



Goderich Sun

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Huron Chamber and United Way to host candidates' forum for federal election

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A non-partisan public event featuring Huron-Bruce candidates for the federal election will be held on Wednesday, April 23 at the Clinton Town Hall from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Hosted by Huron Chamber of Commerce and United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH), Election Connections will give voters an opportunity to get to know the candidates and share their own perspectives on key issues through small group discussions.

"This is not a debate, or a Q&A with candidates on stage," explained Kristin Crane, UWPH Director of Community Impact and Research.

"We're inviting candidates to talk with voters, side by side. We don't often get to connect like that and it's so important for building strong communities."

According to United Way, volunteers will moderate the group discussions and participants will have the opportunity to speak directly to candidates on a range of issues that are important to them and the community.

"Connecting community leaders is a priority for the Huron Chamber of Commerce," added Colin Carmichael, Executive Director of the Chamber.

"This unique event will let voters and candidates go beyond the talking points for a deeper conversation about how to drive growth and opportunity in Huron County."

Participants can attend an online prep session in the week leading up to the event to learn how to foster productive conversations, understand the federal government, and choose the topics for the group discussions.

Community members can register at huronchamber.ca/election-connections or by contacting Will Wellington at 519-271-7730.



Mayor Trevor Bazinet (left) with April Selkirk and Councillor Randy Carroll (right). See story on page 10.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Ontario proposes expansion of mayor powers to 169 more municipalities

KATHLEEN SMITH & GALEN SIMMONS

Editor

To help deliver on provincial priorities such as building more home, transit and other infrastructure projects across Ontario, the government proposed expanding strong mayor powers to heads of council.

This change will come into effect on May 1, 2025, to streamline local governance and help ensure municipalities have the tools to reduce obstacles in the way of development.

In 2022, through changes to the Municipal Act, strong mayor powers were first granted to the heads of councils in Toronto and Ottawa, and then to mayors in 48 additional

municipalities in 2023.

Though several municipalities declined the enhanced mayoral powers, a total of 47 mayors in Ontario now have these strong mayor powers.

"Heads of council are key partners in our efforts to build homes and infrastructure across the province," said Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack in a press release announcing the latest proposed expansion.

"By extending strong mayor powers to these additional municipalities, we are providing mayors every tool at our disposal to empower them to get homes and infrastructure built faster. Mayors know their municipalities best, and we support them in taking bold actions for their communities."

CONTINUE TO PAGE 2

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Ontario proposes expansion of mayor powers to 169 more municipalities, including Goderich

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Strong mayor powers include the ability to appoint a municipality's chief administrative officer (CAO), hire certain municipal department heads and reorganize departments, create committees of council, propose the municipal budget, propose certain bylaws the mayor says advances a provincial priority, veto certain bylaws the mayor says could interfere with a provincial priority, and bring forward matters for discussion by council if the mayor says they could advance a provincial priority.

The Government of Ontario is continuing to bolster the unilateral decision-making powers of mayors across the province with its proposal to expand strong mayor powers to

169 additional municipalities.

A total of 47 mayors in Ontario now have these powers, though several municipalities declined the enhanced mayoral powers including Mayor Trevor Bazinet.

Bazinet believes this change will create issues amongst councils and staff, and that it is a recipe for disaster. He will not be exercising the Strong Mayor Power.

"I will continue to work as a team and whatever the majority of the entire council decides, I will support that decision even if it is something I didn't vote in favour of," Bazinet explained.

"Democracy is so vital."

Although Bazinet believes the provincial government wants to provide every tool to

empower mayors to get more homes and infrastructure built faster, providing an opportunity to cut red tape and accelerate the delivery of key priorities, he believes this is a mistake.

"My opinion is red tape is there for a reason and accelerating things can sometimes come at a cost and mistakes can be made," Bazinet added.

All seven members of Goderich Council were elected to make decisions in a democratic fashion, and Bazinet

remarks that it how Goderich Council will continue to operate.

"I'm not going to come in here and change that," he added.

"It's all about working together as a team and that's the way we are going to continue to operate here."

If mayors have the power to veto or override council decisions, Bazinet foresees it as a recipe for disaster.

"Those particular council members must think what's the point of even being on council if the mayor can veto everything," adds Bazinet.

"We have a team here at the Town of Goderich and the council will continue to make decisions."

Instances like the recent use of strong mayor powers granted in the wake of the recent ice storm to reverse the hiring of a new CAO in favour of hiring from within by Orillia Mayor Don McIsaac, as well as public backlash to the proposed use of strong mayor powers in municipalities like Burlington and Caledon, have some worrying these powers have not yet been adequately tested and they may be a step too far.

In response to the recent announcement of the expansion from the province, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), which has been tracking the use of strong mayor powers since they were first introduced in Toronto and Ottawa in 2022, said there is no evidence to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housing starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers.

Instead, AMCTO says its research suggests strong mayor powers have blurred the political-administrative authority between the roles of heads of council and chief administrative officers (CAOs), threatening the neutrality of the public service and politicizing local government leadership.

"Looking at Ontario's Housing Supply Tracker, there is no evidence to suggest that the use of strong mayor powers is helping to build housing," said AMCTO spokesperson Jacquelyn Folville. "For example, of the 11 municipalities where mayors used powers in relation to staff and organizational structure, only three were on track to meet or exceed their 10-year target. We have more so been hearing about instances where the powers have created confusion by blurring the distinction of mayor and CAO roles or responsibilities, and where there's been operational issues – for example, affecting a recent council decision at the Town of Orillia."

Zack Taylor, an associate professor of political science at Western University and a fellow at the Institute of Municipal Finance and Governance, has been among those sounding alarm bells about strong mayor powers since their introduction in Ontario in 2022.

"If we buy the argument that these powers can be used to expand housing in rapidly growing areas, it's the larger municipalities in rapidly growing areas that already have these powers," Taylor said. "So, bringing this to much smaller places, many of them slower-growth places, I'm not sure if it's something that would move the needle."

Taylor said the expansion of these powers is based on the premise that councils across

Ontario are "gridlocked" when it comes to dealing with issues deemed as priorities by the province, something the associate professor doesn't see a lot of evidence to support. He says the idea that giving "soft-dictatorial authority" to heads of council to move the needle on housing doesn't really make a lot of sense.

"Ontario has a very elaborate planning system that has generally served the province well for decades going back to the Second World War," he said. "As a result, we have fairly efficient housing production that's fully serviced by water and sewer and that kind of thing. And if you look at other parts of North America, that isn't necessarily a given. But I think there is a legitimate argument there is a housing shortage, it's just is this the right way to address it and will this kind of thing make it happen? What we've seen so far is it's really hard to find any kind of evidence that strong mayor powers have created any more housing than would have been created otherwise."

"... I think a cynical perspective on it is this is a way for the province to transfer blame for the housing crisis onto mayors."

Among the myriad issues he sees with strong mayor powers and this proposed expansion is the decision by the province to expand these powers to smaller municipalities with fewer staff.

"If we think this entire policy basically emerged out of Doug Ford's special interest in Toronto, the City of Toronto's administrative structure with 30,000-plus employees is enormous and multi-layered, so the idea of having the mayor being able to play a role in hiring and firing senior staff means that you're only really looking at that top layer. When you go to smaller places, we know you can fit the entire staff of a municipality in one room. ... So, what does it mean to give the mayor hiring and firing power over that kind of thing? I think what it really risks is arbitrary decisions getting made, people playing favourites – you hire uncle Joe or whatever," Taylor said.

"... The mayor can install anyone they want."

Another red flag for Taylor, specifically among smaller councils with as little as six members, is the notion a strong mayor can introduce a bylaw that supposedly advances a provincial priority and see it passed with just one-third of council's support. For a council with six members, one of whom is the mayor, that means it would require just one other councillor's support to pass.

While Taylor said these powers could see some benefits when it comes to limiting council debate during budget deliberations to ensure annual budgets are passed in a timely manner, he sees this expansion of power as opening the door to mayoral candidates in future municipal elections running with the intention of using strong mayoral powers to advance their own agendas instead of what's best for their communities. And, in many smaller and rural communities, Taylor said mayoral candidates often run unopposed.

"Next time around, they'll run with the knowledge of having these powers," Taylor said. "... You could imagine in small places that don't really have any local media – there isn't a lot of scrutiny – that things could go off the rails pretty fast."



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Letters to the Editor

Putting seniors at the heart of the national agenda

Dear Editor,

As tariff talk and political drama crowd the headlines, one important reality remains: Canada is aging, and our public policies need to keep pace.

The recent removal of the federal Minister of Seniors is disappointing and risks sending the message that needs of older adults are not a top priority.

That's why we've joined forces with other like-minded organizations such as the National Institute of Ageing, the International Longevity Centre, HelpAge Canada, the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence, Can Age and the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse to issue an urgent action from each of our political parties.

From health care to income security to aging at home, these issues deserve to be front and centre in our national conversations.

Responding to long-delayed denouncement of white supremacy by Ben Lobb

Dear Editor,

Over the past eight months, many Huron-Bruce residents have voiced deep concerns about the presence of hate activity and propaganda in the region.

Alarm was sparked last August when a large sign promoting extremist ideologies was erected on private property north of Goderich.

This was followed by reports of a neo-Nazi gathering held within the town.

In response, a group of concerned citizens formed No Hate in Huron, a grassroots effort to raise awareness and confront the rising threat of hate in the community.

Since its founding, the group has repeatedly called on MP Ben Lobb to publicly denounce white supremacy and

By working together, we have an opportunity to build a future where all Canadians can age with dignity and support. Let's not lose sight of what really matters.

At RTOERO we're keeping our focus where it matters most: on the well-being of aging Canadians.

With more than 86,000 retired and current education workers across 51 districts nationally, we're committed to ensuring that seniors' issues remain a priority, no matter the political noise of the day.

We're calling for coordinated national seniors' strategy, one that includes dedicated funding, clear goals, and accountability to help us age with dignity, and to access the specialized care we need.

We don't need more short-term fixes or vague commitments.

What's needed is meaningful progress on universal pharmacare, income security, aging at home supports and

neo-Nazism.

Until this week, Lobb had remained silent. On Monday, April 7 during an all-candidates meeting in Kincardine, a member of the audience posed a direct and urgent question: Do you denounce neo-Nazism and white supremacy – yes or no?

After the terms were clearly defined, James Rice (Liberal), Melanie Burrett (NDP), Caesar Pella (Independent) and Ben Lobb (Conservative, incumbent MP) all said yes. Two other candidates, Justin Smith (Independent) and Gregory McLean (Green) were not present at that meeting.

This is the first time in eight months the current MP has publicly denounced white supremacy and neo-Nazism despite repeated outreach from No Hate in Huron.

It took us eight months of uninterrupted advocacy to get

solutions to reduce social isolation.

Elections come and go, but the needs of aging Canadians remain and will become more critical.

These aren't optional issues.

They're foundational to building a strong, healthier Canada for everyone.

At RTOERO, advocacy doesn't stop when the election signs come down.

It's a 365-day commitment.

We invite all Canadians to join us in encouraging our next government to put seniors at the heart of the national agenda.

*Sincerely,
Wilhelmina Laurie
Retired Teachers of Ontario
Huron-Perth*

that answer out of Ben Lobb. Shame on him.

While the group welcomes Lobb's response now, it emphasizes that such a basic moral stance should not take this long, especially from an elected leader.

The group believes this is a pivotal moment, not only to inform votes, but to hold public officials accountable.

Many are now asking why it took MP Lobb so long to speak out.

Some may reconsider their support, while those aligned with extremist ideologies may see this as a betrayal, and for others, the recent revelations have come as a shock.

We remain committed to our work to build awareness, foster inclusive communities, and ensure that hate has no home in Huron-Bruce.

*Patrick Corvyn
Goderich*

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Top Hat Ceremony welcomes arrival of first ship to dock in Goderich this spring

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Goderich Council members gathered at the harbour on March 31 to celebrate the first ship to dock in Goderich's port.

Each spring the Top Hat Ceremony takes place, a ceremonial tradition dating back to 1932.

On March 31 the Federal Asahi was welcomed as the first ship to dock at Goderich Port under the command of Captain Abhijit Menon, who had the honour of signing the inside of the ceremonial Top Hat.

The Federal Asahi is a bulk carrier built in 2000, transporting 23,000 mt of corn from Goderich.

According to the Town of Goderich, this shipment plays a crucial part in supporting local industries and economic activities.

"We are delighted to welcome the Federal Asahi to Goderich as the first vessel of the season," said Mayor Trevor Bazinet.

"This tradition not only celebrates our

maritime heritage but also underscores the importance of the shipping industry to our town's economy and community development."

According to the Town, the Port of Goderich is the only deepwater port on the east shore of Lake Huron.

The port services regional mining, manufacturing, aggregates and agricultural industries, and is an important hub of commercial shipping in southwestern Ontario.

The Port of Goderich facilitates the movement of goods, which is a crucial element for the town's economic sustainability and growth.

Connecting Goderich to both national and international markets, the port also enhances the region's transportation network.

For more information about the Port of Goderich and the Goderich Port Management Corporation (GPMC) visit www.goderichport.ca/Port_Corporation

Goderich Mayor Trevor Bazinet (right) presents Captain Abhijit Menon (centre) of the Federal Asahi with a care package from the Town of Goderich. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



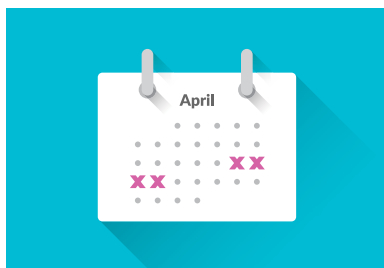
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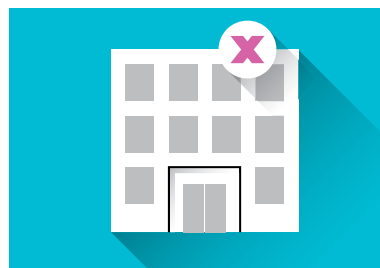
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Liberal Party Candidate for Huron-Bruce MP: James Rice

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Each candidate was interviewed by Editor Kathleen Smith, and given the same chance to submit answers on provided questions. The following is based on the response given in time for publication:

Born and raised near Kincardine, with deep roots in Huron and Bruce counties, James Rice is running for the Liberal Party in the upcoming federal election.

Currently serving as an Assistant Crown Attorney with the Ministry of the Attorney General, Rice was inspired to run for MP of Huron-Bruce because he believes the community needs a stronger voice in parliament.

"I also decided because Prime Minister Mark Carney is the leader that Canada needs to meet this pivotal moment in our history," says Rice.

"Electing a Liberal MP in Huron-Bruce helps Carney stay as Prime Minister. Liberal values are rural values, and I would make sure our communities and families have a strong voice at the table."

Rice grew up in communities throughout Bruce County, living in Port Elgin, Kincardine, Tiverton, Cargill, Ripley, and Southampton, before obtaining a degree in Criminal Justice and Public Policy from the University of Guelph. Following that Rice obtained a law degree from the University of Windsor.

During his time in law school, Rice worked in the Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities Program at the Ministry of Community and Social Services before beginning a clerkship at the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories.

It was there, Rice developed a deep appreciation for what makes Canada a great country, while also being made aware of the wide array of challenges that rural and remote communities face.

As a former Crown Ward, Rice understands the need to advocate for those whose voices go unheard. He specializes in prosecuting serious violent crimes.

Rice has also served with the Bruce-Grey Child and Family Services and the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada.



"I've been overcoming adversity my whole life and have come out stronger for it," he says.

Growing up through the child welfare system as a Crown Ward, Rice was able to break the cycle to chase his dreams.

Now as a young husband and father, Rice understands firsthand the opportunities and challenges facing middle class families. He wants to give everything back to the country and the riding that gave him everything.

Rice says he values the pragmatic approach that the Liberal Party takes to solving the issues Canada is facing.

According to Rice, the Liberal Party's focus is on building a stronger Canada that works for everyone.

"While some would prefer to tell us how broken Canada is constantly, we know this is the best country," says Rice.

"I value these qualities because I have seen first-hand the impact that good government can have on people, and on how Liberal policies can change peoples' lives for the better."

An immediate policy change Rice believes Huron-Bruce would most benefit from is the elimination of the consumer Carbon Tax, which turned out to be Prime Minister Carney's first order of business.

A policy Rice would promote in Huron-Bruce is clean prosperity – increased investment in green technologies, to create better lives for Canadian families while also solving big problems like climate change.

"Already, more Canadians are directly

employed in clean technology than in oil and gas – and these are good, high-paying jobs," Rice explains.

"There is enormous potential in this riding. We need a strong advocate in government to help bring more paying jobs to Huron-Bruce."

This includes things like increased investment into the Bruce C Site at Bruce Power, but also new incentives in ag-tech, energy efficiency, water technologies, and smart building solutions.

Rice explains he would also aim to initiate government assistance to local businesses and communities impacted by Trump's tariffs.

"Similar to the relief fund established for the auto sector, I would push to expand this to other sectors like our critically important agriculture sector," Rice explains.

"Finally, I would emphasize the importance of defending supply management, which is something Mark Carney's Liberals can be trusted to do."

Rice also plans to inspire younger generations to get involved with politics by leading by example. He is a millennial who represents a generational shift in politics.

By running for MP of Huron-Bruce, Rice hopes to inspire other young people to follow suit.

"I am intimately familiar with the issues younger generations are facing, such as the lack of affordable housing and the rising cost of living and would show younger generations that their MP is getting to work on that issue and raising it in Parliament," Rice says.

He has plans to strike a Future Generations roundtable, to invite young leaders from across the riding to meet regularly to discuss issues and get valuable input into solutions.

Rice wants to support Prime Minister Mark Carney, as he is a man who understands the economy after a distinguished career in the public and private sectors.

"While career politicians may not understand how the real-world works, Mark Carney does and the Liberal Party under his leadership will grow the economy and help bring new industries and jobs to Huron-Bruce," adds Rice.

"Removing the capital gains tax increase will reward businesses for growing and doing well, instead of punishing them."

According to Rice, the Liberal Party proposed to increase investment into green technologies and Made-In-Canada innovation.

Rice explains there are great economic assets in Huron-Bruce including the Port of Goderich, Bruce Power, Hensall District Co-Op and the tourism sector.

Rice furthers that in Huron County alone, farmers bring in more cash receipts than anywhere else in Ontario, or in two of the three Atlantic provinces combined.

"We know what we're good at, but we need a strong voice in Ottawa. A voice that can advocate for the best interests of our precious corner of rural Ontario," explains Rice.

When it comes to the type of leader Canada needs in this moment, Rice says the nation needs a champion. Someone focused on building everyone up, not one who tells the country how broken it is.

"Canada needs someone who is a tough negotiator, who takes our security seriously, who knows what it means to keep his elbows up," adds Rice.

"Mark Carney is the man for the moment. He helped Canada out of the 2008 financial crisis and went on to lead the Bank of England during the chaotic Brexit period. Trump is a huge threat to our economy and our sovereignty.

"That is why we need somebody with Mark Carney's experience and expertise to steer us through the economic hardships Trump inflicts on us. Carney will make sure Canada stay strong and becomes the strongest economy in the G7."

Rice ran for Member of Parliament in Huron-Bruce in the 2021 Federal election.

Rice speaks both English and French, and he and his wife Katie live on a hobby farm outside of Paisley with their two daughters with a third on the way expected in June.

Rice believes he will be a champion for a strong middle class and help build an economy that works for all Canadians.

For more information on Liberal Party Candidate for Huron-Bruce MP James Rice, visit <https://jamesrice.liberal.ca>

NDP Candidate for Huron-Bruce MP: Melanie Burrett

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Each candidate was interviewed by Editor Kathleen Smith, and given the same chance to submit answers on provided questions. The following is based on the response given in time for publication:

Edmondville resident Melanie Burrett has been named the NDP candidate for Huron-Bruce in the upcoming federal election.

Burrett is a dedicated school librarian, proud OSSTF ESS member, and a longtime NDP volunteer and lives with her husband and daughter.

Joined by supporters and special guest MP Lindsay Mathyssen at her campaign launch, Burrett outlined the stakes of this election and her commitment to fighting for working people in Huron-Bruce.



"This election is going to be tough," admits Burrett.

"We all wish we were living in more stable times, but right now, we need progressive voices more than ever. It's time to stand up

for what we believe in: sanity, moral courage, and the values that have made Canada great."

According to Burrett, the NDP are fighting for a Canada where jobs pay enough to cover bills, groceries and a decent home, and where people never have to wait or pay for healthcare.

The NDP prioritizes people, not corporations or billionaires, and Burrett explained that the NDP stands strong in the face of right-wing attacks while fighting for a better future for everyone.

"Canadians are tired and worried," Burrett remarks.

"They're losing hope that things will ever get better for regular people. But I know better is possible, and it's worth fighting for."

Burrett spoke passionately at her campaign launch about the erosion of Canadian

values under successive governments that have prioritized the wealthy and well-connected over everyday people.

"It's time to stand up for what matters," adds Burrett.

"The values that made Canada great – peace, order, and good government – must guide us again. We deserve better. And we can build a better future, together."

This is the first time Burrett has run in a federal election.

She is a candidate who believes in bringing hope for a better life to Canadians, improving the mental health care resources and programs available to Canadians, improving the electoral system in Canada while protecting the economy.

For more information on NDP Candidate for Huron-Bruce MP Melanie Burrett, visit Burrett's campaign page on Facebook.

Conservative Candidate for Huron-Bruce MP: Ben Lobb

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Each candidate was interviewed by Editor Kathleen Smith, and given the same chance to submit answers on provided questions. The following is based on the response given in time for publication:

Ben Lobb was first elected to the House of Commons in 2008 and sworn in as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Huron-Bruce.

He was re-elected again in 2011, 2015, 2019 and 2021.

Lobb is running again for the position of MP for Huron-Bruce in the federal election on April 28.

"I'm concerned about the rising cost of living," says Lobb.

"Families, seniors, new Canadians are all trying to build a better life but are struggling to make ends meet...our federal debt has reached an all time high."

According to Lobb, to combat this the Conservative Party is looking to put more money in voters' pockets, while the government lives within its means.

A few examples include the plan for



a 15 per cent income tax reduction, or a sales tax off a new home.

"The Conservative government can shape a stronger, more secure Canada for future generations," adds Lobb.

Currently, Lobb serves as the Shadow Minister for Digital Government and is one of the co-founders of the Conservative Blockchain Caucus.

Blockchain technology is a decentralized, distributed ledger that stores the record of ownership of digital assets. Any data stored on blockchain – secure transactions across a peer-to-peer network – is

a disrupter for industries like payments, cybersecurity, and healthcare.

It would foster innovation and competitiveness.

The Blockchain Caucus is a cross-partisan initiative that aims to raise awareness, promote dialogue and advocate for policies that support the development and adoption of blockchain technology in Canada.

In previous Parliaments, Lobb has served on the Veterans Affairs Committee (VAC), the Agriculture and Agri-Food Committee, and he served as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health.

During his time on VAC, the committee reviewed the Veterans Independence Program, which provides benefits to Veterans returning.

Lobb is also a former Chair of the Government Auto Caucus.

Since 2008, Lobb has served on numerous other committees including the Standing Committees on Human Resources, Transport, Public Safety, and National Security.

Some key issues for voters this election include housing, protecting Cana-

da's economy and democracy, as well as switching to a better electoral system.

"There has to be a better way than what we're currently doing," says Lobb.

"A proportional representation or some form of that provides a better opportunity for everybody to work together. I was one of the few Conservative MPs to vote for the citizens' assembly to look for a better way for democracy in Canada. It might interest more people to get into politics."

Prior to politics, Lobb obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee.

He worked in the Finance Department for Desire2Learn (D2L) as well as at Westcast Industries in Wingham.

In addition to working at the MP for Huron-Bruce, each year, Lobb hosts two minor baseball camps for youth in Huron-Bruce, held in Clinton and Kincardine.

Lobb lives with his wife Samantha and their two sons Cal and Caden.

For more information on Conservative Candidate for Huron-Bruce MP Ben Lobb, visit <https://benlobb.com>

Green Party Candidate for Huron-Bruce MP: Gregory J. McLean

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Each candidate was interviewed by Editor Kathleen Smith, and given the same chance to submit answers on provided questions. The following is based on the response given in time for publication:

Gregory J. McLean is running for the Green Party in the riding of Huron-Bruce for the upcoming federal election on April 28.

With a passion for community engagement and the environment, McLean says he is committed to bringing fresh perspectives and effective solutions to Ottawa to address urgent issues facing the region.

"The time for change is now, and I am excited to represent the Green Party in the federal election," admits McLean.

"I am running because I believe in the power of communities to build a better future. The Green Party stands for bold climate action, economic fairness, and policies that prioritize the well-being of all Canadians."

Currently a municipal councillor in Brockton and retired administrator having worked in both Bruce and Huron counties, McLean has lived in Bruce County for most of his adult life.

McLean explains he is committed to advocating for policies that support local farmers, small businesses, and families, while ensuring long-term sustainability of the environment and local resources.

Key priorities this election include affordable housing, economic sustainability, social justice, and electoral reform.

McLean believes that all Canadians should have access to quality healthcare, including expanding mental health and addiction services.



He also believes that residents of Huron-Bruce can benefit from several policy changes, to solve issues such as housing, high tariffs and sovereignty.

"We still need increased access to healthcare – especially expansion of mental health services," McLean explains.

"And we need to secure reliable markets for farmers and small businesses."

According to McLean, the Green Party is interested in increasing mental healthcare support, which McLean says is a driver of homelessness.

He plans on addressing the housing crisis by supporting policies that make homes more affordable and sustainable.

McLean also plans to promote green jobs, supporting local agriculture, small business and diversifying the economy to ensure Huron-Bruce remains vibrant and thriving.

Fighting for equality, inclusion and the rights of Indigenous communities is important to McLean, who wants to ensure every Canadian has a fair chance to succeed.

Furthermore, making the electoral system fairer and more equitable is a goal

for McLean. This would eliminate first past the post system and replace it with proportional representation, where every vote counts.

First past the post is the winner-take-all voting system used for federal and provincial elections in Canada. Voters mark one candidate as their favourite, or first-preference, and the candidate with the most marks is elected, regardless of whether they have over half of votes.

McLean believes that young people need to be more engaged in the democratic process, and one significant way to do this is through reform of the electoral system.

"We know that the First Past the Post system is unfair," admitted McLean.

"It doesn't matter what political party you are involved with. The issue is that you end up with a minority of people choosing a majority government, and that lets voters feel alienated and powerless."

McLean believes the voting system needs to change to a more representational system that is informed by a citizen assembly that includes youth in making recommendations.

He believes he brings a wealth of experience in leadership and a deep commitment to the Green Party's core values of environmental stewardship, social justice, and equity, with a clear vision for a brighter, more sustainable future.

McLean feels the political discourse in Canada is becoming increasingly divisive, rancorous and negative.

"I offer my hope, positivity and energy in my candidacy in order to influence the general political arena," say McLean.

"In my years as a leader, I worked diligently to promote trust, respect, care and integrity in my sphere of influence."

McLean chose the Green Party as a po-

litical vehicle based on their future view of Canada, of being a fair and just society that looks after the environment and all its people.

McLean says the Green Party offers a better future for Canadians, an idea that has influence on the party's platform.

"We see that the middle class is shrinking, and this is a concern because the middle class is the driver of quality of life for all Canadians," says McLean.

"Economic fairness is key. The role of government in Canada is to ensure the viability of all its people, not just the rich."

When it comes to leadership that Canada needs, McLean says the country needs someone who inspires hope, inspires willingness to be courageous.

"I think we need leaders who act with integrity and respect for all people in Canada," adds McLean.

"A measure of society is truly how you treat the most vulnerable in it. I've lived this way and worked in this way my adult life. Leadership begins at a grassroots level. In this way, I feel I am best positioned to really be an effective representative for Huron Bruce."

He is eager to work with the residents of Huron-Bruce to create a more just and equitable Canada for all.

"I believe the real change begins at the grassroots level, and it's time for Huron-Bruce to be represented by someone who is committed to the environment, social justice, and the future of our communities," adds McLean.

"Together, we can create a sustainable and thriving future for Huron-Bruce and all Canadians."

For more information on Green Party Candidate for Huron-Bruce MP McLean's campaign, visit <https://www.greenparty.ca/en/candidate/gregory-mclean>

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Annual shoreline cleanup seeking volunteers

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Lake Huron Coastal Centre (LHCC) is organizing the annual beach clean up at St. Christopher's Beach in Goderich for Saturday, April 26.

In celebration of Earth Day, this family-friendly event offers a chance for the community to reduce plastic pollution on Lake Huron.

Last year, the LHCC saw 175 volunteers remove an impressive 480 pounds of litter from the Goderich shoreline.

This year, LHCC hopes to make an even greater impact in preserving the health of Lake Huron.

The LHCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the health of Lake Huron's coastal ecosystem through education, research and community engagement.

Their programs offer communities a chance to connect with nature and participate in hands-on conservation efforts.

This year, the LHCC extends a heartfelt thank-you to the Tanner Steffler Foundation, Zehrs, Rotaract Club of Goderich, Yoga Den, and generous sponsors Goderich Port Management Corporation (GPMC), Royal LePage Heartland Realty Homefield Group and Compass Minerals.

These agencies, organizations and businesses have continued to support this annual community event. Sponsors help fund important conservation programs and also demonstrates their commitment to protecting Lake Huron's environment.

To register and learn more about the clean up, visit www.lakehuron.ca/beachcleanup

Whether you're an individual, a family, or part of a group, everyone is welcome to join the effort and to contribute to a cleaner, and healthier shoreline.

tribute to a cleaner, and healthier shoreline.

For more information about the LHCC, its programs, or to donate, visit www.lakehuron.ca/donate

The annual clean up on Saturday, April 26 will run from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m.

After the clean up, volunteers are invited to stay for a free beach barbecue, courtesy of Zehrs Goderich, to celebrate the success of the day's efforts.



Last year the annual beach clean-up saw 175 volunteers remove 480 pounds of litter from the Goderich shoreline. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

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GODERICH
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Ladies Auxiliary host Soup and Sandwich fundraiser



Goderich Legion Ladies Auxiliary thank the wonderful people who came out to the Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser on March 27. The ladies prepared 100 servings and served 98 hungry people, as the community came together to support each other. All monies will be used for community betterment. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Independent Candidate for Huron-Bruce MP: Justin L. Smith

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Each candidate was interviewed by Editor Kathleen Smith, and given the same chance to submit answers on provided questions. The following is based on the response given in time for publication:

Inspired to run for MP of Huron-Bruce after feeling tired of complaining about federal politics and rather deciding to do something about it, Goderich-born Justin L. Smith is running as an independent candidate.

Smith says he believes none of the parties have people's best interests at heart.

"As an independent candidate, I will never have to worry about having to toe the party line or risk my position because I only have the constituents to answer to," he explains.

"I can be honest and give my opinion without fear...I am able to get everyone's feedback and fight for that. No more having Ottawa dictating to the people."

Smith runs Parsons Used Furniture in Goderich and as a small-town business owner his key priorities are taking care of



Canadians first and tackling hard issues like homelessness and globalism.

If elected to represent Huron-Bruce, Smith believes the most important policy change that everyone would benefit from would be to stop putting everyone else before Canadians.

"We send billions of dollars overseas for nothing in return when we have people who are homeless, can't afford food, and many other struggles," says Smith.

"Our government should be putting Ca-

nadians first, not last."

Homelessness and the lack of affordable housing is a major issue across the country, and Smith believes Canada needs to reduce the demand for housing, which he says will lower costs.

To do that, Smith says the federal government must drastically lower immigration to numbers that haven't been seen since the Second World War.

"Those in Canada who have been waiting for homes should be able to get them at an affordable price," says Smith.

"With lower demand, more homes and lower prices, we will be able to fix the housing shortage."

Smith would also like to see an end of foreign property ownership, explaining that those who rent should not be paying someone who lives in another country when that place could be owned or rented out by a Canadian.

When it comes to leadership for Canada, Smith proposes a leader who will put Canadians first, and who protects the rights and freedoms of Canadians.

"For too long Canadians have been footing the bill for the government's friends

and pet projects," Smith explains.

"Too much of our money is going to other countries and large corporations that do not benefit us at all. We need a leader to stand up to globalism, communism and socialism. Our leader must grow the middle class and not shrink it into poverty as has been happening."

Smith furthers that there should be no more divisive politics through DEI, gender or race initiatives.

"We are all Canadians, and we all deserve to be treated with the same respect and opportunities as all other Canadians," Smith adds.

Finally, Smith believes it is important to get younger generations involved in politics. To do so, Smith says politics should be made easier to understand, should be made more interesting and states that more transparency is needed from the federal government.

As an independent candidate, Smith explains he has the flexibility to properly advocate for the people of Huron-Bruce.

For more information on Independent Candidate for Huron-Bruce MP Justin L. Smith, visit <https://www.justinlsmith.ca>

Independent Candidate for Huron-Bruce MP: Caesar Pella

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Each candidate was interviewed by Editor Kathleen Smith, and given the same chance to submit answers on provided questions. The following is based on the response given in time for publication:

Inspired to enter politics as an independent candidate, Caesar Pella was motivated through his perspective that the government is in a pitiful state as a result of the party-based system and current methods of the federal government.

"I studied politics and elections for almost two decades, and my conclusion was that politicians, their aids and the throngs of lobbyists who mill around them do not act in the interest of the people," says Pella.

He aims to raise the bar of daily operations of the Canadian political system, and demands that political parties put themselves in the service of the common good.

Pella has the goal to turn adversarial politics that are destroying the fabric of democratic societies, into a competitive but in-good-faith mode of interaction between political parties.

"We must re-revolutionize politics," says Pella.

"Non-violent, long-term re-revolution is the only effective and sustainable way to tame the run-away, untethered, self-destructing capitalism."

Aside from specific measures and poli-



cies concerning agriculture, health, education, market and social housing, pensions, public transportation and other major segments of public life, Pella believes breathing new life into democracy might restore hope to Canadians.

"By giving young voters, who are dismayed by the circus of finger-pointing and unfulfilled promises, there can be a smidgen of hope that there can be room for trust, and a place for reliable and trustworthy leadership," adds Pella.

Some priorities for Pella include tackling the homelessness issue, redistributing social wealth through taxes, and improving the electoral system in Canada.

For Pella, democracy is not a single, hero mission, but a participatory event.

"We have the administrative and legislative tools, but we simply lack the vision

and the courage to challenge the self-serving power elites," Pella adds.

"I have no magic wand and no miraculous solutions. We must get our backsides off the fence."

Pella was looking forward to retiring and taking up stained glass crafting, but as he saw the state of democracy being so fragile, he wanted to provide an effort in contributing to the common good.

Born in Italy in 1955 to a humble but principled family, Pella was educated by a Catholic college and first studied medicine for three years at the University of Pavia, focusing on mental health and illness.

He soon switched to sociology with a minor in psychology and political science.

Halfway through his final thesis, Pella left Italy and emigrated to Toronto in November 1984. Three days later he started to work in a restaurant.

In 1986 he began to co-host an information and entertainment show at CFMT TV. Terminating that contract a year later, Pella was called back by the TV station to anchor their prime time Italian/English news in 1988.

He was an anchor, and an associate producer of news until 1992 when he left to be the senior political reporter for Corriere Canadese newspaper for a year before becoming the morning news anchor for CHIN radio. Pella also owned a large community newspaper in Toronto for two years, the West End Express.

"The long journey into political jour-

nalism proved burdensome for the soul, and in 1996 I left the media world to go milk cows, and through a maze of different manual jobs, I eventually ended up working in various areas of construction," explains Pella.

Through a maze of different manual jobs Pella became a certified Construction Craft Worker in 2006 and continues to work.

Aiming to be a champion for the people, Pella is a strong advocate of taxing the ultra-wealthy, using budget to improve the homelessness and mental health issues plaguing society, and eliminating the first past the post electoral system.

Pella believes that Canada needs a leader who is going to bring the nation back to being champions of pacificism and tolerance.

"Canada needs a leader who can teach a lesson of civility and public interest responsibility to political parties, harnessing them to serve the nation's fundamental interests," Pella adds.

"Canada needs a leader who can turn Parliament Hill from the political fish market it has become into the sacred forge of a reborn Canadian identity based on creative strength, the care, the empathy, the goodwill that our flag used to represent around the world."

For more information on Independent Candidate for Huron-Bruce MP Caesar Pella, visit facebook.com/voteinground-edhope

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United Way celebrates another record-breaking year

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Donors and volunteers joined together last week to celebrate raising \$2,356,497 for the annual United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) campaign, and a further \$542,050 for United Housing.

As a result, this year UWPH raised a record-setting grand total of \$2,898,547.

"It may sound clichéd, but our donors and volunteers really are what makes our organization tick," said Ryan Erb, UWPH Executive Director.

"There are so many challenges we face as a region that are beyond our control. Despite that, the people of Perth-Huron continue to support the work we're doing. We are grateful for the trust our community places in United Way to help deliver important programs and services."

The success of this year's campaign can also be attributed to the hard work that Campaign Co-Chairs John Wolfe and Kristin Sainsbury completed.

Their help was invaluable to assist UWPH connect with the community and raise funds.

"We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our communities," added Sainsbury and Wolfe in a joint statement.

"So many people stepped up to support United Way with money, time, or both. The

amazing people of Perth-Huron made this campaign a success."

While guests enjoyed dinner generously provided by the Hayter family and heard about the positive impact their support has on local lives from speakers, UWPH also presented Volunteer Spirit Awards.

Recipients included: Gerry Bell, David Clarke, Barry Hutten, Cindi Jones, April Selkirk, Eva Sippel, Tom Soltys, Robert Stanton and Grace Theophilopoulos.

Community Spirit Awards were also handed out to Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB), McCann Redi-Mix, Goderich Mayor Trevor Bazinet, Goderich Councillor Randy Carroll, and Kerry Prober and her teams at McDonald's in Stratford and St. Marys.

"I was surprised to be recognized with the Spirit Award along with Town of Goderich Councillor Randy Carroll," admitted Mayor Bazinet in a post on social media.

"Let's continue to work hard and raise funds, awareness and advocate for those experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness and mental health.

"Let's focus on being more curious and less judgemental. Let's not judge a book by its cover. Let's open the book and read it, the book deserves our attention."

For more information on UWPH visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca



UWPH Campaign Co-Chair John Wolfe (left), with UWPH Executive Director Ryan Erb, and UWPH Campaign Co-Chair Kristin Sainsbury (right). (KRIS VON KLEIST PHOTO)

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Jack Searson presented with Lloyd Richards Director's Award of Merit

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Local pilot Jack Searson was presented with the Lloyd Richards Director's Award of Merit at a recent COPA 45 meeting on April 9 at the Goderich Regional Airport.

Searson explained that he and his wife Ella were aware of the award but were surprised with all the gifts presented to him.

He received three framed pictures of his aircraft, as well as a framed poster from the Lancaster event in Goderich from last year.

Other gifts included a beautiful, framed poem, and a signed home-made quilt with pictures of his planes.

"All these gifts were a total surprise to my wife and I," Searson explained.

"Being recognized and congratulated by my peers was something I never expected. I have done everything for aviation over the years because next to my family, it's my passion, since my retirement."

Canadian Owners and Pilots Association's (COPA) Director's Award of Merit provides regional recognition for the many efforts being made to advance, promote and preserve the Canadian Freedom to Fly.

Flying and building are two of Searson's passions along with his COPA membership. Searson is a co-captain of COPA Flight 172 and a member of COPA Flight 45.

Over the years Searson has been an active member and advocate for general aviation in the region.

He is one of those members who quietly works in the background to attend to the tiniest of details to make an event successful.

Back in 2012, when it was announced that Hanover was hosting the COPA Convention, Searson oversaw recruiting and positioning of volunteers to ensure the event went smoothly.

Every organization needs a person like Searson, according to COPA 45's Navigator Marilyn Bruinsma.

"With Jack helping at an event, you know it will run smoothly," added Bruinsma.

When COPA 45 got a former weather station for their clubhouse, many renovations were necessary. After donations of a fridge, cupboards, tables, chairs and barbecues, Searson wanted to buy a stove to complete the kitchen.

Searson not only steps up to improve the chapters and their events, but he is also passionate about COPA for Kids program.

Searson flies students from Kincardine, Port Elgin and Hanover airports, and nothing pleases him more than to see the smiling faces of kids as they return to their parents with certificates in hand.

Searson has also continued to mentor young pilots, including his grandson Bradley, first in local Air Cadets, which



Jack Searson with one of his planes. Searson was recently recognized by his peers at COPA 45 in Goderich with an Award of Merit for all he has done to promote aviation.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

later led to a military career.

As an example of the legacy to the mentorship from Searson, this winter his grandson flew to the reserves in northern Manitoba to assist with COVID vaccines and is now transporting medical labs to Alberta.

Searson is a detail driven person who plans each event diligently, working in the background to ensure each event will be a success.

Behind Searson is his very successful and supportive spouse Ella who supported him in his aviation journey.

It was Ella who saw a newspaper advertisement for ground school at Goderich's Sky Harbour Airport and told him it was his chance to get involved in aviation.

Not to disappoint, Searson registered immediately and was accepted into the class, instructed by Bill Cruikshank.

Searson's love for aviation began in the 1960s when after graduation, he answered the ad for an apprentice at Goderich's Sky Harbour Air Services.

With room and board, wages would not allow any savings for a pilot's license.

In 1967 Searson worked for a company installing telephone switching equipment in offices for the new dial phones.

Jobs in Manitoba and Quebec meant he flew Air Canada to these destinations.

Even after marriage in 1970, Searson kept that dream of a pilot's license alive, while friends were offering him rides in their aircraft, keeping that bug ever present.

In October 1977 Searson finally began his flight training in Goderich and five months later did his first solo flight, which he will never forget.

His love for aviation extends beyond fly-

ing. In October 1978 Searson saw a 1941 Aeronica Chief for sale in Brantford and with no AME check, bought it.

It had no radio, no starter, and a 65hp Continental.

Searson flew it with homemade skis, but transport would not approve them, so he sold it to a Quebec pilot.

Following that, Searson purchased a C-140 with a starter and metal wings, heavier but better for outside storage.

After attending fly-ins at Orillia, Searson wanted to build his own plane, so he bought plans for a Christavia Mk 1. To pay for materials, he sold the C-140.

Searson completed the build in his garage, and on December 31, 1988, he took the plane to Peterborough Airport for final assembly, weight and balance, final inspection and transport papers.

With his family watching, Searson completed the flight test in May 1989, and it was the first time flying a stick.

After 792 hours airtime, Searson sold the C-GJLW and flew it to a grass strip near Komoka for the new owner, and at the time he said he would likely look for another plane to buy.

And, of course, he purchased another plane – a C-140 in late 2019.

He removed the damaged aluminum wings, acquired

a set of used wing ribs, constructed new wings and covered them with fabric, reducing 50 pounds of weight.

COPA 172's Captain Chris McCullough explains that Searson is a valued citizen whose expertise is sought for the Kincardine Airport.

"When plans for runway extensions were proposed, the municipality asked Jack to lead this group with a path forward," said McCullough.

Co-Captain of COPA 45 Mike Beatty said that Searson is a great example of grass roots general aviation on a do-it yourself budget.

"Not many individuals are sufficiently self-motivated to accomplish a wing rebuild with fabric finish," explained Beatty.

"Jack illustrates the camaraderie, which exists among general aviation pilots."

COPA is a federally registered not-for-profit association that provides information and advocacy services for Canadian pilots who fly for non-commercial purposes.

COPA represents 11,000 members, which ranks the organization as the largest aviation association of its kind in Canada.

The association is made up of 200 COPA Flight chapters that organize events and meet regularly to preserve, promote and inspire general aviation.

COPA is the only association in Canada that advocates for general aviation and without COPA, there would be no voice representing personal aviation issues.

Members of both COPA Flight 45 and 172, believe Searson deserves to receive this award of merit for all his dedication to general aviation and local airports.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What year did the Toronto Maple Leafs last win the Stanley Cup?
2. What country is Easter island located in?
3. NASA's third mission to the moon was called what?
4. What does DM mean on social media?
5. What part of the cell contains genetic material?
6. What do Pandas primarily eat?
7. What temperature scale is based on absolute zero?
8. What's the name of the current that pulls swimmers away from the shore?
9. What is the largest muscle in the human body?
10. What day is Queen Elizabeth II birthday?

This week's answers are found on pg. 26

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.GODERICH.SUN.COM

United Way Director awarded King Charles III Medal

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

In recognition of his service to the community through United Way-Perth Huron (UWPH), Director Ryan Erb was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

According to Keith Masterman, UWPH Board Chair, Erb had played a key role in many important community projects including launching the United Housing initiative and Connection Centres throughout Perth and Huron counties.

"We want to congratulate Ryan on receiving this honour," said Masterman.

"We extend our heartfelt appreciation for his service to our region."

According to UWPH Director, Resource Development and Communications, Susan Faber, Erb has an ability to embrace change, inspire growth and lead

with kindness, while his empathy and dedication set him apart.

"We are honoured to recognize Ryan, a true leader who has profoundly impacted both his colleagues and community," added Faber.

"Ryan's leadership continues to motivate us all and we are grateful for his unwavering commitment to the well-being of those around him."

The King Charles III Coronation medal is a way to recognize 30,000 outstanding individuals who have made a difference in their communities.

The medal highlights themes that both King Charles III and Canadians hold dear, including service, the environment and sustainability, and Canada's diversity.

It was designed by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, approved by King Charles III and manufactured by the Royal Canadian Mint.



Ryan Erb was presented with the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

(KRIS VON KLEIST PHOTO)

Huron and Area Search and Rescue members called out during ice storm

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Over the weekend of April 5, seven members from the Huron and Area Search and Rescue (HASAR) were called out to assist those in Dufferin County with the fallout of the ice storm.

The Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association (OSARVA) called out the members from HASAR to assist as Dufferin County was crippled with power outages and infrastructure damages.

Effects of the ice storm left the community with no electricity for almost a week or more.

HASAR volunteers assisted with wellness checks and property checks. During their time in Dufferin County, these seven members worked over 100 volunteer hours.

This is the fourth deployment out of county for HASAR members since its inception in 2018.

"It was an honour to lead such a dedicated team in this time of crisis for the Dufferin area residents," said Archie MacGowan, Incident Commander for HASAR.

"Together, under a mutual aid call, we accomplished a great number of wellness checks and water deliveries to rural residents in the Mulmur Community. I want to express gratitude to Dufferin SAR as well as OSARVA for entrusting HASAR with this task in the aftermath of the ice storm."

HASAR is a 50-member search and rescue organization based out of Huron County and surrounding area.

For more information visit www.hasar.ca



Seven HASAR members went to assist in Dufferin County following the ice storm. (L-R): HASAR Team Leader Theo Sawchuk, DESAR members Darlene Sharpe, Les Sharpe, HASAR members Danielle Pentz, Safety Officer, Stuart Marshall, Team Leader, Archie MacGowan, Assistant Commander and John Groves, Team Leader.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Goderich Mayor's Luncheon returns May 9

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

An annual gathering that brings together business and political leaders returns to Goderich on May 9 to offer insightful discussion on the future of Goderich.

Huron Chamber of Commerce will host the Goderich Mayor's Luncheon at the Columbus Centre to provide updates on municipal priorities, development plans, and key issues affecting the town's growth and prosperity.

The event will feature an address from Mayor Trevor Bazinet, and guest speakers including James Scongack, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President and Jessica Linthorne, President and CEO of the Nuclear Innovation Institute (NII).

"We're proud to present such a strong lineup of speakers this year," said Colin Carmichael, Executive Director of the Huron Chamber of Commerce.

"The Mayor's Luncheon is about bringing community leaders together for important conversations – and this year, those conversations will be enriched by insights from leaders in the energy and innovation sectors."

In February 2025, Scongack was appointed as co-chair of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's Ontario Business and Trade Leadership Coalition (OB-

TLC), a coalition uniting leaders from key trade-dependent sectors to champion business-driven solutions and advocate for effective government policies.

Linthorne has been widely recognized for her leadership in rural economic development, regional collaboration, and innovation in public service delivery.

This year the event will be held at the Columbus Centre, to accommodate a larger audience, while continuing the tradition of a full house.

According to Carmichael, past years have seen the event sell out quickly.

Tickets are on sale now, with limited seating available. A special group rate is available for organizations wishing to attend as a team – purchase five tickets, receive a sixth free when booking a table.

The event is made possible through sponsorship including Compass Minerals, BM Ross and Great Lakes Mechanical, as well as supporting sponsors Goderich Port Management Corporation (GPMC), Bruce Power and Parrish and Heimbecker.

"This event reflects the strength of our business community and its commitment to collaboration," added Carmichael.

"We're grateful to our sponsors for making it all possible."

Visit www.huronchamber.ca for more information, or <https://www.eventbrite.ca/> for tickets.

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HOME IMPROVEMENTS 2025

Getting the project done right: Huron Fireplaces providing quality products

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

With over 20 years of experience in the industry, Nathan Hammond never had any doubt when it came to opening a business in Goderich.

Huron Fireplaces has been selling and servicing wood, electric, gas and pellet fireplaces in Goderich for the past seven years.

Honesty, hard work, and respect for customers are core values that Huron Fireplaces emanates.

"We are a small family run business," said Stephanie Cociu, Principal Owner of Huron Fireplaces.

"We try to keep our costs as low as possible, and we pride ourselves on being honest."

Both Nathan and his wife Stephanie Cociu take their work seriously and are proud of the quality of their products, their staff, and the work they do.

As a small family-run business, Huron Fireplaces is proud to offer a level of customer service the big box and big city stores do not.

Huron Fireplaces service clients in the region and up to an hour away from Goderich and have recently expanded their territory as far as the Bruce Peninsula.

Having one focus is what sets Huron Fireplaces apart. While other companies selling fireplaces also do other appliances, Huron Fireplaces focuses solely on fireplaces.

"We try to sell mainly Canadian products," added Cociu.

"We are the only wood fireplace installers within an hour radius."

Huron Fireplaces can also provide WETT certification of their own products, which is essential for professionals in the solid fuel industry, focusing on wood energy technology.

Bringing in new modern products and keeping it Canadian is something that attributes to the success at Huron Fireplaces.

Nathan knows the business inside and out. Getting to know each of their clients allows Nathan and his team to understand what the client wants or needs.

"Our success is also how happy our customers are," added Cociu.

By offering sound, educated advice, Nathan ensures each client's satisfaction and always stands behind his products.

Nathan has worked with clients in a wide range of scenarios, he comes up with solutions that clients hadn't considered.

Nathan's vision extends to fireplace surrounds and mantles as well, so clients receive the aesthetic, workmanship, and materials they're looking for.

Getting a sale is not enough. Getting the project done right and to the customer's satisfaction is where Huron Fireplaces stands ahead of the competition.

Running a successful business does come with its challenges, with high tariffs being an issue at present.

"The cost of everything is going up," said Cociu.

"We will experience some issues with the tariffs but luckily we have a lot of Canadian brands."

With harsh winters or wicked summer storms, the power can often be cut off for many rural residents within Huron County throughout the year.

Huron Fireplaces provides their customers a way to have heat during these times, while adding a beautiful finish to any room.

"Honesty is the best policy," admitted Cociu.

"We will never sell something to a customer they don't need."

For 2025, Nathan and Stephanie have moved Huron Fireplaces' showroom to its new permanent location at the rear of the building.

With 45 fireplaces on display, clients can view the products, ask questions, and see how a fireplace will look on completion.

For those who have a very specific design in mind, Nathan enjoys working on customizing plans and bringing them to life.

Providing the expertise to advise clients about layout, products, materials, and options guarantees satisfaction with customers.

In addition, Huron Fireplaces believes in giving back to community and support Adopt a Pet Rescue in Lucknow, Bayfield Forgotten Felines, Police Retirees, Community Living and Froggy Fest in Goderich.



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Two U12 Goderich Ringette teams from Goderich wrap up incredible season

MEGAN FRAYNE

Sun Contributor

Recently, two U12 ringette teams from Goderich wrapped up incredible seasons by travelling to Markham to compete in the Ringette Ontario U12 Championship.

The tournament brought together teams from across the province, offering a high level of competition and an unforgettable experience for all involved.

Both Goderich teams proudly represented the community, showcasing skill, teamwork and sportsmanship as they faced off against some of Ontario's top young ringette talent.

It was a great opportunity for the players to test themselves and grow as a team on and off the ice.

A standout moment of the weekend was the opening ceremonies, which featured a vibrant players parade.

The event brought everyone together in celebration of the sport, creating lasting memories for athletes, coaches and families.

It was a fantastic season for both Goderich U12 teams, full of hard work, development and love for the game.

Congratulations to all players, coaches and supporters on a successful year.



Above: junior Coach Charlie Bolinger, Bailey Sanford, Natalie Best, Alexis Gaynor, Coach Brenda Sanford, Mya Bolinger, Coach Linda Bolinger, Isabella Regier, Evelyn Bell, Trainer Chris Vandenhoven, Madalyn Vandenhoven, Anikah Strike-Sapp, Georgie Bell, John Garrick, Claire Moore, Beatrice Lynn.



Coach Megan Frayne, Junior Coach Clara Frayne, Audrey Brindley, Raelynn Willert, Dani Meriam, Avery Turgeon, Ally Elliott, Lexi Holmes, Greyson Ross, Clara Witherspoon, Gracie Timmermans, Adalyn Wilson, Coach Angela Willert, Tessa Frayne, Chelsea Willert, Junior Coach Alexis Wilson.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

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Send in your sports reports

Coaches and/or parents are invited to send in your sports reports and pictures to the Goderich Sun to let Goderich and area know how your teams are doing throughout the 2025 season (and to create some great scrapbook material to be reflected upon in future years).

Game reports should be kept to a maximum of 100 words. Please include a brief description of what happened during your games, including the names of those who scored and any special efforts made by your players.

Please send reports and pictures by emailing kate@goderichsun.com

Huron Hurricanes Aquatic Club makes waves at Windsor Spring Invitational

CARMEN ARMSTRONG

Sun Contributor

The Huron Hurricanes Aquatic Club (HHAC) delivered an impressive performance at the Windsor Spring Invitational held April 4 until April 6.

Swimmers showcased outstanding performances, achievements, personal bests and true team spirit.

Swimmers from across the region

gathered at the Windsor International Aquatic and Training Centre, and the Hurricanes did not disappoint.

With strong showings across all age groups and events, the team demonstrated hard work and dedication.

Highlights included top 10 finishes, a handful of podium appearances, and numerous personal best times.

The Hurricanes' energy on deck and support for one another was a standout

element throughout the meet.

Congratulations to all Huron Hurricanes athletes, coaches and families for a successful weekend in the pool.

Additionally, back at the end of March, Abygail and Henry of the HHAC impressed at the East Coast Championships, a prestigious competition showcasing top swimmers from across Atlantic Canada.

Abygail earned bronze in the 400-me-

tre Individual Medley (IM) and posted personal bests in all events.

Henry also swam strong, setting personal bests in four events.

The Huron Hurricanes congratulate Abygail and Henry on their outstanding achievements and thank Coach Rebecca for her leadership and support throughout the meet.



Noelle, Stella B., Anna and Henry K.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)



Abygail and Henry with Coach Rebecca at the East Coast Championships in March.



Coach Rebecca and Coach Agnes with Kyler, Sofia, Kobe, Aubrey, Violet, Kaiya, Henry A., Isla, Evelyn, Abygail, Mackenzie and Lily.

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Ordinary Magic Theatre brings magic to Goderich stage

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

A set of three plays that take place in medieval times brought magic to the Livery Theatre Stage in Goderich earlier in April.

Performed by the Ordinary Magic Theatre Acts I and II, audiences were treated to three plays put on by young actors from the age of five to 18.

Directed by Heather Dawe, 19 five- to eight-year-olds brought great energy and fun to the musical production of Good Manners.

When a wicked curse is put on the Kingdom, a medieval quest for good manners is undertaken by two very ordinary and unassuming knights. The play features dragons, magic, royalty and rascals.

The Princess and the Pea, director by Deborah Vieira featured 17 young thespians ranging in age from eight to 12.

ans ranging in age from eight to 12.

With a twist on the old fairy tale, in the land of P where everything seems to start with that letter, it shows the princess you were seeking might just be right under your nose.

Jacqui Knap and 25 young actors ranging in age from nine to 12 took on the daunting script for The Absolutely True Story of King Arthur.

The play included fight choreography, twists and turns, and the sad death scene of the king, as well as Arthur's triumphal pulling of the sword from the stone.

The character of Guinevere as a battle maiden was especially refreshing.

Ordinary Magic Theatre for Young Players teaches dramatic art skills in Goderich to nearly 90 young actors.

Nearly a week later, Act III performed the Greek play Antigone, also at the Livery and featuring teen actors.



Good Manners, directed by Heather Dawe.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)



The Princess and the Pea, directed by Deborah Vieira.



The Absolutely True Story of King Arthur directed by Jacqui Knap.

Goderich Celtic Roots Festival celebrates music, craft and culture

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Goderich Celtic Roots Festival is an annual celebration of music, craft and culture of the seven Celtic nations and immigrants that formed a strong historic background in Huron County.

From a single concert held in 1993 to honour the life of a local teacher, now in its 33rd year, the Celtic Roots Festival has grown to include a week-long school of music, dance and craft art known as Celtic College.

With five stages, varying from small intimate performances to high-powered entertainment on the Main Stage, the three-day festival remains a unique musical experience in Canada.

Fresh local food, high-quality craft artisans, small pub for refreshments, participatory dance stage, art demonstrations, a children's activity area and over 60 hours of live music, make this a must-see weekend in Goderich.

Attending the festival is a great way to experience Goderich, the "prettiest town in Canada", with stunning beaches along the coast of Lake Huron and downtown shopping all within minutes walk of the festival site.

Bringing visitors in for the week-long Celtic College, or the weekend Celtic Festival, this niche musical event has quite a positive impact on the local economy.

According to Cheryl Prashker, Artistic Director/General Manager of the festival, the economic impact of the festival estimates the associated annual tourism spending equates to roughly \$750,000 for the festival, and another \$110,000 for the college.

Prashker admits that attendees come back at other times of the year to visit their favourite restaurants and shops, and a few have purchased homes in the area.

First attending the festival and college as a musician with her Celtic band RUNA in 2011, Prashker fell in love with Goderich. In the years her band was not hired, Prashker would request to come back and teach at the college.

Prashker was so drawn to the town through the festival, and in 2018 she was offered the position of Artistic Director and General Manager and moved to Huron County from



The MacMaster Leahy family is the headliner for this year's Celtic Festival in Goderich.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Philadelphia

According to Prashker, the festival has remained a success over the years because of the vision of its founders – Warren and Eleanor Robinson – who wanted to ensure it was a family-friendly event.

Residents in Goderich remain an integral part of the festival and the Celtic College, as musicians are billeted in their homes for the entire week.

"During their time in Goderich, artists tend to form wonderful friendships with their host families," admitted Prashker.

"It is always extra special when an artist is asked back and they say, 'sure, but only if I can stay with the same people I stayed with last time'."

Success of the annual event can also be attributed to its countless volunteers and host families.

Many crew members have been working with the event for the entire 33 years.

"This festival would not be possible without the 250 very dedicated volunteers," added Prashker.

"These folks work very hard before the festival and of course throughout the weekend to make sure everyone has the best experience."

The festival is always looking for new volunteers to join the Celtic Festival family either to volunteer during the weekend or as a host for one of the musicians.

This year the festival is bringing in a large name act, which has only been done once

before.

Appearing on the Saturday night only, the MacMaster Leahy family band are sure to attract a lot of fans.

With decades long careers, extensive world tours, platinum recordings, multiple awards including JUNOs and the Order of Canada, Canadian fiddle royalty Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy will share a special night on the stage with their seven children.

This family's energy of dance steps in unison, the lilting drive of the button accordion, the intricacies of the piano accompaniment, and the solo performance of each child makes this show dynamic.

"The MacMaster Leahy family is a very exciting act to see live," explained Prashker.

"This is only the second time we have brought in a name of their stature to be a headlining act. We are hoping to attract their fans who may have never been to our event and who may travel from afar."

This year's lineup includes other incredible acts such as the Conor Mallon Band, Fiárock, James Keelaghan, The Kane Sisters, Rachel Davis and Darren McMullen, Rachel Hair and Ron Jappy, Ryan Young with Alanna Jenish, Sophie and Fiachra, and The Young'uns.

Leading up to the main event, the Celtic College takes place from August 4 until August 7.

Instrument, singing, craft art and dance classes are facilitated by the festival's incredible lineup of international musicians.

This one-week, intensive course is built around a central structure of small master classes. Participants of this course receive unparalleled level of access to tutors who are leading experts and performers.

Classes are open to all ages and levels of ability.

The Celtic Kids Day Camp is a chance for children aged 4 to 12 years to take part in all things Celtic.

Held at the same campus as the Celtic College, the Kids Camp follows the same daily schedule.

Divided into three streams by age, the Kids Camp offers students the opportunity to experience song, tin whistle, harp, guitar, fiddle, percussion, dance, drama, storytelling, and craft art with local professionals and masters.

At the end of week, students from Celtic College as well as the Kids Camp head over to the festival grounds at Lions Harbour Park. There the students perform 10-minute sets of what they learned over the week, and that is what kicks off the festival weekend.

Festival pricing for the 2025 Celtic Festival ranges depending on passes.

Festival passes are available for the entire weekend or individual days.

Regular adult passes for Friday costs \$49.72 (by July 31) and \$50.85 (at the gate); Saturday passes cost \$55.94 (by July 31) or \$56.50 (at the gate); Sunday passes cost \$43.51 (by July 31) or \$45.20 (at the gate); weekend passes cost \$118.09 (by July 31) or \$118.65 (at the gate).

Senior pass and youth pass for Friday costs \$37.29 (by July 31) or \$39.55 (at the gate); Saturday passes cost \$43.51 (by July 31) or \$45.20 (at the gate); Sunday passes cost \$31.08 (by July 31) or \$33.90 (at the gate); weekend passes cost \$93.23 (by July 31) or \$96.05 (at the gate).

Advance ticket prices end May 31. Prices listed above are in a period from June 1 until July 31.

Gates open at 11 a.m. each day. Physical tickets are no longer mailed out but will be available at the 'Green Shed'.

Festival goes on rain or shine, and guide dogs only.

For a full list of the lineup, ticket costs or schedule, visit <https://www.celticfestival.ca/festival> or email festival@celticfestival.ca

Yates releases new book *Challenge and Change*

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Local historian and retired teacher David Yates has released a new book *Challenge and Change: The People and Events that Made Us, 1890-1919*.

Yates explains that with the advent of the telephone, electricity and automobiles, the turn of the last century brought great technological change that created tremendous social upheaval.

It was also a time when Canadians aggressively asserted themselves as a distinct people particularly regarding the American political, cultural and economic colossus that threatened to absorb the young nation.

The struggle for a unique national identity is something that Canadians in the Trumpian era will recognize.

In fact, Yates said that the 1890-1919 era was, to borrow a phrase used by the American

historian Barbara Tuchman, like holding up "a distant mirror" to our own age.

Canadians of that generation were fearless in defending Canadian sovereignty. The story of the Canadian Government Ship Petrel fired upon Americans suspected of overfishing in Canada's Great Lakes are featured in the book.

Other stories on Huron County women who asserted their political importance were women like

Huron County born Alice Trainer Minor who married the eighth richest man in America and became a

wealthy benefactor of worthy causes including the Goderich hospital.

Stories of the Clinton Women's Patriotic Society heroically supporting the Great War effort, saving Clinton during Spanish Influenza outbreak and founding the Clinton Public hospital are included.

The outbreak of the Great War in 1914 was the ultimate test of the young nation's resilience as

the Dominion was called upon to make the most hideous sacrifices.

Stories of Huron county men and women, both at home and overseas, made a name for Canada on the world stage that

commanded respect for generations.

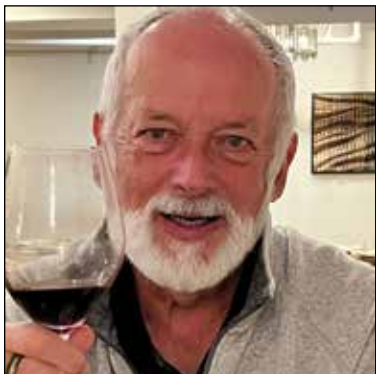
"There is much to be learned from Canada's past," Yates states.

Huron County can draw inspiration in the achievements and sacrifices of the 1890-1919 generations. Their idea of what it meant to be Canadian may differ from modern Canada, but one can see the origins of a proud and determined people in the making.

It was a time when Canadians kept their "elbows up."

The Huron County Historical Society is hosting a book launch for David Yates' newest novel at the Huron County Museum at 2 p.m., on Saturday, April 26. All are welcome to attend.

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: More than just a bucket list destination



PAUL KNOWLES

Sun Contributor

This article is about St. John's, Nfld., but let's start in downtown Toronto, specifically, at the fascinating attraction called Little Canada.

During my visit to Little Canada, I was "littlized." Sadly, this does not indicate an effective diet plan. Instead, a miniature of me – three quarters of an inch in height – was produced through a 3D photography and subsequent molding process. I was asked where I would like my mini-me to be placed in Little Canada. And about three weeks later, I received a photo of the tiny Paul loitering just outside the YellowBelly Brewery in St. John's, Nfld.

Why there? Two reasons – because St. John's is an amazing place to visit, and because the YellowBelly tavern is a terrific source of excellent beer, good food and great stories.

It probably says everything you need to know that when registration opened for our 2024 Travel Media Association of Canada conference in St. John's, the 250 available spots were filled in two hours, and a waiting list was growing by the minute. St. John's is clearly one of Canada's bucket-list destinations, and deservedly so. I suspect it will become even more popular



YellowBelly Brewery owner Brenda O'Rielly spent five years renovating the historic St. John's building before opening.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

as more Canadians opt to explore Canada.

I loved a lot of things about St. John's. There is, of course, Signal Hill, the iconic location at which Guglielmo Marconi received the first-ever transatlantic wireless signal in 1901.

Oddly, that's not where the name originated. Signal Hill was a key post used for military signaling (initially by flags) as early as 1704. As communication became more modern, Signal Hill became the terminus of eight telegraph cables connecting Newfoundland (and points south and east) to Ireland.

Signal Hill boasts an historic tower and amazing views, but this being Newfoundland, home of the friendliest folks you'll meet, one of the biggest attractions is a man and his dog – Ed Jackman and his 140-pound Newfoundland named Sable Chief. They come to the hill

almost every day, and Sable Chief happily poses for photos – no charge – with visitors.

Of course, visitors to St. John's also have to capture photos of the colourful houses in Jelly Bean Row – although I find this rather amusing, since it would seem that at least half the homes in the older sections of St. John's are equally brightly hued.

Every attraction in St. John's comes with a story or three. The home of the governor general, in the midst of a beautiful park, has a rather quixotic feature – a moat! Our guide, Jeff Howard, told us when the stately home was constructed, the governor of the time held that office both in Newfoundland and in Bermuda. He ordered the construction of an official residence in each place and wanted a moat around the Bermuda building. But the plans got switched,

and here, on high ground in peaceful Newfoundland, the official residence of the King's representative is protected by an entirely unnecessary moat.

One of the most popular districts in St. John's is Quidi Vidi, home to the amazing craftspeople housed in the Quidi Vidi Artisan Studios, as well as a terrific brewery named for the village. That's just one of the unique small communities within easy distance of downtown St. John's, all worth a visit!

Of course, most visitors to St. John's – and thousands of locals – spend a lot of time in the pubs and clubs of George Street. Heck, the Great Big Sea song, "The Night Pat Murphy Died," pays homage to this party central.

"They stopped the hearse on George Street outside Sundance Saloon; They all went in at half past eight and staggered out at

noon."

And that brings us back to the YellowBelly Brewery. It's ideally located; its front door is on Water Street, its rear entrance on George.

And don't get the impression it is named for cowards; YellowBelly is the name of hurling teams from Wexford, Ireland – and they don't come tougher than Irish hurlers.

Brenda O'Rielly owns the place. She told me it has stood on Yellowbelly Corner since before the 1700s and has been occupied by a lot of different businesses. She bought the building 22 years ago and, before opening, spent five years doing renovations and turning it into the thriving enterprise it is today.

YellowBelly's beers are unique creations, brewed onsite. But there is still room for a total of 700 patrons – not counting the patio, open in warmer weather. The beer labels reflect the Irish/Newfoundland connections of the place: Wexford Wheat, Come From Away, Fighting Irish Red Ale and, my favourite, YellowBelly Confederation Ale with a can featuring a wildly colourful portrait of the first premier of Newfoundland, Joey Smallwood.

St. John's may be a bucket-list destination, but for me, it certainly isn't one I would check off as been there, done that. This hospitable, unique community is a place you will want to spend time in, again and again. And when I do, you'll be able to find me right there at the YellowBelly Brewery. Although unlike mini-me at Little Canada, I will probably be inside with a pint close at hand.

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



The "littlized" Paul Knowles outside the scale model of the YellowBelly Brewery at Little Canada.



The famed Jelly Bean Row in St. John's.

Celebrating over 25 years of the Bayfield Lions Home and Lifestyle Show

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

The Bayfield Lions Home and Lifestyle Show returns for another exciting weekend featuring outdoor tents and a sold-out lineup of exhibitors.

Attendees can explore a wide variety of products and services, from home improvement solutions to lifestyle innovations, all while supporting the Bayfield Lions Club and its many community initiatives.

With strong attendance each year, the Home Show has become a go-to destination for homeowners and residents across the region.

The exhibitor this year is Groves TV and Appliances.

This business has been a constant presence at the Bayfield Lions Home and Lifestyle Show since its inception over 25 years ago.

Dan Groves, owner of the family-run business based in Clinton, has supported the Bayfield Home Show for more than two decades, bringing a trusted name in electronics and appliances across Huron County.

For Dan, the show is about more than sales. It's about community connection, conversations, and giving back to a region his business has served for nearly 90 years.

Dan's roots in the community run deep. He is a life-long Clinton resident, a volunteer firefighter for 28 years, and he's been a strong supporter of service clubs like the Lions, Kinsmen and Optimists.

Dan says the Home Show is a great opportunity to reconnect with existing customers, meet new faces and support the work the Bayfield Lions do throughout the year.

This year, Groves will be showcasing new products like Blackstone Grills and Traeger Smokers, along with their popular lineup of appliances and electronics.

"In today's world, people still appreciate being able to see, touch and talk about a product in person," said Dan. "The Home Show gives them that chance."

The Home Show is essential to the vibrancy of the



Dan Groves of Groves TV and Appliances is an exhibitor of the Home Show in Bayfield. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

connect directly with residents and build long-term relationships.

The show is also a major fundraiser for the Lions Club. Whether looking to renovate, upgrade, or get inspired, the Home Show is a must-visit event.

Admission is free, but visitors are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item or monetary donation for the Bayfield Area Food Bank.

The Bayfield Lions Home and Lifestyle Show is on Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 27 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Bayfield Community Centre.



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Goderich Duplicate Bridge Club Results

On March 18 the club had seven and half tables directed by Rob McFarlane:

- 1st – Greg Bowman and Michele Hansen – 62.18%
- 2nd – Nancy Craig and Susan Morrison – 61.86%
- 3rd – John Legate and Stephen Jacob – 56.09%
- 4th – Shirley Thomas and Tom Rajnovich – 55.45%
- 5th – Joyce McIlwain and Kay King – 54.81%
- 6th – Garth Sheldon and John Davies – 53.85%

On March 25 the club had six tables directed by Rob McFarlane:

- 1st – Tom Rajnovich and Shirley Thomas – 60.74%
- 2nd/3rd – Brenda Blair and Pat Lewington, with Brian Reeve and Graham Yeats – 57.78%
- 4th – John Davies and Garth Sheldon – 55.19%
- 5th – Bob Dick and Joyce McIlwain – 54.07%
- 6th – Mary Lapaine and Joan Lounsbury – 50%

On April 1 the club had six and half tables directed by Bob Dick:

- 1st – Joan Lounsbury and Mary Lapaine – 63.18%
- 2nd – Steven Watson and Tom Rajnovich – 59.09%
- 3rd – Marian Lane and Barb Howe – 58.63%
- 4th – Garth Sheldon and John Davies – 58.18%
- 5th – John Archbold and Joyce McIlwain – 55.42%
- 6th – Cal Scotchmer and Janet Bloch – 51.37%

On April 8 the club had six tables directed by Bob Dick:

- 1st – Shirley Thomas and Tom Rajnovich – 58.89%
- 2nd – Bob Dick and Joyce McIlwain – 57.04%
- 3rd/4th – Brenda Blair and Pat Lewington, with Janet Bloch and Cal Scotchmer – 56.67%
- 5th – Mary Lapaine and Joan Lounsbury – 55.93%
- 6th – John Davies and Garth Sheldon – 53.70%





Rotary

Club of Goderich

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Trail Talk: Hiking in the cool weather

PATRICK CAPPER

Sun Contributor

This spring continues to be on and off again.

Hiking in the cool weather, I was surprised to find that I had picked up a tick, I removed it with tweezers and took it to the Huron County health unit where they identified it as a black legged tick (also known as a deer tick), which sometimes carry Lyme disease.

Unfortunately, the health unit no longer tests for Lyme disease, so I am hoping this one is disease free.

On many of our hikes we have come across recent windfalls, so don't be surprised to find them when out on the trails. If they are on the Maitland Trail, they should be reported to the Maitland Trail Association with as accurate a location as is possible. The yellow kilometre markers are a useful means to estimate the location.

It is also possible to send a photo of the windfall, so the maintenance crew know how big a job it is to clear the trail.

Wild leeks were seen on April 6 and soon after that they were covered in snow. On April 10 I saw some hepatica in bloom, the first ones I have seen this year.

On the Hullett Sugar Bush Trail, wire is being installed on the bridge on the blue trail. I think this is an excellent way to prevent slipping on wet boards.

The wire is quite heavy and should last many years and will eventually just turn to rust. Roofing shingles do well in the shade but when they get worn and lose their effectiveness, they should be picked up and put in the garbage.

In some places yellow plastic strips have been installed as another way to prevent slipping. I personally don't like any use of plastic when there are other options, as plastic will eventually break down into smaller pieces but remain as plastic particles in the environment.



My Black Legged (deer) Tick.

Hikers are reminded to sign the 2025 online waiver, even if they signed the 2024 waiver.

Tuesday Trompers meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday to hike for about an hour. If you wish to be on this email list, send an email to mta@maitlandtrail.ca

Midweek hikers meet at 9 a.m. and hike for 1.5 to 2 hours on Wednesdays or Thursdays. Contact Patrick Capper at pcapper99@gmail.com

NOTES:

Saturday, April 19 at 10 a.m. - BRVTA have an earth day clean up, meet at Clan Gregor pavilion.

Saturday, April 26 at 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - The second part of the Maitland End to End from Jenkins to Benmiller. This 11 km section of the Maitland Trail has two challenging sections through a variety of forest types including the rel-



Hepatica on April 10.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

atively mature forest of the Morris Tract.

We will enjoy a view of the falls at the Falls Reserve Conservation Area and a full stop lunch at the shelter there.

Wear sturdy footwear, a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, lots of water and bring lunch.

For car shuttle arrangements and to confirm your attendance, please contact Con Melady at 519 524-8730. This is a Level 2, moderate pace hike, 3.5+ hours with break and shuttle.

Saturday, April 26 at 1 p.m. on the

Sawmill Trail for those who like a more leisurely pace the BRVTA are holding a Family Hike called 'Secrets of the Woods'.

Discover the hidden wonders in the woods and along the riverbank of the Bayfield Sawmill Trail. Environmental educators Michele Martin and Janneke Vorsteveld will guide hikers of all ages in searching for the small creatures and plants to be found along this two km trail through forests, along the Bayfield River.



Wild Leeks on April 6.

Ontario protecting muskie from illegal angling

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

In a recent announcement made by the provincial government, safeguarding Great Lake muskie from illegal harvest will be done by holding individuals accountable for catching and retaining dish during closed season.

The season for muskie in Fisheries Management Zone 13 does not open until the third Saturday in June.

This includes those fishing in the Maitland River in Goderich.

A Mitchell resident recently plead guilty to catching and retaining a muskie during the closed season and he was fined \$1,200 and the muskie was forfeited to the Crown.

Another from Dungannon plead guilty to being a party to the same offence. He was fined \$615.

According to the Ontario government, the court heard on May 26 conservation officers inspected the two anglers fishing from a boat in the Maitland River in Goderich.

The inspection revealed the pair was in possession of a 42-inch muskie in the on-board cooler.

To report a natural resource problem or provide information about an unsolved case, members of the public can call the ministry TIPS line toll free of 1-877-847-7667.

For more information about unsolved cases, please visit Ontario.ca/mnrtips

Ninety-four cases identified in Huron-Perth during ongoing Ontario measles outbreak

GALEN SIMMONS

Sun Correspondent

Local public-health officials are continuing to do everything they can to curb the spread of measles in Huron and Perth counties as the number of identified cases continues to rise both locally and across the province.

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) Medical Officer of Health Dr. Miriam Klassen and her team are working around the clock to curb the spread of measles in both counties as part of the provincewide response to the outbreak that first arrived in Ontario in October 2024.

"On Oct. 18, 2024, there was an exposure through a travel-related case in New Brunswick that was then connected to Ontario and introduced measles into Ontario," Klassen said.

"While New Brunswick declared their outbreak over on Jan. 7, 2025, unfortunately in Ontario that was not the case. From Oct. 18 – that first introduction – to April 9, there have been a total of 816 measles cases involving 15 health units.

"For HPPH, we reported our first measles case on Feb. 28, but quickly there were several others, and it was apparent that local spread was happening among people who live, work and play in Huron-Perth. As of April 9, we are reporting 94 confirmed and probable cases, and I can tell you in the next weekly report, there will be more."

Measles is a highly contagious virus. It is airborne and can remain in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours. The virus can spread to other people when someone with measles coughs, sneezes, talks, or breathes.

Measles can result in complications such as diarrhea, ear infections and pneumonia. Rarely, measles can cause brain inflammation, respiratory failure and death.

Measles symptoms begin seven to 21 days after exposure to the virus and include:

- fever
- runny nose
- cough
- red eyes (watery)
- small white spots on the inside of the mouth and throat (not always present)
- a red, blotchy rash on the face initially, and then spreads down the body (normally appears three to seven days after symptoms begin).

Someone who has measles can be contagious from four days before the rash starts until four days after the rash starts. Most people fully recover from measles within two to three weeks, but sometimes measles can cause complications.

Rarely, those who contract measles can develop subacute sclerosing panencephalitis – a progressive, disabling and deadly brain disorder – seven to 10 years after recovering from their initial infection.

"In Ontario, measles has been rare and that's because Canada successfully eliminated measles in 1998 ... and that happened as a result of high immunization coverage," Klassen said.

"So, while there are still occasional imported cases, those would be quickly contained without a lot of community spread.

"Prior to the COVID pandemic, the average number of measles cases in Ontario ranged between seven and 22. So, very infrequent. ... Now, as observed around the world, ... vaccination rates have been declining. That was happening before due to increased vaccine hesitancy, and then during COVID, vaccination rates fell even more because of decreased capacity (and) decreased access in a lot of places to vaccines as people all around the world redeployed for the COVID response."

As a result of decreased vaccination rates globally, more cases of measles are being introduced to Canada and Ontario from abroad.

Since Ontario's vaccination rate has also decreased, measles has quickly spread across the province, with most new cases in Ontario now resulting from spread within and between communities like those in Huron-Perth.

"That's because there are people who are un- or under-vaccinated due to reasons such as medical reasons, kids are too young to be vaccinated and also conscience or religious beliefs," Klassen said.

"So unfortunately, there are more individuals and clusters of people like that now, and once measles is introduced, it spreads very easily. It's very, very contagious."

With the rising number of measles cases identified in Huron-Perth, both counties are considered areas of concern. HPPH is hosting measles vaccine clinics for infants, children and people born in or after 1970 who are not up to date – the people who are most at-risk for contracting measles.

Meanwhile, HPPH communicates information about infection prevention and control, testing advice, and vaccination recommendations with the public and its health-care partners, and primary care doctors are ordering more measles vaccines and sharing important information with their patients.

HPPH completes case management and contact tracing for confirmed cases of measles, like the process employed by local public-health officials when cases

of COVID-19 were discovered during the pandemic.

"For every confirmed case of measles that is reported to us ... we contact that person and provide advice about their own care, when to seek medical advice, how to isolate and ensure they're not spreading the infection, and then also their contacts. We try to reach out to all contacts, find out if they're up to date on immunization or not and provide them advice on what to watch for, if they're eligible for ... treatment to try and prevent them developing infection, ... and then what they can do to help prevent further spread of the illness," Klassen said.

Anyone who believes they have been exposed to measles should report to HPPH by calling 1-888-221-2133 ext. 3299 and follow public-health advice. Until they are contacted by public-health officials, they should do the following:

- stay home, avoid contact with other people and avoid having visitors in their home;
- if medical care is needed, call ahead before attending a health-care facility to inform staff of the potential measles exposure so they can prepare and prevent the virus from spreading to others; and
- wear a well-fitted mask while leaving home for medical care.

"The main difference between COVID and measles is COVID was a brand-new

virus," Klassen said.

"No one had immunity, and we didn't have a vaccine, and we didn't fully understand it either – we were learning as we went along. Whereas with respect to measles, we have a good understanding of this virus, and we have a very effective vaccine with a proven track record. ... Really, for most people the risk is low. For people who are up to date with their measles vaccination, we know it's 97 per cent effective in preventing a measles infection. No vaccine is 100 per-cent effective, but people who have been vaccinated who develop the disease, which is not very common, tend to have a milder disease and less onward transmission.

"Adults born before 1970 are generally considered to have natural immunity. They likely contracted the virus in childhood. Individuals born in or after 1970 ought to check their vaccine record to make sure they have two doses of measles-containing vaccine."

People who are at higher risk for contracting measles include those who are pregnant, people with weakened immune systems and children younger than five, particularly those who are two and younger.

For more information on measles in Huron-Perth, visit www.hpph.ca/health-topics/diseases-viruses-and-illnesses/measles/#.



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Invasive plant of the month: Garlic Mustard

RENEE SANDELOWSKY &
HELEN VAREKAMP

Sun Contributor

Invasive plants like Goutweed, Periwinkle, Russian Olive, Burning Bush and Creeping Jenny used to be planted all the time, as they were pretty and easy to grow, requiring no maintenance.

We have learned that what makes invasive plants so easy to grow is also what makes them so dangerous.

Invasive plants are aggressive species that crowd out native plants and may change the chemistry of the soil.

They disrupt the functioning of an ecosystem – the collection of living and non-living organisms that exist and function in a particular region.

So, why does that matter?

Many insects evolved to use specific plants for food. The most obvious example is the Monarch butterfly. Monarch caterpillars can only eat milkweed, a plant which is toxic to most other insects.

Without Milkweed, there could be no Monarch butterflies.

When an invasive plant like Garlic Mustard crowds out Milkweed, it depletes crucial food sources for the caterpillars and therefore contributes to the decline of Monarch butterflies.

We know that insect populations are in decline, but you may not know that many birds need insects to feed their young.

A clutch of baby chickadees eats between 6,240 and 9,120 caterpillars before they fledge. If there aren't enough caterpillars, the baby chickadees cannot survive.

We also know that more than one in four birds have disappeared in the last 50 years. In fact, wild bird populations in the continental U.S. and Canada have declined by almost 30 per cent since 1970.

The reason for these declines? Land use intensification, pesticide use, climate change and invasive plants.

Invasive and non-native plants do not provide insects with the food and nutri-



Garlic Mustard can be replaced with Foamflower.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

ents they need to survive, which in turn depletes the food supply for many birds.

Focus on Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*):

Though Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation's (CCIPR) focus on plants sold through the nursery trades, this month I am focusing on Garlic Mustard, since it is easy to recognize and can be controlled with ongoing vigilance.

It grows abundantly along roadsides and wastelands, but also in people's gardens and yards.

Garlic Mustard is an herb native to Europe, which was brought to North America in the early 1800s for medicinal and culinary uses. It has since escaped into the wild and is now one of Ontario's most aggressive forest invaders.

Garlic Mustard has two distinct life stages over its first two years.

In the first year, it grows only a cluster of leaves shaped like a rosette, while a strong root system develops.

Plants that survive the winter produce flowers and hundreds of seeds in their second year.

Dense stands produce more than 60,000 seeds per square metre. Seeds are easily spread by people, leaf blowers and animals and the plant can grow in a wide range of sunny and fully shaded habitats, including undisturbed forest, riverbanks and roadsides.

Garlic Mustard does not provide a valuable food source for native wildlife. It can displace wildflowers like Trilliums and Trout Lilies, while it hinders other plants by interfering with the growth of fungi that bring nutrients to the roots of the plants.

How to identify Garlic Mustard:

Garlic Mustard resembles several native Ontario plants in the carrot, daisy and violet family.

Young leaves release a strong garlic odour when crushed. First-year plants produce a rosette of dark green, kidney-shaped leaves with scalloped edges.

Second-year plants grow a stem up to one metre high with triangular, alternate, sharply toothed leaves.

Second-year plants produce white flowers with four small petals in May. Narrow seedpods, 2-6 centimetres long, split open in mid-summer to reveal tiny black seeds.

If in doubt, crush the leaf to determine whether it emits a strong garlic smell.

How to manage garlic mustard:

Managing Garlic Mustard is quite achievable with persistence and a multi-step approach.

Manual Removal:

Cut plants at the base in early spring before flowers emerge and recut as needed.

If the plant has flowered, cut it back at the base and dispose of it to prevent seed formation.

Dispose of plants in the garbage, not in the compost or municipal green waste system.

Pulling the entire plant early in the spring is another option but be aware that hand pulling garlic mustard may disturb the soil and stimulate germination of seeds in the soil. Seeds can stay dormant for up to five years.

Smothering:

This may be a better choice for larger infestations. Cover infested areas with tarps or cardboard to block sunlight.

This can be started any time of year, and the process can take up to two years to complete. Check progress each season.

Herbicide Treatment:

Difficult to reach, or large areas may be treated by herbicide.

Chemical treatment is best applied in early spring or late fall. Use herbicides only as a last resort, following local regulations to minimize environmental harm.

When hiking, prevent the spread of invasive plants by staying on the trails and keeping pets on a leash.

At home, do not use leaf-blowers near garlic mustard populations as they will propel seeds to other areas.

After removal, replant the area with regionally appropriate native plants. This step is essential to prevent reinfestation and to restore ecosystem health.

Native plants will also attract pollinators and wildlife, improving biodiversity in your garden.

A good choice is Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*).

Education is key to combating invasive plants. Learn to identify invasive species and choose native or non-invasive alternatives for your garden.

Focus on managing one or two invasive plants at a time and be patient.

For more information visit www.ccipr.ca or www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead

Renee Sandelowsky and Helen Varekamp are volunteers for the CCIPR

Staying Healthy: Living with Diabetes



TANYA THOMPSON

Sun Contributor

Diabetes affects millions of people worldwide and is associated with multiple hospitalizations and thus causes a severe constraint on an already overburdened health care system.

Chronic diabetes conditions include type 1 and type 2, which can

lead to excess sugar in the blood, which is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, strokes, and lower limb amputations to name a few.

Following the **ABCDES of diabetes care as outlined in Diabetes Canada**, quick reference guide (2024), is an important strategy in the overall management of diabetes and its complications.

A is A1C blood test measures your average blood glucose levels over the past two to three months. The goal for most people living with type 1 or type 2 diabetes is ≤ 7.0 per cent or ≤ 6.5 per cent to decrease the risk of chronic kidney disease and retinopathy of the eyes.

If on insulin or insulin secretagogue, assess for hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and ensure driving safety. An A1C 6.0 to <6.5 per cent for selected adults with type 2

diabetes with potential remission to prediabetes.

An A1C of <6.0 for selected adults with type 2 diabetes with potential remission to normoglycemia (normal concentration of sugar in the blood).

B is Blood Pressure a target of less than 130/80 mmHg. If on treatment, assess for risk of falls.

C is Cholesterol with targets $\text{LDL-C} \leq 2.0$ mmol/L (or >50 per cent reduction from baseline); Alternative: $\text{non-HDL-C} \leq 2.6$ mmol/L, $\text{apo B} \leq 0.8$ g/L. If atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD), $\text{LDL} \leq 1.8$ mmol/L. Alternative: $\text{non-HDL-C} \leq 2.4$ mmol/L, $\text{apo B} \leq 0.7$ g/L.

D is Drugs for Cardiovascular and/or Cardiorenal protection with demonstrated heart and kidney benefits based on risk factors, age, and other considerations

that your health care professional would be happy to discuss.

E is Exercise goals and healthy eating with a goal of 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous aerobic activity a week and resistance exercises two to three times a week. Choose the activity that meets your preferences/needs. Follow a healthy dietary pattern (eg Mediterranean diet, low glycemic index).

S is Screening Cardiac/Heart: electrocardiogram (ECG), Foot: Monofilament/Vibration yearly or more if abnormal, Kidney: test eGFR and ACR yearly or more if abnormal, Retinopathy: regular eye exams, and Immunizations up to date as per National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommendations.

S is Smoking cessation as people living with diabetes face even

greater risks, because just like high blood sugar levels, the chemicals in cigarette smoke attack blood vessels. Support and therapy options are available. Identify barriers to quitting and develop a plan to address each of these.

S is Self-management setting personalized goals. Assess stress, sleep, mental health and financial or other concerns that might be barriers to goals.

Finally, living with the chronic disease of diabetes can be stressful, however, I genuinely believe that, with appropriate support from health care professionals, including diabetes educators, persons can have better health outcomes and feel empowered to persevere.

Tanya Thompson is an RN and Certified Diabetes Educator at Maitland Valley Family Health Team.

Top Best-Selling Books of 2025



AVERY BAKER-GREAVES

Sun Contributor

Now that we are a quarter of the way through 2025, we thought we would shine the spotlight on some of the best-selling books of the year so far – from fantasy to non-fiction and everything in between.

You're sure to find something to meet your reading needs.

Best of all – you can place holds on all these books through the Huron County Library.

The Housemaid by Freida McFadden: A woman starts a new job as a housekeeper for the wealthy and mysterious Winchester family, hoping to leave her past behind and reinvent herself.

As she's drawn deeper into their world, she discovers disturbing secrets and twister behaviour – especially from Nina, who seems intent on controlling everything.

When she tries to step into Nina's life, even for a moment, the consequences quickly spiral out of control.

The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness by Jonathan Haidt: In the Anxious

Generation, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt explores the sharp rise in teen mental health issues since the early 2010s, linking it to the decline of play-based childhood and the rise of phone-based life.

Haidt outlines how social media, reduced independence, and constant connectivity have disrupted children's development, especially harming girls through social comparison and boys through withdrawal into virtual worlds.

Backed by research, Haidt offers a compelling call to action with practical steps for families, schools, and society to help restore healthier, more resilient childhoods.

Sunrise on the Reaping (The Hunger Games, #0.5) by Suzanne Collins: In the gripping fifth installment of The Hunger

Games series, the spotlight turns to a young Haymitch Abernathy during the brutal 50th Hunger Games – the second Quarter Quell.

Forced into the arena with three other District 12 tributes, Haymitch must navigate betrayal, heartbreak and deadly odds.

As he fights to survive, he begins to realise that his battle could spark something far greater than just big for his own life.

Atomic Habits: An Easy and Proven Way to Build Good Habits and Break Bad Ones by James Clear: Atomic Habits offers a powerful, science-backed system for building better habits and breaking bad ones.

By focusing on small, consistent changes and the system behind our behaviours, this novel shows how even tiny adjustments can lead to remarkable

long-term results.

With practical strategies and inspiring real-life examples, this book is a guide to transforming your habits – and your life.

Onyx Storm by Rebecca Yarros: In this thrilling continuation of Violet Sorrengail's journey, the war is no longer looming – it's here.

With danger closing in from all sides, Violet must venture beyond the safety of Basgaith to forge new alliances and uncover a truth powerful enough to change everything.

As secrets mount and the stakes rise, she'll risk it all – her dragons, her home, and her heart – to protect what she loves, even if not everyone survives the storm ahead.

Avery Baker-Greaves is a Branch Assistant at Huron County Library in Goderich

Learn to say no for better mental health



TANYA MACINTYRE,
RED ROOF RECOVERY

Sun Contributor

Saying no can be a challenge, especially when it involves people we care about. It's not easy to be driven by the fear of losing someone's love or approval if you don't meet their expectations.

Setting healthy boundaries is crucial, not only for maintaining healthy relationships, but also for your mental health and well-being.

Here are five easy steps you can

take that can help you confidently assert your needs and say no.

Step 1: Understand Your Boundaries

Boundaries are important. They safeguard your emotional health and well-being.

Recognizing when and where to say no is essential to managing your relationships in a healthy way and can help you avoid feelings of resentment and anger.

Quick To-Do: Identify a recent time when you wished you had said no. Reflect on what prevented you from saying no, and how you can prepare to change your response next time. Do a role-play with someone you trust. Practice what you can say the next time you're challenged to say yes when you know you would be better off saying no.

Step 2: Recognize Your Worth

Your value isn't determined by how much you give to others. You are inherently worthy

of love and respect, just like anyone else. Acknowledge your strengths and the respect you deserve.

Quick To-Do: List a personal quality or achievement that makes you feel proud (one that doesn't include your loved ones).

Step 3: Simple Scripts to Say NO (with flexibility)

It can be helpful to practice some quick scripts, so you can feel more confident about saying no. Try saying these responses, and make them yours:

"Thank you for thinking of me. I'm unable to commit to this right now."

"I need to focus on other priorities at the moment."

"That doesn't work for me; let's find an alternative."

"I appreciate your offer. I can't make that work for me right now. Can we find another time/place that works for both of us?"

"I'm currently feeling a bit overwhelmed. Can we reschedule

to another time when I can fully participate?"

"I value our time together, but I need to prioritize other things right now. Let's plan for another day."

Step 4: Balancing Self and Others

It's natural to want to put others first. Everyone, including you, is deserving of love and respect. Saying no doesn't make you less caring; it means you're caring for yourself, too.

Caring for yourself can build your reserves to care for others. Remember the airplane analogy - you need to put the oxygen mask on yourself FIRST.

Coping Strategy: When guilt or anxiety surfaces, remind yourself that your needs are valid. Deep breaths and positive affirmations can help shift your mindset.

Step 5: Reflect and Reward

Each time you successfully set a boundary, take a moment to consider how it benefits your

emotional health and well-being.

Celebrate: Acknowledge your courage with something that brings you joy, so you can reinforce the positive action you've taken.

Practice, Practice, Practice

Asserting your needs through saying no is a powerful step towards more fulfilling relationships and a healthier self-image.

You can always book a complimentary call with me to do a quick role-play. <https://calendly.com/redroofrecovery>

Tanya MacIntyre is a certified CBT Practitioner, Mental Health Professional, and owner/operator of Red Roof Recovery.

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.



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Turkey reintroduction, a conservation success story



JEFF HELSDON

Sun Contributor

The silence of the spring pre-dawn darkness was disrupted by a distant turkey gobbling.

"There's another," said Dr. Dave Ankney, who was sitting beside me for that morning hunt south of Langton, when a different, more distant tom turkey sounded off further south.

Taking place in 2011, the significance of turkey hunting with Ankney was akin to hunting with Aldo Leopold. While Leopold is revered as the father of conservation, Ankney was one of two people who were the driving force behind bringing turkeys back to Ontario and could be considered the father of the wild turkey reintroduction. Ontario's turkey population went from zero to tens of

thousands in a few short decades, providing opportunities for hunting, bird watching and bringing back a bird that was part of the province's biodiversity.

Historically, wild turkeys were found in southern Ontario and Quebec. In Ontario, records show the original range was north to Lake Simcoe, east between Toronto and Trenton and southwestern Ontario.

The large birds were a food source for First Nations, who used both snares and bows and arrows to harvest the birds. European settlers also saw the food potential with wild turkeys. Unfortunately, habitat loss from deforestation and unregulated hunting for food and market hunting led to the demise of the wild turkey in Ontario and Quebec. The situation was similar across North America, although pockets of birds remained in some American states.

With a dwindling population, Ontario's wild turkey season closed in 1905. The last recorded sighting of a wild turkey in Ontario was in 1909.

There were several attempts in the ensuing decades to bring wild turkeys back to Ontario using pen-raised birds. Informa-

tion about the pen-raised wild turkeys is scarce, but MNRF was involved in raising turkeys at the Normandale Fish Culture Station in Norfolk County. Being raised in a pen, the birds in these early attempts couldn't survive in the wild and the reintroduction failed.

Ankney, a University of Western Ontario zoology professor, his spouse Sandi Johnson and friends Joel Hopkins and spouse Ann Marie Green went on annual hunting trips. Turkey populations were taking off again in the U.S. due to restoration efforts and Hopkins heard about turkey hunting. The foursome, who have all since passed to the hunting grounds in the sky, made plans for a turkey hunt in Virginia in 1979.

When I hunted with Ankney – on a farm that was one of the original release sites – he recounted the story. When he, Hopkins and their spouses went to Virginia, they didn't have high hopes of success and just wanted to see or hear a turkey. The success they had, taking three toms, hooked them on turkey hunting and was the start to Ontario's reintroduction. Their conversation on the way home was why a reintroduction shouldn't occur in Ontario.

Ankney's uncle assisted with the reintroduction of the birds in Michigan and he primed him with background information. Ank-

ney then approached MNR regional ecologist Paul Prevett regarding bringing turkeys back to Ontario.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) was given credit for moving the reintroduction forward by Ankney. He brought them on board in 1982 and OFAH executive director Rick Morgan and Lance Males joined the reintroduction steering committee. Ankney later became president of the OFAH.

The National Wild Turkey Federation, which was behind the tremendous resurgence in the United States, came on board as a partner. NWTF provided the format for the first fund-raising dinner for the OFAH-administered Wild Turkey Trust Fund., which provided funding for trap and transfer programs. With its experience south of the border, NWTF also assisted in finding sources of turkeys to bring to Canada and provided expertise on trapping and transferring live birds.

The team working on the reintroduction had a first release in sight by 1982, but Ankney said there was still some reluctance due to the past failures with game farm birds. Then, they heard a provincial budget freeze could de-rail the turkey program.

Hopkins went in to see Owen Williams, the regional MNR biologist, and asked what it would cost to move it forward, thinking it would be \$50,000 or \$100,000. He was surprised to hear it was only \$5,000.

"I pulled out my cheque book and asked who I made the

cheque out to," he told me more than a decade ago. The cheque was made out to the OFAH, since it administered the trust fund. It was never cashed but was used as leverage to make the wild turkey reintroduction happen.

Through some wildlife trading with American states – for moose and river otters – a source of wild birds was found. The first genuinely wild turkeys Ontario had seen in nearly eight decades arrived in specialized shipping crates from Missouri on March 6, 1984. They were released near Port Rowan in southern Ontario. More releases followed.

"You couldn't have done that today," said retired MNRF biologist Dave Reid, who was one of the ministry staff who worked on the program. "It was just coincidence we had the right people in the right place at the right time. As turkey hunters, we reaped the benefits."

After a population was established, trap and transfer programs within the province and natural expansion saw the range of wild turkeys grow across southern Ontario and expand northwards. When numbers reached the necessary thresholds, the first turkey hunt was in 1987.

The reintroduction of the wild turkey has become the most successful wildlife management story in the province's history.

Jeff Helsdon is an award-winning outdoor writer, a columnist for Ontario Out of Doors and writes for several other outdoor publications.



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NDP

Public Health celebrates Canadian Public Health Week

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) celebrated Canadian Public Health Week from April 7 until April 11.

During the week, HPPH joined public health organizations across Canada to recognize the vital role public health plays in building healthy communities.

In addition to celebration public health week, HPPH also celebrated its fifth anniversary, having officially formed on January 1, 2020.

"As we celebrate five years of HPPH, I am deeply grateful for the unwavering dedication of our staff," said Dr. Miriam Klassen, Medical Officer of Health and CEO of HPPH.

"Every program and service we deliver is fueled by their expertise and compas-

sion."

According to HPPH, since it's inception the health organization has remained committed to promoting health, preventing illness, and protecting the well-being of all residents in Huron and Perth counties.

"It is through their efforts that we can support the health and well-being of our local communities, and I am proud of what we have achieved together," remarked Klassen.

"I also want to extend my appreciation to the board of health members for their leadership and support."

Klassen explained that HPPH will remain committed to its mission of advancing health and inspiring change, ensuring everyone in Huron and Perth counties could live a health life.

Visit www.hpph.ca for more information.

Riddles

- Why did the Easter egg hide?

It was a little chicken!
- What do you call a bunny who tells jokes?

A funny bunny!
- Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke?

It might crack up!
- How does the Easter Bunny stay in shape?

Egg-cercise!
- What kind of stories do Easter eggs tell their children?

Yolk tales.
- What do you call an Easter Bunny who gets kicked out of school?

Egg-spelled!
- Why did the Easter Bunny cross the road?

Because the chicken had his day off.
- What do you get when you cross a rabbit with a shellfish?

The Oyster Bunny.
- How do you send a letter to the Easter Bunny?

By hare-mail!
- Why was the Easter Bunny so upset?

He was having a bad hare day.

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 26

Featured Pets



EDDY & RIVER

Hello Spring! Meet Eddy & River, both puggles from Puggles of the North, celebrating springtime which is hopefully on the horizon from their new home in Point Clark.



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

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Word Search

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

- Bassitt
- Berrios
- Francis
- Gausman
- Kirk
- Bichette
- Clement
- Gimenez
- Guerrero Jr
- Wagner
- Lukes
- Roden
- Santander
- Springer
- Straw

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

ART UNPLUGGED

On Thursday, April 17 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Huron County Museum. Create, connect, and chill while making cool art with friends. Join in an evening where you can experiment with different materials, techniques, meet new people and enjoy some snacks. Ages 12 years and older. Entry cost \$5 per session (includes all supplies and snacks).

Space is limited, so register for any or all sessions by emailing museum@huroncounty.ca

April 17 – Collaborative Mural

NO OTHER LAND FILM SCREENING

On Thursday, April 17 at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. at the Huron County Museum.

Come watch this Oscar winning documentary.

For half a decade, Basel Adra, a Palestinian activist, films his community of Masafer Yatta being destroyed by Israel's occupation, and he builds an unlikely alliance with a journalist from

the other side.

Tickets are \$12. Reserve your seat in the museum theatre via Eventbrite.

BOREAL HOUSE CONCERT

On Saturday, April 19 from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. at 78879 Orchard Line in Goderich.

Join the magical trio of Tannis Slimmon, Katherine Wheatley, and Angie Nussey for a special house concert.

CLASSIFIEDS

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

OBITUARY



GARY HAIST

October 22, 1955 – March 24, 2025

He's off to the great gig in the sky.

With gratitude and love for a life well lived, we announce the passing of Gary Lawrence Haist, peacefully at Southbridge Long Term Care, Goderich on Monday March 24, 2025 with family by his side.

Loved by his "wee bride" Shelley McPhee Haist, cherished Dad of Caylan (Derek) Atchison and Elizabeth Haist, and proudest Papa to Josh, Avery, Ben, Gus, Cece and Dash. Missed by his siblings Jim (Rose), Bob (Nancy), and Linda. Predeceased by sister Karen. Beloved brother-in-law to Tim and Judith Cumming and Bob Pedersen. Loved by many cousins, nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents Clinton and Mary Haist.

Gary enjoyed a long career as Advertising Manager for the Clinton News Record and Focus News Magazine. He loved designing ads for customers, sharing conversations over coffee, and morning banter at Bartliff's Restaurant.

Gary was a long-time member of Clinton United Church and member of the Clinton Optimist Club. He loved taking in music concerts and acting in local community theatre productions. He was known for his love of pop music and lake time at Lake Erie and Lake Huron.

Simple things, friends and family made Gary the happiest. His last few years were physically challenging but Gary's philosophy held fast "it is what it is." He made the best of things and the staff at the Southbridge / Maitland Manor Longterm Care in Goderich became his home and his second family. We are forever grateful for their care and for making his final years happy ones.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 10th at 1 pm at Clinton United Church. We appreciate your love, support and condolences. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to ONE CARE Home & Community Support Services – Driven to Care Campaign, or to Clinton United Church.

Arrangements entrusted to Falconer Funeral Home, Clinton

*"Monday, Monday, so good to me
Monday mornin', it was all I hoped it would be
Oh, Monday mornin', Monday mornin' couldn't guarantee
That Monday evenin' you would still be here with me"
- Monday, Monday – The Mamas and The Papas"*

OBITUARY



RICHARD (RICK) EARL RAWSON

The family of Richard (Rick) Earl Rawson is sad to announce his unexpected passing on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in London, just after turning sixty-five in February.

Rick was a devoted and caring father to his son Danial (partner Morgan), and loving grandfather to Kairi, the light of his life. He so looked forward to his visits with Kairi. Dear brother of sisters, Bonnie (Don) Hosack of Sarnia, and Sandra (Doug) Wallis of Goderich Township, as well as a niece, many nephews and cousins. Rick was close to Danial's half-brothers Liam and Colby (mother Kim Yeats). Born and raised in Goderich, Rick was the beloved son of the late Nora and Earl Rawson. Rick had a deep love for his hometown and a lifelong passion for sports. In his younger days, he was an avid athlete and an enthusiastic spectator, always cheering on his favorite teams. He will be missed. Rest in Peace Rick.

SUDOKU

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 1967
2. Chile
3. Apollo 13
4. Direct message
5. Nucleus
6. Bamboo
7. Kelvin Scale
8. Riptide/rip current
9. Gluteus Maximus
10. April 21st

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COMING EVENTS

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DAVID YATES' BOOK LAUNCH

On Saturday, April 26 at Huron County Museum at 2 p.m.

Celebrate the launch of local historian David Yates' newest offering, Challenge and Change: The People and Events that Made Us, 1890-1914. Presentation and author remarks, with book signing to follow. Books available for purchase, cash or cheque only.

HOSPITAL FOUNDATION TIM HORTON'S SMILE COOKIE CAMPAIGN

Starting on Monday, April 28 until Sunday, May 4 at Tim Horton's Huron Road location in Goderich. The AMGH Foundation has been selected as a Tim Horton's Smile Cookie Week recipient. All week long, 100 per cent of proceeds from Tim Hortons Smile Cookies sold at that location in Goderich will be donated to the AMGH Foundation. Make a difference in your community. Get a smile, share a smile.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

This peer-led group meets once a month at Bayfield Library on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. Upcoming dates are April 26, May 24 and June 21.

RED DIRT SKINNERS – LIVE AT THE LIVERY

On Thursday, May 1 from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Roots Music Canada describe the Red Dirt Skinners as 'The Pink Floyd of Folk Music'. The Red Dirt Skinners are widely regarded as one of the most innovative acts to come out of the UK in recent years. With male and female harmonies blending as one voice, you will be swept along by the refreshingly different sound of the Red Dirt Skinners. Admission is \$37.50. Event contact information: pleasevisitthefaq@reddirtskinners.com

PA DAY CAMP AT THE MUSEUM

On Friday, May 2 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at Huron County Museum. Young explorers are invited to dive into a world of discovery where history and imagination come to life. Perfect for children ages 5-10. Registration is now open. May 2 Theme: Marvelous Maps. Get ready to chart your course as we spend the day learning all about maps. Admission is \$40 for non-members, and \$35 for members. To register please complete and sign the registration form, which can be dropped off at

the museum once completed.

PA DAY MOVIE AT THE MUSEUM

On Friday, May 2 from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Huron County Museum. Drop into the museum to watch a family-friendly movie in the museum theatre. Movies are included with regular admission or free with a museum membership or Huron County Library card. May 2 movie: Shaun the Sheep.

GARAGE AND BAKE SALE

On Saturday, May 10 at 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. held at First Baptist Church on Montreal Street in Goderich. Everything but the kitchen sink. All proceeds will be donated.

MOTHER'S DAY DANCE

On Saturday, May 10 at the Goderich Legion from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. Join this fun-filled evening fundraiser for Ladies Auxiliary Branch 109, with prizes to celebrate Mom.

Come with your friends, as couples or as a group. Tickets cost \$20 per person; snacks provided. Tickets available at the Legion bar and at the door.

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Auburn Memorial Community Hall
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\$15/Adults, \$6/Child, Free/Preschool
Pancakes, eggs, toast, sausage & hashbrowns
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Eggs supplied by: Huron County Egg Farmers

Proceeds for: Community Betterment



COMMUNITY
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
All Welcome!

Friday April 18
10:00am


Calvary
BAPTIST CHURCH
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'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain' - Revelation 5:12

 **Goderich Sun**

Deadline: Friday prior at 3 p.m.
Contact: info@goderichsun.com

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

- The Community Calendar is for non-profit organizations to promote their free admission events at no charge. Event listings can include your event name, date, time and location as well as a phone number, email address or website.
- If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, you have the following options:
 - Coming Events Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
 - Coming Events Boxed Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
 - Display Ad - Sizes begin at a classified business card size for \$35 + hst

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Sunsets of Goderich



A spectacular sky captured on April 6 at Goderich Main Beach.

(GLORIA MCNAUGHTON PHOTO)

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

Elect James Rice in Huron-Bruce

Mark Carney's Liberals will:

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- Pass a new middle class tax cut, saving families up to \$825
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Campaign office: 247 Josephine St., Wingham

Phone: 226-839-0660


Liberal

Authorized by the official agent for James Rice

