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Open house planned for recreation plan

Norfolk County is once again inviting stakeholders and residents to experience the vision of the Draft Master Recreation Plan at an Open House event on April 8.

The Open House, open to residents and visitors of Norfolk County, will present the draft vision of a new, dynamic Master Recreation Plan that will help shape the future of recreation for Norfolk, providing an opportunity to learn more about the plan, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Council has not yet made a decision on the Draft Master Recreation Plan, and a report and draft plan will be presented to Council-in-Committee on May 13, for debate and consideration.

All feedback gathered to date, including input from stakeholder meetings, input from the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, and comments and suggestions received at the Open House and online will help shape the final version of the Master Recreation Plan.

Residents unable to attend in person can learn more about the plan and provide feedback at EngageNorfolk.ca/Recreation-without-borders.

OPEN HOUSE

Date: Tuesday, April 8

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Location: Simcoe Recreation Centre, 182 South Drive, Simcoe

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Daryl Dankwardt has been working on his current model railroad layout for the past 11 years. It was one of 16 locations on Saturday's Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk Model Railroad Layout Tour.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Model trains on display in Norfolk area

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Each stop from Saturday's annual Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk Model Railroad Layout Tour had a small railroad crossing sign outside to signal visitors – come inside and meet

the owners/operators.

Subtle but effective in Norfolk County, Haldimand, Brant and Hamilton/Dundas at 16 locations, including seven in Norfolk, the Brantford Model Railway Club member layouts represented everything from 1928-1932 Port Burwell to fictitious mid-

50s Southern Ontario to 1989 Brantford.

Donations were accepted for student nutrition programs in Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk. The Brantford Model Railroad Club hoped to raise \$2,000.

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Model railroads featured from Brant to Norfolk

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“It’s been a nice steady day,” Daryl Dankwardt, BMRC president, at his Nix-on-area home on March 22. “There’s been times when it’s been pretty crazy with a whole bunch of people, some slower, but kind of a normal flow.

“Last year we had a snow storm the day before, so there was nothing till 11, then it got really busy. Today, it’s been a nice, steady day.”

Dankwardt’s current 11-year-old layout features a fictitious ‘new town’ built last winter, full of minute details including miniature doves and their droppings on the station and nearby trestle, tiny beer bottles on a picnic table, mini garbage bags... all the details of a small town and park, somewhere between Windsor and Toronto.

“It’s something you don’t necessarily notice, but when you’re a modeler, you look at all the details. I also do it to draw your eye there.”

All town names on his layout pay homage to towns from his grandfather’s past layouts, dating from the 1950s to 2012, and maybe even a bit earlier. His grandfather was in the hobby for nearly 70 years and Dankwardt’s current layout is inspired by 1950s railroads.

“I have his collection and my collection... and he (Morris Giiick) taught me a lot of these skills, and I’ve got some new skills, so we’ve taken the old school and the new school and merged them together.”

His grandfather’s tracks did not have



Daryl Dankwardt’s trains in motion, with photos of his grandparents in the background.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

modern bells and whistles like ‘sound’ and electronic ‘signaling detection.’

“What you see is exactly how he built things. Yes, we have more modern locomotives, we’ve got computerized chips in them that make sound and stuff, but what you see – the scenery – is done exactly like he would have done it back in the 50s, 70s or 90s. People can do scenery 10 different ways, and it all looks great and they all work, it’s just that I’ve done it the way I

was taught and this is the way it looks.”

Dankwardt knows his grandfather would love it.

“He would be tickled pink to see that all the skills that he learned over the years, passed on to me. For him, the biggest thing would be the sound and the working signals that he would appreciate.”

Dankwardt remembers putting a camera on a model train, running it around the track, and showing his grandfather on a TV.

“He loved all of that.”

Electric-powered rails have not changed, except for signaling in the tracks that tells a computer where the trains is, how fast it’s going, and the train number, which can all be coordinated through cell phones or remote wireless controllers.

“About 20-25 per cent of what you see is from my grandfather, and the rest I’ve added over the years. Some cars are ‘ancient’,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Model railroads can be lifetime passion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

some you can go to the store and buy them today. Everything I have here (on display) is based on 1955 or older.”

Dankwardt says his most interesting piece is a bright yellow stock car – the very first car his grandfather built as a teenager.

“That car started the whole thing... and I still keep it on the layout and run it.”

A lot were made from kits, he said, and some have new decals and paint. Some hand-built cars (assembled from scratch) came from past friends, and their heritage continues on Dankwardt’s layout. Some older engines have been converted, adding chips, sound board and speakers.

Dankwardt can easily access a spreadsheet to see all of his rolling stock – hundreds in total - through his phone. The database is useful when visiting train shows.

“I’ve been gradually working up to where it is now over the past 11 years. There’s always new things going. You can see it’s not done yet - the scenery is not finished. It’s never ending. The trackwork part is coming to an end, but all the details...”

Jason Gordy’s Lynn Valley Railroad was on display at his Simcoe home.

Gordy said his layout includes a propane facility, quarry, lumber yard, scrap yard, engine house, farm, mountain, and more. He runs a variety of diesel locomotives in CN, CP, Norfolk Southern, and ‘Chessie’ paint schemes. Occasionally he has a 4-8-8-4 Norfolk Southern steam locomotive on his layout.

His freight car collection is mostly stock he picked up at train shows, including Ancaster, Woodstock and Kitchener.

“I like to browse around, see what they have, looking for different loads.”

On Saturday he was running two recently-converted engines.

“They run good – I love it.”

Gordy, who has been interested in model trains from a very young age, says he might add more track in the future.

“I still have some stuff I want to fix up on it, like the tunnel over there. But some of the cars won’t fit under it, so...”

Dave Gyselink’s unique layout in Waterford changed when Walthers came out with a Ford Assembly Plant kit.

“It was missing half the parts – it took me seven months to get all the parts. They ran into production problems.”

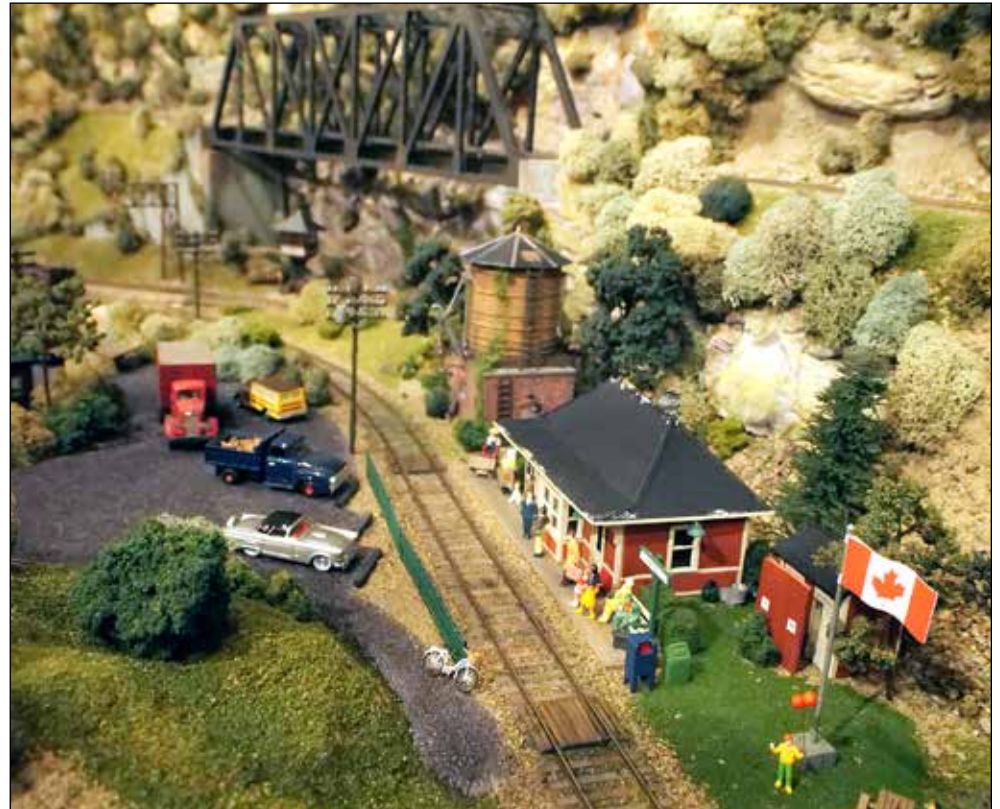
Gyselink’s wife, Pat, added a Munsters House and cemetery to the scenery, equipped with background thunder and lightning sound and light effects. And there is a town and airport that feature prominently.

Gyselink’s hobby started about 10 years ago while working at the Ford Oakville assembly plant. He didn’t have a lot of time for it, but when he retired, it was ‘full steam ahead.’

“If I get it ‘done,’ I don’t care,” said Gyselink, who still shops at train shows and flea markets. “You get to know people. Sometimes I go just because I want to go... with no intentions to buy anything. It’s the same thing with car shows, a lot of people just go for the socializing. It’s a big get-together. Same with the train shows.

“What other plans I have, I don’t know yet.”

chris@granthaven.com



Daryl Dankwardt built a new town for his model train layout over the winter.



Jason Gordy’s Lynn Valley Railroad layout.



An engine from Dave Gyselink’s Waterford layout.



Bobbi Ann Brady

MPP, HALDIMAND-NORFOLK

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EDITORIAL

Hey Premier Ford, the “C” stands for conservative

Haldimand-Norfolk

MPP
**Bobbi Ann
 Brady**



While campaigning during the recent unnecessary and costly election, I heard time and again that the Doug Ford-led Ontario PC government has to step up and take concrete action to cut costs for consumers, business, farmers, and families.

So far, much of what the Ford government has done, is make life less affordable and increase our per capita tax burden. As reported recently by The Toronto Sun, the Fraser Institute stated, “inflation adjusted, per capita tax burden in Ontario this year under Ford’s Progressive Conservative government is expected to be \$9,406 - 7.7 per cent higher than the \$8,736 tax burden imposed on Ontarians in the final year of the Wynne government in 2017-2018. This, in spite of the fact tax revenue for Ford’s government has steadily increased in recent years, now projected at 13.4 per cent compared to the size of the Ontario economy this year, versus 12.1 per cent for the Wynne government in its final year of office.”

With those numbers posted by an ostensibly conservative government, I think it behooves Ford to take direction from his Nova Scotia brethren led by Premier Tim Houston. Houston is following through on his election plan to deliver lower taxes for Nova Scotians.

Houston, prior to Christmas, passed a motion to permanently reduce the provincial portion of harmonized sales tax (HST) beginning April 1, 2025. Nova Scotia’s HST will decrease by one percentage point from 10 per cent to nine per cent. This ranks as the largest tax break in Nova Scotia’s history and the first time in 14 years that a provincial government has amended their sales tax.

Like Ontario, Nova Scotia’s HST combines the provincial sales tax with the federal goods and services tax (GST). The federal portion remains five per cent. While still higher than Ontario’s HST, the new combined sales tax rate in Nova Scotia will allow Nova Scotians to keep more of their hard-earned money.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) applauded the Nova Scotia government for promising real tax relief in their 2025 budget. The CTF figures the tax cuts will save the average taxpayer more than \$1,000 in 2025 alone.

Budget highlights also included an inflation-based adjustment to income tax brackets and an increase in the basic personal amount from \$8,744 to \$11,744.

Nova Scotia also included a reduction in the small business tax rate from 2.5 to 1.5 per cent and an increase in the small business income tax threshold from \$500,000 to \$700,000. You may recall last year, I called on Doug Ford to immediately increase the Ontario small business tax rate deduction threshold to \$700,000, index it to inflation annually, and reduce Ontario’s small business tax rate from 3.2 per cent, beginning with an immediate reduction to at least 2 per cent with a goal of reaching zero. No dice.

While Ford is at it, maybe he can get his Minister of Red Tape Reduction on the job in earnest and push government out of the way of business and farmers. For years, I’ve heard that message repeatedly from farmers and farm organizations. And I heard it again last week at the Grain Farmers March Classic in London (fantastic event with great folks).

It’s time this PC government acts fiscally conservative and responsible like the government in Nova Scotia. Remember Premier Ford, the “C” stands for conservative.

Bobbi Ann Brady is the MPP for Haldimand-Norfolk

Residents invited to Draft Master Recreation Plan open house

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Master Recreation Plan

Norfolk County acknowledges the significant value of recreation facilities, programs, and events to enhance quality of life and offer opportunities for residents to connect and stay active. The plan, with a theme of "Recreation Without Borders," was created with the intention of providing a visionary (long term) future for recreation that will enrich the community and create abundant opportunities for leisure, growth, inclusivity and connection.

Once approved by Council, the plan will serve as a strategic roadmap focusing on recommendations covering programs, service levels, facilities, quality-of-life improvements, and staffing considerations while being mindful of the financial and economic impacts.

Launched in June 2024, staff completed the first two phases, which included background assess-

ments and community engagement through one-on-one meetings with organizations and key contacts, public tailgate sessions held in various locations throughout the county, surveys, and a Facebook Live session. Needs assessments through consultation with community groups, staff, residents and partners were also conducted, as well as research of population data, recreation trends and municipal comparators.

Resident and community feedback is considered essential to ensuring the final plan meets the community's needs, while adhering to fiscal realities.

The Draft Master Recreation Plan open house on April 8 will provide another opportunity for public feedback on the draft report, so that when the final report and recommendations are reviewed by Council in May, Council can make informed decisions.

To review the Draft Master Recreation Plan document, and learn more about the timeline, goals and scope, visit EngageNorfolk.ca/Recreation-without-borders.

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All About Pets Show launches in Simcoe



Grant Crossman, from All About Pets Show, stands with Ray, a German Shepherd, and co-sponsors Sam and Kyle Laight from Love at First Bark Dog Grooming, and their son Carson, at the All About Pets Show in Simcoe on March 9. (CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)



Pepper, a Golden Retriever from Woodstock, cautiously explores the self-serve play area at the first All About Pets Show in Simcoe. (CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

The first All About Pets Show successfully launched in Simcoe, March 8-9, at the CIBC Auditorium.

Pets and their owners were treated to an experience normally only seen in large cities.

"Our umbrella company is the Canadian Pet Expo, so we do events across eastern Canada which are massive, like the International Centre (Mississauga) which are generally 300,000 to 400,000 square feet, and now we're coming to the smaller communities," said Grant Crossman.

"Simcoe is launching the brand – the All About Pets Show – to bring the responsible pet companionship message, as well as a strong group of vendors that support that message, to the communities that we know have a large pet family base.

"We know there's some great pet families here in Haldimand and Norfolk, with some awesome pets – we've seen that. Some really good dogs, some really good families, which is nice. Younger families, just establishing, and some senior families enjoying their well-earned retirements."

The new All About Pets Show will reach people that might not get to the Toronto/GTA area, said Crossman.

"The response has been awesome, overwhelming. It's been great and we're definitely coming back. Actually, we're looking to do two events a year here. We love the venue, we love the people that run this space."

A venue that welcomes pets is a key component, he said.

"We're a pet event, so we want pets to attend, and that's the key" said Crossman as birds chirped in the background and dogs playfully barked. "It's got to be a good, comfortable environment for the pets. If it's not... what are we doing? It doesn't make sense. Our main focus is the pets and their experience here."

Everyone who attended the show, co-sponsored by local Love at First Bark Dog Grooming, received a VIP pet bag, which included a bottle of water for their pet, cleanup bags, a pet toy, and treats.

"The experience on the site can last for an hour, or it could last up to 4-5 hours."

Beth Cowley brought her family dog, Burleigh, a five-year-old 176-pound Newfoundland, and it enjoyed a brushing demo by Chelsea Difrancesco, representing Wheatley Wares from Ancaster.

"He was groomed a week ago, so he's in pretty good shape," said Difrancesco. "This was for people to learn how to do it at home."

"There's a lot of brushing maintenance for hair," said

Beth, speaking from years of experience. "You've got to keep on top of it."

"We've had him since he was two months, I think," said her son, Luke Cowley.

"Nine weeks, I think," said Beth.

What's it like having a giant working dog? Not what you'd think, she said.

"He doesn't actually take up as much space as people think because he's just so... calm. I wouldn't go back (to Labrador). He's a good family dog."

"Yeah, he doesn't do anything," Luke nodded. "Very gentle."

"He doesn't have that 'high energy,' like my Lab," said Beth.

"He's like a carpet," Luke joked. "He likes sleeping."

"Yeah, we call him a walking carpet," Beth smiled, enjoying the two-day All About Pets Show. "We're from Simcoe, so it's nice to have something local."

In addition to rows of vendors, there was a 'self-serve' agility area for dogs. Owners could bring their dogs in, guide them over (or under) jump obstacles, through tunnels, or into a ball pit – not as easy as it sounds for dogs new to the experience.

"We were at a show yesterday in Woodstock," said Ben Meyer from Woodstock, adjusting the 'high jump' bar in the agility area.

"This is just something we kind of do," nodded Anna Meyer, with their Golden Retriever, Pepper. "Something different."

"It's an opportunity for dogs to play with some enrichment programs," said Crossman.

"So people can enjoy the enrichment of the pets, and the opportunities to engage, whether it's a grooming demo or the adoption site. I know the Simcoe Humane Society has already re-homed three or four puppies already, which is exciting."

The pet show welcomed more than just dogs, however.

"We do a lot of advocacy, too, so we know that 68% of Canadian households have a diversified pet companion within the house. That's generally a dog and 'plus one.' Of those, cats are No. 2, reptiles and aquatics are No. 3, birds No. 4, small animals are No. 5 now. So our message is really, know what you are looking to acquire as a lifetime commitment within the pet companions. So any of the live pet vendors that are on site, they also have to offer an educational format to support those animals."

The community-based All About Pets Show is looking to expand in Southwestern Ontario, soon reaching centres like Orangeville, Lindsay, London, Chatham and more.

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Library is seeking teen artists for new mural project

The Norfolk County Public Library is inviting young artists to apply for the next Teen Mural Project at the Port Dover Branch.

Building on the success of the first NCPL mural project at the Delhi Branch in July 2024, the Library is thrilled to continue "providing opportunities for self-expression through art."

Young artists in Grades 9 to 12 will have a chance to showcase their talents and make a lasting contribution to the community through a collaborative mural.

"Norfolk County is home to incredible young artists, and we're thrilled to offer another chance for creativity and self-expression!" said Julie Kent, NCPL CEO, in a media release. "The talent and passion we saw in Delhi were truly inspiring, and we can't wait to see even more youth showcase their skills. We're honoured to provide a welcoming space for artistic growth and personal development and want to encourage youth of all skills to apply!"

Selected students will have the opportunity to: contribute to a dynamic public mural project that will leave a lasting impact; gain hands-on experience in mural design and painting; collaborate with Library Staff and fellow teen artists; and enhance their artistic skills.

The Port Dover Branch mural project begins in May 2025.

Interested teens can apply online by clicking the banner at ncpl.ca or going to <https://bit.ly/TeenMural>. The deadline to submit an application is Thursday, April 17.

With limited space, artists are encouraged to apply early.


For more information, visit www.ncpl.ca or contact your local Library Branch.

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'Light at the end of the tunnel' for Phragmites control

LISA TIMPF

Advocate Correspondent

Phragmites australis has been termed Canada's worst invasive plant. It's hard to eradicate, and creates havoc in natural settings.

But in a talk at the Norfolk Field Naturalists' monthly speaker event in March, Janice Gilbert, PhD, noted there is room for hope in the fight against Phragmites. To underscore this point, she titled her presentation 'Phragmites Control: Light at the End of the Tunnel.'

Gilbert is the Executive Director and founder of the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPCC), a not-for-profit organization whose stated purpose is "to facilitate effective, efficient, and environmentally responsible Phragmites control."

While there are some native species of Phragmites in Canada, the invasive version of the plant, also called European Common Reed or Giant Reed, is not one of them. Giant Reed is well known in Europe. There, it has colonies that have been in existence for more than 1,000 years, Gilbert noted.

Phragmites start easily in disturbed sites. Once established, it spreads underground, then sends up shoots. It can thrive in a wide range of conditions, including various depths of water, high or low temperatures, and soils with varying degrees of pH and fertility.

By out-competing and choking out native vegetation, Phragmites reduce biodiversity, and pose a threat to species at risk. Turtles can get lost in the undergrowth, and birds that eat insects don't find much to eat above stands

of Phragmites. Phragmites has been shown to cool temperatures around, and dry out turtle nests, causing reduced reproduction. It also impacts wetland bird communities.

Phragmites can result in a decline in property values, damage infrastructure like roads and hydro corridors, render lakes impassible for recreational activities like canoeing, and clog agricultural drainage ditches. Because stands of Phragmites include a high percentage of dead stalks, it can also increase fire risk.

Gilbert discussed the various control options available for Phragmites. These include biological options like introducing prey species not native to Canada (Phragmites have no natural predators here), or grazing the affected areas. Mechanical removal methods using specialized equipment and techniques can be effective. Herbicides for land use and aquatic use are also available, though they must be used with care.

Gilbert also discussed promising research into the use of drones to apply herbicide to hard-to-access areas. Drones have also been used to re-seed treated areas, with good results.

Efforts to eradicate and control Phragmites have paid off over time. Gilbert shared success stories about removal efforts in Lambton Shores, the Wood Drive Coastal Wetland Restoration Project, Ipperwash, Kincardine, Oliphant, and Manitoulin Island. Many of these projects were spearheaded or assisted by community members.

The keys to successful efforts, Gilbert said, include having local champions for the effort, getting township or municipal support, establishing a good plan, using appropriate tools and support, doing outreach and education in the

community, having a sustainable source of funding, and establishing a long-term monitoring and control plan.

The good news: once Phragmites (both living plants and the large biomass of dead reeds that accumulate over time) have been removed, by being vigilant for signs of new sprouts and eradicating those, Phragmites can be prevented from re-establishing.

"I can envision that in 15 years, we'll have it beaten back," Gilbert said.

She pointed to the number of people dedicated to controlling Phragmites throughout the province.

"With Phragmites Management Areas, there's so much interest, so many groups keen to get things going."

Because its spread is assisted by human activity, Gilbert suggests eradicating this non-native plant is "like a moral obligation" for humans. Vehicles that travel through a Phragmites-infested area and are not cleaned off before moving can transfer seeds and root fragments.

People passing through, entering areas containing invasive Phragmites, should be careful to brush off clothing and equipment to ensure they aren't helping the plant set up stakes elsewhere. Gardeners should avoid planting non-native species, particularly those that might spread beyond their intended boundaries.

Gilbert's talk was part of the Norfolk Field Naturalists' monthly speaker series, which runs from September to April. April's scheduled speaker event, "Flying Squirrels of Ontario," will feature Jeff Bowman, PhD, from Trent University, and will take place April 8 at the Simcoe Recreation Centre, Norfolk Room, at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public.

'Fun begins at 50' at Simcoe Seniors' Centre

LISA TIMPF

Advocate Correspondent

On the wall near the Dogwood Room in the Simcoe Recreation Centre, a banner proclaims that "fun begins at 50." It's a bold motto, but it's one that the Simcoe Seniors' Centre lives by.

Founded in 1974, the Simcoe Seniors' Centre is older than some of its prospective members. The Seniors' Centre is open to individuals 50 and older, and offers a range of fitness, social, crafts, and game-playing activities.

Prior to Covid, the Seniors' Centre was housed in a Pond Street building. In 2021, they relocated to the Recreation Centre. The Pond Street building felt homier to some members, as it consolidated most of the action in one general area. At the Recreation Centre, some activities take place on the upper levels and some down by the multipurpose floor.

However, the Recreation Centre venue allows the group to provide a wider range of offerings than was the case on Pond Street. Seniors' Centre president Linda Cumisky cites pickleball, which is now the group's most popular activity, as a case in point.

Walking is popular during the winter months. The Recreation Centre offers a smooth walking surface, and Wayne Inglehart, Seniors' Centre vice-president, notes that this is particularly important for members who use walkers as mobility aids, or those who have a tough time navigating snowy or icy sidewalks.

A Wednesday afternoon tour of the Recreation Centre with Cumisky and Inglehart provided a look at a number of the Seniors' Centre activities taking place that day. The clacking of tiles could be heard near the

Dogwood Room, where chicken foot dominoes was on tap. Next door in the Norfolk Room, a floor shuffleboard game was underway.

At the former arena mezzanine level, billiards players gathered around a table, while nearby, tables set up for craft activities awaited the next session. A folded-up table tennis apparatus stood next to a wall, ready for action.

Music wafted from the multipurpose floor, where a line dancing group rehearsed their moves. In a lower-level room, we visited a well-stocked library that included the works of popular authors like James Patterson, Michael Connelly, and Sandra Brown.

The Seniors' Centre's weekly activity schedule includes card games like bid euchre, cribbage, and bridge. Fitness activities such as walkabouts, pickleball, strength training, "sit and fit," and yoga are offered. Times are also set aside for crafts, singing, cornhole, darts, knitting, and creative arts. And that's just a shortlist drawn from the Seniors' Centre's weekly activity schedule.

Cumisky and Inglehart noted that involvement in various activities fluctuates with the seasons. Walking is more popular in the winter, and some of the card-playing slows down when the weather warms up enough to allow for golf and gardening. Nonetheless, the Seniors' Centre offers programs all year round, including the summer months.

The Seniors' Centre runs special events, like a Strawberry Social and a November Christmas Bazaar and Wellness Fair. There's also a monthly newsletter to keep members up to date on schedules, upcoming events, and other information.

Cumisky notes that often members start with one activity and then find themselves



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

On March 20, Cedar Crossing donated money to the Simcoe Seniors' Centre and the Delhi Friendship Centre from golf tournament proceeds. Participating in the cheque presentation at the Simcoe Recreation Centre were from left Wayne Inglehart, Vice-President, Simcoe Seniors' Centre; Linda Cumisky, President, Simcoe Seniors' Centre; Allie Rutherford, Recreation Coordinator, Norfolk County; Kay Wagler, Treasurer, Simcoe Seniors' Centre; Cody Lyons, Sales Advisor, Cedar Crossing; Jennifer Wilson, General Manager, Cedar Crossing; and Dottie Smith, Volunteer, Delhi Friendship Centre.

interested in others. She visited the Seniors' Centre in 2009 to take a tai chi class, and hasn't looked back.

"You come here for one thing and it tends to mushroom," Inglehart agreed.

Both Cumisky and Inglehart feel that the Seniors' Centre serves a valuable purpose.

"It's like family," Cumisky says.

Inglehart adds that the Seniors' Centre "keeps people from being isolated in their home."

Friendships are formed, and some members pick up others on the way to the Centre, providing access to those who might

not be able to get their on their own.

Thanks to the range of activities provided, the Simcoe Seniors' Centre has seen membership rise from around 600 when they were at the Pond Street facility, to over 1,200. Currently, they're sitting at around 1,255 members. New members are always welcome to join, says Cumisky.

The Seniors' Centre's membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. Membership costs \$45 per person, and membership forms can be picked up during the Seniors' Centre's operating hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays.

Norfolk directs county investments away from U.S.

LUKE EDWARDS

Advocate Correspondent

In a trade war where the effects are measured in the hundreds of billions of dollars, the \$67 million legacy fund for Norfolk County is a drop in the bucket. But even so, councillors have directed staff to look at pulling any investment from their legacy fund out of American markets.

"For the time being we don't give the U.S. anything at the cost of 40 million people in this country," said Coun. Chris Van Paassen, calling it a matter of principle.

The call to remove themselves from American investments for the time being came as staff and the county's financial advisors presented a plan to rejig their investment plan to maximize returns and protect the principal investment. The recommendations included shifts in how they allocate the money in the fund as well as a move towards principal protected notes, a form of investment that

- as the name suggests - helps ensure the principal investment remains intact should markets experience a downturn.

Responding to Van Paassen's request, staff said it would be fairly easy to shift investments out of American markets and they'll return to council with an update once they've had a chance to review options internally and with their CIBC advisors.

CIBC's Paul Van Lith said they've been hearing similar questions and requests since U.S. President Donald Trump started his tariff war.

"If there is not an appetite to invest within U.S. markets at this time that is completely within our ability to change," he said.

Treasurer Amy Fanning also said this was on their minds following the recent escalations.

"Our recommendations were put together before the tariff war erupted. Had we been doing it right now we probably wouldn't have placed that within our recommenda-

tions," she said.

The Legacy Fund was created in 2014 following the sale of Norfolk Power Inc. Since that time, the county has used the returns of the fund's investments to pay for road work to the tune of just under \$20 million, as well as \$5 million set aside for Norfolk General Hospital.

Average annual returns have been 4.8 per cent. A staff report predicts the changes will increase yearly investment returns by \$550,000 to \$650,000, largely due to reduced management fees. Other benefits the report outlines include "reduced principal risk, lower variation of returns, increased diversification by reducing concentration risk for equity investments, and increased diversification for fixed income assets," the report said.

"Any decisions you make that lower your risk and enhance your returns are the best decisions to make," said CIBC's Ian Murray.



Councillor Chris Van Paassen, Ward 4

Developers pitch 22-unit building for downtown Simcoe

LUKE EDWARDS

Advocate Correspondent

A three-storey build could be coming to Simcoe's central business district.

At the March 5 public hearings committee meeting, Norfolk County councillors heard about a plan to build a mixed-use development at 76 Culver Street. The proposal would see 22 units within the building, along with one or two commercial units on the first floor. Additionally, the four ground floor units would be accessible.

"We're very excited about this opportunity to bring affordable housing to Norfolk County, and yes we do understand the definition of affordable housing," said Sam

Bunting, owner of Prominent Homes, the company pitching the development. "We do want our property to have rent control and we're hoping CMHC (Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation) can work with us to provide this for our community."

There was some concern about the term "affordable" in the report, with councillors hashing out the difference between housing that fits official affordable housing criteria such as rent-g geared-to-income or a more general term for less expensive housing options.

While Bunting said they're hoping to achieve rent control, that has yet to be confirmed.

"There's nothing wrong with saying they're trying to build something that's

more affordable by getting the density in there," said Coun. Chris Van Paassen, pushing back on some requests to remove any mention of affordable in the staff reports.

"Let's try to get some stuff in the downtown that's more affordable, whether it falls under our umbrella as rent-g geared-to-income or subsidized."

The proposal meets most existing zoning bylaw requirements, but will require an amendment to allow for more than 50 per cent of the ground floor to be residential. As it stands now, roughly three quarters of the first floor would be residential.

Bunting said they hope to get approval so they can offer more accessible and more affordable housing options in Simcoe.

"I feel this is a need for our community," he said.

Some councillors also questioned the lack of parking, even though being in the CBD means it meets the current provisions.

"From what I can tell there is a reasonable amount of parking within that initial frontage and down side streets," Bunting said, adding they spoke to a traffic consultant about parking.

In fact, parking limitations were part of the reason they're choosing to keep it to three storeys, Bunting said, responding to a question from Mayor Amy Martin.

No decisions were made at the meeting. Staff will prepare a recommendation report to be brought forward at a future date.

Norfolk considers changes to Friday 13th road closures

LUKE EDWARDS

Advocate Correspondent

Proposed changes to traffic rules and road closures for this June's Friday the 13th event have been approved in principle by Norfolk County councillors.

However, they want to take another look at things in an effort to get bike parking back on Main Street for the popular event.

Mayor Amy Martin put forward an amendment to the recommendation that saw councillors give a general approval but also ensure they'll have another chance to look at things when it comes back in bylaw form. This will allow planning members and emergency response staff a chance to consider options.

Proposed changes that staff brought forward included three areas where traffic would be restricted to only allow bikes, emergency service and municipal vehicles. The three areas include St. George Street, from Dover Avenue to Walker Street, Walker Street from the dead end to St. Andrew Street, and St. Andrew from Main to Clin-

ton streets.

"These proposed changes are considered to limit the number of passenger and other vehicles that are traveling through the core of Port Dover, which is going to allow safer passage for motorcycles," said Fire Chief Gord Stilwell.

However, Martin had other concerns.

"For me the bigger concern over the last few years has been vehicular traffic through the roads, through the main drag, through Walker Street," she said.

"And it's alarming to see the increased volume of cars driving through what is intended for motorcycles only, yet our focus remains on where the bikes can and cannot park on Main Street, despite the fact they can park everywhere else."

Martin said she was leaning towards allowing bike parking on half of Main Street, and moving the vendor zone elsewhere.

Stilwell pointed to three main concerns: an inability to get ambulances to the area if needed, difficulty manoeuvring fire trucks in case of a fire, and opening up the area to having unauthorized vehicles coming in



Toz and Deb from Jarvis are regular Friday the 13th participants, including December 2024, and will be back to Port Dover in June.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

and potentially hurting someone.

"So we're trying to balance all of those together to create an enjoyable experience and keep people safe at the same time," he said.

With the next Friday the 13th event coming in June as summer kicks off, staff expect it to be a busy event. The event can often see upwards of 100,000 people, most bikers or motorcycle enthusiasts.

Lions Club looking to move forward with gazebo project

LUKE EDWARDS

Advocate Correspondent

They're a resourceful pack, and the Simcoe Lions are hoping to use that resourcefulness to bring a new gazebo to Wellington Park as part of its plans to redevelop the space.

But while the service club is committing to funding essentially the entire project, they have asked for a small favour from Norfolk County.

"One thing we are asking for is the waiving of any fees relative to any permits that are necessary for this project," said Lion Barry LaPlante, past president of the club.

The current plan is to build a large gazebo in the middle of the park as part of Phase 1, LaPlante told councillors at the March 11 council-in-committee meeting.

There had been plans to include a multi-purpose performance venue, but the Lion member said they scrapped the idea after discussing it with the two main users of the park: the Simcoe Christmas Panorama and Simcoe Heritage Friendship Festival. Both suggested there wouldn't be a huge need for the additional expense, according to LaPlante.

Even so, he said the upgrades could cost upwards of \$475,000.

"However, we are a resourceful service club," he said, adding they've received favourable estimates from several vendors, including many local businesses.

They've committed to raising \$100,000 to get things started.

"And we will have no problem meeting that commitment," he said.

The request to the county included waiving the fees and also approving Phase 1. Councillors voted to have staff prepare a report, though they seemed excited about the project.

"It's a really fantastic idea and I'm really glad the Lions are taking it," said Coun. Tom Masschaele.

Assuming the county offers its blessing to get going with Phase 1, LaPlante said they haven't fully decided on when work will begin.

"We don't have a definite time frame for this project because we don't want to interrupt the two main users of the park," he said.

The gazebo will be one of the largest available, and will be a 12-sided structure stretching 40 feet across. LaPlante said they found an Ontario business who offers the gazebo, and will keep the project as local as possible.

It will also include a large concrete pad, a water source and lighting. It will be mostly wood, but with a metal roof and heavy vinyl coating to protect the structure from vandalism and to make maintenance easier.

While the gazebo is only Phase 1, LaPlante reiterated the club's long term support of the park's redevelopment.

"We're not sure how many phases it's going to take, but however many it does, we're prepared to carry through with that," he said.

Norfolk Council remuneration tops \$500K in 2024

LUKE EDWARDS

Advocate Correspondent

Norfolk taxpayers paid a shade over \$505,000 last year to councillors and the mayor.

The 2024 statement of remuneration was brought forward as a consent item at the March 11 council-in-committee meeting. Each year municipalities must present a report outlining pay that went to local politicians, which can include base pay, benefits, mileage and other expenses.

Among councillors, Adam Veri and Chris Van Paassen led the way, totaling \$51,192 and \$53,614, respectively.

At the other end of the spectrum, Coun.

Doug Brunton received \$42,424.

Mayor Amy Martin's remuneration totaled \$118,359.

An accompanying staff report pointed out councillors take turns acting as the deputy mayor position on a six-month rotation. Those periods can often result in higher expenses. According to the statement, Brunton, Van Paassen and Coun. Mike Columbus all spent time as deputy mayor. Brunton took on the role at the end of the year.

The staff report also outlined changes to reporting they're considering from 2025. Among them are an attendance record breakdown, as well as a breakdown of training and development opportunities.

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Federal election called for April 28

SIMCOE ADVOCATE

Staff Contribution

Canadians will be going to the polls for an April 28 federal election.

As of Monday, March 24 there were no Haldimand-Norfolk candidates officially confirmed on the Elections Canada website after Prime Minister Mark Carney officially called the federal election on Sunday, March 23.

However, there are two known candidates, so far.

Federal Conservative Party of Canada candidate Dr. Leslyn Lewis was elected to represent Haldimand-Norfolk in 2021, receiving 47.9% of the votes.

Liberal Party of Canada candidate Colin Walsh is a Grade 7-8 French immersion teacher in Simcoe.

"For too long, we've had candidates who didn't understand us—who weren't from here and didn't share our experiences," Walsh says on his website. "That's not me. I know what it's like to struggle with the rising cost of living, to see families worry about

healthcare access, to watch our young people wonder if they'll ever be able to afford a home in the community they love.

"I believe we deserve better. I'm committed to practical, community-first solutions that reflect the values we share. We must support our farmers, strengthen our rural healthcare, address housing affordability, and ensure that economic growth doesn't come at the cost of our environment. I believe in a future where Haldimand-Norfolk thrives—not just for a few, but for everyone."

The nomination process for candidates closes Monday, April 7, and a complete list of confirmed candidates will be available on the Elections Canada website Wednesday, April 9.

In the 2021 federal election, candidates from six parties were represented in Haldimand-Norfolk, including The New Democratic Party, People's Party of Canada, Christian Heritage Party of Canada and the Veterans Coalition Party of Canada.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What Disney princess wears yellow?
2. What country produces the most peanuts?
3. Which famous artist cut off part of his own ear?
4. In Greek mythology, who is the king of the gods?
5. What gas do cows release?
6. What is the most spoken language?
7. What is the capital city of Nova Scotia?
8. Who was the first Emperor of Rome?
9. What's the name of Hiccup's dragon from "How to Train Your Dragon"?
10. What Japanese cities were struck by an atomic bomb?

This week's answers are found on pg. 23

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TO GET THE LATEST

South Coast Painting offers a local option

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Sometimes kitchen cabinets do not need to be replaced. They can be refreshed, and South Coast Painting is a local Norfolk County option.

Presenting their kitchen cabinet painting company at the Norfolk Home & Lifestyle Show at the CIBC Auditorium in Simcoe from Feb. 28 to March 2, South Coast Painting was one of about 100 home and lifestyle exhibitors at the three-day rebranded spring show.

“Those who are looking to update their kitchen, or brighten up their kitchen, this is a really good option over replacement,” said South Coast Painting co-owner Jenn DeBruyn from Langton. “A more cost-effective option than full replacement.”

“If the cabinets are still good – and most cases they are,” said co-owner Derek DeBruyn.

“If someone is really looking to change the look of the kitchen, we can order doors,” said Jenn, noting the sample doors at their Home and Lifestyle booth.

A side business for the past three-and-a-half years, Jenn recently left a full-time position to operate South Coast Painting full-time, primarily in Norfolk County, but extending into Brant and Oxford counties.

“It started when we were looking to brighten our kitchen,” said Jenn.

“And we couldn’t find anyone local that was interested in doing it,” said Derek.

“So we ended up taking off our doors off and I hand-held painted our cabinets in our garage,” said Jenn. “That’s kind of how it all started.”

“She liked how it turned out,” said Derek, “and

since there was no one local doing it, we thought ‘maybe this could work.’”

“It’s going well,” he nodded. “And we’ve met a number of nice folks here at the show that generates some business.”

South Coast Painting can be reached at 519-983-5366, or email southcoastpainting4u@gmail.com. The website is southcoastpainting.ca.

The Simcoe & District Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Caradoc Townsend Mutual Insurance, presented the three-day annual Norfolk Home & Lifestyle Show.

chris@granthaven.com



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Jenn and Derek DeBruyn, owners of South Coast Painting, specializing in kitchen cabinet painting.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Popular gardening expert ‘Frankie Flowers’ (Frank Ferragine) returned to the 2025 Norfolk Home & Lifestyle Show at the CIBC Auditorium on March 2, sponsored by Eising’s Garden Centre.

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Dan The Window Man started with humble roots

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Dan The Window Man's origin story is about 'a local little guy... winning one customer at a time.'

"He (Dan Verschoor) was in his teens, first operating as a window guy out of a pickup truck," said Greg D'Hulster, a Norfolk business partner with Dan The Window Man, which has been in business serving South Western Ontario since 1989. "He went to somebody's house to install their windows, and a little five-year-old kid answered the door... 'Mom, Dan The Window Man is here!' That's how the name happened."

With a factory in the Brantford area since 2005, they service communities like Brantford, Simcoe, Tillsonburg, Cambridge, Kitchener, Ohsweken, Delhi, Townsend, Waterford, Jarvis, Port Dover, Vittoria... and the list is still growing.

"We'll go anywhere, but primarily Brantford, Oxford, Norfolk, and a lot in Ohsweken."

D'Hulster is the 'home show specialist' in the company, and he was at the recent Norfolk Home & Lifestyle Show at the CIBC Auditorium in Simcoe, Feb. 28 to March 2, organized

by The Simcoe & District Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Caradoc Townsend Mutual Insurance.

"Sit and chat with people, and try to drum up some business," said D'Hulster, who also works for Norfolk Community Living, and helped expand Dan The Window Man into Oxford County and Norfolk.

"This (Dan The Window Man) I can do in evenings or weekends, and work around my schedule. It was supposed to be for a few years, but here we are – 21 years later I'm still doing it," he smiled.

Canadian owned and operated, Dan The Window Man manufactures their own Energyguard © brand of windows, with their own installers. The products are custom tailored to customers' unique specifications.

In addition to replacement windows, they sell and install a full line of entrance doors, storm doors, patio doors, and garage doors, as well as siding, soffit, fascia, sunrooms and eavestroughs.

For more information see their website at www.danthewindowman.com. They can be reached at 519-429-2176 (Simcoe) and 519-842-7450 (Tillsonburg).

chris@granthaven.com



Dan D'Hulster and his son Jesse at the Norfolk Home & Lifestyle Show in Simcoe.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Simcoe Glass & Mirror is a 'one-stop shop'

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Simcoe Glass & Mirror is encouraging people to 'stick local.'

The local business had an opportunity to connect with the community at the Norfolk Home & Lifestyle Show at the CIBC Auditorium, Feb. 28-March 2, presented by The Simcoe & District Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Caradoc Townsend Mutual Insurance.

"This (Sunday) afternoon was actually the best out of all three days for us," said Alan Werner from Simcoe Glass & Mirror.

A one-stop shop for new constructions and renovations, Simcoe Glass & Mirror features windows made mainly by Vinylbilt Windows and Stage Windows, and doors predominantly by MDL Door Systems and Gentek Storm Doors. All windows and doors are EnergyStar certified and all are made in Ontario – an important consideration for today's consumers.

"We tried to find suppliers who have a competitive price, a good product, and a good warranty," said Werner. "That's what we have always tried to implement and who we represent."

"We also do table tops, all kinds of screen and sash repairs,

thermal replacements for windows – if it's broke or gets moisture between the glass, we can replace the thermal units. We do a lot of that. We do custom glass showers as well."

Located at 46 Luscombe Drive, Simcoe Glass & Mirror primarily services Norfolk and Haldimand counties, and some areas of Brant.

Renovations often involve more than just one type of product or service, and local businesses have been known to share recommendations with their customers.

"The unique thing about our area here, is that a lot of the competition, like RONA, Turkstra Lumber, they will send business to us because there's certain things that they don't do... that we do. By the same token, we'll do the same thing. We are not in the lumber business, but we're into window and door repairs, so if they can't find it, a lot of times we can fix it up."

"We all stick together on that. Let's face it... stick local. If somebody else can do what you can't do, I'm going to go ahead and refer to them. If you need windows, this is where you go. If you need a garage door, here is where you need to go. Or if you need plumbing, that's where you need to go. Let's go and keep it local, because they are the ones who are going to look after you down the road. That is important."

You can contact Simcoe Glass & Mirror by phone at 519-428-9215 for pricing, hours and directions.



Alan Werner, Simcoe Glass & Mirror.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

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Home & Lifestyle Show connects businesses with community

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Jason and Jennifer Doyle are prioritizing customer service at The World of Plumbing in Simcoe.

“My wife (Jennifer) and I are taking the business over, and we’ve been doing it for three-and-a-half years now,” said co-owner Jason Doyle at the re-branded Norfolk Home & Lifestyle Show at the CIBC Auditorium in Simcoe, Feb. 28 to March 2, organized by The Simcoe & District Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Caradoc Townsend Mutual Insurance.

Now located at 85 Water Street, Simcoe, The World of Plumbing has been locally owned and operated for a long time, said Jason, emphasizing ‘long.’ It first opened in 1981, and changed ownership in 1991.

They specialize in kitchen and bath products and services for professional plumbers and DIY enthusiasts, but it’s more than kitchen and bath, said Jennifer. For a full list, see their website at www.theworldofplumbing.com.

“We do everything,” said Jason. “If it has to do with plumbing, we do it.”

“The business was built on customer service... to what it is known as today. If you hear about, or talk about The World of Plumbing, usually someone will say ‘they’ve got that part,’ or ‘they can get that part.’ It’s customer service first.”

Co-owner Jeff Mereweather is a ‘smalltown guy’ from Teeterville, Jason noted.

“It was steady (at the Home & Lifestyle Show),” said Jason on the final day of the show. “Lots of people yesterday, and today, for Frankie Flowers it was pretty busy... pretty busy through and through, it was good to see. It’s just nice to get out in the community and talk to people you normally wouldn’t see.”

Looking around at some other exhibitors – there were nearly 100 in total – Jason said some small businesses (eg. roofing or sprinklers) only tend to get exposure when people see their trucks.

“It’s nice to get out, show your name, and talk to

people so they get to know you, get used to you.” “Maybe some businesses also that don’t have a brick and mortar... here, at least you get to see them,” said Jennifer.

Norfolk businesses are known for supporting other local businesses, she said.

“We send (customers) to each other. They may send people here to look at sinks, and we’ll send people there... it kind of helps.”

“It works kind of hand-in-hand,” Jason agreed. “They’ll send customers to us, we’ll send customers to them. It’s the smalltown thing, everyone works together.”

“Relationships and conversations is what we’re here for this weekend,” said Jennifer. “Connecting with the community.”

“It’s word of mouth and getting your name out there, that’s all it is,” said Jason.

chris@granthaven.com



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

The World of Plumbing’s Jason and Jennifer Doyle with their daughter Blake.



Representing Absolute Respiratory and Absolute Homecare, Jessi Sibb, left, and Jamie Mcken, who were at the Norfolk Home & Lifestyle Show presented by The Simcoe & District Chamber of Commerce, are looking forward to the free-admission Norfolk Community Health & Wellness Fair, April 5, 10-3 at the Port Dover Community Centre.



Dan Haines, Rob Haines and Bill DeBoer represented The Haines Group at the annual Norfolk Home & Lifestyle Show in Simcoe. Servicing Simcoe, Tillsonburg, Woodstock and Kitchener, The Haines Group includes South Coast Awning, Oxford Awning and MacDonald Awning & Shade Products, with a network of 60 dealers.

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Kyle Getty, left, and Haiden Coates, from Villages of Waterford, noted their north-end development was down to its last 12 units out of 156.

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Jade Mercier and Rick McCormack from the Norfolk County Fire Department shared fire safety information at the Norfolk Home & Lifestyle Show.



Representing Erie Shores Realty at the Norfolk Home & Lifestyle Show were, from left, Teresa Doughty, Pat Meahan, Rod Fess, Bill Moore and Teresa Ingram.

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SIMCOE ADVOCATE SPORTS

Under the Big Top

Delhi Skating Club presented its 72nd annual carnival, Under the Big Top on Saturday.

The Delhi Community Arena was transformed into a circus for two shows, featuring skaters from the Delhi club, parents and coaches, and guest performances from five Ice Crystals Synchronized Skating teams.

From 'Hot Poppin Popcorn' to Tightrope Walkers, Fire Throwers, Fortune Tellers, Mimes, Jugglers, Tigers, Illusionists and more, Saturday's shows included solos, duos, trios and full groups.

Following the finale, awards were presented (CanSkater of the Year, StarSkater of the Year and the Karen Haskins Memorial Synchro Award), along with a thank to the coaching team of Roxanne Lambrecht, Tania Ghesquiere, Michelle Burger, Alexandra Casier-Smith, Jade Mercier, Nikki Lama and Larissa Hare.



Adults and executives, including coaches, skated to This Is Me.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)



Hot Poppin Popcorn featured Delhi's learn to skate program.



Fast-moving senior and intermediate skaters with parents – dressed in clown suits – performed Clown Car Chaos, without any accidents.



Jugglers included Brooklyn Stefan, Maeve Scherer, and Liz Patterson.



Fortune Tellers included primary StarSkaters.



A Carousel Ride, featuring Canskaters.



The Fire Throwers featured Riley Hazen and Vada Howden.

Sydney Earls, Charlee Coudneys and Brynn Pedley skated in the Tigers number.

Primary parents and skaters dazzled as Magicians.



Georgia Ryder and Diem Hazen skated as Mimes during Saturday's 72 Annual Carnival in Delhi.

The Ice Crystals Star 4 Elementary Synchro skaters were one of five Ice Crystals teams performing in Delhi Saturday.

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Delhi's 72nd annual carnival opened with 'Welcome to the Greatest Show.'

Non-stop action at Norfolk Knockouts' home opener

LISA TIMPF

Advocate Contributor

Earlier in the week, the multipurpose floor at the Simcoe Recreation Centre was the venue for line dancing and pickleball. But on Saturday, March 22, it hosted action of a different sort as over 100 people gathered to watch the Norfolk Knockouts' roller derby home opener against the Toronto Toxins.

The atmosphere was festive as upbeat music like "Eye of the Tiger" and "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" rang through the former arena. Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Bobbi Ann Brady blew the ceremonial first whistle to kick off the festivities, and stuck around for some of the action.

Action there was in plenty. For those whose familiarity with the sport is limited to memories of watching Skinny Minny Miller and her cohorts circling the rink in televised bouts, the March 22nd event was an eye-opener.

Unlike Miller and her contemporaries, who played on a banked track, the Norfolk Knockouts participate in "flat track" roller derby, with the game surface being a broad oval track marked out on the floor. The fans sit in chairs set out on the multipurpose floor at a safe distance from the action, but close enough to get a good view.

The bout consists of two 30-minute halves. Within those halves, a series of "jams" take place.

The goal of the "jam" is for your team's jammer, who wears a star on their helmet, to break free of the pack and come around to lap the opposing team members before the other team's jammer can do so. Meanwhile, players called blockers are trying to prevent the opposing team's jammer from passing them. Points are scored by the jammer lapping opposing players.

Blockers are permitted to impede opponents with their hips, rear, and shoulders, but tripping, elbowing, and certain other transgressions are forbidden and can result in a brief sit-down in the penalty area. Add in the fact that the blockers must perform their feats while balancing on roller skates, and the sport becomes a blend of skill, strength, and grace.

Meanwhile, the jammers exhibit agility, speed, and tactical know-how as they weave their way through the pack, exploiting small



Despite the pushing, shoving, and spills during the March 22 roller derby bout, there were amicable feelings afterwards as the Norfolk Knockouts (black jerseys) and the Toronto Toxins gathered for a group photo on the multipurpose floor of the Simcoe Recreation Centre.

(GINETTE PIEPER PHOTO)

gaps, feinting, and sometimes tip-toeing just inside the boundary line to elude blockers.

Player introductions before the game are based on each participant's roller derby name, monikers that include, in the case of the Knockouts, "Rocket," "Trauma Queen," "Nightmare," and "GoldieKnocks." Players wear numbers on their backs and arms for easy identification by fans and officials.

On March 22, the Norfolk Knockouts fell behind in the early going, trailing at one point 28-18. They battled back to close the gap, eking out a slim lead at the intermission. When action resumed in the second half, the score remained close, with Norfolk holding the lead most of the way.

With just under five minutes left, the score stood 105-100 in the Norfolk Knockouts' favour. But at the last minute, the Toronto Toxins pulled ahead for the win. After the bout, Thud got the nod as the Knockouts' MVP jammer, while Trauma Queen was named the home team's MVP blocker.

Looking at it from the outside, Roller Derby doesn't seem to be a game for the faint of heart. Players wear helmets, elbow pads, and knee pads, and the reason for those becomes



MVP jammers and blockers for each team were named after the Norfolk Knockouts versus Toronto Toxins roller derby bout March 22 at the Recreation Centre. Here, Norfolk Knockouts' MVP jammer Thud (left) and MVP blocker Trauma Queen pose with their Toronto Toxins counterparts.

(GINETTE PIEPER PHOTO)

apparent as the action heats up. There were occasional spills to the floor, the most extreme of these drawing empathetic "ooohs"

from the crowd.

But unlike sports like hockey where physical interaction often leads to flaring tempers, players who tumbled to the floor's unforgiving surface simply scrambled to their feet - or rather, skates - and rolled back into the fray. After the bout, players from both teams skated around the track in single file, slapping hands with fans who gathered along the perimeter. Then the teams gathered for an amiable group photo.

Though there used to be southern Ontario Derby Association, that folded during Covid. Now, the Norfolk Knockouts arrange bouts with other interested teams. They currently have three home games lined up, with the next one being April 26 against Windsor. Fans are welcome, with ticket price \$10. Children under 12 get in free.

The Norfolk Knockouts began operation in 2016. The team is always open to new players, and also has a need for referees and non-skating officials. More information about the Norfolk Knockouts' coming events can be found on their Facebook and Instagram pages.



It may look like mayhem, but there's method to the madness. Players from the Norfolk Knockouts (black jerseys) line up against the Toronto Toxins in the opening jam of the roller derby bout held March 22 at the Simcoe Recreation Centre.

(GINETTE PIEPER PHOTO)

Lions Cabaret, Variety Show support the community

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Simcoe Lions Club is presenting its 71st annual 'Millennium Music Experience' on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26.

Friday night is the Cabaret, for tables of 10, with perch dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a 7:30 p.m. show at the Simcoe Composite School Lions Auditorium.

Saturday is the Lions Variety Show with individual \$30 general admission tickets – showtime is 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are now available through the Lions website, simcoelions.com. For more information call 519-426-8562.

"We need to fill those seats," said Lion Terry Sheppard. "It's one of our biggest fundraisers. We have a lot of projects coming up. The beauty of it is... if you buy a ticket to the Lions show, you are supporting your own community."

Both nights feature hilarious laugh-out-loud comedy sketches and impressive chorus music performed by Simcoe Lions - and year after year, both are extremely popular.

"People will be looking forward to a 'bunch of goofy guys' having fun performing comedy sketches," said Lion Bruce Robinson, co-director of the comedy. "There's short ones, some 20 seconds, to some that are 1-2 minutes, spread out throughout the show. We're just having fun."

There is also a lot of singing, said Robinson. "These guys do the skit part, and they do some singing," said Sheppard at a recent rehearsal.

"We just enjoy putting it on," said Lion David Smyth, producer, noting the big attraction 'is the Lions.' "It's just a good time, and I think people enjoy seeing us having a good time up there. And the fact that we are amateurs, not professionals. They know we're going to mess up some of it, and they're going to get a laugh out of it. And most of the audience knows us, knows a lot of the cast, so they enjoy seeing what antics we're going to do this year."

About 15 Lions are involved in the comedy sketches, and there are about 30 Lions in the chorus.

"It brings the whole club together," said Smyth. "Everybody in the club has a 'job.' If you don't want to be on stage, then maybe you're out front ushering people in the audience, maybe your selling 50-50 tickets. Some like to be characters on stage, some like to sing. We have about 100 or so people in the club, and everybody has a job they like to do."

"So it gets everybody in the club involved," said Sheppard. "It's ideal because any of the new people that come into our club, they can do this and feel a part of the group. It gets them to know each other, rather than just 'going to a meeting.' Here, you're working together and they realize how fun it is."

"Having fun together," Smyth nodded.

Comedic material is drawn from a variety of sources, including 'the internet' and sketch comedy shows like Johnny Carson or Saturday Night Live, adding local Norfolk references.

"Some of it we write ourselves," Robinson noted.

"Everybody contributes, that's the big thing. It's not just one person doing everything. Everybody contributes throughout the year, different bits they think might work. We get together and we go through all kinds, maybe saying 'that's not going to work,' or

'it might work with this change...' It's a real collaboration."

"It's a lot of work," said Sheppard. "And it's time consuming..."

The payoff, he stressed, is raising funds for the community.

"People know the money they pay for this goes back into the community," said Sheppard.

"That is what we always emphasize," said Smyth. "It's going right back to the area... and we (Lions) do a lot."

Capacity at the Simcoe Composite School Lions Auditorium is about 600-700, and they have brought in about 500 each night the last couple of years. This year they are hoping to approach sell outs.

Every year they get positive feedback, said Sheppard.

"When the show is over, people always say 'that was the best show ever.' And we say, 'that's what you said last year... and the year before... and the year before that...'"

Timely references in their comedy helps keep it fresh, said Robinson, noting some of it relates to 'what is going on in the world at this point in time.'

"And we all know what that is," Robinson laughed.

Chris@granthaven.com



Simcoe Lions Zeke Gulabsingh, Mike Baslaugh and Rob Gould rehearse a comedy sketch, preparing for the April 25 Lions Cabaret and April 26 Lions Variety Show.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)



Preparing for the April 25 Simcoe Lions Cabaret and April 26 Simcoe Lions Variety Show.



The Simcoe Lions chorus group at a recent rehearsal.

Waterford Lionettes support NH Community Hospice

BRENDA MOSER

Advocate Correspondent

Service clubs have long supported local events and causes and the Waterford Lionettes happen to be one of them.

Formerly the Waterford Lioness, established in 1978 and disbanded in 2021, the organization has been serving the community for over 50 years and continues to do so today... just under a new name (different name, same organization).

The women of this group support our local causes through fundraising and donations. They are busy now preparing for their sold out Spring Tea - always a popular event - with proceeds from this event going to the Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice. Monies raised through the Lionette Tea will help provide hospice palliative care education, compassionate caregiver and family support, as well as adult and children's grief programs.

Other activities they are involved in include volunteering at Pumpkinfest and or-



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Waterford Lionettes include, front row from left, Melanie, Val, Mary Anne, Marnie, Renee, and back row, Cheryl, Cathy, Bernadette, Barb, Pat F., Jane, Pat H., and Mary Lynn.

ganizing family baskets for local families in need in the Waterford area at Christmas. Lionettes gather donations from other local community organizations and businesses to make up the baskets and are grateful and appreciative for their donations.

They recently made a generous monetary donation to the Waterford Tricenturena Skating Club for their skating bursaries and carnival, Broadway on Ice, which happens this weekend, Saturday, March 29, with 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. shows. Tickets are \$10 (cash only).

The Lionettes meet once a month, on the fourth Tuesday, to discuss any business activities and planning. They also try to have a scheduled guest speaker and past speakers have covered a variety of pertinent topics.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a member of the Waterford Lionettes you can contact Marnie Seiveright at 519-909-9243. They would love to have you.

Community-minded Lions Club serves Waterford

BRENDA MOSER

Advocate Correspondent

It was a great evening out with an amazing group of people. There was good food, socialization, guest speakers, club business and lots of laughter.

I am glad that I accepted an invite from Jessie Kingma to attend a Waterford Lions Club meeting to see first-hand exactly what goes on.

After some social time and catching up, it was time to sit down to a hot meal. Caterer Bonnie Major, with the help of Dave Avery, served up a delicious hot meal of salad, roast beef, mashed potatoes, veggies and dessert.

"This is our third year cooking for the Lions," said Major. "We shop locally and most of our meat comes from Townsend Butchers."

If you are interested in possibly booking them for an event you can contact Bonnie at causwelovetocook@hotmail.com. With stomachs full it was time to get down to business.

General meetings are held at the Lions Community Centre, on West Church Street, the first and third Tuesday of the month from September to June, while the executive meets the second Tuesday of the month.

The Lions are no longer male only. The Waterford Lions have 49 members and that includes 14 women at present.

"We're also one of the fastest growing clubs by percentage," said Kingma. "The population is aging so it's important that the younger generation is stepping up and joining."

METAL RECYCLING DAY

On April 5, the Waterford Lions are pairing up with Waterford's Norfolk County Fire Station 3 for an exciting new partnership. They will be holding a metal recycling collection and barbecue day at Quick Lane Tire & Auto Centre on Main Street. The Lions would like to extend a special



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Waterford Lions Club caterers Bonnie Major and Dave Avery.

thanks to Quick Lane Tire & Auto, Blue Star Ford and SOS Recycling for making this possible.

The Lions are a very community minded - and committed - club that gives back to our town in many ways. One of their spring activities is their road clean up scheduled for April 12. With garbage bags in hand they will take to the streets and ditches to gather up the litter that has accumulated over the winter. It's a dirty job but it won't stop them... they will get it done!

The Waterford Lions Club is always busy planning and preparing for a number of local events, including Touch the Truck, Christmas Toy & Food Drive, Breakfast with Santa, the Santa Claus Parade and their support of the Waterford Skate Park.

Their most well-known event - the event of all events - is the Waterford Pumpkinfest. It has become a very huge success that has brought thousands of visitors to our town every year. No small task and volunteers are always welcome.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Waterford Lion Club Chief Alex.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Waterford Lions Club members Dane, Matt, Hillary, Darrell, Holly and Nadine.

Heavenly Scents features soaps and spa essentials

BRENDA MOSER

Advocate Correspondent

There may be five senses, but the sense of smell might be one of the best. It can tell you so much about something without even having to see it, touch it, hear it or taste it.

As you step foot inside The Waterford Girl, you are greeted by some of the most heavenly scents and smells one could ever hope for.

Owner Lisa Ramey has owned her business almost 15 years now. She started at her home on Mechanic Street, Waterford, formulating and putting together her line of soaps and spa essentials.

"I would formulate my products then submit them to Health Canada for their approval. I did some shows to get a feeling for what people enjoyed then started into wholesale."

To get her product 'out there' more she started her website, www.dirtygirlsoapstudio.com, designed by Shane Glendenning. The site is managed by Mike Barber and Adam Veri.

"It was great during COVID... I got a lot of online orders and still do," said Ramey.

As its popularity and sales increased, she realized that she needed more retail and manufacturing space, and with a little 'incentive' from her hubby, she moved her business into a storefront on Alice Street, Waterford. Almost seven years later, when she outgrew that location, she moved into her current shop at 35 Main Street South,



Heavenly Scents is located at 35 Main Street South, Waterford.

(BRENDA MOSER PHOTO)

Waterford and has been there about two years now.

For a time, Ramey had two jobs but is kept busy with her business now.

"As you have money you keep reinvesting it, so it is nice when people shop locally. It keeps the money here in our community."

Ramey is very good to her customers and offers reward points for their continued patronage. She also offers workshops for a

variety of occasions as well as gift baskets.

You can hold a birthday party for kids, 11 years old and up with a parent, with six as the maximum per group. The party is held right in her shop, so space is limited. For just \$100 they will receive four heart soaps each, learn different techniques, how to use the soap, and at the end of the party, they each receive two doughnut soaps.

"I want them to have fun... you can bring in balloons, food, etc. The party will usu-

ally last the whole day. They will make one thing at a time and can pick their own scents."

Bath Magic powder is the first product she ever made and she still charges just \$5 five years later. Her soap bars remain five for \$20.

"I try to offer things at a good price."

Ramey offers 'Soap Bubbles' – or rewards – as a bit of an incentive for customers.

"When you spend \$10 you get one 'bubble' so when you have collected 10 bubbles you will get a discount of \$10 off your purchase. It's just a matter of signing up under your phone number. Customers can also sign up for her email newsletter.

Ramey adds, "I try to keep prices reasonable and affordable for my customers. I offer 37 different soaps, mousse, lip balms, epsom salts, hand lotions, foaming hand soap, facial hyaluronic toner... the selection is huge. I also carry a lot of Happy Hippo products from Alberta."

Ramey also carries votive candles, wax melts and electric warmers, all in her scent appealing fragrances.

For more info visit her website at www.dirtygirlsoapstudio.com or, better yet, stop by her shop at 35 Main Street South in Waterford and browse. Her hours are Monday 12-5, Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday 10-5 and closed Sundays. Be sure you have enough time to check out her complete inventory and chat with Lisa... while enjoying the heavenly aroma.

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Renee Vervaeke
Owner of Golden Pond

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RIVERSYDE 83

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- Ruffins Pet Store
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- Simcoe Recreation Centre
- Simcoe Seniors Centre
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WATERFORD

- Belching Barista
- Esso
- Foodland Waterford
- Kerry's James St. Eatery
- Minor Bros. Country Living
- Tricenturena Waterford Arena

- Waterford Heritage & Ag Museum
- Waterford Home Building Centre
- Waterford Pharmacy and Health Food

DELHI

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- Canadian Tire
- Circle K
- Crompton Home Building Centre
- Dave's Variety
- Delhi Community Arena
- Roulston's Pharmacy
- Tim Hortons
- Wilkinson's YIG

COURTLAND

- Courtland Bakery Ltd.
- Courtland Variety & Café

LANGTON

- Langton Food Market
- Langton Pharmacy

SCOTLAND

- Scotland Food Market

2001: An enviro-space odyssey



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles

The year is 2001. Gardening guru Mark Cullen and I are sharing the back seat of a mini-bus, part of a small group of travel and garden writers touring the south of England. Today, our tour is taking us to a dramatic, brand-new attraction, dubbed “The Eden Project.”

And that was my introduction to yet another visionary project spear-headed by Tim Smits. I knew about Tim Smits, the guy behind the most ambitious garden restoration project of all time – the Lost Gardens of Heligan, which had opened to the public in 1992, and which I had already visited a couple of times (and several more, since). I’ve written about Heligan previously in this space; if you love gardens, architecture, or history, or utterly mad endeavors, you should check it out.

Well, by the last ‘90s, Heligan was up and running beautifully and Smits was looking for something else to do. Other people, like you or me, might then take up golf or knitting, but Smits cast his eye on an un-used chalk mining pit, a 20-minute drive through southern Cornwall away. And while others

saw an abandoned quarry, Smits saw a spectacular, unique, environmental showcase... and the Eden Project was born.

The impossible concept involved constructing a series of linked, geodesic domes, or “biomes”, which would house two entire ecosystems – a rainforest, and a Mediterranean landscape. There would also be extensive outdoor gardens – the biomes and outdoor gardens cover 30 acres.

The first time I visited the Eden Project, the biomes were complete and full of relatively small plants – and relatively big hopes. But would it work? Would this brave new world of artificially created environments survive, and would it attract visitors?

Yes, on all counts – but not without major challenges. In December, 2020, torrential rain caused landslides on the chalk cliffs that forced the site to close for five months. But it re-opened to enthusiastic crowds of visitors in mid-2021. The latest annual figures show 604,000 visitors in a twelve-month period. Since opening, Eden has welcomed more than 19 million guests. It's so popular that you need to book timed tickets in advance.

The Eden Project is a tourist attraction with distinct difference. It's a place that definitely offers a lot of entertainment – even including a zip line – but it's first priority is not to entertain, it's to educate.

And there is lots to learn, all presented in an immersive, captivating environment. In my most recent visit to Eden, I was again struck by the drama of walking through a genuine rainforest, albeit in a biome in rural Cornwall. The recommended schedule for a visit is four hours, but if you like, you can spend much longer, checking out the flora and fauna (the latter limited to some birds native to the rainforest), and mar-

velling at the achievement itself.

Because it's all here – the trees, vines, flowers, replica buildings, waterfalls, and more.

One piece of advice – you are visiting a site that occupies an unused quarry, and covers a lot of territory. There can be a lot of walking, and although the paths are level and comfortable, the climb back up from the biomes to the visitor centre, and then again to the parking lot, can be a bit tasking. But the Eden Project will provide motorized scooters, preferably booked in advance.

On one visit to Eden, I was leading a group that included a couple of women who felt they should use scooters. This was arranged. They then discovered the joys of scooter racing, and I am surprised they a) survived and b) escaped incarceration. But I digress.

The visionary ambition that inspired first Heligan, and then the Eden Project has not waned. The attraction's website, edenproject.com, includes a section called “New Edens”. There are plans underway for unique projects in Dundee, Scotland; Lancashire, England; Derry, Northern Ireland; and much farther afield in China, Costa Rica, and Australia. In all cases, the focus is on the environment, sustainability, and education. And in all cases, the projects employ many local residents, a true boon to struggling economies. The Eden Project itself employs between 300 and 400 people, as well as having a volunteer group of over 100.

Cornwall itself is one of my favourite destinations in the world. Visitors should definitely schedule time to visit The Eden Project, but my itinerary in this part of England's south-west would also always include The Lost Gardens of Heligan; the late-Victorian country mansion, Lanhydrock; the coastal towns of Fowey (pro-

nounced “Foy”) and Mevagissey, all within a few minutes of the Eden Project. Not to mention the many other fascinating destinations in this western-most part of the U.K. – St. Michael's Mount, the village of Mousehole (“Mawzle”), Penzance, St. Ives, Tintagel and more. The whole of Cornwall is less two hours from Land's End to Tavistock, so time spent here can involve a minimum of time

travelling, and a maximum of time experiencing this unique part of the world. Including a lush, indoor rainforest, waterfall and all.

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.



The biomes that house Rainforest and Mediterranean ecosystems.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



A gigantic bee sculpture in the outdoor gardens illustrates the educational and artistic intentions of the creators of the Eden Project.



Birds native to the biosystem, like these quail, wander trustingly through the biome.



Unique blooms and other plants are everywhere in these authentic biosystems



Even the architecture and pottery are authentic in the Mediterranean biome.

Riddles

Why are waterbeds so bouncy?
They're filled with spring water.

Which month of the year is the shortest?
May. It only has three letters.

Why is Yoda such a good gardener?
He has a green thumb.

What goes up when March rain comes down?
An umbrella.

Why are flowers so popular?
They have a lot of buds.

What's the April Fool's lucky card in the deck?
The Joker.

Why can April jump so high?
It's spring!

What did April Fools' Day say after it won an award?
Prank you.

How can you tell when April is happy?
It has a little spring in its step.

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 23

PET OF THE WEEK

Nominate your Pet of the Week by emailing info@simcoeadvocate.com



DAISY

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Here is a photo of our 2 year old doodle, Daisy. She is new to Simcoe and loves to visit the dog park. She follows mommy everywhere especially when she hears the cheese drawer open.



Word Search

APRIL FOOL'S DAY

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

Words

- April Fools
- Bamboozle
- Bemuse
- Funny
- Gag
- Games
- Hoax
- Hoodwink
- Jokes
- Laughter
- Mischief
- Playful
- Prank
- Shenanigans
- Silly
- Spring
- Surprise
- Tomfoolery
- Tricks
- Wacky

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Email to inquire: info@simcoeadvocate.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Kanopy After Dark: A Cinematic Escape for Grown-Ups! - ages 18+

7 p.m - 9 p.m

Join fellow film enthusiasts in a welcoming, communal setting for a night of cinematic discovery.

Norfolk County Public Library Simcoe Branch - 46 Colborne Street South Simcoe

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

OPEN JAM

1 p.m - 10 p.m

Last Saturday of every month.

Everyone is welcome to bring an instrument or just come out and listen to the music.

Free event

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526

3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

Experience Fanshawe College's at Open House

All locations are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Meet faculty and current students from all areas of Fanshawe
- Drop-in and ask about your program interests, career options and becoming a Fanshawe student
- Hear from college experts on student life, admissions, financial aid, and more!
- Explore our campuses at London, Woodstock, Simcoe, St. Thomas, Clinton and Tiverton

Bayham Historical Society

2 p.m - 10 p.m

Invites you to attend "Robyn Michaud", Professor of Indigenous Studies" for a talk and "jingle dancing"!

Text Barb to reserve your seat 519-550-3454 or email to bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com. No admission fee!!!

6209 Plank Rd Vienna

MONDAY, MARCH 31

BINGO NIGHT - G.I.R.L.S power camp takeover

7 p.m

Doors open 5:30 p.m - Early Bird 6:30 p.m

Presented by ABEL Enterprises.

abelenterprises.ca

Simcoe Legion

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Shine Bright: Diamond Art Workshop for Teens

4 p.m - 5:30 p.m

Discover the joy of Diamond Art, a relaxing and creative hobby where you craft stunning artwork by placing colourful resin rhinestones on a sticky canvas.

Norfolk County Public Library Port Dover Branch - 713 St. George Street Port Dover

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Youth Film Society

4:30 p.m - 6:30 p.m

Embark on a cinematic journey and join us for an exciting evening of film exploration.

Norfolk County Public Library Simcoe Branch - 46 Colborne Street South Simcoe

Board Game Nite

6 p.m - 9 p.m

The Norfolk Game Group welcomes all adults and supervised children to join in on the fun!

Norfolk County Public Library Simcoe Branch - 46 Colborne Street South Simcoe

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Trivia Night at Riversyde 83

7 p.m

Café open until 9:00 p.m on Fridays.

83 Sydenham St. Simcoe

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Join us for a Game Night full of board games, pizza, and great company!

4:00 - 7:00 p.m

Looking for a fun and relaxing evening with friends, family, and neighbours? We'll have a variety of board games provided, but feel free to bring your favorite game to share!

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 155 Colborne St N, Simcoe

HeartNSoul!

3 p.m - 5 p.m

Pop, Oldies, Country, Folk Fundraising concert for South Coast Community Caring for Cancer. FREE event. Donation accepted.

St James United Church
150 Colborne St South Simcoe

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Leather Wrap Bracelet Workshop

3 p.m - 4:30 p.m

Craft a stylish, one-of-a-kind accessory perfect for any occasion. This workshop provides step-by-step instructions to help you master the art of bracelet making.

Norfolk County Public Library Simcoe Branch - 46 Colborne Street South Simcoe

BINGO NIGHT

7 p.m

Doors open 5:30 p.m - Early Bird 6:30 p.m

Presented by ABEL Enterprises.

abelenterprises.ca

Simcoe Legion

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Port Dover Community Sing-Along - Broadway & Movie Musicals

7 p.m

\$2 donation. Call 416-505-1658 for more information.

Grace United Church

18 Chapman St. W., Port Dover

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Teen Art Club

4:30 p.m - 5:30 p.m

Grow your portfolio, expand your skills, and connect with other teen artists!

Norfolk County Public Library

Delhi Branch - 192 Main Street of Delhi

MONDAY, APRIL 14

BINGO NIGHT

7 p.m

Doors open 5:30 p.m - Early Bird 6:30 p.m

Presented by ABEL Enterprises.

abelenterprises.ca

Simcoe Legion

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Teen Social Night

4 p.m - 5 p.m

Looking for a fun way to hang out, get creative, and game with friends? Whats in store? -

Squad up in Minecraft, Roblox, and Dungeons & Dragons - Dive into epic tabletop games &

creative challenges - Chat about your favourite books & anime - Meet new people, have a

blast, and pick next months theme!

Norfolk County Public Library Port Dover

Branch - 713 St. George Street Port Dover

SIMCOE ADVOCATE

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

Deadline: Monday prior at 3 p.m. Contact:

info@simcoeadvocate.com

- The Simcoe Advocate Community Calendar allows non-profit organizations to promote their free admission community events at no charge. Event listings can include the event name, date, time and location as well as contact information (ie phone number, email address or website).
- If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, the Simcoe Advocate offers the following options for promoting your community events:
 - Coming Events Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
 - Coming Events Boxed Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
 - Display Ad - Sizes begin at a Small Classified Display ad (3.3" x 2.5") - \$35 + hst

CLASSIFIEDS

Email to inquire: info@simcoeadvocate.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BI-WEEKLY PUBLICATION DATES

APRIL 10, APRIL 24

MAY 8 & MAY 22

DEADLINE IS THE MONDAY PRIOR AT 3 P.M.



INFO@SIMCOEADVOCATE.COM

FOR SALE

Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blueberries, haskapp grapes, raspberries, elderberries etc. Lots of spruce, pine, cedars for wind-break and privacy hedges. Sizes 1-8 ft. in containers ready to go. Flowering shrubs and much more. Mon-Sat 7:00am to 6:00pm
Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Rd Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0 (1 Conc. North of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

HELP WANTED

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM AS A NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE!

Are you a motivated self-starter with a passion for sales and marketing? Do you thrive in a flexible work environment where you can set your own schedule? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you!

Location: Work from Anywhere!
Schedule: Your Own Schedule
Type: Commission

About Grant Haven Media: At Grant Haven Media, we are committed to delivering top-quality news and information to our readers. As a leading newspaper company, we take pride in our dedication to journalistic excellence and community engagement. As we continue to grow, we're looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our dynamic sales team.

If you are interested, contact Heather Dunbar at:
heather@granthaven.com

Worship With Us



St. John's Anglican Church
(Woodhouse)

883 Norfolk St. S, Simcoe

Join us for
Sunday Worship at 11 am

Community Coffee Break
Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 am

Rev Leah Arvidsson
www.parishoflongpointbay.com
519-426-4766

SIMCOE ADVOCATE

Why Advertise In Our Service Directory?



COST EFFECTIVE



ENGAGED AUDIENCE



TRUSTWORTHY MEDIUM



TARGETED DEMOGRAPHIC

BOOK YOUR SPACE TODAY!

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Belle | 6. Mandarin Chinese |
| 2. China | 7. Halifax |
| 3. Vincent Van Gogh | 8. Augustus |
| 4. Zeus | 9. Toothless |
| 5. Methane | 10. Hiroshima & Nagasaki |

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

SIMCOE ADVOCATE

Guiding Principles

1. Everyone has a story
2. The news should be free for all to enjoy
3. Good news beats bad news
4. A Newspaper should be a community effort (contribute to your local paper!)
5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

THIS COULD BE YOUR AD HERE!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO!

EASTER

COLOURING CONTEST



We're on the hunt for
EGGCELLENT
 artists!

Let's hop to it:

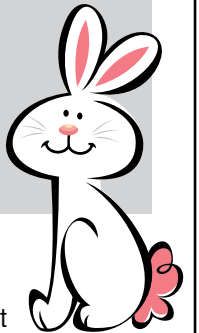
Decorate this Easter picture with your favourite colours, then drop it off at:

Simcoe Town Centre
 150 West Street, Simcoe, ON

The ballot box is located at our security kiosk in the middle of the mall.

Winner gets an Easter basket full of goodies!

Let your creativity shine!



Colouring Contest Rules:

- Contest is open to children ages 4-10. Relatives of newspaper employees or contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
- Contestants may use crayons, markers or coloured pencils to colour the pictures. Adults may assist in completing the contest entry form, but may not assist in colouring.

Winners will be selected by random draw and will be contacted via phone/email.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

