



**Apsley**  
**Backroads**  
MAGAZINE

**SEPTEMBER  
2025**

**FREE**

**LABOUR  
DAY**

**Apsley  
Studio Tour**

**Impact on Forest  
Health: Invasive Pests**

**Creekside  
Music  
Festival**

**Preserving Your  
Garden Harvest**

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## From The Editor's Desk

# SEPTEMBER 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.

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](http://apsleybackroads.com)

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## Subscriptions

Subscriptions are available for \$55.37 (HST included). Makes a great gift! Mailed to your door, Eight times a year.

How is everyone surviving the heat!? This summer sure has kept us finding ways to keep cool. Its been nice to have a wee break from the heat lately.

As of time of publication, the nearby Forest Fires were held and maintained - Thank you to all the Firefighters and crews that worked tirelessly to keep us all safe.

This Fall marks the 10th anniversary of The Apsley Backroads Magazine!! TEN! What an honour to be a part of this community for that long. Stay tuned for a special edition celebrating some of the memorable moments over the years.

September is also the month for some epic memory making events: Back to School, Creekside Music Festival, Apsley Studio Tour, start of Apsley Minor Hockey and more.

Be sure to come on out, enjoy some music, pick up some unique local art and celebrate the start of Fall time in style.

Last month I shared I had some pictures done - and this is why...I found out in June that I have breast cancer. Treatment has started and my prognosis is good...but this was yet another major pivot to navigate in our lives. Thank you to all that have reached out in support - Cancer not only affects those with the diagnosis, but their family members and friends as well. 20 years ago, there wasn't as many people affected - but now everyone seems to know someone - Men, Women, Children and all different forms of cancer - it's scary and heartbreaking.

That is also the reason why I am looking for some help with the Magazine - still figuring out what type of help is needed - but reach out if you're interested.

**Cover Photo Credit: Ellie Clause**

A beautiful capture of local resident Stacey Clause, by her daughter Ellie on Chandos Lake.




# Helena McMann

**Publisher, Editor, Owner**

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**Apsley, ON K0L1A0**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>LABOUR DAY</b>          <b>1</b>	<b>Shuffle Board</b> <b>Cornhole then Lunch,</b> <b>Euchre/Canasta</b> 10:30am NKCC <b>Table Tennis</b> 7 to 9 pm NKCC <b>Euchre</b> 7:00pm <b>Woodview</b>   <b>2</b>	<b>Fall Prevention Exercise Class</b> 10-11am NKCC <b>Pickle Ball</b> 11:15am-2pm Craft Class 2- 4 pm. NKCC  <b>ShuffleBoard</b> 1 pm, LEGION   <b>3</b>	<b>Playgroup 0-6yrs</b> 10am-12 <b>NKCC</b> Pot Luck Lunch Canasta or Darts 12:30pm <b>Woodview</b> <b>Pickle Ball</b> (\$2) 6-9pm <b>NKCC</b> 1st,3rd,5th Thurs   <b>4</b>	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> 12:30pm NKCC <b>Music Jam Session</b> 4pm, LEGION  <b>CREEKSIDE MUSIC FESTIVAL</b>   <b>5</b>	<b>CREEKSIDE MUSIC FESTIVAL</b> (Friday through Sunday)          <b>6</b>
<b>Darts</b> 6:30pm, LEGION  <b>Pickle Ball</b> (\$2) 6 to 9pm NKCC (not Stat Holidays)      <b>8</b>	<b>Shuffle Board</b> <b>Cornhole then Lunch,</b> <b>Euchre/Canasta</b> 10:30am NKCC <b>Table Tennis</b> 7 to 9 pm NKCC <b>Euchre</b> 7:00pm <b>Woodview</b>   <b>9</b>	<b>Fall Prevention Exercise Class</b> 10-11am NKCC <b>Pickle Ball</b> 11:15am-2pm Craft Class 2- 4 pm. NKCC  <b>ShuffleBoard</b> 1 pm, LEGION   <b>10</b>	<b>Playgroup 0-6yrs</b> 10am-12 <b>NKCC</b>   <b>Pot Luck Lunch</b> Canasta or Darts 12:30pm <b>Woodview</b>   <b>11</b>	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> 12:30pm NKCC   <b>Music Jam Session</b> 4pm, LEGION   <b>12</b>	          <b>13</b>
<b>Darts</b> 6:30pm, LEGION  <b>Pickle Ball</b> (\$2) 6 to 9pm NKCC (not Stat Holidays)      <b>15</b>	<b>Shuffle Board</b> <b>Cornhole then Lunch,</b> <b>Euchre/Canasta</b> 10:30am NKCC <b>Table Tennis</b> 7 to 9 pm NKCC <b>Euchre</b> 7:00pm <b>Woodview</b>   <b>16</b>	<b>EUCHRE Lions Club NKCC 7pm</b>   <b>ShuffleBoard</b> 1 pm, LEGION   <b>17</b>	<b>Playgroup 0-6yrs</b> 10am-12 <b>NKCC</b> Pot Luck Lunch Canasta or Darts 12:30pm <b>Woodview</b> <b>Pickle Ball</b> (\$2) 6-9pm <b>NKCC</b> 1st,3rd,5th Thurs   <b>18</b>	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> 12:30pm NKCC   <b>Music Jam</b> 4pm, LEGION   <b>19</b>	<b>APSLEY STUDIO TOUR</b> (Sat & Sun) 10am-5pm) <b>JOHN DITCHBURN DART Tournament</b> 10am LEGION   <b>20</b>
<b>FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN</b>   <b>Darts</b> 6:30pm, LEGION  <b>Pickle Ball</b> (\$2) 6 to 9pm NKCC (not Stat Holidays)   <b>22</b>	<b>Shuffle Board</b> <b>Cornhole then Lunch,</b> <b>Euchre/Canasta</b> 10:30am NKCC <b>Table Tennis</b> 7 to 9 pm NKCC <b>Euchre</b> 7:00pm <b>Woodview</b>   <b>23</b>	<b>Fall Prevention Exercise Class</b> 10am NKCC  <b>Pickle Ball</b> 11:15 Craft Class 2pm  <b>ShuffleBoard</b> 1 pm, LEGION   <b>24</b>	<b>Playgroup 0-6yrs</b> 10am-12 <b>NKCC</b>   <b>Pot Luck Lunch</b> Canasta or Darts 12:30pm <b>Woodview</b>   <b>25</b>	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> 12:30pm NKCC   <b>Music Jam</b> 4pm, LEGION   <b>26</b>	<b>AMHA 3-PITCH Fundraising Tournament</b>          <b>27</b>
<b>Darts</b> 6:30pm, LEGION  <b>Pickle Ball</b> (\$2) 6 to 9pm NKCC (not Stat Holidays)      <b>29</b>	<b>TRUTH &amp; Reconciliation Day</b> <b>Lunch and Activities</b> 10:30am NKCC <b>Table Tennis</b> 7 to 9 pm NKCC <b>Euchre</b> 7:00pm <b>Woodview</b>   <b>30</b>	<div>  <p><b>Looking Ahead</b></p> <p><b>OCTOBER 13 Thanksgiving</b> <b>NOVEMBER 1 ABC Seniors Bazaar</b></p> <p><b>Remember:</b> <b>NO MAGAZINE IN NOVEMBER</b></p> </div>			



By Helena McMann, AMHA Board Secretary



## 2025/2026 AMHA BOARD

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## RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

The association wide raffle fundraiser will be back this season with some exciting new prizes! Each Hockey Family will have tickets to sell, so be sure to grab yours for a chance to win! This is one of our biggest fundraisers and it helps to offset the cost of team tournaments, jamborees and championship weekends. More details to come.

*For more information on our amazing local hockey league - check us out online at <https://apsleyminorhockey.com/> or on Facebook*

APSLEY MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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*Back to School*



## LUNCHBOX BAKING



By Denise Dunford and Helena McMann

### Breakfast Cookies

Healthy whole wheat peanut butter oatmeal cookies packed with shredded apples and mashed bananas.

#### Ingredients

- 1 and 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 and 1/2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/2 cup dark brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup mashed banana (about 2 medium)
- 1 cup shredded peeled apple (about 2 medium)
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips, optional

#### Instructions

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, oats, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon. Set aside.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, blend the peanut butter and brown sugar until creamy. Add the egg and vanilla and mix until well combined. Mix in the mashed banana. Slowly add the flour mixture until just combined. Stir in the shredded apple and chocolate chips.

Form 3-4 tablespoons of dough into large balls and place a few inches apart on the prepared baking sheets. Flatten each ball of dough with a cup measurer that has been sprayed with non-stick cooking spray.

Bake for 10-12 minutes until slightly browned. Let cool on cookie sheets for 10 minutes before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.

<https://thebakermama.com/recipes/breakfast-cookies/>



## Ham/Cheese Muffins

### Ingredients

2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 cup chopped cooked ham  
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese  
1 cup buttermilk  
1/2 cup mayonnaise

### Instructions

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, ham and cheese. Pour in milk and add mayonnaise.

Stir with spoon until all ingredients are wet. Spray a 12 cup muffin tin with cooking spray.

Fill cups with spoonfuls of wet dough. Bake in preheated 425 degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes.

<https://thesouthernladycooks.com/ham-cheddar-muffins/>



## Carrot Zucchini Apple Bread

Moist and full of delicious fall fruit and vegetables. This recipe makes 2 loaves, so enjoy one now and freeze one for later.

### Ingredients

1 cup shredded zucchini about 1 small sized zucchini  
2 small apples shredded  
2 large carrots shredded  
3 eggs  
1 cup vegetable oil  
2 cups granulated sugar  
2 tsp vanilla extract  
3 cups all purpose flour  
1 tsp salt  
1 tsp baking soda  
1/4 tsp baking powder  
2 tsp cinnamon

### Instructions

Preheat your oven to 325 degrees F.

Prepare 2 baking pans by lining them with parchment paper.

Shred the zucchini, apple and carrots. Set aside.

Using a stand mixer combine the eggs, oil, sugar and



vanilla, until smooth.

In a separate bowl whisk together the flour, salt, baking soda, baking powder and cinnamon.

Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients. Mix gently.

Now add the shredded zucchini, apples and carrots. You will notice that as this mixture has had time to sit, that there will be moisture. Lightly squeeze out the moisture before adding it to the batter.

Pour the batter evenly between the 2 baking pans.

Bake for about 1 1/4 hours. The cakes are done when a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean.

Let the cakes cool in the pans for about 10 minutes.

Then remove and let cool completely on a wire rack.





## VIEW FROM THE CABIN

by Rick de Haan

### A Windy Day

I heard it before I got out of bed; the roar through the trees as great breaths of wind rushed up the cliff from the lakeshore below. The cabin walls stood fast, but the windows shuddered in the heavier gusts.

There would be no venturing out on the water today. The lake's surface fairly danced with whitecaps, warning any canoeist to stay ashore.

I was okay with that. Blustery days always made me feel like hunkering down; that cozy feeling of having to stay put. A windy day is a good day to get some stuff done around the place, like splitting wood. Or, I could just sit on the porch, read a book, and listen to the tempest lashing through the trees. I could watch the gulls and the vultures as they enjoyed soaring high overhead through the wind torn sky. Or watch as zephyrs of wind chased themselves round and round on the forest floor, rustling up whirls of dead leaves from the previous fall.

I decided instead to get my paints out and try to capture the view from the cabin. But first, I prepared a hearty breakfast of fried eggs, bacon, and toast. And then, of course, a steaming mug of coffee. No day would ever start without that!

As I was anchoring my easel with rope and tent pegs, I thought of the French painter, Claude Monet. Now known as the 'father of impressionism', Monet lived from 1840 to 1926. He'd once hired a 'porter'—a local chap who needed some extra cash. The old man would carry Monet's equipment to his painting site, then hold his easel down while a hearty wind buffeted the seaside cliffs upon which Monet stood painting the rugged coastline before him.

I had no such luxury, but employed instead my tethering system and hoped it would keep everything from blowing



creativity I could muster in those extreme conditions.

I enjoy being alone and would never be able to paint in the presence of other people. I don't know how these portrait artists who frequent tourist traps did it—people milling about, standing behind them, watching every stroke of brush or pencil. Not for me! If I screw up, the last thing I would want around me is a crowd of curious onlookers.

A few years ago when I was painting in a meadow, I got so frustrated with my artistic ineptness that I flung the unfinished painting like a frisbee into the treeline. Something I'd never be free to do in the presence of a gaggle of spectators! I did retrieve the artboard a few minutes later after I calmed down.

That incident reminded me of Monet when he was busy painting on a small boat upon the River Epte near his home in Giverny, France. He got so frustrated by the ever-changing light conditions that in a fit of rage he threw the whole kit and caboodle overboard. His paint box, his palette, and his brushes, all sunk to the bottom of the otherwise peaceful waters of the Epte. He later had to purchase all new equipment.

Looking out over the scene before me, I was impressed, but a little frustrated too with the wind's propensity to change the light conditions upon my subject. The clouds were piled up in the distance, the closer ones racing across the sky. Moving cloud shadows crept over the distant hills, looking like dark, oozing creatures flowing over the forested hills and islands.

Having had quite enough of the wind, I moved into the screened porch where it was more habitable. It still afforded me a decent view of the lake so I could finish the painting without being blown about.

After having brushed in the main elements, I started with some rough detailing, and then finished with the finer bits, including a 'repoussoir'; a little gnarly tree feature in the foreground that would hopefully show a bit of depth and interest, and lead the eye into the vast landscape beyond.

The painting was finished, and it was almost noon. Time flies when you're engrossed in something like that. Having been totally into my work, I forgot all about my mid-morning coffee! Oh well, better boil the kettle for a cup of java and heat up a muffin to tie me over to lunch!

Now I could put my feet up and relax on the porch. No phones, no distractions, just the roar of the wind in the trees, the beauty of dancing whitecaps on the lake, clouds racing by casting their marvelous shadows over the landscape, and the mesmerizing whirls of last fall's leaves.

away. Having some poor sap hold the whole works down for me as the wind howled about us would only make me nervous and feel rushed. Besides, the small talk I would feel obliged to indulge in would be too distracting and ultimately inhibit what little



By Winston E Ralph, Bancroft, ON

## Hank Williams

Down the two lane blacktop Hank Williams did go  
 As there weren't many turnpikes if you don't know  
 When he put on a show the hall was packed  
 And most folks to another show always came back  
 He was born away back there in twenty-three  
 Yes most people didn't know a good singer he'd be  
 For many years now he has been gone  
 But his music was so good it still goes on  
 I never saw him in person only his boy  
 The boy's music isn't the same as its no joy  
 He didn't write songs when he went to fish  
 But the ones he wrote were what the folks did wish  
 With a bad back he liked to ride a horse  
 Which didn't help his back that is of course  
 The songs he wrote the people wished to hear  
 Maybe he felt for long he wouldn't be here  
 From humble beginnings in Alabama to Nashville Tennessee  
 He played in other towns but liked the Grand Ole Opry  
 An uncanny power over the audience when at his best  
 And this can't be said about all of the rest.  
 From 49-51 were his good years as most folks know  
 But was fired from the Opry for missing some shows  
 He was always one who lived too fast of a pace  
 The last few years you could see it on his face  
 Many songs he wrote were good like Mansion on the hill  
 And singing them in person gave people a big thrill  
 He always sung the song and the chorus too  
 Not four words over and over like some now do  
 In West Virginia as the car rolled on through the night  
 The driver felt with Hank everything was alright  
 It was there at Oak Hill when the doctor shook his head  
 And said too late too late your passenger is now dead  
 At the funeral in Montgomery many folks came to town  
 To see that Alabama boy laid beneath the ground  
 Some women fainted and other folks couldn't speak  
 As Red Foley sung peace in the valley with tears on his cheeks



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## SEPTEMBER

LET'S GO TO THE LIBRARY...

### THURSDAY AFTERNOONS

#### PLEIN AIR PAINTING

1pm (Various Locations)

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

#### GAZEBO UKUELE

1pm (Apsley Library Gazebo)

**\*Thursday 11th 6:30pm**

**Apsley Branch**

**LITERARY BUFFET BOOK CLUB**

**\*Friday 12th 10 am**

**Apsley Branch**

**SEWING WORKSHOP (Handbags)**

**\*Saturday 13th and 20th 10:30am**

**Woodview Branch**

**KNITTING CIRCLE**

**\*Thursday 25th 6:30pm**

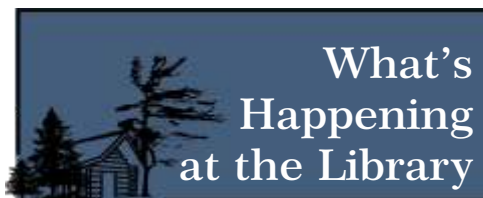
**Apsley Branch**

**COMMUNITY POTLUCK**

**\*Thursday 25th 3:15pm**

**Apsley Branch**

**KIDS CLUB RETURNS!**



Contributed by Kim Tucker and Lisa Mace

*Do you enjoy the programming offered by the North Kawartha Library? Have you thought you might be interested in attending? If so, please show your support by coming out to one of the rich and varied programs. There really is something for everyone here at the library.*



### Plein Air Painting –Thursday Afternoons, September 2025

There's something really special about painting outside with a group of people.

Plein Air painting—basically just creating art outdoors—gives you the chance to express yourself creatively while soaking up all the good vibes

that come from being in nature. It's not just about making art; it's also about connecting with others, sharing stories, and encouraging each other along the way. Whether you're a total beginner or have been painting for years, getting outside with your brushes can spark inspiration and even help you see the world in a new way. Plus, painting with a group adds a fun, social element. You can learn new techniques, get feedback, and enjoy the creative energy that comes from being around other people doing what they love. It's a great way to build confidence in your skills while also making new friends. We'll be meeting weekly starting Thursday, September 4th at the library, 1:00pm and then heading out to the locations. So come join us for some relaxed, creative time in the great outdoors! Call 705-656-4333 or email [k.tucker@northkawarthalibrary.com](mailto:k.tucker@northkawarthalibrary.com)

### The Literary Buffet Book Club is Back! Thursday, September 11th @ 6:30pm –Apsley Branch.

After a little summer break, the Literary Buffet is back for another fun season of reading, sharing, and great conversation! Unlike traditional book clubs, we don't all read the same book. Instead, each member reads whatever they like, and we gather to chat about what we've been enjoying. From mysteries to memoirs, romance to sci-fi—everything is on the table (just like a good buffet)! It's a wonderful way to get to know each other through our reading choices, and you're sure to discover new authors, genres, and maybe even your next favourite book. New members are always welcome. No pre-registration is required.



### **Handbag Sewing Workshop - Friday, September 12 @ 10am – Apsley Branch.**

Want to create a stylish, durable, and practical handbag from scratch? Join us for a hands-on sewing workshop where you'll make a fully lined, duffel-style handbag (approx. 31 cm x 15 cm) with a zipper closure and sturdy shoulder straps. Perfect for everyday use—carry your craft supplies, toiletries, kids' toys, or whatever you need!

This beginner-friendly workshop is led by Joan Rocha and is ideal even if you're new to sewing bags or

zippers. All materials are included: fabric, zipper, twill tape, and a printed pattern. Sewing machines are available in limited supply. Cost: \$15 per participant. Spaces are limited, please pre-register

[l.mace@northkawarthlibrary.com](mailto:l.mace@northkawarthlibrary.com) or call 705-656-4333

### **Knitting Circle - Saturday, September 13th and 20th @ 10:30 am – Woodview Branch.**

Want to learn to knit? Or are you an experienced knitter who wants to join a group? Join our new Knitting Circle in Woodview! Learn to knit a dishcloth (all materials supplied) or bring in your own project from home to work on for support and free coffee! No cost. Registration required by calling the Woodview Branch 705-654-1071

### **Celebrate Ontario Culture Days with a Community Potluck at the Library! Thurs, Sept 25th 6:30pm – Apsley Branch.**

Join us at the library for a special evening of food, stories, and connection as we celebrate Ontario Culture Days—right here in our own small-town way. We're inviting everyone to bring a dish that holds meaning in your family—something that speaks to your roots, your traditions, or simply brings back fond memories. Each of us

has a story to tell, and food is a wonderful way to share it. Coffee, tea, juice, and water will be provided. Since we don't have access to a stove or oven, we ask that dishes not require cooking on-site. Please also bring a copy of your recipe—we'll make copies so everyone can go home with a collection of all the shared dishes! As we gather around the table, you'll have a chance to tell us about the dish you brought and why it matters to you. Whether it's grandma's holiday salad, a picnic classic, or something from your culture, it's all about sharing who we are. If you'd like to bring more than one dish, you're more than welcome—just be sure to include a recipe for each! Let's celebrate culture, community, and connection—one plate at a time! Please pre-register so we know how many to set the table for. Call 705-656-4333 or [l.mace@northkawarthlibrary.com](mailto:l.mace@northkawarthlibrary.com)

### **Kid's Club Returns in September! Thursday, September 25th @ 3:15pm – Apsley Branch.**

We're so excited to kick off another season of Kid's Club—our fun and creative after-school program for kids up to and including grade 5! While our regular weekly schedule begins in October, we're starting things off with one special session in September. Each week at Kid's Club includes a story and a snack, followed by something new and exciting—like crafts, STEM activities, art, or games. September's session will give kids a taste of the fun to come! No pre-registration needed—just drop in and join the fun!

### **Gazebo Ukulele –Wednesdays in September, 1:00pm, Apsley Branch**

Join us for a relaxed hour of ukulele strumming under the library gazebo! This welcoming gathering is open to all ages and skill levels—whether you're just starting out or have been playing for years. It's a fun way to connect with others and enjoy the music together. Don't have a ukulele? No problem—the library has a few extras you can borrow. So, mark your calendar and drop by to strum with this friendly group!



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## MEMORIES SHARED by MARJORIE

By Marjorie Wilson, Freelance

### Girl Guide Camping Mount Maple - Part 1

*First - a few notes regarding the locale of this story.*

*Mount Maple is a wooded area north of Brownsburg, Quebec. In the time period (1945) of the*

*story few people lived there except for families of Gunn's, McKiddie's and Jackson's. Even today this is a densely wooded and sparsely populated. Laurentian Shield country is similar to wooded areas in North Hastings. During the fall hunting season there were occasions when hunters became lost. Finding them in this forest was a challenge.*

*In Bancroft a summer retreat is called a cottage. In Brownsburg, Quebec this same structure would be called a camp. For some reason a Brownsburg family, the Thompson's had a camp in Mount Maple. It was nowhere near a lake. The only water was a creek (about 8 feet wide) which ran along one side of this wooded property.*



My friends went up to the Thompson camp yesterday. Dad can't take me up there until noon when he gets off work. What a lovely day! Even for June it is going to be a hot one.

Dad is waiting patiently (I think) by the car as I run back and forth from the house. Camping with my Girl Guide buddies - how exciting! Twila and Joyce's dad is letting us use their camp. Have I forgotten anything? My woollen blankets - check! Food - bread, butter, jam, tins of beans, soup. Must not forget my bathing suit. Think I'll wear my wristwatch. It sort of keeps time!

#### **Camp**

Hi! Everyone! Lunch smells good.

"What do you mean lunch?" Isabel wails.

"This is supper!"

"Supper?"

"Yes. We've had breakfast and lunch. This is supper. We don't have watches".

"Just a minute", I reply. "We are supposed to be Girl Guides. I know that it is shady



here but if you look up you can still see that the sun is overhead, hence, noon. Actually I can eat anytime, so, bring it on!" Looking around the property and in the camp I wonder if anyone has stayed here recently. The ground is littered with all sorts of "stuff", including a sofa with rusty springs sticking up out of what might have been the cushions. The camp is definitely "run down". The floor has an interesting tilt. There are cobwebs and dead flies everywhere. It has a musty odour. No time to fuss. Just unpack the food.

Does anyone want to go for a swim? Clear Lake is not that far away, I think. Jean and Isabel join me to look for traces of an old logging trail. That will surely lead us to the gravel road which goes past Clear Lake. Found a trail! This is taking longer than I thought. Getting really hot and sweaty! It is funny how a little clearing makes it really difficult to follow the trail. It just disappears. We search and find the trail again. At last! The road! Which way to the lake? Ha! Luck is with us and just in time as we are getting really hot. The cool swim in the lake is just heavenly.

I need to watch the time. It is late afternoon. We must get back to camp before dark. Where is that logging trail? Everything looks much different going back. By the time we reach camp it is dusk. Am I ever hungry! Why is Joyce saying she was really worried about us? Time to make supper.

Now we need to think of finding a place to sleep. Isabel has been using her knot tying skills to make a hammock out of white cord. She hangs her creation between two trees and carefully adds blankets and a pillow. I watch as she cautiously slides into her hammock. Whoops! Out she goes along with her bedding. She rearranges her blankets and moves carefully. Isabel has more patience or perhaps it is more stubbornness than I could imagine. It takes a few more tries until she succeeds in settling down for the night.

Where will I sleep? Hum! That old sofa looks promising. Maybe the tin coke sign will cover the rusty springs. On top goes my blanket. If I climb on carefully that coke sign should not slide off. That's comfy! Twila and Joyce have opted to sleep in their family camp. Maybe they don't mind cobwebs. Jean is sleeping on the ground.

The next morning I hear complaints that every time I rolled over on that coke sign I woke up the camp!

Today is Isabel's birthday! We have planned on making her a cake. A good fire is roaring in the cook stove. The cake looks baked and ready to take out of the oven. It also looks a little odd.

This cake is a lot thicker on one side. Could that be because the stove is tilted on a really sloping floor? Good thing I brought lots of icing sugar. We can just fill up that thin side. On go the candles. Happy Birthday Isabel!

As we pack up to leave camp we all agree we should do this again!



## Why Helping Turtle Hatchlings Reach Water Really Matters



Turtle nests in Ontario hatch from mid-August to mid-October, with September being the busiest period, and this is a time of great wonderment!

You're walking along a trail or lakeside and spot something the size of a loonie trying to navigate rocks, roots, and a long way to water. It's a turtle hatchling. Adorable? Absolutely. But that tiny turtle is also a walking miracle, and it might just need your help to take the most important steps of its life.

Less than one percent of turtle hatchlings survive in the wild. Yes, you read that right. One percent. And that's not because turtles aren't trying, it's because the odds are stacked against them.

Between habitat loss, roadways, predators (above, below, and sideways), and some questionable nesting location choices by mom, baby turtles have it rough. The nest location? Sometimes it's situated in challenging terrain or too far from water. Not ideal when your body is the size of a bottle cap and your legs are powered by what can only be described as "hope."

But here's the inspiring bit: if a hatchling has made it this far, it's already beaten huge odds. It has survived temperature swings, the full incubation period, and avoided being snacked on by anything with teeth or talons. If it's crawling toward water, it's earned that chance, and your help could tip the scales between life and death.

### A Gentle Nudge in the Right Direction

If you find a hatchling, you can help. Moving a hatchling to the water's edge, the right water, mind you, gives it a chance to avoid the "gauntlet" of predators like raccoons, skunks, mink, foxes, seagulls, crows, herons, hawks, and whatever else views hatchlings as a snack. Basically, nature is not playing around.

That's why your role in this miracle march matters.

When you find a hatchling, take it to the nearest slow-moving, shallow body of water. Look for a spot with vegetation or leafy debris where they

can hide and rest. Do not plop them into the middle of a deep, open pond. That's not a release, it's an invitation to get eaten or drown. Let them enter the water at their own speed, in their own time. If you've got more than one hatchling, space them out about ten feet apart. This increases their chances of survival.

### No, You Can't Keep Them

We know it's tempting. They're tiny, precious, and look like they'd fit right into a shoebox with a leaf or two. However, keeping hatchlings (or any native turtle) as pets is not only a bad idea, but it's also illegal in Ontario. Taking turtles from the wild, even with good intentions, breaks the law and hurts the already struggling populations.

They are not lost, not looking for their mom, and won't bond with your kid. They are born knowing what they must do and need to be free to do it.

Teaching children to admire, not capture, wildlife is one of the most meaningful lessons we can pass on. This isn't about saying no to curiosity. It's about saying yes to respect.

### When Pets Meet Turtles: Damage Control

Your family dog might be a sweetheart indoors, but out in nature, it's another story. Dogs have been known to dig up nests,



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chew hatchlings like squeaky toys, or even eat eggs. Cats are hunters by instinct and won't hesitate either. It happens, and when it does, please don't freeze in shame; immediately call the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre at 705-741-5000. They offer free medical care and will arrange transport through their impressive Turtle Taxi network if the finder cannot drive the Turtle themselves. Prompt treatment can save a life. And every life saved counts in the broader battle for turtle conservation.

### Let Nature Do Its Thing (Even When It's Slow)

Sometimes, nests hatch in waves. You might see one hatchling emerge, and then... nothing. Don't go digging. The hatchlings may still be absorbing yolk sacs, and tampering can be fatal and is illegal. Also, turtles don't follow calendars. We've seen late hatches as far out as Halloween. So yes, "Turtle Time" is a thing. Be patient

Speaking of patience, some hatchlings don't emerge in autumn, not because they're stuck, but because they've chosen to overwinter in the nest. Painted turtles, Blanding's, and others will hunker down until spring. Cool, right?

### The Big Picture

Here's the truth: we've built a world that makes life incredibly hard for turtles. Roads, development, habitat loss, and climate shifts these are all human-made hurdles. Giving a hatchling a hand to water isn't interfering with nature. It's making up for the damage we've caused.

So the next time you see one of those miniature survivors trudging over gravel and grass, remember that turtle is living proof of nature's determination. And your gentle assistance could be the one thing that turns that story into a success.

Help them get to the water. Then step back, knowing your action matters. Every hatchling you help is a direct step toward their future and the survival of the turtle species. This is how we pay it forward with quiet, humble action, one hatchling at a time.

If you have a question about a turtle or nest, please phone or text Think Turtle Conservation Initiative at 647-606-9537. For more information about turtles and actions you can take, visit our website at <http://www.thinkturtle.ca> or on Facebook.





## CT Tree Services

Guest Contributor Craig Tracey

<https://cttrees.ca/>

### Impact on Forest Health: Invasive Pests



This summer as part of my commitment to life-long learning and the love our local forests, I enrolled in an Invasive Species Training program studying White Pine Blister Rust, Dutch Elm Disease, Emerald Ash Borer, Spongy Moth, and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. In this article, I focus on Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) a destructive wood-boring pest that is responsible for the decline and death of millions of ash trees in North America. It is the most destructive invasive forest insect to ever reach Canada as it attacks both healthy and unhealthy ash trees of all species with a 99% mortality rate. You might have noticed the dying ash trees driving along Highway 28? The cause is Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)!

Native to Asia, EAB was first discovered in North America near Detroit, Michigan in 2002 and then later the same year in Windsor, Ontario. It is believed to have arrived on solid wood packing material and is now a regulated pest in Canada.

Vulnerable native ash species include white, green, black, pumpkin and blue ash, although all ash trees are susceptible to emerald ash borer infestations. Research has confirmed that EAB is capable of surviving alongside ash trees anywhere in Canada and will likely be insensitive to climate change.

Emerald ash borers generally have a one-year life cycle, though they can live up to two years in a vigorously growing tree. During this time, they undergo four life stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult (beetle). Even though every stage of the life cycle is easily identifiable and distinctive to the species, the chance of encountering them are very low as they can be tricky to find. For example, the eggs are very tiny and usually laid in bark crevices, the larvae and pupae stages grow under the bark and the adults spend most of their time high in the tree canopy. Signs: tunneling, S-shaped galleries under bark, D-shaped adult exit holes. Symptoms: yellowing of leaves, crown thinning, epicormic branches (shoot growing from dormant bud), vertical cracks in the tree, tree death and woodpecker and squirrel damage. Unfortunately, eradicating emerald ash borer from Canada is no longer feasible. Management is key and includes detecting and monitoring (done by provincial forest entomologists), removal of infested and dead trees with proper disposal, protection and planting (for example plant a diversity of trees and lingering ash - a term used to describe ash trees that survive after all the surrounding ash trees have been destroyed by EAB. Researchers estimate that on a forest landscape, 1 in 1000 trees are expressing some resistance.

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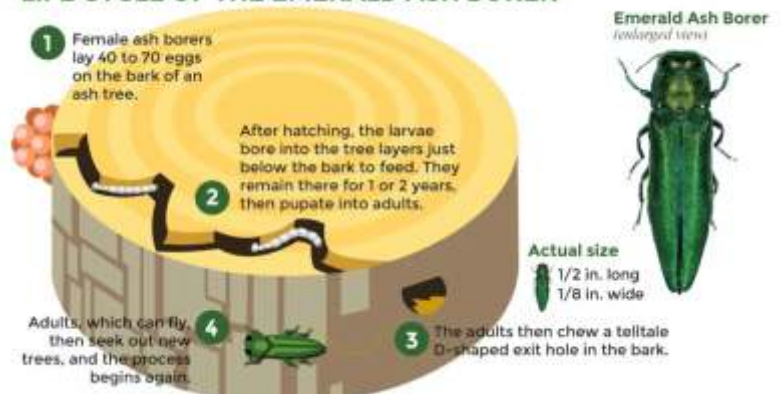
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North Kawartha

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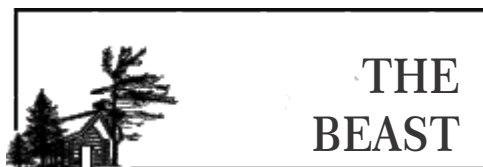
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## by Roy Anderson Chapter Eleven

The episodes of leaving the farm was soon forgotten after the arrival in the village.

While I explored the "new" surroundings, the older brothers explored the village downtown. Before long they made new friends, found work in the local farms.

Myself I started to explore the village and before long became familiar with all the top quality snack bars, fish and chip shops, and restaurants. There are course other places like the Five and Dime, and Drug Stores (comic books). So while my older brothers made friends with the other village teenagers, I would mosey about.

The house as I previously described was very eerie. On a hot summer day, it was almost cold inside. When I questioned Mom about this, the answer was, "When the house was built, they used a lot of insulation."

Both Mom and myself knew it was the "Damn Basement ." When I say "Damn Basement," I mean what the two words express. The house was built in the 1800's had a dirt floor in the cold room for vegetables. The cold room in itself was properly named. Constructed along a outside wall, the retaining walls like balance of the basement walls, were constructed of large stones, the gaps filled with limestone mortar. The main basement floor was cement.

Whoever built the "cold room" for whatever reason or quite possibly someone at a later date installed a single light fixture, on the ceiling, but the on and off switch was on the end wall at the far end of the room. This meant that after opening the old wooden door, with the creaking, squeaking hinges. One has too walk the entire cold room to turn the light on. Meanwhile the door slowly swinging shut, leaving the room in darkness, until you found the switch.

With all the previous supernatural on the farm, although probably innocent, the mind would play the hidden fear in the "cold room". However by now you should know I had to work all fear against my siblings.

One day when my turn to gather the "Cold Room" vegetables and potatoes for supper, came about Mom asked of me to get veggies and potatoes as usual my mind started to

develop a plan to create a incident to cause a disturbance. On in a nutshell upset my brothers.

I made my way down the basement stairs and slowly

walked to the "cold room". A voice belonging to my Mom, came from the top of the stairs door opening. "Richard. There is a new light switch on the wall, right beside the door opening." "Oh," Mom continued Mr. Maxwell oiled the hinges also."

Normally a person would have appreciated the repairs. In my mind I was disappointed that there was no opportunity to create a scene. So off I went into the "cold room" to get potatoes and vegetables for supper.

After opening the door, then flicking the switch, turning the light on, I was greeted by not one, but two new overhead lights illuminating the entire room. In one way a relief from the entire episode, but in another way stopping a incident with my brothers.

Everything went quite well with the new plan for the "cold room" until I reached the potato bin at the far end. As I bent over to pick up the spuds, I sensed a movement behind me. Standing up and looking at the doorway, just in time to see it slam shut. Making a move to go and open the door the dam light went out. Putting more effort in heading to open the door, I found when I reached it, it was jammed shut. After turning the door knob and pushing hard against the door it would not budge. Pushed harder no budging. Being trapped in darkness I was just about to scream. Mother's voice once again sounded from upstairs, "I would like those potatoes and vegetables today." at the sound of Mother's voice, the lights clicked on, at the same time the door released, tumbling myself out into the basement on hands and knees.

Gaining composure, struggling to my feet, I slowly turned looking about the basement. There was nothing unusual so returning to the room gathering potatoes and vegetables, closing up the room made my way back to go upstairs to the kitchen, stopping at the bottom of the stairs glancing about for a last look see. Sure as there s a heaven and hell, there had to be a paranormal figure.

Standing in the far corner of a poorly lit basement, he was there. Dressed in clothing from the late twenties, the only difference was that he was soaking wet. Water dripping but not puddling on the floor. The figure shimmering, fading in and out, worst of all the stupid grin on his face, uttering half snarl and half moan.

My whole being filled with anger, then unknown till this day, why I set the container of vegetables down, charged the figure, first uttering profanities that switched to the Lord's Prayer. The reasons unknown to myself crossed my left arm to the right then held the right arm straight up in front of myself forming a cross. Then After a few steps toward the figure, if

disappeared. Adrenalin raced through my body then a feeling of grandeur followed. In my mind I thought, I learned to rid myself of being haunted. "Right " Ducks don't swim, frogs don't croak. Oh yes worms don't wiggle, etc, etc.

Arriving upstairs, putting the veggies and potatoes on the counter, turning towards Mother asking, "did the hydro go out for a few minutes?"

Mom a puzzled look on her face, questioned, "Why?" then "no."

With the three brothers sitting in their usually position at the table of course looking like the tribunal of high intelligence (snicker snicker). The kitchen remained silent with just Mom and myself staring at each other. The container of vegetables and potatoes moved slowly across the table, crashed on the floor.

The tribunal of intelligence scattered from sitting at the table, and headed for the front door, Robert the oldest stating "were on the front verandah call when supper is ready."

Mother stood at the kitchen counter facing the table, rather than wait for her to ask, moved quickly to pick up the vegetables and containers.

After setting them down on the table, turning to look at Mom. I was shocked to see the look on her face.

Her skin flushed red, eyebrows arched, lips curled and a voice hard and sharp grabbed the container from the table, in one move opened the door to the basement, firing the container with the contents back into the basement. In a voice between a growl and a screech called, "take back your vegetables, if you are staying in this house you will behave. You leave us alone." Mom then holding a gold crucifix she wore around her neck repeated the Lord's Prayer. Over and over when finished slammed the basement door shut.

Standing there stunned all I could do was stare at her.

Mom then turned towards myself speaking. "this is a good time to go out for supper. Go tell your brothers to get ready." That evening at supper we were treated to a restaurant meal. I guess we must have been quite a sight. Mom and her four boys walking to downtown Brooksmill.

After the four of us welcomed by the owner and his wife were seated and order given, a strange occurrence according to the owners wife was happening. We are usually not busy, there is just my husband and myself. Before long the restaurant was filled. The owners wife, "I'll call her Jane exclaimed, "I can't keep up to this."

Now Mom being a Mother hen slid out of her seat at the booth, patting Jane on the shoulder exclaimed, "I'll give you a hand. Would there be an extra apron in the

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kitchen?"

The four of us, the boy's were left sitting in the booth until Mother reappeared, looking rather chick in her apron and a shot sort of way.

Then in a very commanding voice ordered the oldest, Robert into the kitchen to peel and slice potatoes for fries. Then Ken, dear Ken to follow and wash dishes and silverware. As Ken walked to the kitchen, me being me, pulled a had to, I just had to remark, "you will have dish pan hands." then added, "at least they will be clean." The look on Mom's face told me the bucket was stirred once again.

The evening dinner out turned into being a evening work out, with Mom, myself and three brothers helping in the restaurant. At least the meal was free.

At the end of the evening, a elderly women and her daughter who were customers approached Mom. The elder whom I presumed was the mother stated, "I know you are the person who took our old home, up by the train tracks. I would like to talk to you about the history of the home."

Mom suggested and invited her and her daughter to come to the house. A time and date was agreed upon.

The talking of the house history was in it's own a story of heartbreak. As the elderly lady sat at the large kitchen table , the story unfolded. Her and her husband were married for five years, she continued and at the same time removed a paper frayed at the edges and yellowed with time. When the paper was laid on the table unfolded, one could see it was a page from a newspaper. With the page unfolded on the table, the senior who we now knew as Elisa continued. "We were the proud parents of two beautiful girls. Quite happy John Erian as my husband was called loved this house, he looked forward to coming home to the family. He was a contractor to thrash wheat or oats for the local farmers. The last winter we were in the house was harsh, cold deep snow, snowbanks extremely high. A January that started as usual with heavy rain. There was no way the rain could drain away. It built up in the front and side yard. The basement window broke and the basement flooded five feet deep. John for some reason decided to go down on the cellar stairs. He slipped on the stairs and fell all the way into the water." Elisa visibly upset continued. "The volunteers from the fire department found John a day later in the cold room."

After wiping away the tears from her eyes Elisa in a voice quivering continued "he means no harm."

Mother comforted Elisa and then promised she would deal with him.

At fourteen years old I was about to witness a happening that would even to this day shock me.



## BACKROAD LIVING

Guest contributor, Rebecca Dickey

# Preserving Your Garden Harvest

Are you surrounded with produce from your garden? September can bring an overwhelming kind of abundance. Water bath canning, pressure canning, and freezing are all great ways to preserve your food for future enjoyment. If you are just starting out, I recommend learning how to water bath can. Start with simple recipes like pickling, jams or jellies. The key is to not over complicate things and slowly build your confidence and skills. Canning came very natural to me, as if I was being guided. While skimming through an old Apsley cookbook, I came across my great grandmother "Birdie Bott's" celery relish recipe. Instantly, I felt a connection. Helping others succeed is something I enjoy. Here are simple instructions and tips on how to water bath can. I hope you consider trying it yourself.

### Canning tools:

- Water bath canner with lid and rack
- Jar lifter
- Magnetic lid lifter
- Bubble popper and headspace tool
- Wide mouth funnel and ladle
- Jars
- Lids and rings
- Vinegar

Choose a safe canning recipe, gather ingredients and begin to process. Halfway through cooking, you will want to sterilize your jars. Simply do this by



### CELERY RELISH

1 qt. minced cucumber, peeled	½ c. flour
1 qt. minced onion	4 tbsp. mustard
1 qt. minced celery	1 tbsp. turmeric
1 qt. minced cabbage	1 tbsp. celery seed
4 c. white vinegar	1 tbsp. mustard seed
6 c. white sugar	2 sweet red peppers, chopped
	2 sweet green peppers, chopped

Mix chopped vegetables. Sprinkle with ½ c. salt. Stand overnight. In the morning, drain well. Prepare sauce.

Bring vinegar and sugar to boil in saucepan. In a large kettle, mix flour, turmeric and mustard to a smooth paste with cold water. Pour boiling vinegar over this and stir until well-blended. Stir constantly until thick. Add all remaining ingredients. Boil hard for 10 minutes. Stir hard to keep from sticking. Seal in prepared jars.

Birdie Bott

placing clean jars into your canner and add just enough water to cover the tops of them. Bring to a boil for 10 minutes. Keep the jars hot to prevent jar breakage when it comes time to fill with hot food.

Use a funnel to avoid spills and ladle the hot food into the hot jars leaving 1 inch head space. Use a bubble popper tool to remove any air bubbles in the food, this will ensure a safe preservation.

When canning, vinegar will be your best friend. Apply vinegar to a cloth and wipe the jar rims. This disinfects, kills bacteria and will ensure a good seal. Using your magnetic lid lifter tool, add sterilized lids and screw on the ring's fingertip tight.

Before processing, clean your canner, add new hot water and splash or two of vinegar. The vinegar will leave your jars sparkling and free of mineral deposits. Place your hot filled jars into the canner, ensuring they are covered with 1-2 inches of hot water.

Turn on the burner to high heat. Once the water is at a full rolling boil, start the required timer. When the timer is up, turn off the burner and leave the jars in the canner for at least 5 minutes. Using a jar lifter tool, remove and let them sit on your counter untouched for at least 12-24 hours. I will never get tired of the "ping" sound when the lids seal, in fact it's somewhat amusing. The next day check all lids to see if they sealed. If there are any that didn't, you can refrigerate and consume within a week's time or re-can. Re-canning will require the hot pack method, new sterilized jars and lids. Before adding your canned goods to your pantry, remove the rings, wash the jars with soapy water, dry and label. Storing them without their rings is for food safety. Having the rings on can sometimes give a false seal leaving you with food spoilage. It also prevents the rings from rust.

Having your own source of food security is so important. It also gives you control, knowing exactly what is in your food. Homemade just beats store bought. If you find yourself with extra produce after preserving, consider sharing with family and friends. Your local food bank will never turn down fresh homegrown food either.

After all your hard work, take time and appreciate your garden. Stroll barefoot throughout and look for those pollinators you've welcomed in. Enjoy everything nature has to offer.



# LIONS COMMUNITY REPORT

by Jim Empringham,  
Apsley and District Lions Club

## SEPTEMBER

The summer has sped by once again and now we head into fall. This is such a beautiful time of year!

Most of the Lions community activities have occurred for the season. We must express our sincere appreciation to all who volunteered, participated in and enjoyed them. Our Lions members are a busy crew who work tirelessly to make a difference. Our fun is made so much



greater by our interactions with members of our community. All of this helps us recognize the impact we can have.

Lions members will be at the Creekside Music Festival on the Friday selling our 50/50 draw tickets. Thanks to the organizers for giving us this opportunity to raise money for our community.

Euchre nights continue at the NKCC on the third Wednesday of the month. Play starts promptly at 7:00pm and admission is \$5. Come on out and have a fun evening! The dates for the next three months are September 17, October 15 and November 19. Play stops for the winter after November and will resume in the spring. Thanks to everyone who has come out.



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**bkoehler81@msn.com**

Our Club was busy in August with the Jack Lake Regatta, Library "Touch a Truck" and the Day Care graduation. We love these opportunities to serve our community and, hopefully, bring smiles to so many.

We had a tragic incident occur in Lions Park over the summer. An unleashed large dog attacked and severely injured a small dog while it was being walked on a leash. Ultimately, the small dog succumbed to its injuries. Our sincere condolences go to the owners of the dog which was attacked. Police and Animal Control are involved in the follow up to this incident. It is virtually impossible to monitor Park usage consistently, so all users rely on each other to be respectful and thoughtful towards each other.

We urge all people walking pets to follow the Municipal by-law requiring all pets to be leashed. We also request that owners pick up after their pets so the field remains as clean as possible.

Work on the new soccer field in Lions Park will begin this fall. All going well, we hope to have a good patch of grass so that the field can be used next soccer season. We are able to complete this work using some of the funds raised through our various events over the spring/summer. Thanks

to Rockers Landscaping for their generosity in supporting the field development.

We wish all a wonderful fall. Your Lions Club will continue to do its best to serve and support North Kawartha.



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Contributed by Maaïke Berg-Nonnekes

As I am writing this, we are still experiencing heat warnings and extremely dry conditions. A total fire ban is currently in effect. We welcome September to bring relief in the day to day temperatures and, hopefully, we will have had some good- soaking rains!

The first weekend is the Labour Day long weekend, signalling the end of the hazy, lazy days of summer and the start of a new school year that students are eagerly anticipating! September is also known as 'Harvest' month in preparation for the winter months ahead. Later in the month, on September 30, we recognize Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Several activities were enjoyed by members in the month of August. These included a Tuesday lunch together, an outing to Bancroft Village Playhouse for a showing of "The Jersey Boys" and a fun Scramble Format Golf tournament with prizes and snacks at Marvel Rapids Golf Club! Thank you to Gayle and the supportive Board for making these events happen.

Looking ahead, the ABC Seniors are welcomed back to the regularly scheduled lunches on Tuesdays with the first one on September 2. Back by popular demand is an afternoon Bingo which is being planned for later in the month. All the other usual activities such as corn hole, pickleball, cards and crafts are in full swing.

A reminder that the Seniors are preparing for their annual Bazaar on November 1 at NKCC, starting at 10:00 a.m. Contact the email below if you are interested in raffle tickets. The prizes are: a double hand-stitched quilt, a wood-framed stained glass piece "Cardinal in the Birch Trees" and a complete regulation sized corn hole set.

If you are interested in finding out more about Anstruther-Burleigh-Chandos Seniors, join us on Tuesdays by contacting [abcseniorscommunications@gmail.com](mailto:abcseniorscommunications@gmail.com).

  
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Gayle Davis, Freelance

## The Bunny With One Ear

When I was a young girl, I longed for a new pet. As an only child, I was able to amuse myself most of the time, but I was, at times, a 'lonely only,' longing for companionship. I adored animals. I saw my friends with their pet dogs and longed for one; however, that was way too much of a commitment for my busy parents. Even though we had cats from time to time, at this point we must have been 'between felines', and the house felt empty to me. And lonely.

After relentless requests, Dad announced that we were going to the neighbourhood pet store. I remember climbing those steep concrete steps with such anticipation. Once inside, Dad informed me that I could pick out a baby rabbit for a pet. My heart was so full! While Dad chatted with the store owner who was getting together the 'bunny things' we needed, I rushed over to the rabbit pen to peruse the 'stock'. They were all soft white bunnies with sparkly eyes, white whiskers, and little pink noses that twitched non-stop. Cuteness overload!

They all looked alike, but my attention was rivetted on this one little bunny who had only one ear. Apparently, born that way and not quite perfect, in every other respect he was a soft, cute white bunny. He was the one I wanted. I cradled my new friend in my arms and headed to the counter, proudly announcing my choice. My Dad took one look at the bunny's imperfection and told me 'We don't want that one'. My protests were dismissed. I had to put him back and pick another one that was 'perfect', in other words it had two ears. I was heartbroken. Being such a young child, I just couldn't understand

why I couldn't adopt him. I was also afraid that if we didn't take him, he would never be adopted. Thoughts of that little bunny have crossed my mind over the years, and I have wondered if he ever found a 'forever' home.

Dictionary.com defines perfect as 'entirely without flaws, defects or shortcomings.' Well, that's a pretty tall order!

Imperfection surrounds us in this imperfect world. Do we have 'perfect' lives? And are we, ourselves, 'perfect'?

What are our expectations for ourselves and others, and could they be quite unreasonable? How judgmental and foolish we tend to be! And what are we missing by being so?

We have no control over how we arrive in this world. Some of us may have a noticeably asymmetrical face, misshaped ears, a crooked nose, short arms and long legs. It is what it is. It makes us no less human, no less valid.

However, the thing we do have control of is the choice of how we live our lives, how we accept and overcome all our imperfections – turn our 'scars' into 'stars.' And develop a compassion and empathy for others who walk their own 'imperfect' journey.

There is an old adage that says, 'You can't tell a book by its cover.' Some of the best books out there might have a faded cover, and when opened, reveal well-worn pages attesting to many delicious hours of reading. Is the book perfect? No. But the story inside is every bit as good as it was when the book was brand new. If you judged the book by its cover, you might have missed a most excellent and compelling story.

So it is with our relationships in life. If we are quick to judge, we may miss out on life's best experiences.

How many 'bunnies with one ear' have you had in your life? Rather than being dismissive, approach each situation with the expectation of a hidden blessing. You may be a lifeline to someone or something that would otherwise be overlooked. The 'imperfect' can enrich our lives in ways we never imagine if just given a chance.





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## COUNCIL'S CORNER

by Mayor Carolyn Amyotte,  
Township of North Kawartha

Please visit [www.northkawartha.ca](http://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](mailto:mayor@northkawartha.ca).



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

- The Township welcomed Laura Stone who is providing in-house planning services. Some of you may remember her when she was our junior planner about 10 years ago
- Council celebrated Parks and Rec Joel Smith for his 5 years of service and we also honoured CAO Alana Solman for her 25 years of service to North Kawartha
- We were thrilled to welcome Colleen Lockhart as our new Fire Prevention Officer in the NKFD
- Council met with our 'old' new MP Jamie Schmale. North Kawartha has returned to our former Federal Riding of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
- The Township is working with the County to design a proper, paved public parking area in Apsley across from the Legion
- Council formally requested assistance from MISA- the Municipal Ice Storm Assistance program created by the province

- Council approved a donation in support of the Apsley Feral Cat Outreach program
- Council joined other municipalities in expressing our concerns regarding the Blue Box Recycling Service transition to Producers as mandated by the province. Council has suggested that if the Producers are unable to meet the targets as set out under O Reg. 391/21, and if they cannot effectively and efficiently collect recycling from all sources as was previously done by municipalities, then perhaps the Province should consider having municipalities resume the Blue Box collection and have the Producers pay municipalities directly for cost to provide the service

### Here's what's coming up in September 2025

September 2, 2025

Regular Meeting of Council

September 16, 2025

4 Mayors Breakfast brought to you by the P&K Chamber

September 19, 2025

Council Tour of Municipal Properties

September 24, 2025

Strategic Planning Session of Council



On Wednesday August 13th, community members came together to celebrate Mark Best, Exercise Instructor with Community Care on his retirement. Mayor Amyotte had this to share:



Mark Best! The name says it all. Since opening the Fitness Doors in 2011, Mark has become synonymous with fitness training and exercise classes at the North Kawartha Community Centre.

Over a decade ago, Mark, a Fitness Centre patron and an immensely qualified personal trainer in his own

right, was gracious enough to offer his time and talent to the Parks and Rec. Department to create a variety of fitness classes and training opportunities for our community.

Over the years Mark has continually refined, improved and expanded upon the nature of his Exercise/Fitness classes. They have proven to be wildly popular, and he has garnered a core group of dedicated followers. There is no

denying what a valued asset he has been.

Years ago, while teaching his classes, Mark was approached by Community Care to design and conduct exercise classes focused on the organization's mandate of "serving seniors and adults with physical challenges, empowering them to live at home, by providing services that support independence and promote peace of mind for individuals and their families."

Despite having a full slate, Mark didn't hesitate and expanded his focus to serve the unique needs of Community Care clients.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Katie and Community Care for providing the impetus and funds to allow Mark to develop an exercise program that incorporates his vast knowledge of therapeutic issues, and his concern for addressing the very specific needs and challenges of Seniors. He created an environment that is friendly and fun, which (almost without realizing it) enables the participants to maintain and improve their physical well-being and enhance the overall quality of their lives.

On a personal note, I am a late comer to the Mark Best fan club. It was less than 2 years ago that I reached out to Mark to design a fitness program for me. He provided wonderful guidance and support and taught me many exercises that I continue to include in my personal fitness routine. I also have a whole new appreciation for Swiss Balls thanks to Mark! IYKYK

There is no denying that Mark has had an incredibly positive impact on the health and well-being of many North Kawarthans. Author and Poet Maya Angelou said it best: People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. Mark: you made us feel vital, capable, healthy and strong. You have left your 'mark' on our community and in our hearts. You ARE The BEST! We wish you much health and happiness as you start the next chapter of your life. Thank you for everything!

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## WILSON PARK PICKLEBALL CLUB

Contributed by Kim Lenover and  
Allison Allin

The Wilson Park Pickleball Club started in 2022. Since then the club has grown from a handful of players to 55 members. Players of all skill levels come out for exercise and social activities.

Pickleball is not only a lot of fun, it is a great way to meet people and make new friends! League days for scheduled play are Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Wilson Park Community Centre courts at 66 Northey's Bay Road.

This year the Club held their 2nd charity Pickleball Tournament consisting of play levels from beginner to advanced on Tuesday, August 12th. 35 Club members participated and raised \$1,000 to be donated to the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre in Peterborough ([ontarioturtle.ca](http://ontarioturtle.ca)). This deserving organization operates a turtle hospital, performs extensive



research and runs an education/outreach program to increase awareness of the challenges facing Ontario's turtles. You can check out their facility at 2785 Television Road in Peterborough. It is worth a visit!

The tournament was followed by a social pot luck luncheon in the

Wilson Park Community Centre banquet room. Prizes were presented to the winners in Advanced, Intermediate and Novice levels of play. The weather cooperated and a fun time was had by all!

The Wilson Park Pickleball Club would like to thank the Township of North Kawartha for their continued support.

If you are interested learning more about the Wilson Park Pickleball Club or would like to join, please contact Kim Lenover at: [wilsonparkpickleball@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonparkpickleball@gmail.com)



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## AROUND TOWN

Down the Road and Over the Fence

### Hermanas Celebrates 5th Anniversary!

Hermanas Boutique celebrated their 5th Anniversary back in July. Quite an accomplishment for these two women business owners. While earning graduate degrees and balancing life and work, they have been able to expand their brand internationally to Italy and California!

Their main store, right here in Apsley, gives local residents access to high quality clothing, bikinis and accessories.



## Congratulations Bridget and Victoria!

*Annual John Ditchburn Memorial Dart Tournament*



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## Major Fires Close to Home

As of Wednesday August 13th, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) provided an update that the HAL018 fire in Hastings County — located on Crown land in the Municipality of Marmora and Lake south of Coe Hill in Wollaston Township and east of Aspley in North Kawartha Township — was being held. Fire HAL018 in Hastings County is now deemed as being under control. A wildland fire is considered under control once it has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of the fire.

Fire OFR001 near Kirkfield is now being held, which means that fire crews have established a boundary and they are confident that the fire will not escape that boundary. Fire HAL019 east of Burnt River received the same designation late on Wednesday night. Thanks to the hard work of MNR fire crews along with firefighters from the City of Kawartha Lakes, who were also extensively involved in fires OFR001 and HAL019.

Read the full story in the News & Community section at kawarthaNOW's website.



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