



Godderich Sun

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Public Health encourages taking care during total solar eclipse

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

At the March 18 council meeting the Public Health Ontario Report was brought to the attention of council members.

The report discussed health protection for the upcoming total solar eclipse.

On April 8 parts of Southern and Eastern Ontario will experience a total solar eclipse for the first time since 1925.

In Ontario, the solar eclipse is expected to start at 2 p.m. and last for about two and a half hours.

The sun will be fully eclipsed at approximately 3:20 until 3:23 p.m.

According to the report, Goderich is not in the path of totality but will see a near-total eclipse of 97 per cent.

The key message for everyone is to not look directly at the sun during a total solar eclipse.

A total solar eclipse is a rare celestial event where the moon passes between Earth and the Sun, casting shadow on the Earth's surface. This moving shadow called 'the path of totality' will pass over many municipalities.

For several months, Public Health Ontario and various other ministries have met regularly to discuss concerns and possible impacts should mass gatherings take place in areas of totality.

CONTINUE TO PAGE 5



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

SILVER AT OMHA CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Back row, L-R): Coach Matt Denomme, Coach Brandon Corriveau, Hudson Gole, Griffin Karges, William Carmichael, Kaine Crabtree, Tanner Allen, Carson VandenHeuvel, Easton Connelly, Brayden Garrick, Joey Fritzley, Trainer Matt VandenHeuvel, Trainer Colin Carmichael. (Front row, L-R): Cohen Denomme, Evan Denunzio (Assistant Captain), Hudson Bruyn, Jacob Corriveau (Captain), Luke Stone (Assistant Captain), Logan Vance. See story on page 15.

Godderich Council in favour of organic waste pickup

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

At the March 18 Town Council meeting, the topic of curbside organic waste pickup was discussed, and members of council expressed their support.

To reduce the community's carbon footprint, and be more ethically responsible with waste management, council members are eager to roll this new initiative out.

"I believe strongly that we have an ethical duty as elected officials to take whatever action we can to address climate change," Councillor Allison Segeren expressed.

"Status quo policies and processes are easy and comfortable, and they often don't cost as much, but they will do little to make the necessary changes that this planet and its people so desperately need."

According to Sean Thomas, Director of Operations (DOO), two options have been presented to council to address this topic.

Option one is a weekly waste collection, versus option two, which is a bi-weekly waste collection with a weekly organic collection.

Thomas explained to council that the current contract with waste management expires on August 1, 2024.

CONTINUE TO PAGE 2



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Goderich Council in favour of organic waste pickup

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Although there is still some time before a final decision and new contract are decided upon, there remains the question of cost to changing the curbside pickup service.

Town Treasurer, Deanna Hastie explained to members of council the estimated cost involved in making changes to curbside pickup in Goderich.

For option one, using an estimated number of properties of 3,570, the annual revenue cost would be \$109.55, or \$2.10 on a weekly basis.

For option two, the one that adds in the extra pickup for organic waste, the estimate was \$147.41 annually, or \$2.83 per week.

These are all estimates because it has not been determined or confirmed of the type and number of properties that will be eligible for this service, such as multi-unit homes or apartment buildings.

To support this change, several community members sent Town Council and Staff letters expressing the need for an organic waste (green bin) collection service.

Some of the letters referenced stats from Environment Canada. Diverting organic components from landfills is a well-documented method to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. According to the Environment Canada website, diverting organic waste from landfill can result in 7.5 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The letters all had similar messages, including the acknowledgement that changing behaviour is challenging, but that this initiative would provide benefits for both the community, and the environment.

"To protect our planet, we cannot continue to fill landfill sites with material that is best suited to being returned to the soil," the statement reads.

"The implementation of an organics waste program is another opportunity to demonstrate leadership on this issue," added Segeren.

"Our community, the people I have heard from, are asking that we move away from status quo policies. They are asking loud and clearly for an organic waste collection service as part of a broader waste management strategy."

Organic waste is defined as food waste (table and kitchen scraps), paper and cardboard with stains from food or water and green waste (dead leaves, grass clippings, and other plants).

Solid waste pickup refers

to non-hazardous waste materials that are typically discarded by households, businesses, and industries. It includes items like plastic, paper, glass, and other non-biodegradable materials.

Some examples are non-recyclable plastics, broken household items, disposable utensils, or packaging materials.

Solid waste is collected from homes, businesses, and public areas by waste management trucks, which transport the waste to landfills or waste processing facilities.

Organic waste is defined as biodegradable materials derived from living organisms. It includes food scraps, yard waste, and other natural materials.

Organic waste includes fruit and vegetable peels, coffee grounds, grass clippings, leaves, and plant-based materials.

It would be collected separately from other waste streams, and specialized trucks would transport it to a processing facility.

"I completely support the green bin organics collection. Change is hard, but change is necessary. I see this as an investment in our future, and reducing our carbon footprint and diverting as much waste away from our landfills is an important step," Deputy Mayor Leah Noel said.

"We have an engaged community, and we have an engaged council. I think if we all work together, we can roll this out effectively and successfully."

Understanding that not everyone will be pleased with these changes, Mayor Trevor Bazinet believes it is important to hold a public meeting to help educate the community on the changes, and how implementing this initiative would benefit the community.

"I wanted to feel good about when to roll this out. I do agree, it's smart to roll it out together. My way of thinking was to give a little bit of time, and hopefully Waste Management will give us that time, and the time to communicate it properly," added Bazinet.

"We are not going to keep everybody happy with this, but we have received information about the cost, and we will be able to move this forward and it is something that is on our Strategic Plan, so it's something we are crossing off."

Details and cost are being worked out by Town Staff. Once that information has been determined, the actual fee will be revealed.

According to Bazinet, the Town will work on educating and communicating the model and cost to the community so tax payers will know everything well in advance of rolling out this new service.

A motion was made by Councillor Segeren to direct staff to work with waste management to cost, plan and implement curbside waste collection. This plan would include weekly organic waste collection, and a bi-weekly waste collection, both aiming to commence in the Fall of 2024.

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(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



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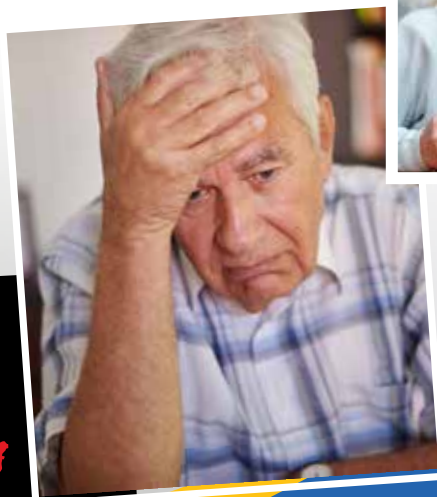


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Task force suggests fair adjustments to council compensation

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The 2024 Remuneration Task Force was given the task to research and provide data on possible remuneration adjustments for Goderich Town Council.

Chelsey Merkt, chair of the task force, presented the report of suggested compensation for members of council at the March 18 meeting.

“We looked at a lot of other communities to figure out and compare to make sure we aren’t over or under compensating,” explained Merkt.

“We found out that we are heavily undercompensating [members of council].”

The objective of the task force was to create a compensation plan that was fair and reasonable and would attract a diverse and representative pool of candidates from those wishing to seek election to Council.

The plan would also recognize that the work of the mayor and the other members of council is demanding and important and as such, they should be appropriately compensated.

On top of this, the plan needs to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and align with the Town of Goderich Strategic Action Plan.

Prepared by Chelsea Merkt, Chair, and Ralph Rubino, and Michael Daley, the citizen-led task force provided adjustments based on realistic standards so elected officials may be compensated according to their roles and responsibilities.

To be fair in their suggestions, the task

force had to first examine the current workload and level of responsibility and commitment required of the mayor and members of Council.

The task force also had to review council compensation in municipalities of similar scope, size, and nature of work within Ontario.

The task force gathered data from other municipalities to compare compensation. This data showed that Goderich ranked the lowest in base salary across all roles and municipalities.

The average salary for mayor at other municipalities was \$35,361, which is 37 per cent higher than Goderich. The average salary for a deputy mayor was \$24,302, which is 64 per cent higher than Goderich.

The task force determined that the mayor’s salary should be set at \$35,870 in 2024, \$37,870 in 2025, and \$39,870 in 2026.

The deputy mayor’s salary should be set at \$21,049 in 2024, \$22,299 in 2025, and \$23,549 in 2026.

A councillor’s salary should be set at \$15,320 in 2024, \$16,320 in 2025, and \$17,320 in 2026.

The salaries for 2025 and 2026 should be subject to annual adjustments.

Until now, there has not been any base salary increase for Goderich Council since 2009.

“The last time a report was put forward was just prior to COVID and Council voted down a salary increase because it didn’t seem like an appropriate time,” Merkt ex-

plained.

The task force’s goal was to responsibly bring Goderich Town Council’s compensation as close to the municipal comparator group as possible, while ensuring the recommendations would be competitive through to 2026.

According to the report, regarding salary, there was consensus within the task force that it was important to ensure the mayor’s position was adequately compensated. This role requires the greatest commitment of council members, which was confirmed by the overall survey results.

The task force requested that Town Hall take a graduated approach to increasing the salary of council over the remaining term from 2024 to 2026.

The mayor’s increase for 2024 would be by \$10,000, while the deputy mayor’s increase proposal is \$6,250, and councillor’s \$5,000.

If these suggested remuneration adjustments are approved, there will be an impact to the budget.

Currently, the mayor makes \$25,870, and it is recommended the mayor make \$35,870 a year. This would impact budget by \$10,000.

Deputy mayor currently makes \$14,799, and it is recommended that position make \$21,049, impacting budget by \$6,250.

Each councillor makes \$10,320, and it is recommended they make \$15,320. This would impact budget by \$5,000.

In total, to ensure members of council are properly compensated, these changes

would have a \$41,250 impact on budget.

After these increases to bring compensation up to the same level as comparable municipalities, the budget impact would be significantly lower in both 2025 (only a \$8,250 total increase), and in 2026 (\$8,250 total increase).

In closing statements within the report, the task force stated that it was understood that the proposed adjustments to compensation may seem significant upon initial review.

However, considering the duration since the last adjustment in 2009, failure to address this now would exacerbate challenges in the future.

Making these changes would ensure that Goderich Council would be aligned with comparable municipalities.

“The Task Force acknowledges that deliberating a salary increase is a weighty decision,” the task force wrote in the report.

“As a community, the Task Force’s aspirations were to retain and attract diverse talent of elected officials. Achieving this, necessitates compensation that reflect the demands and responsibilities of the position.”

In her closing statements, Merkt stressed that the task force came up with a fair and reasonable number that would make sure the mayor and other members of council are compensated appropriately.

This report was received by council, and the matter of compensation adjustments has been referred to budget.

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Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Kathleen Smith • kate@goderichsun.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Sarah Cairns • info@goderichsun.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator

Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Wendy Lamond • wendylamond74@gmail.com

Contributors

Annette Gerdis, Tanya MacIntyre, David Yates,
Paul Knowles, Nancy Abra

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
info@goderichsun.com | 519.284.0041 | granthaven.com



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Goderich Sun

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6. Newspapers strengthen communities
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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Public Health encourages taking care during total solar eclipse

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

While there is not expected any mass gathering impact in the Goderich area, some precautionary measures are being taken.

No one should look directly at the sun during a total eclipse.

Looking directly at the sun without appropriate protection can lead to serious problems like retinal burns, temporary vision loss, blurred vision, and eyesight loss.

The retinas do not have pain sensors to indicate that one's eyes are being damaged by the sun. Eye damage may not be immediately apparent, and symptoms can take

12-48 hours to appear.

The only safe direct viewing method is to use certified safety glasses with specialized filters adhering to the ISO 12312-2 international standard.

"It should be stressed that regular sun-glasses will not protect people's eyes," the report stated.

"It should also be noted that it is not safe to look at the sun through a camera lens (including phone camera), telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device."

According to the report, there are safe indirect viewing methods such as a pinhole projection and watching a LiveStream.



Top Hat ceremony in Goderich



TRADITIONAL CEREMONY

Captain Mark William Rice (seated), with members of Goderich Council. (L-R): Councillor Randy Carroll, Councillor Liz Petrie, Mayor Trevor Bazinet, Deputy Mayor Leah Noel, Councillor Allison Segeren, and Councillor John Thompson.

The Top Hat ceremony is an annual celebration of the first vessel of the year.

Last week the Town of Goderich held the 92nd Top Hat ceremony.

Held at the Town Hall Council Chambers on March 25, the first vessel this year is a calcium barge.

A tradition dating back to the year 1932, this ceremony recognizes the first ship of the season to enter the Goderich Port.

The Town was pleased to welcome Captain Mark William Rice of the Spartan Tug Boat and the Spartan II Barge.



APRIL EVENTS

- April 6th Meat draw with Bronson Line 5-9pm
- April 13th Meat draw with Lynn Cohen 5-9pm
Dueling Pianos 8-11pm upstairs
- April 19th Meat draw 6pm Catch the Ace draw 7pm, Karaoke
- April 20th Meat draw with Country Junction 5-9pm
- April 25th Last night for fun darts
- April 27th Jelly Bean Blues
- April 28th Bingo Jackpot \$1,000

Bingo Every Sunday Afternoon Doors Open @12p.m.
Euchre Every Tuesday Night 7p.m.
Jammers Every Wednesday Night 6p.m.
Fun Darts Every Thursday Night @7p.m.
Cribbage Every Friday Afternoon 2p.m.
Catch The Ace Draw Every Friday Night @7p.m.

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United Way celebrates new fundraising record

United Way Perth-Huron gathered on March 22 to celebrate the spirit of the community.

After a record-setting campaign that raised \$2,345,792, it was time to recognize the donors, volunteers, and organizations that enable the organization's work across the region.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support of our community throughout the campaign," said Ryan Erb, United

Way's Executive Director.

"This has been a challenging year for everyone, locally, and beyond, with costs for individuals, families, and organizations continuing to rise, but donors really stepped up. We appreciate the generosity and caring of the place we call home."

Special thanks goes to outgoing campaign co-chairs Rob and Leslie Edney. They held those roles during the

COVID-19 pandemic, and United Way Perth-Huron is grateful to their energy and enthusiasm as they invested their efforts during a challenging time.

"It has been a pleasure and an honour to be able to work with, and cheerlead for, the communities within Perth-Huron," said Rob Edney.

While in their roles with United Way, the Rob and Leslie met incredible individuals looking to support and advocate

for the vulnerable within their communities, as well as championing policies and projects to remove impediments to housing, dispelling stigmas around homelessness, and creating a more equitable community in which all citizens could thrive.

The new campaign chairs have been announced for the next two years – John Wolfe and Kristin Sainsbury.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

RECORD SETTING CAMPAIGN

Left: United Way Perth-Huron Executive Director Ryan Erb on stage at the Spirit of Community Celebration with Campaign Co-Chairs Leslie and Rob Edney.

Right: United Way Perth-Huron's fundraising total for the 2023/24 campaign.

Ontario approves updated source protection plans

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has approved updated source protection plans and assessment reports for the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley source protection areas.

The updated plans took effect on Tuesday, March 26.

The locally developed, provincially approved, source protection plans were first approved in 2015, and were later amended in 2019, and now in 2024.

In March 2024, in a letter to the source protection region and source protection authorities, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin is Ontario's Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, said

she appreciates the dedication.

"Our strong protection framework will continue to help ensure Ontario's drinking water is held to high safety standards and that sources of drinking water in the province are protected for future generations," wrote Khanjin.

Matt Pearson, chair of the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Committee (SPC) ensures that the committee continues to provide oversight for municipal drinking water supplies.

"Their input is locally based, and this helps keep the plans relevant and up-to-date," said Pearson.

The updates were completed under

Section 36 of Ontario Regulation 287/07 under the Ontario Clean Water Act, 2006.

Key changes include:

- New and revised policies to align with the 2021 provincial Technical Rules, and to address policy implementation challenges
- Revised wellhead protection areas

for Belgrave to reflect a new well

- Minor changes to Auburn, Palmerston, and Wingham wellhead protection areas

Readers can find the updated source protection plans on the local source protection region's source protection plan website: <https://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca/the-plans/>

Military training in May throughout Huron County

In a report to council, Michaela Johnston, the Huron County Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) and the Town of Goderich CEMC informed council of a planned military training exercise.

The Canadian Military will host a training exercise in May 2024 within various communities throughout Huron and Bruce counties.

As a result, residents are advised to remain calm and reassured as the exercise progresses throughout the county.

According to the report, the exercise is a routine training operation and is not

indicative of any emergency or threat to public safety.

The planned training will occur from May 3 to May 5.

Military personnel and equipment will arrive to the region in late April to prepare.

Primarily, the presence will be in Blyth, where up to 400 troops will be stationed during the exercise.

While Blyth is the main hub, training may also include Goderich, Clinton and Hensall.

Further details will be provided as soon as they become available.



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Huron Hospice memorial candlelight walk draws special contributions

The third annual Candlelight Memorial Walk supporting Huron Hospice brings to light not just candles in memory of loved ones, but also the tremendous contribution of local volunteers with their gifts and talents.

“Every aspect of this year’s Candlelight Walk pays homage to the talents and offerings so many volunteers provide to the Huron Hospice to brighten the experience for residents and their families,” said event organizer Roger Mather.

One element is the gift of music. This year the hospice welcomes the Solace Choir, who regularly visit the Hospice by invitation of guests.

The Solace Choir describes itself as a group of ordinary people who love to sing and bring the gift of song and harmony to the bedside of those who are palliative, along with their friends and family.

During the Candlelight Walk, the So-

lace Choir will be present on the trail offering their harmonies.

“We are also honoured to have members of the Clinton Legion Pipe Band lead the procession and are thankful for their visits to Huron Hospice,” added Mather.

“They set the tone for the evening as we reflect on the memories of loved ones.”

Like the Solace Choir and the Clinton Legion Pipe Band, other volunteer contributions are felt first-hand at the bedside.

Maddie Graham, both an event and hospice volunteer, acknowledges her interest is founded upon both her academic studies in health and ageing, as well as a passion for non-profits.

“The end of life is a difficult time for both individuals and their families,” said Graham.

“Being there to support them in any way is crucial. The most rewarding as-

pect is knowing that every contribution, no matter how big or small, goes towards making residents more comfortable during their time at Bender House.”

For Sharon Jerome, a visit to a Huron Hospice booth at a local event drew her interest as a volunteer.

“I have always had a passion for helping others. Following the death of family members, the option to have them in a home setting was much more appealing than a clinical setting,” shared Jerome.

“When I leave at the end of a shift, it’s rewarding to know that I have helped even one resident or family member have an opportunity to share what they hold dear to them. It’s an honour to be accepted into their lives and to be trusted with their sacred sharing.”

Both Maddie and Sharon echo a common observation. They both see up close the effect of the caring and compassion-

ate connections between hospice staff and residents and their families.

It’s more than providing medical care. It’s about taking a holistic approach and providing comfort to everyone that comes to Bender House.

Huron Hospice invites families and friends to remember loved ones who have passed by donating to light a memorial candle that will line the Taylor Trail by Varna’s Community Centre.

You may donate at 2024 Candlelight Memorial Walk — Huron Hospice online.

Funds raised will be directed to Huron Hospice’s capital campaign to expand to a six-bed hospice facility.

The event takes place on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 7 p.m. at the Taylor Trail at 38572 Mill Road, Varna.

In case of inclement weather, the event will occur on Sunday, April 7.

HASAR hosted a winter survival training exercise

The Huron and Area Search and Rescue (HASAR) group ran a survival training exercise on March 2 and March 3.

The exercise was conducted in conjunction with our partners at London and Area Search and Rescue (LSAR) and the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA).

This event is an annual event that HASAR hosts that

brings other SAR teams as well as CASARA together to learn and practice various winter and outdoor survival techniques.

Those in attendance after a thorough safety brief, learned various skills from HASAR presenters including shelter building, fire making, water filtration, foraging for edible plants.

Attendees were tasked with building their own shelters

starting a fire and preparing their meals while preparing for staying out overnight.

In the morning, members completed a navigation exercise and then were taught how to build a smoke signal which could be used in an emergency to signal for help.

The exercise ended by lunch on the second day with CASARA demonstrating their drone capabilities as it relates to search and rescue scenarios.



Members from London Search and Rescue (LSAR) and Huron and Area Search and Rescue (HASAR) chatting before the commencement of training.



Members who attended the winter survival training exercise loaded up with their survival gear, getting ready to exit the bush after building shelters and staying overnight.



HASAR members educating attendees on building and demonstrating the use of smoke signals to signal for help.



Attendees listening to a talk from CASARA representatives on their capabilities related to the use of drones during searches.

Town of Goderich establishes a 'Mayor for the Day' contest

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

To increase public and youth awareness of the important role local governments play in our communities.

The proposed new youth initiative (Grades 5 and 6, and Grades 9-12) to in-

crease public and youth awareness would occur each year during Ontario's Local Government Week (third week in October).

The initiative focuses on primary school aged children in Grade 5 and 6, and secondary school grades 9-12.

The 2024 'Mayor for a Day' contest is

accepting submissions from Grades 5 and 6.

Students are asked to submit a letter, video or any other creative piece that answers the questions of why someone would like to be a mayor, if they were mayor what they would do, and what are the things they like most about Goderich.

Participants must answer ALL three of the questions to qualify.

For those in Grades 9-12, this is their chance to gain invaluable insights into the workings of the local government.

To join the contest for this age group, participants must answer one of the following two questions:

1. Why do you want to be Goderich's Mayor for the Day? Share your passion for public service and community leadership. Tell the Town about changes you would like to see in Goderich and how you believe being the mayor for the day can help make a difference.

2. What are two ideas (programs or policies) you have, to improve the town? Put on your thinking cap and come up with two innovative ideas that could enhance the quality of life in Goderich.

Entries should clearly explain proposals, their feasibility, and how they would positively benefit the town.

To be eligible for this contest, you must be currently enrolled in Grades 9-12, and live in Goderich.

The winner of the 'Mayor for a Day' contest will get an exclusive opportunity to Call a Goderich Town Council meeting to Order and shadow the mayor at a council meeting. They will also be provided the opportunity to collect some Town of Goderich swag and join the mayor for the Festival of Lights Ceremony, and the Christmas Parade with the rest of council.

Entries must be emailed to townhall@goderich.ca or delivered in person to Goderich Town Hall at 57 West Street.

According to the Town, all entries will be carefully reviewed and evaluated by a panel of judges from the Town of Goderich. The judging process will be impartial, and winners will be selected based on the strength of their ideas and how well they address the evaluation criteria.

Participants in the competition can choose their preferred format for entry, either a well-crafted essay (maximum 750 words), or a creative three-minute TikTok or YouTube video.

The deadline is October 2 at 4 p.m.

Winners will be announced on October 14.

Late submissions will not be accepted.



Clinton Spring Fair
May 31st, June 1st & 2nd, 2024
Central Huron Community Complex & Clinton Raceway

- 54-40 & Sloan Concert
- Fearuting Owen Reigling
- Demolition Derby
- Lawn Tractor Pulls
- Baby Show
- Farmers Market
- Car Show
- Ambassador Competition
- Midway
- Poultry Show
- Youth Activites
- FireGuy
- National Barrel Horse Association
- Homecraft
- and more!

WAY MORE IN '24

New Research Chair joins Gateway from Vienna

Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) is committed to evolving with the world of research as technology changes, progresses, and improves.

As is shown in the media, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the hot topic of the day, as it starts to be integrated into many different areas of life, including healthcare.

Gateway is thrilled to share that Gateway's very own Dr. Leslie Walker, successfully defended her PhD thesis on AI at the University of Technology in Vienna.

"It feels wonderful to have successfully defended my thesis, both for the personal and professional milestone but also so that I can share my research insights more broadly," Walker said.

Walker was a research associate at Gateway, involved with multiple different projects, bringing her unique skillset and knowledge to understanding and exploring the future healthcare technology.

She will now advance to become the research chair of AI-enabled Rural Health Research.

"Research is most valuable when it 'gets off the shelf' so I deeply hope that some of the practical outcomes of the thesis can be applied in real-world settings," Walker added.

Walker also mentioned that her focus on responsible AI can help Gateway support rural communities with the management of incoming AI in areas such as healthcare, while mitigating risks associated with AI integration such as job loss.

"We are thrilled for Leslie for completing her PhD studies in Vienna," said Gwen Devereaux, president of Gateway.

"Leslie has been a key part of Gateway's business planning and the lecture series over the past few years. She will now bring her AI expertise to rural health research, which is a big win for us, and for the region."



Goderich
MEGA "Community"
GARAGE SALE

ATM

Memorial Arena (Indoor)
Date: April 13 / 2024 from 8:30am till 3pm
Admission-Donations (food bank)

Salt mine employees donate \$6,000 to GDCI's food program

At the end of March employees from the Compass Minerals salt mine generously donated to Goderich District Collegiate Institute's (GDCI) food program.

Employees raised funds, and Compass Minerals matched the donation, in order to give GDCI \$6,000 to help provide students with the basics they need.

Years ago, Norm Laberge – a Goderich salt mine employee – baked a lasagna, took it to work, and sold pieces to fellow coworkers. This was all to raise money for the Huron County Christmas Bureau.

Laberge continued this process in the years that followed. He approached the mine manager and asked if the company would match dollar for dollar raised, as Norm never wanted a child to go without at Christmas time.

Sadly, Laberge was killed in the 2011 tornado that hit Goderich.

Employees picked up where Laberge left off and continued his tradition, adding in the annual Christmas Raffle.

Sixty per cent of all proceeds go to the Huron County Christmas Bureau, and the rest are disbursed to local children's charities or organizations.



FOOD PROGRAM DONATION

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
Kevin Haasnoot, Processing Operator, Mark Moore, Guidance Counselor at GDCI, Nicole Donnelly, Head Secretary at GDCI, Tina Wolterbeek, Education Assistant at GDCI, Jenalyn Ignore, Principal at GDCI, Josh Little, Roof Bolter Operator, Gary Wardell, Surface Utility, Amy Boyce, Administrative Assistant, and Robert McVeigh, Engineering and Capital Manager.

Goderich Track Rebuild committee seeks council's support with potential project

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

CORRECTION: The Goderich Sun is re-printing this story due to a correction made to the website for donations at the end of the story:

The GDCI track and sports fields were completed in the 1980s after its students participated in numerous walk-a-thons and other fundraising activities to help fund the campaign.

Now, nearly 50 years of use, the track and sports fields are in dire need of refurbishment.

There is a committee of over 10 individuals in the community who are passionate about this project.

They have started planning this project, and some businesses have reached out already and told them how they are looking to help.

The committee is also reaching out to the GDCI alumni to seek their financial support with this project.

"Everyone is invested in it. You're tapping into the right market; a lot of people are proud to be a GDCI Viking," said Mayor Trevor Bazinet.

In the 1970s the Physical Education Department Head Lynn Meyers had a vision. He believed the students of Huron County deserved a quality running track and athletic courts.

With refurbishment, the track and sports fields could provide students and the community a place for recreation and sport for the next 50 years.

To raise awareness within the community, Nicole Machan and Doug Cruickshank, members of Goderich Track Rebuild group attended the February 5 Council meeting to ask for support of any kind.

"We are looking for encouragement," explained Cruickshank at the February 5 meeting.

"We know there are avenues for us to tap into in the community, and this is at a time when everyone is in financial strain."

The track and adjacent facilities need significant upgrades, and the estimated cost for the project is valued at \$500,000.

Yet Cruickshank stressed at the meeting that Goderich Track Rebuild weren't there to put a price tag on their

presentation.

"I think this is a great project, and I'm personally prepared to support it. I also appreciate that you've come asking for our support in ways that are alternate ways than just looking at our budget," Deputy Mayor Leah Noel expressed.

"I think, on behalf of our Council, it's a project that we can endorse."

Goderich Track Rebuild has started its fundraising campaign and is looking for financial support from the community.

With support from the community, plans include replacing the track and doing upgrades to the basketball and beach volleyball courts.

Although this property is in the ownership of the school board, GDCI must rely solely on donations and grants to support this campaign.

"I want to thank you for realizing that we are tapped out here," Bazinet stressed.

"This is for the community. If you and the group of people are able to raise that money just in the community alone that says a lot."

A project that was once fully funded by the efforts of GDCI's students and the community in the 70s, organizers of Refurb the Track are looking for community support once again.

Nicole (Niki) Machan, Goderich DCI PE Dept. Head explained that over the years, physical education classes, elementary schools, regional track meets, Huron-Perth athletics, invitational track meets, GDCI's Colour Run, as well as the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life have all enjoyed the benefits of this facility.

Members of the community can also be seen using the track daily, to improve their health and fitness, but now the track needs a refurbishment.

"The track is now in poor shape with many weeds and cracks making the surface uneven and unsafe," explained Machan.

According to Machan, the basketball court was put in at the same time and has had almost no maintenance done to it over the nearly 50 years and is also in dire need of an upgrade.

The volleyball courts also need new posts for the nets, as well as an upgrade with sand.

Machan believes that accessibility issues also need to be addressed in all the upgrades to the facility.

"This is a huge undertaking, but we are confident that the GDCI and Goderich community will support our efforts to restore our track and sports fields to their former glory," Machan added.

The committee has partnered with the Foundation for Education to raise the much-needed funds, making it possible for donors to receive a charitable tax receipt.

To donate to the rebuild project, visit <https://huron.fc-suite.com/erp/donate/list/grant>



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Groot family win Conservationist of the Year Award

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Michael and Lindsay Groot and their family, of Crediton area, win Conservationist of the Year Award from Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA).

The family's farm, Wholesome Pastures, was recognized for the work done on it. From planting trees, to using no-till crop management and cover crops to reduce runoff and erosion to build soil health, and make improvements are reasons why the family was recognized.

"It is very humbling to be added to that list of esteemed winners over the past 41 years," Michael Groot said in accepting the recognition.

The Groot family has planted thousands of trees. They have improved the management of runoff and erosion and created habitat for wildlife.

They have established about 5.5 kilometres of new windbreaks on three farm properties, moved from conventional tillage to no-till, use extensive cover crops and work to maintain vegetative cover year-round while practicing crop rotation while also rotating livestock pasturing.

At their farm, the Groot family has established vegetated fence lines that act as windbreaks and slow down the travel of water travelling between fields, helping to reduce runoff and erosion.

The Groot family members are advocates of including diverse plant species in



YEARS OF DEDICATION

Lindsay and Michael Groot and family, of the Crediton area, are winners of the Conservationist of the Year Award. They are shown at Ironwood Golf Club, on March 21, 2024, where they received their locally handcrafted woodwork award at Ausable Bayfield Conservation's Partner Appreciation Evening.

the trees and shrubs they incorporate into shelterbelt plantings.

The environment is benefitting from their farm operation and watershed resources.

"I would like to thank the entire Groot family for their dedication, over many

years, to enhance watershed resources and build a brighter future," praised Vaughan.

"The improvements happening in our watershed simply could not happen without the dedication and commitment of landowners and watershed stewards like

Michael and Lindsay Groot and their family."

The family was presented a locally handcrafted award from Marissa Vaughan, Chair of ABCA. A donation will also be made towards a tree and plaque at a Commemorative Woods site.

Through no-till cropping, cover cropping, and rotational grazing, the Groot family has built soil organic matter, and has improved the health of the soil.

Ian Jean, ABCA Forestry and Land Stewardship Specialist explained why healthy soil is so important.

"On our working landscape, healthy soils are extremely important to healthy water and healthy watersheds," Jean explained.

"Healthy soil holds more water; they filter more water."

The Groot family does all that, but also shares information with their peers in the industry by hosting tours at the farm, and by speaking at workshops.

"I'm not sure how they do it all, but I'm sure it's because of their passion for the environment and their community and I'm so glad we're able to recognize their efforts," Jean added.

The Groot family also received congratulatory certificate scrolls presented on behalf of Ben Lobb, MP Huron-Bruce, Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce, Lianne Rood, MP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex, John Nater, MP Perth-Wellington, and Matthew Rae, MPP Perth-Wellington.

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Veteran receives 75-year pin at Goderich Legion



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Left: Captain Wilfred Higgins.
Above: Legion President Randy Carroll giving the 75-year pin to Higgins.



Police Reports

Impaired driver removed from Huron County roads

On March 24 the Huron County OPP was conducting traffic enforcement on Bluewater Highway.

Police observed a vehicle swerving on the highway and conducted a traffic stop.

While the officers were speaking to the driver, the driver displayed signs of impairment.

The driver provided a sample of breath into an ASD, which registered a fail.

The driver was arrested and transported to the Huron County OPP Detachment for further tests by a Qualified Breath Technician.

A 35-year-old man from Sarnia was charged with Operation While Impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

The accused will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Goderich on April 22.

The OPP remain committed to take alcohol/drug-impaired drivers off the roads through enforcement and public education.

Drivers are reminded that no amount of alcohol or drugs in your system is safe when driving.

Driver arrested for impaired driving

A driver who failed to stop for a stop sign is facing charges after failing the Approved Screening Device (ASD).

On March 24 the OPP observed a motor vehicle fail to stop for a stop sign on Duke Street in Huron East.

While officers were speaking to the driver, they displayed signs of impairment.

A 31-year-old man from Huron County was charged with Operation While Impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus), Disobey Stop Sign – fail to stop, Driving

Motor Vehicle with Open Container of Liquor, Drive Vehicle or Boat with Cannabis Readily Available.

The accused will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Goderich on April 22.

Young driver arrested for impaired driving

A young driver is facing charges after failing the ASD in Huron County.

On March 23 the police conducted a Reduced Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program on Summer Hill Road in Central Huron.

While the officers were speaking to the driver, the driver showed signs of impairment. The driver was arrested.

The 19-year-old was charged with Operation While Impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus), Young Driver – B.C. above zero, and Driving Motor Vehicle with Open Container of Liquor.

The accused will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Goderich on April 22.

Beware of bank investigator frauds

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) continues to receive reports from victims who have been contacted by fraudsters claiming to be bank investigators from their financial institution, local law enforcement, or one of their online merchants.

In these cases, the victim is told that there have been suspicious charges on their bank card, credit card or online bank accounts.

Fraudsters state that the charge is either from an online purchase, in-store transaction, or an overseas transfer.

The fraudsters ask the victim for their bank or credit card informa-

tion in order to ‘cancel the transaction’.

In some cases, the victim is asked to place their bank cards or credit cards in an envelope marked with the PIN code to be picked up, which is to be replaced with a new card.

These fraudulent investigators may ask for the victim’s assistance in an ongoing ‘investigation’ against the criminals who compromised the victim’s accounts.

The fraudsters request the victim to deposit or send their funds overseas as part of the ‘investigation’. It is not until the transfers are completed that the victim realizes there was never any compromise to their accounts.

According to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC), bank investigator frauds represented \$10.2 million in reported losses in 2023.

Ontario victims reported losing more than \$5.4 million. It is estimated that only five to 10 per cent of victims report frauds to the CAFC or law enforcement.

Tips to avoid being taken advantage:

- Financial institutions or online merchants will never request you to transfer funds to an external account.

- If you get a call claiming to be from your financial institution, advise the caller that you will call them back. End the call and dial the number on the back of your bank or credit card from a different phone if possible or wait 10 minutes before making the outgoing call.

- Fraudsters use call-spoofing technology to mislead victims. Do not assume that phone numbers appearing on your call display are accurate.

- Never provide remote access to your computer or smart phone.

Captain (retired) Wilfred Higgins received his 75-year Legion membership pin at a recent Veterans dinner.

Higgins joined the Armed Forces during the last year of the Second World War. He was not quite the legal age yet but joined regardless.

His career started with Lincoln and Welland infantry units, and then went on to serve with the 57th artillery regiment of the 2/10 Dragoons.

Higgins served in occupied Germany, then France, Belgium, and Holland.

Weekend Quiz

1. What is the maximum number of golf clubs allowed in a golf bag?
2. What is the name of the longest river in the US?
3. What is the most abundant gas in Earth’s atmosphere?
4. Who is known as the "Father of Modern Philosophy"?
5. Who was the very first American Idol winner?
6. How many railroads are there in Monopoly?
7. What is the world’s most venomous snake?
8. What is the biggest and fastest roller coaster in Canada?
9. How many degrees measures a semi-circle?
10. According to Chinese Zodiac, 2024 is the year of what?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 26

 **Goderich Sun**

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Goderich celebrates Ramadan

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

On Saturday, March 23 the Iqbal family – owners of Maple Leaf Motel in Goderich – hosted their second annual community Ramadan Ifta dinner at Knox Presbyterian Church.

The evening welcomed more than 165 guests from three different cities including Goderich, Kincardine and family and friends from Toronto.

Tahseen Tahira and Iqbal Shaukat – owners of the Maple Leaf Motel - hosted the Ramadan Iftar dinner in Goderich.

“We wanted to everyone to feel embraced by our community, regardless of background, and to understand the richness of diversity,” said Tahseen.

The holy month of Ramadan is a month of fasting, reflection, community, and family time for Muslims.

It is the ninth month of the Islami calendar, and it is during this month that Muslims believe the first verses of the Quran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

During this period, Muslims are required to fast and to give to charity, to show kindness and patience, and to strengthen their relationship with God.

Fasting Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, which lay the basis for how Muslims are required to live their lives.

Fasting is meant to encourage spiritual reflection.

Muslims do not eat during the day, except for a morning meal called Sahur, and a fast-breaking meal immediately after sunset called Iftar.

The meal featured a variety of dishes, including dates and chocolate to break the fast, along with Chicken Biryani, BBQ chicken, spring rolls, veggie samo-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

RAMADAN IN GODERICH

(L-R): Jill Bazinet, Tahseen Tahira, Zaara Iqbal, Ibrahim Iqbal, Anns Iqbal, Mayor Trevor Bazinet, and Iqbal Shaukat.

sa, veal korma, chickpea and yogurt salad, naan bread, cardamom rice pudding, cookies, and tea.

The meal was free of charge, only suggesting a donation for those who wished to contribute.

The Iqbal family were honoured to host all who attended and felt privileged to receive so much love and support from the community.

Members of the community and special guests included Kimberley Payne of the AMGH Foundation, Mayor Trevor Bazinet and his wife Jill, and other dignitaries.

“Last night was a prime example of having a sense of community with one another, regardless of culture or religion,” wrote Tahira Iqbal on Facebook, in response to Kimberley Payne’s post on the event.

“We’re all here to support each other, be there for our neighbours and show kindness. These are aspects that grow a strong and diverse community.”

Payne, who is the executive director of the AMGH Foundation, volunteered at the Ramadan Iftar dinner. Payne was gifted a traditional dress to wear during the celebration.

“Tasheen wanted us to feel like we were immersed in her community, and for the community to feel our acceptance of this diversity,” wrote Payne, in a post on social media expressing her thoughts on the event.

“By community, I mean her Muslim community,

her family community, and her adopted community of Goderich. We are all one to her.”

During the event the family’s Imam (Muslim scholar) shared the significance of Ramadan and recited versus from the Quran about Mary, emphasizing shared values and humanity.

“These gatherings offer invaluable opportunities for cultural exchange, fostering understanding and unity among all attendees,” added Tahseen.

“As children played and families enjoyed the delicious spread of food, it felt like a warm and welcoming community gathering.”

Payne added that when you attend cultural events like this, you learn, and you understand more and become even more nonplussed by the fear and hatred in the world.

Tahseen recognizes that an event of such size was possible due to all the volunteers who helped make the evening a success.

“Without their help, the event wouldn’t have been as successful,” explained Tahseen.

“Thank you very much Stephanie Hartwick, Kimberley Payne, Julia Hartwick, Michelle Shepherd, Derrick Shepherd, Erin Anon, Karen Martin, Avery Baker-Greaves, Hamilton Baker, Mark Nonkes, Pamela Somers, Conn Ferne, Sinead Cox, and if I missed a few names, please accept our heartfelt thank you.”

Iqbal Shaukat started off the evening with a speech by thanking everyone for their support and for coming to the event. That was followed by a speech from Mayor Trevor Bazinet.

The mayor spoke kindly to all the guests explaining how pleased he was that Goderich is taking steps to diversify.

Mayor Bazinet and Jill, who was also

gifted a traditional Pakistani dress for the event, honoured the host family with their attendance.

Bazinet said they were welcomed into the event and felt like part of the family.

“I was happy when they invited me to be one of the speakers,” said Bazinet.

“I spoke about the importance of creating and nurturing a culture of diversity and inclusion for everyone that includes people of different backgrounds, culture, religion, and language.”

Bazinet stressed that having a variety of cultures and backgrounds in Goderich allows for different perspectives and new ideas, adding that the diversity of thought and opinion promotes creativity and innovation.

“I believe in these four things: Everybody needs something to do; Everybody needs someone to love; Everybody needs someone to believe in; and everybody needs something to hope for,” added Bazinet in a post on Facebook.

“My hope is that we can open our minds to be a diverse and inclusive community for all to feel welcome. I certainly felt that way last night.”

The end of the Ramadan fast is celebrated as Eid al-Fitr, the ‘Feast of Fast-Breaking’, which is one of two major religious holidays of the Muslim calendar.

Ramadan is a time for reflection, gratitude, and giving back to the community, and the host family is deeply grateful for the opportunity to share this experience with the Goderich community, as well as for the love and diversity that enriches lives in this town.

“We invite you all to join us next year,” Tahseen added.

“It’s a beautiful and rare occasion that strengthens our bonds and celebrates our evolving community.”

Ramadan 2024 began on Sunday, March 10 and ends on Monday, April 8.

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2018 Jeep Cherokee V6 4x4 North Edition	\$18,950

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Campaign to educate on Intimate Partner Violence

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

To educate the definition of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), the second campaign for the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for Huron County runs from April 1 to June 30.

The purpose is to educate residents of Huron County on statistics, warning signs, support individuals can provide, and resources available.

Municipalities are encouraged to declare IPV an epidemic.

The Community Safety and Well-Being for Huron County Oversight Committee has four campaigns in 2024. The first campaign was on mental health and addiction.

"The first phase was done really well," said Councillor Liz Petrie.

"And at our council meeting in November 2023, this council passed a motion to declare IPV an epidemic in the province."

According to a report by Michaela Johnston, Accessibility and Health and Safety Manager, a large focus will be encouraging local businesses to take IPV training.

Through this, they can learn about their obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and how to create a safe workplace. The 'Make it Our Business' training is free.

According to statistics, 54 per cent of domestic violence victims miss three or more days of work a month. Twenty-five per cent

of employees have experienced domestic violence, and 22 per cent of workers report that they have worked with someone who has been a victim.

"I would encourage everyone, including our council, to take the time in the online training," added Petrie.

"It is a good educational piece."

This training is not mandated. Rather, it is strongly encouraged as a necessity to work towards reducing IPV.

"Those stats about IPV are still increasing," remarked Mayor Trevor Bazinet.

"This is something we need to continue to champion in our community."

Additionally, residents are encouraged to take the free one-hour online training 'Neighbours, Friends, and Families'.

This is public education to raise awareness so that those close to someone at risk or to someone using abusive behaviour, can help.

According to the training, in almost every case of domestic homicide, people around the victim knew what was going on, but didn't know what to do.

"That really struck a note with me, and I hope that people do take notice of this campaign, because the most difficult part is not knowing what to do," concluded Petrie.

The 'Make it Our Business' training: <https://www.makeitourbusiness.ca/>

The 'Neighbours, Friends, and Families' training: <https://neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca/>

Catholic Board launches international education

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board (HPCDSB) is proud to announce the launch of an International Student Program. This program will welcome students for the 2024/2025 academic year.

As part of the Board's commitment to fostering a globally minded community, this initiative aims to provide students from around the world with an enriching Canadian educational experience.

"We're excited to welcome international students into our classrooms, fostering an inclusive and collaborative learning environment that transcends borders," said Chris N. Roehrig, director of education.

"Our International Student Program will not only enhance cultural diversity within our schools, but also offer local students the opportunity to engage in cross-cultural experiences, broadening their perspectives and preparing them for an interconnected world."

International students will attend either St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School in Clinton or St. Michael Catholic Secondary School in Stratford.

They will have access to the same enriching education experience and high academic standards at Huron-Perth Catholic students receive while experiencing the warmth and hospitality of the

local community.

The Board is working to attract students from European countries, including Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Germany, and Belgium and will look to expand into other countries in the future.

Residents with high school-age family members overseas may also consider telling their families about the opportunity to attend.

International students and families can work with an agent or apply directly for the program.

Local families can also host international students. The Board is working in partnership with a home-stay provider.

Host families are compensated and commit to include the international student in family life and to provide three nutritious meals per day, and snacks, a private room with a door, a window, a bed, and a desk, and a shared bathroom, as well as supervised internet access.

"Hosting an international student can be an enriching and memorable experience for your family," added Roehrig.

"Many families foster life-long connections with the students they host."

For more information about the International Student Program, visit huronperthcatholic.ca/programs-and-services/international-student-program/

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Double gold for Goderich Ice Crushers



SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Left: U16 team. Above: U14 Mabon team.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

It was a successful season for a couple of Goderich Ice Crusher ringette teams. Both the U16 and

the U14 teams not only had success this season but earned gold medals at the year end tournament.

Held in London on the weekend of March 22-24, the 2024 Regional Championships was host to over 90 teams in five different divisions.

Both the U16 and U14 teams from Goderich brought home the gold medal

after a weekend of competing against tough opponents.

The Goderich Ice Crushers U16 team of 13 players had a really great season coached by Paul Ridder, Grant Greidanus, Tiffany Craig, and Megan O'Neil.

Throughout the season they worked hard on developing their skills and learned to play as a team.

"It definitely showed as things near the end of the season started coming together at our year end regional tournament," said Head Coach Ridder.

"We were up against some great competition from all over southern Ontario and were fortunate enough to win our division championship."

Ridder is grateful to all the parents for their support as well as the dedication of time and effort from the bench staff.

"We are very proud of how the girls handled themselves through the wins and losses of the season, and the sportsmanship they displayed on and off the ice," added Ridder.

"They have been a great group to coach, and I wish them the best of luck next year."

The U14 Mabon team also brought home gold from the regional championships last month.

This was a very strong team of 13 players coached by Mike Mabon, Ian Andrews, Margie Herlufsen, and Tracy Hamilton.

During the championship tournament the U14 squad had some tough competition, and ended up winning their gold medal game 7-4.

After celebrating and recognizing the successful seasons both these teams had, Goderich Ringette is looking forward to April 13 when the or-

ganization hosts their 'Come Try Ringette' event at the Goderich YMCA.

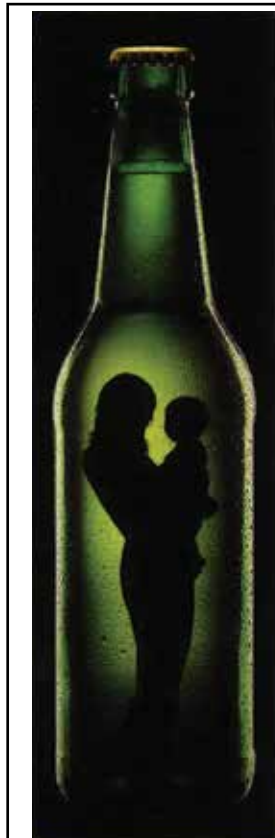
Families should arrive around 1:30 p.m. to be greeted, and prepared to hit the ice at 2 p.m.

The organization will have many players on the ice to offer one-on-one assistance. The kids will be split into two groups – new skaters and more experienced skaters. Both groups will have certified ringette coaches leading them through an introduction to the sport.

At 3 p.m. the U10 team will play the U12C team in a showcase game.

Many of the organization's coaches, executive members, and families will be on site to answer any questions about what a ringette season looks like.

For more information, check out the organization's Facebook page: Goderich Ringette Association



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Second consecutive season Goderich U15 Rep Sailors compete at OMHA

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The Goderich Sailors U15 Rep team competed at the OMHA Championship Tournament in Halton Hills from March 29-March 31.

After an impressive run against top teams in Ontario, the Goderich Sailors met their toughest opponent in Talbot Trail in the finals. In a tough lose of 4-1, the U15 Rep Sailors brought home silver from the OMHA Tier 2 Finals.

Despite the loss in the final game, the Sailors are coming home proud of the silver medal.

The first day of the OMHA tournament was a big one for the U15 Sailors. Their first game the Sailors made quite an impact, defeating Ajax-Pickering Raiders 6-0.

That same day the rep team had another landslide game, defeating Shelburne Wolves 5-3.

After winning their first two games, the Sailors were hopeful to continue a winning streak.

Defeating Dresden Jr. Kings 3-1 in the quarterfinals propelled the U15 Sailors to the semi-finals versus Shallow Lake on March 31.

In one of their hardest fought games, the rep team won 3-2 in double overtime to

earn a spot at the final game against Talbot Trail.

Coach Brandon Corriveau explained that all hockey seasons have their highs and lows, and like any good team, they celebrate their highs and learn from mistakes.

“We have fought through injury, sickness, and short benches all year to earn our spot in the OMHA finals,” Corriveau added.

“Every player has embraced their job and have focused their efforts to be the best for their team when they need them.”

After a stellar season record of 19-7-4, the U15 Rep squad was hopeful and aiming for more success at OMHA finals.

“We have a saying with this group that is ‘you either win or you learn,’” Corriveau explained.

“Now, at the pinnacle of our season, we move to put everything we’ve learned into this next challenge.”

It was a tough loss for the U15 Rep Sailors during the OMHA finals, but the team stood tall and proud on the blueline to receive their silver medals.

Another reason for the U15 Rep Sailors to celebrate, is this is the second consecutive season the U15 Rep team has been a WOOA finalist and earned a spot in the championship finals.



(OMHA PHOTO)

STELLAR SEASON

The team celebrating their success at OMHA Championships before the final game.

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Walker Teal swims another personal best



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

SECOND PLACE FINISH

Walker Teal (left) celebrates with Huron Hurricanes Aquatic Club's Head Coach Rebecca Ferguson. Teal swam a personal best at the Speedo Eastern Canadian Championships in the 50-metre freestyle B Finals.

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Held in Quebec City, the 2024 Speedo Eastern Canadian Championships over the course of three days from March 21 until March 24.

Local swimming phenom Walker Teal competed in the 50-metre freestyle B Fi-

nals on March 24.

Swimming a personal best time of 24.46, Teal placed second. The winning time was 24.32.

To qualify for the final heat, Teal swam in heat six of nine earlier that day, swimming the 50-metre freestyle with a time of 24.79.

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Save the date: Registration for El Camino opens in May

A two-day hike along the entire Maitland Trail is making its return to Goderich in September, and registration is opening soon.

The El Camino Maitland hosted by the Maitland Trail Association (MTA) is modelled after the somewhat more famous Camino de Santiago, the pilgrimage from southern France through the north of Spain, to the Atlantic Ocean.

The two-day hike will take place on September 21 and September 22, following the whole Maitland Trail from the trail head near Auburn to Goderich.

With the Camino detours, the trail is almost 50.6 km. At registration there are options to hike shorter distances. Saturday, September 21 there is the option for 16 km or 11 km, and on Sunday, September 22 the distance is 13 km.

On September 21, the 30.5 km hike should take five to 10 hours depending on hiking level and conditions. On September 22, the final 20 kms should take between four and eight hours.

"This is a challenging hike with many steep hills and stairs up and down through the valley," the MTA explained.

"Even experienced hikers find it challenging and some people are not able to complete it. Our best advice is this: Prepare for the event and know how long it will take you to walk 30.5 km on uneven terrain."

The hike will follow the beautiful, winding route of the lower Maitland River, and includes areas of ecological significant. Participants will traverse narrow trails,



(GENA LOWE PHOTO)

TAKE A HIKE

The El Camino is a 52-kilometre hike from Auburn to Goderich, spanned over two days. The 2024 El Camino will take place over September 21 and September 22.

wide rambling trails, hills both up and down, through forests, past farmland, river vistas, autumn meadows, and towering forests.

Hikers will see wildlife but will also encounter bees, wasps, spiders, and other prickly stingy things. Participants should also prepare for the possibility of rain, and to be prepared for a fun adventure.

Hikers under 18 years of age are welcome, but they must be accompanied on the hike by an adult.

Regardless of the length of hike participants choose, check in is at the Benmiller

Community Hall, from where hikers will be transported to the starting point.

At the end of the day, hikers will be required to check out from where they started from, so organizers know they are safely off the trail.

On Sunday, September 22, hikers must check in at the beach pavilion in Goderich.

Along the route there will be check points where water and snacks will be provided. The snacks available won't provide enough fuel for the hike, so participants are encouraged to bring enough food to meet needs for the day.

Check points will also have basic first aid equipment.

Under no circumstances will hikers be allowed to start the longest hike after 8:30 a.m.

The Saturday, September 21 hike finishes at 5 p.m. and the Sunday hike finishes at 4 p.m.

For safety reasons, all hikers must be off the trail by those times.

All fees paid will be considered a donation to MTA. There will be no refunds after September 1.

Registration opens on Saturday, May 18.

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Goderich YMCA makes capital requests for upgrades

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

In a report to Council on March 18, Travis Watson demonstrated project goals for the Goderich-Huron YMCA and the costs associated with those changes.

These upgrades would provide an opportunity for the Goderich-Huron YMCA to enhance the public spaces of the Maitland Recreation Centre and implement improvements to operational aspects.

Changes include upgrading the phone system, improving digital signage, integrating strategically placed security cameras, creating more storage, and updating some equipment and studio flooring.

According to Watson, the upgrades would have transformative impact on both the community and the operations of the YMCA.

“Having the right equipment will help us the opportunity to grow that program, bring old members back and bring new members through our doors too,” said Watson.

“This project is going to take us to that next step. We are at a big growth phase; we want to continue to grow.”

In 2022 the YMCA was at 800 members, and now closer to 1,800 members. Watson explained they don’t want to stop at 2,000 members. The Y wants to continue to get more members by increasing program spaces for different demographics, being more inclusive.

“Our members are the life of the branch – in group fitness. They help carry it out, they build a community within a community,” Watson commented.

“That’s the value in this, you are showing that you are reinvesting in them as members and them as a community, and that they are important just like everyone else.”

Upgrading to a new phone system could significantly enhance operations in several ways. This includes improved communication, enhanced accessibility, cost saving, and enhanced member experience.

According to the report upgrading to a new phone system can modernize operations at the YMCA, making communication more seamless.

According to the report the upgrades to the phone system would cost \$9,300.

Digital signage can be a valuable tool to improve marketing. This includes the ability for real time updates, targeted messaging, and interactive elements.

Overall, digital screens offer the YMCA a versatile platform for enhancing marketing and communications efforts, to deliver timely, targeted messages.

Digital signage upgrades would cost \$6,000.

Integrating security cameras into the YMCA would enhance the safety for members and staff. This could help with crime deterrence, liability reduction, child protection and member safety.

By strategically installing security cameras, the YMCA can create a safer and more secure environment.

“It’s an added safety measure for us to be more informed about what’s happening within the building,” stressed Watson.

“To be able to do playbacks, and look back at who was in the building, it would make people at work feel more secure in their role.”

According to the report, to implement strategically placed security cameras would cost \$10,200.

Creating more storage space could improve the experience for staff, members, and community groups at the YMCA by improving accessibility, reduce clutter, improve maintenance, and upkeep, and expand program offerings.

Upgrading storage space would lead to the YMCA being more organized, and efficient.

Upgrades to the storage of the facility would cost anywhere between \$3,000 and \$10,000.

According to the report, the proposed upgrades would significantly improve the functionality, safety, and aesthetics of the building.

“By investing in these upgrades, we are demonstrating our commitment to creating a more welcoming and accessible environment for all who visit,” wrote Watson.

From a report prepared by Aazada Khalegi, supervisor of health and wellness at the Goderich-Huron YMCA, there are other needed upgrades to equipment and studio flooring.

Currently the facility offers 20 group exercise classes in the studio weekly, with the other 10 in the gymnasium. These classes average a participation number of 220 people.

Issues within the facility include inconsistent studio flooring including tiles that are not designed for fitness-based activities. It can be slippery and does not provide anti-fatigue, joint impact reduction or ergonomic properties.

Two areas in the studio that are underutilized or take up valuable space, include the divider wall, and the kitchenette.

Project goals include creating a new multipurpose, functional, and safe exercise space, while increasing group exercise programming.

This would open the gymnasium space for recreational based program offerings and increase overall membership base.

Plans within the campaign include extending the studio flooring, installing a new sound system, build a stage for fitness class instruction, remove or move the

mirrors to create more wall space, remove dividers and the kitchenette to create more space, and develop program marketing to increase participation numbers.

According to the report, removal of the divider wall and the kitchenette would cost approximately \$3,672.50.

Furthermore, the YMCA had to postpone offering a group cycle class in early 2024 due to the deteriorating condition of the current cycle bikes.

To relaunch this class, the YMCA needs to invest in a new set of cycle bikes. The cost estimate for 12 cycle bikes from Keiser is \$26,449.39, while the cost estimate from Matrix is \$37,262.97.

The total approximate cost of the group exercise renovation and purchasing 12 new group cycling bikes is \$115,000.

According to the report, purchasing new cycling bikes would improve quality of cycling classes and programs the YMCA.

A refreshed fitness studio space would also significantly improve safety, enhancing ambiance, optimize the space, and increase member retention.

“Investing in capital improvements ensures the long-term sustainability and viability of YMCA programming,” wrote Aazada Khalegi.

“By maintaining and upgrading facilities to meet current and future needs, the YMCA can continue to offer high-quality programs and services that positively impact the health and well-being of individuals and families in the community.”

Watson explained to Council that these refurbishments would take no longer than a month to complete, and the aim is for these upgrades to happen this Fall, so not to disturb the summer camp operations.

Mayor Trevor Bazinet referred this to budget, and nothing has been approved yet.

Goderich Legion donates to Air Cadets



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

DONATION

Members of Branch 109 Goderich Legion presented a cheque for \$3,500 to the Squadron Support Committee for the 532 Air Cadets.

Receiving the cheque (L-R): Christine Lapp, Commanding Officer, Ray Riddiough, SSC member, Jacob Watson, WO1, Randy Carroll, Legion President, John MacDonald, Chair of SSC, Sydney Elder, SSC member, and Alan Pollard, SSC member.

Goderich Shuffleboard Club Results

On March 12 the club had 41 shuffleboard players compete at Memorial Arena.

The club’s lucky Dominos Pizza winner that week was Sharon Cousins.

The three-game winners were Brian Pollock and Marie Millian (that’s two weeks in a row for these two), Gerry Ropp, Marg Prouse, Judy McLean, Bruce Haselgrove, and Randy Bender.

The club congratulates all its members and winners.

On March 19 the club had another 41 participants. The Dominos Pizza winner this week was Cathy Ryan.

The three-game winners were Judy McLean (two weeks in a row), Bill Godfrey, John White, Lorraine Gilchrist, Don Rose, and Eric Wheeler.

Congratulations to all winners.

Huron Clean Water Project accepting applications

The Huron Clean Water Project is a fund that supports water quality projects in the region.

There is a total of \$500,000 in available funds for water quality projects by Huron County residents, landowners, and community groups.

The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) deliver the program on behalf of the County.

"The total value of past Huron Clean Water projects is an astounding \$14.5 million," said Warden Glen McNeil.

"These investments made by the Coun-

ty, community partners, and community members, demonstrate Huron's commitment to being good stewards of our land and waterways now, and in the future. Well done, to all involved in this important project."

Investing and participating in on-the-ground water quality improvement projects contributes to a healthy environment and will provide lasting benefits for the residents of Huron County and generations to follow.

Limited funding assistance covering up to 50 per cent of the costs of eligible projects is awarded to county farmers, rural

landowners, businesses, and community organizations.

County of Huron funding can be combined with other sources such as provincial and federal funding programs, as well as programs offered by other environmental organizations and local foundations.

Program delivery staff are available to help connect with these additional funding opportunities.

The Huron Clean Water Project is in its 20th year of providing financial and technical support to improve and protect water quality on Huron County farms and rural properties.

Since 2005, Huron County residents have completed nearly 4,000 stewardship projects with funding from the Clean Water Project.

This includes 113 liquid manure storage decommissioned, 435 wells upgraded, 620 wells decommissioned, 38,000 acres of cover crops, 1,319 tree planting projects, and 304 erosion control projects.

Learn more about the project at www.HuronCleanWaterProject.ca

To apply for funding, or to obtain further information, call MVCA at 519-335-3557 ext. 236, or ABCA at 519-235-2610 ext. 227.

Huron County population and housing growth forecast

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Located in one of the fastest growing regions in North America, Huron County's population and housing growth forecast is driven by economic growth.

In a report released by Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., it states that Huron County's employment market has strengthened and diversified in recent years.

Since 2016 population and housing growth within Huron County has accelerated, when compared to previous decades.

This changing nature of growth places an increasing pressure on the county's ability to provide the necessary infrastructure to accommodate urban growth as well as public and private services.

This could include daycare, community centres, schools, and healthcare services that are required to support the needs of a growing and aging population.

Over the longer term, the population base within the county is anticipated to steadily increase from 64,100 to 90,200 people. This represents a growth rate of 1.1 per cent. To accommodate this growth, an additional 10,700 new permanent residential dwellings will need to be constructed between 2021 and 2051.

It is also forecast that the county will increase by approximately 20 seasonal housing units annually over the next 30 years.

Between 2001 and 2016, the county grew by 120 housing units annually. The county also experienced a significant increase in housing growth between 2016 and 2021, with approximately 230 new units annually.

This represents nearly a doubling of housing activity.

The report by Watson and Associates is foundational to Official Plan updates at the county and local levels. It will inform decision making regarding housing requirements and social services required to accommodate stronger levels of development over the long-term.

Due to potential uncertainties involved in forecasting demographic and economic trends over the long-term, Watson and Associates prepared three population growth scenarios until the year 2051.

Huron County continues to remain an

attractive location for seasonal residents, particularly within its Lake Huron shoreline communities.

This holds a lot of weight on future housing demand, infrastructure needs, economic development, and municipal services.

According to the 2021 Census, approximately 14 per cent of total dwellings in Huron County (4,100 of 29,455) were not occupied by usual residents, of which most can be considered seasonal dwellers.

Growth scenarios were generated for Huron County.

The county's population outlook at 2051 ranges from 82,200 to 98,300 residents.

All scenarios exceed the previously conducted 2019 growth forecast for the county.

According to the report, under the Medium Growth Scenario, which is the recommended scenario, population within Huron County is forecast to grow at an annual rate of approximately 1.1 per cent over the forecast period.

This represents a similar growth rate that was observed by the county between 2016 and 2021 but a significantly higher growth rate than experienced over the past 15 years of 0.3 per cent annually.

This scenario assumes that population will increase by approximately 26,100 between 2021 and 2051.

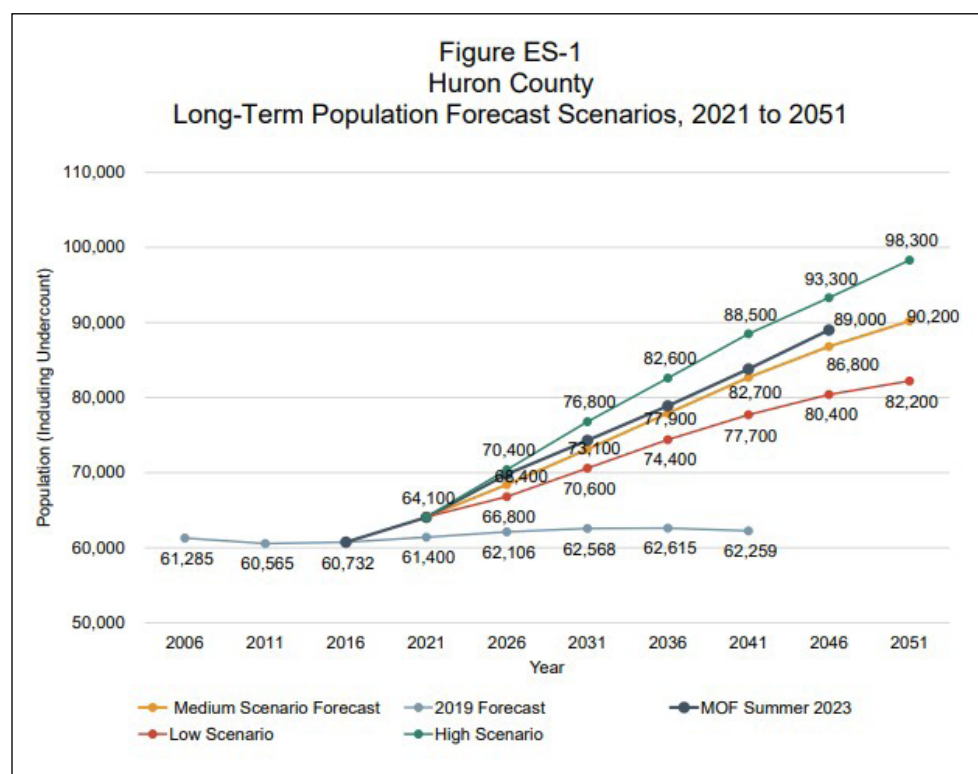
Over the forecast period, the county's population base is expected to steadily age. Most notably, the percentage of population in the 75+ age group is forecast to almost double over the forecast period from 11 per cent in 2021 to 20 per cent in 2051.

The aging of the population and the declining population growth is anticipated to place downward pressure on the rate of population and labour force growth within the county.

Over the 2021 to 2051 forecast period, new housing is forecast to comprise 43 per cent low-density (singles and semi-detached), 28 per cent medium-density (multiples), and 29 per cent high-density (apartments) units.

Over the next 30 years, approximately 20 new seasonal dwelling units are forecast to be developed annually. This would total 540 new seasonal dwelling units across the county.

The county's housing base is forecast



to increase by 10,640 units over the 30-year forecast period. Nearly half of this county-wide housing growth is forecast to occur within the five primary urban serviced areas of Goderich, Clinton, Exeter, Seaforth, and Wingham.

Since 2016, population and housing growth within Huron County has accelerated when compared to the previous decades. This recent increase has also been experienced in most areas of Southern Ontario.

Housing growth within the county is expected to remain above the 2016 to 2021 levels, with population and housing growth gradually slowing down closer to 2051.

This changing nature of growth will place increasing pressure on Huron County's ability to provide the necessary infrastructure to accommodate urban growth, as well as the public and private services required to support the needs of a growing, diversifying, and aging population.

But what drives population growth? Future population and housing growth within the area will be determined in large measure by the competitiveness of the export-based economy.

Economic growth in this export-based economy generates wealth and opportunities, which stimulates community-based

employment sectors, including retail, accommodation and food, and other service sectors.

Employment growth comprises two major categories, export-based and community-related employment.

Export-based jobs are largely industrial-based such as manufacturing, construction, and utilities.

Community-related job growth is tied to population growth.

Huron County is characterized by a blend of rural lands and urban settlement areas.

Existing employment base is in agriculture, manufacturing, health care, and social assistance, retail trade, accommodation and food services, educational services, and construction.

Home to over 2,500 farms, agricultural activities are significant to the overall Huron County economy.

The agriculture sector is the largest employment sector in the county, but it has been experiencing slight declines over the last decade, representing a shift towards technology-intensive farm operations.

The need for local skilled labour is anticipated to continue to increase in the coming years to address future economic growth.

Blyth Festival celebrates half a century

This summer the Blyth Festival will celebrate a major milestone, half a century in the making.

On June 12 the Blyth Festival will open its 50th season of all-Canadian plays.

Running both indoors and outdoors, from June 12 until September 7 in the cherished Blyth Memorial Community Hall, and on the newly built outdoor Harvest Stage, it will be a homecoming season.

"This is a season of celebration," said Gil Garratt, Artistic Director.

"The Blyth Festival is boldly mounting five brand new world premieres and offering one technicolour look back at the inspiration for it all."

Back in 1975, Blyth's founders dreamed of building a theatre that would put local stories, Canadian stories, on centre stage.

Fifty years later that dream burns brighter than ever.

All the plays in the 2024 season were created and developed in Huron County, and tell the stories, fictional and historic, of lives lived in this community.

"These are your stories, your neighbour's stories, your family's stories of your town, your farm, your county, and your country," added Garratt.

"This is really a season of homecomings."

Having welcomed more than a million patrons through the doors, the Blyth Festival has grown into a hub of Canadian playwriting, boasting more than 150 world premieres.

Outdoors on the Harvest Stage:

(June 12 – August 4) The Farm Show: Then and Now by Theatre Passe Muraille

with additions by the 2024 Company

Arguably the most influential play in Canadian theatre history, *The Farm Show* was originally produced in a barn just 15 minutes outside of Blyth and was directly responsible for the founding of the festival.

This gentle adaptation brings the original in all its glory and shines a light on its singular legacy.

Come see the show that inspired the very dream of the Blyth Festival.

(August 14 – September 7) PREMIERE: Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz: The Farmerettes by Alison Lawrence, inspired by the book by Bonnie Sitter and Shirleyan English

This nostalgic play dramatizes the incredible stories of Canada's Farmerettes; young women all over the country who left the big cities to work as farm labourers on Canadian farms as part of the war effort during the Second World War.

Many of these young women learned a lot more than how to dig potatoes, pull carrots, and muck a stall. They learned essential truths about who they were, who they wanted to be, and what true and lasting friendships looked like.

A play about coming of age as young women in a time of change.

Indoors at Memorial Hall:

(June 19 – August 3) PREMIER: Saving Graceland by Gil Garratt

In 2019 in Clinton, Ontario. Newly retired and ready for adventure, Gord and Orillia have been Elvis fans since they were teenagers.

In 25 years, they've never missed their an-

nual pilgrimage to the Collingwood Elvis Festival.

Just as they are readying to embrace nothing but Presley and the CPP, their young grandchild arrives unexpectedly on the doorstep, upending their future in ways they never dreamed.

A love-me-tender family drama about the King and kin care.

(July 4 – August 4) PREMIERE: The Golden Anniversaries by Mark Crawford

From the author of *The New Canadian Curling Club*, and *The Birds and the Bees*, comes a new play about love and laughter in the golden years.

For as long as they have been married, Glen and Sandy Golden have been celebrating their wedding anniversary by coming to the same cottage on the lake for an annual weekend of quiet romance.

This year marks a major milestone – 50 years of wedded bliss.

Well, mostly bliss.

Join the Goldenes for a night of he-said, she-said, remember-whens, what-happens-now, and a long-term love for the ages.

(July 24 – August 31) PREMIERE: Resort to Murder by Birgitte Solem

A laugh-a-minute murder mystery.

When Brett and Viv inherit an old family mansion on Lake Huron, they dream of start-

ing a country resort, but the couple have very different visions of what a tourist destination should be.

For Viv, it's a space, and quiet retreat.

For Brett, it's a murder-mystery themed escape room.

Just a few nights before they welcome their first guests, Brett and Viv gather their reluctant staff in the attic for a trial run.

When a sudden storm rolls in off the lake, the lights go out, and the door lock. Their light-hearted game suddenly turns into an electrifying night of murderous confessions, and twists and turns that will leave you breathless.

(July 31 – August 29) PREMIERE: The Trials of Maggie Pollock by Beverley Cooper

Seer? Swindler? Sorcerer?

The true story of the last woman in Canada to be convicted of witchcraft...and who just so happened to have been born in Blyth.

Arrested on her home farm just outside of town, held in the historic Gaol near Lake Huron, and tried in Goderich court, her case went all the way to the Supreme Court of Ontario.

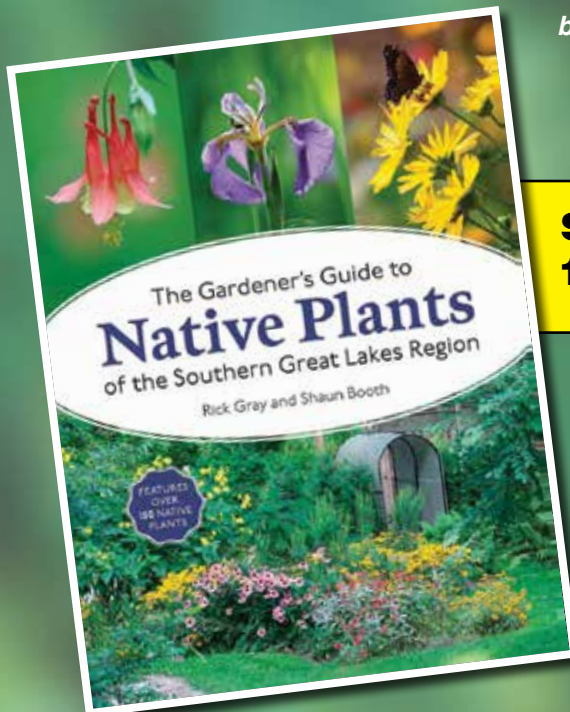
Long after the arrival of the telephone, the motorcar, and the electric bulb, Maggie Pollock faced off against official superstition in Canada's courts.

CONTINUE TO PAGE 20

Meet the Author Rick Gray!

The Gardener's Guide to Native Plants of the Southern Great Lakes Region

by Rick Gray & Shaun Booth



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Choir and orchestra to present Vivaldi's Gloria

Classical music lovers are in for a treat on Saturday, April 6 when Vivaldi's famous Gloria is performed at the Kingsbridge Centre.

This well-loved work will be performed by the Huron County chamber ensemble, thatotherchoir, and the Blyth Festival Orchestra.

Antonio Vivaldi composed this Gloria in Venice, around 1715. The work features joyous and uplifting choruses and beautiful harmonies.

It is a work full of character from the rush of the opening chorus, through the 12 selections.

The 20-voice group, thatotherchoir is a well-known vocal ensemble under the direction of Louise Dockstader of Goderich, and accompanist Sharon Johnston of Goderich.

The group has been together for more than 25 years, and the members all sing or participate in other choirs, which is how the choir's name came about.

Members since in community choirs, church choirs, play in bands, perform solos – and together as thatotherchoir, have gained a following and a reputa-

tion for their performances.

Members are from throughout Huron County, and the choir performs throughout the region.

The Blyth Festival Orchestra was formed in 1995 and the group offers several concerts each year.

The orchestra performs as an ensemble as well as accompanying other performances.

Its members come from Huron County and the surrounding areas.

The orchestra will be joined by additional guest musicians on brass instruments to add to the glorious sound.

The April 6 concert will include several selections by the orchestra and the choir, as well as their combined efforts on Vivaldi's Gloria.

The choir will also sing a selection of songs to inspire and uplift, including several numbers by composer Jeff Smallman of Hensall, and accompanied by the orchestra.

The concert takes place at the Kingsbridge Centre, 84675A Bluewater Highway, Hwy 21, North of Goderich on April 6.

Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is by donation.



20-VOICE GROUP

Thatotherchoir, the Huron County chamber ensemble and the Blyth Festival Orchestra will take on Vivaldi's Gloria on April 6 at Kingsbridge Centre.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Blyth Festival celebrates half a century

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

The 2024 season will run June through September.

Full season details will be available soon on the Blyth Festival website: www.blythfestival.com

Tickets go on sale to members (priority dates are according to level of membership) that started on January 15.

Sales opened to the public on April 2 by phone and online.

There will be several events and activities planned over the course of the season to celebrate this milestone.

Please check the website for updates.

To support the Blyth Festival, fans and supporters can double the power of any gift made to the festival's '\$500K for Another 50 Years' campaign.

This landmark campaign is anchored by a

\$250,000 pledge from the Margaret and Andrew Stephens Family Foundation.

The pledge represents one of the largest gifts the festival has ever received from a private donor and is meant to inspire others to give to prepare for the next 50 years.

Both Andrew and Margaret Stephens grew up in southwestern Ontario, and the family has long made the Huron shores and Blyth part of their summer vacations.

"When Margaret passed away in 2014, the kids and I started thinking about using our family foundation to make the kinds of investment that could drive real change," said Andrew.

"We believe strongly that Canada needs a venue to create and tell Canadian stories, and the Blyth Festival is the leader in doing this. It was a natural fit."

Two families have already come forward to

support this campaign in response to the Stephens Family gift.

David Southen and Susan Carlyle of London, Ontario and another family who wishes to remain anonymous have each pledged \$50,000.

This puts the festival well on its way towards its goal of raising \$500,000, providing the balance of the Stephens' pledge is matched by other Blyth donors.

Southen and Carlyle are also long-time Blyth Festival supporters. An earlier gift, also of \$50,000, launched the festival's first-ever matching gift campaign in 2020.

"Andrew and his family have blown us away with their passion for the future of the Blyth Festival," said Gil Garratt, Blyth Artistic Director.

"This gift comes at a pivotal time. There is no question, the arts in Canada are in trouble,

coast to coast to coast."

This gift from Andrew and his family is not only going to help the festival emerge from the pandemic, but it will allow Garratt to confidently plan, build, and dream for the future.

"We cannot thank Andrew, Eric, Emily, Patricia, and Trevor enough for this astonishing gift," added Garratt.

The Blyth Festival is registered charity.

Like all Canadian arts organizations, it relies on donations from corporations, foundations, and individual donors to make up the difference between what can be raised through government support and reasonably priced ticket sales.

Theatre fans who wish to take advantage of this opportunity should contact Jen Lamb: jlamb@blythfestival.com or 1-877-862-5984 ext. 208.

Donations of \$20 or more are tax deductible.

Huron County population and housing growth forecast

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

For example, Bruce Power's refurbishment, which will secure an estimated 22,000 jobs directly and indirectly from operations, and an additional 5,000 jobs annually throughout the investment program.

By 2051 the county's housing base is forecast to increase to 36,000 households from 25,300 in 2021.

By 2051 Huron County's total population base is forecast to grow to approximately 90,200 persons. This represents an increase of approximately 15,300 resi-

dents between 2021 and 2051.

While the population base is growing, it is also getting older.

As the population ages, there will be an increase in demand for seniors' housing and affordable housing options.

Accommodating the forecast range in population growth across the county will require approximately 10,700 new households, or approximately 360 new households annually.

Looking into the next five to 10 years and beyond, housing demand across the county's local municipalities is anticipat-

ed to remain strong. This will be fuelled by continued opportunities and outward growth pressure from elsewhere in the province.

Goderich is anticipated to accommodate approximately 16 per cent of the county's population growth over the forecast horizon.

Goderich is anticipated to experience the greatest annual population rate in the county at 1.4 per cent over the next 30 years.

Furthermore, Goderich is anticipated to add 65 additional housing units annual-

ly from 2021 to 2051, the second highest share of housing growth in the county.

This level of forecast growth is nearly triple the annual housing growth of 24 units per year added.

"Huron County is experiencing a notable increase in its population and housing growth trajectory," the report stated.

"While some municipalities are forecast to experience a more significant increase in growth patterns compared to others, it is expected that all municipalities in the county will experience some degree of rising growth pressures."

April films to get excited about

ROB MCAULEY

Sun Contributor

Going into April, the local Park Theatre is playing *Godzilla x Kong* and *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire*.

There really aren't many major studio-releases this month but watch for some possible alternate programming. In the meantime, take a trip to the city and check out these releases.

April 5:

The *Old Oak* is Ken Loache's latest film taking place in Yorkshire. Loach has won a Palme d'Or and his films about working class heroes have resonated over the years.

In a town in northern England, now a poor area after the coal mines have closed, many of the local pubs have also closed.

In addition, Syrian refugees are being placed into the community, causing tension amongst the townsfolk.

The proprietor of one of the surviving pubs befriends a Syrian family but must listen to his prejudiced customers complain about them.

Can he keep the pub afloat, and broker peace between the locals and refugees?

Interesting Fact: The pub used in the film was an old pub that had recently closed.

Monkey Man takes place in India. Dev Patel (*Slumdog Millionaire*, *Lion*) plays an orphaned boy who is forced to fight others in a fight club setting while wearing a monkey mask.

He becomes empowered and realizes he can exact revenge against corrupt leaders who were responsible for his mother's death.

In doing so, he becomes a saviour to the poor and powerless people. This is Dev Patel's directing debut.

Interesting Fact: The film was initially to be produced by Netflix, but Oscar winner Jordan Peele came across the film as it was nearing completion and bought the rights from Netflix so it could be given a wide theatrical release.

April 12:

Civil War is the latest film from Alex Garland (*Ex Machina*).

His films and screenplays tend to show

how mankind's carelessness can bite us back. In *Ex Machina*, a beautiful robot uses AI to control other people.

In *Civil War*, several states break away from the USA and its dictator-like President (Nick Offerman).

Kirsten Dunst plays a reporter trying to get to Washington to report on what is really going on. The film is inspired by the polarized state of US politics.

Interesting Fact: The film premiered at SXSW in March and wowed the critics. It currently has a 92 per cent rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

April 19:

The *Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare* - Guy Ritchie (*Snatch*, *Lock Stock & Two Smoking Barrels*) directs Henry Cavill (*Superman*) in a film based on a true story.

Britain is struggling in the second world war using conventional methods.

A team is put together that turns into the forerunner of Special Ops Forces, or Black Ops. Guy Ritchie specializes in funny action flicks, and this looks no different.

Interesting Fact: The film is produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, who has never said "That explosion was too big."

April 25:

The Taste of Things - The Livery Film Fest presents France's Oscar nominated Best International Film on this date at The Park Theatre.

It stars Juliette Binoche (Oscar winner for *The English Patient*) as a cook in 1889 who has worked for her chef/boss for 20 years.

Over that time, she has rejected his advances by working even harder in the kitchen.

To win her over, he starts cooking too, and they prepare the most sensual meals together. If you love food, films, and romance, you will love *The Taste of Things*.

Interesting Fact: The recipes from the film have been published and are available on-line.

Rob is the manager of the Park Theatre, on the Square in Goderich, the Chair of the Livery Film Fest, and the TIFF liaison for the Bayfield Indie Film Series.

Goderich duplicate bridge club results

Bob Dick directed our game on Feb. 27. We had 6 tables.

- 1st - Marian Lane and Barb Howe - 65.56%
- 2nd - Brenda Blair & Pat Lewington - 64.81%
- 3rd - Cal Scotchmer & John Archbold - 62.96%
- 4th - Garth Sheldon & John Davies - 53.33%
- 5th - Bob Dick & Graham Yeats - 52.59%

Rob McFarlane directed our game on March 5. We had 6 and 1/2 tables.

- 1st - John Archbold & Tom Rajnovich - 74.54%
- 2nd - John Davies & Garth Sheldon - 65.46%
- 3rd - Steve & Susan Morrison - 56.37%
- 4th - John Legate & Stephn Jacob - 54.54%
- 5th - Graham Yeats & Bob Dick - 54.09%

Rob McFarlane directed our game on March 12. We had 6 tables.

- 1st - Pat Lewington & Brenda Blair - 67.04%
- 2nd - Garth Sheldon & John Davies - 60.00%
- 3rd - Bob Dick & Graham Yeats - 58.52%
- 4th - Joyce McIlwain & Kay King - 54.07%
- 5th - Linda Kirkwood & Pamela Southwell - 52.59%

Rob McFarlane directed our game on March 19. We had 6 tables

- 1st - Marian Lane & Barb Howe - 62.59%
- 2nd - Brian Reeve & Graham Yeats - 60.74%
- 3rd - Janet Bloch & Cal Scotchmer - 55.19%
- 4th - Tom Rajnovich & John Archbold - 54.07%
- 5th - Kay King & Joyce McIlwain - 52.96%

Rob McFarlane directed our game on March 26. We had 7 and 1/2 tables.

- 1st - John Archbold & Tom Rajnovich - 63.46%
- 2nd - Joan Lounsbury & Mary Lapaine - 58.98%
- 3rd - Graham Yeats & Brian Reeve - 58.01%
- 4th - Joyce McIlwain & Kay King - 55.13%
- 5th - Cal Scotchmer & Janet Bloch - 54.81%
- 6th - Marian Lane & Barb Howe - 54.17%



COOL 94.5 PRESENTS AT THE Clinton Spring Fair



Saturday June 1st, 2024

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Eastlink Arena
239 Bill Fleming Dr, Clinton ON

Licensed, all ages event.
Indoor event - no re-entry.

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Doors open at 7:00pm
Show starts at 8:00pm

Tickets \$85 Plus fees & taxes



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Goderich Co-Op Gallery welcomes local talent

The Goderich Co-op Gallery welcomes talented local artists to its annual Community Art Show for the entire month of April.

Called “Exposure 2024,” and with the tagline *“Get ready to show off the artist in you,”* gallery members are excited to continue this essential community outreach program for 2024.

Longtime member Judy Barker remembers how the Community Show idea was part of the gallery’s mission from the beginning.

“The first summer of the gallery’s operation, in 2002, there was a call for artists for an “Open Show,” available to anyone in the community,” she said.

Current show Co-ordinator and member John Crawford comments, “most creative people would agree art is meant to be shared,” highlighting the value of sharing art in a gallery space with the community.

Past years’ events showcased artists from London, Auburn, Bayfield, St. Mary’s, Blyth, and Exeter, underscoring the range of community involvement. Pre-pandemic entrant numbers were higher than in the last few years, but members hope the show will get back to that level soon.

Four wonderful works by artists from Goderich, Clinton and Strathroy are part of this year’s show.

“**Dangerous Places #2,**” a watercolour of wolves in the forest, by Birgit Hillier, is described by the artist as showing her “dark side.”

Birgit loves painting animals, buildings, and trees, and started this work with a picture of a barn. Along with her Fine Art degree from Western University, Birgit has worked in oils and watercolours and loves how watercolour works with its washes.

Brittaney Rockx, whose artist name is “Lilly,” uses gouache and mixed media to

present an eerily interesting drawing, titled “**Neon Bat.**”

In this work from her imagination, Brittaney coloured parts of the hair a neon green, and superimposed a bat on other parts. She has certainly achieved the “spooky” feeling she was aiming for. Brittaney is a first-time entrant to the show, and we hope to see more of her creative efforts.

A member of the Goderich Art Club, and a returning entrant, Kim Dumont’s evocative rendering of a man alone in a public space comes through successfully in “**Bench Warmer.**”

The vibrant colours emerged from attempts at a fire hydrant and a bench; eventually Kim’s vision morphed into this painting of leisure time outdoors. Kim is a self-taught artist, who has been painting for over 15 years.

Another first-time entrant, Corrie Cann,

saw the Exposure 2023 Show when she was at the Blues Festival last year and decided to enter this year.

Corrie paints under the artist’s name “Rita.” Her inspiration for the whimsical acrylic “**Duck Meet Swan**” is the wildlife she sees on her trips to Myrtle Beach. The frame is handmade from barnboard by her husband James.

Join Gallery members and Exposure artists at the Open House on **Saturday, April 6 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Goderich Co-op Gallery is located at 54 Courthouse Square.

Interested in becoming a member of Goderich Co-op Gallery? Membership benefits include a choice of 4-foot or 8-foot gallery spaces, as well as twice yearly rotation of your artwork in the gallery. For further information, visit our website at gcgallery.ca, and click on “Contact.” New members always welcome.



‘Dangerous Places #2’



‘Neon Bat’



‘Bench Warmer’



‘Duck Meet Swan’

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Safeguarding Seniors: Unmasking the Latest Scams and Fraud Preventions Strategies



ANNETTE GERDES,

Sun Contributor

Introduction:

As technology advances, so do the tactics of scammers seeking to exploit unsuspecting individuals. Senior citizens are often targeted because older adults tend to be more trusting, less tech savvy, they are frequently home during the day, and they answer their phones or reply to emails. Older adults have spent their lives accumulating assets, a healthy bank account, own their home and cottages, have short- and long-term investments and have good credit scores. This financial stability makes our seniors the prime target for those scammers who are lurking in the shadows waiting to pounce. All of us need to continually arm ourselves with information to keep our families and seniors safe. In this article, we will explore some of the newest scams,

with a particular focus on how "AI" - artificial intelligence is being used to "clone a person's voice" along with providing valuable tips on how to avoid falling victim to fraud.

The new AI voice Scam:

One of the most recent and highly elaborate scams involves the use of artificial intelligence to clone a person's voice. This AI voice scam is becoming so sophisticated that these scammers only need a 3 second audio clip of your voice to then clone it for deceptive practices. Scammers can use AI algorithms to replicate the voice of a loved one or a trusted authority figure, making it difficult for seniors to recognise the authenticity of the communication thus falling prey to sending money for supposed emergencies. This scam may take the form of phone calls, voicemails, or even video calls. The scammers create a sense of urgency and exploit emotions to trick seniors into providing personal information or financial assistance. To avoid falling victim always verify and be skeptical of urgency. If a call comes in from an unknown number and it sounds like a family member asking for money, hang up the phone. Contact the person yourself using a known phone number or email address. Verify through trusted channels, always be skeptical of emergencies, or

have a family member or trusted friend help check and confirm.

Identity Theft:

Scammers are always on the hunt for personal information. Once they have it, they'll open accounts making purchases, loans, etc. They will steal mail, go through the garbage, they use online spyware, viruses, hacks, and phishing. Always shred documents with any personal information as it pertains to credit cards, bank accounts, signatures, date of birth, social insurance numbers, full address, driver's license, and passport numbers. Do not share passwords, pin numbers, and never give out any information over the phone, email, text, or the internet. Avoid public computers such as coffee shops. Always shield your pin number and create strong or unique passwords for online accounts and Wi-Fi networks.

Romance Scams:

The development of new technology has contributed to romance scams being on the rise. Older adults are increasingly using online dating sites to find love and the scammers are following right behind them. A senior may have lost their spouse and hence turns to the computer to combat loneliness. They may start chatting with someone who supplies a picture showing a warm and friendly face. How-

ever, in reality, it's a con artist hiding behind a fake picture, patiently laying in wait. Once the senior's trust is built, the requests for money, bank transfers, gift cards all commence. To avoid becoming a victim, keep your guard up. Make sure you are using legitimate and reputable dating sites as often these scammers will create fake websites. Never ever send money or give out financial information on a dating website. Trust your instincts and most certainly, keep up to date on the latest and forever changing scams.

Grandparent scams:

Are also on the rise. The OPP warned about the Emergency-Grandparent scams targeting individuals in Western Ontario. From January 1 to February 16 the Canadian Anti-Fraud Center received reports totalling over \$491,000 in victim losses associated to this scam. These scams occur when a senior receives a phone call from a "grandchild" who advises they do not want their parents to know and asks the senior to keep it a secret. They often pretend to be in trouble, an accident, or are stranded, having vehicle trouble. These scammers may call or email, pretending to be in distress, urgently asking for money to cover an emergency or legal issue.

Other Common Scams:

Telemarketing scams, phish-

ing emails, fake charities, Medicare and health insurance fraud, lottery or prize scams, home improvement scams and investment fraud.

Conclusion:

Protecting seniors from fraud requires a combination of vigilance, awareness, and informed decision-making. By staying up to date on the latest scams, verifying communications and safeguarding personal information, seniors can reduce their vulnerability to fraud and enjoy a safer online experience. Encourage open communication within the senior community, share knowledge and support one another in the collective effort to stay safe, and protect against financial exploitation. Trust your instincts; if something feels off or too good to be true, it probably is. Don't hesitate to double check if you are unsure. Most importantly, if you have been a victim of a scam, report it to Canadian authorities, whether action can be taken or not. Reporting the scam, at minimum, enables authorities to at least warn others and alert the media which ultimately may help to reduce the scam from spreading.

Annette Gerdes is the General Manager at the Goderich Place Retirement Residence

The road less traveled for better mental health

TANYA MACINTYRE,
RED ROOF RECOVERY

Sun Contributor

When I was 18, my philosopher Dad gave me a book that was written by Dr. M. Scott Peck, called *The Road Less Traveled*.

Back in the 70s the book was considered 'A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values, and Spiritual Growth.'

That book changed the course of my life.

Instead of following my peers to university to pursue a degree,

I hopped on a train and travelled from the east coast to the west coast of Canada and launched a broadcasting career.

I had some regrets about that decision for a while. Mainly because of the social constructs that tell us our value is attached to how many degrees we earn, the titles we have, and how many letters come after our name.

If you don't fit that mold, your inner dialogue can be pessimistic.

That negative self-talk fed my addictions for a long time. I felt depressed, anxious, frustrated, and irritable most days.

Alcohol and other drugs made life bearable for me. I finally realized I was living my life on autopilot, by default, instead of by intention.

What's a life of intention? It's asking for what you truly want from this brief, precious gift of life we've been given.

How many people truly stop and take the time to ask & answer the

question, "What do I want?"

In the Western World, we are the most stressed, depressed, overweight, and over-medicated population in history.

The numbers provide a clear picture that most people are dissatisfied - with their jobs and with their overall satisfaction in life.

Life can be mundane. Depending on the role you play, you're likely following the same routine: going to work, getting groceries, and doing countless other errands.

If you add children to the mix, you're shuttling them to various activities, getting them to do homework, getting them to minimize their screentime, getting them to bed at a decent hour, etc.

Somewhere in that mix, you might even have some time for yourself before heading off to bed at a decent hour yourself.

When you wake up, the same cycle begins the next day.

When you follow the road less travelled, you'll start asking the

difficult questions about what you truly want in your life.

I encourage you to start asking and answering these questions to help you define your core values:

- What do I want in my life?
- Why do I want it?
- What am I doing about it?
- How do I feel about what I'm doing about it?
- What can I do differently to get what I want?
- What would changing what I do and getting what I want to make me feel?

You can get the 'Defining Your Core Values' worksheet on our website:

<https://redroofrecovery.com/addiction-recovery-resources/>

There are two ways to be content in life - to get everything you want or to want everything you have.

Join us every Sunday in April to explore these ideas and more during an hour of Mindfulness and CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapies) at The Yoga Den, 68

Courthouse Square in Goderich.

The Mind Mojo class will guide you through powerful techniques to release old patterns, reset your mindset, and live your best life.

Seating is limited. Register at: theyogaden.ca.

YOU are the force

About the Author:

After 20+ years in broadcasting, I decided to pack up negative news and progressive addictions. My recovery kicked into high gear when I started to write & speak openly about my challenges, and my success, in overcoming addictions. I now help others who want to build their own path to recovery and better health.

DISCLAIMER: This content is not intended to constitute, or be a substitute for, medical diagnosis or treatment. Never disregard advice from your doctor, or delay in seeking it, because of something you have watched, read, or heard from anyone at Red Roof Recovery.

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Bootlegging, moonshine, and other liquid reasons to enjoy New Brunswick



PAUL KNOWLES

Sun Contributor

We were standing in a tumble-down shack in Saint-Hilaire, New Brunswick, a two-minute walk from the Saint John River that is the border between Canada and the United States. The most prominent thing in the room was an ancient wooden still. As I examined this artifact of days gone by, my host, Réginald Nadeau, asked if I would like to sample the “bagosse” – in English, “moonshine” – made recently in that still.

“Is that legal?” Reg smiled and explained that this very primitive distillery – one of two buildings that make up the Bootlegger Museum – is licensed to make moonshine on one day of the year, for the St. Hilaire Moonshine Festival in August. “We have a permit to brew bagosse the artisanal way,” he says. They happened to have some left over, so...? Of course, I sampled the bagosse. And when I got my breath back, I admitted that it was very tasty, if a tad powerful.

Reg tells me that the details of the local bagosse recipe are kept



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Maine, viewed across the St. John River at Sy. Hilaire... or as it might be known to bootleggers, the promised land!

secret, but then reveals that the moonshine begins with potatoes, raisins, sugar, yeast, and apples, and that it takes seven to eight days to ferment. This produces a hefty hooch – 75% alcohol – but they cut it to 55% for public consumption, still packing quite a wallop.

It’s no coincidence that the Bootlegger Museum is located in Saint-Hilaire. The house beside the moonshine shed, which now houses artifacts related to bootlegging, moonshining and smuggling, was once the home of Maxime Albert, who Reg describes as “one of the three biggest bootleggers in Northern New Brunswick and Riviere-du-Loup.” This is saying a lot because it seems that, during American prohibition, bootlegging was the number one industry in western New Brunswick.

Reg enlarges on Albert’s reputa-

tion: “He was the Al Capone of the North.” In fact, Albert’s daughter served as secretary to the notorious American gangster.

This story is told in the simple displays at the Bootlegger Museum. But the truth is, to get the real story, you should arrange a tour with Reg Nadeau, something he is more than happy to provide. This experience is off the beaten track, but will be a highlight of any visit to this underappreciated part of New Brunswick. If you can be one of several thousand to visit the village for the Moonshine Festival, so much the better.

It’s no exaggeration to say that moonshining and smuggling were huge business, all along the Saint John River. At St. Hilaire, Maine is less than a Vladimir Guerrero home run away, so access to a thirsty market was readily avail-

able. In the hungry 1920s, says Reg, “Bootlegging was an opportunity to make money and help the district.”

Whatever the reality, the legend of Maxime Albert has taken on Robin Hood qualities. Reg talked of a time when Albert knew that an important churchman was to visit, so he dressed as a Roman Catholic cardinal, assembled an entourage of 10 automobiles, and was welcomed as a VIP into the US. Each car, of course, was carrying all the illegal booze it could hold.

“The day after,” says Reg, “the real monsignor came to customs, and had a problem.”

Reg Nadeau has a personal connection to Albert. “He helped my grandparents save their land,” says Reg.

Albert passed away in 1953. The simple home and distillery shack that house the small museum are owned by the local municipality. Reg is clearly the spark behind the museum, which houses a good selection of artifacts from bootlegging days, as well as, ironically, the desk, phone and typewriter from the prohibition-era police station.

The art of the still is alive and well all down the western side of New Brunswick. About an hour and a half south of Maxine Albert’s one-time residence is the blatantly named “Moonshine Creek Distillery” where they make – among other delectable beverages – a variety of legal moonshines, including Apple Crumble Moonshine.

Owner Jeremiah Clark told me his grandfather had been “a barber

and local bootlegger.” He’s proud to carry on the family tradition, albeit legally. Justin Marcoux, who was offering samples from behind the bar, states that, “New Brunswick became the number one bootlegging province.”

Another hour south-east will take you to the Big Fiddle Still, owned and operated by Trent Jewett. Trent’s a larger-than-life, convivial chap who has never met a customer he didn’t like or a story he didn’t love to tell. The Big Fiddle is so named because the distillery is in Harvey, hometown of Canadian fiddling icon Don Messer!

Trent not only tells stories; he creates them. Atop his bar is a stuffed beaver, and he’s invented the New Brunswick equivalent to Newfoundland’s kiss-the-cod. At the Big Fiddle, you kiss the beaver (and yes, that sparks innumerable comments) and down a shot of New Brunswick Scream, one of the delicious flavour-infused vodkas Trent produces. My favourite is Salted Caramel.

I suspect that when you think about New Brunswick, bootlegging, stills and moonshine aren’t top of mind. But given their place in the history of the province, and the modern moonshiners ready to welcome visitors, perhaps it should be.

I’d go back. In a minute. But I wouldn’t kiss that beaver... again.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



Moonshine Creek Distillery owner Jeremiah Clark, whose grandfather had been a local bootlegger.



Reg Nadeau, with the ancient still that still produces bagosse, one day a year. The chap in the background is actually a life-sized photo of famed local bootlegger, Maxime Albert, a crony of Al Capone.

Riddles

What sound does a space turkey make?
Hubble, hubble, hubble

What are unhappy cranberries called?
Blueberries

What's blue and covered with feathers?
A turkey holding its breath

What did the mom corn ask baby corn?
"Where is pop corn?"

Why did the kid put the mail in the oven?
Because he wanted to have hotmail

What kind of mail does a superstar vampire get?
Fang mail

What did Dracula's teacher say when he failed his math test?
"Can't you count, Dracula?"

What did one math book say to the other?
"Don't bother me, I have my own problem"

What's green and makes holes?
A drill pickle

What do you call an ice cream truck operator?
A sundae drive

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 26

Featured Pets



SADIE AND TEDDY

Besties. They are both 2 years old, and lived so much by Caroline Roland Janice.



Nominate your Pet of the Month by emailing info@goderichsun.com

Word Search

CLASSIC LITERATURE

B	C	M	V	L	N	D	Y	B	E	T	S	I	N	O	G	A	T	N	A
I	R	O	N	Y	W	P	E	V	S	N	U	V	I	Q	M	F	O	X	P
H	A	Y	F	O	L	L	H	Q	W	G	D	J	A	O	Z	W	E	N	G
M	S	I	L	O	B	M	Y	S	F	X	C	S	T	C	D	N	G	I	Y
Y	W	T	T	B	I	G	T	R	D	H	G	I	L	O	Y	P	O	J	Y
S	E	T	T	I	N	G	G	P	W	Y	P	C	B	N	D	R	D	V	X
S	E	Q	I	K	R	A	V	N	T	Y	R	M	A	F	L	T	U	I	P
F	T	X	Z	A	H	R	L	B	I	L	N	H	Z	L	I	B	M	D	R
O	D	P	K	M	J	N	Z	C	E	W	P	M	W	I	S	E	S	P	O
Q	J	D	W	E	C	S	B	V	G	I	O	Z	Y	C	A	Q	L	I	T
L	E	V	O	N	W	I	K	C	P	N	J	D	G	T	F	H	U	Q	A
N	O	I	T	A	Z	I	R	E	T	C	A	R	A	H	C	S	V	Y	G
I	S	A	P	G	J	V	A	A	G	Q	V	S	P	H	W	C	Z	I	O
C	E	V	E	U	H	L	X	T	W	P	H	S	Z	U	S	E	X	P	N
V	L	C	C	M	L	Z	M	M	L	E	J	M	Z	E	L	E	J	U	I
E	A	H	Z	E	O	E	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R	R	N	S
P	X	B	G	C	P	B	A	I	G	P	H	N	O	P	D	M	A	O	T
W	R	O	H	P	A	T	E	M	H	K	I	B	J	S	I	X	E	I	F
I	R	R	L	I	A	B	O	Y	R	B	M	Y	K	Q	S	O	O	H	J
Y	P	Z	M	T	G	T	W	W	Q	E	V	Q	I	Y	H	L	I	N	T

- Novel
- Protagonist
- Antagonist
- Plot
- Setting
- Theme
- Symbolism
- Foreshadowing
- Metaphor
- Allegory
- Irony
- Epiphany
- Conflict
- Resolution
- Characterization

Strings in Harmony fundraising concert will feature Goderich harpist

For those who love the sound of a harp, or the harmony of a violin moving in beat to the strumming of a guitar and the steady rhythm of a drum, fundraising concert Strings in Harmony is for them.

Get whisked away to the gentle landscape of the harp followed by the eclectic mix of fiddle tunes, covers songs from all eras, and original tunes.

Held on April 14 in Mitchell at Main Street United Church, the fundraising concert will feature Goderich harpist Alexa Yeo.

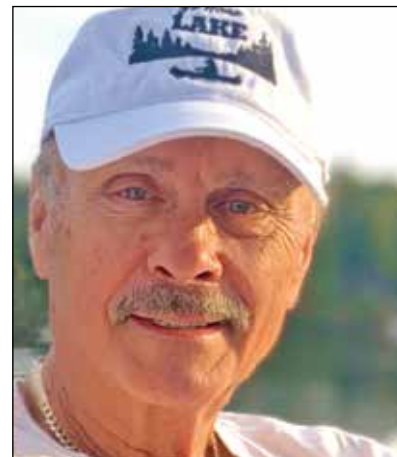
She will play and sing a variety of classic and contemporary tunes as a musical opener to Huron County's Jellybean Blue band, featuring Cappy Onn (violin and vocals), Kevin Carney (guitar and vocals), and Chris Johnston (drums and vocals).

All proceeds will go towards paying the remaining mortgage on the church.

Tickets are on sale now and will be sold at the door at \$20 for adults, and \$10 for students.

For more information call Donna at 519-276-7436.

OBITUARY



TALBOT, JOHN

William "John" Talbot passed away peacefully, with dignity and grace, with his family by his side at his home on Saturday, March 16, 2024 in his 76th year. John was a kind, generous and extremely hardworking man, and will always be remembered for his helping hand to anyone in need. His legacy of unconditional love, strength and inspiration will be cherished forever.

Left to mourn and hold dear their time together, is his wife, Faye MacDonald. He was the loving and treasured father of Kevin Talbot (Teresa) of Goderich, Tammy Patterson (Bill) of Goderich, Shawn Talbot (Jessica) of Owen Sound, and Sherri Scott (Jamie) of Milverton. Greatly missed by his grandchildren, who he adored - Quinn, Camryn, Keltie, Cody, Kyler, Kael, Morgan, Parker, Payton and Kayden. Lovingly remembered by his siblings Rick (Lorie) of Clinton, Brian (Cathy) Ailsa

Craig, Brenda (Mark) of Goderich, and Lynn Ferrara (Cesare) of Newmarket. He will hold special memories for his step children Peter (Jen), Julie (David) and their families. Also fondly remembered by his nieces and nephews. John was predeceased by his parents Dewar (Bud) Talbot and Ruth Talbot, brother Gary, and Mother of his children, Linda Talbot.

At John's request, cremation has taken place. A public outdoor Celebration of Life will be held at a future date to be determined and circulated, at the former Talbot Homestead, 33832 Egerton Beach Rd, Bluewater

(Bayfield), owned by close friends of John, Jane and Gary Reynolds whom have graciously offered this special place where John was born and raised as a gathering place which John forever held close to his heart. Private Spring interment will take place at Bayfield

Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations to, One Care Home and Community Support Services at P.O. Box 222, Clinton, ON N0M1L0 <https://www.onecaresupport.ca/or>, Saint Elizabeth Health Care, 87 Main Street, South, Seaforth, ON N0K 1W0 www.sehc.com, Huron Hospice, 98 Shipley St., Clinton ON N0M 1L0, <https://www.huronhospice.ca/donate> would be greatly appreciated.

Messages of condolences can be left at www.londoncremation.com



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COMING EVENTS

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Meat Draw at the Legion

On Saturday, April 6 and Saturday, April 13 at 5 p.m.

Join in on the famous Saturday Night Meat Draw with entertainment by Bronson Line.

Bingo at the Legion

On Sunday, April 7 and Sunday, April 14 at 12 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Come join in upstairs at the Goderich Legion for their legendary Bingo.

Doors open at noon. Early bird game at 1:25 p.m.

Canteen open.

Last Sunday of every month is a \$1,000 jackpot.

Gateway Lecture Series: Hospital to Home

Tuesday, April 9 from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. on Zoom.

Join the virtual lecture series to be part of

a panel discussion on the transition from hospital to home care.

Register on Gateway's website.

Euchre at the Goderich Legion

Tuesday, April 9 and Tuesday, April 16 at 7 p.m.

Join in on Tuesday night Euchre.

Admission is \$5.

Jammers at the Legion

On Wednesday, April 10 and Wednesday, April 17 from 7 p.m. onwards.

Join in with other musicians to jam the night away at the Goderich Legion.

Huron to Hollywood: War for the Planet of the Apes

On Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. until 9:15 p.m. at the Huron county Museum.

Join the Huron to Hollywood film series to celebrate professionals from Huron

County working in the film and television industry.

With special guest Jesse Sturdy, the War of the Planet of the Apes' facial motion capture technician.

The movie starts at 6:30 p.m., with a Q&A with Sturdy about 8:45 p.m., who is joining remotely.

This event is included with regular museum admission (FREE for museum members or with your Huron County library card).

Pre-registration not required.

Duelling pianos at the Legion

On Saturday, April 13 from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Join the upstairs of the Legion for the duelling pianos.

Doors open at 7 p.m.

Get tickets at the Legion lounge for \$35 per person.

Karaoke Night at the Legion

On Friday, April 19 at 5 p.m.

The night begins with a meat draw, then Catch the Ace draw, and then the singing begins.



Auburn & District Lions Club Breakfast

Auburn Memorial Community Hall
Sunday, April 14, 2024

8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

\$12/Adults, \$6/Child, Free/Preschool

Pancakes, eggs, toast, sausage & hasbrowns

Maple syrup supplied by: Robinson's Maple Products

84548 St. Augustine Line, Auburn

Eggs supplied by: Huron County Egg Farmers

Proceeds for: Community Betterment

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

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- 14
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- Nitrogen
- René Descartes
- Kelly Clarkson
- Four
- Inland Taipan
- Leviathan (Vaughan, ON)
- 180
- The Dragon



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Sunsets of Goderich



Taken at the Main Beach in Goderich on March 25.

(DEBBIE WRAY PHOTO)

To submit photos of the sunset,
email kate@goderichsun.com



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