



Goderich Sun

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Health Unit Looking for Dog Involved in an Incident in Goderich

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) is looking for a dog involved in an incident in Goderich on Sunday, February 1, 2026, between about 1 and 1:15 p.m. The incident took place on the Menesetung Trail.

The dog involved in the incident is described as a large breed and grey in colour with medium length hair. Two individuals – one described as a male wearing a black coat, the other a female wearing a light grey coat – were walking the dog on a leash at the time of the incident.

The health unit is investigating this incident to check if the rabies vaccination status of the dog is up to date.

HPPH reminds people to always obtain the contact information of the owner(s) of the animal that is involved in an incident.

Anyone who has information about this dog should contact Huron Perth Public Health at 1-888-221-2133 ext. 3670. After hours or over the weekend, call the main number and follow the prompts to reach our answering service.

For more information:

Huron Perth Public Health: 1-888-221-2133

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(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Goderich Boat Cruises headed by Capt. Mike offers a variety of choice to enjoy the shoreline of Lake Huron during the summer months. The company has now added a ferry service between Goderich and Bayfield for summer 2026.

Ferry Services Coming to Goderich This Summer, In Addition to Boat Cruises Along Shoreline

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

An exciting and engaging boating experience is available from the Goderich Harbour whether customers book public cruises, private charters or now, with the newly added ferry service between Goderich and Bayfield.

A fan of boats since a young boy, Captain Mike Brill (Capt. Mike) got his first boat in 2007, and a year later began planning how to offer services of boat cruises

to the public.

After operating boat cruises in different locations, it wasn't until last summer that Capt. Mike brought his business to Goderich.

Exploring the beautiful shoreline of Lake Huron from the water has been made possible through Goderich Boat Cruises, introduced in summer 2025.

Starting last year closer to the middle of July was a late start for Goderich Boat Cruises, but after a few weeks it caught on. Capt. Mike and his crew offered

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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Ferry Services Coming to Goderich This Summer, In Addition to Boat Cruises Along Shoreline

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

harbour cruises during the Salt and Harvest Festival, which helped bring more recognition to the budding business.

"Our exposure and popularity only excelled upwards from there and Goderich Cruises is looking forward to a much greater season for the coming summer," said Capt. Mike.

Last summer, the company completed 72 cruises despite starting almost halfway into the summer.

While the company has a regular line-up of public cruises – Harbour Cruises, Shoreline Cruises and Sunset Cruises – Goderich Boat Cruises also offers the opportunity to charter a 45-foot luxury yacht or hire Goderich Boat Cruises for private functions and celebrations.

"Our private charters enable people to enjoy the boat like a floating cottage," Capt. Mike explained.

"While we start out with a short cruise, we park the boat on the lake and passengers can swim off the back of the boat, enjoy a picnic up on the bow, use our barbecue, or bring your own coolers with pre-made snacks and sandwiches."

Passengers will also have access to a washroom while onboard.

According to Capt. Mike, the three cruise options are all popular, but the Sunset Cruise is a favourite

as it offers a three-in-one element – a daylight cruise, watching the sunset from the boat, and finally finishing off with a short moonlit cruise while returning under the dark sky.

Public cruise experiences are available Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as holiday long weekends, lasting from a half hour to an hour out on the lake ranging in price from \$30-65 per person.

Family-friendly private charter of the yacht is listed as \$350 per hour, for up to six passengers. An additional \$60 per person, and a maximum limit of 12 passengers.

Capt. Mike stressed that alcohol consumption while on board during a public cruise is strictly prohibited, yet private charter privileges include access to the cabin, swimming off the back of the boat, the use of the portable barbecue and consuming alcoholic beverages while onboard.

After a successful first season, Capt. Mike is expanding his services by introducing a ferry service between Goderich and Bayfield during the summer season.

With this new ferry service, passengers between Goderich and Bayfield can explore the beautiful shores of Lake Huron with a one and a half-hour cruise between the two towns, taking in the sites along the way.

According to Capt. Mike, once you arrive at the destination, customers will have the opportunity to explore local businesses, shops, restaurants or the beach during the five-hour layover, before making the trip back.

Capt. Mike and his crew came up with the ferry service idea because they received multiple inquiries from the public about travelling to and from Goderich.

After giving it some thought, Capt. Mike realised there has never been any type of water service by boat

– especially a licensed passenger vessel – that has taken people back and forth between both towns.

It was decided it could be an exciting and new opportunity for the public at both ends to travel back and forth between Goderich and Bayfield, adding an alternative mode of transportation during the summer months while taking in the beautiful one-and-a-half-hour scenic view.

"The 18–20-minute drive between the towns is just that – a drive. Nothing too exciting, compared to a breathtaking one-and-a-half-hour ferry cruise, which doubles as a sightseeing cruise," explained Capt. Mike.

"We will be offering an upgraded ticket option for the VIP Lounge Access, which will entitle passengers open access to the ship's luxurious cabin," said Capt. Mike.

For those who prefer the ways of the water to land, the ferry service will alternate starting locations between towns and will operate on Saturdays.

Departure time at 10 a.m. and return departure at 5 p.m.

In the event of unsafe lake and weather conditions, Capt. Mike will hold departures for up to one hour. If weather conditions do not improve and are deemed to still be unsafe, refunds will be offered. In the event the ferry cannot complete the return portion of the ferry service, a shuttle or taxi service will be provided to passengers at no extra cost.

A roundtrip ferry ticket costs \$125 per person, yet one-way pricing is also available.

According to Capt. Mike, prices are discounted for the first 50 tickets sold before March 1.

For more information on cruise options, the ferry service and prices, please visit <https://www.goderich-cruises.com> or call/text Capt. Mike at 647-881-7500.

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Editorial

Groundhog Day Shenanigans: The Forecast No One Agreed On

PAMELA CLAYFIELD

Sun Correspondent

This year's Groundhog Day may go down as one of the most dramatic in recent memory and not just because of the weather.

The real storm was on social media, where it was collectively decided there had been quite enough winter and nobody was prepared to let a groundhog decide their fate, especially if the little guy saw his shadow predicting six more weeks winter.

Poor Wiarton Willie didn't stand a chance.

In the weeks leading up to Groundhog Day, multiple social media sites were flooded with posts ranging from gentle persuasion like Willie, buddy, think carefully, to fullblown mock threats including If he sees his shadow, he'll be replaced by a squirrel.

One particularly cute meme suggested that If Willie predicted six more weeks of winter, the squirrels told him the raccoons would feed him to the fishes.

It was all in good fun, of course, but after the amount of snow we've had this year — the kind that makes you question why you're not in the Bahamas while shoveling for the third time in a day — it's no wonder people were feeling a little invested.

Groundhog Day has always been a quirky tradition, but this year it felt like a collective therapy session. A chance to laugh, to commiserate, and to pretend, just for a moment, that a furry meteorologist might have the power to save us from an-

other round of lakeeffect snow.

And maybe that's the real charm of it. In the middle of winter, when the days are still short and the snowbanks are too tall, we find ways to lighten the mood. We joke. We tease. We rally around a groundhog like he's the last hope for humanity.

Willie did manage to get it right by predicting an early spring. That doesn't matter as much as how we all came together — united in humour, mild desperation, and the shared dream of seeing our driveways again.

Choosing Grace: Love and Family

PAMELA CLAYFIELD

Sun Correspondent

February is cold and yet, despite its shorter days, it is the month of love. February is a packed month observing Black History, Heart Health, National Flag of Canada Day and World Cancer Day entwined with Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and Family Day.

Just days ago, we celebrated Valentine's Day, which is a reminder of the love we share with partners, friends, and the people who hold space in our hearts. A couple of days later, we celebrated Family Day, a holiday that reminds us of our loved ones near and far.

Family, after all, isn't defined only by blood. It's defined by a feeling of belonging by the people who show up and by the ones who make room for us at their table, in their plans, and in their lives.

Some families are big, some are small and some families are nearby while others are spread out across

a nation. Some are chosen, some are blended and some are beautifully unconventional. What matters is the connection — the threads of care, loyalty, and understanding that weave us together.

This past weekend, as we shifted from Valentine's Day into Family Day, we were reminded that love and family are deeply intertwined. Love is what builds family. Family is what sustains love. And both are

strengthened by grace — the grace to forgive, to listen, to grow, and to keep showing up for one another.

May this midwinter stretch remind us of the people who make our lives warmer - our families and our friends who feel like family.

May we reach out, reconnect, and appreciate the relationships that carry us through every season.



Goderich Sun

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Town of Goderich Adopts 2026 Budget with a Three Per Cent Tax Rate Increase, Focuses on Priority Infrastructure Projects

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

From fixing the downtown core infrastructure to funding events like Winterfest, the Town of Goderich's 2026 budget outlines how tax dollars will be spent, and where choices will be made.

Initially, Deanna Hastie, Treasurer for the Town of Goderich, presented the draft budget to council members on January 27, and further discussions took place prior to adopting the 2026 budget.

On February 11, the 2026 Town Budget was adopted with a three per cent tax rate increase, which creates an additional \$326,540 in tax revenue.

"As Mayor, I take responsibility for taxpayers very seriously. Every dollar we discuss represents someone's hard work, someone's household budget, someone's trust in this council to make thoughtful, balanced decisions," stated Mayor Trevor Bazinet at the January 27 meeting when the 2026 Draft Budget was proposed.

"Our goal is to not simply fund services but to steward public money in a way that strengthens Goderich today, while positioning us well for tomorrow.

"We are facing real pressures - costs, infrastructure needs, growth demands and expectations for service delivery. At the same time, we are also seeing opportunity. Opportunity to invest wisely, to plan proactively, and to build a community that remains strong, welcoming and resilient."

What does the three per cent tax rate increase mean to taxpayers?

An average residential property assessed at \$230,000 will pay \$73.14 more for 2026 in property taxes.

An increase in the Town's Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) operating grant and assessment growth have assisted in mitigating the tax rate increase.

The 2026 OMPF allocation is \$2,072,300, which is an increase of \$220,000 from 2025.

Hastie says this has a favourable impact on the budget.

"The majority of funding for capital projects is set to come from capital reserve funds, reserves and grants," said Hastie.



"Capital overall is supported by taxation."

Government grants and reserve funds used for necessary infrastructure projects and maintenance needs, assist in keeping the tax rate at three per cent.

Under the Municipal Act, the Town is required to prepare and pass a budget annually.

A municipality's budget must balance, meaning money coming in must equal money going out.

"The goal of the annual budget is to provide sufficient funds for service delivery, contingencies for unexpected expenses, and to strive to ensure that the Town has adequate reserve funds to maintain our infrastructure," said Hastie at the January 27 Council meeting.

"The annual budget allocates resources to public services and projects while being mindful of keeping property taxes and user fees at reasonable levels balanced with providing services at acceptable levels."

According to the Town of Goderich, the Budget balances affordability with essential investment to sustain service delivery and advance the strategic goals of the Town.

The 2026 Budget includes \$18 million in planned spending for the year ahead, in capital projects and equipment replacement.

The Budget focuses on local infrastructure such as ongoing road maintenance while maintaining other essential services such as replacement of the HVAC system at the water plant, continuing the rebuilding of the downtown infrastructure project, renovations at the Maitland Valley Medical Centre and the addition of the

kayak launch pad at the marina.

Goderich's town budget determines municipal services, sets property tax rates, and guides community planning and infrastructure projects.

Municipal services include snow removal, fire protection, by-law enforcement, road maintenance, parks and recreation programs and economic development initiatives.

Infrastructure projects include road and sewer repairs like the downtown revitalization project, essential equipment replacements, and stormwater management.

The town budget determines the quality and availability of municipal services; it guides infrastructure development and sets property taxes while supporting community programs.

Funding has been approved for the following key capital projects for 2026:

- Rebuilding Downtown Infrastructure Project - Year 2 - \$4,645,921
- Replacement of Mater Control Centre and HVAC system at the Water Plant - \$5,024,800
- Storm Sewer Replacement - Wastewater Plant - \$650,000
- Oxford Street Reconstruction - \$2,039,150
- Other Roadwork - \$398,499
- Street Sweeper Truck Replacement - \$650,000
- Renovations at the Maitland Valley Medical Centre - \$400,000
- Facility Work at the Memorial Community Centre - \$288,000
- Other Facility Work, Equipment and Vehicle Replacements - \$2,287,800

According to the Town of Goderich, Reserves and Reserve Funds show an overall

decrease of \$8,145,435 for the year.

Reserve fund is cash allocated, if not needed for an immediate project, borrowing internally and paying interest internally, to save for when needed or move to another department to pay for priority projects.

"Reserves and reserve funds are important tools for a municipality, allowing for long-term planning, internal financing and dealing with unknown situations that may arise," explained Hastie.

"The Town continues to maintain a significant level of reserve and reserve funds. Strategies have been set up to contribute to reserves and reserve funds on an annual basis. These strategies assist in maintaining sufficient cash flow to meet the Town's obligations such as replacement of current assets."

In the 2026 Budget, these strategies were maintained to build reserves and reserves funds.

"Council may establish a reserve for any purpose and apply the funds at their discretion," Hastie explained.

Other projects requiring additional confirmation before proceeding are the replacement of the stairway to North Harbour Road costing \$700,000, only if a grant is approved, and the Bannister Park parking lot regrade and pave costing \$650,000, only if Council approves this project.

"Reserves are there for a purpose, and they do increase or decrease over time, depending on what projects are made a priority in a particular year," added Hastie.

In summary, inflationary pressures persist and continue to impact the budget expenditures.

The 2026 Budget reflects significant investment in the Town's infrastructure assets. Investment in critical core services such as water, roads and sewers has been prioritized.

"This budget is not just a financial document," concluded Mayor Bazinet.

"It's a reflection on our priorities, our values and our belief in this community's future."

For more information on the 2026 Budget visit <https://www.goderich.ca>

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Gateway Webinar Bridging the Distance: Transportation Challenges and Solutions in Rural Regions

GODERICH SUN STAFF

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While transportation remains one of the largest barriers for people in rural areas seeking health and healthcare services, Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) will host a webinar to tackle a collaborative conversation on transportation networks and connection to rural health.

Keynote speaker Dr. Sarah-Patricia Breen, BC Regional Innovation Chair (RIC) in Rural Economic Development at Selkirk Innovates will focus on rural transportation funding and the need for more public transportation.

Dr. Breen's goal is supporting rural communities across Canada to thrive under conditions of rapid economic and social change.

Dr. Breen will be joined by Stephanie Ellens-Clark, Executive Director and Charlene Tolton, Manager of Programs and Services at ONE CARE.

Ellens-Clark and Tolton will explain how their team provides instrumental home and community-based services through Huron and Perth counties.

Services range from transportation of patients for medical appointments to the facilitation of wellness programs for older adults and caregivers.

According to Gateway, the final speaker for the webinar is Stephanie Stewart, Manager of Community Transit at County of Grey.

Stewart will discuss the role of municipal governments and collaboration for regional transit networks.

Gateway's webinars are open to anyone in the community.

The upcoming webinar on rural transportation will be via ZOOM on Tuesday, March 3 from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m.

To attend this event, or any future presentations and webinars, please register on Gateway's website: <https://www.gatewayruralhealth.ca/lectureseries>

United Way Report Reveals Need for Greater Inclusion of 2SLGBTQ+ Residents in Region

GODERICH SUN STAFF

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A new report from United Way Perth Huron's (UWPH) Social Research and Planning Council (SRPC) sheds light on the experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ residents across Perth and Huron counties.

Filling a gap in local research and understanding, this new report reveals that many 2SLGBTQ+ individuals in the region face isolation, high rates of discrimination and a sense of feeling unseen, unsupported and disconnected from their communities.

"We knew this was an important topic to research after hearing countless reports from community partners about discrimination against the 2SLGBTQ+ community," said Kristin Crane, UWPH Director of Community Impact and Research.

"We wanted to help give voice to peo-

ple's experiences and create a space to share ideas for strengthening inclusion, safety and local supports."

According to United Way, Discrimination and Community Integration Experienced by 2SLGBTQ+ in Perth and Huron Counties was developed in partnership with University of Guelph's School of Environmental Design and Rural Development and the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute. The report drew on data from online surveys, interviews and a participatory workshop.

The report highlights the urgent need for more inclusive services and spaces. It calls for better education about the barriers 2SLGBTQ+ residents face, stronger organizational commitments, safer community spaces and policy changes prohibiting hate-based discrimination.

To read the full report, visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca

Gateway and Maitland Valley Family Health Team Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Rural Healthcare Research

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

An agreement between Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) and the Maitland Valley Family Health Team (MVFHT) was signed to establish a collaborative partnership.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is aimed at advancing rural health through research, education, communication and innovation.

Gwen Devereaux, President of Gateway CERH explained that creating a partnership with the Maitland Valley Family Health Team is important as both parties share the common goal of keeping rural residents healthy.

"We look forward to collaborating to support our communities through grassroot initiatives aimed at guiding healthcare organizations while developing a pipeline of rural healthcare practitioners," added Devereaux.

According to Gateway representatives, this agreement reflects a shared commitment to working together on initiatives

that support rural healthcare.

By aligning efforts, both organizations aim to support evidence-informed practice and enhance connections across the rural healthcare system.

Matt Hoy, Executive Director of MVFHT echoed Devereaux's sentiments by explaining that the team is excited to collaborate with Gateway.

"We are particularly pleased to partner with this community organization to help identify gaps in local health needs and to develop programming that strengthens the overall health of our community," said Hoy.

"This partnership also provides valuable opportunities to recognize our dedicated health care professionals while supporting the development of the health care workforce of tomorrow."

Together, Gateway CERH and MVFHT have stated that both parties are committed to fostering collaboration that strengthens rural healthcare systems and improves outcomes for rural populations.

For more information visit www.gatewayruralhealth.ca



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
Gwen Devereaux, President of Gateway CERH, with Matt Hoy, Executive Director, MVFHT, Dan Stringer, Board Chair, Gateway CERH.

Annual Benefit Hockey Game to Support Huron Hospice Bender House

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Former NHL players will suit up against Goderich Firefighters at the Maitland Recreation Centre (MRC) on Sunday, March 8 to support Huron Hospice.

To date, NHL players confirmed include Dave McIlwain, Gary Leeman, Adam Munro, Bernie Nicholls, and Dave Hutchison.

“Although the NHL players call themselves the Hockey Heroes, both teams are heroes in our eyes,” said Lisa Taylor, Huron Hospice Board Chair.

For 30 years families in the area have turned to Huron Hospice to make moments matter at the end-of-life. Huron Hospice provides care for people with life-limiting illnesses and loss and grief support for children, youth and adults.

In the past year, 59 people died at Bender House Huron Hospice, while 45 individuals received supplied care in the family home, and 164 people participated in the loss, grief and bereavement program.

“Over the past 18 months, Bender House occupancy was over 80 per cent,” explained Willy Van Klooster, Huron Hospice Executive Director.

“Proceeds from fundraising and events like this hockey game ensure there are no costs for any hospice services. Huron Hospice is a place where families make moments matter.”

The Goderich Firefighters’ charity of choice is Bender House Huron Hospice.

According to Van Klooster, this fantastic community event hockey fundraiser promises lots of skill and laughs and is guaranteed a memorable event for all ages.

The puck will drop in Goderich at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased for \$30 each or four for \$100 from Christopher Walker at Huron Hospice: 519-525-7352 or 1-888-777-9793.

The event usually sells out, so visit www.ProHockeyHeroes.com to purchase tickets and ensure a good seat for this annual fundraising event.

Huron Perth District Women's Institute Offering \$500 Education Award to Graduating Students

MARGARET MCINROY

Sun Contributor

The Huron Perth District Women's Institute (WI) is once again investing in the future of local youth through its annual Education Award, offering a \$500 scholarship to a graduating high school student from Huron or Perth counties.

The award is open to students who will be continuing their education as full-time learners in their first year at a post-secondary institution or entering an apprenticeship program.

All secondary schools serving Huron and Perth counties have received application packages for the 2026 award.

Community involvement and personal growth are key values of the Women's Institute, and those elements will play a significant role in the selection process.

In addition to meeting eligibility requirements, applicants must submit a minimum 500-word essay addressing the topic: “How would you entice young people to work in Huron or Perth counties after graduating from their post-secondary education?”

Applicants are also required to include three signed reference letters from community organizers and/or high school faculty members. A maximum of one reference

letter may come from the applicant's high school.

Applications will be reviewed by members of the Huron Perth District WI education award committee, who will evaluate submissions based on community involvement, quality of the essay and overall merit.

The successful applicant will be invited to attend the Huron Perth District Women's Institute annual meeting on Wednesday, May 27 at the Howick Community Centre, where the Education Award will be formally presented.

For students considering further education and looking to make a positive impact in their

home communities, the Huron Perth District WI Education Award offers both financial support and recognition of community-minded leadership.

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Huron Health System Reminds the Public to Stay Protected as Respiratory Virus Season Continues

GODERICH SUN STAFF

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While Influenza A levels have started to decrease, COVID-19, RSV and pneumonia activity remains stable.

While the region moves through the height of cold and flu season, Huron Health System (HHS) – a partnership between Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) in Goderich and South Huron Hospital (SHH) in Exeter – reminds residents that respiratory virus activity remains high.

HHS explains that it will be several weeks before health care systems begin to see a steady decline in cases.

According to HHS, RSV and pneumonia typically remain more active during the winter months and begin to taper off around March, though circulation can continue into April.

While other viruses are cyclical, COVID-19 does not follow a consistent seasonal pattern and can continue to circulate year-round.

“With several respiratory viruses circulating at the same time, we need to stay vigilant,” said Jimmy Trieu, President and CEO at HHS.

“Even as some indicators improve, we are not out of the woods yet. Protecting our communities remains our top priority.”

While viruses continue to circulate, HHS encourages community members to take simple, effective steps to stay healthy and reduce the spread of respiratory illness.

That includes staying up to date on vaccinations, wash your hands frequently or use an alcohol-based

hand sanitizer, stay home if you are sick, even mild symptoms can spread viruses to others, and consider wearing a mask in crowded or high-risk settings.

“As a community, we all play a role in keeping each other safe,” added Trieu.

“Small actions can make a big difference, especially for those who are most vulnerable.”

According to HHS, these everyday precautions help ease pressure on our health-care system and protect those at highest risk of severe illness.

To protect vulnerable patients, staff and other visitors, hospitals are discouraging anyone with symptoms of cold, flu, COVID-19 or other respiratory illness from visiting.

Instead, friends and family are encouraged to stay connected using the hospitals’ free e-card service.

According to HHS this service allows community members to send personalized messages online. The e-cards are printed and delivered directly to patients, offering a safe and meaningful way to show care when an in-person visit is not appropriate.

Visit www.huronhealthsystem.ca for more information.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the highest mountain in Greece?
2. What is a wallaby?
3. The Tower of London is famously “guarded by” which kind of bird?
4. What human organ can regenerate itself?
5. Who won Album of the Year at the 2026 Grammy's?
6. Who did Anne Hathaway marry in 1582?
7. What three headed dog is guardian of the underworld?
8. Which illegal CIA program from the 1950s–1970s secretly experimented with mind control and psychological manipulation?
9. What does NATO stand for?
10. What does the Latin phrase *caveat emptor* translate to?

This week's answers are found on pg. 23

Godерich Winterfest 2026

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

As the winter weather of whiteout conditions, freezing temperatures and slippery walking spaces continues to dictate road closures and our movements, Godерich Winterfest 2026 forged on.

All weekend long, residents and visitors were invited to take part in free outdoor activities as well as cosy up inside at various locations such as the museum for unstructured play and the Goderich Fire Hall for the annual chili cook-off, all while celebrating this community during what is proving to be a long, and arduous winter.

Participants who wandered onto the square on February 7 were treated to a winter playground packed with family-friendly action including an axe throwing cage, mini stick hockey, and a maze castle.

Other favourite activities returned this year such as the annual candlelight walk through the Maitland Woods. This free event continued despite the wind warning from Environment Canada.

Participants bundled up and tread through the woods adorned by hand-made lanterns.

For those who didn't want to venture out into the cold, Goderich Legion hosted meat draws that included musical entertainment by Jim Otterbein and Cheap Thrills.

Despite the cold, despite the seemingly never-ending winter that has brought school closures, road closures, dangerous driving and walking conditions and a cold that runs deep, residents of Goderich still managed to find the fun in winter and celebrate what this community can do when it comes together during some of the more difficult months of the year.



(SUBMITTED/FACEBOOK PHOTOS)
Goderich Winterfest 2026 included classic activities such as the candlelight walk in the woods and the chili cook-off.



Trail Talk: Hikers are Looking Forward to Milder Temperatures, Spring and Getting Back on the Trails

PATRICK CAPPER

Sun Contributor

After a long cold spell many of us are looking forward to milder temperatures and eventually spring weather, although winter does result in some beautiful scenes.

Monday morning on February 2 around the Clinton area was a spectacular frost on the trees with the sun shining, despite the snow fall and blowing snow resulting in some local road closures and resulted in some massive snowbanks.

Some of these have been reduced by the hard work of the county work crews, while one bank along Front Road, I estimate as being nine feet tall, and there was an even bigger one on the Bannockburn Line just South of Mill Road.

If you lived in some parts of Huron County, you may have seen only about six inches of snow, while other areas are over three feet.

It is my understanding that the Maitland Trail, east of Sharpes Creek Line, will have a snow drift, which will be at least eight feet deep. The problem when the

snow starts to thaw is that many trails will become soft and hikers' boots will sink in leaving a very uneven surface and a big problem if these holes are later concealed by blowing snow.

The other problem is with dog poop that was not picked up by their owners. On thawing this leaves a very unpleasant mess.

I noticed that there has been a lot of dog poop on the Sugar Bush trails, but I did not notice any on the Naftel's Creek or Sifto Loop trails.

I just came across a report in National Geographic Health about a study showing that even a gentle post-meal movement can influence blood sugar control and gut brain signaling, helping the body process nutrients more efficiently.

I encourage everyone to take part in one of the many Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) fundraising walks being held on February 28.

If you cannot join a walk then, if you can afford to, please sponsor a walker. Funds go to local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness.

I am leading a team of Maitland Trail

Hikers. If you go to CNOY Goderich, you can find all the various teams that will be taking part on Feb. 28. Other local teams are based in Wingham and Exeter. (I hope that we have already experienced the actual coldest night of the year).

NOTES:

Monday, February 16 at 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. - Bayfield River Valley Trail Association (BRVTA) Family Day hike at the Stanley Complex at Varna.

Saturday, February 28 - Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser for the homeless. The main Goderich event is being held in the Goderich square with a check-in at 4 p.m. and starts at 5 p.m. for a 2 or 5 km walk.

There are also teams walking in Wingham and Exeter. For a more energetic walk I will lead the Maitland Trail Hikers team at 2 p.m. on a local trail for one hour to 1.5 hours depending on the weather.

The location will be decided nearer the date.

The first twelve to register for the hike and donate are invited back for supper.

Please support one of the teams with a donation.

To see the Goderich teams and how to donate go to <https://cnoy.org/location/goderich>

Saturday, March 7 at 11 a.m. - Join the BRVTA for a hike on the Bayfield woodland Trail for about one hour.

Sunday, March 15 at 10 a.m. - Hike or snowshoe the Maitland Trail. I hope to have this on the Maitland Trail starting on the East side of Sharpes Creek Line at 80842. And last from 1.5 to 2 hours. However, the location may change, so be sure to contact me pcapper99@gmail.com to register for the hike.

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

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

LIFE hikers meet every Friday for a hike of about 1.5 hours, with a choice of pace, striders moving a little faster than the strollers. The hikes now start at 9 a.m. and can be joined through ONE CARE.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Frost covered trees at Hullett.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Snow drift on Bannockburn Line.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Frost on branches of the trees lining the trail.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Hiker on the Sugar Bush Bridge.

discover

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Mariners' Service Marks 112 Years of Remembrance for Worst Marine Disaster to Hit the Great Lakes

JOANNE WALTERS

Sun Contributor

“Our dead are never dead to us, until we have forgotten them.” – George Eliot

Gordon Lightfoot's song The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald shed light on tragic sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald, which happened on Lake Superior.

Yet many people may not be aware of the worst marine disaster right here in our own backyard.

The Great Storm, also known as the 'White Hurricane', the 'Big Blow' and the 'blackest day in Canadian marine history' occurred November 7 until November 9 in 1913.

It sank 12 ships with all hands, eight of these on Lake Huron alone, stranded 19 others and killed an estimated 250 sailors. Exact numbers will never be known since many of the storm's deaths didn't surface and record keeping was poor at the time.

Five who did surface on Goderich beach and five more on Kincardine beach were never identified and are buried in these communities' Maitland and Union Cemeteries "known only to God".

Three local sailors aboard the Wexford died, including young cousins Donald and Murdoch McDonald of Goderich and new Scottish immigrant James Glen of Clinton. It is believed that it was Wexford, which Goderich citizens could hear blowing its horn in vain all day as it searched

for the safety of our harbour.

The ill-fated ship wasn't found until August of 2000, lying at the bottom of Lake Huron, 22 nautical miles southwest of Goderich in 85 feet of water.

On Sunday, November 16, 1913, the Rev. Dr. George Ross of Knox Presbyterian Church, along with other members of this community's clergy, conducted an inter-denominational memorial service for all those who died in the Great Storm.

Fourteen hundred people crammed the old church building of the day, and money was collected for the widows and orphans of sailors lost.

One hundred and twelve years later, the tradition continues at Knox Goderich with the Mariners' Service held the last Sunday of every February.

Since 1913, it has evolved from a simple "Sailors & Fishermen's Service" - to pray for safety before ships set out each spring - into a memorial tribute to the victims of the Great Storm. Re-named the Mariners' Service in 1914, it has since become one of the oldest traditions at Knox Goderich and perhaps in the entire community.

Everyone is invited to this year's service on Sunday, February 22 at 10 a.m. Guest speaker is Keith Hudson. There will be special music and a Moments of Remembrance bell ringing ceremony.

Knox sanctuary will be decorated with flags and marine memorabilia to add to a moving experience.



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Huron County Pride Presents its Spring Fling Comedy Evenings in Exeter and Goderich

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

An evening of good vibes, great jobs and awesome company awaits those who wish to attend the Spring Fling Comedy Evenings in Exeter (March 20) and Goderich (March 21).

Huron County Pride (HCP), with financial support from Community Futures

Huron, presents the Spring Fling Comedy event bringing queer comedic talents to the region for two fantastic evenings of comedy.

The comedy event will feature Steve Degay, Jenna MacAskill, Kari Johnson, and Aidan O'Loughlin.

Steve Degay is a high-energy, guitar-slinging, unapologetic old school gay who smashes together stand-up, music and

outrageous NSFW fun.

From big cities to small towns, Degay delivers de-party.

Jenna MacAskill's set is a little filthy, a lot of gay and silly the whole time.

An absolute favourite at the Guelph Comedy Festival, you will laugh non-stop at the absurd trials and tribulations of Jenna's set.

Kari Johnson is a stand-up comedian and actress based in Toronto.

She's a rostered comedian at multiple clubs including the Corner Comedy Club and most recently finished filming High Voltage Horror, a dark comedy where she was not only the main character, but also the only character with a moustache.

She was a featured comic at the Galway Comedy Carnival and Just for Laughs Toronto.

Her imaginative observations centre around her racial ambiguity, mental health and anything else that might justify her otherwise useless liberal arts degree.

Aiden O'Loughlin is a gay, award-winning comedian and comedy television writer.

His stand-up has been featured on Out-TV. He's written for queer icons like Lisa Rinna, Brooke Lynn Hytes, Nelly Furtado, TS Madison, Carson Kressley, Orville

Peck and Paula Abdul.

He's also written on legendary Canadian television shows like CBC's Workin' Moms and Small Achievable Goals starring Meredith MacNeill and Jennifer Whalen of Baroness Von Sketch Show, as well as CRAVE's Bria Mack Gets a Life and Canada's Drag Race.

He's known for telling edgy, funny and deeply relatable stories and aims to one day be Canada's Sweetheart.

For more information visit huroncountypride.ca

This age of majority event is a ticketed event and can be purchased on Eventbrite in advance.

On Friday, March 20 the comedy show will take place at Imposter Brewing Company in Exeter. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the show starting at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, March 21 the event will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Goderich. Doors at 6:30 p.m. and show starting at 8 p.m.

Ticket price is \$15 until February 28, at which point tickets will cost \$20 after February 28.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/spring-fling-comedy-weekend-tickets> to purchase tickets.

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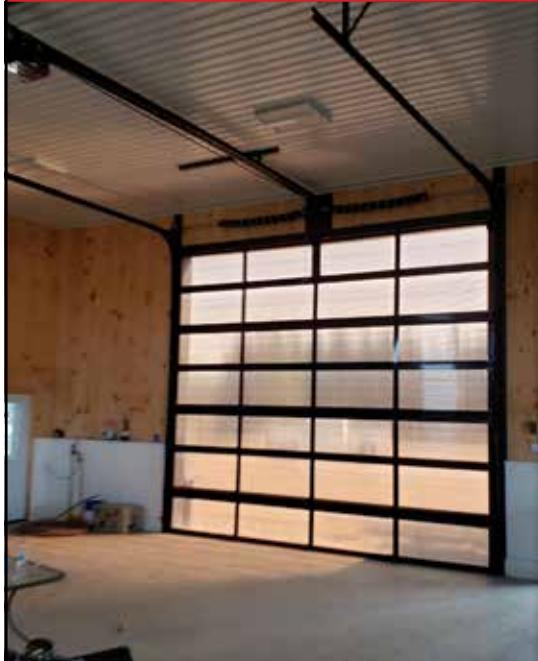
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Celebrating the Heart of the Celtic Roots Festival at Goderich Co-op Gallery Throughout March

THE GODERICH CO-OP GALLERY

Sun Contributor

Please join us in celebrating the rich and joyous history of the Celtic Roots Festival, currently on exhibit at the Goderich Co-op Gallery.

We are delighted to welcome you to the gallery for our opening reception on Saturday, February 28 at 2 p.m. to visit, remember, and look ahead in the company of good friends.

The Goderich Celtic Roots Festival

began in 1993 and has grown into an incredible nexus of music, art, and culture. It has resonated both locally and globally, drawing people from around the world to play, attend, and enjoy together.

The heart of the festival—beyond the music—is the remarkable visual artwork that has captured its spirit from the very beginning: the stunning festival designs of Linda Wiebe.

This exhibition presents a multifaceted narrative of the festival, the college

and kids camp, and the community that gives, loves, and celebrates together year after year.

The exhibition runs until the end of March, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Applications for the community art exhibition Exposure are now available on the gallery's new website at gcgallery.ca with printed copies also available at the gallery.

Artwork may be dropped off between March 3 and March 28, and the exhibi-

tion will run from April 1 to April 30. Please join us for the opening on Saturday, April 4, at 2 p.m.

All are welcome to participate and share their talents and love of art.

Winter gallery hours, in effect until the end of March, are Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and every second Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Goderich Co-op Gallery is located at 54 Courthouse Square, downstairs from Elizabeth's Art Gallery.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Festival founders Warren and Eleanor Robinson.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Main stage at the Celtic Roots Festival.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Making a Celtic inspired craft.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Celtic Goose Taking Flight, by Linda Wiebe.

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Goderich Sun SPORTS

Goderich Minor Hockey Report: Goderich Sailors Youngest Members Take Part in Jamboree



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

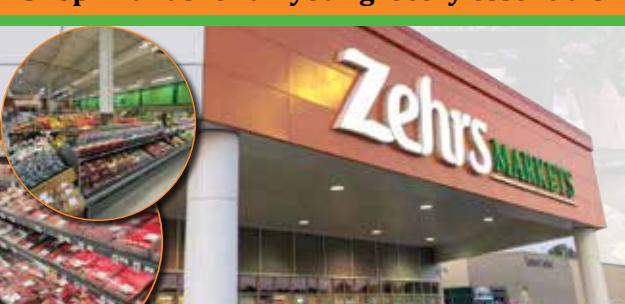
Some of the littlest Sailors (U6 and U7 teams) had a great weekend away at a jamboree hosted by Blyth-Brussels on February 8. Names were not provided in time for publication.

Submit your sports reports to us!

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Goderich Duplicate Bridge Club Results

On February 3, Robert McFarlane directed:

- 1st – Steven Watson and Tom Rajnovich – 65.56%
- 2nd – Bob Dick and Susan White – 60.74%
- 3rd – Pat Lewington and Brenda Blair – 59.63%
- 4th – Donald Cook and Dave MacLaren – 57.04%
- 5th – Frank Martin and Arnie Parker – 55.56%

On February 10, Bob Dick directed:

- 1st – Michele Hansen and Alje Kammenga – 57.78%
- 2nd – Truss Dragland and Sondra Buchner – 56.30%
- 3rd – Susan White and Pamela Southwell – 54.07%
- 4th – Bob Dick and Penny Peters – 51.85%
- 5th – Frank Martin and Arnie Parker – 51.11%

The Goderich Duplicate Bridge Club meets every Tuesday at 12:45 p.m. at the Christian Reform Church in Goderich.

If you are interested in playing, we are welcoming new members.

If you have a partner, you can simply arrive to play if you need a partner, we will do our best to find someone from our spare list.

For more information, please call Club President Michele Hanson: 519-441-3275.

The Goderich Duplicate Bridge Club's website is <https://bridgewebs.com/goderichbridge/home.html>

Sunsets of Goderich



(EMSIE WILLIAMS PHOTO)

Another sunset for the books, as the orange sky peeks out from behind the icy peaks on Lake Huron. Taken on February 3, 2026.

To submit photos of the sunset, email kate@goderichsun.com

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Central Huron Secondary School Brings Comedic Spin to Shakespeare with 'MMMBeth'

BRITTANY MCKAY

Sun Contributor

The tragedy of Macbeth is getting a comedic makeover at Central Huron Secondary School (CHSS), as students prepare to stage *MMMBeth*, a parody adaptation written by Allison Williams.

Described by drama teacher Colleen Caesar as "slapstick, cartoonish and entertaining," the production leans fully into the humour of Shakespeare's classic while still carrying its timeless themes. "This is a very comedic version of the retelling of the tragedy of Macbeth," Caesar explains.

"It kind of still follows along the whole lines of, you get what you ask for. Macbeth is searching for things that he doesn't necessarily deserve, but he feels that he deserves and he wants. So, in the end, your kind of always going to get what comes to you. The play demonstrates that very well in a very funny way."

While Shakespeare's original is known for its darker tone, *MMMBeth* flips the script by pushing the comedy to centre stage. Written and adapted by Williams, the play highlights the absurdity within the ambition, prophecy and power struggles that define the original story.

"If you are familiar with the original at all, Macbeth is much darker, much more serious," Caesar emphasized.

"It does have humour in it. So, this play really brings all the humour to the forefront and focuses on that more so than the tragedy."

Earlier this school year, Caesar took a group to see a professional production in Stratford, offering context and inspiration ahead of rehearsals.

Beyond the laughs and theatrical flair, the production has proven especially meaningful for the school's growing drama community. According to Caesar, this year marks the largest drama club turnout she has seen since beginning at CHSS in 2019.

"Seeing the group of kids work together has been the most rewarding part" she acknowledged.

"This is a great group of students that I am working with this year. They do very well. They work together,



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Cue the spotlight. The cast and crew of CHSS's Phoenix Nest Drama Club strike a pose as they gear up for their upcoming performances. (Student names were not provided, nor permitted to be printed).

they support each other, and they just make it a fun process."

Caesar emphasizes that drama education extends far beyond memorizing lines and hitting marks on stage. In her classes, she focuses on five core skills: self-control, communication, collaboration, creativity, and trust.

"You need creativity in all areas of life and all jobs," she shared. "In order for students to be successful in other areas of their life, you need to let them thrive in the arts."

She noted that students develop self-discipline by learning lines and arriving prepared, build trust by relying on castmates to fulfill their roles, and strengthen communication and collaboration skills that transfer directly into the workplace, classroom, and personal relationships.

With show fast approaching, the CHSS drama club

hopes to see not only family and friends in the audience, but members of the broader community as well.

Tickets will be available at the door. Show times: Friday, Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Caesar also expressed appreciation for the strong support the school community continues to show.

"The CHSS community is amazing. They are always so supportive," she added. "If we could get involved more with the general community, that would be great. We just want to thank everybody for supporting us and helping us."

As for what comes next, future productions are still in the early planning stages. "I have a few plays in mind," Caesar shared. "We will see what September brings."

Province Investing in Community Safety and Critical Water Infrastructure in Huron County

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Investing firefighter safety, community safety and critical municipal infrastructure in Huron County is made possible through the province's Fire Protection Grant, the Community Safety and Policing Grant and the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP) – Health and Safety Water Stream.

Three municipalities in Huron County will receive funding.

"These investments reflect our commitment to Protect Ontario, by keeping communities safe, protecting the health of our firefighters, and ensuring municipalities have the modern water and wastewater infrastructure they need," stated Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron-Bruce.

"From protective gear and decontamination equipment to major water and wastewater upgrades, this funding will make a real difference for families in Huron County."

The Municipality of Central Huron will receive \$19,625.05 through the Fire Protection Grant to purchase 10 sets of Innotex Energy bunker gear.

This modern protective equipment will help safeguard

firefighters from long-term health risks associated with exposure to carcinogens.

Central Huron will also receive \$423,477 through MHIP to support the Dundas Water System Expansion and Upgrade, improving system reliability.

The Municipality of South Huron will receive \$32,000 through the Fire Protection Grant for the purchase and installation of an equipment decontamination washer.

South Huron will also receive \$4,240,052 through MHIP to support Exeter Sewage Lagoon upgrades, ensuring safe and reliable wastewater infrastructure.

The Township of North Huron will receive \$36,223.56 to purchase 44 sets of dual-certified turnout gear.

The Township of North Huron will receive \$88,977 to support the Huron Initiative for Safe and Supported Communities, which focuses on crime prevention.

North Huron will also receive \$3,522,250 through MHIP for the rehabilitation of the Blyth Treatment Plant effluent filter and UV system, strengthening operations and protections.

Funding going to Huron County municipalities is part of the province's program, which has increased by \$700 million to help 127 municipalities and First Nations upgrade and expand infrastructure.

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Ask the Vet: How can I best set my new puppy up for success?



DR. SOPHIE FARRELL

Sun Contributor

Getting a new puppy is like a wonderful love story: Whether you were actively looking for “the one” or minding your business, one day it happened- you caught sight of some soulful eyes, a little wet nose, a wagging tail, and you were smitten.

Like any other relationship, though, it requires work to make it last. The single most important thing you can do to raise a happy, confident, and well-behaved pup, and make sure that the “puppy love” blossoms into a strong life-long bond is to lay the groundwork with proper socialization.

Socialization is lifesaving:

Behaviour problems are by far the most common reason that dogs are surrendered to shelters and are the number one cause of death for dogs under three years old. This is why I spend more time talking about behaviour and socialization with my new puppy clients than anything else.

What is socialization?

It's more than just having your puppy meet your friends and family and their pets.

Socialization means exposing your puppy to as many “life ex-



(ELYSSA MAY PHOTO)

Cedar (Golden Retriever) and Celery (Italian Greyhound) are the new puppies of a staff member at Clinton Vet Services.

periences” as possible, always in a careful and positive way.

The goal is to create positive associations with people, places, smells, sounds, surfaces, other animals, changes in environment, etc. as possible, and with being handled Proactive, positive exposure prevents fear and reactivity later in life.

When should it start?

The “imprint period” is a critical time where a puppy’s brain is wired to learn how to react to the world around them. This period ends at about sixteen weeks old, so it’s critical to start socialization **right away**.

Responsible breeders (and shelters or rescues with the resources to do so) will start socializing their puppies immediately with safe exposure to people, han-

dling, and household activities.

Your puppy’s first few days at home should focus on getting settled in and on gentle, positive introductions to their new home and family. Have your pup checked over by your vet within a few days of adoption.

Once your pup has a clean bill of health, sign them up for puppy classes and start safe “puppy field trips”.

Don’t wait until the “puppy vaccines” are finished:

There is an adage that puppies must finish their “puppy shots” before starting socialization. The problem is that the puppy vaccine series and the imprint period end around the same time, so waiting until the vaccines are complete means that you miss this critical development window.

The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior states that socialization before full vaccination should be standard of care, and recommends: “In general, puppies can start puppy socialization classes as early as 7-8 weeks of age. Puppies should receive a minimum of one set of vaccines at least 7 days prior to the first class and a first deworming. They should be kept up to date on vaccines throughout the class.”

How do I socialize my puppy?

Socialization is not a free-for-all; it must be done carefully. While your vet, puppy class instructor or positive-reinforcement based trainer is the best resource for specific questions, here are some general tips:

- Go “low and slow”: Start with “low intensity” exposure (larger distance, lower volume, fewer people) and build up gradually as your puppy shows that they’re comfortable.

- Watch for early signs of anxiety: lip licking, “tightness” at the mouth, avoiding eye contact or avoiding looking at something, ears held close to the head, or the whites of the eyes showing. Don’t wait for signs of high anxiety or fear (tucked tail, crouching/crawling, avoidance). If you suspect anxiety, calmly remove them from the situation immediately.

- Stay calm and positive: Puppies are masters at reading body language. If you’re anxious, they’ll pick up on it.

- Reward calm behaviour or curiosity. If you see signs of anxiety, stay calm and neutral, back off to where your pup is calm and comfortable, and reward the calm

behaviour. “Babbling” an anxious dog can reinforce the fear.

- Don’t force it: Don’t force or bribe your puppy towards something they’re unsure about. Back off to an intensity they’re comfortable with, reward calm behaviour, and take slow “baby steps” in future sessions. This may take several sessions, and that’s okay.

- Keep it short, sweet, and frequent: Babies of all species have short attention spans and get tired and overwhelmed easily. Lots of short positive sessions will go much farther than a few marathons. Stop a session when your pup is still having a great time and looking for more.

- Avid dog parks: Stay away from dog parks until the puppy vaccines are finished, and ideally until six months old. These are high-risk areas for disease and parasite exposure and may have dogs with poor social skills that can create a negative experience for a puppy who’s still learning those important canine social skills.

My dog missed the socialization window, now what?

All is not lost. Work with your veterinarian and/or a certified canine behaviour consultant or specialist to create a game plan to help your dog become more confident and less fearful.

Do you have a question about pet care? Send it to reception@clintonvet.ca and it may be featured in a future column.

Dr. Sophie Farrell is a veterinarian at Clinton Vet Services in Clinton, Ontario. She practices small animal, emergency, and honeybee medicine.

Meniscal Injuries of the Knee: What You Need to Know

DAGNY KANE HAAS

Sun Contributor

The meniscus is a piece of cartilage in your knee that acts like a cushion or shock absorber. It also helps keep your knee stable.

Each knee has two menisci: one on the inside of the knee (medial meniscus) and one on the outside (lateral meniscus).

Meniscal injuries can happen to people of all ages. Sometimes they occur after an injury, such as a sudden twist or pivot. Other times, especially as we get older, the meniscus can wear down and tear

more easily.

In these cases, everyday movements like squatting, kneeling, or twisting with your foot planted can cause an injury.

Common signs of a meniscal injury include knee pain and swelling, which may take a few hours or even a few days to appear.

Some people notice catching or locking in the knee, a feeling that the knee might give way, or difficulty fully bending or straightening the knee. These symptoms can make daily activities uncomfortable or challenging.

If you think you may have injured

your meniscus, it’s important to have your knee checked by a healthcare professional. A proper assessment will help determine the type of injury and the best treatment approach.

Treatment depends on the specific tear and your individual needs. In most cases, treatment does not involve surgery. Physiotherapy is usually the first step and focuses on improving movement, building strength, increasing stability, and reducing pain and swelling.

Medications or injections may also be recommended to help manage inflammation and discomfort, depending on how

symptoms progress.

Surgery is considered only if symptoms continue despite appropriate treatment and rehabilitation. Even if surgery is needed, physiotherapy plays an important role both before and after the procedure.

Meniscal tears are very common knee injuries. With the right diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation, most people recover well and can return to their normal activities—often without needing surgery.

- Dagny Kane Haas Physiotherapist / Owner Physiotherapy Alliance Goderich

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Young Canada Week in the 2020s: Postponements Played a Part in Survival of World's Oldest Minor Hockey Tournament in Goderich

RICHARD MADGE

Sun Contributor

The Goderich Lions Young Canada Week (YCW) hockey tournament had a late entry into the 2020s due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

No tournaments could be held in 2020 and in 2021.

These postponements played a part in the survival of the world's oldest minor hockey tournament.

The 2019 tournament had marked a low point in the history of Young Canada Week (YCW). It was becoming more difficult to attract the number of peewee teams needed to make it work.

A record low of 24 teams competed and that number was only possible through the addition of a bantam division.

The chair of the Lions YCW Committee Mike Alcock and Goderich Minor Hockey President Mike McBride had begun a reorganization of the tournament in 2019, but the break provided by COVID-19 gave them the opportunity to return it to action with a whole new format.

The 2022 YCW tournament featured play in three age categories – U13, U15 and U18 in both Local League (LL) and Rep divisions.

There was a quick response among the southwestern Ontario minor hockey sys-

tems, and all divisions were filled for the return of the full week competition.

Mayor John Grace and MPP Lisa Thompson attended the opening ceremony and YCW alumnus Ralph Carmichael dropped the puck with his grandson William taking the draw.

Other alumni, Doug Norman from the Goderich Township team of 1950 and Ben Vandenakker along with Tom Phillips from the Seaford team of 1957-1958 also attended.

The Goderich Sailors won the LL championship to add to the excitement that year.

The 2023 tournament was a huge success highlighter by a Local Legends Recognition Ceremony celebrating the careers of local NHL players Larry Jeffrey, Gary Doak, Jack Price and Al Dewsbury.

A special guest at the banner-raising was Goderich native Jeff Denomme, the president and CEO of the Hockey Hall of Fame.

In tournament play, the Goderich U13 team was the runner-up in the Rep Division, and the Goderich U18 Rep team was the consolation winner.

The 73rd YCW in 2024 had 44 teams competing and a total of 90 games were played that week.

Goderich teams were the champions in the U18 Rep Division, and consolation winners in the U15 LL Division.

Teams from Mitchell won the U18 LL

and were also the consolation winners in the U18 Rep Division.

Chairs Mike Alcock and Mike McBride had encouraged local citizens to renew an old tradition of wearing hockey jerseys during the tournament and a wide variety of sweaters were to be seen in the arena, on the streets in town, and in local stores and businesses.

"Through a lot of work, volunteers from Goderich Minor Hockey and the Lions Club have brought Young Canada Week back," said McBride.

"Through their efforts, we have met with an overwhelming response throughout the town and from the hockey community."

The 2025 tournament was again filled and Goderich had teams competing at all six competition levels.

Twin Centre defeated Goderich in the U18 Rep final, Saugeen Valley won the U15 Rep Division, and Huron-Bruce defeated Goderich in the U13 Rep final.

Mike Alcock continued his tenure as the Lions committee chair while Brandon Corriveau, the new president of Goderich Minor Hockey assumed the role of tournament director.

Tara Corriveau, secretary for Goderich Minor Hockey became the tournament coordinator.

"Keeping the Young Canada Week tradition alive is special for the players, coaches

and their families and for the entire community of Goderich," said Tara.

"It truly is a community event and a great many people share cherished memories from its long history."

That history comes to full fruition this year with the special observance of the 75th Young Canada Week beginning on March 13.

A full slate of U13, U15 and U18 Rep and LL games will unfold during the week.

Monday, March 13 has been designated as Young Canada Week Celebration Day with the main event consisting of an evening exhibition contest between the Toronto Maple Leaf alumni team and a Young Canada Week alumni team.

The Leaf team features players such as Doug Gilmour, Rick Vaive and Al Lafrate, while the YCW team has players such as formers NHLers Dave Shaw, Dave McIlwain and Cal O'Reilly scheduled to take part.

This is a ticketed event. Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite.com (search Young Canada Week).

A Hockey Hall of Fame Showcase will also be featured, and special games will be played throughout the day.

Be sure to check out the YCW 75th Anniversary Facebook page to see all the special features being planned for the tournament in March.

Better Mental Health: Purposeful Practices to Help Nurture Better Mental Health Every Day



TANYA MACINTYRE,
RED ROOF RECOVERY

Sun Contributor

Living in this achievement-oriented society can end up training us into what psychologists call destination thinking.

It can sound like I'll be more satisfied when I get a raise or a promotion; I'll relax when things settle down and I have more time; I'll be happy when I meet the right person, or lose the weight, or finally feel fixed.

On the surface, these thoughts may seem harmless. Sometimes, they can even be motivating, but beneath those thoughts often lies

a subtle message: Who I am right now, and how my life is right now, is not enough.

It took me a while, but I finally managed to stop chasing happiness.

It can be fleeting, and happiness is dependent on circumstances we can't fully control.

Instead, I aim for something sturdier – contentment.

It doesn't mean complacency or resignation. Contentment means developing the capacity to be with life as it is, in the present moment, without needing to escape from it.

For me, this capacity has been strengthened through Cognitive Behavioural Therapies (CBT). It didn't just help me step away from addictive patterns, it helped me understand why I reached for them in the first place.

Like many of us, I wasn't trying to feel good, I was trying to not feel bad.

CBT gave me tools to notice my thoughts, emotions and self-talk without being ruled by them. Awareness created space, and in

that space, I gained choice.

Contentment grows from daily practices that gently re-train the nervous system. Not dramatic overhauls, but small, consistent acts of attention and care.

Here are a few purposeful practices that can help nurture better mental health.

Practice Appreciation:

It isn't denial of hardship, but a widening of perspective. When we act with kindness, or notice what's working (even briefly), we build our resilience and our emotional reserves.

The brain changes in response to what we repeatedly focus on. What we practice, grows stronger.

Practice the Pause:

When we can practice the pause, and stay in the moment, we can learn to sit with and tolerate discomfort.

When irritation or disappointment shows up, pause. Ask yourself, what's upsetting me? What expectation isn't being met?

We can't control other people, or life's unpredictability, but we

can learn to respond rather than react. That shift alone reduces suffering.

Practice Presence:

The less busy chapter of your life may never arrive.

Contentment emerges when we stop waiting for conditions to change, and start meeting ourselves where we are today, just as we are.

Practice Restraint:

When the urge to buy, scroll, drink or distract appears, get curious.

Is this a genuine need or just an attempt to soothe discomfort?

Our culture encourages instant relief and gratification, but resilience is built by learning that we can survive discomfort without numbing it.

Each time we postpone gratification, we strengthen our capacity to cope.

Practice Simplicity:

Contentment often lives in ordinary moments we overlook – a walk, a conversation, learning something new. Living in a place like Goderich makes this espe-

cially visible.

Our town square, our waterfront, our libraries, our museums – these experiences cost nothing yet nourish us deeply.

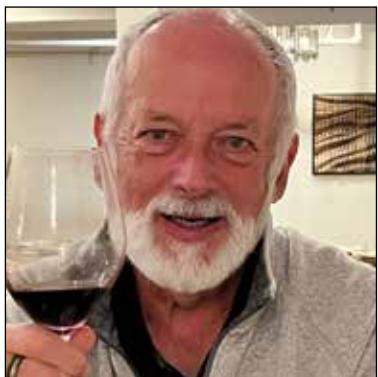
A great practice of presence is Tai Chi Flow – slow, gentle movements that meet you where you are. No experience necessary, and no difficult moves to learn.

Join me every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Goderich Martial Arts.

Tanya MacIntyre is a Certified CBT Specialist, Mental Health Fitness Trainer, and owner/operator of Red Roof Recovery (RRR) and its training division – Mental Health Fitness Alliance (MHFA).

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

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Two lesser-known features of Lyon, France



PAUL KNOWLES

Sun Columnist

There are plenty of reasons to enjoy a visit to the French city of Lyon. It's the third-largest city in France, known for its unique "Bouchon" gastronomy, for its history dating back to Roman times and before, and for its once-important role as a centre of the silk trade.

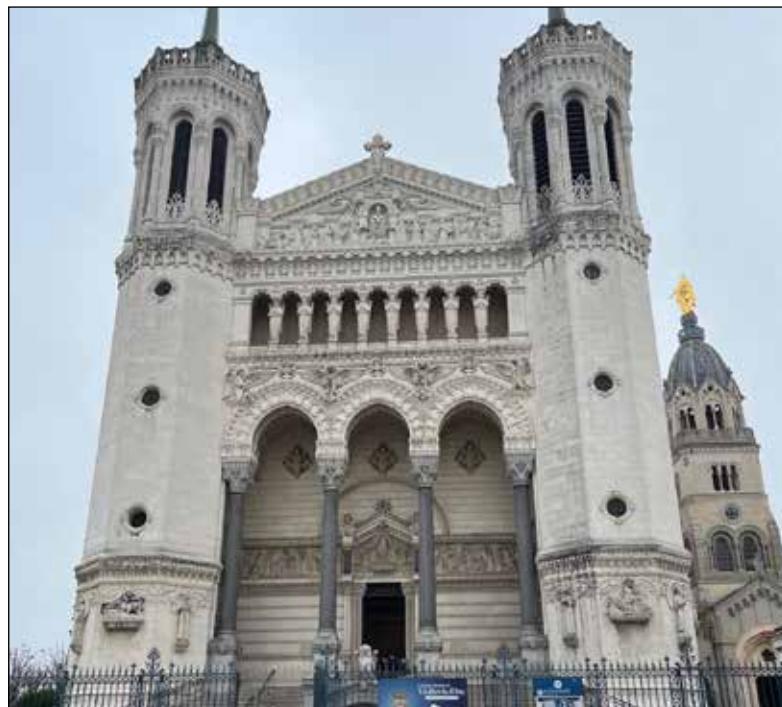
All of these things are still in evidence, today, but I found two other features of Lyon to be equally fascinating – the incredible mosaic murals in the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourviere, and the historic importance of Lyon as a centre of the French Resistance in World War II.

We were in Lyon as a stop on our Viking Rhone River Cruise; Lyon sits at the junction of the Rhone and Saone rivers. Our walking tour showed us a bustling city with a deep and rich history.

But when we visited the Basilica, I was tempted to skip the rest of the tour, and simply stay and savour the incredible mosaics that line the walls. They're not ancient – the gilded mosaics were created from 1872 all the way up to 1964. There are six mosaics, covering a vast, 6,000 square meters, and portraying two over-arching themes arising from the life of Mary the mother of Jesus: Mary and the Church, and Mary and the History of France.

The Basilica itself is awe-inspiring; like its mosaics, the building is not ancient – it was completed in 1896. But it is magnificent.

That cannot be said for the nar-



Lyon's Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourviere, home to 6,000 square meters of gilded mosaics.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

row passageways between buildings that honeycomb the old part of Lyon. As our group wandered through some of these passageways, we found little to be impressed with – until we heard to stories told by historian Boris Klein, who presented a lecture on board our Viking longship. His talk was entitled "Lyon and the Resistance," and the first thing I learned was that those impressive hidden passageways were, in fact, absolutely vital to the underground resistance to the Nazis.

Why? The key reason was a feature we had spotted on our tour – inside these covered passageways were what today we would call community mail boxes. In the days of the Underground, they were perfect drop boxes for clandestine communication – hidden from view of the streets, or anything overhead, they were an ideal place for a member of the Resistance to leave a message, to be collected in secret by a colleague at a later time.

Klein gave us a thumbnail sketch of the circumstances that created

the French Resistance. Although in 1939, the French were believed to have the best army in the world, clever German strategy saw France completely conquered in a mere 42 days. The Germans divided France into several parts. Alsace and Moselle were declared to be part of Germany. Northern France was occupied by the Germans; the south, including Lyon were initially occupied, but then became the "Free Zone" or "Vichy Zone" under Marshall Petain, a First World War hero who, by the time of the occupation, had become a collaborator with the Nazi regime.

The French Resistance arose in opposition to the Nazis and



One of six astonishing mosaic murals in the basilica.

their puppets, and Lyon became the centre of the Resistance. And yes, those mailboxes and enclosed passageways played a role, but there were lots of other factors, too. Lyon is located relatively close to Switzerland, a neutral country.

Lyon was a centre for trade unions, who joined with anti-Nazi political and religious organizations to oppose the Vichy regime. A common cause united unusual allies: "Jews, Catholic priests, communists, patriots all sat at the same table," said Klein. Of course, they could not operate openly – Petain had set up a French militia that was essentially an arm of the Gestapo.

So, opposition to the Nazis went underground – or more precisely, in Lyon, into the multitude of passageways throughout the old city. By the end of 1940, Lyon was recognized as the centre of the French Resistance.

According to Klein, the Resistance produced anti-Nazi leaflets, provided Jews and others who needed such with fake ID papers, printed underground newspapers and organized clandestine meetings.

Charles DeGaulle, who was leading the fight against the Nazis from exile in England, sent a man named Jean Moulin to Lyon, where he played the key role in uniting the

Resistance as "The Secret Army". Moulin was eventually captured and tortured to death, in 1943. By then, Germany had taken over direct control of the south of France, but at the same time, the Secret Army had taken a more active role in guerrilla-style warfare against the occupiers.

On September 3, 1944, Lyon was liberated by Allied forces.

The story of the Resistance movement is in certainly heroic, but Klein noted that after the fact, DeGaulle created a less-than-accurate myth. He told the people of France, "You are a great people who never accepted defeat." In fact, said Klein, a great many French people accepted the presence of the German occupiers, and frequently collaborated with them. Perhaps the most shocking example is that the Vichy police – French officers, not German – sent 75,000 Jews to die in concentration camps.

Klein noted that only in the 1970's or 80's did it become possible to discuss the complicated reality of the Nazi occupation of France.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and past-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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COMING EVENTS

MACKAY CHORISTERS

On Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Lakeshore United Church.

Looking for a choir family? Come join the MacKay Choristers, Huron County's daytime choir.

Weekly rehearsals every Thursday morning.

For more information: singers@mackaychoristers.ca

UKELELE STRUMMERS

On Thursday mornings from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Huron County Library in Goderich.

Drop in to learn and play the ukelele. All are welcome and no experience needed. Admission is free.

DEATH CAFÉ WITH HURON HOSPICE

On Thursday, February 19 from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at Huron County Museum.

This free event is an open conversation about death and its impacts. The museum will share items from their collection related to death and dying at the beginning of each Café for discussion.

Coffee and baked goods provided. Ages: 18+ Please register with Huron Hospice: sally.brodie@huronhospice.ca

TECH 101: CERTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

On Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Huron County Library Branch in Goderich.

Ages 13 and older. Registration required.

Get certified to use the library's technology, learn safe usage in a Tech 101 Workshop and enjoy open access to create anytime at the library. Admission is free.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: TURNING STORIES INTO HISTORY WORKSHOP

On Thursday, February 19 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Huron County Museum.

A new community oral history initiative is designed to help preserve local stories, memories and lived experiences.

Free workshops will introduce participants to oral history project planning, interview techniques, recording basics, and ethical guide-

Auburn & District Lions Club St. Patrick's Breakfast
Auburn Memorial Community Hall
Sunday, March 8, 2026
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
\$15/Adults, \$6/Child, Free/Preschool
Pancakes, eggs, toast, sausage & hashbrowns
Thank-You To our suppliers:
Robinson's Maple Products, Huron County Egg Farmers, Green's Meat Market
Proceeds for: Community Betterment

lines. Register online for the Zoom workshop. Admission is free.

GODERICH LITTLE THEATER PRESENTS: SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS

Join opening night on Thursday, February 19 at 8 p.m. at The Livery for a touching and human comedy about a formidable, retired woman who hires an acerbic dance instructor to give her private dance lessons – one per week for six weeks – in her condo.

Tickets required. Visit <https://www.thelivery.ca/tickets> for a full list of performances.

TECH TIME

On Friday mornings from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Goderich Library. Registration required. Book a 30-minute session to get help with how to use library e-resources, your new device or your email account. Admission is free.

LEGION MEAT DRAW

On Friday, February 20 from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Goderich Legion. Get there early and enter for your chance to win some meaty prizes and be whisked away by musical entertainment. Karaoke starting at 7 p.m.

CATCH THE ACE DRAW

On Friday, February 20 and Friday, February 27 at 7 p.m. at the Goderich Legion.

Buy your tickets online: www.GoderichCatchTheAce.ca

MAKE A MESS! INDOOR PLAY FOR KIDS

On Saturday, February 21 and Saturday, February 28 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Huron County Museum.

Drop in each Saturday afternoon for unstructured play for primary-aged children and their families. Create without instructions, colour without lines, and play games without rules. Included with regular admission to the museum, or free when you show your Huron County Library card or membership. Children five years old and under are always free.

ANNUAL MARINERS' SERVICE

On Sunday, February 22 at 10 a.m. in Knox Presbyterian Church sanctuary, please join in praying for the safety of ships and sailors as they set out this spring, while remembering all those who perished in the Great Storm of 1913. Guest speaker is Keith Hudson. Special music, a Moments of Remembrance bell ringing ceremony and marine flags and memorabilia will add to the moving experience.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLE

On Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Goderich Library. Make friends and practice speaking English while talking about culture, family, food, movies or anything you like. Hosted by the Huron Welcome Hub for newcomers. Admission is free.

KNITTER'S CLUB

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

On Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Goderich Library. No registration needed. Knit, relax and meet fellow knitters each week.

Skate and Shoot at the MRC

On Tuesday, February 24 from 3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Maitland Recreation Centre (MRC).

Admission is free, thanks to sponsorship by Unifor Local 16-0. No registration required. Open to all ages. Bring your own skates, sticks and helmets.

GODERICH CHESS CLUB

On Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Goderich Library in the activity room.

This club warmly welcomes all chess enthusiasts of any age to join. Whether a seasoned player or a newcomer eager to learn the game, this is the perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the world of chess.

Participants may come and go as they please during this timeframe. Admission is free. Equipment will be provided.

SENIOR TECHNOLOGY 'BACK TO SCHOOL' CAMP

On Wednesday, February 25 at 10 a.m. at the Goderich Legion.

Have tech questions? We've friendly faces and real answers.

Join every Wednesday for a free, hands-on, low-pressure digital learning session. In partnership with Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health. Admission is free.

DIABETES SEMINAR

On Wednesday, February 25 from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. at Goderich Place.

Information on how the normal function of our body gets disrupted when living with diabetes.

How can we reduce our risk for diabetes complications? Join the 45-minute presentation by guest speaker Tanya Thompson, RN, BScN, CDE from Maitland Valley Family Health Team, followed by a Q/A session.

Admission is free.

MOVIE AT THE MUSEUM

On Thursday, February 26 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. and again from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Huron County Museum.

Visit the museum for a Sundance-featured documentary 'The Librarians' that spotlights librarians on the front lines, standing up to book bans and protecting the freedom to read for everyone.

Admission is free.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

On Saturday, February 28 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Goderich Square.

The Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) is a family-friendly fundraising walk in support of local charities serving people experiencing homelessness, hurt and hunger.

CONTINUE TO PAGE 23

Worship With Us

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to your worship
services.
Contact
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326 Gibbons Street, Goderich
www.berea-zionlcc.ca • bnz@hay.net
Rev. John Trembulak 519-524-2235,
(cell) 519-878-0327
Family Worship Service
2nd and 3rd Sunday of the Month
2:00 pm
All other Sundays of the Year
8:30 am
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bereagoderich

Calvary BAPTIST CHURCH
YOU ARE INVITED!
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Goderich, Ontario
N7A 3G5
519-524-6445
www.cbcgoderich.com

9 Victoria S. N., Goderich
519-524-7512
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Amanda Bisson
Livestream Services
Sunday at 10:00 am
Knox Presbyterian Church Goderich - YouTube
Worship materials available online
www.pccweb.ca/knox-goderich

Riddles

Why did the Olympic runner bring a ladder?

Because they were aiming for new heights.

I tried to compete in the Olympics...
Turns out watching is not an Olympic sport.

Why don't Olympic athletes ever argue?
They always know how to settle things on the podium.

I entered the Olympics for archery.
I missed the point.

Why was the gymnast so calm?
They already had everything under control.

Why did the sprinter bring string to the race?
Just in case they needed a tie-breaker.

Why did the weightlifter bring a pencil?
To draw some serious conclusions.

Olympic fencing sounds intense...
until you realize no one's building a fence.

I love Olympic rowing—
everyone's just trying to stay in the same boat.

Why don't Olympic athletes use social media during events?
Too many posts and not enough reposts.

The hardest Olympic event?
Staying awake for every time zone.

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 23

Featured Pets



BINX

This is Binx, a three year old flame point Ragdoll who loves treats and standing on the keyboard of his owner, Amanda Nelson, a reporter for Grant Haven Media, whenever she tries to work. Amanda adopted Binx last summer, and he has fit seamlessly into her lifestyle. He's a protective, cuddly, slightly cross-eyed ball of fluff — and everyone who meets him falls in love.



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

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Word Search

2026 OLYMPICS

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ATHLETE

MEDAL

PODIUM

VICTORY

COMPETITION

ENDURANCE

STRENGTH

SPEED

PRECISION

DEDICATION

TEAMWORK

RECORD

CEREMONY

TORCH

GLORY

**LORETTA MAY (HONEY) ZETTELL (NEE SCHNARR)****September 6, 1930 - February 10, 2026**

Loretta was born at home in Bloomingdale, Ontario. Her father, Alvin Phillip Schnarr, was a mechanic and sign painter by trade, and a farmer and gardener at heart. Her mother, Elizabeth Mary (May) Forler was a homemaker and quilter who loved music. Their passions flowed into Loretta's growing years. Loretta went to public school in Bloomingdale but attended St. Mary's High School in Kitchener. It was in town that she met Jerry (William Jerome) Zettell, who mistook her for an old girlfriend and asked her on a date. Loretta, the not girlfriend, said yes, and the rest is history. They were married on June 26, 1950 but not before Loretta took a break from the relationship to study nursing in Hamilton, ON, and though she left to marry before she graduated, nursing informed the rest of her life.

A succession of children were born, nine in total, between 1951 and 1966 and life in a three bedroom bungalow on 59 Gerard Ave was busy. Loretta worked nights for a time at Smiles & Chuckles Chocolates and once all of us kids were in school, she took a part time job as a cashier at Zehrs Stanley Park, work she loved. Summer holidays were spent camping first at Sauble Beach, then Miller Lake and then at Shelter Valley Campground. She retired in 1990 and she and Jerry split their time between their summer home in Shelter Valley and a winter residence in Dade City, Florida. Eventually she and Jerry lived full time in Goderich, their home for the last 30 years. Loretta did auxiliary work in hospitals in Goderich and Florida, and was a 50 plus year member of The Catholic Women's League and an active parishioner at St Peter's Church in Goderich. Loretta was the last living member of both the Schnarr and Zettell families. She is survived by her children Susan Zettell and Andy Watt, Daniel Watt and Noelle England, Lilah and Mae Watt and John Watt, Atlas Westland Watt; Anne and Peter Knittle, Shane and Kimberly Knittle; Tiffany and Heinz Klassen, Erik and Lindsey Klassen; Kristine and Brad Stewart, Nathan, Abigail, Michael and Brice; Diane and Bill Fowler, Kyle and Trish, Luke Fowler; Sara and Avalynn Fowler; Patrick Zettell; Nancy Zettell and Rick Pope; James and Heather Zettell, Tyler Stewart, Nevi and Kaine Stewart; Jacqueline Howey and Mark Poser, Amy and Steve Miller, Austin and Isaac Miller; Eli Howey and Zenette Singh; Debbie Whan, Zachary, Jonathan and Katie Zettell; Michael Zettell and Heron Zettell.

Predeceased by her husband Jerome Zettell, children Bernadette Bryans, Tom Zettell and Jerry Zettell Jr; grandson Mackenzie Howey; her brothers LAC Roy Schnarr; Jack Schnarr (Olga), Jerry Schnarr, (Elaine); Lorne Schnarr (Doreen), son-in law Alex Bryans. Cherished by her many devoted nieces and nephews, and her dear friends at Table #4.

It has been difficult to lose Loretta but we are grateful to have had her in our lives for so long. She was special in so many ways: kind, generous, a woman of strong convictions and opinions, thoughtful about the world. She even got a little chippy in her last year. She cherished her family and also her many dear friends. She was fiercely attached to life. She did not want to die. That said, right up until the end, she laughed often and big at how life goes because, she said, you'd cry if you didn't laugh first.

Loretta was lucky to have had Anne Knittle in her later life. Anne, supported by Peter, was partly why Loretta lived as long and as well as she did, and we all thank them for that.

Memorial donations to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada or the St. Vincent de Paul, Goderich gratefully acknowledged.

The family thanks Dr. Krishna, Dr. Peel, Dr. Gray and the Palliative Care Team RN Paige, RN Kathy and RN Emma. A heartfelt thank you to her Goderich Place family, for the loving care she received from all the staff.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday June 27, 2026 at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Goderich with visitation to be held one hour prior at 10 AM. And Mass at 11 AM. A luncheon will follow at the church. A private family graveside service will be held.

Friends may sign the book of condolences at www.mccallumpalla.ca

CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY



MACKEHNIE, JUDY KAY (NEE: SMITH)

April 6th, 1950 - February 4th, 2026

Judy passed away peacefully on Wednesday February 4th, 2026, surrounded by love.

Lovingly remembered by David, her husband of 58 years; her children Laurie (Todd), Heather (Stacey), David Andrew (Brie) and Sean; her grandchildren James, Emma, Holden, Journey, Brody, Keegan, Declan, and Evanee; her sister Nancy; and her dear friend Sharon. She will be dearly missed by Gracie, her four legged walking companion. She was predeceased by her mother, Willadean Smith, and her granddaughter, Layla Avalon.

Judy's favourite room encapsulates her adventurous, tenacious spirit. Her bookshelf was filled with photos of family and friends, mementos from her adventures, gifts and cards that she cherished, and piles of books. The walls displayed her accomplishments, a Bachelor of Arts, Honours of Sociology, Masters of Theological Studies, and certification as a Psychotherapist and Family and Marriage Therapist, all of which she achieved while working and raising her family. She loved learning, walking Gracie, and finding joy in nature. We will miss her laughter, singing, and the moments when she slipped into her southern drawl. She spent her life building memories that will stay with us forever. Thank you to the staff at Alexandra Marine hospital for their kindness and care. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorial donations can be made in the name of Judy MacKechnie to the Alzheimer Society of Huron Perth.

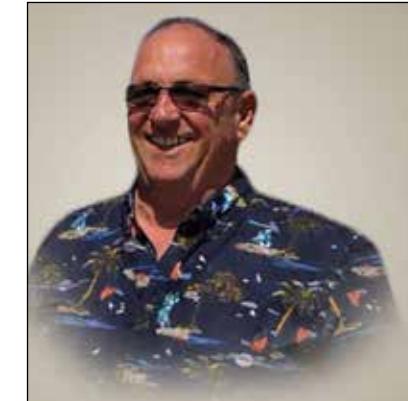
FOR SALE

Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blueberries, haskapp grapes, raspberries, elderberries etc. Lots of spruce, pine, cedars for windbreak and privacy hedges. Sizes 1-8 ft. in containers ready to go. Flowering shrubs and much more. Mon-Sat 7:00am to 6:00pm

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OBITUARY



DOUGLAS MACRAE COOKE "COOKIE"

July 19, 1957 - February 12, 2026

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Douglas MacRae Cooke. In his 69th year, surrounded by loved ones, Doug (Dad, Grandpa, Uncle Dougie) passed peacefully at Alexandra and Marine Hospital. Doug is survived by his adoring and devoted partner Taryn, his daughter Jennifer (Ron) Van Massenhoven, and grandchildren Mason and Hailey Wain. He is also lovingly remembered by his siblings Sandra Curran, Shelly (Dave) Keys, and Susan Leishman, as well as many cherished cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Ray and Leonora Cooke, and his brother Allen Cooke. Doug was always hardworking, providing for his family. His career in trucking saw him driving a cement truck, a feed truck, and hauling steel. He had a passion for trucking and could talk about it for days. In his younger years, Doug enjoyed participating in the Kinsmen club in both Goderich and Listowel. He made many lasting friends and created wonderful memories there. Dad always enjoyed a visit and dinner out, where you had to act quickly if you wanted to pick up the tab. He was always generous. Dad loved transport trucks, but also owned a variety of cars and pickup trucks. You'd often see Dad driving around town, checking things out and keeping tabs on the happenings. Doug will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Family and friends will be received at McCallum and Palla Funeral Home for Visitation on Wednesday February 18th, 2026 from 12:00-1:00pm, Funeral Service to follow at 1:00pm. Luncheon to follow at the Goderich Legion from 2:30-4:30 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations in Doug's memory can be directed to the Goderich Kinsmen or a charity of your choice. Family and friends may sign the book of condolences at www.mccallumpalla.ca.

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IN MEMORY



In Memory

GORDON SCHULTZ
of a loving husband and
father who passed away on
February 12, 2015.

*I try and cope the best I can
But I'm missing you so much
If I could only see you
And once more feel your touch.
Yes, you've walked on ahead of me
Don't worry I'll be fine
But now and then I swear I feel
Your hand slip into mine.*

Mary, Bonnie, John, Debbie and Kervin

COMING EVENTS

SMART RECOVERY MEETINGS

Hosted every Sunday from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Red Roof Recovery.

FREE SKATE AT MRC

On Sunday, March 1 from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Maitland Recreation Centre (MRC). Admission is free, sponsored by the Town of Goderich. Please, no sticks or pucks.

PRO HOCKEY HEROES VS GODERICH FIREFIGHTERS

On Sunday, March 8 at 1 p.m. at the Maitland Recreation Centre (MRC).

Goderich Firefighters will face-off against a full line-up of former NHL hockey heroes.

This fantastic community event will include a lot of skill and laughter, and promises to be a fun and memorable event for all ages. The charity hockey game is in support of the charity of choice: Huron Hospice. Doors open at 1 p.m. Game starts at 2 p.m.

Tickets required. See website for more details: <https://www.prohockeyheroes.com/2025/11/phh-vs-goderich-firefighters-march-8.html>

AMGH MAGIC MOMENTS MRI FUNDRAISER CONCERT

On Friday, March 13 at the Goderich Legion from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. Join Dan Ward and son for an evening of live music to support the AMGH Magic Moments MRI Campaign.

All your St. Patrick Day favourites – country, rock – and an album release party. Best of the Burn Pile is available now on all major streaming platforms.

Donation cover charge will be collected at the door.

HOW TO ATTRACT BIRDS TO YOUR YARD

On Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. at the MacKay Centre in Goderich. Join the Goderich District Horticultural Society as Jenn and Tim Elliott will give a presentation on how to attract birds to your yard. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event.

SPRING FLING COMEDY EVENT

On Friday, March 20 in Exeter and Saturday, March 21 in Goderich. Presented by Huron County Pride with the support of Community Futures Huron, the Spring Fling Comedy event brings talented comedians to the area, offering friends and neighbours a fun, laugh-filled evening.

These are age of majority events.

Friday, March 20: Imposter Brewing Company, Exeter. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15 until February 28, and \$20 after February 28. Tickets must be purchased in advance on Eventbrite.

Saturday, March 21: Royal Canadian Legion Branch in Goderich. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Tickets available on Eventbrite.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S 2026 GARDEN TOUR

On Saturday, July 11 the Goderich District Horticultural Society will host its 2026 Garden Tour from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

This non-profit group takes care of several flower beds around Goderich and hold several events.

The money raised at this tour is spent on plants for these gardens and to support other community groups that work hard to make Goderich the Prettiest Town in Canada.

Tickets can be purchased at the MacKay Centre on July 11.

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

- The Community Calendar is for non-profit organizations to promote their free admission events at no charge. Event listings can include your event name, date, time and location as well as a phone number, email address or website.
- If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, you have the following options:
 - Coming Events Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
 - Coming Events Boxed Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
 - Display Ad - Sizes begin at a classified business card size for \$35 + hst

Goderich Sun

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

SUDOKU

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- Mount Olympus
- A kangaroo
- Ravens
- The liver
- Bad Bunny
- William Shakespeare
- Cerberus
- MKUltra
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- Buyer beware

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