

The Creemore ECHO

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News and views in and around Creemore

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Publications Mail Agreement # 40024973

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Santa Claus, first to get COVID-19 vaccine

Old St. Nick cleared for take-off

by Cookie Frosting

The North Pole is confirming that **Santa Claus** was the first in the world to receive the vaccine for COVID-19 and has been cleared for international travel.

The Echo has learned that Claus received the vaccine months ago during an early trial in order to ensure that he would be able to go on his pre-Christmas world tour, which include stops in Creemore and Stayner.

The news leaked out in the midst of controversy as some health organization insiders are claiming favouritism.

World Health Organization officials are defending their decision to approve Claus for the early trial saying he met all the criteria and was an invaluable test subject.

The information was not made public but was one of the factors that informed the decision of Canada's chief medical officer of health **Theresa Tam** and Premier **Doug Ford** to declare Claus an essential service.

North Pole District Health Unit medical officer of health Dr. **Candie Kane** said Claus' age alone qualifies him for the vaccine.

"After careful consideration, it was determined that given Mr. Claus is almost 2,000 years old and lives in a northern community where there is a congregate care setting for retired elves, he should be given priority," said Kane. "Especially, given his Christmas duties when he is required to travel extensively and visit every single home on the planet."

Kane admitted that little research had been done on the elves to see if their species is at risk of contracting COVID-19 but no one wanted to take any chances. The elves work in close quarters and although there have been no cases of COVID-19 reported in



North Pole District Health Unit photo

Health officials confirm **Santa Claus** was the first in the world to get the COVID-19 vaccine, during a top secret early trial, to ensure he would be cleared for travel at Christmastime.

the region, given its insular nature, everyone involved wanted to take the utmost precautions to avoid a workplace outbreak at the toy factory.

It was acknowledged that with Claus leaving the compound to visit children there was a risk he could introduce the virus to the North Pole. Again, it is not known if the elves' magic that surrounds Claus and gives him his special abilities would be enough to protect him from the virus.

"Mr. Claus is human, after all," said Kane. "But after having lived

for so long among the elves, he has obviously been altered on a molecular level in ways our doctors aren't aware of."

Even though Claus is now protected from the virus, strict protocols are still in place as a precaution to all. Personal protective equipment will be worn and North Pole officials are asking that families leave out hand sanitizer beside the milk and cookies. Families are also reminded to include only household members for feasting and carolling.

The vaccine is good news for the Simcoe-Muskoka region, which is going into lockdown, putting into place higher levels of restrictions.

In an official statement Claus said, "This vaccine is the best gift I could have asked for. It will allow me to complete my duties and bring joy to children around the world, at a time when it is needed most... It's true, we weren't sure how we were going to pull this off but I am now confident I can complete my duties safely. Ho Ho Ho."

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Maggie Sears (left) and **Marnie Hillier** have made more than \$500 for St. Luke's Anglican Church's benevolent fund selling handmade ornaments. Both crafters were looking for a good cause to support during the pandemic and landed on the church's fund. They have been making felted and knitted ornaments and selling them on social media, and at *The Creemore Echo's* Newsstand.

Province goes into lockdown

Ski hills close, students learn online during January lockdown

A provincial wide lockdown comes into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 26.

The restrictions will remain in effect in many health units, including Simcoe-Muskoka, until at least Jan. 23.

During the lockdown Ontarians are being told to stay home to the fullest extent possible. Trips outside of the home should be limited to essential purposes such as accessing health care, medication, grocery shopping, child care, and physical activity.

Close contact should be limited to the immediate household. Families should not visit any other household or allow visitors in their homes. Individuals who live alone and single parents may consider having exclusive, close contact with another household to help reduce the negative impacts of social isolation. Travel outside the region should be limited to only essential purposes.

Indoor organized public events and social gatherings are not allowed, except with members of the same household, and outdoor organized public events and social gatherings, are limited to 10 people outdoors.

Restaurants are still able to provide take-out, drive-through, and delivery, including the sale of alcohol.

Supermarkets, convenience stores, indoor farmers' markets and other stores that primarily sell food, pharmacies, and alcohol retail stores are permitted to open. Other retailers are allowed to provide curbside pick-up or delivery only.

Ski hills will be closed but outdoor ice rinks, snowmobile, cross country skiing, ice-skating and snow-shoe trails, playgrounds, tobogganing hills and skating trails are permitted to stay open.

Instead of returning to school after the Christmas break as planned, elementary and secondary school students at publicly-funded schools will participate in remote learning from Jan. 4-8. Elementary school students could return to school on Jan. 11, but high school students will continue learning remotely until Jan. 25. Child care will remain open.

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COVID-19 vaccine clinic opens for priority people

by Trina Berlo

The first local COVID-19 vaccine was administered to a long-term care worker in Barrie on Tuesday.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is leading the “historic and complex” immunization roll out across Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka in partnership with Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre and the City of Barrie.

SMDHU nurses will administer the vaccine to a limited number of prioritized people beginning with long-term care healthcare workers. The vaccine will not be broadly available to the general public until sometime in 2021 and it is expected it will take another six to nine months to immunize all Ontarians who opt to get the vaccine.

“This is wonderful news for all of us and cause for real optimism, but it is a complex endeavour,” said Dr. **Charles Gardner**, SMDHU’s medical officer of health. “It will take some time for us, working together with our partners, to roll out mass immunization for all of our residents who want it.”

“In the meantime it is critical that we don’t let our guard down,” he said. “We must continue to practice those public health measures that will keep us and our loved ones safe until we are all able to be vaccinated. Wear a mask, physically distance from those outside our households, wash your hands frequently, stay home if sick and get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms, are still critical to reducing and preventing transmission of the virus.”

An initial allocation of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will soon be distributed to Simcoe Muskoka, with more to arrive in the weeks ahead.

At this time it will only be offered by invitation and appointment to priority groups, which include: residents, staff, essential caregivers, and employees of long-term care homes and retirement homes; health care workers, including hospital employees, other staff who work or study in hospitals, and other health care personnel; adults in Indigenous communities, including remote communities where risk of transmission is high; and adult recipients of chronic home health care.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, approved by Health Canada on Dec. 9 and supported to be safe and effective by very robust scientific data and evidence, must be stored at temperatures below -70°C which RVH has the infrastructure to support. As additional vaccines are approved by Health Canada, vaccination and distribution will be expanded.

“This is the most significant and complex immunization effort in modern medicine, and although the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine is an important milestone, the distribution of the COVID vaccine is extremely complex,” said **Janice Skot**, RVH’s president and chief executive officer. “Although hospital workers have been identified as a priority population, limited availability of the Pfizer vaccine means that hospital staff and physicians won’t be vaccinated until January. But after a tough nine months, there’s hope that our lives can begin to get back to normal in late 2021.”

The immunization clinic will share the same building, but separate space, with RVH’s COVID-19 testing and assessment centre, with 24/7 security



A health unit nurse administered the first Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine this week to **Lori Black**, a Barrie-based personal services worker on the frontline caring for vulnerable seniors at Victoria Village long-term care home. She is among the first priority group to be immunized by invitation only in the first phase of the roll out at the COVID-19 Immunization Clinic.

on site.

For more information, visit the health unit’s website at simcoemuskokahealth.org or call

Health Connection at 705-721-7520 (1-877-721-7520). More information about the vaccine and immunization can also be found at ontario.ca.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome, 2021

Yes, 2020 sucked. To this year we say, don't get a paper cut as we flip the page on the calendar. Good riddance and all that.

Although it's safe to say we are hoping for a little predictability in 2021, we can't help but see how Creemore has real potential to emerge from the pandemic, stronger and better than ever.

If we are cognisant of not slipping back into our old ways, the community can maintain and build on some of the cohesiveness that has developed during the year – community support, shopping locally and connecting with those far away. We know from our own new and improved habits and trends in stationery, that people are writing letters and sending packages this year because they can't visit. It is a wonderful thing to receive a handwritten note or a little something in the mail.

People are also shopping locally like never before. Not only is it unappealing to travel if it isn't absolutely necessary, but shopping in Creemore during the pandemic has been by far the most pleasant experience. There have been line-ups but they have been well managed and the people queuing up are often quite courteous. There have been many trips to big box stores that have resulted in people turning around, deciding to shop in Clearview.

We hope that in 2021 we can resurrect many of the local events we love, or initiate new ones. The truth is that the pandemic has given volunteer organizations a bit of a break, and a chance to reassess their operations. Creemore was built on volunteerism but we were experiencing a bit of burn-out. Everyone wanted to come out to the party but the hosts were getting a little tired of doing the heavy lifting and worrying about garbage cans.

We are all terribly sick of the word "unprecedented" but it works if we apply it to the future when we hope to see unprecedented rejuvenation of community spirit, renewal and participation.

There are a lot of new people in the community, and more on the way. They are most welcome and we hope they bring new energy and an appreciation for what has happened in Creemore over the last two or three decades to make the village what it is today. Some of you won't remember when there were no gourmet restaurants and lovely cafes. Knowing how far we have come changes one's perspective.

We feel very fortunate to call this place home. To be able to work here – especially now that more people are working from home – and to be surrounded by a beautiful landscape, with an extensive trail network to explore.

At the risk of sounding too positive about the pandemic, we know it has been hard and we have done our fair share of grumbling, jaw clenching, and even some crying, but when we examine the outcomes of this past year there have been some unforeseen positives. We are clinging to those hoping they propel us into a New Year full of social gatherings and a renewed sense of community.

THE WAY WE WERE



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John Wiggins cartoon

Elves forced to take a break from community Christmas dinner

Friends and fellow elves:

Seasons Greetings! It took a while, but it is starting to look and feel a lot more like Christmas.

I am sorry to say that this year the Creemore Community Christmas Dinner is cancelled as the government's pandemic response continues to tighten.

While I write this and look back on last year, I realize I should be in a happy flurry of organizing right now, talking to elf volunteers, sourcing cards, food, gifts, and my favourite – decorations. Yet this year when we need our community the most, when we most miss being with a variety of smiling friendly people, we cannot gather together. That does make me a little sad.

I look back at last year's event and think about the great time that we had, with fantastic food, good conversation and such a festive hall. The nutcrackers will be disappointed not to be taken out of the box this year. Last year we hosted 96 people and delivered 11 meals, feeding a total of 107 people. Leftover food is taken to the David Busby Street Centre in Barrie and non-perishable items collected at the door were taken to The Salvation Army's Hope Acres Addiction Treatment Centre in Glencairn.

Typically, the Creemore Community Christmas Dinner attracts a wide range of people: volunteers who love to cook; others who love to shop or decorate; empty nesters whose children are away; grandparents whose family gatherings are on another day; people new to town; families that need greater table space; and people who simply enjoy being with their neighbours on a festive occasion. After talking to a few key elf volunteers, and acknowledging that

the food is always fantastic thanks to our elves in the kitchen (but not the elf on the shelf) and our baker elves, we agreed that the act of making food for take-out was not really the point of the event.

Rather than fret over ever changing rules and regs, we decided to look at this year as a well-deserved rest for all of us, making it a time to reflect on a cherished event and an opportunity to appreciate it all the more next year when we once again gather as neighbours and friends.

Happily, there is no rule requiring us to celebrate Christmas in the same way every year. Variety is the spice of life (make it Santa cinnamon)!

And time does fly. This would have been our 20th dinner and it has already been five years since I launched the website www.CreemoreChristmas.ca and I just renewed it for another 10 years.

Our finances are in good shape. Some expense will be incurred this year for the website and correspondence. There is enough money in the bank to fund one full dinner. Should you want to support the dinner for upcoming years funds can be deposited to the "Community Christmas Dinner" account at TD Bank (#23202 5202657) or by e-transfer to CreemoreChristmasElf@gmail.com. Thank you for all that you do.

I look forward to the year 2021 anticipating that it will be better and planning to enjoy it even more after a quiet 2020. I hope you savour this holiday season as we wrap up a very interesting year.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Donna Baylis,
 The Creemore Christmas Elf.

The Creemore
ECHO
www.creemore.com



The Creemore Echo is independently owned and operated.



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Plan for County Road 91, seriously flawed

Editor:

Finally, a hearing date of Feb. 24, has been set for a pre-conference hearing to jointly hear both the Clearview Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) amendment, required if the reconstruction of Clearview Sideroad 26/27 is to go forward, and Clearview Road 91, formerly Simcoe Country Road 91, to be closed and transferred to Walker's Industry Ltd.

The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust wrote to *The Creemore Echo* on Dec. 1, 2018 with respect to our concerns on what Clearview is planning to do and we feel this update would be of interest to your readers.

Clearview made their first application to the Niagara Escarpment Commission for approval to reconstruct Sideroad 26/27 in January of 2014.

This application was refused by the Niagara Escarpment Commission on Nov. 27, 2015 by a vote of 12-1 and appealed by Clearview. In preparing for the appeal of their development application their consultants discovered additional wetlands within the Sideroad 26/27 requiring an amendment of the NEP to allow construction of the road. The following are the reasons given:

- The road project does not meet the test of "essential" as alternatives were not taken into consideration, a requirement of lands zoned as

Escarpment Natural Area and a requirement of amending the Niagara Escarpment Plan required by the discovery of additional wetlands within the road allowance.

- A tunnel under County Road 91 was provided making the case for reconstructing Sideroad 26/27 as "essential" not the case.

- Further development of the road would offend the objectives of the Niagara Escarpment's two most sensitive land use designations i.e., Escarpment Natural and Escarpment Protection Areas.

- Further development of the road would cause environmental harm to cold-water streams and steep escarpment slopes and the endangered species known to be present.

- This summer Clearview repaved County Road 91.

- The proposed reconstruction of Sideroad 26/27 does not allow commercial vehicles over five tonnes to use it.

- Large farm equipment will need to find alternate routes in moving to fields up or down the escarpment.

- Aggregate suppliers other than Walker will be made less competitive because of the added distance to their customers.

- Reconstruction impacts the environment and endangered species found in and around the Sideroad

26/27 road allowance. This is not the case if County Road 91 is not closed.

- Alternatives need to be studied, there are other viable options available that should be considered if a proper schedule of Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) had of been followed in the first place. This is the purpose of the MCEA process and would have consulted with the public and addressed the issues in a far more fair, timely and cost-effective manner. It is also a requirement of a NEP amendment.

We submit what Clearview is proposing is seriously flawed and in no way comparable to County Road 91, a major intercounty road that has served the area for over a 100 years.

It only benefits Clearview and Walker Industries Ltd. It ignores the impact on the adjacent municipalities and Grey Highlands and traffic up and down the Bruce Peninsula. It is a questionable transfer of public land to the private sector.

The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust needs the support of your readership in following through with the hearing and to find additional funding to continue this important effort.

George Powell,

Vice Chair Watershed Action Group
Blue Mountain Watershed Trust
Foundation.

Climate Action Challenge

The New Year is a great time to de-clutter


by Sherri Jackson

If you're anything like me, January makes you feeling all purgery – that's a new word I just invented. It means wanting to get rid of all the cluttered stuff in your house as quickly as possible. With the December rush now finished, we're heading into January with a similar mindset. Less buying stuff. More clean living. Less clutter. More connection. Once you get rid of some old junk, you'll realize how much space you have to breathe easier. And we're going to help you do it this month.

Unlike Marie Condo, who asks you to hold each item carefully and see if it "sparks joy," my approach is "impulsively discard it, before you can regret it." If I held everything I had to see if it sparked joy, I would have a closet full of clothes for a life that I don't actually have, and the stuff I need (like my scuzzy painting pants), would be history. So, Marie, you seem like a lovely lady, but, I'm taking a pass on the sparking joy thing. We're going to look at things a bit differently, and see where we can avoid buying new things, and stay focused on living more authentically.

So hello 2021 – let's roll up our sleeves and get busy!

(See "Delete" on page 9)



Church Directory

December 27, 2020

CENTENNIAL UNITED CHURCH IN STAYNER

No services on Jan. 3 and Jan. 10. Online worship will resume Jan. 17 live-streamed to Facebook at 10:30 a.m.

Uploaded to Centennial United Stayner YouTube Channel Sunday afternoon.

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Foundation embarks on visioning for Creemore

by Trina Berlo

As construction of the Village Green project continues, its proponents, the Creemore Community Foundation, is setting its sights on the future, asking how it can invest in the community.

“The Foundation now has to start looking at what it’s going to do next, how it wants to invest in the future in Creemore and in the area” said Creemore Community Foundation director **Stuart Lazier**. “From our perspective, we wanted to do a survey to really find out how the Foundation can contribute to the vitality of the community, and the vitality of Mill Street. That’s really what it’s all about. How are we going to be investing in the community tomorrow?”

The foundation has engaged Small, the same agency that led the community input sessions for the Village Green project, to help establish “a vision for Creemore?”

Lazier said the results of that visioning will also be used to inform this round.

The steering committee is chaired by **Greg Young** (CARA) and includes Lazier, **Laurie Severn** (BIA), **Sara Sniderhan**, **Rob Green** (CORE) and **Michael Emory** (CEO and Founder of Allied Properties REIT), who has knowledge about heritage buildings and has been instrumental in rejuvenating parts of cities across the country, said Lazier.

In addition to a 30-question survey that is currently being circulated, there



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

As construction of Village Green progresses, Creemore Community Foundation is expanding its scope by creating "a vision for Creemore".

have been several virtual meetings with stakeholders from the agricultural, business and community sectors and a number of one-on-one interviews with politicians, township staff, and key influencers.

“All with the goal of trying to put together a plan at the end that will be a real action plan,” said Lazier... “What really needs to happen in this village to create sustainable vitality for our community?”

He said they are trying to reach a large cross section of the community,

at a time when in-person meetings are not allowed.

The survey asks about events, amenities, the designation of heritage buildings, downtown beautification, and agritourism.

“The whole point is that we have a plan and that it’s carefully thought out and put together by people who are smart. Obviously the plan will change over time and evolve,” said Lazier.

Although the vision is more of a big picture plan, the results may also inform what events could take place at

the new Village Green. In the spring, the Foundation is hiring a full-time programmer to look after operations there. Lazier said he hopes the park will be done at the end of June, and already many of the elements are coming together at the site beside Foodland.

The deadline to reply to the survey is Jan. 4.

The survey is available online at www.creemorecommunityfoundation.ca and hard copies may be available at some essential businesses that are open during the lockdown.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from your friends & Family at Foodland!

HOLIDAY Store Hours

Thurs. Dec. 24: 8 am - 5 pm
 Fri. Dec. 25: Closed
 Sat. Dec. 26: 9 am - 6 pm
 Sun. Dec 27: 8 am - 8 pm
 Mon. Dec. 28: 8 am - 8 pm
 Tues. Dec. 29: 8 am - 8 pm
 Wed. Dec. 30: 8 am - 8 pm
 Thurs. Dec. 31: 8 am - 6 pm
 Fri. Jan. 1: Closed

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Above: **Betty Serino** is one of the winners of the BIA's #CreemoreLovesXmas social media draw of Christmas in the Valley participants. Serino and **Alicia Lawson** both won a \$75 gift certificate for Creemore BIA businesses. **Murray Skinkle** also won the same for his stationary float.

Top left: BIA treasurer **Sara Hershoff** presents a gift basket to **Susie Cosack**, one of the winners of the local shopping draw. **Pippa Rouse** (left), **Larry MacDonald**, **Susan Walker**, and **Sandra Pellico** are also winners.

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Libraries revert to curbside service

Shannon Lougheed and Herald the Library Dragon (pictured) will be “popping” Clearview Public Library’s balloon Christmas tree behind locked doors due to the province’s decision to move Southern Ontario into lockdown.

LIBRARY NEWS



Michele McKENZIE

This meet-up program on Zoom is open to the general public who are interested in practicing their Spanish speaking skills in a friendly and informal online environment starting Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 1 p.m. Elizabeth Alvarez (staff and host) will send a

meeting invitation to the email address that you provide at registration at www.clearview.library.on.ca.

If you wish to order your list of books, movies and music by telephone, please call one of the branches: Creemore (705-466-3011), New Lowell (705-424-6288) and/or Stayner (705-428-3595). The staff in all three branches are more than happy to provide suggestions or to organize a 'Blind Date with a Book' package for you.

As we depart 2020 to enter 2021 and the world of hibernation (next step up from living in the hermitage), please take this opportunity to learn something new or to take comfort in a good story. Nothing is new and there is a great story somewhere in Clearview Public Library’s stacks that will give comfort or entertain you during this crazy time.

Happy New Year!

Michele McKenzie is deputy CEO of Clearview Public Library.

This means that your library will only be able to provide curbside service again from Dec. 30 until the end of lockdown. During this time, we will not be charging fines on late materials but we do encourage you to return library assets on or by the due date so that other patrons may enjoy them after their quarantine period.

While you are safe at home, you may wish to join us by participating in our extensive selection of virtual programming.

New: junk diaries – this free online program will take you through a journey of remembrance as you follow along with our 13 topic questions posted to our Facebook page every Tuesday night from Jan. 5 to March 30 at 6 p.m. Your responses are to be written at your leisure. These then will be bound into a finished legacy memoir when you attend our Zoom workshop hosted by a professional scrapbook artist on Saturday, April 3 at 11 a.m.

New: conversational Spanish –



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Tue. Dec. 29, closed
Wed. Dec. 30, 10-5
New Year's Eve, 10-3
New Year's Day, closed

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Merry Christmas

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Delete, unsubscribe to reduce cyber footprint

(Continued from page 5)

Jan. 6: Clean out and delete old email, photos, and documents on all your devices. Storage in the cloud is a massive carbon footprint. We don't think much about it, but, everything you save gets stored in servers somewhere – they aren't actually floating around in the ether. And those servers require tons of electricity to power them. And, things are not necessarily safer in the cloud than they are on a dedicated backup drive safely stored in your house.

Jan. 13: If you love to travel, review your travel plans (easy to do as COVID-19 continues to hamper our lives). Commit to reducing your air travel and cruises. Book direct flights. Go less often, or stay longer (good). Go every second or third year (better). Don't fly (best). It's apparent that fewer of us moving around the globe has had a positive impact on the environment (airlines feel differently), so let's try to keep that going, post-COVID.

Jan. 20: Unsubscribe from sites that encourage you to buy things. Block junk mail that advertises sales, or special offers.

Jan. 27: Repair something instead of buying new. If you are handy, you're pretty lucky. If you live with a handy person, you're lucky too. If you're looking for someone to repair stuff for you, you may have more of a challenge. Let's hope this summer we can coordinate a 'repair fair', where you can bring things to have them fixed by someone who knows how, for a modest price (or a donation to the community).

Climate Action Challenge

Carry on your good habits from December where you limited buying things you didn't need, and focused on things that matter more. Consider all the good you've done in the past 10 months of this 52 week challenge. Put your feet up and enjoy a job well done! Happy 2021!

52 Weeks of Climate Action was created by Sherri Jackson and Laurel Hood. Visit the blog or sign up at www.52weeksofclimateaction.com.



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FUN & Games

Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 11

FRED'S FUNNIES

Why was the turkey in the pop group?
Because he was the only one with drumsticks!

Merry Christmas

Canadian Criss Cross

December 24, 2020

- ACROSS**
1. Leap into the air
 5. Rixey who played for the Reds
 9. Little devil
 12. Largest continent
 13. Unlucky number in old Rome?
 14. Recent prefix
 15. Pell-___
 16. Piece of land and the buildings on it
 18. Ocean sunfish
 20. Winged goddess of victory
 21. Lively nightclub
 24. Ball of fire in the sky
 25. Canadian singer Tanguay
 26. Exactly the same
 30. Relating to rats and mice
 32. Canadian singer Lindi
 33. "That Don't ___ Much" (Shania Twain song)

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

35. Flat fish with a long pointed tail
36. Financial help
37. Hot dogs
39. Numbered musical composition
41. Against
42. Hall in which Odin received the souls of slain heroes
45. Go round and round
49. Upon prefix
50. Jaunty rhythm
51. Brass instrument
52. Was a candidate
53. Church part
54. Sound a snake makes

- DOWN**
1. Sweet bread spread
 2. Utilize
 3. Wire measure
 4. Tropical trees
 5. Flies into pieces
 6. Infringe the copyright of
 7. Kind of chart
 8. Point at a target
 9. Not to be trusted
 10. Not standing up for oneself
 11. Pretend to be what one is not
 17. People who live in Arctic Canada
 19. Supposed
 21. Half prefix
 22. Egg

23. Waterproof material
24. Line on a map
27. Choose for an office
28. Food thickener
29. Puts down gently
31. Kind of stew
34. Drinks greedily
38. Direction in which a compass needle points
39. Higher up than
40. Code word for P
43. ___ carte
44. Mouth part
46. Yes in French
47. Pounds: abbr.
48. Musical syllables

County paramedics wrap-up 2020 toy drive

On Dec. 18, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services wrapped up its 18th annual Toy Drive having collected 3,259 toys, 5,593 pounds of food, \$25,536 in cash, and \$3,100 in gift cards thanks to the generosity of the community and a number of significant donations from businesses and organizations including Toys for the North, Thomson Terminal Limited, Couchiching Jubilee House and Global

Medic.

“The generosity shown by local residents through their donations of tens of thousands of dollars in toys, food and cash during this year’s Toy Drive is an excellent demonstration of our character, strength and resiliency,” said Warden **George Cornell**. “With Ontario under increasing public health restrictions, many charitable initiatives are suffering. However, these

kind donations, combined with the outstanding efforts of the paramedics who volunteered their time to make the toy drive possible, have helped to bring happiness and joy to families across our region, providing another shining example of inspiration and hope for Simcoe County residents to celebrate this festive season.”

With this year’s totals, the toy drive has collected 87,524 toys, 42,773 pounds of food, and approximately \$200,893 in monetary and gift card donations for families across Simcoe County over the last 18 years.

“I am so proud of our County of Simcoe Paramedics who once again gave their time and energy to help those in need and provide for struggling residents during a pandemic. COVID-19 has challenged us all to stand together as one community and this year’s results have been truly outstanding,” said **Andrew Robert**, Director and Chief, County of

Simcoe Paramedic Services. “Thanks to the Simcoe County Paramedic Association, we were able to create a virtual donation option that allowed our residents to continue to show their support from the safety of their own homes. I’d also like to thank the students from the paramedic programs at Georgian College and CTS Canadian Career College for helping to promote this year’s toy drive to their families, friends and followers via their social media accounts.”

All donations will be distributed to local children and families in need by charitable organizations working in partnership with County of Simcoe Paramedic Services. Charities supported by the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services Toy Drive include the Salvation Army, Wasaga Beach Kinettes, Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions, and several local food banks including those in Elmvale, Tottenham, Orillia and Wasaga Beach.

KIDD FAMILY AUCTIONS

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PREVIEW & PICKUP AT THE KIDD FAMILY AUCTION HOME OFFICE LOCATION, 438280 4TH LINE, MELANCTHON (NORTH OF SHELBURNE).

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If you would like to be a consignor in one of our sales we’d be happy to have you jump in. Just give us a ring. Gas / Oil, Advertising & Toy Auction on Jan 8th.

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ON-LINE BIDDERS PAY A LOW 5% PREMIUM. SHIPPING AT COST. NO ASSESSMENT FEES OR STORAGE FEES FOR CONSIGNORS.

NCPS November character award winners

Nottawasaga and Creemore Public School is proud to recognize students who demonstrate the qualities of Character Education. The Simcoe County District School Board’s (SCDSB) values are a key part of our commitment to character education. The SCDSB’s 10 Commit to Character attributes were selected through consultation with community leaders, organizations and school communities to reflect what Simcoe County communities consider important and are also linked to the seven Grandfather Teachings. Each month, our school promotes a school-wide focus on one of our character attributes.

Students recognized for courage: JK/SK – **Charlie Beaton, Silas Pfaff, Rose Weldon, Camdyn Williams-Crossman**; Grade 1 – **Amber Hughes, Leah Huizinga, Samuel Lemieux, Emmett Penwarden**; Grade 3 – **Daxton Brulotte, Gabriel Hotari, Calla Leblanc, Dylan Rayburn, Paisley Wilson**; Grade 4 – **Cooper Duits**; Grade 5 – **Kloe Ferguson, Troy Ferguson**; Grade 6 – **Brennan Brulotte, Emily McKenzie, Dustin Rayburn, Emma Squires-Fachnie, Ben Tamlin**; Grade 8 – **Baileigh Boileau, Memphis Palmer-Gummer, Siana Spilchen, William Van Severen**.

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DINING OUT

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

CREEMORE LEGION'S JANUARY CABBAGE ROLL DINNER because of COVID restrictions, the Legion has been banned from holding events such as the monthly Sunday Breakfasts. Starting in January, The Legion will offer Thursday night takeout dinners. The first of these will be on Thursday, Jan. 14, the second will be the annual Valentine's Dinner and the third is planned for mid-March. Jan. 14 features a full cabbage roll take-out dinner for \$17 per person. Place your order by calling 705-466-2330 before Jan. 7. Please bring the exact amount for your purchase to avoid handling cash. When calling, please specify your preferred pick-up time on Jan. 14.

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THANK YOU

My gratitude to the members of the Creemore Fire Department for their help when I had an emergency Tuesday night. They determined there was a carbon monoxide leak in my chimney and stayed until midnight to clear the air in my house so that I could safely go in again. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Kathy Meeser.

DEATH NOTICE



SWINTON, James Alexander passed away on Dec. 16, 2020. Jim always said that he had a great life. Born in 1926 in Leith, Scotland, he had six siblings and started his working life early to help out his family by delivering buns to neighbours before school. During the war, Jim lied about his age and at 15 signed up for the Merchant Navy where he travelled to most continents. After the war, he came to Toronto and the embrace of his dear Hamiltonian family. Jim worked many jobs, even working in the DEW line for six months before he joined the elevator industry. In 1960 Jim met Sheila at the Piccadilly Club and made the "best decision" of his life to marry her. They later moved to the Town of Mississauga and gave their children a wonderful childhood surrounded by music, neighbours, friends and laughter. With retirement, Jim spent 34 years in the home of his dreams in Duntroon where he pursued his love of birds, jazz music, and astronomy, and welcomed everyone. He was a loyal friend and a man of honour with a great sense of humour. Jim was loved and will be dearly missed by his wife of 58 years, his children Lisa (Alex) and Jimmy (Tanya), his grandchildren Michelle and Paul (Victoria), Sasha, Alysha and James, and his great-grandgirls Ella and Aubrey as well as extended family. Special thanks to Dr. Cornell and staff, Jean Mirrlees (LHIN), and the Campbell House staff and volunteers. There will be no service at Jim's request and cremation has taken place. Those who knew and loved him are asked to have a wee dram in his honour.

DEATH NOTICE



TAYLOR, Gwendolyn Pearl nee Lougheed passed away in the care of Bayhaven Nursing Home on Dec. 20, 2020 at the age of 92. Gwen was born on Jan. 30, 1928 to John and Pearl Lougheed at their farm on the snow-covered 10th concession of Nottawasaga Township. Predeceased by her husband Dale and forever loving mother and mother-in-law to John and Eva and Judith and Jim Crawford. Grama Farm will always have a special place in the hearts of her grandchildren Jordan, Ben, Sarah and Nolan. Gwen was a person of quiet strength, volunteering her time to the people and organizations that she valued. Creemore area became home for Gwen and Dale when they purchased their farm on the 4th line (Fairgrounds Road) in 1959. It is here where she found her greatest pride in her family, her homestead and her community. The farming friendships they made have sustained through hardships and successes, with much laughter and storytelling along the way. Gwen will be greatly missed by the gang. Private family services will be held Dec. 24. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Collingwood General and Marine Hospital or Hospice Georgian Triangle – Campbell House. Friends may visit Gwen's online Book of Memories at www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com.

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This week's answers

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

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

Last week's answers

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

The Echo apologizes for not including the answers to last week's crossword →

Clearview receives \$77,000 COVID-19 operating grant

On Dec. 16, the Ontario Government announced that phase two of the federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement emergency funding is being released to all Ontario municipalities as COVID-19 operating pressures continue.

In a letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Funding, **Steve Clark** to Clearview Mayor **Doug Measures** it was announced that Clearview Township will receive a payment of \$77,000 to address continued COVID-19 operating costs and pressures, as well as up to \$36,225

in support of Clearview Public Transit.

The funds have been allocated based on the proportion of COVID-19 cases in the municipality's health unit and the number of households within the municipality. As with phase one, detailed reporting on how the funds are used is to be provided to the government in March 2021.

"The partnership of the provincial government in our battle against COVID-19 is encouraging. This continued financial assistance will help support our community during these challenging times," said Measures.

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Communications are available in alternative formats upon request.

NOTICE – NAMING OF TWO (2) PUBLIC ROADS

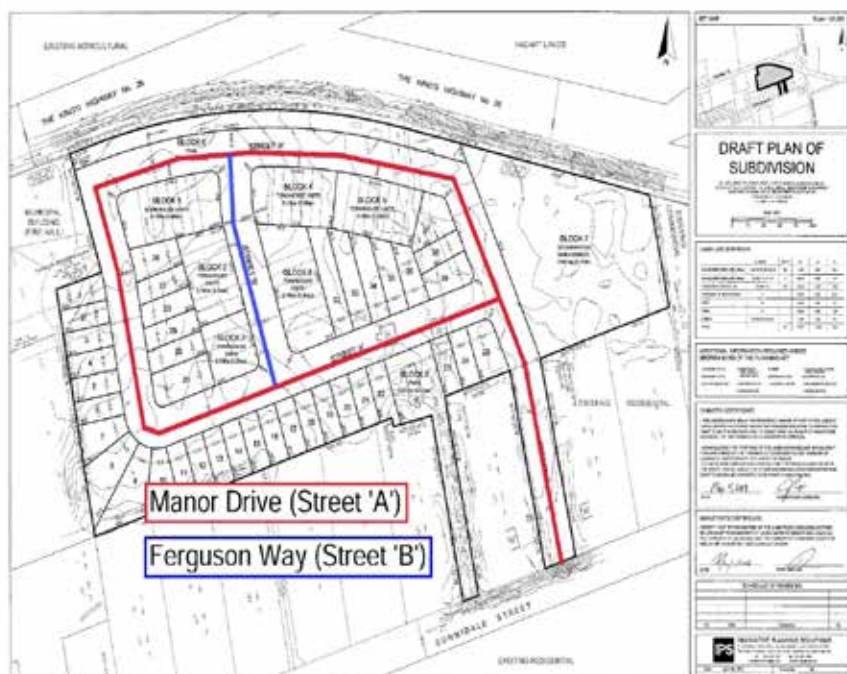
Please be advised that the Township of Clearview has received a request to consider "Manor Drive" & "Ferguson Way" as the names for two (2) new public roads. The subject public roads are situated within the proposed Manortown Homes Inc. Subdivision. The lands are located within the eastern portion of the Stayner Settlement Area, east of the Municipal Emergency Hub Facility lands.

For more information, please contact:

Nick Ainley, Community Planner

nainley@clearview.ca

Map showing the subject public roads.



WE ARE ALL WINNERS WHEN WE SHOP LOCALLY!

We collected too many ballots to count which shows just how committed this community is to supporting our Creemore businesses.

THANK YOU

THE WINNERS OF THE DRAW ARE

Larry MacDonald
 Susan Walker
 Sandra Pellico
 Pippa Rouse
 Susie Cosack

Thanks also to all of the businesses who donated items for the giveaway.

As we enter into lockdown please know that Creemore businesses will be modifying their operations to serve you safely, in accordance with the most current public health recommendation.

We encourage you to reach out to local businesses to find out how to access online, curbside and takeout services.

www.ExperienceCreemore.com