



December 14, 2025

A Note From Our Chair

As Jewish communities around the world prepare to celebrate Hanukkah, we are reminded of the miracle of light. The wisdom drawn from our collective history underscores the importance of resiliency in the face of adversity, of the need to remain courageous in the battle to retain our identity and dignity, and the belief that goodness and light - no matter how small - will triumph over even the deepest darkness.

Just like the story of our ancestors which led to our yearly celebration of Hanukkah, we too must remain determined to keep our values alive against overwhelming odds. This is our yearly invitation to “Be The Light”, regardless of circumstance, and in so doing we will maintain our sense of hope, faith and resolve in ALL that is possible.

Sharing the Hanukkah story was the idea behind the “Light up our Towns” fundraising initiative. After months of fundraising, many generous donations from our members and tireless work by our volunteer executive board, I’m happy to share that for the first time ever, many of the small towns in Southern Georgian Bay are proudly displaying public menorahs through out the holiday season as a show of solidarity with the Jewish community.

The Hanukkah theme of spreading light is not just literal, it is also a deeper more spiritual call to “Be the Light”. Each of us, in our own way, has the ability to bring light into our community. Let us notice the places where light is needed, and share some of our own.

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PROGRAMS**

And the beautiful thing, is that light multiplies. A single candle can light another without losing anything of itself. Similarly, when we choose to “be the light,” we create ripples that extend far beyond what we see. A gesture of kindness can inspire another. A moment of understanding can open a door. A community that celebrates each other’s traditions becomes a community that is stronger, warmer, and more connected.

Please join us for donuts and hot chocolate as we light up our menorah in downtown **Thornbury at 32 Mill Street on Sunday December 14 at 7 PM.**



The SGBJC will carry on the “Be the Light” campaign throughout the entire year. We would like to invite all community members to reach out to us at shalom@sgbjc.ca **if you have any ski clothing or equipment you would like to donate in support of Second Tracks, or warm winter clothing and apparel or supplies** for locals in need as we plan to collect and help support the people in our own communities who are already doing amazing work!

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Another great opportunity to get together is at our Hanukkah bowling party. There will be traditional food, refreshments, a chance to connect with old friends and make new ones. It's a great opportunity to socialize even if you don't bowl! **For tickets, go to <https://tinyurl.com/5n8b3n2t>**

A festive poster for a Hanukkah bowling party. At the top center is the SGBJC logo, which consists of a blue triangle with a white Star of David inside, and the text 'SGBJC' and 'SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY JEWISH COMMUNITY' below it. The poster is framed by a decorative border of blue and yellow stars, leaves, and flowers. The main title 'HANUKKAH BOWLING PARTY' is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. Below the title, there is a list of event details: 'When: Dec 21 3:30- 5:30pm', 'Where: Georgian Bowl', '832 Hurontario St, Collingwood', and 'Purchase tickets on Eventbrite'. To the left of the list is an illustration of a blue bowling ball hitting white bowling pins. At the bottom of the poster, there is a row of illustrations including a menorah with lit candles, a dreidel, a gift box, a cake, and a menorah. The text 'JOIN US FOR DONUTS, DREIDELS, LAUGHTER, & FUN AT GEORGIAN BOWL! LACE UP YOUR BOWLING SHOES AND CELEBRATE THE SEASON TOGETHER!' is written in bold, blue capital letters above the bottom illustrations.

SGBJC
SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY
JEWISH COMMUNITY

HANUKKAH BOWLING PARTY

- When: Dec 21 3:30- 5:30pm
- Where: Georgian Bowl
- 832 Hurontario St, Collingwood
- Purchase tickets on Eventbrite

**JOIN US FOR DONUTS, DREIDELS,
LAUGHTER, & FUN AT GEORGIAN
BOWL! LACE UP YOUR BOWLING
SHOES AND CELEBRATE THE
SEASON TOGETHER!**

We appreciate your ongoing donations as we continue to fundraise to support our Light up the Town with decorative menorahs, social activities, community advocacy, and other initiatives. Tax-deductible donations are still always greatly appreciated and can be made at this website: **<https://tinyurl.com/269hxb8w>**

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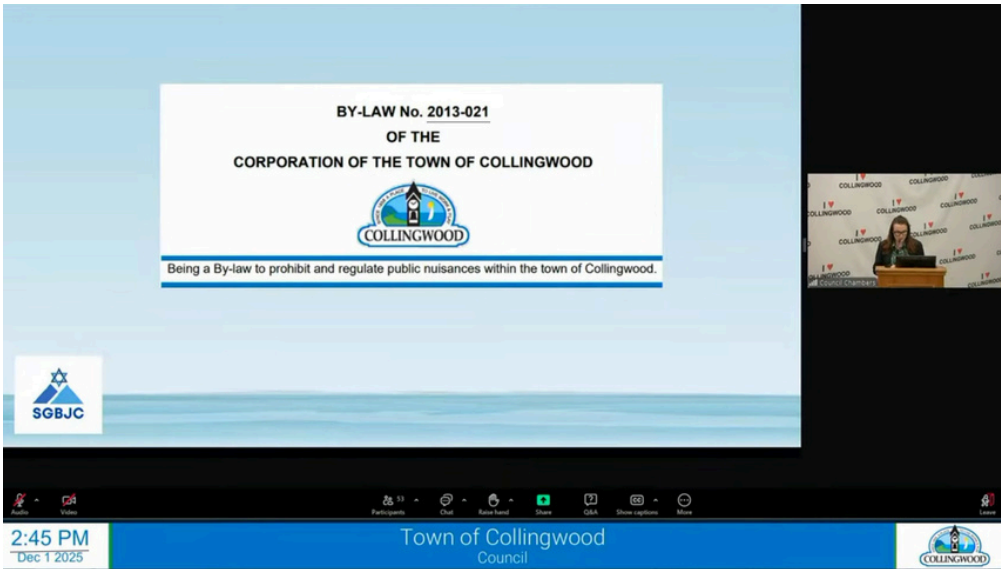
STAY IN TOUCH!

Activities & Advocacy

A look back at the past month (and what a busy month it was!)



Top: Rashell describing “Light up the town” on 97.1 FM; Wasaga Beach menorah lighting November 29. Bottom: Collingwood menorah lighting November 22; Deputation of SGBJC supporting freedom of speech, but not in violation of town nuisance bylaws. (Menorah lighting photo credits: Dave West)



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Coming Soon...

The SGBJC is excited to partner with the First Presbyterian Church in Collingwood for our first joint event! Come create a classic braided challah bread together with our communities and learn about the biblical history, significance, traditions and prayers for challah bread! January 17th 2026 at 1pm, 200 Maple St., First Presbyterian Church, Collingwood. RSVP by January 10th
Church sign up sheet, or email shalom@sgbjc.ca

\$10 per challah

Work as a family together on your challah bread or create your own!

Send your etransfer to shalom@sgbjc.ca



SGBJC in the News

<https://www.collingwoodtoday.ca/local-news/menorah-downtown-encourages-all-to-be-the-light-11528966>

<https://www.collingwoodtoday.ca/local-news/santa-claus-comes-up-as-council-votes-to-explore-bubble-zone-protest-ban-11567616>

https://youtu.be/0d_jlgCXcfo?t=5277

May this season bring light to you and to all those you love. Happy Hanukkah, and may we each continue to **Be the Light**.

Rashell Feldman

Am Yisrael Chai!



Join our mailing list by filling out the form on our website

www.southerngeorgianbayjewishcommunity.com