



Goderich Sun

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Annual GPS holiday dinner celebrates 20 years

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Each year volunteers help host a holiday dinner for the students and staff at Goderich Public School (GPS) and on December 15 GPS celebrated its 20th anniversary of providing a holiday meal, and continuing to provide a sense of family to the school.

The event is held at Goderich Memorial Arena each year, and this year nearly 600 people including students, staff, bus drivers and crossing guards enjoyed a holiday dinner.

In addition, this year the Director of Education, Superintendent and some members of Goderich Town Council were also in attendance.

A group of approximately 30 volunteers begin set up the day before and start early the day of to cook and prepare the meal for nearly 600 people. Due to the size of the event, there are two seatings.

With the leadership of Laurie Hakkers, volunteers of the event are members of the school's Parent Council, which plans and executes the meal annually.

With such a large crowd to feed, most years the volunteers hold fundraisers and accept donations from businesses to pull such an event off.

"Though we had done various fundraisers to fund the dinner again, our school's food and nutrition program has had such tremendous support this year from the community that we were able to pay for the meal entirely with the funds from our Eat and Learn Program," explained Melanie Giesbrecht, volunteer.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



(KATHLEEN SMITH PHOTO)

TOY OVERLOAD

Participants in the Over 50 tournament. (L-R): Greg Aitken, Ray Butteneau, Graham Hamilton and Brian Reid.

Over 50 hockey tournament donates proceeds to Salvation Army's toy drive

A fundraising hockey tournament for over 50s held in Bayfield has donated to Salvation Army, for the second year in a row.

These one-day tournaments generate proceeds, which are used to make a generous donation to the Salvation Army's children's toy drive campaign.

Just over \$700 was raised at the most recent one-day tournament in November. Tournament organizers used money from the beer kitty to top up the proceeds to \$1,000.

"Christmas is for kids and the guys all want to try to make it happen for kids that may not have a Christmas," admitted tournament organizer, who wished to remain anonymous, as it was a group effort to raise the funds.

"A bit more money was raised this year as the guys

know that the need is greater this year."

With the proceeds of the tournament, the most needed items were purchased, including Bluetooth speakers, soft blankets, gaming headphones, basketballs and soccer balls donated by BMR, LEGO, and stocking stuffers.

This year the donation from the Over 50 tournament helped with primarily teen gifts. This year the Salvation Army already have over 100 families in need.

The items were donated to Salvation Army at the beginning of December.

Normally the tournament that started nine years ago, is held twice a year, except during the years of lockdown.

The tournament is made up of four teams, created by a draft process.

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A Home for the Holidays a great success

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Steve and Mary Bruce of Steve and Mary's on the Square wanted to ensure everyone in the community could celebrate the Christmas and holiday season this year.

For the first time, Steve and Mary's hosted A Home for the Holidays to give back to the caring and generous community of Goderich.

Over 130 individuals were fed at the holiday dinner event at Steve and Mary's last week.

"A Home for the Holidays was a great success helping folks who needed a little boost to keep the Christmas spirit alive, and to give hope that life is good, even in uncertain times," said Steve.

"Here at Steve and Mary's we strive to be a beacon of light for family and friends to centre around and keep those family values and traditions of giving, rather than receiving, in the forefront of our daily lives."

On December 13 Steve and Mary's hosted an event to feed 134 people in the community who needed a home for the holidays.

A hot meal, surrounded by others, is something most can take for granted, while there are those in the area who do not have the luxury of going out for a meal.

"Christmas has and will be a time of family, friends and hope," added Steve.

"When we push back the marketing and buy-big attitude that surrounds this time of year, we can see that true spirit of Christmas, a time for hope, togetherness, and the caring nature for others that is in us all, sometimes we just need to rekindle that spirit and run with it."

Additionally, Steve and Mary accepted non-perishable food donations for the hampers, as well as toy donations to ensure everyone has a happy holiday season.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

HOME FOR HOLIDAYS

Around 40 volunteers helped Steve and Mary (pictured) make A Home for the Holidays a great success. They were able to feed 134 individuals and distributed 148 toys to ensure everyone has a little Christmas spirit.

With the generosity of the community, Steve and Mary's sent out 44 food hampers of varying sizes for families and individuals, and a total of 148 toys distributed to 75 children ranging in age from infant to 14-years-old.

In addition to the generosity of the community, Steve and Mary recognize the success is also due to the volunteers who helped put together the hampers, wrap toys, and help prepare or serve the meals. It was just another example of how the community comes together to help those in need.

Steve and Mary stated there were so many to individuals to thank, but wanted to high-

light a few for their generosity and assistance in helping pull the event off together:

Town Councillor Randy Carroll and his wife Laurie were pivotal inspiration and sounding boards for ideas and thoughts, and generously donated six turkeys. They also helped reach out to local musicians to provide entertainment for the event.

Kim and Travis Teed donated their time to play music all day.

Culbert's Bakery donated a fresh baked pie for every hamper.

Charnwood Villa Tea House donated desserts for everyone, and Blake Street Bakery donated a dozen dinner rolls for every hamper.

Zehrs Goderich donated two turkeys.

Jokey International donated \$1,000 that went towards filling the hampers.

B.Y.O.B. Zero Waste.

Santa Claus (Ken Dale) for taking the time out of his busy schedule to share some spirit for the littles of the community.

Steve and Mary's staff for their time and fortitude in always helping.

"It is with humbled hearts that we thank everyone who took the time to show their care for our community and generous donations from all of you that made this a success," Steve stated, who expressed a special shout-out to his wife Mary who had many sleepless nights leading up to the event.

According to Steve, her heart ached, and tears flowed every day when donations came in.

"Her perseverance and dedication to help those in need is only a fraction of her huge heart and drives her every day. Great job Mary. You organized this event and nailed it. Just one of the reasons I love you."



A total of 44 food hampers of varying sizes for families and individuals were sent out, due to the generous donations made by the community.

Merry Christmas!

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IODE donates \$40,000 for palliative care room upgrades at AMGH

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

It was a memorable evening for the Maple Leaf Chapter IODE Goderich on December 5, as the group presented Jimmy Trieu, President, and CEO of AMGH, with a cheque for \$40,000.

In a heartfelt gesture of support for patients facing life's most challenging moments, the Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) Foundation recently received a generous donation from the Maple Leaf Chapter of the IODE.

The \$40,000 donation will assist AMGH in enhancing its palliative care rooms. These rooms play a crucial role in providing compassionate end-of-life care to patients who choose the hospital setting for their final moments.

"The relationship between the Foundation and the IODE extends beyond financial support," remarked Kimberley Payne, Executive Director of AMGH Foundation.

"It is a partnership built on shared values, and a commitment to community well being. The \$40,000 contribution from the IODE is not just a donation but a planned gift, resulting from extensive consultations with the dedicated staff at AMGH."

The money was raised during 2023 from proceeds from the IODE's Christmas House Tour, from sales at the IODE Op Shop on North Street, and from the group's geranium fundraiser.

The allocated funds will primarily be utilized to acquire two specialized beds, each costing \$14,529. These beds, designed with the utmost comfort and functionality in mind, aim to elevate the quality of care provided to patients during their palliative journey.

This generous contribution to AMGH reflects the IODE's role as funding part-



CHEQUE PRESENTATION

Jimmy Trieu (middle) presented with the \$40,000 donation from Melitta Wasylicw, IODE Treasurer and Penny Murray, Regent.

ners, but especially as founders of the cherished, local hospital.

"The IODE's thoughtful contribution underscores their commitment to supporting initiatives that improve the well being of individuals and families during challenging times," said Payne.

While most individuals express a preference for spending their final days in the familiarity of their homes, some opt for residential hospices like the Huron Residential Hospice or Jessica's House.

However, many others choose the hos-

pital setting, finding solace in the familiar care provided by the staff at AMGH.

Payne expressed that the overarching

goal of these enhancements to the rooms is to create an environment that prioritizes comfort for both patients and their families.

"Understanding the emotional weight carried during these difficult times, AMGH seeks to provide a space that fosters peace and support," added Payne.

The upgraded palliative care rooms will offer solace and ease the burden for families navigating through what can be an emotionally taxing experience.

"We know that most people prefer to die at home, some prefer to go to a residential hospice, but many also choose the hospital and the care they are familiar with here," notes Michelle Wick, Chief Nursing Executive, AMGH.

As these improvements unfold, the AMGH expresses gratitude for the IODE's enduring support and their shared vision of creating spaces of comfort and compassion for patients and their families during delicate moments.

The impact of this partnership will undoubtedly be felt in the warmth and solace by those under the care of AMGH's palliative care rooms.

Further to this donation, AMGH has also recently received a \$1,000 donation from Chuck's Roadhouse, and an anonymous donation of \$10,000. These general donations will support the hospital enhance the care provided to patients.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)



A \$1,000 donation from Chuck's Roadhouse. Accepting the cheque is Kimberley Payne, Executive Director, AMGH Foundation, with Vlorat and Arta Vitija (middle), owner's of Chuck's Roadhouse, and Laura Herman, Vice Chair, AMGH Foundation.

From all of us at

Goderich Place

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Upcoming Issues:

Friday, January 5, 2024

Friday, February 2, 2024

Friday, March 1, 2024

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Proud member of the
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Editorial

Actions of this community give me hope this Christmas season

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Unable to attend the first Sunday of Advent mass while driving, I found a parish in Boston live-streaming their service on YouTube.

So, while driving home, I plugged my phone into the car and listened to mass.

In Fr. John Unni's homily, he stressed that we must remain awake, we need to be alert.

Being alert to the many inhumane issues currently happening worldwide, being alert to local causes and being alert, or awake, to know how we can help.

He did not shy away from mentioning the atrocities happening in Gaza and what happened to the Israelis on October 7, and how we could be feeling a sense of hopelessness.

He stressed that we might feel we have to take sides, but that we can feel for all innocent humans experiencing terror, torment, antisemitism, and unimaginable grief.

As more stories of what is happening emerge, despite feeling hopelessness in the wake of these atrocities, Fr. Unni stressed that although we cannot help, we can help in our own backyard.

We can be alert to the issues happening locally and make a positive difference in the life of someone here.

And in the last few weeks, what I have seen in this town has been nothing short of uplifting and inspiring. It has given me hope, amidst the horrors happening around the world. It has given me hope that there is goodness in humans still.

We can still step up and take care of those in need, those who are different from us, those who are vulnerable.

Homelessness continues to be a social, economic and health crisis in Ontario. With the rise in cost of homes, inflated

rent, cost of living increases, and overall inflation, more individuals and families are struggling to get by.

Let alone adding in the expectations of spending and consuming for the Christmas season.

Clearly with the increase in cost of living, there has been an increase of families struggling. Food bank use in Ontario has dramatically increased, up 42 per cent over the past three years, and according to statistics, one-third of these users were visiting a food bank for the first time.

Statistics Canada reports that food prices increased at a 5.4 per cent pace over the past year. That is less than it was in September, but other areas of life have remain inflated.

While food and gas prices are slightly getting better, other aspects contribute to the cost-of-living crisis. Rent went up by 8.2 per cent in the past year. Mortgage interest costs went up by more than 30 per cent in the past year. Property taxes increased by 4.9 per cent in the past year, the biggest one-year increase in property taxes on records dating to 1992.

For individuals and families hit hard with other increases, they have had to make decisions on what to cut from spending. For some, that means cutting back with presents. For others, it might mean no turkey dinner.

Some might have to swap their favourite foods (and drinks) because of increased cost of living. This might lead to new traditions, but for some it might mean letting go of some holiday items to lower cost of groceries.

Although there are several underlying issues impacting and explaining the cost of food, such as weather impacting harvests, geopolitical events driving up cost of energy, and labour disputes, it doesn't soften the blow of struggling

this holiday season.

To make a traditional turkey dinner and dessert for six people could cost on average \$105.

But here in Goderich, individuals and businesses want to take care of those who are struggling the most.

From food collections for the local food banks, to hosting free Christmas dinners for those who are in need, this community never ceases to amaze me with its generosity and ability to step out of our comfortable bubble to help those who need it most.

In the second week of Advent, I decided to attend the virtual mass again. Fr. Unni's focus was to prepare the way of the Lord.

"When we come closer to Christmas, so much is about shopping, acquiring, travel plans, cooking and cleaning, amassing. There is so much to go on in preparation on that level," said Fr. Unni.

"Preparing the way of the Lord is comforting another person."

Citing from the Bible during the homily, Fr. Unni spoke ancient words with a timeless message.

And I saw it in the last few weeks. This town consistently brought comfort to another person, to a stranger this Christmas, through their generous donations and dinners.

And despite the dark and sad cycle of news and events happening around the world, bringing comfort to others, and to ourselves, is so important at Christmas. And every day.

There are so many people who are grieving, and isolated, or tormented around the world, so why not bring some comfort to those in need in Goderich?

Seeing how this community stepped up this holiday season has given me so much hope in a time of darkness.

Merry Christmas.



Goderich Sun

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

Eat Local Huron receives Ontario Agriculture Award

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Local food non-profit Eat Local Huron won the Ontario Agricultural Excellence Award for agri-food promotion.

Eat Local Huron is an online farmer's market where anyone in Huron County can order from local food producers and get that food delivered to their door.

"To be recognized by such a prestigious organization as the Royal Winter Fair is a huge honour," Lindsay Spindler, Operations Manager of Eat Local Huron said.

"We take so much pride in what we do, by providing access to local food, year-round in Huron County."

The award was presented to Chris Spaleta, Executive Director of Eat Local Huron and Dana Lumby, Board Member at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. The award was presented by Lisa Thompson, MPP of Huron-Bruce, and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Af-

fairs.

"I am very proud to present the 2023 Excellence in Agriculture Awards at the Roal Agricultural Winter Fair, where it is a tradition to celebrate the best of the best," said MPP Thompson.

"The recipients lead by example and have demonstrated ingenuity, drive, and passion. Their impact on Ontario's agriculture and food industry is invaluable."

Sign up for Eat Local Huron is free, no subscription needed.

Deliveries to doorsteps every Wednesday, but there are pickup locations including The Den in Goderich and Culture Shock Kimbucha in Grand Bend.

"Providing access is integral to the overall health of our communities, local economy and farmers, and we are thrilled to provide that link from farm to table," added Spindler.

Contact information info@eatlocalhuron.ca



FROM FARM TO TABLE

Dana Lumby (left), with MPP Lisa Thompson (centre), and Chris Spaleta at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

New pedestrian walkway to Bayfield River Flats Natural Area

An active group of community volunteers is working to build a new pedestrian walkway, so people don't have to drive to the Bayfield River Flats Natural Area.

The creation of a new walkway would mean people could walk from Bayfield to this area of habitat protection and recreation, without having to cross a busy highway.

Organizers are attempting to raise the needed \$52,000 to build the walkway, which will connect people with nature, recreation, and even local history.

The Bayfield River Flats is an important natural and recreational area, and it also has a rich history. People walking the trails can read interpretive signs outlining some of the history tapestry.

Dating back many years, from its use by Indigenous people to its use by anglers, the Bayfield River Flats has been a thriving habitat.

The location has been a site of a dam, and a river crossing, and was the location of the former Thompson's Mill. The ruins of the mill and the old dam, which was also the first bridge across the Bayfield River, are still visible at the site. The Flats was also used for marina storage for many years.

At one time, in 1820, the site was even proposed to be the naval harbour.

An article on the Land Trust website recalls that, "During Bayfield's early years – until 1900 – this tranquil woodland setting was the site of Thompson's Mill. Until the saw and gristmill were fully operational in the 1840s, area pioneers had to hand saw their lumber and carry their grain on their backs on deer paths to Goderich for milling."

The article also includes an illustration of the mill, circa 1890, in the land known today at Bayfield River Flats.

More recently, the history includes a successful community fundraising campaign in 2017 led by

the trail association that received donations from more than 220 individual donors, having raised more than \$70,000 to purchase the River Flats so the trail association could donate it to the land trust to be preserved permanently.

Today, the Bayfield River Flats Natural Area is a place to enjoy nature and recreation and it's also a place to reflect on a rich local history.

The Bayfield River Valley Train Association (BRVTA) is leading the pedestrian walkway fundraising project. The area is permanently preserved as habitat for wildlife and as a recreation destination.

To find out more about the walkway project, visit the Bayfield River Flats website, and to donate to the project, visit the Land Trust website or the BRVTA website.



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Merry Christmas

*** & HAPPY NEW YEAR ***

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laughter, and endless connections this
holiday season. Merry Christmas from
our telecom family to yours!



Gateway welcomes new research chair



RESEARCH CHAIR

Dan Stringer with Dr. Mike Beazely (right).

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Gateway CERH team announced it has a new team member.

Dr. Mike Beazely is an associate professor at the University of Waterloo's School of Pharmacy, and has joined the Gateway team as a research chair of rural substance use.

"I am thrilled to be involved with Gateway. As a long-time educator, I really enjoy working with students and innovative ways people involve themselves with promoting health," said Dr. Beazely.

As research chair, Dr. Beazely will assist Gateway by providing expertise in the field of pharmacology and substance use.

This role involves consulting on Gateway's community projects, promoting healthcare education of rural residents and mentoring summer students.

Previously, Dr. Beazely worked with the Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy, working closely with community service providers, educators, public health, and law enforcement.

"Gateway has really expanded our part-

nership with the University of Waterloo's School of Pharmacy," commented Gwen Devereaux, Gateway's President.

"With Dr. Beazely involved, we can introduce new perspectives on rural substance use and are looking forward to his involvement with Gateway's activities."

As an educator, and expert in the field of pharmacology, Dr. Beazely's current research pursues understanding the role of health professionals in reducing harms associated with problematic substance use.

Since joining Gateway, Dr. Beazely has already been involved with the creation of a project interested in promoting the health of rural, volunteer firefighters.

In January, Dr. Beazely will be making his proper debut by educating rural residents on substance use, as part of Gateway's ongoing rural health lecture series.

Opportunities to learn more about the future lecture and Dr. Beazely's involvement can be found on the Gateway website at www.gatewayruralhealth.ca.

Coldwell Banker makes generous donation to local food banks

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Being a supporter of the community means giving to those in need, especially during the holiday season when expectations are higher. That is what Coldwell Banker in Goderich endeavours with its Festive Food Drive.

Over the last few weeks Coldwell Banker in Goderich collected food items, with the intent to donate to three different food banks in Goderich: The Free Little Pantry, the Salvation Army, and to St. Vincent de Paul.

"We are very proud to say this is our sixth annual Festive Food Drive," said Deb Graham, Office Administrator.

"Coldwell Banker is a big supporter in our community and help in any way we

can, and we understand times can be challenging for some, especially this time of year."

Coldwell Banker Goderich's first Festive Food Drive was such a success, the office decided to continue every year since, always with an amazing outcome.

This year, Broker of Record/Owner Donny Rivers is monetarily matching the donations collected. This allows the food banks to use his donation to purchase items that are still needed.

"Christmas is about giving, and we can't thank the community enough for their generosity," remarked Graham.

Coldwell Banker made their donation to the three local food banks last week, in time for Christmas. Rivers made a \$300 donation along with it: \$100 donation to each food bank.



UNDERNEATH THE TREE

Donations under the tree at the Coldwell Banker office at the Square.

(KATHLEEN SMITH PHOTO)

Annual GPS holiday dinner celebrates 20 years

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

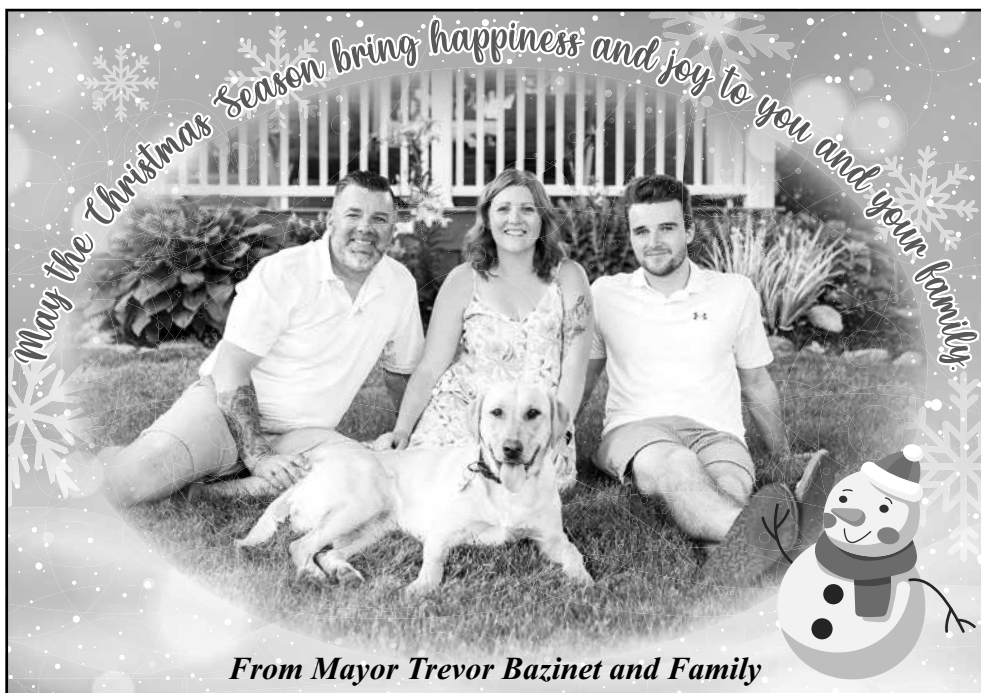
"Those funds we raised are now able to go directly back into our school. We are so happy to be able to have this event again and to be celebrating its 20th anniversary."

In addition to fundraising, some donations were made to round out the meal.

With the generosity of Culbert's bakery who graciously cooked 15 turkeys each year for the meal, the volunteers were able to provide a full turkey dinner with all the traditional fixings to the students and staff.

"We have done our best to buy the majority of the food, all locally, from companies such as Culbert's Bakery and Hayters Meats, Jerry Rader's and purchasing locally grown potatoes," added Giesbrecht.

"The students all love this event so much and the proof is in their excitement building up to the date and their expressions as they enter the arena each year. We love being able to provide this sense of family to our students and school community."



From Mayor Trevor Bazinet and Family

Gateway celebrates farmers at Brussels Four Winds Barn

On December 1 Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) hosted a rural Southwestern Ontario launch of their S.H.E.D. Talks project.

This launch was hosted to demonstrate the format of a Sustaining Healthy Farms through Empowerment and Dedication (S.H.E.D.) Talk to local farmers while also providing great entertainment from Peter 'Wheat Pete' Johnson.

The main objective of the S.H.E.D. Talk project is to focus on reducing social isolation and lessening the daily stressors that farmers experience.

S.H.E.D. Talks aim to do this by creating a communal and collaborative space for farmers to gather, build connections and support one another. The four areas encouraged by this project are connection, collaboration, community, and conversation.

Guest speaker Peter 'Wheat Pete' Johnson was able to give great insight into the

benefits of this event.

"There is nothing like a good discussion on crops to help reset your brain and recharge both your crop thoughts and your mental health," he stated.

The event began with opening remarks from Gateway CERH's President and Creator of S.H.E.D. Talks, Gwen Devereaux.

Also in attendance were Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs and MPP of Huron-Bruce Lisa Thompson, as well as Warden of Huron County, Glen McNeil.

Sponsors for this event were Farm Credit Canada (FCC), Corteva Agriscience, Libro Credit Union, Egg Farmers of Ontario, Huron Tractor, and Delta Power Equipment.

Without sponsorship support, this event would not have been possible.

For more information on S.H.E.D. Talks, contact Gateway: www.gatewayruralhealth.ca or alexa@gatewayruralhealth.ca.



REDUCING SOCIAL ISOLATION

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Constable Kevin Bilyea, Peter Johnson, Tom Melady, Alexa Harrison, and Glen McNeil.



Constable Bilyea, Peter Johnson and Tom Melady speak as a panel to the crowd.



SEASON OF GIVING

(LAURIE CARROLL PHOTO)

Owner of Chuck's Roadhouse Vlorat Vitija (left) made a \$1,000 donation to the Goderich Legion at their Christmas celebration dinner last week at Chuck's. Also pictured is Randy Carroll, President of Goderich Legion and Town Councillor.



WEDDINGS ENGAGEMENTS LIFESTYLE BOUDOIR



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Hats and Mats Group continues to give to those in need

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

In 2023 what had previously been known as Berea Hats and Mats Group came to now be known as Goderich Community Hats and Mats Group.

The group decided to continue to examine and focus on the increasing needs of the local community, in addition to continuing to support the Royal Canadian Legion and Dr. Simone, Canadian Food for Children.

This year, the group hosted their 'Wrap Around the Square' event again. This entails putting a pair of mittens and a hat into a Ziploc bag and tie it to a lamppost on the Town Square for anyone in need.

"Each week we are fortunate and grateful to receive donations from members of our local community, as well as our volunteer members," Crocker said.

The donation bench may include knitwear, yarn, fabric, and many other items used for the feminine hygiene project.

Weekly meetings for the group consist of discussing donation direction, job distribution, cutting milk bags into strips for weaving, weaving mats, knitting, and monthly assembling of feminine hygiene bags.

"We are a group, where everyone has a role," admitted Tamara Crocker.

"We are a team-oriented atmosphere."

Locally, the group supports area schools,



WEAVING FOR A CAUSE

Volunteers weaving the strips cut from plastic milk bags, into sleeping mats for those experiencing homelessness.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

daycare, several social service agencies including CMHA and the Salvation Army, the Goderich hospital, probation office, the Fishes and Loaves program, the Goderich Little Pantry, and Huron Hospice.

In addition, some of the group's mem-

bers volunteer weekly at GDCI to teach students how to cut milk bags, weave sleeping mats out of the material and how to knit hats.

At the end of November, the group even hosted a parent and daughter night for the

GDCI Hats and Mats Group. The students saw what the Goderich Community group does along with the ladies who volunteer.

Provincially, the group supports the Royal Canadian Legion by sending donations of mittens, hats, and socks through the Goderich Legion Branch 109. These in turn are distributed to homeless veterans throughout Ontario.

Internationally, the group supports Dr. Simone, Canadian Food for Children by creating Feminine Hygiene Bag kits.

"These kits are created by a team of sewers and are assembled and delivered to our local contact for the project," explained Crocker.

"The kits are shipped to other countries. These kits contain everything a girl needs that will enable them to go to school instead of missing time due to their time of the month."

As the group continues to volunteer their time and skills to provide needed items and kits to those in the area, as well as across the province and the world, each week the group posts pictures of their donation bench on their Facebook page. Donors are thanked for their contributions. This also includes funds received to assist the group of their work.

To contribute to the Goderich Community Hats and Mats Group, message the group on Facebook and the group coordinator will respond.



A pile of donations, including knitted hats and mittens, ready to go to those in need.



An item available for those in need for the group's 'Wrap Around the Square' project.



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 January 1, 2024: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
 Back to Regular Business Hours



Regular Hours:
 Monday: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
 Tuesday: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
 Wednesday: Closed
 Thursday: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
 Friday: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm
 Saturday: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
 Sunday: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

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Gateway receives Huron County Impact Investment Award

On November 29 Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) attended a celebration event held at the White Squirrel Golf Course in St. Joseph.

At the event, Gateway received the Huron County Impact Investment award at the Sunset Community Foundation award ceremony. It is Gateway's 15th year of operations.

The Impact Investment award grew out of funds raised by the economic development committee of Huron County. Those funds are administered by the Sunset Foundation. The funds are loaned to Community Futures Huron and then re-loaned to startup or small businesses. The interest earned is returned to the foundation and used to fund the Impact award.

"We are very proud of Gateway's growth and impact in the region," admitted Gwen Devereaux, President of the Board of Directors at Gateway.

"Our mandate of improving the lives of rural residents through research, education and communication is yielding significant results in many areas."

Throughout the last 15 years Gateway has mentored over 120 university students, and this experience has helped those students to embark on healthcare careers or excel in graduate school.

The Impact award is given to a business or enterprise that creates economic activity and builds employment opportunities in Huron County.

Gateway was found to be an exemplary example.

Gateway is a not-for-profit corporation that hires local university students for community-based rural health research projects. This research focuses on health and healthcare delivery in rural areas.

"Gateway makes a great impact across the county and beyond, focusing on the unique health needs of rural communities," said Jim Lynn, one of the founders of the Huron Entrepreneur Fund.

"Healthy communities are a key foundation for a healthy economy and our quality of life in the county. We are pleased to be able to support their efforts."



INVESTING IN HURON COUNTY

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Seen presenting the award are from left to right: Jim Lynn, Brian Vincent and Charlene Masschelein of Sunset Community Foundation and Gwen Devereaux and Dan Stringer from Gateway CERH.

Huron Hospice achieves full accreditation

Recently the Huron Hospice was awarded full accreditation by Hospice Palliative Care Ontario for its In-Home Hospice Program.

"It is a very significant achievement to receive a full accreditation of this program with no conditions," said Willy Van Klooster, the Executive Director.

"Having this seal of approval from our provincial association can provide people in Huron County additional confidence in the high standards of our programs and services."

Next year will mark the 30th year the organization has offered this program, which matches trained volunteers to those in their homes living with life-limiting illnesses or facing life while grieving.

Each year, over 100 such matches are made providing a listening ear, a comforting presence and sometimes a break for a care provider to have a coffee or get groceries.

In order to be accredited, Huron Hospice needed to provide evidence to support 221 standards of service. That standards cover board governance, strategic planning, budgeting, code of conduct, conflict of interest, confiden-

tiality, human resources, community consultations, staff and volunteer training, performance reviews, quality improvement, research, and client feedback.

"We are celebrating this accomplishment recognizing that by meeting provincial standards in governance, organizational oversight and service provision, we are also raising the bar on the quality of care received by every person supported by Huron Hospice," added Deb Shelley, Volunteer Coordinator and lead for the In-Home Hospice Program.

This news comes to the organization as construction has now begun on the expansion of services at Huron Hospice Bender House.

The residence will expand from four beds to six, adding in a reflection room, children's activity room and appropriate space for the nursing staff.

Construction is expected to be completed by July. This expansion allows approximately 100 individuals and their families to benefit annually from the care of two nurses, around the clock, with volunteer support, in the tranquil 12-acre setting.



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Weekend Quiz

- 1) Who was the first U.S President to be assassinated?
- 2) What country has the most natural lakes?
- 3) Which Austin Powers character loved gold?
- 4) Which planet is known as the "Red Planet"?
- 5) What is the square root of 16?
- 6) In 2004, what became the first Morse code characters to be added since WWII?
- 7) What country does curling originate from?
- 8) Which bird has the largest wingspan?
- 9) How many herbs and spices are in Colonel Sanders' original KFC recipe?
- 10) What is the most common eye color in humans?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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2023-2026**

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COVID vaccine program changing

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

As soon as January 2024, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) will focus on providing COVID vaccinations only for youth aged 12 and under.

Pharmacists and participating health-care providers will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccinations in the community.

According to Dr. Miriam Klassen, Medical Officer of Health for Huron Perth, HPPH has been proud to work with pharmacists and healthcare providers in the fall to ensure residents had access to vaccinations. Now, HPPH will only focus on ensuring access to youth.

While the changes start in January, HPPH still has some availability in their all-ages December clinics.

With the holiday season here and Christmas fast approaching, HPPH wishes residents to enjoy the holiday season safely. According to the HPPH Respiratory Activity 2023-24 dashboard, there were 51 cases of COVID-19 reported and four cases of influenza in the last week of November.

In addition, there were 12 hospitaliza-

tions due to COVID-19 and one hospitalization due to influenza. Sadly, since the start of the respiratory season, seven residents of Huron and Perth have died due to COVID-19.

“The holiday season has begun,” said Dr. Klassen, urging residents to protect themselves and their loved ones by getting vaccinated against influenza, COVID-19 and RSV.

“Note, that at this time in Ontario, only residents of long-term care homes and some retirement homes are eligible for RSV vaccine. It’s not too late to get your vaccines to protect your families and communities and enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.”

HPPH offers advice on how to reduce risk and their loved ones’ risk this holiday season. One piece of advice is to stay up to date on vaccines and using layers of protection.

Layers of protection can include wearing a tight-fitted mask indoors with anyone at highest risk, staying home when sick, washing hands often, covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze, and optimizing indoor air quality.

To see remaining opportunities for COVID-19 vaccines in December, visit www.hpph.ca/getvaccinated.



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Happy Holidays!



To: Our Amazing Community

As the year comes to an end, our team at Beach Street Station want to thank you for your continued support. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Beach Street Station

Goderich Quilters Guild makes annual Christmas deliveries

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The Goderich Quilters Guild, of approximately 50 members, does a major outreach to the community each year at Christmas.

Multiple hand-made quilts are delivered to St. Vincent de Paul, the Women's Shelter, the Salvation Army and to Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) third floor patients.

The Guild distributes quilts throughout the year. If a member knows of someone who is ill or experiencing a challenge in life, they approach the Guild's Care Quilts Coordinators and very often get to select the quilt they would like to gift.

"Many years ago, we started offering multiple quilts to St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Arm and the Women's Shelter at Christmas time to brighten the days of those who are experiencing a rough time," admitted Mason.

"Last year, we added the third-floor patients at AMGH to our list and we deliver four quilts to them quarterly."

Mason explained that when the patients are ready to return home, they get to take their quilt with them.

The Guild also provides quilts to families moving into a Habitat for Humanity

home.

The group also have quilts available throughout the year, when they are informed of someone who needs comfort through an illness or the death of a family member, or simply because life has handed them a difficult situation.

Quilts are also made and delivered to the third floor of AMGH quarterly.

The quilts are generally machine pieced, and then quilted either by machine or by hand. Members buy their own fabric, but if a quilt is destined to become a Care Quilt, then the Guild pays for the batting and backing.

"Quilters like to play with fabrics, colours and patterns, and none of us could make use of all the quilts we make, so we share them with those who are going through a tough period in their lives," said Monica Mason of the Guild.

The group also has a show and sale at the Huron County Museum in November each year, where many of the Guild's items get bought and the proceeds help fund the Guild.

The Guild has two membership coordinators, Linda and Deb, who welcome any inquiries about joining the group. (marklin@hurontel.on.ca and dcmousseau@gmail.com)



KEEPING WARM

The Goderich Quilters Guild made their annual deliveries to St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, the Women's Shelter and third floor of AMGH.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

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Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookies give United Way a reason to celebrate

Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookies offered a new way to spread kindness during the holiday season and now, United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) is celebrating a donation of \$7,845 to the Urgent Needs Fund.

"We'd like to thank Dan Moynihan and his staff, the volunteers who helped us decorate Holiday Smile Cookies, and the people who bought them," said Michelle Millar, UWPH Manager Community Development in Goderich and area.

"This incredible collective effort is making a real difference in the lives of people right here in Huron. Thank you again to everyone for their support."

In total, the Tim Hortons locations in the Huron County area sold approximately 9,300 cookies, with a fundraising goal of \$15,691 split 50/50 between UWPH's Urgent Needs Fund and the Tim Hortons Foundation Camps.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

REASONS TO SMILE

The total amount raised in the area, is double the cheque amount. Seen at the Clinton Tims are three members from Central Huron Council: Deputy Mayor Marg Anderson, and Councillors Jennifer Cox and Michael Russo, with staff from the Clinton site.

Clinton placed in the top 10 of all Tim Horton restaurants across Southern Ontario.

The Urgent Needs Fund is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year, and available in over 150 languages through the 211-help-line. The fund provides financial support for essentials such as rent arrears, winter clothing, car repairs, groceries and more.

Last year, 314 people across Huron County accessed the fund.

The Tim Hortons locations in Goderich raised funds as well during the Holiday Smile Cookie campaign. Owners did not respond with a statement in time to meet printing deadlines.

The Tim Hortons Smile Cookie is a delicious, white chocolate chip sugar cookie that's infused with red and green sprinkles and adorned with a hand-decorated smile. Great for sharing and helping give back to the community, one cookie at a time.

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GODERICH JUNIOR FLYERS 2023 Player Statistics (through December 15, 2023)

PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Leland Weber	F	24	5	5	10
Trent Carter	F	19	5	3	8
Jackson Andrews	F	24	2	6	8
Carson Fletcher	F	24	1	7	8
Jared Houghton	F	8	4	3	7
Owen Shore	F	12	4	3	7
Cohen Lesouder	F	20	1	4	5
Jeremy Hamilton	D	24	1	4	5
James Bender	F	23	2	2	4
Brady Fraser	D	20	1	2	3
Mitchell Hodges	D	22	1	2	3
Ryan McGee	F	4	1	1	2
Carson Stutzman	F	13	1	1	2
Reid Williams	D	17	1	1	2
Austin Aldrich	F	22	1	1	2
Wyatt Connelly	D	11	0	2	2
Cooper Gaul	D	21	0	2	2
Tyson Rintoul	F	8	1	0	1
Mitch Perry	F	9	1	0	1
Jayce MacArthur	F	14	1	0	1
Kyle Smeltzer	F	16	1	0	1
Brett Reesor	F	6	0	1	1
Wilder Hoggarth	D	10	0	1	1
Payten Wheeler	F	17	0	1	1
Cameron McCarthy	F	20	0	1	1
Rowan Alexander	D	21	0	1	1
Nathan Arnold	D	2	0	0	0
Jordon Curran	F	2	0	0	0
Keegan Greer	D	3	0	0	0
Jaden Meyer	D	3	0	0	0
PLAYER	RECORD	GAA	SV%		
Logan Bromley	1-10-0-2	4.14	.887		
Christian DeJong	1-9-0-0	6.06	.842		

Goderich Junior Flyers Report

RICHARD MADGE

Sun Contributor

In their first three games in December the Goderich Flyers picked up one point in the Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) standings by virtue of a 3-2 overtime loss to the fourth place Walkerton Capitals.

In that game, the Capitals scored a goal in each of the first two periods, but the Flyers roared back with two goals of their own in the third to send the game into overtime.

Keegan Fischer and Sam Shakes had given the Capitals their lead.

The answering Flyer goals were scored by Mitch Perry and James Bender.

Perry's goal came three minutes into the third period and was assisted by Jeremy Hamilton.

Bender scored with just under five minutes remaining in regulation time on a play with Leland Weber and Jared Houghton.

The overtime session lasted just over two minutes and ended when the Caps' Owen Troyer got the winner, beating Goderich goalie Christian DeJong.

The Capitals outshot the Flyers by a slim 33-29 margin in regulation time and had a 4-1 edge in shots in the overtime period.

The other two games so far this month



second period.

Jared Houghton got help from Cohen Lesouder and Trent Carter on the third period Flyer goal.

The Fergus Whalers got their win on home ice by scoring six unanswered goals sandwiched between the game's first and last goals which were scored by the Flyers.

Jared Houghton got both Flyer goals, the first period one assisted by Trent Carter. His third period counter was unassisted.

Defenceman Nathan Arnold, from Kincardine, is a new addition to the Flyer lineup, and he played in the Fergus and Walkerton games.

The Flyers will be recognizing the Goderich Lions Club's support at their home game Saturday, December 16, when the Hanover Barons come to town.

Game time is 8 p.m. at the Maitland Recreation Centre (MRC).

The Flyers also play at home the next day, Sunday, December 17 at 2:30 p.m. against the Capitals.

The Flyer then finish the year in Mount Forest on December 3 and open the new year of 2024 part of their schedule on January 2 with an unusual Tuesday night home game against Kincardine with puck-drop at 7:30 p.m.

saw the Flyers drop a 6-3 verdict to the Wingham Ironmen at home and lose 6-2 to the Fergus Whalers on the road.

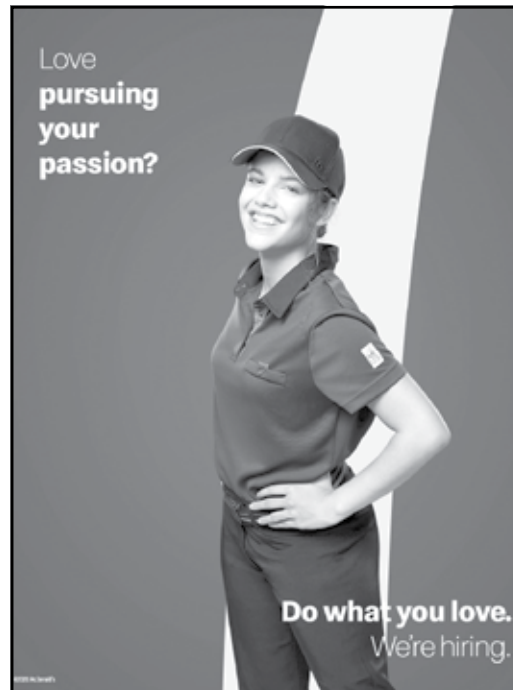
The Flyers held an appreciation night for community first-responders at the Wingham game, with members of the Goderich Fire Department and Huron OPP taking part in the pre-game ceremony. Unfortunately, it was the Ironmen who responded first on the scoreboard with three unanswered first period goals.

That lead proved insurmountable, even though the Flyers matched the Ironmen, with each team scoring twice in the second period and once in the third.

Jackson Andrews, from Jared Houghton and Carson Stutzman, and then Mitchell Hodges, assisted by Brady Fraser, were the Flyer scoring plays in the



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Shaun Garrity earns jiu jitsu black belt in recent ceremony

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Head coach and owner of Huron BJJ in Goderich recently received his black belt credentials on November 25.

Shaun Garrity was presented the black belt at a ceremony in Toronto at the Jiu Jitsu for Life annual tournament.

On average it usually takes 10-15 years to achieve a black belt and Garrity did it in 11 years. He now joins the black belt ranks with Dan Barsky, as the only two black belts in Huron County. Barsky is a member of Huron BJJ.

It was only last year Garrity received his brown belt, and considering he began competing at white belt in 2012, earning his black belt after 11 years is quite an accomplishment.

Garrity received his black belt from a fourth-degree black belt and coach Jorge Britto, who is originally from Brazil and trained with the Gracie family, where Brazilian JJ originated from.

When the gym opened, Garrity was recognized as blue belt, and that brought along some challenges.

According to Garrity, being a blue belt and running a gym is more than hard, as most gyms have a brown or black belt running operations. Most individuals with a blue belt don't know a lot of information, or techniques to teach.

Garrity had to go through the trenches for many years, constantly signing up for tournaments, getting things wrong, losing, and doing through the whirlwind of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu as a blue belt.

"After about eight to 10 competitions, I started to figure things out at blue belt. If you keep trying and trying, things will work out and now they have," said Garrity.

Since its beginning, Huron BJJ has grown from 12 mats in a strength and conditioning gym, twice a week, to the home of two black belts and an academy level with the greatest number of members in the area.

Huron BJJ had 15 competitors in the annual Jiu Jitsu for Life tournament and the club walked away with six golds, two silvers and one bronze.

There were more than 450 competitors at the annual event for the jiu jitsu schools



BLACK BELT (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
Shaun Garrity, owner of Huron BJJ with his black belt and credentials.

that are part of Jiu Jitsu for Life team.

The following Huron BJJ members medalled:

Gold: Georgie Garrity, Genevieve Garrity, Grayson Garrity, Danika Tait, Jacob Denys, and Brett James.

Silver: Gabriella Garrity, Nathaniel McIntyre, Rowan McGill, Shaun Garrity, and Blythe Blaker.

Bronze: Eugene Wong.

Huron BJJ launched in 2017 in a small gym with only 12 and a half mats. Now Huron BJJ is located at 199 Anglesea Street, in a larger complex and has over 130 members.

The term success is becoming synony-

mous with Huron BJJ and its members.

Yet the success that Huron BJJ sees today didn't happen immediately. Garrity said the team was built from the ground up, since its beginning in 2017. The individuals who compete are helping build a competitive team in Goderich.

Huron BJJ has six members attending the 2023 Ontario Provincial Jiu Jitsu Championship in December, which is the last tournament of the year.

"My wife and I have put every single second of our lives into this gym. There hasn't been one day where we don't talk about Jiu Jitsu, where our kids aren't involved in Jiu Jitsu," admitted Garrity.

"Our entire being in this household is Jiu Jitsu."

All four of Garrity's children are training and competing, and Garrity's wife Sarah is now working at the gym, after quitting her full-time job.

"This gym is so much more than it has ever been," admitted Garrity.

Yet, Garrity attributes where the gym is today to the support and memberships made by the entire community.

"All of these people have helped us get to this level that we are at now, and we are one of the most successful schools in Southwestern Ontario with two black belts," added Garrity.

"What a feat, and this is just the beginning."

PROVINCIAL JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE								
NORTH POLLOCK DIVISION								
(Standings through December 15, 2023)								
	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	DIFF	PTS
Hanover Barons	23	18	3	2	107	56	51	38
Mount Forest Patriots	23	18	4	0	103	50	53	37
Kincardine Bulldogs	25	12	8	4	79	73	6	29
Walkerton Capitals	23	12	9	1	73	61	12	26
Wingham Ironmen	25	10	12	1	64	74	-10	23
Fergus Whalers	23	8	11	2	66	75	-9	20
Mitchell Hawks	24	8	12	2	69	84	-15	20
Goderich Junior Flyers	24	2	19	2	35	123	-88	7

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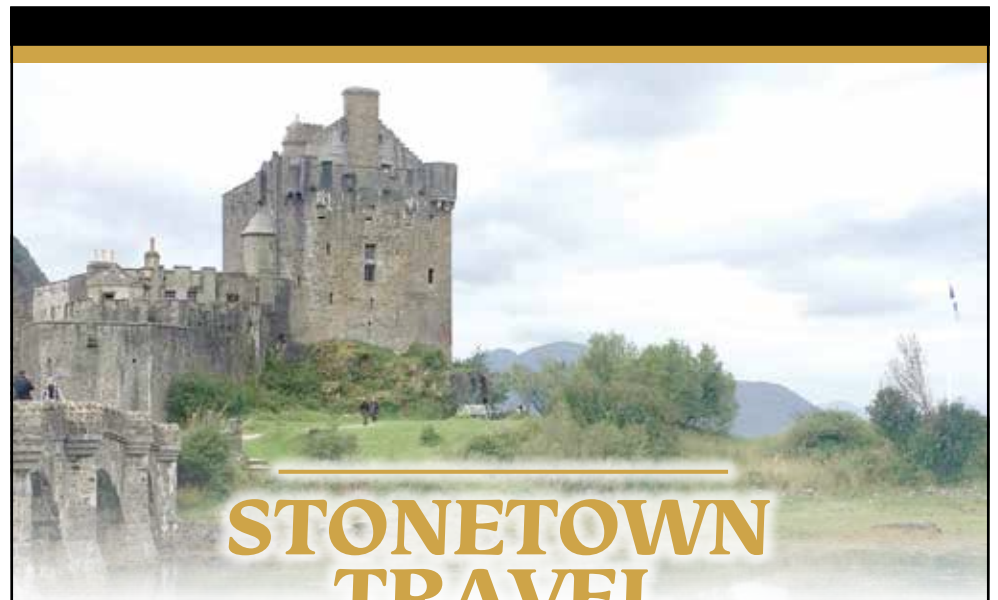
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Photo 1: Bruce Horak, Trish Lindsrom, Randy Hughson
Photo 2: Randy Hughson, Graham Hargrove
Main photo: George Meanwell
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Conscious Creations Art selling stained glass for charity

For the past three months Cindy Pearce, owner of Conscious Creations Art has been making stained glass paw prints, called pawz.

Pearce is selling these creations to raise money for the animal rescue agencies in the area, to help fund agencies that support stray animals, or animals looking for homes and food.

Inspired by the power of creativity to stimulate self-expression and generate connection, Pearce knows that art and creativity make the world a better place.

An artist and teacher, Pearce knows how to patiently help students create projects they can be proud of.

After experiencing her own struggles with mental health, Pearce aims to give back to her community and is actively involved in supporting local community initiatives. Conscious Creations Art is the outpouring of her love of creativity and her desire to share the benefits of art with the area.

As of December 10, Conscious Creations Art has sold out of the 120 pawz. But more orders have been placed and more pawz will be made, and available for purchase.

Going from selling a handful to over 120 for a cause has been worth the work for Pearce.

“This one-person business that was just trying to help out a little has gone from selling four pawz to over 120,” wrote Pearce on a Facebook post.

“We have given money to Allies for Alley Catz and a private lady in Lucknow who has no funding and has over 30 outdoor stray cats. None of this could have happened without all your support.”

Pearce’s creations are \$25 a piece, and so far, she has raised \$1,450.

Visit www.consciouscreationsart.ca for contact information, or Conscious Creations Art on Facebook.



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Hockey Day in Goderich a success

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Goderich Minor Hockey (GMHI) celebrated Hockey Day in Goderich on Saturday, December 2 at the Maitland Recreation Centre (MRC).

Eleven GMHI teams showcased their skills throughout the day, all with favourable outcomes.

The day began with Goderich Sailors U9 facing off against Listowel. Several

other minor hockey games took place at the Maitland Recreation Centre (MRC), split by over an hour of free public skating.

The evening ended with the opportunity to watch the Goderich Junior C Flyers face off against the Wingham Ironmen.

Throughout the day participants in Hockey Day in Goderich were treated to face painting, inflatable mini rink for some fun, and interactive hockey-themed games.

During the weekend events, a food drive

was held and was a success. Cash donations, along with the boxes of canned and dry goods were delivered to the Salvation Army.

“Thank you to all of the families that brought in donations to help support our local food bank,” said Tara Corriveau, Secretary of GMHI.

In addition to the food items collected, a cash donation of \$105 was dropped off to the Salvation Army food bank to help those in need this season.

“Special thanks to all of our volunteers that helped out for an amazing day celebrating the love for the game of hockey,” added Corriveau.

The favourable results from the games throughout the day: U13 LL vs Blyth Brussels (Tied 4-4), U13 Rep vs Huron Bruce (Sailors win 7-1), U15 Rep vs Mount Forest (Sailors win 10-0), and U18 Rep vs Wingham (Sailors win 4-1).



U7 White: Liam Bushey, Mason Duckworth, Ryder Gormley, Kieran Hamilton, Nixon Lavoie, Odin Padfield, Vaughn Regier, Bentley Rogers-Bunn, Noah Snieder, Caleb Sproul, Benson Taylor, Cameron Taylor, and Laurence VandenHeuvel.



U7 Black: Wellesley Anderson-Stanley, Scottie Desrochers, Bennett Ferguson, Cullen Greer, Deacon Greer, Liam Kaneko, Easton Lamb, Reilly Regier, Henricus Van Dieten, Emerson Vanveen, Augustus Witherspoon, and Keshav Banerjee (absent from photo).



Girls from a U8 team enjoying Hockey Day: Harlyn Madge, Ellie Regier, Mallory Harp, Ellie Johnston, and Sophie Reddington.



Skee Puck game from TopShot Hockey.



Goderich Junior C Flyers trying their luck with Skee Puck.



Inflatable mini rink action.

Huronsong Chorus to host benefit Christmas concerts

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

To benefit the Huron Women's Shelter, choral group Huronsong Chorus is hosting two nights of Christmas concerts.

On Monday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian in Goderich, the Huronsong group will sing various Christmas tunes in full choral harmony.

The Goderich concert will also include a few selections sung by COCO Kids under the direction of Capucine Onn.

Admission to the concert is a monetary donation for the Huron Women's Shelter.

"The Chorus is a group that sings for the pure enjoyment of sharing music with each other and with listeners," ex-

plained Deborah Bailey, Director of Huronsong Chorus.

"For the past several years the group has chosen to direct all concert admission revenue to the Huron Women's Shelter and had raised a substantial amount of money for this local, and worthy cause."

Huronsong Chorus started 16 years ago with 12 singers and has continued to grow since. The singing group now is home to approximately 70 singers from all over Huron County.

The group is directed by Deborah Bailey and is accompanied by pianist Lori Millian.

The second night is on Tuesday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Northside United in Seaforth.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

CHRISTMAS BENEFIT

Huronsong Chorus will play host and entertainer to two benefit concerts, one in Goderich and one in Seaforth. Proceeds are for the Huron Women's Shelter.

Book signing at Fincher's



Anne Kay book signing at Fincher's with Scott and Cathy Ryan.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A new historical fiction novel that digs deep into the earliest days of the oil and salt industries in Southwestern Ontario is launched on December 9.

On the launch day, author Anne Kay was available for a book signing at Fincher's.

The Salt Man written by Kay is based on a true story that traces the life of pioneer Peter McEwan from 1852 when he moves from Scotland to Perth County in the 'Province of Canada', to his adventures in the Lambton County oil rush, to his discovery in Goderich of the first rock salt in Canada.

This discovery ignited a salt rush that would change the face of many Southwestern Ontario towns for decades to come.

The Salt Man illuminates oil and salt well drilling and production techniques, and illustrates the courage, ingenuity and resilience of the vibrant men and women who helped shape Canada into the country it is today.



"I know the paper is free, but can I get a subscription anyways?"

Yes. We understand that some people might like the convenience of the Goderich Sun arriving at their home (located near or far) through Canada Post, so we do have subscriptions available for this purpose. The price for the next 13 issues is \$26.00 + GST = \$27.30.

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Thank You for supporting the Goderich Legion



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- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 109 County of Huron
- Municipality of Ashfield-Colborne- West Wawanosh
- Municipality of Central Huron
- Ontario Provincial Police Association
- Royal Canadian Air Cadets Squadron # 532
- Goderich Volunteer Fire Fighters Association
- Canadian Coast Guard
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- Masonic Lodge #309
- Salvation Army
- TD Canada Trust
- United Way
- Goderich Honda
- Goderich Toyota
- Alzheimer Society of Huron Perth
- Century 21 Westcoast Realty
- Zehrs
- Goderich Place Retirement
- Falconer Funeral Home
- Royal Lepage Heartland Realty
- YMCA
- Hyundai of Goderich
- Gateway

Thank You to all that made Legion Week a huge success!

- The Ladies Auxiliary to Branch 109
- Elaine Munn
- Dorothy McCarmen
- Bev Whitstone
- Judy Austin
- Marg Prouse
- Ben Prouse
- Susan Harman
- Carol Moore
- Diane Leddy
- Diane Mills
- Marian Miriam
- Bev Yeo
- Cheryl Johnston
- Donna McPhee
- Dianne Drennon
- Linda K
- Tammy Thynne
- Barb Young
- Ferguson Plumbing & Heating
- Goderich Sevice Centre
- March Apparel
- Culbert's Bakery
- Micro Age Basics
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- David Yates
- Bob Fowler
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- Paul Thorne
- Craig Soldan OPP
- Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health
- Goderich Fire Department
- Benn Lobb
- Irish Cowboys
- Chris Mabb
- The Cover Ups
- Al Widmeyer
- Randy Satchell
- Mike Weber
- Country Junction
- Del Rays
- Travis Teed & friends



Letters to Santa and Christmas Artwork from Goderich Public School

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the reindeer? How are the elves?
I am going to ask my dad to make your gingersnap or gingerbread cookies.
I will also leave you some milk.
This year I would like a magic mixie, magic lamp please.
Thank you for all the gifts you gave me last year.
Have a great Christmas, I am excited to see what you bring me this year.
Thank you,
Love Autumn.

Dear Santa,
How are you? I really hope you are well.
Can I have one of these three things please?
I would like Robux, Vbux, or money in rec room.
Why didn't you get me a present last year or the year before?
I will make sure to give you extra cookies, extra milk, and extra carrots for you and the reindeer.
From,
Henry

Dear Santa,
How are you? This year I will leave you some Oreo cookies.
I am writing to ask for a plush. I really want one to play with.
Thank you for all of the gifts you gave me last year.
I have been really good this year. I am listening to my teacher and my parents too.
Please say hi to everyone at the North Pole.
From,
Killian

Dear Santa,
How are you and everybody at the North Pole?
I am to ask for a little magic mixie. I will love playing with it.
I am working really hard at school.
Thank you for all of the gifts that you gave me last year.
I am excited to see what you leave me this year.
From,
Haylee

Dear Santa,
How are you? Do you have a naughty list or a nice?
How old are you? Do you have a favourite elf?
I would like a magic mixie.
Thank you for all of the presents that you left me last year.
I was really good this year.
I will leave cookies and milk again for you.
Love,
Anna Boyer

Dear Santa,
How are you this year?
I am going to leave you cookies and milk. I will also leave carrots for the reindeer.
This year I am writing to ask for a new blue scooter like my sister's scooter please.
Thank you for the gifts last year.
I really liked them all.
I am excited to see what is in my stocking this year.
From,
Noah

Dear Santa,
Is everyone in the North Pole ok? I hope so!
I would like either one of these two things: Lego Mario worker set or dragonoid maximus ventus.
I am fine with either one. I am ok with either one.
I am trying my best to be good this year. Thank you for every gift that you gave me last year.
From,
Logan
P.S. Please say hi to everyone at the North Pole.

Dear Santa,
How is everything at the North Pole? Is Rudolph real?
I am writing to thank you for all of the toys you brought me last year!
My teacher says I have been really good this year.
I am excited to see what you leave me this year.
From,
Walker Powell

Dear Santa,
Hello, this is Avery here.
I really wanted to tell you what I want most for Christmas.
I was hoping your elves could make me a realistic doll.
It has been my dream to be a mother. Santa if you really are seeing this, I just want you to know...you make Christmas a miracle!
Merry Christmas!
From,
Avery

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa. How are you? I hope you had a good year.
Thank you for the presents last year. I will be at my great grandma's new house I think.
I will leave you cookies and milk, as usual.
I would like a recorder. I would be so happy.
I can't wait to see what is under the tree.
Thank you for the presents.
Alia Abbas

Dear Santa,
How are you? I will try to leave you Oreo cookies and some milk this year.
I would like a Funko Pop Advent Calendar.
My mom said I have been good this year.
Thank you for all of the gifts you gave me last year.
Please say hi to everyone at the North Pole.
From,
Braydan

To Santa,
How are you? This year I will leave you cookies and chocolate milk.
I am writing you a letter to ask for a touchscreen Chrome-book.
I will use it to send you more letters and questions.
Thank you!
Looking forward talking to you next year.
Love,
Sloane

To Santa,
Hi Santa, how are you?
I will leave you some cookies again.
Can I please have a magic mixie or a squishmallow, please?
Hope you have a Happy New Year!
Thank you!
Love,
Vivian

Dear Santa,
How are you? Is Rudolph real?
This year I am writing to ask for digital circus Lego.
Thank you for all of the gifts that you brought to me last year.
I have worked so hard to be good this year.
Please say hi to everyone at the North Pole.
I am excited to see what you leave me this year.
From,
Riker



From:

Riker
Gr. 3
Goderich
PS



From Killian
Gr. 3
Goderich
PS



and the reindeer.

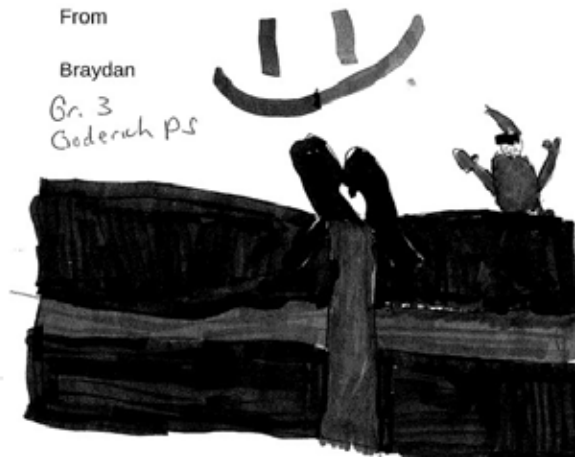
From Henry
Gr. 3
Goderich PS

Noah
Gr. 3
Goderich
PS

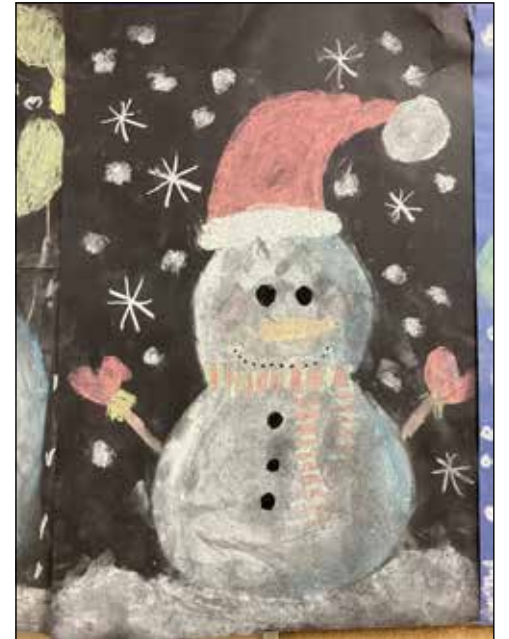
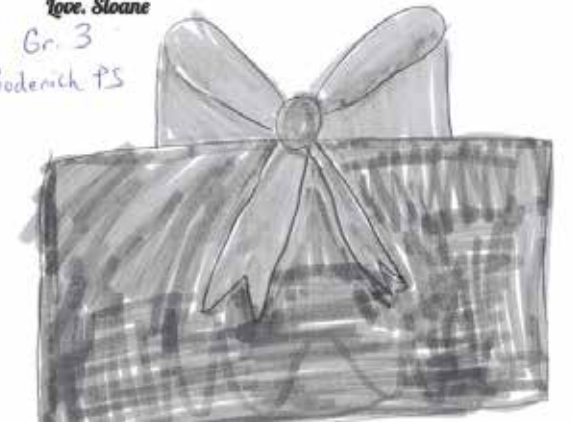


From

Braydan
Gr. 3
Goderich PS



Igor. Sloane
Gr. 3
Goderich PS





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Awards season approaches: A look at the Golden Globe film nominations

ROB MCAULEY

Sun Contributor

With the end of the year upon us, we are hearing about the various awards nominations.

The Golden Globe nominations just dropped, and they cover some great films. Let's dive into their film categories.

Cinematic and Box Office Achievement:

The Globes have always divided films into Musical/Comedy, Drama, and Animation.

This year, they've added a third grouping for Blockbusters - or as they call it: "Cinematic and Box Office Achievement".

This avoids audience complaints about smaller indie films that may only play festivals taking the biggest awards.

That latter category has room for eight nominations, and they have all played at The Park in Goderich this year:

- Barbie
- Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3
- John Wick: Chapter 4
- Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part 1
- Oppenheimer
- Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse
- Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie

All these films had mass appeal, and most were well-reviewed, but **Barbie** was the only film on the list that had sold out dates at The Park.

It really was fun, and appealed to all ages and genders. It is my pick as the best

Blockbuster.

Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy:

This is always my favourite category. I always love subversive comedies and there are some great ones here.

- Air
- American Fiction
- Barbie
- The Holdovers
- May December
- Poor Things

The People's Choice Award at TIFF usually predicts winners and nominees at awards time. This year's winner was **American Fiction**. Second place went to **The Holdovers**.

May December and Poor Things may be too hard for some people to watch, but they do look fun.

I think that the TIFF audiences have this one nailed, and American Fiction will prevail.

Best Motion Picture - Drama:

This is a tough category to predict. All these films are excellent, and many have won best picture awards in other competitions.

- Anatomy of a Fall
- Killers of the Flower Moon
- Past Lives
- The Zone of Interest
- Maestro
- Oppenheimer

People have been raving about Past Lives since it premiered at the Sundance Festival in January, and it was our Livery Film Fest feature for November.

Anatomy of a Fall won the Cannes Palme d'Or. We hope to show it at the Livery Film Fest on January 25.

All the others are great, but **Killers of the Flower Moon** was a very personal undertaking for director Martin Scorsese. He rewrote the script to show things from the Osage Nation's point of view, and it worked.

It should win for Best Drama.

Best Motion Picture - Animated:

This category has everything from film festival favourites to high-gloss blockbusters.

- The Boy and the Heron
- Elemental
- Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie
- Suzume
- Wish

The Boy and the Heron was the second runner up (after American Fiction and The Holdovers) for the TIFF People's Choice Awards.

It was directed by Studio Ghibli co-founder, 82-year-old Hayao Miyazaki. People are hoping for this film to do well as a tribute to him.

Wish is currently playing at The Park in the lead-up to the Christmas holidays.

Interesting that the Marvel franchise was not involved in Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse. It was put out by Sony, and not Disney.

The animation is so inventive, designed to look like a comic book and not the normal glossy Marvel/Disney appearance. The plot is loads of fun, and I'd like it to

win, but I expect **The Boy and the Heron** will win as a thank you to its director.

Best Director - Motion Picture:

There is quite a range in films and styles in the films that these folks worked on.

- Bradley Cooper - Maestro
- Greta Gerwig - Barbie
- Yorgos Lanthimos - Poor Things
- Christopher Nolan - Oppenheimer
- Martin Scorsese - Killers of the Flower Moon
- Celine Song - Past Lives

Barbie was so tongue-in-cheek and cartoonish, but it worked as it laughed at itself.

Yorgos Lanthimos was nominated for his previous film: The Favourite.

Christopher Nolan has been nominated previously for Dunkirk (but also has other nominations for Memento and Inception).

Greta Gerwig was previously nominated for director of Lady Bird, and writer of Little Women.

Martin Scorsese has a list of Oscar nominations a mile long but has only won once for directing The Departed. It's time he won another for Killers of the Flower Moon.

What films do you hope the Livery Film Fest will bring to Goderich? Drop us a line.

Rob McAuley
rob@rmcauley.ca

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

Better Mental Health: Mindfulness



TANYA MACINTYRE,
RED ROOF RECOVERY

Sun Contributor

An ancient philosopher once advised to, "Fill your needs, and empty your wants."

With that thought provoking statement, what are you doing to fill your needs, and how can we empty our wants?

These are questions worthy of some contemplation.

Today, I'm now five years consecutively-free from addictions, and that only came after more

than eight years of relapsing.

I used to blame those relapses on my job, on my family, on my circumstances, on the 12-step programs, but it was never my fault.

When I had my first residential-treatment experience at a rehab centre in 2009, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) was the only 'model of recovery' available. It was a 30-day stay that, thankfully, started to lay the foundation for what has now become my recovery journey.

My last relapse happened in 2018, after I had attended three funerals in as many months for my peers who hadn't returned from a relapse.

I knew it was just a matter of time before I didn't return from one of my relapses, so I went in search of a secular (evidence-based) program that I could bring to my community.

It was then that I wanted to not only help myself, but to also offer help to others who were not hav-

ing success with their recovery.

I resonated with a program called SMART (Self-Management And Recovery Training), because it was based on CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapies).

CBT sounds complicated, but cognition is just perception & thoughts. CBT teaches you how to notice your thoughts, question your thoughts, and reprogram your negative self-talk into more helpful patterns of thinking.

One component of CBT is the practice of mindfulness. Mindfulness can help us recognize that a lot of our thinking is spent either living in the past or living in the future.

Both of those past and future tendencies can contribute to conditions like depression, anxiety, and addiction.

When we practice mindfulness, we learn how to pay attention, on purpose, in the present moment, without judgement. It's a way to feel more focused, more con-

nected to the present moment, and more mentally stable.

Mindfulness practice has helped me to fill my needs and empty my wants. I'm grateful to Jon Kabat-Zinn who founded MBSR (Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction) at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. One of his students, Dave Potter, developed an online training course in MBSR that is completely free.

I decided to start the year with a commitment to do this eight-week MBSR Course. This is a self-managed program, completely free, and available online ~ to do when you want to do it: <https://palousemindfulness.com>

Even though I practice mindfulness, I've never completed this eight-week program, so I'm inviting you to join me as an accountability partner to start the New Year.

Accountability has always been a good discipline for me, so I hope you'll join me on this journey and

stay accountable with me.

Starting January 1 at 2:30 p.m. Email me for the zoom link at info@redroofrecovery.com.

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

YOU are the force.

About the Author:

After 20+ years in broadcasting, I decided to pack up negative news and progressive addictions. My recovery kicked into high gear when I decided to

write & speak openly about my challenges and my success to overcome addictions. I now help others who want to build their own path to recovery and better health.

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

Visit us online at www.goderichsun.com

Newcomer Support Association in Huron looking for volunteers

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

In early 2022 the Huron County Immigration Partnership hosted meetings to address questions after Russia invaded Ukraine.

These meetings addressed people looking to help the millions of people fleeing Ukraine. Huron County's Immigration Partnership works to strengthen the community's capacity to welcome immigrants and refugees.

This fall, a group of active volunteers explored how to form a more autonomous volunteer organization with the flexibility to respond to future migration crises as well as the current one in Ukraine.

This process results in the creation of the Huron Newcomer Support Association.

The association's mandate is to welcome and help newcomers from outside Canada who are settling in Huron County without other support.

Halina Zaleski told the Goderich Sun about her experience working with the



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Zaleski's Ukrainian "grandchildren" enjoy time at the beach in Goderich.

newly formed Huron County Newcomer Support Association.

"Most people outside southwestern Ontario have never heard of Goderich, or Huron County, so newcomers need a reference or point of contact," explained Zaleski.

"People, especially those of Ukrainian heritage in Huron County, have reached out through personal contacts. Some newcomers find Huron County through personal contacts, and then look for organizations to help them."

The Huron County Immigration Partnership has reached out to organizations, such as the Ukrainian Diaspora Support Canada in Ottawa, and the Cross-Cultural Learning Centre in London. Both these organizations have referred newcomers to Huron County, and specifically Goderich.

Zaleski explained that the newly formed association plans to be a visible contact for all newcomers needing support, yet it needs volunteers to run smoothly.

The first Ukrainian family arrived in May 2022 and since then at least 85 more families have joined them, with the help of countless volunteers who have helped with transportation, housing, and English language skills.

However, since then, some challenges arose, including how to house the refugees, find jobs for them, transportation, and language barriers. It was clear that to assist newcomers locally, volunteers were needed.

As the list of refugees grew, not only was volunteer availability a challenge, but several key obligations expected by funders, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada were in jeopardy of not being fulfilled.

According to the Huron County Immigration Partnership, it was deemed important to ensure that one group of new-

comers fleeing conflict and hardship was not given priority over another group of newcomers.

The association is staffed by volunteers and acts as a touchstone to link newcomers to agencies and programs that can provide the services they need for a successful transition to life in the area.

Individual volunteers are essential to provide transportation, housing, translation, and a welcoming environment.

According to Zaleski, transportation is a major challenge and volunteer drivers have stepped up to help, as newcomers do not have a valid Ontario driver's licence, nor do they have a car.

"Newcomers from Ukraine are often mothers who come with young children while the fathers remain in Ukraine," Zaleski explained.

Driving needs include picking up from the airport, driving to offices and appointments, and sometimes daily driving.

Housing is another important need, and hosts have stepped up to provide temporary housing, usually for three months.

Zaleski and her husband have hosted two families from Ukraine, each a mother with young children.

"Our own grandson is a six-hour drive away, so we love having instant grandchildren right in our home," Zaleski said.

Resources include providing support upon referral, assisting transportation coordination, temporary housing, and partnering with existing local services for newcomers.

Fluent in Polish, which has about 70 per cent vocabulary overlap with Ukrainian, Zaleski added that it makes communication possible.

But for those who are not fluent, hosts and volunteers turn to mobile phone translation apps, supplemented by hand-waving.

The process of resettling somewhere new, where the language is different,

the rules and laws are strange, and having no community to fall back on for support can be quite difficult.

Newcomers require a SIM card for a phone, a social insurance number, OHIP for health

a library card, a driver's licence, immigration medical, English classes, school

registration, program applications, job searching, family doctor searching, housing search, and the list goes on.

"As a host family we assisted with a lot of this, but also depended on other volunteers and organizations," added Zaleski.

"The Centre for Employment and Learning has been an amazing resource."

For those interested in getting involved in the association, volunteers are a key element to the success of assisting newcomers to the county.

The association is looking for two levels of volunteer involvement: Nine steering group members and general members.

To identify and seek opportunities to further understand newcomer needs, the steering group will meet at least four times a year. Roles will include a chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, transportation lead, housing/hosting lead, communication lead and two members at large. Terms will stagger to ensure continuity.

General members will be volunteers interested in working to help newcomers with specific needs.

The meeting in November was an information session. The first steering group to lead the association will be elected in January.

Currently, Huron County has a lot of support for newcomers, including the Local Immigration Partnership, and the Huron County Library offers English conversation circles.

The Centre for Employment and Learning offers English classes, help with resumes, and job searches.

Service Organizations such as the Lions Club offers the newcomer emergency support fund, and the YMCA offers special memberships.

Faith groups such as Salvation Army offers clothing and support, and Knox Presbyterian Church offers a meeting space.

The newly formed association of volunteers is the branch between newcomers and the resources that will ensure for a smooth transition to living in Goderich and Huron County.

As each family has different needs as they come into Huron County life, the resources available are key for settling in successfully.

One mother Zaleski hosted was a professional engineer in Ukraine and was snapped up by a local engineering firm. All she needed to do was go to settings in the engineering design program on her computer, click on Russian and start working.

To work in customer service, another mother had to first polish up on her English. She has now been recognized by management as one of the best employees in the region.

The children have needs too. Learning to speak English in a new school and make new friends can be daunting.

"A six-year-old child waking up during a thunderstorm, terrified that it was a rocket attack, reminds us why we do this," added Zaleski.

For those interested in helping newcomers, the association can be reached at huronwelcome@gmail.com

Season's greetings from the very merry team at the Canadian Tire Gas Bar!

You keep us glowing and bright all year round and we look forward to meeting your convenience and fuel needs in the coming year.

Happy Holidays and New Year!

-Todd, Joanne, and staff




Riddles

Why did the tightrope walker visit the bank?
He wanted to get his balance

Why did Patrick eat money?
His mom said it was his lunch money.

Why can't computers play tennis?
They try to surf the net.

What does the Invisible Man drink at snack time?
Evaporated milk.

What kind of running means walking
Running out of gas.

What goes up and down but never moves?
The stairs

Why did the kid put his head into the piano?
He wanted to play by ear.

Why did the kid run to school?
Because he was chased by the spelling bee.

What did the tie say to the hat?
"You go on a head and I'll hang around here."

Where do snowmen keep their money?
In a snowbank.

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 31

Pet of the Month



ARLO

Arlo is a 4 month old English Bulldog. He lives with his "brother from another mother" 173 lb. Great Dane Alvie, and his human parents Niki and Sean.

Submitted by Joanne Graf
(fur grandma)



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

Word Search

EASTERN NHL

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

- Bruins**
- Panthers**
- Red Wings**
- Maple Leafs**
- Lightning**
- Candians**
- Sabres**
- Senators**
- Rangers**
- Hurricanes**
- Flyers**
- Capitals**
- Islanders**
- Penguins**
- Devils**
- Blue Jackets**



**Branch 109
Goderich**

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 109 (Goderich)

56 Kingston Street, Goderich, ON N7A 3K4 519-524-9282
Serving Veterans and the community since 1927!

THANK YOU!

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 109 (Goderich) thanks the citizens of Goderich and area; the merchants who displayed Poppy boxes and/or put a Remembrance display in their store window; and the Legion volunteers who have given countless hours organizing the Poppy campaign; getting supplies and poppy trays ready and distributed, and standing at local stores to offer poppies to those wishing one. Through your efforts and generous support, we were able to raise over \$43,451.75.

Your donations are deposited into a trust fund to be used for the benevolent support of Veterans and their dependents, including:

- Financial assistance to serving and former Veterans and their families who are in financial distress. Grants are also available to those who qualify - for food, heating costs, clothing, prescription medicines, medical supplies and equipment, essential home repairs and emergency shelter.
- Support for our homeless Veterans through our "Leave the Streets Behind" program.
- Social events for our local Veterans.
- Support for our youth in the form of bursaries, literary, and poster contests.
- Support to the 532 Maitland Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

In addition to the prime objective of service to our Veterans and their dependents, Branch 109 and the Ladies Auxiliary to Branch 109 have also supported local organizations and groups in our community. Through other fundraising efforts throughout the year, to date we have been able to support the following to name a few,

- Huron Hospice;
- Alexandra Marine & General Hospital Foundation;
- St. Vincent de Paul's food drive;
- Salvation Army Christmas Appeal;
- Local schools and local youth sport organizations;
- Crime Stoppers Huron-Perth;
- Victims Services Huron-Perth;
- Community Living;
- Young Canada Hockey Week;
- Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum;

We do make a difference, but we couldn't do all this without our members and our volunteers and your continued support.

We take this opportunity, if you are not currently a member, to invite you to join the Legion. You don't have to be a Veteran to join and show your support; just come to Branch 109 and ask for a membership application, complete it and bring it back to the Branch.

Lest We Forget!

Sunset of the Month



A lesson in contrast at Goderich Main Beach, taken by Cathy Boote. Titled 'The storm raging all around, and then this'. (CREDIT: Cathy Boote/Facebook)

**To submit your sunset photos email
kate@goderichsun.com**

Seasons Greetings

 SHANA BARNIM* 519-440-8138	 JAMES BUCHANAN* 519-955-0999	 KRISTY DALEY* 519-955-1149	 MICHELLE NESBITT* 519-955-0651	 WERNER RITGEN* 519-524-3759
 BRIANNE WEBBER* 519-872-7307	 JEFF BAUER*** 519-525-7448	 KATHY DAWSON** 519-524-3369	 MELISSA DAER* 519-525-1774	 JAROD MCMANUS* 226-963-1209
 LAYNE LAVIS* 519-525-1650	 BRIAN COX* 519-274-0845	 RACHAEL BRIDGE* 416-573-6773	 <p>Check out our listings and agents</p>	



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OBITUARY



ELEANOR ERSKINE

It is with tremendous gratitude for a life well lived, but also with deep sorrow, that the family of Eleanor Erskine (Fuller) announce her passing on December 9, 2023 at the Alexandra Marine & General Hospital, Goderich. Eleanor was the beloved wife of Bruce Erskine (2020) and loving mother of Peter (2011). Eleanor was born to Harvey and Grace Fuller of Goderich Township, Ontario on May 19, 1931. She was raised with her brother Ron and two sisters Isabelle and Jean. Eleanor is survived by her daughter, Mary Jane (Mark) Westbrook. Grand Daughters, Alexis and Nicole (Navid). Daughter in-law Elizabeth (Brent) Wilson and Grandson Patrick Erskine (Samantha). Treasured by her Great Grandchildren, Liam, Claudia, Isla Erskine and Wyatt Voutier. She is also remembered by her special nephew Bill and several other nieces and nephews. Eleanor lived a wonderful life serving many community projects as well as being a cub leader and a Sunday School teacher for a number of years. Close to her heart was her volunteer work serving as a board member with Community Living Central Huron. An avid bridge player receiving her certified director certificate 1984 and Life Master in 1994 in the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). In lieu of flowers donations to Knox Presbyterian Church, Goderich, Community Living Central Huron or charity of choice are gratefully acknowledged by the family. There will be no funeral home visitation. A private family service will be held at a later date, cremation has taken place.

WWW.GODERICH.SUN.COM

COMING EVENTS

Homemade Holidays

Make festive crafts this holiday season at the Goderich Library. Saturday, December 16 and Wednesday, December 20. Contact the Goderich Branch to register. (519-524-9261)

A Huron County Christmas Carol

This Christmas classic returns to the Blyth Festival stage until December 22. Adapted from the Charles Dickens classic and directed by Gil Garrett with live, original music by John Powers. December 15 at 8 p.m. December 16 at 2 p.m. and at 8 p.m. December 17 at 2 p.m. December 19 at 2 p.m. December 20 at 2 p.m.

December 21 at 2 p.m. and at 8 p.m. December 22 at 2 p.m. and at 8 p.m.

Huronsong Chorus and Friends

A night of Christmas music to support The Huron Women's Shelter. December 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian in Goderich. December 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Northside United in Seaforth.

New Year's Eve at The Livery

Dancing through the Decades at The Livery. December 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Polar Plunge at the Beach

Monday, January 1 from 10 a.m. until 12

p.m. at the Goderich Waterfront. Returning for the second year to raise funds for Huron and Area Search and Rescue (HASAR) and the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth. Plunge into the brisk water of Lake Huron and enjoy New Year's morning.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Abraham Lincoln
- 2) Canada
- 3) Goldmember
- 4) Mars
- 5) 4
- 6) The "@" symbol
- 7) Scotland
- 8) Albatross
- 9) 11
- 10) Brown

SERVICES

Have you been affected by someone else's drinking? Al-Anon Family Groups could help YOU! Call for time and place. 1-800-706-9833 or App Available



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Tune into "On the Go in Two" for local news, views and interviews... and the greatest music under the sun! Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 10 a.m. to noon Listen at www.Sunview102.com

You're Invited!

Community Christmas Service

Sunday December 17, 2023
6:00pm

231 Bayfield Road, Goderich Ontario
N7A 3G5
goderichcalvary@gmail.com
www.cbcdgoderich.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Email to inquire info@goderichsun.com

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edwardjones.ca/becky-deighton

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SUDOKU

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

ADVERTISE HERE FOR AS LOW AS \$15 PER ISSUE!
Contact: info@goderichsun.com to inquire.

*From our family to yours,
have a safe and happy holiday season.*



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