



# Goderich Sun

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## Participate in the planning process to help shape Huron County's economic future

GODERICH SUN STAFF

[info@goderichsun.com](mailto:info@goderichsun.com)

An important opportunity is available for residents, businesses, and community leaders to help set the course for Huron County's economy over the next five to 10 years.

The County of Huron's Economic Development Department has launched a consultation process that includes an online survey and in-person sessions across the county's nine municipalities.

Huron Chamber of Commerce is encouraging its members and the community to participate in the process.

The plan will provide a results-oriented framework for the next five years, along with a 10-year vision for the region's economic future.

"The input of our residents and local businesses is essential to the success of this plan," said Vicki Lass, Director of Huron County Economic Development.

"We want to develop a plan the entire county can get behind that ensures the strategic direction we take reflects the needs and aspirations of communities across Huron County."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 11



The owners and staff of CARSTAR Goderich gifted a new vehicle to Destiny Topor who had tragically lost her first vehicle in a fire. Destiny was going to use her first vehicle to get up to Sudbury for college, and this gift of a new vehicle has helped her along her journey in post-secondary education. (L-R): Caeleb, Dave, Chantell, Tim, Shawn, Destiny, Mandy, Scott, Matthew, Chad, Jeff and Jordan.

## CARSTAR Goderich gifts vehicle to hard-working, young teen who loses car to flames

KATHLEEN SMITH  
*Editor*

Known lovingly as Des to those around her, Destiny Topor recently graduated from St. Anne's Catholic Secondary in Clinton.


Set to attend Cambrian College in Sudbury to begin her first year of post-secondary studies in Dental Hygiene,

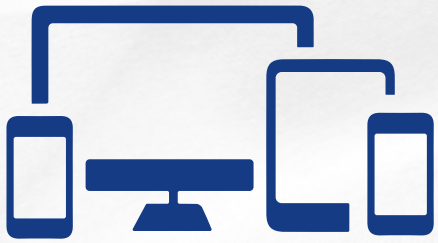
shortly after graduation, Des set out to purchase her first vehicle.

After working incredibly hard over the past few years at Little Caesars in Goderich, Des saved every dollar she could to purchase her first vehicle, a goal she proudly achieved this past summer.

Sadly, Des didn't have the car for very long before tragedy struck.

CONTINUE TO PAGE 2





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# CARSTAR Goderich gifts vehicle to hard-working, young teen who loses car to flames

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

In late August, Des and her friend Lilly picked up their friend Brook in Des' new car, a vehicle she had only owned for just over a month at the time.

Des' car had passed a safety inspection, and as far as she knew, it was in good working condition.

In a scary turn of events during their drive, the car began leaking fluid and moments later started smoking and eventually burst into flames.

All three girls were able to jump out quickly and safely before the car was fully engulfed in flames.

The North Huron Fire Department arrived quickly and acted fast, but the dam-

age was already done; Des' new car was destroyed.

According to a friend's mother, Stephanie Andrews, Des only had liability insurance, something many young drivers opt for to save on costs. There was no coverage for this kind of loss.

To help Des financially, or to perhaps look at another vehicle so she could have the independence to drive up to school on her own, a fundraiser was held in August.

"While we are endlessly grateful the girls are safe and unharmed, but Des was heartbroken," said Stephanie Andrews, mother of Des' friend Brook, and organizer of the fundraiser.

"As the fire raged, her only thoughts

were about her schoolwork left inside the car and her grandmother, who had helped her with the final bit of money to make her dreams of owning a car a reality. This loss has been devastating, not just financially, but emotionally."

To help recover even a small part of what Des has lost, community members were asked to come together at a fundraiser and help this hardworking, kind-hearted young woman.

The fundraiser was held locally to support Des, as the community, friends and family members attempted to raise enough money to help her so she could leave for school in Sudbury.

When Shawn Leslie, owner of

CARSTAR in Goderich, and his wife Alli heard about this story, they immediately wanted to help.

"My husband was able to get his hands on a used Chevy Cruz, which he and the staff at CARSTAR Goderich put work into getting it safety verified and back on the road," Alli explained.

"We gifted this car to Des so that she can head off to school on the right foot."

Des received the new vehicle from Alli and Shawn Leslie on August 26 to give Des an opportunity to head off to school on the right foot.

*Des and her mother were contacted by staff for comment but did not respond in time for our deadline.*

## Huron County OPP Reports

### Arson charges laid for fire damages at restaurant in Bayfield

One person has been arrested and charged in connection with an arson that took place in 2023 in Bayfield.

The Huron County OPP responded to an address for a report of a fire on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at approximately 9:50 p.m.

Upon arrival, emergency services located a structure fire located on the west side of Bluewater Highway, just north of the Bayfield bridge.

The Bluewater Fire Department attended the scene and extinguished the blaze. The Office of the Fire Marshall was notified and investigated the cause of the fire, which was deemed to be arson.

The total value of damage is estimated at approximately \$1,250,000. No injuries were reported.

On Wednesday, September 10, 2025, members of Huron OPP Crime Unit took an individual into custody without incident.

A 63-year-old woman from Stratford was charged with

Break, Enter a Place – Commit Indictable Offence (three counts), Arson – Damage to Property (three counts), and Possession of Incendiary Material (three counts).

The accused is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Goderich on October 20.

### Traffic stop at RIDE check results in impaired charge

Huron OPP charged a 38-year-old resident of London with a criminal driving offence following a traffic stop in Bluewater on August 16.

Just after 11 p.m. on August 16, police officers were checking driver sobriety at a RIDE checkpoint and conducted a traffic stop on Dashwood Main Street in Bluewater.

Police spoke to the vehicle driver and discovered they had consumed alcohol prior to driving.

The driver was arrested for impaired operation as breath samples resulted in readings over the legal limit.

The driver was charged with Operation while Impaired – Over 80. The accused was additionally charged with an offence found in the Highway Traffic Act (HTA).

The involved vehicle was towed and impounded for seven days, and the accused driver's licence was suspended for 90 days.

### Search warrants in Huron County yield illegal drugs

An investigation conducted by officers from the Huron-Perth OPP Community Street Crimes Unit (CSCU) resulted in the seizure of illegal drugs, weapons, and offence-related property.

Criminal charges have been laid against three Huron County residents.

An investigation initiated in May 2025 led investigators to addresses in Huron East and the Town of Goderich.

On Thursday, September 4, three separate search warrants were executed in Goderich (two) and Seaforth (one), which resulted in the seizure of illegal drugs and related property.

A quantity of suspected cocaine and methamphetamine was seized.

The total value of illegal drugs seized is estimated at \$13,805.

Additional offence-related property including a cell phone, digital scales, packaging material, and imitation firearms seized by police total \$1,650. Canadian currency seized totaled \$2,110.

A 26-year-old man from Goderich was charged with Possession of Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking – Cocaine, and Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking – Methamphetamine.

The accused was processed and is scheduled with a court date in Goderich on October 6.

A 32-year-old man from Goderich was charged with Possession of Schedule I Substance – Cocaine.

He was processed and is scheduled to appear in court in Goderich on October 20.

A 64-year-old man from Huron East was charged with Possession of Schedule I Substance – Cocaine.

The accused was processed with a court appearance scheduled in Goderich on October 20.

Any person with information regarding this investigation is asked to contact Huron OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

### Impaired driver caught after traffic complaint

Huron OPP charged a Huron East resident with an Impaired offence following a traffic stop in Seaforth on August 14.

Just before 10 p.m. on August 14, officers stopped a vehicle after police received traffic complaints of the same vehicle speeding in Seaforth.

Officers spoke with the driver who was subsequently arrested for impaired operation and transported to the Huron OPP detachment in Clinton, where they provided breath samples, which resulted in readings over the legal limit.

A 29-year-old from Huron East was charged with Operation While Impaired – Over 80.

The accused was additionally charged with two offences found in the Highway Traffic Act (HTA).

### E-Scooter information and regulations

The Huron County OPP would like to provide some up-to-date information pertaining to battery-powered scooters (e-scooters) as police are seeing several people, including children under the age of 16 years, operating these in the community.

Two-wheeled electric scooters are becoming very popular, especially with the younger ages of the population.

E-scooters are reasonably priced, portable, and fun to ride. The problem is that many people do not know what laws and restrictions apply to these vehicles.

In Ontario, municipalities can create by-laws that either allow or restrict the use of e-scooters on their roadways.

Most municipalities DO NOT allow e-scooters on their roadways.

CONTINUE TO PAGE 4

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# Huron County OPP Reports

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Generally, e-scooters are only allowed to be operated on private property.

Requirements: Scooters must have two wheels, brakes, a platform for standing, a horn or bell, one white light on front and one red light on back. Riders must be at least 16 years old, always stand while riding, wear a bicycle helmet if under 18 years old. Riders must not have passengers, cannot carry cargo, and must park in designated areas for vehicles, and are not allowed to operate an e-scooter on controlled access highways.

E-scooters cannot be used on municipal roads without a by-law. Check your local municipality to see if and where you can ride. Use bicycle lanes where available. Yield to cyclists and pedestrians.

Like bicycles, all Highway Traffic Act (HTA) rules of the road apply when riding e-scooters. Violations can result in fines and penalties.

Impaired operation is illegal.  
Visit [Ontario.ca/Escooters](https://ontario.ca/Escooters) for more information.

## Intimate partner violence investigation results in charges

On September 18 members of Huron County OPP investigated a matter involving intimate partners in the Municipality of South Huron.

As a result of the investigation, OPP learned that the involved suspect had allegedly committed criminal acts against their partner.

A 30-year-old individual from South Huron has been arrested and charged under the Criminal Code with: Assault (Spousal), Uttering Threats to Cause Death or Bodily Harm, Voyeurism, and Fail to Comply with Release Order.

The accused was processed, held for a bail hearing, and remanded into custody with a court date scheduled at the Ontario Court of Justice – Goderich.

## Collision ends with vehicle on roof in Lake Huron

Police charged a youth following a single motor vehicle collision on September 4 in the Township of ACW.

At 11:55 p.m. on Sunday, September 14, police received a report of a collision involving an automobile that left the west end of Amberley Road and entered Lake Huron.

Huron County OPP attended the scene and discovered the involved four-door sedan had left the roadway, rolled and landed on the roof in the water approximately 10-metres from shore.

The two occupants had exited the vehicle uninjured.

A 16-year-old has been charged with Dangerous Operation.

The identity of the accused is protected under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

The accused has a court appearance scheduled at the Ontario Youth Court of Justice – Goderich on November 13.

## Person charged after GPS tracking device leads police to stolen golf cart

Police have charged a Goderich resident with a criminal offence following a report to police involving a stolen golf cart that was affixed with a GPS tracking device.

On Monday, September 15, police officers received a report of the possible location of a stolen golf cart in Goderich.

The golf cart owner reported the cart stolen two days previous, from a golf course property in Huron-Kinloss Township, South Bruce County.

Officers attended the location of the GPS tracking device and spoke to an individual. A golf cart was located inside a trailer on the property and confirmed to be the same stolen golf cart.

A 59-year-old suspect from Goderich was arrested at the scene and charged with Possession of Property Obtained by Crime over \$5,000.

The accused has a court appearance scheduled at the Ontario Court of Justice – Goderich on October 27.

# Letters to the Editor

## A huge shout out

Dear Editor,

On Saturday, September 20 I was visiting the Prettiest Town in Canada, which is currently under a bit of construction.

I was enjoying the Saturday Market, when my wheelchair ended up stuck, deep in the loose gravel sidewalk.

I would like to thank my rescuers from Steve and Mary's and Military's Rose's, who quickly gathered up the supplies needed to get me back on track, as well as another gentleman who joined the rescue, giving us much needed muscle.

Goderich is not only pretty, it is kind.

Thank you,  
Missy Little  
St. Marys

## I invite you to start your own vigil

Dear Editor,

On May 28 I got an email that invited me to a vigil for children in Gaza at the five points intersection in Goderich.

I had been feeling despair and hopelessness, so I went.

It may not stop the genocide in Gaza, but it let me refuse to turn away or be complicit by inaction.

Since then, I've been doing a one-person vigil where

Creek Line meets Highway 86 from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. on Thursday mornings.

My one-person vigil and the larger one at the five points intersection in Goderich are not alone. They are happening in Charlottetown, PEI, Wakefield, Quebec, Ajax, Collingwood, Guelph, Haliburton, Kingston, Kitchener, London, Toronto, Oakville, Ottawa, Owen Sound and Powell River, B.C.

A few weeks ago, there was another international aid flotilla led by volunteers on its way to defy the Israeli blockade. European dockworkers refused to let Israeli arms supplies be moved from their ports.

In 1948 and 1949, the U.S. and U.K. airlifted many tonnes of food and supplies to West Berlin when the Soviet Union blockaded land routes to the city. No one was starving.

As Gaza is bombed to rubble and its people starved, our

leaders sit on their hands.

As Charlie Angus writes: "Just because it seems so overwhelming and hopeless, it doesn't mean we aren't obligated to do something, anything."

A U.S. friend of mine ends his emails with this line now: Ever wondered what you would have done during the rise of fascism? You're doing it right now.

So, if you see my Thursday mornings on Highway 86, I invite you to honk and wave. Pull over and stop for a visit, or better yet, start your own vigil at whatever time and place works for you.

We can't allow genocide to be normalized. For the sake of our own humanity, we are obligated to something, to do anything.

Tony McQuail  
Lucknow

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1. Everyone has a story

2. The news should be free for all to enjoy

3. Good news beats bad news

4. A Newspaper should be a community effort (contribute to your local paper!)

5. Newspapers document history

6. Newspapers strengthen communities

7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)

8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated



# Former teacher shares pour painting passion at local paint night at Boston Pizza

ALEX HUNT

Sun Correspondent

Goderich residents can trade their forks for paintbrushes when Boston Pizza hosts a pour painting night led by local artist and retired teacher Sandy Thomas.

Slated for Oct. 1, local Goderich artist Sandy Thomas will be teaching the unique concept of pour painting hosted by Boston Pizza on 490 Huron Road.

Participants will have the opportunity to pour paint an option between a wave or a beach on the Boston Pizza's signature fish-bowl and a clean canvas, they will be able to take home both items.

Tickets are \$40 a person and the event will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Due to limited capacity RSVP is required. Those interested can register at [coloursinmotion.ca](http://coloursinmotion.ca).

Sandy Thomas moved to Goderich from Elora just over a year ago bringing her pour painting business called Colours in Motion along with her. Fascinated by water, Thomas was drawn by the beaches of Goderich which helped inspire some of her latest art.

"I do acrylic pour painting, it's unique because you never get the same outcome, there's about 150 ways to pour paint and get different variations," said Thomas.

"I pour the paint on a blank canvas but if you want to use a glass, pour paint on a



(From Left to right) Sandy Thomas, founder of Colours in Motion and Swet Gandhi, general manager at Boston Pizza Goderich on 490 Huron Road. (ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

clean cookie sheet and you take the class and you roll it through the paint, and the suction pulls up the paint in the middle."

Thomas taught kindergarten to grade two for 31 years and found her hobby now turned business after retiring.

She drew inspiration from various YouTube videos and started painting herself which she admitted was challenging at first but soon became accustomed to the process

now teaching and selling her work at farmers markets in the area.

"What I love about pour painting, you are quite in control of it so you must learn to let it go and let the paint flow and be happy with what you get. You can't completely control where your colors are going to land," said Thomas.

"There are tips and tricks to get closer to what I want but it's about letting the pro-

cess happen, it's very relaxing and addictive. You get so into it you forget all your troubles and worries, it's like art therapy and this is a good way to relieve some of that stress."

Thomas taught painting classes in Fergus before moving to Goderich, her first classes are set to take place at the legion and Boston Pizza.

Thomas said that the Wine and Paint night is meant for people to have a good time with friends and family or on their own, centering on the theme that you don't have to be an artist to create something beautiful, you just must try it.

"Everyone will walk away with something they are happy with; I will coach them through to fix parts they don't like until they are satisfied with it," said Thomas.

"People are so proud they could do something where before they didn't think they were capable of doing it."

The idea originated at a Chamber of Commerce meeting, where Boston Pizza general manager Swet Gandhi connected with Sandy Thomas to bring the event to Goderich.

Gandhi is excited for guests to come and enjoy themselves, where they will be able to order from the regular menu, with wine and liquor available but not required, and the event is open to children as well.

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# Webinar and dessert social promote equity, diversity, and inclusion at the Goderich Library

ALEX HUNT

Sun Correspondent

The Huron County Immigration Partnership Council brought together community members on Sept. 17 for a webinar on diversity and inclusion, followed by a dessert social celebrating multicultural cuisine.

The webinar was led by Dr. Vidya Shah, an associate professor at the University of Toronto's Ontario institute for studies in education. Dr. Shah leads research and programs on equity, anti-racism and inclusive approaches.

"I would say that it's so important for people to know that the world feels like it's becoming more oppressive," said Mark Nonkes, manager of the Local Immigration Partnership.

"Even locally, we have factions that are challenging the notion that only certain types of people belong in our community and that is dangerous."

The presentation focused on removing



The Huron County Immigration Partnership Council gathered at the Welcome Week Webinar at the Goderich Library

(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

binary thinking (us vs them) and creating a balanced community that promotes inclusion and diversity of all races. The webinar was joined by county officials and took place in-person at the Goderich Library and featured a multicultural dessert following the presentation.

"The way that we explore and the food that we like also piques our curiosity about who made the food that we're eating and why this is important to different cultures," said Nonkes.

"We learn about people through food, arts and culture because we get to explore

and understand who people are and what's important to them through conversation and we start to notice similarities between them and us."

The webinar was featured as part of Welcoming Week, a global initiative launched in 2012 which encourages communities to celebrate inclusivity. Since 2021, more than 4,000 people in Huron county have joined local events promoting belonging for all.

"I think people need to feel more connected in the community and we all share an interest in having a good life in this community and we want to make sure that the people that live here feel it's possible," said Nonkes.

"All the people in this organization are actively working to support the immigrants and newcomers that come to Canada to make sure they feel welcomed."

Nonkes said that the Immigration Partnership Council meets once a quarter to discuss challenges that need to be addressed in the coming months.

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# AMGH boosts breast cancer screening accessibility

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

In response to the growing number of individuals newly eligible for breast cancer screening under recent provincial policy changes, Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) made a recent announcement.

AMGH will expand access to mammogram appointments, as regular mammograms are one of the most effective tools for identifying breast cancer at its earliest and most treatable stages.

With October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, this expansion at AMGH emphasizes the importance of early detection.

"Many women may not even realize they're eligible for screening, or how critical early detection can be in saving lives," said Jimmy Trieu, President and CEO of Huron Health System (HHS).

"We're here to change that by ensuring women know their options and have easy access to screenings, so they can stay proactive about their health and take the important steps toward a healthier future."

AMGH has increased its capacity by adding more appointment days and time slots, in response to the Ontario government's 2024 decision to allow self-referral for breast cancer screening for those aged 40 to 49.

While professional screenings like mammograms are essential, AMGH reminds that women can also take proactive steps at home to monitor their breast health.

Monthly self-exams help familiarize women with their breast tissue, making it easier to detect changes.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle through exercise, a balanced diet, and reducing alcohol and tobacco use can lower breast cancer risk.

According to AMGH, women should stay alert to new or unusual symptoms, such as changes in breast shape or pain, and consult their doctor if needed.

AMGH is considered an Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) certified site. The hospital encourages all women, especially those aged 40 and over, to schedule regular mammograms and discuss concerns with their healthcare provider.

# Public Health confirms first local human case of West Nile Virus in Huron-Perth

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

According to Public Health Ontario, 61 confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) have been reported in 2025 provincially to date.

Recently, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) confirmed the first locally acquired human case of WNV this year.

According to HPPH, not everyone who is bitten by an infected mosquito will show symptoms of the virus, but it's best to protect yourself from mosquito bites to eliminate the risk.

"While the overall risk to the public remains low, this is a timely reminder that WNV activity typically increases in late summer and early fall," reminds Dr. Lauren Hayward, physician consultant at HPPH.

"We encourage residents to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito

bites."

Of those who show symptoms, most will experience mild illness including fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting and rash on the chest, stomach or back.

According to HPPH, about one in 150 people infected with WNV will get seriously ill, with symptoms like high fever, muscle weakness, vision loss and coma. WNV can lead to death.

Symptoms usually develop between two and 15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. People older than 50 are most at risk for WNV infection as are those with weakened immune systems.

"If you are spending time outdoors at dawn and dusk, when mosquitos are most active, use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants," reminds Dr. Hayward.

HPPH reported its first two positive mosquito pools in August of this year as part of annual mosquito surveillance.

For more information visit [www.hpph.ca](http://www.hpph.ca)



Wendi Allinson, MRT(R) Senior Tech Medical Imaging at AMGH.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



## OCTOBER EVENTS

October 3	Live Music - "Just Duet", Catch The Ace is back!
October 4	Live Music - "The Daves I Know"
October 8	Wake Up Wednesday - Sinead Cox - Huron County Museum - "Jailbreak!: Stories From The Huron Gaol", Senior Technology "Back To School" Camp - 10 a.m.
October 10	Live Music - Terry Bedard, Catch The Ace, Meat Draw - 5 p.m.
October 11	Live Music - Macadam Road
October 13	Closed For Thanksgiving
October 14	Ladies Aux - General Meeting - 7 p.m.
October 15	Wake Up Wednesday - Huron Gaol Collections Presentation With Senior Curator, Elizabeth French-Gibson - 9am, Legion - Executive Meeting - 7 p.m., Senior Technology "Back To School" Camp - 10 a.m.
October 17	Catch The Ace, Meat Draw - 5 p.m.
October 18	Live Music - Country Junction
October 19	No Bingo! Goderich Legion Hosts Fall District Convention
October 22	Wake Up Wednesday - Death Sentence: What Life & Death Were Like For The Inmates And Staff At The Huron Gaol - 9 a.m., Senior Technology "Back To School" Camp - 10 a.m.
October 23	Service Officer Visit - 10 a.m.
October 24	Catch The Ace, Meat Draw - 5 p.m.
October 25	Live Music - Jelly Bean Blue
October 27	Cornhole - Starts Oct 27th!! - 6 p.m.
October 28	Ladies Aux - Executive Meeting - 5 p.m.
October 29	Wake Up Wednesday - Presentation On Grave Robbing In Huron County - Huron County Museum
October 30	Senior Technology "Back To School" Camp - 10 a.m.
October 31	Legion Halloween Party With The Full Nelsons - Tickets At The Bar - \$20, Catch The Ace

- Every Monday Cornhole 6 p.m. Starts October 27th • Every Other Monday Goderich Reads Book Club - Starts Oct 6th - 10 a.m. • Bingo Every Sunday Afternoon Doors Open @ 11:30 a.m.
- Euchre Every Tuesday Night 7 p.m. Please bring a partner. • Jammers Every Wednesday Night 7 p.m.
- Fun Darts Every Thursday 7 p.m. • Line Dance Lounge Every Thursday 7 p.m.
- Cribbage Every Friday Afternoon 1:30 p.m. • Every 4th Friday Wits & Giggles Trivia - 6:30 p.m.
- 5 Card Bingo Every Friday 3:30 p.m.

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# McCall Huron County Scholarships accepting applications until November 19

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Marcy McCall MacBain created the McCall Huron County Scholarship to identify and support young people in the area who make positive contributions to their schools and communities.

Up to 10 scholarships are offered to students pursuing degree (four-year) or diploma (two-or-three year) programs at universities and colleges.

The McCall MacBain Foundation is now seeking applications for the McCall Huron County Scholarships. Those applications must be submitted by November 19.

Students graduating in the upcoming year from St. Anne's Catholic in Clinton, Central Huron Secondary in Clinton, F.E. Madill Secondary in Wingham, GDCI in Goderich and South Huron District in Exeter, may apply for this scholarship.

"Transitioning from high school to university is a pivotal moment, however, I

knew that if needed, the scholarship had numerous opportunities for connection and support that I could access," admitted Madison Cardno, 2023 recipient.

"This allowed me to feel more confident in expanding outside of my comfort zone and made my first-year experience at university much smoother."

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, refugee or protected person in Canada, have a minimum cumulative average of 80 per cent, be entering their first undergraduate degree or diploma program, and be in good standing academically and non-academically.

Renewable each year, the scholarship is valid for four years for degree programs and three years for diploma programs.

Students pursuing two-year or three-year diploma programs receive \$4,000 per year.

Students who study in Ontario at a public college or university more than 300-kilometres from their high school receive an additional \$2,000 travel stipend per year.

Students who study at an out-of-province public college or university in Canada receive an additional \$4,000 travel stipend per year.

According to McCall Huron County Scholarship, recipients are students of strong character who care deeply about their school and community, taking action to make both a better place to live.

Consider applying for this scholarship if you are a student with strong character, including honesty, integrity, hard work and willingness to take responsibility, if you have a track record of community involvement, such as volunteering, athletics and extra-curricular activities, and if you have leadership potential.

"The scholarship has allowed me to meet so many incredible people, pushed me to become an involved and valued member of several communities, and granted me the opportunity to share my experiences

with others along the way," explained Joy Pizzati, 2020 recipient.

"While developing the strength and knowledge to become a Registered Nurse (RN), I have also developed so much as a leader within my community and workplace."

Applications opened for the 2026 cohort on September 23. To be considered for this cohort, you must complete an online application including short essays, activity lists, the contact information for supervisors and references.

The application process closes on November 19, and by January 30, 2026, schools will nominate candidates to the Foundation based on the selection criteria. Shortlisted candidates will be notified and invited for an interview.

By May 2026, scholarship recipients will be announced.

To apply for the McCall Huron County Scholarship, visit <https://mccallmacbain-foundation.awardsplatform.com>

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# Clinton Public Hospital receives provincial funding to restore roof

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

With support of the provincial government's Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund (HIRF), Clinton Public Hospital has been able to complete important infrastructure renewal projects.

According to the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA), restoring the 62 Wing roof has strengthened the integrity of the facility, has improved and ensured a safer space for all within the building.

"This investment from the province allows us to continue providing high-quality, self-care in a secure and efficient environment," said Andrew Williams, HPHA

President and CEO.

"Restoring this section of our roof ensure we can maintain critical infrastructure while also improving energy efficient and patient comfort."

Funding from the HIRF has also permitted Clinton Public Hospital to replace interior fire doors, install roof safety railing, and restore bricks.

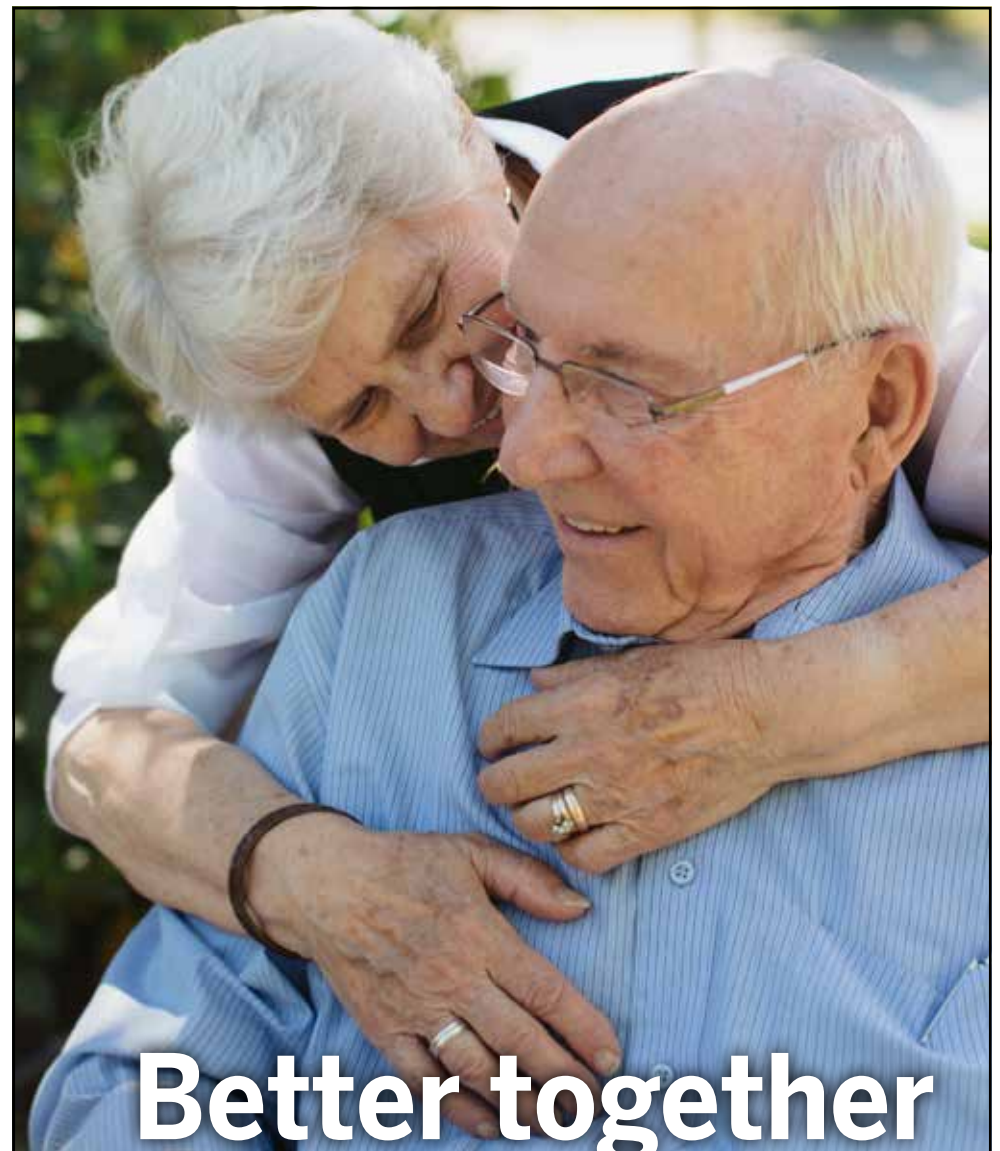
Previously restored in the 1980s, the 62 Wing roof was in urgent need of replacement according to the HPHA. This restoration was needed to address outdated grading and drainage systems.

Thanks to the funding, this project has been completed, which will help ensure the longevity of the facility.



Recently, the 62 Wing roof was restored at Clinton Public Hospital because of funding from the province's Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund (HIRF). To celebrate this major infrastructure project being completed were (L-R): Kevin Longpre, Contractor, Tektum Consulting Group, Curtis Agar, Project Manager HPHA, Andrew Williams, President and CEO HPHA, Sarah Brenneman, Clinton Outpatient and ED Manager HPHA, Alison Lobb, Council Member of Central Huron, MPP Lisa Thompson, Doug Biesinger, Director, Facilities Management, HPHA, and Greg Stewart, Vice Chair, HPHA Board of Directors.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



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# Join Us As The Forest City Film Festival Celebrates 10 Years of Community, Creativity, and Cinema in Southwestern Ontario

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BRITTANY WHELAN

*Industry and Special Events Coordinator*

Picture this: I was eight years old when a major movie production rolled into my small town in Southwestern Ontario. The downtown transformed into a film set, and I can remember my mother dragging me by hand to a gleaming white limousine. Security moved to stop us, but Julianne Moore said it was okay, and signed my scrap of paper. I didn't know it then, but that brief exchange was the spark that led me to study film and pursue a career in the industry—because film doesn't just entertain, it inspires, connects people, and fuels local economies. Now I work for the Forest City Film Festival, where we help champion the next generation of regional storytellers.

For the past decade, the Forest City Film Festival (FCFF) has celebrated the stories and talent of Southwestern Ontario. Uniting movie lovers, empowering creators, and contributing to a \$30 million regional film industry. And the inspiration doesn't stop with film. This year, we're honouring London native David Shore, creator of *House M.D.* And *The Good Doctor*—whose work has influenced not only storytellers, but a generation of doctors and healthcare professionals.

That spark I felt as a kid was the same kind of magic our founder and executive director Dorothy Downs wanted to share when she launched the FCFF in 2015. A year later, her vision came to life at the Wolf Performance Hall with a three-day event showcasing 25 regionally connected films, capped by a sold-out gala featuring local screenwriter Emma Donoghue. By 2017, FCFF had nearly doubled its programming, introducing an animation category, an international screening, and extending the festival to five days.

2018 brought a dose of nostalgia with a screening of *The Breakfast Club* and a live Q&A with London-born actor John Kapealos. Plus the launch of the Short Film Pitch Competi-

tion which gave emerging creators the chance to bring their ideas to life. In 2019, the inaugural Forest City Youth Film Festival took centre stage, spotlighting the voices of high school filmmakers from across the region.

When the world went online in 2020, FCFF adapted with a fully digital festival, introducing a Music Video category, virtual Q&As, and on-demand access that connected audiences across Canada. 2021 marked the rebrand of our industry programming into the Ontario Screen Creators Conference, complete with a national-scale Project Pitch competition offering a \$60,000 prize package. In 2022, we expanded our lens with curated Indigenous programming and "Best of the World Fest" (BOWF), bringing highlights from Cannes, TIFF, Sundance, and Berlinale to our local audiences.

By 2024, London's designation as a UNESCO City of Music inspired an electrifying opening night of live performances, music videos, and a world premiere. We also introduced our Lifetime Achievement in Entertainment Award, honouring London born Victor Garber in a star-studded celebration with surprise appearances from Jennifer Garner, Eugene Levy and Martin Short.

This year, as we mark our 10th anniversary, we invite you to be part of 10 unforgettable days with more than 100 films, 60+ events, and experiences that celebrate the power of storytelling. From our high-energy music video opening night to a haunting Halloween screening, and the very best in regional cinema in between, the Forest City Film Festival is where culture, creativity, and community meet on the big screen.

Audiences will enjoy stories from across Southwestern Ontario, featuring films from Stratford, Cambridge, Hamilton, and beyond, showcasing the region's richness and diversity. Hollywood comes to London with our Lifetime Achievement Award Reception, where Emmy-winning creator David Shore will be honoured in a glamorous evening of signature drinks, generous hors d'oeuvres, and an exciting silent auction. Attendees can also explore the best international films or cheer on the next generation of filmmakers. With so much to see and do, there's truly something for everyone at this year's festival.

So grab your tickets, load up on popcorn, and join us at the theater—because in every seat, there's a dream waiting to be sparked, and a story waiting to be told.

Visit [fcff.ca](http://fcff.ca) to explore the full program and join the celebration.



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# Alzheimer's Society Huron Perth offers programs to educate on dementia and support the community

ALEX HUNT

Sun Correspondent

Early intervention and public education are key in helping people recognize signs of dementia and connect with the support they need.

The Alzheimer's Society Huron Perth will be offering its autumn programming with a focus on Dementia Basics, an online educational session designed to inform the public on the functions of dementia. Topics will range from early warning signs, disease stigma as well as support and care.

"Dementia Basics is great for educating people on early signs of dementia such as when people should be concerned and when they shouldn't," said Jeanette Sears, public education coordinator at the Alzheimer's Society Huron Perth.

"If people start having memory issues that affect their day to day lives and that might be more of a concern. People with dementia might not be able to put certain cues together, they might forget to feed their pet and have trouble getting ready for the day."

Sears said that people living with dementia may experience changes in personality, they might be suspicious. People might also struggle with tasks they've performed many times before.

Often, a family member notices these changes first, before the individual does. Someone with dementia might believe



Jeanette Sears, Public Education Coordinator, Bailey Van-Dorp, First Link Care Navigator, Ashley Thompson, Social Recreation Coordinator, and Erin Dale, Manager of Fund Development, Communication & Volunteers at the Alzheimer's Society Huron Perth. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

they are completing everyday tasks, like doing laundry, even if they haven't done them in years.

Sears continues by saying that if people are experiencing cognitive problems, they should reach out to primary care provid-

ers. In the early stages it's worth a talk to their family doctor because it could be coming from something else like thyroid issues or diabetes, same can be said with people recovering from a stroke.

"People commonly ask what the differ-

ence between Alzheimer's Disease and dementia and that's what we aim to correct," said Sears.

"Dementia is the overall umbrella term and Alzheimer's is one of the most common types of dementia. They are all chronic and progressive, it's hard."

Sears says the community needs to focus on being supportive due to the number of people living with dementia which continues to rise.

With more residents over the age of 65 than ever before, interactions with people experiencing dementia whether at the gym, grocery store, or within families and neighborhoods. She emphasizes that understanding and awareness can help communities respond better, even though it isn't always easy.

"We need to support communication difficulties and be patient with people because you never know what cognitive struggles they might be dealing with," said Sears.

"This affects our community already and will continue to affect it going forward."

The Alzheimer's Society Huron Perth is hosting two zoom education sessions on Oct. 10 about dementia warning signs which will run from Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 21 at 1:30 p.m., while Types of Dementia follows Oct. 27 to Oct 28.

For more information visit [alzheimer.ca/huronperth](http://alzheimer.ca/huronperth)

## Participate in the planning process to help shape Huron County's economic future

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Although the Huron Chamber of Commerce is an independent economic development organization, the partnership it has with the County of Huron is an important part of supporting local growth.

This partnership ensures the voices of the business community are represented, but the County's Strategic Plan will only succeed if it reflects the priorities of the people who live and work in the region.

Colin Carmichael, Executive Director of the Huron Chamber of Commerce explains the Chamber's role as connecting community leaders.

"One of the most important ways we can do that is by making sure business voices are included in decisions that shape our shared future," added Carmichael.

"Now more than ever, it's vital that the strategic direction for our county is informed by those who know our local economy best."

Chamber members and the wider community are asked to participate by completing an online survey by October 20.

The completed plan will be presented to Huron County Council in January 2026.

Follow the link to take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HuronCountyEcDevStratPlan>

## Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the capital of China?
2. Which TV show follows the lives of the Bluth family?
3. What device uses sunlight to tell time?
4. What kind of food is an olive?
5. What is the outer layer of a tooth called?
6. What is Beyoncé's last name?
7. Where does "the Muffin Man" live, according to the nursery rhyme?
8. When the stock market is performing well, it's called a \_\_\_\_ market?
9. What is the name of Utah's NHL team?
10. Who does Meghan Markle play in "Suits?"

This week's answers are found on pg. 31



## Goderich Sun

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# Upcoming Huron Marine and Economic Forum sheds light on potential of the Port of Goderich

COLIN CARMICHAEL

*Sun Contributor*

When people in Huron County think of the Port of Goderich, they often picture the salt mine and grain elevators that have defined the waterfront for decades.

The upcoming Huron Marine and Economic Forum, presented by Parrish and Heimbecker, is shining a light on something different – the possible future of the port and its potential to become a critical economic driver for the region.

This conversation is about more than infrastructure for Travon Bazinet, Mayor of Goderich.

“We’re not just talking about what the port is today,” Bazinet said.

“We’re talking about what it could be; how it might connect Huron County to global markets in ways we haven’t seen before.”

The port’s current role is important but limited. It handles bulk commodities such as salt, grain and aggregate.

What excites local leaders now is the potential for container shipping, intermodal connections, and expanded rail service, all ideas that would fundamentally expand the port’s relevance if pursued.

“Imagine the Port of Goderich as a hub for container or intermodal shipping. It could change the map for Huron County businesses,” explained Frank Hurkmans, President of the Goderich Port Management Corporation (GPMC).

“Manufacturers here could get their goods to market faster, with fewer middle steps, and at lower cost. That possibility makes this port relevant not only to Goderich, but to the entire county.”

Skeptics might ask: Why should residents or businesses in Clinton, Wingham or Seaforth care about a facility on the lakeshore?

Mayor Bazinet answers that with one word – opportunity.

Exploring container shipping or intermodal service opens supply chains that are otherwise out of reach.

“Think about our agricultural producers, or our advanced manufacturers,” Bazinet said.

“Right now, they rely on trucking to get goods to Toronto or Windsor before they ever leave the country. If it

proves viable, a container facility here could put them one step closer to export markets.”

Hurkmans added that large component shipping, such as wind turbine blades or oversized machinery, could also be part of the discussion.

These heavy loads can often stress the road systems, and Hurkmans believes that moving them by water instead of highway could save wear and tear, reduce costs, and make this region more attractive to industries that build big.

Hurkmans also does not want to overlook the importance of Bruce Power. With massive construction projects planned at Bruce Power, being able to bring major components into Goderich and truck them a short distance north would be a game-changer compared to hauling them all the way from other ports.

“Bruce Power is one of our largest employers and a major driver of the local economy,” added Hurkmans.

“Supporting their growth supports all of Huron County.”

At the Marine Forum on Thursday, October 2 at Beach Street Station in Goderich, attendees will hear more about how the port fits into broader regional strategies.

Expanding Goderich’s role as a marine hub could tie into Ontario’s transportation networks, Canada’s trade agenda and the Great Lakes shipping industry.

“The global supply chain is shifting,” noted Hurkmans.

“Companies are rethinking where and how they move goods. If we’re ready with the right infrastructure, and if the demand is there, Huron County could catch that wave instead of being left behind.”

The Huron Chamber of Commerce is hosting the forum, and the event is also about connecting local businesses to the big picture.

Chamber members and other attendees will hear directly from industry experts, policymakers, and municipal leaders about what these potential changes could mean for their sectors.

“Sometimes we think of the port as distant from daily business life in the county,” Bazinet admitted.

“But the truth is, whether you run a farm operation, a factory, or a service company, improved transportation links help you. Lower costs, faster shipping, new markets – those benefits ripple out.”

Hurkmans underscored that this isn’t just about ships and docks. This is about jobs, competitiveness and growth.

He said exploring new possibilities for the port is about creating tools to help this region succeed.

These changes won’t happen overnight, and nothing is certain. Investments would be required for container handling, intermodal facilities, or oversized cargo. Decisions will involve multiple levels of government and private partners.

Conversations like the Marine Forum is a place to start. “Momentum is everything,” said Hurkmans.

“The more we discuss the port as a future gateway, the better positioned we are to take advantage of opportunities when they arise.”

The forum on October 2 will feature keynote speaker Daniel Tisch, President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.



GPMC President Frank Hurkmans with Goderich Mayor Trevor Bazinet (right). (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

## Nominations for Spirit of Success Awards now open

KATHLEEN SMITH

*Editor*

Since the first awards in 2006, the Spirit of Success Awards have grown into the Huron Chamber of Commerce’s marquee event, and one of the most anticipated celebrations of the year.

Nominations are now open for the 20th Annual Spirit of Success Awards, presented by OLG.

Last year’s winners demonstrated the diversity and strength of the local economy.

Libro Credit Union was named Business of the Year, recognized not only for outstanding financial services, but for its community commitment.

Eat Local Huron earned the Environmental and Sustainability Award for connecting residents directly with local producers and advancing sustainable food systems.

These stories reflect the innovation, resilience and community spirit in the county.

This year, the Spirit of Success Awards will once again highlight a wide range of contributions.

Categories include the Young Entrepreneur Award, celebrating the next generation of business leaders; the Volunteer Award, recognizing individuals who give their time selflessly to enhance community life; and the Hospitality and Retail Awards, which honour local businesses that consistently deliver exceptional customer experiences.

“Nominations are the heart of these awards,” admitted Colin Carmichael, Executive Director of the Huron Chamber of Commerce.

“They give us the chance to recognize the people and organizations whose long hours, creativity and dedication keep our county strong. This year, more than ever, we want to hear those stories.”

The nomination categories capture the many ways in which businesses and individuals strengthen the economic and social fabric of Huron County.

According to the Chamber, these awards



shine a spotlight on businesses, non-profits, volunteers and community leaders who dedicate their time, energy and talent to making Huron County a great place.

Chamber membership is not required. Any business, organization or individual in Huron County can be nominated and celebrated.

The celebration will culminate at the Spirit of Success Gala on Friday, November 21 at Libro Hall in Clinton, presented in partnership with OLG.

Nominations are open until October 13. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/3kj97kcv> to nominate someone today.



# Volkfest Rolls into Goderich with Vintage VW Vibes

PAMELA CLAYFIELD

*Sun Contributor*

The streets of Goderich came alive this weekend with the humming of hundreds of Volkswagens Sunday as Volkfest rolled into town bringing nostalgia and drawing a crowd of car lovers, curious onlookers, and creative vendors.

Traditionally held in Bayfield, this 11th annual event found a new home in Goderich's historical Courthouse Square and the turnout was impressive.

Around 200 Volkswagen models lined the streets, each one of them decked out in its own unique style, some proudly

displaying awards from other shows.

From classic Beetles to a wide array of old and new colourful camper vans, the vehicles formed a vibrant display of nostalgia and craftsmanship. Attendees and exhibitors wandered through the rows, chatting with owners, snapping photos, and swapping stories about restoration journeys and road trip memories.

Genuine interest allowed conversations to flow easily between car owners and visitors with many on both sides from out of town.

Outside the square, Volkswagens dotted the highway, streets and parking lots throughout the town as they made their

way to the festival.

Snaking around the inner square, an art market and food vendors added another layer of charm, with local vendors showcasing handmade goods including crocheted VW Beetles and campers, artwork, vintage-inspired pieces, tables of VW memorabilia as well as local food and coffee.

The combination of automotive history and artistic flair gave the event a relaxed, festival-like atmosphere that welcomed all ages. Even the Ghostbusters were on hands posing for photos and waiting for the opportunity to go catch a ghost.

The move to Goderich wasn't just a change of scenery, it was a necessary evolution. After outgrowing its space in Bayfield, Volkfest seems to have found a perfect fit in the Courthouse Square where the layout was perfect for the seamless blend of cars, vendors, and foot traffic.

Despite the new location, and probably a few growing pains, it still preserved the laid-back spirit that has drawn crowds year after year.

For fans of VWs, vintage or brand new and anyone who appreciates community, creativity, and a good story on wheels, it was a day to remember.



Around 200 Volkswagen models lined the streets of Goderich as the beloved Volkfest took place last Sunday.

(PAMELA CLAYFIELD PHOTO)

**SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!**  
**CALL 519-655-2341 OR EMAIL [INFO@GODERICH.SUN.COM](mailto:INFO@GODERICH.SUN.COM)**





# Fire Prevention Week focuses on using lithium-ion batteries safely and responsibly in the home

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

This year's Fire Prevention Week (FPW) campaign running from October 5 until October 11 works to educate about using lithium-ion batteries safely in the home.

The campaign stresses how important it is to buy, charge and recycle safely when it comes to lithium-ion batteries.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there are three steps to fire safety when it comes to lithium-ion batteries in the home: Buy only

listed products, charge devices safely and recycle batteries responsibly.

When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, the NFPA encourages consumers to look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means the battery meets important safety standards.

Always use the cords that came with the product to charge and follow instructions from the manufacturer.

Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or ones that the manufacturer has approved.

The NFPA encourages people to charge

their devices on a hard surface, and to not overcharge their devices.

The third rule for battery safety in the home is to never throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling

bins, because they could start a fire.

Recycle your device battery as a safe battery recycling location.

Visit [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org) to find a spot near you.

## Four signs of potential electrical hazards in a home

MC – Homeowners know that the work of maintaining a home is never done. Cleaning is a daily task associated with homeownership, and such sessions can reveal more than dust buildup or dirty walls and surfaces.

When cleaning a home, homeowners can pull double duty and look for potentially hazardous situations. For example, vacuuming and dusting sessions can present a great opportunity to spot electrical hazards that might otherwise go unseen. With that in mind, homeowners can keep an eye out for these four signs of potential electrical hazards when working around the house.

1. Tingling when touching an electrical appliance: The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) advises homeowners to call a qualified electrician immediately if they experience a tingling feeling when touching an electrical appliance. The Electrical Safety Office notes experiencing a tingle or the feeling of being shocked is not normal. Homeowners who experience such a feeling should avoid the location and warn others in the home to do the same.

2. Wall outlets that look or feel unusual: Wall outlets do not garner much attention, as many are low enough to be out of sight or even behind furniture. So a cleaning session might be the only time homeowners will notice issues with wall outlets. The NFPA notes discolored outlets or outlets that feel warm to the touch is a sign of an electrical problem. Various issues can cause outlets to look or feel unusual. An outlet could be short-circuiting or wires could be damaged, and each issue merits the attention of a qualified electrician.

3. Foul odors: An odor that calls to mind burning rubber is another indicator of an electrical problem. Various electrical experts indicate such odors can be indicative

of damaged wiring, an overloaded circuit or loose connections, each of which poses a significant safety hazard. The NFPA urges homeowners to contact a qualified electrician immediately if they sense a smell of burning rubber in their homes.

4. Flickering lights: Homeowners won't need to wait until cleaning sessions to notice flickering lights. Such flickering is hard to miss regardless of what residents are doing inside a home. Sometimes lights flicker because of a loose bulb, so homeowners who notice flickering should first turn off the light, let the bulb cool down if need be and then check to make sure it isn't loose. If the bulb isn't loose, then lights could be flickering for a multitude of reasons. A loose connection can cause flickering, as can an overloaded circuit. Homeowners also may not realize that not all bulbs and dimmer switches are designed to work together. For example, modern LED light bulbs often require the installation of specific dimmer switches or the lights won't operate properly. Flickering can result if these products are not compatible. If a home is old, then flickering lights could be due to old wiring that needs to be replaced.

Daily and weekly cleaning sessions can be a good time for homeowners to perform a quick audit of electrical outlets and lights to ensure everything is safe and working properly.



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## Various steps to prevent home electrical fires

MC – A person's home should be a safe haven. Too often, however, there may be dangers lurking in a home that can compromise the safety of residents.

Electrical fires are no joke. The Hartford insurance company says electrical failure or malfunctions account for almost 34,000 home fires per year. The National Fire Protection Association says they can contribute to 440 deaths and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage annually.

Older homes may be most vulnerable to electrical fires, as such structures were not designed to handle the demands of modern living. The insurance experts at Nationwide say half of all homes in the United States have electrical systems that were installed before garage door openers, high-tech coffee makers, and many computers became must-have items. And the Electrical Safety Foundation International says homes built before 1973 with overloaded electrical systems pose a number of safety threats.

Overloaded circuits are not the only contributor to electrical fires. Damaged wiring characterized by worn, frayed or loose wires can cause fires. Malfunc-

tioning appliances or those improperly maintained also can create home fires. Another contributor is poorly installed extension cords and power strips, as well as faulty outlets and switches around homes.

Homeowners can take various steps to reduce the risk of electrical fires at home.

- Install arc fault circuit interrupters. AFCIs are special types of circuit breakers that help prevent fires caused by nicked or frayed wiring. An AFCI gets tripped and cuts off power when an electrical problem is detected before a fire can start. In 2022, the National Electric Code started requiring AFCIs in bedrooms, and by 2017 they have been mandated throughout homes.

- Conduct a home electrical inspection. All homes more than 40 years old should be inspected to ensure their electrical systems can handle modern demands, says Nationwide. A qualified electrician can make recommendations regarding replacing breakers and suggest other modifications to improve safety.

- Utilize a monitor. Ting from Whisker Labs monitors a home's electrical network using a smart plug-in

sensor that is designed to detect hazards. The company indicates micro-arcs and sparks that develop are precursors to electrical fires.

- Turn to automatic shut-offs. Homeowners can utilize appliances and additional devices that automatically shut off after a set period of time. This can reduce the risk of overheating.

- Rely on timers or smart devices. Timers and smart home devices can give homeowners control of electrical components like appliances or lights from a remote area. This enables users to turn an appliance on or off to reduce overheating or avoid additional risk factors for electrical fires.

- Don't go DIY. Choosing to work with a professional electrician rather than doing electrical work oneself can help reduce electrical fire risk considerably. Electricians know how to work on electrical systems safely to prevent damage to wires and components, and also safeguard themselves against shock.

Risk for electrical fires at home can be reduced with technology and other strategies.



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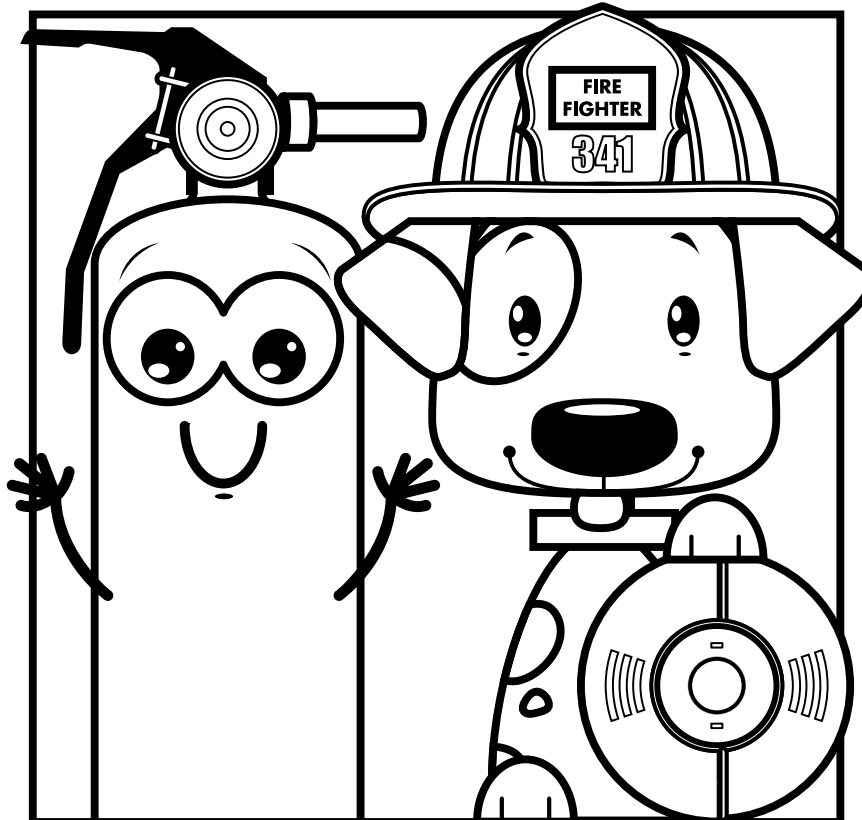
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## Schaefer's Ladies Wear celebrates 96 years of business in Goderich

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Opened on October 29, 1929, Goderich business Schaefer's Ladies Wear is celebrating 96 years of business in Goderich.

Current owner, Anne Ferguson says she is proud to carry on the legacy that her great-grandfather George started.

At the time of its grand opening in 1929, the store was mostly a women's clothing and household product store. At that time, the store carried products such as flooring, curtains, blinds, wallpaper, bedding and towels.

Opened by George Schaefer, the store soon took on the family business approach and in the 1940s his son John joined. Over the next decade, as needs within the community changed, so did the business.

It was in the 1940s the focus of Schaefer's shifted primarily to high quality women's clothing.

Owning a business in a smaller town is a blessing for Anne, and she is grateful her great-grandfather chose Goderich to start his business venture.

By shopping local, Anne believes that the community is supporting a local family such as hers and those of her employees, who in turn are also shopping local, creating a circular effect for the local economy.

Opening a business is no small feat, but the legacy left behind by George and continued success 96 years later, no business owner could have foreseen.

Eventually the women of the family began managing the business in the 1980s with Louise Schaefer, Anne's mother.

By the 1980s the emphasis on women's clothing was fully cemented into the fabric of the business.

Anne grew up in the store learning from both her grandfather (John) and her mother (Louise). When she was a child, Anne said that her grandfather would let her sort the "buttons" – size markers on the hangers – and she would be paid with treats.

Later in her teen years, Anne worked the floor, assisting cus-

tomers and learning the day-to-day tasks associated with running a business.

Anne began managing the store in 2001 and took ownership in 2017. Through changes of products offered and loyal customers, Anne still sees an immense value to shopping locally, both economically and environmentally.

In addition to creating revenue in the local economy, shopping locally can also help reduce carbon footprints. The expense on gas to travel to the city is not only expensive in this economy but also leaves a mark environmentally.

"The average person can typically find what they are looking for in a local store, and keeping your money local helps the local economy and supports the community," stressed Anne.

"By shopping local you can support local business owners, who in turn shop local. It keeps locals employed and assists local businesses stay afloat to provide the community with a wide range of products and services."

A part of the legacy and why Schaefer's continues to be successful over the years are the loyal customers.

Anne believes there are many benefits to shopping locally. At Schaefer's, they like to create relationships with their customers, of which she is certain that is not often found in big box stores.


With October being Schaefer's anniversary sale month, celebrating 96 years of business in Goderich, the store will recognize this milestone with a storewide sale later in the month.

Anne has the utmost appreciation for Schaefer's loyal customers.

"This small family business would not be celebrating 96 years and four generations without your loyalty and support," remarked Anne.

"We have worked hard over the past few years to update our styles and brands. We like to focus on Canadian brands to 'keep it local'. You should come by and see what we have to offer, and while you're here, take time to enjoy all the other fabulous stores in downtown Goderich."

Visit <https://www.schaeferladieswear.com>



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# Maitland Trail Association seeking volunteers for numerous positions to help preserve trails

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Currently, the MTA struggles to find volunteers due to a lack of awareness, busy schedules of a younger generation, and competing with other service groups that also need volunteers.

The MTA is seeking volunteers to join various positions within the organization.

Currently the MTA usually has around 49 volunteers for the Candlelit Walk, 34 volunteers on the roster for repair and maintenance crew, and over 55 volunteers for the El Camino event.

“There are many different volunteer opportunities with the MTA,” said Philip Paquette, President of the MTA.

“Each plays a vital role in keeping our community thriving. Volunteers come and go, but one thing always remains true – we can never have too many helping hands.”

The MTA is well-served by the retired population and have teams that meet during the day. The organization would like to recruit the next generation of trail enthusiasts and have evening and weekend opportunities that can accommodate a younger person’s schedule.

The MTA is looking for volunteers for the following positions:

- **Trail Rangers:** These volunteers work in teams of two and inspect and clean up sections of the Maitland Trail twice a year (spring and late summer). They monitor the conditions of the trail and carry out minor trail repairs

and record major work for the maintenance crew to address.

- **Repair and Maintenance Crew:** These volunteers build, maintain and promote the Maitland Trail. They meet weekly from April to June and September to November, weather permitting.

- **Hike Leader:** These volunteers organize guided hikes along a chosen section of the trail. Hike Leader Certification Training is provided by Hike Ontario.

- **Environmental Team:** These volunteers work diligently to remove invasive species and replace them with native plants and trees.

- **Special Events:** These volunteers help with events such as the Candlelit Walk and the El Camino. The Candlelit Walk is a moonlit walk on Family Day weekend. This past year 49 volunteers helped make this event a success. The El Camino is a weekend long event held in September hosting hikers from all over Ontario. This year, over 55 volunteers assisted in running this event to help raise funds for continued maintenance of more than 80-km of trails.

Since 1975, the Maitland Trail Association (MTA) has maintained over 80-kilometres of public-use trails in and around Goderich.

This non-profit, volunteer-driven organization works to ensure a safe and enjoyable hiking experience for all, while educating visitors about the area’s rich natural and cultural history.

MTA’s volunteers work tirelessly to preserve both the trails and their surrounding ecosystems.

The organization is seeking more volunteers who share a passion for the outdoors to join the team.

Other volunteers working with the MTA speak highly of the organization’s camaraderie, while helping protect the environment and preserve the natural beauty of the trail.

For those interested in a conversation to discuss the possibility of volunteering with the MTA, inquire first. From there the organization will talk through current volunteer needs and help you find a role that’s a good fit for your interests, comfort level and availability.

“Ideally, the repair and maintenance crew are looking for hands-on, self-styled handy people who like to attach themselves to a project and see it through to completion,” said Con Melady, Lead Coordinator of the Repair and Maintenance Committee.

“Also, we have room for people who like to manage trail safety, be environmentally conscious, dig dirt, carry materials and walk several kilometres per outing.”

According to the MTA, volunteer needs come up throughout the year, and the organization welcomes new helpers whenever they are ready. The first step is to get in touch.

The MTA is also seeking individual volunteers to sit on the Board of Directors, specifically in the position of Treasurer coming available in the spring, and a position for someone skilled in website design and maintenance.

For those interested in joining the team of volunteers for the MTA, visit [www.maitlandtrail.ca](http://www.maitlandtrail.ca) or contact the MTA via email at [mta@maitlandtrail.ca](mailto:mta@maitlandtrail.ca)

Maitland Valley

Family Health Team



**Director, Maitland Valley Family Health Team  
Board of Directors**

The Maitland Valley Family Health Team (MVFHT) provides primary health care services to enrolled patients in Goderich and surrounding townships and municipalities.

**Our Mission**

To optimize the health of our community through collaboration and patient-centred care.

**Our Vision**

A comprehensive and accessible Primary Care Centre of Excellence for the community.

We are recruiting a volunteer to serve as a Director on our Board. We welcome applications from individuals who are passionate about primary care and embrace our Vision and Mission. We are seeking a skills-based Director who reflects our patient base and diverse community. We welcome applicants from a broad range of backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences.

The culture of our Board is very positive - striving for excellence and innovation through openness, mutual respect, healthy debate, and strategic thinking. We pride ourselves on our ability to work effectively with each other, as well as with management and external stakeholders. We are committed to providing the best care for our patients and contributing to a strong healthcare system in our community. Candidates should be driven by the same goals and priorities.

If you are interested in helping to shape the future of our organization, please contact our Executive Director, Matt Hoy, at 519-524-6060 x 240 or [mhoy@mvmc.ca](mailto:mhoy@mvmc.ca) to request information about the application process. The deadline for applications is October 10, 2025.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Daniel Noel  
President, Board of Directors

## Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee seeks new members

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The County of Huron is inviting applications for a volunteer position on the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC).

HCAAC is made up of nine voting members, the majority of whom have direct or indirect lived experience of disability. The committee also includes members from relevant professions, an elected official and the Huron County Warden.

“This is an opportunity to making a meaningful impact on accessibility in Huron County,” said Sahil Kaushal, IDEA Specialist for the County of Huron.

The HCAAC advises Huron County Council and partner municipalities on how to identify, prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities.

While helping to create an inclusive and accessible en-

vironment for all residents and visitors, the work done by the HCAAC supports compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

“We encourage applications from individuals with diverse perspectives and experiences who are passionate about building a more accessible community,” added Kaushal.

The County is seeking one new community member to join the HCAAC. Meetings are offered in a hybrid format, both in-person and virtual options available.

Interested applicants are asked to submit a resume and a letter of interest outlining their background, experience with accessibility and motivation for joining the HCAAC.

Applications can be sent by email to: [clerk@huron-county.ca](mailto:clerk@huron-county.ca) with a subject line HCAAC Membership Application. The deadline is November 3.

For more information about the HCAAC and its work visit [www.huroncounty.ca](http://www.huroncounty.ca)

**SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!**  
**CALL 519-655-2341 OR EMAIL [info@goderichsun.com](mailto:info@goderichsun.com)**



# Creative Contrasts in Goderich Co-op Gallery

## Visiting Artists

CAROL MCDONNELL

*Sun Contributor*

Sharron Rogers and George Wilson, both of Exeter, will be the October guest artists at the Goderich Co-op Gallery.

Sharron will present mixed media in a style that has evolved over a lifetime of creative exploration. She has worked in enough media for several lifetimes—after completing degrees in Art History and Printmaking, she has explored woodblock and silk printing, acrylic and

watercolour painting, and small assemblages.

Sharron's work, which she describes as whimsical, fantastical expressionism, sometimes incorporates Artificial Intelligence and digital manipulation.

In contrast, George Wilson brings the charm of folk art to his acrylic paintings. His small, detailed works often highlight the character of Canada's East Coast—fishing villages with weathered wharves, colourful houses, and lobster traps—as well as scenes of rural life closer to home.

Birds, flowers, and farmhouses appear in bright, welcoming colours, offering visitors a sense of both simplicity and joy. His work, with its bright palette and unpretentious warmth, connects easily with viewers — and often with buyers, too.

With construction continuing downtown, visitors can enter through the back entrance, which provides access to both Elizabeth's Art Gallery upstairs and the Goderich Co-op Gallery downstairs. The front entrance at 54 Courthouse Square

also remains open. You can also find us at the Saturday Farmers' Market until Thanksgiving Weekend.

More than 50 participants enjoyed September's Pollinator Party with its many activities on Saturday, September 13. There is still time to participate in the Wildflower Wall Challenge and all ages colouring contest with \$1,000 worth of prizes.

Next up is the October opening for guest artists Sharron Rogers and George Wilson on Saturday, October 4, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. All are welcome.



A piece by Sharron Rogers.



A piece by George Wilson.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

## Goderich Duplicate Bridge Club Results

On September 2 the club had 10 tables directed by Rob McFarlane:

1st – Cal Scotchmer and Penny Peters – 59.55%

2nd/3rd – Joan Lounsbury and Mary Lapaine, Marj Stuart and Terry Fry – 59.49%

4th – John Archbold and Pamela Raab – 58.33%

5th – Joyce McIlwain and Kay King – 56.71%

6th – Dave MacLaren and Steve Scotchmer – 56.02%

On September 9 the club had eight and half tables directed by Rob McFarlane:

1st – Brian Reeve and Graham Yeats – 62.96%

2nd – Bill Hansen and Mary Lynne Telford – 59.23%

3rd/4th – Doug Elliott and Virginia Elliott, Garth Sheldon and John Davies – 58.33%

5th – Pamela Raab and John Archbold – 55.56%

6th – Greg Bowman and Michele Hansen – 53.87%

On September 16 the club had nine and half tables directed by Rob McFarlane:

1st – John Davies and Garth Sheldon – 64.33%

2nd – Brenda Blair and Pat Lewington – 63.41%

3rd – Nancy Craig and Tom Rajnovich – 61.97%

4th – Virginia Elliott and Doug Elliott – 60.26%

5th – Mary Lapaine and Joan Lounsbury – 56.50%

6th – Evy McDonagh and Susan White – 54.99%

On September 23 the club had 10 tables directed by Rob McFarlane:

1st – Doug Elliott and Virginia Elliott – 64.58%

2nd – Greg Bowman and Mary Lapaine – 58.63%

3rd – Tom Rajnovich and Shirley Thomas – 57.14%

4th – Pat Lewington and Brenda Blair – 56.85%

5th – Brian Smith and Larry Silver – 55.65%

6th – Bill Hansen and Mary Lynne Telford – 55.06%



Native Plant Mural.



# Annual Radiothon in support of AMGH returns

GODERICH SUN STAFF

[info@goderichsun.com](mailto:info@goderichsun.com)

A beloved community tradition that raises essential funds for local healthcare and brings people together to celebrate and give back is returning on October 10.

The Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) Foundation is hosting its Annual Radiothon in partnership with Shoreline Classics FM.

On Friday, October 10 from 8 a.m. until

3 p.m. at Zehrs Goderich, Shoreline Classics FM will broadcast live, all day.

According to AMGH Foundation, this year, supporters can also enjoy a barbecue on site and take part in the hour power prize draws throughout the day.

"We're inviting everyone to come out to Zehrs on Thanksgiving Friday," said Kimberley Payne, Executive Director of AMGH Foundation.

"Enjoy a barbecue lunch, enter to win great prizes, and most importantly, make

a difference in local healthcare."

The AMGH Foundation is asking the community to show its gratitude by giving back to local healthcare this Thanksgiving.

There are several ways to contribute to this year's Radiothon: in-person at Zehrs on October 10, sending an e-transfer to [amgh.foundation@amgh.ca](mailto:amgh.foundation@amgh.ca) (with Radiothon in the memo), by phone at 519-524-8508, online securely at [www.amghfoundation.ca](http://www.amghfoundation.ca) or by mail to 120 Napier Street,

Goderich, N7A 2H4 (with Radiothon in the memo).

"Join us for the Radiothon, enjoy our barbecue, and take a chance at winning exciting prizes, all while support care close to home," added Payne.

This year, the AMGH Foundation is unable to mail out its annual donation postcards, however, the need for community support has never been greater.

## Ghosts and history collide at the Huron Historic Gaol

ALEX HUNT

*Sun Correspondent*

Every Friday night for the month of October, the Huron Historic Gaol opens its doors after dark for intimate tours blending ghost stories with the building's darker history.

Tickets for ghost tours will be \$11 for an adult and \$7 for students. The Gaol will feature two tours every Friday night. One between 6:45 and 8:15 p.m. and the second starting at 8:30 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m.

Due to mature subject matter, it's recommended for children of 12-years and up to participant on the tour.

Guests will be guided throughout the prison by curator of engagement and dialogue, Sinead Cox. Cox will tell guests a detailed history of the Gaol with a focus on darker themes and paranormal encounters from past tours.

"Folks on the tours have had experiences and people have reported to me about hearing, feeling and seeing things. I'm a person that doesn't really get scared so I'm not going to run away when something pops up," laughed Cox.



**Sinead Cox, curator of engagement and dialogue at the Huron Historic Gaol standing in a nineteenth century prison cell.**

(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

"Death is a daily part of life, and it was fascinating to people in the past and it's fascinating to us now and I think it's an opportunity to look at things that are really dark and sad in a way where we can turn them into something we can understand and talk about."

Cox said ghost stories offer a way to explore difficult subjects in a safer context.

She noted many who died at the jail were vulnerable people, and their stories tell about the changes and similarities in society over time.

"I like to research the life and death of the prisoners and people and what the healthcare was like in the jail and what inmates were sentenced for," said Cox.

"We did have three hangings take place

here but most of the people died of natural causes, there's a lot of stories here.

"It's a nice balance when people come in and they are really interested in the paranormal stuff and get shocked by the history. We are enriching people in the history of the local area and its residents, it's very rewarding."

Cox said she holds deep respect for the jail, its history and the people once incarcerated there. She added that many descendants still live in the community, and their lives and deaths should be remembered with dignity.

Tourists can also participate in a spirit board where they will be given a chance to community with the spirits who have passed on. Cox adds that conversations between the living and the dead have occurred on past tours which has been an annual return for the past six years.

"There was an encounter where there was a tourist letting me know that they saw a spirit on the stairs," said Cox.

"I don't guarantee you will see a ghost on the tour, but some people have had that experience because it's October and it really sets up the atmosphere."

## Goderich Laketown Band seeking new members

GODERICH SUN STAFF

[info@goderichsun.com](mailto:info@goderichsun.com)

The Goderich Laketown Band is recruiting new members and are seeking anyone who has musical experience in playing a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument.

Even those who have not played in years, the band also offers lessons.

For those who have experience but do not own an instrument anymore, the band also rents out instruments at a low cost.

"Our practices are relaxed and fun, and it is a great social time where you'll meet people of all ages who share a love of music," said Hayley Linfield, member of the Goderich Laketown Band.

"It has been well documented that playing a musical instrument is good for both your physical and mental well-being, and unlike sports, it is something you can do well into old age."

The Goderich Laketown Band is a part of the community's history. It was officially created in 1967, but its forerunners extend back to the 1920s.

Performing at a variety of parades and services including Canada Day, Remembrance Day and several concerts throughout the year, the Goderich Laketown Band also offers popular events such as the Christmas Sound of Goderich and the Spring Cabaret.



The band also sponsors the Summer Concert Series in Harbour Park, which runs every Sunday evening from the end of June until the end of August.

For those who have been thinking they'd like to get involved in the community, or thinking about taking up a new hobby, the Goderich Laketown Band would like to hear from you.

The band practices on Monday evenings at 7:15 p.m. in

the music room of Goderich District Collegiate Institute (GDCI).

Although called Goderich Laketown Band, members come from all over Huron County, and some even as far as Kincardine and Brucefield.

For those interested in joining the band, email [goderichlaketownband@gmail.com](mailto:goderichlaketownband@gmail.com) or visit [www.goderichlaketownband.com](http://www.goderichlaketownband.com)



# Nature London donation supports conservation of rare turtles across southwestern Ontario

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Times Reporter

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) has received a \$20,000 donation from Nature London to help launch a turtles at risk education program and expand a tallgrass prairie restoration project. The funding will be distributed over four years.

For more than 30 years, the UTRCA has worked to bring local turtle populations back from the brink of extinction through the Southern Ontario At-Risk Reptiles (SOARR) program.

"This educational program is a collaboration between our education department and the SOARR team," said Karlee Flear, UTRCA community education co-ordinator. "The aim is to create programming to showcase what they've been able to achieve, the work that they're doing and the research that they've done, and be able to show that to the community."

Flear said growing demands in Ontario's agriculture sector continue to threaten wet-



Scott Gillingwater, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), Species at Risk Biologist/Herpetologist with two softshell turtles.



Spiny softshell turtles hatching from their eggs.

lands and turtle habitats, making conservation efforts more urgent.

"Southwestern Ontario has tremendous pressures in terms of land use," she said.

"We're seeing incredible development in agricultural land use and all those things impact turtle habitat, biodiversity and water quality, all of which impact turtles' health and their ability to survive."

Agricultural expansion often leads to fertilizer and pesticide runoff that degrades water quality, creating low-oxygen conditions harmful to turtles. It can also cause habitat fragmentation and increase turtle mortality on roads. Altered water flows and reduced groundwater recharge further compromise the suitability of wetlands for turtle species across the region.

The SOARR program creates and protects habitat, conducts long-term research and incubates turtle eggs found across the watershed. Hatchlings are released back into the wild.

"They have been working really diligently to create and protect turtle habitat," said Flear. "They've done some really long-term research on the turtle populations in our watershed, as well as collect and incubate eggs, and then release them back to the wild. Their collective efforts over the past 30 years have made great strides in our at-risk turtle population, specifically the spiny softshell turtle."

The donation from Nature

London will allow SOARR to work more closely with the UTRCA's community education team to share their knowledge with watershed residents.

"What Nature London funding is doing is allowing us to get out into the community to educate students about these turtle populations, as well as educate individuals on how they can help protect and serve the turtle species in our watershed," Flear said.

Learning opportunities will include turtle lab tours, interactive activities at community events and school programs highlighting the six turtle species found in southwestern Ontario.

"The spiny softshell turtle is a unique turtle found in southwestern Ontario," Flear said. "It's not found anywhere else in Canada. A lot of effort has been made on that particular species. However, work is being done to protect all of the native turtles we have in our watershed."

Flear expressed gratitude for the partnership.

"I wanted to say a special thank you to Nature London. It's difficult for us to expand our programming, to do these projects without them. So their funding is much appreciated, and we really value them as a partner in our community."

Nature London, a volunteer-driven charitable organization founded in 1864, works to protect, educate and encourage enjoyment of the natural environment.

"Nature London is proud to support these initiatives in support of our mission to preserve and enjoy nature," said Don Taves, president of Nature London.

More information about protecting turtles in the region is available at [thamesriver.on.ca](http://thamesriver.on.ca).



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# TRAIL TALK: Hats off to volunteers who help trail events run smoothly

PATRICK CAPPER

*Sun Contributor*

The Maitland Trail Association holds two big events each year - The Candlelit Walk in the Maitland Woods in February and the El Camino Maitland, which was held on Saturday, September 20 and Sunday, September 21.

These events would not run so smoothly without several years of experience to help make incremental improvements and the dedication of many volunteer hours involving planning, year-round trail maintenance, installing extra signage for the events, manning the sign-in, check points, car parking, bus loading etc.

Hats off to a great effort over the weekend.

I joined about 296 other hikers for my fifth Maitland Camino. I usually have some recommendations for improvements for the next Camino event, but this year I have been unable to come up with any suggestions.

On top of all that the weather was perfect, no rain and not too hot. Congratulations to everyone.

My impression was that the female hikers outnumbered the male hikers by about three or four to one male hiker. The demographics indicated that the youngest hiker was seven years old and the oldest 83, both completing the full 50 km. Nearly 75 of the hikers were 60 years old or over, while 79 of the hikers were in the age range of 50-59, 66 hikers were 40-49, while 51 hikers were 30-39, and 26 were under the age of 30.

Many hikers opted not to do the whole 50 km.

September 21 was also the start of the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CFW) Great Canadian Bioblitz. If you join the project and submit at least 50 different species you will have a chance to win a CWF backpack with binoculars, and first aid kit.

I used my Sunday hike to take photos of over 110 plants, plus a frog, squirrel, two



**At the River Line check point.**

birds and a caterpillar along the 20 km trail. Easily qualifying for entry into the Bioblitz prize.

One surprise was seeing a Twinleaf near Jenkins. I know they are quite common on the Lobb trail but the only other place I had previously seen them was in the Morris Tract. The other surprise was to find two Trolls under the Robert Edgar Bridge giving out candy, apples and chips.

Often a Bioblitz will result in an unusual sighting. For example, John Hepburn photographed a Checkered Skipper.

My Ontario Butterfly book indicates that its range is just southwestern Ontario. His photo taken on the new part of the Maitland Trail is the second most northerly report of this butterfly.

There have only been four other reports on iNaturalist of this butterfly in Huron County.

NOTES:

**The Menesetung Bridge across the Maitland River at Goderich remains closed to pedestrians and cyclists until an expected completion date in November.**

**The trail entrance at 80918 Sharpes Creek Line is now closed due to gravel pit work.**

**Saturday, October 4 at 10 a.m.** - Join the Tom Sinclair Crossing Memorial Ride organized by the G2G Rail Trail, a ride designed to raise awareness of the missing bridge and raise funds for the Menesetung Bridge.

There are two starting points – McGaw Road heading east and Auburn Road heading west.

To join the team departing from Auburn, register at: <https://e2e.g2grailtrail.com/.../t-sinclair-crossing...>

To join the team departing from McGaw Road, please register at: <https://e2e.g2grailtrail.com/.../tom-sinclair-crossing...>

**Saturday, October 11 at 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** - Hullett Sugar Bush Meet at 80602 Wildlife Line and hike the Hullett Sugar bush trails for about 1.5 hours. For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Patrick Capper at [pcapper99@gmail.com](mailto:pcapper99@gmail.com). This is a level 1 moderate fast pace hike

**Saturday, October 18 at 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** - Hike the Maitland and Robertson Track Trails Meet at the bottom of the Bridge Road near the Auburn end of the Maitland Trail. This area has no significant hills.

For more information and to confirm your attendance, contact Susan Ethelston at [susan.ethelston@gmail.com](mailto:susan.ethelston@gmail.com). This is a level 1, moderate to brisk paced hike.

**Saturday, October 18 at 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.** - Cycle Point Farms Provincial Park. Helmets are required and be prepared for rain or sunshine. Maitland Trail Association Waivers are required and please complete a waiver at [www.maitlandtrail.ca/](http://www.maitlandtrail.ca/) cycling in advance of the ride.

For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Donald Andrew at 519-530-9019 by calling or texting. This is Level 2, easy paced bike ride.

**Saturday, October 25** - "The Bad Thing Race" will take place on the Maitland Trail.

Tuesday Trompers meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday to hike for about an hour. If you wish to be on this email list, send an email to [mta@maitlandtrail.ca](mailto:mta@maitlandtrail.ca)

Midweek hikers meet at 9 a.m. and hike for 1.5 to 2 hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact Patrick Capper at [pcapper99@gmail.com](mailto:pcapper99@gmail.com)

Sometimes there is not room for all the photos with Trail Talk, but they are available on the Maitland Trail Association Website blog.



Hikers at the finish line.



Checkered Skipper.



Isabella Tiger Moth.



# Ultimate Fight Experience is returning to Goderich this month

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) was once considered a niche martial art, but now BJJ is one of the fastest-growing sports on the planet, with millions training across North America and gyms popping up in nearly every city.

According to Shaun Garrity athlete and owner of Huron BJJ, the talent pool is rising fast in Ontario, and the demand for high-level events outside Toronto is bigger than ever.

On October 18, the Ultimate Fight Experience 3 (UFEX) will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Goderich with a stacked card of nearly 25 all No-Gi BJJ fights. This event is sure to give local athletes a chance to showcase their skills on a big stage.

"It means so much that this event is coming to Goderich," said Garrity.

"If we don't host this, we remain stagnant, trying to keep up with the schools that have 15 tournaments at their fingertips. If I don't host this, we're never going to catch up to the Toronto teams, and we will always be average."

This is Huron BJJ's third event of the year. The local BJJ school hosted an event in March, in June and now in October.

According to Garrity, UFEX isn't just



Hlib Hancharov from Niagara Topp Team. He had the fastest submission in less than 20 seconds and won \$100 and a backpack. Seen here with Shaun Garrity of Huron BJJ (right). (CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

another tournament, but full-scale entertainment featuring a professional announcer, food, drinks live music and even a five-minute hot dog eating contest with \$500 on the line.

With each show costing around \$10,000 to run, featuring multiple cameras, full lighting and live streaming, UFEX draws fighters from 29 gyms across the province, and those fighters will be in Goderich mid-October.

The UFEX event not only brings entertainment to town but helps grow the regional BJJ scene. It creates a unique entertainment experience blending sports, competition and showmanship.

Garrity is working hard to put BJJ on the map, through events like UFEX to introduce the sport to a wider audience and garner the respect these local BJJ athletes deserve.

"The more I host these shows, the more people will have an understanding of BJJ," added Garrity.

"We want to give these shows to the community three times a year so people can have something to do and then gain an understanding of BJJ. We're just this little town, but we have a competitive team and we're making waves."

Admission to the event costs \$50: hbjj.ticketbud.com/ufex3



UFEX 3 will bring the best of the best in BJJ competition to Goderich on October 18.



A \$10,000 production, the UFEX experience isn't just about witnessing BJJ on the big stage, but a proper evening of entertainment with an announcer and chances to win prizes.

 **Goderich Sun**

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# New immigration program designed to address gaps in labour force in Huron County

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Public conversations about immigration can often be clouded by myths and misconceptions such as foreign workers take jobs from Canadians, immigration drives housing shortages and employers should just raise wages.

By engaging proactively with reality, unfounded criticism can be prevented, and truth can be reinforced. Immigration is not the problem; it is part of the solution, especially in Huron County.

Reimagining Immigration is a new initiative that has proposed the creation of the Canadian International Workforce Program (CIWP), a program designed to address the persistent and structural gaps in labour force.

Huron Chamber of Commerce is a signatory of Reimagining Immigration, representing rural southwestern Ontario on the national advisory committee.

“Our employers across Huron County are telling us, clearly and consistently, that immigration workers are essential to their businesses,” stressed Colin Carmichael, Executive Director of the Huron Chamber of Commerce.

“We cannot sustain our local economy without them.”

According to Huron Chamber of Commerce, this region has one of the lowest and most persistently low unemployment rates in the province.

For local employers, this can be a sign of economic strength but also represents a pressing challenge. With so few workers available, businesses struggle to recruit and retain staff.

This means restaurants may have to shorten their hours, manufacturers may experience a delay in orders, and hospitals

and care facilities remain short-staffed.

Carmichael explains that these gaps hurt not only businesses but also residents who depend on essential services.

Immigration workers in Huron County are the difference between businesses staying open or closing their doors.

This is compounded by the national demographic trends. Canada’s fertility rate has fallen to 1.26, far below the replacement level of 2.1. By 2030, nearly one in four Canadians will be seniors.

With more people retiring than entering the workforce, immigration has become the only source of local market growth for the past 20 years in Canada.

Yet, here in Huron County, there is no surplus of young workers locked out of the labour market. It is quite the opposite.

Huron County does not have enough young people to fill jobs that exist today, let alone those as the population ages.

Immigration workers are essential to Huron County’s economy.

The CIWP proposes a more sustainable approach to tackle the lack of workers through two streams: Seasonal and Temporary Jobs, and Year-Round Jobs.

Seasonal jobs are for workers who come to Canada temporarily to fill low-skilled jobs tied to seasonal cycles, such as agriculture. These workers would return home when the season ends.

Year-round jobs are for jobs that are consistently vacant year after year and known to be unattractive to Canadian or permanent resident workers.

This stream would integrate pathways to permanent residence for foreign workers, recognizing the ongoing need for these positions.

These two streams would provide certainty for employers and clear protections

and pathways for workers. Through this program, CIWP aims to replace the inadequate stopgaps of the past with a fair, demand-driven system.

Moreover, a recent Abacus Data poll shows how politically charged this issue has become.

According to the survey, of those who participated, 44 per cent of Canadians support eliminating the Temporary Foreign Worker Program altogether, while only 30 per cent oppose the idea and 18 per cent remain undecided.

These results from the survey reflect public concern, but do not reflect Huron County’s reality.

For some Canadians, the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) symbolizes an economy that is unfair or tilted against them.

In Huron County, the situation is reversed. There aren’t enough workers to fill local jobs, and there is no hidden pool of unemployed youth waiting for an opportunity.

According to Carmichael, eliminating the TFWP or failing to replace it with a program like CIWP, would leave gaping holes in the local economy.

The CIWP aims to protect the rights and well-being of foreign workers. Too often, critics of immigration point to stories of exploitation as a reason to scale back foreign worker programs.

The CIWP would strengthen safeguards, including stricter regulation ensuring legitimate job postings, and enhanced inspections of employers.

Workers could also benefit from certainty in pathways to permanent residency, giving them confidence that their contributions to the Canadian economy can translate into long-term opportunity.

This kind of stability reduces turn-overs for employers and allows for stronger workforce planning while aiding in the elimination of myths on immigration workers taking jobs or driving housing shortages.

Immigration workers are not taking jobs from Canadians. Every position must pass a rigorous process through the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) proving that no Canadian or permanent resident is available.

Canada’s housing challenges stem from regulatory delays, construction costs and lack of serviced land; not from immigrants.

Temporary Foreign Workers represent fewer than one per cent of Canada’s total labour force.

Carmichael adds that the Huron Chamber of Commerce has always been a strong advocate for smart, responsive immigration policy.

The Chamber’s participation in the Reimagining Immigration initiative builds on this advocacy, while ensuring that Huron County’s unique perspective is included in conversations that will shape national policy.

Carmichael believes the CIWP is not just a national policy idea, but also a lifeline for Huron County.

“Workforce shortages are already constraining local businesses and without a long-term solution, the prosperity of our towns and villages is at risk,” wrote Carmichael.

“A fair and sustainable immigration system will allow employers to plan, services to remain accessible and communities to grow stronger.”

For more information visit <https://huronchamber.ca>

## Celebrate Canadian Library Month: Show Your Card & Shop Local



AVERY BAKER-GREAVES

Sun Contributor

October is Canadian Library Month, and the Goderich Branch of Huron County Library is celebrating alongside some of our vibrant local businesses.

All month long, simply show

your Huron County Library card at a participating Goderich-based business and enjoy exclusive deals, discounts, and prizes.

Getting a library card is easy—and free—for all Huron County residents. Just bring a piece of photo ID with your current address to any library branch.

Libraries do far more than lend books. According to the Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit, the Huron County Library generates an estimated \$17.5 million in total economic benefit for the community each year. That’s about \$286 per resident or \$596 per household, with every open hour producing roughly \$413 in value.

For every \$1 invested, libraries return \$4.66 in social value to the community.

This October (Oct. 1 – Oct. 31), show your Huron County Library card at the following businesses and enjoy these special offers:

- **Blake's Consignment** – 25 per cent off
- **Bluewater Restaurant** – 10 per cent off
- **Fantasy Forms 3D** – 10 per cent off
- **Cork & Coast** – 15 per cent off dining (excludes alcohol)
- **Surfsup** – 20 per cent off (includes sale pricing)
- **Meeting Place Organic Farm** – Free two litres of frozen apple cider (in person)
- **Sunset Blinds** – Raffle prize at the library
- **Maitland Valley Grotto** – Free shoe rental

- **Zero Gravity Dance Company** – Raffle prize at the library
  - **Microage Basics** – 20 per cent off cell phone accessories
  - **Tribute Studios** – 10 per cent off rings, necklaces, and bracelets
  - **East Street Cider** – 10 per cent off and raffle prize at the library
  - **West Street Willy's** – 10 per cent off
  - **Cait's Cafe** – Free regular drip coffee with purchase of a pastry, muffin, or cookie
  - **MTG North Games** – Five per cent off Pokémon
  - **Papple Aviation** – Raffle prize at the library
  - **Cravings** – 10 per cent off
- To give an extra boost to shopping locally, patrons are also

encouraged to bring receipts from any local business to their library branch.

Each receipt earns an entry into a weekly draw for a \$25 gift card to a local business of their choice. There will be four draws throughout October.

Visit your local Huron County Library branch this month to get your free library card, discover local business offers, and enter to win great prizes.

Together, let’s celebrate the power of libraries and the strength of our community. Learn more about Huron County Library at [www.huroncountylibrary.ca](http://www.huroncountylibrary.ca).

*Avery Baker-Greaves is a Branch Assistant at Huron County Library in Goderich*



# Ask a Vet: How do I stop my cat from scratching up the furniture?

DR. SOPHIE FARRELL

*Sun Contributor*

Oh, to hear those dreaded ripping sounds of claws on the easy chair, carpet, or door frame.

While we love our kitties, most of us would prefer that our homes don't look like they were attacked with a chainsaw.

Before you launch Operation Save the Sofa, it's important to understand why cats scratch, and it's not because they're mad at you or to be a brat.

Rather, it's a natural and necessary behaviour that serves several functions: Cat's claws have many layers (like an onion - or an ogre) and the outer layer becomes dull and overgrown over time.

Scratching removes the old outer layer to expose the shorter, sharper layer underneath, keeping the claws razor sharp and at a healthy length.

Scratching also creates visual and pheromone marks that tell other cats whose turf they're on and help provide the resident cat with a sense of home and safety.

Cats also get a good whole-body stretch when scratching, which is why they look so content when they're doing it. Sometimes, cats will even scratch as part of play, or when they get excited.

Because cats get so much out of scratching, even declawed cats will go through the motions (more on declawing below).

Since cats need to scratch, the first thing to do is to give them something that they're allowed to scratch.

There are lots of options out there, so here are a few things to consider when choosing a scratching post.

Most cats like to scratch vertically, so look for a post that's taller than your cat's body length so that they can get a full stretch.

Some cats prefer to scratch horizontally (scratching the carpet is a good hint), and some like to mix things up.

My favourite scratching posts are the "cat trees" that have vertical and horizontal scratching surfaces, as well as perching platforms and hide cubbies where the cat can climb and relax.

Sturdiness is critical. Nothing will get a cat to avoid a scratching post faster than having it fall over mid-scratch.



**This little girl showing off her scratching post is Glinda, one of Dr. Sophie's friends at Bayfield's Forgotten Felines. If you have an opening for a new buddy in your life, Glinda and her friends would love to meet you.** (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Most cats will have a preferred texture. Many love sisal rope, while others prefer carpet, corrugated cardboard, or wood. Make sure that the scratcher has lots of your cat's favourite texture available.

If you're not sure, try some different options and see what your cat likes best. Each cat in the home should have their own scratcher in its own location.

As in real estate, it's all about location, location, location. If the scratcher is in the right place, your cat will be more likely to use it.

Many cats love a good scratch right after waking up, so place a scratcher near their sleeping area. If your kitty is scratching somewhere they shouldn't be, put a scratcher next to (or in front of) that spot.

Place a scratcher or "cat tree" near a window with an interesting view (like a bird feeder) to encourage her to spend time there. Sprinkle some catnip on the scratcher (if she likes it) to help attract her

to it.

Reward your cat when you see them scratching where they are supposed to. If you find your cat scratching somewhere they shouldn't be, gently pick them up, move them to the scratcher, then reward your cat for being there.

Animals learn best through positive reinforcement, so make sure to reward your cat right away (within three seconds) with whatever she likes best (petting, treats, catnip, play, etc.).

Note: punishment isn't going to prevent your cat from scratching; it's just going to teach your cat to scratch when you're not around and may make them afraid of you.

Instead, try making the "unapproved" locations unappealing with double-sided tape (cats don't like sticky paws) or by covering them temporarily with tinfoil or plastic while you're training your cat to the scratcher.

You can also minimize the destruction

by trimming your cat's nails regularly or using plastic nail caps; ask your veterinarian's office to show you how.

If you're wondering "Why not just declaw the cat?", the short answer is because it can cause serious long-term complications. Declawing is major surgery - it's the amputation of the last digit of the toe (equivalent to cutting off the ends of your fingers at the last joint).

Many studies now show that, even if the surgery is done well, some cats can end up with chronic pain, nerve issues, and orthopedic problems. Declawed cats are more likely to develop behavioural problems such as aggression and litterbox avoidance, likely because of the chronic pain.

This is why most major animal welfare and veterinary organizations, including the Canadian and Ontario Veterinary Medical Associations, American Association of Feline Practitioners, OSPCA, the Humane Veterinary Medical Alliance and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, among others, oppose declawing, and why it's banned in eight Canadian provinces and in many countries around the world.

If the household cats aren't getting along; they may need to scratch to mark their territory. Cats are very subtle about social dynamics, so it can be difficult to pick up on signs that the cats aren't getting along.

If your cats never play together, groom one another, or sleep together, there is likely tension between them. Providing the cats with lots of environmental enrichment and making sure that they each have their own space with their own food; water; litter box; scratching, perching, and sleeping areas; and toys can help reduce tension.

As scratching can also be due to other sources of anxiety and stress, if your cat is still scratching destructively after you've tried the tips above, reach out to your family veterinarian for further advice.

*Do you have a question about pet care? Send it to [reception@clintonvet.ca](mailto:reception@clintonvet.ca) and it may be featured in a future column.*

*Dr. Sophie Farrell is a veterinarian at Clinton Vet Services in Clinton, Ontario. She practices small animal, emergency, and honeybee medicine.*

## Choosing Grace: Finding Grace in Change

PAMELA CLAYFIELD

*Sun Contributor*

Change doesn't always arrive with a warning. Sometimes it tiptoes in quietly — a new season, a different routine, a subtle shift in how we feel. Other times, it barrels through like a storm, rearranging everything we thought was settled.

I've lived through both kinds. The gentle transitions and the ones that left me stressing out and breathless. I have been excited about change yet terrified

at the same time. Yet, through them all, I've learned that gratitude isn't just for the easy days. It's for the uncertain ones too, sometimes more so.

As summer fades, my routines are beginning to shift significantly, and I find myself reflecting on how change has shaped me and how much it makes me anxious. Not just the big life events, but the small ones — the unexpected conversations, the new opportunities, the moments that nudged me out of my comfort zone. Like reaching out

to a newspaper and discovering a new rhythm in my writing life or saying yes to a concert I wasn't sure I'd enjoy, only to find joy in the unexpected. I can't be more grateful for the change both have brought.

Gratitude doesn't erase the discomfort of change. But it softens it. It reminds us that even in the middle of transition, there are things to hold onto: a kind word, a familiar ritual, a quiet moment by the lake.

I've started asking myself, "What can

I be grateful for today?" Not in a forced way, but as a gentle practice. Some days the answer is simple — a good cup of tea, a laugh with a friend, a sunset that catches me off guard. Other days, it's deeper — the strength to keep going, the grace to let go, the courage to begin again.

Change will keep coming. That's the nature of life. But if we meet it with open hands and a grateful heart, we might just find that what's ahead isn't something to fear — it's something to welcome.



# Grey Matters: Living with Grief



ANNETTE GERDES,

*Sun Contributor*

As the days grow shorter and the leaves begin to turn, autumn reminds us of life's seasons. The bright colors eventually fade, and the trees let go of what they can no longer hold. In many ways, grief is much the same — a letting go, a change in rhythm, and an adjustment to a world that feels different than before.

Grief is one of those universal experiences we all wish we could

avoid, yet none of us can. It is the price we pay for love and connection.

For many, grief arrives suddenly — with the loss of a family member, friend, or neighbour. For others, it comes slowly, as we watch someone we love change due to illness, or as life circumstances shift around us.

In our later years, grief often becomes a frequent companion. It may come in the form of losing lifelong friends, spouses, or siblings. It may show up when we downsize from a cherished home filled with memories, or when health changes alter the independence, we once had.

Each of these losses matters, and each one deserves to be acknowledged.

As someone with a nursing background, I've learned that grief takes many shapes. Nurses, caregivers, and professionals often see it so frequently that we sometimes grow desensitized.

We learn to keep moving forward, caring for the next person, and we can forget just how heavy grief feels for those living in the middle of it. I remind myself often that while I may see loss regularly, for each family it is unique, personal, and deeply felt.

It is important to pause, to truly recognize someone's grief, and to offer the compassion it deserves.

From years of caring for others, I've also seen that grieving often unfolds in stages — not rigid steps, but natural experiences that help us move through the loss:

**1. Pause and Feel** — At first, grief may feel overwhelming, or even numb. Allow yourself to pause, take a breath, and simply acknowledge your feelings without judgment.

**2. Share Your Heart** — Talk, write, or reminisce about the person you've lost. Sharing memories and emotions with others can lighten the weight and remind us

we are not alone.

**3. Sit with Your Emotions** — Anger, guilt, or sadness may surface. It is okay to feel them. Sitting with your emotions helps you process and understand your grief.

**4. Seek Comfort** — Lean on friends, family, support groups, or even quiet routines that bring you peace. Small acts of comfort — a cup of tea, a walk in the garden, or listening to music — can be powerful.

**5. Find New Rhythms** — As time passes, gently adjust to life without your loved one. New routines, hobbies, or connections can provide purpose and hope without forgetting the past.

**6. Honor and Remember** — Eventually, grief softens. Memories can bring warmth instead of pain. Many people find comfort in symbols or "signs" that remind them of their loved one — a dime found on the sidewalk, a favorite song, or a bird that appears at just

the right time. For me, whenever I hear the chirp of a cricket, I think of my grandmother. And sometimes, when I think of her, a cricket seems to appear. These connections can bring peace, reminding us that love continues in small, everyday ways.

Grief, while painful, is rooted in love. We grieve deeply because we have loved deeply. Over time, the sharpness of loss softens, and memories can begin to bring comfort rather than only sorrow.

If you are living with grief, please know you are not alone. Reach out. Talk about your loved one. Share stories. And when you feel ready, allow joy back in — not as a betrayal of the past, but as a way of honoring it.

Grief is a journey, not a destination. By supporting one another with kindness and compassion, we can carry it together.

*Annette Gerdes is the General Manager at the Goderich Place Retirement Residence*

## Building mental fitness for better mental health

TANYA MACINTYRE,  
RED ROOF RECOVERY*Sun Contributor*

Since 2020 I've supported individuals and families through Red Roof Recovery (RRR), a peer-support program that grew out of my own recovery journey.

That work remains close to my heart, and the mission is now evolving, but now the next chapter is Mental Health Fitness Alliance (MHFA).

It's the new training division of RRR that expands the focus from recovery to prevention and resilience. The goal is simple but ambitious: to change the conversation from illness to wellness, and

from stigma to strength.

### Why Mental Fitness?

We often talk about physical fitness as an investment in our health. We strengthen muscles, improve flexibility, and build endurance so our bodies can withstand the challenges of daily life.

But the same principle applies to mental health. With the right tools and training, we can build mental strength, flexibility, and endurance. These are skills that help us manage stress, adapt to change, and navigate the waves of life with resilience.

### Introducing MIND MOJO

At the heart of MHFA's work is MIND MOJO, a practical training model that blends Cognitive Behavioural Therapies (CBT) with Mindfulness.

CBT provides evidence-based techniques to identify and reshape unhelpful thought and behaviour patterns.

Mindfulness cultivates present-moment awareness, helping us break the cycle of rumination on the past or worry about the future.

Together, CBT and mindfulness create a highly effective frame-

work for managing stress, regulating emotions, and improving workplace culture.

One example is the "Catch It, Check It, Change It" technique, which teaches participants to recognize automatic negative thoughts, assess their accuracy, and replace them with more constructive alternatives. Through interactive role-play, participants practice applying this skill in real-world scenarios, ensuring the learning translates into lasting behavioural change.

MHFA offers a variety of training formats tailored to individuals, teams, and organizations.

### Community Workshops:

Monthly sessions such as Wake-Up Wednesdays at the Goderich Legion and MIND MOJO Fridays at the MacKay Centre for Seniors provide accessible opportunities for the public to learn core skills.

### Corporate Training:

Customized workshops that focus on stress management, resilience-building, and communication strategies to improve morale and reduce burnout.

By adopting a mental fitness

model, employers can take a proactive approach, equipping staff with evidence-based strategies that improve focus, productivity, and overall well-being.

### Educational Programs:

Evidence-informed training designed for schools, non-profits, and community groups to promote mental wellness and reduce stigma.

Each program is built on the principle that mental fitness is not a luxury - it's a necessity. By equipping people with the right tools, we help create healthier workplaces, stronger families, and more resilient communities.

MHFA is committed to building a culture where mental wellness is valued as much as physical health.

Organizations that invest in this approach see the benefits not only in improved employee well-being but also in reduced turnover, greater engagement, and a more positive workplace environment.

I invite you to connect with MHFA, whether by joining a community session, engaging with us on Facebook, or exploring workplace training opportunities.

Together, we can create a future where mental health is not defined by crisis but strengthened by practice, prevention, and resilience.

Better Mental Health doesn't just change individuals - it transforms workplaces, families, and communities.

As always, I'd love to hear from you. Note the new MHFA email address: [mentalhealthfitnessalliance@gmail.com](mailto:mentalhealthfitnessalliance@gmail.com).

Book a complimentary consult to find out how MHFA can help: <https://calendly.com/mental-healthfa>.

*Tanya McIntyre is a Certified CBT Specialist, Mental Health Trainer, and founder of Red Roof Recovery (RRR) and its training division of Mental Health Fitness Alliance (MHFA).*

**DISCLAIMER:** This content is not intended to constitute, or be a substitute for, medical diagnosis or treatment. Never disregard advice from your doctor, or delay in seeking it, because of something you have watched, read, or heard from anyone at Red Roof Recovery.



# Goderich Sun

## Pick Up Locations

Clinton YMCA  
Clinton Pharmasave  
Bartliff's Bakery  
Maitland Market  
Canadian Tire  
Walmart

Zehrs Goderich  
Goderich Convenience  
Food Basics  
Maitland Recreation Centre  
Fincher's  
Culbert's Bakery

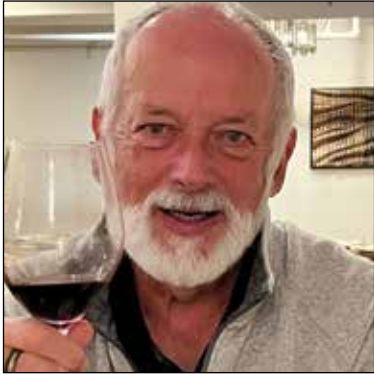
Blake Street Bakery  
The Book Peddler  
Steve and Mary's on the Square  
Huron County Library Goderich  
Maitland Valley Medical Centre  
Alexandra Marine and General

Hospital  
Huron County Museum  
River Run Restaurant  
Rexall Goderich  
Legion Branch 109 Goderich  
St. Vincent de Paul

Habitat ReStore  
Peavey Mart  
Comfort Inn



# OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: History, hurting and healing



PAUL KNOWLES

*Sun Columnist*

As soon as I was born, I was taken from my birth mother and put into foster care. Three months after I was born, I was taken to the home of Rose and Ralph Knowles, who adopted me.

And right now, I can hear you ask, "What the heck does this have to do with travel?"

My answer: I have always known those facts about my life – although only in the past few years have I discovered the identity of my birth mother, and met seven siblings I never knew about. But knowing that I had been given up for adoption has always been part of my life, and has shaped who I am.

"But," you say, "remember the travel part?"

Yes. One of the most impactful destinations I have ever visited is the National Indigenous Residential School Museum of Canada, in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. This is not a destination that entertains; it's one that informs, educates, enlightens and changes you from the inside out.

I have often heard people wonder why Indigenous people seem so focused on residential schools. It is not rare to hear the phrase, "That was in the past. Can we just move on?"

And that's where my birth story



**The sculpture "Healing Shoes" by Genevieve Lavasseur features ceramic shoes made from mud from four residential school sites in Manitoba. There are 152 sores – one for every year from the signing of the first treaty to the year the artist created the work, intended "to honour lives lost and lived" at the institutions.**

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

connects, for me, at least. Because those circumstances have been a real, living part of me all my life. And my story of loss is pretty insignificant compared to the tragedies that residential schools brought upon thousands of Native Canadians.

And their story is not ancient history. Touring the Residential School Museum, we were reminded that the last residential school closed only 29 years ago! Most of you, reading this, were adults while the government of Canada and a number of churches were still operating institutions that were founded, according to the deputy superintendent of the Department of Indian Affairs, "to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada." Residential schools were intended as a means to steal the identity of all Native Canadians, to "assimilate" each and every one, in the words of Prime Minister Sir John A. McDonald.

Compare those stated intentions

with the mission statement of today's Residential School Museum: "A place where people can learn, share, heal, and move forward." The museum and its staff are committed to that process.

Our guide was Farah Houle. She led us through small rooms in the museum – which was once the "Portage la Prairie Indian Residential School," founded in 1916 and in operation until 1988. Each room contains exhibits that reveal the unfolding history – often synonymous with "unfolding tragedy" – of the people of the First Nations.

I learned that from the 1800s, until 1951, residents on reserves were required to have an official government permit simply to leave the reserve. I learned that the massacre of buffalo was not just a ridiculous blood sport, but an organized effort to cause the extinction of native people.

I saw pictures of kids being trans-

ported in cattle trucks from their homes to residential schools. Farah described the rounding up of native kids as "Pick and Go."

One display case held three straps of different weights, all used to administer punishment by school officials. The least heavy was for children eight years and younger. The many reasons for such punishment included speaking their native language, or talking to a sibling. In fact, our guide said, "If you spoke your language, you got a pin through your tongue."

Farah says, "They were taught not to love each other." Which laid the foundation for very troubled lives.

A very telling display is found in the dining room exhibit, where the table for priests and nuns was laden with fish, meat, fruit and vegetables, while the children got oatmeal. And, added Farah, "They had to eat it even if there were bugs in it."

Perhaps the most shocking exhibit

is a simple, empty baby's crib. Farah explained that this is in memory of babies born to young girls in the school, babies fathered by priests and teachers, babies who were then murdered to hide the evidence, and whose bodies were incinerated.

What is truly amazing about the museum is that, in spite of the horrors on display, there is an overriding invitation to find hope. But first, we need to learn, then to heal, only then to move forward. The exhibits include artworks that capture both suffering and joy.

We thought that the best example of the need to know the past to move to a positive present was our guide, herself. She told us, "I was raised by a residential school survivor, and I wondered why he didn't say, 'I love you.' Now, I know why." She added, "People need to know what happened. I'm going to continue to tell the story of those who never made it home alive."

And while Farah said that part of the story is "how religion was forced on the children," she also shared that she continues to be a practicing Christian – to me, an incredible, living example of forgiveness and faith.

Clearly, the Residential School Museum is not a destination you will visit if you're looking for entertainment. But this is a place that will change your life more than a thousand visits to Canada's Wonderland. And as a guy who has discovered how one's personal, childhood history impacts the rest of your life, I could not recommend it more highly.

*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](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*



Farah Houle, our guide at the National Indigenous Residential School Museum of Canada.



The empty baby crib is in memory of all of the babies born – and disposed of – in Canadian residential schools.



The museum was once the "Portage La Prairie Indian Residential School" – now designated as a place of healing.



# COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire  
**info@goderichsun.com**

## MACKAY CHORISTERS

On Thursday, October 2 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Lakeshore United Church.

Looking for a choir family? Come join the MacKay Choristers, Huron County's daytime choir.

Weekly rehearsals every Thursday morning.

For more information: [singers@mackaychoristers.ca](mailto:singers@mackaychoristers.ca)

## UKELELE STRUMMERS

On Thursday, October 2 from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Huron County Library in Goderich.

Drop in to learn and play the ukelele. All are welcome and no experience needed.

Admission is free.

## MIND MOJO FOR BETTER MENTAL HEALTH

On the first Friday of every month from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., held at the MacKay Centre.

Mind Mojo is a mental fitness toolkit that blends mindfulness with cognitive strategies to help manage thoughts, moods, feelings and behaviours.

## TECH TIME

On Friday mornings from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Goderich Library.

Registration required.

Book a 30-minute session to get help with how to use library e-resources, your new device or your email account.

Admission is free.

## LIVE MUSIC AT THE LEGION

On Friday, October 2 at 5 p.m. featuring Just Duet.

## BIA FARMER'S MARKET

On Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. in downtown Goderich.

The market will run every Saturday until October.

The last market is on Saturday, October 11.

## HURON COUNTY ART SHOW AND SALE

On Saturday, October 4 and Monday, October 6 at 10 a.m. at the Huron County Museum.

Times vary. Please see Huron County Museum website for more information.

## GALLERY BOOTH AT FARMERS' MARKET

On Saturday, October 4 and October 11 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., weather permitting.

Featuring artists Dagmar Crawford and Melany Prevett.

Visit the gallery's Facebook and Instagram pages for updates.

## OPENING RECEPTION AT GODERICH COOP GALLERY

On Saturday, October 4 at 2 p.m.

Featuring visiting artists, George Wilson and Sharron Rogers.

## LIVE MUSIC AT THE LEGION

On Saturday, October 4 at 5 p.m. featuring The Daves I Know.

## BIA SUNDAY MARKET

On Sundays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in downtown Goderich.

The market will run every Sunday until October.

The last market will be on Sunday, October 12.

## SMART RECOVERY MEETINGS

Hosted every Sunday from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Red Roof Recovery.

## KNITTER'S CLUB

On Tuesday, October 7 and Tuesday, October 14 from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Goderich Library.

No registration needed.

Knit, relax and meet fellow knitters each week.

## WAKE UP WEDNESDAY: JAILBREAK

On Wednesday, October 8 at 9 a.m. at Goderich Legion. Stories from the Huron Gaol with Sinead Cox of the Huron County Museum.

## WRITE ON! WRITER'S CLUB

On Wednesday, October 8 from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Goderich Library.

Registration required. Contact: [goderichlibrary@huroncounty.ca](mailto:goderichlibrary@huroncounty.ca)

Admission free.

## PA DAY AT THE LIBRARY: FAMILY LEGO FREE PLAY

On Friday, October 10 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. at Goderich Library.

Bring the whole family and drop in for some LEGO fun.

We'll provide the bricks; you bring the creativity. Admission is free.

## LIVE MUSIC AT THE LEGION

On Friday, October 10 at 5 p.m. featuring Terry Bedard.

## LIVE MUSIC AT THE LEGION

On Saturday, October 11 at 5 p.m. featuring Macadam Road.

## FALL CRAWL AND CHORDS PUB CRAWL

On Saturday, October 11 from 8 p.m. until 11:55 p.m. at various locations.

Admission is \$35.

## WAKE UP WEDNESDAYS: HURON GAOL COLLECTIONS

On Wednesday, October 15 at 9 a.m. at Goderich Legion.

Presentation with Senior Curator, Elizabeth French-Gibson.

## DEATH CAFÉ WITH HURON HOSPICE

On Thursday, October 16 from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at Huron County Museum.

## CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

This peer-led group meets once a month at Bayfield Library on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates are October 18 and November 22.

## ANNUAL TEXTILE SHOW AND SALE

On Saturday, November 1 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 2 from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. at Huron County Museum.

Presented by Goderich Quilters' Guild, Huron Tract Spinners and Weavers, and Y2K Rug Bugs.

Free admission.

## SILENT AUCTION AT GODERICH COOP GALLERY

On Saturday, November 1 until December 5.

Bid online or at the gallery.

## OPENING RECEPTION AT GODERICH COOP GALLERY

On Saturday, November 8 at 2 p.m.

Featuring visiting artist Paul Stevenson.

# Worship With Us



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services.**

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### Berea Lutheran Church

326 Gibbons Street, Goderich  
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Rev. John Trembulak 519-524-2235,  
(cell) 519-878-0327

### Family Worship Service

2nd and 3rd Sunday of the Month  
2:00 pm  
All other Sundays of the Year  
8:30 am  
Facebook: @bereagoderich



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*This Sunday @ 10:00am*

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9 Victoria St. N., Goderich  
519-524-7512

### KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Amanda Bisson

Livestream Services

**Sunday at 10:00 am**

[Knox Presbyterian Church Goderich - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCknoxgoderich)

Worship materials available online

[www.pccweb.ca/knox-goderich](http://www.pccweb.ca/knox-goderich)



# Riddles

**Why did the firefighter bring a ladder to the party?**  
Because he wanted to raise the roof safely!

**Why don't fire extinguishers ever tell secrets?**  
Because they might blow it.

**Why was the match always in trouble at school?**  
Because it liked to start things.

**Why did the smoke alarm join the band?**  
Because it had the perfect pitch!

**What's a firefighter's favorite type of sandwich?**  
Anything with extra flame-grilled flavor—safely made, of course.

**Why did the candle fail math class?**  
Because it couldn't handle the table of contents—it kept burning out.

**Why don't sparks ever get invited to parties?**  
Because they always start something.

**Why was the campfire so good at making friends?**  
Because it was always a warm presence—just remember to put it out!

**Why did the firefighter bring string to work?**  
In case he had to tie up some loose ends.

# Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 31

# Featured Pets



## RUBY

Ruby is 4 years old and queen of her backyard. She loves chasing a tennis ball, gardening with her people, climbing the ginkho tree and just relaxing in the evening.



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

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# Word Search

## FIRE PREVENTION

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

- SAFETY
- AWARENESS
- PROTECTION
- PREPAREDNESS
- CAUTION
- PREVENTION
- ESCAPE
- READINESS
- RESPONSIBILITY
- ALARM
- PLANNING
- ACTION
- INSPECTION
- EDUCATION
- EQUIPMENT



# CLASSIFIEDS

Email to inquire  
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## OBITUARY



### CLARKE, MARGARET RUTH (NEE MCNEVIN)

CLARKE, Margaret Ruth (nee McNevin) – Peacefully at McGarrell Place LTC on September 7, 2025 at the age of 88. Survived by her son Scott, daughter Heather and grandsons Patrick and Michael. Ruth was born in Goderich on August 18, 1937, to Joseph and Margaret Maria McNevin (nee Durnin). From humble beginnings, Ruth became the first in her family to graduate from Teachers College (B.Ed.). She went back to school to become an English as a Second Language teacher and when she retired, she was head of the ESL Program for London Middlesex. She had been on the music council at Montcalm Secondary School, started the Officer Owl Program in schools with the RCMP, OPP, and London Police, and started the Block Parent Program in London. After retiring from the Board of Education, she ran two successful home-businesses: ARC Portrait China and Career Strategy Counselling. She loved her dogs Indica, BJ and many others, and tolerated Scott's cats. Her gardens thrived and she worked hard to create perennial gardens all around the house and grew tropicals inside. Her wood lot featured trilliums and other native species and she loved her tulips and daffodils in the spring. Ruth held seasons tickets to Orchestra London, the Grand Theatre and the Stratford Festival. Even at the end of her life, Scott played classical music and sang quietly to her the old songs in the nursing home, which relaxed her and brought her some familiar comfort. She enjoyed going out with her friends to restaurants, especially Mykonos. Ruth had a wicked, dry, biting sense of humour. Anyone who crossed her, she would threaten to "break their knees". Ruth was hard-working, and athletic, excelling in softball, badminton, volleyball and swimming. She stayed active later in life with twice each week workout classes at Huff n' Puff. Ruth walked for MS for many years, but didn't just walk, she pushed her friends with MS in their wheelchairs as well. She regularly raised over \$10,000 per year. She grew up on Lake Huron and was a powerful swimmer. In her youth she would swim between lake freighters picking up salt in Goderich, and could swim out to the second sand bar. She also loved tanning on the beach of Puerto Vallarta, wearing a big pink hat with movie star sunglasses. Ruth travelled from Poland to Greece and from Guyana to Cancun. A Celebration of Life was held at Harris Funeral Home, 220 St. James St. at Richmond, London on Sunday, September 28 at 1 pm. Interment Maitland Cemetery, Goderich at a later date. Memorial contributions to the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre or the MS Society in her name would be appreciated.

## OBITUARY



### MARK CHARLES EDWARD BROADWELL

In his 64th year, on September 21, 2025, Mark Broadwell passed away peacefully after a series of health challenges. Mark was the son of Charles and Noreen Broadwell. He is remembered by sisters Heather Ball (Kevin) and Lynn Simons. Loving uncle to Kevin Simons, Ashley Simons, Steven Simons and Matt Ball. Mark spent many years working in the Hospitality business and then in Car Sales. Mark was a very compassionate and humorous person and had many friends. He was also a proud member of the Goderich Legion Branch 109. A special thank you to the nurses and doctors affiliated with Alexandra Marine and General Hospital. A Celebration of Life will be held October 25, 2025 at 11:00 am at Trinity Lutheran Church, London. Please email [mbroadwellcelebration@gmail.com](mailto:mbroadwellcelebration@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. Memorial donations may be made to Diabetes.ca or the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

## THANK YOU

*Thank you!*

The family of Linda Brunkard would like to express our sincere gratitude for all the kindness and support shown to Linda.

We are deeply thankful for the love shown to Linda through flowers, visits, meals and prayers during her illness.

A special thank-you to Pastor Tim Keep and the Trinity Christian Reformed Church Community in Goderich and to Heritage Funeral Home in Drayton.

During such a challenging time, the love and support from all of you have brought comfort to our family.

*"Always in our hearts, we miss and love you, Linda."*  
The Brunkard Family

Four in five Canadians  
read newspapers weekly.



## HELP WANTED

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o o o o  
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o o o o

## WANTED

WANTING TO BUY – All collectibles including sports cards, beanie babies, Funko pops and stamps. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals. Are you downsizing or need an estate clean out? We can help. We are at the Pinery Market at Grand Bend every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call or text Stan anytime 519-868-3814.

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# Sunsets of Goderich



A feast for the eyes. Golden hour views from the bluffs taken on September 13.

(IAN CRYER PHOTO)

**To submit photos of the sunset, email [kate@goderichsun.com](mailto:kate@goderichsun.com)**



**Deadline: Friday prior at 3 p.m.**  
**Contact: [info@goderichsun.com](mailto:info@goderichsun.com)**

## PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

- The Community Calendar is for non-profit organizations to promote their free admission events at no charge. Event listings can include your event name, date, time and location as well as a phone number, email address or website.
- If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, you have the following options:
  - Coming Events Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
  - Coming Events Boxed Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
  - Display Ad - Sizes begin at a classified business card size for \$35 + hst

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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## SUDOKU

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

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Beijing
2. Arrested Development
3. Sundial
4. A fruit
5. Enamel
6. Knowles-Carter
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## SERVICES




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# THE TOUCH TRUCK

SATURDAY, OCT 4

HELP US GIVE BACK TO  
FIRST RESPONDERS AT THIS  
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