



Goderyich Sun

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DECEMBER 1, 2023

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United Way prepares for Coldest Night event in Goderyich

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) encourages Goderyich and area residents to bundle up and walk on February 24. The Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) is a family-friendly fundraising event in support of local people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness.

“We’re very excited to have CNOY back for a fifth year,” said Michelle Millar, UWPH Manager of Community Development, Goderyich and area.

“Chronic homelessness continues to be a pressing issue locally, and everyone has embraced Coldest Night and how we can all play a part in making sure the right supports are available when people need them.”

The fundraising goal this year is \$130,000.

The event this year includes an in-person walk on February 24, as well as the choice to walk any time, any distance during the month of February.

For the in-person walk, event check-in begins at 4 p.m. at the Goderyich Legion, with opening ceremonies at 5 p.m.

By walking, participants may better understand the experience of being on the streets during a cold Canadian winter, while raising funds to aid UWPH’s local work in support of the Huron Homelessness Initiative in Goderyich.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



Santa Claus rounds out the Santa Claus parade in Goderyich on November 18

(TOWN OF GODERICH PHOTO)

Celebrating Nurse Practitioners in Goderyich

The Maitland Valley Medical Centre recognized all the dedicated Nurse Practitioners who continuously ensure residents of Goderyich have first-class service.

Nurse Practitioners are on the front lines of health care, providing patients with access to primary, acute, long-term and speciality care.

Matt Hoy, Executive Director of Maitland Valley Family Health Team expressed pleasure of hosting the recognition event.

“Nurse Practitioners form an integral part of the health care system and will be even more important to the health care landscape in the future,” said Hoy.

“We are most fortunate to have such a talented group of primary care providers in Goderyich and area.”

To honour their many contributions to the health of the community, Goderyich recognized the critical role

of Nurse Practitioners as part of the annual Nurse Practitioner Week from November 12 until November 18.

In November Mayor Trevor Bazinet was given a tour of the Maitland Valley Medical Centre to provide him with valuable information about some of the programs offered at the facility.

“The Town of Goderyich is fortunate to have so many wonderful Nurse Practitioners providing health care to so many people in need,” said Bazinet.

“It was a pleasure to attend the Maitland Valley Medical Centre to recognize and express my gratitude.”

Currently, more than 4,952 Nurse Practitioners in Ontario are increasing access to equitable, person-centered, high-quality health care.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

Don't miss our Christmas Issue on December 15th

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Goderyich Sun

Celebrating Nurse Practitioners in Goderich

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

These practitioners are registered nurses with advanced university education and experience. They provide a full range of health care services to individuals, families, and communities.

“Nurse Practitioners are on the front lines of health care delivery,” added Bazinet.

“I do not have a family doctor, but I do have a Nurse Practitioner, Sharon Moore. I am thankful for the healthcare she has provided me over the past several years.”

Nurse Practitioners address needs relating to a person’s physical or mental health, gather medical history, explore how an illness affects a person’s life and family, offer ways to lead a healthier life, and educate people related to their health.

Nurse Practitioners can diagnose, order, and interpret diagnostic tests, prescribe complex treatments, and perform specialized medical procedures.

Research shows that Nurse Practitioners improve timely access to high-quality,



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

RECOGNIZING THE VALUE

Nurse Practitioners during Nurse Practitioner Week all wearing blue in recognition of World Diabetes Day. (L-R): Matt Hoy, Executive Director, Danielle Lamont (NP Student), Dan Barsky, Kendal Schlosser (Palliative Care Outreach Team), Patricia Robinson, Marie Greer King (AMGH), Stephanie Greenfield, Meaghan Ingram, Kari Johnson, Sharon Moore, Irene Brooks, Debbie Selkirk, Mayor Trevor Bazinet.

cost-effective care in a broad range of health care models.

Nurse Practitioner week is an excellent time to recognize the value they bring to health care and to showcase the important work they do for their communities.

Community invited to provide input on Goderich’s downtown revitalization

Members of the community were invited to provide input into a vision for Goderich’s downtown streetscape during four days of consultation scheduled for November 28 until December 1 at the Goderich Legion.

Town Council recently approved a recommendation from the Rebuilding Downtown Infrastructure Task Force that BM-ROSS retain GSP Group for its landscape architecture services.

GSP Group from Kitchener specializes in planning, urban design and landscape architecture.

Among its landscape projects are the Stratford Market Square, Larch Street Woonerf at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo and New Amherst Community in Cobourg.

GSP Group will hold a charette process, a series of brainstorming sessions with the groups that

represent different interests in the downtown’s design.

Over the four days GSP led a series of one-hour consultation sessions with the public, downtown core property owners, restaurants, offices, retailers, Town staff and Council. These meetings result in a draft concept plan for the landscape architecture.

“This is an important visioning process that will reshape the

heart of our town,” said Trevor Bazinet, Goderich Mayor.

“While we are doing the necessary work to replace the aging infrastructure, this is an opportunity to create a strong vision for the downtown’s design to suit the community needs for today and well into the future.”

The final day of the charette process is reserved for input into the draft concept plan, which will lead to a streetscape concept plan

that will be followed during the rebuilding of Goderich’s downtown.

A full meeting schedule is online on the Town’s website.

Goderich Town Council has approved a plan to complete the bulk of infrastructure construction in 2025 and 2026, with final details completed in time for the Town’s Bicentennial in 2027.

THE BLYTH FESTIVAL PRESENTS
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*Uh oh...
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Photo of Randy Hughson by Terry Manzo

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Goderich Sun

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Salvation Army launches Christmas Kettle Campaign

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The Salvation Army launched its 2023 Christmas Kettle Campaign at Zehrs Goderich on November 17.

Last year the campaign raised over \$68,000 to support local services. To meet increasing needs, the goal this year is \$85,000.

Mayor Trevor Bazinet made the first donation of the campaign, along with Zehrs Manager Jim Bissett.

“We are very grateful for the generous support of the community as we work together to meet the increasing need,” said Captain Joseph Ludlow.

“We are also very grateful for our volunteers who help us make this campaign possible.”

Money raised during the kettle campaign stays local, helping vital programs that serve people in need throughout the whole year.

Funds raised assist people with food, clothing, and shelter.

As costs continue to increase, so does the need. Last Christmas the Salvation



CHRISTMAS KETTLE

The Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle was launched on November 17 at Goderich Zehrs. (L-R): Captain Joe Ludlow, Captain Donna Ludlow, Zehrs Manager Jim Bissett, and Mayor Trevor Bazinet.

(KATHLEEN SMITH PHOTO)

Army provided more than 230 Christmas Hampers and more than 190 Toy Hampers

through the local communities of Goderich, Clinton, and Kincardine.

The Salvation Army also provides backpacks to kids and winter coats to individuals or families in need.

“With the cost of inflation, the Kettle Campaign is more important now than ever,” explained Mayor Trevor Bazinet.

“The amount of people and families struggling to make ends meet is increasing. The Christmas season is a magical time of year, but it can also be a sad time for many who cannot afford the necessities let alone buy gifts. The Kettle Drive is a way for the more fortunate to help the people in need.”

The Christmas Kettle Campaign runs through to December 23. Kettles will be in stores around Goderich, Clinton and Kincardine.

According to the Salvation Army, there is a need for Christmas Kettle volunteers. Over 1,100 volunteer hours are needed to make this campaign possible.

To register as a volunteer, visit the Salvation Army at 303 Suncoast Drive East, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., or by calling 519-891-0127.

United Way prepares for Coldest Night event in Goderich

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The initiative provides programs such as shelter for women and children, emergency shelter during the cold months, transitional housing for men and housing support.

Last year, thanks to the effort of 291 walkers, 53 teams and 1,483 donors, last year's event raised \$126,145.

Once again, Steve and Mary's on the Square will provide home-

cooked soup for participants to stop and enjoy during their walk. There will also be a social, and music event at the Legion following the walk. Details to follow.

Walkers can choose a two, or five-kilometre route around Courthouse Square.

Participants raising over \$150, or \$75 for youth under 18, receive a CNOY toque.

To register as an individual, or a team, visit cnoy.org



it's cold out there
feb. 24, 2024
#cnoy24

Season's Greetings

The Staff of the **Maitland Valley Medical Centre** would like to thank our patients and the community for the privilege of serving them during the past year and we look forward to continuing to improve the health of our community in the year to come.

The offices of the Maitland Valley Family Health Team Holiday Hours:

- Monday December 25th – Closed
- Tuesday December 26th – Closed
- Wednesday December 27 to 29 - Open regular hours
- Monday January 1st – Closed
- Tuesday January 2nd – Open regular hours

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Goderich Sun
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info@goderichsun.com
www.goderichsun.com

Publisher

Stewart Grant

Editor

Kathleen Smith

Graphic Design / Layout

Sarah Cairns

Administrative

Wendy Lamond, Cindy Boakes

Advertising Inquiries

Contact info@goderichsun.com or call/text
Stewart Grant at 519-868-1290

Contributors

Annette Gerdis, Tanya MacIntyre, David Yates, Paul Knowles, Nancy Abra (if interested in contributing to the Goderich Sun, please send us a note at info@goderichsun.com)



@ Goderich Sun



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Letters to the Editor: Please email to info@goderichsun.com, or send to our physical office at the St. Marys Independent, PO Box 2310, 36 Water Street South, St. Marys, ON N4X 1A2.

Upcoming Issues:

Friday, December 15, 2023 (Christmas Issue)
Friday, January 5, 2024
Friday, February 2, 2024
Friday, March 1, 2024

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Editorial

Sharing good fortune with those who have less this Christmas

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Every year Christmas can bring excitement, anticipation, love, social events, giving and sharing, joy and a focus on family-time.

For others it can be a time of loneliness, isolation, disappointment, and it can be overwhelmingly stressful with financial duress.

Maybe we need to consider what makes Christmas meaningful to us.

Perhaps it is focusing on the birth of Jesus and understanding the true meaning of Christmas?

Perhaps for others it is time with family or friends?

Perhaps its receiving presents?

When I was younger the joy of Christmas came from what my parents did to make it magical for my siblings and me.

As I got older, I found out the work and sacrifice involved in making Christmas a magical time for our family, and the realization of how much my parents gave each year, not just to us but to others, who were in need.

It made me realize that sometimes the best joy at Christmas can be what we do for others, just to see a smile on their face, or to see a moment of joy in someone else's eyes.

But as this holiday season rolls around, I must remind myself to extend

to those in our community, who are struggling, and not just the ones who are closest to me.

It doesn't have to be extravagant, or expensive, but it could be something that makes people feel seen, feel wanted, and a part of this community.

There are countless foodbanks like St. Vincent de Paul and Salvation Army, and little pantries around town that could use donations that might make a difference in someone's Christmas meal planning.

There are businesses in town, like Steve and Mary's on the Square offering free meals to those in need, to ensure they get a Christmas dinner.

There are other businesses in town attempting to raise donations or funds for Christmas hampers to make Christmas a little less stressful for those struggling financially.

Some grocery stores have taken it upon themselves to collect food or donations towards food bags for those in need. Some businesses are collecting toys for the Women's Shelter.

Other organizations and businesses are making generous donations to agencies that help those in need.

Helping others can take many forms, from giving to a charity to dropping a plate of Christmas cookies off to a neighbour who lives alone, or an elderly neighbour.

According to studies by Harvard, happier people do help more in a variety of ways. Happiness causes increased helping behaviour, and giving to others, makes people happier.

At the most basic level, evidence shows that giving money to charity leads to similar brain activity in regions implicated in the experience of pleasure and reward.

But that's not the reason to give. We must find it in ourselves to give because others need us to do so.

With decorations hanging, lights bright and feasts on the way, Christmas is a time to celebrate with loved ones and reflect on what we are grateful for, as for many others, Christmas can be stark.

We must dig deep, reflect and find a way to give to others this Christmas season, and find what makes Christmas joyful for us.

Maybe the true meaning of Christmas and charity can be summed up in four lines of a nursery rhyme from the 1850s:

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat

Please to put a penny, in the old man's hat

If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do

If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you.

Merry Christmas Goderich.



Goderich Sun

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Goderich Sun

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Jokey North America Inc. of Goderich donates to Sibshop program



SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Representatives from Jokey North American Inc. present Sibshop with a \$1,000 donation. (L-R): Jane Coughlin, Rebecca Ferguson, and Sibs participants Jordyn and Jerzy.

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Mid-November Jokey North America Inc. of Goderich donated \$1,000 to Sibshop, which is a facilitated partnership between Community Support for Families and Rural Response for Health Children.

This program is for siblings of children who have a developmental or physical disability, autism, or a mental health concern.

Jokey has been taking a more active role in the community and the company is always looking for ways to help community members through various activities or forms of support.

"We heard about the opportunity to make a donation to this worthy group and were thrilled at the opportunity," said Jane Coughlin from Jokey North America Inc.

"I was the sibling of a brother who had

Cerebral Palsy, and had a close family friend who had developmental disabilities. A program like this would have been a welcome support group when I was younger, so I can imagine how beneficial it is for this group."

The program provides opportunities for brothers and sisters of children with special needs to obtain peer support and education within a recreational context.

"The Sibshop is an opportunity to have fun together, while receiving peer support, sharing their sibling relationship, and exploring the gifts and challenges of being a sibling to someone with disabilities," said Natalie Steenstra, Executive Director of Community Living Central Huron.

This group has been active for almost six years.

There is no charge for children participating in Sibshop.

HPPH restructures programs and services due to funding shortfall

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

In an announcement in November, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) explained it would restructure its programs and services because of a challenging budget shortfall. These changes would be effective in 2024.

Prior to the 2020 amalgamation of the Huron County Health Unit and the Perth District Health Unit, both organizations received little to no budget increases, despite the rise in expenses due to inflation. This affected wages and other operating costs.

"We have had to make difficult decisions," said Dr. Miriam Klassen, Medical Officer of Health for Huron and Perth.

"We have spent the past year decreasing program expenses in a variety of ways."

However, Klassen explained that most of HPPH's budget is for human resources. The difficult decision of removing positions from the organization had to be made.

Approximately 13.5 positions were removed from the HPPH organizational structure. That is an approximate 10 per cent reduction in staffing levels.

Some eliminations will occur through retirements and unfortunately, through layoffs and ending of temporary staff contracts.

According to HPPH positions removed will be from several areas of the health unit, including management.

During the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, one-time COVID funding allowed HPPH to provide a comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At that time approximately 75 to 78 per cent of HPPH staff were redeployed into COVID-19 response and some additional staff were hired.

However, those increases to budget were limited and did not keep up with inflation.

Now that COVID funding has expired, HPPH had to address a \$1.5 million funding gap that accumulated over the last five years.

Although the province recently announced a one per cent increase for public health units over the next three years, it is still not enough to cover the gap.

"Public health in Ontario is heading into a transitional time," added Dr. Klassen.

"Public health structure, funding and mandates are under review."

These changes to budget impact the programs and services HPPH can provide to the community.

"We expect new Ontario Public Health Standards to be implemented in 2025, and a new funding approach to be implemented in 2026," added Dr. Klassen.

HPPH continues to participate in the consultation process for these initiatives and will rely on its newly released 2024-2027 Strategic Plan to help determine how best to deliver programs and services in the years to come.

The Strategic Plan will help HPPH navigate the transitional years ahead, building on the organization's mission, vision, and values to focus on specific priorities and initiatives.

More information about changes to specific HPPH programs and services will be communicated as they are implemented. Changes are expected to take place by January 2024.



GODERICH TOURISM WOULD LIKE TO SAY
THANK YOU

TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE OUR FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AND PARADE SO FANTASTIC

Santa Claus Parade Marshals:

Dennis Beach, Kevin & Tyler Bell, Carl Moller, Doug Moore, Keri Pig, and Ryan Cook

4th Goderich Scouts	Goderich Parks Dept.
Bryanna Bell	Goderich Works Dept.
Cakes, Cookies & Coffee	Kinsmen Club of Goderich
Celtic Blue Highlanders	Ontario Provincial Police
Clinton Pipes & Drums Band	John Powers & Family
Brendan Couture	Suncoast Salvation Army
Ken Dale	Tim Horton's of Goderich
Goderich BIA	Jenna Ujiye
Goderich Fire Dept.	West Coast Fire Brigade

& to all those who came with their festive cheer!

**THANK YOU TO ALL,
AND TO ALL A GOODNIGHT!**

GODERICH
Canada's Prettiest Town

Christmas at the Cottage

A new event in Central Huron is set to take place on Saturday, December 2.

Hosted by Edge Wood Décor, owner Cindy Scholten and her husband Chris are opening their property for 'Christmas at the Cottage'.

"I have hosted three Grinch Christmas Markets in November," said Cindy.

"So, I thought, why not host another one? This time I'm mixing shopping with a full outdoor Christmas experience."

The event takes place at their home located at 33587 Rowcliffe Drive, Central Huron from 12 p.m. until 6 p.m.

The event is free to attend, featuring many different activities.

"We are rain or shine. This is an outdoor experience around our beautiful log home, but I will have our

shop open so people can go inside, warm up, do some shopping and grab a hot cider," explained Cindy.

Shopping will consist of many unique, one-of-a-kind artisan pieces that are perfect for your home décor or Christmas gifts.

All items are handmade by Cindy, and her friend Nina from Distressed Décor.

Cindy's items will be discounted, so she suggests going to the event early to avoid any lineup.

There are no public washrooms at this event.

"We have lived here for almost three years now," added Cindy.

"We feel truly blessed to be living and working in this beautiful community and I look forward to meeting new people, so come on out to Christmas at the Cottage."

Hospital Foundation receives generous \$10,000 donation



Local 16-O Executive Members; Jeff Thomson, Stephane Lynch, Gary Erb and Lance Greer.; Kimberley Payne, AMGH; Amy Boyce, Admin Assistant, Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine; Craig Manz, VP Operations, Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine; Laura Herman, AMGH.

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) Foundation gratefully accepted an unexpected yet gen-

erous \$10,000 donation.

Compass Minerals and Unifor 16-O donated \$5,000 each. This donation will assist AMGH in purchasing new digital imaging equipment.

Gateway honoured with Goderich BIA award



BIA AWARD PRESENTATION

(L-R): Karissa Eckert, Dan Stringer, Nancy Simpson, and Michael Beazely.

At the 2023 Spirit of Success Awards Gala, hosted by the Huron Chamber of Commerce, Gateway CERH received the Goderich Downtown BIA award.

Receiving this award recognizes Gateway's commitment to excellence in serving the community. It reflects the dedication of the Gateway team to advancing rural health initiatives and making a positive impact on the lives of residents in the area.

"We are honoured to receive the Goderich Downtown BIA Award at the Spirit of Success Awards Gala," said Gwen Devereaux, President of Gateway CERH.

"This recognition fuels our commitment

to advancing rural health and well being." The sold-out Spirit of Success event at White Carnation in Holmesville, provided a unique opportunity to applaud the outstanding contributions of businesses and organizations that play vital roles in enriching the fabric of the community.

"We share this achievement with the entire community and express our gratitude to the Huron Chamber of Commerce for providing a platform to celebrate the collective efforts that make Huron County an amazing place to live," added Devereaux, who is grateful to the Chamber of Commerce for hosting this event that brings together leaders and innovators.

United Way announces an increased living wage

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

During the Living Wage Week in Ontario, United Way Perth-Huron's Social Research and Planning Council (SRPC) announced an increase to the living wage.

The new living wage is now \$22.75 an hour, up from \$20.70 last year.

"As the cost of living in the places we call home continues to rise, it's becoming more important than ever for people across our communities to talk about how we can make our region more livable and that includes concepts like a living wage," said Kristin Crane, director of Social Research and Planning (SRPC).

The SRPC is dedicated to collect, analyze, and distribute information related to local social issues including poverty reduction, income security, community safety and well being, housing and homelessness, mental health and addictions and equity.

"While paying a living wage may seem daunting, organizations benefit in the long run," Crane added.

Based on a 35-hour work week, the Perth-Huron living wage was calculated using local data and considered the living expenses of a weighted average of three family types.

These family types included a family a four, a single mother supporting a seven-year-old child and a single adult.

Once government transfers and deductions were considered, everyday expenses

included food, housing, utilities, clothing, childcare, and transportation.

"This year, we're seeing increases in the cost of food and housing driving the increase in the living wage," explained Crane.

"Food and shelter are obviously fundamental to personal well being, and that highlights how important it is for wages to be responsive to inflation so the economic pressures many individuals and families face are reduced."

Crane explained that it is understandable that it is challenging for businesses to think about increasing their expenses, particularly at a time when so many are feeling the pressure of higher pricing.

Yet, United Way continues to hear from certified living wage employers that paying a living wage helps in many ways and over time, from reducing turnover and increasing productivity, to boosting morale.

"A living wage is another facet of helping make sure more people are able to take part in the life of their community and not feel isolated or stressed," added Ryan Erb, United Way Perth-Huron Executive Director.

"Not having enough to get by has such a profoundly negative effect on a person's life."

United Way stated that for a fairer, more welcoming place to live, the living wage is another tool to help make sure the community continues to grow and creates opportunities for everyone to benefit.



United Way
Perth-Huron

Social Research and Planning Council releases Quality of Life Report

United Way Perth-Huron's Social Research and Planning Council (SRPC) has been working on a series of new Quality of Life reports to better understand the community.

The reports measure well being data across the region.

"The Quality of Life report is meant to be used by our community to understand the places we live," said Kristin Crane, Director of Social Research and Planning for United Way.

"Whether that's a student doing a school project, an elected representative digging into challenges and opportunities or service providers looking at how to better address needs, we want to make strong data available, so people know what is going on in the places we live and work."

This year's edition is the fourth Quality of Life report by the SRPC and represents months of research, writing, designing and consultations.

The final report grew into a series of five chapters instead of one, as in previous years. The first three chapters released cover the demographics and make-up of Perth-Huron, diversity, and the economics of the region.

"We hope the reports create conversations within the community around what health and well being look like and the specific recommendations examining what we all can do to improve life here in Perth-Huron," added Crane.

The chapter titled Who We Are provides information on the people who make up Perth-Huron and details such as age, gender, and geography. One fact uncovered during research for the report showed that 28 per cent of the population lives in a one-person household.

With the years living through the pandemic, and dealing with the associated isolation and stress, the negative effects on the well being of the community come into sharper focus.

In the chapter titled A Diverse Community, SRPC delves deeply into ele-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Aareba Ahmad (Manager Data and Social Research) with one of the chapters of the new Quality of Life Report.

ments of diversity.

A key takeaway is the significant gaps in data that exists for many groups including the LGBTQ2S+ community and residents who have a disability.

These gaps highlight the need for better local and national data collection practices, so people are better able to self-identify, making for more accurate representation within data.

The chapter titled Our Strong Economy looks at the impact economic factors have on the quality of life in our community.

Living with low incomes can impact many areas of an individual or family's life and leads to incredible stress. A key point is the income gap between men and women in both Perth and Huron, where women earn \$11,600 and \$12,000 less respectively based on median after-tax income.

To read more from the Quality of Life report, visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca

CIBC Wealth Management donates \$5,000 to Gateway



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Ian Murray (left) with Dan Stringer, Chair of the Board of Gateway CERH.

Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) was the recipient of a \$5,000 donation from Ian Murray of CIBC Wealth Management in London.

Murray has been a major donor to Gateway for many years. He indicated today that he appreciated Gateway's activities in rural health research.

The donation will support Gateway's approach to employ young university students from the region to carry out much of

the research and deliver projects that benefit the community.

Gateway President Gwen Devereaux stated that Gateway was grateful to Murray and CIBC Wealth Management for their support of the work Gateway and research students do in the rural health field.

With Murray to present the donation was Paul Van Lith, also of CIBC Wealth Management.



Murray with Gateway's research students. (Back, L-R): Dan Stringer, Paul Van Lith, Ian Murray, Jordan Connolley, Sage Milne, Gwen Devereaux. (Front, L-R): Katie Sparling, Amy Sturgeon, Alexa Harrison, and Becky Higgs.

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Vanessa Kelly fills vacancy on Goderich Council

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

At a recent Council meeting, Vanessa Kelly was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Council declared the Council seat vacant at their October 16 meeting, where they approved moving forward with appointment with a call for applications.

The deadline for applications was November 6, and a total of 11 applied to fill the vacancy.

"Today is an exciting day. We have 11 applicants for this Council seat, and it shows there is a big interest in our residents to be on Town Council, which is nice to see," said Mayor Trevor Bazinet at the November 20 meeting.

"Having 11 applicants makes it tough to select one person. We are excited to add a member to our Council. We have a wonderful team, that is passionate, hard-working, and committed to doing the right things for the town moving forward."

Out of 11 applicants, Kelly was the successful candidate to fill that vacancy until the end of term.

All candidates were afforded the opportunity to address Council for five minutes, and the order of speaking was determined by drawing names from a box. Following their five minutes, current Council members were afforded the opportunity to ask follow-up questions.

In her five minutes address to Council, Kelly stated that the successful candidate



FILLING THE VACANCY

Vanessa Kelly (seated) is the newly appointed member of Council to fill the vacancy until the end of the term. Kelly was officially sworn in at the November 27 meeting. (Back row, L-R): Councillor John Thompson, Councillor Randy Carroll, Deputy Mayor Leah Noel, Mayor Trevor Bazinet, Councillor Allison Segeren, and Councillor Liz Petrie.

should be someone to help keep the visions and voices of the voters, while continuing the journey, passion and work Council has started in the absence of the late Mayor

Murdock.

"Goderich is a place where people face adversity together by sharing their experiences, their passions, their ideas and most importantly their time to generate effective and creative solutions," stated Kelly during the meeting.

"I have the drive and commitment to be an active and collaborative participant."

Kelly stated that it is the history of this town and the legacy of current and past Councils that have given her the motivation to remain tenacious, resilient, and passionate in doing the right things for Goderich.

"It is my hope that I may be granted the honour to go far with this Council as we work to realize this town's great potential," added Kelly.

"I want the experience and I want to pursue a career in politics, and I think this is a good starting point."

Kelly was questioned on various topics such as what to do with Goderich Memorial Arena, environmental issues, why she didn't apply to Council last year during the election, and how to overcome learning curves that will come with the position.

In response to the question period, Kelly remained calm and articulated thought out answers and ideas to issues Council are currently dealing with.

To watch the full meeting, visit the Town of Goderich website.

(THE TOWN OF GODERICH PHOTO)

Gateway seeks to strengthen rural health by partnering with University of Waterloo, Huron Health

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

In what is seen as a significant advancement in the commitment to enhancing health and well being of rural residents, Gateway announced their partnership with both Huron Health System (HHS) and the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy.

The focus of this union is to further streamline inter-organization collaboration and communication. The objective is clear – the enhance the health outcomes of the rural populations.

"We are excited to be entering into a regional network with a multi-disciplinary partnership with healthcare delivery, health research, and academics in the health field," stated Gwen Devereaux, Gateway CERH President.

"This represents more than an agreement. It's a commitment to our rural residents."

This collaboration aims to mobilize resources and expertise across the three institutions, emphasizing health research, education, and communication as pillars for improvement.

"HHS looks forward to forming deeper collaboration initiatives in research and is

excited to be partnering with leaders in this space," said Jimmy Trieu, President, and CEO of Huron Health System.

"Collectively, we will develop solutions to improve the healthcare of our rural communities."

HHS includes the Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) in Goderich and the South Huron Hospital (SHH) in Exeter. It supports more than 19,000 patient days and over 25,000 ED visits annually, in rural Ontario.

According to information released by Gateway, the three organizations recognize the strength of collaboration and anticipate their united front will facilitate effective research initiatives, enhance educational offerings, and promote better communication pathways. This will all benefit rural communities.

"With innovation as the backbone of our institute, we are eager to collaborate with HHS and Gateway to address the challenges facing rural healthcare and positively impact rural communities," shared Andrea Edginton, Hallman Director, University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy.

"Through education and research, fostering this relationship will ultimately strengthen our future healthcare system."



RURAL HEALTH

Jimmy Trieu (left), with Andrea Edginton (middle) and Gwen Devereaux.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

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Green Goderich ends advocacy work

Recently, Green Goderich announced it has closed its public education and environmental advocacy work in Goderich.

Members of the grassroots organization had carried out environmental education and advocacy activities in town for the past eight years, including annual climate strikes, plastic reduction campaigns, educational YouTube videos, and tree planting initiatives.

The group funded tree planting in the well-used recreation area of Victoria Park, not far from the Square, as well as other sites around town.

Speaking for the group, members Rhea Seeger and John Meyers emphasized that people wishing to carry on the environmental protection and renewal work in the area can take part in other ways.

This can be done by supporting the

Town of Goderich Environmental Action Committee, the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority/Maitland Conservation Foundation, Maitland Trail Association, the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund, and many others.

With gratitude to individuals, groups, and businesses in the community who have supported Green Goderich's efforts, members have distributed the rest of the group's funds to local environmental advocacy and education groups to carry on their important work.

One donation was to St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School in Goderich.

Meyers presented a donation to Caitlin Vail, a teacher at the school and some of her students to carry on the students' tree-planting work.



A donation was presented to Caitlin Vail, and some of her students at St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School in Goderich.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Left: Meyers donated \$1,000 to the Maitland Conservation Foundation's member Francis Hogan.

Below: Goderich District Collegiate Institute (GDCl) environment group supported by Green Goderich donation. GDCl teacher Melanie Ball and Specialist High Skills Major environment students Sally Carter and Olivia Allen met Rhea Seeger of Green Goderich to receive a donation of \$900 for their work on the pollinator garden and other projects.



Lions Club and RTO partner to help Ukrainian refugees

Following a successful spring clothing drive for Ukrainian refugees by retired teachers and education workers in Huron-Perth, RTO District 9 discovered there were other urgent needs.

Ukrainian refugees were struggling to get a foothold in the area, and with the cost of living.

The Goderich Lions Club had already set up a Huron County Newcomers Fund to help not only Ukrainian but other newcomers as well, for times when government grants run out and groceries and daily living expenses become too much for them.

President Bruce Whitmore, Jean Weigand and the late Bill Black of the Goderich Lions Club partnered on a community grant application from RTOERO national. RTO District 9 Huron Perth represents about 1,100 retired teachers and education workers in the two counties and beyond. Each year the national organization donates to many community grant projects across the country.

The grant conditions stipulated working

with another community group and Goderich Lions Club has many retired teachers within it. The partnership was a perfect fit.

In October, District 9 RTO Huron-Perth was informed it had been successful in securing a \$4,000 Community Grant to help newcomers.

John Maaskant, chair of the Huron County Newcomers Fund project with the Goderich Lions stated at the RTO Fall AGM that there is an ongoing need for funding for newcomers, especially Ukrainians.

The Lions Club also partnered with the Huron County Immigration group.

The Huron County Newcomers Fund is handing out about \$4,000 a month to people who need help. Housing is the biggest difficulty, and the community grant will help to finance about one month of assistance.

As the needs continue, John Maaskant indicated that the Lions continue to fundraise. Those interested in helping this cause can donate on the Goderich Lions' website.



(MARTY BOND PHOTO)

RTO District 9 Huron Perth presents a cheque for \$4000 to the Goderich Lion's Club Newcomers Fund (L-R): Bruce Whitmore, RTO Past President, John Maaskant, Chair of the Lions' Newcomers Fund Project, RTO Community Grant Chair Jean Weigand, RTO President Willi Laurie.



Goderich Sun

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Circle K named Business of the Year in awards ceremony

Three Circle K locations owned by best friends Gurpreet Singh and Harpreet Singh captured the top award at the 2023 Spirit of Success Awards Gala, an annual business awards event hosted by the Huron Chamber of Commerce – Goderich, Central and North Huron.

“This year, the judges have selected a winner with a unique story,” said Nadine Vanden Heuvel, in presenting the award. She is Chair of the Spirit of Success Committee.

“The judges said they faced blatant racism and pushed on. They became part of their communities and gave back. They volunteer and are seen everywhere.”

In the application for the award, Gurpreet Singh said the friends who grew up in the North part of India worked long hours and invested all their money to acquire stores in Lucknow, Wingham and Clinton. Now, they give back to the community through volunteer work.

Spirit of Success Awards Gala was held at the White Carnation, Holmesville. The event was sold out.

The community offered up a record 135 nominations of businesses, organizations, and individuals for 14 sponsored awards. The Business of the Year Award is chosen by the judges.

Nominations included organizations that run events that make an impact in the community, young people with the courage to start businesses, businesses that provide stellar service and give back to the community and other criteria of excellence.

Other awards winners were:

Compass Minerals Environmental and Sustainability Award - BYOB Zero Waste Depot
Downtown Goderich BIA Award



(DIANNE BRANDON PHOTOGRAPHY)

SPRIT OF SUCCESS AWARD BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Master of Ceremony Ralph Rubino presents the Huron Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award to Gurpreet Singh (middle) and Harpreet Singh, owners of Circle K in Wingham, Lucknow and Clinton.

- Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health

Country 104.9 Community Impact Award - Goderich Salt and Harvest Festival, September 15-17, 2023

John C. Grace Young Entrepreneur Award - Wyatt Ducharme and Jacqueline Hudson of Cork & Coast

K2 Wind Ontario Technology/Manufacturing Award - Community Living - Central Huron

MicroAge Basics Service Award -

Goderich Chiropractic

Huron County Economic Development New Business Award - Bayfield Lavender Farm

Goderich Tourism Hospitality Business Award - BRØD bread & pastry

Zehrs Goderich Retail Business Award - Nature's Nest

Huron County Economic Development Diversity Award -

Community Living - Central Huron
The Bazinet Family Volunteer Award - Earl Pennington

Mainstreet Credit Union Excellence in Agribusiness Award - EthoGuard

Berhan Immigration and Settlement Services Newcomer Award - Khawla's Kitchen: Authentic Syrian Cuisine

Huron County Economic Development Employer of Choice Award - Maple Leaf Motel

“The Spirit of Success Awards Gala honours outstanding businesses, organizations and people who shine brightly in our community,” said Tabatha Fisher, who is chair of the Huron Chamber of Commerce.

“They are pioneers and leaders. Change makers and community builders. They lead by example. They encourage others to be better. And we hope that with these awards, we can not only recognize them, but continue to encourage them and others to be the best they can be, for the benefit of everyone.”

This event is co-sponsored by Libro Credit Union and Zehrs Goderich.

Awards are sponsored by Artech Signs and Graphics.

Photography is sponsored by Gateway Casino Clinton.

Entertainment is sponsored by Community Futures Huron. Media sponsor is Blackburn Media Inc., Shoreline Classics and 100.1 The Ranch.

Decoration sponsor is Jodi Snell, Real Estate Broker, ReNew Real Estate Team, brokered by eXp Realty.

A message from healthcare professionals on respiratory illness season

Entering the respiratory illness season, COVID, influenza and many other viruses are now circulating.

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH), local family health teams and community health centres, in addition to hospital emergency departments, want the members of the Goderich community to get through this respiratory season as healthy as possible.

To reduce the chances of kids getting sick, parents and caregivers can take certain action. This includes ensuring hands are washed, staying home when sick to limit who comes in contact with the virus, stay up to date on vaccinations, cover coughs and sneezes, or mask when needed, and improve indoor ventilation.

Most respiratory illness in children, including cots, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19 can be managed at home without the need

for prescription medications.

However, in some cases it may be important to seek medical care.

Apart from making an appointment with primary health teams, or visiting the emergency departments, Health811 is an easy way to get connected and avoid emergency rooms.

Connect with a registered nurse seven days a week, day or night, by visiting Health811's website or by calling 1-866-797-0007. Health811 also has an online symptom checker.

This resource is valuable to help individuals determine if and when they need to reach out to their healthcare provider.

In an emergency, call 911 immediately.

Weekend Quiz

- 1) What was the first toy to be advertised on television?
- 2) What does a bat use to navigate and locate its prey?
- 3) What does the acronym “URL” stand for?
- 4) When was Hershey's founded?
- 5) What NHL team has won the most Stanley Cups?
- 6) Kenny Loggins' ‘Danger Zone’ was featured in what 80s film?
- 7) What is Weird Al Yankovic's first name?
- 8) What is the tiny piece at the end of a shoelace called?
- 9) Originally, Amazon only sold what kind of product?
- 10) How many players are on each side of the net in beach volleyball?

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.GODERICH.SUN.COM

This week's answers are found on pg. 23

Murals come to life in Clinton

Anyone walking the streets of Clinton can see the charming town is home to many beautiful murals.

However, the true magic comes when you hold your phone camera up in front of the artworks. With the help of up-and-coming augmented reality technology, murals will come to life and move on your screen.

You'll see horse-drawn carts drive across the frame, cornstalks sway in the breeze, birds soar, and much more. Each mural will have a unique animation sequence designed by a professional artist, as well as an immersive audio component.

View the artworks in their existing beauty, then revisit to see them animated.

Clinton's animated murals were inspired by The Junction BIA's annual "Window Wonderland" project in Toronto.

Each year, their downtown creates an animated mural walk based on window murals found throughout their business district. Clinton is excited to bring big city technology to a small-town setting where their art, history, and culture are all just as worthy of the spotlight.

It's the perfect tour for any season since the murals can be viewed from your vehicle in case of poor weather and for ease of accessibility.

Art and local history enthusiasts will appreciate the work of the talented muralists, while visitors interested in augmented reality will get to experience exciting



CELEBRATING THE ARTIST

First row, L-R): Karen Hilgendorf, Jane Groves, Clayton Groves, Angela Smith. (Second row, L-R): Jim Ginn, Bevin Finlay, Marg Anderson, Beth Rumble, Abi Bos, Leigh Cove, and Jasmin Pannu. (Third row): Ian Koetsier.

(BAILEY SHAKYVER PHOTO)

new technology.

Six of Clinton's murals were painted by the late Allen Hilgendorf, a muralist responsible for over a hundred artworks in small towns throughout Southwestern Ontario. His talent for elevating daily activities through art resulted in a series of murals throughout Clinton depicting the area's historically significant moments.

Animating these pieces of history breathes new life and interest into existing art. This creates a creative and unique experience for residents and visitors alike, while still preserving Allen's legacy.

Furthermore, the mural walk integrates well with several other projects in the area. Last summer, Clinton launched a downtown historic walking tour, which

includes fifteen stops. Each stop shares fascinating information and stories from local history, alongside many old photographs. The tour can be viewed online by visiting tinyurl.com/clintontour.

Many of Hilgendorf's murals illustrate local history and overlap with points of interest on the walking tour.

Stop 7 on the walking tour describes an entertaining story of crowds gathering on the streets to watch TV through the windows of the first TV store in town. This scene is depicted on a digitally re-illustrated Hilgendorf mural which will be located on the side of Bartliffs Bakery and Restaurant. Bartliffs itself is another stop on Clinton's walking tour since it has been a fixture in town for over 100 years.

Clinton's newest mural, found at the main intersection of town, highlights the beauty of the area. It includes many local icons, such as Ball's Bridge and Clinton's historic town hall.

The mural is part of an interactive mural tour that stretches across Huron County. This digital mural trail highlights new artworks in the neighbouring communities of Goderich, Bayfield, Exeter, Seaforth, and Wingham.

Visit cehbia.ca/mural-tour to learn more and view the murals, as well as information about the stories behind each artwork.

Many thanks to RTO4, K&J Pharmacy, Bartliffs Bakery and Restaurant, and the Huron Heritage Fund for supporting the animated mural tour.

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Goderich Council yet to decide on Maitland River Golf and Resort Park development

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Changes could be made to the Maitland River Golf Course, and plans could include a 68-unit resort park on a portion of the property around the golf course.

At a November Council meeting it was outlined in a report that developing the land currently owned by the Peever family is consistent with not only the Town of Goderich and Huron County official plans, but also the Provincial Policy Statement.

According to the Provincial Policy Statement, the Huron County Official Plan and the Town of Goderich Official Plan, direct settlement areas need to focus on growth and development, need to include diverse housing options and a range of commercial and recreational options.

Based on the application, if approved, a portion of the property that would be rezoned is designated Waterfront Recreational Commercial and the proposed zoning is to change from Private Open Space (OS2) to Recreational Commercial – Special Provisions (C7-3).

This means the development and efficient use of the land, which would allow for new and expanding uses.

According to the Peever family, that is what they aim to do with the property - create a development that is supportive of the community it is in.

Over the years, the Peever family has been operating the golf course at a deficit, attempting to keep the course up to standard and completing maintenance projects.

"We made a promise that we would do everything we can to make sure this property continues to run as a recreational facility," said Jim Peever.

"To do so, we have lost money every year at the tune of almost \$200,000 last year and \$100,000 this year, to try to keep this property operational. For us, this is an opportunity to make this property look after itself."

During a public Council meeting Huron County Planner Victor Kloeze recommended that Council approve the rezoning bylaw to permit the applicants to develop the land.

"The proposal is to establish a resort park while reconfiguring the existing golf course. To allow for that application to move forward, they are requesting a rezoning," explained Kloeze.

"Once all site plan requirements



An illustration of the site plan for proposed units on the existing golf course land, near the Maitland River.

have been met and an applicant is willing to sign the agreement then they can move forward with building permits."

The proposal would allow for the continued operation of the existing recreational facility of the nine-hole golf course, tennis courts and grounds, with the added resort park, on full municipal services.

Despite being consistent with planning policies at all levels, there have been concerns raised by some members of the public on environmental impacts and the issue of the local housing crisis.

A few residents spoke at the meeting, citing their reasons for rejecting this proposed project.

"I have a passion for the environment. Concerns during construction period include accidental loss or death of plants, shrubs, trees, animals, insect and all the other critters that call that place their home," environmental activist and Goderich resident Jim Hollingworth expressed.

"The destruction of habitat for mammals, birds, invertebrates, the noise of machinery, the removal or death of trees and the air and soil pollution from the use of heavy mobilized equipment should be taken into account."

Hollingworth believes the ecological footprint that the inhabitants of the trailers will cause, even if those inhabitants are aware and caring of the natural world, could be very significant.

"The quality of the green space that we are discussing, I found is exceptional," added Hollingworth.

"Its mature trees, bushes, grasslands, its proximity to the Maitland River, its plentiful flora and fauna, all contribute to making this area what I call a gem of the natural world."

Hollingworth stressed the need to reflect on how this new resort park will impact the future, expressing how trailers have no place in this location.

Other residents against this development project near the Maitland River stressed that healthy flood plains are needed to keep water clean and support wildlife. Others against the development also stated that these seasonal resort trailers do not address the housing crisis needs in Goderich.

In response, the Peever family explained that the resort park would be fully serviced by municipal sanitary and water infrastructure, and the units are winterized. Year-round residency is not off the table.

The zoning does not prevent year-long occupation of the units. The units are winterized, and the plan is to have the units set 15 meters back from the riverbed.

As stated at the meeting, this is a legacy for the Peever family. It's not a short-term fix and Jim and Heidi stressed they have no intention of selling the property to anyone.

They agree it is a jewel that has fallen into their hands but unfortunately are running at a deficit and looking for a solution. They do not intend to develop the entire property but do intend to continue to run a nine-hole golf course the best they can. They believe developing a resort type

community is the solution.

Yet, according to the Peever family, this project is not the solution to the housing epidemic, but an opportunity to continue to keep this jewel operational in the community and uphold high standards to customers, golfers, residents, and the community.

"We want to decide as a business what makes the most sense for our business and for the community," added Jim.

The location requires consideration of a range of compatibility issues such as planning justification, geotechnical, air quality, noise feasibility, and transportation impact.

Given the location of the proposed development, a key consideration was whether it would hold a negative impact on the surrounding natural and heritage features in the Maitland River valley.

This triggered an Environmental Impact Study (EIS).

A major concern was the environmental risk to the Maitland River. The EIS concludes that there will be no negative impact on the river system.

According to the studies carried out, the land use changes would not create any compatibility issues, will not negatively impact archaeological resources, does not require intersection changes, and full services could proceed as normal.

Several members of the public also expressed their support for the development, including Marianne and Martin, owners of River Run Restaurant located at the golf course.

"We at the River Run Restaurant believe the project would greatly benefit our small business and our community as a whole," a letter from Marianne and Martin read.

As a small mom and pop run restaurant, River Run's location offers beautiful views but doesn't get the same foot traffic businesses in the downtown core or along any of the major roadways get.

"We would like to say we are the best kept secret in town, but realistically it makes it difficult to sustain and keep the business going," read the letter to Council.

"Not only would our small family run restaurant benefit from more foot traffic, but all businesses would see an impact."

Others in support of the project stated that this development is an opportunity to maintain recreational facilities without making a big investment.

In addition to the studies completed, several local groups and Indigenous communities were consulted.

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) reviewed the applicant's submission, including the reports and has also approved the works for the emergency alternative access route.

Based on submission documents, MVCA found the application in general conformance with Natural Hazard Policies.

The County of Huron Planning Department reached out to Indigenous communities that had interest in the area several years ago to ask what planning applications they wanted to be circulated on.

"There was a desire from Indigenous communities to have a scoped circulation. They asked not to be circulated on zoning amendments," explained Kloeze.

"In this case there was no circulation, however Saugeen and Ojibway Nation do include this as their traditional territory, and they have expressed to be consulted when there are environmental impact studies and archaeological studies."

Kloeze stressed that the applicants did circulate the study results to Saugeen and Ojibway Nation, but there have not been any concerns or comments received.

At the November 27 Council meeting, it was decided that further discussion with the applicants is needed before Council decides to approve or deny the application to develop the land.

As the community is not united on this project, it will further be discussed by Council at the December 18 meeting.

Christmas spirit spreads at Goderich Santa Claus parade



The crowds gathered to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season.



Clinton Pipes and Drums.



Compass Minerals in the festive spirit with their salt carrier float.



Goderich Minor Hockey's festive float.

(TOWN OF GODERICH PHOTOS)

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Goderich Council (L-R): Councillor John Thompson, Councillor Allison Segeren, Councillor, Liz Petrie, Mayor Trevor Bazinet, Deputy Mayor Leah Noel and Councillor Randy Carroll.

Goderich Service Centre celebrates 20 years of business with expansion

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Goderich Service Centre has helped residents diagnose and repair all makes and models of cars, trucks, and SUVs for the last 20 years.

Owned by the Tucker family, Goderich Service Centre Ltd. They offer to pickup and drop off vehicles within town limits, along with state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment, combined with a standard of workmanship since 2003.

With continuous growth and loyal customers, it was time to make a change and expand.

On December 2, owners and mother-daughter duo Dawn and Jen invite past, present and future customers along with family and friends to celebrate the 20-years in business milestone, along with the grand opening of their new location.

“Those loyal customers gave us the confidence to once again take a huge chance or risk on purchasing a new lo-

cation,” explained Dawn.

“We could not have ever made this decision without feeling the support from our customers, and for that we will forever be grateful.”

Twenty-years ago, husband and wife Wayne and Dawn decided to take a risk and be their own boss along with their two grown children, Bill and Jen.

According to Dawn the family did what they could to outfit the three-bay shop on Victoria Street, which started out as a blank slate, ready to thrive.

Wayne had worked for 17 years at Sifto Salt Mine as a millwright and spent seven years working in the Victoria Street garage.

For the first 13 years of business, Wayne and his son Bill were the sole mechanics until Wayne’s health forced him to take a step back.

“We then hired our first apprentice to join Bill in the back shop and soon after, a second apprentice joined us,” told Dawn.

Sadly, in December 2020 Wayne suddenly passed away and that left Dawn, Bill, and Jen to run the shop and make a move forward.

But, in February 2021, Bill accepted a job at Compass Minerals (Sifto) where he works as a mechanic underground, somewhat following his father’s footsteps.

It was then that Dawn and Jen took

over as sole owners of Goderich Service Centre.

“We were fortunate to have mechanics John Good and Phil Young step in as licensed technicians and fill the void of Bill and Wayne until full time technicians could be hired,” explained Dawn.

The garage continued to be successful, and Dawn and Jen soon realized workspace was increasingly cramped. Dawn explained that even during the pandemic, things got busier, and Dawn and Jen soon realized they were running out of space in their old building.

In May 2023 Dawn, Jen and the guys moved the business to their new location on Mooney Street.

Dawn attributes the success and repeated customers to Goderich Service Centre is due to honesty and transparency.

“We strongly believe it is to do with honesty and explaining what needs done or has been done,” said Dawn.

“If explaining isn’t enough, it is best to show the person what is wrong and how it happened, or what will be done to fix it.”

After nearly 20 years in business at their old location, Goderich Service Centre has built a loyal customer base and would like to celebrate with them.

To celebrate 20 years in business and the grand opening of the new and larger location, Dawn and Jen invite everyone – past, present, and future customers, family, and friends – to join in cake, coffee and 20 prizes for 20 years on December 2. The celebration runs from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The extra space in the new location provides the opportunity to offer more service to more clients.

The Choice is Yours!



Celebrate Responsibly... Don't Drive Impaired.

Driving under the influence threatens your freedom, your life and the lives of others. This holiday season remember to celebrate responsibly by staying sober behind the wheel or finding a safe ride home.

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Goderich Junior Flyers Report

RICHARD MADGE

Sun Contributor

The Goderich Junior C Flyers played eight Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) games in November and garnered one point in the league standings.

They scored only 10 goals in those eight games, but they didn't need to score any to get the one point.

That point came from a 0-0 overtime tie in Mitchell playing against the Mitchell Hawks.

Goderich goaltender Logan Bromley registered 40 saves, recording the first shutout by a Flyer goalie in nearly two years.

His counterpart at the other end of the rink, former Flyer Thomas Brintnell, had 32 saves.

The Flyers other close encounter with victory during the month of November came in a 2-1 loss to the Wingham Ironmen.

In that game, the Flyers formula of tight-checking and good goaltending almost worked for them.

The teams were scoreless after one period, but Nate Bloemberg put the Ironmen in the lead in the second.

Jared Houghton's short-handed, unassisted counter early in the third period tied the game until Josh Pham scored the winner for Wingham.

The Flyers continue to struggle in the goal-scoring department.

CONTINUE TO PAGE 18



Assistant Captain Keegan Greer.

(MARA CUTTING PHOTOGRAPHY)

GODERICH JUNIOR FLYERS

2023 Player Statistics

(through December 1, 2023)

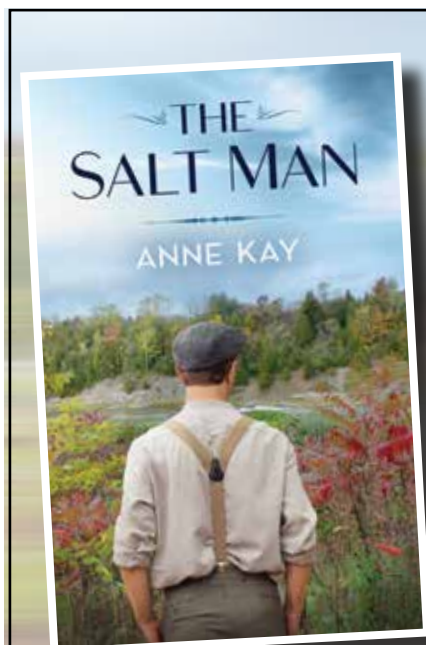
PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Leland Weber	F	21	5	3	8
Carson Fletcher	F	21	1	7	8
Owen Shore	F	12	4	3	7
Jackson Andrews	F	21	1	6	7
Trent Carter	F	16	5	1	6
Cohen Lesouder	F	17	1	3	4
Jeremy Hamilton	D	21	1	3	4
James Bender	F	20	1	2	3
Ryan McGee	F	3	1	1	2
Jared Houghton	F	5	1	1	2
Reid Williams	D	16	1	1	2
Brady Fraser	D	18	1	1	2
Austin Aldrich	F	19	1	1	2
Carson Stutzman	F	6	0	0	0
Wyatt Connelly	D	11	0	2	2
Cooper Gaul	D	18	0	2	2
Tyson Rintoul	F	8	1	0	1
Carson Stutzman	F	11	1	0	1
Jayce MacArthur	F	13	1	0	1
Kyle Smeltzer	F	13	1	0	1
Brett Reesor	F	6	0	1	1
Wilder Hoggarth	D	9	0	1	1
Payten Wheeler	F	17	0	1	1
Rowan Alexander	D	19	0	1	1
Mitchell Hodges	D	19	0	1	1
Cameron McCarthy	F	20	0	1	1
Keegan Greer	D	2	0	0	0
Jaden Meyer	D	3	0	0	0
Mitch Perry	F	7	0	0	0
PLAYER	RECORD	GAA	SV%		
Logan Bromley	1-9-0-2	4.00	.884		
Christian DeJong	1-8-0-0	6.48	.839		

PROVINCIAL JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

NORTH POLLOCK DIVISION

(Standings through December 1, 2023)

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	DIFF	PTS
Hanover Barons	19	16	1	2	91	41	50	34
Mount Forest Patriots	21	16	4	0	94	48	46	33
Kincardine Bulldogs	21	11	5	4	68	61	7	27
Walkerton Capitals	19	10	7	1	61	49	12	22
Wingham Ironmen	22	8	11	2	52	63	-11	19
Mitchell Hawks	21	7	10	2	63	72	-9	18
Fergus Whalers	20	5	11	2	53	68	-15	14
Goderich Junior Flyers	21	2	17	2	28	108	-80	6



AUTHOR SIGNING EVENT

"The Saltman"

by Anne Kay

Saturday, December 9

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

\$24.95

Book is based on the true story of Peter McEwan, the driller who first discovered salt in Goderich and as a result forever changed the town's future. Peter McEwan is the great-grandfather of the book's author.

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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 2023/24 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 have all reports and pictures in by the end of the month by emailing kate@goderichsun.com



Goderich Minor Hockey celebrates Hockey Day in December



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

GODERICH SAILORS U11

Max Brown, Cody Edginton, Alex Fritsley, Maitland Harp, Foster Lambourn, Jackson Meriam, Weston Powell, Harrison Scholl, Ivor Shelton, Henrik Thuss, and Hadyn Zondag.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

GODERICH SAILORS U11 LL WHITE

Caiden Anderson-Stanley, Ethan Burbine, Emily Corriveau, Griffin Denomme, Blake Driver, Edwyn Garrick, Oscar Lobb, Liam MacDougall, Ryan McBride, Royce Otten, Graydon Phillips, Carter Popp, and Callen Regier.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

GODERICH SAILORS U11 LL BLACK

Issac Armstrong, Rhedyn Banerjee, Reese Carver, Wesley Cullen, Matthew Evans, Nixon Gillard, Jackson McIntyre, Dustin Meriam, Connor Morrissey, Forrest Nuhn, Nathan Reddington, Blake Snieder, Cameron Ward, and Bryce Woods.

Goderich Minor Hockey (GMH) is very excited to celebrate Hockey Day in Goderich on Saturday, December 2 at the Maitland Rec Centre.

GMH has TopShot hockey coming from 1-7 p.m. with interactive games including Skee Puck, an inflatable mini rink and Electronic Hockey Net for all to enjoy.

Snippity will be joining us with free face painting and balloon creations from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

GMH I is also sponsoring a FREE Public Skate from 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The Junior C Goderich Flyers will have the BlueLine Club open starting at 4 p.m. as they face off against the Wingham Ironmen with puck drop at 8 p.m.

There is no admission to attend the event however GMH is collecting donations on behalf of the local food bank. Any donations of non-perishable food items would be greatly appreciated.

Stop by the Maitland Rec Centre on Saturday, December 2 for a full day of action-packed hockey.

Hockey Day in Goderich Game Schedule:

9-10 a.m. Goderich Sailors U9 VS Listowel

10-11 a.m. Goderich Sailors U7 White vs Goderich Sailors U7 Black (half ice)

10-11 a.m. Goderich Sailors U8 White

vs Goderich Sailors U8 Black (half ice) 11-12 p.m. Goderich Sailors U11 LL White vs Goderich Sailors U11 LL Black

12-1:30 p.m. FREE PUBLIC SKATE 1:30-3 p.m. Goderich Sailors 13LL vs Blyth Brussels

3-4:30 p.m. Goderich Sailors U13 Rep vs Huron Bruce

4:30-6 p.m. Goderich Sailors U15 Rep vs Mt Forest

6-7:30 p.m. Goderich Sailors U18 Rep vs Wingham

8 p.m. Goderich Flyers Jr C vs Wingham Ironmen Jr C

****free admission for GMHI players to the Jr C Flyers game when wearing their Sailors jersey****

Goderich Minor Hockey had the pleasure of hosting 16 (U11) teams for the annual Ryan O'Reilly Youth Challenge Cup tournament on November 3-5, 2023.

Three of the teams participating were our very own Goderich Sailors - U11 Rep, U11 LL Black and U11 LL White. The U11 Rep team earned a spot in the Rep Division Championship after round robin play but unfortunately came up short after an intense game against the Lucan Irish with a loss of 2-1, and finished in second place.

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Goderich and District Shuffleboard Results: Week of October 31 through November 21

On October 31 the club had 42 players join in the competition at Memorial Arena.

The club's Domino's Pizza winner for the week was Sharon Cousins.

The club had five, three-game winners the week of October 31. These winners were Glen Webster (two weeks in a row), Barb Howard (two weeks in a row), Rod Ansley, Dave Kelly, and Bill Godfrey.

Congratulations to all winners.

In a club announcement, it was explained that Gerrit and Gerdien Dykman represented Canada recently at the World Shuffleboard Championship in St. Petersburg, Florida.

It was a singles tournament for the entire week.

Gerrit placed 13th in the men's division out of 64 participants, while Gerdien placed 34th out of 36 participants.

On November 7 the club had 38 players join in competition at Memorial Arena, while on November 14 the club only had 33 players show up to participate.

The club's Domino's Pizza winner for the week of November 7 was Sharon Cousins (two weeks in a row), and the Domino's

Pizza winner for the week of November 14 was Gary Keeten.

The club had two, three-game winners on November 7 – Lawrence Becker and Linda Wilson.

On November 14 there weren't any three-game winners. It's harder than you think to win three-games in a row, especially at the Goderich Club.

Maybe our players will have luck next session.

On November 21 the club had 26 players. The Domino's Pizza winner was Bill Godfrey.

The club had two, three-game winners; Frank Namink and Jim Howard.

Congratulations to all the club's winners in November.



Gerdien and Gerrit Dykman

Goderich Junior Flyers Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Territorially, they often hold their own, as reflected in shots-on-goal totals, but they lack finish around the net.

The Flyers are the youngest team in the league and consider themselves to be amidst a rebuild.

To that end, there have been quite a few changes to the team structure.

Head Coach Grant Lamont has left the team due to

personal reasons and new

Assistant Coach

and Trainer Jay

Decalawe is joining

Coach Shawn Dickey

behind the bench.

A trade with the Mitchell

Hawks sent Goderich player

Wyatt Connelly to the Hawks in

exchange for forward Jackson Andrews

and defenceman Cooper Gaul, who both

are from Waterloo.

The Flyers see the trade as giving Connelly a chance to play on a team that isn't rebuilding with a chance to compete for a title.

Coach Dickey feels the players acquired in the trade fit with the quest for youth that can be impactful right away.

Andrews, who is a fast, gritty forward is seeing top six minutes and Gaul is a patient, determined defender getting top four minutes on the back end.

The Flyers have also signed a third Waterloo player, 20-year-old forward Mitch Perry, formerly with the Hespeler Shamrocks, listed at 6'4" and 230 pounds.

Another new addition to the lineup is forward Jared Houghton, 18, who played previously with the Kincardine Bulldogs.

Dickey sees a positive end in sight while the new players get on the same

page as their teammates and "start pulling the rope in the same direction".

A problem has been a lack of skaters on the bench in

games, which the Flyers have been able to start

strongly, only to tire as key players wear down from penalty

killing duties and extra ice-time.

Dickey continues to laud the play of his goal-tending duo, Christian DeJong and Logan Bromley.

The Flyers will be looking to press ahead in their sharp new jerseys into the month of December.

The "new-look" Flyers will play six games during December, with four of them on home-ice.

The first three Saturdays match them up against Wingham, Walkerton and Hanover and they have a Sunday afternoon encounter with the Walkerton Capitals on December 17.





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Passes cannot be redeemed for cash. Passes must be redeemed for tickets in advance of performances.

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Hunter Costello Memorial Fun-dation raises nearly \$7,000 with annual wrestling event

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

In October the Hunter Costello Memorial Fun-dation (HCMF) hosted their annual live professional wrestling fundraising event.

This year the event proved to be highly successful, raising nearly \$7,000.

All funds the HCMF raise go towards the unexpected expenses that come with having an ill or special needs child.

"Hard to believe, but even some chemo treatments aren't covered, so we try to help out with things like that," said Joe Hallam, board member of HCMF and organizer of the wrestling event.

"We've also helped families that have mobility or accessibility issues."

Upwards of 400 supporters of HCMF were entertained at the event, as Memorial Arena was transformed into a wrestling ring. Viewers were treated to a show by professional wrestlers like John Atlas, Chico, and EZE Eric Cairnie rock the arena for the great cause.

Goderich Mayor Trevor Bazinet even got into the action, filling in as a special guest referee.

Organizer Hallam explained that this event will continue each year, as it continues to be a huge success for the



MEETING THE FANS

Upwards of 400 supporters of the HCMF and avid fans of wrestling attended the October event.

HCMF.

"If it was up the wrestlers, we would have a show in Goderich every week," said Hallam.

"They love coming to our little town as it is one of our highest attended events and the crowd is always wild. They love hearing the cheers and even the boos."

Televised live on the Hurontel TV Channel, local organizer and HCMF board member Joe Hallam provided

(SKULLMASTER PHOTOGRAPHY)

play-by-play commentary.

According to Hallam, local sponsorship helped the event be a success. Sponsors included The Den, Compass Minerals, The Rotary Club, Faux Pop Media/AV, Huron Lakeside Electric, Boston Pizza, and many others.

Ken and Catherine Costello, parents of the late Hunter, the namesake of the HCMF, feel fortunate to be part of such a great community.

Hunter Costello was diagnosed with

Infant Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in 2013 when he was just eight months old.

Hunter put in a brave battle, but unfortunately relapsed in August 2016.

Tragically, Hunter passed away on February 26, 2017, from the side effects of CAR-T Cell therapy.

Inspired by a brave little boy, the HCMF was born in April 2017.

Since its beginnings, the HCMF has donated over \$55,000 to local families.

"Goderich was a huge supporter to our whole family while Hunter battled cancer and that support has continued since his passing," lamented Ken.

Although Hunter had to leave this earth at a young age, Ken and Catherine feel so proud of the legacy he has left behind.

"His life was short, but his legacy won't be," Ken added.

"The fact we get to do so much in his name and carry on the happy, positive spirit he brought to us every day is heartwarming. If he had to go, I can't think of a better way to be remembered."

Next year's wrestling event is tentatively scheduled for October 12, 2024.

For those who were unable to attend the event but wish to support the HCMF, which assists families with sick or special needs children, visit huntercostellomf.ca.

A call to renovate beach volleyball courts at GDCI

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

CORRECTION: Although there is enthusiasm by organizers to renovate the beach volleyball courts, GDCI and the board are still determining the project scope and fundraising needs.

Over the past decade the current beach volleyball courts have become worn; the posts are leaning in different directions and the netting is fixed at a specific height.

Looking to give the beach volleyball courts at GDCI a facelift, a group of volleyball coaches and enthusiasts including Martin Kleuskens and Richard Van Huzien are looking for organizations and individuals to support the project.

Current estimates from a budgeting perspective put preliminary costs for the proposed renovations in the \$52,000 range.

According to Kleuskens and Van Huzien, the following indicates what renovations are needed and the associated cost: Expansion of the existing courts from three to four; install five new galvanized steel posts (\$1,000); install a Monson Slider system (\$11,000); new volleyball netting, post pads and court boundary lines (\$1,700); install 700 tonnes of beach sand (approximately \$15,000); miscellaneous equipment and materials (\$1,200); perimeter fencing and privacy screening (\$18,000); and a storage shed installed on site (\$2,500).

"Volleyball has a rich tradition in our

community. Our initiative is to provide our Goderich community with a high quality, outdoor beach volleyball facility for young athletes to acquire, develop and forever enjoy mastering the skills of volleyball," wrote Kleuskens and Van Huzien in a letter to potential sponsors.

The goal of renovating the existing outdoor courts is to improve exposure to volleyball at a grassroots level for kids of all ages and abilities.

Kleuskens and Van Huzien believe that the proposed renovations will increase community involvement on all levels through general drop-in games, to league play, both youth and adult, and tournaments.

"We are looking for organizations and individuals to assist within their available capacity to support our project," furthered Kleuskens and Van Huzien.

While GDCI and the board are still determining the project scope and fundraising needs, details are still being finalized and there has been no guarantee that the volleyball courts will be included in the scope of Foundation for Education projects.

As the courts are located on school property, the school and the board will take lead on fundraising details.

"There is a significant amount of support from our community members, and we strongly believe this project will be well received and become a hub of activity on warm summer days," added Kleuskens and Van Huzien.



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Ivanka Fear releases first novel in a new series

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Welling County author Ivanka Fear, member of the International Thriller Writers (ITW) Debut Authors Program has launched a second novel.

'Where is My Husband?', the first in the Jake and Mallory Thriller series was released on October 3 and is available for purchase at Fincher's in Goderich.

Fear's newest book is a domestic thriller about a young couple with a seemingly ideal marriage. When Jake goes missing, the flaws in their relationship are slowly unravelled as Mallory's memories of her happy life with Jake morph into haunting flashbacks.

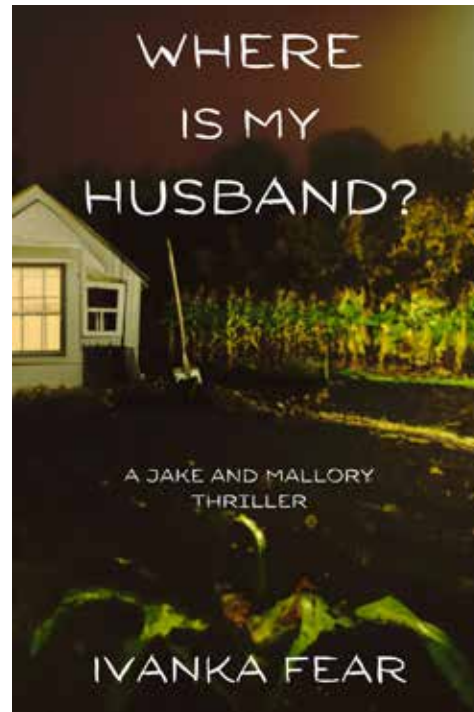
Soon, Mallory realizes there is a dark side to their relationship and that their marriage is far from perfect. Mallory wonders if she knew her husband at all.

'Where is My Husband?' is a well-crafted thriller that will draw readers in on page one and keep them hooked until the



IVANKA FEAR

end. Like popular novels 'Gone Girl' and 'Girl on the Train', this book is perfect for fans of domestic thrillers who enjoy suspense and tension and stories that aren't



what they seem.

Fear attended Thrillerfest 2023 in June as a debut author, with her novel 'The Dead Lie', the first in the Blue Water Mysteries series, which was published in February 2023.

Book two of the series 'Lost, Like Me' is scheduled for release in March 2024.

Fear had the honour of being one of several new thriller writers introduced by New York Time's (NYT) bestselling author Lisa Gardner at the celebratory debut author's breakfast in the Metropolitan ballroom at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel.

'Where is My Husband?' is available in paperback and Kindle formats and can be purchased at Amazon, Indigo, or at Fincher's in Goderich. The audio version is coming soon.

Fear is a Canadian writer, born in Slovenia. She is a member of ITW, Crime Writers of Canada, Sisters in Crime and Vocamus Writers Community.

The Salt Man available at Fincher's

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

The Salt Man written by Anne 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.

"Anne Kay has written a well-researched volume on one of the most important, yet largely forgotten periods of Southwestern Ontario's economic and social development," said David Yates, local historian and author.

"Kay has crafted a vividly written account of the oil and salt industries centred around

the life of Peter McEwan – a fascinating, colourful character and one of the foremost figures involved in these businesses. General readers will enjoy this fast-paced book."

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

"While much has been written about Peter McEwan's life in newspapers, books, and family records, I wrote The Salt Man to breathe life and colour into these facts and portray the extraordinary experiences of Peter and his wife Christie through their eyes," said Anne Kay, author of the book and McEwan's great-great-granddaughter.

The Salt Man illuminates oil and salt well drilling and production techniques, and illustrates the courage, ingenuity and

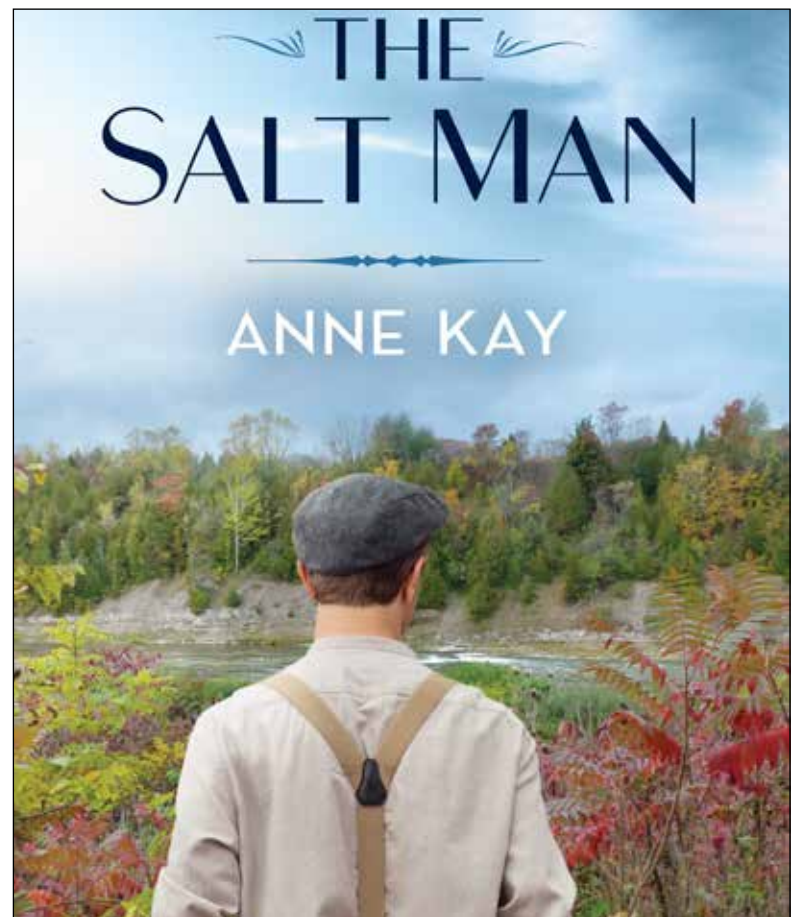
resilience of the vibrant men and women who helped shape Canada into the country it is today.

The saltman.ca website complements The Salt Man with a photo gallery, maps, additional historical and technical details, and more.

Book signing in Goderich: December 9 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Fincher's, Goderich

About salt:

McEwan's 1866 discovery of the first rock salt in Canada marked the beginning of the salt industry in Goderich. Today, under the ownership of Compass Minerals, Goderich not only has the largest underground salt mine in the world, but also a mechanical brine evaporation plant which uses methods similar to, but much more sophisticated than, those McEwan used in the 1800s.



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A Goderich Christmas in 1923

DAVID YATES

Sun Contributor

Undoubtedly, children of all ages will wake up Christmas morning to find under the electrically lit plastic Christmas tree, Santa has left Interactive Furby's, Dog-E's, Bitzee Digital Pets, Tinker Tar Leopard Guitars, and other marvels of electronic wizardry from his elves' workshop.

Yet, a century ago Santa's leavings were a little more modest, a less sophisticated, simple but, surprisingly, almost as commercial as 2023.

The holiday excitement in town was ratcheted up a when the Goderich Star announced on its December 6 front page that Santa Claus was coming to town Saturday, December 15 at 2:30 p.m.

Santa thoughtfully posted bulletins of his progress in the Star. On December 6, he began his journey from his headquarters on the North Pole where he got a "wonderful start" in such good weather his reindeer "never travelled better in their lives."

The next day was a bit more blustery. In fact, Dixon and Blitzen, Santa's 'two head reindeer' were tired that night. In fact, Blitzen, after crossing a bridge "was quite lame." Santa teased that if the roads were this thick with snow, that he would have to "lighten the load" by jettisoning some bags of toys.

Until December 11, things were going smoothly until Santa discovered when he rested at night that he "had lost two big bags of toys off the rear of my sleigh" and had to go back to recover them.

On Wednesday, December 12, Santa was out of the snowy regions and switched to his automobile which "was working fine and hitting on all four [pistons] and steaming right ahead." No word on where the reindeer were though. Santa claimed that his car was crammed with 4,000 toys for Goderich children awaiting him on the Square.

The blowing of steam whistles and bells ringing heralded Santa's arrival to Goderich.

On the day of the big event, Santa arrived "in his own big car, heavily laden with a wonderful supply of presents" that he brought on his long journey from the North Pole to give to the boys and girls of Goderich.

He also said that he would open the special postbox on the Square with letters written by local children that he would take back to the North Pole. He promised each child an answer to their letter.

During the parade around the Square, Santa used the novel technological device called a 'radio' to communicate from the back of his car.

Santa's radio today would be more of a Public Address system but in the days before Wingham's Doc Cruickshank broadcast the first radio transmission any sound that travelled through the air with a powered device was deemed radio.

Very considerably, Santa made his presence known at each store on the Square.

The 1920s were the first decade where consumerism played a more important role than the Christian religion in celebrating the season.



The Santa Claus that children in the 1920s knew was described by Clement C Moore in "A Visit from St Nicholas" as having "a little round belly; that shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly" but when he was younger and known as 'Father Christmas', he was much thinner and looked more like the grim reaper in red.

By the 1920s, Santa had gained his now familiar girth and must have modelled for the Coca-Cola Company as he bore a striking resemblance to the image of Coke's Santa Claus.

By early November, the Eaton's Catalogue had been delivered by early November to Goderich households.

Eaton's mail order service offered another shopping venue for Canadians but with a two-to-four-week delivery period, Santa could not always count on Eaton's to have orders filled.

In Goderich, Christmas presents tended towards the practical.

At Gray & Cartwright's Clothing Store prices were low by modern standards as gentlemen could purchase for their wife, daughter or girlfriend a linen tablecloth was \$10; silk camisole \$1.75; silk bloomers \$2.95 or a hair ribbon .75c.

At Cornfield's Millinery Shop on the west side of the Square, one could buy "a lovely dress" for one's wife or

daughter at prices ranging from \$6 to \$26. Silk scarves, boudoir caps, pearl beads, cloche hats and hosiery could also be had at reasonable prices. Gifts for men boys or gentlemen included kid gloves, initialed handkerchiefs, garters, felt hats and soft high collars suitable to any budget.

Campbell's Drug Store sold Brownie cameras for as low as \$2.00, a Kodak could be had for \$6.50.

The C.C. Lee Store at the Harbour wanted to dispel "the impression" that "has got around that we are only catering to the boats and factories" by offering Rodgers' 1847 Silverware, automobile skates, and coal for \$12.00 per ton to keep warm during the holidays.

Yet, it was Lee's electric irons and toasters and other electric appliances that appealed to women. The Hydro Store advertised the latest in hydro lamps.

The J R Wheeler Store on Hamilton Street highlighted their electric washers. These electric gadgets would soon revolutionize her life by freeing her time up for other endeavours.

The radio era was just a year or two in the future, but the importance of music was recognized by H E Jenner's Music Store which advertised "Santa knows that for young folks, music is as much a necessity as food" and suggested that the "sweet mellow strains of a mandolin, guitar or banjo in the parlour" might "mean many delightful, never to be forgotten, nights."

Dunlop's Rexall Drugstore in the Bedford Block stocked toilet water, hot water bottles, safety razors and other healthy gift ideas as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and tobacco pouches.

As smoking was considered by all classes a social past-time, other places also advertised tobacco

accessories as floor stand ashtrays, ciga-

rette holders so women would not have to smudge lipstick on cigarette butts and, of course, lighters and matches.

At the L R Steel's Five Cents to a Dollar Store, Santa said he was going to "bring a couple of his helpers and leave them at the store" to pick up toys for Goderich children as there was a good selection of toys.

Displays of "trains whizzing by; the big sail boats glide around; and the big Ford tractor, the road rollers and automobiles" must have turned a lot of young boys' heads. For girls, the Five and Dollar store carried "dolls that go to sleep and wake up, doll cradles and beds."

There were clown toys that danced on their heads, toy telephones and "a new game of horseshoes."

In short, Steel's Store was "a wonderful store to do your Xmas shopping at" because there was not an item over \$1.00.

In 1923, the local bakers and grocers featured fruits, candied peels and all manner of Christmas cakes.

Curry's Bakery, (now Culbert's) featured its chocolates, mince meat pies and Christmas pudding. It seems a goose was more popular than a turkey for the family Christmas dinner.

Canada, and Huron County, was still a profoundly Christian country.

The Goderich Star did not neglect to mention the church services and homilies delivered Christmas day at the various Goderich churches but there was little reported in the paper as it was assumed that no one would lose sight of the reason for the Christmas season.

A century later, Goderich residents still honour their Christmas traditions and, as such, I'd like to wish all readers a Merry Christmas.

Cheers!

New Year's Eve Buffet

at the River Run Restaurant

Let's bid farewell to the old and welcome in the new with a feast that reflects the opulence of the occasion and leaves your taste buds dancing in delight.

Secure your place at the most exclusive New Year's Eve Buffet in town! Limited seats available, so book now to ensure you don't miss out on this exceptional culinary experience.

TO RESERVE
call
519-440-7205

'Our Honey' recognized for its quality by Ontario Beekeepers Association

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Local honey produced by bees along the Maitland River has earned recognition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

The Spacek family of Goderich found out mid-November their honey won first place in the white honey category.

After receiving a fourth-place recognition in 2022 from the Ontario Beekeepers Association, Stan Spacek and his family-run honey producing farm took part in the largest indoor agricultural competition in the world again this year.

Last year in their fifth year of producing honey, the Spacek family submitted 'Our Honey' to the Royal for the first time.

"We ended up fourth place in the white honey category," said Stan.

"That was odd because we submitted to the 'golden' honey category. Turns out, our honey was judged to be light enough

to be white honey. We were penalized steeply for the colour error and our honey was transferred to and judged in the white category."

Despite the deduction, 'Our Honey' still placed fourth.

Spacek explained they have learned from this and so this year, submitted again but this time in the white honey category.

New to competitions, the Spacek family is unsure what comes along with winning at the Royal.

"We think a win at the Royal gives personal sense of accomplishment and some bragging rights, as the Royals is arguably the premier fair in Ontario," explained Stan.

The Spacek family plans on using the first-place ribbon on their jar labelling to endorse their honey as a highest quality product.

"We always thought our bees are the best and made great honey, but to win at the Royal is an amazing recognition,"

Stan added.

"There is no comparison to that kind of endorsement. It makes all the hard work and frame by frame care worth it."

In June 2018, the Spacek family each started their own hives. Their hives have since grown from four frames into their current frame configuration of over 20 frames.

The entire family have been involved in all parts of beekeeping, which includes hive management, honey production, packaging, and distribution.

The bees make 'Our Honey' from the nectar collected from wildflowers and trees growing along the lower Maitland River outside of Goderich.

Each batch is different as the nectar producing flowers varies throughout each year.

In their sixth year of beekeeping, this tradition goes back to Spacek's grandfather who was a beekeeper. Spacek said he used to watch his father do it 40 years ago.

In the spring of 2018, the Spacek family purchased two nucleus colonies and the rest is history.

"With five hives, we are small scale beekeepers, have limited annual production and may even sell out," Stan said.

"But with the same bees and the same flora in their flight radius, we expect 'Our Honey' quality will remain in the coming years."

'Our Honey' is produced by Stan Spacek, his wife Kim and their two children Sarah and Brian. It is 100 per cent pure, liquid, and unfiltered raw honey, directly from the hives.

'Our Honey' can be found on the shelves of Cravings in Goderich, but most sales are done directly with customers calling in or via email.

The Spacek family sells 'Our Honey' for \$12 per 500 gram jars and can be purchased directly via email: our.honey@yahoo.com .

Blyth Festival celebrates half a century

This summer, Blyth Festival is celebrating a major milestone, half a century in the making.

On June 12, 2024 the Blyth Festival will open its 50th season of all Canadian plays.

Running both indoors and outdoors, from June 12th-September 7th, in the cherished Blyth Memorial Community Hall and on the newly built outdoor Harvest Stage. A Homecoming season!

Artistic Director, Gil Garratt, says "this is a season of celebration: 50 years since its founding, the Blyth Festival is boldly mounting five brand new World Premieres, and offering one technicolor look back at the inspiration for it all.

Back in 1975, Blyth's founders dreamed of building a theatre that would put local stories, Canadian stories, centre stage. Fifty years later, that dream burns brighter than ever. All of the plays in the 2024 season were created and developed right here, in Huron County, and tell the stories, fictional and historic, of lives lived in this community. These are your stories, your neighbour's stories, your family's stories, the stories of your town, your farm, your county, and your country. This is really a season of homecomings."

50 Years of 100% Original Canadian Plays

Having welcomed more than a million patrons through the doors, the Blyth Festival has grown into a hub of Canadian playwrighting, boasting more than 150+ world premieres.

Outdoors on the Harvest Stage:

The Farm Show: Then and Now by Theatre Passe Muraille with additions by the 2024 Company

June 12 - Aug 4

Arguably the most influential play in Canadian theatre history, The Farm Show was originally produced in a barn just fifteen minutes outside of Blyth, and was directly responsible for the founding of

the Festival. This gentle adaptation brings you the original in all its glory, and shines a light on its singular legacy in our community. Come see the show that inspired the very dream of the Blyth Festival.

Premiere

Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz: The Farmerettes by Alison Lawrence
Aug 14 – Sept 7

Inspired by the book by Bonnie Sitter and Shirleyan English

This nostalgic play dramatizes the incredible stories of Canada's Farmerettes; young women all over the country who left the big cities to work as farm labourers on Canadian farms as part of the war effort during WW2. Many of these young women learned a lot more than how to dig potatoes, pull carrots, and muck a stall; they learned essential truths about who they were, who they wanted to be, and what true and lasting friendships looked like. A play about coming of age as young women in a time of change.

Indoors at Memorial Hall

Premiere

Saving Graceland by Gil Garratt
June 19 – Aug 3

It's 2019 in Clinton, ON. Newly retired and ready for adventure, Gord and Orilia have been Elvis fans since they were teenagers. In twenty-five years, they've never missed their annual pilgrimage to the Collingwood Elvis Festival. Just as they're readying to embrace nothing but Presley and the CPP, their young grandchild arrives unexpectedly on the doorstep, upending their future plans in ways they never dreamed. A love-me-tender family drama about the King and kincare.

Premiere

The Golden Anniversaries by Mark Crawford
July 4 – Aug 4

From the author of The New Canadian Curling Club and The Birds and the

Bees comes a new play about love and laughs in the golden years. For as long as they have been married, Glen and Sandy Golden have been celebrating their wedding anniversary by coming to the same cottage on the lake for an annual weekend of quiet romance. And this year marks a major milestone: 50 years of wedded bliss. Well...mostly bliss...er...there was that one time...oh, don't get me started! Join the Golden for a night of he-said, she-said, remember-whens, what-happens-now, and a long-term love for the ages.

Premiere

Resort to Murder by Birgitte Solem
July 24 – Aug 31

A laugh-a-minute murder mystery. When Brett and Viv inherit an old family mansion on Lake Huron, they dream of starting a country resort, but the couple have very different visions of what a tourist destination should be. For Viv: a spa, and quiet retreat. For Brett: a murder mystery-themed escape room...obviously. Just a few nights before they welcome their first guests, Brett and Viv gather their reluctant staff in the attic for a trial run. When a sudden storm rolls in off the lake, the lights go out, and the doors lock, their light-hearted game suddenly turns into an electrifying night of murderous confessions, and twists and turns that will leave you breathless. Enjoy your stay!

Premiere

The Trials of Maggie Pollock by Beverley Cooper
July 31 – Aug 29

Seer? Swindler? Sorcerer? The true story of the last woman in Canada to be convicted of witchcraft...and who just so happened to have been born in Blyth! Arrested on her home farm just outside of town, held in the historic Gaol near Lake Huron, and tried in Goderich court, her case went all the way to the Supreme Court of Ontario. Long after the arrival

of the telephone, the motor-car, and the electric light bulb, Maggie Pollock faced off against official superstition in Canada's courts.

The 2024 season will run June through September, 2024. Full season details will be available soon on the Blyth Festival website www.blythfestival.com

Tickets go on sale to members (priority dates are according to level of membership) starting January 15, 2024 at 9am by phone only. Sales will open to the General Public beginning April 2 at 9am, by phone and online.

Passes are back! Until December 31, 2023 passes are for sale for 2, 4, or 6 tickets. Significant savings are available and prices will increase Jan. 1, 2024.

There will be a number of events and activities planned over the course of the season to celebrate this milestone. Please check the website for updates.

Bonanza Weekend will run Aug. 2-4, 2024 and will also include a number of special events to celebrate the 50th season.

If you would like to support the work of the Blyth Festival by becoming a member please call 1-877-862-5984 or visit blythfestival.com for details.

Thanks to our incredible sponsors:

Bruce Power – Season Sponsor
Watson's Home Hardware-Harvest Stage
McCall MacBain Foundation - The Young Company/Education outreach
Orr Insurance-Volunteer and Production Sponsor

Tuckersmith Communications: Curtain Call and Memorial Hall lobby.

Thank you to the following Government agencies for their continued support:

Government of Canada, Canada Council for the Arts, Province of Ontario, Ontario Arts Council, Township of North Huron.

Remembrance Day in Goderich



Members of Branch 109 Goderich Legion marching towards the Cenotaph, November 11, 2023.



Left: Air Cadets standing guard at the Cenotaph.



Right: Mayor Trevor Bazinet (right) paying respect with Diane Mills, President of the Ladies Auxiliary.



Ladies Auxiliary marching, followed by the Air Cadets.

(CYNTHIA STRICKLAND PHOTOS)

Goderich Legion donates \$5,000 to local food bank



(DIANE THORNE PHOTO)

On hand for the cheque presentation are (L-R): Pat Clifford, President of the Goderich St. Vincent de Paul Society, and Branch 109 Catch the Ace Committee members, John A. MacDonald, Sharon Cousins and Allan Pollard.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 109 Goderich supports the local food bank with a generous donation. The donation was made by funds raised in the Catch the Ace.

On November 24 Goderich Legion made a generous donation of \$5,000 to the Goderich St. Vincent de Paul Society.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Mr. Potato Head
- 2) Echolocation
- 3) Uniform Resource Locator
- 4) 1894
- 5) Montreal Canadians
- 6) Top Gun
- 7) Alfred
- 8) An aglet
- 9) Books
- 10) 2 players

Maitland Valley
Family Health Team



The Maitland Valley Family Health Team (MVFHT) provides primary health care to enrolled patients in Goderich and surrounding rural townships and municipalities.

We are currently accepting applications for the following position:

MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANT

To support the practice of Dr. Mark Duckworth

Temporary Part-Time - 2 days per week

Rate of Pay: Competitive based upon experience

The successful applicant will provide administrative support to a multidisciplinary primary care practice in a fast-paced electronic environment. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: reception and administrative support services, managing patient scheduling and flow, scanning and data entry, directing callers or visitors, word processing, data analysis, minute taking/composing and billing.

Considered an asset but not required: a diploma from a recognized Medical Office Administrative program and/or equivalent experience, excellent customer relations experience, advanced knowledge of office practices in a health care setting, superior computer skills (Word, Excel and Outlook), and experience with an electronic medical records system. Demonstrated time management, organizational skills and a commitment to privacy and confidentiality are essential. Training will be provided.

The MVFHT is committed to providing a safe and compassionate working environment.

We thank all candidates for their interest, however only those to be interviewed will be contacted.

To apply for this opportunity, please submit your resume (in PDF format) by

Friday, December 15, 2023 to:

Matt Hoy
Executive Director
Maitland Valley Family Health Team
180 Cambria Road N.
Goderich, ON N7A 4N8
Fax: 519-524-5225
Email: info1@mvmc.ca

The MVFHT is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodations are available for the recruitment process. Applicants are asked to make their needs known in advance.

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.GODERICHSON.COM

Livery Film Fest: Films to get excited about

ROB MCAULEY

Sun Contributor

Christmas time is always a big time for film releases. While we can expect some new films from Disney and Marvel, and the other studios to open at the Park Theatre, there are a few that likely won't play in town.

Unless they are picked up by the Livery Film Fest at one of their monthly screenings.

Here are some upcoming titles:

Priscilla - Directed by Sofia Coppola. Playing at the Park as part of the Livery Film Fest on December 7. The likely start time is 7 p.m. but may shift to 7:30 p.m. depending on what the theatre is also showing. This film follows Elvis' future wife from the time she is 14 years old, through her marriage to The King, to her walking out on him at age 28. Interesting fact: Dolly Parton would not sell "I Will Always Love You" to Elvis because he demanded all the rights to the song. It was later released as a huge hit for Whitney Houston.

Napoleon - Directed by Ridley Scott, starring Joaquin Phoenix and Vanessa Kirby. The film covers the rise of Napoleon by looking at some of his battles. Ridley Scott does a great job recreating these on a huge scale. As he fights his battles, he also pursues his other obsession: Josephine. Interesting fact: The two and a half hour film will be released by Apple TV as a four hour miniseries.

The Holdovers - Directed by Alexander Payne, starring Paul Giamatti. A grumpy teacher at a boarding school must look after the students that don't go home for

Christmas. The director and star made a fun, touching and entertaining film: *Sideways* in 2004, and this should be just as appealing. Interesting Fact: It was first runner up for the TIFF People's Choice Award (after *American Fiction*), so you know it will be enjoyable.

May December - Directed by Todd Haynes, starring Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore. Julianne Moore and her husband's characters had a tabloid affair 20 years earlier, and a film is being made about it. It will star Natalie Portman's character, so she moves in with the couple to do research on the controversial mom (who met her husband when he was a minor). You can imagine how things go. Some reviewers call it a difficult watch but full of campy humour. Interesting fact: Nominated for the Palm d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

Opening December 8:

Poor Things - Directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, starring Emma Stone, Willem Dafoe, and Mark Ruffalo. The director's last film was *The Favourite*, in which Olivia Coleman won the Best Actress Oscar. His other films have been funny, weird, and dark. This looks no different. Dafoe's brilliant scientist brings Emma Stone's character back to life with the brain of a baby, so she is unencumbered by 1800s society's norms. Interesting fact: Lanthimos gave the screenwriter a copy of *Young Frankenstein* to review while he was working on the screenplay.

Opening on or around December 22:

American Fiction - Directed by Cord Jefferson, starring Jeffrey Wright. Wright plays a smart but struggling author, who is told that his books about the black experi-

ence "aren't black enough". He is frustrated, as he feels that they deal with issues realistically but gets no interest from his publisher. So, he writes a new novel under a pen name calling up any and all stereotypes he can think of. The book is an enormous success, and Wright's character must deal with fame and movie deals. Reviewers say the film is very funny and has genuine heart. Interesting fact: This film won the TIFF People's Choice Award, always a good forecast for the Best Picture Oscar.

Ferrari - Directed by Michael Mann, starring Adam Driver, Patrick Dempsey, Penelope Cruz and Shailene Woodley. This biopic of Enzo Ferrari is set in 1957, when the company puts everything on the line to compete in the 1,000-mile Mille Miglia race across Italy. With Michael Mann directing, the action will be first rate. Interesting fact: Patrick Dempsey who stars as racing car driver Piero Taruffi, is in real life, a race car driver and racing team owner. He has competed in the 24 hours of LeMans and Porsche Supercup series.

Opening in the New Year:

Typically, January and February films are also-rans that are too boring for summer blockbusters, and not worthy of Oscar awards. However, these look interesting.

Mean Girls - Directed by Samantha Jayne and Arturo Perez Jr., starring Tina Fey, Tim Meadows, and John Ham. This musical is based on the 2017 Broadway musical, which in turn was based on the original 2004 film. A never-ending circle? Opens January 12.

Bob Marley - One Love - Directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green. The story of Bob

Marley's campaign for love in violent Jamaica. With great music. Opens January 12.

The Beekeeper - Directed by David Ayer, starring Jason Stratham, Josh Hutcherson, and Jeremy Irons. A classic Jason Stratham action thriller where he gets revenge from some clandestine organization. Lots of action and funny quips. Opens January 12.

The Book of Clarence - Directed by Jeymes Samuel, starring LaKeith Stanfield, David Oyelowo, James McAvoy and Benedict Cumberbatch. Think *Monty Python's Life of Brian*, but with Clarence. He lives in AD29, and is closely involved with Jesus, Mary Magdalene, John the Baptist, Judas, and Pontius Pilate. Can Clarence become the next Messiah and get himself out of debt? Opens January 12.

Argyle - Directed by Matthew Vaughn, starring Sam Rockwell, John Cena, Dua Lipa, Bryce Dallas Howard, Catherine O'Hara, Bryan Cranston, Samuel L Jackson, Henry Cavill and Chip the cat. The director always does fun action films, so you know what to expect. An author seems to be writing books that accurately portray a real-life spy organization. Everyone wants to find out what she knows. It seems that the line between reality and her books is blurring. Release date: February 2.

What's a recent film that you've loved? 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.

Clinton Hospital's Auxiliary celebrates the Gift of Lights

On November 24 the Auxiliary of Clinton Public Hospital (CPH) once again lit the Gift of Lights tree. The tree will remain lit throughout the holiday season.

The lights are meant to honour the many memories of individuals and families special to the donor or as a gift to special people in the donor's life.

Many of those honoured in this way have been a part of the community and the CPH for several years. The donations made over the years have not only honoured someone special but have also assisted in the purchase of many new items and equipment needed at CPH.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the Auxiliary stopped holding the tree lighting ceremony. This year the Auxiliary held a gathering with entertainment, draw prizes including the 50/50 and the ceremonial tree lighting.

The purchase of a tick helps the Auxiliary continue to help CPH, while shining brightly as a happy reminder of how many people have helped throughout the years.

Any donation of \$20 or more will be given a tax receipt.

This tree lights the area across the road from the front entrance to CPH.



Above: The Gift of Light tree in front of Clinton Public Hospital.

Top right: The social committee waiting for the celebration to start.

Right: Entertainment by 'The Three Guys', Bob Mann, Gary Black, and Paul Dockstader.



Goderich Lions recognize exemplary service with prestigious award

The Goderich Lions Club is pleased to announce the distinguished recipients of the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.

Lion President Don Edward presented the awards during a recent Lions banquet dinner at the Knights of Columbus.

"This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the community service," said Don.

"Named after Lions Clubs International founder Melvin Jones, this prestigious honour is the highest form of recognition, symbolizing a commitment to humanitarian ideals in line with the mission of Lionism."

The two recipients were Doug Fines and Eric Fincher.

Doug Fines, President of Huronia Welding and Industrial Supply:

A stalwart member of the Goderich Lions Club since 1985, Lion Doug Fines stands out for his unwavering commitment to community betterment.

In addition to his vital role within the Lions Club, Doug has served

as the President of the Goderich Chamber of Commerce, showcasing his leadership and passion for fostering local prosperity.

One of his standout achievements includes spearheading efforts in 199 that led Goderich to become the first and only Canadian town to host a Disney parade, featuring beloved characters like Mickey Mouse.

Doug's family, present at the award night, shared their immense pride in his well-deserved recognition.

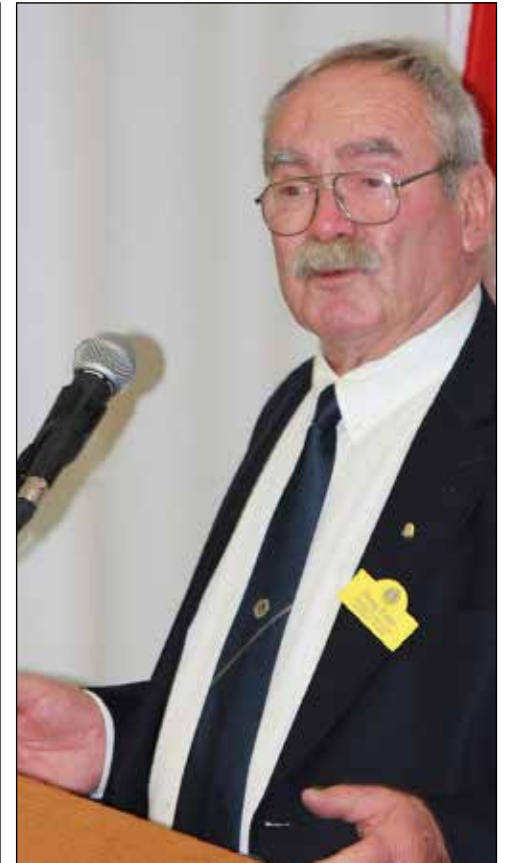
Eric Fincher, Esteemed Goderich Attorney and Community Advocate:

A long-standing resident and dedicated friend of the Goderich lions, Eric has been honoured for his outstanding contributions to the community.

Known for his exemplary work as an attorney in Goderich, Eric's impact extends beyond the legal realm, as he consistently demonstrates a commitment to the betterment of the community that he calls home.



Eric Fincher (right) with Lions President Don Edward.



Doug Fines.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Steve and Mary's looking to spread Christmas cheer

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The Christmas and holiday season is one of celebration, and Steve and Mary Bruce of Steve and Mary's on the Square want to ensure everyone can celebrate this year.

This year Steve and Mary are starting a program, A Home for the Holidays, to give back to a caring and generous community that has proven to pull together when the need is there.

"We all carry with us warm hearts for family and friends during the holiday season, and it is time to give back to the community that has supported us over the past few years," wrote Steve and Mary on Facebook.

"Since opening our restaurant, we have planned for a time when we could help support those in need of a helping hand in our community."

Knowing this year may be tough for individuals and families, on December 13 Steve and Mary's on the Square is hosting an event to feed 120 people in the community that could use A Home for the Holidays.

Steve and Mary opened their business on November 18, 2019. It was a dream come true for a couple of lifelong restaurateurs.

During the planning process of acquiring the restaurant both Steve and Mary wanted to give back to the community that would be supporting their business.

A Home for the Holidays was one of their thoughts, but the COVID-19 pandemic delayed this event for three years and Steve and Mary believe now is the time.

"A Home for the Holidays is our way of giving back to our community to folks who might not have a lot to celebrate the holiday season with," said Steve and Mary.

"People have ups and downs in their lives and our goal is to give people a hope to believe that things are going to get better."

Steve and Mary admitted that a hot meal in a restaurant, surrounded by people is something most take for granted, while there are those in the community who do not have the luxury to go out for a meal.

Through social outreach Steve and Mary are gathering names to invite individuals and families in need, to join in on a traditional Christmas dinner, along with some surprises as well.

There will be three seatings for guests at this ticketed event, at no cost to anyone.

"They say Christmas time is the time of miracles, we say it is time to show the world we care," added Steve and Mary, who are grateful to their suppliers, volunteers, and the community for their support and generosity.

"Our hope is that we will be able to continue this event as a holiday tradition."

Currently Steve and Mary are accepting non-perishable food donations for the hampers, as well as new toy donations to help ensure that everyone has a happy holiday season.

Donations can be dropped off at Steve and Mary's on the Square during regular business hours.

For tickets to the fundraising event, please contact Mary in person at the restaurant, or call 519-440-5110.



Steve and Mary Bruce.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Visit Steve and Mary's, your hometown diner, for your favorite classic breakfast and lunch or try one of our kicked up daily features. We dare to be different in our food and service, if you like your family meal you will love our mealtime, because every meal is with family.

Breakfast and lunch six days a week, but don't forget about All You Can Eat Fish and Chip Friday's when we are open until 7pm. Pick up some freezer meals so our family can treat you even when you are at home. Gift certificates available year round.

Holiday Hours:

December 18-23: Regular Hours
 December 24: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
 Christmas Day: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
 Boxing Day: Closed
 December 27: Closed
 December 28-31: Regular Hours
 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

58 COURTHOUSE SQUARE, GODERICH • 519-440-5110 • WWW.STEVEANDMARYSONTHESQUARE.CA

Grey Matters



ANNETTE GERDES,

Sun Contributor

1. We understand that this time of year can be especially difficult for those who are alone or struggling. However, we believe that with a positive perspective, community, and self-care, you can find the joy and meaning during this season. Here are some ways to make the most of the holiday season and each and every day throughout the year.

2. Connect with others: reach

out to local seniors centers, community groups, churches, and retirement homes. Many of them organize free events and activities during the holiday season aimed at seniors. Attend these events as they are fun and provide an opportunity to meet new people and share the holiday spirit. If you are feeling isolated, you can always get in touch with your local retirement residence to arrange a cozy winter stay.

3. Volunteer: Consider giving your time to local charities, shelters, hospitals, or seniors homes. Volunteering can be a rewarding way to connect with others and give back to the community. Many organizations are looking for volunteers to help with tasks like writing letters, making phone calls, or participating in fundraisers.

4. Create Traditions: Start your own holiday traditions, whether it's baking your favorite cookies, watching classic mov-

ies, or decorating your living space. These personal rituals can bring comfort and a sense of continuity. Share your traditions with friends and family through video calls or by sending them a care package with a taste of your holiday traditions. Make homemade gifts for the less fortunate as homemade gifts can be more meaningful than store bought ones. Enjoy the lights and beauty of the season.

5. Seek Support: If you're grieving the loss of a loved one, consider seeking support from grief counseling, therapy, or spiritual leader at your place of worship. It's okay to ask for help during difficult times.

6. Stay Active: Physical activity can boost your mood and energy levels. Safely try simple exercises or yoga routines, even if it's just for a few minutes each day. Enjoy nature by taking short walks or sitting outside. Fresh air and the beauty of the season can be uplifting. Consid-

er a pet companion to keep you active.

7. Practice Self-Care: Treat yourself kindly during the holidays. Engage in activities that bring you joy, such as reading, listening to music, having a cup of tea, and pampering yourself. Consider mindfulness or meditation practices to help manage stress and anxiety.

8. Be Safe: Be mindful of your health, especially if you're facing isolation. Follow health guidelines to protect yourself and others and seek medical care when needed. Consider virtual visits with healthcare professionals if in-person visits are challenging.

9. Share your Wisdom: Reach out to younger generations by sharing your experiences and stories. You have a wealth of knowledge and insights that can be cherished by others. Offer to mentor or provide support to a young person who may be facing challenges. Remember,

even if you do not have family or friends nearby, you are not alone. There are people and lots of resources available to support you throughout the season and long winter months.

10. Practice Gratitude and Remember the True Meaning of the Season: Regardless of your beliefs, remember that the holidays are about love, kindness, and the spirit of giving. Find ways to spread joy to others, even in small ways. Take time each day to reflect on the things you're grateful for. Making the most of the holidays is about embracing the spirit of the season, fostering connections, and finding joy in the little things, by focusing on what truly matters.

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

Wishing you all a healthy, happy, peaceful, and heart-warming holiday season. Looking forward to connecting with you again in the new year.

Better Decisions for Better Mental Health



TANYA MACINTYRE,
RED ROOF RECOVERY

Sun Contributor

Thirteenth century scholar Rumi once said, "The desire to know your own soul will end all other desires."

I feel that I was alienated from my soul for a long time. I spent more than two decades self-medicating my emotions. I was convinced that I needed my addictions to manage my life.

There was no shortage of ex-

cuses for me, either. It was easier for me to justify my addictions to myself, rather than having to face the reasons why I wasn't willing to help myself.

When I think about it, if I had been part of the marshmallow study done in the 60s, I expect I would have eaten the marshmallow.

The study by Stanford University tested four-year olds who were put in a room with a hidden camera, a table, and a chair. An adult entered the room to put one marshmallow on the table, explaining to the child that they could eat the marshmallow but, if they decided to wait a few minutes without eating it, they would get another marshmallow.

During those few minutes alone, the children were seen touching the marshmallow, smelling it, licking it, squeezing it. Two out of three kids couldn't resist the temptation, and the ma-

majority gave into their desire and ate the marshmallow.

The study followed the children into their future and found that, by the time they were 10, the ones who delayed gratification were less likely to be overweight and had higher test scores.

By the time they were 20, they had a better overall position in life, both mentally & physically.

Decisions around health and finances are good examples of how most people lack the skill of self-control.

We start off feeling enthusiastic and motivated about the gym membership or the savings account, but only the minority can manage to stick with it consistently. That's why many North Americans are now holding more debt than savings. We're also considered to be the most stressed, depressed, overweight, and over-medicated population in history.

I had spent my life feeding instant gratification because I had never learned self-control.

Once I decided to do the work to get clear & sober and achieve better health, I had to learn to say no to everything that wasn't leading me to the kind of life I wanted.

Resisting temptation gets easier with practice, patience, and persistence.

The K.E.Y. is to Keep Educating Yourself. Knowledge teaches us what to do, and practice shows us how to do it. It's a journey that begins by building resilience with self-care. I had to learn to like myself enough to start taking care of myself.

Research has shown that we only have a fixed amount of energy to resist temptation, so it's important to keep our attention focused on people, places, and things that don't tempt us.

Rumi's advice is always relevant: Learning how to resist

temptation connects us to our soul.

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

YOU are the force!

Tanya

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.



RETIRES CLUB MEETS AGAIN

The Local 1863 Retirees Club in Goderich had their first breakfast before the monthly meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic. We were so lucky to have the Goderich Legion Ladies Auxiliary put on a breakfast for the club today, and for each month from now on at the Goderich Legion (Branch 109) building where we hold our meetings. This photo shows the Ladies Auxiliary and our club members after the breakfast today, Wednesday November 8th, 2023.

(ERIC JOHNSTON PHOTO)

Goderich Duplicate Bridge Club Results

Bob Dick directed our Swiss Team Game on October 24th. We had 12 tables.

- 1st - Doug Elliott & Virginia Elliott with Paul Spittal & Mary Lynne Telford with a score of 66.00 (4 wins)
 2nd - Michele Hansen & Greg Bowman with Cal Scotchmer & Janet Bloch with a score of 55.00 (3 wins)
 3rd - Joyce McIlwain & Kay King with Graham Yeats & Brian Reeve with a score of 51.00 (3 wins)

Bob Dick directed our game on October 31. We had 9 tables.

- 1st - Doug Elliott & Steve Jolley - 64.29%
 2nd - Brian Reeve & Graham Yeats - 64.02%
 3rd - Garth Sheldon & Penny Peters - 57.14%
 4th - Kay King & Joyce McIlwain - 55.03%
 5th - Marian Lane & Barb Howe - 54.76%
 6th - Brian Smith & Larry Silver - 52.68%

Rob McFarlane directed our game on November 7th. We had 7 and 1/2 tables.

- 1st - Penny Peters & Garth Sheldon - 67.31%
 2nd - Joyce McIlwain & Kay King - 56.73%
 3rd - Bob Dick & Keith Allen - 56.41%
 4th - Graham Yeats & Brian Reeve

- 54.81%
 5th - Brenda Blair & Pat Lewington - 52.98%
 6th - Greg Bowman & Michele Hansen - 52.89%

Rob McFarlane directed our game on November 14th. We had 8 tables.

- 1st - Anne Odonnell & Nancy McAuley - 69.94%
 2nd - John Archbold & Susan White - 61.31%
 3rd - Shirley Thomas & Tom Rajnovich - 58.33%
 4th - Joyce Zimmerman & Margaret Blackie - 55.65%
 5th - Keith Allen & Bob Dick - 55.36%
 6th - Garth Sheldon & Penny Peters - 51.19%

Rob McFarlane directed our game on November 21st. We had 7 and 1/2 tables.

- 1st - Shirley Thomas & Tom Rajnovich - 64.42%
 2nd - Marian Lane & Barb Howe - 60.58%
 3rd - Bob Dick & Keith Allen - 57.05%
 4th - John Legate & Stephen Jacob - 54.46%
 5th - Anne Odonnell & Nancy McAuley - 53.85%
 6th - Garth Sheldon & John Davies - 53.52%



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The Work: We proudly offer turn key services for major component replacements on most WTG platforms with extensive experience on Siemens 2.3, GE 1.6 and Vestas platforms. We specialize in major component exchanges; such as Main Bearing, Gearbox, and Generator exchanges. Along with the smaller tasks like internal components, blade bearings, gearbox components (up tower gearbox repairs), hydraulics, electrical and advanced rigging. This wide range of services also allows us to take on new tasks and challenges that may be unique, or new to you.

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How to Apply:

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Downtown Goderich Business Improvement Area Manager

Renewable Contract, Full-Time Position

The Board of Management for the Downtown Goderich Business Improvement Area (BIA) is seeking an innovative, organized, and passionate person to fill the role of Manager. Reporting to the Board of Management, the Manager is responsible for the operation and financial management of the organization. The Manager will initiate, coordinate and direct services, programs and policies that support its members.

ABOUT THE BIA: The BIA is a Town of Goderich Committee of Council and represents approximately 180 businesses and property owners in the historic Downtown Goderich area. The BIA runs many initiatives including a well-established Farmers Market, façade improvement program, streetscape and public art programs, special events and promotions.

POSITION DETAILS:

Governance

- Ensure that the BIA is operating in accordance with relevant legislation and best practices
- Develop policies and procedures
- Prepare and report measures of performance and progress to the Board
- Maintain positive and productive relationships with the Board and the Town of Goderich

Administration & Operation

- Responsible for all operations of the BIA, including administration, budgeting and staffing
- Actively support work of Board sub-committees
- Establish annual goals and work plans based on BIA operations and Strategic Plan
- Provide vision and guidance to staff, board members and the community
- Manage planning and implementation of events and projects
- Act as administrative manager for the Goderich BIA Farmers' Market
- Plan for and support staff development through annual development plans
- Oversee beautification and seasonal decoration strategies
- Complete other duties as directed and assigned by the BIA Board of Management

Communication & Promotion

- Promote and foster the business and community environment in the BIA
- Represent the BIA's interests within the community at both local and regional levels
- Manage and maintain the website, social media channels, and business listings
- Manage communications with members and external stakeholders
- Market BIA with the intention of attracting new business
- Oversee the design and creation of marketing materials
- Develop and run special events
- Foster and maintain strong working relations with the Town and media outlets

Finance

- Responsible for management and stewardship of assets and financial health of the BIA
- Monitor and review the annual operating budget of the BIA
- Prepare financial information for the auditor
- Prepare an annual report for yearly deputation to Council and members of the BIA
- Assist the Town's Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer and staff in preparation of receivables, payables and payroll

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal
- Superior customer service focus
- Effective time management skills
- Excellent problem solving, negotiation and conflict resolution skills
- Marketing experience
- Working knowledge of project management principles
- Supervisory experience
- Demonstrated experience with developing and implementing strategic and operational plans
- Ability to interact pleasantly, courteously, and professionally in all situations
- Experience using social media monitoring and reporting tools
- Strong technical skills (e.g., Excel, Office and Zoom)
- Experience using MailChimp and Survey Monkey or similar software
- Post-secondary education in Business, Marketing or similar complimentary asset

COMPENSATION: Annual Salary \$48,000-\$53,000 commensurate with experience.

HOURS: Monday through Friday may include evenings and weekends.

APPLICATION DATE: by 4 PM Friday December 15, 2023

START DATE: January 2024

TO APPLY: Candidates are invited to submit a detailed cover letter, and resume in confidence to goderichbiaboard@gmail.com, Attention BIA Chair. Please ensure that the cover letter is a maximum of one page. Cover letter and resume are saved together in one PDF file. The PDF file name is your: First name Last name (e.g., Jane Smith)

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: When a travel plan gets even better



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Contributor

If you remember the TV show “The A-Team,” you will remember the phrase, “I love it when a plan comes together.” Well, you know what’s even better? When a plan turns out to be an even better plan than you planned!

Read it again – eventually, that will make sense.

And that is what has happened with the trip I am leading to Wales and the Cotswolds, next May.

Some background: last year, I collaborated with the excellent folks at Stonetown Travel to plan and lead a coach tour of southern England, which we dubbed “Canterbury to Cornwall.” I had no idea how it would go, but – in my obviously biased opinion – it



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The High Street in Abergavenny, where the group will stay for four nights.

was great. A great tour, great destinations and, most importantly, a great group of fellow travellers. It was so enjoyable that I agreed to put together another itinerary, and lead a group to another part of the British Isles, in 2024.

I only want to take that on, if we’re visiting places I am very familiar with – I think I owe it to my group to have a good idea of our destinations. I knew I wanted to go to the Cotswolds, that beautiful part of England often called “The Heart of England.” A visit there

must include Stratford, Coventry, and Oxford, all without spending a lot of time on the bus. And yes, I have been to the district several times, and loved every minute of it.

But as I looked at a map of the U.K., I realized that we could include a few days in Wales – a destination often overlooked – as part of this tour. And, yes, I have been to Wales – but at the time I planned the trip, it had been about 25 years since my last visit there. I recalled enough, though, to choose the charming town of Abergavenny as our headquarters for a three-night stay.

And that’s where the plan turned out to be even better than I had planned. Because in September of this year, I got a website publisher: “Would you like to go to Wales, next week, to write about the Aber-

gavenny Food Festival?” I would have to leave in a week.

Really? I jumped at the chance, thanked the nice people at vacay.ca, and packed my carry-on.

The time in Wales was amazing, and I got lots of material for travel articles, but at least as importantly, I got to visit the very town and surrounding area that I had already planned for our Wales and the Cotswolds trip. And that opportunity meant I could connect, personally, with people in Wales, and arrange unique experiences that would never have been possible if I were planning the trip based on decades-old memories. I got to visit the hotel we will be staying at. I met the owner of a vineyard where we are going to have a tasting of wine made in Wales – great stuff (I did check it out, assiduously), but never available in Canada. I talked to the folks at historic and scenic sites, and was able to arrange some unique experiences for our group.

My time in Wales was so good that when I returned home, I re-jigged the tour itinerary, to add one day in this fascinating country. My new plan is definitely better than what I had planned!

Of course, we will also be visiting amazing sites in England. We’ll be staying in Stratford-up-

on-Avon for a few days, which will include attending a play at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, and visits to all sorts of sites connected to the great playwright, himself.

I can’t wait to revisit Coventry Cathedral, one of the most emotionally powerful places in the world. The story of the bombing of Coventry, including the cathedral; the decision to maintain the ruins as a memorial; and the construction of the new cathedral right next door, is a powerful narrative, full of poignant details that I will keep to myself, until we are at the site.

We’ll also stay in Chipping Campden, a beautiful Cotswold town, and in Oxford, where there is so much to experience – including music in one of the historic churches.

I was especially excited to learn that a new visitor spot has opened near Oxford – Bletchley Park, famed site of the top-secret decoding operation that cracked the Nazi’s communications code, the Enigma Code. This has been made famous in historical accounts, books, and movies. I jumped at the chance for our group to pay a visit.

I am very grateful to the people at Stonetown Travel – including Stewart Grant, that very busy guy who owns the travel agencies and also this newspaper and its sister publications – for offering me the chance to put my travel experience into practice by introducing others to some of the most interesting parts of the world.

I am also grateful for the sheer coincidence that took me to Wales in September, turning my plan into a better plan than I had planned!

For more information, contact me, or Louise Bell at louise@stonetowntravel.com.

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.

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Historic memorials in the Parish Church of St. Mary's in Abergavenny.

Riddles

What do miners put on their face at night?
Coal cream.

Why did the football coach go to the bank?
To get his quarterback.

What is green and sings?
Elvis Parsley.

Did you hear about the man who got his left arm cut off?
He's all right now.

Why did the bird go to the restaurant?
Because he wanted a tweet

What do frogs drink?
Croak-a-cola.

Why can't a leopard hide?
Because he's always spotted

Why did the rancher name his ranch "Peanut Butter"?
It was a great spread.

What's the richest kind of air?
Billionaire.

How come my uncle does not brush his hair?
Because he is bald.

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 31

Pet of the Month



KEVIN

Kevin is a 3 year old Australian Blue Heeler. His favourite activity is to chase squirrels and visit the horses, cats and cattle at the barn. He loves riding in the car and the side-by-side although he always has to have the front seat! Anyone riding with him has to ride in the back seat!

Submitted by Lori Vanstone



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

Word Search

CHRISTMAS

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

- Christmas
- Merry
- Festive
- Santa Claus
- Elves
- Jolly
- Reindeer
- Carolers
- Mistletoe
- Nativity
- Yuletide
- Tinsel
- Stocking
- Presents
- Candy
- Rudolph
- Holiday

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Sunset of the Month



Stunning red sunset captured by Emsie Williams on November 18. (CREDIT: Emsie Williams)

To submit your sunset photos email
kate@goderichsun.com

Helping you is what we do.™



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COMING EVENTS

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Local Theatre: Christmas in the Highlands

Running on Friday, December 1 until Sunday, December 3, as well as on Friday, December 8 until Sunday, December 10 at The Livery Theatre. Written by Warren Robinson, directed by Eleanor Robinson, sponsored by Second Streetlight Estate Winery. For information on when box office opens, and for show times visit The Livery's website.

Hockey Day in Goderich

Saturday, December 2 at Maitland Recreation Centre from 9 a.m. until 10

p.m. Stop by the MRC for a full day of action-packed hockey, ending the day with a match between the Goderich Junior C Flyers and Wingham.

Local Sports: Goderich Junior Flyers Home Games

Saturday, December 2 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, December 9 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, December 16 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, December 17 at 2:30 p.m.
All home games are at the Maitland Recreation Centre.

Downtown Goderich Open House
Sunday, December 3 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in-store features. Santa and Mrs. Claus from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. around the Square.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 9 from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Trinity Christian Reform Church. Celebrate 29 years of Breakfast with Santa and fundraise for the Huron Women's Shelter. Cost is \$5 per child, \$10 per adult, or

\$30 for a family.

Polar Plunge at the Beach

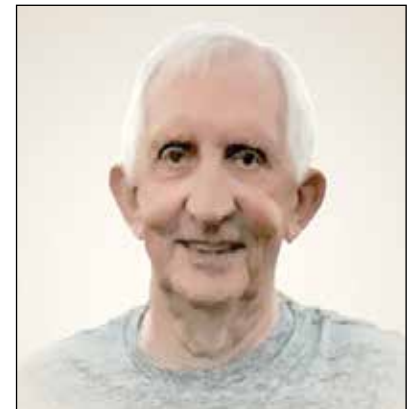
Monday, January 1 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Goderich Waterfront.

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.

OBITUARY



HASKELL, Douglas Lloyd Duncan

At Alexandra Marine and General Hospital on Thursday November 23, 2023. Douglas Haskell of Goderich at the age of 85. Beloved husband of Patricia Marie Haskell (Wright) for 49 years. Dearest father of Lloyd (Becky) Haskell of Goderich, Connie (Willie) Betancourt of Lancaster, PA, Scott William Haskell of Goderich, Jane Marie Campbell (Bill) of Bayfield. Predeceased by his son Robert Blake Haskell (2007). Loving Papa to Kristopher Haskell (Marissa), Kassandra Haskell (Kyle), Eric Snellgrove (Krista), Megan (Christoph) Beeler and McKenzie "Mac": Campbell. Great grandpa to Oscar Beeler. Survived by his sisters Diana and Shirley. Also predeceased by brothers Floyd, Cecil, Lorne and sisters Irene, Marie, Doris and Lorene.

The family will receive friends at First Baptist Church (39 Montreal St. Goderich) on Friday December 1, 2023 from 12 Noon until the time of the memorial service at 1 PM. Cremation has taken place. Memorial donations to Lucknow Pet Rescue or the charity of your choice gratefully acknowledged. Friends may sign the book of condolences at www.mccallumpalla.ca

OBITUARY



KEARWOOD B. WHITE (KIP)

September 19, 1936 - October 30, 2023

In loving memory

Born September 19, 1936, in Goderich, Ontario to Irene & Kearwood W. White, Kip was the youngest of 7 children. He married V. Marie Glenn in 1957 and the two headed West.

Predeceased by his son Glenn in 2008. Left to mourn his passing are his wife of 66 years, Marie, his children; Wendy, Keary, and Brent, his grandchildren; Dawne, Drew, Ryan, Shannon (Alex), Kelly, Morgan, and Briya, and relatives in Ontario, Kamloops, and Nova Scotia.

Kip was a great logger who loved his work and had the pleasure of getting to know so many fine people.

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SUDOKU

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

ADVERTISE HERE FOR AS LOW AS \$15 PER ISSUE!

Contact:
info@goderichsun.com to inquire.

Christmas spirit alive at IODE's recent Christmas House Tour

The IODE Christmas House Tour raised over \$25,000 this year.

Many thanks to the generous homeowners, creative decorators, the 75 volunteers who took shifts at the homes

on the tour, and to the public who purchased tickets to support this fundraiser.

"We are pleased to announce it was our most successful tour to date, and soon we will be making a financial con-

tribution to the AMGH for their palliative care rooms," explained Heather Ball.

"Merry Christmas from the Maple Leaf Chapter IODE." Nearly 1,100 tickets were sold this year.



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