



Opportunity Knocks on Puslinch Doors!

By Mary Tivy

Studies show that heritage buildings in Ontario keep their real estate values above the average of other buildings, and that communities benefit overall from developing their heritage assets as visitor destinations.

For small communities that have conserved their heritage streetscapes cultural heritage tourism can be a major economic force.

Consider Elora, a quiet village with little economic development after the Second World War. In the late 1960s a few residents worked to conserve the mill and the historic streetscape along the river, turning the village into a premiere tourist destination in Ontario.

Likewise with St. Jacobs, which was in the 1970s simply an Old Order Mennonite village with a blacksmith and a large farmer's market. In the 1980s it became a destination for people interested in quaint streetscapes and Mennonite culture, food, and crafts.

Fergus has several decades of branding itself as a Highland Scots town built by Scottish stone masons, (although it was in fact settled by Lowland Scots) and now Fergus has the third largest Highland games in the world, drawing 30,000 people each year.

Tom Patterson, who founded the Stratford Festival in the 1950s, did so to revitalize the local economy. Stratford's heritage streetscapes, gardens and the Avon riverscape enrich the theatre-goers experience.

These community transformations were not accidental; they were led by people with vision, energy, an appreciation for local heritage, and a concern for a viable future of their communities.

Puslinch Township has been spared the sort of development that bulldozed old neighbourhoods in urban centres.

We have a wealth of early and beautiful structures built by the Township's founding families in the nineteenth century.

The Puslinch Heritage Committee has photographed, recorded and researched these structures. Many of these buildings are residences.

Others, such as obsolete industrial, commercial and institutional buildings have been saved and adaptively reused by individuals and businesses that recognise the value of these buildings.

In Aberfoyle alone, the former 1859 Aberfoyle grist mill is



now the Aberfoyle Mill Restaurant with a mystery theatre dinner and wedding destination.

Not only has the exterior of the building been preserved but the interior milling equipment is still in place offering diners a view of what was once the central industry in Aberfoyle.

Across the road the Aberfoyle Antique Market draws hundreds of antique hunters each weekend during the summer.

The Aberfoyle Farmers' Market in the new Optimist Recreation Centre continues our agricultural tradition and draws visitors to the village.

Elsewhere in the Township the Danish Place, in the 1850s McLean house draws Danes and others to the village of Crieff, as does the Crieff Hills Retreat Centre, with its collection of heritage buildings.

As well, the beautiful 1861 Ellis Chapel offers special events in the summer, featuring hymn singing, music, non-denominational sermons and refreshments in the garden, that draws people from around the area.

Morrison still has much of its nineteenth century main streetscape intact, with several commercial and retail opportunities in place. Once the Highway 6 bypass is finished, and traffic through the village contained, perhaps one of Morrison's 19th century hotels or another heritage building could be re-opened as an inn.

Traffic calming will also allow current businesses in heritage buildings, such as the Folklore Barber and Company, to provide a relaxing stop-over and cappuccino to the many cyclists who ride through the Township on the weekends.

There are lots of opportunities for both conserving our Puslinch communities and making them prosper through heritage tourism. Share your thoughts!

Editorial

In this issue of the *Pioneer*, we look at the darker side of life, with the death of Ken Scott because of a drunk driver. Ken was a husband, father and a vibrant community leader in Puslinch Lake. Sadly such incidents are not unique nor likely to change in the near future. Puslinch is not immune to such tragic stories.

How can we change these sad outcomes? Becoming aware may be a good place to start, so drivers don't get behind the wheel when impaired. Our thoughts are with the family.

On a more positive note, as you will read in the cover article – opportunity perhaps knocks for Puslinch in turning the community into one that brings more visitors to appreciate the heritage buildings, and enjoy the charm of our rolling hills and countryside. This could be exciting; maybe we need a Tourism Task Force?

You can tell that we are looking forward to spring with the articles on planting and the Junior Garden Club. How fortunate our children are to have this chance to learn while they are young about how to grow their own vegetables. It's a life skill that they will take with them forever, wherever they live.

With March Break coming up fast, we have included some information about March Break activities for those of you staying home and not seeking warmer climes.

Have a good month.

Anne Day

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The *Puslinch Pioneer* does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed in articles or Letters to the Editor. We reserve the right to refuse items submitted and to edit all material. All advertising is accepted in good faith.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES Items of interest to Puslinch residents are welcome. Letters to the Editor must include a telephone number.

We ask that articles be submitted by email and adhere to the Writers Guidelines which can be downloaded from www.puslinchpioneer.ca

Unless otherwise stated, the deadline for submission is the 2nd Friday of the month. Next deadline is **Friday, March 13th, 2020.**

Because of the increased interest we cannot guarantee inclusion, especially those received after deadline.

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Council Clips March 2020

Meeting with MPP Ted Arnott & MTO Staff re: Hwy 6 bypass. Nothing is firm yet, but it is considered favorable that the MTO is still expending funds and efforts on the project. Design work is continuing, as is necessary fieldwork.

Property procurement is almost done and continuing. These actions would typically not take place unless the project wasn't favorably viewed as proceeding.

Budget for 2020.

The Township local tax increase is 3.7 percent and a blended increase of 1.52 percent for county and education portions for average homeowners.

For a typical farm, there is a local 12.43 percent increase and a blended tax increase of 10.04 percent.

According to a BMA study for the Province of Ontario, the mean value of a dwelling in Puslinch is \$658,327 and a mean household income of \$187,317. Property taxes as a per cent of household income is 3.3 percent, which they rank as low.

Community Grants for 2020.

Organization	Amount
Aberfoyle	\$3000
Agricultural Society	
Aberfoyle Farmers' Market	\$3000
Friends of Mill Creek – Grand River	\$1250
Optimist Club of Puslinch	\$2231.83
Puslinch Lake Conservation Assn	\$25000
Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centres	\$2000
Wellington County Plowmen's Assn	\$180
Whistle Stop	\$877.96
Co-operative Preschool	
TOTAL	\$37,539.79

Percent of water taking considered consumptive.

Council wants information from Kyle Davis, Wellington Source Water Protection, regarding the portion of the water taking related to the Lanci pit expansion by CBM, that is considered consumptive.

Legislative Changes in Bill 132.

Council supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's position on Legislative changes with respect to the

Aggregate Resources Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Lake Erie Region Protection Committee.

Council endorses the position of the Lake Erie Region Protection Committee and supports actions to address the over-application of winter maintenance chemicals to protect sources of Municipal drinking water.

Liability concerns with off-road vehicles using Municipal highways.

Council has directed staff to find out from their insurance company, the Township liability with implementing by-laws to allow off-road vehicles to be driven on Municipal highways.

They are also concerned about the enforcement component by Wellington OPP.

Maintenance and Occupancy Standards.

A revision of Standards for the Maintenance and Occupancy of Property has been passed. The file is 40 pages and can be checked at the Township offices, if it pertains to your situation.

Summer Student Position for 2020.

The Heritage Committee has reported that there is funding available for a heritage summer student position.

The Township was asked to place notices on the University of Guelph and the Conestoga College websites.

The Heritage Committee noted that the Township does not require demolition permits for the demolition of barns. Applying for a permit allows MPAC to make the necessary changes to the taxes on the property.

Aberfoyle Farmers' Market

Looking for vendors

We are a local only, seasonal farmers' market located in a covered outdoor arena in the Optimist Recreation Centre, next to the Puslinch Community Centre and the Puslinch Library, only four minutes from the South end of Guelph.

We are open every Saturday from 8am-1pm from the last Saturday in May until the last Saturday in October. We have plenty of parking, wide aisles and a wonderful community of vendors.

We have three stall sizes available for Product Vendors at the following costs per date:

10' x 10' stall	x	\$23.00
14' x 10' stall	x	\$32.00

15' x 10' stall x \$34.00
10' x 10' Service Vendor Stall x \$43.00
10' x 10' Community Group Stall - FREE (pending availability)
Additionally, all vendors pay a one time registration fee per year of \$39.

For new vendors wishing to try the market for a single date, please contact the market manager at manager@afma.ca for a reduced registration fee. HST is applied to all fees.

We accept a wide variety of local farmers, prepared food vendors, service vendors, crafters and artisans. Local only please!

We typically do not allow reselling at our market. Items must be made/grown by you.

We also offer free stall space throughout the season to non-profit community groups and to buskers who are welcome to collect donations, sell cds and lessons while they play.

Check out the website at www.aberfoylemarket.ca



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Council Meetings (519) 763-1226
First Wednesday at 1 pm.
Third Wednesday at 7:00 pm.
Please check the Council Calendar at www.puslinch.ca as meetings may be subject to change.

Library Hours (519) 763-8026
Tuesday 10 am – 8 pm.
Wednesday 10 am - 8 pm.
Thursday 10 am – 8 pm.
Friday 10 am – 6 pm.
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm.

Optimist Recreation Centre Hours
Monday – Friday 9 am - 10 pm
Saturday 9 am - 10 pm
Sunday 9 am - 10 pm
Contact: 519-763-1226 or rentals@puslinch.ca

Historical Society Archives
Saturdays 12 noon - 3 pm
or for appointment email ardyne.farm@sympatico.ca or 519-822-8559

Waste Facility (519) 837-2601
Open Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 am - 4 pm. Located at 6922 Concession #4 between County Rd.#35 and Hanlon (Hwy #6)

Good leaders are...

By Jeff Neumann

As parents, we sometimes fall into the trap of telling our kids you can be anything you want to be.

High school and university graduation speeches are steeped in platitudes affirming to the gathered that their potential is limitless. Optimism abounds, and so it should.

But is it true? Can I be anything I want to be? Can I be tomorrow's leader? And what exactly is a leader?

Fear not, I will not pretend to espouse what a good leader is or isn't, as each of us will have a different opinion on the matter. Not all of us will be attracted to the same leadership style.

Ultimately, we each have the freedom to select who we choose to emulate and whose example we will follow. Is our preferred leader the vocal type

prone to shouting 'go team go'? Are they more inclined to lead by example and say come follow me? Does our preferred leader endeavour to be a leader?

Perhaps they are more inclined to be the accidental leader envisioned recently in the movie, *The Two Popes* when they paraphrased Plato: "the first requirement of a leader, is to not want to be a leader".

We will each have our preference, and they may all differ. If you doubt this to be true, google what is a good leader - you'll need to pack a lunch before descending into that rabbit hole and when you emerge, you may not have gained any clarity on the matter. There does not appear to be a consensus.

So much is made of the word leader that we have come to accept the word as synonymous with positive human attributes. To be considered a natural-born leader is accepted as a compliment. The corollary would be, that followers are somehow, less than.

After all, have you heard someone praised for being an exceptional fol-

lower? Yet, organizations such as sporting teams, corporations, administrations, or family businesses, require not only the vision and work ethic of a good leader but the willingness of the majority of us to make ourselves exceptional followers.

Allowing the word to have become a degradation, unfortunately, makes it difficult for us to embrace the title. Rather, we prefer to think of ourselves as leaders, and we prefer our kids to endeavour to be the same.

Why else does a team of six-year-olds have captains and assistant captains? Their peers did not choose them, the adults in the room did. The bookstore shelves are full of help instructing us on leadership skills.

Being a leader is a nice thought, and it would be great if we could all be one, but focusing on being one might be like longing for a goal without instituting a process.

There is no shame in learning to be a good follower... so long as we are following the right people. In the end, perhaps this is what good leaders are.

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Recycling program

Nestlé Waters Canada announced that Puslinch Council voted unanimously to begin the implementation of the innovative public-space recycling program designed by Reclay Steward Edge and Recycle Everywhere in all community locations.

"We are very pleased that Nestlé Waters Canada has brought such an innovative public-space recycling program with a proven track record of increasing recycling rates to Puslinch," said Puslinch Mayor, James Seeley.

"Nestlé Waters Canada is an outstanding community partner and recognized the need for improved recycling infrastructure in our local parks and Community Centre."

The program, which is responsible for a dramatic increase in the recovery rate in Manitoba, from 42 percent to roughly 69 percent, in a few short years, will kick off in mid-February with a site assessment and bin selection. The waste audit will be conducted

in June and a final report will be submitted to Council in September.

"We have seen the proven results of this program in smaller communities across Canada and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have here in Puslinch, where many of our employees, live, work and play," said Adam Graves, President of Nestlé Waters Canada.

"As a producer, we recognize the role we play in ensuring our products are consistently being recycled, and know that public spaces are traditionally a gap where more can be done to increase recovery rates. We are happy to be able to do our part in our community," said Graves.

Residents can expect to begin seeing new dual recycling bins in mid-April. The education campaign, which accompanies the bins, will roll-out in traditional and social media in early spring.

Once the program is complete, the Township of Puslinch will see the added benefit of these separated bins becoming part of the permanent recycling infrastructure in the community.

Message from Michael Chong

I would like to thank everyone who contacted me and encouraged me to seek the leadership of the Conservative Party.

I would also like to thank the many people who took the time to provide advice.

After several weeks of deliberating with supporters, friends and family, I have concluded that now is not the time for me to seek the leadership.

In the coming months, I will be following the leadership race closely. Conservatives need a leader that can unite a diverse group that includes social conservatives, social progressives, libertarians, les bleus and fiscal conservatives.

In addition to maintaining unity, the next leader must also broaden the party and appeal to a bigger group of voters.

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Remembering Ken Scott

By Kim Hussey

Ken Scott was an integral and vibrant neighbour, friend and truthfully, a historic icon. Ken, or known to many as Kenny, Scotty or the Legend, was a resident of the North Shore community on Puslinch Lake for 40 years.

On the North Shore of the lake where Kenny lived with Michelle and their two boys, Zach and Sam, there are approximately 30 homes.

Kenny was known as the sheriff on the street, patrolling the people coming and going to protect the neighbourhood. He was a pillar on the lake, an amazing storyteller and knew the history of the lake better than anyone.

His lake experiences made him a mentor to everyone including boaters, fellow water-skiers, neighbours or newcomers on just about anything related to our lake community.

Ken was the Community's very own personal Wikipedia and comic relief on all matters of the lake or the people who live on it.

Ken loved and protected his family and this was always evident right up until the fatal night that took his life on Townline Road.

On the evening of November 6th, after enjoying a family dinner, Ken ventured in his sons' vehicle to put snow tires on to keep them safe on the roads for the winter.

At approximately 7:00 pm, drunk driver, Jason Fach, drove impaired from the St. Louis Bar and Grill, crashed into a parked vehicle on Saginaw Parkway and then turned onto Townline Road, where he swerved into the northbound lane, striking Kenny's car.

It was reported that Fach's blood-alcohol level was almost three times over the legal limit.

On February 4th, 2020, Michelle, her family and friends went to court where Jason Fach was sentenced to six years in prison and an 11-year driving ban for the fatal crash that resulted in Michelle losing her soulmate, Zach and Sam losing their hero and the extensive loss to Kenny's family and friends.

Michelle McNally stood by her boys stoically in court during her victim impact statement and said "Our beautiful and solid family unit of four was shattered and forever changed. It all could have been prevented with one sound



decision - the decision NOT to drink and drive".

Losing Kenny so tragically has had a significant impact on our community.

The death of Kenny will be a constant and forever reminder that people are getting an Uber when they should, that licensed establishments are not taking their responsibility seriously and that terrible things happen to wonderful people.

Our Puslinch Lake Community mourns the senseless death of Kenny, and are wrapping his beautiful family up in our love and support moving forward, knowing the memories and presence of Ken Scott will live on.



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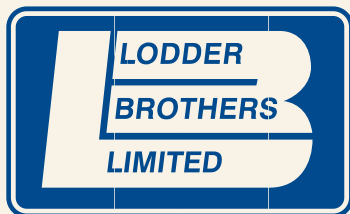
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In memoriam

James Calvin FitzGibbon



Passed away suddenly in the Bahamas on Tuesday January 21, 2020, at the age of 70.

Beloved husband of Linda. Loving father of Jamie (Casie), Amanda (Randy) and Nick (Tina). Cherished Papa Jim of Reese, Aubrie, Summer, Adelaide and Robyn. Jim will be missed by many extended family members and friends.

Jim was born and raised in Guelph where he worked as an elementary French teacher. He loved playing his guitar, motorcycle rides on his Ducati with his friends, cooking delicious meals and recently traveling with his wife.

He had been enjoying his retirement on their hobby farm in Puslinch where they have lived for over 40 years.

He was a truly classic character who put family above all else.

A memorial service was held for Jim at Gilbert MacIntyre and Son Funeral Home, Guelph, on Saturday, February 8th, 2020 at 11 a.m.

As expressions of sympathy, please no donations or flowers, but please focus your love and energy on the ones that mean the most to you and don't take your time together for granted.

Gerald Wayne Warner



January 18, 1946 – February 3, 2020

Morrison has lost one of its most iconic residents. It was a familiar sight to see Jerry walking one of his beloved dogs or scooting around the village on his skid steer or riding lawn mower.

His parents, Barney and Lil Warner, moved from Morrison to Mountsberg when Jerry was four, where the family farmed for over 50 years. Jerry returned to Morrison in mid 70's to raise his daughter Kelly. Jerry put in 37 years of dedicated service at Halton Conservation, where he made many life-long friends and was able to enjoy his passion of the outdoors, working with his hands and love of machinery. In his younger years, Jerry suffered the misfortune of a tractor rolling down an embankment and crushing him under it. He endured the pain caused by this accident daily.

Jerry loved animals. He and Kelly had

many pets over the years. He also fed the birds and other animals. More than anything he loved the company of a dog. His most recent companion dog, Diva, passed away in the late fall.

Upon retiring in 2001, he quickly became known as Morrison's "unofficial Mayor". His new role was to keep a loving eye of concern for neighbours old and new. He was always willing to lend a helping hand. We will miss his kindness. He became a common thread in the village, sharing information throughout the old village and new subdivisions. He kept us aware of people moving in and out, new construction, the opening of new businesses and the health and welfare of our neighbours. Morrison will never be the same, there is an emptiness that cannot be filled.

On January 3, Jerry suffered a stroke. Fortunately, he still had periods of awareness and was able to share some treasured moments with family and friends.

We know many were not able to visit due to the length of time he had to spend in ICU, or he was resting when you came. Be assured we passed along your messages. Eventually, it was determined that the long-term prognosis didn't look promising. Jerry had a short stay in Hospice Wellington where they provided a book where people could share their thoughts and memories. Please contact Cheryl McLean if you like to add a prepared note to it.

Jerry will remain in the hearts of Kelly and her husband Steve McIntyre and be dearly missed by family, friends and neighbours. Kelly would like to thank the staff at the Guelph General Hospital and Hospice Wellington for the compassionate care they gave her father.

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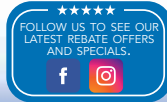
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Whistle Stop Cooperative Preschool

By Sandra Gunson RECE

Do you have a child between the ages of 2.5 and 5 years and would like to meet other children and parents in the area to form life long relationships?

Have you been considering a pre-school program for September 2020?

Did you know Puslinch Township has a Licensed Preschool that runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings in the Puslinch Community Centre?

Whistle Stop Co-op Preschool will be holding an Open House and Registration on Tuesday March 5th, from 4:30-7:30pm.

You are invited to come in and meet the teachers and see the space

set up for preschool. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and register for September 2020. (If you are unable to come at this time please feel free to call and book a tour)

Whistle Stop Preschool presents an opportunity for children to participate in a play-based learning program, which runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 - 11:30 at the Puslinch Community Centre.

We are fully licensed under the Ministry of Education, Child Care Division and provide 16 children ages 2.5 to 5 years with two Registered Early Childhood Educators each morning.

Our program gives children the opportunity to separate from parents (some for the first time) and explore the world around them through various activities set up each day.

It is our goal to have your child leaving our program feeling confident leaving their caregivers and interacting with

peers, as well as learning all about fun themes covered each week.

This month the Whistle Stop class is talking about polar animals, numbers, valentines and watching as the winter weathers changes. This is in addition to the regular activities which include counting, singing, painting, learning to recognize names, cutting, sitting for stories and circle time.

The staff at Whistle Stop aim to make your child's first school experience a happy and positive one for both you and your child.

Our program strives to expose children to learning experiences that will develop their natural curiosity and a love for learning.

Space is limited to 16 children per morning class.

For more information call Kristan at 519-240-5414 or visit our website www.whistlestoppreschool.com



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Attention all Grade 1 to 8 Students!!

By Maryann Hohenadel



Photo by Anna Earl

Do you like to grow things? Would you like to learn something new? Do you like to have fun outdoors? Would you like to grow what you eat? And, do you have access to a small plot of land in Puslinch?

If you find yourself agreeing, then the

Puslinch Junior Garden Club would be a great experience for you.

There are three meetings to attend where you will learn valuable gardening tips and techniques. All seeds and plants are provided, along with expert advice from the leaders.

In order to participate you require a garden plot either 100 sq feet or 160 sq feet depending on your age. It can be at home, a friend or relatives as long as it's in Puslinch Township.

In the fall, all the great things you grew can be entered into the Aberfoyle Fall Fair. There's even a scarecrow contest! We end the season with a family potluck in late September.

Registration for Junior Garden Club members will be at Maryann's home April 7th, 8th and 9th, 4407 Victoria Rd, Puslinch, anytime between 3pm and 8pm. Cost is only \$5 per child.

If this date is not possible, or you require any additional information please contact Maryann Hohenadel at 519-763-9849.

OUT AND ABOUT

Taste of Burlington

Taste of Burlington is committed to showcasing the best food and drink in Burlington year-round.

We also feature Burlington's finest restaurants during the Taste of Burlington prix-fixe dining program which runs in February/March each year as well as a summer program in August/September.

The Winter program runs to **March 8, 2020.**

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Puslinch Branch, Wellington County Library March Events

Let the Games Begin (Adults)

From cards to puzzles, checkers to word games, drop by the library for a friendly challenge. Please register. Tuesday, March 3, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Story Time (5 years and under)

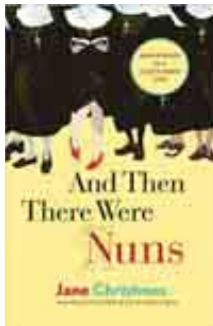
Our Story Times are designed to help your child get ready for reading. Share stories, songs, rhymes, and activities aimed at developing your child's early literacy skills. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate. Thursday, March 5, 12, 26, 11- 11:45 am

Dungeons and Dragons (Preteens)

Let the adventure begin! Join us at the library for a game of Dungeons and Dragons. No previous experience required. Please register. Thursday, March 5, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Friday Book Club (Adults)

Discussing *And Then There Were Nuns* by Jane Christmas. Please register. Friday, March 6, 1- 2:00 pm



Cricut Creations (Adults)

Learn to use a Cricut electronic cutting machine to create and embellish an Easter maker project. Machines are also available for in-branch use. Please register. Tuesday, March 10, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Scrabble Club (Adults)

Join us for an afternoon of casual word building entertainment! No experience necessary. Please register. Wednesday, March 11, 25, 2-4:00 pm

Ukulele Boot Camp (All Ages)

Learn the basics of playing a ukulele, plus try a song or two. Bring your own or play one of ours- we'll learn together. Uke can do it! Please register. Saturday, March 14, 11am - 12pm

March Break with Mr. J (All Ages)

Join Mr. J for a musical performance with interactive instruments and a bubble machine. This fun and family friendly event is sure to please everyone. Drop in. Tuesday, March 17, 10:30 - 11:30 am

Exploring the Past (Grades JK-6)

The past is full of hidden treasure! Discover the exciting truth of how we used to live. Join us to explore life in Pioneer days. Please register. Tuesday, March 17, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Red Cross Babysitting Course (Preteens)

This course offers basic first aid and caregiving skills for youth 11 - 15 years old. Participants learn how to provide care for children of all ages and how to prevent and respond to emergencies, including: managing difficult behaviour, baby care, and the business of babysitting. Presented by Emergency Health Services. Cost \$60.00 cash on the day. Please register. Wednesday, March 18, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Telling Tales (Grades JK-6)

If you love stories like we do, you'll know how much fun it is to play with ideas in words and pictures. Join us to tell your tale! Today we're authoring fractured fairytales! Please register.

Thursday, March 19, 11am-12 pm

Visit with a Veterinarian (All Ages)

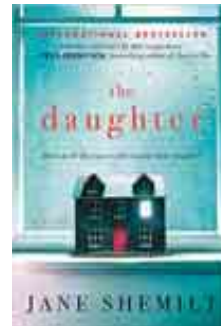
Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a veterinarian? Meet Dr. Noppakao and find out! Please register. Thursday, March 19, 2- 3:00 pm

Future Quest (Grades JK-6)

The countdown is on and the future awaits: 3, 2, 1, FUN! Our mission today is blasting off to space! Please register. Friday, March 20, 10:30-11:30 am

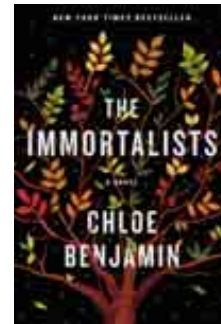
Tuesday Book Club (Adults)

Discussing *The Daughter* by Jane Shemilt. Please register. Tuesday, March 24, 1:30 - 2:30 pm



Thursday Book Club (Adults)

Discussing *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin. Please register. Thursday, March 26, 6:30 - 7:30 pm



Check out the list of new books at the library on page 15.

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NATURALLY SPEAKING

The Black Tupelo of Niagara

By Marion Robertson

Many thousands of years ago, glaciers carved out the Ontario landscape. Though most of us know gentle rolling hills to be glacial products, have you ever seen a slough forest?

As glaciers advanced, they plowed the land in many ways. Most common was the pushing of gigantic mounds of earth at the leading edge of a glacier – like a giant bulldozer. But a much less common movement was a raking of the land. Like parallel fingers gouging out earth.

It was these parallel troughs we were looking for in our search for the ancients. At the edges, we would find the ancient black tupelo. They inhabit the edges of these slough forests where there is a moist environment.

It was reported that these tupelo were 400 – 500 years old and the last remnant of ancient forest. We had investigated many locations only to find the tupelo gone or maybe on private property.

Last fall, we thought to investigate the Niagara area. In the fall, the black tupelo has the most stunning foliage – a rosy red colored leaf easily viewed on the forest floor. It was these coloured leaves we were hoping to find at the



Photo from Wikipedia

end of a long day of seed collection.

Once I saw the leaf I excitedly told Rick that tupelo were there.

We literally couldn't see the trees for the forest. They towered well above the existing oaks and maples. Only by stepping into a small clearing could I finally see the tupelos, standing tall, beautiful in their ragged way.

With age, as the tupelo break through the forest canopy, they are blasted by winds and storms and develop a broken, balding crown. Their bark showed the unique 'alligator' pattern of old, chunky bark followed by sections of smooth.

As I described the fruit, a purplish oblong berry, Rick opens up his hand and there were intact seeds. The next passage of time was a blur as we crawled on our hands and knees seeking out the seeds. Many hikers strolled by giving us sympathetic looks assuming we had lost car keys or something valuable.

We collected till the light quality started to fail. I couldn't stop smiling all the way home. Funny what makes people happy.

New books at the library

Fiction

East, Philippa
Kellerman, Jonathan

Kidd, Jess
King, Thomas
MacDonald, Andrew

McInnis, Sheri
Pooley, Clare

Preston & Child
Robb, J.D.
Rossiter, Nan

Little White Lies
The Museum of Desire
Things in Jars
Obsidian
When We Were Vikings
Framed
The Authenticity Project
Crooked River
Golden in Death
Promises of the Heart

Non-Fiction

Start Here: A Parents Guide to Helping Children and Teens through Mental Health Challenges by Pier Bryden

The Southern Comfort Food Diabetes Cookbook by Maya Feller

And Then We Grew Up: On Creativity, Potential and the imperfect art of Adulthood by Rachel Friedman

Willowdale: Yesterday's Farms, Today's Legacy by Scott Kennedy

Arguing with Zombies: Economics, Politics and the Fight for a Better Future By Paul R. Krugman

Natural Living Style: Inspirational Ideas for A Beautiful and Sustainable Home by Selina Lake

A Beginner's Guide to Rag Quilting by Christine Mann

Where Cooking Begins: Uncomplicated Recipes to Make You a Great Cook By Carla Lalli Music

For the Love of White: The White and Neutral Home by Chrissie Rucker

Navigating Life with Migraine and Other Headaches, by William B. Young

To learn more about library programs, visit www.wellington.ca/Library



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Cook's Corner

By Barbara Paterson

After a friend gave me a large bag of dates, I found this coffee cake recipe. It is very moist and has a wonderful crunchy oatmeal topping. Definitely something I will make again.



Date Oatmeal Coffee Cake

Cake

- 1¼ cups pitted dates
- 1¼ cups water
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup plain yoghurt or buttermilk
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1-1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. baking soda

Topping

- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- ½ cup quick-cooking oatmeal
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tbsp. melted butter or margarine
- 1 tbsp. water

1. In a saucepan, combine dates and water. Bring the liquid to a boil; reduce the heat to medium and simmer uncovered for 5 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Mash. Let cool while you prepare the topping and cake.
2. Make topping. In a small bowl, stir together brown sugar, oatmeal, flour, cinnamon, butter and water until crumbly.
3. In a large bowl beat sugar, eggs, vanilla, yoghurt and oil. In another bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, cinnamon and baking soda.

4. Pour the wet ingredients over the dry ingredients; stir the mixture just until it is combined. Pour it into a greased 9" springform pan. Dot the cooled date mixture on top. Sprinkle with topping.
5. Place the pan in the centre of the oven and bake for 50 to 55 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean. Let cool on a wire rack.

A hearty beef stew that's full of flavour.

Slow Cooker Beef and Vegetable Stew



- 2 lbs. stewing beef trimmed of fat and cut into 1" cubes
- 3 cups peeled and cubed potatoes
- 2 cups chopped carrots
- 1½ cups chopped onions
- 2 cups no-salt-added tomato sauce
- 1 can (10 oz. 284 ml) reduced sodium beef broth, undiluted
- 1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- 1 bay leaf
- 1¼ tsp. each dried marjoram and dried thyme
- 1 tsp. white sugar
- ½ tsp. each salt and pepper
- 1 tbsp. cornstarch
- ¼ cup minced fresh parsley

1. Combine all ingredients except cornstarch and parsley in a 3 quart or larger slow cooker. Cover and simmer on low setting for 8 hours.
2. Combine cornstarch with an equal amount of water and stir until lump-free. Add to stew and mix well. Cook for 1 more hour. Stir in parsley just before serving.

Note: If your slow cooker is very large, i.e. 5 or 6 quart, you may need to decrease the cooking time.

March Break Adventure Day Camps

There are still spots available for March Break Adventure Day Camps at the following GRCA nature centres: Apps' Mill (Brantford), Laurel Creek (Waterloo) and Shade's Mills (Cambridge). March Break camps at Guelph Lake Nature Centre are full.

Camps run from March 11 to 15 and activities may include snowshoeing, snow sculptures, animal tracking, feeding the chickadees, campfires and more.

Activities are adjusted to the weather, but children go outside daily to explore the fields and forests that surround the nature centres.

Campers' days are filled with nature-themed activities, outdoor play and time around a campfire.

The day camps run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Early drop-off and late pick-up options are available free of charge from 8:00 a.m., and up to 5 p.m.

These educational and fun-filled days are designed specifically for kids ages 6 to 11. The Grand River Conservation Authority is a member of the Ontario Camp Association, representing camps parents can trust.

Online registration is fast and easy at <http://grandriver.eventbrite.ca>. Visit www.grandriver.ca/naturecentres for details, or phone the nature centre to speak to staff.

HERITAGE MATTERS

Clarification

In February's issue of the *Pioneer*, the Heritage Matters column noted the number of "family farms" left in the Township.

The author was referring to the number of farms owned by families who still farm full-time, but there are many more farmsteads still owned by the descendants of settlers to Puslinch, who have off-farm jobs to supplement their income.

March break activities

By Anne Day



As I researched all that was available over March Break, I was amazed at the different options - from dance and pottery camps to Ace of Hoops Basketball camp and Ed Video camp, where kids learn how to make videos and all that this entails.

And then there's the one-day program offered by Safety Tree for 9-12 years to teach them to be home alone. Safety and awareness are the common themes in this program.

All information is current so it reflects what today's children are facing when home alone and the program is offered at several locations across Guelph.

Safety Tree has also been offering programs during the teachers' strike. To learn more, go to www.safetytrecanada.com

While the programs vary in terms of what is offered to your child, the price seems to be consistently around \$200/week, although some programs allow for day registration rather than signing up for the week.

If you have more than one child, this can start to get costly. The Guelph Y does offer some financial assistance for its programs, so you may want to check their offerings.

We've provided information on some of the programs, but to learn more about all that is available, we suggest you google March Break Guelph and you will be amazed too.

City of Guelph camps

Whether your camper seeks adventure, is an artist, or loves to stay active, they won't be disappointed.



City of Guelph camps offer rewarding experiences in a safe and fun environment.

Daily Discoveries (4 to 12 years)

Join us for the day or the entire week for games, crafts, sports, guest speakers and outdoor activities!

Registration can be customized to fit your schedule. Ages 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12 are separated for some activities like crafts and all ages are together for larger activities (swimming, group games).

West End Community Centre
\$41.41 daily - \$192.14 weekly
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Code: 229207

Museum Camp (4 to 8 years)

Engage and explore at Museum Camp. Bring your curiosity and sense of wonder as we join museum educators for fun activities.

Games, crafts, active outdoor time, and hands-on, in-depth exploration with the exhibits are all part of your week. Come join us as we discover, create and learn together.

Guelph Civic Museum
\$192.14 weekly
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Code: 229209

Pottery Camp (7 to 17 years)

This half-day pottery camp will be led by pottery staff. Campers aged 7-12 will be working strictly with hand building techniques, and the 13 to 17 year old will be introduced to the wheel also, to create their own pieces. Please dress for a mess.

Guelph Community Pottery Centre, 14 Edinburgh Road South

Ages 7 to 12 years
\$132.15 weekly
9:30 a.m. to noon
Code: 231944

Ages 13 to 17 years
\$132.15 weekly
1 to 3:30 p.m.
Code: 231945

Swim Camp (7 to 12 years)

Camp and swimming combined in one fun, active week. Every afternoon, we join in the public swim. When we aren't in the pool, we are playing games, making crafts and having a blast. A great choice for kids who love to swim.

Victoria Road Recreation Centre
\$192.14 weekly
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Code: 229208

Come for a day or for the whole week!

Royal Botanical Gardens' Discovery Day Camps are about fun, education and respect set in one of the most biologically diverse natural areas in Canada.

We provide hands-on, environmental-based programs that suit the ages, needs and interests of our participants.

These award-winning programs feature new activities and adventures every day through hikes, games, crafts, activities and daily explorations of ecologically significant nature sanctuaries covering over 1,000 hectares of fields and forests.

Our goal is to introduce your child to a lifetime of respect and appreciation for the natural world that sustains us all.

March 16 - 20, 2020

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nature Interpretive Centre

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. RBG Centre

Drop off from 8:30 - 9:00 a.m., pick up from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Extended care available from 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Age Groups

NATURE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

4 to 5 year-olds - Animal Adventurers

6 to 7 year-olds - Tree Trekkers

8 to 9 year-olds - Eco-Explorers

10 to 13 year-olds - Trailblazers

RBG CENTRE

4 to 5 year-olds - Rescue Rangers

6 to 7 year-olds - Ecosystem All-Stars

Fees

By the day: \$55 (Members: 5% off)

Full week: \$260 (Members: 5% off)

Extended care: \$10/day per child

To register, go to

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/march-break-discovery-day-camps-registration-86700321997#>

March 2020



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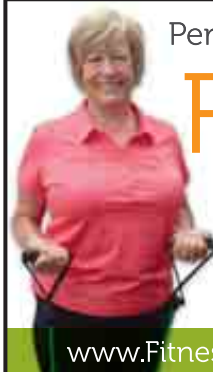
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Garden Club

Worth Digging Into

By Barbara Bulmer

Growing vegetables is like raising children; the soil environment, like the home environment, contributes to a healthy, secure start in life.

And as with caring for children, so it is with the care and attention one must give to the garden to produce healthy, mature plants.

Maryann Hohenadel is convenor and instructor at the Puslinch Garden Club which has age categories equivalent to grades one to eight, divided into Junior, Intermediate and Senior groups. The club has been active for nearly forty years. Maryann has been at its helm for the past 15 years.

Maryann's grandparents and parents were successful market gardeners and she carried on the tradition for sixteen years after she was married, so she knows a thing or two about growing, and marketing, vegetables.

Maryann prepares a kit for each young gardener. The kit outlines the subjects to be discussed at meetings, together with seeds and planting instructions.

It also explains how to exhibit at the Fall Fair, how to make a scarecrow, and how to involve parents, essential for the Juniors and Intermediates who will need help with the initial digging of the garden plot.

Maryann does not advocate the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Compost or well-rotted manure are best, and she teaches how to naturally



Photo from Maryann Hohenadel

control pests as was done by farmers many years ago.

Garden plot size for Junior gardeners is 10 x 10 feet, and they will grow potatoes, onions, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini and sunflowers.

Intermediate and Senior garden plots increase in size to 10 x 16 feet and in addition to the above list for Juniors they will add carrots, beets and corn.

The young gardeners earn points for achievement throughout the growing season, including for exhibiting at the Puslinch Agricultural Society Fall Fair, and for helping to create a Garden Club float for the Santa Claus Parade. It all

wraps up with a banquet.

Maryann says she is willing to help each gardener any way she can to ensure success for each member.

She visits each garden twice during the growing season to monitor progress, give advice and provide the young gardener with a "report card".

When asked what was her overall goal of the Garden Club, Maryann said she hoped the participants would continue to garden, making it a life-long activity. "It's a wonderful experience to learn to plan, to grow, to harvest and to eat fresh vegetables straight from the garden. The taste-difference of naturally-grown freshly-picked veggies will surprise you!"

In addition to the satisfaction of growing the vegetables you like, grown as they should be without chemicals, gardeners say that working with one's hands in the soil leaves the mind free for thought and meditation.

And in this age of fears and instability that may be a value greater than the material produced. It also has the potential to add to family income, and it's a skill upon which you can rely for a healthy diet.

Enrolment in this year's Garden Club starts now and the program begins in the 2nd week of May. Meetings are Wednesday evenings at 6:45 p.m. at 4407 Victoria Rd. S. Telephone: 519-763-9849.

The Bahá'í Faith

Bahá'u'lláh sets forth a new principle for this day in the announcement that religion must be the cause of unity, harmony and agreement among mankind. If it is the cause of discord and hostility, if it leads to separation and creates conflict, the absence of religion would be preferable in the world.

Bahaisofpuslinch.ca



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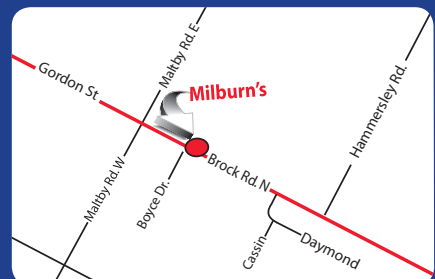
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What you need to know in the case of an emergency

By Paul Spearman

Every second counts in an emergency. Please ensure each member of your household knows how to call 911 in the safest and most efficient way possible.

When calling 911 for any emergency within the Township of Puslinch, you must state

- the full municipal address which would include Puslinch Township at the end of it. An example of this would be: 20 Lake Avenue, Puslinch Township.
- Know the street type you live on and state it clearly in the address. Examples of these are; Road, Line, Avenue and Crescent.
- Also, know the direction of the street if stated in the address. An example of this would be 2184 Side Road 25 South.

- Determine the nearest crossroads that your address lies between on your road.
- By using the Puslinch Fire Hall at 7404 Wellington Road 34, Puslinch Township as an example, it lies between Brock Road South and Concession Road 7.
- When calling 911, the operator will ask you what emergency service you require, Police, Fire, or EMS (Ambulance).
- Be prepared to describe the nature of your emergency and ask for what service you require.
- If you live within the area of the township that the Cambridge Fire Department is contracted to respond to, ask specifically for the Cambridge Fire Department.

This will save time transferring your call between dispatching centres. The Cambridge Fire Department is contracted to respond to emergencies on the West side of Puslinch Township.

This response area includes all properties in the Township of Puslinch that are south of the 401; North of Gore Road; East of Townline Road and West of Side Road 10 South.

Following the above instructions will help to ensure a quick response to your home in case of an emergency.

If you have any questions about this or any safety related topic, please email Paul at pspearman@puslinch.ca or call 519-763-1226 Ext 304.

Managing trees workshop

The Grand River Conservation Authority is hosting a Managing Trees Workshop in Cambridge on March 7.

The workshop will answer questions landowners may have about trees and help develop skills and strategies to maintain and improve their trees.

This free, day-long event is geared toward rural landowners with properties larger than 2.5 acres. A broad range of topics will cover planting, pruning, common tree diseases, invasive species, hazard trees, forest health, grant opportunities and supporting wildlife habitat.

The workshop will take place on Saturday, March 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the GRCA Head Office (400 Clyde Road, Cambridge) and includes a walk through a hardwood forest, weather permitting.

Landowners with properties greater than five acres may be eligible for funding for tree planting or wetland creation projects. Priority is given to areas directly adjacent to watercourses.

Participation is free and lunch is included.

To register visit <http://managing-trees2020.eventbrite.ca>, email rural-water@grandriver.ca, or call 519-621-2763 x 2278.

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Mill Creek Rangers kept working despite the spill

By Dave Rodgers

The most memorable part for me was the time spent in the creek knowing that together we are doing meaningful work and making a difference. To have an opportunity like the Mill Creek Stewardship Rangers which incorporates not only hard work but also education and community involvement has been a blessing. Emily Silk - 2019 Mill Creek Ranger

In 2019, the Friends of Mill Creek (FOMC) again put out a Ranger crew to maintain and improve Puslinch's principal cold water stream and provide a home for trout, dace and other cold-water species.

Mill Creek is a groundwater-fed stream which arises in the eastern uplands of the Township and winds for more than 30km to its junction with the Grand River in Cambridge.

Due to ongoing cleanup and remediation efforts following a fuel spill at the junction of Highways 6 and 401 adjacent to Mill Creek, the Rangers' in-stream work was restricted to areas above the spill.

This year's crew consisted of four high school students: Emily Silk of Puslinch, Lindsay Worden of Guelph, Avery Jenks of Elora and Adam Walmsley of Guelph, with university student Ben Carbell of Dundas returning as the crew leader. Robert Messier and Crystal Allan of the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) provided supervision and technical guidance.

After the GRCA's initial Health and Safety Orientation and First Aid awareness training, the Rangers donned their waders and set to work on the section of Mill Creek and its tributaries between the Hanlon and Brock

roads. Stream rehabilitation starts with a visual assessment to determine potential problem areas where there are indications of unnatural processes such as disproportionate silt buildup, excessive bank erosion and stream fragmentation.

The Rangers then removed wood and other debris blocking the stream and used these materials to re-configure the stream to a more natural channel.

At Shade's Mills Conservation Area, the Rangers crew re-mulched approximately 340 metres of streamside trails. Fresh mulch provides both higher water retention and an insulated layer that moderates temperature of the earth underneath. It also makes walking easier and reduces off trail degradation.

The crew also planted 35 native trees (White Cedar, Tamarack, White Birch, and Silver Maple) along a stretch of Mill Creek, where the bankside vegetation was deficient, leaving it susceptible to erosion. The trees were donated by Wellington County's Brad Whitcombe Green Legacy Tree Nursery and the Rangers then returned the favour by working in the nursery the following day.

Educational and enrichment activities started with a streamside lecture on the history and characteristics of Mill Creek by Jack Imhof of Trout Unlimited Canada.

The Rangers then visited Dufferin Aggregates "Mill Creek Pit" in Puslinch where Ron Van Ooteghem provided a tour and overview of the regulatory and technical workings associated with running an active mining operation.

The Dufferin visit was followed by a trip to a retired CMB pit where Steve May explained that CBM integrated a trout aquaculture operation to the pit rehabilitation as the nutrients added from the fish waste promote plant growth and facilitate restoration.

In only 12 years, the controlled release of nutrients combined with bankside tree planting and aquatic plant seeding allowed the pond to self-regulate to the extent that the remediated pond shows little evidence of past activity. The Ranger Program also included trips to the University



Photo from GRCA

of Guelph's Hagen Aqua Labs and the Nestlé Water Plant.

At the end of the summer, the Rangers were introduced to electrofishing, in which a weak direct electric current is used to attract and temporarily immobilize fish for sampling, after which the fish are returned unharmed to the stream.

The Rangers then worked to sample a fetch of Mill Creek running through the Puslinch Community Centre. They collected five species of fish: white sucker, creek chub, rainbow darter, western blacknose dace and brown trout, the largest of which was 26.5 cm long.

Planning for next year's program for Mill Creek is already underway. Applications for 2020 positions for Rangers and Crew leader will soon be posted on the GRCA and FOMC websites.

"The Friends of Mill Creek is a volunteer, community-based organization with the mission of maintaining and enhancing Mill Creek as a cold-water stream." We welcome anyone who shares our passion for protecting this precious resource and helping to transferring our passion to the next generation.

The Ranger program is supported through generous donations of funds, time, gear and access from local community members, businesses, landowners and organizations.

The FOMC acknowledges and thanks our partners who contribute their time, money, expertise and equipment to help us achieve our goals. For more information and to add your support please visit our website <http://www.friendsofmillcreek.org/>.



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Kick the winter blues with summer knits

By Genny Ribalko

With the winter in full swing. It's easy to feel like the snow will be here for months and the cold temperatures will hang around.

It's also the perfect time to start thinking and planning for those summer projects. Many often think that knitting is mostly for fall and winter knits. But, in fact, there are many beautiful knit garments for spring and summer.

Search "summer knits" on Ravelry and a cavalcade of patterns will come up in the search. Shawls, tank tops, dresses and skirts to name just a few. Last summer I made some beautiful pieces.

I made a cotton tank top for myself,

and I have to say it got lots of wear, especially in the warm, summer days. Summer girls' dresses and kids tops made from cotton, bamboo, or a viscose blend make for light, flowy and comfortable pieces.

For my daughter I made several beautiful dresses that she loves to wear. They're light and keep her cool but can easily be layered in colder months.



Many brands make beautiful, bright and colourful mercerized cotton yarn easily available at Lens Mills, Michaels,



or boutiques such as All Strung out in Guelph or Galt House of Yarn in Cambridge.

It's the perfect way to kick those winter blues and add some colour as we eagerly await the arrival of warmer days and plenty of sun!

Personally, I do opt to use fine needles for these projects opting to work with 3mm to 3.75mm on the largest scale. I find that the smaller gauge achieves a very pleasant consistency to the finished pieces.

So, while we wait for the cold weather to pass, pick up some brightly coloured yarn and start on a spring/summer project to kick to winter blues.

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HALF BAKED

Still using an alarm clock?

By Merri Macartney

Like most, for many years I set an alarm clock when heading off to bed. With an hour commute, it was necessary to get on the road on time and sleeping-in was a recipe for disaster.

Perhaps you were one of the fortunate ones who never needed an alarm clock. You simply woke up when you were done sleeping, probably with a ready smile on your lips.

Not so for many. It has been said that more heart attacks occur first thing Monday morning when people were startled into waking, to head to jobs they didn't like, with people they didn't like.

I loved my job – a high school teacher – and I liked the people I worked with. However, I did not like the alarm clock.

Retirement means no alarm clocks. No need to set it on a regular basis; only need to set it when necessary. Maybe to get up early to catch a plane. Or perhaps you are going to visit friends with whom you'll share all manner of fun.

For that I have no issue. I am known for being a morning person – actually I am an anytime person if there is something exciting going on. I sure don't want to miss out.

It was always easy for me to be up-and-at-it pre-dawn when my hubby and I were hauling anchor to sail to new shores.

But lately I am having not so cheerful morning awakenings. I have a new alarm clock. It came about rather subtly so I am not really sure how it all started. Now it has become extremely annoying...especially at 4:00 am. I have tried many times to reset it, but I am having no success at all.

I did not know that cats could tell time. Did you? Mine does. He knows when it is 4:00 am within a minute or two. And he doesn't wear a watch.

March 2020

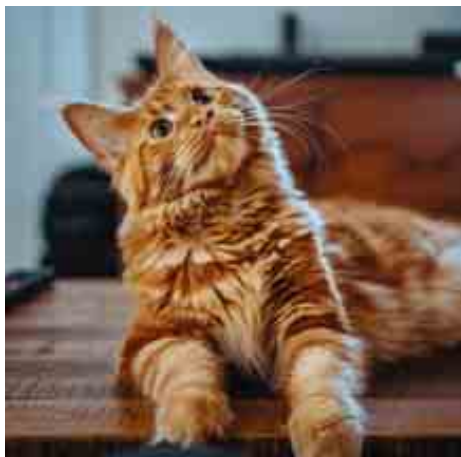


photo from Unsplash

He began by tapping on the electrical cords that run down from the tv that hangs on the wall. He would tap, tap like he was sending out Morse Code that said, "I'm awake now! Feed me! I'm bored!"

So, I did what any sane person would do. I bought that green painters' tape that peels off walls without removing the paint. It looks like green snakes slithering down my wall. Seems to work but totally messes with any sense of décor I was trying to set for myself.

You probably know that cats are smart. Deciding that the green tape takes those cords out of commission, he turned his attention to the coil of cable that was snugly hidden – or so I thought – under the cedar chest.

If you can imagine, he stretches his paw through the opening under the chest and pulls out the coil. Green tape to the rescue.

Did I say that many months ago, he chewed through the electrical cord of my bedside lamp? Wonder he wasn't electrocuted! More green tape for the new lamps.

But he is always one step ahead of me. I hadn't "cat proofed" the whole room. Very early the other morning (you know it was around 4:00 am don't you?) I awoke to find him on one of my dressers with my jewelry box teetering on the edge. I was thankful I woke up in time.

But not really thankful, if you know what I mean. Got any ideas on how to reset a 'cat alarm'?

Merri Macartney is a speaker, author, and coach www.merrimacartney.com

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ASK THE EXPERT

A Spring Patio Planter

By Elizabeth Steggles

Question: In early spring I am anxious to have a flower container by front door. Can you give me some ideas please?

Here's an idea for about the time of the thaw and before the garden has woken from its winter sleep. It takes advantage of plants that will survive the odd frost.

- Choose a container that has drainage holes and is at least 14" high and wide.
- It must be clean and preferably sterilized with a 10 percent bleach solution and then thoroughly rinsed.
- Before filling the container with a good quality potting medium such as Miracle Gro Potting Mix, it is wise to cover the drainage holes with something that allows water to drain without washing away the potting medium e.g. ceramic pieces or wire mesh.
- After planting, the medium should be about 1" below the top of the container to allow for watering.

All the plants suggested prefer rich, consistently moist, well drained, sun to part shade conditions.

All will grow in this zone 5 location and can withstand some frost but it is wise to harden off any that have come from a garden centre.

There is a mix of perennial, annual, herbaceous and shrub plants with a variety of textures and heights. The colours suggested are analogous, warm shades of red, yellow and orange.

The plants suggested are:

Cornus sericea 'Cardinal' Red twig dogwood is grown in many gardens so, if you don't have any, ask a friend or neighbour if you may cut some 3 - 4'



twigs that are bright red in colour.

Push these into the middle of the container to provide height. An added bonus is that they will almost certainly take root and provide you with a new shrub that will look stunning all winter against white snow.

Salix discolor Pussy willow. Another potential, easy-to-find, "freebie" is pussy willow that may be cut when it has its familiar furry male catkins. They are also often available at farmers' markets or florists.

Cut these slightly shorter than the

dogwood and place them around it. The texture and silver/grey colour of the male catkins will enhance the red of the dogwood and provide a foil for the other, more colourful plants.

Narcissus, Daffodil. Daffodils provide the "thriller" of this arrangement. Bulbs can be forced at home over the winter but easily purchased in a pot from a garden centre just before they flower.

Plant the daffodils around the twigs at the same height they were in the pots.

Viola x wittrockiana, Pansies are treated as annuals in zone 5 and are cheap to buy. For analogous warm colours, use shades of yellow and orange.

The pansies will act as a "filler" in the design.

Vinca minor Common Periwinkle is evergreen in zone 4 - 8. It is plentiful in many gardens so dig up a few clumps to provide the "spiller" that softens the edge of your pot.

It is, however, invasive in Southern Ontario so destroy the plant after use.

As the container is only supposed to last a few weeks, maintenance is minimal. I hope you enjoy the early spring colour.



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Pasta dinner big success

By Celia Clark

The Rotary Club of Guelph South's 18th Annual Pasta Dinner was another resounding success.

This fun evening has become something of a tradition for many of the attendees and more than 200 people showed up in spite of the bitter cold on Valentine's Day.

The food was delicious, the silent auction items were many and varied, the results of the 50/50 draw were eagerly awaited and everyone enjoyed Peter Bauman's accordion playing.

One unusual tradition at this event is that every child receives a free raffle ticket and every child wins a prize. The room was buzzing with lively conversation and as friends reconnected and enjoyed the convivial atmosphere.

Recently elected Town Councillor for Puslinch, Sara Bailey, and her daughter Bronte de Vries eloquently shared their experiences with Sunrise Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre (the primary beneficiary of the money raised).

Our grateful thanks to all who showed up and helped us raise approximately \$10,000 (final figures not in yet) for Sunrise and other Rotary-supported projects.

Email celia@digitalfrog.com if you would like more information about the Rotary Club of Guelph South, Sunrise Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre or would like to be informed when tickets become available for the 19th Annual Pasta Dinner next February.

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Community Events

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AFTERNOON OUT

Wednesday, **March 11th and 25th** at 2pm. Arkell United Church, 600 Arkell Road, Arkell. Cards, Sweets and More. Contact Ross at 519-822-6063.

ANNUAL IRISH STEW DINNER

Saturday, **March 14th** - Come and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a delicious home cooked IRISH STEW! Held at Freelon United Church, 155 Freelon Rd. at Douglas St. in Freelon. 2 sittings; 5:00 pm. or 6:30 pm. Adults \$18, children under 12 yrs. \$6. For tickets, call 905-659-3033.

BADENOCH MUSIC NIGHTS

First Friday of each month, **March 6th** at the Badenoch Community Centre, 4217 Watson Rd S. Puslinch.

BIBLE STUDY

In depth Bible Study led by Rev. Bob LaChance, 519-721-3422. Continuing the study of the Book of Romans. Phone Lynn Lodge, 519-822-4809 for location. Wednesdays **March 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th**, starting with refreshments at 9:30am followed by Devotions at 10:00am, then Bible Study until 11:30am.

BIBLE STUDY

Every Monday at 11am at Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line (just north of Brookville). For anyone who wants to study the Bible, whether you are familiar with it or not. All Welcome! For inquiries please Contact Carolin MacMillan at carolin.macmillan@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, **March 18th** 7.00-8.30pm at Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line, just north of Brookville. Reading for Enjoyment - All Welcome! For more information send email to carolin.macmillan@gmail.com.

BRIDGE SOCIAL

Wednesday, **March 11th and 25th**, 12.30pm at Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line, just north of Brookville. Friendly Bridge games every other Wednesdays in our hospitality room. For more information call church office at 905-854-2423.

CHILI DINNER

Friday, **March 27th**, sittings 5pm and 6pm. Adults \$15, Children 5-12 yrs, \$7, under 5, free. Phone 519-821-7623 for tickets or pay at the door. Followed at 7-9pm by Musical Hootenanny. Sign up for your time in the spotlight or just sit and enjoy. Arkell United Church, 600 Arkell Rd. Arkell.

COMMUNITY MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, **March 7th** from 8 to 9 am at Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line just north of Brookville. Come and meet other men in our community. Info: MaryLou at 519-853-4399.

DUFF'S LUNCH & LEARN

Wednesday **March 11th** at 11am, meet Charlie Barnes triathlete who started running after retirement. He's raised over \$100,000 for juvenile diabetes. Followed by soup lunch. Contact Karen if you have questions 519-820-8114 or karenharding349@outlook.com.

DUFF'S MOVIE AFTERNOON

Wednesday, **March 25th** at 1:30pm "Resurrection" based on a story by Max Lucado.

FITNESS CLASS

Puslinch Fitness, join us on Monday nights at Duff's church at 7:30pm.

for an hour of fun and sweat. Lead by certified Instructor Cassie, class includes a variety of programs. First class is free, \$5/class. Please bring your own equipment if possible, extras are available. Contact Sarah at smainguy@nseenvironmental.com or Karen at karenharding349@outlook.com.

FREE EXERCISE CLASSES FOR 55+

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 - 10:30am at Duff's Church. The Victoria Order of Nurses offers a free exercise class for individuals 55+ who want to maintain their health and independence. The class focuses on aerobic endurance, balance, flexibility and strength.

FREE COMMUNITY EXERCISE AND FALLS PREVENTION CLASSES 55+

Every Monday and Thursday from 9.15-11.30am at Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line (just north of Brookville) (By Lifemark Health Group). 905-854-2423.

FREELTON WHEEL OF FITNESS

Freelton Wheel of Fitness now on **Mondays and Thursdays** 10 am to 11 am at Freelon United Church, 155 Freelon Road, Freelon. Sponsored by STEPS Company, Flamborough Information & Community Services. Free ongoing event.

GUELPH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Canada Blooms/National Home Show Bus Trip Friday, **March 13th**. Please visit www.guelphhort.org for details and registration information.

GUELPH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Annual Potluck and Society Awards Tuesday, **March 24th** at 6:30pm. Dublin Street United Church, 68 Suffolk Street West, Guelph. Guest Speaker: Trish Symons - Magical Moments in the Garden. New members are welcome. www.guelphhort.org.

PICKLEBALL

Every Monday (except statutory holidays), Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-3:30pm, Optimist Recreation Centre (gym) Brock Rd., \$2.00 per session. Everyone welcome. Further information: June 519-763-0309 or Lois 519-831-4052.

SENIORS' LUNCH

Tuesday, **March 17th** at noon at Arkell United Church, 600 Arkell Road, Arkell. An afternoon of food, music, cards and fellowship. Wear green for St. Patrick's Day. Contact the church at 519-821-7623.

SENIORS' POTLUCK LUNCH

Wednesday, **April 1st** at 11:30 am. at the Community Centre in Aberfoyle. Sponsored by Mount Carmel-Zion United Church. Reservations appreciated. Please call @ Mary Beth Sutton 519-822-6211 or email janetc@sentex.net — Everyone Welcome. Bring a friend. Entertainment to be determined.

SENIORS' SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH

Tuesday, **March 24th** at noon sharp at Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line just north of Brookville. Come for a bowl or 2 of tasty home made soup, sandwiches, cards and games. For more info please leave message 905-854-2423.

SQUARE DANCING ALL AGES

For both experienced dancers and beginners at Duff's Church on Saturday, **March 14th and April 18th**. Cost is \$10/person. Lessons offered 7-7:30pm, Dance 7:30-10pm and Potluck Lunch 10pm. Caller is Bill Hands and he is fantastic. For more information contact sullivanpgs@gmail.com.

SUNRISE LESSON VOLUNTEERS

Lead a horse or sidewalk (alongside horse and rider) in group lessons taught by certified instructors. Weekday, evening and Saturday volunteers needed. 1.5 hours per week. Must be 15+, training provided. Volunteer Application Forms are available at www.sunrise-therapeutic.ca or contact Fiona at 519-837-0558 x35. Call now to register for our next training clinic.

SUNRISE LIFE SKILLS DAY PROGRAM

Limited spaces now available in Sunrise's ongoing day program for adults with disabilities. Clients attend 1+ days a week, and participate in horse care, horticulture and a wide range of social and seasonal activities. Potential participants are welcome to join us for a day to check it out! www.sunrise-therapeutic.ca or 519-763-5517.

SUNRISE LIT PROGRAM

Applications are now being accepted for Sunrise's Summer Leader-in-Training Program for teens age 13-16. Gain valuable leadership and volunteer experience in a fun, supportive environment. 2-week sessions are available in July and August (with pre-camp training in June). www.sunrise-therapeutic.ca or call 519-837-0558 x23.

March 2020

SUNRISE "LITTLE BREECHES" CLUB

Fun, safe introduction to horses for ages 4-7, with or without special needs. \$130 for a set of 5 visits: **April 4th, 18th, 25th, Sunday May 3rd (riding day!) and May 9th**. Choice of 9:30-11:30am or 12:30-2:30am. ON-LINE REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 21th. www.sunrise-therapeutic.ca or 519-837-0558 x23.

TECH TUESDAY FOR SENIORS

At Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Road, Strabane. Join us 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 2:00 pm. and enjoy some fellowship, learn how to navigate new technologies and devices (iPads, Tablets, Laptops, Cell phones) and have access to the internet.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Br. 272

26 Schofield Street, Cambridge (Hespeler) the Legion Ladies Auxiliary are hosting Friday Night Dinners **March 6th, 20th and 27th**. All dinners are \$15.00 and include potatoes, vegetables and salad, tea & coffee and desserts.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Br. 234

57 Watson Parkway S, Guelph is hosting Sunday, **March 15th** - Roast Beef dinner cost \$18 pp. Doors open at 3:30pm and dinner will be served at 5pm. Tickets are available during business hours in the Lounge Bar or the day of the dinner.

YOUTH DROP-IN NIGHT

Friday, **March 6th and 20th** 7-9 p.m at Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line (Just north of Brookville) All youth Grade 7 and up are welcome for an evening of food, fun and games and just to hang-out. 905-854-2423.

Community Announcements

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GUELPH

Learn to be a kid again! Volunteer mentors needed for local children. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph has five programs with varying levels of time commitment. Have a one-to-one friendship or assist with a group of children on the waiting list.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph at (519) 824-5154, email info@bbbsg.ca or visit us online at www.bbbsg.ca.

BOOKING AGENT FOR ARKELL UNITED CHURCH

Contact Melanie Hardie at (519) 823-3390 or email melabj@rogers.com.

BOOKING AGENT FOR THE BADENOCH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Inquiries call 519-822-5232.

BOOKING AGENT FOR DUFF'S CHURCH

Contact Jules Ganning at 226-821-2002 or email duffschurchrental@gmail.com.

BOOKING AGENT FOR EBENEZER UNITED CHURCH

Contact David Wheeler (416) 569-4834 or david@wheelerburns.ca.

BOOKING AGENT FOR FREELTON UNITED CHURCH

Contact Ray McConachie at 905-659-3033 or email rayjo1819@hotmail.ca

BOOKING AGENT FOR THE OPTIMIST RECREATION CENTRE AND PUSLINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Call (519) 763-1226 or email rentals@puslinch.ca

CROWN CEMETERY PUSLINCH

Crown Cemetery Puslinch is located north of Morriston at Brock Road and Highway 401. It is a non-profit cemetery operated by a volunteer board of managers and a secretary/treasurer. We welcome all denominations for burials. For more information please visit our website at www.crowncemetery.ca or contact Darlene Harrietha at (519) 822-0874 or email darleneharrietha@gmail.com.

DUFF'S PARISH NURSE

Reaching out to all of the community of Puslinch through shared faith and caring to promote healing of body, mind and spirit. Don't understand what your doctor tells you? Have questions about medications or preparing for surgery or tests? Or maybe you just need someone to talk to about a stressful situation.

If you have questions please call Karen Harding Reg. Nurse at (519) 763-1163 (church) or to contact by text, email or calling 519-820-8114 or karenharding349@outlook.com. All calls are confidential.

THE FRIENDS OF MILL CREEK

Meet at the Puslinch Community Centre at 3:30 pm. on the third Wednesday of every month (except August). We encourage anyone who can spare a few hours, and shares our

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passion for protecting this precious resource for future generations and in helping to develop the next generation of conservationists to attend and join us. For more information please visit the Friends of Mill Creek website <http://www.friendsofmillcreek.org>.

THE MILL CREEK SUBWATERSHED COMMUNITY LIAISON TEAM

Holds its monthly meetings the second last Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM at the Community Centre in Aberfoyle. The public is invited.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF PUSLINCH

Is one of the most active clubs in the township. Our focus is youth. We meet on the 2nd (general meeting) and 4th (dinner meeting) Tuesday of each month.

If you wish to become a member, please call our secretary, Doug Hoogendoorn 519-240-8825, or Ken Williams 519-763-0309 or any Optimist member.

OPP.

If you have a concern about a police matter, please phone 1-888-310-1122 and request to meet an OPP officer at the Puslinch Township office.

PARENT-CHILD PLACE

Is a free drop-in program for parents and caregivers with children birth to 6 years. The program runs Tuesday mornings at the Puslinch Community

Centre from 9:30-11:30 and includes free play, snack, art activities and circle time.

If school buses are cancelled due to inclement weather the community centre is also closed and the program doesn't run. The program runs September to June and does not run in July and August.

PUSLINCH FIDDLE GROUP

Meets the 3rd Sunday of each month (except July, August and December) at Duff's Church, Nanson Hall, from 1 - 4 pm. Come out and bring your fiddle, guitar, etc. and join in some good old fiddle music. For more information, please call Paul McDonald (519)763-9764. Please remember the theme is "OLD TIME COUNTRY FIDDLE."

PUSLINCH LOAN CUPBOARD HOME HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT SERVICE

is located in Duff's Presbyterian Church.

For assistance call:

Gary Will (519) 763-3958
Fred Law (519) 767-2462
Dianne Hersey (519) 824-6304
Carolyn Vandenheuvel (226) 962-1173

THE ROTARY CLUB OF GUELPH SOUTH

Meets every Thursday for breakfast at the Springfield Golf and Country Club, 2054 Gordon Street,

Guelph at 7:30 am. Check out www.rotary7080.org/guelphsouth for more information. Contact Celia Clark for membership inquiries: (519-766-1097)

METAL RECYCLING BIN - SUNRISE FARM (6920 Conc. 1, Puslinch)

Drop off 'unwanted' metals, e.g. stainless steel, aluminum, copper, tin cans, wire, metal rods, fencing etc. in the 'Gerdau Ameristeel' recycling bin situated in our parking lot. We appreciate your support. For more info, contact Lynne O'Brien Sunrise (519) 837-0558 x31.

Market Place

INDOOR GARAGE SALE

Saturday and Sunday **March 28th and 29th** 8am-4pm at Badenoch Community Centre, 4217 Watson Rd S. Puslinch. Something for everyone.

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The Back Page



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