

The Creemore ECHO

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News and views in and around Creemore

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Second act puts designer on runway
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Talk aims to raise funds for families in Gaza

by **Trina Berlo**
A doctor who has been on the ground in Gaza doing humanitarian medical work will be sharing her experiences with an audience in Creemore. Dr. **Melinda Brecknell** will be in town over the holidays at the invitation of **MK Lynde** and **Tammy Yiu Coyne**, who have been fundraising for families impacted by the Gaza war.
Brecknell said the situation in Gaza is dire. She has been there four times since October 2023, most recently with an emergency medical team brought in by the Canadian-Palestinian organization Glia, under the umbrella of the World Health Organization.
“I could not believe what I was seeing. It was post-apocalyptic,” said Brecknell. “It was utter destruction everywhere.”
With restrictions on journalists, Brecknell said she now sees her role as a witness to what is going on in Gaza, to try and humanize the numbers and talk about what it’s like for the Palestinians she has worked with.
She said emergency medical team

doctors like herself are vetted by the Israeli government before being admitted into Gaza and those who are too vocal in the media and on social media may be denied, sometimes the night before they are to deploy, when they are already in Jordan.
“It’s very difficult to analyze completely the reasoning,” said Brecknell. “But one is certainly media, and the other that we’re finding more and more, is that if you are deemed to be particularly useful, as in medically useful – those would be surgeons, particularly plastic surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, vascular surgeons to deal with amputations, nephrologists – those kinds of people are being denied. I haven’t been denied, and I think my hypothesis for that is, as an emergency doctor, there is very little we can do there because we don’t have the resources. I can diagnose someone as having a heart attack, but I have no medication to give them. I can try and stop someone bleeding when they’ve lost a limb, but I’m not a surgeon, so I really found, this last time, that there



Contributed photo

Dr. Melinda Brecknell during a medical mission in Gaza.
was so often very little I could do to help.”
She said she has come to realize that she is more useful speaking out than going back.
“There’s a very fine balance that I

think all of us have, every single person who’s been in there – humanitarians and UN workers – is this topic of complicity, because if we don’t speak out, we’re complicit to what we’ve seen,” said Brecknell. “I mean, 70 per cent of essential medications are lacking. We didn’t have gauze, we didn’t have soap to wash our hands, and it hasn’t improved, even since the cease-fire, they’re still not allowing the medical supplies in. So, I am better placed to speak out.”
Brecknell says during her latest mission in Gaza she witnessed utter destruction, the Gaza Strip destroyed, and Rafah – once a thriving city – reduced to “pure dust.” And now famine.
“The Palestinians that I knew were, on average, between 15 and 20 kilos lighter, and I was seeing starving human beings like I had never seen starvation before. And so that was very, very striking this last time,” said Brecknell.
She said the humanitarian zone has
(See 'Without' on page 6)

Will crosswalk alleviate pedestrian concerns?

by **Bonnie MacPherson**
A new pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Mill and Caroline streets in Creemore is nice, says Business Improvement Area (BIA) president **Nancy Johnston**, but it doesn’t alleviate her concerns about pedestrian safety.
“The whole point of our streetscape study is to find ways of slowing traffic on Mill Street,” she said. “We know people are going to dart across the street in the middle of the block so we need to slow the cars down before someone gets hurt.”
At a July meeting to preview proposed streetscape improvements, Johnston called for the creation of four-way stops as a means of traffic calming.
Clearview Township’s Director of

Public Works **Dan Perreault**, says four-way stops are not intended as traffic calming devices.
“Under the Highway Traffic Act, four-way stops are to be used at the intersection of two roads with the same or similar traffic volumes,” he said.
Motorists are legally required to stop when the lights in the pedestrian crossing are activated, and Perreault suggests pedestrians bear some responsibility for their own safety.
“When the lights are activated, motorists tend to comply,” he said. “There may be a problem early on with lack of awareness that the crosswalk exists, or perhaps motorists are not totally focused on their surroundings, but pedestrians can do their part by pressing the button to activate the

crossing lights.”
Johnston says the BIA was not consulted before the crosswalk was installed but Perreault says it has been in the works for some time.
At a council meeting on May 30, 2022, former councillor **Thom Paterson** presented a report titled *Patios, Parking and Pedestrians*. Township staff was asked to bring back a report for upgrading the intersection of Mill and Caroline streets. The report, presented on Sept. 12, 2022, recommended a crosswalk. Perreault says it has taken this long to order equipment for the crosswalk and have it installed. The total cost of the project is approximately \$10,000. He says no other crosswalks are planned for Creemore at this time.



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

During *The Echo’s* reporting it was discovered the crosswalk lights were not working. Township staff investigated and found the batteries are faulty. New ones have been ordered.

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- 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 with proceeds going to the hall. No cover.
 - **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.
 - New Lowell Legion every Friday night **wings and things** from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- Sunday, Dec. 21
- 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.

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- Tuesday, Dec. 23
- **Pub Trivia Night** every Tuesday night from 7 p.m. to 9 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.
 - 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. 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
- The Dufferin County Pony Club hosts an **open house** from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 585446 County Rd. 17, Melancthon. The club welcomes anyone who loves horses and wants to learn more about them. Members focus on equine education, horsemanship and stable management through mounted and unmounted meetings, regional competitions and more. Open to participants aged seven to 99; horse ownership is not required.

- Sunday, Dec. 28
- *A Doctor's Work: Reflections from Gaza* **talk and fundraiser** at Station on the Green from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Join Dr. Mel Brecknell as she shares her experience treating patients, supporting families and working under unimaginable conditions. This fundraiser will directly support seven families in Gaza. Event details and tickets at tinyurl.com/doctor28. Tickets: \$25 each.

- Wednesday, Dec. 31
- Rockin' in the **New Year** with Deep Tracks at the Stayner Legion, 7149 Highway 26. Tickets \$40 per person, including midnight buffet and party favours. Tickets available at the branch or at Hair By Sue in Stayner, by the traffic lights. For more information contact 705-428-3809. The Stayner Legion is located at 7149 ON-26, Stayner, ON.

- Saturday, Jan. 3
- New Lowell Legion **bottle drive**. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please bring empty liquor bottles, beer cans, pop cans and drop off at the back door of the legion.

- Wednesday, Jan. 7
- Wednesday **Walk 'n Talk Group** at the Creemore Legion. The Legion hall will be open to anyone interested in walking, meeting friends, and exercising, without battling ice, snow, and cold winds. Meet Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. until noon. Please bring indoor walking shoes. Please enter through the West door. There is ample parking on the west side of the building (by the jet) and the West entrance to the Legion Hall. Contact Doug Mills 705-466-3339.



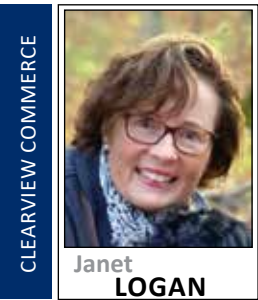
Creative vision takes the runway: Local designer shines at Fashion Art Toronto

A vibrant display of creativity, craftsmanship, and determination lit up Fashion Art Toronto on Nov. 16, as local designer **Lory Beauchamp Guest** presented a nine-look menswear collection that captivated the audience with its artistry and emotion.

Guest, a lifelong sewer and maker, learned her craft from her mother, who sewed, embroidered, and knitted. Over the years, her skills expanded from home decor to clothing, including wedding gowns and formal wear. She even returned to Sheridan College in her 40s to study interior design, honing a blend of technical skill and creative instinct. Guest’s journey to the runway was anything but conventional; she transformed her passion for sewing and design into a fully realized runway show, blending traditional menswear fabrics with bold, unexpected details.

“I started with the fabrics I had,” she explained. “They inspired the designs and the stories I wanted to tell.”

The Guest Label collection opened with a sheer nude organza suit, representing vulnerability and openness, and progressed through heavier, structured pieces layered with intricate details like hand motifs and spikes, reflecting resilience and life’s challenges. The final look, a voluminous organza coat adorned with roses, offered a light, ethereal conclusion – symbolizing hope and renewal. Each garment balanced



CLEARVIEW COMMERCE

narrative and aesthetic, demonstrating that fashion can be both expressive and wearable.

“I was just sewing, letting the process guide me,” Guest said. “I wasn’t sure where it was going, but I kept going, trusting my instincts and the story the fabrics were telling me.”

Her dedication was evident behind the scenes of the show and “was a seven-month full team effort.” From her son, who helped with the complex application, **Lucas Giffen**, who modelled for the promo photos, family and friends who kept her sane in moments of panic, to the backstage team at Fashion Art Toronto, “Everyone understood the story,” said Guest. “They wanted to show it because they could relate to it.”

The collection was inspired by men’s mental health, however Guest emphasized that the project was ultimately about creativity, storytelling, and the joy of making.

“It was about expressing something meaningful and bringing it to life,” she said. “Whether or not anyone else saw it, I had to create it.”

Fashion Art Toronto, which has celebrated artists and designers for over 20 years, provided the perfect platform for this ambitious project. Seeing her work come to life on the runway, Guest described the moment as “incredible, emotional, surreal.”

For Guest, the experience was not just a professional milestone – it was a



Contributed photo

Lory Beauchamp Guest on the runway at Fashion Art Toronto.

personal triumph.

“I’ve been creative my whole life, sewing, designing, making things by hand,” she said. “But taking it out of my home and into the world, sharing it with others, was something completely different. It taught me that if you’re willing to step out of your comfort zone, amazing things can happen.”

Now, Guest hopes her work sparks broader conversations about mental health, particularly for men.

“There is a real need for more

immediate support for people in crisis,” she said. “Hospitals don’t always have psychiatrists available, and emergency mental health treatment can be delayed for months or even years. We need better systems, more understanding, and more care.”

Looking back on the experience, Guest is reflective and joyful.

“I wasn’t doing this to launch a career – I’m 65,” she said. “But it has inspired me to think about another collection. Let’s see what happens next.”



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COLUMN

Sustainability updates for year-end and New Year

As the year draws to a close, Clearview Sustainability Network (CSN) wants to share some updates:

Please consider nominating Clearview area students, citizens, or organizations/businesses undertaking positive climate actions. You can find out more about the climate action recognition awards at Clearview.ca. Nominations close Dec. 31.

CSN's nature and biodiversity working group had a busy autumn packaging seeds and preparing for the in-person Clearview Wildflower Project workshop, which took place on Oct. 14. The Clearview Wildflower Project is an initiative designed and supported by the Nature and Biodiversity working group with support from Sierra Club Canada and Dutchman's Gold Honey, with the aim of educating residents on the importance of native plants and helping participants to design, establish and maintain wildlife friendly native landscapes. Thousands of seeds have been distributed to residents for late fall planting, and are currently tucked in under the snow in gardens across Clearview Township, waiting for the spring.

We're excited to announce that the Wildflower Project will be collaborating with Clearview Public Library and the Creemore Log Cabin in 2026, to continue efforts to spread knowledge about the importance of native plants and wildlife-friendly gardens throughout our region. Collaborative initiatives will include: a permanent seed library at the Creemore branch of the public library, to be established in January; educational programming for all ages; and the installation of a pollinator garden at the Log Cabin with funding allocated by the Log Cabin board of directors.

If you're interested in learning how to winter sow native plants in containers (a more reliable way of germinating wildflower seeds than direct sowing), please come out to our 'Winter Sow-cial' on Jan. 22, 7 p.m. at the Station on the Green in Creemore. Seeds, snacks and good cheer will be provided.

CSN recommends a webinar on an important topic, 'climate disinformation and what we can do about it', on sustainabilitynetwork.ca.

CSN's building and development team is working on a few initiatives for 2026, in particular holding a public educational event (inspired by the great ones done by CSN's biodiversity and nature team), where homeowners, builders, designers and whoever else is interested can learn more about how to renovate or build to not only adapt to our changing climate, but also to help mitigate it by letting our buildings and homes sequester carbon. More information to come in early 2026 as we sort out the details – keep your eyes out for news of this exciting initiative!

Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season.

The Clearview Sustainability Network is an inclusive and optimistic citizen-led group bringing together members of our community to help our local government and community adapt and evolve in the face of a changing climate.

THE WAY WE WERE



Karen Beckett using Newfoundland dogs to pull a wagon for Teddy Bears' Picnic in the 1985 Creemore Santa Claus Parade.

Flu season arrives early with cases rising in Simcoe Muskoka

Influenza (flu) season arrived especially early this year and the number of people sick with flu is quickly increasing in Ontario and Simcoe Muskoka. Because of this, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) strongly recommends that people who have not yet received their flu shot get vaccinated as soon as possible to protect themselves from severe illness this winter.

With the early start of flu season, the health unit is seeing a steep increase in the number of cases being reported. The number of cases reported for the season-to-date is more than four times the number of cases reported for the same time period in the last two flu seasons with more than usual hospitalizations and outbreaks. It is expected that the number of cases of influenza will continue to increase for the next few weeks, especially as people are gathering to spend time with friends, family and the community during holiday season.

This year's main influenza strain changed over the summer, which is one of the reasons so many people, especially children, are getting sick. Getting the flu shot is still the best way to protect yourself from influenza. Even with the change, the vaccine should still help prevent serious illness if you do get the flu. This means that your risk of needing medical care or being hospitalized because of flu-related problems is significantly reduced. People two years of age and older can receive their flu

vaccine at participating local pharmacies and some health care providers. Children aged six months to two years may receive the flu vaccine from a doctor, nurse, or health unit clinic by appointment.

It is important to prevent illness by staying home when you are sick or have symptoms of respiratory illness. Children who are sick should also be kept home from school or child care until they are well. Washing your hands and disinfecting surfaces that are touched often, such as door handles and light switches, can reduce the spread of germs. Wearing a well-fitted mask in indoor public places is another way to protect yourself and others, especially if you are at higher risk of serious infection.

In addition to influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) continue to spread. The same protective steps you use to avoid getting influenza will also help to prevent illness from these viruses. COVID-19 vaccine is available for individuals aged six months and older free of charge at participating local pharmacies and some health care providers.

The health unit encourages people to check the Weekly Respiratory Virus Update, consider their personal circumstances that may increase risk, and take appropriate precautions to protect themselves and others from transmission and severe illness.

For more information about influenza and immunization, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org

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Mulmur community fund nearing target

by Bonnie MacPherson

Organizers of the Dufferin Community Foundation (DCF) are working to push the Mulmur Community Fund (MCF) over the \$25,000 mark by the end of the year.

Founding director **Gordon Gallagher** says the Mulmur fund is one of 15 different funds which operate under the DCF umbrella. In total, the foundation has nearly \$5.5 million invested, and awards grants of nearly \$200,000 annually.

Gallagher, whose family has been farming in Mulmur for six generations, has a long history of public service. He served for 12 years on Mulmur council, including six years as mayor.

The Mulmur fund was created to improve the quality of life in the

township. Gallagher explains, “It will never be used to offset tax-funded services, but rather to fund the extras such as enhancements to the Honeywood arena or perhaps equipment purchases for minor hockey teams.”

The fund is permanently invested, so contributions have grown year by year with investment income, but no grants will be made until it reaches \$25,000 invested. To date the balance sits at about \$20,000.

The Foundation plans to work in conjunction with a citizen volunteer fundraising committee created in 2024 with the goal of raising \$10 million for improvements to the Honeywood arena. Gallagher says his group still needs clarity from the township as to what will be taxpayer funded, and what must be

handled through fundraising.

“The township has already invested in a new roof, a new ice plant and accessible washrooms. The foundation won’t fund construction, but may be able to provide some help with accessibility needs,” he said. “Eventually, there will be five new dressing rooms, and we see potential for sponsorship by major donors.”

Gallagher says other recreational pursuits such as pickleball courts and hiking trails are potential beneficiaries.

In addition to the Mulmur Community Fund, the Dufferin Community Foundation operates funds focused on environmental concerns, arts and culture and refugee resettlement. There are also specific funds that support the Museum of Dufferin and Big Brothers/

Big Sisters.

“As a community foundation,” Gallagher says, “we rely on donations and while we do promote ourselves, we are cautious about becoming too active in fundraising and effectively competing with the charities we support.”

Gallagher says the Mulmur fund has been in existence for six or seven years.

“It was slow to get going, but we’re hoping that in this year-end charitable giving season, we can push it over the \$25,000 mark so we can start making grants,” he said.

In addition to cash donations, the foundation welcomes gifts of appreciated securities or bequests. For information on how to become a supporter, visit dufferincommunityfoundation.ca/for-donors.

Dufferin Community Foundation grant recipients

Six local charities are receiving grants from Dufferin Community Fund to support everything from socks for people in need to watershed education for kids.

Dufferin Film Festival – \$5,500 – The 2026 event will showcase Canadian short films and create meaningful cultural experiences for Dufferin County residents and visitors. With support from the grant, DFF will deliver screenings at the Orangeville

Opera House, host filmmaker Q&As and a speaker brunch and expand inclusive workshops at a lower cost than typical film festivals.

Streams Community Hub – \$8,250 – Tools for Creativity: Tech for the Arts will strengthen learning outcomes and reduce bottlenecks in some of Streams’ most in-demand programs.

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority – \$2,000 – Wonderful Wetlands will bring curriculum-linked programming on our watershed and the importance of wetland

preservation to Grades 2-4 students in Dufferin County schools. Using interactive models, active discussion and scientific experiments, students will become empowered to take action to protect their environment. Schools would be eligible to participate free of charge.

Community Living Dufferin – \$2,500 – The Options program provides adults with intellectual disabilities with low-cost, supported access to culture and recreation, such as arts, music, crafts, yoga, swimming, horseback riding and other

group activities designed to promote creativity and reduce isolation.

Headwaters Communities in Action (HCIA) – \$2,500 – supports mental well-being and food literacy by providing high-needs schools with indoor growing equipment, seeds, soil and mentorship, benefitting 140-160 students.

Socks 4 Souls Canada – \$2,500 – Through this initiative, Socks 4 Souls Canada will deliver 7,000 pairs of new, durable socks at no cost to local organizations.

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Two local residents have been raising funds to support families in Gaza including Hadeel and her three children (above) – and Baby Ilana (left).

(Continued from page 1)

been shrinking and the yellow zone, occupied by Israeli forces, is currently just over 50 per cent of the Gaza Strip.

“If anyone approached that yellow zone, they would be shot,” said Brecknell. “So even with cease-fire being called, we were getting all these people who had breached the yellow zone or were close to it, and these were people who were going back to their homes to see if their home existed, to see if any of their belongings were there, anything that they could salvage, or look for their loved ones under the rubble. They would go into that zone and either get hit by a missile or by a drone... On my last day, there was a seven-year-old child who had been sitting in his tent, and he came in with a bullet through his buttocks, and he was just sitting in his tent.”

Local medical professionals have been working for two years without pay and without a break, some are without shelter.

“One-in-10 people have lost a family member. One-in-three people has someone in their family who has been critically injured, and they are working. Having been displaced, they’ve moved from hospital to hospital,” said Brecknell. “Hundreds of their colleagues have been abducted from hospitals and have been taken into detention in Israel. I’ve met some of them who’ve been released [and heard] the stories of what’s happened to them, the stories of torture. I’ve seen the injuries, and these are doctors and nurses, medics, cleaners and X-ray staff who come in and who meet us with such gratitude. And every morning they come and they say, thank you, thank you for being here. And from my perspective, even though medically I didn’t feel that I could do a lot, particularly this last time, the gratitude, the patients,

the children that were so happy that we were there to try and help, was really the driving force, because these people are exhausted. The cease-fire, yes, that gave them some hope but they have no future. They have no homes. There’s no sewage, there’s no electricity, there’s no water.”

The United Nations has said it would like to see 600-1,000 trucks of aid per day, for two million people – and although the exact amount is unknown, the number of trucks allowed in could be around 200.

Brecknell said the food she has seen distributed is not nutritious, and very expensive.

“Their future is so incredibly bleak that, for them, even if the bombs aren’t falling every day and every night, they’ve got to think about their future, their families, and what they’re going to do,” said Brecknell. “And unfortunately, even though there’s a cease-fire, there’s on average two kids a day who are being killed. There are still bombings constantly. Two days after the cease-fire, I was involved in mass casualty events where over 100 people were killed in one night.”

Brecknell said there is nowhere for the people to flee. They are trapped in a highly militarized zone. People there have been displaced many times.

“It’s like a boiling pot,” she said. “So they flee from the north to the south... each time they move, if they can afford fuel, because fuel is in desperate shortage, or if they have a motor vehicle, or they use donkeys, and unfortunately, there’s not enough food for the donkeys, and the donkeys are their main form of transport, and the donkeys are exhausted. They’re malnourished, and it costs them an awful lot of money. So now what’s happening is a lot of people say, we’re just not moving. They’re just too exhausted to move,

(Continues on next page)

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“Their future is so incredibly bleak that, for them, even if the bombs aren’t falling every day and every night, they’ve got to think about their future, their families, and what they’re going to do.”

-Dr Melinda Brecknell

so they’re just staying put saying, ‘If I die tonight or die tomorrow, my life will be easier than if I actually moved again.’ And we heard that regularly.”

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to specific families for the basic necessities needed to survive – food, water, clothing, shelter, medicine and medical supplies for injuries and illnesses related to sanitation issues and malnutrition.

Yiu Coyne and Lynde were contacted by families via Instagram. Seeing sympathetic content, the Palestinian families reached out for help.

One family, living in the razed city of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, had a baby and later lost another baby due to malnutrition.

Yiu Coyne said after vetting the families she set up a Go Fund Me account.

“When I started this Go Fund Me, as just some derpy person in the middle of nowhere Simcoe County, I wouldn’t have thought that, together, we could have raised up until now, \$45,000 or something,” said Yiu Coyne.



Contributed photos

Shelter is lacking or unsuited to the weather conditions in Gaza.

Together, she and Lynde are collecting funds for seven families, some of whose stories will be shared at the Dec. 28 event. They are part of a network of westerners coordinating aid.

Lynde said there is a push by the community to get about five families into new tents.

“We have one family whose few belongings they accumulated were destroyed by an airstrike last winter.

So all these folks are continuously, sort of starting from scratch, but with no money,” said Yiu Coyne. “So it seems like the easiest thing to do right now is to send the money so they can at least deal with buying food and clothing and shelter for the immediate future.”

For the event, there is a plan to bring in **Hanya Al Jamal** by video. The senior project coordinator for Action For Humanity and the 2025 Young Humanitarian Hero of the Year Award

To support the families on Go Fund Me, search:

- Enas, Fady, and Baby Ilana’s Future & Emergency Fund
- Support Baby Nadeem: A Newborn in Urgent Need of Food, Shelt
- Hadeel and her children need support

For those looking to donate to a larger organization, check out inara.org – the International Network for Aid, Relief, and Assistance. INARA is a non-profit organization that provides essential medical and mental health support to children affected by human-induced and natural disasters. Founded in 2015 by former CNN senior international correspondent **Arwa Damon**, INARA operates in Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Syria, and Türkiye, with plans to expand into Sudan and Yemen.

winner will be interviewed live by journalist **Avery Haines**. Al Jamal is currently studying in the UK, having received a scholarship and a way out of Gaza.

The event will be held at Station on the Green in Creemore from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 28. Tickets cost \$25 on www.eventbrite.ca. Search *A Doctor’s Work: Reflections from Gaza - Talk and Fundraiser*. The presentation will include a Q&A.



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Clearview Canucks U11 Rep won the Wasaga Beach Regional Silverstick, advancing the team to the International Silverstick Tournament in January, where they will compete against top teams from across Canada and the United States. Back row, from left: Head coach **John Patterson**, **Sullivan Oldfield**, **Wesley Brooks**, trainer **Ryan Kaden**, **Carter Hunt**, **Easton Henderson**, assistant coach **Dale Lightheart**, **Finn Ross**, assistant coach **Nick Tripp**, **Finn McKinley**, assistant coach **Ryan Aldcorn**, **Nixon Lightheart**, **Zachary Tripp**, **Everett Kaden**. Front row: **Tye Hayes**, **Jaxson Moreau**, **Viceroy Smith**, **Ryder Aldcorn**, **Cal Fachnie**, **Ry Patterson**. The team plays home games at the Creemore arena on Wednesdays and Fridays.

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Sudoku

by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 11

FRED’S FUNNIES

Where do reindeers go if they lose
a tail?

The retail store.

Thank you to Andrew for the joke

Canadian Criss Cross

by Walter Feener

ACROSS

- 1. Not in use
- 5. Time gone by
- 9. Organisation of employees
- 10. False witnesses
- 12. Give one’s approval
- 13. Passionate
- 15. On the heavy side
- 16. Cows eat it
- 18. Spoil the beauty of
- 19. Old-looking
- 21. In spite of that
- 22. Golfer’s warning
- 23. Fight against
- 25. One who wears stripes
- 27. Moulin Rouge in Paris is one
- 29. Top prize in a lottery
- 32. Throws away
- 36. Fusses
- 37. Remaining after deductions
- 39. Wet thoroughly
- 40. Cut the grass
- 41. Soft and comfortable
- 43. Single prefix
- 44. Suspenders
- 46. Part of ERA, in baseball
- 48. Eat away
- 49. Alternative to high heels
- 50. Gives a new colour to
- 51. Till compartment

DOWN

- 1. Foot part
- 2. Stop being alive
- 3. Garment size for most basketball players
- 4. ___-level
- 5. Cast material
- 6. Put on ___
- 7. Unhappy
- 8. Minor earthquake
- 9. Employment
- 11. Kind of drum
- 12. At a great distance
- 14. It has branches and leaves
- 17. fills with carbon dioxide
- 20. Packs of cards
- 22. Unborn baby
- 24. Drink like a cat
- 26. Gave grub to
- 28. Job incentives
- 29. Doorframe piece
- 30. Love deeply
- 31. Scaredy-cat
- 33. Gets up on a horse
- 34. Sheets of glass
- 35. Slide sideways
- 38. Larceny
- 41. Surrender possession of
- 42. Unincorporated town in British Columbia
- 45. Acting more shy than one really is
- 47. Went fast on foot

Trivia: What is the name of the family dog on Full House?





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Contributed photo

CREEMORE CURLING CLUB Karen Crevier presents the Alf and Eliza Millsap trophy to the winning team of the Daytime Curling League's first session. Congratulations to **Al Lambert**, skip, **Sandy McKay**, vice, **Joan Morby**, second, and **Scott McKay**, lead. Good curling everyone!



Contributed photo

The first draw of men's curling league concluded on Tuesday night. Team Millsap finished with a perfect 7-0-0 record, earning first place and the Gord Miller trophy. From left: **Edwin Sterrenberg** (lead), **Jim Whitley** (second), **Paul Crevier** (vice), **John Millsap** (skip), with **Peter VanStavern** presenting the trophy.

Ladies		
Team	win-loss-tie	
Fuller	4-1-1	
Arsenault	4-2-0	
Crawford	3-2-1	
Millsap	2-2-2	
Harvey	2-3-1	
Verstegen	2-3-1	
McKay	1-5-0	

From the Hack: The dust has settled and the results are in; Team Fuller has captured the first draw of the Ladies' Curling season in Creemore. Congratulations! All teams enjoyed terrific seasons, with new curlers finding their footing on the ice thanks to the support and guidance of experienced teammates. A special thank you to Marie and Celeste for the jolly Christmas treats that added an extra touch of cheer to the season.

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THANK YOU

To all, for your love and support this summer. Thank you for your cards and well wishes. Thank you to the family for the Muskoka chair. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Sincere thanks from Marie Kidd.*

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IN MEMORIAM

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

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

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Let’s keep winter a safe season for everyone.

For more information, please contact:
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Contributed photo

Kim Wyant, on behalf of Lafreniere Auto Sales and Service, made three donations last week, including \$500 to Clearview Meadows Elementary School; and \$1,000 to Hospice Georgian Triangle; and \$1,000 to Clearview Stayner Food Bank. Above: Wyant presents a cheque to food bank manager **Pam Royal**.

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