

The Creemore ECHO

Friday, January 13, 2012 Vol. 12 No. 02 thecreemoreecho.com

News and views in and around Creemore



Alicia Lawson and Brenda Wilson at the Creemore Library.

E-readers made E-asy at Library

By Christopher Greer

Do you find the idea of reading books on an electronic device scary and confusing? If so, the Clearview Library wants to help.

Last Saturday at the Creemore branch, four curious people attended a free e-reader seminar given by **Alicia Lawson** as part of the library's Community Access Program.

"A lot of people received them for Christmas, but don't know how to use them," Alicia says of such popular devices as Kobo and Kindle readers, as well as tablets and smart phones. The seminars, which are being held at all three branches – Creemore, Stayner and Sunnidale, aim to show book lovers how easy it is to download

books, CDs and DVDs from the library collections.

According to Alicia, all you need is a computer with internet access, a library card (with no fines), the e-reader itself, a USB cable, Adobe Digital Editions, or a similar software program called Overdrive; and, if you're using Adobe Digital Editions, an Adobe ID.

If it sounds a little strange, or if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your local branch of the Clearview Library.

Like it or not, e-readers are here to stay. So if you missed last week's seminar, the Creemore branch is planning another one soon. And Alicia will be available for free appointments at all three branches until the end of March.

Copper taken in a break and enter

Members of the Huronia West Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police are requesting the assistance of the public in solving this crime.

Sometime between evening hours of Tuesday, January 3 and the morning hours of Thursday, January 5, unknown person or persons broke into the Tim-Br Mart Construction Store in the hamlet of Glen Huron. It has now been

determined that a 5" in diameter 12 foot long copper pipe was stolen.

If you have any information in regards to this crime or others please contact the Huronia West O.P.P. at (705) 429-3575 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (1-800-222-8477) or submit your information online at www.sdm-crimestoppers.com.

INSIDE THE ECHO



Heart and Soul
A concert you won't want to miss.
PAGE 7



A-pear-atif
A nice light dessert for the new year.
PAGE 8

Publications Mail Agreement # 40024973

A PLEA TO SAVE HISTORIC BRIDGE

By Barry Burton

The Collingwood Street Bridge is 99 years old this year. Will it be around for the residents of Creemore to celebrate its 100th anniversary? Not if the County of Simcoe has its way. The County has the bridge scheduled for destruction later this year, to be replaced by a concrete overpass.

This steel structure that has serviced our community for almost a century was built in 1913 by J. J. Dummond of Brentwood, who was a local contractor and Justice Of The Peace for the County of Simcoe. This unique structure is one of the few steel riveted bridges remaining in Ontario.

The cement foundation still bares the impression of "JJ Dummond Contractor June 1913." His great grandson Chris Vanderkeys of Brentwood still possesses the metal letters used to create the impression. Until recently, the bridge maintained its required load rating. It has since been reduced to a 5 ton limit because of its age.

When I got wind of the scheduled concrete replacement, I helped form a committee to try to save the bridge and to find ways to restore the structure to its original grandeur and load capabilities.

(See "Local experts" page 3)



Anna Alonso at the Public House in Terra Nova.

A dining room with a view

By Christopher Greer

At a scenic crossroads in Mulmur Township, hikers and drivers enjoying the beauty of the Niagara Escarpment may be surprised to stumble upon a thriving restaurant in the village of Terra Nova.

The Terra Nova Public House has been open for business since August

20th and is already – thanks to the perseverance of its staff and the support of the local community – experiencing a great deal of success.

Owners **Anna Alonso** and her husband **Troy Gallimore** have lived in the building where the restaurant is housed for 16 years. "I fell in love with

(See "Shelter" page 6)



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COMMUNITY Calendar

Submit your community events
 info@creemore.com
 phone: (705) 466-9906
 fax: (705) 466-9908

This Weekend

- Saturday, January 14**

 - **Curiosity House Story Hour** from 10:30 to 11:15 am. Children from 18 months to 6 years of age enjoy a story with Miriam and a small craft activity.
- **CreemoreCentric 2012 Art Show.** Drop in and see the local artwork and make a bid on the Silent Auction to own one. Show runs to January 30. 705-466-5555 or www.madandnoisy.com. 154 Mill Street.
- Sunday, January 15**

 - **Church Services** on page 5.

Upcoming Events

- Monday, January 16**

 - **Nia with Ayrle MacEachern** at the Station. Call 705-444-0550 or mayrlie@hotmail.com for details.
- Wednesday, January 18**

 - **A free workshop teaching farmers the value of windbreaks and how to construct them** will be held from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, hosted by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Members of the farming community are encouraged to register for this free seminar by contacting **Ryan Post** of the NVCA at 705-424-1479 or rpost@nvca.on.ca.
 - **Creemore Horticultural Society Annual General Meeting** at 7:30 pm at St. Luke's Anglican Church Hall. This is one of the most important meetings of the year so I encourage all members to come to this meeting so that amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws can be approved. After the AGM, we will be discussing "Your Favourite Garden Book and Why". Bring your book and tell us why it is your favourite. Please call Charlotte Vorstermans for more information at 705-466-2756.
- Thursday, January 19**

 - **Clearview Community Policing Committee Monthly Meeting** at 7 pm in the Council Chambers of the Clearview Administration Building, Stayner. For more information, email policingcommittee@yahoo.ca. All are welcome to attend.
- **2012 Jazz & Blues Society** presents **Chuck Jackson**, the vocalist and harp player with the **Downchild Blues Band** joined by Downchild keyboardist **Michael Fonfara**. Blue Mountain Foundation for the Arts Centre, 163 Hurontario Street, Collingwood, from 7 to 9 pm. Tickets are \$15, \$20 at the door. Monthly concerts third Thursday of the month. 705-445-3430 for more information.
- Saturday, January 21**

 - **Aware Simcoe** invites you to a panel discussion on the topic "**Sprawl: The Monster That's Consuming Simcoe County**" with panellists Claire Malcolmson, Environmental Defence, John Stillich, Sustainable Urban Development Association and David Strachan, Midhurst Ratepayers Association, will discuss how our municipal councils can build healthy communities within ecological limitations. Come and share your ideas from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Angus Community Centre. For more information email aware.simcoe@gmail.com or www.aware-simcoe.ca.
 - **Turkey Shoot** at the New Lowell Legion at 10 am. For more information call 705-424-0471.
- Sunday, January 22**

 - **Come and Go Tea celebrating the 90th Birthday of Frances (Lemmon) Evans** from 2 to 4 pm. at St. Luke's Anglican Church Hall, 22 Caroline Street West, Creemore. Best wishes only please.
- Tuesday, January 24**

 - **Clearview Soccer Club 2012 Registration** from 6 to 8 pm at Creemore Arena, New Lowell Firehall & Stayner Arena. See ad on page 3 for details. Registration on Feb 13 and March 8 also.
- Wednesday, January 25**

 - **The Caregiver Support Group** will meet at VON Adult Day Program (Sunset Manor), 49 Raglan Street, Collingwood from 1:30 to 3 pm connects family and friends caring for a person who is elderly or frail or with various stages of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease to education and coping strategies in a safe place, while sharing challenges and successes. For more information call Fiona at (705) 444-2457. **Alzheimer Society of Greater Simcoe County** and the **Victorian Order of Nurses, Adult Day Program, Collingwood.**
- Friday, January 27**

 - **Bruce Ley** comes to the Orangeville Town Hall Opera House for his "**It's All About Love**" concert at 8 pm. Featuring **The First Friday Soul Singers**. Tickets are available at the Opera House Box Office by calling 519-912-3123. Adults \$30, students \$15.
- Saturday, January 28**

 - **A Fundraising Beef Dinner** for Colin and Tanya Walker who lost their barn, livestock, and family pets last fall will take place at the Stayner Evangelical Missionary Church. Two dinner seatings – 5 & 7 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7 for children 12 and under, under 2 are free. Advanced ticket sales only. Tickets are available by calling the church at 428-3741 or at *Creemore Echo*.

Plan to spend 2012 in your community! Add the *Creemore Echo* Community Listings to your google calendar.

www.thecreemoreecho.com



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 Wednesday, Jan. 18th from 7pm - 9pm

Taoist Tai Chi afternoon beginner classes will begin on
 Monday, Jan. 23rd, 1:30 - 3:30pm
 Evening beginner classes will start on
 Wednesday, Jan. 25th, from 7 - 9pm

All classes are at the Station on the Green
 or phone Laura Walton @ 466-5011

www.taoist.org

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Collingwood Street Bridge at the south end of Creemore

Local experts make case to repair old steel bridge

(Continued from page 1)

It may surprise some to learn that the Creemore area is home to several people with world-class expertise in steel bridge engineering, construction and restoration, and several of them enthusiastically joined our committee: **John Hillier**, a landscape architect and principal for du Toit Allsop Hillier, whose company provides architectural design to structural engineers for heritage and landmark bridges including the Laurier and Corktown Bridges crossing the Rideau Canal in Ottawa; **John Boote**, a structural engineer who oversaw the construction of the Bluewater Bridge from Sarnia, Ontario to Port Huron, Michigan; and **Jack Mesley**, a steel bridge construction expert and consultant with years of bridge building experience from all over the world. **Chris Vanderkeys** got involved from a historical point of view as it was his great grandfather who built the bridge, and Clearview councillors **Thom Paterson** and **Brent Preston** also joined the group.

In September of 2010 the County filed a Notice of Assessment to the Ministry of the Environment outlining their intention to replace the bridge with a two-lane concrete structure. I filed an official objection with the Ministry, and started a petition for

local residents to sign. Within a short time there were over 200 signatures on the petition. MPP Jim Wilson threw his support behind having the bridge declared a heritage structure and personally added his signature as he presented our petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The Legislative Assembly later told us that declaring the bridge a heritage structure is the responsibility of our municipal government.

The MOE concluded that the Environmental Assessment was incomplete and so the County temporarily withdrew their notice. What the experts in our group found was that the Collingwood Street bridge could be restored to modern load capabilities, a sidewalk could be added and this piece of our heritage preserved for half of the over two million dollars that the County has budgeted for replacement. We went before Clearview Council to tell them about this alternative, and they passed a motion for us to meet with the County. We made a presentation to the County Corporate Services Committee which is chaired by Clearview Mayor **Ken Ferguson**, but it was clear that County staff had already made up their mind.

We met individually with the County engineers and consultants who are overseeing the project and

laid out our plan for a cost effective restoration. The more we studied the bridge and the more we met with people involved in the plan to replace it, the more we were convinced that restoration would be as safe, cheaper and would be less environmentally intrusive than replacement, and maintain the heritage value of this local landmark, compared to an ugly generic concrete overpass. Unfortunately, our efforts have failed to convince County staff.

We were recently informed that the County intends to proceed with demolition and replacement. But the fight is far from over. Restoration is supported by the 200 plus Creemore residents who signed our petition, by our local members of Council, and by our provincial MPP. All we need to do is convince our County representatives to save this piece of our history. The great thing is that saving our bridge will also save us, the taxpayers, a lot of money.

Watch for meetings in the near future and please let our County reps know how you feel about our bridge.

For more info contact **Barry Burton** at 705-466-2718 or burtonmobile@sympatico.ca or **John Hillier** at 705-466-5510 or jhillier@dtah.com.

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GOODFELLOW OSTER - Lorne, Sheila and big sister Eve
are pleased to announce the arrival of
Hayden William
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born November 24, 2011
at Royal Victoria Hospital
weighing 6 lbs. 15 oz.
Hayden is welcomed by
grandparents Marybelle and Don
Goodfellow of Lisle and spoiled
by his aunts, uncles and cousins.
Grandparents Bill and Shirley Oster
aren't here to welcome him, but we
are sure they would be proud.

The Creemore

ECHO

A community newspaper
proud to support the arts
in and around Creemore.

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CLEARVIEW SOCCER CLUB

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2012 REGISTRATION

Tuesday, January 24, 2012
Monday, February 13, 2012
Thursday, March 8, 2012
6:00pm to 8:00pm
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Early Bird Rates (January 24, 2012 ONLY)
\$90.00 for those born 2002-2007 (Local)
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A uniform deposit of \$25.00 is required - CHEQUE post dated for
August 31, 2012 made out to Clearview Soccer Club.
First year registrants please bring proof of age.

visit www.clearviewsoccerclub.com to
download and print the registration form
Contact John Underhill 466-2198 or
Lisa Hockley 466-5815 for information

OPINION & Feedback

Feedback and old photos welcome

info@creemore.com

call (705) 466-9906

fax (705) 466-9908

EDITORIAL

Muddling Along

It's no secret to many of you that Brad Holden, the Echo's illustrious editor, is facing some significant health challenges in the next couple of months. The good news is that despite the fact he will undergo at least a couple surgeries, his condition is not life-threatening and we expect that Brad will recover fully and be back in the saddle soon. The not-so-good news is that the *Echo* is going to have to muddle along without him until then.

To that end, with her typical ingenuity, publisher Sara Hershoff has come up with a Three Part Plan to ensure that you, dear reader, are as well served as ever during these trying times.

The first part of the plan involves a talented young intern, Christopher Greer, who, while taking a break from his studies at University of Toronto, is eager to learn what he can about journalism at one of the few independent community newspapers left in the country. Christopher (yes, he's a local; see his brief bio below) will be reporting and writing on news and events in and around Creemore.

Part two will see yours truly, Cecily Ross, (experienced editor or longtime hack depending on your point of view) guiding Christopher as he explores this exciting new career possibility.

The third part of the plan involves all of you – from Bryan Davies photos, to Thom Paterson's news tips to Elaine Colliers' recipes. Because cliché or not, it does take a village, a village like Creemore to produce a newspaper like this one. So all of us here at the *Echo* – Sara, Georgi, Fred, and for the next little while, Christopher and I – would like to thank all of you for everything you do to make this community better.

And to Brad, Nandi and the twins, our very, very heartfelt good wishes.

THE WAY WE WERE

This week we hand over this section which is usually reserved for old pictures to another sort of memorabilia.

May Johnston provided this butter wrapper from the 40s or 50s to us. The butter that was wrapped up in this paper was produced at the local creamery which now houses Mad River Pottery.



REG. NO. 114

THIS BUTTER IS MADE FROM
Pasteurized Cream, and to retain its
original flavor should be kept in a cool
place entirely away from vegetables and
other like products.

One Pound Net

LETTER

Apology Accepted

To the Editor

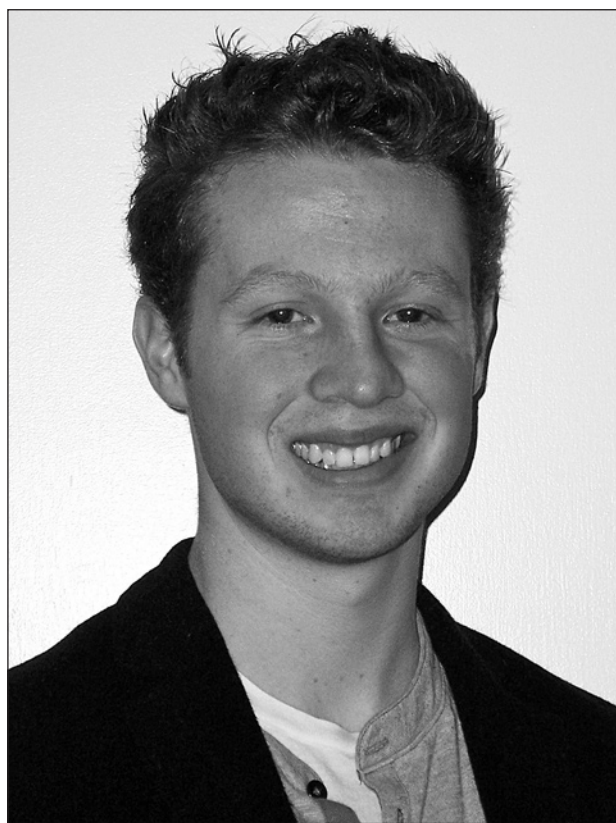
Thank you Brad for your gracious editorial and placement of the "letters to the Editor" in last week's *Creemore Echo*. It helped to restore the readership's confidence that your newspaper continues to be an objective vehicle, not only for reporting, but for the community to express and have heard, its opinions about the quality and content of reporting news.

Ann Warren, Duntroon

Send your letters to *The Creemore Echo*, 3 Caroline Street West, Box 1219, Creemore, ON L0M 1G0, email to info@creemore.com or drop them off at the Echo office. **Letters must include the sender's full name.**

All letters submitted to the *Echo* are not necessarily published. The *Echo* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

The Echo welcomes intern and interim staff this week



Cecily Ross and Christopher Greer will be helping out at the *Creemore Echo*.

By Christopher Greer

I was born in Brampton and lived in Mulmur Township in the hamlet of Terra Nova until I was five before moving with my family to Creemore, which I have called home ever since.

I remember being sorry to leave my Terra Nova home, where a brook babbled through the front yard and the trails in the surrounding woods were filled with the promise of adventure (and cut knees). But, in Creemore, I have found a real sense of community.

During my not-so-many years here, I attended both public schools; was a minor soccer referee; participated in the Creemore Mocks film festival; played hockey and soccer; and worked as a bus boy at Chez Michel. Still, you may not recognize me as I have spent a good deal of time away from Creemore, both in Toronto – working on a (yet to be completed) degree in English and cultural anthropology at Trinity College – and Paris, where, like countless others before me, I went chasing the ghost of Hemingway this past summer.

I hope that by working at the *Echo* I will become all the more involved in the community, and I invite all of you to approach me with your stories.

I realize now that there are trails (and adventures to be had) in Creemore too, if only you know where to look.

The Creemore
ECHO
thecreemoreecho.com



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Creemore Big Heart Seniors

Christmas and New Year's are now over for another year, and we met for our first get-together since before Christmas, and there were 45 members present, all set to play bid euchre.

Before cards started, we had a mini-election when **Barb Pilon**, who looks after purchasing and replenishing our candy stash, and who had graciously volunteered to stand for election as Assistant Secretary, found that, because of distance, weather and picking up passengers, she was short of time for doing the other jobs that **Barb Cudmore** had previously handled, so Barb P resigned her position. On a motion by **Elsie Longson**, seconded by **Beulah Dunn** and passed by a show of hands, Barb C is again back in her former position. And, as a bonus, Barb P (and **Phyllis Seed!**) is still going to keep our sweet tooth mollified. **Bob Veale** then mentioned that **Lucy Young** had had a fall, and had broken her ankle. She is still in hospital, and **Kevin Keogh** is going to hand deliver our "Get Well Soon, Lucy" card to her. Also, our condolences goes out to **Irene Dolson** and her family on the passing of Irene's brother-in-law, Don Strongman, of the Alliston area. Don had been married to Irene's sister, Jean (Dunstan) Strongman

The 50/50 draws went to **George Blakney**, **May Johnston**, **Tom Sharpe**, **Audrey Tidd**, **Sheila Fenton**, **Toosje Vasvari** and **June Hartley**.

Moon shots were played by **Audrey Tidd**, **June Hartley**, **Dave Smith**, **Marion Kelly**, **Janice Stephens**, **Marge Douglas (2)**, **Earl Bentley**, **Wilma**

SENIORS



Sylvia
GALE

Zeggil, Roy Veinot, Marg Hope, Bob McNicol and Effie Taylor. Effie won the travelling prize, and Dave scooped the Sidewinder's swag.

High scorers were **May Johnston 323**, **Evelyn Warden 306**, **Audrey Fines 304** and **Marcie Cameron**

284. Low was **Norma Johnston** with 76.

Our next potluck lunch will be on Thursday, January 19 at 12 noon. So now we just have to hope that the weather holds so everyone can make it.

The Creemore Legion is holding a supper on Friday, January 13 from 5 to 6:45 pm. This is everything from the soup through to beverage and dessert – and featuring one of Quebec's great dishes – tortierre – which is really tasty meat pie. Please call ahead so there will be enough tortierre.

One thing we forgot to put into the Seniors News (before Christmas) was to wish all our sick, shut-in and distant members (both past and present) a lovely Christmas and a really comfortable and comforting 2012. There are many that fit this category, such as **Roy Summers**, **Vera Pettigrew**, **Donelda Mackey**, **Thelma Lightheart**, **Winston Ferguson**, **Marion** and **Russ Wilkinson**, etc, etc.

Bob Veale announced today that Alice Mackay, a very long time member of Seniors, had passed away. Alice was quite possibly an original member of Seniors from when it was started. If not an original member, then certainly a very early member. Alice would have turned 108 this coming September. She was predeceased by her husband,

Herman, and is survived by her daughter Shirley, who presently resides at Creedan Valley. Alice was also related to **Hazel Middlebrook**, possibly through the Lees. Alice was a very slight built lady, and a good puff of wind could have blown her away, and my mother, Kate Jordan, who would have turned 100 on December 31, wasn't very big either, but they were good friends for years, and between Mother and Alice, they could move mountains. (There in lies the reason most of the grandkids called Mother "Granny Dynamite"). Then when Alice and Kate

got together with Mildred Scott and Jean Carmichael – well, it was time to go along with their plans, or else duck and run for cover! I can still hear Alice saying, "Well perhaps, Sylvia, you would like to - - -" and I knew that my "I don't think so" just wasn't going to slow them down, and so we would be off on another endeavour – or adventure. These ladies have all passed away, and I sometimes wonder if whoever is in charge of wherever these ladies all landed has any idea of the hijinx they are capable of initiating - and of the futility of trying to stop them!

Clearview Council News

By Sara Hershoff

Clearview Councils's first meeting of 2012 took about a half an hour to complete with only one item of significance to the operations of the Township.

A resolution was passed to create a new position within the Township to manage the Stayner pool, all of the parks within Clearview and arenas in both Stayner and Creemore. Discussion on the newly minted position of Facility Manager took place in an incamera session on Monday, January 9 as it dealt directly with the names and compensation of staff members.

Thom Paterson reported that the applications deadline for the Community Assistant Grants has passed and the

requests are being almost fully compiled. Approximately \$65,000 was requested from various organizations but Paterson says that only about \$28,000 of the money asked for falls under the categories required for the grant. With \$20,000 to be distributed many of the groups who placed requests may see them fulfilled. All of the other requested will be forwarded to the appropriate departments and considered under their budgeting processes.

The rest of the meeting included reminders of winter events including The Mayor's Run at the Easter Seals Snowarama at Pretty River Provincial Park on January 28 and Sunnidale Winterama the first weekend in February.

LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTORY



Sunday, January 15

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Speaker: Rev. Norma Godbold
(January 22: New Lowell with Speaker
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Sunday School for all ages
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Worship Service 11 a.m.

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All are welcome

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Rev. Charles Boyd

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WINDBREAKS IMPROVE SOIL AND CROP YIELD

Find out how at a free workshop

Farmers can reduce expensive losses caused by wind and water erosion by planting trees in key locations in a formation known as a windbreak. A free workshop teaching farmers the value of windbreaks and how to construct them will be held on Wednesday, January 18 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, hosted by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

Windbreaks do exactly what they say – break the rush of wind over farmland, preventing loss of topsoil, seed and plants.

“Windbreaks work their magic by improving soil moisture as well as soil and air temperatures, and decreasing evaporation and wind speed,” says **Shannon Stephens**, Healthy Waters Program Coordinator with the NVCA. “Research has consistently shown that using windbreaks results in higher crop yields, earlier planting, faster germination, earlier flowering, better pollination and reduced pesticide spray-drift.”

Windborne soil is not only a loss for farmers; it also winds up in lakes and streams, where ingredients such as phosphorous can damage the habitat of fish, insects and other water-dwellers. Windbreaks can improve the quality of water far downstream from where they are planted.

The workshop will have national, provincial and conservation authority experts presenting on all aspects of windbreaks to increase understanding of their value and to provide expert advice on how best to construct and cultivate them over the long term. Speakers will include: **André Vézina**, Agroforestry Specialist; **Dr. John Kort**, Shelterbelt Biologist and Agroforester; **Brad Peterson**, Environmental Management and Landscape Architecture; **Nathan Munn**, Forestry Specialist with the Grand River Conservation Authority; and **Dr. Jason Deveau**, Application Technology Specialist with OMAFRA.

Members of the farming community are encouraged to register for this free seminar by contacting **Ryan Post** of the NVCA at 705-424-1479 or rpost@nvca.on.ca.



SHELTER FROM THE STORM Like the Bob Dylan song played at the Terra Nova Public House, **Anna Alonso** and the other staff are happy to offer “a place where it’s always safe and warm”, a refuge from the “wilderness” outside.

(Continued from page 1)

the house the first time I saw it,” says Anna, although she admits it was in fairly rough shape at the time. “It was basically just a dirt floor and clapboard walls, but I always had the idea that I wanted to do something with the space.”

The building has a storied history, serving at different times as a general store, antique shop, gas station, and post office. Now, as a restaurant, it has a rustic charm, the most prominent feature being the original wooden roof beams.

“We didn’t want too much affectation,” Anna says of the décor, which includes walnut tables and a wall made of refurbished stones, “because the beauty is in the nature all around.”

The renovation was not an easy process, involving “a lot more red tape” than expected, says Anna. “There were a lot of times we thought we couldn’t do it,” but thanks to Troy, who did much of the work himself, and the help of friends and neighbours, they were able to overcome the obstacles.

The couple also had misgivings about the rural location of the restaurant, but it seems that those fears were unfounded. The breathtaking natural beauty surrounding the Public House is part of the attraction and the experience of eating there. Located in the tiny hamlet, in a clearing of sorts, the Public House is surrounded by hills and trees – a warm, welcoming light at the end of the trail.

“When you live in a place like this, it’s hard not to be an environmentalist,” says Anna, looking out of the window at the nearby escarpment. “People want to know where their food comes from, and whether it has travelled 10,000 miles to get to them.”

Not at the Public House: all items on the menu are made from scratch by Anna’s brother, **Malcolm Muth**, using fresh, local ingredients. Muth, who has over 20 years of experience in the food service

industry, has worked in such area restaurants as the Mono Cliffs Inn, Oliver and Bonacini, and Hiding in Hockley.

Anna adds that in addition to their use of local ingredients, they also compost, have their own herb garden, and have installed a state-of-the-art, eco-friendly septic system.

Clearly, the people at the Public House respect the environment, but the restaurant’s success is not solely due to the natural beauty that surrounds it.

“We wanted to be a place that anyone could come to,” says Anna, discussing the menu, which ranges from typical pub fare such as roast chicken wings and braised pork ribs, to fine-dining entrees like braised lamb shanks with sweet potato dumplings.

“I’ve met all kinds of people,” says Anna, “and it’s been a great experience. A lot of work, but a great experience.”


“On New Year’s Eve, there was one car in the parking lot, and some people driving by thought we were dead,” she says, “but really we were very busy. It was all just people who had walked over.”

The Public House hopes to recreate the success of New Year’s on Thursday, January 26, when they will be hosting live music for the first time with **Mark Crissinger**, whose combination of folk and blues should complement the rustic charm of the restaurant nicely.

Also, the Jim Muth Invitation Cribbage Tournament (named after Anna’s grandfather, a former bartender) is set to take place in March.

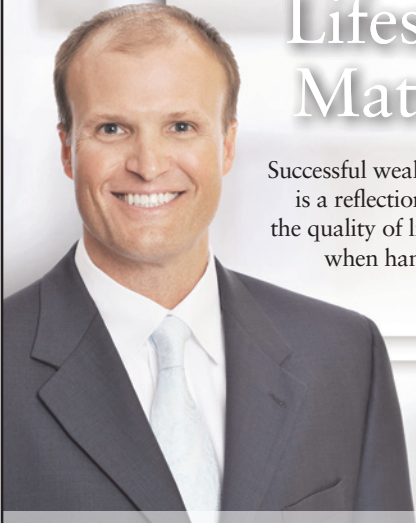
“You realize after living here for a while that you’re not in the middle of nowhere.” The local community knows about the Public House and, says Anna, they have been extremely supportive.

“I fell in love with the place, and I’m not going anywhere.”


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Creemore singers add soul to songs from the heart

By Laura Walton

Last January at the Orangeville Opera House there was an incredible music event that sold out weeks in advance. People paid just to sit in the lobby outside the main concert hall. Simply called 'The Concert', it was a benefit that was organized by Mulmur musician **Bruce Ley**, and featured an impressive and eclectic line up of instrumentalists and singers who played rock, folk, blues and jazz. Impressed by the evening, the Orangeville Concert Association invited Bruce to return this year to do another concert, this time featuring Bruce and his music.

Bruce Ley is well known in the Creemore community as both a musician and an artist. His paintings have been shown on several occasions at Curiosity House Books, his jazz trio played for the Gift of Music, he performed for the students at NCPS and for visitors at the last PHAH'S garden tour, and he was the musical director and pianist for the popular First Friday Soul Revival program in Dunedin.

Bruce has a forty year long history of composing, performing and recording music for stage, TV and movies. You would think with those credentials and experience that this concert would be a simple thing for Bruce to pull off, but the truth is that he was quite terrified at the prospect of doing this event. With all his years of experience, this is the first time in his life that he will actually headline a concert. Even more daunting, he decided to compose new songs for the show, something he hasn't done in years.

These songs are all from the heart, so Bruce is literally baring his soul at this event. He is stepping up to the plate and saying, 'this is who I am', not an easy thing for any of us to do. However, Bruce is not alone on this adventure. He made it clear from the start that he would not do it without the support of his wife, **Candice Bist**. With Candice doing most of the lyrics for Bruce's new songs as well introducing

the songs for the evening, this is truly a collaborative effort.

Modelled on the success of 'The Concert', Bruce has gathered about him a diverse and incredibly talented group of instrumentalists and singers to join him on stage for the evening. All members of his extended music 'family', they will be performing his songs as well as the work of other musicians. Because there will be folk, rhythm and blues, country, pop, rock and jazz numbers, Bruce had to pull in instrumentalists with impressive musical skills for his band. To mention only a few, **Bob Hewus** has played bass in the orchestra pits of Toronto's mega-musicals, and saxophonist **Steve Kennedy** has played with such Canadian legends as Motherload, Lighthouse and Dr. Music. Bruce will be playing piano, as well as some electric and acoustic guitar. There are three back up singers, **Steve Kennedy**, **Carole Warren**, and **Leslie Arden**, as well as The First Friday Soul Singers.

Of the twelve members of the First Friday Soul Singers, several of us, including **Julie Mae Nemeth**, **Juliette Reynolds**, **Laura Wark** and **Garth Wilson** are from the Creemore area. The Soul Singers participated in last January's 'The Concert', and know what a privilege it is to be on the same stage with such fine musicians. Each musician and group learns their parts and works with tapes that Bruce provides, but they don't actually meet until the morning of the concert. The day is spent rehearsing and putting everything together, and by the time the musicians step in front of the audience they are primed and ready to go, well aware that there will be surprises on stage and unexpected moments, but also aware that this edginess is what will make the evening come alive.

Although the facts are impressive, what will make this concert as special as last year's event is the theme of the evening, "it's all about love". In a world that seems to be growing increasingly



Bruce Ley

chaotic and unstable, that increasingly seems to value the things of life more than life itself, this concert will be a hopeful and joyous celebration of what truly matters in life.

In Candice's words, in life "we are essentially bound together in an intricate dance", and, "when all is said and done, matters always come down to love, or the lack thereof". The evening will be a musical conversation about not only "how things are, but also how they might be". As she pointed out, Bruce is "a bit of a hopeless romantic", and this concert is both a celebration of community and their gift to the community, something of an early Valentine present and also something to see us through the dark days of winter. From one of Bruce's new songs:

Hunger of the Heart

"The sun rises each morning, a parade of endless days,
We each have our burdens, we each see in different ways,
But gathered all together, and embracing all who roam.
The hunger of the heart will lead us home."

Tickets are selling fast, and, this concert is likely to be sold out before the show date. If you are a music lover or a musician, this is a must attend event. "It's All About Love" is at the Orangeville Town Hall Opera House at 8 pm on Friday, January 27. Tickets are \$30, \$15 for students, and are available at the Orangeville Box Office, 519-942-3423 or online at theatreorangeville.ca/operahouse.php

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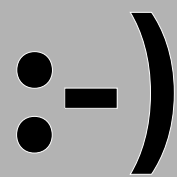


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REGISTER NOW FOR SHOWCASE

Clearview Township is hosting its fourth annual Health and Leisure Showcase on Saturday, February 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Creemore Legion. The show is open to health and leisure service providers that would like to conduct program registration, recruit new members and promote upcoming events.

“Why register for the Showcase?” asks **Jacqueline Soczka**, Community Culture and Recreation programmer for the Township. “As a busy mom, I know it can be hard to make it to the many different registration dates for community activities.

“While organizations still need to offer a variety of dates and opportunities to fit people’s busy schedules, we have set aside this one day each year so that residents can easily connect with a wide variety of organizations.

“The day is as much about getting

people signed-up for programs as it is about making people aware of what is out there so when they look through Clearview’s Culture and Recreation Guide or the local paper, they will know what NIA is, for example.”

To register for the Show, go to www.clearview.ca and click on the Health and Leisure Showcase icon or contact Soczka at 705-428-6230 ext. 249.

In addition to exhibitors, organizers are looking for donations to a Passport Giveaway. Last year the health and leisure show received donations of sporting equipment, art supplies, gift certificates and other items totalling over \$1,500. This year, they hope to top that and bring more people out to the show. Donors will receive extensive recognition including Tweets and postings on the Township’s Twitter feed and Facebook page!

Ice whine or ice wine?

The obvious topic on everyone’s mind – besides the usual eat better, lose-weight theme of every new year – has been the snow, no snow weather situation over the holidays. While the resulting clear roads have made it much easier to get around our community, many of us depend quite heavily on the winter weather (and the skiing enthusiasts who visit us). This past New Year’s Eve, the B&B was completely socked in with wet, white fog, although that didn’t stop us from seeing the amazing fireworks display that Devil’s Glen Country Club put on. We had a front row seat looking through our living room window and it was spectacular!

But enough of the “ice whine” - let’s talk about the real ice wine. For those of you who haven’t tried it, ice wine is a dessert wine made from grapes which are left on the vine to freeze before harvesting. They are picked at just the right moment in the winter and pressed immediately. As a result of

CREEMORE DISH



Elaine COLLIER

this process the grape juice becomes sweeter and more concentrated. Canada is one of the world’s leading ice wine makers because... you guessed it, we usually have the right winter conditions to make for a very fine, deliciously sweet product. I never

thought I’d say this but here’s hoping the temperatures drop and we get lots of snow in January and February. The skiers and the ice wine experts will be happier, as will all the rest of us!

To top off a fine meal, ice wine is good in a glass all on its own. However, it is not just for drinking. This week’s recipe puts ice wine to good use in a simple but very classy looking dessert. In fact, I think it’s so pretty that I’ve made it into my computer screen background wallpaper. Every day I get to look at it... which reminds me... maybe it’s time to pick up some pears and make it again!

Feedback is great and I would love to hear from you. Email me at elaine@avalonclearview.com.

Until next time, eat well, live well...

Glazed Pears - Serves 6

- 6 Bosc or Anjou pears - not too ripe, unblemished skins with stems intact
- 1 cup dry white wine
- ½ cup ice wine
- ½ cup water
- ⅔ cup sugar
- 6 thin strips lemon zest, each about 2 inches long
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Wash and dry pears. Using a small melon baller, scoop out the core and seeds from the bottom of each pear.

In a saucepan large enough to hold all of the pears upright, bring the wine, ice wine, water, sugar, lemon zest, and vanilla to a simmer over medium heat, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Carefully add the pears, standing them upright in the pan and reduce the heat to low. Reduce heat to a simmer, cover the pan and poach the pears for approximately 20 minutes, or until they are tender throughout when pierced with a small knife. Check occasionally to ensure the fruit remains upright in the pan.

Transfer the cooked pears to a serving dish. Increase heat to medium-high and cook the pan syrup until thickened and golden, about 10 minutes.

Pour the thickened syrup over the pears – the sauce will glaze the pears and pool nicely in the bottom of your serving dish. Bring serving dish to the table so everyone can ooh and aah (this dish is very pretty to look at)!

Note: Although the alcohol of the wines burns off during poaching, if you wish to make a non-alcoholic version, simply substitute white grape juice.



Welcome to SCDSB Secondary Schools!



Simcoe County District School Board’s 17 secondary schools are vibrant, inclusive learning environments offering dynamic courses, programs and extra-curricular opportunities.



Course option sheets for the 2012-2013 school year are available online at www.scdsb.on.ca.

Grade 8 students in all elementary schools in Simcoe County are invited to contact their local public high school to find out more about the amazing opportunities that await them next year!

At SCDSB schools, your future is our priority!

Simcoe County
District School Board

FUN & Games

Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

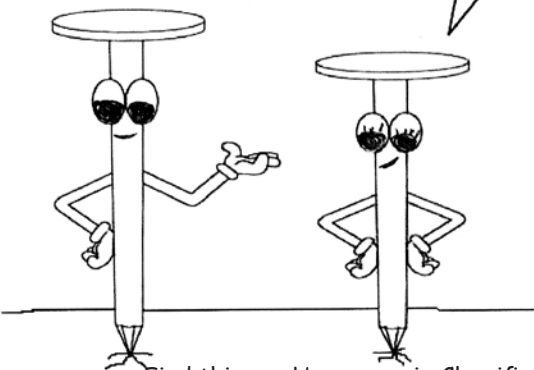
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Answer in Classifieds

Spike & Rusty Word Scramble

Hey Rusty, what's the first thing you see before getting out of bed?

Why the **ENIGILC** Spike! What else?



Find this week's answer in Classifieds by **Ken Thornton**

CREEMORE Weekend Weather

Friday, January 13

Scattered Flurries
High -1 Low -10 Winds NW 35 km/h
POP 60%

Saturday, January 14

Variable Cloudiness
High -12 Low -16 Winds N 20 km/h
POP 30%

Sunday, January 15

Variable cloudiness
High -10 Low -16 Winds S 15 km/h
POP 20 %

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The AVRIDGE FARM



by JEFF WILSON

FRED'S FUNNIES

A man walks into a bar with a newt on his shoulder. The barmaid looks at the creature and asks the man what he calls it. 'Tiny', answers the man. 'Why's that?' enquires the barmaid. 'Because he's my newt' concludes the man.

Brian's Canadian Crossword

#158 by Brian Paquin © 2012

ACROSS

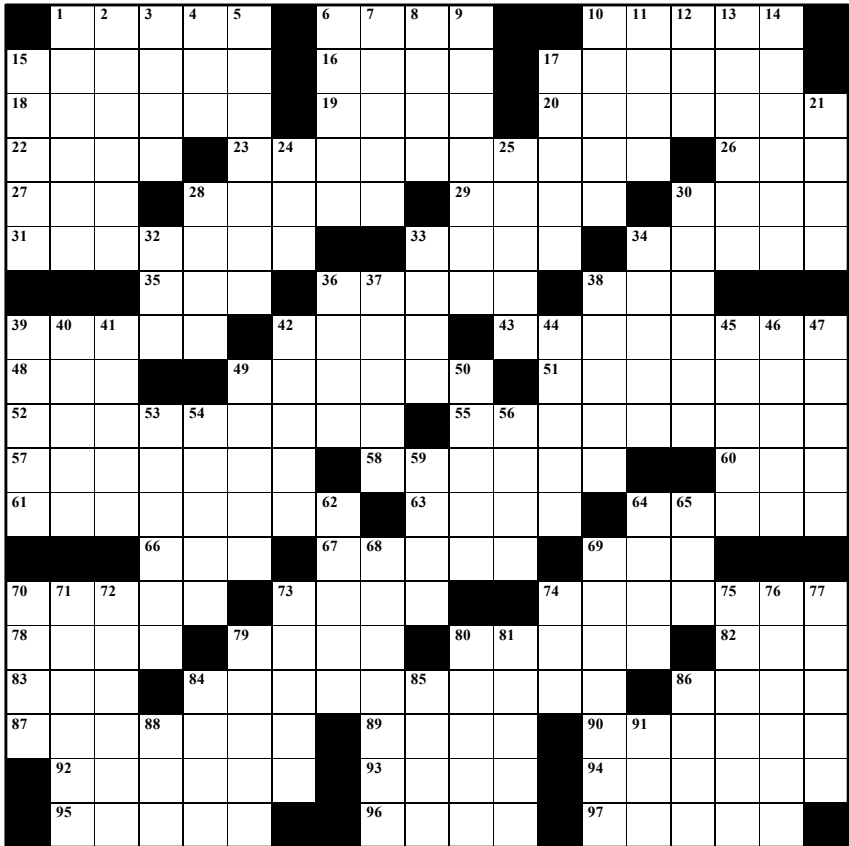
- 1 Where's ___?
6 HNIC host Scott ___
10 Part of CEO
15 Hope and Crosby's road partner
16 Tidy up (a dog)
17 Toronto New Wave group Platinum ___
18 Hercule's creator
19 Sardine containers
20 Mario Lemieux in 1984 and Sidney Crosby in 2005
22 Hostels
23 CTV comedy starring Don Adams (3)
26 Very Funny U.S. network
27 Flag colour
28 Champagne glass
29 Mountie's clue
30 Electrical unit
31 Talked like a Texan
33 Company headquartered in Oakville, ON
34 Farm fathers
35 Part of HMS, sometimes
36 Makes a happy face
38 Drain
39 The ___ Cowboys (Toronto country-swing group)
42 Langlois of The Hip

- 43 The ___ Hour (CTV)
48 Galley tool
49 Ghostly
51 Stupefy
52 ___ Horseman (Richler)
55 Defaming insinuation
57 CARP members
58 Leno's successor, for a while
60 Alt. spelling
61 Children's glass houses (2)
63 1998 Dreamworks film
64 Territory type
66 Blues singer Georgette ___
67 Remote button
69 Willie de Wit's second career
70 Dials up
73 Challenging
74 Why we stand on guard (2)
78 My ___ Heaven
79 Direction from Moose Jaw to Medicine Hat
80 The ___ Of Kilimanjaro (Hemingway)
82 MacMillan of the CBC
83 Recede
84 Group Of Seven painter Franklin ___
86 Goals against, e.g.
87 Goalie's gaffe
89 Marinate
90 Burning

- 92 Finds a new purpose for
93 Weight deduction
94 Closer at hand
95 Excursions
96 Hit black ice
97 Mephistopheles

DOWN

- 1 Bionic Woman Lindsay ___
2 CBC correspondent Lang
3 Real estate units
4 Of course!
5 Fortune tellers
6 Mid-size musical group
7 Short story writer Munro
8 Muscle spasm
9 Delta Kappa ___
10 Modern kind of computing
11 Call from an owl
12 ___-a-bink..
13 Peter Gzowski's job at Maclean's
14 Like some excuses
15 PM Sir Robert ___ Borden
17 Expansive
21 Concordes
24 1963 Paul Newman film
25 To the point
28 Go gaga
30 Deadly snakes
32 ___ knows?
33 Plug
34 Coupon clipper
36 Advance
37 Tin Cup co-star
38 Count of wonders
39 ___ Nova (Brazilian music)
40 Corroded
41 Full force
42 Colour separator
44 The Lo in JLo
45 Not savvy
46 One of the wee hours (2)
47 Incandescent lamp inventor Woodward
49 American cartoonist Trudeau
50 Exaggerations
53 Leaf through
54 Wild pigs
56 Web location



#0157
Solved

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- 59 Modem measurement
62 Twitch
64 Spock's pointed parts
65 Nunavut neighbour, briefly
68 Part of UA
69 Depressed area
70 Talking trucker
71 Dr. Schweitzer
72 Novice sailor
73 Groups of Guernseys
74 Friend or ___?

- 75 1962 John Wayne film
76 Tooth covering
77 Sign up for a contest
79 Lets up
80 Lamb Chop's voice
81 Part of BNL
84 Tooth point
85 Abundant fossil fuel
86 Serb or Croat
88 Sure thing, in Sherbrooke
91 Charge

HEALTH PROGRAM HELPS

By Billie Power

The South Georgian Bay Community Health Centre presented a free six week Educational Heath Seminar on Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions. The main focus of the lectures was how to manage one’s life with a health condition that is not going to go away.

Sessions were held at the Creemore Legion on Friday mornings from November 18 to January 6 and were open to men and women. The lectures were excellent, with facilitators Susan and Pauline leading with knowledge and aplomb.

The course covered the old familiars like “Healthy Eating” and “Exercise” but it did much more than that.

Also discussed were topics such as: “Managing your Symptoms”, “Managing Your Medicine” and “Advanced Health Directives for One’s Life”. Each week’s agenda began with an accounting of how participants had coped with that day’s action plan based on the previous week’s topic.

Action plans were not high, unattainable “pie in the sky” objectives. No one said they were going to run in the next Boston Marathon! One member, after hearing the lecture on “Positive Thinking” said that her action plan in the last week of Christmas was to prepare for Christmas in a positive way.

Members also had to predict on a scale of 1 to 10 how confident they were to accomplish their plan and “Buddies” were chosen to telephone

each other with encouragement to stick to their goals.

Susan and Pauline shared and explained each day’s topic, with a break between. Problems with each topic (condition) were delineated and brain storming took place to look for possible solutions. Lots of opportunities existed for members’ questions and their accounts of personal experience, which was invaluable.

Sessions were stress-free and low key. After one on “Guided Imagery” people were so relaxed they almost fell asleep. There was laughter, fun and fellowship.

To end each session “Action Plans” for the next week were discussed.

Now, for the good news, bad news information. Sadly, the bad news seems to be that many people in Creemore were unaware of this event. The good news is that Susan and Pauline have said that the seminar could be repeated again if 8 to 10 people would like it. Call 705-791-6209 for more information

If you have lung disease, high blood pressure, arthritis or diabetes you may want to look into this.

As part of the course participants were given a book, a wonderful resource of 500 or more pages of tips and information on the back of the book it says “this book and course have helped thousands of people with chronic illness fulfill their greatest possible potential to once again derive pleasure from life.” I know it will certainly help me.

Austen lives in P.D. James murder

Death Comes to Pemberley
by P. D. James,
Alfred A. Knopf Canada

Reviewed by Pat Raible

Death Comes to Pemberley what good news... a new novel by veteran crime writer P. D. James. And more good news... apparently, it’s a sequel to Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*, that much-loved novel which has also been so splendidly dramatized for TV and cinema.

The year is 1803, and we find out how Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy have fared in the six years since their marriage – very well, it turns out, and they are happily settled with their two sons at Pemberley, the Darcy estate in Derbyshire. Elizabeth’s sister Jane and her husband, Mr. Bingley, are living nearby, and all seems ordered and serene.

The Darcys are getting ready for the grand ball which they host when Lydia, Elizabeth’s younger, silly sister, arrives uninvited and hysterical. Tumbling from her coach which has brought her to the Darcys’ door, she screams that her husband, George Wickham, has been murdered – shot by his best friend Captain Denny. (For some unknown reason Denny had insisted on getting out of the coach here in the woods of the Pemberley estate, en route to the big house. Wickham, in trying to stop him, had followed him into the woods.)

Elizabeth and Jane comfort the distraught Lydia, and Darcy and his friend Colonel Fitzwilliam set off to investigate. They do find that someone has been killed, but it is not Wickham. Rather it is Wickham’s companion, Captain Denny,

who is lying on the ground, “his right eye caked with blood, his left glazed, fixed unseeing on the distant moon.” Wickham is very much alive and is kneeling over Denny’s body. Obviously the worse for drink, spattered with blood, and sobbing, Wickham confesses to the murder. “He’s dead! Oh God, Denny’s dead! He was my friend, my only friend, and I’ve killed him! I’ve killed him! It’s my fault.”

In Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* Wickham, though charming and handsome, was revealed to be of dubious moral character, but no one now at Pemberley thinks him capable of murder. (The savvy reader will note this confession is on page 68 of a 291-page book and so will conclude it’s highly unlikely that he is the villain.) Nevertheless, Wickham is arrested and faces an inquest and trial at London’s Old Bailey. All the evidence, as well as Wickham’s own confession, seems to be against him, and his prospects look bleak. But James still has much to recount, and I’m obviously not going to reveal the surprise ending. Suffice it to say, that all’s well that ends well.

Admirers of P. D. James’ fine Dalgliesh mystery novels may consider her ending here somewhat contrived. And some readers may feel that the writing is almost but not quite in Jane Austen’s voice. Nor are the characters as fully developed – for sure, Elizabeth has lost much of her *Pride and Prejudice* sparkle. But all in all, *Death Comes to Pemberley* is a great read for a cold winter’s weekend. And James’ delightful update on many of Austen’s characters is a bonus.

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CELEBRATION

Come and Go Tea celebrating the 90th Birthday of Frances (Lemmon) Evans on Sunday, January 22 from 2 to 4 pm. at St. Luke's Anglican Church Hall, 22 Caroline Street West Creemore. Best wishes only.

FOR SALE

White **SNOWBLOWER** 10.5 HP. 28 inch. Call 705-466-2426.

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New **ROOMS** for rent. Furnished. \$150 per week includes shared living room, heat, hydro, wireless internet, satellite TV, parking. Linens supplied. No smoking. Call 705-444-4852.

Large ground floor **APARTMENT** at 149 Mill Street. See Noel at Hillview Cellars or call 705-466-3635.

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LOST / FOUND

MISSING SNOWSHOES. If you happened to pick up 2 pairs of snowshoes from the end of our driveway on Conc. Rd 3 in Clearview Twp on Friday Jan 6th could you please return, or call 416-417-7499.

PHONE found on Mill Street. Come to *Creemore Echo* to claim.

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Home Renovation and Flooring Installation. Laminates from \$.99 per sq.ft. Hardwood from \$1.50 per sq.ft. Tiles from \$2.50 per sq.ft. Experienced carpenter. References available. Call 705-715-4995 cell or home 705-446-9935.

Spike & Rusty: Ceiling

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

DINING

When I got on the scales there arose such a number, when I walked to the store less a walk then a lumber. I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared the gravies, the sauces, and beef nicely rare. (There is more to come) **Mylar and Loreta's Restaurant**, Singhampton 705-445-1247.

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FUNDRAISING

Colin and Tanya Walker Fundraising Beef Dinner at the Stayner Evangelical Missionary Church on Saturday, January 28. Two dinner seatings at 5 and 7 pm. Tickets which must be purchased in advance. \$15 for adults, \$7 for children under 12, children under 2 for free. Call Lynn Gowan at 705-466-2995 or purchase at *Creemore Echo*.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank my family and friends for their support during the passing of my mother Alice Mackay. A special thank you to Dr. S. Houston, Rev. Tony Rennett, staff at Creedan Valley Nursing Home, St. John's United Church members and Jim Henderson from the Fawcett Funeral Home. **Shirley Mackay**

A special thank you to everyone who helped in any way towards community outreach during the holiday season.

Lorna May

Creemore Curling Club hosted a very successful Mixed Bonspiel on Saturday, January 7, 2012 which was won by the Creemore/Wiarton rink, Bob and Joan McLeod and Don and Joan Judges. Many thanks to the co-sponsors, Investors Group (Dave Huskinson) and Midwest Metals (Donald and Joan Gordon). We also thank the following contributors: D.J. Steaks.com, Methers Meats, IDA Village Pharmacy, Giffens Country Market, Marie Stephenson and all the volunteers.

DEATH NOTICE

HALBERG, Mildred passed away peacefully on Friday, January 6, 2012 at Leisureworld Creedan Valley in her 92nd year. Beloved wife of the late Ed Halberg. Loving mother of Doug (Pat), Gregg, Neila (Rick) and Kirsti. Cherished grandmother of Heidi, Soren (Leah), Anton, Amaia, Errol (Janel), Anders (Janelle), Dana (Sade) and Celine; great grandmother of Elora and Mahala. Mildred is predeceased by her brother Doug and sister Lois. She will be sadly missed by several nieces and nephews and her special nursing family at Creedan Valley. A celebration of life was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at Fawcett Funeral Home – Collingwood Chapel. In lieu of flowers donations to Hospice Georgian Triangle would be appreciated by the family. Friends may visit Mildred's on-line Book of Memories at www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com

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Seen & Heard around Creemore

ART FOR THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE Claire and Arran Adams were just two of the many contributors to this year's installation of CreemoreCentric. The Mad and Noisy Gallery art show, featuring work inspired or created by people in Creemore and area, opened last Saturday with 116 10" by 10" canvases on display. Bids will be silent until a final live auction on Sunday, January 29 starting at 2 pm. As well Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society invites all of its members, their guests and those interested in joining the Society to a cocktail reception on Saturday, January 28 from 5 to 7 pm.



photo by Bryan Davies



THE PUCK STOPS HERE It took 17 starts to get his first regular season shut out but New Lowell's **Brandon Macham**, a Creemore Valley Hawk alumni, did it in style on January 8, beating defending OMHA and OHF champions the Hamilton Bulldogs. He turned away all 27 Bulldog shots, including three breakaways to help his team, The Grey Highlanders, take home the win.

LOOK FAMILIAR? This week **Henn Kurvits** brought to our attention the similarity of our local fountain to the Barmaley Fountain located in Stalingrad. Photographs of the statue became famous following the Battle of Stalingrad in WWII, symbolizing, as Mr. Kurvits notes, "innocence amid destruction and desolation." The contexts in which the two statues are located may be entirely different, but as the photographs of the Barmaley Fountain demonstrate, the symbolism they share is resilient.



A good budget is about making choices

Preparing the annual budget is the single most important function the Township Council and Management Team do. Working together the direction is set for the year. Determining the property tax rate is the most visible part of this exercise and the one with the most direct impact on Clearview households.

Considering the importance of the exercise you would think more communication would take place between the municipality and the public while the work is being done. Such has not been the case. Instead staff and council work away in relative obscurity over several months until all the numbers are crunched and while the public waits to have the annual tax increase sprung upon them. Then we talk, but after it's too late to make any real difference.

It doesn't have to be that way. It can be more interactive and in truth I think it should be. Others in the Township think so too. It is particularly important this year and perhaps for the next few years, that the public be engaged in the process while the budget is being put together. Clearview is facing some real financial challenges. We will have to make better budget choices. This is true in all Simcoe County and

WARD 4 MATTERS



indeed Ontario municipalities.

While the state of other municipality's finances are as different as the communities themselves, there is a prevailing public demand to restrain spending, cut costs, look for efficiencies while trying to hold to current levels of service and to keep tax increases to a minimum. Toronto is the most obvious example, but our neighbouring municipalities are certainly under many of the same pressures and residents everywhere are wanting to be heard.

So in this environment we have started the annual budget exercise. To date we have had two budget workshops open to the public. Each Township department has been working to prepare their individual budgets and Council has started to review them. Residents can see the material presented so far by going to the Township Home Page and clicking on the Budget 2012 button. For those interested in more of the conversation that goes on between the numbers, you are encouraged to attend the budget workshops in January and early February. The date will be posted on the website as well.

You will notice this year that we are preparing a five year financial plan for 2012 through to 2016. We attempted this last year with very limited results in the

latter years. This year I'm confident we can actually produce working budgets for the first three years and a financial outlook for the remaining two. This will give the Township a better appreciation of how decisions this year effect future years. Resident will be better able to see what to expect going forward.

We are facing some difficult decisions to hold a tax increase in the 3 to 5 percent range. Some on Council, myself included, would like to see that increase even lower.

Revenue from anticipated residential growth has not and will not be realized this year and probably for the next two years. These revenues were overestimated. The state of the economy contributed in part to this shortfall. We now have to hold back on our spending to avoid high borrowing costs. Some projects like the new joint emergency facility in Stayner were built and now will require debt repayment higher than anticipated and this will impact other program spending.

I will report on more specifics in the budget in subsequent *Echo* articles over the next few weeks as the budget process unfolds. I hope to report also that we will be conducting a public information session in February for residents to review and discuss details of the budget before any final decisions are made. Please feel free to contact me at tpaterson@clearview.ca or (705) 466-6321.