

Puslinch Pioneer

Honouring The Past. Embracing The Future.

Produced by volunteers since 1975

Vol. 45, Issue 6 - February 2021

Hydroponics – it's year-round, indoor farming

By Anne Day

Food insecurity has long been an issue, and with COVID this need has become even more evident and urgent.

As a psychotherapist and worker with Sanguine Health Centre, Colin McVicker was always aware of the struggles his clients faced and when some fresh food – apples – were donated to the centre, he was interested to observe his clients' reactions. "I get to eat like the rich people", said one man. We take so much for granted.

For Colin, his work at Sanguine served to propel himself into the world of hydroponics through which vegetables and herbs can be grown indoors, year round.

Colin McVicker and Dan Atkinson of GR365N started building hydroponic systems for people just as the pandemic hit and that made business as usual impossible. So they pivoted to growing fresh produce in their own self contained agricultural system for sale direct to the neighbours.

The response has been phenomenal, locals have been showing up and trying an assortment of kale, arugula, basil and cilantro, all grown without pesticides and about 90 percent less water than a traditional farm.

GR365N has big plans to put these systems in food banks, retirement homes, schools and homes. Big on partnerships, GR365N is working with the Royal City Mission and Guelph Solar to build a vertical hydroponic system that will help meet the needs of the meal programs being offered at Royal City Mission.

Through their system, they will produce lettuce, kale and herbs, which it is estimated will save the organization around \$30-50,000 a year. This project is part of a grant application for the GW Urban Agriculture Challenge Transformative Award of \$70,000 for which GR365N is a finalist. One other component to the project is the training and employment opportunities it brings to the community.

As well as working with non-profits like 10 Carden and Royal City Mission, Colin and Dan have become growers themselves, which as Colin points out, allows them to test and try out different techniques and products, like wheat grass which is used with race track horses.

Their modular farm is based on Watson Road in Puslinch and they now have regular customers purchasing their arugula, kale and herbs. When the Aberfoyle Farmers Market opens again – they plan to be there!



Recognizing that some buyers may not know where to start, they include training and maintenance in their installation package. The ideas are endless of where they can take this concept, but first says Colin, we need to educate people on the value and effectiveness of having a hydroponic system.



Want to check them out? Go to www.gr365n.com or visit their farm at 4149 Watson Road, Puslinch. Call ahead – 519 362 3126 to set a time.

Editorial

We are possibly the last to wish you a Happy New Year. I am sure many of us were glad to see the back of 2020 and all the challenges it brought.

However as you receive this issue of the *Pioneer*, we are in lockdown. As you are staying safe at home, we hope this allows you more time to read the paper!

As a community we carry on as you will read in the article by Barbara Bulmer and the thank you note to the Santa Claus Parade supporters and participants and an update on the funds raised through Trees for Tots.

Our cover article is about a new approach to farming that uses less water and can be carried out year-round. Of particular interest is how Colin and Dan propose to use the system to help non-profits and charities in addressing food insecurity.

And our Ask the Expert column this month focuses on how we can grow and protect our indoor plants during the winter months.

Winter can be tough on the elderly and sadly we lost four members of the community over the last couple of months. Our thoughts are with their families.

Back in history, it was young children who succumbed to different illnesses, many dying in infancy. Mary Tivy shares more insights into these tragic deaths that impacted our settler families.

Marjorie Clark focuses on the past too – and shares some expressions we may well be familiar with and that have roots with our ancestors. I remember growing up hearing my parents (Scottish) trotting out these words.

As we cocoon at home, please stay safe.

Anne Day

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Our Mission

The *Puslinch Pioneer* is a monthly publication produced by local volunteers to provide an authentic source of local information about the social and political activity within the community, and to encourage participation in community events.

Volume 45: Issue 6 February 2021
Published by volunteers for the community since 1975.

Ten issues are published a year and distributed free of charge throughout Puslinch. www.puslinchpioneer.com

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

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

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

Unless otherwise stated, the deadline for submission is the 2nd Friday of the month. Next deadline is **Friday, February 12, 2021.**

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

Annual subscription rate \$50. Forward request and payment to 29 Brock Road South, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0

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Council clips

Puslinch Benefits from Ontario Support for Main Streets:

The Township received \$44,135.34 over two years, beginning in 2018 in order to install and fabricate Township signage in its main street area.

Puslinch Township Launches New Community Engagement Website:

The platform will be used as a way for the community to share ideas, discuss important topics, provide feedback and contribute to the future of the Township in a meaningful way. Current projects on Engage Puslinch include photo competition and good news stories.

Community Improvement Plan:

This plan allows the Township to provide financial incentives to businesses and landowners to help with physical improvements to private property and to assist more broadly with local economic development.

Council Member Reports:

Thirty-nine gift cards have been sold on the Shop Local Puslinch website for a value of \$2100. Encouraged the community to continue to shop local.

Installation is beginning in some areas of Arkell of the standard broadband internet connectivity project.

Several historical articles to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the Puslinch cenotaph.

PCC & ORC:

Installation of ice to proceed and pre-budget approval of arena curtains. Staff to investigate solutions to mitigate fly balls from hitting the parking lot and soccer fields and replacement trees where they have been removed due to the installation of ball diamond lighting.

Grant Allocations: Council approves the following grants:

Agricultural Society \$3,000,
Farmer's Market \$3,000,
Puslinch Lake Conservation Association \$12,500,
Sunrise \$12,500 and \$2,000,
Plowmen's Association \$180,
Whistle Stop Preschool \$1,000.

CBM Aggregates:

Part of Lot 25, Concession 1, Zoning By-law Amendment Application to permit

a below water pit on lands located immediately south of the existing CBM Lanci Pit as an expansion to this pit.

Automatic Aid Agreement City of Cambridge:

Council authorized signing the Automatic Aid Amending Agreement with Cambridge to extend service until December 31, 2021.

Broadband Strategy:

Council authorization to formally accept and endorse the Puslinch Broadband Strategy Report and to receive Council direction on implementation of the strategy.

The Township requests the County to assist with funding of the cost of hiring a Telecom Coordinator.

Notice of Motions:

That Council approve a 1.5 percent tax levy increase to the capital budget, recurring, to support the direction of Council to create a gravel roads improvement/paving program; and That staff be requested to prepare a report on the frequency of Council meetings during the pandemic.

Finance Report: Council appointed BDO Canada LLP as its auditor for an additional one year period at a cost of \$22,000 (net of HST).

Annual compensation of \$27,383 to the Mayor and \$18,450 to each Councillor, effective January 1, 2020 and adjusted annually by the cost of living increase. Proposed 2021 budget sees a 5.75 per cent tax levy increase.

Fire and Rescue Request for Proposals:

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, Cab Over Rescue Truck; and Commercial Rescue Truck.

Ontario Ombudsman:

Be the default Closed Meeting Investigator commencing January 1, 2021.

Stay connected with the news

Last year the *Puslinch Pioneer* launched the *Puslinch Pulse*, as a way to keep residents up to date on news.

The Pulse is sent out electronically

to residents who are on our email list and it has been a timely way to keep everyone informed on what is happening with the pandemic, for example.

We also send out the paper electronically which saves on postage. If you are a subscriber, we recommend you go this route.

To add your name and email address to our mailing list, just go to www.puslinchpioneer.ca

Thank you

We are thrilled to announce that the *Puslinch Pioneer* raised \$2,866 through our online auction with Sunrise.

Our thanks to all the donors, many of whom are advertisers with us, and to those of you who bid and won a prize.



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

Marjorie Clark's recent article in the last *Pioneer*, about the transmutations of the Gaelic family names of some of our Highland Scottish immigrants in the nineteenth century is certainly easy to understand. The basic rules for correct pronunciation of Scottish Gaelic seem to consist of:

1. Omit every second vowel and pronounce the remainder in a manner with no logical relation with any other language.
2. Omit all the "h"s, but add a few more at random.
3. Pronounce most of the consonants in a way with no obvious connection to their usually accepted values. Thus Mh and Bh are both pronounced "v".

Curiously, this is perfectly logical to Welsh-speakers. Sh and Th are both pronounced "h" while "s" is often pronounced "sh". Dh is usually not pronounced at all. Thus Loch Buie, on Concession 8, should correctly be spelled Loch Buidhe (yellow lake in Gaelic), but still pronounced "Boo-ey".

Welsh pronunciation has none of these problems. For example, Llwyllch is pronounced exactly as it is spelled, ie Llwyllch. What could be simpler?

A lot of funny things happened at the beginning of the last century on Ellis Island, New York, and doubtless also on Pier 21 in Halifax, the result of overworked and harassed immigration officers dealing with boatloads of multilingual immigrants. Things tended to get a bit shortened in the rush.

The American Presidential candidate of a few years ago, Edward Muskie, actually came from a Polish family with a polysyllabic name overloaded with "z"s. They emerged from Ellis island down to two syllables without a "z" in sight.

The best story that I have heard, though, concerns an elderly Jewish Pole, immigrating with his family. On the voyage over, they had been assiduously coaching him on the correct answers to potential questions from the immigration officers. However, at the crucial moment he got confused and said "Chaim vergessen" (I probably have this wrong, Yiddish is not my best language), ie "I've forgotten".

What the officer was actually asking him was his name, which was duly recorded as "Shaun Ferguson". And the family has been called Ferguson ever since!

David Brewer

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Updates to the Drinking Water Source Protection Plan for the Grand River watershed

Members of the public are invited to read and comment on the draft Updated Drinking Water Source Protection Plan for the Grand River watershed. The plan has been prepared under the Clean Water Act, 2006 to protect municipal sources of drinking water and ensure their sustainable use into the future.

The Source Protection Program is designed with continuous improvements in mind. Updates to the Grand River Source Protection Plan are proposed as a result of the completion of a technical study in the City of Cambridge for the Cambridge East Wellfields that impact the Township of Puslinch. This study updates the wellhead protection areas as a result of municipal infrastructure changes. The results of this study have been included in the draft Updated Source Protection Plan.

See the Plan

We welcome your comments and questions regarding the changes presented in the draft Updated Source Protection Plan. **The draft updated plan is available for review online beginning Monday, January 25, 2021 at:**

www.sourcewater.ca/GR-SPP-Update.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, viewing the plan in person is not available at this time. Please reach out to the contact listed in this notice to see if alternate arrangements can be made.

Participate in an online webinar

Learn more about the plan and proposed changes to the Cambridge East Wellfields and how it impacts the Township of Puslinch:

• **Wednesday, February 17, 2021** at 7 p.m. at www.sourcewater.ca/GR-SPP-Update

Submit comments in writing

To submit comments in writing:
Email: comments@sourcewater.ca
Mail: Ilona Feldmann,
Source Protection Program
Assistant, Lake Erie Source
Protection Region
c/o Grand River Conservation
Authority
400 Clyde Road, PO Box 729
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6

**Deadline for comments:
Monday, March 8, 2021**



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In Memoriam

Arthur Bertis Custance



Bert passed away peacefully at Guelph General Hospital on December

10, 2020 at the age of 90.

Bert will be forever missed by the love of his life, Margaret Joan (Cook) of 67 years, and his children Brian (Lili), Susan (Charles) Schuurman, James and John (Kathy).

Grandpa will be missed by six grandchildren Katie (Ryan) Schuurman-Pope, Paul, Gabrielle, Dahlia, Arthur, and Alex. GG will also be missed by four great grandchildren Jackson and Brayden Schuurman and Caraleena and Marcus Pope.

Predeceased by his parents Walter Winslow and Alma Evelyn (Parker), brother Gordon, sister Blanche De Mont, grandson Andrew and granddaughter Jennifer Schuurman.

Bert was born in 1930 in Nine Mile River, NS. He worked at several different jobs before finally deciding to follow his heart. He wanted to help people during a very emotional time in their lives.

Bert became the owner of the Wall-Custance Funeral Home from 1966 to 1980. Several years later, he became

the owner of the John Thomson & Son Funeral Home in Fergus before fully retiring in 1988.

Bert was always a compassionate, caring man and many looked to him for guidance. He considered it an honour to assist families during stressful times.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr Hood, Dr Morrison and the amazing nurses and staff at the Elliott-Nottingham and Guelph General Hospital for the excellent care of Bert.

Cremation has taken place. Arrangements entrusted to WALL-CUSTANCE FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL, 519-822-0051 / www.wallcustance.com.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Parkinson Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation, or a charity of your choice.

A tree will be planted in memory of A. Bertis (Bert) Custance in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest.

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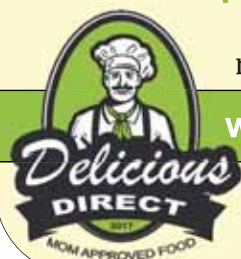
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Wellington County: Puslinch Township, Town of Erin, Guelph/Eramosa Township, Centre Wellington Township, Mapleton Township

Waterloo Region: Wellesley Township, Woolwich Township, North Dumfries Township, Wilmot Township

Grants

WWCF Business Consulting and Training Grants up to \$2,000 per business for assistance with digital media, financial management, health and safety protocols.

Loans

RRRF2 Loans - We are still accepting applications for emergency funding. These loans are interest free for 2 years with 25% forgivable if repaid by Dec. 2022.

For more information and to apply go to www.wwcf.ca

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MARKET STATS: Jan-Dec 2020

Year-to-Date Residential Statistics Compared to YTD Jan-Dec 2019

<p>median days on market</p> <p>37</p> <p>10 days LESS</p>	<p>AVERAGE SALE PRICE</p> <p>\$1,199,532</p> <p>▲ 25.9%</p>	<p>number of sold homes</p> <p>127</p> <p>▲ 54.3%</p>
<p>supply & demand:</p> <p>4.6 months of inventory</p>	<p>191</p> <p>new listings</p> <p>▼ -22.9%</p>	<p>97.9%</p> <p>sale price to list price RATIO THIS YEAR</p>

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DISCLAIMER: While the data has been formulated with all due care, Coldwell Banker Neumann R.E.B does not warrant or represent that the data is free from errors or omission or that it is exhaustive. The data represents information presented by The Canadian Real Estate Association, in co-operation with the Guelph & District Association of REALTORS®.

In Memoriams

Norman (Mick) Boreham



May 14, 1931-January 6, 2021

Norm died very peacefully at his home in Arkell, in his 90th year. He follows his wife, Gwen, who passed away in July 2019.

Norm grew up on dairy farms, first at his grandparents' Brock Road Dairy on Gordon St., and later at his parents' dairy farm in Arkell. In his teens (late 1940s), Norm delivered milk around Guelph by horse and wagon, for Victoria Dairy. After marrying Gwen in 1953, he turned to building motors at Leland Electric for several years, and then became part of the work crew at University of Guelph Arkell Research Station, where he always liked to say, "I could drive my snowmobile to work in the winter." He retired from the University of Guelph in 1993.

Playing softball was Norm's passion in his youth (shortstop for the Arkell team); there were many tournaments and parties with his teammates from the area who will fondly remember these times. Norm was one of the Blue Jays biggest fans, as well as an avid Toronto Maple Leaf fan.

After spending early married life in Guelph, a lot was severed from the family farm in Arkell in the 1960s and a new house built by his father served as their little nest for the next 50 years, raising their family of four and watching it grow. It later became situated at the corner of Boreham Drive when a new subdivision swung through.

Norm was a loving husband, dad, and papa and he was our special handyman. He will be dearly missed by his four children, Jeff (Mary Jane), Carol

McRae (Charlie), Jim (Karen), Paul; five grandchildren, Jenni (John), LEEANNE (Derek), Kenny (Christine), Erin (Tavis), Mike (Sam); and nine great grandchildren, Gracie, Riley, Kylie, Brianna, Lucas, Ella, Katelyn, Loxton, Grayson. His sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Cathy and Denny Collett, will also remember him fondly.

Norm is now with his sweetheart.

Cremation has taken place and interment will follow at Farnham Cemetery. A celebration of his life will be held in the summer for the family. Arrangements entrusted to the WALL-CUSTANCE FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL, 519-822-0051 / www.wallcustance.com

Memorial donations can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation and would be appreciated.

A tree will be planted in memory of Norman H. Boreham in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest.

Donna Louise Kangas (nee Schultz)



Of Ariss passed away peacefully at St. Joseph's Health Centre on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 in her 62nd year.

Beloved wife of Mark Kangas for 36 years. Loving daughter of Cecil Schultz and Vera Schultz (2020). Loving sister of Dave Schultz (Anne). Loved by the Kangas family as well as many nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, and friends.

Donna was passionate about figure skating, flowers, and cottage life. She was a long time employee of the University of Guelph, where she touched many lives with her kind and helpful guidance.

Thank you to the Hamilton General ICU staff for their compassion.

A private family service will take place at WALL-CUSTANCE FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL, 519-822-0051 / www.wallcustance.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Hamilton General Hospital Foundation would be appreciated.

A tree will be planted in memory of Donna L. Kangas in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest.

Earle L. Ray



Passed away peacefully at Guelph General Hospital on Friday, January 8th 2021.

Beloved husband of June for more than 60 years. Loved father of Darlene (Wayne), Lisa (Brian) and the late Tim (1975). Loving grandpa of Jason (Amber), Tasha (Daryl), Mylez, and Aly (Jordan). Proud great grandpa of to Kennedy, Chase and Cole. He will be fondly remembered by many relatives in Ontario, Alberta, and Nova Scotia.

Earle loved his career as a transport truck driver for MacKinnon Transport, which he did for more than 50 years. Earle was a brave and proud veteran and fought in the Korean War. Earle will be greatly missed by all his family and remembered for always thinking of others before himself.

Special thanks to all the great staff at Guelph General Hospital who cared for Earle for us.

Cremation has taken place. Arrangements entrusted to WALL-CUSTANCE FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL, 519-822-0051 / www.wallcustance.com.

Memorial contributions to The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital would be appreciated.

A tree will be planted in memory of Earle L. Ray in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest.

WE ARE **DELIGHTED** TO ANNOUNCE

Our ANNUAL **TASTE OF ITALY PASTA DINNER**
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Rotary
Club of Guelph South



Our Two-Part Format Features the Following

Valentine Auction: February 1st to February 12th
Visit our Online Auction at trellis.org/valentine_auction

Pasta Picnic Al Fresco: Friday, June 18th at the Puslinch Community Centre
Reserve Tickets: Contact Celia at celia@digitalfrog.com or 519-766-1097

Proceeds support Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre, and other Rotary Community Projects

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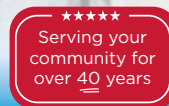
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Enthusiasm can be contagious

By Barbara Bulmer

We respect volunteers! They are the angels in our community who offer their time and talents to local organizations they think best meets their interests, and the needs of the community.

This past year has shown us how quickly our community leaders have accepted new circumstances, have embraced the challenge, and found new ways to deliver their services. Rotary has a motto most fitting: Service Above Self.

The enthusiasm displayed by our Puslinch civic champs to seek new ways to continue serving our community is now history. They faced the challenge presented by the pandemic, and undaunted they forged ahead.

And here's what happened: the Agricultural Society (Fair Board) turned their annual Chicken Dinner, usually held at the Community Centre, into a successful drive-by, boxed chicken dinner event, brilliantly organized in Duff's Church parking lot. They are also running a photo contest, details on their website.

The Historical Society found ways to complete their amazing collection of Puslinch history at the library.

The Puslinch Optimist Club ran a fundraiser online in support of a local family, and have pledged money to the community to help upgrade ice making at the ORC. Their enthusiasm knew no bounds, and their drive-by Santa Parade was a huge success.

We have heard many stories of individual, thoughtful acts of kindness: delivering meals to older residents,

phoning neighbours to offer help or just chat.

Our Fire Department had a clothing drive for children, and our local restaurants and chefs got creative and offered take-out meals.

As you know the *Puslinch Pioneer* and the *Puslinch Pulse* are put together by volunteers dedicated to continuing the 45-year tradition of the *Pioneer* while being enthusiastic about developing the *Pioneer Pulse* online.

We wish to thank our donors and advertisers who make it all possible, and ask our readers to shop local. We have discovered that enthusiasm is contagious!

What the old people said...

By Marjorie Clark

Although these sayings were not unique to Puslinch Township and indeed, some may have been heard in rural communities throughout Canada and perhaps even the United States, it is worthwhile to record them, for they are indicative of the way of life in the Township and most are seldom heard in the 21st century.

How colourful was the vocabulary of our forefathers!

(He's) a chip off the old block.

May as well be hanged for (the theft of) a sheep as a lamb. (Probably Highland Scottish in origin)

Green Christmas - full graveyard.

It's a raw day. (said of damp, cold weather.)

(It's a case of) the pot calling the kettle black ass.

(It's) as dull as a hoe.

And a fair wind to your backside. (After the departure of an unwelcome visitor.)

(I'll do that in) two shakes of a dead lamb's tail. (Probably Highland Scottish in origin.)

(It's) crooked as a dog's hind leg.

Pussy's a cat. (It's in her nature to do that.)

It's either a feast or a famine.

Hunger's good sauce.

It takes an old dog for a hard road.

It's the nature of the beast (to do that).

Slow as molasses in January.

It's an ill wind that blows no good (someone or something will usually benefit from an unpleasant event).

Not fit for man nor beast. (said of inclement weather)

Healthy as a trout.

There's no fool like an old fool.

Any port in a storm.

Bright as a daisy.

Sound as a dollar.

(She's) Knee high to a grasshopper.

Adam's ale (water)

I'll dance at your wedding til my shirt-tail's wet. (from perspiration - said in appreciation of a favour)

And, it's full of thanks. (said on returning an empty dish)



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TOWNSHIP OF
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Property Tax Reminder

Interim Bills will be mailed

February 1, 2021

DUE DATES:

February 26, 2021

April 30, 2021

Questions? Please contact the
Tax Office at 519-763-1226 x106 or
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Thank you Santa Claus drive-thru!

By Brenda Law

Santa Claus showed up in Aberfoyle despite the pandemic. It was a Christmas wonderland!

The Optimist Club of Puslinch annual Santa Claus parade celebrating 25 years of bringing Santa to the kids of Puslinch took on a different look this year as a drive-thru.

Families remained in their vehicles and drove by the decorated floats, listening to pipe band and Christmas music, in anticipation of seeing the 'jolly old guy' in red. Tigger, Sparky and the clowns visited with families while waiting to drive-thru.

Many smiling faces of the young and the young at heart waited in anticipation. Thank you Santa for visiting Puslinch!

Santa's elves gave out the full 300 goodie bags but fell short; however the Fire Department came through with their colouring books. Vehicles were lined up in the parking lot, full for the whole duration of the event.

Food items for the food bank exceeded our expectations: 975 lbs of food and \$299 in cash. Lots of Dear Santa letters were collected, 161 in all.

We had visitors from Stratford, Elora, Fergus, Ancaster, Oakville and Cam-

bridge. Way to go Puslinch!

A huge thank you to all who sponsored and participated in the drive-thru with their amazing Christmas floats:

Aberfoyle Snowmobiles, Aberfoyle Agricultural Society & Garden Club, A Change of Pace Restaurant, Accurate Home and Building Inspection Consultants, Benson Tire, Brennan's Tire Service Inc, Bryan's Farm & Industrial Supply, Boy Scouts, Capital Paving Inc, Con-Cast Pipe Ltd, County of Wellington Roads Dept Aberfoyle, Dollarama, Duff's Presbyterian Church, Farley Manufacturing, Fleet Image, Guelph Family Martial Arts, Hayden's Garage & Sarmazian Carpets, Robert F Hammond, Henry Deter, Jefferson Farms, Ken Tosh Vintage Tractor, Michael's Mobile Truck and Trailer Repair, Nestle Canada Inc, North America Construction Ltd, Picard Peanuts Ltd, Puslinch Fire Dept., Puslinch Minor Baseball, Puslinch Minor Soccer, Fred Prior Construction, Ren's Pets, Shar-a-tree Christmas Trees, Township of Puslinch, Township of Puslinch Fire & Roads Depts., D.L.P. Heavy Haul Equipment - Jeff Townes, DM, Davidson Water Pumping Equipment Sales & Service, Victoria Park East & Valley Golf Clubs, Village Restaurant, Wall-Custance Funeral Home Ltd., Wayne Fischer Vintage Steam Engine and of course, Santa.

This event is made possible through the generous support of our local businesses, companies, organizations, individuals and community members. Please thank them and support them!



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- Jody W. (Puslinch)



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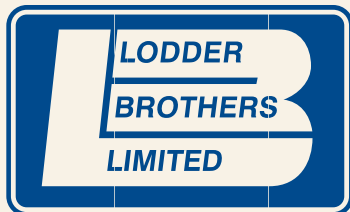
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COOK'S CORNER

By Barbara Paterson

This casserole is a very tasty supper dish. It serves 5 or 6 but can easily be doubled.



Tuna, Tomato, Cheese & Rice Bake

1 tbsp. oil
 1 medium sized onion
 2 170 g cans tuna
 1 scant cup uncooked rice
 Half of 19 oz. can of diced tomatoes
 1½ tsp. dried basil
 1½ tsp. dried oregano
 Salt & pepper to taste
 2 cups grated cheddar cheese
 2 cups grated mozzarella cheese
 1¼ cups fish stock (You can use liquid from tuna packed in water plus more water).

1. Sauté onion in 1 tbsp. oil until soft.
2. Mix onion and all other ingredients except cheeses and fish stock.
3. In a 9" x 13" pan, layer rice mixture with cheese, starting with rice and ending with cheese. Two layers of rice and 2 layers of cheese.
4. Heat fish stock until hot and pour over casserole to just cover the surface.
5. Bake uncovered at 400°F for 30 minutes. Cover with foil near end of baking time if necessary.

Apple Sour Cream Coffee Cake

A really good cake!



Grease a 10" springform pan.

Topping:

1/3 cup packed brown sugar
 3 tbsp. chopped pecans
 1 1/2 tsp. all-purpose flour
 2 tsp. margarine or butter
 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

Filling:

2 cups peeled, chopped apples
 1/2 cup raisins
 1 tbsp. white sugar
 1 tsp. ground cinnamon

Cake:

2/3 cup packed brown sugar
 1/2 cup white sugar
 1/3 cup vegetable oil
 2 large eggs
 1 tbsp. grated orange rind
 2 tsp. vanilla

1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
 2 tsp. baking powder
 1 tsp. baking soda
 1/2 cup orange juice
 1/2 cup low-fat sour cream

1. Make topping: In a small bowl, mix topping ingredients until crumbly. Set aside.
2. Make filling: In a bowl, mix together filling ingredients and set aside.
3. Make cake: In a large bowl, beat together brown sugar, white sugar and oil. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each. Mix in orange rind and vanilla.
4. In a separate bowl, stir together flour, baking powder and baking soda. In another bowl, stir together orange juice and sour cream. Add the flour mixture and orange juice/sour cream mixture in batches, alternating between the two. Mix just until it is all blended.
5. Spoon half of the batter into the prepared pan. Top with half the apple mixture. Spoon the remaining batter on top of the apple mixture. Top with the remaining apple mixture; sprinkle with topping.
6. Place the pan in the centre of the oven and bake at 350°F for 1 hour, 10 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean. Let the pan cool on a wire rack.



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Puslinch Branch, Wellington County Library

As a proactive measure to stop the spread of COVID-19, pick up service is available at all Wellington County Library branches. Public access is not currently permitted.

Please visit us online at www.wellington.ca/Library for up-to-date hours and services.

- To pick up your holds from the Puslinch Branch, please arrange an appointment time by phone: 519.763.8026 or email: puslinchlib@wellington.ca.
- Our drop box remains open. Please return your items when they are due or renew items using our online catalogue or by contacting the branch.
- Items returned to the library will remain on your card for a fine-free quarantine for 72 hours.

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Puslinch Branch: Wednesday, February 10 and 24 at 11:00 am

NEW! Just for You from WCL

Wondering what to read, watch, or listen to next? Wellington County Library staff are here to help! Tell us what you love and we'll hand-pick a selection of titles for you to borrow. For more information, visit www.wellington.ca/justforyou.

While you're waiting for Just for You selections, check out this list of new books at the library.

Fiction

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Blanchard, Alice | The Wicked Hour |
| Cossette, C | To Dwell Among Cedars |
| Craig, Christie | Don't Look Back |
| Griggs, Winnie | The Amish Wedding Quilt |
| Hagberg, David | Mcgarvey |
| Jensen, Louise | The Gift |
| Lindsey, Erin | The Silver Shooter |
| Schaffhausen, J | All The Best Lies |
| Shipman, James | Irena's War |
| Thomas, Jodi | Breakfast at the Honey Creek Café |


Non-Fiction

- Adams Media
Backyard Farming: From Raising Chickens to Growing Veggies, The Beginners Guide
- Brown, Karma
The 4% Fix: How One Hour Can Change Your Life
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi
Beautiful Struggle
- Globe, Alexander
Gold, Grit, Guns
- Irving, Clive
Last Queen
- Mecking, Olga Niksen
Embracing The Dutch Art of Doing Nothing
- Price, Devon
Laziness Does Not Exist
- Pitzer, Andrea
Icebound
- Vanderbilt, Tom
Beginners: The Joy and Transformative Power of Lifelong Learning
- Virani, Shazia
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Planning for an emergency

By Peter VanOordt

Fire departments and other first responders operating in rural areas face unique challenges when responding to emergency calls.

For example, when there's an emergency at a rural property, sometimes merely getting firefighters, trucks, and equipment proper access to the emergency scene itself can present a challenge.

However, there are things that rural residents can do to make it easier for first responders to access an emergency scene more quickly.

Making sure that your rural address sign is in good repair, easily visible from the road, and not obstructed by snow or other obstructions, is a good first step in helping us find you in an emergency.

Make sure that your laneway is at least 3.5 metres wide and kept clear of snow to allow access for emergency vehicles.

Some rural properties have more than one access point. If this is the case, it is a good practice to make sure that each access point is kept clear.

Ensure that there is cleared access to all buildings on the property and be sure that no farm equipment, machinery, or other obstructions impede access to any building.

If you have an emergency at a rural property, be sure to give the 911 operator details about the specific location on the property where you need help.

If you're able, and it's safe to do so, you may also want to have someone meet the first responders at the road to help direct us to where we're needed.

This is especially helpful for larger properties where the emergency is somewhere other than the main residence.

The best time to think about and plan for what to do in an emergency is well before the emergency. For example, preparing a farm fire and emergency sketch now can help you be better prepared in the event of an actual emergency at your rural property.

A farm fire and emergency sketch is a sketch based on a satellite photograph of a rural property that identifies emergency access points, specific hazards (such as fuel storage), buildings and their contents (such as livestock), and other information that might be useful to first responders during an emergency.

More information on preparing such a sketch can be found on the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs website (omafra.gov.on.ca).

By following these tips, you can help us be better able to help you or your loved-ones in an emergency.



Trees for Tots raises \$93,000

The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington's annual trees for tots event raised \$93,000.

Over 4,100 trees were collected and the chipping event raised \$25,000 more than last year.

The funds raised go directly back into the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington, and the chipped wood goes back into the environment.

All funds raised go directly to help build brighter futures for the children in our community, including:

- Helping provide nourishing food for children who go to school hungry through the **Food and Friends program**
- Helping build vital skills and self-esteem by allowing kids to take part in sports, arts and life-skill training opportunities through **Free to Grow program**
- Helping students who have overcome adversity continue their education through scholarships.

In some ways the increase was to be expected in that there had been a rush on trees this year, with more families staying home for Christmas.

Both the Rotary and Optimist Clubs were involved in the collection of the trees.



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ASK THE EXPERT

Q: How do I take care of my tropical plants in winter?

By Kiki Dann

Canada is well-known for its long winters, making indoor gardening a popular hobby. Houseplants are a fantastic way to exercise green thumbs and enjoy the benefits of greenery. However, the winter season can create some challenges for your plants.

Temperature: You'll want to protect your plants from cold drafts. Frequently opened doors and windows create chilly gusts that can cause premature leaf drop and a general lack of vitality; such as drooping and dull colour.

Heat vents, stoves, and fireplaces are sources of dry air and additional heat which can stress moisture-loving tropicals. You can reshuffle plants and use a vent cover to redirect hot airflow.

Additionally, plants sitting on cold surfaces such as granite counters or stone windowsills will have chilly roots - tuck a cork mat or a coaster beneath the pot.

Light: Since plants convert sunlight into their food, the shorter days and the weaker rays of the sun usually mean less light is available for plants. You may want to move tropicals that were in a

north or east-facing window to a window with south or west exposure.

You can also add supplemental light in the form of grow lights - choose full spectrum fluorescent or LEDs bulbs with high lumens, and place them 12" to 18" facing the top of the plant. Remember to always gradually increase or decrease light to reduce shock.

Water: With less light and cooler temperatures, plants will not be uptaking water at their previous rates. You'll water less, but ensure the plants are able to dry between waterings, as you don't want to risk soggy soil and decaying roots.

Keep in mind that ferns, calatheas, and other species prefer consistent soil moisture and do not like drying out completely.

Fertilizing: Remember that plant fertilizer is not food for plants - it is supplemental; providing additional nutrients to encourage optimum growth as soil becomes depleted of trace minerals.

If your plants are getting less light and water, they will not be growing as quickly, so you can give them a break from fertilizing.

Pests: Warm and stagnant air coupled with a stressed plant can be a welcoming environment for nuisances such as spider mites, which suck the sap from leaves, leaving unsightly damage. An



ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

Clean your plants regularly with a damp cloth, or rinse them off with warm water in your shower. Give your plants good air circulation and address their watering requirements.

Keep a sharp eye out for any changes such as leaf texture changes, mottling, drooping, sudden leaf drop, and deformed leaves or flowers.

Horticultural oils and true soaps (such as castile soap) can be used to wash any pests away.

Last but not least, slowed growth means division or asexual propagation (cuttings) should be delayed until spring provides more light to ensure their successful growth.

Tend to your plants, smell the soil, and remember that spring is a few short weeks away!



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HERITAGE MATTERS

Local cemeteries: Lambs, doves and broken hearts.

By Mary Tivy

Walking through Crown cemetery's oldest section I was struck by the great number of children buried there. One hundred and fifty-six of the 422 legible gravestones are in memory to children.

Small, illegible, stones located in family plots point to deaths of additional young ones who must remain anonymous to us today. This prevalence of child burials holds true across the pioneer cemeteries in Puslinch Township. One-third of children born between 1830 and 1870 in Canada died before the age of five.

Many of these children died in infancy. Women delivered babies at home and maternal ill-health, difficult births (before caesarean section), and poor hygiene contributed to infant mortality.

When mothers died from childbirth the infants that survived birth could fail to thrive and die within weeks. For instance, the Kenney stone in Farnham cemetery tells us that Annie Kenney died on September 9, 1892, age 22, and that the daughter she delivered that day died on November 4, 1892.

Childhood diseases such as measles and strep throat carried away both infants and children in this time before vaccines and antibiotics. A simple cut could lead to sepsis and death.

Death came regardless of economic or social status. John Howitt was one of Puslinch's wealthiest men.

Of his 20 children, nine died in childhood. His family obelisk in Howitt Cemetery tells us that between 1825 and 1840 his wife Catherine Lees delivered 10 children, and buried six of them before she herself died on Christmas Eve, 1842 at age 39.

Howitt remarried in early 1844 and he and his second wife, Margaret McIntosh, also had 10 children, losing two babies in infancy and a third before the age of 10.

The names of children such as those in the Howitt family are typically recorded on their parents' stones, or on smaller stones nearby. But tombstone masons also offered stones carved specifically for children, featuring lambs asleep or doves in flight.

The lamb is the symbol of childhood innocence and also represents Jesus, the "the lamb of God".

In most of the Puslinch cemeteries lambs are carved into the face of the stone, but in the case of Lucy Ann Bardwell's stone in the Farnham Cemetery, the lamb lies across the top of the stone. Lucy Ann died at 13 months on Christmas Eve, 1862.



Doves are also symbols of childhood innocence and purity, and when in flight, represent the spirit flying to heaven.

The Ellis Chapel cemetery has three children's marble headstones that have been re-mounted in a wall, and all feature doves. Two of these stones were carved for the daughters of James and Mary Mason: Elizabeth died at age three and a half on October 13, 1862 and Annie died at age five years and three months on April 13, 1876.



The death of a child is tragic. A visit to our pioneer cemeteries gives us evidence of the extent of this tragedy among our settler families, and a renewed appreciation for modern medicine.

Farm grant program



Scott Timmings, photo from GRCA

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), in partnership with local municipalities, supports farmers taking action to improve and protect water quality in the Grand River watershed.

The GRCA's Rural Water Quality Program (RWQP), supports projects that help producers make their farms more resilient, while helping improve downstream water quality.

In 2019, landowners across the watershed completed water quality improvement projects with a capital value of almost \$2.3 million. Over 425 projects were funded, including:

- tree planting projects to establish windbreaks and stream buffers
- well upgrades and plugging of unused wells to protect groundwater
- manure storage facilities to effectively manage nutrients and avoid winter spreading
- erosion control structures and cover crops to protect soil from wind and water erosion
- wetland restoration projects

Farmer Scott Timmings completed a number of projects with this funding including tree planting, cover crops and an erosion control project.

GRCA staff are available to help eligible rural landowners plan their project and apply to the program. If a site visit is required, appropriate physical distancing is maintained.

More information on this program is available by contacting the GRCA at ruralwater@grandriver.ca or calling 519-621-2761 and asking to speak to a Conservation Specialist.

To learn more about the services and grants that are available through the GRCA, please visit www.grandriver.ca/ruralwater

Religious Services

In these ever-changing times, it is wise to double-check the website to determine if in-person services are happening or the event is taking place.

ARKELL UNITED CHURCH

"The Little Church with the BIG Heart"
600 Arkell Road at Watson, Arkell, ON N0B 1C0
(519) 821-7623
www.arkellunitedchurch.ca
Rev. Deborah Deavu
Until further notice, there are no Sunday worship services at the Church. See the church's website for updates. To receive weekly services via email, send a message to arkellunitedchurch@hotmail.com.

BAHA'I FAITH

www.bahaisofpuslinch.ca
• You are invited to join us in our study of – *Reflections on the Life of the Spirit* – a course on the spiritual nature of the human being. During the pandemic, this study will be conducted via the Zoom video conference platform. Call 519-767-3135 or email lsapuslinch@gmail.com for particulars of date, time and Zoom link.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

454 Arkell Road, Arkell, ON N0B 1C0
(519) 824-1161
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 programs - please go to church website for more information.
• Adult Bible Study: Thursdays 10:00 am.

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Web Site: www.crossroadsbic.ca
Facebook: Cross Roads BIC & Cross Roads Youth Group
Pastor: Melissa Richer
Sunday Worship @ Cross Roads (registration required)
Sunday Worship @ Home:
YouTube "Cross Roads BIC"
www.youtube.com/channel/UCMKYAskvq1HdGsTIA7UQFsg.

DUFF'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We look forward to welcoming you again!
319 Brock Rd. S. & 401, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
(519) 763-1163
office@duffschurch.ca
www.duffschurch.ca
www.facebook.com/duffschurch/
February 2021

EBENEZER UNITED CHURCH

12274 Guelph Line, (just North of 20 Sideroad) North of Campbellville, Milton, ON L0P 1B0
(905) 854-2423
Webpage: www.ebenezeruc.ca - Like us on Facebook
Minister: Carolin MacMillan
Music Director: John Zadro
Worship Services: Every Sunday 10am

FREELTON UNITED CHURCH

155 Freelon Rd. at Douglas Street, Freelon, ON L8B 0Z5
(905) 659-3380
www.freeltonstrabaneuc.ca
Minister: Rev. Will Wheeler
• Sunday Worship Services & Sunday School at 9:30 am.
Coffee hour & fellowship to follow.

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CRIEFF

7156 Concession 1, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
(519) 824-8757
www.pccweb.ca/knox-crieff/
Minister Rev. Michelle Yoon
• Sunday Worship at 10 am.

MOUNT CARMEL-ZION UNITED CHURCH

in Morriston at the corner of Church & Victoria Streets, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
Minister: Rev. Margaret Ruggles
(519) 822-8610
www.morristonunitedchurch.com
Email: morristonunitedchurch@gmail.com
Holding online services every Sunday at 10:30 am on our Facebook page. "Mount Carmel-Zion United Church" Be sure to "follow us". Continued support of Chalmers CSC donations are welcomed.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

79 Freelon Road, Freelon, ON L0R 1K0
(905) 659-3305
Father Edward Mahony
Masses as follows:
• Saturday: 5:00 pm
• Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am.

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www.guelphsa.ca
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• Sunday School: 11:30 am (Age 2 to Grade 6)
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www.sdarm.ca
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ST. JAMES' ANGLICAN CHURCH

520 Ellis Rd. (beside Hespeler Arena, west of Townline Rd.)
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Rector Rev. Canon Linda Nixon
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8:30 am Holy Eucharist - Traditional
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) Freelon, ON L0R 1K0

Community Events

At the Puslinch Pioneer, we like to promote community events and we ask for your co-operation in keeping them under the 50 word count so we can accommodate as many as possible. If your event is taking place outside of Puslinch, or is a for-profit venture, there is a \$25 charge for the listing.

SUNRISE NEW PROGRAM

Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) Program offers on ground-work with horses to positively impact mental, emotional and physical well-being, in a beautiful country setting. All strict protocols in place and lots of open space to enjoy. Contact :Suzy Bender, Certified EAL Facilitator at suzy@sunrise-therapeutic.ca or Lynne O'Brien, Executive Director 519-837-0558 Ext.31

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. Call (519) 824-5154, email info@bbbsg.ca or visit us online at www.bbbsg.ca.

BOOKING AGENTS

ARKELL UNITED CHURCH

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

BADENOCH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Inquiries call 519-822-5232.

DUFF'S CHURCH

Contact the church office at 519-763-1163 or email office@duffschurch.ca.

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

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

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

**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 Morrision 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.

THE FRIENDS OF MILL CREEK
Meet at the Puslinch Community Centre at 3:30 pm. on the third Wednesday of every month (except August). If you share our passion for protecting this precious resource for future generations and in developing the next generation of conservationists, join us. For more information <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 and 4th Tuesday of each month. Visit www.optimistclubofpuslinch.com and fill out an application or call Ken at 519-763-0309 or contact any club 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.

PUSLINCH FIDDLE GROUP
Meets the 3rd Sunday of each month 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. Call Paul McDonald (519)763-9764.

PARENT-CHILD PLACE
Is a free drop-in program for parents and caregivers with children birth to 6 years, running September -June. It runs on Tuesdays at the Puslinch Community Centre from 9:30-11:30 and includes play,

snack, art activities and circle time. If school buses cancelled and centre closed, there's no program.

**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 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)**
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