

The Creemore ECHO

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News and views in and around Creemore

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Council makes strategic choice to delay library tender

by Bonnie MacPherson

Clearview Township council has decided to proceed with the expansion at the Creemore Branch of the Clearview Public Library, but tenders will not be called until January 2027.

A motion to send the project out for tender was on the agenda for last week's council meeting, but will be delayed on the advice of Clearview CAO John Ferguson.

He said it will take several months to complete detailed drawings to get ready for tendering.

"Knowing that it would likely not go to tender until early summer, we're making a strategic decision to delay calling tenders until next January," said Ferguson. "Typically, prices are higher in summer when most builders are busy, so we're likely to get better prices by waiting."

The 1,000 square foot addition will be funded through development charges. The overall budget of \$930,000 will come from specific charges levied against developers to accommodate growth, not from property taxes.

Library CEO Jennifer LaChapelle said plans call for the expansion to include a tutorial room, an additional



A design concept for the 1,000 square foot addition to the Creemore library.

accessible washroom, more leisure seating, additional space for books and an area where people can charge their laptops and work.

"Some of the collection is currently housed in the meeting room and we want to get that out into the stacks where it belongs," said LaChapelle. "Then we'll be able to use it as a meeting room and start our first makers space."

While plans for the makers space

are still in the development stage, LaChapelle says it is likely to include an additional Cricut cutting machine, a 3D printer, photo scanner and laser cutter.

A preliminary estimate from RJ Burnside puts the cost of the building expansion at around \$730,000. The additional budget will cover items like landscaping and parking lot improvements. Site plan approval includes the establishment of a new

municipal well and pumphouse on the south east section of the library lot.

"We've built a lot of things in our township so we know how difficult it is to get the right developer, the right builder," said Mayor Doug Measures. "We will hold off on issuing tenders until next January when we can find the right builders available."

LaChapelle was in support of council's decision to hold off on calling for tenders.

Dufferin OPP investigating rise in copper thefts

Copper thefts can disrupt critical infrastructure like 911

Dufferin OPP is once again investigating an increase in copper thefts throughout Dufferin County.

Between Jan. 14 and 15, police responded to two separate copper theft incidents on River Road in Melancthon. Both incidents occurred during the early morning hours.

These thefts commonly involve telephone lines, utility wiring, and

cable infrastructure and are often reported in rural, poorly lit, or isolated areas. These thefts typically occur during the early morning hours but may happen at any time. In many cases, wires are cut from utility poles, dragged to nearby roadways, and collected later to avoid detection.

Police have also received reports of suspects wearing reflective clothing or safety gear to appear as legitimate utility or road workers. This tactic is used to reduce suspicion from passing motorists and nearby residents.

Copper theft is not only a criminal offence but also presents a serious

public safety concern. Damage to critical infrastructure can result in service disruptions, including impacts to telephone and internet services and, in some cases, emergency services such as 911. These disruptions can delay emergency response and place the public at risk.

These thefts can also affect residents in other ways. Repairing damaged infrastructure can take time and resources, which may influence service availability or cause temporary interruptions in affected areas.

The Dufferin OPP is asking for the public's help in reporting suspicious

activity. Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and report individuals cutting or handling utility lines, tampering with infrastructure, or vehicles parked on road shoulders without an apparent purpose. If you observe suspicious activity in progress, contact police immediately by calling 911.

Anyone with information regarding suspected unlawful activity is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or report anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at www.crimestopperssdm.com.

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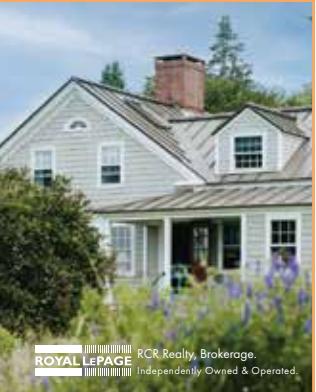
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COMMUNITY Calendar

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Friday, Jan. 23

- 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.

Saturday, Jan. 24

- 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.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

- 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.
- 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. 28

- 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. 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.

Saturday, January 31

- Join the Stayner Legion and dance the night away with popular entertainer **Len Murphy**, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. for an evening performance.

Feb. 1-2

- Trinity United Church, Collingwood hosts the **Black History Exhibition Here From the Beginning** created for The United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary in recognition of Black History Month. Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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.

Saturday, Feb. 7

- Karaoke** at the Stayner Legion with Bryon.

Sunday, Feb. 8

- Superbowl party** at the Stayner Legion with Side Launch Brewery tasting event.

Saturday, Feb. 14

- The Creemore Legion Ladies Auxiliary's **Lasagne Take-Out Dinner**. \$20 includes lasagne, caesar salad, bun and cheesecake. Pick up between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Call Laura at 705-466-2462 before Feb. 7 to order.
- Stayner Legion **Valentine's Day dance** from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. with Deep Tracks Band.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

- The Creemore Legion **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Dinner includes 3 pancakes, 3 sausages, tea and coffee. \$15 per person, \$45 for a family of 4 and children 3 and under are free. Dine in.

Saturday, Feb. 21

- Rob Martine** performs at the Stayner Legion from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 22

- Purple Hills Arts & Heritage Society presents the first concert in the 2026 **Chamber Music Series**, featuring the Kestrel Quartet performing "Four Elements" by Elizabeth Raum and Maurice Ravel's "String Quartet in F major." The concert begins at 2 p.m. at St. John's United Church in Creemore. Tickets available in advance at phahs.ca

Saturday, Feb. 28

- Woody Woodhouse** performs at the Stayner Legion from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

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).

Louie Kay
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Soft plastic now recyclable

by Bonnie MacPherson

Changes to Ontario's recycling program should make it easier for residents to do the environmentally responsible thing.

Allen Langdon, CEO of Circular Materials, the not-for-profit agency representing producers, says the list of products that can be recycled has expanded, and is now standardized across the province.

In Simcoe County, recycling pick-up has been contracted to Emterra Recycling. The first scheduled pick-up in the Clearview area was Jan. 7. That launch was fraught with problems, some of them weather related, which resulted in pick-ups missed for many residents.

Historically, Ontario's blue box program was operated by municipalities and First Nations communities who were responsible for paying about half of the costs of the program, with producers responsible for the other half. Now, under a new regulation, Ontario is transitioning to a new model where producers – the companies that produce the products and packaging – will be responsible for operating and funding the program. According to Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks **Todd McCarthy** will save municipalities over \$171 million annually.

Extended producer responsibility makes businesses that sell products and packaging responsible for them over their full life cycle, encouraging companies to make more careful decisions about the materials they use in their packaging and products, and holding them responsible for the cost of recycling those products at the end of their life.

Under the previous system, there were big variations in what was recyclable. Some municipalities could afford complex programs to handle items like soft plastics. Others were limited to core recyclables. Availability of local sorting facilities and markets for recycled materials further limited what could be processed economically.

With the transition to a province wide, producer funded system, the list of recyclable materials in Simcoe County now includes hot and cold beverage cups, deodorant and toothpaste tubes, ice cream tubs, black plastic containers and frozen juice containers. Containers should be rinsed clean.

Accepted items include clean, dry shopping bags, bread bags, milk bags, newspaper sleeves, and dry cleaning bags.

Polystyrene (plastic #6) containers are still not recyclable.

The new unified material list will make it easier for residents to recycle, improving recovery rates. Extended producer responsibility is intended to advance innovation and improve environmental outcomes.

Under the new system, industrial, commercial and institutional properties lose municipal curbside blue box services. Rural residents using landfill depots may face new fees for dropping off recyclables.

If your recycling collection was missed, please contact customercareont@emterra.ca or 1-888-597-1541. A complete list is available at circularmaterials.ca/recycleontario or use the County of Simcoe's Waste Wizard.



What's recyclable?

A number of new items are now recyclable in Ontario:

- Glass, metal, paper and fibre
- Toothpaste tubes, deodorant, hand cream tubes.
- Hard plastic – Laundry detergent and household cleaner jugs, shampoo, body wash, salad dressing, condiment, dish soap, mouth wash bottles, plastic beverage bottles (lids off).
- Plastic packaging and containers – Food trays, salad, yogurt, peanut butter, bakery and egg containers, plastic cups, plastic tubs and lids, black plastic containers.
- Small item plastic packaging – Hand sanitizer bottles, medication bottles, blister packs, plant pots.
- Flexible plastic packaging – Bags used for dry cleaning, bread, newspapers and flyers. Overwrap (paper towel & toilet paper, beverage containers). Coffee bags or deli pouches, chip bags, bubble wrap, snack wrappers, cereal liner bags, plastic gift bags.
- Foam packaging – Meat trays, takeout containers, cups, plates, bowls, foam packaging for products.

Province proceeds with Wasaga Beach land transfer

The Ford Government will be going ahead with the transfer of Crown-owned lands within Wasaga Beach Provincial Park Beach Areas 1, 2, New Wasaga and Allenwood Beach to the Town of Wasaga Beach to "support the town's overall strategy for increased tourism and investment."

The decision was posted Tuesday following a public consultation process resulting in about 98 per cent opposition to the proposal. The government reported receiving a total of 14,233 comments in addition to written public and stakeholder comments, and consultation staff from one Indigenous community.

The reasons for the opposition are listed as: environmental impacts; legal and governance issues; and public access, perceived equity and socio-economic concerns.

Submissions from 13 stakeholder groups, including a joint submission on behalf of 14 stakeholder groups, commonly expressed concern for the removal of beach areas, potential environmental impacts, as well as legal and governance issues.

Nancy Island Historic Site, totalling 2.91 hectares, has been transferred to the Historical Parks Act. This decision is part of the government's 2025 Ontario Budget: "A Plan to Protect Ontario commitment to revitalize Nancy Island to boost tourism and drive economic growth in Wasaga Beach, while continuing to protect the area's natural and cultural heritage."

By removing Nancy Island Historic Site from Wasaga Beach Provincial Park and placing it under the Historical Parks Act, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming assumed responsibility for its management and protection.

One submission supported transferring Nancy Island, while three opposed.

The government said in response, "We did not consider any changes to the proposal based on the feedback received, given the Town of Wasaga Beach's commitments to keeping the beach public, not building on the beach, and protecting environmentally sensitive dunes. In addition, the land removed from the PPCRA will continue to be subject to Ontario's species protection and environmental laws."

COLLINGWOOD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

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OPINION & Feedback

HEALTH

Answering the call supports health programs in your community

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is committed to maintaining up-to-date, reliable information about the communities it serves. As part of this effort, residents in Simcoe Muskoka may receive a phone call inviting them to participate in an important telephone survey called the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS).

RRFSS is an ongoing survey of adults aged 18 and older living in Ontario regions with a participating health unit. In Simcoe Muskoka, the survey is conducted by the Institute for Social Research at York University on behalf SMDHU to gather information about health behaviours, knowledge, attitudes, and awareness on topics such as tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis use, vaccinations, climate change, food insecurity, and other important public health issues.

Your participation is voluntary and plays a meaningful role. The survey takes about 10 minutes, and the interviewer can call back at a time that works for you. The information collected helps the health unit plan and improve public health programs, supports disease prevention and promotes health initiatives. By taking part, you contribute directly to programs and services that support the well-being of your community.

Your privacy is protected. Phone numbers (landlines and cell phones) are randomly chosen, and no personally identifying information, such as your name, phone number or address is collected. The interviewer will never ask you for your health card number or for money, credit card, banking or social insurance information. The answers you provide are shared with your local public health unit without any personal details and are reviewed only as part of a larger group, so nothing published will ever identify you. Participation is always voluntary, and you can skip any question you're not comfortable answering.

For more information about the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, visit smdhu.org.

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

We appreciate submissions for our They Way We Were feature. Bring in your old photos and we will scan them and get right back to you. We also accept submissions by e-mail to editor@creemore.com. Thank you.

Feedback and old photos welcome
info@creemore.com
 call 705-466-9906
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THE WAY WE WERE



Promoting Sunnidale Winterama at the Creemore Santa Claus Parade in an undated Creemore Star photo. This year's event is in New Lowell Feb. 6-8.

Treasure Tails thrift store seeks donations in support of Georgian Triangle Humane Society

As many households begin to declutter after the holidays, the Georgian Triangle Humane Society's Treasure Tails thrift store is reminding the community that this time of year plays an important role in supporting local animals in need.

Located in downtown Collingwood, Treasure Tails is a long-standing community thrift store whose proceeds all directly support the day-to-day operations of the Georgian Triangle Humane Society (GTHS). Donations of gently used items to the store help keep shelves stocked and ensure Treasure Tails can continue generating essential funding for animal care.

“January is a natural time for people to take stock, clear space, and pass along items they no longer need,” said Sue LaJambe, manager of Treasure Tails. “Donations such as furniture, home décor, women’s clothing, jewelry, kitchenware, books, and pet items are especially helpful right now. When our

shelves are full, we’re able to support the ongoing care of pets at the GTHS, from food and shelter, to medical treatment and recovery.”

Located at 186 Hurontario St., Treasure Tails is open seven days a week and is supported by more than 40 dedicated volunteers and a generous community of donors. The store offers a wide range of affordable second-hand items, with every purchase staying local to help animals across the region.

“As a community-supported store, donations are what allow us to do what we do,” added LaJambe. “This is a perfect time to donate, and a meaningful way to help local pets while giving pre-loved items a second life.”

Community members are encouraged to review donation guidelines before arranging a drop-off. Donations can be arranged by appointment by calling 705-293-3233, with additional details available at gths.ca/about-treasure-tails.

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Please return undeliverable Canadian mail to address below.

Sober Friends community growing nationally

by Bonnie MacPherson

One of the hardest parts of getting sober, according to **Dustin Jones** is the isolation.

"When I moved up from Toronto, I didn't know many people here so I found myself drinking out of boredom and stress," said Jones. "It wasn't so much that I needed help with detoxing as I needed to keep busy."

All of his friends were from his drinking days.

"Having to explain why I wasn't drinking created pressure," he said. "Alcohol is the one drug where you have to explain why you don't do it. Nobody asks you why you're not smoking crack but in a social situation, there is often pressure to have a drink. Having even one other person who was saying no to alcohol would have made a huge difference."

Jones started looking for support groups. After an extensive Google search, he discovered that there were online communities focused on sober living, but none that were local and included a social element that would get him out of the house, meeting other people, and creating relationships. He saw a need and last August created Sober Friends Canada.

"I wanted it to be a one-stop shop for people who were sober-curious, those in recovery, and people who have chosen a sober lifestyle even though they don't have a substance abuse problem," said Jones. "I wanted a



Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

Dustin Jones, founder of Sober Friends Canada.

social site that would create safe spaces for meet ups and eventually create community events."

To date, about 1,400 people have joined a private Facebook group (which requires sign up) and close to 10,000 followers on social media. Jones says Millennials are generally drinking less than Gen X and Gen Y.

"The sober lifestyle is becoming more visible," he said. "Now you have major beverage companies offering

non-alcoholic options."

For Jones, an important part of recovery is giving back.

"If I can help even one person get on the road to sobriety, this will all be worthwhile. I'm not a professional, just someone with real life experience," he said. "Through the Facebook group, we can connect you with someone if you need to chat, or want to meet for a coffee."

His first attempt at creating an actual

event was a Halloween Trunk or Treat in Wasaga Beach. More than 700 people showed up, leaving him excited about the potential for more events in the future. Sober Friends has become registered as a not-for-profit and Jones is looking for sponsorship support from local businesses. Eventually, he'd like to see weekly meet-ups with fun, upbeat activities and perhaps one day, a sober bar.

Jones said he never had a "rock bottom" moment but it had become clear to him that he had a problem. "You have to ask yourself, do I control alcohol or does it control me."

He noticed a big difference in the way he felt within two or three months of sobriety.

"I felt so good. So alive. It's amazing how you feel. Before I stopped drinking I was afraid of losing friends – that nobody wanted to hang out with me if I wasn't drinking. Then I realized that you may need to say goodbye to people who bring you down."

Dry January is a popular health challenge created by Alcohol Change UK which encourages participants to reset habits after holiday season indulgence and reassess the relationship with alcohol. Jones says there is never going to be a perfect time to quit, that you may need to just rip off the bandage.

If you'd like to connect with like-minded people, look for Sober Friends on Facebook and visit soberfriends.ca.

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New ice allocation policy creates equitable environment for all users

by Bonnie MacPherson

A new policy is good news for all arena users, according to **Ivy Martin** of the Collingwood Girl's Hockey Association.

Martin has been advocating for fair ice time allocation for years. Clearview township has been giving the girls' league three hours mid-week for the past several years. Last year they added another two hours. "You can't get in if there's a legacy arrangement," says Martin. "This new policy creates a more equitable environment for all users, including girls' hockey."

Clearview Township council adopted the new Ice Allocation Policy for arena user groups at its Jan. 13 meeting.

The Collingwood Girl's Hockey serves Town of Blue Mountains, Clearview and Wasaga Beach. Now in its ninth season, the group has 390 members with the majority ranging between Under 7 and Under 18.

"We've had to cap membership

numbers because we don't have enough ice time," said Martin.

"We started out nine years ago with two teams and the town of Collingwood gave us a couple of hours. In that first year, our U18 girls were on the ice at 10 p.m. after a beer league," laughs Martin. "Then they had to get up for school the next morning. In 2019 the town of Collingwood saw the need to update their ice allocation policy and things started to get a bit better."

Director of parks and recreation **Terry Vachon** says the document formalizes principles for allocating ice time in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.

The priority for prime-time ice allocation will be as follows:

1. Clearview Township programs and services, such as recreational skating programs, three-on-three tournament, etc...

2. Clearview minor sports groups that provide programs serving youth 21 years of age and under and that are not currently in a pre-approved license

agreement.

3. Non-municipal minor sports groups.

4. Tournaments and special events.

5. Adult groups.

6. Commercial and occasional groups.

7. Non-municipal groups and occasional users.

Vachon told council that similar policies for allocation of baseball diamonds and soccer pitches will be presented at a future meeting.

Martin says the popularity of girls' hockey has seen significant growth in recent years.

"Every winter Olympics we see a big increase in enrollment, and when the Professional Women's Hockey Association did their Dream Gap Tour to kick off the 2022-2023 season, it was a tipping point," she said.

Collingwood Girls' Hockey currently offers house league teams in every division from U7 through U18 and competitive teams in U9 and up, as well as skills programming.

County of Simcoe opens skate trail to public

The County of Simcoe skate trail has opened for the 2026 winter season. The skate trail spans over one kilometre through the Simcoe Museum grounds and surrounding forestry.

The skate trail will be open, weather permitting, on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$8 for youth.

Tickets are available at the door or may be purchased online at museum.simcoe.ca on the same day as the reservation.

Online ticket sales will be open by 9 a.m. on weekends, 4 p.m. on weeknights, and the skate trail itself will be open as weather and trail conditions permit. Booking in advance is not available to ensure trail conditions remain optimal throughout the season.

Skaters will be required to follow a one-way direction when on the trail and will have access to indoor warming stations and changing areas.

Skaters can access the skate trail through the group entrance of the museum as the remainder of it is closed for renovations and inaccessible to the public.

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North of North writers sweep comedy awards category

by Trina Berlo

North of North swept the Comedy Series category of the Writers Guild of Canada Screenwriting Awards earning five nominations, including three for Duntroon resident **Garry Campbell**.

"It feels good personally I'm not going to lie," said Campbell, an Emmy and Gemini award nominee, and Canadian Screen Awards and Writers Guild of Canada award winner known for his work on *Kim's Convenience*, *Less Than Kind*, *MADtv*, and *The Kids in the Hall*. "But I like that it brings focus back to the show."

The comedy series *North of North*, created by Inuk filmmakers **Stacey Aglok MacDonald** and **Alethea Arnaquq-Baril** of Nunavut, is now in production for Season 2.

North of North, set in the fictional town of Ice Cove on Prince of Wales Island, Nunavut, is about a young Inuk woman, Siaja (**Anna Lambe**) who seeks to find her own identity within her small community of family and friends.

"The show has gotten a lot of attention," said Campbell. "It's an important show. It's a voice, it's a people and it's a part of the country that most people don't know much about. They either know little about it or they have wild misconceptions about it, and it's nice that we are able to shine a light on what it's really like up there and what the people are like up there, how they're the same and how they're different."

He spent four months on set in Iqaluit, during filming for Season 1, where the crew rented a curling rink in which to build sets.



Contributed photo

Stacey Aglok MacDonald, Miranda De Pencier, Garry Campbell, Anna Lambe and Alethea Arnaquq-Baril on the set of *North of North*.

He had two job offers at the time and turned down a much surer thing to work on *North of North*. Campbell said he got a really good feeling from his very first meeting with the creators and wanted to support their show, feeling that he really cared about the people involved and its themes.

"I turned it down just on the chance that *North of North* would happen because I really wanted to do it," said Campbell. "It just felt like the right place for me. Because they were new – they'd never done a TV show before – I just thought I'd be of more use there, too."

North of North premiered in 2025 on CBC, APTN, and Netflix.

"It's such a big deal to go from not even considering yourself a television writer to all of a sudden being on a show that's going to be on Netflix, so

potentially millions of people around the world are going to be watching it," said Campbell. "It's not zero-to-60, it's zero-to-6,000 and it's super daunting. The pressure those guys felt on a daily basis, it's honestly hard for me to image because it's been so long since I was that guy, if I was ever that guy."

He admits he had never really thought himself as a mentor until this project but said he really wanted to be involved in order to support young talent.

"It's more front of mind for me now," he said, adding that sometimes the experience he brings to the table is more about how to problem solve, find solutions without panicking and dealing with notes from the networks.

"That's why you nurture this talent. You have to make a concerted effort to bring in Indigenous people to work

on an Indigenous show – it's insanity if you don't – but then you have to have more seasoned people in there to support them, bring them up, help them learn the craft," said Campbell.

He saw his role as helping to make themes universal while deferring to the creators.

"There were lots of things we had to fight for because changing it would have been inauthentic," said Campbell. "That's the beauty of the show is that we're all the same – we may have grown up in different places and have different beliefs – at our core, all the same things matter, all the same things are important and the show really illustrates that, I think."

The 30th annual WGC Screenwriting Awards will be presented on April 27, at Koerner Hall in Toronto.

North of North Season 1 has eight episodes, five of which received nominations at the 2026 WGC Screenwriting Awards — Comedy Series nominees:

- *North of North, Bad Influences*, Story by **Aviaq Johnston** and **JP Larocque**, Teleplay by Aviaq Johnston and Garry Campbell;

- *North of North, Dumpcano*, written by Garry Campbell;

- *North of North, Joy to the Effing World*, written by Alethea Arnaquq-Baril and **Linsey Stewart**;

- *North of North, Top of the World*, written by Stacey Aglok Macdonald and Alethea Arnaquq-Baril;

- *North of North, Walrus Dick Baseball*, written by **Moriah Sallafie** and Garry Campbell.

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On Jan. 3 the Creemore Curling Club hosted its annual Mixed Bonspiel at the Creemore & District Recreation Centre. The competition featured seven teams from other local clubs and one team representing Creemore.

Treated to a light breakfast and lunch every team played two games before sitting down to a lovely dinner made by our wonderful caterer Culinary Creations by Christine. The competition was fierce but by the end of the day Team Murphy walked away with the top score and first place.

A special thank you goes out to all of our volunteers who help throughout the day bartending, cleaning up, preparing the meals and maintaining the ice before and after each game. Thank you to all our sponsors and businesses who donated prizes and items for the event. Without their generosity and our volunteers graciously donating their time this event would not have been possible.

Our sponsors for the event include Bonnie MacPherson from Sotheby's Real Estate, Creemore Brewery, Creemore Coffee Company, Chin Chin Wine Bar, The Dornoch Restaurant, Duntroon Cyder House, Ed and Kerry Meulendyk, Huron Tractor, MB Soap Co, Paul and Karen Crevier, Old Mill Restaurant, So Jam Good, Tim Hortons, YF Patissier and Chocolatier.



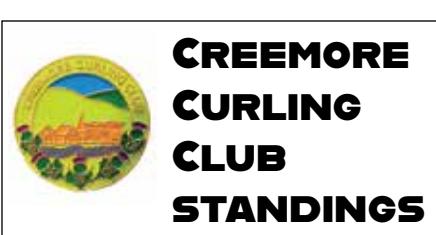
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Daytime

Team	win-loss
Loranger	4-2
Lambert	3-3
Gallaugh	3-3
Coulter	2-4

From the Hack: On Monday, Scott, Eugene, Joan and Marian, of Team Gallaugh, went out to suppress the challenge from Team Lambert. And they did so by throwing excellent draw and takeout weighted shots. Teams Loranger and Coulter had a close match with Loranger coming out on top.

Team Gallaugh took the first five ends against Team Loranger on Wednesday. After reciting the "curlers prayer", Team Loranger scored two in the sixth and four in the seventh. Tied coming home, Joan placed a stone on the button which couldn't be removed. Team Gallaugh enjoys the win. Good curling everyone!

Ladies

Team	win-loss-tie
Dunford	3-0-0
Crawford	2-1-0
Harvey	1-2-0
Verstegen	1-2-0
Arsenault	1-1-0
McKay	0-2-0

From the Hack: Monday nights curling was a cold frosty one. We had Team Verstegen win over Team Harvey on Ice 1. On Ice 2, Team Dunford win over Team Crawford in a very close game. Thank you to our spares who came out on this snowy evening. Good Curling Everyone!

Mixed

Team	win-loss
Crevier	2-1
McArthur	2-0
Nellin	1-1
Prosser	1-1
Meulendyk	0-3

Men

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

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FUN & Games

Sudoku

by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 11

FRED'S FUNNIES

What do lawyers wear to court?

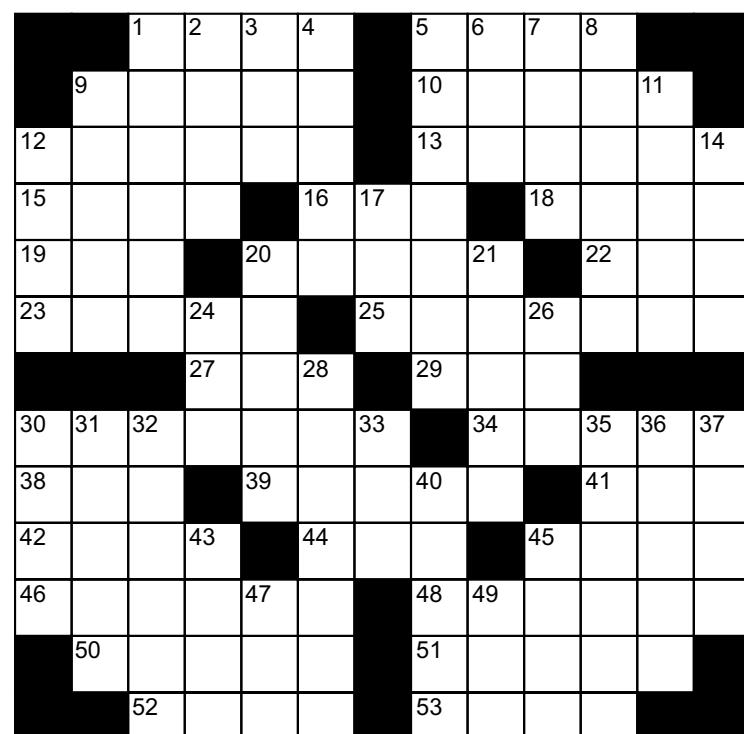
Lawsuits

Canadian Criss Cross

by Walter Feener

ACROSS

- Use a telephone
- Hospital division
- Kind of race
- Be in store for
- What the sun does every night
- Taste and smell, are two
- Fail to include
- Bird watcher
- Adjust, as a radio
- Comfortable room
- Cricket sound
- Daughter's opposite
- Like poorly baked bread
- Final course
- As well as
- Substance obtained by leaching
- Collection of papers
- Do not continue
- No longer fashionable
- Lock horns
- Accelerate an engine, for short
- Chew, like a beaver
- Compass heading
- Cover with asphalt
- Handwriting
- More in need
- Suggestive of the supernatural
- Of birds
- Changes colours
- Being the only one left



DOWN

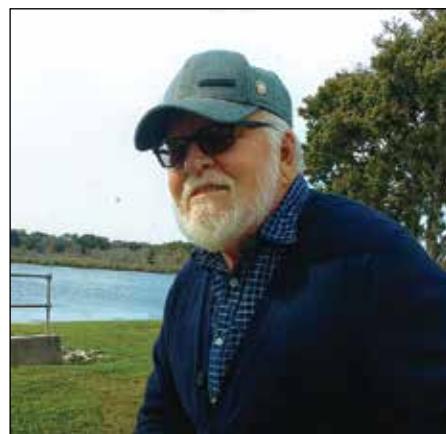
- Giving up
- Very much
- Attorney's profession
- "Mulholland Drive" director and writer
- Spendthrift
- Fearful reverence
- Long, angry complaint
- Abandonment
- Juliet's beloved
- Choir member
- Mount Olympus dwellers
- Dispatched
- Band-__
- One who believes the worst about people
- Play mind games on
- Accelerator pedal
- Date regularly
- Keyboard key
- Bow-wows
- About 28 grams
- Looked impolitely
- Took off
- Landing place of Noah's Ark
- Number of deadly sins
- At any time
- Calyx part
- Stiff
- Pea in French
- Bakery offering
- Egg cells

Trivia: Who is the first and only woman of color to win the Oscar for Best Actress?

DEATH NOTICE

HAWTON, Audrey Eileen (nee McLaughlin) peacefully passed at Campbell House Hospice on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026 at age 92. Audrey of Collingwood, was the beloved wife and best friend of the late Charles "Charlie" John Hawton for over 73 years. Loving mother of Paul Hawton (Judy) and Joanne Cunliffe (Adam). Cherished grandmother of Tina Readman (Chris), Nicole Walton (Jim) and Scott. Treasured great-grandmother of Connor, Brooke, Brayden and Jacob. Audrey will be missed by her sister-in laws Gladys Dobberthein, Ruth

Weston and Joyce Hawton. Lovingly remembered by her nieces, nephews, extended family and her church community. Audrey was born at the McLaughlin homestead on the Fourth Line in Nottawasaga Township to parents David McLaughlin and Margaret (nee McDermid). She was the last surviving member of her family, predeceased by her siblings Charlie McLaughlin (Martha), John McLaughlin, Isobel Weir (Russell) and Ruth Plater (Lorne). She attended her formative years at Ballygrant School on the Fourth Line, south of Highway 91 and continued there until her parents moved to Collingwood in 1943. The family resided in an apartment at 15 Robinson St. for a few months, before moving to 327 Pine St. With the move to Collingwood, she attended Victoria Public School. Audrey completed high school in Grade 10, before enrolling in a business course at Barrie Business College. During her studies, she continued to work as bookkeeper for the Collingwood Dairy and Creamery until 1953. Charlie and Audrey were married on July 26, 1952. Their family started on Monday, May 4, 1953, with the arrival of Paul Charles and was complete with the arrival of their daughter, Joanne Eilene on Sunday, April 14, 1957. She was a 30-year member of the Ferne Blair Group of the Presbyterian Church, volunteering and serving on many committees, mainly as treasurer. A lifelong and faithful member of First Presbyterian Church in Collingwood. Audrey and Charlie shared an inseparable friendship, sharing a love of music, square dancing and enjoying the "Snow Bird" getaways at their trailer in Fort Myers in Florida for many winters. They enjoyed winters there with no snow to shovel! In the summer they would camp near Thornbury with their 1971 Chev Pick-up and trailer. Between the house in Collingwood, the camper trailer and the property in Fort Myers, they had three living quarters to choose from. Is it any wonder that we have collected a lot of furnishings to get rid of? Audrey enjoyed caring for her family, along with taking care of the finances of Charlie's Heating Business. She will be greatly missed by all. The family wish to extend their gratitude for the exceptional care that Audrey received during her three-month visit at Campbell House. Friends are invited to join her family at the Chatterson Funeral Home, 404 Hurontario St., Collingwood for visitation on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026 from noon to 1 p.m. A Celebration of Audrey's Life will be held in the chapel at 1 p.m. with a reception to follow. Interment at First Presbyterian Cemetery at a later date. In memory of Audrey, donations to Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation or a charity of choice would be appreciated by her family. To leave a message of condolence or to sign Audrey's Book of Memories, please visit www.chattersonfuneralhome.com.

DEATH NOTICE

MCKINNON, David "Dave" Bruce Aug. 13, 1949 – Jan. 15, 2026. Firstborn and only son of Eugene "Gene" McKinnon and Berneda McKinnon was born on his mother's nineteenth birthday in Shelburne, Ontario. He was the eldest brother to Debra, Donna and Diana. When he was five years old, he bonded with his grandfather William McKinnon and his granduncle Jay McKinnon on Bar-M Farm in Singhampton, Ontario. There he would spend weekends and summers with these two men and eventually moved in with them during his adolescence. In 1969, he met Catherine Leigh Thompson at McIntyre United Church and told his grandfather that he would marry that girl, only to be told by his grandfather that Donald Thompson would never let a wild young man like him date or marry one of his daughters. Yet, he persuaded her father and married Catherine on Oct. 10, 1970. They enjoyed 55 years together. Seven years later, they became parents first with Eugene "Gene," then Daniel "Dan" in 1980 and Bradley "Brad" in 1983. Having left school at the age of 16, he worked as an operating engineer, driving the same loader for Armbro Construction for 19 years. His passion for construction could have been the inspiration behind the character Mr. Bull on the popular children's show Peppa Pig. His mantra for construction was, "Water must get away." He loved farming, first on a two-acre severance and later buying Bar-M Farm in 1988. There he owned five horses, raised cattle, chickens, pigs, turkeys, laying hens and ducks. He also had vast vegetable gardens and flower beds, which he lovingly tended alongside his Cath for 56 years. During winters, when he was laid off, he would spend the cold, dark months helping his cows give birth, removing snow and cooking amazing dinners inspired by James Barber's Urban Peasant show on CBC TV. He was a supportive father, encouraging Gene, Dan and Brad to pursue their dreams. A loving father-in-law to Katie (Gene), Leslie (Dan) and Morgan (Brad). And a proud grandfather to Charlie, Simon, Ryker, Liam and Kaleigh. Always present at every baptism, wedding, funeral, anniversary, sporting event and village event. He loved his village and his people. An avid fan of the Toronto Blue Jays, he never missed a broadcast. On Jan. 15, 2026, he triumphed over his cancer. His soul went to be with God, but he will live forever in the memories of his wife Catherine, three sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, sisters, cousins, in-laws, nieces and nephews. Cremation has taken place and he will be interred in the Singhampton Cemetery. There will also be a celebration of life in July on Bar-M Farm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Singhampton Park via e-transfer to singhamptonfire@gmail.com. Friends may visit Dave's online Book of Memories at www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com.

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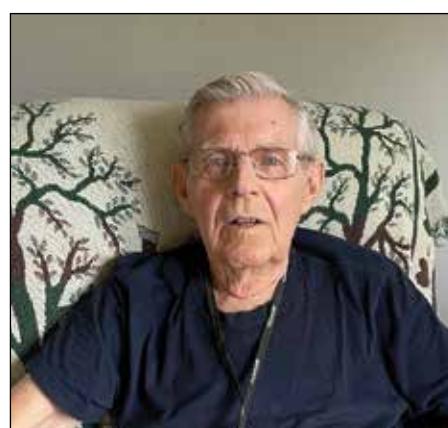
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DEATH NOTICE



SMALL, Rodney Brown died peacefully on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026 with family at his side at his home in New Lowell at the age of 86. Rodney, beloved husband of the late Bonnie "Louise" (2007), Loving father of Cory (Lorraine Oster), Anthony (Charmaine Devine) and Sherry Stephenson (Wayne Stephenson). Cherished grandfather of Kevin, Kyle, Brock, Kelsey, Rusty (Jacqueline) and Naomi (Chris). Rodney had seven great grandchildren. Dear brother of Earl (Terry), Ed (Carol), Brian (Nancy), Bill, Patricia Kett (Brian) and predeceased by brothers Bob and Richard. He will also be missed by numerous nieces and nephews, friends and neighbors. Rodney was a kind-hearted man with a bit of a tough exterior. He would call a spade a spade. He loved telling stories of his past. He enjoyed fishing and wood working, spending time with his Springer spaniels, Mickey and Angel, and his beloved Corgis, Lady and Hunny. Rodney served in the military for a few months then as a police officer in Morrisburg. Rodney was a volunteer fire fighter for the Essa station in Thornton. Rodney worked at Copaco and had a long career at General Tire. After General Tire closed he worked alongside Louise making flags for Flags Unlimited. They called Cookstown and Thornton home for many years. Rodney moved to Newfoundland after Louise's passing. A Celebration of Life will be held at Sherry and Wayne's home (5246 Concession 5, New Lowell) on Feb. 21, 2026 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. If desired, donations can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. To sign Rodney's Book of Memories, please visit www.carruthersdavidson.com.

DEATH NOTICE



MACDONALD, Dean Goldwin of Creemore, ON. Sept. 4, 1938 – Jan 20, 2026. Passed away peacefully at the Collingwood General Marine Hospital. Beloved husband of Donna MacDonald (predeceased). A loving brother of Ralph MacDonald (predeceased) and to his sister Pat Davidson (Les predeceased). He was a devoted and loving father to Karen Nicholson and Kevin MacDonald (Kandice). A proud Poppy to Perri Davidson MacDonald (Tyler) Brooke Lowe (Kevin), Logan MacDonald, Cory Schmidt (Tanya), Brittany Brown (Travis) Dylan Nicholson (Bailey). He also had five great grandchildren he cherished, Sydney, Savannah, Nash, Paisley and Knox. He was also blessed with many nieces and nephews that were dear to him. The family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to Doctor Pearce who took great care of Dean. As well, the family would like to thank the staff at Blue Mountain Manor, for the care they extended to him during his stay there. A celebration of life will be held at the Creemore Legion on Feb. 15, 2026, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

Betty Norris

In loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother who left us on January 24, 2013. She left a legacy of family, humour and love. Always remembered by Kathy and the Norris family.

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The Creemore Legion is hosting a **PANCAKE DINNER** for Shrove Tuesday on Feb. 17 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. \$15 per person includes 3 pancakes, 3 sausages, tea and coffee. A family of 4 \$45, 3 and under and are free.

The Creemore Legion Ladies Auxiliary's Valentine's **LASAGNE TAKE-OUT DINNER**. \$20 includes lasagne, Caesar salad, a bun and cheesecake. Pick up between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Call Laura at 705-466-2462 by Feb. 7 to place your order.



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This week's answers

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

Trivia: Halle Berry





217 Gideon Street, Stayner ON L0M 1S0



Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM



705.428.6230

WWW.CLEARVIEW.CA

Communications available in alternative formats upon request.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

The 2026 Summer Student Employment Opportunities with Clearview Township are now open! The following positions are available:

- Job #2026-005: Pool Instructors / Lifeguards (7 positions)
- Job #2026-006: Pool Lifeguard Supervisor
- Job #2026-007: Pool Customer Service Student
- Job #2026-008: Student, Parks and Recreation
- Job #2026-009: Student Water / Sewer Operator (Co-Op position)
- Job #2026-010: Student Roads Workers (4 Co-Op Positions)
- Job #2026-011: Student Tourism / Culture Assistants (5 positions)

For full job details, job requirements, and eligibility criteria, please visit www.clearview.ca/careers

Hours of Work:

The hours of work for all positions are up to 35-40 hours per week (for the period of approximately May 4th to September 4th, 2026).

Wage Rates:

All positions are paid \$18.01 per hour, including 4% vacation pay, with the exception of the Pool Lifeguard Supervisor, which is paid \$20.75 per hour. An extra \$1 an hour is given to returning students to the same position for each year they have previously worked at Clearview.

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are invited to send their resume and a covering letter by email to: hr@clearview.ca by **Friday, February 6th, 2026, at 11:59 pm**. All resumes must be received electronically.

Please indicate the job number in the subject line of your application; if applying for multiple positions, please indicate the job numbers in the order of your preference.

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 is an equal opportunity employer. In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, please contact Human Resources for accommodation inquiries or requirements at 705-428-6230 x. 255.

The Township of Clearview does not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology at any stage of the recruitment process.



At a flag raising on Jan. 12, Mayor Doug Measures proclaimed January as Crime Stoppers Month in Clearview Township.

Job Numbers: #2026-005 - #2026-011
 Vacancy Status: Existing Vacancies
 Posting Date: January 14, 2026
 Deadline: February 6, 11:59 PM

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Number: #2026-004
 Vacancy Status: Existing Vacancy
 Posting Date: January 13, 2026
 Deadline: February 3, 11:59 PM

YOUTH CENTRE COORDINATOR

Clearview Township is currently seeking one (1) permanent full-time (35 hours per week) Youth Centre Coordinator. The primary location of work is on-site at Clearview Township's Youth Centre.

Key Accountabilities:

Reporting to the Manager of Parks and Recreation, the Youth Centre Coordinator is responsible for developing, coordinating, supervising, scheduling, and marketing recreational programs and activities for youth (aged 12 to 17). The Youth Centre Coordinator also serves as the primary liaison between the Youth Centre and community organizations, corporations, youth-related agencies, and educational institutions. Additional responsibilities include managing the Youth Centre, researching and submitting grant applications for youth and recreational services, and optimizing the use of online recreation software and digital publications.

Qualifications:

- Recognized Diploma in Recreation Leisure, Social Services, or Social Work with three (3) to five (5) years of demonstrated experience, including supervisory experience required, preferably in a results-oriented environment and in a unionized setting.
- Possess a thorough knowledge of the implementation, scheduling, administration, and evaluation of services within a Youth Center.
- Demonstrated ability in maintaining successful public relations and liaising with community organizations, corporations, youth agencies, and educational institutions.
- Knowledge of the procedures involved in recognizing youth at risk in accordance with the Child, Youth and Family Services Act and proven knowledge of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Ability to handle sensitive situations with innovative thinking, strong problem-solving skills, sound judgement, and effective negotiation and dispute resolution skills.
- Intermediate computer skills, including proficiency with Microsoft Office applications, internet navigation, and registration-related software applications, are required.
- Non-Violent Crisis Prevention Training and/or Applied Suicide Intervention Skills training is required.
- Current and valid First-Aid, CPR-C, and AED certification required, as well as current WHMIS certification.
- Satisfactory Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Check.
- Valid Class "G" Driver's License in good standing with a clean Driver's Abstract and reliable personal transportation. A valid Class "F" Driver's License or willingness to obtain is considered an asset.

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 \$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 # 2026-004** to Human Resources **by February 3rd, 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