



Goderych Sun

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Thanks to you, the Sun is now bi-weekly

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Grant Haven Media launched the Goderych Sun in September as a monthly newspaper, but the plan was to increase the publication's frequency.

Effective immediately, the Sun is a bi-weekly publication, found at locations throughout Goderych and Clinton.

There are two main reasons why we are publishing bi-weekly.

Firstly, the support we have received from the local businesses has been outstanding.

As a free paper, the Sun survives in large part on advertising revenue, and we can't thank our advertisers enough for purchasing space.

Secondly, we thank the readers. Since September, you have remained interested, supportive and continue to devour each issue. We cannot thank you enough for the positive feedback and support.

We pledge to remain consistent with bringing the local news to the Goderych community. At the same time, we would love to hear from the community.

We want to know about the other incredible stories in the community that aren't found in a press release or on a municipal council agenda.

You are welcome to send news tips and story ideas to kate@goderichsun.com or info@goderichsun.com

I am proud to be the editor of the Goderych Sun, as I continue to be part of the local press.

I cannot wait to press on and bring the community double the amount of news each month.

Thank you for your continued support, as we endeavour to make the Goderych Sun the best paper this area has ever seen.



GODERICH RINGETTE

Goderich Ringette's Fun 1/2 team. See more on page 17.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

ONE CARE supports community with Meals on Wheels program

In a rural community, ONE CARE understands the importance of delivering nutritious meals to those who are not only unable to cook, but unable to travel to buy groceries.

This year marks the 22nd annual March for Meals – a month-long provincial campaign celebration to increase awareness and community engagement with local Meals on Wheels providers across Ontario.

This month recognizes the dedication of the thousands of people across the province, who tirelessly deliver this critical service.

Volunteers, for instance, support ONE CARE by preparing, packaging, and delivering meals, helping to address

food insecurity and social isolation in the community.

"Our Meals on Wheels program not only provides the necessary nutrition for good health, but our volunteers are crucial to the wellbeing of people living along," said Kathy Scanlon, Executive Director of ONE CARE.

"They perform a valuable security and social welfare check for isolated clients and have had to notify proper authorities of an accident or injury. This program has saved lives."

Ontario's most vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities are currently facing extraordinary levels of food insecurity.

CONTINUE TO PAGE 2

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Goderich Kinsmen host annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Square

Each year members of Goderich Kinsmen Club scatter over 15,000 individually wrapped chocolate Easter eggs across Courthouse Park.

This year, on Saturday, March 30 the Kinsmen Club will host their annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Start time of the hunt is 10 a.m., with all eggs gathered up by no later than 10:30 a.m.

ONE CARE supports community with Meals on Wheels program



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

DOOR DELIVERY

Mayor Bazinet delivers a meal to ONE CARE client Ruth.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

With the demand for nutritious and affordable meals growing each day, and despite funding and staffing challenges, Meals on Wheels program staff and volunteers continue to go the extra mile to serve those in need.

In the last month ONE CARE volunteers travelled over 6,000-kilometres delivering over 1,400 meals in Huron County.

Mayor Trevor Bazinet helped deliver meals last week to learn more about the program and really un-

derstand the needs in the community.

“To see firsthand how thankful everyone was to receive the meal is something that I will never forget,” said Mayor Bazinet.

“So many people are in need, and ONE CARE, along with its volunteers, do a remarkable job providing several services in our community. Today has left a lasting impression on me.”

During the month of March, community-based Meals on Wheels programs across the province are participating in an awareness campaign to highlight the importance of vulnerable seniors and individuals with disabilities having access to nutritious meals, friendly visits, and safety checks.

For more information visit www.onecaresupport.ca

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Countdown is on for pancake brunch

On Saturday, April 6 volunteers, with friends of, Trinity St. James Anglican Church, are joining together to host the 12th Pancake 'N Sausage Brunch and Schilbe Sugar Bush Tour.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at Pine Lake Campground.

On the menu for brunch will be genuine maple syrup poured over hot pancakes and sausage accompanied by coffee, tea, and juice.

For those who can't get enough of the sweet stuff Rick and Rusty Schilbe's maple syrup will be available for purchase.

Folks will also be able to purchase a box or two of Classic Girl Guide Cookies as members of Bayfield Guiding will be in attendance as well.

Before or after partaking in the brunch served in the Campground's Recreation Hall, people can hop on a wagon for a short tractor ride from the campground through Rick and Rusty Schilbe's sugar bush to the shanty.

Once at their destination they will see firsthand how maple syrup is produced.

Tickets will be sold at the door: \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12, and pre-schoolers free.

Over the past year the public was invited by the congregation of Trinity St. James Anglican Church to help them reimagine their place in the community.

The reimagining continues with the church transitioning to a Chapel of Ease as of April 15. Although regular Sunday services will cease at Trinity St. James, it is not closing.

The chapel will be hosting special services throughout the year as well as still being available for family events such as weddings and funerals.

The Parish Hall will be evolving into a space run by a community committee with all proceeds being used to support the hall and work of the committee.

Another chapter in the life of the 175-year-old village church has begun.



SYRUPY GOODNESS

The 2023 Pancake 'N Sausage Brunch and Schilbe's Sugar Bush Tour was the first one held since 2019 due to the pandemic.

(MELODY FALCONER-POUNDER PHOTO)

County of Huron approves 2024 budget

On March 6, the County of Huron Council passed its annual municipal budget in the amount of \$52,826,607.00 resulting in a 5.54 per cent levy increase for 2024.

Each year, Huron County Council reflects on the current and future needs of the community and sets priorities through Strategic Planning Sessions.

The resulting priorities, along with detailed reports from senior staff, and a recent corporate-wide Service Level Review, helped guide the development of the County's 2024 budget.

Many current economic issues identified in Council's strategic priorities, such as supportive and affordable housing, infrastructure improvements, and

asset management have been considered in this year's budget.

"Huron County Council works with staff to carefully balance the budget to ensure fiscal sustainability while maintaining essential and valued services," said Warden Glen McNeil.

"The 2024 budget was carefully evaluated and deliberated for the benefit of all Huron residents."

To learn more about the County of Huron budget and process visit: www.huroncounty.ca/treasury/budget/

To view the 2024 Budget, visit: <https://agendas.huroncounty.ca/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=6500&MeetingID=551>

Peeps n Treat Easter Market coming to Goderich



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
BUNNY TRAIL
Central Huron Mayor Jim Ginn with Edge Wood Decor Owner Cindy Scholten (right) at last year's market.

Event coordinator and owner of Edge Wood Décor Cindy Scholten is set to launch another market for Huron County.

The Easter market will take place on Saturday, March 30 at the Knights of Columbus.

This will be Scholten's third Easter market held in Goderich.

"I like to change up the theme and shake things up a bit," said Scholten.

"This market is not just focused on children, we have something for everyone in the family."

This year's market, Peeps N Treats, will feature a food truck, live music, local ven-

dors and artisans, an Easter Bunny Selfie Stage, a chance to win \$100 cash prize and event a side petting room with chicks and bunnies for kids.

Scholten admitted that the retail side of her business was hurt as a result of the COVID-19 lockdowns, so she leaned on her special event experience to launch markets for other small business owners.

"It's important that we promote local business and support our small communities," added Scholten.

Peeps N Treats Easter Market runs from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 30. Entry is free.

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Goderich Regional Airport Task Force presents plan for local airport

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Goderich Airport runs at a deficit and requires upgrades to achieve the desired future of the airport. Since 2018 the Goderich Regional Airport has run at a total deficit of \$771,492.52.

While the airport is owned and operated by the Town of Goderich, a task force was put together in 2020 to establish a clear strategy towards the growth and development of the facility.

Taylor Lambert, Chair of the Goderich Regional Airport Task Force presented the Goderich Airport Strategic Plan to Goderich Council on February 26.

"We [the task force] do realize managing an airport is no small feat," Lambert explained at the council meeting.

"The action plan covers a 20-year capital plan for infrastructure. The objective of our task force is to consider future strategies for the maintenance, and successful operation of the Goderich Regional Airport."

The strategic plan was developed between March and August 2021 by HM Aero Aviation Consulting and made possible by the financial assistance from the Town of Goderich and the Huron County Economic Development Board.

The plan is intended to serve as a planning guide for the long-term viability of Goderich Airport. This includes increasing and diversifying the airport's role as a regional economic generator, and ensuring the airport continues to support social benefits.

Based on the financial outlook, annual operating revenues are estimated to in-

crease from \$191,000 in 2022 to \$628,000 in 2041. Operating expenditures are estimated to increase from \$318,000 in 2022 to \$655,000 in 2041.

According to the report, this financial performance is typical of, or superior to, that of comparable regional airports across Canada.

"The issue is, is that the airport costs money. It's not little dollars we are talking about. Over the years it's been big dollars. That's a big amount of money and I'm not saying the airport isn't important," said Mayor Trevor Bazinet during the council meeting on February 26.

"We are about to go into a budget process, and this has not been an easy budget process. We need to look at another way. Are neighbouring municipalities going to help out with the airport? That should be number one on the priority list and see if they are willing to help out financially."

To achieve the desired future for Goderich Airport, the Town and its partners must consider a paradigm shift in how the facility is approached.

Shifting from the status quo to a proactive approach will require a notable degree of effort in the early years of the plan.

According to the plan, investments made to the Goderich Airport in the next 10 years, while significant, will position the facility for long-term success.

Based on the financial review, the Town of Goderich collects operating revenues at the airport through the sale of aviation fuel, aircraft fees like landing and parking, agricultural cropping agreements, hangar rentals, and several other sources.

Annual operating reve-

nues have averaged \$150,000 between 2015 and 2020.

The plan presented by Lambert from the task force aims to establish a funding model to help with operating and capital cost implications.

According to the report, planning for the future of the airport must look at the broader trends affecting the region that may increase the demand for services at the airport. This includes the population growth rates within Goderich and the region.

Goderich Airport, originally called the Huron County Sky Harbour Airport, opened on July 30, 1938, and was used as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan during the Second World War for pilot training.

Today the airport is used for numerous types of aircraft operators, including private general aviation aircraft and student pilots.

A question brought forward during the council meeting, was whether the Goderich Airport was meeting the social needs of the region while assisting with economic development.

"It would be nice to know when the pilots are coming in, where they are spending their money," added Bazinet, suggesting that the task force should bring forth specific priorities that need addressing.

While the infrastructure of the airport is in fair condition, the facility's three taxiways are in poor to fair condition. The airfield lighting and electrical systems are in poor condition, at risk of failure, and are recommended for rehabilitation in the short-term.

According to the task force report, the airport also fulfills numerous roles by supporting operations by Ornge air ambulance transfers, the Royal Canadi-

an Air Force (Search and Rescue), the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

According to the report by the task force, Ornge helicopters utilized the Goderich Airport a total of 105 times from 2017 to April 2021, for an average of 25 flights per year, or two flights per month. Eighty-seven per cent of these missions have been patient movement flights.

As a helipad is not available at the local Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH), all local patient transfers use the Goderich Airport.

From infrastructure upgrades, to increasing the use of the airport to bring in more revenue and supporting the local economy, to training more pilots on site, this plan aims to ensure the airport remains an active asset for Goderich and surrounding areas.

The total cost of all projects identified in the Recommended 20-Year Capital Plan is \$12,584,000. Of this total, 18 per cent is allocated towards expansion projects. The remaining 82 per cent is directed towards infrastructure projects to maintain or improve the level of service provided by the airport.

"This [strategic plan] will ensure continued alignment and clarity between the task force and our elected officials," added Lambert.

By adopting the strategic plan, Council has given direction to prioritize items on the plan and have asked the task force to come back with recommendations.

Council could recommend what parts of the plan to move forward with are, and when to move forward with them.

As of now, the plan exists to reference priority areas of the airport, to ensure its future.

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 **Goderich Sun**

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Goderich Sun

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International Women's Day celebrates inclusion

"In diversity there is beauty and there is strength." – Maya Angelou.

Marked annually on March 8, International Women's Day is one of the most important days of the year to celebrate women and call for greater equity in the future.

While the issues may seem to remain the same over the years, the goal of true equity takes on different nuances depending on the times we are living in.

In 1910, when the idea of International Women's Day was first conceived, the driving concern was votes for women and political equality.

In 1911, when the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory sparked outrage at the deaths of hundreds of young women locked into their workplace, safe working conditions and fair wages were top of mind. Sadly, that is still so today.

When world wars put women into workplaces as major family breadwinners and key members of the economy, there was no going back. And with the advent of birth control, and the freedom of the sixties and seventies women began to demand true equality in the workplace.

In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic shone the spotlight on the working conditions of our caregivers in hospitals, care homes and educational facilities. Many of these were black or minority women who were facing dangerous conditions, who were over worked, and who were earning low pay.



Still, the concept of equity and fairness, of safe working conditions and fair wages are the nexus of International Women's Day. But with a subtle difference. While more and more women have found improvements over the years related to gender equity, minority groups still lag woefully behind.

So, while International Women's Day remains a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, and marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity, this year the international theme is "Inspire Inclusion."

When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment. And when we include women of diverse backgrounds, we are stronger together.

Bringing together different perspectives, lived experiences, voices, ideas, and strategies, through inclusion and diversity in our movement, increases our ability

to represent the needs and interests of all workers and grows our strength in pushing for positive change for an equitable future for all.

We can all fight the good fight.

Gloria Steinem, world-renowned feminist, journalist and activist reportedly once explained, "the story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist, nor to any one organization, but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights".

The Ontario Federation of Labour, in conjunction with the Canadian Labour Congress has echoed the idea of inclusion with their theme that "Diversity Grows Our Strength."

To further enhance gender equity and support for diverse women, The Canadian Labour Council has put together a white paper or "Care Plan."

The idea is that Canada can deliver gender justice for women, particularly diverse women, by improving care. They are asking for a Federal Care Economy Commission to study, design and

recommend a national care strategy.

Their goals are 1) to create a broader and more inclusive labour market strategy to achieve high-quality, equitable care jobs, 2) to examine paid and unpaid care work and develop a roadmap to meet the increasing demands for care and 3) to reduce and redistribute women's unpaid care work by improving access to public care services for children, older adults, and people with disabilities.

The CLC is calling on the federal government to better support women navigating the ongoing affordability crisis. We know that a disproportionately high number of women living in poverty, and their lack of access to care services, are deeply interconnected.

Developing a national, comprehensive strategy for Canada's care economy would go a long way to easing the burden that care—both paid and unpaid—places on women.

"This is about gender justice. It's no secret that women perform the bulk of unpaid and paid care work, which pushes women into part-time, precarious, temporary, or minimum-wage jobs. The majority of minimum wage workers in Canada are women," said Bea Bruske, President of the Canadian Labour Congress.

"The consequences of the unequal division of care work on wom-

en's economic security are severe, and the current affordability and housing crises are making life even more challenging—especially for the most marginalized women."

Women face higher rates of housing insecurity, food insecurity, and are less likely to qualify for employment insurance. The statistics are even worse for women with multiple marginalized identities: Indigenous, Black and women of colour.

At the local level, the Huron District Labour Council is encouraging all its union affiliates to honour International Women's Day on March 8 by celebrating the women in their workplaces and by looking towards ways to promote equity for women—particularly women of diverse background. Diversity brings strength to our society and our workplace.

Also, in honour of International Women's Day, the Huron District Labour Council will be donating to the United Way's local initiative to address period poverty and provide a variety of hygiene products to women experiencing homelessness or financial difficulties.

One of the fastest growing demographics in the unhoused or housing insecure population is older women.

What did you do on International Women's Day?

Volunteer Goderich is back and looking for participants

The 2024 events season is coming up quickly (or has already started for some), and everyone is invited to Volunteer Goderich.

It is a volunteer trade show for events and organizations in Goderich.

This year will be hosted on Saturday, May 11 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Memorial Arena.

Last year the event helped connect organizations and events with the volunteers they needed, and volunteers with new opportunities to get involved.

This is the second annual event of its kind, and we hope to attract folks from all over to find their next volunteer opportunity.

After last year's event participants were asked to complete a survey and organizers of the event listened to that feedback.

In response, this year the day is shorter, and food trucks are welcome to help provide folks with a snack or meal while finding their volunteer fit.

Stage time has also been adapted to a slide show of event and organization photos and facts throughout the

day. This will give folks a visual of all the great opportunities available.

Tourism Goderich is looking to invite Goderich-based organizations and events to attend this free event. Set up is at 10 a.m.

To register please contact Tourism Goderich as soon as possible to confirm your table reservation. Registration is limited to 40 participating groups.

Each participating group will be assigned a table and corresponding number. It will be up to your group to bring your own promotional materials to give folks the best idea of what you do. Should your set-up hinge on power, a single 15-amp outlet will be accommodated for the first 15 vendors to request it. Please note, folks must bring their own extension cord.

Goderich Tourism will provide a six-foot table to the first 20 groups to reserve a spot, 15-amp hydro to the first 15 groups to reserve, and two chairs to each table location. Please request more if needed.

For more information contact Goderich Tourism at 519-524-6600 or specialevents@goderich.ca

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Police Reports

Female in Goderich charged with assault

Huron County OPP has charged a 33-year-old woman from Goderich area with two criminal charges following an investigation on February 22.

Just before 10 a.m. on February 22 Huron OPP officers were dispatched to an address on Huron Road in the Town of Goderich for a report of an assault involving two parties.

Officers arrived and located the individuals involved in the incident.

Investigators discovered that one person assaulted the other with a metallic object causing minor injury to the victim.

The suspect was arrested and transported to the Huron OPP detachment for processing.

The 33-year-old female with no fixed address in the Goderich area was charged with: Assault with a Weapon, and Fail to Comply with Probation Order.

The accused was held for a bail hearing and later remanded into custody with a court appearance scheduled at the Ontario Court of Justice in Goderich.

Four charged after drug trafficking investigation

On February 29 members of the Huron-Perth Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) and the OPP made a number of arrests following a drug trafficking investigation in North Perth.

Three people were arrested and were found in possession of fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, and hydromorphone, as well as drug trafficking paraphernalia, cash, and brass knuckles.

In addition, with the help of Huron-Perth CSCU, three Controlled Drugs and Substances Act Search Warrants were executed at two residences, and at a storage unit, all in North Perth.

As a result of the search warrants, another individual was arrested.

Police seized fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, hydromorphone, oxycodone, and drug trafficking paraphernalia.

The total estimated value of the drugs is approximately \$15,000. The total estimated value of the seized property is \$1,200.

A 37-year-old man from North Perth was charged with: Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking Methamphetamine; Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking – Opioid (fentanyl and other opioid) (two counts); Mischief – Interfere with lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property – Under \$5,000; Possession of a Schedule I Substance – Cocaine.

A 38-year-old woman of North Perth

was charged with: Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking – Methamphetamine; Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking – Opioid (fentanyl and other opioid) (two counts).

These two accused parties were held in custody pending a bail hearing.

A 38-year-old man of Wellington County was charged with: Unauthorized Possession of Weapon, and Fail to Comply with Probation Order.

This man was released from custody and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Stratford on March 25 to answer to the charges.

A 38-year-old man from North Perth was charged with: Possession of a Schedule I Substance – Methamphetamine; Possession of a Schedule I Substance – Opioid (fentanyl and other opioid) (three counts).

This man was released from custody and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Stratford on April 22.

Anyone with information that can assist with the investigation is asked to call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Several intimate partner violence investigations result in charges

On February 21, OPP investigated another matter involving intimate partners in Central Huron.

As a result of the investigation, the involved suspect had allegedly committed a criminal act against their partner in 2022.

A 46-year-old from Central Huron was charged under the Criminal Code with Assault with a Weapon – Spousal.

The accused was processed, and later released from custody with a court date schedule for the Goderich Ontario Court of Justice.

Again, on February 22, the Huron OPP investigated another matter involving intimate partners in Central Huron.

A 53-year-old was charged under the Criminal Code with Assault – Spousal (four counts), and Assault Causing Bodily Harm.

The accused was arrested, processed, and later released from custody with a court date scheduled for the Goderich Ontario Court of Justice.

On February 28 members of the Huron OPP investigated a matter involving intimate partners in Goderich.

As a result, the 28-year-old suspect from Goderich was charged under the Criminal Code with Mischief – Domestic, Failure to Comply with Undertaking (two counts), Resist Peace Officer, and Dangerous Operation.

The accused was processed, held for a bail hearing, and later released from custody with a court date schedule for the Goderich Ontario Court of Justice.

HPPH reminding parents to update children's immunization records

The immunization team at Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) is reminding parents to update their child's immunization records.

Nearly 2,900 records remain incomplete, down from the initial 5,100.

These students are either missing immunizations required for school attendance, their immunizations have not been reported to public health, or they do not have a valid exemption on file.

Students with incomplete immunization records may be suspended from school under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA).

ISPA requires elementary and secondary school students to be immunized against specific diseases to attend school. The purpose of the Act is to protect the health of children against these preventable diseases.

The increase in measles activity globally, and recent cases in Ontario, reminds us how important it is to stay up to date with immunizations.

The list of ISPA required immunizations includes immunization against measles.

The higher the number of vaccinated students, the more protection all students have from potentially serious diseases.

In January, HPPH sent letters to parents and legal guardians of students whose im-

munization records were incomplete.

Parents who have not yet responded to this first notice will now receive a phone call from a public health nurse.

Parents who received a letter are asked to do one of the following:

- If your child is up to date on their immunizations, go to www.hpph.ca/icon to report the required information online, or call HPPH at 1-888-221-2133 ext. 3558.

- If your child is not up to date on their vaccinations, contact your healthcare provider and/or HPPH, which is holding clinics to get students caught up. You can book an appointment online at www.hpph.ca/catchup or call HPPH. Parents are encouraged to book early, as appointments are limited.

In April, HPPH will mail suspension notices to students who have not provided proof of up-to-date immunizations or a valid exemption. School suspensions will begin on May 23, 2024.

Parents must provide proof of their child's immunizations, or a valid exemption, to public health.

Public health and healthcare providers do not share the same system for documenting immunizations, so it is important to let HPPH know if your child has received an immunization at their primary care provider's office.

Gateway's eighth lecture focuses on hospital-to-home

The transition from hospital to home care can be a difficult experience for both the patient and the caregiver.

On April 9 from 12 noon until 1 p.m. via Zoom, a lecture will be exploring that transitional experience.

Gateway's upcoming episode in the lecture series focuses on the transitional care to support functioning in older people in rural communities.

The lecturer is Dr. Mary Fox, a Registered Nurse and an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at York University, Toronto.

Her academic research responds to profound social and economic changes affecting healthcare today, such as patients being discharged 'quicker and sicker'.

This lecture is based on an ongoing research study on interventions to better the physical and cognitive functioning of older patients after a hospital stay.

Dr. Fox's previous work has been credited with providing the evidence needed to 'Make the Case for ACE' – a function-focused approach to older people's care and a fundamental pillar of Ontario's Seniors Strategy.



DR. MARY FOX.

Panelists that will assist with the knowledge translation of this lecture include Ann MacLeod (MPH), a Registered Nurse and Professor at Trent University, and Evelyn Durocher (PhD), an Occupational Therapist and Assistant Professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University.

To register for the event, visit Gateway's website: <http://www.gatewayruralhealth.ca>

First annual Goderich Salt and Harvest Festival wins best new event in Ontario



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Lisa Hood (left), Mayor Trevor Bazinet and Jenna Ujiye (right) accept the Best New Festival and Top 100 Event Award at the Festivals and Events Ontario Awards Gala.

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The Town of Goderich's Salt and Harvest Festival was awarded Best New Event in Ontario at the Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO) awards gala on February 28.

The FEO celebrates Ontario's diverse festivals and events, promotes cultural exchange, community engagement and showcase various elements of festivals or events that stood out in the previous festival year.

In its inaugural year, the event was a success due to a combined effort from the Town of Goderich and Goderich Council, Royal LePage and Compass Minerals, along with many staff and volunteers.

Receiving the award was Mayor Trevor Bazinet, and Lisa Hood and Jenna Ujiye from Goderich Tourism.

"To win an award for an event with a budget of under \$100,000 in front of so many other municipalities and big cities, was a proud moment," Mayor Trevor Bazinet remarked, who is pleased that once again Goderich was put on the map.

"We couldn't do it without Jenna and Lisa. I'm so proud of them, and they are

so deserving of this. I know the hard work that they put in, and when that award was announced I was so happy for them."

Since Goderich is home to Compass Minerals' Goderich salt mine, the largest underground salt mine in the world, the festival has been a priority for Goderich Town Council and staff.

The inaugural event ran September 15-17, 2023, in partnership with Royal LePage Heartland Realty.

Events at the festival included a salted market, Goderich Salt Mine virtual reality, Salty Basin Beer Garden, Taste of Huron salted menus, Hop On – Hop Off bus tours, food trucks, and two evening concerts.

Goderich Tourism and the Town of Goderich also received a Top 100 Festival or Event in 2024 in Ontario for the Goderich Children's Festival, as well as for the Goderich Celtic Roots Festival.

"The Celtic Festival is a world-renowned event that the Town of Goderich has hosted, and I'm so happy for the volunteers and the Celtic Festival organization for all the work they continue to do to put the Town of Goderich on the map," added Bazinet.

"The same can be said for the Children's Festival. Events like this don't happen



Spirit of Success Award (L-R): Lisa Hood, Jenna Ujiye, and Jeff Bauer accept the Community Impact Award at the 2023 Huron Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Success Awards.

without volunteers. They all have volunteers and are supported by the Town of Goderich staff, whether its public works or the parks department. It's a community that comes together to bring wonderful events like this to the Town of Goderich, and as the mayor, I couldn't be more proud right now."

Bazinet also stated that as mayor, he is grateful for the partnership with Royal LePage, and their partnership with the Salt and Harvest Festival, as well as Compass Minerals involvement.

"It's wonderful to have partnerships like that where we can combine our resources to organize a festival of this nature, which is now known as an award-winning festival in our inaugural year. Without those partners, we couldn't have done it," added Bazinet.

In November 2023 the Salt and Harvest Festival event was also awarded the Community Impact Award at the Huron Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Success Awards.

After such a successful inaugural year, Tourism Goderich and its partners are making some new plans to make the event bigger and better.

Goderich Tourism is excited to an-

nounced that the Goderich Salt and Harvest Festival will partner with the West Coast Blues Festival from August 30 until September 1.

"The West Coast Blues Festival has been a successful festival in Goderich for 18 years and has generously offered to share the weekend and build the opportunities to expand the whole festival in 2024," said Jenna Ujiye, Tourism ad Community Development Manager.

Over the years the West Coast Blues have seen many changes over the years and John Harrison of West Coast Blues sees the partnership with the Town of Goderich and Royal LePage as a great way to help move the festival into the future.

"Partnerships create an opportunity for pooling resources, expertise, time, and networks, which is integral to the sustainability and continuation of all festivals and events, and we are bringing back the Downtown Shuffle," added Harrison.

The Goderich Salt and Harvest Festival is sponsored by Compass Minerals who owns and operates the Goderich Salt Mine and Evaporator Plant.

For further information visit www.goderichsalted.ca

Gateway Lecture Series: Artificial intelligence, rural health, and inequality

Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer a distant field of speculation to be solely described in science fiction.

In Gateway's 32nd lecture Leslie Walker, PhD Candidate of Social and Economic Sciences discussed the rapidly emerging field.

AI has proliferated through numerous industries ranging from mining, to accounting, to healthcare. However, the distribution of the benefits of these technologies and the burden of cost for the development are unequal.

Walker presented her doctoral research on policies to reduce the inequality associated with AI in healthcare, which she



LESLIE WALKER

studies at the University of Technology in Vienna, Austria.

Key outcomes that emerged in her research includes the necessity to talk about uncomfortable topics with peers to develop critical thinking skills, trust, and explainability to these new digital tools, and to develop policy to address the current power imbalances with this technology and demand transparency.

Walker was joined by panelists in a question-and-answer session following her presentation. Panelists included Stefan Salcher, a serial entrepreneur and CEO, Geneva Neal, a senior data analyst, and Jay McFarlan, research chair at

Gateway.

One of the key challenges identified in this lunchtime discussion was how individuals might protect themselves and their family from scams and phishing that have been super-powered using AI.

As AI continues to grow as an industry and impacts healthcare and the wellbeing of many, Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) aims to continue to promote education of these relevant topics as they become more prevalent.

A recording of this lecture is available online through Gateway's website: www.gatewayruralhealth.ca

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Warden Glen McNeil receives Community Leadership Award from Bruce Power

During the 2024 Canadian Nuclear Association conference, Huron County Warden Glen McNeil was presented the Community Leadership Award from Bruce Power.

The Community Leadership Award is in recognition for exceptional service to communities in the Grey, Bruce, and Huron Region.

This award recognizes leaders who exemplify the qualities of collaboration, communication and clear vision and have made a significant and positive impact to the region.

"Huron is a proud supporter of Bruce Power and Grey and Bruce counties and the work that we do in collaboration with the Clean Energy Frontier and the Nuclear Innovation Institute," said Warden Glen McNeil.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude for this award and to all partners that are contributing to making a greener future for our communities."

Warden McNeil was presented this award along with fellow award recipients, Bruce County Warden Chris Peabody and Grey County Warden Brian Milne.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
(L-R): Huron County Warden Glen McNeil, Grey County Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Culture Savanna Myers (accepting award on behalf of Grey County Warden Brian Milne), Bruce County Warden Chris Peabody, and Bruce Power President & CEO Mike Rencheck.

Huron County Museum and Cultural Programs invite input on new strategic plan

The Huron County Museum and Cultural Programs are developing a new strategic plan and are inviting the public to participate in a community survey and focus groups to help establish priorities for the next five years.

Public input on the Museum and Cultural Programs services, programs, and facilities will provide valuable feedback that will help shape the plan.

"Whether you are a regular visitor to the Museum and Gaol, have participated in a Cultural Program such as the Huron Multicultural Festival, or have never visited or attended any programs before, we want to hear from you," said County Librarian and Director of Cultural Services, Beth Rumble.

"All feedback is welcome and will be considered as we set our direction for the next five years."

The online survey can be accessed by visiting: www.connectedcountyofhuron.ca. Paper copies of the survey are also available at the Museum or any branch of

the Huron County Library.

The survey takes about 15-20 minutes to complete and to say thanks for taking the time to provide feedback, all participants will be entered into a draw for a \$100 gift card to Fincher's in Goderich and \$100 gift card Eat Local Huron.

The deadline to complete the survey is Sunday, March 31.

To further engage with the public in person, several focus groups are scheduled throughout March at various locations across the County. All are welcome to drop into any of the following sessions:

- Thursday, March 21, 1:30-2:30 p.m.: Exeter Library Branch
- Tuesday, March 26, 7-8 p.m.: Virtual session.
- Wednesday, March 27, 1:30-2:30 p.m.: Clinton Library Branch

For full details, including full rules for participating in the giveaway: <https://www.huroncountymuseum.ca/strategic-plan-survey/>

Emergency services charity hockey game raises \$4,000 for Victim Services

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

In an annual charity hockey game, the Huron County OPP took on the Huron East Fire Department on March 3, with the victory going to the OPP.

The event raised \$4,000 to support Victim Services Huron County. The amount raised includes a \$500 direct donation from Huron East Fire, as well as the OPP players contributing to the final amount.

Both teams gave it their all at the well attended match at Brussels Arena.

After a tough three periods, the sharp-shooting Huron County OPP claimed victory with an 8-1 win, despite

the high-pressure from the Huron East Fire Department.

Huron County Victim Services volunteers were on hand to collect donations of cash and organize a silent auction.

The Huron County OPP and the Huron East Fire Department would like to thank everyone who attended the event and supported their community.

With wonderful sponsors, the event was able to cover off most of the expenses, which in the end meant more of an end profit.

"It was a great family event where free stuffed animals, popcorn, and face painting was offered to children attending," explained Deborah Logue, Executive Direc-

tor, Victim Services Huron County.

The event also had many donations to the silent auction, as well as a bake sale that ran throughout the event.

All fundraised money remains in Huron County to directly support survivors of crime or tragic circumstances as well as enhancing the training opportunities for the volunteers that attend on scene supports.

"This money will be earmarked to support with counselling for people that have been impacted by tragic circumstances, as well as transportation costs associated with attending counselling," added Logue.

Victim Services host fundraisers to not only raise money to enhance the supports the agency offers, while trying to make the

community aware of services available.

"We hope that the more people who are aware, the sooner they may reach out for supports," added Logue.

"The more people can share who we are and what we do, the better chance we have of preventing some crimes, as well as earlier intervention for anyone needing the support."

Victim Services Huron is a nonprofit organization that provides emotional support, practical assistance, and community referrals to survivors of crime and tragic circumstances.

If anyone you know may benefit from Victim Services, please reach out to 519-600-4108.



OPP CHARITY HOCKEY

The Huron County OPP defeated Huron East Fire Department 8-1 in a charity hockey game to benefit Huron County Victim Services.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Steve and Mary recognized for 'Home for the Holidays' event

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

At a recent Council meeting, two people in the community who go above and beyond helping others in need were recognized.

Steve and Mary Bruce, owners of Steve and Mary's on the Square hosted a heartwarming event 'Home for the Holidays' during the Christmas season in 2023.

"When I spoke at Council in recognition, I said the event was something you would watch on a Christmas Hallmark movie," remarked Mayor Trevor Bazinet on social media.

"I was proud to attend the event in a small capacity, but I left the restaurant that night feeling proud to not only call Steve and Mary my friends, but happy knowing that we have people and business owners in our community recognizing the importance of giving to the less fortunate."

Council took the opportunity to recognize individuals in the community who go above and beyond. This isn't the first

instance Steve and Mary Bruce have done something to benefit others in the community.

A few members of Council had their hand in volunteering at this recent event. During the 'Home for the Holidays' event, Councillor Randy Carroll worked in the kitchen and Councillor Vanessa Kelly helped with food orders.

Steve and Mary Bruce, responded to the accolades by remaining humble, yet proud to be part of the community.

"Mary and I have always wanted to be a bigger part of this community since we opened our restaurant," said Steve at the Council meeting in February.

"We are so thankful that we live in a community that cares about everyone who lives here. Whether they have a home, or don't have a home, or just need a little extra help. We want to say thank you for the recognition, and we are very proud community members of Goderich."

According to Steve, this event will turn into an annual one. The 2024 event will be held at the Legion.



GIVING BACK AT THE HOLIDAYS

Steve and Mary Bruce recognized in the Council chambers in February. (L-R): Councillor Randy Carroll, Councillor Allison Segeren, Councillor Liz Petrie, Mary Bruce, Steve Bruce, Mayor Trevor Bazinet, Councillor John Thompson, and Councillor Vanessa Kelly.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Maitland Valley prepares grant application for Great Lakes initiative

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) is preparing a grant application for the Government of Canada's Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative.

In partnership with the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), the focus of the initiative is to monitor perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in freshwater in the region.

PFAS are a large group of synthetic compounds that have been introduced into the environment from products such as firefighting foam, cookware, flame retardants, as well as stain protectors and removers.

The goal of the initiative is to target the most significant challenges affecting Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health.

The project includes the participation of various partners, including conservation authorities, municipalities, and water agencies.

"By working together with regional partners, and Indigenous Peoples, we are finding practical solutions to protect our important natural resources," said the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

"Our investment in local projects is engaging and empowering communities

to take action and contribute toward our collective efforts to restore and protect the water quality and ecosystem health of our beloved Great Lakes."

In a report to Council from Jessica Clapp, Assess Management/Environmental Services Manager, it was recommended that Council provide a letter of support for the initiative, as well as an in-kind contribution of \$2,000 to collect water samples at the Goderich Water Treatment Plant.

The water collection and sampling are dependent on the success of the application to the initiative.

It was further recommended that Town Staff work with the operating authority to conduct water sampling monthly, over the course of 18 months, if the application is successful.

The data obtained over the course of 18 months will assist in creating dataset to provide a baseline to understand the type and concentration of PFAS present in the freshwater.

Due to PFAS persistent nature, and lack of response to current conventional water treatment techniques, these contaminants can remain in the environment for long periods of time.

PFAS are a group of chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, oils, and grease, which allows them to be highly persistent in the environment. They can also accumulate in living tissues and take several

years to decades for the body to eliminate these group of chemicals.

According to a Fact Sheet from Walkerton Clean Water Centre, PFAS are a large group of synthetic compounds that include perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). PFOS and PFOA are the two most studied chemicals.

In Canada, PFOS and PFOA can be found in dust and drinking water, but the main exposure is from food. When found in surface water or groundwater, it is associated with firefighting foam or near discharges from industrial facilities, wastewater, and stormwater.

Canada has prohibited the manufacture, import, sale, and use of PFOS and PFOA except for firefighting foam.

There have been no clear links with the carcinogenicity of PFOS, however, PFOA is classified as possibly carcinogenic to humans.

PFOS and PFOA are associated with high cholesterol, hormone disruption, auto-immune disorders, thyroid disorders, liver and kidney complications, and pregnancy complications.

According to the report by Walkerton Clean Water Centre, it takes approximately 5.4 years for PFOS and 2.9 to 8.5 years for PFOA to reduce their concentration by half in the human body.

PFAS are frequently detected in discharges from wastewater treatment plants.

Some thoughts are that granular activated carbon (GAC), reverse osmosis, and nano-filtration are all contenders for being effective treatments to remove PFAS.

However, site-specific conditions need to be considered when selecting drinking water treatment options.

In a letter of support dated February 26, the Town of Goderich stated its support for the application to 'Monitor PFAS in southwestern Ontario'.

The Town stated that it has a mission to provide sustainable services, be environmental leaders and promote and maintain exceptional quality of life.

Additionally, the freshwater initiative supports the Town of Goderich Council's Strategic Plan Goal 5: Environmental Stewardship, protecting and preserving our natural environment, as well as expanding opportunities for health living and recreation.

According to the Town, the 'work being proposed is timely and efficient. By building on existing monitoring networks, the study will greatly improve our knowledge on whether and where PFAS contamination is occurring in the environment'.

In short, the Town of Goderich and Goderich Council support monitoring PFAS in freshwater and look forward to being a collaborator on the proposed project if the application is approved.

Members of the MVCA did not respond in time to comment prior to deadline.

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Split the Pot Lottery exceeds \$1 million in sales in three weeks

Split the Pot Lottery is thrilled to announce the overwhelming support of its latest lottery program, which has experienced exceptional results in just three weeks since its launch.

Support 51 Ontario hospital, the lottery continues to remain top of mind to Ontarians, with ticket sales surpassing \$1 million.

Supporters can select their local hospital at the checkout, with the proceeds from their ticket purchase going to the chosen hospital partner. Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) Foundation is a participating hospital.

By selecting 'All participating hospitals', proceeds of these ticket sales are split among the 51 participating hospitals.

To give players more chances to win, Split the Pot Lottery's jackpot will be divided among 13 grand prize winners, with the current jackpot now over \$500,000 and growing.

"We're excited to see so many individuals and communities coming together in this fun and innovative way to support our hospitals," said Paul McIntyre

Royston, President, and CEO.

"Thank you to everyone who has helped us reach this milestone by playing Split the Pot so far – your support is an investment in health care across the province and will help patients access the technology and services they need to have the best possible outcomes and experiences."

In addition, there are still thousands of dollars in early rewards to be shared among winners.

Split the Pot Lottery has generated significant interest from multiple communities, drawing support from both new and existing supporters who are committed to making a positive impact on health care across Ontario.

These funds play a direct role in supporting critical healthcare initiatives within these communities.

Tickets for the Split the Pot Lottery are available for purchase through the website: splitthepot.ca

All other information including ticket prices, prizes, draws, important dates, and contest rules, can be found on the website as well.



GODERICH LIONS DONATES \$2,000 TO COLDEST NIGHT FUNDRAISER (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Goderich's Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) was supported by Goderich Lions once again, with a \$2,000 donation. This makes the Lions a Gold Level sponsor. Lions member Cindy Scholten presents a sponsorship cheque to the Goderich Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) committee. (L-R): April Selkirk, Cindy Scholten, Michelle Millar, Bernice Glenn, Manoj Medavarapu, and Dave MacKechnie.

SLED Fund open for applications

The County of Huron's Economic Development Department has opened its 2024 Supporting Local Economic Development (SLED) funding program.

This program funds projects up to a maximum of \$10,000. The SLED program is delivered annually to local municipalities and registered non-profits.

Eligible projects must take place in Huron County and focus on one of the following priorities:

- Re-engagement, education/skills development, attraction and/or retention
- Impacts business districts, key industry sectors and/or investment attraction
- Advances community development, tourism sector development and/or promotion of local food
- Projects focused on youth and/or newcomers building a stronger sense of community

The deadline is April 12. All applicants will be notified the week of April 22 regarding the success of their application.

For more information visit www.huroncounty.ca/economic-development/our-services/incentives-programs/sled/

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 LEGION DONATES TO SUPPORT YOUNG CANADA WEEK (DIANE THORNE PHOTO)

The Goderich Legion presented a cheque for \$1,000 to the Goderich Lions in support of the Young Canada Week 73rd ice hockey tournament. (L-R): Don Edward, Goderich Lions President, Allan Pollard and John MacDonald from the Branch 109 Catch the Ace Committee, Randy Carroll, Branch 109 President, and Mike Alcock, Goderich Lions Club and Young Canada Week Co-chair.

Goderich Sun

Pick Up Locations

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 Peavy Mart

Treasure Hunt
 Food Basics
 Fincher's
 Blake Street Bakery
 Shear Talent
 Culbert's
 Goderich Town Hall
 YMCA/Rec Centre
 Square Brew
 Rexall Pharmacy
 The Legion
 Coldwell Banker Realty
 Second Streetlight Winery

Zehrs Shell Full Service
 Huron County Library
 Huron County Museum
 Comfort Inn
 Pitlane Automotive
 River Run Restaurant
 Maitland Valley Marina
 Hyundai of Goderich
 Habitat for Humanity Re-Store
 St. Vincent de Paul Store
 Parson's Store
 Ideal Supply
 Maple Leaf Motel

East Street Cider Co.
 Goderich Chiropractic
 Lighthouse Money Management
 Cait's Cafe
 MacKay Centre for Seniors
 West Sushi
 West Street Willy's Restaurant
 Creative Cuts
 HO Jerry
 The Livery Theatre
 Lions Club

CLINTON:
 Tim Hortons
 Esso
 Shell
 Clinton Convenience
 Cafe Loco
 Bartliff's Bakery and Restaurant
 Foodland
 Home Building Centre
 Willy's Burgers

Bayfield Lions applaud completion of Sidewalk to Somewhere project

In 2021 the Bayfield Lions Club embarked on a mission to commemorate their 75th Anniversary by identifying a spectrum of projects aimed at enhancing the community's infrastructure and safety.

Among these initiatives was the ambitious "Sidewalk to Somewhere" project, aimed at providing a safe accessible pedestrian pathway along Highway 21 to the Foodland Plaza.

With an allocation of \$10,000 for the sidewalk, the Bayfield Lions Club's dedication and collaborative spirit has brought this vision to fruition.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of all involved, the sidewalk construction has been completed two months earlier than anticipated, eliciting joy and relief throughout the community.

Initially planning for a stone dust pathway along private property, the Lions Club encountered challenges that prompted them to explore an alternative route.

Upon engaging with the Ministry of Transportation and the Municipality of Bluewater, a new vision for the project began to take shape. Collaborating closely with Municipal staff, fresh plans were developed for the "Sidewalk to Somewhere," culminating in its inclusion as a 2022 Capital Works project.

Realizing the need for additional resources to fully realize their vision, the Lions Club sought support from various partners. Skyline Retail Real Estate, the Property owners of Foodland, generously contributed \$5,000, and a pro-bono donation was provided by BMRoss Engineers.

Bluewater applied for and was awarded a Federal Grant further reducing the capital funds needed by the Municipality to complete the \$63,000 project.

"The success of the 'Sidewalk to Somewhere' project stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and community spirit," remarked Ian Matthew, President of the Bayfield Lions Club.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners whose unwavering dedication made this endeavor possible. This sidewalk not only enhances pedestrian safety but also fosters connectivity within our community."

When the ribbon is cut and the "Sidewalk to Somewhere" officially opens, the Bayfield Lions Club and the Municipality of Bluewater invite the community to join them in celebrating this monumental achievement. Together, we stride towards a safer, more vibrant future for Bayfield and its residents.



St. Patrick's Day fun at Brucefield Community United Church

LUCK OF THE IRISH

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Top: Gladys Van Egmond regales the crowd with Mc-Namara's Band.

Bottom: All in the family. Willi Laurie with granddaughter Ava, led the congregation in Molly Malone.

THE LIVERY PRESENTS

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Location: Goderich Legion

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Goderich Junior Flyers Report

RICHARD MADGE

Sun Contributor

The Hanover Barons made short work of the Goderich Junior Flyers in the first round of the Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) playoffs, taking the best-of-seven series in four straight games.

Two of the other first-round series were also four-game sweeps, with the Mount Forest Patriots ousting the Mitchell Hawks and the Fergus Whalers beating the Walkerton Capitals in the minimum number of games.

The other match-up went to a seventh game and saw the Kincardine Bulldogs emerge victorious over the Wingham Ironmen.

In the series against the Barons, who opened the series with a 9-2 win over the Flyers, the Barons scored six unanswered third period goals after the Flyers had stuck with

them, trailing only 3-1 after the second period.

The Barons got two-goal efforts from Curtis Arnold and Ryan Colquhoun while Jackson Andrews scored the two Flyer goals, both assisted by Carson Stutzman.

Nathan Arnold and Cooper Gaul also had assists on the Goderich goals.

Patrick Brown had a three-goal hat-trick for the Barons in their 6-0 shutout over the Flyers in game two.

Lander Hartley registered the shutout in the Hanover net.

In the third game, witnessed by a crowd of 250 fans at the Maitland Recreation Centre (MRC), the Barons scored five of their six goals on power plays.

The lone Flyer goal in the 6-1 loss came off the stick of Jackson Andrews, assisted by Carson Stutzman and Kyle Smeltzer.



(MARA CUTTING PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

END OF A SEASON

The Goderich Flyers 2024 season has ended. Pictured is Cohen Lesouder.

The final game of the series was another shutout win for the Barons, 5-0, with Derek Hartley getting the shutout.

Patrick Brown and Ryan Goetz had two-goal games for the Barons and Curtis Arnold got the other Hanover goal.

The series marks the end of the Flyer's 2023-24 season.

In the hockey world, the end of one season

is the beginning of the next.

The Flyer's president Lance Greer issued this statement regarding the team and its future.

"Although our record did not reflect the work and dedication that the players, coaches and staff put into the season, we were very happy with the growth of the team," said Greer.

CONTINUE TO PAGE 16

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FIT BODY BOOT CAMP

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PROVINCIAL JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE NORTH POLLOCK DIVISION

(Playoff standings through March 22, 2024)

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	DIFF	PTS
Hanover Barons	5	5	0	0	30	6	24	10
Mount Forest Patriots	5	5	0	0	21	8	13	10
Fergus Whalers	5	4	1	0	22	12	10	8
Kincardine Bulldogs	8	4	4	0	28	19	9	8
Wingham Ironmen	7	3	4	0	16	26	-10	6
Walkerton Capitals	4	0	4	0	8	19	-11	0
Mitchell Hawks	4	0	4	0	6	18	-12	0
Goderich Jr. Flyers	4	0	4	0	3	26	-23	0

Goderich Skating Club wraps up the season with awards night

NATALIE STEENSTRA

Sun Contributor

The Goderich Skating Club had the honour of welcoming Liz Manley, an Olympic silver medallist, join the club for on-ice training with the StarSkaters.

The energy in the room for Manley's speech was electric, after her words of wisdom.

Manley's message about pursuing your passions and the power of words deeply resonated with the skaters and their parents.

The guest of honour also bravely shared her struggles with mental health, emphasizing importance of perseverance and the

support of loved ones.

The on-ice training was a fantastic experience for everyone, and the showcase was a resounding success, with friends and family cheering on the skaters from the stands.

Following that riveting night, the club continued the festivities the following evening with their Awards Night. This year a new award – the Ron MacEachern Memorial Volunteer Award – was presented.

The award is in honour of a dearly missed volunteer, Ron. His memory will continue to inspire members of the skating club for years to come.

Goderich Skating Club thanks all of its sponsors whose generosity made this

event possible. While the list is too long to mention, the club will be giving them each the recognition they deserve on social media.

Another heartfelt thank you goes to the countless volunteers who help the club, including Jenna Ujiye who acted as the Awards Night MC, and Christian Bond, who took photographs.

Goderich Skating Club's Awards 2024:

- Canskate 1 Boy: Xavier Crane-Moller
- Canskate 1 Girl: Nova Jenkins
- Canskate 2: Rylynn Shrier
- Canskate 3: Scottie Desrochers
- Canskate 4: Clara Dalton
- Canskate 5: Simon Schuttel

- Canskate 6: Isabella Gibbons
- Spirit of Skating: Varvara Dub
- Spirit of Skating: Charlotte Feere
- Canskater of the Year: Sydney Simon
- PA of the Year: Archer Lobb
- Power Skater of the Year: Aliya Haggitt
- Junior StarSkater of the Year: Mia Woodman

Intermediate StarSkater of the Year: Sarah Evans

Senior StarSkater of the Year: Brian Spacek

The Ron MacEachern Memorial Award for Volunteer of the Year: Amanda Woodman, Jeff Woodman, and Erica Baer



Xavier Crane-Moller



Nova Jenkins



Rylynn Shrier



Scottie Desrochers



Clara Dalton



Simon Schuttel

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Goderich and District Shuffleboard Club Results: Week of March 5

On March 5 the club had 42 shuffleboard participants play at the club games held at Memorial Arena.

The club's lucky Domino's Pizza winner this week was Barb Howard, and the three-game winners were Normal Jewell (that's three weeks in a row), Frank

Namink (that's two in a row), Brian Pollock, Barb Howard, and Marie Millian.

The club congratulates all the week's winners.

The club holds games every Tuesday throughout the year at 1:15 p.m.

Goderich Skating Club wraps up the season with awards night



Isabella Gibbons



Isabella Gibbons



Charlotte Feere



Sydney Simon



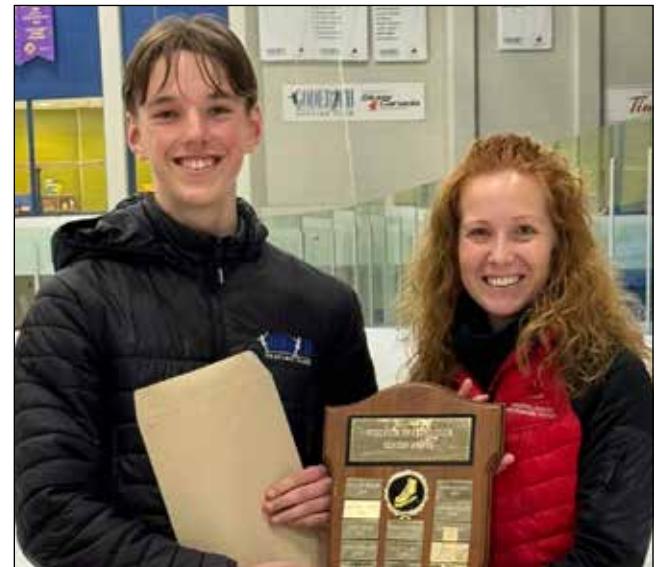
Aliya Haggitt



Mia Woodman



Sarah Evans



Brian Spacek



Amanda Woodman, Jeff Woodman, Erica Baer, with presenters Carol and Theresa MacEachern



Coaches with long-time skaters Emma Blumhagen and Audrey Cooke, who will be off to university this fall.

Goderich Jr. Flyers Report Cox and Kleuskens compete at OFSAA swimming

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

GODERICH JUNIOR FLYERS 2024 Player Playoff Statistics (through March 22, 2024)

PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Jackson Andrews	F	4	3	0	3
Carson Stutzman	F	4	0	3	3
Nathan Arnold	D	4	0	1	1
Cooper Gaul	D	4	0	1	1
Kyle Smeltzer	F	4	0	1	1
Tyson Rintoul	F	1	0	0	0
Austin Aldrich	F	3	0	0	0
Brady Fraser	D	3	0	0	0
Jeremy Hamilton	D	3	0	0	0
Jared Houghton	F	3	0	0	0
Ryan McGee	F	3	0	0	0
Rowan Alexander	D	4	0	0	0
James Bender	F	4	0	0	0
Trent Carter	F	4	0	0	0
Carson Fletcher	F	4	0	0	0
Mitchell Hodges	D	4	0	0	0
Cohen Lesouder	F	4	0	0	0
Jayce MacArthur	F	4	0	0	0
Mitch Perry	F	4	0	0	0
Leland Weber	F	4	0	0	0
PLAYER	RECORD	GAA	SV%		
Logan Bromley	0-2-0-0	6.50	.862		
Christian DeJong	0-2-0-0	6.50	.838		

"The season was a bit trying for several reasons, but we came together as a group and actually exceeded expectations as an organization."

With the generous help and financial backing of the amazing sponsors the team has been able to transform and mold the program into something they can all be proud of.

"Over the next few weeks, we will be evaluating where we go from here and what pieces we will need to fit in for next season," added Greer.

"With any organization that is in a rebuild there will be growing pains, but the Flyer's executive and I have the utmost confidence in general manager Todd Norman's vision for the future."

Norman and the team's assistant GMs (Russ Sutton and Mara Cutting) have done an excellent job in building the foundation and changing the culture of the team.

"The Goderich Flyers would not have been able to compete this season without coaches Shawn Dickey and Jay DeCaluwe behind the bench, our many volunteers, our executive, and, of course, the fans who came out to our games and supported us throughout the season," added Greer.

"Thanks to all involved. We look forward to seeing you next season."

Cox and Kleuskens compete at OFSAA swimming



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

OFSAA SWIM MEET

Cox and Kleuskens at the OFSAA swim meet on March 5 in Toronto.

After qualifying at the WOSSAA meet in February, GDCI student athletes Caity Cox and Siobhan Kleuskens traveled to Toronto on March 5 for the OFSAA swim meet.

Cox swam the 100-metre backstroke and the 50-metre butterfly. She showed incredible grit and determination in both events.

Kleuskens swam the 100-metre free-

style and the 50-metre freestyle. She swam her personal best in the 50-metre freestyle, which secured her a place in the A final later that day.

In the final, Kleuskens matched her best time from the morning, and placed sixth in Ontario.

The two student athletes had previously competed at WOSSAA in London on February 14.

Three Goderich-based ringette players to compete at Nationals

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

After getting their start within the Goderich Ringette Association, three young players have made the jump to play for a U16AA squad based out of London.

As a result of a successful season, they are heading to Nationals in New Brunswick.

Avalyn Meriam (15), Daniele Cripps (15), and Rynne Cripps (15) all started playing ringette under the age of nine and fell in love with the sport.

By the age of 12 all three athletes knew they wanted to take ringette more seriously.

Taking that step, the three Goderich-based ringette players moved on to their current team based out of London with Nationals on the horizon.

Avalyn who was born and raised in Goderich, is the oldest daughter of Dave and Becky Meriam, and started playing ringette when she was eight years old.

In what was supposed to be a one-year experience to feel comfortable on the ice, grew to a passion and by U12 Avalyn knew she wanted to take ringette seriously.

Avalyn began watching ringette online, do research on YouTube on how to wrist shot, and go out back and practice taking shots for hours.

According to her mother, Avalyn was driven to improve and was always up for a challenge.

"Every chance she can get she is on the ice, helping with younger teams in God-

erich, or skating to improve her speed," added Becky Meriam.

Last year in April, Avalyn asked to try out for the London Lynx U16AA team, which was quite a jump from the local regional ringette she had always played.

According to Becky, her daughter's hard work, dedication and drive to learn and get better paid off and Avalyn was asked to be a member of the 2023/2024 U16AA London Lynx squad.

And now, she is heading to Nationals.

"Some hopes I have for Nationals is to just play some teams out of province and challenge myself," said Avalyn.

"Hopefully I'll score a goal or two."

For Daniele and Rynne Cripps, who were both born in London but raised in Goderich, they began their journey with ringette at the age of seven.

The twin sisters born to Lisa and Paul Bruinsma and Robert Cripps, moved to Goderich at the age of six, and has lived there since.

Daniele had always wanted to play a higher level of ringette and during the 2022/2023 season she tried out for the U14A Mitchell Stingers and made the team.

That year Daniele had an incredible season and won gold at provincials that year.

"I think you have to be really dedicated to play AA, especially playing for a team over an hour away, and pushing yourself at practice really helped in provincials, which makes me confident for nationals," explained Daniele.

Following that successful season, Dan-



SILVER WINNINGS

The three Goderich girls after winning silver at Provincials and clinching a spot at National in New Brunswick. (L-R): Rynne Cripps, Avalyn Meriam, Daniele Cripps.

iele had gained a lot of confidence and tried out, and made, the London Lynx U16AA team.

The younger of the twins, Rynne is also a fierce competitor like her sister and is always striving to improve.

Rynne is a teammate full of spirit and a great motivator, but playing for so long helped her develop her love and passion for the sport so she too took that step further last year and played for provincial gold medal U14A team out of Mitchell.

"It does require a lot of dedication and fitness to play at this level," added Rynne.

"We have dryland, workouts, Zoom meetings and more. It's nice to see all the hard work pay off."

This year Rynne made the U16AA

team out of London and now the three Goderich athletes are heading to nationals with their Lynx teammates.

Daniele hopes to win at Nationals but believes it could also be an opportunity to have extra time on the ice with her team. Rynne shares the sentiment of enjoying the last games of the season they have together as a team.

"We are getting the chance to do something not a lot of teams get to do, and it's such a surreal feeling," added Avalyn.

"I can't even describe how good it feels to go and do something that we only dreamed about at the start of our season. In the end, our hard work and dedication over the season paid off."

Nationals are in Dieppe, New Brunswick in April.

Goderich Ringette looks forward to celebrating 40 years

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Goderich Ringette is winding down another successful season.

With 149 players registered this season ranging from four-years-old all the way to past 40 years, Goderich Ringette is thrilled to see the love of this sport continue to spread throughout the community.

“We often refer to this group as our Ringette Family, as we are a tight knit group who are bonded by our love for the sport and how close it brings our kids together,” admitted Megan Frayne, Executive Member of Goderich Ringette Association.

“The goal is to get our kids active, learn new skills, make close friendships and have fun.”

Ringette was invented in Ontario by Canadian Sam Jacks and has been played since 1963. The emphasis on the game is on team play and skill development.

It is generally acknowledged that ringette is the fastest game on ice, and ringette players are known for their skating and ring handling skills.

There are 50,000 participants in Canada in all 10 provinces as well as the Northwest Territories. Ringette is also played in the USA, Finland, France, Sweden, Japan, and Russia.

Within Goderich Ringette the youngest age group offered is referred to as Fun 1. In Goderich, Fun 1 and Fun 2 are grouped together, consisting of children aged seven and under.

Goderich Ringette has 16 players in this group, ranging from first time skaters to returning players.

“We try to meet these kids at their level and work to help them grow,” explained Frayne.

“As they move on to Fun 3, the younger players that stay get the chance to take on that leadership role and really flourish.”

The Fun ½ group travelled to play teams in Forest, Mitchell, and Hensall. They also participated in the Waterloo Winterfest Tournament, and just recently attended the Exeter/Seaforth Associations March Break Fun Day.

“This team is looking forward to finishing off their season playing Guelph and Forest in our year end Regional tournament,” added Frayne.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

BEST OF LUCK

The U19 team is heading to regionals.

ment,” added Frayne.

The Fun 3 team has 17 players making it one of the association’s largest teams, led by four fantastic women leading them this season as their coaches and trainers.

“Such a large group can come with its challenges, but these kids are eager to learn and work hard every practice,” Frayne said.

“They are progressing every week and are finishing the season right near the middle of their group.”

The Fun 3 team is ready to take on Tillsonburg, Guelph, and Elora Fergus for gold.

The U12C team is travelling to Markham on Easter weekend for the U12 championships.

This team has had a great season full of growth and teamwork, although starting the season with five brand new players, two younger players that were moved up, two players joining us from another association and four returning players.

“We were excited for the opportunity to play in the C division so we could play other teams at our level,” Frayne explained.

“The kids are determined to take their game play to the next level and have worked hard to learn new skills. They

have grown close through on and off the ice activities and are looking forward to our year end tournament.”

Goderich Ringette also has a U12A team that will be attending the U12 championships. Last season the association had two U12B teams that finished first and second in their division.

The only games they lost all season, were to each other.

“They have had many close games this season, which is exactly the kind of competition we were hoping for,” admitted Frayne.

“They are a team of only 11 players, which requires committed, dedicated families. We are fortunate to see this kind of passion in our association.”

The two U14 teams have both had very successful seasons, currently sitting at second and third places in the standings.

They will not be playing each other at the year end tournament, so both teams could bring home the gold.

The U14 Mabon team travelled to Montreal in December to participate in a tournament, which was a very cool experience.

Both teams participated in the Waterloo Winterfest tournament and the Niagara Falls tournament.

The U16 team has also had some great

competition this season. They are finishing not too far from the top.

Their regionals placement has them dreaming of gold.

“They are definitely a contender for it,” admitted Frayne.

“These girls have had a great season, on and off the ice. They are a small, tight knit group and their friendship has impacted their team play positively. They communicate, strategize, and work well together. We can’t wait to see how they wrap up their season.”

The association had 17 players on the U19 team. It is a large team, but they have had a very strong season with lots of close games.

They are also finishing with their team near the top.

“Most of this team has been playing together since they were Fun ½ age,” Frayne explained.

“A few will age out this year, which makes this an extra big year for them and their families.”

This team travelled to Ottawa where they proved to bring solid competition.

The association wishes the U19 squad best of luck at regionals.

In addition, Goderich also has two 18+ teams, which each participated in two tournaments this season, and were big winners at Niagara Falls and Kitchener.

“We are also very excited that three previous Goderich players have qualified to play at nationals in New Brunswick with their U16 AA London Lynx team,” added Frayne.

“Wishing Avalyn Meriam, and Danielle and Ryanne Cripps the best of luck.”

Goderich Ringette Association will be participating in the Western Region Regionals in London on March 22-24, and the U12 Championship in Markham on March 28-31.

The association will also play host to the community with their Come Try Ringette event on Saturday, April 13 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Goderich YMCA.

Each member of Goderich Ringette will be celebrated for their season at the annual year end banquet on April 23, while the association looks forward to the 2024/25 season, as it will be its 40th anniversary of ringette in Goderich.



LOCAL MATTERS.



Remember that time when **Amazon** sponsored your church fundraiser?



Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child’s soccer team when they won the championship?

Young Canada Week Results

U13 LL:

In a pool of eight teams played over the course of March 8-10, the U13 LL Champions were TCDMHA Rebels, with a 6-3 victory over finalists North Middlesex (Parkhill) Jr. Stars Team 1.

U13 LL consolation champions (third place) went to Wingham Yellow Ironmen with a 2-1 victory over Belmont Rangers.

U13 Rep:

In a pool of eight teams played over the course of March 8-10, the U13 Rep Champions were Wingham Ironmen with a 3-0 victory over finalists Huron Bruce Blizzard.

The U13 Rep consolation champions (third place) went to Twin Centre Stars with a 3-1 victory over Goderich Sailors.

U15 LL:

In a pool of eight teams, played over the course of March 11-13, the U15 LL champions were the Kincardine Royal LePage LL 2 with a 1-0 win over the Huron Bruce Blizzard.

The U15 LL consolation champions (third place) went to Goderich Sailors, with a 4-0 win over Central Perth Predators.

U15 Rep:

In a pool of six teams, the U15 Rep champions were Minto Mad Dogs, with a 3-0 win over Saugeen Valley Steelheads.

The U15 Rep consolation champions (third place) went to Blyth/Brussels Crusaders with a 1-0 victory over Tavistock Titans.

U18 LL:

In a pool of six teams, played over the course of March 11-13, the U18 LL Champions were the Mid Huron Huskies with a close 2-1 victory over the Mitchell Meteors.

The U18 LL consolation champions (third place) went to the Huron Bruce Blizzard (White) with a 3-2 win over the Wingham Ironmen.

U18 Rep:

In a pool of eight teams, the U18 Rep Champions were the Goderich Sailors with a crushing 4-0 victory over the Chatsworth Rebels.

The U18 Rep consolation champions (third place) went to the Mitchell Meteors D, beating South Muskoka Bears 5-1.



U15 LL TEAM

The U15 LL team, coached by Jamie Stanley, earned third place at the 73rd Young Canada Week.



THE U18 GODERICH SAILORS REP

The U18 Goderich Sailors Rep coached by Brandon Corriveau, Matt Denomme, Jeremy Powell, and Craig Vanstone, earned the championship title during the March Break tournament.

(GODERICH MINOR HOCKEY PHOTOS)

Auditions for the 2024 FTFE festival coming soon

The First Time for Everything (FTFE) Theatre Festival is back and this year it's absurd. Here's your chance at being a part of the 2024 Festival.

The FTFE organizers are preparing auditions for all on April 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. at the Legion, 56 Kingston St. in Goderich and they want to see you there.

The 2024 FTFE Festival will feature two one-act plays, as well as bring an improv troupe to the stage.

This year, it's absurd... We sat down with the FTFE Festival organizers, as they prepare for the upcoming festival.

"The auditions aren't just for actors," stated Leigh Ann Van Aaken, who tried her hand at directing for the first time at the 2023 Festival.

"We need all talent. If you want to try stage management, direction, set building or design, sound, prop making, try your hand at improv – whatever. We want to find a role for you."

This year's FTFE Festival will hit The Livery stage July 24-27.

The FTFE Theatre Festival is an opportunity for folks interested in giving theatre a try - onstage or off. All levels of experience are welcome.

If you have experience in the theatre that you'd like to share, then please come out to the Legion, maybe you could be a mentor.

Included in the audition package for this year is an extensive list of roles FTFE organizers are looking to fill, including the addition of the improv troupe.

"This year we are looking to involve lots of folks again. We are adding an improvisation troupe to this year's festival, which will be new for performers, for audiences, for The Livery, and for us," stated Lisa Hood.

"And we are staging two hilarious one-acts for the festival. It's going to be an excellent festival this year."

Another member of the creative team,

Victoria Makcrow explained that last year's festival was a huge success.

"We were amazed by the overwhelming response," added Makcrow.

"We welcomed a whole bunch of newcomers to the stage, and we were so pleased to see some of those people involved with other productions this season at the Livery."

The FTFE Theatre Festival is a four-day theatre festival produced and hosted by the Livery Theatre where folks looking to get involved with a production can try out a role within a production on a smaller scale.

"That's what this is all about," Leticia Kolkman chimed in.

"We see FTFE as an opportunity for us to try out new roles in the Theatre and we want other people to come and try it out with us."

According to Brian Makcrow, the FTFE is like a bite-sized theatre. The shows are

shorter in length than a typical production, and it lets people take a baby step into theatre.

"Yes, it gives you a chance to see if you even like this whole theatre-thing," Jesse Gill added.

"I didn't know if I'd like to direct, but it wasn't so bad - and I don't think we did too bad of a job. Right?"

As the name-sake states, the First Time for Everything Festival will be trying out something new for 2024. But you will have to wait for more on that topic later when organizers will fill you in on the great things to come.

In the meantime, watch for the audition notice to be posted and sent out at @FTFEFestival on Facebook and Instagram, or by heading to www.thelivery.ca.

If you'd like an audition package sent out to you, please send your interest to ftfeatfestival@gmail.com.

Local artist is first GDCI student to have art on display

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Goderich Co-op Gallery has recently provided GDCI students with a space to show their work.

McRae is the first student artist to be featured at the Goderich Co-op Gallery's 'Next Generation' space.

McRae is a Grade 12 student at GDCI with plans to attend Sheridan College with a wish to continue studies in Fine Arts after graduation.

According to Lisa Staton, Goderich Co-op Gallery, the new area in the gallery aims to highlight young artists in the

community.

"We hope to encourage and support rising creative talent," explained Staton.

"The plan is to top the gallery to young artists whose art will be a view into how they see our world."

McRae's painting 'Streetlight Reflections' shows a bold night view of the Square in Goderich. Both the size of the work, as well as the deep contrast between the black areas in the painting, and the red, yellow, and blue reflections express her dramatic vision.

Not only do we feel drawn to the excitement of night life, but we wonder what is

hidden in the black areas we cannot see.

"Their view of the Square is both sparkling with life and mysteriously foreboding," added Staton.

"This duality creates a wonderful tension in the work. Please take a moment to drop in to the gallery to see the painting, as well as the other over 30 artists' work

now on display."

Her painting, titled 'Streetlight Reflections' is now on display during gallery hours, Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Goderich Co-op Gallery is on the lower level at 54 Courthouse Square. Visit www.gcgallery.ca



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

ON DISPLAY

Elly McRae with 'Streetlight Reflections', now on display at the Goderich Co-op Gallery.

Goderich Sun

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Goderich Visitors' Guide 2024

DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2024

The Goderich Sun is pleased to announce that we will be putting together the 2024 Goderich Visitors' Guide.

Secure your spot in our 2024 Goderich Visitors' Guide and take advantage of this can't miss opportunity. Ensure your business is at the forefront of the travel resurgence, attracting new customers and thriving in the post-pandemic era.

The Visitors' Guide will be available throughout the community, surrounding area, and high-profile tourism locations farther afield to assist travelers as they plan their trip to the 'Prettiest Town in Canada'.

For Ad or Editorial inquiries please contact:

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Fear releases newest mystery novel 'Lost Like Me'

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Ivanka Fear is a Slovenian-born, Canadian author who has been writing novels ever since retiring from teaching.

With her latest mystery novel 'Lost Like Me', Fear takes her readers to Northern Ontario in the second installment of the Blue Water Mystery series.

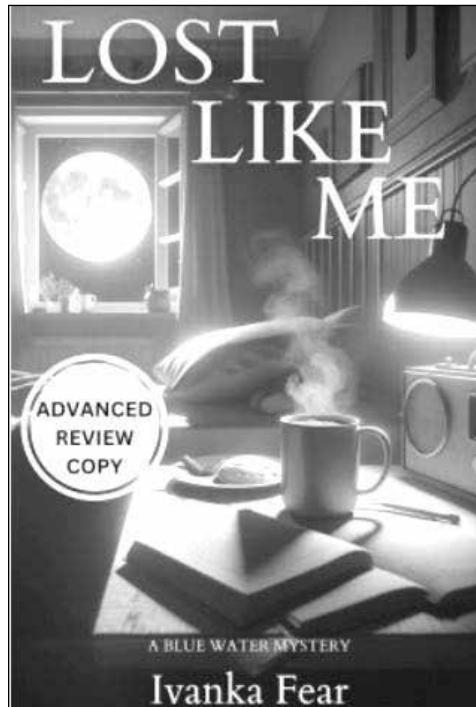
In 'Lost Like Me', newspaper reporter Cheryl (Lana) MacGregor, moves from Hamilton to Lake Kipling, a fictional town inspired by Kirkland Lake.

MacGregor moves to escape a traumatic incident and investigate the mysterious disappearance of her husband's receptionist. When she discovers a connection to her own past, MacGregor fears for the safety of her own family.

Within the first book of the series, 'The Dead Lie', Cheryl (aka Lana) searches for answers about her parents' suspicious deaths.

In the process, she brings attention to herself, and a threat from the past surfaces, putting her life at risk.

The second book, 'Lost Like Me', follows up on that storyline when a connection between a missing persons case and Cheryl's past comes to light.



The premise for the book came from unsolved real-life missing persons cases Fear read in the news.

"I always wondered what the story was behind these actual disappearances, and in my book Cheryl and Detective Evans consider several possible scenarios as to

why Julie may have vanished," explained Fear.

'Lost Like Me' follows book one in the Blue Water Mysteries series, 'The Dead Lie', which MacGregor travels to her parents' hometown in Croatia to seek answers for their sudden deaths. Although 'Lost Like Me' can be read as a stand-alone novel, Fear recommends reading the series in order, to get the full scoop.

"The mystery genre is popular with readers because it provides the thrill of a good read and lots of suspense throughout," Fear explained.

"It offers an escape from reality while examining the reasons for real-life criminal activity and wrongful death through fictional stories."

Mystery novels allow readers into the minds of criminals and to explore the complexity of human emotions. Unlike the news or non-fiction, it provides entertainment because the readers know it is fiction and therefore no danger to anyone.

"Readers can try to solve the crime by piecing together clues throughout the book, like a challenging puzzle," added Fear.

"Usually, the guilty party is caught, and justice is served, bringing a satisfying conclusion, which often does not happen

in real-life criminal cases."

As a retired Wellington County teacher, the author chose Northern Ontario as the setting for this mystery novel because of the vastness and remoteness of the area.

Fear spent her early childhood in Kirkland Lake, where her father worked in a gold mine. The forests and lakes, as well as the gold mine, form an interesting backdrop for a missing persons case.

Protagonist Lana/Cheryl is driven by a need to protect her family and do whatever it takes. A tragic mistake in her past prevents her from being truly happy, but moving forward, Lana/Cheryl wants to be a good person and take care of her family. A redeeming process.

"I hope readers will enjoy the series for entertainment value, but also that they will connect to the themes of love and seeking redemption for past wrongs," added Fear.

Fear is also the author of 'Where is my Husband?', a Jake and Mallory Thriller, published by Level Best Books. The next book in that series will be released in October 2024.

Fear's novels are available in paperback and Kindle formats and can be purchased on Amazon, and through other online retailers such as Indigo. Inquire at your local bookstore as well.

Huron County Museum launches mural by Anishinaabe artist

The Huron County Museum invites the public to join in celebrating the launch of a new mural in the Museum created by Anishinaabe artist Jeannette Ladd.

The mural was revealed on March 9, and those who attended were given the opportunity to meet the artist and to learn more about the mural which features prominently in the Museum's lobby.

Ladd is an Anishinaabe-kwe from Saugeen First Nation in the Saugeen Ojibway Territory. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture. Throughout her life she was always drawn to expressing her thoughts and experiences through art.

"I love creating pieces of art, it gives me an outlet to express myself and I love learning and working on pieces to honour my culture," said Ladd.

"Through the mural, I wanted to show

that our love and respect for Mother Earth, Turtle Island, is necessary to ensure that we have a world for future generations."

Ladd explained that the piece shows that we are all connected to the sun, moon, stars, nature, and water, which need to work in harmony to provide a good life for everyone and everything.

The mural was commissioned by the Museum, which specifically sought out an Indigenous artist for the project to build on the Museum's goal of providing space to share local Indigenous culture.

"Indigenous people have called this land home for millennia and the Huron County Museum is focused on growing our understanding of local Indigenous cultures and histories by providing space to share their stories," said Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol Senior Curator Elizabeth French-Gibson.



ANISHINAABE ARTIST

At the revealing of the new mural at the museum in early March. (L-R): Glen McNeil, County of Huron Warden, Elizabeth French-Gibson, Senior Curator, Jeannette Ladd, artist, Karen Stewart, Cultural Development Officer, and Beth Rumble, Director of Cultural Services.

The mural's imagery shows that everything is connected to provide a good life for all. An Indigenous woman (protector) is wearing a traditional ribbon shirt and is connected to the sun (giizis), which gives life.

Women represent the wisdom and strength required to help get back to a balanced Mother Earth.

Lake Huron once provided bountiful white fish that sustained life. Water is life, and respect is needed to ensure clean waters for all living things.

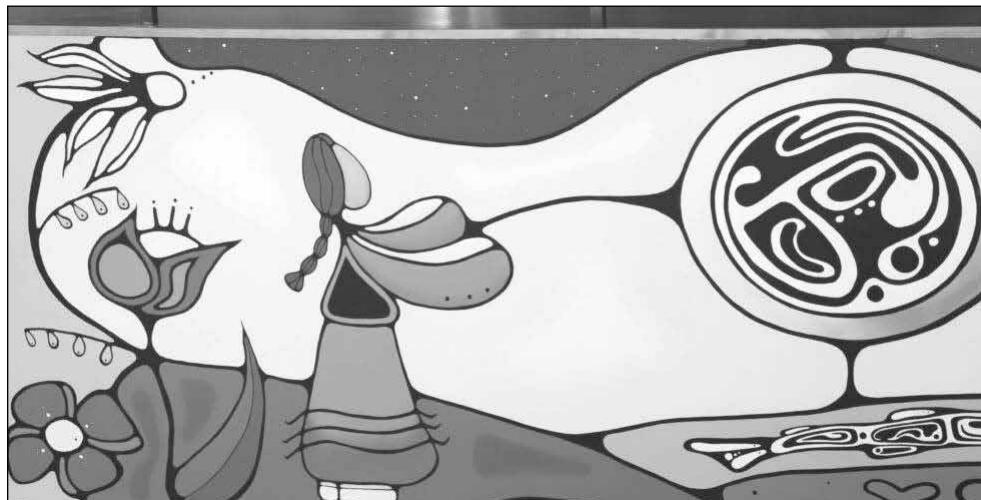
The sun is connected to the stars, to the moon (dibiki-giizis) and to the water (nibi). The hearts represent that to have

love, there must be a balance and harmony to offer love to others.

Love is one of the grandfather teachings. The flowers represent nature and all the medicines received from a healthy environment.

To celebrate the mural, prints of Ladd's art will be available for purchase in the Museum gift shop, along with the children's book and colouring book Memengwaa: The Monarch Butterfly, which were illustrated by Ladd and written by her mother Dorothy Ladd.

The Huron County Museum is located at 110 North St., in Goderich. To learn more, visit: <https://huroncountymuseum.ca/>



The mural depicts the woman (protector) represents the wisdom and strength required to help get back to a balanced Mother Earth.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

That fatal night: The legacy of Goderich's Keith Hopkinson

MARILYN BRUINSMA

Sun Contributor

Late Thursday, March 26, 1964, an outstanding pioneer of aviation, Keith 'Hoppy' Hopkinson lost his life while on final to Sky Harbour Airport.

That day he had left the United States, a feat much easier then than now, cleared customs in London, and was flying home.

In a heavy snowstorm, his son John was guiding his dad into the airport by radio when contact was lost shortly after 8 p.m.

The twin Beech crashed in a farm field east of runway 10-28. Hoppy had radioed earlier that he could see the lights of Goderich.

Robert 'Gus' Chisholm planned a grand funeral for his best friend at Hopkinson's own Sky Harbour hangar.

It was the largest funeral Goderich has ever seen.

Many friends flew into Sky Harbour on March 30, when over 1,000 people attended and almost 100 aircraft were parked at the airport that day.

In his eulogy, Gus told the audience that because he was such a versatile individual, Hopkinson meant much to many, whether in the aviation world or just in plain everyday happenings.

As a businessman, Hopkinson believed, "if you gave a man his money's worth he will always come back." This was proven by the popularity of his airport and the extensive use of his facilities by all his Canadian and American friends.

Hoppy was considered the father of the Canadian homebuilt movement. He was never too busy to halt his project and talk to any individual wanting advice.

Hoppy was a dreamer but because of his patience, foresight, and maturity, he could make his dreams happen. His dreams were goals and once he began a project Hoppy worked with enthusiastic dedication until it was completed.

Sundays he often drove around his airport dreaming of ideas to improve his facilities like a swimming pool for children and picnic tables for families. He wanted to acquire warbirds for display in his hangar to remind visitors of the brave young men who sacrificed their lives flying for their country's service but also the terrible cost of war.

Any excuse to sit and hangar talk with visitors in the pilot's lounge was good enough for him. Hospitality was his asset, and he could make a stranger immediately feel at ease.

Sunday mornings were special as Hoppy's friends would gather in his office.

My sister-in-law's dad, Clyde Everett, was a frequent visitor to Sky Harbour. She said her dad and brothers were allowed in the office for coffee or tea, but much younger Sally was not, so she pestered Polly the Parrot, the hangar queen.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

While all this was happening, Hopkinson operated the Sky Harbour Air Service from his airport hangar. His air business activities ranged from delivering goods and ferrying surplus aircraft, flight school operations, chartering passenger services, and an air ambulance.

One story is told where Hoppy dropped life-saving insulin to a Goderich tug stranded out in Lake Huron's ice. There were other somewhat 'necessities' that were dropped to these men.

He was the chief flight school instructor at Sky Harbour.

Summer students who worked for his businesses were given free flying lessons on weekends. What a fantastic opportunity to take to the skies while employed at the airport. Many students did this and went onto careers in aviation.

He never treated his employees as hired help, but personal friends and they treated him the same. Late in the evening he could be found eating a hot dog with an employee who lived in the hangar's bachelor apartment. Sometimes he would be out back talking to an apprentice to plan his future career path.

But it would be a monthly issue of *Mechanix Illustrated* that would propel Hoppy into Canada's history of aviation.

The magazine featured plans for a do-it-yourself homebuilt aircraft based on the popular Stits Playboy design. Working with Paul Poberezny of EAA, Hopkinson convinced the Canadian government to allow him to build a plane from plans.

From 1953-55 the workshop behind the family home on Nelson Street was the centre of activity as parts for this homebuilt were made and assembled.

Alongside Hoppy and Gus were several other local builders who spent many hours there.

Hoppy's wife, Isabelle, remembers Dr. Wallace's wife, Dorothy, stitching the wing covers.

Over 1,200 hours later, the finished aircraft rolled out to Sky Harbour ready for its first flight. Receiving DOT flight permit 001, he flew the maiden flight on Oct 1, 1955.

Hopkinson's small airplane was nicknamed L'll Hokey after oldest daughter, Anne.

It was the first registered homebuilt in Canada's history. A wingspan under 23-feet, weighing 850 lbs., it flew at 125 mph with a range of 500 miles.

It was an affordable dream for the average family. Burning just five gallons of fuel hourly, it was as cost efficient as a car. It may not have been the sleekest, fastest, or biggest aircraft but it did represent the aspirations of those who dreamed of a day when the freedom of the open skies would be known to all.

As the Playboy underwent its maiden flight, Chisholm was assembling a Baby Ace, another *Mechanix Illustrated* design, in his South Street home which he fondly called 'Bits and Pieces', as it was constructed from parts of assorted aircraft.

Hopkinson was at the controls when 'Bits and Pieces' made its test flight before a large crowd at Sky Harbour Air-

port.

These two best friends travelled to air shows all over North America in their prized projects. Hoppy received many accolades and awards. Some airports would pay for lunch and fuel if they allowed people to view these homebuilt wonders.

Air travel had interested the public and homebuilt bolstered that dream. Inexpensive air travel had landed, and private aircraft owners had taken wing.

Today, homebuilding is a vibrant part of aviation that owes its work and popularity to Keith Hopkinson, a true trailblazer whose organizational skills, enthusiasm, leadership and hands-on approach represents an unparalleled legacy to Canadian aviation.

Always willing to spread his expertise and time, Hopkinson served on several boards. With EAA's President, Paul Poberezny, he worked with others to expand the aviation and homebuilders' world.

In 1952, the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) was formed, and he became a founding director.

He received COPA's silver tray award given 'to a person who contributed the most in the achievement of private flying in Canada.'

Hoppy, along with Gus, founded the Ultralight Aircraft Association of Canada. He also was bestowed several awards by EAA and other aviation organizations.

Unfortunately for one who spent so much of his aviation career promoting safety, Hopkinson was killed while on final to his home airport in a snowstorm. L'll Hokey sits in Ottawa's Aviation and Space Museum.

Keith 'Hoppy' Hopkinson was inducted into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame on September 14, 2023, in Calgary for 'his contribution to civil, military and commercial aviation, most notably for his development of homebuilding of aircraft and for his development and leadership establishing and supporting organizations and associations.'

He was the finest Canadian ambassador for general aviation and homebuilt aircraft that ever lived. So very true.

Material from the archives of the late Robrt 'Gus' Chisholm

Marilyn Bruinsma is a member of COPA45



Goderich Sun

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Harry Leslie's daring Goderich tightrope walk

DAVID YATES

Sun Contributor

Harry Leslie's death-defying tight rope walk across the Niagara's Whirlpool Rapids on June 15, 1865 (and again on July 4) made headlines around the world.

Capitalizing on his new found fame, Leslie, 'the American Blondin,' went on tour with his high wire act. Goderich was one of the places where Leslie believed his daring feats could draw a large and enthusiastic crowd.

Harry Leslie was born in East Troy, New York in 1837. According to a brief biography in *A History of the American Stage*, he performed, at an early age, as a 'tambourinist' in a travelling theatre company.

In 1857, he organized his own minstrel show that travelled through Canada and the eastern United States and was known as 'a versatile performer.' The athletic Leslie did his first tight rope walk at New York's Bowery Theatre in 1860-61 and made it his 'specialty.'

In 1865, Leslie was the third tightrope walker to successfully cross the Niagara Gorge (The others being the great Charles Blondin in 1859 and William Leonard Hunt (aka the Great Farini) in 1860).

Funambulism (tight rope walking) requires a rare blend of concentration, balance, and an insane amount of courage. Leslie displayed all these characteristics when he performed before an awe-struck crowd of 6,000 people high over the Niagara Whirlpool. Leslie's acrobatic antics, the *Huron Signal* wrote 'surpassed any venturesome feat ever performed by Blondin.'

In July 1865, when Leslie announced that he was coming to Goderich on August 1 to give one of his 'wonderful performances,' the local papers were ecstatic.

The *Signal* told eager readers that a 'cable will be stretched over an immense chasm, and will be 150-feet high and 300-feet long.' Special excursion trains were scheduled to bring sight seers to Goderich for the day while steamers brought passengers from Kincardine, Port Elgin and as far away as Saginaw, Michigan.

On performance day, people poured into Goderich from all over southern Ontario. The 'sweltering hot day' temperatures kept local hotels and bars filled from morning until midnight.

Many travelled by horse drawn wagons from Walkerton and parts beyond to see the daredevil Leslie. Bands from Bayfield, Kincardine and Waterloo serenaded excursionists all day long. About 11 a.m.,



(COURTESY CANADIAN ROAD STORIES PHOTO)

DARING FEAT

Like Harry Leslie before him, Stephen Peer, in the photo above, successfully tightrope walked over Niagara Falls on June 22, 1887. Three days later, he fell to his death, at age 47, trying to repeat the same feat.

two 'mammoth excursion trains' arrived in town disgorging eager sight seers from Brantford, London, Guelph while crowded steamers from Saginaw ferried people into town by lake.

With a crowd of 13,000 people, more than double the number of people who watched Leslie cross the Niagara Gorge, the *Huron Signal* reported that it 'was decidedly the largest ever witnessed in the County of Huron.' The town was 'jammed with people' to witness the grand spectacle.

In the afternoon, a rope wire was pulled from the tops two poles 'across a ravine at harbour hill.' About 3 p.m. Leslie dressed in the costume of an oriental prince was driven through town and around the Square accompanied by a band.

A crowd followed him to the lake bank where he was to perform his 'fearful walk.' When he ascended the pole, Leslie spoke a few words to the densely packed masses assembled on the lake bank and then gripped his balancing pole and 'bravely' stepped onto the high wire.

The hushed crowd watched Leslie's 'powerful little frame' with his head erect traverse the wire. When he arrived at the other side three minutes later, a 'tremendous

cheer greeted his success.'

Leslie saluted the crowd with a glass of brandy, stripped off his baggy costume and stepped back onto the wire and performed perilous acrobatic stunts atop the wire. Staggering like a drunkard, laying down on the wire and walking backwards enthralled his audience. To deafening cheers, Leslie concluded his performance about a half hour after it started.

The day's celebrations ended with lake excursion on the steamboats. The heat kept beer and soda vendors busy all day. Darks' British Exchange Hotel on Square served over a thousand meals. The town considered Leslie's high wire act a great success. Despite the availability alcohol, there few incidents and everyone left town by midnight. The *Signal* pronounced the event a tremendous success.

For Leslie, there may not have been another day like it. He never re-captured the glories of the summer of 1865.

By 1870, he returned to touring as a pantomime in a theatre company production of *Humpty Dumpty*. As late as 1879, he was still performing his 'perilous' high wire act when he crossed New Jersey's Passaic River, but fame and fortune eluded him.

Leslie's personal life spiralled downward shortly after his Passaic walk. In April 1882, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* claimed that Leslie was 'in a violent state of insanity.'

From his Brooklyn apartment, Leslie threw a rope out a window. After imagining that he had secured it the opposite window, Leslie announced that he was going to tight rope walk across the street. With the rope dangling out the window, a crowd of 250 people watched Leslie step onto the window ledge before someone grabbed him. In the same incident, he was arrested for attempting to stab a policeman.

The newspaper report said that his 'mania' was caused by his wife's death and his inability to find steady work. Leslie also believed that he was 'a wealthy man' because he would buy 'blocks of property' in New York and pay for them with 'worthless checks for millions.'

Harry Leslie died alone in Brooklyn, unknown and poverty stricken in February 1883. It was a far cry from when the 'American Blondin' could attract thousands of admiring fans to Goderich in 1865.

It was, perhaps, in Goderich, where Harry Leslie found the height of his fame and adulation.

Uber Eats is now in Goderich

Residents and visitors in Goderich can now order delivery from their favourite restaurants along with everyday essentials, groceries, alcohol, pet supplies, and more on Uber Eats.

Uber Eats is now available in over 300 cities across the country, expanding rapidly as more Canadians embrace the convenience of delivery.

As part of today's expansion, Uber Eats is expanding to Goderich, Renfrew, Fort Frances, Gravenhurst, Arnprior, Hanover,

Ingersoll, Listowel, Wallaceburg, Dryden, Aylmer, Braeside, Appleton, and L'Orignal.

As cities and towns across Canada grapple with challenging macroeconomic trends, Uber Eats offers local restaurants a new way to connect with hungry customers and local delivery people to make delivery fast and easy.

The expansion into Goderich also means that Uber Eats creating flexible earning opportunities for people from all walks of

life who choose to deliver on the platform.

Get almost anything from your local favourites to popular national brands all available at the click of a button on your phone on Uber Eats.

To celebrate, we're also running a special offer of \$0 Delivery Fees in Goderich on all eligible merchants for a limited time only.

Over the last few years, Uber Eats has grown rapidly. Our gross bookings have increased six times in Canada from Q2

2019 to Q2 2023. Uber Eats is already the leading delivery platform in Canada with our business being two times the size of the largest competitor in Canada and almost three times the size of the third largest competitor.

As the delivery platform of choice for Canadian consumers and merchants, Uber Eats is proud to partner exclusively with hundreds of restaurants across the country and look forward to the exclusive launch with Domino's in the coming months.

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 proving 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. However, 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, phishing 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

Practice the Ps for Better Mental Health

TANYA MACINTYRE,
RED ROOF RECOVERY

Sun Contributor

There wasn't a lot to choose from in 2018, when I went looking for an evidence-based program to help me recover from alcohol and drug addictions.

Thankfully, I found an organization founded by doctors and grounded in Cognitive Behavioural Therapies (CBT) called SMART (Self Management and Recovery Training [\[trecovery.org\]\(https://smar-trecovery.org\)\).](https://smar-</p>
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CBT has since exploded into various lines of 'specialties.' There's CBT-E, (for eating disorders), CBT-G (for gambling addictions), CBT-PD (CBT for Personality Disorders), and the list goes on and on.

We're all different people who need different tools to get the results we want. There are hundreds of tools to choose from, but the key is to find the ones that work for you and then use the tools consistently and persistently.

There can be three simple solutions to every problem. First, we can accept it, then we can change it or, we can leave it. If we can't accept it, we can potentially change it. If we can't change it, we can choose to leave it. It may sound simple, but it's not easy.

Here are five steps that can help:

1. Unconditional Acceptance was a game-changer for me. It's the hammer in my toolbox. You can access the SMART playlist

here: <http://bit.ly/3TTOYix>

2. Forgiveness: When I managed to cross the bridge to accept an apology never received and forgive someone who wasn't sorry, I was suddenly free. Forgive someone who isn't sorry, and accept an apology never received. It can be life transformational.

3. Self-Care: This was a concept that took some time for me. I was brought up to believe that putting my needs above other's wants was a selfish act. I now believe that it's imperative for me to practice the airplane analogy. When the oxygen mask falls in front of us, we're instructed to put the mask on ourselves first - even if a child is sitting beside us. We can't help anyone, until we FIRST help ourselves. It's self-care, not selfish.

4. Routine: A structured schedule of sleeping, eating, and exercising can provide a sense of order and accomplishment. Plan the work and then work the plan.

5. Practice the Ps: Knowledge

teaches us what to do, and PRACTICE teaches us how to do it. If we want to learn how to do anything (especially building new, healthy habits), it takes PATIENCE and PERSISTENCE. Remember that your direction is more important than your speed. Set the goal and do the work to stick to it.

Accepting life on life's terms, accepting people as they are, and accepting ourselves as fallible humans can be a perfect recipe to resolve most of life's adversities and mental health conditions.

When I learned how to accept my reality (and the emotions that came with that reality) I managed to repair my brain, build my resilience, and start liking myself enough to start caring for myself.

When I started to care for myself, I was finally able to care for others and care about life. Symptoms of anxiety and depression are no longer debilitating for me and no longer require pharmaceuticals.

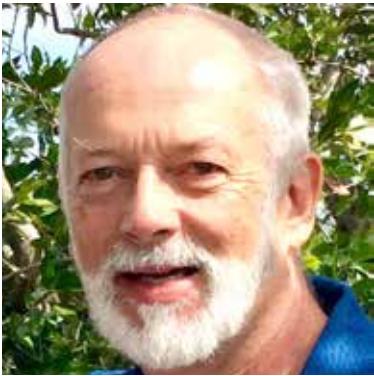
Success doesn't take long. It takes a persistent willingness to exert consistent efforts to help ourselves. Practice, Patience, and Persistence will get you where you want to be. Practice the Ps for Better Mental Health.

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: Exploring a real, fictional, community – and that's not a contradiction



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Contributor

JoAnne and Dennis Rogers had spent the previous day taking a lengthy mini-coach tour, visiting sites that have inspired the work of their favourite mystery writer. After a long day on the tour, Jo Anne was nothing but enthusiastic. “It was incredible,” she told me. “One of our best experiences ever.”

The couple, who live in Massachusetts, had come to Québec's Eastern Townships for the precise purpose of exploring the world of Louise Penny, the Canadian writer whose 18-and-counting Inspector Gamache novels have earned fans all over the world. Those fans include former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton – so much so that, when Clinton decided to write a fictional thriller called “State of Terror,” she conscripted Penny as her co-writer.

Fans of Penny's books know their protagonist lives in a fictional Québec village named Three Pines. The village, and its eclectic cast of characters, figure large in the Penny novels.

I met the Rogers because, like



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Brome Lake Books, where Louise Penny may be found doing a reading, and which is the model for one of the key locations in her Inspector Gamache books.

us, they were staying at the Hillhouse Bed and Breakfast, in Lac-Brome. The town of Lac-Brome actually includes seven villages, one of which is Knowlton, where Penny lives, and which has provided much of the thinly-fictionalized setting for her novels.

It was no coincidence that we were at Hillhouse B&B – owners Louise Cadieux and Gilles Trudel are also the operators of the Three Pines Tours which the Rogers were praising so effusively.

The day-long tours, which have been vetted and approved by Penny, take visitors to many of the sites which appear – usually under assumed names – in the novels. I can report that, even if you are not a fan of Inspector Gamache, visiting these places on your own can still make for fascinating experiences.

The tour of the Abbaye Saint-

Benoit-du-lac, on the shores of Lake Memphremagog, for example. I wrote about this abbey, still home to cheese-making monks, in a previous feature. But what I didn't say was, this monastery was the model for Penny's fictional monastery, Saint-Gilbert-Entre-les-Loups, site of mayhem and murder in “The Beautiful Mystery.” I asked our guide at the monastery if they were bothered by this link with evil. He laughed, and pointed out that Louise Penny has been a faithful, financial contributor to Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac, and also brings her friends there – most recently Hillary and Bill Clinton. So they quite like her, even if she did leave them with fictional corpses.

In fact, it seems everyone in the mythical Three Pines area likes her – and why not? Louise Penny

has almost singlehandedly raised tourism to a more than healthy level in these towns and villages.

People like to dine where Gamache and his beloved wife, Reine-Marie, have enjoyed romantic get-aways. And in that spirit, we had lunch on the patio of the highly rated Manoir Hovey, overlooking Lake Massawippi. The meal – scallops, a seafood wrap, corn soup, Caesar salad and a chocolate brownie – was exceptional, by the way.

We also wandered around Sutton, another point of inspiration for Penny, and enjoyed dinner at the Sutton Brouerie.

Penny's influence on tourism is very evident in the growth of the Three Pines Tours. Gilles and Louise told me that while in 2022 their team conducted 325 tours, in 2023 they hit at least 950. The day-long guided mini-coach tour costs \$335.

Visitors on the tour will stop at many Penny sites – including Brome Lake Books, a shop owned by friends of Penny that has a dedicated Louise Penny corner, where the author herself may sometimes be found doing a reading or answering questions from fans.

Tour participants will also get some personal information from their guides. Louise Cadieux confided in me that Inspector Gamache is based on Penny's late husband. As to other characters in the books – there is speculation in the town about some of the characters, including the elderly, rude and belligerent poet, Ruth Zardo. Cadieux laughed, and suggested that Ruth may be a melange of lo-

cal personalities. No names were mentioned.

I asked Cadieux if Knowlton really has three pines. She grimaced. “They're dead.” There was an effort to plant three pine trees, but they did not survive. So today, they exist only in Penny's fiction.

Louise Penny's international fame has certainly made an economic impact on Knowlton and its equally appealing Eastern Township neighbours. Most of the visitors, say Gilles and Louise, come from the United States. I think Canadian fans of Penny's work are missing a real opportunity, here.

But Penny's impact goes a lot farther than bringing tourists on a bus or diners to a restaurant. I wandered into the Pettes Memorial Library in Knowlton, and chatted with librarian Ingrid Bird. She told me about a current plan to expand the library, and pointed to a list of donors to the project. The number one “major donor” was Louise Penny – who has donated \$600,000 to the library expansion.

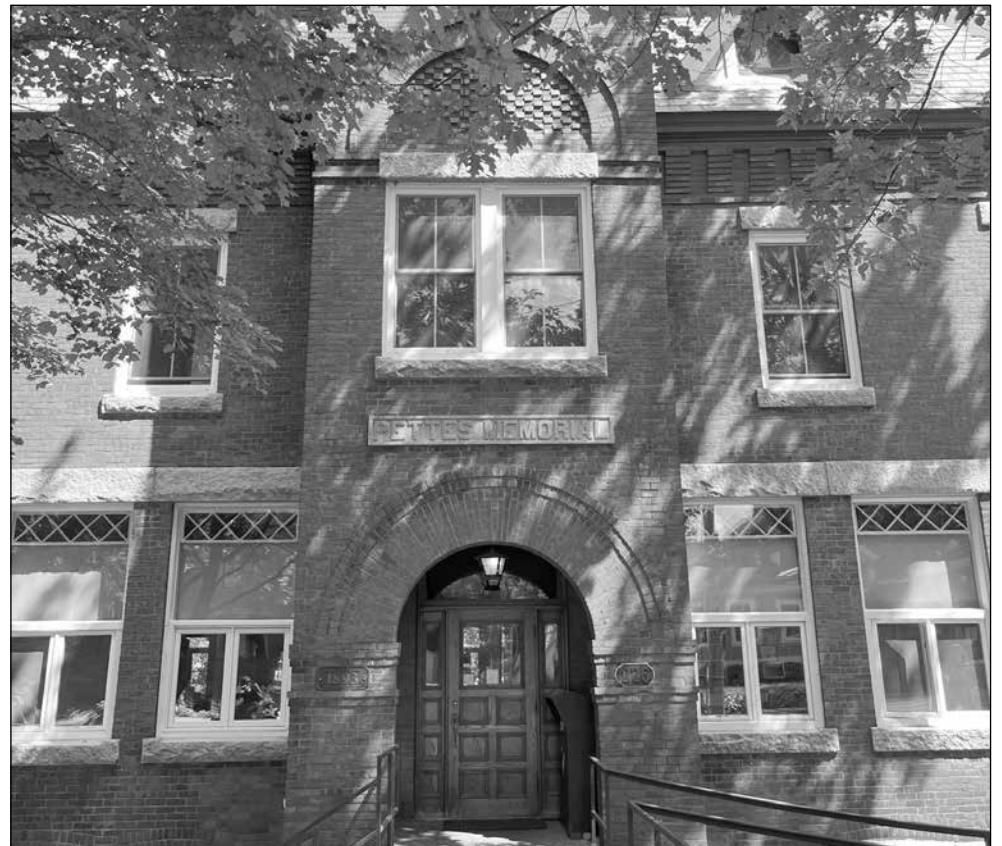
The Three Pines books have brought a lot of pleasure to thousands of readers – including yours truly. But they have done much more than that, bringing employment and economic prosperity to a delightful part of Canada known as the Eastern Townships.

For visitors to Penny's Three Pines country, it's win-win.

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.



Hillhouse B&B owners Louise Cadieux and Gilles Trudel, who also own and operate the Three Pines Tours – a day following in the footsteps of Gamache.



The Pettes Memorial Library in Knowlton, a beneficiary of huge Penny generosity.

Riddles

If athletes get athletes foot then what do astronauts get?
Missle-toe

Why was the clock in the cafeteria always slow?
Because every lunch it went back four seconds

What is the hardest thing to hold that even the strongest person in the world has difficulty with?
Your breath

What did the duck say to the waiter?
"Put it on my bill"

Where does a 600 pound gorilla sit?
Anywhere he wants

What did the doctor say to the rocket ship?
"Time to get your booster shot"

What did the Nerds Candy want to be when it grew up?
A Smartie

What did the bread say to the man?
Nothing, bread can't talk

What did the bee say to the naughty bee?
"Bee-hive yourself"

Sudoku

	3		2		8	1	5	
					9		3	
1		9			3	6		2
			9	5	7			
9		2				8		
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Solutions on page 26

Pet of the Month



DAISY

DAISY is a one year old golden retriever from Goderich with lots of love and excitement to share with her family. Nicknamed Princess Wiggle Butts



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

Word Search

MLB SPRING TRAINING GRAPEFRUIT LEAGUE

H	Q	X	L	M	V	B	W	M	T	O	W	O	T	L	Y	X	U	D	W
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- Orioles
- Phillies
- Red Sox
- Mets
- Nationals
- Yankees
- Braves
- Tigers
- Astros
- Cardinals
- Rays
- Blue Jays
- Marlins
- Twins
- Pirates

OBITUARY

**PATRICIA LOIS (PATTIE) SMITH**

At University Hospital in London ON, Patricia Lois (Pattie) Smith passed away peacefully surrounded by her beloved family.

Pattie has now joined her soulmate, Nathan (2019), in heaven.

Predeceased by parents, Jim (1988) and Isobel (2001) Patterson. Proud mother of Natalie (Paul) Good and Jamie Smith. Pattie absolutely adored her "precious girls" (granddaughters) Frances and Lorelai, and loved her step granddaughter Josi. She will be missed dearly by sister Debbie Patterson (Henry), predeceased by sister Kathie Gillis (2019), and will be remembered fondly by brother-in-law Paul Gillis, as well as sister-in-laws, brother-in-laws, nieces, nephews, great and great great nieces and nephews, and cousins.

Pattie was born July 9th, 1958 in Markdale ON, her family moved to Clinton ON, in 1966 where they resided until she met Nathan and married on May 8th, 1976. Pattie and Nathan then moved into their home in Goderich ON, where they raised their two children.

Pattie and Nathan bought Goderich Taxi & Delivery in August 1997 and with hard work, long hours, and dedication; Pattie became a successful businesswoman serving the Town of Goderich and surrounding areas. Goderich Taxi & Delivery was Pattie's pride to own and operate, and dedicated her life to it. At Pattie's request, she wants all her customers to know she will miss them and their chats. She also wants all the drivers to know that she honoured and respected each and every one of you, through thick and thin, and that she loved you so much.

A Celebration of Pattie's Life will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion, Goderich, on Saturday March 30, 2024 from 1:00PM – 4:00PM. Donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Br. #109 or the Canadian Cancer Society gratefully acknowledged.

Also, at Pattie's request: to her wonderful friends, she thanks you for your support and friendships throughout the many years; your friendships were the greatest! Friends may sign the book of condolences at www.mccallumpalla.ca.

"Don't miss me, remember I'm in all your hearts. Love you ALL!" -Pattie

OBITUARY

**HELEN LOUISE (STOLL) JEWELL**

Helen Louise Jewell of Huronview Home for the Aged died Wednesday March 13th, 2024.

The daughter of the late John (Jack) Hamilton and Bernice Wight, she was born on October 24th, 1924 in Bosanquet Township, Lambton County. She married Allan Stoll (1920-1985) on Sept. 22nd, 1945 at Thedford United Church and following his death married Robert Jewell (1922-2004) on Jan. 25th, 1992.

Surviving are six sons, Robert (Patti) of Toronto, Gordon (Pamella) of Sarnia, Douglas (Jan) of Colborne Twp., Bruce (Susan) of Middlesex Centre, Andrew (Alison) of LaSalle, and Scott (Angela) of Goderich, her brother Murray Hamilton of Bosanquet Twp., her step daughter Heather Young, her step son-in-law Fred Pellow, 23 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by a son and a daughter in infancy, daughter-in-law Ilva Stoll, sister-in-law Marion Hamilton, step daughter Mary Pellow, step son-in-law Ron Young, brother/sister-in-law Fordyce and Irene Clark and Edgar and Beatrice Stoll.

A grave side service will be held at Colborne Township Cemetery on March 21st, 2024 at 11:00 AM. Mary Jane Bisset officiating. Pallbearers will be her six sons: Robert, Gordon, Douglas, Bruce, Andrew, and Scott. A lunch will follow at the Masonic Hall in Carlow at 12:00 noon. Friends may sign the book of condolences at www.mccallumpalla.ca

Thank you

I would like to thank all who took the time to help celebrate my entry into my 7th decade. It was so great to see so many of my family, friends and coworkers together in one place. It was humbling to say the least to see the turnout. Special thanks to Sahadev and Shannon (2nd Street Light Winery) for the perfect venue, our good friends Nancy and Steve Boucher for Bartending and looking after the crowd, and our dear friend Lawrence Lassaline for helping out with logistics, Added Touch Catering (Karen Daley) for the fabulous food, Adam and staff at the Park House and finally to my kids, their spouses, my wife Suzanne (who claims innocence for helping to plan the event) and my grandsons for putting this event together. To my family, love and gratitude everyday and always. Again THANK YOU everyone.

John Anderson

OBITUARY

**ELIZABETH (LEDDY) O'NEIL**

Betty Jean O'Neill passed away peacefully at Elizabeth Bruyere Hospital in Ottawa on Saturday March 2 2024 at 78 years of age.

Beloved mother of James O'Neill (Marie) of Ottawa and Mary Teresa Silcox (Andy) of St. Thomas. Grandmother of Kyla, Kale and Jake.

Dear sister of Norman Leddy (Sandra), Harold Leddy (Dianne) and Jim Leddy (Sue) of Goderich.

Predeceased by brother Clayton, and sisters Eleanor and Joanne, as well as parents Frank and Elaine Leddy.

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COMING EVENTS

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Karaoke Night at the Legion

On Friday, March 22 at 5 p.m.
Join in on the Legion's Karaoke Night, by starting off the evening with a Meat Draw and the Catch the Ace draw.

Make a Mess at the Museum

On Saturday, March 23 and Saturday, March 30 from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.
Drop in for unstructured play for primary-aged children and their families.
Create without instructions, colour without lines, and play games without rules.

Included with regular admission or FREE when you show your library card.
Children 5 and under always free.

Goderich Jammers

Wednesday, March 27 and Wednesday, April 3 from 7 p.m. at the Legion.
Join in with other musicians and jam all evening.

Huron County Hockey Heroes

On Thursday, March 28 from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Huron County Museum.
Join the museum to hear from local author David W. Scott as he discusses his decades-long passion project for telling Huron County's hockey stories.
Books will be available for purchase from the author.
Admission is free.

Easter Activities at Huron County Museum

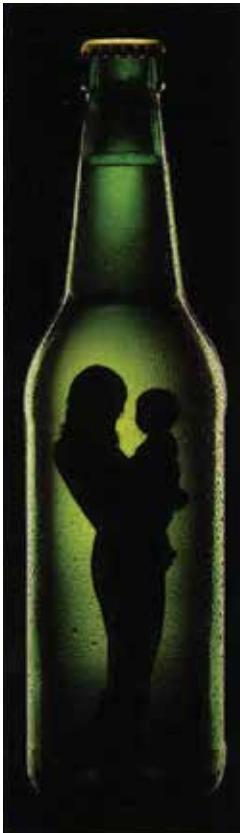
On Saturday, March 30 from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.
On the last Make a Mess Day of the season, kids and their families are welcome to the scavenger hunt through the galleries and an Easter-themed decorating craft guided by staff.
All activities with regular admission to the museum (free for museum members or when you show your library card).
Children under 12 should be accompanied to the museum by an adult/guardian.

Talking Huron Historic Settlements and Archives

Open house on April 4 from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the museum theatre.
The first week of April is Archives Awareness Week in Ontario. Join in at the open house for a presentation about historic settlements.
No registration is required, and participation in the talk or open house is free.

Painting Outside the Lines with Michele Miller

On Thursday, April 4 at 2 p.m. from 6:30 p.m. from 8:30 p.m. at the Huron County Museum.
Those who are interested in the visual arts and want to hone their skills and improve their techniques are welcome to this event.
Artists are encouraged to bring any artwork, which they wish to receive feedback or help with.
All ages are welcome. All mediums are welcome.
Open Art Sessions will be monthly at the museum.
Cost is \$10 per session (to be paid to the instructor directly).
To pre-register and guarantee a spot, email michelemargaretmiller@gmail.com



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- ### QUIZ ANSWERS
- 14
 - The Missouri River
 - Nitrogen
 - René Descartes
 - Kelly Clarkson
 - Four
 - Inland Taipan
 - Leviathan (Vaughan, ON)
 - 180
 - The Dragon

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The Livery Film Fest presents 500 Days in the Wild

ROB MCAULEY

Sun Contributor

This month's Livery film is a documentary by Dianne Whelan - a woman in her mid-50s who walked the Trans Canada Trail from coast to coast to coast.

When Whelan set off to be the first person to travel the entire Trans Canada Trail, the longest trail in the world, she envisioned it would take 500 days.

Six years later, she finally completed the epic 24,000 kilometre, mostly solitary journey. From east coast to west coast, Atlantic to Arctic to Pacific Ocean, she traveled by foot, by bicycle, snowshoe, skis and by canoe.

Whelan is not an extreme athlete. She was recently divorced when she began this journey, equipped with five cameras, a drone, her cell phone, a GPS, a lighter and a huge desire to get away from it all. Six years later, she has profoundly changed.

Whelan describes her journey to honour the land, the water and to pay respect to the First Nations peoples of Canada.

A Haida Gwaii Elder gifted her a feather to accompany her as a reminder to walk lightly upon the earth, a treasure she was later able to return.

Whelan weaves humor and intimate moments of reflection with adventure and stories of kindness and generosity she received, not only from friends, but from strangers she met along the way.

Some of the most challenging portions of the trail included paddling more than 8,000 kilometres of lakes and rivers. One infamous section required 168 portages.

As Whelan explains, the sections of the journey she most dreaded were the long stretches of open-water canoeing. The journey is gruelling, harrowing, surprising, and exhilarating. She encounters raging forest fires, curious bears, swarms of insects and the COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown.

At times, friends accompanied Whelan for stretches of the trail. She relied on friends and connections for much of her food and supplies.

Some Indigenous Elders she met along the journey reminded her winter was a period of rest, a chance to reflect and make necessary repairs and so she does.

Amidst it all, it is the rolling landscapes, the whispers in the wind, the mountains and the wildlife Whelan captures so eloquently through her lens and storytelling, the audience is re-

minded how vast and incredibly stunning this country is.

Winner of the People's Choice Award at the Whistler and Victoria Film Festivals and the Grand Prize at the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, this film is highly recommended.

Readers are encouraged to listen to Matt Galloway's interview

with Dianne Whelan on his program "The Current" on CBC radio which aired on Feb. 29.

Canadian donations in support of "500 Days in the Wild" can be made through the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society at <https://cpaws.org/>.

The film will screen on Thursday March 28 at 7 p.m. The Box

Office opens at 6:30 p.m.

The Livery's April film will screen on Thursday, April 25. The title is yet to be confirmed.

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.

Sunsets of Goderich



Taken at Goderich lighthouse on February 20.

(CHRISTINA VANDENHEUVEL CAMPBELL PHOTO)

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