



ROCKING IT – An 80s-themed **Steve Sopinka** (in costume) throws a rock at last weekend’s 10th Annual Gecko Bonspiel at the Collingwood Curling Club. The evening raised \$6,000 for Creemore-based charity, Tin Roof Global, which provides and protects water around the world. Sponsors included MK Lynde, FieldDesign, Foods by Emily, Avening Hall, Curiosity House, Cardboard Castles and Creemore Springs Brewery. Tin Roof also recently received a \$15,000 grant from Barrie’s Mountain Equipment Co-Op to support its water education program for more than 100 schools and 10,000 students in five school boards in southern Ontario this year.

PUBLIC MEETING ABOUT FARMLAND PROTECTION

By Kristi Green

Next weekend, you can meet the company that now owns the land once slated for the Highland mega-quarry.

The North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Task Force is hosting a Public Meeting on Saturday, April 5 to give people the chance to ask questions of **Tom Eisenhauer**, President of Bonnefield Financial.

Bonnefield purchased the land Highland Farms bought to develop a mega-quarry in the area. It plans to rent the farmland to farmers.

“By all indication, [Bonnefield] is who they say they are and we don’t have reason to suspect otherwise,” said **Shirley Boxem**, the vice-chair of NDACT.

At the meeting, speakers will address ways to protect and preserve Ontario’s farmland. **Steve Peters** from the Alliance of Ontario Food Processors will discuss the importance of Ontario produce and Professor **René Van Acker** of the University of Guelph will talk about protecting soils.

Highland withdrew its application for the mega-quarry in November 2012, but since then, there hasn’t been much word about what is going on with the land, Boxem said. “This meeting is a chance to re-engage supporters and the community.”

Food and Water First Public Meeting
Saturday, April 5
9:30 am to 11:30 am
Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex,
Shelburne
www.ndact.com or www.foodandwaterfirst.com

Curiosity House honoured for excellence in Canada

By Kristi Green

The annual Libris Awards honour outstanding achievements made in every part of the book industry, from authors and editors to sales representatives, distributors and booksellers of all kinds.

On Monday, the Retail Council of Canada announced that Curiosity House was one of 14 book stores nominated for the 2014 Libris Awards.

Book stores are nominated and voted on by members of the (See “Up” on page 3)

Cold turkey? Creemore knitters make sweaters



By April Phule

Local knitters are getting out their needles to help local turkeys suffering from cold this winter.

The eastern wild turkey, which populates this area, has had a tough time surviving the year’s enduring cold snap.

Although their feathers and body structure are designed to provide warmth, the turkeys have been found to be suffering in the extreme temperatures.

One Dunedin resident caught a flock of hens shivering together in her back shed.

“Their teeth were chattering and they appeared to have goose bumps on their skin,” she said. “At first, I thought I might put them in a nice, warm pot of water to warm them up... but then I decided to knit them sweaters instead!” (See “Idea” on page 3)







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COMMUNITY Calendar

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This Weekend

Friday, March 28

- **Toonie Lunch.** Come out and enjoy some homemade soup and breads with your friends for just a toonie. At St. Luke's Anglican Church, 22 Caroline St. West from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Everyone welcome.

Saturday, March 29

- **Story Time at Curiosity House.** Carolyn J. Morris, a local author, will be bringing Spring Chicks to the store for a storytime! She will be here from 10:30 to 11:30 am, showing the chicks and reading spring stories. 705-466-3400 for more details. 178 Mill Street.
- **Live Learning Presentation - The Once & Future Great Lakes Country, An Ecological History with John L. Riley** at 2pm at Dufferin County Museum & Archives. John L. Riley is Chief Science Advisor, Nature Conservancy of Canada from Mono, Ontario

and in his book, he chronicles how the region serves as a continental crossroads, one that experienced massive declines in its wildlife and native plants in the centuries after European contact. Admission \$5. For more information call 1-877-941-7787.

- **Earth Hour** – turn off your lights for one hour starting at 8:30 pm. Together we can make a difference. www.earthhour.org for more info.
- **Dinner Theatre in support of The Stayner Door** starting at 6:30 pm at Missionary Church, Hwy 26, Stayner. \$25 (\$15 tax receipt). Call 705-428-2323 for more details.

Sunday, March 30

- **Church Services** – see page 5.
- **Pancake Breakfast** at Sunnidale Corners Community Centre, 12391 Cty Rd 10 at Hwy 26, starting at 8 am.

- **Purple Hills Arts & Heritage Society Annual General Meeting** at Station on the Green at 12:30 pm. Guest speaker Andy Barrie followed by free lunch of soup & cookies. If you are interested in joining please come. www.phahs.ca for more info.
- **Thirty-One Gifts Launch Open House** from 1 to 4 pm or (Monday, March 31 from 7-9pm) at 3 Nelson Street - totes, purses, wallets, organizing solutions, thermals, diaper bags, jewellery organizers, cosmetic bags and more! Something for everyone. Contact Kate at 705-466-6505 or www.mythirtyone.ca/kate for more details.
- **The Creemore Skating Club's 45th Annual Skating Carnival** will take place at 2 pm. This year's theme is "As Seen On TV" featuring skating routines based on classic and modern TV shows. Adults \$8, seniors \$5, students \$3 and children under 6 are free.

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 31

- **Participants needed for Yoga Therapy Case Study** on individuals (adults or children) who are impacted by the effects of Attention Deficit Disorder or Autism and how yoga therapy can be a tool for improving focus and daily life. Participants are asked to commit to a 90 minute initial consultation and four 60 minute follow up sessions over a period of three to five months and to practice a minimum of 5 days a week. A donation of \$5 for each session is requested which will go to a local organization. Contact Leigh Bird at a confidential email birdleigh@gmail.com or phone 705-796-4915.

Tuesday, April 1

- **Kristi Green** is on 97.7 *The Beach* this morning between 9 and 10 am to talk "All Things Creemore." This is no joke!

Wednesday, April 2

- **Free Car Seat Clinic** at the Collingwood OPP Detachment, 201 Ontario Street, Collingwood from 2 to 4 pm. Come with car seat installed to the best of your ability & bring vehicle owner's manual, car seat instructions and your questions. Contact Health Connection to book appointment at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520. Sponsored by Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and Collingwood & The Blue Mountains OPP.

Thursday, April 3

- **Bingo** recommences at Creemore Legion. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Canteen opens at six. Early Birds start at 6:45 pm. Progressive Jackpot continues at 55 numbers. Everyone welcome to the biggest little bingo in the area.

Saturday, April 5

- **Food & Water First Public Meeting.** Help protect the

land that feeds us! Join broadcaster Dale Goldhawk, Tom Eisenhauer of Bonfield Financial and Steve Peters from the Alliance of Ontario Food Processors for a lively discussion about preserving Ontario's prime farmland. 9:30 to 11:30 am at Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex, 200 Fiddlepark Lane, Shelburne.

- The Avening Hall welcomes **Sunparlour Players for a CD release party and concert.** Doors open at 7 pm with dinner available to purchase from Men with Knives. Show starts at 8 pm. \$20 online www.aveninghall.com or 705-466-9906 or sara@creemore.com. \$25 at the door.

Sunday, April 6

- Emmanuel Presbyterian Church will be hosting a **Gospel Bluegrass Concert** with the band "Rescue Junction" at 1:30 pm. Rescue Junction was voted "Most Promising Group" at the 2013 Central Canada Bluegrass Music Awards. A freewill offering will be taken. For details, phone 705-444-6823 or visit www.emmanuelpresbyterian.ca
- **The Divas** are back! Snowed out in December, our Divas will be here 3 pm to perform for the Gift of Music program at St. Luke's Anglican Church. Tickets \$15 at the door or bring your December tickets.

Monday, April 7 to Wed. April 9

- **Open House for True North Academy.** April 7 to April 9 from 9 am to 2 pm and April 9 from 7 to 8 pm. 800 Sunnidale Road, Wasaga Beach. 705-428-5144 truenorthacademy.ca for details or see ad on page 7.

Tuesday, April 8

- **OPP MTO Information Night** re: new transportation laws, dangerous goods update.

At Stayner Community Hall, 277 Regina Street, Stayner at 7 pm. Question & answer period. For more information call 705-466-5227 or see ad on page 12.

Saturday, April 12

- **Ms. Maggie, darci-que and Emilie too!** Present **Easter Fun** at Station on the Green from 10 am to 4 pm with a special performance at 3 pm. \$20. For more information email dance@msmargie.ca or 705-792-8743 or darciequecreemore@yahoo.ca or 705-795-5733.
- **The 14th Know-it-all-Ball Trivia Night** at the Duntroon Hall. 6 pm social hour, 7 pm questions. \$10/head, 8 to a table. No need to have a full table – solo brainiacs welcome! Call Debbie for reservations or further information at 705-445-7681. Proceeds go toward upkeep and improvements at the Hall. In reference to the renovations to the hall: "what's old is new again" thus c.1955 fashions will be fashionable at this year's Know-it-all-Ball.

Saturday, April 26

- **Dunedin Fisherman's Breakfast and Bake Sale** from 7 to 10:30 am at Dunedin Hall. A great home-cooked breakfast and spectacular baked goods. This year's breakfast will showcase the new renovations at the community hall – please drop by!

Saturday, April 26 & Sunday, April 27

- **Let's Get Growing - The 2014 Home & Garden Show** is coming to the Creemore Arena on Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Over 100 exhibitor booths, a seminar stage, workshops, the latest in home decor and garden displays, children's activities, door prizes and a chance to win the Big Backyard Giveaway.
- **Tree Society of Creemore's Silent Auction** will be at **The 2014 Home & Garden Show**. The Society is currently seeking donations of new and lightly used household articles for this annual event. All items in good condition are welcomed and a tax receipt will be issued for any item sold for \$20 or more. Call 705-466-6317 or 705-466-3271 to donate or volunteer for this event. Funds raised from the auction go to help the Tree Society meet its goals of preserving, protecting and replacing the village trees, our natural heritage that makes Creemore such an attractive and welcoming place to visit and to live.



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Up for “Bookseller of the Year”

(Continued from page 1)

Canadian bookselling community.

Curiosity House is nominated in the “Bookseller of the Year” category. Other categories include Campus Bookseller of the Year, Specialty Bookseller of the Year, Small Press Publisher of the Year, Young Readers Book of the Year and Editor of the Year.

“This year’s list of nominees in all categories is truly a “who’s who” of all things bookish, from coast to coast,” said Curiosity House Manager, **Jenn Hubbs**. “We are so fortunate to be part of a supportive independent bookselling community, and it’s an honour to see our name on the long list with such other notable independent bookstores across Canada.”

This year, the Retail Council received a record number of nominations for consideration. “[The longlist is] diverse and showcases the talent working across the country to connect Canadian readers with meaningful books,” said **Lesley Fletcher** of the Retail Council.

Members of Canada’s book industry will vote on the long list and announce the finalists in April.

The winners will be announced at the Libris Awards Gala on Monday, June 2 at the Retail Council of Canada’s annual conference.

“We could not have made the list without the support of our local community, and we cannot thank our patrons enough for their loyalty and continued support,” added Hubbs. “The shortlist will come out in April – cross your fingers for us!”

Idea came from penguins

(Continued from page 1)

Now, residents gather in coffee shops, bookstores and at each other’s homes to knit the sweaters for the turkeys. They have designed their own patterns for the birds, which usually weigh about 10 to 19 lbs.

They got the idea from an Australian organization that issued a global call for warm pullovers to help penguins affected by oil spills. Wearing the sweaters prevents the penguins from preening and ingesting toxic substances.

While the turkeys in Clearview don’t have to worry about oil in their feathers, they do have chillier temperatures to contend with than their friends in the southern hemisphere.

In recent years, the turkey population in the Creemore area has grown as a result of provincial initiatives to restore eastern wild turkeys.

To find out how to get involved or to see the latest designs in sweaters for turkeys, visit www.turkeysloveaprilfools.ca.

REPORT FROM NYC ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



Shelley Hannah and NDP MP Hélène Leblanc

By Shelley Hannah

I am in New York City to participate in events surrounding the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations.

I am joining thousands of women and some men who gather every year around this time, usually in this city, to advance the participation of women in our society. We are here to witness government meetings in action, as well as to share our thoughts, knowledge, experiences and opinions at hundreds of official UN, and other civil society and non-governmental organizations’, forums and meetings.

I have come for the second time now in as many years because I am shocked, appalled... and inspired.

Let me explain. I learned about this event in 2012 after being introduced to the Voice of Women for Peace. VOW is a Canadian non-governmental organization that began in the early 1960s as a result of the deep concern of some Canadian women about the growing threat of nuclear war. The women in this group felt a strong need to have women’s voices be heard.

My introduction to VOW was through a Women’s Peacemaker Camp held in Waubashene in August 2012. There I learned about UN Security Council Resolution 1325, passed unanimously in 2000, which calls for the inclusion of women in peace and conflict negotiations.

To me, this landed as a no-brainer. Clearly, to many, it is not. Fourteen years later, fewer than 50 of the 193

UN member countries have adopted this agreement into a National Action Plan. (Canada is among the 43 countries that have.)

This news stunned and angered me. And it has called me to action like my early Canadian VOW predecessors – to find ways to have women’s voices included.

Unbelievably, in 2014, the situation really has not changed significantly. Even here in Canada, on our own political front, it’s hard to celebrate “achieving” the fact that 25% of our nationally elected officials are women (77 out of 207 MPs), 28% of our provincial MPs (30 out of 107) and 22% of our local municipal officials in Clearview (two out of nine Councillors, Deputy Mayor and Mayor).

And so I have come to New York City to see how I might channel my incredulity, anger and, ultimately, love in creative ways to advance this call for the full inclusion of women in this world.

First step: spread the word!

Step two: begin a conversation locally – in my own life, and within the pages of the *Echo*.

Beginning next month, I will write a column titled “Women Matter.” This will also serve, I am hoping, to act as an invitation to your Step 1 – to step into the conversation!

If this article has sparked anything for you, I welcome your comments, ideas and questions. Send them to me at anewworldcoaching@gmail.com.




Saturday, March 29:
Carolyn J. Morris,
local author,
is bringing
Spring Chicks

to the store for a storytime!


She will be here from 10:30 – 11:30 am,
showing the chicks and reading spring stories.

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EDITORIAL Is it spring?

Spring is here! Or is it? My parka doesn't think so. It is feeling rather overworked these days, having cloaked and protected me from the wind and snow since November. I know it was hoping that by this time it would be lounging in peace at the back of a closet somewhere, but no such luck. I can tell it's in need of a break.

Kindergarteners are confused by the calendar, which welcomed something called "spring" last week. Yet, when they go outside – after layering themselves in their sweaters, hats, mittens, boots and snowsuits – there is not much suggestion of the new season.

Local children are beginning to protest. Hummingbird Montessori owner Sherri Jackson says that until recently, suggestions to "go play outside" were met with cheers in the classroom. These days, she says the kids scrunch up their faces at the thought, hugging their arms tightly around their bodies.

To counter the effect of a winter that has overstayed its welcome, Hummingbird students spent this week encouraging Mother Nature to move forward by decorating their school bulletin board with robins, flowers and worms. They also added a giant picture of the Sun and practiced visualizing warmer weather.

It appears to be working. I am happy to report that if you look (very, very) closely, you are bound to bump into signs of spring. Birds are starting to chirp in the trees, branches are beginning to bloom and mud puddles are starting to emerge from beneath the snow. Kieron Rupke reports that the greenhouses at Fresh Cut Flowers are in full swing. And the Tree Society of Creemore is planning for the upcoming Home and Garden Show in April. Doesn't that sound nice?

These are just little indicators that change is just around the corner. But after a rather long winter, a little can go a very long way.

Kristi Green

Send your letters to:
info@creemore.com or
The Creemore Echo,
3 Caroline Street West, Box 1219
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THE WAY WE WERE



Colleen Stamp brought in this picture of the Canadian National Railways train crossing Mill Street in the 1950s. To the left, you can see St. John's United Church and the building that houses the funeral home. The train, which was nicknamed the "Hog Special," after all the hogs it shipped to the Collingwood packing plant in the 1890s, made its last run along the tracks on October 29, 1955.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"They are begging for indoor recess! They don't want to build anything out of snow or learn any more outdoor survival skills. We don't really need any more survival skills."

– **Sherri Jackson**, owner of Hummingbird Montessori, where the students are starting to get sick of the snow.

LETTER Goat booth at Farmers' Market

On March 22 we had the marvellous opportunity to take part in a goat's milk soap-making workshop. Five of us travelled together to Glencairn to Cachemire Farms, home of Jeanne Harper – the most enthusiastic farmer I have met in a long time. Although we were there to make soap, we are knitters and/or spinners, so the fibre was also of great attraction. I neglected to mention that this is a "cashmere" goat operation. Mmmmmm!

We had a delicious lunch, were introduced to the young interns from Chile and Germany who were working on the farm, and then got down to the business of making soap.

We fell in love with the four little kids who were being bottle fed in the laundry room – nothing like a cuddle with a brand new goat!

We now know how to make our own soap. We had no idea it was such a labour intensive project. We are looking forward to using our own bars, once they are cured.

Cachemire Farms was invited to participate in the Brampton Farmers'

Market because their products are of such high quality. That's a long way to travel every week. It would be nice if we could support our local farm at our own Farmers' Market in Creemore.

We would really like to see a Cachemire Farms booth this year at the Station on the Green.

Gratefully, **Deirdre Pringle, Marnie Hillier, Cat Flack and Maggie Sears**, Creemore, and **Lynda Lewis**, Barrie

LETTER Sign of spring

I have been meaning to write to *The Creemore Echo* regarding one matter or another for 20 years, and I am finally taking the time to write after this past winter.

I don't know much about road maintenance or snow removal but I think I can safely say that the work done on our roads this winter was nothing short of amazing. I just want to say "thank you and job well done" to all the people who went out

into cold, dark and often dangerous conditions to clear the roads for us for the past five months.

I see that the snow bank techniques have been changing over the last couple of weeks, the crews appear to be creating a lower, deeper bank to accommodate the (hopefully) upcoming thaw. This is a sure sign of spring!

Thanks again, Simcoe and Dufferin Road Crews,
MK Lynde, Mulmur

CORRECTION

Garnet Madill of Alliston phoned to tell us the correct spelling of town in Creemore, Ireland that **John Miller's** ancestors were from: Monaghan in County Monaghan. Garnet knows this because his grandfather came from Monaghan to Weston in 1850, before moving to Glencairn. Garnet himself has been back to Monaghan in County Monaghan six times.

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<p>DIRECTORS: Tom Vandewater, Mary Vandewater, Craig Simpson, Bill Mann TECH SUPPORT: Dr. Phil</p>					
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Creemore Big Heart Seniors

For cards we had nine full tables and two tables of three.

There were nine Moon Shots played by **Janice Stephens** x2, **Barb Pilon**, **Marg Hennessy**, **Kevin Keough**, **Karl Seifert** and **Toosje Vasvari**, and **Earl Bentley** played two and won the travel prize.

Card winners were **Bert Douglas** 290, **Toosje Vasvari** 284, **Robert McNicol** 257 and **Barb Pilon** 255, with the low won by **Ruth Loughheed** 78.

Lucky draws were won by **Effie Taylor**, **Evelyn Warden**, **Ruth Loughheed**, **Kevin Keough**, **June Hartley** and **Irma Flack**.

It was "Potluck Thursday" and 18 members enjoyed a lovely variety of main dishes, as well as amazing desserts.

Irma Flack reported that we only have 39 riders for the Rama bus on April 1, and for all empty seats under 45 riders we must pay a fee of \$25 per person. Please call **Irma Flack** at 705-466-5205 or **Evelyn Warden** at 705-429-5067 if you or anyone you know would like to make the trip. Cost is now \$10 per person because of the bus requiring \$5; that \$10 to be refunded at the casino.

A new format for the three table: the Queens are now in the deck and four hands are dealt. If you wish to play a call hand, you must discard the cards from the hand you wish to exchange before choosing from the fourth hand. Moon Shots must be declared in order to receive a prize; taking all the tricks is not sufficient enough.



SENIORS

Evelyn
WARDEN

A little club history

Prior to a regular meeting place, euchre was played at people's houses. It was at these card parties that bid euchre was introduced and learned. When this group of people became too large for the current venue, they moved

to the Teddy Bears Dive at the Legion. In March 1972, an organizational meeting was held and two gentlemen from Barrie were guest speakers.

It was agreed that five persons would form a group, and thus the club began in a more organized and serious manner. From what I can guess, euchre, bid euchre and crokinole were played.

The members opted out of joining United Senior Citizens of Ontario Inc. at this time. The club continued to play cards weekly and hold a business meeting every third week of the month.

They chartered a bus and attended a Seniors' Picnic every August. After their first picnic in 1972, it was discussed that they have their own name tags, although a name for the club had not yet been established. Not until 1973 was a club name chosen from a number of suggestions submitted by the members, so the club became "Big Heart Seniors Club of Creemore." Each member had a large lapel button containing the club name and a space to their name.

I have much more reading to do and will try and have some additional trivia each week.

Remember: What we say is great, but it's what we do that counts.

Echo briefs

Earth hour

On Saturday, March 29, turn off your lights from 8:30 to 9:30 pm for Earth Hour. At that time, the World Wildlife Federation, which started Earth Hour, urges people to reflect on a future where climate change is not a threat.

Bronée, Walker run for election

Deborah Bronée, Councillor for Ward 6, and **Robert Walker**, Councillor for Ward 5, have filed their papers to run for municipal election next fall for the new Wards 7 and 3, respectively.

Big year for donations

In 2013, Clearview received more donations and issued more tax receipts than ever before. Last year, Clearview received \$329,537.85 in donations for community projects and organizations. This amount is up from \$116,340.70 in 2012. The largest-ever donation of \$25,000 went to the Creemore Medical Centre.

Emergency program approved

At last Monday's meeting, Council approved a by-law to adopt an Emergency Management Program for the Township to protect the health, safety and welfare of individuals living and working in Clearview in the event of an emergency. The Program outlines coordination across multiple jurisdictions, levels of government, functional agencies and/or emergency responder disciplines in case of danger of major proportions such as a pandemic.

Take the survey

Clearview's Effective Representation Advisory Committee has posted a Word version of its survey about communicating with Council. Residents can now download the Word document and fill out the survey instead of having to print it out and complete it by hand. Find the survey at the ERAC section of www.clearview.ca.

Mills for Mayor

On Tuesday, April 1, the *Echo's* own **Fred Mills** will file his papers to run for Mayor in next fall's municipal election. Mills, who is well known in the Creemore area for his sense of humour, unmatched work ethic and the pink tutu he sometimes wears curling, says pursuing the Mayor's seat has been a longtime ambition. "Creemore is known as the community with the Big Heart and I have a very big one!" said Fred. "I even buy bigger shirts sometimes just so they will fit over my chest." Fred's heart, in fact, is 17% larger than most of the population's. Fred's physician thinks that the increase in size makes him a perfect candidate for office. "The cardiovascular implications of having such a heart ensure Fred is up to the pressures of the job," he said. Fred's big heart also means that Fred loves making friends, cuddling babies and giving money away to deserving community groups. "You can never have too many friends," said Fred. "Especially when they're about to vote in an election!" - *By April Phule*

LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTORY



Sunday, March 30

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

Stayner Brethren in Christ Church

10:00 am Sunday Worship Teaching and Children's Teaching Weekly – Home Churches
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Sunday Worship Service
at 11 am

Friday, March 28 Toonie Lunch
11:30 am to 1 pm

CREEMORE UNITED PASTORAL CHARGE

March 30 Services:

New Lowell 10:15 am,
St. John's Creemore 11:30 am

April 6: Return to 3 Services:

Avening 9 am, New Lowell 10:15 am,
St. John's Creemore 11:30 am

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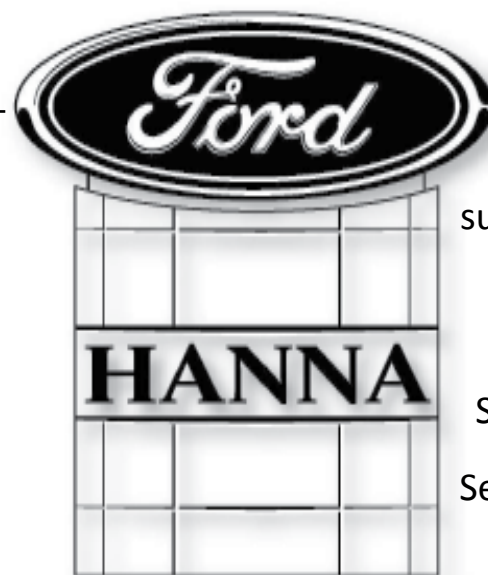
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Meet the MacIntyres: New owners of Creemore Village Pharmacy

By Kristi Green

Until recently, the community did not know the reasons for **Jennifer** and **Brian MacIntyre**'s mysterious December move into Creemore with their two children, **Griffin**, 6 and **Logan**, 3.

The MacIntyres were living in Durham where Jennifer worked as a pharmacist and Brian was a paramedic.

However, after years of thinking about operating her own business, Jennifer and Brian quietly arranged to buy the Creemore Village Pharmacy from **Jean and John Smart**, who ran the pharmacy for 35 years.

The change of hands wasn't made public until the Smarts announced it in this paper last month.

"Probably the hardest thing was keeping the secret," explained Jennifer, who respected the Smart's request to keep the sale under wraps.

Although the MacIntyres put their Durham house up for sale in September, they remained mum about

the reason. "Griffin told his old teacher at school that he was moving 47 minutes away, but he couldn't tell her why!"

For the MacIntyres, the road to Creemore was bittersweet. Jennifer first found out about Creemore Village Pharmacy from a friend and fellow-pharmacist, who was interested in running a pharmacy with her.

Her friend told Jennifer about Creemore and they made a plan to visit the village together. However, fate intervened tragically and two weeks later, the friend died of a rare disease.

"She gave me a gift," said Jennifer, of Creemore and of the pharmacy she now owns with her husband. In the spring of 2012, Jennifer wrote a letter to the Smarts and delivered it to the pharmacy herself.

"We hit it off," said Jennifer, discussing the Smarts. Jennifer started working a few shifts in the village so they could get to know one another better.

"It was a slow courtship," explained Brian. "It was about them passing the torch to make sure it was the right thing."

For Jennifer, stepping into the Smarts' shoes at Creemore Village Pharmacy has been a dream come true.

"We like the small-town personal touch," she said. "We are all neighbours helping neighbours."

Under the new ownership, the pharmacy will increase the patient-focused services it provides. Jennifer, who is trained in injections, plans to offer flu shots in the fall, with no appointment necessary. She also hopes to use her travel health credentials to consult with patients about vaccines and travelling with medications. She would also like to conduct more medication consultations, both in the pharmacy and at patients' homes.

As a Certified Diabetes Educator, Jennifer can adjust insulin doses for patients who are experiencing blood sugar issues and provide dietary advice. In addition, her training in compression therapy allows her to fit patients for custom stockings.

Now that the secret is out and the MacIntyres have taken over the pharmacy, they are looking forward to making friends in Creemore. So far, they have had a good impression.

"This is the first place I have worked where people have come in to welcome me to town," Jennifer said.



Jennifer MacIntyre

The Creemore Skating Club

Presents the 45th Annual Skate Carnival • AS SEEN ON TV

Sunday, March 30

2pm at Creemore Arena

Sanctioned by Skate Canada

Everyone welcome

TREE SOCIETY GETS GROWING



(Left to right:) **Jim Morrey, Marnie Hillier, Marilyn Chenier and Liz Smith**

By Thom Paterson

The 2014 Home and Garden Show is coming to the Creemore Community Arena on Saturday, April 26 from 10 am to 5 pm, and on Sunday, April 27 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Each year the Home and Garden Show features over 100 exhibitor booths, a seminar stage, workshops, the latest in home décor and garden displays, children's activities, door prizes and a chance to win the Big Backyard Giveaway.

Once again, the Tree Society of Creemore will be there hosting its popular Silent Auction, which is a major annual fundraising event.

The Society is an entirely self-funded volunteer group that relies on support from its memberships and donations. Funds raised at the Auction help the Society preserve, protect and replace the village trees, our natural heritage

that make Creemore such an attractive and welcoming place to visit and to live.

The Society is seeking donations of new and lightly used household articles for the Auction. To donate, please call **Anne Marie Morrey** at 705-466-3271, **Tracey Kolowska** at 705-466-6317, **Marilyn Chenier** at 705-466-6864 or **Thom Paterson** at 705-466-6321. A tax receipt will be issued for any item sold for \$20 or more. Anyone interested in helping the Society set up or stage the auction is encouraged to call as well.

The Society is excited to announce that watering cans will be back in the Auction this year. The watering cans are hand painted by local artists who have donated their time and talents to turn these cans into works of garden art.

Help us make this year's Auction the biggest ever! Join us at the Home and Garden Show and together we can continue to green up Creemore!



Contributed Photo

OMHA CHAMPS — The Creemore Bantam Rep team won the Ontario Minor Hockey Association "D" final on the weekend with a three-game sweep of the Grand Valley Twisters. On the team are: **Tate Millsap, Jacob Underhill, Liam Perrett, Jackson Metheral, Jack Millsap, Greg Ruttan, Jacob Veenstra, Donny Patton, Danny Wilson, Ayden Hamilton, Hayden Verstegen, Darren Trafford, John David Bell, Zack Johnston, Ryan Michalchuk, Ryan Young, Gavin Gaudreault and Jordan Carruthers.** Coaches: **Dave Patton, Bernie Young, Duane Metheral.** Trainer: **Dave Veenstra.**



James Campbell

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AT DUNTROON HALL — Ileen Halliday celebrated her 89th birthday with her son-in-law, **Glenn Rice** (and many other guests), at Duntroon Hall's first event since closing for two months of renovations. "Ileen is our number one hall renter (other than the weekly square dancers and fitness classes)," wrote **Jim Campbell**, Hall Chair. "Just before I took this photo, she performed a couple songs for my daughter, **Sadie** and I on her harmonica, doing a jig while playing," Jim said. "She's quite a woman! Full of life and a wonderfully positive attitude. I was told by some of the Halliday family that Duntroon Hall is like their second home, so it was gratifying to learn that Ileen and the family were thrilled with the renovations that we've completed to date."



Help protect the land that feeds us!

Ontario's prime farmland is vital to our economy and food security.

Yet, it faces many threats.

Join broadcaster **Dale Goldhawk**, **Tom Eisenhauer** of **Bonnefield Financial**, **Professor Rene Van Acker** of the **University of Guelph** and **Steve Peters** from the **Alliance of Ontario Food Processors** for a lively discussion about preserving Ontario's prime farmland for farming.

Saturday, April 5th
9:30am-11:30am

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A MODERN-DAY BARN RAISING IN MULMUR

By Kristi Green

The times may have changed, but it still takes a community to build a barn.

That's what artist **Peter Mitchell** learned as he spent the winter constructing a barn on the Mulmur property he purchased with his family last year.

After pricing out how much it would cost to have someone build the road and bridge necessary to lead to the construction site, Peter decided to buy a backhoe and do the work himself.

And work he did. For the next four-and-half months, Peter constructed a twin-culvert bridge over Walker's Creek and 2,400 feet of road leading to the back of the 22-acre lot.

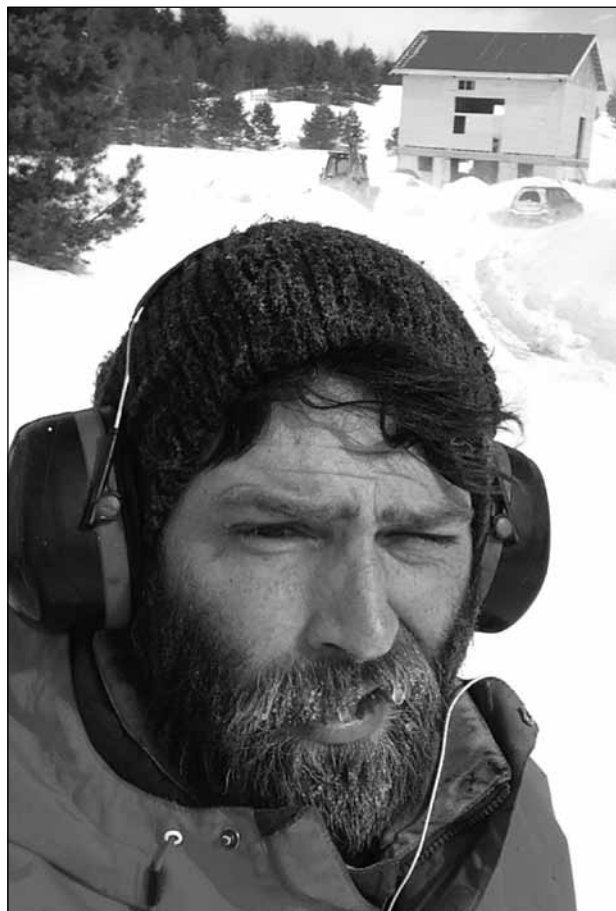
"A bunch of those days were solo days," said Peter. "It was just me and a backhoe."

Finally, at the end November, Peter was ready to start building the barn. But temperatures were beginning to fall and he needed to make sure the concrete foundation didn't freeze within 24 hours of pouring it.

"I took the advice of [local builder] **Jamie Korthals** and brought in **Lorne Grierson** of GBI Construction who prescribed extra straw and insulated tarps on the footings, and foundation and heat in the concrete, to help stay ahead of the frost despite an early onset of winter. It was a race to keep frost out from underneath the footings, but I was properly motivated because the family needed a home."

Although he has no formal training in building, Peter learned a lot from his father and stepfather, who were both builders. Years ago, Peter built a cabin for his family in Algonquin Park. "I also watched a lot of YouTube videos," he said.

But Peter had no shortage of assistance from members of the community. Creemore resident and builder **Josh Dempsey** braved January's plummeting temperatures to help frame and stand up the walls. At the same time,



Peter Mitchell's chilly "selfie"

Don Brearey and his staff at Howie Welding made plate steel fasteners for the Douglas Fir trusses from Barrie's Millar Lumber, while Peter sourced the thick ash flooring from a local Mennonite farmer.

Armed with good advice after a friendly site visit from local timber frame expert **John Gordon**, Peter assembled the trusses, which he installed in early February. Josh returned to help him strap, sheath and install the steel roofing by the end of the month.

Was getting the roof on a highlight? "More like a lowlight," laughed Peter. "It was so cold with crazy winds. We didn't come off the roof until the stars were out."

Other locals provided support along the way, too. Many hours were spent trying to keep machines operating in the deep cold, so Peter was grateful for Diesel mechanic **Willie Quibel's** help fixing the backhoe when it needed repairs. Neighbour **Hen Kurvits** helped Peter and his family out of a stuck car once, taking his wife, **Sara Sniderhan**, and children, **Jackson**, 6, and **Isobel**, 5, to his cabin to warm up.

"It was a good way to meet people," Peter said. "We got lots of advice from local builders. People would offer their expertise for backhoe and auto repairs. I'm very thankful for all the local residents whose time and expertise made it possible to build through this crazy winter."

On a typical day, Peter would stop by Affairs Café for breakfast before heading out to the farm to build. He wouldn't eat anything more all day until returning when it got dark.

How cold was it? "It was so cold you can't stop moving," Peter said, who spent many hours alone on the property in the sole company of CBC Radio's **Jian Ghomeshi**, whose voice was pumped into his ears through a pair Peltor headphones covered in ear protectors. On those lonely days, there were also frequent sightings of deer, hawks, bald eagles and rabbits, and coyotes including one with only three legs who ran by.

It was a harrowing experience, but one he is happy to have had. In a short while, the barn will be ready for use as a studio, as well as arable farmland including an apple orchard and, more recently, maple syrup. "Now I've built both of our places and it feels comforting to know every detail about the place we have."

The Creemore Medical Centre Expansion and Renovation Project

The addition is almost complete, our breakthrough date and renovations to the existing medical building will begin on
Saturday March 29, 2014

The building will be closed for 3 weeks to complete renovations to the existing building.

The building will reopen on Monday April 21, 2014.

Dr Nichols

will continue his regular office hours at the After Hours Clinic 186 Erie Street in Collingwood. Please contact his office at 705-466-2252.

All calls will be forwarded to Dr. Nichols.

Neil Patrick

will be available at his Collingwood office, 69 First Street, Unit B. Patients can continue to call his local number 705-466-3447.

All calls will be forwarded to Neil Patrick.

Dr Will Hawthorne

Dental patients' emergency contact number is 705-728-8075 and the office will be reopening for business on Tuesday April 22, 2014.

Drs. Engell and Houston

will see their patients in the Collingwood office located at 207-186 Erie St. Please call 705-446-0011 for an appointment.

Thank you for your continued support of our new facility!

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and
click on "Flickr"



CLEARVIEW TOWNSHIP

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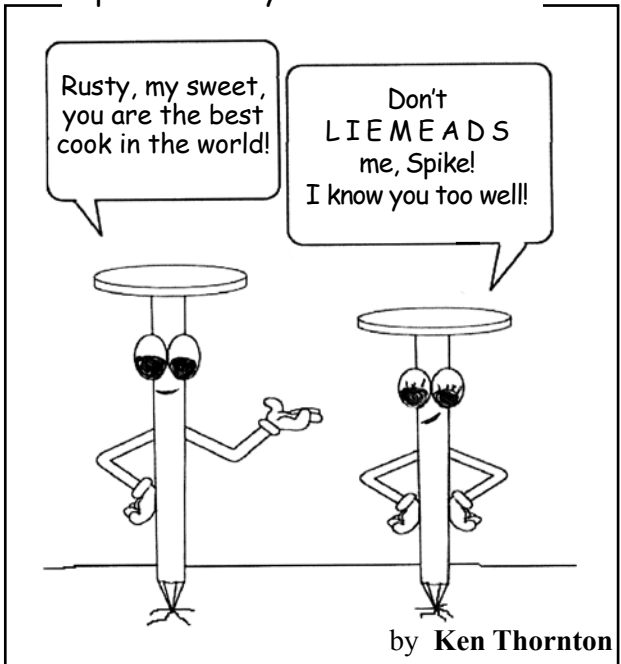
FUN & Games

Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answer on Classifieds page

Spike & Rusty Word Scramble



by Ken Thornton

Find this week's answer in Classifieds

CREEMORE Weekend Weather

Friday, March 28

Light rain
High 11 Low -2 Winds SW 35 km/h
POP 80%

Saturday, March 29

Variable cloudiness
High 0 Low -3 Winds N 10 km/h
POP 30%

Sunday, March 30

Sunny
High 5 Low 3 Winds N 5 km/h
POP 10%

The AVRIDGE FARM



by JEFF WILSON

FRED'S FUNNIES

A doctor calls his patient and says,
"The cheque you gave me
for my bill came back."

The patient replied, "So did my
arthritis!"

Canadian Criss Cross

March 28, 2014

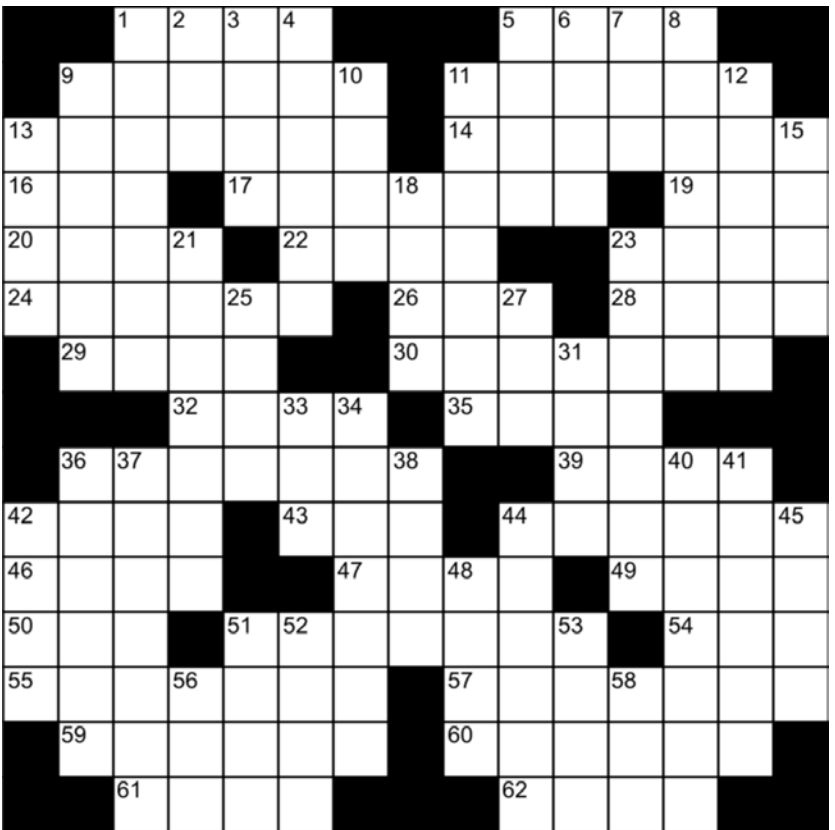
ACROSS

1. Chess piece moved first
5. Pepper's partner
9. Evening party
11. Spiral part of a screw
13. It's atomic number is 100
14. Sort of snake
16. Devour
17. Set of three related films
19. One whose birthday is in August
20. Lion's home
22. Cookie with a white filling
23. Proofreader's find
24. Tree trunk growth
26. Quick to learn
28. Sharpen by grinding
29. Crucifix at the entrance of a chancel
30. "Emily of ____" (former Canadian TV series)
32. ____ drive
35. It's usually slanted
36. Move like a snake
39. Highway
42. In ____ of
43. Cataract site
44. City in British Columbia
46. Mosque prayer leader
47. Back of the neck
49. Information
50. Max's opposite
51. Loving
54. Play bumper-cars
55. One who loves their country
57. Body height
59. Piece of pasta
60. Name given to many newspapers
61. Secure against leakage

62. "The ____ of the Ancient Mariner"

DOWN

1. Roof supported by columns
2. Look through a scope
3. Habeas corpus, for one
4. Nerve cell
5. Kind of carpet
6. Aesthetically pretentious
7. Replayed serve
8. Fox hunting cry
9. What a sailor breathes
10. Bedouin bigwig
11. Canadian band that plays "We're Here for a Good Time (Not a Long Time)"
12. Become more intense
13. Cut down a tree
15. Cheer for your team
18. Show a preference
21. It's atomic number is 45
23. Double
25. Change the wording of
27. Number of humps on a Bactrian camel
31. Opposite of less
33. A filly is one
34. Central theme of a speech
36. Ape
37. Roughly-made buildings
38. Employee entrance location
40. Usually
41. Senile person
42. Walk unevenly
44. Spay
45. It's given to a newborn
48. Sumptuously furnished
51. Verdi heroine
52. "____ Flanders"



53. Calcutta dress
56. Lobster coral
58. It's worn with a kilt

Find the answer to this
week's Crossword on the
Classifieds page.

Recollections from the past: A horse with no name

By Bev Machesney

I grew up in Creemore, a small Ontario village of about 600 people in the 1940s. My dad, Orr Machesney, owned a grocery store in the main business block of Mill Street from 1939 until the summer of 1972, when he retired. From the time I could see over the counter, I helped in the store. I bagged potatoes, swept the floors, cleaned the meat block and delivered grocery orders by bike in summer and sleigh in winter.

Our village was what you would call a “market town,” and the farm folks from several miles around made Saturday their “come to town and visit” evening. In summer they came by car if they had one, but more likely by horse and wagon. In winter – the time I liked best – it was nearly always by horse and sleigh. The horses were tethered and blanketed in one of the four church sheds. Believe it or not we had four churches in our wee village.

The farm folks would drop off their cream at the creamery and their eggs at the grading station. These were their cash crops. Then they would come into our store and order their groceries, pull up a stool next to the potbellied stove and get caught up on all the gossip.

They would eventually go and collect their egg and cream money, pay for their grocery order and reassemble around the stove until at least 10 pm. This was late for someone of my age, but Sunday the store was closed and it was a sleep-in day.

As a boy, I had my favourite customers – in particular, Clark and Maggie Aikins. They were fun, and in retrospect the fact they had no children likely made their short time with this young nine year old very important – or so I would like to think. The big event on many a cold and snowy night, after all gossip had been exchanged, came when Clark would say, “Come on lad, and we’ll go get the horses,” and so we’d trudge off to the

Presbyterian church shed. He’d take off their blankets and back them out with the sleigh out and then hand the reins to me. Here I was at age nine driving a sleigh with a team of magnificent Clydesdales: King and Queenie. Didn’t I think I was something special.

Then summer came and Clark and Maggie still came to town on Saturdays, but it wasn’t the same. They now had a car and I wondered what winter would bring.

Summer was fun. We swam in the river, played baseball in the park and roamed the surrounding hills. Parents didn’t worry about their children’s whereabouts, but we were expected to be home for supper and before dark.

Then finally, the winter of 1942-1943 arrived and I was now 10 – very grown up, or so I thought. Now the Saturday nights I so looked forward to resumed. Clark and Maggie came to town by horse and sleigh, and I would wait impatiently for the words, “Let’s go get the horses, Bev.”

Then one January Saturday night when we went to get the horses, there was a new mare replacing Queenie. She was immense, amber in color with a white face, and really quite striking. I asked, “Where was Queenie?” and Clark said that she was getting very old so he was letting her rest. My next question was, “What’s this new horse’s name?” Clark said, “Well, by golly, I forgot to ask when I picked her up. But I’ll tell you what – why don’t you come up with a name? Think about it this week and we’ll settle on it next Saturday.”

So there I was with responsibility for naming Clark’s new mare. A big job. What could we call her? It had to be feminine and had to be classy; a name the horse would be proud of.

Names came and were rejected. Not Annie, not Julie and not Beauty – although that was close. Then it came to me. She was so regal. How about Princess?

That week, I could hardly contain myself and I thought Saturday night would never arrive. Finally Clark and Maggie had their cream and egg money, they’d bought their groceries and exhausted all the local gossip, and Clark said, “Let’s you and I go get the horses.” Off we went to the church shed and on the way he said, “So what is to be the new one’s name?” I proudly said, “I’ve chosen Princess.” Clark stopped dead in his tracks turned, looked straight at me and shouted, “Dag nab it – that’s perfect!”

As you would expect, my winter Saturday nights became even more special because it was then that I drove Princess, the horse that I had named.

This story could end here and probably should, but I know you want to learn the future of all the characters. Me, you know about – I’m still hanging in 71 years later.

All the early part of this story is real. Clark and Maggie (they were real people, actually brother and sister) continued to farm and visit the market village of Creemore on Saturday night until they were of a ripe old age. Then they moved to a house in the village (a guess on my part). King and Queenie, figments of my imagination, had a wonderful retirement enjoying each others’ company and the freedom of the pasture. As for my horse Princess (another figment), she went on to the most rewarding of jobs – she was responsible for introducing Earl (yet another figment), her new regal partner, to the world of team work.

Memories like this, real or imagined, are priceless – don’t I wish that I had really held the reins!

Bev Machesney grew up in Creemore and has lived in Vancouver since the 1960s. Bev attended elementary and continuation school in Creemore, and he has said, many times and to many people, that he wouldn’t trade his formative years in Creemore for the world.

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FARMERS MARKET

Singhampton Farmers' Market on Friday nights will start August 1 from 4 to 8 pm. Interested in having a booth? Call Spencer at 705-445-1247.

LOST / FOUND


LOST one black leather **MITT** near Sovereign last Saturday night. If found drop off at *Creemore Echo*.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Participants needed for Yoga Therapy Case Study on individuals (adults or children) who are impacted by the effects of Attention Deficit Disorder or Autism and how yoga therapy can be a tool for improving focus and daily life. Participants are asked to commit to a 90 minute initial consultation and four 60 minute follow up sessions over a period of three to five months and to practice a minimum of 5 days a week. A donation of \$5 for each session is requested which will go to a local organization. Contact Leigh Bird at a confidential email birdleigh@gmail.com or phone 705-796-4915.


The Tree Society of Creemore is currently seeking donations of new and lightly used household articles for their Silent Auction at the Creemore Home & Garden Show April 26 & 27. All items in good condition are welcomed and a tax receipt will be issued for any item sold for \$20 or more. If you have articles you wish to donate, please call Anne Marie Morrey at 705-466-3271, Tracey Kolowska at 705-466-6317, Marilyn Chenier at 705-466-6864 or Thom Paterson at 705-466-6321. Anyone interested in helping the Society set up for the Auction or volunteering some time staging the auction on Saturday or Sunday are encouraged to call as well.

INFORMATION NIGHT

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CONCERT



THE DIVAS

After being snowed out in December, our divas are returning to Creemore to sing for us. Their program will include standard opera arias and duets, as well as some musical theatre and pop opera.

Sunday, April 6, 3:00 p.m.

Original tickets or \$15 at the door
St. Luke's Anglican Church
22 Caroline St. West, Creemore



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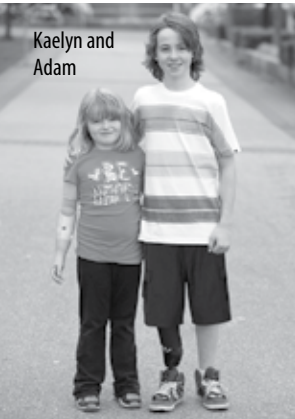
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ENGAGEMENT

Congratulations to
**Lisa Denison &
Sean Bellingham**
on their engagement!



They plan to marry at Lisa's family home in Dunedin in July of this year. They currently live in London Ontario. Proud parents wishing them all of the best are
John & Georgi Denison
of Dunedin and
Jane Stevens of Stayner.

This week's answers

Spike & Rusty:
MISLEAD

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

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www.thecreemoreecho.com

MARCH CAMP HELPS KIDS EXPERIENCE WINTER AT ITS BEST

By Drew Gulyas

We spent our March Break outside.

From March 10 to 14, winter was at her best. The sun shone, the snow squaled, the campfires crackled and the kids explored.

During the 2014 March Break, Camp Mansfield partnered with the Dufferin Arts Council to run a March Break Arts Camp at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre. It was an incredible week of winter activities that we spent exploring everything from the art of fire building to mixed media wax painting to duct taping. The creativity flowed!

Children from Nottawasaga and Creemore Public School, Centennial Highlands Public School, Hyland Heights Public School and Primrose Elementary School all participated in, and thoroughly enjoyed, the week of camp.

At the very first planning meeting for this project in January, representatives from the Dufferin Arts Council and Camp Mansfield settled on two goals: to provide campers with artistic experiences that they don't typically encounter in school, and to immerse campers in a natural environment where they can be inspired.

To achieve the first goal, we turned to two local artists who are both members of the Dufferin Arts Council. Creemore resident **Jordan Eveland** ran a two-day program at the camp. Her mixed media wax painting project introduced campers to the array of possibilities available to artists when working with wax. Campers discovered that wax is a flexible medium that let them carve designs, pictures and patterns into their work and layer their creations with paint, collage and natural materials.

Steve Baker from Melancthon ran an afternoon of magic. Campers learned about the history



Anna Camilleri and Sam Brendish

of magic, practiced their slight of hand, and developed at least one trick that they could take home with them.

To achieve our second goal, we ventured out into the 300-plus acres of forest and field at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre. Every child who attended camp was given a cross country ski lesson and, by the end of the week, kids who had never skied before had travelled over 35 km on cross country ski trails. On the Wednesday, the snow returned in a big way and provided us with

perfect snowshoeing conditions for our day hike. We travelled along the northern bank of the Pine River to a sheltered spot beneath some cedar trees where we set to work building with sticks and twine, cooking bannock over the open fire, and enjoying that bannock with generous helpings of butter and strawberry jam.

Camp Mansfield has six weeks of day and overnight camps running this summer.

For more information, visit www.mansfieldoutdoorcentre.ca.

Al Clarke discovers just how cold it has been

How cold is it?

It's colder than a pig's butt in a sleet storm out there, or so it seems, and a lot of the evidence is pointing to this becoming the new normal.

Winnipeg is having the coldest winter in 35 years, Saskatoon in 18 years, Windsor in 35 years, Toronto and St. John's in 20 years, and much of the U.S. is also experiencing record lows and record snow falls, with Detroit having the worst winter in 50 years.

Strangely, we haven't yet set new all-time lows for the coldest places in Canada. Here are the five coldest Canadian records: Snag, Yukon -63; Fort Vermilion, Alberta -60.6; Old Crow, Yukon -59.4; Smith River, B.C. -58.9; and Iroquois Falls, -58.3. These are all old records – the only new one is from Eureka, Nunavut on December 17, 2013: -42 – and who do you know who has ever been there? Well, actually I have, in July in the late 70s, and it felt almost that cold then as last December.

Closer to home, anyone who has been up to Georgian Bay this winter must have noticed that there is no open water – in fact, this winter the Great Lakes reached 91% freeze over, which is the second-greatest ice extension on record. This is quite remarkable considering that 2012 saw only 5% coverage.

Why, might you ask, could this be good news? Last year at this time, the water levels in Lake Huron and Lake

ESOTERICA



Al CLARKE

Michigan were at historic lows. While there are a number of reasons for this, the leading culprit is lack of winter ice coverage and the resulting evaporation (second is the aggressive dredging of the St. Clair River by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but that's another article).

So with winter evaporation at a minimum, plenty of rain last year and high moisture-laden snow this winter, the estimate is that we could see Georgian Bay water levels up 14+ inches, and Lake Superior up 13+; that's a lot of new water. So if you're a boater, this long cold winter is just the ticket, assuming it eventually thaws so you can launch the boat.

The most interesting question is whether this winter is a foreboding of winters to come, and could long cold snowy winters really become the new normal? To throw light on this question, I suggest we get Mr. Peabody and Sherman to set the "Wayback Machine" to the mid-1600s. This was when the Earth was entering the worst of a prolonged cool period from 1350 to 1850, which is referred to as "The Mini Ice Age," with three particularly cold periods around 1650, 1770 and 1850. Cold that decimated crops caused the great famine of 1315 to 17 in Europe. Norse colonies in Greenland starved and vanished in the early 1400s, and Iceland was completely surrounded by miles of ice.

In 1608, Samuel de Champlain encountered ice in Lake Superior in June. In 1683, the River Thames froze for two months to almost a foot thick, and James Bay remained ice clogged for the entire summer of 1686. In the winter of 1780, New York harbour froze and people walked to Staten Island, Swiss villages were destroyed by advancing glaciers, and the Bosphorus Strait in Turkey and the Baltic Sea froze over, allowing invading armies to invade across the ice. During this period, the once-promising vineyards of England were destroyed – and we anxiously await the fate of our local vineyards after this winter.

These events would be confined the pages of history if it were not for some unsettling similarities of recent solar events to the Maunder Period from 1645 to 1715; which was a period of very low sunspot activity that signaled the worst of the Mini Ice Age. Much scientific research points to this present solar quieting as foreshadowing a real possibility that this winter truly is the new normal and is a glimpse of what is in store for us.

"How could this be?" you ask. It's because, as some Sun scientists (heliophysicists) believe, our Sun is "falling asleep." Scientists have over 400 years of good solar observations to draw from, and for some unknown reason, the Sun has recently become quite inactive. In fact, there have only been half of the sunspot activities that had been predicted for this year, and

these are the lowest levels in over 100 years. Historically, this has correlated to a cooler climate, particularly colder winters.

Normally, I don't get too excited about correlated events because many times they lack a cause-and-effect relationship, but in this case the evidence is very convincing. We've heard this before, in the mid 1950s, when Isaac Asimov, the great science fiction writer, first wrote that burning fossil fuels might raise the Earth's temperature via "greenhouse effect." During the new Ice Age scare in the 1970s, it was seriously suggested that we might deliberately generate electricity with just coal to reverse the Earth's cooling, giving birth to the science of geoengineering; the science of man screwing with Mother Nature.

The signs of this spring aren't encouraging – while there are no polar bear sightings in the area, Labrador wolves not seen in Newfoundland since the 1930s have again made the trek across the ice, **Wiarthon Willie** went back underground, local landscapers have put forward the return of seasonal works, snow banks up on the 30th Sideroad are still more than 10 feet high, the ice fishing guys on Lake Simcoe have homesteaded out there, everyone's out of ice salt, and it's -20 C in March.

I am looking forward to spring more than ever, but there can't be a Creemore out there who, after this winter, isn't asking, "Where's global warming when we need it?"