

The Creemore ECHO



Friday, December 29, 2023 Vol. 23 No. 52

www.creemore.com

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Patrons, businesses rally to protect patios

News story of the year

While reviewing the 2023 editions of *The Creemore Echo* we have noticed many recurring themes – food insecurity and housing needs, extreme weather and climate change, 26/27 Sideroad and plans for County Road 91, ATV road access, the opioid crisis, aggression toward cyclists, accessibility renovations, speed and driver safety – but at the end of the year, for this Year in Review edition, we try to identify one ongoing news story that defined the year and we declare patios the hot topic for 2023.

For a topic that impacted very few Clearview Township businesses, residents had no shortages of opinion on the matter. From our perspective, it felt like people were on the verge of losing their minds at the prospect of not being able to dine on a patio. It is commonly viewed as the one good thing that came out of the pandemic.

The patios expanded during the pandemic as a way for restaurants and caf  s to increase seating but to our knowledge there were really only two businesses that installed on-street bump-outs and they are both in Creemore – Chez Michel and the Bank Caf  .

In March, Creemore BIA was blindsided by a motion tabled by



Bump-out patios came under threat in 2023

Councillor **Robert McArthur** to repeal a policy allowing sidewalk patios and bump-outs, in order to preserve parking spots.

It is believed that the motion would have passed if McArthur hadn't been called away from the council table due to a family emergency.

With the BIA advocating for its members, armed with survey results that showed 87 per cent of respondents believe patios have an 'extremely positive' or 'positive' impact on Creemore's economy, businesses were allowed to proceed with on-street patios in 2023.

This was seen as a victory in the community. Beyond the headlines and the letters-to-the-editor, there was a very loud buzz in the community about safeguarding patios, with a minority voicing their frustration at having the sidewalk blocked or rerouted.

When the issue was tabled for review in November, it was recommended that a framework be approved for allowing curbside patios to continue, without obstructing the path of pedestrian traffic. The policy is being reviewed to ensure it meets accessibility standards. A report is due to come back to the council table in February.

Volunteer spotlight

This year, we shine a light on Purple Hills Arts and Heritage volunteer **MK Lynde**, who has been instrumental in diversifying programming for the Creemore Festival of the Arts, spearheading an initiative to add more artistic voices.

The work done by Lynde and her team of volunteers has resulted in Creemore hosting drag queens (and a king) for the first time, hosting Indigenous dancers, a line-up of all female comedians, and a performance by the Tragically Hip cover band, The Poets, from Moose Cree Nation.

It was a huge team effort to bring these voices to our little village and it had a big impact. The opportunity to tell stories from a different perspective and expand our outlook has been most welcome in 2023.



MK Lynde delivers a land acknowledgement during the 2023 Creemore Festival of the Arts.

Happy New Year!

Wishing you all the best on your adventures in the New Year.

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For over 130 years our area has been served by a locally-owned and operated paper dedicated to sharing the news and views of this community. We are proud to carry on this tradition and would like to offer our sincere appreciation to our newsworthy community, readers, advertisers, contributors, and all those who have shown their support as subscribers, boosters, champions and patrons.

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With hundreds of mail, email and volunteer subscribers we are unable to list everyone here but know that your engagement in this community and interest in the *Echo* is so appreciated. Also, a big thank you to our anonymous patrons, champions and boosters! We really appreciate all the support from everyone.

From the Front Page

A look back on some of the news that made the front page in 2023.

Need for food bank on the rise

by Trina Berlo

St. Luke's Community Food Bank has worked diligently to humanize the experience of helping people who rely on the food bank.

"Our food bank looks a lot different from other food banks," said St. Luke's Anglican Church deacon Rev. Lorna May. "We're able to do that. I'm privileged, as the person who's been



St. Luke's Community Food Bank volunteers Sheila Koss, Ross Lotto, and others.

Faith community advocates for housing

by Trina Berlo

Members of the faith community continue to push for solutions to the local housing crisis.

On the front lines of the housing crisis, the faith community aims to help those in need.

"One of the big problems is transportation," said May. "How do we get people to work and school?"

St. Luke's Community Food Bank volunteers Sheila Koss, Ross Lotto, and others.

BIA fights councillor's proposal to repeal patio policy

by Trina Berlo

The Creemore BIA is asking council to reject or delay a proposal put forward by Councillor Robert McArthur to repeal a policy allowing bump-outs and sidewalk patios.

businesses that are currently in the process of finalizing their applications, staffing their restaurants, creating the infrastructure, and planning for the all-important summer season," said Herschoff.



Take part in 'reconciliAction' at this year's arts fest

by Trina Berlo

Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society will honour National Day of Truth and Reconciliation by welcoming Indigenous guests and performers for special programming during this year's Creemore Festival of the Arts.



The Poets, from left: Paul Chakasim, Clint Hamilton, Vic Linklater, Rob Carter and Jon Kapashesit.

"He started to examine the history of Indigenous peoples with this country and discovered, amazingly, that this country wasn't all that it was cracked up to be with regards to the treatment of Indigenous people, the First Peoples."

From there, members of The Poets delved deeper into The Tragically Hip catalogue in order to advance the cause of bringing awareness to non-Indigenous audiences. Working with bilingual elders, The Poets have translated two Tragically Hip songs into Anishinaabemowin.

Tornado hits south of Stayner Monday afternoon

by Trina Berlo

A tornado has been confirmed to have caused crop damage south of Stayner on Monday.

The tornado is believed to have travelled along a 2.82 kilometre pathway southwest of Stayner, almost parallel to Airport Road, stopping just north of 18/19 Sideroad Nottawasaga.

NTP reviewed videos captured by witnesses and received reports of roof, tree and fence damage in the area. Multiple photos and videos showed a funnel cloud over the area, some with lifted dust and debris near the ground. A ground and drone survey completed on Tuesday, June 27 showed a path of visible crop damage about 120 metres wide. Witnesses reported seeing the tornado at about 4:30 p.m.



Former councillor looks for follow-through on climate action

by Trina Berlo

Almost one year after getting support for the declaration of a climate emergency, the Creemore BIA is asking council to reject or delay a proposal put forward by Councillor Robert McArthur to repeal a policy allowing bump-outs and sidewalk patios.

McKechnie brought forward a motion last April to declare a climate emergency. The term 'climate emergency' was used in the motion.

interested councillors participate in the various FCM committees that focus on Climate Protection and funding opportunities.

Residents clash on opening Creemore to ATVs

by Trina Berlo

A public meeting was held in Stayner Wednesday evening to hear public input on the possibility of expanding ATV access in the Creemore area.



Mayor Doug Measures moderates a public meeting on the topic of ATV access at the arena in Stayner on May 24.

Thom Paterson and the Creemore and Area Residents Association, among others, proposed taking a ward-by-ward approach, essentially banning them in Creemore but allowing them elsewhere (off-road vehicles are not permitted on county roads and provincial highways).

This issue was raised again last year by former New Lowell councillor John Lamers in response to requests from residents who said they wanted to access trails without having to trailer their off-road vehicles.

Avening Hall reno behind schedule

by Trina Berlo

Renovations at Avening Hall are eight to 10 weeks behind schedule and with the changing season comes increasing awareness that the building is at risk from the elements.

Members of Avening Hall board heard about the delays during an update from Township of Clearview's director of parks and recreation Terry Vachon when he attended the Oct. 6 board meeting held in council chambers at the township's administrative office in Stayner.

Vachon said the contractor, IHC General Contracting, was awarded the job through a bidding process but has not been meeting the schedule.

'Haters' target cyclists on River Road

by Bonnie MacPherson

Veteran cyclists Peter Kofman and wife Lori were left shaken by a recent incident on River Road.

On July 4, they were enjoying a ride from Collingwood to Creemore, something they do on a fairly regular basis, when they encountered a motorist whom Kofman says was using his car as a weapon against them.

The Kofmans were riding on River Road near Glen Huron when a car approached from behind passing dangerously close to them.



Contributed photo

aware of any action resulting from the complaint.

As of prestime, police had not responded to the *The Echo's* request for an update.

Kofman describes Creemore as a great little town and a favourite destination for hundreds of cyclists, from casual to elite. He says it is a nice turnaround point where many cyclists chose to stop for refreshments before continuing their rides. After posting about his experience on social media he received 700 comments from cyclists.

Township withdraws 26/27 SR applications

by Trina Berlo

The Township of Clearview has withdrawn its applications and appeal regarding the re-construction of Nottawasaga 26/27 Sideroad, which would have facilitated a bypass around the intersection of Nottawasaga 26/27 Sideroad and Airport Road.

being withdrawn.

In a statement released by town hall on Wednesday, Mayor Doug Measures said, "What was once a practical, reasonable and cost-effective proposal to manage local traffic in the area is now being withdrawn."

"Over the past dozen years, the Township has been faced with the rescinding of approvals granted by provincial departments and agencies, and the introduction of increased costs to the law."

would needlessly cost of "Council and I will local stakeholders, inc Aggregates, to find a solution confident will protect the network, and

Speeds lowered, flashing light coming to intersection

by Trina Berlo

Councillor Marty Beelen continues to look for ways to reduce collisions at two problem intersections on County Road 9, east of Creemore.

he reported that the County of Simcoe is adding flashing lights to the stop signs at Centre Line Road.

"This is my solution to some of the problem intersections we are having there," said Beelen.



The Creemore ECHO
www.creemore.com



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In the News



The themes that played out in the pages of The Echo throughout the year



Clockwise from above: with the cost of living, housing prices and food insecurity on the rise, the need for local food banks increased significantly; Finding affordable housing continues to be a struggle in the community and an ongoing topic of conversation; the issue of ATV access was raised again this year resulting in more township roads opened to off road vehicles in the Creemore area; municipal initiatives were funneled through Clearview Township's Strategic Planning process via workshops and surveys held throughout the year; Smoke from forest fires, tornadoes, and other extreme weather were in the news in 2023 both locally and globally.



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Community

These cherished annual events bring the community together



Clockwise from top left: Creemore Winter Festival; Stayn Festival; and the Creemore Community Centre's Christmas Party.

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Community Events

Community together and support many great causes.



Clockwise from top left: Sunnidale Winterama; Creemore Springs' Turas Mor; GNE fall fair; Creemore Kinsmen Duck Race; Harvest Festival; Creemore TNYH horse and hound parade; Duntroon; Creemore Know-it-all-Ball; Coronation Tea; Canada Day; Creemore Masquerade Ball; Easter; and Copper Kettle Race.





Happy
NEW YEAR

We wish you all a joyful and peaceful 2024!
Thank you so much for your love and support, and for proving again and again that Creemore truly is the little village with the big heart.

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On Stage

The community was treated to performances from some of the top names in Canadian music in 2023, jammed to some local favourites and discovered new talent





Top row from left: **Enya Dreams** hosts Winter is a Drag at Creemore Legion; **Maestro Fresh Wes** performs in Shelburne during Black History Month; Strange Potatoes and Shipyard Kitchen Party plat Station on the Green's St. Paddy's Day party.

Second row from left: Stars play Avening Hall; Madison Violet headline Summer Solstice; Dwayne Gretzky plays Farms for Change.

Third row from left: Mudmen play Creemore Village Green; **Julian Taylor** performs at Creemore Village Green during Small Halls Festival.

Fourth row from left: Indigenary Collective and The Poets perform during the 2023 Creemore Festival of the Arts, hosted by the Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society.



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Just a few of the humorous moments caught on camera while on the beat in 2023



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FUN & Games

Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 11

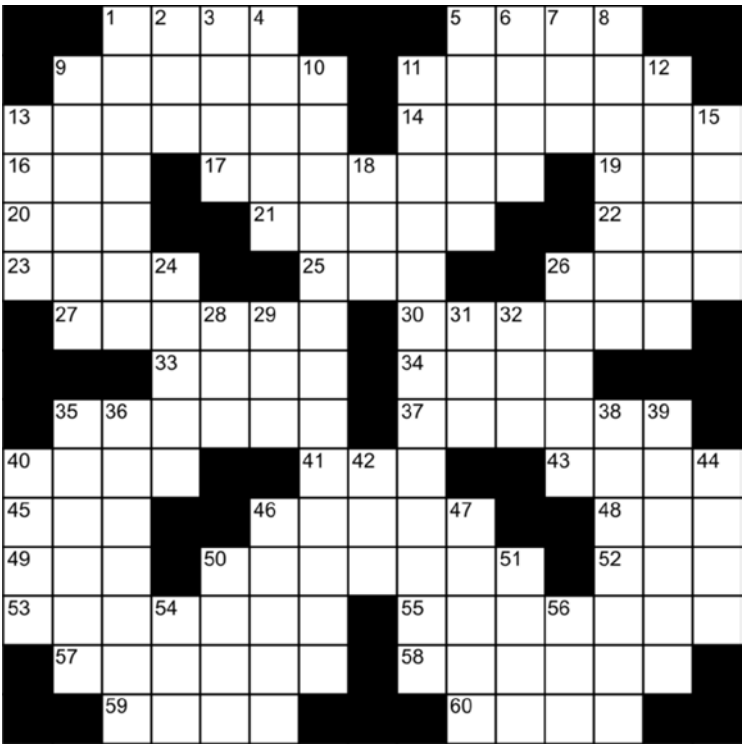
FRED'S FUNNIES

When I die, I want to be put in a see-through coffin, put into a horse trough, covered with ice, with assorted beverages at the wake. As the ice melts there I'll be with a smile on my face with a sign drinks are on me

Happy New Year!

Canadian Criss Cross

- ACROSS
- Guys' companions
 - Document that shows how to proceed
 - Protective external shell
 - Large envelope
 - Fleshy multiple fruit
 - Asks over
 - Left over
 - Fencing thrust
 - Three prefix
 - ___ de Janeiro
 - Slimy substance
 - Heavy bolt on a wheel
 - Use words
 - Went in a hurry
 - Unincorporated community in Saskatchewan
 - Swimming, in heraldry
 - Compulsory force
 - Bark up the wrong ___
 - Give off
 - Sheep meat
 - Scamp
 - Wee
 - Donkey
 - Shades of colour
 - Last part
 - Bad moods
 - Empty part
 - Cow sound
 - Bearing berries
 - Medical scan, for short
 - Not for the public
 - Just beginning to exist
 - They were on a plane on a movie
 - Uses up little by little
 - Wildebeests
 - Become corroded



- DOWN
- Venice vehicle
 - Part of a curved line
 - One who says what is not true
 - Curtain material
 - Part of an outfit
 - Carrying an electric current
 - ___ Baba
 - Stinging plants
 - Sans-serif printing type
 - Added things
 - Get your lines crossed
 - Summer TV fare, often
 - Database command
 - Make words by hand
 - Wood sorrel
 - Poker pot
 - Fodder plant
 - Creative work
 - New prefix
 - Actress Thurman
 - Grafton's "___ for Ricochet"
 - Fake ID users
 - Cause of ruin
 - Make larger
 - Gets to know
 - Fill-in employee
 - Word often within brackets
 - Throw out from the mouth
 - Fills up
 - One of the top female chess players in Canada
 - Capital of Azerbaijan
 - Jacob's brother
 - Mover's vehicle
 - On this side prefix

Weekly blast of the Duntroon Hall's Know It All Ball trivia questions

One of our common native deciduous trees in this region often retains some of its leaves throughout the winter. in the past few years it is unfortunately being inflicted by an insect-fungus complex. What is one of the recognized names it goes by?



Community Commerce



Clearview Township is always bustling with local business news,
new faces behind the counter and the growth of home based businesses



Clockwise from above: Our first 'new business' article of 2023 was an exciting one with the launch of Middle Eastern/Mediterranean restaurant Kitch'n Savvy by mother-daughter chefs **Savana** and **Emaan Toppazzini**; In November, **Paige Brooks** took over Creemore Bakery; **Cassie** and **Jeremy Austin** shared plans to open The Pine restaurant in Creemore; **Josh Friesen** ramps up production at Dirty Leather; **Chris** and **Tammy Millsap** held a grand opening for the restored Dorchester Hotel in Collingwood; Inset above: Cupcake Queen **Sonja McArthur** is one of several local entrepreneurs who took their home-based passion projects to the next level.



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THE FARM - GENERAL CONTRACTING (previously Duncan's Handyman Services) Specializing in: click-and-lock flooring, small interior jobs (toilets, trim, etc.), decks/veranda. Located in the Stayner area. Call Duncan Miller for an estimate, 705-888-6017, MillerRuralIndustries@gmail.com.

Down the Garden Path is seeking clients for **GRASS CUTTING SERVICES**. Contact Colin, 705-791-3635.

FOR RENT

Need an **OFFICE SPACE** in Creemore? Are you a freelance artist, practitioner, small biz owner that just can't work from home? This is for you. Email jacque@thecreemorefillery.ca.

We are renting the large open concept addition to our farmhouse, located in Mulmur. **SEASONAL RENTAL** only, December through March. Sleeps six comfortably. \$2,200 monthly. Starlink Internet. Contact pvr.rha@gmail.com for pics and more info.

MISSING

Please help locate **GRANDFATHER'S MISSING ANTIQUE FLYFISHING ROD**. Last seen around KCB LAW. Reward \$\$\$ for info. Please email j.rockford2024@hotmail.com.

HELP WANTED

Now hiring **COOKS** for full- and part-time positions. Our fun and friendly kitchen offers competitive wages and generous bonuses. Experience preferred but will train. Please call The Old Mill House Pub in Creemore and ask for the manager to set up an interview. 705-466-5244.

Classifieds &
calendars are
also posted
online at

Creemore.com

This week's answers

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

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

Trivia: Beech, American Beech, or Fagus Grandifolia



HERE ARE A FEW FEATURES FROM 2023.
JOIN US IN MAKING 2024 ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

Visit us online for more at www.kiddfamilyauctions.com



January 13th – A January Gem
Coins, Art & Jewels



February 3rd – Tools, Tools &
More Tools!



March 24th – Highland Farms
Auction



April 13-14 – 2 Day - Gas & Oil,
Advertising & Toys



May 19th – New Home
Builder's Sell Off Sale



June 16th – Reid's Heritage
Homes – Staging Blowout



July 27th – Comic Book Craze
& Sport's Collectibles



August 22-26 – 4 Day
Straight Shooter Sale



September 29th – Vintage Toys
& Collectibles



October 13th – Annual
Fall Equipment Sale



November 3rd – Antiques,
Collectibles, Quality Household



December 8th – Coins,
Art & Jewelry Sale

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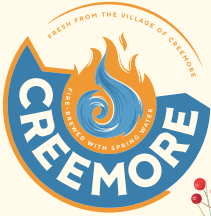
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HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!



Wishing You a Safe & Happy Holiday Season
from the folks at Creemore Springs



HOLIDAY HOURS:

December 27 to December 30
11am to 6pm

December 31st - 11am to 4pm

January 1st - CLOSED

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Notice – Library Branch Opening Hours
Pilot Project January 2 to June 30, 2024

A pilot project redistributing opening hours at all Clearview Public Library Branches will run from January 2nd to June 30th, 2024. There are no changes to the overall open hours for each branch, they have just been redistributed.

From January 2nd to June 30th the new branch hours will be:

Stayner Branch

- Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- Saturday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Sunday, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Creemore Branch

- Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM
- Saturday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

New Lowell Branch

- Tuesday & Friday, 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- Wednesday & Thursday, 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM
- Saturday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

For all Library details, including hours and programming, please visit www.clearview.library.on.ca.

For more information, please contact:

Jennifer La Chapell, CEO
Clearview Public Library
(705) 428-3595
jlachapelle@clearview.ca