

The Creemore ECHO

Friday, January 16, 2026 Vol. 26 No. 3 www.creemore.com

News and views in and around Creemore

INSIDE



Midnight Ramblers

Photographer gains understanding of coyotes

PAGE 7

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Fire displaces residents of The Belmont

by Trina Berlo

Residents watched from the windows of the church across the street as firefighters worked to control a fire at The Belmont Wednesday morning.

Many still in their pyjamas, most of the 24 residents of the independent living seniors residence in Stayner were at the church awaiting transportation to a hotel, an effort coordinated by the County of Simcoe.

Three residents had been transported to the hospital in Collingwood with minor injuries, said the County's Paramedic Services acting platoon supervisor **Leah Emmerton**. She could not speak to the nature of their injuries.

All stations responded to the fire at 7232 Highway 26 just after 9 a.m. Clearview Fire Chief **Scott Davison** said firefighters were on scene all day working to fully extinguish the fire which will be investigated by the Office of the Fire Marshal.

On Wednesday firefighters could be seen working on both the north and south side of the facility.

Owner **Jon Wells** said an accidental fire started in the kitchen. He said fully functioning alarms sounded and sprinklers were engaged, all systems having been inspected and passed.

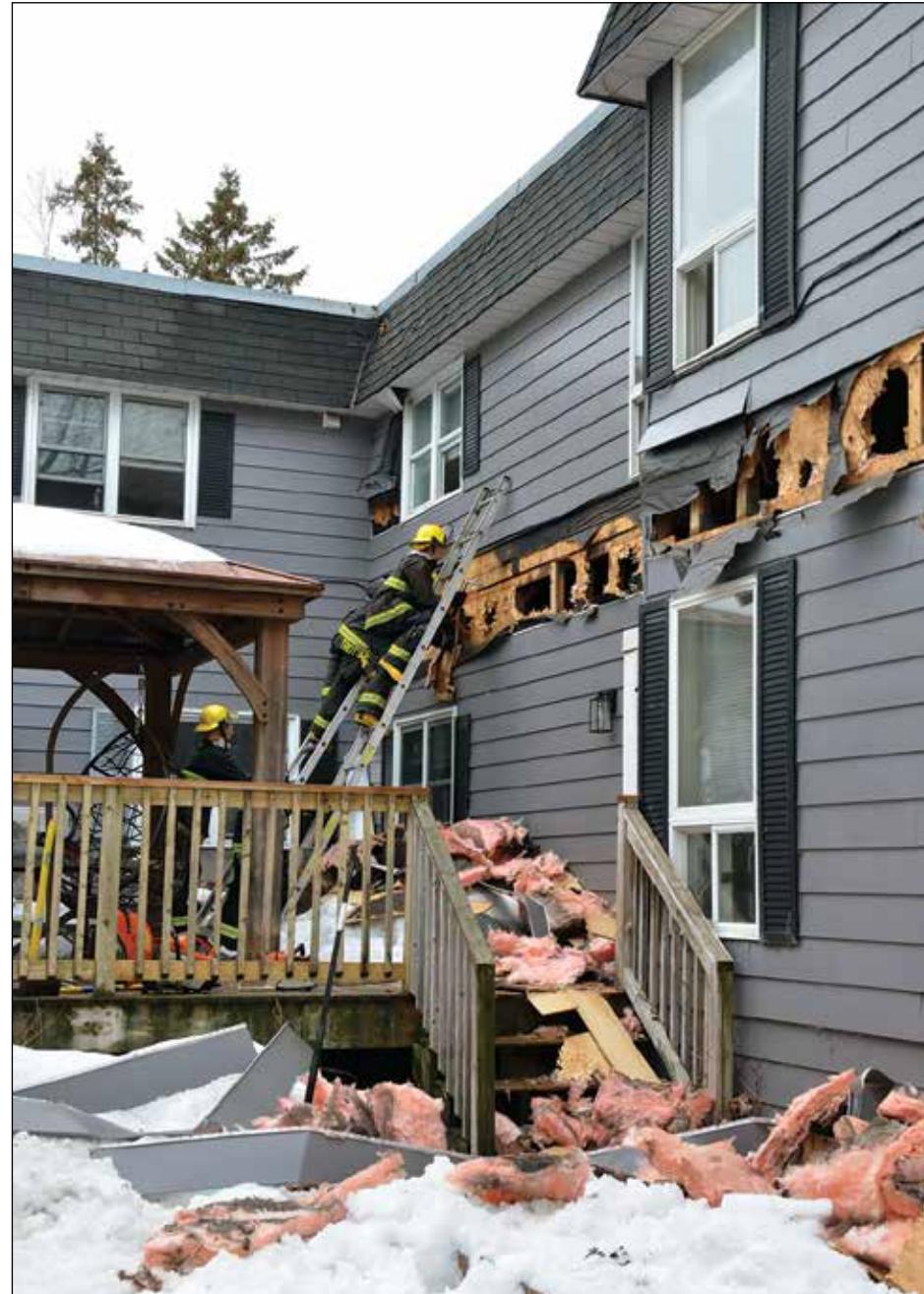
He said residents were being transported to a hotel in Midland, where they could all be together and continue to be cared for. The intention is to move them to Collingwood when accommodations become available.

"It's a hard day," said manager **Karin Brady**. "I'm proud of my staff. They know the drill and they knew what to do."

She said the fire is devastating because a lot of hard work has been put into renovating the home, which opened in 2024 in the building that formerly housed Huronia Guest Home.

Brady said the home was almost at capacity having just completed the renovations.

"Our heart and soul has gone into the building," said Brady. "It was better than it had ever been."



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

Firefighters worked throughout the day Wednesday to fully extinguish a fire at an independent living home in Stayner.

"It is well insured and it will be even better than it was before when it re-opens," said Wells.

Brady said the community has really stepped up to support the residents.

"It's a home. We ran it as a home," said Brady. "My heart is crushed."

A few pets perished in the fire, said Brady, adding that firefighters just couldn't get to them.

Davison said as the last truck was

clearing the Belmont fire at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday when all stations were dispatched to another structure fire on 12/13 Sideroad Sunnidale.

"The home sustained significant damage but was limited by a quick fire attack," said Davison.

The house fire has been deemed accidental, he said. There were no injuries but three people have been displaced until the home can be restored.

Stewie Patterson

Remembering Stewie

by Trina Berlo

Stewart Patterson didn't wake up on Saturday, having died at the age of 66 of an apparent heart attack through the night. His death was a shock to his friends and caregivers who had spoken to him the day before, when he seemed to be in good health.

Stewie, as he was known to most, had lived in Creemore for decades, a regular on the main street where he would visit shops or sit on a bench, often with a coffee in hand, chatting to passersby. He seemed to know everyone.

Stewie talked a lot about his mother and life on the farm, a blend of fact and fiction.

He had recently moved to Collingwood but was in Creemore for the Santa Claus parade, having been ferried by his old pal **Brian Doran**.

"He was helping me direct traffic but I think he was more here for the social side," said Doran. "He was actually causing a traffic problem because everyone would stop to talk to him."

Like most people, Doran said he met Stewie on the street.

"He'd tell everyone the same stories, just a little bit different each time," he said.

(See 'Stewie' on page 3)

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COMMUNITY Calendar

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Friday, Jan. 16

- Line dancing lessons every Friday night at Station on the Green from 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 hosts **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 hosts **Wings and Things** every Friday night from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 19

- Stayner Garden Club **annual general meeting**, 7 p.m. at Centennial United Church, 234 William St., Stayner. Social begins at 7 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker Alyson O'Grady will present on the first year of a cut flower business. Member attendance is required for voting. Please bring a mug.

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Tuesday, Jan. 20

- The Station Café is open from 10 a.m. to noon at Station on the Green, 10 Caroline St. E., Creemore. A \$2.50 fee includes a bottomless cup of coffee or tea. Everyone welcome.
- Stayner Camp hosts a **free community dinner**, called Boards & Biscuits the second Tuesday of each month from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. A hot dinner is provided, and everyone is invited to participate, meet people and get to know the community. There is no cost and no need to register. 240 Scott St., Stayner.
- Pub Trivia Night** takes place every Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Old Mill House Pub, 141 Mill St., Creemore. A \$10 cover includes entry, answer sheets and a chance to win prizes. For more information, call 705-466-5244, visit theoldmillhousepub.com, or join the Pub Trivia Facebook group.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

- New Lowell Legion hosts **euchre** 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. every Wednesday.
- Wednesday Walk 'n Talk Group** at the Creemore Legion from 10 a.m. until noon. Open to anyone interested in walking, meeting friends, and exercising, without battling ice, snow, and cold winds. Bring indoor walking shoes to keep the hall clean for others. Enter through the west door. For more information contact Doug Mills at 705-466-3339.

Thursday, Jan 22

- Clearview Wildflower Project **Winter Sow-cial** takes place at 7 p.m. at Station on the Green. Gather with friends and neighbours to learn how to winter sow wildflowers. Free seeds, snacks and good cheer provided; bring your own tea or coffee. Free to attend; cash donations encouraged.

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Saturday, Jan. 24

- Coyotes and the Challenge of Coexistence: a **fireside conversation** with award-winning photographer Andrew Interisano runs from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Mansfield Outdoor Centre's main lodge, Pine River Café. Cost is \$20 plus tax and includes admission, a printed postcard, baked goods, coffee and tea. Register at moccampbrainregistration.com. Information: events@mansfieldoutdoorcentre.ca. Photographer info: Instagram @theotterbiography.
- Live music** with The Wells starts at 4 p.m. at the Stayner Legion. No cover charge. Everyone welcome; Legion membership not required.
- The New Lowell Royal Canadian Legion Branch 516 presents Mudmen in **concert**, a 19-plus evening with Canada's Celtic rock warriors. Tickets are \$30 and available Friday nights at the Legion or by contacting Dick at 705-791-8704. Wear your plaid to show Mudmen support and bring cash for the merchandise booth.
- Lights Up Creemore** is a one-night **pop-up film event** at Station on the Green featuring two Canadian films, *Le Train* by Marie Brassard and *This Is Not a Ghost Story* by Valerie Buhagiar, followed by a live Q&A with Buhagiar hosted by Simon Heath. Proceeds support the inaugural 2027 Creemore Film Festival. Doors open at 6 p.m., with films beginning at 7 p.m. The evening features chef-driven appetizers from local kitchens and Creemore Springs beer. Tickets cost \$75 per person on ticketscene.ca.

Thursday, Jan. 29

- Creemore Skating Club **Youth Dance** for students in Grades 3 to 8 runs from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Creemore Arena Hall. This chaperoned event features music and games throughout the evening. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Drinks, snacks, candy and glow sticks will be available for purchase (cash only). All youth must be signed in and signed out by an adult.

Feb. 6-8

- Sunnidale Winterama is a **winter-themed festival** presented by Clearview Township, celebrating winter activities since 1975 in the village of New Lowell. Touting itself as "the greatest little show on snow," active volunteers known as the "Friends of Winterama" have organized this multi-day event filled with great family fun. For event info, visit discoverclearview.ca.

Sunday, Feb. 22

- Chamber Music Series**, presented by the Purple Hills Arts & Heritage Society, takes place at St. John's United Church, 192 Mill St., Creemore. Doors open at 1:30 p.m., with the performance beginning at 2 p.m. All ages welcome. Performers include Allene Chomyn and Nora Pellerin on violin, Rebecca Doderrick on viola, and Miriam Stewart-Kroeker on cello. Tickets are \$40 and available online at phahs.ca/chamber-music-series-2026/.

Saturday, March 28

- Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night** in Honeywood runs from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. This laugh-filled night is more than entertainment; it's a chance to come together as a community while raising funds to paint new lacrosse and pickleball lines on the arena floor. Tickets cost \$40 per person and are available at the Honeywood Arena (North Dufferin Community Centre).

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MK Lynde photographed Stewie over the years, including the one on the front page and this one of him in his happy place, working on the farm, in 2015. Above right: A photo of Stewie as a young boy, given to Joan Gordon by Stewie's mother.

Stewie wove tales, fact and fiction

(Continued from page 1)

"He knew every dog's name and he'd pet every dog he'd ever seen," said Doran. "He could drive down a road and the next day he'd tell you who lived on that road. It was pretty amazing, some of the observations he'd come up with."

Stewie had rented a small house on Collingwood Street from **Bob Ransier** for 23 years.

"It takes a village to raise a Stewie, that's what I tell people," he said.

"There was a lot of truth to the stories he told, just that they were fictitious," he said, recounting how Stewie knew the names of all horses and racetracks. "He would tell you stories that you'd believe them all if you didn't know him."

In addition to some kind of cognitive disability, Stewie had Parkinson's disease.

He grew up in foster care and later went to live with a family near Southampton, where he developed his farming skills.

He liked being out on a job with Ransier, mending fences, bush hogging and operating the backhoe.

"He was well loved and he was a good worker," said Ransier.

He said people regularly dropped off clothing, boots and supplies. His house was equipped with a microwave so Stewie could heat up meals that people cooked for him. Ransier said his freezer was stocked with all kinds of meals ready to be heated up.

In his younger years, Ransier said, Stewie would

hitchhike to Stayner to visit his mother, who died in 2012.

After leaving Ransier's house, Stewie stayed with **Ginny Smith** and her family while she helped him secure housing for him with E3 services in Collingwood. The intent was for him to come back to town if he could find something he could afford.

Smith said she is grateful to E3 for helping him find a place to live, providing meals and getting him to appointments, etc...

"They were all very invested, and really caring with him, and worked very hard to advocate for him," said Smith.

"He was doing great. He reconnected with a bunch of people he knew from when he'd lived in Collingwood before. He gave staff a real hard time and laughed about it every day," she said, chuckling.

Smith said he had a great roommate and he was doing well. His financial affairs and services were in order.

"Things had really turned around for the best for him. It's very heartbreaking," said Smith. "I just want to thank those people who, when he lost his home, stepped up and helped. There were quite a few people who provided the basics like clothing and food for him."

She said Stewie was quite pleased that **Lorna May** was still bringing him sandwiches and liquorice to his new home in Collingwood. May saw Stewie every Friday, with deliveries of his favourite egg salad sandwiches and treats from the food bank.

Interim tax bylaw passed

Clearview Township council has passed an interim tax bylaw and a temporary borrowing bylaw. Treasurer **Kelly McDonald** says the interim tax bylaw allows the township to bill the first two tax installments, totalling 50 per cent of last year's final tax bill while the budget package is being finalized.

She describes the interim borrowing bill as the township's overdraft protection.

Mayor **Doug Measures** noted that while the township passes a temporary borrowing bylaw each year, it has never been necessary to actually access the funds.

"It's just there as a contingency, in case we have to spend money while we wait for tax revenues to come in," he said.

The 2026 Clearview Township budget is the first budget under the province's Strong Mayor Powers. Measures says he values the contributions of staff, and the public in developing a budget that is not only fiscally responsible but also addresses the current needs and future of the township.

"This budget is the result of careful planning and collaboration with our staff, council members, and citizens. Our goal is to keep tax impacts modest while ensuring Clearview Township is prepared for future challenges and continues to deliver the high quality services residents expect," said Measures.

The 2026 budget includes a blended increase of 2.09 per cent.



Police are asking for the public's assistance to identify the culprit who stole cash from a self-serve honey stand on North Nottawasaga Concession 6 in Clearview Township on Dec. 27. The theft occurred shortly after 8 p.m., and was captured on surveillance video. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Huronia West OPP at 1-888-310-1122, referencing occurrence E251733612.

COLLINGWOOD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

at Stayner Centennial United Church,
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Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026

Doors open at 5:45 p.m.
Light refreshments served.
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OPINION & Feedback

COLUMN

The other side of Year of the Woman Farmer

Let's start off the New Year right by recognizing the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations' declaration that 2026 is the International Year of the Woman Farmer.

Such declarations are a time of celebration. FAO says women have a central role in household food security and nutrition. In 2021, agri-food systems employed 40 per cent of working women globally, nearly equal to men.

Globally, says the FAO, women farmers work in diverse roles across agri-food systems and come from all backgrounds: young and older women, Indigenous women, women in local communities, women with disabilities and refugee and displaced women.

It further describes them as smallholder producers, peasants, agricultural labourers, fishers and fish workers, beekeepers, pastoralists, processors, traders, women in agricultural sciences, rural entrepreneurs, traditional knowledge holders, and more – whether in formal or informal work, with or without land ownership.

For its part, Canada has nearly 80,000 female farm operators, a figure which represents 30 per cent of all Canadian farmers.

"Women in agriculture today are highly educated and driven, with strong business acumen," according to a report on women in agriculture from Farm Credit Canada (FCC), the country's biggest agricultural lender.

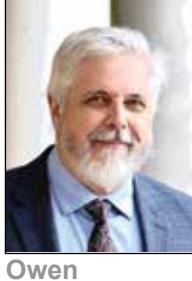
"They are well equipped to foster innovation and accelerate new methods, tools, and technologies on the farm," it says. "At a time when productivity growth in Canadian agriculture is stagnating, leveraging their skills and entrepreneurial spirit will reap significant economic benefits."

The number of women farm operators in Canada has grown by about 2,000 in the past decade. That sounds like an upbeat trend.

But not so, says FCC. It claims the trend is largely explained by men leaving the sector, not by more women joining. Farm consolidations and an aging farm population have reduced the total number of farm operators across Canada over time, with the number of men falling faster than the number of women. So, while the proportion of women farmers has been steadily on the rise, the actual number of women in farming has not been growing by much, it says.

The FAO describes women's contributions as undervalued. It says their working conditions are often more precarious – irregular, informal, part-time, low-paid, labour-intensive and highly vulnerable. Women

FOOD & FARMING



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THE WAY WE WERE



Playing tug of war at Sunnidale Winterama in 1985. This year's winter festival runs from Feb. 6-8 in New Lowell.

County accepts applications for Experience Simcoe County Partnership Fund

The County of Simcoe is now accepting applications for its 2026 Experience Simcoe County Partnership Fund. This year, County Council has allocated \$400,000 to fund tourism-focused and culture-driven initiatives that focus on attracting visitors to the region.

The 2026 funding will support and enhance tourism offerings across Simcoe County by:

- Investing in initiatives that increase awareness and appreciation of, and access to, Simcoe County's diverse tourism, cultural, and recreation offerings.
- Fostering partnerships and collaboration among tourism stakeholders, municipalities, and organizations to strengthen the regional tourism ecosystem.
- Supporting innovative, inclusive, and accessible programming that improves the quality and appeal of visitor experiences.
- Contributing to the county's overall economic health by stimulating tourism-related spending and promoting Simcoe County as a desirable destination.
- Aligning funded projects with the Experience Simcoe County work plan and strategic priorities, including destination marketing, product development, and workforce development.
- Enhancing tourism experiences that promote accessibility, inclusivity, and engagement for older adults, fostering social connection, active living, and lifelong learning within the community.

"Tourism and culture are vital to Simcoe County's identity and economy," said Warden **Basil Clarke**.

"Through the Experience Simcoe County Partnership Fund, we're proud to support creative, collaborative initiatives that showcase the best of our region, attract visitors, and strengthen our communities. This program is about investing in experiences that make Simcoe County a destination of choice for all."

Up to \$10,000 in funding is available for marketing, public art and beautification, trails and cycling infrastructure, and workforce development initiatives, while up to \$20,000 can be requested for signage projects. Eligible organizations may submit a maximum of one application for funding by the Friday, February 13 deadline.

All applications are reviewed by the County of Simcoe's Grant Task Force, which consists of appointed members of county council and is supported by county staff. Funding will be distributed amongst successful applicants based on their alignment with the program's requirements and objectives, and the project's overall benefit to the entire region.

Program details and applications guidelines can be found at experience.simcoe.ca/resources/grant. Prospective applicants can contact Tourism Simcoe County staff by email at tourism@simcoe.ca with any questions.

The Creemore Echo is published every Friday and distributed free locally. To receive a weekly copy of *The Creemore Echo* by mail outside of the circulation area or e-mail version please contact us at info@creemore.com or visit www.creemore.com.

Editorial and advertising material deadline is Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Letters to the editor should be sent to editor@creemore.com. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

The Creemore ECHO

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Funded by the
Government of Canada



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Baker takes unrefined approach to contest

by Trina Berlo

You can have your cake and eat it too, says **Tracy Ventresca**, contender for the 2025 Greatest Baker title.

Ventresca is competing in the quarter-finals with hope of winning one of two titles – people's choice or critic's pick.

To win the former, the New Lowell resident is seeking votes from the community. To win the latter, she will have to catch the attention of *Bake from Scratch* magazine editor-in-chief **Brian Hart Hoffman**.

Ventresca, inspired to cook healthy foods for her two-year-old daughter, switched to unrefined, wholesome, local ingredients.

Ventresca is competing for a two-page spread in the magazine and \$10,000 in prize money.

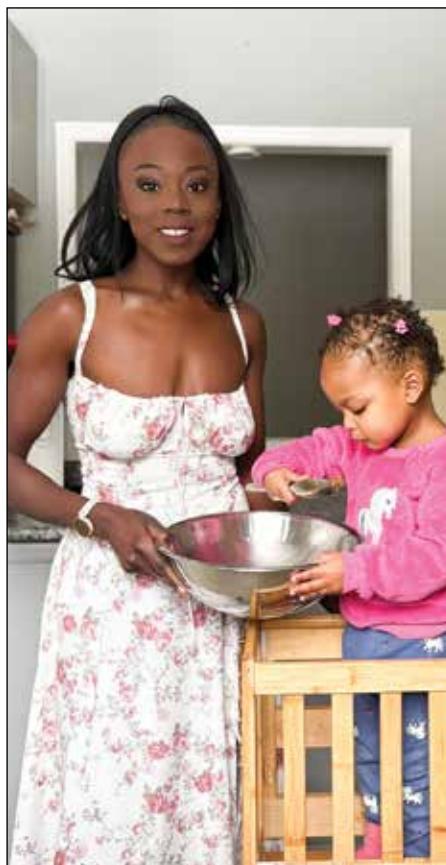
At home with a toddler, Ventresca, a real estate lawyer, said she is getting back into some of the hobbies she used to love, like baking.

"I've started scrutinizing labels more," said Ventresca. "I'm trying to push for the platform that you can eat food that's unrefined but it's just as good."

She opts for less processed, chemical-free ingredients.

She hopes to use the magazine spread to talk about clean recipes.

Ventresca said she has been baking



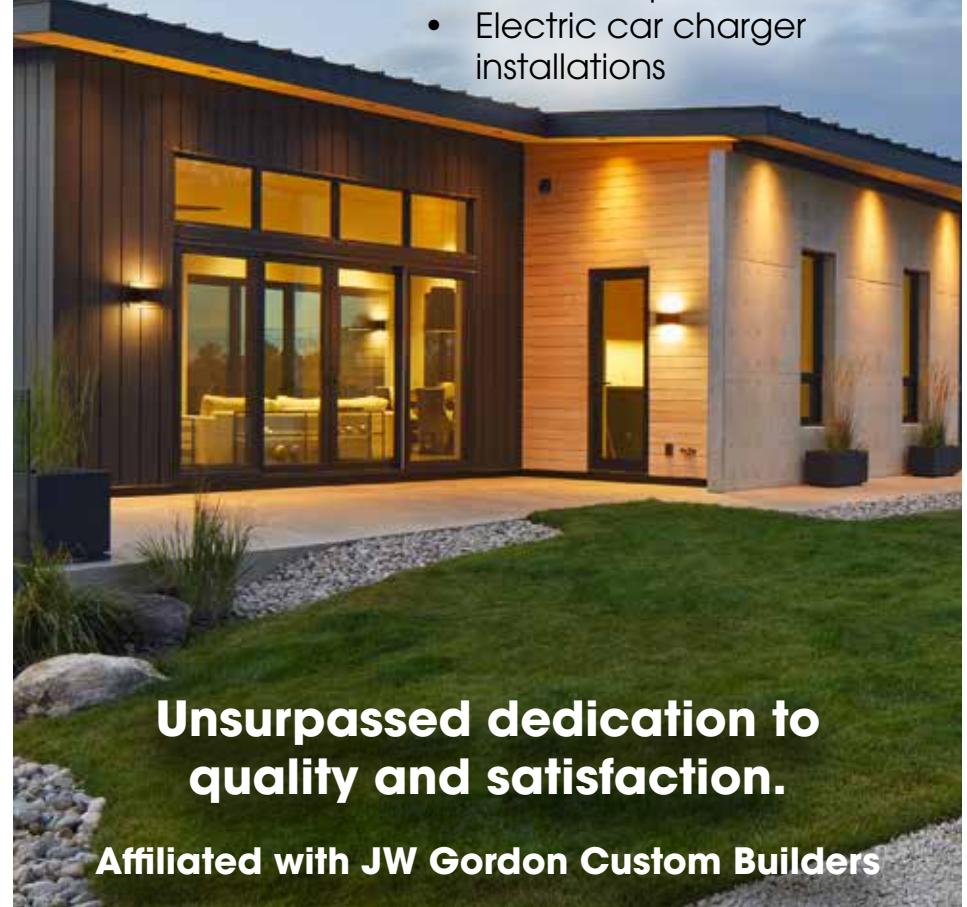
Tracy Ventresca with daughter **Mia**

for 20 years and makes her own bread and ice cream. She says you can have all that stuff, and cake too, "but don't let it kill you."

Voting in the quarter-finals ends on Wednesday, Jan. 21. Votes can be cast on Facebook or by donation to the Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation.



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DND radar petition closes Jan 23

by Trina Berlo

A petition opposing the Department of National Defence's (DND) plan to establish a radar receive site in Clearview Township will close on Jan. 23.

With 1,470 online signatures and another 700 collected on hard copies so far, **Terri Jackman** says she is pretty happy with the response.

She and **Rachel Brooks** have been leading a campaign to raise awareness about an Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar (A-OTHR) receive site that stands to threaten agricultural land and their way of life.

DND has purchased 163 hectares of vacant property in Kawartha Lakes for a permanent transmit site and 288 hectares of agricultural land at 2225 15/16 Sideroad Sunnidale to be used as a preliminary receive site. The land is roughly half the ideal size for a receive site so the search for land continues. Since the acquisition, DND has been surveying area landowners to determine their interest in selling, leading speaker after speaker at two fall public info sessions to inquire whether their land will eventually be targeted for expropriation.

DND continues to assess options for the remaining permanent transmit site and two permanent receive sites, using up to 1,200 hectares of land.

The radar installation is a key part of a \$38.6 billion initiative to modernize Canada's contribution to the North American Aerospace Defense



Receive site (6m tall)



Transmit site (up to 45m tall)

Command (NORAD) over the next 20 years.

A-OTHR will provide advanced early warning and long-range surveillance, enabling faster Canadian Armed Forces detection and tracking of a wide range of threats in our northern air and maritime approaches, while strengthening NORAD domain awareness in the defence of Canada and North America. It can conduct surveillance at far greater ranges than regular radar technology as it bounces radar beams off the ionosphere to see around the curvature

(See 'Military' on page 10)



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Coyotes and the challenge of coexistence

by Trina Berlo

Andrew Interisano is using his platform as a celebrated amateur wildlife photographer to build an understanding of how humans can better coexist with coyotes.

During the pandemic, while staying at his parents' house in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Interisano was spending a lot of time outdoors and observed the urban coyotes living there. He said he developed an understanding of their territory and habits enabling him to take the 2021 photo entitled *Midnight Ramblers*, which was deemed Highly Commended in the Urban Wildlife category of the Natural History Museum's 2024 Wildlife Photographer of the Year contest.

Not only did he travel to the UK for an awards gala, rubbing shoulders with the best photographers in the business, but he also got to see his photo exhibited at the Royal Ontario Museum.

"Even more cool is having it in your hometown in the ROM, where you grow up going on field trips," said Interisano. "It was such a surreal experience to have it shown in a place that I grew up going to as a kid."

Interisano, now a Mulmur resident, has since been striving to understand the relationship to rural coyotes.

"It's such a complicated issue," he said. "I feel obligated to try to educate people as much as I can."

He will be giving a fireside talk called *Coyotes and the Challenge of Coexistence* at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre's Pine River Café on



Midnight Ramblers by **Andrew Interisano** was highly commended in the urban wildlife category of the Natural History Museum's 2024 Photographer of the Year wards.

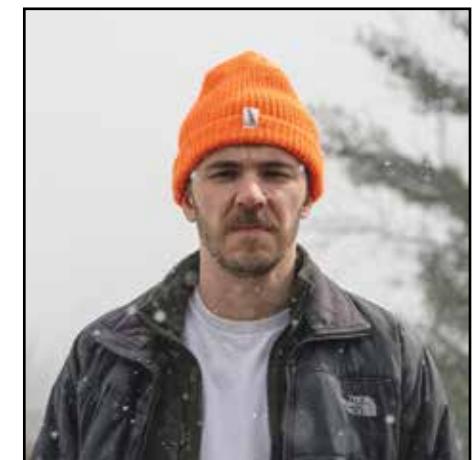
Jan. 24. The talk, supported by his photography, promises myth-busting, facts, information and no finger-pointing. Interisano said humans' relationship with coyotes is complex and his talk will endeavour to explain how European settlers developed a negative attitude towards canids, but also about displacement, human encroachment on habitat, animal behaviour, pack dynamics and some safety tips.

Interisano will illustrate how a cultural bias has been formed against coyotes. He said from religion to *Little Red Riding Hood*, wolves have been demonized, in contrast to Indigenous cultures where they are revered.

He said people tend to anthropomorphize coyotes when really they are just trying to survive.

"I find it surprising that people can't relate more to coyotes... They are family oriented mammals and they are the closest thing to a dog that exists," said Interisano. "I understand that there is angst and fear toward the unknown and that's why I am hoping that the more people know about coyotes, through what I post or talk about, that there is some sort of knowledge or wisdom that can be garnered from that, and we can make better decisions."

One myth that Interisano aims to bust is that coyotes lure domestic dogs. According to Coyote Watch Canada,



Andrew Interisano

a volunteer not-for-profit wildlife organization that advocates positive human-wildlife coexistence with a focus on canids, "Coyotes are family oriented and do not use their family members to bait or lure other animals. When a free-roaming dog chases and harasses a coyote, the coyote will flee to the safety of family members. If a dog continues pursuit, coyotes will defend their families."

Coyotes and the Challenge of Coexistence: A fireside conversation with award-winning photographer Andrew Interisano on Saturday, Jan. 24 is from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the main lodge.

Tickets cost \$20 and include a printed postcard from the artist, baked goods, coffee and tea. Register at moc.campbrainregistration.com.

For more information about the event, contact events@mansfieldoutdoorcentre.ca. For more from the photographer follow, [@theotterbiography](https://www.instagram.com/theotterbiography).



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CROSSING GUARD

Clearview Township is currently seeking one (1) permanent part-time Crossing Guard. The primary location of work is the Highway 26 and North Street school crossing in Stayner; however, the location of work may vary based on the needs of the Township.

The Crossing Guards of Clearview Township play an essential role in the community, ensuring the safety of children and families travelling to and from school. This rewarding opportunity will allow you to contribute to the community while maintaining a light work schedule and earning extra income.

Key Accountabilities:

Reporting to the Supervisor of By-Law Enforcement, the Crossing Guards are responsible for safely assisting children crossing the street to and from school at designated locations and times throughout the municipality, while complying with the requirements of the Highway Traffic Act and the Township's policies and procedures.

Qualifications:

- Minimum of Grade 12 Education or equivalent.
- Must be physically fit with physical strength and ability sufficient to meet job requirements.
- Able to exercise discretion and judgement to assess when to stop vehicular traffic and when it is safe to permit children to cross.
- Able to communicate with children, pedestrians, school staff, and other staff in a clear manner.
- Able to work outdoors in adverse weather conditions.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and in a team environment.
- Required to provide a satisfactory Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening.
- Possess 20/20 vision (with corrective lenses if needed) to observe and assess oncoming traffic from a safe distance.
- Must have reliable transportation to the crossing location.

Note: The preferred candidate must be willing to provide consent for the Township to conduct a Criminal Background Check and Vulnerable Sector Check prior to finalizing an employment offer.

Wage Rate:

Currently: \$23.23 per hour.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates are invited to forward their resume and a covering letter quoting **job # 2026-001** to Human Resources **by January 20th, 2026, at 11:59 pm** to: hr@clearview.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls, please. The Township of Clearview does not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology at any stage of the recruitment process.

The Township of Clearview is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation will be provided in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

Please visit: www.clearview.ca

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 - Pensions

Veterans Affairs

TerryDowdall.2019

Terry.Dowdall

TerryDowdallmp.ca

Closing the gender gap

(Continued from page 4)

farmers face systemic barriers, including limited access to land, finance, technologies, education, extension services and participation in decision-making at all levels, says the FAO.

Helping right this ship would have a significant return. It's estimated that closing the gaps between men and women in agriculture could raise global GDP by a whopping \$1 trillion and reduce food insecurity for 45 million people.

In Canada, FCC says embracing the strengths and potential of women in agriculture can unlock \$5 billion in economic benefits for the agriculture sector.

Leadership training is a great place to start. In December, Grain Farmers of Ontario hosted a Women's Grain Symposium in Guelph that drew 130 people. It was marketed as an opportunity for networking, professional development and leadership development, an effort that reflected FAO's emphasis for 2026.

"Throughout 2026, the International Year will move to practical work — national policies, community partnerships, research, investment and dialogue between farmers, cooperatives, governments, finance institutions, youth networks and universities," says FAO. "The goal is simple: turn commitment into practice, and practice into measurable impact."

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

FUN & Games

Sudoku

by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 11

FRED'S FUNNIES
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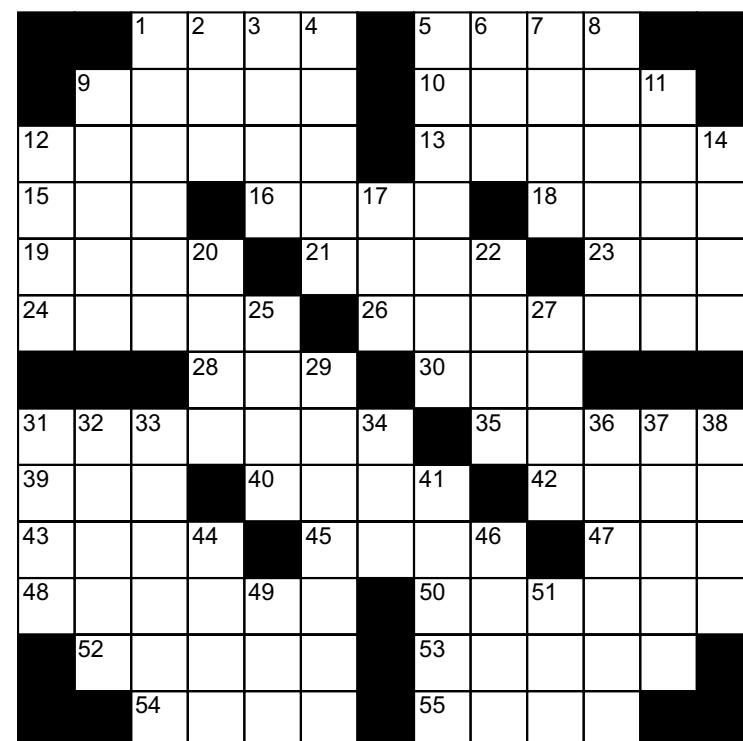
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Canadian Criss Cross

by Walter Feener

ACROSS

- Arrange in order
- Parts of curved lines
- Conical tent
- Imminent danger
- Sway as if about to fall
- Greatly surprised
- Head covering
- Interlock wool loops
- Let somebody have
- Day in the ancient Roman calendar
- Move slightly
- Word before maiden names
- Pancake topping
- Put things into a zigzag pattern
- Consume
- Self-importance
- St. Andrew's cross
- Impertinent
- Malt beverage
- Arranged well
- Spanish snack
- Protective covering
- Be acceptable
- In favour of
- Part of USSR
- Roof of the mouth
- Gone wild
- Team game
- Dry and withered
- Bigfoot



DOWN

- Gun dog
- Make a choice
- Smell strongly and unpleasantly
- Gull relatives
- Mineral used in making fertilizers
- Measure of radiation
- Rocky part of a mountain
- Substance applied to paper to make it resistant to moisture damage
- Sycophant
- Bank built to keep a river from overflowing
- The one here
- Animal with antlers
- Part of TGIF
- Mincemeat ingredient
- Janitor's supply
- Unpleasant sensation
- Sure-footed animal
- Bridge support
- Plant pouches
- Unsympathetic
- They drop off in autumn
- Water in French
- Hunting expedition
- Judge and political figure in Upper Canada
- Long ago
- A little drunk
- Grow weary
- Sticky stuff
- Serving of corn
- Parking place

Trivia: Which of Shakespeare's plays is the longest?

Military use of agricultural land 'too big of sacrifice'

(Continued from page 6)

of the Earth.

"It's not that we're against the project," said Jackman. "It's just that we feel it's too big a sacrifice for this land to be used for that purpose."

Jackman and Brooks believe that existing DND land, either in Borden or Meaford, would be a viable alternative.

"If our community truly believes that this is not an appropriate location for this type of instalment and they have helpful information or contacts to share to reach out to us," said Brooks. "I really feel that in a situation like this if the community comes together then we have a better chance to convince DND that another location would be more suitable."

"I'm not sure people understand the implications of decisions like this, where it's impossible to replace the farmland that's going to be displaced by

projects like this and that our longterm food security will be if we continue to do this," said Jackman.

They fear it will set a precedent, and open doors to possible expansion.

"And the process of how they go about doing that, which has proven to be a very unsettling process for this community," said Jackman.

The petition, sponsored by Simcoe-Grey MP **Terry Dowdall**, calls on the government to stop the building of any A-OTHR site on the already purchased property; prevent future acquisition of prime farmland and the building of any A-OTHR sites on the prime farmland of Clearview Township; and to register the previously purchased property with the Ontario Farmland Trust.

In November, Dowdall spoke on the topic in the House of Commons saying, "Mr Speaker, residents of

Simcoe Grey are proud to be home of Canadian Forces Base Borden. They are also proud farmers. So when DND revealed that is secretly bought over 700 acres of prime farmland to build a radar site residents were shocked, now they're concerned. After DND started contacting residents directly asking them to sell their land because it needs thousands more acres. They won't sell. They've been on this land for generations. Will the government expropriate their land?... We talk every day in this place about food security in Canada. This government says it is taking action. That action shouldn't be turning 4000 acres of Canada's best farmland into a radar site. Residents support investments in Canada's national security but they call on the minister to select a radar site which doesn't sacrifice food security in

the process."

Dowdall told *The Echo* that the e-petition and hard copies will be presented in installments, giving him more opportunity to speak to the issue in the House of Commons, adding that with each presentation the government is required to respond within 45 days.

He said the petition will help and the more people who are aware of the issue the better.

"What we've said all along and what the residents are saying is we're not necessarily against the technology and we're certainly supportive of our military," said Dowdall. "We just don't think this is the best location when you're trying to balance national security and food security."

The petition is online at www.ourcommons.ca under e-6829 (national defence and military operations).



CREEMORE CURLING CLUB STANDINGS

Men

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

Ladies

Team	win-loss-tie
Crawford	2-0-0
Dunford	2-0-0
Arsenault	1-1-0
Harvey	1-1-0
McKay	0-2-0
Verstegen	0-2-0

From the Hack: The Creemore Ladies' Curling League enjoyed a great night on the ice Monday, with Teams Crawford and Dunford delivering strong performances to remain undefeated.

We're confident they'll carry that winning momentum with them to the Quebec International Bonspiel. A big thank-you to Sandy, Gail, and Abbey for the delicious treats. Good curling, everyone!

Daytime

Team	win-loss
Loranger	3-1
Lambert	2-2
Coulter	2-2
Gallaugh	1-3

From the Hack: Two close games played on Monday. Team Coulter came from behind to tie Team Lambert in the seventh, and then stole one in the eighth to secure the win. Teams Loranger and Gallaugh tied in the seventh as well. Coming home with the hammer, Michael was able to remove Marian's counter and stay, for the victory.

On Wednesday, Team Gallaugh won their match against Team Coulter, and Team Lambert handed the first loss to Team Loranger.

Good curling everyone!

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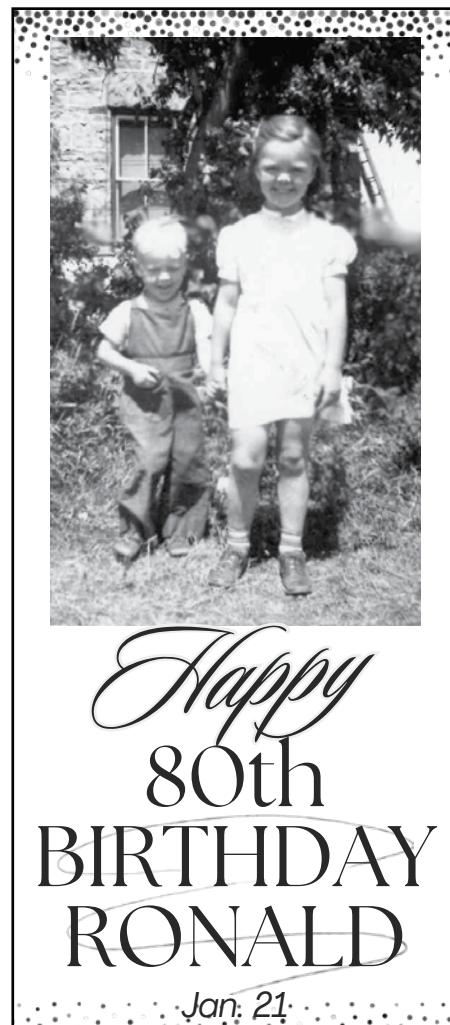
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DEATH NOTICE



CHAPLIN Leitl, Julia Diana (1963 - 2025) passed away peacefully on Dec. 26, 2025. Born in Galt to Janet and Jim Chaplin, Diana is survived by her beloved daughter, Sophia, and a wide circle of dear friends in Parry Sound, Creemore, Collingwood, and around the world. A great thank you to Diana's incredible circle of support that brought her so much comfort and care and thank you to all of Diana's doctors, nurses, caregivers and volunteers for the incredible support they provided. Those wishing to honour Diana's memory may do so through an act of kindness in her name.

DEATH NOTICE



CHIPCHASE, Jane Elizabeth (nee Dickinson) Sept. 10, 1951 – Jan. 12, 2026 - Passed away peacefully at home with her family by her side. Jane of Wasaga Beach, formerly of Stayner and Dunedin, beloved wife of John Chipchase. Loving mother to Annalee (Calvin) King and Kelly (Colin) Hamill. Treasured grandmother of Adam, Ryan and Connor. Cherished sister to Paul (Elaine) Dickinson and aunt to Jaysen (Lorna) and Erin. Jane is predeceased by her parents Lorne and Marion (nee Brandon) Dickinson. Jane will be remembered as a loving, kind, thoughtful and dedicated woman who demonstrated remarkable resilience. A multi-talented woman, Jane had a gift for creative outlets including handcrafts, sewing, fashion and home décor. She was a dedicated member of the Ladies' Shrine, leading her husband John to join the Shriners. As a couple, John and Jane were very social, hosting gatherings at their home in Dunedin and later in Stayner. They spent their winters together at their property in Jet Park, Palmetto, Florida where they engaged with and enjoyed the community of friends that formed around them. So many will miss Jane's fun sense of humour, warmth, and joy for life. Friends and family will be welcomed at the Carruthers & Davidson – Wasaga Beach Chapel, 509 River Road on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026 for visitation from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. A memorial service will be held in the funeral home chapel on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026 at 11 o'clock. Reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Collingwood General & Marine Hospital Foundation would be appreciated by her family. To sign Jane's Book of Memories, please visit www.carruthersdavidson.com

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This week's answers

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

Trivia: Hamlet

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



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR – RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Clearview Township is currently seeking one (1) permanent full-time (35 hours per week) Legislative Coordinator – Records Management. The primary location of work is on-site at the Township's Administration Centre, located at 217 Gideon Street, Stayner.

Key Accountabilities:

Reporting to the Deputy Clerk, the Legislative Coordinator – Records Management serves as a key resource in coordinating and maintaining the records management of the municipality. The Legislative Coordinator – Records Management is also responsible for supporting the efficient operation of the Clerks Department by providing administrative and legislative assistance. Responsibilities also include supporting Council appointed boards and committees, providing administrative support for municipal elections, conducting research to assist decision-making, and fulfilling other duties as required.

Qualifications:

- Recognized post-secondary Diploma in Business or an academic certificate from an accredited records management or office administration program required, and or equivalent education courses from AMCTO preferred.
- 1-3 years of experience in a Legislative Coordinator role, preferably in a municipal environment.
- Demonstrated and thorough working knowledge of legislation and processes related to records management processes, protocols, and retention, as well as MFIPPA.
- Intermediate computer skills, including proficiency with Microsoft Office applications and automated records management systems, tools, and software.
- Ability to demonstrate tact, discretion, dignity, and respect in handling confidential or highly sensitive matters.
- Excellent administrative, organizational, multitasking, interpersonal, report writing, problem-solving, and minute-taking skills.
- Ability to routinely list and move full file boxes weighing up to 50lbs.
- Ability and willingness to travel within the community and out of town as required.
- Flexibility to work occasional evenings and weekends to attend Committee & Board meetings, special events, or functions, or departmental meetings.
- Valid Class "G" Driver's License in good standing with a clean Driver's Abstract and reliable personal transportation.

Note: The preferred candidate must be willing to provide consent for the Township to conduct a Criminal Background Check and Vulnerable Sector Check prior to finalizing an employment offer.

Salary:

Salary range offered for this position is \$61,228 to \$75,172 per annum and includes a comprehensive benefit package.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates are invited to forward their resume and a covering letter quoting **job # 2026-003** to Human Resources **by January 30th, 2026, at 11:59 pm** to: hr@clearview.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls, please. The Township of Clearview does not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology at any stage of the recruitment process. The Township of Clearview is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation will be provided in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

Please visit: www.clearview.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Number: #2026-002
Vacancy Status: Existing Vacancy
Posting Date: January 8, 2026
Deadline: January 22, 11:59 PM

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT TECHNICIAN

Clearview Township is currently seeking one (1) permanent full-time (35 hours per week) Planning and Development Technician. The primary location of work is on-site at the Township's Administration Centre, located at 217 Gideon Street, Stayner.

Key Accountabilities:

Reporting to the Manager of Planning, the Planning and Development Technician is the first point of contact for the Planning Department on all planning matters. The Planning and Development Technician also serves as a key resource for the Committee of Adjustment, responsible for all administrative requirements and the management of the committee in the role of Secretary Treasurer. Additional responsibilities include providing support to Planning staff by coordinating planning applications, preparing responses to development applications, drafting notices, researching files, and maintaining policy documents and development maps.

Qualifications:

- Recognized Degree or Diploma in Planning, Geography, or a Planning-related discipline with three (3) years of demonstrated experience in technical planning review for planning applications and minor variances, as well as Committee of Adjustment processes.
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Municipal Government, the Planning Act, Official Plan Policies, and Zoning By-Laws.
- Skilled in Committee of Adjustment processes and equipped with a strong knowledge of Committee and Council procedures and protocol.
- Excellent computer literacy with a proven knowledge of Microsoft Windows and Office applications, GIS software, and application tracking systems. Knowledge of City View is considered an asset.
- Excellent communication, organizational, problem-solving, decision-making, time management, interpersonal, public relations, and customer service skills.
- Ability to multi-task, cope with interruptions, work under pressure to meet multiple deadlines, exercise discretion and good judgment, and maintain a high degree of confidentiality.
- Ontario Association of Committee of Adjustment and Consent Authorities (AOCA) Primer on Planning is a definite asset.
- Flexibility to work occasional evenings to attend meetings or initiatives of the Planning Department.
- Valid Class "G" Driver's License in good standing with a clean Driver's Abstract and reliable personal transportation.

Note: The preferred candidate must be willing to provide consent for the Township to conduct a criminal background check prior to finalizing an employment offer.

Salary:

The salary range offered for this position is \$66,719 to \$81,913 per annum and includes a comprehensive benefit package.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates are invited to forward their resume and a covering letter quoting **job # 2026-002** to Human Resources **by January 22nd, 2026, at 11:59 pm** to: hr@clearview.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls, please. The Township of Clearview does not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology at any stage of the recruitment process.

The Township of Clearview is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation will be provided in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Please visit: www.clearview.ca