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**Briefly**

**Breakfast fundraiser**

**WILLIAMSBURG** – IOOF breakfast at IOOF Hall in Williamsburg on April 15 from 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. This is a fundraiser for the IOOF Lodge in Williamsburg. \$12 for adults, children under 12 will pay their age.

**Volunteer and Donor Appreciation Service**

**CHESTERVILLE** – Christ Church United is holding a special volunteers and donor appreciation service for its church members on April 16 at 10:30 a.m. Participants are invited to put their handprint on the church's Tree of Helping Hands.

**Lions pasta night**

**IROQUOIS** – The Iroquois Matilda Lions Club Student Lions Pasta Night will be on Sun., April 23, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Iroquois Legion Branch 370. There will be a variety of pastas on hand, as well as a dinner roll and dessert. Proceeds of the dinner will be going to the SDHS Prom Committee and Dundas County Food Share. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Mustards Variety, River Rat Treasures and from Lions Club members.

**Boys and Girls Club fundraiser**

**CHESTERVILLE** – The Chesterville Bowling Alley is hosting a fundraiser bowl-a-thon for the Cornwall SD&G on April 29. For more information go to [www.bgccornwallsdg.com](http://www.bgccornwallsdg.com) or call 613-935-9015.

# THE RECORD

SERVING STORMONT, DUNDAS AND RUSSELL COUNTIES

PM40050631R8905 **Volume 129, Number 40 Chesterville, Ontario Thursday, April 13, 2023 Single Copy \$1.00 (HST included)**



**Beauty amongst the storm**

The ice storm of 2023, as destructive as it was, left many beautiful images in its way. The any people left without power and internet for multiple days, will be a moment in time that will not be forgotten. These trees that had been used to shelter animals for many years, are now nothing but a memory. **See page 6 for more photos.**

Vogel Photo

## Ice Storm 2023 overview

**Terry Tinkess**  
Record Staff

SD&G – It brought freezing rain, thunder, lightning, and fog, and while it didn't last nearly as long, the significant weather event which blanketed portions of Eastern Ontario and Quebec with a coating of ice on April 5 brought back memories of the Ice Storm of 1998 for many residents.

Last Wednesday's storm, which saw an accretion of between 10 and 15 mm of ice on branches and powerlines, resulted in more than 1 million customers being without power for prolonged periods of time.

In Eastern Ontario, Hydro One reported that they had restored power to more than 112,000 homes by midnight on April 5, adding that others in areas such as Vankleek Hill, Winchester and parts of South Stormont would be without

**Continued on page 3**

## North Dundas hiring part-time fire chief

**Joseph Morin**  
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – North Dundas is looking for a part-time fire chief.

The April 4 North Dundas council meeting featured the recommendation that the current administrative structure of the North Dundas Fire Services be scrapped in favour of a new one led by a single fire chief.

The new fire services' configuration would see the fire liaison and fire commissioner positions eliminated, as well as the municipality's Fire Steering Committee, and renaming the existing fire chiefs as station chiefs.

The council agreed to the change.

North Dundas Mayor Tony Fraser who has served his community as a firefighter said, "I was a member of the Fire Steering

Committee for a number of years, and I was a proud supporter of our Fire Steering Committee, and it worked well."

He remembered the early days of amalgamation when the municipality had to find a way to amalgamate the four fire stations, that prior to amalgamation had operated separately.

"We did it right, and the steering committee has carried us in a positive fashion through the pandemic and to this point. That is two decades of good direction from the steering committee."

Fraser acknowledged that the pressures on the municipality and consequently on the fire services have changed. He cited as an example the challenges of insurance coverage for the municipality, and how those challenges will have to be met.

**Continued on page 3**



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# National Volunteer Week

## How volunteering can benefit your career

**N**ational Volunteer Week (NVW) is an annual celebration highlighting the invaluable contributions of the over 12 million volunteers in Canada. In 2023, NVW takes place from April 16 to 22. On top of the social benefits of volunteering, here are three ways that giving back to your community can boost career prospects.

### 1. Develop your skills.

Volunteering for a cause related to your current or future career can help you expand your

existing skillset and gain valuable real-world experience. After all, you're still working, but instead of getting paid, you're donating your time to your community.

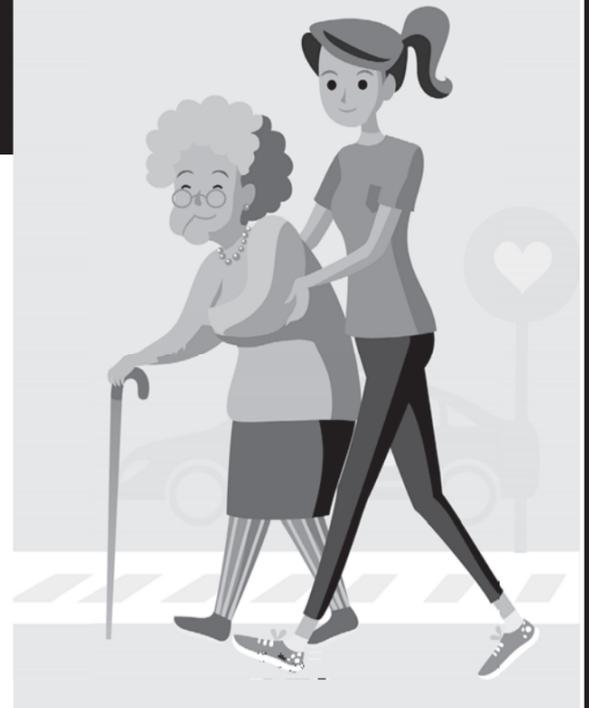
**2. Expand your network.** Meeting new people through volunteering opens new doors to future paid opportunities. A strong network is essential to advancing your career. Never miss a chance to make yours bigger!

**3. Build references.** Professional references can be hard to come by, especially if you haven't

worked several jobs. However, they're crucial for scoring a well-paying gig. Fortunately, you can ask the people you volunteer with, especially supervisors, to vouch for your employability and work ethic.

Finally, volunteering shows potential employers that you're a well-rounded person who cares about your community. If you're ready to become part of Canada's extensive volunteer community, inquire about exciting opportunities in your area.

April 16-22, 2023



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## Ice Storm

**Continued from the front**  
power at least overnight. Within 24 hours they had restored power to 238,000 customers, while 93,000 remained in the dark. That number was further reduced to 46,000 by April 7, thanks to the assistance of contractors and other local electricity distribution companies who were able to send equipment and technicians into the area.

In addition to the loss of power, many mature trees suffered substantial damage with the added weight of the coating of ice causing branches and entire trees to snap or become uprooted. This resulted in local fire departments being called-out to assist in clearing roadways and putting out small fires.

To provide support to residents without power, the lobby of the arena in Finch was opened as a warming centre. In Long Sault, the township of South Stormont posted on social media that the arena would be made available all-day Friday for warming, charging phones, electronic devices and for showers.

Sadly, one death was attributed to the storm. A 59-year-old man was struck by a falling branch on his property located northeast of St. Andrews West.

By noon on April 10, only 216 customers across all Eastern Ontario remained without power, and efforts were continuing to see them restored. While in most cases roadways had been cleared of fallen trees and branches, it will be some time before all the debris is removed.

## Fire chief

**Continued from the front**

Fraser believes the decision to hire a part-time fire chief and make the subsequent changes to the municipal fire services is all part of the evolution of the fire services.

He said, "I'm sure there will be people concerned, and upset, and I know there will be people that have been anticipating this move and there were some people who would be celebrating the move."

Currently there is a fire chief and deputy chief for each of the four North Dundas Fire Stations. There are eight individuals on the Fire Steering Committee. The steering committee completes the fire services' draft budget and makes recommendations to council. The fire liaison is the staff link for communications between the CAO and the Fire Department and the fire commissioner is the link between council and the fire department.



## North Dundas

A report about the change stated: "No individual has overall authority for the fire department, to ensure that policies and procedures are consistent between stations and that communication flows appropriately throughout the fire department. This has resulted in inconsistencies between stations and highlighted the need for improved communication between the Municipal Administration Department and the fire department." In late 2022, an organizational

review for North Dundas suggested the changes that the council adopted at the meeting.

During the review councillors, and a cross section of municipal staff were consulted along with fire services' staff.

An online survey was sent to all fire chiefs and deputy chiefs.

North Dundas will be the last township in the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry to have either a full-time or part-time fire chief.

For more information about the part-time fire chief position go to the North Dundas website and then go to career opportunities in the menu.



### Off and running at the car rally

The Chesterville Lions Club hosted their 32nd annual car rally out of the Chesterville Legion Branch 434 on Sat., April 1. There was a healthy turnout for the spring event. In this photo Dom and Barb Menard register their car for the rally. Seated and taking their information left to right are, Lions Club member Debra Kelly and volunteer Stacy Craig.

Morin Photo

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- 4

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# EDITORIAL & Opinion

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## So there we all were

Putting away winter boots, pushing the snow blower to the back of the garage and thanking it for starting every time you needed it all winter long. The timing of spring was perfect. There was only a little bit of gas left in the snow blower's gas tank, so you get credit for a perfectly timed winter snow-blowing season.

Next was getting used to wearing a lighter jacket and getting used to not having all those extra pockets to store everything from a hat and gloves to tissues.

While spring slowly made its way to this part of the country, you were able to put your winter boots away for another summer. No more bending over and having that tube of high living around your waist, threatening to explode every time you had to bend over and put on your winter boots.

What a relief.

Then last week arrived. The ice storm must have been lost somewhere over the winter and just now remembered it was supposed to put in an appearance here.

Whoever is in charge of thunder and lightning, probably miffed about the ice storm showing up when it did, decided it would do its thing at the same time, just out of a sheer act of stubbornness.

My sump pump had been resting all winter so it was ready to spring into action when a weeks rain decided to find a way into my basement.

All in all, the past week was an odd way to celebrate the arrival of spring.

A week before I saw a Robin cavorting in a tree outside my house. It looked happy and partied as if it did not have a care in the world.

Then in a flash, it was slipping off branches and giving me the evil eye, as if I had had something to do with weird weather.

Even our resident squirrel that frequents the backyard had enough sense to call off its spring regime of getting ready for summer.

The last major ice storm kind of made sense as it happened in January. This latest one seemed to be Mother Nature having an afterthought.

Well, it was a surprise for sure, and after it was over and done with, everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

I for one found a very thin silver lining in the unexpected bad weather.

I was given the opportunity to use my often neglected drill when I had to reattach some eavesdropping that came out second best after a duel with tree branches. I also had the chance to get out my table saw to cut wood to replace the broken wood in my garden box. Who new that a ton of snow coupled with an ocean of rain then freezing ice would collapse my homemade garden box?

Don't forget the thrill of using my relatively new electric chainsaw to hack up all of the tree branches hanging over my roof.

I also get to experience the joy of putting up a new clothesline while battling my fear of heights especially on a wobbly ladder.

My windshield wipers made it through the winter, as did the plastic window coverings I put up in the fall. You know the kind you tape around the window and tighten up with a hair dryer.

Despite the cat sharpening his claws on the plastic, which kind of defeated the whole purpose of having it, the windows remained relatively free of chilling winter breezes and it will be part of my winter readiness kit in the fall.

As the week progresses and each day seems to be a little warmer than the last one, it will soon be easy to forget about the recent ice storm.

The only reminder will be the ginormous pile of broken branches piled in my back yard, waiting to be taken to the landfill site or to be the source of fuel for campfires for years to come.

Joseph Morin

## TAGWI Report

By Brooke Donnelly  
Student Reporter

### A week with the Warriors



Our already short week here at Tagwi Secondary School got cut even shorter by two inclement weather days in a row. However, in the two days we were at school, our Warriors were busy. Students attending the Global Student Leadership Summit in the coming weeks began selling 50/50 tickets. As well, sign-ups began for a mini volleyball tournament that will take place next week. Finally, our intermediate girls' basketball team played in the UC Cup meet on Tuesday.

Throughout the week, our Warriors attending the Global Student Leadership Summit sold 50/50 tickets to fundraise for their upcoming trip to London.

After two other successful mini-tournaments, students going to the Global Student Leadership Summit are organizing a mini coed volleyball tournament at lunch next week. Interested students are welcome to sign up outside of the main office, but teams will be chosen on a first-come-first-served basis, as they will only be accepting eight teams of six. The cost to play will be five dollars per player, and the winning team will play a team of teachers.

Finally, on Tuesday, our intermediate girls' basketball team took off for Perth District Collegiate Institute, where this year's UC Cup championship were set to take place. They played two games, one against Thousand Islands Secondary School, and the other against Carleton Place High School. Unfortunately, after two hard fought games, the girls ended the meet without a point.

As always, student council and the school community are hard at work planning for the upcoming weeks. To stay up to date on what's happening, we recommend you check out Tagwi's Instagram page (@tagwiwarriors) and our student council Instagram page (@warriors.student.council).

## Celebrating photography

Celebrated photographer Greg Heisler once stated that you should always be able to find something worth photographing within five feet of you if you take the time to look. While I agree with that philosophy, I also think that getting out of the area you are most familiar with can often be the best way to motivate, inspire and breathe fresh life into the images you create. As I tell my students, it is great to look, but it is much better to see.

Recently I was able to spend three days in New York city. It was the first time I had been back since pre-pandemic times and in the city that never sleeps, and where the only constant is change, four years is a lifetime. I knew that while there would be familiar areas, much of what I would see would be like a clean slate.

I wasn't disappointed. I covered a lot of ground in three days, some of it underground, but most of it on foot as I travelled around the multitude of neighbourhoods that combine to create The Big Apple. Chelsea, Times Square, Hell's Kitchen, NOHO, SOHO, The Bowery, The Lower East Side, Greenwich Village, The Financial District, each of these have their own character and each is worth the time to visit them. Each has landmarks for which they are known, but even more interesting are the shops, restaurants and the people who live there.

One of the things I like best about New York is how easily you can blend into the background. There are so many people coming and going and so many people with cameras, that if you find a comfortable spot, park yourself and within minutes it is almost as if you don't exist. You can shoot to your hearts content and receive little more than a passing glance. Just find a spot and let the world come to you.

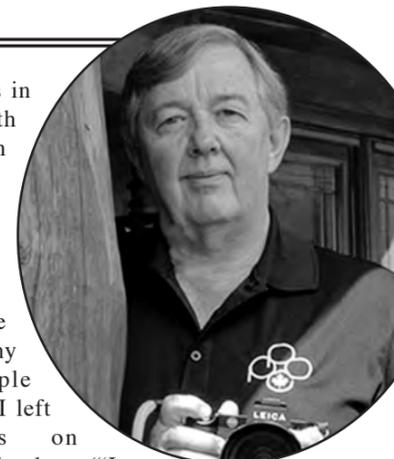
The highlight of my trip was the opportunity to interview internationally acclaimed photographer Jay Maisel in his new residence/studio in Brooklyn's Cobble Hill neighbourhood. Jay is probably the photographer who has influenced my work the most and to be able to spend

nearly two hours in conversation with him was a once in a lifetime opportunity. At 92, Jay is as sharp as he ever was, and has forgotten more about photography than most people will ever know. I left with insights on photography, technology ("I didn't care about it when I was shooting, so why would I care about it now?") and life (Do something with your life that you would never want to retire from).

A common misconception is that New York is this big, dangerous place filled with cold and disagreeable people, and that couldn't be farther from the truth. It is a big city, yes, but that city is a collection of small neighbourhoods comprised of interesting people just going about their lives. I found people to be warm and helpful, albeit usually in a hurry. One tip: treat the sidewalk like the highway, if you want to move slow, more to the side. If you stop in the middle of a sidewalk to gawk or make up your mind, you will get a reaction.

I came away from my adventure with a great interview, a couple thousand photos, sore legs, and the desire to return at the first opportunity. I'd love to be able to share the experience with anyone so inclined and maybe one day I'll be able to do just that.

Just a reminder: I welcome comments to anything I offer in this column. Feel free to contact me at ttinkessphotography@icloud.com. Your questions, comments and suggestions for future columns are welcome.



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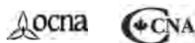
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# North Dundas Fire Services extends help to fire victims

**Joseph Morin**  
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – The North Dundas, April 4 council meeting featured a presentation by North Dundas Fire Service liaison, Ray Sherrer.

Sherrer announced a plan by the fire service to distribute a specially written booklet: “After the Fire – Your Next Steps” to victims of a fire, while at the scene of a fire.

Once a fire has been extinguished by firefighters, a homeowner has to deal with the aftermath of the fire, which can be a challenge to anyone, especially a homeowner who might be in shock.

The 25-page booklet will be carried with firefighters at the scene.

The introduction to the book states: “The Fire Prevention Committee is dedicated to providing assistance to those impacted by fire.

As part of their commitment to the residents in our region, the information booklet attached is intended as a guide for victims of fire. This document is provided as a tool to assist them in dealing with actions that may be required following a fire occurrence.

Recovering from a fire can be a challenging process for those impacted. Often, the hardest part is knowing the initial steps to



The booklet, “After the Fire-Your Next Steps” is a fire services’ booklet carried by firefighters for victims of a fire.

Courtesy Photo

take, and who to contact throughout the early recovery period. This guide was designed to assist victims dealing with some of the common issues they may encounter immediately after a fire.

This document has been prepared using information provided by the South Stormont Fire Service.”

The booklet covers topics such as: The First 24 Hours, which takes a look at

eyeglasses, clothing and other essential items.

The booklet answers many questions about how firefighters put out the fire and why they may have had to break windows or make holes in the roof.

The booklet also looks at what you have to be aware of, if it turns out you cannot go back into your home. You should be looking for any documents you might need later on and locate as many valuables as possible.

You should contact your insurance company as soon as possible and there are tips on how to cope with emotional reaction to the fire.

Other important and timely topics include salvage and restoration tips, creating a contact list, fire safety information, what to do about your utilities, looking after your pets and where to go if you cannot return to your home.

The booklet also includes fire safety information and emergency numbers and smoke alarms.

## Hopping down the bunny trail ...

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

FINCH – There was a fantastic turnout for the Easter Breakfast Buffet hosted by Finch Legion Heather Branch 357 on Sat., April 1. In addition to enjoying a hearty breakfast of eggs, ham, bacon, sausages, potatoes, baked beans and all the fixings, people were able to purchase a treat from an overflowing bake table as well as enjoy socializing with friends and neighbours or visit with a real bunny.

There were two free draws for young people with youngsters between the ages of five to 12, able to win a surprise Easter Basket and those four and under an Easter Bunny Pail with treats.



The Easter Bunny visited with Ernie Coumont as he entered names into draws for young people during the Easter Breakfast Buffet held on April 1 at the Legion in Finch. Thompson Goddard Photo

## - OBITUARY - George Morrow



Passed away peacefully at the Ottawa Civic Hospital on Thursday, April 6, 2023, George Morrow, formerly of Winchester, age 78. Beloved husband of the late Linda Morrow (nee McLatchie) for 43 years. Dear brother of Helen McConnell of Ottawa, Harold Morrow (Marion) of Morrisburg and Betty Hutchins (Ernie) of South Colton, U.S.A. Dear brother-in-law of Ethel Morrow of Rockcliffe, Phyllis Morrow of Ingleside and Gertrude Morrow of Richmond. He was predeceased by his parents William and Myrtle Morrow (nee Cross), his infant sister Mabel Jean Morrow and his brothers Raymond, Gordon and Lloyd Morrow. He will be lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews. A private family graveside service will be held at Maple Ridge Cemetery at a later date. Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be gratefully acknowledged by the family. If you are making your donation online or by cheque directly to the charity, please include the following note with your gift “please notify the family”. Online condolences may be made at [marsdenclaughlin.com](http://marsdenclaughlin.com).

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Contact: Tel: 613-346-1648 Email: [revlgaudet@gmail.com](mailto:revlgaudet@gmail.com)

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023** – Worship at St. James United Church, Avonmore at 9:15 a.m. and at 11 a.m. in Chalmers United Church, Finch.

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**ST. LUKE'S-KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Finch)**  
**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Avonmore)**  
**ST. JAMES-ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Gravel Hill)**

INTERIM MODERATOR: Rev. Geoff Howard  
Email: [g.l.howard@sympatico.ca](mailto:g.l.howard@sympatico.ca) Phone: 613-652-6215  
[www.avonmorefinch-presbyterian.ca](http://www.avonmorefinch-presbyterian.ca)

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023** – Finch 9:30 a.m.; Avonmore 11 a.m.; Guest: Ruth Speer.

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**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - Morewood**

**ST. ANDREW'S - Chesterville ST. PAUL'S - Winchester**

Interim Moderator Rev. Samer Kandalaft 613-258-4136  
Service Times: St. Andrews Chesterville at 9 a.m.,  
St. Paul's Winchester at 10 a.m., and Morewood Presbyterian Church at 11:15 a.m.  
*St. Andrew's, Chesterville and Morewood Presbyterian churches have reopened for in-person services.*

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**NATION'S PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**

Pastor Scott Sayers  
E-mail: [Pastor.Scott@mail.com](mailto:Pastor.Scott@mail.com) Office: 613-448-2272

**Please join us for Sunday Services at 10:30 a.m. at the Nelson LaPrade Centre, 9 William St.**

Services also online on Facebook under “The Nation” National Pentecostal Church.  
*Affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada*

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Daniel Wallace

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**Wednesdays at 7 p.m. - Prayer Meeting**

We are open and invite you to join us for services! We are continuing to live stream our Sunday morning services at Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPy\\_DABzZ4REc-A76-EvrA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPy_DABzZ4REc-A76-EvrA)  
*Sunday School Classes & Nursery have resumed.*

Please contact the church office for information on mid-week meetings or any other questions.

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**ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

139 Castor St., Russell, ON Parish Office: 613-445-3226  
Presiding: Rev. Anne Quick  
[infostmarysrussell@rogers.com](mailto:infostmarysrussell@rogers.com) Website: [www.stmarysrussell.ca](http://www.stmarysrussell.ca)

**We're back to two in-person services:**  
Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion) at 9 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. The second service is usually Zoomed – you can email the church on Saturday evening to get the Zoom link.  
*St. Mary's Church is engaged in actively sharing God's unconditional grace and love.*

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**WINCHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH**

486 Main St., Winchester  
Pastors Bud McKibbin and Mollie McKibbin

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**ST. MARY OF THE PRESENTATION CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Administration Priest: Fr. Cyril Duru  
Parish Secretary: Nancy Richer - 613-448-3262

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**ST. CLARE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF NORTH DUNDAS**

613-774-2236 [www.stclaresanglican.ca](http://www.stclaresanglican.ca) 2530 Falcone Lane, Winchester

**Sunday Service of Eucharist, 10 A.M.**

**Visit us online for Sunday Service at our links below.**  
On Facebook at The Anglican Parish of North Dundas at St. Clare's.  
On YouTube at St. Clare Anglican.

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**ST. ANDREW'S AND ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**

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Minister: Rev. Peter Dahlin, B.A., M.Div 613-443-7603 ([peterdahlin52@gmail.com](mailto:peterdahlin52@gmail.com))

**11 a.m. Sunday Worship**  
Nursery (parental supervision) is available.

### REFLECTIONS ON COMFORT & PEACE

**Rev. Melody Trolly**  
Inkerman Wesleyan Church

“He is risen! He is risen indeed!” On Easter Sunday, this is the greeting that rings around the world among followers of Jesus, The Messiah. His resurrection fills us with joy, hope, peace – definitely worth celebrating! We know from The Bible and from history that Jesus, The Son of God, actually became a man and lived on this earth. His sole purpose was to live out the love of Father God, break the power of darkness and make the only way possible for us to come back into relationship with Him. He knew He was coming to head, to that cross and never wavered from that purpose.

In 1 John 4:14, John assures us, “We have seen and testify that The Father has sent His Son to be The Saviour of the world.” Why? John 3: 16 gives us that answer: “God loved the world (us) so much that anyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” He wants us to know Him.

How could Jesus leave the splendour of Heaven, knowing that most people might follow for a while simply for the miracles? The same people yelling “Hosanna” would change their cries to “Crucify” because He didn’t meet their preconceived expectations of what a “Messiah” should look like. Pure Love was delivered up to horrific death by absolute evil, BUT Love won! “God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” (Romans 5: 8)

At His baptism, before He had even started His three years of sharing God’s message, Jesus heard The Father assure Him “You are My Son, Whom I love; with You I am well pleased.” (Luke 3: 22) God wants each one of us to be confident of this same truth. We have these promises.... “to as many as did receive Him, to those who put their trust in His person and power, He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12); “He lavishes His love on us” (1 John 3:1); “He takes great delight in us and rejoices over us with singing” (Zephaniah 3:17).

That initial ragtag group of disciples believed these truths and went out changing their world and ultimately ours. May we too be so confident of His love for us and our new life in Him that, wherever we go, we share this Good News.

# Ice Storm 2023

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – There was a fair bit of warning about the formation of a significant ice storm developing in Eastern Ontario last week, but the damage that was inflicted upon the trees and buildings in the local area was quite extensive. Many people were without power for days, with Hydro and clean up crews working throughout the long Easter weekend to remove downed trees and their branches as well as restoring electricity to customers.

On Saturday and Sunday, travelling on the highways and byways of Stormont and Dundas, there were still tree branches lying near the pavement, tree branches over power lines and large trees severely damaged due to the storm. Now and again, one would be passed by a Hydro crew and there were many instances where people were busy moving wood or working with chainsaws to turn the large branches into more manageable sizes.

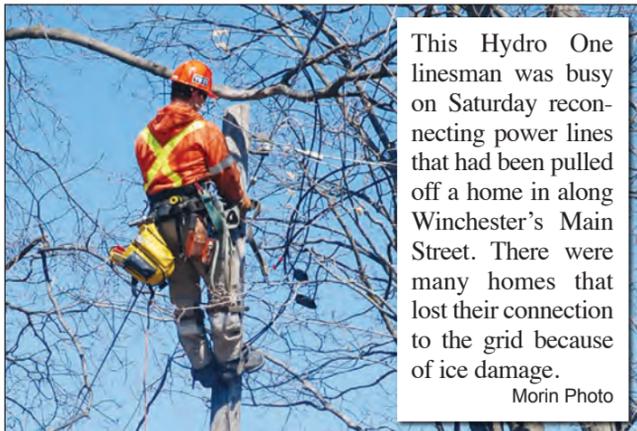
Sincere thanks are to be offered to the crews, to the neighbours who helped one another and to municipalities who opened warm up centres. It was a reminder how people come together to help one another.



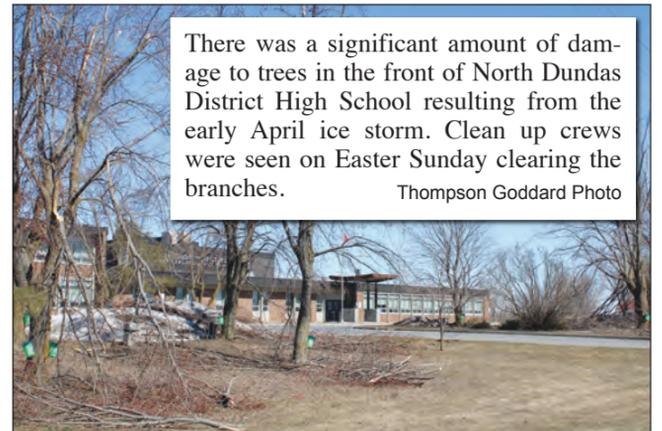
Vogel Photo



Vogel Photo



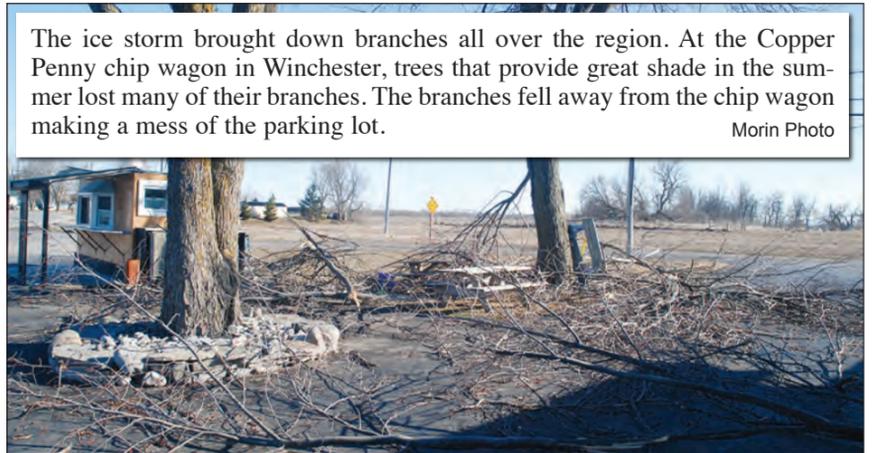
This Hydro One linesman was busy on Saturday reconnecting power lines that had been pulled off a home in along Winchester's Main Street. There were many homes that lost their connection to the grid because of ice damage.  
Morin Photo



There was a significant amount of damage to trees in the front of North Dundas District High School resulting from the early April ice storm. Clean up crews were seen on Easter Sunday clearing the branches.  
Thompson Goddard Photo



A tree lays over a power line on County Road 43 between Avonmore and Highway 31 on Sat., April 8 a few days after the ice storm. Thompson Goddard Photo



The ice storm brought down branches all over the region. At the Copper Penny chip wagon in Winchester, trees that provide great shade in the summer lost many of their branches. The branches fell away from the chip wagon making a mess of the parking lot.  
Morin Photo

## New communications director for South Dundas

**Terry Tinkess**  
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – The Municipality of South Dundas has welcomed Shawna O'Neill as their new communications coordinator.

O'Neill was previously a local journalist with several years' experience and has reported on numerous topics while covering Cornwall, SDG and Akwesasne.

"We are super excited to fill another one of our roles with Shawna," said Mayor Jason Broad. "Her

experience in her previous role will serve council and our community well.

"The communications coordinator position is a very important piece this council wanted to expand on, and we know Shawna has the capabilities to do an excellent job. Please welcome her to South Dundas and to our great team."

O'Neill's work has been published in publications across Canada, including the *Cornwall Standard-Freeholder*, the *Cornwall Seaway News*, *Perch*

*Magazine*, *The Whistler Question*, and more.

In 2022, she was the recipient of the Hon. Edward Goff Penny Memorial Prize for young Canadian journalists in the small market category.

"I am so thrilled to be joining Team South Dundas," said O'Neill. "I am looking forward to working with residents, staff, and council to share important information about the community."



Local journalist Shawna O'Neill has joined the Municipality of South Dundas as their communications coordinator.  
Courtesy Photo

**Messy Church Family Fun Event**  
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For additional info contact: The Township at 613-774-2185  
[northdundas.com/expo](http://northdundas.com/expo)

# Easter celebrations across our area



The Monkland & District Community Centre (MDCC) was alive with the excitement of all things Easter. As the event ended, the Easter Bunny takes a moment to have a bit of fun with The White Rabbit (featured in the children's classic *Alice in Wonderland*).  
Thompson Goddard Photo



Cross-Barkley thanked all the participants before wishing everyone a Happy Easter. From the left: Jake Guy, Luke Guy and Isaac Bradley drew the winning tickets and are shown with the prizes which will be provided to the winners.  
Thompson Goddard Photo



After enjoying hunting for Easter eggs, Maxwell, Morrison, Baby Merritt, and May-Lee Hodge enjoyed having their photo taken with the Easter Bunny.  
Thompson Goddard Photo



While parents visited, children were excited to visit with the Easter Bunny that welcomed everyone who dropped in to say 'hi'.  
Thompson Goddard Photo

## Ready...set...show! Dairy 4-H workshop

**Terry Tinkess**  
Record Staff

WINCHESTER—Hugh Fawcett Auctions, located at 627 St. Lawrence St. in Winchester was the site of a 4-H Dairy workshop on Sat., April 8. The event was coordinated and organized by Kelly Fawcett-Mathers.

To say the event was a success would be an understatement, there were 180 young people registered plus leaders for a grand total of 230! "It's overwhelming," said Fawcett-Mathers, "When I first wanted to put on this workshop, I thought we might get 80 kids. I was completely shocked, to be honest, when we had 180 kids sign up."

"This is my first time running this event," added Fawcett-Mathers, "Whenever we ran the calf sale, there were some people who did put on a workshop, but it's been many years since that happened. We had a good turnout back then and I thought post-Covid would be a nice way to bring the community together to kick-off the 4-H year and give kids a fun place to learn and network and socialize before we get rolling this season."

The day was scheduled to run from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., with the attendees broken into four groups, which would rotate through four different sessions, two in the morning and two after lunch.

Adam Hunt would be making a presentation on selection/judging, Erica Enright would be speaking about heifer care and marketing, Mike Black and Sheldon Shane would talk about and demonstrate clipping, while Jon Rylaarsdam and Clarissa McCallum would

lead a presentation on showmanship.

Judging by the turnout, 4-H is in good health in this area. "It is," said Fawcett-Mathers, "And I think it's going to rebuild a bit coming out of Covid. I'm noticing that there are more and more kids wanting to sign up and it seems that with the turnout today there's lots of keen kids ready to go this year."

A common misconception exists that young people involved in 4-H only come from farm families, and that isn't always the case. "There's lots of kids in 4-H, in the livestock component that have a passion for showing," says Fawcett-Mathers. "They might not be from a farm, but they are involved in showing a calf, and I think it's great, and so appreciated of any farms that are supplying calves and bring kids in and show them agriculture, so they can go out and be advocates for the industry, maybe not actively farming, but they might work in the sector in some regard."

With show season just around the corner, a workshop like this has great value for everyone who attends, from the newest member to the more experienced. "Pretty much everything you need to know about showing a calf, you're going to learn today," said Fawcett-Mathers. "This workshop is packed with all that information, so I think it's going to be a great way for kids to learn some information early in the season or maybe get some little tips that they hadn't considered before, if they are more tenured and senior members."

"You can always learn something, especially from some of these pros that we have here today."



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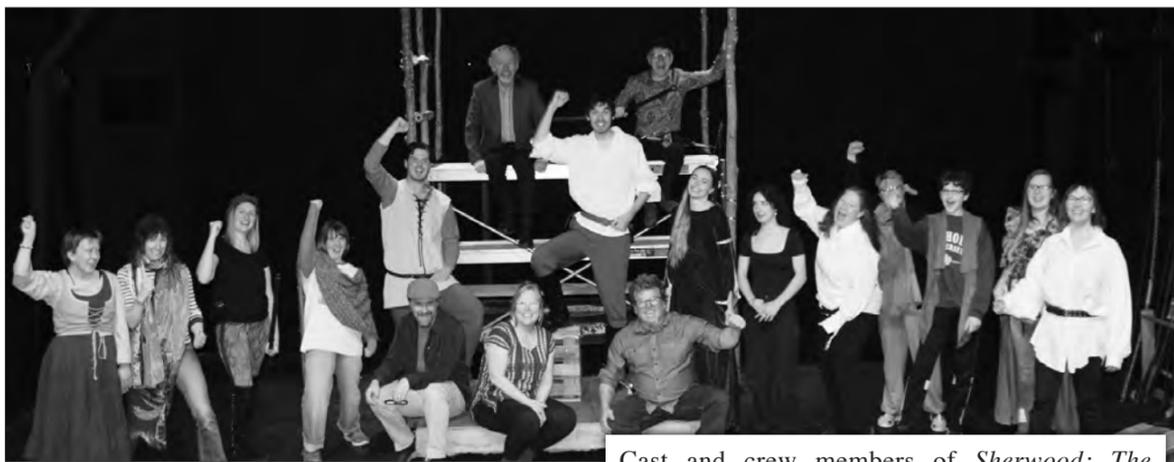
## Bringing a folk tale to life

Carolyn Thompson Goddard  
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – A favourite folk tale for many people regardless of age is Robin Hood, who has numerous adventures in Sherwood Forest while leading a band of fun loving “outlaws” who rob from the rich to give to the poor in merry old England.

The spring production of Dundas County Players (DCP) brings the story to life in *Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood*, written by playwright Ken Ludwig. Directed by Amanda Burger and Sandra McNeil, performances are scheduled for April 28, 29, May 5, 6 with the curtain rising at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees will be on April 30 and May 7 beginning at 2 p.m.

“DCP chose the play because it is a rousing good jaunt with many roles, and we know our audience loves a fun



Cast and crew members of *Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood* are seen during a break in an afternoon rehearsal. Thompson Goddard Photo

## “Drop Dead” in Morrisburg the latest Lions’ production

Joseph Morin  
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – The Iroquois Matilda Lions Club is at it again.

The club continues its tradition of fine, and fun theatrical performances with this year’s offering, a production called “Drop Dead”.

The Lions Club’s show dates are Thurs., April 27 at 7:30 p.m. Fri., April 28 at 7:30 p.m., and Sat., April 28 a 2 p.m. matinee, and 7:30 p.m. finale, at the Upper Canada Playhouse. All show prices are \$30 HST included, and there is general admission only.

Tickets are available at Scotiabank Morrisburg, Upper Canada Playhouse, Mustard’s Variety Iroquois, and members of the Iroquois Matilda Lions Club.

As usual the club has come together to put on the popular community performance.

This is a total club effort with club members, selling tickets, working backstage, on make-up, and costumes, and set construction and painting.



Sitting on the arm of the couch Jacques Juneau, Margaret Johnston, Reina DeJong, Margaret Swerdfeger. Back row: Brian Speer, Jim Mustard, Gary Hess, Rick MacKenzie, Barry Fawcett, and Glenn Swerdfeger. Missing in the photo director Wendy Gibb, and prompter Jim DeVenny. Courtesy Photo

The show is directed by Wendy Gibb who has selected and directed all 20 of the club’s performances.

“The best part of it all is how it brings not only club members and spouses together, but also to see the community come out to the playhouse and support the efforts of the club,” said Barry Fawcett club member.

“It has become a community favourite and many months in advance of the show people are asking about and looking forward

to seeing their friends and neighbours on stage.”

This year’s production has a cast of 10 people. There are two new members in this year’s production, and the rest of the cast have appeared on stage in previous Lions’ plays.

Glenn and Margaret Swerdfeger have been in every one of the 20 shows over the last forty years, and Reina DeJong missed one due to her work commitments.

In 1984, the club put on their first show called “The

Haunted House”. The show was an immediate success and was staged at the Seaway District High School.

Since the first show, the club has raised many thousands of dollars. The funds raised go directly back to the community in many ways, donations to local hospitals, hospice, community food share, and numerous community projects have received money from the Lions’ play profits.

This year’s show “Drop Dead!” is about a cast of not so professional actors rehearsing and staging their hopeful comeback. There may be a few dead bodies around, and we may find out who the killer is.

Scotiabank in Morrisburg has participated with the club through their matching fund campaign and on behalf of the club are selling tickets at the Morrisburg branch.

The club has enjoyed the help from Upper Canada Playhouse artistic director Donnie Bowes and staff, who will be looking after sound effects and lighting for this year’s performance.

## Alyssa Waldroff Receives JFAO Rose Award

Carolyn Thompson Goddard  
Record Staff

NORTH STORMONT – North Stormont resident Alyssa Waldroff received the 2022 Rose Award for Outstanding Retiring Member of the Junior Farmers’ Association of Ontario (JFAO) during their 2023 AGM held in Kitchener, Ontario, between March 24 and 26.

There are three categories in which the JFAO Rose Award is presented: Outstanding Novice Member; Most Outstanding Member and Outstanding Retiring Member according to information on the organization’s social media pages and are presented “as a way we can say thank you for everything they do.”

“With the help of other members, we revived the Junior Farmers in the area by starting up the Stormont-Glengarry Junior Farmers in 2017. I have since served as president, past president and most recently the secretary and provincial director for 2022,” said Waldroff who served on the leadership committee and is serving as the 4-H representative for JFAO in 2022. She is also active in the Stormont County 4-H and currently serves as the awards



From the left: Meredith Mulligan, Renfrew County Junior Farmers, JFAO president Jamie Schultz and Alyssa Waldroff Stormont-Glengarry Junior Farmers. Photo Credit: Douglas van Wolde, WeGo.ca Website Developers Inc. Courtesy Photo

coordinator and first vice president of the club, as well as being a Cloverbud leader.

“It was a true honour to be presented with this award. I am so grateful to Junior Farmers for bringing so many amazing people into

my life. I’m sad to be leaving such a great organization but know that this won’t be the last of the memories we make together,” commented Waldroff.

More information on the JFAO can be found on their website located at [www.jfao.on.ca](http://www.jfao.on.ca)

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CANADIAN CLUB OF MORRISBURG & DISTRICT

April 19 at 6:30 p.m. Morrisburg Legion. Speaker: Cholly Boland. He is President and Chief Executive Officer of WDMH and Dundas Manor. He has held Chief Executive positions with many hospitals and nursing homes and holds degrees from Queen's and Ottawa Universities. Topic: My Experience in Health Care and the Future of WDMH. Tickets \$40. Phone: 613-447-8167 or 613-543-2922 ext. 23. Reservations are required.

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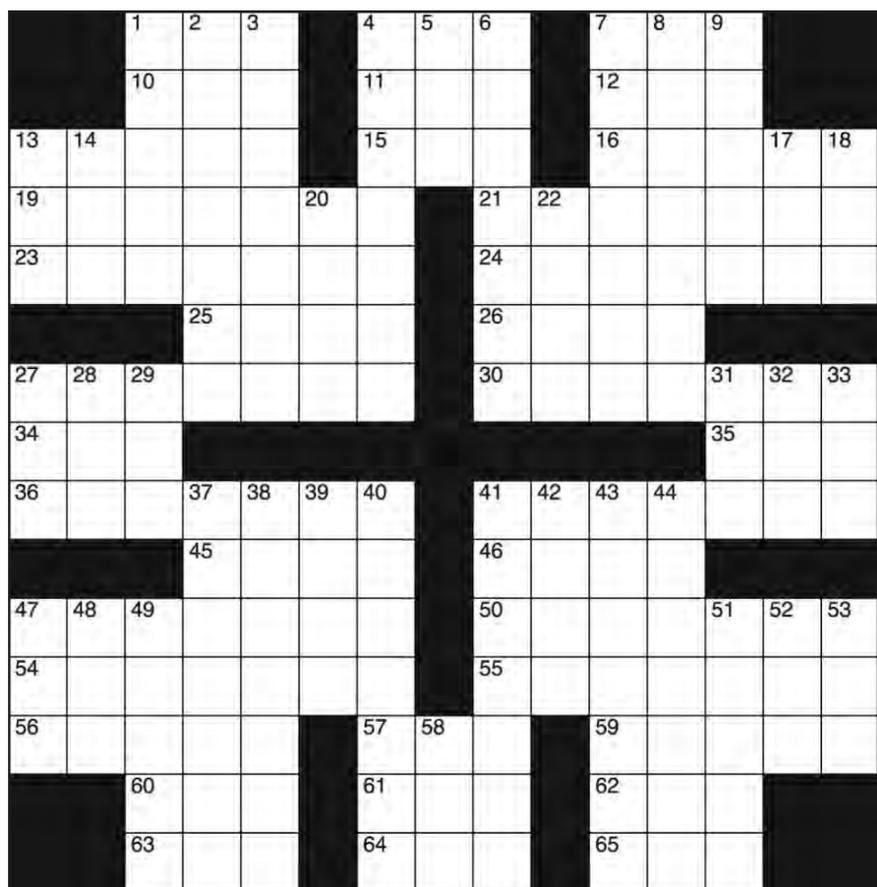
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 13, 2023

CLUES ACROSS

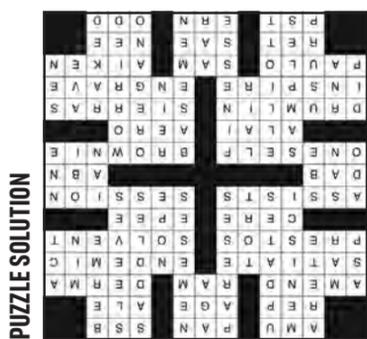
- 1. Atomic mass unit
4. Criticize mightily
7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
10. Stand in for
11. Everyone has one
12. Brew
13. Rectify
15. Popular Dodge truck model
16. Beef or chicken intestine
19. Satisfy
21. Of a particular people or localized region
23. Movements in quick tempos
24. Able to pay one's debts
25. Fleshy bird beak covering
26. Dueling sword
27. Helps
30. Court is in it
34. Touch lightly

- 35. Airborne (abbr.)
36. Of one
41. Baked good
45. Jai \_\_ sport
46. About aviation
47. Low oval mound
50. Rugged mountain ranges
54. Compel to do something
55. A way to carve
56. Sao \_\_ city in Brazil
57. Mustachioed actor Elliott
59. American Idol runner-up Clay
60. A way to soak
61. Car mechanics group
62. Born of
63. Time zone
64. Sea eagle
65. Even's opposite

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sharp mountain ridge
2. Thin, fibrous cartilages
3. Provides new details
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Ottoman military title
6. Banes
7. Horse-riding seats
8. Arms of a shirt
9. Narrow path along a road edge
13. Viper
14. Disfigure
17. Variety of Chinese language
18. Portray in a show
20. Wrongful act
22. No (slang)
27. State of agitation
28. \_\_ Diego
29. One point east of due south

- 31. 007's creator
32. The NBA's Toppin
33. Midway between north and northeast
37. Examples
38. \_\_ Gould, actor
39. The habitat of wild animals
40. Artful subtlety
41. Infielders
42. Keep under control
43. Herb
44. Distressed
47. A way to go down
48. Type of acid
49. Take by force
51. Collected fallen leaves
52. Shout of welcome or farewell
53. Monetary unit
58. Swiss river



THE BENEFITS OF CROSSWORD PUZZLES

Even though crossword puzzles have been entertaining and helping people pass the time for more than 100 years, the benefits of crosswords go beyond boredom-busting. Various studies have shown the positive effects crossword puzzles can have on a person's brain and capacity to learn.

- Improve vocabulary
- Strengthens memory
- Improve socialization
- Help relieve stress
- May help prevent brain diseases

Crossword puzzles can fill empty hours with an entertaining and educational activity. However, there are many other benefits to doing crossword puzzles that may surprise even the most ardent puzzle enthusiasts.

## Jacky's Face Painting creates new characters with a brush and paint

RUSSELL – Summer means lots of rural fairs to enjoy, and every one of them that you go to will most likely have a face painting booth set up for children.

Weekend events just about everywhere include a face painter.

Jacky's Face Painting has been bringing fun and creativity to the region's residents for the past decade.

The face behind the face painting business belongs to Jacqueline ten Hartog who lives in Russell with her husband Michiel Seuren, and 13-year-old son Sean.

If you are a parent and have or will be enjoying the areas fairs or special events you will most likely at some point be chatting with her.

Jacqueline and her husband emigrated to Canada 15 years ago from the Netherlands.

In the years before the couple came to Canada Jacqueline had already begun her face-painting journey.

"In the Netherlands I was a member of a theatre group for 10 years," she said.

"At one point they needed someone to do their make-up."

Once involved in that aspect of the make-up process she was hooked.

"We needed to take a course in theatre make-up and I got interested in the part when we used face painting to turn someone into a character," she said.

"I bought a water paint face painting kit, I really loved that part of it."

When the sponsor of her theatre group held a family day, she was asked if she

# SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



Jacqueline gives all of her attention to the children she paints.

Morin Photo

could try out her face painting skills as part of the fun activities at the event.

"My interest was born," she remembered.

"After we immigrated to Canada a friend in Ottawa organized a pot luck dinner. Some of the guests at the potluck had planned to go to the Tulip Festival.

They were doing a fundraiser for children in Honduras. They needed something that would be interesting for families. I had mentioned that I did face painting as a hobby, so they asked me if [I] wanted to come."

One thing led to another and before too long, Jacqueline was printing her own

business cards.

"I made some business cards and passed them out while I was at the Tulip Festival."

That was 14 years ago, and her business has blossomed and flourished.

"It was so much fun to do. I had a foldable table and my little kit," she said.

Her approach to face painting, especially children, is different from most. She does not have the children she paints select a design from a catalogue of designs. Instead she likes to ask a child what they would like painted on their face and then use her experience and creativity to do the rest.

"I like children to choose their own colours and choose their own design."

Her ability to create designs on the spot is the result of her enthusiasm for her craft, and her exhaustive research and practice.

"I have taken many workshops and take something from everybody and make it my own," she said.

Her key to success is not only her experience and talent but she likes to work with the child in the chair in front of her, giving that child all her attention.

The more experience she gets, Jacqueline feels her skills are progressing.

"I am constantly taking different courses. I am learning how to really draw onto a face. I have never had drawing classes before but now I am learning all kinds of different techniques, and my skills are evolving."

She is branching out to body painting.

"I am a member of the theatre group Russell Association of the Performing Arts, (RAPA), and help them with their make-up. I also work with the Greely Players as well. Last September I helped with make-up at Saunders Farm at Halloween of all of the actors."

Her interest in the craft she finds herself in includes continued learning opportunities.

"There will be another body painting session going on in Montreal. There will be models and photographers. I will be going."

To connect with Jacky's Face Painting, you can call her at 613-421-6029 or go to her website at [www.jackysfacepainting.ca](http://www.jackysfacepainting.ca) and her email is [jacky@jackysfacepainting.ca](mailto:jacky@jackysfacepainting.ca)

*If you would like to have a light shined on your business, please contact us at: [editor@etceterapublications.ca](mailto:editor@etceterapublications.ca) or call us at 613-448-2321.*

## Pin Tales

**Stormont Ladies:** Ladies' High Single, Deborah Patenaude 203; Ladies' High Triple, Susan Chambers 515. Team Standings: Hilda 361, Sandra 319, Susan 303.5, Angela 300.5, Pat 279.

**Monday Men's:** Men's High Single, Justin StPierre 296; Men's High Triple, Frank Jerome 729. Team Standings: Alley Cats 38, Raiders 37, East-Ont 33, Country Boys 26, Alley Rats 23.

**Defenders:** Men's High Single, Blaine Symonds 224; Men's High Triple, Blaine Symonds 529; Ladies' High Single, Debbie Linton 191; Ladies' High Triple, Debbie Linton 494. Team Standings: Gwen 38, Brian 37, Debbie 35, Ossie 29, Kelsey 27, Glendon 23.

**Thursday Seniors:** Men's High Single, John Meulenbroek 180; Men's High Triple, John Meulenbroek 412; Ladies' High Single, Ria Mcgarrety 175; Ladies' High

Triple, Ria Mcgarrety 433.

**Avonmore Mixed:** Men's High Single, Frank Jerome 307; Men's High Triple, Frank Jerome 739; Ladies' High Single, Laura Ouderkirk 290; Ladies' High Triple, Laura Ouderkirk 546. Team Standings: Jeannete 24, Anita 23, Frank 22.5, Dan 22.5, Mike 22, Luke 12.

**Williamsburg Mixed:** Men's High Single, John Byvelds 259; Men's High Triple, John Byvelds 580; Ladies' High Single, Judy Simser 259; Ladies' High Triple, Judy Simser 604. Team Standings: George 32.5, John 30, Danny 30, Garry 29, Leslie 25.5, Steve 21.

### Youth Bowling Canada

**YBC Peewees:** Girls' High Single, Evane Gravel 156; Girls' High Double, Evane Gravel 279; Boys' High Single,

Samuel Bissonnette 113; Boys' High Double, Samuel Bissonnette 230.

**YBC Bantams:** Girls' High Single, Danika Bissonnette 132; Girls' High Double, Danika Bissonnette 230; Boys' High Single, Kaden Leach 136; Boys' High Double, Kaden Leach 218. Team Standings: Flames 2599, Redwings 2571, Jets 2472, Leafs 2187, Sharks 2149, Oilers 2114.

**YBC Juniors:** Girls' High Single, Mckenna Kelly 198; Girls' High Triple, Cheyenne Lanoue 466; Boys' High Single, Samuel Tessier 250; Boys' High Triple, Samuel Tessier 558.

**YBC Seniors:** Boys' High Single, Alex Robinson 245; Boys' High Triple, Alex Robinson 635. Team Standings: Senators 4415, Sabers 4212, Ducks 3961, Bruins 3756, Kings 3574.

## Having a say

Carolyn Thompson Goddard  
Record Staff

CORNWALL – A province-wide citizens' referendum has been scheduled for May 26 and 27 and is organized by the Ontario Health Coalition (OHC). Elaine MacDonald of the SDG/Cornwall Health Coalition (SDGCHC) explained the OHC was formed in the early 1990s by those concerned about "efforts to introduce for-profit medical care into the public system in Ontario."

"The list of all the polls in the province will be published on April 18, but so far, we have 13 stations locally and are looking for more. Currently, we have established polls across the area from Winchester to Hawkesbury through Alexandria, and Cornwall, of course," commented Louise Lanctot when asked

about locations of polling stations for the referendum. As co-chairs of the coalition, MacDonald and Lanctot worked with other volunteers of the SDG/Cornwall Health Coalition to provide information on concerns with health care in this province. "The focus of the referendum is the stability of public hospitals in Ontario. This is the crisis of a generation," continued MacDonald.

MacDonald explained the underfunding of Ontario hospitals has led to problems with ensuring universal access to medical services. Reports say intermittent operating rooms and emergency room closures, increased waiting time for diagnostic services or surgeries and this has served to increase the visibility of the healthcare crisis in Ontario. She mentions how underfunding when coupled with hospital nursing shortages "are forcing the public hospitals

to restrict public access to services which they simply cannot provide."

"The premier cites the backlog as the reason for the creation of for-profits centres, but the backlog has been deliberately created through years of understanding and the for-profit clinics won't relieve the pressure. They will gut the core services of the public sector hospitals," explained MacDonald. She continued "The government needs to re-invest in the public system. Instead, it is encouraging the development of for-profit clinics and health facilities. Under the cover of "reducing the surgical backlog," the government is willing to compensate the for-profit clinics at a rate higher than what a hospital would get, by a margin of 20 per cent minimum, and this payment is made through OHIP, with taxpayer dollars. And the private clinic services, such as that which rents [out] Riverside Hospital's shuttered ORs on weekends, is

able to offer nurses premium wages of \$750 a day."

When asked about the organization of the province-wide referendum, MacDonald explained volunteers will staff the referendum sites across Ontario, which will be located inside public addresses or locations. Ontarians 16 years or older will be eligible to vote in the one question referendum after providing "their postal code and residential address" and will put their mark on the bilingual ballot, fold it and insert the ballot into the ballot box. After the ballots are counted on May 28 and the results made public, the ballots will be delivered to Queen's Park in Toronto on May 31 by coalition leaders from across the province.

MacDonald concluded the interview by mentioning there is an organizational meeting planned for April 16 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 297 in Cornwall.

# Russell Township moves forward with support for 125th anniversary

Joseph Morin  
Record Staff

EMBRUN – Russell Township councillors are partnering with their community and community organizations to help make Russell’s 125th anniversary celebration a special one.

Russell resident Dave Dyer had made a presentation at the council’s March 13 meeting on behalf of Community Activities and Russell Beautification toward the 125th anniversary of the Village of Russell.

He had a list of anniversary projects that would be funded in part by the township, community funding and the Russell Police Village Trust.

The township’s portion of the total of \$66,250 worth of anniversary projects will be \$26,125. The funds are coming from the municipality’s matching fund reserve.

The Russell Police Village Trust will be coming up with \$27,225 and community contributions are expected to be another \$12,900.

“A big chunk of it is coming from the Russell Police Village Trust, and we will do matching funds with them, and the community together. It is the community, Russell Police Village Trust and township working together,” said Russell Mayor Pierre Leroux.

“From my perspective anytime the municipality, and different organizations in the community come together, it’s always a no-brainer in my mind that we become an

	TWP. Contribution	Russell Village Trust	Total Project Costs	Community Contribution
Hanging 1898 Signs	\$2,350	\$2,350 – TBC	\$4,700	
Decorative Street Blades	\$2,175	\$2,175 – TBC	\$4,350	\$900 – repurpose & paint existing brackets
Keep Russell Blooming	\$6,250 – Paid by operational budget 2023	\$6,250 – TBC	\$12,500	\$4,000 – Russell Women’s Institute Includes capital for Grd Planters
Meet Me on Main Street	\$3,500 – Paid by operational budget 2023	\$3,000 – TBC	\$6,500	0\$ – N/A
MacDougall Park Renewal	\$13,000	\$13,000 – Confirmed	\$26,000	\$1,000 – Horticultural Society \$7,000 volunteers – TBD
Administration	\$200	\$200 – TBC	\$400	Zoom Lic., Graphics & Printing
<b>Total budgeted</b>	<b>\$9,750</b>	<b>\$27,225</b>	<b>\$54,450</b>	<b>\$12,900</b>
<b>Total non budgeted</b>	<b>\$17,725</b>			

Courtesy Photo

active participant,” said the mayor.

The plans for the 125th celebration have been in the works for quite some time.

In early January 2023, a number of community members, the Russell Police Village Trust and council representatives came together to look at ways to celebrate the anniversary.

An anniversary steering committee was created featuring six Russell residents. The committee’s job was to provide some direction and promotion for the anniversary.

After the presentation to council, township staff met with Mr. Dyer to work out a plan of action and a financial strategy to assist the community in the many projects associated with the celebrations.

The first project is historical hanging signs and planters in the village core. “Hanging signs would be added to period lamp posts in the village core. Fifteen hanging signs featuring the wording “Village of / de Russell 1898” would be

designed and placed along Concession Street, between Church Street and the

Russell Fairgrounds, the signs would be complimented by “Keep Russell Blooming” planters, currently a fixture in the village core. In addition, planters and “Village of / de Russell 1898” signs would be placed at the entrances to the newer subdivisions. Decorative cross arms would support both planters and anniversary signs.”

A second project was “Village Street Blades” which feature a two-tone facia with the Village crest and 1898 brand. Each customized blade in Russell would bring history to life by featuring the Russell Red Brick and contrasting colour in a unique design.

According to the committee, “Thirty-four (34) units would be placed at 10 intersections along Concession Street between Church and the entrance to Russell Trails.”

The idea is already established as a beautification feature of the village’s downtown core, the Russell Village Women’s Institute plans to extend their existing 22-year-old “Keep Russell

Blooming” program to reach into the entrance area of some of Russell’s newer subdivisions.

This program would complement the new “Russell Hanging Sign” cross arms on existing period lamp poles.

The Women’s Institute is hoping to replace the existing cement ground-level planters with more modern planters already located in the core area. They have also proposed to maintain and support the planters and vegetation adjacent to the township’s Parklet in Russell in conjunction with their very successful maintenance program. The township’s infrastructure department confirmed that four new cement planters have been ordered for this upcoming summer season. The cost of these planters was included in the 2023 operational budget of the department.

“Meet Me on Main Street” is a fourth project.

In July 2022, the Township of Russell partnered with the Township of North Dundas for the “Meet Me on Main Street” event held in Marionville.

Because of the event’s success, it has also been planned for Russell or Embrun.

The committee suggested the “Meet Me on Main Street” event be held in conjunction with the anniversary celebrations.

A final project from the committee is the 125th MacDougall Park renewal project.

The committee’s presentation stated: “In July 1940, a community park and cairn were dedicated in honour of Dr. Dugald MacDougall. The 125th MacDougall Park renewal project follows in a line of projects undertaken to enhance the western entrance to the Village of Russell. The proposed work entails landscape lighting of the stone bridge and park signs, a display of festival lights to mark the coming of the Christmas season, electrical outlets to support special events and a rededication of the Cairn.

## Russell Agricultural Society March “Volunteer of the Month”

RUSSELL – Russell student Alejandro has been named as the March Volunteer of the Month for his relentless efforts with the Russell Agricultural Society and the @therussellcommunitymarket.

Over the last year, he has put his hand up at every volunteer opportunity this community has thrown at him - the Russell Fair being the most unbeatable experience, offering him an opportunity to meet and

connect with people who he wouldn’t typically connect with through his everyday life.

When asked about his experiences, he was quite honest about not being a fan of the whole “40-hour requirement” needed for

school, but now he enjoys doing it (with over 70 hours logged).

Alejandro’s advice: “Don’t look at it as a requirement or a burden. If it’s something you like, it will quickly be something you look forward to and

eventually love. Most importantly, volunteering within a community can help you build skills that are only learned through experience.”

As a recognized Volunteer of the Month, Alejandro will receive a weekend pass to the 2023 Russell Fair.



Alejandro  
Courtesy Photo



### Offering help during storm power outage in Greely

The City of Ottawa was hard hit by last week’s ice storm. Many areas of the city had to work through power outages. Villages like Metcalfe had no power and so residents had nowhere to go to wait out the power outage. The Greely Community Centre was one rural area of Ottawa that was able to offer some kind of emergency shelter, where residents could use the washrooms, pick up some water and a few snacks. On Sat., April 8 Kadence Bennett was looking after the Greely shelter.

Morin Photo

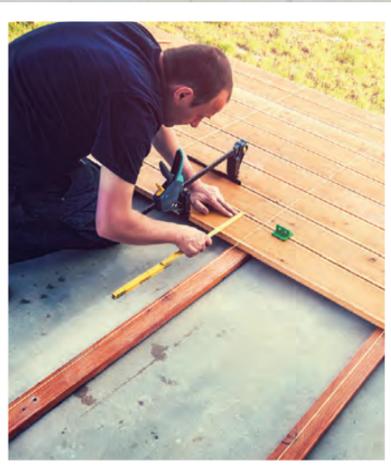
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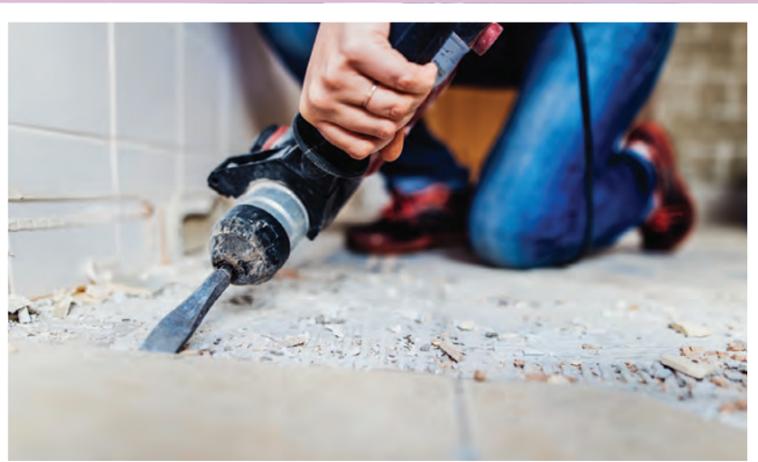
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# 2023 SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REAL ESTATE GUIDE



Ideas, inspiration, local referrals and special offers for your best living space - inside and out!



*A special supplement to The Record/The Villager – April 13, 2023*



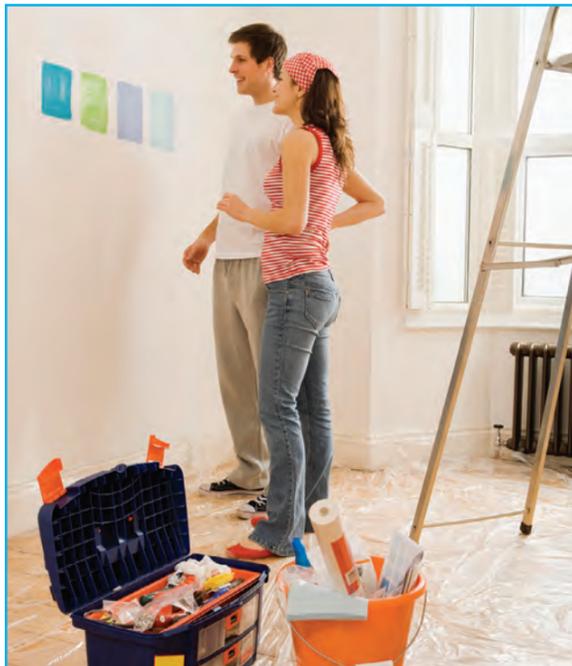
## Low-cost ways to revamp living areas

Home improvement projects require substantial financial investment. But just because a homeowner wants to bring a fresh look indoors, doesn't mean he or she has to break the bank along the way.

Living rooms are some of the most frequently used spaces in a home, and they can use an update from time to time to stay on trend or to make the area more functional for a changing family dynamic. Here are some budget-friendly ideas for breathing new life into living room designs.

- **Establish the budget.** Homeowners should figure out how many dollars they can designate to a living room makeover before purchasing supplies or hiring out the work. Figure out the scope of the remodel, visit stores or suppliers to price out materials, get estimates from contractors, and then plan for some unforeseen circumstances along the way to determine if this type of renovation is affordable. If not, scale things back until the project more closely aligns with your budget.

- **Change the paint colour.** Lighter and brighter colours are on trend. A can or two of paint can do



wonders for updating a space without a large financial commitment. Pair that new paint colour with new window coverings and complementary throw pillows to pull the theme together with minimal expense.

- **Update the flooring.** Tired, outdated carpeting or other flooring can use an overhaul. While solid hardwood flooring may be preferable, there are many types of laminate flooring that mimic the looks of popular wood colours and

styles for a fraction of the cost. Plus, many are sold at home improvement retailers and even at warehouse clubs or online for reasonable prices. Laminate flooring also may be a potential DIY job for a skilled homeowner, saving even more money.

- **Introduce a fireplace.** Fireplaces were once hot commodities, but that popularity waned in the 1970s and 1980s. Homeowners with chimneys may discover a fireplace was boarded over

and the bare bones still exist that can be renovated to bring back character. There also are ventless freestanding units that are quite affordable that can mimic the look of a built-in fireplace.

and the bare bones still exist that can be renovated to bring back character. There also are ventless freestanding units that are quite affordable that can mimic the look of a built-in fireplace.

- **Reupholster instead of replace furniture.** There's no need to throw away quality furniture if the fabric is the only thing impeding design. New upholstery or even a slipcover can update designs.

- **Conquer clutter.** Rather than adding something to the living room, remove clutter to give the room a more airy feel. This can instantly change the look of the room. Use cord covers to tame plugs for electronics and remove unnecessary furniture from the room.

- **Improve lighting.** Another easy and often inexpensive fix is to change lighting fixtures, including using brighter, more energy efficient LED bulbs, and to assess lighting needs to eliminate dark corners of rooms that can make the space seem drab.

Living room spaces in need of an update often can benefit from improvements that go easy on the wallet.

## Spring cleaning tips & tricks

Spring is a time of year when change is in the air. Trees are budding, plants are flowering, and homes laden with dark or heavy fabrics and clutter could use some lightening up.

Spring cleaning projects are popular this time of year as residents take inventory of their living spaces and aim to declutter, clean and increase efficiency. Some people find the prospect of getting organized overwhelming. Here are some tips that can help anyone master spring cleaning.

- **Create a plan.** Make a checklist and establish a cleaning plan of attack. Focus on areas that are not regularly cleaned, as they probably need a little attention.

- **Assemble your cleaning kit.** Spring cleaning can be slowed down considerably if you don't have all of your equipment at the ready. Items to have on hand include an all-purpose cleaner, concentrated cleaner, microfiber cloths, paper towels, mop, vacuum, dusters, and a squeegee. Adjust your equipment based on the task at hand.

- **Curate your cleaning playlist.** Create a playlist with songs that will get you moving and motivated to clean.

- **Work from top to bottom.** Work efficiently by cleaning shelves, ceiling fans and other elevated items first, as dust and debris will trickle down and need to be cleaned next.

- **Purchase or rent a carpet cleaner.** According to the experts, carpets help filter indoor air by trapping debris and allergens. By deep cleaning carpets, homeowners can improve the indoor air quality of their homes. Use a carpet cleaner on a warm, dry day, so that windows can be opened and cross breezes will help dry the damp rug.

- **Clean windows.** Wash windows inside and out and utilize their screens to help brighten indoors spaces.

- **Deep clean the kitchen.** Clean out and disinfect the refrigerator by wiping it down with warm water and baking soda or a vinegar-and-water solution. While in the kitchen, set the oven to the self-clean function so it becomes cleaner as well.

Homeowners also can focus on cleaning curtains (including shower curtains), steam-cleaning upholstery, removing clutter from closets, cleaning out the dryer vent and duct tubing, wiping inside kitchen drawers, and vacuuming under beds and other furniture.

Spring cleaning can bring the revitalizing nature of this beloved time of year into your home.



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## How to cut costs on home renovations

Do you still have an avocado green kitchen? Is your living room dank and dark? Perhaps there is only one bathroom for a family of six? Answering yes to any of these questions could serve as the catalyst for a home renovation project.

Home improvement projects come in all shapes and sizes, some with huge budgets and others that are more cost-conscious. Regardless of what homeowners hope to achieve with their renovations, a common goal across any price point is a desire to save as much money as possible. Home renovations can be expensive, but there are ways to cut costs.

• **Assess the merit of the project.** Remodeling magazine annually publishes a "Cost vs. Value Report" that lists the average cost and return on investment homeowners can expect of various types of projects. If you're planning to sell your home soon, it may be best to focus on repairs and renovations that will generate the most substantial ROI.

• **Hire a contractor.** Even avid do-it-yourselfers can sometimes benefit from a contractor's expertise, particularly for complex tasks. Don't waste money by trying tough jobs yourself; rely on an experienced contractor who can get

supplies for less money and will do the job right the first time. Compare bids from several different contractors and figure out the best value.

• **Refurbish existing features.** Rather than a complete gut and rebuild, figure out where you can revitalize existing fixtures and more. For example, refinishing existing cabinets can save you up to 50 per cent compared with the cost of new cabinetry, according to Angi (formerly Angie's List), a cost comparison and business review resource.

• **Choose midgrade materials.** Certain materials may be all the rage but they come with a higher price tag. Angi reports that granite counters could be \$60 to \$100 per square foot. However, a composite or laminate that looks like granite and wears well may be \$10 to 40 per square foot. Figure out where you can choose middle-of-the-road materials for maximum value.

• **Avoid peak seasons.** You'll pay more to install a deck or a pool right before the outdoor entertaining season. There also may be a premium to get work done right before a major holiday. Therefore, consult the calendar to find an off time for a renovation and book it then to save.

• **Do some prep work.** You might be able to save by

Spring is the season for fixing up a home. Homeowners who aren't interested in doing the work themselves turn to contractors to ensure the job is done not only to code, but on time and efficiently.

After receiving an initial estimate from a contractor, homeowners may wonder if there is any additional wiggle room in contractors' costs.

Certain contractors are willing to negotiate while others are firm in their prices. However, learning the basics of negotiation can put homeowners in position to save money on dream renovations.

### Do your homework

Getting the best price typically requires shopping around and not settling on the first bid. Experts recommend getting at least three estimates on the same job and be sure to let each contractor know that you are soliciting multiple bids. This

doing some of the demolition and preparatory work yourself. For example, you can tear up old carpeting before the installation of new tile floors. Perhaps you can mend and patch up walls before a paint job.

• **Buy a display item.** Former showroom kitchens and baths often are sourced at a fraction of their recommended retail prices. Retailers often update their displays and you may score existing showroom items at a discount.

Renovations can be expensive, but there are many different ways to cut costs.

## Tips for negotiating with contractors

alone may entice a specific contractor to give you his or her best offer up front. Avoid simply choosing the lowest bid. Look at quality of work, reputation and reviews. If you like a costly contractor more than another, see if that contractor is willing to match a lower bid to win the job.

### Pick the right season

As with other industries, home renovation work heats up during certain seasons or times of year. General contractors may be more willing to negotiate for a lower price depending on when their busy season may be. Jobs may slow down in winter, for example.

### Talk about supplies

Even after getting a good bid, you may be able to speak with your contractor about lowering costs even more by choosing less costly

supplies. Find out if contractors can source materials from a low-cost supplier. In addition, discuss if you can purchase your own supplies.

### Ask to do a portion

Be honest with the contractor about your budget and figure out if there is any way for you to do some of the work to lower costs. The contractor can give you jobs that are within your abilities, which can shave dollars off the final price.

### Know your rights and laws

Understand the laws governing contract language in your state or province. Contracts should also spell out the change order process so that expectations of changes and costs will be known in advance.

These are just some of the tactics homeowners can use when negotiating the price of home remodels or improvements.



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## 4 signs you need to replace your soffit and fascia

Your home's soffits and fascia boards protect your attic and roof from water infiltration and keep pests out. Here are four signs it's time to have yours repaired or replaced.

**1. The paint is peeling or flaking.** Once the paint on your soffits and fascia begins to deteriorate, it creates an opening for moisture to permeate the boards. This can result in water damage to the roof, interior walls and siding.

**2. The gutters are loose.** The soffit and fascia boards act as the support system for your gutters. Consequently, if you notice your gutters are wobbly and unsteady, the fascia or soffits likely require repair.

**3. Pests are hanging around your home.** Your soffits and fascia boards are



designed to keep rodents, bugs and other small critters from getting into your home. Therefore, bite marks, nesting materials or droppings in your home's attic often indicate that your soffits and fascia must be repaired.

**4. There's little to no ventilation.** Soffits provide ventilation and prevent condensation in your attic. If you notice that your home seems stuffy, your soffits are probably blocked or damaged.

Contact a local roofing

contractor to inspect your soffits and fascia and make any necessary repairs.

## Did you know?

Vinyl siding is not something that many homeowners may consider painting, but it can be done. However, some contractors may not recommend it as the best option to overhaul a home. Painting siding means it will only be as durable as the paint used. It's also essential to determine if painting vinyl will void any warranties. Wood or engineered wood or fiber cement siding tend to be better options than vinyl should you want to switch colours down the line. But vinyl siding can be painted if it is done right, and it can be an affordable way to change the look of a home without investing in new siding. Vinyl siding that will be painted will need to be cleaned thoroughly, including the removal of any mildew, chalk or dirt, to enhance paint adhesion. Pitted or porous vinyl siding always must be primed, but others may not require priming. Choose an exterior paint designed for painting on vinyl. Two coats of paint are recommended. Paint for vinyl has acrylic and urethane resins that accommodate the expansion and contraction of vinyl and help the paint stick. Also, for the best results, the home improvement experts advise painting when temperatures are mild and there is low relative humidity and an overcast sky.

## How to deal with a leaky roof

Leaky roofs are, unfortunately, a common occurrence. If not dealt with promptly, water seeping into your home can cause various short and long term problems. Here's what to do if you see or suspect your roof is leaking.

- **Confirm that the leak is coming from the roof.** Several signs can help you determine whether the water leak is coming from your roof or another area of your home, such as the windows. Water stains on the ceiling, high humidity in the basement, mould in the attic and swelling paint are telltale signs that water is leaking from the roof.

- **Locate the source.** If possible, try to locate the source or cause of the leak. Pay close attention to areas with excess

condensation or where water spots grow after heavy rain, for example. It's OK if you can't find the exact source of the leak. Your observations will help guide the professional in carrying out the necessary repairs.

- **Take immediate action.** Use a bucket or several towels to catch or absorb the water. Ventilate the area to dry out the wet materials. In addition to contacting a professional roofer to correct the situation, you should reach out to your insurance company to find out how much you'll be compensated.

If neglected, a roof leak can quickly damage the structure of your home and increase the risk of you or your family developing health problems. Act now.



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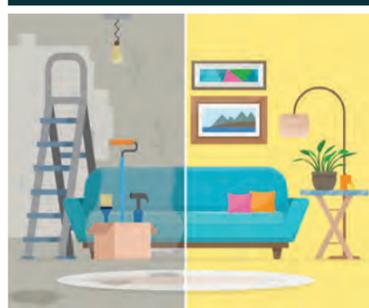
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# Home projects are fun but check first if you are building near water

**Joseph Morin**  
Record Staff

CORNWALL – Home-building projects can be a great deal of fun and can add to your family’s summer fun.

Whether you are planning to build a play structure or a garden box or a tree house, there are several aspects of your project you should be looking into.

Property owners can check with the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA), in Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry about what they should and should not do when planning home renovations or backyard projects near the region’s watercourses.

The *Conservation Authorities Act*, points out that certain development activities within or adjacent to watercourses and significant wetlands are regulated by the RRCA and may require a permit.

“These *Conservation Authorities Act* regulations are in place to protect people and property,” says Lissa Deslandes, RRCA regulations’ officer.

Activities near watercourses which may require a permit



Do not be caught by surprise when your home project plans run into problems because of nearby waterways or seasonal flooding. South Nation Conservation Photo

from the RRCA include constructing buildings or structures, changing existing terrain grade, adding or removing material, and altering the existing channel of a watercourse.

“If you are planning a project on your property

and are not sure if a permit from the RRCA is required, simply give us a call,” said Deslandes. “We have a straightforward and user-friendly permitting process that will help you move your project ahead with peace of mind.”

“Under the *Planning Act*, the RRCA supports its five member municipalities by reviewing development proposals and policy documents and providing guidance on natural hazards (e.g., flooding, erosion, and unstable slopes.) Last year,

the RRCA processed a record 332 development applications,” stated a press release from the RRCA.

The RRCA is the lead agency for the Cornwall Sediment Strategy (CSS) which protects several zones of mercury-contaminated sediment in the St. Lawrence River along the Cornwall waterfront. The RRCA includes a CSS review for property owners in the Cornwall area hoping to install docks, and other structures on or near their shoreline.

Current or potential property owners can request information about a specific property through RRCA’s Property Inquiry Service. The service provides information on natural hazards and natural heritage like watercourses, wetlands, and woodlands, for example for that property. Permit application and property inquiry forms, as well RRCA’s current fee schedule, can be found on RRCA’s website at [rrca.on.ca](http://rrca.on.ca). For more information visit [rrca.on.ca](http://rrca.on.ca) or contact (613) 938-3611 or [info@rrca.on.ca](mailto:info@rrca.on.ca).

## How to clean your walls without damaging the paint

Washing painted walls can be tricky and requires special care. Follow these steps to avoid marring the paint or leaving unsightly scuffs.

1. Gently remove dust and cobwebs with a vacuum cleaner or duster.
2. Place old towels along the baseboards to absorb excess water.
3. Wash the walls with a sponge or mop, working from top to bottom. Gently scrub away stains as needed. Water alone is usually sufficient for



surface dirt, but you may need to use a mild detergent for stubborn stains.

4. Dry the cleaned and rinsed surfaces with a fresh cloth as you go. Psst! The darker the paint colour and the more matte the finish, the less scrubbing you should do.

Do you have high walls that are nearly impossible to reach? Use a telescopic mop or hire a professional cleaner. Courtesy Photo

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## The dos and don'ts of taking listing photos

If you're selling your home and want to save a bit of money, you may want to consider taking the listing photos yourself. Here are some dos and don'ts on how to make your abode look its best in photos.

- **Do get rid of clutter.** Tidy up your home and remove personal belongings like knick-knacks, fridge magnets, family pictures and children's toys. Display only essential pieces of furniture so people can picture themselves in your home.

- **Do pick the right time of day.** Take pictures in the morning or early afternoon when the sun is shining into your home. This way, everything is brightly lit and visible.

- **Do choose the right angle.** Keep your photos straight and at eye level to avoid any distortion. When people look at the pictures, they should feel like they're



standing or sitting in your home.

- **Don't overedit the images.** You can minimally retouch your photos to adjust aspects like lighting and clarity. However, the pictures should accurately depict what your home looks like.

- **Don't take too many photos.** Avoid overwhelming potential buyers with hundreds of pictures of every single room in your home. Pick general shots that capture the best angles of your house, including critical spaces like the kitchen and bathrooms.

Finally, poor-quality photos can make or break a potential buyer's perception of your home. Therefore, if you aren't confident in your abilities, contact your real estate agent for help. They'll put you in touch with a professional photographer.

## How to re-caulk a shower

Applying fresh caulk to your shower can instantly brighten up the space. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to do it.

- **Choose a caulk.** There are two types of caulk for tubs and tiles: silicone and acrylic latex. Silicone caulk is durable and flexible but tricky to apply. Latex caulk is easy to apply but may need to be redone more often.

- **Remove the existing caulk.** Use a utility or putty knife to scour the edges of the old caulk. Once separated, firmly pull it away from the surface. Be careful not to scratch or damage your shower while doing this.

- **Clean the area.** Remove any remaining caulk residue with a dry, non-abrasive scouring pad. Then, wipe the area with a damp cloth and let it dry

completely.

- **Apply the new caulk.** Cut the tip of the nozzle at a 45-degree angle and insert it into the caulk gun. Hold the nozzle at a 90-degree angle from the surface you want to caulk. Apply steady pressure to the trigger and move your nozzle down the entire surface length. Keep the gun moving consistently, so the caulk doesn't thin out or pile up.

- **Smooth the caulk.** Take a damp cloth and gently press a small area of the material into the caulking line with your finger. In one continuous motion, drag your finger down the length of the seam to create a nice smooth surface.

Finally, let the caulk set for 24 hours before using your shower. You can pick up everything you need for this quick fix at your local hardware store.



## A rundown on DIY demos

Homeowners looking to make improvements to their homes likely want to make such projects as budget-friendly as possible. After soliciting estimates from contractors, homeowners may seek to do some work themselves in an effort to cut costs. That is why many individuals opt to handle demolition and other preparatory tasks before contractors get started. There are important things to keep in mind when doing a demo.

- **Prybars are your friend.** These tools, sometimes called crowbars, can be used to remove nails or pull materials apart.

- **Cover vents in the space where you're working.** Construction dust can be sucked into the HVAC system and cause furnaces to clog. This also may cause the distribution of dust throughout the home.

- **Use safety gear.** Always wear safety

goggles, gloves, boots, and other equipment as needed to remain safe.

- **Get a power saw.** Circular saws and reciprocating saws can cut through various materials, making faster work of demolition.

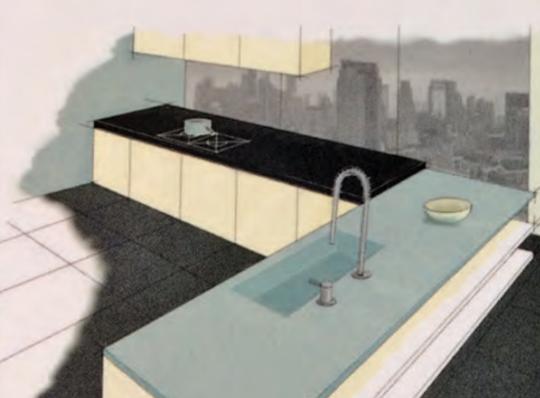
- **Exercise caution when removing drywall.** You don't know what is behind the drywall, including electric wires, so be careful when choosing a spot to make the first hole in the drywall.

- **Get a trash container with a gate.** You'll save yourself some aches and pains by being able to fill a wheelbarrow and dump it into the container, rather than having to toss debris over the top.

- **Bust up heavy or bulky items.** Cast iron tubs and shower surrounds can be heavy and difficult to move. Unless it's a family heirloom, cut or break large items into pieces to remove them more easily.

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## How do I keep my septic system healthy?

**Joseph Morin**  
Record Staff

**CHESTERVILLE** – Living in the country is a wonderful choice for many.

For those who were born into a rural lifestyle, understanding what a rural home requires is second nature.

Having a well for fresh drinkable water and a septic system replaces an urban wastewater treatment plant and a piped in portable water distribution system.

Like anything else you need to make your house a home, the septic system is as important as the foundation your house is built on.

The septic tank is a buried, water-tight container. It can be made of concrete, fiberglass, or polyethylene. The tank holds wastewater from your home long enough to allow solids to settle down to the bottom forming sludge,

while the oil and grease floats to the top as scum. The liquid in the septic tank goes out from the tank into a buried field of pipes to distribute the liquid.

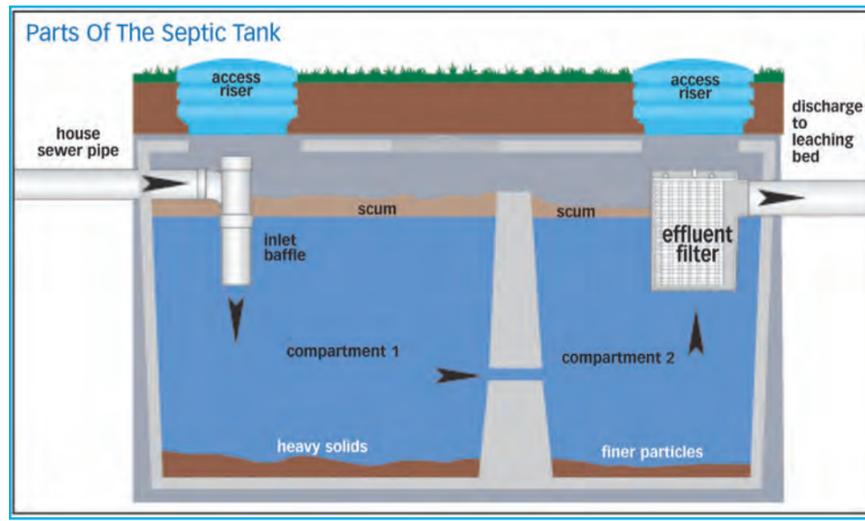
Septic system maintenance is not complicated, or expensive.

Getting your septic tank inspected every few years is important. There may be small leaks that can cause your septic tank to fill up quicker than it should. Having your tank emptied every three to five years is also a smart thing to do.

The frequency of emptying your tank will depend on the size of your household, the amount of wastewater generated, and the size of your tank.

One typical issue to fix is when too much water flows into your tanks. A leaky toilet or kitchen faucet can add volume to a septic tank, which simply fills it up.

Overloading the septic



A typical septic system for a rural home.

Courtesy Photo

tank and consequently flooding the area that the tank drains into has to be avoided.

What you are putting into a septic tank can have an effect on its ability to do its job. Bacteria in the tank works away at breaking down waste products and enabling the resulting liquids to move out of the tank into the drain field that has been built around your tank.

There are many products easily obtained at your neighbourhood hardware store that are septic tank treatment products. They are usually something you pour into your drain, either a powder or a liquid, on a regular basis in small amounts that help preserve a healthy bacteria.

Different cleaning agents, and chlorine from a pool or hot tub for example can kill the crucial bacteria in the tank over time.

A septic tank without an effective bacterial process will run into trouble if the

bacterial action is not working over a long period of time. The idea is to reduce the solids in the tank to a liquid form.

The landscaping around the draining field attached to your septic tank is important. Grass is ideal coverage for your drain

field. It reduces erosion. Plants with a shallow root system can also be used near the drain field. Larger plants such as trees have longer root systems and that can cause problems. Larger roots can potentially cause structural damage to tanks and the drainage

system.

It is important to try to keep heavy objects like sheds, cars, as an example away from the drainage field. The pipes buried in the draining field can be damaged.

An easily accessible cover for the septic tank makes inspections and cleaning easier.

What you allow to go into the drain to the septic tank will have an effect on the life and effectiveness of the tank. Over time, grease can clog up the pipes going to and from the tank.

Minimize garbage disposal use to prevent the build-up of solids inside the septic tank. This build up can quickly clog or choke the drain field.

Never flush anything down the toilet besides human waste and toilet paper.

## Options to finance home improvements

Renovating a home is a great way to impart personality indoors and out. Improvements can make spaces more livable and address safety issues. Home renovations often take residents' lifestyles into account, and changes can be customized to accommodate a growing family or an empty nest.

No matter the job, home improvements tend to be costly. On average, the cost to renovate or remodel a whole house runs between \$10 and \$60 per square foot. Certain rooms demand a higher cost, with a kitchen or bathroom remodel costing around \$100 to \$250 per square foot due to electrical and plumbing needs. Figuring out how to pay for the improvement project is as essential to the planning process as picking out materials and contractors.

The following are some financial considerations and financing options for homeowners looking to renovate their properties.

- **Consider if the investment is worth it.** In 2022, a homeowner spending \$4,000 on a garage door replacement recouped 93.3 per cent of the investment, whereas adding a midrange bathroom at \$63,000 would only offer a 51.8 per cent return. Homeowners must decide if they want to go forward with the project if they're likely to get just a \$33,000 return when they choose to sell the home later on.

- **Refinance the home mortgage.** Homeowners can use a cash-out mortgage refinance as a way to access thousands of dollars for a remodel. This taps into a home's equity. Keep in mind that the mortgage will then be a new mortgage at the current interest rate and an outstanding balance higher than what was the current one. Typically 20 per cent equity in the home is needed to refinance.

- **Take out a personal loan.** For those who do not want to refinance, a personal loan or home improvement loan can be good for mid-sized projects. Personal loans for home renovations typically require no collateral and one's credit score determines the interest rate.

- **Utilize a home equity line of credit.** A HELOC is a form of revolving credit, like a credit card. Homeowners borrow against the credit line granted with the home being the collateral. As a person pays down what is owed, he or she can borrow more. This is a good idea for recurring or long-term home improvements.

- **Try a home equity loan.** Home equity loans use the home as collateral like a HELOC. The home equity loan is an installment loan for a fixed amount on a fixed monthly schedule for a set term. These are sometimes called second mortgages.

- **No or low interest credit card.** Smaller projects can be financed using credit cards. Many will offer introductory rates with no interest for a few months. This is generally only preferable if a person can pay off the balance before interest is charged.

These are the primary ways to finance home improvement projects when costs exceed available cash on hand.

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## Small renovations that can make a big impact

Home renovations provide a host of benefits. Such projects can increase resale value and improve on the safety, aesthetics and functionality of a home.

Some homeowners may employ the mantra “go big or go home” when they embark on home improvements, thinking that only the largest renovations produce noticeable change. But that’s not the case. Various smaller renovations can provide a lot of bang for homeowners’ bucks as well.

• **Countertops (and hardware):** A complete kitchen overhaul may stretch some homeowners’ budgets. However, changing an older countertop for a new material can provide the facelift a kitchen needs. And while changing the cabinets may be a homeowners’ ultimate goal, swapping hardware in dated finishes for newer handles and pulls can provide low-cost appeal.

• **Paint:** Painting a space is an inexpensive improvement that adds maximum impact. Paint can transform dark and drab rooms into bright and airy oases. Paint also can be used to create an accent wall or cozy nooks. Homeowners also can showcase their personalities with their choice of paint colours.

• **Lighting:** Homeowners should not underestimate what a change in lighting can do. When rooms or exterior spaces are illuminated, they take on entirely new looks. It’s worth it to invest in new lighting, whether it’s a dramatic hanging light over the dining room table or task lighting in dim spaces.

• **Weatherproofing:** Improving windows, doors, weatherstripping, and insulation in a home can offer visual

appeal and help homeowners save money. The initial investment may be significant, but those costs will pay off in energy savings.

• **Mudroom:** Turn an entryway into a more functional space with the addition of cabinets, benches or custom-designed storage options that perfectly fit the area. Cubbies and cabinets can corral

shoes, umbrellas, hats, bags, and much more.

• **Accent updates:** Any space, whether it’s inside or outside a home, can get a fresh look with new decorative accents. Invest in new throw pillows and even slipcovers for living room sofas. Use new tile or paint the brick on a fireplace in a den, then update the

mantel with decorative displays. Purchase wall art that can bring different colours into a room. Change the cushions on deck furniture and buy colour-coordinated planters.

These subtle changes will not cost as much as full-scale renovations, but they can still help homeowners transform their homes.

## Stainless steel pools and hot tubs: a luxurious trend

Are you thinking about adding a pool or hot tub to your backyard? Do you want a stylish and modern solution? Here’s what you need to know about stainless steel pools and hot tubs.

### Numerous advantages

Although stainless steel residential pools and hot tubs are relatively new in North America, they’re commonplace in Europe. For example, they’re popular in municipal and public settings for hygienic reasons.

Bacteria and other germs can’t penetrate the surface of stainless steel, which ensures better water quality and simplified maintenance. Moreover, all the pool and hot tub accessories are made of the same material, so they don’t discolour, making them look new for a long time.

Unlike most pools and hot tubs, stainless steel ones are



Photo: diamondspas.com

environmentally friendly because they’re entirely recyclable. They’re also ideal for cold climates as they’re frost resistant. Lightweight and free-standing, they’re quick to install and can be customized to suit your needs.

Stainless steel pools and hot tubs are more expensive than their concrete, plastic or vinyl counterparts. However, you don’t have to pay as much for upkeep, maintenance and repairs. For example, you’ll spend far less

on water treatment products, cover replacements, paint and more.

Stainless steel pools and hot tubs are top-of-the-line, long-term investments. Contact a specialist in your area to make your project a reality.

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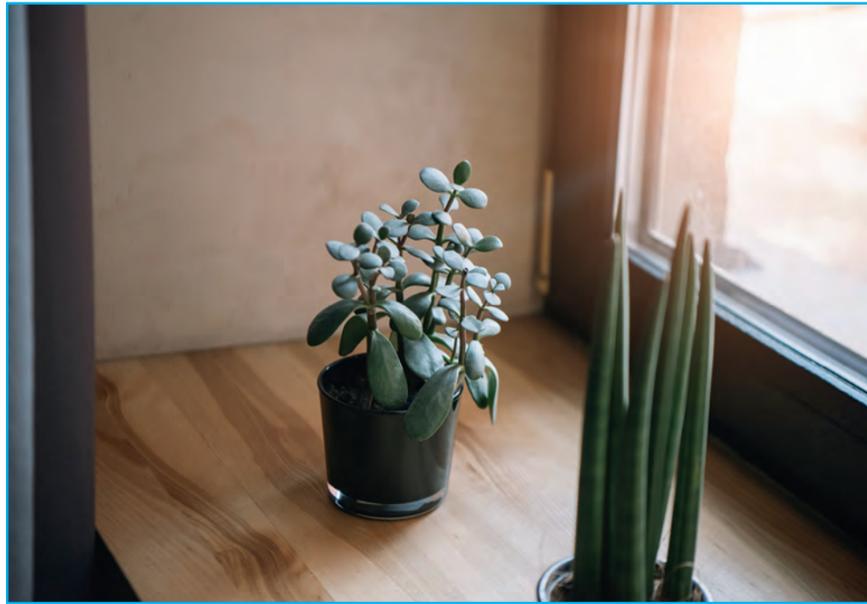
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## Pros and cons of windowsill materials

Windowsills are an essential element of your home because they secure the windows and can serve as shelves for decorations. You can choose from a wide variety of windowsill materials to complement your home. Here's a look at the pros and cons of each.

- PVC windowsills are the most common because they're affordable and come in various colours. PVC sills are also moisture and fade resistant. Additionally, you need to wipe them with a damp cloth only periodically to keep them looking new. However, they aren't as durable as other materials and can't be recycled.

- Solid wood sills are elegant and durable and provide good thermal insulation. You can choose from various wood species, including oak, mahogany, pine and ash. However, wood is sensitive to temperature extremes, high humidity and



UV rays, so it requires regular maintenance to protect it against rot and mould.

- Natural stone windowsills are made of materials like granite, limestone and marble, which add a touch of luxury to the interior of your home. Stone sills resist damage from sunlight and retain their appearance for years with very little maintenance. However, they don't have heat insulating properties and can be expensive.

- Tile sills come in materials such as ceramic, glass and concrete. Tile is an excellent choice for bathrooms and kitchens because of its durability. Moreover, selecting a tile windowsill gives you endless customization options. However, tile is labour intensive to install, and the grout can become dirty quickly.

Talk to a contractor in your area to help you choose the right windowsill material for your home.

## Quick and easy ways to give your kitchen a new look

Kitchens are often described as the busiest rooms in a home. Kitchens are where meals are prepared and tend to be go-to gathering spots on holiday get-togethers and during other events when homeowners host family and friends.

With so much time spent in the kitchen, it's easy to see how homeowners might grow a little bored by these rooms. The cost of a kitchen remodel won't be cheap. But the good news is that there are many quick and easy, not to mention less expensive, ways to give a kitchen a new look.

- **Repaint and restyle the cabinets.** Cabinet space is an undeniably precious commodity in a kitchen, especially as more and more homeowners embrace their inner chef and cook more complicated meals at home. After all, the more expansive a home chef's culinary repertoire, the more space that person needs to store all the tools of the cooking trade. A full cabinet replacement is unnecessary if the cabinets are still functional and not overcrowded, so repainting them can be a great way to give the kitchen a new look while keeping costs reasonable. During the painting project, homeowners can install new cabinet knobs and/or drawer pulls to freshen up the style of the cabinets even further.

- **Install under-cabinet lighting.** Another inexpensive way to give a kitchen a new look is to install under-cabinet lighting. Under-cabinet lighting serves both an aesthetic and practical purpose. From a purely aesthetic standpoint, under-cabinet lighting can make a kitchen feel more warm and keep the kitchen illuminated when meals aren't being prepared and homeowners don't want to have their overhead lights on but still want to be able to navigate the kitchen safely. During meal prep, under-cabinet lighting can illuminate counters so it's easier to chop, peel and perform other prep tasks.

- **Replace existing backsplash.** Replacing backsplash is another simple, inexpensive and effective way to give a kitchen a new feel. Homeowners can opt for something neutral that won't upset their existing decor or go with a more bold backsplash that immediately draws the attention of anyone who enters the room. This simple job can be done by the average do-it-yourselfer and the cost of new backsplash won't break the bank.

- **Replace existing seating.** Whether you have an island countertop with bar stools or a breakfast nook with cushioned seats, replacing the seating is a budget-friendly job that can create a new look when entering the room. Countertop bar stools come in many styles, so giving this area of the kitchen a new feel can be as simple as shifting from classic, high-back stools to more modern swivel stools with a chrome base. For the breakfast nook, replacing a light-coloured bench cushion with a bolder alternative can instantly transform the look of the space.

Kitchen remodels can break the bank. But there's a host of budget-friendly ways for cost-conscious homeowners to revitalize these popular spaces in their homes.

## 5 mistakes to avoid when cleaning your windows and mirrors

Clean mirrors, windows and glass furniture add instant sparkle to your decor. In your haste to get the shine, you may make mistakes that cause you to double your efforts. Avoid these five habits to get the best results the first time.

1. Cleaning when the weather or lighting is bad, like freezing rain or glaring sun

2. Neglecting to dust surrounding spaces, like mirror frames, before cleaning

3. Using a poor quality cleaning solution

4. Drying surfaces with a non absorbent, dirty or lint-covered cloth

5. Forgetting to wipe the squeegee after each pass

Purchase the best cleaning products and accessories at your local stores. You could also try hiring a cleaning pro for dazzling results.





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## 5 interior design tips to make your windows look bigger

If your home doesn't have large picture windows, here are a few tips to make your modest windows look larger.

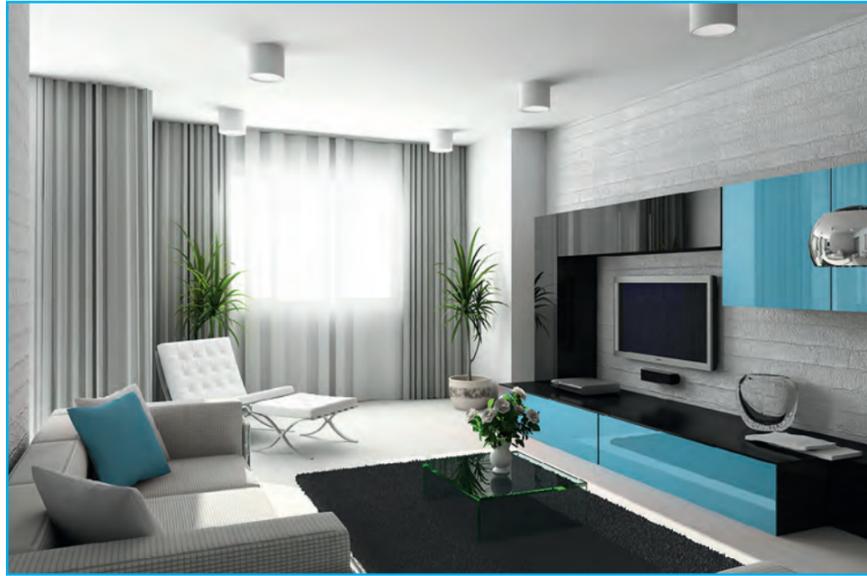
### 1. Hang the curtain rod strategically.

If you want your window to appear taller and broader, install the curtain rod about 10 centimetres above the window trim. Moreover, the curtain rod should extend about 20 centimetres off the window frame on each side. This will trick the eye into thinking the window is bigger than it is.

### 2. Invest in high-quality drapes.

Choose a high-quality fabric made of thick, sturdy material to help hide the line between the wall and the window. Patterned fabrics also draw the eye upwards, making the window look taller.

**3. Paint the wall around the window a dark colour.** If the window frame is



white, painting your walls white may make it fade into the background. Consider painting the wall surrounding your window a cool, dark colour to make it pop.

**4. Put up a large mirror.** Hang a large mirror on the wall across from the window to let more light into the room. This will give the illusion of a bigger window.

**5. Place low furniture around the window.** When decorating your space, place small or low-profile furniture pieces near the window, so the eye is tricked by the scale.

Visit several interior design stores in your area to find suitable drapes for your home. You may also consider ordering custom window coverings for an upscale look.

## 6 signs you may need a new HVAC system

There's no place like home, especially when that home is a comfortable and safe haven. One of the ways residents find comfort in their homes is by maintaining the right indoor temperatures, which fluctuate along with the seasons. While there is much to be said about opening windows and doors to let Mother Nature do her thing, indoor comfort is often maintained with an HVAC system.

HVAC stands for heating, ventilation and air conditioning. It can include heat pumps, furnaces and air conditioning units. It is an automated system that works by adjusting a thermostat to regulate air temperature, and sometimes humidity, in the home. HVAC systems also may be used to improve indoor air quality through filtration and oxygen replacement.

As with any mechanical device, an HVAC system has a life span that must be considered. Should any of the following conditions be present, it is likely time to consult with an HVAC technician to see if repairs or replacement of the entire system is warranted.

### 1. Age

If the HVAC system is more than 10 years old, it



could be time to begin budgeting for a new unit. Many modern, efficient systems may last 12 to 14 years with routine maintenance. But it's good to keep an HVAC system's age in mind so you can readily recognize when it might start to fail.

### 2. Longer or constant running times

An efficient, properly working system will quickly heat or cool the home and then turn off. A system that is turning on repeatedly or having to run for a while before the set temperature is reached, could be nearing the end of its utility.

### 3. Strange noises

Groaning, banging or

loud humming noises should be addressed. While these noises may indicate that certain components need maintenance or replacement, they also could be symptoms of age and a system nearing failure.

### 4. Frequent repair visits

Knowing the HVAC company's repair person by name is a sign that the system has required too much work in recent months. Repeated issues and repairs are probably signs that it's time to consider a system replacement.

### 5. Higher bills

Sticker shock when receiving electricity or gas

to be replaced.

### 6. Poor indoor air quality

If the home is dusty or humid or even if allergies seem to have cropped up out of nowhere, this could indicate a poorly

functioning HVAC system.

HVAC systems are vital to keeping indoor environments comfortable and safe. Such systems may exhibit certain signs that indicate they need to be replaced.

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## Ready, set, declutter

Tackling spring cleaning without first decluttering a few rooms, drawers, or cupboards can be futile. Is this task worth the effort? The answer is a resounding 'yes'. Getting rid of unnecessary things gives you, among other things, an incredible feeling of lightness and well-being. Here are a few tips on how to make this chore go smoothly.

Many find that sorting through their belongings brings up various emotions. Can you relate? To lighten the emotional load, start with items with little or no sentimental value, such as leftover renovation materials or take-out containers that can go in the recycling bin.

Once you've done this, sort through other items. When deciding if you should keep something, ask yourself if it's useful. If you haven't used it in over a year, it's not essential. If you're reluctant to part with an expensive item, remember that you can sell it to someone else who can give it a new life.



If you have several duplicates of nearly identical items, keep only one or two (the least worn, for example). If you've been hoarding clothes that no longer fit, be realistic. Sell them if they're in good shape or donate them to an organization that helps needy people.

After decluttering, reward yourself with a relaxing massage or meal out.

## Welcome to the community

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – One thing is certain when you put your house up for sale – you are going to be moving! The question that needs answering is – where to? There are a lot of questions which need to be answered when deciding on a move to a new community, regardless of its proximity to your present home.

Many of the things to be considered when relocating, not including preparing your home for sale or arranging for moving supplies, include very important considerations depending on family dynamics. For instance, schools and extra-curricular activities are important considerations for those with children. Regardless of the ages of family members, there is a need to find a community which has access to doctors, dentists and other professionals as well as proximity to gyms, libraries, grocery stores and other amenities.

Another decision to be made is will the new home be in a rural or urban area. This will influence the size of the property to be purchased, whether there are municipal services available and the need for vehicles to travel to and from work or leisure activities. Other considerations such as reliable public transportation, taxi

service, and access to railway stations or airports should be considered. Investigating ambulance and police coverage in the area should be investigated also.

Once the possible locations to purchase the new house have been reduced to two or three possibilities, a road trip to them can provide a visual view of what the community or area can offer. Speaking to people who live there, municipalities or real estate agents can provide invaluable information as can online research.

Many communities now have an online presence and many of these sites can be monitored for information on living there. Questions and requests for recommendations about service providers are often answered on community social media sites, such as Facebook and posts about upcoming community events can be found there as well. There is also information on communities in local newspapers as well as real estate guides which can provide a look at what properties and prices currently are available.

There are many decisions to be made when moving to a new home in a new community and as in all things, information is an important part of decision making.

## 3 alternatives to lazy Susans

The lazy Susan is probably one of the most well-known and recognized kitchen cabinet accessories. However, many homeowners complain that it isn't practical. If you're remodelling your kitchen, here are three lazy Susan alternatives you may want to consider.

back shelves that can be pulled out individually for easy loading and unloading.

1. Super Susan trays spin independently on the shelves inside the corner cabinet. You can add up to three trays, depending on your storage needs. This feature eliminates the pole many people hate on a standard lazy Susan, which allows you to store larger items.

3. Corner drawers are the most ergonomic option because you get the most space to store things. However, they're expensive and can only be included as part of a new build because of their large opening and clearance requirements.

2. Magic corner pull-outs are door-mounted shelves that swing out of the corner cabinet. Many models also include

Finally, you can also opt to block out the corner completely. Sometimes forfeiting access to the corner creates other benefits, such as getting a larger drawer bank. Consult your contractor to determine the most practical option for your needs.



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## Selling your home

Carolyn Thompson Goddard  
Record Staff

**CHESTERVILLE** – Once you have made the decision to put your property up for sale, there are several factors which have to be decided upon. These include deciding whether or not to use the services of a real estate agent and how to get the best price and a quick sale.

When searching for an agent, it is suggested to consider agents with experience selling properties in your neighbourhood, receiving recommendations, reading online reviews, and speaking to several agents before making the final decision. Real estate agents can help homeowners decide on a selling price, advertise the property and assist you either by recommending a home staging business or providing information on what will facilitate a quick and profitable sale.

Kim Monkhouse, a real estate agent with the Oldford Team explained, real estate agents have completed courses in the field, are licensed through the province of Ontario and have to be members of the Ontario Real Estate

Association. She continued how the OREA requires agents to take courses every couple of years in order to ensure they are up to date with changes in the profession. According to Monkhouse, real estate agents are knowledgeable in the applicable legislation and laws associated with real estate, can explain conditions associated with agreements and provide advice on the many aspects of the purchase or sale of real estate. When asked about staging companies for clients, she mentioned, upon request, there are local real estate staging companies which can be recommended to clients.

The process of staging a home for sale involves preparing both the outside and inside of the home for viewing by potential purchasers. The first view a potential buyer has is the outside of your home. It is important to ensure this is well maintained. In winter, laneways and sidewalks are kept clear of snow and ice, with the lawns well maintained in the other seasons. In the spring and fall season, ensuring the yard and flower gardens are raked and cleaned up is important, while in the growing season

weeding, watering, and mowing are important to ensure good curb appeal. Never underestimate the advantage of keeping a patio area in good condition painted and outdoor furniture maintained.

The foyer is an important place as it provides potential purchasers with the first glimpse inside the home and a welcome mat can help set the stage for a good home tour. Owners should declutter and remove

as many personal items as possible throughout the home. This will help to create a sense of increased interior size as well as allow those viewing the home an opportunity to visualize them living in the home. It is not suggested to store items in closets or cabinets as people will often look inside these places to see potential storage areas, but rather to pack up the items and store them neatly in the basement, garage, or a

rented storage area. De-cluttering a home also involves reducing the amount of furniture in living areas. Removing or re-arranging furniture to provide a sense of openness is important to consider and if need be, renting appropriate-sized furniture such as the living room might be considered. Other considerations when preparing a home for sale include ensuring counters

are clear, vanity and bathroom soaps are full size and replacing outdated fixtures can assist in a quick, profitable sale.

The purchase of a home is still considered to be one of the largest financial transactions that people will have during their life. There are lots of resources available to those who are selling or buying a home and research can help the seller receive the best price possible.

are clear, vanity and bathroom soaps are full size and replacing outdated fixtures can assist in a quick, profitable sale.

## Expert tips for maintaining your flooring

Have you finished most of your spring cleaning but haven't washed your floors? Here are a few tips for maintaining your flooring without damaging it.

- **Ceramic tiles.** Clean the grout lines with a product specifically designed for this purpose. After letting the product soak in, scrub the grout with a clean brush or cloth and rinse. You can easily clean the surface of the tiles with a mixture of water and white vinegar.

- **Vinyl.** This popular material is easy to care for and will look new for years. Gently mop the floor with a vinyl cleaner to remove grime. Then, rinse with clean water and let dry.

- **Floating floor.** This type of flooring is practical and attractive but vulnerable to moisture. Therefore, avoid soaking it with water when washing it. Purchase a product designed for floating floors. Follow the instructions to restore your floor to its former glory.

- **Hardwood.** Restore the shine of this elegant material with an



No matter what type of flooring you have, remove debris, crumbs and dust with a broom, vacuum or cloth before you start cleaning.

Courtesy Photo

environmentally friendly, no-rinse cleaner. That way, you won't leave behind streaks or residue. Avoid using scouring pads and other aggressive tools

to remove stains. These items could damage the floor's finish.

Visit local stores to find products and accessories to make your floors shine.

Whether you are planning on buying or selling, these tips can help you *Spring* into the Real Estate Market.

### BUYERS

#### Get Pre-Approved

Know your budget before you start shopping for your home. Show sellers you are ready to buy now.

#### Wants vs Needs

Know your wants vs your needs! Make a list of what your new home needs to have and stick to that list. Don't waste your time touring homes that do not fit your needs.

#### Find an Agent you can trust

In today's market, you need a professional who will guide you through the process of buying a home, answering questions you may have along the way.



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### SELLERS

#### List now for less competition

The spring market brings two things: more buyers and more sellers. List sooner rather than later to capitalize on buyers looking right now!

#### Price your house right

Home prices are still growing, but not as quickly as before. Talk with your agent about how to competitively price your home!

#### Increase your curb appeal

Tour your home with the eyes of a buyer - what needs to be fixed, stored, painted, etc. Use flower planters and add a doormat to increase initial curb appeal.

