

The Creemore ECHO

Friday, February 6, 2026 Vol. 26 No. 6 www.creemore.com

News and views in and around Creemore

INSIDE



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Fire victims move to temporary lodgings

by Trina Berlo

Residents are settling in at their new temporary home in Stayner while they await the reconstruction of The Belmont.

On a frigid but sunny Wednesday morning, a number of residents were sitting by the fireplace, watching a big screen television, while the piano was being tuned in the background.

Residents moved in Sunday after an agreement was signed with the Township of Clearview to rent the municipally-owned building that formerly housed Stayner Care Centre for one to two years.

At a table, **Jane Forster** and **Betty-Ann Scott** are having coffee.

“What a nice job they have done,” said Jane, who was once the owner of Huron Guest Home, in the same location where she took up residence before the fire.

The staff has done everything possible to give the space a feeling of home, incorporating The Belmont’s colours, the formal table settings and personalized service.

On the morning of the fire Jane was guided from her room and out of the building by PSW **Laura Bradley**. She had three others in front of her as some were forced to abandon their walkers and make their way downstairs.

Laura said the smoke was so thick that she had to use her shoulder to guide her along the wall.

The staff managed to get 23 residents out of the building in six minutes, the last one emerging just as firefighters were arriving on scene.

“Never in a million years do you think you’ll be put in that situation,” said Laura.

Forster had enough time to throw on some clothes and grab a few of her possessions, but others weren’t so lucky. Still, she had to leave the home without shoes and crossed the highway to the church in bare feet.

“But we were all out and safe. They have done what they can to make it feel like home,” said Jane. “Considering



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

Lynn Sunday, formerly of Creemore, and **Jacqueline Burnaby**, formerly of Wasaga Beach, lounge in the sunny dining room at The Belmont’s temporary home in Stayner.

what happened, the staff have been wonderful.”

Betty-Ann believes she may have been one of the first people evacuated. Still in her nightgown, her PSW helped her put on her shoes, she grabbed her blanket and made her exit. Unfortunately she lost her hearing aids in the fire.

“Until you live through that you have no idea,” she said, pointing out that everything she now wears has been donated. She lost everything.

Betty-Ann was one of the 14 residents who relocated to a hotel in Midland while temporary shelter could be arranged. All agree that everyone is happy to be back together and grateful that no one suffered major injuries.

The staff is stressed and exhausted from the fire and subsequent relocation, but residents expressed plenty of gratitude this week for the care they have received.

Owner **Jon Wells** and manager **Karin Bradley** said they are grateful to the township for offering use of the former long-term care facility but the transition was not easy.

Karin said there was huge outreach from family and community members. After some cleaning and painting efforts were underway, township staff would not allow volunteers to continue their work.

“[The] lack of flexibility meant we were left with only two days to prepare the building adequately for our senior clients, which significantly hampered our efforts,” said Karin.

She said The Belmont Stayner Inc. had a configuring stage of the lease that was backdated to Jan. 16, and maintained proper insurance on the old Jarlette building, yet they were not permitted to continue with preparations even though they were not using construction workers or tradespeople.

All the preparations were to fall on the staff.

“As a locally owned small business with just nine employees stretched thin between Midland and Stayner, we have been working tirelessly to address this crisis,” said Karin. “The taxpayers deserve to know the full extent of these challenges. While we appreciate the
(See ‘Belmont’ on page 3)

Coldest Night of the Year

The St. Luke’s Walkers will be participating in The Coldest Night of the Year, a national event that raises funds for local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness.

On Saturday, Feb. 26 people of South Georgian Bay will join more than 220 communities across Canada for a two- or five-kilometre walk.

The St. Luke’s team will be walking at the Creemore Nature Preserve raising funds for Home Horizon’s Barbara Weider House, in support of youth who do not have a safe place to call home.

Everyone is welcome to participate. Anyone needing a ride out of town is asked to meet at St. Luke’s at 12:45 p.m. Walkers will do two laps of the Mingay Loop starting at 1 p.m.

Last year, 63 teams and 1,890 donors helped raise over \$207,000 for youth in need resulting in Home Horizon ranking sixth in the country for funds raised.

Donate at cnoy.org. For more information, visit www.homehorizon.ca.

Black History Month

In honour of Black History Month, the Simcoe County Museum is hosting a reflective virtual lecture series with multiple sessions throughout the month of February. Each session will feature expert speakers and local historians exploring different aspects of the Black Canadian experience and its rich history. Celebrate Black History Month and deepen your understanding of Canada’s diverse heritage.

The series runs throughout February, with each lecture lasting 30-45 minutes followed by a Q&A session with the presenter. Topics include African Diaspora Women’s Lives of Resilience, Black Canadian Historical Settlements and Communities, and more.

Virtual attendance is free for individuals and groups. For more details on the different lectures, dates, times, visit museum.simcoe.ca.

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COMMUNITY Calendar

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Friday, Feb. 6

- **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.

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

- Stayner Legion hosts **karaoke** with Bryon from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 8

- **Superbowl Party** at the Stayner Legion opens at 4 p.m. with kick-off at 6:30 p.m. There will be a 50/50 draw at half time, along with chili, buns, hot dogs, and do-it-yourself nachos. Side Launch beer tasting at no charge. No charge for admission.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

- **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.

Friday, Feb. 13

- Share the Love Pub Night at Dunedin Community Hall. A **pub night** to celebrate the love of the community we live in. 7 p.m. until midnight. All 19+ people are welcome. Cash bar.

Saturday, Feb. 14

- **Valentine's Day Party** at the Stayner Legion featuring Deep Tracks from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Only available at the door, first come, first served. Side Launch Brewery will be doing a free tasting of their coolers from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for you to enjoy.

Thursday, Feb. 19

- Cybergnomes Team 2013 **Spaghetti Supper and Silent Auction** 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Join the local robotics team for a delicious dinner, a silent auction and a very exciting robot reveal. Tickets available at the door. Adults 13 + \$15, children 5-12 \$7, and children 4 and under free. New Lowell Legion Branch 516. cybergnomesteam2013@gmail.com or call Deb, 705-790-4262.

Sunday, Feb. 22


- Purple Hills Arts and 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 pahs.ca.

Friday, Mar. 6



- St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 215 Pine St. in Stayner, will host the **World Day of Prayer** ecumenical worship service at 2 p.m. This year's theme, “I Will Give You Rest: Come,” is based on Matthew 11:28-30 and features the program title “Rest for the Weary” by Nigerian artist Gift Amarachi Ottah. The service was originally prepared by the World Day of Prayer Nigeria and adapted for Canadian use by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. A light lunch will be served in the hall following the celebration.
- Canadian Tai Chi Academy **Introduction to Tai Chi** classes in Stayner will begin on March 6 through to June 26. Monday and Friday mornings. For more information please email: staynertaichi@gmail.com. Website: canadiantaichiacademy.org.

Friday, Mar. 13

- Luck of the **Irish Pub Night** at the Dunedin Community Hall. A warm up for St. Paddy's day, get your green on and your shamrocks shined. Festive attire encouraged. 7 p.m. to midnight. 19+ event. Cash bar.




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Ontario 

Belmont staff hustled to get new space ready

(Continued from page 1)

due process and procedures in place, this is a crisis situation that could have been handled with more care, diligence, and urgency. Although we are grateful for the township’s offer to use the space, working with them has not been the easiest experience in a crisis.”

Wells said there was a moment when he was not allowed to have 20 bedroom sets delivered to the building when, in frustration, he almost pulled the plug on the agreement.

Although the use of the township-owned building is a good solution, the township’s decision to keep five rooms for their own use will cost The Belmont six beds and will force some residents to share a room when they are accustomed to having privacy.

Nevertheless, when some residents were offered alternative housing, Karin said they chose to stay.

“It’s been very traumatic for everyone but the positivity is a testament to how we run The Belmont. They are family,” she said. “It’s tough in the sense that a lot of people have lost a lot but we are happy that they are here and that everyone got out safely.”

She said The County of Simcoe has been overseeing the move and were prepared to help but as of Monday the kitchen is functional and the appliances are working.

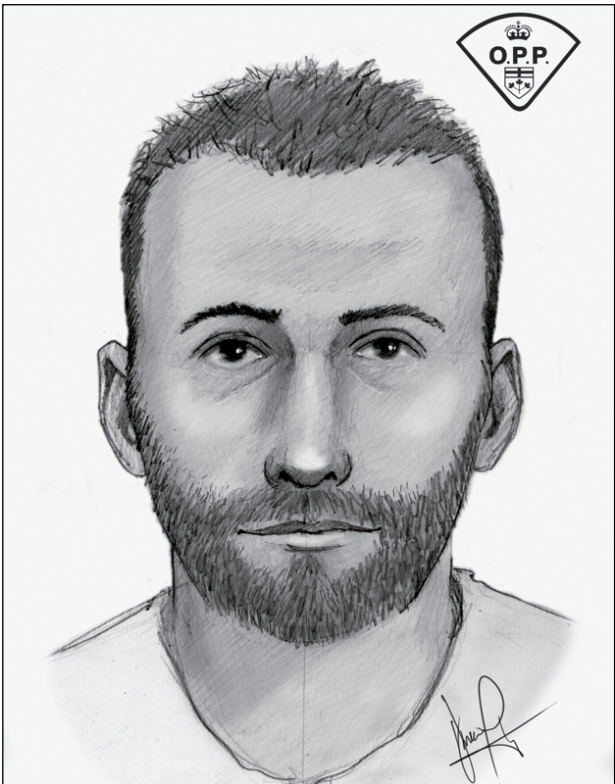
“We are delighted to report that all our clients are doing well and are adjusting beautifully to their temporary home. The emotional welcome they received on Sunday was truly heartwarming, and we will continue to stand strong as we await the completion of our new building,” said Karin.

The monthly rent has been set at \$7,000, equal to \$84,000 for the year. Following an in camera discussion on Jan. 26 council voted unanimously to increase the rent at the end of the first year to \$10,500 per month and \$14,000 after 18 months. The lease would be terminated at the end of the second year.

Wells said it’s optimistic but the hope is to have The Belmont, an independent living residence, rebuilt in a year.

The wing is in the process of being demolished but the century home will be saved, he said. Tests are being done this week to access the extent of the damage and the amount of demolition required.

The Office of the Fire Marshal said it has not yet completed its investigation but Wells said the fire started when an electrician drilled into a wire.



Driver



Passenger

Police continue search for shooting suspects

Police have released a second suspect sketch as part of a renewed plea for public assistance in an ongoing shooting investigation in Clearview Township.

The August 15 shooting happened at about 10 a.m. on a property on 15/16 Side Road near Highway 26.

Police responded and located one individual with a gunshot wound. The victim was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The investigation determined that two individuals arrived at the property in a sedan. After a verbal altercation, the passenger discharged a firearm, striking the victim. Both suspects then fled in a dark-coloured Volkswagen Jetta or Passat (2011-2018) with Ontario plates.

Police are looking for two males: the driver, is described as having a darker complexion (possibly of Portuguese, Greek or Italian descent) with a beard and between the ages of 39 and 42; the passenger has a light complexion, sandy brown hair and may be older than the driver.

Investigators believe the shooting was targeted but urge community members to remain vigilant and promptly report suspicious activity to police.

“This was a serious incident that involved a firearm being discharged. We are grateful the individual did not sustain more significant injuries. We are urging anyone with information to contact us, particularly if you recognize the suspects or the vehicle involved,” said Detective Staff Sergeant **Seth Adair**.

Anyone with information that may assist the investigation is asked to contact the Huronia West OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca.



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7:00 pm Restorative Yoga + Sound (Sass)

Wednesday:
9:00 am Yoga Flow (Sass)
10:30 am Gentle Yoga Flow (Sass)
6:00 pm The Fitness Class (Jess)

Thursday:
5:30 pm Strong Flow (Gill)

Friday:
10:30am Gentle Yoga + Strength (Sass)

Saturday:
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OPINION & Feedback

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COLUMN

Four desperados create a hot time in Avening

A Jesse James act with nearly all its completeness

Avening has become just a quiet little place and often gets no more than a nod by the busy weekend traffic. There was a time when things were different. At one time it almost rivalled Creemore for size and activity. There were various mills, a cheese factory, a population of 300 and stores and shops of many kinds. And like all places of population at that time there was a hotel. This place of business was at the northeast corner of what is now Carruthers Memorial Park and was adjacent to Norris Street which does not have a marker at the present time. It was at this local hotel, the Feltis House, that a robbery occurred on June 20, 1899.

LOCAL HISTORY



Helen BLACKBURN

The peaceful quietness of our little sister village of Avening was ruthlessly invaded on Tuesday last, and for a time the wildest kind of entertainment reigned. As near as we can learn just before going to press, the four men passed through Creemore on Monday afternoon and purchased a number of articles from several of our merchants. They reached Avening in the evening and spent the night in Davis' barn and on Tuesday hung around the Feltis House all day.

About six o'clock in the evening they showed their real character by deliberately taking possession of the house, and with drawn revolvers went through it from cellar to garret, ransacking every room and appropriating to themselves everything of value they could lay their hands on and could be carried away.

John and Herb Duff arrived on the scene and attempted to stop their operations when they were set upon by the four robbers and rather roughly handled.

About this time a telephone message was sent to Creemore for Constable Turner and assistance. He at once got a team and accompanied by J. Shields, W. J. Adams, Ab Adams, Jack McLean, Vet Bailey and T. Madill proceeded to the scene of the disturbance.

Just as they drove up to the hotel the gang came out on the platform each armed with a revolver which they charged into the middle of the crowd. (See 'Two' on page 5)

THE WAY WE WERE



In 2010, Creemore's Gertie Gowan had the honour of being a torch bearer for the Vancouver Winter Olympics, officially known as the XXI Olympic Winter Games.

COLUMN

The Kindness Project spreads Valentine cheer across Clearview

The spirit of kindness was on full display across Clearview as residents of all ages came together for The Kindness Project, a community initiative run by **Natasha Rolling**, children's programmer, to spread joy and connection through simple acts of creativity.

More than 70 Valentine hearts were decorated by Clearview residents and transformed into cards for seniors at Creedan Valley long-term care home. Participants were invited to stop by any Clearview library branch to sign out a wooden heart, decorate it at home or in-branch, and return it to be placed on a card.

Each card included a message explaining The Kindness Project, along with a light-hearted Valentine's Day joke to bring an extra smile. After all, why did the banana go out with the prune on Valentine's Day? Because he couldn't find a date.

The Cards for Seniors program took place on Wednesday at the Creemore branch, where community members gathered to craft, connect, and give back.

Community members are invited to the next program on Feb. 25 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Creemore Branch. All are welcome, no experience is required, just a willingness to create and share a little joy.

– Submitted by Clearview Public Library.



Among the participants were **Marlene Fox** (left) and **Marlene Gilmore** (right), familiar faces at library programs who are always happy to take projects home to finish when time runs short. Their enthusiasm and generosity reflect the heart of The Kindness Project.

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Two of the ruffians
overpowered and captured

(Continued from page 4)
At once taking in the situation the Creemore boys showed their mettle by immediately engaging with the ruffians, and as Dr. Bailey grabbed one of them by the throat a bullet whizzed past his face, grazing his cheek. The fight now became hot and the burglars, seeing that they were likely to be overpowered, attempted to make off. One of them was knocked down and secured and the other three took to their heels – two of them escaping and the third being caught hiding along the bank of the river.
The two captured were securely handcuffed and brought to the Creemore cooler for safekeeping. One of the pair received a number of cuts on the face which were dressed by Dr. Niddrie and Bradley in the cells. They appeared before magistrates Hood, Kitson and Mackay for a preliminary hearing yesterday and were committed to Barrie for trial.

Seeking memories of Avening

As a reader of *The Creemore Echo* you may have been reading my monthly columns, at the present, about the history of Avening. I have plenty of information about its very early days but I am looking for what people remember about forty, fifty, sixty and more years about the place. Was there a dam and a mill? I seem to remember a centennial parade. Where did the community gather before the hall was built? Do you have school memories?
If you can help me please send an email to *The Creemore Echo*, editor@creemore.com, to say you have some information and the kind people there will pass it on to me. And we can be in touch.
Helen Blackburn,
Websterville.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. On March 6, 2026, it begins in Samoa, and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. A worldwide wave of prayer...
Nigeria, a western African country with a rich heritage and diverse ecosystem, welcomes and leads us for the 2026 prayer service.
All are welcome to join together to pray and reflect on the theme “I will give you rest: come,” and learn about Nigeria’s history, culture and concerns. The scripture base is Matthew 11: 28-30.
Locally, this year’s service will take place at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Stayner on Friday, March 6 at 2 p.m. A light lunch will be served following the service.
World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical movement which enables us to hear the thoughts of

women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. An offering will be collected and used to support women-lead development projects in Canada and around the world.
The preparation for the day is vast; the service begins with the selection of a country and theme several years in advance. Once written, it goes to the WDP International Committee in New York for translation and then dissemination to the National Committee in each participating country.
The service prepared by the women of Nigeria is then discussed and edited by the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada before being presented nationally, regionally, and locally.
Some communities will choose a date other than the first Friday of March to host a World Day of Prayer service in order to best suit their worship needs.
For further information and resources, see the WDP website for Canada: wdpcanada.ca.



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Eager audience gives Creemore Film Club launch two thumbs up

by Trina Berlo

Movie lovers have applauded the launch of a the new Creemore Film Club, having snatched up all of the memberships within days. However, tickets for individual films remain available.

Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society and Creemore Village Green are joining forces to show eight films on select Fridays in 2026, in partnership with TIFF Film Circuit, with the goal of bringing great movies that may not be accessible in rural communities.

The TIFF Film Circuit catalogue gives the film club access to more than 1,500 movies to choose from, some of which may not have been shown in theatre or available on streaming platforms.

When **Maddy Interisano** heard that there was a film club in development she was eager to volunteer.

“Film is a huge passion for me so when I heard people talking about it I jumped at it immediately,” she said.

“For me, the best thing about film is that shared experience, being together, possibly starting conversations, and presenting films that may be under seen. There are some incredible gems through our partnership with TIFF that I think people will really respond to. There seems to be a real appetite for it.”

The Creemore Film Club will premiere on Feb. 20 with the Norwegian film *Sentimental Value*,

which has received nine Oscar nominations including best picture, best international feature, best actress and best director.

In March, the feature film is *It Was Just an Accident*, winner of the Palme d’Or at Cannes, the highest award at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, and Oscar nominee for best international feature film.

Interisano said she was fortunate to have seen both films in the theatre. She saw the February selection at TIFF Lightbox and the March selection at TIFF.

“These films didn’t play widely in the area so it’s exciting to choose films that, despite being Oscar nominated or award winning, this might be the first time that people have heard about them or get a chance to see them. That’s part of what makes it special to select these two to lead us out,” said Interisano. “We want people to connect with each other. Film, to me, is the great unifier and a way to connect to diverse voices and perspectives. We’re really excited to launch something where people can share in that together.”

The Creemore Film Club is also launching with a one-off movie for youth. On Feb. 20, there will be an early showing of *Flow* at 4 p.m. Tickets are only available at the door and cost \$8.

Films will be shown the third Friday of the month, except for December, January, July and August.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and Film screens at 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$12 per film. Limited tickets available at ticketsene.ca. The memberships for 2026 are sold out.

The adult movie screenings are licensed. Enjoy a feature cocktail, wine or beer, popcorn and other treats before and during the screening. Bring your own cup for beervages or purchase a Creemore Film Club branded cup.

Programming updates will be posted on social media by Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society.

Sentimental Value (2025), directed by **Joachim Trier**

Sisters Nora and Agnes reunite with their estranged father, the charismatic Gustav, a once renowned director who offers stage actress Nora a role in what he hopes will be his comeback film. When Nora turns it down, she soon discovers he’s given her part to an eager young Hollywood star. Suddenly, the two sisters must navigate their complicated relationship with their father and deal with an American star dropped right into the middle of their complex family dynamics.

– Starring **Renate Reinsve, Stellan Skarsgård, Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas, Elle Fanning**



It Was Just an Accident (2025), directed by **Jafar Panahi**

Despite bans and imprisonment, Iranian master filmmaker Jafar Panahi continues to make great humanist films. Reimagining the road movie, he takes his audience on a thrilling emotional ride in a work full of twists and turns. In the middle of the night a damaged car arrives at mechanic Vahid’s garage. He hears something that triggers him to believe that the driver of the car is the official who had tortured him. But as he never saw his face, can he really be sure? Turning to other torture victims for confirmation, including a wedding photographer, he sets in motion a murderous revenge plot. But is this really who they are? Alternatively tense and funny, *It Was Just an Accident* has an exceptional ensemble cast.



Flow (2024), directed by **Gints Zilbalodis**

The world seems to be coming to an end, teeming with the vestiges of a human presence. Cat is a solitary animal, but as its home is devastated by a great flood, he finds refuge on a boat populated by various species, and will have to team up with them despite their differences.



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Book lovers couldn't pass up chance to own bookshop

by Trina Berlo

A self described bookworm, **Kate Simpson** said she always dreamed of owning a bookshop.

As a child she could often be found curled up with a book. She recalls her first 'job' was head librarian for her teddy bears, each of whom had a library card.

She and husband **Joel Simpson** are the new owners of Curiosity House Books, which has been a staple business in Creemore since it was opened by **Chris and Pat Raible** in 1995 and stewarded by a list of subsequent owners.

"It is one of the reasons we moved here, because we loved the bookshop," said Kate.

The couple sold their house in Toronto and a cottage near Priceville to relocate to Creemore in April, a move that was meant to simplify their lives.

The Simpsons found themselves making detours to Creemore while spending time at the cottage, lured by the farmers' market, cafés and the bookstore. They began ordering all of their reading material from Curiosity House Books.

When the owner emailed them to ask if they would like to buy the business, it was a surprise.

Joel said, "This is something we would have wanted to do maybe down the road but we couldn't pass up the opportunity."



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

Joel and Kate Simpson, new owners of Curiosity House Books, commissioned a mural by **Charlotte Thompson** to create an *Octopus Garden* for the children's area.

He said they went looking for assurances from the current staff that they would promise to stay on before agreeing to the purchase, a move that didn't really jive with their plans to simplify.

Joel and Kate both work full-time – Joel in IT support for an archive software developer and Kate in legal technology and AI – so they will be depending on their staff for customer service, although customers may find them in store from time to time.

"We have always searched out

independent bookstores," said Joel. "The bit that's fun for us is the curation."

They plan to stock the shelves with a wide selection of books, while getting to know the community's interests.

While Kate gravitates towards literary fiction and contemporary classics that contain big ideas and complex characters, Joel leans more toward non-fiction on the topics of current affairs, politics, finance, and biographies – and being the cook in the family, he has an appreciation for cookbooks.

They also see a local appetite for books about fitness and gardening, and plan to host authors and form partnerships to create events that will make the bookstore a destination.

"There are many fascinating people in this community and I want the bookshop to represent that," said Kate.

A new mural depicting an octopus garden will serve as the backdrop for an expanded children's section. The octopus, being a representation of fun and intelligence, will serve as the store's mascot. During a grand re-opening celebration on Family Day weekend, Feb. 14-16, children will be invited to help choose a name for the oversized stuffy that will reside in the children's area.

The Simpsons plan to continue with the membership program which offers discounts and early access to events, depending on the level. They will also continue the buy-back program for books purchased at the store, which are resold.

Store hours in February are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday to Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays, with plans to add Wednesday hours between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. in March.

The Simpsons have launched a new website where people can order online and pick-up in store. Visit www.curiosityhousebooks.com. Curiosity House Books is located at 178 Mill St.

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Team Six Pack: **Gord and Catherine Fuller, Johanne and Bill Neelin, Debbie and Steve Prosser.**

Team Six Pack wins division trophy

Twenty-six curlers from the Creemore Curling Club attended a week long Quebec International Bonspiel from Jan. 23-29. Eighty teams competed from Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, United States, Alaska, Australia, France and Switzerland. The Creemore Curling Club brought the most members. Congratulations to Team Creemore Six Pack for winning a division trophy. Way to go Creemore!



Contributed photo

CREEMORE CURLING CLUB STANDINGS

Daytime

Team	win-loss
Loranger	8-2
Gallaughier	5-5
Coulter	4-6
Lambert	3-7

From the Hack: “Third time, lucky?” Jim, Lawrie, Sandy and Michael asked that question before heading out on the ice on Monday. Team Gallaughier had beaten Team Loranger in their first two meetings of Session 2. A close game was played, trading points back and forth. With a tie coming home, and luckily for Team Loranger, their button counter couldn’t be removed, giving them the much needed win!

On Wednesday, Team Loranger won against Team Lambert, securing the trophy for the session. Good curling everyone!

Men

Team win-loss-tie

Wilson	4-2-0
Verstegen	4-2-0
Flack	3-2-1
D Millsap	3-3-0
Walker	2-3-1
T Millsap	2-3-1
Cober	2-4-0
J Millsap	1-4-1

From the Hack: With one week remaining in the second draw we have multiple teams still competing for first place. Stay tuned to see who will come out on top!

Ladies

Team win-loss-tie

Dunford	4-0-1
Crawford	3-1-0
Harvey	2-3-0
Verstegen	2-2-0
Arsenault	1-2-1
McKay	0-4-0

From the Hack: Team Dunford with a win over Team Harvey. Team McKay with a win over Team Verstegen. Team Crawford with a win, in a very close game, over Team Arsenault. One more week of play in this second draw.

Museum hosts Skate and Sweets on Valentine's Day

Celebrate Valentine’s Day on ice at the Simcoe County Museum skate trail that spans through the museum’s forested grounds.

Warm up with a hot chocolate bar, play fun games, enjoy candies and take part in a festive photo

opportunity.

The event runs from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 1151 ON-26, Minesing. Special event admission costs \$15, registration required. For more details and registration, visit museum.simcoe.ca.



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Music youth masterclass offers 10 scholarships

The Collingwood Music Festival 2026 CMF Summer Masterclass Youth Academy is opening for auditions.

Taking place July 6-10 at Osler Bluff Ski Club in the Blue Mountains, the program offers 30 musicians 25 years and under a chance to learn, collaborate, and perform, under the mentorship of world-class musicians, while also enjoying guided hikes and outdoor activities.

For the first time the festival is able to offer bursaries or scholarships, ensuring 10 talented youth equitable access to arts education essential in their development and overnight accommodations.

Faculty for 2026: **Andrea Ludwig** and **Gino Quilico** (voice); **Daniel Vnukowski** (piano); **Sharon Lee** (violin); and the “Trio in Residence” is The Gryphon Trio with **Roman Borys** (cello), **Jamie Parker** (piano), and **Annalee Patipatanakoon** (violin).

Youth must register ASAP to secure their audition spot and submit an audition video by March 15. Results will be announced by April 1.

Learn more and apply at collingwoodfestival.com/event/masterclass-2026. The tuition fee is \$299 per student including overnight accommodation. An optional meal plan is available for \$40/day (breakfast, lunch and dinner).

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Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

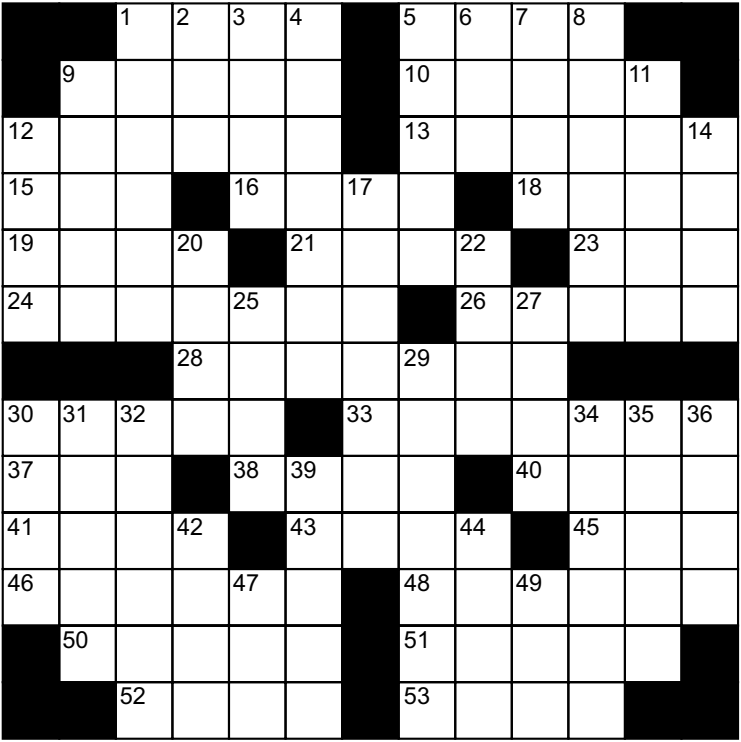
Answers on page 11

FRED'S FUNNIES

What has one head, one foot,
and four legs?
A bed

Canadian Criss Cross by Walter Feener

- ACROSS**
- Japanese rice wine
 - Ladder rung
 - Sets on fire
 - Detected sound with the ears
 - Constantly busy and hurried
 - In one piece
 - Make a request
 - Not frightened of people
 - Self-satisfied
 - Beverage brewed from malt
 - Places in position
 - Former Canadian television drama
 - Bands of colour
 - Winery containers
 - Check-up
 - Explosion
 - Be made up of
 - Ignited
 - Tight closure
 - About to make a discovery
 - Social insects
 - Whipped cream serving
 - Calendar abbreviation
 - Good looks
 - Person born in that country
 - Get rid of
 - Clear the blackboard
 - Held in reserve
 - It begins on Ash Wednesday



- DOWN**
- Lollipop
 - Illustrative material
 - Interweave yarn into a fabric
 - Made a getaway
 - Basic article of bedding
 - You may have one in your purse
 - Wears away
 - Prepares for painting
 - Attack from all sides
 - Inebriated
 - Nickname of the Canadiens
 - They're hunted for on Easter
 - Play with songs
 - Eyeglass frames
 - Brief perusal
 - Four-legged friends
 - Furthermore
 - Military rank
 - Tell secrets
 - What actors memorize
 - Use weapons on
 - Not take no for an answer
 - Barrel part
 - Carry
 - Place with pyramids
 - Unquestionable
 - Unadorned
 - Spigot
 - Go brown

Trivia: Who composed a piece of music based on Mallarmé's poem "Afternoon of a Faun" written in 1876?



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OPP warns of rising trend in police impersonation scams

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is alerting residents across the region to an emerging scam trend involving suspects who pose as police officers to defraud victims of substantial amounts of money.

In recent reports, fraudsters have contacted victims by phone while claiming to be members of the OPP. In each case, the suspect used fabricated names, titles, and badge information to gain credibility. Victims were instructed to withdraw large sums of money and either send the funds through cryptocurrency platforms or hand over cash directly. These tactics resulted in significant financial losses, including incidents where victims paid between \$6,000 and \$13,000 to individuals falsely claiming to be officers.

Police confirm that the names and ranks provided by the scammers do not correspond with any OPP members. Fraudsters often use urgency, intimidation, and fear to pressure victims into complying with their demands.

The OPP is reminding the public of the following fraud prevention strategies:

- Police will never request money, cryptocurrency, gift cards, or financial transfers over the phone.

- Police will never demand immediate payment, threaten arrest, or pressure you to act urgently.
 - Do not provide personal information, banking details, PINs, or identification numbers to unsolicited callers.
 - Pause and talk to a trusted family member or friend before making any financial decision under pressure.
- If you receive a call from someone claiming to be an OPP officer and you are unsure of its legitimacy, you can contact the OPP non emergency line at 1-888-310-1122.
- This number can be used to:
- Confirm whether an officer has attempted to contact you
 - Report suspicious calls or attempted frauds
 - Speak directly with police about fraud related concerns
- Residents who have been targeted or victimized by fraud are encouraged to contact police and report the incident to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at -888-495-8501 or online at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca.
- The OPP continues to monitor fraud trends and reminds community members that awareness is one of the strongest tools against financial victimization.

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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.

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.

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DEATH NOTICE



JOYCE, Dr. Judy, M.D.

My sister, Dr. Judy Joyce, M.D., died peacefully in her sleep from cancer on Jan. 22, 2026, at the Ruddy Shekman Hospice in Kanata. On Feb. 1, she would have turned 81. Judy was a graduate of Creemore Elementary School, Stayner Collegiate, and the University of Toronto. Upon graduation from the University of Toronto, she moved to Smiths Falls to become a family doctor. Judy was the daughter of Charles and Kay Joyce. Her father was a council member and chairman of the Collingwood District School Board. Her mother was a long-term employee of the Creemore Pharmacy, working for Jack Heslip and then Jean Smart. They raised two children, Judy and Frank. Judy became an M.D., and Frank a CPA and

later a school teacher.

The Joyce farm was on 400 acres near Glen Huron. One day, while we were little, Father took us fishing at this small creek east of the Pinetree Sideroad. When I told my sister I was going to be cremated, she asked, "Where?" I said, "Somewhere near the farm." She suggested the little spot where we went fishing. I loved it and said yes. She really wanted to do that.

Unfortunately, it will not happen that way. I had Judy cremated; part of her ashes will go in the fishing spot. The rest will be buried in Creemore cemetery on top of her father's casket. When I die, part of my ashes will be put at the fishing spot, then we will be together again.

Judy was to be called Linda Diane Joyce. At the last minute, Father stepped in and added Judy. She was only known as Judy her whole life. When she became an M.D., she had to legally change her name to Linda Diane Judy Joyce.

I used to call her Dr. Joyce when I introduced her to people. I was so proud of her. She hated it. She said, "Any idiot can be called a doctor nowadays. I am an M.D." Yes, you were, Judy. You were my father's little girl. He was so proud of you. He has been waiting a long time for you. He will be happy to have you beside him in heaven.

Thank you, Ruddy Shekman Hospice, for looking after my sister. She had her own room with a window view. You were so nice to Judy and me. Living 300 miles away, your frequent phone calls to me were a great help and blessing. I could not go on without your help.

The day before Judy died, you called me to see if I wanted to talk to her. I asked, "Can she talk to me?" No, but she might hear you. Ten minutes later, my phone rang and I talked to her. She started making noises. I nearly freaked out. This went on while I talked. When I stopped, she did. When I finished, the nurse said, "She heard you."

I am not religious, but did she hear me and was she talking to me?

Goodbye, Judy. I hope to see you again somewhere, sometime.

Your brother, Frank.

DEATH NOTICE



JOSLIN, Stanley – Dec. 16, 1941 – Jan. 16, 2026. Beloved husband of Sharon Joslin, loving son of Stan Joslin (deceased 1968) and Audrey Joslin (deceased 2010). Proud father to his son Christopher (deceased 2023) and daughter Shauna (deceased 2023), Cathy, Pam, and Duncan. Cherished Poppy to his grandchildren Letitia, Raquel, Kristopher, Drew, Dusti and Jonathon (deceased 2023), Liam, and Laura. Great-grandpa to Wrenn, Kenzleigh, and Jonathon. Special brother to Joan Grant and William (deceased), Marlene and Roy Pifer (deceased), Wayne Joslin (Sharon, deceased), Brenda Gallagher (Phil), Heather White, Jack Joslin (Shelley), and Robery Joslin (Barb). Many nieces and nephews that will dearly miss him. As per Stan's wishes, cremation has taken place, with a celebration of life at a later date.



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This week's answers

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

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

Trivia: Claude Debussy

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