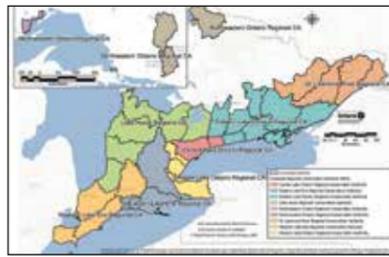


The Creemore ECHO

Friday, March 20, 2026 Vol. 26 No. 12 www.creemore.com

News and views in and around Creemore

INSIDE



Conservation Consolidation
Province to create 9 regional CAs
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Publications Mail Agreement # 40024973

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Staff photo: Bonnie MacPherson

Archer McAleese, 5, of Barrie, holds Buttercup the Ball Python during a Party Safari presentation at the Stayner branch of Clearview Public Library, part of the March Break programming. For more photos, see page 9.

NVCA's flood watch downgraded

Following the early spring snowmelt, water levels have largely returned to normal in most areas of the watershed. The forecasted rain/snow mix may result in elevated flows in all watercourses for the next few days. No major flooding is anticipated.

Elevated water levels from rainfall and runoff will also make local streams and rivers hazardous, particularly near

culverts, bridges, and dams. The public is urged to exercise caution and avoid all watercourses, especially for the safety of children and pets.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority continues to monitor river and stream conditions and will issue additional messages as conditions warrant. For additional information, visit www.nvca.on.ca

Ontario supporting ice storm recovery in Dufferin County

The Township of Mulmur will receive up to \$96,000 in ice storm assistance. The funding is part of the province's \$90 million Municipal Ice Storm Assistance program, to help cover clean-up and emergency response costs from last year's ice storm.

"The ice storm of March 28, 2025 had a profound impact on Mulmur, causing widespread damage and financial loss across the township," said Mayor **Janet Horner**. "Despite the challenges, the storm reminded us of who we are, and we rallied! Neighbours showed up for each other, our emergency management systems kicked into action and our most vulnerable were cared for when they needed it. Due to the widespread hydro outages across the township, our Hockleyville Tournament that week was moved from the Honeywood Arena to Shelburne as our ice melted. Thank you Shelburne for stepping up. We are incredibly grateful for the support provided by the Province of Ontario, Ontario Corps, Search and Rescue, Dufferin County and our surrounding municipalities. The strength, generosity, and unity shown prove that even in moments of hardship, we can lift each other up in meaningful ways."

Dufferin County will receive more than \$340,000 in ice storm assistance, with funds directed to the County of Dufferin, Melancton, Orangeville and Shelburne.

The storm resulted in widespread damage across central and eastern Ontario, leaving nearly 400,000 homes and businesses without power.

"The March 28 ice storm had a real impact across Dufferin County, from downed trees and significant power



file photo

The ice storm of 2025.

outages to the extensive clean-up required in our communities. This funding will help offset the costs that municipalities across the county incurred responding to the storm and restoring safety for residents. We are continuing to strengthen our preparedness and resilience to future weather events and we are grateful for the province's support," said Dufferin County Warden **Lisa Post**, who is also the mayor of Orangeville.

In June 2025, the Ontario government launched both the Municipal Ice Storm Assistance Program and the Business Ice Storm Assistance Program to help communities impacted by the storm.

"The storm on March 28, 2025, had a real impact on families, businesses and local infrastructure across Dufferin County," said **Sylvia Jones**, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon. "This provincial support will help our municipalities recover costs related to emergency response and clean-up, ensuring communities can rebuild safely and remain resilient in the face of future storms."

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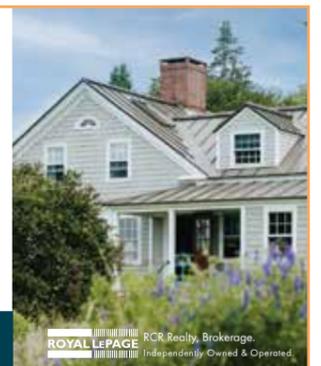
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COMMUNITY Calendar

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Friday, March 20

- **Line dancing** lessons at Avening Hall this week 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.

March 21-22

- March of the Makers **Artisan Market** second annual artisan market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 50 vendors, hands-on workshops, free entry, handcrafted creations, cozy après-ski atmosphere. Georgian Bay Hotel, 10 Vacation Inn Dr., Collingwood.

Saturday, March 21

- Creemore **Farmers' Market** indoor at the Station on the Green from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Intuitive abstract **painting workshop** at Mill Street Art Studio with Sue A. Miller from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$150 + HST (includes all supplies). For more information email Sueamiller65@gmail.com or call 705-727-6161.

Sunday, March 22

- Easter mini **piñata workshop** from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Creemore Legion. \$40 (pinata fill not included). Limited space. Email thepinatapatch@gmail.com to reserve your spot.
- The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto will visit St. Luke's Creemore for the 11:15 a.m. **service**. He will be both celebrant and preacher. This is the bishops's first visit to St. Luke's, and Creemore,. A luncheon will be served following the service.

Monday, March 23

- Stayner **Garden Club meeting** with Laura Bates speaking on "Incorporating Native Plants into Existing Gardens" at Centennial United Church, 234 William St., Stayner. A social begins at 7 p.m., followed by the speaker at 7:30 p.m., with the regular meeting to follow. Attendees are asked to bring their own mug. Membership costs \$10. More information is available on Facebook (Stayner Garden Club), Instagram (@staynergardenclub) or by email at staynergardenclub19@gmail.com.

Tuesday, March 24

- **Pub Trivia Night** takes place every Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Old Mill House Pub, 141 Mill St., Creemore. A \$10 cover includes entry, answer sheets and a chance to win prizes. For more information, call 705-466-5244, visit theoldmillhousepub.com, or join the Pub Trivia Facebook group.

Wednesday, March 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.

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

- New Lowell United Church will host a free **community Easter egg hunt** from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 5227 County Road 9, New Lowell. The event is open to children ages two to 12 accompanied by an adult. Children can hunt for eggs and trade them for a treat. Crafts, games and light refreshments will be available. Bring a camera for photos with the Easter Bunny. Register with Sandra at sandra@bednarek.ca or 705-424-6497.
- **Spring Fling - The Gay Thing** at Avening Hall hosted by the Rainbow Club of South Georgian Bay and Area. Doors open at 7 p.m. with DJ Savage Good starting at 8 p.m. Dance until midnight and bowl on retro bowling lanes. Tickets cost \$30 and are available at ticketscene.ca.
- Stayner Skating Club **Year End Carnival** - "Show me the Money" at 3:30 p.m. at the Stayner Arena. General admission is \$10. Seniors and students, \$7, children 4-12, \$5, ages three and under are admitted free. Tickets are available at the door.

Sunday, March 29

- Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society presents the second concert in the **Chamber Music Series** - a guitar/violin duo featuring Jung Tsai and Daniel Ramjattan. The concert takes place at St. John's United Church at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$40 at pahs.ca or \$45 at the door.
- Creemore Skating Club presents its annual Carnival **Ice Skating Show**, 1:30 p.m. at the Creemore Arena. This years' show features club members (three years of age and older) skating to music from the 1950s to the 1990s. Tickets are available at the door. Cash only. Adults, \$8, seniors, \$5 and students, \$2.

Sunday, April 5

- **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 for more information.

Friday, April 10

- Creemore Curling Club **annual general meeting** at the Creemore Legion. Dinner, \$25. For more information, visit www.creemorecurling.ca.

April 17-18

- Clearview Community Theatre celebrates its 30th anniversary with "The Best Of," a **fundraising concert and silent auction** Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, April 18, at 3 p.m., at Clearview Community Church in Stayner. The show features music for all ages with Broadway and popular hits, ukulele favourites, and a mini-musical by the children's troupe. Tickets cost \$20 at the door. For information, email clearviewcommunitytheatre@gmail.com.
- Centennial United Church will host a **free spring clothing swap** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day at 234 William St., Stayner. Gently used clothing, footwear and accessories for women, men and children will be available. Donations of clean items will be accepted Monday, April 13, to Friday, April 17, at the church. Please use front entrance donation box. Optional cash or canned food donations for the church food pantry are welcome. Volunteers are also needed. Contact JoAnne at 705-446-4514.

Friday, April 17

- Knox Presbyterian Church's **Quilt Raffle** event at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 each or three for \$10. Nancy Loveless, will be speaking about sleeping children and the quilt draw will take place at 8 p.m. Raffle tickets available at *The Creemore Echo* office.

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 five and under admitted free. All welcome.

Saturday, May 2

- **The Big Book Bash** is back, at the Station on the Green from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Drop off gently read fiction and non-fiction books, hardcover, paperbacks and puzzles at The Echo. For info or book pick-up contact Kate at 416-460-1154.



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Costco cleared for spring construction in Wasaga Beach

by Bonnie MacPherson

The Town of Wasaga Beach has amended its Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw to permit construction of a new Costco Warehouse Store at 345 Lyons Court, at Ramblewood Drive, near the casino.

The property, previously zoned Service Commercial–Holding, has been reclassified as Service Commercial.

Wasaga Beach Mayor **Brian Smith** says there has been a high level of public interest in the project.

“We share the community’s excitement,” he told *The Echo*. “As a major employer and economic driver,

Costco would create jobs, expand local shopping options, and strengthen the town’s long-term tax base. At this time, the company continues its due diligence, and the town remains committed to supporting them through that process.”

Site plan drawings submitted to the town call for a 15,000 square metres (approximately 162,000 square feet) store plus gas bar and a parking lot for nearly 900 cars.

The company could not be reached to discuss anticipated opening date, but the zoning bylaw change paves the way for construction to begin this spring.



Survey informs first economic development strategy

by Bonnie MacPherson

Members of the public are being asked to weigh in on a new Economic Development Strategy for Clearview Township. An online survey launched this week is designed to help identify potential opportunities for sustained economic growth.

“The Economic Development Strategic Plan will only be as strong as the voices that shape it. The insights, ideas and lived experiences shared by our residents, businesses and community partners are not just helpful, they are essential,” said Mayor **Doug Measures**.

Briar Kelly, Community Economic Development Officer, said the survey

will be administered by consultants McSweeney and Associates, who will be spearheading development of a comprehensive plan with clear, actionable directions that address specific local challenges and identify future opportunities. McSweeney and Associates was selected in part because of relevant experience working with municipalities and economic development organizations including the County of Simcoe, and in part because of value-added services programming and recommendations focused on the agricultural sector.

Kelly said public input is essential. “We are looking to the community to highlight the realities of operating

a business in Clearview Township, including the strengths, the gaps, and the untapped potential,” she said. “The insight, experiences and ideas for how we can better support business growth from the community input is essential. We’re inviting residents, business owners, and community partners to share their ideas, experiences, and priorities. Their experience and local knowledge will help identify opportunities, challenges, and emerging economic trends. The responses from this survey will inform the direction of township initiatives over the next few years to foster and support business growth across the community.”

Clearview Township recognized the

need for a comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to guide the municipality’s efforts in fostering economic growth, attracting investment and supporting local businesses.

In September 2025, the township applied for funding through the Rural Ontario Development Program (RODP). Total cost of the initiative will be \$62,288, with \$40,000 coming from township reserves and the balance from RODP.

The online survey will be open until March 27 at www.clearview.ca/ecdev. A draft Economic Development Strategy will be presented to township staff by June 2026, with the final report to council expected in July.



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OPINION

School boards, stakeholders call for consultation on proposal to remove trustees

A dozen groups representing all aspects of publicly funded education in Ontario are expressing concerns about recent comments from Education Minister Paul Calandra regarding the potential elimination of elected school board trustees – a system of governance that has been in place longer than Canada has been a country. This change, if implemented, would remove one of the most important ways that families and communities have a say in how their schools are governed. It would also mean that important decisions about education could be made without appropriate public discussion, debate, and awareness.

The groups are united in calling for the following:

- The government and Minister Calandra should undertake broad consultations with education partners before advancing any legislative reforms to school board governance.
- The consultation should include the voices and perspectives of students and parents – including parents of students with disabilities, school boards, education staff, and subject matter experts, and
- The government should outline a detailed plan with clear goals and benchmarks for the return to local democratic oversight at school boards currently under supervision.

“When decisions are being made about our children and their education, they must be made in public, open to public scrutiny,” said Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) president Kathleen Woodcock, also a trustee with the Waterloo Region District School Board. “The people making these decisions should be directly accountable to you, the public.”

The urgency of this issue increases daily, as nominations for municipal council and school board elections are slated to open on May 1.

Trustees have a key role in Ontario’s four publicly funded education systems. Without elected trustees, decisions about school closures, special education priorities, student supports, and the use or sale of public school land would be made behind closed doors, further away from the communities they affect. For example, in school boards currently under supervision, important decisions are regularly being made by a provincially appointed supervisor, who is accountable only to a minister at Queen’s Park, not to local families.

Public education shapes Ontario’s economy, communities, and future. Decisions about curriculum priorities, equity policies, mental health supports, and long-term capital planning require democratic oversight.

When government and partners in the sector come together to discuss and debate ideas openly and work through challenges collaboratively, we arrive at stronger public policy – and that is exactly the point of a healthy democracy.

THE WAY WE WERE



Muriel Day and Gertie Gowan cut the cake at the Creemore Continuation School reunion in 1999.

COMMUNITY

Dufferin County’s 2026 Experimental Acres

Experimental Acres provides Dufferin farmers with educational and financial support to de-risk new practices that improve yield, soil health, carbon sequestration and overall sustainability. The program is intended to champion farmer-led discovery, with small-scale experimentation that can link to larger funding opportunities. Farmer-created projects will be supported through three Experimental Acres funding streams:

Living roots and green cover – Maintaining soil cover helps reduce soil erosion from wind and precipitation. Example practices include cover cropping, intercropping and introducing new crops into the rotation.

Innovation – The innovation stream is for projects that can benefit soil health and do not fit into other categories. Example practices include tarping to reduce tillage intensity, winter crop rotation, and planting tall grass prairie.

Integrating animals on the farm – Integrating

animals on the farm can have many benefits to soil health and promote carbon storage in cropland soil. Example practices include rotational grazing, silvopasture and bale grazing.

Over the previous three growing seasons, Experimental Acres has supported diverse producer-led projects such as suppressing plant competition using ducks, implementing espalier methods, natural pesticide creation, companion planting, cover crops, and green manure. Project profiles are available to explore on the county’s Experimental Acres webpage.

Successful applicants can expect to receive prompt reimbursement of costs to de-risk their trial, and for soil testing and result analysis, research support from staff, and information about related events and programs.

Dufferin County invites farmers to apply to the 2025 Experimental Acres Program by March 27 at www.dufferincounty.ca/county-services/climate-and-energy/experimental-acres.

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

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

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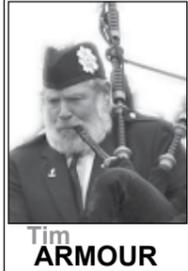
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The Sugar Shed

I know a place deep in the woods,
Beside a bubbling stream.
A place where folks once talked and toiled.
Now silence reigns supreme.
And in this place they made what was

POET LAUREATE



Tim ARMOUR

A pleasure and a staple.
T' was here they laboured to extract
The sweetness from the maple.
I stand beneath the naked trees.
The silence here is vast.
I step inside the sugar shed,
And listen to the past.
Three people I hear talking now
As if they were beside me,
A man, his son, and grandson.
As I find a post to hide me
I eavesdrop on the threesome,
While they're tending to their chore.
They're planning this spring's planting,
Spring of 1894.
The winter wheat will come on soon.
We've had a good snow cover.
And there's forty furrowed acres
To get seeded down in clover.
Outside the door the morgan mare
Is munching on her hay.
She's still in harness, ready to
Hitch up and draw the sleigh.
The air is filled with scents
I can identify so well,
The hardwood smoke, the steaming sap,

That kerosene lamp smell.
A golden spray of sunlight
Now pools out across the sky.
The treetops feel the warmth
And their clear blood again runs high.
The young lad hitches up the horse.
They trudge along the trails.
The horse - she plods along herself
The boy - he fetches pails.
He pours the cold clear liquid
From the pails into the tank
That sits centered on the sleigh,
And you can hear the buckets clank.
Then he runs back with the empties,
Hangs each one back on its tap,
Grabs another one beside it,
Stops to take a sip of sap.
And out beside the sugar shed
His father's axe is ringing,
As it bites into some beechwood
That his granddad's busy bringing.
His mother and his sisters come
To tend the vat and fire.
They've fed the cows. The milking's done.
They've opened out the byre.
The men now head back to the house
As fast as they are able.
There's coffee on the kitchen stove,
And breakfast on the table.
How I treasure these lost places
With their corners frayed and furred;
Precious wrinkles in the fabric
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Rainbow Club hosts *Spring Fling – the Gay Thing*

by **Trina Berlo**

The Rainbow Club of South Georgian Bay is holding a dance party this month at Avening Hall.

Dubbed *Spring Fling – The Gay Thing*, the event will feature DJ Savage Good.

Executive director **Marcie Snyder** said the event and location seemed to provide a good opportunity to reach out to the 2SLGBTQ+ community, friends and allies and spread their reach to create safe, inclusive, fun, celebratory spaces.

“We try to be a trusted place for support and advocate for the local 2SLGBTQ+ community, to be a place where we can connect and bring community together,” said Snyder.

In addition to celebrating and connecting community, The Rainbow Club’s mission is to serve as a trusted resource for support and advocate for the 2SLGBTQ+ community across South Georgian Bay.

The organization behind Collingwood Pride and a number of other events, The Rainbow Club also acts as a hub, providing physical and mental health resources, a guide to queer owned and 2SLGBTQ+ Safe Space-trained businesses.

Snyder said that four free training sessions are in the works, with locations to be determined, with a chance for one to be held in Creemore.

“It’s an opportunity for staff or members of the community to better

learn how they can create safer spaces for the 2SLGBTQ+ community,” said Snyder, adding that it includes topics like pronoun use, the difference between gender identity and sexuality, and breaks down the meaning and history of what 2SLGBTQ+ means.

The Rainbow Club is looking to expand its event base to those who enjoy the outdoors, require accessibility, and some that are family oriented, providing more opportunity to connect across the region.

For more information about The Rainbow Club of South Georgian Bay and to get tickets to *Spring Fling – The Gay Thing* on March 28, go to therainbowclub.ca. Tickets cost \$30. Doors open at 7 p.m. DJ starts at 8 p.m.



Nottawa Elementary School participated in the Coldest Night of the Year last month. The Nottawa Nighthawks Shelter Squad raised nearly \$4,400 for Collingwood Home Horizon’s Barbara Weider House youth shelter, surpassing their goal of \$1,500. Students are also learning about homelessness, budgeting, and housing struggles to help them understand the significance and importance of the Coldest Night of the Year initiative. Home Horizon serves youth in South Georgian Bay who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness, supporting and empowering them with the resources and skills to transition into adulthood.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND 2 – 4 P.M.



Conquer the Everest Challenge: Climb with United Way Simcoe Muskoka

Lace up, rally your team, and get ready to climb for a cause. On Sunday, May 31, the Everest Challenge returns with an adrenaline pumping day of endurance, teamwork, and community spirit, all in support of United Way Simcoe Muskoka.

Set against the stunning backdrop of Horseshoe Valley, teams of two to 10-plus participants will take on an epic mission: climb the height of Mount Everest, 29,092 feet, by repeatedly ascending the mountain at Horseshoe Resort.

Here's how the challenge works: A team of four will complete 24 ascents; A team of six will tackle 16 ascents; A team of 12 will do eight ascents.

Each route to the summit offers sweeping views and a rewarding test of stamina. And every climb counts. At Basecamp progress is tracked in real time, celebrating every summit as teams inch closer to their Everest goal.

At Basecamp, climbers will refuel with complimentary snacks and hydration stations as well as recharge with music and high-energy festivities, creating an atmosphere that's equal parts mountain mission and community celebration.

"We are thrilled to be the charitable beneficiary of the Everest Challenge again this year," said **Brian Shelley**, chief executive and philanthropy



Contributed photo

A team celebrates after 'conquering Everest.'

officer at United Way Simcoe Muskoka. "This event combines adventure with impact. Every step taken helps us support individuals and families across our region. Together, we can reach new heights, for our community."

Funds raised will fuel critical local programs across Simcoe Muskoka. Every ascent represents hope, resilience, and collective impact.

The Conquer the Everest Challenge takes place at Horseshoe Valley

Resort, 1101 Horseshoe Valley Rd. W., Barrie.

Breakfast and registration begin at 8 a.m. and there will be an après climb lunch at Crazy Horse Grill

Registration is open at www.everestchallenge.ca and is free until April 1. Every participant will have an individual fundraising commitment, with a minimum goal of \$200 per person and a recommended goal of \$400 per team member.

Kindergarten registration open

Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has opened kindergarten registration. Children turning four in 2026 can start school this September.

Families can start the registration process on the SCDSB website. When you've completed the online form, your child's school will contact you to finalize the registration. To find out which school your child will attend, use the Home School Locator tool.

Kindergarten in the SCDSB focuses on building daily routines, independence, and meaningful relationships. Dedicated Kindergarten teachers and early childhood educators work together to provide enriched, engaging, and positive learning experiences for all students.

Families with children entering Kindergarten in 2026-27 are invited to subscribe to Kindergarten Connections.

The monthly e-newsletter is filled with tips, key dates, and everything you need to know about starting Kindergarten. To subscribe, visit the Kindergarten page on the SCDSB website.

Details on registration and required documents can be found on the Kindergarten page on the SCDSB website or by calling your local school. Families of students registering for Kindergarten will also be invited to a Kindergarten orientation session at their school in the spring of 2026. These sessions provide families with the opportunity to engage with their school community as their children prepare to enter school.



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Step 4: Attend the show at Gallery Lagom to see your work on display

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Staff photos: Trina Berlo



MARCH BREAK Clockwise: About 130 children were in attendance for the Clearview Public Library's safari party at the Stayner branch on Wednesday, part of the March Break programming. Party Safari based in Horning's Mills brought six critters including a tarantula, bearded dragon, ball python, and box turtle; Sutton Lowe, 8, and his sister Sawyer, 6, from New Lowell with the snake; **Laurie Van Den Hurk** and her pet giraffe demonstrate the virtual edition of her children's stories that are available in English and Swahili; **Kieron Rupke** (library circulation staff) is "on the phone" as she demonstrates one of the pieces of vintage technology now on display in the Creemore Branch; Golden ticket winner **Emily Cormier** with **Aaron Leenaars** during story time with the Stayner Siskins.



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NVCA to join new Lake Huron Regional CA

by Trina Berlo

Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren said he is optimistic about the consolidation of conservation authorities (CAs) for the good of the province as a whole.

“We can’t be selfish and say it isn’t better for us but it will be better for a lot of other communities,” said Van Staveren, who is Clearview Township’s representative on the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), which will be amalgamated into a new Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority next year, after the provincial government introduces legislative amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act (CAA)*. The Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority would integrate six CAs – Nottawasaga Valley, Saugeen Valley, Maitland Valley, Lake Simcoe Region, Grey Sauble and Ausable Bayfield.

Should the amendments pass, the province intends to amalgamate 36 conservation authorities into nine.

The government said, “As a result of our plan for consolidation, the nine regional CAs would deliver more consistent and efficient operations. This improved efficiency and reduced administrative duplication would allow resources to be re-directed to frontline conservation efforts and improved customer service for municipalities and permit applicants, while ensuring decisions continue to be based on sound science and supported by local advice.”

Clearview is fortunate to be governed

by only one conservation authority, said Van Staveren, while other municipalities are located in the jurisdiction of up to five different conservation authorities. He said the government is tired of getting complaints about it.

“It’s hard for a lot of municipalities to deal with it,” said Van Staveren. “We are very lucky in Clearview and this area, with the NVCA, we’ve really cleaned it up, it’s really running well. We’ve got a lot of our problems solved but other municipalities have not been able to do that.”

In recent years the NVCA has modernized, streamlined, and reduced average permitting times down to 17 days.

“We did know there was going to be change. You can’t fight it, you have to go along with it,” said Van Staveren, adding that the CAs are largely funded by municipalities but are governed by provincial legislation. He said there is a lot of community investment in the NVCA.

“We don’t want to lose that money, we want that money to stay in our own area and they’ve agreed to that,” said Van Staveren, adding that there are still a lot of unknowns about how the plans will be rolled out.

Conservation authorities were created to protect communities from natural hazards within their local watersheds. They are responsible for issuing permits for building and development of housing, and sewage systems in area

affected by risks, such as floodplains, shorelines, rivers, and wetlands. They are also responsible for drinking water source protection, flood forecasting, and provide nature related programming.

In a March 10 media backgrounder the province laid out its plans for Improving Ontario’s Conservation Authority System.

“The Ontario government is taking action to protect Ontario’s economy, workers, and communities by making the province the best place in the G7 to invest, create jobs and do business. To achieve this, the government is making investments to build local infrastructure and taking action to bring more consistency and transparency to the cost and timelines of building homes,” states the backgrounder. “CAs are independent, local public sector organizations with significant variation in capacity, governance, transparency, and reliance on municipal funding. Over time, this has created a fragmented system with inconsistent standards and timelines.”

Initially, seven conservation authorities were proposed but based on public feedback, the mapping was adjusted. When the maps were made public in late 2025, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority on Lake Superior was lumped in with Lake Huron, including the NVCA.

The government is now proposing to keep Lakehead Region Conservation Authority intact, rebranded as the

Northwestern Regional Conservation Authority – for a total of eight new entities.

The NVCA board of directors, which is made up of elected officials representing each of the 18 member municipalities in the Nottawasaga Valley watershed, took the position that a consolidation of this scale was not necessary but if it were carried out, it would be better to not link Lake Huron with Lake Superior.

NVCA chair Jonathan Scott, who is a council member in Bradford West Gwillimbury, said the board sees the decision to keep them separate as a positive step.

“My attitude, as board chair is that we have eight or nine months left in this term (of council), we need to be focussed on dealing with the hand the government has dealt us, as collaboratively and effectively as possible,” he said.

Scott said there are a lot of unknowns and a lot of questions yet to be answered.

“It’s going to be a big job to say the least,” he said.

Under the new structure, representation will be shifted to the upper tier municipalities, meaning that lower tier municipalities like Clearview Township would no longer be participating. Where it isn’t already, representation would be from the county, region or single-tier government, therefore 57 upper-tier municipalities would be included in the nine CAs,

(Continues on next page)

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with some overlap remaining – 16 being governed by two CAs, four being governed by three CAs, and one being governed by four CAs.

Scott said he imagines the political structure to be the easiest to manage.

“Even that is going to need to have some nuance because that local small-town rural voice is really important,” he said. “Within the NVCA, we have some really tiny rural townships that bring a unique perspective, given their budget constraints, but also given our agricultural sector, both in bigger towns and smaller townships, that the rural agricultural small-town voice isn’t lost in all of this with everything levelling up to the county level.”

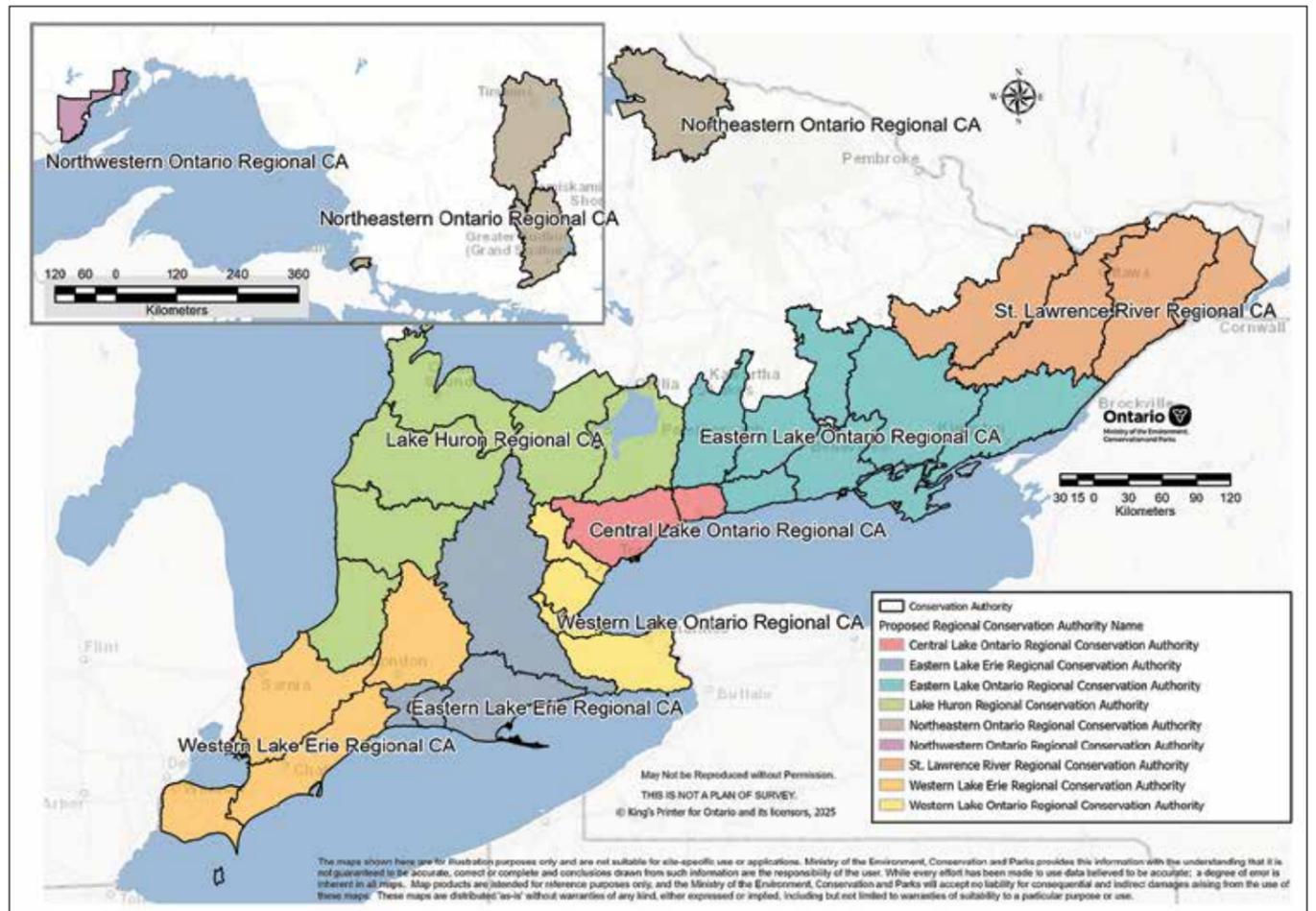
“For better or for worse,” said Scott, “the province has opened up a can of worms. Now, anything in municipal politics is solvable, this is just going to take time and effort, and money, and in a sense is a bit of a distraction from the core business of reviewing planning and permitting files to facilitate residential, commercial and industrial development, protecting the environment, and running educational programs, etc...”

Scott said there may not be a lot of job losses at conservation authorities across the province if regional offices are maintained to serve the existing population and meet development pressures.

“I would assume the easiest way to continue doing that as close to business as usual is to treat this new mega regional authority as the umbrella corporation over and above the six regional corporations,” he said.

In November, the province created the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to lead the consolidation.

The plan is to establish transition committees for each of the new regional



The province plans to introduce legislation that would result in the consolidation of 36 conservation authorities into nine. The Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority would integrate six CAs – Nottawasaga Valley, Saugeen Valley, Maitland Valley, Lake Simcoe Region, Grey Sauble and Ausable Bayfield.

CAs with members to include the chief administrative officer (CAO)/ general manager and a municipally-elected board member from each of the current CAs and any other members as appointed by OPCA. The committees will develop transition plans to prepare for the consolidation, subject to OPCA’s review.

The project executives appointed by OPCA would also serve as inaugural CAO of the regional CA for up to 24

months upon consolidation to ensure stability and continuity in leadership.

The Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks plans to propose amendments to the CAA that would require each regional CA to establish one or more watershed councils to ensure local priorities are identified and considered by the regional CA and create regulation-making authority for the Minister to outline the number, composition, functions, powers, duties,

activities and procedures of watershed councils.

On March 10, the minister announced a new annual \$3 million fund to be administered by OPCA to support the transition and CA system transformation. This funding will ensure OPCA has the tools and resources to support CAs and coordinate a successful transition over the next year with minimal disruptions to CAs’ governance, programs and services.

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NDBL honours best of 2025 at awards presentation

by Scott Anderson

The North Dufferin Baseball League celebrated a successful 2025 season at its annual awards presentation on March 15, recognizing championship teams and individual excellence across the junior and senior divisions.

Provincial success was highlighted during the event, as the Ivy Rangers captured the Senior A Ontario Baseball Association championship, while the Midland Mariners claimed the Senior C OBA title. At the junior level, the Orillia Royals won the 22U A OBA championship.

Regular-season team awards saw the Creemore Padres finish first in the junior division with a 15-2-1 record to claim the Sunnydale Service and Variety Trophy. In senior play, the Ivy Rangers topped the East Division at 13-7-2 to earn the North Dufferin Baseball League Trophy, while the New Lowell Knights finished first in the West Division with an improved 17-4-1 record and received the Ross Houston Memorial Trophy.

Coaching honours in the senior division went to **Pete Kinghan** of the New Lowell Knights, who was voted Bud Anderson Memorial Award winner as Coach of the Year, continuing his reputation as a perennial recipient.

Junior division individual awards were highlighted by **Aidan Farrow** of Innisfil Cardinals 1, who earned the Reg Westbrooke Memorial Trophy as best batter with a .533 average



David Anderson photo

Wyatt Thompson of the Orillia Royals was named junior division most valuable player and received the Statistician's Trophy from statistician **Chris Fafalios** during the North Dufferin Baseball League awards presentation March 15. Thompson also won the best pitcher title in the division.

and also led the division with a .583 on-base percentage. **Nic Guthrie** of the Creemore Padres led the division with 19 runs scored, while **Michael Dawe** of Innisfil Cardinals 1 paced juniors with three home runs. **Wyatt Thompson** of the Orillia Royals was named best pitcher and most valuable player, while teammate **Reese Boyle** received the Vice-President's Trophy as most sportsmanlike player.

In the senior division, **Brett Chater**

of the Bolton Brewers captured The Creemore Star Trophy as best batter with a .524 average and earned his second consecutive Bruce Jenkins Memorial Trophy as most valuable player. **Adam Shaver** of the Owen Sound Baysox led the division with a .644 on-base percentage to win the Bob Doner Memorial Trophy and also topped the league with seven home runs to earn the Bill Lennox Memorial Trophy. **Blake Faulds** of the Orillia

Majors led the senior division with 24 runs scored and received the Evan Jamieson Memorial Trophy.

Pitching and defensive awards went to **Ryan Bartley** of the Owen Sound Baysox, who was named best pitcher and received the Lloyd Patton and Bill Gowan Memorial Trophy, and **Parker Walker** of the Ivy Rangers, who earned his first Carl Gowan Memorial Trophy as best catcher. The Tom Anderson Memorial Award for most sportsmanlike player was presented to **Anson Dupuis** of the Creemore Padres.

A service award was presented to past president **Chris Fafalios** in recognition of his three-year term on the executive in the president's position.

The league's annual meeting followed the awards presentation. There are three new junior entries to bring the division to eight teams. New teams include the Aurora-King Jays, Caledon Nationals and Owen Sound Baysox, joining returning teams Barrie Baycats, Creemore Padres, Innisfil Cardinals 1 and 2, and the Orillia Royals. Richmond Hill will not return this season.

The senior division will remain at 12 teams: Barrie Angels, Bolton Brewers, Caledon Cardinals, Clarksburg Blues, Creemore Padres, Ivy Rangers, Lisle Astros, Mansfield Cubs, Midland Mariners, New Lowell Knights, Orillia Majors and Owen Sound Baysox.

The season begins in early May.

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Gord's Mulmur Community Fund

by Bonnie MacPherson

Two weeks ago, **Gord Gallagher** was riding high. The Mulmur Community Fund which he spearheads had set a fundraising target of \$25,000 and had more than doubled that total. Then came word that an anonymous donation of nearly \$25,000 should have actually been earmarked for the Honeywood Arena Fund.

Gallagher is philosophical about the whole thing. "The Honeywood Arena is one project our fund is likely to support, so no matter which fund reports the donation, the people of the community still benefit."

The Mulmur fund is one of 15 different funds which operate under the Dufferin Community Foundation umbrella. In total, the foundation has nearly \$5.5 million invested, and awards grants of nearly \$200,000 annually.

Each fund must amass at least \$25,000, and the money must be invested for one full year before any grants can be made. Gallagher says his fund is still in "grantable" territory. "We had to get to \$25,000 and we're a little over \$30,000. Early in 2027 we'll strike a committee to decide where the money should go. The only criteria is that it must benefit the citizens of Mulmur." Once the committee is in place, Gallagher predicts they will examine requests in the areas of recreation, the arts and the environment.



Yoga Schedule - March 2026

Monday:
10:30 am Gentle Yoga + Core (Angel)
7:00 pm Prana Restore (Tara)

Tuesday:
5:30 pm Creative Flow (Angel)
7:00 pm Restorative Yoga + Sound (Sass)

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

Thursday:
5:30 pm Flow + Yin (Sinead)

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

Saturday:
10:30 am Yoga Flow (Sass)

Breathwork 7:30pm on Thursday, March 19

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FUN & Games

Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answers on page 15

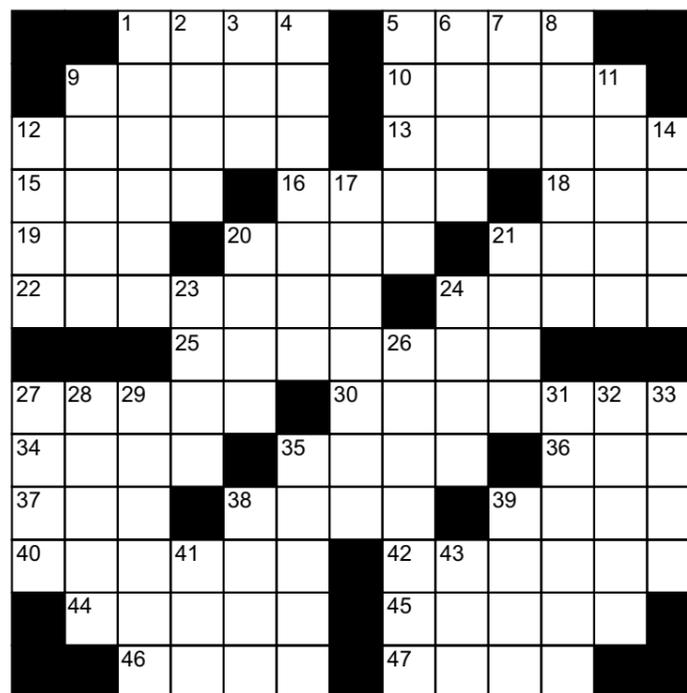
FRED'S FUNNIES

What did Homer Simpson drop on the kitchen floor?
Dough!!

Canadian Criss Cross by Walter Feener

ACROSS

- Influence unfairly
- Cashless transaction
- Move slightly
- Articles of merchandise
- Merchant
- Have in mind
- Eye amorously
- Get off one's chest
- Match yourself against
- Attorney's charge
- Piece of chicken
- Hand over
- Pull toward without touching
- Red ___ (Canadian rock band)
- Make a pig of yourself
- Use a debit card
- Passage taken from a book
- Source of plywood
- Be wide open
- Cenozoic, for one
- Feeling lousy
- Refuse to approve
- Blackhearted
- Put things in order
- Join two pieces of rope together
- Curl one's lip
- Eliminate completely
- Face courageously
- Having reached completion



DOWN

- Heavy dot
- Not in use
- Measure of one's time alive
- Perform maintenance
- Big Band music
- Feel like having
- Special skill
- Annoyed
- Father
- Mocking in an indirect way
- Chesterfield
- Grazing animal
- Ask earnestly
- Return a greeting
- Refer to
- Catch a calf
- Be pitted against
- With no protection
- Turn around quickly
- Beguiling behaviour
- Away from the coast
- Look over and change
- Cost to the buyer
- Story
- Artistic category
- Change direction
- Verve
- Brew "for two"
- For

Trivia: Which Renaissance artist painted The Birth of Venus?



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Men	
Team	win-loss-tie
Verstegen	4-1-0
Fuller	4-1-0
Woodhouse	3-2-0
Crevier	3-2-0
Stephens	2-3-0
Cass	1-3-1
McLeod	1-3-1
Deslippe	1-4-0

Ladies	
Team	win-loss-tie
Millsap	4-0-1
Jeffrey	2-2-1
Meulendyk	2-2-1
Scime	2-2-1
Leimgardt	2-3-0
Fuller	1-4-0

From the Hack: The Creemore Ladies' League wrapped up regular season play on Monday with Gayle Millsap's team coming out victorious. Congratulations, Team Millsap, on a stellar session. The early games saw close play between Teams Jeffrey and Leimgardt with Team Leimgardt winning after some clutch shots by Abbey. Teams Fuller and Scime had a close game, with Team Scime edging out Team Fuller by one point. Congrats to Brooklyn on her debut as Vice! Good curling, everyone.

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CONTRACTOR REPAIRS Barn repairs and jack ups; stonewall and brick repointing; cement repairs and parging. Contact Aaron, 416-666-0104.

No job is too small. Just name it, we do it! Anyone in need of transportation for shopping, medical, etc., service can be provided. Now seeking winter and spring jobs, power washing decks, etc. For best in gardening, pruning, leaf blowing, painting, patio stone and brick work, tree cutting, **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**, spring cleaning and where beauty is concerned call Desmond at Herron's Landscaping 705-430-6613 or 705-606-6633 or email herronslandscaping563@gmail.com.

FOR SALE

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Year Round Delivery
647-224-9500

DEATH NOTICE



STEAD, Barbara Ann – 79, of Creemore, Ontario, passed away March 11, 2026 at Collingwood General & Marine Hospital. Born in Leeds, England, Barbara immigrated to Canada almost 60 years ago and was a proud Canadian citizen. She lived in her beloved home in Creemore for close to 50 years. An avid gardener, many will remember her glorious gardens, which were often featured in the Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society Garden Tours. She is lovingly remembered by her daughter, Sara Maxim, and by family and friends, and was predeceased by her former husband, Albert Maxim. In keeping with her wishes, cremation has taken place, and there will be no funeral service. Her ashes will be privately scattered at a later date.

THANK YOU

Our families would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who joined us to celebrate Vern's life. We were touched by the compassion shown by those who reached out from near and far. The warmth shared at the gathering, the memories exchanged and the support offered reminded us of the caring community we live in. Thank you for all your messages, the flowers, the food brought to our house, the donations. Thank you for standing by us in honouring his legacy and helping us carry forward. With heartfelt appreciation. *The Pawlech and Stephenson families.*

WANTED

Local Creemore family looking for **LONG-TERM HOUSE RENTAL** in the Creemore area. Looking for a 3-4 bedroom home. If you have a property for rent please email brodie.deruiter@gmail.com.

DEATH NOTICE



WINTERS; Amanda Lori Kathryn – March 16, 1988 to March 9, 2026. It is with heartfelt sadness that we announce the passing of Amanda, after a courageous battle with cancer, at Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie on Monday, March 9, 2026 of Singhampton just shy of her 38th birthday. She will be forever missed by her parents Steve and Kathy and brother Wesley. She is the adored granddaughter of Dorothy and the late Bill Elford and Jack and Marg Winters. She will be missed by aunts, uncles and cousins. Amanda was born March 16, 1988 in Owen Sound, with an arrival early to her parents. She was raised on the farm in Singhampton and that was apparent in everything she did. Amanda was a member of the 4H Club, and active clogger with a passion for the outdoors. Amanda loved downhill skiing at Blue Mountain and Devil's Glenn. She graduated from Grey Highlands Secondary School in 2006, her highlight being the completion of the Environmental Studies Program, and then assisting with the program the following year. She attended Fanshawe College in London where she studied Landscape Design, and was gifted and won awards. Amanda's talents were acknowledged when she and her team of classmates received an award for one of their projects. She cherished her job at Loblaws in Collingwood where she made many friends over the last eight years. Amanda was always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. She was an avid baker, often sharing her recipes on social media and she took great pride in her gardens. Many thanks to Dr. Enright, family physician, Collingwood and to Dr. Dawn Ng and her team at the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre in Barrie for their attention and caring attitude during Amanda's difficult journey. The family will receive friends to celebrate Amanda at the Osprey Community Centre on Saturday, May 9 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to the Osprey Community Centre, the Feversham 4H Club or the Church of Christ in Meaford would be greatly appreciated. Online donations and condolences at www.fawcettfuneralhome.ca.

DEATH NOTICE



PECA, Nicola – Passed away peacefully at the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at the age of 88 years. Nick was predeceased by his wife Margaret in 2017. Nick was predeceased by his parents Tomasso and Filomena. He is survived by his 14 children, Nick Jr (Bev), Sidney, Charlotte, Filomena, Donna (Andy), Henry (Libs), Victoria (Dan), Margaret, Jeanette (John), Nicolette, Lina, Ernie (Angela), Linda (Jimmy) and Elvis (Emily). Nick was predeceased by his sister Lina (late Ernesto), and survived by his brothers and sisters Victor (Tina), Donna (late Sam) Silvana (late Domenic) and Claudio (Lynne) as well as many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins from Canada, USA and Italy. Nick and Margaret raised their family primarily in Brentwood and though we are all saddened by his passing, we rejoice knowing that Nick and Margaret are together once again. Friends are invited to join the family at the Carruthers & Davidson – Stayner Chapel, 7313 Highway 26, Stayner on Thursday, March 19, 2026 for visitation from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Funeral Mass will be held at St. Patrick's Parish, 215 Pine St., Stayner on Friday, March 20, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Georgian Triangle Humane Society would be greatly appreciated. To sign Nick's Book of Memories, please visit www.carruthersdavidson.com.

This week's answers

6	9	8	2	3	1	4	5	7
2	4	1	9	5	7	3	6	8
5	3	7	8	4	6	9	1	2
9	1	3	6	7	2	8	4	5
7	2	4	5	8	3	6	9	1
8	5	6	1	9	4	7	2	3
1	7	2	3	6	9	5	8	4
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Trivia: Sandro Botticelli

**ALL NOTICES
ARE POSTED
ONLINE.**

CREEMORE.COM



217 Gideon Street, Stayner ON L0M 1S0

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

705.428.6230

WWW.CLEARVIEW.CA

Communications available in alternative formats upon request.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Number: #2026-014
 Vacancy Status: Five Vacancies, Existing
 Posting Date: March 12, 2026
 Deadline: March 26, 11:59 PM

SEASONAL BEAUTIFICATION LABOURERS

Clearview Township is currently seeking five (5) seasonal full-time (40 hours per week) Beautification Labourers from April 1st, 2026, to October 31st, 2026. This is a unionized position within the CUPE Bargaining Unit. The primary location of work is based at the Stayner or Creemore Arena, located at 269 Regina Street, Stayner, and 218 Collingwood Street, Creemore; however, the day-to-day work locations vary across the Township based on operational requirements.

Key Accountabilities:

Reporting to the Supervisor of Parks and Recreation Maintenance, the Beautification staff are responsible for the maintenance of community spaces and supporting Township beautification projects. The Beautification staff is also responsible for ensuring all streetscapes and gardens are clean and well-kept, performing outdoor cleanup at various facilities and public areas, and assisting the full-time Maintenance staff with lawn maintenance, including whipper snipping and grass cutting.

Qualifications:

- Minimum Grade 12 Education and two (2) years of demonstrated experience in maintaining streetscapes, parks, and outdoor spaces.
- Post-secondary courses in Recreation Leisure, Recreation Facility Management, Horticulture, Environmental Science, or a similar field are an asset.
- Strong ability in the safe operation of power and hand tools, push lawn mowers, riding lawn mowers, whipper or weed snippers, power washers, and street sweepers.
- Knowledge of the safety standards and precautions pertaining to the use of tools and safe work practices.
- Ability to perform heavy manual labour, including bending, stooping, reaching, and lifting heavy objects.
- Physical strength and ability sufficient to meet job requirements for extended periods under uncomfortable conditions in all types of weather.
- Proven self-starter with strong problem-solving, organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills.
- Ability to work constructively in a team environment and act independently as required.
- Current WHMIS training.
- Valid Class "G" Driver's License in good standing with access to a reliable vehicle.
- Satisfactory Criminal Record Check.
- Experience in preventative maintenance management would be considered an asset.
- Working at Heights and Chainsaw Safety Certification are an asset.

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

Wage Rate:

Currently \$24.21 per hour (2026), plus 4% vacation pay.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates are invited to forward their resume and a covering letter quoting **job # 2026-014** to Human Resources **by March 26th, 2026, at 11:59 pm** to: hr@clearview.ca

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

Please visit: www.clearview.ca



FILL OUT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY BY MARCH 27

Clearview Township is developing an Economic Development Strategic Plan and seeking community input through an online survey to help identify and define potential opportunities for sustained economic growth.

We invite you to complete the survey available online until March 27 at www.clearview.ca/ecdev

The Economic Development Strategic Plan will establish a clear, actionable, and comprehensive direction that responds to changing market conditions, addresses unique local challenges, and identifies future opportunities. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and is invaluable to the development of the Economic Development Strategic Plan.



For more information, please contact:

Briar Kelly
Community Economic Development Officer
 Clearview Township
 (705) 428-6230 ext. 266
bkelly@clearview.ca