# The Creemore ECHO

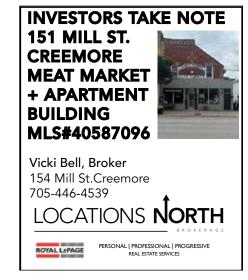
Friday, November 28, 2025 Vol. 25 No. 48 www.creemore.com

News and views in and around Creemore

# INSIDE Girls Night Out

Girls Night Out
Comedy extravaganza
PAGE 11

Publications Mail Agreement # 40024973



# Impaired charge laid in vehicle mix-up

On Nov. 18 shortly after 3 p.m., Huronia West OPP responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in Creemore.

Officers quickly located the vehicle nearby. An investigation revealed that the 59-year-old female driver had mistakenly taken a vehicle identical to her own, which was parked close by.

During the interaction, officers entered into an impaired driving investigation.

As a result, the driver was charged with driving while impaired under the Criminal Code.

# Tire deflation device deployed in police chase

Huronia West OPP has charged a driver with numerous criminal offences after attempting to flee police on Nov. 19

Shortly after noon, police received complaint about a pick-up truck driving dangerously throughout Clearview Township. An officer attempted to stop the pick-up truck on Superior Street, however the vehicle fled. Shortly after, the pick-up was intercepted on County Road 10 and with the assistance of members of the Nottawasaga OPP, officers were able to safely stop the vehicle by deploying a tire deflation device. After a brief foot chase, officers took the driver into custody without incident.

Louis Leavens, 31, of Wasaga Beach, was charged with: flight from a peace officer, dangerous operation, refusal to comply with demand, and operation while impaired.

# School zones charges laid

Huronia West OPP conducted a traffic safety enforcement initiative throughout the detachment area on Nov. 26, with increased attention to school and community safety zones.

During a 12-hour shift, officers charged 41 drivers with distracted driving, including 15 offences committed in a school zone while officers were monitoring a crosswalk as students made their way to school.



taff photo: Trina Berlo

A crew was assembled last Friday to construct a new float for Santa Claus, which will be unveiled once Santa Claus's sleigh touches down in Creemore in time for the parade on Dec. 6.

# Santa's got a brand new float

# by Trina Berlo

When Santa's sleigh touches down in Creemore next weekend for an appearance in the parade, it will have a new landing pad.

A new float will be unveiled on Dec. 6, the result of a community collaboration between the Creemore BIA and various partners who have worked together to assemble a new float

BIA president **Nancy Johnston** said the organization, which hosts the Santa Claus parade, was bequeathed \$12,000 from John Harper, the man who built the float that was used as Santa's conveyance for the past 40 years. Harper built the motorized reindeer float in the late 1980s when the Creemore Lions Club hosted the parade.

The money was used to purchase

materials for the float – provided at a discount by Hamilton Brothers and assembled over two days by the crew at Ed Leimgardt Contracting and Prosser painting, bringing to life a design created by **James Bruer**.

Bruer describes his vision for the float as a slice of the North Pole, where Santa can move around and interact with the crowd gathered along the parade route.

The oblong float will be adorned with moguls and trees to represent the hills surrounding the valley. The modular design allows the float to be disassembled and stored by the BIA.

The float is being assembled on a hay wagon provided by **Robert McArthur**, who, weather permitting, will hitch it to his Belgian horses.

"The fact that all these people have come together to donate their services says more about this community than I could have imagined," said Johnston, adding that they are all committed to creating an old time feeling for Christmas.

She said she hasn't been this excited about a project in a long time and she hopes that everyone will come to Mill Street for the 1:30 p.m. parade to see the unveiling of the new float.

The parade begins at the Creemore arena and travels east on Johnston Street, south on Mill Street, east on Edward Street East and north on Mary Street to Caroline Street.

Spectators are asked not to park on Mill Street. Those who wish to view the parade from their vehicles are asked to park on Edward Street East.

After the parade, Santa will go to Creemore Village Green to visit with children.

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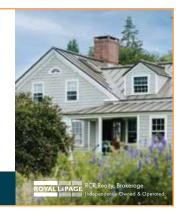


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# COMMUNITY Calendar

Submit your community events

sales@creemore.com phone: 705-466-9906 fax: 705-466-9908

#### Friday, Nov. 28

- Line dancing lessons are cancelled this Friday.
- 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.
- The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 457 Stayner, dart night every Friday at 7 p.m. once again everyone welcome. Stayner Legion 7149 ON 26, for more information call 705-428-3809.
- New Lowell Legion every Friday night wings and things from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Museum of Dufferin's 21st annual Holiday Treasures Craft Market now until Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### 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
- The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 457 Stayner, presents **Sandy Harron**, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. No cover just great people and good times. Saturday, Dec. 13 Christmas Bake Sale. Also, appearing Saturday, Dec. 13 Deep Tracks rock band will play starting at 6 p.m. Everyone welcome. Stayner Legion 7149 ON 26, for more information call 705-428-3809.

## 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 reopening** 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.

#### Tuesday, Dec. 2

• **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.

## Wednesday, Dec. 3

• New Lowell Legion hosts **euchre** every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

## Thursday, Dec. 4

- Join The Stayner Legion Thursday evenings for the **pool league** starting at 6:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Stayner Legion 7149 ON – 26, for more information call 705-428-3809.
- Join the Mad River Hiking Club for an easy, two-hour hike in the Glencairn Biosphere. The route follows the Mad River and passes through old cedar forests, with gentle inclines. The group will cross to the south side and return to the parking lot. Meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot at 8948 Webster Rd. in Glencairn. Dress for the weather; some areas of the trail may be wet, so proper footwear is recommended. No dogs allowed. Waivers will be signed on site. To register, email striegl01@ hotmail.com.
- It's **Tree Lighting Night**. Drop into the Stayner Heritage Museum from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., warm up, browse our local historical artifacts and enjoy Christmas refreshments. 220 Huron St., Stayner.

### 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.

#### Friday, Dec. 12

• The Rob Roy United Church Choir performs its **Christmas cantata**, *Come to the Manger* at 7 p.m. Enjoy a peaceful, candlelit journey to Bethlehem through anthems, narration and traditional carols. Refreshments to follow. Freewill offering gratefully accepted. The church is located at 469487 Grey Road 31 - Simcoe Road 95, Singhampton.

## Sunday, Dec. 7

- Creemore **Farmers' and Craft Market** indoors at Station on the Green from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. during December. For info 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.

### Sunday, 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 Ministerial. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

### Thursday, Dec. 18

• Join the Mad River Hiking Club for an easy, **two-hour hike** in the Lauden Tract of the Simcoe County Forest. Meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot at 3000 Centre Line Rd. in New Lowell. For more information and to register, email striegl01@ hotmail.com.

### 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. Takeout 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.

### Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026

• Gentle Tai Chi one afternoon a week at St Patrick's Hall in Stayner. This class is for anyone who would benefit from learning and practicing tai chi at a slower pace than a regular class. It is suitable for anyone with balance, stamina, mobility (chronic disease or joint replacement), anxiety, or other concerns. For more information: staynertaichi@gmail.com. CTCA website: www.canadiantaichiacademy.org.

# Council lends support to battery bank application

# **Council Briefs**

#### by Trina Berlo

Council has given its support to Compass Greenfield Development for its IESO Long-Term 2 (LT2) Capacity procurement application for a Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in Stayner.

Compass Greenfield Development is seeking approval for an 18-MWac system at 219 Industrial Road that will store energy to be sold into the grid during peak consumption.

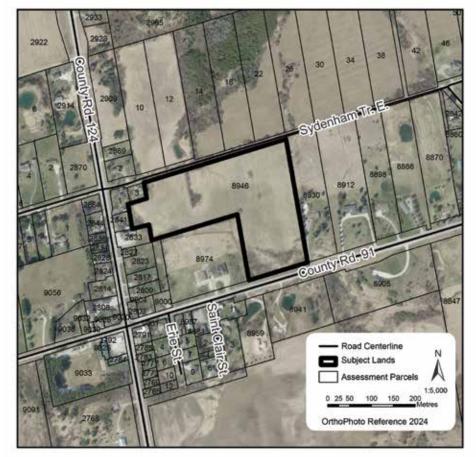
Compass Greenfield Development is hoping to construct the battery bank on leased land at 219 Industrial Road, which is zoned general industrial. The proponent requires council support for the IESO's request for proposal bid submission date for capacity due Dec. 18.

The project has been the subject of two public meetings and delegations to council.

## Council wages to increase

Council has approved a pay raise for elected officials that will come into effect after the municipal election in 2026.

Based on a recommendation from Marianne Love, of ML Consulting, who conducted a Remuneration Review, council has voted to increase the pay in order to keep up with its 13 comparators. When compared with other municipalities of similar size and



Meliora Terra, a six-lot rural residential development in Duntroon.

location it was found that the mayor is paid 7.0 per cent below the 60th percentile, while the deputy mayor is paid 7.1 per cent below and councillors are paid 0.3 per cent below.

"The results do not present a surprise to me and I think they're nominal in terms of the gaps," said Love. "This review produced reasonable and defensible result." As a result the base pay rates will increase from \$47,719 to \$51,037 for the mayor, \$33,414 to \$35,793 for the deputy mayor and \$28,837 to \$28,931 for council members, plus a three per cent cost of living increase effective Nov. 15, 2026.

Council members will also see an increase in mileage reimbursement to the current CRA rate of \$0.66/km.

# **Duntroon lots approved**

Council has granted draft plan approval for the creation of six rural residential lots for single detached dwellings in Duntroon.

The development, named Meliora Terra, is 16.8 acres in size and has about 140 metres of frontage on County Road 91 as well as 340 metres of frontage onto an unopened portion of Sydenham Trail East, a municipal right-of-way.

In accordance with the legislative changes established via the implementation of Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, a public meeting for the Draft Plan of Subdivision is not required.

# **County bursary awarded**

**Hannah Bloemendal** is the Clearview Township recipient of this year's County of Simcoe Bursary.

This fall she is enrolled in the Bachelor of Engineering, Biomedical and Mechanical, co-operative education program at Carleton University.

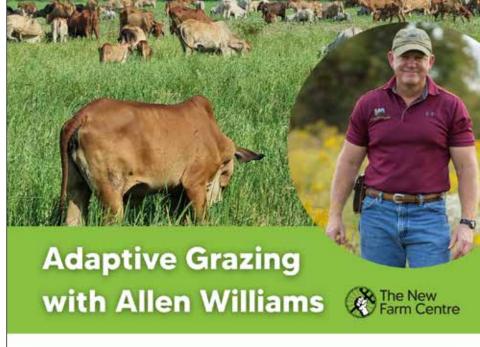
Each year, in partnership with members municipalities, the county awards 22 bursaries worth \$3,000 each, available to County of Simcoe students attending a post-secondary institution in Canada. One bursary is guaranteed for a resident of each of the County of Simcoe's 16 member municipalities and the City of Orillia.



Your gift to the Mulmur Community Fund this holiday season will help provide a lifetime of local grants for initiatives that build our collective quality of life. Please give generously at dufferincommunityfoundation.ca



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# **EDITORIAL**

# **Now that Clearview Township** has many new four-way stops, let's review the rules

You know what I really like about living in a small town? It's that for the most part, drivers are relaxed and understanding. If two vehicles are stopped in the roadway so the drivers can have a quick chat, no problem. If a car is parked in the wrong direction on the wrong side of the street, no problem.

Generally speaking, we hear few car horns and see very little road rage. The only exception is at the dreaded four-way stops, many of them newly established. It's always a little alarming when you manage to piss off the other driver at the intersection for doing nothing at all, other than waiting your turn.

So, now that Clearview Township is riddled with four-way stops, let's review the rules of the road: "At an intersection with stop signs at all corners, you must yield the right-of-way to the first vehicle to come to a complete stop. If two vehicles stop at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right."

For the sake of everyone's sanity it is recommended that people do not wave other drivers on if they themselves have the right-of-way. And do not shake your fist and point at drivers who do not have the right of way. It is extra infuriating.

When is it better to be courteous rather than just following the rules of the road as laid out in the official Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Driver's Handbook? Never.

Although effective communication between drivers (ie eye contact and polite hand gestures) is essential at intersections it can be very confusing when drivers start waving and pointing when they in fact have the right-of-way.

The most effective way to keep the peace locally this holiday season, and all through the year, is to brush up on the rules of the road that we learned back in driver's ed and stick to them.

## Donations accepted

We have had a great response to our campaign to collect new socks, hats and mitts for St. Luke's Community Food Bank. The drive is inspired by the fact that socks are one of the most needed, but least donated items, at shelters.

As usual, The Creemore Echo office and Newsstand is a drop-off location for monetary donations to St. Luke's Community Food Bank and Clearview-Stayner Food Bank. We are accepting cash, cheques and gift cards, which will be delivered to the food banks as they come in.

As you can read in the article on this page, food insecurity is on the rise.

There are two food banks in Clearview Township trying to fill the gaps and many other organizations trying to ensure everyone has gifts and food at Christmas. Donations will be accepted at the tree lighting on Dec. 5 and at the parades on Dec. 6.

# THE WAY WE WERE



Santa's sleigh in the Creemore Santa Claus Parade. From The Creemore Star archives. (Date

# Local data continues to show high level of household food insecurity

In the past few weeks organizations and municipalities have been raising an alarm about household food insecurity and the significant impact it has on people's health, the health of our communities and the cost to the health care system.

The rising cost of living and the increasing price of groceries has many feeling a financial pinch. The results of the 2025 Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) survey help to bring into focus the growing number of households in Simcoe Muskoka unable to afford the basic, nutritious food necessary to meet current Canadian nutrition recommendations due to financial

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) conducts the Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) survey annually to monitor the cost of eating a healthy diet. This survey includes 61 staple food items such as milk, eggs, and bread. According to the 2025 findings, in Simcoe Muskoka a family of four with two adults and two children, ages eight and 14, would need to spend \$1,282.89 per month to afford

these essentials, while a single-person household would require \$445.92.

"When household income is too low, people cannot cover their basic expenses," says Vanessa Hurley, Public Health Nutritionist and Registered Dietitian at SMDHU. "While food insecurity is impacting people with lower incomes, those who have unstable or insecure work, people who rent, single parents with kids, those receiving social assistance, and the number of middle-income households reporting that they are also feeling the squeeze, doubled in 2024 in comparison to 2022 and 2023. And having a job does not guarantee food security. In our province, more than half of households that have income from employment are food insecure."

When food costs are considered alongside rent and total household income, it becomes clear that many individuals and families in Simcoe Muskoka are unable to meet their basic needs, let alone any other expenses needed for daily living. A family of

(Continues on next page)





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# **Families in Simcoe** Muskoka unable to meet basic needs

(Continued from page 4)

four receiving Ontario Works benefits would need to spend 97 per cent of their income just on food and rent alone. A parent raising two children receiving Ontario Works would need to spend 93 per cent of their income on food and rent. For a single adult on Ontario Works, covering these two essentials is impossible, consuming 168 per cent of their income, leaving no money for other basic needs such as utilities, transportation, clothing, phone and internet service, medications, school supplies or child care.

Household food insecurity is an urgent public health issue. For people experiencing food insecurity it can mean buying less or lower quality food, worrying about running out of food, skipping meals or, in the most severe cases, going without food for days. This can lead to serious physical and mental health consequences, with those affected facing a higher risk of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension and depression. As people's health deteriorates, health care costs rise, further straining the health care system and ultimately affecting the entire community.

According to recent data from Public Health Ontario (PHO), household food insecurity in Simcoe Muskoka is worsening, with 26 per cent or approximately 60,000 households experiencing some level of household food insecurity from 2023 to 2024. This is in line with what is being seen at the provincial level and at the national level, the rates are at a record high. These results are significantly higher than when compared to the previous four years. Furthermore, a local survey conducted by SMDHU showed that one in three households were not able to afford the amount or quality of food they wanted in the past 30 days.

"Household food insecurity is not an access to food issue it is an income issue. Vital food charity and emergency food programs do not address household food insecurity. The growing household food insecurity crisis requires action by all levels of government to put in place sustainable, income-based solutions that put more money in people's pockets for food and other basic needs," says Hurley.

For more information about local food costs and household food insecurity statistics, please visit the Household Food Insecurity and Nutritious Food Basket sections at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.







Emily Fachnie and Shannon Lougheed (staff at the Creemore and New Lowell branches of the Clearview Public Library) share their picks of some fun new books to read to your little ones on Christmas Eve.

# The Elf of the Library Shelf appearing at branches

The Elf of the Library Shelf will be roaming between all three branches of Clearview Public Library, creating some holiday joy and chaos by highlighting new additions to our collections of books, games, movies and more.

Our elf and myself recommend giving a library card as a present this Christmas as it is the best gift of all. It is a free ticket to a world of stories and we have many

different formats for you to check out such as books, games, movies and much more.

Our holiday programming is also free and will



feature holiday ornament workshops on Tuesday, Dec. 23 and wooden sign crafts on Tuesday, Dec. 30 (Creemore branch, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.; New Lowell branch, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.; and Stayner branch, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.). These workshops are suitable for all ages. Just drop in, create an ornament and/or wooden sign and enjoy a complimentary side order of popcorn and hot chocolate.

For holiday inspiration, please think of us and what we have to offer here at www.clearviewpubliclibrary. ca (note new internet address).









# THE STAYNER KINSMEN SANTA CLAUS PARADE



SATURDAY, DEC. 6 10:30AM - 12:30PM

The parade starts at Station Park and travels west along Highway 26 to Airport Road, then south on Airport Road, finishing at the old Foodland where you can visit with Santa and





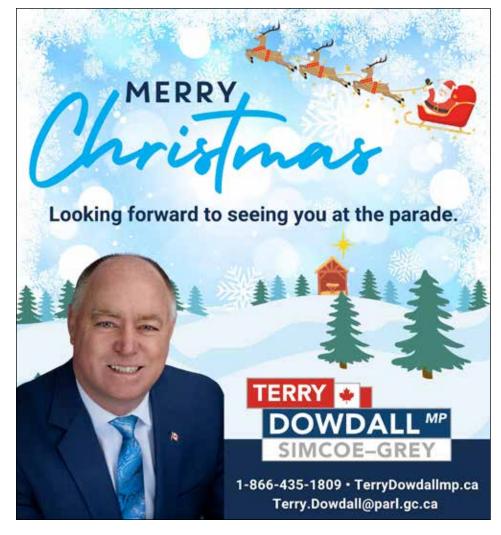
Stayner Heritage Society celebrates

# Christmas in Stayner

Thurs., Dec. 4, 2025 5-7 p.m. at Stayner Heritage Museum and Tourism Centre (220 Huron St.)

Come in, warm up, browse our local historical artifacts and enjoy Christmas refreshments.









# Planning team asks community to help shape hospital

#### by Bonnie MacPherson

While the opening of a new Collingwood General and Marine Hospital (CGMH) is some years off, residents of communities that will be served by the facility are being asked now for their input.

At a visioning session at Station on the Green in Creemore on Tuesday evening, members of the Construction Planning Team displayed images from other hospitals throughout Ontario and asked residents to indicate what they liked and what they didn't.

Director of construction Siobhan Bout said there is considerable opportunity to influence the hospital design at this stage.

"The Ministry of Health will regulate the size of the hospital, but in terms of layout, the pieces inside will be driven by what the care teams and users need," said Bout.

Participants in the visioning session were invited to place coloured dots and/or sticky notes on the display boards indicating what they'd like to keep or fix. The boards will be returned to the architects to inform the eventual design.

VP of hospital development Cathy Renaud said similar sessions have been held for hospital staff, as well as the public in Collingwood and Wasaga Beach. Future sessions are planned for Blue Mountains and Thornbury.

"We want to see what resonates with people here," she said. "Is it a stark white, clinical look, or something with lots of colour and greenery? How much wood do they want to see? My hypothesis is that people up here like the outdoors, but we'll see what the feedback is."

She said one person at the Collingwood session said, "Just don't make it look like an airport."

Once all the feedback is gathered and analyzed,



Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

Participants in a visioning session for the development of the new Collingwood General and Marine Hospital held at Station on the Green in Creemore on Tuesday were asked to comment by placing sticky notes on mood boards.

the architects will create specs to put the work out

The Collingwood General and Marine Hospital Foundation is working toward a \$100 million fundraising goal. Foundation President Sandra

Taylor said while the ministry will fund the majority of building costs, the foundation is responsible for furniture, fixtures and equipment.

"We have commitments for over \$73 million so far," she said. "People have been talking about a new hospital for 10-plus years but fundraising officially kicked off when the project was approved last December. We suspect that the goal may creep over the \$100 million. We have some time, but the last half is always the toughest."

Clearview Township councillor Phyllis Dineen worked at the old CGMH for most of her career, and has seen many changes.

"I hope that the new building will be utilitarian without a lot of wasted space like a huge atrium," she said. "Hopefully there will be lots of windows and welcoming spaces that will be comfortable for people on dialysis and chemo who are spending a lot of time there."

Creemore resident Nadine Melemis works at Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville. She wants to see a focus on things that improve the patient experience.

"It has to be highly accessible and easy to get in and out of," she said.

Her husband Gary Walters, who spent several days at South Lake Regional Health Care centre earlier this year, noted that he was encouraged to take lots of walks around the floor.

"The corridors were wide but there were staff clustered around computers creating obstacles," he said. "It was hard to do the walking without feeling like I was in the way. Hopefully the new Collingwood hospital will favour function over form."

Learn more about plans for the new CGMH at yourfuturehospital.com.

# Audrey & Donald Campbell Foundation pledges \$5 million to new hospital

The Collingwood General and Marine Hospital Foundation has received a \$5-million commitment from the Audrey and Donald Campbell Foundation in support of the Tomorrow's Hospital Campaign.

Audrey and Don Campbell, who arrived in Collingwood in the 1960s, were high-school sweethearts who raised their family of five boys in the region. Don, a WWII Royal Canadian Air Force pilot and former Chairman of Maclean Hunter Ltd., and Audrey, his partner of 64 years, built a legacy of family, friendship, and philanthropy in South

Georgian Bay through their love of skiing, tennis, bridge, and golf.

Their legacy of giving lives on through the Audrey and Donald Campbell Foundation, which has made enduring contributions to the region, including the pivotal gift that established Campbell House through Hospice Georgian Triangle in 2014.

This most recent gift will fund the Audrey and Donald Campbell Foundation Emergency Department in Collingwood General and Marine Hospital's future facility. The vastly expanded Emergency Department will be built and equipped to care for more than 70,000 residents and over 3 million visitors annually.

Audrey and Don's sons are continuing their parents' legacy by providing this support. They are pleased to play a significant role in bringing to life the hospital that our community needs and deserves.

The Tomorrow's Hospital Campaign aims to raise over \$100 million to bring this vision to life.

To learn more about the campaign or to contribute, visit TomorrowsHospital.com.











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# Let's sock it to the cold this season!

The Creemore Echo is now accepting contributions of **NEW SOCKS, MITTS & HATS** 

on behalf of St. Luke's Community Foodbank.

We are also collecting financial contributions and gift cards for St. Luke's and the Clearview Stayner Foodbank.





# Gelebrate the season in Greemore

# **Holiday Shopping Kick Off**

Saturday, Nov. 29, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HORSE AND WAGON RIDES • SIP AND SHOP WITH PARTICIPATING RETAILERS

# **Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony**

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.

C BROUGHT TO YOU BY PURPLE HILLS ARTS & HERITAGE SOCIETY AT ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

# **Christmas Market**

Sunday, Dec. 7, 14 & 21
HOSTED BY THE CREEMORE FARMERS' MARKET INSIDE STATION ON THE GREEN









Celebrate the season with us! Join our festive lineup of events filled with creativity, community & holiday magic.

## Sat. Nov. 29, 1-3pm

Sip & Shop at Lagom - enjoy holiday treats and check off your holiday gift list. 172 Mill St, Creemore

# Friday Dec. 5, 5-7pm

Gallery Opening Night: WONDER A group show featuring artists from Creemore and beyond drawing inspiration from the theme, Wonder Gallery Lagom - 178 Mill St, Creemore

## Friday Dec. 5, 4-7pm

Jenny Bird Jewellery Event

Explore elevated essentials, statement pieces, and perfect holiday gifts—designed to make every day feel special. Enjoy refreshments, personal styling, raffle and more! Lagom Design Shop - 172 Mill St, Creemore







HospiceGeorgianTriangle.com



Staff photo: Trina Berle

**Pam Royal** (centre) accepts a \$2,500 donation on behalf of Clearview Stayner Food Bank, from Stayner Foodland owners **Selina** and **Kyle Krueger**. The money is being made available to the food bank in the form of a spending account so volunteers can purchase what is needed to serve the community. Stayner Foodland will also be accepting monetary donations at the check out from Dec. 1-24 with the food bank being the beneficiary. Pre-packed food bags are available at the store. They are packed with food staples and sold at cost.



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# Theatre Collingwood announces new season

Tickets are now on sale for Theatre Collingwood's 2026 season promising heartwarming theatre, uplifting music, and unforgettable live experiences across South Georgian Bay.

"Our 2026 lineup truly reflects who we are as a company. Each show offers opportunities for people to gather, to laugh, to feel moved, and to see themselves in the stories we tell. Connection has always been at the heart of our mission, and this season brings that theme to life in such meaningful ways," said executive director Erica Angus. "What excites me most is the variety. From intimate storytelling to brand-new Canadian theatre, from music festivals to holiday comedies, audiences will experience a full year of creativity and joy. We can't wait to welcome our community to another season of exceptional live performance."

The season begins with the Fireside Festival (Jan. 24-25), a warm and welcoming celebration of local musicians and storytellers.

In February, audiences will fall in love with A.R. Gurney's Love Letters (Feb. 13-14), featuring notable community members on stage at the Simcoe Street Theatre. This tender and humorous favourite unfolds through a lifetime of letters exchanged between two lifelong friends.

In March, laughter steals the spotlight with Girls Nite Out: Pajama Party! (March 6-7) at

The Normandy Room, next to the Collingwood Legion. For the seventh annual comedy extravaganza, the incomparable Elvira Kurt is joined by Jennine Profeta, Diana Frances, and Karen Parker for a riotously funny celebration of friendship, fun, and fabulous pajamas — just in time for International Women's Day.

Theatre Collingwood is reintroducing its three-play subscription series, featuring three productions at The Marsh Street Centre in Clarksburg:

• April 21-25 – *Shirley Valentine* 

Willy Russell's uplifting onewoman classic, presented by Globus Theatre and starring Sarah Quick, invites audiences to rediscover life's possibilities through Shirley's spontaneous escape to Greece.

• June 23-26 – *The Bean* 

A world premiere by **Norm Foster**, The Bean brings warmth, wit, and connection to the stage as two strangers meet in a coffee shop and discover how a single conversation can change everything.

• Oct. 14-17 – Get Down Tonight Leisa Way and The Wayward Wind Band will thrill audiences with this high-energy musical revue that celebrates the unforgettable sounds of the 1970s and features hits by The Eagles, Fleetwood Mac, Stevie Wonder, Carole King, Elton John, and many more.

Early Bird three-play subscriptions

are available at a discounted price of \$147 (inclusive) until Jan. 30. Tickets also make thoughtful holiday gifts and subscriptions offer the best value of the season.

A summertime favourite, the Porchside Festival, returns in July, transforming porches, patios, and verandas across South Georgian Bay into intimate performance spaces perfect for music, theatre, and storytelling.

In September, Theatre Collingwood will present its hidden gem, a powerful and deeply moving theatrical experience based on one of the most cherished true stories of our time. Centered on the extraordinary bond between a man and his former mentor, the production explores what it means to live with purpose, love without hesitation, and find meaning even in the most difficult moments.

The title of the production will be revealed in the summer, but it is a story that has touched millions around the world and is not to be missed.

The holidays bring double the laughter with the Holiday Time Double Bill (Nov. 24-28), featuring two festive comedies by Norm Foster: The Office Christmas Party starring Darren Keay and Emily Oriold, and Widow Wonderland starring Melanie Janzen and Jamie Williams.

Tickets are available at www. theatrecollingwood.ca or through the Box Office at 705-445-2200.

# **BroadsWay performs Broadway yuletide** classics

Collingwood Music Festival presents Canadian quartet BroadsWay Dec. 6, starring four of Canada's finest musical theatre, jazz and cabaret artists singing a unique arrangements of Broadway yuletide classics and lesser-known seasonal gems with tons of musicality and humour. The Most Wonderful Time... Maybe!, a 3 p.m. matinee performance at First Presbyterian Church in Collingwood features Dora Mavor Moore awardnominee Diane Leah, JUNO and ECMA nominee Heather Bambrick, international touring artist Julie Michels, and newest member, jazz/ cabaret vocalist Kylie Martin. CBC Radio has called it the best Christmas party ever and it has delighted audiences and it has delighted audiences across the province and beyond.

"Music has the rare power to slow us down and bring us together," said The festival's Artistic Director, Daniel Vnukowski. "Trust me, you won't want to miss this. In fact, tickets for this special concert are well on the way to selling out. And for the first time ever for our concerts, you may now choose your own seat when buying advance tickets."

Tickets cost \$46.50 each at collingwoodmusicfestival. ticketspice.com.

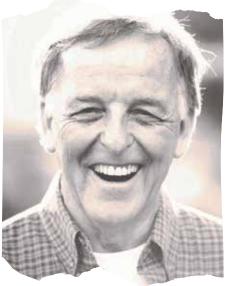


# **Tony Fry College Award**

Thanks to the generosity of Peter and Barbara Halsall and an anonymous donor, every donation made to RAYS (College Program) during the months of November and December will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

"We wish to honour Tony Fry, whose inspiring vision launched RAYS to empower young people in our community. Our hope is that the Tony Fry Award will continue to support local students in pursuing their college dreams for years to come."

-Peter and Barbara Halsall

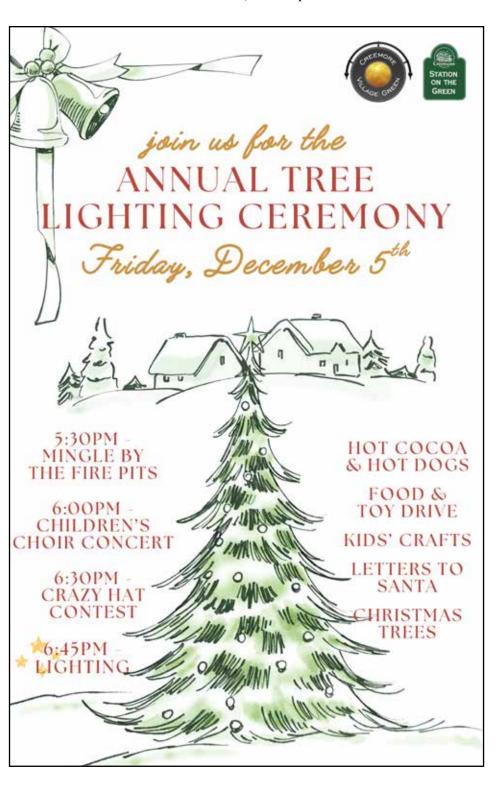


Tony Fry 1937-2025

Every gift you make will have double the impactup to \$20,000

Together, we can ensure more local students have the opportunity to pursue their dreams and succeed.

Donations welcome - visit www.raysawards.com



# SPORTS Recreation

# Coyotes founders sell off team shares

by Trina Berlo

General manager **Tom Macham** says its time for the community to take ownership of the Creemore Coyotes hockey team.

As founders, he and his wife **Laura** have dedicated themselves to getting the Senior AA hockey team up and running. The team held its first home game in October of 2021 with about 300 people in attendance.

Macham was determined to bring a Western Ontario Athletic Association approved Senior AA team to Creemore after a number of local players, including his son, had their season with The Siskins cut short by the pandemic. It was also important for Macham to bring high-level hockey back to Creemore in tribute to the senior team that was based in Creemore from 1978 to 1993, and was immensely popular with fans.

The Coyotes finished their first season in 12th place with a 5-12-0 record and made the "A" quarter-finals in the playoffs, where they lost their best-of-three series 2-1.

Their second season, 2022-2023, saw a significant improvement. The Coyotes finished sixth in the WOAA standings with a 12-7-1 record and advanced to the "AA" quarter-finals,



**Tom Macham** 

ultimately losing to the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks in six games.

In 2023, The Creemore Coyotes senior hockey team is joined a new Ontario Elite Hockey League (OEHL), under the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) and Hockey Canada umbrella. That year the team finished in second place with a strong 14-5-1 record. They secured their first-ever playoff series win, defeating the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks in a thrilling seven-game quarter-final series. Their run ended in the semi-finals, where they were upset

by the Minto 81's in five games.

Last year the Coyotes qualified for the playoffs as the sixth seed but were swept in the quarter-finals by the Minto 81's in four games.

Due to several factors, including the fact that his son no longer plays on the team, a change to the league structure that impacted the team's roster, and dwindling attendance, the Machams are hoping to extricate themselves from the team by mid-January.

Macham says it's time for the community to take over the team so he is selling shares to the community. There are 100 shares available for \$800 apiece.

"It's not a money making venture," said Macham. "It's there for the community's entertainment and to promote local businesses."

He said it's too much work for one couple, whereas a community owned team could form a management board of directors, and a fundraising committee.

Macham said he doesn't regret starting the team.

"The foundation is there but someone needs to take it over," said Macham.

To purchase shares, contact John Ferris' law office at 705-466-3888.



win loss tie

Ladies

1eam	win-ioss-iie
Crawford	1-1-1
Millsap	2-0-1
Verstegen	1-2-1
Harvey	2-1-0
McKay	0-4-0
Arsenault	2-1-0
Fuller	2-1-1

From the Hack: Monday evening brought an exciting slate of curling to the Creemore Curling Club.

Team Crawford prevailed over Team McKay in a back-and-forth battle – thank you to Gayle for stepping in as a spare.

Arsenault edged out Harvey in a competitive match, and in the later draw, Team Verstegen was edged out by Team Fuller. Good curling, everyone!

Men

Team	win-loss-tie
J. Millsap	4-0-0
Fuller	3-0-1
Wilson	2-1-1
Walker	2-2-0
Cober	2-2-0
Sauder	0-2-2
T. Millsap	1-3-0
Flack	0-4-0

(Continues on next page)





(Curling standings continued from page 12)

**Daytime** 

Team win-loss-tie Loranger 6-2-0 Gallaugher 3-4-1 3-4-1 Beelen Lambert 3-5-0

From the Hack: On Monday, Ed and Marty were on their game, giving up only two points in six ends. Team Gallaugher could provide no answers, and therefore handed the early win to Team Beelen!

Teams Loranger and Lambert had a much closer game. Al, skip of Team Lambert, needed a challenging takeout shot, to score three and tie the game in the eighth. Unfortunately, the shooter rolled out.

Two excellent games played on Wednesday. Teams Gallaugher and Lambert managed impressive wins over Teams Loranger and Beelen. Good curling everyone!

# SEND LOCAL SPORTS RE-**PORTS AND SCORES TO**

editor@creemore.com



# KIDD FAMILY AUCTIONS

- PRESENTS -

# **DESIGNER CLOTHING SHOWCASE** DECEMBER 12 AT 5PM

This sale has style for every eye - top brands like Brixton, Ragwear, Penfield, WeSC, Poler, Biion, and more. Lots begin closing at 5pm on Dec 12

Preview: Dec 12, 10am - 4pm | Pickup: Dec 13, 10am - 4pm Pickup & preview at our Home Office Base 438280 4th Line, Melancthon L9V 1S9 (North of Shelburne).

Features: Wide-ranging selection of men's & women's apparel & accessories including Biion Shoes ft Styles from Disney; DC; Star Wars; Harry Potter and more; Backpacks & Messenger Bags from Penfield & Poler; Winter Toques; Gloves & Scarves from Brixton & Penfield; Variety of Men's & Women's Jackets; Blazers & Outerwear; Men's Suits; Dress Shirts & Casual Tops; Women's Dresses; Rompers & Jumpsuits; Knit Sweaters & Tees; Swim & Lounge Shorts; Rolling Racks and more.

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# FUN

Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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Answers on page 14

# FRED'S FUNNIES

What did the turkey say to the hunter on thanksgiving day? **Quack Quack** 

Happy American Thanksgiving to families and friends south of the border and thank you Dawn for the Joke

# Canadian Criss Cross

by Walter Feener

- again
- 10. Watery fluid left after
- 12. Small in size
- 13. Short light sleep
- 16. Handle on a piece of
- 19. Navigational hazard
- 22. Button on a remote
- auestion
- 25. Eavesdropping device

- 34. Somewhat wet

- 42. Part of TGIF
- 45. Great weight
- used in Indian cooking
- of meat and vegetables
- 51. Personal point of view
- 52. Catch with a lasso
- 53. Otherwise

# **ACROSS**

- 1. Talk disrespectfully to
- 5. A great distance away
- 9. Make ready for use
- blood has clotted

- 15. Fitting
- equipment
- 18. Atomic number of hydrogen
- 21. Decompose
- 23. Get ready to pop the
- 27. Oolong is one
- 29. Director's cry
- 30. Get a divorce
- 38. Marijuana
- 39. Knock on
- 41. Formerly
- 43. Arrange in advance
- 46. Varying blend of spices
- 48. Highly seasoned stew
- 50. Flee

#### 10 13 15 16 23 27 28 32 30 31 33 35 36 37 38 39 40 42 43 46 48 50 51 53 52

# **DOWN**

- 1. Long comfortable seat
- 2. At the back of a boat
- 3. Window ledge
- 4. Head for
- 5. Self-denying
- 6. Be afraid of
- 7. The creation of works of beauty
- Become no longer valid
- 9. Mature
- 11. Devilfish
- 12. Happy adventure
- 14. Baby bird sound
- 17. Give one's word 20. Having a foul odour

- 22. "I'll have some as well!" (2 words)
- 24. Permit
- 26. Cuba libre ingredient
- 28. Of a golden colour 30. Start a triathlon
- 31. Corolla part 32. Smaller in size
- 33. Small amount of butter
- 35. Speak in a singing voice
- 36. Talent finder
- 37. Rental for an outdoor reception
- 40. Place for some money 43. Woman's undergarment
- 44. Coffin cover
- 47. From way back
- 49. Accelerator pedal

# **Local trivia**

Who was the original publisher of The Creemore Echo?



Reverend Jennifer Irving is initiated into Royal Canadian Legion Branch 457 in Stayner by Sergeant-At-Arms, Dave Gillis, during the general meeting, the first one to be held in the recently renovated facility, on Tuesday, Nov. 25. In attendance were Zone E4 Commander, David Sampson and Deputy Commander Graham Simmons. Reverend Irving will proudly serve as the new branch Padre.

# Classifieds work!

email - sales@creemore.com • Call 705-466-9906 Submit online at www.creemore.com, or drop into The Creemore Echo office.

## THANK YOU

Thank you doesn't feel like enough, but it's the only place I can begin. Seeing my lawn filled with people and autographed birds perched on our rail fence - so much love and support - I was overwhelmed in the most beautiful

I have always loved this community - especially the people who make living here so special. We look out for one another. We show up. We offer kindness without expectation. That's who we are. That's what makes it home.

Your love and support gave me strength on my hardest days, and it continues to carry me now. I am more grateful than I can ever truly express.

Coming home was the goal. Now, my goal is to get well enough to hug each of you and thank you personally- for your support, your thoughts and prayers, your smiles and waves.

For reminding me that I will never walk this journey alone.

From the bottom of my heart - thank you.

# This week's answers

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Trivia: Sylvia Wiggins

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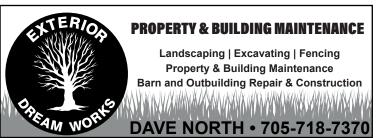
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**ESSAYS, POEMS, and PODCASTS** from local philosopher, Madelaine Ley. Subscribe to STIRRINGS at madelaineley.substack.com



## **FOR SALE**

Once again the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary are making **TOURTIERE** PIES this December. Orders are to be in by Dec. 12. Pies are to be picked up Dec. 17, between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Call Laura to order at 705-466-2462. Large \$20. Small \$5.

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Jamie McKean at (705)-428-3138 extension 4502.

#### **CHURCH** ORGANIST - St.

Georges Anglican Church in Utopia is currently seeking a person proficient in piano and organ to lead our choir during Sunday morning service at 9 a.m. We are a small congregation and the remuneration would be in the form of a monthly honorarium. To discuss this opportunity further, please call Sandi Schneider at 705-424-5735.

### **DEATH NOTICE**



HENDERSON, Paulette formerly of Stayner, beloved wife of the late Dan Henderson. Loving mother of Cora (Jodis), Kim (Paul), Julie, Tracey (Rob) and Dana (Trevor). Cherished grandmother of Rachel (Brandon), Ava, Kai, Wyatt, Tara, Ian and Joelle. Dear sister to Louise, Robert (Dorothy) and the late Hazel. Paulette will also be missed by her many nieces and nephews. As a long-term employee of the town of Stayner (30plus years), Paulette always had a smile and hello for the many children she helped cross the street to and from school each day. She was a volunteer with the Byng Marching Band and a leader with the Brownies and Girl Guides. Paulette enjoyed being on the farm, campfires with the family, hosting pig roasts and picking strawberries for jam or pie. Friends are invited to join her family at the Stayner Union Cemetery, 7661 Highway 26, Stayner, on Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, at 11 a.m. for a graveside ceremony. A celebration of her life will follow at the Carruthers & Davidson Funeral Home - Stayner Chapel from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your favourite charity. To sign Paulette's Book of Memories, please visit carruthersdavidson.com.

## FOR RENT

**OFFICE PROFESSIONAL SPACE** at 175 Mill St., Creemore. Approx. 850 sq. ft. suite featuring original woodwork, new heaters, new lighting and paint, spacious rooms with decorative ceilings, updated bathroom, lovely new kitchen faciltiies, and separate reception/work room. Potential waiting room adjacent to entrance. South-west exposure ensures lots of natural light. Generous storage in main office room, bright and airy second office. Fridge, stove and microwave included. Utilities (heat, hydro, water and sewage) not included. References required. First and last month's rent required in advance. Minimum six month lease. Availability to be determined. Email jsmart7cvp@gmail. com to make a viewing appointment. Please note minimum two days notice is required for viewing this suite

# CALL FOR RECIPES

The Creemore Echo is calling on the community to submit recipes for the annual Christmas Greetings edition, to be published on Dec. 12. Send recipes to editor@creemore.com. Submission deadline is Dec. 4. Trust us, you'll want to be part of this charming local publication.

# **DEATH NOTICE**



PURKIS, Ernest Alfred 1939-2025. Peacefully in his sleep, in his 87th year while looking forward to the coming holiday visits with family. Son of Ernest Alfred Purkis Sr. and Winnifred Paine, the oldest brother to his sisters Mary (dec.) and Barbara, Ernest is predeceased by Margaret, his wife of 59 years whom he met on a blind date in 1966. Ernie began his career as an accountant in 1960 with Harbinson Glover, later becoming partner at MacGillivray and Co. in 1969. He continued his career with various firms culminating with him being elected a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1982. In 1987 Ernie made the move to the corporate world joining Black and McDonald as Vice President-Finance and Chief Financial Officer until his retirement in 2004. Ernie was also a dedicated and generous member of the communities where he lived. He volunteered in several organizations including Scouts Canada as a troop leader to Chairman of the Finance Committee for the Province of Ontario, and Rotary Laughlin Centre Toronto as Chairman of the Finance Committee. In retirement living in Creemore, Ernie continued to contribute to the community volunteering both politically and for organizations including the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital. Additionally, ever the fan of ledger paper, mental math and percentages (no calculators allowed by the way), he supported variouslocalbusinessesandindividuals with his breadth of accounting experience and prowess with T forms. Ernie is survived by his four children Mark (Alix), Greg (Liza), Amy, and David (Laura) and eight grandchildren: Nigella, Melody, Ethan, John, Avery, Zach, Mackenzie, and Logan. A short ceremony will be held at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025, at Fawcett Funeral Home, 182 Mill St. in Creemore ON, with a burial at Creemore Union Cemetery immediately after. Donations can be made to the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital Foundation. Friends may visit Ernie's online Book of Memories at www. fawcettfuneralhomes.com.

# **PARADE**

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.



# Climate action recognized

Clearview Township is launching a new Climate Action Recognition Program, celebrating individuals, businesses, and students who are making a positive impact on the environment and leading the way in climate action within our community.

The program will recognize outstanding contributions in three categories:

- Citizen Recognizing residents who demonstrate exceptional commitment to environmental stewardship and climate action through their personal initiatives and community involvement.
- Business/Organization Honouring local businesses, organizations or non-profits that have implemented innovative sustainability practices and made measurable environmental improvements.
- Student Celebrating young leaders who are inspiring environmental change through projects, advocacy, or educational initiatives.

Community members are invited

to submit nominations for deserving candidates in any of the three categories. Nominations can be made for yourself or others who have demonstrated exceptional environmental leadership through initiatives such as:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
  - Promoting renewable energy;
- Implementing waste reduction and recycling programs;
- Protecting natural habitats and biodiversity;
- Educating others about climate action;
- Developing innovative sustainability solutions.

Recipients will be honoured at a recognition ceremony on Earth Day, April 22.

The nomination deadline is Dec. 31. Nomination forms and program details are available on the Clearview Township website at www.clearview.ca/government-committees/committees/climate-action-advisory-committee.

# High schools host information nights

High schools in the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) are hosting information nights for Grade 8 students and their parents/ guardians this fall and winter. These events support the transition to high school, provide information on course options, extracurricular activities, sports, clubs, and more. Students and their families will have the opportunity to meet department representatives, tour the unique spaces within schools, and connect with student leaders.

Students entering Grade 9 in the 2026-27 school year and their parents/guardians are invited to attend the information night at their local high school: from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Stayner Collegiate Institute, and 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Jan. 7 at Collingwood Collegiate Institute.

Visit scdsb.on.ca to browse program and course options.

