

The Creemore ECHO

Friday, December 19, 2014 Vol. 14 No. 51 thecreemoreecho.com

News and views in and around Creemore

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Publications Mail Agreement # 40024973



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

A Christmas tree was erected near Dunedin this summer, raising suspicions as to who was living in the area, unbeknownst to neighbours.

Echo learns Santa Claus is area weekender

by Trina Berlo
The Creemore Echo has learned that Santa Claus has been a weekender in the area for more than 30 years.

Although we were not able to confirm the exact location of Claus' part-time residence, there is overwhelming evidence that he has a property either in Clearview or Mulmur townships.

It seems the dwelling is used mostly as a summer retreat with the odd post-Christmas winter getaway.

It appears Claus picked up a rural property in the early 1990s, after the economic downturn.

Local real estate experts say he must have purchased land on the cheap, by today's standards.

We tried to catch up with Claus when he was in Creemore for Christmas in the Valley earlier this month but he

Special report

continually evaded our reporters.

We asked around the village to see if anyone had any hard evidence that Claus was spending time in the Creemore area.

Due to confidentiality, pharmacist **Jennifer Yaeck** would not say if Claus has filled any prescriptions at Village IDA and local restaurateurs looked downright perplexed when we asked if Claus had ever dined at their restaurants.

Gas station owners were equally bewildered when we asked if they had seen anyone with a snow white beard and a belly that could be described as a 'bowlful of jelly'.

We did however receive a report from a young girl – who wishes to remain anonymous for fear of ending

up on the naughty list – that Claus had been spotted at Cardboard Castles toy store in August. Video surveillance footage shows a large man in red polka dot swim shorts and a Justin Bieber T-shirt inspecting the selection of toys. The man has bushy white hair and a beard and very pale legs.

Long time Avening resident **Morris Weatherall** said he once had an encounter with a man who looked suspiciously like Santa Claus.

He said it was back about 15 years ago when he got a call that there was a truck stuck in the mud on Bear Alley near Avening.

Weatherall said he went out there in his tractor and found a huge red monster truck with reindeer antlers on top, stuck in the creek.

Sheepishly, the man accepted a tow.

"The weird thing was, he knew my

name. He said, 'You've always been a good boy Morris. Thank you.' And then he winked," said Weatherall. "It was strange. There was a very familiar feeling about him."

Perhaps the most bizarre thing to happen in these parts in quite some time is the appearance of a 30-metre Christmas tree in Dunedin.

Former council member **Brent Preston** said council approved the installation of the pine tree in June, as proposed by Bell Mobility.

He admitted there was a silent partner behind the proposal but township staff were never able to find out who it was, they were just excited to be able to use their cell phones.

The Echo attempted to contact officials at Claus Communications. Operators said everyone at the North Pole was too busy to take our calls.

Communication, committee structure among top council priorities

by Trina Berlo
Clearview council members met Monday evening to discuss their priorities for the upcoming four-year term.

Councillors set out goals for the township as a whole and the communities they represent.

Economic and residential development, communication and implementing recommendations from the 2014 branding exercise.

Through budget deliberations, currently underway, council members will discuss whether or not to hire a communications and marketing coordinator in 2015 and an economic development officer in 2016.

There was quite a bit of interest in some type of council reform with at least half of council members looking to change the way council does business either by making agendas and reports more accessible to council

members or by adding and restructuring committees.

Doug Measures said council agendas, sometimes in the 400-page range, should be made available to council members earlier so they can research the issues and consult the public before making a decision.

Others agreed and said a committee of the whole structure, when council members meet and discuss and then make a recommendation to council,

would allow some lead-time on the decision-making process. It could also serve as a way of deformatizing council to allow for more frank discussion.

Connie Leishman said people might speak their mind more freely if the process was less formal and that the public may be more willing to engage if it was less intimidating.

Several people said they would also like to see agriculture and finance

(See "Good" on page 3)



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COMMUNITY Calendar

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phone: 705-466-9906
fax: 705-466-9908

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 20

- **Turkey Shoot** at New Lowell Legion at 9:30 a.m.
- Here is a chance to win your Christmas turkey. The Royal Canadian Legion, Collingwood holds its annual **Christmas Meat Roll**. Branch 63 invites all to join the fun at 2 p.m. at 490 Ontario Street. For information call 705-445-3780 or museum@collingwoodlegion.ca.
- Please join us for the **4th Annual Creemore Christmas Carol Sing-a-long**, inside at Station on the Green from 7 to 9 p.m. Everyone welcome. Good singers cherished!



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Sunday, December 21

- **Christmas Church Services** – see page 5.

Monday, December 22

- **Today is our last day for the Creemore Echo's Annual Toy & Food Drive.** Drop into our office with unwrapped gifts for all ages, food, grocery store gift certificates and make somebody's Christmas!
- **Stayner Garden Club Monthly Meeting** at Centennial United Church at 7:30 pm. Everyone welcome to join. Have fun, learn new ideas & keep Stayner beautiful. Call 705-444-2873 for information.

Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

- **Creemore Echo closes today at noon.** We will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2015. **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**
- **Christmas Eve Church Services** – see page 5.

Thursday, December 25 Christmas Day

- **Christmas Day Church Services** – see page 5.
- **The 13th Annual Christmas Community Dinner** will be held at Creemore Legion. Social hour at 4:30 p.m. followed by the traditional hot buffet meal at 6 p.m. For more information contact Diane at 705-466-3126.

Saturday, December 27

- **Today is Garbage Day** – one day late this week due to Christmas Day. See page 12 for details.

Monday, December 29

- **Creemore-Centric VIII Deadline** to submit your work of art. Canvases & boards now available at Mad & Noisy Gallery. Opening Reception is on January 10, 2015 from 2 to 4 p.m. 154 Mill Street.

Sunday, January 18

- **Purple Hills Arts & Heritage Society's Tea and History "Champlain Slept Here"** at 2 p.m. at Station on the Green with author Douglas Hunter, PhD and expert on Samuel de Champlain's exploration of Canada. This is a pre-ambule to the Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society celebration of the 400th anniversary of Champlain's coexistence with the Petun Tribe near Creemore. Admission free. Hunter's non-fiction book entitled *God's Mercies* (an intersection of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain) will be available for sale. RSVP to fred@creemore.com

For more events,
visit

www.thecreemoreecho.com



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CREEMORE CHRISTMAS Carol Sing-a-long

Saturday
December 20
7 to 9pm

at Station on the Green
Music • Refreshments
Everyone welcome
Good singers cherished



Good communication starts at the council table: CAO

(Continued from page 1)
committees added.

Many councillors agreed that economic development is a priority for the coming term.

Shawn Davidson said it will take true leadership from council to implement the brand that Clearview Township paid more than \$65,000 to develop in 2014.

“It’s more than just lapel pins, that some of us choose to wear and some don’t, and stickers on a truck. There are steps that need to be carried out to fully get value from the money that we’ve already spent,” said Davidson.

“If we don’t get moving, the money we spent will be for naught,” said **Deborah Bronée**.

Deputy Mayor **Barry Burton** said council will have to determine if Clearview can afford additional staff members. He suggested the duties could maybe be assigned to existing employees.

He said economic development is crucial, someone should be out there knocking on doors and developing interest.

Communication was stated as a priority by several council members, specifically how to get people to come out to meetings and share their views.

Burton said council has failed in getting people to be interactive.

Thom Paterson said his priorities all come down to public engagement, referencing committee structure, financial planning and staff-council relationships.

He said council needs to engage earlier and go beyond the minimum requirements for public input.

“The public is often the least informed and last to be considered,” said Paterson.

CAO **Steve Sage** said Monday’s meeting was informative and

encouraged council to provide direction and staff will follow it.

“Communication has been the buzzword around here for eight years. It starts with you,” he told councillors. “When you communicate well among yourselves it rubs off on us.”

Davidson said communication is “not as bad as everyone thinks.”

He said it’s a two-way tool and people communicate in different ways.

“I feel like I am constantly being scolded that I am not doing enough,” said Davidson. “Temper your expectation, is a negatively toned way of expressing it.”

He said he agrees with Sage, that communication among council members is key.

“We are a team. We are going to be judged by how we communicate with each other and the company that we keep but we are here to make decisions,” said Davidson. “The most difficult part is balancing the squeaky wheel with the apathetic because the decisions are just as important to the apathetic.”

Davidson and **Kevin Elwood** cautioned against adding multiple small committees and committee of the whole.

Elwood said council’s primary focus should be on the operation of the municipality and the delivery of regulated services.

Goals from specific communities include a decision about a new library in Stayner, along with sidewalks, way-finding signs and traffic calming.

“Let’s make Stayner a come-to place,” said Burton. “Unfortunately, it has become a go-through place because of all the heavy traffic. Like councillor Davidson said, let’s get some signs up.”

Water and sewer in New Lowell, transportation, spending and planning were among other issues mentioned.



Contributed photo

HOUSE TOUR DONATIONS The home of **Diane McQuaig** (left) was the winner of the Creemore Holiday House Tour on Nov. 29. The house was decorated by **Marcia Stewart** (right) and **Lucia Crupi**. The tour raised \$4,980 for charity, divided equally to the six charities chosen by the homeowners. McQuaig, owner of the Creemore General Store, chose Hospice Georgian Triangle as the recipient of \$830. Collingwood General and Marine Hospital, the Clearview-Stayner Food Bank, Ray’s Place, The Log Cabin and Candlelighters also received donations of \$830 each. The tour was organized by Bleu Venue Events.

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EDITORIAL

Govern as if everyone is watching

Clearview council spent a lot of time Monday evening talking about how to communicate and not so much what to communicate.

Communication is much easier to do when you know what you want to say.

It is not realistic that the gallery at town hall is Stayner will be full every time there is a council meeting but it doesn't mean that residents are not engaged.

They will speak up in a hurry if something grabs their interest, especially if their road isn't ploughed fast enough.

Like CAO Steve Sage said, communication is a buzzword.

It can come across as pretty hollow. Nevertheless, it was a campaign theme and worth considering.

We understand council's desire to get ahead of an issue, so that people don't come back at the last minute before a decision is made, or worse, after a decision is made, and say if they had known about it, they would have objected earlier.

As Councillor Shawn Davidson said, there are squeaky wheels out there but it will serve council well to remember that there is a large segment of the population that is busy, hardworking, reasonable, moderate in their views and generally happy with the way the township is managed.

Many people have never approached their council representatives to complain, or offer any compliments, but it doesn't necessarily mean they are apathetic.

We need to give people credit. They are engaged on different levels and communicate in different ways.

The township, as with all government organizations, must do everything in its power to do business in an open and transparent way, divulging all information when possible. Offer proper minutes, make council documents searchable online so that when people do become interested in something they can research it and get all the facts.

Some people have special interests and others stay informed about local government from what they read in the newspaper. People are smart enough to figure out the proper channels to town hall when needed.

Council will have an audience when it has something interesting to say, that's always the case. The trick is to conduct the business of council as though there is always a full house, like there is always an audience judging every decision.

We fully understand that when council members talk about open communication they are not just talking about people showing up to council meetings, although it does seem to please elected officials when people show up.

They are looking for input and guidance from their constituents.

So let's give them what they want. At the same time, they promised us they would do good work this term so let's see something worth talking about.



THE WAY WE WERE

Thanks to **Linda Kahn** for providing us with this old postcard addressed to Mrs. George McNabb of Ashely, Ont., depicting the Presbyterian manse in Creemore. The house was recently featured on the Creemore house tour.

Pride float greeted with warmth

Editor:

Thank you to Sabrina Stamp-Dupuis for her courageous choice to enter a Gay Pride/PFLAG float into the Creemore Santa Claus parade.

Her vision for a safer friendlier community for gays, lesbians and transgendered people (aka the queer community) makes our community more inclusive, safer and friendlier for all. I thank her for her courage in making it happen.

And thank you to Creemore for its encouraging reception of the float. As its rainbow-wigged driver, I was moved to tears a few times by the thumbs up and cheering we were greeted with as we made our way through town. It's not easy for any of us to be different, but it's a heck of a lot easier when you're greeted with open hearts and warm smiles.

Shelley Hannah,
Wasaga Beach.

University of Guelph wind turbine study skewed

Editor:

I suggest the findings of The University of Guelph wind turbine study, published in the Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics, are skewed. A study is only valid to the extent of its investigation. Richard Vyn and Ryan McCullough, authors of the study, are professors of agriculture with students working for them, neither are professional appraisers. I suggest their credibility lacks substantive expertise.

The study includes only the wind farm area of Melancton Township. Not areas where property values are in a much higher range, such as the Fairview Wind Farm project near Stayner, where just the threat of wind turbines being built has negated any sales for over three years, except a couple where the price was reduced 30 per cent on average. Concluding wind turbines "have little effect on property values" is only in reference to Melancton.

The data used in the Melancton study includes a much larger area than the core wind farm area. Ergo, properties not directly affected are included, thereby skewing the findings.

Consider the wind farm area as being 4,860 hectares of Melancton's 31,624 hectares, the ratio of property location is 1 to 6.5.

The report states having studied over 7,000 sales within an eight-year period and mentions several properties were sold several times. That's an extraordinary turnover, considering there are only 1,100 properties in Melancton, a township, that historically had, prior to industrial wind turbines, very little turnover. It would indicate the purchasers,

who bought properties at a bargain, soon found they couldn't abide the turbines and wanted to sell. Each resale forced the asking price to be lowered. Thus each resale effects a downward spiral, reducing the gap between asking and purchase price. Ergo the data would show a minimal difference in price. The real test would be to compare how a similar property, in a similar non-turbine area, would be evaluated. After all, selling a house with a wind turbine whirling nearby isn't the easiest thing to do.

The study uses data relating only to properties sold. It does not include properties that were up for sale, but didn't sell due to the turbines. Nor does it document the properties that were abandoned in that time frame.

The authors of the study extracted information only from existing real estate data. They didn't go door-to-door, questioning sellers and buyers within the core area, to ascertain their reasons for selling and buying and how it affected pricing.

All research is fraught with the uncertainties of misconceptions and excluded, relative information. It can also be influenced by the parameters set by the client paying for it. It's questionable why the study was done in the first place, unless to validate a position of wind turbine advocates.

This study would be a travesty of justice if ever used in court as qualified evidence. To save its reputation, perhaps the University of Guelph should ask their professors to revise their study to include other mitigating factors.

John Wiggins,
Collingwood.

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Colour this drawing of Mollie and Santa by darci-que and bring it to her store, Hillview Cellars Winery, located at 151 Mill Street, where it will be posted in the window. Entries will be eligible for prizes.

The best dressed windows in town

Creemore's secret Santa is giving out prize money to the winners of the main street shop window decorating contest.

First prize of \$100 goes to Seasons, second prize of \$50 goes to Cardboard Castles and the third prize of \$25 goes to Creemore Village Pharmacy IDA.

Winners are welcome to pick up their prizes at *The Creemore Echo* office, located at 3 Caroline St. W., before noon on Dec. 24, when the office closes for Christmas break.

FRESH CUT CHRISTMAS TREES Available now until Dec 24



Creemore Baptist Church



Candlelight Service Christmas Eve 7pm

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CHRISTMAS CHURCH DIRECTORY

Friday, December 19

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Stayner
Mass at 6:30 p.m., Confessions 7 to 9 p.m.

Sunday, December 21

St. James Clougher-Lisle
Service of Lessons & Carols at 9:30 a.m.

New Lowell United Church
4th Sunday of Advent Service at 9:45 a.m.

St. Andrew's Maple Cross Presbyterian Church
Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church, Dunedin
4th Sunday of Advent & Communion Service at 10 a.m.

Sermon "Relationships" with Charles Boyd
Stayner Brethren in Christ

Sunday School Christmas Presentation at 10 a.m.
Salvation Army Hope Acres Community Church

Christmas Service at 10 a.m.

Creemore Baptist Church
Service at 11 a.m.

St. Luke's Anglican Church
The Christmas Story in Word & Song at 11 a.m.
followed by informal lunch and "other things"

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Stayner
Mass at 11 a.m.

St. John's United Church
4th Sunday of Advent Service at 11 a.m.

Church of Redeemer, Duntroon
4th Sunday of Advent Service at 10 a.m.
(combined service for the parishes of Batteaux, Duntroon & Singhampton)

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

St. Luke's Anglican Church
Christmas Carol Sing Out at 4:30 p.m. (bring your own instruments if you have one!)

Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist at 5 p.m.

Stayner Brethren in Christ
Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m., refreshments to follow

Mansfield Presbyterian Church

Candlelight Service at 6:15 p.m.

New Lowell United Church
Christmas Eve Communion Service at 6:30 p.m.

Creemore Baptist Church
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church, Dunedin
Christmas Eve Family Service at 7 p.m.

St. Andrew's Maple Cross Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.

Christ Church Banda
Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.



Christmas Eve continued

St. James Clougher-Lisle
Christmas Hymn Sing at 7 p.m.,
Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m.

St. John's United Church
Christmas Eve Communion Service at 8 p.m.,
St. Paul's Anglican Church, Singhampton
Christmas Eve Service at 8:15 p.m.
(combined service for the parishes of Batteaux, Duntroon & Singhampton Anglican Churches)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Stayner
Carolling at 10:30 p.m. followed by
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at 11 p.m.

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

Creedan Valley Leisureworld
Christmas Day Carol Service at 11 a.m.
hosted by St. John's United Church &
St. Luke's Anglican Church. All welcome.

St. Luke's Anglican Church
Christmas Day Service at 10 a.m.
Holy Eucharist (said) Service
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Stayner
Christmas Day Mass at 11 a.m. (No Evening Mass)
Christ Church, Batteaux
Christmas Day Service at 10 a.m.
(combined service for the parishes of Batteaux, Duntroon & Singhampton Anglican Churches)



Contributed photo

STEEPED WITH PRIDE Two blends of Clearview Tea Company teas are now offered under the prestigious Legislative Assembly of Ontario private label in The Legislative Assembly Gift Shop at Queen’s Park in Toronto. The shop is carrying the Creemore Market blend, a black tea infused with the oil of bergamot and has a touch of vanilla, and the Royal Blend with malty Assam and toasty Darjeeling. Above: The owner of the Creemore based company, **Rebecca Brown** meets with Simcoe-Grey MPP **Jim Wilson** at his Queen’s Park in Toronto.

Community carol sing

Everyone is invited to gather round the piano Saturday at Station on the Green during a carol sing. **Clive VanderBurgh** will be accompanying singers from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. during an informal community sing-along.

Now in its third year, VanderBurgh said the event is organized with **Laura Walton**, as an opportunity for the community to come together and embrace an old tradition of caroling.

Admission is free and people are welcome to sing or just listen in. During a break, refreshments will be served.

“Everyone is welcome, good singers cherished,” said VanderBurgh, laughing.

Christmas bird count

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority’s second annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids takes place Jan. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Tiffin Centre.

The Christmas Bird Count for Kids is a fun, family-friendly bird-watching event that contributes to scientific bird count data.

The count begins with a mini-workshop on bird identification. Bird watching experts from the Brereton Field Naturalists will then guide families on a bird count hike through the Tiffin forest. The data collected will be submitted to Bird Studies Canada, and included in the national Christmas Bird Count for Kids database.

Registration is required by Dec. 30. To register, visit www.nvca.on.ca and click on events and education. People of all ages are welcome, with parental supervision.

A \$5 registration fee per child includes entrance to the conservation area and hot chocolate for children and accompanying adults.

For more information on this event, contact the NVCA at 705-424-1479 or outdoored@nvca.on.ca. The Tiffin Centre is located at 8195 8th Line, Utopia.

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Thurs-Fri – Dec 25-26 – closed	Mon-Tue – Dec 29-30 – 10-5
	Thursday – Jan 1 – closed
	Fri-Sat – Jan 2-3 – 9-6

176 Mill St., Creemore, 705 466-3514, info@100milestore.ca

Christmas dinners delivered to those in need

Volunteer coordinators of the 13th Annual Community Christmas Dinner want to make sure those who can't make it to the event at the Creemore Legion on Christmas day won't go without a hot meal.

They are looking to the community to identify anyone who may appreciate delivery of a hot meal and/or a gift certificate to Foodland or the Creemore Village IDA.

"Thanks to the generosity of our corporate sponsor Village Builders and individuals, businesses, and organizations who contribute to this fund we are able to do so much more for our community than just offer a delicious traditional hot meal in a festively decorated hall," said coordinator **Diane McKay**.

Dinner guests will be treated to musical entertainment by **David, Hazel and Karina Wipper** and **Ken Robertson**.

A Christmas in the Valley CD was produced by the Wipper family, with other local musicians, including children from the local Hummingbird Montessori School singing back-up.

The CD is an eclectic mix of both traditional and original music with a touching poem entitled "The Clearview of Christmas" written and beautifully narrated by **Tim Armour**.

CDs are for sale for \$15 each at Cardboard Castles, The 100 Mile Store, The Curiosity House, The Village IDA, the Creemore House of Stitches, and also at Niagara Escarpment Outfitters.

"The event coordinators are deeply indebted to the organizers of the Santa weekend events and to the participating businesses for helping provide a venue

for the sale of the CDs which are sure to delight all who purchase them. To date we have sold a total of 67. The proceeds will be shared between the dinner event and the local food banks," said McKay.

People are welcome to donate their Foodland turkey bucks to the cause.

Any excess frozen turkey will be donated to families in need and to the local Food Banks along with the non-perishable food items collected at the door the night of the dinner.

Organizers also want to ensure our donors that we always manage to see there will be some start-up money for the following year's event.

There are volunteer opportunities on Dec. 24 to help with the unpacking, food prep and to begin setting up and decorating the hall, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Organizers are also looking for a couple of students to be elves from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Dec. 25, to accept food items, help dinner guests with their coats and assist those needing help getting their meal from the buffet table, while earning community service credits. Other volunteers are needed as early as 10:30 a.m. on Christmas day.

People are also needed to offer rides, deliver hot meals, serve food at the buffet tables and help with cleanup.

For more information, to volunteer, reserve a place at the table, contribute produce or donate funds, please contact Diane McKay at 705-466-3126 or 705-888-2237 or dmckay.9lives@gmail.com.

Donations can be made at TD Canada Trust, account number 2320 5202657. This account is used



Staff photo: Trina Berlo

Community Christmas Dinner organizers **Diane and Brian McKay** with **Santa Claus**.

solely to cover the costs of the dinner event, gift certificates for those in need and gifts for nursing home residents.

Sponsors needed to bring refugee to Canada

Debbie Ebanks Schlums continues to look for donations and sponsors in order to bring Syrian refugee **Anahita Osman** to Canada.

The Mulmur resident and art student met Osman, 29, while visiting Turkey this year.

Osman grew up in Syria and was studying translation in her final year of university when war broke out in Syria and she was forced to leave in July 2014. She has worked for a number of relief and aid agencies and is also an actor and an artist who first taught herself English by watching movies.

Ebanks Schlums said the deadline for her immigration application has been extended into the New Year. She said there is a small group of people who have committed \$1,500 of the \$12,000 needed to sponsor the woman.

"I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to sponsoring Anahita Osman so far," said Ebanks Schlums. "Thanks especially to **Lee Anning**, who very kindly put a call out in last week's *Echo* to point out that small contributions can make a big difference."

To contact Ebanks Schlums, e-mail debbie.ebanks@gmail.com. Donations by e-transfer are welcome.

A donation box has been set up at the Creemore 100 Mile Store. Donors can include their name and address if they wish to receive a tax receipt, if possible.

"We appreciate every little bit. Thanks again to all those who have already helped," said Ebanks Schlums. "Let's get Anahita out of the war zone and into the hills."



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DEC 20 9AM - 8PM
DEC 21 TO 23 10AM - 6PM
DEC 24 10AM - 3PM
DEC 25 TO 26 CLOSED
DEC 27 TO 30 10AM - 5PM
DEC 31 10AM - 3PM
JAN 1 CLOSED
JAN 2 10AM - 5PM

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Staff photo: Fred Mills

ALLISTON IN COMMAND The Creemore Curling Club hosted the Grandmasters provincial Open Championship for Zone 9. Alliston and Creemore were the only teams to play. Alliston won the first game 7-5 and in the second game Alliston had a huge first end, scoring six to take a commanding lead and to win in only four ends with the final score 10-1 to move on to the provincial finals, hosted by Thornhill Golf and Country Club in March. Everyone had fun especially the spectators. Alliston placed fifth last year.

Stayner Siskins continue on point streak

by Alex Hargave
Shootouts were the name of Stayner Siskins hockey game last week.
Although Stayner split the two games played, 5-4 loss to Caledon Thursday night on home ice and a 6-5 win over Penetang Saturday, coach **Steve Walker** was happy to continue their point streak.
“We’re doing something right,” he said.
In the last 14 games, the club has managed to earn at least one point from two shootout losses, one overtime win and 11 victories.
Thursday’s shootout loss should never have happened if you gauge by shots. Stayner out-shot the Golden Hawks 53-29. Obviously, Caledon netminder **James Cyfko** played well to earn the victory. **Xavier Portelance** took the loss.
Walker noted that Stayner had opportunities to secure the win but couldn’t bury the puck.
The first period ended in a 1-1 draw with **Ricky Darrell**, Siskins lone scorer. Caledon scored one power play goal and two others to jump to a 3-1 after 11 minutes of play in the second period. Stayner showed good fight coming back to tie the game by the period’s end. **Quinten Bruce** notched both goals.
Darrell pulled the trigger in the third period while on a power play to tie the game. Neither team scored in overtime and in the shootout Caledon earned the victory by scoring twice on Portelance versus the one Stayner goal.
Siskins general manager **Richard Gauthier** wasn’t quite as cordial as Walker. He was quite upset that two of his players were suspended for checking from

behind and unable to play in the Penetang game. Stayner already had a couple players out leaving the squad with just three lines and four defencemen.
According to Gauthier, Stayner was two to three minutes from putting Penetang away.
Stayner had scored a late first period goal and an early one to start the second when the Kings roared back with two goals within three minutes to tie the game.
“We’re not getting the big saves when needed,” Gauthier acknowledged.
The game went back and forth after that and it looked like Stayner would pull off a win late in the game leading 5-4. Penetang pulled the goalie and scored with 1:12 left to send it to overtime. Once again neither team scored in overtime. In the shoot-out Stayner out-scored the Kings 2-0 to get the two points.
Walker agreed with Gauthier that the club needs the goalies to “stop the puck” in order to get by the top teams in the league and province.
Added Gauthier, “I should be happy but I see how much potential we have and how good we could be.”
Gauthier is also bewildered about his goaltending. He said **Trevor Bloch** played brilliantly just a few weeks back and knows he is capable. Until he can play consistently Gauthier will be shopping for a number one goalie. He also wants a big, mean defenceman.
Siskins next game is Thursday night at home against Midland. They play in Orillia Saturday.
A big congratulations is in order for the club’s coach.
Walker is having his hockey sweater with the

Collus PowerStream warns of billing scam

Collus PowerStream is warning of a billing and collections scam that involves customers receiving phone calls from the “billing and collections department” of the “utility”. The phone calls, which have been received after business hours, go on to threaten to disconnect the customer if an amount is not paid immediately via PayPal.
Collus PowerStream does not contact customers on billing issues outside of business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and does not use PayPal as a payment option.
If customers receive a suspicious phone call from someone claiming to be with Collus PowerStream, you are encouraged to take the employees name, hang up and call the utility back. The phone number is on the bill.
People who receive a fraudulent call are encouraged to report the incident to the police.

Food and toy drive continues

The Creemore Echo's food drive continues until Monday, Dec. 22.
Drop off non-perishable food items, unwrapped toys for all age groups, cash and grocery store gift cards to be distributed locally.
Bring all donations to the office, located at 3 Caroline St. W., during regular business hours.

Eisbaren Berlin retired next week. He wore number 27. It’s quite an honour and tribute to the Clearview Township hockey player who started playing hockey in Creemore as a child and rose to the high ranks of professional hockey.
The team competes in the Deutsche Eishockey Liga, the highest level of play in professional German ice hockey and is also one of the league’s founding members. Walker was a star player for them for about a decade.
Walker and his family will be in attendance.
Also big kudos to Duntroon’s **Larry Sinclair**. He was recently selected to be a member of the Collingwood Sports Hall of Fame. He was a competitive skier, world-class coach, and inspirational to promoting Nordic skiing in the area. He has hosted international events at Highlands Nordic in Duntroon, which he built from the ground up.

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Your gifts made a big difference.
Thank you

for your donations to the Clearview Stayner Food Bank and Hope Acres Salvation Army.
Monday, December 22 will be our final day for collection of gifts, food and gift cards.

The Creemore ECHO

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www.thecreemoreecho.com



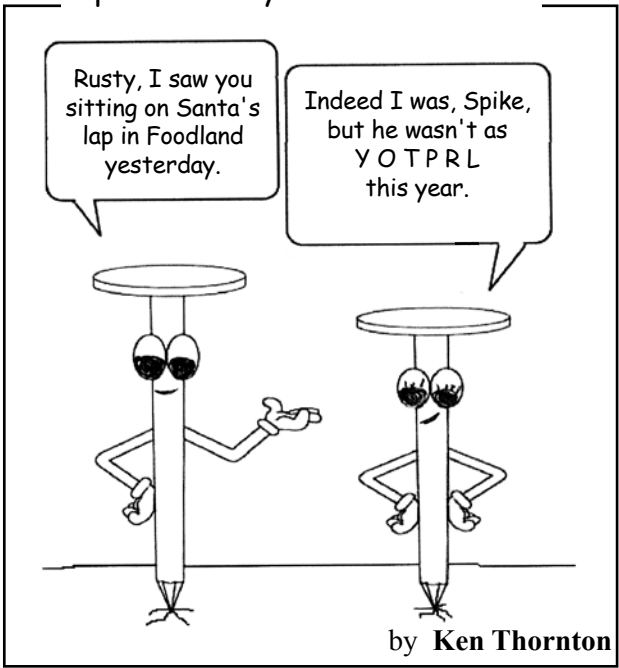
FUN & Games

Sudoku by Barbara Simpson

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

Answer on Classifieds page

Spike & Rusty Word Scramble



Find this week's answer in Classifieds

Weekend Weather

Friday, December 19

A mix of sun and clouds
High -5 Low -9 Winds N 15 km/h
POP 20%

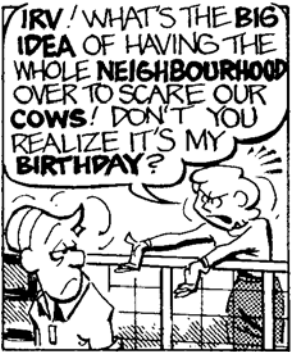
Saturday, December 20

Mainly sunny
High -3 Low -10 Winds N 5 km/h
POP 20%

Sunday, December 21

Mainly sunny
High 0 Low -4 Winds S 5 km/h
POP 20%

The AVRIDGE FARM



by JEFF WILSON

FRED'S FUNNIES

A preacher was walking down the street when he noticed a little boy trying to ring a doorbell, but it was just out of his reach. He watched the boy struggle for some time and then walked over to press the bell. After he pressed it, he asked, "now what?" The boy turned and shouted, "now we run!"

Canadian Criss Cross

December 19, 2014

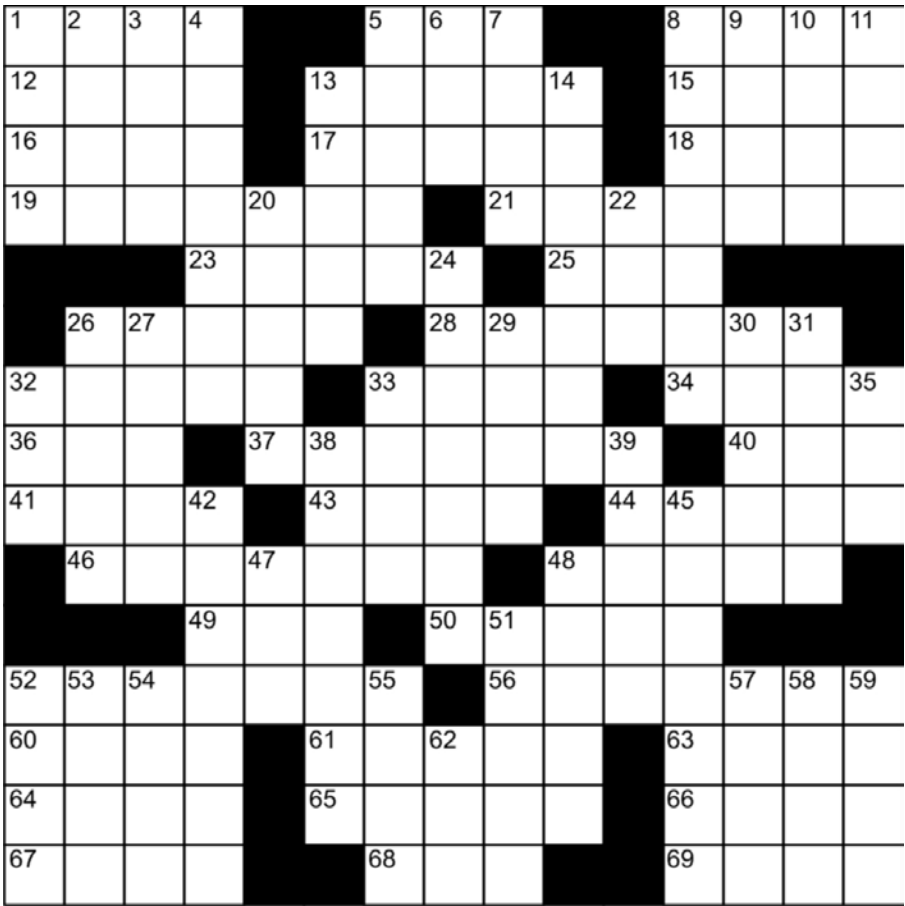
ACROSS

1. Troughs on poles
5. Unit of length
8. Immediately, to a surgeon
12. Mine access
13. Monarch's attendants
15. Consecrated
16. Mocking shout
17. Helicopter part
18. A great distance away
19. Czech composer
21. Place for grazing
23. Lock of long hair
25. Electrically charged atom
26. Neither more nor less
28. Fasten together
32. Economic recession
33. Get smaller
34. Few and far between
36. Road map abbreviation
37. Blow apart
40. On the other hand
41. Cry
43. Choir member
44. Speak out
46. Bit for horses
48. Show off
49. Take part in a race
50. Fast-moving snake
52. Carrot relative
56. Like some birthday cards
60. Indigo plant
61. Having to do with cities
63. Cut away little by little
64. Carry
65. Black eye
66. Goddess of discord
67. Visually obscured

68. Change the colour of
69. Armoured vehicle

DOWN

1. Pilgrimage to Mecca
2. Concert halls
3. Actor Casper Van ____
4. Layer
5. Chess pieces
6. Away from home
7. Fall suddenly
8. Canadian actor who played James T. Kirk
9. Bean curd
10. Of wings
11. Europa's birthplace
13. Wicker basket for fish
14. Apprentice
20. Dice game
22. A male in the family
24. Throw things about
26. Santa's staff
27. King's wife
29. About to make a discovery
30. Room on a ship
31. Elephant's proboscis
32. Saying
33. Partition
35. Summer in French
38. It's atomic number is 72
39. Spiked wheel on a spur
42. Herb used as a garnish
45. Low protective wall
47. Enjoyment
48. Subdivision of an act
51. Belittle
52. Trodden track
53. Buffalo of Celebes



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

54. Ostentatious luxury
55. Egg on
57. Canadian actress Strong

58. ____ go brag
59. Piece of office furniture
62. Obtain time

Southern Georgian Bay home sales up in November

The Southern Georgian Bay Association of Realtors is reporting home sales are up over last year.

Home sales through MLS numbered 206 units in November, up 7.9 per cent from the same month last year.

Home sales in the western district, including Wasaga Beach, Collingwood, Clearview Township, The Blue Mountains, Meaford and Grey Highlands, increased 12.7 per cent on a year-over-year basis to 142 units.

This was the best month of November since 2011 and the third best ever.

Home sales in the eastern district, including Midland and Penetanguishene, the surrounding communities of Elmvale, Port McNicoll, Victoria Harbour, Coldwater, Port Severn, Honey Harbour, Tiny, Tay, Springwater, Oro-Medonte, Severn and Georgian Bay townships, totaled 64 units in November, one less sale from last November.

“With one month left to go this year, 2014 is on track to post the best annual sales figure in seven years and quite possibly the second best ever in the Southern Georgian Bay region,” said association president **Wayne**

Cornfield. “As has been the case all year, the overall numbers are still being driven by near-record level activity in the western district, while 2014 has been a below average year for sales in the less active eastern district.”

The number of new residential listings in November 2014 was 361 units, down 11.3 per cent from a year earlier.

New listings were down in the western district but increased in the eastern district

There were 1,757 active residential listings on the association’s MLS system at the end of November 2014, down 9.9 per cent from the year before.

The value of all residential transactions in November was \$56.5 million, up 1.9 per cent from a year earlier.

Sales of all types of properties numbered 233 units in November, an increase of five per cent compared to the same month in 2013.

The total value of all properties sold in November 2014 was \$65.2 million, down 2.9 per cent from last November.

The Southern Georgian Bay Association of Realtors represents almost 500 real estate agents.

Read breaking news at www.TheCreemoreEcho.com

The Creemore Hills Winery

Santa Claus Parade

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Thank You!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



Our Winners

1ST Place: Infinity Gymnastics
2ND Place: NCPS Band
3RD Place: MS Design and Florist Fairy

Our Contributors & Volunteers

Clearview Township, The Creemore BIA
Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society,
Cardboard Castles, The Big Heart Seniors,
Ann & Bruce Godwin, Ann Murphy, Tim Hortons,
Brian MacIntyer, Roy Veinot, Darrin Breedan,
Brian Doran, Corey Finkelstein, Liam Fitzgerald,
Owen Head, The Judges, Paul Lavelle, Walter Lucas,
Fred Mills, Nora Mills, Laurie Wilson,
Clearview Township Staff and all the participants

With Special thanks to
The Creemore Hills Winery

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ECHO Classifieds

Submit your classified ad by 5 pm Tuesday:
call 705-466-9906, fax 705-466-9908, email
info@creemore.com,\$15 + hst for 25 words or less

FOR SALE

HAY for sale – Small squares and 4x5' rounds of horse hay. We deliver year-round. Call Norm of Stonehedge Farms at 705-466-2607.

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.

SKI SEASON

Ski Season Rental. Mad River Cabin, Glen Huron, newly renovated. Perfect for 1 or 2 who get along really well. Close to Devil's Glen. Easiest to call 705-444-3993.

Lovely, quiet **LOG CABIN**. 5 minutes east of Creemore. 3 bedroom. Sleeps 6 comfortably. Available January 12 to April 1. \$2500/month or \$6000 for season inclusive. Pet friendly. Contact Gord & Andrea at 416-554-8635.

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Do you have a piece of history crumbling on your farm? We can help you preserve the past. **STONWORK** restoration to barns, houses, outbuildings, walls and more. Contact Tom Raffay Stonework 519-538-2509; cell 519-939-0494.

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DOG BOARDING

Your dog will enjoy their stay at **Club Amarillo**. Our Boarding Retreat boasts indoor and outdoor runs including large pack walks, grooming, flat screen TV, hand walking and more all set in the beautiful Mulmur hills. Contact Dana Mailhot 705-466-6556 dana.rose10@hotmail.com.

THANK YOU

We would like to express our sincere and heartfelt thank you to all of those who participated in the **4th Annual Michael Tupling Memorial Tournament**. We had another successful year, with eight teams participating. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time preparing and organizing the tournament, score/time keeping, refereeing, bartending, and preparing and serving meals throughout the tournament. Your hard work, dedication, and support are greatly appreciated. A special thank you to those who generously donated silent auction items, monetary donations, and those who showed their support by coming out to watch some games and socialize.

The Michael Tupling Memorial Foundation was established to encourage youth involvement and leadership in the community. All the proceeds from this tournament will go towards recreation activities and community projects and help provide financial support for youth in the North Dufferin community who may not otherwise have the financial resources to participate. Thank you again for your continuous support and generosity and hope to see everyone out again at next year's tournament.

IN MEMORIAMs

Christopher VOKES

You are always with us.
Remembering a special young man Who we lost December 18, 2006.
Because of you we are more willing To accept life's challenges.
You still live in our hearts and minds.
Never forgotten, forever loved by Kathy, Eric and family

Cora PATTON 1911 – 1993

Mother, it's hard to believe that 21 years have passed since God called you home. We miss your loving smile and thoughtful ways. You are always on our minds and in our hearts.
Your loving children Mervin, Bill, Oscar and Don and families

CURLING

LADIES: Creemore Curling Club is looking for ladies who want to curl and have a social evening with exercise and fun every. No experience required. All levels welcomed. Monday night at 7 p.m. starting January 5, 2015. Jan/Feb session only \$85 for new members to the club or \$130 for previous members. For more info call Ann at 705-466-2000 or Gail at 705-466-6399.

HELP WANTED

Part-time HOUSEKEEPER

wanted.
5 minutes from
Creemore.

- Housekeeping duties.
- Experience in caring for guests.
- Must be comfortable with email/texting.
- MUST have transportation.

Call 705-466-2001

THANK YOU

A big thanks to Jerry(?) who helped pull a black Honda Civic up a hill during last week's snow storm. Thanks for the rescue and seeing us safely to our destination. We have left a gift at *The Creemore Echo* as a token of our appreciation.

OLD PHOTOS WANTED

Do you have any **PHOTOS** of special events in and around Creemore that you'd like to share with everyone in our "The Way We Were" section on page 4? Bring them in to us & we'll take a copy and run them in future editions of *The Creemore Echo*. We look forward to seeing you!

GOOD FOOD BOX

The Good Food Box Program, a volunteer run organization, helps families eat a healthier diet with fresh fruit and vegetables. Order and by Wednesday, January 14 by phoning St. Luke's Anglican Church and leave a message 705-466-2206. Pick up & pay on Wednesday, January 21. \$10/ small or \$15/large.

GOT
NEWS?
CALL
TRINA

705-466-
9906

DEATH NOTICE

DAY, Kenneth John "Kenny Day" Born April 27, 1976 in Fergus, Ontario. Passed away suddenly Wednesday, December 3, 2014 near Okotoks, Alberta as the result of a car accident. Beloved husband of Sara Blumell, loving father of Emma Joy and Jacob Cooper, cherished son of Ken Day of Creemore. Predeceased by his mother Joy (Cayford), his Aunt Debbie Armstrong (Day), his grandparents Jack and Jean Day of Sutton West, Ontario and Bill and Violet Cayford of South Wales and his dear friend Coco. Loving brother to Jamie and Jared (Kelly) Day; and Katrina Morgan. Adored uncle to Arden, McKade, and Emily, and dear cousin to Sarah and Jeff Armstrong. Special friend to Pauline MacIntosh. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 9 in Okotoks with his direct and extended family, many friends and business associates attending. Interment followed the service.

Kenny's education began at Salem Public School where he met his lifelong friends Shane, Dan, Jared, and Kirky. Graduating to Elora Senior Public, and Centre Wellington District High School. Kenny attended Sir Wilfrid Laurier University where he graduated with a BA in Economics.

Kenny's first job was in the produce department at the L&M Market in Fergus and one summer at Stacey Electric. Kenny started his automotive career with Canadian Tire in Fergus working in the Parts Department. He then moved over to Gary Cooper Chevrolet in Elora joining the Service Department. From there Kenny joined BK Volvo in Waterloo and graduated from Tech Writer to Service Manager, to Parts and Service Manager, to Sales Manager to General Manager. It was here where Kenny met the love of his life, Sara.

Kenny and Sara were married in DeWinton, near Calgary, Kenny took a position at Hyatt Infinity as Service Manager in south Calgary while Sara returned to Ontario to finish her university education. Five months later Sara re-joined Kenny in Alberta and they purchased their first home together in Okotoks. Here they had their two amazing children, Emma and Jacob. Kenny's knowledge of the automotive industry, his work ethics, and his outgoing personality earned him many friends. Kenny loved his wife, his children, his families in Alberta and Ontario, and his career. Kenny's world was complete. Kenny always enjoyed his time spent at "the farm". Whether he was socializing at the Legion, eating the best wings in the world with a "Creemore" at the Pub, riding his 4-wheeler at Bear Alley or freakin' at the Beacon, Kenny lived his life his way. Kenny made many more friends here and will be sadly missed by all his friends in Creemore.

The Celebration of Kenny's Life will be held Sunday, December 28, 2014 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Creemore, Ontario. Please join Kenny's family for memories and fellowship.

THE CREEMORE ECHO CHRISTMAS AD DEADLINES

Next week's paper will be published on Wednesday, December 24.
The deadline for ads is Friday, December 19 at 5 p.m.

****Creemore Echo office will be closed from
Wednesday, December 24 at noon until
Monday, January 5 at 9 a.m.****

This week's answers

Spike & Rusty:
PORTLY

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

H	O	D	S			R	O	D			S	T	A	T		
A	D	I	T			C	O	U	R	T		H	O	L	Y	
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H	A	Z	Y			D	Y	E					T	A	N	K



Give a gift to last the whole year through

Call or email now to order a gift subscription and we will make sure *The Creemore Echo* is in the mailbox of the community-lover on your list, with a personalized note, before Christmas.

The paper will continue to arrive for the next 52 weeks via email or mail, a reminder to that special someone of you and the place they care about.

The Creemore ECHO

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705-466-9906
thecreemoreecho.com

Flu strain differs from vaccine

Because more cases of influenza are showing up locally, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is advising residents to make sure they are taking precautions to avoid illness.

With the festive season just days away, the health unit is urging everyone to make sure they are immunized against the flu.

The vaccine this year offers protection against three strains of flu virus.

The strain of flu most commonly circulating right now, the A(H3N2) strain, is slightly different from the one included in the vaccine, meaning it may not be as effective as most years.

Flu activity in the region is still being described as “localized,” slightly behind what has already become an increasingly busy season in the larger urban centres in Southern Ontario.

“When families get together over the holidays, it creates an ideal opportunity for the flu to find new ways of spreading,” said Simcoe Muskoka Medical Officer of Health **Dr. Charles Gardner**. “When people get the flu shot, they’re not just protecting themselves; they’re preventing the virus from spreading to the rest of the family or to co-workers, particularly those who have medical conditions.”

For those who have been immunized but develop the flu, the symptoms will likely be less severe. The flu shot will also protect against the H1N1 and an influenza B strain circulating this season.

“Our message about the vaccine remains the same,” Gardner said. “The flu shot is your best protection against the flu and we recommend it for everyone six months of age and older.”

The flu shot is at clinics and pharmacies. For more information, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

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Store Hours:
Monday to Saturday - 10am to 6pm
Sunday - 11am to 5pm
Open Boxing Day - 11am to 5pm
Closed Christmas & New Years Day.

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217 Gideon Street, Stayner, ON L0M 1S0 Telephone: 705 428-6230 | Fax: 705 428-0288
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm
www.clearview.ca

HOLIDAY HOURS

Our Holiday Office Hours are as follows:
Wednesday, December 24th, 8:30 - 12:00 pm

Please note that our office will be closed from **December 25th, 2014 until January 2nd, 2015 inclusive.**

Regular office hours will resume on **January 5th, 2015 at 8:30 am**
Wishing Everyone Happy Holidays

Waste Management Information

Christmas & New Years

WASTE COLLECTIONS

Regular day: Thursday, December 25, 2014 Friday, December 26, 2014 Thursday, January 1, 2015 Friday, January 2, 2015	Changing to: Friday, December 26, 2014 Saturday, December 27, 2014 Friday, January 2, 2015 Saturday January 3, 2015
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WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES HOURS

Waste facilities will be closed at noon:
Wednesday, December 24, 2014

Waste facilities will be closed all day:
Thursday, December 25, 2014
Friday, December 26, 2014
Thursday, January 1, 2015

Sign up for garbage reminders and notices at: simcoe.ca/wastereminder

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
County of Simcoe Customer Service
1-800-263-3199 / simcoe.ca