

Exeter Examiner

VOL. 3 • ISSUE 13

Thursday, September 10, 2026

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Police urge caution after four drownings in Grand Bend area

DAN ROLPH

Editor

In the span of less than two weeks, four individuals went missing and were later found dead in separate incidents in the Grand Bend area, and police are urging everyone with plans of being in or around the water to stay safe.

According to Lambton County OPP, crews began searching for a missing swimmer, a 28-year-old from Scarborough, who had last been seen on the beach at Pinery Provincial Park on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026, just after 1 p.m.

On Aug. 27, police said visitors had found the swimmer's body on the beach.

The next day on Aug. 28, Lambton County OPP began another search for a 66-year-old London resident who had last been seen on a dock attached to an address on Canal Street.

In an Aug. 29 update from police, Lambton County OPP confirmed that swimmer's body had been found by the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit with the Lambton Marine Unit.

Just over an hour after the second swimmer's body was recovered, a third swimmer, a 36-year-old from Scarborough, was reported missing, having last been seen at Pinery Provincial Park.

According to police, that swimmer's body was found later that evening.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



FLY-IN CORN ROAST AT SEXSMITH AIRFIELD

(MACKENZIE HODGINS PHOTO)

The weather may not have been ideal, but locals and visitors alike were lining up Sunday, Aug. 30, for the 62nd annual corn roast at the Sexsmith Airfield, just north of Exeter. The annual event, which is hosted by COPA Flight 177, invited the community to the airfield where they could enjoy cobs of corn while taking in the sights as pilots flew in with their planes. From left are volunteers Sara Rooseboom, Zoe Smith and Janet Mathers, who were serving corn during the roast.

MORE PICTURES FOUND ON PAGE 9

Handbags for Hospice returns Oct. 23

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF

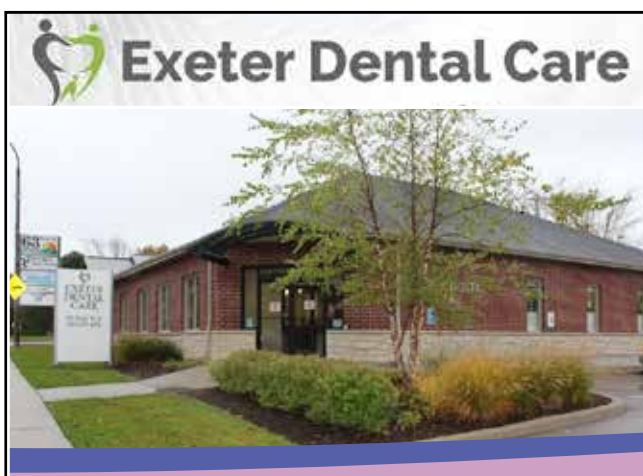
Staff Contribution

An unforgettable night is waiting under the moonlight as Handbags for Hospice returns on Oct. 23, 2026, at the South Huron Recreation Centre, bringing

together the community for an evening of fashion, fun, entertainment and fundraising in support of Jessica's House Hospice.

This year's event, "Under the Moonlight for Hospice: Where Fashion Meets Purpose Under the Stars," is set to be a night guests will not want to miss. From stunning handbags and delicious food to exciting auc-

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



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Grand Bend Summer Sunset Sounds wraps up another year of concerts



Grand Bend Summer Sunset Sounds held its final concert of the year Sept. 3 on the Rotary Community Stage, wrapping up the free concert series. Toronto indie-rock band Meteor Heist opened the concert



(DAN ROLPH PHOTOS)

Grand Bend singer-songwriter Clara Stegall headlined the final concert.

DAN ROLPH
Editor

It was a fitting sendoff to a summer of music as the final acts of Grand Bend Summer Sunset Sounds took to the stage Sept. 3.

Held on the Rotary Community Stage at Grand Bend’s main public beach, the free concert series featured Grand Bend’s own singer-songwriter Clara

Stegall as the final headliner of the year, bringing the series to a close with local flare.

Also performing during the evening was Toronto indie-rock band Meteor Heist, who opened the final concert of the series.

Grand Bend Summer Sunset Sounds was started in 2014, featuring a new lineup of artists weekly throughout the summer. Though the concert series was

cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it returned in 2021 and has continued to be a popular event for beachgoers and music lovers alike.

This year’s series of concerts began July 9 with Sarah Smith and Justin Maki. Other acts featured in 2026 have included Janna Leduc, Dave Ward, Shebad, Gracie Jet, Mudmen, Warren Hargraves, Brothers Wilde, Adam Cousins, The Smoke Wagon Blues Band and

Amanda Keeley. Though the concert series was originally introduced to bring music to the beach on Sundays, 2026 marked a monumental change, shifting to Thursdays as beach crowds have continued to grow over the years.

For more information about Summer Sunset Sounds, visit summersunset-sounds.ca or [@grandbendsunsetconcertseries](https://www.facebook.com/grandbendsunsetconcertseries) on Facebook.



Grand Bend singer-songwriter Clara Stegall headlined the final concert.



Clara Stegall of Grand Bend has been performing in the community throughout her career.



The free concert series was moved to Thursdays for the first time this year.

EDITORIAL

My memories from September 11, 2001



STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Long before I was in the newspaper business, I still wrote a lot of things down and kept a journal. Social media was not around yet, but lengthy emails to friends and family were a thing, especially for me living on an island away from home. On Sept. 11, 2001, I was a 27-year-old living in Bermuda and working as a Chartered Accountant for Marsh, an insurance company. My wife Laurie and I were hosting her parents Gary and Marg who were visiting us at our island home, and we were relieved that Hurricane Erin, the first Atlantic hurricane of 2001,

had passed by Bermuda on Sept. 9 without incident.

On Sept. 11, 2001, my parents, Murray and June, were back home in St. Marys while my sister Lori was living in Norway where she was working in finance with General Electric.

I wrote them the following email on the evening of Sept. 11 as I reflected on the horrific events. I just wanted to share this email to take you back 25 years to the thoughts of a regular guy in his 20s living through this when it happened. It's amazing how when I re-type this email all these years later how the feelings come flooding back.

September 11, 2001, 8:45 am Eastern time, 9:45 am Atlantic Time – I was sitting at my desk when Tom White walked by and told me the news – the World Trade Center had been hit by two airplanes. That's where I was when the news came. As my internet was down, I called Laurie at work so I could hear the broadcast from her TV over the phone lines to get more details on this shocking news. Following our talk, the next amazing

wave of news came around – the Pentagon had also been hit. We at Marsh gathered in the meeting room where we watched the unbelievable news come in on ABC and CBS. For the balance of the morning, we silently stood and sat in shock as the pictures came across the screen. Then at about 12:00, there was a gathering in the training room where we prayed for world peace and had a moment of silence for the dead – about six or seven people got up and prayed aloud. This is when I felt saddest, thinking not only of those who died today but also about what this attack may mean on a grander scale.

Like the Challenger explosion in 1986, like the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, and like the Kennedy assassination in 1963, this unfortunately will forever be a moment captured in time; a moment where everyone knows where they were when it happened.

Somehow though this is scarier than all the other examples above. This was something out of a movie, something surreal – the first half of Independence

Day comes to mind.

Hopefully this is not a sign of things to come. Hopefully the terrorist actions which are now common in places like Jerusalem have not permanently found their way into our lives. Hopefully we do not travel in fear of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Hopefully this doesn't start a chain of events which leads us into World War III.

The amazing thing is, although we are living in Bermuda, Canada, and Norway, we will find that none of us are unaffected by this tragedy.

I probably know people that died today. The Marsh headquarters were in the World Trade Center, floors 95 to 100. Last month I met in person a couple people from the Marsh NY office, including one woman who I've spoken with on 10-15 occasions and gotten to know. I hope she was out of the office today.

The largest companies in the world have offices in the World Trade Center. Marsh, Deloitte & Touche, and Arthur Anderson

are just the ones I know for sure. Some 50,000 or so work in the World Trade Center I've been told, so I'm sure we all know someone who knows someone who was there today.

Once we get over the terrible loss of the people that died, we will be left to deal with the consequences – the emotional impact on the survivors, the impact on the national psyche, and the changes in our lives as a result of this. Travel will definitely be impacted, as we will see increased lines at borders, customs, etc. due to increased searches, questioning, etc. People of certain races are going to be the subject of constant scrutiny just because of their skin colour – for them it might be very difficult.

Well, I don't know what else to say... I'm probably not thinking clearly anyway. I just wanted to get in touch with my family today and reflect a bit on what has happened. This is not just another news story that captures our interest for awhile, this is very sadly a day in which we have perhaps seen a significant turning point in world history.

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Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Dan Rolph • dan@granthaven.com

Graphic Design

Kyrah Smith • info@exeterexaminer.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator

Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

Contributors

Deb Lord, John Miner, Samantha Lawson, Bob Heywood,
Amy Wilhelm, Paul Knowles, Judy Finkbeiner Johnson,
Barry Johnson, Claire Jones, Mackenzie Hodgins

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
info@exeterexaminer.com | 519.284.0041 | granthaven.com

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Exeter Examiner

N E W S P A P E R

Have something to say?

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

Exeter Examiner

N E W S P A P E R

Guiding Principles

1. Everyone has a story
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6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
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COMMUNITY

Police urge caution after four drownings in Grand Bend area

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

On Saturday, Sept. 5, police responded to reports of another missing person, a 37-year-old Kitchener man, who had been kayaking on Lake Huron about 10 kilometres north of Grand Bend in Bluewater. The kayaker's body was found the following day on Sept. 6 off the shore of Grand Bend.

The drownings in the Grand Bend area are not the first of the busy tourist season in the region, when beaches along the coast of Lake Huron are crowded with beachgoers looking to escape the summer heat.

The body of a 22-year-old from Nepal was found after an extensive 11-day search. The individual had gone missing in May after an incident involving a raft carrying five individuals in distress at Pinery Provincial Park.

In late June, a 67-year-old man also died after he was recovered from the water at Grand Bend's south beach.

Though the main beach in Grand Bend offers life-

guard coverage throughout the day in the summer, most beaches along the lakeshore do not, and police are urging everyone planning on spending time in or on the water to take precautions.

Those precautions include swimming alone; wearing a lifejacket or personal flotation device; supervising children closely around water; knowing your limits as a swimmer; avoiding alcohol or drug use while around the water; checking conditions before entering the water; and keeping a charged cell phone or another reliable means of communication nearby in case of emergency.

Lambton County OPP said most water-related tragedies are preventable.

"Whether you're boating, swimming, fishing or spending time at the cottage, take a few simple precautions; wear your lifejacket, supervise children closely, stay sober, know your limits, and respect the water," they said. "Lambton County OPP want everyone to enjoy Ontario's water ways and, most importantly make it home safely."



(DAN ROLPH PHOTO)

Police are urging residents and tourists to be cautious as they spend time in or around the water after a string of four drownings in less than two weeks in the Grand Bend area. Pictured above are police during search efforts in May to find a 22-year-old individual from Nepal who went missing at Pinery Provincial Park.

Handbags for Hospice returns Oct. 23

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

tions and unique ways to give back, the evening promises to offer something for everyone, all while helping make compassionate hospice care possible for local families.

But the true heart of Handbags for Hospice is the difference each guest, donor, sponsor and community supporter helps create.

At Jessica's House Hospice, residents and their families receive exceptional care in a peaceful, home-like setting, close to the people and places they know and love. There is no cost to families for this care. The generosity of the community helps make that possible.

"When someone supports Handbags for Hospice, they are doing so much more than supporting an event," said

fund development and communications co-ordinator Meghan O'Rourke. "They are helping ensure that local families can access exceptional care, comfort and support when they need it most. Every ticket, donation, sponsorship and auction contribution has a purpose, and together, these gifts make a lasting difference."

Guests can look forward to an evening filled with fashion, food, entertainment and opportunities to give back. The event will feature silent and live Auctions, a wine wall, gift card wall and the chance to take home a beautiful handbag.

With so many exciting elements planned, tickets are expected to be in demand. Those who want to experience the evening while supporting local hos-

pice care are encouraged to get their tickets early.

For those unable to attend, there are still plenty of ways to make an impact.

Businesses and individuals can support the event by donating a bottle of wine to the wine wall, contributing a gift card, donating an auction item, becoming an event sponsor or making a monetary donation to Jessica's House Hospice.

Jessica's House Hospice receives approximately 40 per cent of its funding from government sources. The remaining over \$1 million needed to provide hospice care rely heavily on donations and community fundraising, meaning every dollar raised through Handbags for Hospice helps Jessica's House continue to be there for residents and fam-

ilies across the community.

"Hospice care is about making sure families can focus on what matters most — being together," said O'Rourke. "Our community makes it possible for us to provide that care. When people come together for events like Handbags for Hospice, they are helping create moments of comfort, connection and peace for families during an incredibly vulnerable time in their lives."

Tickets are now available, and community members are encouraged to get theirs early and be part of an evening where fashion meets purpose under the stars.

For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, donation information and full event details, visit www.jessicashousehospice.ca.

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White Squirrel Watch



PHOTO BY
MINDY BELL

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If you would like to submit a White Squirrel Sighting, contact us at info@exeterexaminer.com

Exeter Examiner Photo Quiz



Who are you looking at?

By Judy and Barry Johnson



My early-spring mating call sounds like a snore plus a couple of low grunts. There will be quite a chorus when many are courting. I am about 5 to 11 centimetres long. I feed on insects, spiders and even small snakes, worms, and crickets. My mate will lay around 3,500 eggs in an up to 15 centimetre mass, either on the surface or attached to vegetation on slow-moving water.

HINT: I share part of my name with a big cat seen on Safari in Africa.

This week's answers are found on pg. 30

WEEKEND QUIZ

By Jake Grant

1. Which animal has fingerprints that are so similar to humans they can confuse forensic investigators?
2. Which country consumes the most chocolate per person each year?
3. What is the largest moon in the Solar System?
4. What is the only continent with no active volcanoes?
5. What is the only metal that is liquid at room temperature?
6. Which famous scientist developed the three laws of motion?
7. What does UN stand for?
8. What was Dolly Parton's middle name?
9. Which animal's egg case is often called a "mermaid's purse"?
10. A tax or duty to be paid on a particular class of imports or exports is known as a ____?

This week's answers are found on pg. 30



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Ausable Bayfield Conservation recognizes innovators for soil with Decade Award



During the 80th anniversary year of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), the ABCA recognized agricultural soil and water innovators working toward healthier soils, with a Decade Award. Shown at the award evening, at Ironwood Golf Course on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026, are (from left to right in photo): Marg Kroes, Lillie Ann Morris, Jack Kroes, Don Lobb, Harriet Vander Burg, Josh Vander Burgt, Jo-Anne Rzadki, Kevin McKague, ABCA Healthy Watersheds manager Mari Veliz, Jeff Allan, Doug Richards, Jane Sadler Richards, Ryan Carlow, Chelsea Gowton, Chris Van Esbroeck, ABCA board representative Adrian Cornelissen, Rick Kootstra, Tom Prout, Jim Ginn, ABCA Healthy Watersheds specialist Hope Brock, and Doug Walker.

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF

Staff Contribution

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) has recognized innovators for soil health with the presentation of a Decade Award.

During 2026, ABCA's 80th anniversary year, the local watershed management organization is presenting an award, each month, for each decade of its history. ABCA presented the Decade Award, for work in the 1990s and onward, to innovators in soil health and conservation tillage. This most recent award was presented on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026, at Ironwood Golf Course east of Exeter.

On behalf of the ABCA board of directors, the representative from Municipality of North Middlesex, Adrian Cornelissen, presented the award.

"We are honoured to take this opportunity to recognize the leadership, dedication and innovation of the entire agricultural sector," he said. "We would also

like to make special mention of the work of conservation tillage and soil health innovators and champions. Many of those innovators for soil are here with us today."

Speaking about soil health innovation, at the ceremony, were Rick Kootstra; Don Lobb; and Tom Prout.

Rick Kootstra, of Huron County Soil and Crop Improvement Association (HSCIA), is farm manager at Huronview Demonstration Farm near Clinton, Ontario. The demonstration farm is a partnership of HSCIA, the County of Huron, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, and other partners in agriculture and drainage industries. At the demo farm, agricultural producers from HSCIA use best management practices including cover crops. Working together, the farm partners evaluate BMPs at the site and sample for water quality.

Don Lobb is an inductee into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame. He farmed in Clinton in Huron County for more than 35 years where he was a leader in the es-

tablishment and improvement of soil conservation practices to the benefit of water quality.

Tom Prout, P.Ag., is a recipient of the Distinguished Agrologist Award from the Ontario Institute of Agrologists. He worked for 40 years in the conservation field and he spent 32 of those years as general manager and secretary-treasurer at Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.

Honorees at the Decade Award ceremony included: Jeff Allan; Ryan Carlow; Sharon Devine; Wim Feddes; Jim Ginn; Chelsea Gowton; Tom and Adam Hayter; Steve Howard and Lawrence Hogan; Rick Kootstra; Marg Kroes and Jack Kroes; Don Lobb; Jack McGregor; Walter McIlwain; Kevin McKague; Lillie Ann Morris; Peter Nonkes; Tom Prout; Don and Dave Pullen; Jane Sadler Richards and Doug Richards; Jo-Anne Rzadki; Martin Straathof; Keith, Geoff and Mike Strang; John Vander Burgt (posthumously); Chris Van Esbroeck; Doug Walker; and Alan Willits.

This was the sixth Decade Award presented. ABCA previously honoured the following recipients:

- 1940s — Member municipalities, for vision in forming Ontario's first conservation authority and for continued partnership.
- 1950s — Ontario Parks, for establishing and stewarding Pinery Provincial Park.
- 1960s — Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (formerly Department of Lands and Forests), for a lasting legacy of reforestation.
- 1970s — Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, for work in the community since ABCF was formed in 1974.
- 1980s — Local community service groups, recognizing decades of strong partnerships in our watershed communities.

ABCA will continue to honour groups, for each decade of its history, throughout the anniversary year.



Tom Prout, who served for more than three decades as general manager and secretary-treasurer of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), received special recognition, from influential soil and water conservation innovator Don Lobb, during a soil health event at Ironwood Golf Course on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026.



(AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION PHOTOS)

Shown in photo, from left to right, are ABCA Healthy Watersheds manager Mari Veliz, ABCA board of directors representative Adrian Cornelissen, and presenters, at the Decade Award ceremony, Rick Kootstra, Don Lobb, and Tom Prout.

Severe thunderstorms cause damage in local communities



Severe thunderstorms rolled into southern Ontario Sept. 2, bringing with them intense winds and heavy rainfall that caused damage throughout the region that left many communities without power. Environment Canada issued a red severe thunderstorm warning for the storms that had gusting winds of more than 100 km/h. Thousands of properties in parts of South Huron, Bluewater and Grand Bend remained without power Sept. 3 as crews continued to assess damage and restore connections.



(DAN ROLPH PHOTOS)

Police closed King Street in Hensall after the storm brought down overhead cables.



A tree along Highway 4 was ripped in half by the storm's strong winds



Many trees in Hensall were left damaged after the storm.



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Fly-in corn roast at Sexsmith Airfield



From left are Exeter Scouts Kacey DeWetering, James DeWetering, Bentley Hern and Ben DeWetering.



Corn was cooked over a wood fire in a large kettle for the hungry diners to enjoy.

Municipality of
Bluewater

MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER NOTICE OF ELECTION INFORMATION *Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 40)*

Municipal Elections for the offices of:

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Tyler Hessel

Councillor, Bayfield Ward – *1 to be elected*
E.J. Bauer
Michael DeCorte

Councillor, Hensall Ward – *1 to be elected*
Joan Bradley
Scott Harris

Councillor, Zurich Ward – *1 to be elected*
Jason Becker
Winona Sangster

Councillor, Hay East Ward – *1 to be elected*
Joey Groot
Megan Goss

Councillor, Stanley East Ward – *1 to be elected*
David Armstrong
Peter Walden

Councillor, Stanley West Ward – *1 to be elected*
Brian Kellow
Greg Lamport

The following municipal offices were acclaimed: **Deputy Mayor; Councillor, Hay West Ward.**
The following school board trustees were acclaimed: **English Public; English Separate; French Public; French Separate.**
• Voting Method – **Telephone and Internet**
• Location of Revision and Help Centre: **14 Mill Avenue, Zurich Ontario**
• Voting Period: beginning **October 13 at 9:00 a.m. through to October 26 at 8:00 p.m.**

Dated August 24, 2026
Chandra Alexander, Clerk

Huron-Perth Walk-in Counselling to provide faster access to mental health support

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF

Staff Contribution

A new collaborative initiative will make it easier for people across Huron and Perth Counties to access timely mental health support when they need it.

Beginning the week of Sept. 14, 2026, Huron Health System, Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Huron Perth, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Thames Valley, and Medavie Mobile Mental Health will launch Huron-Perth Walk-In Counselling, a new pathway for individuals aged 16 and older to connect with a therapy session without an appointment.

The initiative brings together members of the Huron Perth Addiction and Mental Health Alliance to expand access to counselling and help people connect with the right care at the right time.

“Making it easier for people to access support when they need it is an important part of building a stronger local system of care,” said Huron Health System president and CEO Jimmy Trieu. “This new program will create another pathway for people to connect with mental health support when they are ready to reach out. It is also

an excellent example of what can happen when local organizations work together.”

Walk-in counselling is intended for individuals experiencing mental health concerns who would benefit from timely access to a therapy session. People can access the service when they need it and return as often as needed, helping ensure they receive support that reflects their circumstances and needs.

“Having same day access across the mental health and addiction system in Huron Perth is a significant step forward for our system. For the first time, people can access services in a number of locations via a number of organizations, but still receive the same care,” said CMHA Huron Perth CEO Catherine Hardman. “Mental health and addiction issues continue to grow in our communities and increasing access to care across the spectrum is vital to managing the increasing demand.”

A full schedule of walk-in counselling opportunities across Huron and Perth Counties will be available through the Huron Health System website at www.huronhealthsystem.ca/walk-in-counselling. Individuals looking for more information about the program can also contact the Huron-Perth Helpline and Crisis Response Team at 1-888-829-7484.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DREW ROBERTSON

Creditor

Earlier this week, U.S. minister of war, Pete Hegseth, posted a picture on social media of some cadets which

included disparaging remarks about Canada's cadet programme and the Canadian Armed forces in general.

He and millions of Americans should be reminded that last week President Trump presented four brave

pioneers with the U.S. Congressional Space Medal of Honor in the Oval Office. One of those pioneers who was instrumental in that resounding success, was a proud Canadian cadet and continues his career in Canada.

Funding available for projects that impact the greater Grand Bend area

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF

Staff Contribution

The Greater Grand Bend Area Community Funds are accepting applications for community grants — an incredible opportunity to support projects that benefit residents across this area.

The Greater Grand Bend Advisory committee will review all submissions in mid-October, with funding decisions communicated by early November.

"Last year, we received 40 applications

and awarded 27 grants and scholarships, totaling \$151,400," said Greater Grand Bend Area Advisory committee chair Pete Janzen. "With more than 100 people attending our Grant Awards last November, it was our biggest celebration yet."

Grants are offered in the following areas of interest:

- Children and youth.
- Family and community.
- Health physical activity.
- Education.
- Social services and low-income impact.

- Preservation of the environment.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.
- Arts and culture.

While some programs may have a broader reach, priority is given to those that show a meaningful and measurable impact within the specific community tied to the fund group, in this case, the greater Grand Bend area. Applicants are

encouraged to clearly outline how their program serves local residents of this area, including any relevant data such as the number of individuals impacted, geographic reach, and community outcomes.

Applications are being accepted online only and must be submitted by midnight on Sept. 30, 2026. To review grant guidelines and submit an application, visit sunsetcommunityfoundation.ca/grants.

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Art of Ideas Gallery: A hidden gem right in our backyard

WENDY LAMOND

Examiner Correspondent

One of the perks of my job is to be able to meet some inspiring people and to come across some hidden gems in our community that need to be shared.

I came across one of these hidden gems when I met with Elena Dumitru and took a tour of the Art of Ideas Gallery located at 236 Jones St. East in St. Marys.

Many people in St. Marys know the house. It is that big beautiful red brick home at the corner of Jones and King Street that has unique architecture and some very creative art on the lawn. What many don't know is that inside one can find stunning art and creations, all brilliantly displayed in a story telling format from the ingenious mind of Romanian Canadian artist Eugen-Florin Zamfirescu, who is also Dumitru's husband.

Many artists have one genre or one colour palette. What makes Zamfirescu so unique is his willingness to cross categories when expressing his creative visions, whether it be oil paintings, sculptures, photography, installation art and so much more.

The couple are both Romanian. After leaving their native country, they lived in England for six years and then decided to move to Toronto. When the apartment that they were living in was filling up with art, they decided it was time for more space. Originally, they were looking in Stratford but took a drive St. Marys where they came across, and fell in love with, their current house, which was for sale at the time. After a series of events that fell into place, one being their current street in Toronto was King Street to the house of their dreams being also on a King Street, the couple felt like it was meant to be. The rest, as they say, is history.

The Art of Ideas Gallery has been open for close to four years now and offers three guided tours. No matter which

tour you take, you will experience the whole space as well as the art.

"An Unexpected Journey" takes approximately 90 minutes and is a journey into the mind of Zamfirescu, a tour where you will learn about his art and artistic ethos, about our past, present as well as a possible future. As you travel to the upper galleries, you will be swept from string theory into deep space.

Many visitors have shared with Dumitru that the name "An Unexpected Journey" is exactly how they describe the tour. It goes over and above what they were anticipating.

The second tour is called "Echoes of Elegance". This tour also takes approximately 90 minutes but covers a history of the house, its unique architecture and most famous inhabitants, fascinating stories about pieces of furniture and more, a truly wonderful journey through time.

"Dial, Discover and Dream: A Fascinating Tour of Ingenious Machines" is the third tour. For someone that enjoys vintage measuring and communication equipment, consider this one. It is a journey through imagination, progression, and technology of the past, present and future.

The tours are available on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays in the summer. However, if the times for the set tours are not doable, Dumitru said that they are flexible and will find a time that does work for other days and times of the year. The set times can be found on their website at <https://www.artofideasgallery.com>.

What makes Art of Ideas Unique is that it is not a public gallery, nor a private commercial gallery. It is a private home and an artist studio full of stories to be told and heard, all originating from a brilliant mind.

According to Dumitru, Zamfirescu doesn't like to be put in a square because his mind is not in a square. "He loves

arts, he loves science, he loves technology, history, time, old instruments and so much more. He also loves carpentry, taking things apart and creating things, so you can just imagine the curiosity that drives his creativity," she said.

What caught my attention walking in was not only the old bend work wood-working but Zamfirescu's oil paintings in the lower gallery. The paintings tell a story from the history of civilization. Each painting took the artist a year to complete as he uses the techniques of the Old Masters of the Renaissance. Every painting represents a period of time in our history, from primitive times, to present, to far into our future. One of the paintings depicts a ship in a storm symbolizing difficult times such as war, plague or any other hardships that we as humans have encountered throughout history.

Another picture that stood out is one of Dumitru's father who passed away three years ago. The painting is called MNE-MOSYNE (the Goddess of Memory). It is of an old cowboy who can no longer ride a horse but by holding the saddle, can remember the old days. Dumitru's father was the model, and the details are so accurate that according to Dumitru, if her dad was there, his hand would be identical to the painting.

As we arrive in the upper galleries we encounter the String Theory series, a group of paintings that involves elements from the periodic table. Every atom in the universe vibrates, but we as humans, cannot hear that vibration. In the creative mind of Zamfirescu, he has put into painting how these elements, these atoms would look and sound when being played as a frequency generator in a musical instrument. The beauty of it is also the fact in every painting there is a hand of real musician.

What does the future hold for the gallery? According to Dumitru, there is so much potential to tap in to. There are



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Art of Ideas Gallery in St. Marys.

potential garden tours and interactive art tours for kids. One suggestion that we discussed was the possibility of an art show that includes art, music, poetry and film.

I could go on about this remarkable place, but it needs to be seen in person to appreciate all of Zamfirescu's creations.

"The goal of art and the goal of our gallery is to open new horizons, to help the viewer see inside the mind of an artist, in this case a living artist. Art is open to interpretation, which makes it even more interesting because its meaning can differ from one person to the next, depending on how it is viewed," said Dumitru.

Not only is seeing Zamfirescu's creations inspiring, but the knowledge also that Dumitru has when running a tour is very inspiring. Be prepared to learn a lot. Not only will you learn about the past, but you will also open your mind to the future.

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It's time for the Kirkton Fall Fair

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Continuing a tradition that began way back in 1869, the Kirkton Fall Fair returns this weekend with a packed schedule of fun events for families to enjoy.

The fair remains focused on agriculture and all things farming. There is plenty to see and do without a midway or carnival games. Inflatables and a strawbale structure are sure to be popular with youngsters, as well as all the various exhibitions and shows. Meanwhile, the exhibit hall is filled with

home canning, home-craft items, woodworking, flowers, fruit, vegetable and grain entries and creations from local kids.

The fair kicks off on Friday, Sept. 11, when the gates open at 6:30 p.m. A selection of food trucks will be on hand, and the evening activities include inflatables, the exhibit hall, Farmer Olympics, and fireworks at dusk.

The Kirkton Fair parade takes place on Saturday, Sept. 12 beginning at 10 a.m. The route goes along Highway 23 between Kirkton and the Community Centre. The parade will

feature horses, antique cars and tractors, and floats from various businesses and organizations.

Saturday is chock-full of activities right up until 4 p.m. The 4-H and Open Dairy Show begins at 10 a.m. and the fair's Opening Ceremonies will take place at 10:30 a.m. The day's schedule also includes the Baby Show at 11 a.m., Mullet Competition at noon, Truck and Tractor Pull at 3 p.m. and Pumpkin Catapult at 3:30 p.m. At different times throughout the day are pig races, an animal music show, live music with Ashley Giles, remote control car and truck races, a tug

of war demonstration, and so much more.

On Sunday, Sept. 13, start your day with a delicious breakfast sandwich hosted by the Kirkton Community Centre. These tasty sandwiches are available for a donation, with all proceeds going to Huron County Food Distribution Centre to help support local families in need. The breakfast runs from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

A community church service will be held at 10 a.m. Then, at 1 p.m., the classic car show and the fan favourite demolition derby will get underway.

The fair continues to operate

thanks to the generosity of local donors. The gate fee is the only cost to fairgoers — it remains a very budget and family friendly event. In 2025, the

Kirkton Fall Fair was also able to give back through its first annual scholarship, and the 2026 scholarship went to Clayton Hern, who is attending university in Alberta this fall.

Friday admission is by donation, while Saturday and Sunday prices are \$10 each for adults and \$5 each for youths (JK through Grade 12). Preschoolers are free all weekend long. For more information, visit www.kirktonfair.com.



Director Nomination

The Annual General Meeting of the Members of Axiom Mutual Insurance Company will be held at the Ailsa Craig Recreation Centre, 155 Annie Ada Shipley Street, Ailsa Craig, Ontario on Thursday, the 18th day of March 2027 at 2:00 p.m.

At this Meeting Five (5) Directors are to be elected:

- Three Directors, each for a three-year term;
- One to complete the remaining term of one year resulting from the retirement of a Director; and
- One to complete the remaining term of two years resulting from a resignation.

In accordance with the Corporation's By-laws, any person wishing to seek election as a Director must file their intention to stand for election in writing with the President of the Corporation at least one hundred fifty days prior to the Annual General Meeting, being October 19, 2026.

Applications may be sent to:
Shawn Durnin, sdurnin@axiommutual.ca

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By the order of the Board

Shawn Durnin
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Welcoming week returns to Huron County this September

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF

Staff Contribution

Community events throughout Huron County are being organized to bring people together to welcome new residents during Welcoming Week, which runs from Sept. 10 to 19.

Held annually, Welcoming Week aims to show new residents the communities' welcoming spirit and create new connections among residents and local organizations.

"Everyone in Huron County wants to feel supported and truly welcomed by neighbours and the larger community," said immigration partnership co-chair Pam Somers. "That kind of support takes effort and an ongoing commitment to foster a sense of belonging and community-wide connection. Welcoming Week is where this commitment can start."

Welcoming Week events are being organized in Brussels, Wingham, Clinton, Zurich, Exeter, Seaforth and Goderich. Co-ordinated by the Huron County Local Immigration Partnership, the events are hosted by community partners.

Phil Maier, a community volunteer and the other co-chair of Huron County's Local Immigration Partnership, said everyone is encouraged to attend the events and welcome new residents and immigrants.

"Our goal is to create a community where everyone feels supported, at home and integrated into all spheres of life," he said. "Attending one of these events is a

step towards achieving that goal."

The following events will be taking place during Welcoming Week:

Meet Your Neighbour Nights

Meet Your Neighbour Nights are being held at Huron County Library branches in Brussels, Seaforth, Clinton and Zurich, offering new residents a chance to meet the people behind various community organizations and learn more about their new community.

- Brussels — Sept. 9 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- Zurich — Sept. 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

- Clinton — Sept. 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- Seaforth — Sept. 16, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Community concert

A community concert is being planned at Cruikshank Park on Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. Local performers will take the stage, and an open mic will offer other singers a chance to showcase their talent. Games and crafts are also being planned at the Wingham event.

Awards gala

An awards gala for immigrants making a positive impact with a keynote address from Dr. Wayne Caldwell will take place on Sept. 10 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. upstairs in the Clinton arena (Libro Hall). The event will highlight the various contributions immigrants are making to our region's well-being and highlight.

Information session

People interested in learning how temporary residents in Canada can become permanent residents are encouraged to attend an information session at Trivitt Memorial Church in Exeter on Sept. 14 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The information session will be led by two regulated Canadian immigration consultants who work with newcomers and employers in Huron County.

Brussels fall fair

First-time fair goers are encouraged to attend the Brussels fall fair on Sept. 15 and 16, where tours will be led by fair volunteers. The tour will introduce people to the longstanding rural tradition of celebrating the community's agricultural bounty and way of life with an annual community celebration.

Exeter community block party

A community block party will take place in Exeter on Sept. 16 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the South Huron Municipal Office parking lot. The event will feature games, music, food trucks, and a chance to make art while meeting various organizations in the area.

Community curators exhibit and movie nights

In Goderich, the stories of immigrants will be featured in a community curators exhibit at the Huron County Museum, which will launch on Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. The launch will be followed by the premier of a new season of multilingual movie nights. The film being screened will be "The

Mother and the Bear." The film follows the story of a young Korean immigrant in Winnipeg who falls into a coma, leading her overbearing mother to fly in from Seoul to be by her side and meddle in her life via a dating app.

Children's storytime in Goderich

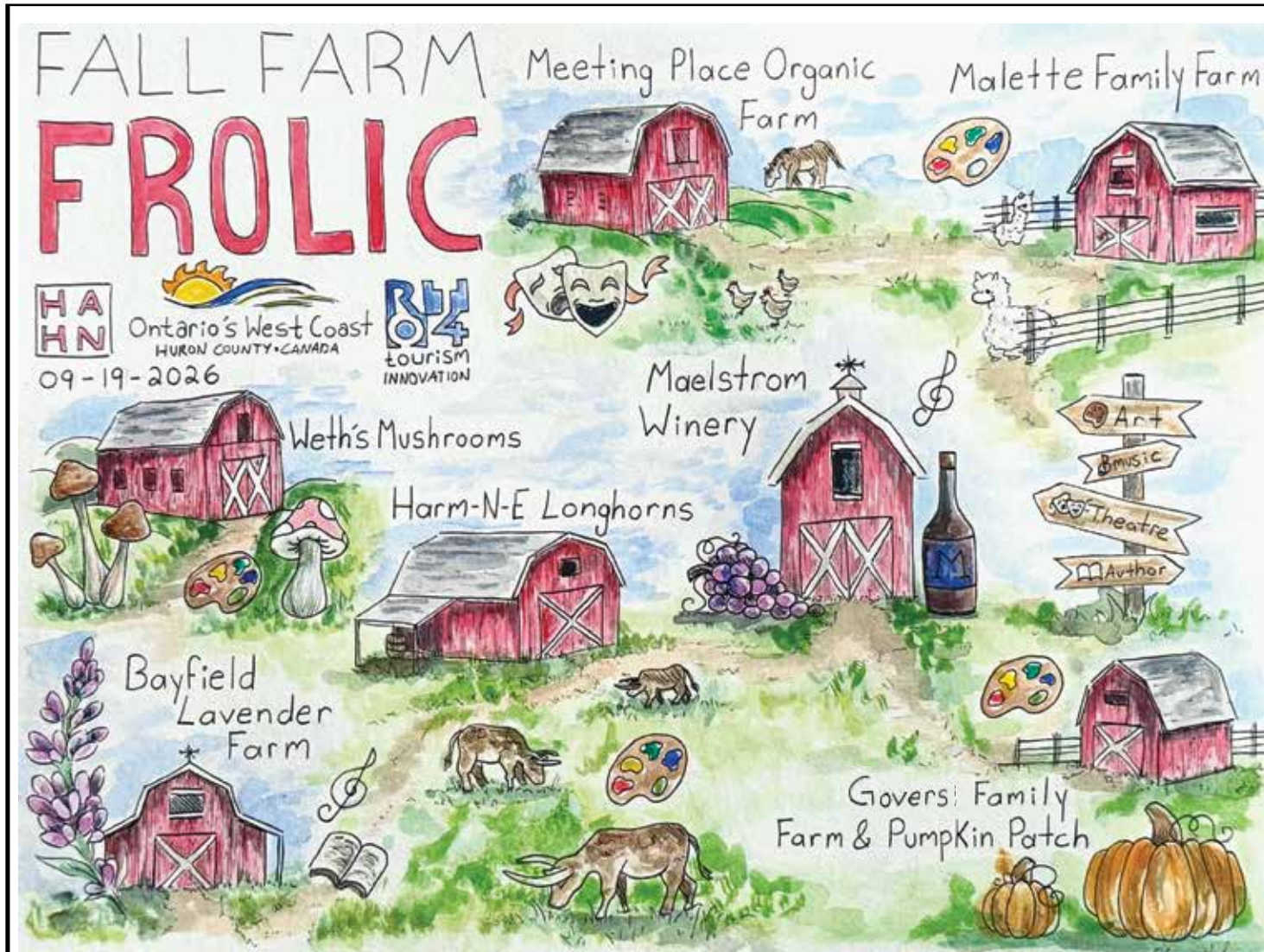
A special children's storytime is being planned on Saturday, September 19 at the Goderich branch of the Huron County Library at 10:30 a.m. The storytime will be led by a special guest reader, originally from Iran, who will read from a picture book by an Iranian author.

Bus tour

The Huron Welcome Hub for Newcomers are organizing a bus tour to four farms in Huron County on Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The bus tour is designed for newcomers to Canada and will introduce people to farmers who operate cattle, alpaca, organic and mushroom farms.

"Welcoming Week is a fun opportunity for people from all backgrounds to discover new stories, cultures, and connections together," said Somers. "These events are part of a global movement where communities around the world are focused on fostering deeper understanding and connection amount neighbours. We are excited to continue to offer these events in Huron County."

For more details about Welcoming Week events in Huron County, visit www.huron-county.ca/economic-development/welcoming-week.



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West Coast Lions support Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy



(WEST COAST LIONS CLUB PHOTOS)

The West Coast Lions Club has finished its Wednesday Night Familiar Favourites concert series for 2026, but the club is still collecting enough donations through barbecues and popcorn sales to continue passing on everyone's giving. On Sept. 4, Lion Michael Taylor handed a \$500 cheque to Kerry Teskey, board chair of the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy, which protects the Warner Preserve in Grand Bend along with other area properties. Information on this organization is available at <https://htltc.ca/>.

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SPORTS

Local rec teams win big at Mitchell Cornfest tournament

(BRIAN HODGINS PHOTOS)



Two local teams hit the road Aug. 14 to 16 to compete in the 47th annual Mitchell Grizzlies Cornfest Slo-Pitch tournament, coming out on top in both the men's and women's rec league brackets. The Hit Talkers went undefeated in the tournament, including in an intense final when they erased a 12-10 deficit with three runs in the bottom of the seventh, winning 13-12.



Gord Jr.'s were also successful in the Cornfest tournament in Mitchell, claiming the top spot in the men's rec bracket. After losing 6-2 in their morning game, they stormed back to win the semi-final 13-3 and walked away with the championship with a 16-4 win over the team that beat them earlier in the tournament.

Exeter Extremes U17 team are “B” Division champs

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Authorized by Maureen Cole

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Exeter Extremes U17 team returned home triumphantly after their year-end playoff tournament in Norwich as “B” Division champions. The tournament was held from Aug. 15 to 16, and the team went undefeated throughout the weekend. In their final against the Norwich-Otterville Otters, the Extremes pulled ahead in a close matchup that wrapped up in a 17-16 final score, giving Exeter the win. In front from left are Brooklyn Dietrich and Ellie Heessels. In middle from left are Sydney VanDongen Miles, Cadence Bowerman, Mary Bamba and Abby Masse. In back from left are coach Lori Dietrich, head coach Derek Miles, Bria Passmore, Quinn Palen, Leah McCann, Adrie Bedard, Naina Chouhan, coach Richard Heessels and coach Parteeek Chouhan Cha. Missing are coach Drew Glavin, Zoe VanBergen, Grace Kozachanko and Aliya Masse.

LOCAL SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK

(MICHELE HODGERT PHOTOS)



The Crediton Cubs Intermediate Fastball team ended their season as “B” champions at their year-end tournament on Aug. 22. One of the team’s proudest moments from the tournament was defeating the top team in the league in the final inning of a game that lasted 2.5 hours. Pictured is left fielder Amanda Hodgert as she prepares at bat.



Short stop Melissa Elliot of the Crediton Cubs watches the pitches.



Cubs pitcher Natalie Steeper prepares a pitch while first baseman Sarah Nixon is ready for the hit.



Second baseman Kayla Orr of the Crediton Cubs is ready for takeoff during the Aug. 22 year-end tournament.



Utility player Erin Oke of the Crediton Cubs frames the pitch.

BACK IN TIME

30 Years Ago

September 18, 1996 - Winners of the Ironwood junior golf tournament were Brian Hayman, Steve Farquhar, Jared Bourne, Cam Murray, Scott Ralph and Adam Little.

Excessive rainfall last week has put local vegetable crops on hold. On Monday records at the Huron Research Station indicated nearly 224 millimetres of rain had fallen in the area since Sept. 1. Last weekend alone recorded over 132 mm of precipitation, beating the 17 year average for the entire month which is 102.8 mm.

Buying lottery tickets on a regular basis has paid off for Bill Waghorn of Kirkton. As the result of holding the second prize ticket in the 6-49 lottery on Sept. 11 he is now richer by \$133,039.20.

40 Years Ago

September 17, 1986 - Whether it was measured in metric (176.2 millimetres) or imperial (6.94 inches) the rainfall of the past week created major headaches and losses for many area residents. Many homeowners who had flooded basements have already assumed their damages. Bert Visscher of Visscher Farms reports he has lost 40 acres of cauliflower and 20 acres of broccoli and estimates his loss at \$150,000.

55 Years Ago

September 16, 1971 - Rebellion discount prices are

in effect this week at Darling's IGA in Exeter and Grand Bend's Betty and Art's IGA including red or blue savoy steaks at 99 cents a pound, 9 oz. packages of French fries for nine cents and Chiquita brand bananas for 13 cents a pound.

65 Years Ago

September 18, 1961 - Ken Cudmore of London, formerly of Exeter was the winner of the \$25,000 home giveaway at Western Fair in London this week.

Kongskilde Maskinfabrik of Soroe, Sweden has purchased the former Northland Hatchery building on Highway 83 according to Exeter Industrial development chairman W.G. Cochrane.

70 Years Ago

September 17, 1956 - Bus transportation for rural students costing about \$30,000 for the school year has been approved by the SHDHS board.

Charles Jinks, 78, a resident of Hensall for more than 50 years and a rural mail carrier on R.R. 1 Hensall for 34 years is retiring.

80 Years Ago

September 15, 1946 - Over 10,000 ration books have been issued in the Exeter district. Mr. R.N. Creech in charge of the distribution here was assisted by several volunteers.

A half penny bank token of the Bank of Upper Canada was found by Mrs. M. McAvoy in her garden. Date on the coin was 1857.

105 Years Ago

September 16, 1921 - Sometime during one night last week thieves got into the store of W.W. Taman and stole a quantity of men's furnishing.

They got in through the cellar window and left by the back door.

DASHWOOD STONE CENTRE MONUMENTS

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Zurich Has Beans donate \$7,500 to Jessica’s House



(JESSICA'S HOUSE HOSPICE PHOTO)

After another successful fundraiser, the Zurich Has Beans donated \$7,500 in support of Jessica's House Hospice in Exeter. The funds were raised during the Zurich Has Beans Old-timers 2nd annual Hack and Wack golf tournament, which took place at the White Squirrel Golf Club in Zurich on July 11. From left are Jason Schilbe, Meghan O'Rourke of Jessica's House and Jason Steinman.

West Coast Lions donate \$1,000 to Jessica’s House



(JESSICA'S HOUSE HOSPICE PHOTO)

Grand Bend's West Coast Lions Club presented a cheque for \$1,000 to Jessica's House Hospice on Aug. 5. The club supports many local causes through their efforts, organizing fundraisers and events for the betterment of the community. Pictured are Jessica's House Hospice executive director Cheryl Pfaff and Lion Barry Turnbull

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COLUMNS

Large families of the past including two Hay Township families of 21 children each



BOB HEYWOOD

Examiner Columnist

Continuing in the subject of some of the large farm families of the past, I would have to say that amongst some of the largest families I have known, I cannot remember one dissident in any of them, who expressed in any way, their disappointment in being part of a "big bunch."

In fact, I think it is probably the exact opposite. If some outsider would have the audacity to express how terrible it must have been to live in a full house, they may have wished before it was over, that they would have kept their thoughts to themselves. One would be silly to deny that perhaps it may have been nice to have a couple more washrooms to service the brood, or perhaps to expand the menu from copious servings of boiled white beans with chili sauce, hamburger stew with lots of potatoes to maybe the odd t-bone steak with fried mushrooms and a tossed salad. The truth of the matter is, I believe, I can speak on behalf of my nine siblings, we would not have changed a thing.

I can't help in being a "tad" bit bemused when I am showing a house to young buyers who lament that there is not a second or third bathroom to service that couple and their two kids. I want to inform them that they will probably survive the onerous dilemma that they are being confronted with. I really want to share with them too, that having been born in 1955 at the Heywood farmhouse, I took

up residence in a dwelling that did not have a bathtub let alone a family toilet or such. There was a long portable galvanized bathtub standing in the pantry. It would be ceremoniously dragged out and filled for a family bath experience usually on Saturday evening whether we felt we needed it or not. Then there was the outhouse standing sedately between the house and the barn. I would have to say that I have never missed that experience.

And to think today we feel hard pressed without at least three well equipped washrooms. Ours was a family of ten and we all survived. As did the Ford family of Stephen Township. One of Jack's favourite lines was that he and Jean "got a new Ford" every year. If my memory serves me right, 16 new Fords in all. Not to be outdone, John and Leona Glavin of McGilivray Township near Centralia, rose to the joy and challenge of raising a family of 16, including three sets of twins. I doubt if any of the above siblings in the two families mentioned ever lodged a formal complaint with their parents concerning cramped accommodations. Rather, we lived it and loved it.

My dear mom was born Nov. 25, 1919, in a very large stone farmhouse 2 miles north of Zurich. There was plenty of room in that spacious dwelling for her and her four siblings. Nine years earlier, in 1910 just a few miles west of the Goshen Line, Onezime (James) Masse entered into holy matrimony with Mabel Charrette at a ceremony held in St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church on Highway 21. Both the bride and her husband were descendants of French families who migrated from Quebec in the mid 1800s and took up homesteads of Canada Company Lands, along the most westerly concessions of Hay and Stanley Townships. Witnesses to the marriage in 1910 could

never begin to imagine how fruitful their union would prove.

After a year spent labouring in Detroit, the couple returned to the St. Joseph area to work for Napoleon Cantin as a farm labourer and teamster. His annual stipend was \$350. The Zurich Herald on June 11, 1931, reported that James Masse had leased a farm on shares from the executors of the "A. Brown" estate. He had already purchased his first farm of 75 acres for \$8500. At one point he was actively farming over 500 acres using 12 horses and eventually an early tractor. But farming wasn't everything.

Throughout their farm years, the happy and busy couple became parents to 21 children. Mrs. Masse was a bride at 19 and became a grandmother at 42. They were parents to 10 boys and 11 girls.

At one point, one of the city newspapers reported that the Masse family were beginning to rival the famous "Dionne Quintuplets" in Canadian notoriety. The family's fame became known internationally on April 23, 1938, when a newspaper in Papua New Guinea carried the following story: "With 21 healthy children, Mr. and Mrs. O. Masse who live in a six-room farmhouse near Zurich, Ontario, believe they have the largest family in the province. They have been married for 28 years and their children range from the burly 23-year-old Maurice to bouncing Martha aged 12 months. The children have always been strong, they all like home, and few of them have ever been far from the family circle and then not for very long." Imagine! This report was in a Papua New Guinea publication.

How would this faithful mother ever begin to feed her army? Another newspaper report tried to answer this query: "Daddy Masse buys a 100 lb bag of flour every Saturday. The older sis-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured is the Masse family in 1937. In front from left are James, Mabel (holding Martha), Monica, Peter, Priscilla, Michael, Leo, Archie, Juliette, Antoinette and Ivan. In back from left are Maurice, Florence, Anthony, Richard, Theresa, Marie, Yvonne, Alphonse, Joan, Cecilia and Louis.

ters bake six to nine loaves per day. The customary program of butchering a 200 lb pig every two weeks was interrupted when the farm produced a pig, according to Mrs. Masse, that weighed 600 lbs. Occasionally a large roast of beef was enjoyed and for the holiday meals, like on a New Year's Day, when a 24 lb turkey along with 7 chickens were devoured in one sitting. There were 100 apple trees in the orchard for desserts, jams, pies and preserves. Mr. Masse supplemented his farm income as road foreman of Highway 21 north of Grand Bend as well as Highway 84 from St. Joseph to Hensall."

According to the Hay Township history book, "Their parents were excellent organizers and their children all pitched in to help. Alphonse and Louis were in charge of the barn. Ivan and Archie did chores such as grinding the roots (turnips) and throwing down the feed. Leo fed the hens, Marie was assistant house boss alongside her mother, while Joan and Cecilia milked six cows." Each room in the house was somewhat transformed in the evening to provide sleeping arrangements.

The Masses were very proud that all of their children possessed an equally good command of both

English and French. Despite a few rounds of whooping cough and other childhood diseases, the family enjoyed excellent health. All 21 children attended SS #11 Hay. In July 1937,

1,000 well wishers gathered on the parsonage lawn at St. Peters when a large autographed picture of Pope Pius, along with a papal blessing, was presented by Bishop Kidd of London.

The busy couple celebrated 50 years of marriage in 1959, with Mabel dying shortly after in 1960. When their patriarch passed away in 1972, 20 of the children were surviving along with 114 grandchildren and 105 great grandchildren. The widely circulated USA Literary Digest in relating the story of the Masse family ended by saying: "Canada is proud of them."

This all took place 5 miles west of my mother's home on Goshen Line. The amazing fact is that 5 miles south of where my mother was raised, another husband and wife who were born and raised in the Zurich area, matched the Masse feat. Adelbert Smith and Laura Wilds were married in 1925; a union which also produced 21 offspring and surely a story for a future column. (credits to Hay Township History Book)

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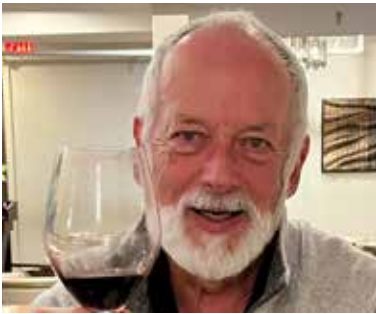
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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Exploring Rhône River wine country



PAUL KNOWLES

Examiner Columnist

Sometimes, it's good to be reminded how little one knows.

Among our circle of friends, I am sometimes seen as something of an expert on wine. That's because I write about wineries, from time to time, and I organize an annual, one-day wine tour in Niagara for a group of about 30 friends. Oh, yes – they know I drink wine on a very regular basis.

Turns out, I am simply a guy who likes wine. But an expert? Not so much.

I quickly realized how little I actually know when we were invited by Viking to take a Rhône River cruise, in the south of France. It was a terrific experience; we visited famous cities like Lyon, Avignon and Arles; we saw impressive examples of Roman civilization; we learned about the area's key role in the French Resistance in World War II.

And to my great delight, our cruise included visits to both the Beaujolais wine region, and to Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Places about which, it turned out, I knew nothing except the names.

There are wonderful wines being produced all over the world, but you have to admit that the

first nation that comes to mind when you talk “wine” is probably France. And wine country along the Rhône is an important contributor to that longstanding reputation. I learned that most of the major vineyards along the Rhône have been there since Roman times. So, they've had a while to get it right.

Wine production became even more important in the 1300's, after the Pope had moved from Rome to Avignon (that's a long and complicated story). What's crucial here is that the Popes liked wine, and encouraged the development of more vineyards.

Today, two of the important wine regions are the two we were able to visit – Beaujolais and Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

And here's where I confess my absolute ignorance. I had no idea that there are actually 12 appellations (sub-districts) in the Beaujolais district, which sits north of Lyon. More embarrassingly, I had always assumed that Châteauneuf-du-Pape was a single, prestigious winery. Nope. This appellation includes 320 vineyards, supplying about 180 independent wineries. It covers 3,200 hectares.

Our cruise sailed from north to south, so the first wine tour we did was in the Beaujolais district, which lies north of Lyon. Here, there are about 200 wineries. We were welcomed at the Château des Ravatys, located in the Côte de Brouilly appellation (roughly in the centre of the Beaujolais district).

We learned that Beaujolais wines are almost exclusively made from Gamay grapes; and that 94% of Beaujolais is red wine (yes, you can make either

red or white from red grapes; it depends on your method).

Probably most importantly, we learned that the Beaujolais we tasted was really, really good.

A side note: sometimes large-group wine tours result in wineries serving their bottom-line wines, for economic reasons. This was certainly not the case during our wine country visits with Viking; the wines were excellent, unfortunately so good at times they were well out of my price range!

The Beaujolais visit was an included feature of our cruise. A few days later, we opted for an optional excursion, which comes at an add-on price. The tour to Châteauneuf-du-Pape was worth it.

This district, south of Lyon, is a direct result of Papal love for wine; in fact the name translates as “The Pope's new castle”, and that castle (although hardly new) still stands. Here, we had tours and tastings at two wineries – Château des Fines Roches, part of Domaines Mouset, and Maison Bouachon.

Unlike the Beaujolais wines, which are made from one grape variety, in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape district, 18 varieties of grapes are used in making the wine – not all at once, of course. Most Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines are red, although whites also bear the same appellation.

There are strict rules imposed on the vineyards, including when owners can harvest, minimum alcohol content in the wines (typically rather high, between 13% and 15%), and vineyard management.

There is some good reason behind the strict rules. In the



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

A vineyard in Beaujolais country.

1870s, an insect pest known as Grape phylloxera came to Châteauneuf-du-Pape (it ravaged vineyards all over Europe), and destroyed the vineyards. One result was wine fraud – inferior wines were sold, falsely labelled. But root stock was imported from North America, French vines were grafted onto it, and eventually, the vineyards rebounded. By the 1920's, the strict regulations had been imposed, to ensure that wine from Châteauneuf-du-Pape was indeed of the quality the brand name represented.

I was intrigued that one of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape rules is that vineyards must not use irrigation. However, this appellation is part of the much larger Côtes du Rhône region. The good news for wineries using

that label, as opposed to the admittedly more prestigious Châteauneuf-du-Pape brand, is that irrigation is allowed. The good news for wine drinkers (me, for instance), is that Côtes du Rhône wines are both excellent and far less expensive than those bearing that iconic, Pope-inspired label.

I went to the Rhône region knowing less than I thought about wine. I return, probably still in the same boat... but having had a heck of a good time. Wine time, in fact.

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 chateau at Château des Ravatys in the Beaujolais district.



A beaujolais wine cellar.

ABOUT TIME AND TIMES: : Busy, buzzing area pollinators



JUDY FINKBEINER JOHNSON

Examiner Columnist

Do you, like me, savour these late summer days with so much natural beauty all around us? They are sometimes called “the dog days” of summer and still can be in September, if it’s hot and muggy. However, when I think about special dogs in my life, and those I meet and see out on walks in the world, the happiness on those animals’ faces looks as if it is always the best-day-ever “dog day” for them. They relish the sights, smells, breezes, and everything about this excursion into the world outside their doors. I channel that feeling before the calendar turns to a new season.

Among late summer delights are beautiful flying jewels — butterflies, honeybees, bumblebees, moths, and hummingbirds. They have always been in our world, so plentiful that we never imagined there could be a time without them — until now when we know we must protect them.

These species were looked at differently in my youth, taken for granted. It was

the summer of 1960, after completing Grade 8 in my one-room country school and preparing to enter what was to me the massive high school in Exeter, South Huron District High School, with over 700 students. Our science project was to collect for display a wide variety of butterflies, moths, and other insects with a net. Mine was homemade, a wooden broom handle attached to a wire coat hanger that was made into a circle to hold a deep cheesecloth net.

Next steps were putting them in a large glass mason jar to kill with poison, then pinning them on cardboard for display.

I loved an earlier summer project, collecting leaves, spending time with my dad in the farm bush where he taught me about bass, hickory, birch, sugar maple, oak, and other trees, their barks, and leaves.

But it made me sad and upset to collect butterflies. They were just out enjoying their days in the sun, flitting about, doing their work and not harming anything or anybody, just like I did on summer days. They didn’t deserve to die!

As an adult, I recognized the importance of entomology, the scientific study that requires insect collecting that aids species to survive and thrive, helps solve crimes, and uses advances in science like plant DNA for the future. My interests took me to etymology, the study of dead languages like Latin, to understand the history and or-

igins of words. Worlds apart for such similarly spelled words!

Job description

It is estimated that over 75 per cent of all flowering plants in Ontario require pollination. The rapidly declining populations of many pollinators over the last few decades raises a very scary question: without them, how can humans survive?

There are massive numbers of seasonal workers required for this vital task in this bountiful agricultural area. Imagine applying for these positions! Job requirements: size restriction, very small; long workdays for most and the ability to work night shifts for others; sometimes dangerous conditions; an alarming shortage of places to live and food to eat; no holidays; need to be expert fliers, capable of defensive maneuvers. Job Titles: Prime Pollinator — core job; Accidental Pollinator — a side gig.

In this area many orchard fruits, berries, field crops and other agricultural crops rely on these tiny warriors to fertilize the male and female parts of plants, so they develop botanical fruits and seeds. These include the fruits and vegetables we take for granted on our shopping lists, produce like tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, berries, apples, cherries, and peaches. Pollinators need food sources and habitat for survival. These “wildthings” must live in nature, unlike our increasingly urbanized human species.

Pollination ABCs

Anthers are the male parts of a flower where pollen, a

fine powder, is created.

Bumblebees, honeybees and other pollinators visit flowers to feed, sipping on nectar, and while there they rub up against the anthers and get pollen on their bodies.

Creating fruit and seeds is the result when a pollinator visits another flower, depositing pollen on the stigma, the female part of a flower that catches pollen to fertilize the flower so it can produce botanical fruit and seeds.

Here are hints to identify which plants do not need pollination: if we eat the stem of a plant, like celery; if we eat the leaves of plants, like lettuce, spinach, cabbage; if we eat the root of a plant, like carrots, parsnips, potatoes.

Bumblebees, honeybees, solitary bees, butterflies, flies, moths, beetles, and a host of other insects, as well as ruby-throated hummingbirds are among the pollinators here. Some, like bees, are prime pollinators; others like butterflies, are accidental pollinators that visit flowering plants to feed and “accidentally” brush up against pollen that they carry on to another flower.

Baskets, buzz and fuzz

The flying aces of the pollinating world hover or sit on flowers to feed. Bees have fuzzy bodies, ideally suited to gathering pollen. Bumblebees are superb pollinators, vibrating their bodies so fast that they create a loud buzz, a sonic blast that scatters pollen onto their hairy bodies.

When out looking closely at pollinators here this summer through a camera’s zoom lens, I was surprised to see bumps on some bees’ back legs and erroneously thought they might have a growth or injury. Thanks to my bestie Google, always a sidekick on explorations, I was happy to learn that some bee species’ females have pollen “baskets” called corbiculae, areas on upper legs where they pack pollen they collect, taking it back to their hive or nest. An example of nature’s efficiency, saving time, trips, and energy!

How we can help

Native species’ wildflower gardens, parks, and flower beds will keep a steady stream of beautiful pollinators visiting.

The no-spray zones seen on country roads encourage a wide range of flowering plants to grow, providing pollinators with foods. Property owners can source signs in stores and online, as well as information about where, when, and how to place them.

Community and school projects raise awareness of the important roles of pollinators.

Habitat creation on low productivity/marginal agricultural land is fostered through specialized programs in Ontario.

NEXT COLUMN

Diving into heritage Black Forest foods, Old Country to New World.



A key pollinator in Ontario: Common Eastern Bumblebee with pollen baskets.



Sharing milkweeds, a Monarch and Red Spotted Purple Butterfly.

(BARRY JOHNSON PHOTOS)

MENTORING MATTERS: Big Brothers Big Sisters month



AMY WILHELM

Examiner Columnist

September is Big Brothers Big Sisters Month, a time to celebrate the power of mentoring and the difference a caring adult can make in the life of a young person. At Big Brothers Big Sisters, our mission is simple: to enable life-changing mentoring relationships that ignite the power and potential of young people.

But what does that really

mean? Imagine a future where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Where they have someone in their corner to help them navigate challenges, build confidence and make positive choices. Imagine that child staying on the right path, graduating from high school, pursuing further education or employment, and eventually giving back to their community.

The good news is that we know mentoring can make a difference. Preliminary results from a large-scale national research study conducted by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) provides independent evidence of the positive impact Big Brothers Big Sisters mentors can have on young people in Canada.

When compared with youth who have never been matched with a mentor, young people who have experienced mentoring are:

- 48 per cent less likely to have behaviour problems at school.
- 43 per cent less likely to have conduct problems at school.
- 34 per cent less likely to allow themselves to be victimized or bullied by peers.

- Twice as likely to have high levels of school bonding and commitment.

- Twice as likely to demonstrate high academic achievement.

- 2.5 times more likely to participate in extracurricular school activities.

These numbers tell an important story: mentored youth simply do better. But what is

it about mentoring that makes such a difference?

At Big Brothers Big Sisters, we believe in the power of three: the young person, the mentor and the support of Big Brothers Big Sisters. First, there is the young person — bringing their own personality, strengths, interests and potential. Every child has the ability to grow and succeed, but sometimes they need someone to help them see what they are capable of. Then there is the mentor — a caring adult who brings their time, encouragement and commitment. A Big doesn't need to have all the answers or be a superhero. They simply need to show up, listen, encourage and be there. Finally, there is Big Brothers Big Sisters — providing the foundation that helps the relationship succeed.

We recruit and screen volunteers, provide training, carefully match mentors and youth, and offer ongoing support throughout the relationship.

When these three pieces come together, something powerful happens.

Youth + Mentor + Support = Potential Ignited.

That is the true power of mentoring. It isn't about changing who a young person is — it's about helping them recognize the potential that is already within them.

This September, we invite you to celebrate Big Brothers Big Sisters Month with us and consider how you can help make a difference in the life of a young person in our community. Help make us #BiggerTogether.

GREYMATTER: Living with Purpose - The Secret Ingredient to Healthy Aging



ANNETTE GERDES

Examiner Contributor

September is Healthy Aging Month, and I always think it's the perfect time of year to reflect. Summer begins to wind down, the kids are back in school, the mornings are a little cooler, and before we know it,

the leaves will be putting on their spectacular autumn show. Fall has always felt like a season of fresh starts to me not just for students, but for all of us. It's a chance to slow down, reset our routines, and think about what really brings us joy.

When people think about healthy aging, they often picture eating better, exercising more, or remembering

to drink enough water. While those habits are certainly important, research continues to show that one of

the greatest contributors to a long, healthy, and happy life is something much simpler: having a sense of purpose.

Purpose doesn't have to mean changing the world. It can be as simple as looking forward to your morning coffee, tending your garden one last time before winter, baking your famous apple crisp, volunteering,

helping a neighbour rake leaves, enjoying a walk through the colourful trees, or meeting a friend for coffee.

Having something meaningful to look forward to each day gives us motivation and reminds us that every stage of life has value.

Working with seniors over the years, I've learned that the happiest people aren't necessarily the busiest

or the healthiest they're often the ones who have something, or someone, that gives them a reason to smile each morning. Sometimes it's a weekly card game, a phone call from a grandchild, caring for a pet,

or simply knowing someone is counting on them. Those little moments often make the biggest difference.

Studies have found that people with a strong sense of purpose tend to experience lower levels of stress, better heart health, improved memory, and greater overall well-being. They also stay more socially connected and physically active, both of which play an important role in maintaining independence as we age.

Retirement often gives us the gift of time, but it can also leave

us wondering, "What's next?" The wonderful thing is that it's never too late to discover a new passion. Maybe this fall is the perfect time to join a walking group, learn a new recipe, pick up that book you've been meaning to read, take an art class, volunteer in the community, or finally learn how to use that smartwatch your family bought you. Every new experience keeps both the mind and spirit engaged.

As the leaves begin to change, nature quietly reminds us that every season has its own beauty. Aging is much the same. Each year brings new experiences, new wisdom, and new opportunities to appreciate life's simple pleasures. We may not move quite as quickly as we once did, but we often notice more, appreciate more, and understand what truly matters.

This Healthy Aging Month, I encourage you to ask yourself one simple question: What gives me a reason to look forward to tomorrow?

It doesn't have to be something extraordinary. In fact, it's often the smallest things a favorite hobby, a visit with family, a good laugh, a beautiful fall sunset, or a quiet walk on a crisp September afternoon that fill our lives with the greatest meaning.

So, as you pull out your cozy sweaters, enjoy everything pumpkin-spiced, and watch another beautiful Ontario autumn unfold, remember that healthy aging isn't about trying to stay young. It's about embracing each new season with purpose, gratitude, and a heart that's open to finding joy in the everyday.

Until next month, take time to enjoy the colours of fall, breathe in the crisp autumn air, and don't forget to make time for the people and moments that give your life purpose. Sometimes the best medicine isn't found in a prescription it's found in living each day with intention.

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At Straight Line Collision, we're turning up the heat! Just kidding with this weather; the guys are screaming for AC! Fans have been running at high speed, and we're all excited for those cooler days of fall! As we all know, the local farmers are soon going to be busy with the harvest! They need everyone's patience when loading their grain into the trucks. This is what has been happening for generations, and it's what happens in the rural area, so please slow down and pay attention. I've seen people drive through deep ditches to prevent being delayed a minute or two to get home! Bit of a head shaker for sure, but it seems to be the way the world flies anymore! For all your collision needs, count on us. With another experienced new employee, we're at a combined 170 years of experience! Remember, it's your car; it's your choice where you get it repaired. You can count on us for all your auto body needs!

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About the “mess” in your garden



JASON RAMSAY-BROWN

Examiner Columnist

Well, school's back in session, the goldenrod are blooming, and the willow leaves are starting to yellow. There's no gentle way to put this: fall is almost here. Far too soon we'll be packing up the Muskoka chairs, putting away the outdoor coolers, and attending to all the other routine tasks demanded of us once the chill of autumn really starts to settle in.

Very likely, preparations will start in our yards and gardens long before we're willing to surrender our outdoor living spaces. As the tomato vines and impatiens die off, many folks will feel compelled to tidy up the “unsightly mess” that's left behind. How some of us choose to deal with this, however, can be very problematic.

Wandering through our natural areas, evidence of the illegal dumping of garden waste is by no means an uncommon sight. Mounds of garden soil, packed root balls pulled from patio containers, and tangles of discarded

plant matter dot the landscape, especially along roadside embankments and ditches. The damage done may not be immediately obvious, but don't let that fool you. Illegal dumping of garden waste is considered a very noteworthy problem by nature-lovers, ecologists, and conservation staff alike.

First and foremost, no matter how dead that garden waste might seem, nature is resilient. Illegal dumping is a routine way that exotic and invasive species get introduced to natural areas. The aggressive nature of common decorative plants like periwinkle, gout weed, English Ivy and ditch lilies almost guarantees both their survival and their spread. Then there's the tag-alongs, plants like bindweed, bellflower, and creeping Charlie that, while not intentionally planted, may come along for the ride as roots or seeds just waiting to be left alone long enough to flourish. Once established, these species will quickly start to spread from the dump site, damaging both habitat value and biodiversity as they crowd out nearby native species.

Even if the dumped material was somehow fully sterile, the potential for damage remains. That pile of debris might rest on top of rarities like yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*), a native orchid too delicate to force itself through

a spontaneously-appearing mound of dirt. Other native species, like wild coffee (*Triosteum aurantiacum*) or feverwort (*Triosteum perfoliatum*), which require multiple years to successfully germinate, could easily lose the growing conditions they need to complete this lengthy process.

Keep your garden waste at home. Materials from your vegetable patch should be safe to compost, giving you rich and wonderful soil in the future. If you're worried about moving invasive species around your property, best practice is to put the material in a black contractor bag, seal it up tightly, and keep it in direct sunlight until mid-summer. After this it should be safe

to introduce to your compost pile or to be disposed of through municipal collection, where permitted.

Of course, we call autumn “fall” for a reason. The magnificent change in colour that we enjoy with our maples, birch, oaks, and other deciduous trees is also an announcement that they will soon drop leaves from their branches. It's important to understand that leaf litter is absolutely critical to the health and welfare of many of our ecosystems. The fallen leaves return vital nutrients like nitrogen and carbon to the soil. They help with the retention of ground moisture, and minimize

erosion caused by heavy rains and snow melt. They also help insulate root systems, protecting plants during the winter.

Perhaps most importantly, leaf litter provides shelter and sustenance for countless creatures. Our various swallowtail butterflies, adorned with patterns of black and yellow, are hopelessly dependent on leaf litter to survive the winter. Chipmunks and voles insulate their nests with leaves, protecting them from the cold. American toads use leaves as cover, burying themselves into litter and loose soil to keep moist and safe from the elements. Come early spring, leaf litter serves a literal buffet table for dozens of species of ground-foraging birds.

Just leave the leaves. If you really must take to raking, consider creating leaf piles to minimize their footprint on your property instead of bagging them up for disposal. If you're worried about the piles blowing away over time, this can be minimized by covering them with fallen branches or similar material. Another option is to shred or cut them up and treat them as mulch, mounded like a doughnut around your favourite trees and shrubs. Not only are you helping to protect nature, you'll be saving yourself a few bucks.

While our duties in the garden at this time of year tend to em-



(JASON RAMSAY-BROWN PHOTO)

Sharing milkweeds, a Monarch and Red Spotted Purple Butterfly.

phasize clean up, it should be noted that autumn is an amazing time to do some planting! Commercial garden centres focus on spring for this activity as their inventory is largely composed of foreign imports from Europe, Asia, and South America, which tend to prefer rising temperatures to become established. Native plants, however, are every bit as happy settling in during the fall. So why not get planting and treat yourself to a greener spring next year?

Virtually every native plant nursery in Ontario is still open for business. Further, Lakeshore Eco-Network's annual fall plant sale will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3 (9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) at the Lambton Heritage Museum at 10035 Museum Road, Grand Bend.

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POLICE BRIEFS

EXETER EXAMINER STAFF

Staff Contribution

Traffic stop leads to charges

A 52-year-old woman from Dundas is expected in court in October after a traffic stop on Grand Bend's Main Street.

According to Lambton County OPP, officers conducted the traffic stop on Aug. 22 just after 3:15 p.m.

Police have charged the woman with obstructing a peace officer, resisting a peace officer, failing to surrender permit for motor vehicle, failing to surrender licence, failing to properly wear a seatbelt, failing to stop for police and failing to surrender an insurance card.

The woman has since been released from custody and is scheduled to appear in court Oct. 5 in Sarnia.

Driver charged after allegedly fleeing traffic stop

Police have charged a 36-year-old Grand Bend man, alleging that he fled a traffic stop on Aug. 28.

Lambton County OPP said officers were conducting a seatbelt check near Main Street and Kitchener Avenue in Grand Bend and allege that the driver nearly struck several pedestrians as they fled the stop.

Police said the vehicle then travelled to Oak Street where five officers were at a RIDE checkpoint and allege that the driver went through the check,

nearly striking three officers, though no injuries were reported.

The suspect was later located by police and charged with assault with a weapon (three counts), dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, failing to stop for police, failing to properly wear a seatbelt, unnecessary noise, driving without a licence and stunt driving.

Police are asking anyone with information or recordings of the incident to call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 with reference number E261246836.

Assault charges laid in Grand Bend

Two individuals are facing charges after an Aug. 16 incident.

Police said Lambton County OPP officers responded to a reported assault at a local business on Main Street near Woodward Avenue and allege that a customer assaulted an employee of the business.

Following the investigation, a 23-year-old individual from Mississauga was charged with assault. They were later released from custody and are scheduled to appear in court Sept. 22 in Sarnia.

Police also charged a 62-year-old Grand Bend man with obstructing a peace officer during the investigation. He is scheduled to appear in court in Sarnia on Sept. 23.

Fatal collision involving pedestrian in Bluewater

A 72-year-old Central Huron resident and their dog have died after an Aug. 21 collision involving a pickup truck.

Police said crews responded to the collision just after 9 p.m. on Highway 4 north of Vanastara Road in Bluewater. First responders located the pedestrian and their dog, and both had been struck by a pickup truck.

The pedestrian was pronounced dead at the scene, while their dog was gravely injured and was euthanized at the scene. The pickup truck driver remained at the scene and was not injured.

Police are still investigating the cause of the collision and are asking those with information to contact Huron County OPP at 1-888-310-1122.



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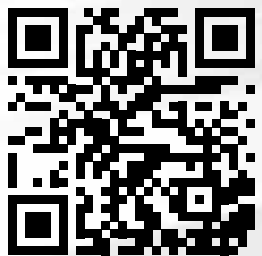
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Riddles

What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?
A clock!

What is full of holes but still holds water?
A sponge!

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?
Nacho cheese!

What has one eye but can't see?
A needle!

Why did the golfer bring an extra pair of pants?
In case he got a hole in one!

What has feathers but can't fly?
A pillow!

What do you call a sleeping bull?
A bulldozer!

What's orange and sounds like a parrot?
A carrot!

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?
Frostbite!

What did one ocean say to the other ocean?
Nothing, they just waved!

Why don't skeletons fight each other?
Because they don't have the guts!

Sudoku

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

Solutions on pg. 30

Pet of the Week 🐾 🐾 🐾

As the kids head back to school, your pet's routine changes too.

Extra alone time can lead to boredom or anxiety. Keep them busy with toys, regular walks, and plenty of attention before and after school. A little routine goes a long way toward a happy, healthy pet!



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F X M A N T Y Q V L F G A R I L I O K F
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I O G A T V T R E S S D D N L N A E M Z
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SEPTEMBER

RECURRING SEPTEMBER PROGRAM EVENTS 2026

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

MON & THURS. 8:45-9:45 AM MEDICUM Low Impact Aerobic Exercise - that includes cardio, strength, & flexibility exercises. Community Room GBACHC. cmaxfield@gbchc.com

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

MON. SEPT 14 11:15 AM Gentle Exercise starting Mon & Thurs. Seated and standing exercises for Seniors. Community Room GBACHC. You must contact cmaxfield@gbchc.com to see if there is space.

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS 9:30-12PM Early On program free program for adults with children birth to 6 years. Adult Day Wing, GBACHC. Optimist Park until October, then moves

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Saturday Sept 12: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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inside Adult Day at GBACHC. Contact earlyonchildcare.ca or 519-786-6161 x 9226.

SEPTEMBER 1 TO 5 - Used Book Sale. Ailsa Craig Public Library. 147 Main St. Purchase paperbacks, hard covers, non-fiction, children's books and movies at the Ailsa Craig Library Used Book Sale. Tues., Sept 1 to Sat., Sept. 5. Donate gently used books during open hours in August. Fill a bag for \$5 on Saturday Only.

THURS. SEPT. 3RD 2:30PM - Coping with Grief Adult Day wing GBACHC. Join this monthly group for support and strategies to work through your grief. Contact Mickey Gurburbin ggurburbin@gbchc.com for more information. 519-2382362 x 223

SEPT 18 - Kirkton Community Centre Outside Free Kirkton Family Movie Night. Fri., Sept. 18. Playing 'How to Train Your Dragon, The Hidden World'. Arrival time 7-7:30pm. Movie starts at dark. BYO blankets or chairs

SEPT 9TH 6:30-8:30 PM - Kids Food Nation 8 wk. Cooking Program in Partnership with the Boys and Girls Club Sarnia Lambton Grand Bend CHC is hosting this event in the community room at 69 Main St East. Kids will learn about recipes, budgeting, kitchen safety, food prep, cooking and nutrition. Cost \$75.00. Please contact skiernan@bgcsarnia.com or call 519-337-3651 to register. Financial assistance available if required

SEPT 10TH 1:30-3 PM - Living a Healthy Life 6 week workshop to manage your health with a chronic disease. Contact Kate Mason at kmason@gbchc.com to register for this free program.

FRI. SEPT. 11,18 & 25 - Vinyasa Yoga and Chair Yoga GBACHC in Community room. Vinyasa at 8:30am, Chair at 9:45

am. Contact cmaxfield@gbchc.com Wed. 10-11:00 am Sept 16 "Walk & Talk Hensall Arena" Contact Grace at gbonnett@gbchc.com. Fun social walking program with coffee and chatting to finish

THURS. SEPT. 17TH 1:30 -3:30PM Alzheimer's caregiver support group. Support group program with trained facilitator Randy Chapman. 1-800-561-5012. Adult Day wing at GBACHC.

SATURDAYS 8:30-11:30 AM Walk In Medical Clinic GBACHC. Open to anyone in the community who needs medical attention (Not an Urgent Care or Emergency Centre) For more information of any of these programs contact Cindy Maxfield at cmaxfield@gbchc.com

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

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

SAT, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 - 8AM-1PM- South Huron Fire Department Exeter Station Charity Car Wash. Sat., Sept. 12. 8am to 1pm. At Exeter Fire Station, 55 William St. By donation. Proceeds to Jessica's House Hospice.

MON, SEPTEMBER. 14, 2026 6 - 9 PM Learning session: Pathways to Permanent Residency Location: Trivitt Memorial Church, 264 Main St., Exeter Learn about permanent residency from two regulated Canadian immigration consultants. Free introductory consultations. Spanish translation available. Sign-up required: https://exeter-permanent-residency.eventbrite.ca

TUES, SEPT. 15, 2026 5:30 - 7 P.M. Welcoming Week: Meet Your Neighbour Night - Location: Zurich Library Branch, 10 Goshen St North, Zurich. Meet others in the area, build connections and discover ways to get involved casual gathering for adults; families are welcome.

WED, SEPT. 16, 2026. 5 - 7 PM Hey Neighbour! Exeter Block Party - Location: South Huron municipal parking lot, 322 Main St., South, Exeter. Meet neigh-

bours, enjoy music and art, play games, try lawn bowling and grab dinner from a food truck. Everyone is welcome at this Welcoming Week event.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2-4PM - The London Orchid Society - Meets the third Sunday of each month. Join us September 20, 2026 from 2-4 pm. Jay Norris Presentation on Growing Orchids in Cases from Stratford, ON. His presentation is how he uses cases to create a tropical paradise for Orchids that grow better in warmer conditions. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting for more information at www.londonorchidsociety.com; contact Daryl at 519-666-2927. Location: Richards Memorial Church, 360 Edgeworth Avenue, London, ON N5W 5C4

OCTOBER

FRI, OCTOBER 2 - 2 - 7:30 PM & SAT, OCTOBER 3 - 8:30 AM - 12 PM - South Huron Hospital Auxiliary Fall Rummage Sale - Cash sales only and please bring your own bags. Donations accepted Thursday Oct 1, 2026 7 AM to 8 PM. For more info find us on facebook or buy and local buy and sale sites or call 519-235-1900.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2ND 6:00PM - 9:00PM AND SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD 9:00AM - 12:00PM. Apple Day for 1st Exeter. Youth will be at various businesses in Exeter handing out apples and collecting optional donations.

OCTOBER 4 - 9th Annual Murray's Miles. Mark your calendars. We proudly remain the only event in Canada to raise much needed funds and awareness for esophageal cancer. MacNaughton Park, Exeter Ontario - Insleyststrong@gmail.com 519-719-1088

OCTOBER 16 & 17 - Fall Free Store - Huron Shores United Church, 25 Main St., Grand Bend. Fri., Oct. 16 - 5-7:30 pm; Sat., Oct. 17 - 9am-2pm. Everyone is welcome to come, browse and take away what you can use, Free of charge. For more info 226-456-8134.

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



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

PHOTO QUIZ ANSWER

ANSWER: Northern Leopard Frog

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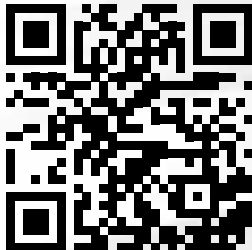
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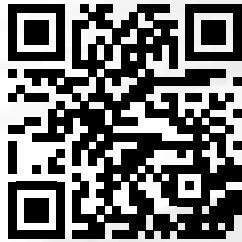
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Ask the Arborist



By Joel Hackett • 519.272.5742 • jtsquote@gmail.com

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

Dear Arborist,

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

Thanks

Bill

Dear Bill,

It sounds like you have a large number of Norway Spruce. A lot of people

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

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

Sincerely,

The Arborist

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