


The Creemore ECHO

Friday, December 5, 2025 Vol. 25 No. 49 www.creemore.com

News and views in and around Creemore

INSIDE



Growing Strong
Stayner Garden Club marks 100th
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Staff photo: Trina Berlo

Avenging Community Centre was honoured to have **Claire Mills-Bellamy** (centre) participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the re-opening of the hall on Nov. 30. She was seven years old when she cut the ribbon at the opening of the hall in 1951. She is flanked by Clearview Mayor **Doug Measures** and hall board chair **Melanie Walters**. More photos on page 11.

Escarpment Corridor Alliance becomes land trust

by Bonnie MacPherson

The year 2025 has been a milestone year for the Escarpment Corridor Alliance (ECA), a registered charity devoted to the creation of a connected and permanently protected ecological corridor across the Niagara Escarpment of Southern Georgian Bay.

Executive director **Jarvis Strong** says Phase 1 of a geospatial mapping project illustrated just how much ecologically vulnerable land there is in the area.

“Our original intent was to do a multi-phase mapping project but after Phase 1, we made the decision to move from research to implementation and that meant becoming a land trust,” said Strong. “Existing bodies like the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) and the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) have a very broad pan-escarpment focus and our gap analysis showed there was room for a South Georgian Bay focused land

trust.”

Strong emphasizes that the ECA is committed to working collaboratively with existing land trusts in promoting the value of donating sensitive lands.

“If we’re talking to a land owner whose property is adjacent to the Bruce Trail, we will refer to them, or if the lands are adjacent to a biosphere project, we’ll involve them,” said Strong.

He says the ECA was instrumental in the acquisition of the Talisman lands by the BTC. (See story on page 3.)

“Talisman has been one of our focuses since our inception four years ago and we had a very warm relationship with owners **Brian Ellis** and **Phil Cavano**.”

The owners had proposed development of an 800-room hotel and Nordic spa at the site but were eventually convinced of the value of protecting the environmentally sensitive lands.

“We brought them together with the Bruce Trail Conservancy,” says Strong. “BTC has significant reserves so they were in a position to move quickly and secure a deal.”

Strong says in addition to bringing the principals together, the ECA contributed well over \$100,000 worth of environmental assessments and was instrumental in rallying community support. Ultimately, he says, the goal is to see more land connected and protected by community led organizations and who gets credit for the deals is of lesser importance.

According to Strong, the ECA is continuing to work on acquiring two additional properties in the Talisman area from different owners.

The ECA has also completed its first solo acquisition – a 24-acre property in the Kolapore area known as Metcalfe North, which is set to become the first protected area under the stewardship of the organization.

County council approves budget

The County of Simcoe says, following collaborative discussions and careful consideration, council approved a \$1.042 billion budget on Nov. 25, maintaining existing service levels while delivering strategic, fiscally responsible investments that support growth, modernization, and community well-being.

“This budget reflects council’s steadfast commitment to fiscal responsibility and prudent stewardship of taxpayer dollars while facing rising demand for the County’s critical services,” said Warden **Basil Clarke**. “By balancing the need to invest in critical infrastructure, housing, and community supports with careful financial management, this responsible approach positions Simcoe County to grow sustainably while protecting the services and supports that matter most to our communities.”

Recognizing its impact on more than 530,000 residents, the budget includes key investments across 20 vital service areas, including infrastructure, housing, emergency services, and community supports.

Key investments include:

- Major road construction projects (CR 4, CR 21, CR 22), bridge upgrades;
- Continued implementation of the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Strategic Plan, including the Runway Extension project;
- Launch of the new 10-year strategy with funding for rental units, supplements, secondary suites, and supportive housing;
- Simcoe County Housing Corporation developments in Barrie, Collingwood, and Wasaga Beach, alongside continued support for third-party affordable housing projects;
- Further work on the Simcoe Village Campus Redevelopment in Beeton;
- Continued rollout of Community Paramedicine and Models of Care;
- Implementation of the Canada-

(See '978' on page 12)

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COMMUNITY Calendar

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Friday, Dec. 5

- **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.
- The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 457 Stayner, **dart night** every Friday at 7 p.m. 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.
- **Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony** starting at 5:30 p.m., with the tree lighting at 6:45 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.
- You are invited to the **unveiling** of *The Creemore Heart* at 11 a.m. at Station on the Green. Inspired by a visit to Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital, Tricia Jeffery dreamed of bringing a heart filled with messages of love to Creemore. With the support of Robert McArthur, Craig Eskra, and Marilyn Badger, that dream has come to life. Hearts to attach to this structure will be available for \$10 each at Creemore Home Hardware, or feel free to bring your own. All proceeds support the heart's maintenance, installation, and future projects.
- **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 Station on the Green from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. during December. For info creemorefarmersmarket.ca.

Tuesday, Dec. 9

- **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. 10

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

Thursday, Dec. 11

- 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.

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.

Saturday, Dec. 13

- The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 457 Stayner: **Christmas bake sale** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Deep Tracks rock band starts at 6 p.m. Everyone welcome. Join us Thursday evenings for our pool league starting at 6:30 p.m. or if you'd like to play darts on Friday nights, please join us at 7 p.m. once again everyone welcome. Dec. 31 Rockin' in the New Year with Deep Tracks classic rock band. Only \$40 per person. Midnight buffet, party favours and more. Tickets available soon. Stayner Legion 7149 ON – 26, for more information call 705-428-3809.

Sunday, Dec. 14

- **Christmas in Clearview Market** at Stayner Community Centre from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 35 amazing vendors, crafts with the library, snack bar, 10 swag bags at 9:30 a.m. and noon, door prizes and kids treats.
- 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, e-mail 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.

Tuesday, Dec. 23

- The Night Before the Night Before at the Creemore Legion. 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. A family-friendly evening featuring a **community potluck** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., live music and a DJ. Admission is free. Donations of non-perishable food items or gift cards for the local food bank are appreciated. For more information, call 705-606-2172 or e-mail allangrin@gmail.com.

Thursday, Dec. 25

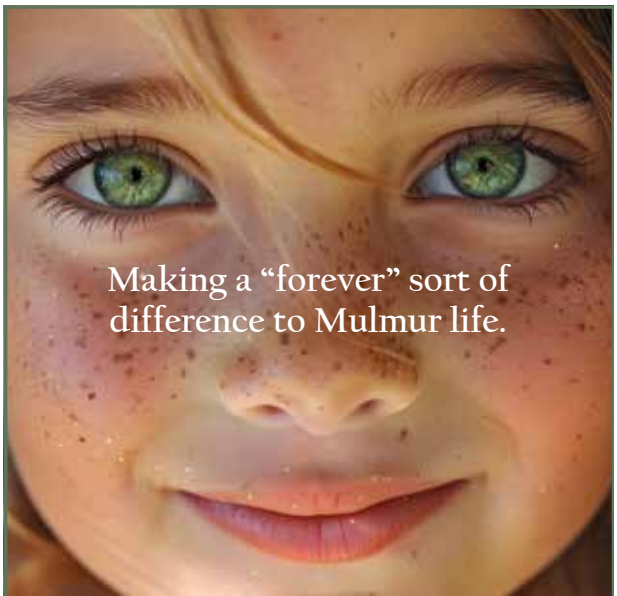
- **Creemore Community Christmas Dinner** at 4:30 p.m. at the Creemore Legion, PWYC. Everyone is welcome. Come out to dine and/or volunteer. Take-out dinners and delivery available. A donation of a non-perishable food item is appreciated. To reserve your seat, make special arrangements, or donate to the event, contact or e-transfer Donna B. at CreemoreChristmasElf@gmail.com or call 705-446-2523. For more information, visit www.CreemoreChristmas.ca.
- Stayner Camp is hosting a **free community Christmas dinner** from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dinner includes turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, carrots, and pie. To register call 833-326-2267. Eat in, take out and delivery available.

Saturday, Dec. 27

- Dufferin County Pony Club **open house** from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Pony club is for anyone who loves horses and wants to learn more about them. We focus on equine education, horsemanship and stable management offering mounted and unmounted meetings, regional competitions and more. Anyone from seven years old to 99 can join. You can still be involved if you don't own a horse. 585446 County Rd. 17. Melancthon.

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.



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Bruce Trail Conservancy purchases Talisman property

by Bonnie MacPherson

A spokesman for the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) says the purchase of the former Talisman Mountain Resort lands in the Beaver Valley is one of the group’s most ambitious undertakings to date.

Adam Brylowski, Director of Conservation and Trail, says the acquisition of over 120 acres of sensitive Niagara Escarpment land will permanently protect it from development pressures, allow extensive ecological restoration and ensure continued public access to greenspace.

Brylowski says this project will have generational impact.

“Eight hundred and eighty-five metres of the Bruce Trail passes through the Talisman lands, which are a vulnerable and ecologically important area,” he said. “We are planning an extensive ecological restoration project but the first step is to inventory what is there. By next fall, we should be ready to start detailed planning of the restoration and we expect to have boots on the ground sometime in 2027.”

The BTC plans to bring lands on the property back to peak ecological health. This includes large-scale reforestation and habitat remediation for the many threatened species noted in the area, including Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Least Bittern, Louisiana Waterthrush, and more. The former ski slopes represent the only break in the forest canopy across a 10-kilometre stretch of the western Beaver Valley, making reforestation a key priority.

“We have an exciting opportunity to restore neglected and damaged habitats on this property,” according to Brylowski. “These will be some of the most ambitious restoration projects in our organization’s history,



(CNW Group/Bruce Trail Conservancy)

The ski hill at the former Talisman Mountain Resort will be reforested and restored by the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

helping us fulfill our mission to preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.”

Located near Kimberley, in the heart of the Beaver Valley, the former ski hill and resort have sat dormant for over a decade. Throughout this time, proposals for large-scale development of the property were met with significant community resistance, as residents and visitors voiced deep concerns about potential environmental impacts and the precedent such projects could set for other Niagara Escarpment lands. The lands purchased by the BTC include the Escarpment brow, the former ski slopes, and the resort buildings at the

base of the hill. The future of the existing buildings has yet to be decided, and the Bruce Trail Conservancy is carefully evaluating potential options.

With the purchase of the Talisman lands, the BTC now has more than 16,000 acres under stewardship which represents 72 per cent of the land that the group ultimately hopes to protect.

To support the purchase, restoration and long-term stewardship of the Talisman lands, the Bruce Trail Conservancy will be launching a public fundraising campaign.

For more information visit brucetrail.org/talisman.

NVCA budget passed unanimously by board of directors

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) board of directors unanimously passed the 2026 budget and business plan, the first time since 2021.

NVCA’s 2026 budget reflects an increase of \$180,372.37, which includes a \$101,307.36 increase in municipal levy shared proportionality across 18 member municipalities.

“I want to thank our board of directors and councils of all 18 municipalities for their clear direction and support for this budget and business plan,” said Jennifer Vincent, CAO of NVCA. “At \$7.8 million, this budget reflects fiscal prudence – reducing discretionary charges by 31 per cent and

holding most lines flat while advancing efficiency and service modernization. This positions NVCA to deliver services that are responsive to the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the Nottawasaga Watershed.

Budgets for conservation authorities are categorized into three categories:

Category 1 – mandatory municipal levy that goes towards reviewing development plans to avoid natural hazards. This funding also supports passive recreation and environmental restoration on NVCA lands.

Category 2 – services delivered at the request of a municipality, with funding under agreement with the benefiting municipality.

Category 3 – discretionary programs that go beyond mandatory and municipally requested services and include initiatives such as tree planting, environmental restoration, events and environmental education.

“We were able to gain support for all three budget categories from all member municipalities by being responsive to community needs,” said NVCA chair Jonathan Scott. “This budget is lean and efficient. We did that by reviewing the budget line-by-line and significantly reducing Category 3 costs. We’ve reduced our operating budget by \$9,000 and held our levy to 2.8 per cent, driven by the decrease in planning and permitting revenue with the decline in construction across the province.”

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COLUMN

Avening

The following sketch of Avening was written by Mr. George Carruthers of Toronto and a son of one of the early pioneers of Avening.

LOCAL HISTORY



Helen
BLACKBURN

My grandfather, George Carruthers, a native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, came to America in 1848 by way of New York. He lived for a time in Albany, later in Buffalo, and took up land in what is now Avening, about 1850. Some clearing was done by my grandfather's brother, John, and his son, John, and the family moved on to that property about 1851.

Frederick C. Thornbury came from West Gwillimbury where he kept a tavern about 1845, and later built the grist mill and saw mill and woollen or carding mill about 1860. The Thornburys named the place 'Avening' after the Avening in Gloucester, England. My grandfather and his son, George Carruthers, established the saw and shingle mill in Avening about the same year. F. C. Thornbury died January 16, 1872, age 63 years and was succeeded by his son, W.H. Thornbury.

The latter became the first postmaster on the establishment of Avening Post Office on February 1, 1864. He was also Reeve of Nottawasaga 1868-69. W. H. Thornbury died in September, 1908.

George Carruthers, Junior, (my father) carried on the saw and shingle mill for many years, and for a time about 1875, the mill was operated by Alex Rounday, and later by Miller Feltis. His brother, John, went to New Zealand to sell property in the city of Auckland, which had been taken up by his father while in New Zealand. He later returned to Canada and established a grist mill in Dunedin and named the village after Dunedin, New Zealand. He later sold the Dunedin mill and bought a grist mill in Creemore. He, however, returned to New Zealand.

When the Carruthers family settled in Avening in the early 1850s there was only one other settler on the second line northward, near Cashtown."

Information taken from *Nottawasaga: The Outburst of the Iroquois*, published in 1934.
(to be continued...)

Helen Blackburn is a retired teacher, avid gardener and a long-time contributor to The Creemore Echo. She writes about local history.

Send letters to the editor to editor@creemore.com. All letters must be signed with the writer's full name and include a phone number (which will not be printed.) Deadline is 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

THE WAY WE WERE



A view of the Santa Claus Parade coming down the street in Creemore. (undated photo from *The Creemore Star's* archives.)

Free puzzle exchanges at library branches

T'is the night before the Christmas Parades and all of the festive weekend fun taking place in Clearview Township!

The crew at Clearview Public Library aims to be out and about participating in all of the holiday cheer taking place in Creemore and Stayner but back in our branches (warming stations on Saturday), we do provide quiet time with stress relief and boredom buster activities.

Our free puzzle exchange is available at the Creemore, New Lowell and Stayner branches. Take one. Donate one. Donate and take as many as you like. We just gently ask that puzzles are complete with all their pieces. This program runs year-round.

The Letters to Santa program is active and runs until noon on Tuesday, Dec. 9. Pop into your favourite branch this Saturday between parades and write your letter to Santa, participate in our weekly themed Scavenger Hunt Bingo and choose a puzzle, book and/or DVD.

Some great new titles available are *Bog Queen* by Anna North, *The WayFinder* by Adam Johnson and *The Family Jewels* by Caimh McDonnell (Michele's picks). All staff are happy to assist with recommendations to make the most out of your quiet moments this holiday season.

Michele McKenzie is deputy CEO of Clearview Public Library.

LIBRARY NEWS



Michele
McKENZIE



Contributed photo

Seana Murdock (circulation staff) showcases a selection of free jigsaw puzzles available from all three branches of Clearview Public Library.

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ECHO

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Consumers want ‘flawed and messy’ experiences: report

If you know my wife **Angi Gallupe**, you may be aware of the culinary prowess she acquired from her mother Heather. Angi grew up in Creemore, in an era where food not only tasted great, but looked perfect too, long before it was prepared and served.

I’m glad to report Angi still has a penchant for great tasting food (yay!). But like cooking enthusiasts across the country, these days she’s interested in food’s authenticity.

What’s that mean? Well, according to the annual Canadian food trends report from Toronto-based Nourish Food Marketing, that means she’s in lockstep with others in search of real food.

In fact, The Return to Real is the theme of this year’s food trends report.

“We see consumers pushing back against artificial perfection and inauthentic brands and marketing,” says the report, which you can download and open from the Nourish website. “In short, they want flawed, messy, wonderful humanity back in their lives.”

Those are fitting adjectives to describe humanity,

FOOD & FARMING



Owen ROBERTS

for sure. Related to food, it means flaws and messes have risen in value as part of the culinary experience. They’re taking precedence over an unblemished photo shoot in a magazine or a picture-perfect presentation.

At the stove-top level, it also means we’ve taken to patronizing the imperfect-food cart at the end of the fruit and

vegetable section in grocery stores. Cost-wise, that kind of food is a bargain, which is a growing attraction.

And adding misshapen or otherwise imperfect food to your shopping basket helps cut down on food waste.

And even though whatever’s been put there for a quick sale doesn’t look like the photos in a flyer, nutritionally, there’s nothing wrong with it.

That bodes well for the likes of farmers’ markets fare. Its homegrown authenticity, pedigree and freshness take precedent over whether it’s blemished. It looks real, even though many contemporary urban shoppers may not know the difference. They’ve never seen food fresh out of a market garden or a

field, before it’s analyzed for cosmetic attributes.

Grocery store managers may have a different perspective on all this. They’re quick to point out consumers have not traditionally valued “flawed and messy” *anything*. Perfection is the ideal. That’s one reason the sale cart is small – it doesn’t get much attention.

But heading into 2026, that’s not the case anymore, says the Nourish Food Marketing group.

It also claims that we’re in the midst of an evolution beyond single nutrient obsession. It’s not all about carbs, protein, fat or whatever, according to Nourish. Instead, “consumers are moving toward understanding food as a complex orchestra of interconnected elements working in harmony,” it says.

That sounds like a well-rounded plate, like something you’d see at the Gallupes. The big difference? It wouldn’t be messy. And the only thing flawed about it would be misshapen fruit and vegetables... which as we’re finding, aren’t really flawed at all.

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

Hospice Georgian Triangle launches ‘It’s the Little Things’ holiday campaign with lead gift from Seeley and Arnill Construction

Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation has launched its holiday campaign with a lead gift of \$10,000 from Seeley and Arnill Construction.

Paul and Blake Arnill, the third and fourth generation owners of Seeley and Arnill Construction, visited Campbell House this week to make their generous donation, hoping to inspire others to contribute what they can.

“Giving to Hospice Georgian Triangle during the holiday season has become a tradition for our team and family. We feel fortunate to be supported by such an amazing community, and we want to pay it forward,” said Blake.

Giving Tuesday marks the official start to the holiday giving season, a global drive to give back to charities worldwide. Here in South Georgian Bay, it’s a powerful reminder that local generosity strengthens local care.

The Arnills have made it a tradition to give to Hospice Georgian Triangle over the holidays.

They have had firsthand experience with the loss of a friend at Campbell House, and they want others to receive the same kind of care.

“As a local company, we like to get involved and give back to the municipalities that we work within. Our local community supports our work, and we want to give back and hopefully inspire other organizations to do the same,” said Blake. “We are incredibly grateful to Seeley and Arnill Construction for leading this year’s campaign with such generosity,” said **Sandra Sullivan** at Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation. “Their gift is a beautiful reminder that it’s the little things like kindness, compassion, and community spirit, that make all the difference. Their support will help us provide the dignity, comfort, and care that everyone deserves, especially during this time of year.”

To donate to the holiday campaign visit: HospiceGeorgianTriangle.com/Holiday2025.



From left: Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation Board chair **Blaine Bell**, Hospice Georgian Triangle CEO **Trish Rawn**, Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation manager of stewardship and development **Linda Caron**, Seeley and Arnill Construction operations manager **Blake Arnill**, and president/owner **Paul Arnill**.

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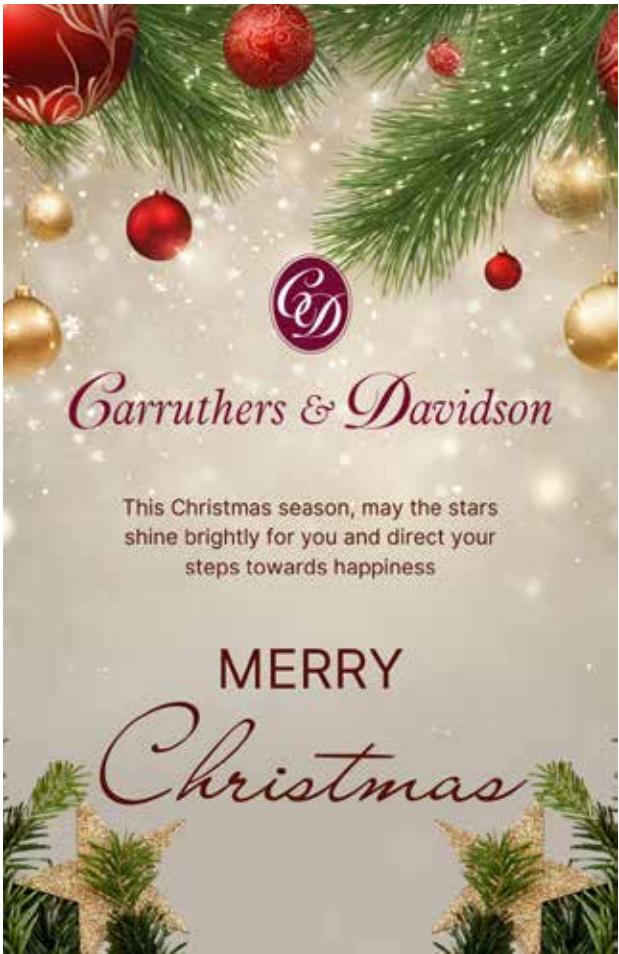
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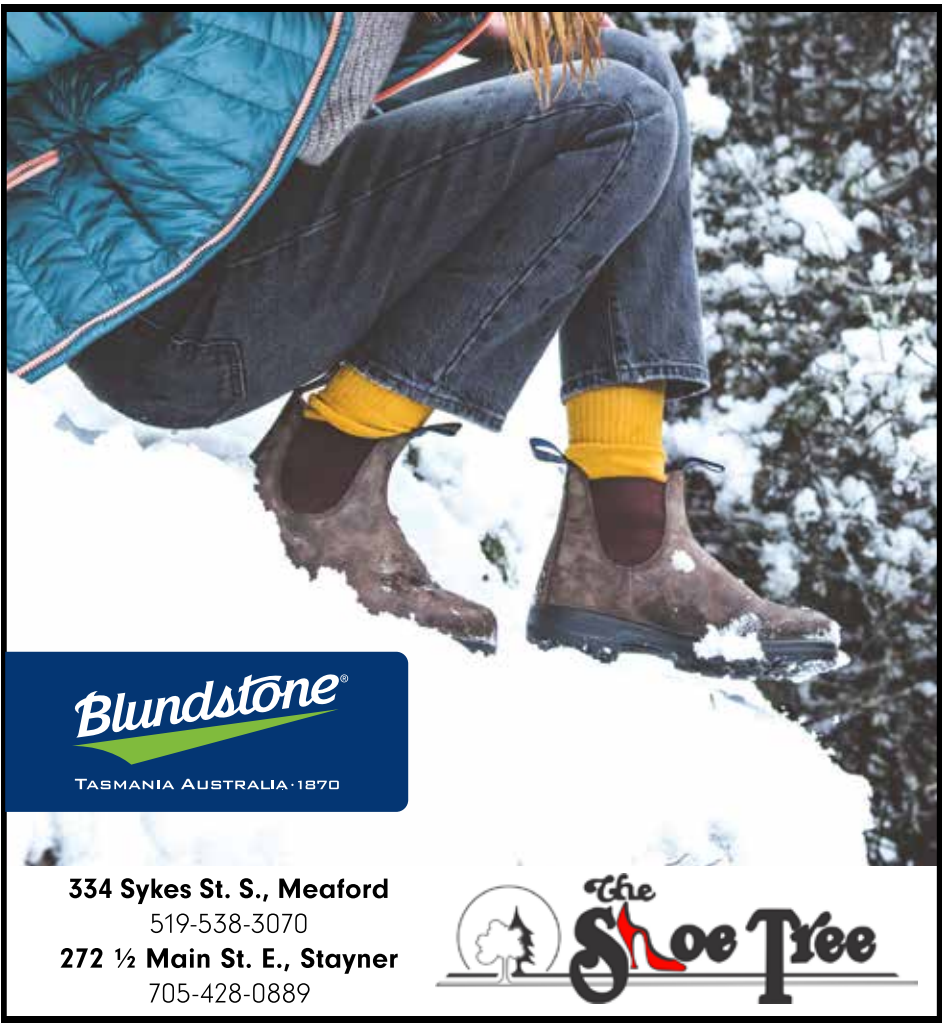
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Stayner Garden Club celebrates past 100 years with shade for future generations

To commemorate its 100th anniversary, the Stayner Garden Club has planted a native red oak at Centennial/Kinsmen ParticiPark. Club president **Anne Ripley** said although the centennial was actually in 2023 circumstances caused the club to delay the planting until September. Ripley said a decision was made to install a bench around the tree so people could one day enjoy the shade the oak will provide as it matures. The park is active with community events like the Stayner Duck Races and movie nights hosted by the Stayner and District Kinsmen.

“We want people to have a seat and rest while on a hike or bike ride. You could even come down and read a book and listen to the creek rippling by just a few feet away,” said Ripley. “The tree will take some time to grow and provide a nice covering of shade. It is the only oak in that section.” The park is located at 240 Brock St.

Right: A ribbon cutting was held on Nov. 14 with **Anne Ripley**, Clearview Township Mayor **Doug Measures**, members of council and members of the Stayner Garden Club.

Briar Kelly photo



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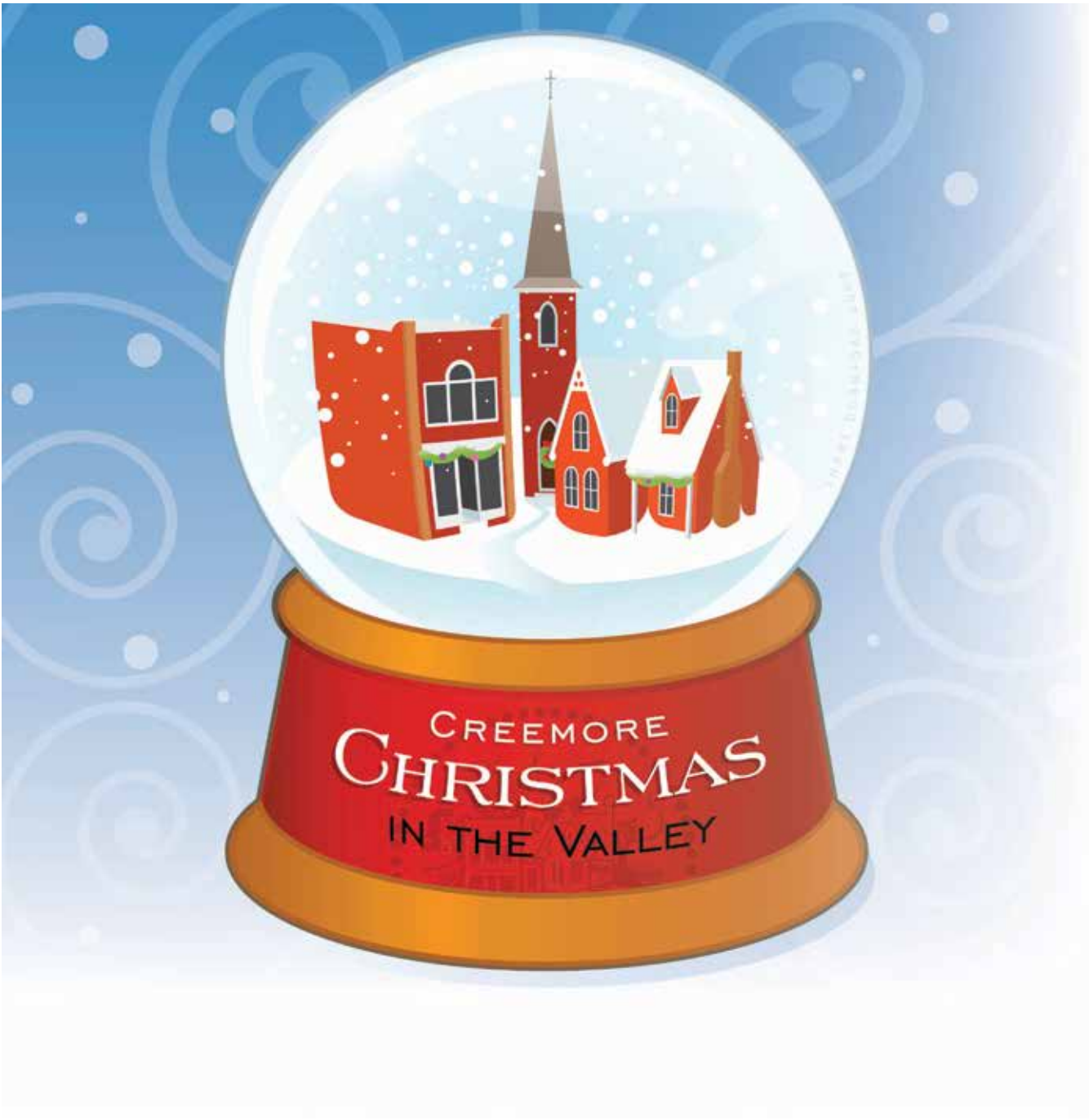
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Stayner pharmacist takes time for family

by Trina Berlo

Robert Knapper says after 41 years as a pharmacist it is time to step out from behind the counter and spend quality time with his family.

The New Lowell area resident has spent the last 15 years as the pharmacist working in the Stayner Medical Centre.

He said he's not quite sure what led him to become a pharmacist other than he wanted to help people.

"I thought it would be a good fit for me since I'm a people guy anyway," said Knapper. "It just evolved into where I am now."

After graduating from the faculty of pharmacy at University of Toronto, Knapper worked in Barrie at Allendale Drugs. But after working 70 hours a week for two decades, and in search of a little more work-life balance, Knapper opened a little store in the Stayner Medical Centre.

Having grown up as a farm kid in Grey County, Knapper said he wanted to get back to that small town feel.

"I risked it all, cashed in everything and opened a little store," said Knapper.

He had three young sons that he didn't get to see as often as he'd like so in 2010, he said, he convinced the medical centre staff to let him have a two-year trial and five years later there was an expansion that provided the



Robert Knapper

pharmacy a dedicated space.

Knapper said he has seen so many changes during his four decades as a pharmacist, with the profession being able to prescribe for minor ailments and administer vaccines being the most recent.

"We have a lot more professional responsibilities and freedoms going forward," said Knapper. "We are a much bigger part of the healthcare team. We are the accessible part of the health team, to get the ball rolling and

intercept issues – troubleshooting."

The challenges include more bureaucracy and more labour for less of a return, which he said is an issue across the board in healthcare.

He said he won't miss that but he will miss the community and the clientele.

"They have been very good and very supportive of me. I'm forever grateful for that," said Knapper, adding that he has been very lucky. "It's hard to leave but it's just time."

As for how he will spend his time, Knapper said, "I'm planning on not being a slave to the clock. I'm going to enjoy my family a little bit more. I'm still trying to figure out exactly what I'm going to do but I'll keep myself busy."

He said he has lots of jobs to do around the house with the help of his wife **Cindy**, and sons **Brandon**, **Zachery** and **Lucas**, all in their 20s, and all in the construction industry in one field or another.

The new owner at Pharmasave in Stayner is **Kevin Yang**.

Knapper posted on Facebook, "Please be aware that my outstanding support team of **April** and **Kim** will be staying on to help the new owner Kevin to get acquainted with the good people of Stayner and surrounding area. So I leave you in very capable hands."

Step back in time at Simcoe County Museum's Victorian Christmas

Simcoe County Museum is hosting three enchanting evenings of holiday cheer during its Victorian Christmas event from Dec. 11-13.

From 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., visitors are invited to wander through lantern-lit pathways and explore beautifully decorated heritage buildings as traditional Christmas music fills the air. Shop for unique gifts from local artisans, enjoy a captivating show on our antique Magic Lantern, and warm up with a hot drink before taking a horse-drawn wagon ride through the snowy forest. Inside, join carollers in our 150-year-old church, create Victorian crafts and treats to take home, and sample delicious Victorian sweets. And of course, Father Christmas himself will be on-site to greet visitors and spread holiday joy.

Admission for this event is by donation, with all proceeds supporting the Friends of the Simcoe County Museum, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving local heritage. Visitors are encouraged to bring donations for the Barrie Food Bank and/or the Simcoe County Paramedics' Christmas Toy Drive.

Simcoe County Museum is located at 1151 ON-26, Minesing. For more details, please visit museum.simcoe.ca.




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Brian Carruthers photo



Staff photos: Trina Berlo



Clockwise from above: Pipes and drums called the crowd to attention at the grand re-opening celebration for Avenging Community Centre on Nov. 30. Project engineer **Peter Mensinga**, RJ Burnside's manager of building restoration, and also a member of Innisfil Pipes & Drums, played with his daughter **Catharine** on the snare drum, and son **Jacob** on bagpipes; **Joan Rainbird**, **Claire Mills-Bellamy** and **Myrtle Carruthers** reminisce about the Avenging Women's Institute, who call the hall home, with hall board member **Monica Norris**; MPP **Brian Saunderson** called for all past and present hall board members to join him on stage to receive a certificate of congratulations; **Dorothy Shropshire** waves goodbye before ascending in the hall's new elevator. She was amongst those invited to take ceremonial rides; along with **Ellen Whitley** and **Myrtle Carruthers**.





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Dec. 14
Dec. 21



December 5th & 6th

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Contributed photo

Mayor **Doug Measures**, Clearview Youth Centre Coordinator **Courtney Rogers** and Youth Centre Assistants **Carson Arrigo** and **Felicia Wells** accepting the Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie Week donation from **Amy Bennett** and **Ann Murphy**.

Cookie campaign raises \$7,358 for youth centre

The Clearview Youth Centre has benefitted from Tim Hortons' Holiday Smile Cookie campaign to the tune of \$7,358.

In total, \$14,716 was raised during Holiday Smile Cookie Week, with the remaining \$7,358 supporting Tim Hortons Foundation Camps.

Between Nov. 17 and 23, one dollar from every Holiday Smile Cookie sold at the Stayner, Sunnidale Corners, and Cashtown Corners restaurants was donated to the Clearview Youth Centre, with an additional dollar donated to Tim Hortons Foundation Camps.

"Thank you to Tim Hortons, and a big thank you to our community for supporting our Clearview Youth Centre. The generosity of this community will help build a space where youth can explore their potential and create lasting positive change," said Mayor **Doug Measures**.

The funds raised will support the Centre's mission to keep young minds active and engaged as plans progress for the opening of a brand-new Youth Centre in 2026.

This contribution will help bridge the gap between the Centre's current programming and the expanded offerings planned for the new facility.

The future Youth Centre will build on the current vision by offering enhanced spaces for recreation, leadership, technology, arts, and mentorship – creating a vibrant hub where young people feel safe, supported, and inspired.

"We are so thankful to everyone who volunteered, baked, purchased, and supported to make Smile Cookie Week such a memorable and successful event. It was more than a fundraiser; it was a celebration of community, generosity, and heart," said youth centre coordinator **Courtney Rogers**. "There was something truly magical about seeing so many people come together with a shared purpose."

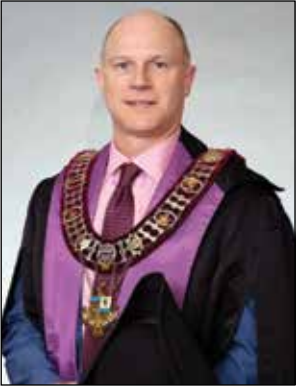
For more information about the Youth Centre and its programs, please visit www.discoverclearview.ca/youth-centre.

978 new licensed childcare spaces created

(Continued from page 1)

Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, supporting the creation of 978 new licensed childcare spaces through a cost-based funding model.

The approved budget includes a 3.5 per cent increase (2 per cent for operating and capital and a 1.5 per



Basil Clarke

cent for asset management) on the County portion of their municipal property taxes in 2026. This represents an impact of approximately \$10.86 per \$100,000 across the region, based on the 2016 property assessment. Of the county's \$745.1 million operating revenue budget, \$237.4 million comes from Simcoe County residential property taxes and the remaining amount from other revenues and funding streams.

The county's strong financial position is reflected in its AA+ long-term issuer credit rating from S&P Global Ratings, a leading provider of independent credit assessments and market insights.

2026 Budget Highlights include:

Total county operating and capital expenditures for 2026: \$1.042 billion (\$745.1 million operating and \$297 million capital)

- LTC homes and seniors services, \$216 million
- Paramedic services, \$89 million
- Community support and wellbeing, \$101 million
- Community housing, \$114 million
- Housing and homelessness, \$69 million
- Early learning and child care system management, \$151 million
- Transportation and engineering, \$82 million
- Solid waste management, \$83 million

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CREEMORE CURLING CLUB STANDINGS

Ladies

Team	win-loss-tie
Arsenault	3-1-0
Crawford	2-1-1
Fuller	2-1-1
Millsap	2-1-1
Harvey	2-2-0
Verstegen	1-3-1
McKay	1-4-0

From the Hack: It was an exciting night on the ice, with both early games coming down to the wire. Skips McKay and Crawford sealed their wins with their final shots. It was great to see Mel back out on the ice in Creemore.

In the late draw, Marie was on fire from the first rock, and Gayle capped things off with a TSN-worthy highlight-reel shot in the final end sneaking through two tight guards to score.

Good curling, everyone.

SEND LOCAL SPORTS REPORTS AND SCORES TO
editor@creemore.com

Daytime

Team	win-loss-tie
Loranger	7-3-0
Lambert	5-5-0
Beelen	4-5-1
Gallaughier	3-6-1

From the Hack: Taking inspiration from the Olympic curling trials last week in Halifax, Teams Loranger and Lambert came out on Monday with one thing on their minds – winning! Unfortunately for Teams Beelen and Gallaughier, they easily accomplished their goals.

On Wednesday, Teams Lambert and Loranger were tied at seven, coming home. Al made a lovely draw shot with his first stone, which Michael couldn't remove, allowing Team Lambert the close win. Marty Beelen, with the help of his team, secured a victory over Team Gallaughier. Good curling everyone!

Men

Team	win-loss-tie
J. Millsap	5-0-0
Wilson	3-1-1
Fuller	3-1-1
Walker	3-2-0
Cober	2-3-0
Sauder	1-2-2
T. Millsap	1-4-0
Flack	0-5-0



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FUN & Games

Sudoku

by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 14

FRED'S FUNNIES

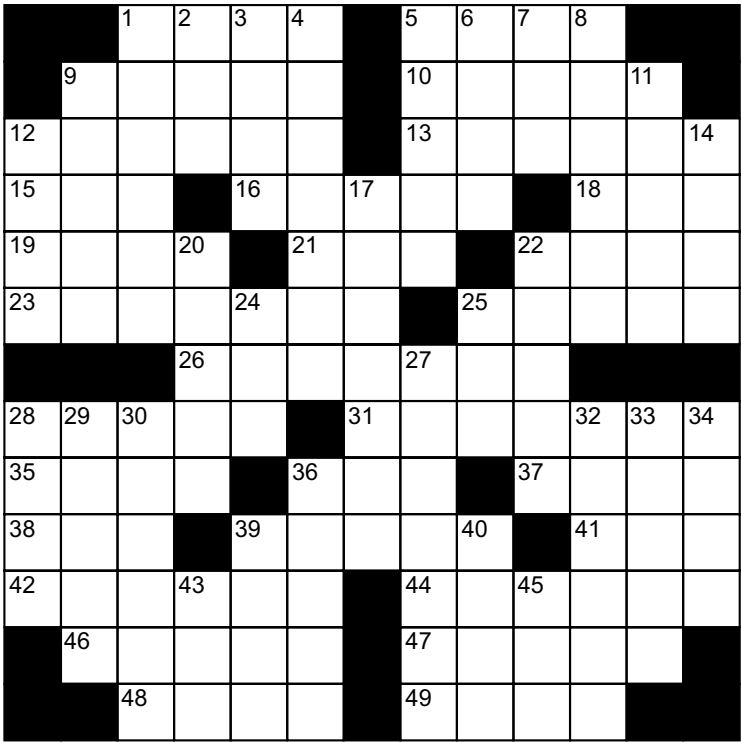
What's a snowman's
favourite seasoning?
Chilly flakes.

Canadian Criss Cross

by Walter Feener

ACROSS

- Very dry, as champagne
- Ladder rung
- Deny access to
- Stoppage of traffic
- Party for a mother-to-be
- Short sock
- Unhealthily pale
- Male duck
- Summer sign
- Assistive devices
- Winter driving hazard
- Group of girls
- Like the grass on the other side
- Summons to appear before a court
- Hairspray type
- Mitten part
- Place where pitchers warm up
- Tyres go on them
- Cleaning appliance, for short
- Hindu woman's dress
- Everything
- Subway system
- Went fast on foot
- Some tableware
- Be against
- Natural grease found in sheep's wool
- Jacket material
- Spreads newly mown grass for drying
- Catch sight of



DOWN

- Girl with light-coloured hair
- Use oars
- Not new
- Breed of small dog
- Fence part
- Fork prong
- Exclamation of mild alarm
- Young hen
- Dinette set part
- An annoyance
- Things stolen
- Playthings
- Circus entertainer
- Places where pieces join
- Ducks have them
- Bird's beak
- Mountain pass
- One of the most familiar types of sugar
- Device for hurling clay pigeons
- Birch ____, Saskatchewan
- Diacritical mark placed over a German vowel
- Humorous imitation of a serious writing
- Delete recorded data
- Baseball team
- Parts of three-piece suits
- Become better
- Piece of classical music
- Put a bow in
- Brisk energy

Local trivia

Conc. 3 was continuous from Avening into Creemore before what event?

NVCA board urges province to reconsider proposed mega-regional conservation authority model

The Board of Directors of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has written to Environment Minister **Todd McCarthy** outlining its concerns with the province’s proposed regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities.

NVCA chair and councillor **Jonathan Scott** said the board supports the province’s goals of efficiency, service modernization and fiscal prudence, and noted that NVCA has already delivered many such improvements.

“We are committed to working with the Province on genuine modernization,” said Scott. “Our concern is not with the objective, but with the scale and structure of the proposed ‘Huron–Superior’

consolidation model.”
The province’s draft boundaries would merge seven conservation authorities across 1,400 kilometres and 78+ municipalities, ranging from Thunder Bay through Northern Lake Huron and into fast-growing regions of Southern Ontario in the Greater Toronto Area.

“Such a configuration risks undermining the local accountability that is central to effective watershed management,” said Scott. “Conservation authorities were created by municipalities and remain funded and governed locally. Decisions about permitting, floodplain management and watershed planning work best when they reflect local site conditions and municipal growth patterns.”

He also noted that the proposed model combines communities and watersheds with little shared hydrology or infrastructure reality.

“A single administrative structure spanning the GTA, Northern Ontario and rural regions is unlikely to be nimble, and may make it harder for builders, farmers and municipalities to get timely advice that keeps housing and infrastructure projects on schedule,” he said. “From a common-sense perspective, it seems inherently unrealistic to have the GTA and Thunder Bay in the same region.”

While reiterating that the NVCA Board of Directors does not support amalgamation, Scott stressed that the Authority aims to be constructive. “If the Province continues to explore

consolidation, there are more coherent alternatives,” he said. “A model focusing on consolidating Georgian Bay–area authorities would better reflect shared geography, reduce transition costs and maintain the local accountability our municipalities rely on.”

“We welcome further dialogue with the province,” Scott said. “We believe there is a path to improved service delivery that is efficient, cost-effective and grounded in the realities of Ontario’s diverse watersheds. NVCA stands ready to contribute to that work.”

For more information about the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities, including an interactive map, visit the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

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St. Andrew’s Maple Cross Presbyterian Church
10 a.m. Sunday
Rev. Mitch McVeigh
1 Caroline St., Creemore
705-241-8702

CREEMORE & NEW LOWELL PASTORAL CHARGE
New Lowell 9:45 a.m. St. John’s 11 a.m.
Rev. Jane Sullivan • 705-466-2200
newlowellunitedchurch.weebly.com
www.stjohnscreemore.ca

St. Luke’s Anglican Church
Sunday services at 11:15 a.m.
Rev. Sharon Sangster and Rev. Lorna May
22 Caroline St. W., Creemore
705-352-2759 or 705-466-2206
www.stlukescreemore.ca

Emmanuel Presbyterian
Sunday service, 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Terry denBok
3521 County Rd 124, Nottawa
705-444-6823 • office@epcn.ca
emmanuelpresbyterian.ca

ST. PATRICK’S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
6:30 p.m. Wednesday & Friday, 11 a.m. Sunday
Fr. Tom Kluger
215 Pine St., P.O. Box 430, Stayner
705-428-2124
www.stpatricksst.archtoronto.org

HOLY TRINITY CLEARVIEW ANGLICAN CHURCH
10 a.m. Sunday in-person and online
4 St. Clair St., Duntroon
Rev. Ray Dobson • 705-794-9140
www.holytrinityclearview.church
church@holyltrinityclearview.com

Stayner EMC is now
Compass Life Church
10:30 a.m. Sunday in-person and online
Pastor Rob Harwood
202 Ontario St., Stayner • 705-428-3741
compasslifechurch.ca

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This week’s answers

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

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

Trivia: Hurricane Hazel

ECHO Classifieds

Submit your classified ad by 5 p.m. Tuesday:
call 705-466-9906, fax 705-466-9908,
email sales@creemore.com
\$20 + hst for 25 words or less

SERVICES

ELLIOTT PAINTING AND DECORATING, over 30 years experience with excellent references. Interior and exterior painting. Now booking for spring. Call for free estimate at 705-466-2356.

WHITLEY FENCE builds and repairs all types of agricultural or residential fences. Cedar rail, equine paddocks, dog pens, farm fence, post install, gate supply and install. Call Clay 705-627-8900, Jim 705-623-6844 or claytonwhitleyprojects@gmail.com.

BARN RENOVATIONS, beam replacements, stone and poured concrete, all types of roofing repairs, new siding and flooring, jacking up barns, new steel roofs. All types of horse and cattle fencing. Custom barn and shed painting. All types of excavation and demolition. Contact 647-248-8987. Servicing local area.

Smiths lawn care now booking **WINTER SERVICES**: handyman services and small Reno's, dump runs, and firewood sales. Call 705-888-7092 or email smithlawns@outlook.com.

No job is too small. Just name it, we do it! Anyone in need of transportation for shopping, medical, etc., service can be provided. Now seeking winter and spring jobs, power washing decks, etc. For best in gardening, pruning, leaf blowing, painting, patio stone and brick work, tree cutting, **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**, spring cleaning and where beauty is concerned call Desmond at Herron's Landscaping 705-430-6613 or 705-606-6633 or email herronslandscaping563@gmail.com.

Retired **PLUMBER**, 54 years experience. Fully licensed and insured. Service only. Clearing drains, repairs, replacing fixtures. Call Bruce for free estimate, 705-734-8372.

CONTRACTOR REPAIRS Barn repairs and jack ups; stonewall and brick repointing; cement repairs and parging. Contact Aaron, 416-666-0104.

LADY PAINTER. Quality indoor painting with excellent references. Call Janis at 705-441-4150 for free estimate, or email janis.wilson64@yahoo.ca.

CLEANER available – for your house, garage, office, car – I do it all! Free in person consultation and reasonable rates for regular cleaning or one-time jobs. Text/call Lisa Bader (Creemore resident) at 416-859-5985.

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

STONE & TILE INSTALLER. Interior and Exterior. 30+ years experience. Satisfaction guaranteed. References available. Call Kevin at 705-985-1851.

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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HELP WANTED

Spriggs Insurance is Hiring! Insurance Broker Wanted

We're looking for a friendly, motivated Insurance Broker to join our local team! If you enjoy helping people, love problem-solving, and know your way around insurance policies, we'd love to hear from you.

What the job involves:

- Helping clients find the right coverage for their homes, cars, and businesses
- Quoting, renewing, and servicing policies
- Building long-term relationships with clients who trust your advice
- Working with a supportive team that's here to help you succeed

What we're looking for:

- A licensed Insurance Broker (RIBO)
- Someone who's reliable, personable, and organized
- A great communicator who enjoys working with people
- Local to the area

What we offer:

- Competitive pay and optional benefits
- A friendly, down-to-earth team environment
- Ongoing learning and growth opportunities
- Work hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

If you think you would be a good fit, please forward a resume to Jamie McKean at jamie.mckean@spriggs.ca, or drop one off at the Stayner Spriggs Insurance office at 1071 County Road 42. If you have any questions, please contact 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.

LOST AND FOUND

A **BLACK LEATHER MITTEN** was found on the sidewalk in front of the Echo. Come to the office to claim.

FOR RENT

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE 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 facilities, 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. \$1,900 plus HST per month, and \$40 plus HST common area cleaning fee. Availability to be determined. E-mail jsmart7cvp@gmail.com to make a viewing appointment. Please note minimum two days notice is required for viewing this suite.

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT in Creemore. Freshly painted, brand new kitchen, four piece bathroom, washer and dryer on site, private entrance, parking space included, and a beautiful sunny deck. \$1,850 inclusive. Available immediately. Call 416-315-7255.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of **Carl**, (1927-1991), **Gertie** (1930-2020) and **Rick** (1956-2015) **Gowan**. Loving memories of those so dear, Treasured still with a love sincere, In our hearts, they are living yet, We loved them too dearly to forget. Love always,
Susan & Fred, Terry, Trudy & Wayne, Cathie, Dan & Lynn, Tam and families.

Maxine Armagost (née Rowbotham) passed away on Dec. 6, 2022. She will be remembered for her gentle spirit and the joy she found in life's simple pleasures. Maxine loved watching birds, spending time on the ice skating, and sharing cherished moments with her family. She is deeply missed by her loved ones and by Team Maxine, who carry her memory with great love.



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DEAR FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS, AND SUPPORTERS OF AVENING COMMUNITY CENTRE

Thank you for coming to our re-opening celebration last Sunday. Seeing neighbours, friends, long-time supporters, and new faces come together made the afternoon truly meaningful and reminded us why we, as a board, advocated for the renovation to the hall and work to keep the doors of the ACC open. Thanks also to all of volunteers who made the event possible. Your efforts made the celebration run smoothly and created a joyful, memorable day.

Throughout this process we have felt a deep respect for the generations of people who have given so much to the hall believing a gathering place strengthens our community. Their vision and dedication laid the foundation for everything we enjoy today.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to the many people, organizations, and businesses that made the renovation possible.

Clearview Township Council and staff: Thank you for supporting and approving the accessibility renovation.

Domm Construction Ltd.: Thank you for your dedication and professionalism in completing the renovation.

RJ Burnside & Associates: Thank you for your design and planning work to bring the hall up to accessibility standards.

Residents, supporters, and community members: Thank you for providing funds, time, and encouragement. Our hall has always been at the heart of the Avening — for celebrations, music and dancing, meetings, laughter, and friendship. Thanks to all of you, it will continue to serve as a gathering place for decades to come.

With deep appreciation from The Avening Community Centre Board,
Karen Cubitt, Sara Hershoff, Bill Hewitt, Bonnie MacPherson, Robert McArthur, Monica Norris, Ed Stephens, Tina Stephens, Melanie Walters

ALL THE BEST TO YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY

this Christmas

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