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March 22, 2017 Vol. 8 Week 13 Issue 403

CLEAN UP HAS BEGUN AT BAYFIELD RIVER FLATS

BRVTA

The Bayfield River Valley Trail Association (BRVTA) will host a hike of Mavis' Trail in Varna on the morning of March 23.

Starting at 9 a.m., walkers will begin in a quiet pine meadow and after crossing a 65-foot bridge, will then meander along a heavily wooded path that eventually leads to a lovely, tranquil lookout over the charming Bayfield River.

The trail is 2.5 KM long, difficulty is Level 3 and the hike will take approximately one hour. The trail starts at the Varna Complex, 1.6 KMs west of the village of Varna on County Road 3. Parking is available.

For more information please contact hike leaders: Pat Baker, 519 955-1456, or Helen Varekamp, 519 565-5442.

EARTH HOUR CONCERT

Doug Vanderhaar has removed all of the old boat cradles and metal junk which littered the property. (Submitted photos)

The relatively mild and snow free winter has given the Bayfield River Valley Trail Association (BRVTA) team which is responsible for the maintenance of the newly acquired Bayfield River Flats Natural Area, the opportunity to start some of the more challenging projects that must be completed before the property's natural beauty can be truly appreciated and enjoyed.

Over 225 individuals and families (almost one-quarter of the village's population) participated in the "crowd funding" which enabled the BRVTA to acquire the 4.75 acre river side property for the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy (HLTC).

"Since so many villagers have a stake in this property, we are especially determined to make certain that 'The Flats' will be transformed into a natural area that we will all be proud of," said Dave Gillians, BRVTA team member.

Doug Vanderhaar has removed all of the old boat cradles and metal junk which littered the property.

He has even managed to clear an area that should be suitable for parking about ten cars, once it's graded and has some gravel spread on it later this summer.

This past weekend, crews from Lawrence Kornaker's company Trikor Construction, of Wallacetown, ON, used acetylene torches to cut the rusted hulk of a derelict old barge that was abandoned decades ago in the mud near the Bayfield Bridge on Hwy. 21.

Bayfield River Flats supporters are all over North America. In this photo, John and Margaret Bettridge's grandson's family in Sherman, Texas are shown wearing their Bayfield River Flats t-shirts. L-r: Shalyn Hagan, Halen, Abby, Aiden, Bryce and Hendrix

Kornaker, and his crews, cut the huge old barge in two and with their large construction equipment, pulled it out of the mud and water to the old roadway at the bottom of the hill on 'The Flats' beside the river. He had hoped to truck the sections of the old barge away in two parts and then weld them back together.

However, the snow and ice on the surface of the roadway down to the river melted and the road proved too soft for the huge truck to use. The combination of the weight of the metal barge and the fact that it was so rusted, means that this plan will be revised. Later this spring, when the roadway down the hill to the river has dried out, Kornaker will either cut the old barge into smaller sections or use his heavy equipment to haul the pieces up the hill to the highway.

Tenders were sent to six local tree cutting companies to obtain quotes to have all of the dead and damaged trees on the river flats that have been marked by Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority experts, taken down. Bayfield Tree Services was awarded the contact and they have already begun to clear some of the deadfalls. Over the next few weeks, anyone driving by the property, will probably see trucks and equipment and hear chainsaws.

The Glee Sisters are once again sponsoring an Earth Hour concert at St. Andrew's United Church on March 25.

The Earth Hour concert will begin with a presentation at 8 p.m. on "Being Blue", emphasizing the challenges that waste plastic presents for the ecology of rivers, lakes and oceans. Both Bayfield and Goderich have responded to this challenge by becoming "blue" communities, and Shelagh Sully and friends will explain how local residents can contribute by "being blue" in their homes, organizations and communities.

At 8:30 p.m. the lights will be turned off in the church, (as they are all over the world on Earth Hour), and the Glee Sisters will sing songs about being blue, about the environment, about love and about nightfall and morning. The program will include familiar songs to sing along with. Words will be shared up on a screen so participants do not need to bring a flashlight to see in the dark. At 9:30 p.m. the lights will come back on for the choir's closing number.

Admission to the Glee Sisters' Earth Hour Concert is by free will donation.

Usually, the Earth Hour Concert is a fundraiser for the Bayfield Tree Committee, but fortunately this organization is well funded for the coming year. The Glee Sisters decided that instead donations from this concert would be contributed to the St. Andrew's United Music Fund, as a thank you for use of the church for rehearsals and in appreciation of recent renovations to the chancel and sound system. These renovations include cushions throughout all the pews, so those coming to Earth Hour will be even more comfortable.

SOUP AND A MOVIE AT TRINITY

"Soup and a Movie at Trinity" has moved to Tuesdays!

The congregation of Trinity Anglican Church welcomes the community to join in fellowship over a

This past weekend, crews from Lawrence Kornaker's company Trikor Construction, of Wallacetown, ON, used acetylene torches to cut the rusted hulk of a derelict old barge that was abandoned decades ago in the mud near the Bayfield Bridge on Hwy. 21.

Kornaker, and his crews, cut the huge old barge in two and with their large construction equipment, pulled it out of the mud and water to the old roadway at the bottom of the hill on 'The Flats' beside the river.

Once the dead trees are taken down, arborists will be better able to plan an extensive tree planting program for this autumn. It will also offer a landscape architect the opportunity to develop a plan which will be sensitive to the heritage of the Old Mill, which was on the property and the endangered species that may be on the property. The plan will also take into consideration use by fishing, canoeing and kayaking enthusiasts as well as the need for a children's natural play area.

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) project manager for the Hwy. 21, Bayfield Bridge replacement project, Natalia Bartos, has informed the BRVTA Flats Management team that the MTO will not require the exclusive use of the river flats property for three years, until at least the spring of 2018. This revised timetable, will provide the river flats maintenance team time to deal with the inevitable challenges that occur on a property that has gone unloved for over a century and give villagers opportunities to explore and enjoy it this year.

hearty bowl of soup while delighting in a great cinematic work.

The next edition of this extremely popular community event will be held on Tuesday, March 28 and will be held one more Tuesdays after that from 6-9 p.m. Those who attend will enjoy a choice of soup, bread and a beverage all for a free will donation followed by a movie on the big screen! Florence Foster Jenkins will be the film shown.

For the fourth movie night featured soups will be donated from individuals as well as The Docks Restaurant, and The Little Inn of Bayfield.

Any funds raised go to outreach and church needs. All in the community are welcome but should reserve their spot by calling 519 565-2790 by the Sunday prior to the movie with their name and number of people attending.

The last movie on the schedule is Jersey Boys, Apr. 4.

BAYFIELD READS

Canada's varied weather sometimes affords us with the perfect opportunity to curl up on the couch with a good book. But what titles should Bayfield residents read? The answer will be determined at the Bayfield Reads 2017 event to be held at the Bayfield Town Hall on March 26.

Bayfield Reads is held just prior to CBC Radio's week-long Canada Reads competition. Five passionate local readers will each defend one of the 2017 Canada Reads titles, in an attempt to convince the audience that his or her choice is the book that every citizen should read this year.

This year the books being presented and their authors' names are as follows: Company Town by Madeline Ashby; Fifteen Dogs by Andre Alexis; Nostalgia by M.G. Vassanji; The Break by Katherena Vermette; The Right to be Cold by Sheila Watt-Cloutier.

Following the presentations, the audience will vote, refreshments will be served and a winner will be announced.

Tickets for Bayfield Reads 2017 are $5 each and are available at The Village Bookshop or at the door. Please call the bookshop at 519 565-5600 to reserve tickets. The Village Bookshop and Shop Bike Coffee are sponsoring the afternoon event.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You are responsible for your own happiness! If you need to improve your business, team, family or school culture, if you are interested in changing your perspective then please attend the Bayfield Historical Society (BHS) meeting on Monday, March 27.

CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM RELATIONSHIPS EXPLORED

“We live in an increasingly fearful era of misunderstanding and not trusting the stranger among us. Current global events and our call to common humanity, demand that we put aside our prejudices and assumptions and make the initiative to understand our neighbors – both in our similarities and our differences,” said Elise Feltrin, minister at St. Andrew’s United Church in Bayfield.

In an effort to encourage such understanding, this spring, St. Andrew’s will be offering a study and companion field trip aimed at breaking down some of the misconceptions and stereotypes by learning about and meeting our Muslim brothers and sisters.

The study will be based on the United Church of Canada resource, “That We May Know Each Other,” a document produced in 2005 as a way to explore the relationship between Christianity and Islam, specifically within the Canadian context. With the influx of immigrants and increasingly strained relationships with the Muslim community both in Canada and abroad, this issue grows more relevant each day.

The six-week study will take place in the church hall Thursday afternoons beginning March 30, from 4-5:30 p.m. Each week will focus on a different theme and include short videos, group discussions and learning different aspects of the Muslim faith and Islamic culture, particularly in relation to Christianity. Many people do not realize that these two religions share a common ancestor in the biblical figure of Abraham.

On Wednesday, May 17, the study will culminate with a visit to the Toronto Ismaili Centre and Aga Khan Museum. Others will be welcome to participate on this bus tour to the stunning architecturally renowned spiritual centre that sits on a 6.8 hectare beautifully landscaped property. In addition to being a worship space, the centre is a celebration of cultural diversity, intellectual discovery and peaceful contemplation, rooted in the rich tapestry of Islamic heritage and traditions. The full day trip, departing from Bayfield at 7:45 a.m., will include lunch, admission fees and guided tours for the package price of $90.

For those participating in the study, the resource book will cost $10.

For more information, or to register for either the study or the bus trip, please leave a message at St. Andrew’s United Church 519 565-2854 or email, standrews@tcc.on.ca.

The study and trip are open to everyone who shares an interest in learning more about our Muslim neighbors. This is one small step towards positive change in global relationships and conscientiously building relationships rather than fences.

DEBUNKING RUMORS ABOUT THE HOWARD STREET FERAL CATS

In Issue 401 of the Bayfield Breeze, information about a feral cat colony on the village’s Main Street – Bayfield’s Forgotten Felines - was shared with readers. Since that time the caregivers of a second feral cat colony on Howard Street in Bayfield have approached the editor in hopes of continuing to educate our readership on the subject, debunking some of the misinformation that has been rumored and perpetuated about these cat colonies and promoting coordinated, responsible, feral cat colony management.

According to the Howard Street caregivers, feral cat colonies in Bayfield have been in existence since at least 1979. The Howard Street Feral Cat Colony (HSFCC) contains between 20 and 30 feral cats and is a registered and micro-chipped colony. This colony’s caregivers utilize best practices advocated by veterinarians and animal agencies across North America, such as the Humane Societies in Ontario and the OSPCA. The goals of the care provided are: humane treatment of colony members, cat population control, nuisance avoidance, safety and public health integrity.

One HSFCC caregiver has Trap Neuter Return (TNR) certification. TNR is the only successful method of stabilizing and controlling feral cat colony population growth. Research indicates that

The BHS is pleased to present guest speaker Brian O’Reilly from Human Potential Plus, he and his team are very successful in teaching how to do all these things. This interesting and internationally known business has roots in the local community with the beautiful 1870’s Georgian style Magnolia Manor in Varna being their base for the workshops. Having worked with high profile business leaders, many professional and Olympic athletes and various unique individuals we are certain O’Reilly will be an entertaining and informative addition to the speaker series.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm at the Bayfield Lion’s Community Building, all are welcome, refreshments served and membership sign up or renewal will be available.

CYBER-SENIORS

Friends of the Bayfield Library, Home4Good and St. Andrews United Church are partnering with The Huron Youth + Seniors Knowledge Network to show a documentary with discussion following on Cyber-Seniors.

A humorous and heartwarming feature documentary, “Cyber-Seniors”, adds to the important international conversation about the growing generation gap. Focusing on a group of senior citizens who take their first steps into cyber-space under the tutelage of teenage mentors, the film expertly renders a thought-provoking look at a spirited group of men and women who are enriched by digitally reconnecting with their families and each other. Finding their footing rather quickly, the group moves on to compete for the most “YouTube” views while swiftly building their online inventory of friends.

The Huron Youth + Seniors Knowledge Network was a collaborative project between Goderich District Collegiate Institute and the Goderich Place Retirement Residence where students from a Grade 10 Careers class worked with elders to teach them how iPads can be used to connect with family and friends, as well as to search out personal interests on the Internet.

This documentary will be shown at the Bayfield Public Library on March 28 from 1-3 p.m. All are invited to attend and join in the conversation and refreshments.

EARTH HOUR

“On Being Blue” is the theme of the 2017 Earth Hour event to be held at St. Andrew’s United Church in Bayfield on March 25. This evening will celebrate Bayfield (and Goderich) as blue communities, and will offer ideas on how people can keep our planet “blue”.

The Howard Street Feral Cat Colony caregivers follow the best practice TNR protocol. This involves spay/neuter for population control; rabies and FVRCP vaccinations; anti-parasite dosing; along with registration, micro-chipping and ear-tipping for colony member identification. (Submitted photos)

removing and/or killing these cats creates a "vacuum effect" whereby new cats simply replace the removed colony. And to simply "stop feeding" feral cats is both cruel, and illegal, according to the province's OSPCA Act** because it causes harm and distress to an animal.

The HSFCC caregivers are not a cat rescue organization; they are caregivers who care for the colony that lives in their area. These colony caregivers are aware of several other local caregivers responsibly caring for feral cat colonies, indicating that this situation is not unique to Howard Street or Bayfield.

HSFCC caregivers follow the best practice TNR protocol. This involves spay/neuter for population control; rabies and FVRCP vaccinations; anti-parasite dosing; along with registration, micro-chipping and ear-tipping for colony member identification.

In late February of this year, the Howard Street Feral Cat Colony caregivers TNR'd 23 cats (using Mass TNR methods) from their own and a nearby colony. Mass TNR involves trapping, transporting and spaying/neutering approximately 15 to 30 feral cats at a time.

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HSFCC caregivers rented humane, cat-specific traps (raccoon traps sometimes kill/crush kittens), worked for three days to trap the cats, transported the cats for TNR, and provided three days of after-surgery care, before returning each cat to the outdoors. Although difficult, this TNR method is highly successful because it outpaces the colony's ability to grow through reproduction.

The HSFCC caregivers receive free mass TNR services for their feral cat colony from the Toronto Humane Society (THS). The THS is a member of the Toronto Feral Cat Coalition.

The HSFCC caregivers have negotiated some additional opportunities for other feral cat colony caregivers and/or cat rescues in Western Ontario to receive the same best practice TNR services for free.

Shelagh Sully and friends will present "Being Blue" at 8 p.m. The lights will go out at 8:30 p.m. and those gathered will sing to celebrate our blue planet until the lights come back on at 9:30 p.m.

A free will offering will be collected to support the music program at St. Andrew's in appreciation of renovations to the chancel that makes singing so enjoyable.

BLUEWATER NEWS

At its regular council meeting held on Monday, March 20, the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater approved in principle, subject to the receipt of the 2017 education tax rate, a 2.74 per cent tax rate increase for 2017. This tax rate represents a levy increase of 8.14 per cent. Included in this amount are non-discretionary costs (policing, conservation authority, hydro, insurance) that account for a total of 4.85 per cent or $340,531 of the levy increase. Given the impact of non-discretionary items, compiled with the municipal growth rate of 0.91 per cent, the net impact of the discretionary levy is 2.38 per cent.

"Unfortunately, the municipality has no direct control over the rising costs of non-discretionary items. As a result, Council had to take a hard look at the discretionary items that they control. A 2.74 per cent tax rate increase balances taxpayers' ability to pay and service levels," said Mayor Tyler Hessel. "The municipality continues to monitor its operations to find improvements. For instance, staff is monitoring the use of hydro at its facilities and is implementing power saving initiatives to reduce the consumption of hydro."

PANCAKE BRUNCH AND SUGAR BUSH TOUR

The sweet taste of maple syrup poured over a stack of freshly flipped pancakes is a spring ritual for many Canadians. It definitely is for the congregation of St. James', Middleton as they host their eighth annual Pancake Brunch and Sugar Bush Tour on Apr. 1. All in the community are invited to join in the festivities.

Pancakes and sausage with Rick and Rusty Schilbe's fresh maple syrup, coffee, juice and dessert will be served at the Pine Lake Campground Recreational Hall, 77794 Orchard Line, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

In addition to brunch participants will be able to go on a hayride and once they reach their destination see first hand how maple syrup is made at the Rick Schilbe Farm. Wagon rides will leave from the recreation hall for the short ride across the road to the sugar bush and shanty.

The cost for the brunch is $10, adults; $5, children 12 to 6 years; and youngsters aged five and under are

As a result, a local cat rescue organization known as “Clinton Feral Kitties” is planning to do a free Mass TNR for up to 30 of their colony’s feral cats on Apr. 26. But community support to offset volunteers’ transportation costs for “Clinton Feral Kitties” would be greatly appreciated. Those who wish to donate can email Lucy at ClintonFeralKitties@gmail.com. This group also has a website that can be viewed at clintonsferalkitti.wixsite.com.

In addition, a Feral Cat Colony TNR and Care Certification Workshop is being organized by “Adoptapet-Pet Rescue” for Apr. 22 at the OMAFRA offices in Clinton. The workshop will run from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Due to overwhelming interest, space is extremely limited. The cost is free if you bring a dessert. Register by email to Monica at: mseto@ospca.on.ca and copy Kathi at petrescue@hurontel.on.ca.

The Howard Street Feral Cat Colony caregivers receive free mass TNR services for their feral cat colony from the Toronto Humane Society (THS). The THS is a member of the Toronto Feral Cat Coalition.

Anyone who operates a cat rescue or is a feral cat colony caregiver interested in completing a Mass TNR at the Toronto Humane Society, free of charge, should email Community4Animals@outlook.com for more information.

***OSPCA Act reference: https://www.ontario.caaws/statute/90o36*
Prohibitions re distress, harm to an animal - Causing distress
11.2 (1) No person shall cause an animal to be in distress. 2008, c. 16, s. 8.

FOUR PROBLEMS FACING VILLAGE COULD CREATE FINANCIAL STORM

BY KEN LARONE

Bayfield Councillor Bill Whetstone this past week outlined his view of “a possible financial storm” heading for Bayfield in the next few years.

At two special public meetings in the community centre this past week he explained his concern about four major issues that could cause financial problems for the village and the Municipality of Bluewater.

The future of the Bayfield Community Centre and Arena, Main Street. Revitalization, village safety issues and possible problems facing the marina during bridge construction were the four areas of concern noted. Whetstone asked for the support of village residents to help him resolve these problems.

“Increasing Bluewater taxes isn’t a solution,” he said. “Bayfield and the communities along the shoreline are already being overtaxed. They pay more than 73.4 per cent of the municipality’s taxes.

“Bayfield has a reputation of being a community of contributors. They get things done.” He sighted several groups that make the village attractive.

Bayfield Community Centre and Arena

Two Bayfield groups are working with Bluewater Council to take control and operate the community centre in three years. The two groups expect the municipality to keep the doors open and the ice available for the next three years.

The Bayfield Arena Community Partners Association {BACPA) will continue to help Bluewater for the three years to increase ice rental and use of the facility. At the same time the Bayfield Facilities Initiative Team (BFIT) will investigate and develop plans for creating a new community centre.

free. Proceeds to St. James’, Middleton Anglican Church and world outreach.

BHS ARCHIVES

The Bayfield Archives and Welcome Centre, on Main Street, is hosting events for Archives Awareness Week, Apr. 3-7.

The archives will be open daily from 1-4 p.m. They will share daily Facebook posts on what it means to be a volunteer-run archives serving a small community. Some Facebook posts will include project and artifact highlights.

They are also hosting a workshop, "Preserving Your Family Treasures" on Thursday, Apr. 6th. Patti Lamb, registrar of the Huron County Museum, will be discussing how to document, store and photograph your family treasures.

Participants will gain practical knowledge to preserve their family heirlooms, photographs and documents for future generations. Pre-registration is required.

Seating is limited to 10 participants. The cost is $8 per person. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the workshop will begin at 7 p.m.

Anyone interested can register by emailing the archives at bayarchives@tcc.on.ca, or message us on Facebook or register in person when the archives is open 1-4 p.m. on March 24 and 31.

COOKIE TIME

2017 marks the 90th year for the Girl Guide Cookie. The first generation of these treats took the form of a sugar cookie. These evolved into the now classic chocolate and vanilla crème sandwich cookies that have just arrived in the village kicking off Bayfield Guiding’s Spring Cookie Campaign.

Cookies are selling for $5 a box. Profits from sales help with program activities and field trips. This year the girls will be staying overnight at the Canadian Warplane Museum in Hamilton and hopefully sleeping under the wing of the Lancaster that was once a decoration at the Sky Harbour Airport in Goderich and is now one of two Lancs that were restored to fly.

Anyone wishing cookies should contact Melody Falconer-Pounder at 519 525-3830.

NOW OPEN WEEKENDS

Davinci Ristorante on Bayfield’s Main Street is now open for the season! Carlos and staff are reopening earlier than normal and are ready to see new and returning customers on Fridays and Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 11:30 to 3 p.m.

"In the end, Bayfield would have its own recreation centre without a cost to Bluewater. It would save hundreds of thousands of dollars in the years ahead for the municipality," Whetstone explained.

Downtown Revitalization

For more than 12 years the Bayfield and Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) has been developing a plan to revitalize Bayfield's Main Street. Six weeks ago Bluewater Council was asked to approve a plan which the chamber expects to cost $1.5 million. Last year Bluewater Council set aside $80,000 for the project. In the 2017 budget another $80,000 is expected to be added.

Once council approves the plan, Whetstone hopes it will qualify for grants from the federal and provincial governments.

Health and Safety

Three separate safety problems are facing villagers:

A walkway along Hwy. 21 from Cameron St. to Foodland is needed.

The new bridge crossing the Bayfield River doesn't include a safety barrier separating pedestrians from traffic. Whetstone says he is trying to organize a village group to chase the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to build a bridge similar to the one on Hwy. 4 in Exeter.

The possibility of toxic methane from three old dumps in the south-east section of the village will continue to hurt land values if council can't determine if there is a problem and then eliminate the threat quickly.

Marina

Whetstone believes three years of bridge construction could cost the community hundreds of thousands of dollars. Already with the purchase of the South Shore Marina, the MOT has eliminated boat docks, boat-launch facilities, walkways and possibly the eventual public appeal of the harbor. Whetstone intends to create a group to work with MOT, boaters, local business reps and interested citizens to stem financial loses during the next few years.

On March 14, Bluewater's Manager of Finance, Ansberth Willert released the final impact of the 2017 budget at an increase of 7.23 per cent.

"Of this amount 4.85 per cent are non-discretionary costs that include the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Provincial Police, hydro and insurance."

Councils discretionary costs increased 2.38 per cent.

Whetstone predicted Bluewater would continue to grow at a time when revenues could seriously erode due to the problems sited during these two Councilor's Corner meetings.

BLYTH FESTIVAL SINGERS TO CELEBRATE CANADA'S 1-5-0 IN SONG

Come celebrate Canada! The Blyth Festival Singers kick off this year's 1-5-0 celebrations with a rousing and inspirational concert in Seaforth on Sunday, Apr. 2.

"Around the World in Song" will feature songs to celebrate the 150th birthday of Canada as well as other great international music - from traditional folk songs to modern tunes that are known worldwide. Expect everything from ballads celebrating the unifying influence of the railways to Canadian music written for the movie "Passchendaele", - an iconic World War I battle that helped define Canada as a nation. Don't be surprised to hear lively African rhythms and beautiful Cuban melodies, as well as music in both official languages. The eclectic mix of Canadian and world music, traditional and contemporary will keep attendees on the edge of their seats - wondering what comes next!

The audience should also expect to hear soloists and groups from the choir highlighted in this celebration of Canada and the world.

TAI CHI

People from all walks of life and across the world tell how the practice of Taoist Tai Chi® arts has relieved stress, provided deep relaxation, given their bodies balance and strength, helped with pain, lifted spirits and even changed their outlook on life.

Beginner classes are being offered in Bayfield starting in April. All are welcome to attend these classes taught by an accredited, volunteer instructor.

The Bayfield Town Hall will be the location of an Open House and free class on Apr. 4 from 7-8:30 p.m. Beginner classes will continue on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at the town hall.

For more information call Doug Brown at 519 565-5187.

CULTURE AWARDS

Nominate Your Favourite Arts and Culture Experience for a Huron Cultural Award

Is there a Huron County arts, culture or heritage group, individual or organization who made an impression on you in 2016? If so, Huron Arts & Heritage Network (HAHN), in partnership with Cultural Services of the County of Huron, invites you to nominate them for a 2017 Cultural Award. The awards recognize the exceptional achievements of Huron County residents, businesses, and organizations in the following categories: Cultural Event/Organization, Individual Artist, Community Contribution, Heritage and Innovation.

Submissions require a nomination form and a short description (maximum one page) telling us why you think your nominee is worthy of recognition. Nomination forms and award guidelines can be downloaded at creativehuron.ca or ask at any Huron County Library branch. Deadline for submissions is Apr. 5. A jury will select finalists and winners in each category from the eligible nominations received.

The eighth annual Cultural Awards Gala will be held Friday, Apr. 21st at the Bayfield Town Hall.

As well as recognizing the finalists and winners, this special evening also features entertainment by a variety of local artists. There is also a silent auction of unique items at the Awards Gala supporting the activities of the Huron Arts & Heritage Network. The event starts at 7:30 p.m. followed by the awards presentations at 8 p.m. Tickets are $15 each plus a handling fee and can be purchased through www.eventbrite.ca.

VENDORS WANTED

Are you looking for a great venue to sell your craft, promote your business or sell fundraising tickets?

The program is family friendly and a wonderful way to celebrate our country's 1-5-0 with loved ones!

"Around the World in Song", the music of Canada and the world will be presented at 3 p.m. at Northside United Church, 54 Goderich St. in Seaforth.

Tickets are only $15 for adults and $6 for children 12 years and under. They can be purchased from any Blyth Festival Singer or online from the Blyth Festival Box Office at www.blythfestival.com or by calling the box office at 519–523-9300.

"Around the World in Song" is the first of a series of two Blyth Festival Singers concerts that will incorporate a sesquicentennial theme this year. Our popular Dinner Cabaret Concert and Auction is also coming up on Saturday, May 27 at the Stanley Complex in Varna. Entitled "Huron Shores and Beyond" it will feature guest musicians who will bring a Celtic flair to these Canada celebrations.

The Blyth Festival Singers is a mixed community choir under the professional direction of Sharon Poelstra with Jill Wright as accompanist. Choir members come from all areas of Huron County and have worked to develop a high standard of performance in various repertoires, under the umbrella of the Blyth Centre for the Arts.

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR WINNERS WETLAND PROMOTERS

Shown at the Conservation Awards evening, held at Ironwood Golf Club near Exeter on March 16 are from l-r: George Irvin, vice chair, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Board of Directors; Rachael Scholten, Stewardship technician with ABCA; Conservationist of the Year Award winners Mels and Ruthanne van der Laan; and Ian Jean, Forestry and Land Stewardship specialist. (Submitted photos)

The Conservationist of the Year Award winners in Ausable Bayfield watersheds are described as a couple who "have given back to their watershed community for many years."

Mels and Ruthanne van der Laan live in Denfield, ON, in the Municipality of Middlesex Centre, Middlesex County. The van der Laans have planted trees, added habitat and forest cover and wetlands, hosted public tours of their Cold Stream Ranch farm and planting projects, and involved young people in tree planting on their property.

More than 60 people attended a conservation awards evening held at Ironwood Golf Club, near Exeter, where Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) announced the winners on March 16.

"This honor was unexpected but appreciated," said Mels van der Laan, in accepting the award. "Thank you very much."

During his acceptance of the award, he recalled the days when there weren't many trees on the 60-acre property he owns. After phoning local stewardship staff he was able to get some help with planting windbreaks. That support also included taking care of the paperwork. The

Are you a food vendor?

The Bayfield Community Fair is looking for vendors for Aug. 18-20. An indoor or outdoor 8x10 space is only $40 ($1 per foot extra, $10/day for hydro).

Please fill out the application http://bayfieldfallfair.ca/?page_id=886 and send to Anna Needles via email at amneedles@gmail.com.

LIFESTYLE GROUP

Healthy You! A five-week Lifestyle Group to help people learn ways to improve their health is being offered in Zurich. The program begins Monday, May 8th.. Please not that there will not be a program on Victoria Day.

Over the five weeks, various registered health professionals from the Grand Bend Community Health Centre, will lead the group on topics such as: Nutrition for Healthy Eating, Planning Balanced Meals, Setting Goals, Sleeping Better, Managing Roadblocks and more.

For more information and/or to sign up please call Heidi Klopp, Wellness coordinator at 519 236-4373, Ext. 632.

CHAP

Community Connections Outreach Services from Zurich is hosting blood pressure monitoring and measurement as part of the Cardiovascular Health Awareness Program (CHAP) in Bayfield.

The goal of CHAP is to promote cardiovascular health in the local community and to raise awareness about the importance of blood pressure monitoring.

Trained volunteers/staff will help participants measure their blood pressure and complete a heart and stroke risk profile. A copy of these results will be given to the participant and, with their permission, sent to their family physician.

The session is running at a revised time, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on the third Thursday of every month, at Pharmasave Michael's Pharmacy.

To learn more please call local CHAP Coordinator, Heidi Klopp at 519 236-4373 Ext. 632.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

A recently introduced Bayfield branch library program offers an opportunity to get to know your neighbors through conversation and coffee (hot drink). Since the program began in January, community members have gathered Wednesday afternoons for informal

award recipient said he wanted to thank the people who helped with his planting projects as well as ABCA

George Irvin, vice-chair of the ABCA Board of Directors, presented to the winners a print of the Latornell Tree, by Bonna Rouse, one of 310 made for a special limited edition by Conservation Ontario. ABCA will also make a donation towards a tree and plaque at a Commemorative Woods site. In addition, the award winners have received scrolls of recognition including from Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MP Bev Shipley and MPP Monte McNaughton and Huron-Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson.

Rachael Scholten, Stewardship technician, and Ian Jean, Forestry and Land Stewardship specialist, both ABCA staff members, introduced the winners.

“It’s an honor to introduce the recipients of this year’s Conservationist of the Year Award,” said Scholten. “Wetlands specialist Angela Van Niekerk and I have been lucky enough to work with Mels and Ruthanne van der Laan over the past years with the ongoing restoration and stewardship projects at their property.”

She added that the landowners have been “very welcoming and, most of all, extremely proud of their projects.”

The Stewardship technician said the couple’s restoration work has been appreciated by neighbors and has inspired at least two other wetland restoration projects.

“It’s been a pleasure to work with Mels and Ruthanne,” she said.

Jean said the van der Laans are very deserving award recipients as they are great people to work with and do positive things “not just on their property but in their community. Their tree planting and wetlands projects are examples to others of what they can do and that’s very valuable.”

In 2007, the van der Laans achieved ecological benefits through restoration by retiring a 3.5-acre parcel of former pasture. They planted a mix of Pine, Spruce, Soft Maple, Oak, and Dogwood seedlings. Most of those trees grew well but in some of the wettest spots, where there was poor drainage and heavy clay, some trees did not survive. Subsequently, in 2014, they constructed a wetland. This new wetland basin is about half an acre in size and has been an oasis for native vegetation, wildlife, and waterfowl.

The Ailsa Craig Girl Guides planted 300 wetland plants around the site in the spring season of 2015 and more trees were planted around the wetland. The van der Laans have hosted tours, invited community groups, and posted an information sign to let people know about this project.

Present at the ceremony for presentation of scrolls and personal congratulations were John Fraser, constituency assistant to Monte McNaughton, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP; Huron-Bruce MP Ben Lobb; and Huron-Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson.

Mels van der Laan is also a past winner of the Ontario Outstanding Shepherd Award from the Ontario Sheep Marketing Board (OSMA) in recognition of being an Ontario shepherd who “exemplifies the values of leadership and responsible sheep husbandry.”

Wetlands benefit both water quality and quantity, according to ABCA stewardship staff. Wetlands help to filter water, restore groundwater sources of water, and store and slowly discharge water, reducing flooding and runoff during storm events.

Also announced at the awards evening was the presentation of a Student Environmental Award $1,000 scholarship. Via video shown at the event, Bob Radkte, Chairman, ABCA Foundation, presented the award to winner Samantha Bycraft, of Lucan.

Years of Service Awards were presented to directors and staff at the Conservation Awards event. Service award winners went to: Jeff Van Niekerk, field services – five years; George Irvin, director and Mike Tam, director – six years; Ross Wilson, Water and Stewardship technologist, Angela Van Niekerk, Wetlands specialist, Aaron Clarke, GIS specialist, Abigail Gutteridge, Healthy Watersheds technician and Hope Brock, Healthy Watersheds technician – ten years.

Acknowledged at the event was a donation of $850 to Jessica’s House Residential Hospice Campaign from ABCA staff members who contribute to a casual Fridays’ Staff Dress Down Day Fund.

and friendly conversations at the Bayfield branch library.

The conversation is "hosted" by a member of the community who will brew the hot drinks, welcome participants and get the conversations started. Although the host may initiate the conversation, participants determine the direction and talk may wander and meander in different directions. Ideally, conversations at events are respectful, neutral and inclusive.

If you would like to meet your neighbous and enjoy conversation and the warmth of a hot drink, you are welcome to join Coffee and Conversation at the Bayfield Public Library Wednesday afternoons 2-4 p.m.

BLESSINGS

Blessings Community Store is a thrift store as well as a food bank on Main Street in Zurich. Their donation box in Bayfield can be found in the Nip N’ Tuck lot (just north of the building). Residents are encouraged to drop in the box clean, gently used clothing and household goods they no longer need or want. The sale of these items in the thrift store help to support the food bank as well as help others. Please call 519 236-4376 with questions.

DINERS' CLUB

Folks 55 plus will be pleased to learn that Bayfield Dining for Seniors will be offered as a year round dining experience at the Bayfield Community Centre. In previous years the organization has shutdown for the winter months or met at local restaurants.

Chef Dawne Erb, of One Care, creates delicious and nutritious, home-style meals for $9 per person. Some of the fare that Erb has created for the luncheons include, Roast Turkey, Swedish Meatballs, Veal Parmesan, Salmon Loaf, Roast Beef, and October-fest Sausage.

Bayfield Dining for Seniors meets every Thursday at noon with the exception of the first Thursday of the month.

To make a reservation, please contact Leslie Bald at 519 565-5637 before 11 a.m. Monday to participate in the Thursday meal.

FORGOTTEN FELINES ADOPTION OPPORTUNITY

I am a Forgotten Feline of Bayfield who was trapped a little over two weeks ago. They call me Kole. I am a primarily black, short haired, six month-old male. I am timid right now but am hoping to find someone to love and be loved by. I have been neutered and

Jennifer Pate, BA, MSc, of Bayfield, was the keynote speaker at the Conservation Awards evening hosted by Ausable Bayfield Conservation at Ironwood Golf Club near Exeter on March 16. A filmmaker and geographer, she has been co-leader of microplastics sampling projects in the Caribbean Sea and the Great Lakes.

Geographer and filmmaker Jennifer Pate, BA, MSc, was keynote speaker at the event with a message about loving and protecting the Great Lakes called “Love Your Greats”. The Bayfield woman has co-led eXXpedition Caribbean, conducting the first-ever sampling for microplastics in the Caribbean Sea, and has also co-led eXXpedition Great Lakes, the world’s largest simultaneous sampling for microplastics in history. She spoke about how harmful microplastics and microfibres from plastic products are heavily concentrated in the Great Lakes. She also provided a message of hope and said solutions are coming from individual citizens who are motivated to join together and develop initiatives such as shoreline cleanups, water sampling, and making positive changes in their personal purchasing decisions.

TUTORING FUNDS

The Bayfield Optimist Club, with financial support from the Virtual High School (VHS), are sponsoring an Education-Tutoring Project for local youth in Grades 4-8. VHS recently donated $2,000 to the club to assist instructor Toni Gale int the tutoring of 10 students enrolled in a six-week program focusing on a variety of subjects that the students are in need of extra assistance. VHS representatives Kim Loebach (far left) and Jackie Loebach recently presented the cheque to kick off the project to Bayfield Optimists Mike Dixon and Diane Snell (far right) and Toni Gale. (Submitted photo)

vaccinated. I hear that if I don’t find a home I will be released back to the Main Street Feral Cat Colony very soon. If you would like to learn more about adopting me please email the Bayfield Breeze and the editor will connect you to my temporary caregivers.

Kole

Bayfield has a feral cat colony on Main Street. Over the winter a small group of volunteers have organized a Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program for the village’s “Forgotten Felines” and some of the more fragile among the colonies have found forever homes after a little Tender-Loving-Care (TLC).

The word "feral" is used to define a cat that lives outdoors. It essentially does not belong to anyone. Feral cats are the result of a domestic cat being abandoned or lost and left to fend for itself. The offspring of the domestic (now considered feral) cat are usually never handled by people and become terrified.

Volunteers have been informed that the Municipality of Bluewater is unable to provide financial support or any assistance with the TNR efforts at this time so they are currently seeking financial support from area residents. The volunteers have made arrangements with a Veterinary Hospital in London to have cats neutered/spayed for approximately $60 each and have been funding the project mostly by themselves. In addition, travel costs are adding up for those volunteers that transport the cats. As a result, volunteers are hoping that people might like to sponsor a “Forgotten Feline” by providing a financial gift. Financial contributions may be made at Shopbike Coffee.

SHARE PHOTO STORY

BAYFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAD SCIENCE EXPLORES FIRE, ICE AND MORE

The mad scientist got a little silly when he "tasted" the dry ice and water mixture.

Jen Turner assisted in one of the experiments during the presentation.

PHOTOS AND STORY BY MELODY FALCONER-POUNDER

As part of the Huron County Library March Break Programs the Bayfield Public Library held a Mad Science Show at the branch on the afternoon of March 17.

A Mad Scientist from Mad Science made science magic for the approximately two-dozen youngsters and parents or grandparents that preregistered for the show.

He performed experiments focusing in on fire, ice (dry) and air pressure that both entertained and educated those gathered.

All the children at the workshop got a pair of rainbow spectrum glasses to take home.

Graham Pounder, of Toronto, volunteered to fill up a bag with hot air.

The tricks of the Mad Science trade.

Fire, ice and air pressure were the topics of the Mad Science presentation made at the Bayfield Public Library on Friday afternoon as part of the library's March Break activities.

The mad scientist shared an air pressure experiment using a blow dryer and a ping pong ball.

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SHARE PHOTO STORY

MARCH BREAK PROGRAM

SPRING IS IN BLOOM AT HURON RIDGE ACRES

PHOTOS AND STORY BY MELODY FALCONER-POUNDER

Spring is a time for new life as this sweet image suggests.

The children were also given a tour of the greenhouses and got to see these "baby" plants getting a start.

It was chilly outside on March 16 but signs of spring were definitely everywhere inside the main greenhouse at Huron Ridge Acres, north of Bayfield. On that day the greenhouse staff hosted a workshop for youngsters that got them excited about the growing season to come.

Sandra Regier led about a dozen youngsters in the morning workshop on a tour of the greenhouses, through art and planting projects and also introduced them to four baby goats. The children got to take home a spring bloom as well as a pot filled with freshly planted seeds to watch sprout as the season progresses.

It was the perfect selection of March Break activities to celebrate the coming of spring!

A highlight of the workshop was getting to interact with four baby goats!

Many of the youngsters were surprised to see just how big Huron Ridge Acres is!

The children were able to give their seeds a gentle spray of water before taking them home.

The children were also given a container to plant seeds in to take home and care for. They had a choice of planting lettuce or cat grass seeds.

The four workshops held at Huron Ridge were very popular and filled up fast.

On March 16, youngsters were able to spend some time at Huron Ridge Acres, north of Bayfield, to participate in a workshop. One of the activities included painting a clay pot to plant an early spring flower in to take home. Rainbows were a very popular image to paint on the pots.

The Primula is blooming in the greenhouses at Huron Ridge Acres.

The colors of spring were at the forefront at the Huron Ridge Acres Children's March Break Workshop held on March 16.

PIXILATED — IMAGE OF THE WEEK

Pinery Thaw...*By Jane Seifried*

Email your photo in Jpeg format to bayfield.breeze@villageofbayfield.com with the subject line Subscriber Photo of the Week. or...Upload your photo to Flickr.

I am looking for the Bayfield that is a delight to the eye – please share photos with a touch of whimsy, beauty, humor or a sense of fun. If you are to include people in your photos be sure to have their permission to publish their picture on-line and also send in their names and where they are from. And don't forget to tell me who took the photo for proper credit to be issued

Melody Falconer-Pounder

SUBMISSIONS

A reminder:

In celebration of our 400th publication we are holding a little giveaway. Thanks to all who have entered to date. There are two ways to participate. Send us an email at bayfield.breeze@villageofbayfield.com and tell us in 400 words or less what Bayfield means to you!

Or Like us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/BayfieldBreeze/) and leave a message, again in 400 words or less about what this village means to you!

All participants will be put into a raffle and one name will be drawn for a framed 8X10 photograph of a location on the Sawmill Trail as it looked in spring of 2012 (see image) photographed by yours truly!

Comments on Bayfield may be used in an upcoming issue so take a moment and see if you can put into words just why you love this heritage village on a great lake!

The draw for the winner will be made on Apr. 1 and announced in the Apr. 5th edition of the Bayfield Breeze. – Melody

Ideas and contributions to the Bayfield Breeze are always welcome.
Deadlines for submissions are Sundays at 4 p.m.

Please email me at bayfield.breeze@villageofbayfield.com or call 519-525-3830.

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