



Santa's Drive-Thru in Puslinch!

By Brenda Law

The Optimist Club of Puslinch Santa Claus Parade will celebrate 26 years of bringing Santa to the kids of Puslinch. Due to continuing COVID 19 protocols we will be hosting our second drive-thru parade.



Santa's Drive-Thru in Puslinch will arrive at the Puslinch Community Centre grounds in Aberfoyle on Sunday, November 28, 2021 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm.

You will be able to watch anytime from 2:00 – 3:30 pm the many decorated floats and friendly, funny mascots, clowns and elves, as you listen to the five bands playing Christmas music, from the comfort of your vehicle while you travel along the drive-thru route.

All of this in anticipation of seeing the "jolly old guy" himself: Santa dressed in red, in his sleigh with his reindeer.

Santa will arrive on the 28th and looks forward to seeing all the boy's and girl's smiling faces, as well as those young at heart!

Each child will receive a goody bag at the end of the drive-thru.

Each child is also encouraged to bring their Santa letter to put in the mailbox. All letters with a return address will receive a written reply back from Santa.

There is no cost but we do encourage you to bring a donation to the Food Bank which can be collected at the end of the route.

We welcome your family, club, organization or business to enter a float and display who they are. The theme this year is a "Holly, Jolly Christmas". This year people will be allowed on the float, either as part of the theme or just to wave.



We need confirmation ahead of time that a float is being entered. Parade participants will be assigned a staggered time slot for arrival of the float.

The Optimist Club of Puslinch welcomes your participation and hope you will enjoy your drive-thru experience and chance to see Santa in this new format. It's all about the kids and bringing joy!

For more information and to register your float, please call Ken or June Williams at 519-763-0309.

See you at the Drive-Thru!

photos by June Williams

Editorial

With our cover article on the Santa Claus Parade, you realize that Christmas ... and winter are fast approaching.

Despite our curtailed activities because of the pandemic, this year seems to have gone fast. It seems no time since we were last promoting the Parade, which will be drive-thru once again.

With the pandemic, local charities have had to be more creative in raising their necessary funds. Congratulations to Sunrise Equestrian Centre for its successful Car Rally. Food 4 Kids, a non-profit that delivers food for the weekend to children experiencing food insecurity in the Guelph area, is having an auction in November. Be sure to check it out.

And sometimes the donation is not financial – take the Art not Shame project where they are collecting knitted squares to form blankets to be used by the Guelph Wellington Community Health Van.

Or as Vinnie Klimkosz, chair of the Recreation Committee, shares it can be through donations from local businesses.

We also share information on increased funding from the province aimed to support farmers' mental health.

In honour of Remembrance Day, Marjorie Clark's article this month focuses on a local soldier, John A Wilkinson who fought in the South African War. Let us not forget those who gave their lives so we could live in peace and freedom.

Anne Day

You can receive the *Pioneer* and *Pulse* electronically - just sign up at www.puslinchpioneer.com or email editorpuslinchpioneer@gmail.com

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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 46: Issue 4 November, 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

Note new email addresses:

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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, November 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

Crossing Guard Position:

One person has been hired starting on the first day of school at the Brock Road crossing in Aberfoyle.

Enabling Accessibility Fund:

Council authorizes the entering into a Grant Agreement under the Enabling Accessibility Fund for the Municipal Office - Accessible Washrooms. Approval amount \$68,311.

Line Fences Act:

Staff have prepared a draft by-law for the non-application of the Line Fences Act detailing the apportionment of costs for line fences between owners and providing an enforcement mechanism for residents.

A draft guide would be available to help residents.

Guelph Junction Railway:

GJR advises, effective immediately, the vacuum truck operations are moving from the Arkell Siding to a plant inside of Guelph.

Hume Road crossing project has now been completed within budget. Old railway ties have been collected and put in one pile to be removed this fall.

Morrison Medical Centre:

Council requested to execute Site Plan Agreement to develop a medical office and pharmacy located on the North West corner of Telfer Glen St & Hwy 6 in Morrison.

Telecommunication Tower:

Council requested to sign the license agreement to permit a 60 m tower with ground building at the rear of 7404 Wellington Road 34.

Home Industries:

County Planning staff provided report to Council to consider amending the home industries provisions of zoning by-law to increase the minimum lot area required, establish setbacks from off-site dwellings, establish more stringent setback requirements from lot lines, establishing a process for site plan review, etc.

PCC Kitchen Renovations:

That the tender for kitchen renovations be awarded to Stracor Inc. at tendered amount of \$197,807 and remaining portion of funding \$127,807 be funded by the Asset Management Discretionary Reserve.

Signage Additions:

Continued signage and banners will be added throughout the Township.

Discharge of Firearms:

Council directs staff to draft a new by-law for consideration, consult with the Galt Sportsman's Club and City of Guelph Police regarding concerns raised along with public comments received, and develop an operating agreement with the Sportsman's Club.

Highways 6 and 401 Improvements:

A response has been received from the MTO regarding Township concerns submitted in March, 2021.

Canadian Army Training in Puslinch:

From September 25-26, Canadian Army Reserve personnel conducted training in the vicinity of McLean Road.

Heritage Committee:

Requesting some money be worked into budget for signage to include the story of how the community centre came to be, including the contributions of the Black and Ord families.

Demolition of former Stewart House:

A special meeting of the Heritage Committee took place regarding demolition of 47 Whitcombe Way previously 66 Queen Street, Morrison.

Puslinch Parks and Facilities undergoes upgrades

By Vince Klimkosz

If you have been to the Optimist Recreation Centre, or been to any of our local parks, you may have noticed some new items around.

You will not have to look far to find newly placed and upgraded Recycling Bins and Garbage receptacles. Yes! They are brand new and well-built to stand the test of time.

A huge thank you goes out to Blue Triton (formerly Nestlé Waters) for their generous donation of \$50,000 towards the cost and labour to place these new receptacles around our parks and public buildings.

These new bins are not your typical "trash bins" they feature recycling options for plastic water bottles, cans, glass jars and garbage.

This will help divert recycling and garbage to the proper streams to help green the planet a little more.

Coming soon to the Optimist Recreation Centre you will find a brand-new water fountain and water bottle filling station. This is plumbed-in to our safe Puslinch well water and will be there to serve for years to come.

A huge thank you to the Puslinch Recreation Committee and Blue Triton (formerly Nestlé Waters) for your donation of \$5000. to make this come to fruition.

We are fortunate to have great community partners step up and make Puslinch a better place to live and work.



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PUSLINCH

Council Meetings (519) 763-1226
Council Meeting, November 3 at 10am
Planning Development Advisory Committee, November 9 at 7pm
Recreation Committee, November 16 at 7pm
Capital & Operating Budget Meeting, November 17 at 9am
Council Meeting, November 24 at 10am
Public Meeting (tentative) November 24 at 7pm
Please check the Council Calendar at <https://puslinch.ca/calendar/> as meetings may be subject to change.

Library Hours (519) 763-8026
For current hours and services, please call Puslinch Branch at 519.763.8026 or visit us online at www.wellington.ca/Library.

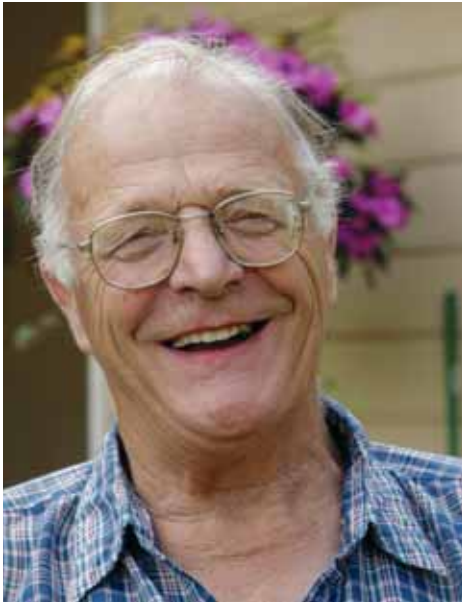
Optimist Recreation Centre Hours
All Municipal indoor facilities including the Optimist Recreation Centre Gymnasium remain closed due to the current Provincial directives. The Township has reopened their outdoor facilities for private rentals (Baseball Diamonds, Optimist Recreation Centre Rink, Soccer Fields and Picnic Pavilion), as per the current Provincial directives. For further facility updates and media releases, please visit the Township's COVID-19 page on their website <https://puslinch.ca/government/covid-19-information-and-updates/>

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

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)

In Memoriam

Dr. Colin Kirkby Peace



Dr. Colin Peace passed away peacefully on October 2nd 2021 at the age of 85 years.

Colin was the loving husband of his wife Anne Peace and his four children, Ross, Geraldine, Dawn and Elizabeth. A proud grandfather to Jazmin, Bryce, Quinton and Gabriela and father-in-law to Tennison, Paola and Gene.

He was born and raised in England, where he was the oldest of six brothers. After National Service in the Royal Navy, he graduated from Cambridge University in Veterinary Medicine. He was an avid Pentathlete and Rugby player during this time. He was a successful Veterinarian, specializing in Equine Surgery and Race horses in Newmarket, England.

Then, moved his family to Canada in 1981, where he was a Professor at the University of Guelph.

He then opened up his own practice

in Aberfoyle where he passionately continued to practice until he was 83!

He volunteered countless hours with the Canadian Modern Pentathlon, The Wellington Waterloo Hunt, The Pony Club and was inducted in to the Canadian Hall of Fame for Sport. He rode his horses until he was into his 80's and carried the Torch for the Pan-Am Games!

He was loved by so many and will be missed and remembered by his family and friends around the world.

A private service was held at the Gilbert MacIntyre and Son Funeral Home, Hart Chapel, 1099 Gordon Street, Guelph. Cremation to follow.

If so desired, memorial donations can be accepted to a charity of one's choice.

Online condolences can be made at www.gilbertmacintyreandson.com.



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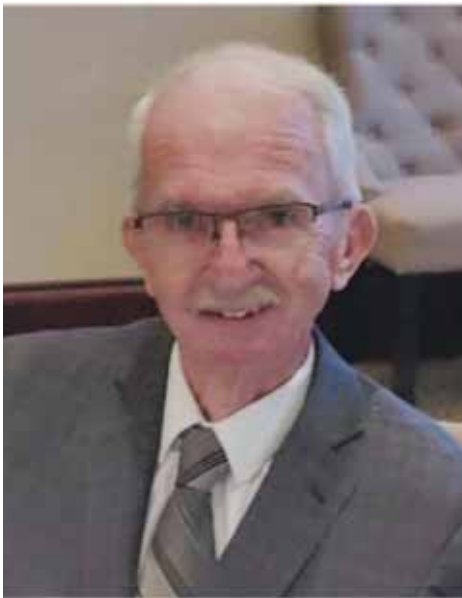
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In Memoriam

Peter David Wigood



Passed away in his sleep October 8th, 2021, after a long struggle with cancer in his 72nd year.

Peter will be hugely missed by his wife, Lorraine, sons Jordan and Tyler Sheridan, his brother Paul (Pat) and nieces and nephews Robert (Dana), Douglas and Catherine (Tristan).

Peter was a special Poppa to Justin (Bailey), Noah, Dylan, Sydney, Ronan and Grayson.

Born in Guelph October 31st, 1949, to Calvin Wigood and Marjorie Wigood (McLean). Peter was very much a family man and very close to his aunts Catherine Kelly, Pat Mclean, Mary Small and many cousins. Peter was predeceased by uncles Jack Kelly, Arnold Mclean, Lyle Wigood, Al Watson and aunt Lorene Watson (Wigood).

Peter was quite a character. Fun loving and just plain silly at times, right to the end. 'Pistol' Pete will surely be missed by his many friends and co-

workers from the County where he worked for over 40 years.

Pete was a devoted Leafs' and Jays' fan who got quite a smile out of a message of encouragement he received from Wendel Clark earlier this year.

He loved life and was like a little kid at Christmas every time he got the call that he needed to go into work to clear the roads in Winter. He leaves us all with so many beautiful memories that we will all cherish until we can laugh together again.

A private graveside service will be held at Crown Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to the WALL-CUSTANCE FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 519-822-0051 / www.wallcustance.com.

Memorial contributions to the Canadian Cancer Society or Crown Cemetery would be appreciated.

A tree will be planted in memory of Peter D. Wigood in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest.

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Sunrise mystery car rally

By Lynne O'Brien



The first annual Sunrise Mystery Car Rally fundraiser took place on Sunday, October 3 and despite challenging wet weather the event was a great success raising \$14,500 to support empowering programs for vulnerable children and adults with special needs.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to major donors Larry Cross (Cambridge) Jim Kelly of Capital Paving, all the participants who collected pledges, and to



the Sunrise supporters who sent in donations.

Due to COVID protocols the date for this event had to be rescheduled twice and this meant that several of the original registrants were unable to attend, but those that did had so much fun that they are already planning for next year's event.

All prizes were donated by local businesses and individual Sunrise supporters. A complete list will appear on the Sunrise website and in the Christmas newsletter.

We are most grateful for the outpouring of support for our young people during this challenging time for everyone.



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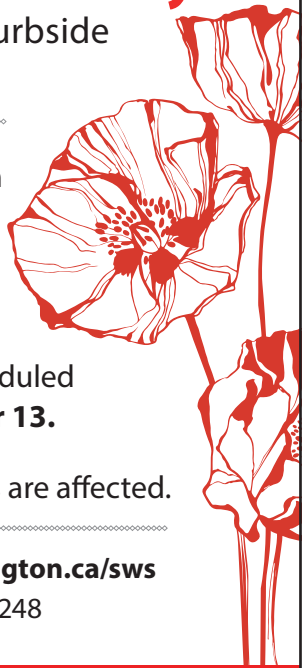
Remembrance Day

Waste Facility and Curbside Collection Changes


All County of Wellington waste facilities will be **closed on Thursday, November 11.** Thursday curbside collection will be rescheduled to **Saturday, November 13.**

No other collection days are affected.

Questions? www.wellington.ca/sws
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Alternate formats available upon request.



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Feed the need



By Donna Graham

When kids leave school for the weekend, they should not have to worry about how they will be fed.

Yet hundreds of children in Guelph struggle through weekends without sufficient food at home. Yes, in Guelph.

To help close this critical weekend gap, Food4Kids Guelph provides weekend food bags for elementary school children whose families are struggling to make ends meet.

Free, nutritious, kid-friendly food packages are prepared by volunteers and delivered to schools each Friday for children to take home.

Families are referred to the program by the principal of their school. COVID has increased the need for this program and school registrations are continuing to grow each week.

Food4Kids Guelph currently supports 304 children, 145 families and 28 schools.

Program Director Terrie Jarvis said: "During COVID we have been sending grocery gift cards to the families in our program.

We are excited to begin our in-school food package deliveries again in October to get healthy food directly into the hands of children."

With the exception of a part-time Program Administrator, Food4Kids Guelph is wholly volunteer run. The program receives no regular funding from government programs, so fund raising is critical for sustainability.

From November 21-28, 2021, Food4Kids Guelph is participating in an exciting "FEED THE NEED" Online Auction. It will include a variety of "experiences" and wonderful gift options for Christmas and other occasions.

Items include gifts for the family, home goods, restaurant vouchers, Sephora Gift Cards, signed Blue Jays items and even a treat or two for your furry friends!

Go to the Food4KidsGuelph.ca website to learn more.

Help us fight severe food insecurity - because NO CHILD IN OUR COMMUNITY SHOULD GO HUNGRY.

Art Not Shame



Community members are invited to knit or crochet eight by 10 inch rectangles for blankets which will be donated to the Guelph/Wellington Community Health Van for distribution.

Participants in this project can drop off completed squares at several locations across Guelph, which will be collected and hand sewn into blankets by volunteers.

This knit-a-thon is attracting different organizations.

For more information, visit artnotshame.org/knit

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Take-and-Make Activity Kits

Get creative with activity kits for all ages! Contents may include a hands-on activity, activity sheets, and suggestions for additional library resources.

Quantities are limited. Pick up at your local branch on a first-come, first-served basis.

Story Time at Home (All Ages)

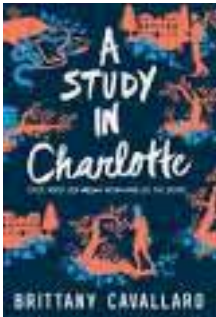
Join us virtually for live songs, stories, rhymes, and activities aimed at developing your child's early literacy skills.

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. Wednesdays, November 10, 17, 24 at 11:00 am

First Friday Book Club (Adults)

Discussing *A Study in Charlotte* by Brittany Cavallaro. Please contact branch staff for meeting details.

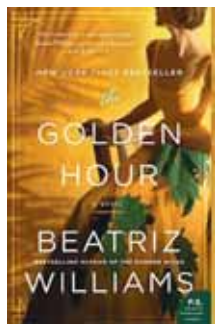
Friday, November 5



Third Tuesday Book Club (Adults)

Discussing *The Golden Hour* by Beatriz Williams. Please contact branch staff for meeting details.

Thursday, November 16



Quilt Block of the Month (Adults)

Get started on a new project by picking up a quilt block take-and-make kit. Each month features a different pattern.

Fabric and instructions included. Basic sewing skills required.

Pick up in-branch, November 16

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

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Binet, Laurent | Civilizations |
| Crandell, Bethany | See Jane Snap |
| Day, Maddie | No Grater |
| | Crime |
| Hlad, Alan | Churchill's |
| | Secret Messenger |
| Kasulke, Calvin | Several People |
| | Are Typing |
| Kleeman, A | Something New |
| | Under the Sun |
| Perry, Carol J. | Be My Ghost |
| Vale, Lillie | The Shaadi Set-up |
| | The Singing |
| Walker, Boo | Trees |

Wolitzer, Hilma

Today A Woman
Went Mad in the
Supermarket

Non-Fiction

Baginski, Caren
Restorative Yoga: Relax. Restore. Re-energize

Davis, Patti
Floating in the Deep End: How
Caregivers Can See
Beyond Alzheimer's

Dewar, Elaine
On the Origin of the Deadliest
Pandemic in 100 Years: An
Investigation

Dobson, David
Scottish Genealogy: The Basics and
Beyond

English, Charlie
The Gallery of Miracles and Madness:
Insanity, Modernism, and Hitler's
War on Art

Matzen, Robert
Warrior: Audrey Hepburn

Oppenheimer, Mark
Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life
Synagogue Shooting and the Soul
of a Neighborhood

Rosenstrach, Jenny
The Weekday Vegetarians: 100
Recipes and A Real-life Plan for
Eating Less Meat

Shaw, Chloe
What is a Dog? A Memoir

Wilson, Durenda
The Four-hour School Day: How
You and your Kids Can Thrive in
the Homeschool Life



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The aggregate industry continuously rehabilitates sites that have been extracted. In 2020, more than 173 ha, or the equivalent of 326 football fields, were returned to agriculture, aquatic or natural areas in the MNRF Guelph District area alone.

There's a lot to know about gravel.

Find out the facts at GravelFacts.ca



WHAT LOCAL REHABILITATION LOOKS LIKE



A fishpond in a former gravel pit helps create a thriving aquatic ecosystem at the McMillan Pond aquaculture facility in Puslinch.

GravelFacts.ca

Cook's Corner

By Barbara Patterson

This fall our apple trees produced the best crop we have had for several years. This delicious dessert is one of the ways I have made use of them.

Dutch Apple Pie



Pastry for a one-crust 9" pie
5 or 6 apples cut in quarters - unless the apples are huge
1 tbsp. flour
1 cup brown sugar, quite loosely packed
½ tsp. each of nutmeg and cinnamon
2 tbsp. butter

1. Mix the flour and ½ cup of the sugar. Sprinkle it on the crust lining the pie plate.
2. Place the quarter apple pieces in a pattern on top of the sugar/flour mixture.
3. Cover them with the rest of the sugar, dot with small pieces of butter and sprinkle with cinnamon and nutmeg.
4. Bake in a 375°F oven for about 35 minutes, or until the apples are soft and a syrup has formed around them.

This bread is the best! Also freezes well.

Pumpkin Bread

½ cup margarine or butter
1½ cups white sugar
2 eggs
½ cup water
1 cup solid pure pumpkin (I used E.D. Smith canned pure pumpkin)
1-2/3 cups flour
¾ tsp. salt
½ tsp. each nutmeg and cloves
½ tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1½ tsp. cinnamon



1. Cream together the margarine and sugar.
2. Add the eggs, water and pumpkin.
3. Combine all dry ingredients and add them to the above mixture, stirring well.
4. Pour into 2 regular loaf pans and bake at 350°F for about 45 minutes to an hour, or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.

CMHA program aimed at farmers

The provincial government is providing \$385 in additional funding for a

program that equips farmers and agricultural sector workers with mental health literacy by breaking stigma and explaining signs and symptoms of mental health issues.

The program, In the Know, Is run by the CMHA and was created by researchers at the University of Guelph.

Farmers face specific challenges such as the weather, long hours and the physical work of keeping their farms financially viable.

The four-hour mental health literacy workshop is designed to fit with farmers/producers limited availability owing to rigid daily schedules, distilling critical information and incorporating agricultural community culture.

The workshop was developed in collaboration with stakeholder groups, including various agricultural sectors, mental health literacy trainers, government and representatives from social work, psychology, epidemiology, and education.

For more information, go to <https://ontario.cmha.ca/intheknow/>

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Leaf and Yard Waste Collection

- Leaf and yard waste will be collected curbside in **urban** areas only.
- Place materials curbside by 7:00 am on the date listed here. **Collection may take place any time during the week.**
- Set out materials in brown paper yard waste bags and/or reusable cans clearly marked "Yard Waste."
- Small sticks can be bundled.
- Loose materials, or any in plastic bags, **WILL NOT** be collected.

The next leaf and yard waste collection date for Puslinch is:

WEEK B

Monday, November 22



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Alternate formats available upon request.





CO safety

By Peter VanOordt

As the temperatures drop and we begin to spend more time inside this season, now is a good time to think about carbon monoxide and it's potential danger to you and your family.

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a colourless, odourless gas that can be produced whenever a fuel is burned. Around the home, CO can be produced from such sources as your furnace, a car in your garage, a gas-fired water heater, a woodstove, a portable generator, or a propane range.

CO is dangerous because it inhibits the body's ability to get sufficient oxygen from the air.

Symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to flu symptoms and may include headaches, dizziness, nausea, weakness, shortness of breath, and confusion.

At higher or more prolonged exposure, CO can cause suffocation, loss of consciousness, brain damage, or death.

According to the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal, in Ontario, more than 65 percent of injuries and deaths from CO occur in the home.

Because you cannot smell or see CO, a working CO alarm is the only way to detect the presence of this deadly gas in your home.

All homes that have fuel-burning appliances, or an attached garage, are required to have a working CO alarm outside of each sleeping area in the home.

If your CO alarm sounds, or if you suspect that you or someone else has CO poisoning, get everyone outside to

fresh air immediately and call 911.

While having a working CO alarm is your best line of defense in detecting the presence of CO, here are some steps you can take to reduce the chances of having CO in your home in the first place:

- Ensure fuel-burning appliances, chimneys and vents are cleaned and inspected
- Ensure that exhaust vents from gas appliances are not obstructed
- Have a qualified technician inspect your furnace and other fuel burning appliances
- Always remove a vehicle from the garage immediately after starting it

As we change our clocks this fall, it serves as a reminder to change the batteries in our CO and smoke alarms, and to test them to make sure they are functioning properly.



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Ask the expert

By Heather Rajotte

Q: I heard that doing a fall cleanup in your garden isn't good for the environment. Is that true?

A: The 'fall cleanup' is a common gardening practice, mostly done for esthetic purposes. It served to prepare the garden to burst forth in the spring unobstructed by detritus from previous years, and to provide a neat and tidy look to the garden before being covered in snow.

Recent changes in gardening from esthetic-focused to environmentally conscious revealed that stripping a garden clean of decaying material can do more harm than good.

Here are a few reasons why leaving your garden to prepare for winter naturally is a good idea.

- Drying seed heads from flowers, blades and flowers of ornamental grasses, and fallen leaves can be vital food sources and nest materials for overwintering birds.



These hydrangea flowers will stay all winter, and birds love them!

Consider leaving these items as they are until the spring so that our feathered friends can make use of them.

- A layer of leaves, stems and evergreen needles on the garden surface provides a vital shelter and habitat for many beneficial insects such as butterflies, ladybeetles, and lacewings.

Some may even overwinter in standing branches and stems. Leaving these items until well into the spring ensures a safe hibernation, and a good beneficial insect population the following year.

- It's an easy way to feed your soil! Over the winter, snow cover on top of fallen plant material will soften and start the decay process, adding valuable nutrients into your garden soil.

Rather than raking and clearing it all up on the fall, consider leaving it and working it into the soil the following spring.

This is especially beneficial if you don't have a compost pile!

- Old plant stems make great place markers! If you're anything like me, you add to your garden every year. Despite my best efforts to tag, I always forget what I put where.

If I cut everything down to the ground each fall, it would be even more challenging in the spring to remember who's who!

By leaving perennial stems and flower heads up throughout the winter, I can easily visualize my garden in the spring, and avoid doubling, digging up something by accident, or overcrowding with new plants

- There are definitely a few situations where cleaning up plant material in the fall is warranted. If you have any plants that are infected with disease such as powdery mildew, cut these stems down to the ground and dispose of them in the garbage to help prevent reinfection.

Also, any woody plants that have diseased or broken branches can be cleaned up before the temperature drops severely.



My Monarda plants have been cut down due to powdery mildew, but I'm leaving up my surrounding Veronica, Euphorbia and Heliopsis plants to die back naturally.

It may take a season or two to get used to leaving your garden alone in the fall, but it will thank you for it in the long run!



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Remarkable Puslinch People

By Marjorie Clark

King's Sergeant John A. Wilkinson Hero of the South African War

King's Sergeant John A. Wilkinson, died at 72, on Thursday, May 15th 1947, at his home at 32 Mont St. in Guelph. He was a veteran of the Boer War, now more diplomatically known as the South African War, and possessor of one of the most colourful military records in Canada at the time.

Born in Puslinch about 1874, his mother was Catherine Wilkinson but his father's name is lost in the mists of time. He was named after his grandfather, John Wilkinson of lot 19, rear of concession 2, Puslinch. His mother, Catherine, married William Laur in 1880 and John Wilkinson had a number of half-siblings. He grew up on the farm in Puslinch and attended Killeen School as a boy.

When 15 years old, he enlisted with the "A" Battery, First Brigade Field Artillery of the militia. In 1891, he was chosen for an eight-member shooting team to represent the Battery at a competition at Kingston, where he recorded the highest score of any artilleryman in Canada.

He was promoted to sergeant in 1892. In 1894, he enrolled in a 3-month gunnery course at Kingston. His ability with a gun won him a place on the 20-man Canadian Artillery Team, representing Canada at the British Artillery Competitions in August 1896.

The Canadian team captured the Queen's Prize by defeating all of the competing teams from throughout the British Empire. He was promoted to Sergeant-Major in 1896.

Upon the outbreak of the South African War between the Dutch Afrikaners and the British in October 1899, he enlisted for active service with the Canadian Mounted Rifles, sailing with the 3rd contingent from Halifax for Durban on January 14, 1900. He was 26.

He was one of 7,380 Canadians who went to the aid of the British Empire. Two hundred and eighty-four Canadians were killed and 252 were wounded in the conflict. Two hundred and sixty-one Canadians were buried in South Africa in graves scattered across 51 sites, some on isolated farms.

During the war, John Wilkinson served in the Orange Free State, Cape Colony and the Transvaal.



He was horribly wounded at the battle of Boschbult on March 31, 1902, where he was among a few men, who made a brave stand. He suffered more than ten bullet wounds, which resulted in the loss of his right arm four inches below his elbow, of his right eye and the hearing in his right ear.

He lay injured on the battlefield under a cold rain for four and a half hours, while the battle raged around him. When finally found, his arm was amputated in a bell tent under the light of two lanterns, without any facilities for heating water.

He lay on the ground in a tent, with six other badly wounded men, for eight days before being transported, by a wagon pulled by mules, over 98 miles to the base hospital. The trip took three days and two nights. Doctors were amazed at his recovery.

In June 1902, he was sent to Nettley Hospital in England and he arrived home in December. A large crowd greeted him at the train station in Guelph on his return. John Wilkinson and a number of his relatives were placed in cabs and taken to the Wellington Hotel for the evening.

In 1903, Lord Kitchener recommended that he be awarded the rank of King's Sergeant, which, according to Colonel D. S. Barrie,

was bestowed as a personal tribute by the King on a very few, non-commissioned officers, who displayed gallantry on the field.

As well, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the only Canadian to be honoured in this way. He was presented to Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra and later, on their visit to Guelph in 1939, to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

On January 6, 1903, John Wilkinson and Corporal John K. Minchen were honoured at a supper in the banquet room of the Commercial Hotel in Guelph and a public reception was held at Guelph City Hall. Military and civilian dignitaries paid tribute to the men in speeches and presented them each with a purse of \$125.

Although handicapped, he had every intention of returning to normal life and indeed, he lived a full life. In September 1903, he bought lot 12, front of the Gore in Puslinch. He was married at 36, on July 28, 1909 to Hattie Mae Bailey, 21, of Galt, a descendant of the Bailey family, Eramosa Township pioneers.

He served on Puslinch Council from 1905-1907 and again in 1909. He was Reeve of Puslinch Township during 1910-1911. For ten years, he was auditor for Puslinch and for twenty-five years for Nassagaweya Township.

He audited for Wellington County for twenty-five years, until illness prevented him carrying on. From 1927-1934, he was Supervisor of Releases of Ontario Hospitals. In 1938, he opened the Wilkinson Insurance Agency at 15 Douglas St., Guelph.

He was a member of St. George's Anglican Church in Guelph and belonged to lodges, the Sons of Scotland, Waverley Lodge, A.F. and A.M. and the Scottish Rite of Canada.

By 1911, Hattie and John lived on Victoria St. in Morriston. They later moved to Glasgow St. in Guelph.

For more detailed information on the exploits of John A. Wilkinson, see Wellington County History, Volume 27, 2014, an article by Anna Jackson, with additional research and editing by Ian Easterbrook.

Michael J. Marinovic

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Our doors are now open for Sunday Worship @10:30 am.

Safety protocols are in place, and we are continuing to stream live on our Facebook page (Mount Carmel-Zion United Church) for those who cannot attend.

Monthly donations to Chalmers Community Services Centre for the month of November needed and all donations are greatly appreciated. Warm Socks would be a welcome contribution.

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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.

COUNTRY CRAFT SALE

At Badenoch Community Centre, 4217 Watson Road S, Puslinch on Saturday, **November 13th** 10am to 4pm.

"FEED THE NEED" Online Auction for Food4Kids November 21 - 28, 2021.

Food4Kids Guelph is participating in an online auction in conjunction with Food4Kids Ontario. Auction items will include a variety of wonderful experiences including items that will make great gifts for Christmas and other occasions - or just because! The money raised will go directly to feeding hungry children in our community. Go to food4kidsguelph.ca for the Online Auction link on **November 21st!**

SANTA DRIVE-THRU PARADE

The Optimists invite you to their "HOLLY-JOLLY SANTA" drive-thru parade; Sunday, **November 28th** 2.00-3.30 pm at Puslinch Community Center. Donations to food bank. Covid Guidelines: remain in your vehicle and stay 2 meters apart. To register your float call 519-763-0309.

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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

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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.

FREELTON 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 Murrhiston 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

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 for future generations and in developing resource 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.

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

 **Michael Chong**
Member of Parliament,
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michael.chong@parl.gc.ca 866- 878 5556 www.michaelchong.ca

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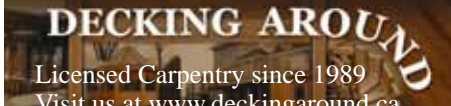
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