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Norfolk water bills going up in 2026

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

Norfolk County water users will face another steep increase in 2026 as the municipality continues to tackle a challenging shortfall in infrastructure funding for water and wastewater services.

Council approved a 10.1 per cent increase for 2026, which equates to a monthly increase of \$14.83 for a residential home consuming 12 cubic metres. Staff and politicians both acknowledged the significant increases of this year and last, though stressed it's a necessary response to both ensure safe and reliable drinking water and to respond to legislative changes from Queen's Park.

"We know our rates are high. We know our water bills are higher than that of our neighbouring municipalities," said general manager of public works Andrew Grice.

"But our rate budget is driven purely by capital investment and that's to close our infrastructure gap and maintain levels of service that our council has adopted as part of our asset management plan."

To that point, 7.27 of the 10.1 per cent increase is "driven by reserve contributions and debt servicing costs required for funding capital projects," a staff report said.

With \$425 million in rate related expenditures identified in the 2026-2035 capital asset plan in addition to \$173 million already approved, covering future costs isn't going to get easier anytime soon.

"Simply put, without monumental changes to funding available for rate related capital projects Norfolk may become the municipality with the highest rate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



A partnership between CCSYR, Grand Erie Community Health Centre and the Canadian Mental Health Association is responding to Hurricane Melissa-associated mental health challenges faced by Jamaican foreign workers in Southwestern Ontario and beyond. Services can be accessed by calling Leanne Arnal at 519-277-1102 for referral, pictured here flanked by Wes Clarke (left) and Donald Sangster (right).

Mental health support for Jamaican workers

JEFF TRIBE

Advocate Correspondent

Three Canadian organizations are coordinating efforts to offer mental health support for Jamaican foreign migrant workers struggling to deal with Hurricane Melissa's devastation.

Canadians and workers' host communities quite literally benefit from the fruits and vegetables of their labour says Leanne Arnal, Manager of Community Development, Catholic Community Services York Region (CCSYR), Simcoe Satellite Office. And now, in those workers' time of

need, she feels responsibility to reciprocate.

"We are their extended family, we need to be there in support. We absolutely have to offer whatever support we can."

A foreign migrant worker's mental

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Delhi Firefighter Halloween Open House



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Facepainting at the Delhi firefighters Halloween Open House and Pumpkin Carving.



Evan Lindekamp (left) carved a pumpkin with Jason Lindekamp watching at the Delhi firefighters Halloween Open House and Pumpkin Carving on Oct. 25.

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Hazel Holbrook met Sparky the Fire Dog at the annual Delhi Firefighter's Association Halloween Open House and Pumpkin Carving.



Delhi District Secondary School facepainters Jahzava Henderson, Ava Davey and Emma Young.



Alexander Brightman, dressed as Bluey, enjoyed the Halloween Open House and Pumpkin Carving at Norfolk County Station 5 in Delhi.



Asher Maes helps aim the fire house with dad Geoff Maes, a firefighter at Norfolk Station 5 in Delhi.

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Hurricane Melissa-related mental health support

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

challenge from leaving home and family for months is immense under the best of circumstances. But painful and effectively powerless separation during Melissa's deadly path of destruction and related loss of communication is other level.

"Terrible when I cannot hear," said Wes Clarke on Wednesday, Oct. 29.

He last spoke with family in his home parish of St. Elizabeth - hardest hit by Melissa - the previous Friday. Communication with wife Colleen and their daughters Osheena, a teacher, and Judianne, who manages two hotels in Montego Bay, was cut off with the loss of infrastructure. "It's not easy, not easy at all because you don't know what's going on.

"It's terrible."

Clarke has worked with two generations of the Koteles family for 25 years, advancing to a supervisory role. It has been tough leaving his own Jamaican family each and every one of those years, requiring what compatriot Donald Sangster refers to as the proper 'mindset.' A painter by trade, Clarke's steadier income earned in Canada has built his house, provided university education for his children and allowed the purchase of a piece of property on which he grows bananas, mangos and coconuts.

"Twenty-five years... it isn't easy. (But) it's a sacrifice you have to make."

Watching Melissa develop and strike Jamaica was incredibly stressful, tougher still from a distance.

"Devastating, but I don't hear what else. Nobody can communicate with anybody."

"There is no internet down there," said

Sangster.

He was able to 'send phone credit' south and hear in person girlfriend Chantal and son Donald Junior in St. Thomas parish were OK. Sangster's house, located on a hill, survived, but his own banana, mango and coconut trees did not.

"Everything flattened out, terrible. We've got to replant."

Replanting is the baseline expectation for Clarke.

"I don't know, I don't hear anything concrete, I just have to guess."

Another Jamaican staying on the Koteles property learned his house sustained serious damage.

"When your roof is gone, it's not an easy thing," said Clarke.

"He's got no home to go to," Arnal added.

In addition, flights home at the end of a long season were cancelled for some workers, a backlog complicated by damage to airports.

"We don't know when it's going to open," said Clarke.

He wants to believe family members in Jamaica are OK (a third daughter, Okeema, is working toward Canadian permanent residency through an agricultural program here), but being unable to hear from them directly has created a 'pain in his heart', loss of appetite and difficulty sleeping. Clarke tries to cope by staying busy, finding working is better than thinking too much.

"If I stay in place, it hurts more. I like to move."

Some are turning to self-medication, 'li-

quor' providing one avenue.

"It's not good," Clarke understated.

A partnership between CCSYR, Grand Erie Community Health Centre (GECHC) and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) is responding to Melissa-associated mental health challenges faced by Jamaican foreign workers based not only in Southwestern Ontario, but across Canada. The response includes community and faith-based mental health supports, workshops, prayer support, on-farm visits and confidential virtual and telephone support.

"The outreach is local in-person, but

accessible right across Canada," said Arnal. Her immediate goal is informing both workers and farmers this potentially vital service is available.

Access is provided via calling Arnal at 519-277-1102, acting as referral hub.

"We're just going old-school right to the telephone. It's immediate."

Arnal looks forward to being part of the broader disaster relief effort, Jamaica's need undeniably great and ongoing.

"But right now, we just need to get people to sleep. Provide them with the mental health support they need," she concluded.

Norfolk County water bills going up in 2026

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

debt outstanding per capita across the entire province," said Chris Everets, manager of financial planning.

Familiar reasons like inflation are driving some of the increased costs, but staff said changes in asset management legislation has also changed the math. With more stringent requirements on how municipalities plan capital projects, finance departments are now having to plan for future expenditures hundreds of millions of dollars above what they were only five years ago.

One thing that's not driving the increases, staff pointed out, is growth. Pushing back against a narrative Coun. Adam Veri said exists in the community, CAO Al Meneses said much of the work required isn't expanding service.

"I think we can comfortably say and confidently say that the vast majority of these costs are related to the condition of the assets and the fact they need to be replaced," he said.

"If the residents are thinking that a lot of this increase is related to growth and growth is what is driving the increase the

answer is: no it's not."

In fact, part of the issue in Norfolk is the limited number of water users who are required to pay for a massive system. Veri said it mostly comes down to three options: grants, growth or increases for existing users.

Despite calling it a "doom and gloom" budget, Mayor Amy Martin credited staff and her councillors for making the difficult decisions required. However, she was also clear in her belief that Norfolk can't solve things alone.

"Without additional and consistent support from senior levels of government meeting our funding needs they will remain beyond local means," she said.

With the new strong mayor powers, Martin had the ability to amend the budget staff presented, but didn't. She said especially in the case of something as important as safe drinking water, politicians should rely on staff expertise.

"Those decisions should never be politicized or altered for short term gain," she said.

"They should be guided by expertise, not expedience."



Bobbi Ann Brady

MPP, HALDIMAND-NORFOLK

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EDITORIAL

MPP Brady schools Minister of Education over Bill 33

Haldimand-Norfolk
MPP
Bobbi Ann
Brady



It was another full week at Queen's Park. I'll give you a few highlights before getting into the meat and potatoes - an omnibus bill rammed through the House including the removal of speed cameras, the Premier calling the law on fixed election dates "fake," and a renewed call by some of my colleagues and me for this government to look at the evidence as it relates to Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) testing.

I spent two days on Finance Committee looking over the forecasted expenditures of both the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade as well as the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

Where I was really able to make our voices heard was during debate of Bill 33, Supporting Children and Students

Act, 2025. You may recall I wrote about it a few weeks ago, but the finer details warrant a revisit. The legislation was written under the guise of improving oversight, transparency, and the overall effectiveness of the system, but there remains in this bill significant concerns about the balance of oversight and institutional autonomy. Bill 33 will remove the voice of students, parents, and educators in Ontario as it aims to eliminate school board trustees. Local issues will go unnoticed as centralized decision-making will be encouraged from Queen's Park.

During debate I told colleagues I fear local traditions like Young Canada Day (YCD) at the Norfolk County Fair will be jeopardized. We have had YCD threatened by administration in Brantford a number of times and it has always been our local trustees who have saved it.

I also mentioned being contacted by post-secondary school students who were ringing alarm bells because the bill grants the government power to decide which ancillary fees are 'required' and which are not. Such a change could severely cut essential services upon which students rely like mental health supports, crisis response teams, food banks, and transportation. I emphatically reminded the Minister these were not the government's monies, these are the funds of students and parents who pay tuition.

Under fire, the Minister of Education, Paul Calandra, attempted to change the channel and linked a trip to Italy

by local school board trustees to the debate. I rhetorically asked the Minister which legislation we were debating - Bill 33 or Bill 57, the bill that vacates the Haldimand seat at the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board. The Minister was disingenuous as he knew full well - I was the MPP to rise in the Legislature last November calling on the government to pick up the phone and ask the trustees to step down. I have since penned letters asking Minister Calandra to act on behalf of taxpayers.

Calandra was deflecting from the real issues as critics know the bill is a smoke screen for the larger issue of chronic underfunding. Education is being underfunded by \$6.4 billion because this government refuses to keep up with inflation. We see aging buildings, education inequities especially in rural areas like ours, larger class sizes, and less support staff. Teachers and staff are facing burn-out like never before, affecting retention and overall education quality.

Bill 33, in short, goes after the low-hanging fruit, and does nothing to help Ontario classrooms. I encourage you to head to Bobbi Ann Brady on YouTube and watch the exchange between the Minister and me. How do families and those navigating a broken education system trust the Minister who stands in the House and tells mistruths?

MP Lewis welcomes federal infrastructure funding

Haldimand-Norfolk
MP
Leslyn
Lewis



Leslyn Lewis, Member of Parliament for Haldimand-Norfolk and the Conservative Shadow Minister for Infra-

structure, welcomed the arrival of federal infrastructure funding for Haldimand-Norfolk through the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Under the 2025-26 allocation, Norfolk County will receive \$4.44 million and Haldimand County will receive \$3.22 million to support local infrastructure priorities such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater, and community facilities.

"These investments will help our local councils move ahead with projects that communities have been waiting for," said Lewis in a media release. "They are essential for addressing some of the ongoing infrastructure needs facing our region."

Lewis noted that while the annual funding transfers pro-

vide important support, many rural and small communities continue to face challenges in maintaining critical infrastructure and accessing new funding streams.

"My focus will remain on holding the government accountable to deliver the infrastructure funding our communities need and ensuring rural regions like Haldimand-Norfolk get fair and accessible funding to grow and prosper."

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Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Chris Abbott • chris@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Michelle Foster • info@simcoeadvocate.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Administration

Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

Contributors

Alex Hunt, Lisa Timpf, Paul Knowles

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
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Norfolk County businesses will have to come up with their own recycling solutions in 2026

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

It appears Norfolk's Industrial, Commercial and Institution (ICI) sector will have to figure out what to do with its recyclable material come the new year.

The new Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) model for waste collection takes full effect at the end of this year. The intent of the transition was to get municipalities out of the waste collection business. However, in the transition, the ICI sector is being partially left out, as the PROs have said they will not collect recycling from those properties.

Staff previously brought forward a report seeking council direction on how to proceed. During the transition period Norfolk has offered a co-collection service with the PRO to ensure the recycling collection continued as expected.

But with that coming to an end, councillors were given three options: establish an opt-in service, accept recycling at county transfer stations or leave it up to individual businesses and the ICI sector.

When the report first came to council, Mayor Amy Martin voiced her support for the municipality getting out of the waste collection business entirely and monitoring the

situation over the next year to see what happens. There were fears that businesses and institutional sites would simply begin throwing all their recycling in the garbage.

However, other councillors wanted more details and more information before making a decision.

Part of the issue is that the municipality itself is part of the ICI sector, meaning Norfolk will have to figure out what to do with recycling at its facilities. The update report estimated about \$162,000 for the county to provide recycling at its 70 facilities. More recycling material ending up in the county's garbage stream could cost as much as \$73,000, staff estimated.

Offering a full program that would include the municipality as well as other members of the ICI sector is estimated to cost \$450,000.

When everything is considered, Coun. Adam Veri argued the difference between a county-specific recycling program and one for the entire ICI sector might be palatable.

"Is it worth it to Norfolk County to continue this service when it's a difference of \$200,000?" he asked, coming to the rough estimate by subtracting the increased costs associated with more recyclable material ending up in the garbage stream and the cost to recycle materials in County-owned facilities from the estimated cost of a full ICI sector service.

However, his motion to offer the full service was defeated. Instead, council voted in support of Martin's original suggestion, as well as to have the company that collects garbage from county facilities to also begin collecting the recyclable material come Jan. 1.

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Investigation was a 'pursuit of the truth'

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

As an integrity commissioner investigation into leaked confidential documents laid the guilt squarely at the feet of the Haldimand County mayor, Norfolk County staff and councillors appear eager to put the issue to bed.

Integrity commissioner David Boghosian spoke to Norfolk council at the Oct. 28 meeting about the results of his investigation into how emails about the Norfolk-Haldimand health unit merger were leaked earlier this year. His report found Haldimand Mayor Shelley Ann Bentley responsible for the leak, saying it was in an effort to discredit Norfolk Mayor Amy Martin ahead of the provincial election.

Martin unsuccessfully ran in that elec-

tion, losing to incumbent Bobbi Ann Brady, a friend of Bentley.

While Boghosian's investigation, along with a previous investigation instigated by Norfolk CAO Al Meneses and former Haldimand CAO Cathy Case, cleared Norfolk council and staff of any wrongdoing, Meneses and Martin said untruths continue to ripple through the community.

"What troubles me the most is the unfounded insinuations and the doubling down on false claims that our staff played a role in it. And now we know unequivocally that is simply not true," Martin said.

Meneses said accusations of the investigations being politically motivated are likewise untrue.

"I can tell you with 100 per cent confidence that there was zero involvement on the political side and this started in pursuit

of the truth and specifically to clear Norfolk County staff of any wrongdoing, and that's what drove the initial investigation," he said.

Back in February, around the time of the election, a Facebook post went public on a Dunnville community group that showed photos of printed copies of emails regarding the health unit merger, which was by then a done deal. The post suggested the emails were leaked by a disgruntled Norfolk employee and seemed aimed at putting Martin in a negative light.

However, both investigations found no involvement on the Norfolk side.

While the initial investigation could not conclude who specifically was responsible, Boghosian's did.

"I'm quite confident there was more than ample evidence to make the findings that

were made and I stand by the conclusions," he said.

Haldimand councillors agreed, supporting his recommendation to dock Bentley four months of pay.

Martin also said she was concerned about some of the sentiments she's hearing in the community about the value of an integrity commissioner.

"I'm deeply disturbed by the rhetoric that there's no need for an integrity commissioner," she said.

Meneses said the process unfolded as it was supposed to, reiterating comments in a staff report on the issue.

Martin once again thanked Meneses and Case for their professionalism and dedication to civic service in carrying out the investigation.

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Council approves revised Butternut Drive plan

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

A changing housing market and responding to community concerns has led the owners of a Butternut Drive property to propose changes to its residential development proposal.

And those changes were accepted by Norfolk councillors at the Oct. 28 council meeting.

"I think this is a well needed form of housing," said Coun. Chris Van Paassen, thanking the proponents for taking into account their desires for additions such as a sidewalk.

The new proposal has a two-phase approach, including 52 single detached dwellings in the first phase and 78 townhouses - with 78 additional residential dwelling units (ARDU) in the second phase. That means a total of 156 units in phase two.

The latest proposal sees a decrease in unit total. When the developers originally split it into two phases, the second phase

included 86 units, with 86 ARDUs for what would have been a total of 172 units.

Dillon Consulting's Joe Guzzi told councillors that changing marking conditions forced the developers to come up with a new plan that included something more affordable and saleable.

"It will provide the opportunity for much needed rental units," he added.

Councillors first heard about the revised plan earlier this year. It was presented at a public hearings committee meeting in July. Further discussions led to the reduction in Phase 2 units, which also allows the development to contain its parking requirements within the lots. The new plan provides two parking spaces for each townhouse unit, with another spot for each ARDU.

The new proposal does still require some relief from planning rules, including: Minimum lot frontage, minimum rear yard, minimum exterior side yard, minimum front yard landscaped open space, and parking within required front yard.

Council approves 12-unit build for Port Dover

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

A Port Dover development proposal has been put in the hands of Norfolk County staff, with some advice from council.

County politicians maintained some reservations about the 12-unit stacked townhouse proposal for Main Street, though their concerns likely would be best addressed under site plan control, a process that doesn't typically include council. While they supported the idea of the proposal providing more housing in the municipality, they were still worried about the impacts on neighbours.

"We do need more housing options in Norfolk County but I do implore staff do the best they can during the site plan review," said Coun. Kim Huffman.

"That we maintain as much parking as possible, setbacks as possible and we do our best to assist the neighbours who attended the public meeting and have provided public comment."

Coun. Chris Van Paassen also requested staff explore ways to mitigate the impacts to neighbours during the site plan process.

"Maybe we could call for some fencing or some mature plantings... to have good physical separation from that lot to the neighbour's lot," he said, adding permeable parking areas could also alleviate concerns about drainage.



Coun. Chris Van Paassen, Ward 4

The proposal calls for 12 units on a half-acre plot of land at 711 Main St. in Port Dover. Several provisions are included in the recommendation report, including a reduction of parking spaces from 24 to 19 spaces.

Van Paassen brought up the possibility of reducing the number of units to make the property fit better, however he acknowledged that had its own issue in that bringing the total down to 10 units would mean the county loses site plan control.

"I think it's much more important to have site plan control on this," he said.

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Parking issues major concern for townhouse proposal

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

Despite staff recommending a denial of a proposed Scott Drive townhouse build in Port Dover, the project isn't quite dead yet.

Instead, council referred the issue back to staff at the Oct. 28 council meeting with the hopes the developers could re-submit a proposal that's more palatable.

Several concerns were raised regarding the townhouse build that was proposed for 9 Scott Dr. at a public hearing meeting earlier this fall. While concerns were varied, staff said it basically came down to one problem.

"Really, the parking was a main concern," said Alisha Cull, acting director of planning and realty services. At the public hearing meeting councillors heard about a plan to build 10 townhouse units on the property. Following the meeting, the proposal was revised to reduce it to eight units, with the site design being revised as well.

However, those changes were not enough to allay the parking concerns. Often staff will be more amenable to parking reductions if there's sufficient on-street parking available for guests and visitors, Cull said. However, with the narrowness of that area of Scott Drive, she said it wasn't really conducive to on-street parking. Coun. Chris Van Paassen pointed out some of the other concerns with the proposal, including drainage and neighbourhood compatibility.

"Most of which I agree with," he said.

However, he wasn't fully ready to outright deny the application, putting forward a motion to refer it back to staff. He suggested other options like putting a couple of semi-detached houses on the property might make more sense.

The county does run the risk of having the application appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal as a result of deadlines for a decision passing, however Van Paassen pointed out it was likely to be appealed anyway if council went ahead with staff's recommendation to deny the proposal.

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Delhi BIA Walk of Treats



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Gwen, Sheldon and Penny Durkin dressed up for Saturday's Halloween Walk of Treats organized by the Delhi Business Improvement Area. Thirty-five Delhi businesses participated this year.



Bayzen Linton of Simcoe explored Delhi on Oct. 25, collecting treats during the Delhi Business Improvement Area's 10th annual Halloween Walk of Treats



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JP Riemens intertwines memory, music, imagination

ADVOCATING FOR AUTHORS

By
Dick Bourgeois-Doyle

“It was fun.”

That might sound like a simplistic reason to write, but it’s one of the best - no matter where you live or what stories you want to tell.

Some of us struggle to see the fun amidst the emotionally trying, mentally taxing, and creatively elusive process of putting words to paper and screen. But when that process clicks and the words flow - stories take shape and we are reminded of our reasons for writing.

That feeling of joyful storytelling is palpable in JP Riemens’ memoir, ‘Slightly Below the Surface.’ The area native, who travelled a lot but returned to his roots, reminds us that writing can be catharsis and, yes, fun.

“Oh yeah, yeah, it was a lot of fun writing,” says Riemens, who might know the joy of storytelling better than many other authors because he has been telling tales for over half a century as a songwriter and singer.

A decade or so ago, he even saw his music and life merged in the stage production, ‘Tobacco Troubadour.’ There is, in fact, an element of performance and stage in his book as it required a bit of choreography. It intertwined memory, music, and imagination.

At the outset, his life reads like a typical Canadian rock ballad: a dropout teen in the early 1970s who hitchhiked west with a guitar, a songwriter who found his voice in cafes and pubs, and a dance with drugs. This experience combined with his time as a producer and part owner of Hamilton’s legendary Grant Avenue Studio would warrant a back-stage book on the music industry.

But Riemens had other dimensions to his life. Personal ups and downs, of course, but also diverse professional experience in jobs ranging from machinist, carpenter, and sound engineer to business manager, restaurateur, and



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

JP Riemens is a local author and musician.

commercial artist.

Weaving all of these elements into a coherent memoir might be challenge enough. But JP amplifies the task by adding an imaginary element that ties his boyhood self with the aging adult that has now put his life into book format.

In ‘Slightly Below the Surface,’ JP’s personal journey is shadowed – literally - by a ghost. That of Elizabeth Yates, a woman who died exactly one hundred years before JP’s birth. Her gravestone still stands in a row of tombstones next to his boyhood home east of Norwich.

“At one point writing the book, I wasn’t finding myself entertaining and felt I needed another voice,” Riemens recalls. “Then one day I was out walking the dog and noticed the date on her tombstone for the first time and it hit me.”

Elizabeth’s spectral presence acts like a backup singer whose commentary provides haunting harmonies to the

stories in JP’s memoir. But her persona and her words are, as Riemens makes clear, “purely a product of the author’s imagination.”

The memoir is rich with regional texture too. Riemens doesn’t just mention the rural environment of his youth, he embodies it. From tobacco fields to taverns, he’s lived a lot of our landscape. His summer stints picking tobacco weren’t just teenage rites of passage. He mastered all stages of the harvest, and in doing so, harvested money for music.

The book also mixes the author’s own song lyrics with the events described, in a way letting music and memory reverberate together. The technique feels natural in the work of a songwriter, but it also helps elevate the memoir into something more than autobiography - it becomes a kind of soundtrack to a life.

And it also adds to the fun. Riemens reminds us that writing isn’t just about processing pain or preserving history. It’s about play. It’s about crafting something of beauty from the raw material of experience. It’s about letting your stories sing.

He doesn’t shy away from the hard parts: the heartbreaks, the missteps, the moments of doubt. But even in those passages, there’s a sense of wonder. A sense that our lives, for all the messiness, is worth documenting.

And that’s the real takeaway. Writing stories, like music, is a way of making sense of the world. It’s a way of connecting dots, of finding rhythm in chaos. Riemens has spent a lifetime doing just that - on stage, in studios, and on the page.

So, if you’ve ever felt bogged down by the weight of the writing process, pick up ‘Slightly Below the Surface.’ Let JP Riemens show you how storytelling can be a joyride - sometimes bumpy, sometimes smooth, but always worth it.

Because at the end of the day, writing should be fun.

SLIGHTLY BELOW THE SURFACE

JP Riemens will be performing and reading from books in the ‘Slightly Below the Surface’ series at the Birds Canada Headquarters building, 115 Front Road, Port Rowan on Sunday, November 16th from 2-4 p.m. To link to the podcast interview with JP Riemens and information on his other books and upcoming events, check out [doverwrites.blogspot.com](#)

Book Tour Event



More than 250 people attended an Adam Shoalts book tour event organized by Beach Reads Bookshop on Sunday, Oct. 19 at the Port Dover Community Centre.



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

Adam Shoalts is sharing his latest adventures on a book tour for ‘Vanished Beyond the Map: The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell.’ The book intertwines Shoalts’ academic and adventurous sides as he retraces the life of another intrepid Canadian figure.

A photograph of two young girls standing side-by-side. The girl on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a gold tiara with purple gemstones and a purple top. The girl on the right has blonde hair tied with a large red bow and is wearing a white costume with black spots, a red choker with a black heart pendant, and a red and white striped collar. They are both looking at the camera. The background is a window decorated with autumn-themed items like pumpkins and leaves.

This year's three-hour, high-energy Treats in the Streets, organized by the Downtown Simcoe Business Improvement Area on Saturday, Oct. 25, featured more than 60 businesses handing out Halloween goodies to young trick-or-treaters, including Cali Russell (on the left) and Liara Slagter from Waterford, a meet and greet with two characters from The Glass Slipper Company, a pet costume parade, and music by Dan the Music Man.



Sophie Estrella joined the Halloween fun at Treats in the Streets, organized by the Downtown Simcoe Business Improvement Area.



An enthusiastic Milaina Ferreirinha at Simcoe BIA's Treats in the Streets.



Rebecca and Isabella Patako at Simcoe BIA's annual Treats in the Streets.



Charlie Mullins dressed up as a 'ghost dog' for the annual Treats in the Streets in Simcoe.



A young Heidi Russell nearly fell asleep trick-or-treating.

Lunch and laughter – a great combination

BRENDA MOSER

Advocate Correspondent

A big plus to writing for this publication is the many interesting people I get to meet and the stories they have to tell. Recently I received a text from Daphne Schuyler with an invite to join her and friends for lunch at Kerry's St. James Street Eatery in Waterford and I couldn't refuse.

In early October, I had the opportunity to meet one great bunch of women who call themselves 'The Vintage Ladies.' They are a group of nine Waterford District High School graduates that likes to meet every two or three months since attending a WDHS Reunion.

The ladies have been meeting for about six or seven years now and they take turns choosing a location and venue. Their locations vary... Paris, Elmhurst Inn in Ingersoll, St. Marys, Brantford... wherever the group chooses. They have gathered in Port Dover, Simcoe, and travelled to Ohsweken for lunch at The Burger Barn. They have visited local wineries, a tulip farm, and the Windmill Inn in Mount Pleasant. They make every effort to support each other through surgeries and other adversities and still get together on a fairly regular basis. Besides, who doesn't like to go out for lunch with your friends and catch up?

While students, the ladies studied different courses, but it seems that one common denominator for all of them was their history teacher, Bob Stevenson. It was easy to see he was a special teacher to all of them and a great friend since then.

At the request of Bob Stevenson, each of the ladies gave a short recollection of their lives since graduating high school. There were a lot of stories to tell and memories to share, a variety of adventures... and lots of laughter. They learned many things about each other that they never knew in



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Bob Stevenson, former Waterford District High School history teacher, recently met 'The Vintage Ladies' at Kerry's St. James Street Eatery in Waterford. Behind seated Stevenson are, from left, Peggy (Lomas) Hoffman; Janice (Kersey) Schweder; Sharon (Howard) Gerrard; and in the back row, Luba (Hurnacki) Brown, Janet (Hall) Bradshaw; Louise (Kosar) Reid; and Daphne (Bernard) Schuyler. Not in the photo are Heather (Lee) Dew and Cecile (Demeulenare) Wiley.

school. They shared their memories about 'the good old school days'... good, bad and funny.

The opportunity to meet all of the 'Vintage Girls' was a great experience and I was impressed at how young they are in heart and spirit. It's easy to tell that they appreciate all that they have and the friendships and reconnections that they have made from becoming a Vintage Lady.

What was so refreshing to see were the smiles on Stevenson's face as he listened to their stories and the memories they shared of their high school days at WDHS and their time with him in his classroom.

"You've all done very well. I knew you would all turn out good when I first met all of you. You are all hard workers!"

Stevenson was and is the epitome of what all teachers should aspire to achieve. While

the world has changed, Stevenson taught them so many lessons that they have been able to carry with them all of these years.

While the food was great – thanks Kerry – the company, stories and laughter were the icing on the cake. Thank you again, Vintage Ladies, for including me in your reunion! It truly was a celebration of memories from 'the good old days'!

Simcoe Farmers' Market launches in its new location

ALEX HUNT

Advocate Correspondent

The Simcoe Farmers' Market is gathering customer and vendor feedback in preparation for its Nov. 13 relocation grand opening.

Since 1980, the Simcoe Farmers' Market has operated in the Homecraft building at the Norfolk fairgrounds. The Market recently moved under the Grandstand after a decision was made by the Norfolk County Agricultural Society, which saw a community need to accommodate a banquet hall in its former location.

"This is a fresh and exciting new venture for the farmers' market, and the community came out in great numbers," said Steve Miedema, president of the Simcoe Farmers' Market. "Customers described the new space as homier and cozier, so the feedback was positive. We wanted to have a few weeks for a soft opening to make sure all the kinks were worked out."

Miedema said that the new space has a similar layout to the previous setting, with customers that are changing their old routine and noticing new vendors. Miedema added that the transition was supported by the fairgrounds, which added ease to the move.

Vendors were pleased with the Oct. 23 soft launch turnout. Miedema said that staff are working with vendors to make minor tweaks to ensure a smooth grand opening.

"With this new space, we can tap into a larger outdoor market and bring things like food trucks in because we have water and hydro hookups out there now," said Miedema. "It allows us to have different opportunities outside as opposed to just produce stands and crafts."

The market will still operate every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Miedema said it's challenging to open a Saturday market because vendors are selling their wares in other communities. He explained that having a market on Thursday makes



(ORRIE ECKER PHOTO)

The Simcoe Farmer's Market new location under the grandstand.

it less convenient for the working person to attend.

"We thought about doing an online market where people can pre-order and have pickups. We toyed with the idea during the pandemic, but it phased out because people were done with online shopping once the safety regulations stopped," said Miedema. "We need to figure something out that's going to balance both vendors and customers'

needs." Miedema said that the conversation will reopen in the spring once the Christmas season settles.

"We're proud to keep serving the community, and it's rewarding to welcome both newcomers and returning customers," said Miedema. "As the market continues to grow in the new home, we continue to look forward to supporting local vendors each week."

Mud Creek Nature Reserve protects species at risk

Long Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT) recently secured the protection of a 61.7-acre (25-hectare) property along Mud Creek in southern Norfolk County - an area of global importance for ecological research, habitat conservation, and endangered species.

Located within the Dedrick Creek - Mud Creek corridor, the property contains a diverse mix of forest, grassland, riparian areas, creek, and farmland. It is directly connected to a large conservation block anchored by Backus Woods, considered core habitat of the internationally-significant Long Point World Biosphere Reserve.

"Mud Creek is a cornerstone property for biodiversity, scientific research, and species at risk," said Wendy Cridland, Executive Director of Long Point Basin Land Trust in a media release. "Protecting this site ensures the continuation of internationally-recognized research and safeguards rare species that rely on these lands."

Bobbi Ann Brady, Member of Provincial Parliament for Haldimand-Norfolk, added, "Permanent protection of the Mud Creek property contributes to a much larger complex of protected lands enjoyed by our community. This property safeguards habitat for species at risk, supports world-class ecological research, and strengthens the natural legacy of Norfolk County. I commend Long Point Basin Land Trust and its partners for their vision and commitment to conservation."

Living Laboratory for Research

For the last 35 years, re-naturalized farmland on the property has hosted research on tree swallows. It is part of one of the world's longest-running studies on the breeding biology of a single species. In 2024 alone, 81 nest boxes produced 223 fledglings.

Conducted by the Long Point Bird Observatory, the program has banded over 30,000 swallows, collected extensive insect data, and trained more than 200 volunteers. The research is part of a large international program across the Americas and provides critical insights into breeding



Long Point Basin Land Trust's Mud Creek Nature Reserve will protect a long-term tree swallow study site.

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

performance, food abundance, and climate change impacts. With the property conserved, the research site will be protected in perpetuity.

Critical Habitat

The property adds to vital habitat as part of a much larger protected area supporting species at risk that require large, intact and connected natural lands. Rare turtles and snakes, as well as songbirds and bats, benefit greatly from over 1,000 hectares of connected and protected habitat. Without protection, Mud Creek faced imminent threats including grassland conversion to agriculture, increased recreational vehicle use, and the spread of invasive species.

"The protection of Mud Creek is an important step forward in conserving Ontario's natural heritage," said Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation

and Parks. "Through the Greenlands Conservation Partnership program, our government is proud to support the Long Point Basin Land Trust in securing this ecologically significant site. This investment helps preserve valuable habitat, supports long-term research, and contributes to building resilience across the province."

Benefits of conservation at Mud Creek include:

- Ensuring continuation of internationally significant tree swallow research.
- Safeguarding critical habitat for species at risk.
- Restoring and connecting a larger natural habitat corridor along Mud Creek.
- Enhancing climate action through carbon sequestration and storage.

Restoration Goals

Planned efforts include removing invasive species and seeding an agricultural field with native plants, supporting its transition into a healthy successional forest that will further buffer the Mud Creek natural corridor.

Protection of Mud Creek was made possible through the generous support of numerous partners and contributors, including: Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, Greenlands Conservation Partnership, Echo Foundation, Alan and Pat Koval Foundation, Ontario Conservation Accelerator, Grapes for Humanity, Carolinian Canada, and Power Corporation of Canada.

To contribute to this project or other work of the Long Point Basin Land Trust, visit: <https://longpointlandtrust.ca/donate> or email general@longpointlandtrust.ca.

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Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is a group of bears called?
2. What silent film star was "The Tramp"?
3. What is the name given to people who make arrows?
4. What is Canada's National bird?
5. What are the birthstones for November?
6. Who was the lead singer of the Tragically Hip?
7. What Toronto Blue Jay hit a 3-run, walk-off home run to win the world series in 1993?
8. What Star Wars show follows rebel Cassian from Rogue One?
9. Who is the president of China?
10. What is the tallest mountain in Canada?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Supporting the Royal Canadian Legion's poppy campaign

LEAH BAUER

Advocate Correspondent

As Canadians, many of us can recite John McCrae's *In Flanders Fields* by heart, fully aware of the sadness, sacrifice, and legacy that poem represents.

That legacy lives on each year through the Royal Canadian Legion's Poppy Campaign, a national tradition of Remembrance. From the last Friday of October (Oct. 31) until Remembrance Day (Nov. 11), Canadians proudly wear the poppy to honour our veterans and all those who gave their lives so we can live freely. While the poppy is free for anyone to wear, the Legion welcomes donations to the Poppy Fund.

The Poppy Fund serves two key purposes: to provide direct support to Canada's veterans and their families, and to ensure that our nation never forgets their sacrifices. The campaign is organized and run entirely by Legion volunteers across

the country, including right here in Norfolk County, with branches in Waterford, Delhi, Port Dover, Port Rowan, Teeterville, and Simcoe.

Funds raised locally help provide financial assistance, housing, medical support, and accessibility services for veterans in need, while also supporting education programs, community care, and remembrance initiatives. The Poppy Fund also contributes to cadet programs and disaster relief efforts that benefit veterans and their communities.

Each poppy pinned to a coat or sweater carries more than a symbol, it carries gratitude, remembrance, and the promise that the sacrifices of Canada's veterans will never be forgotten.

Remembrance Day ceremonies are held in Fairground, Waterford, Delhi, Port Dover, Port Rowan, and Simcoe on Nov. 11, typically starting about 10:30-10:45 a.m. St. Williams' ceremony usually starts 30 minutes later. Teeterville's ceremony is Sunday, Nov. 9 at 1:30 p.m.



(FILE PHOTO)

Simcoe's Remembrance Day ceremony is held at the Carillon Tower, Norfolk Street, on Nov. 11.

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Ireland honours his First World War grandfather

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Jake Ireland's grandfather, Harry Samuel Green, was a soldier in the First World War.

"That's really why I'm here," said Ireland, volunteering at a Royal Canadian Legion, Simcoe Branch 79 poppy station Sunday afternoon in Simcoe. "I've been doing this for maybe 10 years."

Ireland's grandfather, Harry Samuel Green, was a Home Child, born Oct. 20, 1893, in Aldershot, Hampshire. He was placed in the National Children's Home following the death of his mother. Harry's father, who worked at the army barracks in Aldershot, was unable to care for the young child.

At 17, Harry was sent to Hamilton, Canada, sailing from Liverpool in 1910. He worked as a farm labourer at John R. Job's Hamilton Market Garden in Flamborough Township.

He enlisted in Waterdown on Feb. 25, 1916.

"I guess it was better for him to volunteer than it was to stay on one of those farms," said Ireland.

On May 18, 1916, Harry married Winifred Mitchell at the Carlisle Methodist Church. Ireland's mother, Evelyn, was born in September 1916 – she never saw her father.

Assigned to the 129th Wentworth Battalion, Harry had departed for England, then France where he was reassigned to a British Columbia Regiment.

Lance Cpl. Green was killed in action on Sept. 6, 1918, at the age of 23, while in the trenches near Canal du Nord, hit by a shell fragment. He was buried in the Dominion Cemetery, Hendecourt-Les-Casnicourt, France.

"I have very specific details on where he was buried," said Ireland, noting it includes driving instructions to get to the cemetery. "I have a niece who went."

Harry is also commemorated on the First World War Cemetery Gate at Carlisle United Church, a community north of Hamilton.

"Last November 11th, I went up to the gates at the church in Carlisle, and I couldn't read the plaque – the stone had weathered so badly," said Ireland. "I contacted them, said I will make a donation but

I would like that fixed... so they did! It was fixed about two months ago."

Ireland recently received a copy of a war-time photo of a group of Carlisle-area recruits that included his grandfather.

"Out of nowhere," Ireland smiled, cherishing the photo. "Incredible."

A veteran and member of Branch 79 in Simcoe, Ireland said he will be in Carlisle this year for Remembrance Day.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Jake Ireland volunteered at a Royal Canadian Legion, Simcoe Branch 79 poppy station in Simcoe Sunday afternoon.



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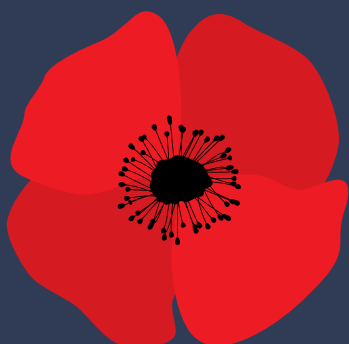
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Delhi's Branch 125 introduces 'No Stone Left Alone'

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

The Royal Canadian Legion, Delhi Branch 125, introduced the 'No Stone Left Alone' initiative to the Delhi area this year.

"It's in its 15th year," said Trudy Ingraham. "The lady who started it, out west, her mother was a veteran. On Remembrance Day, she placed a poppy on her mother's grave, and she realized there were a lot of other headstones of veterans laid to rest there. She felt it would be a nice idea if they all were remembered."

Over the years, schools became involved. Ingraham reached out to the local ele-



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Royal Canadian Legion, Delhi Branch 125 volunteer Shirley Barker handed out poppies during the Nov. 1st Poppy Tagging Day at Dave's Variety on James Street. Branch 125's second Tagging Day is Saturday, Nov. 8, 10-3.

mentary schools to participate in a Nov. 5 ceremony at the Delhi cemetery, open to the public.

"We will be placing stones, painted black with a poppy painted on it, with the words 'Lest We Forget.' So each student will be given a pre-painted stone, the size of their palms.

"There are approximately 50 gravesites at the cemetery, in one specific area. All together, there are 81 veterans laid to rest there. Some are with their families and those stones will be pre-laid.

"Each student will get a stone, and place it on a headstone of a vet, and they are going to say the veteran's name as part of the ceremony. This way, it brings the students into it, and it pays tribute to our vets. At this age, I believe it's very, very important that we get the students involved in these kinds of things... because they are the ones who are going to carry Remembrance on through the years. We need to make sure it's not forgotten."

The Branch 125 Colour Party also participated in the ceremony.

"They always step up to the plate," said Gary Cunningham, Sergeant at Arms, who coordinates the Branch 125 Colour Party.

Ingraham noted they also wanted to do a small ceremony at the Courtland cemetery where there are five or six veterans.

"We wanted to include them, if we can possibly do it this year," said Cunningham. "Once we do, they will never be forgotten after that. We don't want to forget anybody."



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Remembrance stones prepared for Delhi's No Stone Left Alone initiative on Nov. 5.

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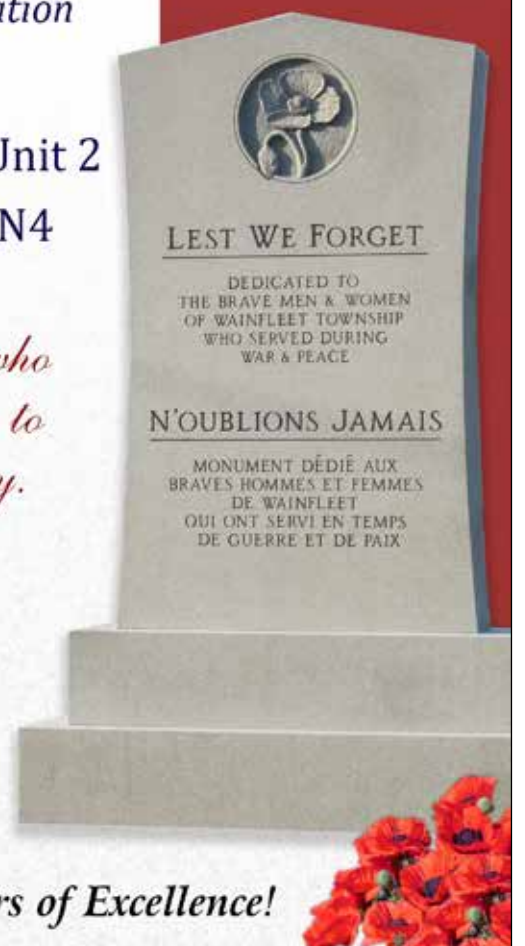
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CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

November 11 will mark the 100th Remembrance Day ceremony at the historic Norfolk War Memorial Carillon Tower on Norfolk Street.

"The ceremony is very well done and it's usually a good crowd," said Bruce Wilson, president of the Army Navy Air Force Unit 255 in Simcoe. "It's good to see the kids out. It should be acknowledged by the schools – a lot of students, even high school students, don't know what it's all about."

"I do it for me and for the veterans. In my heart, it makes me feel good."

People will gather at the Carillon Tower for a 10:30 a.m. ceremony.

"We all go to the Carillon Tower at 10:30-10:40 a.m.," said Wilson. "We have a short march, although it's getting smaller each year... us, the Legion, the cadets, the 69th Battery (56th Field Regiment), and some of the schools lay wreaths. The last few years we've had flyovers. They usually fire the cannon, twice."

"I loved to march with the bagpipes playing behind you. You get into the swing of the walk and it just

feels so good."

After the Remembrance Day service, many people head over to the Royal Canadian Legion, Simcoe Branch 79 (200 West Street) for a light lunch and camaraderie.

"Then we come back here (Army Navy Air Force Unit 255 at 53 Water Street) at 3 p.m. and we put out the biggest spread you'll see... for whoever comes," said Wilson, who does a lot of the cooking. "This year we'll have homemade chili, chicken soup, salads, cold cuts and buns, cheese, vegetables... We're kind of the last (Remembrance Day) stop here – people will stay 3-4 hours."

"What it does is it shows people what we're all about," Wilson said, proud of the 22-year-old building on Water Street.

Wilson said one of his 'bucket-list goals,' someday, is to ride in a Lancaster Bomber, based in Hamilton.

"I would just like to feel it. Just the experience, the sound. I love it when they're taking off. We were in St. Thomas two years ago, and the (WWII) planes were landing and taking off there. I pulled over and watched. You hear those engines kick in... the power. That's a big plane."



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Jim Friesen, a veteran since 1963, and Bruce Wilson, president of Army Navy Air Force Unit 255.



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Norfolk County Championship Wrestling goes big

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Norfolk County Championship Wrestling delivered big-time with its first Clash on the Coast, a two-show event Oct. 25 at the Port Dover Community Centre.

“Collectively, I would say the whole day ran really smooth,” said NCCW promoter Adam Martin. “The excitement, the energy, it was top notch throughout the entire day and night... for both shows. Especially for something that’s never been done like that in this area before.”

Martin said there was some concern it might be ‘too long’ of a day for most wrestling fans – and wrestlers – but they had respectable crowds for both afternoon and evening events (No. 1 and No. 2).

“The energy was extremely high, the excitement was there, people were entertained and having fun. It was something special, that’s for sure. Watching the (video) footage, you can hear it and see it, so it was pretty cool.”

The evening show included Kingsley vs Jody Threat, “a ball of energy,” said Martin, as a taste of NCCW’s next event in February 2026 which will feature the NCCW’s first-ever women’s championship.

“It showed what they can do in the ring. They can draw a house (crowds).”

Pretty Boy Smooth and Hayden Backlund, with Taylor Rising, was a ‘bit of a contrast’ in the first show, said Martin.

“They’re actually feuding right now in NWA. At our last event, Hayden lost to Pretty Ricky Wilddy for the second time in a row and he was technically supposed to be removed from NCCW, but NWA pulls the strings, so they got him on the card.”

Pretty Boy Smooth, one of the giants in the ring at 6’9”, performed twice last year for NCCW, said Martin, and will be back

again in 2026 – but not for the February show.

The evening TNA international match between Dijak and Maclin was the most intense match throughout the entire day.

“There was a situation when Maclin got busted open,” said Martin, “so that added a bit more drama to that match. We’re not used to having blood on our programming like that – it made it a big deal.”

Pretty Ricky Wilddy upset Pretty Boy Smooth to retain his NCCW title in the evening match.

“Pretty Boy (Smooth) went for his finish, and Ricky avoided it,” said Martin. “He flipped over the back of Pretty Boy Smooth and essentially ended up getting a quick roll-up pin... by the hair of his chin, snuck away with the win.

“They mutually hugged and hand-shaked after the match,” noted Martin, who raised the arms of both wrestlers. “Two amazing competitors, representing two amazing brands... NWA and NCCW.”

It was disclosed after the match that there will be a working relationship – and talent exchange – between OVW (Ohio Valley Wrestling – featured on Netflix) and NCCW.

“That was a pretty big deal. And of course we’re going to retain our working relationship with the NWA as well.”

NCCW’s next show – No Man’s Land – will be Feb. 22 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Simcoe. Doors open at 1 p.m.

Highlights from Clash on the Coast will be posted on social media.

“Just snippets,” said Martin. “They go up on our reels, they go on YouTube. Short videos just to get the attention of people and show them what’s going on with NCCW. Enough to get people to say, ‘I want to check this out.’”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Brent Banks flies through the air to take down Johnny Deluca during Clash on the Coast.



Pretty Boy Smooth wrestles with Pretty Ricky Wilddy during a mixed six tag team.



NCCW looks forward to exciting 2026 season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

The comedy spot between Kingsley and The Mountie – Jacques Rougeau was ‘classic’, said Martin.

“They’ve crossed paths before,” Martin noted. “They had a little interaction... and this just made perfect sense.”

The one-day, two-show promotion was supported financially by the Amplified Norfolk program through a grant given to the Port Dover Board of Trade, who helped coordinate the event in conjunction with NCCW.

“A massive, massive thank you to Norfolk County for the Amplify Norfolk program, and the opportunity to work with the Port Dover Board of Trade to present a different type of entertainment of this magnitude in Norfolk County.

Sponsors included Luxe Lodges on Lake Erie, Maxwell Group Management, Scott Wass, Bobby Reynolds Tattoo, and The Creative BRU-tique.

The success of the event will help drive NCCW into 2026, said Martin.

“It definitely keeps everything exciting, not only as promoter, but more so the fans as well. This event sets the tone... that NCCW can bring in the bigger names. It’s not just a little smalltown promotion. We take it extremely serious and we want it to be recognized as a promotion that is related to a ‘territory,’ running it in a couple towns. And hopefully next year a few more different towns in our area.

“It’s exciting because this one got a lot of attention, a lot of eyes. We’re not a national brand, and not even a provincial brand, but the level that we are at – the professionalism and experience – has opened the door, and that is the right direction to be going in.

“A lot of it had to do with what we were already doing, but having an event like this, I think it builds toward something even bigger stages of where we want to be in 2026.”



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Brent Banks wrestles Johnny Deluca to the floor.



Jody Threat shoulders teammate Willdy to give them a height advantage on 6'9" Pretty Boy Smooth.



Dijak gives the knee to Jessie V.



Pretty Boy Smooth lifts Taylor Rising to drop her on Willdy.



Jessie V comes off the top rope attempting to hit Dijak.



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History, horror and heroism on display



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles

History, horror and heroism: you will find all three on display at the exceptional Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. And if you manage to visit before January 6, 2026, you can also experience a very poignant and powerful temporary exhibit called "Last Voices of the Second World War," which captures the memories and stories of the last living Canadian WW2 veterans.

In truth, there is no practical way to take in everything this National Museum has to offer, in just one visit. But a few hours' visit will give you a lot of insight into the reality of Canada's participation in national and international conflicts – and the impact of this history on our fellow Canadians.

We started by touring Last Voices galleries. Here, the focus is on individuals, and their stories.

And those stories vary wildly. There are some for whom their time in the Canadian Armed Forces is something they look back on with fondness. But for many who saw service in battle, it's a very different story. Veteran George Morasch is quoted: "I don't talk



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Veteran Alex Polowin, quoted in 2022, said figuring out the future after returning home from World War Two was "very, very frightening".

about it. They are secrets in my heart." And veteran George MacDonnell, held as a prisoner of war in horrendous conditions in Hong Kong, admits, "I had heavy guilt because so many of my comrades had died and I had lived."

The story is told honestly, with no holds barred. You learn that while there were benefits for armed forces personnel when they returned home, those benefits were limited to white people – black vets could not access the same assistance. And there is a lot of emphasis on the mental health and economic struggles faced by the vets. Veteran Alex Polowin is quoted: "The thought of 'Where now? What are you going to do for the rest of your life?' That's very, very frightening."

Not surprisingly, the exhibition underscores the significance of Remembrance Day. Veteran Arthur Dingle says, "I think Remembrance Day is very important and it's absolutely essential for people to understand the reason for it."

You cannot visit this "Last Voices" exhibition without being deep-

ly touched. There were heroes, yes, caught in a global catastrophe, and yet, as veteran Frank Moritsugu is quoted in a caption, when he tells young people his story, "I tell them how old I was when this happened, so that they would understand that I was really an ordinary Canadian kid like they are."

That's a theme that recurs throughout your visit to the Canadian War Museum: the story of war is really the story of ordinary people who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances, and responded with a level of courage and resilience I cannot even imagine.

The Museum carries you chronologically through Canadian history, started with the First Peoples and their conflict with Vikings, and with each other, and continuing through the coming of the French, and then the British. There is plenty to think about as you continue through the War of 1812-14, Canada's involvement in the war in South Africa, and then the World Wars, and the cold

war.

And these clashes and their consequences, continue to reverberate right into this present day.

To my surprise, one of the most effective displays at the Museum is an amusing video of three young Canadian men. The video starts with two of them in the frame, one wearing a Toronto Maple Leafs sweater, the other, a Montréal Canadiens jersey. We see the conflict between British and French, and the ongoing issues of French Canada and English Canada, through their eyes.

But eventually, the camera pans back and there is a third guy on the couch – a Native Canadian. The other two are surprised: "When did you get here?" they ask. The "new guy" frowns. "I've been here all the time." And therein lies a fundamental truth about Canada, one we mostly ignore.

There is more "big picture" in the permanent exhibits at the War Museum, but there are thought-provoking individual moments here, as well. I was intrigued by the reconstruction of World War One ace Billy Bishop's aircraft, accompanied by photos of and information panels about Canada's flying war hero.

Or by what happens when you

walk into the World War Two gallery, and are confronted with Adolph Hitler's limousine, a merely mechanical artifact that nonetheless reeks of evil.

The designers at the Museum have done a very fine job of creating interactive scenes which place visitors in the very heart of war: you pause in a battlefield at Passchendaele, which includes discarded weapons and half-buried bodies. You edge your way through a trench, where a very realistic manikin of a frightened soldier is the only other "person" sharing your space. You stand in a landing vessel behind soldiers about to storm the beaches of Normandy.

And you leave the museum well informed, heavy-laden with thoughts about the horrible reality of war, but filled with admiration for the courage of those people who fought for our country – 66,000 of whom died in World War One, another 45,000 in World War Two. Lest we forget.

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.



World War One Canadian flying ace Billy Bishop.



An exhibit about trench warfare in World War One.



Adolph Hitler's "parade car". According to the War Museum information, it was "captured by American troops in 1945 and brought to Canada a few years later. This car recalls one of history's most brutal and murderous dictatorships."



A solitary soldier in a World War One trench.



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(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

The Delhi Firefighter's Association (Norfolk County Station 5) presented its annual Halloween Open House and Pumpkin Carving on Saturday, Oct. 25 with 'spooky fun' for all... including games, truck tours, pumpkin carving, obstacle course, and fire safety tips. Jemma and Ceanna Salverda of Delhi got a closeup look at a fire truck.



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24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

Cost-of-living crisis drives food bank demand

Simcoe Salvation Army undertakes community needs assessment to offer additional services

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

The rise in cost of living, mental health challenges, and unemployment has prompted The Salvation Army Simcoe Community Church to provide additional community initiatives.

Josh Edwards, concerned corps officer at The Salvation Army Simcoe Community Church, says the food bank on Colbourne Street has seen a 21 per cent increase of new customers seeking food and essential items for their day-to-day needs. He adds that there are a variety of underlying factors that could be increasing the demand.

“One of the major factors is the cost-of-living crisis that we’re facing,” said Edwards. “With just a trip to the grocery store, people are having to make tough choices of what they can afford. There is also a greater need for mental health and employment support to get people to a point where they can live in today’s world.”

Edwards explains that while the food bank at the Salvation Army Simcoe Community Church does provide food and essential items for people in need, more needs to be done to address the trend.

“We are going to be running a communi-

ty needs assessment that analyzes the Salvation Army’s internal framework,” said Edwards. “We recently hired a food bank coordinator who’s going to oversee this program and determine what the highest community needs are so we can offer additional support.”

Edwards says he expects new initiatives from the assessment results to launch in the new year.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The food bank is currently looking for volunteers to help with upcoming holiday initiatives such as the annual Christmas Kettle Campaign set to launch on Nov. 15 and the Christmas Hamper Program. Edwards says that volunteers can expect to be sorting, picking up, and packaging items for community use.

“Although we are steady with our supply, there have been some concerning moments where we have been low in stock,” said Edwards. “This summer was pretty scary; there were a few times when we had bare shelves due to increased demand.

“Here in the community, we are fortunate enough to be supported by many local organizations and grocery stores that make sure we have a good food supply. We are stocked up now thanks to our community



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

The Simcoe Salvation Army team includes from left Josh Edwards, Corps Officer; Chesney Edwards, Lieutenant; Tina Rigglesford, Community Service Intake Caseworker; and Eli Navas, Community Services Program Coordinator at the Salvation Army Simcoe Community Church.

partners.”

For community members interested in donating, Edwards says that high priority items are dry goods, especially breakfast cereal, pasta, and peanut butter, and feminine hygiene products.

Edwards said that the Salvation Army is curious to see if the high cost of living will be a growing concern, but he reassures the community the food bank’s team will be ready to serve the local needs.

Word Search

LEST WE FORGET

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

Poppy

Peace

Honour

Freedom

Courage

Sacrifice

Respect

Flanders

November

Cenotaph

Legion

Canada

Cadets

Mounties

Ottawa

Heros

Silence

Uniform

Brave

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Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 27



Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET





(FILE PHOTO)

Teeterville's 2024 Remembrance Day ceremony was held indoors due to weather.



Waterford Royal Canadian Legion Branch 123 holds a Remembrance Day ceremony at the Old Town Hall, followed by a ceremony at the cemetery.



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Remembrance Day
LEST WE FORGET





(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

A Remembrance Day ceremony is held in Fairground (Houghton Township) on Nov. 11.

Riddles

What has a head and a tail but no body?

A coin

What has one eye but can't see?

A needle

I'm tall when young, short when old. What am I?

A candle

What can travel around the world but stays in a corner?

A stamp

I'm full of holes but hold water. What am I?

A sponge

What has an eye but can't see?

A hurricane

What has a ring but no finger?

A telephone

PET OF THE WEEK

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



BELLA

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Hi there! I'm Bella, and I'm new around here! I'm 12 weeks old, born on August 5th. I'm a busy little girl with big ears and an even bigger personality. I have a big sister I absolutely adore—though she mostly just puts up with me! I love squeaky toys, chewing on sticks, and, when I'm feeling a bit mischievous, sometimes my mom's arm.



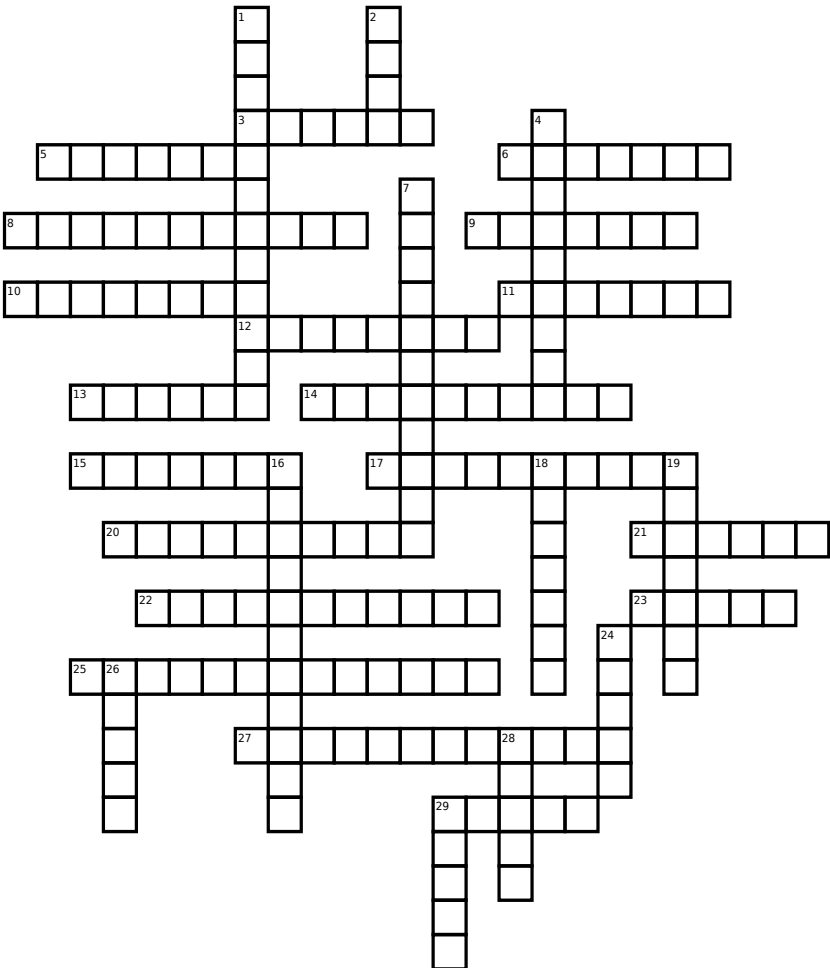
Weekly Crossword

THE PRODUCE PUZZLE - COZY TREATS

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Clues

DOWN

- 1. filling made of meat and potatoes baked under crust
- 2. hot drink made with tea, milk, and spices
- 4. popular winter comfort — melted marshmallows atop sweet potatoes
- 7. cozy fall favorite made from orange squash
- 16. sweet pudding made from rice and milk
- 18. Exotic fruit with spiky skin and sweet white inside
- 18. warm breakfast made from oats
- 19. Canadian comfort food of fries, gravy, and cheese curds
- 24. thick stew simmered for hours
- 26. classic roast accompaniment — soft, warm, and buttery
- 28. hearty meal-in-a-bowl with broth and noodles
- 29. hot drink often sipped by the fire

ACROSS

- 3. savory pie filled with chicken and veggies
- 5. casserole often made with tuna or green beans
- 6. hearty Italian dish with layers of pasta and cheese
- 8. sweet bread flavored with banana
- 9. fluffy baked treat enjoyed with jam or butter
- 10. mashed root vegetable often topped with gravy
- 11. warm dessert topped with whipped cream or ice cream
- 12. sticky, sweet breakfast stack
- 13. melted chocolate treat for dipping fruit
- 14. classic comfort dish with noodles and cheese
- 15. creamy soup made from puréed vegetables

Answers found on page 27

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Email to inquire: info@simcoeadvocate.com

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 & 21

FRIENDLY GAME OF DARTS

Registration at 6:45
Starting at 7:00 pm
Everyone is Welcome. Draw for partners. For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or Check out our website at <https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

FROSTY FAIR

8:30 pm - 12:00 pm
Get into the holiday spirit at the Frosty Fair on Saturday, November 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Enjoy a variety of fun activities including a penny table, blind auction, surprise packages, a bake table, and more. Bring your friends and family and join us for a festive morning!

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

“PEACE AND REMEMBRANCE” CHORAL CONCERT

3:00 pm
Donation at the door. Call 416-505-1658 for more information.

Grace United Church, 18 Chapman St W., Port Dover

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE & PARADE PARADE FALL-IN - Women's Institute Hall at 1:30 pm.

MARCH OFF TO LEGION - APPROX. 1:45 pm.
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The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

7:30 pm
GUEST SPEAKER - Jason Paulratz with a presentation on WW1 & WW2. All welcome to join us. Enter at the parking lot off William Street.

Delhi Friendship Centre, 418 Queen St., Delhi, Ont.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

PORT DOVER COMMUNITY SING-ALONG – SONGS OF WAR AND PEACE

7:00 pm
All voices welcome. \$2 donation. Call 416-505-1658 for more information.

Grace United Church, 18 Chapman St W., Port Dover

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE

Registration at 6:30
Starting at 7:00 pm
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[teetervillelegionbranch526.ca](https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca)

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

LYNN VALLEY VOICES PRESENT “PEACE AND REMEMBRANCE” CHORAL CONCERT

7:00 pm
Donation at the door. Call 416-505-1658 for more information.

First Baptist Church, 129 Young Street, Simcoe

THE BIG GAME (GREY CUP) WATCH PARTY

Starting at 4:30 p.m.
Snacks and Light Meal. For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or Check out our website at <https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

BINGO NIGHT

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

Simcoe Legion, West Street, Simcoe

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB MONTHLY MEETING

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy diverse interest groups, friendship and fellowship. We have different, interesting speakers at our monthly meetings as well as time to socialise. Meetings are once a month, on the third Wednesday of the month, from 10 – noon. We welcome new members any time

For more information, please visit our website at: lynnriverprobus239.com or email lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com

Army, Navy & Air Force Club, 53 Water Street, Simcoe. Enter via Culver St.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

SOENEN SISTERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

11:00 am- 3:00 pm
St. Peter's Lutheran Church is hosting a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Featuring a bake sale, Christmas cookie platters, "nearly new" table, crafts, toys, a coffee corner and...our delicious cabbage rolls! Admission

is free!

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

LADIES AUXILIARY WATERFORD CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Join the RCL Branch 123 Ladies Auxiliary for their Annual Craft and Bake Sale.

Waterford Legion 223 Nichol St. Waterford

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

LEGION CHRISTMAS CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW

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

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

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

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 5 & 29

BINGO NIGHT

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

Simcoe Legion, West Street, Simcoe

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

CHRISTMAS CONCERT – LOW NOTES HIGH HOPES SAXOPHONE QUARTET

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY EVENING

CATCH THE ACE

4:30 am- 7:30 pm (Draw at 7:45 pm)
Win over \$10,000.00 (LIC #RAF 14505443)! Tickets are available for \$5 each, 3 for \$10, or 6 for \$20. Proceeds support the Norfolk Haldimand Hospice, Norfolk General Hospital Foundation, and Rotary Norfolk Youth Scholarships.

Simcoe Legion, West Street, Simcoe

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40TH ANNUAL NORFOLK MUSICAL ARTS FESTIVAL

Registration opens NOVEMBER 3 2025. VISIT WWW.NMAF.CA

all individuals, musicians and theatre artists, schools, churches, community groups and theatre groups. the festival is open to anyone who would like to participate. bands | choirs | guitar | english & french speech arts | piano instruments | strings | classical voice & musical theatre

CLASSIFIEDS

Email to inquire: info@simcoeadvocate.com

FOR SALE

Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blueberries, haskapp grapes, raspberries, elderberries etc. Lots of spruce, pine, cedars for wind-break and privacy hedges. Sizes 1-8 ft. in containers ready to go. Flowering shrubs and much more. Mon-Sat 7:00am to 6:00pm
Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Rd Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0 (1 Conc. North of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

WANTED

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

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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

BI-WEEKLY PUBLICATION DATES

NOVEMBER 20

DECEMBER 4 & DECEMBER 18

DEADLINE IS THE MONDAY PRIOR AT 3 P.M.

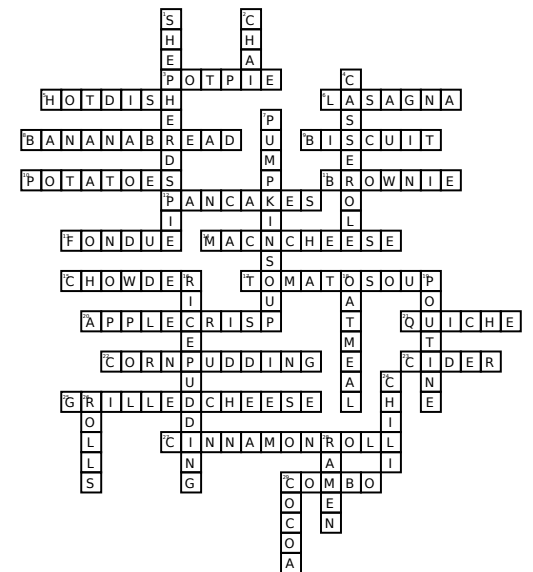


INFO@SIMCOEADVOCATE.COM

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. A sleuth/sloth | 6. Gord Downie |
| 2. Charlie Chaplin | 7. Joe Carter |
| 3. Fletcher | 8. Andor |
| 4. Gray jay/whisky jack | 9. Xi Jinping |
| 5. Topaz & Citrine | 10. Mount Logan |

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



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ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY **MARTIN CHARNIN**

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