

Nutcracker Magic

In early September, young dancers from Guelph and surrounding communities auditioned for a variety of roles in this year's Guelph performances.

At those auditions, 23 local dancers were selected, representing 8 different dance schools in Guelph, Ferris, Orangeville and Waterloo.

The company's *Nutcracker Youth Program* provides young dancers with the opportunity to perform with a professional dance company and, for those considering a career in dance, a valuable opportunity to experience the inner life and working of a ballet company.



Canada's Ballet Jörgen is one of this country's largest dance companies and Canada's leading touring company. Currently celebrating its 32nd season, Canada's Ballet Jörgen enriches our lives by bringing professional ballet to communities - large and small, urban and rural - across Canada.

Known for the warmth and beauty of its productions, CBJ reaches every province, delivering more than 4,000 performances, ballet classes and community engagement events involving over 60,000 participants annually.



For the River Run performances, all seats are reserved.

Adult tickets are \$53/\$48, senior tickets are \$49/\$44 and student tickets are \$36/\$31. Premier seating price is \$73. Prices include HST; additional service charges may apply.

Tickets are now on sale at River Run Centre Box Office at (519)763-3000 or 1-877-520-2408 or www.riverrun.ca. The *Guelph Mercury Tribune* generously makes possible these performances and the involvement of local dance students.

In the spirit of seasonal giving, the community is invited to Share The Magic and support the work of Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County.

By pledging a ticket at the discounted price of \$20, patrons can give a seat to a child or family who might otherwise not be able to share the Nutcracker magic. The box office is able to assist those wishing to give to Share The Magic.

Editorial

There is definitely a seasonal flavour to the paper this month. Not surprising given that Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa are just around the corner.

As a community we seem to have got into the spirit of the season with the fundraiser for the school's music program, the lunches at Crieff Hills, the update on Mike Wolf who donated his kidney last month, the new book for Opportunity International and the activities at Soup Sisters. And don't forget the Nutcracker Suite – an all-time family favourite for many.

The Fire Department, however, serves up some caution, as often fires start because of the Christmas trees or lit candles. So be safe.

All that said, this can be a sad time of the year for many, because of the loss of a loved one, a divorce or loneliness. Let's remember that and reach out.

Perhaps you can make a donation to a charity that is close to your heart, or deliver toys and gifts to the Salvation Army, or adopt a family through the Children's Foundation. Or you could include someone in your family celebrations so they are not alone.

All of us at the *Pioneer* wish you all the best for the season and next year.

Anne Day

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Puslinch. www.puslinchpioneer.com

Chair
Virginia Hildebrandt 519 821 4736
chair@puslinchpioneer.ca

Editor
Anne Day 519 767 9383
editor@puslinchpioneer.ca

Advertising & Sales
Dianne Churcher 519 763 6564
advertising@puslinchpioneer.ca

Church/Community Notices &
Circulation
Stella O'Krafka 519 658 4767
churchcomm@puslinchpioneer.ca

Board members
Barbara Bulmer, Barbara Chillingsworth,
Karen Harding, Genny Ribalko.

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

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

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

Unless otherwise stated, the deadline
for submission is the 2nd Friday of
the month. Next deadline is **Friday,
January 10th, 2020**

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

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Council Clips

Retirement.

Ken Roth has retired from Council for personal reasons. He was first elected in 2010 and has been a member of a number of committees over his years of service.

Estimated cost of a by-election would be about \$50,000. Council decided to proceed with an appointment process to fill the vacancy. A public notice was posted on the Township website November 6.

On November 25, an information session will be held for potential nominees. Final deadline for applicants will be 2PM December 12. After presentations on December 18, an appointment will be made.

Rentals at the Puslinch Community Centre.

The Township will implement a surcharge of 25 percent for non resident rentals for a period of twelve months. A subsequent report will be issued as to the impacts of the new fees. Currently, 70 percent of renters have a non-Puslinch mailing address. Res 2019-355

The Township has implemented a flat fee structure for Standard and Minor Site Plan Application and Agreements.

Replacement of single-axle dump truck.

Council has voted to replace the single-axle dump truck with a tandem axle model. Res 2019-351. The Township was able to locate an appropriate demonstration unit for delivery in late 2019 for this year's season.

New Fire Equipment.

Council has authorized the purchase of a Paratech VSK Highway Stabilization Kit and Water Rescue Equipment from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation of Canada.

A grant of \$19,435 was awarded to the Township by the Foundation for the purchase of these items. By-law 2019-60.

The heavy vehicle stabilization kit will assist responders by stabilizing the scene and vehicles, which allows for more efficient and safe extrication.

The Water Rescue Equipment includes an Oceanid RDC (Rapid Deployment Craft), a 600 foot tether rope and 8 x

75 foot throw bags. This will enhance our water and ice rescue capabilities. FIR-2019-009.

Washrooms at Morriston Meadows Park and old Morriston Park.

An estimate for upgrading the washrooms has come in at \$6,000, which includes new fixtures, metal doors with new locks, paint, cleaning and well inspection. New water filters will need to be reinstalled and monitored.

Request for Tender for a senior soccer field.

The Township has directed staff to proceed with the issuance of a new request for tender to construct a senior soccer field without lights in May 2020. Rec 2019-003.

Council also directed staff to apply to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for Community, Culture and Recreation for this project as well as the lights and upgrading the washrooms previously mentioned.

New prices at Puslinch Pioneer

Like most non-profit organizations we have to work within our budget.

We have not raised our prices for advertising in five years, and we are now in a position where it is time to charge more.

Advertising in the *Puslinch Pioneer* is still a good deal and our new prices are reflective of the increased costs in production and postage.

We thank all our advertisers for your support. Without you, there would be no paper.

To learn more, contact Dianne Churcher at advertising@puslinchpioneer.ca (519) 763 6564.

Christmas in the country

The Village of Erin BIA is hosting its popular annual 'Christmas in the Country' promotion from December 1-24.

Stroll down Erin's quaint main street, and enjoy our authentic Country Christmas Welcome. With every purchase at

any participating Erin Village Merchant, customers can collect a stamp.

Collect five stamps and enter to win gift certificates of \$250, \$150 and \$100.

Enjoy the shops, and find a unique treasure for everyone on your gift list. Country living meets boutique shopping in this beautiful Village, just outside the City.

You'll want to stay into the evening, enjoy a great meal in Erin's locally-owned restaurants, and enjoy the magical and inspiring holiday windows – plus, the enhanced lighting display in McMillan Park at the core of the Village! Make it a full day visit to one of Ontario's best-kept historic downtowns.

To learn more about your visit to explore natural beauty, heritage buildings, and boutique shopping in the Village of Erin, visit villageoferin.ca and erin.ca



TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH
(519) 763-1226

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

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

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

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

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

Letter to the editor

I write to express my concern with the November 2019 article written by Mayor James Seeley on the aggregate industry published in the Puslinch Pioneer. The article is not an accurate portrayal of the industry nor of the changes currently being proposed by the Provincial Government.

First we dispute Mayor Seeley's assertion that "responsible aggregate extraction should include a prohibition on below the water table extraction". This statement perpetuates the myth that aggregate extraction is harmful to water.

Quarries and pits that operate below the water table are required by law to mitigate impacts to nearby sensitive features – such as wells, streams and wetlands. No chemicals are involved in the extraction or processing of aggregate materials. Aggregate is a clean industry.

Further, extracting below the water table allows for a volume of aggregate to be excavated that would otherwise require disturbing three to four times the area of ground. It is a smart, efficient and safe practice to deliver close-to-market aggregate to the growing communities of Ontario.

Second, the proposed changes to the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) will provide the municipalities more input into an aggregate operation that wants to expand below the water table. The government is looking at a more rigorous application regime which will include the 'right to appeal' – a right municipalities do not currently have.

The proposed changes would also help clarify which level of government is regulating the depth of extraction. No one is proposing to relax the rules or remove controls.

Everyone agrees the protection of our water resources is paramount. Mayor Seeley writes that Council would "lose the ability to instigate a vertical zoning by-law."

Depth of extraction at a pit or quarry is governed by the ARA – as it has been for decades. The change simply provides clarity with respect to that fact. Finally, we take exception to the com-
December 2019/January 2020

ment that the industry has a track record of "not following site plans, with no repercussion".

Ontario's aggregate industry is one of the province's most heavily governed industries.

Twenty-five different pieces of legislation and literally dozens of regulations determine where, when and how stone, sand and gravel is extracted. And that's a good thing.

Our industry wants to work in partnership with communities, to bring the aggregate that we all use every single day of our lives - to where it's needed in the most environmentally and economically way possible.

Norman Cheesman
Executive Director, OSSGA

Help for low vision and blind

Be My Eyes is a free app that connects blind and low vision people with sighted volunteers and company representatives for visual assistance through a live video call.

As a blind or low-vision person, whenever you need visual assistance, volunteers are happy to help you.

Through the live video call, you and a volunteer can communicate directly and solve a problem. The volunteer will help guide which direction to point your camera, what to focus on or when to turn on your torch.

A sighted volunteer can help the blind or low-vision user – perhaps checking expiry dates, distinguishing colours, reading instructions or navigating new surroundings.

Be My Eyes' goal is to make the world more accessible to people who are blind or have a low level of vision.

Already they have recruited 2,987,279 volunteers who have served 167,648 people in 150 countries and in 180 different languages.

To sign up for the app or to volunteer, go to <https://www.bemyeyes.com>.

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In memoriam

Jean Frances Ramshaw (nee Coulson)

December 23, 1922 - October 16, 2019



In her 97th year, Jean Frances Ramshaw (nee Coulson), passed away peacefully at the Lennox & Addington County General Hospital in Napanee surrounded by loved ones on October 16, 2019.

Jean is predeceased by her parents, John Burness Coulson and Pearl Coulson, her husband, Henry Christopher Ramshaw; her siblings Fern, Freda, Keith, Melva, Ruby, and Russell; and her daughter-in-law, Eleanor. She is survived by her siblings Connie, Do-reen, and Frank.

Loving mother of Chris (Anne), Ferne, Tom (Brenda), and Philip (Sheila). Cherished by her grandchildren: Sara, Heather (Gary) and Christine (Geoff); Dawn (Miroslav) and Paul; Dylan, Brock and Gavin (Laura); and Tim (Lucy), Philip, and Kerrie (Tom).

Fondly remembered by all her great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be confirmed at a later date.

Memorial Donations to Duff's Presbyterian Church in Puslinch, ON or a charity of your choice would be appreciated. Online Condolences at www.milestone-cremation.ca.

Evelyn Alexandra Winer



Surrounded by love, at Hospice Wellington on Thursday, November 14, 2019, in her 92nd year.

Reunited after 16 long years with Roy (2003), her one and only love.

Proud mother of Barbara (Bob) Jefferson of Arkell, Brenda Spurrell (Dennis Heathers) of Sauble Beach, Deborah Steplock (Gary Ewart) of Guelph, Donna (Danny) Frey of Fergus and Jayne (Doug) Carmichael of Kitchener.

Granny will forever be cherished by her thirteen grandchildren; Leah, Luke (Jenn), Joanna (Brendan), Ian (Nicole), Jennifer (Justin), Ashley (Joel), Alexandra (Ryan), Jessica, Paul, Brett, Erika, Mikayla and Paige. Great Granny to three precious gifts; Everett, Andrew and Wesley. Sister and sister-in-law to many; survived by siblings Billie Billings, Doug Gilmour and John (Norma) Gilmour; siblings by marriage Shirley Winer, and Joe (Barb) Winer. Holds a special place in the hearts of many nieces, nephews, family, friends and neighbours.

The family offers humble and profound thanks to Hospice Wellington for their compassionate care of Mom and all of us during Mom's last days. We are eternally grateful.

Mom was a pillar of strength and an exemplary member of her local community for her entire life. Friends and loved ones were received at the WALL-CUSTANCE FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL, 206 Norfolk St., Guelph, Friday, November 22, 2019, 2-4 and 7-9 pm. Funeral service was held at Duff's Church, 319 Brock Rd. S., Guelph on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 11 am. Interment Crown Cemetery. Reception to follow at the Puslinch Community Centre.

Memorial contributions to Hospice Wellington, Puslinch Loan Cupboard or a charity of your choice would be appreciated.

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families make this an
affordable winter sport.

LOCATION

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MEMBERSHIP

Individual Membership:
\$50
Family of 4 or more: \$180



*8 Activity Days for youth,
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Time: Saturdays
1:30-3:00 pm
Days: Jan 11 to Mar 7,14,
21 and optional during
Christmas Time

RENTALS

Skis and poles:
\$20.00/child
\$30.00/adult
Boots: \$20.00/child and
\$30.00/adult

Rental days - first come,
first served

Membership includes free
toque for kids and outings
to the International Snow
Day, Sunday, January
20th, 2020, and the
Cookie Race @ Bench
Park- Waterloo

RENTAL DAY

- 1) Sunday, Dec 1, 2019
1:30- 4:00 at Arkell
United Church (Watson
and Arkell). "Meet,
greet and work" Come
prepared to spend time
scraping the base of
the rental ski with your
coach.
- 2) First day of activities:
Jan 11, 2020 at the
trails. Must scrape the
skis on your own at
home

- 5 years old: \$10.00
- 6-12 years old: \$20.00
- 13-15 years old:
\$30.00
- Adults: \$10.00 per
lesson, pay as you go



NOTE: we will ski at our
trails when we can groom,
otherwise we will offer
outdoor activities either at
the trails by the Cutten
Club, the Arboretum or
GORBA.

Transforming lives. One loan at a time

By Anne Day



For the past year I have been working on a book with Opportunity International, a charity that provides microfinance loans to people in developing countries.

In the book we share stories, mainly of women, who have succeeded beyond their dreams. They have taken their family and community out of poverty, with each loan broadening their scope and extending their impact into the community.

Take Linda from Ghana. In the past Linda sold bread from the top of her head. She baked loaves herself and sold about 40 pieces a day.

Thanks to loans from Opportunity International, her bakery is now huge.

With over 40 employees they bake 6,600 loaves a day. She sells to about a dozen grocery stores, with bread being delivered by five cars that she owns.

She also has over 100 women who buy her bread wholesale and then sell it themselves, creating an income for many in her village.

She trains and recruits bakers from the local villages. And she provides housing for all her employees – they live on the property.

See what I mean. There is a ripple effect that starts with a small loan.

This is just one of the stories in this book, *Faces of Opportunity. Shaping the Future. Stories of Transformation.* You will be inspired to learn how people are transforming their lives.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will be going back into Opportunity International so more people can benefit. The book is \$20 and can be purchased through www.opportunityinternational.ca

Spread the true spirit of the season. Give a gift that has wings.

Soup sisters

Like making soup? Want to help Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis? Sign up for an event with Soup Sisters and Broth Brothers.

Events are social evenings with lively conversation, chopping, laughter and warm kitchen camaraderie that



culminate in a simple, sit-down supper of soup, salad, bread and wine for all participants.

Each event produces approximately 150-250 servings of fresh soup that sustains the local shelter with nourishing and nurturing soup each month.

Soup Sisters and Broth Brothers charges a participation fee of \$65 per person to cover the expenses of ingredients for soup, the venue, equipment, a chef or professional facilitator, and charitable operations.

This ensures that the finest ingredients possible are used every time for the soups we provide to women, children and youth.

From their new home at 42 Carden, Guelph the group will continue to work with Chef Josh Campbell from the Fat Duck Gastro Pub and Chef Becky to inspire and support soup makers with their charm and expertise in taking high quality ingredients to a souper conclusion.

Private corporate team-building events are \$95 per person and a partial tax receipt is provided upon request.

For more information or to book a soup making event contact guelph@soupsisters.org

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Township of Puslinch Holiday Closure

Please note that the Township of Puslinch will be closing at 12pm on December 24, 2019 and will reopen for regular business hours on January 2, 2020.

Thank you for your understanding and warmest wishes this holiday season.



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ASK THE EXPERT

How do I research plants that are: Tried, Tested, Tried and True?

By Susan Mason

During spring and summer, like many gardeners, I confess to being drawn to any and all new plants featured at garden centres. Newly introduced plants are "eye candy" to avid gardeners. We want to have them!

During the winter months, away from temptation, I take a more measured approach to researching plants that demonstrate verified, excellent performance.

There are many online sites for trialed and tested plants, using criteria such as: excellent for ordinary use, available, wide conditions and with good disease resistance.

TRIALED

Proven Winners tests plants for two years with trial sites across the USA. Their 2019 National Plants of the Year are: Lemon Coral Sedum, 'Autumn Frost' Hosta, 'Berry Awesome' Hibiscus, Low Scape Mound Aronia, 'At Last' Rosa, 'Firelight' Hydrangea, and 'Sonic Bloom' Weigela.

Mt. Cuba Centre is a USA botanical garden that researches and conserves native and woodland plants. It has a Plant Finder, Sources for Native Plants and Trial Garden. The latest research evaluates and posts results for Phlox. Top performers are: P. paniculata Jeana, Glamour Girl, Delta Snow...You can view results for Monarda, Baptisia, Coreopsis, Heuchera, Echinacea, Aster and Helenium.

Chicago Botanic Garden has 19 trials underway including 2019: Echinacea, Leucanthemum, Sanguisorba and Silphium. The reports are published as numbered issues and through articles in 'Fine Gardening' magazine. Included is **Sheridan Nurseries** recommended hardy boxwoods: Green- Gem, Mound, Velvet and Mountain.

TRIALED ROSES

Canadian research excels in developing hardy roses since the 1970's with **AAFC** government support, research stations such as Morden and in 2010, **Vineland Research**.

Series include: Explorer, Parkland, Artists and 49th Parallel's 2019- 'Chinook sunrise'.

David Austin has an extensive breeding program. Online you can explore criteria such as roses for shade, disease resistance and colour..

TESTED

The Royal Horticultural Society RHS has ongoing expert panels to determine plants worthy of its AGM (Award of Garden Merit). Online you can use a Plant Finder and various criteria. There are 7,500 AGM among 75,000 listings!



photo from Unsplash

RHS for its **Chelsea Flower Show Centenary** has named a Plant for each decade. The Centenary overall winner is **Geranium 'Rozanne'**.



Photo from Stachys Hummelo Website

The Perennial Plant Association awards **Perennial Plant of the Year**. 2019 is Stachys monieri 'Hummelo'.

Field Tests

There are many open field tests across North America. The **University of Guelph** along with trade sponsors, hosts one yearly in August. The public views new introductions and votes. Results are posted.

Penn State and **Cornell University** also field test.

TRIED AND TRUE

There are local nurseries that grow and display plants from around the world under local conditions - **Lost Horizons and Whistling Gardens**.

Missouri Botanical Gardens is an excellent Plant Finder site.

Buy from **Garden groups** selling plants dug up from their own gardens!

I hope you can curl up this winter in front of these online resources to explore plants that are trialed, tested, tried and true. Informed choices may counteract the 'eye candy' effect this spring, saving you time and money!

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A Holiday Message from Solid Waste Services

Garbage and Recycling Holiday Changes

CLOSURES

All County of Wellington Waste Facilities will be closed on: **Wednesday, December 25, Thursday, December 26 and Wednesday, January 1**

CURBSIDE COLLECTION

There will be no change to the curbside collection schedule in Puslinch for the holidays.

NATURAL TREE COLLECTION

Natural trees will be collected in urban curbside collection areas in the Town of Puslinch on **Friday, January 10**. Natural trees will be accepted free of charge at all County waste facilities **December 27 to January 31** during regular business hours. Food Bank donations are gratefully accepted.

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A mainstay in Morriston

By Anne Day

Twenty five years! That's a long time to be in business, especially for a restaurant and that's what Irene Carr is celebrating at A Change of Pace in Morriston.

"We came up with that name because we wanted to provide hot, home made food for truckers, even when they are on the road."

But it's more than truckers who use the restaurant, with 200 people during the week and 400-500 on week-ends dining there.

"Some people have been eating at our restaurant every day for the past 25 years." shares Irene. All of which speaks to the quality of the food and the friendly atmosphere.

Hailing from Newfoundland, the friendliness is deep-rooted in her



Irene Carr with the Valiquette family
Photo by Virginia Hildebrandt

background. "We treat everyone the same. I like to think everyone is made to feel welcome."

Not only does she not lose touch with regulars, former staff come back to visit, some of whom were teenagers when they worked for her.

Young parents who would come in with their child in a car seat, years later that child returns as an adult with a child. Life has gone full circle.

When asked what is required to run a successful restaurant, Irene was quick to say "commitment." "You have to be prepared to work hard and do much of the work yourself."

Case in point, Irene did all the work to update the restaurant herself – laying tiles, painting, and so on.

Irene laughs as she thinks about the 30-40 cases of ceramic tile that she and her business partner at the time had ordered for the restaurant. "We couldn't move them. They were too heavy."

The restaurant is open from 6am-3pm, Monday – Saturday and 7am-3pm on Sunday and is available for private parties.

While she has purchased a home back in Newfoundland, retirement is not on the horizon.

She stills loves the work, especially the people she meets. And we are lucky to have her and A Change of Pace in Morriston.

HO HO'S Christmas Trees

OPEN

2nd last weekend in Nov. until Dec. 24th
7 Days a Week from 10am until 8pm

4458 Victoria Rd S, Puslinch

Come and find that special tree from our great selection of pre-cut trees. Fraser & Balsam Fir (from 6 ft to 20 ft), as well as wreaths available. Enjoy a warm drink and our blazing fire as you get the full family experience at Ho Ho's
Questions? Contact us by phone: 519-763-1098 or Follow Us on Facebook at Ho Ho's Christmas Trees.



Fundraiser for music program

By Paul Tribe

Recently there was an article written by Barbara Bulmer in the *Puslinch Pioneer* about the fine music program being delivered by our teacher, Melissa Gray.

As a result of that, we received a call from a member of an orchestra called the WINDJAMMERS. We have a community participant who realizes the challenges of maintaining such a program.

They have offered to provide a BENEFIT CONCERT where the proceeds would go toward the music program; to replace very tired instruments, and add other needed ones to continue the excellent work that has been started.

The planning has begun! The concert will occur on Saturday, November 30th, beginning at 6:00 PM (We wanted to ensure that younger children could also attend). It will be held at the The Salvation Army Guelph Citadel. We are in the process of confirming details and will get a message out very soon.

At this point, we also wished to invite potential sponsors of the concert. If you or a company with which you are associated would like to take part in this way, please feel free to contact Judith Douglas by email at judith.douglas@sympatico.ca.

A new publication

By Marjorie Clark



If you are interested in history and particularly the history of our Township, you have probably been curious about life in the pioneer days of Puslinch.

In this newly released book, John Gilchrist wrote of his own experience growing up in Killalee.

He related stories told by his parents,

documented the early history of the Puslinch Lake section and illustrated early farming implements by scale models.

This work gives us a good idea of what life in 19th century Puslinch was like, particularly in a Highland Scottish settlement.

John W. Gilchrist was born on July 1, 1865 on lot 10 in the 1st Concession of Puslinch. He lived in Puslinch most of his life.

His formal education consisted of five years of regular attendance at Killalee School, followed by four years, most of it in the winters only, as his help was required by his father on the farm from spring to fall.

Despite this, John became a violinist, a marksman, county constable, carpenter and wood carver, a writer and a historian.

His memoirs and stories, and photos of his paintings and carvings have been gathered together by Marjorie Clark for *The collected work of John W. Gilchrist*.

It is for sale at the Puslinch Township Municipal Office or by mail (marjorie@clarksoftomfad.ca) for \$ 28, plus mailing, if applicable.



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Local hero update

By Kim Hussey



Last month I shared with you how Mike Wolf, a Toronto firefighter and Puslinch resident, offered to be a kidney donor to his colleague who needed a match.

On October 30th, 2019, the recipient Rob Connor of Hamilton and donor Mike Wolf of Puslinch were both admitted to St. Joseph's hospital in Hamilton for their respective surgeries.

Prior to the surgery, Mike had worked tirelessly on chores and family responsibilities to prepare for his upcoming recovery.

Many have inquired about how the donor and recipient are recovering.

On the day of the surgery, Meredith (Mike's wife) was standing at the surgery board at the hospital waiting to see he was moved to recovery.

The recipient's wife, addressing her questionably by name, asked if she was the donor's wife.

That moment, with both of their men in surgery was one of the most incredible moments in this journey. The two women cried and described the moment as unforgettable.

The next day, both men recovered in different wings of the hospital, and they wheeled Mike to see his new friend and the recipient of his kidney. Mike has a great sense of humour and made us all laugh about this life experience.

Despite his understandable pain recovering, Mike has kept his positive spirit and is trying hard to allow for his body to heal.

The first night after he was discharged he couldn't get comfortable lying down or sitting. Not wanting to disturb his family, he felt his best option was to go sleep in his car, with the seat reclined.

And the community rose to the occasion to be helpful to support the family. By late morning the next day, it was arranged for a new recliner in the house to support his healing.

An app called Meal Train helped everyone to organize meal delivery, and family stepped in to help with childcare during Meredith's trips to the hospital. Even the daycare centre that Evie, his daughter attends, offered cards and care to the family.

Firefighters Mike works with volunteered for his upcoming shifts to ensure he could adequately recover.

There is no doubt that Mike and Meredith were pretty blown away by the generosity and outpouring from their circle of family and friends.

Mike's original act of kindness, to him, seemed like a casual "Of course" gesture rather than the incredible gift that is evidently heroic to those of us who have heard this story.

For the kidney recipient, Rob Connor and his wife, this gift was more than a gesture or heroic. It has saved his life and for that, they will be forever grateful.

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Notice of Public Meeting Proposed 2020 Budget

You are invited to attend a Public Information Meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Township of Puslinch, 7404 Wellington Road 34.

Your attendance and comments are welcome. For further information please visit www.puslinch.ca or call 519-763-1226 ext. 222

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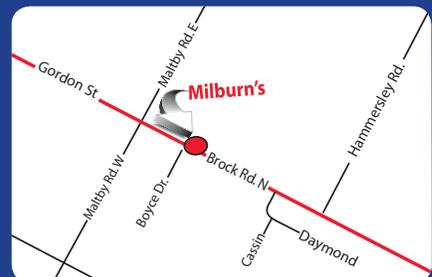
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HERITAGE MATTERS

Understanding your Heritage Committee

By Barbara Jefferson

The Puslinch Heritage Committee has four regularly scheduled meetings at the Township office each year. But one additional meeting, in the summer, is our annual field trip. To me, this is the highlight of the year.

We spend the better part of the day visiting properties within the Township that were identified by committee members as having heritage interest.

Each of us puts forward a list of sites. Our individual interests may include inspecting architectural features, historic landscapes, appreciating specific elements from different eras to admiring sympathetic additions to older properties that bring new purpose to existing structures.

After narrowing the list of properties at one of our heritage meetings, property owners are notified and permission is given before we schedule any visits.

Being greeted by enthusiastic owners proud of their properties and keen to share the history they have unraveled is infectious.

Sometimes there are questions this committee can answer but more often, these owners provide us with details that add to the background information we have collected.

This year, we were fortunate to visit two properties on Maltby Road. Both locations could be described as "heritage rich" as more than one building is of interest.

Historically known as the Robert Beattie Farmhouse, Lot 15, Rear Concession 9, it is currently owned by Linda and Jim Fitzgibbon. Jim greeted us and encouraged us to explore the exterior of the stone cottage.

According to the 1851 census, this was one of only 15 stone houses listed; all the rest were made of log. Earlier small-paned windows have been replaced and modern porches added. Recent repointing of the fieldstone unifies the stone additions.

These same stone walls are now interior walls to this structure. Exposed timbers, beams and doorway lintels add interest and warmth to this home. And Jim shared with us the discovery of a coin from 1850 found within the walls of the structure.

The 1906 atlas map shows the property still owned by the Beattie estate. Then Henry Leachman and family acquired the farm. A date stone engraved with the name 'Leachman' is visible in the barn foundation.



1939 Photograph given to Fitzgibbon Family
Photo credit to Linda Fitzgibbon

The Fitzgibbons have a photo dated 1939 showing the house, hip-roof barn and stone outbuilding that would have been used to house sheep. This cluster of buildings is used by the family today and the barn was recently re-floored for a family wedding.

Next, Jane and Barry Lee greeted us at their Lot 16, Concession 10 property.

Duncan McFarlane had a house built in 1870 of fieldstone and granite. Stonemason, Peter Hume, used stones from the farm and huge limestone slabs from Georgetown to build the house.



1916 photograph of MacFarlane Barn showing roof cupolas. Given to Barry and Jane Lee by Duncan MacFarlane
Photograph copied by Barb Jefferson

This two-and-a-half storey, Georgian style home was in the McFarlane family for many generations.

By using photographs given to them by the previous owner, the Lees have carefully restored architectural features of this house.

Barry is an accomplished restoration woodworker who has painstakingly finished the interior rooms with details complimentary to this era.

But, the new restoration project is the barn built in 1900. The most visually distinctive feature of this building is the row of cupolas along the roof peak. Finding one of these original domes and then relying on photographs, the Lees have built and installed replicas returning the barn to its original appearance.

It was a great excursion. Both owners demonstrated remarkable stewardship of their properties, sympathetic additions and repurposed uses of original features.



1850 coin given to Fitzgibbon Family
Photograph by Linda Fitzgibbon

But my 'take-away-moment' was the sharing of old artifacts and pictures that have now become family treasures.

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45th Wedding Anniversary

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HALF BAKED

At the End of Your Rope

By Merri Macartney

I love the expression, "When you're at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on!" Don't you? Usually it is accompanied by a great picture of a sweet little kitten clinging to the knot. It amuses me.

However, when really thinking about it, one doesn't look so sweet when clinging to the knot. At least I know I don't. I am usually frazzled, beyond myself with arms and legs akimbo and far from being speechless.

Crazy lady images come more to mind. In fact, I remember one day, my second son really taking a risk by telling his brothers not to worry about it, mom was just yelling again! And he lives to talk about it!

What is it like for you when you get there? Do you see it coming? Can you head it off at the pass?

Do you recognize these phrases: I am

stretched to the limit; I have reached the end of my patience?

I bet you do. Was there one that was used more often in your home as you grew up? Did you use it too? What exactly does running out of patience mean? This is how dictionary.com defines patience:

"noun the quality of being patient, as the bearing of provocation, annoyance, misfortune, or pain, without complaint, loss of temper, irritation, or the like."

Yep. That's what I thought. It is very clear to me that the signs of being out of patience would be as obvious as a zero bank balance. It would be very apparent to all. Or so my kids tell me.

We know what it takes to get our bank accounts refilled. Do we know how to get our patience refilled? Is it really as easy as a change of pace, going on a coffee date, perhaps, a walk around the block or some serious expression of annoyance?

Those expressions have been known to cause some pretty disastrous relationship issues. How about creating a specific formula? A pill to swallow or a potion to drink could solve it all. Really? Where's the learning in that?

Before we know it, we'd be right back

where we started. Have you seen all the sayings that were posted on Facebook?

There was a whole series of the Stay Calm theme. The words written on posters and T-Shirts and coffee mugs told us many ways to stay calm. Stay calm and take an action. Ours to choose which one.

I got thinking that if this theme was so popular with so many sayings, then losing one's patience is a universal issue.

As humans we tend to have lots to deal with and we need to have a way to deal with it. Makes us members of a very large club.

If you are like me and you have a tendency to be somewhat - and I use that term loosely - vocal about your "end of the rope" situation, then perhaps we could work together, volunteer to handle phone calls for the sole purpose of venting and saving others from our wrath.

Nah!! No one wants to be on the other end...let's just leave voice messages that self-erase. Out with the bad air; in with the good. Patience restored.

Merri Macartney is a Speaker, Author, Coach www.merrimacartney.com



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Guelph & District Association of Realtors (GDAR) Rural, Farm, & Vacant Land Stats January 1 2010 - December 31, 2018



*Based on rural and farm properties sold in Centre Wellington, Guelph-Eramosa, and Puslinch as reported through Guelph & District Association of Realtors (GDAR) from January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2018.

*Average agent listing sales calculated by dividing number of rural and farm sales in Centre Wellington, Guelph-Eramosa, and Puslinch from January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2018 (excluding Capstone) by number of Guelph & District Association of Realtors (GDAR) agents (excluding Capstone).

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The knome

By Genny Ribalko

The count down to Christmas has begun! In our house that means lots of yarn, tissue paper, glue, ribbons, empty spools of sticky tape and endless cleaning!

While the stores are bursting at the seams with shoppers, I spend my time bursting with ideas. I enjoy making small and quick gifts while keeping tiny hands oh so busy with projects.

So what do I make? Every year around this time I get into a Christmas knitting frenzy. In previous years, among the top of my list, have been mug cozies, cowls and Santa.

But my favourite are knit stuffies. The great idea with these quick types of gifts is that they don't take much time to make.

A cowl can be finished over the weekend with thicker yarn. Mug cozies are personalized and quick to finish in a day. And who doesn't love stuffies?

This year I've been seeing gnomes popping up in stores. So I decided we needed one...or a few to pop up in our house. So in a few short hours, using only leftover supplies I made my very own.



The kids were ecstatic, in fact my daughter has requested more! Oh no, what have I done?

On my very first attempt with only a rough idea in my brain I started to plan it out. Red hat, nose, feet, body and a beard - voilà!



Make them big or small, they'll be a hit this season! Turn them into Christmas ornaments or add a weight and use them as a door stopper. Maybe include a few in a gift basket to surprise your friends and family.

The best part is that it's a great way to use up leftover yarn. Finished a sweater and you have left over yarn? Make a matching gnome to gift or donate.

Move over Elf on the Shelf, Santa's got some new helpers this year!

Share your gnomes on Facebook



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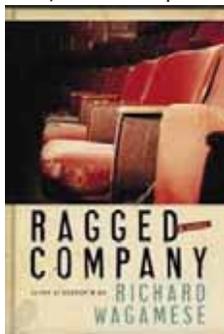
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Puslinch Branch, Wellington County Library December Events

Stories and Strollers Book Club (Adults)

Adult book club for parents/caregivers with young children, meeting the first Tuesday of each month. Discussing *Ragged Company* by Richard Wagamese. Please register. Tuesday, December 3rd, 2-3:00 pm.



Scrabble Club (Adults)

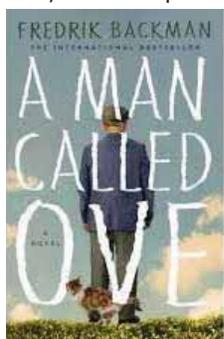
Join us for an afternoon of casual word building entertainment! No experience necessary. Please register. Wednesday, December 4th & 18th, 2-4 pm.

Story Time (5 years and under)

Our Story Times are designed to help your child get ready for reading. Share stories, songs, rhymes, and activities aimed at developing your child's early literacy skills. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate. Thursday, Dec 5th & 12th, 11:00 - 11:45 am

Friday Book Club (Adults)

Discussing *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Please register. Friday, December 6th, 1-2:00 pm



EARLY CLOSURE: All branches close at 4:00 pm on Friday, December 6th.

Bibliocraft: Paper Wreath (Adults)

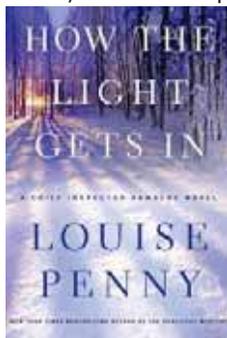
Make something crafty out of recycled library materials. Create a paper wreath for the holidays! Please register. Saturday, Dec 2nd, 2-3 pm

Ukulele Boot Camp: Holiday Edition (All Ages)

Learn the basics of playing an ukulele and a song or two. Bring your own or play one of ours- we'll learn together. Uke can do it! Please register. Saturday, December 14th, 11:00 -12:00 pm

Tuesday Book Club (Adults)

Discussing *How the Light Gets In* by Louise Penny. Please register. Tuesday, December 17th, 1:30-2:30 pm

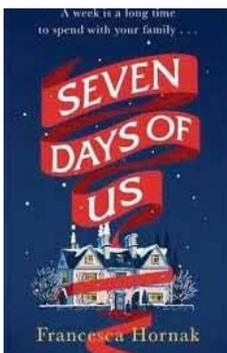


Cricut Creations: The Magic of Winter (Adults)

Learn to use a Cricut electronic cutting machine to create a stenciled sign. Machines are also available for in-branch use. Please register. Thursday, December 19th, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Thursday Book Club (Adults)

Discussing *Seven Days of Us* by Francesca Hornak. Please register. Thursday, December 19th, 6:30 - 7:30



January 2020

Tax Information Session (Adults)

Are you unsure of what tax benefits and credits you are entitled to if you are newly retired or planning to retire? Come hear a Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) outreach officer review what you need to know this filing season. While these are group information sessions, not individual tax preparation

workshops, the CRA officer will be able to direct you to volunteer tax clinics. Contact your branch to register. Thursday, January 30th, 4:00-5:00 pm

Don't know what to read next? Check out this list of new books at the library.

Fiction

Bartels, Erin	<i>The Words Between Us</i>
Bradford, Laura	<i>A Killer Carol</i>
Evans, Richard P	<i>Noel Street</i>
Hanover, Sara	<i>The Late Great Wizard</i>
Hughes, Anita	<i>Christmas in Paris</i>
Jewel, Lisa	<i>The Family Upstairs</i>
Morgenstern, E	<i>The Starless Sea</i>
Scott, Caroline	<i>The Poppy Wife</i>
Smith, Martin C	<i>The Siberian Dilemma</i>
Thomas, Jodi	<i>Christmas in Winter Valley</i>

Non-Fiction

Bell, Richard	<i>Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home</i>
Epstein, David J.	<i>Range: Why Generalists Triumph in A Specialized World</i>
Hayes, Bill	<i>Insomniac City: New York, Oliver, and Me Me</i>
John, Elton	<i>Unfollowing You</i>
Kapoor, Komal	<i>Good Husbandry a Memoir: Growing Food, Love, and Family on Essex Farm</i>
Kimball, Kristin	<i>The Rise of Wolf 8: Witnessing the Triumph of Yellowstone's Underdog</i>
McIntyre, Rick	<i>The Simple Guide to Natural Health: From Apple Cider Vinegar Tonics to Coconut Oil Body Balm, 150+ Home Remedies for Health and Healing</i>
St. Ours, Melanie	<i>One Simple Thing: A New Look at the Science of Yoga and How It Can Transform your Life</i>
Stern, Eddie	<i>From Where I Stand: Rebuilding Indigenous Nations for A Stronger Canada</i>

For complete program information, visit www.wellington.ca/Library.

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Cook's Corner

By Barbara Paterson

These two recipes feature fresh cranberries. The pancakes might be a special treat to serve for breakfast on Christmas morning.



Cranberry Pancakes

- 1 cup rinsed and chopped fresh or frozen cranberries
- 3 tbsp. sugar
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1-1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 1 large egg
- 3 tbsp. butter, melted
- 2 tbsp. maple syrup

1. In a small bowl, toss cranberries with sugar and let stand for 15 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, sift flour, cornmeal, baking powder and salt.
3. In a third bowl, combine lightly beaten egg, milk, melted and cooled butter and maple syrup.
4. Add milk mixture to flour mixture and stir just until combined. Fold in the cranberries.
5. Heat a heavy frying pan over moderately high heat and brush it generously with butter.

6. Spoon batter into frying pan and cook for 1 minute or more until the tops are bubbly. Turn over and cook undersides. Keep warm in 200°F oven.

Serve with warm maple syrup.
Serves 6.

These bars are moist and chewy; they just hit the spot when you crave something sweet to go with a cup of coffee or tea.

Butterscotch Cranberry Bars



- 1/3 cup raisins
- 1/4 cup rum
- 1 cup rinsed fresh cranberries, chopped
- 2 tbsp. brown sugar
- 2/3 cup chopped walnuts, lightly toasted
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1-2/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs

- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt

1. In a small saucepan combine the raisins and rum. Simmer, covered, for 5 minutes, or until the raisins have absorbed all the rum. Let cool.
2. Chop the cranberries coarsely and combine with 2 tbsp. brown sugar. Let stand for 15 minutes. Toast the walnuts lightly.
3. In a saucepan melt 1/2 cup butter over low heat and add 1-2/3 cup brown sugar.
4. Cook the mixture, stirring, until it is just bubbly. Transfer to a heat proof bowl and let cool for 15 minutes.
5. Beat into sugar mixture the eggs, beaten lightly, and vanilla.
5. Mix well the flour, baking powder and salt and add to batter.
6. Fold in the cranberry mixture, raisins and walnuts and place in a buttered 9" x 13" pan.
7. Spread evenly and bake at 350°F for 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean.

Let cool on a rack and cut into bars. Enjoy!

The Bahá'í Faith

A fundamental teaching of Bahá'u'lláh is the oneness of the world of humanity. Addressing mankind, He says, "Ye are all leaves of one tree and the fruits of one branch." By this it is meant that the world of humanity is like a tree, the nations or peoples are the different limbs or branches of that tree, and the individual human creatures are as the fruits and blossoms thereof.

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Festive safety

By Sloan Stewart

The winter holiday season is a time for families and friends to get together. During this special time of year we must be aware of potential fire hazards in order to enjoy a safe and happy holiday.

Having a real Christmas tree is a long-standing tradition associated with the winter holiday season. However, this tradition increases the risk for fires in our homes.

We must remember to keep all ignition sources, like candles and heaters, away from our Christmas tree. It is also important to water your tree, as a well-watered tree is less likely to catch fire.

Remove old damaged electrical cords that may spark, and do not overload your receptacles with too many electrical cords. These small acts may save a life!

Trees are not the only decoration we must pay attention to during the holidays. Unattended candles are extremely hazardous as they pose a risk to animals and small children – make sure to keep them out of reach!

It is wise to choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.

Before you head to bed or leave the room, blow out all candles and turn off all decorations and string lighting.

With snowfall around our homes, it is important to check gas and furnace vents frequently to ensure that they are clear and open. This will reduce the risk of carbon monoxide building up in our homes.

Further, homes must be equipped with

an up-to-date carbon monoxide alarm and working smoke alarms. Now is the perfect time to change the batteries of these devices.

Here are some additional fire safety tips that you can implement in your home to ensure a safe and happy holiday:

- Do not leave anything that is cooking unattended, and ensure anything flammable is safely away from the stovetop. This includes tea towels, wooden or plastic utensils and paper towels.
- Only use lights that have been tested and certified by Canadian Standards Associations.
- Make sure outlets aren't overloaded, especially when more lights and decorations are plugged in.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan with all members of the household and make sure someone helps young children, older adults or anyone else that may need assistance to evacuate.
- Keep a close eye on anyone attempting to cook or smoke while under the influence of alcohol.

Christmas at Crieff Hills

By Kristine O'Brien



Christmas Giving

Crieff Hills would be a great place to share in the spirit of giving! Donations fuel our mission to offer rest, renewal

and education and we would be glad to receive your donation of any amount.

You can even make it extra special by directing it to our Accessibility Fund! Gifts may be made by cash, cheque, credit card or email transfer and tax receipts are offered for donations of \$20 or more.

Margaret in the office will be glad to help you or simply visit the website and look under Get Involved.

Christmas Gifts

If you are visiting between now and Christmas, have a look at our new display in the office.

You will find Crieff Hills honey in several sizes, plus honey soap and lip balm. We also have beautiful cards with winter scenes from the property, water bottles, cookbooks, and even Crieff Hills umbrellas. They all make great gifts.

Upcoming Events

Celebrate the Season with a Christmas Lunch Monday to Friday at 12:30pm from December 2nd to 13th. We welcome individuals, families, church groups and staff parties for a sumptuous buffet in our 1874 schoolhouse. \$20 per person. RSVP at info@crieffhills.com or 1-800-884-1525.

Stay for a guided walking tour and learn more about our historic property.

Silent Retreat December 1st-3rd

Begin the season of Advent with quiet time away from Sunday evening until Tuesday morning. Experience deep rest: sleep, read, pray, walk, and eat nourishing food. Hosted by Kristine O'Brien.

An opening session will teach you the basics so that even beginners are comfortable. Cost: \$260 single room. Register at www.crieffhills.com

Advent Supper and Lantern Walk

at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre. Sunday December 8 at 4pm. \$25pp/ \$8 child. Come and share a meal together before we head out to walk the outdoor labyrinth with lanterns.

RSVP at programs@crieffhills.com 1-800-884-1525

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Revisiting Neonicotinoids in Honeybee Sustainability

By Jeff Wilson

People are passionate about bees. These tiny flying workhorses, along with other pollinators, are essential for many crops.

Over the last few years, there has been wide-spread concern over honeybee colony decline. The issue has engendered passionate responses from environmentalists, beekeepers, crop growers and the general public.

Suspected causes have included neonicotinoid pesticide use, environmental factors and hive management with many people pointing the finger at neonicotinoids.

But what if they didn't have quite the impact on colony decline as first suspected?

In 2014, with funding from The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and, the University of Guelph, Alessia Guthrie, MSc, began working on her PhD thesis.

"I wanted to find out if there was a relationship between neonicotinoids and colony decline" says Guthrie, "so along with Dr. Jeff Wilson (DVM, DVSc, PhD) we began aligning stakeholders in Ontario to undertake the first analysis of field data in the Province on causes of colony decline."

They also received letters of support, data and assistance from the Ontario Beekeepers Association, the Grain Farmers of Ontario, the Fruit Growers of Ontario, Health Canada, and Croplife Canada.

"We surveyed Beekeepers to obtain information on hive health, management and environmental factors and proximity to corn and soy fields," says Guthrie. "And then the data were analyzed using multivariable statistics under the supervision of faculty at the University of Guelph.

As data on neonicotinoid neonic levels are unavailable, corn and soy

proximity were used as these were the most important sources of neonics at the time and almost all corn and soy fields incorporated neonics in their production).

"Interestingly," says Guthrie, "no association was detected between in season colony loss and corn or soy proximity, as an indicator of neonicotinoid exposure."

What she and Wilson did find were associations with measures of bee management that included beekeeper experience, pest control and queen factors such as age.

"And we weren't alone," says Guthrie. "Similar studies done in other parts of the world have revealed similar results which align with these findings."

What this suggests to Wilson is that the role of neonicotinoids in colony decline should be revisited. "The data were collected under real-life conditions," says Wilson. "But we need to do more studies. One study isn't enough, and we need to work together to continue to understand some very complex issues."

Not using neonicotinoids could have unintended consequences, like the use of insecticide sprays that are known to have detrimental environmental effects. It also suggests for Wilson that stakeholders must work together openly to resolve the issue.

"No-one is suggesting that colony

decline isn't a huge problem," says Wilson. "There are multiple factors with multiple outcomes that affect many stakeholders." Wilson also says that those stakeholders often have highly different world views and understandings of what constitutes valid evidence and vested interests. That can make it much harder to create effective solutions.

But there is a way. "A deadlock is of no use to anyone," says Wilson. "It's imperative to bring the parties together, acknowledge their concerns and then collectively examine the issue and potential solutions openly and transparently."

Using a process called Community Network Integration (CNI), developed in Puslinch, Wilson and Guthrie are helping to resolve not only problems like colony decline.

"Right now, CNI is being used on four continents, with multiple community projects beginning now in Guelph/Wellington," says Wilson. "By applying openness and transparency we are beginning to sort out issues like agri-food sustainability, public health and transformative education. We want effective solutions for all stakeholders - so everybody wins."

Read Dr. Guthrie's study at: <https://atrium.lib.uoguelph.ca/xmlui/handle/10214/14267>. And find out more about Community Network Integration at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdgEpo8_JC8&t=401s



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Rev. Deborah Deavu
• 9:00-10:00 am Fellowship, coffee.
10:00-11:15 am Church service
followed by fellowship, coffee, juice,
snacks.
• Sunday, December 15th at 2pm,
Service of Solace. A service of quiet
gentleness when Holiday Cheer is a
little much. Especially for those who are
mourning, saddened, overwhelmed or
remembering loss at this time of year.
• Tuesday, December 24th, Family
Christmas Eve Service at 7pm. Every
one welcome.

BAHA'I FAITH

• Conversations - once a month on
Wednesday evenings we meet to read
and discuss a short passage from the
Baha'i sacred writings on a chosen
theme. We invite anyone interested
to join us. Please call (519) 767-
3135 for driving directions. www.
bahaisofpuslinch.ca.
• Join us also in our study of:
Reflections on the Life of the Spirit – a
course on the spiritual nature of the
human being. Call (519) 767-3135.

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www.calvaryguelph.com
Pastors: Josh Sklar and Joe Yang
• Sunday worship: English 9:45 am
Chinese 11:30 am
• Children's Worship: Sunday morning
program held during main services.
• Calvary Youth: For Jr. & Sr. High
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• Adult Bible Study: Thursdays 10:00
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Facebook: Cross Roads BIC & Cross
Roads Youth Group
Worship Sunday mornings at 10:30am,
nursery care and children's programs
available.

Youth group alternate Thursdays.
• Tuesday, December 24th at 7pm
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

DUFF'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We look forward to welcoming you!
319 Brock Rd. S. & 401
(519) 763-1163
Minister: Rev. Jane Swatridge
www.duffschurch.ca
Come Check out Duff's NEW Facebook
page: www.facebook.com/duffschurch/
or look up Duff's Presbyterian Church
• Sunday Services:
9:30 am Gathering & rehearsals
10:30 am Worship Service & Kid's
Program,
11:30 am Coffee Hour
Choir Practice 7pm.

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Worship Services: Every Sunday 10am
Kid's Program during the service.
• Sunday, December 15th 7:00 pm.
Carols and Readings
• Sunday, December 22nd 10:00 am.
Service
• Tuesday, December 24th 7:00 pm.
Christmas Eve Service
• Sunday, December 29th 10:00 am.
Christmas Service

FREELTON UNITED CHURCH

155 Freelton Rd. at Douglas Street.
(905) 659-3380
www.freeltonandstrabaneunitedchurch.
org
Minister: Rev. Bill Wheeler
• Sunday Worship Services & Sunday
School at 9:30 am.
Coffee hour & fellowship to follow.
• Tuesday, December 24th - 10pm.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
Service. A quiet time to reflect on the
reason for the season! All welcome!

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CRIEFF

7156 Concession 1, Puslinch
(519) 824-8757
www.pccweb.ca/knox-crieff/
Minister Rev. Michelle Yoon
• Sunday Worship at 10 am.
• Prayer Meeting every Thursday
morning at 10:30 am. to 12 pm.
• Tuesday December 24th - 7 pm.
Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service

MOUNT CARMEL-ZION UNITED CHURCH

in Morriston at the corner of Church &
Victoria Streets
Minister: Rev. Margaret Ruggles
(519) 822-8610
Website: morristonunitedchurch.com
Email: morristonunitedchurch@gmail.
com
"Everyone Welcome"
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Choir Practice 9:30 am
• Sunday, December 1st - Advent
I - Worship with decorating of the
Sanctuary preparing for Christmas
" Hanging the Greens" - Potluck
Luncheon to follow
• Sunday, December 8th - Advent II -
White Gift Sunday
• Sunday, December 15th - Advent III
- Sacrament of Holy Communion
• Sunday, December 22nd - Advent IV
• Tuesday, December 24th - 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
• Sunday, December 29th - Monthly
donations to Chalmers Community
Services Centre
Monthly donations to Chalmers
Community Services Centre for the
month of December are kidney beans
or baked beans and Peanut Butter. Skim
milk powder and toilet tissue is always
needed as well, and all donations are
greatly appreciated. Warm Socks
would be a welcome contribution.
• Sunday, January 5th - Epiphany
Sunday

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Rector Rev. Canon Linda Nixon
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10:00 am Holy Eucharist 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays
Morning Prayer 3rd Sunday
Sunday School & Nursery at 10 am Service.

STRABANE UNITED CHURCH

1565 Brock Road, (Brock Rd & 8th Concession West)

Community Events

ADVENT SUPPER AND LANTERN WALK

At Crieff Hills Retreat Centre. Sunday **December 8th** at 4pm. \$25pp/ \$8 children. Come and share a meal together before we head out to walk the outdoor labyrinth with lanterns. RSVP at programs@crieffhills.com 1-800-884-1525.

AFTERNOON OUT

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

ANNUAL ROBBIE BURNS SUPPER

At Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Road - Heritage Hall Saturday, **January 25, 2020**. Bar Opens at 5:30 pm - Dinner Follows. Piping In and Address to the Haggis. Tickets \$25. Call 905-659-7679.

BADENOCH MUSIC NIGHTS

First Friday of each month, **December 6th**, is a Pot Luck at 5:30 SHARP... RSVP a must...519-763-9782 and next Friday, **January 3rd, 2020** at the Badenoch Community Centre, 4217 Watson Rd S. Puslinch.

BIBLE STUDY

In depth Bible Study led by Rev. Bob LaChance, 519-721-3422 or phone Lynn Lodge for location which has been changed from the Arkell United Church, 519-822-4809. Wednesdays, **December 4th, 11th, 18th** from 9:30 to 11:30am. All are welcome.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH A CHRISTMAS LUNCH

At Crieff Hills Retreat Centre, Monday to Friday at 12:30 from **December 2nd to 13th**. We welcome individuals, families, church groups and staff parties for a sumptuous buffet in our 1874 schoolhouse. \$20 per person (HST included). RSVP at programs@crieffhills.com or 519-824-7898 to reserve your table. We welcome everyone for a guided walking tour and learn more about our historic property located at 7098 Concession 1.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT & COMMUNITY CAROL SING

Sunday, **December 8th - NEW TIME - 2 p.m.** Freelton United Church, 155 Freelton Rd., Freelton. Special Guests - Barbershop Quartet "Take Note". Please join The Christmas Choir & Friends for an afternoon of seasonal music & lots of carol singing for all ages! Hot Spiced Cider, Punch, Christmas Goodies & a time of fellowship to follow. Everyone welcome!

CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

at Knox Church Crieff, 7156 Concession 1, Puslinch on Saturday **December 7th**, 9 am. - 11 am. \$6 a dozen or 3 dozen for \$15. Boxes will be provided. Christmas cookies, Baked goods, Candy and Crafts.

COMMUNITY MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, **December 7th** from 8 to 9 am at Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line just north of Brookville. Come and meet other men in our community. Info: MaryLou at 519-853-4399. Check our webpage at ebenezeruc.ca or Facebook. Free will offering to support our Youth Drop-In.

COMMUNITY SENIORS' SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH

Tuesday, **December 10th** Christmas Party at noon sharp at Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line just north of Brookville. Come for a bowl or 2 of tasty home made soup, sandwiches, cards and games. For more information please leave message 905-854-2423.

COOKIES & CAROLS

Badenoch Community Centre, 4217 Watson Rd S. Puslinch, Tuesday **December 10th** from 7 - 9 pm. A festive sing along of holiday favourites for all ages.

DUFF'S LUNCH & LEARN

Wednesday, **December 11th** at 11:00am Sunrise therapeutic riding & learning centre. Followed by soup lunch. Contact Karen if you have questions 519-820-8114 or karenharding349@outlook.com.

DUFF'S MOVIES IN DECEMBER

Monday, **December 23rd** at 1:30pm. "Downton Abbey movie" dress up and join us for tea & treats.

FITNESS CLASS

Puslinch Fitness, join us on Monday nights at Duff's church at 7:30pm. for an hour of fun and sweat. A certified instructor will lead the class in a variety of programs cardio, pilates, yoga, high intensity training, stability ball and cardio drumming. First class is free, \$5/class. Please bring your own equipment if possible but extras are available. Contact Karen at karenharding349@outlook.com or Sarah at smainguy@nsenvironmental.com.

FREE EXERCISE CLASSES FOR 55+

The Victoria Order of Nurses offers a free exercise class for individuals 55+ who want to maintain their health and independence. The class focuses on aerobic endurance, balance, flexibility and strength. This class is every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 am located at Duffs Presbyterian Church.

FREE COMMUNITY EXERCISE AND FALLS PREVENTION CLASSES 55+

Every Monday and Thursday from 9.15-11am. at Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line (just north of Brookville) (By Lifemark Health Health Group). 519-822-4374.

FREELTON WHEEL OF FITNESS

Freelton Wheel of Fitness now on **Mondays** and **Thursdays** 10 am to 11 am at Freelton United Church, 155 Freelton Road, Freelton. Sponsored by STEPS Company, Flamborough Information & Community Services. Free ongoing event. Let's get in shape. - spring is coming.

GUELPH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

General meeting Tuesday, **January 28th, 2020** at 7:30pm, Dublin Street United Church, 68 Suffolk Street West, Guelph. New members are welcome. www.guelphhort.org.

ONE OF A KIND CLOTH BAG SALE

Sunday, **December 8th** 2pm till 4pm
Bags \$20 and \$25. Cash or cheque please. Proceeds shared with charity. Sale at Maureen Smith's home, 4195 Sideroad 25 S., Puslinch. 519-822-5065.

PICKLEBALL

Every Monday (except statutory holidays), and Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:30, Optimist Recreation Centre (gym) Brock Rd., \$5.00 per session. Everyone welcome. Further information June 519-763-0309 or Lois 519-831-4052.

SENIORS' LUNCH

Tuesday, **December 17th** at 12 noon at Arkell United Church, 600 Arkell Road, Arkell. An afternoon of food, music, cards and fellowship. Gift exchange. Contact the church at 519 821-7623.

SENIORS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday, **December 4th**, noon (gathering 11:30 a.m.) With "Elvis" - Mike Marinovic entertaining at Puslinch Community Centre. - Tickets \$15 are going fast, call Mary Beth at 519-822-6211 or email Janet at janetc@sentex.net. Everyone Welcome. Sponsored by Mount Carmel-Zion United Church. Watch for news of potlucks in 2020 on the first Wednesday of April, June, October with the Christmas Dinner on the first Wednesday of December.

SILENT RETREAT

At Crieff Hills Retreat Centre, **December 1st - 3rd**. Begin the season of Advent with quiet time away. Experience deep rest: sleep, read, pray, walk, and eat nourishing food. Bring books, handcrafts or art projects if you like. Hosted by Kristine O'Brien. An opening session will teach you the basics so that even beginners are comfortable. Cost: \$260 single room (includes HST) Register at www.crieffhills.com or call 519-824-7898 for more information.

SQUARE DANCING ALL AGES

For both experienced dancers and

beginners at Duff's Church on Saturday, **January 11th, 2020**. Cost is \$10/person. Lessons offered 7-7:30pm, Dance 7:30-10pm and Potluck Lunch 10pm. Caller is Bill Hands and he is fantastic. For more information contact sullivanpgs@gmail.com.

SUNRISE LESSON VOLUNTEERS

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

TECH TUESDAY FOR SENIORS

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Br. 234

57 Watson Parkway S. Guelph are hosting Saturday Afternoon Entertainment in the lounge. Saturday, **December 7th** Swan Creek will be playing from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm. Saturday, **December 21st** Best and Friends will be playing from 2pm - 5pm.

YOUTH DROP-IN NIGHT

Friday, **December 13th** 7-9 p.m at Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line (Just north of Brookville) All youth Grade 7 and up are welcome for an evening of food, fun and games and just to hang-out.

Community Announcements

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GUELPH

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

children on the waiting list.

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

BOOKING AGENT FOR ARKELL UNITED CHURCH

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

BOOKING AGENT FOR THE BADENOCH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Contact Florence Peer at (519) 763-9782.

BOOKING AGENT FOR DUFF'S CHURCH

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

BOOKING AGENT FOR EBENEZER UNITED CHURCH

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

BOOKING AGENT FOR FREELTON UNITED CHURCH

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

BOOKING AGENT FOR THE OPTIMIST RECREATION CENTRE AND PUSLINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

CROWN CEMETERY PUSLINCH

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

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If you have questions please call Karen Harding Reg. Nurse at (519) 763-1163 (church) or to contact by

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Advertising Rates: Contact Dianne Churcher (519) 763-6564 or advertising@puslinchpioneer.ca.

text, email or calling 519-820-8114 or karenharding349@outlook.com. All calls are confidential.

THE FRIENDS OF MILL CREEK
Meet at the Puslinch Community Centre at 3:30 pm. on the third Wednesday of every month (except August). We encourage anyone who can spare a few hours, and shares our passion for protecting this precious resource for future generations and in helping to develop the next generation of conservationists to attend and join us. For more information please visit the Friends of Mill Creek website <http://www.friendsofmillcreek.org>.

THE MILL CREEK SUBWATERSHED COMMUNITY LIAISON TEAM
Holds its monthly meetings the second last Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM at the Community Centre in Aberfoyle. The public is invited.

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

If you wish to become a member, please call our secretary, Carl Gorman (519) 827-9306 or Don McKay (519) 822-2984 or any Optimist member.

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

PARENT-CHILD PLACE
Is a free drop-in program for parents and caregivers with children birth to 6 years. The program runs Tuesday mornings at the Puslinch Community Centre from 9:30-11:30 and includes free play, snack, art activities and circle time.

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

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

PUSLINCH LOAN CUPBOARD HOME HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT SERVICE
is located in Duff's Presbyterian Church.

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

THE ROTARY CLUB OF GUELPH SOUTH
Meets every Thursday for breakfast at the Springfield Golf and Country Club, 2054 Gordon Street, Guelph at 7:30 am. Check out www.rotary7080.org/guelphsouth for more information.

Contact Celia Clark for membership inquiries: (519-766-1097)

METAL RECYCLING BIN – SUNRISE FARM (6920 Conc. 1, Puslinch)
Drop off 'unwanted' metals, e.g. stainless steel, aluminum, copper, tin cans, wire, metal rods, fencing etc. in the 'Gerdau Ameristeel' recycling bin situated in our parking lot. We appreciate your support. For more info, contact Lynne O'Brien Sunrise (519) 837-0558 x31.

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