

Exeter Examiner

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All-candidates meeting organized by mayoral candidate

JOHN MINER

Examiner Reporter

South Huron candidate for mayor Maureen Cole has organized an all-candidates meeting for later this month and sent out invitations, but it's uncertain if other candidates will participate.

Some have said they definitely won't be there.

Candidate Aaron Neeb said typically all-candidates meetings are hosted by a neutral third party organization with a moderator to ensure fairness and transparency for the public and the candidates.

"I have serious concerns about the integrity of an event hosted by any candidate. I look forward to a future all-candidates meeting hosted by a neutral third party, as well as election coverage from our local news media," Neeb said in an email indicating he won't attend Cole's meeting.

Cole has rented Ironwood Golf Club for the meeting on Aug. 25. In a posting on Facebook she describes it as an all-inclusive event designed for all candidates and the public to meet, and be informed.

In an email, Cole said the meeting is just one opportunity for people to hear from the candidates about their priorities and plans at the very start of the election process. Candidates will be able to

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



(MACKENZIE HODGINS PHOTO)

EXETER RODEO ROUNDS UP ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR

It was a weekend of excitement and thrills as the Exeter RAM Rodeo returned for another year of action in the arena. Celebrating its 28th year in the community, the rodeo was held Aug. 8 to Aug. 9 at the South Huron Recreation Centre rodeo arena. This year's show featured many of the classic favourites, including barrel racing, pole bending, bull riding and more. Pictured is Auburn's Travis Wilts as he competes in the bull riding competition.

MORE PHOTOS FOUND ON PAGE 15

From Exeter Rodeo dreams to a Texas scholarship

DAN ROLPH

Editor

What started as a dream for a 10-year-old girl from Exeter has become reality for a local barrel racer.

Olivia Den Hollander, a barrel racer who competes

in events including the Exeter Rodeo, is packing her bags and heading south of the border to join the Sam Houston State University rodeo team in Texas on a scholarship that makes it all possible.

A two-year University of Western Ontario biomed-

CONTINUED TO PAGE 10



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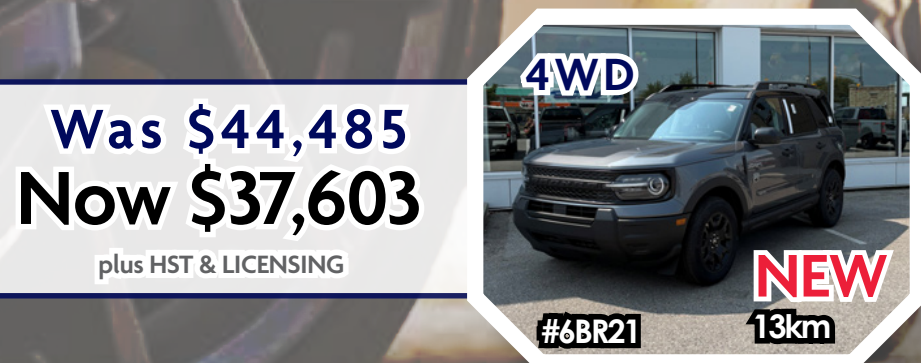
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EDITORIAL

Do yourself a favour and take a moment to look up



DAN ROLPH

Editor

Depending on when you find this issue of the Exeter Examiner in your hands, you may have a fantastic opportunity to experience the wonders of our universe ahead of you.

This year, we're particularly

lucky that two fascinating astronomical events will be happening on the same day.

On Aug. 12 and 13, the Perseid meteor shower will reach its peak and grace the night sky with dozens of meteors each hour. The annual arrival of the Perseids is something many who have an interest in astronomy look forward to as it's easy to watch and will almost certainly be under better weather conditions than the Geminids in December.

If you're up for a late night (or a very early morning) the best time to take in the Perseids is between midnight and dawn, though you should be

able to see meteors by 10 p.m. if you're looking for a more manageable evening.

This year's shower will also be particularly fit for viewing with the new moon, meaning stargazers won't need to worry about moonlight hindering their views.

But this year is also particularly unique as the meteor shower's peak aligns with a solar eclipse, which is also happening on Aug. 12.

In our region, this eclipse won't be the stunning display of the sun's corona that many of us got to see in April 2024. Those looking for another chance to see that natural

wonder would need to hop on a plane and get across the Atlantic.

Locally, we will see a partial solar eclipse where the moon blocks a small chunk of the solar disk. You probably won't notice a change in daylight if you aren't expecting the eclipse, but those who still have a pair of solar eclipse glasses handy can gaze at the sun and take in the sight.

The partial eclipse will begin just before 1 p.m., reaching its maximum at 1:37 p.m.

Events like the peak of the Perseids or a partial solar eclipse aren't only rare moments. They are invitations to

step outside, look up and remember that sometimes a love for learning about the universe around us isn't just born in a classroom.

So, if the skies are clear and the weather is kind to us, make a plan to take part. Set an alarm, find a dark spot, bring a lawn chair or blanket and get comfortable. For the eclipse, make sure you use proper solar eclipse glasses or another safe viewing method, and for the meteor shower, give your eyes time to adjust and let the night sky do the rest.

You don't need to be an expert to enjoy it. You just need to be willing to look up.

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COMMUNITY

Gateway expands summer 2026 research team with Kaleigh McCallum

ALEXA HUGILL

Examiner contributor

Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health is pleased to welcome a new Student Research Assistant to its Summer 2026 team.

Over the course of the summer, she will support Gateway CERH's impactful community projects and initiatives that promote research, community engagement, and rural health innovation across our local regions.

Kaleigh McCallum is a new Student Research Assistant with Gateway CERH and will be entering her first year at the University of Toronto Mississauga in the fall, where she will be studying Linguistics.

She is a dedicated softball player who has spent the past four years playing at the rep level. In her free time, Kaleigh enjoys reading novels that challenge her perspectives, build her character, and strengthen her core values.

This summer, she is especially excited to begin her journey with Gateway CERH as a Student Research Assistant, where she aims to build her research skills and contribute positively to the community in which she was raised.

She looks forward to spending her summer with Gateway CERH, expanding her knowledge, and learning about the many ways she can support rural communities.

Working alongside the other students on the Summer 2026 team, she will play an important role in advancing Gateway CERH's ongoing work.

Gateway CERH is proud to support local students and looks forward to the energy, insight, and dedication they will bring over the coming months.

For more information, contact: Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health at info@gatewayruralhealth.ca or 519-612-1053 or visit www.gatewayruralhealth.ca



(GATEWAY CERH PHOTO)

Kaleigh McCallum, Student Research Assistant, Gateway CERH.

All-candidates meeting organized by mayoral candidate

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

pass out their information freely, she said.

Speeches will start at 7 p.m. with candidates given three to five minutes for their presentation. That will be followed by random questions from the public, and then there will be an hour for one-on-one conversations at individual candidate's tables.

Cole said she has checked with the municipal clerk and verified that candidates can host meetings as per the Election Act. The candidate must include the expenses in their financial statements.

"Some think I'm aggressive, but I just think I am proactive," Cole said in her email.

If there is interest, Cole said she would be willing to pay for another all-candidates meeting as well.

The Exeter Examiner sent an email to all of the nominated candidates asking if they would be attending the Aug. 25 event.

Only George Finch, running to keep his position as mayor, replied that at this point he will likely attend.

But Finch said it is highly unusual for a candidate to just pick a date and assume everyone can attend.

Ted Oke, who is also running for mayor, said he hasn't had a chance to review the details yet.

Daryl Demaray, who is running for council in Ward 2 (Exeter), replied that he is not planning on attending the event hosted by Maureen Cole. Another candidate for Ward 2, Antonio Munion said he will not be available to attend and is unable to comment at this time.

Laura Goulding, the fourth candidate running in the Exeter ward, said she has no comment at this time.

Candidates running in Ward 1 (Stephen) did not reply to the Examiner query at press time.

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Exeter Examiner Photo Quiz



Who are you looking at?
By Judy and Barry Johnson



I am a stately bird. Look for me in creeks and rivers, standing in water or perched on a stone, motionless and patiently focused on finding food like fish. Sometimes I perch on a bare branch or tree over the water. To preen I comb my fraying chest feathers into “powder down” that I use to remove grime, fish slime, and oils.

HINT: I am about a metre tall but weigh only about 2.6 kg because my bones are hollow.

This week’s answers are found on pg. 30

WEEKEND QUIZ

By Jake Grant

1. Albuquerque is located on the shores of what river?
2. What are baby Koalas called?
3. What is the most spoken language on Earth?
4. The deficiency of which vitamin causes scurvy?
5. What is the term for the maximum amount of oxygen the body can use during exercise?
6. The “Hollywood” sign originally spelled out what word?
7. What’s the name of the pig in the book “Charlotte’s Web”?
8. How many points does the Star of David have?
9. Which dinosaur is famous for having three horns?
10. What is the term for being romantically or sexually unfaithful to a partner?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 30

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Household food insecurity rising across southwestern Ontario: Public health units call for action

AMANDA NELSON

Examiner Reporter

Public health units across the region are calling on all levels of government to address growing concerns about food insecurity in Ontario.

In a recent press release, they said the number of households struggling to afford basic needs, including food, is growing year over year.

In 2024, the release notes that one in four households in southwestern Ontario experienced food insecurity, meaning they lacked reliable access to enough food due to financial challenges. Rising housing costs and the cost of living also force many families and individuals to choose between paying rent and purchasing food.

"Many residents are having to make difficult choices between paying for rent, utilities, medications, transportation, childcare, buying groceries and other life expenses to make ends meet," said public health nutritionist Shannon Edmonstone. "Some households are stretching food further than what is healthy by purchasing lower-cost food that may not meet their needs, skipping meals or relying on emergency food programs for ongoing support."

Edmonstone also said the health unit continues to hear from community partners that they are seeing increased demand from a wide range of people, including employed people, seniors on fixed incomes, people with disabilities, unattached adults and single-parent families. Kristin Crane, United Way vice-president of community impact and research, agrees.

"The biggest chunk of a person's income goes toward housing, whether that's rent or mortgage payments," said Crane. "As you're seeing, both of those have risen quite sharply. Some of those costs have started to level off, although it has taken a bit longer in rural regions because we don't see shifts in demand as significantly as urban

centres."

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) stresses that household food insecurity is linked to poorer physical and mental health, a higher risk of chronic disease and increased pressure on the health-care system. Among children and youth, it impacts concentration, memory, mood and motor skills, making it harder to succeed in school.

"Food insecurity impacts people at every stage of life in Huron-Perth," said Dr. Miriam Klassen, medical officer of health for HPPH. "Local trends show that affordability is becoming more of a challenge, leaving many households struggling to keep up. Long-term solutions will require a focus on income and financial stability."

Many households are now relying on emergency food programs or facing impossible trade-offs, such as skipping meals. While many low- and modest-income households face challenges after covering housing and other essential costs, individuals on social assistance programs such as Ontario Works often cannot afford both rent and food, even with careful spending.

The Ontario Dietitians of Public Health also weighed in and said that, in order to address the root cause of household food insecurity – inadequate income – they propose increasing social assistance rates, including Ontario Works, improving income supports for low- and modest-income households and improving policies that reduce the cost of housing and essential living expenses.

"We're seeing that the trend is moving in the wrong direction; both local and provincial data show that affordability has become increasingly challenging as food costs, housing, utilities and other essentials continue to outpace many household incomes," said Edmonstone.

Ontario public health units monitor food affordability by comparing food and rent costs across various household income scenarios. In 2024, these scenarios showed that a single adult receiving Ontario Works in southwest-

ern Ontario cannot afford both food and rent, facing a monthly deficit ranging from \$301 to \$859.

Edmonstone said that while long-term solutions would need to address affordable housing and other rising costs, increasing income support would have an immediate and meaningful impact for families across Ontario.

"We know that food insecurity is fundamentally an income issue," said Edmonstone. "When people don't have enough money left after paying for housing and other essentials, affording nutritious food becomes very challenging. Improving income adequacy would provide greater stability and dignity, while allowing people to make food choices that reflect their health, culture and family needs."

Edmonstone also stressed the importance of addressing stigma when talking about food insecurity and said that household food insecurity is a serious but preventable public health issue. She said addressing it requires coordinated action at the municipal, provincial and federal levels.

"It's often viewed as a result of poor choice or a lack of budgeting, but more evidence is showing that it is driven by inadequate income and rising living costs," she said. "More than half of food-insecure households rely on employment income and still struggle to afford essentials such as housing, transportation and child care."

The Ontario Dietitians of Public Health continue to advocate for communities across southwestern Ontario and are calling on all levels of government to implement social and economic policies that address the root causes of household food insecurity and intentionally shift away from food-based responses toward income-based solutions.

"If we focus on economic conditions that make it difficult to meet basic needs, rather than individual behaviour, we can build greater understanding and support with meaningful solutions," said Edmonstone.

More candidates join South Huron municipal election race

JOHN MINER

Examiner Reporter

With just a few days until nominations close, there is now a candidate for every spot on South Huron municipal council.

Ward 3 (Usborne) was without a candidate for the ward's single council position until Dianne Faubert of Crediton filed her

papers. Faubert previously served as a Ward 1 councillor before failing to garner enough votes to hold onto the position in a crowded eight-candidate race during the 2022 election.

As of Aug. 7, Faubert is the only candidate running in Usborne.

Under election rules, candidates in South Huron can run in a ward they don't

live in, but cannot vote for themselves in that ward in the municipal election.

Usborne's current representative on South Huron council is Ted Oke, who this time is running for mayor against the current mayor George Finch and former South Huron mayor, Maureen Cole.

The race for the two Ward 2 (Exeter) council positions is now a four-way contest with Laura Goulding nominated. The other candidates in the Exeter ward are Daryl Demaray, Antonio Munion and Aaron Neeb.

There are three candidates for the two, Ward 1 (Stephen) positions — Patti Desjardine-Soer, Wendy McLeod-Haggitt and Marissa Vaughan.

Jim Dietrich at press time is the only candidate nominated for deputy mayor.

The two public school board trustee candidates are also unopposed as of Aug. 7.

Marnie Van Esbroeck is running for

the English Public School Board trustee while Rachid Barrima is the candidate for the French Language Public District School Board.

Nominations for the municipal election close at 4 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 24. The election is on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026.

Nominations for the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board close on Aug. 21. Profiles of the candidates will be posted on the school board's website after that date.

To run for mayor, candidates must pay a fee of \$200 and file papers with at least 25 signatures of people living in the municipality.

The nomination filing fee for deputy mayor, councillor or school board trustee is \$100. Candidates must also file papers with 25 endorsements.

The fees are refunded once candidates file the required financial statements for the election.

Information Sharing

ALL CANDIDATES MEETING

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Ailsa Craig Highland Games and Scottish Festival returns



It was a day to celebrate all things Scottish on July 25 as the 3rd annual Ailsa Craig Highland Games and Scottish Festival returned. Held at the Ailsa Craig Community Centre, the exciting day featured many of the well-known highland games events, such as the caber toss and hammer throw, while also offering a selection of vendors, food trucks and experiences.



Frances Thorn of the Strathroy Fibre Arts Guild gives a demonstration to Julia Works.



(DAN ROLPH PHOTOS)

The Sutherland School of Dance's junior highland dancers took to the stage during the festival.



The Upper Thames Military Reenactment Society were firing a cannon throughout the festival, which caught one unlucky caber tosser off guard during the competition.



Colleen Pavlech and Janette Patrick of the Strathroy Fibre Arts Guild were teaching about the creation and use of yarn.

Fatal house fire on Parr Line under investigation



Investigators were still on the scene of a fatal house fire on Aug. 10 in the afternoon.

DAN ROLPH
Editor

An Aug. 10 house fire on Parr Line south of Varna has resulted in the death of an 82-year-old.

According to Huron County OPP,

emergency crews responded at about 2:45 a.m. to a reported structure fire in Bluewater.

Police said emergency services were able to successfully contain and extinguish the fire, but crews found one individual inside the home who was pro-



(DAN ROLPH PHOTOS)

An 82-year-old was pronounced dead at the scene of a house fire at a home on Parr Line near Varna.

nounced dead at the scene.

The Parr Line property was a busy scene in the afternoon on Aug. 10 as investigators continued to work around the home that was visibly damaged.

The Office of the Fire Marshal, the Office of the Chief Coroner and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service were taking part in the investigation to determine the cause of the fire and the circumstances surrounding the individual's death.

Huron County OPP asked anyone with information about the incident to contact them at 1-888-310-1122.

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From Exeter Rodeo dreams to a Texas scholarship

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ical sciences student, Den Hollander said she will be able to continue her studies in the U.S. while competing for her new school that boasts a decades-long history of rodeo excellence.

Den Hollander's love of horses stretches back as long as she can remember, but her interest in barrel racing started close to home when she convinced her father to bring her to the Exeter Rodeo for the first time when she was 10 years old.

"I was just amazed," she said. "I videoed every single barrel racer there so I could watch it for the next year. I told my dad right there and then 'that's what I want to do.'"

Since that day, Den Hollander has worked to develop into a skillful barrel racer. She purchased her first saddle and began working at a lesson barn where she could grow her own skills.

Then in 2020, she purchased her first barrel horse, starting as a youth competitor before graduating to ladies' competitions.

Now with years of competing under her belt, she said her favourite part is still the excitement of the crowds cheering her on and the feeling she gets just before getting into the arena.

"A big thing for me is the adrenaline rush," she said. "When you're sitting behind the chute there on your horse and you can feel your horse under you, its heart beating, it's a phenomenal feeling."

Though Den Hollander also competes in pole bending, she said barrel racing has a special place in her heart, and the technique involved is part of what makes the sport so rewarding.

"I think there is a lot more behind it than what people see," she said. "There are so many different techniques to ride, to train, and there are so many different horses."

Den Hollander said she first considered taking the leap and pursuing barrel racing in the U.S. when she graduated from high school. She'd travelled to Texas several times over the years and enjoyed the time she'd spent there, but she ultimately chose to start at-

tending Western in the hopes of being close to home.

"I just didn't feel at that point that I was ready to go down there and make that jump," she said.

The local barrel racer said she finally made the decision to pursue a future in her sport after spending the last few years balancing horses and competition with her university life.

"It just became a lot. I thought it was finally time to make that jump and align everything together."

Being from outside of Texas, Den Hollander said she would normally need to spend more than \$40,000 each year to attend Sam Houston State University, but with the help of a coach she was able to secure a scholarship that makes her schooling far more affordable.

"That was pretty big," she said. "It all of a sudden came together and was possible and achievable."

As Den Hollander looked ahead to competing in the Exeter Rodeo this year, she said competing in her hometown always grants her an opportunity to reflect on how far she's come as a rider and competitor.

"Exeter's my hometown rodeo," she said. "It's where I started this whole thing."

But with plans to begin the three-day journey to Texas just two days after this year's Exeter Rodeo, the competition will be the last time she rides in her hometown arena before setting off on her grand adventure.

"It feels surreal," she said. "It's where it all started, and it's where it's ending before I'm going down to Texas."

"Looking back, 10-year-old me would just be blown away by where I am right now. It's not been an easy journey."

As for other young aspiring riders who may want to follow in her footsteps? Den Hollander said passion and hard work are the secrets to making it happen.

"Nothing is impossible if you set your heart to it," she said. "If you set a goal for yourself, then you can accomplish really big things."

And as she leaves Exeter behind for the next chapter of her rodeo career, Den Hollander will carry with her the same dream that first took hold in the stands of her hometown rodeo.



(DAN PEER PHOTO)

Exeter barrel racer Olivia Den Hollander is heading to Texas to compete with a scholarship.



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Fun at the Zurich Country Fair



The community came out for another year of the Zurich Country Fair from July 24 to 26, marking another successful year for the event. Marking 162 years since the first fair in the community, this year's event was centred around the Zurich Community Centre. The event featured new attractions and returning favourites, such as wrestling, the baby show and a petting zoo. Also returning this year by popular demand was the parade, which included Clinton Legion Branch 140 Pipes and Drums.



(DAN ROLPH PHOTOS)

Bluewater Deputy Mayor John Becker drives down Main Street on a tractor during the parade.



The fair saw the return of the annual goat, sheep and rabbit shows.



The halls of the Zurich Community Centre were filled with exhibits of art created by local students.



Blue Water Rest Home residents and team members strolled down Main Street in the parade.



This year's fair featured an exhibit hall filled with entries that included everything from Rice Krispie creations to colourful quilts.

United Way Perth-Huron fundraiser hits the road in Huron County

DAN ROLPH

Editor

United Way Perth-Huron is inviting the community to take to the open road in support of the organization with their newest fundraiser.

The first annual United We Ride is a self-guided rain-or-shine motorcycle ride through Huron County that will take riders on paved backroads and through communities along the Lake Huron shore on Saturday, Sept. 19.

The ride will travel along a pre-mapped route and feature an interactive mobile scavenger hunt with challenges and prizes for participants.

Starting at Maitland River Community Church in Wingham, check-in begins at 9 a.m. and kickstands go up at 10 a.m. The route will send riders toward the Goderich Legion, where they're invited to stop for lunch, continuing toward the newly opened Stirling Sands Vineyards in Grand Bend.

Once they cross the finish line in Grand Bend, riders will be able to enjoy a barbecue and dinner, live music and a silent auction at the winery.

The cost to participate as a rider is \$45, or \$30 for passengers. All of the event's proceeds will go toward United Way Perth-Huron's Urgent Needs Fund, and those funds will stay local, helping people across Huron County.

Organizers noted that those without motorcycles can still participate by joining in the festivities at the finish line at Stirling Sands, which will cost \$25 for those looking to join in on the fun.

In the event's online listing, United Way Perth-Huron stated: "Whether you're supporting a rider, cheering on the cause, or simply looking for a fun night out, your participation helps fuel United Way Perth-Huron's Urgent Needs Fund and supports local people when they need it most."

For more information about United We Ride, email Michelle Millar at mmillar@perthhuron.unitedway.ca.

Exeter Examiner

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Annual Decoration Day

AT THE ZION CEMETERY
IN USBORNE TOWNSHIP

ON THE 4TH SUNDAY
AUGUST 23RD, 2026

The cemetery will be opened to allow family, friends and guests to visit and decorate their loved ones grave site. There will be board members available if anyone would like to make a donation for the care and maintenance of the cemetery.

Municipality of Bluewater

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Looking for a rewarding way to support your community?

The Municipality of Bluewater is seeking a dependable and safety-conscious Crossing Guard to help students safely cross at a designated school crossing in Zurich. This part-time role is ideal for individuals who value safety, enjoy working with the public, and want to make a positive difference while earning extra income.

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- Assist students in safely crossing the street at a specified location.
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Compensation & Hours:

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- Morning: 8:20 a.m.-8:50 a.m.
- Afternoon: 3:10 p.m.-3:40 p.m.

Location: Zurich, Ontario

Note: This position may be scheduled for 2 days per week, with the option to work more depending on availability and operational needs.

How to Apply

Submit your resume to:

Municipality of Bluewater,

Attn: Maggie Off, Manager of Facilities, Parks & Recreation

14 Mill Ave., Zurich ON, N0M 2T0 | Email: facilities@municipalityofbluewater.ca

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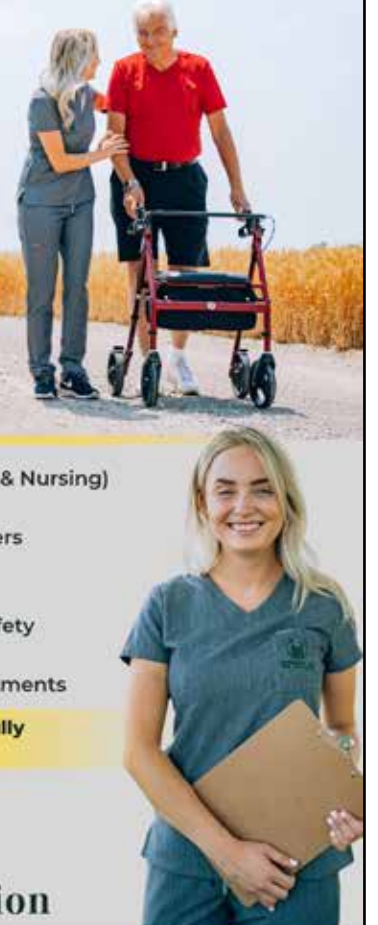


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Dave Mounsey Memorial Fund honours two fallen soldiers with donated defibrillators



(ABCA PHOTOS)

The donation of the two automated external defibrillator (AED) machines, from Dave Mounsey Memorial Fund, for use at Rock Glen Conservation Area, remembers and honours Lieutenant Howard Vincent Pickering and Rifleman Edgar Dawson Butler, two servicemen, from the Arkona area, who made the ultimate sacrifice. Shown in the photo at the donation presentation ceremony from left are Jan Lucas and Frank Lucas, Rock Glen superintendent Michael Bax, Sheila Merrick, Lambton County OPP staff sergeant Jordan Yantzi, workplace safety specialist Stacey Palen, Glenn Scott of the Arkona Lions Club, Dave Mounsey Memorial Fund co-founder and executive director Patrick Armstrong, ABCA board vice-chair David Marsh, Arkona Lions president Doug Crockett, Andrew Randell of Lambton County Emergency Medical Services, Adam Wisniewski of the Arkona Lions and ABCA acting general manager Nathan Schoelier.

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF

Staff Contribution

The Dave Mounsey Memorial Fund has donated two defibrillators to help save lives and protect visitors to Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA) in Arkona.

The fund is a Canadian charity which donates automated external defibrillator (AED) machines to help save lives and to honour law enforcement, fire, paramedics and military members killed in the line of duty.

The two AED machines are donations 265 and 266 from the fund.

The donations remember two fallen soldiers from the Arkona area in Lambton Shores. The life-saving machines honour Lieutenant Howard Vincent Pickering, of the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles, CEF; killed in 1917; and Rifleman Edgar Dawson Butler of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, killed on D-Day 1944.

The presentation of the donations took place at the Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre at RGCA on Thursday morning, July 30, 2026.

Patrick Armstrong is executive direc-

tor and co-founder of the Dave Mounsey Memorial Fund.

"Lt. Pickering and Rifleman Butler made the ultimate sacrifice for us all," he said, adding that the defibrillators will continue the service and dedication to the community that Pickering and Butler demonstrated.

Stacey Palen, workplace safety specialist at Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), said the donation of two life-saving defibrillators is a fitting way to remember the service and sacrifice of the two fallen soldiers.

"We are incredibly grateful for the generous donation of these two automated external defibrillators," she said. "Every additional AED in our community represents an opportunity to save a life. These donations strengthen our commitment to providing a safer environment for our staff, volunteers, visitors, and the public while ensuring life-saving equipment is available when every second counts."

"We sincerely thank the Dave Mounsey Memorial Fund for their investment in the health and safety of our community. What a wonderful way to honour the memory of these two fallen soldiers from the Arkona area."



Shown at the donation presentation ceremony on Thursday, July 30, 2026, at Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre at Rock Glen Conservation Area from left are ABCA board vice-chair David Marsh, Dave Mounsey Memorial Fund co-founder and executive director Patrick Armstrong and workplace safety specialist Stacey Palen.

Frequent fliers: Dragons, damsels, sphinxes

JUDY AND BARRY JOHNSON

Examiner Correspondents

If you are thinking this might involve a great game or puzzle, you are right. Area nature this time of year offers a super chance to use and hone your skills of observation, problem solving, investigation, and lightning-fast decisions and responses. Welcome to the world

of dragonflies, damselflies and a very special Sphinx moth. Grab binoculars, a fully charged cell phone, a camera with zoom capability, and carry a notebook.

There are more than 150 species of dragonflies and damselflies in southwestern Ontario. The easiest way to tell what you are looking at is by observing them when they rest. Dragonflies spread their wings when resting; damselflies

fold their wings along their bodies when they perch. Both have stark differences in the appearance of an adult male and female. At the top of their food choice list are mosquitoes, flies, and flying ants, but in reality, anything that flies and is smaller than them is on the menu. You will find these little beauties near water, on the tops of grasses, and on leaves.

In bygone times these insects were

called “the devil’s darning needles,” and given a fake bad rap about sewing mouths and eyes shut while people slept, a threat used for naughty children and difficult husbands. Info tidbits: Dragonflies were around at least 100 years before dinosaurs. Some female dragonflies drop out of the air when flying and pretend to be dead to avoid unwanted male attention.

(JUDY & BARRY JOHNSON PHOTOS)



WIDOW SKIMMER DRAGONFLY: This is a male. The female has yellow stripes running the length of its body. With a wingspan of about 7.6 centimetres, this dragonfly is part of the King Skimmer species, earning its regal lineage due to its large, powerful body. It grooms and cleans its head and sensory organs with its forelegs. There are two theories about its name widow: because of the resemblance of its black wing patches to a mourning veil, or because unlike other dragonflies, the male does not stay to guard the female or her eggs after mating.



EBONY JEWELWING DAMSELFLY: Male and female have distinctly different appearances, equally magnificent. The male has jet black wings and an iridescent, metallic-hued green/blue body that is brilliant in the sunshine. The female has dark smoky wings with white squares at the tips and a greenish bronze body. Find this broad-winged, long-legged damselfly flitting about or settling in shaded areas by streams or on stones in shallow water. About 5 centimetres long, it defends its territory aggressively against other damselflies.



HUMMINGBIRD CLEARWING MOTH: This 4-to-6-centimetre unusual pollinator is hard to spot but those lucky and patient enough to see one are greatly rewarded. “What on earth is that?” is the question the first time on sighting this day-flying insect. It hovers like a hummingbird, and looks bee-like, but it is neither — it is a Sphinx family moth. Clear wings have rust-coloured borders. It uses its tongue as a straw to sip flower nectar. Look in the same area the following year about the same time for another bit of luck!



HALLOWEEN PENNANT DRAGONFLY: Find this North American native dragonfly, one of our most festive fliers, in sunny spots not far from water. In the sunshine, its orange/amber wings with black/brown bands can look like stained glass. It perches on tall grasses or reeds where the slightest breeze causes it to sway like a flag or pennant it is named after. Patience is rewarded by waiting briefly after it goes hunting for food because it often returns to the exact spot it left. Predators of these as adults are birds, spiders, and larger dragonflies.



CHERRY-FACED MEADOWHAWK DRAGONFLY: Find this dragonfly perching atop tall grasses or twigs in meadows. The male’s red abdomen is marked with distinct black triangles that come up from the bottom. Named for its dark red face, it has black legs, identifying features that distinguish it from three other meadowhawk species: saffron-winged, white-faced, and ruby. Its small size belies its aggressive territorial nature when it flies fast to defend its little kingdom. Egg-laying is done by dropping eggs while flying at knee-high height — think carpet bombing!



BLUE-TAILED DAMSELFLY: Four wings that function independently make this bright beauty a great flier. Dinner includes flying or sitting little insects that it scoops up with its legs. The male is black with a blue thorax and a pale blue band that resembles a sports wrap, close to the end of its black tail. The female has age-related colour forms from violet to blue. This damselfly is often called a dragonfly, however its wings fold over its body, not spread like a dragonfly’s wings- tat’s the tell!

Exeter Rodeo rounds up another exciting year

CONTINUED FROM FRONT



The Canadian Cowgirls returned with the rodeo for another display of skillful riding.



The arena was crowded as the kids rodeo was held before the main event.



Alyiah Chantler and Kaity Dosman participated in the rescue race.



(MACKENZIE HODGINS PHOTOS)

Canadian Cowgirls founder and team captain Terry Jenkins stepped into the arena during the rodeo.



Olivia Den Hollander, an Exeter native and barrel racer, was brought into the arena on Sunday to recognize her achievements as she prepares to go to Texas on a scholarship.



A barrel racer rounds a bend during the Sunday rodeo performance.



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SPORTS

Local girls capture U11 provincial softball title

DAN ROLPH

Editor

After an undefeated run at the U11 Girls Ontario Rural Softball Association (ORSA), a local team of players were crowned provincial champions.

The fresh squad, made up of players from local Zurich and Exeter teams, was venturing into a more intense competitive landscape for the first time as they set off to compete in the provincial championships in Innerkip on July 4 and 5.

Justin and Courtney LaPorte, who were the force behind the team coming together, said they created the group in the hopes of their daughter getting a shot at competing at a higher level in the sport.

"It took off from there," said Courtney.

Though their daughter unfortunately broke her arm and was unable to play in the tournament, the team went on an impressive undefeated run that included a string of three consecutive games.

Courtney said they got in touch with Exeter players to gauge interest in competing at ORSA and organized tryouts to cement the roster. From there, it was hard work and dedication that pushed the team forward.

"Some girls had to practice back-to-back or at different diamonds, but they were all

keen and ready to go, so it worked out," she said.

Though many of the players knew each other through other sports they're involved in, most were new to playing baseball together.

However, that did little to slow them town.

"They just gelled right away," said Courtney. "They knew it was going to be more competitive, they were ready to learn, and they were all a part of the team right from the start."

With the tournament being the first time the team stepped into the diamond together competitively, Justin said the first inning of that initial matchup was dominated by nerves, and the team gave up three runs while scoring one of their own.

After a pep talk and a moment to find their footing as a group, they started to see the results of their practice out in the diamond.

"Pretty much after that it was game on," said Justin.

Finding their momentum, the team earned their spot in the semi-final game against Port Dover. That match was a nail-biter, where the Zurich squad narrowly edged ahead 7-6.

The final matchup against Wyoming was a different story, and the local girls



(JUSTIN LAPORTE PHOTO)

A new local team made up of players from Exeter and Zurich played in the ORSA U11 tournament in Innerkip on July 4 and 5, becoming provincial champions. In front from left are Danni Holmes, Kinsley Ferguson, Adele Hern, Maddie Renning, Olivia Baehnisch and Leah Masse. In middle from left are Emelia Davies, Cailin Willert, Jaden Cann, Claire Bilcke, Payton Batten and Abby LaPorte. In back from left are coach Mitch Masse, coach Megan Davies, coach Courtney LaPorte and coach Justin LaPorte.

stormed their way to a 22-10 victory.

Courtney said the moment they finally won is one she'll carry with her forever.

"The girls ran out and circled our pitcher," she said. "The excitement was some-

thing I'll never forget. That sense of accomplishment and that hard work had paid off. It was really fun to watch that and experience it.

"We're so proud of them."

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MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK

(MACKENZIE HODGINS PHOTOS)



It was an evening of local baseball action on July 28 as the Exeter Express U9 and U11 Red teams were on the fields at the South Huron Recreation Centre. With two games happening simultaneously, the U11s took on the Mitchell Astros Blue team, while the U9s were up against the Zurich Thunder Black team.



It was a close match, but the U11 Reds narrowly lost to Mitchell 12-10. The Exeter Express had more luck on the evening, pulling off a 22-6 win against Zurich.



Exeter Express players showed their skills during a busy night of baseball at the South Huron Recreation Centre.



Zurich Bean Festival 2026

August 21-22, 2026 - Classic Cars, Live Music, Food & Fun!

Event Schedule

beanfest.ca

FRIDAY, AUG 21st

DOWNTOWN

5-9 PM - Food Trucks / Midway

6-8 PM Dunk Tank

BAR OPENS AT 7 PM

7:30-9 PM CHEMICALLY ALTERED - Main Stage

9:30- CLOSE - TASTY NEWZ - Main Stage

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details online: beanfest.ca

SATURDAY, AUG 22nd

7-10 AM - ZMAA Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Arena, 15 East Street

8 AM - Classic Car Show (600+ entries)

8 AM - Street Market / Food Trucks

9:30 AM-5 PM - Midway

11 AM-3 PM - SMOKED PORK CHOP & BEAN - Old Bean Kitchen Site

12:30 PM - Frog Jumping Contest, West Coast Equipment Repair

2-4 PM - Dunk Tank

SATURDAY ENTERTAINMENT MAIN STAGE

11 AM-NOON Uncle Phil and The Leftovers

12-1:30 PM - Roy's Garage

1:30-2:30 PM - Uncle Phil and The Leftovers

2:30-4 PM - Holly Clausius Band

4-4:45 PM - Uncle Phil and The Leftovers

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

MAIN STAGE - SATURDAY 5 PM, 5 BANDS

8-9 PM - ROEMERS *Last year's winner!*

Judges deliberation & winner announced

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Zurich Bean Festival 2026

August 21-22, 2026 - Classic Cars, Live Music, Food & Fun!

Zurich Bean Festival serves up another year of excitement

DAN ROLPH

Editor

A community tradition that has lasted generations is returning to Zurich this month, bringing neighbours and visitors together in a celebration of the area's agricultural roots.

The Zurich Bean Festival will kick off Friday, Aug. 21 with an evening of entertainment and attractions including food trucks and a midway at 5 p.m. Fan favourites Chemically Altered and Tasty Newz will take to the main stage that evening.

The schedule for Saturday, Aug. 22, is packed with festivities starting with the Zurich Minor Athletic Association's pancake and sausage breakfast from starting at 7 a.m.

The smoked pork chop and bean dinner, the main event that started it all, will be held at the old bean kitchen site on Victoria Lane starting at 11 a.m.

The Zurich bean Festival traces its roots back to neighbouring Hensall, where the first ever Ontario Bean Festival was hosted in 1954 on Labour Day. With the festival's success in Hensall, community members in Zurich set out to host a festival of their own that would feed visitors both beans and traditional French and German dishes. By the end of that first festival in Zurich, thousands of hungry attendees had been served 600 pounds of beans.

While speaking of this year's festival, committee member Heidi Klopp said one of the newest additions, the dunk tank, will raise funds for future festivals. With local politicians including South Huron Mayor George Finch and Bluewater Mayor Paul Klopp signing up to get in the tank alongside many others, she said it is sure to be fun for

everyone.

"We thought that it's something fun that everybody can take part in," she said. "It's all ages. We've got local celebrities and community members in Zurich lined up."

Another mainstay of the festival, the Wrench Benders Car Club car show, will also be back this year, bringing more than 600 classic cars to the festival. However, organizers announced that this year's event will not include the cruise that was featured in previous years, mainly due to safety concerns.

Last year's exciting addition, the Battle of the Bands, is also making a comeback for 2026, putting five local bands head-to-head in a competition for a \$1,000 prize. This year's competition will feature The Half Smokes, Stacy Cross, Unframed, Clipped Wingz and Circle the City.

"People were really into it," said Klopp. "It was really great. We're looking forward to doing that again."

The exciting evening of music will cap off with last year's Battle of the Bands winner, Roemers, returning to perform and bring the festival to a close.

Though the Zurich Bean Festival has been feeding crowds for generations, Klopp said the committee is calling this year's event the 59th festival, since organizers moved the festival online for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

And with a momentous anniversary on the horizon for 2027, Klopp said organizers are already looking ahead to making next year extra special.

"We've got lots of ideas," said Klopp. "We want to make it a big one."

For more information about the Zurich Bean Festival, or to learn about getting involved, visit beanfest.ca.



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Over \$145,000 coming to Huron County to strengthen communities, support seniors, and help victims

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF

Staff Contribution

The Ontario government has announced that it is investing \$145,083 to support five community-focused initiatives in Huron County.

According to a press release from the province, the investments target initiatives designed to promote health, safety, social inclusion and municipal revitalization.

“Our government is proud to invest in local initiatives and municipalities that directly improve the quality of life for residents across Huron County,” said Huron-Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson. “Whether it’s empowering our seniors to stay active and connected, revitalizing our rural downtowns, or providing

essential, compassionate care to victims of crime, these investments ensure our communities remain strong, healthy, and resilient.”

Seniors Community Grant

REACH Huron has been awarded \$15,720 through the Seniors Community Grant for its project “Eat Well, Live Well Together.” The program will host interactive culinary classes that bring seniors together to share cultural backgrounds, enjoy social connection, and learn practical skills for healthy eating and wellness.

Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health is receiving \$24,998 through the Seniors Community Grant for its “Connect Along the Shore” initiative. By blending phone, virtual, and in-person sessions, including expanding technology programs at Legion Branch 109 in

Goderich, the initiative makes it easier for rural seniors to stay connected. Partnering with local family health teams and community hubs, the project provides early wellness checkpoints and gives participants opportunities to lead group conversations and share knowledge.

Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO) Program

Victim Services of Huron Perth is receiving \$32,500 in one-time additional funding through the Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario Program. This investment directly boosts resources for staff and volunteers providing immediate, compassionate, crisis support and services to victims and survivors across the region.

Senior Active Living Centre (SALC) Program

The Township of North Huron is re-

ceiving \$55,000 through the Senior Active Living Centre Program to support programs in Wingham and Blyth. This funding will give local seniors access to nutritious hot meals, exercise and wellness classes, and educational sessions focused on health and safety. The initiative connects participants directly to community services while offering them a voice through a new Seniors Advisory Input Group to shape local programming.

Rural Ontario Development (ROD) Program

The Township of Howick will receive \$16,865.31 through the Rural Ontario Development Program. These funds are designated for the township’s Community Improvement and Beautification Plan, supporting projects that enhance public spaces and encourage economic growth.



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COLUMNS

Exeter High School graduates 1929: A banner year



BOB HEYWOOD

Examiner Columnist

In the early years Exeter and area produced and presented to the nation, an impressive array of notable scholars, a few of whom were celebrated and honoured internationally.

To name a few, Harriet Brooks was born in our town on July 2, 1876. She would become the first female nuclear scientist in Canada, defying the odds in a male dominated field of research. She became famous for her scientific work in radioactivity, going on to discover “atomic recoil and transmutation of elements in radioactive display.” I am certain our readers all know how important that is (tongue-in-cheek)!

Lulu Gaiser was born in Crediton on June 1, 1896, earning her Ph.D. at Columbia University, eventually becoming head of the botany department and senior professor of botanical research at McMaster University. This is beyond this writer’s comprehension, but Miss Gaiser was a pioneer in “cytotaxonomy and cytogenetics” earning her the right to complete her career at Harvard University’s Grey Herbarium from 1949 to 1954. Lulu Gaiser actually broke the gender barrier when she became the first female professor at McMaster.

Perhaps over the next few months we can learn more of these lady trailblazers, along with men like T.A. Russell from Usborne, who became a leading Canadian industrialist and

Charles Currelly born in Exeter, and leading several archaeological expeditions to Egypt and Asia until finally becoming the founder and eventually the curator of the Royal Ontario Museum.

In fact, it was Currelly and Russell who shared some reflection on their humble beginnings back in South Huron, as recorded in Currelly’s book “I Brought the Ages Home.”

“About the year 1926, as I was putting on my gown to go on the platform at Convocation Hall, U. of T., Tommy (T.A.) Russell came over to me and said, ‘It’s not a bad showing for Exeter, is it?’ I looked around and saw professor Ramsay, the Greek scholar and the oldest Exeter boy present; Sir John Willison, writer and Canadian correspondent for the London Times; Brigadier General Mitchell, head of the faculty of applied science; professor Sir John McLennan (whose father had been a mill operator in town); Tommy Russell himself, of the Board of Governors; William Martin, the second premier of Saskatchewan; Martin’s brother; myself (Currelly) and two junior members of the staff.”

Not a bad showing for old Exeter indeed!

In the last week of May 1959, the University of Western Ontario (UWO) held their annual convocation ceremonies at the campus in London. The South Huron Community had reason to be proud as one of this area’s most noted scholars was a special guest on the platform. Dr.

Walter H. Johns, Ph.D., who had received his early education at SS #2 Thames Road in Usborne, later graduating from the Exeter High School, was called to the dais in London where he was presented an honorary degree by his old alma mater. 30 years earlier Walter had graduated from Western and began teaching at Cornell University in Ithaca, lat-

er moving to Edmonton to lecture at the University of Alberta. Dr. Johns served as the president of the university for 10 years, eventually receiving the Alberta Order of Excellence award and in 1977, he was inducted into the Order of Canada. Many who read this column would remember his brother Kenneth who carried on the family farm on the Elimville Line in Usborne.

Many of Dr. Johns’ graduating classmates at UWO in 1929 had attended high school in Exeter and went on to enjoy illustrious careers. Cecil Hodgson, a member of that class, reminisced that a larger number of graduates that year went on to universities than any class before or since. Hodgson felt that part of the reason was the introduction of compulsory school attendance until 16 years of age. This legislation was introduced in 1919, bringing an end to the practice of many local farm boys who ended their education with the writing of their high school entrance exams. The lure of the farm often proved stronger than that of academic learning. Hodgson also credited the inspiration the class received from E.J. Wetthey who was a long serving principal along with his staff of three other outstanding educators.

Hodgson himself received degrees in commerce and finance and after serving periods with Massey Harris, Canada Packers, and T. Eaton Company Ltd., he spent 27 years at Toronto’s head office of the Hydro Electric Power Commission, finally serving as chief internal auditor. Another fellow graduate, Laird B. Joynt of Hensall, who also pursued business and accounting, became president of the Toronto chapter of the National Office Management Association. Having become a chartered accountant in 1933, Joynt was recruited by the Kodak Company in 1941, rising

quickly to the position of treasurer for the Canadian corporation.

Four members of the class of 1929 chose medicine as their desired vocation. Harry Seldon, son of Exeter businessman R.G. Seldon, graduated from Queens University in Kingston as M.D. and C.M., the latter letters referring to a masters in surgery. Carl G. Morlock of Crediton also graduated as a medical doctor with a degree from Western. To both men’s credit, they rose in medical notoriety until they were reunited as two of the leading doctors on staff at the world-famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Seldon travelled extensively as a consultant and lecturer in some of the leading medical schools and hospitals in North America. He also was elected president of the International Anesthesia Society with a large and impressive staff of doctors, nurses and technicians working under him.

Another Exeter student, J. Maurice Harvey graduated from the University of Toronto faculty of medicine, standing second in a class of over one hundred students and adding the letters B.A., M.P., M.D. to his name. Not to be outdone by her male classmates, Dr. Margaret Strang B.A. M.D. of Usborne Township passed her final year in medicine at Western. She entered St. Joseph’s Hospital in Hamilton, finally serving as a medical missionary in Western Canada.

George Hind graduated from the Toronto Dental College with the licentiate of dental surgery.

Jean Elder and Lyle Statham, both of Hensall, followed each other in the quest for pharmaceutical degrees. The two 1929 high school graduates also became husband and wife, together establishing a flourishing business in Kingsville. Harold Hill of Crediton received his B.A. at Western and was awarded the gold medal in honor mathematics. Grace

Chapman of Hay Township graduated as a nurse from Hamilton General Hospital. Evelyn Howard received her B.A. degree, securing second class honours in French and Spanish. Howard Dignan secured his B.A. degree at Victoria University, Toronto and became a high school teacher himself. Mr. Edgar Thompson of Usborne obtained his doctorate in geological studies from the University of Wisconsin. This 1929 graduate from Exeter High School spent 44 years with the Ontario Department of Mines and revolutionized fieldwork mining in Northern Ontario with the use of helicopter supported reconnaissance surveys.

Grant Sanders, son of S.M. Sanders, one of the business leaders in Exeter, also went on to great things. He had watched his father start the canning factory and enjoy success in other financial ventures. The young Sanders attended the University of Toronto, receiving his M.A. in economics. He specialized in investment counselling and as a business broker, moving to New York City as a young man. He spent most of his career on Wall Street along with holding leadership positions with Radio Corp. of America, Philco Corp. and International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. During the Second World War, he served in the U.S Airforce, working from the Pentagon as chief of the availability scheduling of the military personnel. He scheduled the return of the AAF troops for an entire year. This writer remembers meeting Grant many years ago, as he was a first cousin to my paternal grandfather.

To say the least, the class of 1929 from Exeter High School made an indelible mark for the good, both in Canada and USA. I am sure old E.J. Wetthey thought proudly of his small-town scholars.

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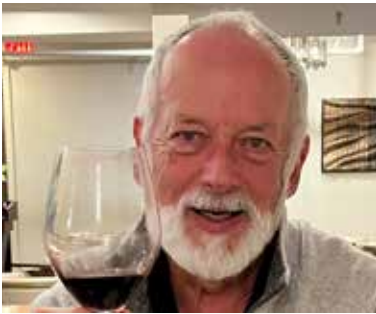
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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Witness to a 50-year-old mystery



PAUL KNOWLES

Examiner Columnist

Laurie Wickens passed away last month.

I know what you are thinking: "That's a very odd opening sentence for a travel feature." I agree.

But the thing is, not many people have used a unique, personal experience to create a travel destination, a museum that has drawn visitors for two decades. But Laurie Wickens, and a few dedicated friends, did exactly that.

And three years ago, I had the chance to visit their museum, officially the "Shag Harbour UFO Interpretive Centre," founded in 2006 by the Shag Harbour UFO Incident Society, and until his passing in July, usually staffed by Laurie Wickens. And that's where I met him.

But the story goes back decades further, to the night of October 4, 1967. On that evening, a number of Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia residents saw something they could not explain, and would never forget. One of those witnesses was Laurie Wickens.

What they saw – and this was corroborated by several witnesses – was a flying object, about 60 feet in diameter, with flashing lights. It was flying above the waters of Shag Harbour, and

then crashed into the sea, and disappeared.

Wickens, then a 17-year-old kid, and he had the presence of mind get to a pay phone and call the RCMP to report the incident.

Whoever answered the phone at the local RCMP office was skeptical. Instead of asking for more details, Wickens was asked if he had been drinking! The call ended. But a few minutes later, before he left the area, the phone rang. Turned out, the cops had been getting quite a few calls since Wickens', and they all agreed that something mysterious was happening. Later on, the testimony of Pan Am pilots added to the veracity of the sighting – they had seen an object that matched the description flying over the Gulf of Maine that night.

Wickens' answer to the return call from the RCMP? "I told you I wasn't lying."

In the end, the Shag Harbour UFO became officially noted as "the only government-documented UFO crash in the world." So even the government agreed that something "unidentified" happened that night.

But to this day, no one knows what, exactly.

It's probably important to note that Shag Harbour is located close to the southern tip of Nova Scotia. It's 65 km south of Yarmouth, due east of Portland, Maine, and not all that distant from Boston.

Those proximities are probably important, because while Laurie Wickens and his colleagues were happy to talk about the Shag Harbour UFO, they didn't insist that it was anything other-worldly.

Wickens told me that almost

immediately following the crash, a large American navy vessel sailed into Shag Harbour. Townspeople were instantly aware that the place was suddenly teeming with American and Canadian military officers, and a U.S. Navy dive team was also in town.

The kerfuffle lasted for about five days. And just as quickly as the American contingent had arrived, they were gone – the ship sailed away, the uniforms were gone, and everything was back to normal.

Including, it was eventually determined, the sea bed of Shag Harbour. No evidence was ever found – or at least, ever acknowledged by powers that be – of any crashed flying object, unidentified or not. A spokesperson for Canada's National Defence Headquarters stated, "The Rescue Coordination Centre conducted a preliminary investigation and discounted the possibilities that the sighting was produced by an aircraft, flares, floats, or any other known objects." Thus, by definition: an Unidentified Flying Object.

Local people, including Wickens – and occasional visiting UFO enthusiasts – continued to search, but to no avail.

There is a bit of a contradiction between the museum, and the actual opinions of Laurie Wickens and his colleagues. The museum includes a lot of UFO theory, including figures that look remarkably like E.T.

But the witnesses and experts I met hold to one of two other possibilities – either the Americans spirited away a wrecked, experimental craft, or the Shag Harbour UFO was an amphibious vessel that left under its own



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

UFO witness Laurie Wickens, who helped turn that experience into a quirky tourist destination.

power.

Either way, those in the know point straight south of the border for their answer, concluding that an American military vessel that had no business entering Canadian airspace or water, did so anyway.

Wickens was a fisherman by profession, but spent countless hours at the museum. His obituary, marking his passing in July, stated that he "was a huge part of the Shag Harbour UFO Incident Society and museum."

Another publication, The Canadian Gothic, wrote, "'For many Canadians, and for countless people around the world fascinated by the unexplained, Laurie was much more than the primary witness to the Shag Harbour Incident. He was the reason the story endured. Lau-

rie's passing marks the loss of one of the last living connections to one of Canada's greatest mysteries. His story, and the mystery that followed him for nearly six decades, will continue to inspire curiosity for generations to come."

The Shag Harbour museum is one of the quirkiest, and most charming, small museums I've had the privilege to visit. I hope that it can continue to operate, after having lost one of its most valuable human resources, UFO witness and eager story-teller Laurie Wickens.

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.



A painting that reflects the memories of the UFO witnesses.



Even though the Shag Harbour museum organizers don't think the flying object was extraterrestrial, the museum caters to somewhat wilder theories.

ABOUT TIME AND TIMES: : Time travel in the Schwarzwald



JUDY FINKBEINER JOHNSON

Examiner Columnist

Wouldn't it be amazing if time travel existed for us, like in sci-fi books and movies? If in the blink of an eye, we could go from the present back into history or forward into the future? Not to participate but simply to observe times that we wonder about?

The closest I have come to time travel was in the summer of 1977, a few months after my husband Barry and I moved to Sint-Niklaas in Flemish Belgium. Since childhood I had been curious about the Schwarzwald, (Black Forest) in Germany, the place where my paternal ancestors left when they emigrated to the Crediton area in 1848. Info was limited because the Google search engine (my bestie "find and learn" source I visit many times daily) didn't enter the Canadian scene until about the year 2000.

Enter our VW Golf

Bicycles, bought on day one in Belgium, were our mode of transportation for our first months in Sint-Niklaas. Wobbles and terror ensued as we careened side by side with car traffic on the way to our furnished apartment.

What an incredible luxury it was to drive a car again when we took delivery of our bright red 1977 VW Golf (Rabbit) with a manual transmission, a quite powerful engine and no radio! The little two-door hatchback was much smaller than the Oldsmobile we sold before leaving Canada but was ideally suited for our purposes that included "threading the needle" of driving on centuries old cobblestone streets lined with shops or homes.

Our Canadian perception of distance was very different than that of many Europeans. To us the 600 kilometre trip from Sint Niklaas to the Schwarzwald was possible in a five-day long weekend. New Belgium friends were virtually speechless when they heard

our plan, "You can't drive all that way for a few days! No one does that! Go in July when the factory closes for vacation."

To the Black Forest

Part of our trip was on a no-speed-limit autobahn. At over 130 kilometres per hour our Golf was continually passed by much faster autos, usually Mercedes of a varied palette of colours, including matching hubcaps. They sped by with a nearly constant "whoosh," visible in the rear-view mirror very briefly and again very briefly through the windshield. Drivers were excellent; it was illegal and very costly to even touch the white line on the outside of the right lane.

We reached our Baiersbronn destination in the evening, finding a "zimmer frei" (vacancy) sign on a picturesque centuries-old Black Forest farmhouse with glorious flowers cascading from multiple window boxes. It would be the first of several wonderful visits to that working farm over the years. Although our hosts spoke no English and we spoke no German (except for words like schnitzel, auf wiedersehen, bitte, danke), they made us feel like family.

In the famed Schwarzwald, we experienced first-hand the main holiday attraction there for Germans and other Europeans — hiking on paths in the misty, dark forest where tall pines and spruce trees tower above a forest floor carpeted with pine needles. In the years we visited, we only encountered only a handful of other people on four-to-five-hour hikes. Of course, like all of Europe, it is much busier now. It is a mystical, magical place with hundreds of kilometres of trails that wind below an often-dense canopy before emerging into sunlight along streams and waterfalls. We had no doubt that if we strayed from the path sparsely marked on trees in those days, we would share the fate of Grimm Brothers fairytale people, lost forever!

Every morning started the same way, waking up early under thick and light feather duvets, covered by pristine crisp white cotton covers.

On the table at 6 a.m., breakfast was a feast of mouth-watering treats, so substantial that we were fuelled for hours-long hikes. Cheeses, Black Forest ham, hard-boiled

eggs, rich-tasting, local green-tinged honey, local fruit preserves and home-baked bread varieties along with cups of hot tea started our days.

At Kreuz — cross

One morning I stood silently on the parcel of land called Kreuz (cross) where two rivers cross in the Schwarzwald valley area where generations of my Finkbeiner ancestors were born, played, worked, and died. It was the exact spot where my paternal great-great-grandparents left to go "nach Amerika" in 1848 as cited in church records.

How must they have felt the day they parted from loved ones, knowing they would never again see them? I found it very hard to say goodbye just for what we thought would be Barry's year-long work term in Belgium — it became almost four. I recall very well how it felt to look back to the family farmhouse, imprinting its image through tears as we slowly drove up the road and into an unknown future.

The faces of many of the people looked familiar and I noticed no one looked at me as a stranger when on errands. It was apparent that we shared bloodlines and DNA.

One day in Baiersbronn we caught sight of a handsome young man who could have been an identical twin for one of my younger brothers. Still homesick living abroad, I

couldn't resist following him briefly, at a distance, just for a longer view, an echo of my much-missed brother.

Beer and birds

In nearby Freudenstadt we visited the historic Drei König (Three Kings, the Magi) Hotel and Brauerei (brewery) owned by Finkbeiners. No teetotalling in the Old Country evidently! We discovered a large stained-glass window showing a family crest as well as a massive bronze plaque with the crest and history of the name on an entry wall. I have been unable to find the origins of this crest. Research shows that in the past, some German tradespeople were given coats-of-arms. Centuries-old records show Finkbeiner ancestors' occupation as Holzhauer (wood-cutter who clears trees, processes trees to timber/wood for buildings or fuel) with rights to work in the Black Forest, so that is a possible linkage. It is also possible that a branch of the family decided to invest in having a coat of arms created as a family legacy.

Our crest does not have a majestic lion or fierce dragon — it features a bird leg and foot, a visual representation of the name Finkbeiner, meaning finch bone. We can assume that at least one ancestor made history by having skinny legs! Perched atop is a finch; the

Black Forest is home to Chaffinches: their heads are grey, their grey wings have white slashes, and they have dusty-pink breasts. Vocal specialists, they sing in distinctly different vocal dialects learned from others in their valley/area of the forest.

Church records

In an Evangelical church in Mitteltal we found centuries-old, handwritten in Latin, old German and Middle German, detailed records of generations of the Finkbeiner family, including my ancestors who emigrated to Crediton. The books showed birthdates, occupations, marriage dates, death dates and causes of death, previous generations' names, residences and more. It took some persuasion for the pastor to trust us with these irreplaceable records of area history.

He was puzzled, telling us that we were the only non-Mormon people who had come there to look for information. We were blessed that the pastor allowed us to borrow the tomes to make copies in town to share with relatives in Canada. We returned those precious books to him the same day, with heartfelt gratitude.

NEXT COLUMN

Black Forest discoveries: Hell, hiking, hospitality, horology history (the famous cuckoo clocks).



The bright red 1977 VW Golf (Rabbit) with a manual transmission.

(JUDY FINKBEINER JOHNSON PHOTO)

Mentoring Matters: Looking forward to fall



AMY WILHELM

Examiner Columnist

As we move into the middle of August, thoughts naturally begin to shift toward fall. For parents, teachers and students, that means shopping for school supplies, organizing schedules, and preparing for the return to the classroom. Here at Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron, it marks the beginning

of a busy season of programming, volunteer recruitment and fundraising.

We often refer to the year as having two major fundraising seasons — spring and fall. Our staff and volunteers are hard at work planning events that not only raise the funds needed to support our mentoring programs but also create opportunities to connect with our community. While fundraising is an important part of what we do, September holds even greater significance because it is Big Brothers Big Sisters Month across Canada.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Month is an opportunity to celebrate the incredible impact that mentoring has on children and youth. Every day, we see

the difference a caring, consistent mentor can make in a young person's life. Whether it is helping a child build confidence, encouraging them to try something new, or simply being a trusted friend who listens, mentoring creates relationships that can change the course of a young person's future.

One of the highlights of the month is our 10th annual Harvesting Hope Dinner and Online Auction, taking place on Friday, Sept. 25, at the Barn Restaurant and Pub in Centuria. This special evening is dedicated to celebrating and supporting the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron. Guests will enjoy a cocktail hour, a delicious harvest-style buffet dinner, live

musical entertainment by Gerard Creces, an exciting live mentoring auction and access to our online auction, which runs from Sept. 20 to 27.

Harvesting Hope is about much more than raising funds. It is an opportunity to increase awareness of the life-changing mentoring programs we provide, connect with future volunteers, and ensure we can continue supporting children and youth throughout South Huron and our surrounding communities.

There are many ways to get involved:

- Attend the Harvesting Hope Dinner on Sept. 25.
- Bid on exciting items in our online auction from Sept. 20 to 27.

- Donate an item or service to our online auction.

- Become an event sponsor and help ensure that every dollar raised goes directly toward supporting local mentoring programs.

For event details, tickets, sponsorship opportunities or information about our online auction, visit our website or follow Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron on Facebook.

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron, we believe every young person deserves the opportunity to realize their full potential. With the continued support of our community, we can ignite that potential — one mentor, one child, and one life at a time. Together, we truly are #BiggerTogether.

South Huron's Butternut Orchard turns three



JASON RAMSAY-BROWN

Examiner Columnist

If you've driven past MacDonald Road and Bells Line, just north-west of Exeter, at some point in the last three years you may have noticed a large, fenced-in area on the south side of the road.

Situated on what was once the property of the late Stuart Alexander Triebner and family, the Triebner Tract was acquired by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) in 2009 and has seen its fair share of ecological restoration work since, including wetland construction and numerous tree plantings. No single project on the site, however, has the same vital importance as what stands behind those tall fences that sprang up back in 2023.

The Southern Ontario Butternut Seed Orchard, the most recent of six such "archive orchards" located around Ontario, is part of a critical effort to protect one of the most endangered tree species in Ontario, the butternut (*Juglans cinerea*).

For the last several decades, a fungus called the butter canker (*Ophiognomonia clavignen-*

ti-juglandacearum) has been killing butternuts all across the continent. Diseased trees form long, sunken wounds which leak black fluid in the spring. Underneath the bark, the fungus destroys the tree's cambium layer, living tissue that is essential to the tree's growth and survival. Consensus amongst researchers suggests we've already lost at least three quarters of the butternut population in North America, with many sources suggesting that a decline as high as 90 per cent and counting might be more accurate.

Archive orchards, like the one found outside Exeter, are meant to serve as lifeboats for the species. While extremely rare, some butternuts seem to demonstrate tolerance of, or resistance to, butternut canker. About 20 years ago, the Forest Gene Conservation Association (FGCA) began a process of cloning such trees by taking clippings of the previous year's growth and grafting them on to black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) rootstock, a "cousin" of the butternut which themselves are totally unaffected by the canker. After two years of care, these grafts are deemed stable enough to be transplanted to the orchards.

By putting these potentially resistant trees all together in an orchard, conservationists hope the nuts they produce can be grown into new generations of canker-resistant butternuts which can then be planted back in the wild. There is some amount of uncertainty in this strategy as, at present, resistance cannot be explicitly proven. Trees used in

the orchards are only presumed to have resistance because their source trees have survived while all of the other butternuts around them have succumbed to the canker.

While butternuts were never an overly populous part of Ontario's forests, their ecological importance is quite significant. Its nuts are rich in protein and fat and so are a valuable food source for deer, bears, turkeys, chipmunks and other animals. Many insect species depend on butternut trees as well, including various butterflies, moths, beetles and weevils. Down in the dirt, juglone, a chemical produced by butternuts, alters soil chemistry so that a variety of specific plant species cannot grow nearby. This produces a safe harbour of sorts for plant species that are juglone-tolerant, helping to enhance biodiversity.

While black walnuts provide all of these same benefits, both species are capable of surviving conditions that the other cannot, so neither can completely fill the ecological role of the other.

In centuries past, butternuts were a treasured part of the diet of Indigenous peoples, used to make nut milks and butters, soups, and were mixed into many other dishes. Bark served medicinal purposes, husks were used in dye-making, and the lumber was put to many practical purposes, including canoe building. Working to ensure the survival of the butternut also helps to preserve and protect this important cultural legacy.

Orchard locations have been



(JASON RAMSAY-BROWN PHOTO)

The Southern Ontario Butternut Seed Orchard, located near Exeter, held an official opening event on Aug. 18, 2023.

selected according to strict criteria. Butternuts are very intolerant of shade, so sites must offer full sun throughout the entire growing season. Soils must be healthy, rich, and well-drained. The entire five acres of the orchard must be easily accessible to ease ongoing maintenance and monitoring activities. Perhaps most importantly of all, sites are typically isolated from one another geographically, helping to minimize the impact that severe seasonal conditions or natural disasters might have on the project as a whole.

Butternut archive orchards are currently located near Ottawa, Barrie, Kitchener and Woodstock, in addition to the one located outside Exeter.

Ongoing management of these orchards is no small feat, and

requires significant effort from both the FGCA and its regional partners, like the ABCA. The trees are monitored for pest and weather damage. Sites are routinely mowed and hand-weeded to minimize competition and reduce encroachment by invasive species. Flowers are removed on younger trees to help redirect energy to root and branch development. Irrigation systems are deployed in the spring and dismantled for winter storage. Nuts are inspected, tested, and collected for planting when the time comes.

ABCA has signed a 15-year agreement with the FGCA to maintain and monitor the Southern Ontario Butternut Seed Orchard. Funding is provided by the FGCA.

GREYMATTER: Is Your Watch Smarter Than You? The Growing World of Wellness Tracking



ANNETTE GERDES

Examiner Contributor

Not long ago, the only thing a watch did was tell time. Today, many watches and fitness bands can count your steps, monitor your heart rate, remind you to take medications, track your sleep, detect falls, and even call for help if you can't. What once seemed like something out of a science fiction movie or the Jetsons cartoon has become an everyday tool that is helping many older adults stay healthier, safer, and more independent.

But here's the good news you don't need the latest smartwatch to take charge of your health.

Wellness tracking simply means paying attention to your health and noticing changes over time. Whether you use a note-

book, a smartphone, a blood pressure monitor, or a smartwatch, the goal is the same that is to better understand your body and make informed decisions about your health.

Why Is Wellness Tracking Important?

As we age, our bodies naturally change. Sometimes small changes happen slowly and are easy to overlook.

Tracking certain aspects of our wellness can help us notice those changes sooner and take action when needed.

Wellness tracking can help you:

Recognize changes in your health before they become bigger concerns.

Have more meaningful conversations with your healthcare provider.

Stay accountable to healthy habits.

Maintain independence by taking an active role in your own well-being.

Provide family members with reassurance that you are staying safe and healthy.

The goal isn't to worry about every number or become obsessed with tracking it is simply about being aware. Knowledge

gives us the opportunity to make choices that support our health.

Many seniors still prefer the traditional method of using a notebook to record blood pressure, blood sugar, weight, medications, exercise, water intake, or even how they're feeling each day if you are fortunate enough to live in a retirement home the nursing staff and wellness person tracks and records your vitals and weight monthly. Looking back over your notes can help you recognize patterns and provide valuable information to share with your healthcare provider.

If you enjoy technology, your smartphone can become a useful wellness tool. There are many easy to use apps that can track blood pressure, medications, water intake, exercise, nutrition, and even your mood.

Many create simple charts so you can easily see your progress over time.

Fitness trackers and smartwatches offer even more options. Depending on the model, they can monitor:

- Daily steps and activity
- Heart rate
- Blood oxygen levels
- Sleep quality

Medication and hydration reminders

Breathing exercises

GPS location

Fall detection

Emergency SOS calling

For many seniors and their families, fall detection provides valuable peace of mind. Some watches can detect a serious fall and, if you don't respond, automatically contact an emergency contact or emergency services. Heart rate monitoring can also alert you to unusual changes that may be worth discussing with your healthcare provider.

Wellness tracking isn't limited to wearable devices. Home blood pressure monitors, blood glucose meters, smart scales, pulse oximeters, and even a simple thermometer can all help you keep track of your health between appointments.

It's also important to remember that wellness isn't only physical. Good health includes emotional well-being too. Some people track their mood, keep a gratitude journal, or simply ask themselves each day:

- Did I laugh?
- Did I spend time with someone I enjoy?
- Did I get outside?

Did I move my body?

Did I do something that brought me joy?

These small check ins can be just as valuable as counting steps.

The goal of wellness tracking isn't to chase perfect numbers or compete with anyone else. It is about becoming more aware of your own health and noticing changes early. If you're interested in getting started, choose just one area to focus on perhaps walking, sleep, blood pressure, or water intake. Small habits often lead to meaningful improvements over time.

Technology continues to evolve, but one thing hasn't changed: staying active, eating well, getting enough rest, keeping your mind engaged, maintaining social connections, and seeing your healthcare provider regularly remain the foundation of healthy aging.

Whether you wear the latest smartwatch or still prefer the trusty watch you've owned for years, the most important thing is paying attention to your health. After all, sometimes the smartest device isn't the one on your wrist it's the person wearing it.

POLICE BRIEFS

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF

Staff Contribution

Driver charged after entering collision scene

A 65-year-old Hensall man is expected in court later this month to answer to a set of charges after allegedly entering the scene of a collision on Lakeshore Road in Lambton Shores on July 30.

Lambton County OPP said officers were investigating a serious collision near Cedar Point Line, where the road was closed for the investigation. They said man drove around the road closure barricades and entered the restrict-

ed area, leading to a traffic stop.

The driver was charged with operation while impaired (80 plus) and driving on a closed highway. He has since been released from custody and is scheduled to appear in court in Sarnia on Aug. 26.

Traffic complaint leads to arrest

A traffic complaint on Aug. 2 in Grand Bend has resulted in an impaired driving-related charge.

According to Lambton County OPP, officers were notified of the complaint on Lakeshore Road around 5:30 p.m. They said officers lo-

cated the vehicle and driver and stopped them on Ontario Street North and Main Street.

Following an investigation, the driver, a 35-year-old man from Sarnia, was arrested and charged with failure or refusal to comply with a demand. They have since been released from custody and are scheduled to appear in court on Oct. 14 in Sarnia.

One person charged following indecent act investigation

Police have charged a 19-year-old Brampton resident following an indecent act investigation in Grand Bend on July 12.

Police said Lambton County

OPP officers were dispatched just before 5 p.m. to a report of an indecent act at a local beach. Following an investigation, the individual was charged with committing an indecent act in a public place. They are scheduled to appear in court on Aug. 31 in Sarnia.

Police investigate weapons incident

Huron County OPP officers investigated a weapons call in Goderich on July 28, though no charges have been announced following the incident.

According to police, officers were dispatched to the call at

an abandoned building near a group of local businesses on Huron Road. Officers determined that the weapons were toy pellet guns, and six individuals were initially detained as part of the investigation but later released.

Police said there were no injuries reported and there was no threat to public safety.

Individuals with information or dashcam footage of the incident are being asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.



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BACK IN TIME

30 Years Ago

Exeter fiddler Gerry Smith and his daughter, pianist Linda Maldonado, won a fourth Canadian fiddle championship in Shelbourne Saturday.

40 Years Ago

August 13, 1986 - The cornerstone for the new parish hall at Trivitt Anglican Church was laid Sunday morning.

The good news about turnip mosaic virus that was given two weeks ago has quickly and devastatingly turned to bad for local growers. Researcher Tom Lowery said this week, "Suddenly it's appearing with a vengeance. It's widespread and increasing."

55 Years Ago

August 12, 1971 - More than 200 Grand Bend and area residents turned out Sunday afternoon to see a long-time dream come true.

The \$30,000 Grand Bend Medical Centre was officially opened with the two new Irish doctors in attendance for part of the ceremonies. Before the time for the ribbon cutting ceremony rolled around Dr. Sean Tapp was called away on an emergency and a few minutes after the ceremony Dr. Liam O'Connor attended a patient at the centre.

65 Years Ago

August 12, 1961 - For the sec-

ond time in two months, Walper's Men's Wear suffered a major loss over the weekend when over \$3,500 worth of pants and suits were stolen.

Rev. Merrill James, 35, has assumed the pastorate of the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Dashwood. He succeeds Rev. J.W. Gillings.

The district's new fire truck successfully passed its initial test Thursday, when firemen fought a barn fire on the farm of Howard Pym, near Elimville.

A west Nigerian delegation toured General Coach Works of Canada in Hensall last week and appeared impressed with the quality of the manufactur-

ing, according to plant officials who accompanied them.

70 Years Ago

August 13, 1956 - Jimmy Hamilton, R.R. 1, Hensall didn't exactly strike gold when he went digging for worms last week, but he did come up with a rare coin. The lad unearthed a one cent piece dated 1857.

Flying officer D. Broadbent of R.R. 3, Exeter crash landed a Harvard training plane in a field of grain near Brucefield Friday. The engine quit during a routine instruction flight.

80 Years Ago

August 11, 1946 - Cattle raisers in this community are faced

with a serious problem as pastures are drying up through lack of moisture.

Orland Taylore, Grant Cudmore, Edward Hunter Duvar, Leo Witmer and Charles Parsons are at Camp Hiawatha near Goderich for 11 days.

130 Years Ago

August 13, 1896 - The Sunday school of James Street Church picnicked at Shapton's Grove, Wednesday afternoon. There was a large crowd present and an enjoyable time was spent.

The Winchelsea Cream and Butter Association is this week paying patrons 12 cents per pound for May and June butter.

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Riddles

What runs but cannot walk, has a mouth but no teeth, and has a bed but cannot sleep?
A river.

There is one word spelled wrong in every English dictionary. What is it?
Wrong.

What goes in your pocket but keeps it empty?
A hole.

What has legs but cannot walk?
A chair.

I sometimes run but cannot walk. You follow me around. What am I?
Your nose.

What word begins and ends with the E but only has one letter?
Envelope.

What do you find at the end of a rainbow?
The letter W.

I'm taller when I'm young and shorter when I'm old. What am I?
A candle.

What is always right in front of you, yet you cannot see it?
The future.

What has a tongue but cannot talk?
A shoe.

What is easier to get into than out of?
Trouble.

Sudoku

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

Solutions on pg. 30

Pet of the Week 🐾 🐾 🐾

Dog Park Playtime Safety

Keep Dog Park playtime safe by watching your dog at all times. Enter through double gates leashed, use the correct size area, and scoop waste immediately. Leave treats, toys, and unvaccinated puppies at home. If play gets rough or postures stiffen, separate the dogs and leave.



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JACKSON

This is Jackson, a 102 pound Bernadoodle born Canada Day July 1, 2022 was named after a very famous country singer. Jackson is a gentle, loving, happy boy who enjoys being around people and doesn't think twice about sitting on your feet or leaning against you for attention. Jackson is truly one of a kind. Daddy and Mommy (Wayne & Marie) would be lost without him.



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AUGUST

RECURRING AUGUST PROGRAM EVENTS 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 9:30AM-12PM - Early On program - Free program for adults with children birth to 6 years. Adult Day Wing, GBACHC. Summer program at Optimist Park. Contact earlyonchildcare.ca or 519-786-6161 x 9226.

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)

WEDNESDAYS 8AM-12PM Grand Bend Village Farmers Market - 70642 Bluewater Hwy, Grand Bend, ON N0M 1T0 **produce, meat, flowers, maple syrup, gourmet mushrooms, prepared foods, skin, Jewellery, and MORE**Find us on Facebook**

FRIDAYS 2-6PM Bayfield Farmers' Market - 6 Clan Gregor Square, Bayfield ON N0M 1G0 **produce, meat, flowers, maple syrup, gourmet mushrooms, prepared foods, skin, Jewellery, and MORE**Find us on Facebook**

JULY 2 TO AUGUST 18 Huron County Backpacks for Youths. Registration required July 2 to August 18. Does your child need a backpack? Pick up locations located in: Clinton, Exeter, Goderich, Seaforth, Wingham and Zurich. The Salvation Army and the Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron.

FRI. 31ST 8:30 AM - "Vinyasa Yoga and Chair Yoga" GBACHC in Community room. Vinyasa at 8:30am, Chair at 9:45 am. Contact cmaxfield@gbchc.com

THURS. JULY 16 - SEPTEMBER 10 AM - Mourning Walking Group - STARTING JULY 16 TO SEPTEMBER Grief can feel heavy and isolating. Mourning Walking Group starting July 16. MacNaughton-Morrison Trail, 68 Hill St., Exeter. Every Thursday at 10 a.m. Dates: July to September. Duration: 1 hour. Registration required. Grace ggough@jessicashousehospice.ca or 519-235-0941.

FRI. AUGUST 14, 11 AM - 2 PM - Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron

Fundraising BBQ. Hansen's Independent, 62 Thames Rd. East, Exeter.

SAT. AUGUST 15 - 29th Annual Show & Shine Car and Truck Show. Coronation Park, Parkhill.

WED. AUGUST 19 - Join us on Wed., Aug. 19 for an incredible evening of great food, amazing entertainment, and unforgettable auction items—all in support of the Huron County Food Bank Distribution Centre. Bid big. Change lives. South Huron Rec Centre, Exeter.

THURS. AUG. 20 - 1:30 -3:30PM Alzheimer's caregiver support group - Support group program with trained facilitator Randy Chapman. 1-800-561-5012. Adult Day wing at GBACHC.

AUGUST 20 AND 21 - The Huron County Plowing Match takes place near Wingham, ON, Aug. 20–21, hosted by the Underwood family at 41936 Howick Turnberry Road near Wingham, Ontario. This two-day agricultural event features local plowing competitions, educational displays, and the crowning of royalty.

AUGUST 21 AND 22 59th Zurich Bean Festival - Live music, smoked pork chop and bean dinners, street market, food trucks, midway, Community Breakfast, Classic Car Show. FREE ADMISSION*www.beanfest.ca*

FRI. AUGUST 21 - 1-2:15 pm. Back to School Kids Bingo - Crediton Community Centre. Fri., Aug. 21. 1-2:15 pm. Doors open 12:45 pm. Free event for ages 4 to 13.

FRI. AUGUST 21 - Outdoor Movie Night, Fri., Aug. 21 at Lions Market Street Park, Lucan! Feature Movie: Inside Out 2. Arrive at 8:30 PM | Movie begins at dusk. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and snacks and enjoy a fun family night outdoors!

AUGUST 22 - 2 - 8PM - Newcomer Day

At Camp Returns -at Camp Klahanie, 33612 Blacks Point Rd, Goderich for an afternoon filled with outdoor fun, food, and friendship. From sports to crafts, hiking, delicious food, and a cozy bonfire, there's something for everyone. Guests are also invited to bring a dessert from their own culture to share, helping create a truly international celebration. Halal, vegetarian, and gluten-free food options. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome! Email home@hurcounty.ca for more information

SAT. AUGUST 22 - The 2026 Perth County Plowing Match - Takes place on Sat., Aug. 22, hosted at the farm of Bert & Audrey and Bert & Nancy Vorstenbosch, located at 5755 Line 34, Mitchell, Ontario

WED. AUG 26TH, 6:00PM-8:00PM- Board Game Cafe - 4th Wednesday of the Month, EXETER LIBRARY BRANCH exeterlibrary@huroncounty.ca 519-235-1890

SEPTEMBER

TUES. SEPTEMBER 1, 11AM - 1PM- Welcome Back BBQ - For all South Huron District High School Students, Pick up timetables, find classes, tours, food, drinks and get your lockers.

MON - SEPTEMBER 7, 2026 South Huron Accounting Labour Day Classic Open Pairs Tournament. 10:00 am start \$20 per player Register at ExeterL-BC.tournaments@gmail.com

OCTOBER

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



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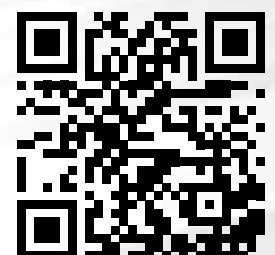


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7	3	2	9	8	1	6	5	4
8	5	1	2	4	6	3	7	9
6	4	9	5	7	3	8	1	2
5	9	7	8	2	4	1	6	3
4	8	6	1	3	9	7	2	5
1	2	3	6	5	7	4	9	8
2	6	4	7	9	8	5	3	1
3	1	5	4	6	2	9	8	7
9	7	8	3	1	5	2	4	6

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By Joel Hackett • 519.272.5742 • jtsquote@gmail.com

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

Dear Arborist,

How do you know if a tree leaning over your house is dangerous?

Signed,

Rachel

Dear Rachel,

There are a few things to consider when accessing the dangers of trees in the vicinity of a building. Generally, if the tree is leaning between 60 and 20 degrees, it is

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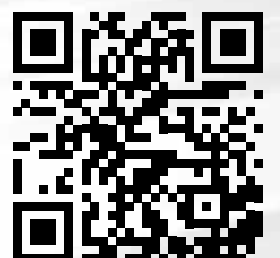
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