

Goderich Sun

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Huron County Accessibility Awards nominations now open

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Each year, the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC) Awards recognise and celebrate individuals or organisations that demonstrate a commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

These awards honour and recognise those who actively work to remove barriers, enhance accessibility and foster a more inclusive community.

The HCAAC Awards consist of two honours: The Sandra Thompson Memorial Accessibility Champion Award and the Award of Merit for Barrier-Free Access.

The Sandra Thompson Award was established by HCAAC in 2022 to honour the memory of its namesake and to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Thompson was a devoted advocate for accessibility in Huron County.

She served as the County of Huron's Accessibility Coordinator until 2016 and inspired others to enhance accessibility within the community.

According to the County of Huron, this award honours an individual who has shown exceptional dedication to promoting accessibility, demonstrates strong leadership in advancing accessibility, works to create

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(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Understanding the upcoming October 26 municipal elections

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Understanding how municipal elections work is important to allow for better representation of local needs in decision making.

Elections for municipal government are held every four years on the fourth Monday of October. The length of term for all municipal elected officials is four years.

Councillors are elected through the 'first-past-the-post' system, meaning voters each choose one candidate for a position, and the candidate with the most votes is elected.

In municipal elections in Ontario, unlike other levels of government, candidates are not elected to represent a political party.

Municipalities are one of three orders of government that represent residents of Ontario. It is a geographic area within a province and governed by a group of elected officials called a council.

Each council must consist of a minimum of five mem-

bers, including the head of council. Most municipalities have seven.

Eligible voters for municipal elections must be a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years old, and a resident in the area.

Eligible candidates for municipal elections must be a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years old, a resident of the municipality, and not legally prohibited from voting.

Candidates are also required to pay a fee of \$100 (\$200 for head of council) and those running in municipalities with more than 4,000 electors are also required to obtain 25 endorsement signatures when they submit their nomination.

Municipal governments are crucial to Ontario's economy, investing revenues of nearly \$65 billion in important public services and infrastructure each year.

Ontario's municipalities own, operate and maintain nearly a trillion dollars of infrastructure that is essential to Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life –

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Understanding the upcoming October 26 municipal elections

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

more than both the provincial and federal governments.

Ontarians interact with municipal government by taking a shower or flushing a toilet (water and wastewater), moving from place to place (roads, sidewalks, and public transit), throwing out garbage and recycling (waste disposal), playing pick-up and organised sports (parks and recreation) and more.

Municipalities are responsible for providing services to their residents and businesses such as culture (community centres, libraries, parks), emergency services (ambulances, fire and police), health and social services (childcare, long-term care, shelters, community housing, immunisation clinics), infrastructure (Internet and electricity, public transit, waste disposal, roads and sidewalks, water and wastewater), and land and resources (environmental conservation, land-use planning, and climate change re-

sponse).

But how to municipal governments pay for the services they provide?

The largest source of revenue for municipalities is property tax.

This is a stable source of revenue to fund the variety of services. Municipalities collect taxes from each property owner based on the property's value.

Participating in local elections is important as both a voter and a candidate, and it contributes to strong local democracy.

Councils make decisions on behalf of the municipality by setting the budget, approving strategic plans, setting policies and procedures, and establishing programs and services. It is staff who advise council and implement their decisions by implementing the policies and programs.

The voters' list was prepared on September 1. If having your name and address available on the voters' list would endanger your life, health or security, you can request that the Chief Electoral Officer redact your information.

You are required to show identification to vote.

Voting opens on October 13 for telephone and Internet voting.

Election day is October 26. Results will be calculated and released to the public as soon as possible that evening.

The new term of council begins on November 17.

For more information on the municipal election, please visit <https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-101/municipal-elections>

Goderich Council candidate profiles are featured throughout this issue of the Goderich Sun.

Huron County Accessibility Awards nominations now open

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

a more inclusive community, and makes a significant impact on those living with a disability.

The Award of Merit recognises outstanding contributions to creating spaces and experiences that remove barriers and fosters a more inclusive community.

According to the County of Huron, this award honours those who have demonstrated excellence in designing spaces, products or services that enhance accessibility for people with disabilities.

This award celebrates the commitment to innovation

and design, which is further promoting inclusivity and equity.

The merit award has two categories: Public and Business.

The public category honours efforts made by governmental bodies, non-profit organisations, and public institutions to create inclusive and accessible environments for all members of the public.

The business category recognises private enterprises that demonstrate a commitment to accessibility, ensuring their spaces, products and services are welcoming and

accessible for people with disabilities.

Nominations for these awards are due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, September 27.

If assistance is required, please email the County of Huron Accessibility office at accessibility@huroncounty.ca with the subject: Nomination Form Assistance.

To nominate for the Sandra Thompson Memorial Accessibility Champion Award visit <https://tinyurl.com/y2dhbme>

To nominate for the Award of Merit for Barrier-Free Access visit <https://tinyurl.com/5cp4s3js>

Upcoming Gateway webinar focuses on tools, technology and innovation with rural tele-dentistry

ALEXA HUGILL

Sun Contributor

Emerging technology has transformed healthcare access, delivery, and experiences for patients and practitioners.

Forward thinking on how to use health technically

to enhance rural communities is important to plan for healthy and economically vibrant places.

Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) is hosting an upcoming webinar series event on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. via ZOOM.

The topic is "Tools, Technology and Innovation: Rural Tele-Dentistry and Future Thinking." This session will discuss rural technological infrastructure development, and health innovation in rural spaces with a special focus on dental care.

For this discussion, we welcome several speakers.

Ashleigh Weeden, MPA, PhD, is an award-winning rural futurist and critical public policy researcher whose work is focused on the dynamic relationship between place, power, and policy, with a particular emphasis on advancing "the right to be rural" and on storytelling as a critical policy lever.

Dr. Veronica Lee, DDS, practices general family den-

tistry in Clinton, centrally located in rural Huron County, Ontario. Her practice philosophy has always placed a great emphasis on state-of-the-art instrumentation and continuing education to better serve her patients.

She will be talking about some of the recent advances in digital dentistry and the benefits to rural patient care.

Rural areas are sites of innovation for health technology. This session encourages discussion on the capacity for positive transformation in health technology and infrastructure.

Anyone in the community is welcome to attend. To attend this event and future presentations, please register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XlO2os_USV6ylgl28r8_UQ#/registration - Zoom

For more information, contact Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health at info@gatewayruralhealth.ca

Alexa Hugill is the Marketing and Communications Coordinator with Gateway

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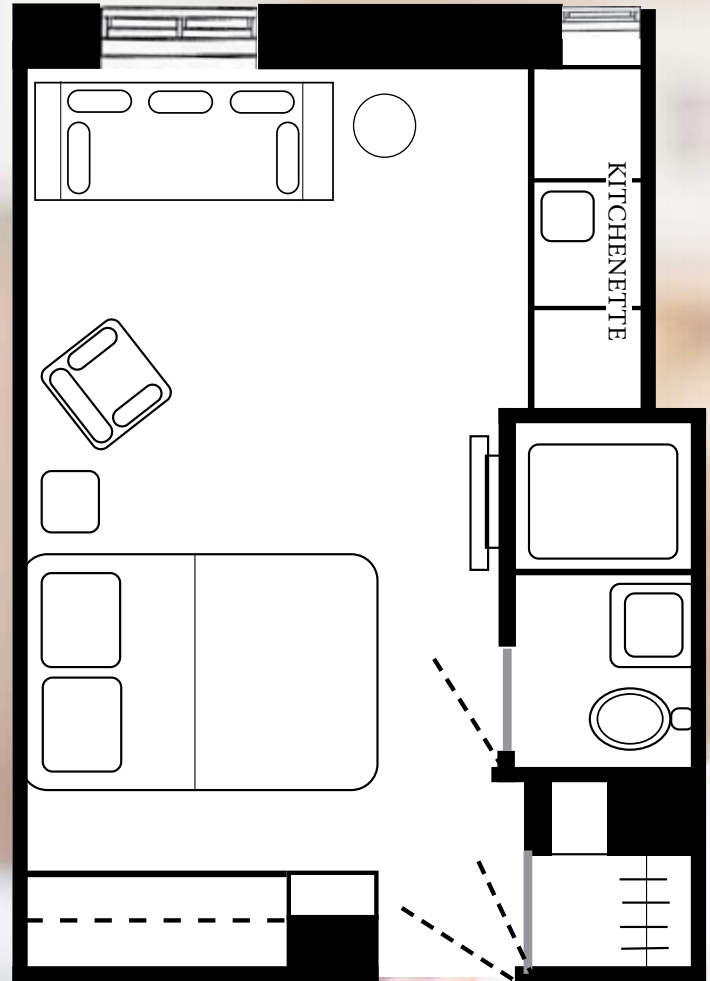
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Huron-Perth walk-in counselling to provide faster access to mental health support

HILARY MARSHALL

Sun Contributor

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

Beginning the week of September 14, 2026, Huron Health System (HHS), Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA), Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Huron Perth, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Thames Valley, and Medavie Mobile Mental Health will launch Huron-Perth Walk-In Counselling.

This walk-in option is a new pathway

for individuals aged 16 and older to connect with a therapy session without an appointment. The initiative brings together members of the Huron Perth Addiction and Mental Health Alliance to expand access to counselling and help people connect with the right care at the right time.

"Making it easier for people to access support when they need it is an important part of building a stronger local system of care," said Jimmy Trieu, President & CEO of Huron Health System.

"This new program will create another pathway for people to connect with mental health support when they are ready to reach out. It is also an excellent example of what can happen when local organiza-

tions work together."

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

"Having same day access across the mental health and addiction system in Huron Perth is a significant step forward for our system. For the first time, people can access services in several locations via several organizations, but still receive the same care," added Catherine Hardman, CEO of CMHA Huron Perth.

"Mental health and addiction issues continue to grow in our communities and increasing access to care across the spectrum is vital to managing the increasing demand."

A full schedule of walk-in counselling opportunities across Huron and Perth counties will be available through the Huron Health System website at www.huronhealthsystem.ca/walk-in-counselling.

Individuals looking for more information about the program can also contact the Huron-Perth Helpline and Crisis Response Team at 1-888-829-7484.

Hilary Marshall is the marketing and communications specialist with AMGH/HHS

United Insights blog shares local perspectives on poverty, housing, homelessness and other trends

GODERICH SUN STAFF

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Since launching in November 2025, the United Insights blog has covered poverty, housing, homelessness, inclusion and demographic trends across 16 posts and counting.

Through the blog, United Way Perth Huron's (UWPH) Social Research and Planning Council (SRPC) is drawing attention to where residents can learn about the region.

According to Kristin Crane, VP, Community Impact and Research with UWPH, the blog lets interested readers connect on an ongoing basis.

"In between our major research projects, we're always investigating issues," said Crane.

"The blog lets us share that with the community more

broadly."

Available on the UWPH website and as a subscription newsletter, the blog features work by the SRPC team, as well as contributions from volunteers.

This includes the Painting by Numbers series by Robert Stantino, which explores the possibilities of publicly available data, and a series on youth homelessness by social policy consultant Cassandra Vink.

Some of the posts in development focus on the local workforce, incorporating Indigenous practices into ser-

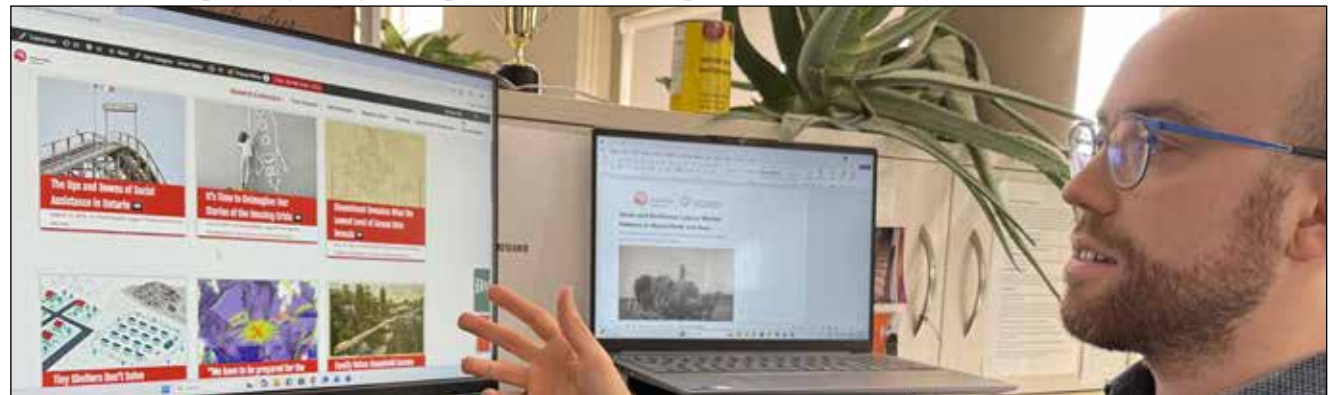
vice delivery and the unique aspects of rural life.

According to SRPC, United Way also welcomes pitches from community members who have their own expertise to share.

"So much expertise in our community isn't being shared as widely as it could be," added Crane.

"Part of our goal is to give local experts a platform to share their knowledge and reach an engaged audience."

To read, subscribe or submit pitches, visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Will Wellington, Manager, Social Research and Planning, shows the United Insights blog on the UWPH website.



Goderich Sun

Guiding Principles

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
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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

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Ontario government investing over \$8 million in Huron County to connect to faster emergency care

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

In a recent announcement, the Ontario government revealed an investment of \$8,422,813 in Huron County through the Land Ambulance Service Grant (LASG).

This investment will connect more people to emergency care faster and will increase the availability of paramedics and ambulances in the region.

Additionally, to further reduce delays paramedics encounter when arriving at hospitals to transfer patients, Ontario is investing \$33 million in municipalities across the province through the Dedicated Offload Nurses Program. This will allow for the hiring of more nurses and other eligible health professionals in emergency departments.

"Every second matters when someone is experiencing a medical emergency, and across Huron-Bruce, people need to know

that our government continues to invest to ensure help will be available when they need it most," said Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron-Bruce.

According to the provincial government, this investment and introduction of the Dedicated Offload Nurses Program will allow paramedics to get back out into the community faster and respond to their next call sooner.

"This investment in Huron and Bruce counties will help support our dedicated paramedics and ambulance services, while reducing delays and ensuring more ambulances are available to respond to 911 calls," added Thompson.

The program, already running in some communities across Ontario, has played a significant role in reducing ambulance offload times and increasing ambulance availability. As a result, offload times have been reduced by approximately 68 per cent since its peak in October 2022.

Huron OPP offer back to school safety tips

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

While students across Huron County went back to school on September 8, Huron County OPP is asking all drivers to be extra careful and observant for children on or near roadways, particularly near school zones.

Some children will be walking, others will ride bikes, and many will ride school buses. The return of school buses and student pedestrians means the roads will be busier.

Drivers are reminded to keep speed down and be alert for students trying to cross the road.

Huron OPP remind drivers that it is against the law to ignore a school crossing guard. According to Section 176 of the Highway Traffic Act (HTA), a vehicle must be stopped until the crosswalk is clear.

Drivers who fail to stop for a school crossing guard stop sign face a fine of \$365 and four demerit points upon conviction.

It is also illegal to pass a stopped school bus with its red flashing lights on. Under Section 175 of the HTA, drivers must stop when a bus has its overhead red signal-lights flashing and must remain stopped until lights have stopped flashing.

Drivers who fail to stop for a stopped

school bus face stiff penalty. First offence, the maximum fine is \$2,000 and six demerit points. For each subsequent offence, the maximum fine is \$4,000, or imprisonment, or both, as well as six demerit points.

In the situation where the driver cannot be identified, the registered owner of the vehicle observed in violation of the HTA law may be charged.

According to advice from Huron County OPP, parents and caregivers should take time to talk to their children about the importance of being safe when travelling to and from school.

Huron County OPP will have enhanced high visibility patrols around school zones throughout the coming weeks to ensure drivers and students are following the rules and exercising appropriate caution and care.

"Our children's safety is everyone's responsibility," Huron OPP stated in a press release.

"Everyone using the roads needs to exercise vigilance, patience and understanding as our students' head back to school. We ask you to please do your part to keep our children safe."

For more information on school buses and school crossings visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/official-mto-drivers-handbook/stopping>

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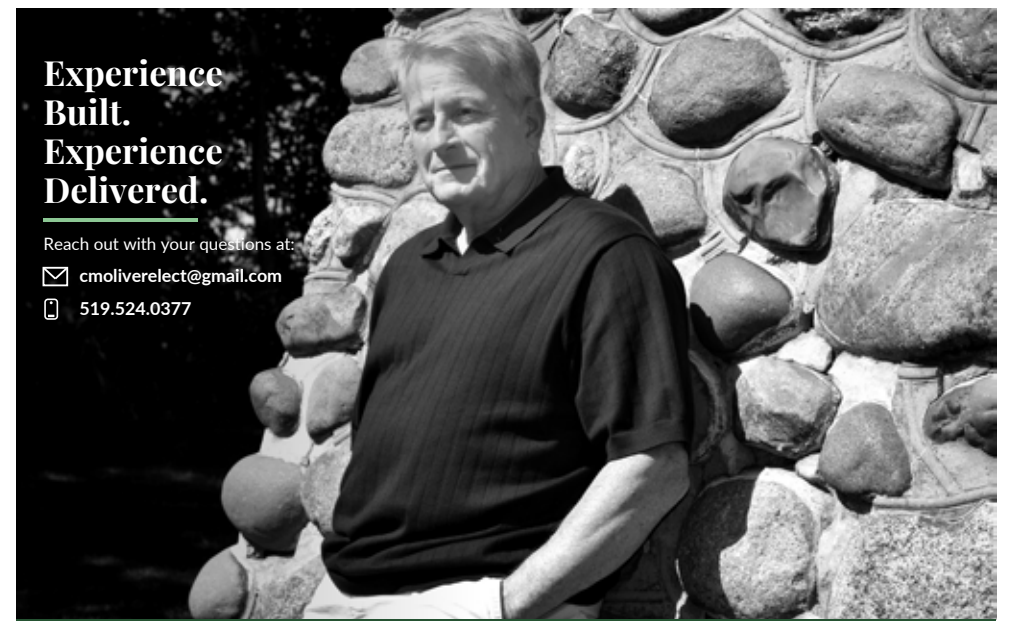
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Charles Oliver : Candidate for Goderich Town Council

TOPICS ALREADY COVERED

- Goderich Memorial Community Centre: A Memory Box Revitalized
- Economic Development: Practical Focus on Jobs
- By-law Enforcement: A Common Sense Approach for a Peaceful and Safe Community

UPCOMING TOPICS

- Financial Management: Spending on Essentials and Saving for the Future
- Respectful Political Discourse: Good Communication and Agreeing to Disagree

Goderich Council's Deputy Mayor-Elect: Randy Carroll

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

With family roots in this town, and a place that has always been home to Randy Carroll, his wife and their family, he put his name forward to continue serving the community in the role of Deputy Mayor.

"I wanted the opportunity to continue serving Goderich," explained Carroll.

"I am truly honoured and humbled to have been acclaimed."

Carroll says his first term on council gave him a much deeper understanding of the opportunities before the community, and the pressure facing the municipality.

For Carroll, there remains important work to be done, particularly in healthcare access, responsible economic development, infrastructure renewal, communication and fairness for local taxpayers.

Although his name will not appear on the ballot, Carroll says he will remain actively involved throughout the campaign.

"I look forward to attending community events, meeting with residents and listening to what matters to them," said Carroll.

"This is an important election for Goderich. The people elected to council will make decisions that shape our community. We need people at the council table who will listen carefully, consider every perspective and make thoughtful decisions in the best interests of the entire community."

Carroll attended Goderich District Collegiate Institute (GDCI) and his career in the casualty insurance industry progressed and involved business development, consumer advocacy, regulatory matters and extensive work with elected officials at the provincial and federal levels.

These experiences taught Carroll how to research complex issues, manage budgets, bring people together and turn ideas into practical action.

Elected to council in 2022, Carroll has now served a full term as a councillor. During that time, he served on the Goderich BIA, Goderich Fire Committee, Downtown



RANDY CARROLL

Revitalisation Committee, Economic Development Committee and the Bluewater Recycling Association.

Before being elected, much of his professional career involved political advocacy and government relations.

As an insurance industry leader and consumer advocate, Carroll spent many hours meeting with provincial and federal elected officials regarding legislation, regulation and issues affecting consumers and businesses.

According to Carroll, that experience taught him how government works and just as importantly, how to research issues, build support, work with people who hold different opinions and turn ideas into practical results.

"What sets me apart is the combination of my municipal experience, senior business leadership, government advocacy and hands-on community involvement," said Carroll.

"I understand budgets, strategic planning, governance, regulation and economic development, but I also understand that good leadership begins with listening."

During his first term, Carroll tried to remain accessible and willing to explain where he stands on issues, even if a difficult topic or when opinions differ.

He says progress requires preparation,

collaboration, persistence and the ability to build support around practical ideas.

"My record demonstrates I am prepared to do the work, listen carefully, consider different perspectives and remain accountable for the decisions I make," Carroll explained.

"Residents can expect me to come prepared, ask questions, listen to their concerns and keep the best interests of Goderich at the centre of every decision. I will not promise every problem can be solved. I will promise to work hard, advocate for Goderich, collaborate respectfully, and make decisions guided by accountability, integrity and transparency."

Carroll says one of his first priorities in the new term will be asking council to reconsider the eligibility boundaries for the town's physician recruitment support.

The town has made progress, but Carroll believes there are still too many residents who do not have access to a family doctor.

If a physician is prepared to establish a practice in town, practice here and care for people in Goderich, Carroll says the deciding factor should not be whether that physician lives just inside or outside a municipal boundary.

"Our approach must be patient-focused and reflect the realities of recruiting physicians to a rural community," added Carroll.

Other local issues Carroll holds as top priorities include economic development and a stronger tax base, infrastructure, roads and community appearance, and clearer and more effective means of communication.

Carroll prides himself on core values of accountability, integrity, transparency, fairness and respect.

His vision is for Goderich to remain a welcoming, safe and attractive community where people can build a life, raise a family, operate a business and age with dignity.

"We must protect the history and character that make our town special, while preparing responsibly for its future," Carroll remarked.

"That means making informed financial decisions, maintaining essential infrastruc-

ture, supporting healthcare, encouraging suitable development and ensuring residents can understand how and why decisions are made."

By the end of the next term, Carroll would like to see measurable improvements in access to family physicians, growth in the commercial and industrial assessment base, a prioritised and publicly understandable infrastructure renewal plan, and a modernised municipal communication platform for explaining council decisions in plain language.

"Residents should not have to rely only on promises," said Carroll.

"Success should be measured through clear indicators. Residents should be able to find a concise explanation of major council decisions."

While serving on council, Carroll has been involved in the community in many ways including serving as the president of the Goderich Legion, president of the Goderich Memorial Community Centre Committee, a board member with MADD, a board member with Community Living Huron Perth, and a member of the Goderich BIA, among many other roles.

"I believe community service means more than attending meetings," explained Carroll.

"It means showing up, doing the work and being there when help is needed."

Carroll says it is an honour, and he is humbled to have been acclaimed as Deputy Mayor for the Town of Goderich.

He is grateful to everyone who encouraged him to put his name forward, and to those who offered their support.

"Your confidence in me, means more than I can say," added Carroll.

"This is an important election for Goderich. I encourage residents to learn about the candidates, examine their experience and records, ask questions and make thoughtful decisions based on what is best for our town and everyone who lives here."

Each candidate was presented with the same interview questions. What is presented in these profiles, is a result of the responses received.

Goderich Mayor Candidate: Steve Buchanan

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Growing up and farming in Colborne Township just north of Goderich, Steve Buchanan moved to Goderich in 1981 following an education at Wilfrid Laurier University, School of Business and Economics and a long career with many companies.

From sales management positions to marketing and president roles with companies like Ralston Purina Canada, Rayovac Battery Company Canada, Optimum Marketing Services Ltd., Tan Factory Canada, or running Port Albert General Store and the Port Albert Pub, Buchanan is eager to join council in Goderich.

Running for the first time in municipal elections, Buchanan is not new to being involved in politics. He was a candidate for the Liberal Party in the Ontario General Election in 1990.

He played a part in instrumental roles in various campaigns, convention organisations, fundraising, leadership elections and various election events as a political consultant.



STEVE BUCHANAN

In 1993, he was a member of the Rt. Hon. Jean Chretien's successful election campaign tour, and in 1994, Buchanan was a candidate for London City Council but had to withdraw when a serious fall resulted in a permanent spinal cord injury, and an extended hospital stay.

No matter someone's experience, or how

thankful each resident is to call Goderich home, Buchanan believes it is reasonable to ask if the town has achieved full potential.

"I believe the time is now, to set a new course," said Buchanan.

"Goderich can be that destination of potential and promise, because as citizens, we can embrace with confidence, and together we can be better."

Over the years while living in Goderich, Buchanan has volunteered with various groups including the Recreation and Community Centre Board, Huron Tourism Association, Huron Chamber of Commerce, Goderich Bicentennial Committee, Goderich Kinsmen (received Kinsmen of the Year in 1982), and a coach with Goderich Minor Hockey.

With some political experience and decades of volunteering and service to the community, Buchanan believes he has the education, business experience, managerial skills, entrepreneurial drive and political experience to help lead the next council through the very uncertain, unpredictable and financially challenging time ahead.

If elected, one of the first things Buchanan wants to tackle is the budget.

Apart from that, Buchanan believes there are top priorities that council needs to focus on, including taxes and fiscal prudence, town hall administration cultural change and a thorough analysis of by-law and law enforcement.

"As Mayor, I will accept the new responsibilities and will change the administrative culture and organisational structure at Town Hall, to give better service and transparency to our residents," said Buchanan.

"Our assignment will be to set a new course in difficult times so we can grow and prosper. New leadership is required to accomplish that vision."

For Buchanan, success on council will be measured and challenged every day during the mandate of a council to ensure the best possible results are always in focus.

Each candidate was presented with the same interview questions. What is presented in these profiles, is a result of the responses received.

Goderich Council Candidate: Charles Oliver

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Due to an error in publication, this article stated that Charles Oliver was responsible for a budget of \$1 million while in charge of North American distribution for Labatts. In correction, Mr. Oliver was responsible for a budget of \$1 billion while in this role. Below is the profile piece with the appropriate correction, as provided by Mr. Charles:

With a mother who was born in Goderich to Scottish immigrants, and a father who was a farm boy from Brant County and a Second World War veteran, Charles Oliver and his partner Holly Smith – who grew up in Goderich – moved to town four years ago.

Since moving, Oliver has built a wonderful life, enjoying all that Goderich has to offer and giving back by volunteering at the Legion, joining the Board of the Goderich Memorial Community Centre and as Co-chair of the Goderich Economic Development Committee.

Running for council for Oliver is a natural extension of his commitment to service to the town.

As a newcomer, Oliver wants to be able to use his experience in over 35 years in business to assist the town in tackling problems and building a strong community.

“I believe that my career experience coupled with my knowledge of the town and the challenges we face, makes me an excellent choice for council,” admitted Oliver.

“Because of my experiences, voters will be putting someone on council who knows how to get things done, as well as someone who will ask challenging questions to ensure that we are making the best decisions in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible.”

Born in London, Oliver dreamed of becoming a doctor. When he was 16 years old, his father died suddenly, so Oliver set his sights on going to university, and raised the money for that himself, along with student loans.

After completing his undergrad at the University of Toronto, Oliver applied and was accepted to the Ivey School of Business at Western University.

He spent two years studying and learning

how to run a business, how to use numbers to make decisions and analyse problems.

Following his studies, Oliver began working for large multinational companies including Unilever, Walt Disney and Labatts North America. His career was split by time in both marketing and logistics.

During his time at Labatts, Oliver was managing all breweries, distribution and purchasing for all North America. He had a team of 4,000 employees and managed an operating budget of \$1 billion.

After leaving Labatts, Oliver had a goal of running his own company, which he did, until retirement.

Never having served in public office before, Oliver believes his strong work ethic and a commitment to be prepared for meetings, his ability to seek out various points of view on an issue and weigh pros and cons of an issue and his deep experience on how to manage finances, particularly how to build and manage to a budget are all key skills for council.

“I have a lifetime of experience of exercising these skills and I want to put them to work for the Town of Goderich,” Oliver explained.

“I have a strong work ethic. I have always enjoyed keeping busy and anything I commit to, I give it my all and see it through the end. I am passionate about making life better for all of us in this town.”

A proud member of the Goderich Legion – to honour his father’s service as a navy veteran in the Second World War – Oliver is a member of the executive team, serving as the financial security administrator, on the board of the Memorial Community Centre.

“This town has a proud history of volunteering, sometimes in service groups, or charitable organisations, sometimes showing up to help a neighbour in need,” said Oliver.

“What an amazing community we live in.”

Oliver believes he would be a strong candidate from his time managing millions of dollars in budgets and thousands of people.

Oliver thinks council needs people who know how to properly build a budget and then hold people responsible for performing against that budget.

“I have a long track record of knowing how to manage that process, and I want to



CHARLES OLIVER

take a leadership role on council to apply that skill on behalf of residents,” said Oliver.

Despite the fact Oliver is a newcomer to this town, he has been involved in the community, in large projects and in engaging in discussions with town staff and the sitting council.

Understanding how the governance of this town works, Oliver describes himself as an honest and confident candidate, who is willing to actively listen, debate and respect differing opinions, in order to come to sound decisions for the town.

“If you want someone who is passionate and experienced, as well as respectful of others, vote for me,” stated Oliver.

“After a lifetime of learning and working that way, with me, you know that what you see is what you will get.”

Oliver says if elected, he would like to have a discussion of council’s performance on both activities and budgets. He believes this should be done on a quarterly basis.

According to Oliver, this is how he ran every business he worked in, and it meant no surprises.

That leads to top priority issues for Oliver.

Topping that list is finances and budgeting. Oliver believes increasing taxation is not something anyone wants to do, so says council should ensure through budgetary scrutiny that the town is spending money in the correct manner and priorities are in order.

Other primary issues include prioritising shared service agreements, and the poten-

tial for economic development.

“We are blessed to live on a unique piece of land. We have the only deep-water port on Lake Huron. We have the largest underwater salt mine in the world. We have an agricultural capability that is the envy and supplier to the world,” said Oliver.

“We have a beautiful town, incredible potential and an abundance of service industrial land.”

Oliver says his core values are grounded in the belief that residents in Goderich all want to live in a caring, safe community, where families can and want to settle and enjoy the surrounding geography.

What Oliver is not tolerant of, is people who do not respect bylaws, put in place to create the society described above.

“The need for safe communities intersects the responsibility to support those who are suffering from challenges that make safe integration difficult,” said Oliver.

“Our job at the municipal level on these issues is to put pressure on our provincial ministries and continue to send delegations to meet with agencies and higher levels of government to express our frustrations with this situation.”

As a councillor, Oliver says he will turn values into action and vote in favour of solutions that are within council’s control and add his voice to any delegation asking for support.

While he has only lived here a short time, Oliver feels like Goderich is his home.

He has reconnected to family roots, made wonderful friends here in a short amount of time, and although he thought retirement would be quiet, he is busier than he was when working.

If elected to council, Oliver stresses that he is able to contribute, and that’s all he wants from being on council.

“I will do my best to represent you, and to make the best decisions with other people at the table,” added Oliver.

“I will treat with respect and hopefully earn your trust in return. I would be honoured to serve as your representative and leave the town in better shape.”

Each candidate was presented with the same interview questions. What is presented in these profiles, is a result of the responses received.

Goderich Council Candidate: Dell Mohammed

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Immigrating from Trinidad in 1967, Dell and his family has loved Canada ever since.

With a Grade 12 education, Dell has worked in the automotive industry for 40 years in customer service, while raising his two boys as a single parent.

Hobbies include playing hockey, collecting classic cars, riding his bike and walking throughout the community that became Dell’s home and the community he raised his family in.

“The beach is where I spend my time,” Dell explains.



DELL MOHAMMED

“It’s my most favourite place to be.”

Dell explains his reasoning for running to be a part of the Goderich Town Council as wanting to contribute his skills and time to the community that welcomed him years ago.

“I care about where I live and I care about people,” Dell expressed.

“My best quality is customer service, and I can make a difference in Goderich.”

Although Dell doesn’t have prior political experience, he believes he is a strong choice for council because of his logical yet caring character, and his dedication to making the right choices for the community.

“I would like to see our businesses thrive and support them by promoting local shopping,” said Dell.

“I think health care is top priority, along with housing. Making improvements in the town without putting excessive pressure on the taxpayers is a priority as well.”

Dell says his goal if elected is to be a member of council who listens to what the constituents want and how can we help make it better for everyone.

Each candidate was presented with the same interview questions. What is presented in these profiles, is a result of the responses received.

Goderich Council Candidate: Liz Petrie

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Current councillor Liz Petrie is running for Goderich Council for a second term in this upcoming municipal election.

A proud wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, sister, sister-in-law, fierce and loyal friend, Petrie is a retired Primary Care Paramedic who loved her 35-year career serving Huron County when people were having their worst days.

Now, Petrie is a part-time professor at Fanshawe College teaching in the Health Sciences Department and says she is proud to call Goderich her home.

Running for a second term, Petrie says she believes there is still work to be done in our community.

"Over the past four years, I have learned a great deal about what it means to sit at the council table," explained Petrie.

"Municipal government is not always simple, but I believe I have proven that I am open and transparent with my communication of the issues that I present to the residents of town."

Over the past four years, Petrie has remained committed to keeping the residents informed and she says she wants to continue to do that in this next term.

Petrie believes education, information and facts are key to building a community.



LIZ PETRIE

As most will know, Petrie is currently serving the Town of Goderich residents on the present council. Her first term has been a huge learning curve, yet Petrie is grateful for the opportunity to grow her knowledge.

"In this time of being a councillor, I have met many colleagues from across this great country that helped me learn that we are all alike but different," Petrie remarked.

"Because of these connections that were made, I joined the Women of Ontario Say NO to advocate for government legislation to hold municipal-elected politicians accountable for violence and harassment."

Petrie is also an advocate for the Elect Respect campaign to bring civility and respect

to the public square.

Over the years, Petrie has served on many boards and in many positions to help grow and serve the community. That includes the Goderich Fire Committee Board, Chair Town of Goderich Bicentennial Committee, Council Representative Huron Health Systems Board (former), Goderich Free Little Pantry, Morse Memorial March (Mental Health Awareness for Veterans and First Responders), Executive Member Ladies Auxiliary to Branch 109, and DART team organizer for December Vigil.

Petrie says she would volunteer wherever she is needed in the community.

"Having experience sitting at the council table I believe is an asset for this election campaign. I am a team player that has a strong work ethic," Petrie stressed.

"I am dedicated to the position and our community. I have provided open communications and have responded to any concerns when they have been presented to me. I do the research. I don't always have or know the answers, but I will and I have found the answers. I also realize that I am one vote and one voice at the table."

Decisions that have come before Petrie at the council table have rarely come with an answer that will please everyone.

She says she works within the legislation, budgets, limited resources and competing priorities, all while trying to make decisions that will serve not only the community that

exists today, but the community council is committed to building for tomorrow and beyond.

"As I look forward to serving in this next term, I want to talk not only about what we need to accomplish, but about how we govern while doing it," added Petrie.

For her that begins with three words: Honesty, Respect and Kindness.

Honesty with how our monies is spent, what projects are necessary, and are they more needs than wants.

Respect for the residents who entrust council with this responsibility. Respect for those who disagree with council. Respect for town staff and for one another around the council table.

Kindness in how council speaks to and about the people with whom they share this community. Petrie believes council should govern by listening.

"You do the work, you get the facts, you make the best decision you can with the information before you," Petrie said.

"You own that decision and you keep working. I will go into the second term the same way I did in my first, as a team player that listens, cares, and acts with no personal agenda."

Each candidate was presented with the same interview questions. What is presented in these profiles, is a result of the responses received.

Goderich Council Candidate: Will Kernohan

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Born in Montreal, raised north of Toronto, and educated at Harvard University in theatre and communication, candidate Will Kernohan moved to Goderich 13 years ago, along with his partner Kate, to work at the Huron County Museum and Historical Gaol.

Spending his career bringing people together through arts and cultural experiences, Kernohan has had a lifelong love of learning.

Now working at a consultant developing tours and cultural programs for parks, museums and municipalities, Kernohan appreciates what a special community Goderich is and aims to continue contributing to this community.

Kernohan says he is running for council to bring more collaboration, teamwork, kindness and positivity while serving in the best interests of the residents.

"Throughout my career, I've had the opportunity to work with many different people, listen to different perspectives, build consensus, and collaborate toward broader goals," he stated.

"I also understand the importance of the relationship between an elected council and town staff, and I believe my background and experience have prepared me well to contribute in that environment."

Kernohan says he doesn't have all the answers, but is willing to listen, ask thoughtful questions, respect different viewpoints, and work together to find the best path forward.

Although Kernohan does not have any



WILL KERNOHAN

previous political experience, throughout his career, he had a lot of opportunities to work with and alongside different levels of government, including municipal, county, provincial, federal and international organisations.

"Working directly for municipalities have given me insight into how decisions are made at different levels of government and the importance of providing elected bodies with clear, relevant information to support good decision-making," added Kernohan.

"While I would bring a fresh perspective as someone who has not previously held political office, I also bring a strong understanding of how governments and elected representatives work with staff, stakeholders, and communities to move important initiatives forward."

Over the years, Kernohan has been involved in the community in several ways. Currently, he serves on the board of the

Goderich Little Theatre and have been an active volunteer in community theatre for many years, both as actor and director.

Through theatre, Kernohan has had the chance to provide leadership and mentorship and help create opportunities for others to get involved.

This past May, I produced a local production of 'Every Brilliant Thing', which raised more than \$4,000 for the Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) Foundation's MRI campaign.

Through his work with the Huron County Museum, Kernohan has helped organise and support community events including the Multicultural Festival, the Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story and 'Behind the Bars'.

"I believe that Goderich's strong community is built by people who are willing to get involved, contribute their skills, and work together to create opportunities for others," Kernohan added.

"I'm not running to set myself apart from the other candidates. Everyone brings different experiences, skills and perspectives to the table, and I think that's a strength."

Kernohan says he is running because he believes he has the skills and experience that I can offer to the citizens of Goderich. He would like to put those skills to work on their behalf and provide another progressive voice at the council table.

Kernohan values transparency, open communication, kindness, positivity, collaboration and creativity.

"I believe good local government starts with listening, being willing to consider different perspectives, and working together to find practical solutions," added

Kernohan.

"I'm running for my friends, neighbours, and fellow community members. I'd be honoured to bring their voices, along with my experience and a collaborative approach, to the council table."

Kernohan says his priority, if elected to council, is to listen, learn and bring himself up to speed quickly on the status of the town's existing plans and priorities.

Another priority for Kernohan includes establishing a collaborative, respectful and open way of working – with council, town staff and the community.

Other issues that need to be addressed, according to Kernohan, are affordable housing and the cost of living, infrastructure and the maintenance of public spaces, and quality of life and community connection.

Kernohan believes council needs to understand what residents are experiencing and what social supports are needed in the community to combat these issues.

Yet, underlying all those priority issues, is the need to keep climate change and environmental stewardship on the agenda.

"Even when people are facing immediate financial pressures, climate change continues to affect Goderich in real and measurable ways," explained Kernohan.

"I believe we need to keep working on both adaptation and mitigation, and make thoughtful, sustainable choices about our future."

Kernohan's values are rooted in collaboration, teamwork, kindness and positivity. When public conversations can become polarised and social media can encourage

CONTINUED TO PAGE 10

Goderich Council Candidate: John Thompson

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

When John Thompson ran for council four years ago, it was with the idea that he would serve only one term.

Sometime, in the past four years that changed, because that experience was far more positive and rewarding than Thompson had expected it to be.

Now, Thompson is running for a second term on Goderich Council in the upcoming municipal election.

"I like to learn, and being on council has been a very satisfying learning experience," admitted Thompson.

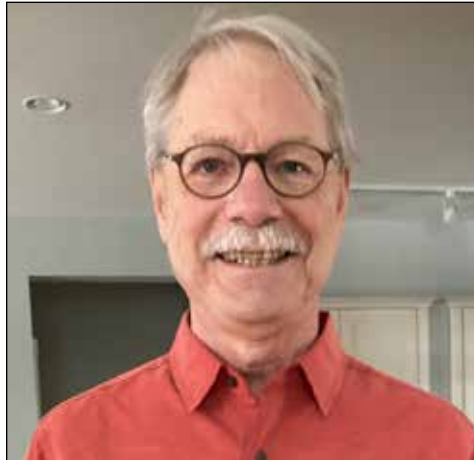
"I know so much more about the operations of our town and the challenges it is facing. I am seeking a second term because I believe that the knowledge I gained in my first term will enable me to be a more effective councillor."

Thompson and his wife Beth Ross moved to Goderich in 2003.

Throughout most of his working life, Thompson was a researcher and reported on rural economic development in Huron County.

In addition to his work on Town Council, Thompson has also worked as an employment coach and counsellor.

Thompson's first term was the first time he had been seriously involved in municipal politics. Over the past 40 years, Thompson worked as a volunteer in



JOHN THOMPSON

many provincial and federal elections and played a variety of roles in local organizations. This includes with the AMGH Foundation, the Celtic Festival Site Setup Crew, Goderich Little Theatre, Lake Huron Coastal Centre, Maitland Trail Association, and the Maitland Conservation Foundation.

Besides the fact that Thompson is the oldest candidate, he believes his range of interests and work experiences set him apart from others.

"I also try hard to bring an attitude of curiosity, openness and acceptance to the council table at all times," Thompson said.

"I believe this attitude allows me to make thoughtful and respectful contributions to council deliberations."

Thompson doesn't believe anyone

should vote for him but wants anyone who would like to see council continue to work as it has done over the past four years, to consider voting for him.

After four years with council, he believes the massive deficit in the Town's Infrastructure Repair and Replacement funding is the most serious issue facing the town today.

Other priority issues for Thompson include preservation of democratic traditions, generational fairness and financial burden of the town's aging infrastructure and improving communications between the town and its residents.

"What I most value about Goderich as a place to live and flourish are the opportunities it provides residents old and new to get involved with its many volunteer-led organisations, and through that involvement to make a meaningful contribution to the wellbeing of the town and its residents," said Thompson.

"This spirit of openness and acceptance of difference makes Goderich a very attractive place to live. As a councillor, I seek to embody the same spirit of openness, acceptance and willingness to serve my community."

When Thompson joined council four years ago, he says he had no idea that the pipes and sewers and other infrastructure buried underground in the downtown were over 100 years old.

He says he did know there was concern

about the fate of Memorial arena, and these two issues were challenges that presented to council early on.

Thompson says he is proud to say that council accepted the challenge and decided to act.

"I don't know what challenges are going to emerge to for this council, but whatever they are, I hope the new council is willing to tackle them and not leave it to the future," stressed Thompson.

While living in this community, Thompson loves to get outside, hiking the Maitland Trail and doing his duty as a Trail Ranger.

Every August, you can also find Thompson helping the Celtic Festival Setup Crew transform the park into a small village for a few days. Most Saturday mornings, Thompson finds himself at the Farmers' Market.

When Thompson was elected four years ago, he fully expected to experience four years of discomfort.

"The fact that my experience was the exact opposite of that is due to my colleagues on Town Council, and the spirit of openness, responsibility, and collegiality they brought to their respective roles," said Thompson.

"I was very lucky. I wish all new councillors the same luck."

Each candidate was presented with the same interview questions. What is presented in these profiles, is a result of the responses received.

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



- Experienced – First elected in 2022.
- Co-operative - Long history of working with others in our community to get things done.
- Collegial - Listens well. Asks good questions. Respects different opinions. Likes to help others learn.
- Democratic - Opposes use of Strong Mayor powers to override our tradition of Council majority rule.
- Familiar - Resident of Goderich since 2003.

<http://www.drj.ca/Thompson2026>

johnt@hurontel.on.ca

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Goderich Council Candidate: Vanessa McMillan

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Born and raised in Huron County, Goderich has been Vanessa McMillan's home for the last 12 years.

A mom of three kids aged 11, 13 and 19, McMillan is running for a second term after serving the last four years on Goderich Council.

"My children are always my biggest 'why' in anything I do," admitted McMillan.

"Having the opportunity to make their community a better place is extremely important to me."

Over the years, McMillan operated a licensed home childcare, worked as an educational assistant and has also worked in sales and marketing off and on for nearly 20 years.

Currently, McMillan is a salesperson at the Brick in town, allowing her to balance responsibilities as a councillor, parent and volunteer.

Serving this last term with council provided McMillan the opportunity for meaningful work, learning about municipal governance and the importance of collaboration with community members, town staff, community organisations and service clubs.

McMillan says she is incredibly of the work council has accomplished in the last four years, despite challenges they faced, such as aging infrastructure, social and housing issues, and rising costs of maintaining services.

"Having the opportunity to build on this experience, and to continue to seek creative and collaborative solutions to these issues, and new ones as they arise, would be incredibly rewarding," expressed McMillan.



VANESSA MCMILLAN

Apart from work and serving on council, McMillan has also put her time into volunteering where her children attend school, and she has provided childcare for families in town.

McMillan has also participated in and directed various fundraising initiatives within the community. She currently sits on a committee that raises and disperses emergency funds for newcomers in Huron County.

To be a part of council, McMillan believes that good leadership is a team effort, and when it's a team composed of people with various backgrounds, at different stages in life, these varied perspectives guide the decision-making process, truly reflecting the needs of the town.

"As a single parent and single income earned of my household, a mother of a child with unique needs, a former educator, a resident of the east end, a French speaker and a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I can bring a unique perspective and experience to the table," stressed McMillan.

Advocacy is a passion for McMillan and she believes this is a big part of her job as a councillor. To advocate for members of this community, McMillan believes it is important to understand the needs, challenges, priorities and goals of the people who live here.

McMillan says she remains committed to learning from the people who live here.

"For me, municipal governance is about leadership through connection, engagement and respect for the best interests of community members," McMillan explained.

"I believe a community is defined by how we treat our most vulnerable."

One of the things McMillan says she loved most about her term on council was having a strategic plan to work from. Creating a plan provides direction, measurable goals and keeps everyone on the same page.

McMillan explains that a good plan also serves as a roadmap and guides the decision-making process as new issues arise.

"Having a plan, which uses measurable data, based on the feedback from community members, town staff and other stakeholders allows for the prioritisation of needs and leads to the achievement of common goals," McMillan added.

If re-elected, McMillan would like to see council attack a few top priority issues, which includes examining the aging infrastructure and existing assets, supporting the town's aging population, while focusing on finding ways to strengthen connections to take a step forward with solutions during an age of rising costs of living and external economic factors.

According to McMillan, fostering a sense of belonging for every member of this community is the foundation for sus-

tainability, resilience and growth.

"That means making sure everyone feels like they have a place at the table, both in council chambers and in the community at large," McMillan said.

For McMillan, this is done through continuous communication and feedback loops, transparency, and continuously seeking new and meaningful ways to connect.

"When people feel heard, when people feel seen, they feel valued," expressed McMillan.

"When people feel valued, it has a way of inspiring them to contribute to meaningful solutions to the challenges we face. When we hold space for different perspectives, experiences and ideas, we create a climate of opportunity and an environment where we can all thrive."

If re-elected, within the next four years, McMillan's hope would be to work with the community and town staff to create a strategic plan, which examines present needs, strengths, weaknesses and a plan to address them.

McMillan says this would include measurable and attainable goals, as well as a strategy and timelines to achieve them.

"By fostering a relationship with town staff and trusting them as experts in their fields, as the ones who do the work at the ground level, we will be able to achieve these goals," added McMillan.

"My goal is to continue to strengthen connections in this community, so that we can achieve common goals, face challenges and grow together."

Each candidate was presented with the same interview questions. What is presented in these profiles, is a result of the responses received.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. Who is lead singer of Pearl Jam?
2. What is the name of the AI chatbot developed by OpenAI?
3. What sport is featured in the television series Ted Lasso?
4. Which social media platform is known for its "For You" page?
5. What is the best-selling console of all time?
6. What is the name of the fictional city where Batman lives?
7. Which company owns Pixar?
8. Which famous toy has the slogan "You can be anything"?
9. What year did Canada fully abolish the death penalty?
10. Mach 1 is known as what?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

Goderich Council Candidate: Will Kernohan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

name-calling, bullying and anonymous criticism, strong leadership on council works best when it is team based.

"My vision for Goderich is to be a community where people feel heard, where different perspectives are welcomed, and where council focuses on finding practical, creative solutions that make our town an even better place to live, work and belong," Kernohan added.

If elected, in four years, Kernohan hopes to look back and see that he helped bring a spirit of creativity, positivity and collaboration to the council table, making meaningful progress on difficult issues.

For Kernohan, success halfway through the term shouldn't be measured by how much he accomplished, but on whether the town is moving forward on issues like affordability, aging infrastructure, social supports, and investments in quality of life.

"Ultimately, this isn't about me," reiterated Kernohan. "It's about how well our town is doing and whether I'm

being an effective voice for the citizens I represent."

In his 13 years in Goderich, Kernohan has grown to love this community, including many special spots around town – from taking a coffee from Cait's Café to Lighthouse Park and sitting under the large trees, or walking his dog over the Menesetung Bridge. He also spends time at the library, the pickleball courts, and East Street Cider.

Kernohan says he appreciates these places, and those that provide a space for time to think in a quiet spot.

"Goderich is truly a special community, and I'm happy and privileged to call it home," remarked Kernohan.

"[If elected] I would consider it a success if residents feel heard, if decisions are based on meaningful community feedback and good information, and if those decisions are implemented thoughtfully and responsibly."

Each candidate was presented with the same interview questions. What is presented in these profiles, is a result of the responses received.

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Goderich Council Candidate: Jacob Bjerg

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Proud to call Goderich home, Jacob Bjerg built much of his life and career around working with people, businesses and the community.

Bjerg and his partner bought their first home in Goderich last spring.

Growing up throughout the county, as Bjerg's family moved around a fair bit, he says he was fortunate to attend GDCI from Grades 10 to 12.

Working a career as a Production Manager at the theatrical RV industry at General Coach Canada, Bjerg also bartends at the Goderich Legion during evenings and weekends.

Bjerg and his partner also own a small business, operating under the name JT Creative Works, an event and equipment rental business.

Outside of work, Bjerg is strongly involved in the community and proudly serves as Treasurer for Huron County Pride.

Running because he believes Goderich is at an important point for its future, Bjerg sees the community with growth in housing, businesses and new opportunities.

"We have to be thoughtful about how we are growing," Bjerg stated.

"Goderich needs to grow at a pace our infrastructure can support."

Bjerg wants to see the town maintain its character and historic charm, while building up the downtown core so local businesses can thrive.

He wants young people to stay here and build a future, while securing housing for seniors that will allow them to remain a part of the community.

"Council needs to constantly ask a simple question – are the decisions we're making, making Goderich a better place to live, or are we simply making Goderich a larger place to live?" proposed Bjerg.

"I want to bring a practical, community-minded perspective to that conversation."

Although Bjerg does not have any prior experience in political, he believes that fact alone has value in bringing someone to council whose experience comes from outside of politics.

His experience has been in construction, events, project management, and community organisations. Bjerg has managed people, budgets and logistics, worked with customers and business owners, and found practical solutions.

He also has extensive experience working in teams when he volunteers.

As Treasurer of Huron County Pride, Bjerg has also gained experience serving on a board, managing financial responsibilities, and supporting community initia-



JACOB BJERG

tives.

"I don't see the lack of previous political office as a disadvantage," Bjerg expressed.

"I see it as an opportunity to bring a different perspective to council – one established from everyday experience, community involvement, and a willingness to listen and learn."

Believing that communities are only as strong as the people willing to contribute to them, Bjerg says his work at the Goderich Legion has also allowed him to interact with people from many different organisations and backgrounds.

It's shown him how important community organisations, service clubs, and gathering places are to a community like Goderich.

"Through my work and volunteering, I've seen firsthand how much can be accomplished when local organisations, businesses and volunteers work together," explained Bjerg.

"That's something I'd like to bring to council – a belief that the Town doesn't have to do everything itself. Supporting the people and organisations already doing great work can often create much more value for the community."

Bjerg believes that what sets him apart from the other candidates is the combination of his age, work experience, business experience, and community involvement.

Bjerg doesn't come from a traditional political background, but has spent his time working with people, managing projects, running a business, organising events, and dealing with practical, real-world problems.

"I bring a perspective from a generation that is trying to build a future here," Bjerg added.

"Young people need opportunities, housing and a reason to stay. At the same time, I respect the residents who have spent decades building the community we have today. I don't think we should have to choose between preserving Goderich and creating change. I aim to help bridge that conversation."

Bjerg promises to be a councillor who will listen, ask questions, and make practical decisions.

Understanding that every issue doesn't have an easy answer, Bjerg knows that municipal government involves difficult choices, yet he is determined to come prepared to listen and represent taxpayers seriously.

Bjerg wants to focus on what directly affects people's lives – infrastructure, responsible growth, housing, local businesses, recreation, community organisations and the true cost of running the municipality.

"I also want to be accessible," Bjerg stressed.

"Residents should feel they can talk to their councillor, ask questions, and get a straight answer, and if I don't have an answer, I will do my absolute best to get you one."

At the end of the day, Bjerg says he is running because he cares about where Goderich is going and wants to help make sure that growth involves building a community people can afford to live in, enjoy and be proud of.

For Bjerg, one of the biggest questions facing Goderich is whether young people can see a future for themselves here.

Bjerg says young people shouldn't have to leave Goderich because there aren't affordable housing options, meaningful employment opportunities, or ways to become involved in the community.

"If we want a strong community in 10, 20 or 30 years, we need to ensure we are creating opportunities for the next generation today," said Bjerg.

"I also believe young people should have a meaningful voice in decisions that will directly impact their future."

Bjerg says this involves creating more opportunities for youth to participate in municipal conversations and giving them a chance to contribute ideas before decisions are made, rather than talking about youth after the fact.

Another to priority for Bjerg is financial responsibility. Spending isn't exciting, but keeping roads, water systems and other infrastructure in good condition is a necessity.

Bjerg wants to see the Town exhaust all reasonable opportunities for grants and outside funding before asking taxpayers to carry the cost of major projects.

"Good financial management isn't always about spending the least," said Bjerg.

"It's about getting the best value and planning far enough ahead to avoid unnecessary costs."

At the same time, Bjerg wants to make sure new development complements the community around it, with a strong, more active downtown year-round.

For Bjerg, this means looking for ways to make it easier for small businesses and entrepreneurs to open and operate in Goderich.

With values of responsibility and respect, Bjerg believes local government should focus on what it can deliver well, while thinking about the long-term impact of today's decisions.

Bjerg's vision for Goderich is one of a community that can grow and flourish without losing its identity.

Wanting a town where young people can stay and build a future, where families can find housing, where seniors can downsize without leaving the community, where local businesses can thrive and where community groups and service clubs have the support they need, Bjerg wants a community where growth improves quality of life.

If elected to council, Bjerg would want to see measurable progress in infrastructure, diverse housing, support for year-round downtown businesses, a greater opportunity for youth.

"Halfway through the term, residents should be able to look and see progress, not just promises," said Bjerg.

"This success should be measured by outcomes – projects completed, infrastructure maintained or improved, community partnerships established, businesses supported, and residents feeling better informed about what their municipal government is doing."

For Bjerg, success isn't council holding a lot of meetings, but growth or something improved because of taking action.

Running because he believes he can contribute a new perspective, practical experience and a genuine commitment to this community, Bjerg believes Goderich has an incredible future ahead of it.

One of the things Bjerg appreciates most about Goderich is that there are many different spaces where people can connect.

The Square and downtown area are such a large part of this community, but Bjerg also enjoys time at the Legion, which plays an important role in bringing people together.

"For me, those places represent what I value about Goderich – a community with spaces to gather, connect and feel like you belong," remarked Bjerg.

"My goal is to help ensure that as we move forward, we do responsibly, thoughtfully, and without losing what makes this community special. To me, that means building a future that respects our past, serves the people who live here today, and gives the next generation a reason to stay."

Each candidate was presented with the same interview questions. What is presented in these profiles, is a result of the responses received.

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Goderich Mayor Candidate: Trevor Bazinet

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

A lifelong resident of Goderich, a graduate of GDCI and a former employee of Compass Minerals, Volvo Motor Graders and Truly Nolen, current Mayor Trevor Bazinet is running for the role of mayor for another term in the upcoming municipal election in October.

Proud to call Goderich his home, Bazinet has spent time volunteering, working and raising a family with his wife.

"I'm running because I believe in the future of Goderich and the incredible potential of our community," explained Bazinet.

"It has been an honour to serve our community for the past 12 years. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together through collaboration, thoughtful decision-making and a shared commitment to moving our town forward."

Over the past 12 years, Bazinet has served as a councillor for eight, deputy mayor for one and mayor for the last three years, while coaching, running a spring hockey league, and supporting local events.

"Goderich is more than where I live. It's where I grew up, where I am raising my family, and where I've invested my time as a volunteer, coach, business owner, councillor, deputy mayor and mayor," Bazinet expressed.

"Every decision I make is guided by what's best for our residents today, while planning responsibly for future generations."

While council has made meaningful progress, Bazinet believes there is still important work ahead. He believes council needs to continue investing in infrastructure, supporting responsible growth, strengthening the local economy, expanding housing opportunities, and maintaining a high quality of life.

Bazinet says he is running because he believes experience, collaboration and a genuine commitment to the community matter.

He vows to continue to listen, lead with integrity and work hard to ensure Goderich remains a vibrant, welcoming and prosperous community for everyone.

"I believe in building relationships and always working as a team," added Bazinet.

"Every council member deserves the opportunity to be part of the decision-making process. Local democracy is so vital in making decisions for our community."

Bazinet says it would be an honour to earn the continued trust and support of the residents of Goderich.



TREVOR BAZINET

Heavily involved in the community, Bazinet has volunteered and served in roles with committees for 24 years.

From coaching ice hockey (24 years), to organising the Don Johnston Memorial Slo-Pitch Tournament (20 years), and serving on the BIA Board of Management (eight years), the YMCA Board of Management (six years), chair of the Memorial Arena Task Force, chair of the Downtown Infrastructure Task Force, chair of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (two years), board member of the Goderich Port Management Corporation (three years), and chair of the Town of Goderich Economic Development Advisory Committee, among many other roles.

Bazinet believes it is his experience, roots in this community and commitment to serving Goderich beyond the walls of Town Hall that sets him apart this election.

"I'm not someone who came to Goderich to become involved in politics," he said.

"I was born and raised here, coached our kids, volunteered in our community and have spent many years serving on council."

Bazinet has had the opportunity to serve as a councillor, deputy mayor and mayor and serve with some amazing council members including the leadership of Mayor Morrison, Mayor Grace and Mayor Murdock, learning from each of them along the way.

"That experience has given me a strong understanding of municipal government, and just as importantly, an appreciation for the importance of listening, collaboration and respectful debate," said Bazinet.

"I believe leadership isn't about having all the answers or doing things alone. It's about bringing people together, listening to different perspectives, and making decisions that put the long-term interests of Goderich first."

Bazinet believes his record of service, his experience and his genuine connec-

tion to this community gives voters a clear choice about the kind of leadership that he will continue to provide if elected.

According to Bazinet, he is not running simply to hold the position of mayor. He is running because he believes there is still important work to be done for Goderich, and he wants to continue being part of that work.

Bazinet has spent years serving this community, which has given him a deep understanding of the people, opportunities and challenges that make Goderich unique.

For Bazinet, leadership is about listening before making decisions, bringing people together – rather than creating division – and putting long-term interests ahead of personal agendas.

"I believe in responsible growth, strong economic development, investment in infrastructure, supporting local businesses, creating opportunities for our younger generations, and maintaining the quality of life that makes Goderich such a special place to live," Bazinet explained.

Most importantly, Bazinet says he understands that being mayor is not about one person, but about working collaboratively with council, municipal staff, residents, businesses, community organisations and regional partners to achieve best possible outcomes for Goderich.

Bazinet also stresses that he will not use the Strong Mayor's Power. He explains that the town elects seven members and local democracy is vital.

"I am asking residents for their vote because I have the experience to understand where we've been, the perspective to understand where we are today, and the vision and determination to help lead Goderich into the future," Bazinet said.

"Goderich is my home. I care deeply about this community, and I would be honoured to continue serving the people of Goderich as their mayor."

If elected as mayor, Bazinet would first want to collaborate as a team and develop a strategic plan for the next four years as a council.

He understands that it is a great way to build a great working team environment and have a better understanding of what every council member would like to achieve as a community.

"There is always a way to improve our community, but developing a strategic plan gives the council and staff a working document to work towards as a team," added Bazinet.

Top priority issues for Bazinet are infrastructure and responsible growth, eco-

nommic development and housing and quality of life for Goderich residents.

Bazinet believes there is a need to continue investing in the town's aging infrastructure, while planning responsibly for the future.

Making economic development a priority is also a must, for Bazinet.

Using the port, rail, airport, industrial lands and existing business community, can attract investment, and create opportunities.

Bazinet also believes there should be a strong focus on housing, healthcare and the overall quality of life.

There is a need for housing options for people at different stages of life, and continued investment in recreation, parks, childcare, waterfront, arts and culture.

Bazinet says his priority is to help build a Goderich that is strong economically, financially responsible, welcoming to families and seniors, and full of opportunities for a younger generation.

"As mayor, I believe I can contribute to that vision by bringing people together and providing strong collaborative leadership around the council table," Bazinet said.

"The mayor's role is not to do everything alone; it is to help establish a clear direction, listen to the community, work constructively with council and staff, and advocate for Goderich with Huron County, the provincial and federal governments, and our community partners."

Bazinet sees the role of mayor as an ambassador for the community to help bring investment, opportunities and resources to Goderich.

While living in this community, Bazinet enjoys being at town events and talking to people who live here and people who are visiting.

He believes talking to people helps give him a sense of what they live about the community and what areas can be improved.

From the waterfront to Courthouse Square, Bannister Park and the Goderich Memorial Arena, there are places around town that hold a special memory for Bazinet throughout his life in this town.

"Ultimately, my favourite place in Goderich is probably wherever our community is coming together," he added.

"Whether it's at the rink, a ball diamond, downtown, the livery, or a local event, I love seeing people connect and take pride in a place we call home."

Each candidate was presented with the same interview questions. What is presented in these profiles, is a result of the responses received.

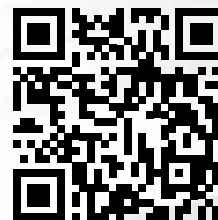
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Goderich Council Candidate: Chris Garnier

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Born in Oakville, raised in Burlington, and later working in London, Garnier moved to Goderich 28 years ago.

During high school, Garnier completed a co-op placement with a local funeral home, which helped him decide to make funeral service his career.

For the last 28 years, Garnier has worked at one of the local funeral homes until July 2026.

Married to his wife Dawn, Garnier has a blended family, including children and now two grandchildren, many of whom live in Goderich as well.

"It makes it easier for us to spend quality time together," said Garnier.

In 2018, Dawn and Garnier started West Coast Cleaning Solutions, which has now grown into a successful commercial cleaning company thanks to its great staff.

As of late August 2026, Garnier's full-time work is with their new business – Sunset Coast Cremations. This business began in order to provide low-cost cremation and burial alternatives for members of the community.

Garnier says he is running for council this election because he wants to give back to this community in a bigger way.

"Volunteering has always been important to me, but I also want to help shape the future of Goderich and be part of the work that keeps this town such a wonderful place to live," he explained.

With no prior political experience, Garnier does have experience serving on boards, working with structured organisations, and running successful businesses.

"Opening and operating businesses that involve government agencies has been eye-opening, but it has also shown me that preparation, research, and a willingness to learn go a long way," Garnier said.

"I believe those qualities will help me serve effectively on council."

Over the years, Garnier has been someone who always got involved in the community he was living in.



CHRIS GARNIER

In Burlington, he was part of the Teen Tour Band and served on its executive. He later volunteered with Canada's largest outdoor free music festival.

During Garnier's apprenticeship in Grimsby, he was elected to the local Chamber of Commerce Executive Board.

Since moving to Goderich, he's been a member of the Goderich Kinsmen Club, where he's held nearly every office and was twice elected club president.

Garnier says his family makes a point of supporting and enjoying the many events that happen in town.

During many of his earlier years in Goderich, Garnier taught drumming to a variety of marching groups throughout Ontario, led several programs and eventually advanced to tour director for the Canadian Drum Corps champion, Dutch Boy Drum Corps.

Most recently, Garnier joined the Goderich Bicentennial Committee to help plan the upcoming celebrations, where he took on the task of organising volunteers from within the community.

Garnier believes what sets him apart from other candidates is his background as a funeral director.

In that role, he worked with people during some of the hardest moments of their lives.

"It taught me how to listen carefully, take in information, and help create something meaningful from it," Garnier said.

"I can bring that same approach to council by listening to residents, understanding their concerns and ideas and bringing their voices forward."

Garnier believes voters can count on him because of his drive, his dedication and that he is approachable.

He stresses that he cares deeply about making the community better, and his willingness to get the work done.

If elected, Garnier says one of his first priorities would be reviewing where money is being spent.

"Many of the issues residents have raised with me come back to responsible spending, taxes, infrastructure, and support for important programs," Garnier explained.

"Council has a responsibility to use taxpayers' money wisely and make decisions that improve life for everyone in Goderich."

Three priority issues Garnier would like to focus on are responsible spending/taxation, infrastructure and affordability – especially housing.

Garnier says these issues are connected because every decision council makes has an impact on residents, whether through taxes, services, roads, facilities or the ability to live and work in Goderich.

To address responsible spending/taxation, Garnier says he would support careful review of where money is spent, look for ways to grow the tax base, and pursue grants, partnerships and other funding opportunities whenever possible.

On infrastructure, Garnier says he would work to identify the areas most in need of repair or replacement and support planning that completes necessary work at a fair cost.

On affordability/housing, Garnier would support working with local agencies, removing unnecessary barriers and building partnerships that help create more affordable housing options while keeping the best interests of all residents in mind.

"My values and priorities are transparency, respect,

responsible decision-making and community connection," Garnier added.

"Not every decision will be popular, but people should be able to understand the reason behind it. I want to help build trust by encouraging open decision, supporting public engagement, and helping bring the community together."

If elected, Garnier hopes to have a positive impact on how people view local government. Halfway through the term, success could be measured by whether residents can see that Garnier stayed engaged, acted transparently, listened to concerns, and voted in the best interests of the town.

Garnier and his wife enjoy all this town has to offer, including driving down to the waterfront, spending time by the lake, visiting local restaurants, and going to the farmers' market or special events at the Square.

"We love having lunch outside, sitting on a patio, and taking in the views, whether it is watching people go by, or looking out over the water," expressed Garnier.

"These are the places that remind us how special Goderich is, and how much community pride exists here."

Garnier's final message to voters is simple – he's committed, dedicated and wants to help continue to make Goderich the best it can be.

"A friend of mine used to use the motto 'better every day', and I've always liked that idea," added Garnier.

"If we all work with that mindset, listen to one another, and keep trying to improve, I believe Goderich can keep getting better, every day."

Each candidate was presented with the same interview questions. What is presented in these profiles, is a result of the responses received.

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Goderich Council Candidate: Kate Krouskie

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Many stepping stones, experiences and hard work led Kate Krouskie to a lengthy career at Allstate Insurance. As a Senior Litigation Specialist, Krouskie managed, assessed and negotiated complex files with authority to make significant monetary decisions.

During her career, Krouskie was also a single mother, determined to ensure her son had what he needed.

Concurrently, Krouskie also ran a small horse boarding stable.

Daily chores and ongoing maintenance on a farm can be challenging, and Krouskie says she met those challenges and learned what she is truly capable of.

Now, Krouskie is running for a position on Goderich Council in the upcoming municipal election.

"I'm running for council for many reasons, but certainly not for power, title or attention," stressed Krouskie.

"I'm doing it for everyone who needs to be heard. I prefer to be a quiet helper behind the scenes, and there is nothing in it for me, but representing the residents of Goderich."

Over the years, following and attending council meetings, Krouskie wants to have a position to represent the residents and their concerns.

During her career, Krouskie also spent time helping in many positions with sever-



KATE KROUSKIE

al organisations. That list includes coaching minor hockey, a part of Guelph Women's Hockey Administration, Eden Mills Writers' Festival, and volunteered with Celtic Festival and United Way.

With high ethical standards, no conflicts of interest, independent of any group, business or outside pressure, Krouskie believes she is a strong candidate to represent the voices of residents in this community.

"My focus will be ensuring I put everything I have into the position," vowed Krouskie.

"True to my principles and values, I'm open minded and prefer to hear people's perspectives to learn, grow and make a fully inclusive and informed decision."

Krouskie believes she is a strong candi-

date for Goderich Council because she is willing to speak up for the underdog, for those afraid to come forward or those who have lost hope.

According to Krouskie, it's time to put citizens, infrastructure and core services first.

"If you want transparency and accountability, I'm your best bet," said Krouskie.

"I can't promise results, but I will fight to make a difference."

If elected to council, Krouskie believes communication and transparency are a top priority.

She believes there should be no time limit for public forums. There should be an open discussion following a public presentation during the council meeting.

Krouskie also believes meeting times should be changed to accommodate working people so more citizens can attend and have their voices or concerns heard.

"Council is employed by the people and ought to be treated with respect," explained Krouskie.

"This will create inclusivity instead of limiting who can run for council."

Krouskie would like to have quarterly meet and greets to discuss issues and concerns with residents. She also believes notices for meetings, Charettes, and information sessions should be provided well in advance so people are aware and can adjust their schedules to attend.

Another change Krouskie would like to

see if elected, is that votes for and against agenda items should be recorded and closed-door sessions only be done, when necessary, as per legislation.

Key issues facing the community, according to Krouskie, include communication and transparency, affordability, accountability and prioritisation of infrastructure and community wellbeing.

Krouskie aims to strive for a thriving community.

"Everyone deserves a decent quality of life," she added.

"Safety, inclusion, accessibility and food or shelter are high on my list of priorities. Roads and infrastructure must be prioritised. Let's restore the beauty on the surface and for everyone who has chosen Goderich to be their home."

From the waterfront, to riding the G2G or dining at favourites spots and spending time at the library, Krouskie understands that Goderich is a beautiful town to live in and wants to help it continue develop and grow.

"I'm running because I care, because you matter, because I have no agenda but to improve the quality of life for all by doing what needs to be done to make Goderich more affordable and improve the wellbeing of this community," concluded Krouskie.

Each candidate was presented with the same interview questions. What is presented in these profiles, is a result of the responses received.



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Road crews earn praise from Central Huron Council

BRITTANY MCKAY

Sun Reporter

Central Huron councillors praised the municipality's roads department for its response to a recent storm that left trees and debris across local roads.

Several councillors said they had received positive feedback from residents regarding the work crews carried out to clear roads and keep routes passable following the storm.

Staff also noted that advance weather information provided by Hydro One helped the municipality prepare ahead of the storm.

With the information available, the municipality was able to have equipment and roads crews prepared before the storm arrived, helping staff respond quickly to fallen trees and debris.

Councillors expressed their appreciation to the roads department for its work and quick response in helping maintain access and safety on local roads during the aftermath of the storm.

The Central Huron Roads Department has been keeping crews busy with a wide range of maintenance, construction and capital projects throughout the municipality, according to the September 2026 Monthly Roads Report presented to Central Huron Council by Roads Manager Brady Nolan.

Roadside maintenance continues to be a priority, with municipal staff cutting roadside trees as time permits. The municipality's tree-cutting tender for the year has also been completed, with contractors having finished their work.

Staff have also been carrying out maintenance at the municipal compost site and brushing areas throughout Central Huron

that require cleanup.

Several road projects have also moved forward. Lavis Contracting has completed paving on Hydro Line Road between Front Road and Sanctuary Line, with municipal staff completing the shouldering work. Staff continue to work with Lavis Contracting to schedule additional paving that was added to this year's asphalt tender.

The Roads Department is also moving ahead with capital projects approved as part of the 2026 municipal budget.

Work on the Connecting Link project on Huron Street is progressing. The tender process has closed, the road has been closed to traffic, and the successful contractor is now progressing with the project. The municipality has also taken delivery of additional equipment.

Staff have received a used tractor and a new mower and have begun cutting roadside grass. Brady Nolan noted that there have been some issues with the new mower, but staff are working through the problems with the goal of improving efficiency moving forward.

A used excavator has also been received and is currently being used at the Dale pit, where work has begun.

Other projects underway include the replacement of a culvert on Kitchigami Road. Staff have started the work and hope to have the project completed shortly.

Meanwhile, the Roads Department continues to work toward securing what staff hope will be the final stages of obtaining a licence for the Josling pit.

The range of ongoing projects reflects the department's continued focus on road maintenance, equipment improvements, municipal infrastructure and the implementation of projects approved in the 2026 budget.



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Registration opens for inaugural Women Who Lead Huron event

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

An initiative was created to strengthen and support women in leadership roles across Huron County.

The 'Women Who Lead Huron' event is the new name for the annual event first announced in March as part of the Huron Chamber of Commerce's broader 'Women's Leadership Initiative' (WLI).

According to Heather Glenister, Membership Services Coordinator with the Chamber, from the beginning, the chamber wanted the WLI to be shaped by the experiences of women in Huron County.

"Women Who Lead Huron gives us an opportunity to bring those conversations into one room, learn from women with very different leadership experiences, make new connections and create an af-

ternoon that is relevant whether someone has been leading for years or is just beginning to see herself in that role," added Glenister.

According to the Chamber, the program combines a keynote address with interactive breakout sessions and opportunities for conversation or networking.

The speaker lineup includes Inspector Laura Lee Brown, Genny Smith, Vanessa Kee, Nadine VandenHeuvel, Dyna Dizon, Carole Lee Foster and Heather Glenister.

Inspector Brown, Detachment Commander for the Huron County OPP will deliver the event's keynote address.

Brown has served in a range of roles with the OPP.

Her keynote address will draw on the voices and experiences of women across Huron County to explore leadership through connection, courage and collab-

oration.

According to Colin Carmichael, Executive Director of the Huron Chamber of Commerce, Inspector Brown brings a perspective that fits very naturally with what Heather, and the committee have been building through this initiative.

"Leadership takes many forms across Huron County," added Carmichael.

"We see it in businesses, farms, community organisations, public institutions and around board and council tables. Women Who Lead Huron is an opportunity to bring some of those experiences together, strengthen connections and help more women see opportunities to contribute their own leadership."

Following the keynote, the event will move into a series of breakout conversations addressing challenges leaders encounter in workplaces, organisations and

community roles.

According to Carmichael, the afternoon has been designed to create opportunities for participation and conversation rather than relying solely on traditional presentations.

Registration and networking begin at 12:30 p.m.

Women Who Lead Huron is the first major event to emerge from the Chamber's commitment to listen to women across Huron County. It is intended to become an annual part of the initiative.

Women Who Lead Huron takes place on October 1 from 12:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the White Carnation Banquet Hall on Parr Line.

Tickets are \$65 per person, and light refreshments will be provided.

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

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Goderich Sun SPORTS

Clinton Mustangs U15 win Ontario Rep C championship

KALEN CARROLL

Sun Contributor

Two years after bringing home the OBA 13U Rep D championship, the same 2011-12 cohort of Clinton Mustangs have returned home from Thorold as the 2026 OBA 15U Rep C Champions.

At the end of an up-and-down preliminary round, the Mustangs found themselves sitting in the same place as they did two years ago - heading to the championship game against a Thorold team that had beat them by a run in the preliminary round.

Both teams had bumped themselves up from Rep D to Rep C since the last time they met in 2024, and justifiably so.

Thorold boasted the same stingy defence and lethal offence, but a much deeper pitching reserve than the last time these two teams met in the final, and the Mustangs entered the tournament with the best record and fewest losses (one) in the WOBA Rep loop this year. It was a true best-on-best battle.

The Mustangs came out swinging in the top of the first, putting up five runs and chasing Thorold's starter from the mound. The game was far from over though as the Mustangs' lead shrunk, grew, and shrunk



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
Clinton Mustangs 15U OBA Championship Team: Back (L-R): Nate Burns (coach), Kalen Carroll (coach), Sam VanderLoo, Adler MacDonald, Liam Durnin, Hayden Wick, Kesler Carroll, Simon Daer, Adam VanderLoo (coach), Matt Durnin (coach), Brendan Dale (coach). Front (L-R): Denny MacDonald, Tyson Dale, Graham Burns, Cole Carnochan, Layne Runstedler, Drew Langendoen.

again throughout the game.

Eventually, the game entered the seventh and final inning deadlocked in a 10-

10 tie. Tyson Dale had worked a hefty 5.1 innings on the mound for the Mustangs, and Adler MacDonald held things to even

in relief going into the seventh.

With one out in the Mustangs' top half of the seventh, Kesler Carroll hit a triple over the right fielder and was cashed in by a sacrifice fly off the bat of Drew Langendoen. Heading into the bottom of the seventh up by one, Mustangs fans were put back on the edge of their seats by a Thorold double followed by the leadoff hitter at the plate with none out.

Graham Burns, brought in to close out the seventh, remained unphased and proceeded to retire the top three batters in the Thorold line-up in order (who to that point had scored seven of Thorold's 10 runs).

The championship was sealed when a tricky fly ball up into the breeze was tracked down by MacDonald in right-centre field for the final out.

The undisputed key to this championship weekend was a full team effort. No two games had the same MVP, and so many different players contributed in so many ways, from clutch hitting to defensive plays, and several key pitching performances that allowed the Mustangs to go into Sunday's final with a pitching artillery full of options.

This championship truly illustrated the importance of team depth and was topped off with an absolute classic final game.

Huron Tsunami Girls Volleyball Club enters fourth season

CHRIS CONNOR

Sun Contributor

The Huron Tsunami Girls Volleyball Club is about to enter its fourth season of operation this fall.

The club typically fields teams at four age levels, across two different leagues. All four levels - U13, U14, U15 and

U16/17 - compete in the Southwest Indoor Volleyball League (SWIVL) with six tournaments from November until April.

The two older levels also play in the Snowbelt League with four tournaments running from January until April.

Within the first three years, the club has seen teams bring medals back from competitions.

The U16/17 team won SWIVL gold in 2025 and SWIVL silver in 2026, while the U15 team won Snowbelt gold in 2025.

The U13 and U14 teams practice Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. at GDCI, while the U15 and U16/17 teams practice Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m., also at GDCI.

Practices commence September 21

for U13s and U14s, while the U15s and U16/17s don't start until September 23.

Girls from all over Huron County are welcome to be part of the program.

Any inquiries can be directed to hurontsunamivb@gmail.com or chrisconn@gmail.com



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Goderich Minor Soccer wraps up successful 2026 season

RACHEL LYNN
Sun Contributor

Goderich Minor Soccer is celebrating a successful 2026 season, with strong participation and positive results across House League, Tier 2, and Tier 3 programs.

Our House League players enjoyed a fun season focused on learning skills, building confidence, and developing a love for the game. The season wrapped up with a tournament that brought players and families together to celebrate.

Our Tier 2 and Tier 3 teams competed

against teams from all over including St Mary's, Chatham and Tillsonburg, showing tremendous effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

A successful season takes a community, and we thank our dedicated coaches, managers, referees, volunteers, sponsors, play-

ers and families for their time and support. We are proud of everything our players accomplished this season and look forward to seeing everyone back on the field in 2027.

Rachel Lynn is the Publicity Manager with Goderich Minor Soccer



U13 Tier 2 girls' team.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



U8 Blue Team – House League.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



U13 Tier 2 girls' team.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



U8 Blue Team – House League.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Goderich Duplicate Bridge Club Results

Bob Dick directed the club on September 1:

NORTH/SOUTH:

1st – John Davies and Garth Sheldon – 60.19%

2nd – Mary Lapaine and Joan Lounsbury – 55.32%

3rd – Mary Lynne Telford and Paul Spittal – 54.86%

4th – Terry Fry and Marj Stuart – 54.36%

EAST/WEST:

1st – Shirley Thomas and Tom Rajnovich – 63.66%

2nd – Margaret Blackie and Murray Blackie – 56.25%

3rd – Steven Jacob and John Legate – 54.17%

4th – Doug Elliott and Virginia Elliott – 53.70%

Bob Dick directed the club on September 8:

NORTH/SOUTH:

1st – Doug Elliott and Evy McDonagh – 60.95%

2nd – Michele Hansen and Greg Bowman – 58.61%

3rd – Steve Scotchmer and Jeanne Scotchmer – 57.31%

4th – Graham Yeats and Brian Reeve – 54.59%

EAST/WEST:

1st – Shirley Thomas and Tom Rajnovich – 63.33%

2nd – John Archbold and Pamela Raab – 57.75%

3rd – Murray Blackie and Margaret Blackie – 55.51%

4th – Bill Hansen and Mary Lynne Telford – 54.88%

The Goderich Duplicate Bridge Club meets every Tuesday at 12:45 p.m. at the Christian Reform Church, Mill Road, Goderich.

If you are interested in playing, the club is welcoming new members. If you have a partner, you can simply arrive to play if you need a partner, and the club will do our best to find someone from our spare list.

For more information, please call Club President: Michele Hansen 519-441-3275.

The Goderich Duplicate Bridge Club's Website is <https://bridgewebs.com/goderichbridge/home.html>.

Ace Found in Week 50: Goderich Catch the Ace concludes with \$830,456 winner

PAMELA CLAYFIELD

Sun Correspondent

The ninth Goderich Catch the Ace raffle came to an exciting close Friday evening when Justin Smith's ticket number 40257 was drawn. With only three options left, he'd selected Envelope #38 to reveal the Ace of Spades which ended the 50week draw.

Smith took home the weekly prize of \$50,387 plus the progressive jackpot of \$780,069, for a remarkable total of \$830,456.

This year's Catch the Ace was one of the most successful in Goderich's history. Over 50 weeks, the partnership sold \$2,600,230 worth of tickets. Of that total:

\$780,069 formed the progressive jackpot

\$520,046 was awarded in weekly prizes

\$1,300,115 (less expenses) will be reinvested directly back into the community through the three Catch the Ace partnership of Goderich Knights of Columbus, Goderich Legion Branch 109, and the Goderich Kinsmen Club

Organizers say the impact of the draw goes far beyond the excitement of the weekly envelopes. Funds raised support a wide range of local programs, charities, youth initiatives, and emergency services — strengthening the community year after year.

The Catch the Ace committee also expressed deep gratitude to the businesses and volunteers who handled inperson ticket sales, especially during the final five to six weeks of historic demand.

"We really need to sing their praises," said Tim Martin of the Knights of Columbus. "They were overrun with extra work, and the community stepped up in a huge way."

Ticket sellers included members of the Goderich Kinsmen Club, the Knights of Columbus Hall, the Goderich Legion, and

local businesses such as Petro Canada Gas Bar, Val's Beauty Salon, Cravings on the Square, Blake Street Bakery, Old School Automotive, Maxx Convenience, Ultramar, and Goderich Convenience.

With the draw now complete, organizers will take time to rest, submit their final report to the AGCO, and meet as a committee to plan future options.

"We won't get started back up for a while," Martin noted. "The community needs a rest too."

Supporters are encouraged to watch for updates at goderichcatchtheace.ca as planning for the next round begins.

Goderich Catch the Ace Partnership — Goderich Knights of Columbus — Goderich Kinsmen Club — Goderich Legion Branch 109

A Record-Breaking Year in Context:

Catch the Ace has been licensed in Goderich since 2017, with one previous long run reaching 47 weeks — all through inperson sales at that time. That draw ended with a grand prize in the range of \$17,000–\$29,000, a far cry from this year's extraordinary totals.

This ninth draw saw weekly prizes averaging around \$32,000, and a progressive jackpot that climbed to \$583,000 before the final surge of sales pushed it even higher. Organizers say the scale of this year's run reflects both the popularity of the lottery and the strength of the three-group partnership.

"Another big thing is the three groups working together," said Tim Martin of the Knights of Columbus.

"It's been great."







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Central Huron plans 100th anniversary celebration for Sloman School on Wheels

BRITTANY MCKAY

Sun Reporter

Central Huron is planning a special educational event to mark the 100th anniversary of the CNR School on Wheels program, with local elementary students set to get a hands-on lesson in the region's history.

Council carried a proposal from the Destination Central Huron Committee to oversee the administration of the Sloman School on Wheels Museum's 100th anniversary event and allocated \$10,000 from the municipality's 2026 operating budget toward the celebration.

The experience is intended to give students an opportunity to learn about the history of education delivered through the CNR School on Wheels program, including the role a local family played in bringing education to children in North-

ern Ontario.

The Destination Central Huron Committee hopes the celebration will extend beyond the students who attend.

According to the report, the initiative could therefore help introduce the history of the school car to approximately 500 local families, as students share their books and family passes at home.

The \$10,000 event budget will cover approximately \$1,200 for bussing, \$7,700 for school car books, \$300 for refreshments and \$800 for incidentals.

The event is being positioned as an opportunity to connect Central Huron students with a unique piece of local and Canadian educational history while encouraging families to visit the museum.

Council's decision delegates both the event's administration and the approved budget to the Destination Central Huron Committee.

Gateway further expands the research team with Student Assistant Yilong Zhang

ALEXA HUGILL

Sun Contributor

Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) is pleased to welcome a new Student Research Assistant to its Team, Yilong Zhang.

Zhang completed an Honours Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology at the University of Toronto Mississauga, where he developed a strong foundation in biochemistry and statistical analysis.

He is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Pharmacy at the University of Waterloo. Zhang's master's research focuses on evaluating a health screening and education program for volunteer firefighters in rural communities.

Zhang has a strong passion for community health and well-being and is eager to contribute his time and skills to supporting the needs of the community.

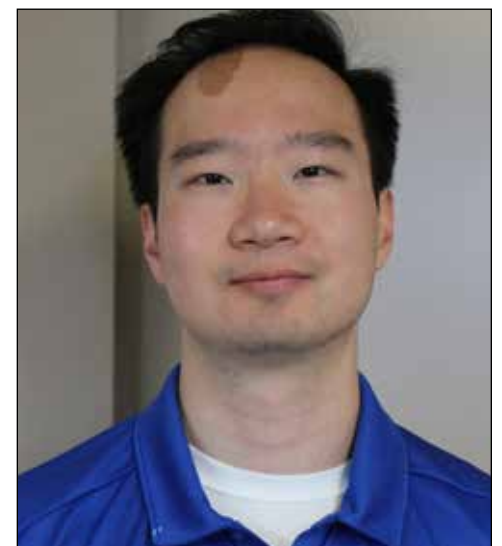
During his time with Gateway CERH, Zhang will contribute to existing programs by collaborating with other research assistants, community members, and stakeholders.

With a specific focus on Gateway CERH's BRAVE-Firefighters program, he will be supporting the study design, data analysis, and evaluation of the pro-

gram's impact on rural volunteer firefighters' health.

He is excited to become part of the Gateway CERH community and can't wait to take on this new journey with the team.

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



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

**Yilong Zhang, Student Research Assistant,
Gateway CERH.**

Invasive plants and what makes them successful

RENEE SANDELOWSKY and
HELEN VAREKAMP

Sun Contributors

The Government of Canada classifies those introduced plant species that cause harm or have the potential to cause harm as Invasive Alien Species.

The spread of these invasive species poses grave risks to biological diversity, reduces food security, impacts our quality of life and even human health.

There are well over 500 invasive plants documented in Canada's natural areas, and the numbers of invasive plants in Canada are steadily increasing.

What makes invasive plants so successful?

- Aggressive Propagation: Invasive

plants exhibit high rates of seed production and/or vegetative spread and can form dense monocultures, smothering or out-competing native plants.

- Early Season Vigor: Invasive plants can display rapid growth early in the growing season, maturing faster than native plants.

- Environmental Alteration: Some invasive plants possess the ability to modify their invaded environment, causing changes in soil or water chemistry, adjustments to nutrient cycling processes and impacts on water availability, often creating conditions more conducive to further invasion, which degrade conditions for native plants.

- Limited Natural Predators: Due to their origins in different geographic lo-

cations, introduced plants often have few co-occurring herbivores, parasites, and/or pathogens to regulate their populations.

- Adaptability: Invasive plants that can thrive in a wide range of environmental and climatic conditions pose the greatest risks.

The horticultural industry plays a role in the spread of invasive plants because it continues to actively search the globe for new plants that may be of interest to consumers. But those plants may be introduced without testing for invasive tendencies.

In addition, plant breeders pursuing desirable attributes like improved hardiness and better flower production (which can mean greater seed production) can inad-

vertently select for plants better equipped to become invasive.

There is an urgent need for enhanced awareness and more stringent risk assessment protocols to strike a balance between horticultural innovation and environmental protection. You too can learn which plants are considered invasive for your area, and make your gardening choices accordingly.

To learn more, go to www.ccipr.ca and read Reducing the Sales of Invasive Plants in Canada: To Safeguard Biodiversity and Human Health

Renee Sandelowsky & Helen Varekamp and volunteers for Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation

IODE Maple Leaf Chapter's Christmas House Tour proceeds help fund track rebuild

KRISTY DALEY

Sun Contributor

From Christmas houses to a new community track.

Each year, the women of IODE Maple Leaf Chapter choose a larger community project where fundraising efforts can make a meaningful difference.

In 2025, proceeds from the IODE Christmas House Tour were dedicated to the Goderich Track Rebuild.

The IODE expressed excitement when members of the chapter presented the cheque for \$25,000 for the track rebuild project.

Generosity from community members attending IODE fundraising events became something tangible and will be enjoyed for years to come.

Kristy Daley is a member of the Maple Leaf Chapter IODE Goderich



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Members of the IODE Maple Leaf Chapter in Goderich presented a \$25,000 cheque to the track rebuild project. These funds are proceeds from the Christmas House Tour in 2025.

 **Goderich Sun**

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A history of Goderich: From the early 1900s through the 1910s

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The late 1890s and through the early 1900s were transformative years, characterised by industrial growth, urbanisation and evolving domestic and social changes.

Soon, the Great Storm, the Great War, the Spanish Influenza and the Temperance movement would impact those right here in Goderich.

Before major events that brought tragedy and mourning to Goderich, there was a steady growth in innovation and social changes in the early 1900s.

The first successful moving picture show was screened at the Opera House on April 15, 1901, and featured the solemn funeral procession of Queen Victoria.

The popularity of the event led to a moving picture exhibition on the 1901 Dominion Day weekend in the Dunlop Block on West Street across from the post office.

It was not until ‘Prof. Green’s Moving Pictures’ of comedies and dramatic photo plays were shown at the Opera House in April 1907 that Goderich audiences responded with any enthusiasm to moving pictures.

According to local historian and author David Yates, in September 1907, the ‘Wonderland’ movie theatre opened on Kingston Street. It was advertised as the finest moving-picture machine in Western Ontario. The theatre was small, cramped and stuffy.

A second movie theatre, the Star, opened nearby to a crowded house in September 1913, offering a fine selection of films.

Yates says competition between the theatres was intense, while the art of entertainment was quickly changing.

Innovation didn’t stop there.

One of the town’s first major employers for women was the Goderich Knitting Company.

At the peak of its production, the company was one of the most substantial industries in Goderich, and although unusual for that age, the work force was made up almost exclusively of women and girls who operated machinery that knitted yarn into stockings, hosiery, socks, baby bonnets, mittens and other textile products.

The overwhelmingly female nature of the company’s workforce made it a unique enterprise in Goderich.

Before the Great War, women in the labour force were expected to leave when they married.

Circumstances might have forced women to work in factories.

By 1908, the Goderich Knitting Company exported its Maple Leaf line of mittens and hosiery throughout the Dominion and was reported as one of the leading industries in Goderich.

Unfortunately, in June 1914 the company was closed indefinitely due to a lack of orders, but the outbreak of war in August 1914 briefly revived the factory, but by 1918, labour shortages plagued the factory.

The Goderich Knitting Company holds a legacy of the town’s first major employer of women.

The Great Storm of 1913 brought tragedy to the shores of Lake Huron.

The steamer Wexford was one of 12 ships lost with all hands during the Great Storm of November 1913.

Frank Bruce Cameron, aged 24, became the Wexford’s new captain in October 1913. He had sailed on the lakes since he was 14 and was the son of Captain Alexander Campbell Cameron.

On the night of November 8/9, 1913, Cameron decided to set sail during a lull in the violent storm that swept across Lake Superior.

Despite the warnings, the Wexford and several other vessels entered Lake Huron bound for Goderich.

The Wexford was last seen 15 miles off Point Clark in calm waters, but the storm struck Lake Huron with a fury.

As wind gusts of up to 90 miles per hour, 30-foot waves and blizzard conditions swept in, the Wexford was over-

taken by the white hurricane.

Although the Wexford was maddeningly close to finding refuge in the Goderich harbour, the high winds and blinding snow and heavy seas pulled the steamer away from safety.

Some residents in Goderich testified they heard the shriek of her whistle over the sound of the hurricane in a vain attempt to get help.

The Wexford wasn’t seen again until 87 years later when she was sound off St. Joseph in 75-feet of water on August 25, 2000.

She was found sitting upright on the lake floor, and 23 names were confirmed as crew of the Wexford.

Within the same year, a movement soon swept through Goderich.

According to Yates, drunkenness was a serious problem in early 20th century Canada. As heavy machinery and mobiles replaced horse drawn wagons, intoxicated drivers and labourers presented a serious hazard.

Although they could not vote yet, women wanted sober husbands who brought home their pay, rather than spend it at the tavern.

Many women became militant crusaders in the temperance fight to outlaw the sales of alcoholic beverages.

Between the Great Storm and the Great war, there was a battle between the ‘wets’ and the ‘drys’.

In November 1913, the federal government announced there would be a referendum in Huron County on the Scott Act of 1878, also known as the Canada Temperance Act. This act allowed municipalities to vote on whether to prohibit liquor sales in bars, taverns and hotels.

The Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance, which supported prohibition, mobilised its forces for the battle in Goderich.

Many contended that the Scott Act would not stop people from drinking but would only drive drinking into the home.

After holding several public rallies, the town held an election on January 29, and there was a heavy voter turn out. Denied the vote, women held an all-day prayer vigil in the Temperance Hall.

The results in Huron County, and Goderich in particular, were a resounding victory for the ‘dry’ side (612 for the Scott Act, and 474 against).

The bars in Huron were set to close by May 1, 1914, just 90 days away.

The license commissioners granted a one-year liquor license to six hotels and one liquor shop in Goderich. All Goderich ‘wet’ bars would close on August 1, 1914.

At 11 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 1914, about 400 people gathered on the Square to mourn the ‘passing of the bar-room’ in Goderich, with one last drink.

It was a quiet celebration, according to Yates. Perhaps the crowd was made more sober by the knowledge that their country was on the brink of war.

Although drug stores were allowed to sell alcohol for ‘medicinal purposes’, it would not be until 1959 that it was legal to buy a drink in Goderich again.

Then came the Great War.

At the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, the outpouring of patriotic enthusiasm was not just confined to young men enlisting in the army.

According to Yates, there was a spontaneous explosion of female volunteerism that played a vital role in sustaining Canada’s war effort.

The local IODE chapters and Women’s Institutes unanimously pledged support.

In September 1914, Goderich formed the first county Red Cross chapter. Within one month, the Goderich Red Cross had 83 members (70 women and 13 men).

Typical meetings were devoted to wrapping bandages, knitting socks and pneumonia vests.

A Mrs. Reynolds who knitted over 520 pairs of socks between February 1, 1915, and August 1, 1917, was rec-

ognised in the local papers by the national Red Cross. Her achievement was more amazing, because she was blind.

With the number of women’s patriotic organisations growing during this time, they needed somebody to coordinate them for them to be effective.

In November 1916, Mrs. Isabelle Hamilton, who has often been regarded as one of the unheralded heroines of the Great War effort in Huron County, was elected President of the Women’s War Auxiliary.

When the war was over, everyone had hoped life would return to ‘normal’, but it was never going back. Women had gained experience as effective organisers of voluntary and charitable organisations.

Soon, some of the men serving during the Great War, would have one final night at home.

On Thursday, October 5, 1916, the 161st Huron battalion returned home for one final five-day home leave before embarking for the Great War in Europe.

It was Thanksgiving weekend and for most, and for many, that Thanksgiving would be the last memory families had of them.

By October 1916, the Great War was over two years old. Initial enthusiasm for the war had been replaced with a grim determination.

Every hour spent with family and friends before heading to a bloody war and an uncertain future would be precious for these men, according to Yates.

On the Sunday afternoon, members of the battalion formed up in Victoria Park and paraded to the Courthouse Square, where 3,000 people came to watch.

After supper at the Bedford Hotel, there was one last dance with wives and sweethearts at what is now the Goderich Legion.

The ‘Goderich Boys’ who gave Private McCluskey’s the wristwatch the previous day must have been in the crowd trying to get a look at their esteemed friend, and it was the last time they would see him, as he was killed in October 1917 at the Battle of Passchendaele.

McCluskey’s 17-year-old nephew, Harvey, was also marching into the Huron battalion that day. He was killed in August 1918.

Nineteen-year-old Private Joseph Glazier marched by his own East Street home. It was the last time he saw his family and home, as he too, died the next year at Passchendaele.

According to the ‘Signal’, nearly everyone in town and surrounding areas were at the station to bid farewell, and it was a scene never repeated in our history as the train pulled away.

In memory of that October day, when the Goderich cenotaph was unveiled on Dominion Day 1924, the bronze soldier was positioned to face the Grand Trunk Railway (GTR) station.

He is seen lifting his helmet in farewell to those who did not make the return journey home.

During a trying decade, filled with uncertainty and mourning, along came the Spanish Influenza epidemic.

Within a few weeks in September 1918, the deadly Spanish flu epidemic was peaking and Goderich was not immune to its devastation.

The influenza outbreak in the autumn of 1918 was second and most lethal wave, as it killed more young, otherwise healthy adults, whose numbers were already depleted by the Great War.

The first reported Goderich fatalities were sisters Hazel Wilson (19) and her sister, Reta (18).

Despite a cold, Hazel worked as a bookkeeper at the Knitting Company, until she took a turn for the worse and died on October 7. Her younger sister died two days later.

Two other women – Barbara Austin (27) and Elizabeth Donaldson (20) succumbed to the flu on October 11 and October 14, respectively.

On that same day – October 14 – three-year-old Margaret Bedford, the daughter of the Bedford Hotel’s owners, also died.

From the early 1900s through the 1910s

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Without a federal health agency to coordinate a response, local councils coped with the crisis as best as they could.

After an emergency meeting of the council and local board of health on October 14, it was decided there would be an immediate ban on all public gatherings. All churches, schools, theatres, picture shows, poolrooms and other social spaces were closed until October 25.

Since the public closures didn't include railways, automobiles and shipping traffic, the disease continued to spread.

The following week brought more fatalities including George Thompson (25), who was one of the first Goderich men to enlist in August 1914. He was gassed and wounded at the Battle of the 2nd Ypres and discharged from service. Thompson survived bullets and poison gas but died at home of influenza.

Tragically, the youngest Goderich epidemic victim was Thelma Armstrong, who died on October 25, the day she was born.

Finally, the area was recovering from the epidemic when news of the Armistice on November 11 reached Goderich and caused a spontaneous eruption of jubilation.

With thousands gathering and celebrating the end of history's deadliest war, the spread flared up again in November.

At 50,000 lives, the 1918 Spanish Influenza epidemic killed almost as many Canadians as the Great War.

It wasn't until November 1918 when some peace arrived, but with it, a heavy shroud of mourning.

Just before 6 a.m. on November 11, 1918, the long-awaited telegraph arrived at the Grand Trunk Railway (GTR) station announcing that an armistice, or ceasefire, existed between Germany and the allied powers.

This news ignited an outburst of celebrations.

Within minutes, the town was roused by the Goderich Organ Company's whistle, soon followed by bells of the town hall, churches, courthouse and other factory whistles.

Flags sprouted on porches, verandas and shop windows. Automobile horns were heard from every corner of the town.

Over 3,000 people gathered at the Square, and Mayor Edward Wigle proclaimed a town holiday. All shops, factories and schools closed to celebrate.

Ironically, Goderich schools had already been closed due to a deadly outbreak of the Spanish Influenza in October.

While the celebrations were going on, a group of women used the opportunity to circulate through the crowds to solicit funds to buy a Victory bond for the Alexandra and Marine Hospital. The impressive total of \$150 was collect-

ed for the hospital.

According to Yates, the armistice did not bring an end to the dying as the papers carried the news of the dead and wounded long after.

The fall of 1918 was particularly hard on Canada. One in five Canadian Great War casualties (approx. 47,000 killed and wounded) were suffered in the war's last 100 days.

The 'Signal' brought the news of the armistice and of the death of former GDCI student Private Lawrence Wark (20). The paper also announced the death of Corporal Wilfrid Hicks (24), who was one of the first Goderich men to enlist in 1915 and was wounded twice.

As celebrations continued in Goderich on November 11, few could know that the world they fought for and died to defend was forever altered.

According to Yates, Canada's – and Goderich's - age of innocence had ended but soon the Roaring Twenties were around the corner.

This was a decade known for economic recovery following the Great War, of cultural transformation, and social change, marked by technological innovation, growing independence and evolving gender roles.

This is an ongoing series of historical features to tell the story of Goderich, in each issue of the Goderich Sun, from June 2026 until June 2027, in anticipation of its bi-centennial.

Historical sites that made Goderich: The IODE and Alexandra Marine and General Hospital

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) has been providing quality health care services to the residents of Goderich for well over 100 years.

In the late 19th century, general hospitals emerged as charitable institutions for the sick and homeless poor.

These hospitals offered free treatment to indigent patients, often requiring a nomination or certificate of admission from local officials or contributors.

Respectable individuals who could afford private medical care often avoided hospitals due to the fear of contracting more severe illnesses.

The first hospital in Goderich came to fruition because of the work of women, the IODE and a community ready to raise funds to bring the hospital to life.

The loyalty of women built AMGH. The need for a hospital in Huron County had long been recognised, but it was not until Maud MacDonald, and the IODE took charge until any action was taken.

The idea for a Goderich hospital was conceived in early 1900.

Founded by a woman, before women could vote, the IODE was founded in 1901 by Margaret Polson Murray. This club is older than its male counterparts, the Lions Club and Rotary Club.

It was a revolutionary idea to create a service club during this time.

Despite some challenges, the members of the IODE were not content to let the hospital scheme die.

Initially, IODE's endeavours were to promote patriotism and assist veterans and their families during the Boer War in South Africa.

In Goderich, five IODE chapters were formed in 1901.

Initially, the earliest goal of all the chapters was to promote a hospital scheme, to treat community members with much-needed medical care.

Tuberculosis was a major concern in the early 1900s, as was the Spanish Flu Pandemic, and so, tireless fundraising efforts were employed, raising money at garden parties, plays and bake sales to meet this demand.

The IODE quickly became a powerful force for volunteerism, patriotism, and community leadership in God-

erich.

Beginning with 13 female members, annual membership dues were 25 cents and within the first year the IODE soon grew to six local chapters with a total of 92 members. Ten per cent of dues helped fund Goderich's first hospital initiative.

The IODE purchased the Shepherd property at South and Britannia for Goderich's first 14-bed hospital, which opened on December 1, 1905.

IODE purchased the property, a larger and older house, at the corner of Britannia and South Streets. This is where the first Alexandra Hospital, as it was known at the time, came to reside.

From the beginning, the hospital was to be known as the 'Alexandra Hospital' in honour of Queen Alexandra, wife of King Edward VII.

She was an advocate for access to healthcare for those living in poverty.

On June 9, 1904, a sod turning ceremony was held for the new hospital on Wellington Street. After giving three cheers for the King, the Wellington Street site was never mentioned again. The high cost of constructing a new hospital building was deemed too prohibitive for the area's limited means.

Endless fundraising events, included garden teas, card parties, plays and baked good sales.

One carnival held at the old West Street arena raised over \$750 for the new hospital.

In 1905, the IODE purchased the Shepherd property on the southwest corner of Britannia and South streets. Not everyone favoured this site, according to Yates.

However, with a large, white-frame house already on the property, all that was required was furniture and equipment.

The hospital opened its doors on December 1, 1905 – the Queen's birthday.

The first floor had a reception room, nurses' dining room, operating and sterilising rooms, in addition to a kitchen and pantry.

The lower floor held the men's public ward and the children's ward.

The 14-bed hospital was now the pride of the town and the first hospital in Huron County.

It quickly became evident the hospital was not large

enough to meet the community's needs. Its expansion was a dire necessity, according to Yates.

In 1909, the Britannia Street site was deemed too small.

In August 1911, the former home of the late Malcolm C. Cameron, MPP, known as The Maples, was purchased for an expanded hospital.

Yet, the crisis of the Great War delayed the hospital's re-location until February 1925 where it has remained ever since.

Throughout it all, the IODE was the driving force behind the hospital's growth, says Yates.

The hospital owes its creation to Mrs. Maud Evelyn Brough MacDonald, who spared neither the time nor energy in furthering the cause.

As Goderich grew, the need for a larger hospital did too.

In 1912, the property known as 'The Maples' was purchased by the IODE Ahmeek Chapter for \$500. Since then, AMGH has been located on this same site.

Today, AMGH offers services including ambulatory care, cardiorespiratory, diabetes education, dialysis, emergency, laboratory, medical imaging, medicine, mental health outpatient and inpatient, obstetrics, palliative care, inpatient, pharmacy, physiotherapy, speech language pathology, surgical services, registered dietitian services, and social work.

AMGH serves over 60,000 patients in Goderich and surrounding communities, with between 60 and 100 employees ranging in positions from clerks to nurses and doctors and specialists.

Over 100 years later, and the spirit of community support for the hospital has not lost traction. Over 90 per cent of all medical equipment and technology at AMGH Goderich is funded through community support, ensuring that healthcare teams can deliver fast, accurate diagnosis and exceptional care.

Recently, the hospital has undergone significant upgrades. This includes the replacement of a CT scanner and the completion of a refresh to the Mental Health Unit, with more upgrades for the future, including an MRI machine.

This is an ongoing series of historical features to tell the story of Goderich, in each issue of the Goderich Sun, from June 2026 until June 2027, in anticipation of its bi-centennial.

Huron Perth Public Health urges municipalities to recognise National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

BRITTANY McKAY

Sun Reporter

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) is encouraging municipalities across the region to recognize Sept. 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

In a letter to Mayor Jim Ginn and the councillors, HPPH invited municipalities to mark the day through visible acts of commemoration, including raising the Survivors' Flag or Every Child Matters flag, wearing orange and supporting local initiatives focused on remembrance and reconciliation.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours the survivors, families and communities affected by Canada's residential school system.

"Reconciliation calls on each of us to listen, learn, reflect, and take part in meaningful action," HPPH said in its letter.

The health unit noted that the residential school system has had lasting impacts on Indigenous Peoples, families and communities, while health and other inequities continue to be influenced by colonialism and anti-Indigenous racism.

HPPH said it is committed to learning and working with community partners to promote understanding, respect and reconciliation across Huron and Perth counties.

The health unit also emphasized the role municipalities can play as community leaders.

"Your public recognition of this day can help create welcoming spaces for reflection, remembrance, and shared commitment," the letter stated.

HPPH said several municipalities already recognize the day and encouraged others to join in the effort.

Goats to the rescue: Utilities crews get a little extra help

BRITTANY McKAY

Sun Reporter

Water and wastewater crews across Central Huron kept busy throughout August, completing repairs, equipment upgrades and construction work while also uncovering a piece of local infrastructure history beneath Huron Street.

Central Huron Council has been asked to receive the August 2026 Monthly Utilities Report from Utilities Manager Ian Koetsier for information.

At the sewage treatment plant, grazing goats completed their second round of vegetation control, helping crews manage growth around the facility.

The goats, which come from near Arthur, spent approximately five days at the facility earlier in the year and returned for another five-day period later in the summer.

mer.

Staff reported being pleased with the results, saying the goats had effectively mowed down the vegetation.

The goats were subsequently being moved to Goderich.

Utilities staff also replaced unsafe grating in the bar screen and grit tank area, improving safety around the wastewater treatment equipment.

A new Muffin Monster wastewater grinder has also been installed and is now operational. The installation was contracted to a wastewater equipment installer after staff determined they did not have the necessary tools and trades available to complete the work themselves.

The installation cost \$10,188 plus HST and was not included in the original budget for the capital purchase approved by council.

Arena upgrades ahead of Clinton Radars home opener

BRITTANY McKAY

Sun Reporter

Work continues at the Central Huron Community Complex arena as the municipality prepares for the Clinton Radars' home opener on September 18.

Facilities Director Steve Duizer provided Central Huron Council with an update on ongoing work at the facility, including renovations and preparations for the upcoming hockey season.

Council was also approached by a representative of the Clinton Radars about purchasing advertising space in the team's commemorative program. The proposed advertisement would be a quarter-page ad featuring a message from the mayor at a cost of \$500. Council approved the purchase.

The municipality is also recruiting additional booth staff for the arena. The positions are open to applicants 14 years of age and older, with staff noting that several applications have already been received following a recent job posting.

Renovation work is also underway at the arena, including flooring. While the floor-

ing project was originally expected to be completed by September 12, staff advised council that the work may not meet that target date.

However, it is expected to be completed shortly afterward.

Council also discussed potential provincial funding opportunities for renovations to aging recreational facilities. Staff are currently investigating the condition of the arena's HVAC system, which is approaching an age where replacement could soon be required.

Preliminary costs are being gathered so the municipality can determine whether a future provincial grant application would be appropriate.

Deputy Mayor Marg Anderson also asked about the availability of ice time at the arena.

Council heard that virtually all prime-time ice, beginning at approximately 4:30 p.m., is currently booked, along with weekend ice. Some availability remains during the early morning hours.

The puck drops at 8:30 p.m. in the home opener on Sept. 18 against the Fergus Whalers.

United Way celebrates community in Huron County at Grand Bend Stirling Sands Vineyards

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

United Way Perth Huron's (UWPH) campaign will kick off with an evening of food, music and fundraising at Grand Bend Stirling Sands Vineyards.

The event includes a buffet dinner, silent auction, 50-50 draw and live entertainment by Country Junction.

The event also serves as the finale for United We Ride, UWPH's charity motorcycle ride.

Rain of shine, the ride begins at Maitland River Community Church in Wingham, with check-in starting at 9 a.m. Riders can take part in a mobile scavenger hunt, and they can also stop

for lunch at the Goderich Legion.

Registration for United We Ride is \$45 per rider and \$30 per passenger. Both options include admission to the evening event. Participants must be legally licensed and insured.

The campaign event at Stirling Sands Vineyards on Saturday, September 19 opens at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person, with proceeds helping locals access financial assistance during times of crisis through UWPH's Urgent Needs Fund.

Sponsors for the event are Lynn Hoy, Compass Minerals, Jayden's Mechanical and Libro Credit Union.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca

www.goderichsun.com

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Trail Talk: Keep your eyes peeled this time of year for all sorts of wonders

PATRICK CAPPER

Sun Contributor

This is the time of year to see all different sorts of fungi along the trails in Huron County. There is a great crop this year of Giant Puffballs, and I saw my first one this year on August 31 but since then I have seen many more; one was 14 inches in diameter.

I did a study of them several years ago and found that they doubled in volume every day.

Many people like to eat them after slicing and baking them with garlic and butter. One other edible mushroom we saw on the trail is a Jackson's Slender Caesar, which was red with a white coating when it emerged from the ground.

Another interesting sight was an Orange-fruited Horse Gentian, which has small orange berries where the leaves meet the stalk, but these berries are not edible.

Other common sights are grasshoppers. The small Red-legged ones appear to be white when flying. The larger Carolina grasshoppers appear more like a Mourning Cloak butterfly when flying, with black and white wings.

One Pine Tree Spur-throat grasshopper came into our house and settled on a lamp. These grasshoppers usually spend their life in trees, especially Pine, Larch and Junipers, and are most active in the evening.

The other times I saw them, they were in the greenhouse. They are so well disguised that they are rarely spotted when on tree bark.

Katydid's are also masters of disguise as they blend very well into the grass. When they fly, they appear to be white, similar in appearance to a large Red-legged grasshopper. They are best seen by following their flight and noting where they land.

I have seen both Fork-tailed and Oblong-winged Katydids this year. Katydids have hearing organs on their front legs, just below their knees. Fork-tailed Katydid's are sometimes pink, orange or yellow

due to a genetic variation, but this makes them more susceptible to predators.

There was quite a windstorm on September 2 that caused many windfalls and power outages.

The worst hit area was just south of Highway 8, so there appears to be little damage to the Maitland Trail. I have found several windfalls in the Hullett Sugar Bush, the Clinton Conservation Area and the Front Road trail, but all could be stepped over or bypassed. Both Naftel's Creek, Bannockburn Tract and Bannockburn Conservation Area trails appear to have suffered little damage.

There is a Maitland Trail Association (MTA) contest if you wish to share your "Maitland Trail Moment", whether it was a few minutes or perhaps a day. The competition is receiving 100-500-word submissions that should be sent to jmorris@maitlandtrail.com. Describe what brought you to the trail, what you saw or experienced, how the trail made you feel and why the memory stayed with you. Your submission will be shared on the MTA blog. Full details are in the Maitland Trail Newsletter.

There is also a competition by the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) has a 75-minute Hiking Challenge. Details are at mvca.on.ca. If you hike for 75 minutes in a Maitland Valley property, such as at Wawanosh, or Naftel's and send in an entry, you have a chance at prizes such as Adult Camping Package - sleeping bag, camping voucher, cooler, or a Birding package or a Children's Nature Explorer package.

EVENTS:

Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20 - The Maitland Camino: Many hikers will be on the Maitland Trail. On Saturday between Auburn and Benmiller and on Sunday between Goderich and Benmiller.

Friday, September 25 to Sunday, September 27 - Hike Ontario Summit at Westport.

Saturday, September 26 at 11 a.m. -



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Oblong-winged Katydid.

Mindfulness Walk and Forest Therapy: Meet at the Millenium Trail in Goderich, Nelson Street entrance. Designed for those who want the benefits of meditation but prefer to move.

We'll be moving slowly and silently together for 20 minutes to the first river lookout where we'll stop to chat about the benefits of mindfulness and forest therapy, enjoy the beautiful vistas of the Maitland River, and head back to the entrance - maybe hug a tree on the way out.

Please leave your pets at home; dogs are already very Zen.

For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Tanya at redroofrecovery@gmail.com or text 519-616-3636. This is a level 1, slow paced meditative walk.

Saturday, September 26 at 1 p.m. - BRVTA hike at Varna.

Saturday, October 3 at 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (approx.) Migrating Water Birds Hike: Walk the dikes around the ponds while looking for migrating water birds. Meeting Location: Parking lot at 40905 Summerhill Road Difficulty: Level 1 Pace: Moderate Annual Waiver: Complete the MTA Annual waiver Pre-register with

Laurel Peever at laurelpeeve@gmail.com

Sunday, October 4 at 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

- This hike is scheduled to be at a Dublin Farm through a delightful private farm property near Dublin. However, the windstorm on September 2 caused many windfalls across the trail so the hike may be cancelled if the windfalls are not cleared before October 4. Contact is Anne Melady at jamelady@icloud.com.

NOTES:

The Maitland Trail between Londesboro Road and Little Lakes Road remains closed due to a landslide.

Duck Hunting starts on September 26.

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

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

LIFE hikers meet every Friday for a hike of about 1.5 hours, with a choice of pace, striders moving a little faster than the strollers. The hikes now start at 9a.m. and can be joined through ONE CARE.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Orange-fruited Horse Gentian.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pine Tree Spur-throat Grasshopper.

Showing up: How Rafael helps make Huron a better place

MARK NONKES

Sun Contributor

Rafael is on the hunt. The sun is beating down on the Goderich beach on a July afternoon, and Rafael is scanning debris washed ashore.

Among the sticks and dried weeds are plastic bottles, latex gloves and candy bar wrappers. He pulls each item of garbage out and drops it in a plastic bag.

"Anything that can harm animals or pollute the water, I do not hesitate to pick it up and put it in the garbage," the 36-year-old said.

Since he moved to Goderich in 2024, Rafael has spent countless hours quietly picking up garbage on the beach. It's just one of the ways he's got involved in the community.

"The first time I got involved was after I saw a sign at the Legion, they were organizing a Santa Claus dinner. They needed help to wrap up some gifts for Christmas, and I joined the people that were assisting that day and then helped serve Christmas dinner," he explained.

Since then, Rafael has also assisted the team from No Hate in Huron in organizing events. He's sewed outfits for drag perfor-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Rafael has been nominated for an I Am Huron award to celebrate contributions immigrants and newcomers make in Huron County communities.

mances, decorated at the organization's anniversary party, served refreshments, led the organization's Peace March in Goderich.

He's also supported the Canadian Mental Health Association of Huron Perth by getting involved in an overdose awareness march and helped the United Way Perth Huron fundraise by taking part

in Coldest Night of the Year and walking with the organization in the Goderich Santa Clause parade.

Sometimes, if he spots an area of the community that needs to be tidied, he steps into action.

"The entrance of the library needed a little cleanup," Rafael said.

"So, I woke up on Sunday, and then I didn't think twice. Nobody asked me, I just went myself and took off the spider webs at the entrance and cleaned up the dead leaves. It makes it nicer for everyone."

For his selfless efforts to improve the community, Rafael was nominated for an I Am Huron award.

"In the time Rafael has spent in Goderich, his impact on this community has been remarkable, and almost entirely behind the scenes," wrote Patrick Corvyn, who nominated him for the I Am Huron award.

"Rafael does not seek recognition. He does not ask to be celebrated. He simply shows up, again and again, for the people of Huron County who need someone to show up for them."

Rafael moved to Canada from Mexico in 2009 and lived in Toronto and Niagara Falls before moving to Goderich.

The I Am Huron awards are a Huron County-wide initiative to showcase the diverse contributions that immigrants and newcomers to Canada make in our communities. The campaign aims to celebrate immigrants and highlight the positive impact

they make in many different areas.

"Rafael represents the very best of what immigration brings to Huron County. He spends his time giving this area care," Corvyn stated.

Back on the beach, Rafael smiles as his cleanup continues. One piece of trash at a time, the bag begins to fill.

In a small way, it's emblematic of the broader way Rafael quietly makes the community better; piece by piece, one small act at a time, actions that add up to an overflowing amount of quiet kindness.

The I Am Huron awards celebrate the contributions immigrants and newcomers to Canada make in Huron County's communities. Nominations are received from the community, reviewed by a committee with lived experience of immigration, and awarded at a ceremony.

The project is funded with support from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

For more about this campaign, visit: <https://www.huroncounty.ca/i-am-huron/>

Mark Nonkes is a Local Immigration Partnership Manager with the County of Huron

Better Mental Health: Put on your own mask first



TANYA MACINTYRE,
RED ROOF RECOVERY

Sun Contributor

Building a good habit can feel like climbing a mountain, while falling into a bad habit can feel like stepping off a curb. That imbalance frustrates anyone who's ever tried to change.

I like to use an airplane analogy to explain why making ourselves a priority matters. This idea shocks people at first, because most of us are conditioned to care for others before ourselves. Consider the emergency instructions given on every

flight: if cabin pressure drops, you're told to put your own mask on first, before helping anyone else - even your own child.

It's a hard concept to sit with, especially for parents, who are often led to believe their whole purpose is to provide for their children, with little room left for themselves.

Caring for others is one of the highest expressions of love and purpose a person can offer, but that virtue should never come at the total expense of your own well-being. You cannot pour from an empty cup. Self-care isn't selfish - it's the maintenance that makes generosity sustainable.

With that in mind, here are seven daily habits that can help you build and maintain compassion for yourself:

Start each day expecting things to go your way:

Life has a way of living up - or down - to our expectations. Ancient philosophy tells us that "it is as you say it is." When

you make your first thought of the day something hopeful, like "things are going to go well for me today," you may find that they often do.

Assume people have good intentions:

People sometimes do things that annoy us, but rarely on purpose. I once found myself blocking a grocery store aisle, completely lost in thought while choosing a brand of tuna. I wasn't trying to inconvenience anyone - I was just distracted. Most people are the same.

Do your best with what's in your control, then let go of the outcome:

Feeling overwhelmed is often just the perception that we have too much to do. Instead of spiraling, pick the one task that moves you closest to your biggest goal, and start there. Don't forget to ask for help when you need it.

Give a gift to someone you meet:

It doesn't need to be wrapped.

A genuine smile, a word of encouragement, a small act of politeness, or even a friendly nod can brighten someone's entire day - including yours.

Eat one meal slowly:

We can't always avoid rushing through meals but try to eat at least one thing mindfully each day. Taste it. Savor it. Tell yourself, "This food is nourishing my body in perfect harmony."

Go on a digital diet:

Advertising is engineered to make you feel dissatisfied with your life so you'll buy something to fix it. Be the gatekeeper of your own mind and stop letting yourself be programmed to consume.

Begin and end each day with gratitude:

Tibetans have a tradition of turning their cup over before bed, symbolizing not just the end of the day, but the end of that life. In the morning, they turn the cup back up and think, "I'm grateful to be alive," welcoming a new day as a new life.

None of these habits require money, equipment, or extra hours in your day - just intention. Pick one from this list and practice it - starting today. Notice how it feels after a week. Then add another.

Self-compassion isn't built in a single leap; it's built one small, deliberate habit at a time - starting with the choice to put your own mask on first.

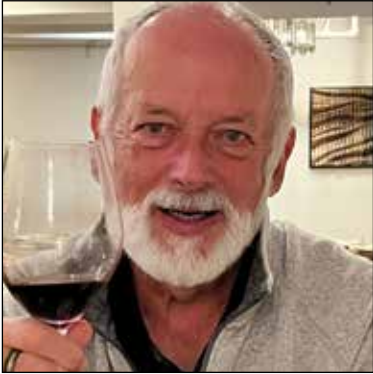
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Tanya MacIntyre is a Certified CBT Specialist - and founder of Red Roof Recovery (RRR) and its training division Mental Health Fitness Alliance (MHFA).

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Visit us online at www.goderichsun.com

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



PAUL KNOWLES

Sun Columnist

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

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

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

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

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

There are wonderful wines being produced all over the world, but you have to admit that the first nation that comes to mind when you talk "wine" is probably France.



A vineyard in Beaujolais country.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

And wine country along the Rhône is an important contributor to that longstanding reputation. I learned that most of the major vineyards along the Rhône have been there since Roman times. So, they've had a while to get it right.

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

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

And here's where I confess my absolute ignorance. I had no idea that there are actually 12 appellations (sub-districts) in the Beaujolais district, which sits north of Lyon. More embarrassingly, I had always assumed that Châteauneuf-du-Pape was a single, prestigious

winery. Nope. This appellation includes 320 vineyards, supplying about 180 independent wineries. It covers 3,200 hectares.

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

We learned that Beaujolais wines are almost exclusively made from Gamay grapes; and that 94% of Beaujolais is red wine (yes, you can make either red or white from red grapes; it depends on your method).

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

A side note: sometimes large-group wine tours result in wineries serving their bottom-line wines, for economic reasons. This was certainly not the case during our

wine country visits with Viking; the wines were excellent, unfortunately so good at times they were well out of my price range!

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

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

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

tion.

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

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

I was intrigued that one of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape rules is that vineyards must not use irrigation. However, this appellation is part of the much larger Côtes du Rhône region. The good news for wineries using that label, as opposed to the admittedly more prestigious Châteauneuf-du-Pape brand, is that irrigation is allowed. The good news for wine drinkers (me, for instance), is that Côtes du Rhône wines are both excellent and far less expensive than those bearing that iconic, Pope-inspired label.

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

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



The chateau at Château des Ravatys in the Beaujolais district.



Gamay grapes on the vine.

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

GODERICH CHESS CLUB

On Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Goderich Library in the activity room and Friday evenings from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Goderich Legion in the games room.

This club warmly welcomes all chess enthusiasts of any age to join. Whether a seasoned player or a newcomer eager to learn the game, this is the perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the world of chess.

Participants may come and go as they please during this timeframe. Admission is free and equipment will be provided.

MACKAY CHORISTERS CHOIR PRACTICE

Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Lakeshore United Church, downstairs.

MacKay Choristers meet for a weekly, day-time community choir practice, directed by Linda Street.

Visit <http://themackaychoristers.ca> for more information.

SMART RECOVERY MEETINGS

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

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLE

Join in on Mondays from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Goderich Library.

Make friends and practice speaking English while talking about culture, family, food, movies or anything you would like. Hosted by the Huron Welcome Hub for Newcomers.

GODERICH READS BOOK CLUB

Join this book club that meets every two weeks at the Goderich Legion and come work with a variety of books. There are 185 members online and a core group of locals who come out to in-person meetings at Café 109.

Upcoming meetings: September 28 – ‘Lady X Part II’.

Contact head of book club Holly Smith: 519-630-3962 for more information.

BIA FARMERS' MARKET

Every Saturday until October 10, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

BIA SUNDAY MARKET

Every Sunday until October 11, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

GODERICH CO-OP GALLERY WELCOMES BAYFIELD ARTIST GUILD IN SEPTEMBER

This September, the gallery welcomes the Bayfield Artist Guild as its visiting artists.

The Guild has exhibited annually at the Co-op over the past number of years.

The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a later 12 p.m. opening on the second Wednesday of each month.

Located at 54 Courthouse Square, downstairs. Visit gc-gallery.ca for more information.

I AM HURON EXHIBIT LAUNCH

On Thursday, September 17 from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Huron County Museum.

Celebrate Welcoming Week with the launch of this exhibit. I Am Huron is a Huron County-wide initiative to showcase the diverse contributions that immigrants and newcomers to Canada make in this community.

The campaign aims to celebrate immigrants and highlight the positive impact they make.

MULTILINGUAL MOVIE NIGHT: THE MOTHER AND THE BEAR

On Thursday, September 17 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Huron County Museum, 110 North St.

Celebrate Welcoming Week and the opening of the I Am Huron exhibit with this Canadian film The Mother and the Bear in English and Korean, plus free refreshments for this Welcoming Week event.

UNITED WE RIDE: HURON COUNTY MOTORCYCLE RALLY

On Saturday, September 19 from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. beginning in Wingham and ending at Grand Bend Stirling Sands Vineyards with stops along the way.

Rev up your engines and ride for a cause that matters in Huron County, in support of the Urgent Needs Fund through United Way.

Cost is \$45 per rider, \$30 per passenger and for non-riders \$25 to join for the barbecue dinner buffet, music and silent auction.

Contact: mmillar@perthhuron.unitedway.ca

NEWCOMERS' FALL FARM BUS TOUR

On Saturday, September 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Libro Bank parking lot, 48 Ontario St., Clinton.

Visit four Huron County farms, meet animals, see mushroom growing and enjoy children's activities.

Local performances along the way from local artists. Part of Huron County's Welcoming Week activities.

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME: TALES FROM IRAN

On Saturday, September 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the Goderich Library Branch, 52 Montreal St.

Families are invited to enjoy a picture book by an Iranian author and discover new stories, cultures, and connections together at this Welcoming Week event.

THE MCCARTNEY YEARS

On Saturday, September 19 from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. at the MacKay Centre.

Proceeds go to the MacKay Centre from this premier McCartney concert experience.

Tickets are \$25 and available at the MacKay Centre.

THAT HYPNOTIST GUY FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, September 26 at 7 p.m. at 430 Parsons Court.

Get ready to have your mind blown and your thoughts twisted by That Hypnotist Guy's wild, live show.

BOOK LAUNCH: PAPERWORK OF A GHOST

On Sunday, September 27 at 1 p.m. at The Bee's Knees Books and Emporium.

Join in on this book launch and signing, including a live reading. Every single book will support Artemis Huron, by donated \$4 of a sale of a book.

HOME ALONE COURSE

On Saturday, October 3 from 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the YMCA for children ages 10-12.

Are you wondering when it's safe to leave your child at home alone for a few hours? Kidproof can help your child be prepared and confident to be home alone.

Admission is \$40.

BABYSITTING COURSE

On Sunday, October 4 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the YMCA.

This course is for babysitters who would like to pick up some helpful hints on accident prevention, child behaviour, home safety, emergency procedures, and creative children's activities. The program is a recognised course of the Canadian Red Cross Society. Students will receive a manual and certificate upon successful completion of the course and exam. Admission is \$50.



Auburn & District Lions Club Breakfast

Auburn Memorial Community Hall

Sunday, October 4, 2026

8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

\$15/Adults, \$6/Child, Free/Preschool

Pancakes, eggs, toast, sausage & hashbrowns

Thank-You to Our Suppliers:

**Robinson's Maple Products, Greens Meat Market,
Huron County Egg Farmers**

Proceeds for: Community Betterment

Worship With Us



Bereah Lutheran Church

326 Gibbons Street, Goderich
www.bereah-lutheran.ca • bnz@hay.net
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: @bereahgoderich

**Invite readers
to your worship
services.**

**Contact
info@goderichsun.com**



YOU ARE INVITED!

This Sunday @ 10:00am

231 Bayfield Road
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 3G5

519-524-6445

www.cbcbgoderich.com

9 Victoria S. N., Goderich
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KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Amanda Bisson

Livestream Services

Sunday at 10:00 am

[Knox Presbyterian Church Goderich - YouTube](#)

Worship materials available online

www.pccweb.ca/knox-goderich

Riddles

- Why did the tree get a bad report card?
It kept falling behind!
- What's a tree's least favourite month?
Sep-tember... because it knows what's coming next!
- Why did the pumpkin sit on the porch?
It had nowhere else to gourd!
- What do you call a leaf that gets blown away?
A-leaf!
- Why are trees so good at keeping secrets?
They're very good at keeping things under their leaves!
- What's an autumn tree's favourite drink?
Leaf tea!
- Why did the scarecrow win an award?
Because he was outstanding in his field!
- What did one autumn leaf say to another?
"I've fallen for you!"
- Why did the pumpkin cross the road?
To get to the gourd side!
- What happens when autumn leaves get into a fight?
They have a falling out!
- Why is autumn so popular?
Because it's unbe-leaf-able!

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 31

Featured Pets



SADIE & PIPER

Sadie (white) and Piper (apricot) are two adorable Maltipoo puppies born just three weeks apart. While Sadie is the younger of the pair, she has no problem holding her own! She's the perfect mix of sweet and spicy—always ready for a cuddle, a kiss, or a good belly rub. When she's not snuggled up with her family, she's likely on the hunt for her favourite treasure: socks. Her tail is constantly wagging, and her happy-go-lucky personality brings joy to everyone she meets. Piper is the energetic athlete of the duo. She loves to run, jump, and play, and she's always up for a game of fetch. With endless energy and a serious case of FOMO, Piper never wants to miss out on any fun or adventure. Her playful spirit keeps everyone on their toes. Together, Sadie and Piper are inseparable.



Nominate your Pet of the Month by emailing info@goderichsun.com

petvalu®

Sponsored by:
35400 Huron Rd., Goderich
519-524-5443
www.petvalu.ca

Word Search

FAIR DAYS

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

- APPLES
- BLUE RIBBON
- CARNIVAL
- CAROUSEL
- CHURRO
- COASTER
- CONCERT
- CORNDOG
- COTTON CANDY
- EXHIBIT
- FERRIS WHEEL
- FRIES
- FUNNEL CAKE
- GAMES
- GRAND STAND
- JUDGES
- LEMONADE
- LIVESTOCK
- MIDWAY
- POPCORN
- PRIZE
- QUILT
- RACING
- TRACTOR



MACEWAN, SCOTT

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of our beloved husband, brother, father, and Poppy, Scott MacEwan.

Scott is predeceased by his parents, Peter and Jean MacEwan, and his sister, Anne Kay (Paul). He is greatly missed by his wife MaryJo, sister Beth Feagan (Paul), his children, MaryJane Bell (Brian), Adam MacEwan, and Thomas MacEwan (Alysha), and his cherished grandchildren, Evelyn, Georgia, Oscar, Malcolm, and Dallas. He will also be deeply missed by many friends, cousins, co-workers, nieces, and nephews.

Scott met his best friend and the love of his life, MaryJo, while working at the A&P in Goderich in 1977. They married in 1982 and lived in London until 1991, when Scott returned home to Goderich to join the family business following the passing of his father, Peter. Like a lucky few, Scott and MaryJo shared a marriage built on friendship and love—one that grew ever fuller with children, pets, and all of life's adventures.

Scott was a husband who told his wife she was beautiful every day, always complimented her new dinner recipes, and could never stay mad for longer than 15 minutes. He loved to laugh, and his fantastic sense of humor made him fun to be around at work and at home.

For 40 years, Scott worked closely alongside his sister Beth, his partner in the business. He was passionate about helping people and building meaningful relationships with his clients, many of them spanning generations. Scott took a sincere interest in the people he served; his files included notes about clients' children and hobbies alongside the details of their homes. We are immensely grateful to have shared Scott with the community he loved and served so dearly.

Scott's greatest joy was his family. Those closest to him were privileged to always feel loved, supported, and cared for. There was nothing he would not do for his children, who remained close friends (and co-workers) with their dad throughout his life. Even into adulthood, all three received texts whenever a squall appeared on the radar or inclement weather approached. Scott could not rest until he knew everyone was safely home, and he was always genuinely delighted to hear about whatever was happening in their lives.

Although Scott was diagnosed with MS at age 30, his illness never defined him. He lived with a positivity and determination that inspired all who knew him. His greatest legacy is his kindness, humor, and determination to enjoy life. He loved the Blue Jays, family barbecues with his grandchildren, and watching movies with MaryJo. Scott appreciated life's simplest pleasures and never took a sunny day or a great dinner for granted.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the entire community for the kindness and care shown to our family during this time.

If you have a memory or story of Scott you wish to share, please send it to us at scottmacewan60@gmail.com.

A private ceremony will be held at a later date. Memorial donations to the AM & GH Foundation Magnetic Moments, <https://magneticmoments.amghfoundation.ca/#about> gratefully acknowledged.

CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

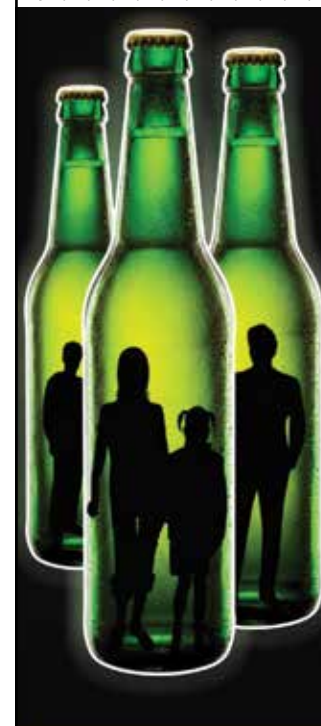


WILSON: TIMOTHY 'TIM' SCOTT

Tim passed away peacefully at Victoria Hospital, London on September 2, 2026. He will be lovingly remembered by his father Lawrence Wilson and his siblings Tamra (Barry) Head, Tracey (Jim) Van Osch and Todd Wilson. Predeceased by his mother Elizabeth (Libby) Wilson. Tim will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, friends and his co-workers from Faddis Concrete Products Seaforth, where he worked for 27 years. Three things Tim truly loved were his beloved Toronto Maple Leafs, The Blue Jays and a cold beer. In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place and a casual come-and-go celebration of his life will be held upstairs at the Goderich Legion, 56 Kingston Street, Goderich on Thursday, September 17th from 4 -7 PM. Casual dress and Leafs or Jays shirts would be welcome! In lieu of flowers if you wish, you may make a donation to the AMGH Foundation - Magnetic Moments or Huron Hospice. Family and friends can sign the book of condolences at www.haskettfh.com.

SERVICES

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WANTED 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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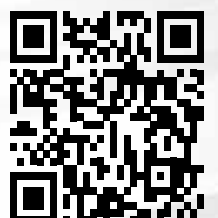
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COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

Send in your sports reports

Coaches and/or parents are invited to send in your sports reports and pictures to the Goderich Sun to let Goderich and area know how your teams are doing throughout the 2026/27 season (and to create some great scrapbook material to be reflected upon in future years).

Game reports should be kept to a maximum of 100 words. Please include a brief description of what happened during your games, including the names of those who scored and any special

efforts made by your players.

Please send reports and pictures by emailing kate@goderichsun.com



SUDOKU

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Eddie Vedder
2. ChatGPT
3. Soccer (football)
4. TikTok
5. PlayStation 2
6. Gotham City
7. Disney
8. Barbie
9. 1999
10. The speed of sound



Deadline: Friday prior at 3 p.m.
Contact: 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

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

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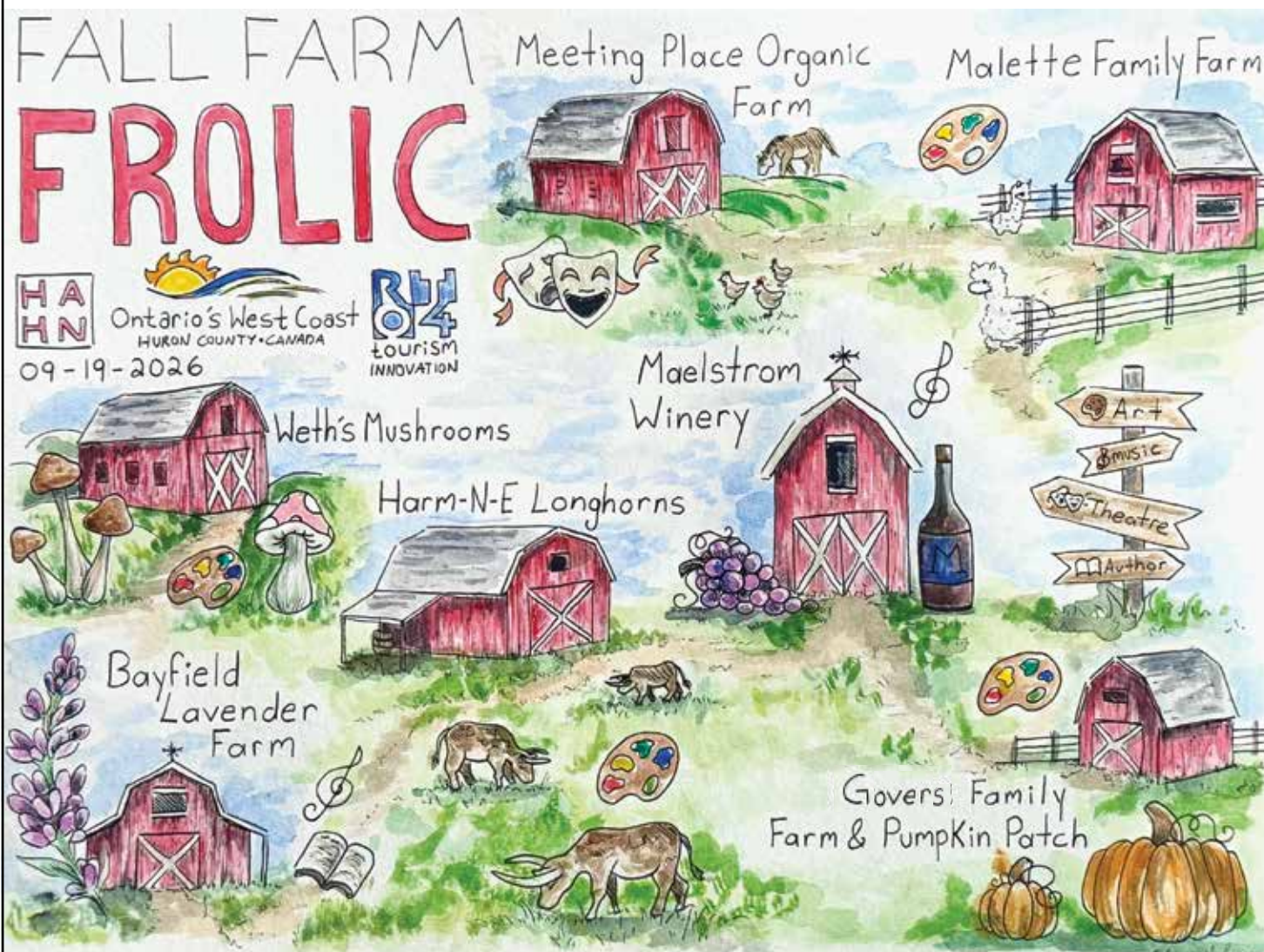
Sunsets of Goderich



Taken the evening of August 31, 2026. The iconic tree at the Goderich Main Beach in the final sunset of August 2026.

(EMSIE WILLIAMS PHOTO)

To submit photos of the sunset, email kate@goderichsun.com



**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
10AM - 4PM**

**FREE FARM FUN,
FOOD & CREATIVITY!**

Self-guided Tours

Spend the day exploring local farms, discovering how your food is grown and meet the people behind it. Get up close with cute farm critters, and shop fresh from the farm. Enjoy arts programming at every stop. A one-of-a-kind day in the Huron County countryside.

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lunch, wine tasting and swag - \$75 pp +HST

Full details at the QR Code or visit ontarioswestcoast.ca/fall-farm-frolic-september-19th-2026/