POINSETTIA FESTIVAL PAGE 7

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES PAGE 15

# Exeter Examiner

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## Exeter condo project backed by South Huron council

JOHN MINER

*Examiner Reporter*

South Huron council has given its blessing to a condominium project that will add 34 dwelling units in the southeast section of Exeter.

The condominium units will be contained in three stacked townhome buildings on land that is next to the Pinnacle subdivision.

While South Huron council voted unanimously in favour of the project, the plan still has to be approved by the County of Huron.

In a presentation to council, planner Celina McIntosh noted that condominiums are a less common form of property ownership in Huron County.

Under a plan of condominium, individuals hold title to a portion of a building and a share of the property that is common to all of the individual owners.

In addition to the 34 dwelling units, the condominium plan includes 53 parking spaces, visitor parking, a private road, and snow storage area.

The private road will connect to Simcoe Street on the north and there will be pedestrian access to Albert Street on the east side.

In recommending South Huron approve the project, McIntosh noted the land has already been zoned residential - high density and Exeter is designated as a primary growth area under the municipality's official plan.

The stacked townhomes will give more options for South Huron buyers and makes good use of existing

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



(JOHN MINER PHOTO)

**SOUTH HURON ELECTS A NEW COUNCIL**

**South Huron's council for the next four years, from left, Deputy Mayor Jim Dietrich, Coun. Wendy McLeod-Haggitt, Coun. Marissa Vaughan, Mayor Ted Oke, Coun. Laura Goulding, and Coun. Aaron Neeb. Coun. Paul Passmore is missing from the photo.**

## Economic development a key focus for South Huron's new mayor

JOHN MINER

*Examiner Reporter*

South Huron's new mayor says priorities in the next four years will include job creation, increasing affordability, and looking at the municipality's recreation programs.

A long-time councillor for Usborne Ward, Oke handily won election over incumbent George Finch and former mayor Maureen Cole.

The official tally was Oke with 2,033 votes, Finch

CONTINUED TO PAGE ?

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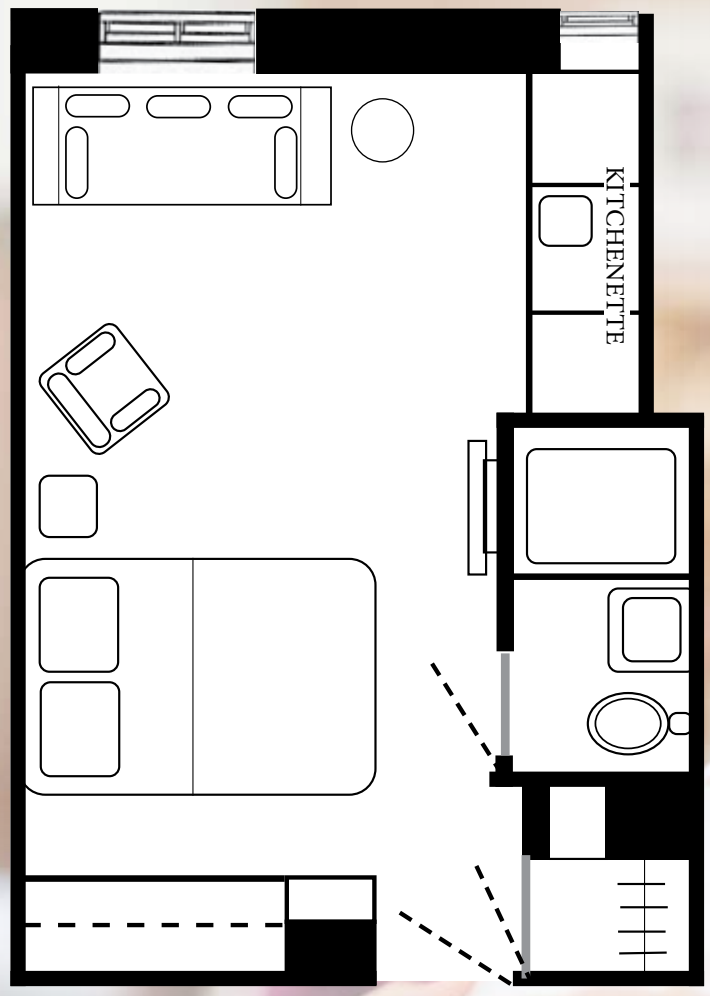
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# We owe it to the future to remember



**DAN ROLPH**

*Editor*

This issue of the Exeter Examiner is our special Remembrance Day edition, marking a day where we take time from our lives to reflect on the past while remembering the importance of pushing for peace in our present and our future.

As years pass and the memories of the most recent truly global conflicts fade, I worry that we are losing a connection to the lessons of the past that are vital to the act of remembrance. I think we owe it to each other, and to future generations, to ensure we do our best to continue sharing the stories of those who lived through the worst of times.

In the words of the philosopher George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

With that in mind, I'd like to share some of the experiences of my grandmother, Gertrude, from her time living through the Second World War.

My grandmother grew up in the town of Neunen in the Netherlands – the same idyllic Dutch town Vincent van Gough called home for several years that served as the inspiration for several of the famous painter's works.

That Dutch town was one of many that changed suddenly when the Nazis invaded the Netherlands, which had declared neutrality when war broke out in Europe. The invasion was swift, and the Netherlands surrendered five days after German forces invaded. Their occupation would last five years.

As my grandmother put it, she and her family grew numb to the realities of living under the rule of their fascist occupiers. There were curfews, controls on the population and rations. The Nazis controlled everything from food to clothing, as the provisions had all been moved outside of the country, and Dutch citizens had to use coupons to receive basic goods in the rare .

The horrors of war were a part of everyday life for the people like my grandmother. Her childhood friends were shot and killed as they simply existed in the middle of the conflict, and my grandmother had multiple near-death experiences herself. She sometimes described the "singing" noise she heard as a bomb struck near her, wounding her and leaving her deaf in one ear for the rest of her life.

Then, there was a moment where she became the direct target of the Nazis in her village. As she rode her father's new bicycle home, she opted to take back roads since at that time there

were no other bicycles in the town, and she could attract unwanted attention. During that ride home, she was seen by several German soldiers. They demanded that she stop, but she kept riding, fearing they'd take her father's bike.

In response, those soldiers shot her twice – once in the neck and once in the leg. She said she didn't feel the pain of those wounds until she got back home, and she carried the scars from that interaction for the rest of her life.

Most of us can only struggle to imagine how we would get through life in such circumstances, needing to find the strength to carry on while knowing that even the simplest journey could put our lives at risk. Stories like my grandmother's remind us of the importance of holding our freedoms close. They highlight the bravery in the choices made by everyday heroes when they stand up to defend those freedoms, whether they're civilians trapped in war or they're soldiers standing as the bulwark that protects them.

Though the world has not fallen into complete global conflict since the 1940s, the unfortunate truth is that our world continues to struggle with war. Today, conflict continues in Ukraine and the Middle East, amongst other places. The lessons that are learned through the stories of those who live through conflict cannot be forgotten, even if they feel distant from us due to geography or the passage of time.

And in a world that feels increasingly tumultuous and unpredictable, remembrance must be more than a moment of silence. It is a responsibility to carry these stories forward, to honour those who served and sacrificed, and to work for a future in which fewer families have such stories to tell. We owe it to those who came before us to remember, and to those who come after us to put those lessons into practice.

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Exeter Examiner NEWSPAPER

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Exeter Examiner NEWSPAPER

Have something to say?

Submit your Letter to the Editor to us at **info@exeterexaminer.com**

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Exeter Examiner NEWSPAPER

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# COMMUNITY

## Exeter condo project backed by South Huron council

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

infrastructure such as the storm water management pond and roads, she said.

"It is definitely an area where we want to see growth," McIntosh said.

Residents within 120 metres of the property were notified of the application and one response was received.

Bill and Karen Brintnell raised several concerns, including the increase in vehicle traffic from the condominiums and the subdivision south of Simcoe Street.

If traffic from the proposed development uses the Highway 4 Huron Street intersection that is controlled by stoplights, the busy intersection would become further overburdened. This could have a deleterious impact on the ability of emergency vehicles to access South Huron Hospital.

The Brintnells also wrote they were concerned that the peaceful and tranquil setting for Jessica's House Hospice will be negatively impacted if the development proceeds.

Asked by Coun. Marissa Vaughan how the concerns raised were addressed, McIntosh said she responded to the commenters with background information and forwarded the material to the applicant.

McIntosh also noted the province recently changed the rules and there is no longer a public meeting required when a file is brought to council. The province has also given councils the option of no longer notifying residents within 120 metres of a development application.

"In terms of public process, there really isn't much of one in terms of this type of application given the changes to the Planning Act."

McIntosh said in the case of this development application neighbours were notified because that has been the past practice. The county planning department will be considering whether it should continue doing that in the future.

Vaughan suggested the practice be dropped.

"If we don't have an obligation for public comment and we are not going to do anything with the public comment, we probably shouldn't be asking for them. That is going to create an expectation we are not able to live up to."

# POLICE BRIEFS

**EXETER EXAMINER STAFF**

*Staff Contribution*

**Teenager charged with impaired driving**

An 18-year-old Parkhill woman has been charged with impaired driving offences after an Oct. 21 collision in Bluewater.

Police said officers responded to a report of a vehicle that had left the roadway and rolled into a farm field off Goshen Line in Bluewater just after 11:40 p.m. Officers located the driver of the vehicle and allege they had consumed alcohol before driving, which led to their arrest.

The driver provided breath samples that police said resulted in readings over the legal limit. She has been charged with operation while impaired – alcohol and drugs, operation while impaired – over 80 and a Highway Traffic Act offence.

The driver was processed and later released from custody with a court date set for Nov. 30 in Goderich.

**Driver charged after Lucan collision**

An Oct. 21 two-vehicle collision in Lucan Biddulph that sent three individuals to hospital with serious injuries has resulted in charges.

According to Middlesex OPP, first responders were dispatched to the intersection of Elginfield Road and Prospect Hill Road just after 6:30 a.m. after receiving reports of a collision involving an SUC and a pickup truck.

Three individuals who were travelling in the SUV were transported to hospital, one of whom had life-threatening injuries.

The driver of the pickup truck was not injured.

The intersection was closed for about six hours as police investigated the scene.

Following the investigation, a 25-year-old Zurich resident has been charged with two counts of careless driving causing bodily harm.

**Rollover into farm field leads to impaired charge**

A 21-year-old South Huron resident is facing impaired driving charges after a Sept. 24 incident where a vehicle rolled into a farm field.

According to Huron County OPP, officers responded to a report of a pickup truck that had rolled over into a field off Kirkton Road in South Huron just after 10 p.m.

Police allege the driver consumed alcohol before getting behind the wheel. They said the driver provided breath samples that resulted in readings over the legal limit.

The driver was arrested and has been charged with operation while impaired – alcohol and drugs and operation while impaired – over 80. They have since been released from custody and were scheduled to appear in court Nov. 2 in Goderich.






# White Squirrel Watch



**PHOTO BY:**
**SANDRA VANDEWORP**

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# Exeter Examiner Photo Quiz

## Who are you looking at?

*By Judy and Barry Johnson*



**I am a perfect example of what is called a late bloomer. Almost all of the area's wildflowers have stopped blooming weeks ago, while I am flowering in masses of beautiful lavender-blue flowers. My smooth leaves grow on stalks that are up to 120 cm tall and I can spread 60 cm wide. I am not aggressive and live politely in clumps among other plants. A hardy perennial native to North America, I am a member of the daisy family. My late-season pollen and nectar provides food for bumblebees and honeybees.**

*HINT: I am named for my colour and an ancient Greek word for star or celestial body.*

**This week's answers are found on pg. ?**

# WEEKEND QUIZ

By Jake Grant

1. Who played the role of Hannah Montana?
2. Andy Bernard from "The Office", attended what University?
3. How many Prime Ministers has Canada had?
4. What year was Make-A-Wish Foundation founded?
5. What major network bought Warner Brothers?
6. What is the name of Thor's hammer?
7. A 24-clock is known as, _____ time.
8. What was Rasputin's cause of death?
9. Who was the first female commander of NASA's Space Shuttle?
10. Ascorbic acid is commonly referred to as what?

**This week's answers are found on pg. ?**






# Poinsettia Festival: A Christmas delight



(BARRY JOHNSON PHOTO)

**Poinsettia hybrids can be found during the festival.**



(HURON RIDGE GREENHOUSES PHOTO)

**Kevin Steckle and daughter Katrina of Huron Ridge Greenhouses.**

**JUDY FINKBEINER JOHNSON**

*Examiner Correspondent*

The holiday season trumpets its arrival with a much-loved tradition for area residents and those much further away who make their way to Huron Ridge Greenhouses near Zurich for its annual Poinsettia Festival.

Starting Nov. 12 and running through to Dec. 5, people make the pilgrimage to enjoy the magical experience. Regular hours for this free event are Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. During the festival, hours are extended until 9 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for visitors to explore the greenhouse by candlelight; Huron Ridge is closed on Sundays.

Attracting hundreds of visitors every year, the festival began decades ago as a sparkle in Carol Steckle's eye. Carol and her husband Dave founded their multi-generational business more than half a century ago. Today, the legacy continues with three generations working at Huron Ridge with its more than 6,500 square metres of greenhouses and outdoor acreage to grow plants for all seasons.

The family may have "green thumbs," but there is much more in their extensive skills sets: their daughter Sandra Steckle Regier is part of the management team, their son Kevin and his wife Lorraine are co-owners, and grandchildren also work in the family business.

During the festival, visitors can enjoy breathtaking displays of more than 20 different varieties of poinsettias. Some are traditional shades of red, pink, and white. Most are hybrids propagated in South America, coming to Niagara for agricultural compliance, and grown from root stock at Huron Ridge. Visitors wonder at the colours of the hybrids, like Autumn Leaf with its orange/golden/tan hues. There are intense shades of poinsettias, pastel and brilliant pinks, and different tones of red and many other colours. Some hybrids come in patterns, like marble. Northern Lights poinsettias are coloured by spray-on air compression plant-friendly paints in mauve, blue, and pink, then sparkled with silver sprinkles on creamy white leaves. Some poinsettias look like roses in full bloom, others have variegated green leaves, and several varieties burst with white accents on crimson or deep pink backgrounds.

Evenings are extra-special, with the greenhouse lit by candles from 5 p.m., and seasonal music playing in the background. The atmosphere is tranquil as visitors leisurely savour the colourful sights and peaceful ambiance. On Customer Appreciation Evenings, which are being held Dec. 3, 4, and 5, one evening will feature a harpist group, another a ukulele ensemble, and the third, hot apple cider and popcorn.

The magical experience of the Poinsettia Festival begins much earlier, in late September. Until then, the greenhouses are a monochromatic sea of green leaves.

"When the season changes to fall, and the light changes, the poinsettias begin to set their colours," said Sandra Steckle Regier. "Any artificial lights, including streetlights, inhibit the process, which is why a rural setting like ours works well."

By early November, the morph is complete, in time for the opening of the Poinsettia Festival and shipping plants to fundraising organizations.

Huron Ridge partners with dozens of organizations throughout the entire region, including schools, minor athletics, and service clubs for fundraising efforts that benefit many communities.

There are photo ops galore, with themed-decorated Christmas trees and arrangements, indoor and outdoor seasonal décor items, an early-1900s sleigh right out of a vintage Currier and Ives Christmas card, and a miniature train making the rounds on its platform in the décor room.

A wide variety of poinsettias are available in sizes of pots about a couple of inches across to large containers with multiple poinsettias for a dramatic statement. The small ones are popular for table favours and gifts for smaller spaces, like rooms in long-term care residences.

Young and old, groups of friends or family, couples, or solo, there are smiles everywhere as people kick-start the joys of the Christmas season. Whatever the reason, whether simply enjoying the outing, shopping for gifts, or decorating for home or office, for many people the festival is a tradition, with its celebration of those plant divas of the holiday season, the brilliant poinsettias.

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# Two new councillors elected in South Huron

**JOHN MINER**

*Examiner Reporter*

When South Huron's new municipal council officially takes over Nov. 15 there will be some fresh faces, some veterans, and some current councillors sitting in new positions.

The newcomers to the seven-member council as a result of the Oct. 26 municipal election are Paul Passmore in Usborne Ward 3 and Laura Goulding in Exeter Ward 2.

Current councillor Aaron Neeb, first elected in 2018, topped the polls in the Exeter Ward again, while Marissa Vaughan, who is heading into her fourth term as councillor for Stephen Ward 1, won re-election by a wide margin.

Wendy McLeod-Haggitt is returning to council, but this time representing Stephen Ward 1. McLeod-Haggitt was appointed to fill an Exeter spot on council when Coun. Marc Denomme resigned in 2023.

Ted Oke, who represented Usborne on previous councils, is moving to the mayor's chair after defeating incumbent George Finch. Milt Dietrich, current Ward 1 councillor, decided not to run in this election.

The only candidate acclaimed in the South Huron election was Deputy Mayor Jim Dietrich.

Watching the announcement of the results on election night, Dietrich said he was encouraged by the vote.

"I think we are going to move ahead with a good council, some old ones, some new ones, some change in positions. I think it is going to be great," Dietrich said.

"Hopefully we will do our job to help the people and the municipality move forward."

Vaughan said she was honoured to be elected again.

"I'm thrilled, I'm thrilled," she said.

During the campaign in Stephen, Vaughan said residents told her they would like to see council take a break on spending.

"We've spent a lot of good money for good projects in the last six years or so and maybe it is time to take a bit of an ease back and look for different types of things, maybe not needing as much in the way of housing development, but more in employment land development."

McLeod-Haggitt said priorities in the Stephen Ward will be updating the play park equipment in Crediton and enhancing the park in Centralia.

One issue that was raised during the campaign by residents was speeding in Crediton. McLeod-Haggitt said she would support a traffic calming study in Crediton to see if a cross walk or other options would help.

With South Huron projected to grow from 10,000 residents to 15,000 by 2051, Neeb said more recreation will be needed.

"We are going to have to contend with that growth," he said. "I'm hoping we can move a lot of things forward, including recreation, but also continue to invest in our infrastructure, making sure we leave the next generation better off than what we had it."

Newcomer to council, Exeter Ward councillor Laura Goulding, said that over the next four years she is committed to being available, answering questions and collaborating with not-for-profit groups, neighbouring municipalities and organizations that hold the community together.

"We are an amazing community. As a municipal councillor I look forward to supporting strong, well considered progress."

Goulding said she is grateful for the confidence the community has shown in her approach by choosing to vote for her.

"There were four incredible candidates which would have made the decision more difficult for many."

In the Usborne Ward, which had the highest percentage turnout in the election, a major campaign issue was whether the ward should be represented by a resident, Paul Passmore, or someone living in the Exeter ward, Darren Boyle.



(JOHN MINER PHOTO)

**Newly elected mayor Ted Oke, left, and Coun. Aaron Neeb chat after the results of the municipal election were announced. Running in his third election, Neeb again topped the polls for Exeter Ward councillor.**

Passmore said he would like to see the rules changed so that someone has to either live in a ward or have property there in order to run for that area.

Another priority for Passmore is keeping taxes low. He said the municipality has done an acceptable job of managing increases over the past four years and he would like to see that continue.

If you ask people if they want recreation amenities such as walking trails, they will say yes, sure, but if you ask if they want to pay for it, they will say no, Passmore said.

**Voter turnout by ward**
Ward 1, Stephen – 41.7%
Ward 2, Exeter – 52.0%
Ward 3, Usborne – 52.6%

**Election results**

**Mayor**
Ted Oke elected, 2,033
George Finch, 1,516
Maureen Cole, 690

**Deputy mayor**
Jim Dietrich, acclaimed

**Stephen Ward 1**
Marissa Vaughan elected, 866
Wendy McLeod-Haggitt elected, 585
Emilly Girodat, 529
Dianne Faubert, 324

**Exeter Ward 2**
Aaron Neeb, elected, 1,501
Laura Goulding, elected, 1,024
Daryl Demaray, 695
Antonio Munion, 288

**Usborne Ward 3**
Paul Passmore, elected, 363
Darren Boyle, 192






# Washroom facilities at Exeter tournament called disgusting

**JOHN MINER**

*Examiner Reporter*

South Huron Ladies Slo Pitch League is demanding answers from municipal council after garbage went uncollected, a toilet was left blocked, and there were toilet paper shortages during a recent tournament in Exeter.

In a presentation to council on behalf of the slo pitch league, Kelly Consitt said 14 teams participated in the tournament Sept. 10 to 12, bringing 168 to 210 players. In addition, there were families, children, spectators, umpires, and volunteers.

"We knew it would be busy, the municipality knew it would be busy. Unfortunately the facilities weren't ready for that level of use," Consitt said.

She described the washrooms as completely disgusting, and in such poor condition that she wouldn't consider letting her five-year-old son use them.

Along with the blocked toilet, another toilet in the washrooms at the ball diamonds adjacent to the South Huron Recreation Centre was sitting on a 45-degree angle. Other deficiencies included lack of a functioning door lock on an accessible washroom stall and tap handles that didn't work.

Bees were an issue during the tournament with people being stung and one person requiring hospital care. There was also no place for people to get out of the sun as the public was not allowed to use the Agricultural Building for shade, Consitt said.

"I understand things break, bees happen, municipal budgets have limits, but what I don't understand is that problems that are visible year after year aren't being addressed."

Consitt said the group is not asking for anything extravagant.

"We are asking for clean washrooms, safe and maintained facilities, practical accessibility and somewhere for families to get out of the sun in weather while still being part of an outdoor facility."

Consitt asked council for a clear explanation of the municipality's inspection and preventative-maintenance process for the outdoor recreation facilities.

In particular, she asked how frequently washrooms, ball diamonds and associated outdoor facilities are formally inspected during the ball season and who is responsible for the inspections.

The Slo Pitch League had requested use of the Agricultural Building for shelter during the tournament but was advised the building is to be used solely for municipal purposes and not for assembly occupancy purposes. They have repeated their request for their 2027 tournament.




(JOHN MINER PHOTO)

**Organizers of a slo-pitch tournament in Exeter say the washroom facilities weren't ready for the number of people at the event in September and weren't properly supplied.**

Consitt asked if the municipality can't fund a pavilion or shelter would council allow organizations using the grounds to fundraise towards one.

"We are not asking the municipality to spend money, we are asking to be part of the solution."

Coun. Aaron Neeb said the Agricultural Building is essentially a barn and would need significant, costly upgrades for it to be used by the public again. A pavilion might be an option instead and something the next council could consider.

Mayor George Finch said Consitt raised great points and staff will be asked to look at policies and report on how this kind of thing can be prevented from happening again.

# Economic development a key focus for South Huron's new mayor

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

1,516, and Cole 690. Voter turnout was 48.1 percent, up from 44.49 percent in 2022.

Both Oke and Finch said they were surprised at the outcome. Cole declined to comment on the results.

Oke attributed his win to a feeling in the community that it was time for a change.

"I was surprised, but I'm really pleased that the residents of South Huron put their faith in me and I look forward to working with council for the next four years."

He thanked Finch for the years that he was mayor of South Huron.

In highlighting job creation as a priority, Oke noted there is a series of new housing going up in South Huron.

"We also have to have work for the people to live in those houses. We need to look at economic development."

Oke said he has other priorities as well, but will need to discuss those with the other members of council.

"I'm not the only one on council, I want to work with the whole council."

He said he doesn't plan to ever use the strong mayor powers that the province has given to the heads of council.

"Seven of us are elected by the residents of South Huron and I expect everyone to have a vote at the table."

First elected in 2018, Finch was running for his third term as mayor.

In an email, Finch said that although he thought the results would have been different, he supports the will of the people and wishes the new council every success.

"In my eight years as mayor we went from what was described as a mess from an Integrity Commissioner Investigation to now becoming the economic engine of the region with a tax rate that went from fifth highest in Huron County to third lowest."

Finch said his platform to provide more affordable and long-term solutions for recreation capacity, and measures for more public safety and housing, was not what people wanted.

"I will respect their wishes."

The election results he said means he will have more than 35 extra hours a week to spend with his family. He is looking forward to the change in pace.

"I'm very proud of what I was able to accomplish as mayor for eight years and want to thank my supporters and our incredible staff who are truly the backbone of the municipality.

In her campaign, Cole emphasized the need for health care planning for South Huron Hospital and fiscal responsibility on the part of council.

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# Regional election roundup

**DAN ROLPH**
*Editor*

With the results throughout the region having been certified after the municipal election on Monday, Oct. 26, local councils are set to be made up of a mixture of familiar and new faces for the next four years.

The new term of council will begin Tuesday, Nov. 15.

Participation rose in many of the local races, with South Huron, Bluewater and Lucan Biddulph all seeing bumps in voter turnout when compared to the 2022 municipal elections. However, in Lambton Shores, turnout dropped by more than 2 per cent with just over 37 per cent of voters casting a ballot.

In Bluewater, just over 69 per cent of voters opted to give incumbent mayor Paul Klopp another four years as the head of council, defeating former mayor Tyler Hessel. Klopped garnered an increased share of voter support when compared to the 2018 election, where the two last ran against each other for the position.

Lucan Biddulph's mayoral race proved to be incredibly close with just 30 votes making the difference, placing David Manders narrowly ahead of former mayor Paul Hodgins to become the community's next mayor.

The mayoral election in Lambton Shores proved to be more lopsided, with current councillor Jeff Wilcox defeating incumbent Doug Cook handily. Wilcox currently serves as the councillor for Ward 7 and made communication with residents a pillar of his campaign.

Certified election results:

**Bluewater**
**Mayor**

Paul Klopp, elected, 2415
Tyler Hessel, 1073

**Deputy mayor**
Bill Whetstone, acclaimed

**Hay East Ward**
Joey Groot, elected, 325
Megan Goss, 199

**Hay West Ward**
Brian Heagle, acclaimed

**Hensall Ward**
Scott Harris, elected, 160
Joan Bradley, 152

**Zurich Ward**
Jason Becker, elected, 231
Winona Sangster, 160

**Stanley West Ward**
Greg Lamport, elected, 273
Brian Kellow, 152

**Stanley East Ward**
Peter Walden, elected, 270
David Armstrong, 178

**Bayfield Ward**
Michael Decorte, elected, 458
E.J. Bauer, 381

**Lambton Shores**
**Mayor**
Jeff Wilcox, elected, 3020
Doug Cook, 1781

**Deputy mayor**
Dan Sageman, elected, 2616
Marilyn Smith, 2008

**Ward 1**
Chris Vanderydt, elected, 506
Randy McClinchey, 198
Sarah Nicholson, 132

**Ward 2**
Dave Maguire, acclaimed

**Ward 3**
Shawn Dickey, acclaimed

**Ward 4**
David (DJ) Pugh, elected, 403
David McLean, 326

**Ward 5**
Suzanne Shea, elected, 447
Jim Hansen, 288

**Ward 6**
Dave Marsh, acclaimed

**Ward 7**
Randy Shaw, elected, 566
Jeff Girling, 178

**Lucan Biddulph**
**Mayor**
David Manders, elected, 1172
Paul Hodgins, 1142

**Deputy mayor**
Daniel Regan, elected, 1398
Adam Sachs, 825

**Ward 1**
Ken Hoggart, elected, 493
Bryan Frank Malito, 181

**Ward 2**
Allan Cunningham, acclaimed

**Ward 3**
Alex Westman, elected, 334
Jim Law, 225
Nolan Goldie, 53

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# United Way launches Ultimate Burger Battle in Huron County

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF

*Staff Contribution*

United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) is inviting burger lovers to dig in and make a difference during the Ultimate Burger Battle in Huron County, running throughout November.

The event brings new and returning customers to local eateries while raising funds for pressing needs. For every burger sold, $2 goes to UWPH, supporting programs and services helping vulnerable local people in our community.

"The Ultimate Burger Battle is an opportunity for restaurants to get creative and build something their customers will love as well as helping the community," said Michelle Millar, UWPH senior manager, community development, mid-Huron. "We're inviting burger enthusiasts from across Huron County to try the creations our great local restaurants have come up with and vote for their favourites. It's a fun and tasty competition that also helps United Way."

Restaurants will vie for two awards:

• The People's Choice Award goes to the fan favourite burger as chosen by customers.

• Most Burgers Sold goes to the restaurant that sells the most burgers during the month of November.

Participating restaurants currently include Dave's Pub/Oakwood Inn (Grand Bend), the Honest Llama (Exeter), Grand Bend Stirling Sands Vineyards, Local Rolla (Goderich), Part 2 Bistro (Goderich), Steve and Mary's On The Square (Goderich), the Tipsy Pelican (Grand Bend) and the White Squirrel Golf Club (Zurich).

For details about the burgers visit the UWPH website. Restaurants interested in participating can contact Michelle Millar at mmillar@perthhuron.unitedway.ca.

United Way Perth-Huron helps build a better tomorrow by working to reduce poverty, house people and support mental health and well-being. They are united for good with partners and donors to ensure vulnerable people across Perth-Huron get the help they need when they need it. To volunteer or donate, call 519-271-7730 or 1-877- 818-8867, mail to 32 Erie Street, Stratford, ON N5A 2M4 or visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca.



(UNITED WAY PERTH-HURON PHOTO)

**Restaurants across Huron County are putting their burger-making skills to the test for United Way's Ultimate Burger Battle, raising funds for the organization.**



# Exeter Legion hosts Halloween party



The Exeter Legion RE Pooley Branch 167 was the place to be Oct. 31 as the community celebrated Halloween together. The Legion hosted a Halloween party featuring a costume contest, trick or treating for children, a meat draw and live entertainment. Pictured are Tina and Jonathon Roulston, who looked as if they'd stepped out of medieval times.



(MACKENZIE HODGINS PHOTOS)

Kim Ritchie and Louise Cooke were getting into the Halloween spirit in their costumes.



The Bronson Line Band provided live music during the evening at the Exeter Legion.

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- **21 November Private Rentals**
- **28 November Christmas Vendor Sale 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**
- **Wednesdays - Drop in Pool & Darts Each Wednesday at 7:00 pm**

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# Tia McGraff to perform in Brucefield in support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF

*Staff Contribution*

An afternoon of music is coming soon to Brucefield Community United Church, featuring award-winning singer-songwriter, Tia McGraff. The Fields of Faith Growing Project, in conjunction with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is hosting an afternoon concert Nov. 15 at 2 p.m.

Tia McGraff is a Canadian roots-based singer-songwriter incorporating blues, country and Celtic undertones into her folk music. After winning the Canadian Open Country Singing Contest at the age of 19, the small-town girl from Port Dover, Ontario, began making television appearances with Johnny Cash and June Carter, writing and recording with musical icons Randy Bachman (BTO) and Dan Hill, placing songs with Anne Murray's publishing company, and singing the national anthems for the Toronto Blue Jays, the Toronto Maple Leafs, Tampa Bay Rays, and Nashville Sounds.

Tia is known for her emotionally charged music and her authentic personality. She has topped charts on both sides of the Atlantic and some of her early singles even "crossed over" to reach the Christian Music Weekly's Top 25.

Tia has garnered a place in the music industry with a global fan base. Her credits include over eleven international album releases, various film/TV placements, and numerous awards (including Social Justice and Peace Songs of the Year at the 2021 and 2022 Em Power Songwriting Awards; Hamilton Music Award; International Singer-Songwriters Association; and recognition as semi-finalist in the 2026 International Songwriting Competition. In 2026, Tia's hometown honored her with an induction in the Norfolk Music Hall of Fame alongside Rory Dodd (Meatloaf), and Canadian folk artist Ian Bell.

Her recorded catalog is certainly a proud accomplishment, but where McGraff truly shines is in her live performances. With her husband Tommy Parham, she has headlined main stage festivals in the USA/Canada/UK/and Wales with notables Steve Earle, Joan Baez, Ashley McIsaac, Sylvia Tyson, Fred Penner, and Valdy. Tia's recording of the song, "All of Us" was aired in 2010 at World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia.

Her love for performing has taken her far and wide, be it in huge concerts or personal, intimate venues.

The Nov. 15 concert at Brucefield is being sponsored by the Fields of Faith Growing Project in conjunction with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and all funds raised will go to feed the hungry around the world. The Canadian



(PHOTO COURTESY OF WILHELMINA LAURIE)

**Singer-songwriter Tia McGraff is set to perform at Brucefield Community United Church Nov. 15 for a concert that will raise funds to feed the hungry around the world.**

Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies who work together in an ecumenical spirit.

According to a press release, it has been deemed one of the top ten charities in Canada with regards to how donation dollars are spent

At a time when hunger at home and abroad is at an all-time high due to international conflict, drought, floods and natural disasters, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank sets up programs to achieve sustainable food security, to Influence improvements in national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger, and to Increase and deepen the engagement of Canadians in efforts to end hunger around the world.

Beginning with a modest donation from the Goshen UCW in 1987, the Fields of Faith Growing Project has expanded to include representatives from Clinton, Brucefield, Seaforth, Brussels and Blyth United Churches; the project has spanned 39 years, with several sharecropping partners, always dedicated to help end world hunger. As of last year, the overall amount donated over the years by Fields of Faith totalled $393,152.27. The continued support from the Federal Government of Canada, generally matching funds at the rate of 4:1, means that over the years nearly $2 million from this one project have been used by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to alleviate hunger in many parts of the world.

With Tia McGraff's social justice leanings, supporting the Canadian Foodgrains Bank through her music is a natural fit.

Tickets for award-winning singer Tia McGraff at Brucefield United Church on Sunday, Nov. 15, at 2 p.m. can be purchased for $25 dollars per person. Contact 226-378-4239 or 519-482-9265 for tickets. Or come early and get your tickets at the door.


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**- Mike and Michelle Hansen**
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# 87th Annual Exeter Santa Claus Parade
## - Saturday Novemeber 14th - 6 PM

**The Exeter Lions Club will be Lighting the Park for the Holidays on November 13th at approximately 7pm.**

The event will be presented LIVE on Facebook by the Exeter BIA to allow everyone to see the lights get lit from the warmth and safety of their own homes. The lights have been provided thanks to a generous donation by Lipman Family Farms/Huron Produce and the Lights will be switched on and announced by Children and their Mentors from Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron. Credition Optimist Club will be providing Hot Chocolate for the Light Up the Park event

**Presented by the Exeter BIA and Exeter Lions Club**

**87th Annual Exeter Santa Claus Parade**

**Saturday, November 14th at 6 PM.**

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# REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

*Lest we forget*

# Remembrance Day services

## Exeter

**The Exeter Legion's annual service for Remembrance Day takes place on the Sunday before Nov. 11 each year. All are invited to join in this year's service in remembrance of veterans.**
**Where: Exeter Town Hall**
**When: Sunday, Nov. 8, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

## Grand Bend

**The Grand Bend Legion is holding its annual Remembrance Day service, where the community is invited to honour and remember Canada's veterans. Light lunch will be provided after the service.**
**Where: Grand Bend Veterans Memorial Legion Branch 498**
**When: Wednesday, Nov. 11, 10:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

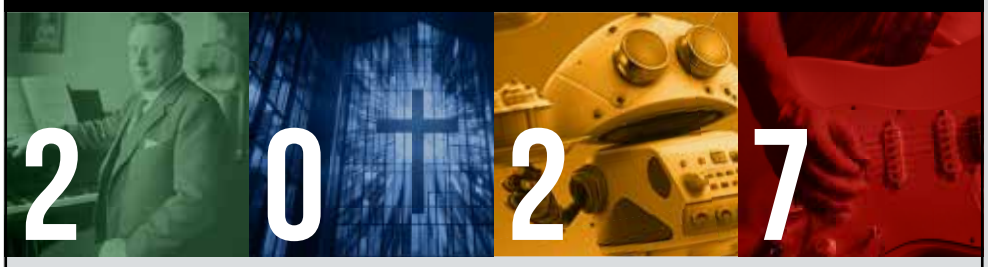
## Lucan

**The annual outdoor Remembrance Day service in Lucan will return this year to honour Canada's veterans. Seating will be available for those who require it and a light lunch will follow the service.**
**Where: Lucan Legion Cenotaph**
**When: Wednesday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**

## Hensall

**The Hensall Legion is holding its annual service on Remembrance Day, followed by a light luncheon. There will be no banquet this year.**
**Where: The Hensall Cenotaph**
**When: Wednesday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m.**


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# Joe Wooden's words keep remembrance personal

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF

*Staff Contribution*

***Joe Wooden, who was principal of South Huron District high school for over 30 years, was often asked to speak on Remembrance Day at local legions and churches. Though Wooden died in 2025, his words continue to resonate just as well today.***

***The following are Wooden's remarks from Oct. 24, 2001.***

This coming Nov. 11 will be the 84th anniversary of the armistice which declared the end of the war to end all wars. The fighting stopped at 11 a.m. on that day. It has been called Remembrance Day for some time now, but it was still called Armistice Day when I was a boy.

It seems to me that two things are at play on this day: one is memory, that is our capacity for returning, perpetuating, and reviving thoughts of the past and the other is history which we usually see as the story of the heritage of our homeland and of the broad sweep of events which carries us along. The impact of these grand, sweeping events on our lives seems to be the focus of Remembrance Day. So, it is memory and history at work in this process of Remembrance.

Why do we persist in remembering? The reason is partly explained by the reality that these war deaths remain personal and individual and not just general statistics. We don't want to blur the millions of deaths caused by the wars of the 20th century into numbers only because it's dangerous to do so. It's dangerous because these deaths then begin to hurt less as we become increasingly removed from them. It is this deliberate avoidance of just using numbers of deaths that led to cenotaphs all over Canada and Britain and elsewhere listing the names of the individuals who died. So, we remember specifics to avoid forgetting. Maybe "unforgetting" is a better term than remembrance.

For example, a young man in a book of poetry, published in the 1990s wrote this dedication to his mother's two brothers:

*Second Lieutenant Edward Kempthorne of the 25th Battalion, New Zealand Infantry, killed in action south of El Alamein, 9 August 1942.*

and

*Surgeon-Commander Humphrey de Boham Kempthorne, R.N., lost at sea on H.M.S. Charybdis on 23 October 1943.*

This is not only remembering but remembering very specifically.

In another example, that moved me a couple of years ago about specifics of individual war deaths being remembered was this. I was looking at the Exeter high school's Literary Society's Minute Book of 1909 and there were two or three names which suddenly stood out. I remembered them from the list of those from the school killed

CONTINUED TO PAGE 17

In the quiet of two minutes, we hold every name they can no longer speak.




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# REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

*Lest we forget*

# Joe Wooden's words keep remembrance personal

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

in the First Great War. I had a strange feeling of historical omniscience, that is, I knew the future. I was immersed in 1908, 1909, 1910 and was, in a sense, in that time, and then I saw the future. 1915, 1916, 1917, just a few years later and knew that those boys who were having good times in high school would soon be dead.

One other example happened at South Huron District high school two years ago when an older couple came into the high school. The woman wanted to know if there was a plaque listing those from the school who had been killed in the Second World War. She wanted to see her brother's name. She looked at his name on the plaque and she wept. She hadn't been in the Exeter area since the war when her family moved. Her brother, Roy Hillgartner, was killed in Belgium in 1944. She hadn't forgotten!

So, the power of Remembrance Day is in the remembrance of individuals. The great wars took 100,000 individual Canadian lives, men and women. Individuals who, "lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved and were loved."

These individuals who served were ordinary citizens who volunteered or were called to serve in the vast armies of these wars. Historically, armies were relatively small and made up of pretty rough types. Wellington, for example, called his army "a rabble." But in the 20th century our great grandfathers, grandfathers, fathers, uncles, and brothers served in citizen armies. Why did they go? One historian writes "because it was expected of them" and "their heroism and humanity reached toward sanctity" (David Jones).

Why did they have to go? That is different question. Another historian concludes that the usually accepted list of causes of World War I is inadequate to explain the monstrous nature of that war. And the formal causes of World

CONTINUED TO PAGE 18





*It is a time to honour the fallen, reflect on the impact of armed conflict, and pay tribute to those who have served and continue to serve our country.*

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REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

*Lest we forget*

# Joe Wooden's words keep remembrance personal

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

War II also seem inadequate to explain the immensity of the evils that have been catalogued. There is something deeper and more mysterious. That is, we can see the origins of these wars but not the causes in any depth. Whatever we say about why these wars occurred it remains true that thousands were killed — no millions were killed and millions were physically and emotionally damaged.

Last summer I made a pilgrimage to the battlefield of World War I and II in Belgium and France. My son-in-law, grandson, and I set out to follow the Canadians on the Western Front in World War I to the murderous folly of D-Day. It was a very moving experience. We stood in cemeteries with rows of markers. Two things struck me: first the youthfulness of those buried there and second the places they came from which we could tell from their regimental names: South Saskatchewan, Winnipeg Rifles, London's 1st Hussars, Royal 22nd Quebec, Montreal Rifles, Newfoundland Regiment. I stood there and thought these are our guys. These are from home and they are so very far away.

My son-in-law's father and his four brothers all served. All five of them. The youngest of the five brothers didn't come back. My grandson stood looking at the grave of his great uncle who had

been killed on D-Day in a village a little inland from Juno Beach, the 3rd Canadian Division's beach. The village, Fontaine Henry, has an old church with a plaque listing about nine 1st Hussars including the brother who didn't come home. My 16-year-old grandson looked at the grave of his great uncle, aged 17.

At Pegasus Bridge where British paratroopers landed as the first allied forces in D-Day there is a monument to the first British casualty. This first casualty was a young officer who was told by his Commanding Officer he could stay home as his wife was about to have a baby. But the young officer said no he'd go. He was killed. The first casualty on D-Day. Last summer, Prince Charles laid a wreath at that monument; he was accompanied by a woman, the daughter born to the wife of that young British officer.

You see it's all personal. We must remember them as individuals.

We were at the Vimy Memorial where Canadians did such a memorable job. Canadian troops enjoyed a reputation as being among the best and so were given the assignment of taking that higher ground. At the Newfoundland Memorial Beaumont Hamel in the Somme region 1,000 Newfoundlanders went into action. After about an hour only 200 were left. The Somme was unprecedented. 60,000 casualties in four hours. On that trip we walked the Dunkirk beaches and Dieppe's beaches. We were at Ypres, Passandale, Cambrai. Everywhere there were reminders of the loss of individual Canadians.

Why did they go? They went because it was expected of them. Sure, there were superficial reasons — a great adventure, patriotism, escape from home, they didn't have a job — but, in the final analysis, they went because it was expected of them. And because the scale of the sacrifice made in those wars was so great and because ordinary people's lives were swept up in the great events and they were changed for the rest of their lives — because of these reasons we persist in remembering.

Individuals went to war, not unnamed masses. And individuals sacrificed themselves for other individuals. There is a divine mystery in trying to explain what human beings did for others in the midst of these wars. Much has been written about the presence of God amidst this suffering. A soldier and a poet named Wilfrid Owen wrote "I, too, saw God through mud/ The mud that cracked on cheeks when wretches smiled."

There is no doubt that August 4, 1914, changed the world forever and we still live with the terrorism we see all over that was put in motion on that day.

So, all in all, it matters that we remember because sacrifice, courage, humour, justice and love are what makes us human and because these are the qualities that overcome wrong. These qualities, the qualities of individual people, prevent evil from controlling our lives. John McCrae's poem ends like this:

*Take up our quarrel with the foe.*
*To you from failing hands we throw*
*The torch; be yours to hold it high.*
*If you break faith with us who die*
*we shall not sleep, though poppies grow*
*In Flanders Fields.*

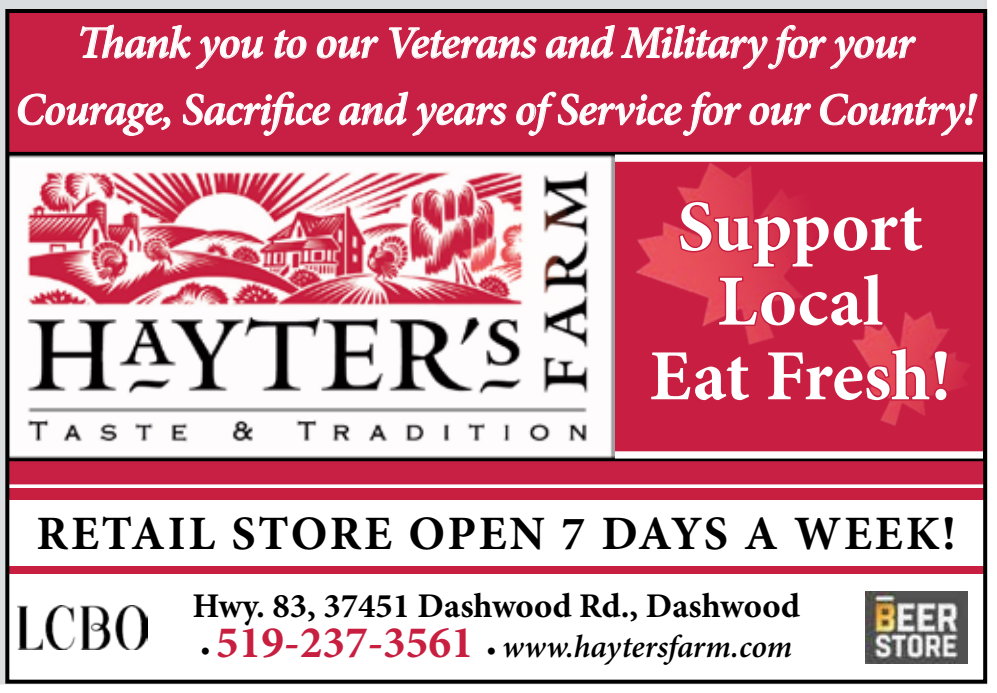
This part of the poem has been criticized because it can be read as a propaganda argument and as one critic said is "grievously out of contact with the symbolism of the first part of the poem." But all these years later, I want to read the poem differently. I want the "foe" to be the evils of hatred, greed, racism, prejudice and all those other sins which turn us against each other. I want "the

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19












# Joe Wooden's words keep remembrance personal

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

torch" to be the light of our better natures given to us by God — the light of love and a willingness to serve and if necessary to sacrifice as countless numbers did.

John Oxenham's poem is on a plaque at the Newfoundland Memorial at Beaumont Hamel on the Somme. It applies to all those individual lives from the wars of the 20th century that we remember today.

*Tread softly here! Go reverently and slow!*
*Yea, let your soul go down upon its knees,*
*and, with bowed head and heart abased, strive hard*
*to grasp the future gain in this sore loss!*
*For not one foot of this dark sod but drank*
*its surfeit of the blood of gallant men,*
*who, for their faith, their hope, - for life and liberty,*
*here made the sacrifice – here gave their lives*
*and gave right willingly – for you and for me.*
*From this vast altar-pile the souls of men*
*sped up to God in countless multitudes;*
*on this grim cratered ridge they gave their all,*
*and giving, won*
*the peace of Heaven and immortality.*
*Our hearts go out to them in boundless gratitude;*
*if ours – then God; for his vast charity*
*all sees, all knows, all comprehends – save bounds,*
*He had repaid their sacrifice; and we - ?*
*God help us if we fail to pay our debt*
*in fullest full and all unstintingly.*

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# Royal Canadian Legion celebrates veterans with massive mural

## *Personal stories of fallen soldiers highlight this year's Remembrance Day*

**LEE GRIFFI**

*Examiner reporter*

The Royal Canadian Legion has unveiled four uniquely designed murals, each of which tells the story of a fallen Canadian service member.

The mural in Toronto's Union Station tells the story of Allan "Scotty" Davidson who at just 22 years old was the captain of the Toronto Blueshirts, the team that would become the Toronto Maple Leafs. In 1914, he led his team to that city's first Stanley Cup. Five months after that victory, he left his team, his career, and his home behind to become one of the first professional hockey players to volunteer for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Serving in France and Belgium, accounts describe acts of remarkable bravery, including rescuing wounded officers and fighting on the front lines.

Lance Corporal Davidson was killed in action on June 16, 1915, when a shell exploded near him in the trenches. The mural honours him and the more than 120,000 Canadians who gave their lives in service to our country, whose names and stories should never be forgotten.

The mural was unveiled on Oct. 24, the first day of the poppy campaign. It stands 23 feet tall and 13 feet wide and Davidson was chosen because of his connection to Toronto and the fact it was going to be located inside Union Station.

"He, and others, their faces and their stories represent all Canadians who have died in the line of duty," explained Nujma Bond, the Legion's national communications manager. "It encourages people to think about that, to remember all of them, connect a little more deeply with their personal stories and realize, just like you and I, had lives and hopes and passions."

The mural is made out of about 5,000 sticky notes and on those notes are messages from Canadians across the country speaking about their gratitude for veterans.

"There are also memories people have of family members who served. They are all very personal messages and those are what compose that huge mural. It's quite amazing to see it in person but you can get a good sense of it online in the photos at www.legion.ca."

Bond said Canadians will be fascinated to read about the stories behind the people in the three other murals.

"It puts a face to the name and helps us tell the story of remembrance itself, why we do this and why it is so important. It all leads back to the freedom we have in Canada today and the ability to live our lives as we wish."

In addition to local poppy campaigns, the Royal Canadian Legion launched its official Amazon.ca storefront on Oct. 25, 2024. The storefront offers lapel poppies, available for donations of $2, $5, $10 or $20, red neon window poppies, We Remember lawn signs and other official Remembrance merchandise.

100 per cent of the money raised through poppy donations goes directly to its Poppy Trust Fund to support veterans and their families. More than 20,000 lapel poppies were distributed through Amazon in 2024 and all sales broke the $200,000 mark.

New this year is the ability to tap to donate to the campaign with a debit card, credit card or digital wallet via tap-on-phone. Legion volunteers from participating branches can use their own compatible smartphones to collect contactless donations.

"This is very exciting. It allows the Legion to increase its reach and as these methods expand across the country and more branches take part, it means a Legion volunteer who has an app on their phone can potentially donate anywhere they are. Not just at their branch, but maybe at the grocery store where someone is looking to donate."

Bond said society is becoming more and more cashless, although there is no plan to eliminate the poppy cash boxes located across the country. There are also about 2,000 tap to donate boxes available in some areas.

The Legion's inaugural year of rolling out the new technology is supported by BMO.

"For a century, the poppy has carried a profound promise: that the sacrifice of Canada's Veterans will never be forgotten," said Mike Bonner, the head of Canadian personal and business banking distribution. "BMO is honoured to stand with The Royal Canadian Legion in keeping that promise. Having recently had the privilege of addressing delegates in Winnipeg at the Legion's 50th Dominion Convention in celebration of their 100th anniversary, I remain humbled by how much those in uniform have done and continue to do in service to Canada."

The Legion continues to offer free memberships, something Bond said has resulted in huge increase.

"We have seen well over 100,000 people join this year. We were already seeing an increase over the past few years and we are really excited. With new members come new ideas, new energy, and we are able to harness that and allow people to use their skillsets and put them to use at the local level."

She added there are now over 300,000 members across the country.

"It really tells us that Canadians are very supportive of the Legion's mission and they want to be a part of it. They are supportive of our veterans, our families, and they see the Legion as a community hub and community supporter. It bodes well for the future."




(THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION PHOTO)

**A mural in Toronto made of sticky notes bearing messages of gratitude from Canadians has been unveiled by the Royal Canadian Legion in honour of Lance Corporal Davidson. The mural was installed in Toronto's Union Station but can be viewed alongside three other murals on the Legion website, where the messages of gratitude making up the murals can also be read.**

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# Huron County Children's Services launches local RECE recruitment campaign

**EXETER EXAMINER STAFF**

*Staff Contribution*

Huron County Children's Services is encouraging individuals to explore a rewarding career in early childhood education through a new registered early childhood educator (RECE) recruitment campaign, funded by the Ministry of Education's Early Childhood Educator Promotional Fund.

As work to expand access to licensed child care continues, the need for qualified early childhood educators is growing. In Huron County, RECEs play a vital role in supporting local families, strengthening communities, and helping children build the skills and confidence they need to thrive.

The County of Huron's recruitment campaign features a dedicated webpage that highlights pathways to becoming an RECE, information about education and training opportunities, and the stories of local early childhood educators who are making an impact in Huron County every day.

"Early childhood educators are essential to the well-being of children, families, and communities," said social and property services director Barbara Hall. "Whether you are currently working in child care, considering a career change, returning to the workforce, or graduating from high school, becoming an RECE is an opportunity to build a rewarding career while making a meaningful difference close to home."

By supporting local recruitment, Huron County aims to strengthen the early years workforce and help ensure families continue to have access to quality child care programs throughout the region. The campaign also celebrates the dedicated educators who support children and families and contribute to the vitality of Huron County communities.

Huron County Children's Services extends its gratitude to the educators, child care professionals, organizations, and community partners who continue to support local children and families and make Huron County a great place to live, work, and grow.

For more information about becoming a registered early childhood educator and exploring opportunities in Huron County, visit www.huroncounty.ca/become-an-rece.







# Sole Sisters grab their brooms for 5th annual Witches' Walk




(SOLE SISTERS' WALKING GROUP PHOTO)

**Exeter's Sole Sisters Walking Group was back Oct. 29 for their 5th annual Witches' Walk. During the walk, the group that was formed in 2000 walked around Exeter dressed as witches, catching the attention of locals throughout the day both on the streets and while grabbing coffee at Tasty Bites. The tradition began in October 2021, when the Sole Sisters Walking Group decided to take its first witchy walk, possibly drawing inspiration from Grand Bend's Witches' Paddle tradition. This year, the group made their way to Exeter Villa where they visited with one of their members and other residents. From left are Carol Rideout, Lesley McConnell, Barb Gackstetter, Diane Grilly, Sharon O'Toole, Eleanor Clark, Ila Mathers and Dianne Waun during the walk.**

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# Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority honours local landowners, funding partners with Decade Award for stewardship

**EXETER EXAMINER STAFF**

*Staff Contribution*

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) has presented its ninth of nine Decade Awards during ABCA's 80th anniversary year (2026). The most recent award presentation ceremony took place at Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre, at Rock Glen Conservation Area in Arkona, on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026.

ABCA presented the Decade Award, for the 2020s decade, to local landowners and stewardship champions who implement stewardship projects and best management practices on their private lands as well as the organizations who support this work as funding partners.

Ray Chartrand is chair of the ABCA board of directors.

"The ninth of nine Decade Awards recognizes very deserving honorees indeed," he said. "We are pleased today to recognize local landowners and stewardship champions and the organizations that support their work as funding partners. Enhancements benefitting soil, water and habitat are possible thanks to the participating landowners who implement positive projects and best practices on their private lands in our watershed area. Local land stewardship is also made possible thanks to the funding partners who provide financial incentives to support the work of our local landowners."

More than 25 people attended the Oct. 29 award announcement and presentation reception, including local landowners and funding partners.

Between March and October, the conservation authority has recognized a deserving award recipient for each decade of ABCA's history (1946-2026).



(PHOTO BY AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY)

**A tree planting ceremony was held Oct. 29 at Rock Glen Conservation Area as the final Decade Award was presented by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, honouring local landowners and stewardship champions.**

"It has been an honour, during 2026, to present these special ABCA 80th anniversary Decade Awards to recognize and thank the groups making positive differences in our watershed community," said Chartrand. "We also look forward to working with landowners and funding partners in the years and decades to come to continue to enhance Ausable Bayfield watersheds."

Nathan Schoelier, ABCA interim general manager and secretary-treasurer, thanked all the watershed landowners who have completed thousands of projects across the watershed over the past 80 years. He also thanked ABCA's municipal partners and the organizations providing financial grants for stewardship projects as well as ABCA staff who support the work of local landowners. He said he looks forward to working with all these partners going forward to continue to make enhancements in the watershed.

He also shared remarks from Don Goodyear, project executive of the new Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority (LHRCA).

"Congratulations to the landowners across the Ausable Bayfield watershed who have put best management practices into action on their properties," Goodyear said. "Your commitment to improving water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat demonstrates the positive difference local stewardship can make. Thank you for investing your time, effort and resources into a healthier watershed."

Goodyear said the stewardship work in the watershed is a reminder of the value of partnerships between community and funding partners, landowners, and staff, to turn shared goals into practical improvements on the ground.

"Today, above all, we celebrate your achievements," he said. "Thank you for caring for your land and for the lasting contribution you are making to the Ausable Bayfield watershed."

A tree was planted, at the conservation area, after the ceremony, in honour of the work of local stewardship champions and the organizations that support them.


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# SPORTS

# CUPE Local 4513: Giving back to our community



Huron County Paramedic Service's CUPE Local 4513 were the sponsors of an Exeter Hawks game Oct. 16 in Exeter.




(CUPE LOCAL 4513 PHOTOS)

CUPE Local 4513 were on hand during the game to have discussions with the community and provide hands-on CPR demonstrations.

**CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE**

*Contribution*

On Oct. 16, Huron County Paramedic Service's CUPE Local 4513 was proud to sponsor the Exeter Hawks Jr. C hockey game.

It was a great evening of hockey, community spirit, and connecting with the people we serve every day.

Throughout the evening, our paramedics provided hands-on CPR demonstrations, giving fans an opportunity to learn valuable lifesaving skills. We also held some exciting prize draws, including an Exeter Hawks sweater, a mystery mini stick, and two season tickets to cheer on the Hawks!

More importantly, the evening gave community members a chance to meet their local paramedics, ask questions, have conversations, and get to know the people behind the uniforms.

As paramedics, we are proud to serve Huron County, and as union members, we believe in giving back to the communities where we live and work.

A big thank you to the Exeter Hawks organization for welcoming us and to everyone who stopped by to chat, participated in our demonstrations, and supported the event.

We're more than just the people who show up when you call 911. We're your neighbours, friends, and members of your community.

# BACK IN TIME

## 30 Years Ago

November 13, 1996 - Helen Johns, MPP for Huron was recognized at the annual Progressive Conservative meeting in Toronto as the Best New Candidate in the 1995 election.

## 40 Years Ago

November 12, 1986 - Five local residents received special awards at the annual town of Exeter Appreciation Night.

Lois and Irv Armstrong were named citizens of the year mainly for their efforts in making the Exeter Villa a reality.

Fire chief Gary Middleton received a 25-year service award from the Ontario Fire Marshall and an exemplary service award from the Governor General.

Carl Mills has been named Grand Representative of Scotland by the order of the Eastern Star and John Stephens is chairman of the Governor's Council for Multiple District A-15 of Lions Clubs in Ontario, Quebec, Labrador and two islands in the St. Lawrence which belong to France.

## 55 Years Ago

November 11, 1971 - Mrs. Don McGregor reports picking raspberries in November in her garden on William Street. A number of other area residents are picking little red delicacies.

Vandalism ran high this week, especially in Usborne Township. Large rocks were thrown through windows at the homes of Allan Rundle and Charles Jeffrey, just east of Exeter and a mailbox came flying through the bedroom window at the home of Grant Westlake on Concession 3.

## 65 Years Ago

November 13, 1961 - Speaking competition winners last week were Brenda Dinney, Patsy Bridges, Paulette Schroeder and Jo Anne Whilsmith.

Mrs. Roy Johns clicked for two consecutive turkey wins at the Legion's fowl bingo, Thursday night.

## 70 Years Ago

Larry Heideman, scoring ace of the Exeter Mohawks this week took over his duties as director of recreation in Exeter.

Hundreds of people from the district attended the weekend opening of Al's Meat Market in Hensall where an extensive renovation project was completed recently.

## 80 Years Ago

November 11, 1946 - Ontario Panoramo was broadcast directly from the Exeter area last Friday when Mrs. J.G. Cochrane, Preston Dearing, Jack Green, Ed Sweitzer and Mrs. Ruth Maunder were interviewed by Allan Savage and Gordon Sinclair, two well known CFRB radio personalities.

Mr. William Gossman and son Leonard of Dashwood have returned from the western provinces.

The South Group of the Farm Forum met at the home of Mr. L. Robinson, Monday night. The North group met at Lumley school.

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# COLUMNS

## Your trail camera makes you a scientist



JASON RAMSAY-BROWN
*Examiner Columnist*

More and more over the last decade or so, trail cameras have become fixtures in the local landscape. Hunters use them to determine the best places to spend their time and to evaluate recent prey behavior before they head out. Landowners use them to monitor their properties, watchful eyes looking for trespassers and ne'er-do-wells. Nature lovers use them hoping just to catch a glimpse of local wildlife. With cellular and wireless trail cams now increasingly affordable to many consumers, recent market research reports suggest that sales will continue to grow at around seven per cent annually over the next decade.

Ask a trail cam user what they do with all the pictures their devices snap once the memory card is full, or hunting season is over and, almost universally, you'll get the same answer: delete them. Sure, they might save a few particularly picturesque snaps for memory lane, but the remainder simply blink out of existence with the press of a few buttons. The tremendous loss this represents is something few people even pause to consider.

What if I told you that those cast-away pictures of white-tailed deer, coyote, or a random blue jay was precious scientific data that, together with thousands of images just like it, could describe our natural world in ways the average naturalist, ecologist or wildlife biologist would drool over?

In the hands of the right people, the potential uses of trail cam images are staggering. The most obvious example is their value in helping us to better understand population density and distribution. By aggregating thousands of trail cam images, researchers gain a much more sophisticated idea as to where certain animals call home and in what numbers. This information can help inform everything from conservation efforts to hunting regulations. But that's just the tip of the spear. Evaluating the plants in the surrounding area, and the activities that the animals are engaged in, can help us better understand overall habitat value and usage. Comparing images captured during the same windows of time might reveal behavioral information such as changes in mating seasons or migration periods. Correlating disease outbreaks to animal sightings in the area can help us learn more about the roles these animals play in spreading contagions and infections. From climate change to wildlife health, the value of trail cam images cannot be overstated.

So, you might ask, how do we turn our trail cam images into useful scientific data? The short answer is: the Internet.

By far the easiest and most effective way is via the online citizen-science platform, iNaturalist (www.inaturalist.ca). This free, non-profit network allows people from all over the world to share and map their observations of plants, animals, and other forms of life. Contributors simply

upload a photo (or sound) along with species identification information and the date and location of where the image was taken. iNaturalist then makes this information available to its entire community through a variety of handy and easy-to-use tools like search or maps. The iNaturalist community, in turn, verifies or refines the identification, eventually turning it into research grade data.

iNaturalist allows any old Joe or Jane to browse the website, search by different criteria, reference maps, and the like. Research grade data, however, also enters a global database designed to be accessed by professional researchers, conservationists, and scientists using a variety of alternative technologies. The collected data helps drive their efforts to better understand, protect and preserve our natural world.

One can often discover added incentives for contributing photos to iNaturalist. For example, once a year the Canadian Wildlife Federation runs its Great Canadian Bioblitz on the platform, offering contests where participants can qualify for prizes like outdoor gear and clothing just by meeting specific goals and milestones.

While iNaturalist is certainly the dominant citizen-science platform for nature observations, other platforms do exist that may be worth taking a look at. Zooniverse (www.zooniverse.org) hosts an ever-changing land-




(PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON RAMSAY-BROWN)

**Images from trail cameras can be submitted to online citizen-science platforms to aid in conservation efforts and research.**

scape of time-sensitive research projects which may accept trail cam images. Another popular option is Wildlife Insights (www.wildlifeinsights.org) which utilizes the SpeciesNet AI model to assist in processing and verifying submitted images.

For many platforms and projects, even images captured years ago may make for acceptable submissions. So, any old SD cards you have kicking around may be treasure troves of useful data. Plus, once they're uploaded, you can view them any time you like, freeing up those cards for future use. Digging through your old trail cam images could prove an entertaining and valuable way to spend the cold winter months that are just around the corner.

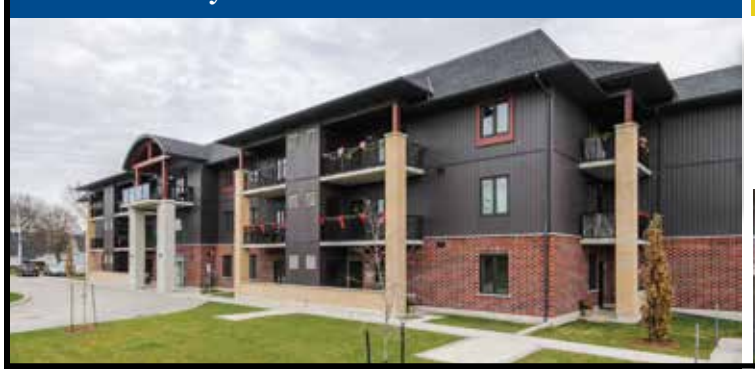
You may worry you're not a "tech person" and that using these platforms may be beyond reach. Granted, there might be a bit of learning required to get up and running, but these platforms are so hungry for data that they work tirelessly to ensure things go as smoothly as possible. Most platforms have phone and tablet apps for people who lack home computers, or are just more comfortable working from the couch.

You may also question whether your identification skills are up to snuff, particularly if your photos are of migrating birds you don't see very often, or small mammals like minks or fishers. Not to worry. Most platforms accommodate vague identifications, knowing that their online community will eventually sort out a reliable identification. As AI technology continues to advance, it too is being deployed to help people improve identification.

Word of warning, however: contributing can be addictive! Many folks discover there is something uniquely satisfying in knowing your photos are contributing to vital research and conservation efforts. So much so that it's not uncommon for them to end up buying an extra

camera or two to increase their coverage and both the volume and value of the data they submit.

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# Once again we pause to remember on November 11



BOB HEYWOOD

*Examiner Columnist*

**One sad week in Usborne, 1917: First World War**

**Pte. Matthews killed in Action Sept. 27, Exeter Times**

Word was received last week that Pte. Bruce Matthews was killed in action in France. He enlisted with the 161st Battalion at Exeter. Previous to that time he had worked on the Thames Road farm of Thomas Cameron. As far as was known he had no relatives in this country but both Mr. and Mrs. Cameron took interest in him, writing letters and sending boxes.

Below are excerpts of letters printed in the Exeter Times, September 27, 1917, from Pte. Matthews to the Camerons.

**Editor's note: Additions by the columnist in the letters are denoted in parentheses.**

*Dear Friends: Just a line to say that I am well and I hope this will find you the same.*

*I have been out on rest for about 16 days and we have just come up the line last night. I am writing this just behind the firing line on a heap of ruins which was a fine big building, ruined by the enemies shell fire. As I write, I can see our powerful shells burst near the big city which we are putting forth every effort to drive the enemy from and I want to say, Canadians are the boys who can do it. We never start a thing but we finish it … As I sit here and look over to our front line trenches where rather hard fighting is going on, it makes me think of the lads at home in Canada. If they only realized what the war is like over here, they would not wait for conscription. They would play the game and get over here as quick as they could to help their comrades who are doing their best to drive the Germans back.*

*I think a man who would wait to be forced to do his bit is not worthy to be called a Canadian but is a coward, every inch of him. (Some may be offended by this strong language, but I defer judgement as it was coming from a Canadian boy at the front of the battle). But never mind "We will never let the Old Flag Fall." I am not in need of anything at present, but a pair of socks wouldn't come amiss as I am doing so much marching and if a man don't take care of his feet he isn't much good over here.*

*I wish I were back where your gift box came from, wouldn't I have a great time. But the boys over here are quite cheery. You hear them going around singing.* (Hard to believe on the front lines).

In another letter to the Cameron Farm:

*I got the box you sent me but the cake did not last long as the corporal helped me get rid of it. Our battalion was in the midst of the recent heavy fighting and we got great praise for our work. I have come through thus far without a scratch. I think when the Yankees get here there ought to be a clean up of "Old Fritz" (the Germans). I suppose you heard about Earl Gardiner getting killed. I was talking to him before he went up the line and he was passing remarks about the times we used to have playing baseball (at Thames Road). He was wondering if we would all yet meet again in Farquhar after the war. Bobby Gardiner was also wounded but I think he will be alright again. Yours sincerely B.H. Matthews*

The next item was boldly introduced "MEMORIAL for Pt. John Strang," After a detailed description of the Memorial Service held at Caven Presbyterian Church on that Sabbath evening before a full congregation, the following paragraph was given: Pte. John C Strang enlisted at Exeter with the 161st battalion last November. Shortly after he was drafted to France and for several months had been in the trenches. He was killed July 23, near Lens being struck on the back of his head with a shrapnel shell while entering his dugout, passing away almost instantly. He was buried in a military cemetery behind the lines and his grave is recorded. The deceased was 20 years of age. (I confess that I cannot begin to imagine the gravity of the sad news back in the Usborne community).

Surely the following letter received by John's parents must have brought them profound peace and assurance:

*Dear Mr & Mrs Strang, You have no doubt received the sad tidings regarding your boy's death, but I am writing a few lines out of duty as a comrade and because I count it a great privilege as a Christian. My first responsibility as a N.C.O. gave me the pleasure of having Jack as "one of the boys" and how proud I was to become acquainted with such a clean cut lad. His Christian life left an impression for good on the boy's hearts and blessings on my own. We were on out post duty and during a bombardment he was struck, dying almost instantly. We carried him out and buried him the next evening in a little cemetery back of the lines. The little service at twilight was most impressive though it made us feel our loss much more. The Chaplain referred to him as the "bright little flower which fadeth away in God's own time" and we read in John 10 where Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me and I give unto them eternal life, they shall never perish." So I cannot but truly believe that Jack has gone to that better land because he lived in such a trusting and inspiring manner … and the least that can be said is that Jack died a hero and was a boy that any mother should be proud of. I collected his personal effects and handed them into the headquarters so the Chaplain will no doubt forward them to you in due time. His comrades too extend their deepest sympathy to you and I conclude praying that God's comfort and blessing may be your portion.*

*Believe me to be sincerely yours, Corp W.F. Church, 58th Canadians BEF, France.*

In the next column on the same front page appeared the following headline "ELIMVILLE BOY KILLED in ACTION." Mr. and Mrs. Hy Johns received word on Wednesday that their son, Pte. L.E.

Johns #654,744 had been killed in action. Pte Johns enlisted with the Huron Battalion at Exeter and went overseas last November. He has been in France for several months.

It's almost inconceivable to consider that in one week 3 Usborne boys who lived within five miles of each other died in active duty in the trenches in France. The query naturally arises as to what they may have accomplished and contributed if they would have survived. Irregardless, they "gave their all."

**Fast Forward to 1944-45 Exeter pays a heavy toll in Europe: Second World War**

The following letter was received by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Triebner from their son Edward on the same day they received a telegram stating that he had been killed in action in Belgium on September 18, 1944.

*Dear Mother and the rest: Just dropping a line in answer to your letter which I received yesterday and also Doreen's of the day before. I still haven't received any parcels or any cigarettes yet, but I am still getting along OK! I am now in Belgium and getting closer to the Holland border. We can see by the people wearing these big wooden shoes and these big windmills of theirs. The other day we were the first tank and the first Canadians in the town of Bruges and we were almost mobbed.*

*Yesterday I met a couple of people that lived in Toronto for 18 years and they asked us in and we had coffee, and was it good after having tea all the time. As we go along and advance through towns they shower us with flowers and apples and pears and all kinds of drink if we stop. They almost kill themselves with joy as we pass through. They cheer and yell and if we stop they crowd around the tank and women kiss us and shake our hands, and how I hate that. They crowd the streets as if the King were passing through. Boy! What a life. Last night we slept on the side of the road beside a barn and a house and the people brought eggs and milk out to us and also a chicken. We are having it for dinner in about half an hour. Yesterday the five of us ate thirty eggs and another ten this morning for breakfast. I never ate so many eggs in all my life. We are not starving, that is one thing. The people in Belgium are so clean that you could eat off the floors in their houses. We are in a bit of luck now so you may see us in a picture before long. We now have a big newsreel camera on our tank and we take war pictures for the Canadian newsreel people. So before long they will be showing them in the shows back there. The film is one hundred feet long. Hope to hear from you soon.*

*Cheerio for now from Your Loving Son - Edward.* (A street in Exeter now bears the Triebner name in his honour).

In the same paper Sgt. Jack Sweet, who enlisted in Exeter at the age of 16 and who served four years overseas was killed in action Sept. 19, one day after Ed Triebner. He was a student of the Exeter High School and resided with his uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. C.V. Pickard.

One day later on Sept. 20, L. Cpl. Norman Hilton Sanders, more familiarly known in Exeter as "Fat," was killed in action. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sanders, he had enlisted six months after the war started and trained with the RCR's at Camp Borden. In order to go overseas early, Norman transferred to the Highland Light Infantry, participating in the D-Day invasion and with the Canadian contingent at Caen. In one of his letters he stated he had 50 days at the front under almost constant shelling. A few days in hospital suffering from the flu was a welcome relief. He had been back in the lines only a short time before his death. In a letter from one of his buddies, his chum stated that he and "Fat" were in a building looking for Germans, when a bomb struck the building and was demolished. "Fat" was seen to emerge from the debris with a familiar grin on his face. "Mrs. Sanders – You may be justly proud of your son who gave his life that the principles in which he and we who were fighting with him, might prevail in a Nazi free world of the future." Like Usborne in the First World War, three Exeter boys perished in three days in the Second World War.

The May 3 edition of the Times in 1945 carried this somber headline: "Exeter Home Saddened as Oldest Son is Presumed Dead and the Other Missing

In the next edition of the Examiner, learn more of these two Exeter brothers and other local boys who made the supreme sacrifice.

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# OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Grenada's ever-changing Underwater Sculpture Park



PAUL KNOWLES

*Examiner Columnist*

There is a conundrum that faces travel journalists: should we constantly visit new destinations, or is it okay to return to those we love? Well, obviously, it's ideal when we – and therefore, our readers – discover somewhere new. And that's usually the goal, and I usually manage to accomplish it.

But there are some places so special that they almost demand our revisited attention. And the Underwater Sculpture Park at the Caribbean island of Grenada is one of those.

I first experienced the sculpture park in 2023. I had the great good fortune to be on the spot as many new sculptures were added to the attraction. And I was able to spend a lot of time with the primary sculptor who has produced the amazing works – Jason deCaires Taylor.

So when I got the invitation to return to Grenada, and pay another visit to the underwater attraction, I was delighted.

Here's the back story. Taylor, a very talented artist, is also an experienced scuba diver. He came to Grenada in 2004, planning to open a dive shop. That didn't happen.

But something much more significant did take place. He became aware of a bay on Grenada's west coast where all the underwater life had been decimated by a hurricane. To the artist in Taylor, this was an easel begging to be filled.

So he did. In 2006, the first sculptures were lowered into the bay. Life-sized or larger, they were intended to attract the attention of divers – including, of course, tourists – and also, to serve as artificial reefs that might encourage the regrowth and return of coral and other marine life.

The project grew – both expanding, and successfully fostering oceanic growth – eventually including over 40 sculptures by a number of different artists.

Then came 2023, when the "park" nearly doubled in size, with 31 sculptures added – again, most by Taylor – to bring the total to 75. The new sculptures included "Coral Carnival" – many large statues representing figures from Grenada's folk culture. The entire installation has been named one of the 25 wonders of the world, by National Geographic. And I was blessed to be on

hand as the works were lowered into the sea, and then to be able to don my snorkel, and swim among them.

Taylor never sees his works as finished products. He loves the fact that as they remain in their aquatic setting, they inevitably change. Some of the changes to the earlier works involved the erosion of some features, but Taylor and his artistic colleagues have constantly improved their materials – always aware of causing no environmental damage – so today, the changes involve natural additions. Coral and sea plants grow on the sculptures, changing their appearance in often dramatic ways.

And I got to see this, up close and personal, on my return visit this year. I don't dive, but I do love to snorkel, and the works in the Underwater Sculpture Park are in water sufficiently shallow that snorkelers can get a very good look at each one without diving. Taylor says the sculptures are all at depths of no more than 8 meters.

During this 2026 trip, I and a few travel journalist colleagues went out on a tour with folks from Eco Dive, a dive shop deeply committed to environment protection and education. Led by a well-informed guide, we snorkeled around the Molinere Beauséjour Marine Protected Area (the official name of the bay) to see every one of the 75 works.

And yes, time and salt water have certainly collaborated with the original artists to bring continual change to the sculptures. The most exciting changes reflect the success this project has had in turning static pieces of art into living, artificial reefs. In my opinion, the pieces are continually becoming more beautiful, more interesting, and more compelling.

Taylor was also asked to create and place an underwater sculpture off the shore of another island – Carriacou – which is officially part of Grenada. Carriacou was slammed by Hurricane Beryl in 2024, but is well on the eay to recovery, and a visit – by small plane or ferry – can be a fascinating part of your visit to Grenada.

From time to time, I get asked for my opinion about travel destinations. Especially now, when many Canadians are avoiding travel to the U.S., people wonder about warm weather holidays including in the Caribbean.



(JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR PHOTOS)

**Coral and other sea life constantly changes the appearance of the sculptures, as the installation succeeds as an artificial reef.**

I have not visited every Caribbean island. But having sampled quite a few, I can easily say that my favourites are the Windward Islands – those in the eastern Caribbean, including Dominica, Barbados, Grenada and their neighbours.

They are all great spots for a cold weather get-away. But Grenada is undoubtedly special, for a number of reasons – warm hospitality, superb beaches (especially Grand Anse), terrific food, unique culture, fascinating history (where else will you find a child's playground sharing a park with the hulks of abandoned Russian war planes?).

But first on my list of great Grenadian treasures is the ever-changing Underwater Sculpture Park. Grab your snorkel and go!

*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.*



**Part of the new "A World Adrift" installation in the waters off Carriacou.**



# About Time and Times: In remembrance and gratitude



JUDY FINKBEINER JOHNSON

*Examiner Columnist*

Especially during the Remembrance Day period for many people, memories come forward of the war experiences of family members and friends who served in the Second World War and other wars.

Usually there were no long conversations about those years with veterans, only a few sentences. Parts of their stories have a physical presence in homes like ours, in photo albums, letters, and memorabilia sent from the Second World War front. Today, web research can fill in many details that are new to us.

The tapestry created by these threads has a theme. It tells the story of sacrifice of those who went into battle and those they left behind and how the freedoms we take for granted were hard-earned. It tells the story of those who returned home and those who are memorialized by a tombstone in the country where they died. It tells the story of how the devastating scars of war were not only the wounds that healed but those of body and mind that lasted a lifetime.

## Early memories

My mother Irene was a war widow. Her first husband Elmer Vernon Stewart was killed in the Second World War at age 26 near Cassino in Italy, a sapper clearing roads and waterways in the Liri Valley for the Allied troops advance to liberate Rome. He left behind his young wife and son; she lived with her parents in Manitoba after his death. She met my father Allan Finkbeiner while visiting her aunts here near Crediton, and they married.

From the time I was a child I watched one of my mother's annual May rituals when she sorted through a cedar chest upstairs in the family farmhouse. At the bottom, carefully wrapped, was a box containing Elmer's war medals, photos, and mementos. She handled these with quiet sadness and reverence. I realized that this was her annual pilgrimage. He was killed on May 26, 1944, and is one of 855 Canadians and more than 4,291 Commonwealth service personnel commemorated with a headstone at the Cassino War Cemetery honouring the fallen of the Italian campaign.

While studying at UWO in London, I volunteered at Westminster Hospital in the wing where Second World War veterans received long-term care. My memories include the smell of wound dressings and medicines in a long room painted an ugly green. A centre aisle was flanked by beds occupied by men, many of whom were only in their early forties. I read to a bed-ridden veteran blinded during the war and wrote letters for him. Sounds were muffled. There were only a couple of volunteers and other visitors, and a few nurses who tended to patients. That

quiet was more eloquent and heart-breaking than words. It was unbearable and yet borne by all there. My tears fell after visits, when unlike those men, I could leave that room and walk out into the fresh air to fill my lungs and enjoy what they had paid such a heavy price for me to experience in life.

## Non-fiction

A former boss and later my friend, was a Fleet Street editor named Robert Bruce Gendall. Those editors in London, England's newspaper area were astute journalists who earned that badge of honour.

I learned that Bruce had been a young officer in the Royal Marines U.K. during the Second World War. These commissioned officers were educated, then barely trained, often not out of their teens. They had zero actual military experience and if smart, relied heavily on their sergeants, older, seasoned soldiers when making decisions. It was thought to be highly effective, that combination of youthful daring with its feeling of invincibility paired with older wisdom and first-hand combat experience.

Bruce was a commando, a member of the elite fighting force created by Winston Churchill to engage in high stakes, highly dangerous military operations in Europe. The only wartime experience he related to me was when he was about to order his unit to move forward to go over a hill to take an enemy-held target. His sergeant quietly took him aside: "Sir, you can go that way, the boys and I are going to go around." The fact that Bruce came back to tell that story undoubtedly was because of taking that advice to engage from the rear rather than a frontal attack.

To relax, typing like machine-gun fire with two fingers on his manual Remington typewriter, this tough but polished commando gentleman often wrote a complete Harlequin romance novel in a single weekend, to be published under one of his female pen names.

How my father's younger brother Howard Neil Finkbeiner survived the Second World War sounds like a movie plot. He joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1941 at the age of 17 and while in service was on the H.M.C.S. Sarnia, a minesweeper that swept up to 15 German-laid mines per patrol. Howard's nickname was "Doc" because he was a Sick Berth Attendant. The waters around Newfoundland and Nova Scotia were particularly dangerous with German mines and submarines. The Sarnia also escorted merchant ships carrying vital war supplies. A crew of 83 men lived on the 54.9 metre long



(PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL FINKBEINER THOMAS.)

**Esquimalt sunk by U-190 off Halifax. SBA Howard "Doc" Finkbeiner with beard, age 21, carrying stretcher.**

and 8.7-metre-wide ship with depth chargers for anti-submarine warfare and had engaged the U-190.

A constant threat for ships in the North Atlantic was capsizing due to the spray of the sea waves that froze instantly on contact with metal. While on duty chipping away the heavy ice during rough seas, Howard went overboard and was miraculously entangled in the heavy ropes on the side of the ship, escaping certain death by drowning or hypothermia.

In April 1945, the Sarnia rescued the survivors of her sister ship the H.M.C.S. Esquimalt that had been torpedoed near Halifax and sunk in less than five minutes; 44 crew members died. During the rescue and retrieval of bodies, the Sarnia was not moving, in effect a "sitting duck" target where U-boats were a threat.

Three of my mother's brothers were soldiers in the Second World War. One, my Uncle Leonard Harold Gower, was a young sergeant in the Manitoba 12th Dragoons, 18th Reconnaissance Battalion, later named the 18th Armoured Car Regiment. They landed on the beach at Normandy in France and fought as infantry. They had come with 72 Staghound Armoured Cars, each weighing 13,166 kilograms and manned by five-soldier crews to engage the Axis forces along the coast of Flanders in Belgium. Their mission was to liberate the seaports there to enable Allies that would come behind to reach the strategic seaport of Antwerp. There is a monument/plaque at Zeebrugge honouring the Dragoons. They engaged in missions in Holland and Germany until the very end of the war.

Until his death at 93, Leonard suffered from the nicknamed "sergeant's disease," what we now know as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In vivid, recurring nightmares he screamed, relived his wartime experiences with the trauma of sending his unit of young men to engage with enemy forces that inevitably led to injury and death during combat.

With gratitude to all those who served and continue to serve to protect freedom in our world. And gratitude to loved ones who support them on duty and when they return.

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# Mentoring Matters: Little connections, big possibilities



AMY WILHELM

*Examiner Columnist*

At the heart of everything we do here at Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron (BBBSSH) are our Littles. And today, I want to talk about our Littles. To the parents out there who have been thinking about reaching out to get their child(ren) involved with BBBSSH, I hope this column today gives you that little nudge to take the next step.

One of the questions we are often asked is, "What does it take for a child to qualify to become a Little?" The answer is much broader than it was several years ago. In the past, people often associated mentoring with children from single-parent households who were missing another adult role model in their lives. While that can still be the case, we now recognize that adversity comes in many different forms, and it doesn't look the same for every child. A Little might be a child being raised by grandparents or within another kinship arrangement, or a child living in foster care. It could be a young person whose parent or sibling is living with a disability, mental health challenges, or addiction. It might be a child navigating life between two households, struggling to find their balance. Or perhaps it's a child who is having difficulty fitting in at school, making friends, building confidence, or managing their emotional well-being. Adversity can take many shapes, including economic hardship, family instability, social isolation, and challenges that aren't always visible to others. Because, let's face it, being a kid today isn't easy!

I have two sons of my own, and the world they are growing up in is very different from the one my husband and I experienced as children. Young people today face pressures and challenges that can sometimes feel overwhelming, and every child has their own story. Despite their different circumstances, many of these young people share a need for one simple, yet incredibly powerful, thing: someone in their corner. A consistent, caring adult who shows up, takes the time to listen, offers encouragement, and believes in their potential can make a tremendous difference in a young person's life. Sometimes, having someone outside their immediate family to talk to, learn from, and simply spend time with is exactly what a child needs to feel supported and understood.

That's where mentoring can make a difference. And that's why we do what we do. For families interested in getting involved, the process begins with a simple eligibility form to ensure the program is a good fit. From there, we connect with you directly, guide you through an application, and meet one-on-one with both parents and child(ren) to better understand your needs. Training and ongoing support are provided every step of the way.

If you believe a young person in your life could benefit from mentorship, we encourage you to reach out. Because, sometimes, a single connection can make all the difference. We're only a call, email, or visit away. Join us and be part of something truly #BiggerTogether.

# GREYMATTER: Have You Experienced Ageism?



ANNETTE GERDES

*Examiner Contributor*

We talk about ageism as though it only happens when someone says something obviously insulting about getting older. But sometimes it is much sneakier.

I have to admit; ageism has been on my mind a little more lately. Maybe it's because I've recently reached the age where someone offered me my first "senior's discount." I'm not sure whether I was supposed to feel proud, offended, or simply ask if there was a discount for people who still don't feel like seniors!

It was a funny little moment, but it did make me think about how quickly we attach expectations to a number. At 55, I don't suddenly feel like a completely different person than I did a few years ago. Yet somehow, a number on my driver's licence can change how other people see me.

And that's really what ageism is about.

It is somewhat perception as well, I have toured seniors in there 90's, not ready to move into a retirement home stating "there is too many old people there"

It can sound like, "You probably wouldn't understand that." Or "At your age, do you really need to learn that?" Or my personal favourite: someone talking to the person standing beside you instead of talking to you—as though turning 70 suddenly made you invisible.

Ageism is treating someone differently, making assumptions about them, or limiting them simply because of their age. And the tricky part is that sometimes it is so casually woven into everyday life that we don't even recognize it.

Someone assumes you don't use technology. Someone assumes you don't want to travel. Someone assumes you're retired, so you must have all the time in the world. Someone assumes you're confused because you didn't hear them the first time. Or someone decides that because you're older, they should make the decision for you.

None of these things necessarily look dramatic. But put enough of them together and they can leave a person feeling as though their age has become the most important thing about them.

It isn't.

So how do you spot ageism?

Pay attention when someone's age becomes the reason given for what they can, can't, should or shouldn't do. Ask yourself: Would they have said or done the same thing if I were 20 years younger?

If the answer is no, you may have spotted it.

Ageism can happen at work, in healthcare, in stores, in restaurants, in banking, online and even within families. And sometimes it comes from people who genuinely think they are being helpful.

That doesn't necessarily make it okay.

You don't have to start an argument every time someone makes an age-related comment. Sometimes a simple response is enough.

"I'm quite capable of making that decision myself."

"I'd appreciate it if you spoke directly to me."

"My age doesn't mean I can't do that."

Or, when appropriate, a little humour can go a long way.

"Don't let the grey hair fool you. I know how to use Google."

The important thing is not to automatically accept the assumption being made about you. Ask questions. Speak up. Correct people when they make assumptions. And don't let someone else's idea of what a person "your age" should be become your definition of yourself.

We can also check ourselves.

Ageism isn't always something other people do. Most of us have probably made an assumption about someone's age without even realizing it.

We might assume an older person won't understand technology, while assuming a younger person couldn't possibly have enough experience to understand something important.

Both are assumptions.

Getting older doesn't automatically make someone wise, helpless, outdated, difficult or wonderful.

It makes them older.

And underneath that age is still a person with their own personality, experiences, abilities, opinions and plans.

Maybe the biggest thing we can do about ageism is stop treating age like a personality.

Because 60 isn't a personality.

70 isn't a personality.

80 isn't a personality.

And 90 certainly isn't a personality.

They're numbers.

People are much more interesting than that.

So, the next time someone says, "At your age…", maybe stop for a moment and ask yourself:

"And exactly what is that supposed to mean?"

You might be surprised by how often that little question starts a much bigger conversation.

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# LIVING RETIRED: 'I am Floored!'



BY GARY CHALK

*Examiner Columnist*

Soon, Jan and I will be replacing the existing perfect wood flooring throughout the main floor of our house. In its place we will install new perfect wood flooring throughout the main floor of our house. Just saying.

The reason for new flooring is because the dark, shiny colour of our current flooring shows the dust; we cannot keep it clean. Well, I am the person responsible for vacuuming, so why is Jan not replacing me? It would cheaper.

Jan likes the idea of a new floor. Me? For a while I was on the fence.

Based on our research a crew of professionals — let's call them what they are: 'RIPPER UPPERS' — will enter our home brandishing heavy duty crowbars and proceed to smash the living daylights out of our existing 2,800 square feet of flooring. Jan will sob uncontrollably, "Gary, with all this mess do you think we made the wrong decision." I will do my absolute best to console her, "Jan it's too late to turn back now. I didn't want to do this in the first place."

But before the demolition phase can begin Jan and I have to do two things. First, we need to store all the things that Jan calls "knick knacks." Our friend Martha calls them "dickey doo's." I call this stuff "crap." For instance, we need to carefully hand wrap and pack a two-piece wire-like thingy that sits on top the fireplace mantle with lavender-scented beeswax candles that I was instructed by Jan, "Gary, whatever you do never light these candles!"

The second chore Jan and I have to do is move into our basement. I will set up some closets for our clothes. Jan? She will gather the essentials that everyone needs to live temporarily in their basement: decorator pillows! "Gary, this way we will feel right at home."

The experienced professional RIPPER UPPERS say we should plan on being basement dwellers for — their exact words — "About a week. But then again what do we know?"

As I understand it, the demolition phase is complete when our current perfect wood floor is heaped haphazard in an overflowing dumpster parked in our driveway — AND — a gazillion mice have entered through the doors that were left wide open by the RIPPER UPPERS and set up their home in our home for generations of future breeding!

Living Retired in the basement while the RIPPER UPPERS hammer nails in our subfloor before installing the new flooring is only one of the challenges Jan and I must survive. This is what I mean…

"Gary, I am going to my exercise class. Have you seen where we stored my Lululemon leggings? I left them on the dryer after I washed them."

"Dear. I hung them on the makeshift closet hanger I made. It's out in the garage beside the lawnmower overtop the winter tires beside the can of lawnmower oil and bug killer."

Eventually, the job will be done, and we will move back up from the basement and set things up to resume our lives. Jan will bring back the decorator pillows for the loveseat and chairs in the living room, the decorator pillows for the sectional in our family room, the decorator pillows for the kitchen, and the decorator pillows for our dining room.

Me? I am responsible for doing something I have never ever considered doing — I CANNOT BELIEVE I AM SAYING THIS!!! — calling a duct cleaning company to come and suck all the sawdust out of our vents!

Ring. Ring. Ring.

"Hi, this is 'The Annoying Duct Cleaning Company.' We specialize in repeatedly calling homeowners at all hours of the day pestering them to see if they want their ducts cleaned. How can we annoy, err, rather, help you?"

"Yes, I would like to make an appointment for you to come to our house and clean the ducts."

Silence.

"Sir, can you hold the phone please? I need to let my colleagues listen in on the call. We have never had someone call us asking us to clean their ducts. Is this a joke? Do you realize you interrupted me? I am trying to work! YOU ARE SO RUDE! GOODBYE!! #%X!!!"

**CLICK!**


## Municipality of South Huron
## Lease of Surplus Farm Land

MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

**Sealed Tenders** addressed to Julia Warwick, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer, Municipality of South Huron, 322 Main St. S., Box 759, Exeter, ON., N0M 1S6, will be received until:

**2:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 25, 2026**

Tender is for the lease of surplus farmable land owned by the Municipality for agricultural purposes at the following locations for a five (5) year term commencing January 1, 2027:

**1. Weber Pit:** Approximately 44 acres of farmable land surplus to the gravel pit operation, at Part Lot 25, Concession 8, former Usborne Township

**2. Closed Stephen Landfill Site:** Approximately 17 acres of farmable land surplus to landfill site operations at Part Lots 3 and 4 Concession 14, former Stephen Township.

Tenders are to be prepared on the form provided, and submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked on the outside of the envelope with **"Lease of Surplus Farm Land".** Tenderers must have their name and full mailing address clearly marked on the outside of the envelope. Tenders shall be accompanied by a cheque equal to 10% of the total first year lease payment, including HST. Tenderers may bid on one or both locations.
An annual payment is due and payable on April 1st of each year for the property, over the term of the lease.
Tenders are to be submitted on a **per acre basis only.**
Tenders will be opened virtually (on Zoom) at 2:05 pm on Wednesday, November 25, 2026 in the South Huron Municipal Office, 322 Main Street South, Exeter, Ontario.
Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

***To obtain a tender package please contact Ange at abarnes@southhuron.ca***

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM**

# Come walk with us: A nighttime owl prowl at Sawyer Preservation Woodlot

**EXETER EXAMINER STAFF**

*Staff Contribution*

Discover the fascinating world of owls on Nov. 28 during a free guided walk led by naturalist and educator Denise Iszczuk of C.O.R.E. Nature Experiences.

Since 2023, C.O.R.E. Nature Experiences and the Sawyer Preservation Woodlot Association have partnered to offer free guided walks throughout the year, helping visitors deepen their connection with nature and explore the woodlot's rich natural environment. This is the last of the free "Walks in the Woodlot" for 2026.

"The Sawyer Preservation Woodlot offers a perfect setting to discover the wonders of nature after dark. Hearing and/or seeing owls tells us the woodlot is healthy. We don't always see the owls but often we hear them. Just the other morning I heard an Eastern Screech Owl calling in my backyard," said Iszczuk.

On Nov. 28, visitors are invited to join one of two 45-minute nighttime owl prowls. The first walk, a family-friendly outing that begins before dark, starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by a second walk at 6:30 p.m.

Participants will quietly explore the woodlot trails, listening for the distinctive call of the Eastern Screech-Owl and keeping watch for signs of these elusive nocturnal hunters. Along the way, Iszczuk will share fascinating insights into owl behaviour, their remarkable adaptations that make them such effective nighttime predators.

Whether an owl makes an appearance or remains hidden among the branches, the experience offers a unique opportunity to slow down, tune in to the sounds of the forest and discover the wildlife that becomes active after sunset.

No registration is required, and everyone is welcome to join the adventure. Dress for the late-November weather, bring your curiosity and prepare to experience Sawyer Preservation Woodlot at night. Lug-A-Mug to enjoy some hot chocolate and there will even be some marshmallows to roast by the fire!

## OBITUARY

### VERMUNT: Laurie (Pepper) of Bluewater



Suddenly at home, on Saturday, October 24, 2026 of Bluewater Township in her 63rd year. Cherished wife of Joe Vermunt for over 35 years. Loving daughter of Joyce and the late Cecil Pepper. Dear sister and sister-in-law of Brenda Newell (the late Jud), Marilyn Promoli (Julian), Joanne Keller (the late Steve), Liz Masse (Gary), Joanne Boyes (Jerry Rader), Walter Vermunt (Brenda), Mary Ann Craner (Randy), Marg Gingerich (the late Rick), and the late Francis Vermunt and the late Don Boyes. Fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Deeply missed by Indy, her cherished dog. Laurie was a hairdresser in Exeter for over 40 years and was the proud owner of Eclipse Hair Styling.

The celebration of Laurie's life was held at Haskett Funeral Home, 456 Main Street South, EXETER on Sunday, November 1st from 1-4 PM with words of remembrance starting at 2 PM. Donations to the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society, the Heart and Stroke Foundation or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Condolences may be forwarded through www.haskettfh.com.

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# Riddles

**What has 13 hearts, but no lungs, feet or bellybuttons?**

*A deck of cards.*

**What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?**

*Short.*

**I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have nobody, but I come alive with the wind. What am I?**

*An echo.*

**What is always in front of you but can never be seen?**

*The future.*

**What starts with a 'P', ends with an 'E', and has thousands of letters?**

*A post office*

**Give me a drink, and I will die. Feed me, and I'll get bigger. What am I?**

*A fire.*

**What breaks as soon as you say its name?**

*Silence.*

**What's one thing that tastes better than it smells?**

*Your tongue.*

**What word begins with E and ends with E, but only has one letter?**

*Envelope.*

**I have no wings, but I can fly. I have no eyes, but I can cry. What am I?**

*A cloud.*

# Sudoku

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

Solutions on pg. 34

# Pet of the Week

## Take a moment to reflect, remember, and cherish the companionship our pets bring to our lives.

**On Remembrance Day, we honour the courage and sacrifice of those who served and remember the important role animals have played alongside them throughout history.**

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

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# COMING EVENTS

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## NOVEMBER

**RECURRING NOVEMBER PROGRAM EVENTS 2026**

**MON & THURS. 8:45-9:45 AM Medium Low impact aerobic exercise** that includes cardio, strength, & flexibility exercises. Community Room GBACHC. cmaxfield@gbchc.com

**Mon & Thurs 10 – 10:45 PM High low impact aerobic exercise with Joy** that includes cardio, strength, and flexibility. Community Room GBACHCcmaxfield@gbchc.com

**Mon. & Thurs. 11:15 AM Gentle Exercise** Seated and standing exercises for Seniors. Community Room GBACHC. You must contact cmaxfield@gbchc.com to see if there is space.

**Mon. & Thurs 1:00-2 PM - Functional Fitness with Julie**. Most gentle class for people with mobility issues. Hensall Arena and virtual in Grand Bend at GBACHC Mondays. Thursdays in person in Grand Bend Contact Julie at jdatars@gbchc.com

**TUES & THUR. FRI. 9.00AM Exercise Port Franks Community Centre Line Dancing** 8:30-9 am Medium Low impact aerobic exercises from 9-10 cmaxfield@gbchc.com

**TUES & THUR. 6:00-6:45PM Joys Evening Exercise Classes** High low impact Community Room GBACHC. Saturday mornings from 10-10:45 am. cmaxfield@gbchc.com

**WED. 9:20-11 AM Pinery Walking Group.** Meet at the Lambton Heritage Museum parking lot 9:00 am Email Lindsey lindseyashworthducharme@gmail.com

**THURSDAYS 9:30-12 Early On program -** Free program for adults with children birth to 6 years. Adult Day Wing, Contact earlyonchildcare.ca or 519-786-6161 x 9226.

**WED. 10-11:00 AM "Walk & Talk Hensall Arena"** Contact Grace at gbonnett@gbchc.com . Fun social walking program with coffee and chatting to finish

**THURS. NOVEMBER 5TH 2:30PM Coping with Grief -** Adult Day wing GBACHC. Join this monthly group for support and strategies to work through your grief. Contact Mickey Gurbin mgurbin@gbchc.com for more information.519-2382362 x 223

**WED. NOV. 4TH 1:30 PM -** COPD Support Group. Contact pmorrissey@gbchc.com or 519-238-2362 x 284 for more information

**WED. NOV. 4TH .18 & 25TH Pulmonary Rehab Program.** Community Room GBACHC Contact pmorrissey@gbchc.com 519-238-2362 284 for details

**FRI. NOV. 13TH & 27TH Vinyasa Yoga and Chair Yoga** GBACHC in Community room. Vinyasa at 8:30am, Chair at 9:45 am. Contact cmaxfield@gbchc.com .

**THURS. NOV. 19TH 1:30 -3:30PM - Alzheimer's caregiver support group.** Support group program with Randy Chapman. 1-800-561-5012. Adult Day wing at GBACHC.

**FRIDAY NOV. 20TH - Healthy Holidays Grand Bend . J**oin us in the Community Room GBACHC for tips and strategies to get through the holiday eating season. Contact Elaine at 519-238-2362 x 242 to register

**MON. NOV. 23, 30TH 1 PM - Alzheimer's Society Fall Education Series.** Nov. 23rd Dementia Overview Mild Cognitive Impairment . 1 Pm. Adult Day. Contact Kate Mason at 519-238-2362 x 241

**THURS. NOV. 26TH 9:30 AM - Healthy Holidays Hensall. -** Hensall Arena . Join us for tips and strategies to get through the holiday eating season. Contact Elaine at 519-238-2362 242 to register.

**THURS. NOV. 26TH 1:30 PM - Minds, Memory & Men's Health.** GBACHC Adult Day . Contact Grace at 519-238-2362 x 202 or gbonnett@gbchc.com

**MON. NOVEMBER 30TH 2 PM Parkinsons Support Program -** . Adult Day Wing. Contact Kate Mason 519-238-2362 x 241 for details or kmason@gbchc.com

**SATURDAYS 8:30-11:30 AM Walk In Medical Clinic Gbachc** . Open to anyone in the community who needs medical attention ( Not an Urgent Care or Emergency Centre)

**NOVEMBER - Our Winter Coat Drive is Back!** As the colder weather approaches, we're collecting winter coats for the youth in our Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron programs! Going through your closet or your kids' closets and have a coat, or snow pants you no longer need? Consider donating them to BBBSSH to help keep a local child warm this winter. Every donation makes a difference, and we appreciate your support in keeping our community warm! Drop off your donations at The Little Shop! **Deadline December 1.**

**FRI. NOVEMBER 6 - 5:30-7pm; 7:30-9pm - OWL PROWL 2026** - Join us for our 2026 Owl Prowl to experience watershed after dark with special guests – Wild Ontario! Free – Preregistration required. Ausable Bayfield Conservation. 71108 Morrison Line, Exeter ON

**NOVEMBER 7 AND 8 - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM - 16th Annual Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron Christmas Shopping Event.** Saturday, November 7th & Sunday, November 8th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. South Huron Recreation Centre, Exeter. Description: Shop over 60 local vendors and merchants and visit with Santa.

**NOVEMBER 13 AND 14 - Fri., Nov. 13 – 5-7pm; Sat., Nov. 14 – 11am-7pm - 3rd Annual Festival of Trees.** Huron Shores United Church, 25 Main Street Grand Bend. Celebrate the love and connection we all share during this magical season, by taking home a completely decorated Christmas tree and helping families in need.

**SAT. NOVEMBER 14 - 10AM - 3PM - MacGillivray Central School Annual Christmas Craft Market.** Ailsa Craig Community Centre (Ailsa Craig, ON. A festive local holiday market featuring handmade crafts, seasonal decor, local small-business vendors, and baked goods to support the school community.

**SAT. NOVEMBER 14 10am-4pm - 5th Annual Stuff-A-Truck & Cram-A-Cruiser Food and Toy Drive.** Sat., Nov. 14. No Frills Parking Lot, 98 Ontario Street South, Grand Bend. Join us in helping the community by donating non-perishable food items and gift cards.

**SAT., NOV. 14. 5-7PM - Spaghetti Dinner** - St. Anne's Church, 10027 Port Franks Rd., Port Franks. Sat., Nov. 14. 5-7pm. Bring your family and friends out to enjoy this delicious meal. Free Will Offering.

**SUN, NOVEMBER 15, 2026 - 2 TO 4 PM London Orchid Society -** Meeting Topic: Dan Doucette, Niagara Falls, ON; Presentation - Hidden Gems of West Africa - Location: Richards Memorial Church, 360 Edgeworth Avenue London, ON N5W 5C4 - The London Orchid Society meets the third Sunday of each month. Join us November 15, 2026 at 2:00pm for Dan Doucette from Niagara, ON. His presentation is on the Hidden Gems of West Africa, Wildlife, History and Landscapes of Sierra Leone and Mauritania. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting for more information at www.londonorchidsociety.com; contact Daryl at 519-666-2927.

**MON. NOVEMBER 16 - 2PM - What Matters Most to Those You Love The Most Information and Panel Discussion.** Mon., Nov. 16 – 2-2:15pm Welcome and Refreshments. 2:15-3pm Panel discussion with: Sarah Burns, Lawyer; Annie Stoneburgh, Gerontology Prof. and Terry Genttner, Edward Jones. Free event. Huron Shores United Church, Grand Bend.

**SAT., NOVEMBER 21, 2026, 2.00 PM - London Sweet Adeline Chorus Present Their Annual Christmas Show Titled 'The Secret Of Christmas'.** Join us for an afternoon of A Cappella Harmony featuring two quartets, "Imagine That" and "Soundwave" and a Children's Story time; 'Silent Auction' that includes three art pieces beautifully painted by our own Greg Backwell and Mary Lynn Smith; Door prizes and sale of Mint Smoothies. Church of the Ascension, 2060 Dundas St. E. London Tickets, Adults $20, 12 and under free. Contact any chorus member, call Sharon 519-642-1860 or email londonchorussa@gmail.com

**SAT. NOVEMBER 28 10AM-2PM - SHDHS Students present their 3rd annual Community Market.** Sat., Nov. 28. at SHDHS. Free admission

**SAT., NOVEMBER 28 - 5:30 PM - Come Walk with Us: A Nighttime Owl - Prowl at Sawyer Preservation Woodlot -** On November 28, visitors are invited to join one of two 45-minute nighttime owl prowls. The first walk, a family-friendly outing that begins before dark, starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by a second walk at 6:30 p.m. Discover the fascinating world of owls on November 28 during a free guided walk led by naturalist and educator Denise Iszczuk of C.O.R.E. Nature Experiences. Since 2023, C.O.R.E. Nature Experiences and the Sawyer Preservation Woodlot Association have partnered to offer free guided walks throughout the year, helping visitors deepen their connection with nature and explore the woodlot's rich natural environment. This is the last of the free "Walks in the Woodlot" for 2026.

**NOVEMBER 27 & 28 - Fri., Nov. 27 – 7:30pm; Sat., Nov. 28 – 2pm and 7:30pm - South Huron Community Theatre presents Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer The Musical.** South Huron District High School, 92 Gidley Street East, Exeter. Doors open 30 minutes before performance.

## DECEMBER

**DECEMBER 5TH, 12TH AND 19TH FROM 1:30PM-2:20PM. - Cookies & Carols** St. John's By-the-Lake Anglican Church in Grand Bend will be holding their annual three-part event. It's a fun sing-along followed, of course, by cookies!

# Ask the Arborist



**By Joel Hackett • 519.272.5742 • jtsquote@gmail.com**

***Joel Hackett is a certified Arborist residing in the St. Marys area. Currently, he spends most of the year running Joel's Tree Service. For contact call 519.272.5742 or email jtsquote@gmail.com***

***Dear Arborist,***

**I have around 60 evergreen trees. Not sure of species, they have big long pine cones, they are near my house and barn. Recently, one that looked healthy just broke in half and took out our power line. Should I be concerned about the rest of them?**

***Thanks***

***Bill***

***Dear Bill,***

**It sounds like you have a large number of Norway Spruce. A lot of people planted these trees in rows for wind protection and privacy around 80 to 120 years ago. Now, they are towards the end of their life span. Often, these conifers end up dry rot in the center; there is no way to really predict if they have dry rot or not. Once in a while, you may see sawdust at the base indicating a rotten center.**

**If you are concerned, you can take out the ones that have the highest risk of property damage.**

**Sincerely,**

***The Arborist***

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## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Miley Cyrus
2. Cornell
3. 24
4. 1980
5. Paramount Skydance
6. Mjölnir
7. Military
8. Gunshot wound
9. Eileen Collins
10. Vitamin C

## SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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ANSWER:
Smooth Blue Aster

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"Shorts weather in November is so weird. Should we be worried?"

"Halloween is over. Eight weeks until Christmas."

Have you heard something humorous around town that you think might be of interest to others?
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to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON

Preview on day of sale, or by appointment

Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

**Cattle: (79 )Heifers: (18) Char, (17) Blk Simm, (33) Angus, (11) Red** -1st time calvers, bred Angus & Limo, vacc. **(18) X-bred Heifers** - bred Black Angus, vacc. **(17) Angus Heifers** - bred Black Angus. **(10) Blk Angus cows** - all bred Black Angus, vacc. **(8) Charolais Cows** - bred Charolais, vacc. **(3) Mixed Cows** - with calf at side, vacc.
All Cows will be preg checked prior to sale.
**Lunch Booth**
**Washroom Available**
**Terms & Conditions:** Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.

**Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264**
**Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083**
**Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com**
**www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur**
- full listing & photos



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- **Quiet, Rural 3 Bedroom House**
- **Gas heat, municipal water, security system, basic internet and phone, wood stove, tractor generator**

**CARETAKER TASKS**
- Weekly grass cutting, weed eating, trimming
- Daily snow removal
- Keep buildings clean & minor repairs
- Other services as agreed upon

**BENEFICIAL SKILLS**
- Farm equipment operation experience
- General handy man skills

**SUMMARY**
- Owner supplies all equipment required
- Owner pays a caretaker fee monthly
- Occupant pays owner property rent monthly

**For more Information Please Email – creditonvc@gmail.com**


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MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON 2001

# SOUTH HURON 2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Municipal Elections Act, 1996, s.11.4(3)

I hereby certify that during the municipal election held on October 26, 2026, for the offices listed below, the certified candidates received the votes that follow their respective names:

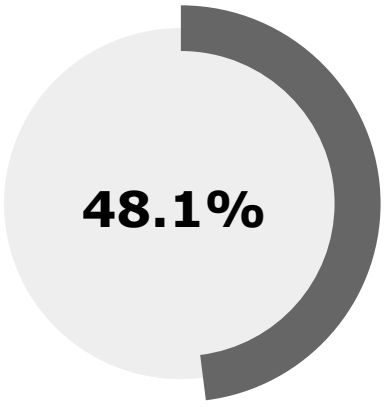
| Name of Candidate | Office | Votes |
|---|---|---|
| Maureen Cole | Mayor | 690 |
| George Finch | Mayor | 1,516 |
| **Ted Oke** | **Mayor** | **2,033** |
| **Jim Dietrich** | **Deputy Mayor** | **Acclaimed** |
| Dianne Faubert | Councillor – Ward 1 | 324 |
| Emilly Girodat | Councillor – Ward 1 | 529 |
| **Wendy McLeod-Haggitt** | **Councillor – Ward 1** | **585** |
| **Marissa Vaughan** | **Councillor – Ward 1** | **866** |
| Daryl Demaray | Councillor – Ward 2 | 695 |
| **Laura Susan Goulding** | **Councillor – Ward 2** | **1,024** |
| Antonio Munion | Councillor – Ward 2 | 288 |
| **Aaron Curtis Neeb** | **Councillor – Ward 2** | **1,501** |
| Darren Boyle | Councillor – Ward 3 | 192 |
| **Paul Passmore** | **Councillor – Ward 3** | **363** |
| **Marnie Van Esbroeck** | **Trustee - Avon Maitland District School Board (English Public)** | **Acclaimed** |
| **Graham Keys** | **Trustee – Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board (English Separate)** | **Acclaimed** |
| **Rachid Barrima*** | **Trustee – Conseil Scolaire Viamonde (French Public)** | **Acclaimed** |
| **Michael Salvatore**** | **Trustee – Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence (French Separate)** | **Acclaimed** |

*Results to be certified by Clerk/Returning Officer of City of London
**Results to be certified by Clerk/Returning Officer of City of Sarnia

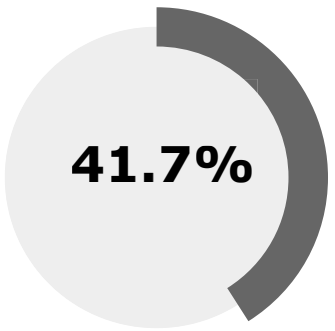
Alex Wolfe
Clerk/Returning Officer
Dated October 28, 2026

## VOTER TURNOUT

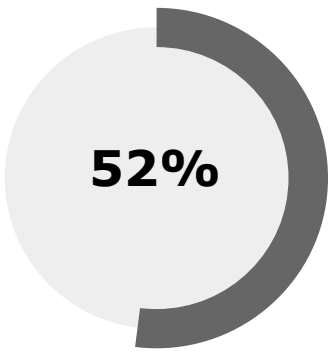
**4280 of 8901: Of the 4280 votes cast, 21 ballots were declined**



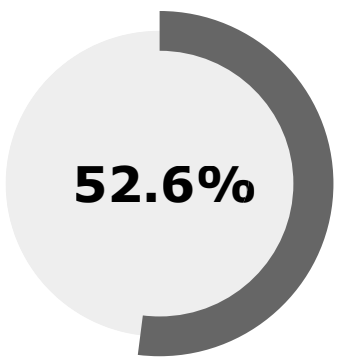

## WARD TURNOUT




**WARD 1, Stephen**




**WARD 2, Exeter**




**WARD 3, Usborne**

## VOTER AGE

