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South Huron finances on 'good footing'

JOHN MINER

Examiner Reporter

South Huron's finances are in good shape with debt levels well below the limits set by the province, according to the latest external auditor's report.

"The end of the year in 2025 gave you a good footing for 2026," Paul Seebach of Seebach and Company told a recent council meeting.

The audited financial statements for 2025 showed the municipality had a debt of \$20.2 million and made regular loan payments totalling \$1.2 million during the year.

Seebach said the province calculates a debt limit for municipalities of 25 per cent of set revenues.

"You are around one third of your max limit so you are well within your debt repayment," he told council.

Almost all of the money South Huron owes is to the Ontario government for infrastructure projects, mainly water and sewer.

On the operating side, South Huron finished 2025 with a surplus of \$6.4 million.

Revenues, mainly from taxes and user fees, came in at \$29.9 million, while expenditures were \$23.5 million.

The municipality's net financial assets were \$1.9 million higher than the previous year.

"What that enabled you to do for 2026 was to have a pretty large capital budget without having

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



(MACKENZIE HODGINS PHOTO)

9TH ANNUAL MURRAY'S MILES HAS BIGGEST TURNOUT YET

MacNaughton Trail was filled with walkers Sunday, Oct. 4, as the 9th annual Murray's Miles returned. The annual fundraiser in Exeter was started by the Insley family in honour of Murray Insley, who died in 2017 after his fight with esophageal cancer. This year's walk was in support of London Health Sciences Centre's (LHSC) Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre and raised over \$23,000. In addition to the walk, Murray's Miles also included an online silent auction with items donated by businesses from throughout the region. From left are Axl McCann, Kathy Hendrick, Nicole Insley Sanderson, Laura Skinner, Lucas Skinner and Allie Millar before setting off for the walk.

MORE PICTURES FOUND ON PAGE 9

Bluewater mayoral hopefuls lay out priorities ahead of municipal election

DAN ROLPH

Editor

How Bluewater should manage growth, housing pressures and rising costs took centre stage as the

municipality's two mayoral candidates joined its acclaimed future deputy mayor for a public forum on the next council term.

The Huron County Chamber of Commerce held a

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



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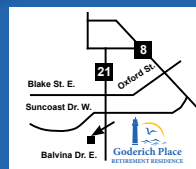
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In defence of trick-or-treating



DAN ROLPH

Editor

When I think of fond memories from my childhood, I very often find myself remembering moments from Halloween, which was a popular holiday in my family.

I remember the moment my father dressed up in a goofy bunny suit to chaperone my sister and I around as we went door

to door for candy. I remember the first time my parents gave me the greenlight to go out into my neighbourhood without them, making me feel so independent and grown up. And I remember the effort my mother put into making our home a spot on the block you couldn't miss, setting up creative displays that for some years even incorporated a projector playing classic Halloween movies.

Halloween, particularly trick-or-treating, is a fascinating tradition that we've developed in our culture that is surprisingly unique in the world. Canada is one of the few places where children don costumes and travel to the homes of their neighbours in search of their next sugar rush.

However, over these past few Halloweens, I have seen a growing number of conversations about a drop in the popularity of trick-or-treating.

Of course, it's difficult to find much data on how many children are actually trick-or-treating in our community each year.

In 2023, Angus Reid found that 54 per cent of Canadians believe there are fewer kids trick-or-treating compared to 10 years ago. Whether that perception is based in fact is debatable, but I know I've heard plenty of people in my life talk about seeing fewer children come to their doors each year.

There are understandable reasons some families may be less inclined to take part. Parents

may worry about traffic, poor weather or whether their children are old enough to go out on their own, while some neighbourhoods have fewer young families than they once did. Those concerns are real, but they are also reasons to make trick-or-treating safer and more welcoming.

In an age where digital devices play an increasingly prominent role in the modern childhood experience, moments like Halloween have become few and far between. Halloween is a time when young people in our community can dabble in make-belief, find independence and experience something beyond the screen in a way that's becoming rarer each year.

And for those of us whose

days of hunting for candy in our neighbourhoods are long behind us, Halloween is a chance for us to play a part in an experience that builds a sense of community. We can decorate our homes, hand out treats and be enthusiastic as costumed children come to our doors.

But you don't need some grand display on your front lawn to get into the Halloween spirit. Simply leaving your porch light on and welcoming trick-or-treaters with a smile can make all the difference.

Trick-or-treating will survive only if communities continue to encourage it. This Halloween, help give another generation the memories that made the tradition so meaningful for many of us.

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COMMUNITY

South Huron finances on 'good footing'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

to borrow money and you only had to make a small increase to your mill rate," Seebach said.

Separate financial statements are prepared for the Exeter Business Improvement Area, Kirkton-Woodham swimming pool and Kirkton-Woodham community centre. The Exeter BIA finished 2025 with what Seebach characterized as a small deficit of \$13,000 on revenues of \$114,586 and expenses of \$127,676. The BIA has an accumulat-

ed surplus of \$76,326 which will easily absorb the loss. Seebach noted that Kirkton-Woodham pool expenses were up in all categories.

"Operating a pool has got more expensive, everything is more expensive," he said. Wages and benefits for the pool climbed from \$108,448 in 2024 to \$136,493 in 2025 while maintenance and pool supplies were up from \$22,079 to \$33,573.

Costs for the pool are split 50-50 with the Township of Perth South. Although the municipal grants totalled \$50,000 in

2025 and pool receipts totalled \$59,358, the pool ran a deficit of \$69,417.

The Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre fared better financially with revenues of \$75,685 and slightly higher expenses of \$75,863, leaving the centre with a deficit of just \$178.

Where the bulk of South Huron's money was spent in 2025 (excluding capital expenditures):

- Water and sewer: \$4.35 million
- Roads and streetlights: \$3.59 million
- Recreation facilities: \$2.95 million

- General government: \$2.0 million
- Policing: \$1.9 million
- Fire: \$1.36 million
- Waste collection and disposal: \$1.2 million
- Building, water quality and other protective services: \$496,058
- Conservation authority: \$312,415
- Planning and development: \$236,596
- Council: \$233,944
- Cemeteries, health, and social services: \$222,759
- Recreation Parks: \$209,433
- Recreation programs: \$94,496

Bluewater mayoral hopefuls lay out priorities ahead of municipal election

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"Candidate Conversations" evening at the Zurich Community Centre on Sept. 28, which included an hour-long question-and-answer period with the candidates who are looking to sit on Huron County council as Bluewater's representatives. The evening also offered a meet-and-greet opportunity with many of the candidates seeking a position on the next Bluewater council.

During the meeting, Tyler Hessel and Paul Klopp — Bluewater's two mayoral candidates — were on the stage alongside Bill Whetstone, who has been acclaimed as the next deputy mayor.

All three of the candidates bring with them a background of local political experience. Klopp has most recently served two terms as mayor in the community of about 7,500 residents, while Hessel was Bluewater's mayor from 2014 to 2018 before coming back to serve as the Hay West councillor during this last council term.

Meanwhile, Whetstone has represent-

ed Bayfield as that community's councillor since he was first elected in 2014. His acclimation as deputy mayor marks the third time in a row he has been unopposed seeking a position in the council chamber.

The question-and-answer section of the event covered a wide range of topics, including managing growth, attracting workers, economic development, housing and more.

Whetstone, who was first to speak during the evening, said one of his main objectives for the next term of council is to develop more financial long-term planning, which he suggested should involve a budget committee that plans for the next 10 years.

Whetstone said he would also be interested in minimizing service duplication within Bluewater.

"What I'd like to do is put together an efficiency optimization program, which does look at duplications of services, where we can share services. It has to be a focused budget committee to be able to do that in order to be able to make it

happen."

Hessel, who spoke after Whetstone, said he is approaching his bid to serve another term as mayor with a focus on viewing Bluewater as a whole. He said he hopes to focus on Bluewater's model for delivering services if he's elected as the community's next mayor.

"We have to be looking at that often and regularly," he said. "Our service delivery model is the only thing we do for Bluewater taxpayers. We don't build you anything, we don't grow you anything, we don't produce anything. But what we do do is provide you service. The key is making sure we're providing the right service all the time and making sure we're looking at that service that we're providing on a regular basis to make sure we're doing it adequately."

Klopp said council under his leadership has already been tackling the budgeting process in a way that scrutinizes each line item.

"We didn't call it zero-based funding, but I said we're going to do the budget line by line," said Klopp. "This budget,

we came to conclusions that we had to turn things around, and we cut \$3 million worth of operating. I can tell you that isn't done by pounding the table and just getting your way. It's done by constantly thinking and talking to people behind the scenes calmly. That's what I bring to the table."

After their opening remarks, housing was the first topic on the agenda.

Hessel said housing is "extremely important" to him. He said Bluewater can be limited in tackling housing issues in comparison to Huron County, and he spoke against the idea of purchasing land to help with the area's housing shortages. He pointed to encouraging the building of secondary housing units, such as "granny flats," as an approach that could help the region's housing woes.

"That's what I want to promote because I know that's viable," he said. "I'm going to keep it simple and say let's help put together ideas about or push and help get that secondary housing on

CONTINUED TO PAGE 7



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Exeter Examiner Photo Quiz



Who are you looking at?
By Judy and Barry Johnson



I am a fuzzy caterpillar with a very distinctive look. The tufts on my back look like teeth or corn kernels, don't you think? Don't pick me up or brush against me; my hollow hairs contain a toxin that can cause a very itchy rash or even respiratory issues. I feed on hardwood and softwood trees in the countryside or urban areas, decimating them if there are lots of my kind around.

HINT: My species is named for a compact tuft of grass, also an old-fashioned name for a clump of hair.

This week's answers are found on pg. 26

WEEKEND QUIZ

By Jake Grant

1. What is the only U.S. state that can be typed in using only one row of a standard keyboard?
2. In human anatomy, what does the "hallux" refer to?
3. What is the only planet in our solar system to rotate clockwise on its axis?
4. Which freezes faster: hot or cold water?
5. What is James Bond's code name?
6. Weighing around eight pounds, this is the human body's largest organ?
7. What do you call a group of flamingos?
8. What is the distance from earth to the sun?
9. Which country is the largest in the world?
10. According to Guinness World Records, what's the best-selling book of all time?

This week's answers are found on pg. 26



OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER EVENTS

Fri. Oct 23 - Drag Bingo w/ TroyBoy Entertainment
- 7:45pm-Late
Sat. Oct 24 - Jason Mercer - Live Music 2pm-5pm
Sat. Nov 7 - Darren Steckle - Live Music 2pm-5pm
Fri. Nov 13 - Trivia w/ Cultural Collective 7pm-9pm
Sat. Nov 14 - Jesse Webber - Live Music 2pm-5pm
Sat. Nov 21 - Patrick Clark - Live Music 2pm-5pm
Fri. Nov 27 - Trivia w/ Cultural Collective 7pm-9pm
Sat. Nov 28 - Jason Mercer - Live Music 2pm-5pm
Sat. Dec 5 - Graham Bedard - Live Music 2pm-5pm
Sun. Dec 6 - Andre Regier - Live Music 1pm-4pm

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Bluewater mayoral hopefuls lay out priorities ahead of municipal election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

properties if it's needed, like granny flats and housing for our youth."

Klopp said there are challenges in going through the planning process, which he described as "costly" and "complicated," and he advocated for downloading Huron County's planning department to lower-tier municipalities. He argued those municipalities could offer the same planning services at a lower cost than the county.

"The argument clearly is if we get that downloaded that it's actually more local, I think we can save money," he said. "One of the things we're constantly doing is when someone does have a project, I continuously, through our councillors, we take the bull by the horns and we push our planning department to get the issue resolved as quickly as possible."

Whetstone said his approach to housing is focused on planning for the future. He pointed to the development of the Bayfield Secondary Plan as a strategy that should be extended beyond Bayfield.

"We need to do a plan for the rest of the municipality," he said. "Chances are at some point in time there's going to be growth. It can't all be in Bayfield ... We have to be ready with a plan so when developers do come, we can say 'hey we've got a plan here. This is what the plan is. The residents have bought into the plan. They were part of the process.'"

On the topic of taxes, each of the three candidates emphasized the importance of balancing the wants and needs of the community while ensuring that residents see value in the taxes they pay.

"It's just no different in your own household," said Klopp. "How do you decide how much money you're going to spend on anything? You treat it as if it's your own money and you work at it remembering that there are people that make very little income in this community."

"Obviously, nobody likes to pay taxes, but you have to try to have empathy and say, 'would I spend this money?'"

Whetstone said when judging the value residents are getting from their taxes, it's important to analyze the quality of life for residents, as well as what they are asking from council.

"If everybody has happy quality of life, they're happy paying what they're paying," he said "Is anybody ever going to be happy paying the full amount? No, but they have to look back to what the value is. So, if you're comfortable and able to stay here and enjoy living here, that's what it's all about. That's what councils should be looking at. That's what we need to be focused on and making sure it's not about taking services away."

Hessel noted that he believes it should be developers paying for development in Bluewater, and that the burden of growth shouldn't fall on current resi-

dents.

"We want to keep it that developers pay for development," he said. "It should not be the taxpayers paying for development. It should be the developers paying for development. But right now, the offset is on you."

With Huron County having one of the lowest unemployment rates in Ontario, the topic of attracting more workers to Bluewater was touched on by the candidates.

Klopp said Bluewater's financial support for Huron Shores Area Transit has been one successful strategy for attracting and maintain a workforce in the community. The local transit system, which is operated by Lambton Shores, offers bus routes that connect Bluewater's communities to surrounding communities as well as urban centres like London and Sarnia.

"That allows a lot of our businesses, especially along the lake, to get students to come in," he said. "There's no one little, one major thing that's going to fix this. But that's a start."

Whetstone's attention turned toward two major hurdles in Bluewater that he said hinder attracting workers — a high cost of living and lower than average wages. Though he said options for council to address those issues are limited, he noted the importance of advocacy from municipal leaders.

"How are we ever going to expect we're going to be able to fill those roles if we can't actually have something here for people," he said. "This goes back to affordable housing, and it comes back to a plan. How do we do something like that, that's got to be able to keep people here? They want to be able to stay here afterwards. We've got to look at how we actually change that."

Hessel echoed Whetstone's comments about the importance of planning, and he advocated for paying living wages to employees. He noted that most employees at his personal business currently need to drive to work from places like Central Huron and Huron East due to a lack of housing.

"If we're going to plan for bringing people into our community ... we need to make sure that there's an opportunity for them to find housing, within driving distance even," he said. "I can tell you as a person that has 35 staff right now, I think I have two in Bayfield."

"They're in anywhere they can find homes, and that is a very difficult thing."

In his closing statement to the crowd, Hessel said he believes it's time for new leadership in Bluewater.

"I do believe it's time for a change," he said. "I do think it's time for us to be held accountable at the table, us first, and I can tell you I've been held accountable. I didn't win an election. I was held accountable. I learned from that."

Hessel emphasized the importance of viewing Bluewater as a whole community and pointed to his history of play-



(DAN ROLPH PHOTO)

The Huron County Chamber of Commerce hosted a discussion with Bluewater's two mayoral candidates and acclaimed future deputy mayor during a Sept. 28 event at the Zurich Community Centre. Following the hour-long question period, residents were invited to chat with the candidates, as well as many of the other candidates in Bluewater's wards, in an informal setting. From left are Bill Whetstone, Tyler Hessel and Paul Klopp.

ing hockey on teams based in many of the communities that are now a part of Bluewater.

"We sit in silos," he said. "I can tell you I've never sat in silos ... I played for all of you, and I want to continue playing for all of you. And now, I want to do it as your mayor again."

Klopp said he is running for another term to be the next head of council because he wants to continue cutting red tape in government, particularly at the county level.

"I want to continue to, as I talked about at the county level, to find and work on ways to reduce costs up there, to share down at the lower tier," he said.

As well, Klopp said he is committed to keeping Bluewater's assets and improving them.

"That's what we've been working towards," he said. "At the same time, when someone does phone about what seems to be a little issue, it's important to them. It doesn't matter when they call me. We'll work on that."

Whetstone reiterated his commitment to planning for the future in his closing remarks.

"I have an action plan," he said. "That's why I'm running for deputy mayor. That's why I put my name in."

"It's about getting those actions in place and getting them in place quickly and actually implementing them so people that raised their kids here, that lived here all their life or that moved here can actually stay here and retire because things are getting too expensive. We have to act now in order to do that."

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Stephen candidates bring a mix of experience

JOHN MINER

Examiner Reporter

Voters in the Stephen ward of South Huron will choose from three candidates that have already served terms on council and one new contender.

Ward 1 Stephen elects two representatives on the council, and also votes for mayor and deputy mayor of the municipality. The deputy mayor's position this election has been filled by acclamation by the current incumbent, Jim Dietrich.

Candidate Marissa Vaughan has the longest track record on council, serving the past 12 years. Dianne Faubert served a single term, and Wendy McLeod-Haggitt was selected to fill a council spot with the resignation of an Exeter councillor early in the current term.

Emilly Girodat is running in her first South Huron election.

As part of its municipal election coverage, the Exeter Examiner asked each candidate:

(1) *Why did you decide to run for council? Is there a specific problem or moment that made you decide to put your name forward?*

(2) *If elected, what is the top priority you hope to focus on during your time on council?*

(3) *What experience do you bring to the table that you think will help you address the municipality's challenges?*

Here is the e-mailed response from the candidates.

Dianne Faubert

(1) I have many hopes and goals for our wonderful municipality, all while trying hard to keep our tax increases each year within reason for the residents. Helping the Municipality of South Huron continue to grow and become a better place to reside in has always been one of my priorities. After all, this is my home as well. I fully appreciate every vote in my favour.

(2) There are many projects that I believe would benefit the communities in South Huron that I would like to see happen, such as:

- An off-leash dog walking park for our little furry companions.
- A new gymnasium and walking track (Phase Two) at the Recreation Centre for citizens to stay fit and independent.
- Updates to our fire halls for the protection of our communities.
- "Affordable" housing within our municipality.
- Support and maintenance of our hospital and staff in Exeter for the continued good health of our families and aging population.

- Opening a reporting station for the OPP In Exeter.

(3) My experience entails owning and operating a business for 20 years and totally appreciating the daily interactions with my customers (whom I also considered all to be my friends). I have had the pleasure of serving as a municipal councillor for a four-year term during the time of COVID-19. Although it was a difficult time, I enjoy the challenges that come with being a municipal councillor. For the past four years, I have been volunteering at the warehouse of the Huron County Food Bank Distribution Centre at Hwy. 4 and Crediton Road and got to know and enjoyed working with a large number of wonderful people.

Emilly Girodat

(1) My decision to run for council comes from an accumulation of community conversations and a personal desire to be useful where it matters most. I believe growth is an integral part of South Huron's future, and I want to be a part of that. The rural residents of Ward 1 have felt underrepresented. Our unique needs are sidelined, and our hard-earned tax dollars yield little to no visible investment in our neighbourhoods. This lack of tangible results hits close to home. My own family has

felt the impact of our severe shortage of rural childcare services and recreation opportunities for all ages. We see this disconnect clearly in public safety as well, where reasonable community requests — such as installing essential speed limit signs have been denied or dismissed as unnecessary.

(2) If elected as councillor for Ward 1, my top priority will be maximizing the assets we already have so that we can comfortably accommodate the continued growth of South Huron. We have municipal facilities sitting empty for much of the year. The municipality must shift its focus toward being a proactive partner for our community. By actively welcoming and supporting local small business owners, we can utilize these underused properties to facilitate rural childcare and recreation. We do not need to reinvent the wheel — we simply need to collaborate with the incredible talent and businesses already rooted in our community. Our residents have great ideas. By simply listening, cutting through red tape, and championing the solutions that fit, we can deliver a major win for Ward 1.

(3) While I am not a career politician, I see that as a strength. I'm running because I want to bring a fresh, practical perspective to our council. My professional background in insurance risk management and my formal education in law enforcement mean that I look at municipal concerns through a lens of safety, common sense, and financial accountability. I know how to look ahead, protect taxpayers from unnecessary costs, and keep our neighbourhoods safe. I truly believe Ward 1 is ready for a fresh perspective, and I have the energy, skills, and dedication to be that person for our community.

Wendy McLeod-Haggitt

(1) South Huron is home, and I am proud to have lived in Ward 1 all my life. Through my work, volunteer service and community involvement, I have built strong connections with residents and developed a deep understanding of the people, priorities and opportunities that shape our municipality. Serving as Ward 2 councillor broadened my perspective and has given me the opportunity to represent residents across South Huron. Over the past three years, I have demonstrated the experience, dedication and practical knowledge needed to serve effectively on council. I am ready to continue that work by listening to residents, advocating for our communities and making thoughtful decisions that move South Huron forward. I am asking for your support to serve Ward 1 on Council and to continue contributing to the future of South Huron. As a lifelong Ward 1 resident, I understand the importance of representing our community with integrity, commitment and a strong belief in its future. On election day, I ask you to stand with me and vote for a strong, experienced voice for Ward 1 — together, we can keep moving our community forward. I'm running because I still have more to give. I want to continue listening, being accessible and standing up for residents while helping South Huron grow thoughtfully and responsibly into a community where people are proud to live, raise their families and stay for generations.

(2) My top priority would be moving South Huron forward in a way that attracts new residents and, just as importantly, gives people a reason to stay. A significant amount of infrastructure work was addressed during the last term. While we must continue with the projects identified in our 10-year forecast, I believe it is time to broaden our focus and invest in the things that make a community thrive. That means supporting local businesses, encouraging appropriate housing, investing in recreation and community spaces, and creating vibrant, connected communities where people feel they belong. My campaign platform — fiscal responsibility, responsible growth, strong infrastructure,

supporting local business, safe and connected communities, and transparent leadership — provides a foundation for this work. Ultimately, I want South Huron to be a community where people want to move, put down roots, raise their families and build their future, while maintaining the character and sense of community that makes South Huron home.

(3) I bring three years of municipal experience, a lifelong connection to Ward 1 and a strong commitment to all of South Huron. As a councillor, I've gained firsthand experience with responsible budgeting, infrastructure, growth, development and protecting taxpayers. Early in my first term, I challenged a proposed agreement that would have committed South Huron taxpayers to approximately \$606,000 plus HST toward the oversizing of the Grand Bend Trunk Sewer. I asked the hard questions and voted against the proposal because I believed taxpayers should not take on that cost when there was another way to structure the project. That experience reinforced my belief that Council needs members who examine the details, challenge assumptions and make decisions based on

what is best for residents. My professional background has taught me to be organized, prepared and solution focused. I bring experience, independence and local knowledge, and I'm ready to continue working hard for South Huron.

Marissa Vaughan

(1) Primarily two things inspired me: the positive feedback I have received from constituents when I represent their concerns at the council table, and a desire to be part of finishing what we have started. Over the past 12 years, I have enjoyed talking with many of you and taking your concerns and needs forward to Council. It is an honour and privilege to serve the people of Ward 1.

(2) My top priority is to safeguard the pocketbooks of the people by living within our means. Taxpayer money is finite — there is no open chequebook. I shall focus on cost-effective, needs-based solutions and value for money, especially for our \$600 million in existing assets that require ongoing maintenance. Rather than simply raising taxes to buy anew, I prefer realistic approaches that improve and make the maximum use of assets we already own. I will also finish key projects: facilitating new homes; increased water capacity on Grand Bend Line to unlock future employment lands; a new fire station for Dashwood; more recreation at Stephen Arena, in our parks and on our trail systems; investments at Olde Towne Hall to preserve our rural heritage; and the rebuilding and repaving King Street in Crediton with enhanced drainage. My goal is to balance safe and reliable services with affordability for taxpayers.

(3) I bring 32 years of diversified leadership experience from 32 years at CIBC in commercial and consumer lending, web site development, customer service and operations, product development and sales. For the past 12 years I have fully prepared for all council, committee and budget meetings by doing my homework, researching issues, listening to constituents, and asking tough questions. This work ensures I serve residents' interests now and in the future. This term, major planning work included focus on the Official Plan, zoning by-law, Water/Wastewater Master Plan, Asset Management Plan, Community Improvement Plan, and more. Capital projects delivered included Stephen Arena and South Huron Recreation Centre upgrades, new sidewalks and streetlights in Dashwood, water and sewer improvements, resurfaced roads, and culverts. I will continue focusing on bringing value for your money with efficient infrastructure and services, striving to deliver affordability and initiatives that benefit the community today and for generations.

9th annual Murray's Miles has biggest turnout yet



London Health Sciences Centre's (LHSC) Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre has been able to purchase an ultrasound machine to help diagnose patients thanks to the fundraising done through Murray's Miles. Pictured are Barb McCann Rau and Vonny Morgan as they welcomed walkers to MacNaughton Park in Exeter.



(MACKENZIE HODGINS PHOTOS)

Murray's Miles organizers said this year's walk had the event's largest turnout to date.

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Exeter BIA's Touch-a-Truck event returns for second year



The 2nd annual Touch-a-Truck event was back at Canadian Tire Exeter Oct. 3, where the community was invited to climb into the cabs of some of the most impressive machinery that can be found in the region. Organized by the Exeter BIA, there were fire trucks, tractors, race cars and more that were brought out by local businesses for the event. From left are Leanne, Drew and Cameron Geiger, who were having fun exploring a tractor.



(MACKENZIE HODGINS PHOTOS)
Theo, Levi and Emmett Allan took the opportunity to get up close and personal with a race car.

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GET READY For Winter!

Winter vehicle maintenance starts now

Changing seasons expose vehicles to various conditions throughout the year.

Although severe weather can occur at any time, the winter is known to be particularly harsh and can make it hard for a vehicle to function properly.

The Ontario Road Safety Annual Report (ORSAR) says winter weather can cause extremely dangerous road conditions.

An estimated 623 fatal traffic crashes occurred in the Ontario in 2022, and 1,703 injuries happened. There is an increase when there is snow or sleet conditions at the time of the crash.

The province had the second lowest fatality rate in North America, after the Northwest Territories.

It is essential that drivers prepare their vehicles for winter weather. Properly winterizing a car can help prevent breakdowns and accidents and potentially save drivers from being stranded in the cold.

Here are some winter car maintenance tips to consider before the first storm of the season, courtesy of CAA:

- Install winter tires: Winter tires

offer better traction and handling in snow and ice, improving overall vehicle performance.

- Test and check the battery: A driver needs a battery to be fully charged and in good condition to start the engine on cold winter mornings. Colder temperatures cause chemical reactions within the battery, which can make electricity slow down and hinder the vehicle's ability to reach maximum power. Check the battery prior to winter, and replace it, if necessary.

- Check fluids: Part of winter preparation is ensuring that all the car's fluids are at the right levels and appropriate for low temperatures. This includes engine oil, windshield washer fluid, and antifreeze.

- Schedule a maintenance checkup: A mechanic can look at hoses and belts to check that they are in good working order. Cold temperatures can make belts and hoses more brittle and prone to breaking.

- Apply a windshield repellent: Scraping ice and snow off windshields on winter mornings can be a frustrating and arduous task. Adding

hydrophobic repellent like Rain-X to the windshield can make it easier to remove ice later.

- Maintain tire pressure: As outside temperatures drop, so does tire pressure. Routinely check and inflate tires to the recommended pressure listed on a label located on the driver's side door frame.

- Inspect the wiper blades: Seeing clearly out of the windshield is important for safe winter driving. In addition to a properly working defroster, drivers will need wiper blades that can remove rain and snow. If any streaks or skips occur while using the wipers, it might be time for a new set.

- Conduct a brake check: A combination of snow, moisture, and salt on roads can contribute to rust on brakes and rotors. Symptoms of brake issues include noises, sticking brake pads, and slower stop times. Before the thick of winter, drivers are urged to have their brakes checked by a professional.

Winter is on the horizon, and vehicle owners should prepare their cars and trucks now for the rough weather to come.



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GET READY For Winter!

Tips to winterize a home as cold weather approaches

It's not uncommon to spend a lot of time out of the house when the weather outside is warm.

The popularity of outdoor living spaces has made it easier than ever to enjoy nature without leaving home, which can generally be done from late spring to mid-fall each year in many regions. But as fall creeps toward winter and temperatures drop, it's time to head back indoors.

As millions prepare to go back inside with winter approaching, it can be beneficial to winterize a home so interior spaces are more comfortable, and exterior spaces are better able to withstand potentially harsh winter weather.

- Check your carbon monoxide detectors: Fall is a great season to open the windows in many regions that feature prototypical autumn air. But the crisp air of fall will eventually give way to much colder air, at which time the windows will be closed and likely remain shut for months to come. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that cannot be detected by the senses. When windows remain closed for long periods of time, such as in winter, the buildup of CO, which can come from sources like water heaters, gas stoves, fireplaces, and clothes dryers, can poison residents over time. CO detectors are a safety net against such a fate, but they must be operating at peak capacity to be effective. As fall winds down, check all CO detectors to make sure they're working properly

and replace any that are not.

- Check for drafts: Check around windows and doors throughout the home to see if there are any gaps that are allowing air from outside to enter the home. If daytime temperatures are mild well into the fall, then it can be difficult to see if there are any drafts before the sun goes down. Conduct this check in the evenings when temperatures are a little chillier and leaks are easier to detect. If drafts are detected, apply weather stripping around doors and windows that do not require replacement. If there's drafts around aging windows and doors, consider replacing them.

- Call a chimney sweeping service: Cozying up beside a fire can make anyone forget the cold weather outside. But fireplaces should be subjected to a thorough cleaning by a skilled professional before each winter. Animals might have nested in the chimney since the fireplace was last used, and you will want any nests cleared prior to lighting your first fire of the season. In addition, the tar-like substance creosote, which forms when wood is burned in a fireplace, can build up and harden over time. That's a dangerous prospect, as creosote is highly flammable, which can lead to chimney fires. Creosote also can block the flow of air through a chimney, and that can trap gasses, including CO, in a home.

- Reverse your fans: It's a simple step but one people may not even realize they can make. In homes with ceiling fans, res-

idents can reverse the fans, so the blades spin clockwise. This simple step pushes trapped warm air hovering around the ceiling into the living space below. This can make home interiors warmer without requiring residents to turn up the thermostat and increase their energy bill.

- Replace your HVAC air filter: Replacing the air filter on your HVAC prior to winter can make the unit operate more efficiently, which can help reduce your win-

tertime energy bill.

Replacing the filter prior to winter also improves indoor air quality, which is a notable benefit during a time of year when the windows typically remain closed for months.

Winterizing a home is not a significant undertaking, but it can be very effective at making homes healthier and more comfortable once windows are closed for the season.

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Alzheimer Society Huron Perth presents fall 2026 Dementia Education Night

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Join the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth for the annual virtual Fall Dementia Education Night on Zoom on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 7 pm.

The digital event's guest speaker, registered dietitian, professor and Schlegel research chair at the University of Waterloo Dr. Heather Keller, will present "Diet and Brain Health: What to Eat as We Age."

Dr. Keller is an internationally recognized expert in nutrition and aging, with research focused on pre-

venting and treating malnutrition in hospital, long-term care, and community settings, particularly for older adults living with dementia.

This is a free event hosted on Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Register at www.bit.ly/Dementia-Night2026.

The link between diet and brain health is a passionate topic for many and is challenging to navigate. Dr. Keller will explore the latest research on nutrition and its impact on brain health. She will share insights on dietary patterns that support cognitive well-being and discuss emerging research trends in brain health

and nutrition.

The audience question-and-answer session following the Dementia Night presentations is a highlight of the evening, and the society stated they look forward to the community's participation. Those with questions for Dr. Keller that they would like to submit in advance can email them to jeanettes@alzhp.ca.

To learn more about Dementia Night 2026, click the Education Hour banner on the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth website at www.alzheimer.ca/huron-perth. Contact the office at 1-800-561-5012 or email info@alzhp.ca.

United Way announces new campaign co-chairs for Huron

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) is welcoming two new Huron co-chairs for the 2026-27 campaign, Kim Burgsma and Bernice Glenn.

"Kim and Bernice are well-known for their incredible work in Huron County," said UWPH CEO Ryan Erb. "Pressing local issues like poverty, housing and homelessness and mental health aren't going away. We are looking forward to getting the campaign underway and, with help from Kim and Bernice, continue building the impact of UWPH across Huron."

"United Way cares about people. All people should be able to have shelter, enough food, clothing and basic needs to live in dignity," said Burgsma. "I'm especially pleased to have been asked to co-chair the campaign and be part of the solution."

"When I first heard about Coldest Night of the Year seven years ago, I had no idea where saying yes to helping would lead," added Glenn. "I've always cared deeply about issues like hunger and homelessness, and United Way has given me a way to be part of positive change in our community."

A longtime Goderich business owner, Burgsma has spent more than 40 years serving the community through local business leadership, volunteerism and advocacy. Passionate about giving back, Burgsma has fostered children, mentored women in high-risk situations and founded Fishes and Loaves, a free community meal program that has provided hot meals to those facing food insecurity for the past 19 years with the support of local churches. An active member of Trinity Church, she is committed to helping vulnerable people and has been a strong advocate for community supports for individuals facing or experiencing homelessness.

Glenn has been supporting UWPH for the past seven years, first becoming involved through Goderich's inaugural Coldest Night of the Year walk. Since then, she has continued to help support the organization, driven by a longstanding passion for addressing hunger and homelessness. Beyond her work with United Way, Glenn served as a director with the Dungannon Agricultural Society, volunteers through her church and is known for lending a hand whenever help is needed. Since moving to Goderich, she has been committed to



(UNITED WAY PERTH HURON PHOTO)

Kim Burgsma and Bernice Glenn are United Way Perth Huron's new Huron campaign co-chairs for 2026-27

finding ways, big and small, to give back to the community she calls home.

As part of the organization's regional and community-based approach to fundraising, UWPH also announced Marian deWever and June Leitch as co-chairs in Stratford-Perth.

"UWPH remains committed to focusing on the issues that matter most to people in both Huron and Perth," added Erb. "Having regional co-chairs helps strengthen this focus and we can't wait to get the campaign started with these four incredible people."

For more information about UWPH's local work, visit their website.

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Fall Into Grand Bend gives shoppers a chance to win

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF
Staff Contribution

The Grand Bend and Area Chamber of Commerce's Fall Into Grand Bend community shopping initiative is entering its final days, but local shoppers still have a chance to win exciting prizes.

Running Sept. 25 through October 31, 2026, Fall Into Grand Bend invites shoppers to explore participating businesses, make qualifying purchases, and collect passport stamps for chances to win weekly prizes and a Grand Prize getaway.

Autumn is one of the most beautiful seasons in Grand Bend, and the event aims to unite the business community and give shoppers a fun, rewarding way to support local businesses.

Participants can pick up a Fall Into Grand Bend Passport at the Welcome Centre or any participating businesses.

To enter weekly draws, shoppers must:

- Visit at least two participating businesses each week
- Make a \$10+ purchase at each location
- Collect passport stamps and submit their weekly entries

Weekly prize draws take place every Saturday from Sept. 28 through Oct. 26, with a special Halloween Market finale on October 31. The Halloween Market will feature seasonal vendors, sidewalk sales, family-friendly activities, and one final opportunity for shoppers to collect stamps and submit entries. It also serves as the final day for passport participation, giving shoppers one last chance to enter before the Grand Prize draw.

Participants who shop and spend at a minimum of 10 of the 21 businesses are automatically entered into the Grand Prize Draw, with the prize being a two-night stay at the Colonial Hotel with dinner for two (valued at \$700).

The grand prize winner will be announced Nov. 1.

Passport verification and prize pick-up take place at the Grand Bend Welcome Centre (81 Crescent Street).

Retailers, cafés, boutiques, and specialty shops across Grand Bend are joining the event, offering fall specials, seasonal décor, and unique autumn-themed merchandise to enhance the shopper experience.

A full list of participating businesses is available through Chamber communications and at the Welcome Centre.

Karen's Courage Memorial Golf Day raises \$10,000 for Jessica's House



(JESSICA'S HOUSE HOSPICE PHOTO)

After hosting a golf tournament in memory of a local golf icon, the Pfaff family donated \$10,000 to Jessica's House Hospice. Karen's Courage Memorial Golf Day was held Sept. 13 at Ironwood Golf Club in honour of Karen Pfaff, Ironwood's past director of golf, serving as a fundraiser for the local hospice. From left are Jessica's House fund development and communications co-ordinator Meghan O'Rourke, Jeff Pfaff, Victoria Pfaff, Debra LaPorte and Jim Pfaff.



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Lucan Biddulph all candidates meeting sheds light on local issues

DAN ROLPH

Editor

It was a full house at the Lucan Biddulph Community Memorial Centre on Thursday, Oct. 8, as residents gathered to hear from the candidates in the upcoming municipal election.

A group of community volunteers, led by Colin Whitehead, hosted an all candidates meeting that included a mixture of questions directed at each of the candidates, as well as a period of questions from the audience. Topics ranged from managing growth to future plans for the Granton fire station.

The meeting comes as the community prepares for the municipal election on Oct. 26 that is already set to see major shakeups in the council chambers.

After the announcement that Cathy Burghardt-Jesson wouldn't seek another term as mayor, current deputy mayor Dave Manders announced his intention to run to become the next head of council. Also joining the race is former mayor Paul Hodgins, who has been serving as North Middlesex's deputy mayor since the he was acclaimed in the 2022 election.

Two candidates are also seeking to become the next deputy mayor — current Ward 1 councillor Daniel Regan, and political newcomer Adam Sachs.

Meanwhile, Ward 1 is a two-way race between Ken Hoggart and Bryan Frank Malito, while Ward 3 has the most crowded slate of candidates with current councillor Alex Westman seeking re-election, while Jim Law and Nolan Goldie are also pursuing the position.

Ward 2 is the only ward where a councillor has been acclaimed, with Allan Cunningham set to represent the area after no other candidate put their name forward.

Lucan Biddulph residents will also find a slate of three candidates on the ballot for the Thames Dalley District School Board trustee position — Christian Sachs, Bev Noble and Bill Tichenoff. However, trustees have not been involved in the school board's operations since April 2025, when the province took over



(DAN ROLPH PHOTO)

An all candidates meeting in Lucan on Oct. 8 was a chance for the community to hear from candidates before the upcoming municipal election on Oct. 26.

and appointed a supervisor amidst growing budgetary deficits.

One topic that dominated the evening was transparency and communication between the municipality and residents, and candidates were often asked how they thought communication could be improved by the next council.

Sachs said he is someone who regularly watches council meetings online, but highlighted the practice of publishing point-form council highlights as some other lower-tier municipalities do as a way to improve communication.

"For Lucan, when we want to know what happens, you have to watch the YouTube video," he said. "You have to go through it, and they're lengthy."

"It is not easy to find the information. On the website

there is an agenda. They do post it. It is publicly posted, but it's not simple. We need simple. We need somebody who's going to break it down, bullet points, easy to understand, easy to consume, easy for the community to make a decision that they like what their elected officials are doing."

Regan pushed back against the assumption of there being a considerable issue with transparency and communication in Lucan Biddulph. He called on those attending the meeting to act as ambassadors in the community and asked them to push their neighbours to seek out more information through online resources and conversations with their representatives.

"It depends on who you talk to about whether or not there's a transparency issue," he said. "The information is there. Every bit of information that I've got tonight that I got for this meeting, I got from the website. I did that for a reason, because I knew transparency was going to be a question."

"When we talk about transparency for people, there are people in this community that know everything. They watch the videos and they ask questions. That's what I'm asking you to do."

Managing growth in Lucan Biddulph was also a hot topic during the meeting, with some questions pointing to a proposed five-storey apartment building on Richmond Street across from Lucan's Tim Hortons as a point of contention. The building was first brought before council in 2025, and a back-and-forth between the developer, Farhi Holdings Corp., and the municipality has led to changes in the proposal.

Though part of that upper level has been removed

CONTINUED TO PAGE 23



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(DAN ROLPH PHOTOS)



It was another clash of Highway 4 rivals on Oct. 9 as the Exeter Hawks and the Lucan Irish met at the South Huron Recreation Centre. The night proved to be a rough one for the Lucan Irish as they were shut out by the Exeter Hawks 7-0, including four goals on the power play. Pictured are Oakley McNeil of the Lucan Irish and Harrison Meulenstein of the Exeter Hawks, who was named the game's first star.



Lucan's Jake Hey winds around the net as he looks for a passing opportunity in the match-up against Exeter.



Nate Schiedel of the Exeter Hawks presses the attack against Lucan.



Lucan's Colton Henderson and Exeter's Cole Tucker collide in the Oct. 9 game in Exeter.



Jayce Durand of the Hawks controls the puck as Ben Willis of the Irish pushes in to stop him.



Lucan Irish player Zander Pino passes the puck in the early moments of the Oct. 9 game against Exeter.

Halloween: Ancient origins and modern-day magic

JUDY FINKBEINER JOHNSON
Examiner correspondent

In northern climes, the transition from the harvest season to winter has always been a dramatic one for its inhabitants. The landscape gives way from harvest shades, fall flowers, and in this area, bursts of glorious, brilliant colours in forests with sugar maple trees, as the season ushers in a darker palette.

The origins of celebrating this “between period” began more than 2,000 years ago in Ireland and Scotland when Ancient Celts observed Samhain. They believed that the boundary between the living and the dead was thinnest then.

This festival evolved into Halloween. Costumes are often ghoulish, devilish, or gruesome. Fantasy creations including princesses, angels, and animals also take to the streets in search of tasty treats.

A major iconic element is the Jack-O-Lantern. The legend of Stingy Jack rose from the fens, marshy areas in Ireland that produced gas, sending up wisps of eerie colours when it caught fire. Imagine how terrifying that was before scientific explanations!

Enter Stingy Jack, a bad man and drunkard. He made a huge mistake when he cheated the devil, who then condemned him to wander forever through darkness, giving him a single, glowing ember from Hell’s fire to light his way. Hence Jack-O-Lantern. People hollowed out turnips, beets, and potatoes large enough to carve a scary face that would scare away Stingy Jack and other evil spirits.

Waves of Irish and Scottish settlers arriving in the New World to escape potato famines in the mid-1800s were happy to find large, partially hollow pumpkins that were native to North America for their carvings.

Pumpkins are part of many fall traditions, including pie at Thanksgiving. There are pumpkin teas, pumpkin lattes, pumpkin cookies, breads, muffins, soups, and other menu items.

Pumpkins are part of our indoor and outdoor décor. They come in various shades including orange, yellow, creamy white, and even black. Plain, carved, painted, or decorated by young and old, they are visual treats.

A pumpkin and gourd artist, a former teacher creates hundreds of figures every year. Sharon Devine has her Pumpkin Hutch in the village of Brucefield, with finished products that earn rave reviews, as well as straw bales and pumpkins right from the field for budding artists.

“I am called the Pumpkin Lady and Mother Nature,” she said. “I have so many different types of creations. Kids love the scary ones; some people are looking for large outdoor decorations. Others choose smaller pumpkins decorated for table centerpieces or gifts.”

There’s a veritable monster mash located in Zurich;



Monster masters Barb Jeffrey and Marty Isaacs display benefits Zurich Blessings Community Food Bank.



(BARRY JOHNSON PHOTOS)

Sharon Devine’s friendly Dalmatian fire dog

the large yard of Barb Jeffrey and Marty Isaacs is the canvas for an intriguing array of dozens of characters, from small to so large that they tower over viewers. In its seventh year, this is a labour of love. They begin by buying a mask and seeing how that particular face inspires the figure’s appearance. Retired master mechanic Marty creates wire frames for characters, builds sets, installs lights, motors, and sound boxes. Barb haunts thrift shops for wigs, accessories, and sources material to make intricate costumes.

Hundreds of people come each year from mid-October to Oct. 31 to see favourite figures and new ones. Lights go on in the display at 6 pm.

There are themed areas, like Frankenstein’s spooky lab, a pirate ship and crew including a sailor who often drinks non-stop. A skeletal horse pulls an old-fashioned hearse with a glass window displaying its passenger. A revengeful bride holds her dead husband who met a dreadful fate.

Some figures scream, talk, or moan. The doghouse door startles when it opens to a growling dog. Photo ops are everywhere.

Many people visit more than once: visitors come from nearby and hours away each year. A few have come as part of a trip from Switzerland or Germany. St. Boniface Catholic elementary school students visit to raise a few goosebumps and lots of giggles! Residents from Blue Water Rest Home enjoy the action too.

“We love doing this for the kids, and our community, and everyone who enjoys it every year,” Barb notes as she surveys the people’s reactions as they are view-



Some of the local Halloween displays have gotten as tall as the homes they’re placed in front of.

ing. “People make donations. All money and food donations go to the Zurich Blessings Community Food Bank to help with the growing issue of food scarcity.”

The ghoulish gallery is at the intersection of John and Mill Streets, just north of the Hensall to Zurich highway. Cars may park along the streets and happy family groups, friends, couples, and solo visitors can view from the sidewalk and enter the south lawn through the entrance flanked by gargoyles with glowing eyes.



A skeleton bride holds her skeleton groom in this eye-catching Halloween display.

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AUTHORIZED BY PAUL PASSMORE

COLUMNS

Victorian Newspaper Remedies for All That Ails You: 1895



BOB HEYWOOD

Examiner Columnist

Apparently, there was absolutely no excuse in 1895 for being afflicted by any sickness, disease or any malady of the body or mind, or any lack of vim, vigour or manly capabilities.

If you happened to be suffering from any or all of the above, one only needed to buy a copy of either the Exeter Times or the Exeter Advocate to be introduced to a multitude of medicine, drugs and “snake oil” remedies, which all in turn guaranteed to relieve any distress common to man.

On nearly every page of the March 7, 1895, edition, John White, Editor of the Advocate happily raked in advertising revenue through fancy illustrated advertisements or simple word testimonials as to how people’s lives and health were completely restored by the purchase and partaking of these miracle cure all.

Several of the products advertised were endorsed and recommended by both Drs. Browning and Lutz who were general practitioners and who both owned drug stores in Exeter.

‘Nerve Beans’ were available at the Browning Store: “A new discovery that will cure the worst case of Nervous Debility, Lost Vigor and Failing Manhood; restores the weakness of body or mind caused by overwork or the errors or excesses of youth. This remedy absolutely cures the most obstinate cases when all other treatments have failed to relieve -- \$1.00 per package or six for \$5.00.”

I am uncertain whether I have ever been afflicted with a SPAVIN, whatever it is. The verbiage under a sketch of a prancing horse professes that “Kendalls Spavin Cure” is “The most successful remedy for man or beast.” I can’t imagine Dr. Fauci endorsing the medicine today (unless of course he was offered some sort of royalty for his commendation).

However, as Charles Powell testified, “I have used a great deal of your wonderful medicine. I once had a mare that had an occult spavin and five bottles cured her. I keep a bottle on hand all the time.”

Carter’s Little Liver Pills – Small Pill, Small Dose, Small Price – “Cures Sick Headache, Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after Eating, but are equally valuable for Constipation – correcting all disorders of the stomach, stimulating the liver and regulating the bowels. Carter’s pills are strictly vegetable and do not gripe or purge, but by their gentle action, please all who use them.”

This writer at 68-years-of-age has some interest in the relief these little pills may bring.

“Colds and Coughs quickly yield to Allen’s Lung Balsam” is all that another ad says and yet another on the same page uses simple poetic li-

(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

cense to express that “Children Cry for Pitchers Castoria: When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria

When she was a child, she cried for Castoria
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria
And when she had children, she gave them Castoria.”

Yet another testimonial shows a sketch of a glowing healthy lassie, the daughter of a prominent Anglican clergyman. This child was literally covered from head to foot with a red and exceedingly troublesome rash, from which she had suffered two or three years.

At the doctor’s behest, the greatly distressed father began to administer “Ayers Sarsparilla”, and two bottles effected a complete cure much to the little girl’s relief and her father’s delight.

Ayers Cherry Pectoral would cure a racking cough, while Starks Powders would cure a sick headache and neuralgia in 20 minutes, also bringing an end to coated tongue, dizziness, biliousness, pain in the side, constipation, torpid liver, and even bad breath. Very nice to take and priced at 25 cents. Now that’s a lot of relief for a measly quarter.

Dodd’s Kidney Pills would cure your backache, while Scott’s Emulsion helped thin babies and weak children thrive on it, growing strong, plump and healthy.

South American Nervine Tonic saved the life of a woman who had given up all hope of getting well, while Paines Celery Compound ‘will feed your husband’s worn-out brain. Testimonial – Lawyers, doctors, politicians, civil servants, hard working men and women in every county are today taking Paines Celery Compound with the happiest of results.’ (Methinks, we need to get a semi load of this stuff to Ottawa asap).

Burdock Blood Bitters will cure your dyspepsia, constipation, bad blood, biliousness and all diseases of the stomach, liver, bowels and blood. Wow, all the bases are covered with a “wee bit of weed” – burdocks that is.

Exeter Druggist C. Lutz offered Agnews Catarrh Powder. One short puff of the breath through the blower supplied with each bottle, in 10 to 60 minutes permanently relieves and cures

catarrh, hay fever, colds, headaches, sore throat, tonsillitis and deafness.

Syrup of Figs rightly mentioned on the back page, proved to bring personal enjoyment and an enhanced quality of life. This perfect and pure liquid laxative has given “satisfaction to millions.” Causing everything to come out right no pun intended.

With all these wonderful, mostly natural remedies, I couldn’t help but wonder why there was a long list of thirteen souls in the obituary column of the same edition. I guess none of the departed had subscribed to the Exeter Times Newspaper.

I also sincerely hope that Big Pharma never researches the historic newspaper collection on the Huron County Library website, or they will probably soon own all the rights to the remedies advertised and turn them into another billion-dollar business.

Not everyone was into pharmaceutical answers to their ailments. In fact, on page two of the same 1895 Exeter newspaper, Dr. A. Owen of Chicago, Ill. took out a substantial illustrated ad, availing both men and women valuable information about

the “Owen Electric Belt”.

Under a portrait of Dr. Owen himself, reads; “The only scientific and practical electric belt made for general use, producing a genuine current of electricity for the cure of disease, that can be readily felt and regulated both in quantity and power and applied to any part of the body. It can be worn at any time, during working hours or sleep and will positively cure – rheumatism, sciatica, general debility, lumbago, nervous disease, dyspepsia, varicocele, sexual weakness, impotency, kidney disease, lame back and urinary disfunction. Electricity properly applied is fast taking the place of drugs for all these conditions and will cure even the seemingly hopeless cases where every other known means has failed. Any weak or diseased organ may by this means be roused to healthy activity before it is too late.”

Imagine all that information in a Victorian era newspaper in our own hometown. Who needs Dr. Ho when you can buy the “Owen Electric Belt”?

Fifteen years earlier in the “Clinton New Era”, June 17, 1880, “The Reason Why GRAY’S VITALINE is fast becoming the popular remedy of the day”. Read the pamphlet carefully. Gray’s Specific Medicine The Great English Remedy – An unfailing cure for seminal weakness, spermatorrhoea, impotency and all diseases that follow as a sequence of self-abuse, as loss of memory, universallatitude (I sure hope I never experience that symptom, whatever it is), pain in the back, dimness of vision, premature old age, and many other diseases that lead to insanity or consumption and a premature grave.

Full particulars in our pamphlet which we desire to send free by mail to everyone. Sold in Clinton by all druggists at \$1.00 per package or six packages for \$5.00.

When you see the actual depiction of the “before and after” portrayed in this Victorian advertisement, I can’t help but think that more than a few Exeter ladies may have climbed the Butter and Eggs Express and made a trip to Clinton.

Perhaps a visit to a dear old forgotten Aunt would include a discreet stop at “J.H.Combes” drugstore to obtain a few packages of pills that would turn the tired old bag of bones she was living with into the virile, handsome, full head of hair guy she was married to 40 years ago.

I sure hope Martha doesn’t read this column, or I will have to keep an eye on my ‘pill parade.’

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Time-travelling in Tarragona



PAUL KNOWLES

Examiner Columnist

"In Tarragona, you can't move soil, or you will find Roman remains." If I thought this was an exaggeration by our guide, I soon realized I was wrong – this Spanish city is absolutely chock-a-block with 2,000-year-old evidence of Roman civilization.

If you are anything like me – and I sincerely hope you do not bear such a curse – you find ancient ruins to be absolutely fascinating. I think it becomes we live in a land that, from the perspective of architectural ruins, is a "new world." A building 200 years old in Canada is astonishing; it's a recent renovation in Spain.

But still, walking around a city where large bits of Roman buildings still stand, next door to modern shops and homes, is an amazing experience. And it doesn't come much more amazing than in Tarragona, this city on the Mediterranean coast, an hour and a bit from Barcelona.

Like many – probably most – European cities, Tarragona has a history going back before accurate records. The Phoenicians were probably here in the 7th century B.C. The Romans were certainly here from the first century B.C. until the fall of the Roman Empire in the mid-5th century. Roman Catholic Popes

were here – or at least, a would-be Pope, crowned as such at the time of the "Great Schism," when there were actually three Popes claiming the title – one in Rome, one in Avignon and one in Tarragona.

Supporters of one of the other Popes attempted to limit the field by poisoning the Tarragona prelate, but he survived, and lived to be over 90.

The so-called Pope was not the only public figure to claim heavenly status in Tarragona. Centuries earlier, the Roman Emperor Octavius Caesar chose this site for his declaration of personal divinity.

We were in Tarragona as guests of Viking on a terrific Mediterranean Cruise, and I found the visit to Tarragona to be one of the most interesting excursions on the voyage that took us from Rome to Barcelona.

Today, Tarragona is a city in the region of Catalonia, home to seven million inhabitants, and still a very busy fishing port. Our guide told us that Tarragona fishers are responsible for half of all the fishing in Catalonia.

But frankly, while the modern city is interesting, it was all of the evidence of Roman life here that grabbed my attention. I'm not alone in this perspective – Tarragona's ruins are so important that they have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Roman evidence continues to have so much impact on the city that the entire central city plan continues to follow what our guide called "the Roman urbanistic plan." Even the impressive Roman Catholic Cathedral, built starting in the 14th century, sits squarely on the site of a Roman temple.

And right in the heart of the city

is an amazingly well-preserved Roman circus – a first-century chariot-racing arena.

The circus, once the site of two-horse chariot and four-horse chariot races, is one of the best preserved such treasures in the world. We visited part of the track, and, perhaps even more interesting, saw extensive spectator seating facilities sitting directly below much more modern houses.

Through the city centre, you will find large section of still-standing walls, begging for both historical research and selfie moments. We did both.

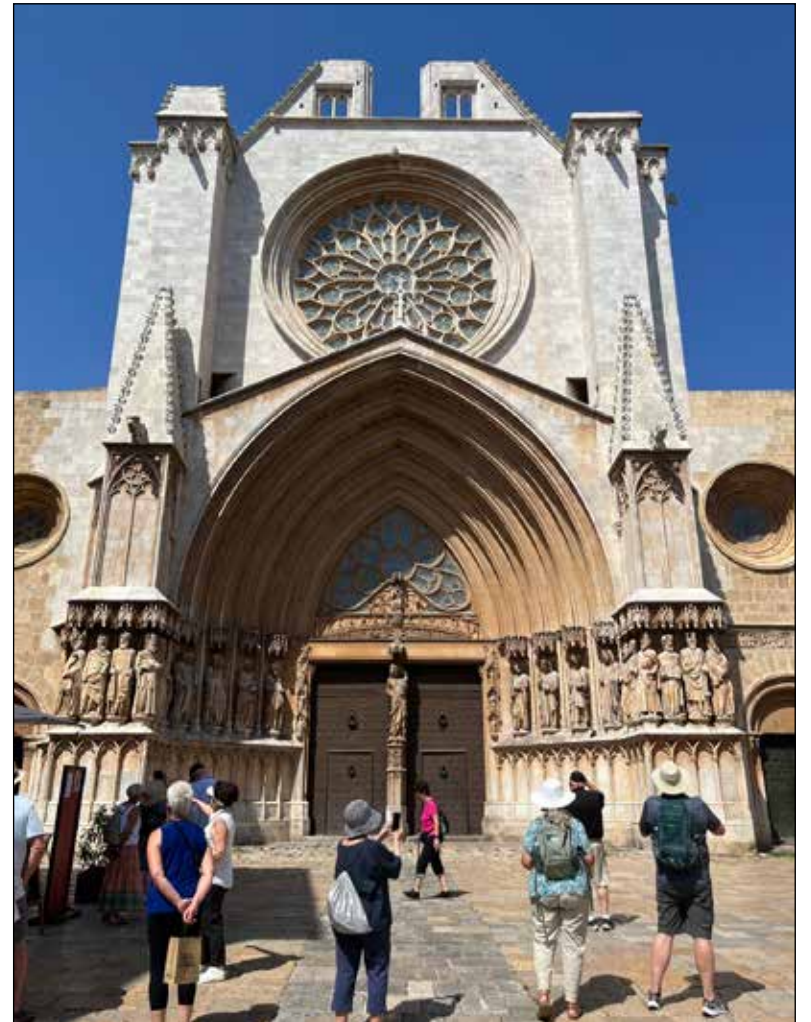
Equally impressive is the Roman Amphitheatre, sitting near the seashore and still a splendid sight from the roadside high above the theatre.

While Tarragona is filled with large, significant Roman ruins, there are also less obvious bits of evidence of that crucial period in western civilization. The walls of houses and shops have bits and pieces of Roman buildings re-used as construction materials.

In fact, our guide told us, one of the biggest problems facing today's heritage conservators is that the Amphitheatre, the Circus, the walls and other Roman buildings were used as quarries for readily available construction materials in more recent centuries. This practice is entirely illegal today, of course.

We visited a lot of historical Roman sites during our time in Tarragona, but still managed only to see about half of the significant ruins.

Also found in and around the city are a Pretorium tower, two fora (provincial and colonial government meeting places), a Necropolis (burial place), the palace of Augustus, and several



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The 14th-century Tarragona Cathedral was built on the site of a Roman temple.

other towers, arches, and roadways. Rome certainly left its mark on this Spanish city.

There are plenty of legends around Tarragona, as well.

One suggests that the city's origins date back more than 2,000 years B.C. Another says that St. Paul came to Tarragona, and thus, "Tarragona became the gate of Christianity," to quote our guide.

What is known for sure is that Caesar Augustus (who reigned over the burgeoning Empire from 27 BC to 14 AD) spent

his winters in Tarragona. Thus establishing a tourism tradition that continues to this day. The Emperor enjoyed his visits to the place; so will modern-day travelers looking to get up close and personal with ancient history.

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.



Another section of Roman wall in central Tarragona.

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ABOUT TIME AND TIMES: Black Forest tasty goodies, my goodness!



JUDY FINKBEINER JOHNSON

Examiner Columnist

Isn't it interesting that some of the strongest links to an ancestral past are through repasts, those simple meals that often have traditional foods we enjoy? That a particular treat today is a part of our heritage, a sort of gastronomic DNA. Recipes and methods honed through generations were passed down orally and came to our family from various regions in the "old countries" where my ancestors lived and emigrated from to come here in the 1800s.

I admit to feeling peckish as I sift through my memory banks into some of my favourite foods from long ago. And smiling as I think about so many fun times with family — watching, learning, cooking with older relatives, one of my brothers, and eventually with nieces and nephews to carry on traditions, and of course taste-testing together! With a sprinkle of our usual teasing thrown in — and occasionally a flick or two of flour!

Pretzels for Lent

In an April column, I shared my love affair with the lye-dipped soft pretzel, a Lenten specialty made by a method passed down with meticulous care from family to family through centuries. My youngest brother was the last member of my family who made the lye, dripping water through ashes from the wood-burning furnace in his farm shop for days.

Some claim that in 600 CE an Italian monk created pretzels, little breads with their twisted shape to represent a prayer posture in their day, and three holes to symbolize the Holy Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Whatever their origin, pretzels made their way into the Black Forest, and later across the Atlantic where those lye-dipped treats were several things: part Easter-time treat, part spring tonic and cleanser, and a totally delicious snack.

Ham and beer radishes

In the Schwarzwald, the regional specialty of Black Forest ham is often served as Schinkenplatte, a cold ham platter, with paper-thin slices of the delicacy plated with rye or sourdough bread, pickles, and sometimes radishes, fruit, and mustard. It goes well with a glass of a local Pils, pilsner lager.

My grandfather and his brother shared a smokehouse. I loved my visits to that almost square building with its logs' gaps chinked with mud. This smokehouse was almost identical to those in the Black Forest. The floor was hard-packed dirt with a firepit in the middle. Smoke wafted gently up to the roof where small holes let it escape. Hams and bacon hung from the rafters on big metal hooks. There was just enough room for my grandpa, dad and me, a kid, to fit in the building.

I can almost smell that smokehouse, that sweetly smoky mild aroma that permeated the wood in that century old building. It took about six weeks to cold-smoke ham with a fire of maple, hickory, or applewood. The smoked meats were taken home, wrapped in linen to keep pests away, and hung high in a cool place next to the "summer kitchen" where they kept for the winter.

Just outside that long room that also ran the length of the attached woodshed, down a couple of steps, was the spot in the garden where my grandpa grew stout, long white radishes that were crisp and a bit peppery. He enjoyed slices of those German Beer Radishes at any meal, even with cheese at his hearty farm breakfast.

Spaetzle, schnitzel, riebelle

There are many varieties of

schnitzel in the Black Forest, all worth trying. The schnitzel itself is a thin pork chop pounded even more thinly, then breaded and fried to golden perfection. My two favourite schnitzels are the dish served with ample slices of lemon and Jaegerschnitzel, the Hunter's one topped with the namesake rich sauce made with sliced mushrooms, red wine, beef broth, and cream.

Schnitzel pairs perfectly with spaetzle, German pasta. Simple ingredients of flour, eggs, salt, and milk create a dough that is flattened, cut into ribbons, and dried. They are dropped into boiling water to cook; they are done when they rise to the top plus about a minute of extra time. Top with butter, salt, and pepper or some of the sauce from your schnitzel. You can't go wrong — any way you eat fresh spaetzle will make you a convert.

My grandma taught me how to make riebelle, egg noodle/dumpling pasta for adding to soups. Its name means to rub or grate, which is how the mixture of eggs, salt, and flour is worked, either by grating at medium size on a box grater, or rubbing between the palms of hands to form pea-sized or rice-sized crumbs. They are dried before being dropped into boiling broth or water, floating when cooked.

Quark and apfel schnitzel

When we still had a wood cook stove before hydro came to our road, the appliance did extra duties with my mom using the warmth of the stove, not just for cooking and heating water, but making what she called soft kase, a quark curd cheese, and apfel schnitzen, dried apple slices.

To make quark, room temperature milk and buttermilk were stirred and left for 24 hours in a warm room to ferment. After being heated slowly, the cooled mixture was put into a sieve that had been lined with cheesecloth, placed over a deep bowl. Kept in

a cool area for about four or five hours, the whey drained from the curds. It looked like cottage cheese or ricotta and had a mild tang. There are many ways to enjoy it, in smoothies, on toast or bagels, with smoked salmon, or fruit and nuts, or mixed with boiled mashed potatoes or as a topping on baked potatoes.

Apfel schnitzen, dried apple slices, had a very long shelf life, a useful quality in pioneer days and later. In our farmhouse, that duration was theoretical, never tested because whether we ate these mildly tangy, chewy, healthy treats as a snack, or used them in recipes, they were soon gone. Apples were cored and sliced, or quartered and quartered again, and with spaces between each one, strung with needle and thick cotton threads, hung above the stove where they got gentle heat and also good air circulation. The apples were dried until leathery, but not crisp like chips.

Fir tree honey and gum

I was surprised to see greenish-tinged Schwarzwald honey, and enjoyed tasting it, with its unique flavour from its mineral and acid content quite different from our meadow flower honey in this area. Bees make this bold tasting honey from collecting Honeydew, an enzyme sap/dew made by insects in the fir tree canopy of the Black Forest.

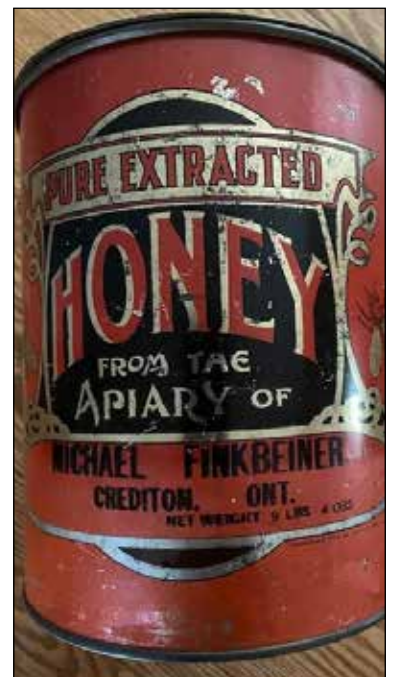
My Finkbeiner ancestor pioneer settlers didn't have the trees to produce that honey, but continued with honey-making. My great-grandfather Michael Jr. was known as the Honeyman and as well as farming and barn-building, had hives that produced honey to sell. My dad, his grandson, had several hives in the family farm bush that provided the honey for our family. He collected swarming bees using the smoker and bee equipment of his grandfather.

After my grandparents moved from the farm where I grew up to one further up the road, my grandfather introduced me to tree gum.

There were several Black Forest type fir trees by the laneway close to the house. It was always an adventure spending time with Grandpa, and I followed him eagerly when he told me he wanted to get some gum and said I could go along. We walked right past the car and stopped at a tall fir tree where he took out his pocketknife, and carefully cut hard resin from the bark, some for him, and some for me. He started chewing his first to let me know it was safe to do. He warned me not to swallow it, just to chew it slowly at first while it formed a wad of gum and spit it out when I didn't want to chew it anymore. Its taste changed as I chewed, at first bitter, than herbal, and finally a fresh, clean finish as if you had just brushed your teeth very thoroughly. "Will you try it again?" Grandpa asked, and he chuckled when I nodded yes!

Next column

Care to join me as I journey into my childhood growing up on our family farm decades ago? Treasured memories of lessons learned, laughter, love - how lucky I was to experience all of that!



(BRIAN FINKBEINER PHOTO)

Black Forest beekeeping – Old World to New World love of honey

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Mentoring Matters: Getting ready for a busy Christmas



AMY WILHELM

Examiner Columnist

I know it may seem a little early to be talking about Christmas, but as an organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron (BBBSSH) is always planning ahead! So, I'm just going to say it... Christmas is coming!

By the time you read this, we'll be just two months away

from the big day. Perhaps you've started your shopping, made plans with family and friends, or even started thinking about bringing out the Christmas decorations. Well, we're getting ready for Christmas, too! We have some exciting things planned over the coming weeks, and we can't wait to share them with you.

For us, Christmas is about helping our Littles experience a memorable and joyful Christmas. One of the ways we do this is through our Adopt a Child campaign. Each year, several generous businesses throughout our service area host an Adopt a Child tree. Hanging on the trees are ornaments featuring a child's age, gender, and two to

three gift ideas. Before creating the ornaments, we connect with our families to learn what their child(ren) are hoping for, helping ensure that the gifts they receive are both meaningful and something they truly want. The ornaments also offer other ways to spread Christmas cheer. Some may request grocery gift cards to help ease the financial pressure families experience over the holidays, while others suggest movie passes, craft kits, or other activities to encourage quality family time. Our trees go up shortly after Remembrance Day, and from there, the generosity of our community takes over. Once the gifts are returned, our team ensures each one makes its way to the right home in time for

Christmas. In 2025, our Adopt a Child campaign supported 105 Littles across 40 families, with 17 local businesses generously hosting trees. We anticipate a similar need for support this year, and we are so grateful to the businesses, donors, and community members who help make this campaign possible. Together, we can help make Christmas morning a little brighter for the children and families we serve!

We are also getting ready for our 18th Annual Christmas Shopping Event! We are excited to bring back a two-day shopping experience on Saturday, Nov. 7, and Sunday, Nov. 8, at the South Huron Recreation Centre. With more than 55 vendors to shop from, it's the per-

fect opportunity to get a head start on your Christmas shopping, find a few unique gifts, or treat yourself to something special! There's more to enjoy than shopping, too! BBBSSH will be hosting a penny sale featuring donations from our vendors, a bake sale filled with homemade goodies, and, of course, a special visit from Santa Claus himself! If you enjoy baking, we would also welcome donations of baked goods for our bake sale table. 100 per cent of the bake sale proceeds go directly back to BBBSSH. Whether you come to shop, bake, visit Santa, or simply enjoy the festive atmosphere, your support helps us make a difference in the lives of local children and youth!

LIVING RETIRED: Knickers in a knot



BY GARY CHALK

Examiner Columnist

What a schmozzle! I discovered that at our house I wear the pants — as it turns out, not well — and Jan, well, she has her knickers in a knot. This is what I mean...

A couple of months ago, I had emergency dental work. I left the dentist office with six teeth wired together and strict instructions to follow a soft food diet.

My recovery also included a

visit to an optometrist to rule out any eye damage from my mishap. So, for the three days leading up to the eye appointment I remained inside nursing my scrapes and bruises, eating Jello, soup, Kraft Dinner, and porridge.

On the day of the optometrist appointment, I awoke and stepped on the bathroom scale. I had lost five pounds. YES! I slipped into a pair of skinny-fit blue jeans that Jan bought me. They felt great, for a change. I posed in front of the mirror. As a Living Retired guy, I felt, well, hip!

At the optometrist office I didn't walk in. Instead, I held my head high, tried to put my chest out, and strutted in wearing my skinny-fit blue jeans.

Soon, I had drops in my eye and was told to wait in the re-

ception area with three other patients. We all chatted, while I fumbled trying to put my key fob in my skinny-fit blue jeans pocket. It wouldn't fit. Strange.

Good news: the eye looks fine. Feeling pretty good in my skinny-fit blue jeans, with a spring in my step, I pranced to their frame shop thinking new glasses would complement my weight loss. The female sales associate sympathized with me not being able to fit my key fob into the pocket, and, I am not making this up, she said, "You look great for your age wearing skinny-fit blue jeans." I felt like a whole new man!

Back home, I continued to fumble with the key fob. I realized the front pocket of my skinny-fit blue jeans seemed small. I stood at our bed and collapsed onto my back. I

flailed my legs in the air, eventually yanking the skinny-fit blue jeans down to my ankles. I looked: the pocket was half the normal size. That is when I saw the tag. It read, '30 Tall.'

OMG!

I ran to Jan's office and blurted out, "Jan. Sorry, I need to interrupt. I don't want to be a smart ass but am I wearing your skinny-fit blue jeans?"

Jan looked up. She took one look at me modelling her favourite skinny-fit blue jeans. She laughed uncontrollably. I could hardly understand her say, "Gary, please don't tell me you wore my skinny-fit blue jeans to your appointment at the optometrist!"

I have done some dumb things in my life like the time in high school I organized a parade and halfway along the

route the police arrived and told me I needed a permit — that is a Living Retired column for another time. But wearing Jan's skinny-fit blue jeans was a first. Once and done!

That night I got into bed first. Jan was frustrated, "Gary, I can't find my pyjamas. Have you seen them?" (Pause) "Please, please, PLEASE don't tell me you're wearing them."

Who wears the pants at your house? At our place I wear the pants. Both mine and Jan's.

Living Retired is written by Gary Chalk and published throughout Canada and USA. To receive Living Retired by email each Monday, or to book Gary to speak at your service club, corporate event, or retirement party contact Gchalk@me.com

Farm Families Feeding Families supports families with children receiving medical care

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

In celebration of Co-op Week, which runs from Oct. 11 to 17, Hensall Co-op has announced its Farm Families Feeding Families initiative, including a commitment of more than \$5,000 to Ronald McDonald House Southwestern Ontario (RMH SWO) in London.

The initiative celebrates the important role farm families play in feeding communities while extending that same spirit of care and support to families

facing challenging circumstances as their children receive medical treatment.

For many families living in rural communities, accessing specialized medical care means travelling significant distances from home. Ronald McDonald House Southwestern Ontario provides a welcoming and supportive place for families to stay close to their children during hospital treatment, helping ease some of the challenges that come with being away from home.

In a press release, Hensall Co-op stated it recognizes the importance of

supporting the rural families and agricultural communities at the heart of its organization.

"Being a co-operative means more than doing business together. It means supporting one another and strengthening the communities we call home," said Hensall Co-op CEO Brad Chandler. "Our farm families work hard every day to help feed families across Canada and around the world. Through Farm Families Feeding Families, we're proud to extend that commitment beyond the farm and support families during some of their most challenging

moments."

As part of the initiative, Hensall Co-op will fund dinner group volunteer experiences at Ronald McDonald House Southwestern Ontario, giving members, customers and employees the opportunity to make a meaningful difference.

During these experiences, groups of volunteers will visit the House, tour the facility and work alongside the Ronald McDonald House wellness and nutrition team to prepare comforting meals for families staying at the house while their children receive medical care.

Lucan Biddulph all candidates meeting sheds light on local issues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

from the plans through those discussions, neighbouring residents have continued to lobby council to push for further changes.

Manders said he would fight to see that fifth story entirely removed from the proposed building, though he noted the fight may be one the municipality is destined to lose.

"He's going to fight it," said Manders. "We will hire a planner. We will hire a lawyer, and we're going to spend \$90,000 of taxpayer's money. I don't know if it's defensible, but I'm going to fight for that to be four storeys or less."

Under Lucan Biddulph's official plan, apartment developments of the proposed building's scale are limited to arterial roads and main intersections.

However, Hodgins said he would like to see that approach changed to stop further apartment development along Main Street.

"Apartments should be made in the back, further away from Main Street," he said. "As people come in, I don't want them to come into this town and see apartments right off the bat, although some are there already. I would make sure that there isn't really anymore."

One topic that drew plenty of attention during the meeting was the fate of the

Granton fire hall.

Lucan Biddulph's 2023 Fire Service Master Plan included an evaluation of possibly consolidating the service's operations in Lucan and Granton into a single new station just north of Lucan. The move would be aimed at helping prepare for projected growth in Lucan, where the plan states most emergency incident responses already occur.

Though the plan states the impact on response times in both communities would be "minimal" it also notes there could be impacts on insurance costs to properties in the Granton area. There could also be challenges in such a move as the Granton station is partly owned by Perth South, which may not have another economically viable option for fire services in the area.

Law said he firmly believes the station should remain in Granton.

"Safety is everything," he said. "I believe we should keep the firehall in Granton," he said. "I would never vote it out, unless you could show me and prove to me that the people of the community we going to be just as safe without it. I don't think you can."

Goldie agreed that Granton should maintain its distinct fire station in the community.

"Obviously, it's a large key player within not only our municipality, but also Perth



Dave Manders.

South," he said. "It should stay like that. We need extra key players around in order to help out. We've only been seeing fires start to get out of hand more and more."

Westman noted that the Fire Service Master Plan that was prepared by a consultant listed the consolidation of the two fire stations as an option, but he stressed there hadn't been discussions about closing the station.

"It would be reckless and ridiculous to even consider closing it," he said. "There was never any talk of closing the Grant-



Paul Hodgins.

(DAN ROLPH PHOTOS)

on hall. There is some restructuring going on because we need to make them more efficient. The two departments cost a lot of money. We want to find ways to make them run more efficiently."

With candidates offering different approaches regarding the next four years, Lucan Biddulph voters will have the final say when they cast their ballots on Oct. 26.

A video of the entire meeting can be watched on YouTube at youtu.be/-CST-t9H4Od0.

BACK IN TIME

30 Years Ago

October 23, 1996 - Hard work and determination has paid off for Mark Bell of Hensall. After a two year tour with the Exeter Junior "D" Hawks, Bell, 17, has broken into the Junior "B" league with the Strathroy Rockets.

After 42 years in business, owners of Frayne's general store at Exeter's north end experienced their first attempted robbery during broad daylight. However, the male youth who demanded money was surprised by a stubborn Marion Frayne who closed the cash drawer and refused to comply.

40 Years Ago

October 22, 1986 - Road superintendent John Batten tendered his resignation to Usborne Township council at their meeting Tuesday. Batten has been a member of the township crew for 31 years.

65 Years Ago

October 21, 1961 - Two impressive homes have been erected in the new residential subdivision established on the south side of Hensall, west of Highway 4. The homes have been constructed for Harold Bonthron and Lorne Hay.

In charge of the Progressive Conservative leadership convention in Toronto this week was

QC Elmer Bell of Exeter who won praise from many quarters for his firm hand which prevented enthusiastic demonstrators from getting out of control.

Don Cann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carf Cann of Exeter was elected editor of the SHDHS annual publication, The Inkspot.

70 Years Ago

October 19, 1956 - Mr. Charles MacNaughton is in Ottawa with a delegation of seed men waiting on the government with the view of establishing a seed laboratory in London.

Mr. Tom Walker, who took up photography as a hobby several months ago, has decided to open

a small photo studio at his home on Main Street.

This week's Leavitt's Theatre is celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of the new theatre and their 35th year in the moving picture business in Exeter.

Prices of haircuts have gone up. Exeter barbers have upped the price from 35 cents to 40 cents effective last Saturday.

80 Years Ago

October 22, 1946 - Record capacity crowds attended the jubilee services of Zion Evangelical Church in Crediton from Oct. 13 to 20.

Former ministers and native sons gave messages and a special jubilee choir of former fa-

miliar voices sang. Friday evening Roy Goulding's choir from Talbot Baptist Church in London presented a grand concert.

105 Years Ago

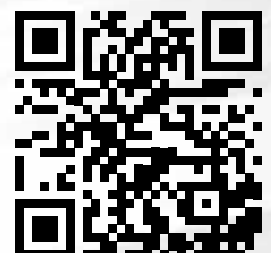
October 21, 1921 - Messrs. R. Wells, S. Fitton, W. Johns and D. Russell left Monday for a two-week hunting trip in the Wingham district.

130 Years Ago

October 22, 1896 - The proceeds of the Harvest Home Festival Monday evening in connection with Holy Trinity Anglican Church amounted to about \$70 and collection on the previous Sunday was in the neighbourhood of \$30.

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Riddles

What happens when frog park illegally?
They get toad

--

I got fired from the calendar factory.
All I did was take a day off

--

A man was injured yesterday playing peek-a-boo.
He's currently in the ICU.

--

Where do dads store their jokes?
In the dad-a-base

--

What's Forrest Gump's password?
1forrest1

--

What happens when a microscope crashed into a telescope?
They kaleidoscope

--

What do you call a man without a body and a nose?
No body nose

Sudoku

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

Solutions on pg.28

Pet of the Week 🐾 🐾 🐾

Halloween can be spooky for pets too!
Keep candy, chocolate, and decorations out of reach, and give pets a quiet, safe space away from costumes and trick-or-treaters.
Have a fun and safe Halloween with your furry family members!



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BAILEY

Our pet of the week this issue is Bailey. This 8-year-old affectionate and loving girl lives for the spotlight. She always follows her humans around for attention, and even if she gets it, she always wants more.



Nominate your pet to be a Featured Pet by emailing info@exeterexaminer.com

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

- TRICK OR TREAT
- WITCH
 - GHOST
 - SKELETON
 - VAMPIRE
 - CAULDRON
 - BROOMSTICK
 - SPIDER
 - COSTUME
 - MASK
 - ZOMBIE
 - CANDY
 - MONSTER
 - HAUNTED
 - BAT

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OCTOBER

RECURRING OCTOBER PROGRAM EVENTS 2026

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

MON & THURS 10 – 10:45 - High low impact aerobic exercise with Joy that includes cardio, strength, and flexibility. Community Room GBACHC emaxfield@gbchc.com

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

MONDAYS & 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 emaxfield@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. emaxfield@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 AM - Early On program free program for adults with children birth to 6 years. Adult Day Wing, GBACHC. inside Adult Day at GBACHC. 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

FRI. OCT. 9, AND 16TH 8:30 AM 0 Vinyasa Yoga and Chair Yoga GBACHC in Community room. Vinyasa at 8:30am, Chair at 9:45 am. Contact emaxfield@gbchc.com .

OCT. 13TH 1:30-3:30PM - Persistent Pain 6 week program. Join our PT and Social Work Team as they teach you exercise and coping strategies to deal with your pain

THURS. OCT. 15TH 1:30 -3:30PM - Alzheimer's care-

giver support group. Support group program with trained facilitator Randy Chapman. 1-800-561-5012. Adult Day wing at GBACHC.

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) **For more information of any of these programs contact Cindy Maxfield at emaxfield@gbchc.com**

SAT. OCTOBER 24 -11AM TO 12:30PM Crediton & District Optimist Club's Spooktacular Halloween Bash. - Oct. 24 – 11am to 12:30pm. Crediton Community Centre. Don your costume and join us for dancing, crafts and snacks. Kids age 12 and under welcome. Parental accompaniment required.

SUN. OCT. 25 - 2PM. - Naomi Bristow 'The Singin' Cow-girl'. Crediton Zion United Church, 6 Victoria Ave W, Crediton Call Ruth 519-234-6035 or Joan 519-237-3806

FRI. NOVEMBER 6 - 6:30PM - Trivia Night - at the Exeter Legion, 316 William St., presented by Cultural Collective in support of the South Huron District High School Music Department's April 2027 Atlantic Band Festival Trip. Doors open at 6:30pm. Trivia starts at 7:30pm. Teams up to 8.

NOVEMBER

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., 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

SAT. OCT. 24TH

Harvest Market Fundraiser

10:00 A.M - 2:00 .P.M. MARK YOUR CALENDERS! Shop for home baked goods, assorted jams jellies and preserves, farm fresh produce, seasonal handicrafts and holiday décor as well as a selection of gently used household items looking for a new home. Something for everyone!

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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.

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.

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1. Alaska
2. The big toe
3. Venus
4. Hot water
5. 007
6. The skin
7. A flamboyance
8. 93 million miles
9. Russia
10. The Bible

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

PHOTO QUIZ ANSWER

ANSWER:
 White-marked Tussock Moth Caterpillar

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costume.

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second round of
Halloween candy
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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

SCAN
TO READ
THE
ONLINE
PAPER





SEASONAL EQUIPMENT
OPERATOR / TRUCK DRIVER

The Township of Perth South is seeking a qualified equipment operator/truck driver who would be available to work on a seasonal basis for winter maintenance purposes from December 1st, 2026 until March 31st, 2027. Reporting to the Operations Manager, applicants will be experienced with the ability to operate various pieces of equipment, such as wheel loaders, road graders, and tandem dump trucks equipped with snow plow, wing, and sander. The operator may be required to perform other duties within the Public Works Department, along with other miscellaneous labour duties from time to time.

Applicants must have a valid "D" license with a "Z" endorsement. Experience in road and/or equipment maintenance would be an asset. This position is subject to weekend scheduling and 24 hr. call-out, with a minimum of 32 hours a week.

The salary range for this position is \$27.73 – \$34.67 per hour for 2026. We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a detailed resume expressing their interest to the undersigned clearly marked as "seasonal operator" by October 29th 2026.

Ken Bettles, Director of Public Works
Township of Perth South
3191 Road 122, St. Pauls, ON NOK 1V0
Email - kbettles@perthsouth.ca

Information gathered is under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and shall only be used for candidate selection purposes.



South Huron Hub

October 22, 2026

South Huron Votes 2026 – Voting is open!

Voting is now open for South Huron's 2026 Municipal and School Board Election. Using the unique PIN and following the instructions outlined in your Voter Information Letter you can cast your vote at anytime during the voting period. The voting period runs from 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13th until 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26th.

If access to a telephone or Internet connection is unavailable to you, a Voter Help Desk is set up at the municipal office with telephone and Internet access during the voting period.

If you do not receive your Voter Information Letter by October 15th please reach out to the Election Team by dropping into town hall, one of the various voter helpdesk pop-up locations, call 519-235-0310x0 or email vote@southhuron.ca

2025 Audited Financial Statements

The Municipality's 2025 Audited Financial Statements were presented at the Regular meeting of Council on Monday, October 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Statements are available for viewing on the municipal website at www.southhuron.ca and will be provided at no cost to any taxpayer or South Huron resident upon request made to the Treasurer.

Julia Warwick, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer Municipality of South Huron

Email: treasurer@southhuron.ca

Phone: 519-235-0310 Ext 229

Please note that Council Meetings allow for both electronic and in-person attendees. There will be a recording of the meeting available upon request by contacting the Clerk. Members of the public are welcome to watch the live-stream of the meeting on the *Agendas and Minutes* page at www.southhuron.ca, or attend Council Chambers.

South Huron Recreation Programs

- Carpet Bowling
- Mahjong
- Cards, Crib & Checkmates
- Shuffleboard
- Dashwood Coffee, Cards & Checkmates
- Parents Night Out Program
- Tiny Tots Playtime

Some programs may require pre-registration, contact Community Services or see the Community Events Calendar at SouthHuron.ca for information.

Important Dates

Monday, October 26th
Municipal Election Day

Monday, November 2nd
Regular Council Meeting
6:00 PM (EST)*

*South Huron Council meetings are open for in-person attendance and continue to be livestreamed. See our website Agendas and Minutes page or the Municipal Youtube Channel at meeting time to access the livestream video link. A recording of the meeting will be available on the Municipal Youtube Channel following the meeting.

Community Improvement Plan

South Huron's Community Improvement Plan is now accepting 2026 grant applications! A variety of municipal grants are available for eligible projects that support commercial building improvements to accessibility, energy efficiency, façades and more!

Applications are evaluated on a first-come, first-serve basis and annual funding is limited. For more information, visit the *Community Improvement Plan* page at SouthHuron.ca

If you're considering a project this year, contact cip@southhuron.ca to discuss your project's eligibility for funding.

2026 Fall Leaf/Brush Collection - October 19 - November 12, 2026

The Municipality of South Huron will be starting fall leaf bag collection on Monday, October 19, 2026, until Thursday, November 12, 2026, for South Huron residents.

Please ensure that bags weigh no more than 23kg (50lbs). Please note that staff will not pick up overweight bags, bags that are not biodegradable paper bags, or bags that contain other waste such as garbage or animal feces.

There will be two pickup areas and each will have dedicated pickup days every week:

• Exeter

Pickup will be on Mondays

One day brush pickup - October 26

• Villages (Dashwood, Oakwood, Shipka, Crediton, Huron Park, Centralia)

Pickup will be on Thursdays

One day brush pickup - October 29

As a reminder, once the collection period has ended, staff will no longer collect any items that are set curbside. You may take your leaf and debris to the South Huron Landfill free of charge at any time.

Please refer to the South Huron website for Landfill operating hours.

Hub E-Newsletter

Have you subscribed to our bi-monthly e-newsletter, The South Huron Hub?

You're just a few clicks away from receiving municipal updates, job opportunities, community events and more directly to your email inbox. Learn how easy it is to sign up by visiting the South Huron Hub Newsletter page at SouthHuron.ca

Our information is accessible! Contact us anytime if you require alternative formats.

MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South, PO Box 759, Exeter, ON N0M 1S6

PHONE: 519-235-0310 • FAX: 519-235-3304 • TOLL FREE: 1-877-204-0747

WEBSITE: www.southhuron.ca

Building Services ext. 6

Community Services ext. 222

Transportation, Roads ext. 230

Water & Wastewater, Landfill ext. 230

Afterhours ext. 7