

Belmont News



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Around town

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and remembering to use sunscreen/sunblock. Believe me, the alternative can be very painful when the sun goes down.

You're never too old to learn something new. Last week I learned at the Belmont Library that there's literally the neatest way to do jigsaw puzzles these days. There's a website called thejigsawpuzzle.com where you can do a timed version of the old standby without making any mess, losing pieces permanently, or running out of working room trying to finish it. And yes, I did finish two of them without too much frustration or time lost.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brad Fallowfield, formerly of Belmont and one of our firefighters, who passed away at home in Watford on Tuesday, July 12.

Belmont Library news

Congratulations to Maria McLellan who celebrates 30 years with the Elgin County Library this month.

The Mystery Lovers' Group's July/August read is *The Bad Always Die Twice* by Cheryl Crane.

The TD Summer Reading Club weekly drop-in programs continue every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. and end with the closing party on Tuesday, August 9. Little Ray's Reptile Zoo Show will be coming to the library on Tuesday, July 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Belmont United Church news

Koffee Klatch is now on summer hiatus, and will be back again in September.

Church services continue throughout the summer beginning at 10:45 a.m.

Thursday morning VON Smart exercise classes will continue in the church's basement auditorium from 10 to 11 a.m. throughout the summer. The exception is August 4 when the instructors will be on holiday.

A special joint service will be held on August 14 at Darlene and Ronald Finch family farm, Mossley Meadows, at 2704 Crampton Drive. The service is at 9:30 a.m. Breakfast can be purchased following the service. The Finches are hosting the annual John Deere Heritage Days show and church members will be admitted free.

Upcoming events

Right now there's an Ontario Early Years Centre Summer Park Program in Belmont that runs till the week of August 26. It's for families/caregivers with children up to the age of six, every Thursday morning from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Don Yeck Park behind the Belmont Arena. It features crafts, Playdough, toys, bubble, and story time with no registration or fees required. For more information call 519-631-0496.

The Elgin Historical Show is August 12 to 14 at the Patterson Conservation Area. It is being sponsored by the Kettle Valley Pioneers. The times are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Breakfast will be served from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and a church service will follow on the Sunday.

It's a night of country music under the stars at the Belmont Community Park when Party in the Park Goes Country on Saturday, September 3. Free admission is sponsored by Westminster Mutual Insurance Co. There'll be a beef on a bun dinner from 5 to 7 p.m., and a DJ will play music in the area licensed by the LCBO from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Age of majority is required after 8 p.m. Proceeds go to park maintenance and upgrades.

Local art lovers please note. Debbie Dicker will be one of several artists who will be part of the Artisan Roadshow and Sale September 4 and 5 at Fruit Ridge Line and Sunset Drive in St. Thomas.

The Matt Price Memorial Golf Tournament is coming up on September 10.

The next Belmont Lioness Foot Care Clinic is on Tuesday, September 20. If you're interested in taking advantage of their services, call and book your appointment early so you won't be disappointed. You can call either Lois Davis - 519-633-4997 or Hazel Ashford - 519-644-1421 to make your appointment.

Thoughts for the week

"None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm." - Henry David Thoreau. And, "About the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age." - Gloria Pitzer.

Spirits of the Earth Festival welcomes singer Rose Cora Perry

by Dot Sale
FOR THE SIGNPOST

While I admittedly don't know everything that's going on in and around the Belmont area, I do welcome information on events whenever possible. Such was the case when I received an email concerning the Spirits of the Earth Festival being held this week in Peacekeeper Park on Avon Drive next to Lake Whittaker until Sunday, July 24 at 3 p.m.

The festival is touted as southwestern Ontario's largest and longest running earth-based organic festival and all ages are welcome to attend. It is an empowering week immersed in nature. This year's schedule includes a six-day camping experience featuring drummers/percussionists, dancers, a Viking Sumble and Bardic Feast, spiritual workshops and rituals, food vendors, holistic practitioners, magic makers and live entertainment. The website is spiritsfest.com.

Of special note during the event is the appearance of Rose Cora Perry and her backup band The Truth Untold from London, on Friday, July 22 at 8 p.m. Their appearance is in conjunction with Perry's touring efforts which support the release of her second solo album, *Onto the Floor*, and the not-for-profit foundation MusicSaves, that it



photo courtesy of Mystery Man Photography

Rose Cora Perry who will be performing on Friday night at the Spirits of the Earth Festival at Peacekeeper Park on Avon Drive.

supports. The foundation aims to impart the healing power of music to troubled youth and her support began after the launch of her debut solo album *Off of the Pages* in 2010.

Perry is the former frontwoman for Anti-Hero and has performed at some of the world's most renowned music festivals. It has been said that she has brought audiences of over 500,000 to tears with her emotional sound and sincere performances. In 2011, she was invited to attend the 53rd annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles as an honorary special guest artist.

Perry has gone on to become the official emcee for London's Walk and Talk for Mental Health. This year marks the return of her musical efforts and ongoing commitment to represent a different breed of "rock" musician.

Onto the Floor is available exclusively by donation only. Perry hopes to raise enough funds from the sale of the album to launch a nationwide high school seminar series so she can share her story about overcoming depression and anorexia and the songs that were inspired from it. Her website is rosecoraperry.com.



photo by Dot Sale
DINING AL FRESCO: Peter Moore digs into his meal during Breakfast in the Park at the Belmont Community Park on Sunday, July 10 with relish after attending the Belmont United Church service first.

All creatures great and small visiting Belmont

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FOR THE SIGNPOST

While our property, being near the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority area, has its own menagerie of critters visiting on a regular basis during the summertime, so will the Belmont Library on Tuesday, July 26. That morning, starting at 10:30 a.m., the library basement will play host to Little Ray's Reptile Zoo Show with an excellent turnout expected for such an event.

Over the years our own

property has played host to families of birds including robins, grackles, mourning doves and hummingbirds as well as chipmunks, squirrels, toads, a very old raccoon, and even garter snakes.

Most recently, we've gone from a solitary woodpecker checking out the suet feeder I put on a nearby lamppost, to a pair of them - affectionately known as Woody after the cartoon character of the same name and now his mate that my husband has named Woodette - currently visiting a suet feeder on our front lawn's Scotch pine. I was originally hopeful that the

woodpeckers would get more from the feeder than the pesky grackles that have made our place home too, but you can't have everything. And while we had early hopes of our tree being the successful home of a family of robins, such was sadly not the case, and we now have a grackle family instead.

In the reptile category, as already mentioned, we have our own visitors to our property. Toads, though always welcome, are the bane of my lawn mowing after experiencing unexpected accidents when I first started doing it. For

obvious reasons I avoid having that kind of accident as much as possible. The tricky part is getting the stubborn toads to move when I encourage them to.

As mentioned before, our proximity to the conservation area makes us prone to unexpected visits from garter snakes almost anywhere on our property. Both recent visitors to our driveway and my husband (who has himself held snakes before when invited to) have confirmed that a garter snake has again taken up residence around our front lawn and garage. I have

yet to see it, though, but expect to any time soon including seeing it sunbathing on our railway tie edged front garden when no one is around to disturb it.

Garter snakes are harmless to humans, of course, and ours are just sprouts compared to the snakes and other strictly controlled reptiles that will be part of Little Ray's Reptile Zoo Show event at the library.

I know I'll be there for sure and I hope to see as many young people and their caregivers there as well. It will definitely be an experience to remember.