

The Creemore ECHO



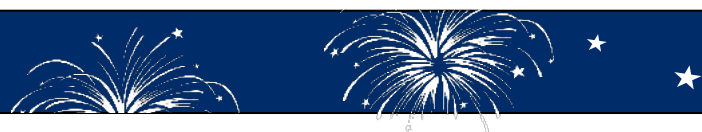
Friday, December 28, 2012 Vol. 12 No. 52

thecreemoreecho.com

ANNUAL YEAR END ISSUE!!!!

News and views in and around Creemore

Volunteer of the Year: JOHN BLOHM

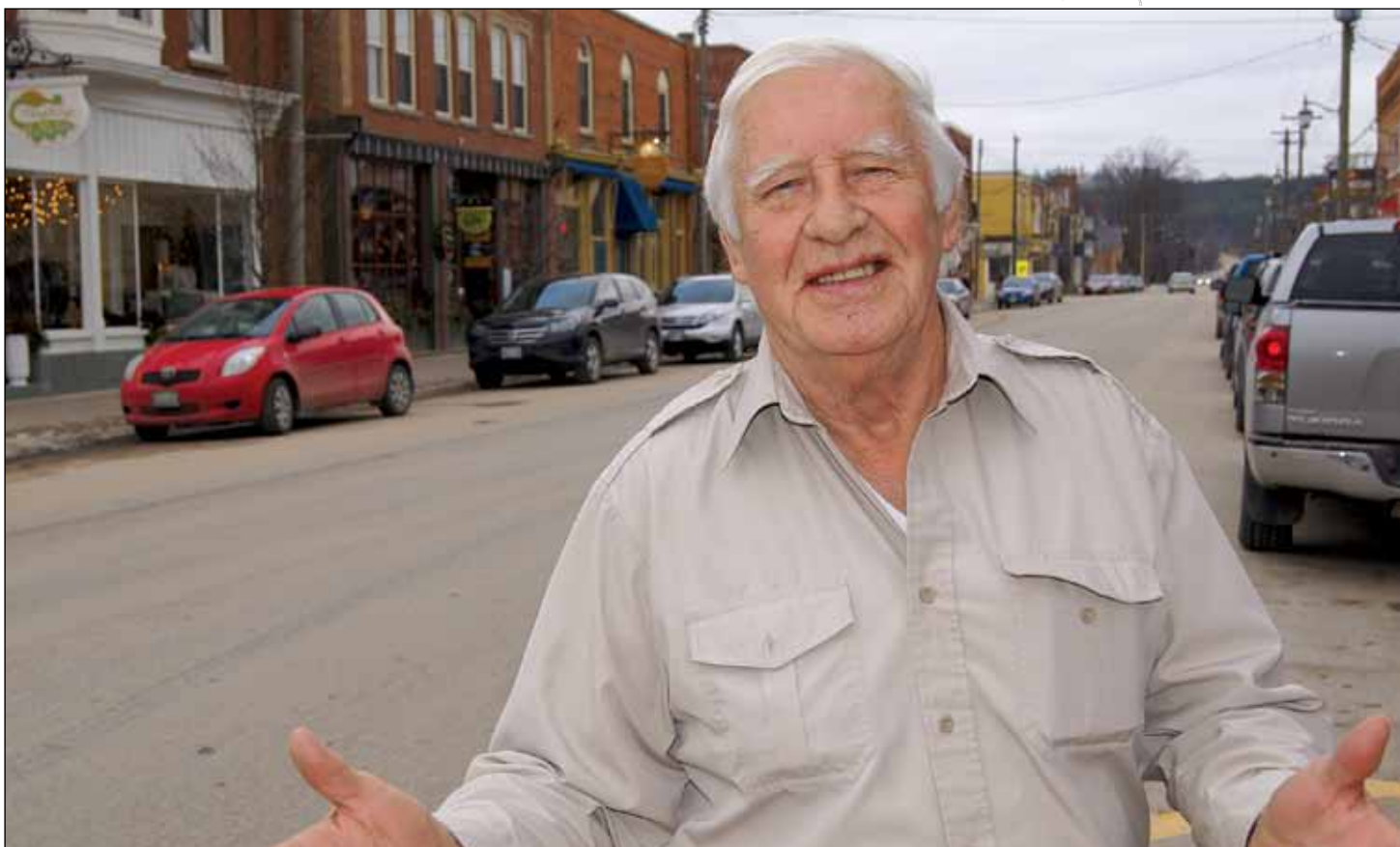


by Brad Holden

Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes, and all demeanors too. **John Blohm**, the *Creemore Echo's* choice for our 2012 Volunteer of the Year, could be described as gruff, perhaps. On the wrong day, you might even call him grumpy. But get on the right side of his smile, which you'll easily do if you match his passion for our annual Santa Claus Parade, and you'll quickly see he has a heart of gold.

John has been almost single-handedly running the Creemore Santa Claus Parade for the past five years, since the Creemore Lions disbanded and handed the event off to the Creemore Legion. We say "almost" because his family – his wife **Marie**, daughters **Katharine** and **Joanne** and others – have lent their hands as well.

For John, parades are a long-standing passion. He organized his first one in Shelburne in the late 70s. A trained pastry chef from Hanover, Germany
(See "Our Volunteer" on page 10)



John Blohm

~~Newsmaker~~ Moment of the Year: HIGHLAND WITHDRAWS



Several of the folks who spent countless hours fighting the mega quarry sent out this bold holiday greeting last year; now seems as good a time as any to revisit it!

by Brad Holden

While it's been our tradition the past few years to pick an individual as our Newsmaker of the Year, we found that no one, or nothing, eclipsed the moment on Wednesday, November 21, when the public relations firm under contract with the Highland Companies sent out an innocent little email, stating that the company was withdrawing its application to quarry 2,400 acres of prime farmland in Melancthon Township.

The ramifications of that "moment" are sure to be many, and remain to be seen. Will Highland be back with a different proposal in the future? Will the Aggregate Act be changed to scale back the primacy of this resource over all others? And perhaps most interestingly of all, what will happen to the strong coalition of local people who have come of age as activists as a result of this issue?

All of these are things to watch in the future; for now, we celebrate that Wednesday morning as our "News Moment of the Year."





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COMMUNITY Calendar

Submit your community events
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Upcoming Events

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 a **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

- **Church Services** on page 11.
- 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

Monday, December 31

- **New Year's Eve Dance** at Sunnidale Corners Community Centre from 9 pm to 1 am. Call 705-428-0223 for ticket information. 12391 Cty Rd 10.

Thursday, January 3

- **Singtown Snow Golf and Skate-a-thon** at Singhampton Park, Cty Rd 124. Call 705-445-9364 for details.

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.

Wednesday, January 9

- **Guest night for new square dancers.** Join the Blue Mountain Promenaders at Nottawasaga Hall in Duntroon from 6:45 to 8 pm and beat the winter blues! Exercise and social time too. Smoke and alcohol free event. Call 705-445-3662 for more details.

Friday, April 19 to Sunday, April 21

- **Girls Getaway Weekend** in Creemore: includes welcome reception, gourmet dinner at local restaurant, shopping with discount card, private brewery tour, flower arranging and card making, optional massage, reflexology, nail art or yoga (pre-booking required). \$305 to \$435 based on double occupancy for 2 nights at the Bed & Breakfast of your choice with full breakfast provided. Hosted by Creemore & Area Bed & Breakfast Association. www.creemorebb.com to book or call 705-466-6505.

MILESTONES

Each year, the calendar is filled with milestones. Here are a few that appeared in the paper.



QUILTS AND KILTS Maureen McLeod celebrated her 70th birthday with friends and family, including son **Alex**, daughter-in-law **Delia**, daughter **Mariane** and son-in-law **Charlie**.



PLAY BALL Smith Brothers Baseball Central opened in New Lowell in February, providing baseball enthusiasts from far and wide with an indoor training facility.



ROOM WITH A VIEW Anna Alonso and her husband Troy Gallimore opened the Terra Nova Pub early in the year and visitors and locals alike have had reason to celebrate.



50 YEARS Bob and Betty Stephenson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Clougher-Lisle Church in June.



140 YEARS The Avening United Church celebrated its 140th anniversary with more than 200 people in attendance on Sunday, September 9, 2012.

A NEW PLACE FOR PETS Mad River Veterinary Hospital owner **Jacquie Pankatz** cut the ribbon on her new facility with the help of several local politicians and friends.



NEW OWNERS Home Hardware was purchased by **Trish and Rick Miles** in June. Here, they're seen with employees **David Dillon**, **Jen Lyons** and **Liz Glatt**.



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PEOPLE

Some of the many faces that appeared on the pages of the *Echo* this year.



NEXT GENERATION Longtime cancer fighter **Vicki Dunleavy**, who rode across Canada two years ago to raise money for the cause, was joined by her 22-year-old daughter **Brittany Herrington** on this year's Coast to Coast for Cancer Foundation Tour for Kids, a four-day ride around southern Ontario.



GLOBAL H₂O John Millar, president of Creemore-based Tin Roof Global, took his wife **Emily Worts** and board member **Leah Hagreen** to Uganda in the spring to have a look at the work the charity is doing in that country to ensure children have clean drinking water.



MAN OR SUPERMAN? Dunedin's **Peter Taylor** demonstrated some super human powers in July, placing 6th overall and finishing the seven-stage, 148-kilometre Sinister Seven running race in Crow's Nest, Alberta, in just under 20 hours.



GOING THE DISTANCE Not to be outdone by his friend **Peter Taylor**, **Nick Brindisi** of Inzane Planet ran 100 kilometres in 11 hours and raised \$3,500 for the G&M Hospital in September. Word is he's signed up for the Sinister Seven in 2013!



NICE SHOES Not to give too much press to one of our own, but we're pretty proud of the *Creemore Echo*'s **Fred Mills**, who walked a mile in high heels in October and raised \$1,600 for My Friend's House (here, he's seen with My Friend's House executive director **Alison FitzGerald**).



IN HIS HONOUR 94-year-old **Ken Thornton** continued his amazing string of accomplishments by having an RCMP award (for the piper who best exhibits Ken's traits!) named after him.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to these, and many others, who did amazing things this year.



THREE DECADES Cathy Traverse was honoured for 30 years of service to Scouts Canada in February.



ON TARGET The 1944 EME Royal Canadian Army Cadets shooting team had a great year, with Cadet **Devin Lohnes** (third from right) qualifying to compete in the National Championships.



A GREAT HELP Galen Yates was the recipient of the inaugural Ray's Place Scholarship, worth up to \$20,000 over four years. Galen is studying engineering at the University of Toronto.

NEC ACHIEVEMENT Local builder **John Gordon** and architect **Jamie Douglas** were honoured by the Niagara Escarpment Commission for the design and build of a Glen Huron house.



LONGEVITY Paul Millsap (left) has been representing the Creemore Curling Club at the Quebec International Bonspiel for 40 years, and he was honoured for it with a pin and a letter from the Prime Minister at this year's event.



BEST IN CANADA Rusty McArthur's Belgian filly Maple Lane Misty was chosen as the Canadian Belgian Horse Association's 2011 All-Canadian Filly Foal Champion in February.



TOPS IN ONTARIO The Creemore Valley Hawks Atom Rep Team followed a 20-0 regular season with a dominating run through the playoffs, claiming the OMHA Atom D provincial championship.



STEWARDSHIP Mulmur residents **Al Clarke** and **Jacqueline Tilford** were honoured by the Niagara Escarpment Commission for the outstanding stewardship of their property.



LOCAL HONOUR Jackie Durnford and Sandra Lackie of the 100 Mile Store were given the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence in August.

CHAMPS The Creemore Junior Braves capped an excellent first season with a provincial Junior "C" OBA championship.

MAJOR EVENTS

Creemore loves its annual events; these are just some of the many that fill our calendar every year (plus one new one that we hope to see again in 2013!)



HOMEGROWN ART Claire and Arran Adams were proud of their entries for January’s CreemoreCentric exhibit at the Mad & Noisy Gallery.



STARS ON ICE The Creemore Skating Club’s annual Carnival is always a wonderful show and a testament to the power of volunteerism.

FARM TO TABLE While Creemore is spoiled with a great weekly Farmers’ Market from May to October, opening day always feels like a “major event.”



FELLOWSHIP Diane Hutchings and Rene Cornelissen were among those who attended the 2011 Creemore Community Christmas Dinner.



WINTER FUN Residents of New Lowell braved the cold and added another souvenir pin to their hats at this year’s Winterama, held as always on the first weekend of February.



O CANADA The Harold Crawford Memorial Canada Day Parade is an annual chance for Creemore’s youngest to celebrate their country on two wheels (and sometimes three!)



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The New Age of Care



TRACTORS! Manfred Leimgardt was one of dozens of antique tractor enthusiasts who paraded down Mill Street as part of **Jamie Adam's** annual Dunedin Tractor Rally.



LOCAL BREWS This year's Copper Kettle Festival celebrated 25 years since Creemore Springs started up operations in downtown Creemore.



COMMUNITY CREATIVITY This year, the Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society replaced its venerable Fall Colours Studio Tour with the brand new Creemore Festival of the Arts, featuring an exhibition by local collective Drawnonward.



FALL FAIR The Great Northern Exhibition was, as always, a great celebration of rural living. Here, **Gabi Millsap** gets ready to show her calf as part of the 4H Achievement Day.



SCAAARY The second annual Hallowfest, a fundraiser for the General & Marine Hospital Foundation, was as spooktacular as ever. **Carol Sperandeo**, always one to play dress up, made a great zombie.



LEST WE FORGET The Creemore Legion's service on Remembrance Day was a reminder of the sacrifices many made to give us the quality of life we enjoy today. Here, Second World War veteran **Warren Gale** is accompanied by **Bill McDougall** during the wreath-laying.



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HAPPENINGS

In addition to all of Creemore's annual events, there are countless "happenings" throughout the year.



STORM-STAYED Last winter was a relatively easy one, but 18 people from all over southern Ontario will not soon forget one of its few storms, which left them stranded on Highway 124 until the good people of Honeywood took them in at the arena for the night.



HUNGRY ATHLETES The Ontario Winter Games were played throughout the Georgian Triangle in March, and the ladies of the Creemore Legion were kept busy feeding 105 Ringette players and their coaches, who played their tournament at the Creemore Arena.

PEAK TO PEAK Nearly 300 people hiked distances of 8, 12, 20 or 26 kilometres on the Bruce Trail in May, raising money to help the Clearview Community Coalition in its ongoing fight against Walker Aggregates' Duntroon Quarry expansion.



HUB OPENING Deputy Chief of Simcoe Paramedics Services **Jeff McWilliam**, Clearview Township Fire Chief **Bob McKean** and Huronia West OPP Detachment Commander **Kevin Hunter** cut a ceremonial fire hose to open the Clearview Emergency Hub in June.

JERSEY MILK John and Marie Miller opened Miller's Dairy in style in July, with a community-wide party celebrating milk as it was served in the good old days.



STOMPED OUT A total of 550 people ran, biked or walked 5K, 10K or half-marathon distances during July's Stomp the Mega Quarry event, raising \$25,000 for NDACT's efforts to defeat the proposed Highland Quarry in Melancthon.

HISTORY ON DISPLAY The Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society, with the help of a donation from Creemore Springs, erected 13 heritage plaques throughout the village. **Aiken Scherberger**, who spearheaded the project, posed with **John Wiggins** beside a plaque in Wiggins' honour at an unveiling ceremony at the brewery.



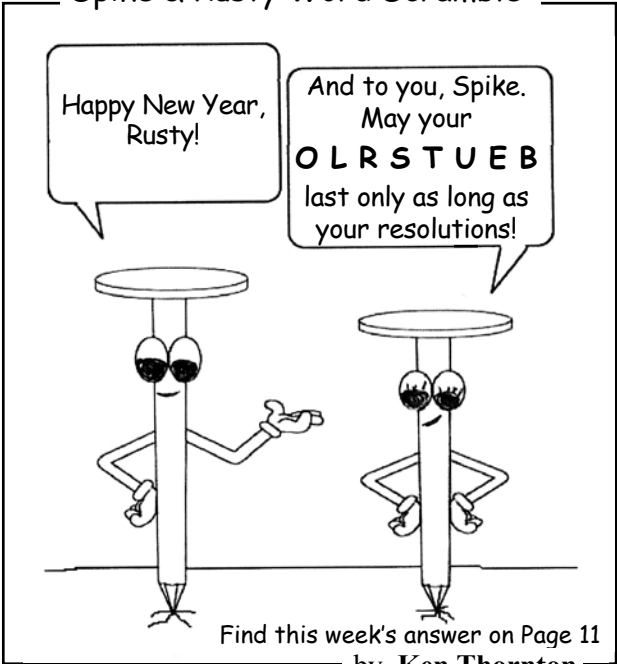
FUN & Games

Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answer on Page 11

Spike & Rusty Word Scramble



Find this week's answer on Page 11 by Ken Thornton

CREEMORE Weekend Weather

Friday, December 28
Mixed precipitation
High 2 Low -4 Winds NW 20 km/h
POP 70%

Saturday, December 29
Few flurries
High -1 Low -6 Winds SE 20 km/h
POP 40%

Sunday, December 30
Sunny
High -1 Low -7 Winds E 30 km/h
POP 0%

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FRED'S FUNNIES

An optimist stays up until midnight
too see the New Year in.
A pessimist stays up to make sure the
old year leaves.

The AVRIDGE FARM

by JEFF WILSON

Brian's Canadian Crossword

#207 by Brian Paquin © 2012

#0207

ACROSS

1 The Eagle of the Calgary Olympics

6 Iconic leaf of Canada

11 Coach who won nine Stanley Cups

17 They guard the entrance to the Central Post Office in Ottawa

18 German submarine (hyph.)

19 Not out on the town (2)

20 Fountain treats

21 Preference

22 Reprimand (2)

24 Between, in Brossard

25 Subsequent to

26 Son of Roy Thomson

27 Deep in tone

29 At no time, to a poet

31 Drone

32 Old TV type

33 Arctic explorer Amundsen

35 Arctic explorer Robert ____

37 Pontiac's title

40 Territory

41 Broadcaster Bertrand

42 Due South star

43 Triumph's genre

44 Candide, e.g.

49 Old car concern

50 Sell off

52 Part of the D-Day invasion

53 Island in a river

54 Ancient letters

55 Mournful cries

57 Nasser's domain, briefly

58 Mazda truck line (hyph.)

60 Abilities

62 Himalayan bigfoot

63 Opted for

65 Heavenly bodies

66 Roadside stopover

67 Sphere starter

68 Stars

70 Voyageur's transportation

71 Singer Yanofsky (I believe)

74 Long marches

75 Quebec lyricist Plamondon

76 Employ

77 Silent

78 Settler of New France

83 Telltale

86 The City of Light

89 Dark brown

90 Position

91 Highway warning

92 Funt of Candid Camera

93 Captivate

94 Jolly ____

95 Out of control

96 Persevered (2)

97 Calendar spans

98 Two-fours

DOWN

1 Famed Safety Elephant

2 Actress Keaton (The Godfather)

3 Knuckleheads

4 Opening remarks

5 Perfumes

6 Like X-Men

7 Toward the stern

8 Conrad Black's National ____

9 Not in time

10 Forever in time

11 Bankrolled

12 None of the above

13 At what time?

14 Like a tidy lawn

15 One-celled creature

16 Spay

23 So ____ say

28 Comic strip bark

30 Red Muppet

33 School break

34 Woodbine ____ (thoroughbred race)

35 Hums

42 Captures (attention)

43 Gargle

45 Beach toys

46 Faithful concerning (2)

47 Spot on (3)

48 One of the months that hath 30 days

50 Because of (2)

51 Uses a baton

54 Actress Christina ____ (That Darn Cat)

56 Clerical clothing

59 Smell foul

61 Lunatic

62 Over there

64 Grime

66 Cape Breton fiddler

69 One way to cook a goose (2)

70 Little lion

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82

83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98

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D E F E A T E N D E A R C A L L A

F E E L N F L C H A I N S

E N D O W B E K E R P E O P L E

U N I C E F Y O G U R T S D R U B

D U C K B A Y R A Z O R D I A N A

S I T S L O P E D M A G I C M A N

C L A R A B A C O N

R I M O U S K I J U N T A R S V P

E D U C E A M B E R S T E E P E R

F E L T E M P R E S S S A F A R I

S A L A D A A R T I E T E R S E

G U S H E D F R Y R E A D

A C C O S T E D C U T R A T E

V A U N T I G N I T E R A N G U P

I N L A Y S E A T E D D U D I S H

D E L L T R E E S S T A G E D

71 Loony

72 Major OT prophet

73 Water boiler

74 Large covered dish

75 Surgical tools

77 Montreal subway

78 Employer

79 Hopkins of Dawn

80 Top grade (hyph.)

81 Sara King, to Hetty King

82 Panzers, e.g.

84 Living In The Past group

Jethro ____

85 Exalt

87 Healing plant

88 Indian music

Our Volunteer of the Year: John Blohm

(Continued from page 1)

who had emigrated to Canada on a whim in the late 50s, John had a ten-year career in the bread business before opting for the “simple” life in Terra Nova, where he and Marie purchased the general store in 1967. Ten years later, as a member of the Shelburne Kinsmen Club (he joined the club for its late-night poker games), John volunteered to organize that community’s Fiddle Fest parade when no one else was stepping up to run it.

In his typical style, John immediately set out to make the parade better than ever. After finding out that Premier Bill Davis had never been to the Shelburne Fiddle Contest, John made a wager with a fellow Kinsman that he would get Davis to lead the parade that year. We can only imagine the phone calls that followed, and sure enough, that year’s Fiddle Fest parade featured a convertible at the front with the Premier riding in the back seat. Beside him was none other than John Blohm himself.

“That was a damn good parade,” remembers John now. In addition to the VIP at the front, John had used his

connections at Base Borden to have a couple of tanks delivered to Shelburne by train, where they were unloaded and marshalled into the parade. He also had the Golden Helmets, the OPP precision motorcycle team that folks will remember from the golden age of community parades, weaving their way down the main street. And of course, there were bands.

Bands are important, says John. Perhaps most important.

In 1980, the Blohms sold the general store in Terra Nova and moved into Creemore, and John joined the Lions Club. With his experience in Shelburne, it wasn’t long until he was running the Creemore Santa Claus Parade. He was in charge of seven parades during the 1980s, and eventually quit over a budgetary decision that made it impossible for him to hire a band. “Without a band, you have no parade,” he says, recalling that time.

John then joined the Legion, and five years ago, when the Lions disbanded, that organization moved to take over the Santa Claus Parade. Preferring to work alone, it wasn’t long until John was running the show.

Under John’s command, the Santa Claus Parade has had five great years, growing in scale and now featuring two bands, of course—the Beinn Gorm Highlanders and the Collingwood Collegiate Marching Band, a big-time operation that perennially includes a few kids from Creemore.

What people don’t see when they line Mill Street to watch the parade is the countless hours spent raising funds and encouraging participants, a process which John typically starts in June. Last year, when he was sidelined by a surgery, Marie and his daughters and son-in-laws took over, although John was still wheeled into the Simcoe County works yard on County Road 9 on the day of the parade, where he sat in his wheelchair and marshalled the floats into the ideal order.

“I can see the perfect parade in my mind, and I’m always trying to create it in real life,” says John, who takes great pride in the blend of horses, bands, floats and walkers that get viewers excited for the annual visit from Santa himself.

With health concerns growing and the insurance landscape changing in

Ontario, John decided this year that the 2012 parade would be his last. Next year, the Creemore BIA will take over the event, and John has already devoted several hours to meeting with Creemore BIA president **Corey Finkelstein**, hoping to pass on the expertise he’s gathered over the years.

“You never know, I might have a hard time staying away from it next year,” he says with a grin, and its clear that he remains as passionate about parades as ever.

But was that passion alone what drove him to put so many hours into our parade over the past five years and on other occasions in the past? Not quite. John is also a believer in Creemore, and loves the feeling this town gives him when it is gathered in celebration on its main street (or at the Legion on July 1 – we mustn’t forget that John organized two huge Canada Day extravaganzas in 2010 and 2011 as well).

“There’s a cohesion in this town that you don’t see in other places,” he says. “People are inclined to work together, and help each other. It’s a special place, and that’s why I’ve tried to do my part.”

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CELEBRATION

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IN MEMORIAM

MACKAY, Alice Lee – 14 Sept 1904 – 30 Dec 2011

In loving memory of a dear mother
Time unfolds another year
Wonderful memories keep you near,
And when old times I oft recall,
That's when I miss you most of all.
Daughter Shirley

LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

Sunday, December 30

CREEMORE UNITED PASTORAL CHARGE

Avening United Church
Communion Service at 10:15 am
(No services at New Lowell or St. John's today)
All are welcome 466-2200

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

22 Caroline Street West • 466-2206
Please call for service times
and contact information
Winterset: 466-2206
Worship at 7 pm.

THE SALVATION ARMY HOPE ACRES COMMUNITY CHURCH

Invites you to attend
Sunday Church Services at 10:45 am
998614 Mulmur Tosorontio
Townline, Glencairn
For more info call (705) 466-3435

Faith Community Church.

We meet at 10:30 am
on Sundays for worship at
The Gibson Centre,
63 Tupper Street West, Alliston.
www.faithcommunity.ca

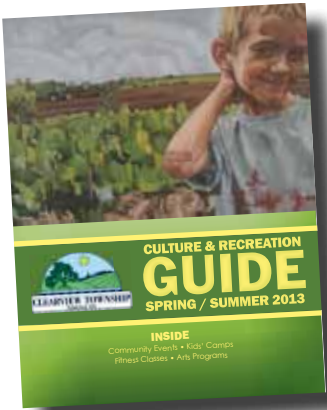
Knox Presbyterian Church, Dunedin

Worship & Sunday School at 10 am
Sermon this week:
"Honouring God"
All are welcome
Rev. Charles Boyd 705-466-5202

Stayner Brethren in Christ Church

Sunday Worship at 10:35 am
Sunday School at 9:30 am
Join us for a worship experience with uplifting contemporary music and relevant messages.
Visit www.staynerbic.com
1152 Conc 6 N

To tell us what is happening at your church call Georgi 466-9906 • fax: 466-9908 • email: info@creemore.com



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



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PICTURES

If a picture tells a thousand words, here's seven thousand that we were particularly fond of this year.

