

The Creemore ECHO

Friday, October 31, 2025 Vol. 25 No. 44 www.creemore.com

News and views in and around Creemore

INSIDE



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Strange story from the archives
PAGE 12

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WITCHES WALK Lori Curl, Lisa King and Ashley Kelly are in the running for best costumes following an appearance at The Witches Walk in Stayner on Oct. 24. The event, hosted by The Clearview Chamber of Commerce, included a scavenger hunt, specials and giveaways from participating businesses. Bakery By the Bay was named the Haunted Storefront Champion and votes for the costume photo contest will be accepted until Monday on the Clearview Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Farmers question additional unit rules

by Bonnie MacPherson

There is still time to weigh in on Clearview Township's draft comprehensive zoning bylaw. A gathering at town hall this week was originally billed as a public meeting to present the draft bylaw, but after the flood of input at an open house held in late September, the decision was made to turn Wednesday's meeting into a working session.

A new timetable will see public comments received until Nov. 5, followed by a public meeting at a later date, possibly followed by a second comment period before the bylaw with all recommended changes

is eventually presented to council for a vote.

One of the more contentious topics covered in the draft bylaw is additional residential units (ARUs). Consultant **Dave Ashton** of MHBC Planning told the meeting the proposed bylaw will allow two ARUs per lot within settlement areas including Creemore, Stayner, and New Lowell, and one ARU per lot outside settlement areas. Within farm building clusters on agricultural or rural properties, one ARU would be permitted.

Speaking on behalf of her family that operates a five-generation farm near Singhampton, **Chantelle Leimgardt**

challenged the logic saying, "On my small lot in Stayner, I can have two ARUs, but my brother who has 100 acres can have only one. ARUs are important for farmers because lot severances are very complicated and this makes it easier for extended families to stay in the area and keep farming."

Brother **Justin Leimgardt** asked, "Is there a plan so that in 20 or 30 or 50 years, when older farmers have retired and severed small lots, will we have a lot of 98-acre properties that you can't build on?"

Mayor **Doug Measures** said, "We'll (See 'Farmers' on page 7)

Limited interest in Stayner battery energy storage system proposal

by Trina Berlo

Only about a dozen people attended a public meeting in Stayner Tuesday about a battery energy storage system (BESS) proposal by Compass Greenfield Development.

Residents did not voice any major concerns but took the opportunity to learn more about the location, the government procurement process, safety standards and emergency response plans.

Many of the attendees agreed that something needs to be done in order to strengthen the province's electricity grid, and ensure even distribution during peak consumption.

Compass Greenfield Development is hoping to construct an 18-megawatt AC battery energy storage project on leased land at 219 Industrial Road. The proponent requires council support for the IESO's request for proposal bid submission date for capacity due Dec. 18. The bid is in response to the province's goal to increase capacity by 75 per cent by 2050 and meet demands at peak consumption periods. The batteries are charged at night and the operator is paid to be on standby to feed power back into the grid during times of peak usage.

Clearview council member **Robert Walker** said he is pleased that the developer agreed to have a second meeting after an initial one held in Duntroon had low attendance, partially due to limited public notice.

He said his main concern is the impact the presence of the system would have on the fire department.

During a Oct. 6 deputation to council, **James Marzotto** vowed that Compass Greenfield Development would pay for any training and equipment the fire department would require.

Marzotto said he will be back at council on Nov. 10 to report on the results of the public meeting.

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COMMUNITY Calendar

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Friday, Oct. 31

- **Line dancing lessons** are cancelled for this Friday.
- **Mill Street Trick or Treat** Creemore businesses will be handing out candy from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to the little ghouls and goblins. Be sure to visit the haunting at the Village Green.
- **Bowerman's Halloween Bash.** Join the local spirits of Dunedin for Bowerman's Halloween Bash from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Dunedin Pub (basement of the Dunedin Community Hall). Costumes are encouraged for this 19+ event. There will be a cash bar and no cover charge, though donations to support the Dunedin Community Hall are greatly appreciated.

Saturday, Nov. 1

- The Collingwood Agricultural Society presents the annual **Christmas Craft Show** at the GNE fairgrounds from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Christmas crafts, quilts, sewing, toys, needlework, baking and lunch booth. \$2 admission. For info, call 705-466-2000 or 705-444-1334.
- Join **Gallery Lagom** from 10 a.m. to noon to welcome artist Suzanne McNenly at the breakfast **opening** of her new show. Light refreshments will be served. The gallery is located at 178 Mill St., Creemore.
- **Ganaraska Mad River Hiking Club interpretive hike.** An easy two-hour interpretive hike. Beginning at 10 a.m. (arrive 15 minutes early) at the main parking lot, 937513 Airport Rd., east side of the Dufferin County Forest Main Tract. Dress for the weather; no dogs allowed. Waivers required. To register, contact Lynda at lbb878@gmail.com.

Saturday Nov. 1 - Sunday, Nov. 2

- **Meraki Falliday Artisan Market** at the Georgian Bay hotel. Explore 50+ artisans, enjoy free entry, raffles, workshops and live music for a weekend full of creativity and community Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 4

- **Pub Trivia Night** every Tuesday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Old Mill House Pub Creemore. \$10 cover includes entry, answer sheets and a shot at prizes. Gather your team and put your knowledge to the test. For info, contact 705-466-5244, visit theoldmillhousepub.com.

Thursday, Nov. 6

- West African **drumming group** welcomes new members. Learn and practise West African drumming rhythms with WARPED (West African Rhythm Practice Ensemble of Drummers). Sessions take place Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Station on the Green. No experience is necessary. Participants are encouraged to bring a djembe, or contact Susan at 705-627-1722 to arrange for a loaner. For more information, email Janet at jhayward43@bellnet.ca. A \$5 donation is accepted to help cover space rental.
- Centennial United Church **Turkey Dinner** with all the trimmings and dessert. \$25 per meal. Dine-in (90 spots) or take-out from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Meals must be pre-ordered at 705-422-1201 or fundraisers@ucstayner.ca. Deadline to order is Monday, Nov. 3. Payment can be made by e-transfer to office@ucstayner.ca or by cash or cheque when you arrive.

Saturday, Nov. 8

- Mad River Hiking Club easy **two-hour hike.** Starting in Avening, it takes the hiker on trail and road into Creemore. Hike starts at 10 a.m., meeting at Creemore Recreation Centre, 218 Collingwood St., Creemore. There will be a shuttle to Avening. Dress for the weather; no dogs allowed. To register, text 519-823-3848 or email flo.oosterhoff@rogers.com. Waivers required.

Sunday, Nov. 9

- New Lowell United Church hosts its annual **harvest dinner and silent auction** at the New Lowell Royal Canadian Legion, 5357 County Rd. 8. Enjoy a roast beef dinner and bid on great items at the auction. Take-out pick-up is from 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., with dine-in service beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for youth aged six to 12, and free for children under six. Advance tickets only. Call 705-424-1476 to reserve.

Monday, Nov. 10

- VON SMART **free fitness classes.** Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 11 a.m. at St. Luke's Anglican Church Hall, 22 Caroline St. W. Creemore. For community members looking to improve strength, balance and mobility. Ages 55+. Call for more information or to register: 705-355-2200.

Tuesday, Nov. 11

- Mansfield Women's Institute invites everyone to a **Remembrance Day service** at the cenotaph in Mansfield Ballpark to commence at 10:45 a.m.
- Stayner Legion **Remembrance Day service** at 11 a.m. Parade form-up at 10:30 a.m. at Station Park 10:45 a.m. Parade will then get to Clearview Administration Centre on Gideon Street. Following the ceremony, a wreath will be laid at Royal Canadian Legion, Stayner, Branch 457 with a luncheon and refreshments inside to follow. Everyone is welcome to attend. Any veterans, organizations or individuals that would like to take part in the parade, please just show up at the aforementioned times.
- New Lowell **Remembrance Day service.** Parade beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Fire Hall. Service at 11 a.m. at the Legion. The Legion Branch will be open after the service serving light refreshments. All are welcome.

Friday, Nov. 14

- Join host Bob Marek for **acoustic jam night** at the Dunedin Pub from 7 p.m. to midnight. Musicians are encouraged to bring their talent and an acoustic instrument of choice. This is a 19+ event with a cash bar. No cover charge, but donations toward the Dunedin Community Hall are gratefully accepted.
- **Dale Pearson and Friends concert fundraiser** at Knox Presbyterian Church in Dunedin at 7 p.m. This will raise funds for church repairs including the church steeple and assistance for the Dunedin Community Hall. Free will offering. Knox Presbyterian Church is located at 8933 County Rd. 9, Dunedin.

Saturday, Nov. 15

- **"This Life With You" Concert:** Musician Patrick Savage performs at Compass Life Church at 7 p.m. The evening will feature stories, songs, worship and entertainment — and maybe even a Christmas carol. All are welcome. Freewill offering.
- **Catholic Women's League Christmas Fundraiser.** Raffle baskets, designer leather outerwear, baked goods, silent auction items and more will be available at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Fr. Allard Hall, 63 Elgin St., Collingwood. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. It's the perfect place to do your Christmas shopping while supporting the CWL.
- **Deck the Legion Hall.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Creemore Branch 397, 27 Wellington St. W. Volunteers are wanted to help decorate for Christmas. Get into the Christmas spirit and enjoy fun community hours for students. For further information, contact Donna B. at CreemoreChristmasElf@gmail.com, visit www.creemorechristmas.ca or call 705-466-2523.

Saturday, Nov. 22

- **Mistletoe Market at Dunedin Community Hall.** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Get your gift list ready for this year's Mistletoe Market, featuring more than 20 local artisans with handmade items, Dunedin swag and a bake sale. Free admission.

Saturday, Nov. 29 - Sunday, Nov. 30

- **Handmade Holiday Market:** More than 40 local vendors and musicians will be featured at the Creemore Legion, 27 Wellington St. W. The show runs Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Different vendors each day. Contact thehandmadeholidaymarket@gmail.com for details.

Sunday, Dec. 7

- **Creemore Farmers' and Craft Market** indoors at the Station on the Green from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. during December. For info visit creemorefarmersmarket.ca. There will be no market on Dec. 21.

Thursday, Dec. 25

- **Creemore Community Christmas Dinner** at 4:30 p.m. at the Creemore Legion, PWYC. Everyone is welcome. Come out to dine and/or volunteer. Takeout and delivery dinners are available. A donation of a non-perishable food item is appreciated. To reserve your seat, make special arrangements, or donate to the event, contact or e-transfer Donna B. at CreemoreChristmasElf@gmail.com or call 705-446-2523. For more information, visit www.CreemoreChristmas.ca.

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Foodland owners support food bank

by Bonnie MacPherson

After three weeks as the new owners of Foodland Creemore, **Shannon** and **Alain Lemay** are marvelling at what a vibrant community Creemore is.

“We knew it was quaint and cute, but we were not expecting how busy the town is,” said Shannon. “We met lots of people during arts fest weekend and now we’re really looking forward to the Halloween event at Village Green and the Santa Claus Parade.”

The Lemays are big supporters of community events, and look forward to getting involved.

“We love how in small towns people are willing to really invest in their community.”

Shannon originally hails from Nova Scotia, where the two met. Alain grew up in Toronto, where his father had a career in the grocery business, culminating with an operations role at Sobeys.

Alain has been with the Sobeys/Foodland organization for more than 14 years, having run various locations including Cookstown and Stroud. He will continue to run the Sobeys franchise in Angus, while Shannon will have primary responsibility for the Creemore Foodland location.

When they’re not busy keeping the stores clean and stocked and running efficiently, Shannon says most of their time is spent in local arenas.

“We’re hockey parents. We have an



Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

St. Luke’s Community Food Bank volunteers **Ross Lotto** (from left) and **Lorna May** accept a \$2,500 donation from the new owners of Creemore Foodland, **Alain** and **Shannon Lemay**.

11-year-old son who is a forward for the TNT Tornadoes in Alliston so most of our free time is devoted to hockey,” she said.

During the off season, they enjoy boating and water sports.

Shannon says, so far, one of her favourite things about Creemore is the pub.

“We’re really looking forward to meeting people and getting involved,” said Shannon. “We like cards and euchre, and I might like to try curling.”

To kick off their relationship with the community, the Lemays made a \$2,500 donation to the local food bank.

“We’ll also be asking for donations to our Christmas hamper fund at the checkout, and selling food bank bags for \$15 each,” said Shannon. “The contents are tailored to whatever the food bank needs, including canned foods, dry goods and hygiene items.”

The Lemays look forward to working closely with the food bank and other community groups.

Flags fly at half-staff in honour of former treasurer Pearson Spellman

To honour the life of former clerk and treasurer Pearson Spellman, flags have been lowered to half-staff at Clearview Township facilities.

“The community of Clearview Township extend our deep condolences to the family of Pearson Spellman. Pearson had many roles in our community, including friend, board member, mentor, and most importantly, as a father and husband,” said Mayor **Doug Measures**.

Spellman was the clerk administrator for the Town of Stayner, and the first treasurer for Clearview Township, after amalgamation.

“His leadership through the establishment of sound financial accounting policies has remained a strong part of our practice of balanced budgets and efficient delivery of services today,” said Measures. “Pearson also had a great sense of humour and was always present to cheer on a local sports team. I salute his dedication to the service of our community. He will be missed.”

Flags will remain at half-staff until after Spellman’s Celebration of Life on Nov. 2. Details on page 11.

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COLUMN

Scientists overtake farmers for public's trust

Timing is everything, which may explain why Canadians put their public trust in this year. The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity has released results of its annual nationwide survey which shed light on public perceptions in the food system, and who people consider the most trustworthy.

FOOD & FARMING



Owen
ROBERTS

If you produce, process or sell food, and you're trying to reach the public, this is important information. For credibility, you'd much rather saddle up to professionals and others who are considered trustworthy, instead of those who are poorly regarded.

This year, the top dogs are scientists. They've leapfrogged over farmers, the perennial favourite, for the first time.

Farmers are sandwiched between scientists and university researchers. That's still an enviable position, and it makes sense: farmers have long relied on science to help them grow crops and raise livestock efficiently and sustainably.

The centre considers the results to be a "notable shift that highlights the growing importance of science and research in shaping public perceptions." Let's hope the pro-science trend grows. In a culture that's teeming with false, unfounded information, science can provide evidence that helps people sort things out.

Statistically, 44 per cent of the 2,900 survey participants cited scientists as their most trusted information source. That's up from 35 per cent last year. Farmers fared very well, at 42 per cent, up eight per cent from last year. And university researchers came in at 39 per cent, a leap from 33 per cent in 2024.

Social media influencers were at the opposite end of the scale. Although people like to follow them, they garner little trust. Only 11 per cent of the survey participants considered influencers the most trustworthy sources of food information, the same poor standing as politicians. Influencers climbed one percentage point from 2024, but that's not saying much.

For its part, the media was up two per cent, to 16 per cent. That too is nothing to brag about, but its chronic poor showing is worth pondering. The media is an important cog in communicating information from scientists, researchers and farmers – groups considered the most trustworthy information sources – to the public. Why would it rate so low?

I think the problem is that the media communicates both sides of a story. When it tells the side that people don't agree with, it's considered untrustworthy.

Anyway, for its part, the centre attributes this year's results to a snapshot of what Canada was like in August, when the survey was conducted.

Features then included a relatively new federal government, US tariffs, the "Elbows Up" pro-Canada (See 'Food' on page 5)

THE WAY WE WERE



The Mansfield Women's Institute is seeking information about the era of the soldiers. The soldier on the left was photographed at Edy Bros., London, Ont. Send information to editor@creemore.com.

COLUMN



Contributed photo

From left: **Beth Seaborne Harte** (Clearview Public Library), **Amy Arsenio** (Collingwood Public Library), **Bill Loucks** (Meaford Public Library), **Brian Adduono** (Springwater Public Library), **Melanie Case** (Wasaga Beach Public Library) and **Jeffrey Snape** (moderator and winner of GBR 2024)

Springwater wins Georgian Bay Reads

On behalf of Clearview Public Library, our very own **Beth Seaborne Harte** valiantly defended *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan in the literary fight of the year at this year's Georgian Bay Reads event held at Wasaga Beach Public Library last Saturday night. Words were literally flying about the room in front of a sold-out crowd who watched the heated debate about which book deserved the top recommendation of "Best Canadian Fiction to Read during the Winter of 2025."

LIBRARY NEWS



Michele
McKENZIE

Brian Adduono, representing Springwater Public Library, took home both the People's Choice Award and the Georgian Bay Reads prizes as a result of his fierce defence of *Estates Large and Small* by Ray Robertson. All five books in this competition are available to borrow from any one of the three branches of CPL for your enjoyment.

Please mark your calendars for the 16th annual GBR to take place at the Elmvale Community Centre on Oct. 24, 2026.

The Creemore
ECHO

www.creemore.com



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Please return undeliverable Canadian mail to address below.

Pay attention to plant sex

by Cathy Krar

Your mother may have told you to stop thinking about sex, but if we don't pay attention to plant sex we are putting our very existence at risk.

Plant sex is necessary for fertilization, seed and fruit production. The survival of plants is critical for healthy ecosystems because flowering plants sequester carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. Climate change has put a huge stress onto our ecosystem and a wide diversity of plants can help manage these stresses. And finally, no plant sex, no plant food to feed our growing population. Are you convinced that plant sex is worth our attention?

But just what do we mean by 'plant sex'? Well, we are talking about pollination. The act of moving the little living pieces of yellow pollen dust from the male anther in the flower to the female stigma of the same, or another, flower.

Plants can't move, so they need assistance to pollinate. Sometimes the wind can move the pollen from one plant to another. This is typical for many crop plants such as wheat, rice, corn and oats. But a large majority of plants rely on insects, birds and animals (bats), for successful pollination, and we need to ensure the survival of these helpers.

You will remember from high school biology that flowers produce nectar, a food source for birds and insects.



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

A bee lands on a flower in search of nectar for her offspring. As the bee pushes into the flower to get to the sweet nectar, the bee brushes up against the anthers that produce the pollen of the plant and this pollen adheres to the legs and underside of the bee. The bee then proceeds on to another nectar dive in another flower, and this time the pollen brushes off onto the female stigma of this plant thereby achieving fertilization. Plant reproduction, and life itself, is dependent on that dust particle of pollen moving from one part of the flower to another.

Pollinator populations are trending downwards with the majority of those being flies, beetles, butterflies, wasps and bees. These helpers need our help

to ensure that plant sex is happening.

Consider this: Get involved in pollinator activities in your community. Why not plant a pollinator garden with a variety of native plants, a water source, habitat for shelter and reproduction? How about increasing the survival rate of pollinators by avoiding the use of pesticides in your own garden and reducing your outdoor lighting? Protect and preserve the pollinators and you are protecting the earth.

This series of gardening articles brought to you by the Simcoe County Master Gardeners, members of the Master Gardeners of Ontario. For more information, visit www.simcoecountymg.ca.

Trust is essential

(Continued from page 4)

movement and global political pressures.

All that thrust the essential but often under-appreciated role of Canada's food system into the spotlight, and made people seek out trusted information, says the centre.

Fast forward to today. The honeymoon phase is over with Prime Minister **Mark Carney**. U.S. tariffs, while alarming, are almost commonplace. Global politics are a bit less turbulent. And the 'elbows up' movement may be losing steam.

As a result, any gains in public trust for farmers, scientists and researchers may be fragile, says the centre.

"To sustain and strengthen this momentum, Canada's food system will need more than temporary visibility," it says. "It will require ongoing collaboration, consistent communication and a commitment to transparency across the sector." And a leader to bring all the pieces together.

Owen Roberts is an agricultural journalist from Guelph. He regularly visits family in Creemore.

Correction

The Echo apologizes for inaccuracies in the Oct. 24 article *Residents 'raise voices' against quarry*, page 1. Stephen Middleton, of MC2, referred to Strada's 1,250 pages of impact studies" and said, "To risk this essential resource, to trade it for gravel that we do not need, would be a moronically bad deal."

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Together, you make it possible for the Stayner Lions Club to continue to serve a wide spectrum of organizations and people in our community, our province and internationally.

Thank You!

Fishing buddies qualify for championships

by Trina Berlo

A big catch at the MLF Canada Bronze Back Cup in July has earned two local anglers a spot in the Toyota Series Championship in Oklahoma.

Derek Meloche and **Rob Gray** caught 52.02 pounds of bass – the best of 10 fish caught over two days – to win by 0.08 pounds over Bassmaster Northern Open winner **Cory Johnston**. Going into Day 2 they were in third place and three pounds back but they came out on top. They equate their success to a little bit of luck and good communication, along with a love of fishing and enough competitive spirit.

“We had a plan and we stuck to it,” said Meloche, who also dedicates a lot of time to scouting the waters to figure out where the fish are under a variety of conditions.

The win was on Lake Simcoe, which is home turf for Meloche, a two-time MLF Toyota Championship Qualifier and Canada Showdown

Champion.

The upcoming championship takes place on Grand Lake Nov. 6-8, when “pros and co-anglers will take on a historic tournament location for the best payouts in bass fishing at a triple-A level.”

Although Meloche, competing in the pro division, and Gray, the co-angler, qualified together they will be competing as individuals in separate boats. During the competition 500 anglers will be vying for the top prizes – pros are fishing for \$235,000, including a \$35,000 Phoenix MLF Bonus, and co-anglers compete for a \$33,500 Phoenix 518 Pro bass boat powered by a 115hp outboard.

In the first two days of competition, anglers weigh in each day with the best of five catches, hoping for a cumulative weight that will get them one of 25 spots in the finals on Day 3, which will be televised. Another five are added during the finals, which comes down to a dramatic weigh in at the end of Day 3 to decide the champion.

Lured by the presence of fishing boats in each others’ driveways, Meloche and Gray met while living in Angus, and then reconnected when they were both living in New Lowell.

He and Gray are among six Canadians going to the championships in Oklahoma. They are chuffed to be joined by **Bob Izumi**, who is an idol of theirs. Having been fishing since the age of four, they both grew up watching Izumi’s Real Fishing Show with their fathers.

“It’s going to be a cool experience,” said Gray. He and Meloche were in Creemore this week meeting with sponsors at Home Hardware, which gave them a cash infusion, and Creemore Springs Brewery, which supplied some beer to share at an international night social. Meloche had his 21-foot Ranger 520 in tow, reportedly one of the best bass boats available. The boat is fully equipped with sonar, live scope and mapping technology, along with a livewell to keep the fish alive long enough to be weighed in.

The boat will be towed to Oklahoma in time for a practise day Saturday. “To win you have to have everything go right,” said Meloche.

The winning pro at the Toyota Series Championship qualifies for Redcrest, the Super Bowl of fishing tournaments, and the highest finishers from each division take home a \$10,000 bonus.



Contributed photo

Wasaga Beach resident **Derek Meloche** (left) and New Lowell resident **Rob Gray** are competing for big prizes in the Toyota Series Championship in Oklahoma Nov. 6-8.



GETTING A
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Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

A 'working session' on the topic of Clearview Township's zoning bylaw drew a capacity crowd Wednesday.

Farmers seek streamlined OFDU process

(Continued from page 1)

have to deal with that question when we get there. Every threat to agricultural lands is taken very seriously." He added, "Chances are the boundaries of our settlement area may change in the future."

On-farm diversified uses (OFDUs) were another hot topic. Ashton said the proposed bylaw will still limit OFDUs to two per cent lot coverage but the new version includes "as of right" language which should streamline approvals.

Farmer **Henry Brubacher** said streamlining the process is essential.

"I've been working at my application for two-and-a-half years," he said. "I'd like to look at buying some additional farms because the 100-acre family farm is no longer self sustaining. OFDUs make buying more farms attractive but not if every application takes more than two years. That is just not going to work for us."

Ashton said the intent of the new rules is to make

it easier to get approval for an OFDU, but **Monica Branigan** said, while she applauds the intent, there is nothing in the new zoning bylaw that will actually make it easier.

"Lumping all OFDUs together doesn't make sense," she said. "They are not all the same. No farmer is going to do an OFDU if it's going to take years to recover the permit costs."

Branigan suggested that maybe smaller risks should require fewer studies, and they may not all need to be done by pricey consultants.

One concern which was not addressed at the meeting was the potential impact of changes to environmental protection (EP) zones. The township is working with the county to update EP designations, but until that mapping is available, no decisions can be made. Ashton said that will probably not happen until sometime in the New Year.

Comments on the draft zoning bylaw can be submitted online at www.clearview.ca/node/13813.

Developers granted extensions

by **Bonnie MacPherson**

Clearview Township council has granted a one-year extension to a Draft Plan of Subdivision for Clearview Park. The original plan, approved in November 2013 called for 244 single detached homes, 60 semis and 100 medium density units on a 25.6 hectare parcel fronting on County Road 7 in northeast Stayner.

Since then, the lands were placed in receivership and sold to R.W.A. Acquisitions Inc.

Derek Abbotts, Clearview Director of Planning and Building, told council the one-year extension was requested by the applicant.

"This will facilitate additional time to work through the proposed Red Line (alterations to an approved site plan that do not substantively impact the visual appearance of a development) request and zoning amendment applications," he said. "It is anticipated that should those applications be approved that a new lapse date would form as a result."

Mayor **Doug Measures** noted that the request was unusual, in that developers typically ask for multi-year extensions.

Meanwhile, a five-year extension was granted to the developers of Georgian Communities, a proposed development at Country Road 124 and Blackburn Avenue in the Nottawa area. Plans call for the creation of 500 residential units including 192 single family homes on an 89-hectare parcel.

At a public information session in June, residents expressed concerns about the potential impact of the new subdivision on existing wells in the area. Engineering studies will include monitoring wells within 500 metres of the site, but Measures cautioned residents that they must allow monitoring on their wells in order to be part of the study.

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New fund honours RAYS founder

by Bonnie McPherson

The founder of RAYS (Resources for Area Youth Success) is being remembered with a new fund named in his honour. Tony Fry, who passed away in May at the age of 87, was deeply committed to helping youth achieve their full potential.

RAYS chairperson **Barbara Lemaire** said the group recently updated its strategic plan with the goal of making the program more accessible and understandable.

The new Tony Fry fund will facilitate the increase in the number of awards for college bound students. Thanks to the generosity of **Peter and Barbara Halsall** and another anonymous donor, every dollar donated to the Tony Fry fund during November and December will be matched dollar-for-dollar to a maximum of \$20,000. In announcing the funding pledge, the Halsalls said they share Tony Fry’s commitment to helping youth, and hope the fund will continue to support local students in pursuing their college dreams for years to come.

College awards were previously \$1,500 per year, but have now been increased to \$2,000 per year for the duration of the program. “That can make the difference whether they need to have a part time job or leave them time to participate more fully in the college experience,” said Lemaire.

According to Lemaire, the changes expand the program to provide money to more kids each year. The catchment area for the program has also been expanded to include two French immersion high schools in Barrie.

The RAYS awards program now has three



File photo

Tony Fry addresses attendees at the grand opening of RAY’s Place in 2011. The program would later evolve into RAYS, where a fund is being established in Fry’s name.

categories: university awards with scholarship awards of \$20,000 over four years for two new students annually as well as awards of merit of \$6,000 over two years for up to five new students annually; college awards of \$2,000 per year for the duration of a one- to

four-year program awarded to up to nine new students annually; and apprenticeship awards – one-time grants of \$1,300 for up to four students annually.
Donations to the fund can be made at www.raysawards.com.

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Contributed photo

CLEARVIEW FARMERS ON THE NATIONAL STAGE Local farmers **Keith Currie** (right) and **Brent Preston** each gave a keynote address in front of 400 delegates at the Globe Food Leadership Summit in Calgary earlier this month. Currie, who farms near Nottawa and is the president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, spoke on shaping a competitive, resilient, and secure future for Canada’s agriculture and food sector. Preston, who farms near Dunedin and is the president of Farmers for Climate Solutions, spoke on transforming agriculture through innovation, sustainability, and deep collaboration across the entire supply chain.



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

Answers on page 10

FRED’S FUNNIES

How do you fix a broken pumpkin?
With a Pumpkin patch!

Happy Halloween
Thank you to Brooke for he joke

Canadian Criss Cross by Walter Feener

- ACROSS**
- 1. Jokes
 - 5. Makes lace
 - 9. Place where hairdressers work
 - 10. Adjust to a new situation
 - 12. Took long steps
 - 13. Pusillanamous person
 - 15. Past due
 - 16. Adult beverage
 - 18. Recipe instruction
 - 19. Flamenco shout
 - 20. Diamond-shaped fish
 - 22. Greek vowel
 - 23. Bewilder
 - 25. Stopwatch button
 - 27. Broadcast
 - 28. A long way off
 - 29. Muscular strength
 - 32. Illness
 - 36. Electrically charged atom
 - 37. Stare angrily
 - 39. Violinist’s need
 - 40. One holidaying on a ranch
 - 42. Needle hole
 - 43. Almost white
 - 44. Make very angry
 - 46. On-line game character
 - 48. Interior designer’s concern
 - 49. Vertical part of a stair step
 - 50. Sailor’s greeting
 - 51. Religious ceremony

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		9						10				11
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36				37	38					39		
40			41		42				43			
44				45			46	47				
	48						49					
		50					51					

- DOWN**
- 1. Kind of belt or snake
 - 2. ___ vera
 - 3. Object of worship
 - 4. Athletic shoe
 - 5. Musical direction meaning to be silent
 - 6. Fuss
 - 7. Large shooting marbles
 - 8. Sudden floods (British)
 - 9. No longer fresh or good to eat
 - 11. Hackneyed
 - 12. Ladle clumsily
 - 14. Exclamation of annoyance
 - 17. Not strict
 - 20. Weapon for throwing stones
 - 21. Answering machine button
 - 24. Handle clumsily
 - 26. Before, in verses
 - 28. A pistol is one
 - 29. ___ one’s time
 - 30. Shaped like a circle
 - 31. Canadian actress Roth, who was on “Rescue Me”
 - 32. Calendar box
 - 33. Decreases in intensity
 - 34. Of the sun
 - 35. Water pitcher with a wide mouth
 - 38. On one’s guard
 - 41. Every one individually
 - 43. Pull ahead of
 - 45. Sticky substance
 - 47. By way of

Weekly blast of trivia

Who was the first inductee to Clearview sports Hall of Fame?



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Wasaga
Community
Theatre Presents
The Stand

For its fall production, Wasaga Community Theatre presents, *The Stand*, a witty and warm new play by Canadian playwright Jennifer Walton. The show opens Nov. 7.

Set in a peaceful lakeside town, *The Stand* explores what happens when a cherished patch of woodland is threatened by a proposed housing development. As neighbours take opposing stances, old friendships are tested and hidden tensions surface. At the heart of the story is Louise Wilson, a lifelong birdwatcher who never envisioned stepping into the role of activist, and her best friend Justine, whose husband is behind the development. The stakes rise as family loyalties, personal convictions, and community values clash, weaving a story that is by turns humorous, poignant, and surprisingly revealing.

Praised as both “funny” and “heartfelt,” *The Stand* brings together themes of friendship, family, activism, and the unexpected ways communities can unite when something worth protecting is at stake.

“*The Stand* challenges us to think about what it means to take a stand—not just publicly, but in our relationships and our everyday lives,” said director **Laura LaChapelle**.

The show opens Nov. 7 at the RecPlex in Wasaga Beach, and continues until Nov. 16. For tickets, visit wasagacommunitytheatre.com.



Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

AMAZING RACE CLEARVIEW Organizer **Sonja McArthur** says the first Amazing Race Clearview was an epic success. Ten teams competed in a total of 10 challenges at venues throughout the township. The Avening Community Centre hosted a bowling challenge where contestants had to scramble to find a matching pair of shoes, then knock down five pins. Amazing Race Canada alumni **Julia Viola** and **Olivia Curto** acted as race marshals, and the event wrapped up with a banquet at Station on the Green.

Prasad Family Foundation funds Compassionate Communities Initiative at Hospice

Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation has received a four-year pledge of \$100,000 from the Prasad Family Foundation to name and sustain the Compassionate Communities Initiative, which places specialized palliative expertise at the bedside through a dedicated Palliative Care Resource Nurse.

The role of the nurse, based at the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital, is to help patients and families access timely resources for hospice palliative care, as they transition through hospital care, to the next best place, whether at home or at

hospice.

The pledge is made in honour of **Shashi Prasad’s** 70th birthday.

“This generous commitment ensures families across South Georgian Bay continue to receive coordinated, compassionate palliative care when and where it’s needed most,” said **Sandra Sullivan**, Executive Director, Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation. “We’re deeply grateful to the Prasad family for celebrating Shashi’s milestone by investing in care close to home.”

“The Compassionate Communities model reflects our family’s values, dignity, innovation in health and

palliative care, and practical support,” said **Jacqueline Batista**, on behalf of the Prasad Family Foundation. “We’re honoured to help sustain a role that guides patients and families through complex decisions with compassion.”

The initiative strengthens clinical capacity at the hospital through bedside consultation, care navigation, and staff education — supporting smoother transitions to home or hospice (Campbell House). Recent results include hundreds of patient consultations, education for more than 100 nurses, and reduced emergency department visits and hospital days.

Church Directory

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10 a.m. Sunday
Rev. Carson Hansford
8933 County Rd. 9, Dunedin

CLEARVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
9:30 a.m. Sunday
Pastor Micah denBok
22 Caroline St. W., Creemore
705-430-6056
clearviewcommunity.church

St. Luke’s Anglican Church
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Rev. Sharon Sangster and Rev. Lorna May
22 Caroline St. W., Creemore
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www.stjohnscreemore.ca

This week’s answers

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

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

Trivia: 2018 Athlete of the Year: Michelle Maizis

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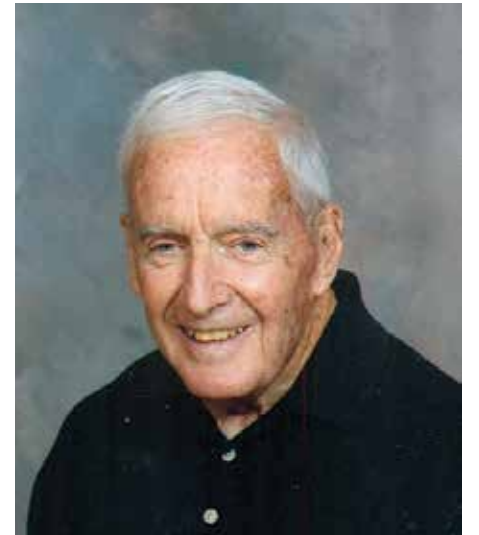


DEATH NOTICE



REDPATH, Jean March 15, 1937 – Oct. 18, 2025. It is with deep love and sadness that we announce the passing of Flora Jean Redpath (McIntyre) at the age of 88. Raised in McIntyre, Jean lived a life filled with kindness, laughter, and unwavering devotion to her family and friends. Beloved wife of the late Jack Redpath, Jean was a cherished mother to Patti (David), Lynn (Brian), and Kent (Karen). She took immense pride and joy in her family, especially her grandchildren — Hillary (Peter), Nathan (Heidi), Hannah (David), Claire (William), Jacob and Justin (Lorena) — and her great-grandson William. Jean will be lovingly remembered by her siblings Ann Lawler (late Gerry), late John McIntyre (late Lorna), Donald McIntyre (Marilyn), Barbara McIntyre and late Helen McIntyre (Rick Nolk), and by her sisters- and brothers-in-law Joy Burkholder (late Orm), late Tom Redpath (Eunice), June Hartley (late Ron), late Marion Winters (late Ken), and Alf Redpath (Alice). She leaves behind many nieces, nephews and extended family who will miss her warmth and humor. A long-time employee of Devil's Glen Country Club, Jean was known for her dedication, her friendly smile and the lasting friendships she built over the years with staff and members. Jean's life was marked by humour, generosity and quiet strength. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her. In Lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Georgian Triangle Humane Society or Singhampton Union Cemetery in Jean's memory. A Celebration of Jean's life will be held at Singhampton Community Centre on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All are welcome to join us for this come and go gathering to honour and remember Jean. Donations to the Singhampton Union Cemetery can be made electronically via e-transfer to brlecurrie@gmail.com or to The Georgian Triangle Humane Society by visiting www.gths.ca/donatenow.

DEATH NOTICE



SPELLMAN, William Pearson - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of William Pearson (Pearse) Spellman at Campbell House Hospice, Collingwood, on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025. Husband of Marion (Wallace) for more than 56 years, loving father of Richard and daughter-in-law Christine, proud grandpa of granddaughters Sarah and Margot, who were the light of his life. He was predeceased by parents Katherine and William Spellman. Pearson was born in Kirkland Lake on July 2, 1941, and lived 82 happy years in Stayner, the town he loved. Pearson made friends easily. As an employee at GE Electric, IGA and in his career as treasurer of the Town of Stayner, he collected friends. He sat on council but stepped down to accept his position with the town. He also sat on the cemetery board for years. In his retirement years, he enjoyed working as the shuttle driver at Mike Jackson GM in Collingwood, talking to some, listening to all. Pearson loved sports. In early years, he played and coached hockey, curled and played baseball. He was one of the initiators of the Stayner Siskins. You would find him every Thursday night at the arena, leaning on the upper rail with the rest of the gang, watching the Siskins. In 2000, he survived two open-heart surgeries and ended his career with the town but not his friendships. Most recently, he enjoyed Friday morning coffees with "the boys." He was happy and content with his family, friends and four-legged friends. Pearson had a dry sense of humour. He was loved and will be greatly missed by his family. Pearson will be laid to rest in a private ceremony at Stayner Union Cemetery. A celebration of life will be held at the Stayner Community Centre, 277 Regina St., Stayner, on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Words of remembrance are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The family is grateful for the support received from Dr. Gandhi, CGM Hospital, Home Care and Campbell House. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation. To sign Pearson's Book of Memories, please visit www.carruthersdavidson.com.

Classifieds & Calendars are also posted on www.creemore.com

A canvas bag found near Cashtown Corners held something terrible – or did it?

The Coates Creek Horror

by Christopher Dodd

October returns, and with it the restless whisper of leaves. They stir old stories, and this disturbing mystery rises again from the murky depths of our past.

In 1944, *Weird Tales* published Ray Bradbury's *The Jar*, the tale of a farmer who buys a carnival oddity: a jar containing a grotesque, unidentifiable thing. Neighbours who peer through the dark glass each see a different horror – revealing their own hidden fears, secret shames, and buried guilt. Half a century before Bradbury set pen to paper to write that story, something eerily similar unsettled the people of Creemore.

Cashtown Corners was little more than a dirt-road intersection with a tavern and hotel in June of 1894. Forests still pressed close, giving way reluctantly to farmland. One summer day, Mrs. William Coe followed a swampy path alongside Coates Creek when a foul stench caught her attention and drew her eyes to something half-buried in the muck. A canvas bag. Using a stick, she flipped it open – then recoiled, horrified.



Contributed photo

A foul stench alongside Coates Creek near Castown Corners led local residents to investigate the contents of a canvas bag, its contents remain a mystery.

She scraped soil over the bag and hurried home, but the image haunted her, and she soon told her neighbours what she had seen.

They listened, aghast. Most refused to look for themselves, but Alexander Kennedy went to the swamp. The smell led him to it like a beacon. Opening the bag, he considered what he saw. It was just as Mrs. Coe had said. He reburied it. Others followed. One after another, the bag was unearthed,

and its contents confirmed.

Word spread until a Creemore doctor and a local journalist set out to investigate. The newspaper man gagged as the doctor examined the object in the bag and declared it to be – as everyone had said – the putrefied remains of a small infant. Together, they buried the bag once more and headed back to Creemore to report the incident to the authorities. Oddly, the police were slow to act.

In the meantime, the curious continued to dig. Each swore the same: the bag held a tiny child's body.

But soon, new stories began to circulate, compelling the Creemore doctor to return with a medical student. By then, the muddy ground was churned with footprints. When they opened the bag, what they saw made them freeze. Inside, long dead and rotting, lay a fish.

The doctor swore he had not been mistaken, that he had seen arms, legs, human structures. Had someone switched the contents to conceal a crime? Or had fear and suggestion deceived him – and everyone else – into seeing what was never there? There was no answer.

The *Mad River Star* carried the bizarre account on July 12, 1894, under the headline *A Horrible Find*. Then the story was filed away into the bottom drawer of local history.

Even now, questions linger. If the remains had initially been those of a child, the implications are grim. Infanticide was not unheard of in rural Ontario. Yet if it had always been just a decomposing fish, then perhaps pareidolia and the power of suggestion had tricked every witness, even a trained physician. Each observer might have projected their own fears onto an ambiguous shape.

Yet another possibility whispers through this dark tale: that the bag held something neither wholly fish nor completely human, some weird form that blurred the line between the two. Folklore, across centuries, is full of such beings – half-child, half-creature – lurking at the edges of rivers and swamps. The rational mind rejects the notion even as the imagination is provoked.

Looking back at this story from 1894, we can't help but feel dismayed by the actions of those involved, yet at the same time, we see echoes of ourselves. Over a century later, the story may seem absurd, yet the human impulse to see more than is truly there remains deeply familiar. Today, we peer through the dark glass of our devices into a different sort of swamp – an online murk – where misinformation and disinformation blur the line between fact and fiction.

The Coates Creek mystery remains unsolved. The bag is long gone, along with whatever it contained. We have only the story now – strange and perplexing – and like Bradbury's jar, it poses another question: if you had been one of the people to venture into that swamp, driven by curiosity to dig up the bag, and look inside... what would you have seen?

Christopher Dodd is a teacher, writer, and filmmaker. Discover more about this story – and other regional mysteries – on his YouTube channel, *Canadian Strange*: www.youtube.com/@CanadianStrange.

This story was unearthed in *The Mad River Star*, July 12, 1894.

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