


The Creemore ECHO

Friday, November 21, 2025 Vol. 25 No. 47 www.creemore.com

News and views in and around Creemore

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Hospital hosts visioning session in Creemore

Collingwood General and Marine Hospital (CGMH) is holding a visioning session in Creemore on Nov. 25 to gather input into early design concepts for the new hospital.

“Every community has its own personality and voice,” said **Cathy Renaud**, Vice President, Hospital Development, CGMH. “South Georgian Bay has a creative and connected energy unlike anywhere else, and we want that essence to be felt throughout our new hospital. These sessions are an opportunity to hear directly from the people who live here – to make sure the design reflects the people, stories, and values that define South Georgian Bay.”

In December, the provincial government announced \$95.5 million in funding for the new hospital, planned for Poplar Sideroad, with an increased capacity of 132 private inpatient beds, up from 84 beds, and expanded access to key services, including intensive care, emergency, diagnostic imaging, and operating suites. The hospital serves more than 74,000 residents and 3.5 million annual visitors to the communities of Wasaga Beach, Collingwood, Clearview and the Blue Mountains. Construction is anticipated



Michael Gray Wheeler photo

CGMH team members explore designs from other healthcare facilities at a recent staff visioning session.

to begin in fall 2028 and the new hospital set to open as early as 2033.

Community members are invited to help answer the following questions: What should it feel like to enter South Georgian Bay’s future hospital? How should its spaces reflect care, connection, and belonging? And what qualities should shine through in the design of a hospital built by – and for

– this community?

The drop-in session at Station on the Green from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. offers a chance to provide input into early design concepts, explore ideas from other modern hospitals, and share your thoughts directly with the Hospital Development Planning Team.

For more information, visit yourfuturehospital.com/get-involved.

Christmas in Clearview

Planning is underway for festive activities throughout the area, providing opportunities to gather with neighbours, visit with Santa, and support those in need this holiday season.

Creemore Tree lighting

Creemore’s Christmas in the Valley begins with the tree lighting on Friday, Dec. 5, hosted by Creemore Village Green and Creemore Firefighters’ Association from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. This cherished annual tradition includes a performance by the Creemore Community Children’s Choir, games and the crazy hat contest to determine who will have the honour of lighting up the 12-foot Christmas tree set up on the stage. The crazy hat contest invites youth to create a hat – the crazier the better. Hats from past years have been assembled using things from around the house, embellished with ribbons, ornaments and even lights. Attendees will be invited to gather round the fire pits to warm up and make s’mores.

Inside, Station on the Green will be serving free hot dogs and hot chocolate, and children’s crafts facilitated by Imaginarium Adventure in Art. Children are also encouraged to bring their letters to Santa and make use of the North Pole post box.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 6 starts with Breakfast with Santa at the Creemore Legion from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. which includes a silent auction and pictures with Santa. The pancake and sausage breakfast costs \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets available at the door. Cash only. All proceeds from the event are donated to Nottawasaga and Creemore Public School and St. Luke’s Community Food Bank.

Creemore Santa Claus parade

The Creemore parade, hosted by the Creemore BIA, is expected to hit Mill Street at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 6. The parade will be marshalling at the arena and will travel east on Johnston Street, south on Mill Street (See ‘Many’ on page 12)

Recreation prioritized during budget workshops

by **Trina Berlo**

There was a focus on improving access to recreation during Clearview council’s budget workshops this week.

Staff presented a \$22-million budget, which comes with a tax increase of just over 2.4 per cent once estimated school, county and policing costs are factored in.

During the workshops, additional spending was allocated for sports and recreation and council discussed a plan for an increased annual contribution to a parks capital projects reserve to create more recreation opportunities and enhance township facilities. As a result of the budget, residents may

see the addition of pickleball and tennis courts, basketball court and frisbee golf.

A significant portion of the seven-hour workshop held over two days saw council doing some soul searching about the Stayner pool.

The aging pool is leaking and needs a new mechanical system. Council’s discussions have ranged from shutting down the pool to building a new indoor pool, with limping along and maintaining access to the pool being the current course of action.

There is currently \$150,000 in the 2026 budget, with \$32,500 coming from taxation, for the replacement of the mechanical system; security

camera monitoring; interior office renovations; lane ropes; deck chairs; water bottle refill station.

Council directed staff to move forward with the mechanical work before or after the upcoming pool season, and report back to council during the first half of 2026, to address options and phases of the pool replacement project, including a redevelopment of the entire property.

Phase 2 of repairs and upgrades are estimated to cost \$217,800, not including accessibility requirements. **Terry Vachon**, director of parks and recreation, told council that his best guess is that it will cost \$500,000 to

(See ‘Council’ on page 3)

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COMMUNITY Calendar

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Friday, Nov. 21

- **Line dancing lessons** every Friday night at Station on the Green. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. \$15 per person. Beginner friendly, bring your water bottle. Sign up at the Creemore 100 Mile Store or call/text Linda at 705-794-0638.

Saturday, Nov. 22

- **Mistletoe Market at Dunedin Community Hall.** 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.
- **Christmas Bazaar** at Centennial United Church from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for great shopping, prizes and more. 10 swag bags at 9:30 a.m. and noon. Sunday School Bake Sale too.
- After visiting the craft shows stop by St. John's United Church, 192 Mill St. Creemore, for a hearty **soup lunch**. Enjoy a bowl of soup for \$10, served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pick up some tasty treats or kitchen crafts to take home. Everyone welcome.
- The Stayner Legion presents **Small Town Sound** with Jebedina Cubitt and Brian Nabuurs from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free Admission. An original song will be performed for the first time.
- **Oysters and Wine at Soirée Nouveau** at Chin Chin from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. In the spirit of the famous French wine festival, come enjoy oysters, charcuterie, and freshly picked and bottled 2025 Nouveau PTG (by local winemaker Therianthropy) to celebrate the end of the Ontario harvest. Walk-in. Contact hello@chinchinshop.ca

Tuesday, Nov. 25

- Collingwood General Marine Hospital **Community Visioning Session** from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Station on the Green. Drop-in and share your thoughts on designs for the new Collingwood hospital. To learn more visit yourfuturehospital.com.
- **Pub Trivia Night** every Tuesday night from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Mill House Pub, 141 Mill St., Creemore. \$10 cover includes entry, answer sheets and a shot at prizes. Gather your team and put your knowledge to the test. For more info, contact 705-466-5244, visit theoldmillhousepub.com, or join the Pub Trivia Facebook group.

Friday, Nov. 28

- **Paint and Sip Night** at Mill Street Art Studio from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. \$50 includes your first glass of wine and materials to make six gift tags and six cards with envelopes. Limited spots. Email manager@creemorevillagegreen.ca to reserve.

Saturday, Nov. 29

- **Christmas Market** at the Singhampton Hall, 6 Milltown Rd. Singhampton 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fresh baked goods and local crafts on offer. For more information contact singhamptonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. This will be followed by the Santa Claus Parade at 5:30 p.m. Tour the village and end at the firehall for a visit with Santa.
- **Breakfast with Santa**, 9 a.m. to noon at New Lowell United Church, 5227 County Road 9. Come and enjoy a free family pancake breakfast, with crafts and treats. Bring your own camera to capture special moments with Santa. Donations to the Food Bank or cash donations for future community events are appreciated. To help the organizers plan for numbers, please call 705-424-6497 or email sandra@bednarek.ca.
- **Creemore Holiday Shopping Kick Off** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit downtown Creemore for horse and wagon rides and sip and shop at participating retailers.

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, Nov. 30

- The Avening Community Centre Board invites you to the **grand re-opening** of the hall. 2 p.m. ribbon cutting. 2:30 p.m. official welcome and remarks. Refreshments and tours to follow.
- **Talk and Book Signing 'Reaping What She Sows':** Join James Beard-award winning author Nancy Matsumoto for a conversation about the women heroes who are fighting Big Food to create a healthier, more just system—and answering the question: How should we eat? Enjoy with wine by a female winemaker. Tickets online (chinchinshop.ca/events) and in-store. Event is at Chin Chin, 180 Mill St. Creemore from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$16 - \$26. Contact hello@chinchinshops.ca.

Friday, Dec. 5

- **Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony** from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. hosted by the Creemore Village Green and Creemore Firefighters Association.

Saturday, Dec. 6

- **Breakfast with Santa** at the Creemore Legion from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, with proceeds going to St. Luke's Community Food Bank and Creemore Public School. The event will feature a silent auction and a special visit from Santa Claus.
- **Annual Very Artisan Market** happening at the Nottawa Hall. Meet over 30+ skilled artisans, makers and creators. Free Entry, raffle, special guest and more. Join for a day of craft, community and Christmas tradition.
- **Stayner Santa Claus parade** from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Watch the parade come down Main Street and finish at the old Foodland. There will be hot chocolate and hot dogs at the end of the route. Monetary donations accepted for the Foodbank.
- **Creemore Santa Claus Parade** hosted by the Creemore BIA at 1:30 p.m. Visit Santa in the Village Green after the parade.

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.
- **J.S. Bach's Long Walk in the Snow:** The Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society, with support from Kayla Thompson Realtor, presents musician and broadcaster Tom Allen in an afternoon of **music and storytelling**. The performance brings to life J.S. Bach's coming-of-age journey through music. St. John's United Church, 192 Mill St., 2 p.m. Tickets \$40 at ticketscene.ca.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

- **A Community Christmas Concert** at Jubilee Presbyterian Church, Stayner. Join for an evening of carols, choirs and community at 7 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken to support the work for the Clearview Minsiterial. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

Friday, Dec. 19

- **Christmas Cheers** at The Dunedin Pub Start your holidays off with good spirits and great company at The Dunedin Pub's annual **Christmas Cheers event**. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. 19+ event. Cash bar. No cover.

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. Take-out dinners and delivery 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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Council votes to proceed with pool renovations

(Continued from page 1)

keep the pool open long-term.

Most agreed, that is a large expense considering the pool is only open for two months of the year and runs at a \$100,000 deficit each season.

Councillor **John Broderick** asked what it would take to build an indoor pool. Vachon said development charge money will be available in the near future to conduct a feasibility study but consultation for the existing 2018-2028 *Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan* indicated residents were comfortable with a 25-minute drive to reach a destination facility, such as an indoor pool.

Councillor **Robert Walker** said he would like to see a survey done to see if that is still true, recognizing times have changed.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed budget at the Dec. 8 council meeting, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

With new strong mayor powers, as mandated by the province, the mayor will then present a proposed budget to council on Jan. 8. Council will have 30 days to pass a resolution to amend and the budget, thereby setting the tax rate.

The mayor then has 10 days from the end of the council review period to veto any council amendment. To veto a council amendment,

the head of council must provide written documentation of the veto and rationale to each member of council and the municipal clerk on the day of the veto. Within a 15-day period after the head of council's veto period, council may override the head of council's veto of a council amendment if two-thirds of all council members vote to override the veto.

Budget highlights:

Parks and recreation

- Capital funding – new projects \$872,730 (\$130,000 from taxation);
- Capital funding - carry over projects \$2,210,000 (\$0 from taxation).

Capital improvements

- Stayner sports court - \$100,000;
- Creemore sports park - \$200,000.

Stayner Arena

- Replace chairs with carts in community hall \$17,000;
- Replace dressing room flooring \$12,000 (taxation).

Creemore Arena

- Painting ceiling beams and wall siding \$30,000;
- Battery powered ice resurfer (2027 estimated delivery) \$150,000;

- Dehumidifiers (2) \$80,000;
- Replace sound system \$25,000 (taxation).

Stayner parks

- Refurbish baseball diamonds \$40,000;
- Aluminum bleachers \$10,000 (taxation).

Creemore Parks

- Gowan Park bleachers \$10,000 (taxation); \$115,000 from fundraising.

Library

Construction of the Creemore library branch's 1,000 square foot addition, funded by development charges in the amount of \$930,000, is set to begin in the fall of 2026.

Library CAO **Jennifer LaChapelle** said the board seeking grants to fund accessible washrooms and is developing a fundraising campaign for things like shelving and maker space equipment such as 3D printers and button makers.

Planning

The development of the Stayner Secondary Plan in the amount of \$350,000-\$500,000, to be done over 18-24 months.

It was referred to as one of the most significant planning initiatives, looking out 50 years or more,

and a critical component of the development charge early payment project funding and water capacity allocation agreement related to the Klondike Park water servicing project for Stayner.

Roads

Road paving projects (pulverize, add gravel, pave and shouldering) on Concession 6 North Nottwasaga from County Road 91 to 33/34 Sideroad in the amount of \$1,225,500; and Concession 10 South Nottwasaga from County Road 91 to County Road 124 in the amount of \$780,000.

Fire

2014 two-seat utility terrain vehicle (UTV) to be replaced with a four-seat UTV with fire suppression and rescue drop-in unite, at a cost of \$50,000, for off-road medical calls

Fire Chief **Scott Davison** proposed a future discussion about an aerial fire truck, to be funded through development charges, and the replacement of a 2010 pumper truck.

Youth centre

The Clearview Youth Centre (currently in a temporary location until it moves into its new location in the former Stayner Care Centre) is requesting a second part-time staff to extend youth centre hours from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



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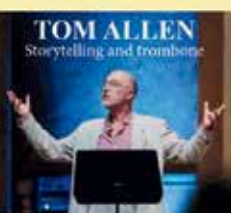
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Michael Bridge
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Rebekkah Wolkstein
violin

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OPINION & Feedback

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COLUMN

Where am I at war with myself?

“As within, so without; as above, so below; as the universe, so the soul.” This quote is a modern paraphrase of words found on the Emerald Tablet, a short mystical text attributed to Hermes Trismegistus.

WELLNESS



Nicole
HAMBLETON

This philosophical perspective promotes the idea that who we are on the inside is mirrored in the world around us, and vice versa. The microcosm (individual) is interconnected with the macrocosm (universe). November has had me thinking a lot about this quote and how it relates to peace.

When I was young I believed that peace was outside of myself. That peace could only be achieved when “those people” stopped fighting or when “those people” learned to get along. In school we learned about the United Nations and the Peacekeepers. We learned about war and how bad people do bad things to good people. How there are victims and perpetrators. How power differentials – those that have and those that don’t – make peace hard.

These concepts of non-peace are true, but lately I’ve been hearing whispers of another truth. A truth that enables me to add or take away from the vibration of peace. A truth that asks how am I promoting peace instead of expecting someone else to take up the charge. That whisper has lead to shining light on shadows that would rather stay in the dark. November began with the question, “where am I at war with myself?” I’m at war with my body when I judge it and compare myself to others. I’m at war with the part of me that doesn’t want to hurt other people’s feelings so I don’t say how I really feel.

I’m at war with the part of me that feels I haven’t helped enough people so what am I really doing with my one wild and precious life? I’m at war with the part of me that wants to howl and dance naked in the moonlight, but also cares what the neighbours think. Many of these battles are present because of my upbringing and societal conditioning. To break free I stepped on the path of healing which exposes internal struggles and offers opportunities to begin again. This path also presented me with the cold hard truth that it’s hard to stand for peace when there’s war going on inside of you.

As I age, the more I understand “as within, so without.” What I do to myself ripples out and impacts others. If I engage the world from my wounded places I’m not a nice person and I do not add to the peace quotient. If I choose to look with curiosity at my inner “wars” and engage in healing practices to transmute them I can be in the world from a more peaceful place. I’ve found that the more peaceful I become the more I see peace all around me. For me peace is not about the bad guys out there its about how I show up in the world. I believe if enough of us did the work to live from the still point of inner peace we would find ourselves in a more peaceful and loving world.

Nicole Hambleton is a wellness coach, meditation, and energy medicine practitioner living in Mulmur. Visit www.purpletentwellness.com.

THE WAY WE WERE



A 1991 poster promoting the Santa Claus Parade when it was organized by the Lion's Club. The poster was printed in Creemore by Ceramic Enterprises Ltd.

COMMUNITY



Contributed photo

Members and management from the Stayner Siskins kindly donated their time to come out to read to young Clearview Public Library patrons at a very special PA Day Story Hour on Friday, Nov. 14 at the Stayner branch. Local hockey stars **Caleb Tiffin Seminara** (#10), **Tait Lighthouse** (#24), **Dayton Strongman** (#34) and **Bryden Shank** (#28) entertained a crowd of children “off the ice” by the fireplace in the community reading room. Children’s programmer **Natasha Rolling** joined **Di Page**, CEO **Jennifer La Chapelle** and Deputy CEO **Michele McKenzie** as proud hosts of this new crossover event that also featured craft-making, book displays and scavenger bingo hunt.

The Creemore
ECHO

www.creemore.com



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Funds support new mentorship program

At its September meeting, 100 Men Who Care Southern Georgian Bay chose to support Brad's Place Addiction Treatment of Southern Georgian Bay with a \$12,229 donation.

"We are pleased to support the kick-off of Brad's Place's Mentorship Program," said **David Trafford**, Leadership Team Member of 100 Men Who Care Southern Georgian Bay. "This donation will not only support the operational needs of Brad's Place but also help inspire a new approach to recovery — one that shifts the narrative from stigma and shame to hope and empowerment."

Brad's Place was formed in 2018 by 18 individuals, galvanized by the passing of someone close to them due to drug addiction. The vision was to create a place where youth and young adults in the Georgian Triangle could find therapeutic guidance and support to overcome addiction and rebuild their lives.

Since then, in collaboration with Bayshore Health and local youth centres, Brad's Place has identified and supported youth and young adults seeking help to overcome substance use challenges and reintegrate as contributing members of the community.

Half of the funds from 100 Men Who Care will help launch Brad's Place's newest initiative, The Lucy Project: Mentorship Through Art, Story



Contributed photo

100 Men Who Care Southern Georgian Bay presented a cheque Nov. 13 in support of Stayner based Brad's Place Addiction Treatment of Southern Georgian Bay.

and Skill. This mentorship program pairs participants with local mentors — tradespeople, artists, farmers, and crafters — to learn hands on skills, build confidence, and rediscover a sense of identity and purpose. Funds will cover mentor honorariums, workshop supplies, facilitation, and a community showcase.

"We are deeply grateful for the generosity of the 100 Men Who Care Southern Georgian Bay," said

Paul Lopes, board chair. "Their support strengthens our ability to offer meaningful programs like The Lucy Project and to build community connections that truly change lives."

Brad's Place also welcomes community members interested in volunteering as mentors for The Lucy Project or helping out in other ways. Those wishing to get involved can reach out through www.bradspplace.org or contact the team directly.

Toys for Tickets

Clearview Township is once again supporting the Simcoe County Paramedics Food and Toy Drive through the 'Toys for Tickets' initiative.

'Toys for Tickets' allows anyone who receives a parking ticket between Oct. 15 and Dec. 15 the option to pay the early fee as indicated on the ticket, or to submit a gift card or toy of equal or greater value as payment for the ticket. Residents can donate to pay for a parking ticket at the Administration Centre.

Simcoe County Paramedics are accepting financial donations, new unwrapped toys, non-perishable food items and gift cards (with the gift card value denoted). Parking tickets can be paid during regular business hours at the Administration Centre, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Donation boxes are located at the Township Administration Centre (217 Gideon Street, Stayner) and Fire Administration Centre (6993 Highway 26, Stayner).

For further details on the Simcoe County Paramedics Food and Toy Drive or to donate virtually visit www.simcoe.ca/toydrive.



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Staff photo: Trina Berlo

Clearview Township Mayor **Doug Measures** cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of McDonald's in Stayner on Nov. 14 with operations supervisor **Vince Schneider** and **Rachel Kelly**, subbing for her husband and franchisee **Brent Kelly**.

Toys For Tots supports Dufferin

Dufferin OPP, in partnership with the Salvation Army New Hope Community Church, kicks off Toys For Tots this weekend outside of the Orangeville Walmart. Officers will be collecting new, unwrapped toys, non-perishable food items, and gift cards in order to help those in need this holiday season. All donations collected will be distributed locally through the

Salvation Army. The campaign runs from Nov. 29 to Dec. 14. Officers will be collecting donations outside of Walmart at 95 First Street in Orangeville on Fridays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Last year's campaign assisted nearly 400 families, providing both food and toys for the holidays.



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JS Bach’s odyssey imagined in chamber musical

by Trina Berlo

As a young man, Johann Sebastian Bach made a long journey on foot to see a famous organist perform. Bach, a gifted performer but not yet a composer, was given one month leave from his employer in Arnstadt, Germany to make the 450-kilometre trek to Lübeck to hear the renowned organist Dietrich Buxtehude, a journey that stretched to four months.

What happened or might have happened on Bach’s odyssey in 1705, at the age of 20, is the inspiration for *JS Bach’s Long Walk in the Snow*, the fifth chamber musical from **Tom Allen**, a familiar voice on CBC Radio.

He said the genre of his own invention combines musical theatre, chamber music and storytelling.

JS Bach’s Long Walk promises street fights, big business, insight, fulfillment, the father figure Bach didn’t know he needed and, quite possibly, love.

Allen explains that the love story, and for him the most fascinating part of the tale, emerges when it is imagined that Bach considers marriage to Buxtehude’s eldest daughter Anna Margareta. Allen explains that it was not uncommon in that time and place for it to be stipulated that a predecessor marry one of their children, as Buxtehude had done. As Buxtehude was nearing retirement from his appointment as organist at the Marienkirche, a medieval basilica in Lübeck, he was searching for a predecessor. At least three other composers and organists did consider offers, including George Friedrich Handel.

“The fact that Bach went and stayed for four months is a really intriguing thought to me that says he was at least considering it,” said Allen. “I don’t believe he could have lived under the same roof – which he did. He was housed by Buxtehude – and not given very serious thought to this job and the possibility of marrying Anna Margareta. And so that adds a kind of a mystery, a love aspect to the story. But most accounts that look at this don’t take Anna Margareta’s perspective into account at all, perhaps not surprisingly, given that most of music history at the time was written by men.”

Anna Margareta was 30 at the time, and Allen presumes that few of the young musicians auditioning for her father would have been very impressive in comparison.

Ultimately, Bach walked away.

Because there is little historical record of Bach’s time in Lübeck, Allen narrates a historical fiction based on the events of the time.

“Both in music and in story, it’s an exploration of



Curtis Perry photo

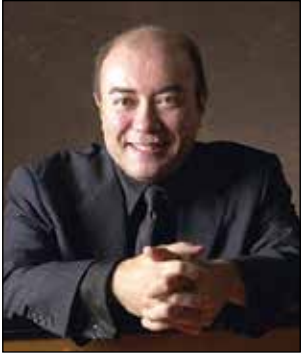
JS Bach’s Long Walk in the Snow is hosted by **Tom Allen**, a familiar voice from CBC Radio.



Joe Phillips



Rebekah Wolkstein



Jamie Parker



Patricia O’Callaghan

the little we know and the great amount that might have been,” said Allen.

The show opened last year and has been performed across the country almost 50 times.

Allen, a trombone player, usually collaborates with his wife **Lori Gemmell**, a harpist, and a rotating cast of talented Canadian musicians. Gemmell performed a one of the chamber music events presented by Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society at St. John’s United Church, which was attended by Allen. Although Gemmell is unavailable for the upcoming performance, *JS Bach’s Long Walk in the Snow* will feature vocalist **Patricia O’Callaghan**, violinist

Rebekah Wolkstein, double bassist **Joe Phillips**, and pianist **Jamie Parker**.

The Creemore show presented by Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society, is from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7 at St. John’s, Creemore, 192 Mill St. Tickets cost \$40 and are available online at phahs.ca.

Allen will have copies of his newest book, *The Classical Musick Almyrac: A compendium of classical Curiosities* available.

The performance will be the finale for a weekend of holiday festivities in Creemore, beginning with the tree lighting on Friday, and Breakfast with Santa and the Santa Claus Parade on Saturday.

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Thursday:
5:30 pm Strong Flow (Gill)
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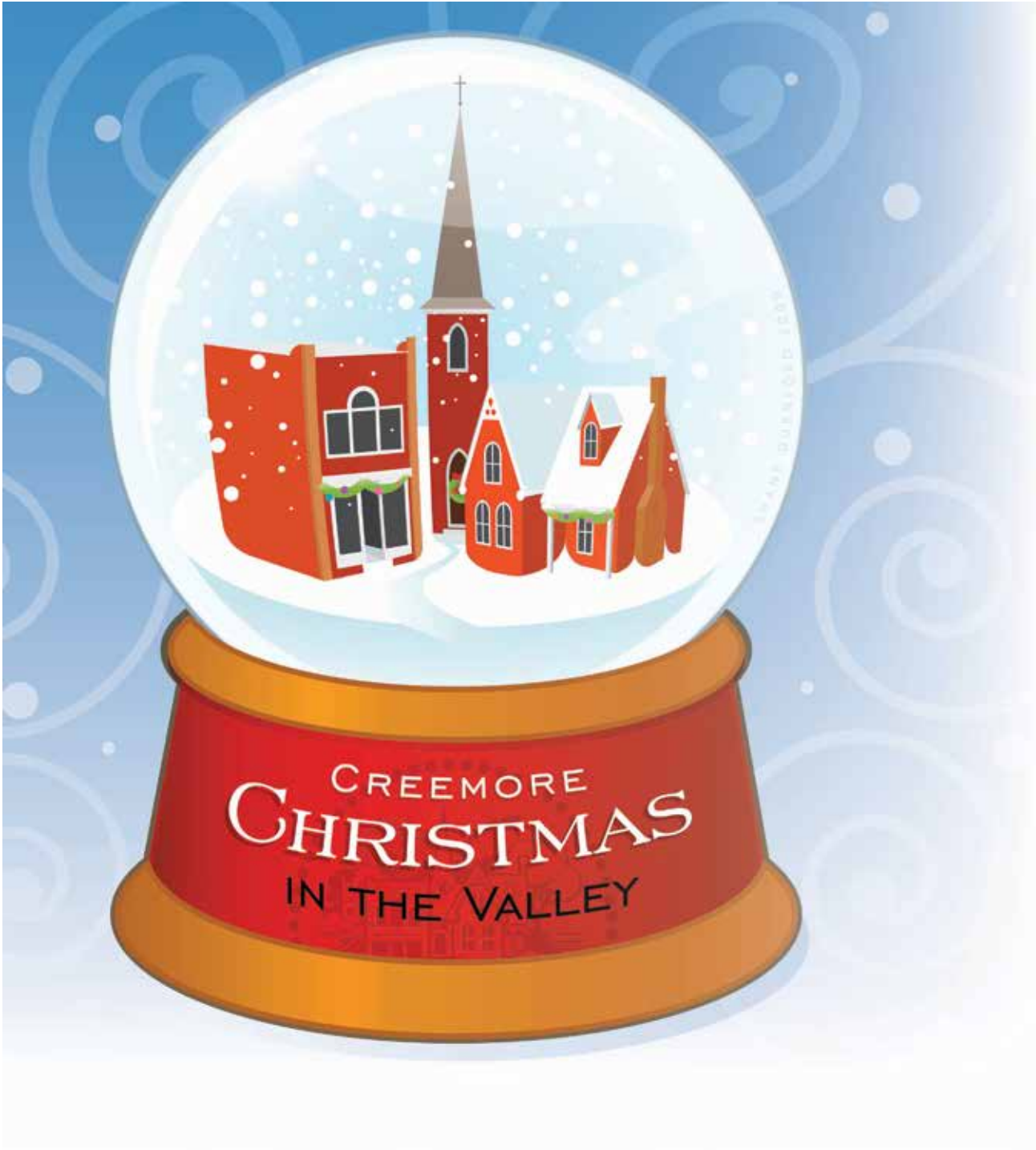


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Friday, Dec. 5, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

HOSTED BY THE CREEMORE VILLAGE GREEN & CREEMORE FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

Santa Claus Parade

Saturday, Dec. 6, 1:30 p.m.

HOSTED BY THE CREEMORE BIA - VISIT SANTA IN THE CREEMORE VILLAGE GREEN AFTER THE PARADE

J.S. Bach's Long Walk in the Snow

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The HUB provides space for connection, empowerment

by Bonnie MacPherson

If a hub is the centre from which other things radiate, Duntroon may seem like an unlikely place for a business hub. Not so, according to **Ashley Lougheed** founder and CEO of Girl Time Inc and The HUB. Lougheed grew up in the area, attending Duntroon Central Public School. She lived in London, Ontario and Ottawa before moving home in 2015.

“Suddenly, we were considered newcomers and I was craving connection, community and collaboration,” she said. “I found myself connecting with other women who were new to the area, and old friends who were going back to work after having children or starting side hustles. I decided to create events and activities to connect them all.”

Lougheed launched her business, Girl Time Inc in 2020, although she said she had been working on ideas to bring women together for some years prior to that.

“I see myself as an ambassador for women,” she said. “In 2020, there was fear everywhere. I focused on bringing women together in a safe environment.”

The HUB, at 2791 County Road 124 is a new bricks and mortar location for Girl Time Inc. Lougheed’s 14-year-old daughter said HUB could be an acronym for Her Unified Beginning. The centre will offer business events



Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

Ashley Lougheed, founder and CEO of Girl Time Inc., has launched The HUB, a space for business networking and socializing.

and activities as well as purely social events like a book club, a running club and weekly “coffee and connections” sessions.

“The HUB is not just me,” said Lougheed. “It’s other women and other businesses. If there is something that women want and I don’t have the expertise to facilitate it, I will find someone who does.”

The space includes a cozy meeting space, a boardroom and display space showcasing work by local painters and crafters.

“I looked for four years in

Collingwood and Stayner and all around the area for this kind of connection and it didn’t exist. Duntroon really is a hub, connecting Collingwood, Stayner and Singhampton. It’s an ideal location with ample parking and we’re connected to outdoor everything,” said Lougheed. “Our goal is to inspire and empower women through fitness and well being, social and business events.”

The space will be available for rental by community groups. The calendar of upcoming events includes a book launch, an art show and events to celebrate International Women’s

Day. Beginning in the New Year, the HUB will host a Girl Code Program for nine- to 12-year-olds focused on developing inner confidence and fostering relationships.

“We’ll be showing them how they can be ambassadors for each other,” said Lougheed.

Memberships are available, or events can be booked a la carte.

“We had women purchasing memberships before we actually opened our doors on Nov. 1. There are currently 63 members of our ‘Women of the Round Table,’ a group of women in business and leadership that meets regularly to discuss business and personal issues. Recently, a group of 21 women gathered for a social event to discuss issues around menopause. Annual memberships are currently offered at \$33.30 per month. “I am not fixated on numbers to measure my success. One of the greatest compliments I’ve every received was from a woman who said you created a warm space where I can relax and be myself.”

Lougheed has a three-year lease on the Duntroon space and is hopeful that before it’s time to renew, The HUB will be looking for larger premises. Her vision is that eventually, it will expand to include work spaces for female professionals.

For more information, visit www.girltimeinc.com.

Hospital launches holiday Tree of Life campaign

The Collingwood General and Marine Hospital (CGMH) Foundation has launched this year’s Tree of Life campaign in support of Tomorrow’s Hospital, a new facility that will expand healthcare services, elevate patient care, and meet the needs of South Georgian Bay’s fast-growing population.

Mike Jackson GM will match every donation made during the campaign, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$25,000. That means every gift will have double the impact.

“As chief of family medicine and lead hospitalist at CGMH, I’ve had the privilege of caring for this community for many years,” said Dr. **Alex Fraser**. “I am constantly inspired by the people who call South Georgian Bay home. Our team delivers extraordinary care every day, driven by compassion, purpose, and a deep commitment to our patients. But we can’t treat tomorrow’s patients in yesterday’s hospital.”

The Ontario Ministry of Health announced almost a year ago that

South Georgian Bay would receive a new hospital. Since then, the vision for Tomorrow’s Hospital is taking shape, with features including private inpatient rooms, a larger emergency department equipped for our growing population, world-class operating rooms, all designed to meet the evolving needs of our region.

“The Tree of Life campaign is a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we come together. With the support of our community, we are turning Tomorrow’s Hospital vision

into reality,” said **Sandra Taylor**, president and CEO of the CGMH Foundation.

The foundation has a \$100 million fundraising goal. Donations will help expand surgical, diagnostic, and ambulatory care programs, strengthening regional and local partnerships to best serve our patients right here in South Georgian Bay, bringing care close to home. To support the Tree of Life campaign and double your impact, visit TomorrowsHospital.com.



The Creemore Echo and the Avening Community Centre extend a heartfelt thank-you to Joel Plaskett and his father Bill for joining us for two sold-out shows last weekend.

We are deeply grateful to our amazing volunteers—Bill, Jill, Lisa, Jenn, Corey, Monica, Trina, Jenny, Yvonne, Hillary, Bonnie, Rick, and Melanie—for their hard work. Credit must be given to Andrew Shropshire for taking care of the AV gear, and to the generous donors who made our new in-house system possible.

We also thank the music lovers and community members who attended these concerts. Your energy and enthusiasm are truly rewarding.



Joel Plaskett played two sold-out shows at Avening Hall Nov. 15-16. He was joined by his father **Bill Plaskett**, who delighted the audience with his stories and folk songs.

Staff photo: Trina Berlo

In Loving Memory of My Daughter,
Kelly Anne Bateman
April 10, 1966 - Nov. 26, 2017
My daughter Kelly, daily I have loving, special thoughts of you. You had such an understanding patient talent and so much love to give. Loving you was so easy I did it every day. You are in my heart. Until we meet again, my angel.
Love, Dad



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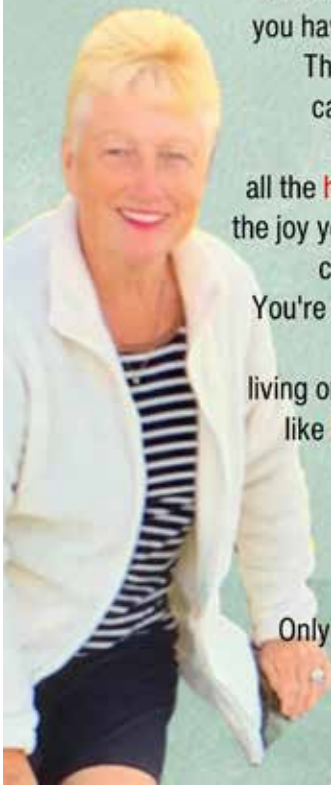
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In Loving Memory of my Beloved Wife
Donna White
(née Ferguson)
May 23, 1945 - Nov. 25, 2022



It broke my heart to lose you, you have left an empty space. The love we had together cannot ever be replaced. I will never forget you, all the happy times we shared, the joy you brought into my life can never be compared. You're with me every moment now that we're apart living on in precious memories like keepsakes in my heart. I miss you more than words can say, my beautiful, wonderful wife. Only time can heal my pain, you were the one true love of my life.
Love, Walter

In Loving Memory of My Mother
Donna White (nee Ferguson)



MAY 23, 1945 - NOV. 25, 2022
Mom, I miss you more than words can say, I wish you were still here with me every second of every day. I miss your beautiful smile, our long talks, our times we spent together; I was truly blessed to have an angel for a mother. You were always there to listen, mend me, you shaped me, you made me. You were my confidante, my hero, my mom and best friend. My heart is broken, nothing seems the same... But I was the luckiest girl ever to have a mom and best friend forever. It's an honour to follow in your footsteps, to become all I can be. Because I had you in my life, to love and guide me. Thank you, Mom, for all you've done, This world is a better place, because of you Mom. Thank you Angel.
Love, Corina and Mike

 In Loving Memory of my 
Sister
Kelly Anne Bateman



April 10, 1966 - Nov. 26, 2017
Of all the many blessings However great or small, To have had you for a sister was The greatest one of all. The family chain is broken now And nothing seems the same, But as God takes us one by one, The chain will link again.
 Sissy I miss you every day I love you. 
Love, Corina and Mike

Many ways to give locally this holiday season

(Continued from page 1)

to Edward, and east to Mary Street in order to pass by the nursing home. To enter a float contact sara@creemore.com or call 705-466-9906. A fee of \$20 applies to businesses. Community groups and non-profit groups can register free of charge. Don't miss a chance to meet Santa at Creemore Village Green after the parade.

Christmas market

This December, the Creemore Farmers' and Craft Market's annual Christmas Markets will be on Sundays – Dec. 7, 14 and 21 – from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Station on the Green. The vendor lineup will change from week to week.

JS Bach's Long Walk in the Snow

On Sunday, Dec. 7, Purple Hills Arts and heritage Society is presenting *JS Bach's Long Walk in the Snow*, a chamber musical from host **Tom Allen** with musical guests, vocalist **Patricia O'Callaghan**, violinist **Rebekah Wolkstein**, double bassist **Joe Phillips**, and pianist **Jamie Parker**. See story on page 7.

Stayner Santa Claus parade

The Stayner parade will begin at about 10:30 a.m., on Dec. 6, departing from Station Park area at 7259 Highway 26 and ending at the former Stayner Foodland location at the corner of Airport Road and William Street, where Santa will be available to meet with visitors and enjoy hot dogs and hot chocolate.

Members of the Stayner and District Kinsmen will be walking the parade route, collecting monetary (cash or grocery store gift cards) donations for the

Clearview-Stayner Food Bank from parade viewers. Anyone interested in joining the parade is asked to arrive at the tourism building at 9 a.m. for registration. A \$10 entry fee (cash or grocery store gift card) will go directly to the Clearview Stayner Food Bank.

Stayner tree lighting

The tree lighting in Stayner, hosted by Clearview Township and community partners, is from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4. Bring your letters for Santa, meet the North Pole Elves and of course, watch the flipping of the switch to turn on the Christmas tree lights. The Stayner Heritage Society will have a Christmas display and refreshments inside the Tourism Information Centre, at 220 Huron St.

Creemore BIA shopping day

On Nov. 29, Creemore BIA is hosting a holiday shopping kick-off event in the downtown area from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with carollers, horse- and-wagon rides and a sip-and-shop with participating retailers

Singhampton Santa Claus parade

The annual Singhampton Santa Claus parade, organized by Singhampton Clearview Fire Station 5 will be Saturday, Nov. 29 at 5:30 p.m. The route will start at Singhampton Community Centre and end up at the fire hall for visits with Santa, hot cocoa and fellowship. Floats are welcome. Volunteer firefighters will be walking the parade route, collecting non perishable food donations for the Clearview Stayner Food Bank.

That day there will be a Christmas market at the community centre from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Charitable donations

The Creemore Firefighters Association will once again be collecting donations for its annual "Fill the Wagon" food and toy drive at the tree lighting event and will be walking the parade route to collect food, toys, and fill-the-boot cash donations, loading the ATV and trailer on behalf of St. Luke's Community Food Bank.

The Food Bank's current wish list includes Foodland gift cards, peanut-free granola bars, juice boxes, pasta and pasta sauce, Chunky soup, canned vegetables, peanut butter, crackers, canned tuna and ham, Kraft Dinner, Mr. Noodles, ketchup, toiletries, Kleenex, dish soap and laundry soap.


The Creemore Echo will be collecting cash, cheques and gift cards for St. Luke's Community Food Bank (make cheques payable to St. Luke's Anglican Church and note the donation is for the food bank) and Clearview-Stayner Food Bank. We are also collecting donations of hats, mitts and socks. The Echo's Newsstand is open seven days a week.

Paramedics' Food and Toy Drive

County of Simcoe Paramedic Services has launched its 23rd Annual Food and Toy Drive. Over the past 22 years, the program has collected 130,831 toys, 88,970 pounds of food, and \$289,321.57 in monetary and gift card donations for families in need across the county.

New, unwrapped toys, non-perishable food items, and gift cards (please indicate the gift card value) are welcome to be donated at the designated drop-off locations. The closest dropbox is at 6993 Highway 26, Stayner.

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CREEMORE CURLING CLUB STANDINGS

Ladies

Team	win-loss-tie
Millsap	2-0-1
Harvey	2-0-0
Fuller	1-1-1
Verstegen	1-1-1
Arsenault	1-1-0
Crawford	0-1-1
McKay	0-3-0

From the Hack: Monday evening had Team Millsap vs Team Verstegen, very close game ending in a tie. Team Fuller vs Team McKay, a great five points in the last end for Team Fuller to secure a win.

Team Crawford vs team Arsenault, with a win for Team Arsenault. Welcome to our new curler Taylor. Thank you Gord for sparing the first end! Good Curling everyone!

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Daytime

Team	win-loss-tie
Loranger	5-1-0
Gallaughier	2-3-1
Beelen	2-3-1
Lambert	2-4-0

On Monday, Teams Loranger and Beelen beat Teams Gallaughier and Lambert respectively. Wednesday had two exciting games played. Michael, skip of Team Loranger, managed a five point, seventh end, enough to convince Team Beelen to go for early coffee. On the other sheet, Team Lambert raced ahead with five points in the first, however Marian, along with Marie, Jim and Steve, fought back and counted four in the eighth. The win goes to Team Gallaughier. Much to Sandy's chagrin!

Thanks to Jim and the ice-makers, for providing an excellent ice surface with superb "curl"!

Good curling everyone!

Men

Team	win-loss-tie
J. Millsap	3-0-0
Fuller	2-0-1
Walker	2-1-0
Wilson	2-1-0
Cober	2-1-0
Sauder	0-2-1
Flack	0-3-0
T. Millsap	0-3-0

Ways to Support the GTHS this Holiday Season

The Georgian Triangle Humane Society (GTHS) has kicked off its Holiday Giving Season, with donations to the organization matched now through Nov. 24, and multiple other ways for the community to support pets through gifts of compassion.

This year, more pets and people across South Georgian Bay are relying on the GTHS for support. The organization continues to see: Increased requests for pet intake and rehoming support; Growing demand for accessible community veterinary care; and Rising costs to provide daily animal care and medical treatment.

With the GTHS Holiday Giving Season underway, all donations made until Nov. 24 will be matched, up to \$10,000, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor.

"With matching gifts, one moment of care becomes two," said **Karen Marsh**, executive director of the GTHS. "A warm bed becomes two. A meal becomes two. A lifesaving treatment becomes two. The impact is immediate and deeply felt."

To learn more about ways to give or get involved this holiday season, visit gths.ca/holiday25.

FUN & Games

Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 15

FRED'S FUNNIES

One vowel saved
another vowel's life.
He told her, "Aye, E, I owe you!"

Canadian Criss Cross

by Walter Feener

ACROSS

- 1. Button alternative
- 5. Play the lead
- 9. Tied score in tennis
- 10. Laser printer powder
- 12. One who carries luggage for tourists
- 13. No longer edible, as eggs
- 15. Have an obligation
- 16. Animal with a horn on its snout, for short
- 18. Bird that sticks "it's head in the ground"
- 19. Darn socks
- 21. Show curiosity
- 22. Noise at a barbershop
- 23. Bump a TV episode
- 25. Not glossy
- 26. Store employee
- 28. Passengers hold onto it
- 31. Ideal future husband
- 35. Heavy hammer
- 36. Canadian who directed "The Thorn Birds" (TV miniseries)
- 37. Line of light
- 38. Sphere
- 39. Not as much of
- 40. Piece of office furniture
- 41. Green ____ (Spider-Man's archenemy)
- 43. Drug made from poppies
- 45. Youthful years
- 46. Minister's house
- 47. Long-handled tool
- 48. Move through a crowd

DOWN

- 1. Tranquil
- 2. Overenthusiastic one
- 3. Genus of maples
- 4. Maybe
- 5. Gave off a foul odour
- 6. Commotion
- 7. Word used to connect words
- 8. Become less cruel
- 9. Widow's inheritance
- 11. Send payment
- 12. Magnificent display
- 14. Victim of deceit
- 17. ____ of Chignecto (it is in the Maritimes)
- 20. Windshield sticker
- 22. Delhi dress
- 24. Navigator's need
- 25. Nothing more than
- 27. Annoying
- 28. Air pollution
- 29. Fortune-telling card
- 30. What pucks are made of
- 32. It is usually found on a piece of fried chicken
- 33. Overly eager speed
- 34. One in nursery school
- 36. Tightly packed
- 39. Chain part
- 40. Do surface damage to
- 42. Meadow
- 44. Water lily leaf

Weekly blast of trivia

Clearview Township is an amalgamation of what two townships?



Contributed photo

Local hobby beekeepers awarded first place for liquid honey at this year’s Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. **Sue Clarry** and **Brian Thomson** have an apiary of 10 hives and produce honey under the label Mad River Honey. They placed first for liquid honey and were awarded Grand Champion with the highest score among all the honey classes. The duo has been keeping bees for about 15 years and this is our second first place win at the Royal.

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WANTED

Santa Claus is coming to town. Creemore’s Annual **SANTA CLAUS PARADE** is taking place Saturday, Dec. 6. If you are a community group or business interested in entering a float, or an individual wanting to volunteer, contact Sara at sara@creemore.com or call 705-466-9906.

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Friends of Music Mansion Museum & Recording Studio in Montego Bay, Jamaica, are collecting items to support **JAMAICAN HURRICANE RELIEF** efforts. Donations of children’s school supplies, clothing and other needed items can be dropped off at Creemore Pizza Co., 158 Mill St., during regular business hours. A full list of needed supplies is available at Creemore Pizza Co. For more information, contact 705-466-5500 or marcystewartdesign@gmail.com.

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DEATH NOTICE



BRULOTTE, Lynda Mary, beloved wife of Michel Brulotte and mother of Brian, René and Kevin, and grandmother to her seven wonderful grandchildren. She is survived by her three sisters and one brother. At the age of 73, she had a very peaceful passing at the new Stayner Long-Term Centre on Nov. 11, 2025, following a short stay at Collingwood General and Marine Hospital after having a fractured hip, dementia and diabetes. Lynda was born in Hamilton in September 1952. She passed at 3:20 a.m. on Nov. 11 with her family and her dear friend, Lucie Mailhot from Montreal, Que., at her side. She will be dearly missed by Michel, her husband of 49 years married. She had love, care and generosity for everyone fortunate enough to have known her, including strangers. Lynda loved mostly everyone and had a fulfilling, wonderful life. She worked for Bell Canada in Toronto and gave up working to become a full-time mom, wife and caregiver for others. Her passions included cooking, quilting, bridge games and travelling. A great thank you to all the doctors, nurses, PSWs, family and friends that made her life, in times of need, one of comfort for her. To be remembered and loved forever by Michel Brulotte, her dog Alice and family.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported Knox Presbyterian's fundraising concert on Friday, Nov. 14. Your support is appreciated.

DEATH NOTICE



DEHAAS, Rebecca Anne "Becky" — Jan. 1, 1972 – Nov. 11, 2025. It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Rebecca Anne "Becky" DeHaas, who died peacefully at Campbell House Hospice in Collingwood, Ont., on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025.

Known for her natural kindness, beauty, grace and incredible strength and perseverance, Becky touched the lives of everyone she met. She was truly a life force — radiant, generous and one of the kindest souls we have ever known.

Born on Jan. 1, 1972, to Lucas Jozef DeHaas of the Netherlands and Mary Agnes McCloskey of Maidstone, Ont., Becky brought joy and light into the world from her very first day.

She leaves behind her devoted husband and the love of her life, artist Robert Saley, and their beloved children, Natalia DeHaas Saley and Alexander DeHaas Saley. She will also be missed by her extended family: Sandy Saley; Keri Saley and Kevin Crawford; Tia Saley and Graham Vogt; Christina DeHaas and Tim Reiffenstein; and Jonathan DeHaas; her nieces Maya Saley Crawford, Makena Saley and Eleanor Dawn DeHaas Reiffenstein; and her nephews Austin Saley Crawford, Guthrie Vogt and Lucas Alexander DeHaas Reiffenstein.

Raised in Aurora, Ont., Becky discovered her lifelong passion for horses at an early age, beginning her riding career at the Toronto and North York Hunt Club, where she rode with her sister and her father and competed successfully for years as a junior. Even during her university years at Bishop's University, where she earned a B.A. in English, Becky managed to lease a horse and continue riding. She later attended the University of Toronto to study homeopathy, hoping to apply her knowledge to the care and well-being of her beloved horses.

In 1999, Becky married Rob, and together they made their home in the beautiful Pretty River Valley, where they built a life filled with love, family and many pets. Their home was full of warmth and laughter — a true reflection of Becky herself. Social at heart, Becky cherished nights of live music, laughter, dancing and bonfires that lasted long into the night.

Becky went on to become a respected and beloved equestrian trainer, known for her patience, compassion and unwavering dedication to her students and horses alike. For more than 15 years, she guided countless riders to success, earning numerous top year-end awards. Her resilience and grace shone especially brightly in the summer of 2025 when, despite her diagnosis, she achieved Reserve Champion Overall in Ontario with her young horse, Campari — a testament to her remarkable spirit and determination.

Her students, friends and peers will always remember Becky's infectious positivity, her strength and her ability to see the good in everyone. She had a rare gift for making people feel valued and capable — lessons that will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Becky was a devoted wife, a loving mother, a cherished daughter and sister, and a loyal friend.

A private funeral service will be held at Fawcett Funeral Home – Collingwood Chapel on Wednesday, Nov. 26, for close family and invited guests. A celebration of life will take place at Alpine Ski Club in the Blue Mountains on Nov. 29 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., where friends, her equestrian community and loved ones will gather to share memories and honour her extraordinary legacy.

Her memory will forever live in our hearts. We are endlessly grateful for the moments shared, the lessons learned and the love she gave so freely. Becky knew she was truly loved — and she will never be forgotten.

Friends may visit Becky's online Book of Memories at fawcettfuneralhomes.com.

This week's answers

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

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