



— DISCOVER —

ERIN

SPRING/SUMMER 2025

TOWN  OF
ERIN

TOWN OF
ERIN

DISCOVER ERIN

WELCOME TO ERIN

A vibrant, friendly rural town in Ontario with charming warmth, agri-tourism adventures, an active equestrian community, and enriching experiences.

Come discover all that Erin has to offer.



Discover
Erin

www.discovererin.ca

WELCOME TO ERIN



Serving the Town of Erin as your Mayor is one of the greatest privileges of my life.

As you are taking the time to read *Discover Erin*, you too are interested or invested in the Town of Erin, and I want to thank you and encourage you and your neighbours to become actively engaged in civic discourse, community activities and volunteerism.

Nestled in the picturesque countryside of Southern Ontario, the Town of Erin is a charming and vibrant community that offers a delightful blend of natural beauty, rich history, and modern amenities. With its lush rolling hills, meandering rivers, and quaint village settings, The Town of Erin is a haven for those seeking a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of city life. The town's vibrant downtown area is a medley of adorable shops, lovingly preserved buildings, and inviting cafes, making it a perfect destination for a leisurely stroll or a day of exploration.

The Town of Erin has recently celebrated several significant successes that highlight its growth and commitment to community development. The Town received a substantial \$29 million provincial grant aimed at upgrading its critical infrastructure. This investment will ensure reliable and modern water and wastewater services for residents, paving the way for sustainable growth and enhancing the quality of life for everyone in the Town of Erin.

Additionally, the new Wellington County Library, opening in the fall of 2025, will stand as a testament to Erin's dedication to its history, education and community engagement, providing residents with access to a wealth of resources and programs.

Community spirit is at the heart of the Town of Erin, and this is beautifully showcased through events like the Erin Fall Fair.

This year marks the 175th Anniversary of the Erin Fall Fair, a beloved tradition that brings together locals and visitors alike to celebrate the town's agricultural heritage and vibrant community. The festivities will include a celebratory tractor

parade on July 5th, 2025, where tractors will journey from Hillsburgh to the Village of Erin, creating a spectacular display of community pride and unity.

Continuing on that success, we're thrilled to announce the launch of *Discover Erin*, a vibrant new community magazine dedicated to celebrating the heart and soul of our town. This exciting publication is your go-to source for all things local—highlighting upcoming events, showcasing beloved and emerging businesses, and telling the stories that make Erin such a unique and thriving place to live. With each issue, *Discover Erin* aims to foster a stronger sense of connection among residents, spark local pride, and spotlight the people and initiatives shaping our community's future.

The Town of Erin's commitment to growth and community is evident in its ongoing efforts to enhance public spaces, streamline building and planning applications, and support local projects through community grants. As the Town of Erin continues to thrive, it remains a welcoming and enchanting place to live, work, and visit, offering a unique blend of rural charm and modern conveniences. Whether you're exploring its scenic trails, enjoying a cup of coffee at the Tin Roof Café, a pint at the Busholme, an apple fritter from Holtom's Bakery or participating in the vibrant local events, the Town of Erin truly has it all.

Looking back over the last few years I am grateful and humbled that you have allowed me to be a part of the Town of Erin's evolution.

Evolution embodies change and I acknowledge that this can be difficult for many of us. To be sure, there have been challenges, but we also have encountered opportunities to be seized. The one thing we have in common is that we are united in our love for the Town of Erin and we care about our community.

Whether you're a lifelong resident or a newcomer eager to explore, *Discover Erin* invites you to rediscover the charm and energy of our town.

Michael Dehn, Mayor, Town of Erin



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is part of the Treaty lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the [New] Credit. The Town of Erin is reminded that the land on which we live and work is steeped in rich indigenous history and is home to many First Nations, Metis, Inuit and other global indigenous people today

Explanation of acknowledgement

The first sentence recognizes that today the people of Erin reside on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation of the Anishinaabe people, from whom this land was purchased by the Crown as the Ajetance Treaty, No.19, 1818.

The second sentence provides the context that the history does not start at the point of European contact.

DISCOVER ERIN

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TOWN OF
ERIN



Naturally You Only Better

Located in the heart of Erin, Ontario, our medical clinic is redefining aesthetics with a focus on subtle enhancements, expert care, and proven technology. Whether it's Botox, Fillers, Skin Tightening, or Laser Hair Removal, with over 17 years of experience, we prioritize natural results, patient safety, and personalized treatment plans—so you feel confident, cared for, and never overdone.



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Jenny

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and receive a free beauty gift when you mention this ad.

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Call or text to book: **416-895-0866**

Email: Jenny@GlamNurseJenny.com

1 Wellington Road 124, Erin

Follow us on   @GlamNurseJenny @GlamSkinChyanne

PHOTO CONTEST

Show off your photography skills by entering the Town of Erin Photo Contest! We're looking for images that capture the beauty, spirit, and charm of Erin—from scenic landscapes and local events to everyday community life. Whether you're a professional or a hobbyist, this is your chance to showcase what makes Erin special. Selected photos will be featured in the next edition of Discover Erin publishing this fall. Submit your best shots with brief description of the photo (where, when, etc.) and help celebrate the unique character of our town! Don't forget to include your name and contact information.

Entries can be submitted by email to:
communications@erin.ca
Deadline to enter is August 25, 2025.

The winning submission will win a Town of Erin prize pack valued at \$300.

**Note, we will do our best to include all submissions in the fall edition of Discover Erin, however we reserve the right to exclude some based on space.*

ENJOY ERIN

Welcome to the Town of Erin. Whether you're a newcomer or a long-time resident, there's so much to explore and appreciate in this charming community. From stunning natural landscapes and parks to vibrant local shops and restaurants, Erin offers a unique blend of small-town charm and a thriving business scene. With a strong spirit of entrepreneurship, many businesses collaborate on events and promotions, fostering a deep sense of community and camaraderie.

The Erin Chamber of Commerce hosts Business Spotlights, Educational Workshops, and Networking Events to strengthen members' positions and boost profitability. This town, with its rich tapestry of enterprises, not only supports the local economy but also creates a lively atmosphere where residents take pride in buying local and supporting Canadian-made products.

Our businesses will help you truly Discover Erin!

Ann Shanahan
Chair, Erin Chamber of Commerce




Erin Farmers' Market

Every Thursday from 3-6:30pm

Inside the agri-dome at the
Erin Fairgrounds, 184 Main St.
www.erinfarmersmarket.ca
OPENING DAY JUNE 19TH



HANNAH'S of Erin



Effortless Elegance



Shop Outside The Box!—at Hannah's of Erin 

116 MAIN ST, ERIN, ON
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YOUR NEXT MOVE STARTS HERE.

Ask me about a
**Complimentary Home
Assessment** and how I can
help from prep to close.

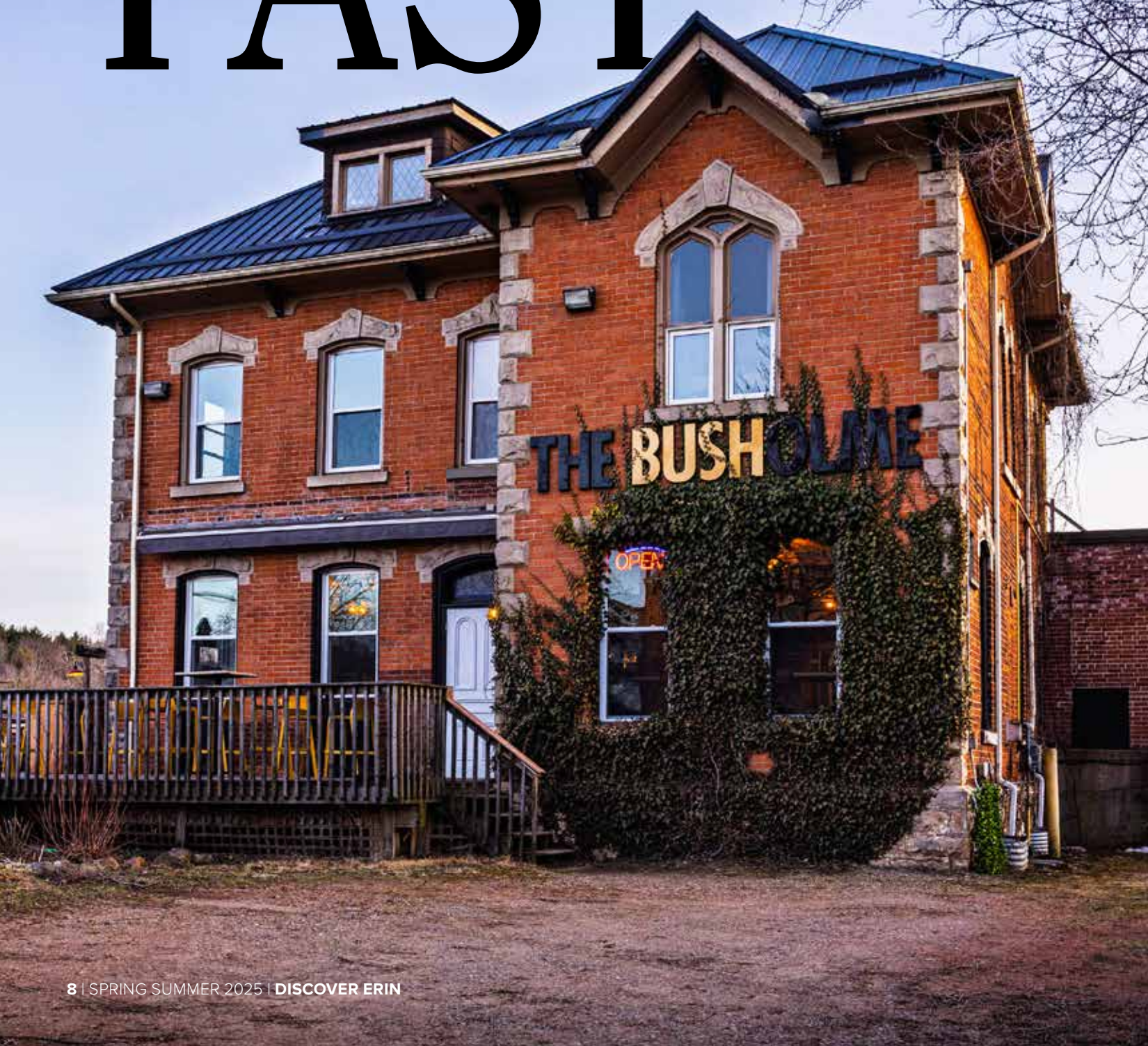


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A storied PAST



One of Erin's
liveliest hangouts
has long been a staple of the local community

Story by Alexandra Jagoe

From its beginnings as a doctor's house, to its debut as a hotel and pub, The Busholme has been a local household name for more than a century.

Wherever Mike Magill travels, he says he often seems to find someone who knows about Erin and recognizes the name of the bar that he owns.

"My mom actually worked here in the late 70's," said Magill, whose family has lived in Erin for five generations.

"They used to bolt the tables down to the floor," he said, referring to the bar's early reputation for fighting. He said he thought that was just a rumor, until he found the bolt patterns on the floorboards while pulling up old carpet one day.



Mike Magill

This sprawling brick building was built in 1886, with unique stonework above the windows that historians say is exclusive to the Erin area. It's believed that the building was initially intended to be a hospital for the community and served as a home and medical practice for several early physicians.

In 1924, the building was purchased by A.J. Horton and turned into the Horton Hotel, which also provided quarters for the Erin Fire Brigade.

In 1926 the site was purchased by J.P. Bush, a local businessman who ran a hardware store, and named it the Busholme Inn.

The hotel had a licensed room to serve alcohol in the 1930's, which was almost shut down in a town-wide referendum in the 1950's.

Continued on page 10

A photo of proprietor J.P. Bush, standing in front of the Busholme Inn. In 1924, Bush transformed the building into a hotel, where it became a central part of Erin's social and economic life.

Wellington County Museum and Archives, ph 10872.



Take a Historic WALKING TOUR

Did you know you can tour Erin Village's key historic landmarks in under an hour?

Check out several prominent buildings, including the Busholme, and read plaques that give detailed stories about this town's humble beginnings.

Learn about Erin's early places of worship, including All Saints Anglican Church, Erin United Church and Burn's Presbyterian Church.

See the McMillan mill, which will soon become the new Erin Public Library and learn about the building's unique architecture and rich history.

Pass by the old Erin Advocate Newspaper office, which became the Union Bank along Main Street, alongside several other storefronts which showcase the village's historic charm.

Erin's first dam, built by War of 1812 Veteran Henry Trout, was used to grind oats. The site was later converted into a planning mill by Benjamin Mundell, before being consumed by fire in 2013.

Read the names of Erin's brave soldiers who fought overseas, inscribed on the Cenotaph at the corner of Main Street and Union Street.

Scan the QR code below for a map and guided tour of Erin Village's historic spots.



According to the late Stephen Thorning, local historian and columnist for the Wellington Advertiser, the vote to shut down the Busholme came after Reeve D.S. Leitch mentioned he would like to see a beer and liquor store open in the town.

This drew the ire of a group in town who launched a campaign to not only prevent the liquor store, but to shut down the local pub.

There was a town-wide vote on the matter in June 1954, which drew a 93 per cent voter turnout.

As a result, 65 per cent of residents voted in favour of liquor sales in the community, and the Busholme lived on.

The venue first became a restaurant in the 1960's as Jolly Roger's, which is why Magill flies the Jolly Roger pirate flag outside the building today.

Magill and co-owner Nicole Magill were given the opportunity to take on the bar in 2016.

They worked to develop "a friendly, all-around venue that offers a bit of something for everybody," said Magill.

In addition to a wide selection of beverages and a robust menu, the Busholme is a popular spot for concerts and musical acts.

"We've had Grammy winners and Juno winners," he said.

Over the years, Magill said he has worked to make upgrades and renovations that are tasteful and respectful

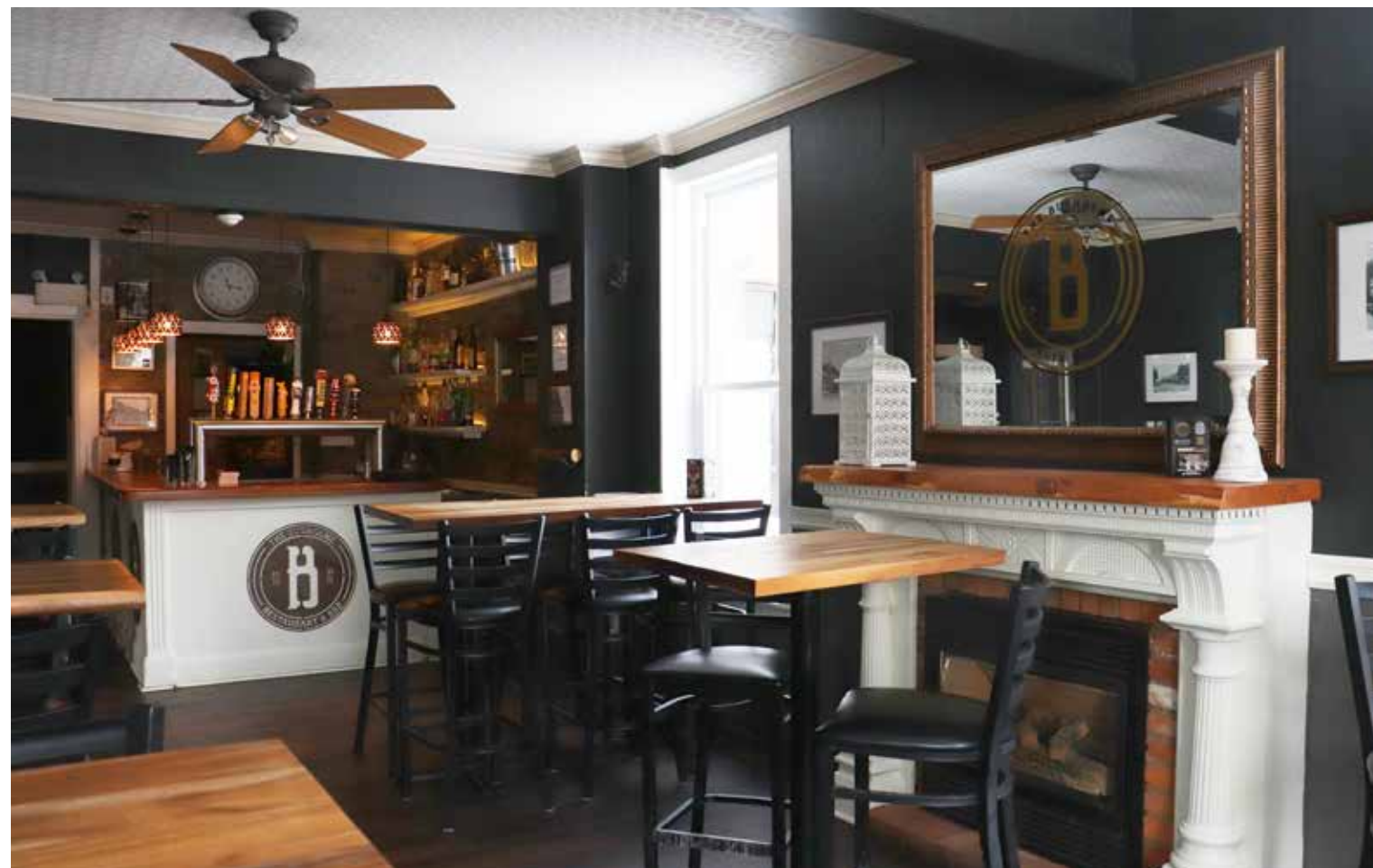


to the heritage of the building.

A sign from the old Overland store, a historic shop run by one of the founding families, hangs above a doorway.

Along the walls of the restaurant, there are several prints of historic places around town.

"I just like old stuff," said Magill, after being asked how it feels to run a bar with such a storied history. "I take pride in it."



ERIN RAM RODEO MIDSEASON CHAMPIONSHIP

JULY 18, 19 & 20 ERIN FAIRGROUNDS

Friday July 18, 4:00 pm RAM Rodeo
After Rodeo Downtown Street Party

- Featuring the Canadian Cowgirls
- Meet & greet/photo op. & autographs with the RAM Rodeo cowboys & cowgirls
- Saloon line dancing
- Shop downtown until 9:30pm & SAVE
- Kids Zone, fun & activities
- Downtown Erin western window decorating contest: Vote for your favorite window
- Make it a corporate day bring your staff, clients, friends & family for great entertainment for all

Full weekend schedule at:
www.ramrodeoontario.com



RAIN OR SHINE



SAVE \$10.00
ON ADVANCE
TICKETS

Presented by the Erin Chamber of Commerce

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE ERIN FARMERS' MARKET

The Erin Farmers' Market is excited to kick off the 2025 season on June 19. Join them every Thursday from 3 to 6:30 p.m. at the spacious agri-dome, located at the Erin Fairgrounds, 184 Main Street, Erin. Shop fresh, local produce, homemade goods, and handcrafted items while supporting area farmers and artisans. It's the perfect way to enjoy community spirit, discover local treasures, and make Thursdays a highlight of your week.

Story by Jennifer Schmelter, Erin Farmers' Market



1. WE'VE BEEN FEEDING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 2012

Since the Erin Farmers' Market began in 2012, we've been cultivating a space for sharing and celebrating local farmers, food and artisans. We outgrew our spot in McMillan Park, and are now located inside the agri-dome at the Erin Fairgrounds. This covered space means we're open rain or shine, and the building is fully accessible with onsite washrooms. Over the years, we've tried several days and locations, but we find Thursday afternoons work well for both our customers and vendors. Each farmers' market in Wellington County happens on a different day of the week, allowing shoppers to visit other markets, and vendors to participate in multiple markets each season.



2. WE'RE A "TRUE" FARMERS' MARKET

The Erin Farmers' Market is proud to be a true farmers' market. We prioritize local farmers first and foremost. This commitment means that over 50 per cent of our vendors are actual farmers who grow or produce what they sell. It's a guiding principle that helps us support local agriculture and give shoppers access to fresh, in-season, locally grown food.

With our longstanding producer priority rule, we acknowledge the time and effort it takes to grow perishable produce. If we do have resellers at the market (meaning vendors selling food that they themselves did not grow or produce), we require that those vendors step back from offering a particular item if a farm is selling that same item and grew it themselves. Once the farm has sold out of their item or it is no longer in season, the reseller may once again sell that product. For example, if there's a farm growing strawberries, the season for harvesting field berries is roughly late June to mid-July. So during those three or four weeks, a reseller cannot sell strawberries. But once strawberry season is over for our farm vendor, the reseller is welcome to bring in berries sourced from a food depot or other farm. This ensures that our local farmers putting in the hard work each week can be supported by our community.



3. WE SUPPORT OVER 1,000 ACRES OF LOCAL FARMLAND

In 2024, we supported 18 farms within 45 km (40 minutes) of the Erin Fairgrounds, from a 0.04-acre mushroom farm to a 400-acre cattle farm. While most farms also sell their products from their on-farm stores and/or at other local markets, the Erin Farmers' Market continues to be an important component in their sales and marketing plans.



4. OUR SEASONAL OFFERINGS FOR 2025

As of mid-April, we have 18 vendors confirmed for the 2025 season. These include our market regulars: 4th Line Cattle Co., Calehill Farms, Cedar Valley Honey, Coyote Hollow Farms, Little Deer Drive, Mel Bailey, Smokey Hollow and Tanner's Pumpkins, as well as a selection of new farms and prepared food vendors.

We know that our customers are looking for fresh fruit and vegetables, which is why every farm that applied to the market has been accepted. We look forward to showcasing a variety of local meats, produce, honey, maple syrup, microgreens, flowers, wine, preserves, breads, treats and handcrafted items.



5. WE SUPPORT MANY LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS

The Erin Farmers' Market exists to provide a forum for the sale of local products and goods. We provide a low-cost entry point for small businesses which cannot afford a storefront or wholesale production. Businesses may come for one two seasons to test new products, get customer feedback or attract a new group of clients. Some stay on year after year, while others go on to open their own shops or sell wholesale to stores. In this way, we play an important role in the local economy. We also offer booth space at no charge for local non-profits, charity groups, and young entrepreneurs.

WHAT'S IN SEASON GUIDE:

Enjoy a wide selection of fresh, locally grown produce throughout the market season, running until September 25. Use this helpful guide to explore what's in season and plan your visits around the freshest fruits, vegetables, and herbs available.

JUNE: Asparagus, Beans, Greens, Peas, Radishes, Rhubarb, Spinach, Strawberries

JULY: Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cherries, Cucumbers, Peaches, Plums, Raspberries, Zucchini

AUGUST: Carrots, Corn, Eggplant, Lettuce, Pears, Peppers, Potatoes, Squash, Tomatoes

SEPTEMBER: Apples, Brussel Sprouts, Parsnips, Pumpkins, Squash, Sweet Potatoes



Lovin' Local



Here in Erin, we love local. Our community is home to a wide variety of farmers, food producers, apiaries, clothing designers and more. Here's a little lineup of some of our favourite things, and we hope you like them too.

1. Air Plant Holder

Kelly Kingdon

This local felt artist creates seriously detailed designs. This mushroom air plant holder mixes creativity with horticulture, giving the little sprout a stylish place to stay. Check out her work on Instagram at: [thepowerofk_feltdart](https://www.instagram.com/thepowerofk_feltdart)

2. Candles, lavender and wax sachet

Erin Hill Acres

Did you know that Erin Hill Acres offers a selection of products made from their own lavender? Discover hand-made candles, locally grown lavender bouquets and even scented wax sachets from their on-farm store at: **5837 3 Line, Hillsburgh.**

3. Stellar Stationery

RC Retail at Rural Commons

Rediscover the joy of writing with luxurious pens, cute cards and beautiful notebooks. Baltic Club notebooks are Canadian made, stylish and made with recycled materials. Check out locally hand painted fridge magnets and more inside Rural Commons at: **92 Main St., Erin**

4. Salad Tongs and Herb Strippers

Stump and Stone

Check out this Erin woodworker's fine wares, sleek, stylish and locally made. Feed your herbs through the stripper for an easy de-stemming process or grab salads with ease. Visit stumpandstone.ca for the full collection of cutting boards, essential oil holders, coasters and more.

5. Delightful Décor

The Village Farmhouse Supply Company

Find chic framed shots from local photographer Danielle Arnold, exquisite throw pillows and stylish woodworking items at The Village Farmhouse Supply Company inside Rural Commons at: **92 Main St., Erin**

6. Eve Goes Badass hard cider

Heartwood Cidery

An Ontario classic, with a kick! This cider is steeped on farm-grown cayenne peppers and sweetened with honey. The lingering spice in the back of your throat may catch you off guard, so be careful! Visit their website heartwoodfarm.ca or stop by the farm and grab yours at: **5438 2nd Line, Erin**



Kneading a little love

Woolen Mill Kitchen
inspires passion for cooking with classes for all ages

Story by Alexandra Jagoe

Is there any better way to connect with others, than through food?

That's what Erin's Claire Bell has been doing inside her own kitchen over the past three years, offering tailored cooking classes for youth, adults and seniors.

Woolen Mill Kitchen hosts a series of classes, from youth summer camps, bachelorette experiences, pasta-making and even personalized sessions.

"I think it's really important for people to get excited about food," said Bell, who worked as an elementary school teacher in England before moving to Erin.

She would do cooking sessions with children that aligned with their school curriculum, for example, a class on making soda bread and chowder while learning about the Vikings.

Here in Canada, Bell is hosting culinary classes for



youth, teaching them how to make pasta, sushi, tapas, and all sorts of other tasty treats.

"I wanted to use my skills as an educator, my passion for food and purposeful learning," she said, explaining that "our home provides the perfect welcoming and warm space to provide creative

and meaningful learning opportunities where children can develop self-confidence and independence, alongside developing culinary and life skills."

Last summer she held a week-long camp where kids held a cooking presentation at the Erin Farmer's Market, making tacos.

"They demonstrated how to make tortillas," she said, smiling as she remembered how they made mango salsa and smoothies, offering samples of the delicious drink at the market.

She said that participants also learn about dining



etiquette, knife skills, and proper cleaning, gaining a sense of pride in their work, after hosting a dinner or meal for parents at the end.

From May to September, she holds specific hosting events, where youth prepare high tea for parents and grandparents, and a BBQ for siblings. The sessions focus on providing young cooks with practical life skills to apply to real-life situations.

"It's really about people coming together," she said. "Food brings people together."

Woolen Mill Kitchen offers adult sessions including classes on Thai cuisine, Italian, French and even summer tapas.

"You're coming for a night with friends," Bell said, describing the relaxed atmosphere of her kitchen, where guests can mingle and get to know each other, dining on the balcony in the summer overlooking the credit river.

She also hosts a series called Hearth and Soul Open Kitchen, a relaxed group cooking series on mid-week mornings. Participants have the chance to bake irresistibly fluffy bread, lovely desserts and even craft the perfect risotto.

"It's an experience," she said. "I want it to be social."

For more information about Woolen Mill Kitchen's classes, go to www.woolenmillkitchen.com



UPCOMING CLASSES

coming to the
Woolen Mill Kitchen

**RELAX, RENEW & RESET:
A WOMEN'S DAY RETREAT**
June 27

Join educator and motivational speaker Sarah Kinlin of Pearl Performance for a day of inspiration and rejuvenation while learning about power of food to fuel your body and mind. Prepare seasonal, locally sourced protein-rich summer salads and discover gut-loving, nourishing recipes to kick start your day.

HIGH TEA
July 10 to 12

Children ages eight and up prepare a delicate array of goodies for two guests, all served on an iconic tiered platter.

**YOUTH SUMMER CULINARY
PROGRAMS**
July 29 to August 1, also August 26 to 29

These four-day summer classes are for children ages eight and up, focusing on local Canadian produce and eliminating food waste. The group will visit the Erin Farmers' Market during the class.

TEENS DINNER
September 5, 6 to 10 p.m.

Gather for a true Italian dinner experience where you will create a mouthwatering Tuscan meal from scratch, starting with bruschetta & antipasto, followed by ravioli with a chopped Italian salad and finished with a refreshing gelato.

SPANISH TAPAS
August 23, 5:30 to 10 p.m.

Spend the evening preparing small plates with a focus on fresh fish and seasonal Canadian ingredients. Enjoy cider and bacon mussels, summer pea soup with smoked trout and wild shrimp shot glasses. Bring a date and make fun and tasty creations in this interactive class.

Hidden GEMS

Erin's 'shop in a shed' a
treasure-trove of
timeless wonders

Story by Alexandra Jagoe

Down a quiet residential street in Erin village lies an enchanting little shop, filled with beauty, history and unique antiques.

The Wright Attitude Shoppe in a Shed, offers a wealth of eclectic finds from fine bone China, shimmering decanters, detailed paintings, timeless furniture and even a set of military medals.

Standing inside his shop, 81-year-old John Wright looked around at his collection of goods, bought at auctions, second-hand stores and even refurbished after being rescued from the side of the road.

Sets of vintage dinnerware were carefully arranged at tables, sideboards set up with lamps and walls of shelves and paintings lined the building.

Every corner offered a new discovery, a unique item just waiting for its next home.

"I've just been interested in it since I was a teenager," Wright said, of antiques and home décor.

He opened his first antique shop in Erin Village in 1994, renting out a spot along Main Street for weekends during the summer, before opening a more permanent location.

When he retired from his airline industry career in 2001, Wright began to explore his passion further, later opening a small shop called the Annex inside Beaver Mills Design.

Continued on page 20



In May 2020 the ‘shop in the shed’ was born. After hosting successful yard sales and setting the shed up for several dinner parties, Wright decided to turn it into a little store.

“It’s not necessarily about selling,” he said, adding that putting a smile on visitor’s faces is the most important thing. “I like the people that come.”

Wright had a complete set of Royal Albert flower of the month teacups that he wanted to sell as a set but soon learned that many wanted to buy the individual cup for their own birth month.

Thinking back to how he wanted to keep the collection complete, he realized he was able to make many people happy by selling the cups individually.

He says some are enamoured when they walk in, taking in all the details around them, while others are on the hunt for something in particular.

Wright chooses pieces that catch his eye, things he likes, for the shed.

Unfortunately, he doesn’t know the story behind many of the items he carries.

“I do research what I can,” he said, explaining that often paintings bought at auctions come with notes or a story.

Other items, however, are rescued from the trash before Wright breathes new life into them.

“I have a passion for chairs,” he said, remembering a

Chippendale loveseat he found at the Belwood dump, which was rejuvenated with reupholstering. “You make it into a showpiece.”

A set of 1920’s art deco period chairs sit inside his shop, with black and white fabric.

“I drove by one of those for three days,” he said, while on his way out to Judy’s restaurant.

As he stopped and picked up the chair, a man came running out and asked if he would like its match.

Now, reupholstered, they sit ready to brighten up someone’s home.

“This is what I grew up with and I appreciate it. What I’ve worked with all of my life,” he said of the antiques. “It just warms up the place and gives you a sense of history too.”

The Wright Attitude Shoppe in a Shed is located at 12 Spring St. and is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

To learn more, be sure to check out Wright’s Instagram: @johnwright.thewrightattitude



How to shop for ANTIQUES

Shopping for antiques can be a rewarding experience, offering the chance to discover unique, historical, and often valuable items. Whether you’re a seasoned collector or just starting out, a few tips can help you navigate the world of antique shopping with confidence.

Do your homework

Start by doing your research. Understanding the styles, periods, and types of antiques you’re interested in—such as Victorian furniture, mid-century modern décor, or vintage glassware—will help you recognize authentic pieces and avoid reproductions. Books, online resources, and antique experts are excellent sources of information.

Inspect items thoroughly

Always inspect items carefully. Look for signs of authenticity such as maker’s marks, craftsmanship, and signs of age. Be cautious of damage or excessive restoration, which can affect value. If you’re considering a significant purchase, it may be worth having the item appraised.

Don’t rush it

Take your time to browse carefully and thoughtfully. Antique shopping is not a rushed activity—it’s about exploring, discovering, and learning. Each piece has its own history and character, and the joy often lies in the hunt itself. As you walk through Wright Attitude Shoppe in a Shed, allow yourself to look closely at different items, even those you may not have considered at first glance. Hidden gems often reveal themselves when you’re not in a hurry.

Charming pieces

Lastly, buy what you love. While value and rarity are important, choosing pieces that resonate with your personal taste ensures your collection is both meaningful and enjoyable. Antique shopping is not just about acquiring items—it’s about discovering stories and adding character to your home.

SOWING SUCCESS

These Erin groups are building local food security by encouraging home gardening

Story by Alexandra Jagoe

On a crisp, cold Saturday morning, sunlight streamed through the windows of Erin United Church.

Dozens sat in the rows of wooden church pews, intently listening to the speaker standing at the front of the room.

“A pumpkin and a zucchini are the same species,” said Rebecca Ivanoff, seed program manager with the Ecological Farmer’s Association of Ontario.

She paced back and forth, giving an animated presentation on growing plants to harvest their seeds, cleaning them, and keeping them safe to plant the next



Jennifer Edwards

year. She touched on cross pollination, and in what circumstances growers need to prevent it and how in others it can help produce a heartier, more genetically diverse crop.

“Seed is such a gift to us and teaches us about generosity,” she said, finishing her talk with a quote from Janisse Ray, author of *The*

Seed Underground: A Growing Revolution to Save Food. “I want to tell you about the most hopeful thing in the world. It is a seed.”

The Erin Seed Library is sowing a lot of hope.

Since its inception in 2017, Jennifer Edwards has grown a publicly available cache of seeds that operates on the

Rebecca Ivanoff, seed program manager with the Ecological Farmer’s Association of Ontario speaks to a crowd at the Erin United Church.

premise “borrow, learn, grow, return.”

The group hosts “Seedy Saturdays,” where speakers like Ivanoff give talks on gardening and offer space for vendors and other seed producers.

“At first I was really worried about signing seeds out because I was worried I wouldn’t get any back,” she said. “I started getting more and more seeds. Now I don’t even worry about it. I just want people to garden.”

Edwards says that growing food gives residents a certain autonomy, avoids pesticides used in many commercial farms and is a cost-effective alternative to expensive organic produce.

“When you save your own seeds, you’re preserving a species,” she said, adding that there are different strains of just about every vegetable. “There’s a lot of variety when you grow from seeds.”

Seedy Saturdays have exploded in popularity across Ontario, and now Edwards tries to coordinate Erin events not to fall on the same date as other local seed exchanges.

“I think people just want more food sovereignty for themselves. You can grow your own tomatoes, you can grow your own peas...there’s so many easy things you can grow yourself,” said Edwards. “It is a lot of work, you have to water it, you have to take care of it, but then it’s just right there outside your back door.”

Edwards said she is often invited to come see the gardens growing seeds from the library and gets the seeds back, ready to be shared again.



“It’s so nice that people have pride in what they’ve grown themselves,” she said.

Throughout the summer, Edwards tends to several gardens, including one at a local school, which even sprouts asparagus in the spring.

“The coolest thing for kids to grow is broccoli,” she said.

There’s another Erin group working to build food security and independence too—Seed to Plate, which turns bumper crops of local fruits and veggies into meals for the community.

Organizer Abel Page secured funding from Our Food Future Guelph Wellington and with support of the Town of Erin, set up a community fridge at the front doors of Centre 2000. Now, members of the community help keep the unit stocked and ready for anyone who needs it.

“It’s a very powerful project,” said Page, adding that the initial objective was to help eliminate food waste and encourage residents to grow their own food through several workshops.

Since then, it has blossomed into a valuable local resource through the community fridge.

“We have some donors that are giving regularly,” he said, noting that there are often online posts when the fridge is restocked. “People are very grateful.”

Edwards hopes that Seedy Saturday visitors not only take home some seeds from the event but learn valuable lessons about growing their own food and try something new.

She said even starting out small, with a few pots inside under a lamp is a valuable first step.

“I think everyone has a role in the seed system,” said Ivanoff, explaining that her job is to help increase the quality, quantity and diversity of seeds growing in Ontario.

Speaking to an eager crowd of gardeners with a plethora of seeds at their fingertips does just that.

“It brings me a lot of joy to share that with people,” she said.

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Over Here Community Arts Adventure:

Connecting through creativity and collaboration

Story by Karen Martin-Robbins

On the side of the Hillsburgh Community Centre, five large, vibrant wooden circles—interlocking like gears—are mounted on the wall. Each one represents a different group within the community, working together in harmony.

“Over 11 months, countless community members, special interest groups, council committees and volunteers worked to bring this vision to life,” explains Melissa Auchincloss, a Hillsburgh artist and co-founder of Over Here Community Arts Adventure, the organization behind this striking public art piece.

The artwork, titled Geared Up, is more than just eye-catching. “These gears represent how our community comes together,” said Jennifer McKinnon, who co-founded the non-profit alongside Auchincloss. “Each one symbolizes a unique part of our town, working in sync to drive positive change.”

Geared Up is just one of many projects ignited by Over Here Community Arts Adventure—a growing initiative that’s putting Erin and Hillsburgh on the creative map.

How It Started

The idea took shape during the last gasps of the COVID-19 pandemic, when isolation left many feeling disconnected.



Melissa Auchincloss

“We felt the pandemic had weakened our sense of community,” said Auchincloss, a painter and photographer. “We wanted to create something that would welcome newcomers and inspire participation.”

As their town grew, Auchincloss and McKinnon saw art as a powerful way to bridge gaps and build connections.

“Art—whether it’s painting, cooking, dancing—relieves stress, sparks conversation, and gives people a healthy outlet,” Auchincloss said. With the backing of Two Sisters Growing Brands, they launched Over Here with a clear mission: foster creativity, collaboration, and community.

Continued on page 26



David Spencer photo

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“When we create together, we produce art that’s bigger, grander and more unique than anything we could achieve alone,” said Auchincloss.

Making Connections

Since its launch, Over Here has been busy. The group has hosted events like Arts by the Pond, launched the Arts Ruralz Trail, and partnered with the Hillsburgh Library to showcase local talent in a rotating gallery exhibit.

Local acrylic painter Nancy Ladner believes the initiative is filling an important gap. “There are so many hidden artists in this area,” she said. “We’re not always visible—that’s why groups like Over Here are so important.”

Sandra Barret, who doesn’t consider herself an artist, joined the team to help with organization and outreach. She helped bring together creatives for the first Arts by the Pond, an event that drew poets, painters, musicians, and more to the library grounds. “It was infectious to see people sharing their passion,” she said.

The event returns this year on June 8.

Celebrating Rural Art

Another ambitious project from Over Here is the Arts Ruralz Trail, a collection of public and private art installations spread across the region’s scenic rural landscape. The trail encourages exploration while spotlighting local creativity in unexpected places.

Among the upcoming installations is The Caboose Hop, designed by artist Jefferson Campbell-Cooper. His

concept will be unveiled at this year’s Arts by the Pond, with full construction slated for 2026. The piece will involve both professional and community collaboration, and feature a QR code linking to a documentary on Hillsburgh’s railway history.

The film is being produced by Over Here members, including Barret and Steve Bergwerff of Iron Cloud Productions. “I learned so much while working on it,” Barret said. In her research, she even located Hillsburgh’s historic train station—still standing today at Island Lake Conservation Area.

Supporting Local Artists

Another cornerstone of the initiative is the Gallery Over Here by the Pond, located inside the Hillsburgh Library. The rotating exhibit showcases both emerging and established artists from the area, offering them a welcoming platform to share their work.

The group is also running a lineup of creative workshops—from French Cookery with Chef Gui to Discover Rural Beauty through Plein Air Painting.

“Arts and culture often get overlooked in small towns,” McKinnon said. “Over Here is a way to shine a light on our creative community and make art accessible to everyone—newcomers and long-time residents alike.”

With its blend of imagination, inclusion, and grassroots energy, Over Here Community Arts Adventure is transforming Hillsburgh and Erin—one project, one artist, and one community connection at a time.

To learn more, go to: overhere.ca

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DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

Escape to Wonderland
at Erin's Maddie Hatter tea shop



Story by Karen Martin-Robbins

If Lewis Carroll had ever dreamed up a tea house for modern times, chances are it would look a lot like Maddie Hatter Tea Shop.

Nestled in the heart of downtown Erin, this charming little spot invites guests to do something many adults forget to do—slow down, unplug, and play.

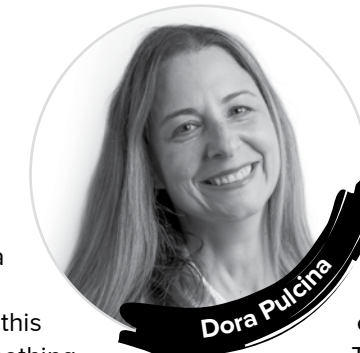
From the moment you step inside Maddie's, it's clear this isn't just a restaurant—it's an experience.

"I've always loved Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," said owner Dora Pulcina. "It's a story full of curiosity, creativity, and whimsy. I wanted to bring that same energy into the real world—a place that feels like a break from the everyday chaos. Where you can just escape for a few hours."

The décor is delightfully over-the-top, with teacup towers that seem to defy gravity, quotes from the classic novel hand-painted onto walls and signs, and an abundance of clocks that don't tell time—an ode to the Mad Hatter's famous tea party where time stands still.

"When you go to Wonderland, you lose track of time. That's what we want you to do when you come here too. Escape from the everyday," explains Pulcina.

The entire concept of the tea house draws inspiration from that very tea party.



Dora Pulcina

"The name Maddie's comes from the idea of the Mad Hatter's daughter, Maddie Hatter," Pulcina said. "She grew up surrounded by whimsy and decided to carry on the legacy with a tea shop of her own. That story became the heartbeat of everything we created."

The family business opened in 2017 and despite obstacles such as the Covid pandemic, has seen remarkable growth.

Part of the appeal is that Maddie's isn't just beautiful—it's personal.

Many of the design touches were handcrafted by Pulcina herself. "I wanted the space to feel like someone's creative dream came to life," she said. "I stacked teapots and cups in quirky, slightly tilted ways. I tucked hats into unexpected corners. Everything was designed to feel lived-in, loved, and a little offbeat—just like Wonderland."

But perhaps the most delightful part of the décor is the hats.

"We have hats everywhere—not just on display, but for guests to actually wear. It's become a whole thing. People take pictures in them while sipping tea, and we have hundreds of photos of guests laughing, posing, and really getting into the spirit of it. It's like we've all gone back to being kids, playing tea party again."

Continued on page 30

And let's not forget the tea.

The afternoon tea has become the most popular dish on the menu served on a three-tiered plate with delectable home-made scones, loose-leaf tea, jam and devon cream.

"I love afternoon tea," said Pulcina, who went on a two-week trip through London's finest tea rooms for research. "But I wanted to create something more accessible, more relaxed, and just as memorable."

Maddie's serves over 25 loose-leaf blends, all crafted from premium ingredients.

The restaurant is also licensed—cue the Pink Flamingo cocktail and bottomless mimosas.

Along with the drink choices, the restaurant has a mouthwatering à la carte menu with comfort foods such as homemade soups, mac and cheese and Shepherd's pie.

"We try to give our customers a fun environment and good food for a memorable experience," Pulcina said.

The HR specialist became a restaurant owner after coming

to realize she wanted a creative outlet in her life. Her children and husband help out at the business, either working behind the counter or fixing things behind the scenes.

"In our house, 'Maddie' is like a member of our family," she jokes.

The restaurant is a popular spot on weekends – especially since the tea shop was featured in a Narcity news article and then turned up on several "top ten tea house" tourism lists.

"People like visiting small towns and taking day trips for dates or family outings. Erin is a great destination for that," Pulcina said.

Special events are also a huge draw – with people hosting birthday parties, bridal showers or family gatherings.

The main restaurant seats about 30 but there is also a small space next door, called the Rabbit Hole.

"Every adventure requires a first step," Pulcina quotes from the famous novel. "Opening Maddie's was mine. And now I get to invite people into that adventure every day."



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Dancers at the "April Showers" dance, April 1976.



Laurie and Ruth Arenburg on the dance floor, St. Patrick's Day Dance, 13 March 1971.



Dancers at "Over the Rainbow" dance, dancing under enormous hat suspended from the ceiling, ca. 1971.

LOOKING BACK

Phil Gravelle is a local historian and a former columnist with the Erin Advocate newspaper where his popular Looking Back history column was published weekly for many years. As an ode to Erin's rural heritage, we at Discover Erin are pleased to share Looking Back with you and hope you enjoy a trip down memory lane with us.



Phil Gravelle

for ten Saturday night sessions. Physical fitness classes are also being planned by the Recreation Board. They will be visiting Scarborough, where Larry Gregson is Director of Recreation, to get some program ideas for Erin.

An Advocate editorial said: Crossing Main Street in the business section of Erin Village has become a daring and frustrating act, due to a tremendous increase in traffic on Highway 24. The main reason for crossing the road is, of course, the post office on the east side of Main. And who doesn't cross over there, at least once a day? A cross-walk appears to be the solution. Pedestrians are assured of crossing safely without a long, impatient wait. The motorist is aware of the crossing, and is relieved of the uncertainty of a sudden darting in front of him, at any time, any place along the street. The cost of such an endeavour – mini. The need – maxi.

From the Advocate – 35 years ago (1990)

A Ballinafad family escaped unharmed as an early morning fire caused about \$350,000 in damage to a home and vehicles last Thursday. Four fire departments responded, but Hillsburgh Fire Chief Wayne McIsaac said the house was fully engulfed in flames when they

arrived. Resident Bonnie Walker said she was awakened at 2 a.m. by a smoke detector. With thick smoke coming up the stairs, she and her teenaged children Diane and Jeff tied sheets together and escaped through a bedroom window.

Building activity in Erin Township was down in 1989 from the previous two years, while the cost of constructing new homes was up sharply. There were 209 building applications, compared to 239 in 1988 and 265 in 1987. The average cost of a housing start has been rising: \$90,412 in 1987, \$118,237 in 1988 and \$135,666 in 1989. There were 24 swimming pools installed in 1989, and Building Official Ray Hall said it was probably because of the unusually hot summer of 1988.

From the Advocate – 25 years ago (2000)

A break and enter has caused serious damage at Rainbow Pizzeria on Main Street in Erin. The business has been closed for some time undergoing renovations. The OPP said entry was gained through a basement window. A water pipe was opened and the building was ransacked, but nothing was stolen.

The huge windows at the new Erin library were installed last week, and the Erin Millennium Committee is making plans for a Grand Opening in August.

Joyce Graham, in her Hillsburgh Highlights column, reports that Jeannie Wagenaar will be retiring from her duties as a teller at the Royal Bank on Friday. Patrons are invited to stop in during the afternoon for cake and coffee. Jeannie started with the bank part-time in 1968 and became full-time in 1976.

Photos courtesy Wellington County Museum and Archives

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THE 2025 SHAMROCK AWARDS

Every year, the Town of Erin asks residents to think about those who go above and beyond for the community, and they do not disappoint.

The 2025 Shamrock Award nominees showcased a wide range of talented, dedicated and passionate people who help make Erin not just a better place, but perhaps one of the best places to live, work and play.

Here are the steadfast community volunteers, environmentalists, businesses and artists who we can't thank enough for their service.



Mary Cunningham: Citizen of the Year

For 25 years, Cunningham has been an instrumental member of the Rotary Club of Erin, dedicating countless hours to fundraising events, roadside cleanup and helping build the Rotary Trail. She has been an active member of the St. Jean Brebeuf congregation for 50 years and coached youth baseball and hockey for 15 years.



Erin Outlaws Hockey Club: Business of the Year

This local business has quickly become a pillar in the community, creating a town pride centred on sporting excellence, while ardently supporting local charities. Pictured are Erin Outlaws Hockey Club co-owners Ann Shanahan and Dusty Scott.



Goody Leblanc: Community Volunteer Award

Leblanc is a faithful supporter of Erin Seed to Plate, regularly filling the community fridge at Centre 2000, rain or shine. She not only stocks the fridge but keeps it meticulously clean. Erin is extremely lucky to have her.



Shirley Edgerton: Community Volunteer Award

Edgerton has volunteered with East Wellington Community Services for 22 years, greeting visitors and clients, managing the thrift shop, and serving clients through the Adult Day program. She is also a bus volunteer, helping ensure safe and enjoyable trips around town.



Kennedy's Flags: Contribution to Canadian Industry

This longstanding local flag producer has made its mark on a national level, selling quality flags and printed products. Recently, the company has seen an uptake in Canadian flag sales, supporting national pride and business. Pictured here is owner, Tammy Quantrell.



David Alexander: Environment Award

Alexander is an ardent environmentalist, supporting farmers adopting regenerative agricultural practises through Everdale Farm. He also leads weekly donations to the Erin Food Bank and is a supportive and inspirational mentor. Pictured are left to right, Councillor Brennan, David Alexander, Della Campbell and Gavin Dandy.



Century Church Theatre and the Erin Arts Foundation: Arts and Culture Award

Century Church Theatre is a gem in local entertainment. Each year, volunteers plan delightful performances to wow local audiences inside the historic church building on Trafalgar Road in Hillsburgh. This group provides not only incredible experiences for local theatregoers, but an invaluable outlet for those passionate about drama. Pictured are Century Church Theatre founder Neville Worsnop (centre) with nominator and volunteer Mike Robins (left) and Erin Councillor Jamie Cheyne (right).



Hillsburgh, Erin and District Soccer Club Under 15 Girls Team: Sports Achievement Award

These talented young ladies exemplify true skill and dedication. This team secured the championship title at the USA Target cup, competing against teams from across North America. They went on to win the Ontario Soccer Youth Cup and are active in several community events and initiatives.

**Carole Dollmaier:
Community Volunteer Award**
Dollmaier is a longstanding Erin Legion member who has sat on the executive committee for more than 20 years. She is a faithful supporter of community events and also dedicated her time to the Lions Club and Air Cadets 242 Ross Ferguson Squadron.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here's a collection of events to explore in and around Erin.

Town of Erin Touch-A-Truck May 24

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Erin Town Hall,
5684 Trafalgar Rd, Hillsburgh
Join the Town of Erin in celebrating National Public Works Week, highlighting the hard work of Erin's public works staff. Families are invited to come meet workers, see their trucks and equipment and enjoy several children's activities.
Find out more at: erin.ca

Summer Jam in the Village of Erin June 7 to 8

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Main Street, Erin
Join the Erin Chamber of Commerce for downtown street party, with music, a free BBQ, bouncy castle and a multi-store street sale showcasing downtown businesses.
Find out more at: erinchamber.ca

Arts by the Pond June 8

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Hillsburgh Library,
9 Station St., Hillsburgh
Join Over Here Community Arts Adventure for a day of fun and creativity. Experience an interactive blend of art, music, dance and more including vendors, displays and a pop-up artist marketplace.
Find out more at: overhere.ca

Erin Farmers' Market June 19

Thursdays, 3 to 6:30 p.m.
Erin Fairgrounds,
184 Main Street, Erin
Come out and celebrate local food, artisans, farmers and community at the Erin Farmers' Market. Opening night is June 19, and runs every Thursday until Sep. 25. Market vendors offer a wide selection of local products from fresh produce and baked goods to clothing, cocktails, candles, and more.
Find out more at: erinfarmersmarket.ca

Erin Chamber's Golf Tournament June 20

8 a.m. registration
8:30 a.m. shotgun start
Calerin Golf Club,
9521 10th Sideroad, Erin
Join the Erin Chamber of Commerce for the third annual fundraiser golf tournament at Calerin Golf Club, proceeds support the Chamber in their work promoting the development and success of local businesses. Attend the event, sponsor a hole or donate a prize.
Find out more at: erinchamber.ca/etn/eccgolf2025

Summer Fest on Canada Day July 1

Erin Fairgrounds,
184 Main Street, Erin
Join the Erin Rotary Club and Town of Erin for an epic Canada Day bash. Enjoy live music, BBQ, children's events and much, much more. Come show your Canadian pride.
Find out more at: erinrotary.com

Erin Fall Fair 175 Tractor Parade July 5

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
From Hillsburgh Village to Erin Fairgrounds, 190 Main St. Erin The Erin Agricultural Society is hosting a tractor parade to celebrate its 175th anniversary. See tractors run from Hillsburgh to the fairgrounds, followed by a series of children's activities, food and entertainment at the Erin Fairgrounds.
Find out more at: erinfair.com

Erin RAM Rodeo July 18, 19 and 20

Erin Fairgrounds, 190 Main St. Erin Check out three days of rodeo action, kid's rodeo and the Canadian Cowgirls performing. The Erin Downtown Street Party will start at 7 p.m. on the Friday. Browse vendors and enjoy the Coors saloon.
Find out more at: ramrodeoontario.com

The East Wellington Community Services Great Canadian Open July 24

Guelph Lakes Golf & Country Club
Registration 10:30 a.m.
Tee up for fun and make a difference. Join EWCS for the 22nd Annual EWCS Great Canadian Tee Off — where every swing gives back to families in Erin and Guelph-Eramosa. Includes power cart, dinner, bucket of balls, silent and live auctions.
Find out more at: eastwellingtoncommunityservices.com

Hillsburgh Family Fun Day August 16

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Erin Town Hall,
5684 Trafalgar Rd, Hillsburgh
Find out more at: erin.ca

Hometown Harvest in the Village of Erin September 20

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Main Street, Erin
Enjoy everything fall has to offer with the Erin Chamber of Commerce in downtown Erin Village.
Find out more at: erinchamber.ca

Erin Fall Fair Thanksgiving Weekend, October 10 to 13

Erin Fairgrounds, 190 Main St. Erin Come celebrate 175 years of the Erin Fall Fair. See tractor pulls, live entertainment, arts and craft displays, a midway and more. Don't miss Erin's most iconic annual event.
Find out more at: erinfair.com

Trick or Treat Main Street October 25

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Main Street, Erin
Get out your costume and goodie bag! Trick or treat along Main Street in Erin village, collect sweets from participating shops and get into the spooky spirit.
Find out more at: erinchamber.ca

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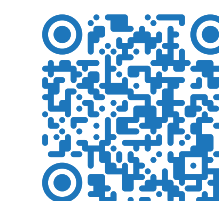
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Over Here Community Arts Adventure invites you to be part of our Arts by the Pond event. This celebration of arts and innovation takes place on **June 8, 2025** from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on the grounds of the Wellington County Library in Hillsburgh.



Join Us – Everyone Welcome, Donations Appreciated. All proceeds support local arts, culture and community programming.

For more information, please visit: overhere.ca/artsbythepond

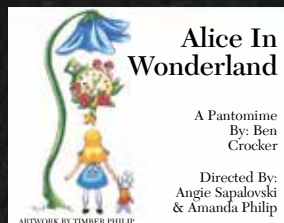
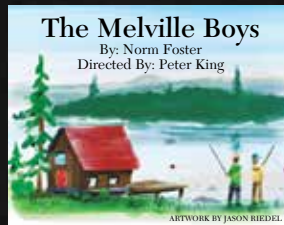


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- **Councillor John Brennan**
Phone: 519.833.7309
Email: john.brennan@erin.ca
- **Councillor Jamie Cheyne**
Phone: 519.855.6310
Email: jamie.cheyne@erin.ca
- **Councillor Cathy Aylard**
Phone: 519.278.6514
Email: cathy.aylard@erin.ca
- **Councillor Bridget Ryan**
Phone: 519.278.0645
Email: bridget.ryan@erin.ca

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

- For medical, fire or police related emergencies: Call 911
- For after hours road related winter emergencies: Call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122
- For after hours drinking water related emergencies: Call 519-939-8529
- For after hours wastewater construction related emergencies: Call 1-888-861-2447

MUNICIPAL OFFICE INFORMATION

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