

NorthSimcoe

.life

August/September 2021



WE ARE COMMUNITY
www.NorthSimcoe.life

photo by Deb Halbot

HOPE

IS ON THE HORIZON

Gala Going Ahead

—submitted

The postponed 2020 Gala is going ahead! The new date is Saturday, September 11 at Tailwinds Bar & Grill by the beautiful shores of Lake St. John.

Join us for an enchanting evening, stepping back in time to the days of big bands, red lipstick and cutting-edge aviation! Guests are encouraged to embrace the theme:

1940's Aviation, and dress to match! Prizes will be given to the best costumed guests!

Chef Stephen Jackson is planning a delicious menu to reflect the era including signature cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

We will enjoy live jazz all evening by The Adam Saunders Band so you can dance the night away under the stars.

Our Inspirational speaker is: Retired General Thomas Lawson, former head of Defense and NORAD and CAF Pilot.

We will hear and see a short video on the progress at The Lighthouse Community Services and Supportive Housing since welcoming in our participants in August. Learn more about the many ways The Lighthouse supports the homeless, hurt and hungry in North Simcoe.

Tickets are \$150 each with \$75 tax receipt. Full refund/



half refund or full donation receipt will be given if the event is cancelled due to pandemic protocols changing. WIN! WIN! You get full control of your donation, and The Lighthouse still benefits. (Full health and safety measures will be followed at this closed to the public event). TICKETS ARE LIMITED SO GET YOURS EARLY!

We will have two tables of Veterans as guests to enjoy a tribute to their service to Canada during WW2 and other peace efforts.

Sponsors: Tailwinds Bar & Grill, Campus Living Centers, Brechin Severn Timbermart, W.S. Morgan Construction Ltd., Audia Hearing Aid Centre, O.C. Emporium, Summerfield Electric, Jack Latimer, Glenn &

Kristy Wagner, Brent Thomas, Adam Saunders Band, Thomas Lawson.

Go to www.orillialighthouse.ca Events Page to purchase your tickets!

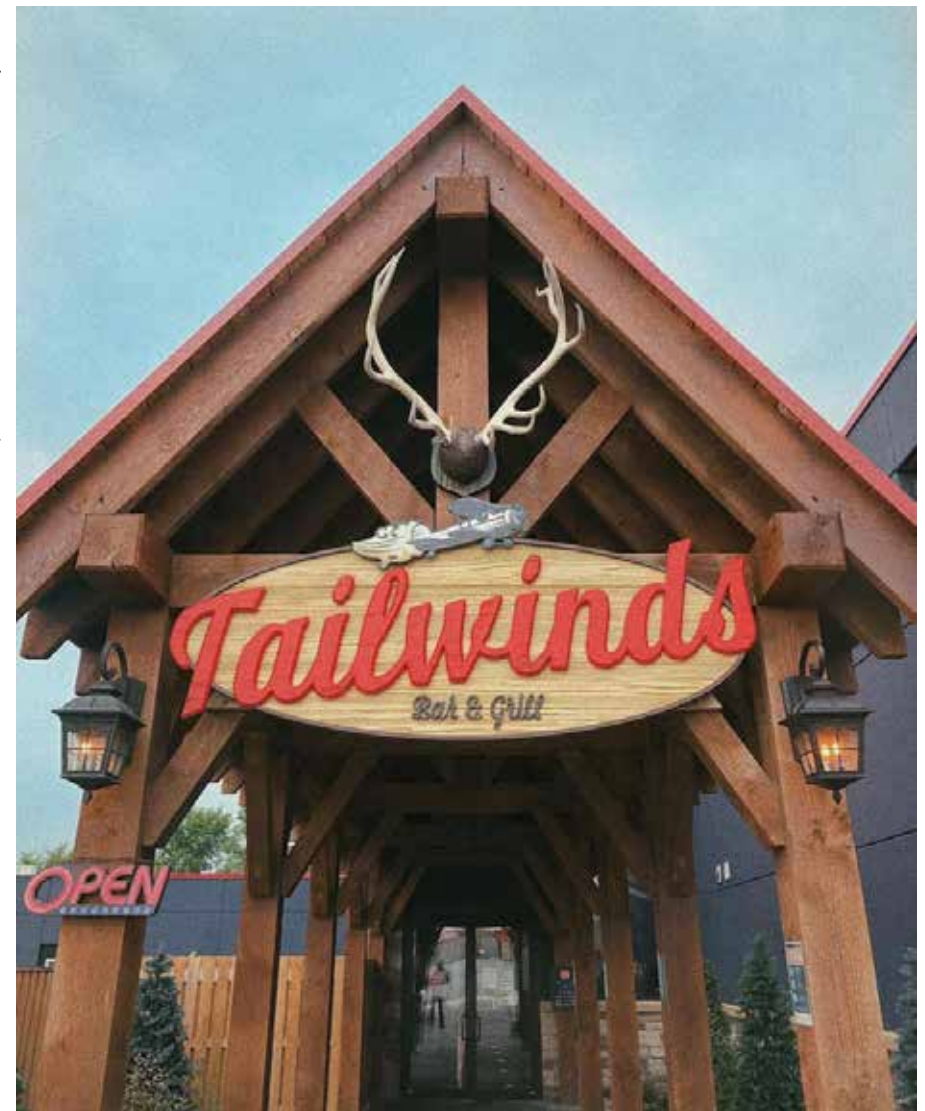
Fundraising Flights take place from 10 am-6 pm and are \$120/seat over beautiful lake country and our new facility at 75 Queen St. E.

Silent Auction
50/50

Gift for each guest and photo booth, free to guests

For more information on how to donate a Silent Auction item, sponsor, or the event itself, contact Co-Pilots :

Lynn Thomas
lynn@orillialighthouse.ca or 705 329 2265 x 111
OR Deborah Josliin, deborahjoslin1@gmail.com.



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HAPPY READING!

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Next Edition: THANKSGIVING
October/November 2021
AD & COPY DEADLINE: September 13th
PUBLISH DATE: September 27th



photo by Candy Potter

What a Time! By Anna Proctor

Recently, I visited my aging dad and stepmom, for the first time since March 2020. We have kept in touch weekly via Zoom; thank goodness for technology! But what a difference to actually see them in person and spend some time in their day-to-day routines with them. It was heart warming, shocking, sad, and happy, all at the same time. I would never have chosen to spend so much time away from them, especially at this time of their lives, but thanks to COVID-19, I was not given a choice. What a time this is.

Other first since March 2020 are coming up, or going on all around me. First time going to visit friends in Toronto; first meal on a patio; first casual walking and shopping downtown; first dinner with friends inside our house; first dinner with friends inside their house; first show; first concert...and so on.

What a time this is.

All around the world, COVID-19 is still ongoing, still very real, and still disrupting lives in a very big and real way. People are still getting sick, variants are getting bolder, hospitals are still getting overwhelmed. What a time this is.

Let's not forget about climate change either. All summer long, all over the world, cataclysmic weather events are occurring and ongoing: forest fires, heat waves, floods, tornados. What a time this is.

Things are dire and this past year and a half have been like living in a dystopian novel. But this is real, folks, and we need to make some changes. Please, let's work together and do that, to build a better world for our children and grandchildren, before it's too late.

What a time this is.



Mariposa Folk Festival in years gone by....

photo by Deb Halbot

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#ORILLIA FOODIES UNITE

- 1 Take a photo of a meal at any Orillia area restaurant
- 2 Post the photo using the hashtag #OrilliaFoodiesUnite and tag the restaurant (ensure settings for the post are set to public)
- 3 Posts will enter you into a draw for a Shop Local prize pack worth over \$500!

Coming Events

Please note that due to COVID-19, some events may be changed, cancelled or subject to capacity restrictions. Also, this list might be not up to date. For a more up to date listing of events in the area, please refer to our community calendar at <https://northsimcoe.life/community-events>. And be sure to submit YOUR events to be seen!

Tuesday to Saturday, 11:30 am to 7 pm
Coldwater Legion Patio and Bistro open for business, weather permitting. For more information and the menu for the bistro, click here <https://the270bistro.ca/>.

Fridays in August at 10:30 am and 1 pm
Join Lindsay Earle, History Programming Coordinator for The Orillia Museum of Art & History (OMAH), on a tour of Orillia's downtown. All summer long Lindsay is running "Historical Orillia: A Guided Walking Tour," and would love to have you along to experience the tour for yourselves.

If you would like to sign up for the tour, please email historycoordinator@orilliamuseum.org.

The tour is a 1.5 hour walking tour through downtown Orillia which starts and ends at OMAH (30 Peter Street South in the Sir Samuel Steele Memorial Building), so wear appropriate footwear and dress for the weather.

Saturday August 7 from 2 to 3 pm
Simcoe County Genealogy Branch meeting
Speaker: Janice Nickerson
Topic: My Ancestors in the Hudson's Bay fur Trade. You will need to Register by going to the Events tab on the Simcoe County Branch Meetings web page (simcoe.ogs.on.ca/branch-meetings), or our Facebook site (facebook.com/groups/827393414004460/) for information about other online events until we can meet in person again. We hope you will be able to join us virtually.

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JULY 30TH - AUG 1ST
WEEKEND & SINGLE DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE

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AUG 6TH & 7TH
WEEKEND & CAMPING TICKETS AVAILABLE

FRIDAY TEBEY DAVID BOYD JANES VANESSA MARIE CARTER • THE BOOTS AND HEARTS EMERGING ARTIST SHOWCASE PRESENTED BY COORS ORIGINAL	SATURDAY BRETT KISSEL JESS MOSKALUKE CORY MARKS
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AUG 13TH & 14TH
WEEKEND & SINGLE DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE

FRIDAY THE TREWS THE BLUE STONES FERRARO	SATURDAY OUR LADY PEACE I MOTHER EARTH MONOWHALES
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THE CAMPGROUNDS ARE OPEN EVERY WEEKEND!

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August 6-7 and August 13-14

Burl's Creek Endless Summer Series with various bands, see poster for details. For tickets and camping, click here burlscreek.frontgatetickets.com.

August 18-September 3, various times

Orillia Opera House summer theatre, Old Love by Norm Foster. Norm Foster's Old Love is a wonderfully-spun story about the chance meetings over thirty years of Bud, a salesman, and Molly, his boss' wife. We meet the people that populate their lives, chronicled with Norm Foster's trademark wit, warmth and laughter every step of the way. It leads us to wonder: can it sometimes be too late to start something new? Tickets Orillia Opera House orilliaoperahouse.ca or 705-326-8011.

August 25-September 5

Mariposa Arts Theatre production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, outdoors at the Stephen Leacock Museum. Tickets Orillia Opera House, 705-326-8011 or www.orilliaoperahouse.ca.

August 23 - 27

Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition online art auction - (during International Water Week). Launch: August 21. Includes local artists Ridhcard Vandermeer, Charles Pachter, Susan Rudoler. Work auctioned to fundraise for Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition (Advocating to protect the lake and inspire others to join us).

Saturday September 11 from 11 am to 1 pm

Walk A Mile 2021, fundraiser for Women and Children's Shelter of Barrie, at Mapleview Community Church, 300 Mapleview Drive W. Barrie. Starting pledge: \$25, Registration: 11:00 - 11:45 am; Opening Remarks & Kick-off Ceremony: 11:45 am - 12:00 pm, Walk begins: 12:00 pm. For more information and to register: www.barrieshelter.com.

September 11, evening

Hope is on The Horizon Gala Fundraiser for The Lighthouse, at Tailwinds Bar and Grill. For tickets and more information, orillialighthouse.ca/events.



Jill Dunlop
MPP SIMCOE
NORTH/NORD

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MPP Jill Dunlop

I hope that this past summer has found you and yours well, while adapting to how we move around safely and freely in our communities again. With continued diligence through Ontario's Roadmap to Re-opening we are effectively re-launching our economy while enjoying the community and business activities we missed during the pandemic.

Although successful in representing Simcoe North virtually throughout the pandemic, it has been so nice to personally attend some announcements and events over the summer. With social distancing guidelines at the forefront, I joined Minister of Energy, Todd Smith and local dignitaries in beautiful Washago to announce Phase 2 of the Natural Gas Expansion Program in July. This program allocates over \$234 million to support approximately 8,750 new connections in 43 rural, northern, and Indigenous communities. For the Severn-Washago project, \$19,204,171 was announced, connecting 723 homes and businesses to the distribution system.

I also visited our local hospitals in Orillia and Midland, engaging with frontline staff while joined by local CEOs/Presidents to announce

Ontario's continued investment in hospitals as part of the plan to end hallway health care and address the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 Budget, *Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy*, outlined a total of \$1.8 billion in additional investments for hospitals in 2021-22, in which Simcoe North hospitals received an investment of over \$7.7 million.

The summer also saw the ribbon-cutting ceremony of The Lighthouse: Building Hope Project new building in Orillia, an exciting day of celebration shared by staff, volunteers and other local dignitaries. The new Lighthouse will house shelter beds for men, women and youth in one building and supportive housing units in another.

Other key mentions this summer include Ontario's;

- increase in financial supports and simplification of the application process for applying to Second Career programs
- providing \$1.1 million in additional funding, offering continued support to agricultural and horticultural societies
- Investing over \$13 million through Youth Opportunities Funds
- protecting people's health by bringing infrastructure investments to small communities to help them improve quality of drinking water, applications opened

My family and I wish you all the best for the remainder of the summer and into the fall. With our continued efforts we will continue on our successful path of recovery, Simcoe North Strong.

2021 WALK A MILE Fundraiser —submitted

The 2021 Walk A Mile, hosted by the Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie, is a fun, friendly and inclusive afternoon where our community comes together for fresh air, exercise, and most essential, to fund-raise! Dress up as your favourite superhero, put on a mask and a cape, or come as you are!

Presented by Royal LePage First Contact Realty, the walk is on Saturday, September 11th from 11 am to 2 pm at Mapleview Community Church. Walk a Mile is an annual Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie signature event that raises funds and awareness to end violence against women.

For more information on the event, sponsorship opportunities, and to easily register as an individual or team online please visit www.barrieshelter.com. By focusing on the positive aspect of a community coming together around this topic, the Walk strives to empower individuals to take a stand against gendered violence.

Be a superhero, save a life.

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Millennial Perspectives by Laura Proctor

Remember spending time with acquaintances? As I write this, the COVID-19 pandemic has been present in Canada for almost 16 months. That's 16 months of all of us mainly staying at home (besides work) with our household. Or perhaps seeing one other household, if you're someone who lives alone.

You've likely been going to the grocery store, the pharmacy, maybe the post office or the liquor store. We've still had those small interactions with strangers over the past 16 months. But when was the last time you caught up with an old friend from a past life, or had to make small talk at a gathering? When was the last time you spent time with someone with whom you don't have a close relationship?

If I'm going to be honest here, I have not been looking forward to this aspect of the pandemic ending: the freedom from having to catch up with acquaintances. This past spring, I kept seeing headlines that followed a trend and

made me re-think my past social habits: "The Pandemic Is Resetting Casual Friendships" (The Atlantic), "The pandemic is showing us which friendships are worth keeping" (Washington Post), "Do We Even Need Friends, After the Pandemic?" (New York Times), "The Pandemic Shrank Our Social Circles. Let's Keep It That Way." (Also New York Times).

I love my friends. I can also count my actual friends on both hands, easily. I don't seek out a wide social circle. I am at my happiest feeling relaxed and excited about spending time with those I really love seeing. I am not at my happiest hurriedly preparing to attend a dinner party where I won't know four of the six other guests and have nothing in common with them. As the subheading of that last New York Times article put it, "You don't need to rekindle your friendship with your kid's soccer teammate's father if you don't want to."

Although I don't seek out a wide social circle, it feels as if prior to the pandemic I let a wide social circle happen to me. I didn't say no

to gatherings, and I went along with visiting some people because I was invited with my partner. But there are times that I could have said no, let my partner have his own time with them, and let myself have some alone time.

There were a couple of casual friends in particular who kept inviting us over, with whom I had absolutely nothing in common. I kept saying yes, even though my time could have been spent on so many other things. One half of this couple ended up stating their deeply racist beliefs about a minority group. That was it for me, and I think they realized that. Looking back, I wish I hadn't wasted any of my time on these people; but because we kept receiving invites I kept saying yes. We don't have an obligation to be friends with someone just because they seem to want to be friends. Especially if they hold beliefs that are completely at odds with our values.

If you enjoy an incredibly diverse social biome, go for it! I read an article about how a diverse social biome is beneficial, i.e. that we all need different types of relationships in our lives in order to thrive. It's healthy to have best friends, more casual friends and maybe

an occasional get-together with someone you're not so close with. But do I want to fill up every spare moment with spending time with just anyone? No, not anymore. I have six parts to my life: my day job, photography, my good friends, my family, my relationship, and my alone time. I don't need much more than that. Filling up all the spaces in my calendar was causing me to be more stressed out, not happier.

The turmoil and fear of these past 16 months have caused a lot of people to have renewed clarity and to reassess aspects of their lives. Relationships and marriages have ended, pets have been adopted, toxic workplaces or employers have been left behind (I left one!). People want to make more than poverty wages (the provincial minimum wage is \$14.25/hr, but a living wage in Simcoe County would be \$18.01/hr and in Toronto would be \$22.08/hr).

Let's also reassess our time and with whom we're spending it. It's not unkind, it's just a part of life. Now, in this time of great upheaval, is an excellent moment to make this change.

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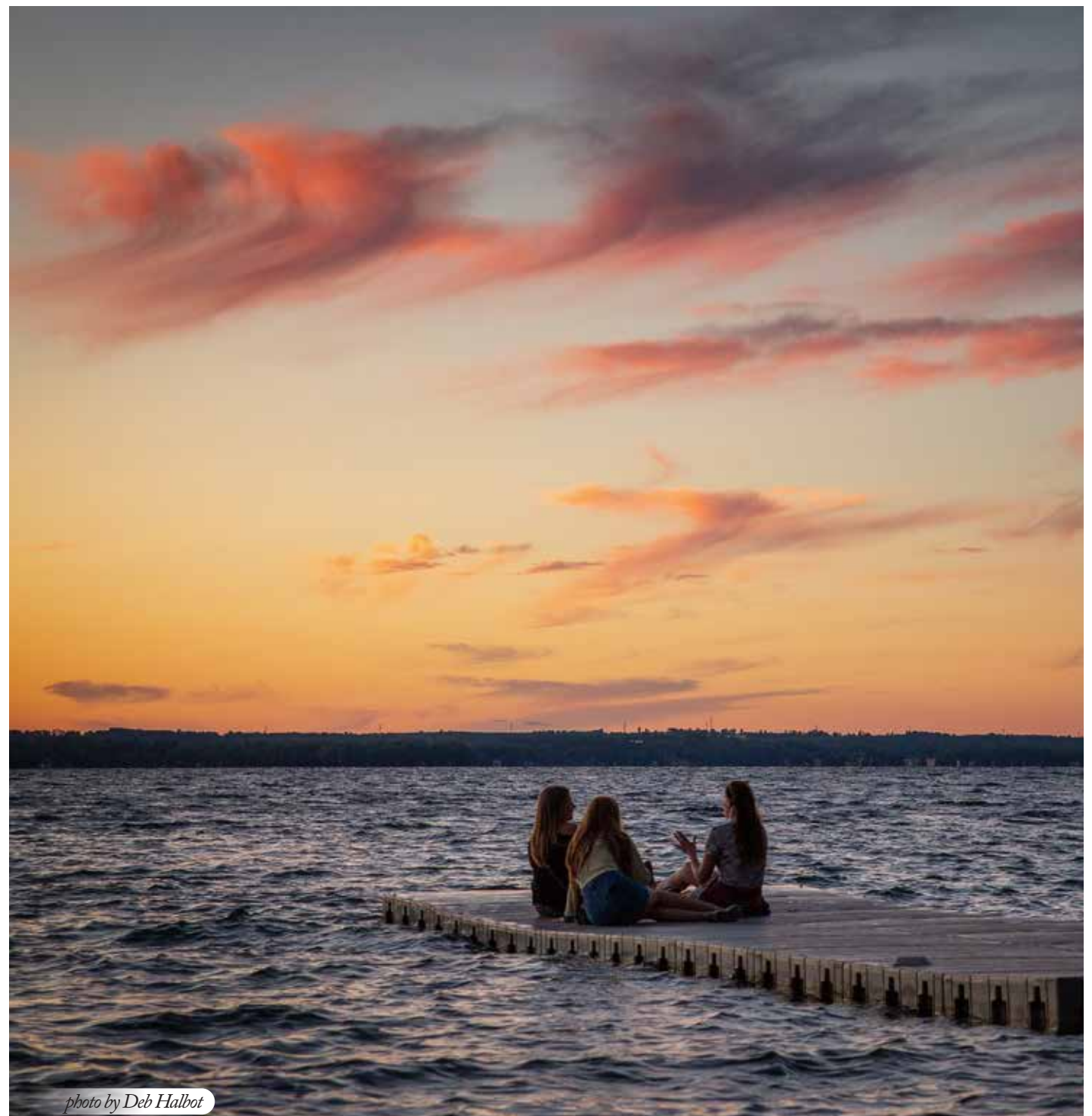


photo by Deb Halbot

Digressions by D'reen

by Doreen Uren Simmons

Midsummer Garden Report

All is well and recent rainfalls have decreased the necessity of watering, which makes the Chief Waterer, yours truly, very happy.

In early May the Wild Geranium was a mass of mauve-pink, contrasting beautifully with the yellow of the faithful Wood Poppies. I cleverly transplanted a lot of the Wood Poppies from under the deck (!), where they thrive, to different spots along the length of the garden, to break the monotony of the Native Anemone. We have a LOT of Anemone! In June the Dames' Rocket was radiant along the back of the garden... whites, pinks, mauves...delicious.

Also in June we found Beebalm at Loblaws, which has bloomed and thrived. We also found Cardinal Flower, which is in a coma, and Native Columbine from a neighbour who said "take it!", which we happily did. At the moment the sweet peas from the cottage are collapsing under their abundance, and the Joe Pie-weed is in full bloom and even the 10 foot Ironweed, although looking a little ill, is showing its tiny flowers.

Now...about the tomatoes. A lovely friend said she would gift us some of her plants which she had grown from seed. Turned out her selfish children wanted them all. She advised we race to Loblaws, which we did, to no avail. But my partner went back four days later and returned with 14 plants which he purchased for \$5.95. They were about one inch tall with stems the thickness of a needle. They were called Beefsteak.

I carefully planted them in our newly built 10 by 4 planter which gets full sun (!) and waited. They thrived. Alarmingly. I googled and discovered Beefsteak should be planted five feet apart due to their great size. Mine are maybe six inches apart? Our occasional gardener came and gasped at this wilderness of green...four and a half feet tall...attacked and pruned and staked (again), and we now have over 50 green balls of various sizes. I'll keep you posted. The neat thing is that the night predators have not yet appeared...fingers crossed.

There Is The Report! I hope your summer is as fruitful (flowery) as ours, and will see you in the fall...fully vaxxed! Blessings.

Local Heroes: Simcoe County Mountain Bike Club

by Emily DiLeccce

Looking for a great way to keep active, get outdoors and contribute to the wellbeing of our community's environment? Look no further!



The Simcoe County Mountain Bike Club is the perfect organization for you! This group consists of individuals from all over the county who are passionate about mountain biking, staying active and ensuring our community trails are kept in good condition for all to enjoy.

The SCMBC was started to help fund much needed trail work on existing singletrack mountain bike trails within Simcoe County, and help establish new trails at the request of the County. So far, they have created a 160 km long trail network throughout the Simcoe region and continue to grow each year!



The organization's main focus is on teamwork. They assign networks of mountain bikers, hikers, snowshoers and other outdoorists in each section of the county to maintain and steward the trails, up to legal standards. With a big focus on sustainability, volunteers of the organization work hard on the upkeep of local tracks, with regular duties such as downed tree removal, litter pick-up, maintaining erosion, and working with local property owners on ways to preserve the trail network for future generations.

No matter the season, you can find members of the SCMBC out and about. During the warmer months, they enjoy group trail builds, social ride nights, and downhill racing. In the chilly winter temperatures, they even enjoy 'fat biking' along the snow-covered trails. They currently have trails in Springwater, Oro-Medonte, Severn, Christian Island and Midland with expansions occurring in the Dorion forest tract near Awenda Provincial Park and the Sturgeon River forest tract in Tay Township.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the group's ability to meet up and they have had to put a halt on all organized events until lockdown was over. In the meantime, members have been lucky to still be able to enjoy their favourite activity outdoors, safely distanced from one another along the trails. Director of Operations in Oro-Medonte, Ryan Russell, was thankful for all the support the organization has had over the past year, despite its hardships: "Cheers to our amazing build and maintenance teams that keep this dream machine rolling and to the current board of directors that keep this great club moving forward."

SCMBC Current Board of Directors:

- Joe Pearson – President
- Justin Moreau – Vice President
- Fred Ross - VP of Operations
- Lisa Sceviour – Treasurer
- Rick Smith - Director of Operations (Severn)
- Joel Andrews - Director of Operations

- (Midland)
- Brian Bolivar - Director of Operations (Springwater)
- Ryan Russell - Director of Operations (Oro)
- Rob Nishman - Director of Operations (Christian Island)

Cheers to these Local Heroes who do so much to provide enjoyment and fun physical activity for so many. For more information or to get involved, visit scmbc.ca.



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Life Stories by Sandy Falcon

We are slowly returning to what we might call — normal. Restaurants, movies, malls, are opening up and people are getting busy again. Our family has returned to the hustle and bustle of practices, games, and tournaments. Planning weekend getaways and making time to do activities again. It surprises me how quickly we kinda fell back into our old ways. I find myself wondering — how did we stay in the moment for so long?

It was not long ago that we weren't able to go out to restau-



photo by Deb Halbot

rants, games, malls — or anywhere really. We had learned to just be — present in the moment. Not plan for outings and parties and get together. No sleepovers or vacations, meetings, conferences — unless they were virtual. For a brief moment in our lives, we had to make do with the fact that we were looking at open schedules and weekends that were saturated with time to spend with our family unit: your bubble.

I realize that although we were “forced” to stay home during COVID, I am grateful for being “forced” to spend every waking moment with my crew. We didn't need to fill our days with activities and distractions, we got used to being in each other's presence all the time. We stopped being bored because we

realized we had lots to do at home and even when we didn't, we had to come up with new ideas.

We tried all kinds of takeout, different local pizzas, different local restaurants, we tried the takeout from our favourite restaurants too. We ate dinner together every night, we laughed so hard we cried. We watched each other's hair grow to lengths never seen before and eventually were used to the shag we grew into. Mommy did not wear a pair of jeans for 18 months! Even wearing my “zoom meeting top” was a tad too fancy for the house...lol. Our garage became an extension of our home, we got hammocks, and a new BBQ so we could enjoy every inch of our home — inside and out. LED lights lit up the kids' rooms in an attempt to make them more cool, everyone got a computer for school, kids all had “small offices” in their rooms too.

Day by day we fell into the routine of just being present, no plans, maybe a meeting here and there but ultimately, we knew we weren't going out. Grocery shopping became an adventure once a week. I read lots of books and continued school online. I even got a job from home, which was one of the biggest endeavours I immersed myself in. I did it all from home, eventually having to go out into the community, but nevertheless it took off from my home computer! Wow! When would that be a possibility in the past?

Although I focus on the positives of the experience, I recognize that not everyone was as fortunate as we were. I understand there were people who were alone, and this past year must have been awful. I wish everyone were as fortunate as we were.

My nature has always been to look at the positive because I have overwhelmed myself with the negatives in the past and that doesn't serve any of us well. I too have suffered and cried and had heartache and disappointment but have found that it is easier to get through another day when I look for the things that make me smile.

To every one who is getting back into the swing of things, remember that being busy all the time doesn't equal more productive, it means you're less available to see your family. At one point we had no choice but to be at home doing nothing and it wasn't horrible. You probably noticed how big your room is or how small. Whatever the case, you looked at everything from a different perspective. Don't forget that perspective, because even though you think you did nothing, you actually lived your days to the fullest by just being present.

Carley News by Kelly Skinner-Meyer

The summer has been a mixed bag of weather in the Carley Valley. The farmers are waiting for a couple of days of dry weather to cut and take the hay off the local fields. Our front and back yards are waiting to be cut and rolled into those glorious looking round bales of hay. The gardens are flourishing from the rainforest-like climate, wet and humid.

We have a new home being built on the Warminster Sideroad and the community welcomes the new homeowners with best wishes to the Carley Valley. We also welcome new homeowners on Line 8N. When the Carley Hall doors open and we may resume with Carley Hall events we welcome everyone to get to know your new neighbours. The Carley Hall is ready and waiting to say hello. I think we may see a ray of sunshine glimmering through to the future, with the numbers of COVID cases declining.

I took this picture early morning of the Carley Hall. She is a glorious building in a picturesque country setting, just waiting to welcome everyone again.

Enjoy the Summer Everyone!



Edgar/Clowes Community News by Pat Shellswell

Everyone is looking forward to more opportunities to be with friends as we are now in Stage 3, after months of closures due to COVID-19. It has been great to get a haircut and pedicure.

My thoughts go out to the people in Barrie, whose lives are turned upside down due to the tornado in the Mapleview area. The same week I had a flood, causing my first claim on my homeowner's insurance in 61 years. Bad timing, but my

problems seem minimal.

The hall continues to be closed but hopefully we are making progress. Thanks to contractors, volunteers, an engineer, a lawyer, and accountant who provided their time and expertise to complete the work we needed to do.

Thanks to all who have financially supported the drive to keep our hall. We are now told the septic tank needs to be replaced. We are requesting 2021 pledges to be submitted by September 30 to help upset our costs. Donations are also so very welcome. If you missed your 2020 pledge it is also still welcome.

If you have news for Pat, call 705-739-7579.

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 Next Edition: **THANKSGIVING**
 October/November 2021
AD & COPY DEADLINE: September 13th
PUBLISHED ONLINE: September 27th
WE ARE COMMUNITY
www.NorthSimcoe.life

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orillia District Annual Golf for Kids' Sake! —submitted

Golfers should start warming up their swings, and practice their putts! Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orillia and District (BBBSOD) has announced that registration is now open for its highly anticipated 26th Annual Golf for Kids' Sake. As the first in-person event of the year, the tournament will take place on Friday, August 27th and strives to raise a goal of \$16,000 to support the youth in our community.

With a new venue, BBBSOD will be hosting the tournament at Settlers' Ghost Golf Club and has appreciated their flexibility in making their vision a reality. "I've never been a mentor, or big sister – but I have always been a supporter of the organization," says Director of Golf at Settlers' Ghost, Mary Pat. "We see the impact on the community and know it is

important work. We are happy to be able to support any way we can."

To work with the ever-changing landscape that is COVID-19, Settlers' Ghost has accommodated 84 golfers at staggered tee times to ensure social distancing. However, should restrictions continue to lift, Golf for Kids' Sake may be able to see up to 124 golfers with a shotgun start.

Registration is now open with the reserved 84 spot availability, so early signup is very much encouraged. Registration includes 18 holes of golf, power cart, lunch, on course food and beverage sampling, and the opportunity to take part in exciting games and raffles.

Registration is \$140 per golfer, or \$560 per foursome.

BBBSOD's programs have proved vital to the health and wellness of our community's youth during this year's changes in routine and social experience. So much so that throughout Canada 70% of youth who had regular contact with their mentor said it helped them feel less worried or anxious during the pandemic.

"This pandemic has been tough on our littles," says Executive Director Miranda Chaffey. "However, it has also been a blessing. It has pushed us further and has expanded our programs and expertise. It has garnered national attention that our programs are not a 'nice to have' service, but rather a 'need to have' service. We are essential and we will continue to be there for our youth when they need us most."



BBBSOD relies heavily on events like Golf for Kids' Sake, as it does not receive any funding from the government to provide services. BBBSOD has remained dedicated to taking the challenges of the pandemic and turning them into an opportunity to better serve the littlest among us.

To sign up or become a Sponsor for Golf for Kids' Sake, please visit BBBSOD's website at: orillia.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/event/golf-kids-sake-2. BBBSOD is looking for businesses to help fill the many exciting sponsorship opportunities available for this great event.



Horseshoe Valley Kaleidoscope by Valerie Thornton

Ah...at last more normality in our lives as restrictions are gradually lifted and vaccinations rise in our Step Three of reopening. Care and patience is still needed as there are still some limitations and we have the threat of the Delta variant becoming a problem if we loosen our guard, but just to be able to actually eat inside a restaurant, visit with family and friends and hug my family is pure joy. Life is good. I heard rumours that there is to be an Images Art Tour in the Fall. This is good news so as it is so much a special part of the Thanksgiving weekend here in Oro-Medonte. I have my fingers crossed!

But we need to pause for a while and remember that many people may have suffered a loss, not just from COVID-19 but other illnesses, experiencing challenges in their lives dealing with health issues, or just through difficulties experienced through this pandemic era. "Walk gently in the lives of others. Not all wounds are visible."

Many developments and changes; land cleared for the school/community centre (Line 4), Eagles Rest development under way (Line 3), the Vetta Nordic Spa nearing completion and hoping to open in early September and the purchase of the two Horseshoe Valley timeshare properties, Carriage Ridge and Carriage Hills, by the Toronto-based hotel chain, Sunray Group of hotels.

The Oro-Medonte Property Owner's Association (OMPOA) has continued with its research and is hoping to engage the Township in meaningful and collaborative dialogue regarding the Zone 1 Water Integration Levy. They are encouraging their legal team to

engage in cooperative dialogue to resolve this issue and are "hopeful that the Township will approach this challenge with sincerity, honesty, transparency and accountability."

Golf as usual is a popular sport and many of the local children are having a lot of fun with the downhill biking and racing at the Resort; a very popular activity as evidenced by the line ups to get on the chair lifts up the hill. Horseshoe Resort is again a hive of activity with the lake, volleyball and other activities.

Congratulations to local athlete Peter Disera who is going to the Olympics in Tokyo. Peter competes in mountain bike and grew up in Cathedral Pines, racing at Hardwood Ski and Bike. The Tokyo team will be Cycling Canada's largest Olympic delegation to date, with 23 nominated in road track, mountain bike and BMX. What an achievement to be selected for this team!

The LON Ladies golf group is having its annual Golf Tournament on September 16, supporting The Seasons Centre for Grieving Children. The members will be having a silent (or online) auction so if you would like to donate an item that would be fantastic, contact me and I will pass the information to a member of the committee (vmt4141@gmail.com). They have just had their first gathering as a group at The Heights; a beautiful evening with an excellent meal and no rain so easy eating outside. This really did feel 'normal' and it was so lovely to see so many familiar and new faces that are a part of this fun group.

Many of us visit the Copeland Forest and use the Parking lots (1 and 2) on Ingram Road for access. We have to thank Georgian Paving

for generously donating time and resources to grade these two lots thus eliminating the potholes and improving drainage.

Congratulations to local resident David Hawke who received an Ontario Nature Conservation Award – The Richards Education Award - for his decades of educating people about nature. I always enjoy his columns and am amazed at his in-depth knowledge and learn so much.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and the beautiful fall (at least the gypsy moths will be gone but look for the egg sacs to destroy; what a pain they have been to our outdoor space). Interesting, they have been in pockets rather than throughout an entire area.

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts." Winston Churchill

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GREGORY SARJEANT, MBA

Fight Like Mason Foundation is Taking the Fear out of Paediatric IV Treatment

—submitted

Themed intravenous poles will help young Soldiers' patients live out their superhero dreams

The Fight Like Mason Foundation (FLMF) is donating nine "Mason Power Poles" — IV poles disguised with superhero, emoji and bright-coloured branding — to make treatment less scary and more empowering for young patients at Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. The poles were donated with financial support from the Miles Hammond Endowment Fund and will be used in both

the Paediatric Outpatient and Inpatient Departments and the Paediatric Oncology Clinic. The FLMF got involved with Soldiers' after learning about the Hammonds, a local family who recently lost their young son to cancer. The organization is a registered charity named in honour of Mason Bacon-Macri, a 4-year-old Ontario boy who died in 2016 after his own brave and hard-fought battle with cancer. His parents, Chantelle and Iain, created the Foundation to honour his short life by giving other children a chance to fight just like Mason did.

"We made Mason a promise that we would continue his fight and that's what we're doing today," shared Chantelle Bacon, Mason's mom and one of the co-founders of the Fight Like Mason Foundation. "We love when we can bring these poles into a hospital to make any child happy. Even if it's sad when we're honouring other kids who passed away, it's still good to know we're not alone in this childhood cancer world."

Kate and Kent Hammond's one-year-old son Miles lost his young life earlier this year after battling cancer. The family's experience touched everyone at Soldiers' and the community at large, resulting in a record number of donations to the Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Foundation in Miles' honour.

"Miles was a really, really smiley baby," said Kate Hammond, Miles' mom. "All the nurses and doctors — he just adored everyone — and that joyful attitude will be carried on through these poles that other kids will use."

The new poles will be used throughout the Paediatric Program at Soldiers'. "It is great to be able to launch something as wonderful and heartfelt as this," expressed Audra Jesso, Program Manager of Paediatrics and Children's Services at Soldiers'. "Miles left an imprint on all of our hearts. As much as you're in the hospital, our goal

is to always make sure the experience is the best it can be, under the circumstances. We now have one pole for every patient room and the nurses are excited to use them and the kids will love them. It helps us take better care of our kids and families."

Also in his memory, the Hammond family created the Miles Hammond Endowment Fund to support ongoing paediatric needs at Soldiers'. Miles' dad, Kent Hammond, added, "After all the great care we had at Soldiers', it was really important for us to invest our time and energy into Soldiers' because it's directly affecting our community. We're hoping on an annual basis to rally our friends and family to be able to continue to donate to the OSMH Foundation."

Through their grief, these two families are inspiring others to make a difference in honour of Mason and Miles. To learn more about the Fight Like Mason Foundation, please visit www.fightlikemason.org. To make a donation to the Miles Hammond Endowment Fund in support of paediatric needs at Soldiers', please visit www.osmhfoundation.ca/donate.



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(L-R) Kent and Kate Hammond, parents of the late Miles Hammond, members of Soldiers' paediatric team, Tara Benedek, RN, Amanda Gaudet, RN, Dr. Sarah Barker and Chantelle Bacon, co-founder of the Fight Like Mason Foundation stand in front of the nine "Mason Power Poles" donated to Soldiers' Paediatric Program.



photo by Deb Halbot



Off-Season Ski & Board Equipment Tips

By Ruby Huter

Here is a quick hit list on how to properly care for and store skis and equipment in the off-season.

What you do in the summer can have an impact on the condition of your skis before your fall tune-up and the longevity of your equipment in general.

Summer ski tune-up

Even the best skis and snowboards need a tune up. MSLM recommends Gates 'n' Boards in Barrie.

Grind your base, sharpen the edges, and apply a summer wax. Preventative maintenance is an essential part of making sure your winter gear lasts a long time.

Summer Ski/Board Storage

Proper storage is important for keeping your equipment in the best condition possible. Somewhere inside your house, a cool dry place such as a bedroom, coat closet, or displayed in your sports cave, are great locations.

Avoid: garage, attic, shed, backyard, or unfinished basement. These types of locations will not adequately protect your gear from rust and other issues that may result from too much moisture. Temperature is important! If a storage location is too hot, it can lead to de-lamination by heating up the glue that binds all the layers of the gear together.

If you follow these simple steps, your skis and boards will be good to go for the upcoming season and you can rest assured your equipment will last for years to come.

Do not get too busy with summer to forget to buy your 2021/22 Podium Pass!

The Winter Savings Ski & Snowboard Fall Sale Starts September 7th at Mount St. Louis Moonstone!

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COVID-19 Impacts to the Township



The Township of Oro-Medonte continues to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health crisis.

Taking into consideration the Province of Ontario's move to **Step Three of its Roadmap to Reopen** at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 16, 2021, the Township Administration Centre is open for customer service by appointment, with safety protocols in place including: visitor screening, use of face coverings, and physical distancing.

Residents are encouraged to utilize electronic means for Township related business - **staff continue to be available to provide customer service by phone or e-mail.** To learn more and book an electronic appointment, please see oro-medonte.ca/Pages/Book-an-Appointment or **Contact Us.**

There are a number of temporary adjustments that impact the Township's services and programs. For the most up-to-date information, please follow the Township's social channels and dedicated COVID-19 web page by visiting oro-medonte.ca/Pages/Covid-19-Information.

As a reminder, please continue to follow the advice and direction from public health experts. To stay informed about information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, please visit simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/COVID-19.

Please note: The COVID-19 public health crisis is a fluid situation and information is subject to change.



Council Meeting Schedule

Regularly scheduled electronic Meetings of Council/Committee for the months of August, 2021 and September, 2021 will take place on the following dates:

Council Meetings:

- Wednesday, August 18th – 10:00 a.m. Public Session
- Wednesday, September 8th – 10:00 a.m. Public Session
- Wednesday, September 22nd – 10:00 a.m. Public Session

Development Services Committee Meetings:

- Wednesday, September 1st - 5:30 p.m.

All meeting times are subject to change and Special Meetings of Council may also be called on an as needed basis. For a complete schedule of 2021/2022 Council meetings, please visit our Council Portal - oromedonte.civicweb.net/Portal.

Please note: During the COVID-19 public health crisis, members of the public are welcome to view Special Council and Development Services Meetings via livestream on the Township's YouTube channel.

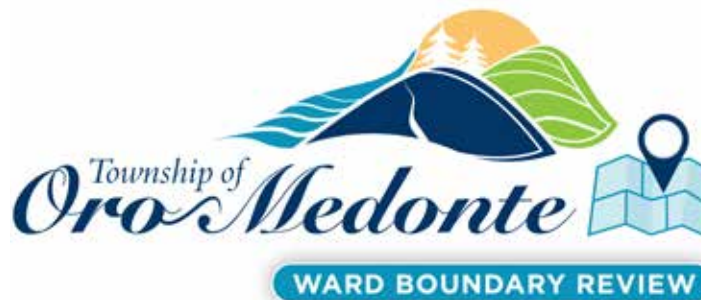
Public Participation in Electronic Meetings

The Township of Oro-Medonte has amended its Procedural By-law to allow for electronic participation at Council meetings during a declared emergency. Protocols have been established to advise how to participate in the public portions of these meetings. Please visit oro-medonte.ca/Pages/Public-Participation.aspx for more information, including how to participate in Open Forum or request a deputations/presentation.

Live Streaming

Township of Oro-Medonte Council meetings are live streamed. To view meetings live, please visit oromedonte.civicweb.net/Portal and subscribe to our YouTube channel - bit.ly/3hvZ718.

Ward Boundary Review



The Township of Oro-Medonte has retained Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. in association with Dr. Robert J. Williams to conduct a comprehensive and independent Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review. The purpose of the ward boundary review is to identify fair and equitable electoral ward boundaries for the 2022 municipal election and beyond.

The Township has held a series of comprehensive virtual public consultation sessions and online engagement, followed by the consultants' option(s) report for Council's consideration. We are currently in Phase Two of the project, which includes preparation of a Preliminary Options Report. To review the options report and to stay up-to-date on the status of the project, please visit oro-medonte.ca/wbr.

Corporate Strategic Plan Update



Township of Oro-Medonte Council is working with Blackline Consulting to update its Corporate Strategic Plan which will provide focus and guide the actions of staff over the next three years. To review the draft Corporate Strategic Plan and to stay up-to-date on this corporate initiative, please visit oro-medonte.ca/Pages/Strategic-Plan-Update.

Septic Maintenance Program (SMP)

As required by the Ontario Building Code and Building Code Act, the Township continues to administer the provincially legislated Septic Maintenance Program in recurring 5-year cycles. As various cycles either end or restart, communication will be provided to all affected property owners.

The program includes requirements from both the municipality and property owners to gain compliance.

Township Inspectors will continue to conduct inspections in 2021. Township staff will continue to follow all COVID-19 health and safety protocols. If you see an Inspector on your property, we ask that you do not approach them directly and respect physical distancing.

For detailed information regarding the Septic Maintenance Program including a list of frequently asked questions, please visit oro-medonte.ca/smp or contact a representative from the Building Division by calling 705-487-2171.

Couchiching Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

The Province's Safer Ontario Act, 2018 (Bill 175) requires municipalities to develop a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan using the provincial government's Community Safety and Well-Being Framework.

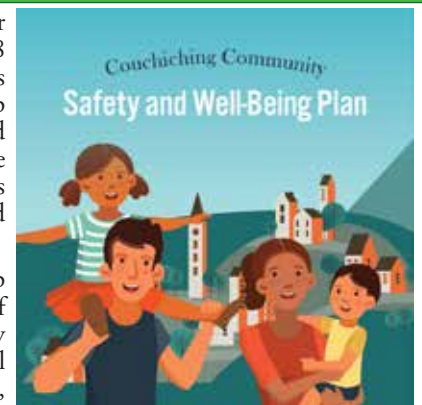
Under the leadership of the County of Simcoe's Emergency Management and Social Services Departments, the Township of Oro-Medonte worked in partnership with the City of Orillia and the Townships of Ramara and Severn to develop a joint plan - Couchiching Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

The Couchiching Community Safety and Well-Being Plan was presented and adopted by Township Council on May 26, 2021.

Based on current data and community input, the Plan will focus on the following four areas of risk:

1. Mental Health and Addictions
2. Social Connectedness/Safety
3. Employment
4. Access to Services

To review the Couchiching Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and for additional information, please visit oro-medonte.ca/community/community-well-being-plan.



2021 Oro-Medonte Resident Parking Permits

Resident Parking Permit Information



Seasonal parking permits are required annually from May 1st to October 31st. At this time, full seasonal parking permits will be issued to Oro-Medonte residents only.

Township residents/property owners who did not obtain parking permits in 2020 may obtain their

2021 parking permits by visiting [Permit Parking - Oro Medonte \(oro-medonte.ca\)](http://oro-medonte.ca)

COVID-19 City of Orillia Waterfront Parking and Boat Launch Permits

In partnership with the City of Orillia, Oro-Medonte residents can purchase a non-resident City of Orillia waterfront parking and boat launch permit, for use at waterfront parking lots and boat launches in Orillia. Permits are \$50.00 per vehicle and valid 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., Friday to Sunday (including public holidays) from June 4th – September 12th, in specific locations in the City of Orillia including:

- Couchiching Beach Park
- Centennial Park
- Veterans' Memorial Park
- J.B. Tudhope Memorial Park parking lots and surrounding streets
- Couchiching Beach Park Boat Launch
- Collins Drive Boat Launch

To purchase your COVID-19 City of Orillia Waterfront Parking and Boat Launch permit, please visit oro-medonte.perfectmind.com.

Summer/Fall 2021 Bill Due Dates

Water usage is billed quarterly with the next payment due date falling on the last business day of August. The second quarterly payment is due **Tuesday, August 31st**.

The fourth property tax installment of 2021, to be paid by all Township of Oro-Medonte property owners, is due no later than **Thursday, September 30th**.

Township of Oro-Medonte News

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Open Air Burning

An Open Air Burning Permit By-law (By-law No. 2019-046) has been established for the purpose of enabling and regulating open air fires throughout the Township. With the By-law in place, a Burn Permit is required for open air fires in Oro-Medonte. There is currently no cost to obtain an Open Air Burning Permit which is valid until December 31st of the calendar year it was obtained in. To obtain your Burn Permit, please visit om.burnpermits.com. To learn more information, including a list of frequently asked questions, please visit: **Open Air Burning - Oro Medonte** (oro-medonte.ca).

Watering Restrictions



Water is a valued resource. The Environmental Services department reminds all residents connected to Municipal Drinking Water Systems that using external water for lawn and garden irrigation is permitted as follows:

- EVEN numbered addresses on EVEN numbered days
- ODD numbered addresses on ODD numbered days

Water conservation is good for the environment, helps save money on your water bill, and can reduce energy costs in drinking water systems.

For more information regarding drinking water, please visit oro-medonte.ca/municipal-services/environmental-services/drinking-water.

Outdoor Watering Tips

In the dry summer months, outdoor watering can account for up to 50% of home water use. Here are some tips to consider when outdoor watering:

- As a general rule, 2cm to 3cm of water per week is adequate.
- Use low-angle or pulsating sprinklers that produce large, fat droplets of water. Sprinklers that spray the water high into the air or produce a mist or fine spray lose much of the water through evaporation.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn, not your driveway.
- Adding 5cm to 10cm of organic material, such as peat or compost, will increase the ability of the soil to retain moisture.



Milestone Celebration Certificates

If you or a loved one is celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary, Mayor Hughes and Members of Council are pleased to offer congratulatory certificates to help commemorate these special occasions. To request a celebration certificate, please visit oro-medonte.ca/council-committees/milestone-certificate-requests.

Upcoming Office Closures

The Township Administration Centre will be closed on Monday, August 2nd for the Civic holiday, and Monday, September 6th for Labour Day. Regular business hours will resume at 8:30 a.m. following each holiday.

Support for the Business Community During COVID-19



Oro-Medonte Economic Development staff continues to work with our partners including the County of Simcoe and regional partners to provide business resources during COVID-19. For a list of available resources and government support, please visit oro-medonte.ca/OroMedonteStrong

Now more than ever, we need to support our local businesses. Visit the website to find a list of businesses that are operating and providing services. As well, you will find success stories about businesses that have pivoted their operations during COVID-19. We encourage the community to come together and share #OroMedonteStrong stories.

Please Support Local Business



Suggested ways of how you can help local businesses and still follow guidelines for physical distancing:

- When possible, buy local
- Look for local farm gate sales, buy from local producers
- Purchase from local businesses online
- Order local meals for curbside takeout or delivery
- Write positive reviews of businesses you have visited
- Share messages about local businesses through social media
- Share the businesses social posts through your social media channels
- Purchase gift certificates now that you can use later

Timely Topics

by Oro-Medonte Mayor and Council

Seeing Light at the End of the Tunnel

Continued improvements to healthcare indicators, vaccination rates throughout the province of Ontario, and recommendations from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, are resulting in a cautious return, to what will inevitably be, a new normal.

A significant percentage of Oro-Medonte residents have received their COVID-19 vaccine, contributing to overall provincial vaccine numbers, and doing their part to bring the global health crisis to a close. For those who have not received their vaccine and would like to, please visit [Getting your COVID-19 vaccine \(simcoemuskokahealth.org\)](http://Getting your COVID-19 vaccine (simcoemuskokahealth.org)) for instructions on how to book your vaccination appointments, for first and second doses.

The health and safety of the Oro-Medonte community has been, and will continue to be, a focal point of utmost importance throughout the duration of the pandemic.

The Provincial decision on July 16th to shift Ontario to Step Three of its Roadmap to Reopen is an excellent indicator of progress. Step Three of the roadmap focuses on the resumption of additional

indoor services, with larger numbers of people, and restrictions in place. To review details, please see: Ontario Moving to Step Three of Roadmap to Reopen on July 16 | Ontario Newsroom.

For the past 18 months, similar to organizations around the world, the Township of Oro-Medonte has shifted and adjusted to the ever-changing nature of the virus. Despite significant challenges, Township business remains in place, and services continue to be seamlessly provided. The Township Administration Centre is currently open for customer service by appointment, with safety protocols in place including: visitor screening, use of face coverings, and physical distancing. To book an electronic appointment, please see oro-medonte.ca/Pages/Book-an-Appointment or Contact Us.

Taking into consideration concerns surrounding the COVID-19 Delta variant, and the opportunity for further vaccination, residents are encouraged to utilize electronic means for Township related business. Staff continue to be available to provide customer service by phone or email.

Each and every one of us have experienced the impacts of COVID-19 on varying personal levels. The strong sense of community in Oro-Medonte, deeply

rooted by support, encouragement, and compassion shone brightly during these very trying times.

The #OroMedonteStrong campaign developed by the Township, to bring people together, is a concrete example of the true meaning of community. Several stories were shared, and continue to be shared today, demonstrating the special community that we call home.

Support shown to local businesses, tireless work, effort and expertise of healthcare professionals, following public health guidelines, checking in on neighbours and friends, and a great deal of patience have all contributed to managing and coping these difficult times. Thank you, to each and every one of you, for doing your part.

Although we are seeing great levels of success, and COVID-19 case count numbers moving in the right direction, it is extremely important that we all continue to follow the guidance and direction of public health experts. This includes appropriate use of face coverings, physical distancing, and following gathering limits.

Please continue to take care of each other. As we said many months ago "We are in this together." There is bright light at the end of the tunnel; together, and in time, the COVID-19 pandemic will become a memory.



Step Three: Expanding access to indoor settings, with restrictions, including where there are larger numbers of people and where face coverings can't always be worn.

Find out more: www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario

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Mariposa Arts Theatre Presents Outdoor Twelfth Night at Leacock Museum in Orillia—submitted

Mariposa Arts Theatre, in partnership with the *Leacock Museum National Historic Site*, proudly presents *Bard in the Yard: Twelfth Night*. This summer, MAT 'returns from intermission' with an exciting outdoor production of Shakespeare's musical comedy of mistaken identity on the grounds of the Stephen Leacock Museum.

After a lamentable year of no theatre, MAT is elated to be working with the Stephen Leacock Museum, out-doors, in the open-air, to kick off our 2021/2022 season. Shakespeare's most perfect comedy, *Twelfth Night*, runs from August 25 to September 5. The gender-bending comic romp follows shipwrecked brother-sister twins who find themselves entangled in the upstairs/downstairs shenanigans of the best houses in their new country! Set in the early 1930s, the first years of the Stephen Leacock house, the production makes generous use of the restored home, splendid gardens, and lakeside environs to recreate the majesty and mystery of Shakespeare's Illyria.

Canadian-born, American-based director Randy White is excited to be helming his first Mariposa Arts Theatre production. Hailing from the Maritimes, with in-laws in Orillia, Randy has spent twenty years in NYC and Chicago, working on and off-Broadway and founding and running a highly successful regional theatre in Indiana. Randy has worked coast-to-coast in North America, but notes, "I've never directed in such an amazing setting and with such a dedicated group

of artists. I'm really excited!" And MAT is just as thrilled to welcome Randy to Orillia!

Tickets are \$30 and available through the Orillia Opera House box office online at www.orilliaoperahouse.ca or by phone at 705-326-8011.

Bard in the Yard hopes to be an ongoing partnership between MAT and the Stephen Leacock Museum as a celebration of the blend of the written word and the performing arts, immersed along the shores of Orillia's Lake Country.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, seating capacity is limited in accordance with Provincial restrictions. Audiences will be asked to bring their own lawn chairs and comply with safety precautions at the Museum grounds. MAT and the Ste-

phen Leacock Museum will implement guidelines set by the City of Orillia and Public Health authorities. In the case of extreme weather, ticket holders will be contacted for any cancellations. Note that this production has mature themes.

MARIPOSA ARTS THEATRE & Leacock MUSEUM PRESENT
BARD IN the YARD 2021
at the Stephen Leacock Museum
TWELFTH NIGHT
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
Join us for sheer comic madness on the gorgeous grounds of Orillia's own comic genius!

August 25, 6pm	September 1, 6pm	Sept 4, 12pm & 6pm
August 27, 6pm	September 3, 6pm	Sept 5, 11:30am
Aug 29, 12pm & 6pm	Tickets \$30.00, Patrons to bring their own chairs	

orilliaoperahouse.ca
or call the box office at 705-326-8011
Provincial COVID-19 safety requirements to be observed

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Next Edition: THANKSGIVING
October/November 2021
AD & COPY DEADLINE: September 13th
PUBLISHED ONLINE: September 27th

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Warminster News by Dawn Miller

Hello Warminster

How do you feel about the province starting to open up again? I have mixed feelings. First, I think it's great to be able to get out and shop with our local vendors in person again. I know the stress has been immeasurable for them. They have been struggling to keep their hopes up, while the big box stores continue to prosper. Where my concerns lie is that people will become too lax and make us lock down again. I hope this doesn't happen. I think we are all fed up with lock downs.

I would like to talk about is the elephant in the room, mainly the Residential School issue. So many Indigenous children who were discarded like trash. How do you steal children from their parents and tell them they will have a better education by going to a Residential School, only to find out that their babies were treated so poorly, starved, abused and neglected. They were only allowed, at some of the schools, to visit their families one day per year. These children endured so much. If they practiced their belief, they would be beaten and told by the Nuns "they would beat the Indian out of them". The most frequent disease these children

died of was tuberculosis.

I understand that this began in the early 1900's. Well much earlier if you know the history. I know the last Residential School closed in Ontario in 1993. My question is why Indigenous children were subject to this treatment and why was it allowed to continue. I know we can't do anything about the past. It's the past. But we can't forget this atrocity that our government knew about. That the Catholic Church knew about and ran most of the schools. I also understand the implications of admitting the genocide that happened here in Canada to the world.

Moving forward, we here in Warminster are living on Indigenous land. I think we are a great community. I would like to believe that we respect all who live here whatever their religion, race or beliefs. What I would like to ask you all as a community is to show our support for the "lost and forgotten children" by placing an orange ribbon on your front yard on **September 30**. This day is **Truth and Reconciliation Day**. To honour survivors of Residential Schools, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy

of Residential Schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process. To show our support here in Warminster.

Now I know most of you are used to a much happier dialogue, but I believe this had to be said. You never know what family, friends or neighbours may have endured this in their past. Some may be still struggling with its effects. As a caring community, we can talk to our neighbours and show them compassion.

On another note, remember that the children will be returning to school the first week of September. I know they will be excited to see their friends and new things at the school. Over the summer there were some portables taken down and replaced with new ones. You may have already seen the large load of new sand that was put in the ball diamond as well. Please be extra cautious when driving, as excited children may be more focused on mingling with their "long lost friends" instead of safety. Let's keep all of our children safe.

I'm keeping it short this time. If anyone has any news they would like included in the Warminster section, please feel free to email me at dawn6782@gmail.com. As always, stay safe. Enjoy spreading your wings (cautiously though). Until next time...

Cooking Column by Anna Proctor

Those who know me well, are probably shocked that I am writing a cooking column!

One day recently, my stepmom and I were talking about North Simcoe life, and she wondered aloud if we had a cooking column, as she thought it would mesh fairly well with our readership and what our readers are interested in. I thought it was a great idea, and as I wanted to get it going, I decided to write this inaugural column, with the hope of persuading someone more proficient in cooking to take up the pen in future issues!

Given that we have three or four columnists talking about gardening in this issue, I thought it would be a good idea in this issue, to delve into some recipes which use local and fresh produce. August and September are the prime veggie harvesting months here in North Simcoe,

and sometimes our garden's harvests are a bit more than we bargained for...and we need some help figuring out what to do with the bounty.

First and foremost, and this is not a cooking tip...share! Neighbours and friends without gardens will likely be only too happy to receive some of your excess produce, as will your local food bank. If, however, you are at the point of sneaking onto your neighbour's porch at midnight to deposit a huge basket of excess zucchini...this is not ok, and you might be in need of some new recipes!

Here are some great websites with lots of recipes and tips for freezing and canning some of the most common veggies being harvested in our area this season.

The 50 Most Delicious Tomato Recipes: www.delish.com/cooking/g1448/quick-easy-tomato-recipes. Hit the arrows on the photos to check out the

pictures and each recipe. You will have NO tomatoes left over if you go through these simple and yummy tomato recipes, and you will want to plant twice as many tomatoes next summer!

Tomatoes freeze well, and you can also can them. For information on how to go about this, check these websites out: Freezing: www.homemadefoodjunkie.com/freezing-tomatoes-whole

Canning: www.shelovesbiscotti.com/canning-raw-pack-whole-tomatoes.

Love and Lemons, 30 Best Zucchini Recipes: www.loveandlemons.com/zucchini-recipes. Again, simple, varied, delicious recipes for this most prolific of veggies! Also, pro tip from me, zucchini can be easily shredded and frozen in baggies to be made available off season for yummy treats like zucchini bread, muffins, and fritters. Just make sure to squeeze the excess moisture out of the shredded zucchini before using.

I hope these links help make your excess veggies less stress and more yum! Next issue, look for a new columnist in the role of food writer!



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Gardening with Gail by Gail McLroy

As I sit and write this column, I can't help but ask myself "Did we have summer?"

June was dry, July was wet to the point some trees and perennials suffered root damage and, in some cases, needed to be replaced. Smog warnings and wildfires from the west coast reached parts of Ontario. It's now time to consider things that need to be done in the gardens prior to winter. Ongoing weeding is even more important at this time of the year. Flowering shrubs need to be pruned back once they have stopped blooming for the season. Lilies are starting to become dormant so trim off any forgotten heads that haven't dropped off. Some gardens appear to be so lush, rest assured things are hap-

pening to the plant that we can't see.

This is a great time to collect seeds. Cosmos are a good example at this time. Most seeds do best when dried and place inside a paper bag in a dark cool area of your home. If you choose to start the seeds indoors, they should be started in February/March. Deadheading should still continue if you want to extend the season's bloom. The extra work we do at this time of the year will pay off with a healthier plant in the spring, and it makes the plant strong and healthy for the approaching cooler temperatures, less daylight and the onset of winter. The best advice is to trim, trim, and trim some more. This is also a perfect time to add compost because it adds nutrients, and helps with moisture

evaporation.

Winters are milder now, so with less time for the plant to be dormant it is even more important to add nutrients. If seeding isn't your thing, leave the seeds for the birds to enjoy the buffet. Favourites are rudbeckia, sunflowers, and even coneflowers.

Divide and Conquer: This is also a good time to divide perennials, this keeps the plant healthier. Examples: Bearded Iris, Lilies, Agapanthus, Bee Balm, Hosta, (once the bloom has died off, as bees and butterflies are still getting nourishment until then). It's a great time to share plants with friends.

Checking for disease: This time of year is also a good time to inspect plants for disease. Check the leaves and stems. The last thing we need is to find that a bacteria infestation has spread while incubating during the

fall months.

Cool planting: August is a great month to plant vegetables that prefer cooler weather. Examples for cool planting are: cabbage, broccoli, kale, onions, arugula, onions, and leeks.

Herbs: Cut back herbs to refresh growth to dry later. Lots of methods are popular for drying herbs. A couple of methods are: regular oven, best to 250 degrees for about 40 minutes, check frequently because each oven may vary. Another method is to microwave for 45 seconds, afterwards check every 12 seconds. We use a coffee grinder, and save in an airtight container. The aroma in the kitchen is almost mesmerizing.

So, in closing, sit back and enjoy the summer we have left. A great time to feel stress-free and savour all of your efforts. Bentley and Gail





Worth It by Natasha Claire

Part 1

"Willow, come on. We have places to be!" Gigi called from a couple of metres ahead, standing underneath a vine-infested lamppost. I shook my head and ran to catch up with her.

"Sorry, I guess I got distracted," I mumbled, adjusting the backpack that was slung over my shoulder. It was empty, but Gigi and I were on our way to fill it. Hopefully the nearest store still had some things in stock, or else we would have to travel farther away from the small apartment we lived in. I shivered at the thought. I never really enjoyed scavenging at night, for many reasons. After the nuclear bombs had stopped raining down on us, and the dust, heat and radiation had cleared, food had become like gold. People fought in the streets over a simple loaf of bread that used to cost \$3.99. The night also brought the sounds of angry predators, who roamed the streets of their new territory and would kill anyone who got in their way. But hopefully Gigi and I would be able to get home before sundown today.

These days the sun rose around 5 am and set past 8. Winters had been lost due to the extreme heat the bombs had given off, and the gear we had to fight the cold had become our beds, which we laid across the stone floor of our wrecked and run-down apartment.

We passed the church, then the park and then the library before we got to the grocery store.

"All right, are you ready?" I asked, grabbing the door handle. Gigi nodded, although she looked a little nervous. And she had every right to be. Finding food was always dangerous. Occasionally people would camp out in the stores and

ambush anyone who went in looking for food. Other times two groups would meet, both searching for an answer to their hunger, and only one group would leave alive.

Gigi held a large stick in her hands, and I had a metal rod that we'd pulled out of our apartment wall. I opened the door, wincing as a soft chiming noise rang through the building. Gigi and I quickly stepped inside, quietly shutting the door behind us and ducking under the nearest cashier counter.

But nothing moved. No sound was made that indicated any kind of danger, so I gave Gigi the all clear to move. She took a deep breath, as if she'd forgotten to breathe that whole time, then started moving through the nearest shelves with a pace and rhythm that would have looked almost robotic before the apocalypse. But she and I had built a sort of routine when we went out scavenging. She knew how to move methodically through the store shelves, placing the food in the bag almost as if she was playing Tetris, so she could fit as much in as possible, and I knew how to observe and keep watch. My eyes scanned the street outside the cracked windows, listening carefully for any sign of life, animal or human. Even what we'd once known as pets had become dangerous. Rodents carried disease, and dogs and cats had turned feral. If you saw a golden retriever running down the street, your first instinct now would be to run instead of to pet it.

"All righty, let's get going," Gigi said, bounding over to stand beside me. I nodded, giving the store one last once over before following the brunette out onto the street.

My fight-or-flight instincts kicked in as gunshots echoed through the air from a couple of blocks down, and I pulled Gigi into a small gap between the grocery store and the library, where the librarian used to park his bike.

The two of us sat there in dead silence. Waiting.



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Georgian College Virtual Open House

—submitted

Curious about Georgian College and want to find out more about your postsecondary options?

We're here to help. The college is offering a Get to Know Georgian virtual event on Tuesday August 31. This event will run from 5 to 6 pm and will cover programs and services at all campus locations.

Get to Know Georgian virtual events are helpful whether you're thinking about attending Georgian yourself or are a parent or supporter of a future student about to graduate from high school. Data shows that high school students have been particularly reluctant to apply or register for college during the pandemic. They've also had a stronger-than-normal tendency to stay close to home. Wherever you are in the educational journey, these events are your opportunity to connect with our friendly recruitment team about all things Georgian: located right here in your community.

Get to Know Georgian is a great opportunity to learn about your flexible study options, including 130 plus programs and options for full-time, part-time and online study. You can also:

- get information on the many supports available to students
- find out about the Georgian Learning Guarantee
- discover financial aid options
- learn about student life, activities and clubs
- and more

Each event includes a Q&A session, so come prepared with your questions. Plus, those ready to apply can learn how Georgian will cover the \$95 OCAS application fee so they can apply for FREE!

Register online and get full details about all the upcoming sessions at GeorgianCollege.ca/GetToKnowGeorgian.





photo by Deb Halbot

Eady News by Evelyn Reid

Summer is finally here, although with all the rain we have had, it feels more like April! A lot has changed in our world, country, province, and in our local communities in the past couple of months. Many of us have now had our two COVID-19 vaccinations and many others are scheduled for their second dose any day now. Restaurants are finally open again, and summer camps, sporting events, and stores are all hustling with activity. Although some COVID-19 protocols are still in place, it seems like the world is finally starting to get back to normal and we are finally able to visit with friends and family again.

Congratulations are extended to Donna and Wim de Munnik who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 20th. Donna and Wim were married at Regent Park United Church, Orillia in 1971 and have been long time residents of Eady where they raised their two children. Due to COVID-19, their celebratory plans had to be put on hold, but instead, they celebrated by having a lovely dinner at home with their family.

Get well wishes are extended to Don Walker who has been undergoing treatment at Royal Victoria Hospital. We hope you are on the way to feeling better soon Don!

Get well wishes are also extended to Allan Walker who has recently spent some time at Orillia Soldier's Memorial Hospital as well as Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie following surgeries. We hope you are on the mend now Allan, and wish you a speedy recovery!

Congratulations to the Eady Community Hall as this September marks the 100th Anniversary of its opening. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, no celebrations of the hall will be taking place at this time. However, I thought I would share some history about how the hall came about, and how it has continued to exist.

On January 12th, 1921 the Eady Women's Institute and the Eady Farmers Club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker of Grenard, 12th concession (now called Line) to discuss the building of a community hall in Eady. A committee was formed with members from the Young People's Club from Fairvalley, three or four people from the Eady Women's Institute, and other residents of Eady, Grenard, and Fairval-

ley communities. Three members were chosen to approach Mr. John Duddy of Creighton and Mr. Robert Cummings of Moonstone, both carpenters, to come up with plans, specifications and costs for a new hall. They accepted the job. Then a subscription list was started, and 133 persons were included on that list of donors. The amounts ranged from \$1, \$2, \$5, \$20, and \$25.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kent donated ¼ acre of land and ½ acre was bought later. The community volunteer farms donated gravel for the basement, and the basement was built by Jack Walker of Coldwater (Don, Allan, and Charles Walker's grandfather). The total cost of the building was \$6,610.75 and all the help was voluntary. The Women's Institute donated money towards the cost of the building and many of the interior necessities such as dishes, tables, kitchen utensils, and much more. The wooden chairs (I believe were donated by the T. Eaton company in Toronto) and are still in use today.

The grand opening took place on September 5, 1921, Labour Day, with a "Calathumpian Parade" and oxen, people in costumes, floats, etc. were part of the parade. The parade was followed by a hot meat supper cooked on a wood stove, a program and concert. The speakers were Mrs. Todd, the Dominion President of the Women's Institute, Mr. John Bell of Hobart, Reeve of Medonte Township, and Mr. Staples from the Educational Dept. of the United Farmers of Ontario.

Ever since that day the Community Hall has been well supported. There was originally no ceiling in the basement except the rafters until Mrs. Ida Dunlop, a great Women's Institute worker, started canvassing the community for the "Eady Hall High Top" and as a result, she collected enough money to have a proper ceiling put on the basement.

In the early years of the hall, the Anglican Young People's Association of St. George's Church, Fairvalley, ran several old-time dances with lots of square dancing, chauntise, heel and toe, waltzes, etc. and there was always a chaperone from the hall board present on the platform! Eady United Church had their fund-raising events there also, as well as all the school concerts for Eady school were held in the hall. In the late 50's and into



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the 60's and 70's, many dances continued to be held in the hall, but these were gradually discontinued as the orchestras got too expensive. Regular card parties put on by the hall board were prevalent for several years following the dances.

Well water used to be pumped from Wib and Isabelle Schaller's house (in the summer months), who lived in the former CPR station across the road from the hall. In the winter,

water was brought from people's homes. It is especially nice to now have inside washrooms compared to the outside two-holer outhouse once used both summer and winter for both men and women to share. In the 70's an electric chemical unit was installed and used until 2005 when three washrooms with flush toilets were installed.

Renovations of a larger kitchen, the addition of an upstairs small meeting room and washrooms, the well, septic bed and the installation of air conditioning throughout the hall were

finished in 2005 and a celebration dinner for the volunteers occurred on Saturday, October 15th. Since that time, several other improvements have continued to be made including the installation of a loudspeaker system in 2008, and in 2020 renovations to the upstairs of the hall which included the addition of a new coatroom, a new ceiling, new lighting, the addition of insulation to the upstairs, and painting of the upstairs and main entrance.

The hall continues to have rentals to help with the upkeep (currently suspended until further notice due to COVID-19). The Annual Turkey Supper, Christmas Variety Concert and large garage sales have been the main fundraising events for the hall. Both the Turkey Supper and the Christmas Variety Concert were started in 1971, and this would have been the 50th year of holding these two events if COVID-19 had not struck.

For the time being the hall is not yet open, but it is hoped that it will be open in the near future.

I hope that you have a fun, safe, and healthy summer!

News from Ramara

by Joan Mizzi-Fry

Accidental Gardener:

Former city slicker learns how to grow a vegetable garden north of Highway 9

Like most people, during the pandemic, I tried to take up new tasks/hobbies. That includes vegetable gardening. I had visions of growing a 'victory garden,' a common term used by those hardy folks during WWI and WWII who tried to supplement their families' meals with fresh veggies. Rationing was a real thing, and it wasn't limited to toilet paper. Living

in cottage country, we were subjected to same lockdowns/rules as our city-based family and friends.

I 'married' into this cottage life and when we decided to move up here full time, the adjustment was, well, interesting. One of my interesting experiences was deciding to grow a vegetable garden. Yup, I was determined to discover my own 'roots' and turn over a new leaf or two. (Pause for cliché groans.)



I'm a city kid, born and raised in Toronto's west end, so we didn't have a lot of space for a veggie garden. Yet, my dad managed to yield a healthy bounty most years of tomatoes, zucchini and 'arabali', a round shaped squash commonly grown in his native Malta. I loved the smell of the rich wet soil as we picked the ripe veggies/fruits (yes tomatoes are a fruit). I wish I could bottle that scent.

Fast forward from 1960s Toronto to Washago 2021 and I'm well into my gardening adven-

ture. After a great deal of trial and error, I've 'accidentally' grown juicy cherry and plum tomatoes as well as zucchini. I planted basil in between the tomato plants to give them a rich, basil-infused taste. I also planted marigolds around the seedlings to 'hopefully' repel bugs. It works most of the time; however, this year, cucumber beetles feasted on my zucchini. Alas, we didn't have success with them this season.

Gardening has made me more cognizant of my own backyard and losing my zucchini plants is a major disappointment. In addition to growing vegetables, I've grown a greater appreciation for farmers and all those who put food on our tables. However, I need to move on and look forward to next season.

Here are a few tips from one amateur, accidental gardener to another:

1. Make sure you know your growing zone. This is key to knowing what to grow in your area. Here's a link to the Environment Canada information site: http://planthardiness.gc.ca/images/PHZ_2014_CFS_Map_30M.pdf
2. Research. Yes, do your homework on plants you want to grow and will eat. Please, only grow what you like and don't waste.
3. We installed raised garden beds that made it easier to work, with less stress on maturing backs/knees etc. Plus, you can control the quality of your garden soil.
4. Locate the garden in an area you will pass frequently, and not out of sight. This is one of the key points I learned, so I can keep an eye on the garden's progress. Remember: out of sight, out of mind...maybe out of luck?

5. Make it a family affair. It's a great family project and helps engage kids of all ages into learning about where their food really comes from.

Vegetable gardening is also a good way to connect with fellow 'accidental' gardening neighbours with whom you can swap veggies, like tomatoes for kale?

Whatever you decide to grow, it's important to remember how fragile our food chain is, and not to take any meals for granted. Feed your soul: learn to grow!

About the writer: Joan is a former broadcast news producer/writer, dog mom to cockapoos Oscar age 14 and Gracie age 2. Joan was born and raised in Toronto to parents who immigrated from Malta in 1950s. She moved up to the Washago area full-time in 2014 and is fairly sure she'll never move back to the city.



Sustainable Simcoe North

by Anna Proctor

Note: this month, our column will be given over to Sustainable Orillia, to help promote Sustainable Orillia month in September. Everyone is invited to participate!—Anna Proctor

We are happy to announce that this SEPTEMBER will be **Sustainable Orillia Month!**

Sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions are a year-long effort, but we like to give you extra motivation each year during a designated Sustainable Orillia Month. This year, if possible, we are eager to connect with you in person for events that will showcase our mission and the good work being done by all our Sectors. With September just around the corner, we want to give everyone a heads-up on what to expect throughout the month!

We will be highlighting agriculture, eating local, and talking about regenerative farming at the one-day Fall Fair at ODAS Park on September 11th. That same weekend (11th and 12th) we will host our second Electric Vehicle (EV) Demo weekend at the Orillia Square Mall. If you are interested in EVs or the newest technology coming from Ford in the all-electric F150 and Mustang, come to the Orillia Square Mall to connect with local drivers and EV experts.



For the first time, in addition to the EV display outside on the weekend, we will be holding a week of "sustainability" at the Orillia Square Mall. Each day, inside the mall, we will be talking about a different sustainability topic and how Orillians can make positive changes towards preserving our quality of life and protecting the planet.

Look, also, for Sustainability Orillia displays in downtown Orillia during the month—in the Peter Street Arts District and on Mississauga Street.

These are just some of the exciting things coming this Sustainable Orillia month. For the full calendar of events be sure to check out our website (www.sustainableorillia.ca) and social media for ongoing announcements to see all the ways you can get involved!

Plan now to join us for Sustainable Orillia Month in September. And plan, as well, to make—or renew—your personal commitment to a more sustainable lifestyle for you and your family.

Sustainable Orillia

ORILLIAMATTERS.com

Remembering live music...



photo by Deb Halbot

Dalston-Crown Hill and Forest Home United Churches

by Janet Panting

Dalston-Crown Hill - 1734 Penetanguishene Rd., Springwater (in hamlet of Dalston)

Forest Home - 165 Line 15 North, Orillia, (in hamlet of Forest Home)

A message from Rev. Will:

One of the internet bloggers I like to read is Victor Davis Hanson, a classics scholar who has written about agriculture and warfare in ancient Greece, among other subjects. Now in his late 60s and semi-retired, Hanson also writes many memoirs about the family farm in California's Central Valley, where he has lived for all of his life. In a recent post on his website, www.victorhanson.com, he reflected on his periodic encounters with barn owls, the helpful predators that keep small pests under control around his property. A recent sighting, he wrote, reminded him of a boyhood experience and an important lesson taught to him by his mother. What struck me particularly in this short article was his statement that in his middle age, when he was overly busy with his career teaching university and writing, he thought that the barn owls had disappeared from his farm. In more recent years, he has realized that they never left, it was he that had changed over the years. As his attention turned to other tasks and responsibilities, he simply became less aware of the natural world around him. Perhaps there may be some echoes of this in our own personal journeys.

Jesus once said, "See the birds of the air. They neither sow nor reap nor gather crops into barns yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more important than they?" (Matthew 6:26)

In this beloved section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus pointed his disciples to the "birds of the air" and the "lilies of the field" as illustrations that as God watches carefully over creation, so even more does God lovingly attend to us.

This is a comforting and reassuring part of the Bible that has meant a lot to me over the years. It teaches us not to worry about the future but to enjoy the blessings and the challenges of the day at hand. To get the most meaning out of what Jesus said, we have to stop and smell the roses, so to speak, to notice what is going on around us. This helps us realize that we are part of the world in which God exercises wisdom and providence. As we receive God's peace in doing so, we can begin to savour God's countless gifts all the more. —Will

Anna Arnold's thoughts about our churches during COVID-19....

We are so incredibly grateful for all the staff and volunteers who have worked so faithfully over the pandemic. You might think that the churches are closed but the work of the church continues, and volunteers stepped forward to begin new tasks.

The zoom technology was new to Rev. Will Haughton who quickly learned how to present virtual services. Equipment to air the service from the church had to be purchased and volunteers had to learn about the technology. Although there are irregular glitches, the virtual services come to us each Sunday morning. We thank those who operate the technology at both churches. Folks can listen to the service through their home

phones, or view and listen to the services on their cell phones, tablets or computers. Attendance at the churches is still limited, but if you would like to attend either service, a quick call to reserve your place can be done. For Forest Home, please call Anna at 705-327-1079, and for Dalston-Crown Hill, please call Joe at 705-722-6965.

We also thank Janet Isaac who prepares the weekly power point; the closing weekly joke provides us with a laugh. We thank Janet Panting who prepares a weekly bulletin that arrives in our email before Sunday morning.

We continue to hear the instruments and voices of those who provide taped musical selections for our services. We thank Janet Shelswell and Susan Kelly for leading the hymns on the piano. The volunteers who read scripture and light the Christ candle and pour the water can do so from their homes just as if they were at the church.

With each stage of COVID-19 reopening, more members are returning to the sanctuary to worship. This has meant preparation so that those who attend are safe. We thank Debbie Hamilton for her leadership, Dilys Haughton and Doreen Crichton who set standards to provide safe protocols for those in the sanctuary.

Dalston-Crown Hill has held some outdoor afternoon worship services (in addition to the morning service), while social distancing on a huge lawn. This provides a time to sing with others and to visit (with masks if not social distancing).

Currently, we thank the members for their generous gifts and the treasurers who pay the bills. The telephone team and Rev. Will keeps in regular touch with the members. Together we have kept our congregations alive; now is the time to think and plan to be together again.

During the month of August, Rev. Will is on vacation, so the churches are doing joint worship by Zoom. The first three Sundays will be from D-CH, and last three will be from FH. This starts the last week of July and continues throughout August. All the services will begin at 9:30 am. If you would like to join on Zoom, you can email or call Janet Panting to get the Zoom information.

Our "All Cooped Up" newsletter is still in production, with lots of jokes, stories, quizzes, trivia, and always a word search. If you would like to be on the email list, just contact Janet Panting (see contact information below).

On Sunday, September 12 at 2:00 pm, Forest Home is planning to celebrate the beginning of another year with an Outdoor Celebratory Service. Bring a lawn chair and your mask (?) to celebrate being together again.

In the meantime, we hope volunteers enjoy a summertime rest; you have worked hard and deserve time to relax.

Blessing to all of you —Anna Arnold

ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER

Take care, and Stay Safe!

If you would like to join any of our Zoom worship services,

An advertisement for therapy. The top half features the text "feeling STUCK?" in a large, light blue font over a background of a person standing on a rock in the middle of a body of water. Below this, the text "Therapy for Anxiety and Depression" is written in a smaller font. At the bottom, the name "Candy Potter" is listed as a "Registered Psychotherapist" with the website "candypotter.com", "online meetings available", and the phone number "705-309-1463".

An advertisement for a real estate agent. On the left is a photo of Ted Michener, a man with glasses and a white shirt. To the right is the Century 21 logo and his name "TED MICHENER" in large letters. Below his name, it says "Sales Representative" and provides contact information: "Direct: 705-717-8111", "tedm@rogers.com", and "www.cro-medonte.info". At the bottom, it says "CENTURY 21" and "B.J. Roth Realty Ltd.".



please call Janet Panting for the information. Phone: 705-737-2552 or email: janetpanting@gmail.com.

Check out the websites at:

www.ForestHomeUC.ca

or email: foresthomeunitedchurch@yahoo.ca

www.DalstonCrownHillUnitedChurch.net

or email: dalcrown@gmail.com

The Toddler Tourist: Exploring Hidden Gems in Your Own Backyard

by Hillary Handy

The Provincial Park Hopper

Growing up, our family did not camp. We ran a summer camp, so that was as much 'camping' as I knew how to do. But we never did the travelling circuit of pitching tents in parks or toting a trailer to remote forested regions. While I may not be quite skilled enough or ready to rough it out in the bush with toddlers in tow, I have found myself exploring the Provincial Parks in our region and enjoying the unique benefits each has to offer.

One unexpected blessing of COVID-19 and pandemic living has been having FREE access to the Provincial Parks for this year. You can go and use a Day-Pass, free of charge, from Monday-Thursday. Historically, you have to pay to enter, even for day use, which can be a deterrent to most people. It was to me! I literally had never been to any of the Provincial Parks in our region. Some libraries also have a pass you can sign-out so you can use it over the weekend, up to seven days. The Orillia Public Library does! The parks have never been more accessible, which is great during this season of our lives when we are craving the freedom the outdoors and nature brings.



The North Simcoe region is blessed to have not one, but three parks in our immediate area:

1. **Bass Lake Provincial Park**- shallow sandbars on Bass Lake are great for swimming with toddlers, a playground, easy access to bathrooms, and snack bar make this a fun day-trip or even just to go for an hour before naptime. One negative aspect is that occasionally there is a bacterial water advisory, due to the shallow water and the increased summer temperatures. Be sure to check before planning a beach day. This one is our favourite for the ease of access and toddler-friendliness.
2. **Mara Provincial Park**- huge beachfront with beachside playground, fun trails, and ample room to spend a day make this a fun outing on Lake Simcoe.
3. **McCrae Provincial Park**- Lots of space to swim and fish with loads of trails for hiking or biking, along the shores of Lake Simcoe. There's even a boardwalk with views of a marshy area, perfect for looking at frogs, turtles and birds. No play structure for kids, but access to nature's playground instead.

If you want to expand your radius of parks that are close by, but technically out of North Simcoe, we have all of Wasaga Beach and its small lesser-known beaches, Springwater Provincial Park outside of Barrie, Awenda Provincial Park in Midland and Six Mile Lake, on your way to Parry Sound. These 30-45 minute drives are worth it to explore the different landscapes that are so close to us!

Parks are awesome outings for children because they promote exploration and curiosity. You can do nature scavenger hunts, practice eco-stewardship, animal identification, and de-



velop skills such as hiking and fishing. You can go for an hour or spend a whole day. Having never been to a Provincial Park in my life, I'm now a firm believer in the power of the Park.

Now that I consider us to be Provincial Park Hoppers, we have begun collecting the badges from each park. This can be a fun keepsake for the future. This can be the only cost you incur on these outings: roughly \$5 per badge. We are going to display ours in a shadow box, as a

reminder of our adventures and yes, sometimes with toddlers, misadventures, in the years to come.

The free Day-Use program extends until September 2. Get out there and take advantage of the beautiful landscapes we are so blessed to have access to. Visit www.OntarioParks.com to explore the interactive map and see what is located near you. Share your photos and adventures with us at North Simcoe life!



Couchiching Conservancy August Events

—submitted

Support and learn with the Couchiching Conservancy this summer. For more news and how to support, go to the website at www.couchichingconserv.ca.

Wednesday August 18 at 7:00 pm

Batty for Bats

—Leader: Toby Rowland
This is a Zoom presentation with a maximum of 100 log ins.

How much do you know about bats? This often misunderstood family of mammals are an important part of our interconnected eco-systems. Join this webinar to learn from Toby Rowland, Citizen Science Field Coordinator. He will share information on the different species in our region, the threats they face, and the technology we use to monitor them. There will be time for questions as well.

Tuesday, August 31 at 7:00 pm

Planting a Native Garden

—Leader: Kristin Ego McPhail
This is a Zoom presentation with a maximum of 100 log ins.

This one-hour online workshop would benefit people who are looking at doing a fall planting of native plants in their yards and gardens. Our discussion with our expert from Ego's Garden Centre, Kristin Ego MacPhail, will include how to plant, in what soils, the ongoing care, and the long-term benefits of including native plants on your property.

Because this workshop will take place in the late summer, we'll start with spring and summer photos of the plants in the Ego's gardens so participants can see size and colour. We'll discuss the benefits of different types of native shrubs and flowers and the ways to keep them blooming by planting them in the right soil and location. Finally, we'll have an opportunity to ask some questions of our expert.

We look forward to seeing you at these special virtual presentations!

For more information on the Conservancy, and what we do, please visit our website at www.couchichingconserv.ca.

Ask Risha

by Risha Yorke

As a Business and Success coach, I answer questions about business and your own personal path to success. Send your questions in to risha@yorkemotivational.com.

How do I go from the frantic summer schedule to the frantic schedule I had pre-COVID-19, now that things are opening up again?

I've been giving this much thought. As the world reopens and we are getting more freedom and things seem to be getting back on track, it feels like we have a huge opportunity.

I don't know about you, but I'm tired for reasons that are completely different than the reasons I was tired before the pandemic.

We all owe ourselves some grace and kindness as we transition back to more predictable schedules.

I'll share with you what my plan is and how I hope to create a life by design that takes into account self-care as well as my ultimate lifestyle goals and personal values.

One of my top personal values is work/life balance.

Maintaining this is key to me living a life I love and getting out of bed each morning with a hop in my step rather than incoherent grumbling and cursing the universe. I have the advantage of being self-employed, so I make my own schedule. I'll be creating a balanced calendar as well as booking some "vacation time" before I jump back into full-time work. I suggest using some vacation time, if you have it, or keeping your calendar light for a month to help yourself reacclimatize.

I am building self-care into my daily, weekly and monthly routine. I'm not just talking about quiet time and bubble baths. I'm a social person and I need people. I will book lunch dates, social time, personal health appointments, massage, hobby time and family time. I will make sure I have time for me.

I will reassess my priorities. I won't go back to as many commitments as I had before. I want to make sure I have

wiggle room. One of my values is freedom, and I feel boxed in when I stretch myself too thin. I want the opportunity to be impulsive. This applies to both time and money. I know I was spending both in places that were not serving me.

I will pay attention to where I spend my money and how it affects my community. I aim to continue focusing on supporting local businesses, elevating those in my community who need our support. We have learned the power of our spending habits. Every dollar spent in my community stays in my community. It's keeping mortgages paid, kids fed and creates jobs locally.

I will be hugging everyone! I'm double vaxxed and missing my community. If I see you on the street and you are down for a hug, reach out! It's what I missed most.

To quote Bob Dylan, "The times they are a changing". I understand that the communities, lifestyles and goals that we build and strive for are completely within our control. If we want 60 hour/week lives where our head is exploding from stress and we are all hustling to barely get by, then we will go back to the world where our planet and our most vulnerable community members suffer the consequences of our choices, while we toil away feeling empty.

I will seize this opportunity to further women's equality, reduce pay gaps and grow my community into the kind of place I dream about living in. We are closer than we are far from this. To quote John Lennon, "You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one." Join me!




Orillia Business Women's Association News

—submitted

The Orillia Business Women's Association is a not-for-profit organization of members who gather for the purpose of networking. Our intent is to bring women together in a safe and welcoming space to network, to build relationships, to showcase their businesses, to learn from guest speakers, to enjoy a delicious dinner, to establish support and to have fun. All women, whether in business or not, are welcome to join the group and details are on the website, www.orilliabusinesswomen.com.

For the past sixteen months we have met virtually the second Wednesday of each month. We are hoping that it won't be long until we can meet again in person for our dinner meetings at the Best Western PLUS Mariposa Inn and Conference Centre, 400 Memorial Avenue, Orillia.

We are excited to announce that we have just posted on our website www.orilliabusinesswomen.com, the nomination form

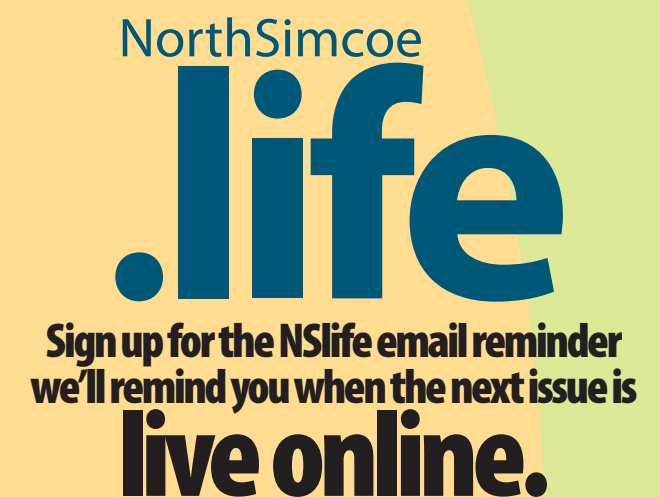
for the Nelle Carter Woman of the Year 2021. This award is given to a woman who is respected for her outstanding work in the community, the workplace, at home or all three.

If you know an amazing woman you want to nominate, now is the time. We are accepting nominations of women from Orillia and surrounding townships. We will accept the nominations until September 1. You can email the completed form to networking@orilliabusinesswomen.com.

We have already received the nominations for Young Woman of the Year from the three Orillia High Schools and will be announcing the nominees very soon. The Young Woman of the Year must demonstrate high scholastic achievement, participation in extra school activities and volunteer work in the community.

The Nelle Carter Woman of the Year and Lisa Brooking Young Woman of the Year event details will be announced in the next few weeks.

You can follow the Orillia Business Women's Association on Facebook or on our website www.orilliabusinesswomen.com.



email: info@NorthSimcoe.life

or visit our website and fill out the form on the homepage

WE ARE COMMUNITY
www.NorthSimcoe.life



Coldwater, a Village on the River by Sue Piitz

Although only a year or so has passed since the word pandemic became a word even children were familiar with, many things have changed in our little community. Some things touch on the privacy issue so I can only gently touch on them without getting anyone upset with me. With things returning to “normal” one must take two or more steps back to really get a clear view of things. Were things ever normal?

To the best of my knowledge the dental services in the village are still available but social distancing, masks etc. still apply. It is not over until it is over. Please remember to bring your mask. Many of the shops are open for business as are the places to eat. Some businesses are closed at the east entrance/stoplights except for the lumberyard which is essential. It is wise to call ahead of time to check if the shop or business you wish to contact is still open. When you are in the village to shop, check out the business area and make note of what has closed and what is still open for business. That can save you time and frustration. Some places have changed their hours of operation so make note of that.

Unfortunately, the Sawbones Society will not be using the Canadiana Museum this year to film their second season. Pictures of the members filming their first season are on the Canadiana Museum's website. However, this year the Sawbones crew will be moving to different locations to film their second season. I am fortunate to have had a bit of a sneak pre-

view at what these awesome young people are creating and am looking forward to being well entertained in the next few months. If you didn't catch Season One yet, you can watch it here www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqxiWb3vUcE0q2qDOfxkf0TbAHkJFgrpB.



Many of you don't know anything about Steampunk and quite honestly, I didn't either until our first festival here but if you do a search on your computer, you will find that festivals are held in many places, even outside of Canada. Of course, like all things there are those who stretch things a bit but for the most part it is just full of imagination and the fun of creating something from something someone would dismiss as useless: such as nuts and bolts fused to make a sculpture.

Events in the village that we all looked forward to have been cancelled until further notice so there will not be a Fall Fair this year according to the notice on their web page. I know many of you look forward to this event every year. Hopefully, next year it will be up and running again.

There is now a new entrance into the Foodland parking lot and if you are not alert it can take you by surprise. The new subdivision is using the old entry now as I believe that will soon be a paved road into that area. All the activity that goes into building of homes etc. means more heavy truck traffic where it never used to be, using quiet residential streets as well as the main thoroughfare. So, a word of caution, keep your cats indoors, your dogs on a leash and your children close until things go back to normal. However, with added traffic and new residents I doubt that Coldwater will ever again be described as a sleepy little community and the sign you see coming into the area about the number of residents will have to be changed.

I have been told that Dr. Stone has fully retired and that a new physician is looking after the community now. This is another sign that things are changing. During the pandemic's worst time the Garden Club closed. Anyone still interested in belonging to the Ontario Horticultural Association can join a society in a community nearby: Orillia is still highly active. A search on the OHA Garden Ontario site can put you in touch with any society near

you.

During the last few months, many organizations made good use of wireless connections, using Zoom for meetings, Facetime, and other means of communication. Many organizations will continue to use these means to keep in touch with their members as it allows them to join organizations and clubs at too great a distance to reach easily. Classes can also be taken that way. These will become part of our normal as well as a return to the way we used to meet before.

Our thanks to those who have continued to provide that bit of beauty on the streets with beautiful hanging baskets and colourful gardens. The lights on the trees at night are a lovely touch. Looking back at the past months we did well pulling together as a community. We will soon be doubling in size if all the building that is planned for this village follows through.

If all goes well, school will reopen in September. At this point I don't know if there will be a Witches' Walk or a Christmas Parade. We will just have to wait and see. Will there be hockey? Curling? Christmas concert? Classes at the Purple Sock? Meetings of clubs? Probably. Yes. Maybe. Contact them to be sure. Many businesses and clubs still have landlines, and their telephone numbers are in the East-link book or on the internet.

At this time, I can't give you any information on those concerts, fundraisers, card parties, and all those other activities we looked forward to in the fall. It is just a wait and see time and I know you all understand why. So, continue to stay safe. Until next time...

Bumble Bee Delights

This being a summer to take the time to smell the flowers and observe the bees and butterflies, I decided to learn to identify the bumble bees in my garden. They are fascinating and, being large, are easy to observe, though they are never still for long. You may remember I wrote about The Great Canadian Bumble Bee Count, put on each September by Friends of the Earth (FOE). <https://foecanada.org/the-bee-cause/bumble-bee-count>.

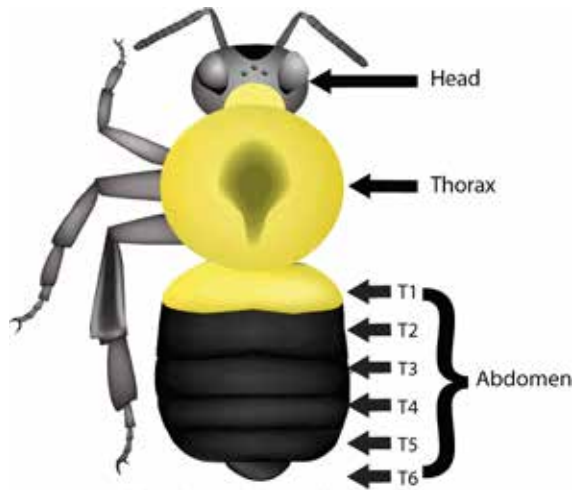
They have downloadable PDFs with drawings of eastern and western Canadian bumble bees, which show the markings very clearly. Even though I was using them, I found it difficult, so I tried to see which bees had features in common and group them.

A bumble bee has three body parts: the head, the thorax and the abdomen, and the markings on each identify a species.

The head can be all black or black and yellow.

The thorax can have different black markings or no markings at all.

The abdomen segments can be black, yellow, orange or a combination (T in the diagram refers to tergal or dorsal segment of the abdomen). Females have six segments and males have seven. Only the female has a stinger.



Armed with this information and using the FOE drawings, I

started organizing and grouping those with similar characteristics. The markings on the thorax are most easily and quickly identified so I separated them by dots and by other shapes.

There are seven bumble bees with black dots on the thorax, so I placed them on the first page. Two of those have orange segments on their abdomens so I placed them together and the others below, somewhat grouped by the segment markings.

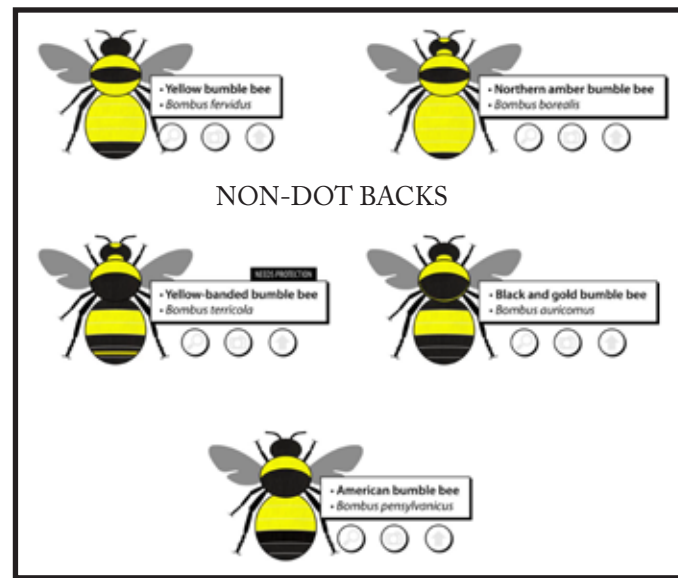
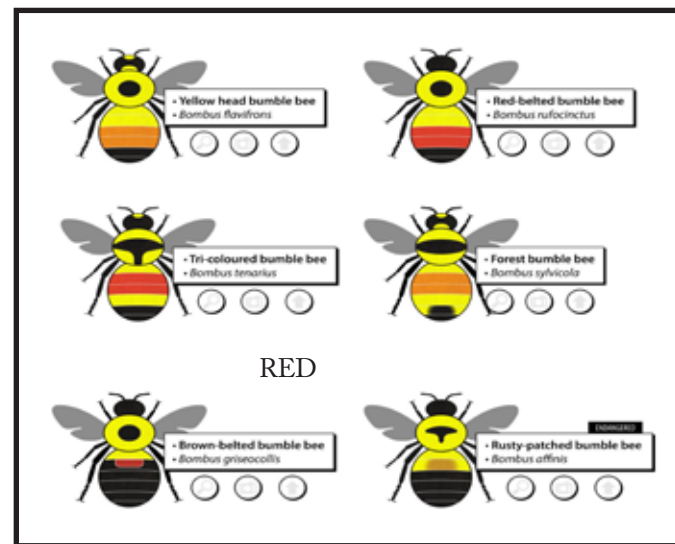
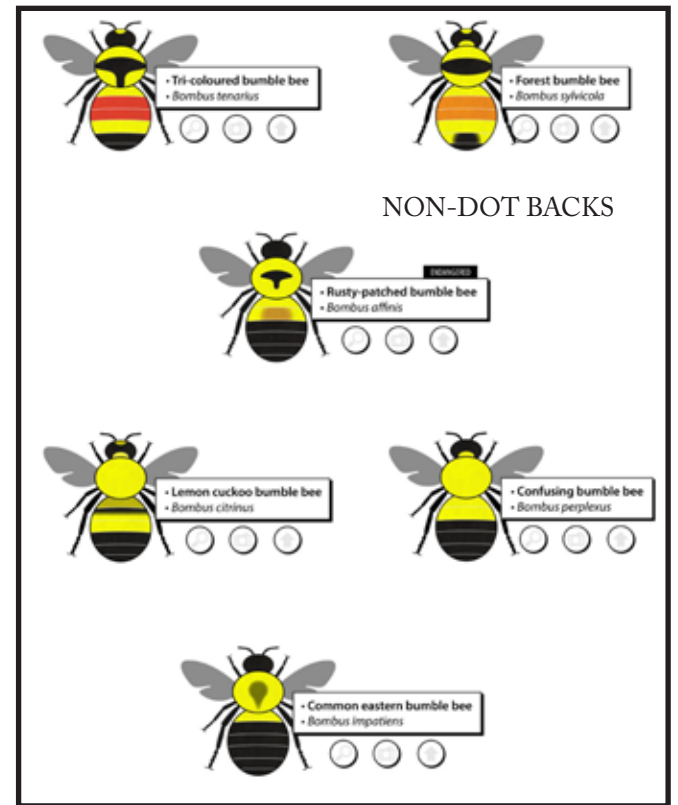
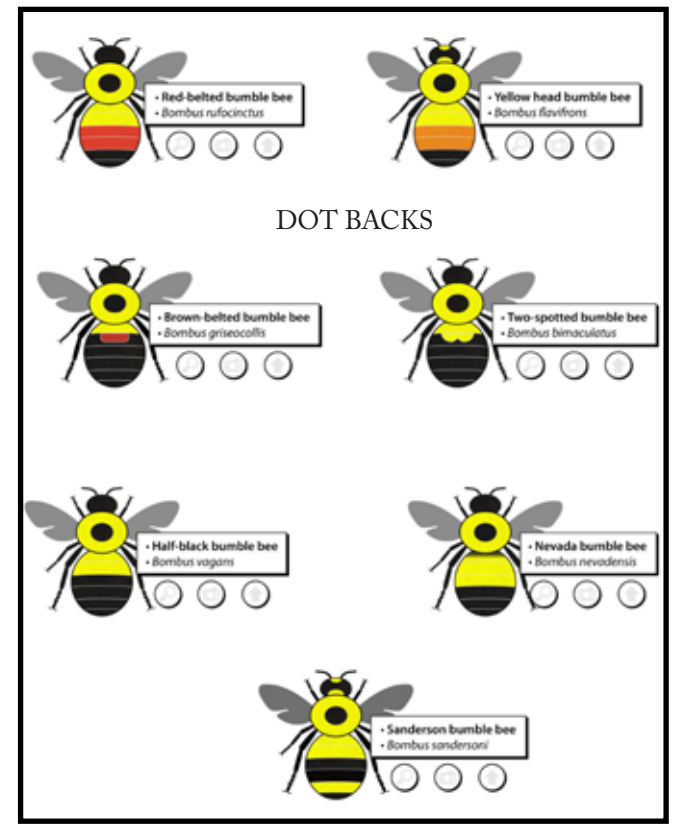
For those with other markings on the thorax I used the abdomen segments to sort them and only used head markings when there weren't other differences.

Finally, I placed any bees with orange on their abdomen on a separate page; these are all repeats from previous pages.

I have been able to identify seven bumble bees on our property: Forest, Yellow, Two-spotted, Northern Amber, Half-black, Sanderson and Common Eastern.

Many of our bumble bees are in decline. The Rusty-patched bumble bee has not been seen in Ontario since 2002. I am constantly amazed at the range of flowers that the bumble bees forage; who would guess that they love coleus flowers! The greater range of flowerings plants we grow ensuring food from early spring until the freeze up in fall will certainly help these charming insects.

The next two meetings of the Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society are August 9th and September 13th, 7 pm via Zoom. Contact info.omhs@gmail.com for more information or go to oromedontehorticulturalsociety.ca.



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Next Edition: THANKSGIVING / October/November 2021

AD & COPY DEADLINE: September 13th / PUBLISHED ONLINE: September 27th

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