

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

January 2026 ISSUE | [whathappeninginhowick@gmail.com](mailto:whathappeninginhowick@gmail.com)

*in Howick*

## Community Calendar

1



PHOTO BY ANGIE KOERSEN



PHOTO BY ANGIE KOERSEN

### santa claus came to town

The rescheduled Santa Claus Parade in Wroxeter brought out a variety of floats and fans. First place went to the Howick Optimists Club, second place to Scheffer Poultry Processing, and third place to the Howick Family Festival.



PHOTO BY ANGIE KOERSEN



PHOTO BY LIZ ALLAN



PHOTO BY LIZ ALLAN



PHOTO BY LIZ ALLAN

**COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE**, Sun. Jan. 4 at the Belmore Community Centre at 10:30am. See page 19 for brunch ticket info.

**EARLYON AT THE HOWICK LIBRARY**, Mondays from 10-11:30am. See page 6.

**MAITLAND VALLEY CAMERA CLUB** - next meeting is Thurs. Jan. 8 at 7pm in the Brussels Library.

**"COME SEW WITH US"** is sewing at the Howick Community Centre from 10am-3pm on Mondays Jan. 12 & 26. \$5. Darlene 519-335-3755. See page 6.

**POOL & EUCHRE TOURNAMENT** on Sun. Jan. 18 at the Wroxeter Hall. Games begin at 1pm.

**SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON** by the Masons on Fri. Jan. 23 at the Wroxeter Community Hall. Come for warm soup, fresh sandwiches, and tasty desserts.

**YOUNG JEWELS** - The third Saturday of every month at Gorrie Bible Fellowship from 9:30-11:30 for girls ages 8-13.

**SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON** by the Masons on Fri. Feb. 27 at the Wroxeter Community Hall. Come for warm soup, fresh sandwiches, and tasty desserts.

**RECIPE SWAP & SOCIAL** - Sat. Feb. 28 from 11:30am-1pm at the Howick Library. See page 6.

Have your community event added to this free community calendar by sending a message to:

[whathappeninginhowick@gmail.com](mailto:whathappeninginhowick@gmail.com)

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## SUDOKU CHALLENGE

						8		1
8				2	1			
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5		8			2		1	
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		4	7				9	2

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### MOVING FORWARD

By the time you read this, the busyness of Christmas will have come and gone, and kids will be about half way through their Christmas break. Maybe you've participated in some New Year's traditions, or been dealing with the illnesses that swirl through communities. I hope wherever you're at, you can enjoy some out-of-the-ordinary activities, and also the cozy ordinary things that often come out during the winter – reading books, baking, maybe some cross-stitch or other crafty hobbies, snuggling in PJs and warm blankets.

The other day my youngest child wanted to help make scrambled eggs. We're approaching new milestones and my baby is growing up fast. His speech is rapidly developing and his attitude is a roller-coaster. On one hand I'm ready to move beyond this stage, but on the other, I'll miss having my little guy. 3.5 year olds are great...

As much as we want to hold onto the cute little-kid stage, time keeps trucking on and life keeps changing. It's good, it can be hard, and we are left adapting and learning how to manage something different. It's not an option to go backwards or reverse time. So we hold onto the memories and make new ones.

Praying 2026 brings you some peace and joy in all the things.

*Angie Koersen*



**Deadline for the next issue is January 20.**

**[whatshappeninginhowick@gmail.com](mailto:whatshappeninginhowick@gmail.com)**

**519.292.0878**

**46075 Creamery Rd, Fordwich, N0G1V0**



*"Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book.  
Write a good one." BRAD PAISLEY*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Council and Staff at the Township of Howick wish all our Howick residents and businesses a new year rich with good health, happiness, love, joy, and laughter – for 2026 and beyond!

## COUNCIL MEETINGS AND HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

Please be advised that the Township of Howick Municipal Office will be closed from **12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, until Friday, January 2, 2026, when it will reopen at 8:30 a.m.** There is a mail slot located to the right of the front entrance for your convenience if you need it outside of our regular business hours.

The first Council meeting for 2026 is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at the Howick Township office. Draft #2 of the 2026 Municipal Budget will be presented at a public council meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Office. Members of the Public are welcome to attend.

The 2026 Schedule of Regular Council meetings can now be found on our website [www.howick.ca](http://www.howick.ca) under Township Services -> Council. Printed copies are also available at the Township Office.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - SHOVELLING SNOW

Under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act (HTC) Section 181, it is illegal to shovel, blow or plow snow from private property onto a public road or sidewalk. This includes moving snow across roads and depositing it into the ditches/sides of the roadway. It is very dangerous and can cause oncoming vehicles to lose control. Please use caution and always be aware of your surroundings.

As the plows move along, the blades push snow forward, and unfortunately, driveways can get impacted as the snow has to go somewhere. When clearing snow on your driveways be sure to clear a collection pocket on the left side at the end of your driveway which allows an area for the snow pushed by the plow to go. Pile your snow to the right of your driveways so it's downstream of the plow. This prevents you from having to do the same job twice.



## CHANGES TO RECYCLING CURBSIDE COLLECTION SERVICES

### EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

Like all municipalities across Ontario, the Township of Howick has transitioned to the province's new producer-led recycling system effective January 1, 2026. Responsibility for residential recycling collection, disposal and customer service has shifted to the producers of recyclable materials, meaning that the producers of packaging and paper products will fully fund and operate the program. For Howick, the service will be managed by the producer's subcontractor, Waste Management Canada, based in Mount Forest.

### What does this mean for Howick Township?

This province-wide change is designed to make recycling simpler and more consistent – and it means residences will be able to recycle more materials than ever before!

**Only Eligible Sources – all residential properties, including single family homes and multi-unit buildings – will have their recyclables picked up curbside beginning January 1, 2026.**

**Non-eligible sources, such as businesses, institutions, commercial and industrial (IC&I) properties, will need to arrange their own recycling collection and disposal services.** Please know that this decision was mandated through legislation passed by the Province of Ontario, not the Township of Howick. We do apologize for the short notice. It has been difficult for staff to receive the accurate and clear information regarding the new program so that we can inform our residents and businesses.

To help reduce waste, to discourage dumping and to encourage recycling practices, Howick Township has decided to maintain the operation of the Recycling Depot at the Howick Landfill for our IC&I properties. This ensures Howick businesses, industrial, commercial and institutional properties will have a local place to dispose of their recyclables.

Alternatively, these non-eligible properties can make their own arrangements for recycling collection and disposal (i.e. a commercial dumpster with scheduled disposal or delivering their recyclables to an appropriate recycling facility).

Unfortunately, since the Howick Landfill's Recycling Depot is not eligible under the producer-led residential recycling program, new **Recycling Tipping Fees** have been established to offset the cost of offering this service:

### New Recycling Tipping Fees Effective January 1, 2026

Acceptable recyclable materials taken directly to the Howick Landfill:

\$2.00 per blue box or bag

Acceptable cardboard taken directly to the Howick Landfill:

\$2.00 per blue box, armful load or bundle

These user fees have been established on a cost-recovery basis so that residential properties within Howick Township

[WWW.HOWICK.CA/WHIH](http://WWW.HOWICK.CA/WHIH)



are not financially responsible for the costs associated with operating a Recycling Depot for our business, industrial, commercial and institutional properties. Residential recycling will continue to be picked up curbside biweekly following the current schedule.

Residential addresses within Howick are encouraged to utilize the residential curbside recycling program, as any recyclable material taken directly to the Howick Landfill after January 1, 2026, will have the Recycling Tipping Fees apply.

#### **What about curbside waste (garbage) collection?**

Bi-weekly curbside waste collection in Howick will remain unchanged for now. Howick residents, businesses, industrial, commercial, or institutional properties will continue to set out their garbage in a clear garbage bag, with one, \$3.00 bag tag visible on each bag, based on the current bi-weekly schedule.

Note: For any businesses that operate out of an eligible residence, these properties will still receive bi-weekly residential curbside collection.

### **WASTE & RECYCLING CARTS ARE COMING TO HOWICK IN 2026!**

Howick Township will be transitioning to an automated waste and recycling curbside collection system, with the use of carts, beginning in 2026. Waste Management Canada is awaiting the arrival of new, automated, dual-collection trucks, currently anticipated to arrive between May and July. Once their new fleet is operational, 64-gallon waste carts will be provided and delivered to all Howick properties (including businesses, industrial, commercial and institutional). 95-gallon recycling carts will be provided and delivered to all eligible residential properties. Businesses, industrial, commercial and institutional properties will continue to be responsible for their own recycling, with the Recycling Depot at the Howick Landfill available as one option, with applicable Recycling Tipping Fees.

Curbside collection via carts will follow the current biweekly schedule on Mondays. We understand that waste & recycling collection changes are sometimes difficult, but we believe this will be a better collection system with more consistent service for Howick Township.

A minimum of 30 days' notice will be provided to ensure that everyone is ready for this change, and to notify Howick ratepayers when garbage bags and bag tags will no longer be accepted. Watch for educational and promotional material to be available in early 2026 as we prepare for this new, more efficient service.

Make sure you follow the Township of Howick website [www.howick.ca](http://www.howick.ca), Township of Howick Facebook Page and Instagram Account @howicktownship to stay up to date on the latest developments. We will continue to provide as much information as possible in this monthly newsletter. You can also visit <https://www.howick.ca/living-here/garbage-recycling-landfill> for more information.

### **FRIENDLY REMINDER - WALKING TRAILS**

The Fordwich, Gorrie and Wroxeter Walking Trails are **not** maintained during the winter months by Township Staff, however, we do encourage their use via snowshoeing or cross-country skiing at your own risk once the snow arrives.

### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

#### **Administrative Assistant – Finance**

See the Job Ad on Page 22.

### **CANINE CONTROL**

2026 dog tag and kennel license invoices will be mailed in January directly to all currently registered dog owners. If you received an invoice and no longer have a dog, or the number of dogs has changed, please contact [reception@howick.ca](mailto:reception@howick.ca) so that we can update our records.

Dog tag prices are as follows: 1st dog-\$30.00, 2nd dog-\$50.00, 3rd dog-\$80.00. Dogs over the age of 12 weeks must be licensed on or before March 31st of each year. Where an owner obtains a dog after March 31st, the dog must be licensed within 10 days. An overdue payment fee of 2x the normal fee will apply if an owner does not license their dog within the time period shown. Owners may also be fined for failing to license their dog.

Kennel Licence are \$200.00 for 4-10 dogs, and \$25 per dog after 10. Kennel operators are required to book an inspection prior to the issuance of a license. It is the responsibility of dog owner(s) to ensure that all dog(s) are licensed and to contact the Township if there are any changes.

### **2026 HOWICK TOWNSHIP DOG REGISTRATION**

Name of Dog Owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address of Owner \_\_\_\_\_

1. Dog's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_ Neutered/Spayed (circle)

2. Dog's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_ Neutered/Spayed (circle)

3. Dog's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_ Neutered/Spayed (circle)

Colours/Markings: Dog 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog 3: \_\_\_\_\_

**FEE ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_ (1st - \$30, 2nd - \$50, 3rd - \$100, Replacement Tag \$5)

**All fields must be completed to be processed**

Return to Howick Township Office with payment enclosed

Payment by Cash, Cheque or Interac at Township Office

Cheques made payable to: Township of Howick.

Pay by debit, credit or e-transfer online via [www.howick.ca](http://www.howick.ca) (service fees apply)

# GORRIE HALL BOARD

The Gorrie Hall is open for rentals.

For rentals, call **519-335-3292**

We welcome new members interested in joining the Hall Board.

## HOWICK LIBRARY

Winter has come at last with a vengeance but have no fear the Huron County Library has you covered. Don't feel like driving to a branch? **We have our online resources available 24/7.** Feeling the urge to get out of the house? Come visit one of our 12 branches where there are always new things to see and do. For a full list of events happening across the Huron County Library system check out our events page at [www.huroncountylibrary.ca/events/](http://www.huroncountylibrary.ca/events/).

**With all the snow this is the perfect time to check out our selection of snowshoes.** We have

child and adult sized snowshoes and have kits that come with adult and child size. Check out our catalog to order yours today!

<https://huron.bibliocommons.com/>

**Did you know EarlyON comes to the Howick Library branch each Monday from 10:00 am-11:30 am?** Join Huron EarlyON each Monday morning for fun and connection. Parents/caregivers & children ages 0-6. Register with EarlyON.

**Pop-in and Play anytime during library hours!**

**Recipe Swap & Social Saturday Feb. 28th @ 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.**

Howick Branch. Share a favourite recipe & pick up a new one to try. Bring tasty snack sized samples. Ages 13+. Registration Required. Peanut Free Event! Contact the branch to register. 519-335-6899 or [howicklibrary@huroncounty.ca](mailto:howicklibrary@huroncounty.ca)

**Please Note:** ALL Huron County Library Branches will be **closed Thursday January 1** for New Year's Day.



PHOTOS BY LIZ ALLAN

This group of crafty ladies regularly meet in the Howick Community Centre, encouraging each other and enjoying the company while they work on various projects.



## Come Sew With Us

**COME JOIN OUR SEWING GROUP**

**AT THE Howick Community Centre**

every other Monday, starting on

**Monday, January 12, 2026 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.**

You bring your own sewing project, sewing machine & supplies as needed. (Sometimes special projects are offered.)

We provide irons, ironing boards, & cutting mats. Bring a bag lunch if you are staying for the day.

**Cost is \$5.00/day.**

If you just want a peek at what we are up to, join us for "Show & Tell" around 1:00 pm.

For questions or more info, contact Darlene: 519-335-3755 or [ddharding@wightman.ca](mailto:ddharding@wightman.ca)

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PHOTOS BY LIZ ALLAN



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## MASONIC LODGE UPDATES

On a stormy, Friday, November 28th, the Masons held a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon at the Wroxeter Community Hall. Delicious soups and sandwiches, along with yummy desserts were on the menu. There were 55 take outs and 32 people eating at the hall.

The next luncheon will be on Friday, January 23, 2026. February 27, 2026 will be the 2nd luncheon of 2026. Hope to see you there.

The Masonic Lodge is very pleased to be able to provide a free skate at the Belmore arena on Sunday, February 15th from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. The profits from the soup and sandwich luncheons go back to our community.



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LIZ ALLAN

## Maitland Valley camera CLUB

December 4th meeting was our Christmas potluck at the Brussels Library in the meeting room. Many members and their husbands/wives come out for the evening. We had a great dinner. Afterwards we viewed our Palmerston Outdoor Market photos. Gary Moon and Mark Robinson advised the members about taking night photos and provided assistance for each photo. We thank Gary and Mark for all of their help at this meeting and throughout the year.

Many members travelled to Formosa to see their drive through lights. We were able to practice with our night photography.

The Brussels Parade was held on Saturday, December 6th. Camera Club members served apple cider and hot chocolate in the Brussels Library. There was a slideshow of our photography. Each member provided some photos they had taken. A great way for the community to know more about what our club does.

Many of the members attended the Holstein Horse Drawn Parade. They were able to apply the information Gary and Mark provided at the potluck. It was enjoyed by all.

During 2026, we are planning photo shoots, workshops and guest speakers. Would you like to know more about photography? Join us on Thursday, January 8th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Brussels Library.

Our meetings our April to November first and third Thursday of the month. December to March the first Thursday of each month. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.. We hope you can join us.



SYLVIA NONKES



LIZ ALLAN

Do you want to know more about the Wroxeter Community Hall... Check us out on facebook - Wroxeter Community Hall

Is there a special event you want to celebrate with family and friends? The hall is available. Contact Carol Edgar to book the hall.

The Coffee Club of the Wroxeter Hall welcomes you to come for a coffee between 6:00am and 10:00am each morning from Monday to Friday. A chance to meet new friends and have a coffee.

Bingo! Bingo! Our third Bingo Pub Night took place on Thursday, December 11th. Many thanks to all who were able to come out for some fun and challenges.

Our Annual General Board Meeting was held on Monday, December 8th at the hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Mr Rick Waito was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award. Rick cooked many breakfasts during the year and donated his time in many ways. Congratulations Rick!

People attending the meeting were given the past years improvements to the hall as well as the expenditures and looked ahead to 2026. Everyone was updated on how the hall started.

Also shared with the attendees, the hall was chosen by the University of Guelph for a study on Rural and Social Enterprise Development



in 2018. We were unaware of this study until we were contacted by Mary Ferguson of the University telling us they had chosen Wroxeter Hall as one of their picks and wanted to meet with us to see how the renovations and operation of our Hall was accomplished and managed.

For the complete book and other communities picked the Website URL is: <https://shorturl.at/MWb2p> - We are proud of our community for all their hard work in helping us get our Hall Completely restored!!!

The rescheduled Wroxeter Hall Board Parade took place on Friday, December 5th at 6:30pm. The winner of the floats were 1st place: The Howick Optimists, 2nd place: Schefter Poultry Processing and 3rd place: Howick Family Festival. Congrats to all!!! We thank all of the participants in the parade for coming and taking part. After the parade Santa handed out treats to many boys and girls.

The Annual Wroxeter Appreciation Dinner took place on Friday, December 19th. Turkey and ham with all of the trimmings were served. After dinner Santa handed out gifts to everyone. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend this special evening. A way to say thank to the community for supporting and helping the hall.

Looking forward into 2026:

There will be a **Pool and Euchre Tournament** on Sunday, January 18th. Games begin at 1:00pm. Join in the fun.

A **Masonic Soup and Sandwich Luncheon** will take place on Thursday, January 23rd. Come for lunch! No cooking! No dishes!

Do you like games? Every Tuesday evening is **Ladies Night!** Fun and games begin at 7:00pm.

Wednesday and Friday evenings are **pool at the hall**. Doors are open at 7:00pm.

Thanks goes to everyone who supported and provided a helping hand to the hall in 2025!

**All the best for 2026!**



## WROXETER HALL NEWS

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# PROVINCIALY LEGISLATED BLUE BOX CHANGES FOR HOWICK TOWNSHIP

Effective January 1, 2026

## **RESIDENTIAL**

Expanded Recycling Services for  
Curbside Blue Box collection



**LEARN MORE**

[www.howick.ca/living-here/garbage-recycling-landfill](http://www.howick.ca/living-here/garbage-recycling-landfill)

Ontario's new recycling system will expand curbside service for **households** in the Township of Howick. This new system will allow **MORE MATERIALS THAN EVER** to be recycled in your Blue Box!



Waste Management Canada, on behalf of Circular Materials Ontario, will manage all residential curbside recycling collection, processing, and customer service beginning January 1st.

Howick Township is no longer responsible for operating the residential Blue Box recycling program.



### **Newly Acceptable Materials for curbside recycling collection effective January 1, 2026**

- Beverage cups (hot and cold)
- Ice cream tubs
- Deodorant sticks and toothpaste tubes
- Frozen juice containers and spiral cans (e.g. cookie dough)
- Foam packaging (e.g. meat trays, takeout containers, plates)
- Plastic plant pots
- Empty aerosol and spray cans for food/personal care products
- Corrugated cardboard
- Aluminum foil
- Toothpaste tubes, chip bags, bubble wrap

Check the Howick Township website for full details.

### **What's Changing?**

More materials than ever are now considered recyclable! Howick residential properties should utilize the bi-weekly curbside collection service.

Any residential address bringing recyclables and/or cardboard directly to the Howick Landfill will have the following **RECYCLING TIPPING FEES** apply:

Acceptable Recyclables  
brought directly to the  
Howick Landfill

**\$2.00 Per Bag or Blue Box**

Acceptable Cardboard  
brought directly to the  
Howick Landfill

**\$2.00 Per Blue Box, Armful  
or Bundle**

### **What's Staying the Same?**

#### **Curbside Waste Collection**

**Collection frequency, dates and time**

**Howick Landfill hours of operation**

Please continue to set your waste & recyclables  
curbside by 7:00 a.m. and until 7:00 p.m.

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026,  
for missed collection please call WM at:**



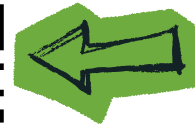
**1-800-561-1655**



# PROVINCIALY LEGISLATED BLUE BOX CHANGES FOR HOWICK TOWNSHIP

## Effective January 1, 2026

**BUSINESS,  
INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL  
AND INSTITUTIONAL (IC&I)  
NON-ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES**



**LEARN MORE**

[www.howick.ca/living-here/garbage-recycling-landfill](http://www.howick.ca/living-here/garbage-recycling-landfill)

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026**

Waste Management will **NO LONGER** provide curbside blue box collection from any **BUSINESS, INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, or INSTITUTIONAL (IC&I) NON-ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES** in Howick.

i.e. businesses, offices, churches, campgrounds, parks, libraries, arenas and halls

### What's Changing January 1st?

Howick has chosen to continue operating a recycling depot at the Howick Landfill for our business, industrial, commercial and institutional properties to have a place to take their recyclables.

Alternatively, non-eligible properties can make their own arrangements for recycling collection and disposal (i.e. a commercial dumpster). As the depot service at the landfill is not provided under the extended producer responsibility recycling program, any recycling accepted at the Howick Landfill will have the following **NEW RECYCLING TIPPING FEES** apply:

Acceptable Recyclables  
brought directly to the  
Howick Landfill

\$2.00 Per Bag or Blue Box

Cardboard brought directly to  
the Howick Landfill

\$2.00 Per Blue Box, Armful or  
Bundle

*These changes are provincially mandated  
and not at the Township's discretion.*

**Howick remains committed to  
protecting our landfill and providing  
practical recycling options for  
businesses and IC&I properties.**

**The expanded recyclable materials  
accepted in residential curbside  
collection will not be accepted at the  
Howick Landfill. It is a separate  
collection process.**

 **Do not include in your mixed recycling container:**



**NO Food &  
Liquids**



**NO Foam Cups  
& Containers**



**NO Loose Plastic  
Bags, Bagged  
Recyclables or Film**  
Empty recyclables directly into  
your bin.



**NO Green  
Waste**



**NO Clothing,  
Furniture &  
Carpet**



**NO Coffee  
Cups**

**NO** - Toothpaste tubes, deodorant, hand cream tubes

**NO** - Small item packaging, hand sanitizer bottles,  
plant pots

**NO** - Flexible plastic packaging

**NO** - Foam packaging

**NO** - Aerosol containers

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026, for missed  
collection please call WM directly at:**



**1-800-561-1655**



# PAW-SOME PETS

OWNER:  
**REESE MACEWEN**

BREED:  
**JACK RUSSELL**

PET BIRTHDAY:  
**NOVEMBER 25, 2018**

NAME:  
**PATCH**



Patch is a white, black and brown long-legged jack russell. He is always super happy and energetic, especially when he is given the job to hunt around the farm! Patch is super unique because he is a long-legged jack russell and most have short legs.

He is the most fit dog in our family because he follows the car instead of riding in it, because he hates cars! After a rainy day, Patch loves to roll and get dirty, but he HATES baths so he has to stay dirty. Patch loves his life around the farm and is very protective of his family!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR PET FEATURED,  
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## JOSSLIN Insurance celebrates 50 Years with Community Giving

Josslin Insurance is celebrating 50 years in business, marking a significant milestone built on long-standing relationships and service in the communities they support.

To recognize their 50th anniversary, Josslin Insurance committed \$50,000 in donations to ten local organizations. The Howick Optimist Club was proud to be selected as one of the recipients, receiving a \$5,000 donation.

This generous contribution will support programs and initiatives that benefit youth and families in the Howick community.

At this time of year, we are especially grateful for support like this and thank Josslin Insurance for their generosity and continued commitment to local communities.

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# THE HISTORY OF new years

Source: <https://www.history.com/articles/new-years>

## Ancient New Year's Celebrations

The earliest recorded festivities in honor of a new year's arrival date back some 4,000 years to ancient Babylon. For the Babylonians, the first new moon following the vernal equinox—the day in late March with an equal amount of sunlight and darkness—heralded the start of a new year. They marked the occasion with a massive religious festival called Akitu (derived from the Sumerian word for barley, which was cut in the spring) that involved a different ritual on each of its 11 days.

### Did you know?

In order to realign the Roman calendar with the sun, Julius Caesar had to add 90 extra days to the year 46 B.C. when he introduced his new Julian calendar. Throughout antiquity, civilizations around the world developed increasingly sophisticated calendars, typically pinning the first day of the year to an agricultural or astronomical event. In Egypt, for instance, the year began with the annual flooding of the Nile, which coincided with the rising of the star Sirius. The first day of the Lunar New Year, meanwhile, occurred with the second new moon after the winter solstice.

### January 1 Becomes New Year's Day

The early Roman calendar consisted of 10 months and 304 days, with each new year beginning at the vernal equinox; according to tradition, it was created by Romulus, the founder of Rome, in the eighth century B.C. A later king, Numa Pompilius, is credited with adding the months of Januarius and Februarius.

Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C. Julius Caesar decided to solve the problem by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time. He introduced the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the more modern Gregorian calendar

that most countries around the world use today.

As part of his reform, Caesar instituted January 1 as the first day of the year, partly to honor the month's namesake: Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. Romans celebrated by offering sacrifices to Janus, exchanging gifts with one another, decorating their homes with laurel branches and attending raucous parties.

## New Year's Traditions and Celebrations Around the World

In many countries, New Year's celebrations begin on the evening of December 31—New Year's Eve—and continue into the early hours of January 1. Revelers often enjoy meals and snacks thought to bestow good luck for the coming year.

In many parts of the world, traditional New Year's dishes feature legumes, which are thought to resemble coins and herald future financial success. Because pigs represent progress and prosperity in some cultures, pork appears on the New Year's Eve table in Cuba, Austria, Hungary, Portugal and other countries. Ring-shaped cakes and pastries, a sign that the year has

come full circle, round out the feast in the Netherlands, Mexico, Greece and elsewhere. In Sweden and Norway, meanwhile, rice pudding with an almond hidden inside is served on New Year's Eve.

Other customs that are common worldwide include watching fireworks and singing songs to welcome the new year. The practice of making resolutions for the new year is thought to have first caught on among the ancient Babylonians, who made promises in order to earn the favor of the gods and start the year off on the right foot. (They would reportedly vow to pay off debts and return borrowed farm equipment.)





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**HOWICK OPTIMIST CLUB**  
**"Friend of Youth"**

**DID YOU KNOW...** Through the Howick Optimist Club, **over 100 local children** are now part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library! Each month, they receive a brand-new book in the mail — and we just passed an amazing milestone of **2,000 books** delivered since the program began.

This program is fully funded by our club to help inspire a lifelong love of reading for children in our community from birth to age 5.

**Thank you all for your continued support over all the years in Howick Township.**

Donations are focused in many ways to help the young people of the community. Contributions go towards various sports leagues, The Howick Optimist Pool, Howick Arena, Local Food Banks and Hospitals & More. We could not do this without the generosity of our volunteers and club members and the community as a whole.

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# Community CHURCHES

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[www.regionalministryofhope.com](http://www.regionalministryofhope.com)



The Regional Ministry of Hope

519-357-4883

## **Gorrie Bible Fellowship**

[www.gbfbchurch.net](http://www.gbfbchurch.net)

**Find us on Facebook**

Join us for Sunday morning services at **10:00am**. All are welcome.

Sunday evening services begin at **6:30pm**.

**519.335.3500 | [gorriebible@gmail.com](mailto:gorriebible@gmail.com)**

## **MCINTOSH & MILD MAY UNITED CHURCHES**

Worship will take place at Mildmay United Church during Jan, Feb & Mar 2026. Sundays at 10am. All are welcome as always. On Sun. Jan. 4 there will be no service at Mildmay/McIntosh – there will be a community service at Belmore Community Centre at 10:30.

Brunch tickets available from Linda Walker, Abe/Debbie Versteeg, Laurie/Alan Willits.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**Dave – 519.392.6710 or Deanne – 519.418.9748**

## *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**PASTOR KURT E. REINHARDT**

Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45am

Sunday Divine Service 11am

519.291.1165 - [trinity1874@gmail.com](mailto:trinity1874@gmail.com)

6784B Perth Line 88, KURTZVILLE

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## *Belmore Presbyterian Church*

Join us for our Worship Service at 9:30am  
Everyone is welcome!

July and August services begin at 9:00am

**REV. CAREL GRUNDLINGH** - 226.222.0051

[carel.grundlingh@gmail.com](mailto:carel.grundlingh@gmail.com)

**ABE VERSTEEG** - 519.327.8578

## *St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

7 CLARKE ST. N., CLIFFORD

**Rev. J. Rinas** as Pastor

Sunday School and Bible Class at **9am**

Sunday Divine Service at **10am**

[stjohnsoffice@wightman.ca](mailto:stjohnsoffice@wightman.ca)

Office: **519.327.8298**

Church Basement: **519.327.8262**

## **FORDWICH BIC COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Family Worship Sundays **10:30 - 11:45**

ROOTS & WINGS Sundays **11 - 11:45**

Children: ages 3-10 years

Questions? Contact Pastor Mike or Terri

**519.335.3479 - [pastorbicfordwich@outlook.com](mailto:pastorbicfordwich@outlook.com)**

Facebook: "Fordwich BIC Community Church"

Therefore,  
if anyone is in Christ,  
the new creation has come:  
The old has gone,  
the new is here!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



## UPDATE ON LICENCED CHILDCARE FACILITY PROPOSED FOR HOWICK TOWNSHIP

Gorrie, ON – December 5, 2025 – After hearing from several Howick residents over the past two weeks, Howick Township Council and staff want to assure its residents that the Township has not approved the construction of a \$5 million licensed child care facility.

"The \$5 million dollar cost estimate was the only financial information available (based on the current drawings) to present to Council at their November 18, 2025 Council meeting", says CAO/Clerk Caitlin Gillis.

"In order to be eligible to receive available infrastructure funding and to move forward with amending the drawing, staff required Council's approval to move forward with the project. Staff have only just begun determining the size, licencing requirements and features needed in order to bring 49 licensed child care spaces to Howick Township", says Howick Reeve Doug Harding. "Council has instructed Township staff to significantly reduce the size of the proposed child care centre and its overall budget to get to a final project amount that Council feels is fiscally responsible to Howick residents and that they can support moving ahead with".

Howick Township staff and a member of Council toured a 6200 square foot Wellington County child care facility this week that

was built in 2019 for 64 licensed child care spaces. While the first drawings and cost estimate of Howick's proposed child care centre was measuring 14,000 square feet and an estimated cost of \$5 million, this was simply a starting point, and staff are continuing to work to significantly reducing the footprint and overall cost of the project.

"I want to emphasize that Council's endorsement of the project at our November 18th Council meeting wasn't for moving ahead with a \$5 million-dollar facility," said Gillis. "It was giving permission for the Township to apply for \$2 million dollars of available Start-Up Infrastructure Funds through the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) program and for staff to continue to work with an architect on decreasing the size of the facility. As the drawings are amended accordingly, staff will bring additional information and updated cost estimates to Council and post them publicly via the Township website and social media accounts".

Staff also plan to propose that Council consider multiple methods to fund the project, including applying for additional CWELCC funds in 2026, utilizing some municipal reserve funds, a sponsorship fundraising program and the potential of a low-interest rate loan through Infrastructure Ontario. Howick residents will be able to provide their input through the 2026 Municipal Budget process as more accurate information is available and released.

## Obituaries

In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we love you still,  
In our hearts you hold a place  
That no one could ever fill.

- AUTHOR UNKNOWN



**KERR, James Engler 'Jim'** of Listowel passed away on Friday, November 28, 2025, in his 92nd year. Husband of the late Jean Anne (Doig) Kerr. Father of John & Diane Kerr of Listowel, Allan & Leesa Kerr of Wroxeter, and Kevan Kerr & Johanna Feldman of Newmarket, and father-in-law of Urairat Kerr of Thailand, and Lynn and Rev. Ernie Naylor of Listowel. Grandfather of Krystal & Brian

Allan, Alicia & Blake Nichol, Steven & Maggie Kerr, Darren Kerr, Tyler & Brenna Kerr, Katherine & Cody Newbigging, Andrew Kerr, Brandon & Shelley Kerr, Justin Kerr, Travis & Bev Kerr, Matthew & Samantha Kerr, Jason Kerr, Ty Kerr, and Mackenzie Kerr, and great-grandfather of 23. Brother-in-law of Peter & Mary-Lou Doig of Thunder Bay, Wayne King of Gorrie, Barbara & Bob Hetherington of Bobcaygeon, and Andrew & Rebecca Doig of Stratford. Predeceased by his sons Murray (2017), and Tom (2021), parents Thomas & Ruth (Engler) Kerr, his parents-in-law Lawson & Margaret (Lawless) Doig, and by his brothers Leslie, John, David, and infant brother Joe. Visitation was held at Eaton Funeral Home, Listowel, on Friday, December 5, 2025, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. A private family funeral service was held on Saturday, December 6, 2025 with Rev. Jennifer Hoover officiating. Spring interment in Molesworth Cemetery. Memorial donations to Listowel Memorial Hospital or St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Listowel, would be appreciated. Online condolences may be left at [www.eatonfuneralhome.ca](http://www.eatonfuneralhome.ca)



**WILLIAMSON, Wilma (Watson).**

Peacefully at Braemar Nursing Home in Wingham, Wilma (Watson) Williamson formerly of Mount Forest and Gorrie, passed away 10 days before her 99th birthday on Sunday December 7th, 2025. Beloved wife of the late Lyle Watson and Earl Williamson. Devoted mom of Don & Donna Watson, Jack & Lynne Watson of Listowel, Linda

& Peter Dinsmore of Gorrie, Murray & Tania Watson of Marathon, Carol & Doug Kopp of Mount Forest, Norm & Sheri Watson of Gorrie and the late Garry Watson. Cherished grandma of 17 and great-grandma of 24. Predeceased by her parents Albert & Vera (Gamble) Heibein, brother Bill (Joyce) Heibein and sisters Margaret (Glenn) Underwood and Jean (Freeman) Ingleton. A Celebration of Wilma's life was held at the family farm, 2100 George St. Gorrie, Ontario on Friday, December 12th, 2025 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Final resting place, Gorrie Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Howick Optimist Club would be appreciated by Wilma's family.

HOWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT



# IMPORTANT NOTICE

NEW CARBON MONOXIDE LAW TAKES  
EFFECT JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2026

Please take note:

If your home or rental unit has a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace, or attached garage, new Ontario Fire Code rules mean you'll need CO alarms near every sleeping area and on every floor. Carbon monoxide is invisible and odourless - but alarms save lives!

Homeowners: Make sure your alarms are up to date and in the right places.

Landlords: Ensure every unit meets the new standard before 2026.



<https://www.ontario.ca/page/carbon-monoxide-safety>

Don't wait for the deadline - test and upgrade your CO alarms today!

## FIRE CODE UPDATES TAKE PLACE JANUARY 1, 2026

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. Due to changes to the Ontario Fire Code that take effect on January 1, 2026, you will now be required

to have working carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the home AND outside all sleeping areas. Previously, CO alarms were only required outside of bedrooms. Landlords and homeowners take note: You MUST install working carbon monoxide alarms on every level and outside sleeping areas if your home has any fuel burning appliances (i.e. anything that uses natural gas or propane), a fireplace/wood burning stove, or an attached garage.

## CLASSIFIEDS



**POP CANS:** will be picked up the first Saturday of each month. You may leave your pop cans in clear plastic bags at the end of your laneway. Monies from the pop cans will go to the Resident's Council of the Fordwich Nursing Home. We thank you for your donation.

**WEIGHT WATCHERS** meets Tuesday evenings in Hot Stove Lounge, North Huron Westcast Community Centre, Wingham. Check in starts at 5:30pm, meeting starts at 6pm.

**IS YOUR DRINKING A PROBLEM OR CONCERN?** Help is available. Please call Alcoholics Anonymous for information and local meeting times. All calls are private and confidential. 519-500-0278

**TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly)** meets at the Salvation Army Building at 205 Josephine St. in Wingham Thursdays at 9:40am. Come join us on our healthy weight loss journey. Everyone welcome.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** ONE CARE is a non-profit agency that supports individuals to stay in their home longer. We need Volunteer Transportation Drivers in the Fordwich, Gorrie and Wroxeter areas to assist clients to Medical Appointments, Adult Day Program and Social Outings. All volunteers receive training and mileage is reimbursed. Call for more info, 1-877-502-8277 or email [volunteering@onecaresupport.ca](mailto:volunteering@onecaresupport.ca).

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[whatshappeninginhowick@gmail.com](mailto:whatshappeninginhowick@gmail.com)

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - FINANCE



As part of our internal succession and development process, the Township of Howick is currently seeking qualified applicants for the permanent position of Administrative Assistant to the Finance Department.

Reporting to the Treasurer/Manager of Finance, the Administrative Assistant performs a variety of administrative and secretarial duties to support the operation of the Finance department. This position acts as the receptionist and is responsible for performing accounts receivable and accounts payable functions. The Administrative Assistant is also a cashier, processing payments, and ensuring timely and accurate processing of financial transactions for the Township.

A detailed job description for the position is available at [www.howick.ca](http://www.howick.ca).

This is a full-time, permanent, 37.5-hour/week position. The Township of Howick offers a competitive salary **(2025 Wage Range \$30.86 – \$36.10 per hour)** with a comprehensive benefit package. We invite interested applicants to forward a cover letter and resume in one document (Word or PDF) by **noon (12:00 p.m.) on Friday, January 9, 2026**, in confidence, to:

**Caitlin Gillis  
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk  
Township of Howick  
Via email: [clerk@howick.ca](mailto:clerk@howick.ca)**

*Terms and conditions of employment as per all Human Resources policies and procedures of the Township of Howick.*

*The Township of Howick is an equal opportunity employer and supports applicants of all abilities. Accommodations will be provided upon request in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).*

**We thank all applicants for their interest and advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.**

*Personal information being collected will be used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and shall only be used in the selection of a candidate.*

# HAPPY NEW YEAR





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Cat D3

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5.5 ton Mini Excavator  
8 ton Mid Excavator  
20 ton Kobelco

### **EXCAVATORS**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1.7 Ton Post Hole Auger  
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### **COMPACT UTILITY**

### **TRACTORS**

33 Hp L3301 Loader  
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### **3PH ATTACHMENTS**

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16 Foot Dump Trailer

### **SKID STEERS**

25 hp Stand on Skid Steer  
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97 Hp Track Skid Steer

### **SKID STEER**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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Seeder  
Hydraulic Auger  
Brush Cutter  
Stump Grinder  
Tree Spade  
Vibrating Packer  
Post Pounder  
Concrete Breaker  
Turbine Leaf Blower  
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Forestry Mulcher  
6 way 7-12 foot Laser  
Blade

12 Foot Limb Saw  
8 Foot Snow Pusher  
10 Foot Snow Pusher  
Bucket Broom  
Pusher Broom

### **STAND ON STEER**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Volume Bucket  
Pallet Fork  
Concrete Breaker  
Hydraulic Rake  
Post Hole Auger  
4 Foot Trencher



## **HOWICK BLOOMERS**

## **DECEMBER UPDATE**

To misquote the poet "Winter cometh all dressed in white." It has certainly been a white winter so far and it's doubtful than anyone will be betting on a green Christmas.

There are many flowers that are white. White flowers are more visible in the garden as the light fades than any other colour, they also highlight other colours during the day. This month we have a selection of white flowers. They are numbered so that you can identify them. The answers will be in next month's column.



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# FAMILY DAY *Festival*

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Brady Ropp - 519.291.7106

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