

The Creemore ECHO

Friday, December 11, 2020 Vol. 20 No. 50 WWW.CREEMORE.COM

News and views in and around Creemore

INSIDE



Dippity Doo Dah
Locally made Damn Good Dips
PAGE 5

Publications Mail Agreement # 40024973

JUST LOOK AT THE SOLD SIGNS

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Haircut campaign supports two causes

by Trina Berlo

Since high school, **Luke Atkinson** has been regularly growing his hair long and then donating it to make wigs for people with cancer.

For his sixth donation, Atkinson, who lives in Duntroon and works for Creemore Springs Brewery, coordinated a fundraising campaign with Collingwood General and Marine Hospital.

His goal is to raise \$2,000 to help with the purchase a new Fluoroscopy X-ray Unit for the hospital. He has raised over \$600 so far.

Creemore Springs Brewery stepped up with a pledge to match every donation made by fellow brewery employees.

The hair is donated to the Canadian Cancer Society in order to help make a wig for someone in need. It takes seven ponytails of eight inches or more to make a wig.

"With 2020 being less than a stellar year, I hope that the donations raised for the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital will go a long way, and make some people smile," said Atkinson.

Although Atkinson has already gone under the clippers, the fundraising campaign continues until Dec. 31. Donate at cgmhf.com/event/luke-atkinson-haircut-fundraiser.



Contributed photo

Matt Cola from Haus of Handsome Barbershop in Collingwood cuts **Luke Atkinson's** locks, which will be donated to the Canadian Cancer Society.

New committee to form economic strategy

by Trina Berlo

The Township of Clearview is putting a call out for volunteer members to sit on a newly formed Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC).

Seats are open to a representative of the larger business sector, a business representative of the smaller business sector, and a representative of the Clearview Chamber of Commerce and/or Creemore Business Improvement Area (BIA). The committee will also include a member of council and the

mayor will act as chair.

The committee will be asked to make recommendations to council on issues relating to economic development and investment opportunities to aid in the growth and progress of the municipality.

Its mandate, as set out in the terms of reference approved by council in October, contains a lofty list of goals including the creation and implementation of a comprehensive economic development plan, identifying economic development impediments and opportunities, business attraction

and retention, pandemic recovery, sourcing funding and liaising with the community. This will be done while maintaining focus on five key pillars from the Clearview strategic plan: recreation and culture; identity-marketing-promotion; economic activity; quality of life; and governance. It is noted that the terms of reference may change with the approval of council, depending on the expertise of the members.

An inactive economic development
(See "Clearview" on page 3)

Toy drive continues

County of Simcoe Paramedic Services' 18th annual Toy Drive has so far collected more than 1,400 toys, more than 100 pounds of food, and approximately \$6,250 in cash and gift cards. Paramedics will be accepting donations Saturday evening at Foodland in Creemore.

The Toy Drive benefits local children and families during the holiday season. Donations, along with new, unwrapped toys and food will be accepted at various locations across Simcoe County until Dec. 18. Visit simcoe.ca/toydrive to learn more. Paramedics are encouraging residents to consider donating virtually by visiting www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/simcoe-county-paramedic-association/.

Donations can be also made at the Stayner Emergency Hub located at 6993 Highway 26 in Stayner, where outdoor drop boxes are available (please do not leave monetary donations in drop boxes – only non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys).

Turkeys galore

Local real estate agents set a record – donating over 850 turkey vouchers to families in need in their communities.

This year, Southern Georgian Bay Association of Realtors (SGBAR) agents and brokerages set a record by donating more than \$17,000 to provide 853 turkeys to local families in need. Each year, SGBAR partners with local grocers, who exchange the donations for turkey vouchers (or their choosing) of greater value. The vouchers are then distributed in Christmas hampers in our local communities, allowing families in need to enjoy a festive meal at Christmas.

As a result of the pandemic, a record number of families and individuals in need registered this year to receive a Christmas hamper to help during these difficult times.

At a time of need, agents and brokerages were overwhelmingly generous with contributions to make a difference for the overall wellbeing of their communities.

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A big-hearted thanks to all those involved in the Santa Claus Parade

First and foremost we would like to thank all of the wonderful people who took up the challenge of setting up a float for this year's stationary parade and light stroll. We have such deep gratitude for your contributions. It is the collective efforts of our community that create the magic of the Christmas season.

Thanks also go to the Creemore Historic Log Cabin and Clearview Public Library, Creemore Branch for hosting Santa and his sleigh.

Santa and his elf are to be thanked for joining us in Creemore and commended for their conscientious COVID protocols. Know that they were tested and isolated in advance of travel, wore a mask at all times and are now safe and sound back at the North Pole. They are isolating once more to protect all the elves and Mrs. Claus, who has some preexisting conditions because of her love of gingerbread.

darci-que and emily added their usual flare by decorating around the cabin, Sarah at Creemore Home Hardware provided that cute post box which you all filled with letters and Sim at Foodland donated goodies. Please be sure to thank them when you see them.

Thanks to the Creemore Echo and staff for their constant support and to all those who pitched in here and there to make our 2020 parade happen.

Last but not least we would like to thank Natalie de Ruiter, Santa Claus Parade Committee Chair, for bringing us what we hope will be the only stationary parade we will ever have.

**We wish you health and happiness in 2021,
The Creemore BIA Board**

**#creemorelovesXmas winners of \$75 gift certificates are
Murray Skinkle, Alicia Lawson and Betty Serino**

www.ExperienceCreemore.com

Clearview follows recommendation restricting access to recreation facilities from red and grey areas

Following a recommendation from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Clearview is temporarily restricting access to township recreation facilities, public library branches and the administration centre to individuals whose primary residence lies within the red/control and grey/lockdown areas. Clearview, as part of the Simcoe Muskoka region, is currently designated as an orange/restrict area.

In a letter to municipalities last week, medical officer of health Dr. **Charles Gardner** strongly urged this action be taken to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus from higher transmission areas to lower transmission areas.

"Clearview would like to thank everyone who has shown their sense of community throughout this pandemic. By respecting Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's recommendations, watching out for friends and neighbours and showing kindness and respect to others, our community will continue to help stop the spread of COVID-19," said township officials in a news release.

Clearview staff have also started rotating in-person and remote shifts,

beginning Dec. 7 to limit the number of people in one location. As a result, alternate opening hours for the Clearview Administration Centre and Creemore Branch of the Clearview Public Library will be in effect.

The Clearview Administration Centre, located at 217 Gideon Street in Stayner, is closing for lunch between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The drop box located at the Gideon Street entrance will be accessible during this time.

The Creemore branch of the Clearview Public Library closes between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays.

As staff will alternate working remotely and in-person, residents are encouraged, where possible, to schedule appointments. Staff can also be contacted by email and over the phone for those wishing to remain safer at home. Clearview's staff directory can be accessed online at clearview.ca/staff-directory.

Announcements and updates on COVID-19 will continue to be communicated through the township website, www.clearview.ca and on Twitter, @Clearview_twp.

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PARKHURST FALL 2020

THANK YOU FOR A GLOWING EVENING

The Tree Society of Creemore would like to thank the Village of Creemore for supporting its **1st Annual Creemore Tree Stroll**

Special thanks to
NORMA and the crew at Affairs for hot chocolate *
ROBBIE and the crew at Pizza Perfect for pizza and apple cider*
LORI and the crew at Creemore Pizza Co for pizza
SCOTT DUFFIN, EMILY QUE and DARCI QUE for putting the lights on the tree
HELEN at Jug City for providing the trees and beautiful Christmas planters
CLEARVIEW, especially Amanda Murray and Dan Perreault for its support
THE TOWNSHIP MEN who cleared the sidewalks before our event
STATION ON THE GREEN under Linda Coulter for its support
THE ECHO for the maps of the village and advertising support
CARA for its support.

*Liz Smith,
Mary Boyd, Keith Mantesso,
Serge LaFleur, Jim Boyd,
Christina Smith,
Jacey Sampson*

TREE SOCIETY OF CREEMORE
Put down some roots

Have a Safe and Happy Christmas in the Valley!

For more information about the Tree Society of Creemore Contact tsocinfo@gmail.com

Sponsored by CARA, Tree Society of Creemore and Clearview Township

Regional COVID-19 spread may put us in the red

by Trina Berlo

With cases of COVID-19 on the rise, Simcoe Muskoka's medical officer of health is warning that the region could be going into the red.

Dr. Charles Gardner said this week, the region had reached an incidence rate of 42.9 cases per 100,000 people, (broken down by region the rate is 46.1 for Simcoe and only 16.1 for Muskoka). Anything over 40 would be considered for going into the red designation under the province's framework. However, there are other indicators that the region has not met, said Gardner.

We have exceeded the benchmark

for the reproductive rate but we are under the benchmark for testing per cent positivity. Nevertheless, the health unit has classified itself as red under its own evaluation system, taking into consideration the rate of spread and the challenge of contact tracing when cases have a large number of contacts.

"I think this is a warning to us that, if we don't stabilize and start to bring things back down again, we would be moving towards the possibility of being in the red category at some point in the future," said Gardner.

He said a rapid response team has been formed to reach out to contacts but there is a delay in the follow up.

The health unit is hoping to access supports from the province to improve its response time, to ensure they are properly isolating. Currently, 78.9 per cent of newly confirmed cases are being contacted within one day, and 77.5 per cent of newly reported high-risk contacts are being reached within one day.

Within a designated red zone, Gardner said there comes stronger advice about not entertaining visitors and not travelling into other zones. The limits on gatherings also shrinks to five people indoors, and restaurants are limited to outdoor dining, take-out and drive-through.

Gardner said the health unit is preparing communications with the business community, should the area be moved into the red. A lockdown would be considered if an incidence rate of 70 cases per 100,000 people was reached.

The health unit is also waiting on direction from the province as to the rollout of the vaccines that are coming shortly.

"Given that it is very much a tradition of public health to be providing leadership on vaccination as one of our core functions, I fully anticipate we will have a strong leadership role," said Gardner.

Clearview recruiting for economic development committee

(Continued from page 1)

committee was dissolved in 2018 during an administrative restructuring that assessed the usefulness and accountability of all volunteer boards and committees.

The recreation of an economic development advisory committee was championed by Councillor Thom Paterson as part of a larger goal to prioritize comprehensive long-term planning for the township. An Economic Development Committee of the Whole was agreed to by council during last year's budget deliberations, which would have included all members of council. The idea morphed into what

is currently being advertised.

Paterson said having people from outside of council with expertise advising government, is a good thing.

"I think we should do more of that," said Paterson. "I think the success of the Clearview Economic Development Advisory Committee is entirely dependent on the people we recruit."

He said he doesn't have any confidence that the committee will be able to work beyond year-by-year planning, rather than taking a long-term view.

He said he's pleased that the committee is happening, but adds, "There are big holes" such as environmental

resilience, shifting a local agri-based economy to be more green, and tangible performance management.

"Those are some of the holes I hope the committee fills," said Paterson. "Our planning at the council level tends to be helter skelter."

Paterson said he hasn't been asked to be on the committee due to "personal politics."

"I'm waiting to see if this is a game-changer for the township or just another reasonable effort. I'm sure some good discussions will come out of it. This has to be a game-changer to merit the type of effort that we are going to put into it," said Paterson. "We need to recruit

some really top notch people, and there are some here."

The committee term is four years and is concurrent with the term of council.

Applications are being accepted via email to the Director Legislative Services/Clerk, Pamela Fettes, at pfettes@clearview.ca or by mail or in-person at 217 Gideon Street, Box 200, Stayner ON, L0M 1S0. The deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 15.

Anyone interested is encouraged to read the terms of reference and access an application at www.clearview.ca/government-committees/committees/economic-development-advisory-committee.

A VISION FOR CREEMORE

The Creemore Community Foundation (CCF) needs your input!

Please complete the survey at the following link, and share widely with friends and family. The deadline to respond is January 4, 2021.

<https://tinyurl.com/CreemoreVision>

Paper surveys can be picked up and submitted at the Creemore Echo office, 3 Caroline Street W., Creemore, L0M 1G0.

The CCF, with its Steering Committee and ERA Architects, are embarking on a mission to establish 'A Vision for Creemore' that will help direct the Foundation's efforts. Your opinion will guide this project.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Church Directory

December 13, 2020

CENTENNIAL UNITED CHURCH IN STAYNER

Sunday Services resume live online at 10:30 am

Minister: Jennifer Irving
(705) 428-3711

CLEARVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

Online service

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Clayton Culham • 705-428-6543

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DUNEDIN

Open this Sunday for service at 10 a.m.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy Christmas.

We will not be hosting our Christmas Eve service this year.

Minister: Rev. Chris Gray
705-466-5202

ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Morning Prayer - 11:15 a.m.

In Person Worship with

COVID-19 restrictions in place.

22 Caroline St. W. • 705-466-2206

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Sunday service

on website at 10 a.m.

www.newlowellunitedchurch.weebly.com

www.stjohnscreemore.ca
705-466-2200

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In person or by phone

705-999-0092 or

www.holytrinityclearview.com

Rev. Ray Dobson 705-794-9140

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Advent 3

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Rev. Susan Snelling -

705-428-3885

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OPINION & Feedback

Feedback and old photos welcome
 info@creemore.com
 call 705-466-9906
 fax 705-466-9908

COLUMN

Tour of Creemore in the 1940s: Part 4

by Gerry Blackburn

Next to the drug store, which was the Bank of Toronto, (the predecessor of TD Canada Trust), and is now the Bank Cafe. This building was built in 1904. The manager lived in a house supplied by the bank, while the accountant lived over the bank, to watch the safe peephole. Several local women worked there, as all the entries and calculations had to be done by hand. There was a small park next to the bank with many flowers, maintained by the Creemore Horticultural Society. At that time the CNR tracks crossed Mill street a bit to the north and the station was to the east of Mill Street, on the north side of the tracks, close to the present Foodland. Further east, there was a freight shed on the south side. There were two trains a day, one to Collingwood at noon and the return at about 3 p.m. One could go to Toronto but it took all afternoon. You changed at Beeton, and again at Georgetown, which took you on to Toronto with waits between trains. The station at Creemore was quite handsome, being finished on the inside with British Columbia fir. The appearance of the facade of the present Station on the Green is almost an exact replica.

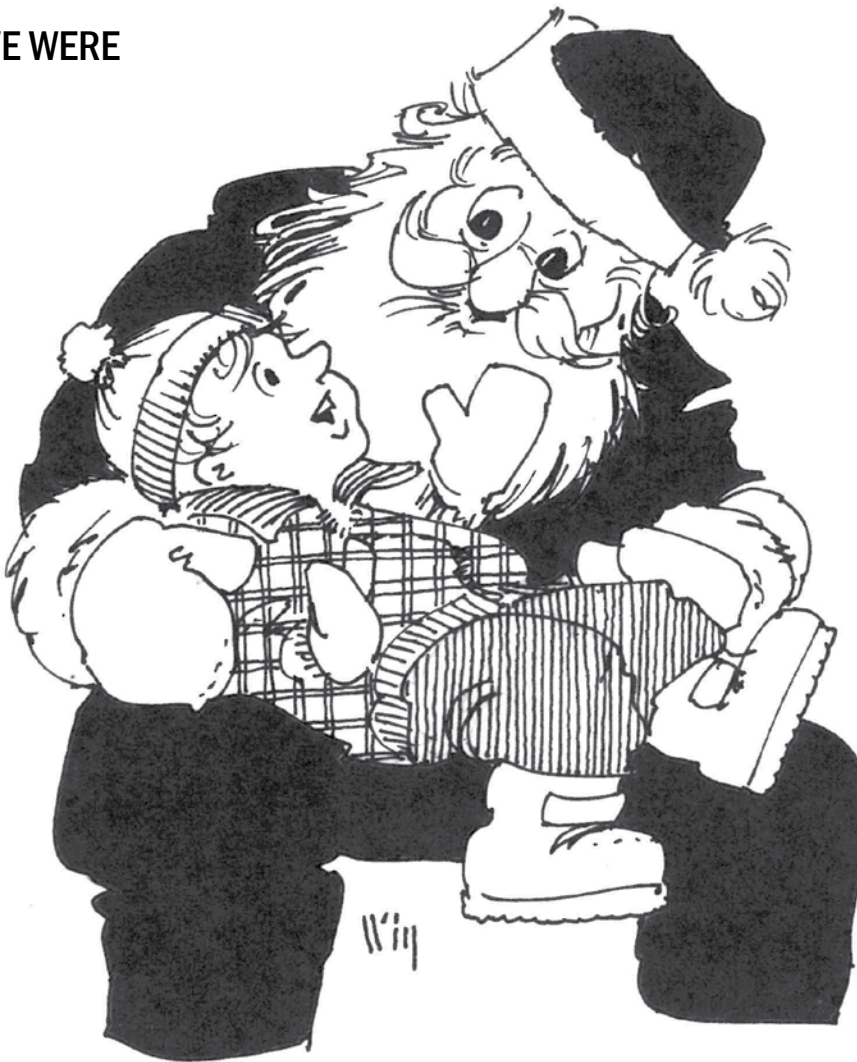
The next commercial building was Jack Cottrell's garage and service station. It was of modern design at that time with off the street covered pumps, a small office, and a separate repair garage to the south. The next business was on Louisa Street where Jug City is now. It was then a garage and service station built and operated by Merlin Coulter, Ron's Coulter's uncle.

We now come back south to St. John's United Church. During most of that period, the Rev Glen Eagle Sr. was the minister. He was young, very energetic, and organized an active young people's group. They went to all sorts of events and I was a bit jealous because as a Presbyterian, I thought that I couldn't join. Across Francis Street, there was a tiny dilapidated frame building used as an office by an auctioneer. Next, there was J.M. Hood's furniture store and mortuary, but it did not have a funeral parlor at that time. As there were no facilities for visiting the family, the body was usually kept at one's home, where friends would come and pay their respects.

Next was Stan Farley's Barbershop. There was a pool hall upstairs, where some of us spent the occasional noon hour. The next building, originally the Matchett House hotel, like the Sovereign didn't have any customers and closed. It was sold in 1938 at public auction to the village for \$1,600. After extensive remodelling, it was called the Town Hall, with a dance floor, stage, dressing rooms, kitchen, ladies restroom, public library upstairs, and Fire Hall at the rear. It was the venue for dances, concerts, dinners, political meetings, and school functions. I have many fond memories of school commencements and "Christmas At Homes."

Gerry Blackburn is the author of Creemore, as Remembered by Gerry Blackburn, available at The Creemore Echo Newsstand.

THE WAY WE WERE



...AND SKATES AND SLED AND IPHONE, AND...

From a retrospective of cartoons by John Wiggins published in The Creemore Echo.

LETTER

St. John's makes difficult decision to revert to online

What began in mid-March and appeared to be abating in the summer has now come back stronger, taking a hold on the world and our community. The global pandemic's effects are everywhere and have changed almost every aspect of life. While there is the promise of a vaccine, the realities may be that we will be living with COVID-related restrictions and other impacts well into 2021.

Here at St. John's United Church we have, through the steady leadership of Rev. Jane Sullivan, provided online via Zoom, Facebook and YouTube, plus phone-in services and fellowship. We are in the process of expanding, refining, and upgrading our abilities to provide these services through upgraded audio visual in the church. This has been made possible in large part through the kind donations we have received from our congregation and the community.

Our elders, stewards and other committees have continued to meet regularly to determine the best and safest path forward for our congregation and how we can actively support those in need during these unprecedented times. While we recently re-opened the church for "in-person" worship, we have had to make the difficult decision to step back and move

back to online only. The rapid rise in COVID cases and the government's increase in the risk levels in our community and those surrounding us led us to this decision. We will continue to actively monitor the pandemic's activity and government advice in order to make the most prudent decisions that protect the health of our community and provide support where most needed.

Some in our congregation and wider community do not have or use email, so if you know of anyone who needs support please let us know either by contacting Rev. Jane Sullivan at 705-466-2200. We know that difficult times will continue, and so we have allocated extra funds to our emergency relief account to meet needs of families or individuals who, as in the past, come to us in distressing situations.

Another reality that continues for us is that without in-person worship, especially at such important times in the church year as Christmas, our own "income" is much in arrears when the need for outreach and action is at a new high. Our basic costs such as heat, insurance, hydro, and salaries continue, closed or open.

(See "Many" on page 9)



www.creemore.com



The Creemore Echo is independently owned and operated.



PUBLISHER
Sara Hershoff
sara@creemore.com



EDITOR
Trina Berlo
trina@creemore.com



Natalie de Ruyter
natalie@creemore.com



Bonnie MacPherson
bonnie@creemore.com

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3 Caroline St. W., Box 1219 • Creemore, ON L0M 1G0 • Tel: 705-466-9906 • Fax: 705-466-9908 • info@creemore.com

Foodie parlays passion into profession

by Trina Berlo

On weekends, before sitting down to a cheeseboard and a nice bottle of wine with his fiancée, **Jeremy Mantesso** would often whip up a dip to serve with it. With a lot of encouragement from happy friends and family, those Damn Good Dips have evolved into a growing business.

Some of his old stanbys – the candied pecans, olive tapenade, kale edamame, and a traditional hummus – are included in the line of dips but Mantesso is constantly creating new flavour combinations, often inspired by local and seasonal ingredients, taking full advantage of the best Christmas present he’s ever received, a food processor.

The product line now includes four hummus variations – turmeric, truffle, pumpkin rosemary (seasonal) and beet balsamic (seasonal), in addition to labneh (yogurt dip). They are all vegetarian or vegan.

Mantesso said he now accesses a commercial kitchen, where he works out the recipes over several batches, fine tuning the ingredients.

During one of those days in the kitchen, after ruminating for weeks on a good name for the dips, it was his mom who just walked by casually and interjected, “You should just call it Damn Good Dips.” And that was it.

Mantesso said he loves simple and delicious foods that are easy to throw together.

Having been diagnosed with Crohn’s disease as a young teenager, Mantesso said he has had to learn how to follow a specific diet and live a healthy lifestyle. He has had to switch to a vegetarian diet and has introduced exercise to his routine.

“At the end of the day, I just really wanted to focus on something that could be prepared quickly but is also good for you because I find all too often you’re sacrificing convenience for health,” he said.

Following in his father’s footsteps, Mantesso took hospitality at University of Guelph and said one of his first jobs steered him into the food and beverage side of the business.

Even before the pandemic struck, Mantesso and his fiancée had moved up to Creemore, where his parents live, in order to escape the hustle and bustle of the big city. The company Mantesso was working for had folded and he found himself with time to experiment in the kitchen.

“COVID, and losing my job shortly before that, it kind of helped me rethink what I would like in a job, having a good work-life balance and moving out of Toronto... after enough nudges I took the plunge,” he



Contributed photo

A series of misfortunes positioned **Jeremy Mantesso** to be able to explore his culinary talents resulting in a flourishing business creating Damn Good Dips.

said. “I’ve always liked experimenting with food.”

“At first I was grateful to be able to get out and feel like I was doing something productive or useful rather than being on CERB... and now I really think I have a shot at making this a full-time profession,” said Mantesso.

He said he never really had aspirations of being his own boss or starting his own company but is finding the non-corporate, low-stress work environment, where he is accountable only to himself, is quite empowering.

In the future, Mantesso is looking to expand his line into anything you can dip spread or slather, starting with a new line of compound butters. The first – a garlic, chili, basil – launches Friday.

Damn Good Dips is available at 12 retailers throughout Simcoe County, including Creemore 100 Mile Store and Beaver Rock in Stayner.

Order online at damngooddips.ca. Free delivery in Creemore, Collingwood and Wasaga Beach.

Council approves DC reduction for Huron Tractor

by Trina Berlo

A request for a reduction in development fees for Huron Tractor sparked a Nov. 23 Clearview council discussion about creating a policy on how best to approach such asks in the future.



Barry Burton

The proposal was tabled by Deputy Mayor **Barry Burton** on behalf of the Cashtown Corners business, which is looking to build an 8,019 square foot building at its current location at Airport Road and County Road 9. Four new tech bays would take up 2,000 square feet and the rest of the building would be used for unheated storage.

“In order for Huron Tractor to build their business, they need to offer storage for large combines during service,” reported Burton. “Many of their customers will not bring combines in for servicing if they do not have covered storage.”

He said the building will allow for six new employees, adding to the current 28-person staff.

Burton said Huron Tractor paid \$147,000 in development charges when it built its current facility in 2017, and is looking at close to \$50,000 more for township and county development charges alone for the new build.

Development charges are growth related fees used to help pay for the cost of municipal services to new development, such as roads, transit, water and sewer infrastructure, recreation facilities, fire and police. Discounts are given for job creation, which Huron Tractor did not access during the initial build.

Burton proposed a 40 per cent discount be given to Huron Tractor for the storage portion of the building only, equalling \$6,500, plus an additional \$5,000 for the creation of jobs from 2017 to present. It is assumed that if Clearview approved a reduction in development charges, the County of Simcoe would follow suit, resulting in a further reduction of \$8,250. This would all amount to a total discount of almost \$20,000. The motion carried.

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Creemore artist coordinates student show in Wasaga Beach

Creemore artist, **Sue Miller**, of Mill Street Art Studio, is currently donating time as curator and program coordinator for Stonebridge Art Gallery, operated by The Wasaga Society for the Arts.

She has organized the current student exhibit which includes all grades from the Stayner Collegiate Institute and Collingwood Collegiate Institute secondary schools. There are 35 works of art created by students with some incredible talent and effort.

"Their art teachers have put in a great deal of effort to frame the work and deliver the pieces for this exhibit. It is a must see," said Miller.

The exhibit runs until Jan. 30, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There are multiple exhibits booked into the New Year.

The Stonebridge Art Gallery is a not-for-profit arts organization run by volunteers. The mandate of the gallery is to operate as a public art gallery, showcasing emerging, mid-career and professional regional artists from the South Georgian Bay area and beyond, as well as offer community programming and special exhibits to engage the community. It opened its doors August 1 with a group show



of local artists. Membership is free for artists and they are not charged commissions on the sale of their work.

The gallery is located at 1 Market Lane, Unit 8 (upstairs above Bulk Barn) Stonebridge Plaza, Wasaga Beach.

Find Wasaga Society for the Arts on Facebook or visit www.wasagasocietyforthearts.ca for more information.



Put on those Finishing Touches this Holiday Season



Wishing you and your family a very happy, healthy and colourful holiday season.

Lisa, John, Lindsay, Jenna, Sandra, Shelly, Heather & Fred

Stayner



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Stayner
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ENJOY THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

Spend \$25 or more at any BIA retailer between now and December 18 and

ENTER TO WIN

Over \$1000 in prizes will be distributed.

www.ExperienceCreemore.com

Happy Holidays

Thank you for shopping local this year!

Don't forget Dec. 13 is the deadline if you want us to ship your gifts!

HeirLOOM
142

Lagom 142 Lagom 172

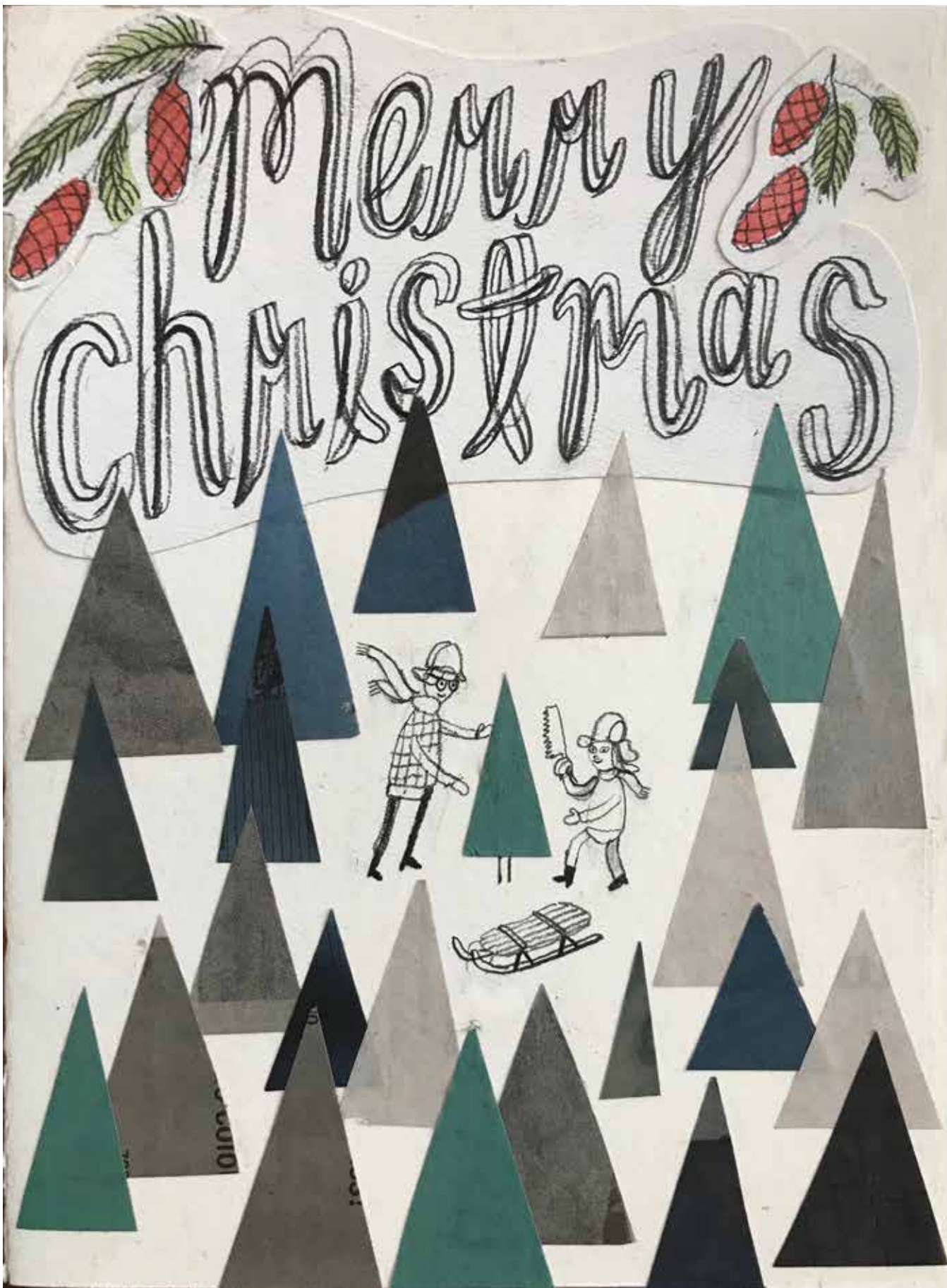
@heirloom142 @lagom142creemore 705-520-0142



CHRISTMAS CARD CHALLENGE!

By Peter Mitchell

Peter Mitchell studied illustration at Sheridan College and worked for many clients including the Globe and Mail, the LA Times, The Boston Globe before turning his focus to fine art and a Blueberry/Strawberry farm in Mulmur.



SUPPLIES: A letter size page of heavy paper - folded in half, a pencil, a gluestick, and triangles of scrap paper. I cut these triangles right out of last week's issue of *The Echo*!

STEP ONE: Cut out 25 or so triangles in a variety of colours and sizes.

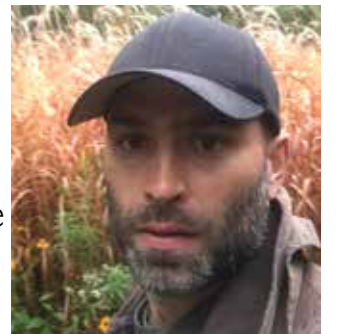
STEP TWO: Write out the title Merry Christmas in your best fancy handwriting. I did this on a separate piece of paper to allow for mistakes, and glue it to the top of the card.

STEP THREE: Lay out your triangles in a pleasing way, leaving one tree in the centre with a bit more space around it. Then glue them down starting from the back so they can overlap each other and the titling.

STEP FOUR: Draw in the characters getting ready to cut down the tree, and the treebows around the titling.

CHECK OUT MY VIDEO

on the Purple Hills Arts and Heritage facebook page for tips, and if you have any questions email me at bench.
mitchell@gmail.com



PURPLE HILLS CHALLENGES YOU TO GET CREATIVE!

This is the first of nine Community Art Projects designed to encourage creativity in people of all ages and abilities. We hope you will give it a try.

COMING SOON! Watch for a new art challenge in every weekly edition of *The Creemore Echo* from Jan. 8 to Feb. 26, 2021. The challenges and their accompanying videos will also be posted on the Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society's Facebook and Instagram feeds.

SUBMIT YOUR FINISHED ART CHALLENGE:

If you would like share your finished art challenge with the community here's how:

POST A PHOTO of your work on your Facebook or Instagram feed. Make sure you use the tag #CreemoreArtChallenge and tag Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society.

EMAIL an image of your work to sara.sniderhan@gmail.com.

DROP BY THE ECHO with your original to be scanned by staff.

We will print one or two participant works each week in *The Creemore Echo*.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

If you have any questions or comments about this project please email Sara Sniderhan at sara.sniderhan@gmail.com

Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society (PHAHS) and the Community Art Project would like to express a sincere thanks for the ongoing support by the community which makes our activities possible. We couldn't do it without you!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A CREATIVE NEW YEAR FROM PHAHS!



The Creemore Echo took a big load of food donations, along with gift cards and cash, to the Clearview-Stayner Food Bank on Dec. 8. Pictured is **Natalie de Ruiter** with food bank volunteer **David Scott**. Donations of food, toys, toiletries and gift cards are welcome until Dec. 18, at our Caroline Street West office. The toys will be distributed to area children-in-need by County of Simcoe paramedics as part of their annual toy drive.

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NEW LISTING • 14 Elizabeth St W Creemore • \$1,899,900 • MLS 40043832 • This Century House Has Been Completely Renovated From Top To Bottom Both Inside & Out & Has A New 2-Storey Addition. 4 Bdrms & 2.5 Bth, 2717 sqft. Top-Of-The-Line Finishes, Design & Workmanship. Brand New Custom-Built Gourmet Kitchen W/Built-In S/S Appl, Quartz Counters, Island W/Seating. Rough Sawn French Oak Flrs Thru-Out, W/High Ceilings & Led Pot Lights. Wrap-Around Covered Deck. Private Backyard Oasis W/Pond, Hot Tub, Raised Gardens, Patio Area, A Studio That Is Fully Insulated & Heated.



NEW LISTING • 6685 12/13 Nottawasaga Sideroad, Clearview • \$1,375,000 • MLS 40041995 • Escarpment & Sunset Views! Four Bedroom Home With Panoramic Views Of The Neighbouring Country Side From Every Window. Bright Open Concept Plan Is Welcoming & Full Of Sunshine, Double Sided Wood F/P, Patio Doors To The Deck, Huge Backyard & In-Ground Salt Water Pool. Custom Built Ranch Bungalow Sits On A Private 7.8 Acres Surrounded By Farmland & Mature Trees. Newly Built 1200Sqft Heated Workshop W/ In-Floor Heat, A/C, Icf, 266 Sqft Loft, 336 Sqft Carport. In-Law Capability.



NEW LISTING • 27 Dove Cres. Barrie • \$1,095,000 Escarpment Sunset Views! Nestled In One Of Barrie's Most Sought-After Areas, This 4500 Fin. Sq.Ft. Home In Wildwood Estates Is Ideal For Family Living. Highlights Include A New Stunning Kitchen with S/S Appliances, New Bathrooms, Fully-Finished Walkout Lower Level, Plus a Triple Car Garage. Truly a Must See!



9093 6/7 Nottawasaga SdRd Clearview \$3,900,000 • MLS 40032253
 100 south facing acres with big panoramic views of the Noisy River Provincial Park. This property features rolling hills, a mixture of beautiful meadows & pastures w/a spring fed pond & creek flowing through the woodlot on the southern & eastern boundaries. The property has two driveways, one leads to the workshop, perfect for storage or a building site, the other heads to the main house and barn. Snowshoe, cross country ski or hike from your back door to the nearby Bruce Trail. Where ever you are on this property, the views from here are breathtaking.



329824 3rd Concession, Singhampton \$1,075,000 • MLS 40033112
 Welcome Home to this Beautiful Country Property just south of Singhampton in the scenic Grey Highlands. Set on 5.5 acres, with over 2000sq ft., this stunning open concept, light filled bungalow has been meticulously maintained and has so much to offer. Finished basement with separate entrance, 3 plus 1 bdrms, 3 baths, inground pool, hot tub. The property also comes with an amazing separate heated workshop, suitable for a business or hobbyist.



178 Mill St. Creemore • \$1,288,000 • MLS 40032349
 Great Investment Property in Desirable Downtown Creemore. Centrally located on the beautiful main street, this turn of the century building offers both Retail and Residential opportunities. Totally renovated in 2006, the building contains 2 restored retail store fronts, 2 top end apartments with 4 parking spots. Leases are currently in place with great long term tenants.



150 Mill St. Creemore • NEW PRICE \$699,900 • MLS 40026085
 Well maintained Century building situated in the centre of desirable Creemore. This building offers character and history. Licensed for 40 people inside and an additional 14 on the seasonal patio. The spacious apartment above offers 3 ample sized bedrooms, 2 full baths, en-suite laundry, open concept family & dining area & a bright spacious kitchen w/original brick accent wall!



Katrina Elliston
 C: 705.309.5564 • O: 705.520.5000
 kelliston@sothebysrealty.ca

LETTER

Many ways to engage with church community

(Continued from page 4)

We therefore ask of you three things: first, to tell us of your own needs or those of anyone else within your circle of knowledge; second, to accept whenever possible our invitation to join us in our online services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. There is a standing Zoom meeting, ID 835 8653 4125 with password 274538. You may join on-line with or without video or by phone at 647-374-3685 or 647-558-0588.

Lastly, we ask specifically for your financial support. Most non-member recipients of this letter will have been with us in recent times though a special service like Christmas, or perhaps a baptism or a funeral for a relative or friend. At those times you have supported us. We need that support to continue if we are to be an effective part of our community. If able, your one-time or staggered donation will let us increase our relief fund and the scope of actions to assist.

We will be offering PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance by Debit from your bank account) commencing in January. You can sign up at any time throughout the year once the program is in effect. Tax receipts will be issued after year end. If you wish to use e-transfer or have your donation picked up, or are interested in participating in the PAR program,

contact our Treasurer Karen Davidson-Lock at lavenderwest@gmail.com or 705-466-2260.

We give thanks to each of you for your encouragement, ideas, participation, and financial support in the past, right now and in future weeks.

- Gayle Millsap
- Bill McLeod
- Keith Mantesso
- Marilyn Steed



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Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 11

FRED'S FUNNIES

My wife: How many presents did you get wrapped?

Me [proudly]: Four.

Wife: In an hour?

Me: They were oddly shaped.

Canadian Criss Cross

December 11, 2020

- ACROSS**
1. Go ahead of
 5. Have a high opinion of
 9. Nightclothes, briefly
 12. Say hoarsely
 13. Dwarf planet beyond Pluto
 14. Make a long tear in
 15. Two-masted sailing vessel
 16. Old record player
 18. What a glacier is a large mass of
 20. NFL team
 21. Tight-fitting garment
 25. Japanese model and actress Okamoto
 26. ___ guitar
 27. Lasting forever
 31. Faucet problem
 33. Born
 34. Canadian singer Murray
 35. Person accused
 38. Variety of lettuce
 39. Zodiac sign
 40. Fourth epoch of the tertiary period
 42. Made thin by hammering
 45. Plaything
 46. Childish
 48. It is worn around your waist
 52. Good-for-nothing
 53. David Bowie's widow
 54. One of the Great Lakes
 55. Compass direction
 56. Is unable to
 57. Marsh plant

- DOWN**
1. Force open by levering
 2. Narrow shoe width size

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
				18	19		20					
21	22	23				24		25				
26				27			28				29	30
31			32		33				34			
35				36				37		38		
			39			40			41			
42	43				44		45					
46						47			48	49	50	51
52				53					54			
55				56					57			

3. Compass point
4. Divide along the length, as wood
5. Member of the clergy
6. Canadian actor Millen
7. Spasmodic muscle contractions
8. Landed property
9. Speak correctly
10. Desert a loved one without warning
11. Mineral springs
17. Lariat
19. Toy gun explosive
21. Canadian who plays for the Islanders
22. Gaelic name for Ireland
23. National banner of France in the middle Ages
24. Be in a reverie

28. Feeling regret for one's sins
29. Soon
30. ___-majesty
32. Katniss's partner in "The Hunger Games"
36. Relating to the mind
37. Excessively
41. Relatiing to computers, especially the Internet
42. Young children wear them, when eating
43. Australian birds
44. ___ Falls (waterfall in Kootenay National Park, British Columbia)
47. Was in charge of
49. Before
50. Recline
51. Spread out freshly cut grass for drying

Winter evenings were spent skating on the mill pond

Every time I drive down Collingwood Street and pass the arena I feel very sad. Ice time in Creemore has always filled our winters with a great deal of fun. I have spent many happy hours skating there but I know there are others who have spent more time there than I have.

In one way or another Creemore people have always found ice to skate

on and perhaps this winter someone will flood an area and the skates will come out again.

The first record that comes down to us tells us of skating on the mill pond which was on the south side of the river at the end of Mill Street. The mill was a busy spot. A bridge crossed the river there to make easy access. People also skated on the river which

frequently had a smooth coating of ice. The mills upstream would let water out of their dams to run the mills in daytime, the rising water then flowing over the ice. There are stories of skating to and from Avening.

Winter evenings were spent skating on the mill pond in the era of 1900 and possibly before. The boys were good skaters and tried to teach the girls to skate. Some evenings two men, one of them Andy Johnston, provided mandolin and guitar music.

This was where people skated until in 1903-1904 an open rink was run by George Hinds on the lot between what is now Victorian Values and the former Creemore Kitchen. It was sold in 1905 to Mr. Elias Leonard of Sovereign Hotel fame. The lot was purchased for \$200, a big price for land at that time.

Mr. Leonard built a large, long wooden building with a north side alley way, two dressing rooms, one for the ladies, one for the men, and at the west side of the arena, fairly high off the ground, a room which was called the band room. Mr. Leonard and his wife, who was a beautiful skater, ran the rink for many years. Mr. Dave Nicol rented it. Children paid ten cents plus one cent tax.

The above information comes to us from the unpublished memoirs of Pansy Benelle written in 1966. Pansy lived at the north end of Mill Street.

Wallace Timmons, writing to *The Creemore Star* in 1978, remembers that this rink was closed in the early 1920s and that Dave Nicol was still in charge at that time. He recalls, "I learned to play hockey in the old rink and Bill Emmett was the coach...They had a costume party every winter and skating every Saturday night and it was crowded. It was a very narrow rink and one was apt to get squeezed along the boards."

The carnivals were very popular events. Lengthy reports came from

The Creemore Star. They were sometimes delayed for a week while ice conditions improved. In 1908, 94 people dressed in costumes, wearing masks for part of the evening were reported attending. Others attended as well but

were not allowed on the ice until the judging was done. Prizes were given for the best dressed man, woman, boy, girl, and for comic costumes, for the best pair of skaters and for races.

The skaters swirled around the ice to the accompaniment of Creemore Civic Band. Much creativity was shown. There were the Goddess of Liberty, Red Riding Hood, Dutch girl, midshipman, Red Cross nurse, King of Diamonds and jockeys.

Miss Benelle, in her memoirs, recalled many happy hours as a girl on the rink. "I'm sure I spent hundreds of hours skating there. Often Mina Stacey and I would leave home soon after 7 p.m., go to the rink, sit on the snowbank and change our footwear to skates and would be the first on the ice when the doors opened at 7:30. By the time our usual skating pals arrived we were getting tired, but we were often the last ones to leave and how we loved to do square corners." (That is when the skaters swooped into the corners rather than cutting them off by skating in a curve). The east half of the rink had a wooden floor and in the summer we roller skated. This was called the roller rink.

All of this came to an unhappy end in 1922 when the rink was closed and all the equipment taken out. If I had been alive then I would have been devastated. But I have learned over my lifetime that the people in Creemore can arise to any difficulty. And that is what I will write about next month.

Helen Blackburn is a retired teacher, avid gardener and a long-time contributor to The Creemore Echo. She writes about local history.

LOCAL HISTORY



Helen BLACKBURN



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CREEMORE HILLS WINERY COVID Prices – Wine: White or Red, \$20; Honey: \$20. For pre-arranged pick-up or delivery Call/Text 647-588-8931. Email cmorrissey0708@rogers.com.

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FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS at Affairs Bakery & Cafe. Enjoy beer battered halibut, crispy fries and homemade coleslaw. Take-out only. Call 705-466-5621.

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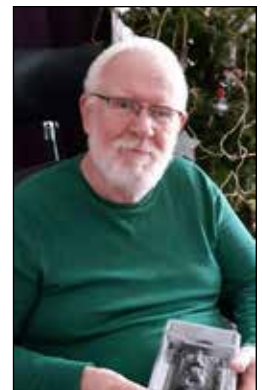
CUSTOM SNOW BLOWING in Creemore and surrounding areas. Contact Al 705-305-4420.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GERTIE!

To help celebrate **Gertie Gowan's** 90th birthday please assemble in the Creemore arena parking lot on Saturday, Dec. 19 by 10:45 a.m. with the hopes of pulling out by 11 a.m.

*'Twas a very good year, nineteen thirty
When a December babe was born, her name was Gertie.
A loyal and proud Creemoreite,
she can't be beat
Her accolades are many, which is no small feat.
She's known near and far for her kind, generous ways
Her cakes, muffins, cards have brightened numerous friends' days!
The time has flown quickly and we are happy to say
We plan to mark this, her special 90th birthday.
A social distanced car parade would be her delight
Honking vehicles, waving hands, smiling faces would be a sight!
We hope you can drive by to help celebrate
Please mark your calendar to save the date.*

DEATH NOTICE



LOMATH, Peter Royston age 75 passed away in Creemore, Ont. on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020. Peter was born in Hornchurch, in Essex, England on Nov. 30, 1945 to Hazel and Ronald Lomath. Peter is survived by his loving wife, Felicity and brother David who still lives in England. He was predeceased by his daughter Tabatha and will be sadly missed by his children Karen, Stefan (Gina) and Sandei (Fergus) along with his grandchildren, Emily, Fiona and Jude. Peter attended Maidstone Boys Technical School and completed his apprenticeship with Tannoy Engineering in 1963 before immigrating to Canada in 1966. He cherished his family and friends and was a keen amateur genealogist and astronomer. The family would like to thank all the wonderful friends and neighbours along with the nurses at Saint Elizabeth's, Dr. Holloway and Dr. Boyd for their support and help in the final days. In honour of Peter, donations in his behalf can be made to the Salvation Army or a charity of your choice. Arrangements entrusted to Drury Funeral Centre, 705-435-3535.

IN MEMORIAM



In memory of **George Ransier** who passed away Dec. 13, 2010.

Memory is a loving thing,
It lasts the longest day,
It can never be spent,
Never be lent,
Never be taken away.

Miss you Dad.
Bob Betty and Grant

In loving memory of **Marion Priddle** (June 14, 1930 - Dec 17, 2012).

The world may change from year to year,

And friends from day to day,
But never will the Mom we loved
From memory pass away.

Sadly missed and loved always by
Brian & Marj, Karen and our families.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
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(54) YEARS**

We do colour copies! And we do faxes!

The Creemore Echo
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This week's answers

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

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

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This holiday season needs to be different.

The safest way to celebrate indoors is only with the people who live in your home. People who live alone can get together only with one other home.

Gatherings with friends and extended family can carry an increased risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Consider celebrating outdoors or virtually with others that are not part of your household.

Know the gathering limits in your area before you choose to entertain with family and friends indoors. Indoor gatherings are not permitted in regions in Grey-Lockdown.

For all gatherings with anyone you do not live with:

- maintain 2 metres physical distance
- wear a face covering
- avoid potlucks or shared utensils
- ensure everyone washes hands regularly, including before and after meals

Self-isolate if you are sick, even if your symptoms are mild and ask guests to stay home if they feel unwell.

Follow provincial and local public health advice to keep you and your loved ones safe this holiday.

Stopping the spread, starts... with you.

Visit ontario.ca/celebratesafely to learn more.

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Stayner Santa tour continues

The Stayner Kinsmen Club's Santa tour continues this weekend in Stayner.

This weekend, Santa will tour the North West Quadrant on Dec. 11 (North of County 91 to Stayner Arena, West of Hwy 26 to Industrial St.) and the South West Quadrant on Dec. 12 (South of County 91 to Margaret, West of County Rd. 42 to Stayner Rental.)

Watch for Santa Claus as he tours on his sleigh from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Please respect physical distancing and wave to Santa from a distance during the tour. Members of the Kinsmen Club are Santa's helpers and will be collecting monetary donations for the Clearview-Stayner Food Bank along the route.

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Clearview Township stretches south from the shores of Georgian Bay, in the heartland of one of Ontario's most beautiful recreation areas - just a 90 minute drive from Toronto. The region has a long history as one of Ontario's favourite tourist and vacation destinations, attracting over 2 million visitors annually. Clearview offers all of the modern urban amenities with the attractiveness and friendly charm of rural quality of life.

Reporting to the Mayor and Council, the CAO will contribute leadership, strategy, direction and enthusiasm to a staff of 120 while managing a budget in the order of \$35 million. You will work closely with the Mayor and Council and the senior management team to refine the vision and strategy; implement a community based strategic plan, establish targets and standards of performance and engage the organization to deliver the highest calibre of services to the community. You will utilize your passion and good judgement to ensure that capital, human resources and business processes are aligned and in place. Engage the organization, while embedding yourself into the community, to deliver the highest calibre of municipal services.

As an exceptional communicator, politically astute and visionary leader, you have a proven record of achieving organizational, administrative, financial, client service and change management excellence. You are highly regarded as an inclusive relationship builder that places great value on earning the confidence of others through leveraging diversity, team building, community engagement and nurturing strong external partnerships with stakeholders. You have a history of inspiring others with a shared enthusiasm for results and accountability.

You are a CAO or senior executive in a municipality or other complex organization with diverse stakeholders. You foster excellence in others and are known for your ability to motivate, mentor and lead with respect, honesty and fairness. Work with the Mayor and Council and a highly skilled and dedicated workforce to create an even better place to live and work.

To explore this exciting opportunity in confidence, send a detailed resume to Organization Consulting Limited at CAOClearview@oclsearch.ca or contact Robert Johnston, President, at 416-385-9975. Closing date is December 21st.