



Godrich Sun

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 8

MARCH 1, 2024

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Firefighters versus NHL stars in support of Huron Hospice

In what is becoming an annual event for Huron County the hockey game between local firefighters and former NHL stars will once again support the Huron Hospice.

This year the team will be led by firefighters from Central Huron.

The puck will drop in Clinton at Eastlink Arena on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

“When Huron County families are on a difficult end-of-life journey, they turn to Huron Hospice for compassionate care,” said Willy Van Klooster, executive director of Huron Hospice.

Nurses and volunteers provide care at Bender House, so families can focus on being together.

Since 2018, 250 people have used the services at Bender House.

Trained volunteers work with families in the community, providing care and respite for more than 100 people each year.

The Ontario government contributes half of the hospice’s annual revenue. The hospice relies on donors to contribute the other 50 per cent.

“There are no costs for any Huron Hospice services,” added Van Klooster.

“Events like the celebrity hockey game are an important part of our being able to provide care for local friends and families.”

This annual fundraising hockey game promises skill and is guaranteed to be a memorable event for all ages.

Tickets for the game on March 16 cost \$30 and a limited supply are available by emailing Christopher Walker at Huron Hospice: chris.walker@huronhospice.ca or 519-525-7352.



COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR
Four-hundred and fifty students from GPS took part in the CNOY in Goderich, raising \$1,500. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Another successful year for Coldest Night of the Year in Goderich

KATHLEEN SMITH
Editor

On Saturday, February 24 individuals and teams united in walking together to raise funds for those experiencing homelessness, hurt, and hunger took part in the Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY).

As of February 28, the CNOY in Goderich raised \$126,737 with 290 walkers and 49 teams, and 14 volunteers.

“We are grateful to Goderich and area residents for stepping up to make a difference in our community,” said Beth Blowes, chair of United Way Perth-Huron’s (UWPH) Goderich and Area Community Committee.

“This is the fifth year for CNOY in Goderich and the enthusiasm and energy Goderich puts into supporting Coldest Night is really special.”

As of 10 days before the fundraising event, on February 14, Goderich CNOY had already raised \$62,510, almost 50 per cent of the \$130,000 goal.

Funds continue to be donated to the cause and organizers of CNOY are hopeful Goderich can reach the goal of \$130,000.

“Because of an incredible outpouring of generosity, Goderich and area has raised \$125,547 so far – that’s 97 per cent of our goal,” said Michelle Millar, United Way’s Community Development Manager, Goderich and area.

“Thank you to everyone for supporting this year’s event and making it such a success. We also wanted to remind people that, if you haven’t given to Coldest Night but would still like to support vulnerable, local people, donations are open until March 31.”

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Council plans for semi-annual community information sessions

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

During the strategic planning process, council determined that to be transparent, and demonstrate open government, and financial accountability, semi-annual Town Hall Community Information Sessions were necessary.

The purpose of these semi-annual sessions is to provide an informal space to provide community members the opportunity to ask questions of council members.

The public can attend the Town Hall in person, be part of it via live-stream, or watch the recorded video that is posted on the Town's website.

According to the report to council on February 5, participants attending in person would be invited to the microphone to ask their question for broadcasting purposes,

and would be given three minutes for the question, and three minutes for council to answer.

Although the purpose is to be transparent, there are restrictions as to what participants are allowed to say, to support a respectful conversation. Participants are asked to refrain from racist, sexist, offensive language, personal attacks, defamatory statements, violating privacy, and threats.

The question-and-answer period would be recorded and posted on the Town's website. Any question council members cannot answer, would be referred to staff to provide an answer.

Members of the community are reminded that not all questions will receive a response, however, every effort would be made to address as many as possible.

Recommended dates for the sessions are May 13 and November 25 at 10 a.m. for a duration of one and a half hours.

The format may be reviewed following the first session on May 13, where there might be opportunities for individuals knowledgeable in a topic of interest, to present or answer technical questions at the meeting.

There is no financial implication to hosting these two meetings.

Memorial candlelight walk remembers loved ones in support of Huron Hospice

In its third annual Candlelight Memorial Walk, Huron Hospice invites families and friends to remember loved ones who have passed by donating to light a memorial candle that will line the Taylor Trail by Varna's Community Centre.

"This event is both celebratory and soulful," said Roger Mather, who is chairing the walk this year.

"The candlelight walk through Taylor Trail offers time for pause and shared memories, while the event provides an opportunity for everyone to gather in remembrance."

This year, the event will feature an opening procession led by the Clinton Legion Pipe Band followed by reflections on Huron Hospice's impact in serving families, and the memorial reading of names of people who have passed and have a candle lit in their honour.

"Our volunteers have included addition-

al elements this year including stations along the walk to pause and reflect, as well as hand crafted tables and warming quilts for guests to huddle with during the reflection ceremony while enjoying a cup of hot chocolate," added Mather.

"We are once again appreciative of the support of the Bayfield River Valley Trail Association for their volunteerism in preparing the trail and lighting candles."

Each candle represents a remembered family member or friend.

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

The Memorial Candlelight Walk welcomes sponsors in support of the event. Funds raised will be directed to Huron Hospice's capital campaign to expand to a six-bed hospice facility.

Donations can be made online or a direct call at 905-630-3571.



Split the Pot Lottery returns to support local hospitals

After a successful pilot campaign, Split the Lottery is back in support of hospitals across Ontario. This collaborative fundraising effort aims to return bigger and better from February 8 until March 21.

The lottery supports an additional 30 hospital partners including Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) Foundation. It offers players 13 more chances to win early bird prizes.

Split the Pot Lottery gives players the chance to win big, while contributing to vital healthcare initiatives in their communities.

With a total of 51 hospital partners and a guaranteed minimum \$500,000 jackpot, it also presents the unique opportunity to participate in the largest partnered fundraising initiative in Ontario.

"As lead sponsor of the Split the Pot Lottery initiative, we're very excited to see so many hospital foundations come together," said Paul McIntyre Royston, President

and CEO, Grand River Hospital Foundation.

"The initial lottery exceeded expectations, and we can't wait to see the impacts of Split the Pot on our local healthcare."

To give players more chances to win, Split the Pot Lottery jackpot will be divided among 13 grand prize winners, and there will be 26 chances to win a total of \$76,000 in early bird prizes. As a result, Ontario patients win big too, with a portion of proceeds from every ticket purchased going directly to support partnering hospitals through their foundations.

"By participating in Split the Pot, you can help ensure Care Never Stops in communities and that patients receive access to the technology and services they need to have the best possible outcomes," added McIntyre Royston.

Tickets for Split the Pot are on sale and can be purchased by visiting the website: splitthepot.ca



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Public Health asks community to help reduce risk of measles in Huron Perth

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

With measles cases on the rise globally, including Ontario, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) strongly encourages residents to make sure they have protection against the virus. This would include receiving a vaccination against measles if needed.

"Vaccination against measles is safe and effective at preventing the virus," explained Dr. Miriam Klassen, Huron Perth Medical Officer of Health.

Measles is one of the most highly contagious infectious diseases. The virus spreads through coughing and sneezing and can live for up to two hours in the air, or on a surface.

According to HPPH, although many people recover from measles within two to three weeks, the virus can cause complications such as pneumonia, ear infections, diarrhea, hearing loss, brain swelling (encephalitis), seizures, or rarely, death.

"With the recent global and provincial increase in measles cases, I encourage everyone to consider their risk for measles, for example, if planning to travel internationally, and to receive a vaccination if they are at increased risk," added Dr. Klassen.

In December 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 30-fold increase in measles cases in Europe.

A rise in imported measles cases has been reported in the Americas, and there

are currently four active cases of measles in Canada, two of which are in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

According to Ontario's Publicly Funded Routine Immunization Schedule, children and adolescents should receive two doses of vaccine against measles to be considered up to date. All adults 18 years and older who have previously received one dose of vaccine against measles should receive a second dose if they are healthcare workers or post-secondary students.

Adults born before 1970 can be presumed to have acquired natural immunity to measles.

With increased international travel expected over March Break, Dr. Klassen has made the follow additional recommen-

dations: Infants six to 11 months of age travelling to areas with increased measles transmission should be immunized with one dose of vaccine against measles; adults 18 years and older who have previously received one dose should receive a second if planning to travel.

Furthermore, children in Ontario are required to be immunized against measles under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA).

Currently, HPPH is carrying out a review of student vaccination records as part of its regular ISPA review process.

Local healthcare providers are required to report to HPPH any suspect or confirmed cases of measles and HPPH will take action to prevent the further spread.

Goderich Track Rebuild committee seeks support with potential project

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yet Cruickshank stressed at the meeting

that Goderich Track Rebuild weren't there to put a price tag on their presentation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

According to Machan, the basketball court was put in at the same time and has had almost no maintenance done to it over the

nearly 50 years and is also in dire need of an upgrade.

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

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

"This is a huge undertaking, but we are confident that the GDCI and Goderich com-

munity will support our efforts to restore our track and sports fields to their former glory," Machan added.

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

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

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Goderich Sun Established 2023

The Goderich Sun is published monthly on the first Friday of each month and is free to all citizens. It is also available online at www.goderichsun.com or www.granthaven.com. The newspaper is owned and published by Grant Haven Media, a local business who also publishes the St. Marys Independent, Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette, Stratford Times, and Woodstock Ingersoll Echo.

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Upcoming Issues:

Friday, March 1, 2024
Thursday, March 21, 2024
Thursday, April 4
Thursday, April 18
Thursday, May 2

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Pointing fingers doesn't solve the housing crisis

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Nearly a month ago, I was listening to a discussion on CBC radio on the topic of the housing crisis. Callers were given a set amount of airtime to voice their opinions on the matter.

Some callers were articulate and provided unique, personal takes on the issue, while others were less tactful and said things without a filter, putting the whole blame on immigrants. This created an us-versus-them debate during the hour-long program.

One individual, an immigrant who is a student at an Ontario university, voiced her opinion that it was unfair to blame students who often stay on and join the local labour force.

That was one of a few opinions, while others debated that point, stating that if there were less immigrants taking up space, they could have the apartment they wanted to rent.

There are many factors that contribute to the housing issue, and too many people and not enough units creates a crisis, like the issue of too much demand and not enough supply, causing inflation.

But at the end of the day, isn't it true that if someone isn't making enough money to afford the current market prices, they simply cannot afford to live in those units, regardless of how many immigrants come into Canada?

Most of the heated discussions surrounded the topic of immigration rates, as one of the main reasons why individuals cannot afford a house today.

It was certainly interesting to hear different points of view, yet at the end of the discussion we were still here, living in a world where there is a lack of affordable housing during a time of high inflation.

The demand for housing doesn't match the supply.

Although pointing fingers doesn't solve the issue, the Bank of Canada said that record levels of immigration can impact the cost of housing. When there is an increase in population, while there is a constrained supply of units already, it puts pressure on prices.

While it may be true that the federal government had to make recent efforts to cut the number of non-permanent residents, there are other key elements at play.

Inflation is defined as a rise in prices across an economy.

When prices rise unexpectedly, money doesn't go as far as it used to. This can trigger demands for raises, which causes more inflation.

Inflation is caused by too much demand, relative to supply.

Central banks use interest rates to control demand and inflation. If inflation is high, they raise their target for short-term interest rates.

Higher interest rates make borrowing costs less attractive for firms and consumers. This leads to less demand for goods and investments.

Lowering the demand relieves the pressures that were raising prices.

Unfortunately, we haven't seen the results from lowering the demand to relieve the raising prices, and people continue to struggle.

Persistently high inflation rates can also impact the housing growth.

High inflation rates have made living for the average Canadian difficult, including the cost of living while wages for many remain stagnant.

The Bank of Canada says that multiple factors can contribute to the rising cost of housing – higher insurance and maintenance costs, a shortage of construction workers, and cumbersome zoning and permitting regulations.

And while immigration does remain a key source of added pressure to the housing crisis, it is not the sole cause.

Recently, the federal government rolled out the Housing Accelerator Fund and allocated \$4 billion until 2027 to encourage more home building in cities.

It seems that after years of increasing inflation rates and a continuous housing crisis, moves are starting to be made to correct the situation.

But to point the finger at the immigrant demographic is not only unfair but not an informed action. To solve a puzzle, one must use and look at all the pieces.

Have immigrants put an added strain on the existing housing issue? According to the Bank of Canada, high immigration rates add pressure to an existing issue.

Is it solely the fault of immigrants that individuals cannot afford to rent or buy? No.

This issue remains complex and affected by many outside factors that create the perfect storm. It doesn't need another issue like bipartisanship or the us-versus-them mentality to add pressure to an already inflated crisis.

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Goderich Sun

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Bluffs at Huron community group donates more than \$30,000 back into the community

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Last year the Bluffs Community Charity Committee presented the hospital foundation with a cheque for \$10,000, and this year that amount doubled.

This year the Bluffs at Huron community group donated \$20,000 to the Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) Foundation in December 2023.

On December 14 the Bluffs at Huron Charity Committee presented their donation to the AMGH Foundation's Executive Director Kimberley Payne, the AMGH Foundation's Chair Sherry Marshall, and AMGH's President Jimmy Trieu.

Marlene Hodgins is the Chair of the Charity Committee with the Bluffs group.

Hodgins believes the fundraising continues to be so successful because they are contributing to something on a grander scale than they would individually. It is a great way for them to come together as a community.

When first formed, the Charity Committee asked the community to send a list of the charities they wanted to support. The hospital foundation, food bank and

the legion were the founding charities of choice. Basketeers was added three years ago, and the hospice last year.

"The hospital foundation was chosen because we know we put a strain on their resources and it is a way to help out and give back," explained Hodgins.

"We are a 55+ community and will use their services more as we age."

In addition, a \$9,000 donation was made to the Huron Hospice, a \$4,000 donation was made to the local food bank, and 50 gift baskets for women in Huron County seeking a gender-based violence free life.

Huron Hospice was added last year to the list. The Charity Committee wanted to do something to help with the hospice's expansion. The Committee has always supported the food bank because there is a need all the time.

Majority of the \$9,000 donated to Huron Hospice will go towards a bed for one of the new rooms being built right now. The remaining \$1,000 honours one of the Bluffs' community members who used the facility during their final days.

Another whopping \$4,000 was given to the food bank, including a truck full of food items.

The Charity Committee also organizes a Basketeers program, but it is not just a Bluffs initiative. The Basketeer program is a Huron-wide program that puts together laundry baskets full of home and personal items for the women in shelter and second stage housing in Huron County at Christmas time.

"The Bluffs is definitely the largest supporter of the program, but we receive baskets from many other companies, organizations and residents in Huron," Hodgins explained.

"We were very proud to donate 50 baskets this year to the shelter."

The community also held a food drive on December 12, to donate to the local food bank, and filled laundry baskets with needed items for the Huron Women's Shelter for the annual Basketeer campaign across Huron County.

"Our Bluffs community tries very hard to give to Goderich, even though we are physically in ACW," explained Kat Hay, from the Bluffs at Huron.

Further to all those efforts, the Bluffs community group also support the Goderich Legion Branch 109.

"They do a lot for the Goderich community, so we want them to be able to keep their doors open," added Hodgins.

These donations were made possible due to the group's fundraising efforts throughout the year.

"The Charity Committee works tirelessly to create fabulous events that join the Bluffs residents together in order to give back to a community we love," Kay Hay said.

"I would like the residents in Goderich, and ACW to see we are giving back and not just using the resources here. We are all from away, and we love it here. We work hard to make it a community that believes in service and having a good time while doing it."

The Charity Committee with the assistance of everyone who lives at the Bluffs of Huron contributed a total of \$37,000 to be distributed locally. In one year.

"We were shocked and delighted all at the same time," explained Hay.

"We hope you hear how proud we are to live in a beautiful community, located beside the prettiest town in Canada."



Members of the Bluffs at Huron Community Group donate \$20,000 to the AMGH Foundation. Receiving the donation was President and CEO of AMGH, Jimmy Trieu, AMGH Foundation's Chair Sherry Marshall and Executive Director of the Foundation, Kimberley Payne. Members of the Bluffs Community group pictured are Sherry Sunnucks, Sherry Lacasse, Gail Coppes, Randy LeDuc, Lynn LeDuc, Tracy Hyrb, Mary Ellen Warren, Brenda Asquith, Kelli Douglas, Marlene Hodgins, and Janet Wheeler.



Food Drive efforts (L-R): Randy LeDuc, Kelli Douglas, Sherry Sunnucks, Co-Chair, Mary Ellen Warren, Treasurer, and Marlene Hodgins, Director.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

HPCDSB PD Day change due to solar eclipse

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board's Trustees decided to change the date of the April 19 Professional Development (PD) Day to April 8.

This decision was made in consultation with various groups including the Joint School Year Calendar Committee, unions, the Avon Maitland District

School Board, and nearby school districts.

The reason for the change is to ensure caution due to a rare solar eclipse happening on April 8 between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The decision was finalized during the Regular Board meeting on February 26.

The solar eclipse is predicted to coincide with the dismissal and transportation home of students and staff at the end of the school day.

Due to primary public health risks from a solar eclipse such as severe eye damage if a person looks at it without protective equipment, the HPCDSB opted to move

PD Days to April 8 so the students would be home on the day of the eclipse.

In addition to this strategy, the HPCDSB will consult with Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) to assist families in planning for a safe eclipse and send the required communication to families as soon as possible.

Jokey North America latest Huron business to certify as living wage employer

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The Perth-Huron living wage, based on a 35-hour work week, was calculated as \$22.75 per hour. Recently Jokey North America was named as the latest Huron business to certify as a living wage employer.

“Jokey North America is a team of some of the finest people I know,” said Paul McInnis, President of Jokey North America.

“Each and every person here deserves a safe and supportive work environment as well as the financial means to provide for themselves and their families.”

Jokey is a leading international manufacturer of rigid plastic packaging. The company produces plastic buckets, and lids, but injection moulding.

“We are proud to be a certified living wage employer and we challenge all businesses in Huron Perth to do everything they can to provide a living wage for their employees,” added McInnis.

“The only effective way to elevate the

standard of living in our communities is pay people fairly and give what we can.”

Jokey offers food and non-food producers sophisticated, industry-specific packaging solutions. Their standard range includes round, rectangular, square and oval plastic packaging from 120 ml to 35 litres. The buckets and lids produced at Jokey are 100 per cent recyclable.

For 55 years, the name Jokey has stood for outstanding know-how in plastic injection moulding. With 2,300 employees, Jokey produces in 16 plants, in 13 countries and supply customers in around 80 countries.

And now Jokey in Huron County joins the growing list of living wage employers.

“Part of addressing unaffordable living locally is making sure workers are paid a living wage,” explained Michelle Millar, United Way Perth-Huron’s Manager of Community Development in Goderich and area.

“We appreciate Jokey’s commitment to their employees and to building an even stronger community.”



LIVING WAGE EMPLOYER

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Members of Jokey North America in Goderich with members of United Way Perth-Huron, celebrating the announcement that Jokey is now a living wage employer. (Back row, L to R): Sahil Sachdeva, Fred Hakkers, Angela Seaton, Rebecca Ferguson, Jane Coughlin, Michelle Millar (United Way Perth-Huron), Dylan Gautreau. (Front row, L-R): Paul McInnis (President of Jokey North America), Teresa Meriam, Stacie Corrigan, Greg Dearing, Chad Eden, Julie Bennett, Alexis Theijsmeijer.

Another successful year for Coldest Night of the Year in Goderich



(REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATASHA PHOTO)

Top Left: Team Wonderful Walking Women (and some amazing men) including Chris Crofton, Gloria Fisher, Mary Gregg, Barbara Kane (team captain), Deborah Bailey, and Susan Pye. The team had a goal of \$1,000 and managed to raise \$7,707.53.



With 290 walkers, and 49 teams, the CNOY in Goderich raised 96 per cent of their \$130,000 goal by February 27. Donations continue to pour in, making the goal reachable.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

According to CNOY donation lists, Councillor Randy Carroll raised the most money as an individual walker in the CNOY in Goderich with \$8,225, through 28 donors, finishing in the top 40 in all of Canada.

Bernie’s Bunch led by Bernice Glenn raised the most money from the teams with \$16,674.20 through 15 members.

In second place was the Town of Goderich team, which raised \$10,710.85 for the cause.

Local businesses also made generous donations to the cause, some of which were: Donnelly Murphy Lawyers PC with a donation of \$6,425, CMHA with \$2,540, Goderich Quilters’ Guild with \$2,530, CAS with \$2,400, Rotary International with \$4,670, AMGH Foundation with \$985, Bethel Pentecostal Assembly with \$2,310, MicroAge Basics with \$1,845, Jokey North America with \$1,550, Libro Credit Union with \$2,595 and Compass Minerals with a donation of \$1,265.

Walkers checked-in at Goderich Legion

and local restaurant Steve and Mary’s on the Square supplied homemade soup for participants.

Walkers had a choice of a two- or five-kilometre route around Courthouse Square.

Those raising over \$150 (and \$75 for youth under 18) received a CNOY toque.

After the walk participants headed back to the Goderich Legion to enjoy refreshments, food and music from local band, Irish Cowboys.

On top of the February 24 event, 450 participants at Goderich Public School (GPS) took part in their walk on February 23.

“We feel that it is important to be active in the community, to teach our students there are folks in our community who are facing hardship and need our support, free from any shame or blame,” said Vice Principal Mr. Bennie.

GPS managed to raise just over \$1,500 for this year’s event.

All proceeds from the walk support the Huron Homelessness Initiative.



(TREVOR BAZINET PHOTO)

Members of Council supporting the Huron Homelessness Initiative on February 24. (L-R): Mayor Trevor Bazinet, Councillor John Thompson, Councillor Liz Petrie, Councillor Randy Carroll, Councillor Vanessa Kelly.

Menesetung Bridge Association requests support for needed repairs of historic bridge

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Mike Dawson and Donna Appavoo from the Menesetung Bridge Association attended the February 5 Town Council meeting to request support for needed repairs on the local bridge.

Infrastructure rehabilitation is needed now to maintain bridge safety for future decades.

"The tops of the four piers in the water, there is enough deterioration where the trusses rest, and the engineers are saying that if it gets to the point where it threatens, the bridge would be shut down," Dawson explained.

"Repair becomes more difficult if the bridge is not stable."

According to Dawson, Treasurer of the Association, every five years there is an engineering inspection. The last structural review was done in 2020 by BM Ross.

Several recommendations were made because of the inspection. The most important recommendation was to prioritise repairing the concrete within the next five years. It would cost more than \$500,000 to repair the concrete.

The bridge was constructed in 1907 and 1908, and the concrete has lasted 115 years, but now there are areas that require immediate attention due to deterioration.

"If we want the bridge to last another 100 years, this must be addressed," Dawson wrote in a letter to council.

The Menesetung Bridge, previously the CPR bridge, was rescued from demolition in 1990. Since then, the Menesetung Bridge Association became a charitable corporation in August of that year.

In September 1990 the bridge was purchased by the Association from the demolition contractor, and by Canada Day 1992, after an amazing community effort, the bridge was reopened.

In its 34th year, the Bridge Association continues to own and manage the bridge, and takes care of the trail between the north end of the bridge and the highway. The Association works closely with the Maitland Trail Association and the G2G Rail Trail.

According to Dawson, the Association met with administration, economic development and tourism representatives of the County and the Town three years ago.

It was in this meeting the Association communicated that the scope of this project went far beyond what they could handle without outside support.

"All these pots of money that potentially could be drawn from on a smaller scale, if you spread it out over as many potential donors as possible, it might be easier to generate the revenue that you need," suggested Deputy Mayor Leah Noel, when discussing other municipalities and ser-

vice clubs to provide monetary support.

Since that meeting the Association has paid for initial engineering work. An estimate from BM Ross for repairs of pier three and the tops of piers four and five was \$700,000 plus tax.

In the meantime, the Association has applied for three grants. Twice with Trillium, and once with Regional Economic Development, but unfortunately the Association has been turned down three times.

The government keeps questioning their ability to fulfill the expectations of the grant process.

According to Dawson, the Bridge Association cannot apply for the grant without clear partnership arrangements upfront.

"We know it is budget time and we know there are all kinds of request for money, but we know this is a job that is not going to go away," added Dawson.

With support from the community and service clubs, Dawson thinks the Bridge Association is willing to spearhead the community part of the program.

Community service clubs have provided support in principle, with no monetary support yet.

"A repeated concern is our inability to guarantee that sufficient funds have been committed to ensure the project can be completed," added Dawson.

With letters of support from the Town, from the County, and from service clubs,

Dawson added that to be considered for other grants, they must prove they also have funds committed to the project.

Dawson believes that if the Bridge Association contributes 25 per cent, which is \$180,000, and the Town and the County each contributes \$180,000, they will have a viable grant application. The Fed-Dev grant is up to \$220,000 funding.

"We are suggesting that if the County, the Town and the Menesetung Bridge Association each pledge \$180,000, then a grant of \$200,000 would be sufficient to allow us to proceed," Dawson explained.

"As the project would likely extend over two years, the pledge would be \$90,000 per year, for two years."

Dawson and Donna presented to County Council too.

To be considered for government funding, the deadline to apply was February 29, 2024.

Maximum provincial government grant funding is \$250,000 per project.

"There is no denying how important this bridge is in our community, and beyond. I use it quite a bit. We can't make a decision here tonight. We will refer it to budget, and we will have a discussion as part of our budget," explained Mayor Trevor Bazinet.

"I know you said you need to know by end of this month, but we will definitely be in touch."

Next budget meeting is in March.

Expanding opportunities at St. Anne's in Clinton

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

At a recent presentation at St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School (CSS) in Clinton, staff and students revealed the new equipment to upgrade the manufacturing facilities at the local high school.

The new CNC Industrial Mining machine, Metal Lathe CNC machine, and the smaller desk top CNC machine are officially in operation.

These three pieces of new equipment will provide amazing educational opportunities for students in the manufacturing sector, with up-to-date programming software.

This new equipment will help prepare students for industry standards.

St. Anne's received a Skills Development Fund from the Canadian Tooling and Machining Association (CTMA), and Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD).

This was made possible by the funding, through the Career-Ready with CTMA: Expanding Opportunities program.

This is a program that allowed St. Anne's to purchase advanced manufacturing technology equipment and tools.

It is designed to help close the skilled trades gap that exists in the Precision Metalworking sector, which is a sector



CNC MACHINE

Unveiling of the new equipment on February 5. (L-R): Wayne Smith, Tech Teacher, St. Anne's CSS, Laura Blackmore, Vice Principal, St. Anne's CSS, Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce, Dave Lewis, Project Manager of Career-Ready with CTMA's Expanding Opportunities Program, Gaby Parejo, Huron Manufacturing Association (HMA) and Mark Flanagan, OYAP Lead for the Huron-Perth CDSB.

that serves many industries including automotive, aerospace, packaging, medical, and energy military defense.

In attendance for the announcement was Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron-Bruce, Dave Lewis, Project Manager of Ca-

reer-Ready with CTMA's Expanding Opportunities Program, and Gaby Parejo, from the Huron Manufacturing Association (HMA).

These special guests were there with staff from St. Anne's to unveil the new

equipment and show support for local high school students.

In partnership with the Ontario Council for Technology Education (OCTE) and funded in part by the Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) through the Skills Development Fund, 28 school boards were provided funding.

This financial support is to expand opportunities for students and address the skilled-trade labour shortage that exists in the precision metalworking sector.

The donation came from the Canadian Tooling and Machining Association (CTMA), the Ontario Council for Technology Education (OCTE), and was also funded in part by the Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) through the Skills Development Fund.

The new equipment represents a significant investment of approximately \$90,000 in the school's manufacturing facilities.

Prior to securing the funding, CTMA visited St. Anne's and was impressed with the technical facilities and the enthusiasm of the school's Tech Department.

Wayne Smith, Manufacturing teacher at St. Anne's and Mark Flanagan, the OYAP Project Lead for the HPCDSB will attend some training sessions to explore future learning opportunities for technical education students.

GDCI students win McMaster Materials Olympics DomesDay Competition

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Four GDCI students brought home \$1,000 as a prize from the McMaster Materials Olympics.

Kyuss Lawrence, Justin McLeod, Sam Howard, and Will Stewart won the DomesDay Competition, under the guidance of Melanie Ball, Jacob Watson, Gryffin Langis, Mr. Cameron Perkins, and Mr. Graedon Geiger.

According to Melanie Ball, science, and biology teacher at GDCI, team member Kyuss Lawrence has attended various science Olympics events with her over the years.

Lawrence did some research and discovered the event at McMaster and the team signed up.

"They formed their own group and started to plan and prepare for the event," said Ball, who explained that the students needed some guidance beyond her expertise.

Ball approached a few staff members for support – Graedon Geiger and Cameron Perkins – who jumped on board enthusiastically and inspired the boys to create their design.

"After several prototypes, Mr. Geiger welded up their final version from mild steel," explained Ball.

The team did some grinding, polishing and painting, prepared a poster and presentation showing their design process, budget, calculations and selected the



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

MATERIALS OLYMPICS

Sam Howard, Justin MacLeod, Kyuss Lawrence and Will Stewart.

name for their project - Domer Simpson.

The Materials Olympics is a series of challenges where you will go up against other Ontario Secondary school teams to determine who has the greatest mastery of materials, science, and engineering.

Learning and harnessing this knowl-

edge through the competition provides students with insight into materials science and engineering.

Teams of students from secondary schools across Ontario are challenged to design and build solutions to problems with the goal of amplifying the perfor-

mance of materials.

According to McMaster's Science and Engineering department, every physical item or device used in daily life is made up of different materials and there was a materials engineer who made the choice as to which material to use.

Every material has different properties, and the variation in these properties is what allows us to design devices that perform different functions.

The GDCI team was the second team at the Olympics to present and be tested. The dome the students built was able to withstand 32,500 pounds of pressure before it began to deform.

Following the physical exam of the dome, the team had further skill and knowledge events to compete in.

In a room of strong competitors, no one could match the GDCI team's record.

In the end the GDCI team's design was superior, and they earned the grand prize of \$1,000.

"We were all so excited and proud," admitted Ball.

"I was overwhelmed at the impact of events like this on my students. I'd like to repeat my appreciation of the time and effort put into this event. We will never forget this day and hope to return next year to defend our title."

As of now, Ball is uncertain what the grand prize money will be used for, but perhaps it will support future STEM competitions for GDCI students.

Huron County meetings to be posted to YouTube

CORY BILYEA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In an ongoing effort to modernize access to Huron County council meetings, Susan Cronin, director of legislative services and clerk at the county, presented a report at the Feb. 7 regular meeting, updating councillors on the plan to create a YouTube channel where all county meetings will be posted.

"As council is aware, we have made sig-

nificant technical upgrades to the IT equipment in county council chambers to enable more efficient virtual and hybrid meetings," Cronin said in the report. "As part of the modernization of the county's council, committee and board meetings we have been investigating various options for posting recordings online."

Cronin said that her department has explored ways to better communicate with the public and that creating a YouTube channel,

a free video-sharing platform that includes a closed-captioning function, will help the community to be more involved and conform to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

The department will hold one YouTube channel officially named Huron County – Council and Committee/Board Meetings.

Cronin's report outlined the goals of this project:

- increase accessibility, accountability, and transparency of the county
- increase community engagement and education
- reach and awareness
- promote civic participation
- enhance the communication strategy

The social media plan has been completed and approved.

According to the report, meetings of council, boards and committees will remain available virtually through Zoom. Recordings of meetings will be posted to the YouTube channel following the meeting. Closed captioning will be available for the recordings as prescribed under the Accessibility for Ontario Disabilities Act.

The goal is to post recordings of council meetings first, and after each board and committee have been notified, those recordings of meetings will be published.

Any council, committee or board meeting held outside of the council chambers or economic development board room will be

exempt from being held live, virtually, and recorded.

The official record of all council, committees and board meetings shall be the written minutes following the Municipal Act, Section 239 (1), which states that minutes of meetings are to be recorded without note or comment by the Huron County clerk or designate.

The County of Huron will make every reasonable effort to ensure that live virtual meetings and recordings are available to the public through Zoom. However, there may be situations where, due to technical difficulties, the live virtual Zoom meeting and/or recording may be unavailable or delayed. Meetings will not be cancelled, postponed or delayed due to technical issues with virtual live Zoom meetings or recording of meetings.

Closed session portions of any meeting shall not be available live virtually through Zoom, and recordings will not be available to anyone except the clerk's department for administration purposes.

Warden Glen McNeil applauded Cronin for their work on this project, saying, "I would like to indicate that we have had numerous requests that our meeting be available after the fact for individuals to watch and that Clerk Cronin deserves a lot of credit for finally bringing this to fruition."

Council accepted the report for information purposes.

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Maitland Conservation AGM celebrates partnerships and collaboration across watershed

CORY BILYEA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Maitland Conservation (MC) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Feb. 14 at the Wroxeter Community Hall, with several local dignitaries in attendance to celebrate partnerships and collaborations across the watershed, observe staff milestones and elect the 2024 board of directors.

General Manager of Conservation Ontario (CO) Angela Coleman attended the AGM. She spoke to an audience of approximately 65 guests about the importance of partnerships in achieving success in watersheds, citing her personal experience working with Phil Beard at South Nation Conservation Authority.

“What is so personally excellent about coming to this watershed here today is that Phil and I had a very good relationship as general managers; we actually, together, had a watershed exchange, we would call it, where we each went to each other’s respective watersheds,” Coleman said. “And we looked at all of the innovative and fantastic work that can be achieved on the ground whenever we’re working together in partnership.”

Added Coleman, “So I’m so excited today that you have this fantastic theme of working partnerships for the Annual General Meeting. It really is a testament to what we can achieve when not only the municipalities, but watershed businesses and watershed residents, together with the Conservation Authority staff, come together to decide what are the important priorities for a given watershed.”

Coleman emphasized the need for collective prioritization among stakeholders, including municipalities, businesses, and residents, to achieve important goals for the watershed.

“And as we, each year, get together, I think it really is important to think about, collectively, what are our priorities for the watershed?” Coleman said, “How can we make sure, because often watershed is one of those pieces or environment is one of those pieces that we place on two ends of the spectrum. Economy

on one side, environment on the other. But we all do know that thriving communities depend, (and) the economy very much depends on a thriving and vibrant watershed.”

Huron County Warden Glen McNeil (ACW mayor), Jamie Heffer (Morris-Turnberry mayor), Paul Heffer (North Huron reeve), Jim Ginn (Central Huron mayor), as well as Minto Mayor Dave Turton, each spoke to the audience about their positive experiences with MC partnerships.

Huron-Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson was unable to attend the AGM, but she sent greetings with Mayor Turton. “She’s not able to be here today, but she absolutely supports the MCVA, she loves it. She loves this organization.”

MP Assistant Bill Strong brought greetings from Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae, who could also not attend. “He’s asked me to drop by and congratulate all those that have taken and continue to take an active part in your conservation work. It’s something to be [the municipality and the surrounding areas] very proud of, the work you do, and we only hear good compliments.”

Outgoing Chair of MC, Matt Duncan, spoke about his two years in the seat, reflecting on the great work accomplished during his tenure.

“I’ve had the privilege of serving as MVC’s chair for the past two years; it’s been an honour to work with the members over that time; we’ve accomplished a lot and have worked well together to make decisions that are in the best interest in the health of the watershed,” said Duncan.

“As many of you may know, we are fortunate to have some of the most productive farmland in Ontario, but also some of the finest hardwood forests in Ontario and the Maitland River is one of the best smallmouth bass rivers in southwestern Ontario. The Lake Huron shoreline is highly valued for recreation and tourism,” added Duncan. “These are all natural assets that help us sustain prosperity in the Maitland watershed. These natural resources are the foundation of our life support system, along with clean air and a stable cli-

mate.”

Duncan spoke about the provincial government regulation requiring conservation authorities (CA) to sign agreements with their member municipalities for programs and services the province considers non-mandatory.

“These programs include watershed stewardship and watershed health, and MVCA’s vision is working for a healthy environment. Therefore, it is critical that MVCA continue to provide programs that help to improve the health of rivers, forests and soil,” said Duncan. “MVCA member municipalities agreed to continue to support these programs. MVCA was one of the first, if not the very first, conservation authority in Ontario to have an agreement in place with its member municipalities for these programs.”

Duncan spoke about some of the other highlights from 2023, including developing an agreement with the Municipality of North Perth to lease the Galbraith Conservation Area and the watershed stewardship work undertaken with cooperation from land owners and community groups.

Duncan added, “One hundred and seventy-nine stewardship projects were carried out in 2023, through the Huron and Wellington County Clean Water Projects.”

“The forest health assessment was completed in 2023. This was groundbreaking work that will lead to the development of new approaches for improving the health of the forest,” said Duncan. “The coastal resiliency project MVC is leading to identify ways to use nature based approaches for improving the health of Lake Huron shoreline.”

Duncan praised the work done by MC staff at Falls Reserve Conservation Area, including the accessible washrooms and the new septic system. Additionally, he commended the work at Wawanosh Conservation Area with building the bat condo, removing old barns, and planning to build a new public picnic shelter.

Added Duncan, “And finally, OMAFRA and MECP’s continued leadership and support for the Healthy Lake Huron collabora-

tive. There’s a model for how federal provincial governments can work together with conservation authorities, counties, health units and other community groups to improve the health and resiliency of the rivers and streams that flow into Lake Huron.”

Staff Service Awards

The following MC employees were honoured for their service to the organization.

Mat Shetler, Watershed Monitoring Specialist – 15 years

Shetler started as a water quality monitoring technician, expanding his duties to include stream and wetland restoration projects, flood forecasting, and watershed health assessment.

Jason Moir, Superintendent, Falls Reserve Conservation Area – 20 years

Moir has led the successful management of Falls Reserve and Wawanosh Park conservation areas, focusing on infrastructure updates and user experience.

Stewart Lockie, Conservation Areas Coordinator – 25 years

Lockie has held many positions with MC, including maintenance, conservation, and leadership roles. Lockie began over 25 years ago as a volunteer with MC as a co-op student in 1993.

Erica McGee, Executive Assistant – 25 years

McGee, a dedicated employee for 25 years, is leaving MC to prioritize family.

Election of 2024 Chairpersons

The 2024 MC board members are as follows:

Chair – Ed McGugan (Huron – Kinloss & South Bruce)

Vice-Chair – Matt Duncan (North Perth)

Second Vice-Chair – Evan Hickey (ACW)

The remainder of the 2024 board consists of Ed Podniewicz (Minto, Mapleton, Wellington North); Alvin McLellan (Huron East); Vanessa Kelly (Goderich); Anita Van Hittersum (North Huron); Alison Lobb (Central Huron); Sharen Zinn (Morris-Turnberry); Megan Gibson (Howick); and Andrew Fournier (West Perth and Perth East).

Students in Huron Perth may be suspended if vaccine records are not up-to-date

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Huron Perth public health (HPPH) has reviewed the immunization records of all students attending elementary or secondary school in Huron-Perth, and more than 5,000 records are incomplete, meaning students are either missing required immunizations or their immunizations have not been reported to public health.

This accounts for approximately 39 per cent of all students in the region.

Records are usually reviewed annually, but because of the amalgamation of the Huron County and Perth District health units in 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic, HPPH is just completing record reviews now.

“COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and

a focus on pandemic response limited the ability of health units and primary care providers to offer routine immunizations,” said Jennifer Beaver, a public-health nurse with the immunizations team. “Many students missed getting their routine immunizations as a result.”

Students with incomplete immunization records may be suspended from school under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA), and HPPH is asking parents to check vaccine records as soon as possible to confirm.

With teens being one of the age groups affected by out-of-date vaccine records, HPPH will be holding vaccination clinics at local high schools for high-school students to catch up on their missing vaccines.

The dates and locations of the high-

school clinics are listed in the immunization letter sent home with students.

HPPH will also hold catch-up immunization clinics for all age groups at its Stratford office, located at 653 W. Gore St.

Parents who receive a letter from HPPH regarding their child’s immunization records are asked to report vaccine status to HPPH if vaccines are, in fact, up to date.

Parents with children who are not current with their immunizations can book an appointment with their primary care provider or HPPH but Katherine Horst, BSc, MPH and Communications Coordinator at Huron Perth Public Health notes it’s important to still update HPPH regarding vaccines given.

“Parents often think that if their child is immunized at their healthcare provider’s office, HPPH automatically gets notified.

Unfortunately, in Ontario, electronic medical records don’t connect electronically to our provincial immunization database, so it is a parent’s/legal guardian’s responsibility to report their child’s immunizations to their local public health unit.”

HPPH asks parents to respond by Mar. 4 to avoid a suspension notice. In late April, HPPH will mail suspension notices to students without proof of up-to-date immunizations. Suspensions will begin on May 23.

The immunizations team expects a high volume of calls over the next month and requests patience from parents as it works to update everyone’s records as quickly as possible.

To book an appointment with HPPH, call 1-888-221-2133 ext. 3558 or visit them online, at www.hpph.ca/icon.

Huron Perth Public Health CUPE heads to conciliation meeting

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

After nearly three years of contract talks and still no deal, the CUPE bargaining committee at Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) went into a second conciliation session with the employer of February 15.

HPPH employees represented by CUPE Local 1331 have been without a contract since December 31, 2020.

“We are frustrated by how long it has taken to get a first collective agreement as a newly merged Local, and we feel disrespected by the employer,” said Pam Hanington, CUPE LOCAL 1331 President.

“We are trying to maintain as much of our predecessor collective agreement as possible, and at a time when the cost of everything has gone up, we are asking for reasonable increases to wages and benefits.”

The employer has yet to come to the table with a deal the union can confidently take to its members, and the employer has failed



to offer the union the same wage increases that HPPH colleagues in other unions have received recently.

Bargaining began in the spring

of 2021, but there has been little progress over the past several months and the two sides entered conciliation.

If a deal cannot be reached,

the next step is job action, according to the union. In fact, in September 2023, 93 per cent of members voted in favour of a strike.

“We are dedicated to our work and want to avoid a strike,” added Hanington.

“But we are prepared to walk off the job if the employer continues to reject the union’s proposals and does not present a fair deal.”

In addition to wages and benefits, outstanding issues include hours of work, overtime, and leaves of absence such as pregnancy, and parental leave.

CUPE Local 1331 was formed in July 2020 after the Local of the former Huron County and Perth District Health Units merged.

The union represents more than 70 HPPH employees, including administrative assistants, custodians, dental assistants, dental hygienists, health promoters, IT support technicians, parent resource visitors, public health inspectors, and tobacco enforcement officers.

CUPE Local 1331 members provide and support programs and services that promote and protect the health of Huron Perth residents.

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Host families needed for international students

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

A company that works to bring international high school students to study at Canadian schools and experience what life has to offer here is looking for local families to provide lodging and help foster truly Canadian experiences for students that will be attending Avon Maitland District schools starting in September.

MLI Homestay, a division of MLI Education Group, is specifically looking for families in Stratford, St. Marys, Goderich and Listowel to volunteer as host families, something MLI community engagement and social media specialist Jodi Anderson says is crucial to international students getting the most of their stay in Canada.

"They're basically part of the family," Anderson said. "They need their own bedroom ... they make their own breakfast and usually their own lunch, but hopefully they have dinner together and just integrate in Canadian life. It helps them with their language; obviously they gain so much English in just communicating (with the host family). The family also helps with their independence in navigating wherever they live.

"Some kids come and they're in Vancouver, B.C., or Toronto, but a lot of



WELCOME TO CANADA

MLI Homestay is looking for local host families for international students attending Avon Maitland District schools in the fall.

them come and actually really want to have a more rural experience. We're seeing the program grow in Avon Maitland ... because kids want to be in just not as busy a place."

Students typically stay with their host families for anywhere between

three and 12 months. A large part of the experience international students look for while in Canada is the ability to participate in Canadian life with their host family. This includes enjoying various foods they have heard or read about, participating in the week-

ly family routine, and extracurricular activities they may not have at home such as skating, ice fishing, skiing, hiking through a forest, or even going to a local supermarket to see the various foods we have on our shelves.

Anderson said families are fully compensated for all food expenses incurred by their students and the students come to Canada with their own spending money.

"Families can come in all shapes and sizes. It could be a single mom, it could be a couple with a young kid or high-school kids, or empty nesters, or they're retired. Basically, students really just need to have their own private bedroom with a comfy bed, a window and access to the bathroom," she said.

MLI Homestay is looking for people to apply to be primary host families as well as respite hosts who can step in as a backup and provide housing in the event a primary host family has something come up that prevents them from fulfilling their duties.

The company is looking for families to apply now so it can begin matching families with students in April and May, well ahead of the start of the school year in September.

For more information and to apply to be a host family, www.mlihomestay.com.

Police Reports

WANTED PERSON ARRESTED AND CHARGES LAID

An investigation conducted by the Huron County OPP Community Street Crimes Unit (CSCU) and members of the Huron OPP detachment resulted in the arrest of a wanted individual.

The arrest also resulted in the seizure of illegal drugs, and offence-related property with a total value exceeding \$3,700.

On Thursday, February 1 a wanted individual was observed on foot in Vanastra.

Police arrested the wanted male and a search revealed suspected fentanyl and other items commonly used in drug trafficking, including a digital scale, packaging material, and a cell phone.

The estimated value of the seized drugs is \$3,485, and the combined estimated value of the seized property is \$300.

A 29-year-old male from Huron East was charged with Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking – Opioid and Fail to Comply with Release Order (two counts).

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

A DOZEN CHARGES AFTER IMPAIRED DRIVER RESISTS ARREST

Huron County OPP charged a South Huron man with numerous criminal offences following a suspicious person complaint on February 10 in Seaforth.

In the morning of February 10, police received a complaint of a suspicious person in a minivan on Goderich Street West in Seaforth. Officers located the parked vehicle and spoke to the driver.

The investigating officers believed the driver was impaired and prohibited from driving, and was subsequently placed under arrest.

The accused resisted officers during the arrest process.

A 25-year-old man from South Huron was charged with Impaired Operation – Alcohol and Drugs, Operation While Prohibited, Resist Peace Officer, Possession of a Prohibited Device or Ammunition for Dangerous Purpose, Fail to Comply with Probation Order (four counts), Fail to Comply with Release Order (two counts), Possession of a Schedule I Substance – Opioid, and Possession of a Schedule I Substance – Methamphetamine.

The involved vehicle was towed and impounded for 45 days.

The accused was held for a bail hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Goderich.

GRANDPARENT SCAMS ARE ON THE RISE

The OPP warn the public about Emergency-Grandparent scams tar-

getting individuals in Western Ontario.

From January 1 to February 16 the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) received reports totalling over \$491,000 in victim losses associated to this scam.

In 2023, the reported losses totalled \$11.3 million, with Ontario residents representing over \$4.6 million.

These scams occur when a senior receives a phone call from a "grandchild" who tells the victim they do not want their parents to know and ask the victim to keep it a secret.

To make the story more credible the caller might also put another person on the phone to act like a police officer, bail bondsman or lawyer.

Often the story is that the "grandchild" will say they were in a car collision and drugs were found in the vehicle, or they were involved in a car accident where the other driver has suffered serious injuries.

The victim, wanting to help, will withdraw funds from their bank account.

The scammer arranges for a courier to come to the victim's home to collect the money. On other occasions the money is sent through a money transfer where the scammer can then pick it up at any location across the world.

If you become a victim of fraud, contact your local police service to report the crime and report it to CAFC at 1-888-495-8501.

Weekend Quiz

1. When did Shark Tank first air?
2. In what Ocean would you typically find a Narwhal?
3. In 2021, Reddit users came together to make what stock skyrocket?
4. Willem Dafoe played what Spiderman villain?
5. What is the largest desert on Earth?
6. Who was the Greek God of love?
7. How many lines of symmetry does a square have?
8. What do you call someone who studies the weather?
9. What is the smallest Canadian coin?
10. What year did man first set foot on the moon?

This week's answers are found on pg. 26

SHOP LOCAL.

Support businesses that keep your community and its newspaper thriving

Local groups ready to support newcomers arriving from Ukraine

A deadline of March 31 looks for Ukrainians escaping the country's conflict.

The deadline is the date the Canadian government has issued for all Ukrainians entering the country on a special temporary three-year open work visa to be eligible for various support.

Local groups are anticipating an increase of newcomers arriving in Huron County in March.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in January 2022, dozens of Ukrainian families have arrived in Canada and settled in Huron County.

The Ukrainian families have been supported by volunteers who have welcomed new arrivals into their homes for

short-term stays and were supported by a number of local service providers to find work, acquire official documents and enroll in schools.

Upon finding jobs in the manufacturing, agriculture, education, engineering and banking sectors, Ukrainian families transitioned into longer-term housing.

Many organizations have played important roles in supporting Ukrainian newcomers as they have arrived in Huron County.

Volunteers at the Goderich Lions Club set up the Huron Area Newcomer Fund to provide newcomers with financial assistance for unforeseen or emergency needs.

Since the Fund was formed, more than

\$25,000 has been distributed to support 79 individuals – helping families pay dental bills, purchase eyeglasses, cover the cost of getting a driver's licence, and fund medical appointments required to meet immigration requirements, among other needs.

"While our fund started with the intention of meeting the financial needs of newcomers from Ukraine, we were intentional in ensuring that any newcomer who had settled in Huron County could apply for funds within their first 18 months in Canada," explained John Maaskant, the chair of the Huron Area Newcomer Fund.

"We established a process that identified what costs could be covered through

our fund, how much a single family could apply for, set up an application system and a group of seven volunteers reviewed applications as they arrived."

The Huron Area Newcomer Fund has been able to operate due to donations from private individuals, other service clubs, faith organizations, and the Sunset Foundation.

"We continue to seek donations to ensure that newcomers transitioning to life in Huron County are supported and their settlement is as smooth as possible," added Maaskant.

More information about the Huron Area Newcomer Fund can be found on the Goderich Lions Club website: <https://www.goderichlions.ca/donate>

Berea-by-the-Water hosts annual pancake supper in Goderich

On Tuesday, February 13 Berea-by-the-Water Lutheran Church in Goderich hosted their annual pancake and sausage supper.

A team of volunteers contributed to the

success of the all you can eat evening.

The church community looks forward to next year, and reminds the community to save the date for a memorable experience in 2025.

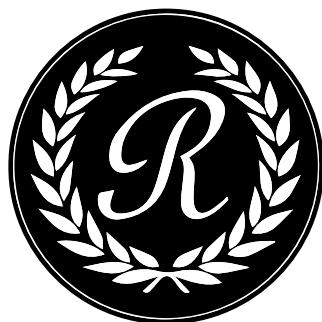
(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

PANCAKE SUPPER

Right: Kevin Ball was a volunteer for the event.

Bottom: Berea Lutheran Church volunteers.

Middle: Lanja Milliasse enjoys the pancake supper.



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County council updated on Huron Clean Water Project

CORY BILYEA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager Nathan Schoelier from Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) presented the Huron Clean Water Project (HCWP) annual report to Huron County council during its regular meeting on Feb. 7.

The Huron Clean Water Project (HCWP) provides financial and technical assistance to Huron County residents to improve and protect water quality in the county. The County of Huron funds it, and service delivery is provided by the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley conservation authorities, the HCWP website says.

Schoelier began his presentation by commending the Huron County Roads Department's work with the Phragmites program.

"I do want to commend the efforts on Huron County's roads and their Phragmites program as well," said Schoelier, "as is certainly something that's held in high regard across the province, and I've seen it used time and time again for an example for a holistic Phragmites management program."

HCWP was launched in 2004 making this year its 20th anniversary, which is a huge milestone, Schoelier said.

"To commemorate this, we plan on demonstrating projects assessed through signage and media campaigns, collaborat-

ing with other groups in Huron County, such as Woodlawn Farm Associations, to continue to build partnerships and awareness with some of the other local groups that are working in Huron County," said Schoelier.

Schoelier provided some background information in his report, saying the program was launched in 2004, with the first projects completed in 2005. This voluntary program provides funding and technical assistance for Best Management Practices (BMP) for farmers and non-farm rural and urban landowners.

Funding is provided by the County of Huron, agencies, conservation authorities, and local landowners; it is delivered by ABCA and Maitland Conservation (MC).

The 2023 project review committee includes Chair Jamie Heffer and Coun. Jim Dietrich (Huron County Council), Jack Kroes (Agricultural Representative), and Joy Rutherford (Community Representative). This committee met five times in 2023.

The report said that since the beginning of the project, the HCWP has completed 3,859 projects, with \$4.5 million in grants paid. They have conducted over 1,000 tree-planting projects and over 300 erosion control projects.

"Many engaged landowners have contributed to the protection and improve-

ment of water quality in Huron County," Schoelier said in his report.

2023 Statistics

- Reviewed 281 new project applications
- 277 approved; four denied
- \$500,000 allocation; \$376,592.06 in grants approved
- Total value of all projects approved \$1,245,025; greater than 3:1 match of county funding.

Top three categories in grant dollars approved:

- 143 cover crop projects (36 per cent of allocation)
- 76 tree planting projects (35 per cent of allocation)
- 13 rural stormwater management projects (seven per cent of allocation).

Schoelier highlighted a water and sediment control basin project, demonstrating the program's ability to tailor expertise to landowner needs.

"This year, I chose a project that has a significant erosion control property structure project as a water and sediment control basin. On this project, there is a berm that's placed perpendicular to the flow intercepting overland flow before it gains enough velocity to cause erosion issues."

Describing the project, Schoelier showed councillors a photo of a broad-based Water and Sediment Control Basin (WASCoB) installed in an agricultural field to mitigate erosion and help keep

sediment and nutrients on the landscape. He added, "WASCoBs are designed to provide temporary ponding, allowing sediment to settle out of the overland flow before entering the outlet."

Schoelier provided a list of the 2024 Watershed Landowner Incentive Program, which can be viewed in the accompany chart.

Coun. Bernie McLellan asked for an example of a 'special project.'

"That can be a challenging one to answer because special projects often are ones that don't meet the other categories. Off the top of my head, I can think of one where there is a school group looking at putting together a longer term plan to develop an environmental approach to their school grounds," Schoelier said.

"I can think of another where someone has submitted an application for a modified drainage structure," added Schoelier. "It really is that opportunity for watershed landowners and for us to really learn from them as well. At times, it doesn't meet the program's scope and there's not the follow up that's required to support the project. But on the flip side, there's times where it really is a good opportunity to work hand-in-hand with the landlord to kind of realize what they see for water improvement."

Council accepted the report for information purposes and thanked Schoelier for his work.

The advertisement features a background image of the Beach Street Station building in Goderich. On the left, a dark shield-shaped graphic contains the station's logo and text: "We have missed you! REOPENING MARCH 11 Open seven days a week 11:30 AM - 8:00 PM". On the right, a green circular graphic announces "ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION" on "MARCH 17" from "5-8 PM" with "KICK OFF THE SEASON WITH LIVE MUSIC BY LOCH MOR". The bottom of the ad includes contact information: "info@beachstreetstation.com", "2 Beach Street, Goderich", "519-612-2212", and social media icons for Facebook and Instagram with the text "Follow -US-".



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Goderich swimmer wins gold at Youth-Junior Championships

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Local swimming phenom Walker Teal swam for gold at the Ontario Youth Junior Championships in Markham on February 15.

Swimming in the 50-meter freestyle, with a time of 24.79, Teal earned a gold medal at the championship. He beat the second-place swimmer by a time of .13.

Teal had previously placed first in the preliminaries with a current time of 24.82 in the 50-meter freestyle swim.

When Teal won gold, he said the adrenaline pumping through following the race felt incredible. He explained that when you work so hard for something that finally starts paying off years later, it is one of the best feelings.

Considering he believes his start off the blocks was awful, his first thought was 'did I just do that?'

It wasn't a perfect race for Teal, in his words, but it was enough to get a best time and win gold.

"If I get back in the pool and work on all these little things that I messed up in my race, I thought about how fast I'm going to be when I fix it," he explained.

"It's all so much work, but very worth it. I don't think the feeling of accomplishing something you never thought you would, would ever go away. It's an amazing feeling."

When speaking with the Goderich Sun, Teal remarked that it is incredible what an individual can accomplish when they believe in themselves and have the proper support.

Although talent helps athletes be successful, Teal believes that hard work, determination and help from others is what helps athletes stand out.

Between practicing, training, stretching, and eating right, swimming is a full-time gig for Teal who says you must be willing to work harder than everyone competing for the same thing.

"I have had so many coaches, so many great people who have put their time and energy into helping me become the best I can be, and I am so grateful for each and every one of them," admitted Teal.

Despite all the hard work and support, Teal explained that it is his faith in God that has given him the energy to contin-



JUST KEEP SWIMMING

Walker Teal with his gold medal following the race at Youth-Junior Championships.

ue putting in the work, win or lose.

"God gave me the ability to swim, and I will not waste that opportunity," added Teal.

"You have to have a certain mindset that allows you to believe that you can achieve the impossible."

Over the years Teal has had many inspiring coaches, but one piece of advice remains at the forefront – to visualize every possible outcome before the race.

Some things might not go perfectly, but for Teal, he knows he has the power to decide how the race will go.

"You push until it's over. And if you tried your absolute hardest, never come out of it feeling angry at yourself," he added.

"The only next step is to break the whole situation down and fix what was wrong."

It's this positive mindset that has allowed Teal to continue swimming competitively and winning medals since the age of 9 years old.

Now at the age of 18, even with a three-year break due to the pandemic, Teal has

worked hard and earned upwards of 130 medals from other swimming competitions over the years.

Currently, Teal swims with Huron Hurricanes Aquatic Club (HHAC), and he also swims for his high school team out of Clinton.

Despite setbacks during the lockdowns of the pandemic, Teal is ready to aim high again.

To offset the costs associated with his rigorous training and competitive schedule, Teal started a GoFundMe page. This page aims to rally support from the community and beyond, to ensure that nothing hinders his pursuits.

Teal's training hit a roadblock when the pandemic disrupted his training regimen just as he was gearing up for the Eastern Nationals.

Now in his senior year of high school, Teal reignited his passion for competitive swimming with St. Anne's swim team, where he showcased his talent in his return to swimming with an impressive 25-second time in the 50-metre freestyle.

According to one of Teal's coaches Agnes Kluz, the realization that 2024 marked an Olympic Trials year reignited his competitive spirit.

"Watching Walker's journey unfold has been very inspiring for our team," admitted Kluz.

"We couldn't be prouder of his dedication and determination as he embarks on this incredible quest."

Teal's decision to resume training and competing has been done with support from coaches, family, and the community, all eager to cheer him on.

Coach Kluz added that seeing a Huron County swimmer thrive and excel fills the HHAC with immense pride.

"We're thrilled to support Walker every step of the way," Kluz said.

"We're excited to witness his growth as a competitive swimmer and are confident he will inspire lots of budding swimmers in our community."

Although his practice schedule looks different every week, Teal can count on being in the pool working hard twice a day, for two hours or more a day. He averages 20 hours a week in the pool, training at Vanastra Rec Centre and the Goderich YMCA.

Along with the hours spent in the pool training, over the years, Teal has had many athletic role models to motivate him, explaining that having a team of supporters around you is the best way to find success.

From his first coach Kristy Lyon to his mom, dad, and grandfather and countless more, these people supported Teal in the early days and pushed him past his limits.

"The people around you are your biggest supporters," Teal stated.

"They showed me that there is a lot more to live for than having a 9-5 job. There is a lot to push and strive for, and you can make your own limits."

With this most recent gold-winning race behind him, Teal's next steps are to keep training and make himself a better swimmer everyday.

"I would love the opportunity to compete at Olympic trials this May," Teal explained.

"If I don't, I don't, but I'll just keep on pushing until I do, because I've already decided it's happening."

visit us online at www.goderichsun.com

Mid Huron U13 Rep wins St Marys Rock Cup

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Winning four of their five games in a tournament spanning the weekend of February 2 to February 4, the Mid Huron Huskies U13 Rep B squad brought the championship title home.

Head Coach Mark Wilson said it was an eventful and successful weekend for his U13 Huskies.

"The hockey season is always a work in progress, working on individual skill, team play, hockey systems and trying to put it all together for the final third of the season for playoffs, and to try to make a run at a championship," said Wilson.

"Our coaching staff is big on being mentally prepared, to be in the right mind frame to put your best foot forward and bring your best effort every single time."

Wilson added that for kids at this age, being mentally prepared is something that needs to be learned, and is a work in progress, day in, and day out.

On Friday, February 2 the Huskies split their games, defeating the home team St Marys 4-0, while dropping 3-1 to Erie Northshore.

The next day the Huskies only had to face Aurora, finding a way to win 2-1.

"After witnessing the ebb and flow of the season to date, with



MID HURON HUSKIES U13 REP B

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
(Back row, L-R): Mark Wilson, Paul McIlwain, Jack McIlwain, Desmond Mitchell Thistle, Ryan Maloney, Sam Vanderloo, Drew Langendoen, Mason Henderson, Wayne Schoonderwoerd, and Joe Nesbitt. (Front row, L-R): Logan Devereaux, Cal Dykstra, Cole Carnochan, Thomas Schoonderwoerd, Cal Nesbitt, Kessler Carroll, Tyson Wilson, Adler MacDonald. Goalie: Hayden Wick.

moments of uncertainty and anticipation, the team showcased their true potential and earned what we knew they could achieve," said Dylan Wick, a parent goalie Hayden.

"This weekend marked a turning point as our boys galvanized into a force, displaying their finest teamwork of the entire year."

On Sunday, February 4 the Huskies faced-off against the London Jr Mustangs White, de-

feating them 3-0, and moved on to get revenge, and defeat Erie Northshore 3-0 to win the championship.

"The dedication, accountability, discipline, and determination exhibited by each player were nothing short of extraordinary. Seeing their selflessness on the ice was a testament to the progress they have made," added Wick.

"Stepping up a division and being the youngest team in the tournament, they truly dominated their opponents and did it most importantly with class. A big shoutout to every player, and the coaching staff, for their outstanding efforts and for making this weekend one to remember."

According to Wilson, the team

thought the St Marys Rock Cup tournament would be a great test for the boys to get them ready for playoffs.

With the Rock Cup being an 'A' level tournament, the Huskies had to play teams that are two divisions higher.

"The team brought everything together that we have worked on throughout the year this weekend," explained Wilson.

"They played fantastic, strong, and fast. They were mentally prepared to do whatever it would take to get the job done, and it showed throughout the weekend."

Playing the learned systems, the players were also able to stay disciplined, and did all the little things from blocking shots to chipping pucks in and out at the blue lines, to positivity on the bench and playing for each other.

For Wilson, those are the things it takes to win.

"Our coaching staff and parent group couldn't be prouder of this group for the way they handled their business this weekend, and bringing home the gold," Wilson concluded.

Mid Huron Huskies are based out of Clinton.

Goderich Skating Club welcomes legendary skater to motivate their members

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Goderich Skating Club will host their annual showcase, but this year the solo showcase promises to be extra special.

The club will host the renowned Elizabeth Manley, a legendary figure skater and Olympic silver medalist.

Manley will join the club for a motivational speaking engagement with all the club's StarSkaters on March 3, from 11 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. in the Skyharbour room at the YMCA.

As President of the Goderich Skating Club, Natalie Steenstra is thrilled the club can welcome Manley to the StarSkaters' training session and inspirational talk before the showcase.

The Goderich Skating Club is hopeful that Manley's skating experience and insights are sure to leave a lasting impression on those who attend.

Following Manley's motivational session, the club will have on-ice sessions with the legendary skater.

"Our skaters are buzzing with excitement to soak up her wisdom and experience, highlighting their passion and love of the sport," said Steenstra.

"This incredible opportunity means even more to us as a small club, showcasing our commitment to providing top-notch experiences for our skaters."

The junior session will run from 12 p.m. until 12:45 p.m., followed by the intermediate/senior session from 12:45 p.m. until 1:45 p.m.

"This is a unique opportunity for our skaters to learn from one of the best in the sport," the club wrote in a post on Facebook.

The annual showcase will kick off at 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. with an exciting lineup of performances, to showcase the talent and hard work of the club's skaters.

There is a \$10 fee per person to attend the showcase. Children under 12 years of age can attend for free.

Skaters are free, and parents are kindly asked to cover the cost of admission.

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Young Canada Week: Goderich Sailors Game Schedules

Tournament is brought to you by the Goderich Lions Club and Goderich Minor Hockey.

Charles from C.W. Sports Memorabilia joined Goderich Minor Hockey for the Ryan O'Reilly Tournament in November. He will be back in the front lobby of the Maitland Rec Cen-

tre all week long with various items for sale including jerseys, frames, pucks, and other hockey memorabilia.

Danny Granger Art will have a booth set up from March 8 until March 10 with merchandise to purchase. Danny is also bringing along special guests – Gilbert

Dionne and Brandon Prust – for autograph signings.

The first 250 kids will receive a free signed DGA 4"x6" art card. Danny is donating 50 per cent of all sales from autographs to the LFC Guide Dogs charity.

Gilbert Dionne will be at the MRC on Friday, March 9 from

5-6 p.m., and Brandon Prust on Saturday, March 9 from 3-4 p.m.

Spectrum Imaging tournament photography will be on hand all week long capturing all the action shots on the ice.

In addition, Culberts will have special treats and coffee available to purchase.

March 9 at 8 p.m. vs. Norwich Knighthawks

Goderich Sailors U15 LL
March 11 at 12:45 p.m. vs. Elm-vale Coyotes

March 11 at 8:15 p.m. vs. St. Thomas

March 12 at 4:30 p.m. vs. Central Perth

Goderich Sailors U15 Rep
March 11 at 2 p.m. vs. Saugeen Valley

March 12 at 10:15 a.m. vs. TBD

March 12 at 8:15 p.m. vs. Central Perth

Goderich Sailors U18 Rep
March 14 at 12:45 p.m. vs. Mitchell Meteors

March 15 at 10:15 a.m. vs. Upper York Admirals

March 15 at 5:45 p.m. vs. Owen Sount Jr Attack

Full schedule, scores and tournament updates can be found at goderichminorhockey.ca

SCHEDULE:

Goderich Sailors U13 LL

March 8 at 5:30 p.m. vs. South Bruce

March 9 at 2:30 p.m. vs. Belmont Rangers

March 10 at 10:30 a.m. vs. North Middlesex

Goderich Sailors U13 Rep

March 8 at 7 p.m. vs. Huron Bruce

March 9 at 11 a.m. vs. Ayr Flames



SILVER AT WOSSAA

Goderich District Collegiate Institute's (GDCl) Junior Boys Basketball team won silver at the WOSSAA championships on February 22, hosted at South Huron DHS.

The Junior Boys were defeated 73-35 by Woodstock Collegiate Institute (WCI) to land the silver medal.

Junior Boys Basketball team (Back row, L-R): Coach Morley, Josh Roberts, Rowan Mann, Hunter Chisholm, Rowan Grandmaison, Carter Beddow, Dean Love. (Front row, L-R): Ethan Middelcamp, Kassim Ginn, Jesse Davidson, Tyler Frank, Evan Denunzio (crouching). Absent: Luke Stone.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Goderich and District Shuffleboard Club Results through February 6

JANUARY:

On January 16 the club's lucky Dominos Pizza winner was Douce Scott. The club's three-game winners were Lorraine Gilchrist, Brian Pollock, Bill Godfrey, and Frank Namink.

The club's attendance on January 23 was 27 players. Debbie Armstrong was the Dominos Pizza winner that day and the club had three-game winners: Gerry Ropp, Frank Namink, and Bill Godfrey.

On January 30 the club had 29 shuffleboard players participate. The lucky Dominos Pizza winner was

Roelie Leggatt. The three-game winners on the day were Linda Muir, Brian Pollock (second week in a row), and Susan Ropp.

FEBRUARY:

On February 6 the club had 42 players compete. Debbie Armstrong, a new member of the club won the Dominos Pizza prize that day.

The following players won all three of their games: Brian Pollock (third week in a row), Jim Gilchrist (second week in a row), Lorraine Gilchrist, and Dale Robertson.



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High school swimmers compete at WOSSAA swimming

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Four Goderich District Collegiate Institute (GDCI) students travelled to the Canada Games Aquatic Centre in London to compete at WOSSAA for swimming.

Lauren Todd, Siobhan Kleuskens, Anna McDonald-Lee, and Caity Cox represented GDCI at WOSSAA on February 14.

Kleuskens placed first and qualified for OFSAA in the 50-metre free with a time of 29.38 and 100-metre free swim with a time of 1:08.98. She also qualified in the 100-metre breaststroke with a swim time of 1:32.25.

She qualified for OFSAA in all three events, but given the parameters of OFSAA, Kleuskens had to select only two events for that meet.

Cox qualified for OFSAA in the 50-metre fly with a time of 37.44 and 100-metre backstroke with a time of 1:25.62. With



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

SWIMMING QUALIFIERS

Four student athletes from GDCI competed at WOSSAA, and two are moving on to OFSAA. (L-R): Lauren Todd, Siobhan Kleuskens, Anna McDonald-Lee, and Caity Cox.

these times, Cox qualified for OFSAA, each event. Todd swam the 50-metre freestyle,

100-metre breaststroke, and the 100-metre individual medley.

McDonald-Lee swam the 50-metre breaststroke.

All four swimmers also competed in the 4x50-metre freestyle relay, where they landed in the top 10 with a swim time of 2:26.68, which is a best time for the foursome, but unfortunately missing an OFSAA qualification by just over eight seconds.

According to coach Wendy Million, the student athletes have been practicing on Monday and Thursday mornings at the YMCA since November. Training that has been worth the early mornings, if qualifying for WOSSAA and OFSAA is any indicator.

“All four swimmers demonstrated incredible growth and grit throughout the season,” remarked Coach Million.

OFSAA takes place on March 5-6 at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre.

Goderich Junior Flyers Report

RICHARD MADGE

Sun Contributor

The Goderich Junior Flyers completed their 42-game Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) schedule with a string of nine losses in the month of February.

Yet, Coach Shawn Dickey was encouraged by the teams' play as the regular season reached its conclusion.

The Flyers' best efforts came in a 6-5 overtime loss to the second place Mount Forest Patriots and a pair of 4-2 losses to the Walkerton Capitals and Kincardine Bulldogs in the final full weekend of play.

Coach Dickey said the Flyers showed an ability to maintain a consistent level of play over 60 minutes in all three of those games, a feature they have been striving for over the entire season.

Dickey is hoping his team can continue this characteristic in their best-of-seven first round playoff series with the league-leading Hanover Barons.

That series is scheduled to begin at home on Thursday, Feb. 29 at the Maitland Recreation Centre (MRC) with the second game in Hanover on Friday, Mar. 1, and the third back at the MRC on Saturday, Mar. 2.

If the betting system that is now so prevalent in big-league sports was applied to this series, the odds of a Flyer victory would be remote.

The Barons finished the season with 74



(MARA CUTTING PHOTO)

RECOGNITION

Cohen Lesouder (left) with fellow graduating teammate Tyson Rintoul (right) with Flyers' president Lance Greer. The two graduating players were recognized for their years on the Junior Flyers prior to their Saturday, February 24 home game.

points, while the Flyers had 10, and the Barons won all six of their head-to-head matches.

Despite those odds, Coach Dickey is hoping for a strong effort from his team.

Playoff hockey often tends to be tight-checking and low-scoring and that's the style that best suits the Flyers squad.

At the final home game of their regular schedule, a 5-2 loss to the second-place

March 2 at 8 p.m. (MRC); Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. (Hanover); Friday, March 8 at 8 p.m. (Hanover, if necessary); Saturday, March 9 at 8 p.m. (MRC, if necessary); and Sunday, March 10 in Hanover TBD.

GODERICH JUNIOR FLYERS 2024 Player Statistics (through February 29, 2024)

PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Leland Weber	F	41	10	14	24
Jackson Andrews	F	41	5	13	18
Jared Houghton	F	26	9	5	14
Trent Carter	F	37	7	6	13
Carson Fletcher	F	41	2	10	12
Kyle Smeltzer	F	32	5	5	10
Jeremy Hamilton	D	41	1	7	8
Owen Shore	F	12	4	3	7
Mitch Perry	F	24	3	4	7
Cohen Lesouder	F	37	1	6	7
James Bender	F	38	4	2	6
Carson Stutzman	F	26	4	1	5
Reid Williams	D	23	1	4	5
Cooper Gaul	D	38	1	4	5
Jayce MacArthur	F	29	2	2	4
Mitchell Hodges	D	39	2	2	4
Dax Vader	F	4	1	3	4
Brady Fraser	D	35	1	2	3
Ryan McGee	F	6	1	1	2
Austin Aldrich	F	37	1	1	2
Wyatt Connelly	D	11	0	2	2
Tyson Rintoul	F	18	1	0	1
Logan Karges	D	3	0	1	1
Brett Reesor	F	6	0	1	1
Wilder Hoggarth	D	10	0	1	1
Cameron McCarthy	F	20	0	1	1
Payten Wheeler	F	22	0	1	1
Rowan Alexander	D	36	0	1	1
Jordan Curran	F	2	0	0	0
Jaden Meyer	D	3	0	0	0
Keegan Greer	D	4	0	0	0
Nathan Arnold	D	18	0	0	0
PLAYER	RECORD	GAA	SV%		
Logan Bromley	1-17-1-2	4.69	.877		
Christian DeJong	2-17-1-0	5.71	.846		

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(through February 29, 2024)

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	DIFF	PTS
Hanover Barons	42	36	4	2	208	94	114	74
Mount Forest Patriots	42	32	7	0	183	103	80	67
Kincardine Bulldogs	42	23	12	5	143	123	20	53
Fergus Whalers	42	20	17	2	152	135	17	45
Walkerton Capitals	42	18	20	2	122	133	-11	40
Wingham Ironmen	42	17	21	1	102	118	-16	38
Mitchell Hawks	42	11	26	2	108	154	-46	27
Goderich Jr. Flyers	42	3	35	2	66	224	-158	10



Maitland Valley Grotto expands to offer weightlifting gym

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

A bouldering gym opened in 2020 brought new recreational opportunities to Goderich, and just four years later the Maitland Valley Grotto has expanded to include a weightlifting gym.

The sister-facility of the Grotto, Maitland Valley Strength, is open now and offers climbers more services.

Peter May who opened Maitland Valley Grotto in 2020 now has a new business partner Marcus Maddalena, who has also been a long-time climber, as well as a former competitive rower and swimmer.

Marcus does the setting – changing the routes on the wall – every week and supervises the team that helps with setting the routes.

Peter and Marcus bought out Highland Strength next door, formerly run by Ben MacAdam and Nicki Darbyson, who are staying involved in the programming and coaching aspects of the facility.

Climbing is challenging mentally and physically and is the ultimate combination of fitness and social interaction. It can also offer a sense of accomplishment through lessons of persistence.

Working with former coaches of Highland Strength allows Maitland Valley Strength to build out a functional strength training and fitness class schedule to offer even more services to current and future clients.

“Some folks want or need that class structure and we will be launching classes later this year,” Peter explained.

“We want everyone to feel good moving their body in whatever format they prefer. We promote health and strength no matter where anyone is in their journey.”

According to Peter, the climbing community is one of the most supportive, which is relevant when visiting the facility.

Back in 2020, the Maitland Valley Grot-



TEST YOUR STRENGTH

Marcus and Peter in the new strength gym.

(CHRISTIAN BOND PHOTO)

to had a difficult opening, as the business only have a single month of normal operation before lockdowns were introduced.

“We were able to make things work though, as this community is amazingly supportive and has stuck with us every step of the way,” remarked Peter.

“We like looking on the bright side here.”

Peter said the openings and closings of businesses made it easy as new business owners to try new things and new formats. If they didn’t work out during these uncertain times, the Grotto didn’t implement them when they re-opened.

“We made the most of opening and closing multiple times by using those times as a testing ground for new ideas for our business,” added Peter.

From a monetary perspective, with this expansion, Peter hopes to significantly grow their client base so they can continue building more climbing walls in the exist-

ing unit.

Long-term, Peter hopes to continue expanding within their current location, with more walls and more fitness options.

When it comes to what inspired this expansion, Peter credits everything surrounding the bouldering and climbing business as motivation to provide more services for patrons of the climbing space.

The Grotto has a small team of several kids and teens who are on the competitive rock-climbing circuit now, and Peter explained the business needed additional facilities to continue their development.

“Long term, we want to continue expanding our facility and services to offer a community focused fitness center for anyone and everyone,” added Peter.

“Community, fitness, and fun are our three core pillars here. We also want to offer more classes and services adjacent to climbing and lifting that we currently did

not have space for, like yoga.”

To assist with this business expansion, Maitland Valley Grotto had to take out a second loan with Libro Credit Union to accomplish this feat.

According to Peter, Libro has been amazing throughout their existence as a business, as well as recently assisting the Grotto accomplish short term goals and plan for long-term goals.

Daily passes are available (\$20 + rentals, including taxes). If you own your own climbing shoes, a day pass only costs \$15. A day pass will allow you to try out both the climbing and lifting side of the gym. Participants at the gym must be 16+ to access Maitland Valley Strength.

People can belong to one or both sides of the facility. Membership is \$60 a month for either Maitland Valley Grotto or Maitland Valley Strength.

For those who want access to both gyms, membership is \$90 a month (shoe rental additional if they do not own their own climbing shoes).

There will be an additional membership tier once structured classes begin.

Access to the Grotto is 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. from Monday until Saturday. Access to Maitland Valley Strength is currently 24/7, which is subject to change once structured classes begin.

To access the gym, passes must be purchased at the Grotto front desk. Members of Maitland Valley Strength must be 16+ and have waivers signed. If the member is under 18, waivers must be signed by a legal parent or guardian.

Follow Maitland Valley Grotto and Maitland Valley Strength on Instagram (@maitlandvalleystrength) for the latest updates, and to know when classes are starting.

For inquiries or more information, visit www.maitlandvalleygrotto.com or email maitlandvalleygrotto@gmail.com

Goderich Little Theatre presents Elizabeth Rex

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The Livery Theatre recently produced Elizabeth Rex during the month of February. The play follows the story that the Lord Chamberlain’s Men have just given a command performance for the Queen.

A play by Timothy Findley, Elizabeth Rex follows the meeting and interaction between Queen Elizabeth I and an actor from Shakespeare’s troupe who specializes in playing women’s parts.

In a time when women were not allowed to act in the theatre, Ned Lowenscroft had success in his profession acting in roles of female characters.

During her entire life, the Queen had to act like a man to govern and had to reject her passionate side to remain unmarried, and in control.

Lowenscroft is uniquely fit as a ‘sparing partner’ for the Queen, who was often referred to as a ‘prince of Europe’.

The Queen was a woman in what was primarily a man’s role, and Lowenscroft had been exploring women’s roles all his professional life.

This intrigues the Queen, who invites Lowenscroft to say whatever he wants for this one night, while she endures the hours until her lover’s death is announced.

In the play, the Queen summons the troupe to perform Much Ado About Nothing for her as a diversion from waiting for the execution for treason of a man she may have loved – Robert Devereaux, the Earl of Sussex.

The streets are cleared, a curfew set until the sentence is carried out, and the troupe is lodged in the barn, where they are visited by the Queen.

“Elizabeth Rex cuts through matters of faith, loyalty, sexuality, and gender to consider what it is that makes us human,” said Dave Armour, Director.

“In Shakespeare’s day, there was a reigning Queen for the first time in En-

glish history, yet women were not allowed on the stage or to own property.”

One of the play’s central themes is challenging notions of gender.

Both the Queen and Lowenscroft have a problematic relationship with the way they enact their gender, and the ways they pretend to be a different gender.

One of the main lines in the play is from the Queen: “If you will teach me how to be a woman, I will teach you how to be a man.”

“Since that time, often in the background but no less potent an influence on our society, the need to understand each other in terms other than our citizenship, religion, gender, or by any classification imposed from outside ourselves, has been evolving,” added Armour.

“There are no final answers here, but Rex does help us to consider the question.”

Premiering on February 21 and closing March 3 at The Livery, Elizabeth Rex transports its audience to a Tudor barn.

The set, built in the historic Livery building that had its own humble beginnings as a stable, brings the action closer and creates an intimate space for both actors and audience.

Approximately 60 community volunteers worked on all aspects in bringing this play to life in Goderich. From a giant team of artists, there was a potter, a barrel maker, papermaker, wigmaker, make-up artist, and many painters, carpenters, musicians, technicians, and actors.

Everyone involved were drawn together by the beauty and power of Findley’s words.

According to The Livery Theatre, this is “an ambitious play, performed by an ambitious group of some 18 community players, who have rehearsed and crafted their characters for months, creating a beautifully, realized theatre experience that will entertain and intrigue its audience”.

The play by Findley originally premiered at the Stratford Festival in 2000.

Producers hear about local cover cropping techniques at annual workshop

More than 50 people attended the annual cover cropping workshop hosted by Huron County Soil and Crop Improvement Association (HSCIA) and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) on January 26.

Four local agricultural producers – Mike Strang, Alan Willits, Joanna Wallace, and Ethan Wallace – spoke to the crowd about their experiences using cover crops.

The speakers outlined both the successes of cover crops as well as the challenges.

“It was great to see this well-attended workshop and hear what producers are doing to incorporate cover crops into their rotations,” said Wim Feddes, President of Huron Soil and Crop.

“I found it encouraging to see the interest in the rye-after-corn trial as the more producers that are involved, the better we can generate and share information.”

According to the presentations, planting and harvesting can be particularly stressful for producers, especially with unfavourable weather and field conditions.

For those in attendance, it was encouraging to hear from producers who found their cover crops allowed them to get back on their fields more quickly during the wet autumn experienced last year.



ANNUAL WORKSHOP PRESENTATION

Above: Kelly Consitt presenting at the workshop.

Below: Mike Strang speaking about his experience using cover crops.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



It is the local, on-the-ground experiences that seem to draw producers to this workshop.

“It is great to be able to provide a space for producers to share these discussions that are so important in furthering the use of cover crops in our watershed communities,” said Hope Brock, Health Watersheds Technician with ABCA.

In addition to the producer presentations, Nicole Menheere, a past University of Guelph graduate student, spoke about her research on cover crops and climate change.

Furthermore, Kelly Consitt, an agronomist with Agri-Solve Inc., provided a summary of the first-year results of the rye-after-corn trial. Marisa Roefs, Stewardship Technician with Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) outlined the funding available for cover crops through the County of Huron’s Huron Clean Water Project.

The workshop organizers would like to thank all the producers for attending the workshop, sharing their experiences, and continuing to innovate when it comes to incorporating cover crops into their operations.

For more information about the Huron Clean Water Project and other cover crop funding, contact ABCA at 519-235-2610 or by email brau@abca.ca or mroefs@mva.ca

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Goderich duplicate bridge club results

Robert McFarlane directed the game on Jan. 30. We had 5 tables.

- 1st - Marian Lane & Barb Howe - 63.43%
- 2nd - Joan Lounsbury & Mary Lapaine - 57.41%
- 3rd - Doris Galbraith & Tom Rajnovich - 55.09%
- 4th - Cal Scotchmer & Janet Bloch - 53.24%

Bob Dick directed the game on Feb. 06. We had 5 and 1/2 tables.

- 1st - Brenda Blair & Pat Lewington - 58.33%
- 2nd - Mary Lapaine & Joan Lounsbury - 55.73%
- 3rd - Greg Bowman & Michele Hansen - 55.21%
- 4th - Garth Sheldon & Rob McFarlane - 53.65%

Bob Dick directed our game on Feb. 13. We had 6 and 1/2 tables.

- 1st - John Archbold & Tom Rajnovich - 70.00%
- 2nd - Bob Dick & Graham Yeats - 63.63%
- 3rd - Michele Hansen & Greg Bowman - 62.28%
- 4th - Marian Lane & Barb Howe - 55.46%
- 5th - Pat Lewington & Brenda Blair - 53.63%

Bob Dick directed our game on Feb. 20. We had 7 tables.

- 1st - Tom Rajnovich & John Archbold - 66.67%
- 2nd - Paul Spittal & Mary Lynne Telford - 55.06%
- 3rd - John Legate & Stephn Jacob - 54.17%
- 4th - Cal Scotchmer & Janet Bloch - 52.98%
- 5/6/7 - Kay King & Joyce McIlwain with Bob Dick & Graham Yeats and Marian Lane & Barb Howe - 51.79%

March films to get excited about

ROB MCAULEY

Sun Contributor

While the Park Theatre in town tends to get only the wide releases, there are always other films to check out if you find yourself in London, Waterloo, or Toronto. Here is this month's list of interesting releases.

March 8

Kung Fu Panda 4: It's hard to believe that the original Kung Fu Panda was released 16 years ago, so this will have wide appeal to kids of all ages! Even Kung Fu Panda 3 was released eight years ago.

In this version, Jack Black's Po must team up with the most unlikely allies when Viola Davis' evil chameleon unleashes the master villains that he has previously vanquished. You can expect to see this film play at The Park during March Break.

Interesting Fact: Many of the cast from the first three films are back, including Jack Black, Bryan Cranston, and Dustin Hoffman. As well, this film stars Awkwafina, Ian McShane and Viola Davis. Together, they have countless Oscar, Emmy, Tony, Grammy, and Golden Globe wins. This truly is an all-star cast.

March 15

Love Lies Bleeding: This film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah in January and was very

received. It stars Kristen Stewart, Anna Baryshnikov (daughter of ballet's Mikhail), Ed Harris, and Dave Franco.

Kristen Stewart's Lou runs a body building gym, and Anna Baryshnikov's Daisy joins to get in shape for a Los Vegas appearance. They fall hard for each other, but Daisy must navigate around Lou's criminal family, of which Ed Harris is the boss.

Interesting Fact: Expect to see some body horror as Anna starts taking steroids to bulk up.

Knox Goes Away: Michael Keaton directs and stars in this hitman-with-dementia noir-thriller. As you might expect Keaton plays a smart-talking hitman, who finds out he has a form of rapid progression dementia.

At the same time, his estranged son (James Franco) shows up, and is in a lot of trouble with the mob and the law. Knox comes up with a complex plan to get him out of trouble, but can he pull it off before he loses his own mind?

Interesting Fact: Also stars Al Pacino as Knox's handler and friend.

March 22

Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire: After the COVID release of Ghostbusters: Afterlife brought back many of the original cast, this newest version goes even further, moving the squad back to New York City and the old firehall.

Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Ernie Hudson, and Annie Potts are all

back. Paul Rudd and Finn Wolfhard and the other stars from the previous film are back, along with newcomer to the series, Patton Oswald.

Interesting Fact: Ivan Reitman directed the original film in 1984 but passed away in 2022. He gets a writing credit, as does his son, Jason who directed the last two instalments of the franchise.

March 29

La Chimera: This Italian story was a hit at Cannes and TIFF. It has won numerous awards at film festivals since.

The story is about a young British archeologist, who gets involved in an international black-market network of artifact thieves. It has been called a marvelous, wild, and magical tale of pursuit - a fairy tale with a social conscience and plenty of humour.

It stars Josh O'Connor (The Crown) and Isabella Rossellini (Blue Velvet).

Interesting Fact: The film has been very well received by critics and the public. It has a 92 per cent score on Rotten Tomatoes and sits at 7.5/10 on IMDB.

Other Notes

Watch for the Livery Film Fest's next picture at the Park Theatre on Thursday, March 28. The title is not yet confirmed, but it is expected to be another very good picture.

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



Goderich Sun

info@goderichsun.com | goderichsun.com

Goderich Visitors' Guide 2024

DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2024

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

For Ad or Editorial inquiries please contact:

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The Colborne House: “A First-Class House Kept in Good Style”

DAVID YATES

Sun Contributor

“An Excellent Oyster Saloon” and ‘First-Class Ales and Liquors always on Hand’ at the Colborne House on the corner of Hamilton and Newgate Streets in Goderich. When it was razed in 1976, the derelict building may have seen better days, but it was a sad ending for one of the most storied barroom hotels in the area.

It is difficult to determine exactly when the Colborne House was built. Its rare Walloon brick work on the building's façade dates it to the 1850s but the exact date cannot be known.

In the promotional booklet, *A Souvenir of Goderich, 1897*, refers to the Colborne House as “one of the oldest in town, having been established over thirty years.” However, by January 1861, it was known to be in operation as the *Huron Signal* announced that the Huron Agricultural Society held its annual meeting there on January 19, 1861.

In an 1865 advertisement for the Colborne House, Charles Thompson, the new proprietor, “respectfully” informed “farmers and the travelling public that they will find excellent accommodation and every attention paid to their comfort, having Good Stabling and Sheds, and an attentive hostler” to attend the livestock in addition to a well-stocked bar of choice liquors and good cigars.

The Colborne House was ideally situated on Hamilton for travelers coming into Goderich from the northern townships and provided an excellent stable to buy and sell fine horse flesh and a popular stop on the stallion route where the owners of stallions advertised the date and time of their prize stallion's appearance for stud services.

“A first-class house kept in good style,” under the proprietorship of Elijah Martin Esq, was how the *Signal* described the Colborne House.

One of the most august assemblages ever gathered in Goderich met at the Colborne's dining room, in February 1874, for the election of officers for the Goderich Eight Curling Club. In attendance were curling club patrons Sir Richard Cartwright, MP; Henry Attrill, Esq; and, M. C Cameron, MP; Sheriff John Reynolds was elected president with Colonel A. M Ross and chaplain Rev Dr Ure of Knox Church were among the notaries elected to the executive.

County Warden William Young officiat-



By the mid-1970s, the Colborne House had seen better days.

(LARRY MOHRING PHOTO)

ed at the event which according to the *Signal* feted 50 guests who proposed patriotic toasts, sang songs, and gave brief speeches at the gala affair. By all accounts it was “a very splendid evening” of “mirth and hilarity.”

Like every other hotel, the Colborne House played host to wandering phrenologists, medicine men with their cure-all elixirs and other healers of body and soul.

In October 1871, Dr Moore “the medical wonder” of Chicago received patients in his room to administer his medicine which cured every ailment from rheumatism, toothache and certain ‘private diseases.’ Whatever his elixir contained patients found themselves feeling “100 percent better of a single dose.”

In 1869, Madame Taylor, with her “Herb remedy” was available for overworked and ailing women. Madame Taylor told women not to “suffer when you can get ease” as her herbal remedy “was never known to fail” in making long suffering women happier. No doubt other even less respectable activities went on in the Colborne House's upper floor.

By the turn of the century, the temperance movement threatened to close the Colborne House's saloon. In the West Riding of Huron, liquor licenses were granted on a temporary basis, usually six months or a year, and could easily be revoked. Yet, the loss of a license never discouraged a hotel barkeep from making alcohol discreetly available to preferred customers.

In 1888, owner John Martin, of the Colborne House, was convicted of selling illegal liquor and fined \$50. Further, according to the *Huron News Record*, the Colborne

House had been “cut off the licensed hotels” in Goderich forcing the Colborne to continue to sell liquor illegally.

In another incident in March 1890, Constable Pellow “made a neat catch” when he “walked into a room of the Colborne Hotel and there found a couple of citizens, with Alex Robinson, the bartender” with a quart bottle of whiskey. Robinson was fined the next day the substantial sum of \$100 and court costs according to the *Huron Expositor*.

The 1889 *Goderich Illustrated Signal* described the Colborne House as “one of the best hostelries in town” with “26 bedrooms, with parlors and sitting rooms sufficient to accommodate” the travelling public. The paper boasted the Colborne's “well-kept dining room and kitchen” with “extensive stables and driving sheds and responsible hostler” who “guarantee the best treatment of animals that are put up.”

After almost 25 years of proprietorship, the Martin family sold the Colborne House to their bartender, Alex Robinson, in 1895, whom the *New Era* believed would “prove as popular and as capable as his predecessor” but within a year, Robinson sold the hotel to George Buxton of Petrolia who refitted the hotel at great expense.

In 1902, Buxton sold the hotel back to Robinson who sold it a year later. Under Robinson's ownership, the Colborne House, in 1903-04, sponsored one of the town's first hockey teams, the Colborne House 7, which enjoyed a winning season.

In 1905, the Colborne House was sold yet again to Messrs Bell and Johnston who advertised that they would keep the hostelry “to a high standard of excellence” Yet, their

partnership dissolved within a year as Bell bought the King Edward Hotel on Kingston Street which directly competed with the Colborne House for patronage.

Although the Colborne remained a hub for the town's societies, lodges and clubs, the hotel's reputation as a first-class establishment was beginning to fray. Charges of using ‘abusive language’, ‘disturbing the peace’ and brawling at the hotel made their way into the local papers.

The hotel also had a slight connection with one of Huron County's most notorious murders as the workplace of 17-year-old Lizzie Anderson, a dining room waitress who was murdered in September 1910. Her murderer, Edward Jardine, 22, was the last man hanged in the Huron County gaol.

In 1914 when Huron County voted for the Canada Temperance Act, Johnston petitioned for a reduction in property taxes from \$4,500 to \$2,000 owing to the lack of a liquor license and hotel's state of repair. The hotel closed in 1916 when Johnston sold it.

In 1920, plans to turn the old building into a new town hall or movie house came to naught. From about 1928 to 1937, the Legion met in the hotel's barroom. The upper floor was used for long term low-income housing for the remainder of its lifespan.

When McGee Motors bought the property in the 1960s, the building still housed “five or six apartments,” according to Alvin McGee with a couple of street level businesses including a hair salon and art store.

McGee recalls that “the old hotel had quite the reputation” at one time and by 1976, the old building was in a run-down condition.

In a controversial decision, Goderich town council granted McGee Motors a demolition permit to raze the building to make way for an extension of their car lot. Council's decision sparked the on-going debate between saving a town's architectural heritage and ‘progress.’

The local heritage advocates argued that the historic building was one of Goderich Square's ‘Vista Corners’ and should be preserved. Others argued that the building was “an eyesore” whose removal would improve the corner.

In the end, only one councillor, Elsa Hayden, voted to save the hotel. In October 1976, the venerable old Colborne House was demolished but its colourful past lives on in local legend.



Colborne House c. mid-1970s was located on one of Goderich Square's ‘Vista Corners’ on the Corner of Newgate and Hamilton Streets.

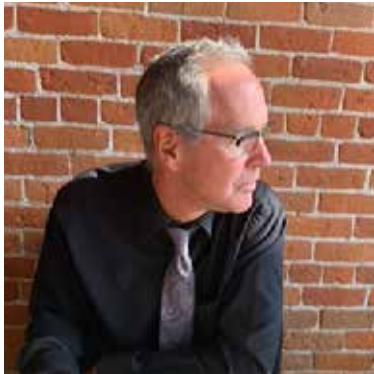
(LARRY MOHRING PHOTO)



The Colborne House in 1897 was one of the most famous hospitality houses in Huron County.

(A SOUVENIR OF GODERICH, 1897 PHOTO)

UNTIL SOON. LIVE WELL: MYTHS & TRUTHS



STUART LENDER

Times Contributor

In my decades of serving people, there have been many comments made that are incorrect concerning the field of funeral service from folks who were misinformed or not informed at all. And so, Rutherford Cremation & Funeral Services' number one function before services rendered, is the offering of complete but concise information. These are a few of the predominant issues that have come up while serving the public in my field of compassionate care. I hope it is informative.

COSTS:

When looking at a funeral home contract, the costs in the services offered are usually broken down into three main categories. You will see costs listed for:

PROFESSIONAL & STAFF SERVICES: meaning professional fees, coordinating rites and services, documentation, preparation of remains, transport of remains, staffing, facilities, vehicles, etc. **SUPPLIES:** meaning things you purchase like a casket or an urn, cremation jewellery, vault, stationery, etc. **DISBURSEMENTS:** meaning things the funeral home pays for on your behalf, that go to second parties and are put into the funeral home contract – like the cost of the cremation fee that gets paid to the crematorium, or the cost of a newspaper notice that gets paid to the newspaper, or the municipal death registration fee to register the death at the city. Others might be a clergy honorarium, or flower costs, etc.

These three sub-headings under any one of the funeral home packages, comprise the entire contract. Within those sub-headings things may be removed if not needed or added if desired, depending upon what you wish to do.

THINGS TO NOTE: Without sitting down with a funeral di-

rector and going over your specific wishes, there are only two types of services that can be quoted over the phone in their entirety, including all applicable taxes right off the bat – a basic direct cremation or a basic direct aquamation. The reason these two can be quoted complete is due to the fact that there are no real variables in them. They are pretty straightforward. Be aware that sometimes, when a funeral home tells you the cost of a service, or you see the service on a price list, it is probably the cost of only the Professional & Staff Services and not the supplies or disbursements that would go into that service. Why? Because, as mentioned, other than a basic direct cremation or aquamation, the funeral home can't know what supplies you want or what disbursements are needed or desired without going over the options with you. But they can give you the cost of the Professional and Staff Services because those are the funeral home's costs. The other things depend upon what you want to do. So, always make sure you know what a funeral home is quoting you.

URNS:

Funeral homes have urns, or can obtain urns, that range in price from approximately \$200 to \$5,000. Metal urns, wooden urns, stone urns, composite urns, biodegradable urns – there is no shortage to choose from. Urns hold remains from a cremation or aquamation and lend a certain dignity to a funeral service if you want the remains present at the service. What folks often don't know is that they don't necessarily need one. It is perfectly acceptable to bury remains in the receptacle they come back from the crematorium or aquamation site in. There is only one reason why an urn becomes a necessity and that is when remains are being placed in a glass fronted niche in a Columbarium. Usually glass front niches are in separate buildings within the cemetery. A Columbarium is an above ground structure in a cemetery that holds urns filled with remains. Another option would be to bring a receptacle to the funeral home that can be filled with the remains. I've put people in some interesting objects – a lady (the family baker) in the family cookie jar, a fireman in a fire extinguisher, a husband and wife who worked on a naval vessel into an empty shell! These objects can often be very

personal to a family, objects that hold tremendous meaning. If someone wants to keep cremated or aquamated remains at home in a place of honour, an urn or family heirloom is the way to go.

VAULTS:

Sometimes, when someone is buried in a cemetery, you'll see the casket or the urn go into what's called a "vault." A vault is an outer protection for a casket or urn. In some cases, and in some areas in a cemetery, a vault is a requirement due to the ground in the location where the burial is happening. In some areas the ground can be more compromised than in other sections, (a downhill slope or damper location), and so a vault is needed. Most often it is not a necessity. An "urn vault" is almost never needed, but it does provide space around the urn itself to place personal items into, such as notes and cards, jewellery or family keepsakes that hold meaning to the family or the deceased. The placement of objects can be a very poignant part of a burial service.

CREMATED / AQUAMATED REMAINS:

The term "ashes" for cremated or aquamated remains is not accurate. "Ashes" implies the result that you would get from a wood fire – remains that can be blown away easily in the wind. Not so. Remains from a fire cremation are beige in colour and similar to coarse sand. From a water aquamation they are white and like talcum powder, and there is about 15-20% more as aquamation is a gentler process and does not leave an environmental footprint like cremation or traditional body burial. Both remains are comprised of our bones. That is all. The scattering of remains is not illegal. There are certain rules that are supposed to be observed, but in general, cremated or aquamated remains are allowed to be scattered on water or Crown Land but not private property.

AQUAMATION:

Aquamation (and green burial) is the most environmentally friendly option of disposition we have in Canada right now. There are not a bunch of harmful chemicals being used. It is a combination of water and alkali, both of which occur in our soil. Aquamation mimics that process of decomposition when someone is buried in the ground without a casket, it merely

speeds it up. So... no... a person is not "doused in acid" or some of the other crazy thoughts I've heard from people who haven't researched it. It is one of two non-toxic and clean options that this country has.

NEWSPAPER NOTICES:

Obituaries are always a good thing. They provide the general public information that someone has died and I have had many a call from people who were informed through an obituary about a friend or colleague or even a family member. The placing of an obituary in a newspaper is not required. Some folks I've served have been under the impression that it must be done! It doesn't. On funeral home websites the obituary is free of charge and often that is enough depending upon the circumstances surrounding someone's life. There could, however, be people in another city that you want to make aware through the local paper. The main reason some people do not place a notice in a particular paper is because of the cost or the deceased was well on in age and all those who knew them have passed on already and there either will be no public service or the service will be through invitation only. That said – an obituary somewhere is a good idea even if it is short.

THE BODY:

In my decades of funeral service to the public, there have been some disturbing stories that have come back to me regarding things that have happened to the body of a decedent. Here are the myths I've heard, that I will dispel now:

There are never organs removed from a body by a funeral director. Any organs that were harvested were done so by a physician and with the permission of the family or the deceased. There are never any limbs adjusted in any way that would damage the integrity of the human body. If an individual does not fit into a regular sized casket, the funeral home will order an oversized casket. While a human body goes through specific changes after a death occurs, there is never a severe "reflex" that would have the deceased sit up or "animate" in any way. In addition, embalming of a body is done as a temporary disinfection and preservation of the body for viewing purposes only. Embalming is not a requirement, although as Ruther-

ford Cremation & Funeral Services does and probably most funeral homes do – if the body is not embalmed but a visitation or service is desired with the body present, the casket will not be opened for the public. In the province of Ontario, it is mandatory that the body be taken to the crematorium in a safe and rigid container. It is illegal to have a human body cremated outside of being in a casket or cremation container. With Aquamation, a rigid container is not required.

RENTAL CASKET:

Most funeral homes will have a rental casket in which there is an insert of another (often pine) wooden box, specifically for a cremation to be carried out after a funeral service has taken place. When the service is complete and guests have left, the insert can be removed with the deceased in it and that is what goes to the crematorium. The rental casket can cost as much as a mid-grade purchased casket, however, rental caskets are a way to have a very solid and much more expensive looking casket at a service without purchasing the casket outright. With many funeral homes, the casket is used a specific number of times, before it goes to the crematorium with a decedent in it. You can, however, get very lovely caskets at the cost of a rental casket.

RUTHERFORD CREMATION & FUNERAL SERVICES:

Contrary to some folks having thought that Rutherford's doesn't exist, after the old dark and dingy funeral home was sold on Albert Street, having moved into our bright space on Ontario Street, we very much do exist! In the full capacity of any funeral establishment. In fact, we are here as a source of information far beyond merely taking care of folks when someone has died. Information on wills, probate, clean options, what is and isn't needed, etc... If you want straight information and all the information, please get your questions answered. It is empowering to know your answers rather than assume something incorrect. I urge you to call. 519-271-5062.

Stuart is a celebrant and the manager of Rutherford Cremation & Funeral Services. It is his privilege to serve, dispel myths, and give information concerning his field of compassionate service.

Grey Matters: Ode to Women's History Month and International Women's Day



ANNETTE GERDES,

Sun Contributor

As March unfolds, we embark on a month-long journey of Celebrating Women's History Month along with March 8th as International Women's Day, a global initiative to not only celebrate the incredible contributions and achievements of women throughout history but it also marks a call to continue moving forward with a 2024 theme to

"inspire women of all ages and orientations". This March, let's take a moment to shine a spotlight on the remarkable senior women who have played a pivotal role in shaping our world.

Senior women bring a wealth of experience and wisdom to the table. Many have witnessed and actively participated in changing society as we know it today. They have contributed to advancements that have paved the way for us and future generations. Their stories are living testaments to resilience, strength and unwavering grit making it possible for women like myself to achieve leadership positions and equality in today's workforce.

Woman's History Month is an opportune time to acknowledge the pioneers among senior women who have broken barriers and shattered glass ceilings. From trailblazers in science and

technology to leaders in politics and activism, senior women have played instrumental roles in carving out spaces for themselves and for all of us that follow.

Take a moment to reflect on the achievements of historical figures such as Eleanor Roosevelt, the longest-serving First Lady of the United States, who championed human rights and advocated for expanding women's roles in the workforce; Rosa Parks, the mother of the civil rights movement, whose act of defiance sparked significant change; and Marie Curie, the pioneering scientist who made groundbreaking contributions to the fields of physics and chemistry.

As senior women, you have a vital role to play in inspiring and empowering the next generation. As a woman in a position to mentor younger women, I reflect upon those who have inspired

myself. Dr. Teresa Tam-Canada's Chief Public Health Officer played a critical role during the Covid-19 pandemic, and is the first woman ever to hold this position in Canada. She is inspiring with her expert guidance, leadership and her continuing advocacy for health equity. Our matriarchs, all have contributed to the ongoing legacy of women's progress, ensuring that future generations can continue building on the foundation they've both built and established.

I, so often ask myself, how can I make a difference in my own daughter and granddaughter's lives? Share your stories, experiences, challenges, and triumphs. During times of adversity and hardship, help them navigate the course, sharing your wisdom and insight about your own journey so they learn that success often comes with perseverance. Mentor by actively participating

in mentorship programs, offer guidance and support, challenge our girls to be passionate, set goals and reach high. Lead by example and model positive behaviours/values such as integrity, kindness and patience. Show them that determination, endurance and tenacity will ultimately bear the fruit of progress.

This March, let's celebrate the spirit of the senior women who have touched our lives, who inspire us and who continue to shape history. Let's reflect on the progress made, and continue to collectively work towards a more inclusive and equitable future for women of all ages. As we honor the legacy of senior women, let us pave the way for a new generation of empowered, confident, and resilient women to come.

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

Better Words for Better Mental Health

TANYA MACINTYRE,
RED ROOF RECOVERY*Sun Contributor*

If you're feeling a bit blah during this time of year, you're not alone. The lack of sunshine can start taking a toll around these post-holiday months, which is why many Canadians book a vacation to get away to sunny destinations - hence the moniker of 'snowbirds.'

I've grown to enjoy winter months, even though I can sometimes struggle with symptoms of SAD - Seasonal Affective Disorder.

Being someone who has recovered from drug & alcohol addictions, it's important for me to stay engaged with the discomforts of life.

It's been imperative for me to continue learning how to cope

with the pains of life in healthy ways.

Here are some easy ways to infuse a bit of sunshine into our days:

Train the Brain

It's not what happens to us, but rather how we respond to what happens to us that determines our quality of life. When we train our brain to respond, rather than react, we can enjoy better moods and better mental health.

Among my favourite tools to train my brain to respond, instead of reacting, is an acronym - S.T.O.P.

Whenever I'm faced with difficult circumstances, situations, or people, I think of a STOP sign which reminds me to: Stop, Take a slow, deep breath (or two, or three), Observe, and then Proceed with a Pause that's long enough for me to gain some perspective on how I want to feel.

By taking this short time to pause I can usually then choose to respond instead of reacting. When I can respectfully respond, I end up feeling better and usually enjoy a better outcome.

Mindfulness

Mindfulness teaches us how to pay attention, on purpose, in the present moment, without judge-

ment.

Yes, it sounds like a tall order, but it gets easier with practice, patience, and persistence. Remember, what we practice grows stronger.

A good place to start on your mindfulness journey is to seek out people, places, and things that can nourish more optimistic thinking. We become the company we keep, so it's good to be selective about who you spend your time with. If the people in your life are not inspiring you, you don't have a circle, you have a cage.

It can also help to take the diet that really works: a digital diet. Watch, Read, & Listen to positive things and feel the joy that life can bring.

Define & Refine Core Values

Our core values are the things that give us our characteristics and make us who we are. When we define & refine our core values it can improve the quality of life and help us live with meaning and purpose.

Does your life reflect the values that are important to you?

I have a "Defining Core Values" worksheet that you can download free on my website: <https://redroofrecovery.com/addiction-recovery-resources>, and I'm

always available for a peer-support call.

Reach out at info@redroofrecovery.com

May the force be with you, and remember...

YOU are the force

About the Author:

After 20+ years in broadcasting, I decided to pack up negative news and progressive addictions.

My recovery kicked into high gear when I started to write & speak openly about my challenges, and my success, in overcoming addictions. I now help others who want to build their own path to re-

covery and better health.

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

WOODSTOCK DUTCH THEATRE

The Woodstock Dutch Theatre group is back in full swing preparing for a new play! Every year around this time people start asking if there will be another production? Absolutely! Rehearsals are underway and this year is the 39th season. New to 2024 is the addition of an afternoon AND an evening show in Goderich and we are adding a new venue in St. Thomas!

This year the Woodstock Dutch Theatre Group will be presenting: **"High Tea in Bakkerij van Schie"** (High Tea in the Van Schie Bakery). The playwrights are Cocky van Dijk and Michiel Geurtse.

Mrs. Van Schie has convinced her husband to go along with her brilliant idea that will breathe new life into the bakery. High Tea parties and an opportunity to enjoy a delicious lunch. A hilarious comedy about the ups and downs of a bakery unlike you have ever seen before!

A wonderfully entertaining play that you won't want to miss!

Please join us on the following dates at these venues:

Woodstock, Market Theatre
Saturday March 16th - 2pm and 8pm

Goderich, The Livery Theatre
Saturday March 23rd - 2pm and 8pm

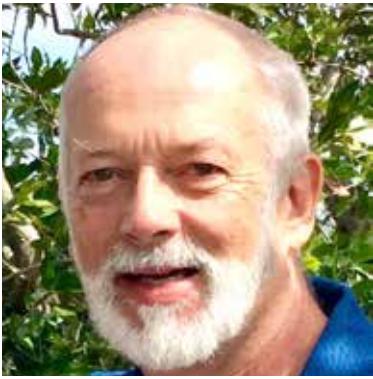
St. Thomas, Princess Ave. Playhouse
Saturday April 6th - 8pm

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door
Tickets can be purchased through ticketscene.ca or call Jolanda : 226-232-8200

Facebook@Woodstock Dutch Theatre Group
Twitter@WSTDutchTheatre | Instagram@WSTDutchTheatre

To submit your sunset photos email
kate@goderichsun.com

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: When real history elbows its way into our travels



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Contributor

"I never realized that!"

"Wow! I'm going to have to learn some more about this!"

"Who knew?"

If, during any of my travels, I find myself thinking those things, I know I am having a good experience. Sure, travel is about leisure and entertainment and adventure, but travel should also be about learning and expanding our understanding and our imaginations.

Walking into an exhibit at the Winnipeg Art Gallery-Qaumajug was one of those light-bulb moments for me. It started a process of learning that has not stopped.

Consider the name "Louis Riel". If you, like me, were raised to learn Canadian history in its traditional (might I suggest, "colonial") form, Louis Riel was presented as a bad guy, a rebel and traitor to our country who was executed for his misdeeds.

But then, I walked into this exhibit at the WAG-Qaumajug and was stopped in my tracks by



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The painting of Riel that hangs, among other Indigenous art, in a Canadian Senate committee room.

a wonderful piece of artistry, a chair featuring beautiful beadwork and a creative design by contemporary Métis artist Jennine Krauchi. This chair represented the chair Louis Riel was never allowed to occupy – his seat in Canada's Parliament. He was elected to Parliament a number of times, but was prevented from claiming his place on threat of death.

That was an "ah-ha" moment. I realized I needed to re-think this whole Riel narrative I had been taught. And – this being a travel feature – I feel I must point out I would never have experienced this moment had I not been travelling!

I was travelling again, months later, spending a few days in Ottawa. I toured the elaborate, temporary quarters of the Canadian Senate. The guided tour included a visit to the First Nations Standing Committee Room. To my surprise, the Indigenous art on the walls of the room included a modern portrait of Louis Riel. It

was a powerful statement that I believe reflects an acknowledgement by the Canadian government of today that repudiates the tragic, racist actions of their predecessors. Again – a light bulb moment in the midst of a touristy tour.

I thought of all of this today because I read of an amazing event back in Winnipeg. On February 19, Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand and Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew unveiled a portrait of Louis Riel. The picture isn't new. It has hung in the Manitoba Legislature building for years. What's new is a plaque on the portrait, which identifies Riel with the honorary title of "First Premier of Manitoba."

This follows the passing of a bill in the provincial Manitoba parliament last year. The bill reads, in part, "In 1869, the Métis people of the territory known as the Red River Settlement established a provincial government... led by Louis Riel,

based on multicultural, bilingual and inclusive vision of a province that respected the rights of Indigenous peoples and minority rights; and... the List of Rights was accepted by the Government of Canada as the basis for ... the establishment of Manitoba as a province."

The bill further notes that Riel himself submitted "Manitoba" as the name of the province, and that Riel "has been recognized as a founder of Manitoba and is regarded as Manitoba's father of confederation."

Wow. I never realized that.

It's probably no coincidence that the Premier of Manitoba who helped to unveil the portrait is Wab Kinew, from the Onigaming First Nation. He's the first Indigenous Premier of Manitoba. But these bits and pieces of historical information seep into my thinking, I have to wonder why it took that for justice to be done. Are we non-racialized people blind to the inequities of history? Probably. In fact, largely, yes. Can travel be one solution to that lack of perspective? I

like to think so.

It's obvious that adding a plaque to a portrait is not a sufficient answer to the inequities and injustices that are baked right into the fabric of Canada. Métis leader David Chartrand was extremely clear about this at the unveiling: "This is an historic and momentous day as we reflect on the true history of Louis Riel and the Métis of the Red River. Our history has been one of hardship, marginalization, racism and discrimination – a continued struggle for recognition of our identity as the Red River Métis people. We have been 153 years in waiting and advocating to correct this part of our history, and today we see the true title of Louis Riel further acknowledged. The stain on Canada remains for portraying him as traitor and a madman, instead of telling his true history as the first premier and the founder of Manitoba. We hope what we do here today will be a catalyst for real change, so that all know the truth and honour Premier Riel's legacy, and the legacy of our people."

So, no, a plaque on a picture is not enough. But it is something. Something important. And personally, I have learned something important about the legacy of Louis Riel.

Thank you, Winnipeg and Ottawa.

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.



Louis Riel's chair that should have been his right in Canada's Parliament. A contemporary work by Métis artist Jennine Krauchi.



A powerful statement photographed at the Winnipeg Art Gallery-Qaumajug; the work is by KC Adams.

Riddles

What's black, white, black, white, black and white?

A penguin rolling down a hill.

What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?

"I want to hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand."

What rolls and jumps but never walks?

A soccer ball

What do you call a person with a tree for a briefcase?

A branch manager.

Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

Because they are always a little short

What kind of chickens lay golden eggs?

Golden Chicks

Why did the boy take a packet of oats with him to bed?

To feed his nightmare

How do you get a baby astronaut to sleep?

Rock-it.

What happens when you throw a purple rock into a yellow stream?

It makes a splash.

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 26

Pet of the Month



BOOTSIE

She's 8 years old. She isn't very friendly, hates her dog sister and she has lots of attitude but she loves her human mama.



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

Word Search

MAPLE SYRUP SEASON

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

- March
- Warm days
- Frosty nights
- Sap
- Harvest
- Maple tree
- Sweet
- Sugar shack
- Tree tap
- Boiling
- Production
- Pancakes
- Taffy
- Family fun
- Sutherhill

Sunset of the Month



Waiting for summer, north of Goderich. Photo taken on February 22, 2024. (DAVE WISE PHOTO)

SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL. 

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

QUIZ ANSWERS
1. 2009
2. Arctic Ocean
3. GameStop
4. Green Goblin
5. Antarctica
6. Eros
7. 4
8. Meteorologist
9. Dime
10. 1969

Worship With Us



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KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Rev. Amanda Bisson
 Livestream Services
Sunday at 10:00 am
 Knox Presbyterian Church Goderich - YouTube
 Worship materials available online
www.pccweb.ca/knox-goderich



redroofrecovery.ca

GOOD NEWS

THERE ARE EFFECTIVE INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENTS AIMED AT LASTING RECOVERY

Let us help you get there... to create a life you love, a life you'll never need to escape from again!

- Private Residential Care • Post Residential Care
- Relapse Prevention • Lived Experience Counsellors
- Family Support Services • Virtual Sessions Available

Let's get started with a FREE 15-minute consultation.

<https://calendly.com/redroofrecovery>



ART'S LANDSCAPING

HAS BEEN SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR 60 YEARS

This Spring, we are pivoting our Garden Centre to a Landscape Supply Depot by focusing on landscape items – topsoil, triple mix, mulch, gravel, sod and landscape supplies.

As in the past, customers can pick up at the store or we deliver.

Trees, shrubs and flowers will be available by PRE-ORDERS ONLY.

All you have to do is email or call us.

- Topsoil
- Triple Mix
- Mulch
- Gravel
- Stone Dust
- River Rock
- Bagged products
- Manure
- Decorative Stone
- Armour Stone
- Field Stone
- Patio Stone
- Landscape Fabric
- Sod
- Grass Seed

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Monday – Friday
8-4 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

Local Sports: Goderich Junior Flyers Home Games

Thursday, February 29 at 8 p.m.
Friday, March 1 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 2 at 8 p.m.
Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 8 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 9 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 10 at 8 p.m.
All home games are at the Maitland Recreation Centre.

Saturday Night Meat Draw

Saturday, March 2 at 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Goderich Legion.
Entertainment by Country Junction.
Other dates include Saturday, March 9 and Saturday, March 23.

Make a Mess!

Make a Mess at the Museum is a drop-in session each Saturday afternoon for unstructured play for primary-aged children and their families.
Included with regular admission or FREE when you show your Huron County Library card.
Children five and under are always free.
Saturday, March 2 at 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.
Continues every Saturday throughout March.

Walking Scrabble at the Museum

Tuesday, March 5 from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Exercise your body and your mind with the addition of Scrabble and social time to regular Museum Walkers.
Admission: Included with regular admission or FREE with Museum membership or a Huron County Library card.

Gateway Lecture Series

On Tuesday, March 5 from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. via Zoom.
Join in the lecture and discussion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in rural health and inequality of distribution of these new technologies.
Leslie Walker, PhD candidate will present her research focused on policies to reduce the inequality associated with AI in healthcare.
Register at www.gatewayruralhealth.ca for the event.

Maple Mania

Saturday, March 9 at Huron County Museum from 11:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.
With events such as a magic show, bake-off, and maple market.
Admission is free.

Goderich Jammers

Every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Goderich Legion musicians and lovers of music are invited to Jam Night.
Begins on Wednesday, March 6.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Saturday, March 16 at the Goderich Legion.
Join in on the celebrations of music and food.
The night kicks off with the Irish Cowboys from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.
Dinner served from 5-6:30 p.m., followed by a Meat Draw.
Lucky Charms closing out the night from 7 p.m. until 12 a.m.

FISHER - The family of the late Betty Fisher wish to express their sincere thanks to family, friends and neighbours for their kindness in the expressions of sympathy during our recent loss. The cards, food, flowers, memorial donations were greatly appreciated. Thanks also to staff at Goderich and Stratford hospitals, the parishes of Knox Presbyterian Church and St. George's Anglican Church, the Goderich Legion Auxiliary, Chris and staff at McCallum and Palla Funeral Home.

BEGINNING MARCH 3RD
ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
PRESENTS

Messy Church

Stories! Music! Create! Shared Meal!

CHURCH!
(BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT)
FREE FOR AGES 0-99
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4-6 PM
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Auburn & District Lions Club St. Patrick's Breakfast

Auburn Memorial Community Hall
Sunday, March 10, 2024
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
\$12/Adults, \$6/Child, Free/Preschool
Pancakes, eggs, toast, sausage & hasbrowns
Maple syrup supplied by: Robinson's Maple Products
84548 St. Augustine Line, Auburn
Eggs supplied by: Huron County Egg Farmers

Proceeds for: Childrens Health Foundation

SERVICES

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FINANCIAL

Edward Jones

Becky Deighton, DFSA™, CEA®
Financial Advisor

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Goderich Co-Op Gallery invites the public to exciting events in the spring

March and April will welcome many upcoming events at the Goderich Co-Op Gallery, with Goderich Free Little Pantry as the guest charitable group from February 13 until the end of March.

As part of the gallery's outreach to local community groups, they hope to not simply offer support, but to expand awareness of this important local resource.

The display at the gallery provides a perspective on food scarcity and homelessness in the community.

Avery Greaves, the lead on the Free Little Pantries, is also a librarian and the author of 'The Creature Collection', where she introduces readers to the wondrous world of Canadian Cryptids.

During March Break Greaves will visit the gallery and read from her latest book. This fun hour is a must for all children who love to read.

Greaves will be in the gallery on Thursday, March 14 at 10 a.m. Come early to get your spot.

EXPOSURE returns to the gallery this spring.

For the month of April, the gallery opens its space for a community art show. Novice or experienced and looking for a chance to show your work to the public, if you are an artist, this is your chance. Artists can submit up to five pieces of art, in various media, for a small fee. No commission is charged.

Applications can be submitted to the gallery during the month of March to participate in this popular show.

Application forms and full details are available at Goderich Co-Op Gallery (GCG) at 54 Courthouse Square (lower level), or can be downloaded from the gallery's website: <https://www.gcgallery.ca/>



SPRING RETURN

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

EXPOSURE artists from 2023. (From upper left corner and clockwise): Nicole MacKechnie, Lisa Golem, Katherine Howald, and Kim Dumont.



MARCH EVENTS

March 2nd	Meat Draw with Country Junction 5-9p.m.
March 9th	Meat Draw with Macadam Road 5-9p.m.
March 16th	St. Paddy Day's Celebration Irish Cowboys 1-5p.m., Meat Draw 6p.m. Dinner 5-6:30p.m. HWY 19 7p.m.-11p.m.
March 22nd	Meat Draw, Catch the Ace Draw & Karaoke 5-10p.m.
March 23rd	Meat Draw with Homers
March 24th	Bingo Jackpot \$1,000 Doors Open 12p.m.
March 30th	Mega Meat Draw With Happy Jack

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

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Goderich Legion is hosting a Veterans Dinner On March 21st.

All Veterans, Spouses and Widows/Widowers of Veterans are invited.

Entertainment starts at 4pm in the lounge. Dinner at 5:10pm upstairs.

Please call 519-524-9282 to register by March 15th.

Legion dress or business attire.



Visit us online at www.goderichsun.com