

News and views in and around Creemore

INSIDE THE ECHO





Undercover Elves
Come one, come all for Community Carols
PAGE 8

A Present from "Santa" A new nameplate for the Station PAGE 12

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COMMUNITY Calendar

Submit your community events

info@creemore.com phone: (705) 466-9906 fax: (705) 466-9908

Upcoming Events

Friday, December 21

• Winter Solstice Celebration at St. Luke's Anglican Church at 7 pm.

Saturday, December 22

- Enjoy Christmas in the Valley. See page 13 for details on The Christmas Craft Sale, Santa at the Log Cabin, wagon rides and more.
- Book signing with Brian Footitt and his debut novel Destructive Agendas at Affairs from 9 am to 4 pm.
- Trimmings at the Tremont from 10 am to 7 pm. Guest artists join the resident artists. Enjoy a show and sale of fine art and craft. Wine & cheese begins at 4 pm on the second floor. 80 Simcoe Street, Collingwood. www. thetremont.ca for more details.
- Creemore Christmas Carol Sing-a-long at Station on the Green from 7 to 9 pm. Refreshments will be served. FREE!



Sunday, December 23

• Church Services on page 5.

Monday, December 24

- Christmas Eve Church Services on page 5. Tuesday, December 25
- Christmas Church Services on page 5.
- Creemore Community Christmas Dinner at Station on the Green at 5 pm. Reservations required by calling 705-466-3126.

Saturday, December 29

- Everyone is invited to a Come & Go Tea to celebrate Herb Dickinson's 100th Birthday at the Blue Mountain Manor in Stayner from 2 to 4 pm.
- Everyone is invited to Come & Dance to celebrate Gwendolyn Taylor's 85th Birthday on Saturday, December 29 at the Creemore Legion from 7 to 10 pm. Best wishes and donations to the food bank only please

Sunday, December 30

· Deadline for submission to Mad and Noisy Gallery's 6th Annual Creemore Centric art show and fundraising event. A chance for artists and community members to create a wonderful 12x12 canvas piece to fill the Great Wall. Exhibition opens January 5, 2013, 2-5pm, silent bidding ends Sunday, January 27 at 2 pm. Live Auction, Sunday, January 27, 2-3 pm. Drop into 154 Mill Street, Creemore, pick up your canvas and be creative. 705-466-5555

Thursday, January 3

Singtown Snow Golf and Skate-a-thon at Singhampton Park, Cty Rd 124. Call 705-445-9364 for details. We'll have ice if weather is permitting.

Saturday, January 5

 Cadet Bottle Drive from 8 to 10 am. 1944 EME Cadet Corp will pick up your bottles beside your door in the morning or call Ruth & Cole McArthur for a pickup at 705-466-3734.

OPEN HOUSES Thurs. Dec. 27th - 1:00 to 4:00 Sat. Dec. 29th - 1:00 to 3:00 Directions: North of Creemore. Corner of Fairgrounds

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by Brad Holden Threatened with having to take the year off due to the



teachers labour dispute, the Stayner Collegiate Institute Cybergnomes robotics team will instead compete this year as a special committee of Clearview Township Council.

That decision was made unanimously at last week's Council meeting, after a motion was made by Councillor Robert Walker and seconded by Councillor Doug Measures.

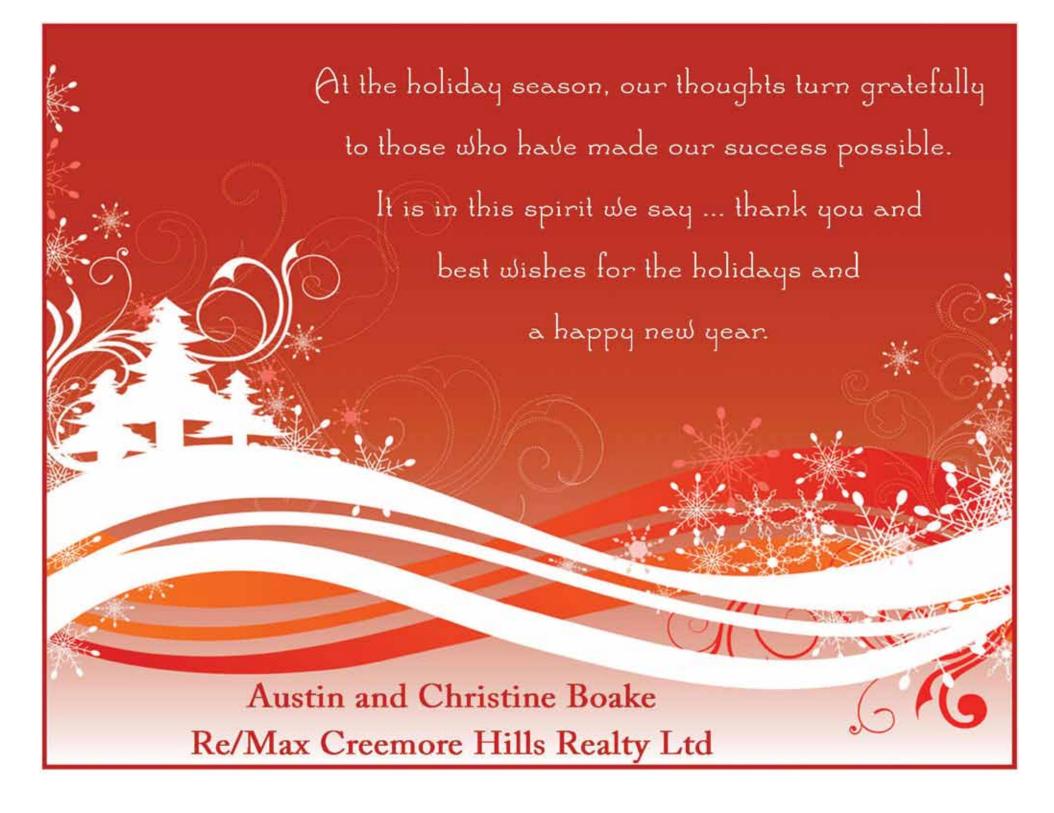
The team, which has competed in robotics competitions in Boston the past few years and has been a successful incubator of technical talent at the high school, had been notified the week before that it would not be operating in 2013, as the teachers who run the program are refraining from any extracurricular activities for the duration of the current labour dispute.

With several students counting on experience with the team for university and scholarship applications, Walker brought his motion to Council.

After a brief discussion about insurance implications, the motion was passed unanimously. The team will have to operate like other committees of Council, by incorporating proper resolutions and bylaws at its meetings and publishing minutes. The team will now be supervised by parent volunteers.



LABOUR DISPUTE Teachers at Nottawasaga & Creemore Public School were on the picket line last Friday, taking part in a one-day strike called by the Simcoe County Local of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario. Teachers at other school boards across the province have also been staging one-day strikes over the past two weeks. Ontario elementary teachers have been working without a collective agreement since August 31. A strike vote was held on September 20, and ETFO has been in a legal strike position since December 3. The Ontario government's Bill 115, which was introduced as an alternative to bargaining with the teachers' unions and which removes the teachers' right to strike and gives the government the ability to impose a contract, comes into effect on January 1, 2013. After that date, any strike action by the teachers would be illegal. "There has never been a time when there was so much interference from an education minister in local bargaining efforts," said Janet Bigham, President of ETFO's Simcoe County Teacher Local last week. "The loss of local autonomy has forced us into strike action, and it is a direct result of this government's actions." ETFO is expected to announce its plans for labour action in the New Year today (Friday, December 21).



OPINION & Feedback

Feedback and old photos welcome info@creemore.com call (705) 466-9906 fax (705) 466-9908

EDITORIAL Yes, Virginia, he's real

At this special time of year, allow us to reprint the most famous Christmas editorial of all, which appeared in September 21, 1897 edition of The New York Sun in response to a letter from a young girl named Victoria who was doubting the existence of Santa Claus.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy. Alas. How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus.

The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did vou ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world, which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God, he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, 10 times 10 thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

POEM

Christmas Is...

Christmas is a grateful heart

Christmas is a prayer

Christmas is a spirit of goodwill that's everywhere Christmas is a time of joy and peace and hope combined

But Christmas is, above all else,

God's love for all mankind.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Florence Bremner, Singhampton

THE WAY WE WERE



Here's a great photograph from the 1978 Creemore Santa Claus Parade, given to us by Marg Miller. Interestingly, the parade is heading up the street, in the opposite direction of today's version.

LETTER

Teachers deserve our respect

Dear Echo:

It has been a few days now since that horrific event in the U.S.A. Just like most of you, I can't believe that such a thing could happen. But as I pondered this, I was also amazed by the media's and parents' attitudes about teachers. They were amazed that the teachers protected the children. They were impressed that teachers were able to have great wisdom in an emergency situation. One particular teacher was reported to have read to the children as they sat huddled in their cubbies. Her reason: "I wanted them calm and to be able to remember the last thing they heard was a calming story I was reading." One teacher, as she was leading them in a straight line to safety, told the primary children to close their eyes tight (so they would not see the carnage) and to put their hands on each other's shoulders for support. She then led with her eyes open and no shoulder for her own support!

Teachers are the protectors of your children. That is what they do! I know that the teaching profession is almost always forefront in the news and especially now, during these difficult negotiation times. But as parents/grandparents/aunts/uncles and friends of all children, they are looking out for your child/children as long as they are in their care.

So in this letter I want you to remember and realize, as I did when all of last week's crime was committed, that it is our teachers and our first responders who care for and protect our children when they are not with their caregivers. There are human beings who make bad choices that upset this way of living, but when they do all of the people mentioned above rise above their fear and remember their training, do their job and indeed demonstrate their passion for their chosen career.

May you all have a Blessed Christmas and a safe, happy 2013. Remember those families that can't this

Sincerely,

Sandra Bednarek, New Lowell









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DIRECTORS: Tom Vandewater, Mary Vandewater, Craig Simpson, Bill Mann **TECH SUPPORT**: Dr. Phil

Creemore Big Heart Seniors

There were 54 assembled for cards today, and Bob Veale took a final head count for our Christmas dinner, catered by the Legion Ladies. He also welcomed our two visiting Isobel/Isabelles - Isabelle Stinson from out near Walkerton, and

Isobel Orser from the Elmvale area. She will very likely be related to the champion figure skater Brian Orser, and also to the Orsers from Brentwood who, years ago, sold their farm to the Department of National Defence and moved up near Elmvale.

Our thanks to Brian Pilon for (again!) delivering the goodies to us while **Barb** is under the weather with a cold. Hope you are soon feeling better, Barb. Also, our very best wishes for a speedy recovery to longtime member Effie Taylor who had a fall in her home and broke her hip. We are all hoping you are rapidly mending and will be out and about again before very long. You see, Effie is a slim, trim, very active gal who is in great shape, and who will be mad at herself for falling, and champing at the bit to get up and going again. But sometimes, when one reaches the "Seniors Cards" age, one also discovers that, as they say, our "Get up and go has got up and went" when you really need it in the worst way. But don't despair, Effie – that missing ambition seems, in time, to wander back.

I understand that Marg Ransier donated a walker to the Legion. A very thoughtful thing to do, Marg – and I'm sure it will, at times, be put to good use.

The 50/50 draws went to Irene Dolson, John Van Voorst, Lucy Young, Evelyn Warden, Eileen



Nash, Toosje Vasvari, Mary Gilchrest and Betty Sharpe.

Moon shots were played by Elsie Longson (2), Warren Gale, Brian McGill, Evelyn Warden, Martin Verstraten, Mary Gilchrest and Bob Veale.

Bob won the travelling prize and Warren took the Sidewinders

High scorers were **Dean Chestnut** 306, Marge Douglas 294, Elsie **Longson** 292 and **Bert Douglas** 282. Low was Earl Bentley with 74.

Jim Rigney, you owe Brad and the *Echo* a BIG thank you. You see, last week when you had the LOW score of 42, I had written some of it in capital letters. Just things like your name, your score, and the fact that it was the LOWEST score. But when it appeared in the paper, Brad, who edits this article, obviously assumed that the mix of upper and lower case words was a mistake, and he carefully sorted it all out and printed it the normal way – and saved you the embarrassment of having everybody know that YOU had the LOWEST score! But don't despair, Jim. Over the year, nearly all of us get a turn at being low man on the totem pole.

We were fortunate to have daughter **Sharon** and her husband **Guy** arrive home for a Christmas visit. They will be going down country to see Guy's mom and the rest of his family, then coming back here for a couple of days before flying back to Alberta on Christmas night. We are just happy to have them home for whatever time they can spare.

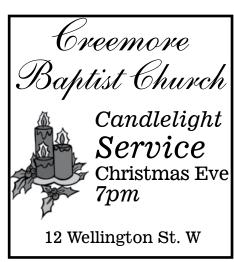
Our daughter Laurie and her husband Bryce live in Calgary, and they own a very smart manx cat. Or so they thought when they discovered that it had learned how to flush the toilet. Which it would do, sometimes pretty often if they forgot to bar it from the bathrooms. Too bad it did not learn how to shut off the water when something went wrong. Which it did, of course. It seems that, after a lot of flushes there was a break in the hose which let the water, which should have ran into the toilet tank, spray down the back of the tank and onto the floor. This in turn let the water run out of the bathroom and onto the bedroom carpet, and then down to the laundry room in the basement. This water went down through the new-last-year ceiling tiles that are now sagging and needing to be removed and replaced – along with the bedroom carpet. At last report the

cat was still alive, and still blithely unaware of the problems its "toy" had caused.

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Sylvia (Bishop) Lloyd and to Lorraine (White) Kulik. Both these gals had a birthday on December 17 – but in two different years. Best wishes for many more.

Thanks to Marilyn Kent and Lori Andersen for offering to come down from west of Singhampton to set up the Christmas tree, etc, etc for us. A lovely offer, but daughter Louie and Jan Hensel had already taken pity on we old folks and had the tree up for us. But a few years ago the Andersen twins, **Mark** and **Dennis** (Lori's sons), arrived and went right to work and set up the tree, decorated it and everything around it, and left us all with a smile on our faces. Wonderful friends.

The horrific massacre at a school in the States makes one want to gather their family around them, and try to keep them safe from all the strife in life, all the while knowing one cannot even begin to appreciate the world of hurt that so many families are living through right now. The time of year just seems to make it worse, if possible. So from all of us to all of you, go safe, and be safe, and have a good Christmas.





CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

Friday, December 21

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Stayner: Mass at 7 pm St. Luke's Anglican Church: Winter Solstice Celebration at 7 pm

Sunday, December 23

Avening United Church: Service at 9 am

St. James Clougher-Lisle: Communion & Baptism Service at 9:30 am

followed by refreshments in the Church hall New Lowell United Church: Service at 10:15 am

St. Andrew's Maple Cross Presbyterian Church: Morning Worship at 10 am

Knox Presbyterian Church, Dunedin: 4th Sunday of Advent & Communiton Service at 10 am. Sermon "A Very Ordinary Teenager". Potluck Lunch to follow.

Stayner Brethren in Christ: Christmas Service at 10:35 am Salvation Army Hope Acres Community Church: Christmas Service at 10:45 am

Creemore Baptist Church: Service at 11 am St. Luke's Anglican Church: Service at 11 am St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Stayner: Mass at 11 am

St. John's United Church: Service at 11:30 am, coffee & conversation at 11 am

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Singhampton: 4th Sunday of Advent Service at 11:30 am followed by Faith Works lunch

Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve

St. Luke's Anglican Church: Family Christmas Service at 4 pm, Holy Eucharist at 8:30 pm

Christ Church Banda: Family Holy Eucharist 6 pm

New Lowell United Church: Christmas Eve Communion Service at 6:30 pm

Mansfield Presbyterian Church: Candlelight Service at 6:30 pm St. James Clougher-Lisle: Hymn Sing at 7 pm. Holy Eucharist

Creemore Baptist Church: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm Knox Presbyterian Church, Dunedin: Christmas Eve Family Service at 7 pm

St. Andrew's Maple Cross Presbyterian Church: Christmas Eve Service & Communion 7 pm

Stayner Brethren in Christ: Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm, refreshments to follow

St. John's United Church: Christmas Eve Communion Service at 8 pm with special guest soloist soprano Michelle Hardie. All are welcome.

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Singhampton: Christmas Eve Service at 8:15 pm St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Stayner: Carolling starting at 10:30 pm followed by Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 11 pm

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day

Creedan Valley Leisureworld: Christmas Day Carol Service at 11 am. Hosted by St. John's United Church & St. Luke's Anglican Church. All welcome. St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Stayner: Christmas Day Mass at 11 am (No Evening Mass)

A Dunedin Christmas store "pops up" on Mill Street

by Brad Holden

Pop-up retail has been a growing trend in cities around the world, and this Christmas, it's arrived in Creemore.

Marcy Stewart's original plan was to open up in the old Creemore Meat Market space for the Santa Claus Parade weekend only, and to use it to sell not much more than the boughs and Christmas decorations that she's become known for over the past few years (her company, msdesign.ca, is responsible for the festive lights and greenery on the front of many of Creemore's stores at this time of year).

But business was brisk, and the Dunedin community that Stewart is a part of is full of artisans and craftspeople, and in a very short amount of time the "store" has evolved into a full-on "Dunedin Christmas Shop," of sorts.

Visitors can now peruse paintings by **Peter Taylor** and members of Drawnonward, wood carvings by **Jim Leithead**, jewellery and homemade dresses by **Jordan DeRuiter**, soaps by **Jennifer Jansen**, woolly children's clothes by **Lisa Christine Aarlt**, and much more.

Stewart also continues to sell her decorations, as well as potted Christmas trees and festive centrepieces.

"It's all come together quickly, and we've had lots of fun," said Stewart. The question now is, what becomes of the idea once Christmas has come and gone?

"We're going to regroup and give it some thought,"



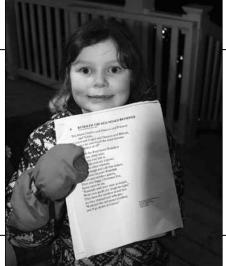
Marcy Stewart (left) with helpers Lori Judzinkski and Jennifer Eccles.

said Stewart, though she did say the "pop-up" model continues to have some appeal, as long as there is space available.

In the meantime, the nameless shop (just look for

the copious amounts of greenery on the east side of Mill Street!) will be open for one more weekend. For those needing last-minute Christmas presents, it's worth a visit.





CHRISTMAS CHEER

This group of carollers, organized by **Dawn Morby**, showed up at the **Mills** residence on Wednesday night and, according to **Fred**, delivered several rousing renditions of holiday favourites!





A NEW NOVELIST Many of you will know that Brian Footitt, one of the pharmacists at the Creemore Village Pharmacy, is bit of a writer on the side. Starting this weekend, he'll be something else entirely - a published novelist. His first novel, Destructive Agendas, is being published by Academia Press of Albion, and will be the subject of a book signing at Affairs Bakery on Saturday, December 22 from 9 am to 4 pm. Billed as "a novel of intrigue and suspense surrounding a most unfortunate incident," the book tells the story of a small-town pharmacist who refuses to fill a narcotic prescription for a shady customer. A confrontation ensues, and what follows is "a satirical journey through a minefield of legal, judicial, political and personal agenda."









FRIEND TO ALL THE ANIMALS Santa Claus paid a visit to Creemore last Saturday and was kept busy posing for pictures with 50 different pets at a fundraising event at the Mad River Veterinary Hospital. The event raised \$370 for the Creemore Cats Spay and Neuter Project. Santa will be back this Saturday, posing for pictures with children at the Creemore Log Cabin. See page 13 for details.











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We wish you a **Merry Christmas** and a Happy New Year

HERE'S WHAT WE ARE PLANNING FOR 2013

IN THE GALLERY IN JANUARY: TREES - various artists on the theme

Artist's Opening Reception Saturday, January 5 - 10am to 12noon

We are now accepting submissions for our community show in February: Farm Animals.

STORYTIME

Saturday, January 12 starting at 10:30 am Enjoy a story and craft in our children's section.

We can help you find the perfect book and finish up your **Christmas Shopping!**

HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec 24 - 10 to 3 Dec 25 & 26 - Closed Dec 27 - 10 - 5 Dec 31 – 10 to 3 Jan 1 - Closed



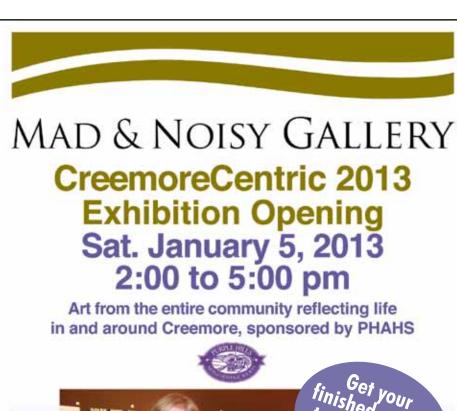
Curiosity House Books 178 Mill St. Creemore 705.466.3400 open 7 days a week www.curiosityhousebooks.com



SONGS OF CHRISTMAS The "Three Anonymous Elves" who have been busy planning Saturday night's Community Carol Sing at the Station on the Green stopped by the *Echo* this week to demonstrate their singing talents. To see a video of them in action, be sure to visit thecreemoreecho.com. The Carol Sing starts at 7 pm on Saturday, December 22 and is open to anyone and everyone who would like to take part in a festive gathering. There will be live music accompaniment and refreshments will be served after the singing. Guests will also get to take home a special *Creemore Christmas Carols* songbook, featuring a very "local" version of *The 12 Days of Christmas*.

THE GIFT OF COMMUNITY The Station on the Green will play host to a special Christmas Craft Fair from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday, December 22, and that event will play host to a special booth - one dedicated to many of the wonderful non-profit groups that make this community what it is. For the person who has it all this Christmas, consider a tax-deductable donation to the Avening Hall, the Clearview Foodbank, the Creemore Medical Centre, the Dunedin Hall, the Gift of Music, Purple Hills Arts & Heritage Society, Ray's Place or the Tree Society of Creemore. In addition, the booth will be selling all kinds of community swag (here being modelled by Miriam Vince, Barbara Mann and Sara Hershoff).







Mad & Noisy Gallery, 154 Mill St. Creemore (705) 466 5555 www.madandnoisy.com

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*** * ***

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Albert & Linda Stewart in
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Murray & Don & Marjorie Stewart
Albert Walmsley in memory of
Gladys Walmsley, George Walmsley
& Sandra Buschbeck
Aldona Vitkus Aldona Vitkus
Alison Parker
Allan & Brenda Coukell in honour of
Dorothy Coukell's 100th Birthday
Allan & Sally Brechin
Allen Church
Andy & Barbara Hims
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Bernice Ford in memory of my
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Bertha Connolly in memory of Rita
Bassett & Mr. & Mrs.Cyril Moore
Betsy, Freudeman in memory of Joh Barbara Oatt in memory Betsy Freudeman in memory of John Freudeman Betty Horne in memory of Dors Poynton & Brian Williams Betty Moore Betty Witthun in memory of Craig Witthun

Bill & Barbara Stewart

Bill & Eleanor Swanton
Bill & Lauree Patrick
Bill & Marilyn Stapleton
Bill & Trudy Ainley in memory of our
beloved son Jonathan Ainley
Bill Rourke
Blackstone Energy Services Inc.
Blair & Lisa Nicol
Blair & Lisa Nicol
Blair & Lynn Quesnel & Family in
memory of Don Quesnel
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Ken & Jeanette Oakley
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of Joe Martinek
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memory of Mona Wilson
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memory of Keith Leighton
Bruce & Janet McKelvey
Bruce & Lynn Hart in loving
memory of my wonderful
mother Marguerite Cooper
Bruce & Wilma Bagg in honour
of our grandchildren Jason, Jeff,
Jordan, Lisa, Becky, Laura, Robin,
Rory & Christina & Hayley
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Bud & Susan Christensen
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Carmen Hogg in memory of my
wife Helen Hogg, my daughter Carol
Anne Reid & my daughter in law
Diana Hogg
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Charlie MacDonald

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my incredible mom Helen Wilson
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memory of David Christie
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David & Joan Black in honour
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David Viljanmaa
Dean Connor & Maris Uffelmann
Debbie Reitsma
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Derek, Dean & Debra Prezio in loving memory of our sister Deanna
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of Charles Willison
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of my husband Geoff Reid
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of Larraine Baulke
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Marilyn McEachern in memory of my loving nephew Kim Hampson & my Grandparents Ken & Marg McIntosh Marilynn Hutchison in memory of the "Old Buzzard"
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memory of Justin Corriveau
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Mr. David Bull
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honour of Jim & Carol McIntyre
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of Dorothy Stackhouse
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Ruth Hastings
Ruth Kingsmill in memory Rudolph & Hanna Schafron
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of Peter Kingsmill
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of Ina Picot
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The Wansbrough Family in memory of Sandy Wansbrough
Thea Jakoyshenko in memory of Walter & Otto
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Tom Bell
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Town of Collingwood
Tracy Atikinson
Trevor Adams in memory
of Sandi Adams
Trevor, Stacey & Noah Flint in
memory of Jean Comfield
Trinity United Church Choir in
memory of Susan Wells
Vandewater Foundation
Vern & Ruth Cornfield
Veronika Grube
Victor Young
Vincent Family
VOA Canada Inc.
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memory of Christopher Moysey
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Ken Astill
Wayne & Donna Hammill in memory
of Dan & Scott Hammill
Wendy & Brian Hickey
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of Pearl Cook
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Avening Hall T shirt, Creemore BIA swag or Creemore Market Apron.

SANTA AT THE CREEMORE LOG CABIN

• Santa's free hourly workshops will have stories, crafts and pictures with Mr. Claus at 9am, 10am, 11am & noon. Limited space so advance bookings are suggested - contact Jenn at Curiosity House Books (705) 466-3400

Horse-drawn wagon rides, 9am to 1pm

• Enjoy a ride around town with the McArthur Family. Wagon leaves from the cabin but wave it down if you see it and want a ride.

Pictures with Santa, 12 noon to 1pm

• For those not taking part in the one of the hourly workshops this is your chance to share your wish list and have a photo taken with the man in red at the Creemore Log Cabin.

Creemore Christmas Carol Singalong at Station on the Green from 7pm to 9pm

• Everyone is invited to join friends and neighbours and raise your voice in seasonal song. Refreshments will be served.











Creemore Village Pharmacy 171 Mill Street • 705-466-2311











An update on efforts to save the Collingwood Street Bridge

by Barry Burton

I have recently been approached by many concerned residents about the status of the Collingwood Street Bridge. Our committee understands that as a result of the many residents who signed our petitions and mailed in letters in support of restoring this old landmark, the County of Simcoe delayed their planned start of the destruction and replacement of the Collingwood Street Bridge in 2012.

Following our first petition the Ministry of Environment did not grant the County their approval to proceed due to incomplete information, resulting in the County withdrawing their original application.

Since that time, the County has resubmitted their Notice of Assessment. The bridge committee, along with many residents, also filed their objections to the County's new Notice of Assessment which continues to recommend replacement of the bridge. As a result of these efforts, the Ministry is reviewing all the facts very carefully and as of this date has not formally responded. It appears from our latest correspondence with the Ministry that they are in no hurry to grant approval for the bridge replacement given the significant community support for the preservation and rehabilitation option.

In the meantime, Simcoe County has moved the funds for this project to be reviewed in the 2014 budget with an estimated cost of \$1.2 million.

I still find it odd that the County is sticking to their budget of \$1.2 million to remove and replace the Collingwood Street Bridge when they have just spent \$1.3 million to rehab the Websterville Bridge on County Road 9. This concrete bridge was refitted 35 years ago and still needed a new superstructure and bridge deck in the current rehab. The original abutments are not part of the rehab.

This just helps to support our position that concrete bridges do not last longer than steel bridges. It also reinforces our position that the County has underestimated their maintenance costs over the life of the concrete bridge proposed in their EA submission.

However, the team of experts on the bridge committee still support restoration costs of under \$1 million. This is also supported by a quote obtained from a professional bridge contractor who provided an estimate of approximately \$750,000 to restore the existing bridge.

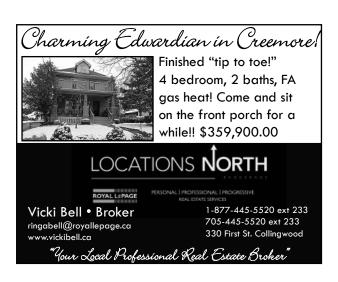
The committee has been in contact with the Ontario Heritage Trust, who were surprised about



the difficulty we are having convincing both the County and Clearview Township that the bridge warrants protection as a heritage structure and deserves restoration. In fact, this position is supported by the County's own consultants in the Heritage Report undertaken for their Environmental Assessment. Their consultant's recommendations are to restore the bridge in its original historical location. (There are no historical designated bridges in Simcoe County)

The Collingwood Street Bridge will turn 100

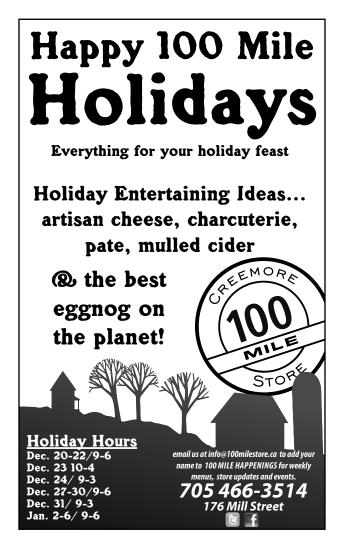
years old in June 2013. The bridge committee will be planning a celebration in support of obtaining a heritage designation for the bridge and would appreciate all the support we can get. Anyone with information, photos or artifacts related to the bridge and interest in becoming involved in the bridge celebration please contact **Barry Burton** at 705-466-2718 or burtonmobile@sympatico.ca; **John Hillier** at 705-466-551 or jhillier@dtah.com; **Jack Mesley** at jack@ontarioerectors.com; or **Thom Patterson** at tpaterson@clearview.ca.











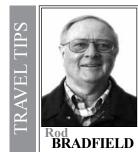
Make a list of travel dreams and start crossing things off

I have not written a travel column in over two years since my wife Peggy died. As you may remember, in my last columns I took umbrage with the term "Bucket List." This is a very negative term and I prefer to be positive. Therefore, I prefer terms such as "Wish

List" or "Travel Dreams." In this column I am going to present some of the travel items on my list.

Peggy and I especially enjoyed river cruises. River cruises are on smaller ships with much smaller passenger lists and therefore, you can meet a much higher percentage of your shipmates and you can go places that the big cruise ships cannot go. Also, on river cruises you are always in sight of the shore on both sides of the ship and there is no chance of sea sickness here! Unlike the large ocean ships you may find yourself visiting several towns or cities in a day and may be docked alongside a town late into the evening – opportunities to go ashore and explore on your own! Peggy and I loved this sort of thing and wanted to go on the relatively few river cruises that we had not taken – such as the Amazon River, the Seine in France and, for me, the Mekong River. When we were on a river cruise in Portugal we met an American who said that he had cruised the Mekong at 45 miles per hour – in a U.S. navy gunboat. This was not what I had in mind.

In June 2011 I crossed another item



off my list. I visited the D-Day Beaches and many of the World War I and II battle sites and cemeteries in France, Belgium and Holland. When you visit the military cemeteries you cannot help but be shocked and sobered. If you visit the Canadian cemeteries you will find

that they are beautifully and lovingly maintained. Most, if not all, of the trees are maples and, as soon as a headstone shows signs of wear, a new headstone is carved. Our governments have shown care for the people who gave their lives for our freedom!

In September I crossed another item off my list. I travelled to England to visit a number of important sites from World War II. We visited a number of collections of aircraft, attended two air shows, visited the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Centre, toured Coventry and London, visited the Carpetbagger Aviation Museum (where the USAAF 492nd and 802nd Bomb Groups were stationed) and visited Churchill's Cabinet War Rooms, the Churchill Museum and his home – Chartwell. While in London we spent an afternoon at the Imperial War Museum and enjoyed a London Pub Night at "The Albert". When we left London we carried on to RAF Hendon, which is still an operational base and was the site of the very important Battle of Britain Operations Room. We visited the Aldershot Military Museum which

includes an exhibition of the Canadian Military in Aldershot during World Wars I and II. We visited the D-Day Museum and Overlord Embroidery (dedicated to all troops and forces on the eve of June 6, 1944) in Southsea. While there we also visited Southwick House, where General Eisenhower made the final decision to go ahead with D-Day, and we stopped in to Ike and Monty's favourite pub next door. We also visited Beachy Head on the south-east coast of England where the battles overhead were an everyday occurrence and toured the tunnels and the operational headquarters of Operation Dynamo – the evacuation of Dunkirk at

Dover Castle. The next day we stopped at RAF Biggin Hill and the Kent Battle of Britain Museum. I know that this was an intensive experience, but I am a bit of a World War II enthusiast and wanted to see as much as I could.

In future columns I will tell you about a few other items I have crossed off my list. In the meantime, I invite you to start preparing your own wish list. I challenge you to think of your travel dreams. After all, we are only given so much time to accomplish our dreams, so let's get started. Do something different something you have always dreamt of doing but never quite got around to.



NEW LOWELL LEGION ROUNDUP Members of the New Lowell Legion dropped off a cheque for \$500 to the Clearview Food Bank this week. In addition, the organization made the following financial donations this year: \$500 for the New Lowell Girl Guides; \$500 for the SCI Robotics Team; \$1,000 for the 1944 EME Cadets; \$1,000 to sponsor Cadet Zack Brennan's visit to Vimy Ridge. The Legion also donated the use of its hall to the New Lowell United Church, the New Lowell Public School, Winterama, and the Seniors Euchre Club. As well, a defibrillator purchased by the Legion's Poppy Fund was placed in the club's building.

This Holiday Give the Gift of Community

Visit the community booth this Saturday, December 22, 9am to 1pm Creemore Craft Fair • Station on the Green

Make a tax deductible donation in someone's name to

Avening Hall • Clearview Stayner Foodbank Creemore Medical Centre Expansion • Dunedin Hall Gift of Music, St Luke's • Purple Hills Arts & Heritage Ray's Place • Creemore Tree Society

and receive a beautiful personalized card perfect for under the tree

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Tax receipts for \$20 or more will be mailed to donor by individual groups Cash and Cheque preferred • Visa accepted with a service charge





HORT CHRISTMAS The Creemore Horticultural Society held their Christmas potluck supper on Wednesday, December 12, at St. Luke's Church. At the event, president Dorothy Shropshire handed out the prize money from the Society's two flower shows. Linda Wright (at left) was the high point scorer, Kathy Meeser (who was absent) was second and Gayle Millsap and Audrey Davidson (at right) tied for third.

'Til Christmas Eve 20% off all ornaments and scarves! Boxing week SALE starts December 26th at 10am 20-50% most

Visit our Accessory Room...Jewellery, Scarves, Bags and Hue leggings! And don't forget our famous homemade fudge...Buy 1lb get 1/2lb free!

15 minutes South of Creemore on Airport Rd. (705) 435-6898 OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE 'TIL 5PM! M-TH 10am-6pm|Fri 10am-9pm Saturday & Sunday 10am-6pm

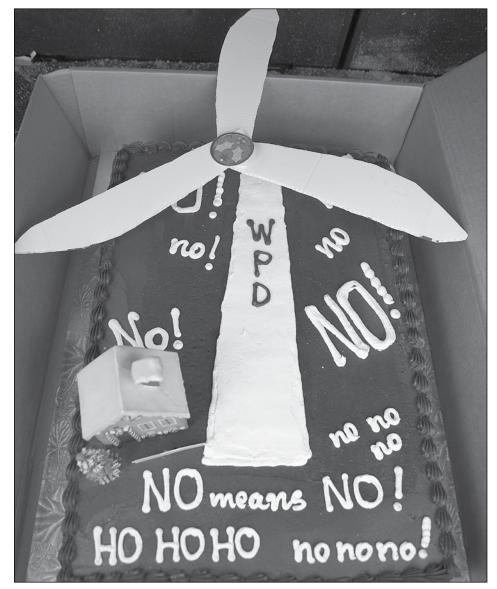




BLUE JAY BOSS The *Creemore Echo*'s **Fred Mills** has a long history with the Toronto Blue Jays and the Toronto Argonauts, and he was eager to pay Blue Jays president **Paul Beeston** a visit during a recent speaking engagement with the Probus Club of Collingwood. Gee, Fred, I wonder if you could get us some tickets for the Jays' inevitable 2013 World Series appearance?



PARADE HONOURS Creemore Santa Claus Parade organizer **John Blohm** presented **Carol Sperandeo** of the Old Mill House Pub with a trophy last week for the Pub's awesome Christmas float in this year's parade.



LET HIM EAT CAKE There's a bit of back-story behind this photograph. Fairgrounds Road resident and inveterate anti-wind crusader **Melodie Burkett**'s husband happens to be **Mike Burkett**, the Mayor of the Township of Severn, and some time ago, after a bet they'd made at County Council, Mike was the recipient of a cake baked by Clearview Deputy Mayor **Alicia Savage**. That led to Clearview Mayor **Ken Ferguson** joking with Melodie about when he might expect to see her bake him a cake... and this week, Melodie delivered. With the help of **Norma Panzine** at Affairs Bakery, the Mayor and all of Clearview Council received this cake on Tuesday, inscribed with a very pointed message!

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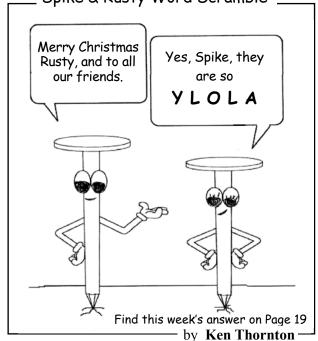
FUN& Games

$Sudoku^{\text{by}}_{\text{Barbara Simpson}}$

3				5	8			
					9	8		
		9	6				4	
		1	7				<u>4</u> 9	6 8
2 7								8
7	9				6 3	4		
	9				3	1		
		4	2 8					
			8	6				2

Answer on Page 19

Spike & Rusty Word Scramble _



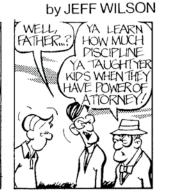


The AVRIDGE FARM









FRED'S FUNNIES

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care. They'd been worn all week and needed the air!

Brian's Canadian Crossword

#206 by Brian Paquin © 2012

#0206

ACROSS

- 1 Kenya's continent 7 Spills the beans
- 12 Retirement investment
- option 16 Church official
- 17 Blues-rock musician Jeff __
- 18 Shipwreck cause
- 19 Win against
- 20 Win over
- 21 Water arum
- 22 Those who have more fun? 24 ___ Odeon
- 26 Sense
- 29 Org. of Ravens, Falcons and **Eagles**
- 30 Early Beatles tune 31 Give money
- 33 Fashion Television host Jeanne
- 36 Competitor of Us
- 40 Post-WWII relief org.
- 42 Dannon products
- 45 Defeat soundly
- Lake Winnipegosis (2) 48 Face smoother
- 49 Singer Ross (Upside Down)
- 50 Poses for a portrait
- 53 Heart hit (2)

#0205

Solved

www.

com

cancross.

51 Ran at a casual pace

- 55 Actress Bow of the Roaring **Twenties**
- 56 Part of BLT
- 57 City on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River
- 61 Post-revolutionary
- government
- 62 Answer an invitation
- 66 Bring out 67 Actress Tamblyn
- 69 More costly
- 71 Pool table cover 72 Catherine the Great, e.g.
- 74 Adventure in 1A
- 75 Tea company founded in Montreal in 1892
- 77 Bandleader Shaw
- 79 Blunt 80 Spewed oil
- 83 Cook in oil
- 85 Peruse the paper 86 Approached uninvited
- 89 Reduced in price (hyph.)
- 92 Show off
- 93 Kindle
- 99 Cavity filler
- 100 Waiting for the show to
- start
- 101 Like a city slicker
- 102 Apple competitor 103 Apple and orange, e.g.
- P R I V A T E A L K Y D I N U S E R O S E T T E N O I R E
 P E A C E T O W E R E D M O N T O N
 Z A P S C R Y I N G L E E R E D R O S S

- during WWI

- 12 Jubilant

- 17 Jacob Hoggard's group
- 18 Toronto group Broken
- Produ
- 25 Little bites
- 26 Vendettas
- (Bandidas)
- the 1950s 35 Yikes!
- 37 British baby buggy
- 41 Loses power, as a
- 44 Plots of land
- 49 Commotion
- 54 Military mascots, sometimes 55 Reminder
- 57 Matt Pavelich and Andy Van Hellemond, e.g.

- 4 Refrigerants cut from lakes
- 5 Western Canadian
- 7 Part of N.B.
- 8 Young men

- 15 Colgate mouthwash
- Social

- 30 Actress Penelope _
- 39 Israeli diplomat Abba

- 47 I Sang Dixie singer of 1988
- 52 Gussy up

104 Orchestrated

- 1 Extend
- 3 British military group formed
- and ponds (2)
- commodity
- 10 Coastline
- 11 Damascus is its capital
- 14 Clearance

- Vignettes
- 27 World-weariness 28 Mandate

- government

- **DOWN**

- 6 Goldengirl Susan
- 9 Pint in a pub
- 13 Kavak trick

- Spider trap 34 Where Canadians fought in
- 43 Part of RC
- 56 Sudden spurt of speed

- 2 Stipend

- 38 Moon goddess



102

59 Think over a concept

60 Like a stop sign 61 Taunt 62 Decisions in 1980 and 1995

58 Concept

- 63 Backup 64 Vice 65 Used a crowbar 68 Newfoundland curler
- 70 Have lunch 72 Toward Newfoundland 73 Strained

Gushue

- 82 Trimming tool
- 87 Staff
- 89 Refer to 90 Sporty vehicles 91 Tense
- 96 Actor Young (They Shoot
- 76 Needing a cleaning 78 Stumble
- 81 Bank job
- 84 Units of cloth 86 Dedicated
- 88 Select
- 94 Refusal from Groundskeeper Willie
- Horses, Don't They?)
- 98 Advanced degree
- 97 Function

103

Merry Christmas Greetings from your neighbours!



My warmest wishes to my friends and neighbours for a Merry Christmas Season and a 🗸 prosperous New Year.

Carman Gowan



Best wishes to all for a safe, healthy & Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. May all your work be caught up, all your projects finished & all your troubles be little ones! from the

Creemore Big Heart Seniors



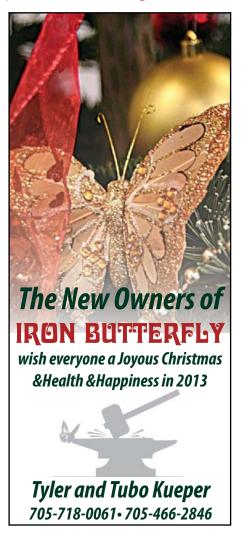
Our warmest wishes to all our family and friends for a Merry Christmas and Love, Health and Happiness in the New Year.

Gertie & Terry Gowan



Thank you for all the kindnesses shown to me and my family over the past year. Best wishes for Christmas $\sqrt{}$ and 2013 to all my family, friends & neighbours.

Helen Blackburn









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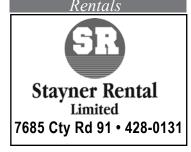
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ECHO Classifieds

Submit your classified ad by 5 pm Tuesday: Call (705) 466-9906, Fax 466-9908, Email info@creemore. com,\$15 plus hst for 25 words or less

CELEBRATIONS

Everyone is invited to a Come & Go Tea to celebrate Herb Dickinson's 100th Birthday on Saturday, December 29 at the Blue Mountain Manor in Stayner from 2 to 4 pm.

Everyone is invited to Come & Dance to celebrate Gwendolyn Taylor's 85th Birthday on Saturday, December 29 at the Creemore Legion from 7 to 10 pm. Best wishes and donations to the food bank only please.

FOR SALE

Locally raised TURKEYS for sale. Fed homegrown grains and vacuum-packed for freshness. Call now for Christmas parties and Christmas supper. \$3.00/lb. Call Luke Whitley (a division of the Whitley Boys) at 705-466-3541.

FIREWOOD for sale. Maple, beech, elm, split wood & limb wood approx. 16" long. Half ton truck load delivered for \$150. Limited quantity, cash sales. Call 705-466-2477 or busib4u@gmail.com.

Dry seasoned maple **WOOD** for sale. \$120 a face, \$300 a bush cord. Free delivery with this ad. 705-994-2730.

2007 BUICK ALLURE CX Grey. Approx Mileage is 50,000 km. Accepting offers now. Contact 705-466-2027.

Do your Christmas shopping at Mad & Noisy Gallery – a wide range of gift ideas for the whole family. From pillows to ornaments, there are many handmade objects to decorate your home. Lots of affordable art in glass, wood, photography, oils, acrylics, mixed media and metal created by our members just for you. 154 Mill Street. Open every day until Christmas. 705-466-5555 www.madandnoisy.com

Enchanted Victorian Christmas in our 1878 farm house decked with hundreds of gift ideas, antique linen and lace, fine collectables, handmade fare, baking, and honeybutters. It's like shopping in a museum of Christmas past and present. Open daily until Dec. 23, 10 am to 5 pm. Cash and cheques accepted. 2 kms East of Stayner on Hwy 26 to Centerline Rd., south 3kms to Conc.9, east 1 km. to "A Day at Victoria's" (fire #5681) 705-428-0445 Cathy

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Spike & Rusty: LOYAL

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

RENTALS

ROOMS for rent. Furnished. \$130 per week includes shared living room, heat, hydro, wireless internet, satellite TV, parking. Linens supplied. No smoking. Call 705-444-4852.

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SKI SEASON RENTALS

WINTER SKI RENTAL. December to April. In the heart of Dunedin, 15 minutes from Devil's Glen, a spectacular, light, airy, spacious home: 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, high ceilings, 2 fireplaces, artist studio, pine floors filled with skylights on the banks of the Noisy River 7 k west of Creemore. Fabulous space for intimate family gatherings, or entertaining many. Parking for 8. Formerly Dunedin's general store/post office, Circa 1860. Please email Lynn Connell: lynnconnell@ sympatico.ca, or call 416-951-6528 for appointment this weekend.

3 Excellent Winter Ski Rentals available. Contact Pat or Graham at 705 466 6893 ext.101.

LOST / FOUND

KEYS found near Strandz Hair Salon on black lanyard with zebra key. Come to Creemore Echo to claim.

THANK YOU

The family of the late Harvey Lane would like to thank everyone for their kindness at the time of his passing. Thank you also to the staff at Blue Mountain Manor for their care and kindness over the past years. Also we would like to thank the staff of Fawcett Funeral home for their compassion at this time. Dennis and family

Thanks to **Ken Thornton** for giving us a Jolly Visit at *Creemore Echo* this week! And thanks to **Sarah Hallet** of Roseberry Farm and Elaine Collier for treats too.

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THANK YOU

The family of the late Dalton Millar wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to their friends, relatives and neighbours for the many acts of kindness, flowers, memorial donations, cards and food received in their recent bereavement and a special thanks to doctors and nursing staff at the Collingwood Hospital and the Barrie Hospital. A special thank you to Sarah-Dale and Mark and staff of Chatterson Funeral Home for all of their help and compassion. Rev'd Ray Dobson for his comforting words, pianest Rosemary Dickenson, pall bearers and flower bearers. Special thanks to John Brooks and Ken Lucyshyn for their eulogy also to St.Pauls Church, Singhampton for their lovely lunch. Sincerely, Marie Millar and family

A year ago on December 15 my dear husband Brian heard a crash in the laundry room and found me sitting on the floor with the ironing board on top of me. He was unable to help me up because he had been home only a few days following hip replacement surgery. Although I have no memory of the incident Brian tells me I appeared very confused and did not know how to get myself up from the floor. By the time the ambulance arrived I understand I did not know my name, address, day of the week etc. Following neurological tests at Barrie RVH, I was sent to Toronto Western Hospital in critical condition and operated on at midnight to relieve the buildup of fluid in my brain. The procedure went well but I was left with limited vision which my neurosurgeons felt would eventually worsen to blindness. They encouraged me to join the CNIB so I could learn to adjust to life without sight. Much to everyone's surprise my vision gradually returned and is now better than it was before the surgery. Brian and I wish to thank all who kept us in their thoughts and prayers. We believe all that positive energy coming from so many caring folk in and around Creemore was what contributed to my recovery. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and memorable New Year. Diane and Brian McKay

We raised \$230 towards the Creemore Medical Centre expansion, selling raffle tickets for the Gingerbread house. The lucky winner was Barb Evans from Everett. Thanks to all who participated to help improve our community. Norma Panzine, Affairs Bakery & Cafe

The *Echo* would like to thank **Helen** Chung at Jug City for our front page picture this week (although we admit we took a few liberties with it!)

THANK YOU

Mansfield Women's Institute would like to take this opportunity to let the Mansfield and surrounding communities know that their fundraising goal to restore the Mansfield cenotaph has been accomplished. The work has been completed and on November 11 for the first time in decades a large group of people attended the re-dedication and Remembrance Day service. It was a very emotional day for us all. None of this would have been possible without the kind donations from individuals who also believed like us, that the cenotaph should be cared for and maintained and came forward to help. So on behalf of our group I want to thank each and every one of you for supporting us and this cause. It was very much appreciated. Jane Hawkins, Chairperson of the Mansfield Cenotaph restoration committee of **Mansfield Women's Institute**

Creemore Echo staff would like to thank Linda Cockton for making us a homemade apple pie and bringing it in to share with us while it was still warm! Delicious! Thanks & Merry Christmas Linda!

DEATH NOTICE

MATHERS, Anna passed away on Thursday, December 13, 2012 in her 94^{th} year at the Collingwood General & Marine Hospital. Beloved wife of the late Fred Mathers. Loving mother of Joanne (the late Wilfred) LeBlanc, Fred Mathers & Elizabeth (Gordon) Miller. Cherished grandmother of Ann-Marie Beaman (Wayne), David LeBlanc (Tracey), Kelly Hoogenraad (Stephen), Julia Mathers, Matthew Miller (Katrina) and Erica Miller (David Baird); great grandmother of Grace, Blake, Alicia, Nathan, Damien and Saorise. Anna is survived by her sister Evie and will be remembered by many nieces and nephews. She will be sadly missed by her loving caregiver Wilma Delo. Visitation was held on Sunday, December 16, 2012 at Fawcett Funeral Home - Creemore Chapel. Funeral mass took place on Monday. December 17, 2012 at Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic Parish, 27 Centre St. in Angus. Interment at St. Mary's Cemetery in Barrie. In lieu of flowers donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Friends may visit Anna's on-line Book of Memories at www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com



COMMUNITY CARVINGS The Station on the Green had an unexpected visit from a local "Santa Claus" this week. Sculptor **David Bruce Johnston** had long been eyeing up the Creemore signs on the building, which were made of Coroplast and had degraded significantly. So he took it upon himself to carve new wooden signs and mounted them on Tuesday. The Station Board was, needless to say, very grateful!









A good neighbour

The Dufferin Wind Farm project was started by members of this community to help sustain local farming and support our community through the generation of clean energy.

Over its lifetime, the Dufferin Wind project will contribute millions of dollars to the local community through land leases, property taxes, and construction and operations activities. The

project will be an important source of income that will help us keep our farming way of life that we, and our families before us, have worked so hard to preserve.

We want to thank all of the members of the community who have come to visit us in our project office and for their ongoing support and encouragement. We are looking forward to building a project that we can all be proud of and that helps our community.

Farm Owned Power Melancthon

Dufferin Wind Power remains committed to working hand-in-hand with the community and appreciates all of your comments and suggestions.

We would like to hear from you! www.DufferinWindPower.ca

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Email: info@dufferinwindpower.ca