

## SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

www.bluemountainsreview.ca

Vol 11 Issue 46

DECEMBER 3RD, 2025





## Bruce Trail Conservancy Purchases Former Talisman Mountain Resort Lands

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) is excited to announce the purchase of the former Talisman Mountain Resort lands in the Beaver Valley.

This landmark acquisition permanently protects over 120 acres of sensitive Niagara Escarpment land from development pressures, provides opportunities for ambitious ecological restoration, and ensures continued public access to greenspace by securing 885 metres of the iconic Bruce Trail.

"This is a once-in-a-generation moment," said Michael McDonald, Chief Executive Officer of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. "Protecting such a vulnerable and ecologically important area, beloved by the local community and vital to the biodiversity of the UNESCO Niagara Escarpment Biosphere, represents a major step forward for conservation and recreation in Ontario." continued on page 2

## Blue Mountains Mobilizes Massive Support For Jamaican Hurricane Relief

Goldsmith's Farm Market & would Bakery like to extend a heartfelt thank to the you the public at end of its weeklong Jamaica campaign collect essential



supplies for hurricane relief —an initiative that began with a single urgent request and grew into a massively impactful community-driven relief effort.

When Hurricane Melissa devastated large parts of Jamaica, the Jamaican Liaison Service asked Goldsmith's to act as one of three official drop-off sites in Ontario. With no blueprint and very little time, we turned to the community. What followed was extraordinary. In just seven days:

- 15 apple bins of essential supplies were collected, as well as 4 skids of water and 2 skids of oversized tools
- Tools, bedding, batteries, hygiene products, medical supplies, boots, flashlights, and more were donated in huge volume
- Businesses from across Southern Georgian Bay and Ontario brought bulk contributions

- Hundreds of hours were poured into spreading the word, collecting, sorting, packing, and loading
- People arrived in the cold and rain, early before work, late after work, and many drove in from outside the region
- Local store shelves were cleared as residents stepped up to fill urgent needs

Each year, more than 600 Jamaican seasonal agricultural workers travel to Southern Georgian Bay to prune our orchards, harvest our apples, and keep our farms thriving. Many of these workers have spent decades here—forming deep ties to the farms, families, and communities of our region. Their hometowns and families were among the hardest hit by Hurricane Melissa. This relief effort was our community's way of standing with them.

While the supplies collected here are now on their way through official channels, the situation in Jamaica remains critical, and we continue to receive many questions about how people can still help.

For those who wish to support ongoing recovery efforts, we recommend donating to the Georgian Bay Fruit Growers Association GoFundMe, which is dedicated to supporting the 600+ Jamaican seasonal workers who were affected.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/hurricane-relief-for-jamaican-farm-workers-in-georgian-bay

To every resident, volunteer, business, and family who showed up, often in the pouring rain, to donate and to work - thank you. Your compassion moved fast, reached far, and will directly support communities rebuilding from catastrophe.

Sincerely, Goldsmith's Farm Market and Bakery www.goldsmithsmarket.com



## St. James' Fairmount Anglican Church

196759 Grey Rd 7, Meaford corner of Grey Rd 7 & Grey Rd 40

1st & 3rd Sunday 9am Holy Eucharist BCP

2nd & 4th Sunday 9am

Morning Prayer BCP

**5th Sunday 4pm Evensong BCP** Rector Jeff Kischak

519-770-7979 stjamesfairmount.ca

#### **INDOOR WALKING**

Beaver Valley Community Centre, Thornbury Mon. and Thurs. from 9-11am no pre-registration and no fee. Walking with poles with rubber feet and walkers allowed.

#### **DROP-IN BRIDGE**

Monday 1-3pm; \$2 p/p; St. George's Anglican Church, Clarksburg

#### **BID EUCHRE**

Wednesday & Thursday, 12:50-3:30pm \$2 per day, Small Hall Beaver Valley Community Centre Lessons Available -Bev 705-507-0563 or Dorothy 519-599-5044

## SKATING AT BEAVER VALLEY ARENA

**Holiday Skating** 

In addition to regularly scheduled Public Skating on Saturdays and Sundays, additional Public Skating times have been added over the holiday break on the following dates.

December 22 - 1pm - 3pm December 23 - 10am - 12pm December 29 - 1pm - 3pm December 30 - 10am - 12pm December 31 - 1pm - 3pm January 2 - 10am - 12pm

Skating program times are subject to change on a week-to-week basis.

#### **Public Skating**

Sat & Sun: 12pm - 2pm Excluding: Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Jan. 17, Jan.18, Feb. 1, Feb. 7, Feb 8, Mar. 7, Mar. 8, Mar. 29 Ages 18+: \$3 per person

Under 18: Free *Adult Skatina* 

Mon & Wed: 10am - 12pm Thurs: 1pm - 3pm

Excluding: Dec. 24, Dec 25, Jan. 1,

Feb. 16; \$3 per person

Must be 18 years of age or older.

#### Stick & Puck

Mon & Wed: 12pm - 1pm Excluding: Dec. 24, Feb. 4, Feb. 16, Apr. 6; \$3 per person Must be 18 years of age or older. All skaters are required to wear a certified hockey helmet.

#### **Parent & Tots**

Tues & Thurs: 11pm - 12pm Excluding: Dec. 23, 25, 30, Jan. 1, Feb. 3, Mar. 17, 19; Free

| continued from page 1

Located near Kimberley, Ontario, in the heart of the Beaver Valley, the former ski hill and resort have sat dormant for over a decade. Throughout this time, proposals for large-scale development of the property were met with significant community resistance, as residents and visitors voiced deep concerns about potential environmental impacts and the precedent such projects could set for other Niagara Escarpment lands.

The lands purchased by the BTC include the Escarpment brow, the former ski slopes, and the resort buildings at the base of the hill.

The future of the existing buildings has yet to be decided, and the Bruce Trail Conservancy is carefully evaluating potential options.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is one of Canada's most active land trusts and steward of over 15,000 acres of sensitive Niagara Escarpment lands, guided by the route of Canada's oldest and longest marked footpath. Under the care of BTC ecologists, restoration specialists, and dedicated volunteers, the vulnerable and degraded habitats of the former Talisman lands will be permanently protected, restored, and made available for generations of hikers to connect with nature along the Bruce Trail. The BTC is considering extensive restoration efforts to bring lands on the property back to peak ecological health. This includes large-scale reforestation and habitat remediation for the many threatened species noted in the area, including Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Least Bittern, Louisiana Waterthrush, and more.

The former ski slopes represent the only break in the forest canopy across a 10-kilometre stretch of the western Beaver Valley, making reforestation a key priority. "We have an exciting opportunity to restore neglected and damaged habitats on this property," said Adam Brylowski, Director of Conservation and Trail for the Bruce Trail Conservancy. "These will be one of the most ambitious restoration projects in our organization's history, helping us fulfill our mission to preserve a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever."

The Bruce Trail Conservancy recognizes the remarkable community support that led to this historic purchase. In particular, the Escarpment Corridor Alliance (ECA) was instrumental in drawing public attention to the property's importance, commissioning ecological and land use studies, facilitating early conversations with the landowners, and significantly contributing to the appraisal process.

To support the purchase, restoration and long-term stewardship of this newly protected area, the Bruce Trail Conservancy will be launching a public fundraising campaign.

For more information visit brucetrail.org/talisman.



THE GEORGIAN PEAKS CLUB

We are looking for Volunteer & Paid Patrollers for the 2025-26 season. First Aid certification required.

Contact: patrol@ georgianpeaks.com for more information.

#### Need a part-time job

Residential cleaning business looking for help 3 days a week in the Thornbury area must be reliable, trustworthy and have references.

Please call 519-599-6720 and leave a message



GEORGIAN HILLS

We are OPEN all winter!

Join us at the vineyard for tastings and lunch!

WINTER HOURS

Thursday to Sunday 11am to 5pm

For Reservations and Menu www.georgianhillsvineyards.ca





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**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** This edition is mailed to residents in The Blue Mountains the first week of each month

**DONATE** - by e-transfer to info@visitblue.ca or by cheque to Riverside Press, Box 245, Clarksburg, NOH 1J0

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** We ask that letters be no longer than 250 words, and adhere to standards of fairness, accuracy, legality and civility. Beyond that, we select letters on the basis of timeliness, relevance and diversity and reserve the right to not publish.

**ARTICLES** are from media releases or those that are submitted acknowledge the author.

Publisher Linda Wykes, printed by Riverside Press. Your events, stories and photos of interest to our community can be emailed to info@visitblue.ca for inclusion in the newsletter by each Friday. Advertising rates available on the website or call 519-599-3345



CAO Randy Scherzer, Grey County Warden Andrea Matrosovs, Grey County Clerk Tara Warder

## Andrea Matrosovs Acclaimed to Second Term as Grey County Warden

Andrea Matrosovs will be leading Grey County Council for a second consecutive term after being acclaimed Warden at the 2026 Inaugural Meeting on December 2.

Warden Matrosovs is serving her first term on Grey County Council. She represents the Town of The Blue Mountains where she has served as Mayor since being elected in 2022. She previously served as a municipal councillor from 2018-2022.

In her inaugural address to Council, Warden Matrosovs expressed a desire to build on the progress made in her first year as Warden, building relationships and working collaboratively for the benefit of residents today, and in the future.

"At the County table I do not hear competition when we discuss the present and future of our county and the decisions that weigh heavily on each and every one of our shoulders. Even after spirited debate, I hear unison and a collective of heads and hearts moving forward with delivering services to our residents and sharing in the stewardship of our lands and waters," said Warden Matrosovs.

Warden Matrosovs also stressed the importance of strengthening relationships with neighbours beyond the Grey County borders, including Indigenous communities.

In closing her address, Warden Matrosovs stressed the importance of sustainability, quoting the three Ps coined by John Elkington: people, planet, and prosperity. "As we do our work here at the County, we consider that lens each and every time."

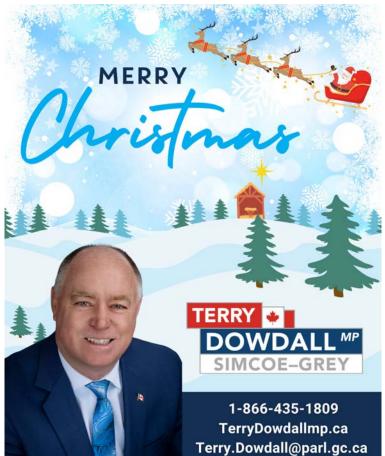
The role of the Grey County Warden is to lead County Council and represent Grey County at official events. The Warden presides over council meetings, ensuring business is conducted efficiently and effectively. Grey County's Warden is also a member of the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus and participates on other boards. The position of the Warden is elected each December by members of Grey County Council at the inaugural meeting. Warden Matrosovs was nominated for the position by Councillor Keaveney of Meaford, and Councillor Boddy of Owen Sound.

## **Seniors Matters Today**

Home and Community Support Services of Grey-Bruce (HCSS GB) offers several services such as Meals on Wheels, Day Away, Housekeeping and Transportation in the area and out of town. Transportation is available for medical appointments, personal errands such as hair appointments, shopping, banking, visiting friends& family and other everyday needs. To Register with HCSSGB intake, phone 1-833-659-5491 Central Intake for all of the services. Have your health card available. It will take 1 – 2 days to complete the registration. For transportation, it's important to give as much notice as possible before the date you want to travel. Transportation depends on the availability of drivers.

**Funding for Hearing Aids** is available through Ontario's Assistive Devices Program. The cost of hearing aids is covered up to a maximum





of \$500 per side for each type of aid for those who qualify. To qualify you must be an Ontario resident, have a valid Ontario health card, have a disability requiring a hearing device for 6 months or longer. You will not qualify if you are receiving financial assistance for hearing aids from Workers or from veterans assistance. The hearing aid provider will have the forms for you to complete. You can apply for assistance to replace equipment if your condition changes and if you need a new prescription or if the equipment is broken, cannot be repaired and the warranty period has expired.

**Update on Old Age Security (OAS) payments.** In 2025, Old Age Security (OAS) payments saw increases based on inflation adjustments, with seniors aged 65-74 receiving up to \$734.95 and those 75 and older, receiving up to \$808.45 monthly. These payments are issued usually on the last business day of each month. Note that OAS eligibility begins at age 65 but payments can be deferred up to age 70. Delaying increases your monthly payment by .6% for each month delayed up to 34% if you wait until age 70.

**Update – CPP (Canada Pension Plan)**. The maximum monthly benefit , (which depends on your contributions,) at age 65 in 2025 is estimated to be \$1433.00. The average CPP monthly payment for new beneficiaries is approximately \$899.67 as of early 2025. The maximum CPP disability monthly payment is about \$1,673.24 per month, depending on your contributions.

## In Memoriam

#### **SHARON LYNN HEWGILL**

Sharon passed away peacefully at Chapman House Hospice in Owen Sound on Saturday, November 8, 2025 in her 74th year.

Born on July 31, 1952 in Collingwood, ON, a daughter of the late Bill and Rosie (nee Petch) Hewgill.

Sharon is survived by her sister Carol Farrar (Ed), nephew Steve Farrar and his children Jeremy, Abbie and Cora, niece Dianne (Dan) Nobes and their children Taylor, Dylan and

Braden; and niece April (Jim) Markou and their children Athena and Cameron. She will be missed by her partner Gary Fox of Meaford and his family.

Sharon's occupations over the years include nursing as an RNA, apple picking and grading, cashier on a food line at Blue Mountain Ski Resort. She treasured all of her collectable items that she gathered in her lifetime. Sharon was a very private person who lived in Meaford for many years.

Family received friends for visitation at the Ferguson Funeral Home in Meaford on Thursday, November 13, 2025. A private family interment took place at Thornbury-Clarksburg Union Cemetery.

As your expression of sympathy, donations to the Meaford Hospital Foundation, Grey Bruce Hospice 'Chapman House', or a charity of your choice would be appreciated and may be made through the Ferguson Funeral Home, 48 Boucher St. E., Meaford, ON N4L 1B9 to whom arrangements have been entrusted. www.fergusonfuneralhomes.ca

#### **More Value, Less Worry**

As we close out another solid year in the markets, many of us are reflecting on our portfolios and what's next for 2026. But here's the bigger question: for the fees you're paying, what are you really getting in return?

Many firms charge fees just to manage investments—essentially watching your portfolio without much more. At IG Wealth Management, we offer so much more for the same fees (or less): expert investment guidance, plus access to our team of tax accountants, estate lawyers, and powerful Al-driven planning tools. This means lower taxes, smarter estate strategies, and a clearer path to your goals—all without extra cost.

Because I live and work here in the Blue Mountains, I understand the concerns retirees in our community face every day:

- Will my savings last as long as I do?
- Am I paying more tax than I should, now or later?
- How do I plan for long term care, if needed?
- Will my spouse have someone local to lean on, after I'm gone?

These aren't small worries—they affect your peace of mind. That's why our approach goes beyond investment returns. We build complete plans that help protect your wealth, reduce taxes, and prepare you for life's unexpected turns.

Value for fees isn't just about numbers—it's about confidence, clarity, and knowing you have a team behind you every step of the way. If you've ever wondered whether you should be getting more for the fees you pay, call me at **416-720-2746**. Let's talk about how our different approach can give you the peace of mind you deserve.

Elliot Sinukoff, B.A., B. Comm, PRP, CEPA. Senior Financial Consultant, Elliot.sinukoff@ig.ca
IG Wealth Management Inc.

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# Georgian Hills Vineyards Raises \$1,000 For My Friend's House

My Friend's House One Thousand

GEORGIAN HILLS

A cheque for \$1,000 was presented to My Friend's House from the proceeds of the "Vendors in the Vineyard" event hosted at and by Georgian Hills Vineyards. Cherie Whiteman, Events and Community Relations Manager at My Friend's House, received a cheque for \$1,000 from the partner's of Georgian Hills Vineyards - John Ardiel (left) and Robert Ketchin (right).

My Friend's House has been serving South Georgian Bay since 1991. Last year, they received 5,358 calls to their crisis support line and helped 650 women and children get the safety and support they need to rebuild their lives.

A special thanks goes out to Amanda Post for coordinating the event. To the many vendors that participated, thank you so much for your commitment and support. This is the first year that Georgian Hills Vineyards has hosted the "Vendors in the Vineyards" summer market series and they look forward to hosting it again next year.

Georgian Hills Vineyard is grateful to support the work of My Friend's House and the community through this summer market series. Seasons Greetings to all!





Prearrangement Consultations without cost or obligation.





## Merry Christmas

My how quickly 2025 has passed. So thankful to be in the beautiful Beaver Valley with so many friends, family and apples. I had the privilege of my grandson Nelson help me at the Horticultural Crops Conference in Niagara Falls in a stormy February and Cole helped me cut wood. Carol and Keith have been a constant help and support all year. Each family member faces challenges but march on.

Miss my Alberta crew but thankful for frequent contact. My how the five grandchildren have grown.

The snow load damaged my back shed but a team of friends removed the snow while I was at church and two fine carpenters were able to make solid repairs April 24th. The flood of June 30 will be long remembered by all.

Our Japanese equipment especially my hand pruners have made record sales and full stock is now back in now.

May we all in our own way honour and celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ this Christmas season.



P.S. Honoured and delighted by a visit in August by my musical friend Elton Lammie.

Respectfully, James



## The Compass Of Peace

To our human harbour, life's navigation brings us this season of festal wealth,

Rich in spirit and light, a nuptial of bell and mistletoe, a chime of chestnut and garland.

And if life shall chart this course through past shoals of toil and care, we gaze in awe,

Take up our living compass anew, reset the north for truth, the south for warmth,

The west for discovery, the east for mystery, sharing our vision with family and friend.

Around our earthly orbit, nature decorates with icing snow flanking broad boughs of pine,

Doorways glisten as chandeliers when light makes its merry dance upon icicles of night,

Curlicues of misty embers arise from hearth to tell the heavens of warmth and crackle.

Across the celestial canopy a rhythm of sound is the season's concerto, echo divine,

The graceful harp and trembling trumpet, soprano in mirror to bass, treble to contralto,

Doves dancing with angels, reindeer and snowflakes partners in the heavenly ballroom.

To our compass we grant our assurance, yet a constellation of power and glory beckons,

For whether our homage rests upon Mecca, Manger or Maccabees, our spirit is at one,

The constellation is the wreath of Peace to crown each and all human heart,

The berry flush with hope, the green of eternal, the white of our humble truce,

Well lit to dispel the dark of despair, lit to lighten the paths of our fellow traveller.

Jeremy Wentworth-Stanley jeremy@officeinthebarn.com



# Donate today to bring our new hospital to life.

This year's Tree of Life Campaign embraces the anticipation for Tomorrow's Hospital, as we come together to raise over \$100+ million. During this holiday season, join us as we build Tomorrow, together.









### The Master Gardener's Corner

Things to do in your garden each month taken from the Ontario Master Gardener Calendar by John Hethrington, Master Gardener, Emeritus, Past President, Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. For information, or your copy of the 11" x 17" calendar of the full year's tips for a \$2 contribution to Master Gardeners, call 519-599-5846.



#### **December 2025**

After a few mild days in November, the cold and a little snow are both here. If you do get a good day, grab it, as here are a few extra things you still can do in your garden this December, if there is not too much SNOW! As you well know, there is no end to garden chores.

- Cut down tall perennials and ornamental grasses bent over by high winds & snow. Cut off most seed heads and don't put them in your compost. Leave a few stocks with seed heads for the birds and pollinators.
- Loosely wrap evergreens and especially rhododendrons with burlap. It is better to use 3 tomato stakes and make a triangle of burlap, as high as the plant and 6" to 8" away from it This will break the drying wind and shield it from the winter sun.
- Protect young trees and shrubs from rodents with spiral plastic wraps or chicken wire. I know wraps look ugly, but the white reflects the sun to minimize sun scalding.
- If not done already, hill up the soil and/or place compost around your hybrid tea roses and other tender plants and shrubs.
- I place loose straw over my potentially tender Phenomenal and Czech lavender to create an igloo of protection.
- Bring in, drain and store all hoses and water related equipment.
   Blow out in-ground garden water lines before they freeze. Maybe call a plumber.
- Wash all your garden tools. Wipe the metal parts with a cloth soaked in 3-in-1oil. If you really want to be fancy, wipe wooden handles with boiled linseed oil or paint them red, so you won't lose them next summer.
- Make sure you have stocked up on firewood for your indoor fireplace this winter.
- The ground should not be frozen solid yet, so you can still plant those spring bulbs that you forgot in your garage, or bought at 50% off.
- Inside, check to see that your house humidifier is maintaining the inside humidity at over 40% to benefit both house plants and your family.
- Put lots of garden tools and garden books on your Christmas gift list.
- · Start making to-do lists for your garden for next year. It never ends!
- Order seed catalogues and start dreaming about SPRING 2026!

#### Merry Christmas



Sincere appreciation to the Town and staff for maintaining the planter boxes on our local bridges. Your continued support enhances the beauty of our community.

### **Check out this Tree Trust video!**

(Spoiler alert: TBM gets lots of coverage...)

Tree Trust TBM is one of the most active, accomplished and successful chapters in the province-wide Tree Trust network.

We were recently featured in a promotional video with a lot of the video footage being filmed at the recent Five-year Tree Trust TBM Anniversary celebration held at 10th Line and High Bluff Lane – the site of the very first tree to receive professional care from Arboreal Tree Care, our certified Tree Trust arborists.



We had a huge turnout of community members, volunteers, donors and supporters, all there to celebrate a program dedicated to the preservation of our local trees.

Check out the video at <u>www.treetrust.ca</u> and see who you recognize!

Tree Trust TBM has accomplished so much over the past five years including caring for 12 trees, planting more than 100 trees along the Georgian Trail and another 100 trees in local TBM parks. We launched a Native Tree Seed Collection Club that we hope will grow to become a source of new trees to be placed in our local TBM Tree Nursery and eventually planted in our Town. We've also maintained constant advocacy for strong tree protection programs and policies to ensure a healthyand vibrant tree canopy for future generations.

We couldn't have done this without the tremendous and growing support of community members, local businesses and allied organizations. Thank you!



EFL WILL BE ACCEPTING SEASONAL CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES STARTING JANUARY 9TH 2026

WHERE: EVENTS FOR LIFE, BEAVER CREEK FARMS, 067547 33RD SIDEROAD

TIME: 8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

WHEN: JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>, FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>, MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>, MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>, MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>, APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>

PLEASE BRING ITEMS IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS, GARBAGE OR GARMENT BAGS

WWW.EVENTSFOR.LIFE

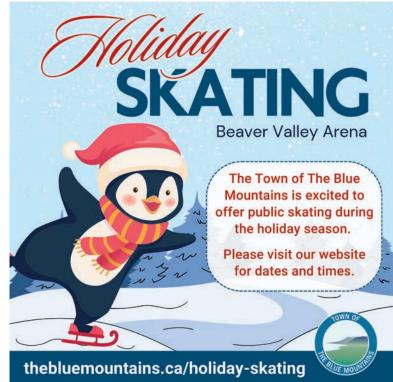


### **TOWN NEWS & NOTICES**

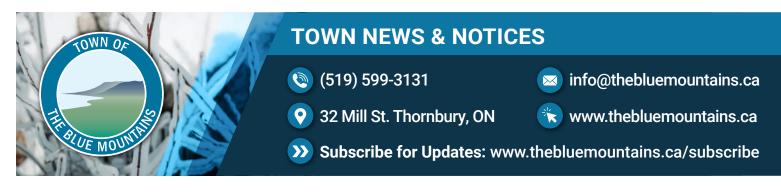
(519) 599-3131

- info@thebluemountains.ca
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## Combat the Silent Killer: Ontario Fire Code Expands Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

Changes are coming to the Ontario Fire Code and Blue Mountains Fire Services wants residents to know how it affects them.

**As of Jan. 1, 2026,** the Ontario Fire Code is introducing **new requirements for Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms** in residences.

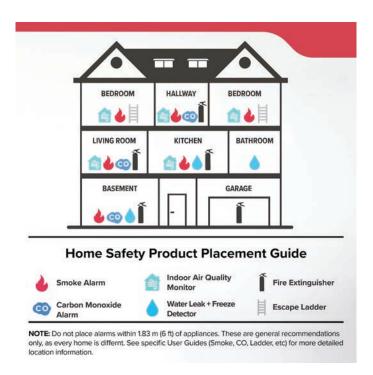
- In homes with a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace, or an attached garage, alarms will now be required on **every storey**, not just near sleeping areas. (same as smoke alarms)
- In homes where forced air heat comes from a fuel burning appliance located outside the home.
- In multi-unit residential buildings, alarms must be installed in **all suites meeting certain conditions**, service rooms, and, in some cases, public corridors. (same as smoke alarms)
- In care facilities and certain group homes, alarms will be required in suites and common areas. (new additional detection for vulnerable occupancies)

**Carbon monoxide** is known as the silent killer due to its nature – it is odourless, colourless and tasteless. Exposure can cause serious health issues and even death, and it is the leading cause of accidental poisonings in Ontario. It is undetectable without a **CO** alarm, making working alarms crucial for saving lives.

**CO** is produced when you burn any type of fuel, and it can be found both indoors and outdoors. It is lighter than air and can move freely throughout indoor spaces.

**CO** alarms are a life-saving early warning system against Carbon Monoxide. Working **CO** alarms alert you to the presence of potentially dangerous levels of **CO** in your home and prevent **CO** poisoning or even death.

**CO** poisoning symptoms are similar to symptoms for many other illnesses and may go un-noticed or un-detected without **CO** alarms. The alarms are a necessary device in any home with a fuel fired appliance.



Fuel sources where **CO** alarms are required include Natural Gas, Propane, Fuel Oil, Wood or Wood Products, etc.



Blue Mountains Fire Services urges everyone to follow the new Fire Code regulations and install additional **CO** alarms where required.

For questions or assistance in understanding how this impacts you or your home, please contact fireprevention@thebluemountains.ca

## Tiny Forest, November 2025 by Richard Griffith

Our Tiny Forest's first full year was remarkably successful. In October 2024, on the west side of Moreau Park, we planted 190 little trees and I believe that about 180 made it through their first winter. That is a success rate of about 95% and certainly was as much as we could hope for.

Now, near the end of November, the snow is slowly accumulating outside my window once again. I already have 10-15 cm and I may receive much more in the next couple of days. At this time of year, that is a good thing, at least where little plants are concerned.

We have put the Tiny Forest to bed for the winter. Last week we placed a layer of dead leaves around the trees to act as insulation. A thick blanket of snow on top of the leaves will be an ideal addition, as it will protect the roots of the trees from the harsh temperatures that are surely on their way.

In the last few weeks, you may have noticed that some of the trees retained many of their leaves. Indeed, I found this rather odd, but our botanist, Tobias Effinger, says that this is mostly seen on juvenile plants and may stop as the plants mature. It depends on exactly what is taking place in the "abscission zone", that is, at the base of the leaf stalk, and it does not surprise me that different trees have different strategies of their own. This specialized zone is important for the separation of plant parts, allowing them to detach from the main body. Abscission allows perennials to shed leaves that are no longer needed. By recycling leaf materials, the trees will conserve resources and prepare for new growth in the spring.

If you have visited our Forest in the last week or so, you will have noticed an important addition: our sign! At last we have a sign that explains exactly what the Tiny Forest is, why we planted it and who was responsible. We are extremely pleased to have this sign in place.

See you next spring, when we will enter into the next stage of our Forest. I can hardly wait to see them sprout leaves once again!

The forest is the root of all life; it is the womb that revives our biological instincts, that deepens our intelligence and increases our sensitivity as human beings. Akira Miyawaki

## **Meaford Hospital Foundation Announcement**

The Meaford Hospital Foundation is pleased to announce that ER: An Evening of Revelry 2025 raised more than **\$255,000** to support the revitalization of the Brightshores Meaford Hospital emergency department. The funds will go directly to enhancing patient care, upgrading equipment, and improving patient flow in a department that saw **over 14,000 emergency visits** in 2024 and serves communities across the region.

The success of the evening was made possible by the generous support of our presenting sponsors, **Glen Road Capital Partners Inc.** and **Lora Bay Golf Club / Great Gulf**, and by the generosity of guests, donors, auction item buyers, and our team of dedicated volunteers. The extraordinary efforts of the ER Event Committee were instrumental in planning the evening, turning vision into action and ensuring a seamless experience for guests. Their combined contributions have brought momentum to the campaign and will have an immediate impact on the emergency department's revitalization efforts.

Joelle Adelson, Board Chair, Meaford Hospital Foundation: "This remarkable result is a testament to the strength of our community and the commitment of local partners. These funds will help ensure that our emergency department remains responsive, current, and capable of meeting the growing needs of the people we serve."

At the event, the **Orchard Society** was also launched. This is a new five-year giving campaign designed to cultivate sustained, long-term philanthropic support for the Meaford Hospital Foundation. The Orchard Society will provide a structured way for donors to invest in the hospital's future, ensuring continued improvements to care, equipment, and patient experience over the coming years.

To learn more, please contact the Meaford Hospital Foundation. Vince Rogers, Executive Director, 519-538-1311 ext 4408 mhfoundation@brightshores.ca mhfoundation.ca





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DR. FRANK GIGONE and DR. JORDAN ELWOOD

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# My team and I can help you with:

**CONGRATULATORY CERTIFICATES** 

#### **ONTARIO DOCUMENTS:**

Birth or Marriage certificate, Health card, Driver's licence

ASSISTANCE WITH
PROVINCIAL PROGRAMS:
ODSP, OW, WSIB, OSAP and more



#### **Alliston Office**

180 Parsons Road, Unit 28, Alliston ON L9R 1E8 (705) 435-4087

#### **Connect With Me:**

☑ Brian.Saunderson@pc.ola.org⊕ www.briansaundersonmpp.ca

**Stayner Office** 7317 Hwy 26, Stayner ON LOM 1S0 (705) 428-2134

## **Ghost Sighting!**

by Robert Burcher.

I saw a ghost today. I was having a coffee and just checking out the new Brunchie Diner and a ghost walked in the door. Well, not really, but a nice surprise



none the less. Jennifer Taylor the former owner of the Orchid walked in with her son Carter. Wow eh? I was amazed. She was looking great. Relaxed and revitalized after the horrible trauma of losing her restaurant to a fire. So, what's she doing now I had to ask. Well she has gone back to her first love – horses. Working at a dressage facility in the Ravenna area. Just loving it. No stress, no staff, no payroll issues. I asked her what she was doing here at her old location. Eating of course! "So how was it" I asked, "excellent" was the reply. So, if you have been thinking about trying out Brunchie, get there soon. I can't guarantee that you will meet the Queen of Orchid there but she has given her blessing to the establishment!

### As 2025 Draws To A Close, Consider These Year-End Tax Tips

When managing **investments within a TFSA** you can maximize your TFSA's growth potential and preserve your contribution room by paying fees—whether for investment management or TFSA administration—from a non-registered account instead of directly from your TFSA.

For 2025, the TFSA contribution limit is \$7,000, increasing the cumulative limit to \$102,000 for individuals eligible since 2009.

When setup properly **investment expenses** paid from a non-registered account may be tax-deductible, which could help reduce your taxable income.

Maximize registered account contributions by contributing to your Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) before December 31, 2025, to take advantage of potential grants and bonds. For First Home Savings Accounts (FHSAs) and Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs), ensure contributions are made by year-end to benefit from government matching in the current year.

Open an FHSA even if you're not ready to contribute, as opening an account before year-end allows you to start accruing contribution room for future years. The 2025 annual contribution limit remains at \$8,000, with a lifetime maximum of \$40,000.

If you're planning to use the **Home Buyers' Plan**, consider delaying withdrawals until after year-end to give yourself more time for repayment. The maximum RRSP withdrawal under the HBP remains at \$60,000, and the funds must have been in your account for at least 90 days before purchase.

Consider tax-loss harvesting by selling investments that have declined in value to realize capital losses, which may offset capital gains and reduce your tax liability. In Canada, 50% of your capital gains are taxable, so offsetting gains with losses can lead to tax savings.

Make charitable donations by December 31 to claim the tax credit on your 2025 return. While the federal tax credit rate remains at 15% on the first \$200 donated and 29% on amounts over \$200. Donations may qualify for enhanced credits when income exceeds certain thresholds. Please give me a call for personalized advice on your finances and the tips above. Taking action now can help you start the new year on solid financial footing and potentially reduce your tax burden.

Fraser Willson, CFP®, CIM® | Senior Wealth Advisor
CIBC Wood Gundy | Collingwood
Fraser.Willson@cibc.com | (647) 588-4344 | www.WillsonInvestments.com

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### **Grey Bruce Farmers' Week 2026.**

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the event, taking place January 7–12, 2026 (Beef Day, Dairy Day, Goat Day, Sheep Day, Horse Day, and Crops Day) in Elmwood, with both in-person and livestream attendance option.

We are highlighting that all ticket purchasers will

- Enjoy a hot roast beef dinner (with goat or lamb also served on their respective days)
- · Hear from experienced and knowledgeable speakers
- Receive 30-day post-conference access to the presentation
- Shop & network with agribusinesses in the tradeshow
- Will receive free 60th anniversary swag

There is also the option to livestream from anywhere, and for groups interested, we welcome the idea of hosting a viewing party.

Tickets, agendas, and more information can all be found on <a href="https://www.GBFW.ca">www.GBFW.ca</a> or call 519-986-3756

## **Schoolhouse Days** by Dorris Heffron

One of the several places my family moved to in my childhood was a rural community called Vellore. This home for my parents with three daughters, I the youngest, was two rooms at the top of the stairs in an A fame house across the highway from what is now Canada's Wonderland. It was all farmland back then in the 1950s. We rode to school on bicycles. We wore jeans and shirts. My



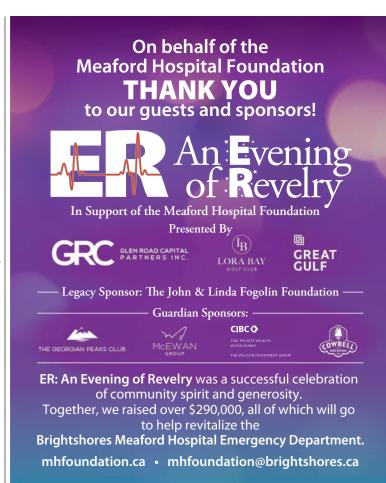
best friend, Diggle and I had ponytails. She called me Dodo. We were in grade two. Our school had eight grades in one room.

Our teacher, Mr. Sturgess was creative. He used a tape recorder to dictate lessons like arithmetic while he taught the older grades, say, geography. History they could read from books. The older grades had to help the younger grades with some of our lessons. At recess it was a free for all of different games, from tag to forms of soccer. Some noon hours we organized baseball. Diggle and I were amongst those who took our lunch pails to the bush behind the school where we blazed trails and built forts.

Mr. Sturgess was fun. He somehow got us a ping-pong table and he was the best player. But he had to be strict with an unruly range of country kids like us. Punishment was being taken into the teacher's room and given a number of slaps on open hands with a black razor strap. One big farm boy who attended school infrequently and often talked back to Mr. Sturgess was given the strap, with four slaps every time. I never talked back to adults and I got good marks but one time I was given the strap along with two others, for I don't remember what. I never forget that one stinging slap on each hand.

I was in grade three and spring was in the air when I decided the school needed a newspaper. I called it The Nature Annual because annual sounded impressive. I wrote reports on the sighting of Bluejays in the bush, Chickadees around the school and the first Redwing Blackbird of the spring. I reported rumours of foxes lurking around farms and that the women's baseball team would start up again soon. Printing all those reports with pen and ink in neat columns took a long time. Diggle helped find and paste pictures of birds onto the two pages of the newspaper. We couldn't get a picture of a fox or our mothers playing baseball. We rented out the Nature Annual for 2 cents a read. It became The Annual because we never bothered to do another one.

My family moved from our two room home to renting the back half of a big farmhouse in Vellore. When we moved to the village of Woodbridge and bought a house, I was in grade seven. Diggle and I graduated from Woodbridge Public High School and then from universities. I became a novelist and taught part time for Oxford University. Diggle got her PhD in Anthropology in Australia. Now in our old age, she digs up photos of Vellore Public School and sends them to me in Beaver Valley from her home on Gabriola, BC. Vellore Schoolhouse has become a museum in north Vaughan.





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## The Christmas Bookshop by Robert Burcher

This is another local girl does well article. This time about an actress who spent her childhood here in the Blue M o u n t a i n s. The Review got some advance publicity about a new Christmas movie that will



be launched on the Super Channel on December 6<sup>th</sup>. One of the lead characters Roselie Williamson was home schooled here and then went to high school at Jean Vanier in Collingwood where she got her start in acting. I thought this would be a great chance for me to interview a real Movie Actor who had connections to our area.

The movie named The Christmas Bookshop features a former gold medal Olympic ski racer who is running a failing bookstore. Our local girl Roselie is cast as the dutiful big sister who comes home for Christmas and tries to help out her hopeless disorganized brother. In the meantime, a young struggling female writer comes to the store on a book tour. Her book being promoted is about people who totally plan their Christmas celebrations versus those of us (like me) who would rather keep it spontaneous. Surprisingly I realized that the whole concept of the book is played out in my own family!

Roselie has fond memories of this area at Christmas, especially our Olde Fashioned Christmas and as a child wishing she could have been an extra in the Christmas movie shot in Collingwood in the 1990s – The Long Kiss Goodnight. Beginning in high school productions Roselie studied at Humber College in the Theatre Performance Conservatory Program. That led to several years grinding it out on stages around Ontario. After several years she switched focus to TV, commercials and movies. On her website you can see several trailers of her as the happy housewife serving supper to an adoring family as Captain Highliner stands by. She also spent a lot of time working on the Haunted Museum series for Discovery. Just another day at work with the ghosts and undead zombies! Versatile I would say!

The movie launches December 6<sup>th</sup> on the Super Channel and various streaming services.

## **Change of Traffic Pattern - Louisa Street West**

The Town of The Blue Mountains would like to notify the public of an important change to a traffic pattern within Thornbury. Louisa Street West between Bruce Street and Elma Street is now a one-way westbound route. Signage has been installed indicating this change in pattern. A by-law will be brought to Town Council in the near future to formally recognize this change.

For more information, please contact: Town of The Blue Mountains, Operations Department (519) 599-3131 ext. 276



#### CHRIST MASS by Alice Otrysko

You see it all around you. As soon as Remembrance Day is over, Christmas trees go on sale, decorations go up and advertisers inundate the media with ideas of what to give and what to eat and how to dress your house for the Season. The season is Christmas.

Christmas is a blend of religious observance of the birth of Jesus and pagan celebrations of the winter solstice, Sol Invictus. Spanish it's *Navidad*, Italian *Natale*, French *Noel*. My language Polish *Boze Narodzenie* (God's Birth).



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed

We don't know the exact date when Jesus was born but December 25 was chosen to coincide with celebrations of the return of the sun and light after the winter solstice. By the 4<sup>th</sup> century December 25 had become the accepted date for celebrating the birth of Jesus. Sextus Julius Africanus in 221 identified that date and later it was universally accepted. It spread to England, Egypt and other European countries and became universally accepted.

As Christianity spread, so did traditions many of them which had pagan origins. Decorating with evergreens signified long endurance.

Since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Christmas has also been a secular, family holiday observed by Christians and non Christians and marked by elaborate decorations and exchanging of gifts where Santa Claus plays an important role. Santa Claus evolved from the 4<sup>th</sup> century bishop Nicholas and we note his feast day as December 6.

When we lived in a Polish community in England, December 6 was a serious holy day. Mikolaj, (Mikoway) was Santa Claus and he brought with him the Devil behind his left shoulder and the Angel behind his right shoulder. As kids we were terrified of the Devil. The trio would walk onto the stage with the purpose of giving presents to the well behaved and punishment to the bad children. Of course it was all symbolic but we did tremble as we awaited our fate. (p.s. every child got a present).

Christmas Day has been and continues to be a holy day. When I visited Israel and Bethlehem, we were in the Basilica which was built where Christ was born and inside on the floor is a big mosaic star designating the very spot of the birth. Of course no one can point out the exact site of that special occurrence. However, it is and remains a holy place and the church itself is very elaborate and beautiful.

Roman Catholics celebrate the first Christmas mass at midnight. It is actually at that mass at St. Casimir's Catholic Polish Church in Toronto that I met my husband. The singing of Christmas carols while going from home to home, followed that special Mass.

Christmas card exchanging began in England in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In some European countries the Christ Child is identified as the giver of gifts. St. Nicholas, the traditional gift giver, is celebrated December 6 and in some European homes, this is the day gifts are exchanged.

In my home we gave each other a small gift on December 6 and the actual gifts were exchanged on Christmas Eve following an elaborate meatless meal with 12 courses (representing the 12 Apostles). Christmas Day itself was a day for visiting friends and family.

Christmas and Easter are outstanding and important Holy Days for Christians. They survived centuries in many countries. But Christmas outshines all other special days.

## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR 2025 POPPY CAMPAIGN.

Through your generosity, we have raised over \$18,000 within this community to provide support and assistance to veterans and their families.



The Poppy Committee of Royal Canadian Legion Branch #281 is grateful for all contributions and would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season.





SAT DEC 6 \* 11 to 3

#### VENDOR MARKET

AT THE MARSH STREET CENTRE PLUS OVER 20 SHOPS IN THE VILLAGE!

EXPERIENCECLARKSBURG.CA





Lunch soup, sandwiches, treats, coffee or tea for 12\$ (6 and under free)

## Saturday December 6

BAKED GOODS, FESTIVE COOKIE TRAYS(TWO SIZES) AND MORE!

ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH **166 RUSSELL STREET E** 

#### Lunch & Learn

Thursday, December 11th 12 noon - 2:30pm L. E. Shore Library, The Gallery

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! All About Hearing Plus personal hearing screenings.

Canadian Hearing Services professional hearing counsellor Ross Hart, will bring us up to date on the importance of hearing to living well every day. He will talk about maintaining our hearing and the options available when we need help. Your guestions are welcomed! In addition, Ross will be available to do hearing screenings for those who sign up for that.

Canadian Hearing Services is a non profit organization that provides counselling, hearing tests, counselling and other services to support and empower hard of hearing and deaf people across Canada. To register for the Lunch and Learn, phone 519 599 2577, ext. 6 OR e mail, seniors@ byo.ca.

For a personal hearing screening, leave that message at the same phone number or e mail (above)

It's a great opportunity to listen and learn about options and to get information about your hearing level.

Pamela McDermid, Seniors Program Coordinator



SHOP LOCAL ALL DAY & NIGHT!

10 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. L.E. SHORE LIBRARY

067547 33rd Sideroad, Thornbury ON

www.eventsfor.life

4 - 6 P.M.

**OUTSIDE TOWN HALL** 

5:30 P.M. **OUTSIDE TOWN HALL** 

5 - 8 P.M. BRUCE ST N & S A VERY VINTAGE CHRISTMAS

OLDE FASHIONED CHRISTMAS BLOCK PARTY COMMUNITY MARKET, LIVE MUSIC, MEET THE SNOW QUEEN, HOT CHOCOLATE & MORE!

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING SPONSORED BY CLASSICAL 102.9 FM & **ZOOMER 92.3 FM** 

SANTA & JINGLES - HESTER ST PARKETTE GLOW SHOWS - BRUCE ST S

MAPLE TAFFY - BRUCE ST S TYLER BOYLE DANCE PARTY - BRUCE ST S, 6:15 P.M. **FACE PAINTING - LOFT GALLERY** 

DROP IN ROAD HOCKEY - BRUCE ST N WITH THE GEORGIAN SHORES MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION HORSE-DRAWN WAGON RIDES - OUTSIDE THE PORT TAVERN

**BEAVER VALLEY PIPES & DRUMS** TBM FIRE DEPT DEMO **COZY FIRE PITS** 



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## **Community CarolFest**

Grace United Church
140 Bruce St. S., Thornbury

Sunday, December 14th, 3 PM

Everyone is invited to join the choirs of Grace United Church and St. George's Anglican Church with guest performers as we celebrate the season and support the good work of the BEAVER VALLEY OUTREACH (BVO)



No admission fee, but please donate generously to the Beaver Valley Outreach (BVO)

Please make cheques payable to Beaver Valley Outreach



A warm welcome to Advent and Christmas at

## St. James' Fairmount Anglican Church

196759 Grey Rd 7, Meaford corner of Grey Rd 7 & Grey Rd 40. Fairmount

A Service of Lessons and Carols **Sunday December 14th at 2:00 p.m.** 

The Christmas story told in readings from scripture and singing of carols, followed by time of refreshments and fellowship

Advent for Holy Communion **Sunday December 21st at 9:00 a.m.** 

Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Wednesday December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Celebrating the coming of the

Christ Child by Candlelight





7:30 P.M.

## Mary-Catherine Pazzano











#### ADMISSION \$30

PROCEEDS SUPPORT STUDENT MUSIC EDUCATION

Purchase tickets at www.thornburyjazz.com or at these locations

Thornbury Pharmasave, 45 Arthur St. W., Thornbury Gabriele Photography, 133 Hurontario St, Collingwood THORNBURYJAZZWORKS.COM





7:00 p.m. Request-a-Carol Christmas Communion with Cookies and Treats

9:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Holy Eucharist with St. George's Choir and Cookies and Treats



#### December 25th

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Celebrating the Holy Nativity

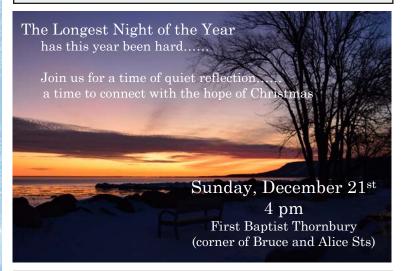
PLEASE NOTE: St. George's Office will be closed from December 25th - January 2nd



### **Grace United Church Thornbury**

invites you to join us for our Christmas service, Sunday December 21st @ 10:30 am. with Rev. Dr. Brian Goodings presiding.

Our Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24th @ 5:00 pm will be fun for all. Bring your children to enjoy singing Christmas carols, the lighting of candles and a drama called LOVE FINDS a WAY.





### 24 Chances to Win!

First Prize: **\$250** gift certificate Second Prize: \$100 gift certificate (at local restaurants)

Beginning March through August 2026 four tickets per month will be drawn. Increase your odds even more with a discounted five-pack.

# DINNER ofthe

draw

#### Participating Restaurants in Meaford & Thornbury

Bruce Wine Bar The Dam Pub Franny's Mercato The Corner Cafe & Grill Lovebird/Belle Marche Station 87 The Mill Cafe Ted's Range Road Diner The Port Tavern Williams On 26 Polpette Italian Restaurant

#### Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100

#### Available from:

Members of Thornbury-Clarksburg and Meaford Rotary Clubs and also...

The Blue Mountains Review Office 206 Marsh Street, Clarksburg Mon-Fri 10 am - 5 pm

Scan QR code to buy tickets: 🔳





Proceeds to fund Rotary community projects in Thornbury-Clarksburg and Meaford tcrotary.ca • meafordrotary.ca

Lottery License #M861797

## Give the Gift of Lemonade Collective!



Gift Certificates can be redeemed towards:

- Gym and Pool Memberships
- Private Pool Rentals
- Personal Training
- **Nutrition Coaching**
- **Ω** Shopping at LC Iululemon Store ∙ Thrive Protein & More
- Baby & Me Swim
- **Fitness Classes**
- Day Passes

### Give the most versatile gift this season!

190 Russell Street E, Clarksburg • (226)-665-0190

## STORE CLOSING

After being in business for 47 years, our furniture store will be closing March 31,2026 as we move onto our next chapter -retirement.

This decision was not easy, but comes with deep gratitude for every customer who has supported us, trusted us, and filled their homes with our Canadian -made furniture.

### Everything must go!

Furniture-Bedding-Art-Lamps-Rugs

C&G **SOLID WOOD Furniture** 

59 Arthur St, Thornbury cgsolidwoodfurniture.com



josh@joshdolan.com

705-446-8404

Josh Dolan

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joshdolan.com



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MEAFORD





UE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

November 15th to January 4th

FEATURED WEEKENDS



CARIBBEAN WINTERFES

December 5 - 7



A BLUE CHRISTMAS: **ELVIS PRESLEY TRIBUTE** 

December 13



MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY

December 14



**NEW YEAR'S EVE 2026** December 31

FULL SCHEDULE & EVENT DETAILS bluemountainvillage.ca/holiday-magic

FREE & PAID CONVENIENCE PARKING AVAILABLE

Let me advise you on buying and selling in the Georgian Triangle.