

MARCH 2025 FREE **WELCOME SPRING** 

March Break Madness at North Kawartha Library

New Column: Apsley Past & Present

> Hidden Dangers of Open Water in Spring





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**CENTURY 21.** 

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From The Editor's Desk

**SPRING 2025** 

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.

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SPRING!

A delicate balance of chilly nights, rain and sunshine. We slowly dance out of our winter slumber and get ready for another abundant season here in the "sticks". It was a cozy season for me, as the magazine took a break over the winter - I've missed you all and excited to be back!

Never a dull moment - over the holidays I got word that the printing company we use for the Backroads is closing it's doors after 25 years in business. WebNews Printing has done such an amazing job for us and this March edition is our last one together. From the support they have given us when "techy" things were going wrong to the quality of magazine they consistently produced we thank you so much! Cheers to exciting new opportunities for all of you.

Here in North Kawartha, many of the winter programming comes to an end and the Spring schedule begins! Check out the North Kawartha website for the up to date calendar of events and info on registering for various things.

The Library has incredible events planned for March Break & beyond for young & old! Trappers Carnival is happening March 1st and our local Hockey organization (AMHA) will be hosting year end wrap up tournaments at the arena before the ice comes out. Lions club is preparing for their annual Easter Egg Hunt in April, as well as monthly Euchre nights starting in March.

The annual St Patty's Day dance is scheduled for March 15th at the Legion and it's the place to be Friday nights for their weekly music jam. Community Care has Line Dancing classes set to begin in March (if enough people register) at the Legion as well.

For those of you itching to get on to their gardens...stay tuned for a new monthly column starting in May that will give us some tips and tricks for garden success all year round. Another new column highlighting the history of various buildings and businesses here in our town is starting this month and check out the recap of our



ads MARCH 2025 **SATURDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY TRAPPERS** See page 7 for LIBRARY events summary **CARNIVAL** NK Township events https://calendar.northkawartha.ca/default/Month?StartDate=03/01/2025 9:00am-4:00pm **NKCC APRIL 14 Pastry Workshop \$45 NKCC** Looking 19 Easter Egg Hunt LIONS PARK **U7 Hockey** 21 Easter Monday Weekend NKCC MAY 11 Mothers Day 19 Victoria Day JUNE 15 Fathers Day **Fall Prevention** Shuffle Board **Fall Prevention** Playgroup 0-6yrs **Duplicate Bridge INTERNATIONAL** 12:30pm NKCC **Exercise Class** Cornhole, Lunch, **Exercise Class** 10am-12pm NKCC **WOMENS DAY** Euchre/Canasta 10-11am NKCC 10-11am NKCC Music Jam Starts 10:30am Pickle Ball (\$2) **NKCC** 6pm to 9pm NKCC Pickle Ball Session **Darts** 1st, 3rd, 5th Thurs 4pm, LEGION 6:30pm, LEGION 11:15am-2pm **Table Tennis** Craft Class Pickle Ball (\$2) 7 to 9 pm NKCC 2-4 pm. NKCC 6 to 9pm NKCC (not Stat Holidays) **ShuffleBoard** 1 pm, LEGION 3

5

7 **Duplicate Bridge** ST PATRICKS 12:30pm NKCC **DAY DANCE** mq8

6

4 **Fall Prevention Shuffle Board Exercise Class** Cornhole, Lunch. 10-11am NKCC Euchre/Canasta Starts 10:30am **NKCC Darts** 6:30pm, LEGION **Table Tennis** Pickle Ball (\$2) 7 to 9 pm NKCC 6 to 9pm NKCC (not Stat Holidays)

10

**Shuffle Board** 

Cornhole, Lunch,

Euchre/Canasta Starts 10:30am

ST PATRICKS

(not Stat Holiday 24

DAY

Pickle Ball 11:15am-2pm Craft Class 2-4 pm. NKCC **ShuffleBoard** 1 pm, LEGION 12 **EUCHRE 7pm \$5** Lions Club, NKCC

**Fall Prevention** 

**Exercise Class** 

Craft Class 2pm

ShuffleBoard

Pickle Ball11:15pm

10am NKCC

11

**Fall Prevention** 

**Exercise Class** 

10-11am NKCC

13 **FIRST DAY OF SPRING** Playgroup 0-6yrs 10am-12pm NKCC

Pickle Ball (\$2)

6pm to 9pm NKCC

Playgroup 0-6yrs

10am-12pm NKCC

14 **Duplicate Bridge** 12:30pm NKCC Music Jam Session 4pm, LEGION

Music Jam

4pm, LEGION

Session

**LEGION** 15 WORLD WATER DAY

\$15/pp

\$25/couple

**Fall Prevention NKCC Exercise Class** 10-11am NKCC **Table Tennis Darts** 7 to 9 pm NKCC 6:30pm, LEGION Pickle Ball (\$2) 6 to 9pm NKCC (not Stat Holidays)7 18 **Fall Prevention Shuffle Board Exercise Class** Cornhole, Lunch. Euchre/Canasta 10-11am NKCC Starts 10:30am **NKCC Darts** 6:30pm, LEGION **Table Tennis** Pickle Ball (\$2) 7 to 9 pm NKCC 6 to 9pm NKCC

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1 pm, LEGION 19 **Fall Prevention Exercise Class** 10-11am NKCC Pickle Ball 11:15am-2pm Craft Class 2-4 pm. NKCC **ShuffleBoard** 1 pm, LEGION 26

1st, 3rd, 5th Thurs 20 Playgroup 0-6yrs 10am-12pm NKCC 27

21 **Duplicate Bridge** 12:30pm NKCC Music Jam Session 4pm, LEGION

28

22 **North Kawartha FIGURE SKATING Club** ANNUAL SHOW 6:00pm NKCC 29

### Canada Post Strike 2024

Information gathered from various news websites, summarizing the Strike that happened in the Fall of 2024

- The 2024 Canada Post strike began on November 15, 2024 and ended on December 17, 2024. The strike was caused by a labor dispute between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW).
- Strike demands wage increases, better pensions, and improved health benefits.
- The strike caused delays or no delivery of mail, parcels across Canada
- Small and medium-sized businesses were negatively affected
- Businesses had trouble receiving payments from customers and suppliers
- Canada Post and CUPW extended the terms of the existing collective agreements until May 22, 2025
- Canada Post offered a wage increase of five per cent for employees
- Canada Post returned to full service levels for domestic parcels by January 7, 2025
- A strike may start again on May 22, 2025
- A federal inquiry was held into the strike and the viability of the postal service's business model





Contributed by Debije Jules

We Know Not What Each Day May Bring
The Sun Might Shine, the Birds May Sing
The Winds May Blow and Cause Some Havoc
Leaving Us in the Aftermath of Its Shock
What We Do Know Is That Despite the Weather
You Are the Tie That Binds Us Together
You Have Faithfully Served All Families in Your Community
Therefore We Would Like To Take This Opportunity
To Express Our Gratitude and Empathy
And Most Importantly To Let You Know
That We Appreciate You and What You Do
And You Can Count On Us to Support You







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Contributed by Kim Tucker and Lisa Mace

### Art Workshop in Celebration of International Women's Dav.

Saturday March 8th, 2025. 10am to 11:30am In this project each attendee will choose a pose for a Friday March 14th 11am to 11:45am project is inspired by the empowering art of Mexican artist Victoria Villasana. This workshop is intended for Tween & Teen Wall Hanging! women and girls ages 8 to 108. No cost, all materials Friday March 14th 1:00 – 4:00pm

or email I.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com

### March Break Madness!

Call Lisa @ 705-656-4333

### Calling All Swifties! Drop-in Bracelet Making Tuesday March 11th 11:00am

Bring a friend and drop into our Woodview Branch. All the materials will be provided for you to create amazing bracelets! This activity is for children Ages 6+ (please bring your adult), Woodview Branch, 66 Northey's Bay Road. Call Kim for info: 705-654-1071

Slime!

### Wednesday March12th Noon to 4pm.

Get your slime on at our Apsley Branch! Come and have some fun making a mess with us. No pre-registration required. All ages. This is a drop-in event.

S.T.E.M. Catapult Cannon Construction!

### Thursday March 13th 10:30am to 11:30am

Let's build something and launch projectiles! Our Apsley Branch will be offering a fun twist to the traditional catapult build with this fun cannon launcher. Once complete, we will be playing a game that will put your S.T.E.M. mind to the test. Ages 8 and up. No cost. Limited spaces. Call Lisa @ 705-656-4333 or email I.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com

The History Buffs!

### Thursday March 13th 1:00pm

Join us at the NKCC as we bring you this fun filled, theatrical, musical presentation. The History Buff's music will take us on an adventure, exploring the woods and waterways throughout Upper Canada. They love to immerse their audience in the fun by inviting people to clap along, and even to join in by playing provided musical spoons & other instruments. This is an intergenerational, all-ages event. Come one, come all!



### **Story time and Creative Craft!**

photo that either makes them feel powerful or reflects Gather around for a fun-filled story time and craft session at our Apsley their personality. Then, using colorful threads, artists will Branch. We'll read a great story together, and then you can create your own embroider around and on top of their portrait. This masterpiece with a fun craft activity. Ages 4 and up. No pre-registration required.

provided. Limited spaces. Pre-registration is required. Get your craft on by creating your own funky wall hanging. You'll learn how to wrap a bamboo ring and add fun pom poms and tassels to design a unique piece of art for your space. It's the perfect mix of creativity and chill vibes—come make something awesome while hanging out with friends! This is a drop-in event being held at our Apsley Branch. Ages 11 and up. No pre-registration required.

### **Seedy Sunday**

### Sunday, March 30th 11am - 2:00pm

Mark your calendars! Seedy Sunday is a community event celebrating heritage seeds, gardening, and workshops! Swap seeds, learn from experts, and connect with fellow gardeners. Don't miss this opportunity to discover new varieties and support sustainable gardening practices.

Free Seed Exchange: Bring your saved seeds and swap them for new varieties at our community seed exchange! A great way to increase the biodiversity in your garden. Seeds should be packaged and labeled with the seed type, year saved, and the number of seeds included in each package.

Workshops: Learn from the experts! Our Seedy Sunday event features informative hands-on workshops on topics "Supporting Pollinators in Your Garden".

Local Vendors: Support local businesses and find unique gardening supplies at our vendor marketplace. From seeds and plants to tools and accessories, you'll find everything you need to get your garden growing.

Community Focus: Seedy Sunday is more than just a seed swap - it's a community gathering! Connect with fellow gardeners, share tips and stories, and celebrate the joy of growing your own food.

North Kawartha Public Library, Apsley Branch, 175 Burleigh St. Admission is Free and all are welcome!

Kniterary - Wednesdays 3:00pm-5:00pm Drop in

Join our relaxed knitting group at the library, where all ages and skill levels are welcome to work on any portable craft. Apsley Branch

Kid's Club – Every Thursday 3:15pm to 4:15pm

Come on out and have some fun after school. Every week is a rotating activity including, crafts, art, games, and S.T.E.M. challenges. We start with a story and a snack.

### **APRIL**

### Pastry Workshop – with Linda Patterson from the Bordertown Café.

### Monday April 14th @ 10am.

Back by popular demand! Join us for the third installment of our delicious pastry workshop; this time being held at the NKCC. Learn how to create mouthwatering pastries with expert tips and tricks. Pre-registration is required. Don't delay, it's been a hit every time, and spots fill up fast! Pre-register by calling Lisa at 705-656-4333 or emailing her at I.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com. \$45 per person. If cost is a barrier to your participation, please let Lisa know.

### Canadian Film Day! Part 1 - Wednesday April 16th @ 4:00pm

This year we are showing the film at the NKCC. We will be featuring Singing Back the Buffalo, a powerful documentary film that follows the efforts of Native American communities to revive and protect the buffalo, a species integral to their cultural heritage. The film highlights the work of Indigenous people to restore buffalo populations, reclaim their traditional practices, and rebuild a connection to the land. No cost. Ages 12 and up.

### Canadian Film Day! Part 2 - Thursday April 17th @3:15pm

Kids are welcome to join us at our Apsley MAY Pooh: The True Story. This is a Woodlot-May Date and time TBA touching film highlight's themes of (175 Burleigh Street). friendship, adventure, and the deep bond between humans and animals.

No cost. All-ages.

### Recycled Mini Greenhouse Workshop! Tuesday April 22nd @ 3:15pm

provides kid-safe cutting saws, screws, Everyone Welcome! Apsley Branch

and screwdrivers designed specifically for building with cardboard—we'll transform recycled boxes into mini greenhouses. It's a fun and hands-on way to learn about recycling and building, while creating something eco-friendly to take home.

Ages 6 and up. Children, please bring your adult with you. No cost. Pre-registration required. Limited spaces. Call Lisa @ 705-656-4333 or email I.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com

### DRONE STEM WORKSHOP: Ages 8 - 14, Saturday April 26, 9:30am - 1:30pm

Calling all future aviators and tech enthusiasts! Get ready to discover drones and STEM through a hands-on workshop led by industry experts. Explore drone technology, aerodynamics, and coding while gaining real-world insights.

- Build Your Own Drone: Assemble a custom drone using our state-of-the-art kits
- Code Like a Pro: Learn to program flight paths and navigate obstacle courses
- Take to the Skies: Pilot your creation in supervised, thrilling flight sessions
- Earn Your Wings: Receive an official completion certificate and dive into "All the Planes: A Tale of Flying Friends" to reinforce teamwork and responsibility.

Apsley Branch. Limited spots available. Cost is \$37. Bring your own lunch. Pre-register by phoning 705-656-4333 or emailing k.tucker@northkawarthalibrary.com. Please let us know if cost is a barrier to participation.

### branch for a screening of Winnie the Learn About Tax Incentives by Managing your

heartwarming documentary that Local ecologist, arborist, and environmental uncovers the fascinating real-life history consultant Keegan McKitterick will be hosting a behind the beloved character of Winnie free public presentation on two important land the Pooh. The film tells the story of a conservation programs: the Ontario Canadian black bear named Winnipeg, Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program who was adopted by a soldier during (CLTIP) and the Managed Forest Tax Incentive World War I and later became a star Program (MFTIP). More information coming attraction at the London Zoo. This soon. Kawartha Public Library – Apsley Branch

### **Ukulele Group**

1st and 3rd Thursdays 6:30pm – 8:00pm Drop in Ukulele meetups are starting up in May occurring every 1st and 3rd Thursday. 1.5-hour Celebrate Earth Day with creativity and sessions of relaxed ukulele playing and sustainability at this workshop! Join us at community building. All skill levels are our Apsley branch where we will be using welcome, and ukuleles are available to borrow "MakeDo" supplies—a company that for a fun, supportive musical experience.



### **LET'S GO TO THE LIBRARY...**

**KNITERARY** Every Wed 3:00pm

KIDS CLUB Thursdays 3:15pm

### **MARCH**

ART WORKSHOP International Women's Day 10:00am, Library

MARCH BREAK MADNESS **Tuesday March 11th to 14th** (see pg 6 for details)

30th **SEEDY SUNDAY** 11:00am to 2:00pm, Library

### **APRIL**

14th

PASTRY & PIE WORKSHOP 10am \$45, NKCC

16th 4:00pm, NKCC 17th 3:15pm, Library **CANADIAN FILM DAY** 

22nd MINI GREENHOUSE WORKSHOP 3:15pm, Library

26th DRONE STEM WORKSHOP 9:30am, \$37, Library

### **MAY**

**Ukulele Group starting back up 1st** and 3rd Thursdays 6:30pm



### **Spring RECIPES**

By Denise Dunford and Helena McMann

### Strawberry Watermelon Slushie



**Ingredients** 1/3 cup lemon juice 1/3 cup sugar 2 cups cubed seedless watermelon 2 cups fresh strawberries, halved 2 cups ice cubes

### Directions

Place first 4 ingredients in a blender cover and process until smooth. Add ice; process, covered, until slushy. Serve immediately.



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### Sika Easter Stew (Chakapuli)

Prep: 30 minutes Cook time: 4-5 hours

### **Ingredients:**

2 lbs venison neck roast, shank or stew, boned, cubed, approximate ¼ tsp turmeric powder

1 large onion, diced

2 cups sour plums, tomatillo or green tomatoes, halved or quartered

½ cup scallions, cut ~¼"

¼ cup tarragon leaves, packed

½ cup cilantro, cut ~¼" (include small stems)

1 tbsp fenugreek

3 cloves garlic

2 dried chilies

½ cup dry white wine

### **Directions**

Using a heavy bottomed pan with high sides (such as a dutch oven), cover the bottom with oil, and heat to medium. Add in onion and turmeric. Cook until tender, around 5 minutes. Stir often.

Season meat with salt, add to the pan and lightly brown all sides. Add water or stock to cover the meat, bring to a simmer and put a lid on it. Cook at a low simmer until the meat is almost fork tender, 3-4 hours if using neck or shank meat, 40-90 minutes if using cubed stew meat. Add water or stock as needed to keep meat covered while it cooks. Once the meat is fork tender but not guite done, add in plums or tomatillos and dried chili peppers. Stir, partially cover and continue to simmer until the meat is tender.

Just before serving, add in scallions, tarragon, cilantro, fenugreek, garlic, and wine. Stir and simmer for 5 minutes to allow flavors to meld. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed. Serve with bread or potatoes.

### **Lemon Roasted Asparagus**

### **Ingredients**

2 lemons

1 tsp. kosher salt

3 lb. asparagus, trimmed

Olive oil, for drizzling

1 cup fresh parsley, chopped

### **Directions**

Grate the zest of the lemons. Spread out the zest on a plate and let it airdry slightly, about 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 450°. Mix the lemon zest with the salt in a small bowl and set aside. Cut the lemons in half and set aside.

Divide the asparagus between 2 baking sheets, drizzle with olive oil and toss to coat. Roast until the asparagus is tender and starting to color, 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer the asparagus to a platter.

Before serving, squeeze the lemons over the asparagus, drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with the lemon salt and parsley.





Happy Spring!



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### Jokes of the Month

by Alex McMann

I can always spring for(ward) a good joke

Why is the letter A like a flower?

Because a B comes after it!

Did you see that all the snow and ice are melting?

Yes, I thaw!

Why did the bird go to jail? For robin the bank

What do you get when you push Easter eggs down a hill?

Spring rolls

"I'm no spring chicken, but still eggs-traordinary"



### POEMS By WINSTON

By Winston E Ralph, Bancroft, ON

### Pioneers of Yesteryear

When the pioneers came to Canada many years ago The hardships they endured we will never know Their families were in the old country many miles away And they were thought of as they toiled each lonely day There were no roads tv or cars there around They carried loads on their backs before sitting down He walked the trail until he found his stakes So there his house he knew he could make With an axe and saw he cleared the land Yes it was all forest but we don't understand The thick trees didn't let the sun shine through So did he think cutting these trees I must do He chopped the trees which fell to the ground Then soon he had a clearing there around They squatted on the land until up to government standards Then for the deed they went after working so long In the spring around the stumps they planted seeds So in the winter they had food to supply their needs At first he made a cabin with only one room \Which was done quickly as winter was coming soon Each day from early morning until bedtime at night Hard work they done to get things set up right Things they wore or ate was all homemade As there was no time to sit in the shade The neighbours were few and many miles away So the fire was kept going even on a hot day The clothes were washed in a tub and hung on a tree Where they would dry there in a little breeze God was in their thoughts from morning until night So why don't we do the same only following what's right How many of us could live like this now days But if a depression comes we will learn these ways



Photo Credit: Hankering for History



Gayle Davis, Freelance

### Things of "Almost" Spring

Much as the groundhog emerged from his winter home on February 2, we are starting to emerge from our own winter hibernation. Oh, we're not quite ready yet to throw on the shorts and get out the garden tools, but there's a glimmer of hope for better days rippling around us.

With the spring, comes 'spring cleaning'. Now that's a phrase that brings a groan to many. The debris in our homes accumulated over the cold winter months is begging for release from captivity. Boots. Mitts. Hats. Snow shovels.

Perhaps you're someone who is tremendously organized no matter what the season. I, however, could use some You Tube hacks in this area as the flotsam and jetsam of 'life' is engulfing me.

Living in the country has many benefits and I wouldn't change most of it for the world. However, when it comes to winter and heating with a wood stove, I'd rather be anywhere but here. There's a light film of dust on everything in the house. Every time a match is lit, it is followed by a distinct odour of smoke as the fire begins to crackle and its warm air permeates the cold surrounding us. As well, a smoky, dusty film attaches to our windows making the already grey outdoors 'greyer'. It also embeds itself in drapes, on blinds and, of course, in the furniture. There's lots of washing and cleaning in my future as I look around the house in despair.

Then there's the woodstove itself. The debris that comes in with the wood is overwhelming and requires a good sweep and vacuum every couple of days. The wood rack usurps precious space in our kitchen around which we must manoeuvre until the heating season is over. Already pressed for space, a good chunk of what remains is taken up by a plethora of my husband's tools that have to come in to 'winter over' so they are not 'rendered useless' by the freezing temperatures. Laundry detergent and dog food are juxtaposed with drills and saws and other mysterious items that would take a month of Sundays to catalogue. My husband and I spend the winter months transferring things from one surface to another, attempting to accommodate both our household needs and the storage. Have you ever noticed that there are never enough shelves? Once everything has been repatriated to its proper spot, there's a ton of cleaning to be done. Isn't there a beach somewhere with my name on it?

Another area of life that could use a good 'spring cleaning' is our daily activities. As the cold, dull days morph into more sunny and temperate ones, we begin to venture out, becoming more active and social. It is so easy to just snuggle under a blanket, read, and



snooze to pass the time. I have never been one for outdoor winter activities, so on this point I can speak volumes. I promise myself to be more active, then I stick my nose out while the dogs answer the call of nature and promptly decide it's not a good idea to subject my poor aging body to those punishing temperatures. The dogs return. I make yet another coffee and return to my lazyboy chair - cozy, warm, and inert.

Maybe tomorrow.

I guess the ever-expanding list is unique to each household: however, each one of us does have a list. And everyone knows that prior to basking in the warmer days of spring outside, there's a superabundance of cleaning to be done inside, as we remove the last vestiges of winter and usher spring in, and ourselves outdoors.

Nota Bene: March 20th is the first day of Spring. Happy Cleaning!







### LIONS **COMMUNITY** REPORT

by Jim Empringham, Apsley and District Lions Club March

The worst of winter is in the rear view mirror and the time is here for interest in Lions organized events. There is a lot being scheduled and prepared for.

Monthly Euchre nights are returning in March! Euchre night is always the third Wednesday of the month. That will be March 19, April 16 and May 21 in the coming months. Play will continue each month into the fall. The games begin at 7 pm. Admission is \$5. Come out and enjoy time with new and old friends.

We have already heard that the Easter Bunny will be back the morning with the easter egg hunt taking place starting this annual spring time occasion. There will be eggs for Membership Chair, Una Warner at 613-334-9867. toddlers. There is no charge for this activity. It is another Lenson at 705-656-9254. way for Lions to say thanks for the support of our community.

The application deadline for the Lions Student Awards is June 15. Awards are available for secondary school students going on to postsecondary schooling and for students currently in a post-secondary programme and continuing their studies. Students resident in North Kawartha are welcome to apply for



these \$1000 awards. Applications and application details can be picked up at the reception desk at NKCC.

The Canada Day parade, fun in the Park and fireworks are scheduled for Tuesday, July 1. The parade begins at 4:00 pm, leaving from the school and finishing at Lions Park. The Lions Food Booth will be open and serving tasty treats including our famous fries. There will be games for the kids in the ballpark and music for the adults following the parade. Fireworks begin at dusk. Any person, group, business or organization that wants to participate in the parade can contact Brenda Lenson at 705-656-9254. Participants should be at the school by 1:30.

Planning for the Lions Giant Annual Flea Market has begun. The big day is always the third Saturday of July. This year that will be Saturday, July 19. Donations of gently used items for sale will be happily accepted each Saturday from 9:00 am to noon at Lions Park beginning Saturday, May 17 (the Saturday of the Victoria Day weekend). Acceptance of donations will continue each Saturday from then until Saturday, July 5. After that, donations can be taken directly to the rear entrance of the arena from July 9 to July 18 from 9:00 to noon. Please do not drop off donations at any other time to prevent vandalism and weather damage to the items.

in Apsley on Saturday, April 19. He will be at Lions Park in Your Lions Club is made up of fun, committed people. We are always looking for new members to bring new ideas and support for our at 11:00 am. Families are invited to be there for the fun of community. If you have an interest in joining, please contact our

children up to age 10 and an area created specially for If you would prefer to volunteer for a Lions event please contact Brenda

**LEFT: Easter Bunny from last years event BELOW: Winter Carnival 2025 Photos Courtesy of Lions Club** 











### APSLEY LEGION BRANCH #381

Contributed by Lori Brock

### After a Long Winter, Spring is Finally Here!

To recap our winter months at the Apsley Legion we hosted our annual food drive and were able to make both a monetary donation and a food donation to the North Kawartha Food Bank thanks to everyone who contributed.

We participated in the first, of what we hope to be many, Legion Mystery Tours and hosted our new friends from Norwood legion Branch 300 for an afternoon jam. We were able to host a bunch of you before and after the Santa Clause Parade and we had a great time, we even had a visit from Santa himself proving you never

quite know who is going to show up to your local legion.



Along with the warmer weather many great activities are coming to the Legion this spring:

We are looking forward to the long standing tradition of hosting and judging the speech competition with Apsley Central Public School on March 4th



Celebrating St Patrick's day with local celebrity DJ Charlie on March 15th.

In April we plan to host a Euchre tournament on the 12th with a \$10 entry fee, there will be Lunch offered for an additional charge and cashbar.

As always make sure to follow along with us on social media to get the most up to date information.





## Anstruther-Burleigh-Chandos (ABC) SENIORS

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New members are welcome!

### apsleyabcseniors@gmail.com

at the North Kawartha Community Centre 340 McFadden Road in Apsley



### WOMEN OF NORTH KAWARTHA

by Helena McMann

Last March, inspired by International Women's Day -March 8th, I started a column celebrating Women in North Kawartha, who were the driving force and inspiration behind some of the most successful RACHEL CHARLEBOIS Metal by Rachel businesses's, events and important roles, right here in our community. This edition we look back on the highlights from their columns. Thank you to all the women I was able to speak to and so many more that weren't featured, and equally as influencial.

### LINDA, JANET, DEBBIE, LISA, DIANNE, KIM North Kawartha Library



"In a rural area where social opportunities are limited, North Kawartha Public Library serves as a valuable gathering place where neighbours can connect and bond over shared interests"

Photo: Lisa, Debbie and Kim

### NANCY WISKEL Dan Joyce Clothing



"My vision for Dan Joyce Clothing, and now DJC Casual Clothing in Apsley, Ontario goes beyond offering stylish garments; it's about empowering women to embrace their unique beauty

and express themselves confidently through their clothing choices"

### Dr MAEGAN MELILLO

### **Apsley Veterinary Services**



"My greatest hope for the future is to empower those to pursue their passion, understanding that it requires dedication, determination, and discipline"

### Community Care Apsley Office

### KATIE BRYCK



"I would like to express my gratitude for all the wonderful volunteers that I work with. You make a difference, and you are appreciated.

Thank you for your dedication and your time because Every Moment Matters"

### RACHEL CONLIN Irish Hills Farm



"I was humbled and honoured to be invited to write a story for this column. Helena McMann of Apsley Backroads wrote "I'm so proud of the positive impact you're making in this community". My response; this community has had a positive impact on me"



My hope is that I can encourage young individuals in the public school system not to feel such immense amounts of pressure to go to college if they're unsure. There are plenty of job opportunities in the trades industry, where you can get paid to learn. "Better yet, you could start your own business because then the possibilities are endless!"

### BRIDGET & VICTORIA **McCLUCKIE**

### **HERmanas**

"Our passion extended beyond success to include inclusivity, sustainability, and creating something truly personal."

### BEV, CINDA, DYLINNA, LORI, RENELLE Women of the Legion





Dylinna:

"What the Legion means to me? A physical location to honour veterans who in the past,



present and future have given us the freedom we all enjoy and be a good community ambassador to all!"

### VICTORIA READINGS Clearwing Eco Gardening



"Cottage country gives so much to us, it is a sanctuary for people and wildlife, and we need to respect that. Give back to nature... We can make a living doing beautiful work, and having beautiful properties, in a way that works with nature and not against it"

### **CAROLYN AMYOTTE**

### Mayor of North Kawartha Township



"When I think about my role as Mayor - I'm not a woman on a power trip, I am part of a community and this is a way I can serve my community. I have a vested interest in seeing it thrive and I would encourage anyone with passion to make change to get involved"



History provided by Family and Members of the Church, gathered by Helena McMann

### The Story of: **Apsley Community Chapel**

This ministry was started in 1951 by Bert & Pearl Trotter in their home off the present Highway 28 in Clanricarde. They wanted to start a Sunday school for their family and other children who lived in the area.

In 1959 a Youth Group was started under the leadership of Ernie Trotter (Pastor Ward's Brother).

In 1960 a move to Apsley was necessary as the congregation had outgrown the home of Mr. & Mrs. Trotter. They rented the Anstruther school house for meetings, which was located in the area of the Lion's began with two students and to date park or the old fire hall. After the move the there are approximately 20 students. church was named Evangel Tabernacle.

In 1963 another move was needed to role of in the Kids Church with the help accommodate the growth of the of Dolores Bennett. congregation. Property for the building In 1994 our present pastor John started was donated to the church by Earl Trotter, a youth group. Our leaders of the youth building was not completed until May of has developed lead by Julia Trotter. Ward was ordained in December 1968. to the many friends they had as Sanford Trotter was the Sunday School well as the community at large. Superintendent until 1978 at which time Carol Wilson took the position.

In the early 1990's it was decided that a 1901, local people from Apsley larger church building was necessary. The built the first United Church (on logs were cut from the property of Uwe Fischer under the leadership of Sanford Trotter for an auditorium 50 ft. X 80 ft. 1974, a new church was built at George Trotter hauled the logs to be the bottom of the hill. planed and prepared for use. Jesse Payne was the building contractor and many of the men of the church worked hard to see the building completed. By March 7, 1992 when Pastor John and Julia were married community to transport and most of the pews had been put in.

In 1993 a school was established under the Ellie had the honour of ringing it supervision of Michael Shpikula (son-in- in it's new location. law of Pastor's Ward & Josephine) . This

This March we're starting a feature highlighting various buildings/businesses within our community. Rich in history, with unique stories to tell about their past





Michael also assumed the leadership

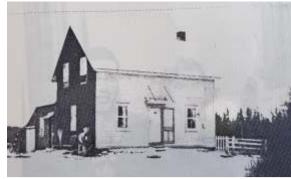
Pastor Ward's brother. Although the now are Josh and April Perks, which were a part of the footings were started in that year the original endeavour. In the past years a ladies Bible study

1964. The name was changed again to In 2005 Pastor's John and Julia took the baton from his Apsley Community Chapel, the name we father and mother, Pastor's Ward and Josephine. An era have today. The Sunday school classes ended in the fall of 2012 as Pastor's Ward and Josephine were divided and many different speakers both passed within 10 days of one another. Only eternity shared in the ministry, but Ward Trotter will reveal the legacy that Pastor's Ward and Josephine was placed in the position of pastor. Pastor have left not only to their children and grandchildren but



the hill where the apartment buildings are), Burleigh St.

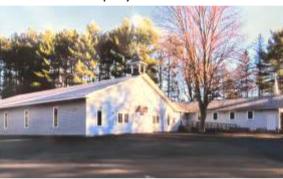
2023, after the closing of the church, Roger and Ellie Crosby asked to donate it to Apsley Community Chapel. It took a install it and in December '23,



Top Left: Bert and Pearl Trotter Above: Home of Bert and Pearl Trotter, 1951

Left: Community Chapel 1965

Below: Community Chapel 2023, after the 124 yr old Church Bell from Apsley United Church was donated









## THINK TURTLE CONSERVATION

by Kelly Wallace

### Water:

### Nature's Old Soul Lifesource

Water is the foundation of life—it hydrates our bodies, supports food production and processing, provides essential habitat, and keeps ecosystems thriving. It is a non-negotiable keystone resource necessary for life on Earth.

Water is as fascinating as it is sacred.

The water on Earth, a staggering 4.5 billion years old, is a testament to the enduring nature of this life-giving resource. Geoscientists and geologists estimate that some of it may even predate the Sun. Zircons found in rocks on Earth provide evidence that liquid water existed on Earth very soon after it formed, which never fails to inspire awe. An intriguing thought is that today's water may have once fallen as rain in a prehistoric world. Earth's water cycle—evaporation, condensation, and rainfall—continuously recycles the same molecules over millions of years. This means the water that sustained the dinosaurs could still be part of our lakes, rivers, and drinking water today.

Other interesting water facts include:

Water is the only substance on Earth that naturally exists in three forms: solid (ice), liquid (water vapor), and gas (vapor).

Oceans produce at least 50% of the oxygen we breathe, thanks to tiny plants called phytoplankton.

A single tree can release hundreds of liters of water into the air daily, helping regulate rainfall.





The water on Earth, a staggering 4.5 billion years old, is a 70% of the human brain is water—staying hydrated helps you think more testament to the enduring nature of this life-giving clearly!

The Wisdom of Water

Water teaches us that we gain valuable insights into life by observing its natural qualities—fluidity, adaptability, and the ability to flow around obstacles. Water does not resist; it moves patiently, finding its way rather than forcing a path. It teaches us to embrace change, navigate challenges gracefully, and seek solutions through flexibility rather than struggle.

World Water Day

Since 1993, World Water Day has been observed annually on March 22 as a global reminder of water's critical role in our lives and the urgent need for sustainable water management. While we can access safe, clean water, over 2 billion people worldwide cannot due to pollution, poor infrastructure, climate change, and overuse, especially in developing countries. Human activity pollutes water worldwide. We must never take water for granted.

Types of Water Bodies

The world's water isn't just in one place—it moves and flows through different ecosystems, each playing a role in keeping life in balance:

Aquifers & Groundwater: Hidden beneath the Earth's surface, these underground water sources supply wells and springs.

Glaciers & Ice Caps: Frozen freshwater reserves slowly melting into rivers and lakes are crucial for long-term water supply.

Lakes: Freshwater lakes store water for people and wildlife, while saltwater lakes create unique ecosystems.

Oceans: The most enormous water bodies, covering over 70% of Earth. They regulate climate, produce oxygen, and support millions of species.

Rivers: These flowing waters connect land to lakes and seas, providing drinking water, irrigation, and hydroelectric power.

Wetlands: Nature's water filters! These swamps, marshes, and bogs clean pollutants and prevent flooding. Wetlands are among the most effective natural carbon sinks, helping to combat climate change by storing carbon.

Why Water Preservation Matters

Water is the very reason life exists. It is in the air we breathe, food, and cells that make up our bodies. Without it, plants wouldn't grow, animals wouldn't survive, and human life would be impossible. This realization should fill us with a deep sense of responsibility for this precious resource and the need to preserve it.

Even though we see water everywhere—rivers, lakes, oceans, even our kitchen faucets—only about 3% of the Earth's water is fresh. Most of it is

. . . .

locked deep underground or in glaciers. That leaves less than 1% for Educate and advocate: Teach kids, join local cleanups, and drinking, farming, and all other essential uses.

Scientists estimate that about 80% of the world's species are found on Reduce Plastic Waste: Plastic pollution is a massive threat land, while 15% live in the ocean, and the remaining 5% inhabit freshwater to water. Recycle, avoid single-use plastics, and pick up environments. This highlights the importance of protecting the world's litter when you see it. water sources.

lakes and rivers are drying up, groundwater levels are dropping, and protecting green spaces helps keep water clean. pollution from industries, agriculture, and even everyday household Use less water: Turn off taps while brushing your teeth, take waste makes clean water more difficult to obtain. Without enough safe shorter showers, and fix leaks. Small changes add up! water, crops fail, food becomes scarce, and entire communities suffer. What Can We Do to Protect Water?

The encouraging news is that every individual can contribute to preserving everything. By protecting it, we're not just saving the water resources. Here's how each of us can make a difference:

Be Smart About Chemicals: Use natural cleaners, reduce pesticides, and generations that follow. This makes water an undeniable never dump waste or medications down the drain. Everything eventually life force shaping our lives, so we must protect it. flows back to rivers and lakes.

Be a Responsible Consumer: Choose sustainable seafood, eat less meat text 647-606-9537, e-mail thinkturtle@yahoo.com, or visit (which requires massive amounts of water to produce), and support our website at www.thinkturtle.ca or Facebook group. companies that protect water sources.

support water protection policies. Every voice matters.

Support Wetlands & Forests: Trees and wetlands naturally Pollution, overuse, and climate change threaten this vital resource. Many filter water and prevent floods. Planting trees and

Water connects all life on Earth. It moves through the sky as clouds, flows through rivers and oceans, and sustains environment—we're securing our future and the

To contact Think Turtle Conservation Initiative, phone or



### Things to do with Maple Syrup

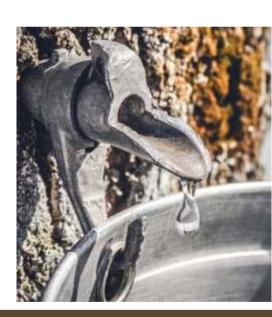
With maple syrup season coming up, many of us here in North Kawartha like to make their own delicious liquid gold.

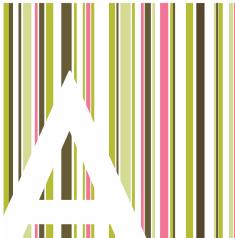
Other than pancakes and snow taffy...here are some other options.

Article: Epicurious, Sheela Prakash

- 1. Whisk it into salad dressing
- 2. Sweeten whipped cream
- 3. Stir it into oatmeal or porridge
- 4. Put it on bacon
- 5. Stir into sour cream
- 6. Roast tomatoes, or any vegetable
- 7. Drizzle it on yogurt
- 8. Make maple butter
- 9. Stir into your morning cup of coffee or tea
- 10. Flavor frosting

- 11. Shake and stir it into cocktails
- 12. Drizzle it over ice cream
- 13. Or put it in ice cream
- 14. Add it to mashed sweet potatoes or squash
- 15. Make candied nuts
- 16. drizzle it over pork or chicken before roasting
- 17. Make it a mustard!
- 18. Bake a pie
- 19. Make granola
- 20. Stir it into polenta





## $\Delta$ ccurate

Accounting and Tax Services

5584 Hwy 28, Woodview 705-656-1200

admin@accuratetax.ca

accuratetax.ca



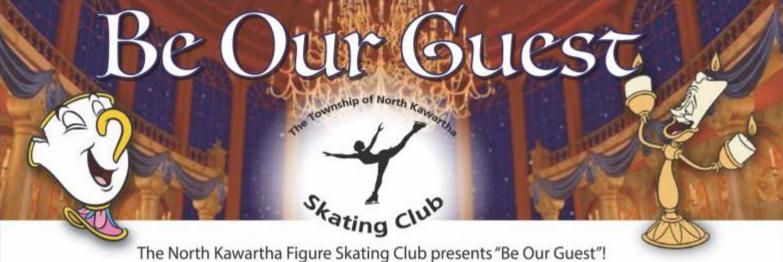
Jim Alexander
Sales Representative
613-202-1495 (Cell)
jim@teamalexander.ca

# Team Alexander.ca





Roz Jones
Sales Representative
905-259-6687 (Cell)
roz@teamalexander.ca



This is Coach Daina's 10th year coaching in Apsley and 10 years since the last Disney show.

The show is on March 29th @ 6:00pm

The skaters are very excited to skate to the magical music of Disney.

Held at the NKCC



These players are now grown up, running successful businesses right here in our community and have kids or nieces/ nephews playing hockey in Apsley.

From left to right:

Ryan Dunkerly, Kevin Crosby, Patrick Rayes, Daryl Northey, Mike Shee, Rick Sayers, Barb Sayers, and Travis White

Coach: Gord White

Missing from photo was Birch Dunford, Aaron Blakely, Dallas Irwin, Jason Boyer and Anthony Halcovitch

Thank you Druscilla Hannah..... (of Hannah Lithographers in Bancroft) for the photo.



By Helena McMann, AMHA Board Secretary

## Another memory made for the U18's at Silver Stick International

After a tough loss in overtime of the final game of their Silver Stick qualifiers in December, a chance of fate earned them an official invite from the Tournament. Off they ventured to Pelham (in January). They fought hard but came up short, finishing 5th out of 10 teams.

We are so proud of all our teams that played so hard to earn a spot as well, but fell shy. GO FLAMES GO!

Photo Credit right: Newtown Photography

### U15 Barry's Bay Tournament Champs



## U7 Flames dominated at the Northumberland Nighthawks Jamboree in December



U18's @ Silver Stick Internationals with Mascot "OJ"



LEFT: U15's took the title at the Barry's Bay Tournament back in January! Way to go Team!

BELOW: U11's earned a spot in the Consolation Championship game in the Gibson Division of the Peterborough Liftlock Tournament (January'25). They played well but lost to Campbellford. Game Star award went to Parker Dunford that game.







**U9's were "C" Champs in the Frozen Toes Tournament** in Colborne in February. Apsley also hosted the U9 Winter Carnival Classic weekend of January 25th! Tough loss in the final championship game (3-2).

Special thanks to Time Clock volunteers: Abby, Gabe and Scott. ABOVE RIGHT: U9's after a game in December.

Credit to Newtown Photography



By Provincial Constable Dan Gay, Community Safety/Media Officer

### Hidden Dangers of Open Water in Spring

As the weather begins to warm and winter ice recedes, the lure of open water in Peterborough County becomes irresistible to many residents. Whether it's fishing, kayaking, or simply enjoying the view, spring marks the return of outdoor activities near our beautiful lakes and rivers. However, the Peterborough County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) wants to remind everyone of the hidden dangers associated with open water in the spring and how to stay safe.

Why Spring Open Water is Dangerous

Spring may bring sunshine and warmth, but it also creates conditions that can turn deadly near open water. Here are some of the key dangers to be aware of:

1. Cold Water Temperatures: Even if the air feels warm, water temperatures in spring can be near freezing due to melting ice and snow. Falling into cold water can quickly lead to cold water shock, impairing your ability to swim or

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705-868-1684

Jason Noffke Master Electrician

JNoffke@live.ca ECRA/ESA#7012657 even causing cardiac arrest.

- 2. Unpredictable Ice: While ice may still be visible on some waterways, its thickness and strength are highly unpredictable in spring. What appears solid can break away underfoot, leading to a dangerous plunge.
- 3. High Water Levels and Fast Currents: Melting snow and increased rainfall can cause rivers and lakes to swell, creating strong currents and hidden hazards such as submerged debris. These conditions can make even shallow water treacherous.
- 4. Slippery Shores and Unstable Ground: As the ice melts, the ground near shorelines can become muddy and unstable, increasing the risk of slips and falls into the water.

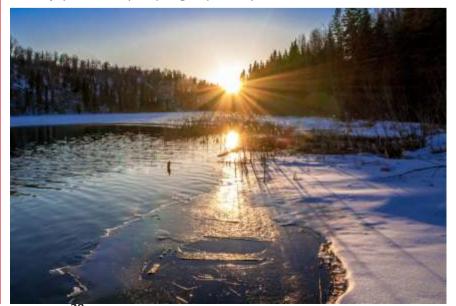
Tips for Staying Safe Near Open Water

The OPP urges everyone to prioritize safety when near open water this spring. Here are some essential tips:

- 1. Keep Your Distance: Avoid walking on or near ice-covered waterways, as the ice can be dangerously thin. Stay back from the edge of rivers and lakes, as shorelines can be slippery and unstable.
- 2. Wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD): If you're participating in activities like kayaking or canoeing, always wear a PFD. This simple precaution could save your life in case of an accidental fall.
- 3. Supervise Children Closely: Children are naturally curious and may not recognize the dangers of cold water or unstable ice. Keep them well away from the water's edge and ensure they are always supervised.
- 4. Check Conditions Before Heading Out: Before engaging in any waterbased activities, check local weather and water conditions. Avoid going out during high water levels, fast currents, or inclement weather.
- 5. Educate Yourself and Others: Understand the signs of cold water shock and hypothermia, and educate your family on water safety. Having a plan in place for emergencies can make all the difference.
- 6. Call for Help: If someone falls into cold water, call 911 immediately. Avoid putting yourself at risk by attempting a rescue without proper equipment. Working Together for Community Safety

At the Peterborough County OPP, our top priority is the safety of our community. We encourage everyone to take these precautions seriously and spread awareness of the risks associated with open water in spring. By working together, we can ensure that our lakes and rivers remain a source of enjoyment rather than tragedy.

For more information on water safety or to report concerns, please contact the Peterborough County OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Stay safe, stay vigilant, and enjoy the beauty of spring responsibly.





### COUNCIL'S CORNER

by Mayor Carolyn Amyotte, Township of North Kawartha

Please visit <u>www.northkawartha.ca</u> 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 Look Back at 2024

For the past few years, we have seen some staffing changes, and last year was no exception. We said goodbye to our Public Works Supervisor Jeff Waldon, our Parks and Recreation Administration Assistant Jim Elder, our Economic Development Officer Chris Challenger, Junior Planner Janine Cik and our Planning Assistant Janet Woodbeck. Whether they retired or moved on to pursue other opportunities, these folks made many positive contributions to the North Kawartha team over the years, and they will be greatly missed.

These changes led to us welcoming many new folks to a variety of roles. Our Roads Foreman Jason Post became our new Public Works Supervisor and we welcomed back Corey Dunsby in the role of Foreman. Shawn Tucker, moved from Tech Services Coordinator at the Library to assume Jim Elder's position at the NKCC. With Shawn leaving the Library, Kim Tucker assumed his former role and we welcomed Lisa Mace into the Program Coordinator position. We were very fortunate to hire Edward Hilton as our new Economic Development Officer and Emily Fitzgerald as our new Junior Planner.

We also recognized several staff for their long-standing service. Our Treasurer Judy Everett has been with North Kawartha for 25 years and our Clerk Connie Parent is currently in her 31 st year with our Township. There have been a few other staffing updates and changes and more to come as Ontario's municipal sector is dealing with the growing retirements of key personnel. This reality led Council to conduct our first ever Township Organizational Review, so we can develop a succession plan and better position ourselves to attract and retain staff.

Municipal staff weren't the only folks we recognized last year as there were many community members and organizations that also had significant achievements. Our local Lions Club celebrated 50 years of service to Apsley and North Kawartha. This service group supports our school and other community organizations and helps organize several popular community events. Lions' secretary Brenda Lenson received the Senior of the Year Award for her myriad contributions to our community through her various volunteer roles. Former Lions President Jim Empringham received a Peterborough County Recognition Award as our Community Volunteer of the Year. Speaking of the County Awards, Rachel Charlebois was recognized for her Leadership in the Arts Community. Connor Ferguson received an Act of Heroism Award for saving the life of a local resident involved in a terrible car accident.

The Grape and Wedge was recognized for their business leadership.

North Kawartha also had several exciting initiatives, programs and developments in 2024. Council expanded our Municipal Grant Program to cover a broader range of environmental initiatives in partnership with local lake associations and community organizations. Our North Kawartha Community Centre was also chosen as one of six rural community locations to host a ServiceOntario mobile service centre. The Township also launched the FoodCycler Pilot Project. 200 Countertop composters were offered to residents in support of North Kawartha's on-going waste diversion efforts. This program was a great success, and we will have another 100 composters available for 2025.

Another initiative that I am super proud of is our Veteran Pole Banner program. The Township worked with the Apsley Legion to create and install banners recognizing and honouring local veterans throughout the village for our annual Remembrance Day services.

Our local Library hosted a number of great workshops and events throughout the year, and I was delighted to personally co-sponsor the 'Seas the Day' Black Light Art Show, showcasing the incredible creativity and talent of our local children.

One of the greatest achievements in 2024 was the reopening of our local grocery store. After more than 3 years without, Sayers opened their doors in March and the new store is beautiful. It's also a total game changer for our community and has inspired us to create a downtown revitalization masterplan for Apsley. Thanks to a provincial grant, our Economic Development Officer will be getting this masterplan started in 2025.

North Kawartha also received another provincial grant to install 4 EV charging stations at the NKCC. This is good news for all you EV drivers out there as there will now be another spot to charge your vehicle between Lakefield and Bancroft.

Last but not least, my advocacy for greater safety on Highway 28 led me to initiate a 'Highway 28 Mayors Coalition'. With the support of 9 municipalities and the Peterborough County Warden, our Coalition met with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) at the Rural Ontario Municipal Conference in January. I am so pleased to tell you that the MTO has agreed to conduct a comprehensive safety review of Highway 28. They have also pledged to improve communication and consultation regarding roadwork, maintenance and repairs and they will support a targeted awareness campaign aimed at highway safety and improving driver behaviour.

### Here's what's coming up in March and April...

March 4, 2025-Regular Meeting of Council
March 11, 2025-Short Term Rental Advisory Committee
March 18, 2025-Regular Meeting of Council
April 1, 2025-Regular Meeting of Council
April 8, 2025-Short Term Rental Advisory Committee
April 15, 2025-Regular Meeting of Council
April 22, 2025-Regular Meeting of the Library Board



### THE**BEAST**

by Roy Anderson

### Chapter Six

The new experience I was entering with the Sunday School was suddenly enhanced when the Older

Teacher spoke, "Bethany, please sit beside Richard."

When she continued, "you know him from school, and sit beside him there."

Continuing on speaking, "you all know myself. Then looking directly at me, "Richard, I'm Mrs. Kloss, Bethany's Mother."

I sat perfectly still not knowing what was coming next. Pulling the old trick, turning of your head, then looking behind as if Mr. Kloss was answering some

Richard I'm speaking to you."

After being introduced to the entire Sunday School class, that by the way I already knew from school.

Mrs. Kloss then turned her attention to Bethany. "Bethany dear," her voice sugar coated or rather oozing with butterscotch syrup. "Could you squeeze between Richard and Allan. We must keep the boys

Bethany rolled her eyes and snuggled in between the two of us, and Bethany's Mother then continued rather sharply, "A little space between, please." Meaning the whole class had to shuffle, while sitting on their rumps with no cushion on the hardwood

floor. Welcome to the world of Mrs. Kloss (AMEN) After making sure everyone in Sunday School was uncomfortable. Mrs. Kloss left, "as she announced to

join the choir." The younger teacher then immediately told us

"find your place at the tables. Bethany show Richard his place and if you will sit beside him." The young teacher who announced to the class,

"You all know me from school, and being neighbours as Elaine. However being as we are told, I must ask you to call me Miss Dorn."

As Miss Dorn started the session by telling us, "please open your book, the one in front of you to page eight ." The room filled with the rushing of the pages and when silence after the opening of the pages. Miss Dorn started to speak, organ music filled the air, vibrating the ceiling and echoed through-out  $\,\,$  worry about. the basement.

swaying and then stood up, moving around in a circle.

To my surprise, Bethany joined myself, then the entire Sunday School class joined us. Soon the room was a movement of children dancing in the church basement. To give an idea the intensity of the dance, the organ music was, When the Saints come Marching in. With Miss Dorn taking part.

The dancing came to an abrupt stop, when Miss Dorn stopped and the look of horror on her face. The children of the class followed her eyes, and there stood my landlord and apparently the Head Officer of the church.

The organ continued, and although we expected the worst, he raised his arms to half way up and started to snap his fingers, then with a few bouncy steps, and turning, across the floor to Miss Dorn he came. Taking her by the hand and to the rhythm of the organ, they started to dance. Now to make a full disclosure Bethany and myself sitting next to each other in school also walked home from the school along the country roads.

Children will be children or as the saying goes, "When the wind blows, the leaves dance."

With the Sunday School teacher and the farmer Landlord dancing one else. Mrs. Kloss shouted "that trick stately No, to the organ music, it was only normal that Bethany and I started to dance and again the entire church basement became a dance hall. When the organ music stopped the farmer Landlord stopped and made his way to the exit door, while sort of continuing his dance moves and snapping his fingers. When the farmer Landlord reached the exit door, he turned and in a very unexpected move bowed to the

> Sunday School class and abruptly left. The second surprise or third if you remember the silver dollars, and then my older brothers disclosure of the strange locked room.

> As the other in the Sunday School had made their way back to their seats, Bethany and I stood exactly where we had stopped when the organ music finished, still embracing each other. Fo a twelve year old male staring into the eyes of a twelve year old female, the innocence could only be a act of the effects of the church.

> The lessons from Miss Dorn as I learned later in life, was basically teachings from the bible. Now I don't want to give everyone the impression that my family was not church goers, but we did go occasionally and of course we had a bible at home. The joke was, that father stole it from a motel room in his travels.

> With the ending of church service of course came the ending of Sunday School, then homeward bound.

On the ride to return home, I was informed by the farmer Landlord, who by the way has a name, but to protect all the parties involved I describe as Mr. Holten, that when things happen in country families, they stay in the families. I really did not have a idea of what he was talking about, then in a low voice he remarked, "the Minister would frown on our little gig in the Sunday School." I would find out later quite by accident the Minister really wouldn't give a dam, but it would be Mrs. Holten that would be upset. It seems his dance partner cold be more or could be less. It was revealed to myself by Bethany, it was Mrs. Kloss her mother for Mrs. Holten to

We soon arrived home and the farmer Landlord dropped us off, as For what ever reason and still unknown to the day. my Mother and I entered the house, one of my older brothers I started to move with the organ music swaying back  $\,$  informed us that the door to the sick room was open and said "he and forth, pulling up my arms and making moves of tried to close it, to no avail." My brother said, "when I closed and locked the door, as I walked a few feet I heard a click and the door opened again. After a few tries, I just quit. Then as I turned to walk back to my room, I looked back and their was a dark figure standing in the door way, smiling at me. We cannot get away from this place fast enough. Two weeks is two weeks too long."

To see my brother deeply disturbed and very upset was really surprising to myself. He was usually calm, cool and very collected.

With mother's being mothers all mom remarked was "I'll check the door and I'm sure it was just a shadow from the sun coming in the windows."

With no reply from my brother, Mom just shrugged her shoulders and walked away.

After soup and sandwiches for lunch I decided to go upstairs to see for myself, if the door to the death room as described by my older brothers was actually opened. In truth I was beside myself with the excitement that it could be. I always wanted to investigate that room.

Making my way up the stairway hugging the wall, taking small quiet steps, sneaking if its suits you. I approached the door and very cautiously reached out, turning the door knob, I suppose in my twelve year old's mind the door would open and I would walk right in. Nothing, the knob turned and I pushed, the door would not open. I pushed again nothing, then turned and released the knob, then turned it again nothing.

As I stepped back away from the door I noticed a door clasp with a large padlock that kept the door locked tight. Realizing my efforts were fruitless I turned, beginning to descend the stairs, meeting my brother coming up the stairs. Without a greeting of any sort my brother let into me, "you" he said in a very harsh and angry voice, "just had to clean up the cemetery didn't you. Brought all those dam spirits into the house." After those statements, my dear brother smart mouth kicked into high gear spouting accusations and insults. During the verbal assault on myself I noticed his glance upwards toward the hallway at the top of the stairway. When he suddenly stopped and fell backwards against the wall, his face turned ashen. Eyes wide open and could only make gasping noises. I followed his gaze upward, staring face to face with a large figure dressed in a locomotive engineers suit. As we both stood quiet just looking at each other, a large smile formed on his face, then he was gone.

My older brother, hell bent for leaving, tore down the balance of the stairs and was gone.

Istood there not knowing which way to go. Do I go up and see if the figure was there or down to the kitchen area and see if I could find my older brother. As I turned to go downstairs taking just one step, I bumped face to face into mother. I started to explain as I did, Mom put a finger to her lips and gave a 'shush'. As Mom and I waked downstairs, I tried to explain Mother stopped me. Putting her hand on my shoulder Mom spoke to me. "I saw and heard what happened. Maybe with your kindness act of cleaning the cemetery, the good lord has appointed a guardian angel to you."

The explanation was good enough for myself. As Mom and I walked thro out the farm house I asked, "are we going to find Ken to explain?"

"No." Mom replied, "He is in the car with your father. We are going to the village to inspect the new house.

As Mom and I approached the car, Dad and my two brothers, were inside. Ken just sat there with a frozen face staring forward, although



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some colour to his face had returned. Keith my older brother glanced at myself and then a half smile formed. Keith then muttered "perhaps the prince should sit in the front."

After Dad started the car and we left the property I stared at the large brick farm house, with mixed feelings, wishing in one thought that I wanted to stay. That I was leaving old friends within the structure. The next thought was the excitement of new adventures.

What I would find out later in life was from birth beyond, what happens early in life never leaves.



### ABC SENIORS

Contributed by Maaike Berg-Nonnekes

Let's welcome the month of March! It's a month of warning and the promise of Spring. "No Winter lasts forever; no Spring skips its turn." hal borland

At the time this article was being written, we were experiencing some of the snowier and colder days of the winter. However, many have kept away the winter blahs by being active in the local ABC Seniors club. This caring community, guided by a dedicated board of directors and a strong, committed group of volunteers continues to attract many more new members! Currently, the membership stands at just under 200 folks.

Along with this growth, additional activities have also been introduced in the last several months. Besides the usual Wednesday Pickleball play and afternoon crafts, Table tennis/ping pong is a new weekly activity on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. for \$1.00. All the equipment is provided and it's open to all members. Also, Cribbage will be featured on the first Wednesday of





each month in the same time slot.

Tuesday's begin with a growing group of 'throwers' at the Corn Hole boards and Shuffleboard can also be set up. Lunches have included delicious full course meals skillfully prepared by Caterer Jackie or locally prepared soup and sandwiches. This is followed by your choice of: Euchre, Canasta, Bridge or bring a board game, such as Chess.

The Seniors Antiques Day in February was enjoyed by many of our members. Wally James, the retired owner of Apsley Auctions, was able to help us discover some of the historical value and craftsmanship of our treasures and collectibles. Thank you for an informative afternoon and uncovering some interesting surprises!

Upcoming plans include a Pancake lunch on March 4. Another highlight on April 16 will be the annual Easter Dinner Buffet at Burleigh Falls Inn! There may be some Bingo or Euchre tournaments being planned for the early Spring. Watch for details. The Loop Troupe Murder Mystery, hailing from Wilberforce, is scheduled to perform at a luncheon in May!

This is also the time of the year when the board members resign after their year in office. If willing to stand, board members can be nominated again and new nominations are being accepted for the new term starting April 1. Thank you for an amazing year!

If you are considering joining ABC Seniors, please visit us on Tuesdays at the NKCC at 10:30 a.m. to find out what we're all about! Contact: abcseniorscommunications@gmail.com





### VIEW FROM THE CABIN

### Feeder Follies

March is a month of transition. The weather is up and down, and the snow that has clung to the landscape all season long is quickly wearing out its welcome. Spring is on the horizon, though, with warmer winds loosening winter's tenacious grip. The dripping eaves and gurgling streams of icy water are sure signs that warmer weather is on its way.

The local birds that have withstood the cold snowy days and sub-zero nights appear to rejoice in these warmer temperatures. The chickadees, redpolls, pine siskins, downy woodpeckers, nuthatches, and goldfinches that have come to seed and suet feeders all winter long will soon find bugs and weed seeds in the woods and fields. But for now they continue to come to feeders delighting bird enthusiasts who enjoy watching their antics.

All winter Kim and I have been amused by a myriad of small birds who were better able to sustain themselves through the cold because of the ample supply of sunflower seeds we put out for them. The chickadees—looking as ferocious as a chickadee can look—were very entertaining as they would sometimes try to intimidate each other with flared wings and open beaks, just to be first at the seed tray. A real live example of establishing the proverbial "pecking order". Sometimes during a cold snap when the sun was just right, we would see little puffs of vapour rising from their open beaks as they squabbled with each other.

We were particularly concerned about our little feathered friends one bright morning after an ice storm. I had previously "renovated" the feeder to allow some of the bigger birds like blue jays and cardinals to partake by attaching unused stir sticks (the ones you get at the paint store) to the bottom of the seed tray. This also allowed more birds onto the feeder which was ultimately more entertaining for us. But when the chickadees came in to land, the glare ice on their handy new perches was invisible to them, resulting in a veritable slip-'n-slide landing zone. The sight of them crashing into each other amidst a flurry of beaks and fluttering wings was hilarious. Kim joked that we should've loaded the feeder with "salted" sunflower seeds!

Having a feeder that attracts lots of small birds can be a bit traumatic at times. Once, while we were sitting in our living room enjoying a morning cup of coffee, we were startled by a loud bang against the window. After finding what appeared to be a large breast feather stuck to the glass, and the feeder now devoid of the birds that were there just moments before, we realized that a hawk must have been the culprit. We then noticed a merlin (medium-



sized falcon) on top of a telephone pole across the street pulling the feathers off a small bird. We grabbed our binoculars and realized it was a chickadee. Probably one of the ones we'd been watching at the feeder throughout the winter. The merlin had apparently swooped in at a blistering velocity, grabbed the unfortunate chickadee, and crashed into the window. Then it had flown up to a safe spot to enjoy its breakfast. It finished about ten minutes later and then flew away. Thankfully, we never lost any more birds after that. But, as seemingly cruel as nature can be, birds of prey must eat too!

Bird feeders can also attract other kinds of wildlife like chipmunks, squirrels, and even black bears (if the feeder is left out later in the spring and summer; which is not recommended). Sometimes, setting a feeder on the porch for a few minutes to refill it can be all the time a chipmunk needs to take full advantage of a free meal. One such chipmunk was quickly on the scene and began stuffing its ample cheek pouches with sunflower seeds. It was too busy to notice that Kim had quietly snuck up behind it and was slowly lifting the feeder into the air, stretching the busy little seed robber to its full length. It finally found itself dangling in mid-air and then it deftly hopped up into the seed tray. Kim put the whole works gently down again where it continued to stuff itself. Chipmunks sure are determined little creatures!

Later, after the snow melts and the weather becomes warmer, the feeder will be taken down. This will encourage the birds to follow their God-given instincts to find food in the wild. It's a sad time for us because we've enjoyed watching the birds all winter long. It's a time of confusion for the birds too, since they've been enjoying free meals for many months and have been accustomed to coming to the feeder several times a day.

When I'm up on the ladder taking the feeder down for the season—since it's hooked onto the edge of the eavestrough, thereby hanging nicely in front of the living room window—the birds will impatiently flit about my head, wondering why I'm messing with their food supply. This happens when I refill it too. All day long and even several days later the goldfinches will fly back and forth in front of the window wondering where the feeder went. We found one desperate finch clinging to the bottom of the living room window, looking in as if begging us to put it back up.

It's always a little sad, and yes, even a bit heartbreaking to watch all this because we've completely rocked their world, but, we know that taking the feeder down is for the greater good.

Oh well, this fall we get to do it all over again!

-



### AROUND TOWN

Down the Road and Over the Fence

### Celebration of Life - Shirley Shaver



Please join us to remember and share memories of the life of Shirley Shaver.

Date: May 31, 2025 Time: 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Location: North Kawartha

Community Centre Address: 340 McFadden

Road, Apsley

Light lunch, refreshments

will be served.

Thank you! Neil & Rena Shaver, Karen & Dan Tucker

### Tribute to Joanne



To know you was to love you. To be around you was joy. Without you is heartbreak each and every day.

Joanne Styres passed away January 3rd and the world lost some of its sparkle. Growing up in Hamilton, Joanne left her job in housing and moved North to be closer to her family. Her passion for animals led her to a career as a veterinary customer service representative. She was exceptional at her job, the first to hand

out treats to children and pets. Joanne's welcoming smile and wonderful sense of humour were well known at Apsley Veterinary Services from 2012 to 2020.

The last few years she has been a part of the Norwood Veterinary Services team and handled the phones for Indian River Mobile Veterinary Services. Anyone who interacted with Joanne had a brighter day.

Joanne was a very proud grandmother to her grandsons and also a great aunt. Joanne loved her adopted cats Minnow, Phoebe, Papa and DewDew. Donations can be made to the Lakefield Animal Welfare Society in memory of Joanne.

It was a blessing to meet her and honour to call her a friend.

Submitted by Kyla

## MISZUK: Roman Michael 1961 - 2025



Passed away suddenly at his home on Friday February 7, 2025. Roman Miszuk of Apsley in his 64th year. Roman was born in Toronto and realized his dream of moving into nature when he came to Apsley. He spent over 40 years as a Taxidermist, a skill that he learned from his father and brother. He loved the outdoors and living in nature and brought his core sense of values to his lifestyle of hunting and fishing. Roman was also a very proud servant of North Kawartha, having served two terms as Councillor at Large. He is loved and missed by

his wife Robin and his son Mark (Klara Finley) of Apsley. Remembered by his brother Steve (Nancy), nephew Edward (Shaun), niece Nicole (Ash), niece Sasha, nephews Micheal and Matt, great niece Saylah and great nephew Stevie Jr. Also remembered by many aunts, uncles, cousins and by his family in Poland. Predeceased by his parents, Michael and Florianna and brothers John (Roxanne) and Walter (Jill). A funeral service will be held at Apsley Community Chapel, 299 McFadden Road, Apsley on Saturday February 15, 2025 at 1:00 PM. A reception will follow in the fellowship room of the church. Memorial donations may be made to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters or Ducks Unlimited as expressions of sympathy, and may be made by contacting THE HENDREN FUNERAL HOMES, LAKEFIELD CHAPEL, 66 Queen Street, Lakefield at www.hendrenfuneralhome.com or by calling 705-652-3355.





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