

# Puslinch Pioneer

Honouring The Past. Embracing The Future.

Produced by volunteers since 1975

Vol. 49, Issue 5 December 2024/January 2025

## The spirit of the season

By Anne Day

While many celebrate this season – be it Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Yule, Epiphany, for some families, it's not the season to be jolly.

visit a senior, or making cookies for someone who is housebound.

Maybe there is someone you've lost touch with, why not reach out and call. You will make their day, just knowing that someone cares.



Perhaps they've lost a loved one and are remembering times past when they were all together or someone within their family has a terminal illness. Maybe it's the heartfelt chaos of wading through a messy divorce and the family is split.

And then there is just the cost of the holiday season. Families are often struggling day to day to cover expenses, never mind buying gifts for their children.

We also have an epidemic of loneliness, with people feeling isolated and alone.

Now that I've totally depressed you, the good news is we can help, we can make a difference. As a community, family and individuals we all have it in our power to step up, step forward and do something for someone else this season.

It doesn't have to be a big thing, perhaps just popping in to



Our gifts to each other don't have to be expensive or exotic. Practical items like grocery cards to help offset increasing food costs.

It's also an opportunity to teach our children about kindness and giving back. I remember when my daughters were young, we purchased a goat through World Vision. They were thrilled that they were making a difference in the lives of other children far away.

Closer to home there are plenty of good causes that would welcome your support – be it financial or through volunteering.

When we fill our lives with the true spirit of the season, we not only make a difference, but it's a gift to ourselves as well as others.

# Editorial

There is a distinct theme in this issue of the *Pioneer*, from our cover article to the different charities and causes that we are highlighting and encouraging you to support.

While we recognize that “charity begins at home” and many are struggling to make ends meet, there are still ways we can support each other.


We thank Mayor Seeley for his update and appreciate the work of the Council, especially in looking out for the best interest of the Township.

As someone who doesn’t have a green thumb, the article on managing your indoor plants is insightful – I fall into the “overwatering” category. Hopefully you learn more too.

This is the December/January issue, so may we be the first to wish everyone a happy New Year. 2025 marks the 175th anniversary of the Township of Puslinch, a community we can be proud of.

Our thanks to all the volunteers, the writers and the advertisers, without whom we would not be able to publish the *Puslinch Pioneer*.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.



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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### COMMUNITY



- Message from the Mayor.....Page 9
- Trees for Tots.....Page 15
- International Women’s Day.....Page 23



### NATURE

- Ask the expert.....Page 24



### FOOD

- Cook’s Corner.....Page 25

## Our Mission

The *Puslinch Pioneer* is a monthly publication produced by local volunteers to provide an authentic source of local information within the community events and groups.

### Publishing Policy

The *Puslinch Pioneer* does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed in articles or Letters to the Editor.

We reserve the right to edit articles or to refuse items and advertisements submitted that are deemed inappropriate, racist or promoting hate.

### Deadline

Unless otherwise stated, the deadline for submissions is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month. Next deadline is **Friday, January 10th, 2025**

### Letter to editor

Letters to the editor should include phone number and articles should be submitted by email to [editorpuslinchpioneer@gmail.com](mailto:editorpuslinchpioneer@gmail.com)

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

[www.puslinchpioneer.com](http://www.puslinchpioneer.com)

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# Council Clips

## Lower Speed Limits:

New speed limits proposed for 60 percent of Puslinch roads and a speed camera in Aberfoyle.

## Licensed Day Care:

County working with Township on getting a childcare centre that would offer 64 spaces in Puslinch. Without land to build facility, Puslinch continues to lack licensed care.

## Highway 6 Spill Site Groundwater Contamination:

Council considers involving Ombudsman on how several ministries handled local groundwater contamination and its impact summer 2023 in the hamlet of Puslinch.

Updated report has determined a chemical spill has caused smelly water.

## Hwy 6/Concession 1:

Council proposes to close Concession 1 where it intersects Highway 6 to improve traffic flow and safety. Drivers would take Leslie Road intersection.

## Puslinch Soccer Club:

Shed at Badenoch Soccer Field destroyed by fire along with all of soccer club's equipment contained in shed.

## 6678 Wellington Road 34:

Environmental Compliance Approval issued for a waste disposal site to be used for processing of excess soil including liquid soil.

## Neighbourhood Safety:

Council direct staff to organize an information session hosted by the OPP on the issue of neighbourhood safety and be open to the general public.

## Seniors Advisory Committee:

Engagement report be received and staff to report on option of rebranding the Recreation Committee to include a wellness and mental health mandate geared towards seniors.

## Full-Time Employee:

Staff directed to include funding a new position dedicated to committee coordination, subject to Council's final approval during budget process.

## Potential Tunnel under the 401:

Staff directed to bring a draft motion regarding the Premier's

announcement of conducting a feasibility study for a potential tunnel under Hwy 401.

## Youth Advisory Committee:

Committee request Council consider a budget item to sponsor a start-up youth tennis program.

## New Horizons for Seniors Program/Grant:

A federal grant designed specifically for initiatives led by seniors, for seniors, in their communities; available to community recreational groups.

## Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative:

Helps minority groups start and grow businesses in the agri-food sector.

## Boreham Park Tree Planting:

Township to order 100 trees from Green Legacy Program and to organize Tree Planting Ceremony with Aberfoyle Public School and Youth Advisory Committee.

## Heritage Plaque Program:

Staff to limit 10 plaques per year and consider properties along the streetscape in the downtown areas of Morriston, Aberfoyle and Arkell be prioritized.

## Killean School Bell Cairn:

Heritage Committee recommend that bell be used as a centerpiece of a commemorative cairn located at the PCC grounds and provide comments with respect to design.

# Blue Triton leaving

It was announced on November 11 that Blue Triton is winding down its operations in Ontario.

Mayor Seeley said "Blue Triton was a great corporate citizen, contributed to our local community groups and the Township. They were the 3rd highest tax payer in Wellington County employing approximately 200 people.

The loss of those jobs is a terrible situation for many families. Wellington County Economic Development department is in touch with Blue Triton to offer assistance to the affected employees."



**TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH**  
**(519) 763-1226**

## Council and Committee Meetings **(519) 763-1226**

Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting:  
December 2nd at 1pm  
Youth Advisory Committee Meeting:  
December 2nd at 6pm  
Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting:  
December 3rd at 7pm  
Committee of Adjustment and Planning and Development Advisory Committee Meeting: December 10th at 7pm  
Council Meeting: December 18th at 10am  
Public Information Meeting: December 18th at 7pm  
Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting:  
January 13th at 1pm  
Joint Youth Advisory Committee and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting:  
January 13th at 6pm  
Committee of Adjustment and Planning and Development Advisory Committee Meeting: January 14th at 7pm  
Council Meeting - Updated Capital and Operating Budget: January 15th at 10am  
Council Meeting: January 22nd at 1am  
Proposed Budget Public Information Meeting: January 22nd 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](http://www.wellington.ca/Library).

## Optimist Recreation Centre

### Drop-In Gym Times

The Township is now offering no-charge 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.

The Optimist Recreation Centre Rink will be closed as of November 1, 2024, at which time facility staff will begin preparing the surface for the 2024/2025 ice skating season. To view our facility calendar, and our 2024/2025 Skating Schedule, please visit our Community Facilities page <https://puslinch.ca/culture-recreation/community-facilities/> or email [services@puslinch.ca](mailto:services@puslinch.ca).

Looking for a facility to host indoor recreation activities? Consider renting the Optimist Recreation Centre Gymnasium. To submit a rental request for the Optimist Recreation Centre gymnasium or rink, please complete the online facility rental request form at <https://puslinch.ca/forms/rental-request-form/>.

## Historical Society Archives

Saturdays 12 noon - 3 pm or for appointment email [ardyne.farm@sympatico.ca](mailto: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)



# Family Activity

By Julia Preston



December and January are times of celebration. We mark the end of another year and beginning of the next. Take a minute to celebrate yourself and all of the things you have done this year.

Simple accomplishments like spending time with family and friends, being outside, and enjoying nature bring meaning to our daily lives. Celebrate the special moments, big and small.

## Celebrate

The first day of winter, the last and first days of the years, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Yule, Epiphany. Whatever you celebrate, have part of your festivities outside. Mark the solstice with a bonfire, decorate a tree with treats for the birds and squirrels, or have an outdoor sing-a-long.

## Hike of the month

Light is a feature of many of the celebrations this time of year. But daylight can feel fleeting. Grab a lantern or a flashlight and go for a hike.

As you walk, reflect on some of the highlights of the past year or what

you're most looking forward to in 2025. Celebrate everything that has happened and everything that is to come.

I wish you all the best during this special season.

## Holiday Market at Crieff Hills

Come for festive holiday shopping and find a range of hand-made items in our barrier-free schoolhouse, all from local vendors.

Our own honey, maple syrup, seeds and special once-a-year items will be available for sale, too.

Be sure to set aside time to go for a walk to visit the animals or hike one of our wooded trails before or after you shop.

Sunday December 8 from 10 am to 2pm

For more information contact Scott [events@crieffhills.com](mailto:events@crieffhills.com) or (519) 824-7898.

## Historic Holiday On-Farm Dinner

Begin the evening at dusk (5:15 pm) and carry your lantern on a guided holiday walking tour.

Visit three of our historic buildings: the Prophet House log cabin (1845), the old barn (1840) and Dove House (1864).

Each will be beautifully decorated for Christmas with greenery and flowers from our farm, with a few seasonal morsels along the way.

The final stop is at 6:30 in the stone schoolhouse, where Chef Matthew will offer a festive 4-course holiday meal made with ingredients grown and foraged on our property.

Friday December 13th at 5:15pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm.

\$95 per person includes walking tour, snacks, four course plated meal and one glass of local wine or beer per person.

Tickets available through Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/historic-holiday-on-farm-dinner-tickets-1044229036157>

\*Guests may choose to walk or drive their own vehicle to each location.

## Against Traffick

Much has been written of late about the prevalence of human traffickling too close to Puslinch.

As a result, the Eradicating Human Trafficking Committee of the Rotary Clubs in Guelph has launched a quarterly newsletter, *Against Traffick*, to provide information, updates and resources.

The first issue went out in November, and the next one will be in February.

If you wish to receive a copy, email [cwomens.admin@gmail.com](mailto:cwomens.admin@gmail.com) and you will be added to the electronic list.



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## Just one complaint...



And Mary Rife has had to close down her bike repair service.

Someone complained to Guelph's By Law Enforcement that she was intervening three bylaws.

A resident of Arkell, who we have profiled in the past, Mary has been fixing

bikes for the past 14 years.

It's not a business, but an enterprise through which she donates all the funds to charity.

Last year alone she raised \$25,000 through her endeavours and repaired over 299 bikes.

She has applied for a minor variance so she can continue her service.

Stay tuned and we will let you know the outcome.

**PS.** Mary Rife gets to continue her bike repair hobby and is allowed to file an application to get the \$1,900 refunded that she'd paid for the by-law variance. The City received over 120 letters of support.

## Great Stocking Stuffer

Looking for a great stocking stuffer that supports those facing food insecurity?



Look no further with Souper Heroes – a tasty fundraiser of the SEED. Also makes a great hostess gift.

The SEED Warehouse, based in Guelph, accepts deliveries of food donated by Second Harvest and farmers locally and then distributes it to other agencies serving food.

At the SEED kitchen, leftover food is transformed into edible meals for others.

Souper Heroes sells for \$7 and can be ordered through

<https://theseedguelph.ca/what-we-do/souper-heroes/>

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# THE PUSLINCH PROFILE FEATURES

**Impact Bridges Group Inc.**

**Mission:** Work together to maximize the net social benefits of community development programs



✉ info@impactbridgesgroup.com  
 💬 impactbridgesgroup.com  
 📞 416-558-1954

Impact Bridges Group (IBG) is a social enterprise with a powerful vision: for all countries to have adequate resources to provide essential social services. What sets IBG apart is its commitment to financial sustainability as all profits go directly back into the mission of creating social outcomes. The organization's journey began with a groundbreaking project led by Dr. Warren, a naturopathic doctor, who first introduced selenium supplements to women in Kenya suffering from HIV/AIDS. The success of this initiative led to a similar clinical trial in Rwanda, which ultimately published positive findings in the Journal AIDS in 2013. This success laid the foundation for IBG's expanded work addressing diverse social challenges worldwide, from public health to economic development.

Today, IBG continues to collaborate with universities, governments, and organizations across the globe, while staying deeply rooted in its local community. Operating from Puslinch, IBG not only strengthens the local economy but also contributes to a healthier environment by reducing sprawl and pollution. The organization partners with local service providers who share its commitment to using evidence-based approaches to tackle social challenges. Through this focused, community-driven model, Impact Bridges Group demonstrates how local actions can create global impact, fostering thriving communities that benefit everyone involved.

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Taylor Young

# Adopt a family



The Adopt-A-Family Program of the Children's Foundation connects families who need support during the holiday season with donors who give the gift of hope and joy by shopping for tangible gifts and grocery-needs cards.

Families are referred to the program by social-community agencies in Guelph and Wellington County.

While Adopt-A-Family was originally a Christmas holiday program, it is open to families of all backgrounds and traditions to meet their needs and wishes.

With the jolly determination of our dedicated volunteers, staff, community workers, and donors,

we bring hope and joy home for the holidays for children, youth, and families in the community!

The **Adopt-A-Family** team of elves is in full swing with nearly **1,300 families** already referred by social-community agencies to receive support this holiday season.

Thank you so much for giving the gift of hope and joy to children and their families in the past through Adopt-A-Family.

We could not meet the growing need in our community without special donors like you and we hope you'll consider helping us again this year?

Right now, we have 495 families waiting to be 'matched'!

Donors can shop and support a 'matched' family or independent youth, or you can make a cash donation that we can use to purchase gift and grocery cards. Click below <https://www.childrensfoundation.org/what-we-do/adopt-a-family> to learn more, sign-up now to be 'matched', or make a cash donation.

# Thank you


By Anne Day

The Winter Clothing Collection for the Clothing Closet was a huge success, with over 100 people now benefitting and keeping warm over the winter months.

This campaign of the Rotary Club of Guelph Trillium, now in its third year, had four drop-off locations across the city – Guelph Public Library, K Dry Cleaning, Sealy Karate Centre and the Original Home Furniture Store.

Our thanks to these organizations for lending their space for the collection bins.

Located at New Life Church, 400 Victoria Road N, Guelph, The Clothing Closet provides free clothing items and is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9-2.30 and on Thursday at 9.30-12.00 and 5.00-6.30.



TOWNSHIP OF  
**PUSLINCH**  
EST. 1850

## Township of Puslinch Holiday Closure

Please note that the Township of Puslinch will be closed as of 12pm on December 24, 2024 and will reopen for regular business hours on January 2, 2025 at 9am.

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




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# Message from the Mayor



I hope this update finds you well. I'd like to take a moment to share updates on both the progress we've made and the challenges we continue to face in our Township.

While we have much to be proud of, there are also important issues we must address together as a community.

## **Puslinch Community Centre**

The renovations to the PCC grounds are nearly complete, and it's exciting to see the transformation. While there has been some debate about the new islands installed, I've received overwhelmingly positive feedback about the facility overall. The newly lit soccer field is now open, as are the updated tennis courts.

It's incredibly rewarding to drive by and see the facility buzzing with activity—children enjoying the new play structure, as well as folks playing soccer, tennis, and baseball. The front parking lot has also been repaved, making access easier for all. As of now, the light standards are still to be installed, but they are expected to go up soon!!

## **Boreham Park**

In addition to the PCC, I'm pleased to announce that Boreham Park, located on Boreham Dr. in Arkell, is

also complete. This park features a new play structure similar to the one at the PCC, along with shade shelter areas, a basketball court, and plenty of green space for everyone to enjoy. I encourage you to visit and make the most of this wonderful community resource.

## **Aggregate**

The Auditor General's "*Value for Money Audit: Management of Aggregate Resources*," released in December 2023, highlighted significant concerns regarding the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and their lack of enforcement in the aggregate industry.

Puslinch Council has had firsthand experience with these issues, submitting official concerns about site plan compliance, including 50 specific violations. To date, the MNR has not addressed these concerns, although they have indicated that our feedback will inform their future inspections.

In addition to ongoing non-compliance, we're also seeing non-aggregate activities occurring within provincially licensed aggregate operations in Puslinch.

These activities, which have not been approved, continue to be permitted despite our repeated requests for enforcement. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has stated that the unapproved use is of "significant importance to Ontario," overriding local concerns.

One of the most troubling developments is the MNR's approval of the first-ever aquaculture operation within an active aggregate site in Puslinch. This approval was granted without any consultation with our Municipality.

The operator, having surrendered most of their aggregate license, has claimed that there is still usable resource left at the site—though it is now primarily used to support fish farming.

This is particularly concerning given that this aquaculture operation is located at a site nearly exhausted of aggregate resources, and it seems the

operator is exploiting the protections offered by the Aggregate Resources Act to continue operations.

What's even more troubling is the Province's apparent stance that once an aggregate license is issued, any activity deemed "important to Ontario" can be accommodated within the licensed area—without public input or local municipal review.

This approach exposes our community's drinking water aquifers to potential risks, as aggregate operators are increasingly using these areas for non-aggregate purposes, with the MNR facilitating their actions. Given the findings in the Auditor General's report, how can we have any confidence that the Province will prioritize the safety of our drinking water over the profits of the aggregate industry?

## **Budget**

Puslinch Council has officially begun the budget process for 2025. We welcome your input and encourage you to share your comments and suggestions regarding the upcoming budget. The final budget will be adopted in late February or early March.

## **Excess soil/fill**

The Township has implemented a new fill by-law in response to the growing demand for soil disposal, particularly given our proximity to rapidly expanding urban centres. If you plan to import fill onto your property, please contact the Municipal Office at 519-763-1226 for guidance.

Be cautious, as some individuals may make misleading claims to encourage you to allow fill on your property. These representations may not always be accurate.

Before accepting any fill, we strongly advise you to check with the Township to ensure the information is correct. Remember, once fill is placed on your land, you are responsible for it.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

James Seeley



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## Thoughts on Peace

Two points bear emphasizing. . . . One is that the abolition of war is not simply a matter of signing treaties and protocols; it is a complex task requiring a new level of commitment to resolving issues not customarily associated with the pursuit of peace. Based on political agreements alone, the idea of collective security is a chimera. The other point is that the primary challenge in dealing with issues of peace is to raise the context to the level of principle, as distinct from pure pragmatism. For, in essence, peace stems from an inner state supported by a spiritual or moral attitude, and it is chiefly in evoking this attitude that the possibility of enduring solutions can be found.

from the Bahá'í writings  
[bahaisofpuslinch.ca](http://bahaisofpuslinch.ca)

4/10

# HYDRATING PUSLINCH...



**ONE SIP AT A TIME.**

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# High Histamine?

By Dr Laura M. Brown, ND

Histamine release is part of the immune response to a foreign protein.

Symptoms are usually confined to one area of the body and include itchy skin, low blood pressure, increased heart rate, changes in blood vessel wall permeability, flushing, pain, and difficulty breathing.

Some of these bodily changes result in sneezing, nasal congestion and runny nose.

If the immune reaction is severe, it causes anaphylaxis, which is a body wide, life threatening over production of histamine.

Some people don't have enough of the enzyme needed to break down histamine and clear it out the body. This enzyme is called diamine oxidase (DAO).

DAO is produced in the wall of the intestine so gut health can play a big role in how much is produced.

Overgrowth of some bacteria and yeast in the gut may lead to higher histamine production.

Gut healing protocols to remove or rebalance the microbiome, repair the gut lining and re-inoculate with healthy bacteria are often helpful in reduction of histamine.

Many women find histamine intolerance becomes very pronounced when estrogen levels are high, as it stimulates histamine.

Botanical hormone modulators may be of assistance.

Research also shows there might well be a crossover with some long COVID cases whereby mast cells have gone into overdrive and histamine is exceptionally high.

Correction of nutrient deficiencies may provide some relief.

Certain foods and drinks – such as caffeine and wine – are DAO blockers and so prevent it from doing its job.

Histamine levels rise in foods as they ripen or age, so it's important to eat foods which are as fresh as possible.

The foods that contain high histamine levels are also ones that have been altered through preservation or processing.

Antihistamine medications don't actually remove histamine – they just block the receptors.

Over time, the body will actually pump out more histamine as it will be tricked into thinking it's not making enough.

Intense exercise can produce more histamine and aggravate an already high histamine level.

Stress management plays a role as does mindful eating, and consider doing gentle movement such as walking, swimming, yoga or Pilates to aid lymphatic flow and detoxification.

*This article is for information purposes only and is not medical advice.*

*If you have specific questions or need more details on any aspect, feel free to ask [drlaura@southendguelph.ca](mailto:drlaura@southendguelph.ca)*

# Messiah performance



As an antidote to the December "rush" The Guelph Chamber Choir invites you to join them in the beautiful surroundings of the Guelph Basilica for an evening of Handel's "Messiah" with baroque orchestra and a stellar lineup of soloists.

We welcome back our first Neufeld Emerging Artist, Autumn Debassige, as our Alto soloist; long-time friend of GCC, Daniel Lichti singing Bass; the return of Soprano Elizabeth Lepock; and rising star, Tenor soloist, Wesley Harrison. We sold out the Basilica last year.

Get your tickets early!

Basilica of Our Lady, Guelph  
28 Norfolk St, Guelph

December 20, 7.30pm

Tickets range from \$45/\$40 for adults/seniors and \$15/\$10 for young adult/youth.

To purchase tickets, go to [www.guelphchamberchoir.ca](http://www.guelphchamberchoir.ca)



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## A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM SOLID WASTE SERVICES

# Waste Facility and Collection Holiday Changes

### CLOSURES

All waste facilities scheduled to be open on Tuesday, December 24, and Tuesday December 31, will close at 2:00 pm.

All County of Wellington waste facilities will be closed on Wednesday, December 25, Thursday December 26, and Wednesday, January 1.

### CURBSIDE COLLECTION

Regular scheduled collection will take place on Thursday, December 26.

All curbside collection scheduled for Wednesday, January 1 will be postponed to Saturday, January 4.

### Natural Tree Collection

Natural trees will be collected in urban areas only during the week of **January 6**. Please have trees out by **7:00 am** on **Monday**. However, please note it may not be collected until later that week. We thank you for your patience.

Natural trees will be accepted free of charge at all County waste facilities **December 27 to January 31** during regular operating hours.

A number of service clubs and organizations will also be providing curbside collection of natural Christmas trees. These collections occur in various locations across the County.

Please visit [wellington.ca/sws-dropoff](https://www.wellington.ca/sws-dropoff) for information on these programmes.



[www.wellington.ca/sws](https://www.wellington.ca/sws) | 519.837.2601 | 1.866.899.0248

Alternate formats available upon request.

<sup>OM</sup> Official Mark of The Corporation of the County of Wellington





# The boomers went to high school

By Marjorie Clark

About 1960, the Puslinch Boomers caught the buses to "High School", as we called secondary school then, in Guelph, where they encountered unfamiliar things.

Like lockers and combination locks, moving about in single file, to many different classrooms and teachers and silly looking gym outfits, 1920's vintage, and mounds of homework.

In primary school, everything had been supplied by the local school board.

In high school or secondary school, parents or students themselves bought both notebooks and textbooks, as well as locks and gym suits, a considerable expense if a family had several children in school.

No institution in our society was prepared for the onslaught of that large number of first wave Boomers.

On the buses to High School, some students sat three in a seat, meaning

that the inner two were crushed against the window, while the third, perched on a slice of the edge, and while cradling books on her knee, hung over the aisle.

It would have been more comfortable to stand and was definitely unsafe.

Most of us survived, at least for a few years. Pupils were allowed to leave school at age 16, and some did.

Some completed the requirements for teaching or nursing. A very few continued to university. Most launched from secondary school into the world of work.

Today, all of my core group at Morriston, Kaye Stewart, Helen Crow, Ken Macpherson and Lorraine Tanner have gone from this physical world, leaving me only.

## Solstice Lantern Labyrinth Walk

Mark the longest night of the year with a quiet candlelight experience.

When you arrive, you will be given a brief introduction to the labyrinth and



a lantern to carry.

Then follow the path lit by vintage kerosene lanterns up to the labyrinth for a meditative walk at your own pace.

This is the perfect time to consider Advent themes of light and darkness, or mark the end of the old year and beginning of the new.

Because it is all outdoors, be sure to dress for the weather. Sturdy footwear is also recommended.

Saturday December 21 from 5:00-7:00 pm

Parking in the large Conference Hall parking lot.

No registration required.

Suggested donation \$10.00 per person, which can be offered through cash or e-transfer accounting[at]crieffhills.com

# DISCOVERING PUSLINCH

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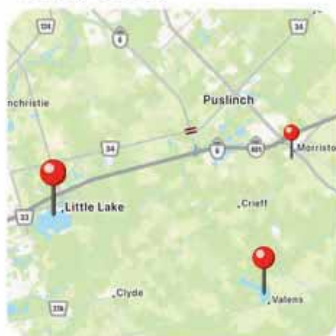
As winter descends, I am taken back to the joy of skating on our local ponds with my family.

There's nothing quite like the feeling of gliding across the ice, surrounded by laughter and the chilly air.

We would often gather for pick-up hockey games, where neighbours joined in for some friendly competition and the pond became a hub of activity until toes and hands were too cold to continue. A thermos of hot chocolate managed to take that chill away.

My favourite local ponds for skating are **Morrison Pond, Little Lake and Valens Lake.**

Before stepping onto the ice, make sure to check its thickness and stick to safe areas. **Safety First.**



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## Trees for Tots



Trees for Tots is a tree collection service in Guelph, the Township of Puslinch, and the Village of Rockwood.

For a suggested minimum contribution of \$15, you can register your tree to be collected by one of our volunteers.

Trees are collected, chipped, and returned to nature through walking trails, and other community projects.

Thanks to incredible community support, Trees for Tots 2024 collected over 3,600 and over \$93,000!

Tax receipts are issued for \$10 less than the full amount paid due to the CRA's guidelines regarding the "advantage" or "benefit" associated.

In the case of our tree pickup service, the CRA considers the tree collection as an advantage folks receive in relation to their donation. Example: A \$30 payment will receive a \$20 donation tax receipt.

This advantage is valued at \$10, which aligns with the fee charged by the City of Guelph for residents dropping off their trees at the city waste facility.

Trees for Tots was selected as the recipient for the Environment Award through the 2023 GuelphToday Community Builder Awards!

The Environment Award is presented to an organization who has had a positive impact on our environment.

Thank you to our community, sponsors, volunteers and partners for helping us.

To learn more, check the website or [treesfortots@childrensfoundation.org](mailto:treesfortots@childrensfoundation.org).

## Rural Water Program

The County of Wellington is pleased to announce renewed financial support for the Wellington Rural Water Quality Program (RWQP) for another five years.

The announcement comes as the County and the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) launch a digital marketing campaign that celebrates 25 years of RWQP projects and successes.

The Wellington RWQP provides financial and technical assistance to Wellington County farmers and rural landowners who are implementing projects to improve and protect water quality throughout the area.

The program, which is funded by the County and administered by the Grand River Conservation Authority, was originally launched in 1999 after recognizing the many environmental and economic benefits that come from supporting voluntary action in the agriculture community.

Over the past 25 years, the Wellington RWQP has awarded \$11 million in grants, supporting nearly 4,000 projects.

An additional \$19 million in landowner investments has also been leveraged, for a total investment of \$30 million towards watershed improvement projects in the region.

Wellington RWQP successes include:

- **Planting 1 million trees**, including 250 km of windbreaks and 76 km of stream and wetland buffers.
- **Decommissioning 622 old water wells** and upgrading 658 wells to protect groundwater.
- **Completing 115 fencing projects to help restrict livestock from watercourses**, helping to create buffers and stabilize banks along 50 km of water.
- **Supporting 236 farms introduce cover crops to their rotation**, protecting 14,500 acres of cropland from erosion over the winter.
- **Improving 206 manure storage facilities** to manage nutrients effectively and avoid winter spreading.

The Wellington RWQP's long standing grant program has allowed the Grand River, Credit Valley, Maitland Valley, Saugeen, Halton, and the Hamilton Conservation Authorities to work directly with farmers to meet the long-term needs and goals of their properties.

To learn more about the Wellington RWQP or inquire about funding to start a project, please contact your local Conservation Authority or visit [www.wellington.ca/rwqp](http://www.wellington.ca/rwqp).

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# What's on at the River Run Centre?

December 13 @ 7.30pm



Join **The Next Generation Leahy** for a seasonal celebration.

The group features six accomplished multi-instrumentalists aged 14-22, already renowned for their high-energy performances delivering the infectious Celtic spirit that earlier generations have come to associate with the Leahy heritage.

This performance delivers beautiful music and family favourites with fiddle, accordion, piano, and French-Canadian step-dancing woven together in song.

December 14 @ 7pm



**Boreal's Songs for a Snowy Season**

Experience the magical, musical collaboration of three award-winning soloists: Tannis Slimmon, Katherine Wheatley, and Angie Nussey play together as the multi-talented trio, Boreal.

Their annual celebration of wintertime

classics and originals is a beloved favourite where families and friends gather.

Experience the warmth of the winter season through heartwarming melodies, spellbinding harmonies, and the honesty of storytelling through song.

December 22 @ 2.00pm and 7.00pm



**A very Charlie Brown Christmas**

This heartwarming performance features music from the album performed by Adam Bowman on drums, Duncan Wilson on piano, and Tyler Wagler on bass. The jazz trio is accompanied by a children's choir, The Kingsbury Music Singers.

January 12 @ 2.00pm



**Ballet Jorgen – The Sleeping Beauty**

Renowned for breathtaking choreography, stunning costumes, and overall exemplary productions, Ballet Jørgen delivers a familiar tale with breathtaking beauty.

The company travels across Canada, bringing professional productions and dance education to even remote

areas. In Guelph, local students perform as supporting cast.

To order tickets – go to - [www.riverrun.ca](http://www.riverrun.ca)

# Aberfoyle Agricultural Society update

By Joanne Holt

A very happy holiday season to members of the community and to our sponsors and donors.

We've crunched the numbers and we made it through this year again. It's amazing how much events actually cost.

The online survey really does help our committees to put together a better show.

We would like to invite you out to our board meeting held on third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm at the Puslinch Community Centre.

We have our annual meeting third Wednesday in January and if you are a member please come out and vote on our board for next year.

Come on out and bring your ideas as that's when we start planning.

As for now we are moving ahead with wrapping up another year of the Aberfoyle Fall Fair.

For inquiries, you can reach out to [Aberfoyleagriculturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:Aberfoyleagriculturalsociety@gmail.com)

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## Minus Whatever: Winter Break Camp



Monday, December 30, 9.00am - Friday, January 3, 4.00pm held at the Guelph Outdoor School, 733 Stone Road East, Guelph.

When the gifts and food has all been shared, relatives have returned home, and parents are headed back to work, and it's time for the kids to get some fresh air...at Guelph Outdoor School's Winter Weeklong *Minus Whatever*.

This is a four-day session. With Monday & Tuesday in 2024, and Thursday & Friday in 2025. No Camp on Wednesday, January 1st (New Year's Day)

This session is about getting out and having fun at the end of the holidays.

- Gathering each morning and greeting the sun in a snowy forest
- Being outside with friends, and making new ones
- Classic Core Routines of nature connection: Tracking animals, tending fire, making shelters, and
- Winter Wanders and Frozen River hikes...if the ice is thick enough.

*Minus Whatever* is timeless days in a community that knows that fun and adventure are to be had in all weather. Child-led, adult-supervised and supported.

Ages 4 - 14 with participants grouped according to age and stage

Sliding Scale Options available as always.

Check <https://www.theguelphoutdoorschool.com>

## National Giving Tuesday Support Hospice Wellington

The Kitchen Team at **Hospice Wellington** are excited to welcome you to this year's **National Giving Tuesday on December 3rd** to celebrate and encourage the meals that are created for the individuals and families in the Residence.

There are so many special things that the Kitchen Team does to make residents and family members feel welcome:

*That sweet lady in the kitchen said, I haven't seen you eating much, let me get you a bowl of soup.*

*It meant so much that the team put together our last anniversary dinner to share together.*

*That food was so great, I thought that my dad might keep visiting for breakfast every day!*

On Tuesday, December 3rd, YOU can be a Hospice Kitchen Champion for great and comforting meals.

You may drop off a Grocery Gift Card or a financial donation to our Lower Level and say hello ... or you can make a donation online, at

<https://hospicewellington.akaraisin.com/ui/GivingTuesday2024>

Friends have always made such a difference at Hospice Wellington.

Over 14 years ago, our friends at Barzotti Woodworking donated the beautiful kitchen at Hospice Wellington.

To commemorate the 14 years of amazing meals, Barzotti Woodworking will match the first \$14,000 raised, through grocery cards or financial donations!

Their business is creating the heart of the home for others, and they understand how much the kitchen efforts matter here!

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# Puslinch Branch, Wellington County Library

For current hours and services, please call the Puslinch Branch at 519.763.8026 or visit us online at [www.wellington.ca/Library](http://www.wellington.ca/Library).

## Make and Take - Book Page Ornament (All Ages)

Drop by and get creative with provided art and craft supplies. Drop in. December 3 to 24, during branch hours

## Scavenger Hunt - Building Snowmen (All Ages)

Dig through the stacks, wander past the computers, and keep an eye out for what might be hiding in the library! Drop in. December 3 to 31, during branch hours

## Creative Kids (Kids/Tweens)

Get crafty and learn new things with DIY, maker, and other hands-on activities just for kids. Please register. Wednesday, December 4 and 18 from 3:00 - 3:45 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. Adult accompaniment is required. Please register. Thursdays, December 5-19, 11 - 11:45 am

## Cricut Creations - Scandinavian

### Holiday Tree (Teens/Adults)

Create a holiday tree using a heat transfer design and decorative hand stitching. All material supplied. Please register. Thursday, December 5 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, December 6 1-2:00 pm

## Scrabble Club (Adults)

Join us for casual word building entertainment! Drop in. Wednesday, December 11 1-3

## Dungeons and Dragons Club (Teens)

Join fellow fantasy fans to build characters and explore new worlds. Please register. Thursday, December 12 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm

## Book Club – Third Tuesday (Adults)

Meet with members of your community and join our discussion of books and ideas. Please register. Tuesday, December 17 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm

## 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](http://www.wellington.ca/JustForYou).

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

## Fiction

- Alder-Olsen, Jussi *Locked In*
- Battles, Brett *Stuart Woods' Golden Hour*
- Cook, Robin *Bellevue*
- Fisher, Tarryn *The Wrong Family*
- Kane, Darby *What the Wife Knew*
- Lovesey, Peter *Against the Grain*
- Pavesi, Alex *Ink Ribbon Red*
- Ryan, Renee *The Last Fashion House in Paris*

- Sanderson, B *Wind and Truth*
- Wolfe, Leslie *If I Go Missing*

## Non-Fiction

Balascio, April  
Raised by a Serial Killer: Discovering the Truth About My Father

Chernow, Ron. Mark Twain

Cowley, Robert  
The Killing Season: The Autumn of 1914, Ypres, and the Afternoon That Cost Germany the War

Hutchison, Patrick  
Cabin: Off the Grid Adventures with a Clueless Craftsman

Mangum, Lisa  
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The Cure for Women: Dr. Mary Putnam Jacobi and the Challenge to Victorian Medicine That Changed Women's Lives Forever

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Ingrained: The Making of a Craftsman Taste of Home Comfort Food Classics: 200+ Heartwarming Dishes and Handy Hints

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# International Women's Day



The theme for 2025 is *Accelerate Action* and our keynote speaker epitomizes what that means.

Jill Valentine's mission is to empower, educate and inspire individuals to lead deeply meaningful lives.

She is co-founder of UGO Impact, through which she leads groups to volunteer and enhance lives through service and travel abroad.

Her key initiatives—like the Seeds of Change in Tanzania and the Give and Grow Community—aim to foster self-discovery and a deeper appreciation for humanity, encouraging a more just and caring world.

She has led groups and summited Mount Kilimanjaro four times.

She will be sharing what she has learned through her humanitarian projects and how to take powerful accelerated action towards living a meaningful life."

The event will be held on March 5 at the Victoria Park East Golf Club, 1096 Victoria Road S, Guelph.

Tickets for the dinner are \$55 and will be available December 1.

Tickets for this event would make an ideal gift. Given Jill's message it would make a wonderful mother-daughter event.

For more information, go to Eventbrite through this link <http://bit.ly/3Z1rpVU>

# The gift of giving

Remember the goat or cow you could purchase through UNICEF? Along the same lines, you can now use the gift guide managed through Canada Helps, to make a meaningful contribution to a good cause.

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or enjoy a non-denominational holiday season, we have gift options that give back for every occasion!

From sponsoring a kitten to feeding a family, get a head start on your shopping. Skip the lines and wrapping, all while ensuring your gift won't end up in a landfill!

Select one of our new holiday eCards to accompany your gift.

Here's the link to check out the guide <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/gift-guide>

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<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">70+</p> <p style="margin: 0;">YEARS OF COMBINED EXPERIENCE</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">1000+</p> <p style="margin: 0;">TOTAL HOMES SOLD</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">\$600M+</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 8px;">SOLD IN REAL ESTATE</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Top 1%</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 8px;">OUT OF 20,000 ROYAL LEPAGE AGENTS</p>

## ASK THE EXPERT

### Matchmaking Houseplants

By K. Alwan

We all know how wonderful and beneficial plants are. As we move into indoor gardening season, you may be wringing your hands in despair thinking of your suffering collection of houseplants.

If you've ever called yourself a "black thumb" – someone who just can't seem to keep indoor plants alive – you're not alone.

Many people believe that they lack some sort of "natural talent" for gardening. The truth is that most plant struggles come down to a few basic principles of plant care, particularly understanding plant physiology.

In fact, the key to a thriving indoor garden is about choosing plants that match your specific living conditions AND personality (how often do you want to remember to water something?).

#### The Common Culprits of Houseplant Failures

There are two main reasons why houseplants fail: too much water or not enough light. Often, it's a combination of both. If your plants are yellowing or turning mushy, it's likely because you're overwatering them – too much water paired with insufficient light is a recipe for root-rot.

On the other hand, if your plants are crispy, dry and shrivelled, you're likely underwatering them, or they might be situated in the wrong spots and



getting too much direct sunlight.

The solution? Right plant for the right place.

#### Plants for Low Light and Forgetful Waterers

If you've been known to leave a plant on the windowsill, forget about it for a week, and return to find it dry and crispy, don't be discouraged. There are plenty of hardy plants that thrive in neglect, especially when it comes to water and light.

Plants from arid regions, like cacti and succulents, are ideal for people who tend to underwater or forget to tend to their greenery. 'Succulent' plants are adapted to hot and/or dry conditions by holding water in their fleshy leaves, stems or roots. Keep them in bright light, letting the soil dry out completely between waterings, and then water thoroughly.

For less-than-ideal lighting, the ZZ plant (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*) is perfect for low-light conditions and requires very little water due to its fleshy, potato-like rhizomes.

Another popular choice is snake plants (*Dracaena trifasciata*, formerly *Sansevieria trifasciata*), which come in a variety of sizes and colours.

#### Plants for the Overwaterers

On the flip side, if you're the type who constantly worries that your plants are thirsty and end up drowning them with too much water, you may need plants that thrive in moist environments but still need the right balance of water and light.

Ferns, for example, love humidity and moisture, making them an excellent choice for people who tend to overwater but also have access to bright, indirect light. Of course, they still require proper drainage and shouldn't be kept in waterlogged soil.

Calatheas are another great option for those who tend to overwater. These beautiful plants, with their striking foliage and patterns, prefer consistent moisture in the soil and thrive in humid environments. They do well in medium to low light and are forgiving when it comes to watering. Some even fold their leaves up at night!

#### Know Your Home's Light

Ultimately, the most important factor when selecting houseplants is understanding your home's light conditions. Without enough light, plants may stretch towards the source, produce smaller and fewer leaves and be susceptible to pests and disease.

But even without sunny windows, you can still have a thriving indoor jungle by using affordable and attractive grow lights. The Garden Myths blog by Robert Pavlis provides some great resources and explanations on LEDs lights.

By understanding your home's lighting conditions and your own watering habits, you can find houseplants that not only survive but thrive. So embrace your inner plant matchmaker – you've got this!

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# Cook's Corner

By Barbara Paterson

*This seafood recipe is quick and easy to make and it's delicious.*

## Scallops Amandine



1 lb. fresh or frozen scallops  
Salt & pepper  
3 tbs. butter  
¼ cup slivered almonds  
2 tsp. lemon juice  
1 tbs. snipped parsley  
Hot cooked rice

1. Thaw scallops. Cut scallops into ½" thick slices if they are large or leave whole if using bay scallops. Season with salt and pepper.
2. In a skillet, melt half the butter. Add scallops; cook over medium-high heat no more than 5 minutes until done, stirring frequently. Remove to warm dish; keep warm.
3. In same skillet, melt remaining butter. Add almonds; toast until golden. Stir in lemon juice and pour contents over scallops. Sprinkle with parsley. Serve over hot cooked rice.

*This no-bake peppermint cheesecake is made from the flavours of the holiday season with a light, fluffy texture that's super smooth to eat.*

## No-Bake Peppermint Cheesecake



### For the Crust

1½ cups chocolate cookie crumbs  
4 tbs. butter, melted

### For the Filling

1 pint heavy whipping cream  
1 lb. cream cheese at room temperature  
1 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk  
1 cup peppermint candy, finely crushed, such as candy canes  
½ tsp. peppermint flavouring

1. Crush cookies. Add butter and mix until completely incorporated.
2. Press into a 9" springform pan, making sure to distribute the mixture evenly.
3. In a bowl, whip the cream until it holds a peak.
4. In another bowl, beat the cream cheese until smooth. Add the sweetened condensed milk and mix well until fully incorporated with no lumps of cream cheese.
5. Fold in half of the whipped cream to lighten, then fold in the remaining whipped cream thoroughly.
6. Stir in the crushed candy and pour the mixture into the prepared springform pan. Cover with plastic wrap and place in the freezer for at least 8 hours.
7. Remove from freezer 20 minutes before serving, slice and serve. Can garnish with more crushed candy or chocolate curls.

Makes 16 servings.

## Garden space for rent

Winterhill Farm and Garden has over 30,000 sq feet of organic growing space available for rent in 2025 in Rockwood.

The gardens sit on top of a hill on the south side of the farm, this offers great sunshine, drainage and amazing views.

Garden rental include water and waterlines and the use of some tools.

If you are looking for space to grow email [winterhillfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:winterhillfarm@yahoo.com) to book an appointment to visit the farm.

# 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](http://www.arkellunitedchurch.ca)  
Reverend John Adeyemi  
• Sunday Worship at 10 am.

## BAHA'I FAITH

[www.bahaisofpuslinch.ca](http://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 [lsapuslinch@gmail.com](mailto:lsapuslinch@gmail.com) for particulars of dates, times and locations.

## CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

454 Arkell Road, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0  
519-824-1161  
[www.calvaryguelph.com](http://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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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](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMKYAskvq1HdGsTiA7UQFsg).

## DUFF'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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319 Brock Rd. S & Hwy. 401,  
Puslinch, ON, NOB 2J0  
For Rental and Other Information  
519-763-1163 [office@duffschurch.ca](mailto:office@duffschurch.ca)  
[www.duffschurch.ca](http://www.duffschurch.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/duffschurch/](http://www.facebook.com/duffschurch/)  
Pastoral Leader: Rev. Lisa Dolson  
[revdolson@gmail.com](mailto:revdolson@gmail.com) 519-955-2158

## 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](http://www.ebenezeruc.ca) - Like us on Facebook  
Minister: Rev. Jeff Werner  
Music Director: John Zadro  
• Regular Sunday Worship, 11:00 am.

## HISTORIC ELLIS PIONEER CHAPEL

6705 Ellis Road, Puslinch, ON  
Email: [brendalaw@hotmail.ca](mailto:brendalaw@hotmail.ca)  
Ph. 519-767-2462

## FREELTON STRABANE UNITED CHURCH

*To live our discipleship with integrity and grace.*

1565 Brock Rd. (Brock Rd & 8th Conc W.), Strabane, ON L0R 1K0  
Church Office – 905-659-3380  
[www.freeltonstrabaneuc.ca](http://www.freeltonstrabaneuc.ca)  
Facebook: [freelton and strabane united church](https://www.facebook.com/freeltonandstrabaneunitedchurch)

Minister - Rev. Will Wheeler BA M. Div.  
• Sunday Worship at 10:30 am

## KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CRIEFF

7156 Concession 1, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0  
519-824-8757

[www.pccweb.ca/knox-crieff/](http://www.pccweb.ca/knox-crieff/)  
[www.facebook.com/knoxpresbyterianchurch,crieff](https://www.facebook.com/knoxpresbyterianchurchcrieff)

• Sunday Worship 9:30 am starting November 3rd

## MOUNT CARMEL-ZION UNITED CHURCH

in Morriston at the corner of Church & Victoria Streets, Morriston, ON N0B 2C0

Minister: Rev. Margaret Ruggles  
519-822-8610

[www.morristonunitedchurch.com](http://www.morristonunitedchurch.com)

Email: [morristonunitedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:morristonunitedchurch@gmail.com)

- Sunday Worship at 10:30 am.
- Sunday, December 1st - Advent I - Hope
- Sunday, December 8th - Advent II - Peace
- Sunday, December 15th - Advent III - Joy
- Sunday, December 22nd - Advent IV - Love

There will be no worship service on December 25th and 29th.

See you in 2025, Sunday January 5th.

- Sunday, December 8th, 2024 at 2:00 Stressed, Sad or Just Plain Feeling Blue? Blue Christmas Family Community Service All are Welcome! Refreshments after Service.

Monthly donations to Chalmers Community Services Centre for the month of December are kidney beans or baked beans and Peanut Butter. Pasta or brown rice, peanut butter for the month of January. Skim milk powder and toilet tissue is always needed as well, and all donations are greatly appreciated. Warm Socks would be a welcome contribution. Happy New Year!

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Fr. Arpee Urquico

Masses as follows:

- Saturday: 5:00 pm
- Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am.

## THE SALVATION ARMY GUELPH CITADEL

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[www.guelphsa.ca](http://www.guelphsa.ca)

Email: [GuelphSA.office@salvationary.ca](mailto:GuelphSA.office@salvationary.ca)

Majors Peter and Lee-Ann van Duinen

- 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

We welcome you!

3997 HWY 6, Puslinch ON, N0B 2J0

905-659-1229

email: [dorin\\_sdarm@yahoo.com](mailto:dorin_sdarm@yahoo.com)

[www.sdarm.ca](http://www.sdarm.ca)

Elder: Paul Gavric

Pastor: Dorin Burca

## ST. JAMES' ANGLICAN CHURCH

520 Ellis Rd. (beside Hespeler Arena, west of Townline Rd.) Hespeler - Cambridge, ON N3C 0E6

Rector Rev. Sharla Maliff

519-658-4547 or [rector@stjamesang.ca](mailto:rector@stjamesang.ca)

Honorary Priest: Rev'd John Phillips

Website: [www.stjamesang.ca](http://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 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.*

## ARKELL UNITED CHURCH SENIOR'S LUNCH

Arkell United Church, 600, Arkell Rd. at Watson is holding a Senior's Lunch on **Tuesday, November 12th** at 12 pm. Cover charge \$5.00.

## BADENOCH CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE.

Held at the Badenoch Community Centre, 4217 Watson road S. Puslinch. **Saturday, November 30th** 10am till 3pm and **Sunday, December 1st** 11am till 3pm. Save the date and bring a friend.

## BADENOCH MUSIC NIGHT

**Friday, December 6th and February 7th, 2025** 7 pm at the Badenoch Community Centre, 4217 Watson Rd. S, Puslinch. Everyone welcome! Please note there is **NO Music Night in January.**

## BADENOCH WELCOME WEDNESDAY

The Badenoch Community Centre is hosting Welcome Wednesdays each week from 1-4 pm. Please note the last one will be **December 18th** and resume **January 8th 2025.** For information call or text 519-763-9782.

## CALLING ALL KIDS

Looking for Something Fun to do on the **November 29th PA Day?** Join us for "CHRISTMAS ADVENTURES" **9am to 3pm** at Mount Carmel-Zion United Church, 22 Victoria Street Morriston. Crafts\*Stories\*Games\*Skits\*Musical Fun\*Cookie Decorating. **\*\*LUNCH PROVIDED\*\***

JK & up with Highschool students welcome to attend or be helpers for volunteer hours \$5 per child \$10 per family. Come have a Holly Jolly Time. Contact [morristonunitedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:morristonunitedchurch@gmail.com) for registration Forms.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT & COMMUNITY CAROL SING

**Sunday, December 1st** 7 pm at Freelon Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. Please join the Christmas Choir for an musical evening of seasonal & traditional Christmas presentations and carol singing for all! Light refreshments to follow. Free Will offering.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE

**Tuesday, December 24th** 8 pm at Freelon Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. All welcome to join us on this magical night!

## CHRISTMAS MARKET

**Sunday, December 8th,** 10am - 2pm at Crieff Hills Conference Centre, 7098 Concession 1, Puslinch - Crafts, produce – great gift ideas.

## COOKIE WALK

**Saturday, December 7th, 2024** at Knox Crieff Presbyterian Church, 7156 Concession 1, Puslinch. Doors open at **9:00 AM till 12:00 Noon.** Cookies \$20 for 3 doz or \$7 ea doz, Crafts, preserves and other baked goods also available. Pre orders welcome email [kpccrieff@gmail.com](mailto:kpccrieff@gmail.com) or call Linda 905-659-0727.

## EUCHRE

**1st and 3rd Friday each month** at 7 pm. Freelon Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. For info, call Marie at 905-659-1021.

## FREE EXERCISE CLASSES FOR 55+

The Victoria Order of Nurses offers a free exercise class for individuals 55+ who want to maintain their health and independence. The class focuses on aerobic endurance, balance, flexibility and strength. This class is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9:15 am located at Duffs Presbyterian Church. For registration please contact Danielle 519-803-0144.

## I WONDER

**Thursday, January 23rd, 2025** 7pm at Freelon Strabane United Church at 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. Do you have Biblical questions, history questions about the Church, questions about spirituality?

If you have said "I wonder " then join us to explore and find possible answers.

## "IT'S SEW FUN" SEWING GROUP

**Mondays at 12:00 – 4 p.m.** Freelon Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. For info, call Linda at 289-962-6737.

## LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

**Saturday, December 21st** 7 pm at Freelon Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. The Christmas season rolls around again and for some, it brings sadness & memories of loved ones that are not longer with us. Come and join with others to own the sadness of the season and know you do not carry the sadness alone .

## MUSICAL HOOTENANNY

Hootenannies are held on the last Friday of the month until further notice from 7-9pm at Arkell United Church, 600 Arkell Road, Arkell. Sign up for your time in the spotlight or just sit and enjoy. For information please call Rob Stark 519-994-4996.



# Inside the Back Page . . .



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## ROBBIE BURN'S SUPPER

**Saturday, January 25, 2025** at Freelon Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. Hold the date and join us as we answer the call of the Highlands & celebrate the venerated Scottish poet Robbie Burns with a traditional Burns supper. Call Manse Office at 905-659-3380 or check [www.freeltonstrabaneuc.ca](http://www.freeltonstrabaneuc.ca) for details & reservation options.

## SUNRISE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assist as a Volunteer Leader or Side Walker in therapeutic riding lessons taught by certified Instructors. Weekdays, evenings and Saturdays. 1.5 hours per week minimum commitment. Ages 14+, training provided. To apply, contact Fiona at 519-837-0558 x35. Call now to register for our next training clinic.

## TECH TUESDAYS FOR SENIORS

**1st and 3rd Tuesday each month** at 1 pm at Freelon 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

Freelon Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. **Thursdays** at 10 am. "Flamborough Connects" Trained Instructor. Pre-registration required, call 905-689-7880 or email [admin@flamboroughconnects.ca](mailto:admin@flamboroughconnects.ca).

## Community Announcement

## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GUELPH

Learn to be a kid again! Volunteer mentors needed for local children. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph has five programs with varying levels of time commitment. Call 519-824-5154, email [info@bbbsg.ca](mailto:info@bbbsg.ca) or visit us online at [www.bbbsg.ca](http://www.bbbsg.ca).

## BOOKING AGENTS

### ARKELL UNITED CHURCH

Contact Rob Stark 519-994-4996 or [robstark@bellnet.ca](mailto:robstark@bellnet.ca) 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](mailto: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

Charming historic pioneer chapel for weddings, baptisms, small concerts. Visit [ellischapel.ca](http://ellischapel.ca). Contact Brenda Law at 519-767-2462 or [brendalaw@hotmail.ca](mailto:brendalaw@hotmail.ca)

## OPTIMIST RECREATION CENTRE AND PUSLINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Call 519-763-1226 or email [services@puslinch.ca](mailto: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](http://www.crowncemetery.ca) or contact Darlene Harrietha at 519-822-0874 or email [darleneharrietha@gmail.com](mailto: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

We 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](mailto: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 <http://www.friendsofmillcreek.org>.

## 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](http://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](http://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 'Gerda 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](http://whistlestoppreschool.com) or Contact Sandra Gunson 519-239-9878 or email [whistlestopteacher@gmail.com](mailto:whistlestopteacher@gmail.com).

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