

DISCOVER
ERIN

FALL/WINTER 2025

TOWN OF
ERIN

TOWN OF
ERIN

— DISCOVER —

ERIN

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WELCOME TO ERIN



As the seasons change and we welcome the cooler days of fall and the cozy charm of winter, the Town of Erin is full of opportunities to connect, explore, and celebrate community. From the vibrant colours that line our trails in autumn, to the twinkling lights and festive gatherings of winter, our Town is as a destination where both residents and visitors can slow down and enjoy meaningful moments. Whether you're shopping at our downtown boutiques, warming up with a homemade-style treat from a local café, or enjoying one of our cherished seasonal events, there's a special sense of community here that makes the Town of Erin unforgettable.

As the Town's Economic Development Officer, I've had the privilege of experiencing the Town of Erin through the eyes of its business owners and community members. That perspective has given me a deep appreciation for the pride and care that define this place. Economic Development is not only about supporting growth; it's about celebrating and strengthening what makes this

Town unique. Every time you choose to shop local, attend a community event, or share Erin's story with a friend, you become part of shaping a vibrant future for our Town.

As you flip through the pages of this magazine, I invite you to see the Town of Erin the way I do; as a town full of character, community spirit, and experiences worth sharing. I also encourage you to discover something new about Erin, perhaps a business you haven't visited yet, an upcoming event to mark in your calendar, or a scenic spot you'll want to explore on a crisp fall afternoon. Together, we continue to build a thriving, welcoming community that embraces both tradition and opportunity. Thank you for being part of this journey, and for supporting the people and places that make the Town of Erin such a remarkable place to live, work and discover.

*Marina Mato,
Economic Development Officer,
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.

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ON THE COVER

Local photographer Scott Martin took this fall photo at Stanley Park. From 1888 until the late 1950s, Stanley Park was a tourism hub in the community, with direct trains from Union Station, grand parades, horse racing and a large dance pavilion. The arch and gates from 1920 still remain. To check out more of Martin's photos, go to: @sm_photovistas

DISCOVER ERIN

FALL/WINTER
2025

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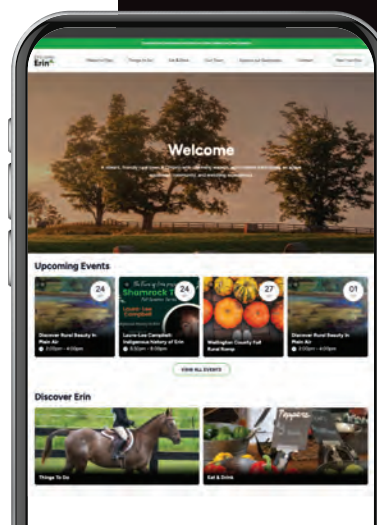
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CELEBRATING COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

The 2026 Shamrock Awards return this spring. The annual Town of Erin Shamrock Awards honour individuals, organizations and businesses who have made a significant contribution to our community.

Some of the categories include Citizen of the Year Award, Community Volunteer Award, Business of the Year Award and many more.

Nominations open January 2026 — stay tuned.



ENJOY ERIN

As the holiday season approaches, the spirit of giving and community shines brighter than ever. This year, and every year, we invite you to embrace the charm and warmth of our incredible Town of Erin by shopping local. Supporting local businesses not only helps our community thrive but also fosters a sense of connection and pride in our town.

In addition to the economic benefits, shopping local offers a more personalized experience. You'll find friendly faces, expert advice, and the warmth of our community that simply can't be replicated online. Many local businesses also offer special holiday events and promotions, making your shopping experience even more enjoyable.

This holiday season, let's come together to support our local businesses and celebrate the unique spirit of our community. Happy holidays, and happy shopping!

Ann Shanahan
Chair, Erin Chamber of Commerce



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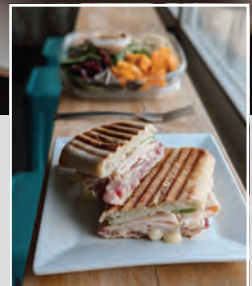
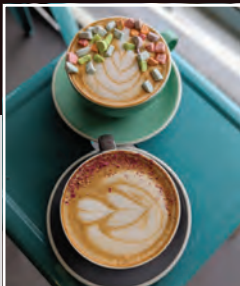


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The Erin Agricultural Society: A 175-YEAR HISTORY

Story by Alexandra Jagoe

It was an event two-years in the making.

On an October day in 1852, some of Erin's earliest residents gathered in a field on top of a hill overlooking the little village, where the current St. John Brebeuf school sits.

Farmers brought in their prized animals to be exhibited in the field, where two young boys wrangled any unruly creatures who tried to escape. The judge was chosen by everyone voting on the value of each others' livestock and the one with the highest voted value judged the ensuing show.

Barefoot children ran around, and young ladies



dressed in their best. Jerry Kentner had a horse-drawn cart filled with fresh red apples and gingerbread for sale.

At the time, before Canada's confederation, prize money and snacks were paid in shillings and pence—old British currency.

"It started out strictly as an agricultural pursuit," said June Switzer, who compiled a history of the Erin Fall Fair back in 1981 with her Grade 13 English Literature students.

The team spent hours combing through old Erin Advocate articles and records to piece together the story of Erin's premier annual event.

In the early days, she said the purpose was to bring



local farmers together to share agricultural knowledge and pool enough money to order more breeding stock from overseas.

“Our main purpose is still to educate people about where their food comes from,” said Switzer, whose book *Erin Fall Fair...since 1850* has been reprinted for the 175th anniversary of the Erin Agricultural Society.

This year, the Erin Agricultural Society marked this milestone with a series of events leading up to the annual Fall Fair, including a gala dinner, a murder mystery night and a tractor parade from Hillsburgh to Erin Village.

At the fair, there will be a special history display set up to show the storied past of one of Ontario’s oldest agricultural societies.

There will be a section on potato harvesting, including the Gray-Snyder Potato Harvester, made by Edward Snyder and Frank Gray. (Gray was from Hillsburgh and Snyder’s Cambridge

potato chip business eventually became the foundation for Hostess foods, now Frito Lay.) There will be a large map of Erin Township, connecting to aerial photos of old farming properties. The exhibit will also include a beef and dairy display, as well as old signage and artifacts throughout the years.

In the early days, the fall fair rotated between the communities of Erin Village, Hillsburgh, Brisbane and Ospringe. Each community would bid money to host the fair annually, rotating around the community until the Agricultural Society signed a 10-year lease on four acres of land in Erin Village for a permanent location.

The first hall and drill shed were built with the help of a County of Wellington grant, followed by funding from the Federal government, on the condition that the Agricultural Hall and drill shed were deeded to the military. After WW2, the society purchased the buildings for \$300.





Throughout the late 1800s the society purchased more plots of land for the fairgrounds and by 1887, the annual fall fair had more than 1,000 attendees.

The event continued to grow with more homecraft classes, bagpipe music, games and several livestock shows. There were butter churning contests, baby shows and even a junior fair where Erin school children showed their prized wheat, corn and household sciences.

In 1920, for the first time the fair was held on Thanksgiving—a date that went on to shape countless local family traditions.

Myrtle Reid hasn't had a family Thanksgiving dinner at home since the 1960's.

When the Fair was extended to a four-day event, she and her family of dedicated volunteers celebrated at the grounds, like so many other devoted Erin Agricultural Society members.

"I've had four generations of the Reid family involved," said Reid, who started volunteering with her husband John in the early 50's, while raising four children and running a Holstein cattle operation on their farm in Coningsby.

"The farm children learn at their parents' knees," said Reid, explaining that parents don't set out to teach a specific thing each day. "They just pick it up."

Which is what naturally happened at the fall fair too. Parents volunteering with the Erin Agricultural Society often bring their kids along on fair day, where they trail behind and help in any way they can. Over the years, many become more involved and eventually join the fair board themselves.

"The children feel proud because they feel like they're on the inside of something," said Reid, whose son went on to become fair president like his father.

Now, her grandchildren volunteer each year too.

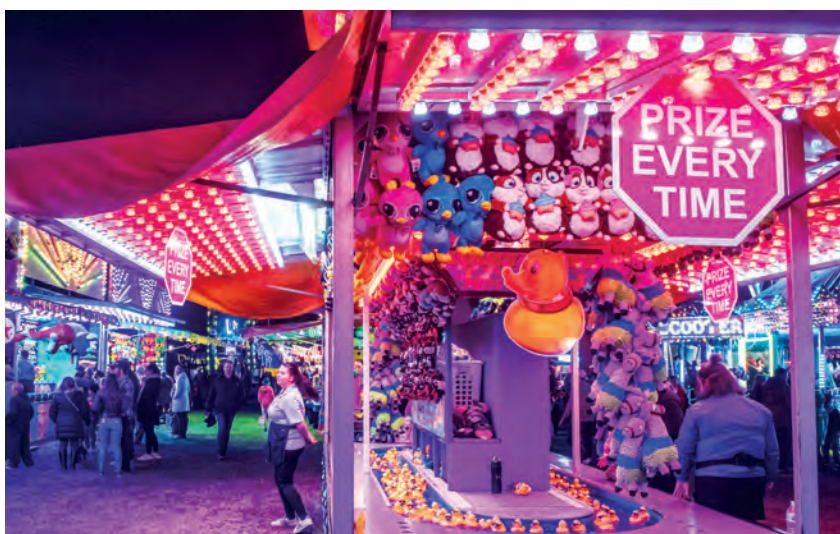
"We're very lucky that we have a young board [of directors]," said Joanne Gregson, fair manager for the Erin Agricultural Society and former president.

She attributes the success and longevity of the fair to the fact that younger generations continue to become passionately involved, bringing new ideas and technological skills.

"You've got to be willing to change," she said, explaining that there are always new attractions and exhibits, alongside the staples that the community knows and loves.

This year, the fair will be hosting a new alpaca show on Monday, including obstacle course, costume and showmanship sections. The popular demo-derby has also been expanded to two days.

"Our mainstay is to promote agriculture," said Gregson, adding that the event holds true to its roots, which started with some prized livestock on a grassy hill overlooking town back in 1852. "We're one of the strongest fairs to do that yet."





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Liquid Gold

**A LOOK INSIDE
THE MAPLE SYRUP MUSEUM OF ONTARIO**



Story by Alexandra Jagoe

It's the sweetest time of year.

When the temperature starts to rise and the snow starts melting, local maple syrup farmers get ready to collect the precious sap flowing inside their maple trees.

Erin is home to several maple syrup producers and even the Maple Syrup Museum of Ontario, located at Elliott Tree Farm in Hillsburgh.

"I'm a big promoter of pure Ontario maple syrup," said Derek Elliott, of Elliott Tree Farm.

The Maple Syrup Museum of Ontario is housed inside the historic barn on his property, showing artifacts from Indigenous maple sugar making, early settler supplies and even more modern equipment.

The exhibit showcases Indigenous practices, where sap would be collected in birch bark containers and cooked down with hot stones inside hand carved wooden vessels.

The collection includes wooden barrel style sap buckets, manual drills and antique crosscut saws used for early maple syrup production. There are also several maple sugar molds and old syrup tins.

FROM TREE TO TABLE

How pure maple syrup is made at Elliott Tree Farm

It starts with tapping. In early spring, when temperatures rise above freezing during the day and drop below zero at night, pressure changes occur that push sap from within the tree. Each maple tree is tapped with care, inserting spiles that allow sap to drip into collection lines or buckets.

Next comes the boil. It takes approximately 40 litres of sap to produce just 1 litre of maple syrup. That's because sap is mostly water and must be boiled down to concentrate the sugars.

The wood-fired evaporator turns the clear, watery sap into golden syrup through a time-honoured process that can be witnessed during tours at Elliott Tree Farm.

The final step? Filtering, grading, and bottling. Once the syrup reaches the right density, it's filtered to remove impurities, graded for colour and flavour, and bottled on-site at the farm.



THE SWEET STUFF

Erin is a hot spot for maple syrup production, with several local farms offering sweet experiences.

Here are a few places to check out:

Elliott Tree Farm 9467 Erin East Garafraxa Townline, Hillsburgh

This Christmas Tree Farm is home to the Maple Syrup Museum of Ontario, which offers a comprehensive history of maple production in the province, from early Indigenous practises to today.

During maple syrup season, visitors are invited to check out the museum inside the farm's main barn, enjoy pancakes and maple syrup inside the Horse Barn Canteen next door, and even get a full tour of how the sweet stuff is made back in the sugar bush.

Tickets to the Maple Syrup Experience are available at:

elliotttreefarm.ca/horse-barn-canteen

Heartwood Farm & Cidery 5438 Second Line, Erin

When the sap starts flowing, Heartwood Farm & Cidery hosts a full slate of events for families and adults. "Secrets of the Sugarbush" offers a 90-minute immersive experience following sap collection to the final product.

This farm sells bottles of maple syrup on site, in addition to honey, cider and meats. For more information visit: heartwoodfarm.ca

Willow Creek Farm 5120 9th Line, Erin

This small farm gate operation runs on a co-operative model, tapping 1,700 trees from six local farms. For 20 years, Jay Mowatt has collected sap and boiled it down inside a sugar shack on site. Syrup is sold in glass bottles ranging from 250 ml to 1L.

The farm can accept small numbers of visitors. Call Jay at **519-362-3383** to arrange a tour or buy some syrup.



The museum was formerly run by Albert Martin in St. Jacobs before his passing.

In October 2022, the museum moved to Hillsburgh, where Elliott runs a Christmas tree operation and hosts maple syrup educational tasting tours and pancake breakfasts during the spring season.

"I'm the curator of the Maple Syrup Museum of Ontario," said Elliott, who has been making syrup on the family farm with his father for years.

His father Fred grew up making maple syrup in the Peterborough area and started tapping trees shortly after purchasing the Hillsburgh farm back in 1984.

"My dad has always made it on the farm here," said Elliott, who started offering tours and pancake breakfasts in spring 2021. In 2023 the horse barn was converted into a canteen for a rustic indoor dining experience.

"It's fun to make and it's fun to eat," said Elliott, who starts tapping the trees in late January in advance of the spring thaw, and collects 40 litres of sap to make just one litre of maple syrup in their wood-fired evaporator.

Elliott Tree Farm sells tickets to all-you-can eat pancakes with maple syrup in the springtime, followed by a syrup making tour back in the sugar bush, where visitors get to try raw sap, partially cooked syrup and the finished product, as well as toffee over snow.

The Maple Syrup Museum of Ontario is open on weekends from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.





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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.



5.



6.



4.

4. Leather Works

Hides in Hand

Comfort meets style with hand made leather moccasins from Hides in Hand, who have a flagship boutique in Erin Village. This store offers a wide selection of fine leather goods including mitts, bags and hats. Shop online at hidesinhand.com or stop by the store at **132 Main St., Erin**.

5. Sweet Find

Elliott Tree Farm

Tap into to your sweet tooth with a bottle of pure Ontario Grade A maple syrup made right here in Hillsburgh. Buy a bottle of Golden, Amber or Dark syrup online at shop.elliotttreefarm.ca or visit the farm, home to the Maple Syrup Museum of Ontario at **9467 Erin East Garafraxa Townline, Erin**.

6. Fashion Statement

Amoretto's

Add some warmth and flare to your fall wardrobe with a quilted vest. These perfectly weighted pieces are versatile for layering in the cooler weather. The full collection is made and sewn an hour from Erin. Pair this vest with a locally made, one-of-a-kind denim piece. **5438 2nd Line, Erin**

crafted with *care*

Local leather artisan produces
unique Canadian fashions with
help of Indigenous teachings

Story by Priya Ramsingh

Thirty years ago, Hides in Hand owner, Teresa Paul had a vision. She wanted to provide quality, Canadian made products that would stand up to time. After joining the Rockwood-based, leather manufacturing company, she developed a line of luxury, leather accessories that have now attracted repeat customers from all over Ontario and beyond.

To accommodate a booming business, a small boutique was opened in the Town of Erin in June 2023.

The company was established in the 1950s as a manufacturer of leather work gloves and protective gear originally known as Marzo Glove, but Teresa wanted to pivot and provide customers with fashionable, leather products crafted solely from Canadian sources.

Trained as a seamstress from a young age by her grandmother and mother, Teresa said working with fabric was 'her life' and credits her skill and creative flair to helping design the Hides in Hand pieces. Her first product after acquiring the company, was a moose-hide mitt. The mitt, which quickly became a customer favourite, is made of soft leather sourced from local hunters and has a removable and washable liner.







"I wanted to create practical and timeless pieces," she said. "Being a creative person, it was important to build a brand that I could stand behind."

Following the creation of the mitt, Teresa started making handbags. "As styles and patterns evolved over the years, so did the designs," she says. "And I'm still creating them today."

In the early 2000s, Hides in Hand was approached by a moccasin-maker from Northern Ontario who was retiring their business and wanted to pass along their craft to a company with a commitment to hand-made, local products. An authentic design was important to the Hides and Hand owner, so Teresa enlisted the help of an Indigenous elder to teach the company's small team of artisans, including herself, to create the hand-laced moccasins using the original pattern and technique. To this day, the same pattern is used

with no modifications.

"I wanted to keep the traditional pattern of the moccasins and respect the craft," she says. "I didn't want to re-invent the wheel."

Teresa also works with three different Indigenous





families whose artwork are embroidered onto some of her leather products, and in turn they are paid royalties for their designs.

The most popular product in her collection however is the ballet slipper, made of soft and luxurious deerskin, that comes in a variety of colours and has garnered many satisfied clients over the years. “It’s our biggest selling product,” Teresa says. “Many of our customers come from outside Erin, and we have a lot of repeat customers.”

Hides in Hand products also include gloves, mitts, bags, slippers, dog accessories, and earrings. All of the products are made from moose hide, deer hide or buffalo hide, sourced and tanned locally. They are cut and sewn in the manufacturing facility in Rockwood.

The company now has almost 13,000 followers on social media and Teresa meets many customers at craft shows across the country. She also credits the local Chamber of Commerce in supporting her business.

As the business continues to grow, Teresa says she’s still inventing new products for her customers.

For more information and to view the catalogue of products, visit the Hides in Hand website at www.hidesinhand.com or follow on social media at www.instagram.com/hidesinhand

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WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN

County of Wellington breathes new life into historic mill for new Erin library branch

Story by Alexandra Jagoe

It was Daniel McMillan's most ambitious project.

In 1849, one of Erin's first entrepreneurs constructed a new grist mill overlooking the Credit River, powered by the longest flume ever built in Wellington County.

He hired more than 100 Scottish stone masons to build what remains the tallest building in the village, and another 100 labourers to dig the flume— a long trench from the dam to power the mill.

"It was very significant for its time," said Jeff Duncan,



Erin's Wellington County councillor, explaining that due to the length of the flume, this was one of the most powerful mills in the area. "It was a real engineering feat and a real economic opportunity for the village."

This was the sixth mill that McMillan had worked on, after buying Erin's first mill from Henry Trout at just 18 years old.

This latest project was intended to make flour, meeting the needs of a growing community while also importing U.S. wheat to mill and ship to Britain. He expected construction to be complete by Christmas.

McMillan never saw his project completed.

On Dec. 14, he pierced his hand with a large splinter. Within three days, he fell seriously ill and died from the infection at 38 years old.

Famous poet and dear friend Alexander McLachlan wrote a tribute to McMillan, called A Backwood Hero.

A portion reads:

*What was it that he would not face?
He bridged the stream, he cut the race,
Led water to the mill;
And plann'd and plodded, night and day,
Till ev'ry obstacle gave way
To his unconquer'd will.*

Now, 176 years later, the McMillan grist mill is about to become the site of the new Wellington County Library Erin branch.

After McMillan's death, the property changed hands several times, before being bought by the Mundell family, who ran a lumber operation, including a water-powered planning mill on the site.

Unfortunately, the lumber mill building burned down in 2013 and by that time, the historic grist mill building had been vacant for several years.

In 2020, the County of Wellington started looking for a new library location, knowing the lease on their Centre 2000 site would be running out in 2025.

"Really it's a story of connections," said Duncan, explaining that the new library location has a connection to local history, to nature and to the economic prosperity and future of the town.

"The reason Erin started out and thrived during that early settlement time was because of our natural resources, it's the same reason why Indigenous people were in this area," he said, explaining the river, the natural



elevation and topography of the land has allowed for life to flourish.

The design of the library works to honour that.

On the first floor, visitors can see a large portion of the original pipe through a glass window in the floor, showing how water would have been funneled in to power the mill.

On the very top floor, a community space and walk-out deck showcase the best view in town, one that hasn't been seen by anyone for decades.

"It's absolutely stunning," said Duncan. "You'll have views of Downtown Erin and the West Credit River."

Duncan also said that the location of the library is a strategic economic driver for the community.

"We're setting the table for the economic viability of the downtown," he said, explaining that this building is an attraction, a meeting space and a sacred community resource.

In 2024, Wellington County Libraries received more 447,000 visitors and registered 4,538 new cardholders.

"We believe in libraries, in the system and what they offer the community," said Duncan, adding that it's why council voted in favor of the \$12.9 million renovation of the old mill site, making it the largest investment that the County of Wellington has made in Erin.

"It's trying to prepare public infrastructure for the future," he said, noting that Erin is on the cusp of significant population growth, and this new site will provide additional programming and several floors of space.

The new Erin library is located at 135 Daniel St., Erin and is expected to open in December.





An evening of WINTER WONDER

Window Wonderland celebrates 23 years of shopping local

Story by Priya Ramsingh

For one night every November, the Town of Erin shuts down Main Street and lights up the town for the annual Window Wonderland exhibit. This year, the event will take place on Friday, Nov. 21. Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, the affair draws over 2000 people from cities all over Ontario to view the windows and share in the festivities of the holiday season.

"It's a wonderful community night," says Chamber of Commerce President, Ann Shanahan. "The town is lit up

like a magical Hallmark Christmas movie."

The Erin District High School band starts the event at 6 p.m. in McMillan Park, followed by greetings from Mayor Michael Dehn, who lights the Christmas tree to officially kick off the Town of Erin Christmas season.

The big reveal and main attraction of the evening comes next with local stores and businesses ripping off their papered windows to expose the holiday window displays. During the week leading up to the event, stores and businesses spend hours decorating their windows in secret, building anticipation for the surprise.



“The goal for the Chamber is to support our businesses and shopping local,” says Shanahan.

The event includes reindeer, pony rides and Christmas carollers, a food court with holiday fare and visits from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, played by local residents Gord and Judy Smith. Mrs. Claus also entertains the crowd by playing Christmas carols on her accordion.

With Main Street closed for safety, participants can take a walk and view the Christmas trees lined up along the road, listening to holiday music playing on the speakers.

The Window Wonderland tradition is 23 years old, having been previously organized by the local BIA until the torch was passed to the Chamber of Commerce three years ago.

For more information about the Window Wonderland event, visit www.erinchamber.ca



AMORETTOS

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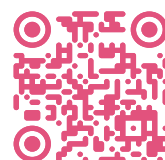
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Artist: Stephanie Schirm

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A GREEN *christmas*

**YOUR GUIDE TO
CELEBRATING
SUSTAINABLY THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON**



1) Eco-friendly wrapping paper

Avoid the giant garbage bag of paper, tissue and cardboard on Christmas morning, with more environmentally conscious giftwrap.

Reuse some boxes and bags from previous years or wrap gifts in holiday printed fabrics and ribbons that can be saved again for next year.

When buying wrapping paper, choose recyclable materials over glossy plastics. The **Village Farmhouse** at Rural Commons, 92 Main St., in Erin sells eco-friendly, recyclable holiday wrapping paper made from recycled materials.

2) Natural décor

Looking for a fun holiday craft? Dry out some orange slices and string them up with cranberries for rustic, old-fashioned holiday décor. Try tying some pine or cedar, rosemary, sage or even a few cinnamon sticks for an aromatic touch.

Check out fresh cut wreaths, garland and live plants available at **Snowberry Botanicals** inside the Rural Commons building.

Poinsettias, fresh wreaths and other holiday themed arrangements are also available at the **Village Green Florist** over the holiday season, 120 Main St., Erin.

Look for second hand and handmade ornaments, including fair trade, eco-friendly wool ornaments at the **Village Farmhouse**.

3) Charitable gifting

What better gift is there, than giving back to your community? Get back to the true spirit of giving over the holiday season by supporting a charity or organization that does work that you care about or make the donation in a friend or loved one's name as a gift.

Right here in Erin, **East Wellington Community Services (EWCS)** works to support families and residents in need over the holiday season with hampers filled with gift cards, toiletries, winter clothes and children's toys. EWCS also supplies food hampers for Christmas breakfasts and dinners, including turkeys, stuffing, eggs, pancake mix and syrup.

EWCS offers several donation options online, including personalized e-cards to send as gifts.





4) Gifting experiences

Another sustainable gift idea is to give experiences over material items, making memories that will last a lifetime.

Why not buy a loved one tickets to a concert, or the next **Century Church Theatre** show in Hillsburgh? There are plenty of fun experiences to gift right here in Erin, including ceramic-making classes at **4Cats** at Main Street in Erin Village.

5) Hand-crafted

Put your own skills to use and make hand-crafted gifts this holiday, or give locally sourced, artisanal items.

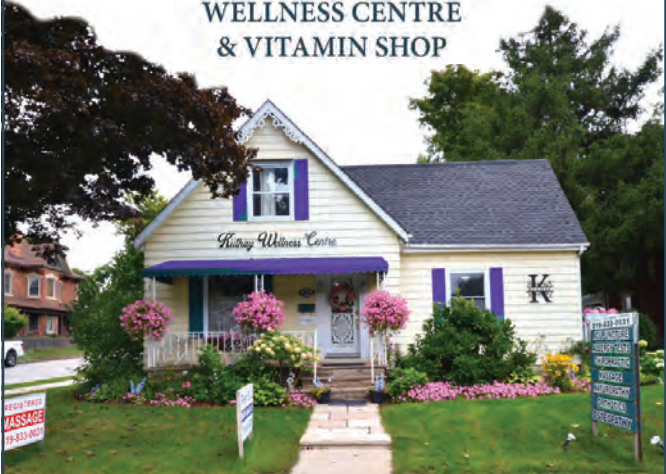
Erin's community is chock-full of talented crafters, woodworkers, painters, potters and clothing creators.

Be sure to attend one of Erin's Christmas craft sales during the holiday season, including the **Orton Community Christmas Market** on Nov. 15 at the Orton Community Centre at 4 John St. There will be several local artisans selling woodworking, knitting, sewing, honey and locally made chocolates.

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Visit: www.hillsburgherinsc.com





6) Source locally for dinner

Buying food produced within the community not only cuts down fuel consumption associated with transport; it also reduces packaging and promotes local and sustainable farming.

Finding locally raised meats, root veggies and sauces is easy if you know where to go:

Calehill Farms offers turkey raised for Christmas and Thanksgiving, located at 9319 Erin-East Garafraxa Towline, just north of Guelph. Call 519-820-1337 or email calehill.farms@gmail.com to place your order.

For something different, **4th Line Cattle Co.** produces pasture raised heritage breed pork as well as Texas Longhorn and Hereford beef. They are located at 5684 Fourth Line, Hillsburgh. Order online at www.4thlinecattleco.ca

Locally grown root vegetables are available from **Tanner's Pumpkins** farmstand at 5445 Sideroad 17, in the fall, which can be stored throughout the winter. Potatoes are available for purchase in the winter by calling 519-731-3450 or emailing tannerspumpkins@gmail.com.

Heartwood Cidery produces sparkling apple ciders and offers a special Wassail cider for the holidays, located at 5438 Second Line, Erin, or call 226-979-7860.

Make your own stuffing with bread from **Holtom's Bakery** and pick up a tasty dessert along the way. **Jess for You Café** in Hillsburgh also offers a wide selection of tasty treats and baked goods.

Local charcuterie? **River's Edge Goat Dairy** in Arthur offers a wide selection of goat cheeses and can ship or deliver. Call 519-848-2203 or email riversedgegoats@gmail.com.

Little Deer Drive makes red pepper jelly and spiced Christmas jam for the holiday season. Call Jennifer at 647-229-0697 or email littledeerdrive@gmail.com to pick up a jar.

So, while you prepare for a holiday season of fun with family and friends, know that small changes can help make a difference for the environment.



Experience the magic throughout the Village of Erin at this year's

Window Wonderland

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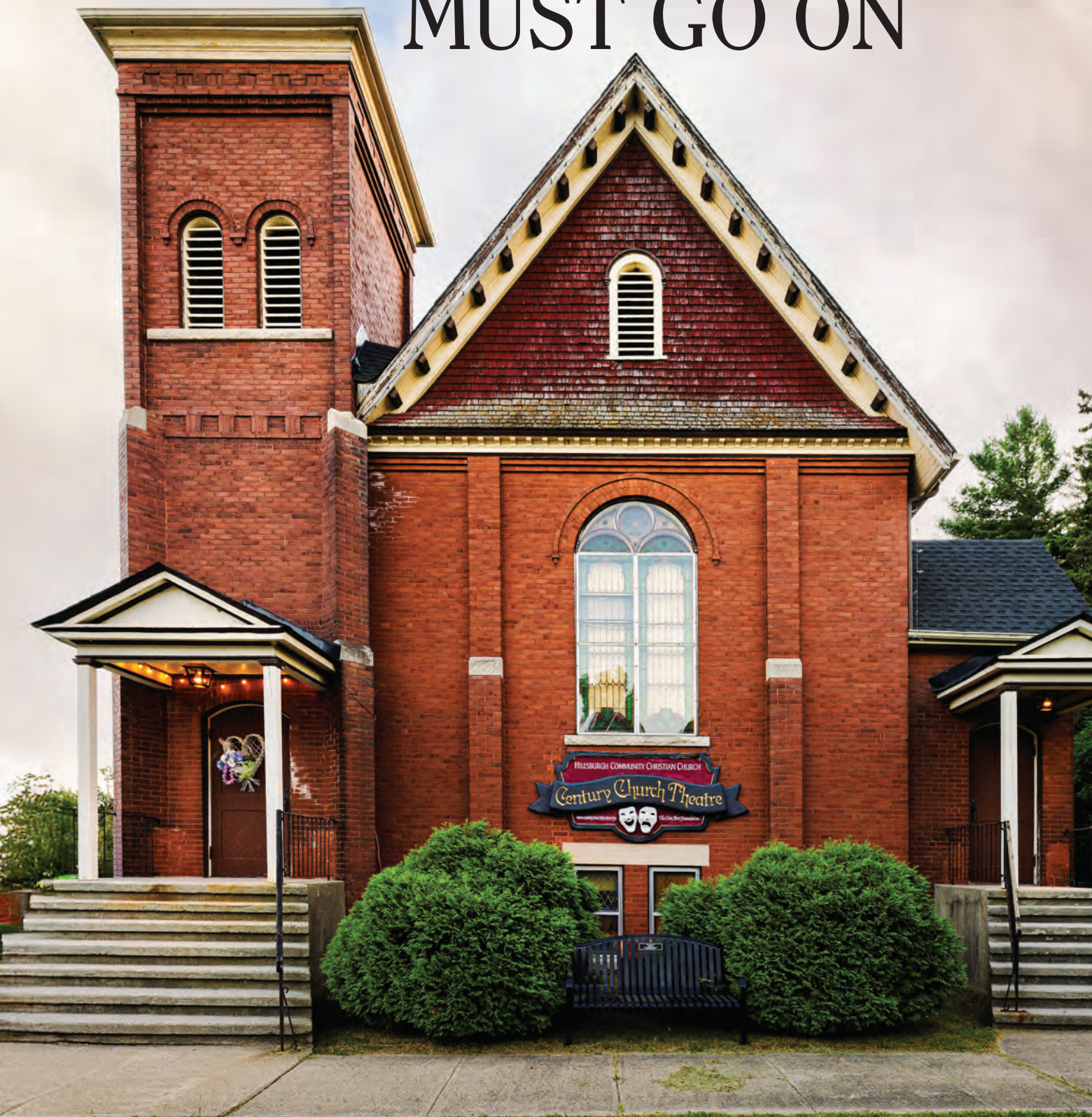
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THE SHOW MUST GO ON



Century Church Theatre:

A pillar of local arts and entertainment

Story by Alexandra Jagoe

Neville Worsnop was driving back to Hillsburgh with his wife Jo Phenix from Mishawaka, Indiana when he saw a road sign that read: “Building on a strong foundation.”

The couple was returning from a training session where Phenix, an internationally renowned educator, was training other teachers.

Worsnop, who has a long history working with community theatres, started thinking about the sign, and about the new theatre set to be built at Centre 2000— a hybrid building shared between Erin District High School and the Erin Community Centre.

What if they were to build a strong foundation for performance arts in the community?

That is how the Erin Arts Foundation was born.

Worsnop and Phenix founded the group in 2002, to hold performances inside the theatre at Erin’s Centre 2000. After hosting more than 20 performances on the site, the organization found a new opportunity that led them to the now renowned Century Church Theatre on Trafalgar Road in Hillsburgh.



“We had difficulty finding places to rehearse,” said Worsnop, remembering how the group would meet in basements, the old hydro building and even out in Guelph to prepare for performances.

It was former Erin Mayor Rod Finnie who suggested asking the board of the Hillsburgh Christian Community Church, whose building had been vacant for two years prior, if they could use the space.

“It was more than adequate for what we wanted to do,” said Worsnop, who couldn’t help but think about how wonderful the main hall of the church would be for performances, as he went down to the basement for rehearsals.

The first performances were held at Century Church Theatre in 2005 and have continued now for more than 20 years.

Every year, the Century Church Theatre hosts comedies in the spring and fall, concerts, and a pantomime in the late fall.

Phenix wrote several traditional English pantomimes, including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Snow White and the Famous 7*, *Hansel and Gretel* and *Aladdin*.





UPCOMING SHOWS

The Routes of Country

October 4, 2025

See the Muir Family Band and guests play classic country hits, taking you on a journey through time.

Alice in Wonderland

Traditional English Pantomime by Ben Crocker
November 22, 23, 29, 30, 2025 at 2 p.m.

December 6, 7, 2025 at 2 p.m.

December 5, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Fall down the rabbit hole with the Century Theatre Guild's annual pantomime. Enjoy a family friendly performance with lots of laughs, music and a fun twist on a classic tale.

Blithe Spirit

Written by Noel Coward

March 8, 15, 22, 2026 at 2 p.m.

March 14, 20, 21, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

See an iconic comedy right here in Hillsburgh! Debuting in 1941, this play has been a staple in London's West End and went on to be a Broadway hit. Follow a grumpy novelist as he is haunted by the ghost of his late first wife, following a séance in his home.

"The last one she did was Cinderella, which I directed last Christmas," said Worsnop.

Worsnop directed two of her pantomimes, Cinderella, and Beauty and the Beast, after her passing in October 2022.

"She was there all the time," he said.

This fall, the Century Church Theatre is hosting Alice in Wonderland, a pantomime by the Century Theatre Guild, the community theatre arm of the Erin Arts Foundation.

"Our group's vision is to be THE arts experience that engages and enriches the lives of our growing community," said Brigida Scholten, President of the Erin Arts Foundation. "We celebrate ourselves by exploring and developing creativity and imagination."

Alice in Wonderland, written by Ben Crocker and directed by Angie Sapalovski and Amanda Philip, runs from Nov. 22 to Dec. 5.





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Scholten said the pantomimes often attract many youth auditions.

"It gives them a feeling of being part of something bigger than they had imagined," said Worsnop. "A lot of them keep coming back."

For the Armbruster family, volunteering at the Century Church Theatre has become almost tradition.

"I think all of my family members more or less have done things for the theatre," said Galen Armbruster, who was seven years old when he played one of the three blind mice in Hansel and Gretel.

"It was a lot of fun from what I remember," he said, explaining that he has been involved in the annual pantomimes at Century Church Theatre before taking on larger roles in recent years.

"Acting has made me more confident," he said, adding that he has taken drama classes through high school and plans to study theatre in university.

"Hillsburgh isn't a big town, but it's a place where people can go to and have a great time," he said, stressing the quality of the performances, the depth of the characters and the dynamic storylines at the theatre.

Armbruster said that the organization has built a strong community and following, and sometimes he even meets people in town that recognize him from past performances.

"It makes you feel good knowing that you made someone enjoy something," he said.

Looking back, Worsnop is so proud of how long the organization has been entertaining the community and said it could not have happened without the dedication of volunteers, suppliers and sponsors.

He said he is incredibly grateful for the founding members who spent countless hours transforming the old church into the venue it is today.

"A comment in a car on the way back from Mishawaka caused all this," said Worsnop.



Farm workers, women and children beside steam engine and threshing machine on farm of Will McMillan of Erin Township, print, ca. 1900, photo 563, courtesy on the Wellington County Museum and Archives.

Employees, buildings, and equipment at James Pearson's gravel pit on the Townline of Erin, ca. 1913, photo 9063, courtesy of the Wellington County Museum and Archives.

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.



From the Advocate – 110 years ago (1915)

A national campaign of posters and meetings will be held to urge farmers to produce more food for the "maintenance of life in the Empire". Federal government official C.C. James says, "The farmer will be as loyal along his line of work as any other class. We have an equal responsibility with those in the trenches. It's not doing your duty simply to read the newspaper. If you farmers know how to increase production and don't do it, you are in the same class as the man who would drop his rifle and run."

A despatch from London says that Sir Thomas Lipton, the Scotsman who founded the Lipton tea brand, has loaned his steam-powered yacht named the "Erin", for the transport of Servian and Montenegrin wounded soldiers.

From the Advocate – 55 years ago (1970)

A new grocery store called Foodland opened in Erin village last week. The former Wright garage building was purchased by Mr. J. Ledger and remodeled to house the new store, with an apartment above one end. The building previously contained the Laundromat and the Erin Creamery, both of which have been moved to the Robertson building on Scotch Street. The village and area are now served by three complete grocery stores: Erin IGA, Lyon's Grocery and Foodland.

The As we Were column recalled that 45 years earlier (1925), Real Estate Dealer C.E. McMillan was offering 100 acres of farmland in Erin Township, 60 of them level, with a 10-room brick house and a good barn. School was being held right at the farm, which was only 1.5 miles from



the train station. The asking price was \$5,000.

Erin Township Council accepted with sincere regret the resignation of Henry Wheeler as the Road Superintendent. He had served in the position for 28 years.

From the Advocate – 35 years ago (1990)

For the first time, Erin District High School is offering an adult co-op education program called Women in Business. It will focus on computer and office skills, and include local work placements.

Erin Village water rates are going up this month. Customers will now pay .466 cents per hundred gallons for the first 2,000 gallons, .123 cents per hundred for the next 68,000 gallons and .037 cents per hundred for the rest.

Erin Village council has changed the name of a portion of Scotch Street to Erinlea Crescent.

Will McLean, a lifetime Erin farmer and 15-year member of the Fair Board, received a Meritorious Service for Agriculture diploma from the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies. Also, at the Erin Agricultural Society's Appreciation Night, special tribute was paid to past presidents. Current President Jim Reid (whose father was president 20 years earlier) made presentations to Harry Burt, Bill Delaney, Doug Delaney, Harold Reilly, Gord Delaney, Craig Switzer, Duncan Armstrong and Dave Leitch.

From the Advocate – 25 years ago (2000)

Eagle Rock Sand and Gravel is seeking Town of Erin support for its bid to double production to as much as one million metric tonnes per year at what was known as Barbour's Pit. The company was criticized by a recent delegation of residents who had complaints about the hours of operation and the speed of trucks on the Eighth Line. Council will await a report from the Public Works Superintendent, but even if it opposes the plan, the provincial government may still approve it.

The 2000 municipal election in Erin is to be conducted by telephone. Town Council approved the plan proposed by Clerk Kathryn Ironmonger, who expects that voter participation will increase substantially with this election since it will be more convenient to vote. She said it has been difficult to get enough staff for polling stations. The election for the Wellington County Ward 9 seat, won by Deborah Sutherland, was held by phone, and turnout increased slightly from 23 per cent to 25 per cent.

Photos courtesy Wellington County Museum and Archives



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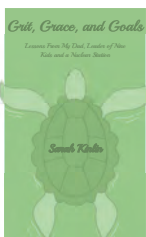
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I'm Sarah Kinlin, a mindset and leadership coach, professional speaker, and author of *Grit, Grace, and Goals*. I help clients develop the right balance of grit and grace to set and achieve their goals with ease. Are you ready to start living your best damn life?



"Grit, Grace and Goals is a tribute to my dad, a man who raised nine children. Each chapter is a story that will engage and entertain the reader while giving insight into my life growing up in a chaotic household. These stories evolve into leadership lessons from

my dad that I used throughout my 20-plus-year career in leadership. Each chapter finishes with grit and grace calls to action, encouraging the reader to not just read and understand but to take action to start living their best damn life today."



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Thanksgiving weekend — October 10 to 13

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**175
YEARS**

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Livestock Shows - Apple Dumplings - Heritage Tent - Horse Shows

**Come and celebrate the history of the
Erin Fall Fair and make your own family memories.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Hillsburgh Gravity Grand Prix

October 4

10 a.m.

20 Anne St. Hillsburgh

Get your karts ready for a day of thrilling fun with soap box racing in Hillsburgh. Age categories range from 4-year-olds to adult, registration starts at 9 a.m.

Find out more by emailing:

Hillsgravitygrandprix@gmail.com

ECC Mastermind Group

October 15

12 to 1 p.m.

at Rural Commons (or virtual meeting)

A Mastermind Group is a gathering of business owners and entrepreneurs who meet to learn from and support each other. The group's shared goals and experiences can help members solve problems and achieve success. The 60 minutes will be divided equally amongst each participant in a facilitated, productive discussion. In their time slot, the participant introduces themselves and a current challenge they are facing in their business.

Find out more at: erinchamber.ca

Erin Fall Fair

Thanksgiving Weekend, Oct. 10-13

Thursdays, 3 to 6:30 p.m.

Erin Fairgrounds,
184 Main Street, 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

Orton Community Association

Haunted Church

October 24 and 25

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Orton Community Centre,
4 John St., Orton

Get in the spooky spirit with a tour of the Orton Community Association's Haunted Church. Try not to scream

as you make your way through the horrors. A nonperishable food item or \$5 donation to the Orton Community Association is suggested.

Find out more at:

orton-community.com

4th Annual Witches Walk

October 24

6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Main Street, Erin

Round up your girlfriends, put on your witch's hat and join the Wellington Dufferin Women's Association in Downtown Erin Village for an evening of fun, with some spooky stops along the way. The night will end with an after party at The Busholme.

Register at **www.wdwa.ca**

Erin Chamber Mayor's Breakfast

October 24

8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Erin Legion, 12 Dundas St., Erin
Enjoy a delicious breakfast served by the Erin Legion team and hear presentations from Erin Mayor Michael Dehn on what's happening in town and Town of Erin CAO Rob Adams on the municipality's future. Tickets are \$10 for Erin Chamber of Commerce members and \$20 for non-member guests.

Find out more at: erin.ca

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. There will also be face painting at Brighten Up Toys & Games, portraits with Danielle Arnold Photography (at Rural Commons), roaming character interactions in partnership with Century Church Theatre and a costume contest at Rural Commons, with Debora's Chocolates.

Find out more at: erinchamber.ca

Business Seminar: AI That Works

November 5

12 to 1 p.m.

Join Erin Chamber and guest presenter Jennifer Lowthian for a presentation on "AI That Works: Practical Tools for Small & Medium Businesses." Topics covered during the seminar include:

- Learning how your existing software tools have integrated AI
- Learning how AI models can be your research and thought partners
- Learning how AI tools can help automate your workflows to be more efficient and accurate.

FREE for Erin Chamber members (\$25 for non-members).

Find out more at: erinchamber.ca

We Will Remember:

Veterans of Erin

November 3

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Erin Legion, 12 Dundas St., Erin
Come learn about Erin's Veterans just before Remembrance Day. The Town of Erin is hosting a presentation by Erin Legion member Doug Kirkwood, as part of the Shamrock Talks speaker's series. Kirkwood will be speaking about his book, We Will Remember Them, a compilation of research about local veterans from the War of 1812 to the Afghanistan War. Register by emailing:

communications@erin.ca

Remembrance Day Services

November 9 and 11

10:45 a.m.

Erin Cenotaph, 7-1 Union St., Erin
The Royal Canadian Legion Erin Branch 442 will be hosting two Remembrance Day services. Following the Sunday service, light snacks and refreshments will be available at the Legion at 12 Dundas St. E. All are welcome.

Find out more at: erinlegion.ca

Continued on page 41

2025 PHOTO CONTEST

Capturing Our Community



Congratulations to the winner of the Town of Erin photo contest,
Leslie Flaherty of Hillsburgh.

Flaherty submitted several crisp, eye-catching shots from around Erin that capture the true essence of our beautiful community. Thank you to Flaherty and all the local photographers who sent in their beautiful work.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Orton Community Association Fall Market November 15

Orton Community Centre,
4 John St., Orton

Get your Christmas shopping done early with a selection of crafts and made by local artisans, including knitting, woodworking and more.

Find out more at:
orton-community.com

Basket Weaving with Repurposed Materials November 16

Hillsburgh Library,
9 Station Street, Hillsburgh
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

In this 2-hour workshop, you'll roll up your sleeves and step into the rhythm of an age-old craft—basket-weaving—reimagined with vibrant, glossy pages from recycled magazines.

Find out more at: overhere.ca

Window Wonderland November 21

6 p.m.

McMillan Park, Erin

Get into the spirit of the holiday season with the Erin Chamber of Commerce's Window Wonderland. Take in the beautiful lights at the annual tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. at McMillan Park. See beautifully decorated storefronts in Downtown Erin Village, enjoy hot drinks, visits from Santa and a food court in the MSN Auto parking lot.

Find out more at: erin.ca

Alice in Wonderland, Panto November 22 - Opening Night

2 p.m.

Century Church Theatre,
72 Trafalgar Rd.

Young Alice, bored of books with no pictures on the river bank, follows a cheeky white rabbit down a rabbit hole and into a place like no place on Earth...Wonderland! But all is not well in this curious place...will Alice be able to save Wonderland? Don't miss our traditional panto romp.

Family fun with lots of laughs and songs from start to finish. Tickets are \$15 per person, general admission seating. Additional shows on November 23, 29, 30, December 5, 6 and 7.

Find out more at: centurychurchtheatre.com

Erin Chamber's Holiday Mixer 'A Touch Of Sparkle'

November 27

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Erin Estate, 6107 Second Line, Orton
Erin Chamber members, prospective members and special guests gather to celebrate another fabulous year! Join us at the beautiful Erin Estate, dazzling with holiday decor, to enjoy food, drink and holiday cheer.

Find out more at: erinchamber.ca

Erin Santa Claus Parade November 29

11 a.m.

Main Street Erin Village,
starting at McCulloch Drive
The Erin District Lions Club is hosting its annual Santa Claus parade, through downtown Erin. Entry to the parade is free. See Santa and all his friends and get your photo with him at the Fire Hall following the parade.

Find out more at: erinc.ca

ECC Mastermind Group December 3

12 to 1 p.m.

at Rural Commons (or virtual meeting)

A Mastermind Group is a gathering of business owners and entrepreneurs who meet to learn from and support each other. The group's shared goals and experiences can help members solve problems and achieve success. The 60 minutes will be divided equally amongst each participant in a facilitated, productive discussion. In their time slot, the participant introduces themselves and a current challenge they are facing in their business.

Find out more at: erinchamber.ca



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COUNCIL

- **Mayor Michael Dehn**
Office: 519.855.4407 EXT. 232
Email: Michael.Dehn@erin.ca
- **Councillor John Brennan**
Phone: 519.833.7309
Email: john.brennan@erin.ca
- **Councillor Jamie Cheyne**
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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

- Corporation of the Town of Erin
5684 Trafalgar Rd. Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0
Telephone: 519-855-4407
Open weekdays (Monday through Friday):
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except holidays)

EMAIL BY DEPARTMENT

- General Enquiries: customerservice@erin.ca
- Building Department: building@erin.ca
- By-Law Enforcement: bylawenforcement@erin.ca
- CAO's Office: cao@erin.ca
- Communications: communications@erin.ca
- Clerk's: clerks@erin.ca
- Economic Development Department: ecdev@erin.ca
- Fire Department: fire@erin.ca
- Planning Department: planning@erin.ca
- Recreation Department: recreation@erin.ca
- Roads Department: roads@erin.ca
- Tax Department: taxes@erin.ca
- Water Department: water@erin.ca

**Please include details about your specific request and a return telephone number or email address so that we can respond to you.*



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Before and Post 1 Tx
Courtesy of M. Adatto, MD



Before & 1 month after 3 Tx's
Courtesy of Suncoast Skin Solutions



Before and after 1 treatment
Courtesy of Total Wrapture Medi Spa



Before and after 1 treatment
Courtesy of Total Wrapture Medi Spa

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