



Apsley
Backroads
MAGAZINE

JUNE
2026
FREE



Happy Fathers Day
Apsley Hockey Volunteer
Award goes to Denise Dunford
CT Tree Services Celebrates 30 Years

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This is a free magazine that publishes 8 times a year. Copies are distributed by Canada Post and for local pickup from Lakefield to Bancroft, Paudash, Cardiff and Coe Hill region including all of the Apsley area.

If you don't receive one in your mail box, you can pick up a copy at one of several local merchants in and around Apsley, along the delivery routes or Sign up for a paid subscription!

You can catch up online at apsleybackroads.com

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From The Editor's Desk JUNE 2026

Sun is shining, birds are chirping, grass is growing and all the projects we put off from Winter are now dusted off and getting hammered out - THIS is June in the Kawarthas!!

Happy Fathers Day to all the Dads, It's not easy holding down the fort all the time...we appreciate you!!

Grab your calendars and your sunscreen, June also means wrapping up the school year, welcoming back the cottagers and ramping up all the events.

The Marinas on Jack and Chandos Lakes are open - serving up great grub, and making sure you have everything you need to make some memories!

Restaurants like Woodys, Wallys, Mikey D's and Apsley Inn are all cleaning up the outdoor patios and want to FEED you!

Community Care, once again, is throwing the party of the year - its annual Gaming Night (June 20th) to raise much needed funds for our community.

The Legion has Friday night jams, The Lions Club has euchre nights and are gearing up for its annual Flea market in July - be sure to drop off your gently used items to Lions Park - Saturdays between 9am and noon.

ABC Seniors club, the Library and Community care all have events and classes running. Even the Township is in full swing offering a ton of Spring Sports and activities.

SO MUCH TO DO IN APSLEY!

Thank you again to everyone for all their support with the magazine and to those that have reached out with kind words, emails and phone calls in regards to my cancer recovery. I truly appreciate it. Cancer beat me up pretty good, but it can't knock me down...I'm built like a piece of corn...



Helena

Helena McMann

9927 Highway 28
 Apsley ON K0L 1A0

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apsleybackroads.com
theapsleybackroads@gmail.com



JUNE 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY												
				Duplicate Bridge 12:30pm NKCC Music Jam Session 4pm, LEGION													
1	2	3	4	5	6												
Fall Prevention Exercise Class 10 to 11am Darts 6:30pm, LEGION Pickle Ball (\$2) 6 to 9pm NKCC	Snacks and Euchre/Canasta 12:30pm NKCC Table Tennis 7 to 9 pm NKCC Euchre 7:00pm Woodview 7pm Ping Pong NKCC	Fall Prevention Exercise Class 10 to 11am ShuffleBoard 1 pm, LEGION	Playgroup 0-6yrs 10am-12 NKCC Pot Luck Lunch Canasta or Darts 12:30pm Woodview	Duplicate Bridge 12:30pm NKCC Music Jam Session 4pm, LEGION	LIVE MUSIC @ WOODY'S Tammy J Wilde 4-7pm												
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AUGUST	3	Civic Holiday															
29	30																



CT Tree Services

Guest Contributor Craig Tracey
<https://cttrees.ca/>

Celebrating Thirty Years!

Led by Craig Tracey and a dedicated team of professional arborists, is proud to celebrate 30 years in business. This milestone reflects decades of hard work, industry expertise, environmental stewardship, and a continued commitment to providing safe, professional, and reliable tree care services to the region.

Education & Professional Background

Craig graduated from Algonquin College in 1986 as a Forestry Technician. He continued his professional development at Fleming College in 1996, completing Urban Tree Maintenance programming with specialized training in tree climbing, line-clearing safety, dendrology, arboriculture science, equipment maintenance, and tree pest and disease management.

Before starting CT Tree Services, he built extensive field experience during his many years of work with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, working across multiple divisions including Fire, Lands, Timber, Fish and Wildlife, and serving as a Deputy Conservation Officer.



Commitment & Environmental Stewardship

Craig and his team are committed to continuous self-development by staying current with advancing technology, scientific research, and emerging products within the arboriculture and forestry industries. They place the highest priority on the health and safety of employees, clients, and the public while working to protect property and responsibly steward the environment. The business focuses not simply on tree removal, but on preserving and maintaining healthy, sustainable landscapes whenever possible.

Community Impact

Committed to supporting our local community through our new annual tree planting initiatives focused on reforestation and sustainability. CT Trees are proud supporters of local organizations and events, including the Apsley Food Bank and the local Lions Club. Craig also served as a volunteer firefighter for 14 years, demonstrating a long-standing dedication to public service and community safety.

Industry Collaboration & Tree Health Expertise

Craig continues to collaborate with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources on emerging tree disease diagnosis and treatment strategies. He emphasizes the importance of accurate diagnosis, as many tree disease symptoms can overlap, requiring careful assessment and expert evaluation to determine the most effective treatment and long-term tree health solutions.

Acknowledgements

We would like to sincerely thank our amazing employees — Jacob Tracey, Pieter Donia, Alex Bullied, Jackson Minion, and Colby Parker — for their hard work, dedication, and commitment.

We are equally grateful for the unwavering support of our families and deeply appreciate the continued trust and loyalty of our customers. Your support has been instrumental in our growth and success.

Stay connected with <https://cttrees.ca> and follow on Instagram @c.tree for live chats, updates, and a first look at how we're bringing cutting-edge AI technology into modern tree services.




TREE SERVICES

SINCE 1996

CT Tree Services

Office # 705-656-1611



What's Happening at the Library

Weekly Kid's Club – Final Session Before Summer!

Thursday, June 4th @ 3:15 -4:15pm
Apsley Branch

Join us on June 4th for the last Kids Club meetup before summer break! Designed for children ages 6–9, Kids Club is a fun and welcoming weekly program featuring stories, snacks, and hands-on activities. Each week we explore something new with crafts, art, games, or STEM activities. There is no cost to attend, just come ready to have fun at the library!

The Literary Buffet

Thursday, June 11th @ 6:30pm
Apsley Branch

Looking for your next great read? Join us for The Literary Buffet, our monthly book club where everyone brings along the last book, or books, they've read and joins the conversation. There's no assigned reading, making this a relaxed and welcoming way to discover new authors, explore different genres, and share recommendations with fellow readers. It's also a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and connect over a shared love of books.

Advanced Soapstone Workshop

Tuesday, June 16th
OR

Tuesday, July 14 @ 10am
Woodview Branch
\$5.00 per person.

The class is available to those who have attended the beginner class previously (the loon) Beginner classes will be available again in the fall!

Pre-registration required. 705-654-1071
programming@northkawarthlibrary.com
to sign up or for more info.



Cheese & Cheers: A Non-Alcoholic Pairing Experience

Saturday, June 13th. 1-3pm at the Woodview library
OR 6-8pm
Glen Alda Community Centre

Lonnie from The Grape & Wedge will guide guests through a tasting of five Canadian award-winning artisanal cheeses paired with five non-alcoholic wines and beers. Along the way, participants will learn a little about the history of cheese and its wonderful

partnership with wine and beer — all without the alcohol. Cash payment only. \$40 per person or \$35 for current G&W Cheese of the Month Club members. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

To register, please call 705-656-4333 or email
programming@northkawarthlibrary.com.



Wildfire 101: Prevention, Preparedness & Protection

Friday, June 19th @ 7 -8:30pm
Apsley branch



Join us for an engaging and informative Wildfire 101 presentation with Ken Cox from the Haliburton Fire Management Headquarters of Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources. With nearly two decades of experience in wildfire response and education, Ken

will explore how wildland fires start, how they behave, and what homeowners and communities can do to better protect themselves and their properties. This one-hour presentation will cover wildfire prevention, mitigation, emergency preparedness, and community resiliency, while also offering insight into the realities of wildfire management in Ontario and across Canada. Known for his enthusiastic and approachable speaking style, Ken encourages audience participation and discussion, with plenty of time for questions following the presentation.

Whether you are a year-round resident, cottager, outdoor enthusiast, or simply curious about wildfire safety in our region, this is an excellent opportunity to learn from local experts working on the front lines of fire management. This presentation is free to attend, and light refreshments will be provided. No pre-registration is required. For more information, please call 705-656-4333.

Books and Banter Book Club

Tuesday, June 23rd @ 10am
Woodview branch

Join our book club in Woodview! We meet once a month to discuss books we have read that match the monthly theme. No commitment to read a specific book. Informal coffee and chat. Bring a friend or meet new ones. Free to attend, no registration required. Call Woodview to find out the next theme 705-654-1071. 66 Northey's Bay Road at Wilson Park.

LET'S GO TO THE LIBRARY...



DIY Raised Planter Box

<https://sawdustsisters.com/diy-planter-box-plans/>

LUMBER

(2) 2x4x8 cedar boards

(5) 1x6x8 cedar boards

(1) 1x4x8 cedar board

CUTS

2x4s- 4 @ 30" (it is critical that all 4 are exactly the same length)

1x4- 2 @ 48"

1x6's:

4 @ 48" for the long sides

4 @ ~21" for the short sides (measure and cut at the end)

9 @ 19" bottom

Step 1: Cut the lumber

This DIY outdoor planter box requires a lot of cuts that are the exact same size. Get cutting according to the measurements in the materials list.

Step 2: Drill pilot holes

This large planter box has two long sides and two short sides. To



make assembly easier (and keep the swear words to a minimum), I highly recommend you drill pilot holes on your side pieces before you assemble it. This will help the screws go in easier and keep the cedar from splitting. The long side pieces of this DIY planter box are the four 48" pieces and the four ~21" pieces are the short sides that you will measure at the end. Notice that I doubled up when drilling the pilot holes. I drilled two pilot holes on each end of the sideboards.

Step 3: Assemble the Long Sides

You will begin by assembling the two long sides of the raised planter box. Attach the two 48" 1x6s to the 2x4s. The top 1x6 will be flush with the top of the 2x4s leaving no space between it and the bottom 1x6. Use wood glue and 2-3" wood screws and drill from front side.

Step 4: Do it again for the other side

You can see why it's so important that the legs are straight and same size. Take your time to make sure your cuts are accurate.



It helps to use the side you assembled to mark the other side. And just like that, the sides of your DIY patio planter are built.

Step 6: Add Floor Support

Now it's time to add the piece that holds the bottom boards of your planter box. , the 1x4s attach to the 2x4s on the opposite side of the 1x6's, slightly overlapping the bottom of the 1x6. I attached mine about 10 1/2" from the top, give or take. Just be sure they're both placed at exactly the same height and that there is no gap between the floor and the sides of the planter when the floorboards are on.

Step 7: Assemble the Floor Ends

Now it's time to put together the floor of the garden box. Begin with the two end pieces. These will be tricky because they will need to be cut to go around the 2x4s. Mark them on the spot with a pencil and use a jig saw to cut the pieces. Once you're certain that they fit, attach them with wood glue and brad nails. Once you have it all squared away, shoot nails from the top down into the edge of the 1x4.

Step 8: Assemble the Floor

Attach the rest of the 1x6s in the same manner. All of them should fit without cutting down the width. However, there's a chance you may need to rip one down depending on the width of your boards.

If you end up with a looser fit, spread the boards out and leave a small, even gap in between, which will be perfect for drainage!

Step 9: Drill Holes for Drainage

It's important to give these wooden planter boxes some drainage. If your boards fit pretty tight, you will want to drill a few holes on the bottom to allow for proper drainage.

Step 10: Measure, Cut, and Attach the Sides

Lastly, you will measure and cut the short side pieces to finish up this masterpiece. Be sure they overlap the entire short side. Like the long sides, the short sides are attached with wood screws into the 2x4s. Don't forget the pilot holes

Also recommend to line the box - now you can get planting!

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North Kawartha
Community Centre
340 McFadden Rd, Apsley



Contributed by Maaiké Berg-Nonnekes

June, a month that suggests the warmth of the summer, the promise of the day with the most daylight and a strawberry moon! "June is the time for being in the world in new ways, for throwing off the cold and dark spots of life." Jean D. Chittister

A successful Euchre tournament was held on May 8, with 42 players, a delicious lunch and many cash prizes! Well done! We look forward to a Bingo afternoon on June 24 and, possibly, a Canasta tournament in the near future. Also, many ABC members have signed up for an excursion to the 4th Line Theatre on July 8 to enjoy the production "Schoolhouse." These events are open to all ABC Seniors members. If you are interested in participating, you may want to consider a membership. (\$7.00/year)

On Wednesday, June 17, Service Canada is coming to the NKCC. An information session is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. To book individual support after that, please register for the clinic portion by calling 705.917.4800. Help is being offered to complete applications for the following programs and services: Canada Pension Plan (CPP), Old Age Security (OAS), Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), Canadian Disability Benefit (CDB) and Social Insurance Number (SIN). Visit Canada.ca or call 1.800.622.6232 for a complete list of required documents or for further information. This is open to everyone; no need to be an ABC member.

Regular programming continues until the end of June, making June 30 the last lunch before the summer break. Even though the Tuesday lunches will be on a reduced schedule, the afternoon card games (Euchre and Canasta) will be sure to continue on a weekly basis throughout the summer. Pickleball will continue on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and Tuesday mornings are added during July and August starting at 10:00 a.m.

The annual ABC Seniors Christmas Bazaar on November 7 has its annual raffle! Tickets are \$2.00 and will be available at NKCC on Tuesdays or from ABC members. The three prizes are:

A twin hand-stitched quilt by Merle Post, an ABC member who loves volunteering and music. Merle was awarded the



Peterborough County Volunteer of the Year! Donations and volunteering are her ways of “giving back.”

The 2nd prize is a hand-felted one-of-a-kind shawl (20” x 60”) donated by Judy Ranieri, a member of the Apsley Autumn Studio Tour. She creates nature-inspired textile and fibre art, using natural fibres and layered techniques.

Wildlife artist Brenda Rudder has donated the 3rd prize, “Red Fox Dawn”, an acrylic painting on a 10”x11” pine plank. A member of the Apsley Autumn Studio tour, she paints detailed and vibrant acrylics on reclaimed wood. Brenda is inspired by her love of nature which began at Jack Lake.

If you are interested in learning more about the ABC Seniors Club, please visit us on Tuesdays at the NKCC at 10:30 a.m. to find out!

Contact: abc seniorscommunications@gmail.com



CLPOA FISHING DERBY

Please note that all community events require community volunteers.

To date we are well below the threshold of being able to host the posted events and unless we gain more support, the events may not

take place so PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP!

Do you have children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews, neighbours or cottage guests 4-12 years of age:

If so, make sure they don't miss the 8th Annual CLPOA Kid's Fishing Derby on Saturday, July 4th, 2026.

Create long-lasting memories at this fun-filled day that includes:

Prizes for the longest living fish in each of the categories:

Lake Trout, Pike, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Perch And the greatest weight of combined living Pan Fish (if there are combined efforts the weight is divided by the number of anglers.)

Entertainment for the kids when they return from fishing at 11:00 AM provided by Clark Breuls, Re/Max.

OPP Marine Unit display about boating and water safety.

All participants receive:

A loot bag, T-shirt, Lunch (others may purchase a lunch by making



Jack's Lake Association 2026 Events

JUNE 27 Summer Kick Off Pot Luck Social

JUNE 28 Kids Ice Cream Social

JULY 4 Kids Fishing Derby

JULY 18 Jack Lake Music Fest

AUG 2 Regatta

Chandos Lake Property Owners Association 2026 Events

AGM – Tuesday, May 5th

Canoe and Kayak Day – June 16

Sailing Club Race 1 – June 27

Kids' Fishing Derby – July 4

Sailing Club Race 2 – July 11

CLPOA Summer Social - July 18

Sailing Club Race 3 – July 25

Regatta & Fireworks – Aug 1

Sailing Club Race 4 – Aug 8

Volunteer Appreciation Social – Aug 15

CLPOA Charity Golf Tournament – Aug 22

Sailing Club Race 5 Award BBQ – Aug 29

a donation to CLPOA)

Participants must be between 4-12 years of age on July 4th, 2026 and accompanied by a responsible adult.

Please bring your own life jackets.

Location: Lakeview Cottages & Marina – 176 Lakeview Crescent, Chandos Lake.

Date: Saturday, July 4th, 2026 (Rain or Shine)

Check-in: 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM – All children must have waivers signed prior to fishing.

Fishing: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Weigh-in table before 11:00 AM

Followed by Lunch, a group photo and the presentation of prizes. This is a Catch & Release Tournament. All game fish must be presented alive at the measurement table in a self-provided container.



COUNCIL'S CORNER

by Mayor Carolyn Amyotte,
Township of North Kawartha

Please visit www.northkawartha.ca for all things municipal in North Kawartha. If you would like to receive regular municipal updates you may also subscribe to North Kawartha's email alerts via the website as well. If you would like to watch the Council meetings, please subscribe to the Township's YouTube Channel. For those of you that are active on social media please follow me @MayorAmyotte. It is my intent to share positive, factual and timely information about issues, events and happenings that impact our community and residents. To contact me directly, my phone number is (705) 931-1342 and my email is mayor@northkawartha.ca.



Here's a few things that happened since my last update:

Council took a tour of the newly renovated former RBC bank space. This unit will be available for lease in the near future... stay tuned!

We approved the micro-surfacing tender from Miller Paving Ltd

Council supported the call for action that the Province introduce legislation that improves protection for municipal public works workers and subcontractors

We approved a road name change for a portion of Hulls's Road to be renamed Waterfall Lane

Council presented several staff with long standing service awards including CEO/Librarian Debbie Hall for 20 years of service, Trace Vickers for 25 years of service and Gary Geraldi for 30 years of service. On May 5, 2026 our Clerk Connie Parent took her last set of Council meeting minutes. After 32 years with the Township, Connie will be hanging up her keyboard and beginning her well deserved retirement. Thank you Connie for guidance and leadership over the past 3 decades. You will be missed! Lastly, I'd like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that I have filed my nomination forms and I am running for re-election as Mayor in North Kawartha. It has been an honour to serve this community, and I am proud of our many accomplishments. I know there is still more to do, and I am committed to continue working for the betterment of all North Kawarthans. If you would like to speak with me about my election campaign, please contact me at carolyn@eelslake.com or call me at (705)931-1496.

Here's the upcoming meeting schedule:

Regular Meetings of Council are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, except in July when Council meets on the second Tuesday

Regular Meetings of North Kawartha Library Board on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except in July and December



Debbie Hall Retires

Debbie Hall was presented with certificates from Council for 20 years longstanding service and her retirement certificate from the North Kawartha Library Board. Congratulations Debbie to the milestone of 20 years of dedicated leadership and service. Your vision and commitment have shaped the library into a vibrant, welcoming space that enriches the entire community. We wish you every happiness in the years ahead.

Trace Celebrates 25 Yrs with NKT



One of the best things about being the Mayor is getting to celebrate the accomplishments of fellow North Kawarthans.

I am proud to acknowledge and celebrate Trace and his 25 years of dedicated service to our Township. Trace joined North Kawartha in 2001 and started his exemplary career at the dump way before they became the transfer stations, we have today. In fact, this is where I first met him and I always looked forward to my dump runs and trash-talking with Trace.

It was clear back then that Trace loves working with the public. It wasn't long after being in the Waste Dept. that Gary added to Trace's responsibility by bringing him over to Parks and Rec. Trace's first duty- drive the Zamboni! While most new employees might find this to be intimidating, especially with an arena full of spectators, Trace relished the opportunity and spotlight. According to Gary: Trace had a permanent smile and became a sponge for new information, especially ice making and ice maintenance techniques. Trace exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. He is exceptionally reliable, and his working knowledge of the NKCC is second to none. Trace very much appreciated and was thankful for the opportunity to work in a new community centre, as many P&R employees don't get that opportunity in their career. His enthusiasm and commitment was invaluable when building and opening the NKCC. And not just then, but over the years Trace has consistently demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond, for the community that he loves to serve. Trace's contributions have had a lasting impact, but more importantly, Trace's character has made him a trusted and valued friend to his co-workers and many people in the community. In a nutshell, Trace's dedication reflects the very best of municipal service. Congratulations Trace, on 25 years of outstanding service, and thank you for everything you continue to do for North Kawartha.

Gary Gerald - 30 Years of Service with North Kawartha



By Mayor, Carolyn Amyotte

Welcome to the 30-year club Gary! Arriving in North Kawartha in 1996 (the same year as me), Gary was hired originally as the Arena Manager, and quickly rose to become Lord of the Dump, Master of Building Maintenance and Emperor of the NKCC. Seriously though, Gary is a man of many talents and accomplishments. As the Manager of Parks and Rec, Waste and Building Maintenance he has completed numerous training programs and has received a veritable plethora of certifications and professional designations. It is truly amazing just how competent he is in every aspect of the many areas under his purview. There is so much on his plate, yet it all gets done to an incredibly high standard. One of his many admirable talents is his incredible people skills. Whether it's his staff, his colleagues, Council or members of the public, Gary treats everyone with respect, he always makes himself available and often goes above and beyond to support and assist anyone who needs it.

He has accomplished so much during his tenure but perhaps his most well-known and crowning glory is our beautiful North Kawartha Community Centre. It is a stunning facility that for all intents and purposes he was the project manager and consultant on. The building incorporates so many great ideas that came about not only because of his experience in the field, but also because of his ability to come up with creative and imminently practical solutions to any problems that arose. It's an award-winning design that has been a model for many other communities to follow when building their own facilities.

Everyone knows my mantra is: the greatest asset of any community is its people...Gary, on behalf of Council, and all of North Kawartha, thank you for 3 decades of outstanding service to our community.

Connie Parent Retires After 32 Years of Service with NKT



By Mayor, Carolyn Amyotte

May 5, 2026 was Connie Parent's last official meeting as our Clerk. After 32 years with the Township of North Kawartha, Connie has taken her last set of minutes and will be hanging up her keyboard.

Connie started her career with Burleigh Anstruther Township in 1994 as an Occasional Office Assistant. She became the Administrative Assistant/Receptionist in 1996 and in 2000; she became the Clerk for North Kawartha Township. She has accumulated numerous awards, certificates and professional accomplishments during her tenure including the AMCTO Certified Municipal Officer designation, Employment Law and Human Resources for Municipalities, attaining an Executive Diploma in Municipal Management, Workplace Violence and Harassment, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities, and has a yellow belt in Lean Six Sigma!

Connie has been one of our Township's greatest resources. Connie is a consummate professional and has been a mentor to both staff and Council many of us during the last 3 decades.

Connie is one of the most tactful people I have ever known. Several times, I have witnessed her handle a difficult situation or person with thoughtfulness and care, while sticking to her guns, maintaining her integrity, and putting that person right in their place.

The role of the Clerk is vital for a well functioning Council and municipality, and it can be extremely challenging. Connie has always handled her role with professionalism and grace.

Although we are sad to see her go, Connie has left her mark on North Kawartha and on our hearts, and she has set us up well for the future. Congratulations Connie, we wish you all the best in your retirement.



Gayle Davis, Freelance

“Bad Kid” or “Struggling Kid”

There it was again. Kicking. Spitting. Hurling toys through the air like missiles of mass destruction. A terrifying tantrum that seemed unstoppable. What a bad kid!

Years ago, this would have been the exact response to displays of ‘unacceptable’ behaviour. Other children would distance themselves from the individual, isolating them even more. Parents were labelled as ‘bad parents’, unable to control their child. Teachers gave up trying to teach them anything. They would often exit the school system convinced they were bad and even worse, stupid. That opened the door to a lifetime of poor choices because they couldn’t understand their behaviour and no one knew how to ‘fix it.’ Was that really fair or accurate?

Once thought to be a severe form of schizophrenia, ongoing research identified the condition related to this brain disorder as autism. Autism is defined as a developmental disorder where there are unconventional responses to people and actions, according to dictionary.com.

My great-grandson has been diagnosed with autism. It has been and continues to be quite the journey. So, is it a tantrum or is it an autistic response? A tantrum is usually goal oriented. Once the goal is achieved the behaviour usually subsides. However, if it is an autistic meltdown, the child is reacting to sensory overload that might be imperceptible to us. Sights, sounds and smells can trigger a response that quickly escalates. Even the way we verbalize a request can create an out-of-control reaction.

There have been times when my great-grandson has ‘emptied a classroom’; the other children exited the room, leaving him inside until his behaviour de-escalated. He was enrolled in a French immersion school in JK and SK. There were challenges but they were managed. However as soon as he entered Grade One and the lessons were given in French, he went ballistic. He couldn’t understand what was being said and worse, he couldn’t understand why he was having so

much trouble. He spent a lot of days at home. He has since been put into the English stream and things have shown a slight improvement. But there’s still a long way to go. He is still bullied and misunderstood.

Parents are bewildered and at the end of their rope. Teachers are frustrated and afraid at times of being hit or spat upon or injured. What is the solution?

Education.

This is a broad and deep topic that cannot be fully covered here. There is a great deal of research which is ongoing. Schools are constantly revisiting how to manage a child with autism while giving enough attention to the other students in their classrooms. Kudos to our teachers who are already teaching in extremely full classrooms with dwindling resources.

Research has shown that the cause of autism is more genetic than hereditary. Autism is related to an individual’s unique genetic make-up as opposed to being a hereditary trait passed down from one family member to another, i.e. height, eye colour, and hair colour. A link has not been established between autism and vaccines, although this is a common but incorrect assumption in some circles.

Some well-known people with autism include Anthony Hopkins, Dan Ackroyd and Albert Einstein. They and others are proof that folks with autism can go on to achieve great things.

Since young children do not have the capacity to understand their condition, it is up to adults to educate ourselves and help to equip them with the skills they need for self-regulation and success in life. The old adage, ‘one size fits all’ certainly doesn’t apply here. Each one of us is ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’. And different. Respect, patience, and compassion will go a long way to helping these kids cope and thrive in a very complex and confusing world. It’s time to step up!

As for my great-grandson, he struggles every day. But there is hope through education, programs, and ongoing research that one day he will be able to manage his condition and live a successful life. The other ingredient? Love. Lots of love.

Editors Note:

My son Jackson (who is now 25yrs old) was diagnosed with Aspergers when he was 10...its been a journey and the loving support never stops. As parents, we valued the diagnosis as it gave us access to knowledge and resources. When others in our circle saw it as a “crutch”, Jackson has always owned and celebrated his beautiful mind (that was also blessed with Tourettes). It hasn’t always been easy and I am inspired by his resilience. As a parent, it can be debilitating at times not knowing how to help them navigate a world that more times than not chooses to turn away instead of understand. Consistency has been key, with the right tools. Advocacy and embracing what works for your family.

Jackson has found his “people” and is living an abundant, joyful life, financially stable and loving life. I am grateful to have grown in empathy and understanding, it has helped our son as well as other relationships in our lives. Love you Son.





Something Sweet For Dad

Homemade Maple Bacon Doughnuts

Ingredients

- 1 cup (240ml) whole milk, warmed to about 110°F (43°C)*
- 1 Tablespoon active dry yeast*
- 1/3 cup (65g) granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 6 Tablespoons (85g) unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 cups (500g) all-purpose flour (spooned & leveled), plus more as needed
- 1 – 2 quarts vegetable oil*

Topping

- 3 Tablespoons (43g) unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup (120ml) pure maple syrup
- 1 and 3/4 cups (195g) sifted confectioners' sugar*
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon maple extract (optional)
- 12 slices cooked bacon, cut in half

Instructions

Prepare the dough: Whisk the warm milk, yeast, and sugar together in the bowl of your stand mixer fitted with a dough hook or paddle attachment. Cover and allow to sit for 5 minutes. The mixture should be a little frothy on top after 5 minutes. If not, start over with new yeast.

Add the eggs, butter, vanilla, nutmeg, salt, and 2 cups (245g) flour. Beat on low speed for 1 minute. Scrape down the sides of the bowl with a silicone spatula as needed. Add remaining flour and beat on medium speed until the dough comes together and pulls away from the sides of the bowl, about 2 minutes. If needed, add more flour, 1 Tablespoon at a time, until the dough pulls away from the sides of the bowl. Don't add too much flour, though. You want a slightly sticky dough. *If you do not own a mixer, you can mix this dough with a large wooden spoon or silicone spatula. It will take a bit of arm muscle!*

Knead the dough: Keep the dough in the mixer and beat for an additional 5-7 full minutes, or knead by hand on a lightly floured surface for 5-7 full minutes. (If you're new to bread-baking, my How to Knead Dough video tutorial can help here.) If the dough becomes too sticky during the kneading process, sprinkle 1 teaspoon of flour at a time on the dough or on the work surface/in the bowl to make a soft, slightly tacky dough. Do not add more flour than you need because you do not want a dry dough. After kneading, the dough should still feel a little soft. Poke it with your finger—if it slowly bounces back, your



dough is ready to rise. You can also do a “windowpane test” to see if your dough has been kneaded long enough: tear off a small (roughly golfball-size) piece of dough and gently stretch it out until it's thin enough for light to pass through it. Hold it up to a window or light. Does light pass through the stretched dough without the dough tearing first? If so, your dough has been kneaded long enough and is ready to rise. If not, keep kneading until it passes the windowpane test.

Let Dough Rise: Lightly grease a large bowl with oil or nonstick spray. Place the dough in the bowl, turning it to coat all sides in the oil. Cover the bowl with aluminum foil, plastic wrap, or a clean kitchen towel. Allow the dough to rise in a relatively warm environment for 1.5-2 hours or until double in size. (For a tiny reduction in rise time, see my answer to Where Should Dough Rise? in my Baking with Yeast Guide.)

Shape Doughnuts: When the dough is ready, punch it down to release the air. Remove dough from the bowl and turn it out onto a lightly floured surface. If needed, punch down again to release any more air bubbles. Using a rolling pin, roll the dough out until it is 1/2 inch thick. Using a 3-3.5 inch doughnut cutter, cut into 12 doughnuts. If you can't quite get 12, re-roll the scraps and cut more. (*If you don't have a doughnut cutter, you can use 1 large + 1 smaller circle cookie cutter. Large should be about 3 and 1/2 inches.)

Line 1 or 2 baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. Place doughnuts and doughnut holes on each. (Feel free to discard doughnut holes if you don't want to make them.) Loosely cover and allow to rest as you heat the oil. They will rise a bit as they rest. Place a cooling rack over another baking sheet.

Pour oil into a large heavy-duty pot set over medium heat. Heat oil to 375°F (191°C). Add 2-3 doughnuts at a time and cook for 1 minute on each side. Carefully remove with a metal spatula or metal slotted spoon. Wear kitchen gloves if oil is splashing. Place fried doughnuts onto prepared cooling rack. Repeat with remaining doughnuts, then turn off heat.* (See note for doughnut holes.)

Make the icing: In a small saucepan over low heat, melt the butter and maple syrup together, whisking occasionally. Once the butter has melted, remove from heat and whisk in the sifted confectioners' sugar, salt, and maple extract. Dip each warm doughnut into the icing. The icing quickly thickens, so feel free to place it back over heat as you dip the doughnuts. Place dipped doughnuts back onto cooling rack as excess icing drips down. Gently press bacon slices on top of each. (You can also crumble/chop up the bacon for topping.) After about 30 minutes, the glaze will set + harden. Doughnuts are best enjoyed the same day. You can store in an airtight container at room temperature or in the refrigerator for 1-2 extra days.



Unbelievable Peanut Butter Pie

Ingredients

Oreo Crust

22 whole Oreo cookies (250g; regular, not Double Stuff)

5 Tablespoons (71g) unsalted butter, melted

Ganache

3/4 cup (180ml) heavy cream

6 ounces (170g) semi-sweet chocolate, finely chopped

Peanut Butter Filling

1 cup (240ml) heavy cream, cold

8 ounces (226g) full-fat brick cream cheese, softened to room temperature

1 and 1/2 cups (375g) creamy peanut butter

3/4 cup (90g) confectioners' sugar

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Optional Toppings For Serving

Whipped Cream

1/4 cup (50g) Reese's Pieces, crushed

1/4 cup (30g) chopped peanuts

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C).

Bake the crust: In a food processor or blender, pulse 22 Oreos (including the cream filling) into a fine crumb. You should have about 2 cups (packed) crumbs, or 250g. Pour crumbs into a large bowl. Add the melted butter and stir to combine. The mixture will be thick and quite wet. Try to smash/break up any large chunks. Pour the mixture into an ungreased 9-inch pie dish. With medium pressure using your hand, pat the crumbs down into the



bottom and up the sides to make a compact, thick crust. See this Oreo crust page for more success tips if needed. Bake for 10 minutes. Allow to cool as you prepare the filling.

Make the ganache: Place chopped chocolate in a medium heat-proof bowl. Heat the cream in a small saucepan over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Once it comes to a simmer, immediately remove from heat and pour over the chocolate. Let sit for 2–3 minutes to soften the chocolate, then stir gently until the ganache is smooth. Set aside at room temperature and allow to slightly cool. During this time, it will gradually thicken as well.

Make the filling: Using a hand mixer or a stand mixer fitted with a whisk attachment, beat the heavy cream on medium-high speed until stiff peaks form, about 3 minutes. Spoon the whipped cream into a bowl and set aside. Using the same mixing bowl (no need to rinse it out), beat the cream cheese on medium-high speed until smooth. Then add the peanut butter, confectioners' sugar, and vanilla extract, and beat until combined. Mixture will be thick. Fold in the whipped cream until smooth. Be gentle, you don't want to deflate that cream.

Spread peanut butter filling into the cooled crust; I use a small offset spatula for this. Spread the chocolate ganache on top of the filling.

Note: If you don't plan to serve the pie with whipped cream, you can add chopped peanuts and/or Reese's Pieces on top of the wet ganache before chilling the pie (so they stick). Otherwise, wait until you garnish with whipped cream (step 9).

Chill the pie in the refrigerator for at least 6 hours and up to 48 hours. If chilling for longer than a day, loosely cover it.

Garnish the pie: I used Wilton 1M tip for piping whipped cream on the pictured pie. Top the whipped cream with Reese's Pieces and chopped peanuts. Slice and serve cold. Cover leftover pie and store in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.



Punny Dad Jokes

I only seem to get sick on weekdays. I must have a weekend immune system.

I don't get why Marvel doesn't use the Hulk to advertise more. He's basically one big Banner.

My wife asked me the other day where I got so much candy. I said, "I always have a few Twix up my sleeve."

What's the difference between a well-dressed man on a unicycle and a poorly-dressed man on a bicycle? Attire.

Of all the inventions of the last 100 years, the dry erase board has to be the most remarkable.

This morning, Siri said, "Don't call me Shirley." I accidentally left my phone in Airplane mode.

I asked my date to meet me at the gym but she never showed up. I guess the two of us aren't going to work out.

I used to run a dating service for chickens. But I was struggling to make hens meet.

Have you heard about those new corduroy pillows? They're making headlines

A panic-stricken man explained to his doctor, "You have to help me, I think I'm shrinking." "Now settle down," the doctor calmly told him. "You'll just have to learn to be a little patient.

Have you heard about the restaurant on the moon? Great food, no atmosphere.

I don't trust stairs. They're always up to something.

Never date a tennis player. Love means nothing to them.

I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I'll let you know.

Imagine if you walked into a bar and there was a long line of people waiting to take a swing at you. That's the punch line.

My wife left me because of my obsession with pasta. I'm feeling cannelloni right now

I'm addicted to collecting vintage Beatles albums. I need Help.

Not to brag but I made six figures last year. I was also named worst employee at the toy factor

When I die, I want to be cremated. It's my last chance to have a smokin' hot body

What's the best thing about living in Switzerland? I don't know, but the flag is a big plus.

I used to be addicted to soap, but I'm clean now.

Swords will never go obsolete. They're cutting edge technology.

30 percent of pet owners let their pets sleep in their bed. I tried it and my goldfish died.

You used to be able to get air for free at gas stations, but now it's a \$1. That's inflation for you.

I went to a smoke shop only to discover it'd been replaced by an apparel store. Clothes, but no cigar.

As I get older, I remember all the people I lost along the way. Maybe a career as a tour guide was not the right choice.





LIONS COMMUNITY REPORT

by Jim Empringham,
Apsley and District Lions Club

Spring and summer got off to spectacular start with the first annual Apsley Lions Home and Cottage Show on the weekend of May 2 & 3! Almost 1300 people came out to enjoy the opportunity of seeing a wide range of services and products presented by nearly 100 vendors. The response of vendors has been very positive with virtually all expressing the desire to return in 2027. Customers were no less positive. This was a win-win for all. Our community was recognized for the event, our vendors made many contacts and sales and our customers gathered lots of information, advice and bargains. We cannot thank enough members of our community for their support and encouragement. The large number of



volunteers who came out both days to help things run smoothly were invaluable. Our municipality, both council and NKCC staff, made such a difference in making NKCC available and assisting in every aspect of organization. Of course, the Lions members who spent so many months preparing for this event and then spent countless hours on the weekend need to be thanked. This was an incredible, feel-good event for our community. We should all be proud of how we put North Kawartha on the map for providing this service.

Hot dog day was held again this year outside Sayers on May 16. This day traditionally welcomes our seasonal residents back to the area and celebrates the great partnership that Lions and so many others in our community have with the Sayers family. The Sayers are such great supporters of our kids, our families and the community at large. Thank you. The funds raised will go to support a variety of Lions and community priorities.

Canada Day falls on a Wednesday this year. Last year was one of the best in recent memory. Let's make this year even better as we show our pride in our country. The parade starts from the school at 4 pm. If individuals, organizations and businesses want to put an entry in the parade please call Brenda Lenson

(705-656-9254). The more the merrier! We encourage as many as can come to enjoy the parade as it winds through town to Lions Park. Plan on spending time at the Park where there will be games for kids, music for adults and food for all. Fireworks will happen at dusk. Let's join together in celebrating this special day! The Annual Lions Flea Market is coming, as always, on the third Saturday of July. This year that will be Saturday, July 18. NKCC doors open at 8:30 am to welcome enthusiastic buyers looking for bargains.

Please remember this is a cash only event. This activity could not happen



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without donations of gently used items. Drop off of these items at Lions Park began Saturday, May 16 and will continue every Saturday from 9:00 til noon until the sale. This is a massive event that succeeds, in part, due to the number of volunteers who come out in the two weeks leading up to sale for set up and also on the day of the sale. We encourage members of our community to be part of the fun. If you would like to volunteer please contact Brenda Lenson (705-656-9254). This is a great opportunity for students to accumulate volunteer hours required for high school graduation.

Euchre nights continue on the third Wednesday of the month. The next three dates are June 17, July 15 and August 19. Admission is \$5 and play starts promptly at 7 pm. Come out and enjoy a night of fun with friends new and old.



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**THINK TURTLE
CONSERVATION**

by Kelly Wallace

Nest Protection: Keepin it Real The Overall Picture

Turtles are a species at risk and face significant population declines. Some species, such as Snapping turtles and Blanding's turtles, can take seventeen to twenty years to reach sexual maturity. Habitat loss and road mortality have placed major pressure on turtle populations, and many turtles do not survive long enough to reproduce.

Protecting the adult turtles that make up the breeding population is critical, as are the nests themselves. In the wild, less than 1% of nests and hatchlings survive, which is why there is such a strong push to protect nests where possible.

But turtle mom's safety should always come first. After a turtle nests, the priority should be making sure the female turtle safely reaches the other side of the road if that is where she is trying to go. Helping the adult turtle survive improves the chances she will return to nest again in future years.

A quick note about snapping turtles after nesting. It is not uncommon to watch a snapping turtle walk toward the road after covering her nest, only to suddenly stop, do a complete 180-degree turn, and walk away from the road, meaning she doesn't need help crossing. Be sure to hang back and make sure of the direction the snapping turtle is actually headed. She may fool you and provide a maneuver worthy of a chuckle.

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Nest On Your Property

If a turtle nests on your property, you are allowed to install a turtle nest protector and are encouraged to do so as a contribution to local species recovery efforts. Protecting even one nest may help support future generations of turtles in your community.

A standard wooden frame turtle nest protector with a secure wire-mesh top, the four corners anchored to the ground with spikes, and a minimum of 2 exit holes for hatchlings to leave the nest protector and make their way toward nearby water is the design MNRF stipulations require.

For information about using, making or purchasing a nest protector, visit the Think Turtle website: <https://thinkturtle.ca/make-a-nest-protector>

Nest on Public Property

If you observe a turtle nesting on property you do not own or public property, do not assume a nest protector can be installed.

Permission is a must, and approval may not always be granted due to safety concerns, liability issues, or municipal bylaws. This is especially true along road shoulders and roadways where public safety comes first.

Under Ontario's Highway Traffic Act, road shoulders and highway rights of way are considered part of the highway, and placing materials or objects in these areas without authorization is not permitted and could result in fines or liability concerns. If a nest protector is installed without permission and contributes to an accident or injury, the person who installed it could be held liable.

Some municipalities also have bylaws that prohibit depositing materials or objects along roadsides and road shoulders, with applicable fines for violations. If you do not agree with this, we encourage you to respectfully contact local municipal representatives or the appropriate jurisdiction to review and discuss these concerns.

While it may be frustrating not to protect every nest, it is important to focus efforts on nests where permission has been obtained or protection is permitted.

If you have questions about a turtle or nest, please phone or text Think Turtle at 647-606-9537. We are happy to discuss possible options for protecting turtle nests. Every nest site is unique, and what may be appropriate or permitted at one location may not be at another. Discussing the situation is often the best first step.

Predation and Nest Loss

Turtle nests face difficult odds. Predators such as raccoons, foxes, skunks, gulls, snakes, rodents, and other wildlife can locate and dig up nests within minutes, hours, or days of eggs being laid. While difficult to witness, predation is a natural part of the environment and has always been part of the turtle story.

One of the roles turtle eggs play, beyond helping replenish turtle populations, is sustaining other wildlife species trying to survive and raise their own young. Nature is full of checks and balances. Just as we cannot be angry at a snapping turtle for eating goose eggs and doing what comes naturally, we cannot be angry at a fox or raccoon doing the same.

Before pointing fingers at wildlife, it is worth recognizing that human activities have played a role in tipping some of those natural balances. In some areas, species such as raccoons have increased significantly due to easy access to garbage, roadkill, pet food, crops, and food left out for other wildlife, increasing predation pressure on turtle nests. If wildlife are viewed as villains for increased nest predation, we should also reflect on the ways human activities have contributed to those changes.

It is also necessary to recognize the difference between a nest lost to natural predation and one destroyed unnecessarily through human activity. A nest consumed by wildlife is still contributing to the ecosystem. A nest destroyed by vehicles, construction, careless disturbance, or habitat destruction benefits nothing.



Nature is not always gentle, but it is deeply connected. Turtle conservation is not about viewing predators as villains. It is about reducing the human pressures turtles face and helping create conditions where both turtles and the ecosystems around them have a chance to persist.

Every turtle safely helped across a road, every nest protected responsibly, and every person who chooses to care can and does make a difference.



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By Helena McMann, AMHA Board Secretary
Denise Dunford
 Volunteer of the Year
 with Apsley Minor Hockey



It takes a village and we couldn't run the season without all the volunteers, coaches, bench staff, parents, fans and board members. Congratulations to Denise Dunford for volunteer of the year and special thanks to our amazing time keepers: Abby Shee, Addison Kirtley, Avery Davis and Avery Wilson. Another successful AMHA Hockey season for the books! See you at the Car Show in August and back at the rink in September. We are still looking for coaches in all levels, apply online and reach out with any questions.

Ever thought about COACHING?

Apsley Minor Hockey Coaching Applications Are Open!

https://apsleyminorchockey.com/Forms/1727/2026_27_Coaching_and_Bench_Staff_Application_Form/

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VIEW FROM THE CABIN

by Rick de Haan

The Wellness Check

Kim and I recently spent a week at a resort in Collingwood. We'd rented a housekeeping cabin of sorts. Each unit was attached to the next one at the corners—staggered if you will. This provided some privacy as well as a quieter stay. Well ... at least for first few days.

What we typically do at these places is park the car for the entire week. Then we hike the nearby trails to do some bird watching. We bring along enough groceries last us the whole time we're there. But if we needed anything, there were stores nearby that we could walk to.

Because it was April, the resort seemed devoid of any other renters. But, a few hours later a car pulled up and parked right next to ours, after which an older couple then proceeded to carry their stuff into the unit next door! (I seriously think this is what resorts, or hotels, do; they'll put someone right next to you ... on purpose. This, I assume, is so the staff, after you leave, can save time cleaning the units because they're right next to each other. Efficient for the resort staff, but not as nice for the guests. And as you may have surmised, it is a pet peeve of mine.)

After about three days we noticed our neighbours walking slowly past our front window. We thought it strange since we were in the end unit and the walkway went no further. But when it happened a second time, with glances at our front window, we began to wonder what they were up to!

Another day went by, and after a long afternoon of hiking parts of the vast trail network, we were looking forward to a relaxing evening. Kim went to the bedroom to change and whatnot, and I was laying out on the couch that was opposite the large front window. I wasn't doing anything in particular, just lounging in a sweatshirt and fleece pants thinking about the day. The TV wasn't on, and there were no lights on either. I was just vegging. It was then that I noticed him. The old man next door. He was walking out front again, only this time alone, slowly, hands clasped behind his back, trying to look casual. He was looking at the window, so, without moving I decided to watch him. He then walked back out of sight, and

after a minute, came back again. Only this time he sauntered over to the window and tried to see inside. I watched, thinking he was just interested to see what a one bedroom unit looked like. I continued to watch him, knowing that he probably couldn't see in very well because of the glare on the window. Then he walked away again! A minute later he came back and tried to look in second time, cupping one hand against the glass to see better. I watched, not moving. Suddenly, he seemed to spot me and quickly left. I assumed he was a little embarrassed that he'd been caught. Since he was an older chap, I had not wished to confront him and ask what the dickens he was up to. I didn't want to startle or scare him. I also decided to keep all this to myself since I didn't want Kim to be creeped out.

I really thought it was all over!

About a half hour later, Kim noticed an OPP officer on the walkway out front, presumably to make sure he was at the right place.

"What the heck is going on!?" Kim stated perplexingly. Blinding red, white, and blue lights pulsed from at least three emergency vehicles in and beyond the small parking lot.

The officer came to the door and knocked loudly. I told Kim that I'd handle it! I opened the door.

"Hi, can I help you with something?" I asked nonchalantly.

"Uhh, yes, we had a call from a concerned neighbour saying that there was a suspicious person in a robe, lying motionless on the couch!" A pause ensued. "Is that your blue Subaru in the parking lot?"

"Yes."

"Well . . . they said it hasn't been moved all week, and they were worried something was going on."

There was another pause, as I put two and two together. "Well, we're fine! The car has been there all week. But, we've been walking everywhere . . . and saw no need to start it up!" I stated, trying to look and sound as innocent as I could. (Despite my military training, looking and sounding innocent seems to be somewhat difficult for me, because police officers, and border guards, tend to be suspicious when I open my mouth to answer any direct questions. They are more often than not inclined to take the whole process to the next level!)

"OK, that's fine. We just came out to investigate and make sure there was no one in distress or, ahem, worse", the young cop stated, now starting to understand the situation.

"I wondered why the old guy next door kept walking back and forth

trying to look in the window. I wasn't wearing a robe by the way, just these fleece pants and a sweatshirt. And I didn't want to scare him by confronting him. We've been going out on walks all week long. Strange that he didn't see us!"

I realized I was beginning to ramble.

"Well, I'll talk to him after we're through here and let him know you're OK. Can I just come in and look around?"

This is when I noticed another officer, a firefighter, and a paramedic at the end of the walkway! Good grief, I thought.

After allowing him in to do his thing, he proceeded with flashlight in hand to peer under the bed, thoroughly inspect the bathroom, and he even look behind all the curtains. I guess he had to make sure I hadn't stuffed a body under the bed or propped some stiff up behind the drapes.

In the meantime, the firefighter, axe in hand, looked at me with a rueful smile. The paramedic walked up and asked if everyone was OK, and with a relieved look, I assume because he didn't have to deal with a fresh or not so fresh cadaver, walked briskly back out to his ambulance.

After being satisfied that there was no funny business going on, and no heinous crime had been committed, the cop left us to 'enjoy' the rest of our evening.

So, we sat there in the living room quietly ruminating about the events of what otherwise would've been a casual evening watching TV or reading.

I explained to Kim about the old man at the window, and that I kept it from her because I didn't want her to be creeped out about it.

"Well," she said, chuckling, "I can only say one thing; it could only happen to you!"



Supernatural Love

By Gjertrud Schnackenberg, Poetry Foundation.org

My father at the dictionary-stand, touches the page to fully understand. The lamplight answer, tilting in his hand
His slowly scanning magnifying lens, A blurry, glistening circle he suspends. Above the word "Carnation." Then he bends
So near his eyes are magnified and blurred, One finger on the miniature word,

As if he touched a single key and heard
A distant, plucked, infinitesimal string,
"The obligation due to every thing that's smaller than the universe." I bring My sewing needle close enough that I

Can watch my father through the needle's eye,
As through a lens ground for a butterfly
Who peers down flower-hallways toward a room
Shadowed and fathomed as this study's gloom

Where, as a scholar bends above a tomb
To read what's buried there, he bends to pore
Over the Latin blossom. I am four,

I spill my pins and needles on the floor
Trying to stitch "Beloved" X by X.

My dangerous, bright needle's point connects
Myself illiterate to this perfect text

I cannot read. My father puzzles why
It is my habit to identify

Carnations as "Christ's flowers," knowing I
Can give no explanation but "Because."

Word-roots blossom in speechless messages
The way the thread behind my sampler does
Where following each X I awkward move

My needle through the word whose root is love.
He reads, "A pink variety of Clove,
Carnatio, the Latin, meaning flesh."

As if the bud's essential oils brush
Christ's fragrance through the room, the iron-fresh

Odor carnations have floats up to me,
A drifted, secret, bitter ecstasy,

The stems squeak in my scissors, Child, it's me,
He turns the page to "Clove" and reads aloud:
"The clove, a spice, dried from a flower-bud."

Then twice, as if he hasn't understood,
He reads, "From French, for clou, meaning a nail."

He gazes, motionless. "Meaning a nail."
The incarnation blossoms, flesh and nail, I twist my threads like

stems into a knot and smooth "Beloved," but my needle caught
Within the threads, Thy blood so dearly bought,
The needle strikes my finger to the bone. I lift my hand, it is myself
I've sewn,

The flesh laid bare, the threads of blood my own,
I lift my hand in startled agony and call upon his name, "Daddy
daddy"— My father's hand touches the injury

As lightly as he touched the page before, Where incarnation
bloomed from roots that bore the flowers I called Christ's when I
was four.

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LOCAL EVENTS

Saturday June 27

Apsley & Area Artisan Festival Returns



The North Kawartha Community Centre will once again fill with the hum of conversation, the shuffle of foot traffic, and the quiet excitement of discovery as the Apsley & Area Artisan Festival returns for another summer day dedicated to local creativity.

For many in the area, it's become more than just an event on the calendar. It's a familiar early-summer gathering — a chance to reconnect with neighbours, browse at an unhurried pace, and step inside a space transformed by colour, texture, and craft.

Inside the Community Centre, rows of tables and displays bring together a wide range of makers from across the region. Paintings catch the light as visitors move through the space. The grain of hand-shaped woodwork invites a closer look. Delicate fibre works add softness and movement, while handcrafted jewellery catches the light with subtle detail as visitors move through the space. Alongside them, pottery, handmade body care products, micro crochet, and other works

speak to the depth of creative talent rooted in the Apsley area. Part of the festival's charm lies in its pace. Visitors are encouraged to take their time, to stop and talk with the artists themselves, and to hear the stories behind the work — how a material was chosen, how a technique was learned, or what inspired a particular piece. It's this direct connection that often turns a casual visit into something more memorable.

Stay for Lunch. We also welcome back The Grape and Wedge who will be on-site offering food throughout the day. The scent of fresh meals and baked goods adds another layer to the experience, giving visitors a reason to linger a little longer between booths, conversations, and quiet moments of browsing.

What: Apsley & Area Artisan Festival 2026

Where: North Kawartha Community Centre (NKCC), Apsley

When: Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Admission: Free, all are welcome

It's a simple kind of summer day, but one that captures something essential about the region — a blend of community, craft, and the quiet pride of local makers sharing their work close to home.



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SUMMER FUN Bucket List



- Make summer playlist
- Visit splash pad
- Driveway "chalk walk"
- Lemonade stand
- Scavenger hunt
- Homemade ice cream
- Blow bubbles
- Read outside
- Silly string fight
- Family bike ride
- Take a day trip
- Play 4 square
- DIY Putt Putt course
- Catch/Release bugs
- DIY bean bag toss
- Balloon tennis
- Toy cars/Chalk roads
- Learn a new skill
- Plant a garden
- I Spy in the clouds
- Try frisbee golf
- Plant flowers for elderly
- Water balloon party
- Build sandcastle
- Play in the sprinkler
- Go on a nature walk
- Slip 'n Slide
- Hang out at coffee shop
- Weekend road trip
- Go swimming
- Water gun fight
- Take a nap outside
- Try a new restaurant
- Extreme outdoor activity
- Go for a boat ride
- Visit a national park
- Go to a baseball game
- Cook a new recipe
- Read a new book
- Get temporary tattoo
- Breakfast for dinner
- Learn a card trick
- Donate old clothes/toys
- Relax by campfire
- Outdoor movie night
- Roast marshmallows
- Gratitude journals
- Catch fireflies
- Ice cream social
- Flashlight tag
- Look for constellations
- Visit water park
- Learn a new sport
- Create vision boards
- Beach day
- Watch a parade
- Random acts of kindness
- Visit botanical garden
- Join a book club
- Eat a snow cone

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- Take family photo
- Family game night
- Sleepover
- Pizza and popsicles
- Stay up til midnight
- DIY fairy gardens
- Drawing prompts
- Re-read favorite book
- Cooking class
- Tie dye shirts
- Paint rocks
- Visit the library
- Play putt putt
- Picnic at the park
- \$1 summer movies
- Lunch at a food truck
- Watch fireworks
- Go geocaching
- Go out for ice cream
- Try a new playground
- Take treats to firemen
- Michael's craft camp
- Berry picking
- Feed the ducks
- Family hike
- Visit arcade
- Go fishing
- Go bowling
- Host backyard bbq
- Amusement park
- Make family TikTok
- Visit somewhere new
- Watch the sunrise
- Take an art class
- Family service project
- Zoo/wildlife sanctuary
- Visit historical site
- Visit friends or family
- Go to fair or carnival
- Pajamas drive-in movie
- Outdoor festival
- Lego building challenge
- Family jigsaw puzzle
- Neighborhood kickball
- America's b-day cake
- Visit garage sales
- Blanket fort
- Visit farmer's market
- Learn something new
- Homemade popsicles
- Pajama day
- A-Z scavenger hunt
- Family movie night
- Create time capsule
- Living room camp out
- Root beer floats
- Reading challenge
- Decorate cookies
- Visit outdoor festival
- Make summer scrapbook



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APRIL 17 | **11:36 PM**
 ONLY 3 HOURS AND 24 MINUTES FROM THE OFFICIALLY CALLED TIME!

OFFICIAL ICE OUT CALL BY RYAN DUNKERLEY, ANCHORAGE MARINA
APRIL 18, 2026 3:00 AM

66 TOTAL GUESSES
 EARLIEST GUESS: **MARCH 2**
 LATEST GUESS: **APRIL 30**

JLA
 JACK'S LAKE ASSOCIATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO GENEVIEVE AND THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUBMITTED A GUESS!

UNTIL NEXT YEAR!
 THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER IN 2027? START WATCHING THAT ICE...

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	DATE GUESSED	TIME GUESSED	DIFFERENCE FROM OFFICIAL CALL
Patricia	Stiller	4/17/2026	10:49 AM	16:19:00
Ben	Stoyemirski	4/17/2026	2:00 PM	11:36:00
Colleen	Fickel	4/17/2026	9:00 PM	90:00:00
Genevieve	Penzone	4/17/2026	11:36 PM	3:24:00
* ICE OUT CALLED: 4/18/2026 3:00 AM				
Becky	Carandella	4/18/2026	3:00 PM	11:00:00
Jim	Peron	4/18/2026	3:00 PM	52:00:00

A PEEK INTO OTHER THAN-TFUL GUESSES, ALL WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE OFFICIAL CALL.



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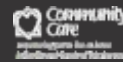
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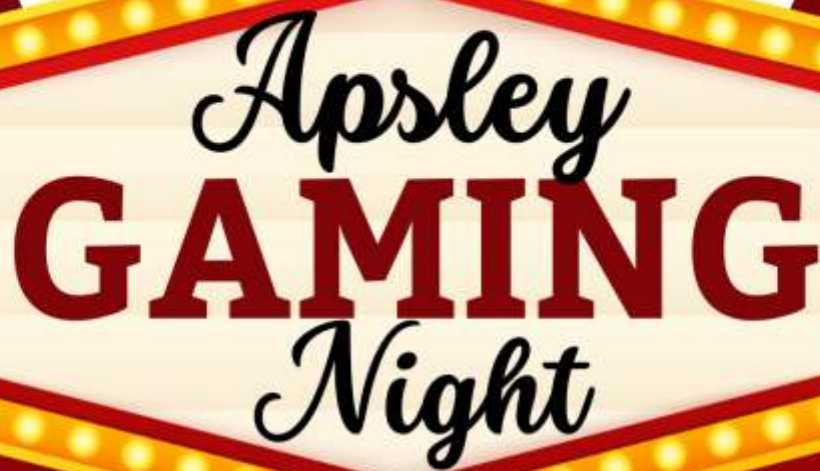
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7:00PM - 12:00AM

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