

# SIMCOE ADVOCATE

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## Lynnwood Arts Centre to receive letter of default

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

In an effort to break a logjam over what to do with the Lynnwood Arts Centre and its namesake building, councillors opted to follow the contract Norfolk County and the arts group previously agreed to.

With the topic back on the council agenda at the April 14 committee meeting, councillors toyed with the idea of deferring the report to give a chance for further discussions. They also considered simply making a decision on one of two proposals previously put forward.

Those two proposals included selling the Lynnwood building to the arts centre for \$1, allowing them to pursue fundraising to pay for needed renovations on the national historic site on their own terms. The second would be to move the arts group to the Eva Brook Donly building and set up shop alongside the Norfolk County Archives.

But in the end, they supported Coun. Chris Van Paassen's idea to simply follow the terms of a contract signed a couple years ago, which will see them send a notification of default to the arts centre, giving them 30 days to respond. Following steps could see the County sell the building, where the arts centre would have first right of refusal with an option to purchase the property for \$288,000.

"We have a black and white agreement and now we want to paint it gray again," said Van Paassen, referring to the 2024 agreement.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

The Simcoe Lions Club Chorus sang 'In the End,' a tribute to former Lion Rick Van Damme who made the request to close the first half of Saturday's Simcoe Night Live Variety Show at Simcoe Composite School.

## Lions' Simcoe Night Live delivers

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Music, laughter and a sense of community.

It's what makes the Simcoe Lions Club's Cabaret Night and Variety Show one of the longest running

shows in town.

Friday night's 72nd annual Cabaret at Simcoe Composite School, which included a catered meal, sold out.

"We could have squeezed more tables in at the back, but it would have been difficult for them to see us," said Terry Sheppard, Simcoe Lions

Show promotion chair and a singer in the 40-member Lion chorus. "It was a comfortable amount that we had.

"It was a good crowd Saturday, the crowd was really into it," added Sheppard, noting the Lions were also pleased with the Variety Show audi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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# Eat & Drink Norfolk festival fills The Aud

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Norfolk County Agricultural Society's annual Eat & Drink Norfolk, one of the Top 100 Festivals & Events in Ontario, lived up to that standard once again, April 9-11 at The Aud in Simcoe.

Festivals are ranked by tourism and economic impact, so the Agricultural Society tries to involve as many other businesses as they can, said Angela Hogeveen, General Manager.

"That's a huge part of it," said Hogeveen. "Also, it's the uniqueness of the event. It's not just about the food and wine, it's the market, as well as the local music, kind of showcasing everything we have here in Norfolk."

"It's really an experience, it's a night out. The ambience, the lighting, the atmosphere is really special."

"This is a 'barn' during the fair... and (looking up at the multi-light LED chandeliers) you would never know it," she laughed. "There's certainly been an evolution over the years, but this is an event that we try to make a little bit fancier. With the drapes, the lighting, the identity of the event is a little bit different from the other grassroots events that we do. It elevates it."

One of the big changes this year was 'going digital.' Instead of using physical tokens, festival patrons used their cellular phones to purchase food and drinks at the festival. "That was a highlight for us," said Hogeveen. "Of course, there are always



kinks and learning curves, some growing pains, but all-in-all it's been good. It's good for the vendors and easier to manage all around, so that's been exciting."

Twenty-three food and beverage vendors were at the festival, an event presented by CIBC Private Wealth, showcasing some familiar vendors, and some new.

"We have a lot of beer and wine producers here in Norfolk, and spirits are popular," said Hogeveen, noting NE1 Spirits from nearby Mount Brydges was one of the newest additions to the beverage lineup. "Canned beverages – seltzers – people seem to really like them, so that was something we thought we would try out."

Another 20 food and artisan vendors joined the festival's Mini Market.

"We're really proud of the Mini Market," Hogeveen nodded. "It's taking the concept of some of the other events that we do – market vendors and local artisans – allowing

them to sell their products here in a centralized market, which is awesome. And they don't have to be here, we sell it for them."

Live entertainment across three festival days included Felicia McMinn, Brad Hailz, Brousseau & Co, Fiddlestix, Paul Mallard, PYNX DJ Dance Party, and the Jesse Murphy Band. Thursday and Friday attendance was good, said Hogeveen, but on Saturday it was "absolutely phenomenal. It's off the charts. We're pretty much as full as we could be, which is great."

They also had a lot of new, first-time patrons, she noted.

## Council approves amendment for bridge project

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

Additional requirements to protect heritage and history, along with increased construction costs have led the Bloomsburg Bridge and Highway 24 culvert replacement project to come in over budget.

However, despite staff seeking a budget amendment at the April 14 council-in-committee meeting to allow the work to proceed, Director of Engineering and Asset Management Darnell Lambert pointed out that to date overall tenders have resulted in the County being below budget by \$417,000 for the seven engineering tenders that have closed, and \$4.86 million for the nine construction tenders. Staff have two more engineering tenders and four more construction tenders to close.

Describing the Bloomsburg Bridge area as a tricky spot, Lambert said staff required a \$419,000 budget amendment for the project. It represents a 23 per cent increase over what was budgeted.

"This is a very tight work site to work within," he said. The bridge is also next to the older Roman stone arch bridge, which is a heritage designated asset.

Given previous disruption of the site, staff were expecting to only require archaeological work to progress to stage two. But it turned out stage three and four assessments were required, which increased the costs.

"That work is all complete. The outcome is the requirement to fence off the site but to still have monitoring taking place during the digging of around the foundations just in case something's found in close proximity, but we're not expecting that to happen," said Lambert.

Heritage impact assessment requirements are also affecting the cost, as are some construction needs including sheet piling for dewatering and increased costs for steel rebar and guiderails. Staff identified uncommitted funds in the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund reserve that can be used to cover the increased costs.



Artwork by Beth Kates

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# Old Town Hall curator and artist goes full circle

**BRENDA MOSER**

*Advocate Contributor*

I will be the first to admit that art is not my forte.

In fact, I confess that drawing a straight line with a ruler is a bit of a challenge for me. With that being said I do appreciate the work of those who have that talent to create and those who recognize that talent. Every good artist needs a way of sharing their work with others and a good... no, great curator would be that person.

I recently met with the new Gallery Curator for Old Town Hall in Waterford, Chelsea (Neufeld) Brant, and I was, to say the least, very impressed with her resume. Not only is Chelsea an artist herself, she also has the schooling for her work in the field of art. Her post secondary schooling includes a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Guelph as well as a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Saskatchewan - seven years in total. While a student at the University of Guelph, she took an elective in Studio Arts and she fell

in love with it.

"I changed my major because it felt good to be there," and she has not looked back since.

Brant's art career has afforded her the opportunity to serve as a professor at universities and colleges including Brock, Sheridan, McMaster and the Dundas Valley School of Arts. Brant is herself a painter in the field of oils. Her work has been exhibited at Lynnwood Arts in Simcoe as well as Old Town Hall.

"I've had two exhibitions myself at Old Town Hall in my younger years. I guess you could say I've gone full circle and now I get to choose who gets to exhibit at OTH," added Brant.

"I love curating and the 10 hours a month that I do at Old Town Hall gives me the opportunity to do my own work while still holding the position of curator. Artists in the community can approach me if they are interested in exhibiting. With the artists that I know of already, we are booked almost a full year in advance. Each show runs for two months and we have a Sunday

afternoon opening reception for each artist. It's an opportunity for the artist to get their work into the community. Most of the art work is available for sale.

"This is my 'baby.' All of the shows go through me so if an artist is interested in exhibiting they can approach me at curator@oldtownhall.org or for other enquiries, chelseabrnt.art@gmail.com."

Brant added that almost all of the shows this year are full with possible openings in November and December.

"While they would be limited to only one or two pieces, it would still give them the opportunity to get their work into the community. If they approach me about a show we will have a discussion on what will be a part of the show. It's my job to make sure the artist is happy with the way it is presented."

Brant is originally from Waterford and she and her husband Ryan moved into a century home in Oakland last summer. They are working on restoring it, one room at a time, as time allows.

"My husband does cabinetry and we both

love working with our hands."

Brant can work from home so she is able to help her husband with their own restoration projects.

"I'm a full-time artist, then a part-time professor and part-time curator. I also have my own studio in Simcoe. We'll see where life takes us."

When finished, I am sure they will have captured the true history of the home.



(BRENDA MOSER PHOTO)

Chelsea Brant, part-time curator at Old Town Hall in Waterford, stands beside sculptures by local artist Kathryn Hogg.

# Council to send notice of default to arts centre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The County has identified capital improvements needed on the property, though the arts centre has said it is struggling to raise the necessary funds to cover its share under the timelines established by the municipality.

Lynnwood Arts Centre chair Paul Hammond previously presented the options to sell the property to the group for a nominal fee and to move them to the Eva Brook Donly building. The board supports both options, but prefers to stay where they are at the Lynnwood site.

"Lynnwood is a beautiful, historic building," he said at the April 14 meeting.

"It seems like there are concerns about us moving to the archives. It seems like there's concerns in the community about what will happen to our building if we va-

cate it. I guess I would like to suggest, respectfully, why can't we just not consider option one as it was originally tabled?"

Hammond has previously acknowledged some risk with the option to have the arts centre take ownership, but told councillors he has full board support to have them try to make it work.

"Our preferred option all along has been option one, to stay at Lynnwood," he said.

Earlier in the meeting, the Norfolk Historical Society's Kate Van der Meek spoke about her organization's concerns with having the arts centre move into the Eva Brook Donly building.

"We do not see this move as a viable solution and we are concerned with how it would impact the operations and long-term storage capacity of the archives, as well as the legacy of the collection of art and artifacts which were donated by the communi-

ty through the Norfolk Historical Society before being transferred to Norfolk County," she said.

Space at the Gilbertson Administration Building has been identified as an option for art and artifacts to be stored, though Van der Meek said it too is limited. Additionally, deaccession work can't be rushed, she added.

If a move to the Eva Brook Donly building is the ultimate decision, Van der Meek said her group would like to be consulted and be a part of the process.

It will take some time to send the official notice, but at that point the group will

have 30 days to respond. The County could then issue a notice of intention to sell, at which point the arts centre will have 60 days to decide if it wants to purchase the building.

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# EDITORIAL

## Digesting Ontario's new education bill

Haldimand-Norfolk

**MPP  
Bobbi Ann  
Brady**



The Ontario government recently tabled Bill 101, The Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026.

The bill proposes major changes to school board governance. I'm digesting the bill's components and forming opinions. My first impression is it has an emphasis on centralized control; however, there are items in the bill that are necessary to bring structure to the classroom. But I look forward to your thoughts on it.

The government's motivation behind the bill is to improve school board supervision and accountability while safeguarding more consistent learning experiences for all students, hopefully properly preparing them for the evolving job market of the future. The government's goal as written is to move the province toward a more accountable, transparent, and modern education system and one that delivers high-quality learning and will better support students, families, and educators across Ontario.

Okay, sounds good to me.

To be clear, it sounds good to me as long as educators are not punished... but back to the bones of the bill.

Minister of Education Paul Calandra has said, "Ontario's education system must remain focused on its core responsibility: student success. In some school boards, that focus has been lost, and students are paying the price... Ontario's teachers and education workers are dedicated professionals who work tirelessly every day to support students, often under challenging circumstances. They deserve stable, accountable leadership that supports their work and puts learning first. If further action is required to protect students and reinforce respect for the professionals who teach them, we will not hesitate to act."

The government has targeted what it calls "ongoing governance breakdowns and financial mismanagement" in English public and English Catholic district school boards. Some highlights of the bill include to:

- Limit trustee discretionary expenses and honoraria, standardize the number of elected trustees to a maximum of 12.
- Equip English-language district school boards with qualified leadership by establishing two new roles: the Director of Education would become known as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), responsible for financial and operational oversight and a Chief Education Officer, appointed by the CEO to focus on student achievement.
- Strengthen school board budget oversight and accountability by requiring the CEO to lead budget development, while referring budget matters to the Minister for decision when trustees are unable to reach an agreement.
- Mandate the use of ministry-approved learning resources in classrooms across the province to support greater consistency in delivering the new curriculum while making it easier for teachers to access high-quality materials, ensuring students have an equal chance to succeed no matter where they live.
- Prepare students for postsecondary pursuits by introducing mandatory written exams in Grades 9-12 and provide greater clarity on how students' final marks are calculated.
- Encourage improved engagement in the classroom by requiring attendance and participation to be part of the final mark for students in Grades 9-12, with attendance worth 15 per cent for Grades 9-10 and 10 per cent for Grades 11-12.

Bill 101 has a component for which I've been advocating since 2024. The government finally heeded my advice from my two motions to make teachers' college one year instead of two years. I initially tabled my motion in November 2024 and again in May 2025.

If passed, Bill 101 would make teachers' college one year, saving students tuition money and getting qualified teachers into classrooms faster given the shortage Ontario is currently facing. Hey, maybe they'll also act on my pleas since 2022 to return to a two-year college nursing program from the current four years and get more qualified nurses on the frontlines of healthcare faster. I can hope.

I'll continue digesting Bill 101, but I'm most interested in what parents and teachers think.

The media is speckled with stories about the lack of affordability facing Ontarians. I've been constantly absorbing endless reports. But even without media coverage, I would be fully aware of the situation. Both from a personal purchasing perspective and by hearing it from you. I'm glad you are connecting and keeping me posted about your personal struggles with the increasing prices of food, fuel, housing, and well, everything. I don't need to say it, but we are in an affordability crisis.

On March 26, the Ontario Budget was released, and I was hoping for new and innovative strategies to provide relief. I didn't see much. There was the removal of the eight per cent provincial HST on new homes up to \$1 million, with improved rebates for homes up to \$1.5 million, which commenced April 1st, theoretically saving buyers up to \$130,000 when combined with federal initiatives. That's great, but how many people can afford a new home right now? And I was happy the government maintained the reduction in gasoline and fuel taxes; however, it's still a bitter pill when you pump.

At the end of the day, many critics and I complained about a lack of immediate, direct financial relief for groceries or rent, and many also noted the Budget failed to address significant underfunding in health care and education. I joined the chorus to stand in the House and remind the government that Budget 2026 failed to deliver affordability for you because, as I said at the time, I hear from far too many families who are barely hanging on in the current economic climate.

I'm going to focus on food affordability. A Nanos poll released in January illustrated 50.9 per cent of Ontarians and 52.3 per cent of Canadians cite grocery prices as the number one area they want to reduce their spending.

Being from the breadbasket of Ontario, I have an insight most MPPs lack - I hear from farmers about food affordability related to production. And from what I've been hearing, food prices will likely be heading north. Behind much of the increase is the cost of fuel and fertilizer. And behind that, to a large degree, is the Middle East crisis. I also want to point out, the increase in sticker price at grocery stores doesn't make it to farmers' pockets.

As I write this, the news is reporting an on-and-off again two-week ceasefire between the USA and Iran. Regardless, the war has thus far had Iran blocking safe passage of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. As Nelson Zandbergen of Farmers Forum recently put it related to fuel and fertilizer, "(The Middle East crisis) idled production plants in the region and triggered Iran into blocking the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf, sending oil prices soaring by more than 50 per cent and driving up prices for urea by about 40 per cent as of March 20." Urea, as many of you know, is the most popular nitrogen-based fertilizer and roughly half of it comes from the Persian Gulf.

So, the pinch point, the Strait of Hormuz, besides having left oil tankers treading water, has also been blocking the export of urea from the Persian Gulf. The blockage of fuels and fertilizer from getting where it's needed means food prices are likely to continue rising.

We're all in this together and we'll all have to budget wisely to get through it. Meanwhile, I will be encouraging the government to budget wisely and get creative in finding affordability and helping ease the pressure on all of us.

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# Eat & Drink Norfolk



Turkey Point Hotel - Bar & Grill, Turkey Point.



NE1 Spirits from Mount Brydges.



The Apple Place, Simcoe.



The Good Bread Company, Simcoe.



Inasphere Wines, St. Williams.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)



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# The Urban Parisian: An iconic Norfolk café

LEAH BAUER

Advocate Contributor

Nestled in behind Lakewood Elementary School, or what some may remember as the old Port Dover High School, lies Urban Parisian.

A local hotspot for delicious coffee, baked goods, and a rotating menu offering many amazing soups, paninis, and salads, a trip to Port Dover is never complete without a stop at the Urban Parisian.

As one can likely guess from the name of the café, the Urban Parisian is inspired by French cuisine and pastries. The owners definitely have two things in common, their love for each other, and their love of great food.

Brad and Mel are both local to the area - Mel grew up in Port Ryerse, and Brad grew up in Haldimand County. The pair have always shared a passion for food and wine, which is what brought them together. Their relationship began while working as line cooks in one of Port Dover's other iconic restaurants, The Beach House.

Brad trained at Le Cordon Bleu in Ottawa where he attained his Diplôme de Pâtisserie and later his Boulangerie certificate. Mel holds her Wine Certificate of Ontario and is a talented sommelier. While the pair is capable and talented enough to be employed anywhere, they decided on the town where they first met to establish their business. The café's location in Norfolk County gives it the privilege of being



(LEAH BAUER PHOTOS)

The staff at The Urban Parisian, including cook Natolie Macdonald, is the heart of the Port Dover business.

surrounded by amazing local produce, a privilege that Brad and Mel do not take for granted. Brad said they try to get a lot of the ingredients from local vendors.

"We try to get a lot of our produce from Matz Fruit Barn, since we're really good friends with Jessica. We also get strawberries from Judd's in Simcoe."

However, their love and use of local produce is not exclusive to Judd's or Matz.

"Sometimes, if we are out for a drive we'll just pull over like, 'Oh, peaches are ready,' so I'll throw peaches in the muffins," said Brad. "Really, in whatever we want to do. We will put local produce in everything, not just the pastries. We have put berries in our salads, and incorporated local flavours in our paninis."

The Urban Parisian has a rotating menu, meaning that every day you can go into the restaurant and try something new. A few

favourites remain in constant rotation.

"We do the spring roll salad every other week now, because people want it so much."

Another favourite, according to Brad, is the butter chicken.

"That was a funny one because we made it one day when we were craving it. And our customers were like 'Oh, you got to make that again.' So we were doing that every third Thursday."

At a time when The Urban Parisian was still an idea, one of the main goals was to bring something new to Norfolk. The pair wanted to use their talents, training, and local ingredients to introduce different flavours and concepts to the community that people might not have tried otherwise.

It is safe to say that they have achieved that goal many times over in the last 15 years. Brad recalled when they opened in 2011, a local woman entered the building "...when she was just going for a walk, she came into The Urban Parisian and she was so happy. She was like 'I can't believe that this is here, in my town.'"

Local flavours and urban inspirations have kept Brad, Mel, and their staff busy and entertained since they opened at 120 Greenock Street West. It is safe to say that The Urban Parisian has solidified its place as a staple of Norfolk County.

As the duo and their well-loved staff head into another busy summer season they are looking forward to serving up some well-loved favourites, and trying out some new recipes.



The Urban Parisian is known for its amazing pastries, created by the owner and Pastry Chef who studied at the Cordon Bleu in Ottawa.

## Delhi development proposal could include mix of residential, commercial and industrial zones

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

The Angrish Group is seeking a mix of land uses for the latest phase of a Delhi development, on behalf of the property owners.

Norfolk County councillors learned of the plan to split Phase 4 of the Blue Grass Estates subdivision into four parts: one parcel for commercial, one for residential and two for industrial. The 20-acre plot of land is located at the end of Argyle Avenue in the southeast corner of Delhi.

For the residential portion, county planner Fabian Serra said single-detached homes and semi-detached homes would be permitted under the new zoning.

However, it was the neighbourhood commercial and light industrial zones that had neighbours most worried, he said. The light industrial zone could permit businesses like auto service stations, graphics and design shops, vehicle sales and rental establishments. The commercial zone could see banks, doctor's offices, convenience stores, restaurants and the like.

"They're basically in favour of the residential land uses that are proposed and not in favour of the commercial and industrial land uses proposed," Serra said.

Consultant Ruchika Angrish said the layout includes buffers and transitions to minimize impact on existing neighbourhoods.

"The design has been carefully considered," she told councillors, adding they'll work with staff to determine site specific light industrial uses "to remove any of the offensive uses."

Responding to a question from Coun. Chris Van Paassen about the planned construction of Maria Lane to connect Argyle to Fertilizer Road, developers said the construction of Maria Lane is one of the first things they'll do.

"Nothing else can proceed until the roads are in," said owner Joe Jeles.

Serra did note that school boards said local schools are operating near or above capacity, and students may have to be bused outside the Delhi area.

No decisions were made. A staff recommendation report will come back to councillors at a future meeting.

## Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the smallest unit of matter?
2. What is an eight-sided shape called?
3. What does a funambulist walk on?
4. What is the hardest natural substance on Earth?
5. In what year did the Titanic sink?
6. Which gender of mosquito is responsible for mosquito bites?
7. What is the rarest blood type?
8. What year did the first human land on the moon?
9. What are the three states of matter?
10. What is the name of Mickey Mouse's pet dog?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

# Photography in council chambers for accredited media

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

Members of the news media should have an easier time doing their jobs, thanks to planned changes with Norfolk's procedural bylaw.

Councillors directed staff to review its rules regarding photography during council meetings, following a deputation from David Judd, who covers the municipality for the Port Dover Maple Leaf. Judd also penned a letter to council regarding the rules, which was supported by other members of the local media including the Simcoe Advocate.

"I'm not asking for something we haven't had. We had it for a long time, and it's worked well, so I don't know why suddenly it's been changed," Judd said.

"Recently our job became more difficult. The county clerk began enforcing the code of conduct ban on taking photos and videos during council meetings."

Photos and videos can lend stories a sense of credibility, Judd said, showing readers a visual of what happened that backs up what their written or spoken words suggest.

While Judd acknowledged the clerk was simply following the rules passed three years ago that state no photography or video during meetings, he said the former clerk told him in an email after the new rules were passed that they weren't intended to apply to members of the media.

"The plan was to exempt the media through a companion policy, unfortunately that didn't get done," he said.

Saying better late than never, Judd urged council and the county to move forward

with a companion policy now. He suggested an accreditation system could be put in place to differentiate reporters trying to inform the public with others who may be taking photos in bad faith.

"I understand there are reasons for wanting a tool in the code of conduct to prevent bad actors from using photography and video recordings to intimidate, manipulate or embarrass people at meetings," he said. "But reporters aren't the bad actors. We're partners with you, helping to inform the public." Since enforcing the photography ban, council has at times waived the procedural bylaw to allow for photos, including two occasions for the Simcoe Advocate.

"Do you have any other suggestions on a better way to make that work?" asked Coun. Chris Van Paassen.

Judd said the accreditation system would work better, in part because reporters can never quite be sure when video or photography may be needed to help tell the story. He also accepted some restrictions to ensure reporters aren't disrupting things, such as a ban on flash photography.

Where it could get tricky is with the rise of so-called citizen journalism and online outlets.

"How could you tell whether they're re-

sponsible enough? Well there are ways to do that," Judd said, suggesting the County could require samples of stories they've written before granting accreditation or asking them if they're being paid to cover the meeting.

"I think there's a distinction between what I would call professional reporters and people who call themselves citizen journalists and all they're really doing is writing for a social media site, often with some kind of axe to grind or campaign that they have going for them and I think you need to separate those two out," he said, adding people running for council shouldn't be able to suddenly call themselves a journalist and be allowed to take photos. Coun. Kim Huffman said councillors have discussed the need to keep the community engaged.

"I think pictures go a long way with telling the story, and I think you're right, it does add credibility," she said.

Coun. Linda Vandendriessche made a motion, supported by council, to send the issue back to the clerk's department to come up with some options to allow reporters to take photos and video. The report is expected to be before council at May's council-in-committee meeting.

## Port Rowan Medical Centre to hit the market

### County selling the building 'as is' but keeping the parking lot

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

Norfolk County is moving ahead with plans to sell the Port Rowan Medical Centre property, though it will be keeping the parking lot in municipal hands.

Council approved a staff recommendation to do so at the April 14 council-in-committee meeting. It was one of two options presented, with the other option being to sell both the building and the parking lot.

Neither staff nor councillors were interested in losing more parking space.

"Parking lots are like lakefront property, once you lose them you will never get them back," said Coun. Tom Masschaele.

The property, located at 1035 Bay Street, was identified as a potential for disposition. It previously operated as an

EMS base, but has more recently been leased for various medical and dental services. Dr. Peter Gunn, a local dentist, currently leases a portion of the building, but his lease is up in May.

"The property is now well positioned for disposition in alignment with the County's asset management and divestment strategy," a report said.

Citing a broker opinion of value, staff estimate the sale could receive around \$350,000 to \$400,000 in an "as is" sale.

Coun. Linda Vandendriessche questioned that figure.

"I just want to make sure we're selling it for the right price and not going too low," she said. In addition to the influx of cash from the sale, disposing of the property allows staff to remove several projects from its 10-year capital plan, reducing estimated capital cost requirements by \$361,000.

## Developers hope to get Delhi project on track

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

Lands that were once part of the CN rail line in Delhi may turn into 57 housing units.

Owners of a portion of the former railroad property pitched their development plan to Norfolk councillors at the April 8 public hearings meeting. The narrow stretch of land runs between Main and James streets on the east and west sides, and between William and Imperial streets on the north and south.

While there are several special provisions contained within the proposal, Vallee Consultings' Scott Puillandre said they're mostly technical in nature and the result of Norfolk County's policies not being great at defining condominiums or commonly owned residential development.

"While there are special provisions, they're really just to clearly, better define the lot from a zoning interpretation standpoint," he said.

The existing zoning does allow residential development on the land. Puillandre

said their request is simply to change the form that development takes. They're requesting semi-detached and townhouse units be allowed.

"The proposed zoning implements a more efficient and functional design that allows this unique parcel to be used in a positive way," he said.

All told, the plan splits the zoning into three parts, running west to east. Part three would remain a service commercial zone. Special provisions are proposed for parts one and three.

A design concept drawing shows a road running from Main Street, south of William, to East Street, north of Ann, and a third connection to Sovereign/Queen. Two other units would be located east of East Street.

Responding to a resident's question, Puillandre said the footprint of the homes will likely be small, around 1,000 square feet, and not any taller than existing bylaws allow. Staff will now take into account any comments and concerns they receive and prepare a recommendation report for council to consider.

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# Simcoe Lions Club presents Simcoe Night Live



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Uptown Funk, led by Lion Jayne Staples, was one of the opening numbers for Simcoe Night Live.



Terry Sheppard leads I Won't Back Down.



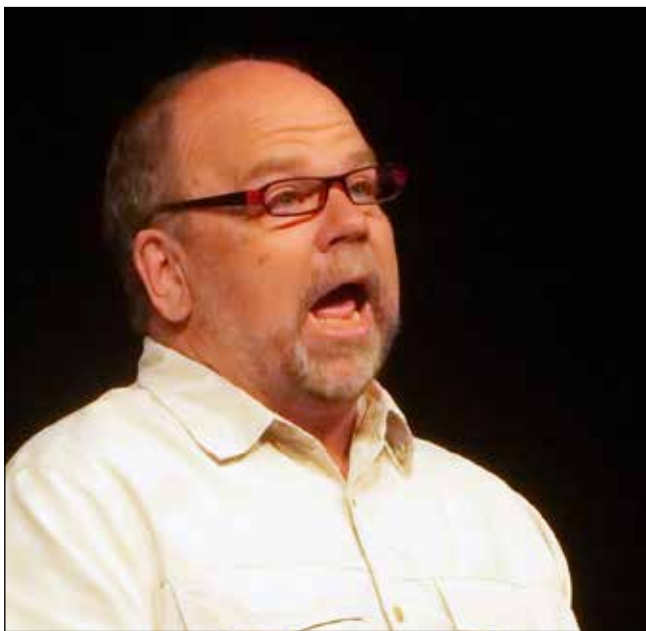
Ian Malo featured in Going, Going Gone.



Part of the Lions Chorus in Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting.



John McCarthy featured in Gangsta.



The Lions Comedy Club skits included 'Norview.'



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# Mulholland directs Harvest at Simcoe Little Theatre

LEAH BAUER

Advocate Contributor

The upcoming production of Harvest at Simcoe Little Theatre, April 20-May 10, is one that is sure to hit close to home for many in this community.

The director, Christine Mulholland, has dedicated this production to the local farmers for all of the hard work they do to keep food on the tables, and the unique issues they face. Mulholland isn't originally from Norfolk County, she grew up in London where she trained as a pianist, ballerina, and vocalist. She participated in many different plays in London in a variety of roles including as a dancer and accompaniment. Eventually she went on to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Music, and also earned her Teaching Certificate at Western University. She then went on to become a high school music teacher in Haldimand, and has lived in the area ever since.

While these days she is a known member of the local arts community, it wasn't always this way. Mulholland remembers thinking, 'What am I missing in my life?'

"And then I realized it was theatre!"

It didn't take long for her to discover Simcoe Little Theatre.

"I got involved with Simcoe Little Theatre when I was in my 20s. I was a dancer and they needed a dancer for a sequence in the production Oklahoma. And then after that, I just kind of kept helping out with different roles. I was choreographing, I did some music coaching, but most of the productions that I've been involved with, I've been accompanying on the piano."

However, Simcoe Little Theatre quickly became more than a place to spend her free time. "That's how I met my husband, a drummer in the show, that was also back in our late 20s."

A core member for decades, it was likely a no-brainer for Simcoe Little Theatre to offer her the director position in their upcoming production of Harvest, her first time as a director in the local theatre capacity. She has directed plays as a high school teacher, however she believes this was her first time getting into the true "nitty-gritty" of directing.

Harvest is a very special production, and

Mulholland feels that "it's going to tug on the heartstrings of a lot of people who come to see it because they're going to see themselves in this picture."

Harvest tells the story of a couple in their 60s who are downsizing from their beloved farm, and farming community, to move into a condo in the city. After they move, they discover the man they rented their farmhouse to is running a small grow-op in the basement. The production is based on the true story of Ken Cameron, the original playwright's parents. While the original play was based in Dutton, Cameron wants local directors to change the locations so it makes sense for their hometowns.

According to Mulholland, Cameron is essentially telling directors "This is your community. Change it so it speaks to the people in your area." Her first job as director was just that, she "changed all the places, so that it fits the play, and fits our area."

The production has a very deep and close to home meaning for many in Norfolk County, and Mulholland reflected on the difficulty farmers face in retirement.

"Farmers don't have pensions, so they

have to carefully construct their lives so that when they do get out of farming or they pass it on to their children, you know, they have enough to live on."

While there are many deep and meaningful segments of the play, Mulholland also believes that there is a great deal of comedy in it as well.

"You're kind of teary eyed and then next minute you're laughing."

Noting this, she believes that "regardless of your age, even if you're in your 20s and 30s, you can enjoy the humour and the story. People in their 50s and 60s who are facing these life changes can also really feel what this couple's going through. It is something people can enjoy and relate to."

This production of Harvest, directed by local talent Christine Mulholland is on stage from April 30th-May 10th. The specific time and dates are as follows: April 30 & May 1 at 7:30 p.m.; May 2 & 3 at 2 p.m.; May 7 & 8 at 7:30 p.m.; March 9 & 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$27 with youth pricing available. Buy tickets by calling 519-583-0505 or by visiting <https://simcoelittletheatre.org/chess-the-musical/>



## Simcoe collision involving OPP cruiser injures two

J.P. ANTONACCI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Ontario's police watchdog has little to say so far about a crash between an OPP cruiser and a sport utility vehicle in Simcoe on Wednesday afternoon (April 15) that sent a 77-year-old to hospital.

Three investigators and two forensic investigators from the Special Investigations Unit are looking into the crash.

The SIU is an independent agency that reviews incidents involving police in which members of the public are seriously injured or killed.

In a media release on Thursday, SIU spokesperson Monica Hudon said the crash happened around 1:30 p.m. when an officer on Norfolk Street North "en route to a call" hit a Honda CRV driven by a 77-year-old woman at the intersection of Riverside Road.

The woman was taken to a local hospital and then airlifted to Hamilton General Hospital with serious injuries.

The officer was treated in a local hospital for minor injuries, said Norfolk County OPP, otherwise referring all inquiries to the SIU. Hudon had no further update when reached by The Spectator on Thursday.

It remains unclear whether the police car had its emergency lights or sirens activated at the time of the crash, or whether the SUV was turning into traffic.

Hudon also did not comment on the condition of the two people injured.

The SIU asks anyone with information about this incident - including video footage or photos - to contact investigators at 1-800-787-8529 or through [siu.on.ca](http://siu.on.ca).

- J.P. Antonacci is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter based at the Hamilton Spectator. The initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.



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## Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the smallest unit of matter?</li> <li>2. What is an eight-sided shape called?</li> <li>3. What does a funambulist walk on?</li> <li>4. What is the hardest natural substance on Earth?</li> <li>5. In what year did the Titanic sink?</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Which gender of mosquito is responsible for mosquito bites?</li> <li>7. What is the rarest blood type?</li> <li>8. What year did the first human land on the moon?</li> <li>9. What are the three states of matter?</li> <li>10. What is the name of Mickey Mouse's pet dog?</li> </ol> |
|--|---|

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

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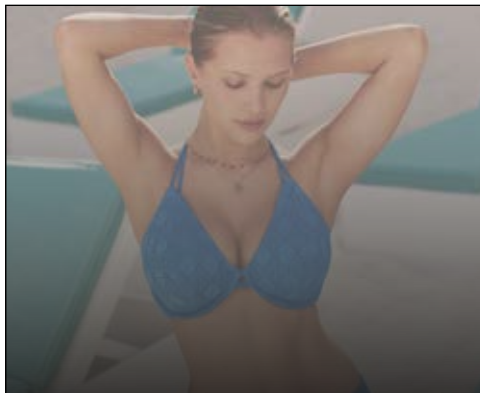
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# Study looks into changing lake levels, shoreline

JEFF HELSDON

Grant Haven Media

Anyone who has spent much time at Lake Erie will notice huge changes in the lake shoreline.

This isn't about fluctuations over decades, but those that have occurred in just five years. Record-high water levels were observed in 2019-20, along with shrinking beaches and increased erosion. Now, just five years later, it's a different situation with the lake levels dropping to below long-term averages.

When water levels were high, the federal government took note of the impacts across the Great Lakes and released funds through the Canada Water Agency to look at the problem. Impacts can be seen along the entire Erie shoreline, but they are magnified at Long Point, one of the longest sand spits in the world.

Seeing the changes, the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation applied for funding, and the North Shore Resilience Project launched in 2024. It is a partnership of many government and non-government agencies in the study area.

"All of us who live here... can see the impacts during high water years, and with the flooding that impacts the community," said Sarah Emons, project manager and conservation director with the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation.

Since 1951, 600 acres of habitat have been lost in the Long Point area between Cove Road and the causeway. Erosion has increased between Long Point Provincial Park and the tip, raising concerns about the future of the point, affecting about 6,000 hectares, or 10 per cent of the point.

On a larger scale, the loss of coastal wetlands is amplified because the majority of Lake Erie's coastal wetlands are in Long Point. The uniqueness of this feature has made it one of the most important spots for migrating waterfowl in eastern North America.

Coastal geoscientist Pete Zuzek of Zuzek Inc. is heading up the study and was in attendance at a series of recent open houses across the study area of Port Glasgow to Long Point. Going into year two, most of the technical work is complete.

"That technical work has been focused on understanding the sediment movement along the coastline," he said.

Port Glasgow was chosen as the starting point as it's a convergence point for Lake Erie's sediment flow – some of the sand goes east from there, some west. Zuzek described the shoreline between Glasgow and Long Point as one of the most complex freshwater sediment transportation systems in the world. It has the highest bluff erosion rates in the Great Lakes and more than four million cubic-meters of sediment enter the shallow waters of the area – called a littoral cell – each year. Of that total, one-quarter is moved towards Long Point.

Processes along the cell have changed, with the most notable differences being seen at Long Point itself. Zuzek explained that one of the purposes of the project is to understand why this is happening.

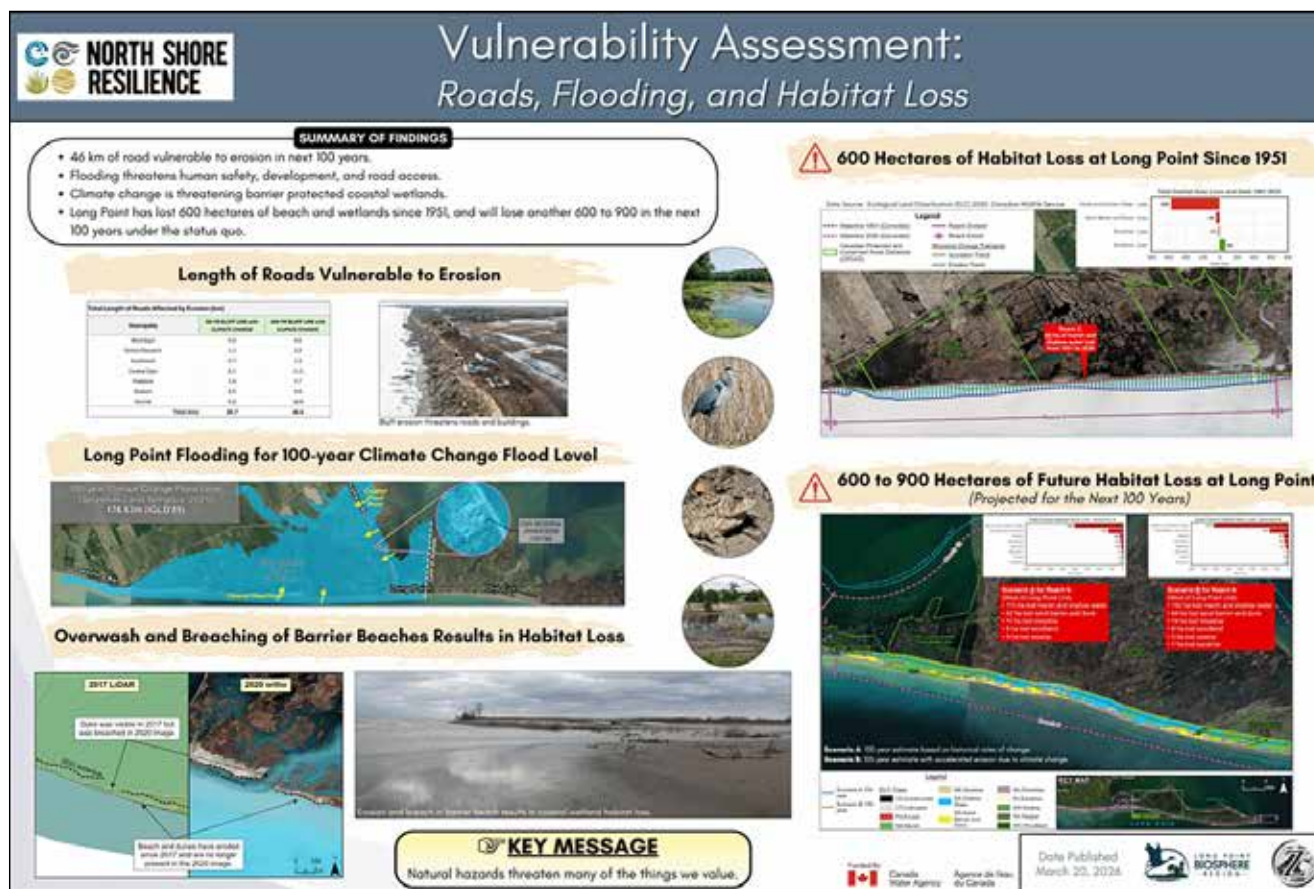
Erosion of the bluffs is a natural process, but the rate of erosion and the way sand is deposited have changed. It's also natural that sediments are deposited in harbours at Port Stanley, Port Bruce, Port Burwell, and the tip of Long Point.

One of the surprise findings, so far, is that the actual width of the Long Point sandspit is eroding. However, the sand is deposited at the tip of the spit, in the deepest water of the lake, and the spit is slowly growing in length.

One area of concern is the Thoroughfare Unit in Long Point National Wildlife Area. This area, between Long Point Provincial Park and Long Point Company land, is narrow and vulnerable to storms.

Zuzek said part of the issue is that when the shoreline moves back in high water, the beaches move back as well. Although beach is regained when the water levels drop, it isn't the same.

"For the beaches to be stable and grow, it requires a lot more sand than when it started," he explained. "We're still



Preliminary findings from the North Shore Resilience Study were released at a public open house in Port Rowan in March.

piecing this together as to the relative importance of it all."

With climate change and more ice-free winters, the lake is open for longer periods, making it more susceptible to erosion during the winter months. This is also a time when winds are generally higher.

"That's one of the things that is a factor today, but will be a big factor in the future," Zuzek said.

Another major deposit area is in Port Burwell Provincial Park to the west of the pier.

Is this a historical process?

In the relatively short time of recorded history, it's known that Long Point has been breached between the Inner Bay and Lake Erie several times. Two of these breaches in the 1800s created cuts, which were vital shortcuts for naval navigation. What nature created, however, it took away when lake levels dropped.

This was the origin of the Old Cut, and the reason the Old Cut lighthouse is landlocked today. The lake beach was again breached during the most recent spell of high water in the area near where Big Creek National Wildlife Area and Lee Brown Marsh meet the lake.

Emons explained that when water levels are high, and the barrier beach is breached, it hurts the wetlands.

"These barrier beaches are an important barricade during storms," she said. Although the barrier beaches reform further back from the lake, the wetlands behind them are lost – something Emons said is not always visible from the ground.

Another difference from historical processes, even from a century ago, is now human-built infrastructure can be impacted by high water.

Zuzek said the study doesn't have all the answers to why Long Point is eroding, but the science is pointing towards a series of factors. He is now looking at the importance of each.

"We're not in a position to draw major conclusions yet, but we will be soon," he said.

## SOLUTIONS

While the technical work is still not complete, possible strategies have been developed. These include:

- Developing strategies to move the sediment past the harbours and restore the natural sand flow along the coast.
- Evaluate opportunities for nourishing beaches with new sources of sand.

- Assist landowners with understanding erosion threats and risks
- Complete additional controlled beach access pathways
- When harbours are dredged, deposit the sand on beaches.

One early experiment was planting native beach grass at Port Burwell, Port Bruce, and Long Point's Thoroughfare Unit to stabilize the sand dunes.

Solutions will be further evaluated if the project moves into Phase 2, which will require additional funding.

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Macy Lucas, a local professional wrestler from 2002-03 to 2014-15 known as The Freak Show, has come out of retirement to wrestle as Hero Lee.

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

## Hero Lee inspires new generation of wrestling fans

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Macy Lucas is back.

Known in as The Freak Show for more than a decade of professional independent wrestling, Lucas now has a whole new persona.

Coming out of retirement in November 2024, Lucas created 'Hero Lee,' making a full-circle comeback with Mike Shea's Independent Pro Wrestling, a promotion which had six shows planned in Brantford this year.

"My first match back was an IPW fundraiser in Hamilton."

Lucas, who lives in Delhi and works in Simcoe, said the more he watched wrestling, whether it was on TV or at indie shows (independents), the more he saw people wearing face paint... and face paint was one of the things that set Freak Show apart from everybody else.

"Even the tattoos, because now everybody has tattoos, everybody is tatted up. So if I was to come back as the Freak Show, 'the look' is gone.

"These kids today are so athletic. So you've got to try to keep up to these kids, in that sense, but I'm not going to be able to - they are 20 years younger than me. So I thought, with that creative flow, 'I should get rid of this gimmick, I should do something new. I've got to rely on martial arts.'

Enter Hero Lee.

"My love for Bruce Lee is still there... and I like super heroes." It's loosely based on Kato, the Bruce Lee chauffeur/valet character in *The Green Hornet*. Dressed in black, Lucas does not wear a mask, but he wrestles wearing a chauffeur cap. He also enters the ring wearing a chauffeur-style coat.

"It's the evolution. Not just the character, but yourself as well, because you also grow as you get older. And I think differently. I don't listen to heavy metal music like I did

when I was Freak Show. The only mosh pits I'm in these days is when my three grandkids start running into me," he added with a laugh.

"It took a while to get the fans back, in a way, because now, after so long, you're building a relationship with a new crowd. The crowd doesn't know you, so how do you get the crowd? 'Oh yes, this is how...' And I'd start to do my thing. Now, after about a year with IPW, I can safely say I'm one of their top faces."

Lucas, who began his career with Shea in 2002-03 (OPW) in Tillsonburg, soon switched to Jay McDonald's Pro Wrestling Xtreme (2004), which was succeeded by McDonald's Classic Championship Wrestling (2010), both based in Tillsonburg. Always a fan-favourite, The Freak Show continued to wrestle with another company after his CCW 'retirement' in 2014-15, but he remembers doing a couple more shows for McDonald in Delhi.

"He (McDonald) let me be the bad guy," said Lucas, who was a heel in his last full season. "We had a lot of heat. I just want to add that we were a really good 'bad guy,' not just a good 'good guy.'"

Wearing a kilt, he was known as Mr. Lucas for his last local match teaming up with Evilyn.

"I didn't get the full 15 years (of pro wrestling), but if you add those three years after retirement..."

"It was emotional, stepping away from it, but yet it wasn't. At the time, when you're hurt, you're thinking 'Is this worth it?' Plus, there were times when I had three shows on the weekend, but I would have my kids on the weekend when I was going somewhere to wrestle. One year was totally like that - I missed a whole summer with my kids. So I was sore, I was losing love on it and I just wanted to hang out with the boys (two sons)."

Today, professional wrestling is thriving even more than when Lucas got his start.

"Social media helps out a lot," he noted. "There are

more wrestling promotions, more shows available. If every wrestling promoter was to put me on every show they have, I'd have a full year. I'd be busy just here.

"But I won't book myself to wrestle six times a month. If I wrestle once or twice a month, I am happy with that."

He is enjoying the martial arts aspect of wrestling entertainment, and sometimes guiding young wrestlers.

"I need to be able to incorporate my stuff with his, because he's going to strictly do this kind of thing. If I can teach somebody, if I can help them out, that's one of my missions. Come back, work with the new guys and have good matches.

"My love for wrestling is back tenfold. I had to take some time off... started going to wrestling shows and I was right into it as a fan. I was having so much fun as a fan, I started thinking, 'I might want to get back into this.'"

Coming out of retirement meant getting back into wrestling shape. "I wasn't working out, wasn't keeping in shape. I noticed climbing stairs was tough. Injuries were still there. I said 'Enough with being lazy about this kind of thing, it's time to get back into it.'"

He started lifting weights again, and started going to physiotherapy and massage therapy (The Functional Approach in Simcoe).

"Now I do martial arts five times a week in the morning, do my workouts, and I feel great. Everything's starting to get better.

"I'm also doing this for my grandkids - it gives me a third life. With YouTube and Facebook, they will be able to see something else that poppa loves, and hopefully inspires them. When you look at social media, you don't see 'heroes' anymore. You see influencers, you see streamers, you see all these people and they are not your heroes because all they want is money. They are just doing it for the money, and me, I'm doing it for the love, and to give my grandkids somebody to look up to."



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# Audiences love Simcoe Lions' cabaret, variety show

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ence. "Usually our group is a little more relaxed (Saturday) and we're 'into it' as well. We kind of feed off the audience.

"It went well. We had good fun doing it and enjoy it. It's an awful lot of work, but it brings in some money for the community."

Typically, the Cabaret Night and Variety Show raises about \$20,000-\$25,000, which is used for local Lions causes. This year they are focusing on 'Reimagine Wellington Park,' which aims to 'revitalize and enhance one of Simcoe's treasured public spaces.'

"With all Lions, the young volunteers, the Lady Lions, the ushers, sound, lighting, we probably had close to 90 people involved in the show."

\*\*\*

Both Simcoe Night Live shows opened with a comedic SNL monologue by Tra-

vis Lloyd, followed by the chorus singing Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting (featuring Barry LaPlante) and Uptown Funk (featuring Jayne Staples).

The Lions 'Comedy Club' presented two skits, and they would alternate with the chorus for the rest of the show, doing 18 sketches in total, with participants of all ages (up to 91 & 92).

Chorus songs included Save a Horse (featuring Dennis McArthur and Pat deRuiter), Gangsta (John McCarthy), Gambler (featuring 91-year-old Don Daley), Going Going Gone (Ian Malo), Tom Petty's I Won't Back Down (Sheppard), Most People Are Good (Ron Francis), I Like It, I Love It (Peter Penman), Sharp Dressed Men (LaPlante and Dave Lorimer), I Want It That Way (Jim Adams Jr, Tracy Cochrane, Bill Easdown, Rob Francis), Beer For My Horses (Sheppard and Ron Francis), I'm On A Boat (Gord Malo, Ian Malo, Penman), Mr. Jones (Scott Peck), Respect (Sharla Hawkins and the Show Band - Brian Craig,

George Parkinson, Brent Wice and Adam Reid), Before He Cheats (Staples), Blow At Hight Dough (Gord Malo) and It's My Life (Penman).

"He (Daley) will keep going as long as he can," Sheppard smiled.

The showstopper was an emotional 'In the End,' requested by longtime Simcoe Lions member Rick Van Damme (1959-2026).

"He requested that song himself, he wanted that song sung," said Sheppard. "We were all close to him, but Ronnie Francis, front row, was the closest to him and he said he couldn't get through the song."

The show went into the intermission with many wet eyes in the audience.

### SIMCOE LIONS

The Simcoe Lions Club was founded in March 1931, and celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2021.

"We have so many different committees, like the community service com-

mittee, and we donate to causes like the music festival that is coming up, different youth events and teams," said Sheppard. "It's always nice, when we donate something, that we get to present a cheque to these groups and we get to meet some of the people involved in these groups."

Not only do members of the Simcoe Lions service club volunteer at various events, there are people who volunteer to help the Lions.

"Some people can't commit to being a full Lion, but they come out to help us in our food trailer and different events," said Sheppard, noting the Lions will be contributing to a Simcoe Downtown BIA Chicken BBQ coming up soon.

The Simcoe Lions Club, one of two Lions clubs in town, meets from September to June, every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:45 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Simcoe. If you are interested in joining, there is a contact form on their website (simcoelions.com).



Workshop was one of the Lions Comedy Club skits.



Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy co-featured Dennis McArthur and Pat deRuiter.



Legacy featured two of the oldest Simcoe Lions in the Cabaret Night and Variety Show.



91-year old Don Daley featured in Gambler.

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The Legacy skit featured a multi-generational cast.

# Norfolk Rotary Sunrise celebrates 30 years

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise will be celebrating its 30th anniversary on May 28.

Sunrise members, past members, and charter members will be gathering at a farm near Wilsonville, where they will decorate a riding barn for their anniversary event.

“It will be an evening to reminisce,” said Keith Jones, chair of the Rotary Norfolk Sunrise 30th anniversary committee, and a charter member – one of about five Sunrise charter members currently in the roughly 45-member club.

“We’re going to get folks back together for a low-key evening and do a dinner catered by Tracy Winkworth, so it’s going to be a topnotch dinner, and we’ll have a little entertainment.”

Rotary members will also share some of their ‘best, funny moments.’

“We’ll entertain ourselves,” he laughed.

\*\*\*

Active and progressive both describes Rotary Clubs in Norfolk County.

“There are two Rotary Clubs in Norfolk. There is Rotary Club of Simcoe, which has been in existence for over 100 years, they meet at noon on Mondays, and our club, just 30 years old, we meet Tuesday mornings at 7 o’clock at Riversyde 83 in Simcoe.”

When the Sunrise club started in 1996,

a lot of its members were working, Jones noted.

“It worked out very well to meet at 7 o’clock in the morning and be out by 8:15. It really fit our schedule well for many of us who were working. And now, for those of us in retirement, it’s nice to get it done and over early... and we have a social gathering at Riversyde. By the time our meeting is over, they are open so we can have some coffee, breakfast or anything you want, and we sit around and have a chat. So it’s a nice time of day.”

‘We are Sunrisers,’ is a club slogan.

Guest speakers are usually introduced about 7:05, he noted, so it’s a good idea to be on time.

The service club’s motto ‘Service above Self.’ “We do all kinds of things in the community. Some of them are fundraisers – we raise some money, give back to the community – and we have a lot of social and fellowship events.

“One of the great projects we have is Coats for Kids. We get hundreds and hundreds of coats donated, and we have them cleaned and maintained – we have a great partnership for that. They have been great to us. Then we give these coats away.”

One of their major fundraisers is Catch the Ace, held every Friday at the Port Dover Legion.

“It’s been a tremendous success and we have donated over \$250,000 back into the community, raised from Catch the Ace.”

The annual Waterford Dragon Boat Fes-



This year’s annual Invasion of the Dragons, organized by Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise, will take place in Waterford on June 21, 2026.

tival (Invasion of the Dragons – June 21, 2026), led by Rotarian Gail Catherwood, has become a huge summer event, supporting a cancer support group.

“It’s a great day, but there’s a lot of work to it to get it ready,” said Jones. “It’s a big one for us.”

Males and females are welcome at the club, he said, noting Rotary has evolved over the years. It’s not just for businessmen, or business people, it’s for people from all walks of life.

“The women have been a really important part of our club, and they take quite a leadership role.”

In addition to local causes, the local Rotary clubs support Rotary International.

“We do great work outside of the com-

munity, too,” said Jones. “Operation Eyesight is a big one for us, really big. We put a lot of time, money and effort into Operation Eyesight.

“The other big one (internationally) has been PolioPlus. We keep saying ‘we’re almost there,’ then there are outbreaks in various parts of the world. Rotary has had a huge impact on Polio treatment and research into Polio. We concentrate on the children and PolioPlus has been a big, big part of the Rotary international scene.”

For more information on the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise, visit their website at [Norfolksunrise.org](http://Norfolksunrise.org). The club will hold a barbecue about the third week of August in Waterford, then begin meetings for the 2026-27 year.



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*If you are interested in this rewarding volunteer opportunity, please visit the SCW website to complete an application.*

[www.southcoastwellness.org](http://www.southcoastwellness.org)

# Touch A Truck Fun

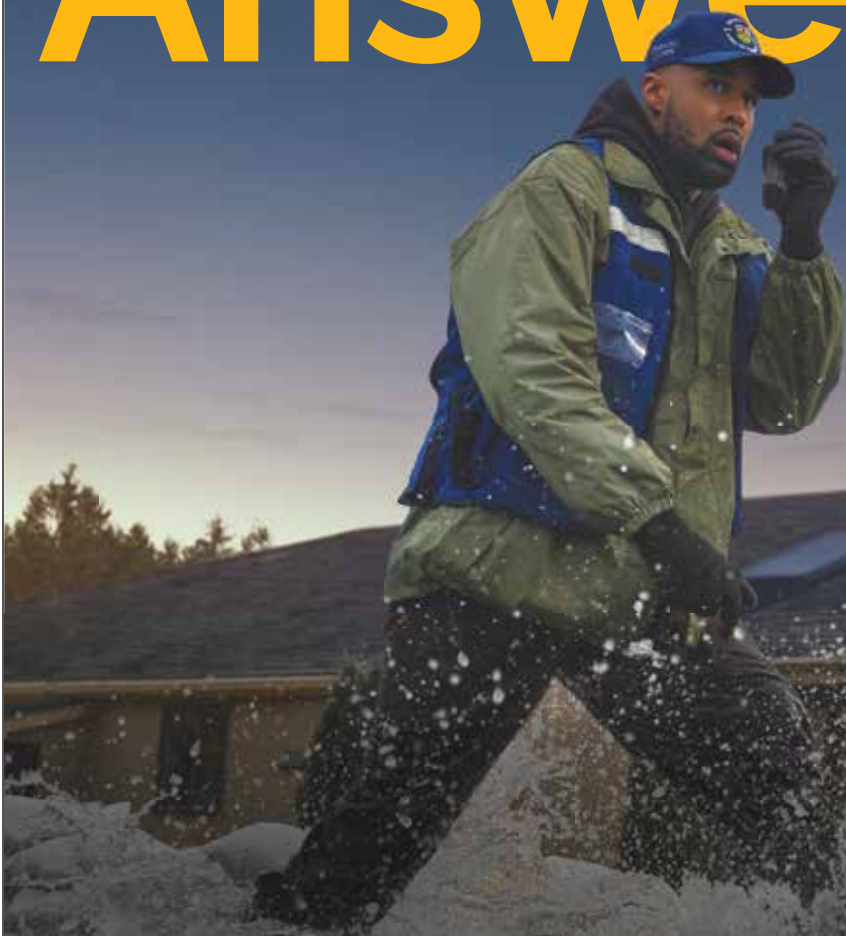
(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Dozens of trucks, various farm equipment, food trucks and fun family activities were on site for the fourth annual Norfolk Little People's Daycare Touch-A-Truck in Langton. More than 1,000 people participated in the April 11 fundraising event.



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# Nature talk explores the state of Canada's birds

LISA TIMPF

Advocate Contributor

The topic of Norfolk Nature's April speaker event, "The State of Canada's Birds," had a double meaning.

The talk, delivered by Kyle Horner, Birds Canada's Nature Counts Engagement Coordinator, made attendees aware of a website called The State of Canada's Birds. This site provides detailed information about overall trending, as well as species-specific data for all of the birds found in Canada. At the talk, Horner also shared what the data tells us about how birds are doing in this country.

The State of Canada's Birds website is the result of a partnership between Birds Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada. This online resource brings together, analyzes, and organizes data from a number of sources and makes it more accessible to the public.

Some of the information comes from 'citizen science' efforts, or projects that involve the public in helping to count and monitor the varieties and numbers of birds seen in Canada, such as the Nocturnal Owl Survey, the Marsh Monitoring Program, and the Christmas Bird Count events.

Overall, the news isn't great when considering the changes in bird populations since 1970, the earliest date that offers what Horner referred to as "good, reliable, long-term data." While waterfowl, wetland birds, and birds of prey have increased, marine birds have stayed the same and forest birds have shown a very slight decrease during that time.

The remaining groups of birds, which include arctic birds, long-distance migrants, shorebirds, aerial insectivores, and grassland birds, have all declined. The biggest declines were in the grassland birds category, which has seen populations drop by around two-thirds.

Horner highlighted five key observa-

tions, or stories, revealed by the data.

First, grassland birds in Canada are in crisis, particularly those who rely on native prairie grasslands for survival. The chestnut-collared longspur is one example. This species has shown a 95 per cent drop in numbers since 1970.

The decline in this species' numbers is caused by a number of factors, including, as the State of Canada's Birds website notes, "the destruction, degradation, and fragmentation of the native grasslands it needs."

Grassland birds that are present in agricultural settings are showing a downturn of around 42 per cent, with individual species skewing higher or lower. One such species found in Ontario is the bobolink. Ontario's bobolink numbers are consistent with those in other parts of the country, with populations having declined by 79 per cent since 1970.

These are sobering statistics, but Horner noted that part of the reason we look at data is to identify where action is needed. Horner said there are efforts underway to help declining species. For grassland species, these include incentives to encourage farmers to make their land more hospitable for affected birds.

The second observation Horner made is that shorebirds are continuing to decline. Here, good data is available since 1980. The shorebirds group includes long-legged birds that wade or scurry along the shorelines of oceans, lakes, rivers, and marshes. Plovers, sandpipers, and whimbrels are examples of birds that fall in this category.

Shorebirds time their migrations to take advantage of when insects hatch and when berries are available for food. With climate change affecting the timing of these seasonal events, the resources might not be available when birds need them.

In the case of shorebirds that favor prairie wetlands, climate change is affecting the frequency of drought. In this case, find-



(GINETTE PIEPER PHOTO)

Sharp-shinned hawks like this one have seen a population increase since 1970, according to The State of Canada's Birds website. The site provides bird population trending information, as well as species-specific data.

ing a solution to help the birds is complex, as there are larger factors at play.

One example of an affected shorebird species in Ontario is the killdeer. Ontario's killdeer population, consistent with the country-wide data, has dropped by 75 per cent since the early 1970s.

Horner's third key observation is that there are signs of hope for aerial insectivores, a category that includes swifts, swallows, nightjars, and flycatchers. While the group has shown a decline of 43 per cent since 1970, the declines seem to be leveling off.

In some cases, species are starting to show a slight recovery, though scientists are uncertain why that may be. Still, species like the olive-sided flycatcher are in trouble.

The fourth story emerging from the data is that long-distance migrants are facing difficulties. The blackpoll warbler is a case in point. This particular species has undergone an 81 per cent decline since 1970.

Long distance migrants, Horner said, are birds that travel to tropical locations to overwinter. They are facing more serious declines than species that travel shorter distances.

There are number of contributing factors affecting long-distance migrants. For one thing, some of these species travel long distances over water. With increasing weather variability and more severe weather events, this becomes riskier.

As well, birds may encounter decreased food supplies at their stopover sites. Cross-border collaboration is needed to en-

sure long-term recovery for these species.

The fifth key story emerging from the data is that three groups of birds, waterfowl, birds of prey, and wetland birds, have increased in population since 1970. This data, Horner said, needs to be considered in context. Many of these species had seen big population drops in the early and middle 1900s, so the 'increase' in population in some cases represents a recovery to previous levels. Still, Horner said, "it shows it is possible for populations to come back."

The peregrine falcon is one example of a species that has bounced back. Almost wiped out in the 1950s due to poisoning from the pesticide DDT, peregrine falcons have made a huge recovery in numbers, although they have not yet rebounded to the populations they held in the early 20th century. Ducks are another group that is on the rise, with the wood duck being one example. Wood duck populations have tripled since 1970, after being heavily impacted by unregulated hunting, the feather trade, and the disappearance of wetlands.

In addition to offering overall bird population data and analysis and individual species profiles and status assessments, The State of Canada's Birds also gives information about threats and conservation efforts. The site also lists actions individuals can take to help birds, such as maintaining bird-friendly habitat, preventing bird collisions with windows, and taking part in citizen science efforts.

More information about the state of Canada's birds can be found at [www.stateofcanadasbirds.org](http://www.stateofcanadasbirds.org).



(GINETTE PIEPER PHOTO)

Mourning doves like these two youngsters are a common sight in backyards in Southwestern Ontario. The State of Canada's Birds website notes that mourning doves are one of the species that has shown an increase in population over the past five decades.

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# SIMCOE ADVOCATE SPORTS

## Lammens makes successful transition to the OHL

JEFF TRIBE

Advocate Contributor

Equilibrium has been restored in the Lammens household.

Two years ago, Terry Lammens' team won their division of the Langton Six-Pack hockey tournament, and he chirped son Brenner's lack of a title for the next 12 months.

Last year, Brenner's team won and it was time for payback.

Wife and mother Saira is thrilled to report that on April 12, both Lammens men finished with Six-Pack wins, Terry in the 45-plus bracket, Brenner in the carded division.

"This is nice this year," she laughed. "Now we don't have to listen to either one of them."

Both played pivotal roles in their respective victory, Brenner on a crucial two-on-one double-overtime penalty kill, culminated by a quartet of tremendous saves from goalie Kobe Nadalin. Nadalin's heroics gave Brenner the chance to retrieve his stick from the corner and poke the puck ahead to teammate Myles Dunn, emerging from the penalty box to score the game winner.

If there was a differentiator, it was the fact Terry had netted a hat-trick in his final, part of a five-goal effort.

"We won't talk about that," Brenner laughed, 'grudgingly' conceding 'props.' "Give him some credit - he's definitely helped me in my life."

There was also of course, the 'small' matter of Brenner's preparation for the Six-Pack being his first season in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) with the Sarnia Sting. Being chosen fourth overall by the Sting in the 2025 OHL Priority Selection indicates hockey requires a businesslike approach for the 16-year-old Langton-area resident. However, his joy at Six-Pack competition and bragging rights also shows the sport still remains fun.

"I do it because I love it."

The transition from AAA minor hockey to 'The O' is a huge one, a player like

Lammens stepping up to compete against 20-year-old veterans, live, board and attend school away from home and be thrust into the spotlight all at a time they aren't old enough to get their driver's licence.

"Everything is on a bigger stage," said Lammens, who instead of 200 fans in U15 found himself playing in front of 8,000 inside London's Canada Life Place, his 'time and space' limited compared to minor hockey. "Speed is the biggest thing for sure. Speed and size, a lot bigger players. "They hit you and you feel it."

His first season could be divided into two portions. In the opening months, he found limited ice time, struggling to find his game in two to five minutes per outing. But with a coaching change initiated mid-November and completed with the hiring of Mathieu Turcotte November 24, Lammens came alive.

"Kind of thrived under him a bit," he said of a nine goals, nine assists - and 95 penalty minutes - stat line across 59 games. "The nine and nine part came mostly in the second half."

"That was definitely a turning point in the year for me," he added later. "Just being able to go play, get on the ice and get into games again."

It was a season of firsts for Lammens, his inaugural assist coming early, catching the puck off the glass, faking a pass to the point before 'saucering' beautifully to Jack Van Volsen in the middle. Lammens' first goal came in the first shift of his sixth game, against Flint, transitioning to offence after stopping a three-on-one at the end of the power play. Following a successful battle for possession in the corner he went to the net, his arrival coinciding with that of the puck.

"It went right off my pants," said Lammens, who batted it into the net out of the air. "Anything is a goal."

Technically, his first fight - as his 95-minute penalty total attests, the 6'1" 191-pound rookie didn't change the physically-aggressive aspect of his game despite playing against much-older opposition - came after levelling an opponent near mid-ice



Langton's Brenner Lammens celebrates an OHL goal.

(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)



Brenner Lammens (third from left, back row) and his Langton Six-Pack Outliers, carded division champion teammates at the Langton Six-Pack.

with a hard body check. Lammens never got his gloves off after a teammate objected by grabbing him, the two going to the ice. What he calls his first 'real fight' came near centre ice in London after delivering a hip check to a member of the Knights. London's Max Crete dropped his gloves and came toward Lammens.

"I was like, OK," said Brenner of the spirited tilt which ensued.

A Sting roster with 13 rookies listed on its lineup finished with a 21-31-8-1 record in regular season action, out of the playoffs. It was very much a split experience for Lammens, rating his 20 games before the coaching change as a 'one or two out of ten', the balance of the season 'eight.'

"It went pretty well," he said, noting how three or four games under Turcotte before the Christmas break gave him a chance to reset for a fresh start, carrying positive momentum forward. "I was like I'm playing now."

"I kind of settled in and felt part of the team."

There definitely was an adjustment to the speed, pace and 'size' of the game, one Lammens has acclimatized to. He still feels there is much to learn.

"But on an upwards trajectory, I guess."

Currently finishing out his school year, Lammens looks forward to playing summer volleyball, baseball and golf with friends, continuing to work out and get on the ice regularly while eyeing the possibility of playing with Canada's U18 squad at the Hlinka Gretzky Cup.

"That would be pretty cool to go to."

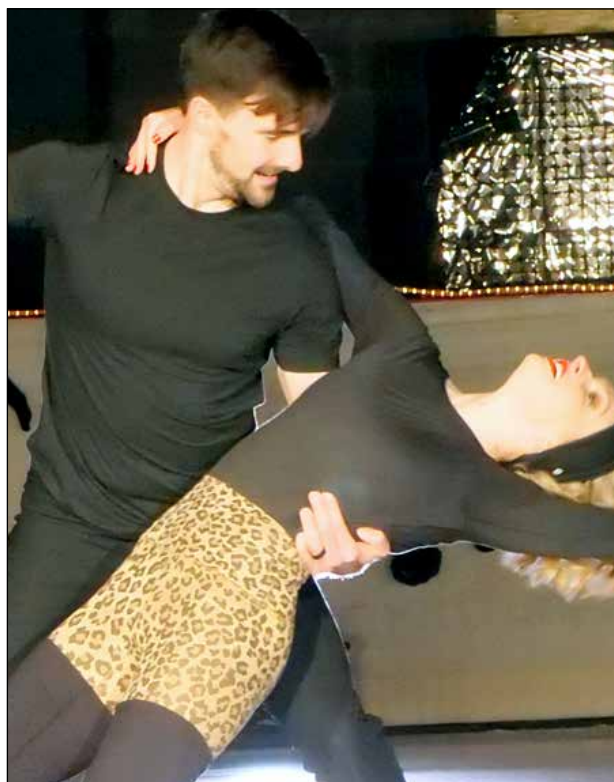
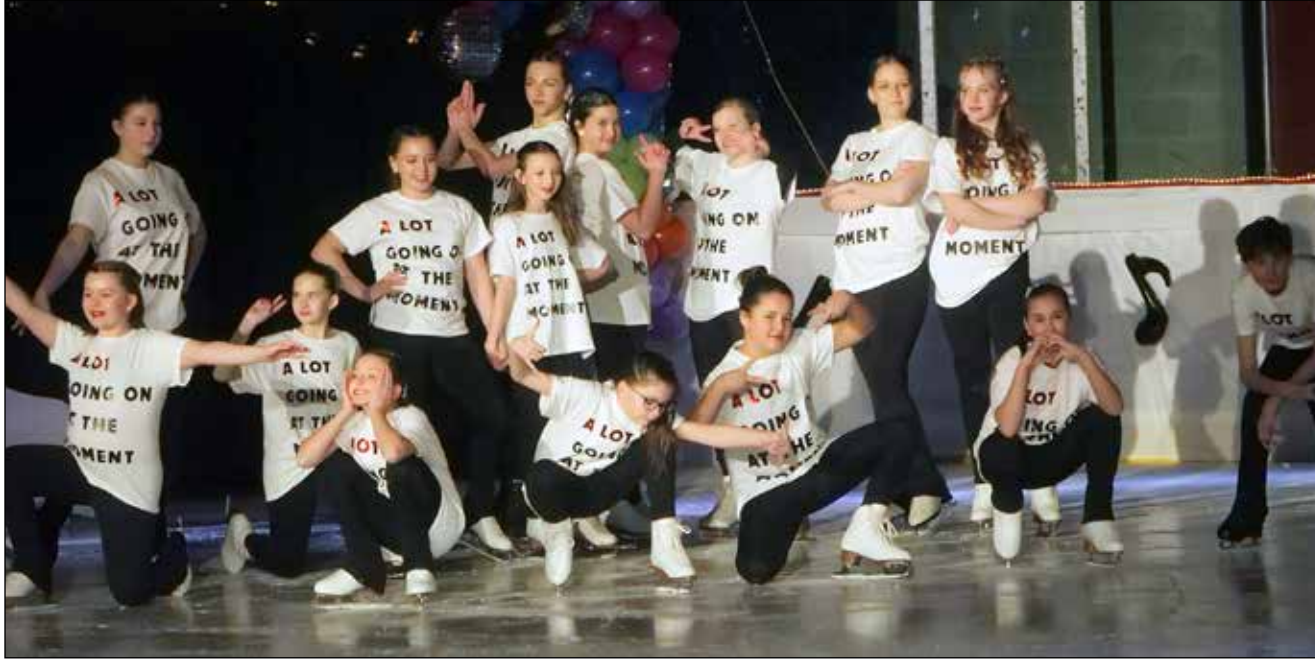
Looking ahead towards next season with the Sting, Lammens has gained considerable knowledge and experience about what it will take to continue to progress. There is no easy route he emphasized, just requirement for the self-confidence to believe in oneself, take a day-by-day approach to improvement and be prepared for what comes.

"Everything you can control, make sure you do that to the best of your abilities," he concluded.

# Icons on Ice

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Waterford Tricenturena Skating Club's annual carnival, Icons on Ice, on April 11 featured iconic music by artists such as Queen, Michael Jackson, Taylor Swift, Bruno Mars, Lady Gaga and more, with skaters showcasing their skills from the CanSkate to Adult levels.



# Icons on Ice

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

The annual skating carnival brings an end to the 2026 winter season. The Waterford Tricenturena Skating Club performed twice on April 11 with numbers that included Prince, Frank Sinatra, The Rolling Stones, Aretha Franklin, Van Halen, and perhaps the best carnival sing-along (Sweet Caroline) by Neil Diamond.



# Ultimate Family Game Night

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Langton Skating Club's annual year-end carnival on April 18 featured classic table games like Trouble, Scrabble, UNO, Bingo, Life, Go Fish, poker, and more. Below, Anna Heye as the PA of the Year, skating with Melissa Rowbottom, CanSkater of the Year.



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# Ultimate Family Game Night



Board games bring families together – and so does the annual Langton Skating Club carnival. The Saturday, April 18th shows featured family games, and six Ice Crystals teams including the Adult 2 skaters.



The Ice Crystals' Star 4 Pre-Juvenile team.



Ice Crystals Over-12 team.



The Langton Skating Club's Adult 3 Ice Crystals, skating at the year-end carnival in Langton.



The Star 4 Beginner Ice Crystals at the Langton Skating Club Carnival.



The first Ice Crystals synchro skating team to skate at the Langton Skating Club carnival was the Star 4 Elementary team.

# PET OF THE WEEK

Nominate your Pet of the Week by emailing [info@simcoeadvocate.com](mailto:info@simcoeadvocate.com)



## TINKERBELL

### Meet our Pet of the Week:

Tinkerbelle, a 14-year-old partially blind and deaf Shih Tzu, has become a well-known and much-loved face around town. A constant companion to her owner, she still enjoys slow walks meeting people, and can often be seen relaxing in her stroller at the park. *Thank you to Len Lamourie for submitting.*



# Word Search

## EARTH DAY

U W C R Y G I W M Y O W F P O I N A T U R E  
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- CLIMATE
- CARBON
- FOOTPRINT
- POLLUTION
- GLOBAL
- WARMING
- ECOFRIENDLY
- BIODIVERSITY
- ENVIRONMENT
- AWARENESS
- EARTH
- NATURE
- PLANET
- ECOSYSTEM
- HABITAT
- WILDLIFE
- FOREST
- OCEAN
- RIVER
- MOUNTAIN

# Riddles

I start out small  
 but grow so wide,  
 with creatures living  
 deep inside.  
 Protect me well—  
 I'm worth your care.

*The ocean*

I fly without wings  
 across the sky,  
 I help things grow  
 as I pass by.  
 Too much of me  
 can cause despair.  
 Too little—nothing's there.

*Rain*

I stand in place,  
 yet travel the years.  
 I give you shade  
 and calm your fears.

*A tree*

# Sudoku



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| 3 |   | 8 | 4 | 1 |   | 5 | 6 |   |

Solutions on page 27

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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## APRIL - MAY

### STILL AVAILABLE THIS GARDENING SEASON

Community Garden Plots at the JWR Memorial Community Garden near the corner of Gilbertson Drive and Davis Street. For \$30, you get a 21' x 21' fertile garden patch, access to water and gardening tools.

Please contact Dave Zeldon if you are interested at 519-410-5807

## FRIDAY, APRIL 24

### RIVERSYDE'S GOT TALENT

7:00 p.m

Friday Fun Nights in the Café - FREE - There's a lot more to our TEAM than you know! So come on down and see our SHOW! Good food, good friends, good times.

Riversyde 83 - 83 Sydenham Street in downtown Simcoe

### FREE CONCERT

7:30 p.m

Featuring the Haldimand-Norfolk Concert Band at Waterford United Church (135 Main St. S.) on Friday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. Come and enjoy the beautiful acoustics of the church sanctuary. Light Refreshments follow.

Waterford United Church | 135 Main Street S.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 26

### SUNDAY BRUNCH

Serving from 9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m (while quantities last)

Advanced Tickets available at the bar. For More Information call the Legion at 519-443-5588 or [www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca](http://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca)

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526. 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

### SLADE/REWUTZSKY MEMORIAL CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT

Registration - 11:45 a.m - 12:30 p.m

Play starts at 12:30 p.m

\$20/2 Person Team - Prizes for Top 3 Teams - Food & Drink Available.

Simcoe Legion, 200 West Street, Simcoe, ON

## FRIDAY, MAY 1

### WINGS & MORE

5:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m

Full menu and prices at [simcoelegion.ca](http://simcoelegion.ca)

Simcoe Legion, 200 West Street, Simcoe, ON

## SATURDAY, MAY 2

### BOOK, BAKE AND WHAT-NOT SALE

8:30 a.m - 12:00 p.m

St. James United Church, 150 Colborne St.S.

### SPRING WALK THROUGH DELHI QUANCE PARK

2:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m

Spring walk through Delhi Quance Park ending with a tour of the Delhi Tobacco Museum, featuring the Velodrome exhibit. Free event. Donations to the museum are appreciated.

200 Talbot Rd, Delhi, ON N4B 2A3 | Parking available at the museum

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

### ELECTIONS & MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING

Starting at 7:00 p.m

Members only. Please bring your card to vote. Not a member, contact us to join

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526. 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

## SUNDAY, MAY 10

### MOTHERS DAY DANCE PARTY

Doors open at 1:30 p.m

Music from 2:00 p.m - 5:00 p.m

Part of the monthly 2nd Sunday Live Music Event at the Simcoe Legion. Featuring Ontario super group cover band: Jesse Murphy, Mike Vukovich, Kimberly Manning & Costa Chatzis. \$5/cover. Upstairs Memorial Hall. Full details at [simcoelegion.ca](http://simcoelegion.ca)

Simcoe Legion, 200 West Street, Simcoe, ON

## MONDAY, MAY 11

### DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

7:30 p.m

Guest Speaker - Jeff Leadrer, a field naturalist; a founding member of Brant for Nature. He will introduce us to the app which helps identify plants and animals around us, explain this app and how we can navigate it on our devices. Should be very interesting. All welcome.

Delhi Senior Friendship Centre | 418 Queen St., Delhi, ON (Parking off William Street)

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

### FISH & CHIPS

4:30 p.m - 7:00 p.m

One Piece with chips, coleslaw and bun

\$11.00 (more menu options available). Visit [simcoelegion.ca](http://simcoelegion.ca) for details.

Simcoe Legion, 200 West Street, Simcoe, ON

## SATURDAY, MAY 23

### FISH FRY

Serving from 5:00 p.m - 7:00 p.m

Advanced tickets only/Tickets must be purchased by Saturday, May 16th. Please visit the legion during open hours for ticket purchases. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm. For More Information call the Legion at 519-443-5588 or [www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca](http://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca)

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526. 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

## SUNDAY, MAY 31

### BRANT MEN OF SONG CONCERT

The Brant Men of Song are hosting the concert this year as part of their 65th Anniversary of the men's choir on Sunday, May 31st. There will be 6 male choirs at the Sanderson Centre at 88 Dalhousie Street in Brantford. The choruses come from Toronto, Burlington, Cambridge, Niagara and Guelph. The concert starts at 3 pm and tickets can be purchased directly from the Sanderson Centre (519-758-8090) for \$35.00 each.

Sanderson Centre | 88 Dalhousie Street in Brantford

## EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

### INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE

1:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m

Spring into the Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree meeting every other Friday 1-4 p.m. at Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll. Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! April 10 & 17, May 1, 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

## EVERY FRIDAY EVENING

### CATCH THE ACE

4:30 a.m- 7:30 p.m (Draw at 7:45 pm)

Win over \$21,000.00 (LIC #RAF 14505443)! Tickets are available for \$5 each, 3 for \$10, or 6 for \$20. Proceeds support the Norfolk Haldimand Hospice, Norfolk General Hospital Foundation, and Rotary Norfolk Youth Scholarships.

Simcoe Legion, West Street, Simcoe

## THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

### LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB

**10:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m**

Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy diverse interest groups, friendship and fellowship. We have interesting speakers at our monthly meetings as well as time to socialise. Current and prospective members are welcome to join us at the Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, which is on the corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St. For more information, please visit our website at: [lynnriverprobus239.com](http://lynnriverprobus239.com) or email [lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com](mailto:lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com).

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

**COURTLAND COUNTRY OPEN MIC JAM**

Music starts at 1:00 p.m | Dinner at 5:00 p.m  
All welcome!

*Courtland Community Centre | 272 Main St., Courtland, ON*

**LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**

**OPEN JAM**

Starting at 5:00 p.m (Until Sold Out)  
Everyone is welcome to bring an instrument or just come out and listen to the music.  
Free event For More Information call

the Legion at 519-443-5588 or [www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca](http://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca)

*The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526. 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario*

**EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY**

**SIT AND FIT**

12:00 pm - 12:45 pm  
Free for everyone

*Royal Canadian Legion - Waterford 223 Nichol St.*

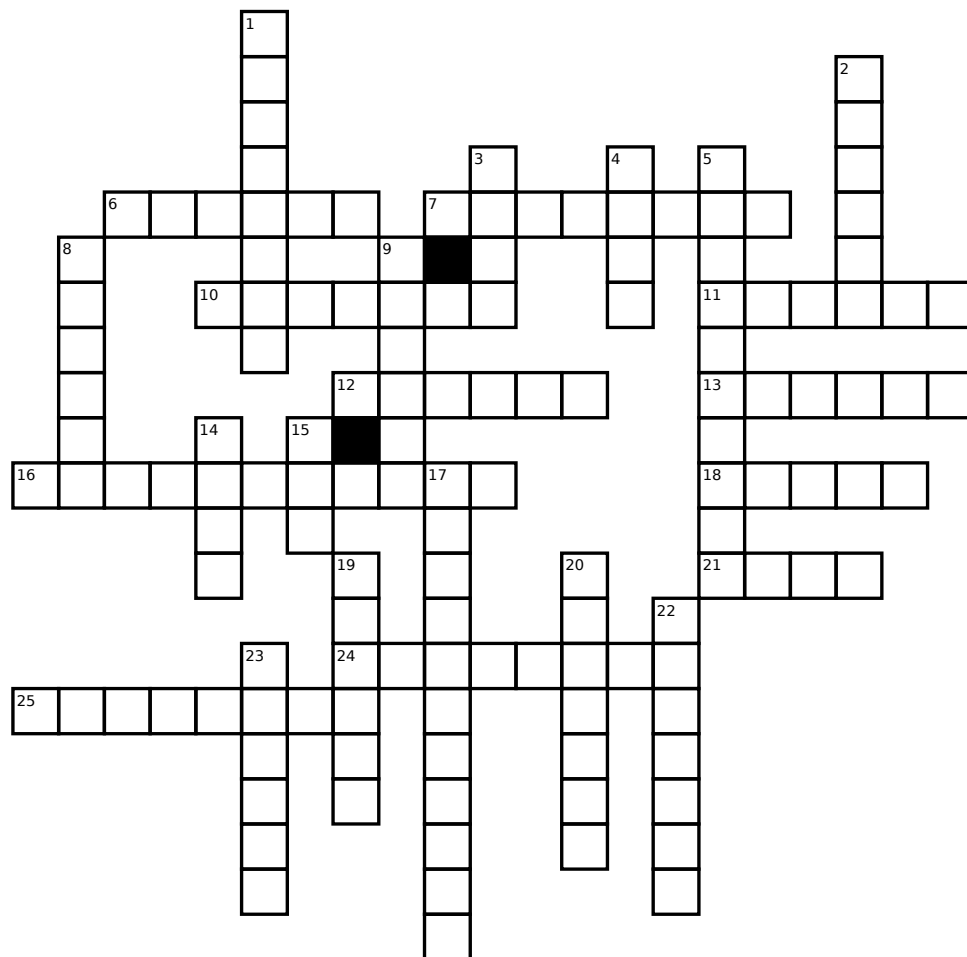
# Weekly Crossword

## THE PRODUCE PUZZLE - ROOTING FOR EARTH

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



227 MAIN STREET IN DELHI, ON



### Clues

**DOWN**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Knobby celery root
- 2. Bulb vegetable with anise flavor
- 3. Cassava by another name
- 4. Red salad root
- 5. Spicy knobby rhizome
- 8. Common mashed tuber
- 9. Hot green root condiment
- 14. Long mild onion relative
- 15. Sweet starchy tuber
- 17. Orange holiday side dish
- 19. Purple-topped root vegetable
- 20. Mild small onion
- 22. Sweet pale root vegetable
- 23. Crisp juicy root vegetable
- 6. Orange root vegetable
- 7. Golden spice root
- 10. Starchy tropical root
- 11. Clove-filled bulb flavoring
- 12. Long white radish
- 13. Peppery crunchy root
- 16. Sharp white grated root
- 18. Layered bulb vegetable
- 21. Purple-flecked tropical root
- 24. Large waxy root crop
- 25. Green onion stalk

Answers found on page 27

# It's spring cleanup time in Waterford

## All hands on deck for the annual Waterford Heritage Trail spring cleanup

**BRENDA MOSER**

*Advocate Contributor*

Winter hit us with a vengeance this year with snow, snow and more snow! I am glad to see it gone and I look forward to exploring the colours of spring and the new growth it will bring.

The Waterford Heritage Trail at Shadow Lake is the place to do just that and it is popular for not only walkers, but bikers alike. The Waterford Heritage Trail Association is gearing up for their annual spring cleanup and they

are looking for volunteers to lend a hand.

The community support for the trail is evident in the number of walkers, bikers, runners... anyone looking for a great place to get out and enjoy the fresh air and all Mother Nature has to offer. At this time of year, the big project at hand is getting down and dirty cleaning up after Mother Nature's bout of winter.

Cue the volunteers!

On Saturday, April 25, volunteers are invited to meet at the Old Train Station parking lot on Alice

Street at 8:30 a.m., ready to lend a hand or two. If there are some teens out there who would like to help out, they can get credit for volunteer hours. They just need to bring a form and one of the members of the Trail Association will be happy to sign it. Get credit for a good deed!

Participants are reminded to dress warm, bring your own gardening gloves (if you have them) and your rubber boots. Remember, you will be working around trees and bushes so you might want to wear your working

clothes! On this day fashion etiquette goes right out the window!

If you have any gardening tools, digging tools, pruning shears, a wheelbarrow, or a chainsaw, you are welcome to bring them. Not only will trees, bushes, weeds, etc. be a task at hand, they will also need volunteers willing to pick up garbage... a task for everyone and every volunteer is appreciated!

If you are unable to attend but want to contribute, monetary donations are always welcome. You can donate at [www.water-](http://www.waterfordtrailsandponds.ca)

[fordtrailsandponds.ca](http://www.waterfordtrailsandponds.ca).

Income Tax receipts will be issued.

At any given time of the day you are likely to meet a number of bikers or hikers and you can be assured they appreciate all of the hard work that is done to maintain the trail. Many hands make light work!

Volunteers will be able to warm up after they are done with Tim Hortons coffee and donuts.

Thank you Timmies! Thank you volunteers! Waterford rocks!

# Simcoe Little Theatre celebrates 80 years

## SLT presents special June anniversary fundraising production Where Stars Still Shine

This June, Simcoe Little Theatre invites the community to celebrate an extraordinary milestone with a special anniversary production that honours eight decades of local theatre.

Where Stars Still Shine is a one-of-a-kind fundraising performance created to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Simcoe Little Theatre, bringing together generations of performers who have helped shape the theatre's rich history.

Directed by Jan Rainey with assistant director David Kent, the original production will feature a vibrant collection of medleys and scenes from beloved plays and musicals that have graced the SLT stage over the past 80 years. From cherished classics to memorable musical moments, the show promises an evening filled with music, laughter, and heartfelt nostalgia.

Rainey and her production team have assembled a truly special cast made up of community actors spanning many generations of Simcoe Little Theatre.

"We have a large cast of alumni together with more recent additions to the SLT stage. It's a homecoming of sorts!" said Rainey. "This production is truly a celebration of the people and performances that have kept community theatre alive in Simcoe for 80 years."

With only three performances scheduled, tickets will be limited for this unique anniversary event:

Friday, June 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 28 at 2 p.m.

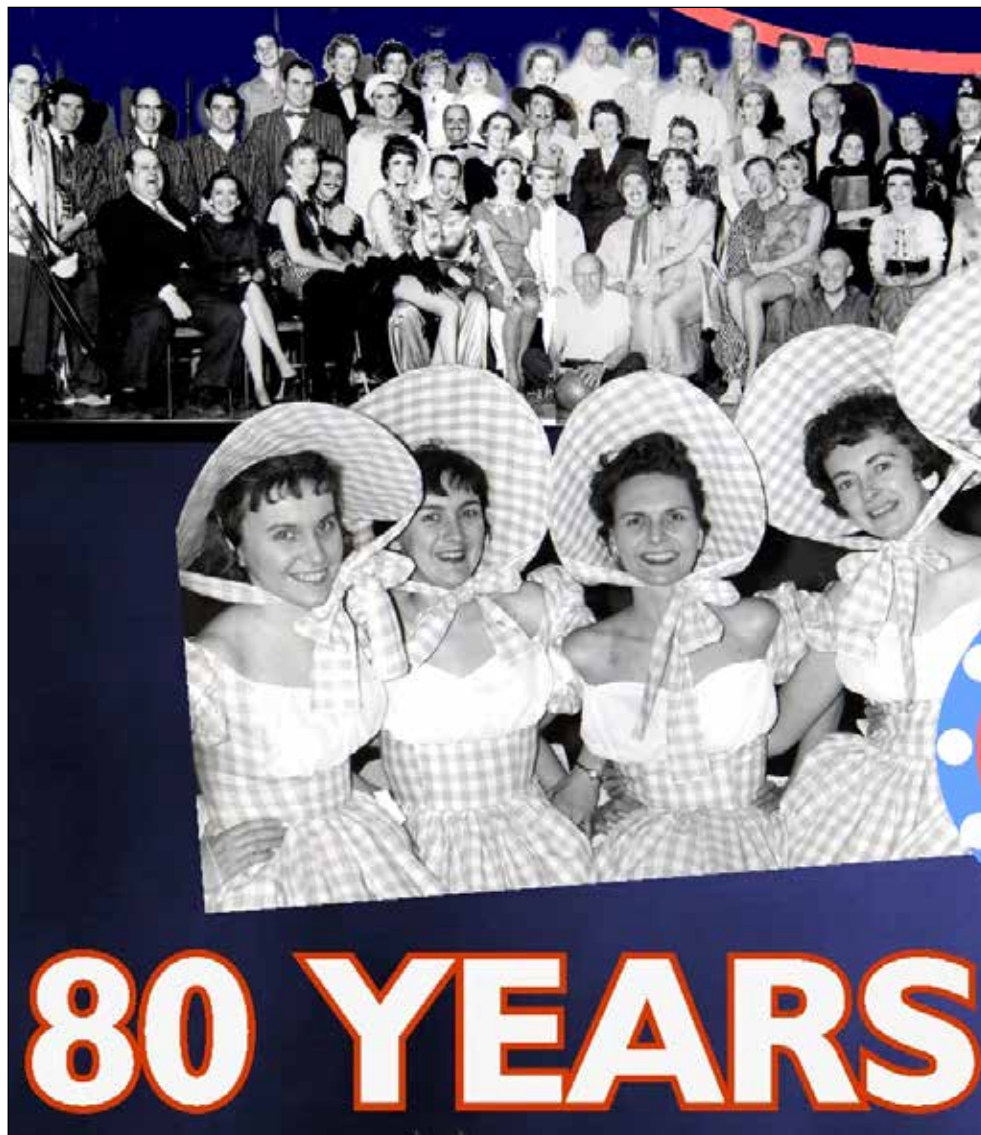
Tickets are \$45 each, with proceeds from the fundraiser supporting important improvements to Simcoe Little Theatre's audience and backstage spaces. Funds raised will also help support future productions and the continued growth and expansion of the theatre's seasons.

Community theatre plays a vital role in bringing people together, providing opportunities for creativity, storytelling, and connection. For 80 years, Simcoe Little Theatre has been a place where local talent shines, friendships are formed, and audiences share unforgettable moments together. Where Stars Still Shine will honour that legacy while helping ensure the theatre continues to thrive for generations to come.

Tickets for this special fundraising event will be on sale starting April 15, 2026. You can purchase tickets online at [simcoelittletheatre.org/80th-anniversary/](http://simcoelittletheatre.org/80th-anniversary/) or by calling the box office at 519-583-0505.

### About Simcoe Little Theatre

Established in 1946, Simcoe Little Theatre continues to enrich the cultural life of the community by providing opportunities for local talent both on stage and behind the scenes. Simcoe Little Theatre is a volunteer-driven community theatre dedicated to producing high-quality live theatre. With decades of history and a reputation for excellence, Simcoe Little Theatre is proud to be a place "Where Community Stars Shine"!



Simcoe Little Theatre is presenting a special anniversary production to celebrate eight decades of local theatre, June 26-28. Tickets available now online ([simcoelittletheatre.org/80th-anniversary/](http://simcoelittletheatre.org/80th-anniversary/)) or by calling the box office.

[WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM](http://WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM)

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Email to inquire: [info@simcoeadvocate.com](mailto:info@simcoeadvocate.com)

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For Sale: Shade Trees; Maples, Oaks, Birch, Beech, Honey Locusts, Elms, Magnolia, Hydrangea Tree, Tulip Tree, Crab apples, Ivory Silk Lilac, Chanticleer Pear, Golden Weeping Willows and more. Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Nectarine, Blueberry, Has-kap etc.

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## HELP WANTED

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**If you are interested, contact Heather Dunbar at: [heather@granthaven.com](mailto:heather@granthaven.com)**

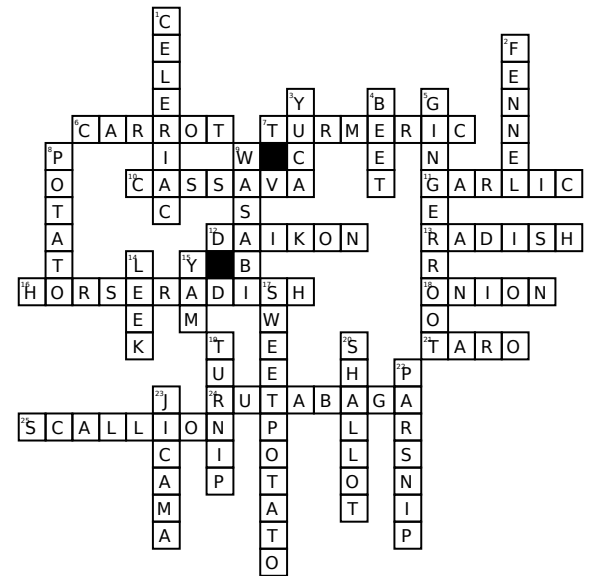
## QUIZ ANSWERS

- |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Atom         | 6. Female.             |
| 2. Octagon      | 7. AB Negative.        |
| 3. A tight rope | 8. 1969                |
| 4. Diamond      | 9. Solid, liquid & gas |
| 5. 1912         | 10. Pluto              |

## SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BI-WEEKLY PUBLICATION DATES

**MAY 7 & MAY 21**  
**JUNE 4 & JUNE 18**

**DEADLINE IS THE MONDAY PRIOR AT 3 P.M.**

## WANTED

I will pay cash for antiques and collectibles. Coca Cola, Pepsi or any pop company. Brewery items - Kuntz, Huether Labatts, etc. Old radios and gramophones, wristwatches, pocket watches, old fruit jars - Beaver Star, Bee Hive etc. Any old oil cans and signs - Red Indian, Supertest etc. Any small furniture. If you are moving or cleaning out stuff please contact me - 519-570-6920.

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

House cleaning and laundry services available on a weekly or biweekly schedule. For a consultation, call or text 519-410-9740.

### SUBMIT YOUR COMING EVENTS, MEMORIAM, THANK YOU, OBITUARY, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Email us at [info@simcoeadvocate.com](mailto:info@simcoeadvocate.com)

# THE SIMCOE ADVOCATE



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Email to inquire: [info@simcoeadvocate.com](mailto:info@simcoeadvocate.com)

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