



Goderich Sun

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JANUARY 8, 2026

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Ontario Building Critical Infrastructure

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

A total of \$21,185,778 has been invested by the provincial government to help renew and rehabilitate more critical infrastructure for municipalities in Huron and Bruce counties.

Funding will be delivered through the 2026 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) as part of the province's capital plan to protect Ontario by building key public infrastructure.

The aim is to strengthen the economy and keep workers on the job in the face of tariffs and economic uncertainty.

The Town of Goderich has been allocated \$1,533,501 while the County of Huron was allocated \$6,017,436.

"This OCIF investment is a vital boost for our rural communities in Huron-Bruce," explained Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron-Bruce.

"By renewing critical infrastructure – roads, water systems, bridges – we're not only supporting local jobs but also empowering each of our municipalities to grow stronger, safer and more resilient. I'm proud our government is making long-term commitments so our region can thrive."

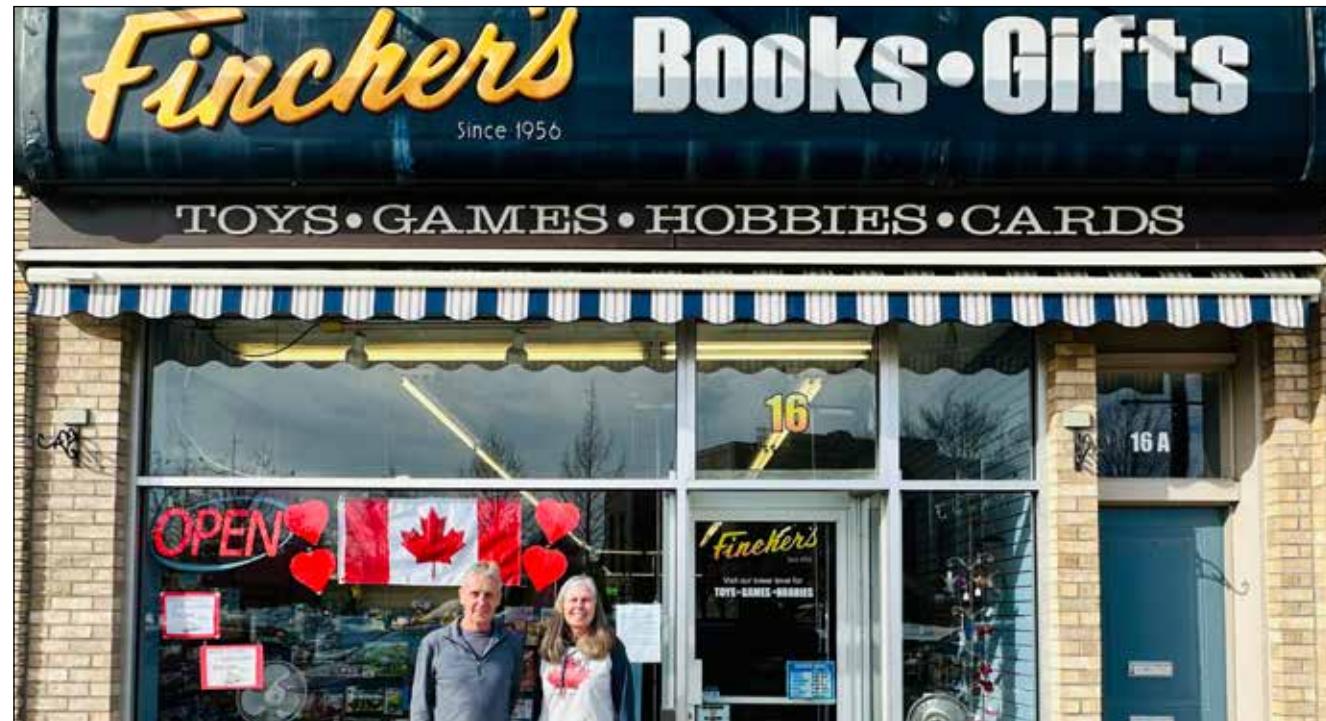
The OCIF provides funding for local infrastructure projects in municipalities with populations under 100,000, rural and northern municipalities as well as for Local Services Boards that own water or wastewater systems.

In 2026, Ontario will allocate \$400 million in OCIF funding to help 423 small, rural and northern communities address critical infrastructure.

According to the provincial government, funding allocations are based on a formula that accounts for the different needs and economic conditions of each community.

Communities may accumulate funding for up to five

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



(KATHLEEN SMITH PHOTO)

THE END OF AN ERA FOR THIS GODERICH CULTURAL GEM OF A SHOP

Tom and Dawn Fincher retired and closed the doors to what was known as Fincher's after offering a family-friendly place to shop for decades. While the Fincher's and their trademark name are retired, new owners Mark and Heather McCutcheon will establish their own dynasty in this county cultural gem of a shop.

A Cultural Gem: Fincher's Book and Gifts

DAVID YATES

Sun Contributor

Fincher's - the name says it all.

No one asks where it is or what you can purchase there. To some, Fincher's was a newsstand, others it was a bookstore, a Goderich swag store and still others called it a toy store or model shop.

After nearly 70 years of what had become one of Goderich's anchor stores on the Square, Fincher's is about to pass on as one of the area's cultural gems and enter an

other era.

On Monday, February 20, 1956, Dennis Fincher ended a 46-year-old commercial legacy when he bought out F.M. Wood's Tobacco Store and Poolroom at 16 Courthouse Square.

Fincher had originally come to the area in 1940 as an English airman posted to the Port Albert Air Navigation School. He met and married a local woman, Mary McAsticker and moved back to the United Kingdom after the war.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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A Cultural Gem: Fincher's Book and Gifts

DAVID YATES

Sun Contributor

After having lived in Canada and seeing the tremendous opportunities, the Fincher family along with son Eric, returned to Goderich, Canada in 1947.

A further five children were born to the Fincher's in Canada, which added incentive to Dennis' need to find good paying employment. Fincher was hired by Air Vice-Marshall Sully to work at his Dominion Roads Machine Company.

After working nine years for Dominion Roads, Fincher purchased the F. M. Woods and Son Tobacco business and named his new business the Goderich Newsstand.

With Fincher's son Eric, the Goderich Newsstand carried a wide array of newspapers and magazines. It also operated a coffee bar, tobacco shop and pool hall.

The business thrived because in 1963, the Goderich Newsstand underwent \$8,000 in renovations and, in 1964, changed the name to Fincher's Smoke and Gift Shop where both could be purchased and a game of pool enjoyed.

In an age when smoking tobacco was normative, Fincher's offered a wide selection of tobacco products and accessories. On occasion, the store held contests where occasionally winners won cartons of cigarettes.

Closing the pool hall in the back in 1972 probably did not help tobacco sales. In 1976, Fincher's dropped "Tobacco Shop" from the store name and, in 2008, stopped selling all tobacco products.

The year 1972 was also an important year in the store's evolution as Fincher's



(TOM FINCHER PHOTO)

Fincher's Newsstand in 1960. Note the variety of tobacco products.

became a bookstore by adding a book section to their store consisting of current hard cover and paperback books.

Tom Fincher, in a recent interview with the Signal Star, remembered that he had been working in the store since he was seven.

"I had a wooden pop bottle crate, and I'd stand on that and ring things through the cashier," Tom remembered.

"I didn't think it was weird, and my mom and dad didn't discourage me."

In 1973, an unusual notice in the Goderich Signal Star announced that "Fincher's leather specialist - 12 old year-old Tom Fincher, buyer and merchandiser of Tilley leather goods" would assist customers.

Recalling that time, Tom said it was advertised as a novelty, but he did go to trade shows with his father and selected the leather goods appropriate for the store.

Dennis introduced model airplane, cars and boat kits to the merchandise lineup.

Soon Tom was helping to buy the model kits. He liked building models and thought others his age did too.

For the low price of a couple of dollars, many a child went to the Fincher's model shelves and agonized over which model kit to buy and assemble.

Fincher's still carried models until Tom retired in December 2025, but the prices have become much higher compared to the heyday of model-building in the 1960s and 1970s.

In November 1976, Dennis Fincher opened Leisure World at the Suncoast Mall where they advertised 'Books Galore-Hard Cover Books-Paperbacks' and other hobby supplies.

A Kincardine location on Queen Street was opened in 1978 and another. Although the Leisure World store closed in 1983, a new Fincher's store was opened on Exeter's Main Street in 1983; the Exeter store closed in 1992 due to a shortage of retail space at the time.

Meanwhile, the Goderich store expanded in 1987, with the removal of the old bowling alley at the lower level.

With new fixtures and concrete floor, Fincher's was able to expand retail space

by 25 per cent. The lower level was given over to toys and children's books.

Fincher told the Signal Star that "we've brought in two new toy lines, Lego and Playskool" and added 30 per cent more children's books.

As soon as the lower level opened, Fincher's noticed a jump in the number of customers and added three new employees.

Over thirty years later, the lower level has expanded to include other children's favourites like Thomas the Tank Engine, and the whole community of Playmobil characters, buildings and vehicles and many sorts of animals.

An integral part of Fincher's success has always been the family atmosphere fostered by Dennis and his wife, Mary, who worked together in the store.

Tom Fincher recalls that all five of his siblings worked at the store at one time or another. They also hired some great people over the years who feel very much like family. Bernice Kemp worked at the store for 29 years before her passing in 2015; Christine Harkness worked 50 years between the Goderich and Kincardine locations; Erin Greer is a 25-year employee at the Goderich store.

That family tradition continued when Tom married Dawn McDonald in 1994. She became the store's accountant and merchandiser who expanded the line of Goderich clothing, which proved popular with both visitors and Goderich natives alike. Indeed, Dawn has seen Goderich clothing from Fincher's all over Ontario.

Since 1972, books, magazines and newspapers have remained a mainstay of the business. Amazingly, in a town of 8,000 people, one may get The Atlantic Monthly, The New Yorker, Model Railroader, The Civil War Times and a host of other specialty periodicals that one would have difficulty obtaining in much larger centres.

Until recently, Fincher's carried an astounding 400-500 periodical titles, but Tom explained that just a few years ago, the store carried twice as many.

Besides the standard New York Times bestsellers, Fincher's has been a great promoter of local history. Tom has encouraged many local authors to publish their

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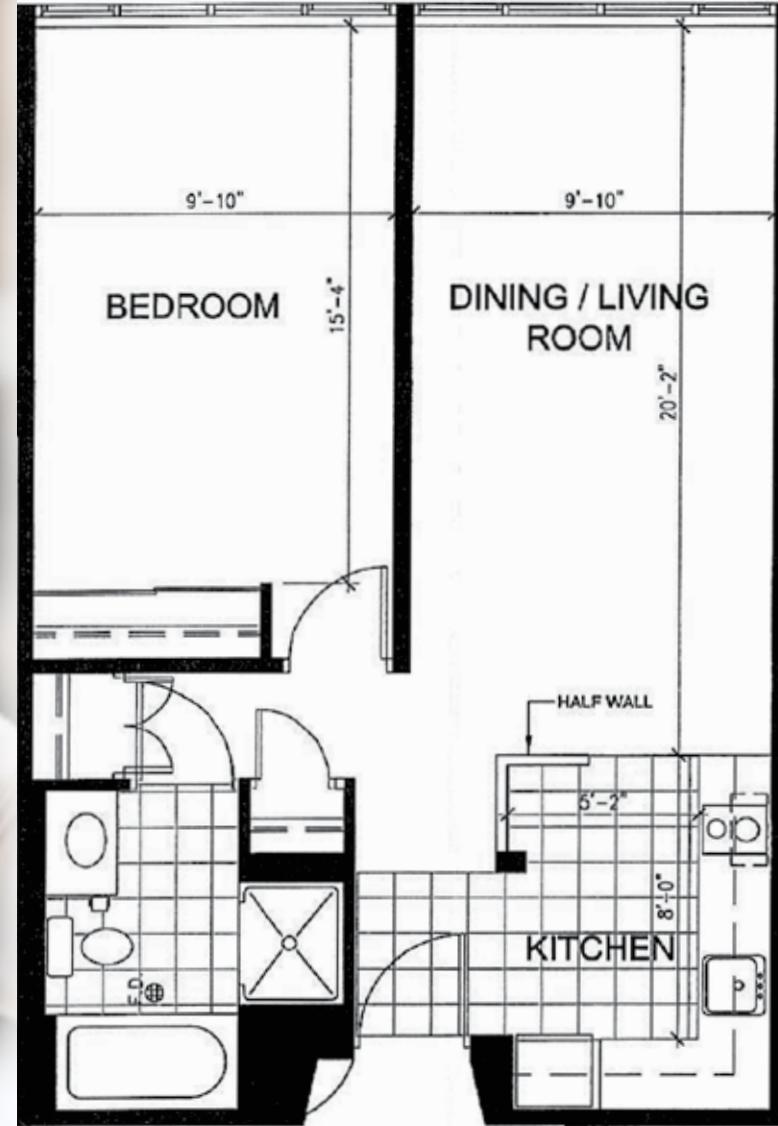
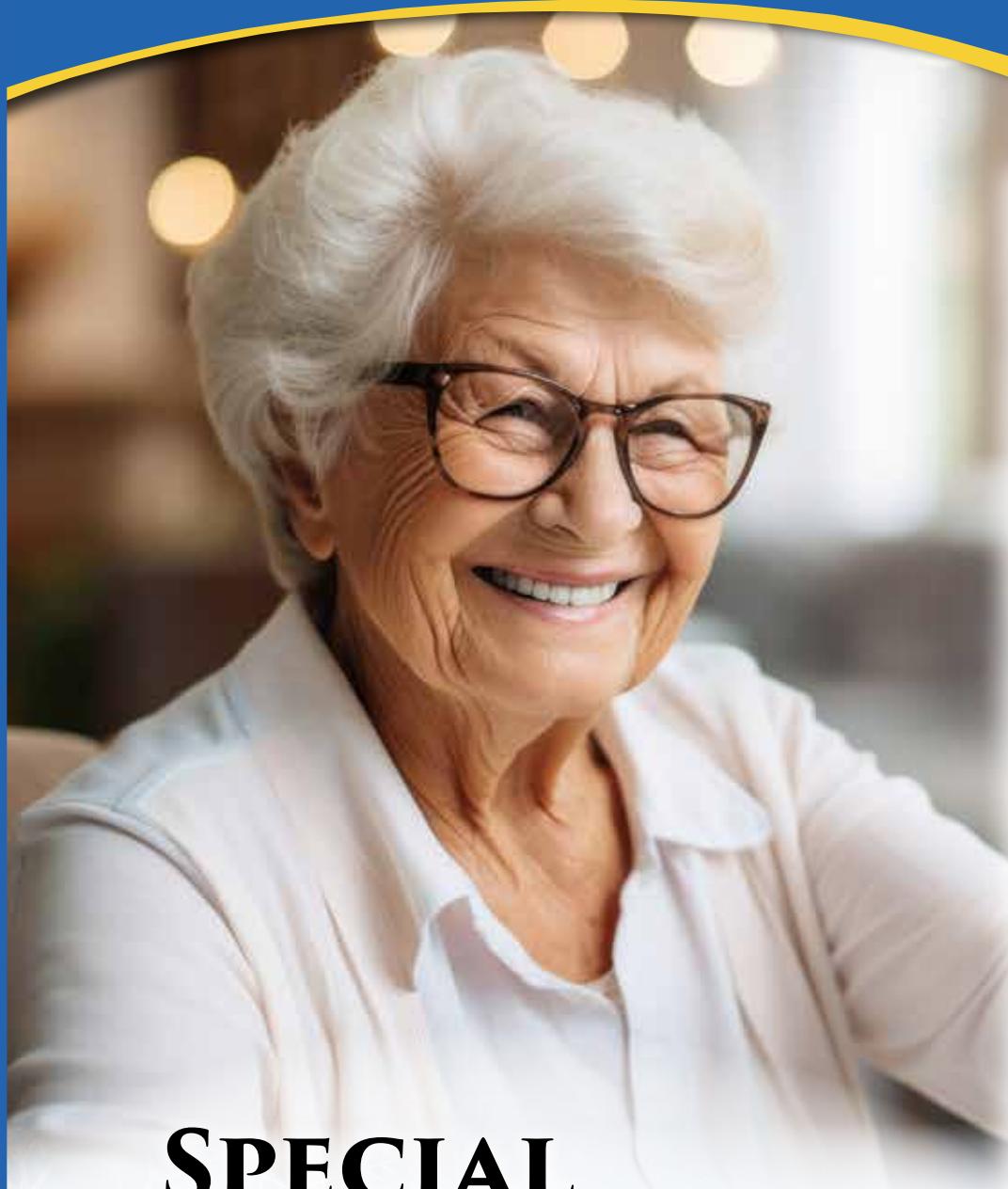
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Editorial

Choosing Grace: A New Year, A New Light

PAMELA CLAYFIELD

Sun Correspondent

There's something quietly powerful about the first days of a new year. The calendar turns, the world exhales, and suddenly we find ourselves standing at the threshold of possibility.

Even though the snow still lies heavy and the nights come early, January carries its own kind of

light — a soft, steady glow that reminds us of the season of hope that Christmas brings and that beginnings don't need to be loud to be meaningful.

As we step into 2026, I find myself reflecting on the hope a new year brings. I'm not talking about reinventing ourselves or making sweeping resolutions, but the gentler hope that whispers rather than shouts.

The hope that we can grow in small ways. The hope that we can choose kindness more often. The hope that we can carry forward the lessons of the year behind us without letting them weigh us down.

A new year invites us to pause and look back with gratitude. For the people who stood beside us. For the moments that surprised us. For the challenges that

shaped us, even when we didn't ask for them. And then, with that gratitude tucked close, we look ahead — not with fear, but with wonder.

What will this year teach us? Who will we become? What grace will we choose, repeatedly?

January is a reminder that we don't have to have all the answers. We simply must take the

next step, trusting that light will meet us along the way. And as we move through these early days of 2026, my hope is that we all find moments of quiet joy — a warm cup in cold hands, a familiar voice on the phone, a sunrise that feels like a promise.

Happy New Year, friends. May this be a year of gentle beginnings, steady hope, and grace in all its forms.

Predictions for 2026



STEWART GRANT

Publisher

A New Year's Day poll on Smerconish.com asked people, "Will the world be in a better place at the end of 2026 than it is today?" Of the 25,000 responses, just over 60% replied "No" while the remainder replied "Yes". What do you think?

It's a subjective question that's

hard to measure, but I had cast my Jan. 1 vote in the "Yes" column. Maybe that's just wishful thinking. The year is certainly off to quite an interesting start.

As I finish up this predictions article on Jan. 3, one of 2026's big questions had already been answered, with the news that Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has been removed from power by American forces. While Maduro was an illegitimate leader who had stolen the 2024 Venezuelan election, the brazen manner whereby he was taken out is very concerning, as are the unknown worldwide consequences that may follow.

Here's my crack at how the rest of the year will play out...

1. Despite Trump's comments to the contrary at his Jan. 3 press

conference, public pressure within Venezuela will sway the American President to eventually support Maria Corina Machado as the rightful leader of Venezuela.

2. A Democratic politician will call for the impeachment of Donald Trump for failing to gain necessary approvals for invading Venezuela, but this goes nowhere.

3. In Canada, the Liberal government's government will hold throughout 2026.

4. Pierre Poilievre will remain as Conservative leader following that party's leadership review in January.

5. Although there will be much speculation, China will not invade Taiwan in 2026.

6. A ceasefire will be negotiated in the Russia-Ukraine war.

7. Drone warfare, one of the staples of the Russia-Ukraine war, will sadly make its first high-profile appearance on this side of the ocean, with a notable strike sparking heavy interest in counter-drone defense systems.

8. American tariffs on Canadian-made products will decrease during the year.

9. Despite worries about an AI bubble, the stock markets will record another positive year.

10. More information will be released from the Epstein files, but no arrests of high-profile personalities will occur.

11. In sports, the Stanley Cup will stay south of the border, with the Colorado Avalanche earning the NHL's top prize.

12. Fans of the Toronto Maple

Leafs will be spared the agony of losing in the first round when the team fails to make the playoffs.

13. The Buffalo Bills make it to the Super Bowl but lose to the Seattle Seahawks.

14. Team Canada will edge Team USA in the Men's Olympic Hockey Finals.

15. France will win the 2026 World Cup.

16. Speculation will grow regarding Trump's physical and mental health as he turns 80 years old this year. He will survive the year, but with increased public focus on J.D. Vance as potentially needing to take over as U.S. President in 2027.

Do you have any bold predictions for 2026? Feel free to email me at stew@granthaven.com to have your say.

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Goderich Sun

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Goderich Sun

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3. Good news beats bad news
4. A Newspaper should be a community effort (contribute to your local paper!)
5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

A Cultural Gem: Fincher's Book and Gifts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

books.

Gordon Strathdee's photographic essays Goderich: On the Edge of Huron and Goderich: Tiger's Legacy, which highlighted the beauty of Goderich were bestsellers.

Other local authors' works have found a welcome home on Fincher's bookshelves.

The emphasis on local history has made Fincher's a cultural capital in the heart of

Goderich's Square. It's no exaggeration to say that many local authors would not have published if they could not rely on Fincher's to carry their volumes.

Fincher's has become so closely identified with the town that Dawn Fincher has said that they receive calls that are more appropriately directed at the Tourist Office.

On one occasion, Dawn even received a

complaint from a caller that they did not get their weekly flyers.

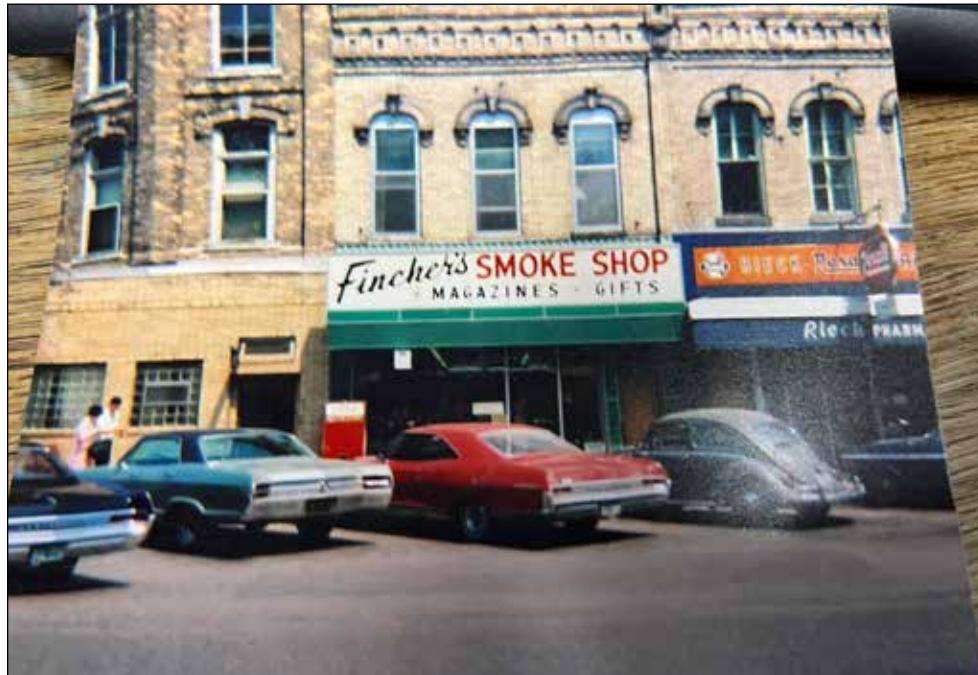
As retirement has become reality, Tom and Dawn both have no regrets about selling the business but it is explained that it is a bittersweet melancholy time reflecting on a life time spent in the family business.

Tom Fincher said he will miss the people but it's time. They're looking forward to spending more time travelling. Ironically,

one of the things Dawn is looking forward to is having more time to read books.

As the time for Fincher's Books and Gifts has ended, there has been a surge of customers who have come to share 70 years of memories of Fincher's store.

With the new year of 2026, new owners Mark and Heather McCutcheon are ready to establish their own dynasty in this country cultural gem.



Fincher's Smoke Shop in 1966.

(TOM FINCHER PHOTO)



Dennis Fincher behind the tobacco counter at Fincher's in 1966.

(TOM FINCHER PHOTO)



Erin Greer (25-year employee), Dawn Fincher and Tom Fincher, December 2025.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Goderich Sun

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Ontario Building Critical Infrastructure in Huron-Bruce, Investing Over \$21 million To Promote Economic Growth

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

years to address larger infrastructure needs and projects.

According to Todd McCarthy, Acting Minister of Infrastructure, small, rural and northern communities are essential to the growth and prosperity of Ontario.

"That's why we're increasing the OCIF's minimum grant amount to provide predictability and stability for these communities and ensure they have the resources they need to thrive," McCarthy said.

"With our record investments across all infrastructure programs, we're driving an

unprecedented wave of construction – highways, transit, hospitals, schools and more – to make communities stronger, keep workers on the job and drive economic growth."

Since 2018, the government has provided \$2.8 billion through OCIF to support small, rural and northern municipalities.

Additionally, according to the provincial government, the province is investing \$4 billion in the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP). This investment will help unlock even more homes.

For more information visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/building-ontario>

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WWW.GODERICHSUN.COM

Coldest Night of the Year returns to Goderich on Feb. 28

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) will host the Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) walk on Saturday, February 28 in Goderich.

By fundraising and walking, participants help support the Huron Homelessness Initiative, including emergency shelter for women and children escaping violence, youth shelter supports, counselling services, food insecurity, Heart to Home, transitional housing and the Huron Supportive Housing Advocate.

Six years ago, Bernice Glenn, captain of Bernie's Bunch and CNOY Goderich committee member, joined the CNOY in Goderich to help those living on the street.

As she heads into her seventh year involved with CNOY, Glenn cannot believe the community continues to face this crisis, one that continues to grow.

"More than ever, the need is real," Glenn stressed.

"Please do whatever you can to support this event and to educate yourself before speaking. The people who endure their gruelling elements are someone's neighbour, friend, colleague, son, daughter, brother or sister. Please, be kind. Help however you can. Register, donate, walk, and if nothing else, offer a simple hello to those who need us more than ever."

Participants who raise over \$150 (or \$75 for youth under 18) will receive a CNOY toque. Details on toque pick-ups to follow.

For updates, follow the Goderich Coldest Night of the Year on Facebook.

Leading up to the event, UWPH thanks returning Lead Sponsor Jayden's Mechanical, along with Canadian Tire Goderich, Capital Power, Compass Minerals, McDonald's Goderich and the West Wawanosh Mutual Insurance Company.

Visit cnoy.org for more information or to register as an individual or team.



Local Service Clubs Share Holiday Spirit

PAMELA CLAYFIELD

Sun Correspondent

The Goderich Knights of Columbus made the Christmas season bright by continuing their tradition of giving back to the community.

They kicked off the season by purchasing brand new coats that were distributed to those who needed them by local partners including the Salvation Army, Goderich St. Vincent de Paul and Blessings in Zurich.

They also donated time to the Salvation Army Kettle Drive.

"These organizations know where the needs are better than we do," explained Tim Martin of the Knights of Columbus, noting that the club relies on these partners to identify families most in need.

The funds to purchase the coats not only came from a province-wide program operated by the Knights of Columbus but also through the local Catch the Ace draw.

Catch the Ace is a local, provincially sanctioned lottery that has been operating since 2021 by the Knights of Columbus, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 109, and the Goderich Kinsmen Club.

When COVID-19 shut down their ability to host social events and entertainment, they needed a way to continue raising money for charities and food banks.

This Christmas saw a diverse donations list from the funds raised through the weekly draw. Support was sent to several food banks, health services, youth sports, education, and emergency programs.

Recent donations were made to the Huron County Food Bank Distribution Cen-

tre, St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, Huron Hospice, Alexandra Marine & General Hospital Foundation, Artemis Huron, the Huron County Christmas Bureau, and Kids Help Phone, among many others.

Youth organizations also benefited, including Goderich Minor Hockey, Baseball, Ringette, Figure Skating, Basketball, the Air Cadets, and the Goderich Little Theatre Youth Program.

Several local schools received scholarship support, including St. Mary's, St. Joseph's, GDCI, CHSS, and St. Anne's.

Tim Martin and John Glazier emphasize that the success of Catch the Ace is shared across all three service clubs, and that every ticket purchased directly strengthens the community.

"It's not just about the excitement of the draw," they said.

"It's about what we can give back."

If you're interested in participating in this town fundraising effort, tickets can be purchased by visiting The Columbus Centre, the Legion, a Kinsmen member or a number of businesses around Goderich or at goderichcatchtheace.ca where the complete rules can be found.

The rules are straightforward and can be found on the website.

In a time when many continue to face challenges, the generosity behind Catch the Ace serves as a reminder of what makes Goderich strong: neighbours helping neighbours.

With every ticket purchased and every donation made, these service clubs are proving that the true jackpot is the impact they leave behind.

Brickley the Bear Donated to AMGH for Kids Visiting the Emergency Department

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

a soft bear can give a child something to hold onto that makes them feel a little safer and not as scared," said Ruppel.

"Brickley the Bear represents kindness, warmth and the reminder that someone cares about them."

According to Mike, giving the bears to AMGH is his way of sharing the spirit of Christmas by turning a difficult moment into one filled with comfort, compassion and a small bit of happiness.

According to AMGH, this gift brings joy and comfort to the youngest patients, offering smiles and reassurance as these adorable bears find new homes with children visiting the ED in Goderich.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Jimmy Trieu, CEO of AMGH (right) and Mike Ruppel, owner of The Brick.

Menesetung Bridge Officially Reopens After Months-Long Closure for Necessary Repair Project

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The Menesetung Bridge was closed to all traffic, including pedestrians and cyclists in April for nearly 20 weeks and on December 10, the Menesetung Bridge Association (MBA) officially reopened.

The closure was a result of a significant repair project aimed at enhancing the bridge's safety and longevity for future generations.

Although the time frame for construction had to be extended beyond the originally planned 16-20 weeks, the result is a repaired structure that is safe for everyone to enjoy again.

"This project would not have been possible without the many enthusiastic members of our communities, individuals and service clubs, who have generously donated the necessary funds," said Marian Lane, Chair of the MBA.

"This refurbishment of the bridge will allow this iconic structure to once again safely span the Maitland River. Now, both locals and tourists can stroll, walk, run, or cycle across it to access adjacent trails or simply enjoy the unique vista the bridge offers."

Deterioration of the concrete piers below the bridge was getting too close to the bearing seats, which support the 18-tonne steel girders.

Shortly before Easter 2025, the bridge was closed for maintenance work after StratCon Construction of Dublin was hired to complete the repairs.

According to the MBA this project had been several years in the making, with a focus on preserving the bridge as a recreational space and a natural gathering point for residents and visitors alike.

This near \$1-million project was made possible through grants from the Government of Canada through the Federal Development Agency of Canada for Southwestern Ontario (FedDev Ontario), the Trans Canada Trail (TCT)



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Menesetung Bridge was closed for months to make necessary repairs to the concrete supporting the bridge and reopened in mid-December.

and Huron Economic Development (SLED).

The municipalities that border the bridge – Township of ACW and the Town of Goderich – have also been most generous in their support of this historic landmark.

The MBA is also grateful for BM Ross Engineering and StratCon Construction for their work on this refurbishment project.

As a board member involved in the construction site activities of this project, Stan Connelly spoke highly of the cost-effective design proposed by BM Ross and their professional site inspection services, as well as the dedi-

cated construction crew from StratCon.

"The cooperation demonstrated by these two companies has produced a finished project that we all can be proud of today, and that will extend the serviceable life of this beautiful old bridge for the enjoyment of its many users for years to come," added Connelly.

"Thank you and congratulations to both these companies for a job well done."

A thank you celebration for the donors was held at River Run Restaurant in Goderich on December 13, following a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Goderich Council Approves Airmen's Memorial Project

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Goderich Town Council recently approved in principle, a potential project for the upcoming bicentennial in 2027.

Local historian, David Yates, made a presentation to council at the December 8 meeting in support of the project.

In a letter to Goderich Council, Yates stated that, "a worthy project is a memorial to the 22 airmen lost on Lake Huron who have no known grave but the sea".

These young men were RCAF and RAF airmen who were posted at the Port Albert and Goderich Sky Har-

bour air stations.

Tragically, these 22 airmen lost their lives in training accidents on Lake Huron. Their remains were never recovered.

Funding for the project will come, in part from the proceeds of the sale of Yates' novel 'Never Shall Their Glory Fade: The Cenotaphs of Huron County', including photographs by Conrad Kuiper.

Yates told Goderich Council that the book has raised significant funds, which will be turned over to the Airmen's Memorial Fund once established.

Council unanimously approved the project in principle and referred it to the Bicentennial Committee for further action.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. When was the last time Canada won the IIHF World Juniors?
2. Which Canadian province is known as 'The Land of 10,000 Lakes'?
3. What country has the most oil reserves?
4. What does TNT stand for?
5. What is the national bird of New Zealand?
6. What Disney princess has the longest hair?
7. In what year did Adolf Hitler become Chancellor of Germany?
8. What kind of animal is a platypus?
9. What is the square root of 64?
10. What is larger, A US gallon or a UK gallon?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!
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Meeting Place Organic Farm Named Business of the Year at the Huron Chamber Spirit of Success Awards Gala

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Huron Chamber of Commerce celebrated the 20th Spirit of Success Awards Gala to honour achievements that make this region such a great place to live and work.

This milestone edition, presented by OLG, welcomed a sold-out crowd ready to cheer on finalists, support their peers and enjoy an evening recognizing local excellence.

According to Colin Carmichael, President of the Huron Chamber of Commerce, the highlight of the evening was the announcement of Meeting Place Organic Farm as the 2025 Business of the Year.

Owner Katrina McQuail accepted the award on behalf of the family business, which has become a trusted local producer known for sustainable practices, community relationships, and a longstanding commitment to Huron County.

According to Carmichael, every finalist this year demonstrated impressive dedication, creativity, and community spirit.

Country 104.9 Community Impact Award: Team Petteplace Children's Business Market

The Team Petteplace Children's Business Market has grown into one of the most uplifting and inspiring community events in Huron County.

What began as a simple idea to give children a chance to try their hand at entrepreneurship has expanded into a joyful, bustling marketplace filled with creativity, confidence, and family support.

The event encourages kids to develop their own products, set up displays, interact with customers, and discover what they can achieve when a community believes in them.

It is more than a market, it is a celebration of imagination, family connection, and the idea that opportunity can start at any age.

As the event has grown, so too has its impact, bringing people together across generations and creating a space where young people feel capable, proud, and part of something larger.

Community Futures Huron Diversity Award: Pick a Posie Vintage

Pick a Posie Vintage is far more than a clothing shop, it is a place where people immediately feel welcomed, respected and understood.

Built on principles of inclusion and accessibility, the shop offers clothing for people of all genders, identities, body types and abilities.

Whether someone is looking for something expressive, something comfortable, or simply something that makes them feel like themselves, they will find it here in a supportive atmosphere free of judgement or pressure.

The service is personal and thoughtful, with careful attention to fit, tailoring, and individual style.

Their approach to help customers feel empowered and confident, and it creates a space where fashion becomes a tool for

self-expression rather than a barrier.

Pick a Posie Vintage has built a community of belonging and has set a powerful standard for inclusive retail in Huron County.

Goderich Tourism Hospitality Business Award: Steve and Mary's on the Square

Steve and Mary's on the Square is a true cornerstone of local hospitality, a place where warm service, friendly conversation and down-to-earth charm create a welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors alike.

The diner offers more than great meals. It offers a sense of belonging.

Guests are greeted with genuine care, community stories and a feeling that they are stepping into a familiar and comforting space.

Steve and Mary have built strong relationships with customers, supported local initiatives, and become a dependable part of daily life in Goderich.

Their commitment to service, consistency, and kindness has made their diner a go-to gathering place on the Square and an essential part of the downtown Goderich experience.

Compass Minerals Environmental and Sustainability Award: Meeting Place Organic Farm

Meeting Place Organic Farm stands as a remarkable multi-generation example of sustainable agriculture in action.

For more than 50 years, the farm has practiced regenerative methods that protect soil health, enhance biodiversity, and support long-term ecological balance.

Their approach includes draft-horse-power, rotational grazing, renewable energy and a deep commitment to organic stewardship.

They are not only producers of food, but they are also educators and advocates, helping the community understand how ethical farming can restore the land and strengthen local food systems.

Meeting Place Organic Farm has demonstrated, year after year, that environmental responsibility is not a trend but a way of life.

Their leadership has shaped local agriculture, inspired other farmers, and contributed to a more resilient and sustainable Huron County.

Huron County Economic Development Employer of Choice Award: Jokey North America

Jokey North America has long been a pillar employer in Goderich, offering stable careers, strong wages, and a workplace culture rooted in respect and opportunity.

Many families have had multiple generations work at Jokey because people feel valued, supported, and given the chance to grow.

The company invests deeply in training, mentorship, apprenticeships, and internal advancement, helping employees build meaningful careers close to home.

Their focus on safety, communication, and long-term development creates a work environment where people want to stay

and succeed.

Jokey contributes not only to the livelihoods of its workforce, but to the overall strength and stability of the local economy.

It is a model for what committed, community-minded employment can look like in Huron County.

Huron County Economic Development New Business Award: ELLIE & Co

ELLIE & Co. has brought new energy to downtown Blyth, offering a consignment experience that blends sustainability, affordability, and community spirit.

The shop is warm, bright, and welcoming, creating a space where people feel comfortable browsing, consigning or simply stopping by for friendly conversations.

It supports local families by offering quality goods at accessible prices and by keeping value within the community.

The store reflects a thoughtful, modern approach to retail, promoting reuse and reducing waste, while maintaining a fun and stylish environment.

In a short period, ELLIE & Co. has become an important part of the downtown of Blyth, building relationships and contributing to the vibrancy of the village.

K2 Wind Ontario Innovation Award: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 109

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 109 has transformed the way a traditional institution can serve its community, embracing creativity and technology to strengthen engagement.

They have introduced programs that support youth, seniors and newcomers, and they have adopted modern communication tools to ensure the Legion reaches people where they are.

From Café 109 to tech programs and expanded community services, their approach blends respect for the Legion's history with a forward-looking vision for its future.

The result is a vibrant, welcoming hub where people of all ages can connect, learn and participate.

Their willingness to innovate has revitalized the Legion's role in Goderich and set an inspiring example for other branches.

Zehrs Markets Retail Business Award: Brussels Foodland

Brussels Foodland is everything a small-town grocery store should be - friendly, dependable, community-focused, and committed to quality.

Under new ownership, the store has been revitalized with fresh energy, improved service and stronger ties to local producers and community organizations.

The team prioritizes personal connections, knowing customers by name and taking pride in the role they play in daily life.

Their commitment goes beyond the checkout, supporting youth sports, local events, food programs and countless community initiatives.

Brussels Foodland has become a hub of activity and support, proving just how

important a local grocery store is to the fabric of rural life.

John C. Grace Family Young Entrepreneur Award: Hannah Wheeler

Hannah Wheeler, founder of The Aaniin Collective, has built a remarkable young enterprise grounded in respect, family support and holistic care.

What began as a small creative outlet during her university years has grown into a multi-layered service that supports children, empowers parents and strengthens family foundations.

Hannah brings a unique blend of education, compassion and values-based leadership to her work, creating resources, programs and childcare services that reflect her belief in confidence, connection and community.

Through her vision and dedication, she has created a supportive environment where families feel empowered and children can thrive.

MicroAge Basics Service Award: Small Town Paralegal

Small Town Paralegal provides clear, compassionate and accessible legal support to people during some of the most stressful and uncertain moments in their lives.

Their approach combines professionalism, with genuine care, offering a safe and welcoming environment where clients feel heard, respected and supported.

They take the time to listen, explain and guide people through difficult decisions, ensuring that access to legal help is not limited by cost or circumstances.

Through clear communication, thoughtful services and a commitment to making justice accessible, Small Town Paralegal has become a trusted resource for individuals and families across the region.

Bazinet Family Volunteer Award: Steven Bruce

Steven Bruce embodies the spirit of community service through his extensive volunteer work with the Legion, the Shriners, the BIA, and numerous local initiatives.

Whether he is providing hands-on help, supporting vulnerable community members, or keeping residents informed during challenging times, Steven gives his time with sincerity and purpose.

His dedication to improving the community is rooted in kindness, patience and a genuine belief in helping others.

Steven's volunteer efforts have strengthened organizations, supported local businesses, and created a more connected and informed community.

Business of the Year: Meeting Place Organic Farm

Meeting Place Organic Farm is a standout Huron County business combining long-term vision with strong entrepreneurship.

Founded in 1973 and now stewarded by the second generation of the McQuail family, the farm has grown into a diversified, certified organic operation serving customers across southwestern Ontario.

CONTINUE TO PAGE 9

Meeting Place Organic Farm Named Business of the Year at the Huron Chamber Spirit of Success Awards Gala

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

They have built a trusted brand through transparency, direct-to-consumer sales, and consistent communication, supported

by an online store and on-farm experiences that deepen customer loyalty.

With multiple revenue streams and a

commitment to operational discipline, they have shown resilience through shifting market conditions.

Their success proves a locally rooted farm can be innovative, sustainable and economically significant.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Team Petteplace Children's Business Market was recipient of Country 104.9 Community Impact Award.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Steve and Mary's on the Square received the Goderich Tourism Hospitality Business Award.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Meeting Place Organic Farm received the Compass Minerals Environmental and Sustainability Award as well as Business of the Year Award.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Jokey North America in Goderich received the Huron County Economic Development Employer of Choice Award.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 109 received the K2 Wind Ontario Innovation Award.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Steven Bruce received the Bazinet Family Volunteer Award.



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The Culinary Poet: A Unique, Charming and Inviting Place to Shop

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

The Culinary Poet in Goderich offers a unique, charming, and inviting place to shop for all your kitchen and dining space needs.

Ready for a change in her life, Donna-Marie Hyde and her late husband Jim considered purchasing an existing business. However, the pair decided to open a brand-new business catering to kitchen and dining needs.

Since its inception, The Culinary Poet has offered customers the opportunity to bring their culinary creations to life and elevate their dining experiences.

"We don't view our patrons as mere shoppers," said Donna.

"They are our friends, our neighbours and community members."

Donna believes that by visiting a local retail location, you know the quality of the item you will purchase, and there are no unwelcome surprises.

Donna explains that The Culinary Poet always advocates shopping locally, as there are countless benefits that are often overlooked.

"By shopping locally, we can significantly reduce the carbon footprint generated by every purchase we make," she said.

"There is less packaging and lower transportation-related emissions involved when we support stores within our community."

Throughout the course of the year The Culinary Poet has regular promotions corresponding to various hol-

idays and celebrations such as Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day and many others.

Donna also feels it is important to help and contribute to charitable and fundraising requests, when possible.

Whether donating time, an item, or service, or a monetary contribution, The Culinary Poet does what is possible to help the town and its residents.

By sharing what they can, The Culinary Poet is helping make the community a better place for every individual.

By supporting local stores and businesses, the money we spend directly benefits the local economy.

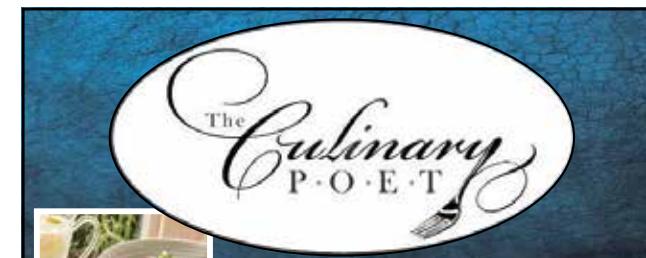
When we choose to buy from a local shop, we can ensure employment opportunities for members of the community.

As a result, businesses are better equipped to support other local initiatives whether that be byway of donations to various events or through promotional offerings.

"By supporting local shops, we make it possible for these unique, small businesses to flourish while ensuring that fellow community members are locally employed and making a fair, living wage while maintaining a health work-life balance," added Donna.

The Culinary Poet has been a part of this community for 14 years and it brings Donna incredibly joy to see people who have shopped there for years and watch their families grow, while offering a friendly and welcoming place to shop.

Check out The Culinary Poet for all your kitchen, dining, or home needs at 34 Courthouse Square in Goderich, or online at [https://www.theculinarypoet.ca](http://www.theculinarypoet.ca)



The Culinary Poet

**Everything you may need
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Annual Stuff-A-Cruiser Event Food Drive in Goderich a Success with 220 Donated Food Bags

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Huron County OPP Auxiliary Unit host-

ed the annual Stuff-A-Cruiser food drive on December 6, in partnership with Zehrs Goderich.

The four-hour food drive was a success,

bringing in 220 pre-packaged food bags, donated by the public, which equates to 2,200 pounds of food items.

In addition, \$715 in monetary donations

were received.

According to Huron County OPP, all donations will be distributed to local families in need through the Salvation Army.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Huron County OPP Auxiliary Officers (L-R): Shalen Kernighan, Maksym Shevchuk, Ryan Kikkert, Patrick O'Donnell, Mike Bentley and Wayne McConnell.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A total of 220 pre-packaged food bags were donated by the public during the four-hour food drive on December 6.

Starter Company Plus Grant Recipients Announced

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

The County of Huron proudly announced the completion of the 2025 Starter Company Plus program, celebrating the achievements of 12 entrepreneurs.

This year, 10 businesses were awarded a combined total of \$36,500 in grant funding in support the start, expansion, or purchase of a business in Huron County.

“Completion of this program represents significant hard work and commitment, immense creativity and a true entrepreneurial spirit,” said Vicki Lass, Director of Economic Development.

“We are proud of the dedication each participant demonstrated throughout the process.”

The Start Company Plus program provides entrepreneurs with business training, advisory services and the opportunity to compete for micro-grants of up to \$5,000.

The 2025 intake drew a record-high interest with 47 applications received. Following interviews and consultations, 12 businesses were selected to begin the program in September.

Of this year’s cohort, the program supported five start-ups, seven business expansions, and a combined 15 jobs that contribute to the local economy.

To graduate from the program, participants were required to complete a 12-week training

program, develop a comprehensive business plan and deliver a formal business pitch the review committee.

“Participants noted that the tailored advisory support, educational workshops, networking opportunities and financial literacy were instrumental in enhancing their business growth, development and sustainability,” said Tricia Denomme, lead Business Advisor for the program.

“We continue to be inspired by the innovation and drive of local entrepreneurs.”

The 2025 Starter Company Plus grant recipients were Bakery Bliss (Jessica Bromley from North Huron), Bakewell (Terri-Lynn Schell from Central Huron), Barmy Tech (Sarah Strome from Huron East), Breaking Bread Bake House (Esthera Catana from Central Huron), Elgin House Interiors and Handyman Services (Jesse Gill from Goderich), Life on the Footstool (Karen Ryalaarsdam from North Huron), Mena’s (Mena Menary from Huron East), Oats and Honey Homestead (Kayla Adams from Howick), Salt Mine Creamery (Brayden Lisiecki and Chase Richardson from Goderich), and The Preserving Chef (Connor and Laura Flynn from Huron East).

Enrollment for participation in the next intake of the Starter Company Plus program is open in July 2026.

To learn more visit: www.HuronCounty.ca/economic-development

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Alzheimer's Awareness Month at Alzheimer Society Huron Perth Offers Educational Events

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

During Alzheimer's Awareness Month, Alzheimer Societies across Canada unite to challenge dementia stigma and create a community where everyone feels more comfortable talking about dementia and sharing their own experience.

Alzheimer Society Huron Perth is featuring three special education events in the community.

Talk with the Doc! Top Five Geriatric Papers with Dr. Alexandria Peel will take place on ZOOM on **Wednesday, January 28, from 1:30 until 3 p.m.**

Local geriatrician, Dr. Peel, will discuss hot topics from the research world. New medication and treatments? Join and find out. Talk with the Doc, an annual January event, also includes a lively Q&A session with Dr. Peel after the presentation.

Free self-registration at

<https://bit.ly/Doc-Talk2026>

Our free one-hour online sessions, the **Dementia Basics Series**, are designed to answer your most frequently asked questions.

What is the difference between Alzheimer's disease and dementia? What are the early signs of dementia – and should I be worried?

Join us Alzheimer Society Huron Perth on ZOOM this winter on Monday afternoons and evenings.

Self-register at <https://bit.ly/ASHPEducationHour>

Topics include:

- **January 19:** Dementia Overview
- **January 26:** What is Mild Cognitive Impairment
- **February 2:** 10 Common Signs – Should I be Worried?
- **February 9:** Types of Dementia – What is the difference between Dementia

and Alzheimer's disease?

• **March 2:** Brain Changes

• **March 9:** Communication Tips

The **Virtual Memory and Aging Program** is the online version of our popular Memory and Aging course.

The Alzheimer Society will review age-related memory changes, how to optimize your brain health, and helpful memory strategies. The Memory and Aging program will take place on ZOOM on **Wednesdays, February 4 to February 18, from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.** with a \$25 workbook fee; financial assistance is available.

Self-register at <https://bit.ly/MAPWinter26>

Our **Free Awareness Month Movie** event returns to the Huron County Museum in Goderich on January 29 and February 5 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The uplifting movie, **Headful of Hon-**

ey, starring Nick Nolte, portrays a granddaughter who takes her grandfather on a train trip to Venice, in hopes of reconnecting with old memories.

The Leisure Seeker, starring Donald Sutherland and Helen Mirren, depicts John and Ella, a couple both dealing with terminal illness, who take a cross-country road trip in their treasured RV and review life circumstances along the way.

Headful of Honey will be showing at **2 p.m. on January 29 and 7 p.m. on February 5.**

The Leisure Seeker will be showing at **7 p.m. on January 29 and 2 p.m. on February 5.** Stay tuned for more details.

To find out more about these and other upcoming programs, click on the Education Hour banner on the website at www.alzheimer.ca/huronperth.

You can also contact our offices at 1-800-561-5012 or email info@alzhp.ca.

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!
CALL 519-655-2341 OR EMAIL
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Free Movies at Huron County Museum for Alzheimer's Awareness Month

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Join in for the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth January Awareness Month movie nights.

Films are chosen to open heartfelt conversations about dementia and offer glimpses into the lives of families, caregivers, and friends as they navigate challenges.

While the stories aren't perfect, they inspire us to reflect: How would we respond in similar moments? What can we learn from the successes, missteps, and joy they find along the way?

Headful of Honey (2019) Showtimes: January 29 – 2 p.m. | February 5 – 7 p.m.

Headful of Honey returns this year after last year's weather cancellation.

Starring Nick Nolte as Amadeus, a widower facing the onset of Alzheimer's disease, the film follows his move to London to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and spirited granddaughter, Tilda.

When Amadeus longs to revisit his past, Tilda takes him on an unexpected

journey to Italy—an adventure that transforms their lives and strengthens family bonds.

The Leisure Seeker (2018) Showtime: January 29 – 7 p.m. | February 5 – 2 p.m.

Ella (Helen Mirren) and John (Donald Sutherland), reckon with their lives as they face severe health issues. They set out on a cross-county road tour, determined to escape their worried family for one last adventure in their old RV, "The Leisure Seeker."

Along the way, Ella and John explore their shared life history and confront the complexities of aging.

Bittersweet humour, heartbreak, realities, and a surprise ending accompany their journey.

Admission is free at Huron County Museum, but donations are greatly appreciated and accepted at the door.

To find out more about the Alzheimer's Awareness Month events or other Alzheimer Society Huron Perth education opportunities, visit the website or contact the Clinton office at 1-800-561-5012 or email info@alzhp.ca

Alzheimer Society

Sunsets of Goderich



(IAN CRYER PHOTO)

As the sun has set on 2025, Goderich now looks ahead to the new year and all it has to offer. Taken around December 8, 2025 overlooking a cold and frozen Lake Huron from the bluffs.

To submit photos of the sunset, email kate@goderichsun.com

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January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month

No one should face dementia alone.

Join us this January to end stigma and support families.



Alzheimer Society
HURON PERTH
#ForgetNoOne

Each January for Alzheimer's Awareness Month, the Alzheimer Society highlights an important conversation: dementia is a health crisis too many people avoid. This year's theme, *Forget No One*, calls on all of us to break the silence and reduce the stigma that keeps people from seeking help.

New polling shows that one in four Canadians would rather not know if they had dementia, and nearly half wouldn't know where to turn for support. Stigma delays diagnosis and leaves people facing symptoms alone, but it doesn't have to be this way. The Alzheimer Society Huron Perth is here to help, offering information, guidance, and community programs so no one has to face dementia alone.

This January, learn how you can be part of the movement to *Forget No One*.

The Alzheimer Society Huron Perth accepts and welcomes new clients and volunteers. Registration is required for all programs, education, and support services. Programs may be offered in-person or virtually. If you are in need of support or have questions about programs and services, please call one of the offices.

Huron 519-482-1482 | Perth 519-271-1910

First Link Premierien SUPPORT

One on One Support

Free, confidential support services to individuals, families, and friends affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Support Groups

Groups provide an opportunity to discuss topics related to dementia with others who can relate to similar situations and behaviours.

EDUCATION

Education is an important part of understanding and learning to live well with dementia. Education is provided to people whose personal or professional lives are impacted by dementia, including registered clients, healthcare professionals, and anyone with questions about brain health.

Education Hour

Free online webinars available through www.alzheimer.ca/huronperth

Memory and Aging Program™

Developed for those who are experiencing normal age-related changes in memory or who are interested in learning more about this topic.

First Link Learning Series

The First Link Learning Series offers a comprehensive overview of dementia, coping strategies, planning, resources, and supports.

Taking Control of Our Lives

A self-management program for people living with dementia and their care partners.

Learning the Ropes for Living with MCI®

A program aimed at community dwelling older adults experiencing Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) and their close family member/friend.

SOCIAL RECREATION

In-Home Recreation

Offers individualized activities that promote cognitive stimulation for people living with dementia through ongoing weekly visits from staff or volunteers.

Minds in Motion®

An 8 week community based social program incorporates physical activity and mental stimulation for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and their care partners.

Social Recreation

Provides opportunities for individuals living with dementia and their care partners to socialize while benefitting from activities that improve well-being.

What Dementia Stigma Really Looks Like

Let's break it down, and break it, together.

Stigma shows up when:

- Harmful reactions or "jokes" come from misinformation
- People make negative assumptions or stereotypes
- Those living with dementia are treated as less capable or less worthy

Stigma isn't harmless, it hurts. It can:

- Lower quality of life and self worth
- Delay diagnosis and support
- Push people into silence instead of connection

Why it matters:

- When stigma keeps people from seeking help, families lose moments, support, and tools that could make life easier and more meaningful
- No one should face dementia alone

How you can fight stigma. Your everyday actions make the biggest difference:

- Learn and share accurate info
- Stay connected with people living with dementia
- Speak up when you hear stigma
- Reach out to the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth for support

Let's rewrite the story, together.

#ForgetNoOne

Alzheimer Society
HURON PERTH



Silence around dementia keeps people from getting help.

With presence in nearly 100 communities across Canada, the Alzheimer Society is your first link to information and support.

Alzheimer Society
HURON PERTH

Talk with the Doc!

Dr. Alexandria Peel, Geriatrician

TOP FIVE GERIATRIC RESEARCH PAPERS

JOIN US ON ZOOM!

1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY
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For more information, contact
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info@alzhp.ca | 1-800-561-5012



Make the call. You can cut your fear and anxiety in half by connecting to the Alzheimer Society. The person at the other end of the phone has answered similar calls hundreds of times.

They know what they're doing – they can help you.

— Fred K.

January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month

During Alzheimer's Awareness Month, Alzheimer Societies across Canada unite to challenge dementia stigma and create a community where everyone feels more comfortable talking about dementia and sharing their own experience.

The Alzheimer Society Huron Perth has a variety of education events coming up. Talk with the Doc! Top Five Geriatric Research Papers with Dr. Alexandria Peel will take place on ZOOM on Wednesday, January 28 from 1:30 – 3:00 pm.

EDUCATION HOUR

One hour - one topic, No cost, hosted virtually over ZOOM
Presentations on brain health, cognitive changes and dementia.

Dementia Overview
Monday, January 19
1:30 PM & 7:00 PM

Care Partners:
Dealing with the Feelings
Tuesdays, January 20, 27
February 3, 10
1:30 PM

What is Mild Cognitive Impairment?
Monday, January 26
1:30 PM & 7:00 PM

10 Common Warning Signs
Monday, February 2
1:30 PM & 7:00 PM

Types of Dementia
Monday, February 9
1:30 PM & 7:00 PM

Self-Register: bit.ly/ASHPEducationHour
www.alzheimer.ca/huronperth

Questions: 519-482-1482 or 519-271-1910

Your Journey of Support
Starts Here
Wednesday, February 4 & March 4
10:00 AM

Understanding Brain Changes
Monday, March 2
1:30 PM & 7:00 PM

Communication Tips
Monday, March 9
1:30 PM & 7:00 PM

Brain Health
Thursday, March 12
1:30 PM

Demystifying Memory Clinics
Thursday, March 19
1:30 PM



Every year brings new research regarding aging, dementia, and more. Dr. Peel, a local geriatrician well-versed in dementia care is going to comb through the news and focus on five studies that we should be paying attention to now.

Talk with the Doc, also includes a lively Q&A session with Dr. Peel after the presentation. This is a FREE event. Self-register at <https://bit.ly/DocTalk2026>.

The Free Awareness Month Movie event is returning to the Huron County Museum in Goderich on January 29 and February 5 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

The uplifting movie, Headful of Honey, portrays a granddaughter who takes her grandfather on a train trip to Venice, in hopes of reconnecting with old memories.

The Leisure Seeker features a couple facing severe health issues taking one last adventure in their RV.

Headful of Honey will be showing at 2 pm on January 29 and 7 pm on February 5. The Leisure Seeker will be showing at 7 pm on January 29 and 2 pm on February 5.

Contact the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth for more about these and other upcoming programs.



Headful of Honey (2019)

Thursday, January 29 2:00 pm

Thursday, February 5 7:00 pm

Charming widower, Amadeus (Nick Nolte) reluctantly moves in with his son's family. Amadeus and his granddaughter, Tilda (Sophie Lane Nolte), boldly embark on a road trip together to revisit important places and people from his life - and learn valuable lessons along the way.

The Leisure Seeker (2018)

Thursday, January 29 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 5 2:00 pm

Ella (Helen Mirren) and John (Donald Sutherland), a retired couple facing severe health issues take one last adventure in their old RV, "The Leisure Seeker". Along their journey, they review their life history and confront aging, amidst heartbreak and bittersweet endings.

DONATIONS TO THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY HURON PERTH
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Memory aging & PROGRAM



What is her name?
What did I come down here for? Where did I put....? The Virtual Memory and Aging Program, reviews age-related memory changes, how to optimize your brain health, and helpful memory strategies.

It is designed for anyone experiencing normal age-related changes in memory or anyone interested in learning more about this topic.

The Memory and Aging Program describes what memory is, how it changes with age, and when to be concerned.

Brain healthy lifestyle choices and practical memory strategies are reviewed and practiced, improving your ability to remember those everyday things - including those pesky names and things you intend to do!

The Memory and Aging Program consists of three weekly ZOOM sessions, 1:30 – 3:30 pm on Wednesdays: February 4, 11, 18.

There is a fee of \$25, which covers the cost of the program workbook and materials. Financial assistance is available.

Register online at <https://bit.ly/MAP-Winter26>

Wednesday, February 4 1:30 - 3:30 pm
Wednesday, February 11 1:30 - 3:30 pm
Wednesday, February 18 1:30 - 3:30 pm

\$25 Workbook Fee. Registration required. Group size limited.
Self register at <https://bit.ly/MAPWinter26>

Over half of Canadians worry about dementia. Stigma keeps people from getting help.

The Alzheimer Society is here to help, because no one should face dementia alone.

Alzheimer Society HURON PERTH #ForgetNoOne



www.alzheimer.ca/huronperth

What is a Dementia Friendly Community?

A Dementia Friendly Community is a place where people living with dementia are understood, respected, and supported. It's an environment where they will feel more confident in their abilities to contribute to community life, will be included in conversations, and have a choice and control over their day-to-day lives.

People with dementia and their care partners have the right to live well in the community, together. As more people are diagnosed with dementia every year and choose to live

at home, we need to determine how we can better support people living with dementia.

Join thousands of Ontarians in showing your support for people living with dementia and their care partners. Together, we can create a Dementia Friendly Community.

Help Make Your Community Dementia Friendly

Dementia Friendly Communities™ training will help you better understand the everyday experiences of people living with dementia.

Dementia-Friendly Canada™ is a partnership between Alzheimer Societies across the country. The goal is to train Canada's workforce to be dementia-friendly. Free tools and resources give Canadians knowledge and confidence to support and include people affected by

dementia in their communities.

The course has 4 modules approximately 15 minutes each:

- What is a dementia-friendly community?: An introduction to the concept and dementia-friendly efforts at the community level.
- Dementia-friendly interactions: Social environment considerations, such as ways you can communicate effectively with someone living

The information is practical and is helpful for all community members. Reach out to the Alzheimer Society to learn more.

Godерich Sun SPORTS

Godерich Minor Hockey News



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The U15 Goderich Sailors played in the Clinton Optimist hockey tournament from November 28 until November 30. The team played six games and were undefeated throughout, proudly earning and bringing home the gold.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Goderich U7 Sailors made their Jamboree debut on January 3. The kids thoroughly enjoyed playing hockey with their friends.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Goderich U18 LL Sailors participated in the Grant Lee Memorial tournament, and having battled their way to the finals on January 3, earned a silver medal.

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Young Canada Week in the 2010s: A Continued Role as a Winter Ritual in a Port Town

RICHARD MADGE

Sun Contributor

Goderich Lions Young Canada Week seemed like a storied institution by the year 2010, maintaining its position as the longest running minor hockey tournament in Canada.

With teams arriving each March Break to compete in an event that blended small-town hospitality with a big-game atmosphere, it continued to be the kind of tournament that players, coaches and fans would long remember.

With the local Lions Club combining with Goderich Minor Hockey to co-host the event, supported by a strong volunteer base and community involvement, Young Canada Week continued its role as a winter ritual in the port town.

The 62nd tournament in 2011 saw the Zorra Fusion win the Don Johnston Trophy in the Girls C Division.

The Listowel Cyclones took the Boys B title by defeating the Goderich Lions and the Tavistock Titans won the C Championship.

The Lucknow Sepoys won D honours while the BCH Icedogs and the Blyth Bulldogs won the AE and LL divisions.

In 2012, emerging as Girls C winners was the TCDMHA (Chatsworth) team with a 2-1 victory over Brussels.

The Blyth-Clinton-Hensall (BCH) squad took the Consolation title by beating Mitchell.

In the B Division, Mitchell defeated Goderich in the final game.

BCH prevailed in C and LL play while Goderich won the AE championship defeating New Hamburg 1-0 in the final.

Dirk Wolterbeek, a member of a family with long connections to YCW, dropped the puck to open the 2013 tournament.

Ilderton won the Girls Division, with Lucan, North Middlesex, Norwich, BCH and Teeswater winning the Boys Divisions.

Goderich won the LL Consolation title.

In 2014, hockey legend Leonard 'Red' Kelly and fellow Stanley Cup winner local Larry Jeffrey, along with Joe O'Brien who refereed in the first YCW in 1950, took part in the opening ceremonies.

Twelve girls' teams and 61 boys' teams took part in the tournament.

In 2015 a new format was introduced with games on the two weekends of the March Break, with championships decided on each weekend.

Mary Wolterbeek continued the family tradition, dropping the first puck while celebrating 33 years of heading up the feeding of YCW teams.

The Goderich Signal Star staff reporter wrote that a rousing rendition of O Canada was performed to kick off the ceremonies.

Due to a chemical leak at the MRC, all games on the first weekend were played at the Memorial Arena.

At the 67th YCW in 2016, Audrey McCabe, who was the goaltended for Saltford in the first tournament in 1950, was the opening night special guest.

A Toronto Star article at the time of that tournament described her as 'turning

aside shots with he calm assurance of a Turk Broda'.

Another 1950 player, John Buchanan, followed in his brother Fred's footsteps by being able to watch his grandson take the first face-off as a member of the Goderich Lions team.

Doug Cruickshank, the executive director of the Goderich Flyers Junior C team spoke at the ceremony of how a great many of the junior players had once played in the YCW tournament.

Thirty-six teams competed that year and in a bit of an oddity, the Local League (LL) championship was won by Goderich LL team 1, defeating Goderich LL team 2 in the final.

Grey Highlands won the Girls' Division, while Hanover, Norwich, and Lambeth were the Boys C, D, and AE winners.

It was becoming more difficult to fill the roster in the peewee divisions, partly because of the amalgamation of minor hockey systems, and in 2017, only 34 teams played in Young Canada Week.

Six girls' teams were entered and Lucknow-Wingham won.

Ilderton won in a 10-team Boys C Division, Bruce Peninsula topped a four team D Division, and Kincardine won a four-team AE Division.

Seaford headed a 10-team LL Division.

The year 2018 saw the numbers continue to decline. There was no girls' division, partly because more tournaments were being set up for girls. There were only 24 teams in three division for boys that year.

BCH won the C Division, TCD took the

D/AE Division and Mount Forest won the LL title.

The Goderich Scotiabank team won the consolation championship in LL.

In 2019, the 70th YCW, the serving of meals, a long-standing tradition in the tournament, came to an end, and the executive added Bantam teams to keep the tournament viable.

Goderich Minor Hockey took control of the scheduling, refereeing and time keeping while the Lions Club looked after office duties, fund raising and the chuck-a-puck feature.

Four divisions of play were organized: Rep and LL in the two divisions, peewee and bantam.

Twenty-four teams in total played.

In peewee play, BCH defeated TCD 5-4 to win the Rep Division.

In the LL Division, a team from Australia won. The team known as the Cyclones, and brought here by coach Michael Harrow, won 6-4 over the Goderich Kinsmen team.

The Goderich Scotiabank team won the consolation match over Blyth Brussels.

In bantam play, Goderich won the Rep title, winning 3-2 over Lambton Shores. Mitchell won the LL Division.

In our next column, we'll see how the COVID-19 pandemic was a positive feature in the survival of Young Canada Week (YCW).

Be sure to check out the YCW 75th Anniversary Facebook page to see all the special features being planned for the tournament in March.

Goderich Duplicate Bridge Club Results

On December 9 the club had five and half tables directed by Rob McFarlane:

1st – Doug Elliott and John Archbold – 65.15%
2nd – Mary Lynne Telford and Peter Filice – 56.58%
3rd – Graham McEvana and Kammenga Alje – 56%
4th – Dave McLaren and Donald Cook – 54.20%
5th – Kay King and Graham Yeats – 51.98%

On December 16 the club had six tables directed by Rob McFarlane:

1st – Joyce McIlwain and Kay King – 61.11%
2nd – Shirley Thomas and Tom Rajnovich – 57.41%
3rd – Lyalle Meldrum and Steven Watson – 55.19%
4th – Greg Bowman and Michele Hansen – 54.44%
5th – Garth Sheldon and John Davies – 48.52%
6th – Arnie Parker and Frank Martin – 48.15%

On December 23 the club had five tables directed by Rob McFarlane:

1st – Joyce McIlwain and Kay King – 64.35%
2nd – Cal Scotchmer and Evy McDonagh – 58.80%
3rd – Joan Lounsbury and Mary Lapaine – 54.17%
4th – Arnie Parker and Frank Martin – 52.31%
5th – Greg Bowman and Mary Lynne Telford – 51.85%



LOCAL MATTERS.



Remember that time when **Amazon** sponsored your church fundraiser?



Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

Goderich Public School's Council Continues Annual Holiday Dinner Tradition with Community

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Goderich Public School's long-standing Annual Holiday Dinner took place in December, bringing the community together in a meaningful and memorable way.

Despite several challenges, such as postponements due to severe weather, parents, staff and community members stepped up to ensure the celebration moved forward.

According to organizers of the annual holiday tradition, the commitment of parents, staff and other volunteers is a testament to the spirit and resilience that define the Goderich community.

This year also introduced new logistical complications. With no longer having access to Memorial Arena, organizers were required to find a new venue and arrange transportation. This was no small feat for an event hosting over 500 students, teachers, bus drivers, crossing guards, and special guests.

Goderich Legion was host to the annual dinner, providing a warm, welcoming venue for everyone in attendance.

Apart from volunteers and staff members ensuring the dinner went off without a hitch, the Legion Ladies Auxiliary provided invaluable assistance.

Pat Barnes at Goderich Toyota donated

buses, Adam Marshall of Beach Street Station prepared the turkey, Jerry Rader's Homestyle Catering and Market for their donation of gravy, Zehrs Goderich and Goderich Food Basics both supported and contributed to the dinner, Canadian Tire made a thoughtful donation and First Student Busing adapted to weather-related changes.

According to organizers, a special acknowledgement goes to Liz Black-Petrie who determination, support and extra helping hands were instrumental in securing a location and ensuring the event came together smoothly.

A special recognition goes to Dan Scholten, Claire Mif and Irene Schuttel did a phenomenal job cooking this year's meal, and the Holiday Dinner Committee made up of Claire Mif, Irene Schuttel, Sierra Lamb-Downey, and Katie Scully, lead, planned and coordinated to bring this event to life.

Despite the obstacles this year, the holiday dinner exemplified the true meaning of community – coming together, showing gratitude, and sharing a meal during the holiday season.

Goderich Public School's School Council is deeply thankful to everyone who helped make this treasured event possible.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The annual Holiday Dinner for GPS was hosted at Goderich Legion for over 500 students, teachers, bus drivers, crossing guards, and special guests.

Council Reviews Hunking Municipal Drain Improvements

BRITTANY MCKAY

Sun Contributor

Clinton Council reviewed a report outlining recommendations to improve a municipal drain servicing approximately 165 hectares (408 acres) of land within the municipality.

According to the report, the drain benefits from a strong spring at its headwaters, which provides a consistent flow of water throughout the year.

While the steady flow is advantageous for drainage, it has also contributed to erosion and sediment issues within the existing channel.

According to the engineering recommendations presented to council at the December 15 meeting, a strong focus is needed to address these concerns in order to ensure the drain continues to function effectively and safely for surrounding properties.

The proposed improvements include stabilizing erosion within the channel, as well as creating designated areas for ongoing maintenance to improve access and long-term upkeep.

Removal of accumulated sediment to restore a sufficient outlet for agricultural tile drainage systems connected to the municipal drain was also recommended.

Additionally, the replacement of one culvert crossing along the drain was identified as necessary to maintain proper water flow and prevent future infrastructure issues.

Council discussed the findings as part of its ongoing efforts to maintain municipal drainage systems that support agricultural land use and protect surrounding properties.

Further steps, including timelines and cost considerations, are expected to be reviewed.

Central Huron News

BRITTANY MCKAY

Sun Contributor

Central Huron Approves New Fire Services Agreement

Central Huron Council has approved a new five-year fire service agreement with the Township of North Huron, covering the period from 2026 to 2030.

The agreement sets an annual flat fee of \$90,000, plus fire call-related costs, with the flat fee increasing by two per cent each year.

Mayor Jim Ginn and Clerk Jennifer Bushell have been authorized to sign the agreement.

The new deal replaces a series of one-year extensions following the expiration of the previous long-term agreement in 2023.

Costs under the former agreement varied significantly due to capital expenses.

The updated flat-fee model is intended to provide more predictable budgeting, with the estimated total cost for 2026 projected as approximately \$110,000.

The agreement takes effect January 1, 2026, and runs through to December 31, 2030.

Accessibility Upgrades Planned for Historic Downtown

Central Huron Council approved an application to Community Futures Huron to expand accessibility improvements in the municipality's historic downtown.

If successful, the grant will support the installation of four automatic door openers in older downtown buildings, many

dating back to the 1800s.

The project carries an estimated cost of \$8,400, with \$5,000 funded through Community Futures Huron, \$200 donated by Thursday Tunes, and \$3,200 from Central Huron's Community Improvement – Public Relations budget.

The Shoppability initiative supports local entrepreneurship while preserving historic storefronts and improving access for residents and visitors who face mobility challenges.

Central Huron has received provincial and federal recognition in recent years for its leadership in making downtowns more inclusive.

Work must be completed by March, due to grant timelines.

Free Public Skating Returns to South Huron Recreation Centre

Residents are invited to lace up their skates and enjoy free public skating at the South Huron Recreation Centre (SHRC) this January.

Upcoming public skating sessions are scheduled for:

- Thursday, January 8 at 11 a.m.
- Sunday, January 11 at 11 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 13 at 11 a.m.
- Thursday, January 15 at 11 a.m.

The sessions are open to the public at no cost and are designed to provide a safe and welcoming environment for skaters of all ages and abilities.

For more information on public skating programs, residents are encouraged to contact the South Huron Recreation Centre.

Revisiting 2025's predictions



STEWART GRANT

Publisher

The reason why I do predictions each year is because it reminds me of the evolving nature of life and it's a way of taking me back to a prior point in time, wondering what the future year might have in store. In reflecting upon predictions gone wrong, it's a demonstration that the future is unwritten.

One year ago, the Liberal Party appeared destined for a major defeat in the upcoming federal election, but we all know how that turned out.

Here's how I fared on all my 2025 predictions:

1. Justin Trudeau would resign as prime minister this year. (**CORRECT**)

2. The ensuing leadership vote results in Mark Carney becoming Canada's 24th prime minister. (**CORRECT**)

3. The Conservative Party will cruise to a majority win in the 2025 federal election, and Pierre Poilievre will take the reins as prime minister. (**WRONG – Poilievre didn't even win his own riding**)

4. Echoing the results of the 1993 federal election where the incumbent party lost most of its seats, the Bloc Québécois emerge to form the

Official Opposition. (**WRONG – the Conservatives formed the opposition while the Bloc finished with the third most seats**)

5. For this first time in 32 years, a Canadian team will host the Stanley Cup. (**WRONG – the Edmonton Oilers lost in six games to the Florida Panthers**)

6. Alex Ovechkin will pass Wayne Gretzky to become the NHL's all-time regular season goal scoring leader. (**CORRECT**)

7. The Detroit Lions will win the Super Bowl. (**WRONG – the Philadelphia Eagles won the Super Bowl, while Detroit lost in the divisional playoffs**)

8. U.S. President Donald Trump will assist in ending the war between Russia and Ukraine, but the terms favour the Russian side. (**WRONG – While things are trending in this direction, the**

war is currently ongoing.)

9. A ceasefire is negotiated in the Middle East. (**CORRECT**)

10. The 25 per cent tariff on Canadian goods entering the U.S. fails to materialize. Relations between the U.S. and Canadian governments improve following the 2025 Canadian election. (**WRONG – The U.S. has continued to enforce tariffs though the situation is ever-evolving.**)

11. Despite certain achievements, general uncertainty and chaos during the first year of the Trump administration is reflected in a down year for the stock market. (**WRONG – the S&P 500 is up about 16 per cent this year, as of press time.**)

12. Just as the 1999 Columbine massacre produced a noted increase in school shootings in the U.S., the 2024 killing of UnitedHealthcare

CEO Brian Thompson will produce copycat crimes in 2025 by troubled individuals inspired by social or political causes. (**MIXED – see shootings of Charlie Kirk, and Minnesota legislators Melissa Hortman and John Hoffman**)

13. Chinese-owned TikTok will avoid being shutdown in the United States, with Elon Musk assisting by purchasing a significant ownership share of the social media app. (**MIXED – TikTok carries on, and a deal to sell its U.S. operation to an American-controlled joint venture was announced Dec. 18**)

14. The Trump-Musk bromance will have its up and downs, but the working relationship will continue to last throughout the year. (**MIXED – they broke up for awhile but appear to be getting back together**)

HAVE A SPECIAL EVENT COMING UP? Let us know!
Contact: info@goderichsun.com or call 519-655-2341

Scott didn't receive an organ transplant, but an organ transplant saved his life

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Trail Talk: Looking Back on Trails During 2025

PATRICK CAPPER

Sun Contributor

Looking back on the year the Tuesday Trompers had 52 hikes which were attended by 77 hikers. The average attendance was 16 with a range of five to a maximum of 26.

The midweek hikers had 100 hikes attended by 38 hikers and averaged eight hikers with a maximum of 15 and a low of two.

The LIFE hikers, organized through One Care, restarted the Friday hikes for Strollers and Striders starting in March.

Some of the highlights in 2025 that I can recall include the extension of the Maitland Trail southwards from Bishop's Road to just north of Fern Hurst Glen Road, which added another two kilometres to the length of the trail, which now is approximately 54 km.

The Menesetung Bridge was closed from April through to December 10 due to repairs to the structure. It is an important part of the Maitland Trail and the G2G so we are thankful that the repairs have been completed and hope that we will enjoy many years before more major work is needed.

There was a large effort to reduce the invasive European Buckthorn in the Maitland Woods and Sifto Loop region and replant native trees, shrubs and flowers

in the spaces created by the buckthorn removal.

The Maitland Trail landowners have continued to be very supportive of the trail, including a couple of new landowners, their contribution was recognized by the Maitland Trail association board hosting a breakfast for the landowners.

There was another very successful Maitland Camino weekend from September 20 to September 21 with 297 hikers taking part, either for the 50 km or shorter portions (there was special permission to take two shortcuts to avoid having the hike being 54 km long).

I am not fully aware of all the Bayfield River Valley Trail Association work, but I know they had a large turnout off 44 people for a Canada Day hike to the Bayfield River Flats, where extensive work has been done to improve access and install a kayak /canoe launching facility.

I keep track of my hikes lasting 30 minutes or more. I had 628 in 2025, nearly all within Huron County. As I live in Clinton, I most often hike close to home.

My most popular trails were at the Hullett Sugar Bush (150), Front Road (115), Sharps Creek Line East on the Maitland Trail, (57), Clinton Conservation Area (50) and Bannockburn Tract (31).

When I lived in Goderich my most popular trails were the Millennium, Maitland woods and the GART/Sifto trails.

I also managed to photograph 2,790 butterflies of 50 species within Huron County, in 2025.

After some weather causing the driving conditions were poor and some roads such as the one between Clinton and Exeter were closed, we were blessed with good weather for the New Year's Day hike at the Falls Reserve.

The temperature was around -80C and the wind was calm. Sixteen were out, with one on skis, six on snow shoes and the rest following on the packed trail. The snow depth varied from about 4 to 12 inches; the trail was beautiful with snow on the trees.

I noticed that at least two hikers had heated mittens, I have been using rechargeable hand warmers, which don't last as long as the new heated gloves and mittens.

Our Boxing Day hike was moved to 9 a.m., due to the forecast of freezing rain for the afternoon. We only had a little freezing rain during the hike but found we had to scrape ice off the vehicles and drive cautiously home as the side roads had become slippery.

NOTES:

Saturday, January 10 at 9 a.m. -Hike the Hullett Sugar Bush trails with Susan Ethelston. For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Susan Ethelston at susan.ethelston@gmail.com. This is a Level 1, moderate to

brisk paced hike - some uneven surfaces.

Saturday, January 10 at 11 a.m. - Join the BRVTA for a hike along the Mavis (2.5 km) or Taylor trail (1 km) at 11 a.m. will be followed by a chili lunch at the Stanley Complex and Community Centre

Saturday, January 17 at 1 p.m. - Hike the Maitland Trail West of Sharps Creek Line for about 1.5 hours. For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Patrick Capper at pcapper99@gmail.com. This is a Level 2, moderate to brisk paced hike - some uneven surfaces.

Saturday, January 18 at 10 a.m. - Hike or snowshoe the Naftel's Creek Conservation Area trails for about one hour.

For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Sally Brodie at 226 378-1648. This is a level 1 moderate pace hike/snowshoe.

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

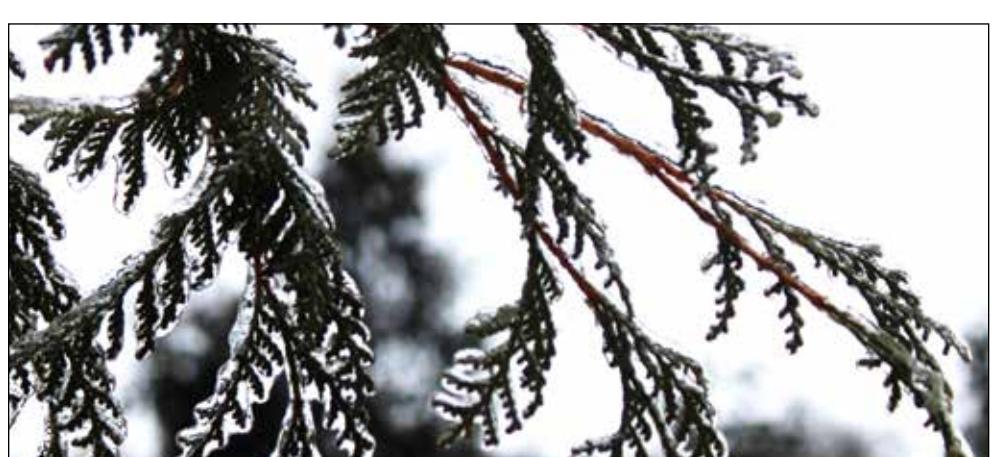
LIFE hikers meet every Friday for a hike of about 1.5 hours, with a choice of pace, striders moving a little faster than the strollers. The hikes now start at 9 a.m. and can be joined through One Care.



A skier and some snowshoers on New Year's Day.



Wendy Hoernig leading the New Year's Day hike.



Ice on a Cedar.



A few New Year's Day hikers.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Ask a Vet: Top 10 Things I Wish Pet Owners Knew

DR. SOPHIE FARRELL

Sun Contributor

It's the season of "top ten" lists, so this seems like a great time to tackle this question: What do veterinarians wish every pet owner knew?

10. Traveling without your pet? Leave written permission for emergencies

Your vet needs permission from you (or your assigned "agent") to provide non-emergency care.

If you are in a different time zone or have poor signal, we might not be able to reach you quickly.

Always leave written instructions detailing who is caring for your pet and authorizing them to make medical decisions if you cannot be reached.

9. Animals are excellent at hiding pain

A dog with a bladder stone may act like herself, a cat with arthritis may look like she's "slowing down".

Animals instinctively hide "weakness" so just because they act like a problem isn't bothering them doesn't mean it isn't.

8. "Old age" is not a disease

"Slowing down", sleeping more, eating less, gaining weight, etc. are signs of medical changes, not just "getting old."

There is a lot we can do to manage arthritis or metabolic issues to improve your senior pet's comfort and quality of life.

7. Cats can learn to love their carrier

Don't let the carrier be the "evil box of doom" that only appears once a year. Positive reinforcement can teach your cat that the carrier is a safe, fun place.

This makes travel less stressful and more pleasant for both of you (and prevents fighting to get the cat into a carrier in an emergency). Ask your vet staff for training tips.

6. Animals will still eat with severe dental pain

Dental disease will only cause an animal to stop eating if there's a sudden change such as a fractured tooth or abscess.

Otherwise, they're still going to eat even with a painful mouth (after all, what alternative do they have?) but they'll swallow their food whole or only chew on one side to avoid the sore parts. They'll feel (and eat) much better after their dental disease is treated, though.

5. Know the toxins in your home

Pets can get into toxins in many ways, from the usual suspects such as food (e.g. grapes, chocolate, onions), plants (e.g. Sago palm, lilies, flower bulbs) and household chemicals (e.g. rodent bait, antifreeze) to the less commonly known (e.g. Teflon cookware produces gases that are toxic to birds).

Research what toxins are a risk for your pets and make sure that they are always securely stored if you can't find a safer alternative.

4. "Over the counter" does not mean "Safe"

Human medications can be deadly to pets (e.g. acetaminophen is lethal for cats), and even "natural" or "herbal" supplements can cause issues in some species or interact with other medications.

Although some OTC medications can be used in pets, dosing varies between species, and you can't estimate an animal dose from the human dose.

Never play pharmacist - please check with your veterinarian before giving your pet anything.

3. Research before you buy or adopt

Every breed of dog (and cat!) has different energy levels and temperament traits which may or may not be a good fit for your personality or lifestyle.

They also all have predispositions to different health problems, some of which can be quite costly and/or time-consuming to manage (shoutout to the squishy-

faced crew), so it's important to make sure that you're prepared if your pet is unlucky enough to be affected.

"Exotic" pets are even trickier - small mammals, birds and reptiles live longer than you might think (birds and reptiles can live for decades) and require much more care than people realize.

Many commercially available diets and enclosures are unsuitable to the species they're marketed for, and many diseases of these pets are actually "diseases of husbandry" (i.e. housing or diet).

Do your homework now to avoid heartbreak down the road.

2. Socialization is crucial

Socialization is critical creating a well-adjusted animal that is confident in their world. **This is vitally important as poorly socialized animals are more likely to be surrendered or euthanized for behavioural issues such as property destruction, anxiety, or aggression.**

Introduce the pet to a variety of sights, sounds, smells, people, places, as well as animal-care tasks such as grooming, pairing them with a positive reinforcement so the animal associates them with good things.

The "golden window" for socialization (the period of brain development where they are most receptive to new experiences) lasts until around 14 weeks old (so start socialization as soon as your pet comes home!), but there are still ways to teach older animals "coping skills".

Please reach out to your vet's office for help with socializing your pet.

1. Be careful when doing online research

It's easy to hop online when you have a question - hey, I do it too. When it comes to your pets, though, if you have a question or concern, reach out to your vet first.

We all have collections of resources that we've screened to make sure that you're

getting good information, and many practice websites will also have a section with searchable articles on lots of different topics.

If you must go online, remember that information in the vet/pet corners of the internet ranges from excellent to downright dangerous. Here are some tips on separating the diamonds from the sewage:

- **Check the source:** Look for sources like veterinary schools, veterinary medical associations, board-certified veterinary specialists, or a site where the articles are written and/or reviewed by veterinarians.

- **Where is the author getting their information?** Is the author referencing published research from reputable journals or Karen from a Labradoodle Facebook group?

- **Stay away from social media** (that's just good life advice in general). Anyone can post anything, and the algorithms prioritize generating clicks over accurate information. Remember that anecdotes aren't evidence.

- **AI can be wrong.** AI answers are generated by scraping information all over the internet (including the junk) so you never really know if what it's telling you is accurate. AI is also programmed to make you happy, so the answer will be biased toward whatever it thinks you want to hear.

- **Avoid red flags.** Is the author selling something, promising some miracle result, or contradicting the experts?

Wishing you and your loved ones (of all species) a wonderful holiday season and a very happy 2026!

Do you have a question about pet care? Send it to reception@clintonvet.ca and it may be featured in a future column.

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

The Surprising Benefit of Fostering a Strong Patient-Practitioner Relationship



TIM MacLEOD

Sun Contributor

One of the most important factors for successful outcomes in a healthcare setting is the quality of the relationship between health care practitioner and patient.

Some sources suggest that this is the most important factor for positive treatment outcomes across multiple healthcare specialities.

A 2013 study published in the Journal of Physical Therapy found that positive patient-practitioner relationship predicted a positive outcome in

patients with chronic low back pain receiving different physiotherapy treatments.

The term for this relationship between patient and health care provided is called therapeutic alliance, and is composed of three main elements: agreement on the patient's goals, agreement on treatment tasks, and the development of a working professional relationship.

Communication is the central factor in the development of a strong therapeutic alliance, but other factors such as active

listening, being present, asking open-ended questions, and cultural awareness influence this as well.

These are factors you want to be looking for when working with a healthcare provider.

When it comes to physiotherapy, look for a physiotherapist who takes the time to listen closely to your experiences, treatment preferences, and goals, and clearly communicates how they plan to help you achieve your goals.

Make sure you and your

physiotherapist are both on the same page with these elements.

Not only will it make appointments more enjoyable, but it will increase the likelihood of successful treatment outcomes.

When choosing a physiotherapist, pick one who understands how important it is to build strong therapeutic alliance and one who strives to build this with every patient.

Tim MacLeod is a Physiotherapist (PT) at Physiotherapy Alliance in Goderich

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!
CALL 519-655-2341 OR EMAIL info@goderichsun.com

Aging in Place: The Dream versus the Reality



ANNETTE GERDES,

Sun Contributor

Most of us want to stay in our own homes as we get older. It feels right, we know our neighbourhoods, our routines, and our community.

Staying at home can mean independence, comfort, and staying close to friends and family. For many, it's about holding onto their sense of identity and dignity.

But the truth is, many seniors aren't fully prepared to make this dream a reality. Staying at home safely often requires changes like grab bars in the bathroom, non-slip floors, walk-in showers, better lighting, or even small ramps at entrances.

These upgrades keep us safe and make everyday life easier, but they can be costly. Add in property taxes, home maintenance, and the potential need for in-home care, and the expenses can grow quickly.

It's not just about money. Aging in place also means planning

for daily routines, future health changes, and what happens if we need help unexpectedly.

Without a plan, a sudden fall, illness, or loss of mobility can force difficult decisions, sometimes moving to a long-term care home sooner than planned.

The Importance of Planning Ahead

Planning ahead makes aging in place realistic and less stressful. Even small steps today can make life at home safer and more enjoyable in the years to come.

Here are some key areas to consider:

1. Financial Planning

- Think about costs for home modifications, repairs, and ongoing care.
- Include emergency savings and consider insurance options to cover unexpected needs.

2. Home Safety and Accessibility

- Simple changes like grab bars, improved lighting, and non-slip surfaces can make a big difference.
- Plan for larger adjustments early, such as stair lifts, wider doorways, or ramps.

3. Family and Care Conversations

- Discuss your wishes with family and friends.
- Decide who can help with errands, meals, or medical appointments.

4. Community Resources

- Many communities have programs to help seniors stay independent, such as meal delivery,

transportation services, or home maintenance assistance.

• Exploring these options early ensures you know what's available when you need it.

Retirement Homes: A Practical Alternative

While many seniors dream of staying in their own homes, retirement homes offer a flexible and safe option that can be just as appealing and sometimes more practical than home care.

With all factors it may also be more cost effective.

Retirement homes provide:

- **Built-in support** – staff can help with meals, medication reminders, personal care, and daily activities.

• **Safety and accessibility** – no stairs, walk-in showers, grab bars, and emergency systems are standard.

• **Social connection** – residents enjoy activities, outings, and shared spaces that prevent isolation.

• **Peace of mind** – family members know help is always nearby if needs change.

Unlike long-term care homes, retirement homes are designed for seniors who are still mostly independent but want support available when needed. This makes them an excellent bridge between aging in place at home and moving into full care.

Seniors can enjoy independence while also having access to care, meals, and social opportunities, all in a community setting.

A Story of Choice

Take Mary, for example, a 78-year-old who loved her home but began noticing daily tasks becoming harder. Cooking, laundry, and climbing stairs were taking their toll. Instead of waiting until a crisis forced her hand, Mary explored a local retirement home.

She loved that she could keep her independence, have her own apartment and privacy but still get help with meals, medication reminders, and social activities.

Today, she's thriving, has made new friends, and her family has peace of mind knowing she's safe and supported.

Tips for a Smooth Aging-in-Place Plan

Here's a simple checklist to get started:

- Review your home for safety risks (stairs, lighting, bathroom hazards).

• Budget for home modifications and regular maintenance.

• Look into local home care or community support services.

• Explore retirement home options, even a short stay or trial visit can help you decide.

• Talk with family about your needs and wishes.

• Keep an emergency plan ready for sudden health changes.

• Stay socially connected with friends, neighbours, and community activities matter for both well-being and safety.

Aging in place is a wonderful goal, and it can work well with planning. But for many seniors, retirement homes offer the best

of both worlds: independence, safety, social life, and access to care when needed.

By exploring all options and preparing ahead, seniors can enjoy comfort, peace of mind, and a richer, safer life — whether at home or in a retirement community.

Here's to a Happy New Year, and to a year of thoughtful planning and peace of mind!

Take small steps now — a safer, more independent year is just ahead!

January New Year's Action Plan for Aging in Place

Start the year with a few simple steps to make your home and lifestyle safer and more enjoyable:

1. Check Your Home for Safety

• Look at stairs, bathrooms, and lighting.

• Add grab bars, non-slip mats, or brighter lights where needed.

2. Explore Your Options

• Research local retirement homes, community programs, or in-home care services.

• Consider a short visit or trial stay to see what works best for you.

3. Plan Ahead with Family

• Have a conversation about your wishes, daily needs, and emergency plans.

• Discuss who can help with meals, errands, or medical appointments if needed.

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

Better Mental Health: Seeking Self-Improvement

TANYA MACINTYRE,
RED ROOF RECOVERY

Sun Contributor

With this new year, what do you want for your life in 2026?

Seeking self-improvement can sometimes turn into just another way for us to beat ourselves up.

There's nothing inherently wrong with wanting to better but it can become a pitfall. You might have the discipline to attain all the milestones you think you need to be happy.

Without discovering yourself,

you might build a world that isn't for you.

That's the difference between self-discovery and self-improvement.

Self-discovery is all about uncovering who you are and what you truly want from life. It's about finding the principles, passions and goals that are uniquely rewarding and fulfilling to you.

Self-discovery begins with using our brains – our head brain (our thoughts), our heart brain (our emotions) and our gut brain (our nervous system).

Our head is a human brain that controls higher-order functions like reasoning, planning and problem solving.

Our heart is our mammalian brain that governs our emotions and our ability to form social connections.

Our gut is our reptilian brain, associated with our nervous system, has over 100-million nerve

endings that produce 90 per cent of our body's dopamine and serotonin chemicals, promoting feelings of pleasure, motivation and satisfaction.

We use these brains as a framework to describe experiences of the world. You can hear it in our language, when we use phrases like: I'm stuck in my head, my heart's not in it, or I've got a gut feeling.

The practice of mindfulness and Tai Chi is teaching me the importance of being in the present moment and taking the time to listen to my heart and feel my gut.

As a mindfulness mentor, my mantra has become "It's not what we do in life, it's how we do it that matters".

This is a foreign concept to us humans who are programmed to provide and perform from the time we're born.

Imagine what your life would be like if you were able to take

pleasure in every single moment.

How are you reading this article right now? There might be more pleasurable ways to experience it. Perhaps it's being less rushed or noticing the sensations in your body and feeling how each word lands in your system.

Many people don't want to feel emotions because they think it will hurt, but it's the resistance to the emotion that can be painful.

When our emotions are allowed to flow freely, they can't control us anymore. Instead, there can be a deep enjoyment of them.

The definition of pleasure is the awareness of sensation moving in your body.

The more pleasure we can feel, the more our nervous system knows it is safe. If we feel safe, we can connect with the pleasure that is right here, right now.

Like anything else, your capacity for pleasure is something you can grow into. As you learn how to welcome pleasure, your ability to have pleasure grows.

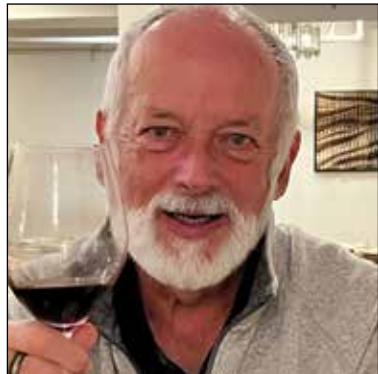
Are you ready to chart a course that is genuinely yours? That brings joy, meaning, and purpose into your life?

Create a life you love this year, a life that you'll never need to escape from.

I'm always here when you want or need some help: <https://calendly.com/mentalhealthfa>
Tanya MacIntyre is a certified CBT Practitioner, Mental Health Professional, and owner/operator of Red Roof Recovery.

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

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Paris: a splendidly walkable city



PAUL KNOWLES

Sun Columnist

If I were forced to choose among places to visit, I would always pick Ottawa over Toronto, Québec City over Montréal, or Amsterdam, Netherlands over London, England. And my reason is simple; those chosen destinations are all eminently walkable.

I really enjoy visiting a city where many of the places I want to see are within walking distance of each other, and that is one of the reasons that we enjoyed our stay in Paris so much.

We are in the capital of France because we opted for an add-on stay before our Viking River Cruise on the Rhône River. Now, the full story is we made that decision fairly late in the game, so the more basic hotel included in the package was already fully booked. That being the case, did we want to splurge on the upgraded hotel at additional cost?

Well, heck, how often are we going to spend three days in Paris? We agreed to splurge.

That put us in the Sofitel Le Scribe Paris Opéra. It was a perfect location, and we liked our accommodation very much, but after ordering a coffee and tea upon arrival, and being billed something like \$35 Canadian, we quickly understood that we would seek food and



The Paris Opera House, a baroque revival masterpiece.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

drink elsewhere, which was never actually a problem in this city of cafés.

But the best part was everything we wanted to see could be reached comfortably on foot.

As soon as we had checked in and I had emptied my bank account to pay for a coffee and a tea, I tucked a map into my pocket and we set out to explore. The reason for the hotel's name became quickly obvious – we were only a few steps away from the Paris Opera House, an imposing example of baroque revival architecture completed in 1875. We learned that almost all of the impressive buildings in Paris are from the 1800s because Napoleon and his successors were all about urban renewal – or perhaps, all about knocking down everything in sight to build monuments to themselves, which sounds distressingly familiar. But I digress.

Right across the street from the Opera House is a high-end department store called the Galeries Lafayette. What's special here is the rooftop terrace, open free of charge, which provides a spectacular view of the city.

A couple of blocks into our wandering we discovered the Church of Sainte-Marie-Madeleine, an imposing structure built in the style of a Roman temple. It has an intriguing history – it was begun in 1763 during the reign of King Louis XV. Construction stopped completely when the French Revolution abolished the monarchy quite dramatically by beheading Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette in 1793. Enter Napoleon, who became Emperor in 1804, and decided in this time of anti-church sentiment that the building be re-purposed as “A Temple to the Glory of the Grand Army.” An army which was, not coincidentally, headed by Napoleon.

Napoleon died and the monarchy was reinstated. The “Temple” reverted to its original intention, as a church, but progress on completing the structure was still slow – it was not officially inaugurated as a church until 1842, almost eight decades after construction was begun. Today, it is still a church, but perhaps even better known as one of the finest concert halls in Paris.

We left the church and strolled toward the Seine River, accidentally arriving at one of the best-known features of Paris, the Place de la Concorde. This 20-acre square, situated between the Avenue de Champs-Élysées and the Jardin des Tuileries, is one of the most beautiful parts of the city. However, it has a history that is considerably less appealing.

While today it is dubbed “Concorde” (which means harmony or

friendship), in the late 1700s, this was the site of the beheadings of Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette and thousands of others who climbed the steps to lose their heads on the guillotine. At that time, the square was known as the Place de la Révolution.

There is no evidence of the bloodshed today. When we visited, the permanent monuments like the Luxor Obelisk (a 3,000-year-old monolith that was given by Egypt to France in 1829), and the spectacular fountains, were sharing space with an outdoor, nature photography exhibition.

Our wandering continued. We explored the aforementioned Tuileries Garden and found ourselves surrounded by Parisiens at their contented leisure. On the far side of the gardens, we were suddenly on the grounds of the Louvre.

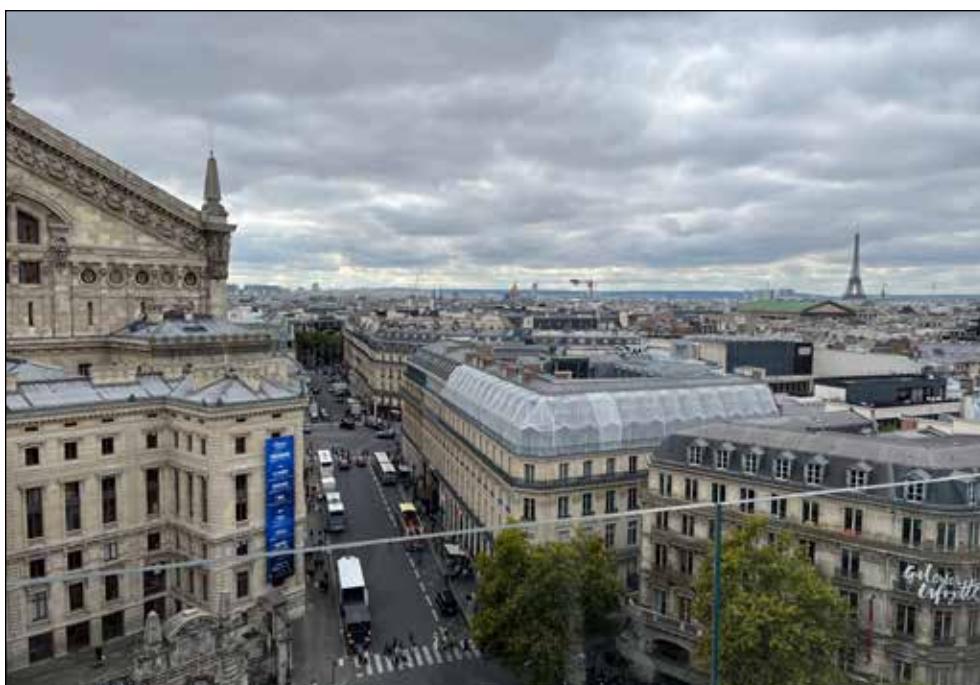
And nearby were two destinations I have always wanted to visit – the Musée D’Orsay and the Musée de l’Orangerie. The former holds perhaps the world’s best collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces, while the latter is best-known for two rooms where the walls are covered with Water Lily murals of Claude Monet.

The two are on opposite sides of the Seine River, about a 10-minute walk apart.

And no, we didn’t actually accomplish all of this in one walk. We saved the Orangerie and additional exploration of the Louvre for the following day, when we also made the longer trek along the Seine to the Eiffel Tower.

So, if you are a walker, you simply have to love Paris.

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.



Paris, including the Eiffel Tower and many other famous landmarks, as seen from the rooftop terrace of the Galeries Lafayette.



The interior of the Church of Sainte-Marie-Madeleine.

COMING EVENTS

MACKAY CHORISTERS

On Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Lakeshore United Church.

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

Weekly rehearsals every Thursday morning.

For more information: singers@mackaychoristers.ca

UKELELE STRUMMERS

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

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

Admission is free.



Auburn & District Lions Club BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 11, 2026

8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

\$15/Adults, \$6/Child, Free/Preschool

Auburn Memorial Community Hall

Pancakes, eggs, toast, sausage & hashbrowns

Thank you to our suppliers: Robinson's Maple Products

Huron County Egg Farmers and Green's Meat Market

We will be collecting non-perishable food and personal toiletries for the Auburn Food Bank at Huron Chapel

Proceeds for: Community Betterment

TECH 101: CERTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

On Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Huron County Library Branch in Goderich.

Ages 13 and older.

Registration required.

Get certified to use the library's technology, learn safe usage in a Tech 101 Workshop and enjoy open access to create anytime at the library.

Admission is free.

TECH TIME

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

Registration required.

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

Admission is free.

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLE

On Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Goderich Library.

Make friends and practice speaking English while talking about culture, family, food, movies or anything you like. Hosted by the Huron Welcome Hub for newcomers.

Admission is free.

KNITTER'S CLUB

On Tuesday mornings from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Goderich Library.

No registration needed.

Knit, relax and meet fellow knitters each week.

GODERICH CHESS CLUB

On Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Goderich Library in the activity 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.

Equipment will be provided.

SMART RECOVERY MEETINGS

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

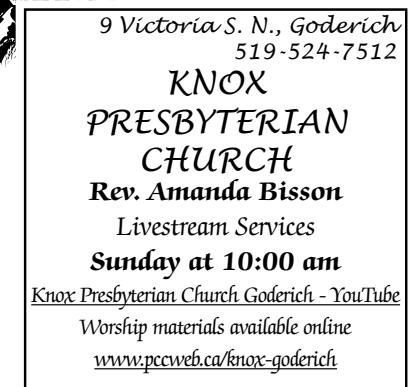
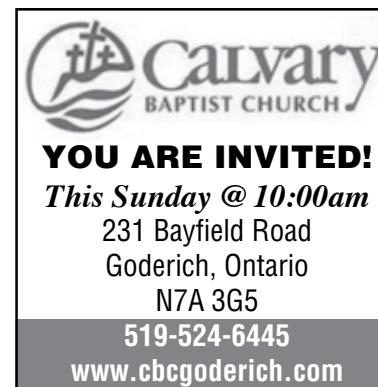
Tai Chi Classes

The Canadian Tai Chi Academy is running two four-month Introductory classes in Goderich: one starting January 12, noon - 1:00 at McKay Hall, 10 Nelson Street, and one starting January 13 at 6:30 - 8:30pm at Lakeshore United Church, 56 North Street. Cost is \$40 plus \$2 a visit. For more information: 519-524-2390.

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Riddles

My New Year's resolution was to exercise more...

So far, I've exercised my right to skip it.

I made a resolution to be more organized.

I'll start as soon as I find my planner.

My resolution is to lose weight.
I've lost motivation—does that count?

I resolved to stop procrastinating.
I'll work on that tomorrow.

My New Year's resolution is 1080p.
Full HD commitment.

I made a resolution to save money.
Then coffee happened.

My resolution was to read more.
I read the snack labels. Progress!

I resolved to eat healthier.
The pizza was emotionally necessary.

My resolution is to go to the gym every day.
I drive past it daily.

I made a resolution to be less sarcastic.
Yeah... good luck with that.

My resolution was to wake up earlier.
My bed strongly disagrees.

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 27

Featured Pets



SCOUT

Scout is a 10 month old heeler/collie and is a highly energetic farm dog that loves to chase cows, play fetch and make a mess on the lawn



Nominate your Pet of the Month by emailing info@goderichsun.com

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Word Search

RESOLUTIONS

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ACCOUNTABILITY
ACHIEVEMENT
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COMMITMENT
DETERMINATION
DISCIPLINE
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GOAL
HABIT
IMPROVEMENT
INTENTION
MILESTONE
MINDSET
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OBJECTIVE
PERSISTENCE
PLAN
PROGRESS
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info@goderichsun.com

OBITUARY



DONNA PATRICIA COOKE

Donna Patricia Finegan (nee Cooke), age 91, of Goderich, Ontario, died peacefully on December 1, 2025 at Huron Healthcare Hospital after a brief illness.

She was born Dec 6, 1933 in Ripley, Ontario. She attended grade school at Victoria Public School. Donna as a young mother was a stay-at-home mom who was active in her children's activities and was often volunteered by Mary to bake for various events or play baseball. She was always someone her kids could go to for advice, love and comfort.

Donna was an excellent waitress at various locations on the square, especially at her niece's restaurant Bailey's. Donna married her soul-mate John (Jack) L. Finegan in 1954. They moved around southwestern Ontario as Jack was stationed at various OPP detachments. They met their best friends, the Steed's, while stationed in Prescott in the 1950s.

Donna was a devoted member of the United Church, most recently of Lakeshore United Church, where she volunteered and made many friends. Donna enjoyed golfing, curling, bowling, cards and cross-country skiing... but her main passion was spending time with family and friends. Donna enjoyed traveling to Europe, the Caribbean, North and South America.

Donna is predeceased by her husband Jack, her parents Tom and Helene Cooke, siblings Mary, Ray, Ross, Grace and Tom.

Donna is survived by her siblings Doris and Gertie, and by her children Mary and Shawn (Jennifer) and their children Neil, Joseph and Patrick and grandchildren Braylon, Jack and Nora. She was a much beloved aunt of many nieces and nephews.

There was a memorial service for Donna on Friday, December 5, 2025 at 2:00 pm (visitation started at 1:00 pm) at McCallum & Palla Funeral home in Goderich.

Cremation has taken place. Internment will occur in the Spring of 2026 (date to be determined).

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations are made to Lakeshore United Church, the Canadian Cancer Society, the MS Society or a charity of your choice.

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 windbreak 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)

OBITUARY



DIANNE MARIE BRUNER

May 19, 1941 - December 30, 2025

Dianne Marie BRUNER (nee Garant), formerly of Goderich and Leamington Ontario, passed peacefully away at Huronview Home for the Aged Clinton, Ontario on December 30, 2025.

Dianne leaves to mourn her passing her only grandchild David (Kait) Bickford of Waterloo, and her son-in-law Lennard Bickford, Kingsville, Ontario, brother-in-law Don (Monika) Bruner, Chatham, Ontario as well as extended members of the Garant and Bruner families.

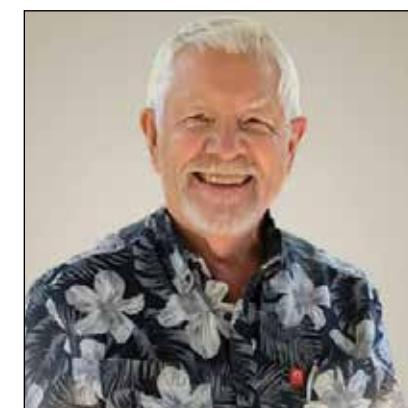
Dianne was predeceased by her first husband Edwin Bruner (2010), her second husband Douglas G. McIsaac (2017), and her only child Colleen Elaine Bickford (2023). Dianne was a very social individual and loved being amongst family and friends. She and Edwin traveled frequently, and they enjoyed annual trips to Florida. She was a generous individual and was above all kind and considerate. During her later life she became an active member of the McKay Centre for Seniors in Goderich and became a member and supporter of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 109 Goderich. She was also a regular parishioner at Berea- by- the- Water Lutheran Church in Goderich, and her church family never forgot her by keeping Dianne in their prayers.

Dianne was fortunate to have special people in her life with regular visits by her pastor Rev. John Tremblac III and special friends Paul & Diane Thorne who acted as her primary care givers during her extended stay at Huronview.

We would like to thank all the staff at Huronview for their kindness and compassion over many years especially the activation team, Shirley, Rebecca and Tracie, her nurses Chelsey, Cathy, Sruthi, Debbie and Linzy and the many PSW support workers who enabled her to live in comfort in her final years. We would also like to thank Dr. Chun for his medical care over the years.

A spring internment with a graveside service will take place at Evergreen Memorial Park in Leamington on a date to be determined.

OBITUARY



ALLAN ROBERT POLLARD

June 26th, 1947- December 14th, 2025

It is with great sadness that we the family announce the passing of Allan Robert Pollard on Sunday, December 14th in his 78th year at Alexandra Marine & General Hospital, Goderich. Beloved husband to Glenda, proud father of Samantha and Claire. He will be missed by his brothers John, Andrew, and Richard. Beloved grandfather to Riley, Oliver, and Sydney. He will be missed by many nieces and nephews. Allan is predeceased by his parents Walter and Winnifred Pollard, his brother David Pollard, and his first wife Linda Pollard. Allan was known to be an avid card player, with his favourites being Euchre and Cribbage. After a devoted career at the Bruce Power Plant as a Draftsman, he spent his retirement travelling the world with Glenda. He was well read, always had a book, eager to do crosswords, and loved Jeopardy. Allan was a proud father and grandfather and will be greatly missed by his children and grandchildren. Cremation has taken place. A celebration of Allan's life will take place in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alexandra Marine & General Hospital Foundation are greatly appreciated by the family. Family and friends can sign the book of condolences at www.mccallumpalla.ca.



JANET BLOCH

Passed away at Alexandra Marine and General Hospital on Thursday, December 25, 2025. Janet Alexine Bloch of Goderich in her 79th year. Beloved wife of Barry Bloch. Loving Mother of Sean Bloch & his wife Nicole Graf, Haley Bloch & her husband Dan Hay, their children Spencer and Layla and grandson Oscar Kerr & his wife Emily & their daughter Alice.

A Celebration of Janet's Life was held at the Royal Canadian Legion (Upstairs), Goderich on Friday January 2, 2026, from 1 to 5 p.m. Cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Artemis Huron gratefully acknowledged. Friends may sign the book of condolences at www.mccallumpalla.ca

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info@goderichsun.com or
 call 519-655-2341**

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www.goderichsun.com**

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

OBITUARY

NORMAN CULBERT

February 4th, 1941- December 16th, 2025

Norman Melville Culbert passed away on December 16, 2025 at the Alexandra Marine and General Hospital Goderich in his 84th year. Lovingly remembered by his wife Elaine of 55 years. Survived by brother in-law Ray and sister in-law Ann Mitchell, sister in-law Beverly Vanninhuys, Aunt Mary Schultz several nieces nephews and cousins. Pre deceased by his daughter Shelly Ann Price (2021), brother Bruce Culbert and parents Tom and Verna Hallam and father Melville Culbert. Norm was a proud employee of Champion Road Machinery for 44 years. In his retirement Norm enjoyed gardening and fishing and mostly he enjoyed his time spent with Elaine. At Norm's request there will be no funeral home visitation, spring interment Colborne Cemetery. Donations to Salvation Army Food Bank gratefully acknowledged by the family. Family and friends may sign the book of condolences at www.mccallumpalla.ca.

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newspaper.



JANUARY EVENTS

January 9	Live Music - Jim Otterbein - 5 p.m.
January 10	Live Band - MacAdam Road - 5 p.m.
January 13	Ladies Aux - General Meeting - 7 p.m.
January 14	Wake Up Wednesday - Service Canada Series - My Service Account - How To Set Up, Use And Find Everything You Need! - 9 a.m. Sponsored by Unifor Local 16-0
January 17	Live Band - Matt Gauthier - 5 p.m.
January 21	Wake Up Wednesday - Service Canada Series - Pensions Part I: CPP Basics + Q&A, Legion - Executive Meeting - 7 p.m.
January 24	Live Band - Country Junction - 5 p.m.
January 27	Ladies Aux - Executive Meeting - 5 p.m.
January 28	Wake Up Wednesday - Service Canada Series - Pensions Part II: Survivor Benefits & What To Do When Someone Passes - 9 a.m.
January 30	Sports Jersey Night - A Night Of All Things Sports And Jerseys. Giveaways And Specials! - 5 p.m.
January 31	Live Band - Irish Cowboys - 5 p.m.

- Every Monday Cornhole 7 p.m. Postponed Due To Renovations • Every other Monday Goderich Reads Book Club 10 a.m.
- Bingo every Sunday Afternoon doors open @ 11:30 a.m. Moved To Columbus Centre Due To Renovations
- Euchre every Tuesday night 7 p.m. Please bring a partner. • Jammers every Wednesday night 7 p.m.
- Every Wednesday Senior Technology "Back To School" Camp - 10 a.m. • Fun Darts every Thursday 7 p.m.
- Second Thursday Pepper Cards 1 p.m. Postponed Due To Renovations • Line Dance Lounge every Thursday 7 p.m. Postponed Due To Renovations • Cribbage every Friday afternoon 1:30 p.m. • Every 4th Friday Wits & Giggles Trivia Sponsored By Old Saltie Fish & Chips - 6:30 p.m. • 5 Card Bingo Every Friday 3:30 p.m.
- Monday - Friday - Cafe 109 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Coffee Provided By Steve & Marys On The Square

56 KINGSTON STREET, GODERICH • 519-524-9282

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

Goderich Sun

Deadline: Friday prior at 3 p.m.
 Contact: info@goderichsun.com

- 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

SUDOKU

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 2023
2. Manitoba
3. Venezuela
4. Trinitrotoluene
5. Kiwi
6. Rapunzel
7. 1933
8. Mammal
9. Eight
10. UK gallon

YOUR AD HERE

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PEST CONTROL



Protect your home from pests year-round — spiders, ants, rodents etc.
519-524-5052
huroncounty@trulynolen.ca
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SERVICES



Courses, Seminars, Training

For Better Mental Health

SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL. 
 Support businesses that keep your community and its newspaper thriving

Town of Goderich Curbside Collection

Solid Waste, Organics and Recycling

Collection Schedule:



Organics | Recycling



Organics | Waste

Organics are collected each week.
Solid Waste and Recycling are collected on alternating weeks.

What Goes Into My Organics Bin?



Produce
Fruits and vegetables



Dairy
Milk, yogurt, ice cream, cheese



Bakery and Dry Goods
Breads, muffins, pasta, rice



Table Scraps



Meats
All cooked and raw meat products, including bones, shells, fish, beef and chicken,



Home and Garden Waste (Indoor)
Acceptable in small amounts.
Large amounts of plant waste should be brought to the Goderich Yard Waste Depot at 361 Cambridge St (open seasonally April to November)



Soiled Paper Goods
Coffee grounds and filters, tea bags and strings, soiled paper bags, tissues, paper towels, napkins, BPI certified take-out containers

Need Help? Download Recycle Coach



Easily check details on collection dates, acceptable materials, landfill hours, and fees. You can also set personalized reminders (e.g., your collection day) using Recycle Coach.

Download the Recycle Coach app for free from the iTunes Store or Google Play, or use the Recycle Coach webpage.

For questions about solid waste and organics:

contact Waste Management at 1-800-561-1655 or canresidential@wm.com

For questions about recycling:

contact Bluewater Recycling at 1-800-265-9799 ext.228

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