



Goderich Sun

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Spirit of Christmas Filled the Huron County Museum During Annual Open House

ALEX HUNT

Sun Correspondent

The spirit of Christmas filled the Huron County Museum during its annual Holiday Open House, where families enjoyed apple cider, gingerbread decorating, and a touch of Victorian charm.

On December 7, the Huron County Museum hosted a holiday open house, welcoming locals for a free visit to see what the museum has to offer.

"It was important for us to keep the event as affordable as possible, and we loved providing families with the opportunity to get together before the holiday rush," said Michael Roy, education programming coordinator at the Huron County Museum.

"It gave everyone a wonderful chance to get out and enjoy a festive afternoon."

Roy said there is a higher demand for youth programming, receiving positive feedback from the popular Art Unplugged that ran in the spring. He explained that the museum is always open to new program ideas from the community.

Roy encourages the community to continue to visit the museum throughout the month of December. He hopes that visitors will get a chance to visit the Huron County Art Show exhibit before it ends on December 14. The exhibit features over 50 pieces of art made by local artists.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

An event on December 4 celebrated the nine new doctors in Goderich. (L-R): Dr. Aaron Daters, Dr. Matt Gray, Dr. Grant Dawson, Dr. Hilary Watson, Dr. Mohmeet Brar, Dr. Jeff McAuley, Dr. Ales Radan, Dr. Mike Dawson, Dr. Tiffaney Kittmer, Dr. Dan Noel and Dr. Tamra Steinmann.

Nine Local Physicians Recognized by Community at Event in Goderich

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Nine physicians who have joined Goderich's healthcare teams at Maitland Valley Medical Centre (MVMC) and Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) were recognized for their dedication to the community last week.

Hospital leadership and community members gathered on December 4, alongside Mayor Trevor Bazinet and Goderich Town Council, to officially welcome several new doctors who recently made a choice to practice in Goderich.

All physicians recognized at the community event joined the MVMC or AMGH within the past five years, including

five new physicians who joined just this last year.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the physicians who have joined us recently, bringing their unique experiences and skills to a strong team built by those who have been here, serving our community with dedication for many years," said Jimmy Trieu, President & CEO of Huron Health System (HHS).

"Welcoming them to our community strengthens our hospital, supports our healthcare teams, and enhances the care we provide to the patients and families we serve."

Mayor Trevor Bazinet and Goderich Town Council were pleased to officially welcome several new doctors who have recently chosen to practice here.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



Season's Greetings & Warm Wishes!

As the year comes to a close, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for our customers' trust and support. May your holiday season be filled with joy, peace, and cherished moments with loved ones.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Nine Physicians Recognized by Community of Goderich

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Mayor Bazinet stated that these talented physicians bring a tremendous amount of skill, compassion, and commitment to patient care,

"We are incredibly grateful that they have chosen Goderich as the place to continue their medical careers, said Mayor Bazinet.

"Their presence strengthens our healthcare system and supports the well-being of families throughout our community and region."

The arrival of these new healthcare professionals reflects the strong partnerships between the Town of Goderich, AMGH, Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH), local healthcare providers, and regional recruitment efforts.

According to HHS, continued collaboration has played a vital role in attracting and retaining high-quality medical talent to the area.

Mayor Bazinet emphasized the importance of accessible healthcare in a thriving community.

"Ensuring residents have timely access to medical services is essential," added Bazinet.

"These new additions to our medical teams are a welcome boost and a positive step forward for the future of healthcare in Goderich."

The Town of Goderich extends its warmest welcome to the new physicians and looks forward to the important contributions they will make in serving the community.

Gwen Deveraux, President of Gateway CERH, reflected on the evening stating that Gateway CERH is so excited to welcome the new doctors.

"Gateway CERH looks forward to working with them in supporting our research to keep our rural residents healthy," Devereaux added.

Dr. Matthew Gray:

Dr. Gray is a family physician who joined AMGH this year from Burlington. He received his undergraduate degree from Queen's University and attended medical school at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

He completed his family medicine residency training through Western University at the Mount Brydges site with a focus on rural primary care and hospitalist medicine.

"My wife and I chose to move to Goderich because we loved the town and wanted to be close to family in Huron County. We appreciate being near the lake and enjoy that Goderich has a small-town feel while still offering the resources you'd expect from a larger community," Dr. Gray added.

"I also completed a rotation here as a resident and later worked frequently as a locum, and I have always found the staff, nurses, and fellow physicians at AMGH and MVMC to be welcoming and supportive."

Dr. Grant Dawson:

Dr. Dawson has joined Emergency Department coverage and the family practice of Dr. Michael Dawson (his father) this year. He is a family physician who was born and raised in Goderich and attended medical school in Dublin at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

He then spent nine years working as a physician assistant in Goderich alongside Dr. Michael Dawson before completing his family medicine residency at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine at the rural Bracebridge site, with a focus on rural primary care, and emergency and hospitalist medicine.

Dr. Mohmeet Singh Brar:

Dr. Singh Brar joined AMGH this year as a family physician in the Emergency Department and hospitalist team. He completed his training at Western University where he served as Chief Resident and received multiple awards for leadership and excellence including the Outstanding Resi-

dent Award.

He has a strong passion for patient-centered, respectful, and compassionate care and is excited to be part of this community and to support you and your family's health.

Dr. Jacinta Peel:

Dr. Peel is a family physician who joined MVMC during the COVID19 pandemic. This marks the first opportunity for the community to formally recognize her contributions.

She provided outstanding care throughout challenging times and supports a large roster of patients.

Dr. Brian Holowachuk:

Dr. Holowachuk is a family practitioner who moved to the area in 2024 and immediately started providing much-needed relief in the Emergency Department.

Dr. Jennifer Ford:

Dr. Ford joined the AMGH team in 2023, having previously practiced in Washington State.

Her addition as a general surgeon brought the department to three surgeons and expanded capacity to meet rising regional needs.

Dr. Peter Dixon:

Dr. Dixon joined the mental health team at AMGH in 2024 as a psychiatrist.

After completing his training in Australia, Dr. Dixon returned to his home country of Canada and has now brought his expertise to Goderich.

Dr. Anne Rose:

Dr. Rose is a community psychiatrist with expertise in addictions looking forward to practicing in Huron County.

Dr. Michele Doering:

Dr. Doering is a geriatric psychiatrist who joined AMGH full-time in September 2025, after several years of locum work.

She has always thought Goderich would be a wonderful place to work and eventually retire.

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Spirit of Christmas Filled the Huron County Museum During Annual Open House

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Roy remarked on Remembrance Day, giving visitors the chance to walk through its military gallery and reflect on the artifacts on display.

He said the exhibits serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of remembrance and the sacrifices made by those who served.

"I think people are always looking for interesting things

to do, whether it's here at the museum or elsewhere in the community. The more programs we can offer for families in Goderich, the more vibrant the area becomes," said Roy.

"I love being able to give kids, students, and families creative experiences that are both educational and fun. It helps strengthen our community and inspires people to keep learning and exploring together."

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Goderich Sun

From all of us at the Goderich Sun, we're wishing you joy, peace, and all the best this holiday season! May it be filled with warmth, laughter, and wonderful memories.

We are settling in for a long winters nap and will be back with community news on
January 8, 2026.

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Letters to the Editor

An open letter to the Mayor of Goderich over the green space on Picton Street

Dear Editor,

On October 1, my husband and I decided to take a drive to Lake Huron to take advantage of the lovely weather we had that day.

My husband and I live near Long Point Provincial Park on Lake Erie in rural Port Rowan, Ontario.

We visited your beautiful town of Goderich and took a long walk along the wonderful boardwalk on the beach.

We discovered a plaque honouring John C. Grace near the end of the boardwalk. As we read the memorial to your former mayor, we were both very moved by the dedication and impact of one person in your community who was determined to listen to the needs and desires of the people of Goderich.

While we were reading the memorial, we met one of your residents and began a conversation with her.

To make a long story short, we were intrigued by the

community projects and goals she described, and we want to help in any way that we can.

I left that day feeling as though I needed to investigate more into the issues at hand, so I went online to your town's website and reviewed your town council meetings, watching a video of the outstanding proposal presented to turn an existing green space into a community park.

It seems to me that this project would pull its residents together for their valued environment.

If I were contemplating moving to Goderich, this park would greatly appeal to me, over a concrete jungle.

After seeing the plaques along the boardwalk, I am of strong opinion that a Memorial Park for John C. Grace would benefit the community he served.

Your own poll of Goderich residents' priorities stated that parks and nature are highly important to them, and in fact, it was listed as their number one request.

As I reviewed your town's priorities for parks and housing, I kept asking myself 'why can't you have both, why

must it be one or the other?', while still embracing your community's desire for a park that people would take pride in and benefit from.

In your consideration of this proposal, I urge to keep in mind that studies have shown the therapeutic benefit for people in urban areas to have green spaces for better health, both physically and mentally.

This is why I feel strongly to support your community in keeping, maintaining and promoting the green space at 110 Picton Street. Once a green space is gone, it is nearly impossible to regain it.

Bottom line is perhaps the Town of Goderich Council members could seriously and sincerely consider alternatives to housing locations and let people have their park.

Let the people have this park for their physical and mental well being both now and for many years to come.

*Sincerely,
Charlotte Langlois
Port Rowan*

Ontario needs smarter energy solutions for the EV era

Dear Editor,

As a retired but still licensed electrician, I've worked across Ontario, including on transformer and generator stations with Ontario Hydro Construction.

That experience has given me a deep understanding of how our grid functions, and why I'm increasingly concerned about its reliability.

Electric vehicles are growing in popularity, and every new charger adds demand to a system already under strain.

Utilities are working hard to expand capacity, but the

traditional approach – building bigger generators and transmission lines – comes with enormous costs and delays.

There is a simpler, more affordable path: distributed energy solutions in our homes and businesses.

Instead of relying solely on centralized power plants, we can empower households to contribute to grid stability.

The technology already exists.

Debel Energy (no, I don't work for them), a Quebec company, has developed the ARA system – an EV charger that can also power your home during outages using your car battery, feed stored energy back into the grid

when demand is high, integrate with solar panels, wind turbines, or personal generators.

Unfortunately, this innovation is not yet approved in Ontario, even though it is already available in U.S. states like California.

Ontario should not fall behind. Approving and encouraging technologies like ARA would strengthen grid reliability, support renewable energy, and make our province a leader in smart energy innovation.

It's time for policymakers to act. The tools are here – we just need the will to use them.

*Anthony Davison
Central Huron*

Preserve Green Space for Seniors

Dear Editor,

A green space at 110 Picton Street West in Goderich is located beside a Seniors Day Care Centre.

It is an appropriate space for a park that would be accessible for seniors and anyone with mobility issues.

The neighbourhood group that is proposing a park for 110 Picton Street has a vision for seniors – focused accessible green space with lots of trees, benches, safe walkways, and a covered sitting area. It is a place to meet with others and enjoy nature.

The walkways would be accessible for those with wheelchairs, walkers and canes.

The staff and seniors who use the Day Care Centre would be able to walk directly outdoors onto the safe walkway. There is no park in the town that is completely accessible for seniors and others with mobility issues.

We have a list of funding programs that are available for environmental projects, such as community parks.

There is funding for nature-based features, native plantings, park accessibility, community benefit focus and heat relief, to name a few.

It is my understanding that Town Council is proposing that the zoning be changed from Community to Residential. If this were to happen, the green space would be gone

forever.

On January 12, we will present our Proposal to Council for a senior's accessible park and that the zoning remains for Community use.

It is for the well-being of our neighbourhood and surrounding community.

Documents supporting our proposal have been submitted to the Town Council prior to our first presentation.

Hopefully, Council members will take the time to thoroughly review these documents, prior to the January 12 meeting.

*Sincerely,
Bonita Eitel
Goderich*

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 **Goderich Sun**

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Goderich Sun

Guiding Principles

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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

Letter to the Editor

Residents aren't saying no to housing, we're saying yes, and

Dear Editor,

As Goderich Council considers the future of 110 Picton Street West, our group is advocating that the land be protected as a community space.

Mayor Bazinet is right: Goderich needs affordable homes for seniors and workers. We support that.

We also believe the Town can do both: protect 110 Picton Street West as an accessible, senior-friendly park and add affordable homes on designated lands.

This property is not the only opportunity for additional housing in Goderich, but it is one of the last, centrally located and community-zoned properties that can serve the public, provide greenspace, and meet accessibility needs.

Converting it to a residential zoning would be effectively irreversible.

A low-maintenance, senior-friendly park delivers daily benefits, and I believe it's also a fiscally prudent approach. A simple park with benches, shade trees, and accessible paths is low-cost.

The return on investment for seniors—health, cooling shade, safer

walking routes, accessibility, social connection—is immediate.

By contrast, converting community zoned land to private residential development is a one-way decision. Once a community site is gone, it is gone for good. That's why hundreds of residents have signed in support of a public greenspace.

We can pursue housing and safeguard the limited community spaces we have left that keep our town livable and flexible to long-term needs.

Goderich Council can say yes to housing and yes to public greenspace—the two are not in conflict. It is only about finding the right place for each with a long-term vision for Goderich's growth.

We are asking Council to please maintain the community zoning at 110 Picton Street West and move forward on a practical, collaborative plan for affordable housing on other, better suited lots.

We also urge other residents to share their feedback with Council as they make this important decision.

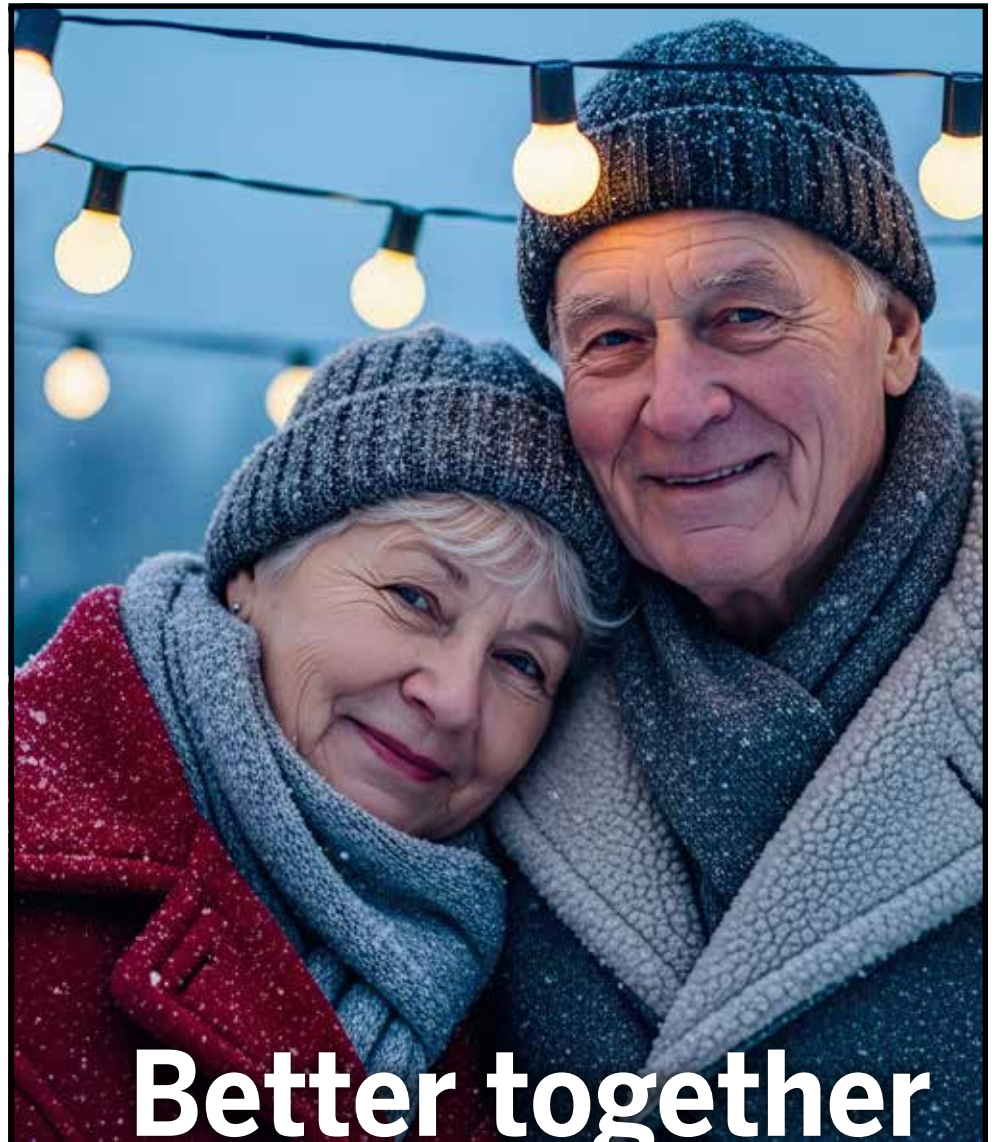
*Respectfully,
Sarah McKercher
Goderich*



Happy Holidays

As 2025 comes to a close, we are so grateful for the continued support of the Town of Goderich and the whole community in helping make the 33rd annual Goderich Celtic Roots Festival a success.

We look ahead to 2026 and the Goderich Celtic Roots Festival, College, and Kids Camp from August 3rd to the 9th. Tickets on sale now at www.celticfestival.ca



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Hospital Foundation Kicks Off Two-Year Magnetic Moments Campaign to Purchase MRI Machine

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

With the closest MRI machines in Owen Sound, London, and Stratford, residents of Huron County must travel significant distances for possibly life-changing scans.

Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) is aiming to have its own MRI machine operation by 2027, but the AMGH Foundation explains that \$6,500,000 needs to be raised in a two-year window.

Adding an MRI machine to the local hospital will broaden the range of services available at AMGH and help attract healthcare professionals to the hospital.

In September 2025, priority four patients waited on average 360 days for an MRI at London Health Sciences Centre-University Hospital, 66 days at Stratford General Hospital, and 52 days at Brightshores Health System in Owen Sound.

AMGH Foundation officially launched their two-year Magnetic Moments capital campaign on December 2.

With the goal to raise \$6,500,000, the campaign aims to bring an MRI machine, the first in Huron County, to Goderich.

According to the AMGH Foundation, having an MRI machine in Goderich will strengthen regional health care and expand the hospital's diagnostic services.

"We have a team of dedicated community champions ready to not only raise the

funds needed, but reduce wait times, the need to travel long distances for a MRI, and truly strengthen regional healthcare in Huron County," shared Laura Herman, Chair of the AMGH Foundation.

Approved by the Government of Ontario, the AMGH Foundation has two years to raise the needed funds.

Strategy to accomplish this goal in two years includes major gift solici-

tions, community appeals, special events, speakers' tours at local businesses and community organizations, third-part fundraisers, and grant applications.

Magnetic Moments was quietly kicked off during the annual Long Table dinner in August, and Kimberley Payne, Foundation Executive Director, announced the Foundation has raised \$960,423 to date.

"What most people don't realise is that hospital foundations cover the costs of any hospital equipment over \$1,000 with funds raised by the community," explained Payne.

"The \$6,500,00 required to purchase and install the MRI machine here in Goderich is no exception."

Leading the campaign is local doctor and Chief of Surgery, Dr. Tiffany Kittmer, who will be joined by community champions Natasha Fritzley, Liz Higgins-Sager, Vanda McNeil, Justin Reid, Tracy Telfer, and Florence Witherspoon who will serve as campaign cabinet members providing strategic direction.

Ambassadors for the campaign are Ralph Rubino and Pamela Somers, with other community members stepping for-

ward, to assist in securing the funds within the timeline.

"In reviewing the business case submitted to the Government of Ontario and reading the 14 signed letters of support from various government officials, doctors, community and business associations, and all 23 of the radiologists who support our current imaging department, I knew there was strong community support," remarked Dr. Kittmer.

"These words of support sealed my decision to chair a committee that will certainly leave a legacy in the community."

While the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the MRI machine is currently live, according to the Foundation, hospital management intends to announce the vendor in January.

Furthermore, structural updates required to house the machine on the ground floor of the hospital will commence in due course. The plan is to install the unit in 2027 and have it operational in 2028.

For more details or to get involved in the campaign visit <https://tinyurl.com/3hjz4c88>

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Recipients of HCAAC Awards on International Day of Persons with Disabilities Announced

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Today, the world population is over eight billion people and more than one billion, or approximately 15 per cent of the world's population, live with some form of disability. Of those with a disability, 80 per cent live in developing countries.

Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC) announced the recipients of the 2025 HCAAC Awards on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

A disability is a condition or function judged to be significantly impaired relative to the usual standard of an individual of their group. This could include physical, sensory, cognitive, intellectual, mental health and various types of chronic disease.

Factors which place people with disabilities at higher risk of violence include stigma, discrimination, and ignorance about disability.

According to the County of Huron, these awards recognise exemplary contributions to enhancing accessibility within the region.

The honorees this year demonstrate extraordinary dedication to facility design, service accessibility, and promoting inclusive practices.

In the public category, Huronview and Huronlea Homes for the Aged, Municipality of Huron East, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, Clinton Raceway and Kinsmen Club of Goderich were presented with the Award of Merit for Barrier-Free Access.

Through a successful community fundraising effort, Huronview and Huronlea Homes for the Aged raised more than \$26,000 to purchase two Duet Bikes.

These accessible bikes allow individuals using mobility devices to be safely seated at the front, while staff pedal from behind. These bikes offer an inclusive outdoor recreation option for residents.

According to the County of Huron, this project demonstrates strong collaboration and a practical improvement to the quality of life.

During Seaforth's Homecoming 'Doors Open' event, the Municipality of Huron East produced virtual tours of heritage buildings that were not physically accessible to all.

These digital tours provided broader public access to Seaforth's historic spaces.

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation's Trail Mobile program features a six-seat accessible cart, which allows individuals with mobility limitations to experience the South Huron Trail at no cost. It is supported by volunteers.

This program encourages outdoor participation and increases access to nature-based recreation.

Clinton Raceway removed its former grandstand and constructed a new, fully accessible facility, including an elevator, accessible upper viewing areas, and new washrooms.

This design supports access for all spectators, including people with disabilities, seniors and families.

The Kinsmen Club of Goderich has shown a clear commitment to accessibility by investing over \$200,000 to make their building and playground more accessible.

Recent projects include the addition of a pavilion and paved routes through the park and to the pavilion, as well as the installation of a chairlift and elevator shaft to enable people with disabilities and older adults to easily access all three levels of the building.

In the business category, The Blyth Inn (The Boot) was presented with an Award of Merit for Barrier-Free Access.

The Inn has created an all-gender accessible washroom on the main level, with clear turning space, power door functions, fold-down grab bars, and strong colour contrast.

This upgrade supports patrons using mobility devices and reflects ongoing efforts to improve accessibility throughout

the property.

The annual observance of International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992 by United Nations General Assembly. It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life.

Julie Sawchuk, a former member of the HCAAC and the HCAAC Site Plan Review Subcommittee, was presented with the Sandra Thompson Memorial Accessibility Champion Award.

Sawchuk has contributed exceptional expertise to the HCAAC, particularly in accessible washroom design. She also created the Public Accessible Spaces Simplified (PASS) program, now used across all nine partner municipalities.

As a Rick-Hansen Foundation-certified educator, international speaker, and author of Building Better Bathrooms, and Building Your Space, Sawchuk has profoundly influenced how people across the county understand and implement accessibility.

The HCAAC applauds all awardees for their efforts and dedication to making Huron County a place for everyone.

To learn more about the International Day of Persons with Disabilities visit <https://tinyurl.com/2cxda99p>

Over 50 Hockey Tournament in Bayfield Supports Annual Salvation Army Toy Drive



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Funds were raised through the fourth Annual Toy Drive, during the Over 50 Hockey Tournament in Bayfield. Normally the tournament uses funds raised to purchase toys to donate to the toy drive, but this year handed over a cheque to help support the cause. Sponsors included ABC Financial, ADS Industries, Ron Keys and Derek Demaine. The tournament raised \$1,500 for Salvation Army's annual toy drive. Pictured are Greg Aitken, Kendall Strome (Salvation Army) and Brian Reed.

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Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. The Four Horsemen of the _____ appear in the Book of Revelation.
2. What is the largest 2nd Hawaiian island?
3. What year were seatbelts made mandatory in Canada?
4. What do Americans commonly call Emmental cheese?
5. The flowers on the St John's Wort are which color?
6. Who originally sang "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"?
7. What year was the Toonie introduced?
8. What part of the body is affected by glaucoma?
9. What is the capital of Norway?
10. Which star guided the three kings to Baby Jesus?

This week's answers are found on pg. 39

Merry Christmas AND Happy New Year!



Ben LOBB MP
Huron—Bruce

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Goderich Works Dept.
Kinsmen Club of Goderich
Ontario Provincial Police
John & Melina Powers
Salvation Army
Tim Horton's of Goderich
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& to all those who came with their festive cheer!

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Huron County Paramedics Recognized for Exceptional Dedication, Professionalism and Long-Standing Service in the Field at Awards Ceremony

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Three local paramedics from Huron County were honoured with Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal Bars as part of the 2025 Ontario awards ceremony.

According to the County of Huron, these distinctions are presented on behalf of the Governor General of Canada.

These awards celebrate paramedics who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, professionalism and long-standing service in the field.

"The County of Huron is incredibly proud of these dedicated professionals," admitted Jamie Heffer, Huron County Warden.

"Their commitment to our community and to the well-being of residents across Huron County is deeply valued and profoundly appreciated."

Gary Renaud received his Third Bar and was awarded for 50 years of exemplary service.

Karen Rollins-Beneteau received her First Bar and was awarded for 30 years of exemplary service.

Phillip Smith received his First Bar and was awarded for 30 years of exemplary service as well.

According to Jeff Horseman, Director of Emergency Services, the experience, leadership, and mentorship that seasoned paramedics like Renaud, Rollins-Beneteau and Smith provide, have a tremendous impact on the quality of care delivered.

"Their long-standing service not only strengthens our team but also contributes directly to better outcomes for the people we serve," added Horseman.

The Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal is part of the Canadian Honours System. These awards acknowledge paramedics who have provided the highest standard of care and conduct throughout their careers.

Each Bar signifies an additional decade of service from 30 years on.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Colonel Shane Elder, Deputy Chief David Campbell, Phillip Smith, Karen Rollins-Beneteau, Gary Renaud, and Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs President Greg Sage.



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Season's Greetings

The Staff of the **Maitland Valley Medical Centre** would like to thank our patients and the community for the privilege of serving them during the past year and we look forward to continuing to improve the health of our community in the year to come.

The offices of the Maitland Valley Family Health Team Holiday Hours:

Wednesday, December 24 – closing at noon
 Thursday, December 25 – CLOSED
 Friday, December 26 – CLOSED
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 Thursday, January 1 – CLOSED
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Huron Perth Public Health Reminds Residents to Spread Cheer, Not Germs

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

With 13 respiratory illness outbreaks at long-term care and retirement homes in Huron and Perth counties since September, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) reminds residents of actions to take to reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses.

As the holiday season is in full swing, HPPH encourages residents to stay up to date on immunizations, to wash hands regularly, cover coughs and sneezes, clean and disinfect high-touch areas, improve indoor ventilation and stay home when sick.

These actions can help reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, influenza ('the flu'), and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

"As more get-togethers and events happen heading into the holiday season, it is important to take precautions to reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses," said Dr. Miriam Klassen, Medical Officer of Health at HPPH.

"The best way to protect yourself, your family, and the community is with immu-

nization."

All Ontario residents aged six months and older are eligible to receive influenza and COVID-19 immunizations.

Select high-risk groups are eligible to receive RSV immunization, including adults aged 75 and older.

Eligible adults should contact their primary care provider about getting the vaccine.

HPPH is continuing to offer COVID-19 and influenza immunizations to children four years of age and younger who do not have a primary care provider.

Infants and high-risk children can get the RSV monoclonal antibody through hospital maternal child units and primary care providers.

"In addition, stay home when sick and avoid visiting with those who may be at higher risk of severe illness due to respiratory viruses, including at hospitals and long-term care homes," added Dr. Klassen.

To learn more about how to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, including information about immunizations, visit www.hpph.ca/illness

Gateway Board Member Receives Recognition Award at Goderich Council Meeting

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) Board Member Michele Young-Melady was recently presented with a Recognition Award by the Town of Goderich Council.

During the Council meeting, more than 30 individuals were honoured in the council chambers for their volunteerism, civic spirit, and positive impact.

As a Gateway CERH Board Member, Michele has contributed to numerous events, programs, and projects.

"Michele's outstanding work within Gateway CERH and the community is a source of great pride for us, and we warmly congratulate her on this honour," shared Dan Stringer, Chair of the Gateway Board.

Gateway CERH celebrates Michele's achievements and is proud to have her as a board member.

According to Gateway, her dedication, volunteerism, and exemplary leadership have strengthened the organization's work and Michele continues to inspire all of Gateway to aim higher.

For more information visit www.gatewayruralhealth.ca



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Michele Young-Melady received her Recognition Award on November 17 in the Goderich Council Chambers.



For many of us, Christmas is a time of celebration and reflection, looking back on the year that has been.

This year is not without its challenges as rising costs are affecting us all and this brings with it new worries and pressures for households in our Town. Christmas season is the season of goodwill and a time of giving, but I believe Goderich residents do that all year round, especially during difficult times. Goderich has a sense of community, friendship, and togetherness, and those who are struggling experience the generosity of others in our community.

I wish all the residents of the Town of Goderich a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday. I hope everyone has a Christmas filled with joy and hope with the people who bring you love. May everyone cherish the memories of their loved ones that have passed and I wish you all a healthy and happy New Year.



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Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle Campaign Runs Until Christmas Eve

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Running through to Christmas Eve, the annual Christmas Kettle Campaign for the Salvation Army launched in mid-November and aims to raise \$80,000.

With Christmas Kettles located in stores around Goderich, Clinton and Kincardine, the locations accept Tiptap donations in addition to cash.

According to the Salvation Army, people can donate using a debit or credit card at any time, even if there is no volunteer standing next to the kettle.

Money raised during this campaign stays local and helps fund vital programs serving people in need in the community throughout the whole year.

Funds assist people with food, shelter and clothing, including winter coats for both adults and children to help them stay warm during the cold season.

This year, the Salvation Army Suncoast Citadel celebrated 140 years of service

in Goderich and continues to fulfill their mandate of giving hope today to meet the increasing needs of the community.

According to the Salvation Army, last Christmas, there was an 18 per cent increase in need. The Salvation Army distributed 337 Christmas Hampers and 246 Toy Hampers, and it is expected to increase again this year.

Captains Joe and Donna Ludlow, Corps Officers of The Salvation Army Suncoast Citadel in Goderich are grateful for the community and people's continuous generosity, as well as the countless volunteers who help make this campaign possible.

Over 1,100 volunteer hours are needed to make this campaign possible, and The Salvation Army needs more Christmas Kettle volunteers.

For more information or to register as a volunteer, Joe and Donna Ludlow request interested individuals to drop by The Salvation Army at 303 Suncoast Drive East, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or call 519-891-0127.



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Adrianne Borchardt
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Happy New Year*

'A Huron County Christmas Carol' at Blyth Festival Offers Local Twist to Classic Tale of Hope and Reflection

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

'A Huron County Christmas Carol' has returned for the third time to the Blyth Festival stage, bringing a local touch to the beloved Dicken's classic.

Where in a Christmas Carol, Ebenezer Scrooge is a miserly old man who despises Christmas, in 'A Huron County Christmas Carol', it is 2025 and Scrooge is buying all the feed mills from Windsor to Tobermory, Lake Huron to the Ottawa River.

With billions in the bank and Ontario's farmers under his thumb, Scrooge sits on his riches and refuses to give a dime to help those less fortunate.

Yet, like the classic, on Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by three ghosts to warn him of the consequences of selfishness. Will Scrooge learn the value of compassion and generosity, leading to transformation into a kinder person?

Directed by Gil Garratt, 'A Huron County Christmas Carol' is chock full of live music by local songwriter John Powers.

"The music is amazing," remarked Garratt.

"The musical numbers are full of local references to Goderich, Clinton, and Vanastra. One of the most popular songs in the show is 'The Prettiest Girl this Side of Holmesville'. Audiences love feeling this deep sense of

connection, as it widens the story for us."

According to Garratt, from the black-and-white film version with Alastair Sim to the The Muppets' Christmas Carol movie, everyone has a favourite version.

"As I observed my children watching these classics, I was moved to set the Christmas classic in rural Ontario, so local families can get right into the story," explained Garratt.

"Growing up, every Christmas movie I ever saw was set either in London, England or New York City. As far as I understood it as a kid, Christmas took place somewhere between the chimney sweeps and the Macy's window displays. I wanted to push back on that."

Garratt adds that the play stays true to the heart of the story, the feelings, the sensation, its joy, charm and humour.

Yet, it's rife with recognition.

This Blyth Festival production is not Ebenezer Scrooge in mutton chops and a top hat. This is a Scrooge this community will recognize – Scrooge in a branded ballcap, an incredibly wealthy titan of agri-business who doesn't believe in giving to local charities and supporting the community.

The people in his life are all recognizable as well – his nephew Fred is a small-scale organic farmer, Bob Cratchit works in the mill office and is underpaid and overworked, the ghost of Christmas Present is a

diner waitress.

According to Garratt, the adaptation doesn't just relocate the story, it embeds real local history.

For example, the Christmas party in Scrooge's past at Fezziwig's is reimagined as a Saturday Night Barndance broadcast on CKNX in Wingham.

Scrooge's childhood in Goderich is spent overlooking the harbour before the salt mine was built, back when trains still ran over the Menesetung Bridge.

While retaining the classic moral arc of redemption, charity and community, 'A Huron County Christmas Carol' is framed around modern rural economics and social issues, giving it a contemporary vibe.

"A lot of what Dickens was writing about, the have and have-nots, are still very much with us," Garratt remarked.

"In some ways, it's even more pronounced."

By making Scrooge a feed-mill tycoon who has bought up as many mills as he can, and now wields power over farmers, this adaptation draws on real economic and social tensions in rural Ontario.

Scrooge is cornering the market, building a monopoly and he has the farmers under his thumb.

"The show resonates with farmers themselves, or folks who have friends in farm communities, that feel the daily stress associated with issues of consolidation, independence and precarious commodity pricing," added Garratt.

"This adaptation of the Christmas classic reminds people in farm communities that they're not alone and it ends on a really positive note, filled with joyous affirmations about the human condition and hope."

Garratt reiterates that where record levels of disparity are only growing, this is the story the community needs. It is a story that reminds us why we are called on to live in community with each other.

Additionally, Blyth Festival opened the door to great theatre and to helping locals in need through United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) for one special performance.

On Wednesday, December 3, during

the kick-off preview of 'A Huron County Christmas Carol', for every ticket sold, \$5 has been allocated to support United Way's Northern Huron Connection Centre at St. Paul's Trinity Anglican Church in Wingham.

"The Blyth Festival is passionate about telling our local stories," added Garratt.

"United Way's Northern Huron Connection Centre is a great local story when it comes to offering caring, safety and support across the county. We're proud to help where we can."

The centre is a welcoming, safe space for the community's most vulnerable. It provides a space to rest, access basic needs, healthcare services, identification assistance and partnerships with CMHA Huron Perth, providing important services and supports under one roof.

According to UWPH, last year there were 834 total visits to the centre and 27 people were housed.

Garratt explains this partnership was more a symbolic gesture, tying art directly to a real, social issue, aligning the spirit of the play to giving back, and supporting the community.

In a record-breaking year for attendance, Blyth Festival attracted many newcomers to the region through plays developed by Canadian playwrights.

Within 90 minutes of Blyth there are many other theatres offering Broadway hits and Shakespeare, so there is an abundance of choice.

Garratt says the fact people are recognizing the value of fostering original Canadian theatre in Blyth is inspiring.

"Our local adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol' is a natural season closer because it brings families together for warmth, reflection and local solidarity," added Garratt.

Catch 'A Huron County Christmas Carol' at Blyth Festival, as it will continue to run at the Blyth Festival Theatre until December 21.

Runtime is two hours and 10 minutes, including intermission.

For full showtimes or ticket prices visit <https://blythfestival.com/>

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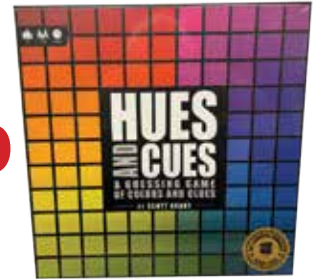


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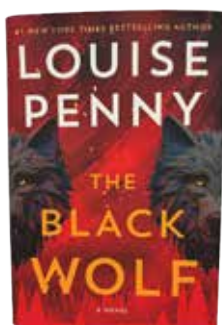
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Boston Pizza Goderich Offers More than Just Great Food

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Swet Gandhi grew up helping his parents with their respective businesses, which grew into a passion of wanted to own his own business one day.

That dream is now a reality, as Gandhi and his wife Riya have taken over the ownership of Boston Pizza in Goderich.

"We did lots of research before making the decision to buy the Goderich location," admitted Gandhi, who had seen more than 10 other Boston Pizza locations around the country.

Yet the way that former owners Carolyn and Laura ran the place, impressed Gandhi.

"We were also looking for a town where we can say is our home," Gandhi said.

"We did not want to move again, anywhere. I see lots of opportunities in Goderich."

After graduating with a Bachelor of Pharmacy from the University of Pune in India, Gandhi moved to Canada in 2017 for further studies.

Gandhi completed a Pharmacy Technician course from Fleming College in Peterborough. After graduation, he was given an opportunity to work at Dairy Queen in Fernie, British Columbia in 2018. He worked as Owner/Operator until August 2023.

Gandhi's wife Riya Patel has a similar educational background. Patel worked with Walmart Pharmacy as well as Loblaws Pharmacy. She is a Registered Pharmacy Technician in British Columbia and worked for Elk Valley Hospital for more than two years.

"It was my dream to own a full-service restaurant," added Gandhi.

"Boston Pizza is the number one casual dining restaurant in Canada, and I see lots more opportunities in the future with this franchise."

It's not just good food and excellence service offered at Boston Pizza Goderich. Gandhi and Patel offer a plethora of events to draw residents and tourists into their establishment for more than just food.

Boston Pizza Goderich often hosts live music on Saturday evenings, trivia nights on Mondays, as well as wine and paint nights, comedy nights and karaoke.

"We are excited to be a part of Goderich and look forward to work in all aspects where we can help the local community," remarked Gandhi.

This holiday season Boston Pizza Goderich is offering a deal. When buying a \$50 gift card, you can get a free \$10 promo card, adding a little extra cheer for you or someone special.

This offer ends December 31, 2025, and is available in-restaurant only.

In October, Boston Pizza Goderich underwent renovations, adding a massive TV for sports viewing, and a touch of something local, with photography throughout the restaurant of local spots and landmarks.

For a nice meal, or to get together with friends on trivia night, or to catch the big game, Boston Pizza Goderich offers it all.

For information on Boston Pizza Goderich visit <https://bostonpizza.com/en/localtions/goderich.html> or find Boston Pizza Goderich on Facebook for deals and updates.



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United Way recruiting new volunteer tax-filers for upcoming season

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) is looking for community members to volunteer in local tax clinics for the 2026 season.

According to United Way, volunteer clinics are powerful community initiatives that help support seniors, newcomers, students and those receiving income from social assistance programs.

UWPH Director of Community Impact and Research, Kristin Crane, volunteer tax clinics are one of the most direct ways to help neighbours struggling with affordability.

"Filing taxes enables households to get the refunds and benefits they're entitled to, which can make such a big difference," explained Crane.

"Supporting that process is an immensely rewarding volunteer opportunity."

According to United Way, in 2024,

1,780 returns were filed through the program in Huron and Perth counties, garnering an estimated \$4.8 million in refunds and benefits for local households.

Volunteer tax filers work alongside local organisations to file taxes for individuals with modest incomes and simple tax situations.

The CRA provides tax-filing software, training and funding for supplies.

"For anyone with some experience and comfort with computers and paperwork, this is a great way to give back," added Crane.

"If you use online banking or have ever filed your own taxes online, you can play a valuable role helping others."

Crane explains that clinics across the region need volunteers to maintain their services and expand to serve new communities. South Huron needs more volunteer support for tax-filing season.

To learn more about volunteering with tax clinics, please visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca

Huron Perth Public Health recognizes World AIDS Day on December 1

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

World AIDS Day is a global movement uniting people in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Since 1988, December 1 has served as an occasion to honour the memories of the more than 44 million people worldwide who have died due to AIDS-related illnesses since the epidemic began.

World AIDS Day also raises awareness about prevention, treatment, and the importance of addressing the stigma.

One common source of misinformation and stigma is how HIV is transmitted. You can't get HIV from casual contact, such as shaking hands, hugging, or sharing food and drinks.

HIV can only be transmitted through direct contact with specific body fluids that contain enough of the virus to cause infection, such as blood.

Importantly, antiretroviral therapy (ART) has transformed the lives of those living with HIV by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood to undetectable levels.

According to Huron Perth Public Health

(HPPH), those individuals can live healthy lives and won't transmit HIV to others.

"It is estimated that over 65,000 people are living with HIV in Canada," said Julie Bergman, public health nurse at HPPH.

"With current medical advancements, these individuals can expect to live long and healthy lives."

HIV can affect anyone, regardless of age, sex, gender or race. Community members can access free HIV testing by appointment at HPPH sexual health clinics.

Bergman added that misinformation and stigma continue to pose barriers to HIV elimination efforts.

Red scarves, knitted and donated by local knitters, adorned parking metres and benches in towns across Ontario to raise awareness of World AIDS Day.

For more information about the Red Scarf Movement and to get involved, visit www.redscarf.ca

To learn more about services offered, or to make an appointment with HPPH, visit www.hp-ph.ca/sexualhealth

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The Maple Leaf Chapter IODE Goderich wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We sincerely thank you for supporting our Op Shop and ongoing community-directed fundraising endeavours.

Christmas Word Search

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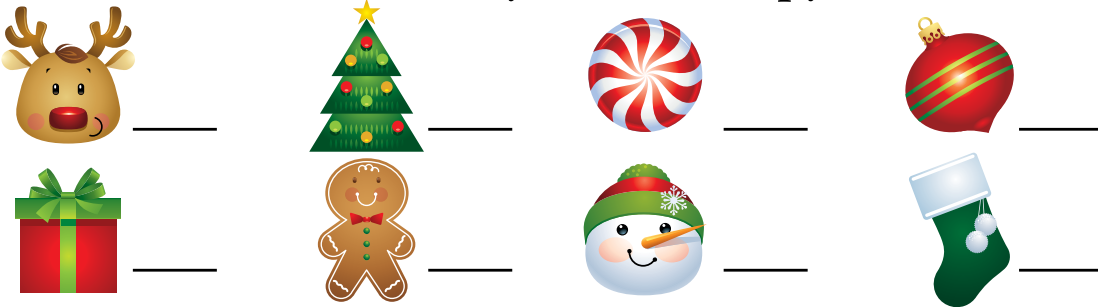


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What do snowmen call their kids?

Chill-dren

What kind of currency do they spend in the North Pole?

Jingle bills

How much does Santa pay to park his sleigh?

Nothing, it's on the house!

What did the elf use when he sprained his ankle?

A candy cane

Where does Santa keep his money?

The snowbank

What do you call a reindeer with bad manners?

Rude-olph

Unscramble

These Christmas Words

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Gateway Receives Donation from Goderich Zehrs to Support Meaningful Rural Community Initiatives

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) visited Goderich Zehrs on December 1 to receive a donation valued at \$500. The donation was presented to Gateway CERH by Zehrs Store Manager Jim Bissett.

According to Gateway, Goderich Zehrs has been a generous donor of the rural health research organization for several years.

This donation will continue its mission to enhance access to care, connection, and support throughout our rural area.

According to Dan Stringer, Board Chair, the donation reflects a shared commitment

to improving the health and well-being of individuals and families in our rural communities.

"Their support allows us to continue research, services, and expand opportunities for those who rely on us," shared Stringer.

"This contribution will directly support Gateway CERH in advancing our work and creating meaningful, lasting impact across our rural community."

Gateway CERH remains deeply grateful for the continued support of the community, donors, and partners who believe in the importance of improving the health and quality of life of all rural residents through research, education, and communication.

For more information visit www.gatewayruralhealth.ca



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Goderich Zehrs donated \$500 to Gateway, in support of rural community initiatives. (L-R): Nyden Greenfield, Alexa Hugill, Jim Bissett (Zehrs Manager), Karrisa Overholt, Ava Fitzgerald, and Dan Stringer.

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The Sound of Christmas: Local Choirs Brighten the Holidays with Carols, Hymns and Fundraising

PAMELA CLAYFIELD

Sun Correspondent

There is something about music that we all relate to, and the holiday season is never complete without the sound of carols and hymns echoing through our churches and community spaces.

Several choral groups are bringing their voices together to celebrate Christmas bringing audiences together to take the time to sit and listen.

On November 30, there were two offerings in the area. The MacKay Choristers joined forces with the Goderich Laketown Band for the Sound of Goderich concert at Lakeshore United Church.

Featuring special guests like the Lyrica Harps, this event blended instrumental and vocal traditions, offering audiences a rich tapestry of seasonal sound. Admission was by donation, with proceeds supporting local music initiatives.

The same day, I was fortunate to travel to Northside United Church in Seaforth where The Harmony Kings brought their Christmas concert to the stage with other barber-shop groups from the same region

including London's Men of Accord, Woodstock's Undercover Mix, and Strathroy's A Capella Connection all to raise funds for the Seaforth Foodbank.

They covered carols, hymns and even pop songs like Mary Did You Know before they all joined together on the risers.

If you missed those events, don't worry, there's more coming up so mark your calendars for The HuronSong Chorus. They are performing their annual Christmas concerts in both Seaforth and Goderich.

On December 17 at Northside United Church in Seaforth then again December 22 at Lakeshore United Church in Goderich. Audiences can enjoy a program of festive choral highlights.

Admission is by freewill donation, with proceeds supporting Artemis (formerly Huron Women's Shelter), making each performance not only a celebration of music but also an act of community care.

Whether you attend to hear a favourite carol or to support a worthy cause, the gift of music is one that resonates long after the final note.



(PAMELA CLAYFIELD PHOTO)

The Harmony Kings, London's Men of Accord, Woodstock's Undercover Mix, and Strathroy's A Capella Connection.



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Lisa Thompson
 MPP - Huron-Bruce

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Merry Christmas

— AND —
HAPPY NEW YEAR



MERRY Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2026!

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Wed. Dec. 24	8 a.m.- 5 p.m.	Wed. Dec. 31	8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Thurs. Dec. 25	CLOSED	Thurs. Jan. 1	CLOSED
Fri. Dec. 26	CLOSED	Fri. Jan. 2	8 a.m.- 6 p.m.
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Steve and Mary's on the Square to Host Last-Minute Christmas Market at Goderich Legion

ALEX HUNT

Sun Correspondent

A last-minute Christmas Market will be hosted by local restaurant owners Steve and Mary Bruce on December 20.

As Steve and Mary share their excitement for the upcoming Christmas market debut at the Goderich Legion, vendors are encouraged to stay and sell to the crowd at the Legion's Saturday night meat draw.

The market will feature 30 vendors, selling a variety of wares such as handcrafted items, blankets, baked goods, soap and candles.

"This is our first time doing this. I want people to leave knowing they've found something special, a handcrafted, local Christmas gift made right here in the community," said Steve Bruce.

"A lot of these vendors are taking time away from their families to be here, and they're doing it to bring some good energy to the market and help keep it going."

Steve and Mary recently held their Home for the Holidays event at the Goderich Legion on December 2. With the help of volunteers, community partners and staff, the restaurant fed 205



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Steve Bruce at Steve and Mary's on the Square, presenting their Goderich Tourism Hospitality and Business Award.

locals inside, gave out 35 takeout orders, and handed out 31 toy hampers for families.

Locals were fed with a free turkey dinner and were greeted with a visit from Santa and the

Grinch.

"To all the people who donated food, toys and cash to turn into more food and supplies for family homes," said Bruce.

"What a great community

showing support for one another and caring. Words cannot show the appreciation needed to thank all the volunteers who donated their time to care for others. We could not do this without you."

The Christmas Market will run from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on December 20.

Bruce provided a special thanks to Platinum Sponsors, Randy and Laurie Carroll, Royal Canadian Legion Goderich, Jockey North America Inc., Blake Street Bakery, and Kim and Travis Teed for the live performance.

Steve and Mary opened their restaurant in November 2019 and were able to stay afloat during the pandemic after careful planning and keeping budgets tight.

Since starting the business, the married couple has brought deep values of giving back to the community.

Steve and Mary's on the Square opens its doors to become a warming station for Goderich's Coldest Night of the Year Walk, where they provide soap and collect donations. Steve and Mary are also on the Legion executive.

"We're not doing this for any other reason than it's simply the right thing to do. It's important to stay involved in your community, to give back when you can, and to help keep it strong and healthy," said Bruce.

"When everyone contributes in their own way, it creates a sense of connection and care that makes a real difference."

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Goderich Legion Branch 109 Supports Gateway CERH with Generous Donation of \$5,000

ALEXA HUGILL

Sun Contributor

Last week Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) visited the Goderich Legion Branch 109 to receive a donation valued at \$5,000.

The support provided through this donation is instrumental in Gateway CERH's mission. It ensures that we can continue delivering high-quality programs and research that support seniors and veterans, while also exploring new initiatives that address our community needs.

"It's great to be able to continue our support for Gateway CERH," reflected Randy Carroll, President of the Goderich Legion Branch 109.

"Our partnership has gone a long way to helping us offer our veterans and se-

niors within the community an opportunity to educate themselves, meet people, and learn new things."

Karissa Overholt, Operations Manager of Gateway CERH, also shared her perspective on how this donation will benefit the community and advance Gateway CERH's ongoing efforts.

"This donation reflects a shared commitment to improving the well-being of our community," Overholt said.

"With this donation, Gateway CERH can continue growing our programs and making a greater impact within the communities we care deeply about."

Gateway CERH remains deeply thankful to the Goderich Legion Branch 109 for their ongoing dedication and generosity, which helps us advance our mission and expand the impact of our work across the region.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Goderich Legion Branch 109 donated \$5,000 to Gateway last week (L-R): Laurie Carroll, Alexa Hugill, Nyden Greenfield, Dan Stringer, Michelle Miller, Randy Carroll and Donna Allen.

Goderich Taxi expands services to bring festive delights to locals

ALEX HUNT

Sun Correspondent

Paul Good, owner of Goderich Taxi, is booking time slots for people interested in enjoying an evening Christmas light show.

Good encourages each rider to provide a donation for the local food banks but will still give a free ride if people aren't able to give.

Good said that food banks are always looking for support, especially around this time of year.

"Some of our older residents live alone or in retirement homes and don't always get the chance to experience Christmas the way they used to," said Good.

"I thought it would be a wonderful idea to bring people together from across the community for an evening event, so everyone can share in the holiday spirit."

Christmas light rides will be offered every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. until Dec. 17. Good will take riders and visit the various Christmas light displays around town.

"There are a lot of individuals in town who don't have a vehicle, and it's a long walk to check out the lights," added Good.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing the happiness it brings to people who take part. Everyone deserves to feel joy, especially at Christmas. I love helping others, and this is just another way to spread the word that these taxis are here for anyone who needs them."

Good said that he can accommodate up to four people per vehicle but can fit up to seven riders in a van. A couple of Good's staff have also volunteered to take riders for a light show.

"I want people to be able to enjoy Christmas, the lights, the atmosphere. All while also supporting a good cause so more families can be fed this season," said Good.

"One father called me recently asking if he could book a ride just so he could sit back and enjoy it with his kids instead of driving, and that's exactly what this is all about, creating those moments together."

Good says that it would be great if he could raise a couple of hundred dollars for the food banks, but he won't complain if it goes up to a thousand.

He added that he would like to do another community initiative this spring.

To book a taxi ride to see the town's Christmas lights, call Paul Good at 519-440-9634.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Paul Good, owner of Goderich Taxi is offering rides around town to see the Christmas lights.



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Trail Talk: An Ode to the Trees and Forests in our Region

PATRICK CAPPER

Sun Contributor

Glen Carey was a Maitland Trail land-owner since the trail was formed. He was well known for his love of trees and for many years at the closing ceremonies of the Goderich Celtic Festival, he read his ode to the trees.

I thought it fitting that I should feature trees in this Trail Talk column.

Larry Cornelis in Trees Forests and Nature wrote, "If you could do only one thing for our natural environment, it should be to plant an oak."

An urban forester's recommendation was that you should plant a tree of a different species to those next to it.

Both people agreed that all the trees should be native ones.

Native oaks support 450 species of butterflies and moths; their caterpillars are an important source of bird food.

Ginkos on the other hand, although very hardy (some survived the atomic bomb blast in Japan), support very few insects.

The most common oak in our area is Red Oak, the most famous one is the Heritage Oak on the Sifto Loop, which began life around 1780.

The next most common oaks in our area are Burr (or Bur) Oaks and White Oaks. There are also some Swamp White Oaks (e.g. in the Mitchell Urban Forest and Goderich square), some Chinquapin Oaks (Chinkapin) one is in the Goderich Courthouse Square and there are a few in our garden.

There are also Pin Oak, Shingle Oak and Scarlet Oak in Courthouse Square, but I don't know of any other local ones. English Oaks are non-native, and there are some in our garden and one in the Goderich Courthouse square.

Shumard (Swamp Red) Oak and Black Oak are Carolinian oaks so may grow in our area, but I am not familiar with either of them.

Disappointingly two fatal fungal diseases, Oak Wilt and Sudden Oak Death syndrome are spreading in Ontario. Foresters recommend having a mixture of species, as you never know what might cause a big die off species.

Most of us know of the problems of Dutch Elm Disease, Emerald Ash Borer, and Spruce Bud Worm, which have devastated elms, ashes and spruces.

Before 1930 the American Chestnut was one of the most important forest trees until Chestnut Blight, introduced from Japan, destroyed virtually all mature Chestnut trees.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A windfall on the Bayfield Woodlands Trail.

A driveway of Autumn Blaze Maples may look lovely, but one day there may be something that kills them and then the driveway has a row of dead trees.

The Maitland River Valley is at the most northerly edge of the Carolinian zone. Trees such as Hackberries, American Sycamores, Tulip Trees, Ohio Buckeyes, Paw Paws, Kentucky Coffee trees, Black Tupelos and Chinquapin Oaks are at, or close to, their northerly limit here

You may well have come across a windfall across a trail recently due to some strong winds. The Maitland Woods had in the order of nine trees across the trail, the Maitland Trail volunteer chain saw crews had a busy day on Tuesday December 2 clearing all of these, before moving on to work on the windfalls on the Millennium Trail.

I noticed windfalls on most of the trails I have recently been on, but surprisingly both the Bannockburn Tract and the Front Road Trail did not have any. This is despite the Front Road Trail having over 100 dead pine trees.

This is the season when it is very easy to eat too much, and a good way to reduce the extra weight gained is to get out and hike or snow-shoe on the many forested trails in our area.

You will also have the benefit of enjoying the restoring effects of being out in our natural environment.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone whether you hike, walk or can't get out.

NOTES:

The Menesetung Bridge across the Maitland River at Goderich is scheduled to be reopened on Saturday, December 13.

Saturday, December 20 at 9 a.m. - Hike the Maitland Trail and the Robertson Tract trails for about 1.5 hours. 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.

Friday, December 26 at 1 p.m. - Hike or snowshoe the Hullett Sugar Bush Trails for about 1.5 hours. Meet at 80602 Wildlife Line. For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Patrick at pcapper99@gmail.com

Thursday, January 1, 2026, at 1 p.m. - Falls Reserve Wear off some of the

holiday cheer and clear your head by joining us on our traditional hike/snowshoe depending on the weather at the Falls Reserve Conservation Area.

Dress according to the weather conditions.

For special parking information and post hike get-together info, registration is required.

To confirm your attendance, please contact Faye Ribey at fribey@hurontel.on.ca or 519 524-2070 or Wendy Hoernig at w.hoernig@gmail.com or 519 525-6976. This is a Level 1-2 hike with some inclines, moderate paced hike 1 - 1.5 hours. On this occasion only, we have permission to hike beyond the recent more restricted route.

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

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(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A windfall on the Mavis Trail.

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HuronSong Chorus Announces Two Christmas Concerts in Support of Artemis Huron's Programs

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

One of Huron County's most beloved community choirs will present two highly anticipated Christmas concerts this December in support of Artemis Huron, the new name for the Huron Women's Shelter.

The shelter has been providing essential services to women and children affected by gender-based violence since 1985.

HuronSong Chorus, led by longtime choir director Deborah Bailey, brings together 80 to 90 singers from across the

region, united by a love of choral music, community and giving back.

"Our singers come from all walks of life, some with musical training, many without, but every one of them brings passion and joy to the music we share," said Director Deborah Bailey.

"HuronSong is a rare blend of music and friendship, and our concerts reflect that warm spirit."

Now celebrating its 17th season, the Chorus began as a small group of 12 friends in Egmondville and has since grown into a vibrant musical tradition that draws singers from Goderich, Clinton, Bayfield, Seaforth, Exeter, Grand Bend, Zurich and beyond.

Since choosing Artemis Huron as its primary beneficiary 15 years ago, HuronSong has raised over

\$108,000 to support the shelter's critical services.

Each year, singers pay their own season fees to cover operational costs, ensuring that 100 per cent of audience donations at the concerts go directly to Artemis Huron.

"We are deeply grateful to HuronSong for their ongoing generosity," said a spokesperson for Artemis Huron.

"The dedication of volunteers, singers, and community leaders like Deborah have helped raise tens of thousands of dollars over the years. These concerts have become a cherished community tradition, and we are so appreciative of this long-standing partnership."

Artemis Huron offers emergency shelter, crisis support, counselling, group programs, and transition services for women and children fleeing or recovering from gender-based violence.

HuronSong's mission is to sing beauti-

fully, build community, and give back.

The Chorus is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers and community partners, including the Goderich Print Shop and local churches that have offered rehearsal space over the years.

HuronSong currently rehearses at Lakeshore United Church in Goderich, accompanied by Louise Dockstader.

The Chorus will host its Seaforth concert on Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Northside United Church, featuring guest soloist Mary Paige St. Onge.

The second concert in Goderich will take place on Monday, December 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Lakeshore United Church featuring Suncoast Brass Quartet.

Admission is by donation. All proceeds collected at the door by Artemis Huron staff and volunteers directly support Artemis Huron's programs for women and children across Huron County.

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Goderich Duplicate Bridge Club Results

On November 25 the club had nine tables, directed by Rob McFarlane:

1st – Brian Reeve and Graham Yeats – 63.89%
2nd – Shirley Thomas and Tom Rajnovich – 59.95%
3rd – Cal Scotchmer and Evy McDonagh – 56.71%
4th – Joyce Zimmerman and Margaret Blackie – 56.25%
5th – Joyce McIlwain and Kay King – 56.02%
6th/7th – Garth Sheldon and John Davies with Marj Stuart and Terry Fry – 54.40%

62.20%

2nd – Greg Bowman and Michele Hansen – 59.52%

3rd – Kay King and Joyce McIlwain – 57.44%

4th – Graham Yeats and Brian Reeve – 56.55%

5th – Brenda Blair and Pat Lewington – 56.25%

6th – John Davies and Garth Sheldon – 55.95%

The Goderich Duplicate Bridge Club wishes all its members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



On December 2 the club had eight tables, directed by Rob McFarlane:

1st – Doug Elliott and John Archbold –

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Young Canada Week Began its Journey into the 2000s on a Positive Note to Uphold Storied Traditions

RICHARD MADGE

Sun Contributor

The Goderich Lions Young Canada Week (YCW) hockey tournament started its journey into the 2000s on a very positive note.

Success of the 50th anniversary celebration in 1999 provided a solid foundation for the tournament's future.

The event upheld its storied tradition, cementing its reputation as one of Canada's premier minor hockey showcases.

Luminaries such as Jean Beliveau, Walter Gretzky, Marcel Dionne, Ron Ellis, Walter Tkaczuk, Rod Seiling, Jim McKenney, Nick Libett, Dennis Riffin, Pat Stapleton, and those with local roots including Paul Henderson, Larry Jeffrey, Gary Doak and Jeff Denomme bridged the gap between the grassroots of peewee hockey and the professional game.

For the Town of Goderich, YCW was a lot more than just a hockey tournament. It was a living tradition about community, resilience and shared joy.

YCW would continue to be a cornerstone of the town's identification. Local businesses thrived during the week while families, friends and alumni returned each year to relive old memories and create new ones.

Before a large opening night crowd the Goderich Lions peewees opened the 2000 tournament with a 2-0 shutout win over London MHA.

Goalies Dylan Jacobs and Dean Daer shared the shutout, while James Gartshore and Mike Moody scored the goals.

East Middlesex won the AAA crown, East Gwillimbury took the AA title, Owen Sound the A and South London won the B honours.

Dorchester won the C championship by beating Lucknow 4-3 in overtime and Zurich went home with the D title.

An ad in the YCW News invited the players to see a live reptile show at the Suncoast Mall.

At the 2001 tournament, co-chairs Don Johnston, Kevin Meriam, Ron Takalo and George Zolob paid tribute to the volunteers, ice sponsors, meal preparers, the volunteer referees and the chuck-a-puck and mountain

bike draw sponsors.

Champions for the 2001 tournament included Waterloo, Georgetown, Chatham, London MHA, Forest and Lucan.

In 2002, mother nature played a role with teams being storm-stayed or unable to attend.

On championship Saturday, the winners were: AAA Central Ontario, AA Milton, A Essex, B New Hamburg, C Tavistock, and D Lucan.

Don Johnston was again a co-chair.

In 2003, Don's wife Linda dropped the puck at the opening ceremonies in memory of Don who had died recently in an industrial accident.

Mayor Deb Shewfelt and MC Clem Wolterbeek spoke glowingly of Don's dedication to YCW and girl's hockey in Goderich.

Linda was also presented with the Nova Scotia plaque by YCW co-chair Ron Takalo.

Co-chairs in 2003 were Lion Harold Warren, a member of the Goderich Flyers Ontario Junior C Championship team of 1945.

The championship teams in 2003 included AAA Huron-Perth Lakers, AA Milton, A Saugeen Shores, B Mooretown, C South Huron and D Paisley.

It was in 2004 that the Maitland Recreation Centre opened, giving the tournament a new outstanding facility, and along with Memorial Arena, two ice surfaces to work with.

This made room for the addition of a girl's division, and this remained a feature of YCW for the next 13 years.

The Goderich Sailorettes, coached by Kevin Austin, were the girl's division champions in 2004 and won the Don Johnston Memorial Trophy.

The Meriam family presented the Ashley Meriam Memorial Trophy to the runner-up Woodstock squad.

At the opening ceremonies in 2004, the puck-drop guests were Carlyle and Marilyn Bannister. Marilyn was recognized as one of the YCW's greatest fans.

In 2005, Local League teams were added to the tournament for the first time.

Bill Beacom, a former referee-in-chief and Ken Crawford, the current referee-in-chief, presented the Huronia Most Sportsmanlike

Team Trophy to the Goderich Local League Sailors.

In 2006, the Stratford Warriors Minor Pee-wee team wrote praising the YMCA's outstanding features and told how they enjoyed their time at the local bowling alley. They praised how helpful the local Ford dealership had been to them when they needed assistance.

In 2007, the Goderich Minor Hockey Association played a big part in the organization of the tournament, and the level of play seemed to go up a notch. Perhaps that was in response to Canada winning the gold medal in the IIHF World Championships the same year.

In 2008, the 59th YCW, the Goderich Lions won the runner-up trophy in the B Division.

The AAA winners were the Kitchener Junior Rangers, while Lambeth Lancers won the B Division defeating Goderich 6-2.

Chace Duckworth and Jake Lapointe scored the Goderich goals.

Ridgetown won the C Division, and Durham won the D title, while Chatsworth defeated the Goderich Sailorettes for the championship title in the girl's division.

It was in 2009 that YCW celebrated its 60th anniversary.

The Celtic Blue Highlanders piped in the celebrities, which included Lion President Bill Vanstone, co-chairs Ray Allin and Ter-

ry Worsell, MP Ben Lobb and Mayor Deb Shewfelt.

Several players from the first YCW in 1950 were introduced, and one of them, Fred Buchanan, dropped the puck in the ceremonial face-off involving his grandson Luke Fraser of the Goderich Lions team.

The Lions won the consolation trophy in the B division in 2009, and the Sailorettes lost the consolation final in their division.

As the preparations for the upcoming 75th anniversary tournament in March 2026 continue to move ahead, certain details are emerging.

An invitation is extended to anyone with special memories of past tournaments to submit them to 'YCW 75 Years of Memories'.

During the 75th anniversary tournament, the Hockey Hall of Fame will have trophies on display, along with interactive exhibits and plans are now progressing for an exhibition game between a YCW alumni team and the Toronto Maple Leafs alumni team.

It's clear that as years progressed, the tournament continue to grow and evolve, but one thing has remained a constant. This legendary tournament has continued to be a success due to the constant support of the community, from local businesses to dignitaries, and volunteers to fans of the great tournament.

Next column we take a look back at what the YCW tournament brought in the 2010s.



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Christmas 1965: How I remember Christmas in the 1960s

DAVID YATES

Sun Contributor

In 1965 Goderich, if it could not be had on the Square or from the Eaton's or Simpson's catalogues, Santa was not bringing it.

Post-war affluence beamed from every page of in the December Goderich Signal Star.

Yet, the Christmas Spirit was still very much alive in Goderich as the multitude of church and school concerts, nativity scenes, Christmas charity events and carol singers can attest to.

Sixty years later, Christmas 1965 evokes feelings of nostalgia for those who remember it.

There is no doubt that post-war Canada, and Goderich, was in a period of rapid change.

For the elder generation, Christmas-tide was a religious tradition for family, church and modest gift giving.

According to the 1961 census, virtually every Canadian claimed some religious, almost exclusively Christian, affiliation.

Although few could know it in 1965, church and Sunday school attendance in Canada peaked by the early 1960s.

For the generation that grew up during the Depression and fought the Second World War, their children – the 'baby boomers' – life was never better.

Yearly wage increases were good and prices were low. Most 'baby-boom' parents could afford to shelter their children from the hardships they experienced growing up.

Most children expected to find more than one present under the Christmas tree.

By the early 1960s, it was not just the family Christmas tree adorned with coloured lighting. Canadian Tire on North Street sold 25-foot strands of outdoor electric lighting for \$6.39. A floodlight with red, green, pink, yellow, blue or transparent bulbs were \$3.44.

In December, as excited school children in Goderich's three public schools and one separate school prepared for their

respective Christmas Assemblies, they might have been talking about the television premier of A Charlie Brown's Christmas that debuted on CTV affiliates CKNX or CFPL on December 9, 1965.

Before cable came to Goderich in 1973, it would have been almost the only show they would have watched. Some of them would have watched their favourite cartoons on colour television sets.

The cartoon perfectly A Charlie Brown's Christmas illustrated conflict between the difference between the Christmas season and the crass commercialism all around them when the Peanuts gang bedeck Charlie Brown's twig of a Christmas tree with Snoopy's gaudy, over-done, doghouse display.

The episode ended with the singing of traditional Christmas carols. Since 1965, it has justifiably become a television classic ever since.

It countered the Signal Star's messaging that the Christmas commercial season was on when it announced in a full-page ad announced that 'Goderich Merchants are Ready for Christmas. It's Santa's Big Day!'

Santa Claus came to Goderich on Saturday, December 3 where he gave candy and gifts for every child who saw him at the Fire Hall on the corner of West and Waterloo streets. Even rural children were invited to the parade event sponsored by the Mayor and Town Council.

As Santa's sleigh, perched in the back of a fire truck passed along the parade route, mail carriers took the many letters bearing children's Christmas wish lists.

Before driving to the malls in the city and online shopping, buying local or from the catalogue was the only way to shop.

Breckenridge's Toyland on the Square, carried a great selection of traditional toys for boys like Lionel Trains, Dinky toys and the last year of lead toy soldiers.

Girl toys included a wide selection of dolls and prams. Toboggans, board games, hockey equipment, and wagons had sportier appeal.

At Blackstone's on West Street, doll carriages ranged from \$9.95 to \$19.95. At Canadian Tire, Ruthie Dolls were selling for \$3.22 each and Lil Beaver Trucks 'for boys' went for \$3.66.

Fortunately, for local children, the Eaton's and Simpson's catalogues mailed out in October arrived with plenty of time to pore over the expanded toy sections [1965 was the last Christmas for Eaton's large size catalogue].

Indeed, the most popular girls' toy in 1965 was the Barbie doll retailing for just over \$3.00. In 1965, Midge Sherwood introduced as Barbie's best friend in 1963 outsold Barbie's boyfriend Ken Carson.

The Barbie range also came with a mod, hip array of clothes and accessories from the era.

Dolls were not just a girl's thing in 1965. G.I. Joe, America's Movable Fighting Man, was the top seller in the Eaton's catalogue.

Other war toys like molded plastic army men, Monkey Division helmets and weapons, Dinky and Leslie armoured



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(GODERICH SIGNAL STAR, DECEMBER 16, 1965 PHOTO)

North Street United Church Christmas Pageant 'He Comes' was a highlight of the 1965 Christmas season in Goderich.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Canadian postal stamp for Christmas, 1965. vehicles topped the lists of most popular boys' toys in Christmas 1965.

The 1965 Christmas season also introduced the Easy-Bake Oven, Mystery Date Game and troll dolls.

Teens and parents may have been more interested in Rivett's Christmas special on a Philips High-Fidelity stereo cabinet. The cabinet version housed a 12-inch turntable; the novelty of a tape recorder, AM-FM stereo, knob and push button tuning board blaring out stound on two, eight-inch and two, 12-inch speakers.

The wood finished stereo cabinet even

CONTINUE TO PAGE 34



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Christmas 1965: How I remember Christmas in the 1960s

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

had room for a record compartment and retailed at \$845.

Rivett's also sold quality black and white Philips Monitron television consoles at \$279.95. The Philips TV was advertised as truly dependable instant sound and clarity of picture.

The unit price did not include rabbit ears or antennae hook up that would have been necessary to watch television in Goderich in 1965. Over at Henderson's Book Store on East Street, one could buy a pocket-sized transistor radio for just \$9.95.

At N.T. Ormandy's store, one could buy a four-piece sterling silver place setting for just \$32.50 each. More modest budgets could purchase a five-piece sil-

ver plated place setting for \$10.

English bone cups and saucers could be purchased for \$1.99. Other practical gifts that could be purchased at Wilf Reinhart's Appliance store were a Westinghouse fridge for \$199, television with instant-on capability for \$139 and a complete washer/dryer set for \$249.

For the gentleman Dad, Fincher's Smoke Shop carried a full line of pipes, lighters, tobacco humidors, cigars, all priced to suit your budget.

Yet, brand name toys, jigsaw puzzles, Match Box Toys and Hobby Craft Models along with leather bill folds were also available.

Squire's Gifts, a curio shop located off the Square on the Bayfield Road, was carrying unique gifts from home and

abroad, selling Royal Doulton and decorative plate and cup ware.

Despite its location, Squires was one of the most popular gift shops in town.

It cautioned shoppers that there was no mass buying so you may pay a little more for something unusual, but isn't it worth it at this time of year?

By all accounts, Christmas 1965 was a resounding commercial success as the Signal Star headline proclaimed Christmas Bonanza for Town Merchants on December 30, 1965.

Yet, the highlight of the 1965 Christmas season stayed traditional as North Street United Church staged its Christmas Pageant 'He Comes' on December 12.

The Signal Star described the 'mu-

sic, acts of worship and of service, the observance of family customs and traditions-all contribute a sense of deeper meaning to Christmas'.

The sentiment was still undoubtedly sincerely held but great changes were coming in the latter half of the decade.

As this is my granddaughter Poppy's first Christmas, I hope that she will live well into the 22nd century and look back on a long life and reflect on how Christmas has changed and remember that the Christmas of 1965 is the first one her grandfather remembers.

So, from the Yates family to yours, we wish all the Goderich Sun's readers a Merry Christmas and a healthy, and prosperous New Year in 2026.

Better Mental Health: Shifting Your Attention To Change How We Feel



TANYA MACINTYRE,
RED ROOF RECOVERY

Sun Contributor

Have you ever crossed paths with someone who struck you as rude, or downright inconsiderate?

Of course you have, we all have.

Some days it can feel as though the world is overflowing with difficult people who seem determined to test our patience.

For many years, my world felt exactly like that for me. Working as a journalist spending my days immersed in bad news, conflict

and crisis.

When you marinate in negatively long enough, it's easy to believe that annoying and inconsiderate people are everywhere.

I've come to realise that nobody is inherently annoying. People behave as they behave, but the feeling of annoyance – that flare of tension in the chest and that quick spike of irritation – happens within us.

The annoyance is not 'out there'. It's generated inside, by our own interpretation of the moment.

This idea can be uncomfortable, because it removes the convenient option of assigning blame. You might say, 'you don't know what it's like to deal with this person. You didn't hear what they said to me'.

You're right. I don't know the details of your experience.

What I do know is that your emotional reaction is happening inside you. That simple truth holds a remarkable amount of

power.

Life unfolds in our minds, through the thoughts we think, and the stories we tell ourselves.

Two people can live in the same home, grow up in the same family, and still recall entirely different childhoods.

My sister and I are seven years apart, and the childhood she remembers sounds like it happened somewhere else. Same environment, different perception.

This is why interpretations matter. The stories we craft, both consciously and unconsciously, shape the reality of our lives.

When you say, 'this person is annoying', you're stating a story, not a fact. Ask yourself – is there another way to see this? That's when you step into your power.

Cognitive Behavioural Therapies (CBT) teach us that our thoughts create emotions, feelings, and moods. Those emotions, feelings and moods drive behaviour.

If we want to change how we

feel, we start by changing our thoughts and perceptions.

When we take responsibility for our thoughts and perceptions, we stop giving the world permission to dictate our peace.

We start choosing stories that reflect who we want to be, rather than stories that keep us stuck in reactivity.

We can tell ourselves stories of compassion instead of irritation, curiosity instead of judgement, abundance instead of lacking.

When we can shift our inner story, the outer world responds in kind, not because the world has changed, but because we have.

What we focus on expands. If we expect annoyance, we'll encounter more of it. If we expect goodness, we'll notice the countless moments of kindness, grace, and decency that were there all along.

People will still behave unpredictably. Life will still deliver its share of challenges, but the only part we ever truly control is how

we respond. That's our domain, that's our freedom.

When we shift our perceptions, even by a few degrees, we cultivate something far more powerful than momentary relief. We cultivate an inner peace that no external circumstance or situation can take away.

In the end, every experience becomes a teacher, and with each new story we choose, we can create a little calmer, a little more clarity, and a life that reflects the peace we've decided to nurture within.

Tanya MacIntyre is a certified CBT Practitioner, Mental Health Professional, and owner/operator of Red Roof Recovery.

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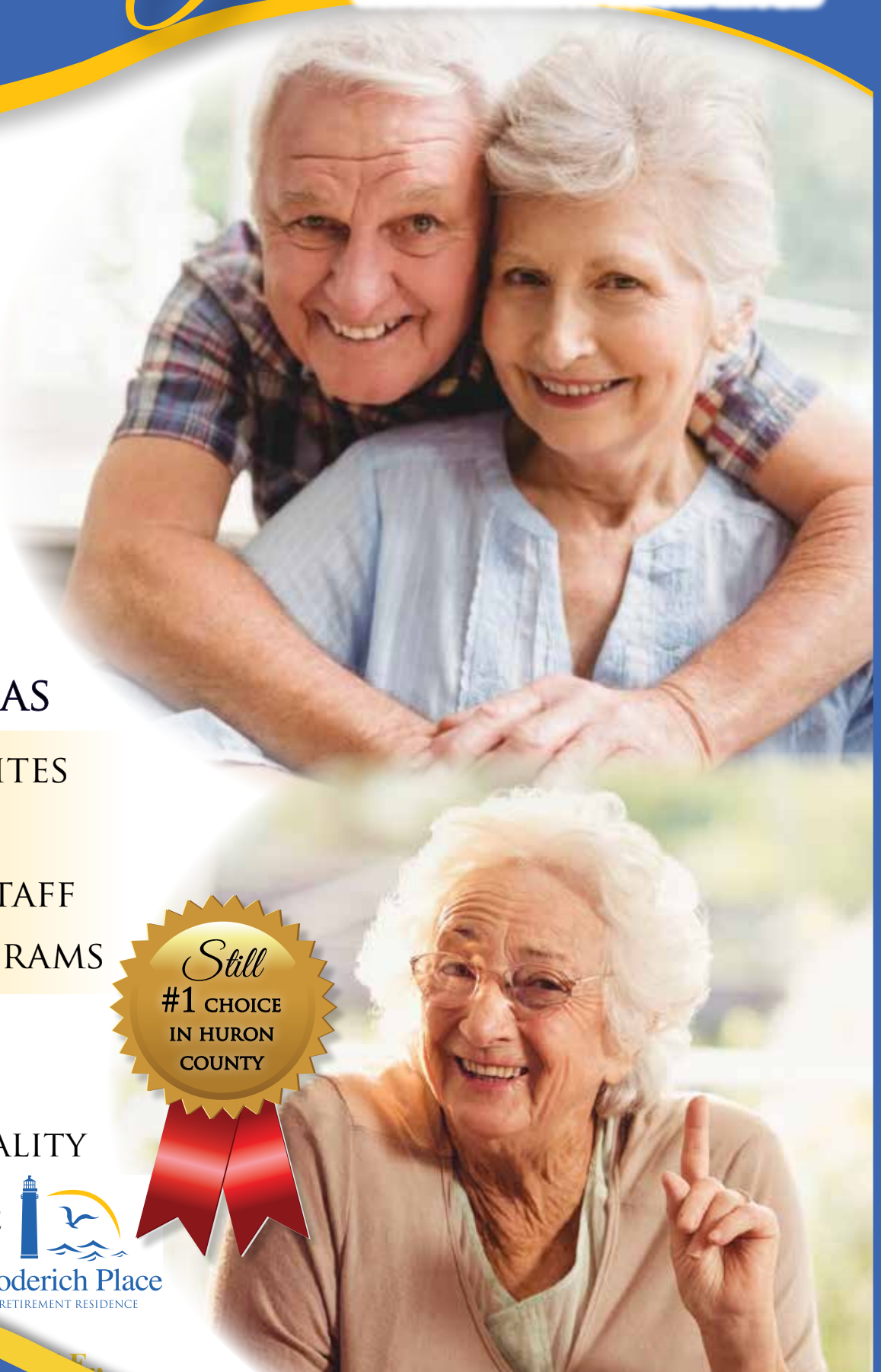


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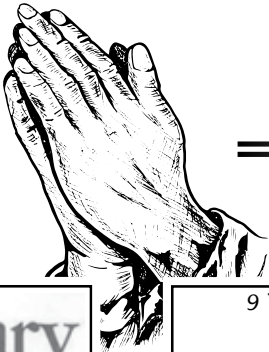
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Riddles

Why did Santa go to music school?
So he could improve his “wrap” skills!

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
Frosted Flakes!

Why was the Christmas tree so bad at knitting?
It kept dropping its needles!

What do you call Santa when he stops moving?
Santa Pause!

Why did the ornament go to school?
It wanted to be a little brighter!

How does Rudolph know when Christmas is coming?
He looks at his calen-deer!

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?
He was picking his nose!

What do elves learn in school?
The elf-abet!

What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas?
Sandy Claws!

Why did the turkey join a band?
Because it had the drumsticks!

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 27

Featured Pets



GUNNER & LUIGI

Their names are Gunner (the older one with the black eye) and Luigi (the younger one). They’re both Dogo Argentino’s. They’re step-brothers. Same father (Arubis, at least, I think that’s how you spell it), different mother.

Their year of birth is the same year we first got each of them. 2017 for Gunner, and a mix of 2019 (birth year) and 2020 (year we got him) for Luigi.



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

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Word Search

MERRY CHRISTMAS

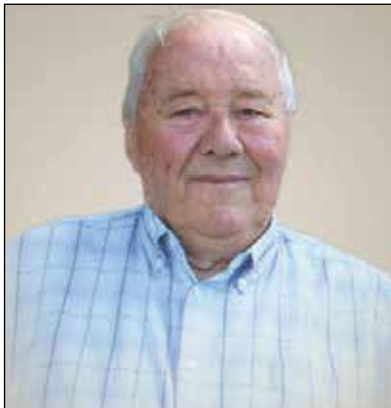
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N	E	H	J	G	O	I	T	X	L	D	E	O	V	Q	T	H	T	S	P
O	S	I	X	V	O	U	Z	X	M	C	K	E	E	V	Y	O	J	V	X
D	L	A	X	K	D	X	Z	A	T	J	H	L	R	Y	E	O	V	X	W
Q	O	T	J	O	T	H	E	O	Y	X	Q	L	I	X	L	B	X	G	T
U	E	W	A	T	E	W	M	H	K	U	Y	M	S	L	E	I	G	H	E
W	H	J	Q	F	M	O	Y	T	M	L	X	R	Y	N	A	F	O	D	I
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T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

- MERRY
- JOY
- NOEL
- HOLLY
- JOLLY
- TINSEL
- MISTLETOE
- REINDEER
- SANTA
- SLEIGH
- FROSTY
- CHEER
- EVERGREEN
- CAROLS
- PEACE

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OBITUARY



GORDON DOUGHERTY

August 21st, 1933- November 28th, 2025

Gordon A. Dougherty, age 92, loving husband, father, "Poppa" (grandfather and great-grandfather) passed away peacefully on Nov 28 2025 at Southbridge Nursing Home. Gordon is survived by his wife of 68 years, Yvonne (Harris), daughters Lisa (Scott) Rivett and Janice (Dan) Gregory. Loving Poppa to Ryan (Christy), Melissa (Joel), Evan (Kayla), Mike (Courtney), Ken (Darian) and David (Shannon) and great grandchildren Luke, Mason, Quinn, Navy, Hayes, Spencer, Winston, Wren and Wade. Also survived by brother Lorne Dougherty and brother-in-law Steve Argyle and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by son Doug Dougherty, sister Mildred, and in-laws Jim MacDonald, Jean Dougherty, Bill (Doris) Harris, Bob and Betty Harris, Ken and Kaye Harris, Audrey and Walt Mottershead, Grace and Glen Hodgins, Dianne Argyle and Cathy Harris. Gord was born Aug 21, 1933 in Goderich Ontario – 1 of 3 children to George and Florence Dougherty. Sheppardton was his home for 72 years, where he farmed in both Colborne and Ashfield Townships. Gord and Yvonne were married May 11, 1957. Farming was his greatest passion and enjoyed the comradery of working with neighbours, friends and family to plant the fields and take the crops off. He was a familiar face in the red stake truck, hauling cattle and pigs to Brussels Stockyards and other destinations. Gord and Yvonne sold the farms and moved to 62 Balvina Dr Goderich in April 2005. With retirement from farming, more time was spent playing afternoons and evenings of euchre and keeping an eye on the comings and goings of Balvina Drive from his front porch and lazy boy chair. We are deeply grateful to the many caregivers that provided advice and assistance and looked after dad during his final year – Dr. Stan Spacek, Diane Murray and all of the staff of Southbridge Long Term Care Home. Visitation was held from 12pm to 2pm Wednesday Dec 3rd, the Funeral followed at 2pm, at McCallum & Palla Funeral home, Goderich. Spring Internment. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Alexandra Marine and General Hospital or the Goderich Legion Branch 109. Family and friends may sign the book of condolences at www.mccallumpalla.ca.


**Four in five Canadians
read newspapers weekly.**

OBITUARY



DAVID TERRANCE "TERRY" MILNER

David Terrance "Terry" Milner, born in London, Ontario, passed away at Alexandra Marine and General Hospital in Goderich on November 22, 2025.

He is survived by his daughter Sheila Elizabeth Matthews of Goderich, and cherished grandchildren Cai Matthews-Fanjoy of Guelph, Aaron Matthews of Kitchener, and Norah Matthews of Goderich.

Predeceased by his former wife, Joan (Warnock) Milner, and by his long-time partner, Marg Lowry, with whom he shared many special years. Terry is lovingly remembered by Marg's daughter Maggie (Mike) Crane and is remembered by Marg's extended family, including Maggie's children, Chris (Dee) Watt of London and Cheri (Chris) Carter and their children Sally and Luc of Goderich.

Terry was predeceased by his parents Lillian (Barnes) Milner and Floyd Milner of Wallaceburg, and by his aunts and uncles Alfred Barnes, Mona Barnes, Mary (Barnes) Martin and Orlah Martin, Walter Barnes, Dorothy (Barnes) Skinner and Doug Skinner, all from the Wallaceburg-Chatham-Leamington area.

He will be remembered by his cousins Jim Skinner, Kathy Skinner, Priscilla Aliperti, Robert Skinner, and Rose Skinner, and is predeceased by cousin Judith Martin.

Terry was brother-in-law of Norma Jeffery of Goderich, and uncle to Kim (Jim) Hesser of New Sarum; Michael Jeffery and Janice Fraser of Ottawa, Susan (Dave) Glousher of Goderich, Jennifer Denomme of Goderich, Lauren Matovina of Canton, Michigan; Sam (Cindy) Cook of London; and Christine Cook of London.

Visitation was held at Lakeshore United Church on Monday December 1, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., with the funeral service to follow from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Lions Club of Bayfield are appreciated.

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

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MULHERN, MONA

With heavy hearts we share that Mona Mulhern, 83, peacefully passed away on November 30, 2025, after declining health due to bone cancer.

Beloved wife of the late James Joseph "Jim" Mulhern of Goderich and loving mother of Sean (Amy), Brennan and Erinn (Yan Gilbert). She will be missed by her grandchildren, Marley, Ellie, Jake and Victoria as well as nieces, nephews and relatives.

Born as Ramona Georgina Istrati in Cupar, Saskatchewan to Nora (nee Topal) and William Istrati, Mona and her mother moved to Regina after losing her father at a young age. Mona excelled at school and graduated at the top of her high school graduating class. She attended the University of Saskatchewan, earning her BA in political science. Working in eastern Canada and then at the YMCA in Chatham, Ontario, she met a handsome young lad who she often saw swimming laps in the pool there. This was to be her lifelong partner, Jim. They were married and moved to Goderich to raise their family.

Mona was a free-minded, exuberant spirit with vision and drive; she saw the world through a creative, artistic and insightful lens.

Mona became a visual artist when her family was young, painting water colours at her home drafting table. She lovingly dreamed up an imaginary world called "Serrenwood", named after her three young children: Sean, Brennan and Erinn. She opened an art studio in Goderich on Nelson Street.

Ever the visionary, Mona helped to start the first nursery school in Goderich and was involved in many local causes. In 1981, she pioneered the Art Kids program to help young children and teens tap into their creativity and art skills, teaching this program for many years. Mona was also actively involved with one of the first art therapy programs in Ontario, working and helping abused children through art and love.

Mona's paintings were exhibited in several art galleries across Ontario including Stratford, Blyth, London and Grand Bend. She and Jim travelled annually to numerous art shows and was a regular exhibitor at the Goderich Celtic Roots Festival. Her works still hang on the walls of many homes in Goderich and beyond.

We suspect Mona, "Mom", "Granny Mona" has her heavenly art studio where she can dabble in endless colourful creations and is dancing together with Dad in a lively jive or two, filling the room with her distinctive laugh.

A special thanks to the expert doctors, nurses and many other compassionate staff at the AMG Hospital, Goderich, Ontario; Dr Jacinta Peel and the health team in Goderich and the kind nurses and staff at the Huron Hospice, Clinton, Ontario.

On December 6, 2025, please join us for a Celebration of Mona's Life at McCallum and Palla Funeral Home in Goderich from 1:30pm to 5:00pm in person or virtually. Word's of remembrance to commence at 3 PM. Please consider donations to be made to the Huron Hospice or the AMGH Foundation Fund for a new MRI machine in Mona's memory, thank you.

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

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.

LINE DANCE LOUNGE

On Thursday evenings at the Goderich Legion.
Grab your boots and join us every Thursday night for the Line Dance Lounge with Ellie Montgomery.
Upstairs at the Legion at 7 p.m. Full bar and food available, featuring all kinds of music. No cover charge.

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.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

On Friday, December 12 at Goderich Place from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
Come join in a celebration of the season with local vendors, Christmas treats, door prizes, crafts, and a chili lunch. Accepting canned goods for the Salvation Army.
Admission is free.

FREE SKATE

On Sunday, December 14, Sunday, December 21 and Sunday, December 28 from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. at Maitland Recreation Centre.
Sponsored by the Town of Goderich. Please no sticks or pucks. Admission is free.

GODERICH READS BOOK CLUB

On Monday, December 15 and Monday, December 29 at 10 a.m. at Goderich Legion.
Join us every two weeks to dive into a new book, share our thoughts, and connect with fellow book lovers.

LOVE ON TAP: A ROMANCE NOVEL BOOK CLUB

On Monday, December 15 at East Street Cider from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Calling all romance readers to join fellow enthusiasts to discuss captivating plots, swoon-worthy characters, and unforgettable moments. Admission is free.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLE

On Monday, December 15, Monday, December 22 and Monday, December 29 at Huron County Library from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.
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.

JAMMER NIGHT

On Wednesday nights at Goderich Legion at 7 p.m.
Grab your instruments, bring your voice, or just come to enjoy the music. All levels and styles are welcome.

DEATH CAFÉ WITH HURON HOSPICE

On Thursday, December 18 at Huron County Museum from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

DAD/MALE CAREGIVER AND KIDS NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

On Thursday, December 18 at Huron County Museum from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.
Calling all dads/males caregivers and kids, we have partnered with Rural Response for Healthy Children to host a night just for you. This program features fun-filled activities,

parent discussions and social time.

There will be tours of the museum and gaol, artifact and exhibit activities. This program is provided free of charge with funding from the Government of Canada.

Visit www.rrhc.on.ca to register online.

Dec. 18: All About Airplanes! (Please register by Dec. 17)

SMART RECOVERY MEETINGS

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

WELCOMING THE BAYFIELD ARTIST GUILD

On Tuesday, December 2 until Wednesday, December 31 (may close early on Dec. 31).
Opening reception is on Saturday, December 6 at 2 p.m.
Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at 54 Court-house Square below Elizabeth's Art Gallery.

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT TO BENEFIT ARTEMIS HURON

Join Huronsong Chorus as they present a Christmas concert to benefit Artemis Huron, formerly known as Huron Women's Shelter. Entry free by will donation.

Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Northside United in Seaforth

Monday, December 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Lakeshore United in Goderich



 **Goderich Sun**

Deadline: Friday prior at 3 p.m.

Contact: info@goderichsun.com

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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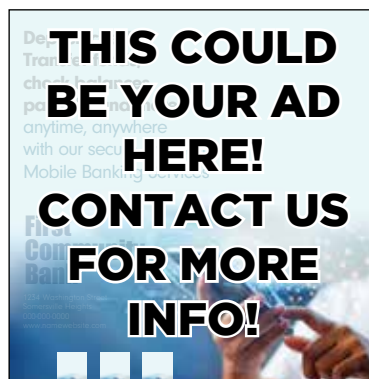
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2	3	5	6	9	8	7	1	4
4	8	9	7	2	1	3	5	6
1	7	6	5	3	4	8	2	9

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Apocalypse
2. Maui
3. 1976
4. Swiss Cheese
5. Yellow
6. Gene Autry
7. 1996
8. The eyes
9. Oslo
10. The star of Bethlehem

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