

# The Creemore ECHO

Friday, February 27, 2026 Vol. 26 No. 9 www.creemore.com

News and views in and around Creemore

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Safe landing  
Skydivers seek new drop zone  
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Publications Mail Agreement # 40024973

## INVESTORS TAKE NOTE

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The Kestrel Quartet kicked off this year's chamber music series last Sunday. This was the first of three concerts hosted by Purple Hills Arts and Heritage to take place at St. John's United Church. Upcoming events include a violin and guitar duo on March 29 and an Octet on April 12.

## Umoja Leadership Award invites applicants

Applications are now open for the Umoja Black Secondary Student Leadership Award. "Umoja" is a Swahili word meaning "unity." The award is an annual scholarship presented to a full-time, registered SCDSB Black secondary school student who will be attending post-secondary education in the fall and demonstrates leadership within their school and the Black community in Simcoe County.

The recipient will be selected by the SCDSB Human Rights and Equity Office. Information provided in the application will support the selection committee, comprised of members of the SCDSB Equity Advisory Committee, in choosing the successful applicant. To learn more about the award and how to apply, visit the SCDSB website. The application deadline is May 1, 2026.

This initiative aligns with the SCDSB Strategic Priorities of Well-Being, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Community, and Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

# Pawsitive ending for lost dog Daisy

By Bonnie MacPherson

After 143 days on the lam, Daisy the dog is safe at home. Daisy and a canine companion got loose when a meter reader left a gate open at their house in Stayner in early October. The other dog came home on his own, but Daisy was loving the taste of freedom. Owner Collin Pavelin posted a message on Facebook, which caught the attention of the people at Pawsitive Ground Search (PGS).

Sue Holden-Morandini, the co-founder and an administrator for the group, says it is made up of volunteers who are all dog lovers. They monitor Facebook for lost pet notices and help bring wayward canines home.

PGS uses a structured combination of community surveillance, specialized hardware, and "flight mode" behavioral tactics to recover

lost dogs without scaring them further.

Usually, she says, rescues are fairly straightforward, but Daisy was unusually wily. "People started calling in sightings soon after she went missing. Everyone wants to help, but often pets get spooked when they are approached by unfamiliar people. We spotted Daisy on our trail cams and knew she was safe on a quiet property, so we decided to be patient."

Lost pets can often be lured with food, but Holden-Morandini says Daisy resisted their efforts. "Every time we tried to set up a trap for her, she simply started avoiding the area, so we knew we'd have to work on her terms. After a couple of weeks on the run, she was starting to get pretty skinny, so we had volunteers delivering food twice a day to keep her well fed." Once winter set in, there were concerns about

Daisy surviving without shelter, so on several occasions volunteers sat out all night until she eventually showed up.

"Eventually, one of our volunteers built a net trap and then we waited for Daisy to come to us," says Holden-Morandini.

Her chapter of Pawsitive Ground Search is based in Barrie and works primarily in the Barrie and Innisfil areas. There is a Collingwood chapter, which works in co-operation with the Georgian Triangle Humane Society.

"Our search for Daisy was a big effort," says Holden-Morandini. "It definitely takes a village."

Pavelin is grateful to the volunteers for not giving up on Daisy, who is now safe and warm at home.

Holden-Morandini says there is no fee for their pet-rescue services. The satisfaction of seeing lost pets

returned home safely is its own reward, however those looking to support PGS can do so in several ways. Donations to help cover the cost of equipment such as trail cameras are accepted. Community members are also encouraged to join PGS's Facebook group, share posts about missing pets and help keep information current. Volunteers can assist by putting up posters in their neighbourhoods, contacting local veterinary clinics to alert them about missing animals and checking home security cameras for possible sightings.

PGS stresses that the public plays a critical role in safe recoveries. If someone spots a lost dog, they should note the exact time, location and direction of travel and report the sighting to PGS immediately.

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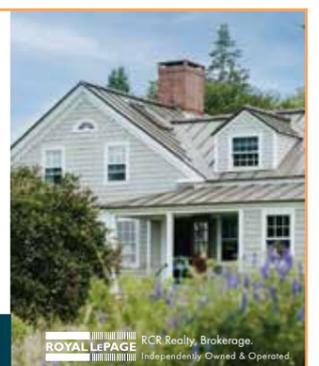
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# COMMUNITY Calendar

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## Friday, Feb. 27

- **Line dancing** lessons from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Station on the Green. \$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.

## Saturday, Feb. 28

- **Coldest Night of the Year.** The St. Luke's Walkers 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](http://www.cnoy.org).
- Stayner Legion evening performance with **Woody Woodburn** from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, March 3

- **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](http://theoldmillhousepub.com), or join the Pub Trivia Facebook group.

## 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](mailto:staynertaichi@gmail.com) or visit [www.canadiantaichiacademy.org](http://www.canadiantaichiacademy.org).

## March 6-7

- **Girls Night Out 2026** presented by Theatre Collingwood. Laughter takes centre stage at this comedy extravaganza. Cabaret-style atmosphere, audiences will kick back, relax, and laugh until it hurts. Collingwood Legion from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$33 - \$58 Theatre Collingwood, 705-445-2200 [info@theatrecollingwood.ca](mailto:info@theatrecollingwood.ca), [theatrecollingwood.ca](http://theatrecollingwood.ca)

## Saturday, March 7

- Stayner Legion hosts performer **Kate Gur**.

## 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](http://ticketscene.ca).
- Stayner Legion evening performance with **Jason Redman**.
- Duntroon Hall's Annual **Green Beer Day** from 4 p.m. to midnight with DJ Stu. Beinn Gorm Highlanders perform at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. \$10 admission.

## Tuesday, March 17

- Stayner Legion's **St. Patrick's Day Party** featuring The Gulley's Band performing from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Chili and stew available for purchase.

## March 21-22

- **March of the Makers Artisan Market** 2nd Annual Artisan Market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 50 Vendors, hands-on workshops, free entry, handcrafted creations, cozy apres-ski atmosphere. Your perfect end of March break event.

## Saturday, March 21

- Stayner Legion hosts performer **Rob Martine**.

## Sunday, March 22

- Nottawa Cottage Bookstore is taking over Side Launch Brewery with their **Grown-up Book Fair** from noon to 4 p.m. for an afternoon of books, live music, tacos, tarot readings, and way too many things you'll want to take home. Free to attend. Bring your inner eight-year-old and your adult wallet. Visit [www.nottawacottagebookstore.ca](http://www.nottawacottagebookstore.ca) for more information.

## Friday, March 27

- St. John's United Church hosts a **chili dinner** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Family \$25, adults \$10, children \$5. All welcome.

## 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 pickle ball lines on the Honeywood arena floor. Tickers are \$40 per person at the Honeywood Arena (North Dufferin Community Centre).

## Sunday, April 5

- You're invited to the **Watoto Children's Choir Live**. Join the Watoto Children's Choir for a free concert at the Creemore Legion starting at 10 a.m. as they sing, dance, and share their stories of restoration and hope. Contact [clearviewcommunity.church](mailto:clearviewcommunity.church) for more information.

## Friday, April 17

- Knox Presbyterian Church's **Quilt Raffle**. Hand stitched quilt. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Proceeds of sales are designated to the Knox Presbyterian Church, Dunedin property and maintenance fund. At 7 p.m. Nancy Loveless, guest speaker will be speaking on sleeping children. The draw will take place at 8 p.m.

## Saturday, April 18

- Songstress **Amy Millan** of Stars and Broken Social Scene graces the stage of the Avening Community Centre, 3401 Cty Rd 42, as part of her You Went Out Tour. Don't miss this opportunity to see one of Canada's great talents in an intimate hall setting. Tickets are \$35 plus tax and fees at [aveninghall.ca](http://aveninghall.ca). This is an all-ages, licensed event.

## Saturday, April 25

- St. John's United Church's **Beef and Lamb Dinner** from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adults \$25, youth 6-12 years \$15, and children 5 and under are free. All welcome.

# Dufferin releases guide to help residents understand official plan

The County of Dufferin has completed its Municipal Comprehensive Review process, marking a significant milestone in planning for the community's long-term growth.

The review, announced in September after several years of engagement and consultation, updates the county's official plan and sets the framework for how Dufferin will accommodate future development.

"A Municipal Comprehensive Review is the process a municipality takes to update its official plan to plan for and accommodate growth," said **Rajbir Sian**, director of planning and development for the county.

Dufferin is expected to grow to about 100,700 people and 40,900 jobs by 2051 — an increase of 32,300 residents and 14,100 jobs since 2021, Sian said. The county's approved official plan provides policy direction on how land should be used and, based on the Province of Ontario's Provincial Planning Statement, outlines a vision to ensure Dufferin remains a complete, healthy and sustainable community.

While the official plan may not directly affect residents' daily routines, county staff say it plays a critical role in shaping growth and land-use decisions across all eight local municipalities. As an upper-tier municipality, Dufferin sets broad planning policies that guide lower-tier municipalities in their decision-making.

"The official plan is basically the blueprint for Dufferin's future," said **Liam Morgan**, manager of planning for the county. "It establishes county-wide growth targets and settlement areas, protects areas for local economic development activity, ensures that prime agricultural lands are strengthened and viable, and preserves the natural heritage and rural character of Dufferin."

Morgan said the county wants residents to understand where Dufferin is headed and what the official plan means for them. To support that goal, the county has published a Citizen's Guide — a condensed version of the official plan designed to make key policies more accessible.

"Residents, developers, local planning staff and others are welcome to read the entire official

plan," Sian said. "But this guide is meant to clearly communicate points of interest related to the official plan in an accessible and digestible format."

The guide outlines how growth will be managed by focusing development within settlement areas, making better use of existing infrastructure, building complete communities and protecting agricultural and natural areas. It also addresses economic development by identifying appropriate types and scales of activity and relying on local municipal official plans to designate and protect employment lands.

Housing and affordability are also highlighted, including policies supporting additional residential units and garden suites to encourage more attainable housing options. The plan reinforces protections for prime agricultural areas to ensure the long-term viability of farming in Dufferin, while rural lands policies aim to preserve natural amenities and rural character and allow for agricultural, resource-based, recreational and tourism uses.

In addition, the county has mapped a natural heritage system to guide a comprehensive, integrated and long-term approach to protecting biodiversity and environmental features.

The county emphasized that while lower-tier municipalities review and decide on development applications, they do so within the framework established by the county. Together, the county and its local municipalities manage growth with a focus on health, sustainability, economic vitality and quality of life.

"Over the past few years, Dufferin County has been working towards the goal of improving its communications," Morgan said. "We hope that the Citizen's Guide will help our community understand what the county is responsible for in terms of planning and answer questions about the main amendments to our official plan and what they mean for Dufferin now and into the future."

The county must next undertake an additional official plan amendment to ensure conformity with policies added or modified under the new Provincial Planning Statement. It is currently in the process of retaining a consultant to carry out that work.

## Mental health resources for available for families of teens

Parents and guardians across Simcoe County are invited to take part in a free mental health webinar series designed to support families navigating today's challenges.

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is encouraging families to register for *By Your Side*, a four-part virtual series hosted by School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO). The series will focus on key topics related to student mental health and substance use.

Each session will feature presentations from leading experts and provide practical strategies for parents and caregivers. Topics include balanced device use on March 5, vaping on April 10, body image on May 7, and anxiety on June 5. Participants can submit questions in advance, and each webinar will include a live question-and-answer period. The series will be offered in English and French. Recordings and additional resources will be available through the *By Your Side* Learning Hub on the SMHO website. Registration details and information about additional supports for families can be found on the SCDSB website.

## Simcoe Approves Seniors Housing

The County of Simcoe has approved funding for preliminary design and engineering work on a new affordable seniors' housing development in Wasaga Beach.

The proposed development would be adjacent to the existing Simcoe County Housing Corporation building at 175 Zoo Park Road and would be designed to support seniors and aging in place.

The project is being prioritized as part of the county's Affordable Housing Master Plan.

Phase 1 of 175 Zoo Park Road opened in 2020 with 99 affordable units for singles, families and seniors. It is anticipated that this next phase of the project could create as many as 100 one-bedroom units for seniors.

**Brian Smith**, mayor of Wasaga Beach, says the town has a clear and urgent need for affordable seniors' housing, with the highest proportion of older residents in the county. Nearly 35 per cent of Wasaga Beach residents are 65 or older.

**Basil Clarke**, Simcoe County Warden, says this is one of the first projects in a 10-year plan to support 21,000 new households across the county.



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**MAR 20 BINGO**

**MAR 27 2 GUYS WITH GUITARS**

**APR 3 CLOSED (GOOD FRIDAY)**

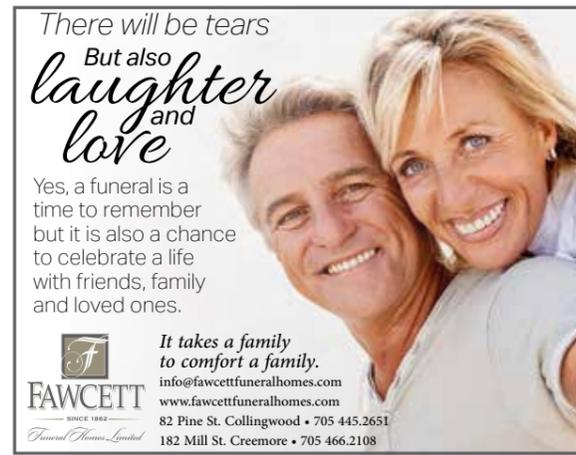
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# OPINION & Feedback

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## COMMUNITY

## THE WAY WE WERE

### Learn to run with AMO

By **Bonnie MacPherson**

Participation is the key to a healthy democracy, according to **Petra Wolfbeiss**, director, membership centre for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). With municipal elections just a few months away, AMO has launched a set of tools and resources aimed at strengthening participation in local government.

Wolfbeiss says AMO is on a mission to get people who may have considered running off the fence. “Diversity of thought, diversity of background, diversity of experience all make for stronger local government.” Their handbook, *Lead Where You Live*, walks would-be candidates through the role of municipal councils, what it means to serve your community and the steps involved in launching a successful campaign. “We’d like to see more women, more people of colour and more marginalized groups represented in the candidate pool.”

People contemplating a run for local council may feel that the risks are high and the rewards low, according to Wolfbeiss. “Harassment is a big problem, beginning with the fact that many people simply don’t understand the role of municipal government. Many of the concerns brought to local representatives are in fact matters of provincial or federal jurisdiction.” When local representatives are unable to deal with their concerns, people can become frustrated and even abusive.

AMO’s *Leading with Respect* handguides promote civility in local government. Wolfbeiss says some councils work well together, while others are quite dysfunctional. According to the handguide, dysfunction breeds cynicism. When residents see councils paralyzed by infighting or staff subjected to abuse, they disengage. This creates a feedback loop: as reasonable voices withdraw, extreme voices dominate the public forums, further eroding confidence in local government.

AMO is devoted to making municipal governments stronger and more effective. The group works on behalf of 444 member municipalities to achieve shared goals and meet common challenges. The Healthy Democracy project has identified some important changes in recent election cycles.

The nomination period for October’s municipal elections runs from May 1 to Aug. 21.

Beginning in March, AMO will launch a series of communications focused on encouraging people to step up and become leaders in their communities by running for office.

In late summer, the focus will shift to getting out the vote. Voting day is Oct. 26 and the new four-year term for councils begins Nov. 15.

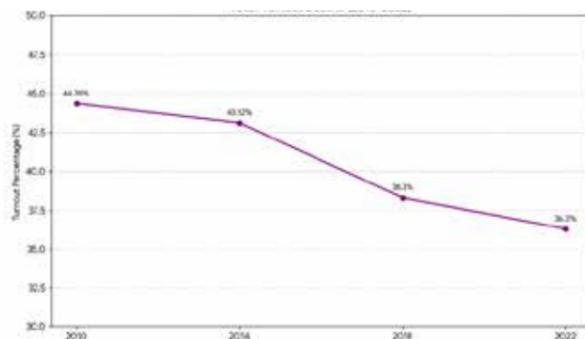
AMO’s Healthy Democracy resources are available online.



Winter 1997 from the Creemore Star Archives

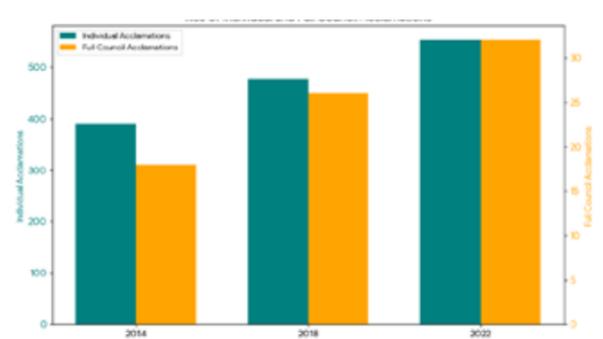
### Current trends in municipal elections

#### Voter Turnout Decline (2010–2022)



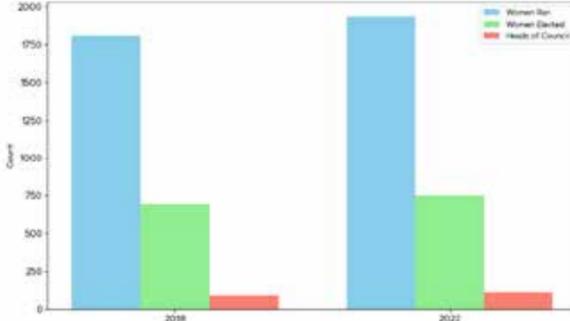
2010: 44.35%  
 2014: 43.12%  
 2018: 38.3%  
 2022: 36.3%

#### Women in Municipal Politics (2018 vs 2022)



2018: 1,808 ran, 698 elected, 92 heads of council.  
 2022: 1,939 ran, 750 elected, 110 heads of council.

#### Acclamation Growth (2014–2022)



2014: 390 individual / 18 full council  
 2018: 477 individual / 26 full council  
 2022: 553 individual / 32 full council

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# Builder's gift faces insurance hurdles

By Bonnie MacPherson

What started out as a gift to the community has turned complicated for a local builder. When **Gord Zeggil** of Mountain Ridge Homes first heard about a campaign to rebuild the wooden bleachers at Gowan Park in Creemore, he stepped up and volunteered. Then, according to Parks and Rec Director **Terry Vachon**, "The lawyers got involved."

It was determined that due to concerns around liability insurance and WSIB (Workplace Safety and Insurance Board) regulations, volunteers could not be permitted to work on township property without township supervision. In order to accept Zeggil's offer, the township must enter into a lease agreement with his company, and Mountain Ridge Homes will be required to make a security deposit and provide insurance for the project.

Zeggil is deeply committed to the community and says he is happy to donate his time and that of his employees. "I just want to make it really clear that I am not making any money on this. Between the free labour and fundraising to cover the cost of materials, we should be able to deliver this project at no cost to the township."

When local resident **Zak Hayward** learned last summer that the wooden bleachers at Gowan Park were slated to be demolished and replaced with



Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

## Gord Zeggil

low-profile aluminum bleachers, he approached council with a plea to rethink the plan. A petition asking for the character of the ball park to be maintained with wooden bleachers received more than 500 signatures. Zeggil was quick to pledge his support.

The estimated price tag for the redesigned bleachers is \$123,200, well above the \$10,000 originally budgeted. Council has agreed to redirect the initial budget amount to the project, with the remaining balance of approximately \$115,000 to be funded through community fundraising by volunteers and stakeholders.

Zeggil has suggested that a plaque be erected to recognize the support of donors.

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## Annual General Meeting

**Station on the Green Saturday, March 21, 3pm-5pm**

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# Duntroon quarry update

By Bonnie MacPherson

The Walker Aggregate Duntroon Quarry was the subject of another planning meeting at Clearview Township, this time to confirm that the status quo should be maintained.

The Walker operation consists of two quarry licences — the original Duntroon Quarry on the south side of Township Road 91 (formerly County Rd 91) and an expansion quarry on the north side. Currently, all processing and shipping activities take place at the original south-side quarry.

When the north-side expansion was approved, Clearview Township had entered into a legal agreement to close a portion of 91. The closure would have allowed Walker to transfer processing and shipping operations to the north-side expansion once there was sufficient space on the quarry floor to accommodate the plant.

When the north-side expansion was approved, Clearview Township had entered into a legal agreement to close a portion of 91. The closure would have allowed Walker to transfer processing and shipping operations to the north-side expansion once there was sufficient space on the quarry floor to accommodate the plant.

Farris says maintaining the status quo makes sense for a couple of reasons. “Using the existing entrance is safer. By relocating the entrance to the north side, trucks would have to make a left-hand turn off Township Road 91, creating a safety concern. Also, the existing plant is located on the quarry floor and is well screened from the view of passing traffic.”

An official plan amendment is required to permit continuation of processing and shipping from the

south-side location for as long as extraction continues at either site. When the quarries are eventually depleted, the sites will be rehabilitated, and the pits will be allowed to fill with water, becoming man-made lakes.

Township staff have been instructed to prepare the official plan amendment for consideration at an upcoming council meeting. Once approved by the township, the amendment will be forwarded to Simcoe County for final approval.

The planning committee also considered a severance application for 5840 County Road 9, just west of New Lowell. The farm, owned by Stephens and Company, includes a dwelling unit that is surplus to the farming operation.

Consultant **Marie Leroux** of Mountain Ridge Homes, speaking on behalf of the applicant, told the meeting the Stephens family has been farming in Clearview for 75 years, with a mix of crop production and livestock operations. They currently farm 11 parcels totalling 338.3 acres in Clearview, and an additional 44.5 hectares in Adjala-Tosorontio.

The application would sever 0.55 hectares at the southeast corner of the farm parcel at 5840 County Road 9. The retained 43.09-hectare parcel would be combined with the existing Stephens farm on the 3/4 Sideroad. Councillor **Robert McArthur** said: “The fact that the surplus dwelling is located in the corner makes this a very straightforward matter. It’s preferable to carving out a dwelling lot from the middle of a farm.”

The purpose of the rezoning is to prohibit any residential use on the retained portion of the farm parcel. Township staff were instructed to prepare a bylaw for consideration at an upcoming council meeting.



Contributed photo

**Patrick Charlebois** and son **Liam** pose with members of the Canadian Military on Feb. 21. Additional soldiers from the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers School conducted navigation and familiarization activities in the Creemore Feb. 25 to 27.

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✉ [Terry.Dowdall@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Terry.Dowdall@parl.gc.ca)



## CREEMORE CURLING CLUB STANDINGS

Congratulations to Teams Millsap, Fuller, and Jeffrey on their victories Monday night. Despite the wintery weather, there was plenty of warmth and laughter throughout the evening, highlighted by Catherine's entertaining anecdotes from her skating career. A special thank you to our spares—Abbey, Tiffany, and Mel—who braved the snowy conditions to ensure the games could be played.

Good curling, everyone!

| Team      | W-L-T |
|-----------|-------|
| Millsap   | 2-0-0 |
| Jeffrey   | 1-0-1 |
| Fuller    | 1-1-1 |
| Scime     | 1-1-0 |
| Meulendyk | 0-1-1 |
| Leimgardt | 0-2-0 |

On Monday, Jim, Eugene, Joan, and Ed, of Team Meulendyk, threw excellent draw and takeout weighted shots to beat Team Loranger. A closer game between Teams Lambert and Gallagher, with Team Lambert coming out on top.

Wednesday had Team Loranger, with guest lead Paul, outcurl Team Lambert, and guest skip Celeste, for Team Meulendyk, secured another win over Team Gallagher. Good curling everyone!

| Team      | W-L-T |
|-----------|-------|
| Meulendyk | 3-0-1 |
| Loranger  | 2-2-0 |
| Gallagher | 1-2-1 |
| Lambert   | 1-2-0 |



Contributed photo

Winners of the second session in mixed curling were Team McArthur, who went undefeated. The team was awarded the Crevier Trophy, presented by **Karen Crevier** and **Paul Crevier**. Congratulations to Team McArthur, and thank you to everyone who participated this session. From left: **Karen Crevier, Lee Huizinga, Karen Gaudino, Brian Cass, Robert McArthur and Paul Crevier.**

## Summer sport registration roundup

Registration is now open for several youth sports organizations across Clearview Township, with deadlines approaching for families looking to sign up for the upcoming season.

Creemore Minor Baseball will take to the field in May, weather permitting. The season includes 10 games — five home and five away — with the schedule set following a meeting at the start of the season. Registration is open for multiple age divisions based on birth year: 7U (2019–2020), 9U (2017–2018), 11U (2015–2016) and 13U (2013–2014). The 5U division (2021–2022) is currently wait-listed. Registration closes March 31, and payment is required to secure a spot. Organizers note that female players may play down a year if needed.

Clearview Soccer Club is also accepting registrations, with the deadline set for March 8. Divisions for ages five to eight are nearly full. The club is seeking additional players in the nine- to 10-year-old and 11- to 13-year-old divisions, as well as more female players to form four full teams.

New Lowell Minor Baseball Association has opened registration for its 2026 season. Families can register online through the association's website.

Meanwhile, Stayner Minor Baseball is encouraging players to sign up now, with registration closing March 31. Parents and guardians are encouraged to register early, as several divisions are already nearing capacity.

## First Time Home Buyers Seminar

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

at the New Lowell Royal Canadian Legion  
5357 Country Rd 9, New Lowell

Doors open at 6:15 p.m.  
Seminar starts at 6:30 p.m. sharp.

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# Clear views for local skydiving business

By Bonnie MacPherson

An award-winning local business may soon be rebranded to reflect its Clearview Township roots.

Melanie Case and Leslie Farkas of Skydive Wasaga Beach (SWB) appeared before council this week seeking permission for a new landing site on township-owned property at 1585 Klondike Road, Stayner.

Farkas says Skydive Wasaga Beach is already doing business in Clearview, with its base at the Edenvale Airport. The establishment of a new landing site north of the Klondike Park well site and reservoir would cement its presence as a Clearview Township business.

“Our plan is to gradually make the change to Skydive Clearview over a period of two to three months. We have very positive relationships throughout the aviation community and an exemplary safety record, and we’d like to continue to build upon our reputation,” Farkas said.

Farkas added that SWB has the highest standards in the world for its instructors. “There are about 3,000 instructors in Canada and only about 20 who meet our standards.”

Township staff have been instructed to work with legal counsel to draft a lease agreement with Skydive Wasaga Beach for a portion of township-owned land at 1585 Klondike Park Road and to authorize SWB



Contributed photo

to submit a temporary zoning bylaw amendment to change the permitted land use at the site to accommodate a 100-by-100-metre drop zone and adjacent gravel parking lot.

Derek Abbotts, Clearview’s director of planning and building, said the regular statutory process will require a public meeting on the zoning application.

Farkas said the environmental impact of the drop zone will be minimal and the use is compatible with adjacent farming operations. He said the expansion

of Clearview operations aligns with the township’s strategic priority of tourism development, citing the positive economic impact the business has had in its first 10 years.

“On average, we attract 4,000 visitors annually, with each person spending \$120 to \$180 above and beyond the cost of their skydiving adventure. That adds up to more than \$700,000 a year. We’re imagining an advertising slogan like ‘Giving you a Clear View to Beautiful Georgian Bay.’”

## FUN & Games

### Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 11

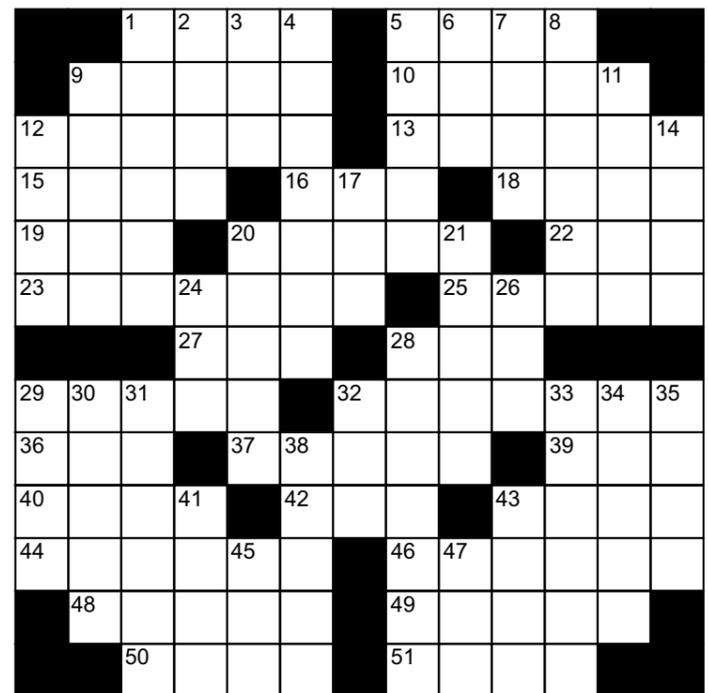
**FRED'S FUNNIES**

**Avocado: Hi! I'm good fat!**

**Bacon: Lights a cigarette, punches Avocado**

### Canadian Criss Cross by Walter Feener

- ACROSS**
- Young men
  - Assist an offender
  - Desire wrongfully
  - Marks with a branding iron
  - Undisturbed by excitement
  - Exert yourself
  - Beach toy
  - Mimic
  - Hosiery shade
  - Take advantage of
  - Not the way it should be
  - Kitten's cry
  - What remains after a part is taken
  - Group of students taught together
  - Police officer
  - Ocean turbulence
  - Be in the driver's seat
  - Dark, gloomy underground cell
  - Vase on a pedestal
  - Clear the blackboard
  - Having reached the date for payment
  - Laugh boisterously
  - Little devil
  - What unfriendly dogs do
  - Drew with acid
  - Bursting with joy
  - Cubic metre
  - Cringe in fear
  - Becomes weaker
  - Let the cat out of the bag



- DOWN**
- Main parts of vehicles
  - Racetrack shape
  - In spite of that
  - Become misty
  - Animals resembling horses
  - Put money on
  - Make money
  - Emotional shock
  - Terminate
  - Vertical surfaces
  - Spiked wheel attached to a rider's boot
  - Report of a recent event
  - Bakery buy
  - Be crazy about
  - Part of an act of a play
  - Cover a cake
  - Move too slowly
  - Think likely
  - Confident
  - Runs, but not fast
  - Makes into a law
  - Four-footed female
  - Ready for publication
  - External
  - Pressing lack
  - Trips in vehicles
  - Moon of Saturn
  - Cry loudly
  - Unit of energy
  - British washroom

### Weekly blast of the Duntroon Hall's Know-it-all-Ball trivia questions

What is the only human body part that can't repair itself?

# Simcoe County celebrates 10 years of promoting inclusion and community connection

The County of Simcoe officially launched its 2026 #ITSTARTS campaign on Feb. 24, as Warden **Basil Clarke** proclaimed March as #ITSTARTS Month and raised the campaign flag at the Administration Centre in Midhurst. The event marks the 10th anniversary of the initiative, celebrating a decade of community-building efforts across the region.

Over the past 10 years, #ITSTARTS has united communities throughout Simcoe County in promoting inclusion, equity and meaningful connection. What began as a grassroots idea has grown into one of the area's most widely recognized community initiatives, reaching more than 4.5 million people. Organizers say the 2026 campaign builds on that strong foundation. In a statement, Clarke said that marking 10 years of #ITSTARTS is a testament to the dedication of the county's Local Immigration Partnership and its many Community Champions. He noted their leadership has helped foster a more welcoming and inclusive Simcoe County, supporting more than 82,000 immigrant residents who enrich local communities every day. Clarke added that as the population continues to grow and diversify, the county is proud of the progress made and looks forward to maintaining the momentum through programs and awareness initiatives like #ITSTARTS.

With the first flag now raised for 2026, #ITSTARTS banners, flags and symbols will be displayed at



Contributed photo

Local dignitaries gather at the county office to raise the #ITSTARTS flag celebrating include and connection.

municipal offices and community spaces across the county throughout March, reinforcing the campaign's message of belonging and inclusion.

Residents, businesses, schools and community organizations are encouraged to take part in #ITSTARTS Month in a variety of ways. Campaign cards can be requested from the Local Immigration Partnership by email, and multilingual digital versions are available on the county's website.

Participants are invited to share messages of inclusion on social media using the hashtag #ITSTARTS and tagging the County of Simcoe on Facebook, Instagram and X. Posts may feature campaign cards, selfie frames or original content that highlights inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility. Community members are also encouraged to host multicultural activities, book clubs, film discussions or other awareness events that promote

inclusivity, and to connect with the county for access to the Simcoe County Diversity Hub, an online portal offering tools and resources to help build inclusive communities.

The county expressed its gratitude to residents, partners and community organizations for their support over the past decade and said it looks forward to continuing to foster connection, understanding and a strong sense of belonging throughout Simcoe County.

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[www.ucstayner.ca](http://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](http://www.jubileestayner.org) • [jubileepres@rogers.com](mailto:jubileepres@rogers.com)

**CLEARVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
9:30 a.m. Sunday  
Pastor Micah denBok  
22 Caroline St. W., Creemore  
705-430-6056  
[clearviewcommunity.church](http://clearviewcommunity.church)

*Knox Presbyterian Church*  
10 a.m. Sunday  
Rev. Carson Hansford  
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705-241-8702

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[www.stjohnscreemore.ca](http://www.stjohnscreemore.ca)

*St. Luke's Anglican Church*  
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22 Caroline St. W., Creemore  
705-352-2759 or 705-466-2206  
[www.stlukescreemore.ca](http://www.stlukescreemore.ca)

*Emmanuel Presbyterian*  
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[compasslifechurch.ca](http://compasslifechurch.ca)

## This week's answers

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

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

Trivia: Teeth



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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Number: #2026-012  
 Vacancy Status: Existing Vacancy  
 Posting Date: February 19, 2026  
 Deadline: March 3, 2026, 11:59 PM

## FINANCE ASSISTANT PROPERTY TAX

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

### Key Accountabilities:

Reporting to the Deputy Treasurer, the Finance Assistant – Property Tax is responsible for providing excellent customer service and administration duties related to property tax collection. A portion of these tasks include processing payments including bank line entries, end-of-day transactions, ensuring tax account maintenance is complete and accurate, entering changes to the Township's property ownership database and assisting in pre-authorized tax payment plan processing. As well, preparing and issuing tax and water certificates as requested.

### Qualifications:

- Diploma in Business or Office Administration, or related field, together with minimum two (2) years of experience in an administration role, preferably in a municipal environment.
- Preference given to certificate of completion of the Municipal Tax Administration Program (MTAP) and or willingness to complete.
- Thorough working knowledge of Microsoft Windows and Office applications and ability to produce professional documents using desktop publishing software.
- Excellent communication, organizational, problem-solving, decision making, time management, interpersonal, public relations and customer service skills.
- Ability to multi-task, cope with interruptions and work under pressure to meet multiple deadlines, exercise discretion and good judgment particularly when handling highly confidential/sensitive information.
- Possess a high level of initiative and personal integrity.
- Knowledge and understanding of provincial legislation, tax and reporting requirements as per the Municipal Act.
- Ability and willingness to travel within the community.
- Satisfactory Criminal Record Check.
- Valid Class "G" Driver's License in good standing with dependable personal transportation.

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

### Salary:

Salary range offered for this position is \$53,382 to \$65,539 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 # 2026-012** to Human Resources **by March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at 11:59 pm** to: [hr@clearview.ca](mailto: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](http://www.clearview.ca)

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**MARCH 5TH-6TH AT 5PM EACH DAY**  
**GAS & OIL, TOYS & SPORTS MEMORABILIA**

From the outfield to the garage. This two-day online auction features sports memorabilia on day 1, followed by gas & oil with trains & toys on day 2. Noteworthy names and nostalgic collectibles, all in one sale — ready for your winning bid!

### Lots begin closing at 5pm Mar 5th and 6th.

Come preview this catalog each auction day from 10am-4pm, or call for an appointment on another day.

Pickup & preview at our Home Office Base 438280 4th Line, Melancthon.

**Features:** Two days filled with autographed sports memorabilia incl. Wayne Gretzky Autographed Titan Hockey Stick; Gordie Howe Autographed Photo – Framed; Chicago Black Hawks #9 Bobby Hull Autographed Hockey Puck; Vintage Fit Bro San Francisco Giants Baseball Jacket; Reebok Chicago Black Hawks #7 Brent Seabrook NHL Jersey; assortment of trading cards from Topps; O-Pee-Chee; and BeeHive; followed by an impressive lineup of antique advertising and petroliana – showcasing standout pieces such as a vintage air meter; Coca-Cola Display Sign; Pressed Steel Minnitoy and more pressed steel trucks from brands like Buddy L; Tonka; Structo and Lincoln incl. L'I Beaver Pressed Steel Dept. of Highways Excavator; Buddy L Pressed Steel Marine Boat Hauler; a large qty of vintage train pieces incl. Athern HO Scale Pennsylvania Railroad Train w/ Original Box; alongside childhood classics like Marx Airborne Commando Hand-Cranked Toy Machine Gun; Magazines and Comics; and so much more!

This sale unlocks for bidding on Feb 6th to bidders from across the globe. Join in on the fun and let us treat you like family too.

Interested in absentee bids? Consigning in an upcoming sale? Joining our Referral Rewards Program? Give us a shout to get started.

Call, text or email anytime!

Call: 519-288-2228 | Text Only: 519-938-1315  
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