

SIMCOE ADVOCATE

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Security patrols to continue at Talbot Gardens

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

Guards will continue to patrol Talbot Gardens during the hockey season.

Anecdotal success in a trial that saw security guards set up at the Simcoe arena was enough to convince staff to recommend continuing the program. Norfolk County initially hired security services last year when users of the arena complained about dangerous activity like drug use taking place on the property.

"(Incidents) have not been happening since the guards have been in place," said Bill Cridland, general manager of community and development services.

The staff recommendation suggested providing up to 28 hours of security guard services a week while the ice is in. No such services would be offered for summer events, since staff said issues don't appear to be happening on the property when the weather is nicer.

Council used existing reserve funds to pay for the emergency and pilot security programs. Moving it to a more permanent system required detailing specific funding. The report offered three options: increasing the levy budget in 2026, increasing ice rates for Talbot Gardens, or increasing ice fees for all arenas. The total estimated cost for 2026 is \$25,000.

Councillors ultimately voted to have the money come out of the levy.

"I don't like penalizing any of the groups for this," said Coun. Linda Vandendriessche, adding it's not the fault of the user groups that these issues were

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Afghanistan veteran Derek Bristol of Port Dover, who served in a multi-national NATO force, left his Remembrance Day poppy on a wreath placed near a Norfolk War Memorial plaque honouring Petty Officer Douglas Craig Blake, who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2010.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Remembrance at the Norfolk War Memorial

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

This year's Remembrance Day ceremony at the Norfolk War Memorial marked the 100th year it was held at the Carillon Tower in Simcoe.

Bigger wreaths with bigger poppies

were used in honour of the 100th anniversary.

"All of the wreaths that were placed (at Carillon Tower), they were not the traditional ones that you see at all the cenotaphs," said James Christison, president of Royal Canadian Legion, Simcoe Branch 79.

"They are actually based on what would originally have been made 100 years ago," said Christison. "Those original wreaths would have been made by wounded veterans in places like Vetcraft."

Vetcraft shops provided employment and social reintegration for vet-

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Remembrance Day at Norfolk War Memorial

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

erans returning from WWI, between 1919 and 1925. They were instrumental in establishing the production and sale of lapel poppies.

"So those original wreaths laid 100 years ago were made by veterans with silk poppies. These ones, we tried to get them as close as possible."

Snow covered the ground on a chilly Nov. 11th, but several hundred people came out to honour the sacrifices of veterans, men and women who served their country, and those who continue to serve.

"It's nice to come home," said Derek Bristol of Port Dover, who served in a multi-national NATO force (combined air operations terminal) deployed in Afghanistan, based in Kandahar from 2008-09, and

2012 in Kabul.

"I don't mind (the cold), but I think it's the first time I've seen snow like this on Remembrance Day," said Bristol, now living in Toronto. "I've seen the slushy snow, but never 'snow' snow."

"Several people noted how many school kids were there this year," said Christison. "Several classes from the local elementary schools came out to participate, which is great to see. I think, and speaking with a couple other Legion representatives that were there, there definitely seemed to be more children this year – even with the weather."

West Lynn Public School teacher Catherine Wiebe, who assisted with the Carillon 100 choir at the dedication in June, brought a section of the choir to sing the national

and royal anthems.

"More youth involvement, that's key," said Christison. "It's all about stewardship and perpetuating the message of Remembrance."

56th Field Regiment RCA members, and members of 69 Battery, were in attendance.

Following the Nov. 11th ceremony, Legion members and the community – and anyone who participated in the Remembrance ceremony – were welcomed at Branch 79 on West Street for a luncheon and time of camaraderie.

Later in the afternoon, the community was welcomed at Army Navy Air Force Unit 255 on Water Street for more camaraderie and a chili/soup open house.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

This year's wreaths at the Norfolk War Memorial – Carillon Tower featured larger poppies, similar to those laid 100 years ago.



Cadet Kai Wu and Ministry of Transportation's Frank Yalaksa stand in front of the Norfolk War Memorial – Carillon Tower after the Nov. 11th Remembrance Day ceremony in Simcoe.



More than 300 people attended the Remembrance Day ceremony in Simcoe on Nov. 11.



James Christison, president of Royal Canadian Legion, Simcoe Branch 79, welcomed Remembrance Day participants back to the Legion following the ceremony at the Carillon Tower for an afternoon luncheon.

Security to continue at Simcoe arena

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

happening.

"I think this is something the county just absorbs."

Since council voted to add it to the levy, Mayor Amy Martin requested staff also take another look at how much it would cost to add similar security services elsewhere. Council previously considered providing security to the county administration building and the library.

"I think out of respect to our staff that's the least we can do," she said.

The report recommends approving the security program through 2026 and until the ice is out in 2027, at which point the county could once again review the situation.



Linda Vandendriesche, Ward 2 Councillor

Waterford Remembers

(BRENDA MOSER PHOTOS)

On Remembrance Day, members of 56 Field Regiment RCA, 69th Battery, and Norfolk and Brantford firefighters participated in the Waterford cenotaph ceremony. A Last Post wreath ceremony was observed at Greenwood Cemetery on Nov. 11.



Yes, it's that time again —
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EDITORIAL

Honour that lives past November 11

Haldimand-Norfolk

**MPP
Bobbi Ann
Brady**



Last week was filled with Remembrance Day services. I am always heartened at the number of services held across Haldimand-Norfolk. I want to thank all the people who laid wreaths on behalf of the Province of Ontario and me.

In memory of the fallen and those who serve and have served, on November 5th, I re-tabled a motion I previously tabled last year in the Ontario Legislature, which reads: 'That, in the opinion of this House, the Government of Ontario should honour Canadian military veterans and soldiers by directing municipalities to set aside, and secure in perpetuity, a painted crosswalk in remembrance of their service and sacrifice.'

I'm so pleased to see many municipalities across Ontario take the initiative to bring forward their own like-minded motions, including right here; Haldimand County Mayor

Shelley Ann Bentley brought forward her own crosswalk motion.

Actions like this speak to the belief that a moment of silence, poppies pinned to our lapels represent a solemn promise - they are a collective act of gratitude and reflection. To truly remember is to honour not just the fallen, but the lives they lived, the sacrifices they made, and the freedoms they preserved.

I was humbled to stand in the Legislature and relate my feelings to colleagues at Queen's Park and right here in Haldimand-Norfolk. I urged those present to imagine war time, the quiet moments on porches and train platforms, in kitchens and fields - when mothers, fathers, sisters, and sweethearts stood tall and brave, even as their hearts broke. They folded letters into trembling hands, packed rations and rosaries, and watched their sons, brothers, and husbands disappear down the road.

There were no guarantees, only hope. Hope that their boys would be safe. Hope that the war would end quickly. Hope that the world would somehow be better for the sacrifice about to be made.

And behind every soldier's step marched the silent strength of their families - enduring the ache of absence, the fear of telegrams, and the long, uncertain wait. They held onto memories and prayers, planting gardens and raising younger siblings, keeping the home fires burning as their loved ones faced the unimaginable.

Across Canada - from the wheat fields of the Prairies to

the fishing villages of the East, from small towns like those here in Haldimand-Norfolk to the bustling streets of Montreal and Toronto - families stood at doorsteps and train stations, watching their young men leave home for war. Some were farm boys, others factory workers, students, or newlyweds - and many were barely old enough to shave. They left with a uniform, a kit bag, and the hopes of an entire nation resting on their shoulders.

Canada has always punched above its weight in times of conflict. From the muddy trenches of Vimy Ridge to the stormy beaches of Normandy, from the icy Korean hills to peacekeeping missions across the globe, our country has stood for freedom, democracy, and human dignity. But behind every act of courage on the front lines stood a family back home - sacrificing in their own quiet way.

For every medal awarded and every battle fought, there was a mother who waited by the radio, a father who checked the mailbox with a lump in his throat, and a sweetheart who pressed a photo to her heart each night. These families bore the burden of uncertainty and loss with courage that deserves equal remembrance.

Our soldiers didn't just fight battles - they secured the very foundations of the life we live today. They fought for freedom: the right to speak without fear, to worship as we choose, to vote, to gather, to raise our children in peace.

Let us never forget what they gave - and what we gained.

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Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Chris Abbott • chris@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Michelle Foster • info@simcoeadvocate.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Administration

Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

Contributors

Alex Hunt, Lisa Timpf, Paul Knowles

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
info@simcoeadvocate.com | 519.655.2341 | granthaven.com



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A Remembrance crosswalk was installed in Tillsonburg earlier this month.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

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Council extends agreement with Port Dover Lions

Club will get a bump in tax subsidies for continued operation of three local parks

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

The Port Dover Lions will keep maintaining and operating three parks in the area, as a new memorandum of understanding has been approved by Norfolk County council.

Under the updated MOU, the club will receive a bump in the subsidies they receive for operating the three parks. Norfolk has been going through its similar agreements and updating them to ensure they're all still valid, legal and needed. The latest is the MOU with the Lions Club, which dates back to an agreement with the former City

of Nanticoke.

While calling it technically a housekeeping item, manager of community and development services Bill Cridland also said it was a good news story and a "win-win" for the community. Councillors agreed, heaping praise on the Lions Club for their continued contributions.

"Thanks to the Lions for making sure baseball is affordable," said Coun. Adam Veri.

"Without that partnership we wouldn't have baseball in Port Dover."

The new agreement will be limited to three Port Dover parks: Harry Misener

Memorial Ball Park on Main Street, the playground on Saint George Street, and Silver Lake Park on Saint Patrick Street. Lions owned properties have changed over the years, though the \$3,600 subsidy they received hasn't been updated in more than a decade.

Staff recommended an increase to \$11,400 a year, to cover the increased costs of property taxes as well as maintenance like grass cutting and park repairs. The Lions currently pay about \$21,500 a year on property taxes for the three properties.

A yearly cost-of-living increase is also included in the agreement.

The 10-year agreement includes yearly reviews and the ability to exit the agreement should the Lions sell one of the properties.

"A continued partnership with the Port Dover Lions Club is mutually beneficial to all parties as Harry Misner Memorial Park is one of the few hardball diamonds in Norfolk County, and user traffic on the Lynn Valley Trail which connects with the Silver Lake Park property remains strong, indicating its popularity," the report said.

Port Dover beach agreement to continue in 2026

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

A largely successful 2025 beach season has led Norfolk County and Port Dover beachfront landowners to continue their partnership.

Some tweaks have been recommended, but overall, the agreement will continue in 2026. A tripling in the number of recorded interactions between security and the public between last year and this year may sound troubling, but staff said it was actually a sign the agreement is working.

"This is us being able to respond to issues on the beach before they become a problem," said Jim Millson, manager of bylaw services, pointing out the vast majority of issues were solved with a simple conversation.

The agreement between the county and Port Dover landowners started in 2023 and included options to extend the lease annually. The county pays a nominal fee to the landowners and pays for services such as custodial support, maintenance and enforces rules for the beach.

Extended warm and sunny weather this year likely led to an increase in beach goers, and as a result, a significant increase

in bylaw enforcement interactions. The municipality recorded a total of just under 3,800 interactions, more than triple the 1,200 interactions they recorded in 2024.

The majority of calls were in relation to tents, but umbrellas, alcohol and smoking/vaping also made up a large chunk of the calls.

Additionally, the OPP were called out 10 times, responding to issues of trespassing, jet skiers in the swimming area, failing to comply with direction of security staff, inappropriate picture taking, and alcohol use.

Despite that, the staff report said no charges or fines were laid. Instead, "compliance was achieved in almost all cases through successful personal interaction."

In discussions with the landowners, staff did recommend a few changes ahead of 2026. They include: better signage for public washrooms and possibly increasing the number of public washrooms, changing how the beach is raked, and reviewing garbage cleaning schedules and beach accessible mats.

All told the county spent about \$75,000 on the program in 2025, including security services as well as maintenance and cleanliness.

Norfolk paramedics to get new remote access vehicle

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

Improved patient care, safety and operational capability will come with a new vehicle Norfolk's Paramedic Services is looking to buy.

Council approved a report at the Nov. 13 meeting that recommended purchase of a new remote access vehicle from ASAP 911. The purpose-built vehicle will replace the nearly 13-year-old John Deere Gator that paramedics had been using.

"The ASAP 911 MedStat unit meets the operational requirements of Norfolk County Paramedic Services and presents a valuable opportunity to enhance patient care in remote access scenarios," the report said.

On average, paramedics in Norfolk respond to a dozen calls a year that require use of an RAV. These calls typically involve locations where a traditional ambulance can't access, including walking trails, farmers' fields, ATV and snowmobile trails, and other remote locations.

"These calls are frequently the most serious incidents," said Justin Hobson, chief of paramedic services.

Not only has the existing Gator reached the end of its life, but the report said it also has some deficiencies that make its use as an RAV suboptimal. These include the patient compartment being exposed to the elements and leading to a lack of patient privacy as well as an outdated stretcher system.

The new vehicle would offer an enclosed, climate-controlled area for patients, as well as several other advantages including more than 70 optional features, "allowing Norfolk County to tailor the unit to specific operational needs," the report said.

Norfolk already approved \$190,000 from the fleet reserve in the 2025 budget to replace the RAV ambulance and a trailer. The report said that should be enough to cover the purchase. The new vehicle is expected to have a similar life span of around 12 years.

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Coats for Kids will warm up the community

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Coats for Kids will be distributing more than 1,000 free coats on Saturday, Nov. 22 at First Baptist Church in Simcoe.

The Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise has been operating the Coats for Kids project – in recent years changed to Coats for Kids and Adults – for more than 25 years. About 1,000 coats were available in 2023, and about 1,500 last year.

“We’ve got lots of coats!” said Bettyann Carty, Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise, chair of the Coats for Kids committee. “They are free – they are always free. Everything is free.”

In addition to coats, there will be hand-made mittens and hats. Considering how cold it’s been this November, the timing could not be better.

“This year we reached out to the schools, and we had 15 schools across Norfolk County that have been gathering coats, so we’re pretty excited. We took a box to each of the schools – elementary and high school. We left them there for two weeks, and couple called us and said ‘Our boxes are full, can you come and get the coats?’

So we did, but they kept the box.

“They were very enthusiastic and we’ve got a ton of kids coats that way. It was great!”

The focus this year has been children and youth coats, she said, but they will also have adult coats. The church hall at 129 Young Street, Simcoe, will be set up Friday to prepare for Saturday’s event.

Doors open 9 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22 – last year there were about 60 people already in line before that time, so doors opened a bit early. The event runs until 10:30 a.m. and coats, hats and mittens go quickly – an estimated 1,000 coats left the building in the first 45 minutes last year.

“We want to see lots of people there on Saturday, for sure.”

Children are welcome – families often bring their children to try on coats, making sure they fit. Of course, adults can also just take home coats for their kids.

“We stay open until people get what they need. I take any coats, hats, mittens that are left over to places in Norfolk (including the Salvation Army).”

Donated coats, collected between Nov. 3-17, were cleaned by sponsor Peerless Cleaners in Simcoe.



(FILE PHOTO)

More than 1,000 free coats, hats and mittens were given away last year during the annual Coats for Kids event, organized by the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise. This year, the free coats – children, youth and adult sizes – will be given to the community on Saturday, Nov. 22, 9-10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church, Simcoe. Come early for best selection.

“I just got back from taking the final carload there,” Carty said on Tuesday morning. “They (Peerless) have just been amazing – I just can’t save enough about how great they have been to work with. They have new owners this year, the Wilsons, but they are just as excited as the previous owners, for sure. Russ (Wilson) has been

involved with Peerless Cleaners for many years.

“It is a well-known event and I think it’s really important, especially now. The need is there. There’s a lot of young people and families that are struggling, through no fault of their own... and if we can help them that way, then I feel good about that.”

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New policy seeks to promote development

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

Having limited water capacity tied up to development proposals that have no realistic shot of moving forward anytime soon is putting a strain on Norfolk's ability to build the housing it needs.

A new service allocation policy seeks to fix an imbalance the municipality perceives where property owners have secured a slice of the water/wastewater capacity pie simply to 'up the value of their lands' and without any real plans to build much-needed housing.

Staff presented a report detailing the changes at the Nov. 13 council meeting.

The major change to the policy will see allocation agreed to "on principle" at the draft plan stage and then "committed" when they reach the registration stage.

"This will ensure that allocations are being granted in a manner that ensures it will not sit idle when it could be better used by an active development application," said Alisha Cull, manager of planning services.

According to the report, staff received some pushback from the development community during consultation sessions earlier this year.

"The development industry wished to secure a commitment on allocation at the draft plan approval stage. Staff's position is that developers will be provided 'approval in principle' at the draft plan approval stage with allocation becoming 'committed' once the plan or phases thereof become registered."

Speaking at the meeting, John Vallee expressed similar concerns. Vallee has a consulting company and works with many developers, but was presenting on his own behalf. He was concerned that a developer could go through all the stages, including potentially satisfying dozens of holding provisions, only to find out there's no capacity when they go to register.

"As long as the developer meets the timeline in the draft plan approval, Norfolk

County needs to be committed to providing that allocation," he said.

Darnell Lambert, director of engineering, said he didn't think staff's proposal was far off from what Vallee was asking for. He said it comes down to a developer showing progress.

"As long as there's ongoing effort to advance the plans to ultimate approval we would state that that reserve would be kept for you," he said.

Before a development goes ahead, there must be sufficient water and wastewater capacity available. Under the existing policy, the municipality would commit a portion of that capacity at the draft plan approval stage. If a developer is keen to build, there would be no problem. However, staff said some landowners show little interest in actually building and simply want to boost the land value to sell it at an increased profit.

The result is that the municipality becomes stuck and unable to meet lofty housing targets.

By moving the full approval to later in the process, and utilizing an "agreement in principle" during the draft plan stage, staff believe they can better allocate servicing to projects that are actually going to go ahead.

The updated policy outlines the process for allocation, including instances when there are servicing capacity issues identified. There's also a three-year "use it or lose" provision included. There will still be capacity reserved for infill/intensification projects.

Other than the concerns over how committed the servicing would be at the draft plan stage, Vallee said the update was mostly welcomed.

"I very strongly support the goals outlined in the policy," he said.

Staff will be meeting with a developer liaison committee before it returns to council, and staff suggested there could be minor tweaks agreed to that would alleviate the concerns of people like Vallee.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Doreen Oates, left, and Charlene Davidson were registering members at the Royal Canadian Legion, Simcoe Branch 79 on Nov. 11.

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Haldimand family donates \$1 million to new hospice

J.P. ANTONACCI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Williamson family had already cemented their legacy by donating 10 acres of land on their third-generation family farm east of Jarvis to be the future home of Haldimand-Norfolk's first hospice.

Turns out they were just getting started.

The Williamson siblings recently committed a further \$1 million toward the \$14-million building fund in honour of their late parents, Norma and Drew.

"Every person I speak with about the Williamsons says the same thing - you would never meet nicer people," said Andrea Binkle, executive director of Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice.

"Their children are carrying that same spirit forward to build a future where every person in our community can experience dignity and comfort at life's end."

Alan Williamson said he and his father had talked about giving the hospice land next to the farm machinery dealership Drew Williamson co-founded in 1950. But the process dragged on as the hospice committee evaluated competing offers, and the longtime Jarvis Lion died in May 2023 at age 93 with a decision yet to be made.

"I was very surprised at all the people who came through the funeral home and said, 'It's too bad your dad didn't get to see his dream come true,'" Alan said.

"I really thought it was almost a secret between him and me. I didn't realize he talked to that many people about it."

Hearing so many of his father's friends mention the hospice project galvanized Alan to try again.

"I made a promise and commitment to myself to take one more swing of the bat on this one," he said.

He added that Haldimand County staff balked at the family's first proposal due to zoning issues, so he earmarked a different 10-acre parcel - zoned industrial rather than agricultural - to be severed and donated.

"They were extremely receptive this time," Alan said.

His siblings, Debbie and Eric, were equally enthused about donating the land and committing \$1 million from Drew Williamson's estate toward the hospice.

"It didn't take much convincing," he said of the plan meant "to honour what I believed to be his wish and will."

The 10-bed, 16,000-square-foot hospice will be called Williamson House.

"That was the only stipulation I had all along for the money and property," Alan said. "It honours all of our family that's lived on the farm."

In the meantime, hospice administrators have set up shop



The Williamson family recently presented a \$1-million donation to Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice executive director Andrea Binkle, second from right.

inside the Williamson farmhouse, providing what staff and volunteers describe as a "homey" atmosphere.

With the latest donation, the fundraising campaign reached \$6 million.

The hospice will receive \$1 million from the province toward the cost of construction, and Binkle recently petitioned Norfolk and Haldimand councils to each contribute \$750,000.

Now retired from the family business, Alan is busy clearing walking trails on the donated land while eagerly waiting for construction to start next spring.

"Even a few months (delay) on a project like this, there's going to be half a dozen people who don't get a chance to use this (hospice)," he said.

"Within a five-mile radius of Jarvis this year alone, there's been five people I know under the age of 60 that's used a hospice in either Woodstock, Brantford or Hamilton. They and their families would have used something back here."

Alan said he hopes other business owners will join the effort now that the project has moved to a more tangible stage.

"The public has been very supportive and very generous," he said. "But now they'd like to see a shovel in the ground."

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

1. According to the Bible, which Apostle was a tentmaker?
2. What city is home to the Spanish Steps?
3. "Heaven is a Place on Earth" by Belinda Carlisle was released in what year?
4. What do you call a word that sounds like what it describes?
5. What is the sum of angles in a quadrilateral?
6. At what time of day did guns fall silent on November 11, 1918?
7. Who is the main character in The Lego Movie?
8. What kind of species can live on both water and land?
9. Which superhero is known as the "Caped Crusader"?
10. Which company introduced "Comet" cleanser back in 1956?

This week's answers are found on pg. 23

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Delhi featured in the Building History series

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Tickets are available for the big-screen premiere of 'Delhi,' the latest edition in the Building History docuseries, spotlighting Delhi's hidden architectural gems.

The premiere screening takes place Sunday, Nov. 30 at Capitol 33 in Delhi.

Building History explores Norfolk County's rich architectural heritage, with previous episodes covering Waterford (two series), Simcoe, and Port Dover. The docuseries is a collaboration between Progressive Realty Group Inc. and Norfolk County Heritage & Culture, produced by Rainey Media.

"It's a great public/private partnership," said Dean Rainey from Rainey Media.

In the 'Delhi' installment, Progressive Realty's Daryl Rainey, as host, partners with Andrew Moore of the Delhi Tobacco Museum and Heritage Centre to reveal the captivating stories behind four remarkable structures in the heart of tobacco country - each embodying creativity, community spirit, and subtle transformation:

- Croton Dam: The engineering mar-

vel that fueled a region's growth.

- Delhi's Velodromes: Thrilling high-speed tracks beneath the tobacco-belt sky.
- Calvin Presbyterian Church: A beloved beacon of faith and togetherness.
- Deltasia: Delhi's enchanting, little-known 1970s fantasy amusement park.

"I'm particularly thrilled about the Deltasia segment - a forgotten slice of local history regarding an amusement park located on Delhi's outskirts during the 1970s," said Dean Rainey. "Delhi's land of fantasy."

Event Details:

- Tickets: \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door
- Showtimes:
- 2 p.m. <https://ticketscene.ca/events/57049/>
- 4 p.m. <https://ticketscene.ca/events/57050/>

DVDs of the Delhi installment - and the entire Building History series - will be available to purchase in time for Christmas gifts.



Deltasia, 'Delhi's land of fantasy' features in the latest Building History docuseries, 'Delhi' which will premiere on Sunday, Nov. 30 at Capitol 33 in Delhi (2 and 4 p.m.). Tickets at [Ticketscene.ca](https://ticketscene.ca).

In Remembrance and tribute to a Norfolk hero

Nursing Sister Alice Louise Trusdale served in the First World War

Nursing Sister Alice Lousie Trusdale is Norfolk County's only female to have perished serving her country.

Born in Waterford in 1892, Alice attended Waterford public and high school, followed by nursing school at Guelph General Hospital where she graduated with honours in 1912.

When war was declared in 1914, Alice was living in New York, pursuing an education in advanced medical training. By all accounts Alice knew she needed to join the war effort, moving to London, Ont. and enlisting with the Canadian Army Medical Corps where she began her military career. In the spring of 1917, she sailed for England to meet the war head-on.

The Great War was like nothing the world had ever seen and no amount of experience could have prepared Alice for the horrors she would encounter. The slaughter of the Western Front with its gas attacks, artillery barrages, and full-out charges into enemy territory, not to mention living conditions in the trenches, provided a relentless and overwhelming stream of wounded to field hospitals, clearing stations and recovery wards. Alice and her fellow nurses cared for these soldiers - the blinded, burned, dismembered and "shell-shocked" - around the clock.

When the armistice was declared on Nov. 11, 1918, Alice, like so many from the Medical Corps, continued to serve her country. In March of 1919, she returned to Canada and became matron of the Freeport Military Hospital

in Kitchener, one of numerous facilities created across the country to care for the thousands of sick and wounded veterans.

In September 1919, Alice fell ill with meningitis, one of the curses of overcrowded and unhygienic conditions. On Sept. 12, 1919, Alice passed at the age of 27. Her colleagues and the soldiers she had so passionately devoted herself to were devastated.

Alice was so beloved and respected that her name was officially inscribed in Norfolk's honour roll and is listed on Norfolk's War Memorial, the Carillon Tower in Simcoe. Not only does she represent the valour of all Nursing Sisters but also the overwhelmingly important contributions women provided - at home, within the community, and in uniform - during the First World War.

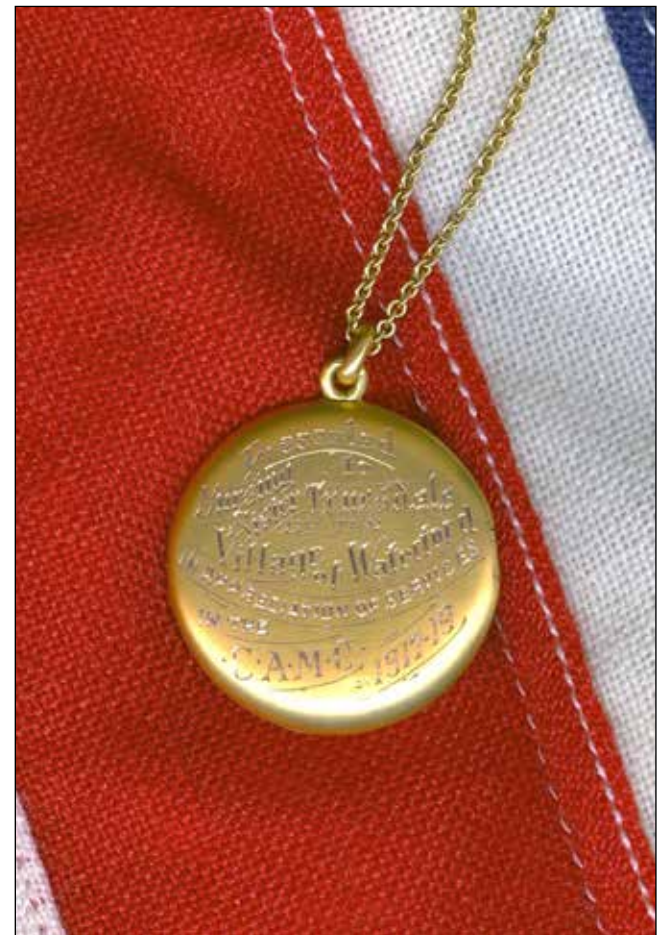
To learn more about Alice, visit the Waterford Heritage

& Agricultural Museum (www.norfolkheritage.ca) at 159 Nichol Street, Waterford.

- from the Waterford Heritage & Agricultural Museum



Nursing Sister Alice Trusdale, Canadian Army Medical Corp, 1917.



(WATERFORD HERITAGE & AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM PHOTOS)

This locket was given to Nursing Sister Alice Trusdale by the citizens of Waterford as a token of appreciation for her service in The Great War. The village presented lockets to all of its First World War soldiers who called Waterford home. The museum also has Alice's brother's locket in its collection.

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Salvation Army launches 2025 kettle campaign

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Christmas bells were jingling Saturday morning at Sobeys Simcoe during the official launch of the local Salvation Army's 2025 kettle fundraising campaign.

This year's campaign runs from Nov. 14 – Dec. 24 with 12 kettle locations in Norfolk County -- and they need your help and support.

"We need volunteers," said Andrea Taylor, Simcoe and area kettle coordinator, urging people to call 519-909-9421 if you can volunteer a couple hours as a kettle attendant. The minimum age to volunteer is 16.

Simcoe kettle locations include the Real Canadian Superstore, Walmart, Canadian

Tire, Giant Tiger and Sobeys.

The Salvation Army Simcoe also operates kettles in Waterford (Foodland), Delhi (Wilkinson's Your Independent Grocer), and Port Dover (Mike's No Frills). They are also at LCBOs in Waterford, Delhi, Simcoe and Port Dover in December.

"A big shoutout to the Port Dover Lions, they take a kettle for us," said Taylor.

Several churches, community organizations, and businesses have done the same, 'adopting' a kettle or location.

"This is my fourth year," said volunteer Hugh McArthur, who rotates through many locations, twice a week.

"We have a goal of \$318,000 for all of our Christmas campaigns combined, and all of the money stays right here in Norfolk County," said Salvation Army Lieu-

tenant Josh Edwards, pastor/corps officer with Lieutenant Chesney Edwards at the Simcoe Community Church, 184 Colborne Street North.

"The need is always there and it grows every year," he said. "We have a number of faithful volunteers, but as they get older, some take on less hours or drop out completely. So if anyone has two hours a week to spare in their week, give us a call, we'd love to have you."

In addition to the kettle campaign, The Salvation Army asks for donations through

its Christmas Appeal letter campaign, which typically makes up about two-thirds of their annual fundraising.

"Both campaigns are very important, almost equally important, because the majority of the funds that we need to fund our programs - not just at Christmas, but the entire year - come from these two campaigns. So our success and our ability to continue offering services is largely dependent on us having a successful Christmas."

Register for Salvation Army Christmas hampers

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

There is still time to register for the Christmas Hamper program in Norfolk County.

In-person registration began on Nov. 4 at some locations.

"We're in the thick of that right now," said Salvation Army Lieutenant Josh Edwards. "We are going out to all of the nearby communities to do registration as well."

In Simcoe, register at 184 Colborne Street North, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays until Dec. 4, 1:30-4 p.m. (during Food Bank hours).

In Delhi, register at the Delhi United Church, 105 Church Street West, on Friday, Nov. 21, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

In Port Dover, register Tuesdays 9-11 a.m. at the Port Dover Lifeline Foodbank, 215 Market Street East until Dec. 2.

In Waterford, register at Waterford

Food Cupboard, 61 James Street South on Wednesdays until Dec. 3.

ID for each household, member, proof of all sources of income and rent/mortgage receipt required. Bring gift ideas plus clothing and shoe sizes for children.

For more information, call the Salvation Army office at 419-426-3640.

"We have a number of different organizations that participate in the hamper program," Edwards noted.

About 400 people in Norfolk are expected to receive hampers from the Salvation Army with toys for children, side dishes for a traditional Christmas dinner, and a gift card to purchase their choice of meat - or any other items their family may need - at grocery store.

"Everyone's situation is unique and different, so we wanted to make sure we had the flexibility for them to do what they need to do for their family. Ideally, we'd like to see people spend that money on their Christmas dinners."



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Salvation Army Lieutenants Chesney and Josh Edwards helped launch the 2025 kettle campaign in Simcoe on Saturday. There are 12 kettle locations in Norfolk County this year.



Simcoe Salvation Army band members Martyn Cooper and Don Cappus were playing cornets Saturday during the launch of the 2025 kettle campaign.

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Accused in Norfolk homicide pleads not guilty

J.P. ANTONACCI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Robert Lee Ballard killed his friend, Michael Shawn Murray, in Delhi in late March 2021.

On that the Crown and defence agree.

But Ballard pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder on the first day of his judge-alone trial in Simcoe on Monday, Nov. 10.

His defence lawyers, Genevieve Eliany and Ian McCuaig, will argue their client was not criminally responsible for Murray's death due to a mental disorder and should be committed to an institution rather than sent to prison.

"Did he understand the nature and quality of his actions?" McCuaig said to reporters during a break in the proceedings. "It's a question of whether or not he had the moral capacity to know that what he was doing is wrong."

That leaves Justice Aubrey Hilliard to rule on whether Ballard was mentally capable of understanding the consequences of stabbing his friend with a kitchen knife and hitting him with a mallet inside Murray's home on King Street on March 30, 2021.

With Murray's elderly parents and about 20 other relatives and friends in the courtroom, assistant Crown attorney Gracie Romano recited the facts of the case as jointly agreed to by the Crown and defence.

"Robert Ballard acknowledges that he caused the death of Michael Murray," Romano began, while Ballard - his head shaved and beard closely cropped - listened motionlessly from the prisoner's box, a white T-shirt hanging loosely over his heavy-set frame.

Court heard Murray, 54, had been living in a motel in Delhi and befriended Ballard, then 27, after the younger man moved into the room next door in October 2020.

A few weeks before he died, Murray and his common-law partner moved into a new apartment on King Street.

On what would be the last day of Murray's life, he visited his parents - who lived nearby - and went for a walk with his mother. He left around 4:30 p.m., saying he had a headache, and promised to return the following night to cook dinner.

When their son did not answer his phone the next day, the Murrays went to check on him.

They found the front door to his red-brick apartment building slightly ajar. Murray's body "was lying in the threshold of the doorway, with his foot partially blocking the door," Romano said.

Murray's horrified parents told police their son was "covered in blood," with more blood on the walls and "going down the stairs."

"His eyes were still open," Romano told the court.

Murray's relatives sat grim-faced as graphic photographs and video footage were shown inside the courtroom. Their loved one was found naked from the waist down, with clear signs of trauma to his face and head.

Murray was seemingly attacked sometime during the night, as his pillow and bedsheets were soaked with blood. The floor around his bed was similarly stained with smeared blood and blood-matted hair.

An autopsy found "at least 14" stab wounds and "at least 30 blunt force injuries" to the head and torso, along with bruising on his hands and feet, suggesting Murray tried to fend off his attacker.

Court heard a large kitchen knife lay on the ground near Murray's bed, with a smaller bread knife a few feet away. Each knife had Murray's blood on its hilt and blade.

Officers also found a bloodstained kitchen mallet at the crime scene.

It is unclear how Ballard got into the house or how Murray got up the stairs after losing a lot of blood while in his basement. An autopsy found Murray would have died soon after the attack, but his exact time of death is unknown.

Romano said a gas station security camera captured Ballard walking in the direction of Murray's apartment



(J.P. ANTONACCI PHOTO)

Marilyn and Michael Murray of Delhi say having to wait almost five years for the trial of the man accused of murdering their son Michael has taken a physical and emotional toll on their family.

around 1 a.m. on the night of the murder.

At 2 p.m. the next afternoon, right around the time Murray's parents got to their son's door, police were called to James Street in Delhi for reports of a shirtless man jumping on the hood of a car and yelling "help me."

Another 911 call came in a short time later about a man who had just broken into a house on James Street and stolen a coat.

OPP Const. Quade Odrowski found Ballard sitting half-naked on the sidewalk outside a variety store with a small crowd of people around him.

"It was a most unusual scene for somebody to be shirtless and shoeless, especially in March," Eliany told the court.

Ballard never left police custody after being arrested for the break-and-enter, as blood found on his pants, shoes and belt was eventually matched to Murray's blood from the crime scene.

He was charged with murder on April 14, 2021, and has been behind bars awaiting trial ever since.

'He wanted to help'

Not long before he died, Murray told his parents Ballard appeared troubled and was sending him a lot of messages asking for help - 48 texts in two days, phone records revealed.

"Michael told them he wanted to get his friend help," Romano said, adding Murray's partner told police Murray "seemed to think he could save him."

Ballard was "talking about the devil," Murray revealed, asking his father to contact a priest the family knew, Romano added.

The victim also planned to connect his friend to a social worker, Murray's partner told police.

Romano said Ballard's ex-girlfriend told police he had a history of cocaine use but had not used the drug while they were together in the summer of 2020.

"After their breakup, he sent her messages saying he was possessed by demons, saw things and that he heard voices," Romano said. "He had never talked about demons before."

Expert testimony will explore whether Ballard had a "disease of the mind" and was "unable to appreciate the wrongfulness of the act," Eliany told reporters.

Marilyn Murray, the victim's mother, testified during a pretrial hearing and her evidence was incorporated into the agreed statement of fact. Romano told reporters none of

the victim's relatives will have to give evidence in court.

The trial adjourned until Friday, Nov. 14.

- 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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Gala supports Delhi Community Health Centre

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Delhi Community Health Centre held its fifth Harvesting the Bounty Fundraising Gala on Oct. 25.

"This event is very important because it allows us to raise funds for ongoing building expenses," said DCHC Board Chair John Bamford.

In recent years gala funds have been used to modernize the elevator and introduce safer rubberized flooring in the stairwells, and this year, DCHC building administrator Lori Yeo said tile floors need to be replaced in the basement.

The 2024 gala raised nearly \$30,000.

"And, of course I am optimistic so I anticipate this year will be even more," said Yeo, confident the 200 people attending the 2025 gala would come through again.

"It's a community event to support the Community Health Centre, so we're here for each other," said Pat Loncke, member of the DCHC board.

"It's important to have the health centre here, it saves people from driving out to other facilities," said Loncke. "Especially for seniors or families with little kids – when they get sick, you want to have a place to go to that's close by."

The Delhi Community Health Centre first opened in Delhi 22 years ago, allowing residents of Delhi and surrounding communities to have direct access to primary healthcare, state of the art equipment, and allied health service providers.

"One of the things that is very important is that this facility is community owned," said Bamford. "It was built by gracious donations from locals and it belongs to the community. The board of directors basically looks after the best interests of the community, as stewards, and the health centre serves the community in the best way it can."

Since the health centre's walk-in clinic expanded to four-day-a-week early in 2025, the number of patients coming into the 105 Main Street building has increased by approximately 50 per cent on a year-over-year basis. By the end of 12 months, that number could be 6,000-6,500 people.

"That's a lot for Norfolk, which is in need of healthcare," said Bamford.

The walk-in clinic is open Thursdays 5-8 p.m., Fridays 10-2, Saturdays 9-1 and Sundays (Sept.-May). Call 226-549-4004 ext. 236 to check hours.

Some people might not know it's open four days a week, he said, thinking it's still only open two days.

"We're hoping that more people use it."

Bamford said an estimated 17,000 people in Norfolk County and area catchment in 2024 were without doctors.

The Delhi Community Health Centre currently has some vacant space in the building they would like to rent to healthcare-oriented tenants.

On the same night as the DCHC Gala (Saturday, Oct. 25), as the German Home hall was filling up, the Toronto Blue Jays were preparing to play Game 2 of the World Series.

"I imagine there will be a few fans checking their phones," Bamford smiled.

"One of our dearest friends told me we 'must be pretty special' because he's not at home watching the game," Yeo laughed.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Carol Pellart of Tillsonburg, on the left, spins the 2025 Harvesting the Bounty Gala 'wheel of fortune,' watched by Delhi Community Health Centre building administrator Lori Yeo.



The Delhi Community Health Centre's board of directors, from left - Matt Wilkinson, Pat Loncke, Dave Carpani, Barbara Murphy, building administrator Lori Yeo, Steve Nagy and board chair John Bamford.



Approximately 200 people attended the Harvesting the Bounty Gala on Oct. 25 in support of the Delhi Community Health Centre.

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Lynn River Probus Club invites new members

ALEX HUNT
Advocate Correspondent

From community guest speakers to golfing on the greens, The Lynn River Probus Club aims to encourage socialization within the retirement community.

The Simcoe-area club is looking for retired/semi-retired singles and couples to join its 70-person membership base. Inaugurated in 2014, the club serves as a social hub, encouraging the retirement community to participate in a variety of weekly activities, including playing golf, joining book clubs, attending appetizer nights, and enjoying meals.

President Bernd Mueller said that The Lynn River Probus Club is not a fundraiser for the community, but it provides a social escape for its members. The club also hosts community guest speakers on every third Wednesday of the month. Past speakers have included MPP Bobbi Ann Brady, filmmakers, and astronomy experts.

Meetings are held at the Army Navy Air Force Unit 255 at 53 Water Street in Simcoe. Other activities are hosted at a member's residence or community venues.

New memberships cost \$45 on an annual basis, on top of a \$25 one-time name badge charge. Members will receive login information and will have access to a list of events and guest speakers on their website.

"My hopes are to keep everyone interested and engaged, and I want to continue our special activity nights and celebrate the harmony," said Mueller. "My wife and I joined at the beginning of 2016. One of the basic rules of the club is that we do not talk politics and religion at our meetings."

Mueller said that one of the most popular activities is App Night, which has been split into two groups due to high interest. A member will host the evening at their residence, with attendees bringing food and drinks; leftovers are taken home.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)
Lynn River Probus members, from left, Ian Neville, June Ferris, Sandra Osinga, Bruce Pullen and Bernd Mueller

"There's also a golf group that I'm in charge of," said Mueller. "I book the courses and arrange the number of people coming out, and we gather afterwards for lunch as well. There are a couple of book clubs in the group - my

wife is in the first one, and I am organizing the second one. "The book clubs allow us to read stuff we wouldn't always read, and then we get together, and a host provides drinks and snacks. We also have a martini group, and we make sure everybody has a drive for that one."

To become a member, people can visit the website and click the membership link, where they can sign a new members form. An email can be sent to lynnriver239@gmail.com for more information.

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Haunted Sawmill chills Delhi audiences

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Delhi District Secondary School's drama class and drama club braved the cold weather Oct. 24-25 to present their annual Haunted Sawmill, partnering with the Delhi Tobacco Museum & Heritage Centre.

"I am incredibly proud of my Drama class and Drama club students for their effort, skills, and talent," said Delhi District Secondary School teacher Jenna Thompson. "This is our second year putting on the Haunted Sawmill, and the returning students have made major improvements in their acting abilities, work habits, and prop and set building."

"Our students who are new to the program stepped up and took on challenges, which they tackled with enthusiasm," said Thompson. "I saw a lot of impressive growth in their problem-solving skills and their commitment to working as a team, which is what matters at the heart of a Drama program. I'm very much looking forward to our next mainstage production, Radium Girls, which will happen in January."

"We had good feedback last night," said museum curator Andrew Moore as they prepared for the second night on Oct. 25. "We sold out last night and tonight."

The 'night of horror' started at the Delhi Tobacco Museum and Heritage Centre parking lot. Following a safety talk, groups of seven were met on their way to the Quance Sawmill by a panicked student, pleading for them to "Help find my sister! She's stuck in there!"

Visitors learned this year's haunted sawmill had a 'Followers of Twilight' horror theme with dark rooms and corridors, costumed actors, brilliant redlight rooms, spooky music, and a lot of screaming.

In total, 70 people came for chilly Friday and Saturday tours, joining the actors 'on stage' as they were guided from room to room in small groups.

"Last night was really good, it was fun," said student Karson Duncan, official greeter on the ground floor, admitting there were a few 'improv' moments on the first night.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Delhi District Secondary School's drama class and drama club presented their annual Haunted Sawmill, partnering with the Delhi Tobacco Museum & Heritage Centre on Oct. 24-25.

"I am liking the atmosphere, and I like my job being the guy that introduces everybody to the show - kind of a Twilight Zone presenter," said Duncan, a first-year drama club member.

"This is my first time acting," said student Hayden Charuk, who played a lead role seeking her sister.

Audiences, which included some family members, seemed a bit 'hesitant' on Friday, said Charuk, but she felt the morale of the drama team made up for it.

"Everyone performed really well and it was really fun leading people through," said Charuk. "I think it went really well - I think everyone did their part perfectly."

"I was stressed out thinking I was going to mess up... but I don't think I messed up," smiled student Stefanie Barnucz, an audience 'plant.'

"You did really good," said student Riley Babbey.

Barnucz knew her parents would be in the first group Saturday night, adding to the importance of that particular tour.

"You want me to scare your parents?" another student asked.

"Yes! I'll show you what they look like," said Barnucz. "I want to scare them."

"Scaring parents is top priority," Charuk nodded.

Babbey, a Grade 12 student with experience at last year's Haunted Sawmill, admitted horror movies were not her thing, but she loves 'scaring people.' The interactive nature of a haunted tour was right up that alley.

"I feel like this year it's kind of better because last year we were more focused on 'story'... and this year it's more about the 'scary.' I love that, I'm all for that. Scaring people is my favourite thing."

"I'm a very easy person to scare, but I come back for revenge," Babbey laughed.

The haunted sawmill experience builds confidence and friendships in drama class and drama club students, she said.

"There's a lot of joking around, a lot of encouraging other people. That's what drama club is about - encouraging people, having fun, and getting it done."

Long-term, Moore said Delhi's heritage sawmill could see renovations to floors, various gears and belts, and accessibility, eventually becoming a museum centre-piece. It's a 3-5 year plan, however, that could be pushed back.

"In the meantime, it's a creepy old sawmill and I'm going to let the drama students have it every year as long as they want to keep doing it," he smiled. "And I think they love it."



Norfolk's Carillon Tower stands tall for 100 years

For 100 years, the Carillon Tower has stood as an iconic landmark in Norfolk County, a fixture that's nearly impossible to miss when driving through Simcoe.

Yet many residents may not know the full story of why it was built, how it came to be, and the lasting purpose it serves: to remind generations of the great sacrifices made by Norfolk County's soldiers during the First and Second World Wars, and Afghanistan.

On June 17, 2025, the Carillon Tower overlooking Norfolk Street North in downtown Simcoe celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Construction of the tower began on Nov. 4, 1924, following years of fundraising and planning by the Great War Veterans' Association (a forerunner of the Royal Canadian Legion). The community came together, raising money from individuals, local businesses, and civic groups to bring the Association's vision to life. When construction costs exceeded the original budget, the community, with overwhelming support, pledged to cover all expenses.

The world-famous Gillett & Johnston foundry of Croydon, England was commissioned to cast the carillon bells. When Norfolk's bells were completed, they were first installed at the British Empire Exhibition and played by the world's most prestigious carillonneurs for visiting royals and heads of state. Following the exhibition, they were shipped to Simcoe just in time for installation.

The tower was built on a parcel of land donated by the Norfolk School Board, beside Simcoe Composite School, as a tribute to the high school students who had lost their lives during The Great War, 1914-15.

With its 23 bells and four-faced clocks, Canada's first Carillon War Memorial tower stands 60 feet tall. The largest bell, weighing 1,568 pounds, was cast with a special inscription in memory of all who died for freedom.

When construction was completed in 1925, the community marked the occasion with a parade through Simcoe. More than 500 veterans, marching bands, and schoolchildren came together to honour those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

During the ceremony, plaques bearing the names of the fallen were unveiled by two mothers whose sons had been killed in the war.

"The Memorial might have been a school, or a hospital,

or a community hall, or a rink, or a bridge or a score of other things useful or necessary. It is none of these things, because it is not built for what it will bring of joy, or pleasure or benefit to those who are left, but because the Tower is in its permanency and the bells with their music will be a thing of beauty and inspiration for this and future generations to live with and recall the sacrifice of those struck down in their youth; and will stand, we trust, until time shall be no more, as a tribute of the people of Norfolk in honour of our men who were ground to dust and to ashes in the greatest conflict of all history."

– Dedication Speech, June 17, 1925

"It is hoped the purpose of this memorial will never be forgotten, and that the tower in its beauty and the bells with their music will ever recall to all who pass the sacrifice of our soldiers who left the world behind in answer to the call of duty..."

During the ceremony, plaques bearing the names of the fallen were unveiled by two mothers whose sons had been killed in the war.

In 1948, after the Second World War, those original plaques were replaced with two larger bronze tablets, with 354 names, including an additional 147 names of Norfolk County soldiers who gave their lives in the 1939-45 conflict. Another plaque was unveiled during a 50th anniversary rededication.

In 2014, another plaque was added in memory of the Afghanistan conflict and the death of Norfolk's own Craig Blake.

Today, the Carillon Tower continues to serve as a powerful symbol of remembrance and unity. It stands not only as a monument to the past but as a reminder to future generations of the cost of freedom and the enduring importance of honouring those who served.

On Nov. 11, 2025, the Remembrance Day service brought the community together to honour and remember those who served and sacrificed for Canada. More than 300 residents attended.

You can learn more about the Carillon Tower at: <https://norfolkheritage.ca/explore/carillon-tower/>

- With files from James Christison



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

The Norfolk War Memorial, Carillon Tower in Simcoe has marked 100 Remembrance Day ceremonies in Simcoe since 1925.

Delhi Remembers

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

On Remembrance Day, the community gathered at the Delhi cenotaph to honour the veterans, men and women who served their country, and those who continue to serve, remembering the sacrifices and honouring their legacy.



Army Navy Air Force 255



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Army Navy Air Force Unit 255 Simcoe hosted an afternoon of camaraderie on Remembrance Day at 53 Water Street with homemade chili, chicken soup, salads, cold cuts and more. From left are Neal Shafto, Trish Shaw, Jim Bertling, and Yvette Vanderpost.



Following the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Norfolk War Memorial - Carillon Tower, and a social at the Simcoe Legion, Frank Stanley from Army Navy Air Force Unit 255 Simcoe, on the left, shared stories with Chris Davis, a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Simcoe Branch 79, at ANAF 255 on Water Street.



Pamela Barrett and Bruce Wilson help keep things running smoothly at Army Navy Air Force Unit 255 in Simcoe.



Bob Whitehead and his wife enjoyed the buffet-style meal – and desserts – at the Army Navy Air Force Unit 255 Simcoe social on Remembrance Day.

Government fined in connection with firefighter's death

J.P. ANTONACCI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Zak Muise died while trying to help.

The 25-year-old wildland firefighter from Norfolk County was killed in a vehicle rollover in July 2023 while battling the Donnie Creek wildfire in northern British Columbia, on record as the largest in the province's history.

Last month, the B.C. government was fined for workplace safety violations found to have contributed to Muise's death.

Muise, who grew up in Waterford, was in the midst of his third summer fighting fires, working for a private firefighting contractor and deployed through BC Wildfire Service, the province's wildfire suppression department.

According to a Sept. 25 report from WorkSafeBC - the agency that regulates workplace safety in British Columbia - Muise and a supervisor were riding in a utility terrain vehicle that "went over a steep embankment."

Both occupants of the UTV were hurt in the rollover, and Muise died of his injuries while being airlifted by he-

licopter to the Fort St. John airport some 150 kilometres away.

Neither firefighter was wearing a helmet at the time, WorkSafeBC found, and the passenger was not wearing a seatbelt.

"The passenger-side retention netting had been damaged," the report found.

"Inadequate supervision, a lack of safe work procedures and training for operating the UTV and a lack of a pre-use inspection of the UTV all contributed to the incident."

As first reported by CBC News, WorkSafeBC fined the B.C. government \$759,368.84 last month in relation to Muise's death and a separate 2023 incident that saw five firefighters trapped and put at risk during a planned burn due to what the agency found was poor planning, training and communication. The fine is the maximum penalty the regulator could have imposed in this case, which WorkSafeBC said underscored the seriousness of the violations.

The agency found BC Wildfire Service was negligent in inspecting its vehicles, saying a routine inspection would have likely caught that the safety netting on Muise's vehicle was defective.

Left to grieve Muise's death were family and friends in Waterford and his firefighting family in British Columbia, where more than 100 people turned out for a memorial service held in Penticton.

An online fundraiser in Muise's memory raised more than \$20,000 to benefit Camp F.A.C.E.S., a camp for families coping with loss, run by the Canadian Critical Incident Stress Foundation.

In a 2023 interview, Muise's former high school teacher and basketball coach remembered him as someone who "worked hard and tried to help people."

"That's the kind of person he was - always thinking of other people," Derek Rowntree said.

"He was always a super nice kid. A supportive teammate. He was one of those guys that everybody liked."

Rowntree called Muise's untimely death "just heartbreaking for everybody that knew him, and for the Waterford community."

- With files from The Canadian Press

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

‘Nice Work If You Can Get It’ is a feel-good show

Simcoe Little Theatre kicks off its 2025-26 season with a musical comedy

LEAH BAUER

Advocate Correspondent

Looking for a fun outing in Norfolk County? Well, look no further than The Simcoe Little Theatre and their production of *Nice Work If You Can Get It*!

On stage from Nov. 20 to Dec. 7, this comedy production is a classic musical with the songs of George and Ira Gershwin.

The storyline is based around charming and wealthy playboy Jimmy Winter, who meets young female bootlegger Billie Bendix. The catch? Billie and Jimmy meet the weekend of Jimmy’s wedding to Eileen Evergreen, a young woman from a prohibitionist family. Billie, who expects the couple to be out of town before the big day, grabs her gang and hides cases of alcohol in the basement of

Jimmy’s mansion. However, when the couple, and her prohibitionist family, arrive back at the house, bootlegger Billie and her gang pose as servants and cause hijinks galore.

Janet Dickson, director of this production, described how they decided on *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, a process that started back in January. Dickson said that while this musical was not immediately familiar, it was an easy sell as a musical comedy with jazzy numbers by George and Ira Gershwin was impossible to pass on.

When asking the cast what they liked about this production, the answers were “I was surprised how many songs I recognized,” and “Every character makes me laugh,” and “1920s costumes are amazing! Flappers and fedoras, spats and suspenders!”

The Simcoe Little Theatre, a vital part of Norfolk’s local arts scene, works hard to bring high quality performances to our small town and is volunteer-driven and dedicated.

“A small town cast and crew means that you might see your neighbour or even someone who works at the public library up on stage!” said Dickson.

“It is an opportunity for people to shine, and they put a lot of effort and time into creating their characters. A small town means there is likely also someone in the audience that you know. It is a community feeling to be there.”

Dickson said a lot of hard work happens behind the scenes, and much time and effort goes into coordinating the costumes, lights, settings, makeup, and props.

The most challenging part of this production, she said, was the dance numbers.

“When people audition for the show, they don’t necessarily expect to be dancing. The 1920s had some great dance moves that we have been drilling to get the scenes ready.”

While the opening night of Nov. 20 at 33 Talbot Street



‘Nice Work if You Can Get’ is an entertaining family-friendly musical comedy that will make you laugh. It features ‘bootleggers and flappers from the 1920s, a female heroine, and a plot twist you won’t see coming!’

North is the only production with a food and champagne reception, you can catch the play on their performance dates of: Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 22 and 23 at 2 p.m., Nov. 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 29 and 30 at 2 p.m., Dec. 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 6 and 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$29, youth pricing available. Buy tickets by calling 519-583-0505 or by visiting <https://simcoelittletheatre.org/nice-work-if-you-can-get-it/>

“Join us for an unforgettable performance while supporting local live community theatre!”

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SOLUTION

Confusion results from reports on potential Tillsonburg-Norfolk boundary adjustments

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A potential boundary adjustment that would bring the Norfolk Mall within the Town of Tillsonburg limits has resulted in some confusion in the media.

A press release issued from the office of Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy stated, “There have been some misconceptions circulating regarding 400 Simcoe Street (Norfolk Mall) regarding recent discussions surrounding a potential boundary adjustment. These discussions have been mentioned in both the press and on social media, and it is important that the facts are clearly understood.”

The press release recounted circumstances around the requested adjustment, where the owners of 400 Simcoe Street asked that their property be brought into the Tillsonburg town limits at the Oct. 14 meeting. The letter with the boundary adjustment request also stated a Winners store was coming to the site in July 2026. Tillsonburg council then passed a motion referring the request to Oxford County.

“It is important to note that the County of Oxford provides the water and sewer infrastructure servicing this property, and any significant growth or redevelopment on this site is limited unless it falls within the county’s jurisdiction,” the press release stated. “Because the town does not own the water and sewer infrastructure for this property, the matter has appropriately been referred to the county for comment and review.”

Contacted later, Gilvesy said she had no further com-

ment on the issue.

On Oct. 28, Norfolk County issued a press release assuring residents no municipal boundary changes are being considered by Norfolk County at this time. It also assured no discussions have taken place and stated, “Discussion and negotiation about any municipal boundary change occurs between willing parties and requires agreement from both parties. Often, considerable financial compensation is considered for the municipality giving up land.”

“The recent boundary adjustment reported in the media involving the Town of Tillsonburg underscores the importance of protecting Norfolk County’s commercial/employment assessments,” Norfolk Mayor Amy Martin said in the release. “I want to assure the residents of Norfolk County that I would fiercely defend the retention of employment land to our provincial partners. Norfolk County takes pride in governing based on facts - not rumours - and is committed to ensuring residents have accurate information before drawing conclusions.”

In her release, Gilvesy credited Norfolk for the accuracy of what was released. “I would also like to thank Norfolk County for their press release on this matter, which accurately represented the facts. To be clear, no formal application has been submitted by the property,” she wrote.

Paul Michiels, Director, Community Planning for Oxford County, said any correspondence from municipalities is published in county council agendas, and a letter from Tillsonburg about the boundary adjustment hasn’t yet been on the agenda. The next agenda was due to be released on Nov. 7.

He provided more detail on the boundary adjustment process through the provincial Municipal Act, explaining, “The municipalities involved must develop a proposal that outlines the details of the proposed restructuring. They must then hold at least one public meeting to get feedback from the public before seeking approval to submit the proposal to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval. The proposal can only be submitted to the province for approval if it receives support from all municipalities involved.”

Jeff Helsdon is the editor and a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter at the Tillsonburg Post. The initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US!

HERE’S HOW:

Deadline:
Monday prior at 3 p.m.

Contact:
info@simcoeadvocate.com

- The Simcoe Advocate Community Calendar allows non-profit organizations to promote their free admission community events at no charge. Event listings can include the event name, date, time and location as well as contact information (ie phone number, email address or website).
- If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, the Simcoe Advocate offers the following options for promoting your community events:
 - Coming Events Word Ad (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
 - Coming Events Boxed Word Ad (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
 - Display Ad - Sizes begin at a Small Classified Display ad (3.3" x 2.5") - \$35 + hst

Word Search

COZY NOVEMBER

G N I T T I N K N F A X A F X R O H N Y
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- Sweater
- Scarf
- Mittens
- Cocoa
- Soup
- Coffee
- Fireplace
- Blanket
- Books
- Candle
- Socks
- Fireplace
- Poncho
- Biscuits
- Frost
- Napping
- Journaling
- Knitting
- Snuggle
- Latte

Sudoku

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

The shared vision of two couples creates a dining dream



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles

"I love it when a plan comes together."

I'm guessing that none of the four young partners in the astonishing new Niagara-on-the-lake restaurant, Revé, is old enough to remember that quote. But it applies.

Because Revé is indeed the result of a plan that has come together, beautifully. Or, to quote from their website, "Four individuals with one collective dream: to curate a journey like no other."

That "journey" involves unique and amazing food, and all of the stories behind the culinary creations. And the four individuals are two young couples: Anna Katherine and Kevin Gillingham, and Nicole Pisarenko and Adriano Cappuzzello.

In many ways, this is a love story. Love for food. Love for the land. Love for culture. And love for each other.

Adriano is Chef. He's a native of Sicily, where his culinary story began. That's also where Adriano and Nicole's story began – she was on a study trip from Geroge Brown College when she met Adriano.

Anna and Kevin come to the



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The fire of the candles and the moss on the ceiling feature invoke Revé's connection to the land and nature.

restaurant business as event planners. But they shared the vision of running a superb restaurant with their friends.

And so, less than three months ago, Revé opened.

The moment you walk in the door, you begin to experience the story. Suspended from the ceiling is a unique bit of living décor – a large, moss-covered panel. Anna explains that their goal was to create an atmosphere to reflect the philosophy of the restaurant – food that is "farm to table," locally sourced from the Niagara Peninsula and southwestern Ontario.

And, oh, what food! Guests can order from a menu, but the hosts rather prefer that they don't. Because the true experience at Revé is to dine at the Chef's Counter, seated near the open fire, anticipating the next astonishing taste to come your way, each a step in a 10-course "blind journey".

So, we did. A visit and a story from Chef Adriano accompany each course. He explains the dish, and tells the story behind it. Many of the "tastes" involve a wonderful combination of Sicilian and Canadian cuisines. Like our third course, an exquisite beef tartare,

prepared by Chef Adriano as a memory of Sicilian tuna tartare. But the grass-fed beef comes from Heatherbrae Farms in Wellesley!

Chef Adriano, who has worked in Michelin Star kitchens throughout Europe and Canada, consistently finds a way to combine the magic of uber-high-end recipes with food prepared by his Sicilian mother and grandmother. Such as delicious venison, dubbed "Mama's Pizzaiola", made with cherry tomato, oregano, black garlic zabalone, and undoubtedly several more secret ingredients.

The menu celebrates international flavours, from Sable Fish that reflects Korean barbecue, to Beef Bavette, a taste of France. Adapted and improved, of course, by Chef Adriano and his talented team.

I won't elaborate on all ten courses – because they will undoubtedly be changed by the time you dine at Revé. That's part of the charm – you don't know what you will be eating, but you know it will be amazing, an experience that stretches for hours.

Each course – a small serving, beautifully presented – is served on dinnerware hand-made spe-

cifically for Revé by a glass artist in Sicily. And by the way, you can have a flight of wines paired with your food – in our case, several superb wines from Ontario or Sicily.

I mentioned that each course includes a story. In truth, Chef Adriano's personal story is captivating. Because his father knew the owner, Adriano was able to get a summer job in a Michelin-star restaurant in Sicily when he was only 14 years old. He immediately announced to his family that this was to be his calling, and that he didn't want to go to school any more. His parents overruled that idea, but Adriano continued to spend all of his out-of-school hours in high-end restaurants, learning the culinary arts.

At age 17, he moved to Madrid, working in a small restaurant where he was the chef. He told me that he spent his off-hours visiting other restaurants, for the first time encountering cuisines like Vietnamese and Mexican.

Adriano then moved to Malta, "where I got to work with Chef Andrew Pace. He's a visionary. He opened my eyes."

Eventually, after working in

top-of-the-line restaurants in Italy and Berlin, he came home to Sicily. Where he met Nicole, who in turn brought him home to Canada. He continued to work as a chef, including at Langdon Hall, but now, his personal vision – shared by Nicole, Anna and Kevin – has become a reality in Niagara-on-the-lake.

The 10-course Chef's Counter tasting menu costs \$225; wine, either individual or a matching flight, is extra. If you normally eat at a fast-food joint, that will seem like a lot. But if you are a foodie, or more simply a lover of good food, you'll be hitting the website to make a reservation.

We sat next to a couple who were making their third trip to Revé in only a couple of months. They praised "the hospitality, the food, everything!"

They were right: Revé is just that good.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and Past-President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



The visionary owners of the new restaurant; from left, Chef Adriano Cappuzzello, Nicole Pisarenko, Anna Katherine and Kevin Gillingham.



Chef Adriano with his unique bread, stuffed with parsley.



The open fire adjacent to the "Chef's Counter"



Beef tartare; the beef is sourced by Heatherbrae Farms in Wellesley.

Riddles

What falls in Canada but never hits the ground in November?
Early winter flu!

Why did the moose wear a scarf in November?
Because it was “moose-chilly”!

Why did the maple leaf go to therapy in November?
It was feeling a little “fall-en” apart.

What’s a Canadian squirrel’s favorite November snack?
Acorn-y poutine!

Why do Canadian geese fly south in November?
Because it’s faster than walking in snowshoes!

Why did the hockey stick go to therapy in November?
It had too many issues with being crossed.

PET OF THE WEEK

Nominate your Pet of the Week by emailing info@simcoeadvocate.com



JINGERBABY

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Rescued from a farmer’s field and originally given away at auction, this sweet pup and her mom were taken in by a loving family. Her mom is currently being treated for heartworm. This playful pup is learning every day, loves playing with her foster brother, and adores meeting new people. Having been treated for a urinary tract infection, she’s now ready for her forever home.

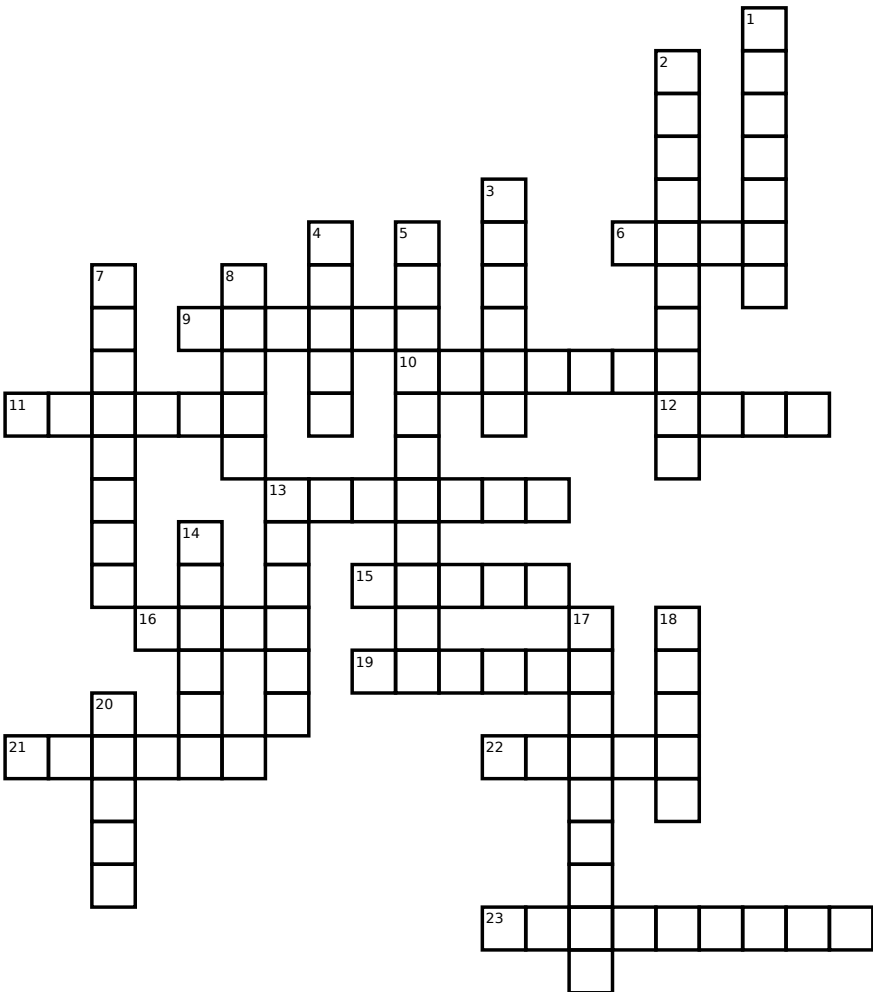
www.simcoedhumane.ca



Weekly Crossword

THE PRODUCE PUZZLE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY **Wilkinson's Independent**
Your Independent Grocer
227 MAIN STREET IN DELHI, ON



Clues

DOWN

- 1. It's whipped, sour, or Greek
- 2. Canadian treat with flaky crust and sweet filling
- 3. Spicy Thai soup, often with shrimp
- 4. Fancy term for mushroom
- 5. Spreadable cheese often paired with lox
- 7. Fermented tea with a health kick
- 8. Salty snack served in a cone at Belgian frites stands
- 13. Vegan milk alternative from a nut
- 14. Savory pastry, French-style
- 17. Fancy French snail dish
- 18. Herb essential to pesto
- 20. Black or green — either way, pressed into oil

ACROSS

- 6. Root veggie, purple or golden
- 9. Citrus fruit used in Old Fashioneds
- 10. Peppery green often found in a salad mix
- 11. Butcher's cut for steak lovers
- 12. Used in risotto and paella
- 13. Pizza topper that divides the room
- 15. Cooking show staple: ___ mystery box challenge
- 16. ___ de gallo (Mexican salsa)
- 19. Fruit in sangria and summer salads
- 21. Smooth and creamy, like good guac
- 22. Not sweet, not sour — just ___
- 23. Breakfast dish that fluffs up in the oven

Answers found on page 26.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Email to inquire: info@simcoeadvocate.com

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

SOENEN SISTERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

7:30 pm
Celebrate the season with the Soenen Sisters Christmas Concert on Friday, November 21, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is by freewill offering, and light refreshments will be served. Don't miss an evening of beautiful music and holiday cheer!

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

GAMES NIGHT
6:30 pm - 9:00pm

Game night in the cafe! Come anytime between 6:30pm -9:00pm! Get your team together! Bring your game of play from our collection!

83 Sydenham Street in downtown Simcoe

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
11:00 am- 3:00 pm

St. Peter's Lutheran Church is hosting a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Featuring a bake sale, Christmas cookie platters, "nearly new" table, crafts, toys, a coffee corner and...our delicious cabbage rolls! Admission is free!

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 155 Colborne St. N., Simcoe (corner of Union and Colborne)

LADIES AUXILIARY WATERFORD CRAFT AND BAKE SALE
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Join the RCL Branch 123 Ladies Auxiliary for their Annual Craft and Bake Sale.

Waterford Legion 223 Nichol St. Waterford

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

LEGION CHRISTMAS CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW

11:00 am- 3:00 pm
Free Admission. Space still available! Want to book a space? To book contact the legion and leave your name and phone number, or pop in during business hours.

Cash only, we do not have debit, or ATM.

For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or check out our website at <https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

WINGS & THINGS PUB NIGHT

Starting at 5:00 pm (Until Sold Out)
Cash only, we do not have debit, or ATM.

For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or check out our website at <https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

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

FRIDAY FUN NIGHTS

6:30 pm
Doppleganger is coming back again! The incredible band features the acoustic duo, Jim and Ken, two very talented musicians who are very good friends. They enjoy connecting with the crowd, putting their unique touches on old favourites.

83 Sydenham Street in downtown Simcoe

DRAMATIC READING OF CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Step into a magical evening by enjoying a dramatic reading of this classic holiday tale, followed by refreshments.

Presented by Friends of the Library, Simcoe.
Friday, November 28, 7:30 pm
St. James United Church, Colborne St.
Tickets: \$25.00 Available at door or foltreasurersimcoe@gmail.com

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

OPEN JAM

Starting at 1:00 pm
Last Saturday of every month. 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 check out our website at <https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 5 & 29

BINGO NIGHT

7 pm
Doors open 5:30 p.m - Early Bird 6:30 p.m
Presented by ABEL Enterprises. Concession stand run by Simcoe & District Humane Society.

Simcoe Legion, West Street, Simcoe

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Featuring baking, attic treasures, gift table, frozen apple and elderberry pies, frozen beef and chicken meat pies, a penny table, vendors and a luncheon.

For more information please contact, Dorothy Stedman at 519-717-6109 or stedmanles@gmail.com.

Delhi United Church- 105 Church St W, Delhi, ON N4B 1V9

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - LOW NOTES HIGH HOPES SAXOPHONE QUARTET

2:00 pm
Enjoy an afternoon of festive music with the Low Notes High Hopes Saxophone Quartet—Keegan Amy, Blake Lambert, Dave Ward, and Jess Wharram—along with special guests Jennifer Langton and Scott Duffas, on Saturday, December 13, at 2:00 p.m. Come and experience a delightful concert to get you in the holiday spirit!

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

BINGO NIGHT

7 p.m
Doors open 5:30 p.m - Early Bird 6:30 p.m

Presented by ABEL Enterprises. Concession stand run by Simcoe & District Humane Society.

Simcoe Legion, West Street, Simcoe

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

BINGO NIGHT

7 p.m
Doors open 5:30 p.m - Early Bird 6:30 p.m
Presented by ABEL Enterprises. Concession stand run by Simcoe & District Humane Society.
Simcoe Legion, West Street, Simcoe

FREE MAKE & TAKE WORKSHOP

1:00 p.m - 3:00 p.m
Join us for an afternoon of creativity and fun! Learn greeting card making and fridge magnet crafting—perfect for all ages and skill levels. All materials are provided, and refreshments are included. Bring your friends, family, and imagination! Free-will offering — extras go to Church Out Serving.

St. Peter's Lutheran Fellowship Hall, 155 Colborne St N, Simcoe

EVERY FRIDAY EVENING

CATCH THE ACE

4:30 am- 7:30 pm (Draw at 7:45 pm)
Win over \$10,000.00 (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

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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.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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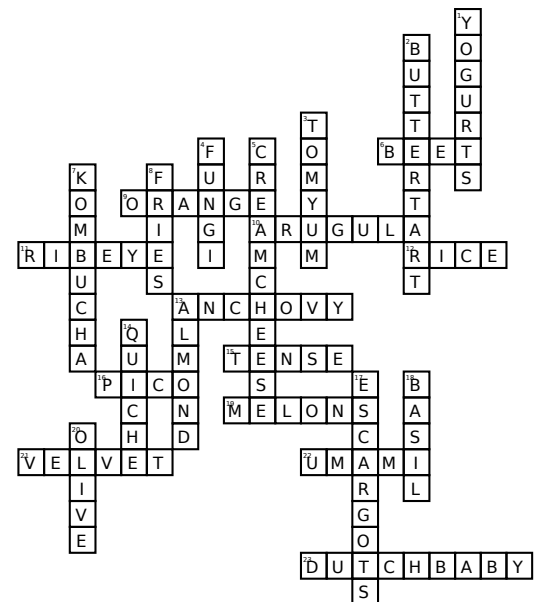
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**If you are interested, contact
Heather Dunbar at:
heather@granthaven.com**

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Paul
2. Rome, Italy
3. 1987
4. Onomatopoeia
5. 360°
6. 11am
7. Emmet
8. Amphibians
9. Batman
10. Procter & Gamble

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BI-WEEKLY
PUBLICATION DATES**
DECEMBER 4 & DECEMBER 18
JANUARY 1 & JANUARY 15

DEADLINE IS THE MONDAY PRIOR AT 3 P.M.

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

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ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY **MARTIN CHARNIN**

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