Honouring The Past. Embracing The Future.

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Vol. 48, Issue 8 - April 2024

# Farmers' Market is closing

By Anne Day

Like many of us in Puslinch, I was shocked and saddened by the news that the Aberfoyle Farmers' Market was closing its doors.

The market has been a vital part of our community for 13 years and become a hub where we not only support our local farmers and bakers, but gather together to connect with one another.

I was one of a group of people who would come to the market every week, listen to the buskers as I enjoyed a cup of coffee and chatted with neighbours.

When the Optimist Recreation Centre was being built, part of the proposal was that a farmers' market be established and through Council, Matthew Bulmer was asked to lead the project.

In 2010, a newly founded team of volunteers spent 18 months researching and securing farmers to take part in the market. Over the years the market has received numerous awards such as gold winner of best farmers market in 2023.

The market was also instrumental in launching new businesses, as the start-ups were able to test their products and determine what would sell.

Businesses like Sweet Temptations and Aberfritters got their start at the market. "It was an inexpensive way to see if people were interested in what we do," shares Blair Moch from Aberfritters.

So, what happened? Why is the market closing?

In talking to board members, it was agreed that COVID was the start of its demise. As the market could not open, several of the main vendors found they could sell their produce from their farms, making it easier for them and so when the market re-opened, they chose not to return, leaving big gaps that were hard to fill.

And it was finding farming vendors that has proven to be a challenge of late. While the cost of having a booth at the market is minimal, it is the cost of having the booth staffed that makes it more difficult for the farmers to make money,



which ironically that was one of the original goals in having a market – to encourage people to shop local and support local farmers.

Another factor that negatively impacted the turnout at the market last year was the renovations taking place at the community centre and surrounding areas, which meant that there was no soccer, and therefore not so many families visiting the market.

While finding crafters was easier, the board also wanted to make sure that the balance was right and the focus would remain on the farmers. Each vendor was juried, which was also a demand on the volunteers' time.

It's a different landscape today, and the closure is also indicative of our current economy, where families have fewer dollars to spare. So, all told there were multiple challenges facing the market, some of which were hard to overcome.

Many of the board members have been there since the start, and put in countless hours to provide this community service for us.

And while we are all sad to see the market go, it is important that we acknowledge and thank the volunteers for all their hard work on our behalf.

Rather than say goodbye, I'd rather say au revoir, because who knows what the next evolution may be.

# **Editorial**

April is volunteer month and a constant theme in this issue of the *Pioneer*.

First, we have the tough decision made by the Aberfoyle Farmers' Market board members to close the market. Then we have the Aberfoyle Agricultural Society asking for new volunteers to come forward to help put on the annual fall fair.

And we also highlight ways you can volunteer through the different local service clubs. Wherever you volunteer, a big thank you for all that you do.

With its theme of inclusion, the poignant story of International Women's Day painfully illustrates the barriers faced by many and how we need to pay attention to what we say and do to ensure we are inclusive.

You can tell that spring is just around the corner, with registration under way for the Junior Garden Club, the Spring Rural Romp, classes for new farmers and notice that camping sites can now be booked. You can also now sign up for Tour de Guelph which takes place on June 23.

And it is lovely to see the photos of the Dahlias.



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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 48: Issue 8 April 2024. 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. The *Puslinch Pioneer* reserves the right to refuse an advertisement that is deemed inappropriate, racist or promoting hate.

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 submissions is the 2nd Friday of the month. Next deadline is **Friday, April 12th, 2024.** 

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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# Letter to the editor

#### Thank you

Thank you on behalf of the Mill Creek Stewards community group for including our article on the proposed Lake farm pit in your March issue.

We've already received positive responses from some of the digital *Puslinch Pioneer* readers.

The *Pioneer* certainly serves a valuable community need and does it so equitably, diversely and well.

John McNie

# **Council Clips**

#### **Boreham Park:**

Resident Bruce Taylor intends to continue his fight to have the ditches filled and make the park level, safe and accessible. Poisonous plants removed months after planting them.

# Downtown Aberfoyle and Morriston:

"Your Town Rising" presents an alternative to Council for inspiration for small towns with limited budgets to get started with an economic and promotional action plan.

#### Morriston:

William Knetsch requests Council to implement and install the remaining items listed in the Highway 6 Morriston Streetscape Study and further to install stoplights at Highway 6 south and Leslie Rd or Gore Rd.

#### **ORC Rink:**

Staff to report on funding options (parkland dedication fees) for the addition of curtains to fully enclose all sides of the ORC rink and provide an update on the condition of current curtains. Request to have ice rink open on New Year's Day.

#### **Wellington County OPP:**

Reminds everyone to please slow down and drive according to weather and road conditions.

### Fire and Rescue:

Seeks Council approval to award a single source purchase for the

replacement of Puslinch Fire and Rescue Service Pump 31 Truck. The truck is a 2005, with a 20 year lifecycle.

#### Fire and Rescue:

Recommends Council enact a bylaw regarding the identification of truss and lightweight floor and roof components in certain new and existing buildings in the Township.

#### **Drop-In Gym Times:**

Council requested to authorize staff to offer free drop-in gym times at ORC. Youth-On scheduled PA days 9 to 11 am and Thursday's 4 to 5 pm; and Parent and Tot-Wednesday's 9 to 11 am.

# Telecommunication Tower 7426 Wellington Rd 34:

Council does not support proposed tower location and authorizes release of Non-Concurrence Report regarding 35 metre monopole.

#### **Baseball Facilities:**

Township receives a delegation regarding the baseball facilities in Township.

# Recreational Programming Survey:

Joint Recreation and Youth Advisory Committee circulating a survey between April 15 and May 30 to gauge interest from the community so that the Township can promote its facilities to organizations who may be able or interested in providing programming within its facilities.

# **Procedural By-law Amendment:**

To allow for electronic participation at Special Council and Committee meetings.

# Puslinch By Design-Employment Land Study:

County of Wellington is seeking a qualified professional consulting firm who has experience and expertise in employment land studies to complete work as specified in Request for Proposal.

#### **PCC Parking Lot Rehabilitation:**

Tender Advertisement for asphalt surfacing, concrete sidewalk replacement and drainage upgrades at PCC.



# TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH (519) 763-1226

# Council and Committee Meetings (519) 763-1226

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting: April 8th at 6pm

Committee of Adjustment Meeting & Planning and Development Advisory Committee Meeting: April 9th at 7pm Council Meeting: April 10th at 10am Public Information Meeting: April 10th at 7pm

Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting: April 16th at 7pm

Please check the Council Calendar at <a href="https://puslinch.ca/calendar/">https://puslinch.ca/calendar/</a> 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**

Looking for a facility to host indoor recreation activities this spring? Then consider the gymnasium at the Optimist Recreation Centre.

#### **New! Drop-In Gym Times**

The Township is now offering nocharge Drop-In Gym Times. Parent and Tot - Wednesdays 9am-11am , and Youth - Thursdays 4pm-5pm. All Drop-In Gym times require supervision by a parent or guardian.

For more information on our facilities, please visit our Community Facilities page at https://puslinch.ca/culture-recreation/community-facilities/ or email services@puslinch.ca.

### **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 Memoriams

# Mary Frances McLean(neeShore)



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Mary Frances McLean (nee Shore) on February 26, 2024, at St. Joseph's Health Centre, Guelph, in her 81st year.

Wife of Ian Malcolm McLean (2016) for over 49 years. Predeceased by infant son Daniel Ian Cameron (1970). Mother of Alison McLean Redpath (Brian) of Guelph and Andrew Ian Alexander McLean of Puslinch Ontario. Proudest Grandma of granddaughter Cameron Alexandra Redpath.

She was the daughter of the late George (1994) and Iris Shore (1977). Sister of Robert Shore (2016) and sister-in-law Sally Verlaan (2021) of Burlington and Margaret Clack of Waterdown. Daughter-in-law of the late Donald (1978) and Maude (1992) McLean. Sister-in-law of Lois McLean of Puslinch, Robert (2022) and Jean McLean of Kamloops, Alistair (2020) and Jean McLean of London, Alan "Red" (2007) and Mary Lou McLean of Guelph and Wilfred "Bill" McLean of Puslinch. She will be sadly missed by Debbie Seeley, many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Mary was a no nonsense, "take me as you see me" kind of person who only wanted to be seen as a loving and caring mother, who was honest and generous. She gave to

the church, and donated time and money to the community for judging events in the annual Puslinch Fall Fair. She enjoyed live music, book club, games of scrabble, and time with family. She created art, crafts, and poetry, and tried to face the world with a smile despite enduring countless health challenges over the years. Her stamina was challenged many times, but her endurance lasted longer than what most expected and she will be missed.

Interment will be held at Crown Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to the WALL-CUSTANCE FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL, 519-822-0051 or www. wallcustance.com.

If so desired, memorial contributions to the St. Joseph's Health Centre, Guelph or the charity of your choice would be sincerely appreciated by the family.

A tree will be planted in memory of Mary F. McLean in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest.

# M. Cecil Schultz



Of Aberfoyle, passed away peacefully at Heritage House on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, in his 92nd year.

Predeceased by his loving wife Vera Schultz and daughter Donna Kangas. Loving father of David (Anne) Schultz and son-in-law Mark Kangas. Cherished grandfather of Rob and Laura Schultz. Dear brother of Gordon (Shirley), Lloyd (Janet), Berniece and brother-in-law Ken.

Predeceased by sisters Marion and Barb,

brother-in-law Dave, and sister-in-law Frances.

Survived and loved by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Son of the late Margarette and Chester Schultz.

Will be fondly remembered for cruising around the back streets of Aberfoyle on his scooter with his sidekick Molson by his side. He had a love of tractors, thrashing bees and Case Lawnmowers.

A private family service and graveside will take place at Crown Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to WALL-CUSTANCE FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL (519-822-0051 / www.wallcustance.com).

Memorial contributions to the Heart & Stroke Foundation, Calvary Baptist Church or The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital would be appreciated.

A tree will be planted in memory of M. Cecil Schultz in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest.

# Celebration of Life John Gilmour



The family of the late John Gilmour would like to invite all of you to an Open House Celebration of Life to honour our Dad on May 11, 2024 from 1:30-4:30 at the Badenoch Community Centre, a place he loved so well. A small memorial program will begin at 2:15 p.m. Please join us to share the stories that embody a life well-lived. Please let family and community members who may not check social media know about this event.





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# Thank you Puslinch!



As the day of the 20th anniversary of the annual pasta dinner approached, excitement filled the air. The Guelph South Rotary members, along with their friends and family, gathered in the community centre to set up the event.

They spent hours meticulously arranging tables, decorating the venue, and ensuring everything was in place. Finally, the doors opened, and the aroma of freshly cooked pasta wafted through the air. The community members eagerly lined up, their stomachs growling in anticipation.

The Rotary Club of Guelph South volunteers, wearing their signature aprons, served heaping plates of pasta, topped with a delectable marinara meatball sauce. Laughter and lively conversations filled the room as old friends reunited and new connections were made.

The pasta dinner has become a true celebration of community, where people come together to enjoy good food and foster a sense of togetherness.

As the night came to an end the Rotaractors from the University of Guelph pitched in to clean and clear tables.

Thank you Rotaractors! You are fun and hardworking and very much appreciated! A sense of satisfaction filled the room as the club members finished up cleaning and sat down to break bread with their exhausted fellow Rotarians.

Not only had they organized a successful pasta dinner, but they had also strengthened the bonds within their community and created lasting memories.



The annual pasta dinner has become a cherished tradition in Puslinch.. The Rotary Club of Guelph South would like to thank Puslinch , Guelph and everyone else who attended for all for your participation and charitable support.

A giant thank you to our table sponsors, silent auction and gift card partners and for their ongoing support.

Without you we could not have raised almost \$9,500 for Sunrise Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre and other Rotary backed charities. See you in 2025!

# **Delicious Direct**

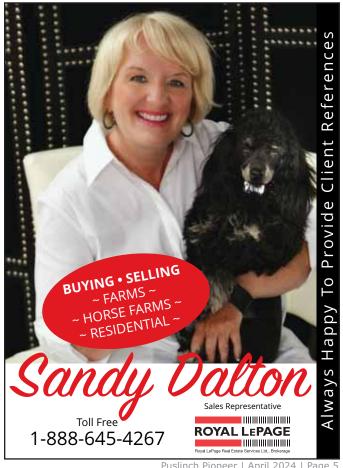
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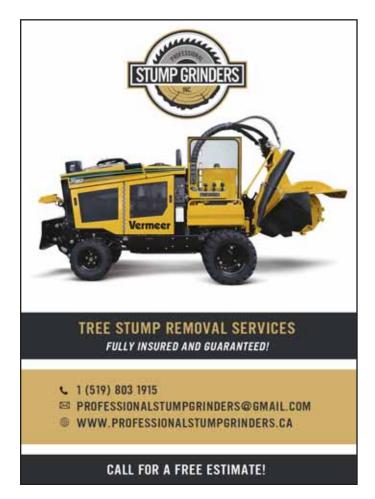
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# Aberfoyle Fall Fair needs your help

## By Joanne Holt



Well, it's been a while since you've heard from the Aberfoyle Fall Fair. Our very small team has been out attending conventions and meetings to see what's available for us for the next year.

We've come back with great ideas and expectations.

The grounds have been redone, and we look forward to a condensed area in which to hold our September extravaganza.

A big congratulations to first time exhibitor Blais Buxton with his local honey entry, winning 1st at Aberfoyle Fall Fair, 1st at our OAAS district competition, and competing at the Provincial competition. Well done.

Our directors have great ideas and wonderful new events we could add to the Aberfoyle Fall Fair, September 6 and 7 but we do not have the

manpower to supervise and run them.

If you want to see the Fall Fair grow and have more activities we need you to come out and help.

We have one MAJOR hurdle, the small group of directors are aging, and we cannot do all of the jobs necessary to put on the show we want to.

It is up to the community to step up with some younger people to come out and help set up the fair. We also need people to supervise events for your children.

As you know, our fair is a family event. It's a great day to meet friends and neighbours and have a wonderful experience learning where food comes from.

We are busy, putting together the prize book for entries, and we welcome all youth and adults to participate. It's a great past time through the summer to work on crafts and enter them in the fair in the fall.

We are the weekend after Labour Day. September 6 and 7.

There are many jobs that could be helped with over just a few hours, and as we all know, many hands make light work.

If you would be able to come out to help with set up or clean up or put together an activity that we can include which would involve helping on the day of the fair, please get in touch.

We ask that you do attend one or two meetings, so we get to know you, but

then commit to a time you could help out and a job that you would be willing to do.

We very much look forward to seeing the community out on another great Aberfoyle for fair day, September 6 and 7 2024.

You can send your contact information to aberfoyleagriculturalsociety@gmail.com.

Our meetings are the third Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm at the Puslinch Community Centre. Come on out and be part of a long running event.

# Taste Real Spring Rural Romp

When: May 25, 2024, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Plants and Seedlings - Farm Fresh Foods - Tours - Kids Activities - Contests and more!

The Spring Rural Romp is a self-guided farm and food tour to farms, markets, nurseries, and local food and drink businesses in Mapleton, Minto and Wellington North.

Meet our taste makers, learn about local food and agriculture and discover local food destinations in Wellington County.

To learn more, go to www.wellington. ca/en/business/tastereal.aspx







Thank you to our volunteers at Tour de Guelph and Ribfest.

# Puslinch Pioneer

Honouring The Past. Embracing The Future.

Produced by volunteers since 1975

Proudly produced by volunteers for the past 49 years, the board of the Puslinch Pioneer wants to thank all its volunteers, past and present, for their support and dedication to bring the paper to the community.

# Thank you!



The Optimist Club of Puslinch would like to give a big thank-you to all of our amazing volunteers who do so much for our community!

# The Club has been instrumental in organizing so many Puslinch community events and opportunities including:

- FAMILY DAY WINTER CLASSIC
- STEAK NIGHT DINNER
- FISH FRY DINNER
- CANADA DAY CELEBRATION
- REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY
- SANTA CLAUS PARADE
- SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- and so much more!

Interested in becoming a member? Scan here! ——
or visit www.optimistclubofpuslinch.com



# Firefighter safety

In a significant step towards enhancing firefighter safety, at its February 28, 2024 Council meeting Township of Puslinch Council adopted a Lightweight Construction Identification By-law, aimed at addressing critical concerns related to the use of trusses and lightweight building components.

Firefighters face two major challenges when dealing with structures incorporating trusses and lightweight construction materials:

**Rapid Failure under Heat:** Trusses and lightweight materials, when exposed to direct flame and high heat, can fail within a remarkably short span of five to seven minutes, often providing little warning to firefighters.

**Hidden Components:** Trusses and lightweight construction elements are frequently concealed by finishing materials like ceiling tiles, flooring, and drywall, making them less visible upon entry to a structure.

While an amendment to the Ontario Building Code in April 2022 addresses

notification to the fire chief or municipal clerk within 45 days of permit issuance for new construction, the Township recognizes the urgency to extend these safety measures to existing structures.

The Lightweight Construction Identification By-law mandates owners to identify both new and existing buildings with trusses and lightweight components.

The driving force of this recommendation is the tragic incident in 2011 at the Dollar Store on Main Street in Listowel.

Atwood firefighter Kenneth Rea and Listowel firefighter Raymond Walter lost their lives due to a sudden collapse of the lightweight wood truss roof structure.

There was an absence of significant smoke or flame in the building. While inside the building, a sudden collapse of the lightweight wood truss roof structure resulted in the death of the two firefighters.

The fire was above the ceiling and impinging on the truss roof structure with very little indication in the

store that a serious fire was occurring above the firefighter's heads.

The Township of Puslinch itself has various buildings constructed with lightweight materials, including the Municipal Administration Office, Fire Hall, Community Centre, and garages and acknowledges the need for a comprehensive identification program.

Merely focusing on newly constructed buildings will not suffice in alerting firefighters to potential dangers in structures existing since the 1970s. The Township of Puslinch remains committed to the safety and wellbeing of its residents and firefighters.

The enactment of the Lightweight Construction Identification By-law is a testament to the Council's dedication to fostering a secure living and working environment for all.

Mayor Seeley stated, "Council recognized the importance of taking every opportunity in protecting our fire-fighters in their effort to protect our community every day. Council applauds this initiative and thanks the Fire Department Leadership and staff for bringing this by-law forward."



# Thank you!

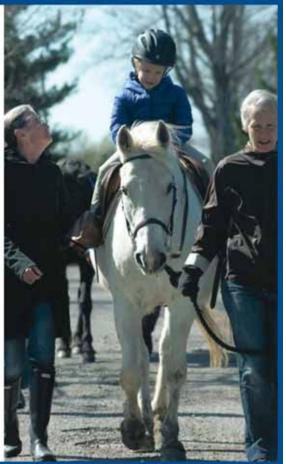
# From Sunrise Riders & Staff!

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# Count me in... maybe

# By Anne Day

The theme for this year's International Women's Day was inclusivity, and with that in mind, the organizers for the Guelph IWD event, intentionally selected three speakers who would speak on the different barriers facing immigrant women, women of colour and women with disabilities.

It was therefore somewhat poignant that Alex Bulmer, who grew up in Puslinch, and who is blind, was unable to make it to the event.



Why? When her booked ride from Toronto fell through, Alex spent the day trying to find a taxi that would bring her to the event, and was turned down several times. Why you may ask – because of her service dog!

This incident just speaks to the barriers that she and others with disabilities face.

There were tears shed around the room when people heard of her plight.

The remaining panel members shared stories that all too well highlighted the challenges faced.



**Leen Al-Habash** is the Project Manager for Guelph Wellington Local Immigration Partnership.

An immigrant herself from Syria, she talked about the challenge of finding employment. She has several degrees, speaks fluent English and was more than qualified for the positions for which she applied.

It took her two years and 400 job applica-

tions to secure a position. Meantime, she also had to listen to comments like – 'you should move to Mississauga and mingle with your own people'. Or 'maybe change your surname.'



**Vicki Olatundun**, former Executive Director of Chalmers and now with SEEDS, shared what happened to her family when they lived in a small town in Manitoba.

She was called to the school because her nine-year-old daughter had been threatened by a boy in her class.

Vicki was asked what she wanted the school to do, and she chose to volunteer in the class once a week.

Every week she would go in to read with the children, and this boy would continue to utter racist remarks and threats. By the end of the year, he'd come around and greeted her respectfully and she helped teach him to read.

As Vicki observed, hate plus hate, equals more hate, whereas love makes all the difference



The panel was masterly moderated by Marva Wisdom who took the time to read a message from Alex.

She asked the audience of 240 people, who's missing? Who hasn't come? And reminded us to reflect on why.

Many left with much to think about, especially over what had happened to Alex.

While she may not have been at the event, her presence was felt as she provided us with an invaluable lesson on the barriers she faces.

# Link up with Duff's Sat. May 25, 2024





#### **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Victoria Park Valley Golf Course

Live Auction
Silent Auction
Door Prizes

Duff's Church 3:00 pm

BBQ STEAK DINNER
Duff's Presbyterian Church
6:00 pm

Golf & Dinner \$115 (incl. cart) Euchre & Dinner \$60 Dinner Only \$50

Tickets, Information & Donations call 519-763-0309 519-767-2462
If you are unable to attend, please donate!

Duff's Church, 319 Brock Rd. S. Puslinch, ON NOB 2J0



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# Downsizing for Seniors

#### By Rob Townsend & Tanya Tagwerker



Image: Freepik.com

As folks approach retirement, the idea of downsizing, or right sizing, becomes increasingly appealing. This process involves not only reducing the physical footprint of one's living space but also streamlining possessions and transitioning to a home that better suits current and future needs.

A successful downsizing journey hinges on careful planning, expert assistance, and finding the ideal home that factors in mobility, accessibility, and lifestyle requirements.

# Financial Planning: Using Home Equity for Retirement

Downsizing presents an opportunity for seniors to unlock the equity in their homes, a potentially valuable resource for financing retirement and achieving financial security.

By downsizing to a smaller, more manageable home, individuals can free up funds previously tied up in their property. Consultation with a financial planner can help seniors develop a strategic plan to utilize their home equity effectively, helping them realize the retirement they have dreamed of.

"Understanding your options will help you make informed decisions about using your home equity during retirement." Jayne Osborn CFP Osborn Financial

# Downsizing Specialists: Streamlining the Process

Engaging the services of a downsizing specialist can alleviate the overwhelming aspect often associated with downsizing. These professionals offer comprehensive support, organizing the residential move from start to finish.

They can assist with a new residence floor plan, packing/moving/ unpacking, and sorting contents for donation, disposal and even sale. With their expertise and guidance, seniors can seamlessly navigate the downsizing transition to a new living space.

"As downsizing specialists, we're here to guide and assist with every step of the process, ensuring a smooth and stress-free transition to your new home." - Theresa Shelton, Owner of T's Complete Move.

#### Finding the Right Home:

When choosing a new home, the 55+ community must consider factors such as mobility, accessibility, and lifestyle preferences.

Whether it's a single-level condo with amenities like elevators, indoor parking, exercise areas or access to healthcare services, finding the right home is essential for maintaining independence and quality of life in the years to come.

Finding the perfect home is about more than just location and aesthetics. Ensuring a home aligns with your unique needs and supports your desired lifestyle is paramount.

Downsizing requires careful planning, expert assistance, and thoughtful consideration of future needs. By leveraging home equity, engaging downsizing specialists, and finding the right home, seniors can embark on this journey with confidence, embracing a new chapter filled with comfort, accessibility, and peace of mind.

Seeking Answers? Meet Our Team of Knowledgeable Professionals

To delve deeper into these critical topics, we wish to extend an invitation to our 5-part event series "Sip, Savour & Strategize - Exploring Real Estate Retirement Solutions". Join us for the second segment in our series "Transition with Ease: Exploring Downsizing Solutions" at TrilliumWest Real Estate Brokerage - 292 Stone Road West, Guelph, ON, on Tuesday, April 30th, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

This complimentary event features a panel of local professionals ready to answer your questions. Enjoy appetizers and refreshments as our experts share valuable insights and knowledge.

To secure your spot, please RSVP by April 23rd, as space is limited. For registration or more information, reach out to Rob Townsend at rtownsend@trilliumwest.com, Tanya Tagwerker at ttagwerker@trilliumwest.com, or by telephone at 226-314-1600.





# Leaf and Yard Waste Services





Leaf and yard waste will be collected curbside in **urban** areas only. Please set out materials accordingly:

- In brown paper yard waste bags or in reusable cans clearly marked "Yard Waste"
- Twigs must be in tied bundles
- Max 18.2 kg (40 lb) per bag, can, or bundle

Loose materials and materials in plastic bags WILL NOT be collected. See the collection schedule below.

# 2024 Puslinch Leaf and Yard Waste Curbside Collection Schedule

# **WEEK A**

Monday, April 15

Monday, May 27

Monday, June 24

Monday, July 22

Monday, August 19

Monday, September 16

Monday, October 14

Monday, October 28

Monday, November 11

Monday, November 25

Please place materials curbside by 7:00 am on the Monday and keep curbside until collected. Collection may take place any time during the week. We thank you for your patience.

# **Drop-off**

Leaf and yard waste is also accepted at all County waste facilities from April through the end of November.
No charge for residential customers. Regular fees continue to apply to wood, brush, and commercial loads.



# **ACCEPTABLE**

- Leaves
- ✓ Twigs tied in bundles
- ✓ Garden trimmings
- ✓ Dead plants
- ✓ Fallen fruits and nuts from trees



# **NOT ACCEPTABLE**

- Grass clippings
- X Soil, sod, and rocks
- X Tree stumps
- X Branches
- Plastic planter pots
- Plastic bags

# Never miss a collection day!

Download the free Recycle Coach waste app from the App Store or Google Play.







www.wellington.ca/yardwaste

519.837.2601 1.866.899.0248 wasteinfo@wellington.ca



# Finding child care

The County of Wellington will launch a centralized application and waitlist for licensed child care in April 2024 using OneHSN software.

The online 'Wellington-Guelph Child Care Application and Waitlist' will be designed to simplify and facilitate the way families can find and apply for licensed child care services throughout our region.

The Wellington-Guelph Child Care Application and Waitlist system will include a number of features designed to meet the needs of families. Highlights include:

### **Multi-Program Applications:**

The service will be able to manage applications to multiple licensed programs, and for more than one child if needed.

#### **Comprehensive Research Tools:**

Enables families to thoroughly explore licensed child care options, authorized recreational programs overseen by the County, and services throughout Wellington-Guelph, including location maps.

# Financial and Special Needs Support Information:

Provides vital information on fee subsidies and special needs resources.

## Flexible Access:

Users can manage their online

applications to different licensed programs in one centralized location anytime, anywhere.

### **Enhanced Security:**

Ensures user privacy with a secure online platform.

"The introduction of this new system reflects the County of Wellington's commitment to finding innovative solutions that address the needs of our residents," commented Warden Andy Lennox.

"Launching a centralized application and waitlist will make it significantly easier for families to navigate the quality licensed child care options available to them, helping our children have the best possible start in life."

Social Services Chair, Councillor David Anderson added, "The launch of the Wellington-Guelph Child Care Application and Waitlist system marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to enhance community services.

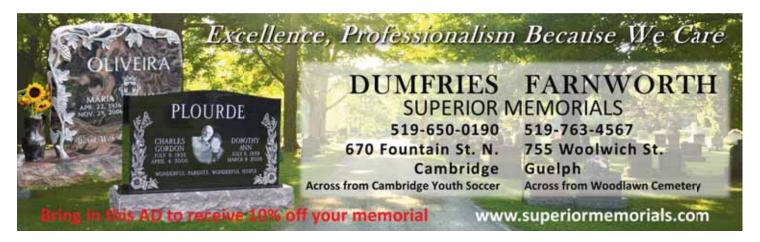
This Initiative is about more than convenience; it's about creating equitable access to childcare for all families, leveraging technology to bridge gaps in our community."

For more information on the Wellington-Guelph Child Care Application and Waitlist and to learn more about the April 2024 launch, please visit www.wellington.ca/childcarewaitlist













# Want to volunteer?



April is Volunteer Month and one way to give back and volunteer in the community is through local service clubs.

**The Optimist Club of Puslinch** is dedicated to supporting youth and community in Puslinch.

If you live in, or near, Puslinch, you have probably enjoyed some of the many popular events that the Optimist Club organizes including Winter Carnival, Canada Day Breakfast and Fireworks, the Community Fish Fry, the Annual Township Cleanup, Oratorical Contests plus the Puslinch Santa Clause Parade.

The club raises funds and donates back to community groups (Aberfoyle Agricultural Society, Sunrise Equestrian Centre, Aberfoyle Public School), Post-secondary scholarships for local teens and major projects such as the MURF (Multi-Use Recreational Facility) and outdoor basketball court in Arkell.

There are currently 43 members in the club. Members come from all walks of life and contribute in a variety of different ways.

Some members attend every meeting and get very involved in the organization of events and distribution of funds.

Some members prefer to volunteer on the day of the events and sign up for roles such as setting up tables, flipping pancakes or directing traffic.

To be able to continue offering all the events that are currently offered, the club is looking to recruit some fresh new members!

If you have been thinking about getting more involved, visit www.optimistclubof-puslinch.com and consider becoming a member. Annual membership is \$125.

General meetings are typically held the first Tuesday of every month and dinner meetings are offered on the last Tuesday of the month.

There are no minimum time requirements. It's a great way to meet new people, support local youth and contribute to some of the traditional events that make Puslinch such a great community!

#### **Rotary Clubs in Guelph**

There are four clubs in Guelph – which meet at different times.

Guelph Wellington meets on Monday evenings and Guelph Trillium meets for breakfast on Wednesday mornings – both clubs meet at the Guelph Country Club.

The Guelph South club gathers both online and in person on Thursday mornings, while the Guelph Club meets on Fridays for lunch at the Italian Club.

The clubs work closely together and raise funds through annual events like Tour de Guelph, Pasta Night, Ribfest, Duck Race, Lobsterfest.

The funds raised are distributed in the community – supporting organizations such as Sunrise Equestrian Centre, Food-4Kids, The Grove, Children's Foundation, as well as scholarships.

For example, in memory of Maureen Smith, a Puslinch resident, the Guelph Trillium club gives out a scholarship of \$1,000 to a high school student entering nursing.

Rotary was also instrumental in the launch of several local organizations such as Hospice Wellington, and Foodd4Kids.

The cost of membership varies from one club to the other.

One of Rotary's core causes is to end Polio around the world.

As an international organization, there are opportunities for student exchanges and for members to gather together at the annual conference. In 2025, the conference will be held in Calgary.

Potential members are invited to attend a meeting as a guest to see if this is a group you would want to join.

To learn more about each club, go to https://rotary7080.org/page/rotary-in-guelph-wellington-club-info/

# Puslinch Junior Garden Club



All Grade 1 to Grade 8 students are welcome! (Gardens must be in Puslinch Township)

Registration on Wednesday April 3rd or 10th, 4-7pm (or by appointment, deadline of April 12th) at the Junior Garden plots at the Puslinch Community Centre (by the blue shed) 23 Brock Road South, Puslinch

Fee of \$5 includes all seeds and plants needed.

For more information, please call: Maryann Hohenadel (519) 763-9849.



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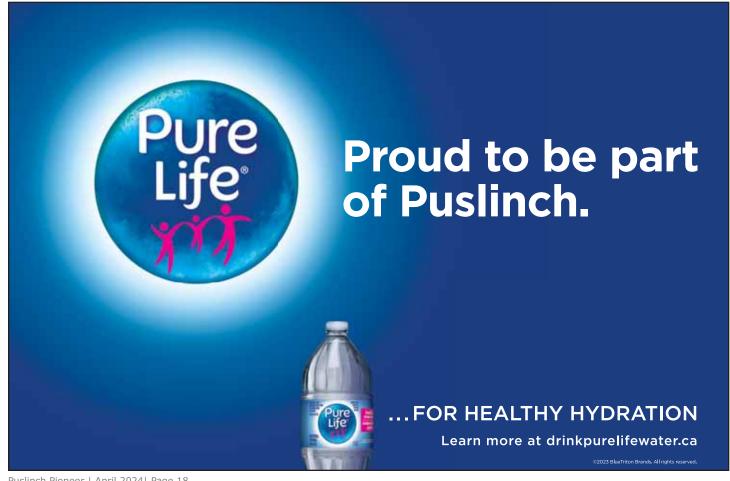
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# The fire next time?

#### By Marjorie Clark

The apostle, Peter, prophesied that "the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire" and 2023 did look like the beginning of the end.

Wildfires are not new to Puslinch Township. The Guelph and Galt newspapers occasionally published reports.

The first account of bush fires, as they were called then, is from July 28th, 1864. During a severe drought, the swamp behind John Black's farm, Lot 24, front of Concession 9, was on fire.

In the warm, dry weather of July 28th, 1887, a fire sprang up rapidly in William Thompson's swamp on the 4th concession, raced through David Strome's farm, Lot 5, rear Concession 4, and through the raspberry marsh and into Rife's place.

Neighbours turned out in full force and succeeded in extinguishing it.

On September 22nd 1887, a fire started in the Aberfoyle Swamp and raged for five days. It approached Hugh Cockburn's farm, Lot 19, rear Concession 8.

Just as today, residents attempted to save buildings. About thirty neighbours rushed to prevent it from reaching the buildings but were unable to stop its progress.

Like today, changing weather and rain defeated the flames. The next day, the wind changed and blew the flames southwest towards the Foster's barn at Aberfoyle and across the road, where it continued until rainfall drowned it.

The Morriston newspaper columnist wrote on September 8th 1898, that high winds had been spreading the bush fires. Recent rain had quenched them but there was still smoke making "the atmosphere murky".

There were many fires during the droughts of the 1930'S. Farmers fought them with burlap sacks dipped in water troughs or creeks and by digging up the sod to form breaks. The Beverley Swamp burned underground for years.

Rain finally subdued flames that leapt across two farms and the Guelph Waterworks property at Arkell on May 28th 1935. It started up on the Stone estate, where some brush had been burned a few days previously, ran through the waterworks property and was arrested by local farmers on Neil Black's Farm, rear of Concession 9.

Fire, which swept through a large swamp between the Hespeler Road and a back road of Puslinch for two or three days, in late May 1935, was the second in the district within a few days. The Galt Fire Department could do nothing to quell it, due to the distance from water.

In an attempt to control bush fires, Council passed a bylaw in May 1956, appointing five volunteer Fire Wardens.

W. B. Smith, the Road Superintendent, was in charge and authorized to use his staff and equipment to fight bush fires.

The Township was divided into four sections with Fire Wardens Murray Mcpherson, Keith Henderson, Richard Starkey, and Charles Siefert, each allowed to recruit his neighbours to his team.

On October 8th, 1963, a big fire broke out on the corner of the McKinnon farm in Aberfoyle, spreading onto the Robert McCaig farm, Lot 24, rear Concession 7.

The Guelph Fire Department, the McCaig family, neighbours, and over 50 other volunteers fought the blaze for two hours, using water from Mill Creek. The next day, the Guelph Department fought another for four hours on D. Campbell's property near Emerald Lake.

What are we to make, then, of the wildfires that consumed everything in their paths across northern Canada in 2023?

# Rooster to return to Guelph



Since 2022, this rooster has proudly watched over Dr. Jeff Wilson's garden in Puslinch.

But it hasn't always rested there and originally this 4,500 lbs statue was "housed" in front of Bernardi Precast on Elizabeth Street in Guelph, where it lived for over 40 years.

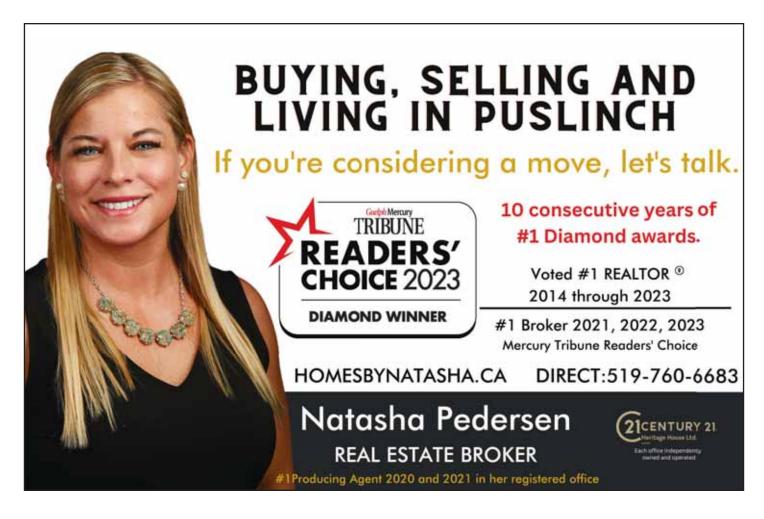
However, the rooster is destined to return home to Guelph.

The question is where? Suggestions to date include St. George's Square, in front of Guelph Farmers' Market or Royal City Park.

The statue also needs a name.

Anyone with suggestions regarding the statue's name and/or location can reach Dr. Wilson via email at jbwilson@novometrix.com





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# YOUR HEALTH **MATTERS**

# **What is Heart Rate** Variability?

#### By Dr. Laura M. Brown, ND

Heart rate variability (HRV) is the beatto-beat variation in heart rhythm. HRV is a measure of your body's ability to react to changes in your life and accurately predicts states of stress and inflammation.

Short-term changes reflect current energy expenditures, stress, emotional states, and cognitive work load. The measure of your HRV applies to health on multiple levels; cardiology, mental health, sleep health, lifestyle, intensive care unit settings, blood pressure, remote monitoring, oncology, brain health, and addiction.

In a medical setting, an electrocardiogram accurately detects HRV. Although not as accurate, modern wearable technology advancement has commonly increased its awareness.

# What's better low or high HRV?

High HRV means a more coherent, healthy state. Higher HRV is linked to DHEA hormone and naturally tends to emerge with the activation of heartfelt, positive emotions such as love, care or appreciation for someone or something that you know.

When you are in the flow, easily moving through life, your HRV is high.

Low HRV means poor health outcomes. Lower HRV and negative depleting emotions are tied to higher levels of cortisol. When you get stuck in negative depleting emotions your HRV is low.

### Can I control my HRV?

You have the power to change your HRV. The heart is muscle. Muscle has memory and can be trained. Devices that provide personal biofeedback are very helpful.

You too can learn through scientifically validated tools to embrace a sense of calm energy.

Each beat-to-beat variation of the heart is tied to a signature emotion. Emotions produce different information patterns in the HRV and thus the heart's electromagnetic field.

Emotions should neither be ignored nor placed in charge. They are meant to wash in, cleanse your soul and wash back out again. If emotions are not fully processed, they get stuck in you. Then you get stuck.

Access your heart's intuitive intelligence and you can shift your feelings from frustration, anxiety, anger or resentment to become more balanced, joyful and productive.

Questions? Ask HeartMath Certified Practitioner drlaura@southendguelph.

# Tour de Guelph



Join us for the 11th annual Tour de Guelph, held on June 23, 2024.

Register, fundraise and ride with us in our 11th annual Tour de Guelph in support of Guelph General Hospital and many other local Charitable Programs.

Hosted by Rotary Clubs of Guelph South and Guelph Trillium in its ten years, the event has raised over \$1 million for our community and has grown into one of Guelph-Wellington's largest community sporting events.

We had a record-breaking year in 2023, with over 600 riders and over \$170,000 raised.

About 100 volunteers help with the event each year. The majority being Rotarians, plus many other individuals and local business leaders lend a hand.

This allows the majority of the proceeds received from sponsorship and peerto-peer fundraising to go directly to important community initiatives.

Tour de Guelph is for all ages and abilities and welcomes participation from community members as well as visitors to Guelph-Wellington.

You can choose the distance you wish to cover from 5km-75km or to pick your own route.

To learn more, go to www.tourdeguelph.

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# **Puslinch Branch, Wellington County Library**

For current hours and services, please call the Puslinch Branch 519.763.8026 or visit us online at www.wellington. ca/Library.

#### Scrabble Club (Adults)

Join us for casual word building entertainment. Please register.

Wednesdays, April 3 and 17 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm

## **Story Time** (Preschoolers)

Our Story Times are designed to help your child get ready for reading. Share stories, songs, rhymes, and activities aimed at developing your child's early literacy skills. Drop in.

Thursdays, April 4 - 25 from 11:00 -11:45 am

#### **Dungeons** and **Dragons** (Teens)

Join fellow fantasy fans to build characters and explore new worlds. Please register.

Thursdays, April 4 and 18 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm

#### **Book Club – First Friday** (Adults)

Meet with members of your community and join our discussion of books and ideas. Please register.

Friday, April 5 from 1-2

#### Creative Kids (Kids/Tweens)

Get crafty and learn new things with DIY and other hands-on activities just for kids. Please register.

Wednesday, April 10 and 24 from 3:00 - 3:45 pm

# In Stitches - Sewing SOS (Teens/

Do you have a sewing project that you

are stuck on, or need help starting a new one? Bring your items in and we'll work together to figure out next steps. Sewing machines available in branch. Contact staff to book a time slot. Please register.

Saturday, April 13 from 10:30 am -12:30 pm

# **Book Club - Third Tuesday** (Adults) Meet with members of your community and join our discussion of books

and ideas. Please register. Tuesday, April 16 from 2-3

## Craft and Create - Bee Stencil Art (Adults)

Use a Cricut machine to make a beethemed stencil, and then apply it to a painted canvas project! All materials provided. Please register.

Tuesday, April 30 from 1:30 - 3:00

#### 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 handpick 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**

Baldacci, David Henry, Emily Hepworth, Sally Horowitz, A Kubica, Mary Miranda, Megan A Calamity of Souls **Funny Story** Darling Girls Close to Death She's Not Sorry Daughter of Mine

Patterson, James The Murder Inn Sandford, John Toxic Prey Steel, Danielle Only the Brave Towles, Amor Table for Two

#### Non-Fiction

Carr, Caleb

My Beloved Monster: Masha, the Half-Wild Rescue Cat Who Rescued Me

Dench, Judi

Shakespeare: the Man Who Pays the Rent

Goodwin, Doris Kearns

An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal His-

tory of The 1960

Larson, Erik

The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War

Millet, Lydia

We Loved It All: A Memory of Life

Murgia, Madhumita

Code-Dependent: Living in the Shadow of

Page, Susan

Rulebreaker: The Life and Times of Barbara Walters

Rushie, Salman

Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder

Tan, Amy

Backyard Bird Chronicles

Valby, Karen

The Swans of Harlem: Five Black Ballerinas, Fifty Years of Sisterhood, and Their Reclamation of a Groundbreaking History



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# **Books wanted**



The Guelph Tool Library is running the Free to Read Program again and our goal is to collect, sort, and sell 5000 books.

The Guelph Tool Library hopes to collect and sell 5,000 books through donations from the public and book drives by community partners.

Donations of books can be dropped off at the Guelph Tool Library, T8-55 Wyndham Street N, Guelph until Monday April 15.

The sale will take place on Saturday April 20 at the Old Quebec Street Shoppes (55 Wyndham Street North, Guelph) from 10 am until 2 pm.

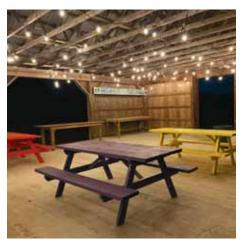
The program supports the Books for Inmates Program, a program that supports literacy programs in correctional facilities across Southwestern Ontario.

One of the challenges for the Books for Inmates Program is to acquire the necessary books for literacy programs.

Desired books, such as technical books and books in other languages, are typically not donated.

The book sale hopes to sell those books that are frequently donated, such as best sellers and detective stories, and use the proceeds to purchase the desired books.

# Outdoor picnics and gatherings



Plan to meet up with friends and family for a special meal or an afternoon picnic at Crieff Hills Conference Centre.

Our picnic shelter has a smooth concrete floor, plenty of picnic tables and three large wooden buffet tables.

Electricity is available, and string lights make it beautiful once the sun goes down.

It's all surrounded by green fields where you can fly a kite, play soccer or bask in the sun. Clean portable restrooms are nearby.

#### Includes:

- Exclusive use of covered picnic shelter and surrounding green space
- Electricity (wall outlets)
- 8 (painted) picnic and 3 (unfinished) wooden buffet tables
- Free parking and wifi
- Use of two clean, portable restrooms (May-October)
- Cost: \$270 + HST per day
- Time: Sunrise to 11 pm

Maximum 35 people. For larger groups, contact *events@crieffhills.com* 



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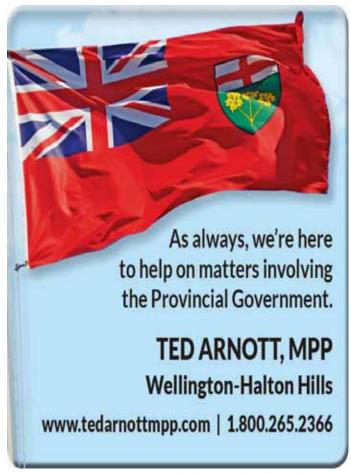
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# **Cooks Corner**

### By Barbara Paterson

# **Jumbo Shrimp with Coconut**



A seafood dish that you would be proud to serve to company. It is quick to make.

2 tsp. olive oil

1/2 cup minced onions

½ cup finely chopped red bell pepper

1 tsp. minced garlic

1 tsp. ground cumin

34 tsp. ground coriander

½ tsp. curry powder

1 cup coconut milk

1 tsp. sugar

¼ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes

1 lb. uncooked jumbo shrimp, peeled, deveined and tails removed

1 tbsp. cornstarch

2 tbsp. minced fresh cilantro

4 cups hot cooked brown or white rice

- Heat oil in a deep 10" skillet. Add onions, red pepper and garlic. Cook and stir until vegetables begin to soften, about 3 minutes.
- Add cumin, coriander and curry powder. Cook for 1 more minute. Add coconut milk, sugar and crushed red pepper flakes. Bring

to a boil . Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered for 2 minutes.

- 3. Stir in shrimp, increase heat to medium-high. Cook and stir until shrimp turns pink and is cooked through, about 4 minutes.
- 4. In a small bowl, combine cornstarch with 1 tbsp. water. Add to shrimp mixture. Cook until sauce is bubbly and has thickened, about 1 minute. Stir in cilantro and remove from heat. Serve shrimp and sauce over hot rice. Makes 4 servings.

#### **Coconut Cream Pie**



My 16-year-old grandson loves this pie. He wanted it instead of a birthday cake.

### **Crust**

1½ cups graham cracker crumbs

1/4 cup white sugar

1 tbsp. toasted coconut

3 tbsp. water

1 tbsp. vegetable oil

Filling

½ cup white sugar

1/2 cup cottage cheese

2/3 cup coconut milk

2 oz. light or regular cream cheese, softened

2 tsp. vanilla

1 tbsp. unflavoured gelatin powder

2 tbsp. cold water ¼ cup toasted coconut 2 large egg whites ¼ tsp. cream of tartar ¼ cup white sugar

- 1. Make crust: Grease a 9" pie plate. In a bowl, stir together crumbs, sugar, coconut, water and oil until mixed. Pat the mixture onto the bottom and up the sides of prepared pie plate. Place the pie plate in the centre of the oven and bake for 10 minutes or until the crust is slightly browned. Let the pan cool on a wire rack.
- 2. Make filling: In a food processor or blender, combine ½ cup sugar, cottage cheese, coconut milk, cream cheese and vanilla; puree the mixture until it is smooth. In a small microwavable bowl, combine the gelatin and water and let it sit for 2 minutes then microwave the mixture on high for 20 seconds. Stir until it is dissolved. With the food processor running, add the gelatin through the feed tube. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl and stir in 3 tbsp. toasted coconut.
- 3. In another bowl, beat the egg whites with the cream of tartar until they are foamy. Gradually add ¼ cup sugar, beating until stiff peaks form. Gently fold the mixture into the cottage cheese mixture just until combined and pour it into the crust. Sprinkle remaining toasted coconut over top. Chill for 2 hours or until the filling is set firm.

**Note:** I find the easiest way to toast coconut is in a moderate oven for just a few minutes; checking and stirring often. I use shredded sweetened coconut.



# **ASK THE EXPERT**

# **Dahlias**

# By Donna Kahn

Last summer I saw some dahlias in a neighbours' garden. They were really beautiful. How do you grow dahlias?

Dahlias seem to be having a moment. They are a wonderful addition to any garden. These plants have showstopping flowers ranging from 2cm to 25cm in size.

Dahlias come in a wide array of colours such as white, cream, lemon, gold, apricot, orange, pink, red burgundy, lilac, purple and plum.



Flower forms are available in single daisy-like, pompom, and cactus. The plants grow from 60cm to 150cm tall depending on variety. Dahlias make fabulous cut flowers. They will bloom from July until frost.

Dahlias grow from a tuber, which you can purchase at local garden centres or from online retailers. Unpack your tubers and inspect them for mold.

If you find any mold, dust your tuber with a bit of ground cinnamon. The tuber has a "neck" which is where the eyes of the dahlia sprout from. Take care not to damage the dahlia's neck area.

For earlier flowers start your tubers mid-April, indoors in pots with potting soil. Place tubers with eyes just above the surface of the soil. Place a label with the dahlia variety's name; this will help you identify colour and size later on.

Place planted tubers under lights or in a sunny place. Do not water until you see sprouts. Your dahlias can be planted out after the risk of frost has passed and the soil is warm.

Dahlias require six hours of sunlight per day. The soil should be well drained or the tubers may rot. If growing your dahlias in your garden, add some compost to your soil. You can also grow dahlias in large pots, providing a nice focal point on a deck or patio.

Use a soilless potting mix for potted dahlias. Dahlias need to be staked to prevent stems breaking later in the season. Wooden or bamboo stakes work well. Stake your dahlias at the time of planting.

Dig a hole 10-15 cm deep, gently place the sprouted tuber in it. Place the stake and the label in the hole with the tuber and carefully backfill. Once your dahlia is about 30cm tall, tie the stem to the stake with twine.



Pinch the top two pairs of leaves to cause a bushier plant and more flowers. Dahlia maintenance is easy, remove dead flowers and water three times a week. Apply fertilizer every two weeks as dahlias are heavy feeders. Enjoy your amazing flowers.

Dahlias are native to Mexico and Central America and will not survive our winters in the ground. After the first frost, dahlias need to be dug up. Trim off the stems and attach the label to the roots/tubers. Wash the tubers off and set to dry, protected from the frost.

After letting your tubers dry a couple of days, place them into a container or plastic bag with wood shavings or peat moss or perlite. Do not seal container. Put it in a cool dark place for the winter.

Dahlias are the divas of the garden but are certainly worth the work!

# **Family Activity**

# **By Julia Preston**



How do you organize a solar eclipse party? You planet.

This month's eclipse is sparking excitement in Puslinch and beyond. The sun and the moon are also inspiring us with some fun activities.

Light connects us to the rhythms of the Earth. The sun governs our days and our seasons. The moon guides our months. Here are some ideas to let it shine this April.

#### Sun and moon

From April 1 to 30, we will gain nearly an hour and a half more daylight. Track sunrise and sunset times or simply take a moment to notice how the light changes at breakfast or dinner.

You can also track the moon as it wanes (shrinks) and waxes (grows). The moon will be full on April 24.



Of course, there's also the solar eclipse on April 8. The sun will be completely hidden for about two minutes starting at 3:18 p.m. according to the Canadian Space Agency. (Look online to find out how to watch the eclipse safely.)

#### Hike of the month



Try a sunrise or sunset hike. Walking in the golden light of dawn or the lengthening shadows of evening can be a special experience. Watch the sky glow pink as the sun rises and sets.







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President

Ted Van Dinther

# **Camping**

With 2,200 campsites in eight Grand River Conservation Areas, it is easy to find the perfect place for your camping vacation. Camping is offered from May 1 to October 15.

You can find our conservation areas throughout the Grand River watershed - an area larger than Prince Edward Island.

Whatever you are looking for in your camping vacation, you will find it: an afternoon at the beach, a hike through green forests, canoeing on a pond or dropping a line to catch a trophy-sized fish.

Our conservation areas are just a short drive away from home, whether you live in Toronto, Hamilton, Kitchener, Guelph, Brantford, London or anywhere in between.

The online reservation system will open March 21 at 8:00 a.m. for the 2024 season for nightly and group camping.

Camping is offered between May 1 and October 15.

NEW - Group Camping reservations are now made online. Our Group Camping fee structure has changed. Please see our Conservation Area Fees page for more details.

If you are a new user of the online reservation system, you will need to set up a customer profile.

We are committed to providing accessible customer service. Phone numbers and emails are found on each conservation area page. Please contact the conservation area directly if you need assistance or support.

A non-refundable reservation fee of \$13 is due when nightly camping reservations are made. To learn about reservation bookings, cancellations or modifications, please read our Camping Reservation Policy and Regulations and Guidelines.

# New farmer training



The critical knowledge, training, and experience you need to start your farm, and an opportunity to meet other new and experienced farmers and become a part of the ecological agricultural community in Ontario.

Educational content is geared toward new farmers, but is open to all farmers who might be curious about a certain topic, wishing to expand their farming knowledge, or in need of a refresh.

Participants begin with foundational knowledge, then learn about specialized aspects of farming, and end with a focus on establishing farm businesses.

You are welcome to join for a single webinar or sign up for a whole term.

The Ignatius Farm New Farmer Training Program is a collaboration between the Ignatius Jesuit Centre, EFAO, Everdale and the National Farmers Union Ontario.

\*Registration for the 2024 Ignatius Farm New Farmer Training Program will open April 1st, 2024.

For more information, go to www. efao.ca

# **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 NOB 1C0 519-821-7623 www.arkellunitedchurch.ca Pastor John Adeyemi

Sunday Worship at 10 am.

#### **BAHA'I FAITH**

www.bahaisofpuslinch.ca

 You are invited to join us in our study of Reflections on the Life of the Spirit. This is a course leading to a greater understanding of the spiritual nature of human beings. Call 519-767-0636 or email Isapuslinch@ gmail.com for particulars of dates, times and locations.

#### **CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

454 Arkell Road, Puslinch, ON NOB 2J0 519-824-1161

www. calvaryguelph.com

Pastors: Patrick Timney and Joe Yang

- Sunday worship: English 9:30 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.

#### **CROSS ROADS BIC CHURCH**

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Ph. 519-658-9746

Web Site: www.crossroadsbic.ca Facebook: Cross Roads BIC & Cross Roads Youth Group

Pastor: Melissa Richer

Sunday worship @ home: YouTube 'Cross Roads BIC' or in person via registration @ 'crossroadsbic.eventbrite.ca' www.youtube.com/channel/ UCMKYAskvq1HdGsTiA7UQFsg.

#### **DUFF'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

In-Person Worship at 10:30 each Sunday! 319 Brock Rd. S & 401, Puslinch, ON, NOB 2J0

For Rental and Other Information 519-763-1163 office@duffschurch.ca www.duffschurch.ca www.facebook.com/duffschurch/ Pastoral Leader: Rev. Don McCallum donpmccallum@qmail.com

### **EBENEZER UNITED CHURCH**

12274 Guelph Line,(just North of 20 Sideroad) N of 401, Campbellville, ON LOP 1B0

905-854-2423

Webpage: www.ebenezeruc.ca - Like us on Facebook Minister: Rev. Jeff Werner

Music Director: John Zadro
• Regular Sunday Worship, 11:00 am.

#### FREELTON STRABANE UNITED **CHURCH**

To live our discipleship with integrity and grace.

1565 Brock Rd. (Brock Rd & 8th Conc W.), Strabane, ON LOR 1K0 Church Office - 905-659-3380 www.freeltonstrabaneuc.ca Facebook: freelton and strabane united church

Minister - Rev. Will Wheeler BA M. Div.

• Sunday Worship at 10:30 am

• Sunday, April 7th - 10:30am -

#### **DEDICATION SUNDAY**

A special service to dedicate (4) Stained Glass Memorial Windows and other items from the former Freelton United Church. This service will mark the end of the Amalgamation Implementation process of Freelton & Strabane United Churches.

#### KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, **CRIEFF**

7156 Concession 1, Puslinch, ON NOB 2J0 519-824-8757

www.pccweb.ca/knox-crieff/ www.facebook.com/ knoxpresbyterianchurch, crieff • Sunday Worship at 10 am.

#### **MOUNT CARMEL-ZION UNITED** CHURCH

in Morriston at the corner of Church & Victoria Streets, Morriston, ON NOB 2C0 Minister: Rev. Margaret Ruggles 519-822-8610

www.morristonunitedchurch.com Email: morristonunitedchurch@gmail.com • Sunday Worship at 10:30 am.

Monthly donations to Chalmers Community Services Centre for the month of April high fibre cereal or instant oatmeal, peanut butter. Skim milk powder & toilet tissue are always needed, and all donations are appreciated.

#### **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

79 Freelton Road, Freelton, ON LOR 1K0 905-659-3305

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• Saturday: 5:00 pm

• Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am.

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www. quelphsa.ca

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• Worship Service: Sunday 10:30 am

• Sunday School: 10:30 am (Age 2 to Grade 6) Please check the website for

more information.

#### **SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST REFORM MOVEMENT CHURCH**

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email: dorin\_sdarm@yahoo.com

www.sdarm.ca Elder: Paul Gavric Pastor: Dorin Burca

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Website: www.stjamesang.ca

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ stjamesang

Sunday Services

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.

# **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

#### **ANNUAL MEETING FARNHAM CEMETERY BOARD**

The Annual General Meeting for Farnham Cemetery will be held Thursday, April **11, 2024,** 6:30 pm at the Calvary Baptist Church, 454 Arkell Road, Puslinch. Members of the public are invited to attend. Please contact Barb Jefferson, barbjefferson11@gmail.com, 519 6502.

#### **ANTIQUE & CRAFT SHOW**

Saturday, June 1st at Freelton Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. Do you deal in Antiques? Are you an Artist, a crafter? We are looking for vendors. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting opportunity please contact the Church Office at 905-659-3380 for details.

# **BADENOCH MUSIC NIGHT**

April 5th and May 3rd 7pm at The Badenoch Community Centre 4217 Watson Rd S Puslinch starting at 7pm. First Friday of each month. Everyone Welcome. Info. 519-763-9782.

#### **BADENOCH WELCOME WEDNESDAY**

Open to any and everyone. **Every Wednesday 1 till 4** at The Badenoch Community Centre 4217 Watson Rd S Puslinch. Come for a visit, you might be surprised at what we may be doing. Bring your ideas and stay for a cup of tea. Info. 519-763-9782.

## **CHILI SUPPER**

Friday, April 19th 5 -7pm. Adults \$20, children 5-12, \$10. Followed by our world renowned Hootenanny at 7pm. Come to enjoy a hot bowl of chili and some delicious dessert then stay for some amazing music. Arkell United Church, 600 Arkell Rd./ at Watson. Tel. 519-821-7623. www. arkellunitedchurch.ca

#### **COOKING WITH THE SAINTS**

Saturday, April 27th at 1 pm. Freelton Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd.,

Strabane. A fun afternoon of cooking; how to cook and learning about the Saints and then enjoying what we have cooked! Limit of 10 people. Contact Office at 905-659-3380 to register

#### **EUCHRE**

Friday April 5th and 19th at 7 pm. Freelton Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. For info, call Marie at 905-659-1021.

#### "IT'S SEW FUN" SEWING GROUP

Mondays at 10:30 am. Freelton Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. For info, call Linda at 289-962-6737.

### LINK UP WITH DUFF'S

Saturday May 25th in support of Mental Health Waterloo Wellington and Hospice Wellington. Enjoy 18 holes of golf or euchre plus a wonderful BBQ steak dinner. Live & silent auctions, 50/50 draw and door prizes. For tickets, information and donations please call 519-763-0309 or 519-767-2462. All are welcome!

#### **OPTIMIST CLUB OF PUSLINCH ANNUAL FISH FRY**

Thursday May 9th 5:00 TO 7:30 PM at the Puslinch Community Centre. Adults \$25.00, Children \$15.00 Tickets available optimistclubofpuslinch.com. at From a member, at the door or reserved at 519-821-4256. Takeout is available, please indicate that choice when purchasing. Get your tickets early to help us prepare for the event. Thank you

#### **PUSLINCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Annual meeting Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 at 6:30 pm. Aberfoyle Library, Brad Whitcombe Room. Featuring: "Geography of Puslinch".

#### **SENIORS TALK & LUNCH**

Wednesday, April 10th at 11:30 am at Freelton Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. Guest Speaker, Emily Upper from Waterdown Library will speak about Hamilton Libraries' Programs. Pre-register by calling 905-745-6273. Free Will offering for lunch.

## **STUDIES & STUDIOS EVENT**

Saturday, April 6th 2 pm. at Freelton Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. Chocolatier, David Doel will be demonstrating the art of make fine chocolates. Samples for tasting will be available and for order/purchasing. welcome! Please register by calling 905-869-7936.

#### **TECH TUESDAYS FOR SENIORS**

Tuesday April 2nd and 16th at 1 pm. Freelton Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. A time for people to gather, and learn more about Technology. Contact Church Office at 905-659-3380 to register.

# WHEEL OF FITNESS

Freelton Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. Thursdays at 10 "Flamborough Connects" Trained am. Instructor. Pre-registration required, call 905-689-7880 or email admin@ flamboroughconnects.ca.

# Inside the Back Page . . .



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# Community Announcement

# BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF

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.bbbsq.ca.

#### **BOOKING AGENTS**

#### **ARKELL UNITED CHURCH**

Contact Peg Lawson at 519-763-8883 or email schurinklawson@rogers.com. or http://www.arkellunitedchurch.ca

#### **BADENOCH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Inquiries call Ami DeVries at 226-979-0355.

#### **DUFF'S CHURCH**

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

# FREELTON STRABANE UNITED CHURCH

1565 Brock Rd. (Brock Rd & 8th Conc W), Strabane, ON. Church Office at 905-659-3380.

# HISTORIC ELLIS PIONEER CHAPEL

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# OPTIMIST RECREATION CENTRE AND PUSLINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Call 519-763-1226 or email services@puslinch.ca

### **CROWN CEMETERY PUSLINCH**

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

# **EarlyON PLAYTIME**

Is a free drop-in program for parents and caregivers with children birth to 6 years. It runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays at

the Puslinch Community Centre from 9:30-11:30am. Check the EarlyON Guelph Facebook page for up-to-date cancellations.

#### **FREELTON LIONS CLUB**

Are looking for new members and volunteers men and women for our club. We sponsored a number of charities over the years. If you are interested in helping or joining please contact Jim Munday at 905-921-0095 or email jkmunday@bell.net

### 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 this resource for the next generation of conservationists, join us. For more information <a href="https://www.friendsofmillcreek.org">https://www.friendsofmillcreek.org</a>.

#### 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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

# PUSLINCH LOAN CUPBOARD HOME HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT SERVICE

is located in Duff's Presbyterian Church.

For assistance call:

Gary Will 519-820-7832
Fred Law 519-767-2462
Dianne Hersey 519-824-6304
Alan Fairweather 519-824-5726
Jen Deter 519-837-5913

# 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.

#### WHISTLE STOP PRESCHOOL

Licensed Preschool Program for Children 2.5 - 5 years. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9:00am-11:30am at the Puslinch Community Centre. For more information visit our website whistlestoppreschool.com or Contact Sandra Gunson 519-239-9878 or email whistlestopteacher@gmail.com.

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