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DELIVERING LOCAL NEWS TO THE NORTHERN BRUCE PENINSULA FOR OVER 35 YEARS

2026 Number One

January 13 to February 3, 2026

Icy Waters, Big Smiles at Community Polar Bear Dip



Photos: Joanne Rodgers, Bruce Peninsula Press

Photo Left (L-R): Steven from Milton and Christopher from Australia enjoy the waters at Lion's Head beach for the annual Polar Bear Dip - a Canadian tradition! Photo Right: Veteran Polar Bear plunger Jonathan Ware braved the cold waters with his daughter and a friend. More photos on page 14.

By Joanne Rodgers,
Bruce Peninsula Press

A truly immersive affair, the frigid temperatures of minus 13 C, a snow packed beach and lily pads of floating ice on the water did not deter the locals, cottagers and visitors who came out to partake in the annual Lion's Head Polar Bear Dip.

Arriving in full winter gear for the scheduled 11 a.m. polar dip, many of the participants come year after year, while some of the younger generation joined in for the first time. For many it was a quick icy plunge, mere seconds of a run in and out of the water, while others enjoyed a more leisurely float amongst the ice. The quintessential

Canadian New Year's Day activity drew visitors from Australia. As they exited the icy water, they were thrilled to be told by locals that they were now considered 'Honorary Canadians'.

For those considering a dip next New Year's Day, the advice from the young generation is "just go for it, otherwise you will chicken out."

New Provincial Agency for Blue Box Recycling: How Will This Affect Northern Bruce Peninsula?

By Tessa Swanton (Townson),
Bruce Peninsula Press

According to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPPA), between 2001 and 2020 Ontarians recycled over 16.5 million tonnes of materials through the Blue Box Program. But over the past few years, the recycling rate has plateaued prompting an Ontario wide recycling transformation known as the "producer responsibility framework." From July 2023 to December 2025 the Blue Box Program transitioned to where producers of packing and paper are fully responsible for operating the Blue Box Program. Now in effect in January 2026, the Blue Box Program has standardized what is collected across the entire

Province while expanding recycling to more communities, making it easier for Ontarians to recycle with fewer items thrown into the garbage. The shift in responsibility from municipalities to producers places the financial and operational duty of recycling solely on the producer, saving municipalities money.

In an interview, Public Works Manager, Troy Cameron, stated that "Going forward the Municipality won't have to pay for [blue box] recycling costs, which is definitely a plus for the Municipality; the only cost now for recycling is for non-eligible sources."

January 2026 marked the official transition in the Municipality of

Continued on page 7

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Deadline for our next issue (#2/26) is Jan 28/26, printing Feb 3/26.

Lion's Head Pickleball Club Serves Up Support for Local Food Bank

Submitted by Lion's Head Pickleball Club

The Lion's Head Pickleball Club has once again demonstrated the power of community spirit, proudly collecting 288 pounds of food and essential items in support of the Lion's Head & District Food Bank Holiday Food Drive.

Club members generously donated throughout the holiday season, turning friendly matches on the court into meaningful action off it.

The Club also extends heartfelt thanks to Dr. Quist and his 25th Anniversary Holiday Food Drive, whose generosity helped boost the total. "We're incredibly proud of our members and grateful for the support from Dr. Quist's food drive," said Mark Prieur, president of the club. "This is a wonderful example of how community partnerships can make a real difference."

"This is a wonderful example of how community partnerships can make a real difference."

The Lion's Head Pickleball Club continues to be a strong supporter of local causes, proving that teamwork and generosity are just as important as competition—on and off the court.



Photo: Members of the Lion's Head Pickleball Club with the 288 lbs of donations collected for the Lion's Head & District Food Bank.

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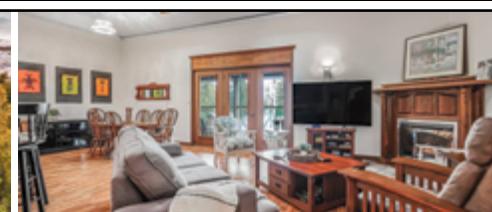
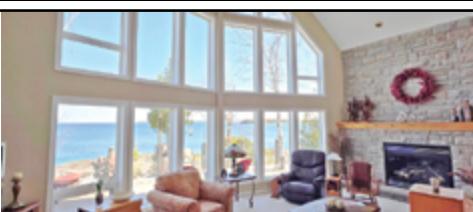
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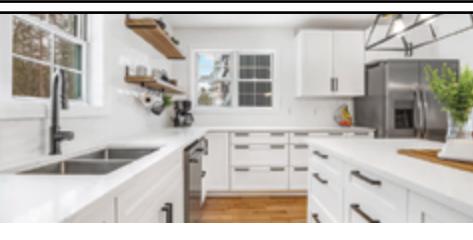
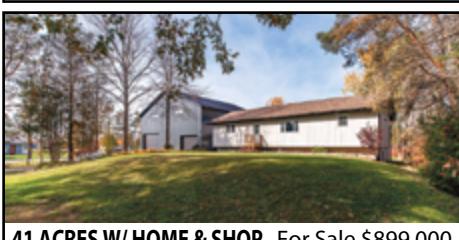
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BIG TUB BEAUTY For Sale \$1,399,000

Nestled on a private triple-wide waterfront lot, this custom Viceroy home captures breathtaking panoramic views where Lake Huron meets Georgian Bay, with islands and Big Tub Lighthouse nearby. Soaring 24' ceilings, a wall of windows, stone fireplace, wraparound deck, main-floor primary suite, and guest loft above the detached garage create an exceptional lakeside retreat.

MLS® X12019200



41 ACRES W/ HOME & SHOP For Sale \$899,000

Fully renovated 4-bedroom home set on 41 acres, offering hardwood floors throughout, a spacious main-floor primary suite, with finished basement space. Enjoy year-round comfort with heat pump and AC. The 50x48' shop includes a second-floor, approx. 2,400 sq ft unfinished living area, plus an extra garage and private trails near Miller Lake.

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PINE TREE HARBOUR PRIVATE WF For Sale \$999,900

Exceptional Lake Huron point property with 390 ft of shoreline wrapping three sides, offering unmatched privacy and sweeping water views. This raised bungalow features a bright open-concept main floor, three bedrooms, two baths, and multiple walkouts to a covered wraparound deck. A sheltered harbour, hot tub, and included furnishings make it perfect for family living, entertaining, or short-term rental potential.

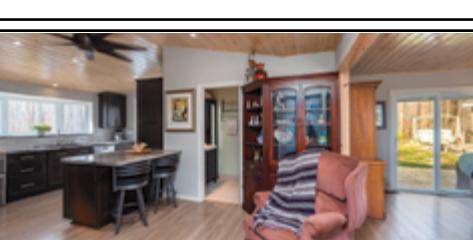
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Grab Your Hooked On Health Tickets And Help Transform Local Healthcare

Submitted by April Patry,
Executive Director, BPH Foundation

Tickets for Bruce Peninsula Hospitals Foundation's annual Hooked on Health Lottery are now available and going fast! In recent years, the proceeds from this annual lottery has supported the purchases of cardiac monitors, infant warmers, defibrillators, transport

monitors, and Nurse Call Bell System upgrades for Brightshores - Wiarton and Lion's Head Hospitals.

This year's Hooked on Health Lottery will help finish our funding campaign for Automated Dispensing Units (ADUs) at Brightshores Lion's Head and Wiarton Hospitals—a game-changing upgrade for medication safety and efficiency.

Join the 'Community Roots' Workshops in 2026 at The Meeting Place Tobermory

Bike Maintenance & Repair January 17th

Submitted by Noreen Steinacher & Sara Tulloch

The 'Community Roots' series of winter workshops is designed around the 'Canadian Folk School' methods of rural connection; bringing together local experts with town residents to build practical skills, recognize community assets and spend time together. In the folk school tradition, people participating often bring in contributions along the theme of the workshop. We'll see if that catches on. If you sign up for any or all of the 'Community Roots' workshops, think about a creative contribution to bring to the gathering (optional). You might get a nice surprise in return!

Our first workshop of the year is Bike Maintenance & Repair on Saturday January 17, 1:30 – 3:30pm. This is a free, hands-on workshop, for bike owners or those considering a purchase or anyone interested; both regular cycle bikes and e-bikes will be on hand for repair and maintenance demonstrations. Local bike enthusiasts Nick Ferrence and Brad Witt will make this workshop fun and interactive.

As TMP launched its E-Bike Rental Social Enterprise in 2024 we noticed the cycling community was growing among residents and visitors. Lucky for us. Lots of people are raising questions about the possibilities of multi-use trails and really making the North Peninsula a cycling destination. I also see the report on Tobermory Active Transportation Plan (2022) by Megan Myles and colleagues has been dusted off by citizens groups who would like our town to be less car oriented. The report is well worth a read for those of you interested in more sustainable transportation; liveable communities and active recreation too. Google it.

February takes us that much closer to spring and those of us who like to

grow things might like an early start. Our second workshop is Growing Microgreens Indoors, held on Saturday February 21, 1:30 – 3:30pm at The Meeting Place. Community Gardener Rod Steinacher will introduce the art and science of growing microgreens using a special grow light home garden system. Some participants will volunteer to tend this unique garden until harvest - just over 3 weeks and the fresh greens can be shared among all workshop attendees. Another growing cycle can be started if people would like.

I bet we'll see many of the Community Gardeners out to this workshop and what a great opportunity to promote the Community Gardens program which has been going strong since 2015 at the Community Park next to The Meeting Place.

I have noticed Peacock's Foodland carries boxed micro greens and other leafy vegetables under the label, 'Green Leaf farmed in Guelph, Ontario. Kudos to Peacocks for carrying these fresh greens, grown all winter in Ontario. I first noticed 'Green Leaf' products last year as the 'buy Canadian' movement started. After this workshop, we can say with confidence - 'Grow Tobermory'.

March will bring out a third workshop on home carpentry; still in the planning works. What a great set of skills to have for doing little jobs around the house.

We hope many of you reading this article will join this unique set of workshops; open to all adults and older teens, free of cost and supported by Community Foundation Grey Bruce.

For our planning purposes, call or email to register – you know how to reach us – 519-596-2313 or info@tobermorymeetingplace.com

Why ADUs Matter. Right now, medication management is mostly manual. ADUs are state-of-the-art systems that automate medication dispensing. With touch screens and barcode technology, they ensure patients receive their medicine quickly and accurately—even in emergencies. They track inventory in real time, alert pharmacy staff when stock is low, and restrict access to medications—enhancing both safety and security. For nurses and pharmacy staff, ADUs mean more time caring for patients. The result? A safer, more responsive healthcare environment for everyone

When you purchase a Hooked on Health lottery ticket, not only are you eligible to win great cash prizes, you are also making this advanced technology available to our families, friends and

neighbours in their times of need, right here, close to home. There are 5 cash prizes with a \$5000 Grand Prize! We expect sales to be swift again this year, so make sure you get your tickets early.

The BPH Foundation team is so grateful for the loyal and generous support of all of our family physicians from the Sauble Health Team, the South Bruce Peninsula Family Health Organization, and the Peninsula Family Health Team for generously supporting the cash prizing for this lottery again this year! The draw will take place at 2pm, February 20 at the Wiarton Hospital. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at Josie's Fashions, Scott's Home Hardware, and at the BPHF office (in the Wiarton Hospital), over the phone at (519) 534-5856, or you can order your tickets online at www.bphfoundation.com

We are open this Winter of 2026!



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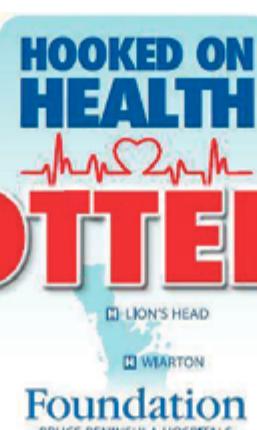
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\$500	5th prize

BPH Foundation gratefully acknowledges the teams of family physicians serving North and South Bruce Peninsula who have generously supported the cash prizing for this lottery.

'Community Roots' Workshops at The MEETING PLACE TOBERMORY – 2026



BIKE MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

Saturday January 17th
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

This is a hands-on workshop, with both regular cycle bikes & e-bikes. Both will be on hand for repair & maintenance demos with Nick Ferrence & Brad Witt.

TO REGISTER CONTACT:
519-596-2313 Or info@tobermorymeetingplace.com

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Workshops:
Saturday February 21 - Growing Micro Greens Indoors
March (tba) - Basic Home Carpentry

Hosted FREE by The Meeting Place Tobermory
20 Centennial Drive, Tobermory ON
Supported by the Community Foundation Grey Bruce



Unifor Local 2458 Donates to Food Bank



Photo Courtesy of Darlene Myles

Photo: Terry Shearer (left) and Kim Woodward (right) presented a \$1,500.00 donation to the Lion's Head & District Food Bank on behalf of Unifor Local 2458. Unifor represents all non-administration employees of Golden Dawn Senior Citizen Home. This has become an annual donation to help the Food Bank in its efforts to assist families dealing with food insecurity. Darlene Myles, Co-Chair of the Food Bank (center) is pictured accepting the donation.

Easter Cantata Choir Rehearsals Beginning January 18th

Submitted by David Warder

The Community Easter Cantata Choir will begin rehearsing on Sunday, January 18 at 2 pm at Bethel Evangelical Missionary Church, 18 Ferndale Road in Lion's Head. Performances of the Cantata are tentatively scheduled for Palm Sunday (March 29) and Good Friday (April 3) - three performances in total, usually in Tobermory, Lion's Head and Neyaashiinigmiing.

New and former members are welcome to come out and rehearse. This is an especially good year for someone new to try out the choir as the music is relatively straightforward and includes several familiar pieces.

The choir sings in 4-part harmony

(soprano, alto, tenor or bass). The ability to read music is not mandatory but is a tremendous asset. Singers are provided with a recording of their part of the music and a weekly rehearsal plan in order to work on their music at home between rehearsals. It is a short rehearsal period so a commitment to the weekly rehearsals and listening to your music during the week are important to the choir's overall success learning the music.

If you'd like to participate in the choir, or have any questions, give me a call or show up on the 18th. If you can let me know you are coming ahead of time, I can have a music package ready for you when you arrive. David Warder 519-793-4015

to local detachment for further testing.

A 61-year-old of Northern Bruce Peninsula, was charged with the following Highway Traffic Act, and Criminal Code offences:

- Operation while impaired
- Operation while impaired- B.A.C. 80 plus
- Drive while suspended (HTA)

A 90-day Administrative Driver's Licence Suspension (ADLS) and a seven-day vehicle impoundment was initiated as per statute.

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Owen Sound on January 15, 2026.

OPP News

Continued from page 1

DRIVER ARRESTED AT RIDE PROGRAM

(NORTHERN BRUCE PENINSULA, ON) - On December 23, 2025, at approximately 10:03 p.m., the Grey Bruce Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were conducting a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E) at Highway 6 and Bruce Road 9 in the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula.

A vehicle entered the checkpoint where police then spoke with the driver. The investigating officer detected signs of impairment. The driver was arrested for impaired operations and transported

Snowmobile Poker Run

Continued from page 1

No snowmobile? No problem! All poker hand pickup locations are easily accessible by snowmobile or car. Registration and start of course will be at our Clubhouse at Lindsay Tract Trail - 4025 Highway #6.

As a volunteer-based not-for-profit club, every dollar raised at this event goes towards maintaining the 250km+ network of snowmobile trails in the Northern Bruce Peninsula. We use this money to pay for things like signage, building materials such as lumber and gravel for trail maintenance (bridges, etc.), cutting new trails etc.

Lastly, we'd like to encourage anyone with an interest in snowmobiles to become a volunteer member of our club. It only costs \$20 for the year and not only do we have regular club rides, volunteer activities and social get-togethers, but you'll also have a chance

to go behind the scenes at our regular monthly meetings and vote on important issues directly affecting our trail system. We encourage all members to put forward their great ideas on how to improve the trails and we're happy to work with you to try and make them happen.

As stewards of the land, we have such a beautiful and unique trail system and your input will help us build on the legacy of the hard work and dedication of past and present members. You don't have to own a snowmobile to join. We're simply looking for passionate people who want to help build our area into a world-class snowmobile destination.

For more information on directions, snowmobile course, card pickup locations, becoming a member of the club, etc., checkout our Facebook event page at facebook.com/centralpeninsulasnoodrifters. Questions can also be emailed to slednbp@gmail.com.

Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing everyone at the event!

THSA Continues Health and Wellbeing Series with January 22nd Talk On Osteoporosis

Submitted by Brad Gibbs, THSA

The Tobermory Health Services Auxiliary (THSA) is excited to start the 2026 Health and Wellbeing series with a talk on osteoporosis. 2 million Canadians are affected by osteoporosis and at least 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men will suffer from an osteoporotic fracture during their lifetime.

Nancy Dunbar, retired from nursing and now a volunteer with Osteoporosis Canada, will deliver an interactive and educational session on a disease that

slowly, quietly weakens bones, and is often undiagnosed – even when it breaks them.

Nancy will explain what Osteoporosis is, its causes, risk factors, treatment and how to live well with the disease.

Please join us for this informative talk at the Parks Canada Visitor Center Theatre, 120 Chi sin tib dek Rd., Tobermory on Thursday January 22 at 1 pm. Refreshments will be provided. This is a free event.

Now is a Great Time to Join the Lion's Head Friendship Club

Geraldine Loker, Lion's Head Friendship Club, Board of Directors

If you are not yet a member of the Lion's Head Friendship Club, now is a great time to consider joining. For a modest \$20.00 per year, members enjoy funded trips, free lunches, and a wide variety of activities. Non-members are always welcome to attend club events; however, participation is available at a slightly higher cost.

Weekly Activities Include:

Monday

- 10:00 a.m. – VON Exercise
- 1:00 p.m. – Bridge and Bid Euchre

Tuesday

- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing
- 1:00 p.m. – Rug Hooking

Wednesday

- 10:00 a.m. – Chair Yoga
- 7:00 p.m. – Euchre

Thursday

- 10:00 a.m. – VON Exercise
- 1:00 p.m. – Bridge and Bid Euchre

Monthly dinners are held on the last Saturday of each month, from September through May.

As of January 1st, the Friendship Club is now operating under a Board of Directors, ensuring responsibilities are shared and no single person is responsible for every task.

Your Board Members:

- President – Maxine Catteau
- 1st Vice President – Wendy McConnell
- 2nd Vice President – Mark Johnson
- Treasurer – Debbie Johnson
- Secretary – Laureen Barrow
- Membership – Colleen Hunter
- Cards – Ruth Smith
- Weekly Activities – Marilyn Dobbyn
- Special Activities – Helen Milligan
- Media/Communications – Geraldine Loker
- Lunch – Christine Brown
- Dinner – Dave Barrow
- Maintenance – Pat Milligan
- Hall Rental – Larry Catteau

Our first dinner of the year will be held on January 31st and will feature roast beef with all the trimmings. Cost is \$15.00 for members and \$18.00 for non-members. Seating is limited, so please sign up early.

Come out and enjoy all that your Friendship Club has to offer!



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GUEST COLUMN

What are you doing beside watching the snow fall and trees bending in the wind? I write this on December 29 when we are having another major weather event. I will leave it to friend Bill Caulfield-Browne to talk about our weather this month. The point I want to make is; when it's not stormy and it's safe to be on the roads, there is a myriad of things to do on the Peninsula.

The Press has three pages titled "Service Directory & Information Centre". Under "Regular Meetings, Fun & Games", the weekly schedule is printed listing almost all of the activities one could participate in throughout the peninsula. And then there is a section, "Special Events" noting extra activities happening in the next week or two.

These "regular" listings are in fine print and if my eyes caught them all, there are 28 activities happening in Tobermory, 25 in Lion's Head, 6 in Wiarton and 1 in Stokes Bay. At least 5 have participants involved online. Volunteer opportunities are not listed but if you have the time, there are many organizations which would welcome your involvement to assist others within our community.

The population of Northern Bruce Peninsula has been slowly growing over the last 20-30 years or so, as folks retire and want to live in our special part of Canada. As well, a few folks move here to work or start their own business. Our

Having lived here full time for 26 years I've witnessed my share of grief. The loss of community leaders, neighbours, children, elders and lots of people who live on only in our memories. Until my beloved Doug Dailey died, I didn't understand how losing my person could profoundly change my life and who I am. It's been two long years and more therapy, counselling, consoling and coaching than I could have imagined.

And through it all, has been my community. Someone once commented that no one north of Lion's Head has NOT seen me cry in public. That's who I have always been. Very transparent which can be a blessing and a curse.

And that's where grieving in Tobermory comes up. On a phone call with a friend who has visited me, he said I lived in the perfect place to grieve. I think I've known that from the beginning of this journey, but we decided to go a little deeper to see what that really means.

numbers are adding to the population of the many families who have lived here for generations. If you are one of these "recent" arrivals, or have not yet made an effort to be involved in more than weather watching and TV, I encourage you read these pages.

Many of the people who come to live in our community bring unique interests and skills with them and they are willing to share their talents and knowledge. They have either started or supported the existing activities within our community. Over the years these activities have become a very important part of the lifestyle we share here. Many of these activities are held in well used facilities: Community Centres, Churches, Legions, The Meeting Place in Tobermory and the Friendship Club in Lion's Head. Check these pages for times.

For example, looking at Wednesday, this is what is happening in Lion's Head: The Peninsula Swans meet at the Legion on first Wed, the Tea Time Quilters meet at the U.C., there is a Writer's Workshop at the Friendship Club, the BP Environment Group meets at the Anglican Church on the 1st Wed, a Euchre tourney is on at the Friendship Club, and there is a Lions Club dinner 2nd and 4th Wed at the Swan Lake Legion.

Tobermory sees the Coffee Club solving some world problems at the Community Centre (Mon and Fri too),

the Tobermory Quilters are at the Light & Life Chapel, the Tip of the Bruce Woodcarvers make shavings at the Community Centre, the Tobermory Muses muse at the U.C., the NB Truth & Reconciliation group gathers at The Meeting Place.

In Wiarton there is music and dancing with the Afternoon Jamboree at the Legion and darts there in the evening.

Online, early in the morning, you can Yin & Yang Yoga.

And this is just one day of the week. Line dancing, rug hooking, Tai chi, darts, meat draws, more yoga, trivia, live music, karaoke, films at The Visitors' Centre and many other activities can be had on other days. There should be a little something for everyone near your home. The unique thing is that activities might be associated with a specific location; but the participants can come from anywhere on the peninsula. For example, the Men's Breakfast meets once a month at the Tobermory Community Centre but there are some gents who come from the Oliphant area.

If you have an interest or skill that is not represented by any of these activities noted, think about starting your own group.

I suspect that at each these activities, participants would welcome new members and provide any instruction on how to join. And if I may, I would mention the carvers in Tobermory (Tip

of the Bruce Woodcarvers) to which I belong - if you want to learn how to use gouges or knives to shape a piece of wood (and some woods are easier to work on than others) or learn pyrography (wood burning) or even how to add colours of different media to wood, we have members willing to share knowledge and work with you. We meet 11:00am - 2:30pm at the Tobermory Community Centre. For further information, contact our Chief Carver Stan McLellan at 519 596 2495 or myself at 519 827 7813. All are welcome.

And let's not forget the not-so-public activities that abound: the jam sessions where family and friends gather around in the living room or garage and play instruments, some of which may have been handed down over the years, like grampa's fiddle or uncle's guitar. There might even be an instrument made by a local luthier. Or neighbourhood parties where board or card games are played: cribbage, euchre, canasta, crokinole, backgammon, rummoli, darts and pool to name a few.

I would encourage everyone to think about joining friends and neighbours at the activities that abound in our community. Not only do these activities help pass the time, but they create bonds within members of the community.

Many people say that a neighbour is a friend not yet met.

John Currie

Letter: Grief in Tobermory – Yes, it's a Thing

From my perspective, there is something so sacred about the ruralness and simplicity of this area that invites quiet reflection. And that's not always what a grieving person needs. I can only speak from what the experience has been like for me as a widow. I know lots of widows up here and I have been humbled by the realization that I rarely said the 'right' thing or did the 'right' thing when I encountered them. And what I will say is that I did the best I could and that's what is so special about the people of Tobermory. They do the best they can and they keep doing it which is evidenced by two years of continuing to take time to cry or laugh with me.

But it's more than what people give me. It's also about the weight of the earth, the sound of the wind, the steadiness of the escarpment rock, the resilience of the battered trees, the constant changing flow of the water. We sit here between two large lakes that

are continuously on the move. Some days the sun makes them shimmer with hopeful anticipation. Other days the wind blows the waves inland reminding us all of our vulnerability. The message is clear – nothing stays the same; change is inevitable. And change is what grieving widows deal with every day.

I watched the lake rise and fall without recognizing that it was a metaphor for my life in this new situation. As I look around me now, I see how it has sustained itself in spite of droughts and storms. In the same way, the cedars that are so prominent on this tiny tip of the peninsula are shedding and sheltering from the natural changes around them. And maybe we are too.

Maybe we are more influenced by nature than we realize. Maybe we are finding ways to sustain ourselves, move and flow, hold steady, start over and whatever else we need to do to not just survive but to thrive.

I didn't think any of this was possible when Doug slipped away. Now I can't help but see that what draws so many people to visit Tobermory is also what can support and hold us in place when we are grieving. It is the land that is steeped in culture, history and fierce survival that is the perfect place to grieve. It is the people who are honest, caring and deliberate in their love of community.

It would be too simplistic to point out the lack of support resources when we may not have accessed what is offered to us by the very environment that we have chosen to live in. And this is where gratitude becomes a bridge to healing. When we can accept and be with our despair, we might also be able to stand in the beauty and holiness of the land we call home. The land we call Tobermory where grief lives and sometimes, finds a way to give us hope.

Daryl Wood

The Bruce Peninsula Press



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EMAIL: info@tobermorypress.com WEB: www.brucepeninsulapress.com

Customer Service/Advertising Sales Jennifer Brooks, info@tobermorypress.com
Publisher/Managing Editor Marianne Wood, editor@tobermorypress.com
Advertising/Graphic Design Tanya Early, advertising@tobermorypress.com
IT Services/Graphic Design Kenneth McFarlane, graphics@tobermorypress.com
Publisher Emeritus John Francis
Production Manager Scott McFarlane

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Bruce Peninsula Press welcomes letters to the editor.

Letters are published at the discretion of the editor and/or publisher who reserve the right to edit.

All letters must abide by the **4 Ls rule:**

- **Local** (must be directly linked to the Northern Bruce Peninsula)
- **Length** (must be less than 750 words long)
- Cannot be **Lewd** or **Libelous**.

All letters must include the name of the writer. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions, policies or beliefs of the Bruce Peninsula Press.

Email letters to editor@tobermorypress.com

2026 Printing Schedule

#1	January 7	January 13
#2	January 28	February 3
#3	February 18	February 24
#4	March 4	March 10
#5	March 25	March 31
#6	April 8	April 14
#7	April 22	April 28
#8	May 6	May 12
#9	May 20	May 26
#10	June 3	June 9
#11	June 17	June 23
#12	July 8	July 14
#13	July 22	July 28
#14	August 5	August 11
#15	August 26	September 1
#16	September 16	September 22
#17	September 30	October 6
#18	October 21	October 27
#19	November 18	November 24
#20	December 9	December 15

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Bruce County Establishes 10-Year Housing Targets to Meet Future Housing Needs

Media Release

Bruce County, Ontario: The development of focused and coordinated action on housing in Bruce County took another step forward at the January 8th, 2026, Council meeting. The setting of ten-year targets guides the County and municipalities as they continue to develop programs aimed at increasing the housing supply and improving affordability. The targets are in addition to work already underway to meet current housing needs. This helps build a foundation that meets the needs of residents with different income levels in our growing communities.

The targets are part of a final report prepared by SHS Inc. Based on sustained population and employment growth, SHS Inc. identified a County-wide target of 4,040 new housing units are needed to meet the diverse needs of residents. Bruce County's housing targets encompass the full range of housing options with the projected units allocated as follows:

- 13% deeply affordable community, supportive and transitional housing;
- 15% affordable rental/ownership;
- 20% private rental units;
- 52% home ownership.

"The housing targets give us the chance to plan ahead — not just for today, but for the families who will call Bruce County home tomorrow. These targets demonstrate the need to work closely with private developers and non-profit organizations to increase the range of housing options across the County," said Warden Luke Charbonneau.

The targets identify the need for a mix of housing types and affordability levels to needs and priorities within the community. The report also summarizes the needs specific to each of the County's three regions, the Lakeshore, Inland, and Peninsula.

Key trends informing the targets are:

- Continued, steady population growth across the County.
- The need for medium- and high-density housing types, with a rising demand for rental housing.
- An increase in the number of units to meet the housing needs of residents with low- and moderate-incomes.
- These targets consider demographic trends, household projections, and emerging market dynamics that will shape housing demand through 2036.

The targets identify the need for a mix of housing types and affordability levels to needs and priorities within the community. The report also summarizes the needs specific to each of the County's three regions, the Lakeshore, Inland, and Peninsula.

These housing targets will inform the development of a new ten-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, support Housing Action Plan (2024-2026) initiatives, provide benchmarks for progress, and inform advocacy with other levels of government.

Commissioner of Community Development, Claire Dodds, shared that, "we'll regularly monitor housing targets against growth and development occurring in the County and look to update them over the 10-year period as new data is available and as community demographics change."

For more information, visit www.brucecounty.on.ca/buildinbruce.

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Community Christmas Cantata Spreads Joy For Holiday Season

By Joanne Rodgers,
Bruce Peninsula Press

On December 16, 2025 the first night of the two night performances, patrons who braved the swirling snow, appreciated the "glorious" music performed by the Community Christmas Cantata Choir.

The first portion of the concert consisted of a sing-along of well-known Christmas carols and musical renditions by three soloists, Kim Wilson, Brian Taylor and David Warder. The performance "It Came To Pass Emmanuel" was a moving retelling of the Christmas story. While the audience was asked to hold their applause to the end, the audience could not resist applauding throughout the performance to show their appreciation of the stunning and uplifting performances by the soloists, pianist and the Choir.

Choir Director David Warder

recognized that the music was challenging with various harmonies, tempos and rhythms and thanked the choir members for their dedication in learning the music. The 28 member choir started practicing after Thanksgiving, and had eight rehearsals and one run-through. Warder expressed his hope that the Cantata would bring joy to the community for the Christmas season.

After the Cantata, community members were invited to the Fellowship Hall for social time and to enjoy the beverages and snacks prepared by the Choir members.

Admission Fee was \$10 per person, after expenses, the net proceeds will be donated to the Lion's Head and District Food Bank and the Women's Centre Grey Bruce. Patrons were also asked to bring non-perishable food items, which were given to the local food bank.



Photo Credit: Luke Belanger

Photo: The Community Christmas Cantata Choir at the December 16th performance.



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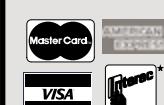
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Blue Box Changes**Continued from page 1**

Northern Bruce Peninsula (MNPB) to producer responsibility for blue box recycling. Cameron said, "The program is going to stay fairly similar, for the first bit anyways." Currently, Waste Management (WM) is the subcontractor that was awarded the residential recycling contract in the area from Circular Materials, a non-profit producer responsibility organization which is essentially replacing municipal management.

Going forward, residential recycling collection remains the same, collected curbside on Mondays by WM. However, Cameron advised that WM is transitioning to a cart system collection truck (standardized carts designed to be picked up by a truck's mechanical arms) once they obtain the new trucks in mid-2026. More information should be presented this year by WM in the form of open houses and public education.

The Municipality still manages residential curbside garbage collection in partnership with WM. A future report from the Public Works Manager will outline options for Council's consideration regarding implementing the cart system collection for both waste and recycling.

The new Blue Box Program specifies non-eligible sources for recycling collection, like industrial or commercial properties, non-profits, municipal buildings/facilities, daycares, places of worship, campgrounds/trailer parks, and commercial farms. Eligible sources are residential homes or units, schools, long-term care homes, and public spaces. The Municipality's current by-law restricts recycling collection from industrial/commercial/institutional (ICI) properties, so no big change will be noticed. Cameron clarified that

this "might not seem true because sometimes at commercial businesses there is recycling being collected, and it's because there is a residence above so it's hard to determine what recycling is residential or commercial."

On December 8, 2025, MNPB approved two bins placed at each landfill site, one for residential and another for ICI recycling. The residential recycling bins at the landfills will be funded by Circular Materials. The ICI bins are financed by the Municipality and monitored by the landfill attendant. An agreement between Circular Materials and the MNPB indicates compensation to the MNPB of \$4,020 per month for using space at municipal landfills for their residential recycling bins. A January 12th staff report (No. PW 26-02) from Cameron states that the compensation "should be enough to cover the cost of providing the recycling bins for the ICI/ non-eligible sources and this material will then be recycled and not become items entering the waste stream." The agreement will be formally considered at the January 12th Council Meeting, after this newspaper has gone to press. In support of the ICI recycling bins, Cameron said, "It's better to provide the service and in the long run, it saves our landfill space." Cameron's report further states that "By entering into this new agreement with Circular Materials the Municipality will still be able to keep recycling bins available at our three landfill/depots for residents who currently do not receive curbside collection." Many islands and private roads with the Municipality do not receive curbside collection.

Cameron encouraged all MNPB residents to visit www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-communities/northern-bruce-peninsula/ for a complete list of what you can recycle including specific recycling instructions and a deep dive into Ontario's new recycling system. The program promotes consistency where all residents can recycle the same items regardless of where you live or travel in Ontario.

**As of
January 1,
2026, some
expanded
accepted
items
include:**

- Glass - food containers, jars and bottles, cosmetic containers, spice bottles, oil and vinegar bottles, non-alcoholic

beverage containers (empty and free from food residue, lids off).

- Metal - food cans, metal lids, cookie, coffee and tea tins, beverage cans (empty and free from food residue); aluminum foil and trays like aluminum foil, pie plates, and frozen food trays (empty and free from food residue, ball up aluminum foil); **aerosol containers like food spray, hair spray, air fresheners, shaving cream, deodorant** (empty and lids on).

- Paper and fibre (flatten and empty, free of residue) - cardboard boxes like pizza, mail, moving, and shoe boxes; cereal boxes, egg cartons, toilet paper and paper towel rolls; **laminate pet food bags**, food service bags and plates, paper laminate containers like spiral cans,

cookie dough package, **ice cream containers, and hot/cold beverage cups** (remove lids); cartons like beverage, juice and milk, coffee creamers, sugar, soup and sauce; any colour of paper including flour bags, prescription bags, paper produce bags, notepads, gift boxes (empty, no rope handles).

- Plastic and foam (empty and free from residue, keep lids on, no alcoholic

beverage containers) - laundry detergent and household cleaner jugs, shampoo, body wash, salad dressing, condiment, dish soap, mouthwash bottles; food trays, yogurt, peanut butter, bakery and egg containers, black plastic containers; toothpaste tubes, deodorant, and hand cream tubes; hand sanitizer bottles, medication bottles, blister packs, plant pots; flexible plastic packaging like dry cleaning bags, bread bags, overwrap, coffee bags and deli pouches, chip bags, bubble wrap, snack wrappers, cereal liner bags, plastic gift bags; foam packing from meat trays, takeout, foam cups, plates, bowls, and packaging (remove film wrap and absorbent pads from meat trays).



Photo: Some of the items now being accepted in blue boxes for recycling: hot/cold beverage cups, beverage cartons like milk and juice, plastic deodorant containers, toothpaste tubes and styrofoam. A full list of recyclable items can be found at www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-communities/northern-bruce-peninsula/



Graphic Courtesy of Public Works Manager
Report No. PW 25-28, December 8, 2025.

Graphic: Blue Box Regulation - Full operational and financial responsibility for collecting and managing blue box packaging, paper products or packaging-like products is moving from municipalities to producers.

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Peninsula Past: The Press Comes to Lion's Head

By Marianne Wood,
Bruce Peninsula Press

February 2026 marks 35 years of this newspaper covering Lion's Head. The Tobermory Press published its inaugural issue in May 1988, originally only covering Tobermory.

The February 1991 (shown at right) issue of the press reads:

"By popular request, the Tobermory Press will be expanding to take in news and happenings in Lion's Head and Eastnor Township."

This will mean a Lion's Head calendar similar to the Tobermory calendar in this issue, and write-ups of Lion's Head events and happenings. The press will concentrate on the things that people might not otherwise find out about.

That is the niche that we occupy in Tobermory, and that's why we started in the first place.

The Wiarton Echo covered only those Tobermory news stories and cultural events that were of interest to the people of Wiarton. The Owen Sound Sun Times covered events and stories that were of interest to the people of Owen Sound.

Nobody cared what was of interest to the people of Tobermory. Important local news stories went unreported, and many cultural events flopped because nobody knew about them.

The Tobermory Press monthly newsletter started in 1988, as a single page. The idea was to cover the news stories nobody else cared about, and to make sure everybody knew about all the dinners, dances and other events that were going on in the community. The people of Tobermory responded enthusiastically, and The Press has grown steadily in both size and circulation.

In recent months we have received a number of requests to cover the same sorts of things for Lion's Head and Eastnor: the high school, the arena, the churches and church groups, events at the Ferndale and Stokes Bay Community Centres and the Legion and Rotary Halls...

You get the idea. Nothing earth-shaking, just the nuts and bolts of small town living."

35 years later, not all that much has changed. The Bruce Peninsula Press still has a mandate to publish news, information and opinion relevant to life in Northern Bruce Peninsula.

We leave out the provincial and federal news to make room for the stuff that no one else covers. We want to see pictures of local kids playing local sports, local seniors enjoying local community events, local reporters following our local council, you get the idea.

Rummaging through the oldest archives of the Bruce Peninsula Press is a glimpse into the past. We hope to someday have all the issues back to 1988 online for the community to sift through – but for now, archives dating back to January 2010 can be found at brucepeninsulapress.com/category/archives/

February, 1991

THE PRESS COMES TO LION'S HEAD

By popular request, the Tobermory Press will be expanding to take in news and happenings in Lion's Head and Eastnor Township.

WHAT WE'LL BE DOING FOR LION'S HEAD

This will mean a "Lion's Head Calendar" similar to the Tobermory Calendar in this issue, and write-ups of Lion's Head events and happenings. The Press will concentrate on the things that people might not otherwise find out about.

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NOBODY CARED ABOUT TOBERMORY

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You get the idea. Nothing earth-shaking, just the nuts and bolts of small town living.

"You live in Tobermory all year? What do you do in the winter?"

The annual Big Tub shinny festival. Aided by a little creative stick work by Ray Davis, Brian Suke defends the goal against Craig Adams and Helen McFarlane.

Photo: The February 1991 issue of the Tobermory Press, the last issue before the newspaper started covering Lion's Head and area.

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Photo: March 1991, The first issue of the Bruce Peninsula Press covering Lion's Head to Tobermory.



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Santa Visits Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association Holiday Celebration

Submitted by Stu Paterson –
Paterson Media for the Bruce Peninsula
Sportsmen's Association

"It was the sportsmen's and
women's Christmas party,
A time to celebrate hearty
Santa dropped by the club,
He caused quite a hubbub

The food was good, as was the mood

There was lots of cheer as we
celebrated another great year"

It's an annual affair at the
200-member Bruce Peninsula
Sportsmen's Association (BPSA)
clubhouse. The 2025 Christmas pot-luck
social was a huge success. Before he
started his Christmas deliveries around
the world, Santa was in a merry mood
as he stormed in wishing us good times,
continuing success and good health.

The volunteer run conservation club
members re-told fishing and hunting
stories, and mulled over the banner year
this has been for our group.

Members, young and old feasted on
the pot luck buffet all the while sharing



Photo Credit: PATERSON MEDIA – KAT McCULLOCH

Photo: Santa greets the members of the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association at their annual holiday celebration.

in conversations and laughter. There was Ray's four fish chowder and dozens of other dishes, including some featuring wild game, taste tempting delights to please everyone.

The arrival of Santa gave way to the early bird membership draws with the help of ten year old Beau Weaver drawing the lucky names.

The first name drawn was that of Sandra Elliott, winner of a 2026 Club Membership. Jill Curtis was the second winner and William McLeod the third. They each received \$50 gift cards from Wiarton Home Hardware. The draws continued with the door prizes. Winners were Annette Musselman, Paul Maginnis and Frank Hutter.

BPSA President Carl Jones noted "Our club has had a banner year."



Photo Credit: PATERSON MEDIA – KAT McCULLOCH

Photo: Ten-year-old Beau Weaver (left) helps Santa draw the lucky names for the early bird membership draw.

Climate Comment for December 2025 The Early Winter See-Saw Continues

Submitted by Bill Caulfeild-Browne

Although the month was just about normal for temperature, it surely didn't feel like it. The wintry blast that began on November 30th continued with a vengeance, giving us nearly 30cms of snow in the first week. And yet, ironically, we barely got a white Xmas because the mercury fluctuated so much.

The middle of the month saw highs well above freezing from the 16th to the 25th, the warmest being 7.2C on the 18th. That day also gave us 18mm of rain. It wasn't until the last two days that temperatures dropped back into negative double digits of -10.1C and -10.7C respectively. The coldest day, though, was the 14th at -11.1C.

Measuring precipitation at this time of year is fraught with difficulty. The moisture content of snow is highly variable. While one millimetre of water is generally thought to yield one centimetre of snow, in truth it could be much more or less. Light and fluffy snow might be much deeper than one centimetre, while a centimetre of heavy wet snow will contain more than one millimetre of water. I use the 10:1 ratio but am aware it's at best an estimate. Based on that, our "rain" for the month was 74mm. This is about normal for December.

2013 holds the record for the last 30 years at 1086mm, while 1998 came in at just 564mm.

Tobermory escaped some of the worst snowfalls that afflicted the Province. Northern Ontario had snow depths roughly twice normal. Kapuskasing had 170cm on the ground by month-end. Southern Ontario got its share too - Toronto Pearson got 178% of normal snow.

On both December 9th and 18th major ice and snow storms paralyzed areas to our north and south, and on Boxing Day six to eight hours of freezing rain resulted in hundreds of accidents,

time. During an average year 50 BPSA volunteers donate over 1,500 hours raising and stocking: 75,000 Rainbow Trout fingerlings, 25,000 Rainbow Trout yearlings and 25,000 Brown Trout. Since the sixties, BPSA has stocked more than 4,000,000 fish to boost our sports fishery. In one recent year this 200-member conservation club stocked over 2,100 pounds of fish in Grey-Bruce waters.

"We are assisting sustainable recreational and sports fishing," said Hatchery Manager Al Sutter. We are proud of the work we do. "A lot of people come to this area to fish," said Sutter. "Anybody who wants a hatchery tour can contact us."

We are proud of the fact that we have the longest operating volunteer run community fish hatchery in Ontario.

In a year end message to members the BPSA Executive noted the extraordinary effort put forward by our members "We are grateful for the countless hours our members dedicate to keeping the BPSA an important part of the community. Thank you for helping to share our mission. Many lives have been touched by the various activities within this club and we can all be very proud."

If you think you would be interested in joining Team BPSA, check out our annual BPSA Family Day Open House. This event allows us to show off all our programs including our youth archery and fish stocking. Family Day in 2026 falls on February 16. It's a day designed to promote quality time with loved ones. See you then!

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the BPSA Executive!

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36 Species Observed at Christmas Bird Count in Tobermory

Submitted by Kelsey Bowles,
Parks Canada

On December 16th, 2025, 31 volunteers and Parks Canada staff participated in the 53rd annual Christmas Bird Count in Tobermory, including in Bruce Peninsula National Park.

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is organized nationally by Birds Canada in partnership with the National Audubon Society and runs from December 14th to January 5th every year. The CBC first began in 1900 and is now the longest running community science program in North America with over 2000 participating locations. The results from the count help provide data on bird population trends and species distribution.

The network of protected areas in Canada, which includes Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five Marine Park, plays an important role in helping to address impacts of climate change by protecting and restoring healthy, resilient ecosystems and contributing to the recovery of species at risk. Christmas Bird Counts help Parks Canada learn how climate change is affecting birds, helping make evidence informed decisions on conservation and restoration projects in the park.

Despite the fierce wind, volunteers collectively counted 36 species and 1301 individual birds at the Tobermory CBC. On average, around 1594 individual birds are typically spotted, but the persistent wind, ice cover on protected waters, and snowpack blocking some seasonal roads, likely explains lower than usual numbers.

Some other notable statistics from the Tobermory CBC that emerged include:

- The winter finch numbers were variable this year. While only 2 Pine Siskins and 21 Common Redpolls were seen, 93 Evening Grosbeaks, and 1 Pine Grosbeak were observed. While none of those numbers are particularly high compared to the average, they were much improved compared to last year!
- The Mourning Dove was absent for the second year in a row. Before 2024,



Photo Credit: Dan Stewart/ © Parks Canada/ Bruce Peninsula National Park
Photo: Two participants look for birds along the Georgian Bay shoreline.

the last time this happened was 1983;

- There was a high count for Long-Tailed Ducks with 62 observed (avg. 19)
- There was a low count for Herring Gull, with 86 seen (avg. 245);
- 2 Common Grackles were observed. Historically this species was infrequently seen but over the past 10 years they have been observed 50% of the time.
- There was a low count for Bufflehead with 4 observed (avg. 22);
- There was a high count for Rock Pigeon with 85 individuals observed, the previous record was 75 in 2021, and the average observed is 22;

Parks Canada would like to thank all the staff and volunteers that took part in this year's count. Birders of all ages and skill levels joined in on the fun, ranging from 5 new participants to one legacy participant who has been taking part for over 25 years!

If you missed out on the CBC this year, there is still plenty of birding to be had. Winter is a great time for birdwatching – less foliage makes it easier to spot birds! You can upload your sightings to iNaturalist and/or eBird to contribute to community science efforts all year long.

And if you're new to birding, why not join a guided Winter Bird Walk? On Saturdays at 11:30 a.m., join a Parks Canada guide at the Head of Trails for a 45-minute snowshoe or hiking adventure to discover winter birds in the park. You'll learn to identify species using the Merlin app and field guides while enjoying the sounds and sights of the season.

Learn more about winter activities in Bruce Peninsula National Park at <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/on-bruce/activ/hiver-activ-winter>

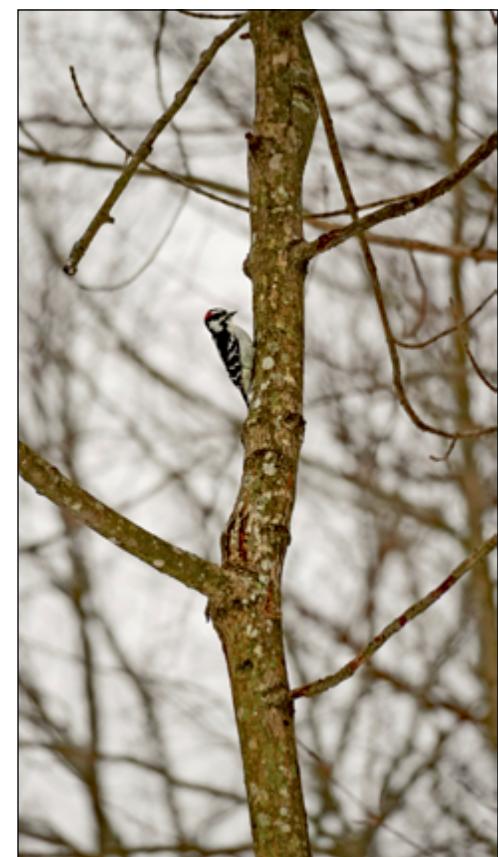


Photo Credit: Dan Stewart/ © Parks Canada/ Bruce Peninsula National Park
Photo: Downy Woodpecker.

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Owen Sound Field Naturalists January Column

Owen Sound, Neyaashiinigmiing, Wiarton Christmas Bird Count Results



Photo credit: by Rob Wray

Photo: Christmas comes early for a Bald Eagle in Owen Sound's inner harbour in mid-December.

Submitted by John Dickson

The following is an excerpt from the Owen Sound Field Naturalists (OSFN) December 2025 column.

Here are some excerpts from recent Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) in the area, as organized by regional 'Compilers' who have kindly shared some of their CBC count reports with me. A sampling of their observations follows here:

Owen Sound CBC: On December 14th, 41 participants tallied 6,425 individual birds of 57 species. Unusual species from this year's count included a Ring-necked Duck, a Carolina Wren, and several Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds. Many species were seen in lower numbers this year compared to usual. Surprisingly, however, even more species were seen in higher numbers than usual, including Redhead, Greater Scaup, Horned Grebe, Bald Eagle (which set a new record for the count this year), American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and several species of finches. The irruption of certain northern species of finches we've been seeing this winter are likely due to food shortages in the north. (Erik Van Den Kieboom, Compiler)

Neyaashiinigmiing CBC: The 15th Neyaashiinigmiing CBC was also held December 14, with inclement weather as well as illness resulting in several last-minute cancellations, and only 10 participants ultimately covering the circle. Results: a record low species total of 31, well below the average of 40. The 710 individual birds counted was also a record low, and well below the average of 1,062. Notable misses included Common Merganser, Ruffed Grouse (first ever miss), Rock Pigeon and Mourning Dove, and Golden-crowned Kinglet (first ever miss). Despite their presence elsewhere on the Saugeen Peninsula this winter, no winter finches were recorded. American Goldfinches were present in average numbers. (Jarmo Jalava and Miptoon Anthony Chegahno, Compilers)

Wiarton CBC: The 52nd Wiarton CBC was held December 21, with 24 participants and one feeder watcher tallying 53 species. The total of 3,917 individual birds was above the overall average of 3,767, but well below the recent ten-year average of 4,983 and less than half the record total of 8,628 set in 2023. Only one record high species total was recorded: Dark-eyed Junco (105, previously 102). Other good finds included a Gadwall, an Iceland Gull, a Golden Eagle, a Merlin, White-winged Crossbill and a Common Grackle. Winter finches were limited to White-winged Crossbill (2), Redpoll (43), Pine Grosbeak (23) and Evening Grosbeak (113). As noted, American Goldfinches were present in above average numbers (351). The small House Finch population persists in Wiarton, with a relatively high tally of 16 individuals this year. (Jarmo Jalava, Compiler)

In closing, and as one who first had the pleasure of hiking a section of the Bruce Trail in August of 1970, (from Walters Falls to Inglis Falls), I would like to acknowledge here, the passing of Dr. Philip Gosling, who was the last co-founder of the Bruce Trail Conservancy, when he passed away on December 3, at the age of 97. His conservation leadership earned him several honours, including the Order of Canada and an honorary degree from the University of Guelph.

Gosling's tremendous legacy is also celebrated in these evocative words: By the "...sparkling white cliffs and blue vastness of Georgian Bay we hikers enjoy this, the most spectacular stretch of the Bruce Trail... When we trek back from the bay, we silently thank the hikers and conservation groups who fought for the Bruce Trail, making it possible to follow this great escarpment from Queenston to Tobermory." from The Heart of the Country, (which I borrowed recently from our wonderful library OSNGUPL), written in 1988 by Fred Dahms (also now in his 90s), Professor Emeritus, founding member and former Chair of the Department of Geography, University of Guelph, and Illustrated by his wife Ruth.

To learn more about OSFN, including the Young Naturalist Club, please visit <https://owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca/>

Tobermory Legion Branch 290 News

Free Inaugural Membership to Celebrate 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion

Submitted by Kathryn Hauck,
Poppy Chair

Happy New Year from your Tobermory Legion Branch 290! Another year has come and gone, and I hope 2026 is filled with kindness. 2026 also marks the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion - a century of standing with Veterans, strengthening communities and honouring the memory of those who served. On July 12, 1926, the Legion was officially incorporated by a special act of Parliament - thus recognizing 100 years! To celebrate, the Tobermory Legion is offering to any new member, a free membership for the first year. If you have been considering joining, this is your 'free' chance.

As a reminder, both the Executive and General legion meetings will move to 2:00pm and 3:00pm respectively, on the second Tuesday of the month. Please consider joining, and become an active member in your branch.

There are lots of options for people to get out of the house and fight the winter blues.

The Ladies Auxiliary WINTER BINGO is continuing on Mondays at the Tobermory Community Centre. Doors opened at 12:30pm with games starting at 1:00pm.

Meat draws are happening on Saturdays starting at 4:30pm. Stay tuned as there will be a light hot meal, once a month, after the meat draw. Keep an eye on the outside board at the legion.

On the second Friday of the month, come and test your smarts with Trivia night - bring some friends or join a team. Trivia starts at 7:00pm.

And on the last Friday of the month, come with friends or join a group and play euchre. Doors open at 6:45pm and games start at 7:00pm.

Try your luck at darts, every Thursday starting at 3:00pm.

Recognizing Barney L Hopkins

From the Legion Ontario Command Military Service Recognition Book - Barney L Hopkins was born on May 26, 1934 in Tobermory, ON. He enlisted in the RCAF in June 1952. He completed his basic training and received a commission at the age of 18. He became a qualified flying instructor at 19 and attained A1 Flying Instructors Category in 1957. He received the Best Student Award at F-86 Operational Training Unit in 1958. Barney rose from Flight Cadet to Pilot Officer, Flying Officer, Flight Lieutenant, Squadron Leader and finally Wing Commander. Wing Commander Hopkins flew transport and search and rescue missions in the Arctic, Europe, Middle East, Africa, North and South Americas and the Pacific. He was involved in evacuating civilians from Iran in 1979. He was discharged on June 1983. He was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration with Bar, the United Nations Medal, the Peacekeeping Medal and the Special Services Medal (NATO). Barney was a pilot for Exeaire from 1983-1993 when he retired to Tobermory.

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BPDS And St Eds Students Enjoy Annual Festive Feast

By Joanne Rodgers,
Bruce Peninsula Press

Students at Bruce Peninsula District School (BPDS) and St Edmunds Public School (St Eds) enjoyed a sumptuous feast of turkey, mashed potatoes, corn, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, bread rolls and desserts at the annual Festive Feast on 12 December 2025.

The Lion's Head Community Bottle Fund fully sponsors the supplies for the festive feast for St Eds and BPDS.



Photo courtesy of Danielle Stabenow

Photo: St Edmunds Public School students enjoy the Festive Feast on December 12th.



Photo: Grade 6-8 students enjoy the festive feast meal at the second seating.

Each December, teachers, community volunteers and students come together to create a special dining experience for the students. This year, the SWANS supported the preparations of the meal at BPDS by cooking the turkeys, peeling potatoes and helping in other food prep. Student volunteers, assisted by parent volunteers and teachers, set up the cafeteria for the sit down meals, served the meals and did the clean-up. The Elementary students are served at the first sitting, afterwards, the tables are cleared and set up for the second sitting which is for the high school classes.

The kindergarten kids gave the meal full marks, saying everything was good. The JK and SK classes were served in their classrooms by high school student volunteers. The cafeteria was full of noisy chatter and good cheer as the students and invited guests feasted on the turkey meal with all the fixings.

Tim Hayes of the Lion's Head

Community Bottle Fund is always thrilled to see the students enjoying the meal each year. He is always impressed that there is never any shortage of volunteer help from the students and community members, all working together to offer a memorable seasonal meal for the students.

Visit bruce peninsula press.com for more festive feast photos.



Photo: Secondary students Lena Hofstrand, Jaxon Quesnel, Caydence Langman, Myles Gambacort, and Ellie Robbins serve the delicious meal at the annual Festive Feast.



Photo L R: Grade 8 student volunteers Avery, Tamara, Owen and Georgia set up the tables for the second sitting.

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Ontario 

Tobermory Home Wins Mix 106.5 "Brightest House on the Block" Contest

By Marianne Wood,
Bruce Peninsula Press

A Tobermory home known locally for its festive glow has been named the winner of Mix 106.5's "Brightest House on the Block" contest, bringing recognition to a decade-long holiday tradition built on community spirit and joy.

Homeowners Nick Ferrence and Neda Sarbakhsh entered the Grey Bruce-wide contest after being encouraged by a friend who admired their Christmas light display. Weeks later, they were thrilled to learn they had been selected as this year's winner.

"We were absolutely delighted

and humbled," they said. "We're so grateful for the recognition and for the incredible support from our community."

The holiday light display has been a tradition for the couple since moving to Tobermory. Each year, the display has grown a little more, created with care and a genuine desire to spread happiness throughout the community.

"Any recognition for our work is extremely heartwarming," they added. "We're thankful to everyone at Mix 106.5, and especially to Josie for encouraging us to enter the contest. The support and kind words from the community mean so much to us."

While the homeowners note they come from Muslim and Jewish backgrounds, they embrace Christmas as a celebration of kindness, happiness, and togetherness.

"For us, the season is about spreading joy," they said. "That spirit aligns perfectly with who we are and what we love about this community."

They say they are proud to represent Tobermory and hope their lights continue to bring smiles to residents and visitors alike throughout the holiday season.

The prize package, valued at over \$400, included

Beats by Dre Solo Buds, a \$100 gift certificate to The Tipsy Fox, a \$100 gift card to Smitty's Fine Furniture, and additional gifts generously donated by local sponsors.

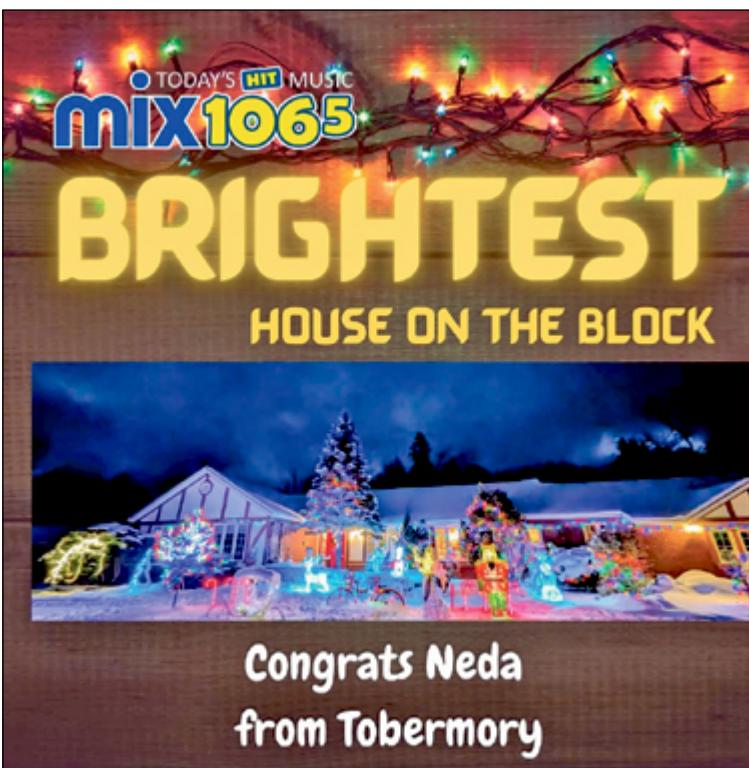


Photo Credit: Mix 106.5 Facebook Page



Photo Credit: Mix 106.5 Facebook Page

Photo: Tobermory residents Nick Ferrence and Neda Sarbakhsh collecting their prize after winning the Mix 106.5 "Brightest House on the Block" contest.

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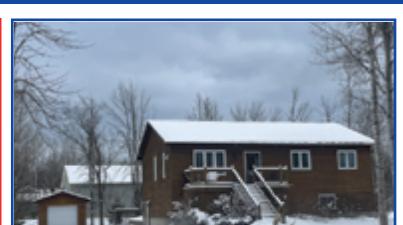
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Incredible potential, located on Highway 6 with commercial zoning. Set on 1.5 acres, with dog run, firepit area, and a majestic willow tree. 3 bdrms + den, and a 4Pc bath. The in-law suite features its own entry, bathroom & cozy woodstove. Minutes from Tobermory.

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\$825,000

Annual Lion's Head Polar Bear Dip 2026



Photo L-R: The Darnbrough family - Ella, Steven and Christopher - brave the cold waters at the annual Lion's Head Polar Bear Dip.



Photo: For many it was a quick dash in and out in the icy water at the annual Lion's Head Polar Bear Dip.



Photo L-R: Claire, Adam, Cody, Cody jr, Mason and Adler after their exhilarating dash in and out of the icy water. It was Mason and Adler's first time participating in the polar dip; they say they will definitely be back next year.



Photo: Cottagers, the Ware family and friends make the polar dip an annual winter holiday tradition.

Photos: Joanne Rodgers, Bruce Peninsula Press

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2025 Number Twenty

December 16, 2025 to January 13, 2026

Santa Makes Special Stops at Tobermory and Lion's Head Parades



Photo: Santa and his elves wave to the crowd in the Tobermory Santa Claus Parade on December 13th. The annual parade featured an impressive lineup of floats from local businesses and organizations, including horses, carollers and Yeti.



Photo: Santa and his helper Malcolm Sargla (left) make their way along Main Street in Lion's Head for the annual Santa Claus Parade on December 6th. Over 24 different groups participated in the parade including mascot Santa, the Fire Dog and Parka from Pepe's.

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Tobermory Food Bank Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Submitted by Linda Godhue

There is an adage that says to know where you are going, you need to know where you have been. That is the case with the Tobermory Food Bank (TFB) as it is with any group or organization. We are fortunate to have our treasurer Rick Caron who keeps accurate records of the important numbers that help us plan ahead for the coming months. The following are some numbers that reveal a snapshot of the work of the Tobermory Food Bank in 2025.

- 55 households accessed the TFB at least once in 2025
- 132 people we supported (48 children, 72 adults, 12 seniors)
- 113 hampers were assembled and distributed over Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas
- 602 volunteer hours (reflecting January – November 2025)

The actual number of volunteer hours is a low estimate, as many of our volunteers do not submit the actual hours devoted to their volunteering with the Food Bank. Volunteers are there to assist clients during regular Food Bank hours, pick up the Second Harvest donations from Peacocks, bring them to the food bank, weigh and put away on shelves and in the freezers. Come out to assemble the Hampers and deliver to those who do not have access to a vehicle. On hand for special events such as Hot Dog Sales, Stuff the Cruiser and once a year to make breakfast for the Men's Breakfast Group. Also volunteers shop for grocery items for the shelves with the monies donated to the TFB, as well as picking up donations as far away as Owen Sound. But we know that is what volunteering is all about, as reflected by the many volunteers of all the other organizations and groups and Churches here in our wonderful community.

We know our work is cut out for us in the coming year, as the number of visits keep increasing as the cost of living keeps rising.

In the December 16th edition of the Bruce Peninsula Press there was a media release from the United Way Bruce-Grey. This release tells us that the Living Wage in Bruce-Grey counties increased in 2025 to \$24.60 an hour a 6.7% increase from 2024. The Living Wage determination is what must be earned hourly to pay the cost of housing, food, transportation and clothing. The only place in Ontario that has a higher Living Wage is Toronto at

\$27.20 an hour, which had a year over year increase of 4.6%. The Provincial Average increased by 5.3%. It could be said that a large metropolitan City like Toronto would have the highest Living Wage, but it is a surprising fact that Bruce-Grey would be the second most expensive place to live in the Province.

The Living Wage for Bruce-Grey at \$24.60 becomes even more surprising when you compare it with a similar Rural/Urban mix of Brant-Haldimand and Norfolk County at a Living Wage of \$21.40, which only increased over the 2024 figure by 2.4%. In the same year Bruce-Grey increased more than twice that amount.

These statistics support the fact of why we are seeing an increase in the number of people in our community experiencing Food Insecurity. But it is important to know and recognize that the Tobermory Food Bank is so fortunate to be in a community that shows it's caring by the more than generous support it gives the Food Bank. That support is shown by the donations of grocery items, cash donations and coming out to fundraising events. Support from the students and staff from St. Edmunds Public School to Bruce Power Corporation and all the other individuals, organizations, Churches and business that donate to the Tobermory Food Bank.

So, as we look to the year ahead, we know that Food Insecurity is something that has been increasing over the past few years. We as volunteers at the Tobermory Food Bank are privileged to be the ones that see the generosity of this community being passed on to those most in need. And for that we are truly grateful.

If you wish to have more information about the Tobermory Food Bank and its work, please visit our website tobermoryfoodbank.ca or call Linda at 519-596-2333.

As a last note, if you are experiencing Food Insecurity, even if it is not on a regular basis, but perhaps from an unexpected expense, please do not hesitate to get in touch or visit the Food Bank during our regular hours of Tuesday 1-3 p.m. at The Meeting Place Tobermory. Or if you are aware of someone facing that issue, please encourage them to contact us or come to the Food Bank. We are there to help, and all is held in confidence by our volunteers.

Happy New Year!

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Cartoonist Larry Isbester Exhibition Debuts at Deep Water Gallery January 17th

Submitted by Deborah Diebel,
Deep Water Gallery

Inside an Echo: 42 Years of Satirical Cartoons for the Wiarton Echo.
An Exhibition of the work of local Cartoonist, Larry Isbester.

January 17th from 2 – 4 pm at Deep Water Gallery (in the alley alongside TD Bank in Wiarton). The show will continue until February 21st.

For more than four decades, Larry Isbester chronicled the political, social, and cultural life of Wiarton and the surrounding region through the sharp, observant lens of editorial cartooning. Cartooning since 1974, Isbester began contributing to the Wiarton Echo in the early 1980s and worked under contract beginning in 1984. Over a 42-year career with the paper, his cartoons became a familiar and anticipated part of local discourse. His final cartoon, published on February 1, 2024, fittingly marked the close of a career defined by consistency, wit, and civic engagement. His first and final cartoons featured local icon, Wiarton Willie.

Raised in Wiarton and a graduate of Wiarton District High School, Isbester's early love of drawing emerged through constant doodling from grades one through eight. He credits his grade six and seven art teacher, Lotti Brough, as an early and lasting influence. Though he went on to earn a Bachelor of Science from the University of Guelph,

drawing remained a parallel practice, one that eventually found its public voice in political cartooning.

Isbester began his career during a time when Ross Whicher served as Member of Parliament and Harold Silk was mayor of Wiarton, situating his work firmly within lived local history. Influenced by Canadian cartoonists such as Duncan Macpherson (Toronto Star), Donato (Toronto Sun), and Aislin (Montreal Gazette), his cartoons balance humour with critique, distilling complex political moments into accessible visual commentary. As a member of the Association of Canadian Cartoonists, Isbester's work reflects a deep commitment to the role of satire in democratic conversation and to the power of drawing as a record of community life.

Larry's cartoon retrospective will be show at Deep Water Gallery from mid-January until mid-February. The show will open on January 17th between 2 pm and 4 pm. All are invited to attend either the opening or regular gallery hours to view the show. Deep Water Gallery is located in the alley alongside the TD Bank in Wiarton, and regular hours are Thursday to Saturday, 11 am – 4 pm.

Deep Water Gallery thanks the Wiarton Home Hardware Building Centre, The Wiarton Chamber of Commerce, and The Tobermory Press for their support of this show.

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TOBERMORY BASED FREELANCE REPORTER:

The Bruce Peninsula Press is looking for a **Tobermory based Freelance Reporter** to cover local news and events for our community newspaper.

Successful applicants must be capable of writing both news articles and feature stories. Some stories will be assigned, others may be self-generated in consultation with the newspaper's editor.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Attend and report on local events
- Conduct interviews and perform research
- Photos to illustrate articles are an expectation
- Meet deadlines and follow editorial guidelines

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Knowledge of Northern Bruce Peninsula

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We are seeking a reliable and enthusiastic Freelance Sports Reporter to cover local sports for our community newspaper. This role is ideal for someone with a passion for grassroots athletics and a strong interest in telling the stories behind local teams, athletes, and events.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Report on local sporting events (minor hockey, community leagues, tournaments etc) including attendance at some events.
- Write clear, accurate, and engaging game recaps, previews, and feature stories
- Conduct interviews with athletes, coaches, and community members
- Submit photos when possible
- Meet deadlines and follow editorial guidelines

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Knowledge of and interest in local sports

QUALIFICATIONS (RELEVANT FOR BOTH POSITIONS):

- Strong writing and storytelling skills
- Ability to work independently and manage assignments on a freelance basis
- Prior journalism or reporting experience is an asset, but not required
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OBITUARIES

**TYLER, Norma Joan (Zimmerman)(Healey)** – Passed away peacefully in her 91st year at the F.J. Davey Home in Sault Ste. Marie, surrounded by her family on Tuesday, December 23, 2025. She is survived by her soulmate Michael Tyler, married for 44 years. She was the caring mother of Craig Zimmerman and Todd Zimmerman (Nancy). Grandmum will be sadly missed by her four grandchildren Kyle (Lynsay), Ryan (Beth), Scott (Michelle), and Evan (Jaime) and her ten great grandchildren. She was born in Cheadle Hulme, England to parents Harry Healey and Hilda Healey (Navin) both predeceased. They immigrated to Canada in her teenage years, and she lived in Hamilton, Ancaster, Stokes Bay, and Lion's Head before moving to Sault Ste. Marie. Norma will be dearly missed by her family, lifelong friends (Roberta) and her cousins Helen (Frank), Judy, Susan, and Richard (Donna) and their extended families. Norma worked at the McMaster University Medical Center as an Executive Assistant until her retirement at age 63. Shortly after, they moved to Tamarack Island (Stokes Bay) in the Bruce Peninsula to enjoy retirement. She was a free spirit who loved to travel and was drawn to the Southwestern and South American cultures. You could see her dancing to the songs of Jimmy Buffet and Harry Belafonte even in her later years. She loved felines having numerous cats as pets over the years. She lived by her own rules and had an infectious smile and bubbly personality which warmed people to adore her. The family would like to thank the staff at the Lion's Head Hospital and the F.J. Davey Home, Apple Orchard Wing for the great care when she broke her hip and was dealing with her dementia before succumbing to complications of Influenza 'A'. In accordance with her wishes, her life will be honoured privately. Memorial donations to the Owen Sound Animal Shelter (OSAS) (<https://www.owensoundanimalshelter.com/programs>) would be greatly appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to Northwood Funeral Home Cremation and Reception Centre (942 Great Northern Rd, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6B 0B6, 705-945-7758). Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be offered at www.northwoodfuneral.com

**GORE, Frances 'Frankie'** peacefully at Golden Dawn Nursing Home, Lion's Head on Tuesday, December 30, 2025. Beatrice Frances Fellows Gore (nee Carvolth) of Barrow Bay and formerly of London in her 97th year. Dear wife of the late John 'Jack' Gore and mother of Rick Gore and his wife Lynn Lacey of Barrow Bay and Mary Gore and her husband John Thody of Caledon. Devoted grandmother of Mackenzie, John, Lacey, Billie and Raeanna Gore and Calvin, Emma and Ellen Marejka. Fondly remembered by brother-in-law Raymond Gore as well as many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by parents Beatrice (nee McVittie) and Richard Stanley Carvolth, sisters Adele Carvolth and Beatrice Bonneville and brother-in-law Donald Gore (Doris). Private family arrangements entrusted to the GEORGE FUNERAL HOME, Wiarton. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Expressions of remembrance to Golden Dawn Nursing Home or the Bruce Peninsula Hospitals Foundation would be appreciated. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family through www.georgefuneralhome.com

**Betty Marie Reid** of Walkerton passed away suddenly on Saturday, December 27, 2025, at the South Bruce Grey Health Centre, Walkerton, in her 85th year. Betty was born at the Lion's Head Red Cross Outpost Hospital and grew up on the family farm in Ferndale. She attended the Lion's Head Continuation School, where she met her future husband, Marvin Reid. Following graduation, Betty worked at the Royal Bank in Lion's Head. After marrying, Marvin and Betty eventually moved to Walkerton where they raised their family and built a life rooted in community. Betty was employed at the Walkerton Post Office until her retirement in 2001. She was a longtime member of St. Paul's United Church and a dedicated member of Legion Branch 102 in Walkerton. Betty greatly enjoyed coffee time with friends at Tim Hortons and Saturday meat draws at the Legion—simple pleasures that reflected her warm and social nature. Beloved wife and best friend of 64 years to Marvin Reid. Betty was a cherished mother to Andy Reid of Chatham, Ray Reid (Shawna McLay) of Lion's Head, and Ron Reid (Alison) of Glencairn. She was a proud grandmother to Joelle, Robyn, Marcus, Ryan, Jessica, Dylan, Kendra, and Rachel, and was also fondly remembered by Jacob and Sydney. Betty will be lovingly remembered by her brothers Bob Hellyer (Jeanette) of Lion's Head and Fred Hellyer (Penny) of Tobermory, as well as by her nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents Wib and Margaret Hellyer; her parents-in-law Lewis and Marjorie Reid, her brother-in-law Dr. Ross Reid (Dorothy) and her sister-in-law Betty Lou Lyons. Friends and relatives were invited to visitation from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, January 5, 2026, at Cameron's in Walkerton. A funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at St. Paul's United Church, Walkerton. Reception to follow at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 102, Walkerton. Interment in Walkerton Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, donations to Canadian Cancer Society or Walkerton and District Hospital Foundation in place of flowers would be appreciated by the family. Donations and condolences may be made online at www.cameronfuneralhomes.com

**WEBSTER, Charlotte Elizabeth 'Betty'** peacefully surrounded by the love of her family at Gateway Haven Nursing Home, Wiarton on Saturday, January 3, 2026. Betty Webster of Wiarton and formerly of Owen Sound in her 95th year. Beloved wife of the late John Webster. Cherished mother of Deb Shaw (Wayne) of Lion's Head and Derek Webster (Pamela) of Drayton. Much loved grandmother of Cristy (Stephen), Kevin (Sanda) and Clarke (Bonnie) and great grandmother of Noah and Elijah. Dear sister of Helen Stokes of Fergus. Predeceased by parents Frances (nee Price) and Stewart Atkinson. A graveside funeral service will be conducted at Greenwood Cemetery, Owen Sound in April. The date will be published when available. Arrangements entrusted to the GEORGE FUNERAL HOME, Wiarton. Expressions of remembrance to Friends of Gateway or the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family through www.georgefuneralhome.com

OBITUARIES

**Weatherhead, Cassidy** – passed away unexpectedly at Brightshores Health System, Lion's Head, on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, in his 47th year. Loving husband of 26 years to Stephanie (nee Stewart). Beloved father of Natalie Liverance (Brock), Sahara and Eden Weatherhead. Dear son of Willy and Jennifer Weatherhead. Cherished son-in-law of Connie and the late Allan Stewart. Brother of Dillon Weatherhead (Teresa) and Erin Smith (Bill); and brother-in-law of Julie Hawke (Jason) and Chad Stewart (Melissa). Sadly missed by his many aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. Cassidy spent his entire life on the Bruce Peninsula, where he built a beautiful life with Stephanie and his three daughters. He was deeply loved within his community, and his many friends will miss his larger-than-life presence. A master of his construction craft, Cassidy left his mark on countless homes across the Peninsula, each reflecting his skill, precision, and pride in his work. A true jack of all trades, Cassidy loved a good challenge and had a lifelong passion for old cars, boats, and engines. Few things made him happier than hearing a classic engine roar back to life. Wherever he went, his dogs were never far behind; Cass always had a big boy by his side, though he occasionally revealed a soft spot for cats as well. Several years ago, he took over the family "Shanty," a place filled with tradition, laughter, and time spent with those he loved. Cassidy was a joy to be around—full of laughter and camaraderie—and despite his tough exterior, he had a very soft heart. He will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the first responders and the Lion's Head Hospital staff for their care and compassion. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Lion's Head Arena, 4 Tackabury Street, on Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. The family warmly welcomes guests to bring their classic cars in Cassidy's honour. If you have any photos, videos, or memories you would like to share, please email them to stephdweatherhead@gmail.com. Photos of homes or projects Cassidy built are especially appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to the Thomas C. Whitcroft Funeral Home & Chapel, Sauble Beach (519-422-0041). Donations to the Bruce Peninsula Hospitals Foundation would be greatly appreciated. Condolences may be expressed online at www.whitcroftfuneralhome.com.

**Robert Henderson, August 1 1942, December 31 2025.** Henderson, Robert Wayne passed away peacefully at the age of 83 at Owen Sound Hospital on Dec 31st 2025. Robert Henderson of Lion's Head Ontario. Beloved husband of 55 years of his best friend, the late Georgette Henderson (nee Laroche) and cherished father of Jason (Lori) and Gina (Jodie) all of Windsor. Much loved grandfather or Poppa of Sophie Henderson and his "grandbitties". Dear brother of the late Nancy Lazor (Yan) of Toronto. Predeceased by parents Olive (nee Gray) and Wayne Henderson. Robert lived most of his life in Windsor. He was first employed as a model maker at Industrial models for many years until moving on to Active Burgess and finally at Peter Anthony. The family would regularly vacation in Bruce County at Tanglewood cottages where they met many friends that became extended family over the years. After his retirement he and Georgette made a permanent move to Lion's Head so they could vacation year round. While living there he was able to expand his extended family and friends list when he became a member of Lion's Head Friendship Club and a member of the Barrow Bay Sports Fishing Association and volunteered in its annual fish fry dinners. Along with spending time with his family and friends in the Bruce, he enjoyed making regular trips back to Merlin Ontario to reminisce with "the cousins" and try to make as many of the weekly coffee get-togethers in Windsor with his old work buddies known as "the coffee guys" where they would tell the same old stories that would crack them all up every time. Otherwise he would enjoy cigars on the back deck in the warmer months or watching British murder mysteries or his "car shows" with Georgette in their cozy chairs near the fireplace during the colder months. As per Roberts wishes there is no formal service to follow his passing. Instead a 'Celebration of life' memorial weekend is planned for the spring of 2026 details of which will be released at a later date.

HELP WANTED

Bruce Anchor Motel & Villa, Bruce Anchor Cruises, and Big Tub Resorthave the following positions available for the 2026 season: Captain, First Mate, Deckhand, Ticket, Island, and Parking Agents, Bus Driver, Laundry Attendant, Housekeeper, Front Desk, Information, and Night Clerks, and Marine Attendant. Each position has full time and part time hours available. Please email resume to jobs@bruceanchor.com. For more information visit www.brueanchor.com

We are currently hiring for various restaurant and food service positions at our multiple locations across the beautiful Bruce Peninsula. This is a great opportunity to work in a friendly, fast-paced environment while enjoying everything the area has to offer – stunning scenery, a strong sense of community, and a place many like to visit. We are looking for hardworking, reliable and positive individuals to fill a variety of positions within our Hungry Hiker Family. Please contact for more information. Please email resumes to hungryhiker@outlook.com. Reference required.

SERVICES

Dan's Contracting – Over 30 years experience. New cottages & homes. Additions & renovations. For more info or quotes call Dan at 519-592-5024.

THANK YOU

Dog Days Painting would like to take this time to say Thank You to ALL who worked with us over the years. We are passing the brush to Straight Cut Painting. Tamara Shpk: 519-373-7446. Happy, Healthy New Years to ALL. From the Elliotts.

Many heartfelt thanks to all the kind and generous folks on my RR2 mail route. We have had some rough labour problems over the past while but all is settled now and the future looks good. Thank you all for your support! Mailman Rick.

NEXT ISSUE OF
THE BRUCE PENINSULA PRESS

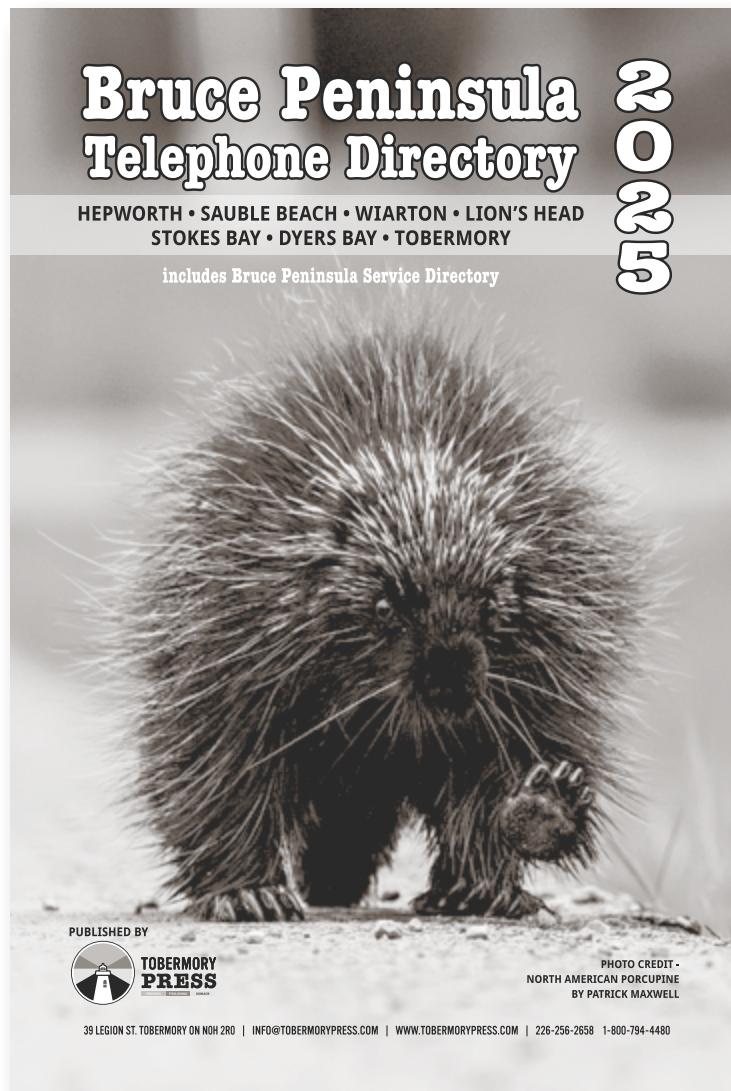
DEADLINE: January 28, 2026

PRINTS: February 3, 2026

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2025

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Christmas with Peninsula Musicians Raises \$1,075 for Golden Dawn Redevelopment Fund

Submitted by Rev. Sheryl Spencer

On December 18, Tobermory United Church hosted the third annual Christmas with Peninsula Musicians concert. The music was brilliant, and the vibe was warm and cozy. Many thanks to Brian Taylor, Arnie Crittenden, Dominik Franken, Dan Corcoran, Robert Franklin, Janet Whittington, Rod Layman and the Tobermory United Church Choir for their thoughtful and generous performances! A singalong and a time for catching up and refreshments capped the evening. Over 60 people attended, and over one thousand dollars was raised for the Golden Dawn Senior Citizens Home redevelopment fund.

On December 28, Tobermory United revealed the penultimate set of altar decorations that fabric artist Jo Lane is creating to celebrate all the liturgical seasons. The creation of these pieces of art comes as the result of a bequest left to the church by Jan McDonald, who passed away in 2023. This newest set of altar decorations (paraments) are for the seasons of Christmas and Easter and other significant holy days, and they feature the colour white. Jo explains her artistic choices: "I decided that a rolling, snow-covered landscape and a full moon would be a nice backdrop for the birch trees. The cardinal in the foreground of the pulpit banner pays homage to Jan, an artist herself, whose generous donation has made the seasonal paraments to the church possible. For the Communion table, the rolling, snow-covered hills continue toward spring. Hares have almost completely transformed from their winter white coat to brown, and the birch tree is now abundant with leaves. Hope, joy and giving." Tobermory United is humbled and honoured to have connected Jan's gift with Jo Lane's skills and to be able to display such works of art in our sanctuary.

In early December, the boiler that has confidently provided heat to Tobermory United since the church was built in 2004 breathed its last, but thankfully, it was able to be replaced in quick order! The boiler replacement, however, was not in the budget, so a funding appeal was launched with hopes of offsetting the withdrawal of funds from church reserves. We are gob-smacked with gratitude. In less than three weeks, the total cost of the boiler replacement has been received. To everyone who donated to this cause, we are so very grateful. That our reserves can stay intact is an amazing gift.

Coffee chats continue every Friday morning at Tobermory United from 9:30 until noon. Drop by. The conversation's always interesting! Please note, however, that there will be no coffee chats Jan. 30 or Feb. 6.

Rev. Dr. Sheryl Spencer is the minister at Tobermory United.



Photo credit: Heike Domke-Talbot
Photo: New altar decorations created by Jo Lane for Tobermory United Church depict winter turning into spring.



Photo: The Tobermory United Church Choir performs at Christmas with Peninsula Musicians on December 18 at Tobermory United Church.

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Saturday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm | Sunday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Visit Wilson Home Building centre for all your building and home design needs.



\$1 Turns Into \$100,000: South Bruce Peninsula Resident Celebrates \$100,000 ENCORE Win

Media Release

December 17, 2025, TORONTO, ON – Saying "yes" to ENCORE paid off for Dawn Myles of South Bruce Peninsula. She matched the last six of seven ENCORE numbers in exact order in the November 22, 2025 LOTTO 6/49 draw to win \$100,000!

Dawn, a retiree, said she's been playing the lottery on and off since the '80s and always says yes to ENCORE.

"I checked my ticket using the ticket checker at the grocery store and thought the machine wasn't working properly," she recalled while at the OLG Prize Centre in Toronto to collect her winnings. "I put the ticket back in my pocket, went out to the car, and told my grandson, 'I think I just won a lot of money.' He replied, 'Yeah, right!' I went to another store to double-check my ticket, and the screen still said, 'Big Winner.' Even now, it still doesn't feel real!"

Dawn went home to share the great news with her husband and her other grandson, who was thrilled. "My grandson asked, 'How many PlayStations is that?' she laughed.



Photo: Dawn Myles of South Bruce Peninsula.

With her windfall, Dawn plans to purchase a new vehicle, pay some bills, and enjoy a memorable holiday season.

ENCORE offers 22 ways to win and can be played in conjunction with most lottery games for an extra \$1. There are two ENCORE draws every day.

The winning ticket was purchased at Lloyd's Smoke Shop on Berford Street in Wiarton.

24 Hr Service



Main: 519-377-9014
3766 Highway 6
Office: 519-793-4793 (8am-5pm)
rydallcontracting@gmail.com

- Towing Service
- Recovery Service
- Roadside Assistance
- Jumpstart
- Fuel Delivery
- Lockout
- Tire Changes
- Float Service

2026 Free Skates Lion's Head Arena



- **Saturday January 24th : 6-9:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Scott's Home Hardware
- **P.A. Day - Friday January 30th : 1-3:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Patti West Cleaning Services
- **Saturday January 31st : 6-9:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Hellyer's Foodland
- **Saturday February 7th : 6-9:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Wilson Home Building Centre
- **Saturday February 14th : 6-9:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Rachel's Restaurant
- **Family Day - Monday February 16th : 2-4:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Collins Excavating
- **Saturday February 28th : 6-9:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Bear Tracks Restaurant
- **Saturday March 7th : 6-9:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Bear Tracks Restaurant
- **Monday March 16th : 2-4:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by The Tobermory Trading Post
- **Tuesday March 17th : 2-4:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Bear Cubs Diner
- **Wednesday March 18th : 2-4:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Peacock's Foodland
- **Thursday March 19th : 2-4:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Blue Heron Company
- **Friday March 20th : 2-4:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Peninsula Family Health Team
- **Saturday March 21st : 6-9:00 p.m.**
Sponsored by Hofstrand Contracting

For a schedule of Municipal ice programs, free skates and cancellations please contact Bob at 519-596-1226 or bhofstrand@northernbruce.ca



MUNICIPALITY OF NORTHERN BRUCE PENINSULA

PUBLIC NOTICES

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
56 Lindsay Road 5, Lion's Head
Ontario N0H 1W0
Telephone: 1-833-793-3537
Fax: 519-793-3823
Website: www.northbrucepeninsula.ca

UPCOMING MEETINGS

All noted meetings are held at the Municipal Office unless otherwise indicated below.

Monday January 12, 2026	1:00 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Monday January 26, 2026	9:00 a.m.	Special Council Meeting - Draft Budget - Capital Projects for 2026
Monday January 26, 2026	1:00 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Monday February 9, 2026	9:00 a.m.	Special Council Meeting - Draft Operating Budget 2026
Monday February 9, 2026	1:00 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting



Events Calendar

LANDFILL SITES HOURS OF OPERATION NOVEMBER 1ST 2025 TO MARCH 31ST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Eastnor 10-4	Eastnor 10-4	St. Edmunds 10-4	St. Edmunds 10-4	Lindsay 10-4	Lindsay 10-4	Lindsay 10-4

Christmas Tree Disposal:

Christmas trees are accepted at landfill locations during regular hours.

Please remove all decorations before dropping off.

Eastnor Site - 1252 West Road | Lindsay Site - 627 Ira Lake Road | St. Edmunds - 71 McArthur Road

To ensure your materials are collected, please have them curbside no later than 8:00 a.m. on Mondays. All issues with curbside waste and recycling collection, are to be directed to the contractor at 1-888-730-3344 extension 1.

MUNICIPAL ACCOMMODATION TAX CHANGES

There are important updates to the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT), effective January 1, 2025. This change introduces an expanded scope of the MAT to include hotels, motels, and bed and breakfast establishments.

Key Details:

- **Effective Date:** January 1, 2025
- **Who is Affected:** All accommodation providers, including hotels, motels, bed & breakfasts
- **Purpose of the Change:**

This expansion is part of our commitment to supporting the Chamber of Commerce in enhancing tourism services and infrastructure development through a fair and inclusive approach.

How to Prepare for the New MAT Regulations:

1. Stay Informed:

Visit our website at www.northernbrucepeninsula.ca for comprehensive information about the MAT expansion and how it may impact your business operations.

2. Ensure Compliance:

Review and update your booking systems, accounting practices, and related processes to incorporate the new tax requirements by the effective date.

3. Communicate Proactively:

Notify your staff and inform guests about the new MAT to prevent confusion during check-in or check-out. We are committed to supporting accommodation operators through this transition and minimizing any potential disruptions. For additional information and ongoing updates, please refer to our website or contact us directly. Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to strengthen our tourism sector.

MUNICIPAL ACCOMMODATION TAX (MAT) PAYMENT SITE

The Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) remittance due dates are as follows:

- Q4 (October – December) is due on or before January 31, 2026

To remit payment visit the municipal website or scan here to be directed to the page.

The Municipality has no agreements with 3rd party companies like VRBO, Airbnb, etc., and they are not collecting MAT on behalf of the Municipality.



SCAN HERE

SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION LICENCING PROGRAM

For information on how to register your Short-Term Accommodation, please visit [https://northbrucepeninsula.ca/sta/](http://www.northbrucepeninsula.ca/sta/)

If you wish to report a concern regarding a Short-term Accommodation property, please call (1) 855-331-0489.

Any person who obtains a licence shall comply with the regulations set out in the Municipality's STA Licence By-law.

AFTER-HOURS TELEPHONE NUMBERS

If you require immediate assistance with a municipal water or sewer emergency, please call (519) 372-3034.

For a municipal road hazard, by-law or livestock claim emergency, please call 1-866-750-8219.

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

Municipal law enforcement is provided by the By-law Enforcement Department. The goal is to serve, protect, and provide a desired quality of life for residents and visitors of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula. By-law Enforcement is committed to raising awareness of community standards and enforcing the Municipality's by-laws using a timely, professional and unbiased approach.

By-law Enforcement complaints can be submitted 24/7 through the three following methods:

1. Online By-law Complaint Form by visiting our website at www.northbrucepeninsula.ca/government/by-law-enforcement/

2. Phone: 1-833-793-3537 Ext. 235

3. After Hours Emergency/Animal Control: 1-866-750-8219

WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS

From November 1 of any year to April 30 of the following year between 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., parking is prohibited on any highway including a boulevard that will interfere with the removal of snow from any road or sidewalk in the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula.

MONTHLY COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTER

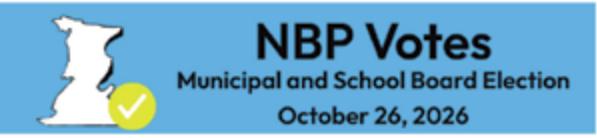
Our E-newsletters will be sent out on the first business day of each month, filled with upcoming events, cool activities, important announcements, and so much more. You don't want to miss out! Now, you might be wondering, how can I be part of this fabulous E-newsletter club?

Just head on over to our website at www.northbrucepeninsula.ca/newsletter It's that simple! Say goodbye to FOMO because you'll be the first to know about all the fantastic things happening in our community.



Sign-up for our E-Newsletter

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN OCTOBER OF 2026



Are you registered to vote in the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election?

It's not too early to check!



RegisterToVoteON.ca
1.866.242.3025



OPEN AIR BURNING AND FIREWORKS PERMITS

Burn Cautious, Burn Safe, Stay Tuned!

Open Air Burning Permits are required for all outdoor fires within the Municipality, as per the Open Air Burning By-law. When you have a fire, exercise extreme caution and always have water nearby.

Fireworks are not permitted within the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula without a valid Fireworks Permit.

Please refer to the Open Air Burning By-law, and the Fireworks By-law, for more details available on our website. Open air burning and fireworks permits are free of charge within the Municipality.

For further information please contact the Fire Department at 1-833-793-3537 X 347.

ONTARIO FIRE CODE CHANGES – EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

New requirements for all homes with fuel-burning appliances, attached garages, fire places or heated by a fuel-burning appliance not located in your home:

- CO alarms must be installed beside all sleeping areas,
- New: CO alarms are now required on every story of the home as well

These updates help provide earlier warning and better protection from carbon monoxide.

Install and test your CO alarms to keep your household safe.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2022-2026

Mayor Milt McIver:
mayor@northernbruce.ca

Deputy Mayor Rod Anderson:
deputymayoranderson@northernbruce.ca – (519) 373-2601

Councillor Todd Dowd:
councillordowd@northernbruce.ca

Councillor Laurie (Smokey) Golden:
councillorgolden@northernbruce.ca – (519) 596-2614

Councillor Aman Sohrab:
councillorsohrab@northernbruce.ca – (647) 890-0632

Municipal Website:
www.northbrucepeninsula.ca

Rotary Club of Northern Bruce Peninsula 2025 Year in Review

Submitted by Rob Hiscott

It was a busy 2025 for your local Rotary Club as we hosted four community Pancake Breakfasts, (serving over 900 breakfasts during holiday weekends from May to September), hosted and tended 26 different bars in 2025 (for a wide range of events at Rotary Hall, Lion's Head Arena and Tobermory Community Centre), sponsored three fun Trivia Night events at Rotary Hall (hosted by Caeli Mazara and Eric Perez), held a very popular and successful third annual Oktoberfest celebration at Rotary Hall, hosted six casual Sunday Coffee Socials at Rotary Hall (with occasional pop-up sales during the events), and sponsored the annual Lion's Head Santa Claus Parade (with many children, parents and relatives visiting Santa at United Church Hall after the Parade).

Rotarians also participated in the Ontario 'Adopt a Highway' program in 2025, helping with trash pick-up (along a four-kilometre stretch of Bruce County Road 9 between Lion's Head and Barrow Bay), to help keep Northern Bruce clean!

Rotary awarded five Scholarships (valued at \$7,500 in total) in 2025 to graduating students of Bruce Peninsula District High School to help support their pursuit of post-secondary education goals. For over 50 years, your local Rotary Club has maintained a tradition of awarding scholarships to graduating students of Bruce Peninsula District High School!

Rotary supported Golden Dawn Seniors Home by purchasing hanging baskets of flowers (to place outside in the patio and walkway areas of the facility), and hosted a birthday celebration for residents celebrating birthdays in the month of November.

We partnered with Christ Church Anglican to host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Rotary Hall (with proceeds going to Lion's Head and District Food Bank).

Your local Rotary Club also made donations to the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association, Bruce Peninsula Hospice, Lion's Head and District and Tobermory Food Banks in 2025. Beyond these donations, Rotarians volunteered 225 hours of their time towards the stair re-construction project at Rotary Hall, and purchased the paint to finish the project. We also helped sponsor the water collection/reclamation project in Guatemala and made a donation to Rotary District 6330 'Hand Up' Project in support of global initiatives, focused on funding and implementing sustainable development projects like clean water, maternal health, and education in developing countries.

For more details and photos on all of Rotary's events and activities in 2025, you can check out the review on our Club website at <https://www.rotarynbp.org/stories/rotary-in-review-2025>

As always, our success as a service club is in large measure due to the wonderful support and generosity of the Northern Bruce community, and we are deeply appreciative of this! By participating in our Club activities, sponsoring with generous financial support, and volunteering time and effort towards Rotary events and causes, the Northern Bruce community helps our small club succeed – Thank you for all your help! We wish everyone all the best in 2026!

Sunday Coffee Socials Begin at Rotary Hall

Beginning this past January 11th and continuing each Sunday throughout January and February, your local Rotary Club is hosting Coffee Socials at Rotary

Hall from 10 AM to 2 PM each Sunday. Everyone is welcome to come join us for conversation over hot beverages (coffee, tea, hot chocolate) and light snacks – we hope to see you there!

We're entering our third winter season of hosting Sunday Coffee Socials at Rotary Hall, and we're hoping to experiment further with combining these events with pop-up sales for local merchants, providing visitors a chance to do some shopping while socializing at Rotary Hall! If you or your business would be interested in holding a pop-up sale at any of our scheduled Sunday Coffee Socials, please talk to any Rotarian, or contact our Club via e-mail at nbprotary@gmail.com

Fun New Year's Eve Open House at Rotary Hall

Despite the snowy wintery weather New Year's Eve in Lion's Head, 19 people made it out to attend our Open House hosted by Rotarians at Rotary Hall! There was pizza, snacks and beverages and those who came out had an enjoyable, fun evening leading up to the New Year! This is our second annual New Year's Eve Open House at Rotary Hall, a casual gathering of Rotarians, friends and neighbours! This is our second year holding this event, and we hope to continue this tradition!



Photos: Rotary in action in 2025! Top left: Community Pancake Breakfast at Rotary Pavilion, August 3rd; Top right: Rotarians Sue Kolundzic, Cathryn Buckley and Denise Blay tending bar for SWANS annual fashion show at Lion's Head Arena, May 8th; Bottom left: Santa all set for the Lion's Head Santa Claus Parade sponsored by Rotary, December 6th; Bottom right: beer stein hold contest (ladies competition) at Oktoberfest, September 28th. Rotarians look forward to continuing to serve the Northern Bruce community in 2026!



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