

The Creemore ECHO

Friday, February 13, 2026 Vol. 26 No. 7 www.creemore.com

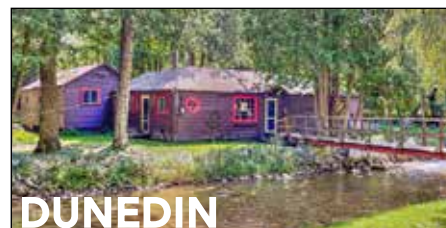
News and views in and around Creemore

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'Suspicious' fire under investigation

by Trina Berlo

A house fire in Stayner Tuesday is being investigated as suspicious.

Firefighters were called to 220 Springfield Cres., located in an east end subdivision, at 2:10 p.m.

It was the next-door neighbour **Joel Pinsk** who noticed the fire and called 911.

Pinsk said he normally works in Toronto but happened to be home Tuesday convalescing after a car accident when he went outside with his dogs and noticed the smoke.

Upon arrival a thick smoke could be seen billowing from the roofline of the house.

Fire Chief **Scott Davison** said he was able to get the lone occupant out of the house when he arrived on scene.

Davison said there was zero visibility inside the home as firefighters worked to control the fire which was contained mainly to the home's contents, causing the thick smoke.

At one point Collingwood firefighters used their aerial truck to inspect the roof to see if the fire had breached the structure, which it had not.

The occupant identified by



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

Clearview firefighters controlled a fire deemed suspicious Wednesday afternoon in Stayner.

neighbours only as G was transported to hospital. Pinsk said there is a concern that he had harmed himself and set the fire, putting the neighbouring homes in the dense subdivision at risk.

Police confirmed one individual was transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The fire is being investigated by Huronia West Crime Unit OPP, with assistance from the OPP Forensic Identification Services and the Office of the Fire Marshal.

At this time, no charges have been laid and police say there is no concern for public safety.

Council votes to strike ag committee

by Trina Berlo

Clearview Councillor **Robert McArthur** has received unanimous support for his proposal to establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

McArthur, a Cashtown farmer, made his pitch to council on Monday evening, with members of the local farming community in the audience.

He said the move is partially in response to the threat to agricultural land posed by the Department of National Defence's Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar (A-OTHR) project.

"But there's also little problems coming as people from the city come up and buy land and figure it's their own playground and take it out of agriculture," he said, adding that in

other municipalities there are controls in place to make sure agricultural land is farmed.

The motion acknowledges that the township's official plan and strategic plan identify agriculture as a core business.

Deputy Mayor **Paul Van Staveren**, also a farmer, spoke in support of the motion.

"Our community is very much agriculturally based and we need to protect that," he said, joining the meeting from Florida. "Food security going forward in the future is so important to this province, this country. The Americans are starting to wave the flag more and more as they're gobbling up their own land."

In response to the A-OTHR project he said, "We have to be prepared to mobilize and identify problems as they rear their heads."

"I am very much in favour especially if we can get some... younger members of the community, not us old farts who have been around for a while, who can really sink their teeth into some of these issues."

McArthur said he expects a long term benefit.

"I'm looking down the road to when there might not be any farmers on council and obviously, don't take this the wrong way, but farmers and city people, there's a real lack of communication on what goes on out

(See 'Mayor' on page 3)

Historian leaves lasting legacy

by Trina Berlo

Creemore has lost an active community member, a man who had one eye on the past and one on the future.

Chris Raible died on Feb. 10, at the age of 92, in Seattle where he was living near his son and wife **Pat**, who is in memory care.

Chris and Pat have been a force in Creemore, leaving a lasting legacy of culture and preservation.



Chris Raible

Amongst a long list of accomplishments, the Raibles founded Curiosity House Books in 1995. A former interpreter at Mackenzie House in Toronto and historical advisor to the Mackenzie Printery and Newspaper Museum in Queenston, Chris is considered an expert on William Lyon Mackenzie and has published several books, articles and essays about the politician and journalist focussing on the printing press.

An intellectual and scholar, his impressive library was transferred to The Mayholme Foundation, a genealogical and historical research charity in St. Catharines when the Raibles were preparing to sell their Creemore home in 2023.

Friend **Barb Mann** said Chris was very sad to be leaving Creemore.

Chris was instrumental in the building of Station on the Green, acting as a key fundraiser.

Mann recalls Chris orchestrating a ground-breaking for the community centre, inviting everyone to bring a spoon to help dig. He also conceived of the idea for the book bash, a used book sale that would for many years raise funds for Station on the Green.

He was also the driving force behind the preservation and relocation of the

(See 'Raible' on page 3)

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COMMUNITY Calendar

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Friday, Feb. 13

- **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.
- 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

- **Creemore Farmers' Market** indoors at the Station on the Green from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **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.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

- Holy Trinity Clearview's **Pancake Dinner** is back. Pancakes, syrup, sausages and pie. Drop in, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free will offering at the door. All proceeds to outreach. Old School House (Beside the Duntroon Daycare) 4 St. Clair St., Duntroon www.holytrinityclearview.com.
- The Creemore Legion is hosting a **pancake dinner** for Shrove Tuesday from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. \$15 per person includes three pancakes, three sausages, tea and coffee. A family of four \$45, children 3 and under and are free.
- **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.

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 four and under free. New Lowell Legion Branch 516. cybergnomesteam2013@gmail.com or call Deb, 705-790-4262.

Saturday, Feb. 21

- **Black Friday Commemoration.** The Avro Arrow history needs to be remembered. This Black Friday, join host Greig Stewart, author of *Shutting Down the National Dream*, for a special book signing and commemorative event. Books will be available for purchase, with the author present to sign copies and discuss the legacy of the Arrow. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Edenvale Aerodrome. Free entry. Registration required.
- Stayner Legion hosts **DJ Rob Martin** from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

- **Double Toonie Lunch** at St. Luke's from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come and enjoy delicious soup and visit with your neighbours.

Saturday, Feb. 28

- **Coldest Night of the Year.** The St. Luke's Walker's will be walking in support of Home Horizon Collingwood transitional support for youth. The St. Luke's Walkers will be leaving St. Luke's and driving to the Mingay Trail. Meet at St. Luke's at 12:45 p.m. if you need a ride, or meet at 1 p.m. at the trail. Donations can be made to Coldest Night of the Year 2026 to team St. Luke's Walkers at www.cnoy.org.
- Stayner Legion hosts **Woody Woodburn** from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Become an active part of your community and join the Stayner Legion for 2026 and initiation fee will be waived for the year. Inquire today. For more information call 705-428-3809.

Friday, March 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 e-mail staynertaichi@gmail.com or visit www.canadiantaichiacademy.org.

Friday, March 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.

Saturday, March 14


- Station on the Green invites you to their **St. Patrick's Celebrations** with the Strange Potatoes and Shipyard Kitchen Party. Afternoon show is from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Evening show 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$40. Tickets are available at ticketscene.ca.

Saturday, March 28



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

Saturday, April 18

- St. John's United Church hosts a **Beef and Lamb Dinner** from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.




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MAR 27 2 GUYS WITH GUITARS

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Mayor calls for farmers to “join arms”

(Continued from page 1)

in the farming communities,” he said.

DND has already purchased more than 700 acres of farmland in old Sunnidale Township for the A-OTHR project and has sent letters to surrounding neighbours with offers to purchase thousands more.

Rachel Brooks, who has been vocal in her opposition to the project spoke in support of the motion.

“An agricultural advisory committee is a practical way to build and maintain strong communication channels. It creates a regular space for farmers, agribusinesses and council to discuss matters early on before they become issues that turn into misunderstandings, and potentially conflict. That kind of relationship building really matters in a rural community such as ours.

With the passing of the motion staff has been advised to bring a report back to council outlining the establishment of a committee beginning with the 2026-2030 term, including a mandate that incorporates assisting council in navigating and understanding new provincial and federal legislation/policies that have a direct impact on agricultural lands.

Council was told it could expect the report from the clerk’s department as early as next month.

McArthur said he expects the committee would need to meet three or four times per year, or as needed.

On a cautionary note, Mayor **Doug Measures** said a committee of council has to adhere to strict procedures and members would be required to declare conflicts of interest.

“So there’s a lot of issues about creating a committee that we have to really balance when we make decisions about what types of committees this council needs,” he said, adding that in the past the municipality has struggled to get members for similar agriculture and economic development committees.

“How many times have we asked volunteers to come forward from the ag community and they just didn’t show up,” said Measures. “Well, that was then, this is now. Now we have a genuine thing that we need our agricultural community to join arms to create a committee that actually serves and helps us make decisions here at this municipality.”

**More news and events
online at
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Chris and **Pat Raible** at Curiosity House Books, when it was in its original location at 190 Mill St., with **Bill Mann** in a 1998 photo supplied by friend **Barb Mann**.

Raible had history of civic engagement

(Continued from page 1)

Creemore Log Cabin, and was the long-time chair of the management board which was established in 2011, with Pat serving as treasurer.

Fellow board member and long-time friend **Paul Vorstermans** said the bookstore was an enterprise of passion more than finance.

“It was a personal project that they felt important and liked doing it,” he said. “This was the place to which he was most attached for sure,” she said. “He was a great friend and a great contributor to Creemore with the bookstore and the log cabin being his lasting legacy.”

Chris met Pat, who grew up in Liverpool, through a Unitarian youth group in Manchester, England in 1954 and they were married within a few months.

“It was a whirlwind romance,” said their son David. “They both moved to the U.S. and my mother became a U.S. citizen.”

“They were inseparable, really,” he said.

Chris graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry in California and his work as a Unitarian Universalist minister took the Raibles to serve churches in Jamestown, N.Y.; Brookfield, Wis.; Worcester, Mass., eventually landing at the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto. Nearing retirement, they moved north and began renovating the heritage building on Mill Street that would house the bookstore.

Chris is remembered as being civically engaged, making appearances at council over the years on various topics relating to governance.

In 1965, David recounts, his father marched with Martin Luther King Jr in the Selma to Montgomery civil rights march in Alabama, along with one-third of all clergy from across the country.

He went to the second Selma march, said David, after his colleague James Reeb, a Unitarian minister,



Chris and **Pat Raible** hosted author Timothy Findley at their bookstore in 1995.

was attacked and beaten to death. As a result of the beatings, King and other leaders issued a call for clergy from across the country to join them in the second march.

“My mom packed him a bunch of lunches,” said David, chuckling. “To make sure he had something to eat.”

Chris and Pat were dual recipients of the Creemore Legion 2013 Citizens of the Year award and the 2010 Ontario Historical Society Cruikshank Gold Medal. Both were active members of the St. Luke’s Anglican Church.

Chris was past secretary of the Ontario Historical Society and past president of the Town of York Historical Society.

He is survived by Pat; three children, **John**, David and **Ann Beasley**; six grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and a growing number of great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Creemore Log Cabin or St. Luke’s Anglican Church.

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GUEST COLUMN

Canada's plastic reality

by Jacquie Rushlow

On Jan. 30, the Federal Court of Appeal finally reaffirmed what so many Canadians, scientists and environmental leaders have understood for years: single-use plastics have no place in a healthy future. After legal challenges (mostly from big oil industry) and confusion that left many wondering whether this critical ban would come into force, the court confirmed the government's authority to act by upholding the decision to list plastics as toxic. This isn't just a legal win, it's a common sense shift in how we live.

This ban applies to some of the most ubiquitous items we've come to take for granted (and perhaps didn't understand the toxicity of): plastic checkout bags, straws, stir sticks, disposable cutlery, six-pack rings and certain foodservice ware. These objects were so ordinary they became invisible, until we started seeing their impact everywhere: tangled in trees, choking wildlife, breaking down into microplastics in soil and water and inside our bodies.

The beauty of this transition is that most of us already live plastic-light without even noticing. Reusable bags aren't novel anymore; they've just become part of the rhythm of shopping. Metal or paper straws feel different at first, but soon feel normal. Bringing your reusable cup to refill coffee at the café is now rewarded instead of questioned; your laundry detergent container has been refilled locally for six years now rather than getting tossed into a landfill taking over 500 years to breakdown.

We've proven as individuals and communities that life without these items isn't inconvenient — it's actually effortless once the habit is established. What once felt like a sacrifice has become part of our daily routines.

Reducing these plastics doesn't require perfection; it requires participation. By removing single-use items from circulation, millions of pieces of plastic are kept out of landfills, waterways and ecosystems where they would otherwise break down into microplastics that persist for centuries. The benefits are both local and global, helping reduce pollution and ease the strain on recycling systems that were never designed to handle this volume of waste.

There's immense power in this simple step. By removing a handful of throwaways from our lives, we're signalling that we no longer accept pollution as the price of convenience. Using single-use plastic isn't cool or easily accepted anymore. We know better now and therefore need to do better. Heck, if the government can, so can we.

What feels like a major policy shift is really just Canada catching up to habits many of us, and many other countries, have already embraced. As these items have faded from shelves and daily routines, what remains: reusable, thoughtful, less wasteful choices, quickly feel normal. And when we look back on single-use plastics, it won't be with nostalgia, but with relief that we finally called single-use what it always was: unnecessary.

Jacquie Rushlow, CEO of The Keep Refillery, walked away from a career as a television producer to focus on ridding the world of single-use plastics.

THE WAY WE WERE



An undated postcard from downtown Collingwood.

New detachment commander for Huronia West OPP

The Huronia West Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has a new detachment commander.

As detachment commander, Inspector **Alicia McCracken** will oversee operations at the Huronia West Detachment, ensuring effective delivery of policing services that support community safety and well-being. She will provide strategic leadership to frontline members, manage operational priorities, and guide initiatives focused on crime prevention, traffic safety, and community engagement. Inspector McCracken is committed to working closely with residents, municipal leaders, and community organizations across Wasaga Beach, Springwater Township, and Clearview Township to address emerging issues and strengthen public trust.

McCracken began her policing career with the OPP in 2010 at the Caledon Detachment. Throughout her service, she has held several key roles, including Investigator with the Community Street Crime Unit, General Patrol Training Instructor at the Provincial Police Academy, Emergency Management Planner and Manager of the Emergency Management Unit, and Operations Manager at the Southern Georgian Bay detachment. She holds a Bachelor of Human Services specializing in police studies from Georgian College and was recognized in 2024 with the International Association of Chiefs of Police 40 Under 40 award.

"Alicia brings extensive experience, strong leadership, and a deep commitment to community safety to her new role," said Supt. **Coyer Yateman** in a press release. "Her background as Operations Manager at Southern Georgian Bay and her experience serving as Acting Detachment Commander in both



Inspector **Alicia McCracken**

Southern Georgian Bay and Caledon, has equipped her with the knowledge and capability to lead with confidence and integrity. Most recently, she has been serving as Acting Inspector in Aviation Services, further demonstrating her dedication to supporting frontline members and enhancing service delivery. Alicia is eager to support the communities within Huronia West, and I am confident she will collaborate effectively with members and community partners to ensure responsive, community-focused policing."

The Creemore
ECHO

www.creemore.com



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Please return undeliverable Canadian mail to address below.

Regulatory approval biggest hurdle to accessory homes

by Bonnie MacPherson

The solution to the affordable housing crisis may be waiting at our back doors, according to **Thomas Vincent**, CEO of ATTIMO Homes.

ATTIMO stands for attainable, tiny and modular, and Vincent believes tiny houses could be the key to providing plenty of affordable housing to fill a variety of needs. Through his long career as a real estate developer, Vincent pioneered concepts like corporate suites to provide housing for employees on short-term assignments or training programs. Six years ago, he was invited to a conference on housing in the Southern Georgian Bay region.

“I didn’t realize, prior to that, that local businesses were unable to fill about 2,500 positions due to the lack of affordable housing,” he says. “I suspect that since then, the need has doubled.”

In the wake of that conference, Vincent created a site plan for a tiny house village at Blue Mountain to house 300 employees. He was prepared to invest upwards of \$40 million and in exchange, asked the municipality for a \$1 per year lease on the land with a share of rental income going to the town. He says after about five meetings, the idea simply died on the vine.

Vincent also approached Clearview Township, with a proposal to create a tiny house village on the vacant lot adjacent to the Creemore library.

“We put together a site plan, but they couldn’t see the value in what we were creating,” he said.

Clearview Mayor **Doug Measures** has a different recollection.

“We were well on our way to making a decision about expanding the library at that time, so I knew the lot would not be suitable,” he said, adding that he did encourage Vincent to contact other landowners.

An ongoing review of Clearview’s Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw calls for up to two additional residential units (ARUs) within settlement areas such as Creemore, Stayner and New Lowell subject to availability of municipal services. Outside settlement areas, the proposed zoning bylaw would allow one ARU per lot.

The Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw is still under review and will be the subject of another public meeting on March 25.

Asked whether modular homes, including those built from shipping containers would be welcomed in Clearview, Measures said the township is open to modular construction, and in fact the recent Habitat for Humanity builds in Stayner were constructed offsite. Any buildings constructed from shipping containers would need to be modified to include “man doors” and proper ventilation and foundations in keeping with the Ontario Building Code.

Vincent says the biggest hurdle in creating accessory dwelling units or garden suites is typically regulatory approval.

“Each municipality has its own rules,” he explains.

In Wasaga Beach, units can be up to 800 square feet. In Collingwood, lot coverage is limited to 40-45 per cent. His firm handles all planning and site prep work on behalf of clients. The display model, situated on High Street in Collingwood, is a one-bedroom 320-square foot unit built from a 40-by-eight foot shipping container, cut in half and reassembled in a 20-by-16 foot configuration. It includes a kitchen complete with dishwasher, three-piece bath and ensuite laundry. That unit sells for about \$150,000.



Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

ATTIMO Homes CEO **Thomas Vincent** showcases a 320 square foot one-bedroom tiny home display model in Collingwood, built from a 40-by-eight foot shipping container.

An 850-square-foot, two-bedroom unit with carport and deck is priced at \$350,000.

Once approvals are secured and site prep completed, the unit is manufactured offsite and delivered, and assembled in a matter of hours. It typically takes three to four days to install services then the home is ready for occupancy, and if the homeowner’s needs change, it can be moved to a new site.

When you mention attainable or affordable housing, Vincent says, people assume you are talking about social housing, which for many has negative connotations.

“But,” he says, “it’s about workforce housing and options for multi-generational living. A typical tiny home village includes a range of housing types with both rental and ownership opportunities. Education is essential, to get people and companies to understand the value in creating attainable housing.”

Data from the Ontario Association of Municipalities (AMO) estimates that 85,000 Ontarians were homeless in 2025, and AMO says an investment of \$11 billion

from all levels of government is needed over the next 10 years to boost the supply of supportive, transitional and community housing and address the problem of chronic homelessness in Ontario.

Vincent was the driving force behind the creation of Balmoral Village Collingwood, a 25-acre “age in place” adult lifestyle community. The site includes 96 bungalows and townhouses, a 50-unit rental building and recreational facilities, plus a 130-unit retirement residence that is operated by Chartwell Retirement Homes. He says the inspiration was in watching the changing needs of his own parents. His firm is also heavily involved in the Homes for Heroes program which is working to provide housing for an estimated 10,000 displaced veterans.

His company has relationships with 15 different modular home builders, and says the biggest problem is finding land.

Vincent says he is in the business to make a difference saying, “I don’t care who does it, let’s just get it done.”

Louie Kay

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7:00 pm Prana Restore (Tara)

Tuesday:
5:30 pm Creative Flow (Angel)
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:
10:30 am Yoga Flow (Sass)

Breathwork 7:30pm on Thursday, February 19

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how they met...*



Jazmin & Adam Verstegen – When Jazmin’s college roommate invited her to join a group of friends for drinks, she had no idea she was about to meet her life partner. From the start, she was smitten with fun, good looking, friendly Adam. That was in 2008. They married five years later. When they’re not at the arena playing hockey parents to their two sons, they can often be found at the curling rink.



Randi Fisher & Mike Stephens – Randi and Mike met online. She describes their first date as a trainwreck. They arranged to meet in a pub at Horseshoe. She was late and Mike had a bad case of nerves. She was surprised when he messaged her the next day to ask for another date. Randi says they’ve been best friends ever since, and are now proud parents to a beautiful little girl.



Megan Brozic & Jonathan Filion – Megan and Jon swiped right on a dating app in 2017. One of their early dates was at the Creemore Springs Brewery. They moved to Creemore in 2022, and Jonathan popped the question at the tree lighting ceremony in 2023.



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Catherine & Gord Fuller – Catherine and Gord met in 1981 when he and a buddy from Edmonton arrived in Sauble Beach to teach windsurfing for the summer. The buddy was dating Catherine’s sister at the time, and went on to marry her. Catherine was living in Toronto and competing in ice dancing. Her sister invited her home for a weekend as Gord needed a date for the dance. They hit it off and have been married for more than 40 years.



Kerry & Ed Meulendyk – Kerry took the initiative, and invited Ed to a New Year’s Eve party with friends in 1984. Fortunately, he accepted and they’ve been a pair ever since. They married in 1986 and raised three sons on their dairy farm in Badjeros. They’ve been curling together for more than a decade, and believe it helps keep their relationship rock solid.

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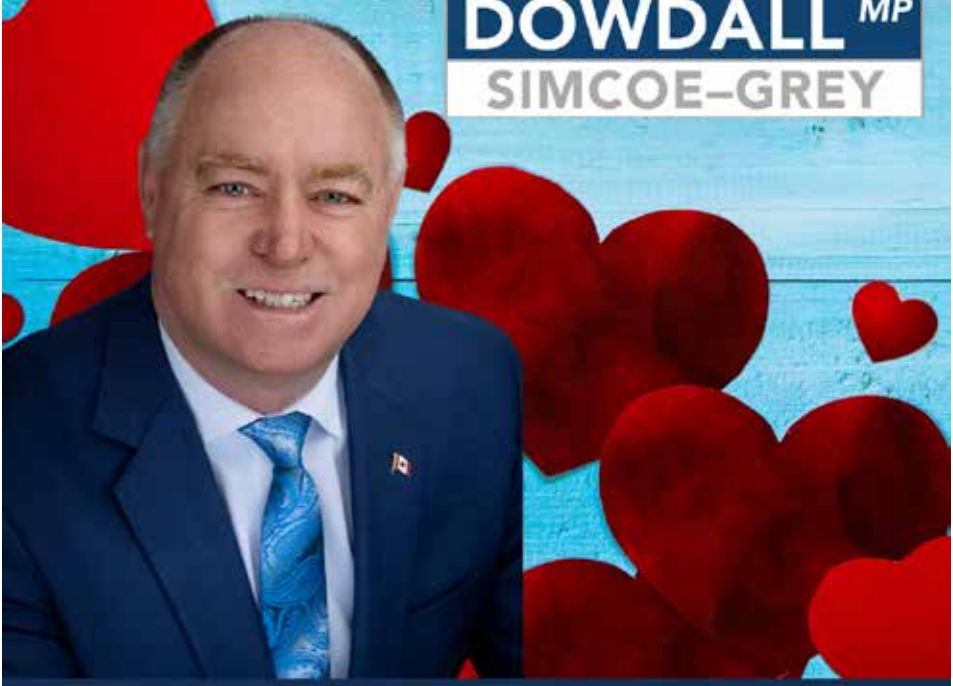
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Family Day activities at Simcoe County Museum

Simcoe County Museum is hosting Family Day activities on Monday, Feb. 16.

From 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. visitors are invited to explore the museum’s forested grounds on a one-kilometre skating trail, race down the toboggan hill, or try snowshoeing.

Sign-up to arrive at 8 a.m. for a peaceful sunrise skate, followed by a pancake breakfast with fresh local

maple syrup. Spaces are limited. Admission costs \$10 for adults (21-64), \$8 for seniors (65+), \$8 for youth (12-20), \$5 for children (4-11), Free for preschoolers and Museum Members.

Simcoe County Museum is located at 1151 ON-26, Minesing.

For more details, including registration for the sunrise skate, please visit museum.simcoe.ca.

Church Directory

Centennial United Church
Sunday service, 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Jennifer Irving
234 William St., Stayner
705-428-3711 • office@ucstayner.ca
www.ucstayner.ca

Jubilee Presbyterian Church
10 a.m. Sunday • Rev. Darren May
7320 ON- 26, Stayner • 705-428-2653
Traditional Presbyterian worship with some contemporary style.
www.jubileestayner.org • jubileepres@rogers.com

CLEARVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
9:30 a.m. Sunday
Pastor Micah denBok
22 Caroline St. W., Creemore
705-430-6056
clearviewcommunity.church

Knox Presbyterian Church
10 a.m. Sunday
Rev. Carson Hansford
8933 County Rd. 9, Dunedin

GOOD SHEPHERD ANGLICAN CHURCH
219 Scott St., Stayner • 705-428-3885
11:15am – Morning Prayer (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)
11:15am – Eucharist (2nd & 4th Sundays)
Rev. Michael Peterson – 226-750-0928
www.goodshepherdanglicanstayner.ca

Stayner EMC is now
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10 a.m. Sunday
Rev. Mitch McVeigh
1 Caroline St., Creemore
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www.stjohnscreemore.ca

St. Luke’s Anglican Church
Sunday services at 11:15 a.m.
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705-352-2759 or 705-466-2206
www.stlukescreemore.ca

Emmanuel Presbyterian
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New Lowell Legion president **Gus Brienesse** and treasurer **Brittany Baker** present a \$5,000 donation to the New Lowell Central Public School parent council, represented by **Angela Burns** and **Jennifer Hutchinson**, for their technology fund to replace outdated devices.



New Lowell Legion treasurer **Brittany Baker** and secretary **Merrilu Brown** present a \$1,000 donation to The Belmont, represented by **Karin Bradey** and **Carrie-Anne Rafter**s, to assist in replacing activity items lost during a recent fire.



Stayner Legion Branch 457 second vice president **James Brown** presented a \$500 cheque to The Belmont in Stayner on Feb. 10. The funds will go towards helping their enrichment program, which provides entertainment for the residents in their temporary home at the former Stayner Care Centre facility. Accepting the cheque were residents **Jane Forster** and **Betty Coulter**, with **Karin Bradey**, manager, and **Carrie-Anne Rafter**s, PSW and floor manager.

Find out what you’ve missed at
Creemore.com

Love, laughs, and a lifetime of letters

Theatre Collingwood is bringing A.R. Gurney’s charming and surprisingly witty play *Love Letters* to the Simcoe Street Theatre, and it’s not your typical night at the theatre.

A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for drama, *Love Letters* tells the story of Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd III, two people whose lives remain intertwined through the notes, cards and letters they exchange over nearly 50 years. From childhood crushes to adult regrets, from big dreams to missed chances, their correspondence reveals the beautiful messiness of love, friendship, timing, and all the things we wish we’d said sooner.

The show is quick-witted, and surprisingly fun. It’s not just for those celebrating Valentine’s Day. Rather, *Love Letters* is for anyone who likes something a little different and loves good writing. The actors sit side by side, and while reading the letters aloud, they let the language, humour, and emotion do all the heavy lifting to tell the story. What sounds simple on paper becomes completely captivating on stage.

Theatre Collingwood is presenting three performances, each featuring a different pair of well-loved local actors, so every performance brings its own chemistry, energy, and spark:

Friday, Feb. 13 features **Dean Hollin** and **Tara Kivlichan** at 7:30 p.m.;

Saturday, Feb. 14 features **Chelsea Coulter** and

Jason Murphy at 2 p.m.;

Saturday, Feb. 14 features **Jake McArthur** and **Shirley Joost** at 7:30 p.m.

All performances take place at the Simcoe Street Theatre.

The production is co-directed by **Erica Angus** and **Jim Roe**, both of whom are long-time admirers of Gurney’s elegant writing and champions of great storytelling.

“*Love Letters* sneaks up on you,” said Angus. “It feels light and playful and then suddenly you’re laughing one moment and deeply moved the next. It’s honest, relatable, and wonderfully human,” she adds.

Since its premiere in the late 1980s, *Love Letters* has been a favourite on Broadway and around the world, often featuring rotating casts of celebrated performers. Perfect for Valentine’s or Galantine’s, or for anyone who just loves smart, beautifully written theatre.

Love Letters proves the most powerful love stories aren’t always big or flowery. Sometimes they arrive quietly, one letter at a time. The production is proudly supported by Prime Seven Nine, Upper Kitchen and Bar.

Tickets are on sale now and seats are limited. For tickets and information, visit www.theatrecollingwood.ca or contact the box office at 705-445-2200. Simcoe Street Theatre is located at 65 Simcoe St. in Collingwood.



Dean Hollin



Tara Kivlichan



Chelsea Coulter



Jason Murphy



Jake McArthur



Shirley Joost

FUN & Games

Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 11

FRED’S FUNNIES
What kind of dinner
does Cupid eat?
A hearty one
Happy Valentine’s Day

Canadian Criss Cross

by Walter Feener

ACROSS
1. Burn partially
5. One’s place of employment
9. Plates, cups, saucers, etc., collectively
10. Expect
12. Made a surprise attack
13. One who sells wares
15. Not paired with another
16. Rubs dry
18. Change the colour of
19. Surface measurement
21. Financial help
22. Film spool
23. Movement downward
25. Able to live out of doors throughout the winter
26. Short-handled axe
28. Valuable quality
31. Then again
35. Fishing spot
36. Fit out
37. Song sung alone
38. Long span of geologic time
39. Fender mishaps
41. Spread out for drying
42. Back problem
44. Electrical resistance
46. Spend time in prison
47. Lose sleep over
48. Simmered dish
49. Very curious

DOWN
1. Scolds mildly
2. Cut off from sight
3. In a different way
4. Beaming with joy
5. Acknowledged the crowd
6. Has outstanding bills
7. Did a marathon
8. Actress from Yellowknife
9. Nucleus of trained personnel
11. Played with
12. Thoroughfare
14. Have confidence in
17. Help willingly
20. Wanted badly
22. Puts a value on
24. Corrode
25. Fell by cutting
27. Nickname for Toronto
28. Imitates
29. Places in order
30. Some drums
32. Monk or nun
33. Mournful poem
34. Went on horseback
36. Extend a subscription
39. Submarine captain’s command
40. Frighten away by shouting
43. School subject
45. Bride’s new title

Trivia: Who is the only songwriter to win a Nobel Prize in Literature?



Contributed photo

LADIES BONSPIEL Thank you to all the wonderful ladies who attended Creemore Curling Club's Annual Ladies Bonspiel Feb. 7. This year the ladies embraced the "Mamma Mia" theme. Abba tunes were blasting, rocks were flying with some great Dancing Queens on the Ice. Thank you to Creemore Village Pharmacy for sponsoring.

Register for
Clearview's 3-on-3 Youth Hockey
Tournament April 3-5

Registration is open for Clearview's three-on-three Youth Hockey Tournament from April 3-5. The tournament, which will have 7 divisions and guarantees at least three games, is open to youth ages under 10 to under 18, with \$9,000 in prizes, trophies, and draws.

New this year are two new girls-only divisions for under 12 and under 14, in addition to the division ages U10 to U18.

Register a team for \$700 before March 11. All funds will be going towards recreation programming in Clearview Township. For more information or to register, visit www.creemoreecho.com.



**CREEMORE
CURLING
CLUB
STANDINGS**

Ladies	
Team	win-loss-tie
Dunford	4-1-1
Crawford	4-2-0
Vertegen	3-3-0
Arsenault	2-3-1
Harvey	2-4-0
McKay	1-5-0

From the Hack: The second session of Ladies' Monday Night Curling wrapped up with wins for Teams Crawford, Verstegen, and Arsenault. Team Dunford captured the session title, with curlers Celeste Dunford, Abbey Leimgardt, Randi Fisher, and Colleen Healey-Dowdall. Congratulations, ladies! On to session three. Good curling!



Contributed photo

DAYTIME SESSION TWO WINNERS Dorothy Shropshire, from left, presents the "Wallace Timmons" trophy to Michael Loranger, skip, Sandy McKay, vice, Lawrie Badger, second, and Jim Falls, lead.



Contributed photo

MEN'S LEAGUE SESSION TWO WINNERS Congratulations to Team Wilson on winning the second draw of men's league curling. From left: Dave McArthur (lead), Dayn Leyshon (second), Russ Woodhouse (vice), Brian Wilson (skip) with the TD Bank Trophy.

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DEATH NOTICE



RYERSE, Barbara Ann (née Litt) passed away peacefully on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at the Collingwood General & Marine Hospital, in her 93rd year. Barbara was predeceased by her husband, Orin. She will always be remembered with love by her children Randy (the late Wendy), Phyllis (Kevan) Dineen, Susan (the late Rick) Livingstone, Dan, Collin (Cindy) and Sam (Linda). Her youngest, Joanne, did not survive birth. Barbara leaves a cherished legacy of love for her grandchildren: Brandy (Darcie), Michael (Natalie), Jamie (Samantha), Dan, David (Christine), Kathryn (Greg), Jennifer, Ben (Jaimee), Rebecca (Aaron), Mitchell, Emily (Cole), Jessica (Colin), Alex (Sarah), Joey (Maddie) and Luke (Rylee), as well as her 14 great-grandchildren. She is survived by her brothers Carl (the late Carol) and Mervin (Wendy), predeceased by her brother Ronald (Jean). Barbara also had many much-loved nieces and nephews whom she always loved to visit with. Barbara was born in Moorefield to Joseph and Adeline. Her early years were in Waterloo and later in Breslau at her father's gas station. That's where she met Orin, a friend of her brother Ronald. She always said he would go through a set of tires every year. They made a home in Breslau, later moving to the farm on the 10th Conc Nottawasaga with their six children. Grandkids will always remember ice cream, grandma's chili, sloppy joes and chicken noodle soup. Many thanks to her friends and everyone at Bayhaven. Special thanks to her care team at CGMH. So many good memories. Rest peacefully, Sister, Mom, Grandma, Great-Grandma, Aunt and friend. In lieu of flowers, donations in Barbara's memory may be made to a charity of choice. Friends may visit Barbara's online Book of Memories at www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

A celebration of life will be held for **Dean Goldwin MacDonald** at the Creemore Legion on Feb. 15, 2026 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of **Myrna Clarke**, a dear wife and mother who passed away Feb. 17, 1984. Sadly missed along life's way, Quietly remembered everyday. No longer in our life to share, But in our hearts you are always there. Lovingly remembered by Doug, Lorie and John.

In loving memory of **Florence Clarke**, A dear aunt who passed away on Feb. 21, 2001. Tenderly we treasure the past, With memories that always last. Lovingly remembered by Doug and Margaret.

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This week's answers

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

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

Trivia: Bob Dylan



Staff photos: Trina Berlo

SUNNIDALE WINTERAMA Sunnidale Winterama certainly lived up to its name Feb. 6-8 but even with snow squalls and temperatures sinking to -18°C Saturday morning (colder than -30°C with the wind chill) the parade went ahead as planned, although most people watched from the warmth of their vehicles. With hometown advantage, the bed races were won for a second year in a row by firefighters from New Lowell's Station 3, who were victorious over Creemore Station 4. The weather did result in the postponement of Friday night's burning of the green and the fireworks, which were rescheduled to Feb. 13.





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