Honouring The Past. Embracing The Future.

Produced by volunteers since 1975

Vol. 45, Issue 7 - March 2021

SUNRISE MYSTERY CAR RALLY Sunday Afternoon, May 16, 2021

Drivers for Riders



"My daughter Brooklyn, who is 9 years old, was born with a rare neurological disorder that significantly affects her ability to walk or speak. When we first started at Sunrise we had a child that needed to be carried from place to place, and who relied on being pushed in a wheelchair for all her mobility needs. Today she uses a walker on her own...... we attribute her gains to the programming at Sunrise and consider it essential for her" Matt R, Parent

Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre, like so many other charities, has had to re-imagine its fundraising activities during the pandemic.

And so we invite you to participate in an exciting new fundraising event in your family car, which will help give children and adults with special needs a "Leg back up" onto their own horse power!

This is NOT a race, but a fun family experience with trivia questions along the route. Great prizes for the highest pledges. Decorate your car, wear a costume (both optional) for a prize.

Registration includes a free family photograph with or without a horse —a professional photographer is donating his services, Sunrise grab bag, and a boxed and individually prepared "afternoon tea."

All the challenging pandemic restrictions have been particularly hard on young people with special needs. They have great difficulty processing why they cannot be at the Sunrise farm each week to connect with their beloved horses and their friends.

This restriction in turn is resulting in high anxiety, emotional and mental health issues.

Being around the Sunrise therapy horses has both a calming and empowering affect on our vulnerable population. Because therapeutic riding requires a great deal of contact between participants, instructors and volunteers, social distancing is particularly challenging.

This means it will be a greater length of time before a normal routine is once again established for hundreds of young people who access the various Sunrise programs each year.

Your participation as, "DRIVERS FOR RIDERS", will help to raise much needed funds to ensure our team of therapy horses receive continuing care and training in preparation for renewed empowering programs once restrictions are lifted.

We anticipate the demand for service will be overwhelming, both from individual families, Special Education school classes, Equine Assisted Learning (EAL), Life Skills and a number of other programs.

Enjoy an afternoon drive, with fun questions in your "family bubble", rain or shine.

Contact: Fiona Ryder, fiona@sunrise-therapeutic.ca 519-837-0558 x35 or Lynne O'Brien 519-837-0558 x31.

MYSTERY CAR RALLY registration opens March 1st, and closes April 23rd. Registration fee is \$50 plus pledges. With over \$200 in pledges, the registration fee is waived. Limited to 40 cars participating, so register early!

Editorial

How are you doing? This has been a tough winter as we social isolate at home. The good news is that we are closer to Spring – the better weather and more opportunities to connect safely outside.

As you will see from our cover article, charities are getting more creative with their need to raise vital funds for their organizations. Both Sunrise and the Rotary Club of Guelph South are taking a "drive by" approach.

Many of us read and followed what was happening with Joanne Townes, with the Optimist Club holding a special fundraiser to support the family. It is with great sadness that we share the obituary for Joanne who sadly passed away in January. Our thoughts are with the family.

Mary Tivy continues her exploration of the early pioneers and shares how childbirth was often the cause of death of mothers back then.

We also learn of the early days on CPR from John Gilmour who as a young man, worked the railroads.

And Marjorie Clark explains who the Mill Creek Stewards are and what they are doing in the community.

We received way more articles than we could include in this month's publication. We thank everyone for their contribution, and hope to use the articles in future editions of the *Puslinch Pioneer*.

Stay safe.



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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 7 March 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**, **March 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 NOB 2J0

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Council clips

DocuPet Licensing:

Council authorized the implementation of the DocuPet Licensing program and the 2021 dog licensing fee be increased to \$30 per tag.

Hume Road Railway Crossing: The Mayor and CAO are to meet with counter parts at City of Guelph to request relief of fees for the railway crossing project, and to identify if a cost-sharing agreement exists between Guelph Junction Railway and Township relating to maintenance and repairs.

New Parking Area in Morriston: Ministry of Transportation recently installed two parking spots on west side of Highway 6 south of Calfass Road intersection to provide short term parking to assist local business with deliveries and pick up services during the pandemic.

PCC Ball Diamond & Soccer Field: Staff has recommended to limit the baseball diamond to flight restricted balls and wooden bats, install parking liability signage indicating park at your own risk, and to obtain 15 to 25 young trees for planting on the berm.

Tender advertisement posted construction of back soccer field, amenities will follow later into 2022.

Operating Budget:

Includes reductions in rental revenues due to COVID amounting to \$59K. Township received an additional allocation of \$38,000 to help with 2021 COVID related operating pressures. A previous allocation of \$190,500 was Hello everyone, received earlier in 2020.

Assessment Roll: The 2021 returned assessment roll has resulted in little to no assessment changes due to the postponement of the 2021 update as a result of the pandemic. However the Township's new assessment growth is approx. 1.5 percent

Mailbox Policy:

Outlines the requirements for mailbox installation along Township maintained roads and to clearly define the Township's responsibilities regarding winter damage to mailboxes.

Boundary Road Agreement City of Hamilton: Council authorized updated joint jurisdiction and connecting highway routine maintenance and repair agreement, and City to pay

Township for its greater share of Council understands the challenges evmaintenance and repair.

Audrey Meadows Phase 2:

Delegation from Rob Stovel to discuss the proposed development concept and the need for sustainable development in the Township.

2021 Interim Tax Levy and Due Recreation Facility. With the ever-Dates: February 26 & April 30.

2021 Operating & Capital Budget: installed and this ultimately provided That an additional contribution to Gravel Roads Improvement Reserve of 1 percent be incorporated, staff agreed to a 0 percent wage increase, Council opted not to attend conferences this year, and the overall Township tax increase for the median/typical property be 0.93 percent (previous first draft contact me - jseeley@puslinch.ca 5.75 percent)

New Council Meeting Schedule:

A meeting frequency of three weeks, James Seeley first meeting on February 10 to be extended to July 2021 at which time Council will re-evaluate; and meetings commence at 10 am.

Trees for Tots:

Approximately 700 trees were brought to the Township Public Works parking lot as part of the fundraising efforts.

2021 Census of Population: The next census will take place in May 2021. The 2021 Census is encouraging residents to complete the questionnaire and to inform them of job opportunities.

Mayor's message

I hope this article finds all of your family healthy. We are still experiencing the most challenging times of recent history; however, I believe Puslinch and Wellington County are an example the rest of the Southern portion of the Province can use for the future if our current situation were to ever reoccur.

I am pleased to announce that Puslinch Council approved the proposed budget for 2021 with a less than 1 percent tax increase.

This budget reflects a commitment to current service levels as well as continuing to contribute to our Gravel Roads Improvement Reserve. This reserve will facilitate the improvement of gravel roads and ultimately result in the surface treatment of gravel roads.

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ery one of our residents is facing during these difficult times and has had to make difficult decisions during an everchanging environment due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

One of those difficult decisions was whether to put ice in at the Optimist changing regulations, surrounding Covid-19, Council opted to have the ice families some time to get out and skate.

Please try to support local businesses during these difficult times. If you have any specific questions around the 2021 budget or Covid-19 please feel free to

Stay safe and healthy



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

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In the Optimist Recreation Centre

Mealshare comes to Puslinch

By Heather Laird



Mealshare is a Canadian charity on a mission to help end youth hunger.

A&W Canada has just signed up for Mealshare! Below are a few highlights about the partnership:

For every 'Mealshare Item' purchased at A&W, we will share one simple, healthy meal with a youth in need.

In Puslinch, your A&W location is participating and we hope to share 1,200 meals per year!

in Guelph that will mean 4,800 meals we hope to share by supporting the Guelph Food Bank.

On 'Mealshare Mondays', customers can order a Cheddar Bacon Uncle Burger Combo and one meal will be provided to a youth in need through Mealshare.

Any day of the week, customers can "Make it a Mealshare" by adding \$1.00 to their order. When customers do this, one meal will be provided to a youth in need through Mealshare.

Customers can participate inrestaurant, through drive-thru, or by using the mobile app.

Contact Heather - the Puslinch manager at heather@mealshare.ca

Optimist Club scholarships

By Don McKay

The Optimist Club of Puslinch has Combined with the three A&W locations once again awarded scholarships

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to assist youth and families of the Township of Puslinch with educational expenses and to promote the Club as an organization committed to the advancement of education.

This was the 19th year that the Club has offered the scholarship program. Three scholarships of \$1,000 each were available for the 2010-2021 school year.

The scholarships were split into three streams; an academic scholarship; a community college scholarship; and a vocational-technical scholarship.

At the closing date for submissions the Club had the lowest number of applications since the program was established, even though it was well advertised, compared to having the largest number in 2019.

This year only one scholarship was awarded - for the community college scholarship. The scholarship was awarded to Mr. Hasan Hollyer.

The Optimist Club hopes that the low number of submissions was due to the unusual conditions of 2020(Covid-19) and more youth will apply in 2021.

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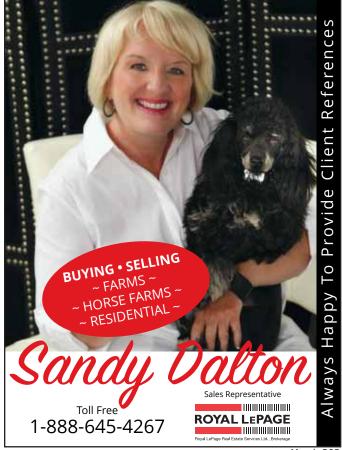
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COOK'S CORNER

By Barbara Paterson

In the past, I seldom bought eggplant because I didn't know quite what to do with it. Now I have the answer. This casserole looks great and tastes delicious.

Eggplant Casserole with Mozzarella and Parmesan Cheeses



1 cup dry unseasoned bread crumbs 1/3 cup grated parmesan cheese 2 tsp. dried basil

- 2 eggs
- 2 medium eggplants (about 2 lbs.) unpeeled and each cut crosswise into 8 slices so you have 16 slices altogether. Cooking spray or Olive oil
- 3 cups tomato sauce, such as Hunts or Primo, etc.
- 1 cup of packed, shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 tbsp. minced fresh parsley
- 1. In a shallow bowl, combine bread crumbs, parmesan cheese and

basil. Mix well.

- In another shallow bowl, lightly beat eggs with a fork. One at a time, dip eggplant slices into beaten eggs, shake off excess, then press slices into crumb mixture.
- Turn to coat both sides with crumbs. Place slices on 1 large baking sheet which has been greased with the olive oil or sprayed.
- Spray or dribble oil lightly over slices and bake at 400°F for 15 minutes. Remove from oven, turn slices over and spray or dribble again.
- 5. Return to oven and bake for 15 more minutes. Remove from oven.
- To assemble casserole, spoon 1 cup tomato sauce over bottom of a 9" x 13" baking dish. Top with half of the eggplant slices (8). Spoon another 1 cup sauce over eggplant slices followed by half of the mozzarella.
- 7. Place remaining eggplant slices on top of the ones in the dish (like a sandwich) and pour over the rest of the tomato sauce and top with remaining mozzarella. Sprinkle with parsley.
- Return to oven and bake, uncovered, for 20 minutes or until cheese is completely melted and sauce is bubbly. Serve immediately.

The combination of dried fruits and orange makes this a tropical, sweet, citrus-flavoured pudding.

Apricot, Date Orange Pudding



1/4 cups milk
1/2 cup evaporated milk
3 tbsp. frozen orange juice concentrate
1/2 cup white sugar
2 tbsp. cornstarch
2 tsp. finely grated orange rind
1 large egg
1/4 cup chopped dried apricots
1/4 cup chopped dried dates

- In a heavy-bottomed saucepan off the heat, whisk together the milk, evaporated milk, orange juice concentrate, sugar, cornstarch and orange rind until smooth.
- Bring the mixture to a boil over medium-high heat whisking constantly. Remove the pan from the heat.
- Sprinkle 3. In a bowl, whisk the egg. Whisk 1/2 cup of the hot mixture into the egg. Whisk the egg mixture back into saucepan. Cook the mixture over medium-low heat for 1 minute, stirring, or until it is thickened and bubbling. Remove the pan from the heat.
 - Stir in the apricots and dates. Divide the pudding among 6 dessert dishes, cover with plastic wrap and chill.

Live your dream.

Paul Embro Senior Associate

pembro@ipcc.org Stacie Giovinazzo

Associate sgiovinazzo@ipcc.org 519.763.2197

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Additional items to go with a package including eggs, turkeys and microgreens.

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For more information, check out our C.S.A./Farm Share page on our website at

www.corwhinherbsandproduce.ca or check out our Facebook page at

Corwhin Herbs and Produce (corwhinherbs@gmail.com)

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In Memoriams

Helena Oosterveld



It is with great sadness we announce that the Lord took Helena (Lena) Oosterveld, our dearly loved Mother, Oma and Great Oma who passed away peacefully in her sleep on Thursday, January 28, 2021. She was born on June 22, 1933 in Groningen to Harm and Hendrika Pyper.

Mom is survived by her loving children Etta (Chris); Rick (Nancy), Harry; Ron (Kim) and Ed. She loved and cherished all her grandchildren Miranda (Jeff), Jason (Danielle), Nathan, Anthony (Nicole), Nicole (Mike), Alex (Desire), Julia, Zachary, Michael and Ryan and her great grandchildren Dreya, Elyott, Hank, Charley, Aubrey, Amelia, Alice and our newest member Isla.

She leaves behind her beloved brothers and their wives; Albert (Linda) and Ed (Jane) and many cherished nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Helena is predeceased by her husband Henk, the love of her life; her beloved sisters and brothers in law, Jean and Jerry VanHolst; Joanne and Jake Klimstra and her daughters-in- law, Alison and Anne.

Henk and Helena immigrated to Canada in 1954 right after they were married. Mom came to Canada as a seamstress and pattern designer and created many wedding and bridesmaids gowns, as

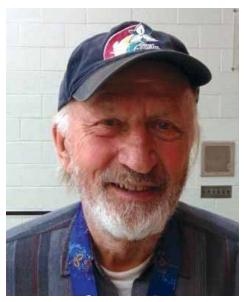
well as everyday fashions, draperies and other décor. Her legacy is that she will be remembered by all as a loving, friendly person who gave big hugs and liked to connect with people over coffee visits. She welcomed everyone young and old into her home with open arms and a smile and she especially loved the children.

She loved and supported her Church and Christian School Community. She leaves a huge void and will be missed by her family and friends.

No memorial events are currently scheduled, but hope to schedule a memorial service in the Spring. Arrangements have been entrusted to the WALL-CUSTANCE FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 519-822-0051 / www.wallcustance.com. To offer your sympathy during this difficult time, in lieu of flowers, you can make a donation in memory of Helena Oosterveld to the Heart & Stroke Foundation; Diabetes Canada; Alzheimer Society, or a charity of your choice.

A tree will be planted in memory of Helena Oosterveld in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest.

Peter Dimitri Lazin



17 June, 1933 – 29 January, 2021

Peter passed away peacefully at his home in Puslinch on Friday, January 29, 2021. Husband of 53 years of the late Joan (nee Scott; d. 2017).

Son of the late George and Emilie (Haupt) Lazin. Proud father of Daniel Lazin, Joanne McQuinn (Craig Spencer), and David (Nicole) Lazin. Much adored "Poppy" of Adam and Amanda McQuinn, and Hailee and Terri-Lynn Lazin.

Survived by his three sisters, Helen Majunke, Alicia Bull, and Millie Lazin, as well as his brother-in-law Stan (Mary) Scott and many nieces and nephews.

Born in 1933 in Kitchener, Ontario, and later moving to Puslinch after designing and building the family house himself, Peter worked for a division of Electrohome (which later became Fasco Motors) as a manufacturing engineer for 42 years.

Peter was hard working, kind, friendly, and had a unique sense of humour. He was full of great stories, history, and loads of trivia gained from many years of being a loyal fan of Jeopardy.

He made friends everywhere he went and never hesitated to lend a hand to his many friends and neighbours, whether it was moving, cutting firewood, plowing snow, farming or herding loose cattle back home.

Peter enjoyed working (and hunting) on the hobby farm he inherited from his father, which was often a full time job in addition to his full time job.

In retirement, he still enjoyed puttering away on the farm. Even when his health deteriorated, Peter spent countless hours sitting and overlooking his serene view of Mill Creek and all of his wildlife visitors.

Peter's biggest joy in life, however, was the time he spent with his grandchildren, having become a grandfather just two months after retiring.

Peter will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

In accordance with his wishes, cremation has taken place and a private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada would be appreciate by his family.



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In Memoriam

Joanne Hohenadel Townes



Joanne Hohenadel Townes was born on a snowy December day in 1980. She charmed everyone with her bright blue eyes, curly hair and infectious smile.

Growing up with her older brother, sister and numerous cousins they enjoyed time together and as adults this continued with campouts, parties and days filled with making perogies, cookies and donuts.

She was a farm girl to her bones. Helping in the garden, caring for the animals she loved, making change at the market by age four and became an expert at picking up chicken heads.

The yearly family camping trips all

over Ontario instilled a love for the outdoors that she embraced the rest of her life.

Joanne excelled as a student at Aberfoyle Public School; winning awards in science and math. Her childhood friends remember how her big smile brightened any room.

She was an active member of Puslinch Minor Ball and the Morriston 4-H club and participated in youth exchanges to Quebec and British Columbia.

Joanne was positive about life and worked hard at everything she did. After earning a Diploma of Interior Design from Sheridan College, she celebrated with a two month trip touring Europe with family and friends.

By 23 she had bought and redecorated her first home in Guelph and was working on large scale projects as a full time Interior Designer at Mayhew & Associates in Kitchener. She had an active and busy life.

Then at 24, she was diagnosed with a grade 2-3 Oligoastrocytoma brain tumour which she tackled with pure determination and a courageous attitude. After brain surgeries, weeks of radiation and months of chemotherapy, Joanne beat it.

To celebrate, Joanne hosted a Bye-Bye Tumour Party and then went on a five-week tour of South Africa and Swaziland.

Determined to give back to others, she actively volunteered with the Canadian Cancer Society. Joanne shared her story at the Guelph Relay for Life in 2007 and inspired others with her fighting spirit.

In her quest to make a difference, she went back to school to become a

Physiotherapy Assistant. She loved working with seniors to improve their health, mobility and spirits.

In 2007 Joanne met her soul mate, Jeff Townes, who had a young daughter, Jacklynn. In 2013, against the odds, she and Jeff welcomed their children Ella and Tyler into the family.

Joanne loved being a mother and chose to raise her children in the community where she was raised. Once they started school, she launched her own home cleaning business, JoMolly Services and was a Norwex consultant.

Joanne continued to make time to give back to others in her community. As an active member of the Puslinch Optimist Club she was always there to lend a hand with fundraisers and local events.

In December of 2018 after 10 years, her tumour had returned. Knowing what was ahead; she never hesitated and once again took on surgery, radiation and chemotherapy.

Joanne demonstrated unbelievable resilience through all she had to endure. She battled insurmountable forces for over two years with Jeff, her children, her family and community by her side.

In her life Joanne touched many people with her thoughtfulness, kindness, strength, bravery and spirit.

Despite all the ups and downs life had to offer her she enjoyed life, but most of all she lived....and now has begun her next journey with wings spread wide watching over all of us.

The memorial website is www.joannetownes.com

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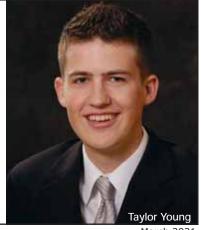
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March 2021 12

HERITAGE MATTERS

Death in Childbirth

By Mary Tivy

It was seeing the large number of gravestones in our Pioneer cemeteries of women who died in their 20s, 30s, and 40s that led me to wonder: Did they die in childbirth? A *Celebration of Lives: Obituaries of Puslinch Township* by Anna Jackson and Marjorie Clark, 2009, gives us some clues; as do gravestones.

ANDERSON, MARGARET "MAGGIE" (Nee Smart)

At "Springfield Farm" in Puslinch, near Guelph, on Saturday night, January 19th 1878. Wife of James Anderson. Since her confinement on the 2nd, she was considered in a dangerous way, but towards the end of last week hopes were entertained of her recovery and her husband and family were greatly buoyed up with that hope.

A sudden change, however, took place on Saturday and on the evening of that day, a fond wife and loving mother was snatched away from those she held dear on earth.

She leaves behind her a disconsolate husband and a large family of seven children to mourn the untimely death of her, who was the light of their home and whose death has cast a deep and abiding shadow over their lives. A Celebration of Lives: p.18.

Gravestones and Maternal Death

Gravestones don't usually tell us the cause of death but a tombstone of a mother and an infant together is a strong indication of death from childbirth. Here are but a few examples from four cemeteries in our Township. Crown Cemetery on a marble stone: "In memory of C. [Christine] Campbell, wife of Donald Cameron, died July 20, 1868 aged 36 ys. & 1 Mo. Also Duncan, Son of the above, Born July 20, 1868, Died Sept. 1, 1868."

Howitt Cemetery has a granite pillar over the grave of Elizabeth Salt MacEachern that reads: "In memory of Elizabeth Salt, wife of Gilbert MacEachern, June 1909, aged 30 years, also their infant."

Stonemason John McQuillan may have carved the marble for his wife's burial in the Killean Cemetery: "In memory of Sarah Jane Payce, Beloved Wife of John McQuillan, Died 22 yrs 8 days, February 25, 1878, also their daughter Sarah Jane, aged 4 weeks."

Thomas Petty had an elaborate zinc Obelisk placed in Farnham Cemetery in memory of his wife who died giving birth to twins; "Alice Haines, wife of Thomas Petty, died Feb. 29, 1887, aged 39 years and 8 mos and her two babes."

Neither wealth nor status could protect Maggie Anderson from the risks of childbirth that all women faced well into the twentieth century. Six of every hundred births caused death in the mother in the nineteenth century. Puslinch mothers commonly gave birth to ten or more children.



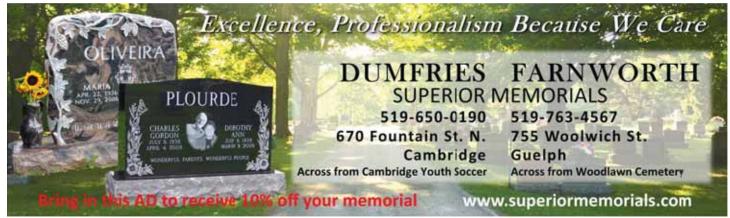
A woman who survived delivery could succumb several days later to infection, known as "childbed fever" as did Margaret Anderson and Sarah Jane McQuillan. Childbed fever killed more women than any other cause of maternal death.

A growing understanding of the need for sterile conditions during childbirth along with the use of antiseptics and antibiotics dramatically lowered maternal death rates by the midtwentieth century.

The burials and memorials in our Cemeteries reflect this fortunate change. But in the Pioneer sections, where history can sometimes find no written records, gravestones serve as the only remaining witness to the sad death of a mother in childbirth.

"The world of humanity is like a garden and the various races are the flowers which constitute its adornment and decoration."

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March 2021 14

CPR Days

By John Gilmour as told to Andrea Norton



I was hired as a section hand by the CPR in 1950. I worked out of Guelph Junction on the line between Campbell-ville and Galt. I was twenty years old. My job was to do maintenance on the rail bed and to walk the miles of rails to ensure they were safe.

We often used a motorized jigger car to get to the job site and there were a few close calls over the years.

The work crew always had to be aware of scheduled trains, but sometimes signals got crossed.

The old steam locomotives often needed some extra help to climb the grades between the Junction and Galt, so two locomotives pulled the freight. Once they arrived in Galt, the extra pusher locomotive would try to slip back to Guelph Junction between the scheduled trains.

One day a crew of about five section hands were running the line along MacRae Station, near what is now Mountsberg Lake, on the way to a job. I was the senior man, at age twenty-two. Suddenly an unscheduled steam locomotive was bearing down on us!

"Jump", I yelled. We all rolled down the bank and away from the train, unhurt, but the jigger car was wedged onto the front of the locomotive... and worst of all, all of our lunches were destroyed.

Our next task was to disentangle the mangled jigger from the locomotive and get the line up and running again.

A more serious jigger car event happened at a level rail crossing a few kilometres from Puslinch Station. Every summer, oil was applied to the rails to help detect hairline cracks at the joints. Our crew was on the maintenance car as we approached a level crossing at a farm laneway.

A car was coming down the lane. The foreman saw it and applied the brakes, but the oiled joints made stopping impossible.

The maintenance car hit the back bumper of the car and all of us were thrown from the rail jigger. Two of the men were injured.

I had to run down the tracks to flag the freight train coming from Galt and get it to stop. The injured men were loaded on the train and brought back to Guelph Junction for medical attention.

Both recovered, but one of them had trouble with his leg for the rest of his life. The rest of us had to stay back and get the maintenance car back on the rails and on our way.

That's just the way it was back then; no review, no health checks, just get back on the job.

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Important Notice from Solid Waste Services

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday Waste Facility and Curbside Collection Changes

All County of Wellington waste facilities will be **CLOSED** on Friday, April 2.

Friday curbside collection will be

rescheduled to Saturday, April 3.

No other collection days are affected.

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Pre-registration is required to receive a kit and virtual meeting link. If you would like to join us from another branch, please let the hosting branch know upon registration.

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

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

Cosimano, Elle Finlay Donovan is killing

it

Green, Elizabeth Confessions of a curious

bookseller

Heron, Polly Surplus girls
Le, Loan A pho love story
Niemi, Mikael To cook a bear
Parker, Robert B. Family honor
Petrie, Nick The breaker

Pinter, Jason A stranger at the door Tsumura, Kikuko There's no such thing as

an easy job

Wingate, Marty Glamour girls

Non-Fiction

Adachi, Kendra Lazy genius way

Basan, Ghillie

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Comey, James

Saving justice: truth, transparency,

and trust

Cortes-Vega, Terry Buddhism for healing

Douglas, Ed Himalaya

Goldfarb, Ben

Eager: the surprising, secret life of beavers and why they matter

Lewis-Fitzgerald, Erin Modern mending

Lukas, Kathryn

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Who are the Mill Creek Stewards anyway?

By Marjorie Clark

In recent months, I have encountered several articles in the *Pioneer* and in the Waterloo Record referencing the Mill Creek Stewards. It seemed to me, that I must have missed something, as I was not familiar with the group.

My first thought was that the Friends of Mill Creek might have changed its name. Neither could my friends and contacts enlighten me.

I discovered that I could find John McNie, who seemed to be front and centre in those articles, contacted him and the following basic information is what I learned.

This group has no connection to the Friends of Mill Creek nor to the Mill Creek Rangers. The Mill Creek Stewards is a relatively new entity in the Township, forming in autumn 2019, when it learned that the former Ed Lake farm on Concession 2, a property near to Mill Creek, had been sold to Brazilian Votorantim, a gravel company, in the summer of 2019.

Beginning with neighbour talking to neighbour, it is a loosely assembled gathering of people, consisting of approximately 30 neighbours and others from farther afield in Puslinch, concerned about the impact of a gravel pit in this location.

The Stewards provide bimonthly newsletters. The group works to interest media in its concerns and articles have appeared in the Feburary, April, June and September issues of the *Pioneer*.

The Stewards endeavour to inform Puslinch Council of its concerns through presentations. Community information campaigns aim to apprise residents of developments.

An example is the recent sign initiative, which raised a lot of questions from residents about who was responsible for them and what they were all about. The Stewards plan to put up a website in winter 2021.

The Mill Creek Stewards major interest currently is the use proposed for the Lake Farm – they object to gravel extraction in proximity to Mill Creek.

As an overall aim, the group would like to promote a better balanced relationship between the Provincial Government and Township Council in discussions and decisions regarding this and similar issues.

Membership is open to all who have an interest in the well-being of Puslinch and specifically, Mill Creek. Interested? If you would like information, please e-mail millcreekstewards@gmail.com.



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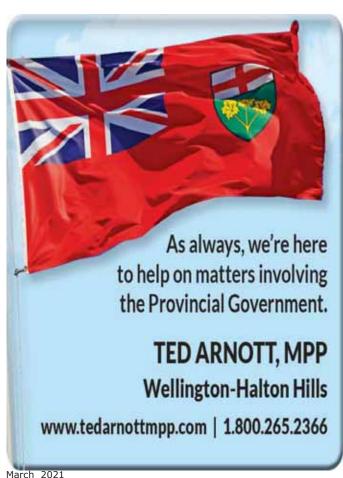
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ASK THE EXPERT Growing Giants

By Conrad Wheildon

Have you ever thought of trying to grow something really big in your vegetable patch but don't have the room to grow a massive pumpkin or squash? Why not have a shot at growing giant tomatoes?

It's not really that difficult. All you really need is good seed, good soil, and good luck!

Starting with your seed. Choose from the larger varieties like Big Zac or if you know growers that produce giants ask them for seeds. Most will gladly give you some.

I usually start my seeds indoors about the middle of May ready to transplant by the end of May to first week of June. It's important when transplanting to protect the plant from wind, harsh temperatures and possible late frost.

Tomato plants like well-drained soil, and their roots like to travel down. The most important aspect of growing strong healthy plants is consistency in watering and fertilizer applications.

I water daily and like to keep the soil damp at all times, not wet. I start with a weekly application of 20 20 20 then later switch to a higher last number (Potassium) once the blooms start to appear. I also foliar fertilize once weekly with soluble seaweed.

When the blooms start to appear what you are looking for are the largest blooms. These are called mega blooms and look somewhat like a small banana. They consist of several blooms fused together and have a much more robust stem.

As tomatoes are self-pollinating, I like to use an electric toothbrush and stimulate the flower morning and night for about a week or until you can see the fruit start to set.

Once you have two or three nice sets it's important to trim back the plant. I try not to let the plant get taller than four feet high and continue to cut back any new growth. The idea here is to allow the plant to concentrate all its energy into the fruit.

If it looks like I have one fruit that appears to be growing more Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potassium

aggressively than the others then I will cut off all the others and concentrate on just that one.

Once the fruit gets to about a pound you will need to support it so that there is not too much strain on the stem. Old pantyhose (not mine) works well for me-attach it to a stake near the plant.

Hopefully by September you will have some nice big green fruit, and once you see them start to turn pink or orange you know they have stopped putting on any more weight.

As with all vegetables you will need to be vigilant and address any bug or disease issues as soon as you recognize them. Thankfully tomatoes are quite resistant to most insects.

Most of the problems come from lack of close attention to the plant's requirements during the growing season.

So now you've got a 10lb 14oz Tomato! And a new world Record! Bring it to the Giant Vegetable Weigh off at the Fall Fair and get recognized in The Guinness Book of World Records!

20 20 20 represents







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

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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 <code>lsapuslinch@gmail.com</code> for particulars of date, time and Zoom link.

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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 programs please go to church website for more information.
- Adult Bible Study: Thursdays 10:00 am.

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Roads Youth Group Pastor: Melissa Richer

Sunday Worship @ Cross Roads

(registration required)
Sunday Worship @ Home:
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www.youtube.com/channel/
UCMKYAskvq1HdGsTiA7UQFsq.

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www.facebook.com/duffschurch/

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www.freeltonstrabaneuc.ca

Minister: Rev. Will Wheeler

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www.pccweb.ca/knox-crieff/ Minister Rev. Michelle Yoon

Minister Rev. Michelle Yoon
• Sunday Worship at 10 am.

While the pandemic remains our weekly services are posted on Facebook look for Knox Presbyterian Church, Crieff.

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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.

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Community Events

At the Puslinch Pioneer, we like to promote community events and we ask for your cooperation 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.

Rotary Pasta Picnic Al Fresco: Friday, June 18th at the Puslinch Community Centre.

Reserve Tickets: Contact Celia at celia@digitalfrog.com or 519 766-1097. You will be able to pick up your meal outside the Puslinch Community Centre, then enjoy it sitting at a picnic table or on your own blanket.

Proceeds support Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre, and other community charitable organizations.

Community Announcements

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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 https://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.

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