

The Creemore ECHO

Friday, March 2, 2012 Vol. 12 No. 09 thecreemoreecho.com

News and views in and around Creemore

LOCAL LIBERALS CLAIM VOTER SUPPRESSION

by Brad Holden

The Simcoe-Grey Federal Liberal Riding Association has added its voice to those in 56 other Canadian ridings who allege they were the target of voter suppression during the last federal election.

While no phony “robocalls” are alleged to have taken place here, **Nathan Grundy**, the campaign manager for

Liberal candidate **Alex Smardenka** during the election, released a statement Thursday that said he received reports of several people receiving calls late on the evening of April 13, 2011 from someone claiming to be calling on behalf of Smardenka.

The tone of the calls was “rude and
(See “Leitch” on page 3)



COLLECTING MEMORIES Evan and Mitchell McLeod were hard at work at the Nottawasaga Community Hall Friday night, scanning pictures and memorabilia about Duntroon Central Public School brought in by folks attending a spaghetti dinner hosted by the school's parent council. The memorabilia will be used during a “Grand Finale Dinner and Dance for the school on May 26, before it closes its doors for good in June. If Friday's stormy weather kept you from attending, there will be another chance to drop off your photos and memorabilia at the DCPS gym from 3:30 to 8 pm on Monday, March 5. For more photos from the dinner, visit www.thecreemoreecho.com.

INSIDE THE ECHO



Representing Reality

The Mad & Noisy gets abstract and minimal

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The Synecdoche Gap

A lesson learned in the City of Lights.

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Publications Mail Agreement # 40024973



Creemore Beaver Leader **Cathy Traverse** (right), was honoured for 30 years of service to Scouts Canada last week.

30 Years of Scouting

Creemore Scouting held their annual Scouting banquet on Wednesday, February 22, the birthday of Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouting movement.

Tim Armour piped the head table in and then everyone enjoyed a nice roast beef dinner prepared by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

After dinner, awards and badges were presented to the following: **Justin Shaw** of Scouts; and **Chancellor Stamp, Jonah Patrick, Gabe Talbot, Jamie Wright, Staci** and **Deanne Squires-Fachnie**, and **Karsten Neumann** of Cubs.

Craig Cameron-McKeown, Simcoe, Phenix Area Commissioner and **Mike Hendy**, Shining Waters, Assistant Council Commissioner along with **Cathy Traverse** presented Volunteer Certificates to **Leah Bailey**, **Lyle Noble** of Beavers, **Sabrina Stamp-Dupuis**, **Monique Van Severan**, of Cubs, **Mark Madill** of Scouts and **Linda Reed, Jacqueline Lane** and **Ginny Scott** of Group Committee.

Cameron-McKeown also presented Beaver Leader **Cathy Traverse** with a service award, commemorating her 30 years of service to Scouts Canada.



A group photo of all the award and badge recipients.



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COMMUNITY Calendar

Submit your community events
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This Weekend

Friday, March 2

- **World Day of Prayer Service** at St. Luke's Anglican Church, 22 Caroline Street West at 2 pm. The theme this year is "Let Justice Prevail". The Service is written by the women of Malaysia. Please join us & learn about life in Malaysia.

Saturday, March 3

- **Open House: A Showcase of Hometown Hockey.** At Honeywood Arena from 8 am to 5 pm. See what there is to offer and register too. See ad on page 7. www.honeywoodhockey.com for more details.
- **Curiosity House Art Show Opening Reception** from 2 to 4 pm with Adele Derkowski and her oils &

acrylics. The show is called "Spring Thaw". 705-466-3400 or artbyadele.wordpress.com for more details. Show runs to April 6.

- **Mad & Noisy Gallery Art Show Opening Reception** from 2 to 5 pm for new exhibition "Elemental Truths: Examinations of Abstraction versus Minimalism". This month's group of seven artists is: James Stacey, Claudia McKnight, Liz Eakins, Jenn Smith, Dorianne Ross, Jordon Eveland, Brett Lundy. Experience this ethereal collection of works that celebrate the mediums of silver, encaustic, paper, paint, stone, and digital imagery. Show runs to April 2. 705-466-5555 info@madandnoisy.com.

Saturday, March 3

- **Beef & Lamb Supper** at St. John's United Church, Mill Street from 4:30 to 7 pm. Adults \$15. children \$5, pre-schoolers free. All are welcome.
- **Dan Needles Entertains!** at 7:30 pm at Station on the Green. \$20 ticket available at Curiosity House. A fundraiser for My Friend's House celebrating 20 years of keeping families safe. Silent Auction.

Sunday, March 4

- **Church Services** on page 5.

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 5

- **Adult Skating** at Stayner Arena every Monday through March from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Contact Joan at 705-428-2711.
- **Hamburger Night at The Old Mill House Pub** in support of **Teddy Bear's Picnic Day Care Centre** Starts at 5 pm. Hamburgers \$5 each and Hot Dogs \$4 each with all proceeds going to roof replacement expenses at Teddy Bear's Picnic. Beverages and side orders not included. Call The Old Mill House Pub at 705-466-5244 for more details.
- **Duntroon Public School Memorabilia Drop In Night.** If you missed last Friday's event please drop in to Duntroon Central Public School Gym from 3:30 to 8 pm. Bring your photos to be scanned and your memorabilia to be catalogued and borrowed until after Saturday, May 26 the day-long event ending with the Grand Finale Dinner and Dance. Commemorative books (\$25), hats & t-shirts (\$15 each or one each for \$25) can be pre-ordered too. You must pre-order by Wednesday, March 21. Call the school for more information at 705-445-0258 & ask for Bill Floyd or Robin Ardila.
- **Clearview Township's Council Meeting** at 5:30 pm at the Council Chambers. Everyone welcome.
- **Journey Dance.** A holistic fitness practice that is fun and transformational. No dance experience required. Monday nights at 7 pm for the month of March at Station on the Green. Call Nicole at 705-435-0302 or www.journeydance.com for details.

Tuesday, March 6

- **Creemore Adult Skating** Tuesdays through March from 1:30 to 2:30 pm at Creemore Arena. Good friends, good ice, good music. For more information call Helen 705-445-3635.

Tuesday, March 6 & Wednesday, March 7

- **Grade 8 Drama Club** at Tosorontio Central Public School present a fun play called "Big Bad" at 7 pm at the school. Tickets are \$5. Advance tickets are recommended as the play is sure to be popular. Please call Lyne Greer at 705-435-1036 or Katie Dawson at 705-424-9319 for more information and tickets.

Thursday, March 8

- **Last Chance for Clearview Soccer Club 2012 Registration** from 6 to 8 pm at Creemore Arena, New Lowell Firehall & Stayner Arena.

Sunday, March 11

- **Stop the MAQ Quarry – Snowshoe Fundraiser and Family Fun Day at Highlands Nordic** from 10 am to 2 pm (they have generously given a free day pass to every participant). Bring your own snowshoes, or rent on site for \$9. 3 routes with varying difficulty. Hot chocolate. Free food and drinks for kids and all those who raise over \$100 (or \$50 for students) can be purchased too. Live music by local bands & camp fires to warm up. Prizes for those who raise the most pledges for: student, school, team, and overall. Guest speakers. www.stopthequarrysnowshoe.ca.

Monday, March 12 to Friday, March 16

- **Theatre Collingwood's March Break Drama Program** (ages 7-13), at our new production centre. Explore voice, movement, creativity, build confidence through basic theatre skills. Pre-registration required. 705-445-2200 or www.theatrecollingwood.com.

Tuesday, March 13 to Saturday, March 18

- **2nd Annual March Break Maple Syrup Festival** starting at 10 am. Participants will learn the art of tapping a tree, gathering sap, boiling sap into syrup, and finally tasting the wonderful flavour of real maple syrup. Our costumed staff and volunteers continue the program inside where you will learn about the history of maple syrup and the native peoples and hear local stories of 'sugaring off' in Dufferin County. For the event, the staff will mount an exhibition of antique maple syrup and sugar artifacts such as sugar molds, tapping equipment, pressed glass syrup pitchers and much more. This collection is one of the best in Ontario and it only comes out for one month a year. Cost \$5 per participant, pre-booking not necessary. Open and appropriate for all ages, geared for those with a sweet tooth. Everyone guaranteed to go home smelling like wood smoke and sugar. Dufferin County Museum & Archives, Hwy 89 and Airport Rd. 1-877-941-7787 events@dufferinmuseum.com

Friday, March 16

- **Creemore Legion Friday Night Supper** from 5 to 6:45 pm. Corned beef & cabbage, buns/butter, coffee/tea, dessert. Adults \$13, seniors \$11. Please call ahead to RSVP at 705-466-2432 or 705-466-2202. Hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary.
- **Washboard Hank & the Corn Pickles** is putting on the Green at the Duntroon Hall – the best St. Patrick's party in town! Get ready to move to the groove of Irish Hillbilly music like no other... a fundraiser for the hall. \$15 plus hst in advance, \$17 plus hst at the door. Free buffet. 705-445-9551 for information.

Saturday, March 17

- **Marsh Street Community Centre** presents **JP Cormier's Farewell Tour Show** at 8 pm. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. 187 Marsh Street, Clarksburg. Call 519-599-7837 for more information.

Saturday, March 18

- **March Break Oddment Oddbot Sculpture Kids Workshop** from 1 to 3 pm at The Blue Mountain Foundation for the Arts, 163 Hurontario St., Collingwood. For 8 to 12 year olds. Free, register early, limit of 15. Metal oddment artist K Maclean leads the kids as they create their own bot using found objects, salvaged metals and industrial fasteners. Very hands on with a gallery tour and chat about current exhibit "Lost and Found". 705-445-3430 or admin@bmfa.on.ca to register.

Monday, March 19

- Do you need a hand preparing your income tax return, but are a low income earner? Maybe we can help. **Community Volunteer Income Tax Program** from 4 to 8 pm. Presented by **Ramona A. Greer, CGA** and the **Clearview Stayner Food Bank**. Please call to see if your are eligible for the program and to book an appointment. Contact Laura at 705-428-2171.

Tuesday, March 20

- **Theatre Collingwood's Adult Drama Training Program** (19+) Ten week spring session (3 hour classes) begins. Build confidence through basic theatre skills. 705-445-2200 or www.theatrecollingwood.com.

Thursday, March 22

- **Public Meeting** at Singhampton Hall from 6 to 9 pm presented by **Skyway 124 Wind Energy Inc.** concerning the Skyway 124 Wind Farm wind turbines proposal. For more information call 905-271-2845 or john.nicholson@ebccanada.com.

Saturday, March 24

- **Theatre Collingwood's Teen Drama Training Program** (14-18) Twelve week spring session (2.5 hour classes) begins. Build confidence through basic theatre skills. (705) 445-2200 or www.theatrecollingwood.com.

Saturday, March 31

- **Euchre at Avening Community Hall.** Doors open at 7 pm, cards start at 7:30 pm sharp. \$10 per person. Potluck snacks. Prizes. Call 705-466-3024 for more details.

Saturday, May 12

- **Peak to Peak Escarpment Challenge.** 26 km. Can you handle it? No problem. Hike Osler Bluff to Duntroon Highlands or choose your challenge, 6 to 26 km. Hike to stomp out quarrying on the Niagara Escarpment. Enjoy vistas of Georgian Bay, caves, streams, wildflowers, a children's activity, breakfast, buffet/barbeque, live music, an escarpment art silent auction and great draw prizes. The grand prize is a \$5000 trip for 2 to Fogo Island, Newfoundland and Labrador. Pre-register at www.peaktopeakhike.com and raise tax deductible donations to support the Clearview Community Coalition.

CORRECTION

In last week's article on Stayner Collegiate Institute's efforts to send students on to post-secondary education, we incorrectly quoted NCPS teacher **Kathy Whitley** as saying educators are "reaching out too late" to kids in encouraging them to go on with their studies. In fact, Whitley was directing that comment at Ray's Place, in hopes that they would run programs for younger children.



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Anti-quarry groups plan two outdoor fundraisers

by Christopher Greer

Whether you prefer snowshoeing or hiking, there will be an opportunity for you to explore and potentially help to save some of our area's natural landscapes on either side of the spring thaw this year.

On Sunday, March 11, from 10 am to 2 pm, a Family Snowshoe Fundraiser will be held at Highlands Nordic in Duntroon in support of Grey Matters' opposition to a proposed MAQ Aggregates quarry development. Participation is free, with snowshoes being available for rent for \$9. There will be a free hot lunch for both children and all those

who donate over \$100, hot chocolate stops along the trails, live local bands, and prizes for those with the biggest pledges. All those who donate will receive a tax receipt. Registration and pledge forms are available at www.stopthequarrysnowshoe.ca.

The proposed MAQ quarry would be located in the Municipality of Grey Highlands, directly west of the proposed Walker Duntroon quarry expansion and northwest of the existing Walker quarry. A third Walker site, which the company promises would go undeveloped if its current settlement with the Township of Clearview is approved at the OMB,

lies immediately south of the MAQ site. Taken together, the four sites form what opponents are warning would be something of a "quarry complex."

The MAQ quarry itself would be 60 feet below the water table on 247 acres of land at the headwaters of the Beaver, Pretty, and Batteaux rivers, and would operate from 6 am to 8 pm six days a week, extracting approximately one million tons annually for at least 46 years.

"We believe that the proposed quarry could permanently damage the local ecosystem," say the event organizers on www.stopthequarrysnowshoe.ca. "It could have a serious impact on the water supply for the local community who, being rural, rely solely on wells."

Registration is also open for the Peak to Peak Escarpment Challenge on Saturday, May 12, a hike-a-thon to support the Clearview Community Coalition and their partner, Environmental Defense, in their legal struggle to prevent the Walker quarry expansion, which is proposed for land that falls under the Niagara Escarpment Plan. There is no fee for registration, but those wishing to participate are challenged to raise a minimum of \$200 (or \$50 for those under 12). Registrants will be given a personal page online for accepting donations that can be shared with friends and family. Environmental Defense will

issue a charitable donation tax receipt to all donors.

The event starts with a free continental breakfast at 6:30 am. Buses will then be available to take participants to the trailhead from 7:30 to 11:30 am. The hike will take place along the Bruce Trail, and participants can choose to travel the full distance, from the Osler Bluffs through the Pretty River Valley to the Duntroon Highlands, or take a shorter trail more "to their style." Following the hike there will be a celebratory barbecue, live music from Aaron Garner and an Escarpment Art silent auction at the host venue, a century farm located across from Highlands Nordic that overlooks Georgian Bay. Parking will be available at that location.

Participants are asked to bring sturdy hiking footwear, hiking poles (recommended, but not necessary), a reusable water bottle, and a folding chair for the post-hike celebrations.

"The Niagara Escarpment is recognized as one of the world's unique natural wonders. It's designation as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve should not be taken lightly," says the Peak to Peak website, www.peaktopeakhike.com. "Biosphere reserves are select ecosystems that effectively balance development with conservation of biodiversity. In Ontario, over-development and quarrying is tipping that balance."

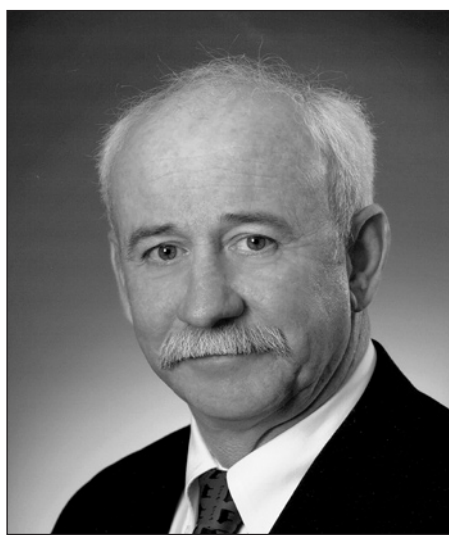
Royal finishes up as OCA prez

At the 50th anniversary of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association annual general meeting last week, Creemore's **Curtis Royal** stepped down from his post as president.

Royal has dedicated over two decades of his life to the betterment of the beef industry, at the local, municipal, county, provincial and national levels. He has been a director of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association for nine years, and its president for the past two years.

Through his tenure, the industry has suffered many challenges, such as anti-dumping, countervail issues, Country of Origin labelling, the Walkerton crisis, and BSE. These have all combined to depress markets, withhold markets, and cost the industry greatly in lost revenue and equity.

When Royal became president, he said the industry needed a couple of wins, and that is what he accomplished with the development of a Risk



Curtis Royal

Management Insurance Program and an increase in funds to the Feeder Finance Program.

Royal's dedication, commitment and leadership have been exemplary, and he is looking forward to having more time to spend on his farm in the hills outside of Creemore.

Leitch denies connection to calls

(Continued from page 1)

disturbing," according to the reports, with the caller angrily chastising the person on the receiving end if they said they hadn't yet made up their mind on who they were voting for.

People who received the calls also reported hearing background noise that sounded like several other people asking the same questions as they were being asked.

According to Grundy's statement, the local Liberals have confirmed that the calls did not originate from their campaign, from the Liberal central campaign or Prime Contact, the third party voter ID company contracted by

the Smardenka campaign.

The local Liberal Riding Association has contacted Elections Canada, but was told that any complaints had to be lodged by the people who received the calls. Grundy, however, said that none of the complainants were prepared to go on the record.

Reached for comment, Simcoe-Grey MP **Kellie Leitch** denied any knowledge of or connection to the calls. "I ran a clean and positive campaign, and that's reflected in the numbers," she said. "If they have any real evidence of these calls, I encourage them to take it to Elections Canada."

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EDITORIAL A Lion or a Lamb?

One of the most important questions of every Canadian winter was asked this week, and the answer, we're sure, has had folks a bit stumped.

Compared to the barrage of freezing rain the day before, we suppose you could say that Thursday – the first of March – was a bit lamb-like. But that would, of course, mean that we can expect the end of March to be accompanied by a lion-like hit of late winter, and we're assuming that most of you, like us, will be ready for warmer temperatures by that point.

So there's two ways of spinning this thing to our favour then, we figure. For one, if you compare the weather on Thursday to the mild winter that came before, it looks a little more lionish. And second... who's to say Mother Nature remembered this was a leap year? If, by chance, that slipped her mind, then the snow, rain and freezing rain that hit us on February 29 was actually intended to be the beast that brought in March.

We're going with the latter theory. Bring on spring.

POEM

A February Fantasy

POET LAUREATE



Tim ARMOUR

The snow came down like sifting flour.

Softly, silently, it fell

For hour after languorous hour,

Enfolding all within its spell.

Along the road each hydro wire
Hung motionless between the posts,
And on each one the flakes piled higher,
As more fell down in endless hosts.

Each twig upon the maple tree
Was crowned with crystals piled high.

A glorious sight for all to see
Would soon unfold as dawn drew nigh.

At last the sun's rays turned the tide
And flowed like honey from the east.
They gently wedged the clouds aside,
And silently the snowfall ceased.

Each minute a new masterpiece
Was painted as the sun climbed higher;
A string of pearls without surcease
That none may hold, yet all admire.

I slid the barn door open wide.
I tossed some hay down with the fork,
And, as I swung each gate aside,
Each horse burst forth like champagne cork.

They galloped through the knee-deep snows.
They bucked and kicked and tossed their heads,
Then trotting, submarined a nose,
Or lay and rolled in snowy beds.

They reeled in effervescent joy,
Gave such a show on my behalf,
My heart felt like a little boy,
I had to smile. I had to laugh!

THE WAY WE WERE



Here's another of the postcards submitted to us by former village resident **Helen Miller**, this one featuring an undated photo of the "Creemore Public and Continuation School," which today, of course, is the Primary Annex of the Nottawasaga & Creemore Public School.

LETTER

A good education begins at home

Dear Editor:

For over 30 years I was a teacher with the North York Board of Education and the Toronto District School Board. I taught students at all levels from basic to gifted in Grades 9 through to the former Grade 13. I taught in "good" schools and "bad" schools and found that a school's reputation is, in many cases, unfounded. Schools are neither "good" nor "bad," but they are all reflections of the communities they serve. We may like to think of schools as leaders in the community but they are in fact followers.

If a school serves a community where the majority of the parents are committed to education, that commitment will be reflected in the quality of the school and it will be adjudged "good," while schools in communities where education is a low priority among parents will, as a result of their students low achievement, be considered "bad."

Consider this: if a physician practices in an area where many of his or her patients are obese, smoke, abuse drugs or alcohol and develop most of the diseases attendant to their unhealthy lifestyle, is the doctor bad? The physician can prescribe medications to allay symptoms and can educate the patients as to what constitutes a healthy lifestyle but in the final analysis it is up to the individual, with the professional help and guidance of their doctor, to take responsibility for their own health.

Similarly, teachers practice in communities which differ widely in the value they place on education. For a student to be successful, it is necessary for that student to have a home environment where education is valued, encouraged and demonstrably supported. How can a child growing up in a home with no books be expected to value reading? If the parents show no intellectual curiosity, why should the child be expected

to embrace learning?

Much has been made of children whose parents have higher education being more likely to pursue post-secondary education themselves. While this may be statistically true, having parents with less formal education is no impediment to higher learning, providing those parents value education and communicate their values effectively to their children. Many of my fellow students at university, and I myself, came from immigrant backgrounds where our parents had little or no formal education but did have a strong belief that the education they never had should be made available to their children. As a result they produced an entire generation of doctors, dentists, lawyers, etc. They committed themselves to making their children's educational future their top priority by providing an environment that valued and fostered educational success. They also made it a top financial priority. To them there was no more important way to spend a dollar than on their children's education.

Schools can do much to improve the quality of education provided in the classroom and the support given to students within the school, but they are relatively powerless to affect the home environment of each student.

Just as a physician cannot physically stop an obese patient from continuing to overeat or an alcoholic to put down the bottle, educators cannot make parents value and support their child's education. If the parents of Simcoe County feel the educational achievements of their children are lacking, perhaps they should look into themselves and ask what tangible support they have given their children to value and seek higher education.

Walter Sickinger, Mulmur Township

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Creemore Big Heart Seniors

There were 55 out for cards today, and we were glad to see **Winston Ferguson** with us again. He brought his new book, *Isn't it Scantamanious*, in to euchre today, and I announced its availability to everyone. It costs \$20, and Winston will donate 50 per cent of all proceeds to the Parkinsons Foundation – a charity that is important to him. The book is good for a laugh, or a lot of laughs, as it has scads of jokes and humorous items which are bound to tickle your funny bone and cause at least a chuckle. For more information email Winston at winston@rifequipment.com.

Barb Pilon then told us a cute joke – and I noticed **Phyllis Seed** brought in more candy to add to Barb's stash!

The 50/50 draws went to **Tom Sharpe**, **Sheila Fenton**, **Evelyn Warden** (2), **Charlie Donaghey**, **Vi Matthews**, **Toosje Vasvari** and **Doreen Murray**.

A couple of our players had exceptional cards today, as **Pat Winger** and **Peter Gubbels** had three moon shots each! Well done, guys! Also having a moon shot were **Dave Smith**, **Alma Seifert**, **Doreen Murray**, **Earl Toole**, **Phyllis Seed**, **Bert Douglas**, **Audrey Tidd**, **Janice Stephens** and **Karl Seifert** – 15 in all. Dave took the Sidewinders money, and Karl won the travelling prize.

High scorers were all lined up with only

SENIORS



Sylvia
GALE

four points between them: **Alma Seifert** 272, **Eileen Nash** 271, **Joe Verstagen** 270 and **Pat Winger** 269. Low was **Warren Gale** with 33, which let **Dave Smith**, **Mike Smith** and **Yours Truly** breathe a sigh of relief, as we had all been in contention for this dubious

honour.

Our thanks to neighbour **Allan Thompson**, and of course to **Maurice Weatherall**, for making sure we had a clear way out after that latest fall of snow.

My sister, **Pat Matthews** from Mansfield, had the pleasure of seeing her son, **Lance Matthews**, being presented with a medal for bravery for rescuing an elderly neighbour lady from her burning house. He unfortunately could not get back into the house for her husband because of the flames. As it was, his hair was all burned off the top of his head by the time he got **Myra Najouki** out onto the lawn. Myra was alive when he carried her out, but unfortunately she died shortly afterwards. Lance's medal was presented to him by the Governor General at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

Best wishes go out to **Lorna Jeffery** on her recent 80th birthday. That, and the fact that it was nearly Lorna and "Fred's" 60th wedding anniversary, got them treated to lunch at the Mandarin by

son **Doug** and his wife **Lynda (Whitley) Jeffery**.

Daughter **Sharon** and her husband **Guy** were on their way to work in Calgary recently, and they were driving on the Deerfoot Trail where the speed limit is officially 100 kilometres per hour. But it seems that is just a faint suggestion, according to the usual speed of the traffic. There had been a fender bender in the southbound lanes, and a lady driving a truck in the northbound lane was rubbernecking, and forgot to (a) slow down, and (b) watch where she was driving, because she rear-ended a jeep, which then hit Sharon and Guy's car. Fortunately, traffic was not travelling its usual speed – but they had quite a bit of damage to their car, and Sharon is wearing a "collar" and suffering from a very sore neck and lots of headaches. So hope you soon feel better, kiddo.

My thanks to **Helen Crawford** for letting me know that Gerald Green of Heathcote had passed away recently. Some of you will remember that Gerald's dad, Harry Green, owned the Avening General Store for some years, and finally sold it to Howard Noble. The Greens then bought a store in Heathcote. But Harry Green owned Avening Store in 1944, the year "the twins," my brother Jim and sister Joyce Jordan, were born. These two were "bottle" babies, and, it being wartime, sugar, corn syrup, and anything else to sweeten baby formula was rationed. This meant you had to have a coupon as well as cash to buy a limited, or "rationed" amount of a lot of foods. And to make things worse, the applications to the Government for Ration Books, one for Jim Jordan and one for Joyce Jordan, resulted in some dim bulb in the Rationing Office returning the requisition forms, asking "which name were they calling the baby – Jim or Joyce?" So no ration books for the two who really needed them. In asking around if any of the storekeepers had any "extra" corn syrup, Mel Ross in

Creemore remembered that he had, he was pretty sure, seen a can or two or more in his cellar that he could spare without needing any coupons, and Harry Green phoned to say that he "just happened to have...". So I went with Dad to pick up these precious ten-pound cans of corn syrup. It seems Harry and Mel had seen rationing coming, and had prudently tucked a few things away. Thank goodness. At any rate, Gerald had a brother Vernon and a sister Joyce, who was a sister-in-law of mine as she was married to Murray Grant. All three of the Greens have now passed away.

John Moore and I have made good use of the Ambulance Service to Avening this past couple of weeks. So hope you are soon feeling better, John. And next week I will try to explain just how efficiently the Avening tom-toms can work – right across this whole wide country!

Aha! I finally did it! I caught the *Echo* in a goof! Last week I wrote that daughter **Laurie** and her husband **Bryce Rowe** were visiting us from Alberta. So I was very surprised to read that daughter Laurie and her hubby Bruce were visiting. This actually was a pretty understandable goof as **Warren's** son **Bruce** was formerly married to – you guessed it – a Lori. But this scenario is usually the other way around, and I am left trying to convince the *Echo* folks that I made a goof because of being under "the influence." Well, it sounds better to me than having to admit to being bereft of brain cells!

I hope that everyone enjoyed February 29 this past Wednesday, as it's a day that only comes around once every four years. When I was a kid this day was known as "Sadie Hawkins Day," being the one rare day when a gal could, in good graces, ask a chap to marry her. And the rule was, if the man turned you down, he owed you a new silk dress, which was a pricey item. I'm not sure if anyone ever cashed in on this arrangement.

LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTORY



Sunday, March 4

**Youth night at
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10:35 am Worship Service

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Worship Service 11 a.m.

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For info call (705) 466-6232

All are welcome

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March, both abstract and minimal at the Mad & Noisy

by Christopher Greer

Feeling lost in the doldrums of winter? If so, a visit to the Mad & Noisy Gallery's Elemental Truths exhibit may inspire a cure.

The exhibit, which runs from March 3 until April 2, examines methodologies of abstraction and minimalism using a variety of mediums.

Abstraction and minimalism are related in that they are both reductive, toying with the relationship between "truth" and what is used to represent it.

Jordon Eveland, one of the artists featured in the show, draws inspiration from feeling, taking larger concepts or images and breaking them down into rudimentary shapes and colors.

According to **Liz Eakins**, whose work is also featured, when viewing abstract or minimalist art, one is not necessarily seeing something that they recognize. However, because the works are so elemental, the viewer informs the piece, reacting on an individual level.

"You have to trust your artistic choices and not buy into social pressures," said Eakins of creating abstract art. "But you also have to trust that the audience will engage in your work. A lot of times the artist does all the work for the viewer, but this [type of art] allows them to have their own reaction."

Eakins' work relies heavily on texture as a mode of expression. One of the pieces that will be featured in the show involved making thousands of stitches



Creemore artists **Liz Eakins** and **Jordon Eveland**, with works they will include in the Elemental Truths exhibit.

that echo lines of text. The words are partially obscured and, according to Eakins, the emphasis moves from the words themselves to the shape of the lines that they create on the page.

"If one person gets what I'm trying to do, I'll be thrilled," said Eakins.

The gallery has done themed shows in the past, but they tended to feature all member artists, forcing some to create works in genres or styles outside of their wheelhouse.

But **Jill Price**, who came onboard as curator of the gallery last July, believes it is important that smaller groups of member artists be given the opportunity to present their works in a themed show that caters to their style.

According to Price, themed shows are also important because they give the audience a context for understanding the art that is presented, helping public galleries to perform what she considers to be their duty: educating the public.

In addition to Eakins and Eveland, both from Creemore, the Elemental Truths show will include work from Barrie-based abstract painter **Claudia McKnight**, Toronto-based minimalist furniture maker **Brett Lundy**, Barrie-based jewelry maker **DoriAnne Ross**, Barrie-based encaustic artist **Jenn Smith**, and Collingwood-based experimental photographer **James Stacey**.

An opening reception will take place on Saturday, March 3 from 2 to 5 pm.

HAPPENING AT THE PUBLIC HOUSE

Friday, March 2 ~ 9pm

Live music with **DEVON BERRY** - local young singer guitarist.

Sunday, March 10 ~ 11am

1ST ANNUAL JIM MUTH CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 17 ~ 9pm

St. Patrick's Day with live music from **THREE CHORDS AND THE TRUTH** often referred to as local folk heros in their hometown of Dawson City.

Friday, March 23 ~ 9pm

Live music with **JAY AYMAR** 2010 Canadian Folk Music Awards Emerging Artist of the Year Nominee.

Tuesday, April 10 ~ 8pm

Live music with **GORDIE TENTREES AND SARAH MACDOUGAL**. Tentrees is an international award nominated touring artists joined by Canadian/Swedish MacDougal who has been called "Thoughtful, strong and spiritual by *The Globe and Mail*."

FOR MORE INFO CALL 705-466-5992

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www.terrannovapub.ca

Find your inner thespian at Theatre Collingwood school

by Christopher Greer

Theatre Collingwood is introducing a new slate of drama programs this spring, building on a successful inaugural session this past winter and giving aspiring actors—or those simply hoping to build their self-confidence—an opportunity to gain a broader understanding of the dramatic art form and improve their presentation skills at the organization's new Presentation Centre.

Michael Clipperton, who has been directing theatre for 25 years and holds a Masters Degree in Drama from the University of Toronto, will teach sessions for both adults and teens.

The adult session is for those aged 19 and over and runs for ten weeks starting Tuesday, March 20. Classes are three hours each and take place on weeknights, and will focus on vocalization, movement, improvisation, theatre games, comic monologues, dramatic scene study, and stage combat.

"Our adult students tend to have careers already, and want to gain additional confidence," said Clipperton, noting that participants come from a wide range of backgrounds. "This program gives them an opportunity to explore [the dramatic arts] that they may not have had before."

The student session is for those aged 14 to 18 and runs for 12 weeks.



Two pictures from the winter session of the Theatre Collingwood drama program. Above, the teen group learns to trust each other. Below, **Michael Clipperton** teaches the adult group how to "take a bullet."

Classes take place on weekends and start on Saturday, March 24.

"Many of our teen students have dreams and aspirations of becoming

actors," said Clipperton. "The more experience and training they have, the better they will be able to pursue their goal."

There will also be a camp held over March Break, from Monday, March 12 to Friday, March 16, for students aged 7 to 13 (Grades 1 to 8). The camp will be taught by **Ari Weinberg**, who is actively involved in the Stratford Festival, and will give students an opportunity to make friends while exploring voice, creative expression, and basic theatre skills.

Each of the programs will end with a demonstration of student's newly acquired skills for family and friends.

"We've had them in our dreams for a long time," said Theatre Collingwood artistic director **Steven Thomas** of the programs, adding that, without the help of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Town of Collingwood, they may not have been possible.

Of special note is Theatre Collingwood's new Presentation Centre, which is located across from the Collingwood Library and features a performance area, prop and costume rooms, and a rehearsal space.

"It's a fantastic facility," said Clipperton, "and we're excited at the opportunity to use it."

Auditions for the programs are not necessary, but those wishing to participate are encouraged to register soon, as each class is limited to 12 participants.

For more information, contact Theatre Collingwood at (705) 445-2200.

Open House

A Showcase of Hometown Hockey

Saturday March 3rd, 2012

North Dufferin Community Centre

Honeywood Arena

FULL DAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8am - Hockey Moms Scrimmage
9am - Figure Skating Practice
11am - Public Skating
12pm - Tyke1 vs. Tyke 2
1pm - Mites vs. Shelburne
2pm - PeeWee Rep vs. Shelburne
3:30pm - Synchro Skating Team
4:15pm - Bantam Rep

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This Month

IN THE GALLERY

Adele Derkowski

Spring Thaw: Recent works in oil and acrylic
Opening Reception

Saturday, March 3, 2 to 4 pm

Using colour, form and light local artists **Adele Derkowski** reflects the beauty of the world which surrounds her. Please join us at our opening reception for an opportunity to meet this artist and celebrate her work.

BOOK CLUB

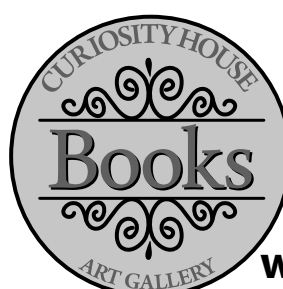
Wednesday, March 7, 2 to 3 pm

Everyone is invited to be part of Curiosity House's monthly book club on the first Wednesday of the month. This month's selection is ***The Sense of an Ending***, the 2011 Booker Prize-winner by **Julian Barnes**.

STORYTIME

Saturday, March 10, 10:30 to 11:15 am

Children from 18 months to 6 years of age will enjoy some entertaining tales and activities with Miriam.



Curiosity House Books

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www.curiosityhousebooks.com



MENS CURLING The winners of the second draw of Men's curling, claiming the Toronto Dominion Bank Trophy, were (left to right) Vice **Ron Coulter**, Second **Paul Vorstermans**, Lead **Paul Belcourt**, and Skip **Andrew Millsap** (here being represented by his dad **Paul**, who spared for him in the final game).



MENS RUNNERS UP The runners up of the Men's second draw win the Reg Westbrooke Memorial Trophy, here presented by Reg's daughter **Anne Emerton**. The team included, from left to right, Skip **Robert McArthur**, Vice **Paul Ruppel**, Second **Graham Macdonald** and Lead **Steve Heist**.



MIXED CURLING The winners of the second draw of Mixed curling, claiming the W.A. Gordon & Sons Trophy, were Second **Brian Cass**, Skip **Doug Macham**, Lead **Karen Gaudino** (here represented by Spare **Paul Vorstermans**) and Vice **Karen Crevier**. Presenting the trophy was **Paul Crevier**.



SUNDAY CURLING The winners of the second draw of Sunday curling get their names on the Creemore Silver Broom. From left to right are Lead **Joan McLeod**, Vice **Karen Crevier**, Skip **Paul Crevier** and Second **Bob McLeod**.



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March Break Camp - March 12th to 16th

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A uniform deposit of \$25.00 is required

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or Lisa Hockley 466-5815 for info



Collingwood General and Marine Hospital

Interested in taking an active role with Community Mental Health Services?

Consider the commitment of becoming a member of the (volunteer) Advisory Committee Member to Community Mental Health Services at the General and Marine Hospital (G&M) in Collingwood.

The Community Mental Health Services is actively seeking dynamic candidates with vision and strong personal and professional integrity for several positions on the Community Advisory Committee. Membership is representative of the four major communities served — Collingwood, Wasaga Beach, Clearview and Blue Mountains. As well, the Committee composition is representative of the skills required to assist with strategic guidance. Fundraising is not required.

The Community Mental Health Services is currently seeking candidates who, preferably although not necessarily, have skills in communications, public relations, project management, finance, or a clinical background.

Interested applicants are asked to submit a written letter of interest and their resume to Mr. Dale Graham, Administrative Co-Lead Community Mental Health Services, 459 Hume Street, Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 1W9 or fax to 705-444-5131 by March 16, 2012.

For further information call Joan McLeod, Administrative Assistant of Community Mental Health Services at 705-444-6600.



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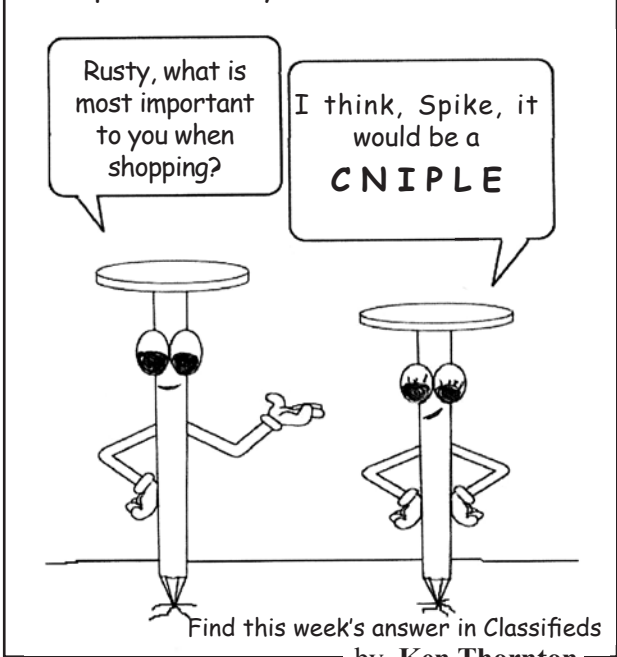
FUN & Games

Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answer in Classifieds

Spike & Rusty Word Scramble



CREEMORE Weekend Weather

Friday, March 2

Cloudy with showers
High 4 Low -3 Winds SE 25 km/h
POP 90%

Saturday, March 3

Scattered flurries
High 3 Low -2 Winds SW 20 km/h
POP 60%

Sunday, March 4

Scattered flurries
High -3 Low -7 Winds NW 20 km/h
POP 60 %

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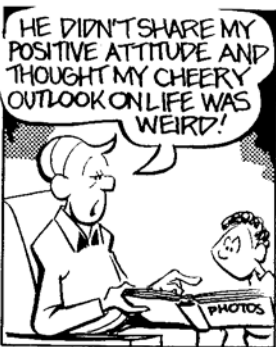
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The AVRIDGE FARM



by JEFF WILSON

FRED'S FUNNIES

The drunken defendant appears yet again before the tired judge, who says, "You have been constantly appearing before me for the past twenty years."

Replied the drunk: "Can I help it if you can't get promoted?"

Brian's Canadian Crossword

#165 by Brian Paquin © 2012

ACROSS

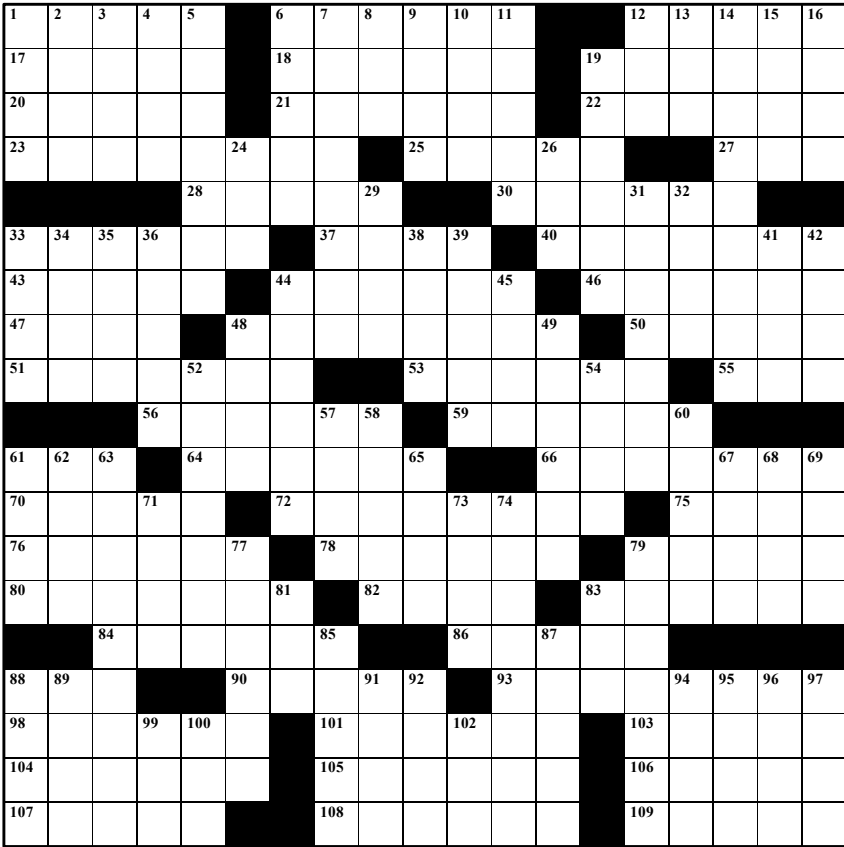
- 1 Miss America singer Mary Margaret
6 Run-of-the-mill
12 TSX unit
17 Arrowhead, e.g.
18 Marked down (2)
19 R-E-S-P-E-C-T singer
20 PQ actor Greenwood
21 Invent
22 Heartbroken ____ (The Guess Who)
23 Writer Maugham
25 Singer Day
27 Printed (a news story)
28 Largest land animal in North America
30 Pacify
33 Explorer Frobisher
37 ____ Fades Away (Neil Young)
40 Goalies' workplaces
43 Author Asimov
44 Leave a boat
46 Old flat-bottomed boat
47 North Battleford's prov.
48 ____ Gypsy (The Stampeders)
50 Perceive
51 The Band's tribute to Minnie Pearl

- 53 Tribute
55 British Poet Hughes
56 Deodorant option (2)
59 Marks down
61 PC rival
64 Cartoonist award won by Lynn Johnston
66 Song from Beatles VI
70 On the double
72 Study intensely (2)
75 Went off the deep end
76 Painter Charles ____ (The Figure 5 In Gold)
78 Peter Worthington's Toronto Sun role
79 Pierre Trudeau cap
80 Tried hard
82 Lost traction
83 Most vile
84 Banned type of gasoline
86 Roasting chicken
88 Fireplace shelf
90 Perkins' Psycho co-star
93 Swindled
98 Unwilling
101 Canadian Tire money, e.g.
103 Actress Watts (King Kong)
104 Bucket of bolts
105 Silent Ernie Kovacs character
106 It's only ____!

- 107 Kuryakin from U.N.C.L.E.
108 Prepared prunes
109 Arab leader who spoke before the Knesset

DOWN

- 1 Peepers, poetically
2 Verdun's Buzz Beurling, e.g.
3 Styptic stuff
4 Edgar ____ Burroughs
5 Bitter in tone
6 Connecting points
7 Pick-a-number range
8 Modern bible translation, briefly
9 ____ Of The Mist
10 Too
11 Lecherous looks
12 Sellout sign, briefly
13 With it
14 Currently (2)
15 Carla's portrayer on Cheers
16 Take in
19 Take in
24 Pride, for one
26 Vancouver 2010 org.
29 His ____ (the boss)
31 Enticing previews
32 Loathe
33 Japanese soup
34 PDQ relative
35 Hasty
36 One who accepts a deal
38 Do the ____!
39 Leaf winger Thompson
41 Leisure
42 Sought damages
44 Alternative to cable Internet
45 ____ Sabe
48 Country distance?
49 Profession of many prime ministers
52 Actress Swit (M*A*S*H)
54 Grandpa Walton portrayer
57 Instrument featured in Sonny and Cher's I Got You Babe
58 Unhip ones
60 Salads and fries
61 Identified, slangily
62 Summit



- 63 The Prophet's ____ (Margaret Laurence)
65 MacDonald of the CBC
67 Sped right along
68 Big Daddy portrayer
69 Paving stone
71 Goal of medical research
73 Relating to the ear
74 Big name in mobile communications
77 Never Too Late group
79 Bases of splits?
81 Poor grade
83 ____ Jovi
85 Chops up

- 87 Wished for
88 Mecca pilgrim
89 Face shape
91 The Disease Of Kings
92 Whopping big
94 Pop singer Lady ____
95 Washing machine capacity
96 Oscar's wife and Brent's mother
97 Formal assembly in politics
99 Manitoba author Gabrielle ____ (Street Of Riches)
100 Fashionable resort
102 Place for prayer

#0164
Solved

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DINING

Fish & Chips Fridays at Affairs for the Season of Lent. Open to 7 pm on Fridays – eat in or take out. 705-466-5621.

TUTORING

TUTORING AVAILABLE at RAY's Place Resource Centre. Volunteers available for any age or subject area. By appointment. Call 705-466-3663 for more information.

Spike & Rusty: **PENCIL**

5	9	7	4	2	1	8	3	6
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IN MEMORIAM

WILSON – In loving memory of a dear Dad and Grandpa, **Wilfred Wilson**, January 25, 1995. Mom and Grandma, **Mae Wilson**, March 3, 2000. Brother and Uncle, **Don Wilson**, July 14, 2010.

The angels led you safely home
But you left some things behind
Treasured gifts beyond compare
Those of the special kind.
You left behind your gift of love
Given unconditionally
You left behind the ones you loved
And many cherished memories.
From early dawn to setting sun
Each day our whole lives through
Our hearts will hold a special place
For precious memories of you.
Thinking of you always: Bruce, Helen, James, Krista, Kevin and Brent Fraser

DEATH NOTICE

TANSKY, Betty – Beloved mother of Maralyn Hazelgrove, Elaine Lowe, and Barbara Lehmann passed peacefully on Feb. 18th. in her 100th year. Heartfelt thanks to Dr. McCall, Dr. Quig and the awesome staff at the Collingwood Hospital. Special mention to Lisa (ICU) and Sue (2nd floor). Donations will be welcome to Collingwood and Marine General Hospital.

THANK YOU



We would like to thank Jean Smart, Creemore Village Pharmacy for generously sponsoring the Creemore Ladies Bonspiel. We had a wonderful day filled with great curling, good food and fellowship. Hope to see everyone next year! **Creemore Ladies Curling**

Canadiana Antiques, Art, Advertising, Toys & Nostalgia Auction Saturday, March 3, 2012 @10am

to be held at
The Royal Canadian Legion Hall
27 Wellington Street West, Creemore, to feature

Antique & Collectible Contents from Simcoe County & Blue Mountain estates to include Canadiana pine furnishings, Canadian & Native art, art pottery, crocks, clocks, woodenware, decoys, fishing tackle, books, Persian rugs; a large estate collection of vintage general store, gas/oil & automotive advertising signs, tins, milk bottles (Besse's, Potts, etc), steel toys, models, pedal cars, wagons, advertising clocks, arcade & counter displays, table hockey, RRWY lanterns, stereo-viewers, Las Vegas craps table, iron figural table lamps, cap guns, military & native items, old magazines & calendars, etc.

Terms: Cash, Visa, MC, AMEX, 10% buyer's premium
John Simpson Auctioneer
ICCA
705-466-2207
www.simpsonauctions.com



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Huron Tractor, Stayner your John Deere dealership in Simcoe County has an opening for a **SALESPERSON**. We are seeking an individual who will play a key role in growing sales in our Turf & Utility sales division. This person will possess a good working knowledge of commercial / lawn & garden equipment, managing a territory and excellent customer service skills. Computer experience and an understanding of sales department functions is a must. Experience is preferred but not necessary for the right individual.

Application deadline is March 19, 2012. It is preferred that applications are sent by e-mail in Microsoft Word format to the address below or by fax. Thank you for your response but only applicants receiving an interview will be notified.

Please forward resume to:

Chris Hare
Branch Manager
Huron Tractor Ltd.
Stayner, ON
Ch450@hurontractor.com
Fax (705) 428-0334
Phone (705) 428-6232

New Lowell News

As I sit down to write this column this week I ponder over the folk tale of March weather. If March comes in like a lion weather-wise, it will leave us like a lamb. By the time you read this you will know the weather for March... at least according to this old tale. The lion of winter has not risen too much this year and we sure hope the lamb has a chance now to take us into the wonderful season of spring.

New Lowell Central Public School held its annual Dance-a-thon on Tuesday, February 14 during the day in their gym. The children had a fun day dancing the time away with their friends. The students and the School Council wish to thank the following businesses and people for their support with this fundraiser: The Pretty River Country Inn, Justin & Stacey's No Frills, Cardboard Castles, Stephens Fuels, Angus Borden Music, Shoppers Drug Mart, JoDees Flowers, Gardens of Prestige Ltd, Bev Giffen, Mr. Sub, 424-Hair, First Choice Haircutters, Giant Tiger, Tim Hortons, Guardian Pharmacy, OJ Grolman, Bandito Video and McDonald's.

Following along on the same theme, the New Lowell Public School encourages the community



Sandra
BEDNAREK

to volunteer at the school. There is always a need for extra help within the classroom. If you find you have some spare time please call the school at 705-424-0991 to make arrangements.

Remember that registration for Junior Kindergarten is now available at New Lowell Public School. They are offering all-day, every-day kindergarten for this age. This will be the first time at New Lowell Public School for all-day kindergarten.

We have entered the season of Lent on the Christian calendar. The Creemore Pastoral United Church Charge will resume their regular three services starting March 4 with Avening United Church at 9 am, New Lowell Church at 10:15 am and St. John's with service at 11:30 am (coffee and conversation at 11 am). Avening and New Lowell will have Sunday School at the same time as worship service.

The New Lowell United Church Congregation voted on Sunday to pursue a building project that will make their church accessible for everyone. Keep posted as the Congregation will be fundraising in the next few years to see this project to its completion.

The **Stacey** family recently joined

family and friends at the burial in Brentwood of Mary Simpelt (Stacey). Mary was a well-known community person over many years. She also lived in Parry Sound and Paris, Ontario. She leaves her daughters **Venah, Verle, Sherry** and **Shelley**, and sons **Wilfred** and **Patrick**. The community sends sympathy to all of Mary's friends and relatives.

It seems that new grandparents **Mike** and **Tracy Cloutier** are enjoying **Emma Michelle Cloutier** who arrived in early February. Big sister **Jade**, mommy (**Andrea**) and daddy (**David**) are all ecstatic over their new bundle of joy.

Remember, if you have a preschooler or kindergarten child at your home, you are welcome to come to story hour at the Sunnidale Branch of the Clearview Library on Thursdays at 10:30 am. This is a fun time for the children as they learn to listen, and discuss stories, authors and illustrators. They also do a craft related to the theme of the day. **Glenda Newbatt** of the Stayner Branch is remarkable in her choice of books and crafts that she arranges for our little children.

That's the news from in and around our community. If you have some news you would like to share please call me at 705-424-6497 or email at sandra@bednarek.ca and I will be happy to put your news in the paper.

Synecdoche and Childlike Wonder

Before joining the *Creemore Echo* as an editorial intern, **Christopher Greer** learned an invaluable lesson in the most unlikely of places

I left for Paris this past October expecting to be disappointed. Surely, I reasoned, the mythology surrounding the city – developed on my part, admittedly, through the near-obsessive reading of the Wikipedia pages for Ernest Hemingway and Mordecai Richler – was rooted precisely in that: myth. Last year at the University of Toronto, before I decided to take time away from school to write and to travel, I was taught a new word (it was not the only one). That word was “synecdoche,” and it is useful in understanding my attitude toward Paris before my departure.

“Synecdoche” is defined as a figure of speech in which a *part* of something is used to refer to the *whole* (i.e. “all hands on deck,” with “hands” referring to sailors.) The *part* in my case was the aforementioned Wikipedia pages, and my underline-riddled copy of Hemingway’s memoir of his time in Paris, *A Moveable Feast*; the *whole* was Paris, the actual place, as it existed at the time of my visit.

I had, in my imagination, an image of Paris as derived from the pages of Hemingway’s book, complete with silhouettes of perched fisherman emerging from a dreamlike fog along the banks of the Seine and café terraces that sent out Christmas-light comfort into the night.

And yet I knew that, upon arriving in Paris, my idea of the place would be shattered. The problem with *synecdoche* as a concept is that there is an inherent gap between the *whole* and the *part* that is used to represent it. In that gap there is room for any number of things, all of them capable of distorting the assumptions one has made about the *whole*. I could only hope that the gap between my idea of Paris and the city itself was not so wide as to be disappointing.

I arrived at Pearson International Airport in Toronto still not entirely sure what the purpose of my journey was (much to the annoyance of my relatives, I’m sure). I had not travelled very much before and, being free for a while at least from the responsibilities of school and employment, I felt compelled to leave home. More than that, I suspect that my trip was, at least in part, an attempt to rekindle that old childlike sense of wonder before adulthood claimed it completely.

I rode into Paris from the airport in a taxi, passing through the not-so-beautiful outskirts and growing increasingly excited as the buildings became taller and older and whiter and the streets became narrower. The plan had been to call the landlord of the studio apartment I would be renting from the airport and arrange a meeting, but I had been unable to figure out the payphones. Feeling foolish, I paid the taxi driver, including a little extra in exchange for the use of his cell phone. Thankfully, I was not far from my destination, and waited only for a few minutes – sitting on my suitcase, observing the excess of adult novelty stores in my new neighbourhood – before the landlord arrived. He took me to my temporary new home and guided me quickly through the signing of some papers before leaving me, surprisingly (oddly enough) and completely alone.



I could not (and still cannot) speak French. In *A Moveable Feast*, Hemingway comes to Paris with a female companion, later coming into contact with a community of expatriate artists and writers that includes F. Scott Fitzgerald, James Joyce, Pablo Picasso, and Gertrude Stein (among others.) My hopes of meeting other English-speaking people interested in writing were lofty, and rightfully so: the people I did meet in Paris were mostly fellow tourists, and did not stick around for long. I ended up staying for nearly three months, and though my loneliness was alleviated by the occasional visit from friends and family, it was those times when I was alone that were most fruitful.

My intention had been to work on writing a book while in Paris (much like Hemingway had), and I did precisely that, completing it quickly and just as quickly dismissing it as juvenilia. My writing was not (and still is not) developed enough to be writing a book, and so I spent the majority of my time wandering aimlessly, unable to speak to anyone and growing bored with my own thoughts.

But that first day as I walked I came across a number of landmarks I recognized from *A Moveable Feast*: the green bookstalls along the quays of the Seine; the Café de Flore, where Hemingway, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir and Albert Camus all reportedly used to write; the Luxembourg Gardens, with its citrus-coloured flowers and

white statues; even a fisherman. The beauty of the place was overwhelming, and I found myself experiencing the same sensation I used to get from reading a good adventure story as a young(er) boy. It was all very different from what I imagined, but better too, because it was *real*.

As it turns out, my worries were unfounded: the synecdoche gap exists, but it is a thing to revel in, not fear. I know now that I am still capable of that childlike sense of wonder, and that I need only to embrace (rather than fear) the unknown to experience it.

There is beauty in the world, and it is best experienced as a surprise. This becomes increasingly more difficult as images of places become more prolific, but I now take reassurance in knowing that beauty exists in the gap between the *whole* and the *part* (be it a picture, or a memoir) that refers to it, even if it has to be actively sought out.

The book I wrote will likely (definitely) go unpublished, and there were many times in Paris when I questioned my decision to leave home (especially when counting out bills to pay for a Coke), but I have no regrets. There will always be synecdoche gaps, but it is the experience of exploring these gaps that makes a childlike sense of wonder possible.

Adulthood no longer looms so menacingly on the horizon.

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