

The Creemore ECHO

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Friday, January 2, 2026 Vol. 26 No. 1

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News and views in and around Creemore

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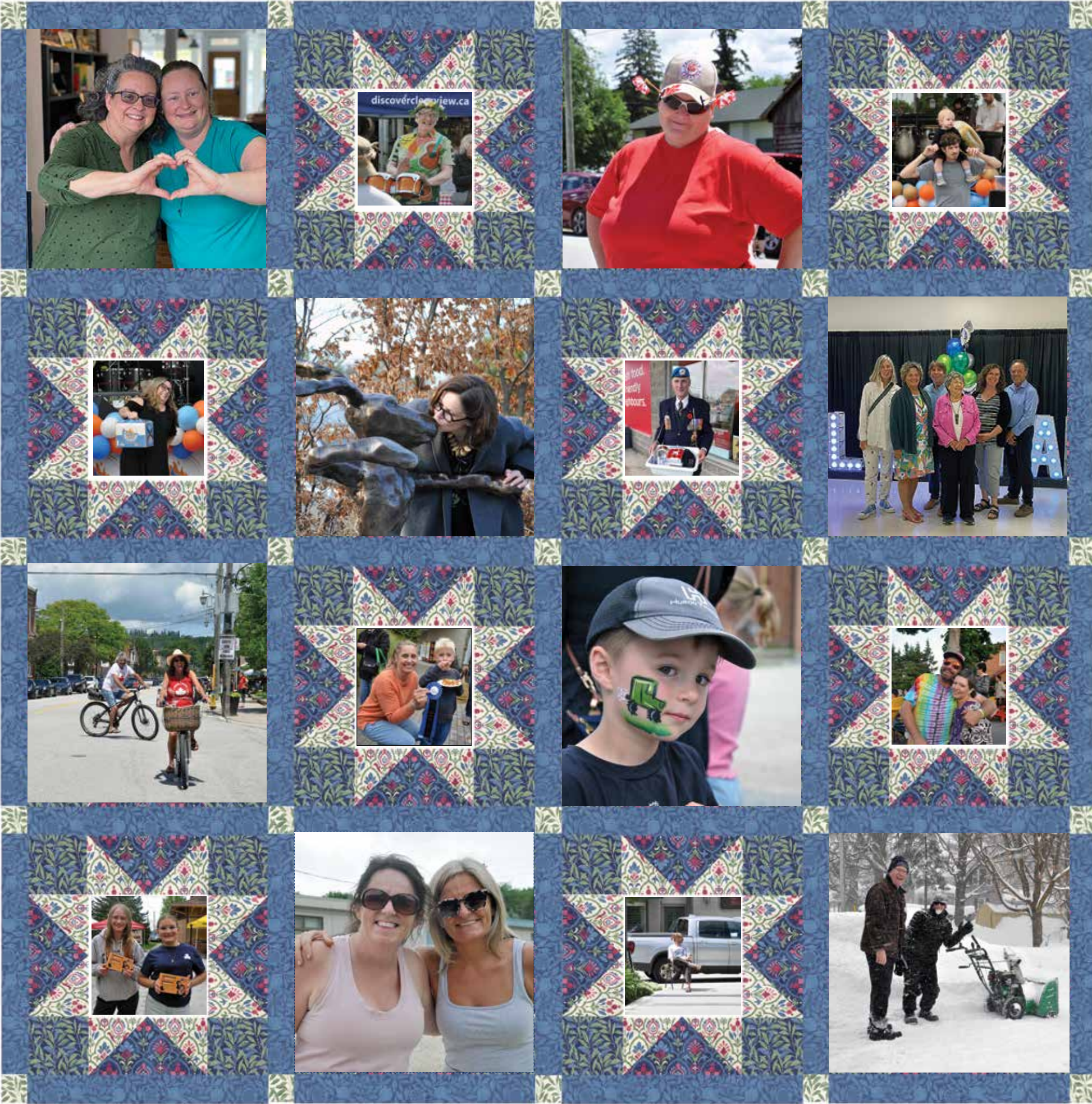
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News story of the year: DND radar

In what has rapidly become the most talked-about story in rural Ontario, Clearview Township finds itself at the heart of a national security drama. This year, the Department of National Defence (DND) dropped a bombshell — a \$38.6 billion modernization plan for NORAD includes building a radar receive-site on 288 hectares of prime farmland.

It began with silence — DND quietly acquired roughly 711 acres of agricultural land at 2225 Sideroad 15/16. Locals were stunned when they received offers to sell their surrounding farms, realizing the government planned to flatten the land, erect thousands of six-metre antennas, surround it with high fences, and operate round-the-clock lighting and cameras.

Clearview Township’s council voted unanimously to oppose the receive site, citing that agriculture is the backbone of its identity and economy. In their eyes, valuable farmland, some bordering environmentally sensitive wetlands, was being sacrificed for a project that may outlive its usefulness.

“Clearview is an agricultural community, with agriculture and agri-related businesses being the township’s Number 1 economic activity. Agriculture is a vital part of our culture and heritage,” said Councillor **Marty Beelen**. “Valuable farmland in Ontario is already being used for roads, housing and development. We do not need to use more valuable farmland for this DND



Rachel Brooks and Terri Jackman

project.”

Two public info sessions hosted by DND drew about 300 people. Emotions ran high: concerns about expropriation, radio-frequency exposure, and environmental impact dominated the floor.

DND defended its plan as a vital piece of Canada’s continental defense — part of a broader NORAD modernization effort to detect high-speed threats.

What started in Clearview has spilled over into neighbouring municipalities. Essa Township and the Town of Innisfil have publicly joined Clearview’s resistance, calling for a more balanced approach that respects farmland, food security, and local heritage. Their

argument: once the soil is gone, it’s gone — but military needs can evolve.

DND announced that initial work could begin as soon as winter 2026, with the radar network projected to reach initial operational capability by the end of 2029.

For many in the township, this is more than a local political fight. As one farmer put it, “once we run out of farmland, how are we going to feed our community?”

The proposed DND radar in Clearview has become a defining moment — not just for this farming community, but for the broader national debate on defence, development, and democracy. It tests the limits of local agency in the face of a global security agenda.

If the radar goes in, it could transform the landscape — both physically and in its symbolism. But if the people of Clearview win this fight, it may prove that even in the face of sweeping national plans, the voice of a small township still has weight.

Meanwhile, residents launched a grassroots petition. Community leaders like **Terri Jackman** and **Rachel Brooks** are urging neighbours to stand firm. It’s not just a land fight — it’s a fight for legacy, livelihood, and a way of life. The petition, open until Jan. 23, is online at www.ourcommons.ca under e-6829 (national defence and military operations). There is also a Facebook group called Clearview DND radar.

Volunteer spotlight: Jeanette McFarlane

In 2025 we recognize **Jeanette McFarlane** for putting Mulmur in the national spotlight, as a finalist in the Kraft Hockeyville contest.



Although Honeywood Arena did not win the top prize, the community came out a winner because they had a chance to band together and tell their story. As a top-four finalist, they will receive \$25,000 for arena upgrades and \$10,000 for equipment.

“My friends, we are winners and we will always win when we work together so from here on out show up for your community. Do something for somebody else because that’s how we win,” said McFarlane at a gathering for the live broadcast.

McFarlane is a dedicated Mulmur resident whose leadership and volunteer spirit have made her a pillar of the local community. Named Mulmur’s Citizen of the Year in 2025, she was recognized for her energy, initiative, and long-standing commitment to strengthening community life. A driving force behind the My Honeywood campaign, she has contributed to major efforts to improve local recreation facilities and expand opportunities for youth. Her involvement also extends to civic engagement and economic development.

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From the Front Page

Funds flow to unlock Stayner development backlog

by Trina Berlo

On his final stop of a funding tour Tuesday, Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Sanderson was in Stayner to announce that Clearview Township will be receiving \$35 million in provincial funding to add water capacity in Stayner and allow development projects to proceed.

He said the money will unlock infill properties and new subdivisions, adding that the new long-term care facility and grocery store on Highway 26 are all "critical pieces of the puzzle to make sure the community is thriving."

He said the successful funding application is a testament to the advocacy of municipal and elected



Area continues to get walloped with winter storms

by Bonnie MacPherson

If you're feeling like we've had more than our fair share of winter weather, you're not wrong. Geoff Coulson of Environment Canada says that data from the eight monitoring stations, the nearest to Creemore, shows this is one of the snowiest winters since they started measuring snow depth in 2001.



budgets at this stage, both have been scrambling to keep up with the weather. Other county operations, such as garbage pick-up, have also been affected.

NDCC competes for Kraft Hockeyville

by Trina Berlo

North Dufferin Community Centre (NDCC) is hoping to score big in the Hockeyville contest, putting the 3rd arena on the map while community engagement



Ford triggers snap election

has said he needs a new mandate from the people in case he needs to spend billions of dollars to prop up Ontario's economy if tariffs are imposed. To protect Ontario, including during the fast-approaching renegotiation of the U.S.-Canada trade agreement.

Incumbent MPP Brian Sanderson will stand for the Progressive Conservatives. He won the seat the last election, after long-time representative Jim Wilson stepped

down after 14 years in office. Sanderson served in municipal government for 20 years before being elected to the provincial legislature in 2018.

Concerned Nottawa residents pack chambers for PIC

by Bonnie MacPherson

Clearview council chambers were full on May 28 when residents of Nottawa gathered to hear the latest updates on the proposed quarry.

identify well sites in Nottawa.

Jeff Shearer, of the recently formed Nottawa Area Residents Association, says the community's contributions to slo-pitch



"The only acceptable quarry is no quarry"

by Trina Berlo

Melancthon Against Quarries is building opposition to Strada's proposed quarry by building a community organization

has been working with Strada to ensure local decision making and input into the quarry application, Melancthon Against Quarries' position is that the quarry

"Because it's also about our future in a broader sense," said Taman. He said during consultation the ministry doesn't ask anything about the quarry

on the potential impacts of the quarry local water resources, the environment and community health. All are welcome to attend the public consultation

New Foodland set to open in Stayner this spring

by Trina Berlo

A new Foodland grocery store is taking shape in Stayner's east end, with a move planned for spring.



desire to merge his business interests and food. He first worked at Freshco and quickly rose to a manager's role. A decade ago he applied to franchise training programs and was accepted into the one offered by Sobey's, Foodland's parent company. He travelled around the different stores, learning the business.

Simcoe-Grey remains true blue

by Trina Berlo

After Terry Dowdall gave his victory speech Monday night, all eyes were glued to a live news feed to see who would be Canada's next prime minister. The riding of Simcoe-Grey had been called in favour of the Conservative candidate, but the national election result wasn't called until the next day.



Honeywood makes Kraft Hockeyville finals

by Trina Berlo

Jeanette McFarlane said everyone is in shock but super excited about making it to the finals of the Kraft Hockeyville contest.

have kept it going, and two NHL players who skated there in their youth—Aaron Downey and Dan Ellis. During the contest community members shared their stories about the importance of the arena

arena renovations in multiple phases. Beginning at 9 a.m. on April 4 there is a nationwide 32-hour window for voting. Residents of Canada 14 and older can vote an unlimited number of times until



Saunderson easily retains provincial seat

by Trina Berlo

If it's a strong mandate the PC Party of Ontario was looking for, Simcoe-Grey certainly delivered.

The Progressive Conservatives capped off election day Feb. 27 securing a third majority government, with one of at least 80 seats going to Brian Sanderson, who got 53.55 per cent of the vote.



Weekend ice storm causes wide-spread outages

by Trina Berlo

Local residents woke up to power outages Sunday morning following an ice storm that hit the region. Freezing rain caused substantial damage to trees, power lines, and infrastructure. High winds continued throughout the night into the early morning hours of March 31, exacerbating the damage, followed by more freezing rain on Wednesday.



Postal strike looms as agreements expire

On Monday, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) and the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) reached a tentative agreement for both bargaining units. This aggressive move by the unions could lead to a postal strike next week.

Clearview to allow boulevard gardens

by Trina Berlo

The Township of Clearview will allow for the safe and appropriate placement of pollinator gardens.

Downtown Creemore Visioning Project launched

The village of Creemore is embarking on a visioning project to ensure the sustainability of its iconic downtown and enhance its public realm.

owners and residents dedicated to shaping the future of Creemore downtown. Committee members include: BIA president, Mayor, and Councillors.

Councillor Robert McArthur and Daniel Shearer. "This project represents a wonderful opportunity to come together and establish the vision and rules for boulevard gardens."

the native plants that are beneficial to pollinators. "I feel like we have made a major step forward," Lattimore told The Echo after the meeting.

Plans for NORAD 'receive' site draw ire

by Bonnie MacPherson

Emotions were running high as residents packed into Station on the Green Wednesday for an information session hosted by the Department of National Defence (DND). More than 200 people attended an afternoon session with another 100-plus joining the meeting virtually. An evening session drew another near-capacity crowd to hear about plans for an Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar (A-OTHR) system installation to be built in the area.



Clearview considers regulating short-term rentals

by Bonnie MacPherson

Clearview council has formally started the process of developing a program to license and regulate short-term rentals (STRs). Currently, the township's Zoning Bylaw prohibits rentals of residential property for more than 30 days.

to begin investigating a program that will include public and stakeholder engagement, policy considerations, regulations and provincial legislation, and a review of existing programs established in neighbouring municipalities.

property may be rented. The township will seek input from advocacy coalitions, housing advocates and local residents, community groups, homeowners, landlords, and tourism and recreation related businesses. Strategic plan 2024-2028 identified as one of the priorities.

and families target markets. STAs also provide a way that residents can supplement their income. In the township's 2024-2034 Corporate Strategic Plan, Recreation and Culture was identified as one of the priorities.

Province extends strong mayor powers

by Bonnie MacPherson

Clearview Township Mayor Doug Measures said he doesn't expect any big changes when the province's new strong mayor powers come into effect.

Homes Act. Originally affecting only the cities of Toronto and Ottawa, it was intended to streamline the workings of local governments to support provincial priorities. Since then the powers have been extended to 45 additional municipalities and effective

has had the desired effect in the 4 municipalities where it is already in effect, Sanderson said. "Unfortunately, cause and effect in the housing file isn't a straight line. For example, we've been working hard at increasing rental housing in the last year."

Proponent seeks support for battery storage system

by Trina Berlo

Compass Greenfield Development is requesting a council resolution in support of a proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) in Stayner.

James Marzotto was before Clearview council on Oct. 6 with a proposal to build a BESS in Stayner.

are charged at night and the operator is paid to be on standby to feed power back into the grid during times of peak usage. "This long-term capacity procurement is for 600 megawatts of needed capacity throughout the province."

an additional 500 megawatt in early stages of development in Ontario and Saskatchewan. The Stayner site was chosen for its proximity to electrical infrastructure and available capacity and proper

proponent would work with Clearview Fire and Emergency Services to create an emergency response plan and that the BESS would not become operational without oversight from Hydro One and the Electrical Safety Authority, the Ministry of Energy, and IESO.

Logan Barrett, Stayner Fire and Emergency Services manager, said the township would work with Clearview Fire and Emergency Services to create an emergency response plan and that the BESS would not become operational without oversight from Hydro One and the Electrical Safety Authority, the Ministry of Energy, and IESO.

For example, Deb Hill, who cleans the facility and acts as booking agent, said she was notified of an incident of vandalism on Saturday. She arrived to find what she describes as walls painted with chili, which was all over the floor. The emptied cans had been wedged into the toilet. She said all she could do was clean it up.

is doing it but it seems to happen when the park is full. Board members note that the washrooms were built to the capacity of the Station on the Green, which is 200. Beelen said the Station board has approved funds for a renovation to the washrooms.

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Civic engagement



Clockwise from above: **Zak Hayward** received council support for his plea to maintain the character of Gowan Park by rethinking the replacement of the bleachers; Various citizen groups, including Melancthon Against Quarries, have been raising their voices in opposition to Strada's quarry application; Clearview Township will allow boulevard gardens after the community rallied around **Brenna Lattimore** and her efforts to raise awareness about pollinator gardens; Councillor **Robert Walker** worked to ensure there was proper public engagement for Compass Greenfield Development's battery energy storage system (BESS) proposal in Stayner; In May there was a week-long protest of Bill 5 outside the Stayner constituency office of MPP **Brian Saunderson**; Hundreds of people attended two information sessions hosted by the Department of National Defence to hear about plans for an Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar (A-OTHR) system installation to be built in Clearview Township.



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Community events



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Canada Day



Sundays in the Park



Amazing Race Clearview

There will be tears
But also
laughter
and
love

Yes, a funeral is a time to remember but it is also a chance to celebrate a life with friends, family and loved ones.

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Community commerce



Clockwise from above: Stayner's east end saw tremendous change in 2025 with the opening of the plaza off Grand Trunk Road including McDonald's, a Dollarama, a larger LCBO store and a new Stayner Foodland location, with new owners Kyle and Selina Krueger (top right); Creemore Foodland also saw a change in ownership with Shannon and Alain Lemay; a number of businesses celebrated grand openings in 2025 including The Hub in Duntroon; Mullen and Mullen in Stayner; and The Olive Grove Wellness Center in Stayner.





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Answers on page 11

FRED'S FUNNIES

Why is the party in
Times Square overrated?
Because they drop the ball
every year.
Happy New Year!

Canadian Criss Cross by Walter Feener

ACROSS

- Fit of the sulks
- Unspecified amount
- Be quiet!
- False god
- Computer operating system
- Chinese "way"
- Programming language for children
- Put in good condition by making many repairs
- High mountain
- Put off until a later time
- Ragged clothing
- Internet address
- ___ carte
- The symbol -, indicating subtraction
- Red Planet
- Monetary unit of Japan
- Excellent
- Toys similar to windmills
- Actress Martin
- Reminder to pay a debt
- Quick, clever reply
- Supermarket section
- Painter Greeley from Newfoundland and Labrador
- "___ (God)"
- Holes in needles
- Had a meal
- Point scored in hockey
- Place in the hands of
- Floating leaf of a water plant
- Well ventilated
- Over again

DOWN

- One thousandth of an inch
- Words said by brides and grooms
- Thick cloud of tiny water droplets
- Be buoyant
- Catch unawares
- Half of two
- Sixty seconds: abbr.
- Old Testament book
- Some male horses
- He was prime minister of Japan for nine weeks in 1994
- Hamlet in Saskatchewan
- Vice ___
- Moon vehicle, for short
- Pack down tightly
- Jai ___
- Having lost its shine
- Curl one's upper lip
- Improbable
- Fly resembling a mosquito
- Hawaiian goose
- Extremely muscular
- Strike;stoppage;walkout in Spain
- Collect information secretly
- Last Greek letter
- Immediately!
- Extremely small amount
- Hawaiian dish
- Calendar abbr.
- Yang's counterpart
- Adam's wife
- Make with a needle and thread

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 45 | | | | | 46 | 47 | | | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 |
| 52 | | | | 53 | | | | | 54 | | | |
| 55 | | | | 56 | | | | | 57 | | | |

Trivia: Who wrote the screenplay for *Rocky*?



Under construction



Clockwise from above: Mannington Investments continues to work on a new building at 143 and 145 Mill St. and has unveiled its vision for the re-development of the old Sovereign building; Planning continues for the new Collingwood General and Marine Hospital, including a visioning session in Creemore to gather input into early design concepts; The new Stayner Care Centre, a modern 128-bed facility operated by Jarlette Health Services, officially opened and moved residents in September 2025; The Georgian Triangle Humane Society broke ground on the David and Helen Capin Regional Centre for Pets and People; The NVCA completed a 125-metre side channel in the Mad River in Avening to restore natural flow patterns to the river.



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This week's answers

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

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| A | T | E | | G | O | A | L | | G | I |
| P | A | D | | A | I | R | Y | | A | N |

Trivia: Sylvester Stallone



Happy
NEW YEAR

We wish you all a joyful and peaceful 2026!
Thank you so much for your love and support, and for proving again and again that Creemore truly is the little village with the big heart.

OPEN New Year's Eve 10-3 | **CLOSED** Jan. 1
Monday, Tuesday 10-5
Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4

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2025: A year to remember

This past year marked an important milestone for Coates Creek Cabinetry, 36 years of building spaces shaped by care, skill, and collaboration. It was a time to reflect on the people behind the work and the clients who have trusted our team with their homes, year after year.

Throughout the years, Coates Creek Cabinetry has continued to welcome clients and partners into the creative process. Open conversations, shared ideas, and hands-on collaboration remain at the heart of the work, with each project built in-house by a team that understands how cabinetry and furniture become part of everyday living.

Kitchens where families gather. Tables where stories are shared. Spaces where life unfolds.

As the year comes to a close, the focus remains the same. Coates Creek Cabinetry continues to build with intention, working closely with clients to create well-crafted spaces that feel right for their homes—spaces made to be shared, enjoyed, and remembered, with a little magic woven into the everyday.

Built to Last: A Legacy in the Making

At the heart of Coates Creek Cabinetry is founder Jeremy Van Severen, whose connection to the craft began at a young age. Time spent working alongside his grandfather shaped not only his skill, but his respect for woodworking as a trade built on patience, precision, and pride.

What began as a small workshop grew steadily, guided by a belief that good work speaks for itself. Over the years, that belief has shaped a company known for its attention to detail, thoughtful design, and a commitment to precision and craftsmanship. Apprentices became artisans, skills were passed down, and a culture of craftsmanship took root.

Today, from this small town, Coates Creek Cabinetry creates custom cabinetry and furniture for homes across Ontario and beyond. While the reach has expanded, the approach has remained the same—each project built with care, collaboration, and an understanding that the spaces created will be lived in every day.

Stop by. Meet the team. *See what's possible.*



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