local families. They attend local schools, work locally, volunteer locally, and support the same arenas and recreation systems as everyone else.

We respect and appreciate the long-standing history of adult user groups that have supported these facilities for decades. However, municipalities also have a responsibility to respond to evolving recreation needs and increasing demand for youth programming. The intent of the allocation policy is not to displace existing users, but to create fair and reasonable access for youth organizations — including girls hockey, a sport that has historically had fewer opportunities and less access to ice time.

This conversation should not become about geography or branding. It should remain focused on supporting youth sports, encouraging participation, and ensuring young athletes have opportunities to develop, compete, and belong.

Our association continues to work collaboratively with municipalities and facility partners to do what is best for players and families across all four communities we serve. Like many minor sports organizations, we are simply doing our best to balance growth, access, scheduling realities, and the

needs of local families.

This is not simply a “Collingwood Girls Hockey” issue. It is a regional youth sport issue. At the end of the day, this conversation should remain focused on what is best for kids, families, and the long-term health of community recreation.

For further context, much like any regional organization, our Lightning executive board is made up of representatives from all four municipalities we serve: Collingwood (9), Clearview (8), Wasaga Beach (5), and Blue Mountains (1). Our board members live, work, and volunteer throughout the Georgian Triangle region — the same region our association proudly supports and services.

Thank you to council, township staff, and community members for continuing to engage in these important conversations. We remain committed to working collaboratively and respectfully with all user groups to ensure youth in our region continue to have access to positive, inclusive, and sustainable recreation opportunities for years to come.

**Ivy Leishman-Martin,**

Founding member, past president  
Collingwood Lightning Girls Hockey

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

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



## Plant a row, Give a row

Editor:

As in the past I would like to invite our community to “plant a row, give a row” for St. Luke’s Community Food Bank.

This has been so well supported in the past years.

It is wonderful to see children coming with parents and grandparents bringing in their fresh produce.

**Gayle Millsap and Helen Blackburn** (above) are wonderful supporters.

Helen comes each week bringing produce from her garden.

Our families really appreciate it, and we are excited that we can give it away fresh.

For more information, call 705-352-2759.

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Staff photos: Bonnie MacPherson

Participants in the Stayner Garden Club's 10th annual Tulip Days Festival on May 21 included the Stayner Legion (left), **Vanessa Denbok** (centre) and **Marty Beelen** (right) who served as emcee.

# 10th annual Tulip Days celebrates bond between Canada, Holland

by **Bonnie MacPherson**

Chilly winds and grey skies did not dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd that gathered to celebrate Tulip Days in Stayner. Last week marked the 10th annual Tulip Days Festival, presented by the Stayner Garden Club.

Emcee, councillor **Marty Beelen** said the event honours the strong Dutch heritage in Simcoe County.

"Many Dutch immigrants came here after the war and the Dutch are very grateful for the role Canadian soldiers played in the liberation of the

Netherlands in May 1945," he said.

Following the Second World War German invasion, Princess Juliana of the Netherlands took refuge in Ottawa along with her two young daughters, Princess Beatrix and Princess Irene. While in exile in Canada, she gave birth to her third daughter, Princess Margriet. One room of the Ottawa Civic Hospital was declared Dutch territory, to allow the new princess to be born a Dutch citizen. Following the war, the government of the Netherlands sent a gift of thousands of tulip bulbs, which

became the start of The Canadian Tulip Festival in Ottawa. To this day, the Dutch send more bulbs each year and the Canadian Tulip Festival has become the largest of its kind in the world.

While much smaller than the national festival, Beelen says Tulip Days in Stayner celebrates the strong bond and enduring friendship between the two countries. Beelen's father spent much of the war in a German POW camp where he met some Canadians and decided that he would move his family here for a fresh start in a land

of opportunity.

The event featured representatives from Canadian Forces Base Borden and the Stayner and Creemore branches of the Royal Canadian Legion which is marking its 100th anniversary this year. The Grade 7 choir from Stayner Collegiate Institute led the crowd in the national anthem. There was a free barbecue run by the Stayner and District Kinsmen, and a fly-past of vintage aircraft from the Edenvale Classic Aircraft Foundation capped off the festivities.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Community Cultural Festival

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## Attendant struck, injured

Dufferin OPP is looking for a man who took off after stealing fuel from a gas station in Mansfield on May 13 and hitting the attendant with his vehicle.

Police responded to the Pioneer gas station in Mansfield for reports of a serious fail to remain collision at 2:44 p.m. The investigation has revealed that a male suspect operating a black Ford SUV with an attached camper trailer allegedly attempted to flee the gas station without paying for fuel. During the incident, the gas station attendant attempted to intervene and was struck by the vehicle.

The victim sustained serious injuries and was airlifted to a Toronto-area trauma centre for treatment.

The suspect vehicle is described as a black Ford SUV displaying stolen licence plate 233 DST. The attached camper trailer was displaying stolen trailer plate 521 DTB.

Investigators are asking anyone who may have witnessed the incident, observed the vehicle involved, or who may have dash camera or surveillance



footage, to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Anyone wishing to remain anonymous can contact Crime Stoppers Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at [crimestoppersdm.com](http://crimestoppersdm.com).

## Clearview farmer addresses senators about DND radar site

by **Bonnie MacPherson**

If we continue to treat farmland as abundant, it will erode our ability to produce sufficient food for our population, says **Rachel Brooks**, a Clearview Township farmer and co-founder of ROAR (Rural Owners Against Radar).

Brooks was recently invited to Ottawa to address the Senate Committee on farmland loss and the Department of National Defence's (DND) Arctic Over the Horizon Radar (A-OTHR).

Brooks received a letter last July asking whether she was interested in selling her land to DND, in preparation for the establishment of a A-OTHR "receive" site.

"Farmland is seen as easily available and easy to repurpose," she told the committee, "but this land is neither surplus nor replaceable. Thousands of acres of highly productive farmland are at risk of disappearing due to the DND's Arctic Over the Horizon Radar Project."

Farmland is a finite resource, according to Brooks, and at a time when Canadian farmers are working to increase domestic food supply 35-50 per cent by 2040, farmland is disappearing at the rate of 300 acres a day. She says, "Ontario has lost 20 per cent of its farmland in the last 50 years and if we continue on this trajectory, we are headed for food insecurity."

Speaking on behalf of area farmers, Brooks says they are not opposed to

national security, but are looking for some balance.

"This DND project should not be located on farmland," she said. "There are two nearby [military] bases with 20,000-plus acres. Let's not solve one problem by creating another."

Brooks had three requests for the committee:

- 1) Recognize agricultural land as a national asset.
- 2) Require that federal decision making avoids prime farmland where alternatives exist.
- 3) Ensure the voice of Canadian agriculture is included in land use discussions from the outset.

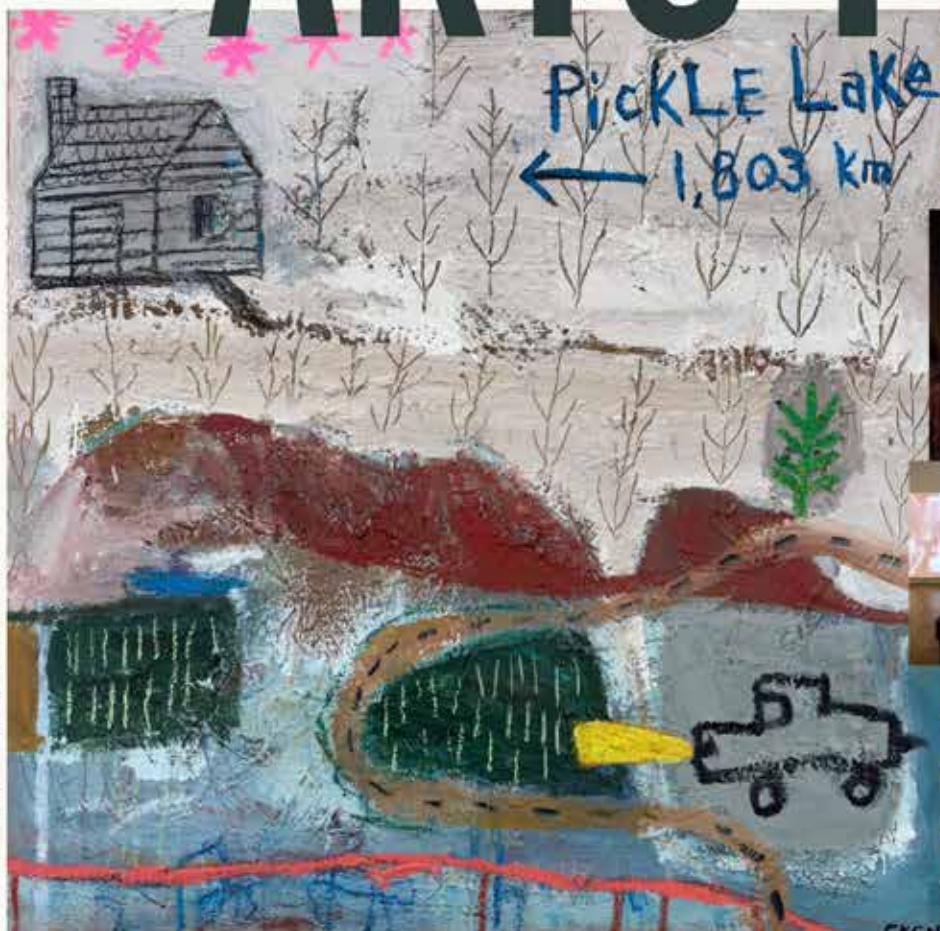
Brooks told *The Echo* she saw lots of nods of approval during her presentation and feels committee members showed genuine interest, not only in the DND project but in the preservation of agricultural lands in general.

Clearview councillor and fellow farmer **Robert McArthur** attended the presentation for moral support. He, too, felt Brooks' message resonated, and he noted there is actually a provision for the senate to initiate legislation and present it to the House of Commons.

Brooks says she is hopeful that might happen, although she suspects it is likely to be a very long process. In the meantime, she says, the increased focus on preserving agricultural land can only help their cause.

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Pickle Lake: Chris Nelson, mixed-media on canvas, 36 x 26

# User opposes new allocation policies

by **Bonnie MacPherson**

An ice time and sports field allocation policy recently adopted by Clearview Township is not in the best interests of sports facility users now and in the future, according to resident **Gord Zeggil**.

Zeggil appeared before council on May 11 to challenge the policy adopted in January.

“One thing I have observed over many council meetings is that staff often compare our policies to those of other municipalities of similar size. Only Clearview and Wasaga Beach have chosen to prioritize youth sports organizations over local adult groups with historical useage,” he said. “Collingwood and Barrie require 80 per cent of participants to be residents to qualify for local status, and say residents will always receive preference over non-residents. In the case of Collingwood, non-residents are charged a premium on rentals. Owen Sound provides grandfathered status for established user groups. If this comparison had been examined prior to adoption of this policy in January, the decision might have been different.”

Township staff have assured adult user groups that the new policy is founded on the principles of fair and equitable treatment and transparency. Zeggil cited the case of the Lowe group, which lost the Thursday night ice time slot they had been using for 50 years in favour of Collingwood Girls’ Hockey.

CAO **John Ferguson** said the 6 p.m. slot is peak time for youth sports and that there are other options available to a men’s pick-up league. Zeggil said other user groups worry that they cannot rely on assurances that adult groups will be dealt with fairly.

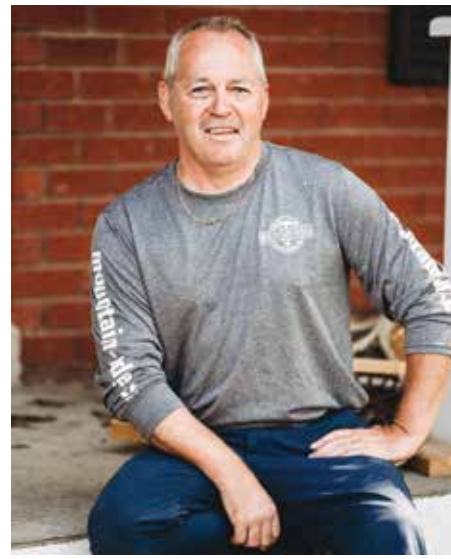
Ferguson says township staff are committed to working with adult user groups, and noted that the Lowe group had been offered a Saturday afternoon time slot. Prior to adoption of the new policy, he noted that Clearview Minor Hockey had 45.5 hours of ice time per week while the girls’ hockey program had only five hours. They have subsequently negotiated a half hour from minor hockey and some time from the figure skating club to bring girls’ hockey up to seven hours per week.

Councillor **Robert McArthur** says in a way, the increased demands on recreational facilities are a good thing.

“Not that many years ago we were kind of thinking how were we going to keep these arenas open due to lack of useage,” he said. “Clearview is in the middle of a growth spurt right now, so maybe it’s time to start the conversation about fundraising to build new arenas.”

Council adopted an amendment to the January policy defining non-municipal regional minor sport groups as those groups with a minimum of 20 per cent of registrants residing in Clearview Township, down from 40 per cent.

Director of parks and recreation **Terry Vachon** highlighted wording



**Gord Zeggil**

in the revised policy stressing that the township is not seeking to remove or displace users who continue to enjoy their allocated sporting time. The intent of the existing policy is to communicate that no organization is grandfathered indefinitely.

In commenting on Zeggil’s presentation Measures said, “Gord has kicked up a bit of a hornet’s nest which is going to cause us a whole lot of grief down the road.”

In a letter in defence of the new policy, **Ivy Leishman** of Collingwood Lightning Girls Hockey said, “This is about equitable access to youth sports programming and ensuring young athletes have opportunities to play and develop in their home communities.”

The full letter is on page 4.

# Final tax rate approved

by **Bonnie MacPherson**

Clearview council has formally approved the tax rate and levy taxes for 2026.

The township portion of the tax increase is 2.04 per cent. Once county, school board and OPP estimates are factored in, the blended rate increase is 2.09 per cent.

In a report to council, treasurer **Kelly McDonald** said this will result in a tax increase of \$100.06 per year based on the average home assessed at \$315,000.

McDonald says with the tax rate approved, the township can start sending out final tax bills.

With the tax rate approved, council was in a spending mood. The public works department was given approval to purchase a new backhoe for \$238,691.51, a grader for \$672,618.49 and a sidewalk tractor for \$210,950.

Approval was also given to the parks and recreation department for purchase of a new ice resurfer for the Creemore arena for \$170,925.

All items were included in the 2026 township budget.

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**SHANIA TWINK**  
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**blue mountain**  
**film + media**  
**festival**

**MAY 28 - 31**  
VILLAGE CONFERENCE CENTRE

**Opening Night  
Cocktail Reception  
+ 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



Contributed photo

Jodi Behan from Shoshoni Temple, a vendor at Community Healing Collective's Wellness Day.

## Community Healing Collective hosts third Wellness Day

Community Healing Collective will host its third annual Wellness Day on Sunday, May 31 at Creemore Station on the Green.

The event is intended to connect the community with those offering a wide variety of healing modalities.

There will be more than 25 vendors on hand to share their knowledge of different wellness practices including massage, reflexology, Akashic records, past life readings and more.

Some mini sessions will be offered

free and some have a fee. There will also be food and beverage vendors, and organic vegetable seedlings for sale.

Keynote speaker **Marise Tourigny** will speak at 1 p.m. on Reclaiming your Sovereign Self based on her new book: *Sacred Miles on the Camino*.

Wellness Day is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit Community Healing Collective on social media channels or email [communityhealingevent@gmail.com](mailto:communityhealingevent@gmail.com).

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**SPEAKER**  
**Dr. Magda Havas**  
B.Sc., Ph.D., Professor Emerita,  
School of the Environment  
Trent University, Peterborough

**WEDNESDAY MAY 27<sup>TH</sup> 2026 ~ 7:00PM**  
**STATION ON THE GREEN**  
**10 Caroline Street East, Creemore**

**RSVP:** [insightfulevents77@gmail.com](mailto:insightfulevents77@gmail.com) **ADMISSION:** MIN \$10 CASH DONATION

**Dr. Havas discusses:**

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- Sources in and around your home
- How to minimize your exposure and regain your health
- Info about proposed DND Radar Clearview project

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# Trail Tunes connects communities by trail and song

Trail Tunes 2026 is a collaborative regional event that connects more than 100 kilometres of scenic trails with live, local music across Clearview, Wasaga Beach, and Collingwood.

On June 6, 12 free concerts will be held at four trailhead locations, with performances staggered between 11 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., to allow attendees to bike or travel between venues and catch every note.

Clearview Township – Centennial Park, 240 Brock St., Stayner

- StarDust Jazz Trio – 11 a.m.
- Johnny TooNice – noon
- WARPED (West African Rhythm Practice ensemble of drummers) – 1 p.m.
- Queen M – 2 p.m.

Clearview Township – New Lowell Recreation Park, 5212 County Road 9

- Jess Bowman – noon
- Gibbons and Figs – 1 p.m.

Town of Wasaga Beach – RecPlex Rotary Band Shell, 1724 Mosley St.

- Mixed Groove – 1 p.m.
- Windfall – 2:30 p.m.
- Mirage – 4 p.m.

Town of Collingwood – Shipyards Amphitheatre, 2 North Maple St.

- Gord Valiquette – 5 p.m.
- Tia Nova Band – 6 p.m.

The 93 North Band – 7 p.m.  
Trail maps are available at [www.cyclesimcoe.ca/trailtunes](http://www.cyclesimcoe.ca/trailtunes).



Contributed photo

Creemore Log Cabin board member **Michele McKenzie** and author **Laurie Vandenhurk** present artifacts and pictures in the Tinga Tinga style from Tanzania. This painting style utilizes bicycle paint to produce brilliant and highly-saturated colours to create modern images based on traditional Stone Age rock paintings. Tinga Tinga art could be considered the longest artist trend ever.

# Author shares art and stories at Creemore Log Cabin Saturday

by Michele McKenzie

To quote Rudyard Kipling, “This, O my Best Beloved, is a story – a new and a wonderful story – a story quite different from the other stories...” that has been told inside the Creemore Log Cabin this Saturday, May 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is a story of peacocks, bees and other items such as drums that are all part of the daily village life that takes place these days in Tanzania. **Laurie Vandenhurk** is our resident storyteller who will be showing some of her art and sharing some of her experiences as a Canadian who participated in development work in Africa. Please join us “at the log cabin” at this time to see these Tinga Tinga pictures and to find out what to do if you do ever find a cobra in your kitchen, or a beehive in your roof beams or an elephant in your garden.

*Michele McKenzie is deputy CEO of Clearview Public Library.*



The Big Book Bash has been deemed a huge success, having netted more than \$6,000 in proceeds for Creemore Station on the Green. Organizers don't know how many books were sold but there was a steady stream of buyers throughout the day on May 2. The event was supported by many volunteers making it all go very smoothly.

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# Theatre Collingwood teen program makes its debut

Theatre Collingwood is debuting its new Theatre Collingwood Teen Conservatory (TCTC), an innovative performance training program for high school students launched in February.

The inaugural production, *The New World*, will take the stage May 22–24 at 7 p.m. at Wasaga Beach RecPlex.

Directed and written by instructor **Nadia Hovan**, *The New World* is an original play and cabaret that combines storytelling, music, dance, and drama to explore a futuristic society shaped by artificial intelligence, and the youth-led resistance fighting to reclaim humanity. The production contains mature themes and offers audiences a bold and thought-provoking theatrical experience.

“This new program came together very quickly out of necessity, as a teen program elsewhere was no longer being offered and there was a void, but the results have been immediate and inspiring,” said **Anne Raciunas**, Theatre Collingwood’s Education Program Coordinator. “Over the past two and a half months, 20 incredibly talented young performers have collaborated to create something imaginative, moving, and deeply relevant.”

Admission into the Theatre Collingwood Teen Conservatory is by audition, and participants actively assist in the creation and development of a full-length production. The Spring 2026 session marks the beginning of



Contributed photo

The cast of Theatre Collingwood Teen Conservatory’s production of *The New World*: “An AI-Designed World. A Teen-Led Resistance.”

what Theatre Collingwood intends to become a twice-yearly conservatory program, with a musical cabaret-style production offered in the spring and an intensive dramatic performance program planned for the fall.

A unique feature of the program has been its partnership with Chartwell Balmoral Retirement Residence in Collingwood. Rehearsals have taken place twice weekly, Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons, in activity spaces within the residence. The collaboration has created meaningful intergenerational experiences between the teen performers and Chartwell Balmoral

residents and staff.

“This has been an incredible venture thus far,” said Raciunas. “The teens have regularly interacted with residents simply through their presence at the residence, and we believe this is the beginning of something truly special.”

As part of this partnership, a special rehearsal performance for Chartwell Balmoral residents will take place on Sunday, May 17 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

“I believe theatre, and arts in general, offers such a valuable outlet and education for teens and I am so proud of the work Anne, Nadia,

and the team are doing to make this happen. The skills the students learn are not just for the stage, but also for life,” said **Erica Angus**, executive director of Theatre Collingwood.

The Theatre Collingwood Teen Conservatory program fee is \$400 per participant, with subsidies available for families in need, to ensure accessibility for young artists.

For tickets and information, visit [www.theatrecollingwood.ca](http://www.theatrecollingwood.ca) or call 705-445-2200.

## About the play

Step into a bold, imaginative future created by the next generation of artists. Devised and performed by a talented ensemble of local teens, *The New World* reflects the questions, fears, and hopes of a generation navigating an increasingly complex digital landscape. Through powerful scenes and electrifying musical moments, these emerging artists invite audiences to consider what it means to be human in a rapidly evolving world.

*The New World* is the inaugural production of the Theatre Collingwood Teen Conservatory, a dynamic new training program for high school students ready to take their performance skills to the next level. This original play and cabaret fuses storytelling, music, and movement to explore a world shaped by artificial intelligence, and the young voices rising up to challenge it.

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**JULY 16TH - Dual Estate Firearms Auction**  
**JULY 17TH - Currency / Art / Jewelry Auction.**  
**JULY 24TH - Giffin Apple Farm Sale.**  
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# FUN & Games

**Sudoku** by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 15

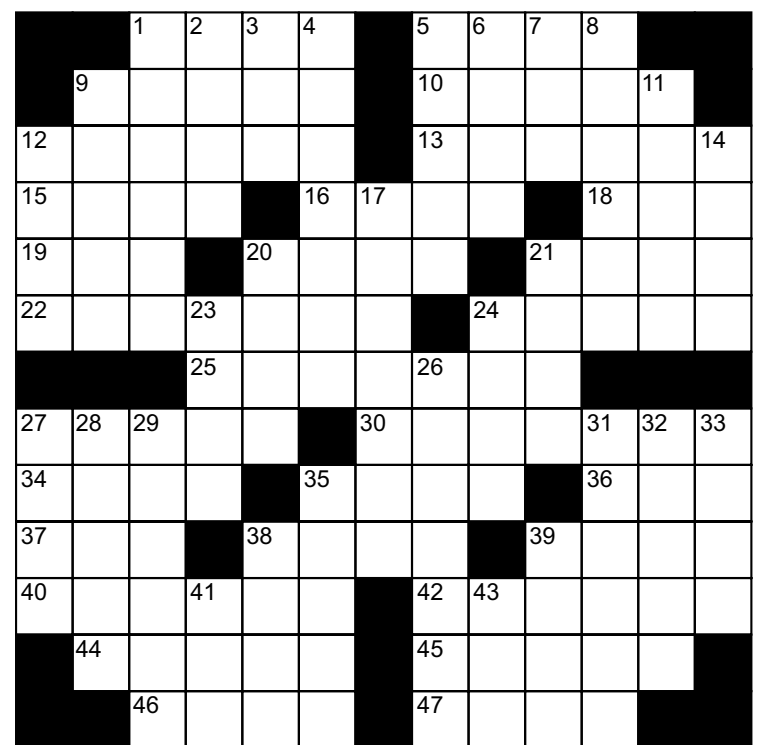
**FRED'S FUNNIES**

Why do some people get heartburn every time they eat birthday cake?  
 They always forget to take off the candles.

Happy 25th Birthday Creemore Echo

## Canadian Criss Cross by Walter Feener

- ACROSS**
- Use a cart, perhaps
  - The world has seven of them
  - Be unselfish
  - Bite-size pies
  - Baby party
  - Landed property
  - Eat an ice cream cone
  - Price of a cab ride
  - Fifth calendar page
  - Big expense for newspapers
  - Brought into life
  - In no other place
  - You may not have room for it
  - Trailing plants
  - Looked up to
  - Sends out
  - They are eaten first thing in the morning
  - Cutting side of a blade
  - Modelling material
  - "The dog ate my homework" is one
  - Weather map symbol
  - Does garden work
  - Place to build
  - Has an inclination
  - The remaining ones of several
  - Attempt to heal
  - Whom a leader follows
  - Big elephant features
  - Complete collections



- DOWN**
- Unpleasant surprises
  - Raptorial bird
  - Unrefined rock
  - Entertain an audience
  - Back of a boat
  - Facility
  - Gallery display
  - Pollen-bearing organ
  - Put a polish on
  - Fixate one's eyes on
  - Came into a base horizontally
  - Places for patches
  - Written piece in a newspaper
  - Flower gardens
  - Put in a place where it can't be found
  - Auction
  - Exceedingly
  - Thinks logically about
  - Hoarder's problem
  - Mature person
  - Pay no attention to
  - Beings from another world
  - 1.76 pints
  - Catches a glimpse of
  - Is priced at
  - Get wind of
  - Hypodermic injection
  - Pod occupant
  - Bunion locale

**Trivia: Name one of the two co-discoverers of Insulin?**

**Louie Kay**  
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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.

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**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.

## SERVICES

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 & HOME PROJECTS MADE EASY** Overwhelmed and not sure where to start? Leblond Project Management visits your home, gathers job details, and clearly outlines your project so our contractors can give fair, accurate quotes with less hassle. Ideal for decks, fences, renovations, and home repairs. Call or text Matt: 705-888-2012.

**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.

## 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.

## COOKING CLASSES

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, cheese making, seasonal preserves. Cooking for your table is offered in limited bookings [TheContemplativeCook.com](http://TheContemplativeCook.com).

## 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, emorrissey0708@icloud.com.

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## REGISTRATION

**REGISTRATION FOR IMAGINARIUM** Adventures in Art (week long day camps) is open with early bird pricing until May 31. Contact CreemoreImaginarium@gmail.com or Ayrle at 705 606 3831 for details. [www.ImaginariumAdventuresInArt.com](http://www.ImaginariumAdventuresInArt.com).

## IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of **Alex Priddle**, Aug. 9, 1928 - May 20, 2017  
Death leaves a heartache  
no one can heal,  
love leaves a memory  
no one can steal.  
Always remembered and deeply missed by,  
*Brian & Marj, Karen and our families.*

**AFTERNOON TEA**  
*with Marie Kidd*

CELEBRATING 99 YEARS  
MAY 31, 2 - 4 P.M.  
(This marks the first day of her 100<sup>th</sup> year!)

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.

Join us, Kidd Girls

**RETIREMENT DR**  
**GOLF ST**

RETIREMENT DROP-IN  
for  
**ANDY MILLSAP**  
*The adventure begins...*

Drop in and join us in celebrating Andy. We welcome you to stop in and wish him all the best in retirement.

Friday May 29, 2026  
9am-5pm  
Spriggs Insurance  
1071 County Rd 42, Stayner

## This week's answers

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

S	H	O	P	S	E	A	S				
S	H	A	R	E	T	A	R	T	S		
S	H	O	W	E	R	E	S	T	A	T	E
L	I	C	K	F	A	R	E	M	A	Y	
I	N	K	B	O	R	N	H	E	R	E	
D	E	S	S	E	R	T	V	I	N	E	S
A	D	M	I	R	E	D					
M	A	I	L	S	C	E	R	E	A	L	S
E	D	G	E	C	L	A	Y	L	I	E	
S	U	N	H	O	E	S	S	I	T	E	
S	L	O	P	E	S	O	T	H	E	R	S
T	R	E	A	T	N	O	O	N	E		
E	A	R	S	S	E	T	S				

Trivia: Charles Best, Frederick Banting



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


More news and events online at

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