



Goderich Sun

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Labour data highlights uniquely tight local job market

GODERICH SUN STAFF

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The latest labour forces statistics show the Stratford-Bruce Peninsula Economic Region, which includes Huron County, continues to have one of the tightest labour markets in Ontario for employers.

In July, the region's unemployment rate fell to 4.1 per cent, down 0.2 percentage points from June, and now sits at roughly half of the provincial average of 8.0 per cent.

This puts this region, along with Northwest Ontario, at the lowest unemployment rate in Ontario.

"Our local labour market is unlike almost anywhere else in the province," explained Colin Carmichael, Executive Director of the Huron Chamber of Commerce.

"The combination of extremely low unemployment and a declining participation rate creates unique challenges for employers in Huron County, and it's why the Chamber continues to focus on workforce issues as a top priority."

While having a low unemployment rate sounds good, for jobseekers at least, there's another side of this story.

The participation rate, which measures the share of people aged 15 and over who are working or ac-

CONTINUE TO PAGE 2



Goderich Fire Department responded to the Nelson Street fire on August 1 with such efficiency that the fire did not spread to surrounding buildings, and everyone was evacuated safely. The Office of the Fire Marshal has been contacted but the cause of the fire is yet to be determined. (PHIL MAIN PHOTO)

Homes lost as fire engulfs apartment building on Nelson Street

KATHLEEN SMITH

Editor

Tragedy struck Goderich late in the night on August 1 as flames engulfed an apartment building on Nelson Street, prompting a swift emergency response and the evacuation of nearby homes.



According to emergency services, the fire broke out around 11:20 p.m., and by the time responders arrived on site, the building was fully engulfed in flames.

Goderich Fire responded quickly, and in an efficient manner to avoid injuries or death, and to contain the fire from spreading to other structures.

Jeff Wormington, Fire Chief of Goderich Fire Department explains that upon arrival, fire fighters were met with heavy fire and smoke exiting a second-floor unit.

Wormington added that firefighters made entry to suppress the fire, which had extended into the third-floor unit including the ceiling and roof.

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Ontario invests nearly \$40 million in five Huron-Bruce municipalities to build more homes



MUNICIPALITY OF
South Bruce

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Recently the Ontario government announced an investment of \$39,448,926 in water infrastructure to help build approximately 4,974 new homes in five Huron-Bruce municipalities.

The funding is being delivered through the province's Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF), a stream of the Municipal Infrastructure Program (MHIP).

"This is tremendous news for communities across Huron-Bruce," said Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron-Bruce.

"By investing in critical water infrastructure, our government is leading the way for new housing opportunities and sustainable growth in our municipalities."

The funding will support municipalities throughout Huron and Bruce counties including the Municipality of Huron East, Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh (ACW), and Municipality of Central Huron.

"This investment will help ensure that more housing can be realized, supporting families, attracting new residents and strengthening the vibrant communities we call home," added Thompson.

This funding builds on last year's Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund investments including \$3,218,843 for the Town of Goderich, increasing water supply ca-

pacity at the Goderich Water Treatment Plant.

The MHIP is part of the government's plan to protect Ontario and includes historic investments in housing- and community-enabling infrastructure that will help municipalities deliver core infrastructure needed. This includes roads, and water systems, to lay the foundation for new homes in communities across Ontario.

This round of funding brings the total number of homes enabled in Ontario to approximately 800,000.

Investing in local infrastructure is part of the province's more than \$200 billion capital plan to build and improve transit, highways, hospitals, schools and other critical public infrastructure, while strengthening the economy for the future.

Labour data highlights uniquely tight local job market

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

tively looking for work, declined again, dropping a full percentage point to 58.7 per cent.

According to Huron Chamber of Commerce, this means fewer people overall are engaged in the labour market, even as job vacancies remain high.

The combination of low unemployment and low par-

ticipation is a defining feature of this region's economy. It makes attracting and retaining workers a challenge.

To make matters worse, a general lack of available housing and public transportation make it difficult for employers to bring labour into Huron County.

"When looking at various indicators, especially our

participation rate, actively engaging in retention and attraction strategies is extremely important for our region," said Dana Soucie, Executive Director for the Four County Labour Market Planning Board.

"With the current economic uncertainties, we will likely continue to see constant change."

According to the Huron Chamber, addressing workforce shortages and helping businesses adapt to changing labour market conditions remains on of the core priorities.

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Editorial

Choosing Grace: The Courage to Leap

PAMELA CLAYFIELD

Sun Contributor

Some chances come quietly like a whisper of curiosity or a thought that won't let go. Other chances come loud and sudden, wrapped in adrenaline and maybe even some fear. Either way, we stand at a crossroads between comfort and possibility.

I've had several of those quiet moments recently. The idea of reaching out to ask a question had floated in my mind for months. I wasn't sure if what I had to offer would resonate. I didn't know if anyone would answer. But I finally hit "send" anyway — and that small, brave act of reaching out opened the door to something far bigger than I imagined. Now, I get to share words with the community every other week, all because I took a

chance.

We often underestimate what courage can look like. It doesn't always wear armour or make speeches. Sometimes it looks like saying yes. Or showing up for something unfamiliar. Or being willing to share part of ourselves with the hope it might connect.

Taking chances doesn't mean we're reckless. It means we trust there's something valuable on the other side of uncertainty — even if that value is simply learning something new or discovering more of who we are.

Sometimes, it's not about the outcome at all. It's about honouring the part of us that dares to believe we're capable of more.

I've taken chances that didn't work out the way I hoped. We all have. But even those moments taught me something — about resilience, about humility, about grace.

And every time I've leapt, I've landed somewhere new. Not always where I expected, but always somewhere I could grow.

So, whether it's applying for a job, making a phone call, submitting a story, or simply speaking your truth aloud — I invite you to lean into possibility. We don't get to write the outcomes, but we do get to choose the moment we leap.

Grace isn't just about receiving. Sometimes it's about risking. And the beauty is: every chance we take writes a new sentence into our story. Sometimes, those sentences become chapters we never knew we had the courage to begin.

Sometimes, when we take a chance, the most unexpected gift is discovering that our leap didn't just move us forward — it reached someone else too.

Letters to the Editor

Our appreciation for support in a time of need

Dear Editor,

On August 1 and August 2, a devastating fire gutted the apartment building at 154 Nelson Street East.

We live in the apartment building next door and were evacuated due to heavy smoke, and the possibility of the fire spreading.

Thanks to the prompt action of the Goderich volunteer

firefighters and other fire departments called in, the blaze was put under control, and all the affected tenants were brought out safely.

Together with other evacuees, we spent the night at the Knights of Columbus Hall where we were comforted and given food and drink.

Throughout the night, we were kept informed by Victims Support volunteers and town and county officials.

A huge thank you to all the EMS, OPP personnel, neighbours, taxi drivers, hall staff and local businesses for their support in our time of need.

It was much appreciated.

*Sincerely,
Barry and Monica Page
Goderich*

Goderich Memorial Arena should be demolished

Dear Editor,

The Town of Goderich should demolish the Memorial Arena, preserve the historical items, rezone the site and parking lot as residential and place it on the real estate market.

The homes around the arena deserve a new environment from the chaotic parking and view of a 70-year-old building that has served its intended use.

Injecting more money into the Goderich Memorial Are-

na is ignoring the engineers cautionary report.

Spending \$200 thousand or \$18 million of taxpayers' money for refurbishment of any kind is wrong and goes against the cautionary report on the arena by B.M. Ross and Associates, Engineering Consultants.

The Town of Goderich, for many years, has been experiencing extreme difficulty with 'replacing' sidewalk infrastructure that involves over 100 areas with multiple slabs of crumbling concrete in each area.

Taxpayers and voters are very observant because it's happening in front of their house in their neighbourhoods.

The Town of Goderich and Town Council should move forward, and the demolition will provide, along with rezoning, the transformation to a residential site that will blend in with the existing neighbourhood.

Any future development should be on the south side of the Goderich Huron YMCA sports complex.

The new development in the future should be a small

gymnasium no bigger than the one in the public elementary school, to serve the shuffleboard enthusiasts and others.

It is my understanding that the current ice surface at the YMCA is not collecting maximum earned income potential during available operational hours to allow for future expansion.

Taxpayers should be reminded that at the Council meeting on January 3, 2025, Goderich Council declared the Memorial Arena 'closed due to significant safety and accessibility concerns'.

I believe it would be irresponsible for the mayor and council to support any short or long-term funding, especially after reading the cautionary report on the Memorial Arena by B.M. Ross.

*Rod Scapillati
Goderich*

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Goderich Sun

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Huron County Police Reports

Impaired driver caught after entering RIDE check

Huron County OPP charged a 19-year-old Huron East resident with an Impaired Driving offence following a traffic stop in a RIDE check on July 1.

Just before 10 a.m. police officers spoke to a vehicle driver at the RIDE check in Walton, Huron East.

The driver was subsequently arrested for impaired operation and transported to the Huron OPP detachment in Clinton where they underwent testing with an OPP Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Officer.

The driver was charged with Operation While Impaired – Alcohol and Drugs and was additionally charged with offences found in the Highway Traffic Act and Cannabis Control Act.

The involved vehicle was towed and impounded for seven days, and the driver's license was suspended for a period of 90 days.

The accused was processed and later released from custody with a court appearance scheduled at the Ontario Court of Justice.

Traffic stop in Wilmot and search warrant in Central Huron yield illegal drugs

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

A criminal charge has been laid against a Central Huron resident.

An investigation initiated in June 2025 by members of the Huron-Perth CSCU led investigators to an address in Central Huron.

On Wednesday, July 30, a traffic stop was conducted in Wilmot, which result-

ed in the seizure of illegal drugs and related property.

One individual was arrested and charged.

On Thursday, July 31, a search warrant was executed at an address in Central Huron.

A quantity of suspected cocaine was seized

The total value of the illegal drugs seized is estimated at \$16,780. Additional offence-related property including a cell phone seized by police totaled \$1,000.

A 31-year-old of Central Huron was charged with Possession of Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking – Cocaine.

The accused was processed and later released from custody with a court date scheduled at the Ontario Court of Justice – Kitchener on September 11, 2025.

Assault investigation results in criminal charge

On July 2, members of Huron County OPP responded to a report of an assault in the Municipality of Bluewater.

As a result of the investigation, OPP learned the involved suspect had allegedly assaulted a dog with a cane and attempted to assault the dog's owner.

The suspect was arrested at the scene and charged under the Criminal Code.

The 85-year-old resident of Bluewater was charged with Assault with a Weapon.

The accused was processed and later released from custody with a court date scheduled at the Ontario Court of Justice – Goderich.

South Huron collision results in multiple criminal charges

Huron County OPP charged a Perth South resident with several criminal offences following a single-vehicle collision in South Huron on July 3.

Just before 11 p.m. police officers observed a damaged vehicle in a ditch on Sunshine Line in South Huron.

The driver was located after hiding in the bushes nearby and was arrested for impaired operation and dangerous driving.

As a result of the investigation, a 47-year-old was charged with Dangerous Operation, Impaired Operation – Alcohol and Drug, Impaired Operation – Over 80 and Obstruct Peace Officer.

The involved vehicle was towed, and the driver's license was suspended for a period of 90 days.

The accused was processed and later released from custody with a court appearance scheduled at the Ontario Court of Justice – Goderich.

Collision results in multiple criminal driving charges

Huron County OPP charged a North Huron resident with several criminal driving offences following a two-vehicle collision in Morris-Turnberry on July 5.

Just before 1 p.m. on July 5, Huron County OPP officers responded to a report of a collision at the intersection of Howick-Turnberry Road and London Road, just north of the Town of Wingham.

One of the vehicles involved failed to remain at the collision scene and fled towards Wingham. An OPP officer attempted to stop the fleeing vehicle, which failed to stop for police.

Officers eventually located the suspect vehicle, which was damaged and abandoned in a bush lot.

The suspect driver was identified and later located by police. Officers arrested the driver for several criminal offences.

Three occupants of the second vehicle involved in the collision were treated at a local hospital for minor injuries.

As a result of the investigation, a 35-year-old from North Huron was charged with Dangerous Operation (two counts), Flight from Peace Officer, Failure to Stop After Accident (two counts).

The accused was additionally charged were several offences found in the Highway Traffic Act and Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act.

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

Traffic complaint results in impaired driver

Huron police charged a resident with criminal driving offences following a traffic complaint in South Huron on July 5.

Just before 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 5, Huron County OPP officers investigated a traffic complaint that occurred in Dashwood.

The driver was later located in Exeter and arrested for impaired operation.

The driver was transported to the Huron OPP detachment in Clinton where their breath samples resulted in readings over the legal limit.

The 46-year-old driver was charged with Impaired Operation – Alcohol and Drug, and Impaired Operation – Over 80.

The involved vehicle was towed, and the driver's license was suspended for a period of 90 days.

The accused was processed and later released from custody with a court appearance scheduled at the Ontario Court of Justice – Goderich.

Become a host family for Huron-Perth Catholic international students

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board's International Student Program enhances cultural diversity within schools, and the Board is seeking host families for September 2025.

This program provides students from around the world with an enriching Canadian educational experience.

The board is working in partnership with a home-stay provider, MLI Homestay. Host families are compensated and commit to include the international student in family life and to provide three nutritious meals per day and snacks, a private room with a door, a window, a bed and desk, a shared bathroom, and supervised internet access.

International students will attend either St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School in Clinton or St. Michael Catholic Secondary School in Stratford.

According to the Board, these students

will have access to the same enriching education experience and high academic standards all Huron-Perth Catholic DSB students receive, while experiencing the warmth and hospitality of the local community.

The Board has seen significant growth in this program and the demand for the Huron-Perth area continues to expand rapidly.

For September 2025, students from Brazil, Spain and Japan have already been accepted and will be joining the communities.

The Board is also receiving new applications from students in these same countries, as well as other areas.

As a result, the Board is seeking additional families in Huron and Perth counties willing to welcome international students into their homes for either one semester or the full school year.

This program not only enhances cultural diversity within the schools but also offers local students the opportunity

to engage in meaningful cross-cultural experiences, broadening their perspectives and preparing them for an interconnected world.

If you would like to host an international student, visit mlihomestay.com

For more information about the international student program visit huronperthcatholic.ca/programs-and-services/international-student-program/



Goderich Sun

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Southbridge Care Home hosts garden party to celebrate cultivating memories project

GODERICH SUN STAFF

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Last week, a gathering took place at Southbridge Care Home's Courtyard in Goderich for a garden party hosted by Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH).

Staff, residents, friends and family along with community members gathered to mark the celebration of the Cultivating Memories and Pollinator Pathways project. This is a gardening initiative that establishes raised garden beds across long-

term care and retirement homes in Huron County.

This addition to the project at Southbridge Care Home marks the seventh establishment of raised garden beds.

According to Gateway, the project aims to improve the quality of life for residents through the power of horticultural therapy.

By planting, tending and enjoying native and pollinator-friendly gardens, residents of Southbridge Care Homes are supported by recalling personal memories, enjoying the therapeutic benefits of time spent in

nature, and cultivating new memories.

During the gathering, it was announced that Southbridge's fifth-floor garden bed has been honoured with the Butterfly Ranger Award by The Butterflyway Project Goderich.

It was honoured for its outstanding native species planting. This recognition celebrates efforts made to attract butterflies and other pollinators, fostering an environment that is beautiful and ecologically meaningful.

According to Gateway, resident feedback underscored the emotional impact of

the project.

"First of all, I love the people. It makes the garden," admitted one resident of Southbridge.

"Everybody is here, and they're cheerful. They look around and they see beauty and happiness. It brings everybody together. I am very impressed. I feel comfortable here and I love to see the smiles on everybody's faces."

For more information about *Cultivating Memories & Pollinator Pathways* and Gateway CERH's work, please visit www.gatewayruralhealth.ca.



Madi Cardno, Nancy Simpson and Kevin Kale at the garden party at Southbridge.



Gateway's Cultivating Memories and Pollinators Pathway project is a gardening initiative that aims to improve the quality of life for residents through the power of horticultural therapy. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Ontario government launches Skills Development Fund training stream

GODERICH SUN STAFF

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The sixth round of the Skills Development Fund (SDF) Training Stream was recently launched by the provincial government.

With this launch, the government is committing another \$260 million to projects that support the hiring, training, and upskilling of workers in sectors such as manufacturing, health care, construction, automotive, and skilled trades.

"Our government is protecting Ontario by training the workers we need to keep building, no matter what global challenges come our way," explained David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development.

"Through this \$260 million investment, we're funding results-driven training to build the strong workforce we need to support workers and their families and keep building Ontario's economy."

This investment has a direct impact for

employers in Huron County and comes at a critical time.

According to the Huron Chamber of Commerce, the region continues to experience the lowest unemployment rates in southern Ontario. This presents a challenge for local businesses struggling to find and retain the skilled employees needed to grow.

Colin Carmichael, Executive Director of the Huron Chamber of Commerce explained that employers across Huron County are telling the Chamber the same thing. The number one constraint on growth is access to a skilled workforce.

"Our unemployment rate is consistently among the lowest in Ontario, which means local businesses need more tools to skill up the workers who are here and attract new talent to our communities," Carmichael said.

"Investments like the Skills Development Fund help employers meet these challenges and keep Huron County competitive."

The SDF is designed to support projects that address real challenges faced by employers, like the challenges experienced in Huron County.

With labour shortages hitting several sectors, this funding can help local employers create and expand training initiatives that build the workforce the region needs.

For Chamber members, this is an opportunity to access government support to attract and upskill workers, address skill gaps, and ensure businesses can continue to grow, even in a tight labour market.

Huron County's employers face unique challenges, and this funding offers a way to address them.

If your organization is looking to hire, train, or upskill employees, here is how to access this new round of SDF support.

Who can apply?

Employers in Ontario, non-profit organizations, professional, industry or employer associations, trade unions, municipalities and service managers, and hospitals.

Eligible education partners may apply as co-applicants.

What types of projects are supported?

Projects that address hiring, training, or retention challenges, initiatives to attract, train and retain workers or apprentices, collaborative training partnerships to build local capacity and address regional demands, capital investments to upgrade or expand training facilities.

How to apply?

Applications must clearly show how the project meets occupational and regional workforce needs and supports in-demand and key growth sectors.

Applications are submitted online. Deadline to apply is October 1, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

For more information, download the full application guidelines from the Ontario government website.

Members of the Huron Chamber of Commerce are encouraged to contact the Chamber with questions or for assistance connecting with potential partners.

Homes lost as fire engulfs apartment building on Nelson Street



Seven brave women in the area rushed into the apartment building engulfed by fire to help those who struggled to get out. As a result of their bravery and the efficient efforts of Goderich Fire, no injuries were reported. (COLBORNE LAKEVIEW PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"Flames were visible through the roof of the 18-unit apartment building," said Chief Wormington.

Firefighters encountered high heat and smoke conditions on the second floor, when entry was made to the third-floor unit, and the ceiling fell in on the firefighters.

A full evacuation was called for safety of the suppression crews in the building.

"Due to the design of the building, the fire spread quickly through the entire roof structure of the building," explained Wormington.

In response to the fire, crews from six neighbouring fire departments responded to assist in battling the blaze.

Wormington commented that firefighters worked well into Saturday morning suppressing hot spots, and a total of 10 hours was spent on site.

"It was a long, hot duration for all emergency personnel involved and I commend them on their hard work and dedication," said Wormington.

Wormington explains the cause of the fire has yet to be determined but arson was ruled out by investigators from the Ontario Fire Marshalls office.

Currently, the owner of the building is working with his insurance company and engineers to determine the status of the remaining building.

The third floor had to be removed due to the structural load, to allow the investigators to enter safely.

Wormington says there have been no further details as to the future of the remaining building.

The 27 tenants of the Nelson Street apartment building have lost their homes, and many personal items or keepsakes.

Some of their personal items were retrieved shortly after the fire, but due to the water load in the building, most ceilings have fallen and have made it unsafe for anyone to re-enter.

"This devastating fire is a good example as to why tenants and homeowners should invest in water and fire protected safes to keep personal documents in," suggested Wormington.

"These can, in most cases, withstand fire and water damage and can be retrieved even long after the fire."

Wormington explains the building's smoke alarms were all working and assisted in notifying all tenants to escape the fire.

Since the fire, the Town of Goderich collected monetary donations and gift cards to help assist the displaced tenants and the community support remained outstanding after such a devastating fire.

In a press release the Town of Goderich expressed its sadness on the devastating fire that engulfed the residential apartment building.

"Our hearts go out to all the families and individuals impacted by this event," the statement read on behalf of Mayor Trevor Bazinet.

"The well-being of our community members remains our top priority, and we are thankful for the quick response of our emergency services that made this possible...The resilience and support of our community are our greatest strengths, and together, we will navigate this challenging time. Thank you for your understanding and compassion as we work together to support those affected."

When the apartment fire broke out, seven brave women – Sharon Horton, Alice Pfeifer, Jenna Pfeifer, Kelsey Hock, Jennifer McMillan, Sarah Doelman and Nicole Zyta - didn't hesitate to run towards the flames, risking their safety to help others.

At an emotional recognition ceremony at Goderich Council, these seven women told of their bravery.

According to their remarks on their actions that night, they entered the burning building to rescue people trapped inside.

"Their actions were selfless, fearless, and nothing short of heroic," wrote Mayor Trevor Bazinet.

"Because of their courage and quick thinking, lives were saved. We are forever grateful. You are true heroes, and our communities are better and safer because of people like you. Thank you for showing us all what bravery truly looks like."

Despite the brave actions of these seven women who entered a burning building to assist two tenants from the second-floor



(PHIL MAIN PHOTO)

According to Chief Wormington, 27 residents were displaced by the fire that engulfed the Nelson Street apartment building.

balcony, Wormington commends with a cautionary note.

"This is a tough one to comment on. The number one fire safety tip we teach is to never re-enter a burning building, as this can put them in danger but can also make it difficult to figure out how many individuals are in the building," Wormington remarked.

"But I do commend them on their quick actions and bravery."

Following the quick response from emergency services on the night of the fire, the bravery of citizens to help evacuate tenants, and the generous support of the community, Wormington reiterates the immense importance of fire safety in homes.

"Be sure to have working smoke alarms, don't overload electrical circuits, and never leave cooking unattended," Wormington added.

All tenants in the building managed to escape the fire with no injuries.

During the fire, Nelson Street between Cambria Road North and Albert Street was closed off, and residents from surrounding homes on Brock Street and Nelson Street East were evacuated as a precaution.

A soft place to land and warming centre was quickly established at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Parsons Court, to support displaced individuals and families.

Though no injuries were reported, the emotional toll remains high. Twenty-seven residents were displaced, and the building suffered extensive damage.

Support from the community started pouring in shortly after the fire, and Victim Services (VS) Huron Perth met those impacted to assess immediate needs. Some medication needs had to be met, and VS assisted in making those connections.

Emotional support was also offered, helping tenants reach out to loved ones and family to secure longer term housing options.

According to Deborah Logue, Executive Director of Victim Services (VS) Huron Perth, people impacted by the fire have been connected to insurance and informal supports for ongoing care.

Logue explains that VS supported 12

families displaced by the fire, but not all families took up the offer for support.

"Victim Services remains in contact with people impacted by the fire to assess ongoing needs and ensure appropriate referrals are made to meet those needs," added Logue.

For those tenants who had insurance, this will play a key role in ensuring families are housed and can replace lost items.

For those who did not have insurance, Goodwill, St. Vincent De Paul, Community Connection, Salvation Army and 211 are all connections that will support with resources.

Upon speaking with the victims of the fire, Logue recalls feelings of shock, disbelief, sadness, frustration and anger, as well as uncertainty for the future.

"The destruction of the fire was devastating when people realized they were not going to be able to return home," said Logue.

On scene, VS also provided phone charges, dog food, and Advil to alleviate pressing concerns, and since the fire VS has been able to replace medical devices.

Once the neighbouring building was cleared as safe, VS provided transportation back.

When reflecting on any future emergencies, Logue reminds the community to be as best prepared as possible, including having insurance.

"Knowing your neighbours and having a community connection when difficult things arise makes coping a little easier," added Logue.

"Not feeling alone and accepting supports may lessen the impact."

As of August 18, Wormington explains that the Office of the Fire Marshal has been contacted, and the cause of the fire is yet to be determined.

Photos posted online during and after this tragic fire show charred walls, shattered windows, and the haunting aftermath of a night that changed lives in an instant.

For many, the fire is a stark reminder of how quickly stability can be lost, and how vital community support is in a time of crisis.

Tenacious youth volunteers combat shoreline threats in Goderich

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

After a successful week of experiential learning through restoration, invasive plant removal, and plastic waste collection, nine volunteer Coastal Conservation Youth Corps (CCYC) participants are proud to have created positive change with the Lake Huron Coastal Centre (LHCC).

"Showing up, learning, and applying new skills gained from programs like ours is how we can support the health of Lake Huron and bring together young environmental stewards," explained Alyssa Bourassa, Executive Director of the LHCC.

According to the CCYC, the volunteer crew spent time identifying and carefully removing young invasive Buckthorn from areas in the beloved Maitland Trail.

Next the focus shifted to Sunset Park, a beautiful bluff-top lookout location onto the Goderich Main Beach. It was at the beach where the task was to remove invasive Garlic mustard and Himalayan balsam before their seed development occurred.

Once the invasive plants cleared, the volunteers seized the opportunity to plant deep-rooted native grasses, which will provide stability without interfering with the view, as will newly planted Ninebark, an exceptional native shrub with high wildlife value.

"The future becomes so much brighter when we care for our coastal environments, and these young volunteers showed that to us with their passion and determination this week," said Kerry Kennedy, Youth Education Coordinator.

The environmental stewardship efforts of the CCYC extended to the Black's Point shoreline where the youth embarked on a shoreline cleanup, removing plastic waste and many tires.

The cleanup also resulted in early detection of one of Canada's worst invasive plants, *Phragmites australis*.

Due to knowledge from the LHCC, volunteers were able to move fast to remove this fast-spreading invasive before it could take over the shoreline.

According to LHCC, the cleanups help conserve habitats for native species and prevent plastic consumption from impacting wildlife.

The LHCC is a non-government charity dedicated to supporting a healthy Lake Huron ecosystem through education, restoration and research.

The cleanup sessions for the CCYC in Goderich were supported by the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund, McCall MacBain Foundation, and the Goderich Lions.

The LHCC is seeking financial support from the community. To support this program, donate at lakehuron.ca/donate



Shoreline cleanup at Black's Point by Zoe Small, Oakley Watcher, Zachary Small, Alex Puri, Environmental Technician Dana Daetwyler, and Leighton Brock. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



In the forested image, Emma Greidanus, Addison Martin, Oakley Watcher and Zoe Small remove invasive buckthorn. In the shoreline cleanup at Black's Point, (L-R): Zachary Small, Alex Puri, Luke Hope, Carter Mead, Leighton Brock, Addison Martin, Emma Greidanus, Zoe Small and Oakley Watcher. Kneeling are Environmental Technicians Evan Skinn and Dana Daetwyler.

Huron Hospice looks forward to butterfly release

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

Huron Hospice invites the community to take part in their ninth annual Butterfly Release happening on Sunday, August 24 in the peaceful gardens at Bender House.

According to Huron Hospice, this cherished summer tradition brings families

together to honour loved ones through the symbolic release of butterflies.

Each butterfly represents transformation, hope and renewal, offering a powerful and uplifting way to celebrate lives remembered and lives lived.

Huron Hospice spoke with Gemma James-Smith, owner of Bayfield Lavender Farm, as part of a new social media series

to share personal stories and reflections.

"The butterfly release is such an important community ritual, and I think it is a beautiful way to come together and acknowledge that we've all lost somebody and we miss them," said James-Smith.

The afternoon on August 24 will feature a commemorative ceremony where the names of loved ones will be read aloud.

According to Huron Hospice, participants may choose to release their butterflies during the event or pick them up to release in a special place of personal significance.

Proceeds from the Butterfly Release help fund hospice palliative care, grief, and bereavement services offered to families throughout Huron County.

Building Imagination, Goderich Library's LEGO club sparks creativity and connection

ALEX HUNT

Sun Correspondent

From castles under dragon attacks to Tom Cruise climbing skyscrapers, kids at the Goderich Branch of Huron County Public Library are building more than just LEGO structures, they're building creativity, confidence and new friendships.

"We have been running a LEGO club for a couple years now, we got community funding which allowed us to start the program, and we run it every quarter," said Danielle Bettridge, branch manager at the Goderich Branch Huron County Public Library.

"Kids can come in anytime during those two hours, and each week we have a different challenge. For example, we had the kids build a tower of a certain height or a structure that could support the weight of three books."

The challenge will run through the summer with the winner taking home the Jurassic World LEGO set grand prize. The club supports age groups between 4 and 12. Kids create set pieces spanning from dragon castles, rockets ships and scenes from popular movies.

Bettridge says that the program features a high STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) aspect as well, where children can utilize their prob-



A child hard at work with his creation, parents and guardians can supervise and bond with their child during LEGO building sessions.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

lem-solving skills alone or in groups to figure out deficiencies with their creations and how they can overcome these challenges.

"I think for kids to learn these skills is important for them to have that opportuni-

ty to work collaboratively together and the library is a great resource for that. It's a wonderful way to make new friends," said Bettridge.

"It's reducing the social isolation aspect, and the library allows folks of all ages to

come together while participating in programs. It's a good opportunity to meet new people and do something different."

While kids are enjoying LEGO activities, there is also The Creative Kids Series running every Tuesday where each week features a different craft activity to spark creativity and keep things fresh.

Previous weeks, kids were painting bird houses and creating their own bead animals. Another week included them decorating pirate chests and designing their own treasure maps. Staff try to cater to several different interests to keep weeks feeling fresh and exciting.

"Anytime when the kids are excited to tell you about their final project, I think it's that moment of joy and excitement," said Bettridge.

"When they just finished a challenge and they made something that they're super proud of, you get to see how they created something from their imagination."

Coming up for the tweens between the ages of 9 to 12 years-old, the library will host a three-day Dungeons and Dragons Camp from August 19 until August 21.

Participants will have creative opportunities to create their own characters, monsters, crafts and other activities. The camp also promotes live action role play (LARP), allowing kids can bring their characters to life.

Protection and enhancement of Bayfield River Flats Natural Area

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

To further enhance Bayfield River Flats Natural Area, two new projects for 2025 have been announced by the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy (HTLTC).

One project is to create a canoe and kayak launch.

The other project is to use innovative natural means to protect the riverbank from erosion.

According to the HTLTC these enhancements are the latest community-supported improvements to a property that has a long and important history for Bayfield.

Interpretive signs at the nature area provide walkers and hikers with a rich historical tapestry, from its use by Indigenous people hundreds of years ago, to its use by anglers today.

This site has been a thriving habitat for fish, a site of a dam and a river crossing, a home to the former Thompson's Mill, and for marina storage for many years.

During Bayfield's early years until 1900, this site was the setting for Thompson's Mill. Until the saw and gristmill were fully operational in the 1840s, area pioneers had to hand saw their lumber and carry their grain on their backs on deer paths to Goderich for milling.

At one time, in 1820, this site was even proposed to be the naval harbour.

Today, the area is a place to enjoy flora and fauna and reflect on a rich local history. This historic site might

not have been preserved if it weren't for the vision of the Bayfield River Valley Trail Association (BRVTA) and the generosity of the Bayfield and area community.

In 2017, a fundraising campaign led by the trail association received donations from more than 220 individual donors and raised more than \$70,000 to purchase the River Flats so the trail association could donate it to the land trust to be preserved permanently.

In 2023, a fundraising campaign was launched to create a new pedestrian walkway to make it possible for people to walk to the nature area from the village of Bayfield.

The fundraising campaign raised more than \$50,000 to make the walkway possible, which was added in 2024.

This year, the project funders are asking the Bayfield and area community to help reach a \$20,000 fundraising goal for the canoe and kayak launch.

According to the HTLTC, a generous donation from a local donor has the dream within reach, and further donations are needed to complete the project.

A meet and greet community celebration and fundraiser will take place at Bayfield Town Hall on Wednesday, August 27 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in support of the canoe and kayak launch project.

Any donations received in excess of the funding goal will support long-term maintenance of the nature area.

To learn more or to donate, visit <https://htlhc.ca/bayfield-river-flats/>

Weekend Quiz

- 1) What is the Michelin man made of?
- 2) How strong is an ant compared to its body weight?
- 3) What was Prince's first album called?
- 4) What are the zodiac signs for August?
- 5) What is the capital of Alberta?
- 6) Cindy Lou Hoo is from what story?
- 7) When was the "Summer of Love"?
- 8) Which U.S. state is known as the "Sunflower State"?
- 9) What is the largest species of shark?
- 10) Who sang the 1970s rock anthem "School's Out"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 26

Ontario to train more students for construction jobs

GODERICH SUN STAFF

info@goderichsun.com

The Ontario government recently announced a \$75 million investment to train up to 7,800 additional students for in-demand jobs in construction and urban planning.

Funding will benefit two members of the Huron Chamber of Commerce – College Boreal and Fanshawe College.

“This kind of investment has particular significance for Huron County,” said Colin Carmichael, Executive Director of the Huron Chamber of Commerce.

“Our unemployment rate remains among the lowest in the province, which means that filling open positions is a challenge across many sectors.”

Carmichael believes that by training more skilled workers in construction, Huron County could support housing development, which could attract new residents to fill local jobs and strengthen the business infrastructure.

This investment will add up to 7,500 seats at colleges and Indigenous Institutes for construction programs such as welding, carpentry and renovation techniques, along with 300 seats for graduate students

at universities studying urban and land use planning.

“From designing roadways to building homes, this investment will ensure students have the training they need to launch rewarding, in-demand careers that protect and strengthen Ontario’s future in the face of economic uncertainty caused by U.S. tariffs,” said Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security.

The construction sector plays a vital role in both residential and commercial development in Huron County, and this investment could have a significant impact.

A stronger pipeline of skilled tradespeople will help local contractors keep up with demand for new housing, business expansions, and infrastructure improvements.

This investment is part of Ontario’s broader \$200 billion, 10-year infrastructure plan, which includes building homes, highways, hospitals and other community facilities.

The need for skilled workers is particularly acute in rural regions like Huron County. Employers in the trades face com-

petition for talent from both urban and rural markets, and the scarcity of available housing compounds the challenge.

More local workers trained in construction could accelerate housing development, making it easier in Huron County to attract and retain staff.

According to the Huron Chamber of Commerce, the expanded training programs at College Boreal and Fanshawe College align with local needs by providing pathways into stable, well-paying jobs.

For employers, this means a larger pool of qualified candidates, reduced project delays, and more competitive bids for contracts.

For residents, it means access to training that can lead to rewarding careers without having to leave the region.

“Our role is to ensure Huron County businesses have the talent, infrastructure and conditions they need to succeed,” added Carmichael.

“This announcement is a positive step toward that goal, and we look forward to seeing the benefits for our members and the broader community.”

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CONGRATULATIONS TO RICK & JOANNE TURNER ON THEIR RETIREMENT!

After many years of dedicated service and excellence at **Art's Landscaping**, Rick and Joanne Turner are stepping into a well-deserved retirement. We extend our heartfelt thanks for their commitment, passion, and care that shaped the foundation of this business. As they begin this exciting new chapter, we're proud to continue their legacy.

Moving forward, clients of Art's Landscaping can expect the same trusted service—now provided by **Howes Lawn & Landscape Inc.** We are honoured to be entrusted with your landscape care and remain committed to the high standards you've come to rely on.

Meet Joel Howes & Howes Lawn & Landscape Inc.

Joel Howes, the owner of Howes Lawn & Landscape Inc., brings over 30 years of industry experience and proudly serves many clients throughout the Goderich area. Several former Art's Landscaping team members have now joined his crew, ensuring continuity, quality, and familiar faces.

Joel founded Howes Lawn & Landscape in 1995, growing it into a full-service landscaping company. This June marks 30 years in business—an impressive milestone that reflects the knowledge, reliability, and expertise the team brings to every job.

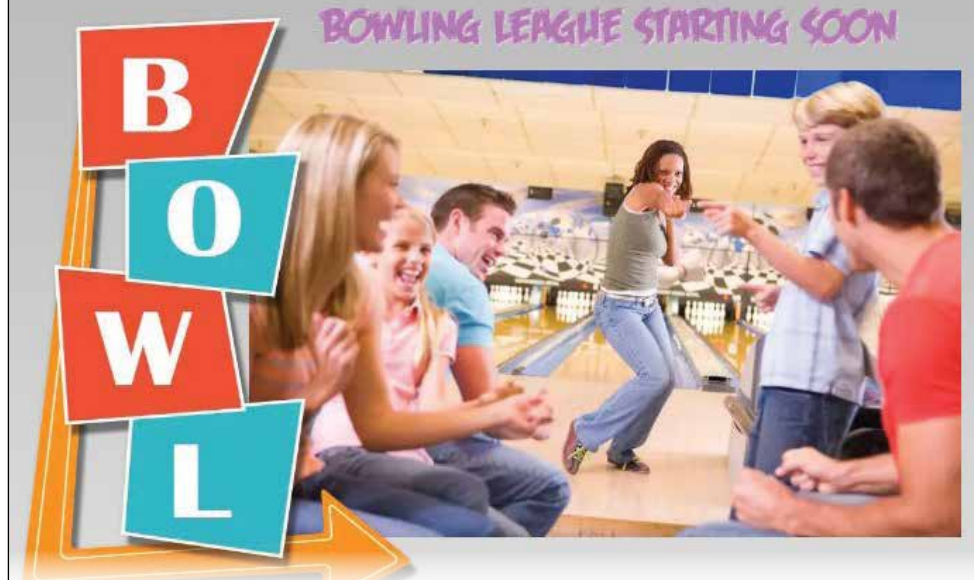
Services Offered:

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- **Landscape Design & Build:** Custom outdoor living spaces, softscapes, hardscapes, garden bed design
- **Concrete Flatwork:** Driveways, walkways, patios, stamped and broom-finished concrete
- **Landscape Materials:** Mulch, topsoil, gravel, and stone available for pick-up or delivery
- **Winter Services:** Snow removal for residential and commercial clients

Joel takes particular pride in expanding his expertise in **hardscaping**, and he and his team are known for their **honesty, strong work ethic, and positive attitude**. No project is too big or too small—every client receives personalized attention and complete satisfaction.

Howes Lawn & Landscape Inc. is proud to serve the communities of **Clinton, Seaforth, Goderich, and Bayfield** and welcomes your inquiries at any time.

**Come out & Celebrate 30 Years in Business for Howes Lawn & Landscape on
August 23, 2025 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. @ 6 - 7th Ave, Clinton, Ontario.**



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

Check out when your league returns and don't miss a moment of fun!

Goderich Senior League

Tuesday, September 9th

Sunset Strikers

Tuesday, September 9th

Tuesday Mixed

Tuesday, September 9th

PRACTICE WEEK!

Sunday, August 24 to Sunday, September 7.
ALL league members get 2 visits per week. 3
FREE games each visit for league members!

Wednesday Ladies

Wednesday, September 10th

Thursday Zoomers

Thursday, September 11th

Thursday Men

Thursday, September 11th

Youth Group

Saturday, September 13th @ 9am

204 Huron Rd., Goderich, ON | 519.524.2695 | info@littlebowl.ca

Young Canada Week in the 1960s became the biggest, little hockey tournament in the world

RICHARD MADGE

Sun Contributor

The Goderich Lions Young Canada Week (YCW) Committee is beginning to make plans for its landmarks 75th tournament, which will take place next March.

At this early stage of planning, there are many possibilities being looked at including a celebrity hockey game, an NHL Heroes Game, a Hockey Hall of Fame exhibit and activities, and a match-up of Maple Leaf and Red Wings Alumni game.

In the coming months, the committee will decide what can be put together to give the 75th anniversary the special treatment that will suitably celebrate this milestone in the history of minor hockey's longest running tournament.

The tournament began in 1950 and grew year-by-year as it continued to gain widespread popularity in the hockey world of Canada.

This week, in our series highlighting the eras of tournament play, we will look back at the 1960s.

YCW in 1960 saw 86 teams and 2,000 players involved, in which was already being referred to as the biggest, little hockey tournament in the world.

Teams from Michigan added an international flavour to the tournament and the presence of the Six Nations 'Little Braves', performing a war dance to chase away evil spirits brought another aspect of culture to the tournament.

A team from Scarborough won the Grand Championship in 1960, with future NHLers Brad Park and Syl Apps Jr. scoring in the victory.

In 1961, a team from Geraldton in Northern Ontario travelled over a thousand kilometres to come to Goderich and they were rewarded by winning the B



The team from Lynn Lake, Manitoba travelled an incredible 3,701 kilometres to participate in Young Canada Week in 1963. Lynn Lake, a mining community over 900 kilometres northwest of Winnipeg, had four house league teams. For many players, the trip to Toronto and Goderich was their first outside the community and many who stayed in a hotel watched TV for the first time.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Championship.

In 1962, Cannington won the C Division, led by Rick MacLeish's 27 goals.

Even at a young age, MacLeish was being scouted by NHL teams. He would go on to stardom, playing with the Philadelphia Flyers, scoring 349 goals and earning 410 assists in 846 NHL games.

At YCW, MacLeish's parents were reported as wanting their son to pursue more schooling rather than a hockey career.

Local hero, Larry Jeffrey, age 21 and a YCW alumnus, returned to referee a tournament game.

In his first NHL game as a Red Wing, Jeffrey scored a goal against the Maple Leafs, the team he would be playing for in 1967 when Toronto won its last Stanley Cup.

In 1963, the tournament saw a team from the mining town of Lynn Lake, Manitoba out-do Geraldton by travelling 3,701 kilometres to play in YCW.

It was reported the cost of their trip was over \$4,000 and the players were required to have a 65 per cent average in school to participate.

On their journey to Goderich, the team from Lynn Lake stayed over at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto and were given a tour of the city.

In 1964, a total of 87 teams were accepted into YCW, but chairman Alvin McGee stated, "There is no way we can squeeze in one more entry".

The 1965 tournament was highlighted by the 1,000th game in YCW history, when St. Lambert, Quebec defeated St. Thomas.

Attendance for the week neared 14,000, some of whom came hoping to see Mark and Marty Howe, sons of Gordie, play for the Detroit Roostertails. Sadly, the Howe family opted for a holiday in Florida instead.

However, the presence of Steve Hull, a cousin of the Golden Jet, Bobby Hull, scoring two goals for his Ottawa team was some consolation.

In 1966, there was reversal of the 1950s policy of allowing girls to play in the tournament when the YCW Committee ruled that girls were ineligible.

In 1967, Canada's centennial year, 100 teams competed in the nine-day tournament, which drew over 16,000 spectators.

The 1968 tournament's opening ceremony featured the puck-drop by the national Timmy for the Easter Seals Campaign.

He was accompanied by Commonwealth Wrestling Champion, Whipper Billy Watson.

The final tournament of the 1960s had a second-generation feature to it. Steve Baker shone in goal in three straight victories for the Lucknow team. His father, Alvin Baker, was the goaltender for the Lucknow Flax Flyers, the team that won the very first tournament in 1950.

Every month from now until February, a column focusing on a decade of the Young Canada Week tournament will be featured in the Goderich Sun, leading towards the 75th tournament in March 2026.

270 GOALS IN 58 GAMES

Cannington's MacLeish Is A Scoring Machine

By JOHN MACDONALD
Star Staff Writer
GODERICH—"The best Peeewe hockey player in Ontario" is a thorny crown for any youngster to don. But 12-year-old Rich MacLeish of Cannington wears it well.

Earl Graham, president of the Toronto Hockey League, first pinned the

tag on MacLeish. He saw the youngster compete in the Quebec International Peeewe tournament in February. Other hockey officials around the province have jumped on the bandwagon.

As soon as he put a foot on the ice here at the 13th annual Goderich "Young Canada Week" Peeewe hockey tournament, the Cannington youngster was watched by every coach, official and pro scout.

And he lived up to all that was said about him.

He started off last yesterday morning as he poured in five goals in Cannington's 8-1 win over a Chipewa Indian Reserve team from Coruna, in first-round D series game (for teams from hamlets of less than

a U.S. college scholarship. After he's finished his college education, then, they say, he can take a crack at pro hockey. But they aren't going to let this kid get tied up with that pro hockey rat race.

He's not the picture of a much-scouted hockey player. In fact, he's one of the smallest on his team at 93 pounds and 4 feet 9 inches. His assets are speed,

stick handling, deceptive shifts and stubborn checking. He plays every position but goal.

Raw Willie added two for

Rick MacLeish was a scoring sensation in YCW in 1962, scoring 27 goals, including 13 in one game.



Above: Rick MacLeish made headlines during the 1962 tournament. Right: Gary Doak signs autographs as an NHLer.

Huron Historic Gaol invites Goderich community to walk through walls of the past

ALEX HUNT

Sun Correspondent

Some stories weren't meant to be locked away. In Goderich, they're finally being set free one performance at a time inside one of the community's historic structures.

Visitors of the Huron Historic Gaol are stepping into more than just a museum, they're stepping into the past.

Behind Bars is an immersive exploration experience that offers a rare opportunity to learn what life was like inside the walls of a 19th century jail through powerful in-person storytelling.

Running throughout the summer, the program features actors portraying real inmates and staff who lived and worked at the Gaol between 1841 and 1921.

Each character who are played by community volunteers shares a glimpse into their personal experiences. From daily routines to moments of hardships, offering a human's perspective on the building's long and often somber history.

The program runs every Tuesday and Thursday from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Admissions will cost \$10 per adult and \$5 for a child.

"I provide a collection of pre-made scripts, and the actors receive an information package about the room they're in and the character they're playing," said Livia Picado-Swan, co-coordinator for Behind Bars.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Mrs. Dixon played by Colleen Maguire, cared for female inmates, as well as preparing food and upholding other prison duties.

"The material we give them helps the actors speak in-depth about their character, they have also conducted their own independent research and the historical

figures they portray.

"It really shows their passion for the community's history, and what makes volunteering here so special."

Guests are invited to walk through cell blocks, peek through solitary confinements, and speak directly with the costumed interpreters who bring these historic figures to life. It's an experience that's not only designed to educate but also reflect on the lives of the past.

"One of the things that makes this Gaol so unique is that it gives people a chance to learn about the history of those who are often left out of traditional narratives," said Picado-Swan. Some people were mentally ill, violent, or simply lost in the system.

"This isn't the history of politicians or people in positions of power, it's the history of everyday individuals, many of whom left almost no trace behind."

Picado-Swan said that visitors are encouraged to come with an open mind and not to shy away from interacting with the staff and actors.

While performers will initiate the conversation, they will always appreciate questions that are asked by the guests.

"At the end of the night, part of my job is to gather feedback from visitors to share with volunteers," said Picado-Swan.

"Some of the feedback I get from the volunteers are themselves. They often say that they really enjoyed the crowd, and they asked genuine and challenging questions. The actors enjoy going in-depth to pull from everything they know and that's when they feel most satisfied."

Paving has begun and downtown infrastructure project continues schedule



As Lavis continues to be on schedule for the downtown infrastructure project, Phase 2 has begun, while paving the areas of Phase 1 is complete. Sections of the downtown roads that were closed for months have been paved and the project moves on to Phase 2. East Street is now open for traffic as the infrastructure project continues on schedule.



Sections of the downtown roads that were under construction for the last few months for the downtown infrastructure project have now been paved. Lavis has begun Phase 2 and remains on schedule. Roads that had been closed are now slowly reopening for vehicular traffic.

(VERLAINE BURKE PHOTOS)

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August 31, 2025

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& Shows

Unique Salted
Experiences

Rides &
Tours

GODERICH SALT & HARVEST FESTIVAL

CONCERTS & SHOWS

BIA THURSDAY NIGHT CONCERT WITH SAL'S ALLEY

Sal's Alley is a 5-piece Rock and Roll cover band from Goderich Ontario. Sponsored by the Goderich BIA! Thurs. Aug. 28, 7PM Courthouse Square.

BIA FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERT

Featuring Texas King, Harley Olivia, The Dyadics & Full Throttle. Sponsored by the Goderich BIA and Royal LePage Heartland Realty.

Fri. Aug. 29, 6PM - 12AM at the Salty Basin Beer Garden in Courthouse Square Park. \$10/each, tickets can be purchased at door or at saltedgoderich.ca. ALL AGES!

SALT AND HARVEST CEREMONY

Join us in opening our 3rd annual Salt & Harvest Festival! Sat. Aug. 30, 10AM in Courthouse Square Park.

COLDWELL BANKER AFTERNOON WITH GRAHAM BEDARD

Brought to you by Coldwell Banker, local legend Graham Bedard will be rockin' the Salty Basin Beer Garden with his guitar. Sat. Aug. 30, 2PM - 5PM at the Salty Basin Beer Garden in Courthouse Square Park. FREE FOR ALL AGES!

COMPASS MINERALS CONCERT WITH FINGER ELEVEN

The iconic, Juno award winning Canadian rock band is taking over The Square at this year's Festival. Tickets are going fast - get yours before they're gone! Sat. Aug. 30, 7PM - 1AM at the Salty Basin Beer Garden in Courthouse Square Park. \$60+fees, online at saltedgoderich.ca. ALL AGES!

BIA SUNDAY CONCERT - COUNTRY JUNCTION & BRYAN BICKNELL DUO

Sponsored by the Goderich BIA! Sun. Aug. 31, 10AM-2PM at the Salty Basin Beer Garden in Courthouse Square Park. FREE!



EVENTS



RIDES & TOURS

HOP-ON HOP-OFF BUS TOURS

Learn about the history of salt mining in Goderich and how salt mining has evolved over the decades! Sat & Sun, 10AM - 4PM at Courthouse Square. \$10 for adults, \$4 for kids under 12. Tickets can be purchased at saltedgoderich.ca or during the event at the Festival store located on South Street Plaza.

SALT HISTORY WALK AT ROTARY COVE LOOKOUT

Now even bigger! This beautiful solar-lit stroll overlooking the Rotary Cove features historical facts, photos of Goderich's salty past, and over 300 solar lights. Available day & night.

WAGON RIDES

Experience the charm of Goderich like never before through a horse-drawn wagon ride. Rides for up to 6! Sat. & Sun., 10AM - 4PM at Courthouse Square. Sponsored by Royal LePage.

INFLATABLES, PETTING ZOO & PHOTO BOOTH

Fun for the whole family! Make new friends - some with fur and some without. Sat & Sun, 10AM - 4PM in Courthouse Square Park.

EATS & TREATS

BIA THURSDAY NIGHT MARKET

Shop as the sun goes down! A variety of vendors with an abundance of wares. Thurs. Aug. 28 from 4PM - 8PM in Courthouse Square Park.

SALTED MARKET & FARMERS MARKET

Featured "salted" artisans and vendors will have the perfect memento for you to take home. Sat & Sun, 9AM - 4PM in the Courthouse Square Park.

FOOD TRUCK VILLAGE

An area for folks to park themselves and enjoy their meal. Sat & Sun, 11AM - 7PM in the Livery parking lot.

SALTY BASIN BEER GARDEN

In Courthouse Square Park, this ain't your average beer garden! Featuring crowd favourites, salted specialties & local brews.

Fri. Aug. 29: 7:00PM - 12:00AM
Sat. Aug. 30: 11:00AM - 5:00PM
Sun. Aug. 31: 11:00AM - 5:00PM

DIY MARGARITA BAR

Within the Salty Basin Beer Garden, build the custom margarita of your dreams with unique flavours, twists and salted rims. Non-alc. options available! Sat 11AM - 5PM, Sun 11AM - 2PM.

SALTED EXPERIENCES

SALT MINE VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

Put on your glasses and go below! Tour the mine while above ground with the help of VR. Sat & Sun, 10AM - 4PM at the Goderich Tourism office.

ABOVE GROUND SALT EXPERIENCE

Experience the salt mine from above ground in this fun, kid friendly experience like no other! Sat & Sun, 10AM - 4PM in Courthouse Square Park.

SALT INDUSTRY FILM

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Goderich Sun SPORTS

Don Johnston Champions and Finalists of 2025



The Goderich Fire Department and Huron OPP opened the annual tournament on Thursday, July 31 in the Guns N Hoses game. The Huron OPP brought some young firepower to the diamond and came out on top, ending a four-year drought against Goderich Fire. (COLBORNE LAKEVIEW PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTOS)



Men's A Championship between the Fedrales and Moneyline, where Moneyline was crowned the Don Johnston A Division Champions.



The Fedrales were the defending champions, but lost to Moneyline in the A Finals, earning second place in the 19th Annual Don Johnston.



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Don Johnston Champions and Finalists of 2025



The Lady Panthers showcased their talent winning the A Championship.



The Memphis Belles earned second place in the A Finals.



The Men's B Final saw a showdown between Bomber Command and Blue Balls. Bomber Command won the B Division Championship in a walk-off. It was extra special because they played for their teammate Manny Ferreira who passed away recently. The Bomber Command donated a portion of their winning money to the fire relief fund, as the fire on Nelson Street occurred on the Friday of the ball tournament.



Blue Balls earned second place in the Men's B Division Finals.



The Mustangs won the Ladies' B Division Championship and donated all the prize money to the Track Rebuild Committee.



The Angels earned second place in the B Division Finals and donated their prize money to the people who lost their homes in the fire on Nelson Street.

(COLBORNE LAKEVIEW PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTOS)

See more photos on page 17.

Clinton U14 Boys Victorious in Final Match



Clinton U14 Boys were victorious in their final match against St. Columban on August 7 at Clinton's CHSS field, scoring a 4-0 shutout despite hard action and excellent goaltending on both sides. The U14 Boys played against St. Marys in the Cup Qualifier in London on August 16. The outcome of the Saturday, August 16 game will determine if the U14 Boys play in Sunday's final game or not. (Back, L-R): Coach Joel Srigley, Miles Adams, Zac Small, Hayden Benedict, Fin Biglow, Anthony Srigley, Lucas Salz, Joseph Groothuis, Hunter Hart, Scott Hubbard, Landon Coburn, Coach Ryan DeWolfe. (Front, L-R): Miles Arnold, Mason Lobb, Dustin Mero, Abel Coburn, Felix Dawe, Parker Virag, Owen Hart. (Missing): Dash McFarlan, Drew Erickson, Keiran Ritchie.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

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Don Johnston Champions and Finalists of 2025



Men's C Finals was an entertaining game, and The Free Agents won the title of champion.



The Mitchell Coyotes earned second place in the Men's C Division Finals.



Fam Jam earned the title of champion in the Ladies' C Finals. Fam Jam donated all their prize money to Goderich Minor Hockey.



(COLBORNE LAKEVIEW PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTOS)

Bait and Tackle earned second place in the Ladies' C Finals and donated their prize money to the people who lost their homes in the fire.

Celtic Roots Festival



Participants of the week-long Celtic College showcased everything they learned in workshops on the Friday morning of the weekend Celtic Festival. Participants learned the ins and outs of many types of Celtic music, dance and craft art.



Day two of the festival delivered a spectacular evening of toe-tapping magic with the incredible MacMaster-Leahy family bringing down the house.

(CELTIC FESTIVAL PHOTOS)

The Fast and Dickey Green Acres Racing Circuit

DAVID YATES

Sun Contributor

In summer 1958, thrilling, high octane formula car racing at death defying speeds came to Huron County when the first races were held at the Green Acres Racing Circuit.

Located 10 miles north of Goderich on the former RAF Air Navigation School's triangular shaped runway, the Green Acres racetrack drew thousands of spectators who came to watch the excitement of high-speed auto racing on one of only two tracks of its kind in Ontario.

Reg McGee & Sons purchased the former 300-acre air base in 1950, from the British Crown for farmland.

Reg's son, Alvin, recalls that it took three years to remove the base buildings still left over from the war.

Once the land was cleared of buildings, the old airstrip remained.

The land was used as pastureland for cattle until early 1958, when the London Automobile Sports Club approached Reg McGee, who owned McGee Motors in Goderich, about the possibility of using the old airstrip as a formula car racing circuit.

The Goderich Signal Star, in March announced that "sports car racing, which will get under way on a major scale at Port Albert this summer should draw crowds of 7,000 to 10,000 people."

The LASC's Public Relations officer predicted, "70-110 competitors will drive in each meet" and stressed that, "these are not stock cars races" but highly valuable race cars that, "range in value from \$3,000 to \$8,000 with one car coming up for the opening race valued at \$18,400."

The Green Acres racing season would consist of three meets held from May to September.

The Port Albert airstrip was considered very good with a hairpin turn and a solid track surface.

In the spring of 1958, LASC spent \$2,500 preparing the track including about \$1,000 on fencing the 2.2-mile track.

The London club also erected a control tower and pits for the racing teams, which consisted of a driver and three-man pit crew. Banks of white half tires acted as buffers at perilous turns.

The first race held on Saturday, May 31, 1958, was expected to draw 40 entries but 92 cars registered to compete in the nine-race event.

The Signal Star reported that, "sports cars swarmed like hornets" around Goderich that weekend. Although the event was closed to the public, "motels and hotels were filled up" with many visitors billeted in private homes.

As "competition driving causes plenty of extra wear and tear on engines and tires", racing team mechanics were "kept busy at the track," according to the Signal Star.

Local garages were hives of activity working late into the night tearing down motors.

The LASC was well-pleased with the first event and further expressed its thanks to the Goderich Police Department as none of the drivers were 'pinched' for "buzzing through Goderich without mufflers."

The Green Acres circuit's official open-



The old Port Albert Air Navigation School runway, which became the Green Acres racing circuit.

(ANN RAE PHOTO)

ing meet was held on July 5, 1958, when the mayors of London, Goderich and the Reeve of Ashfield Township welcomed the public to the track. Despite the heavy rain, over 2,000 people paid \$2.00 admission to watch 120 sports cars valued at over \$500,000 vie for trophies awarded for each of the nine races held that day.

Competitors came from across Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and the northwest United States.

The feature event of the meet was the Green Acres Trophy awarded to the winner of a 20-lap race.

Three cars hit speeds of 130 mph on the straightaway, but speeds had to be reduced around "hairpin turns."

London racer, Ed Leavens, won the trophy in his corvette. The only serious accident of the day occurred when a driver spun out after being blinded by water. He was saved from serious injury by his car's roll bar.

The Signal Star reported that US drivers said the Green Acres track was "one of the best they had ever raced on."

The LASC was pleased with the meet's success as were local businesses. The Signal Star noted that race teams had spent an estimated \$10,000 in Goderich on fuel, parts, meals and accommodation.

However, on the way home, most drivers avoided Goderich by going through Benmiller when it was learned that police had detained two drivers for making "unnecessary noise with their cars." The third and final racing meet of the 1958 season was held on August 23 where the season's featured race awarded the Great Lakes Trophy, the most prestigious of the Green Acres racing season.

In the 1959 racing season, the hairpin turn was eliminated for both safety and to allow drivers to maintain a higher rate of speed. The change reduced the 2.2-mile circuit to a faster 1.9-mile lap. Small Torque: Journal of the British Empire Motor Club" noted that the change was welcome and said, "the layout is very 'fast and dicky' and a first-rate bet for" spectators

and competitors.

During the second race of the 1959 season held on July 4, the Signal Star confirmed the 'dicky' nature of the track when one driver was taken to the Goderich hospital because of a spill.

The faster track thrilled spectators as one 12-lap race "proved to be 12 laps of scintillating hub-to-hub dueling between drivers.

During the July 4 race, Bill Sadler, of St Catherines, set a track lap record at 81 mph.

At the July 1960 race, 133 cars competed in the Mid-Summer Trophy Races at Green Acres. Several track records were broken. Quebec's 19-year-old Peter Ryan won two races in his Porsche RS60 with an average track speed of 88 mph.

In the September meet, Ryan "showed burning speed" and lapped all other racers with his silver Porsche to win the featured races' Great Lakes Trophy.

The final meet of the 1961 racing season, held on August 26, was a 'thrilling' one when Dan Shaw's corvette zoomed 30 laps around the track to win the Great Lakes Race Trophy with an average speed of 90.5 mph. Shaw, of Port Credit, repeated his win the following year at Green Acres.

He also set a track lap record of 94.54 mph.

Yet, Canada Track and Traffic magazine, in July 1962, made troubling observations about the track's future citing, "the rough Green Acres track surface" kept "pit crews busy constantly." Although thousands of enthusiastic race fans came to watch the races, the crowds of 7-10,000 spectators which the LASC had hoped for never materialized.

In October 1962, Canada Track and Traffic called the circuit 'rustic' and complained that it was falling apart.

On August 20, 1962, the last racing meet was held on the Green Acres circuit. Driver Ernie DeVos in his 'all conquering' Lola F-Jr won the last Great Lakes Trophy awarded at Green Acres.

The following year, the LASC re-opened the race circuit at Harewood, Ontario, the site of another former airbase.

Port Albert's former runway and race circuit returned to pastureland.

No longer would the sound of roaring Jaguar, Corvette, Porsche, Lotus, Austin-Healey, Ferrari and other sports car engine making death defying turns on a 'fast and dicky' track be heard in Huron County.



(LOTUS 11, OPEN EXHAUST PHOTO)

Formula race cars on the track of the Green Acres circuit, circa 1960.

Celtic Roots Festival



Crowds gathered on Saturday, August 8 for a full lineup of performers including the Celtic Academy Irish Dance Canada group, Friends of Fiddler's Green, Arthur Coates and Kerran Cotterell, Sophie and Fiachra, James Keelaghan and the MacMaster Leahy Family. (CELTIC FESTIVAL PHOTO)

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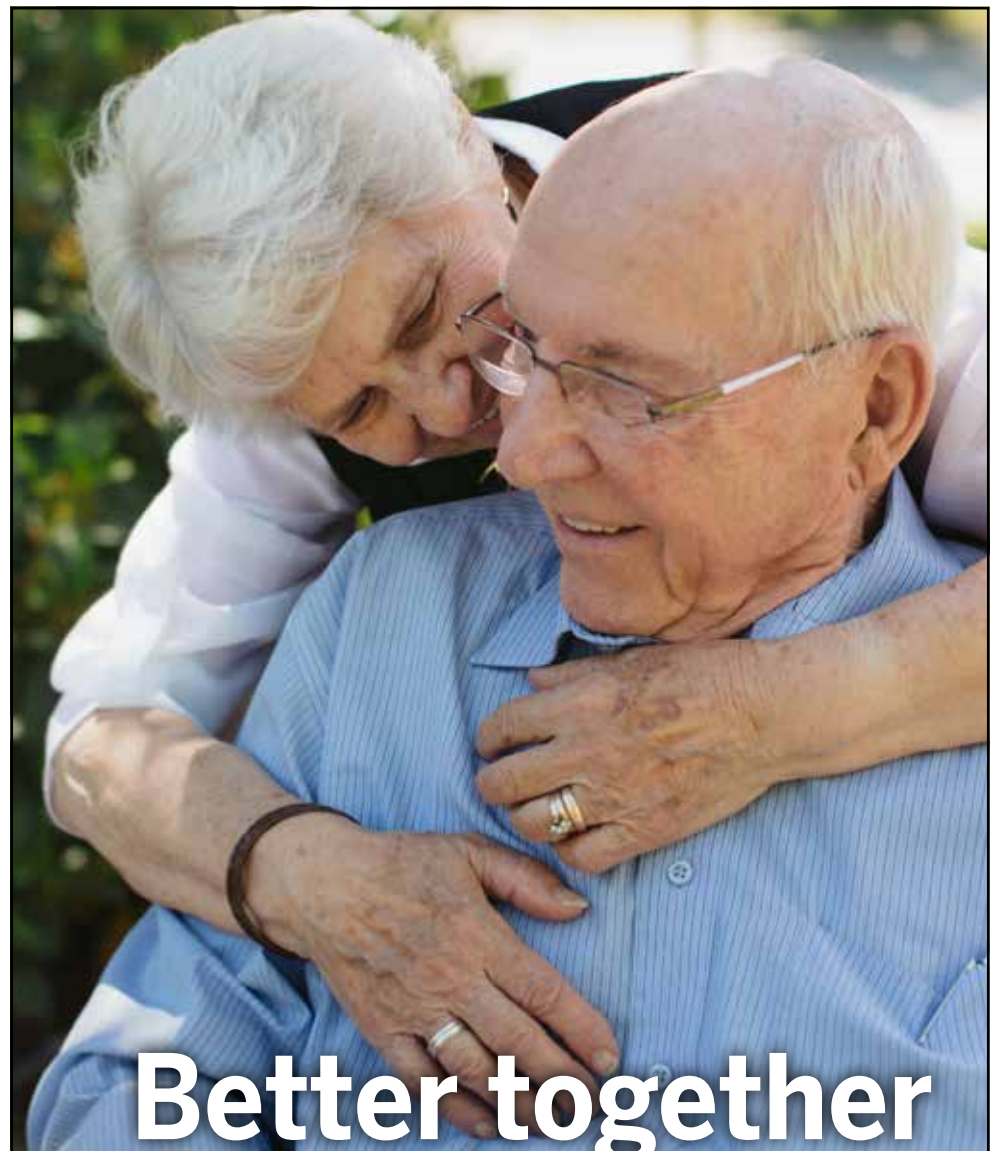
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Trail Talk: Challenges facing local hikers this August

PATRICK CAPPER

Sun Contributor

Hiking always includes a few hazards, from being bitten by insects or ticks, walking into spider's webs, or tripping on a trail hazard.

I have found that in one day biting insects are very bothersome even when wearing insect repellent, but a few days later there may be very few.

Cool windy weather reduces the number of biting insects. I have found that the worst place this year is a summer evening walk on the Hullett Dykes.

The main news is that there is a major re-route on the Maitland Trail between the 28 km mark near Bishop's Road and Sharpes Creek Line.

A detailed description is in the Maitland Trail Newsletter.

The trail heads south just after it crosses Bishop's Road and is mostly along the top of the bank paralleling the Maitland River, until heading east just north of Fernhurst Glen Road. It reaches Sharpes Creek Line about 2.5 km from Bishop's Road, and then there is a road section of about 200 metres before heading east for a short while, then heading northwards to connect with the existing trail. This is due to the plans to extend the existing gravel pit southwards across the old section of trail at 80918 Sharpes Creek Line.

Another change is installation of wire mesh on #2 boardwalk in the Maitland Woods. One part is with a 2-foot-wide mesh, the rest with an 18-inch-wide mesh.

I noticed a poodle, when reaching the narrower section, walked on the boards at the edge rather than on the mesh. The environment committee feels the option of mesh is a best alternative to shingles, plastic strips or boards without any non-slip surface, provided no problems arise with the mesh trial. Your opinion is welcome.

One Care sponsors the LIFE hiker pro-



LIFE Hikers at the new section of the trail.

gram. This is currently on Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. when two groups meet at a trail to hike for about 1.5 hours.

The Strollers walk at a slower pace and the Striders at a quicker pace. Hikers in both groups are welcome to return to the Betty Cardno Centre for coffee, tea and snacks or to some other location nearer the trail that has been selected by a hike leader for that Friday.

All seniors are welcome to join the group and should contact Cheryl Phillips at cphilips@onecaresupport.ca for details.

NOTES:

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

Sharpes Creek Line is closed between Bishops Road and Londesboro Road for culvert work.

Saturday, August 23 at 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – A bicycle ride at Inverhuron. For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Donald Andrew at 519-530-9019 by calling or texting. This is a

level 2, easy paced bike ride.

Saturday, August 23 at 10 a.m. – BRV-TA hike at Naftel's Creek Conservation Area trails.

If you were too late to join the Maitland Camino and want to hike the whole Maitland Trail, you may want to join four days of Hiking on August 29 to September 1 to hike the trail. Details later.

Friday, August 29 at 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. – A 7-km hike from Mill Road to Jenkins. Meet at Jenkins at 6 p.m. to carpool to the end of Mill Road and hike a short distance on the Sifto Loop to the main trail. This is a moderately fast-paced hike.

Saturday, August 30 at 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. – A 22-km hike from Jenkins to Sharpes Creek Line. Meet at Sharpes Creek Line near the solar panel opposite Fernhurst Glen Road. Bring a lunch to this hike. This is a moderately fast-paced hike.

Sunday, August 31 at 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. – A 9-km hike from Sharpes Creek Line to Boundary (Robert Edgar) Bridge. Meet on the south side, west of the guard rails at the Robert Edgar Bridge to carpool to Sharpes Creek Line. This is a moderately face-paced hike. Scheduled hikes for period of August 1 until November 30 continued.

Monday, September 1 at 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. – A 13-km hike from Boundary (Robert Edgar) Bridge to Auburn. Meet at the end of the bridge road in Auburn to carpool to Boundary Bridge. This part has the most road walking. For car shuttle arrangements and to confirm your attendance, please contact Patrick Capper at pcapper99@gmail.com. This hike is a level 2-3.

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 ½ to 2 hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact Patrick Capper at pcapper99@gmail.com



Cam Whiting installing some of the wire mesh.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

The Silent Shoulder: Understanding Degenerative Rotator Cuff Tears



KAILEY REIMER

Sun Contributor

The shoulder is a highly mobile joint that is stabilized by four muscles collectively known as the rotator cuff: the supraspinatus, infraspinatus, subscapularis and teres minor.

A rotator cuff injury occurs when the tendons of these mus-

cles become partially or fully detach from the bone. This can result in loss of shoulder mobility, weakness, and pain. Rotator cuff pain can also be characterized by being worse at night and aggravated with overhead or behind the back movements.

A rotator cuff tear may present with all these typical symptoms, just a few, or none.

Rotator cuff tears are a common condition, affecting approximately 21 per cent of the general population.

Prevalence increases with age, reaching up to 62 per cent in people over the age of 80. Because of this high prevalence, degenerative rotator cuff tears are often considered a normal process of aging.

Many of these degenerative rotator cuff tears can be asymp-

tomatic and may go unnoticed. This range of symptoms depends on the stages of tendon healing which can be influenced by functional ability, physical activity levels, mechanical factors, age, comorbidities, history of repetitive work or activity, genetics, hormonal influence, obesity, diabetes, smoking, alcohol consumption and prolonged use of anti-inflammatories.

Over time these factors can cause structural changes to occur in the tendons of the muscles. When overload or compression is applied to an already degenerative tendon, this can cause the rotator cuff to become symptomatic.

Symptoms generally occur gradually but can also be a result of a nontraumatic injury such as a sudden increased activity.

So, what should you do if you're experiencing shoulder pain, and how can future tears be prevented?

Fortunately, physiotherapy management can play a key role in recovery and reducing the risk of further injury. Physiotherapists can perform an assessment to diagnose rotator cuff injury without the need for imaging.

Referral to a specialist or for imaging is only required if conservative management is unsuccessful after 10-12 weeks, however, nonsurgical management is highly recommended as the primary management of both full and partial tears.

Physiotherapy can help reduce symptoms and pain while also improving your shoulder's strength and function. These

improvements can typically be expected within 6-12 weeks through activity modification, managing irritability, and a tailored exercise prescription.

Manual therapy such as soft tissue massage, passive range of motion exercises and taping techniques can support recovery by increasing mobility, correcting posture and training motor control.

While the term "degenerative rotator cuff tear" may sound intimidating, it is important to remember that with proactive rehabilitation, positive outcomes are achievable.

Early intervention and consistency with your treatment plan will help maintain shoulder function, reduce pain, and allow you to continue to enjoy your daily activities.

A Tribute to Timeless Sound

PAMELA CLAYFIELD

Sun Contributor

Goderich's Knights of Columbus Hall once again pulsed with nostalgia on Saturday August 9 as A Royal Tribute Productions returned to town bringing another musical homage — this time celebrating the legacies of Tom Petty and Fleetwood Mac, officially titled Practically Petty and Fleetwood Max.

Following their successful Elvis tribute a few weeks earlier, they once again, delivered a night of high-energy performances and heartfelt vocals sprinkled with some humour. The crowd, just shy of being sold out, was eager to relive the golden age of rock.

I was honoured to be invited back by the production team to capture the spirit of the evening from behind the lens.

We stepped to the end of the line-up full of excited attendees of all ages and followed it slowly into a venue buzzing with anticipation. It was great seeing the production team again and we made our way to find aisle seats before I went to take test shots.

It was amazing watching as more people found seats, bought drinks and shared favourite memories of their experiences with the music before the band started to take the stage and introductions were made.

While Tom Petty's music library has never been on my personal soundtrack,

with a couple of exceptions like Runnin' Down a Dream—officially under Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers—and Free Fallin' the tribute band's passion was undeniable.

The lead singer's raspy delivery and laid-back swagger brought Petty's signature style to life, and fans in the crowd sang along with fervour as I snapped photos.

It was the Fleetwood Mac portion of the show that truly struck a chord for me. From the haunting harmonies of Rhianon to the infectious rhythm of Go Your Own Way, the performers channeled the band's mystique and covered one recognizable song after another.

The energy in the room was evident. People danced wherever there was free floor space, friends swayed shoulder to shoulder, and for a few hours, and the hall transformed into a time capsule of musical magic. I left with a memory card full of moments that speak to the power of music that unites generations.

A Royal Tribute Productions continues to bring world-class tribute acts to small-town stages, and their commitment to quality and community engagement is worth celebrating.

For me, the evening was more than just a concert — it was another chance to step behind my lens, connect with fellow music lovers, and a reminder that even if the entire playlist isn't mine, the experience can still be unforgettable.



A Royal Tribute Productions returned to Goderich on August 9 celebrating the legacies of Tom Petty and Fleetwood Mac.
(PAMELA CLAYFIELD PHOTO)

A balanced life for better mental health



TANYA MACINTYRE,
RED ROOF RECOVERY

Sun Contributor

There are eight interconnected elements that support overall health, and our mental health depends on all of them working together in harmony.

I've listed the "eight dimensions of wellness" in alphabetical order so they can be easier to remember:

1. Emotional Wellness

Emotional wellness doesn't come from avoiding negative feelings and people. It comes from building your resilience, learning to self-soothe, and

surrounding yourself with people who uplift you.

2. Environmental Wellness

Our surroundings directly affect our mood and stress levels. Environmental wellness means creating spaces that feel nurturing and inspiring.

It can be as simple as decluttering your desk, adding plants, or spending more time outdoors.

3. Financial Wellness

Financial stress can quickly erode our mental health. Financial wellness is about feeling secure in your present and future and knowing you can meet your needs without constant worry.

You can quickly build good habits, confidence, and a sense of control by making small, specific, and consistent steps (i.e. auto-transfer \$50 to savings every week or month).

4. Intellectual Wellness

Intellectual wellness comes from learning, problem-solving, and flexing your creativity. Reading, taking a class, or

trying a new hobby can keep your mind active and engaged.

5. Occupational Wellness

Work takes up a big portion of our lives, so it's no surprise that any level of dissatisfaction at work can drag down our mental health.

Think about one small change you could make to your workday that would make it more enjoyable and then act on it. Even tiny adjustments, like moving your desk for better light can lift your energy.

6. Physical Wellness

This is the wellness most of us know best, where we focus on good nutrition, movement, quality sleep, and preventive health care. Physical wellness gives us the energy to do the things that matter to us.

It's also important to have a level of enjoyment in our movements, instead of making it a punishment for what we ate.

Joyful movement is far more sustainable than rigid exercise routines.

7. Social Wellness

Humans are wired for connection which comes from nurturing relationships, building a support system, and feeling a sense of belonging.

Schedule "connection time" into your week the same way you schedule appointments. A 10-minute call with a friend can be just as important as a workout.

8. Spiritual Wellness

This is about purpose, meaning, and alignment with your values. It can be expressed through religion, meditation, time in nature, or acts of service. Spiritual wellness can ground you when life feels uncertain.

Start and end your day with a grounding ritual to reconnect with what matters most to you.

A truly balanced life doesn't mean giving all eight areas equal time every day, but it means not forgetting any of them for too long.

Think of your overall wellness like the spokes of a wheel:

if one breaks, the whole ride gets bumpier.

Better mental health starts with awareness. Notice where you're strong, and where you've been running on empty. Then make small, consistent changes.

Over time, you'll find that balance isn't about perfection, but rather it's about giving yourself the consistent support you need to thrive.

Keep seeking, keep learning, and keep showing up for yourself. As always, I'm here when you want some help.

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

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

Visit us online at www.goderichsun.com

Invasive plant of the month: Japanese Spurge

RENEE SANDELOWSKY and
HELEN VAREKAMP

Sun Contributors

Invasive plants can impact agriculture, forestry, recreation, biodiversity, ecosystem health and public health.

Control of these species costs hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

Additionally, there are the inestimable costs to our natural environment, our life support system.

Invasive plants have an impact on our environment including:

- Suppressing or displacing native plant species
- Disrupting essential food webs and impact wildlife
- Changing litter decomposition, soil formation, soil chemistry and the distribution of soil organisms
- Reducing the availability of resources, like water or nutrients
- Impairing essential ecosystem function and services, like pollination
- Diminishing native habitats
- Reducing genetic diversity and global biodiversity

Invasive plants have an impact on human health and well-being, including:

- Increasing hazards to human health (poisonings, allergies, dermatitis, injuries, disease like Lyme or West Nile)
- Threats to food protection
- Diminished recreational opportunities (bird watching, hiking, camping)
- Depression and mental health impacts associated with losses and management
- Loss of unique natural legacy (Indigenous cultural heritage, maple sugar production, beauty of Canadian landscapes)

These invasive plants also have an economic impact, including:

- Costs for removal or control
- Negative impacts on agriculture, forestry and fisheries
- Loss of revenue from tourism, hunting, fishing and recreation
- Damage to infrastructure (e.g. drainage systems, transportation corridors)
- Increased risks of fire, erosion, and property damage
- Reduced property values

This week, the invasive species to focus



on is the Japanese Spurge (*Pachysandra terminalis*).

The Japanese Spurge, also called Pachysandra, is a rampant groundcover, originating from Asia.

It is an evergreen perennial herb in the Boxwood family that can reach 12 inches in height, and spread to form dense mats.

Flowers are white and appear between March and April. Fruits are on terminal branches and are extremely small.

The plants reproduce vegetatively through underground stems and roots. This plant is often used in shade gardens.

It can regenerate from the smallest piece of root, making it especially easy to spread, and hard to get rid of.

Japanese Spurge can escape into forested areas and meadow edges, is resistant to deer, and therefore speeds up displacement of native vegetation.

Despite this invasive nature, Japanese Spurge is still available for sale in garden centres. We ask you to not purchase this plant.

Furthermore, Japanese Spurge is toxic to cats.

How to Manage Japanese Spurge:

of root can resprout.

Do not put plants in the compost or municipal green waste. Put them in the garbage instead.

Smothering:

Another option for small or large populations is to cover infested areas with tarps or cardboard to block sunlight.

Cut the pachysandra back to ground level before smothering.

Herbicide Treatment:

Difficult to reach, or large areas may be treated by herbicide.

Use this only as a last resort and follow local regulations to minimize environmental harm.

After removal, replant the area with regionally appropriate native plants.

This step is essential to prevent reinfestation and to restore ecosystem health.

Native plants will also attract pollinators and wildlife, improving biodiversity in your garden.

A good native plant to choose is Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*).

Learn More and Take Action:

Education is key to combating invasive plants. Learn to identify invasive plants and choose native or non-invasive alternatives for your garden.

Focus on managing one or two invasive plants at a time and be patient.

For more information visit www.ccipr.ca or www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca

Renee Sandelowsky and Helen Varekamp are volunteers with the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation

Managing Japanese Spurge is quite achievable with persistence and a multi-step approach.

Manual Removal:

This is the most effective when the soil is moist.

For small populations, dig up the plants and roots, which are white and easy to see, and remove manually.

Check in the coming months for new plants emerging, as even the smallest bit

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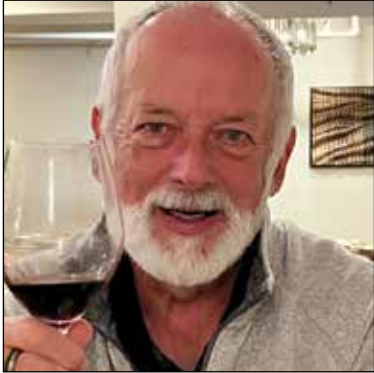
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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Discovering the freshwater shipwreck diving capital of the world



PAUL KNOWLES

Sun Freelance Columnist

Here's your trivia question for the day: Name the freshwater and shipwreck diving capital of the world.

You don't have to go too far afield, according to Guillaume Courcy. His answer would be "Kingston, Ont., and the Thousand Islands," and his evidence is pretty convincing.

Courcy, a native of Rimouski, Que., is a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces. He served internationally and learned to scuba dive while stationed on a peacekeeping mission in Israel. His last posting was to Kingston; he came there in 2011 and joined the local military scuba club and he quickly became aware of the treasure trove of shipwrecks awaiting exploration around the Thousand Islands. He completed his diving instructor qualifications in 2019.

His wife, Martine Roux, a diving instructor from Montreal, met Courcy because of their shared interest in spending time underwater. They became life partners and in 2020, they became business partners as well. In that infamous COVID year, they acquired their first boat, a



The elongated shapes in the water of Garden Island are all shipwrecks.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

tug called the Dorothy J. Guillaume moved straight from his military career into his new life as an underwater entrepreneur. And despite the challenges of the pandemic, Neptune and Salacia Diving prospered. Neptune is the Roman god of freshwater and the sea; Salacia, his consort, is the goddess of the sea. They opened a dive shop in 2022 and bought a second boat, a Zodiac, in 2023.

If you spend some time with Courcy, you will become convinced that the number one reason for their success is the personal enthusiasm of the owners. They live and breathe diving, and even after diving around the Thousand Islands for more than a decade, they continue to be very excited about the experiences that await them on every dive.

Courcy admits his claim about the freshwater and shipwreck diving capital of the world would be disputed by fans of the Georgian Bay waters around Tobermory, but his tongue-in-cheek

goal is "to steal that title back from Tobermory."

There is no doubt freshwater divers will find unending opportunities to explore shipwrecks in the waters of the St. Lawrence River, off Kingston. The St. Lawrence starts here, feeding out of Lake Ontario. The estimate is that there are between 200 and 400 shipwrecks in the area. Many of them are ships that floundered in storms; some, like the HMS Princess Charlotte, saw military action in the War of 1812; many more have been deliberately sunk by their owners because they were no longer seaworthy.

More recently, some, like the Wolfe Island II, have been deliberately sent to the bottom as artificial reefs and dive sites.

If you spend time on the water or in the air over the Thousand Islands, the sheer number of shipwrecks is quickly apparent. I took a helicopter tour that included flying over Garden Island where, in that small area alone,

about 20 shipwrecks are easily spotted from the air.

What makes freshwater diving special for shipwreck enthusiasts is most wrecks are wooden ships. Wooden ships that sink in salt water are quickly eaten away by the salt. Courcy told me, "Cold water, fresh water, keeps these wrecks alive." The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River are home to the largest collection of wooded shipwrecks in the world.

There are a number of ways visitors to Kingston can get up close and personal with shipwrecks. Neptune and Salacia Diving own the first and only PADI certified dive boat in Canada – PADI is the highly recognized Professional Association of Diving Instructors.

Courcy and Roux offered scuba diving charters, scuba courses and snorkelling tours. This summer, they introduced a War of 1812 snorkelling tour.

So would-be explorers have options ranging from snorkelling

above wrecks to diving to spectacular sites like the Comet, an 1864 paddle-wheeler now resting in 80 feet of water.

This being Canada, it turns out diving is an all-weather sport. Courcy is a certified ice diving instructor, so he takes well-insulated clients out and under all year round.

The quirky, fun side of the business is evident as he talks about their very popular feature, Zombie Apocalypse Diving, where cosplay meets scuba.

Courcy and Roux also spearhead clean-up dives on the Kingston waterfront, run by the local Rotary Club. In the first year of the event, divers collected over 800 kilograms of debris around the harbour. The event has grown to include non-divers on the shore, and in kayaks and canoes, all working to keep the harbour in pristine shape.

The business has grown significantly through its five years of operation, but Courcy and Roux are committed to making it better, continually offering new programs and dive experiences. When I met Courcy, there were 11 moorings at dive locations – permanent mooring stations where boats can tie up, thus preventing damage to the wrecks from anchors. The goal, he says, is to have 30 moorings, opening more and more potential for exciting exploration of the shipwrecks in the waters of the Thousand Islands.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and past-president of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



Guillaume Courcy wants to claim the title of "Freshwater and shipwreck diving capital of the world" for Kingston.



(NEPTUNE AND SALACIA DIVING PHOTO)

The Glendora is one of the many shipwrecks near Kingston that can be explored by divers.

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

BEHIND THE BARS

On Thursday, August 21, Tuesday, August 26, Thursday, August 28 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Huron Historic Gaol. Interactive tour where visitors can meet in-costume actors portraying real inmates and staff from the past. Purchase tickets at the door: \$10 adults, \$5 children/students, museum members are free.

THURSDAY NIGHT CONCERT SERIES

On Thursday, August 21 at bandshell in downtown Goderich at 7 p.m.
August 21: Rob Cormwell
August 28: Sal's Alley

DROP-IN PS5 FREE PLAY

On Friday, August 22 and Saturday, August 23 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Goderich Library.

FIVE CARD BINGO

On Friday, August 22 at 3:30 p.m. at the Goderich Legion.

LIVE MUSIC AT THE LEGION

On Friday and Saturday evening from 5 p.m. at the Goderich Legion.
August 23: Cheap Thrills
August 30: Jelly Bean Blue

SIP AND KNIT

On Sunday, August 24 from 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at East Street Cider Co.

ALEXANDRA ROSE LONG TABLE DINNER

On Sunday, August 24 from 5:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. at the Goderich Municipal Airport.
This dinner kicks off the \$6.5 million campaign to fund the acquisition of a state-of-the-art MRI Machine for AMGH.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

On Sunday evenings from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Harbour Park in Goderich.
August 24: Ayr-Paris Community Band

CREATIVE KIDS

On Monday, August 25 from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Goderich Library.
Ages 6-12. Registration Required.
August 25: Fantastical Fairy Doors.

Admission is free.

MONDAY MOVIES AT THE MUSEUM

On Monday, August 25 at 2 p.m. at the Huron County Museum.
August 25: Fantastic Mr. Fox.

EUCHRE NIGHT

On Tuesday, August 26 at 7 p.m. at Goderich Legion.

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

On Wednesday, August 27 at 9 a.m. at the Goderich Legion.
Topic: Home Fire Safety

MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT INFORMATION SESSION

On Wednesday, August 27 from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. at Goderich Place.
Information session with Jeanette Sears from Alzheimer Society Huron Perth.
Topic is about mild cognitive impairment and how it is different from dementia.
Admission is free.

CORKS AND CONVERSATIONS: WINE CLUB

On Wednesday, August 27 from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at East Street Cider Co.
Admission is \$15.

OPEN MIC AND KARAOKE NIGHT

On Wednesday, August 27 from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. at Boston Pizza.

GODERICH SALT AND HARVEST FESTIVAL

Kicks off on Thursday, August 28 at 4 p.m. in Downtown Goderich.
Runs from Thursday, August 28 until Sunday, September 31 across various locations in town.
For more information on each day refer to <https://www.saltedgoderich.ca/festival>

CYCLE CLUB: SLOW RIDE

On Thursday, August 28 from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. at East Street Cider Co.

PUNK ROCK FLEA MARKET

On Saturday, August 30 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Vi-

nylly Vintage.

TAPROOM TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

On Saturday, August 30 from 1 p.m. until 9 p.m. at East Street Cider Co.

ANNUAL GODERICH DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GARDEN TOUR

On Saturday, September 6 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.
Tickets sold at Goderich Tourism and other locations.

GDCI TRACK REBUILD ROAD HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

On Saturday, September 6 at 10 a.m. held at GDCI.

PARKINSON'S WALK IN GODERICH

On Saturday, September 6 at 11 a.m.
Meet at Rotary Cove.
This is Parkinson Society Southwestern Ontario's largest fundraiser and is one of 14 walks held that weekend.

30TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY AT GODERICH PLACE

On Saturday, September 6 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Goderich Place.
Irish Cowboys will perform, and guests can enjoy food and beverages.
There will also be entertainment for kids including face painting with Snippetty the Clown.
Games, prizes and giveaways.

BIA FARMER'S MARKET

On Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. in downtown Goderich.
The market will run every Saturday until October.

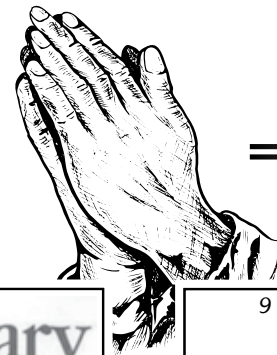
BIA SUNDAY MARKET

On Sundays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in downtown Goderich.
The market will run every Sunday until October.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

This peer-led group meets once a month at Bayfield Library on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.
Upcoming dates are September 27, October 18 and November 22.

Worship With Us



**Invite readers
to your worship
services.**

**Contact
info@goderichsun.com**



Berea Lutheran Church

326 Gibbons Street, Goderich
www.berea-zioncc.ca • bnz@hay.net
Rev. John Trembulak 519-524-2235,
(cell) 519-878-0327

Family Worship Service

2nd and 3rd Sunday of the Month
2:00 pm

All other Sundays of the Year
8:30 am

Facebook: @bereagoderich



YOU ARE INVITED!

This Sunday @ 10:00am

231 Bayfield Road
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 3G5

519-524-6445

www.cbcbgoderich.com

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

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Amanda Bisson

Livestream Services

Sunday at 10:00 am

Knox Presbyterian Church Goderich - YouTube

Worship materials available online

www.pccweb.ca/knox-goderich

Visit us online at www.goderichsun.com

Riddles

- Why don't elephants use computers?**
Because they're afraid of the mouse!

What do you call a dog magician?
A labracadabrador!

Why did the cow win an award?
Because she was outstanding in her field!

What do you get when you cross a fish and an elephant?
Swimming trunks!

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

How do cows stay up to date?
They read the moos-paper!

What do you call a bear with no teeth?
A gummy bear!

Why did the duck go to the doctor?
Because it had the quacks!

What's a cat's favorite color?
Purrr-ple!

Why are frogs so happy?
Because they eat whatever bugs them!

What do you call an alligator in a vest?
An investi-gator!

Why don't seagulls fly over the bay?
Because then they'd be bagels!

Sudoku

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	5				1	6		
				5		8	7	2
	7							

Solutions on page 26

Featured Pets



BELLY

Age 8. Loves a tummy rub. Holds down couches, stares out windows and is a sucker for sunbathing. He loves a walk but is scared of everything outside his own yard. Tolerates his little sister Ferda. Loves visits from his besties Josh and Betty. Keeper of secrets, will shake paws for treats.



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



Sponsored by:
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www.petvalu.ca

Word Search

FARMERS MARKET

Y	U	Z	F	Y	I	E	G	L	B	L	H	Z	Y	L	N	E	L	E	C
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M	S	I	W	O	J	T	E	A	M	C	P	L	A	H	D	S	A	A	Y
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B	J	U	W	N	B	D	G	E	E	L	F	E	S	L	V	F	T	A	L
Y	Y	K	Q	R	J	I	R	S	F	Y	D	P	I	L	N	C	R	J	S
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- APPLES
- BASKET
- BREAD
- CHEESE
- CIDER
- CORN
- EGGS
- FARMER
- HERBS
- JAM
- ORGANIC
- PEACHES
- PICKLES
- PLANTS
- SAMPLES
- SEASONAL
- SYRUP
- TOMATOES

Sunsets of Goderich



Regular sunset viewers enjoy a quiet moment at Lighthouse Park, taking in the golden hue as the sun sets over the calm lake on August 15. (IAN CRYER PHOTO)

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Email to inquire
info@goderichsun.com

LOCAL MATTERS.



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



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



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

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

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WANTED

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

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SUDOKU

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) White tires
- 2) 20-50x
- 3) For you
- 4) Leo & Virgo
- 5) Edmonton
- 6) "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
- 7) 1967
- 8) Kansas
- 9) Whale shark
- 10) Alice Cooper

COMING EVENTS



COST FOR 7 CLASSES \$32.00

Children's Class Ages 7 & Up

Mondays & Wednesdays
6:15 pm - 7:00 pm
Start Date: Monday, Sept. 8, 2025

Teen's & Adult's Class

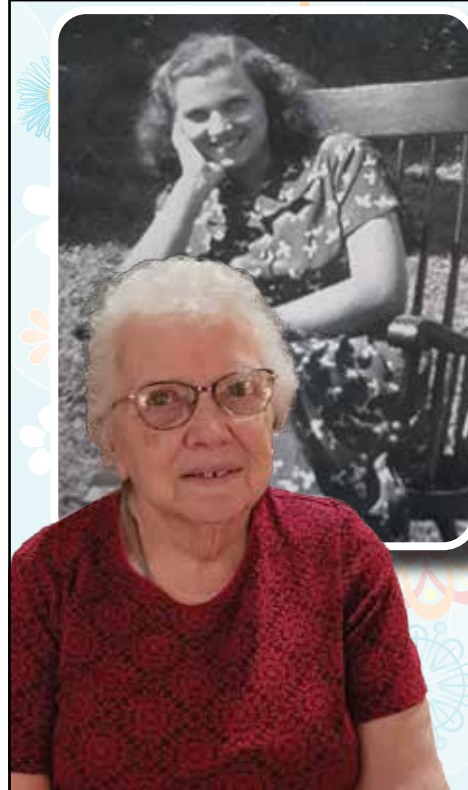
Mondays & Wednesdays
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Start Date: Monday, Sept. 8, 2025

Family Classes & Family Rates Available

Location: Holmesville Community Centre

Instructor: Ron Tyndall - 6th Degree Black Belt. Established school for over 40 years

For more information and registration please call 519-482-3634



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Birthday

To you
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Stein Schoemaker's
90th Birthday

Saturday, August 23, 2025
2pm - 4pm

**Trinity Christian Reformed
Church**

245 Mill Road, Goderich

Best Wishes Only
Your presence will be her gift.



Goderich Sun

Deadline: Friday prior at 3 p.m.

Contact: info@goderichsun.com

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- 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

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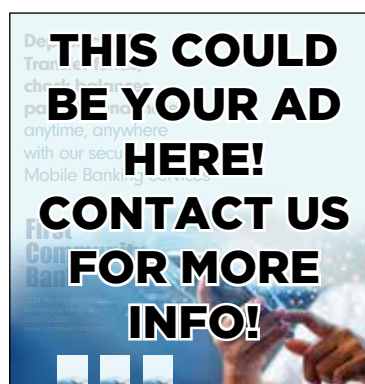
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