

Marketplace

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MAGAZINE

A fond farewell...

Make the most of those retirement years!

*"How lucky I am to have something
that makes saying goodbye so hard."
- Winnie the Pooh*

It fills me with sadness to say that this is my last *Portrait of a Retiree* column.

Deb Pannell, publisher of Marketplace Magazine, has made the difficult decision to bring the publication to a close with this issue.

But despite my sense of sadness, I am smiling as I write this final piece. You see, I have had the privilege of celebrating the multi-faceted lives of retirees in this column for the past 12 years, and it has been nothing short of awe-inspiring.

I have featured retirees who have constructed their own planes, travelled to the far reaches of the globe, and one who even built his own backyard observatory -complete with retractable roof and remote-controlled, high-powered telescope – so that he could better observe the celestial bodies in the night sky. I have celebrated pensioners who have taken up storm chasing and skydiving and mountain climbing. Others who have traced their ancestral roots, scripted their family histories, run marathons, written novels, and pursued second careers as ministers and crafters and entrepreneurs. And I have

BY
DOUG
ARCHER

Portrait of a Retiree



praised countless retirees who volunteer tirelessly to support our hospitals, food banks, and all manner of charitable organizations.

Not only that, but I got to work with some wonderful people at Marketplace – in particular, Deb and her late mother and father (who founded the magazine), Linda and James Pannell. And as Marketplace enters its 'retirement', I want to give a special thank-you to Deb for her tremendous support during my time with the magazine. Not only was she always available to bounce story ideas off of, but she graciously gave me the leeway to write about what I wanted-and not just about the retirees of my choosing, but about the special charities, events and people that I covered while doing features stories for the magazine as well. It has been a pleasure to

work with her.

Let me close by saying that having had the opportunity to meet hundreds of retirees over the past decade, and to write about their amazing endeavors, has taught me to reach for the stars each and every day. Carpe diem, as they say. And that is my advice as I sign off. Seize the day! Find what you are passionate about – and do it! Spend more time with your grandchildren; volunteer more; travel to those destinations you have dreamed about. Pursue that second career. Write that novel. Keep on skydiving and storm chasing and mountain climbing ...

Never forget that these retirement years we're living are a gift. We need to make the most of them.



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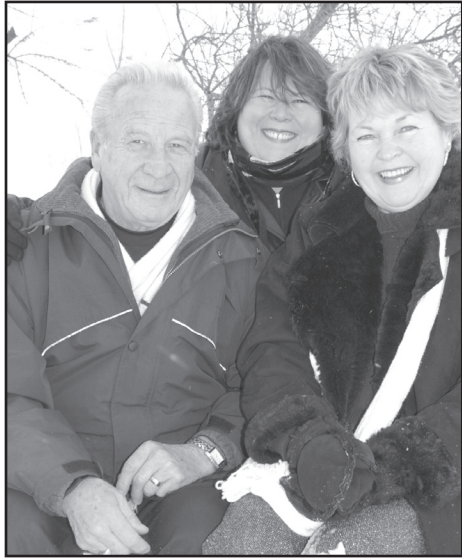
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Marketplace

Vol. 36 No. 12



Jim, Deborah and Linda Pannell celebrating 20 years of publishing Marketplace.
Photo by: Jeska Curry

Feature Story

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The Bruce County Marketplace magazine was humbly born in 1989 on the floor of Jim and Linda Pannell's living room. Today, 'the little paper that could' is read by over 30,000 people in the county. Now, this chapter is ending and our feature celebrates the publication with special editor - Eric Howald helping us with our goodbye.

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Marketplace

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From the Sunny Side



James Pannell

December 7, 1936 - December 21, 2016

Linda Pannell

June 21, 1947 - December 7, 2023

It's that time of year that resonates with traditions, celebrations, and family—and this one is mine: a tribute to my parents. I chose their wedding-day photo because, if you know their love story, you know this is where it all began. They didn't have a long engagement; they met and married three weeks later! Then the adventures began and continued for over 53 years.

Roots and family were always paramount to my mom. She was so proud that her whole family lived close by. And now, even in her absence, we continue to grow our families and honour her traditions.

One long-standing tradition has been Marketplace—my dad's brainchild—something he and Mom built together for 27 years. As I honour my parents, I am also closing this chapter of Marketplace. We've had a full, rich history for 36 years, but it's time to bid a fond farewell.

Charlie Whipp joined Dad in the magazine's infancy and elevated the editorial side—paired with Dad's selling skills, it was the perfect fit. I joined the family business in December 1990 with my newborn, Jessica, in tow. I had experience with Mac computers, and that was all Dad needed to hear—he put me right to work. It was a learning experience for all of us.



Brenda, Heidi and Louise.

It's hard to believe this is my last column. With heartfelt thanks to all our columnists, writers, and clients—you made Marketplace happen. And to all our loyal readers, thank you for your support.

...And with that, as Dad would say... walk on the sunny side.

Along the way we welcomed many wonderful team members: Louise Court, selling in Saugeen Shores, Heidi Burger, graphic design and Brenda Fabry, office and production. And a roster of fabulous writers: John F. Adams, Sarah Chisholm, Doug Archer, Ann Judd and Lynda Janzen.

Twenty twenty-five sets stage for bright future

As the year comes to a close, it's time to reflect on the past and plan for the future.

The past year has been tumultuous given all of the political uncertainty on a national and international scale, but here in the Clean Energy Frontier Region of Bruce, Grey and Huron Counties, we're putting our best foot forward contributing to Canada's position as a clean energy and medical isotopes superpower.

In fact, the work Bruce Power, its people and its partners have done in 2025 is setting the table for exciting opportunities to see our communities, region, the province and the country thrive for decades to come.

In a time that energy security is top of mind, Ontario is leading the way with nearly 60 per cent its electricity coming from nuclear, roughly half of that from the Bruce site. The private-sector investments into Bruce Power's Life-Extension Program and Major Component Replacement project will ensure Ontario's nuclear advantage continues well into the future and 2025 saw record performance as the Unit 3 and 4 MCR outages progressed.

Bruce Power is proudly Canadian-owned, investing 95 per cent of its spending within Canada and fueling economic growth through a vast supply chain. The company's Clean Energy Frontier initiative strengthens local communities, while our partnership with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation advances reconciliation and creates shared prosperity.

Refurbishing Bruce Power's units also ensures a stable supply of cancer-fighting medical isotopes to meet growing demand for



John Peevers
Director, Community
and Media Relations

patients and health care around the world. In 2025, Bruce Power saw its largest harvest of cobalt-60 in more than 40 years of production, and more than double the production of lutetium-177 through innovation to help with Ontario's goal of doubling isotope output by 2030.

All of these successes in 2025 are helping drive economic growth in the region and across Ontario, while also providing new opportunities in our municipalities and Indigenous communities, including the Gamzook'aamin aakoziwin partnership and Community Development Fund with Saugeen Ojibway Nation.

Bruce Power, its supplier partners and employees place great value in making our communities a better place for everyone and we were privileged to donate millions to worthy initiatives in 2025 with a focus on health and wellness, youth development, minimizing environmental impacts, community engagement and Indigenous youth development, cultural, recreational and educational programming.

Bruce Power and its Supplier Partners donated \$327,000 to local holiday initiatives across Bruce, Grey and Huron counties and in partnership with its employees, the United Way Bruce Grey and the community at large, raised \$55,000 supporting 19 toy drives and hamper programs. An additional \$2,000 was donated to each of 38 local food banks, to help offset the increasing impact of food insecurity.

As we close out 2025, count your blessings and be sure to give to those in need if you're able.

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Erin Nichol, M. Cl. Sc.
Audiologist

Feathers and Veils must be worn: 1937 Coronation Chic

If you were to go back in time to attend a swanky event in 1937, you'd probably top off your outfit with a nice hat: maybe a handsome homburg for the gents and a pretty pillbox for the ladies. When Bruce MP William Rae Tomlinson and wife Lucile (née Peers) received an invitation to King George VI's coronation, however, the dress code mandated that "feathers and veils must be worn" by the ladies. Yes, must.



Lucile Tomlinson A2020.050.023.001

Lucile had a spiffy collection of on-trend hats for various occasions, but these just wouldn't do – no matter how glamorous and stylish they were. According to customary "court dress" etiquette (rules about what one must wear when presented to British royalty) ladies were required to don veiled and plumed headdresses. But why?

Covering one's head, especially for women, has a long history signifying humility and respect in both secular and spiritual contexts. In short, veiling would be understood as a sign of deference to the king or queen. And the feathers? When these "court dress" protocols were established in the 1820s, ostrich plumes happened to be all-the-rage for high society ladies. So, they became part of the requisite attire and just hung around for the next 100+ years.

In a long sheer veil topped with ivory feathers and a glittering rhinestone headband, Lucile took this old-timey dress code and served up fashion on a platter. Paired with a sleeveless blouson evening gown and elbow-length gloves,

BY
SHAUNA TAYLOR
BRUCE COUNTY MUSEUM &
CULTURAL CENTRE
CURATORIAL ASSISTANT

Historically Speaking



she looked positively posh in this photograph by Frank Arthur Swaine. This photo was featured in the September

1937 issue of Mayfair Magazine.

Sources:

"Coronation of their majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth – Dress Regulations" document issued by the Earl Marshal's office, 1937, BCM&CC Archives A2020.058.003; "Royal Reflections" by Kathleen Bowker, 1397, in Mayfair Magazine, page 23, BCM&CC Archives A2020.058.023; "The Court Presentation" by Evangeline Holland, 2007, for Edwardian Promenade [website].

Congratulations Marketplace! Enjoy Retirement!



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Decades of sharing the life of a chimney sweep

Since I started writing this column about 35 years ago, a lot has changed in technology, and even how we think. Just in case you may ask, I have never used AI or chat GPT to write an article. However, I did search the net to do research.

Over the years I have covered a variety of topics, and in most cases had good feedback, but not always. Healthy critique was always welcome.

When I read some of the stuff that I wrote years ago it makes me realize that my opinions have changed over time. You often hear about a politician or some important person that posted something years back and now they are being chastised for a statement or point of view. But maybe they have changed their mind.

From the beginning I decided that I would not try to sell anything in this column other than ideas. At times good products may have been promoted, but for the most part, I didn't try to sell anything. As a result, this magazine became my best advertising.

People would stop me in the grocery store or out on the street and tell me how much they liked the last article, and please don't stop writing.

At some point I should compile some of these into my life story. Believe it or not the most popular articles were the ones chronicling the day in the life of a chimney sweep. Just the episodes about the interesting things that took place. Interesting people and their interesting homes and habits. Like the guy who ruined a few cast iron woodstoves before we found that he was burning cut up car tires. Or the time that I swept the chimney in the wrong house and yes, I still got paid. Or the time when I swept a chimney when no one was home and there was about \$20,000 cash spread out on the kitchen table.

You could be in a beautiful home that could feature in a home décor magazine and the next service call may be the home of a hoarder. Once there was a terrible smell in a home and we discovered a dead cat in the bathtub. On another occasion we found a young child sleeping on a dirty mattress on a dirt floor in a basement. Puts you in a tough position of how to respond to this situation.

Of course, we came across many very unsafe woodstove hook ups that were

BY
MARSHALL
BYLE

Rooftops



just a fire waiting to happen. People loved to read about those.

On a number of occasions, I delved into politics to the chagrin of my liberal friends because as you may know I am generally a conservative.

The editor of this magazine said that I was the only columnist that she had to consult a lawyer before printing my opinion.

On that note, I thank the Pannell family, past and present, for the opportunity to write.

**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year**
From our families (and Stevie) to yours.



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Happy Holidays and Tips for Holiday Footwear



Laura
C.Ped(C)
B.A. Kin

The holiday season is upon us and we all know what that means: work parties, family gatherings, general merriment and joy. It can also mean dressing up and unfortunately for our feet, that tends to mean high heels, narrow toes and thin soles.

I'm not here to scold you about your dress wear. I understand that your Birkenstocks and New Balance runners don't pair well with your three piece suit or that sparkly cocktail dress. Trust me, I want to be able to dress up as well. I'm here to tell you, if we are going to cram our feet into dress shoes for the sake of beauty then we need to do things to at least REDUCE the short (and long!) term effects.

So here we go:

#1. Heel height – A heel more than two inches increases the pressure on the ball of your foot drastically so avoid anything higher if possible.

#2. Heel width – Stay away from the thin stiletto heels. A wide chunky heel (or even better a wedge) will give you a wider base of support and will disperse forces more evenly making it easier on your feet.

#3. Toe width – A rounded toe is going to be more comfortable into the wee hours of the night than a pointy toe.

#4. Post-dress shoe rehab – This is the MOST important thing you can do. The following day or the night of (or even better, both) should consist of trying to spread out those toes again. This can be done by rolling on a lacrosse ball or a golf ball (especially across the ball of the foot), massaging the bottom of the foot,

wearing spacers (or putting your fingers between your toes), and spending time in your bare feet to let them breathe!

If pain persists longer than 24 hours after your celebrations please visit www.alignpedorthics.com to schedule your pedorthic assessment.

Laura is a Canadian Certified Pedorthist at Maple Shores Health Centre in Port Elgin. Please call 519-832-4500 for more information.*



I want to thank you for making 2025 an amazing year. Wishing you and your family a season of love and laughter and good foot health going into 2026.

From my family to yours - Merry Christmas!



Thank you to all of our loyal customers for your patronage.

Looking forward to serving you next year.

**Whatever You Celebrate, Enjoy!
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

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Insurance Considerations when Retiring or Selling Your Business

For many business owners, retirement or a business sale marks both an exciting milestone and the end of a lifelong chapter. Whether you're handing the reins to a family member, selling to a long-time employee, or transitioning to an outside buyer, one element is often overlooked until the final stages: insurance. Yet thoughtful risk planning during a transition can protect both the outgoing owner and the new leadership from unexpected financial and legal exposure.

1. Liability Doesn't End the Day You Sell

Many sellers assume their responsibility disappears once ownership transfers. In reality, past operations can still create liability exposures years later.

- Products manufactured before the sale, completed work, or advice previously given can trigger claims after you've stepped away.

- To protect yourself, consider extended liability coverage — often called “tail coverage” or an Extended Reporting Period (ERP) — on policies such as Commercial General Liability (CGL), Professional Liability (E&O), or Directors and Officers insurance.

This ensures you're protected for incidents arising from the time you owned the business, even if the claim occurs after the sale.

2. Assets Changing Hands Means Policies Need to Be Updated

A business transition typically involves buildings, equipment, inventory, and vehicles. It's crucial that:

- The buyer secures their own insurance effective the moment they take ownership.

- The seller removes transferred assets from their policies promptly.

- Any shared use of property during a transition period is disclosed to your broker to avoid unintended gaps.

For gradual family transitions where both generations operate jointly for a period, temporary coverage arrangements — such as adding the successor's business as an “additional insured” — may be appropriate.

3. Staff and Employment Changes Affect Coverage

Business transitions often involve shifts in staffing, whether it's transferring employees to the new ownership or restructuring roles. These changes can impact:

- Liability associated with employment

BY
TODD
FARRELL



Are You Covered?

practices, including hiring, termination, or changes in management.

- Commercial auto policies, especially if vehicles or drivers change under the new structure.

4. Review Contracts, Leases, and Partnerships.

Contracts with suppliers, landlords, or service providers frequently contain insurance requirements, indemnity clauses, or minimum limit obligations. A change in ownership often triggers the need to update certificates, renegotiate terms, or notify contractual partners.

5. Don't Forget Personal Insurance

Retiring owners sometimes rely on coverage previously arranged through their corporation — such as commercial auto use, business-owned life insurance, or Directors & Officers protection. As

ownership changes, it's important to review personal needs and secure coverage independently where required.

A business transition is a major milestone - and with a thoughtful insurance plan, it can be a smooth and secure one. Working closely with your broker early in the process ensures both you and the new owner start the next chapter with confidence.

A special thank-you to the Pannell family for 36 years of providing our community with trusted information, local stories, and connection through the Marketplace Magazine. As they prepare to close this chapter, we recognize the tremendous legacy they leave behind - one built on dedication, community service, and an unwavering commitment to keeping local voices heard.



*Wishing you
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the season...*

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On the sunny side..

The news that Marketplace Magazine is closing brings back many memories.

Jim Pannell had a little shop in the south end of Kincardine and asked me drop in to meet the editor of his new publication, Charles Whipp, who had worked for daily newspapers in Regina and London and had owned the Petrolia weekly for a number of years. I asked Jim if Charlie was a little long in the tooth to handle the job. (That was 38 years ago and Charlie was 65, which sounds pretty young to me today.)

Jim's faith in Charlie was well-founded as he proved to be an excellent writer and editor. Charlie and I became good friends.

Jim and I go back about 50 years, to shortly after I started the Kincardine Independent. When I first met him, he was selling newspaper promotions across North America. Jim and his partner, Mac Dort, would go into a town and buy the centre spread of the local weekly newspaper for eight weeks. Then they would sell an eight-week advertising program to the local merchants.

Then it was off to the next town.

Selling advertising wasn't Jim's only gig. In his younger years, he was a hairdresser to the stars in Hollywood and made an appearance in one segment of a television series. That didn't last long – he said he could make more money cutting hair.

He sold suits to farmers on the prairies. He and another salesman would rent a storefront in a small town. One of them would collar a farmer on the street and guide him into the store where he was sold a new outfit.

He won a bus shelter contract in the GTA and did very well, for he could sell. I never met a salesman who could outsell Jimmy. He was a pro.



Charlie Whipp.

But Jim was tired of being on the road. He opened a leather shop at the mall in Kincardine in the late seventies; that did not go well. Then he launched the Inflation Fighter in the early eighties. He asked me to set type and do the layout for the publication and after it went to press he took The Independent staff out for dinner and drinks. He was generous.

That obviously wasn't what Jim was looking for and he closed it after a year or so and came up with idea of the Marketplace Magazine. And he did it right. Daughter Deb handled production, wife Linda looked after the office, Charlie Whipp the writing and Jim the



Jim Pannell, the man behind Marketplace is surrounded by some of the most important people to him; his granddaughters. Standing at the back is Lily, while Ella gets grandpa's lap and from left is Kylee, Kate James and Jessica. This photo was from the 25th Anniversary issue - February 2014.

selling. It was soon a profitable 56-page monthly publication.

In reality, we were competitors, fighting for the same advertising dollars. But for some reason we were always friends. We were the only independent publishers in the area and often compared notes.

He usually stopped into the office each month after Marketplace went to press and demanded that I go next door for a drink or two.

One afternoon, 25 years or so ago, Jim walked in, slammed an almost empty bottle on the counter and said, "I'm dying. I want you to write my obituary."

Jim was accompanied by his long-time friend Jim Reid, former CTV investigative reporter. The three of us had to go next door to discuss the obituary and the aneurism that was threatening Jim's life.

Jim survived the operation and did a lot of living until he died about nine years ago. His wife, Linda, has since joined him on the sunny side.

Family, friends, fishing and golfing were Jim's passions. He was at home on the lake. One afternoon, he dropped into the office and said, "We're going fishing." It was a hot, windy August day and the lake had six-foot swell. As we went farther and farther out, I realized we were the only ones on the lake. Jim enjoyed the trip; I was glad when we returned to shore.

Things were getting tough in the publishing business by the time Jim died. Internet advertising has led to the death of many publications in the past decade. Newspapers and publications like Marketplace that survive are much smaller today because of the lack of advertising revenue. It is also difficult to find a printer today because most of the presses have been shut down.

Deb has done well to keep publishing the magazine as long as she has.

What would a healthy Jim do today? I believe the same as Deb – close the doors.

Jim always looked on the sunny side. He would have looked for something else to sell.

Anyway, I still miss talking to Jim and Charlie...



The very first issue, February 1, 1989.

by Eric Howald

BY
TAMRI
COURT



What's Happening

Santa is on his way!

And so it is December, and with it, the last *What's Happening in Saugeen Shores* article.

The Southampton Santa Claus parade is scheduled for Friday, December 5th to begin at 7pm. Have your canned goods ready for the volunteers who will be collecting for the local food banks along the parade route. The parade route will journey along High Street.

The Southampton Curling Club Cookie Walk will be held Saturday, December 6th from 9:30am-noon or when cookies are sold out. Make up your own dozen and bring your own containers. The cookie walk will be held upstairs at the Southampton Curling Club. Come early for best selection.

Every Friday in December enjoy Southampton's Festive Friday from 4pm-8pm. Enjoy free horse drawn carriage rides from 4-8pm on Friday, December 12 and 19. Please bring non-perishable and not expired donations for the Local Food Bank. Book day of at coordinator@southamptonbia.com or by sending us a message by Instagram @southamptonbia.

The Chantry Centre in Southampton is a meeting and activity place for adults aged 50+. For more, contact the Centre at 519-797-3096.

The Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre in Southampton offers a variety of activities throughout the month as well as their exhibits and displays. Plan your visit by calling 519-797-2080.

The Coliseum in Southampton and The Plex in Port Elgin have sponsored public skating during December and January. The Centennial Pool will also have public and family swim times available. Give the Town a call 519-832-2008.

From my family to yours I wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year!!

A big thank you to Marketplace Magazine for providing me the opportunity to create my articles. To everyone who has submitted information and of course to all the readers who have read my articles for the past so many years! I don't even know how many! I wish you every success and happiness life has to offer. May our paths cross again someday!

Believe in the Magic of Christmas

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The Christmas season is especially magical at Elgin Lodge. Twinkling lights, beautifully decorated trees, and festive music fill the halls with cheer. Residents enjoy carol sing-alongs, and special celebrations that bring everyone together in the true spirit of the season. From coffee time in the Bistro, to attending the annual Christmas Dinner, every moment feels joyful and bright.

Each day brings opportunities to connect and have fun. From morning fitness to live entertainment, movies, and special events, there's always something to lift your spirits. Delicious, home-style meals are served in our welcoming dining room, and our friendly staff take care of the housekeeping so you can focus on what matters most - enjoying life.

This year, take advantage of our **Winter Stay Special** (minimum three-month stay), which includes breakfast, cable, phone, and internet. It's a wonderful way to experience the warmth



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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thank You for a Great Season!

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in the New Year*

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*Wishing You A Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!*



from
Jess, Kylee,
Kate, Ella,
Lily, Everly,
Eliza, Eden
and
Deb, Brenda
and Heidi

Best wishes for health and happiness in 2026!

With the festive season in full swing be sure to come visit the 'Gingerbread Village'. Gingerbread theme decorations can be seen throughout the village. As always, shopping locally is great for everyone. Please continue to support your local merchants.

Just a reminder to everyone that the Paisley Christmas Market is open daily from 10am-5pm until December 23rd. It's located at 486 Queen Street. There is something there for everyone so be sure to drop in.

Paisley Legion Branch 295 is always a hive of activity. 'Darts for Meat' takes place every Sunday at 1pm; Monday mornings there is coffee and crokinole at 9am; Monday evenings there is euchre at 7pm as well as knitting and crochet classes for all skill levels from 7-9pm; Friday nights you can take in 'cornhole'. On Wednesday December 24 the Legion is open for their annual Christmas Eve Potluck and Social starting at 3pm. You can end the year by attending the Legion's New Year's Eve Party. There will be games in the lounge and a dance upstairs in the auditorium. For more information be sure to check out their Facebook page.

Be sure to drop by the Paisley Treasure Chest Museum on Saturday, December 6 for 'Tea Thyme'. It starts at 10am and provides you with an opportunity to relax and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and some

BY
SHERYL
STEINHOFF

Paisley Current



yummy treats with your friends. Looking ahead, you can celebrate Robbie Burns Day on January 16 by attending their first Luncheon and Euchre of the New Year. Be sure to drop in for a great afternoon of fun. As the year comes to an end the Friends of the Treasure Chest Museum would like to thank everyone for their continued support at their events.

Attention quilters: the Paisley Community Quilters will start Tuesday, January 6. The group meets every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am-4pm until the end of February. Bring a bag lunch and a hot beverage will be provided. If you are only able to come for a morning, or an afternoon, one day or both, all are welcome. The program takes place in the basement of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Paisley. Paisley Community Quilters mission is quilting or tying quilts to provide warm blankets for those less fortunate. Please contact Carolyn Hodgins at 519-353-4252 or Edith Beech at 519-

353-5937.

The 'Prevention Through Exercise' Program continues. This popular program runs weekly on Tuesdays at the Paisley Community Centre Auditorium from 8:30-9:30am. It is sponsored by the Brockton and area Family Health Team. The classes are offered free of charge.

With winter here, indoor recreation programming becomes more popular. Adult and tot skating is every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-10:30am, Noon Skate times are Tuesday and Thursday from 12-1pm and public skating is on Sunday from 6:30-7:30pm. The cost is \$4 and \$3 for seniors. Ice time rentals will be available throughout the holidays. For more information contact programs@arran-elderslie.ca or call 519-363-3039 ext. 117.

Another year has almost ended; my how the time goes by so quickly. Season's greetings to everyone.

As this is the final issue of Marketplace, on behalf of Paisley and area we would like to thank the Marketplace staff for providing us with the opportunity to showcase different events that have taken place in our Village. Sadly, all good things must come to an end and the Marketplace publication is one of those. I would also like to thank everyone who provided me with information about their events over the years.



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Happy holidays and the warmest of wishes for 2026!



Dave Patterson



Derek Regier

As we reflect on yet another unusual and challenging year in the real estate market, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our past, present, and future clients for their loyal support. We sincerely wish you the warmest holiday greetings and a prosperous, healthy New Year in 2026!

Determining property values in an ever-changing market remains increasingly complex, especially with ongoing uncertainty around market conditions. However, this past year has offered a slow but steady sense of relief as interest rate cuts begin to follow four consecutive years of rate hikes aimed at curbing inflation.

Looking ahead, 2026 has the potential to be a productive year in real estate, with continued rate reductions and a relatively low supply of available inventory helping to support market activity.

If you're considering a move in the

New Year, positioning yourself to take advantage of the spring market—timed at its peak—is an essential part of a successful strategy. Partnering with an experienced Realtor ensures you have strong representation, expert guidance, and a more stress-free experience from start to finish.

As your Realtors, your property will receive full exposure across MLS, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, our personal websites, the Re/Max website, and local print media. Every listing is enhanced with professional photography, video, drone footage, virtual tours, and detailed

floor plans. The Re/Max Land Exchange website alone receives over 60,000 hits per day, giving your listing exceptional visibility.

If you're interested in receiving a free opinion of value for your property, please contact:

David Patterson – 519-386-3227

Derek Regier – 519-525-2472

We would be happy to arrange a convenient time to visit your property.

Warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season and an exciting year ahead!*





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Wishing you a safe and joyful
season shared with family and
friends.



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kincardine.ca/Holidays2025

King Sorrow gets a full five stars!

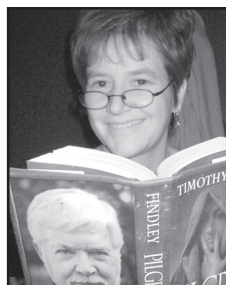
I started writing *Between the Covers* over 27 years ago when I was expecting my second son, Ethan, and I can't say for sure but I imagine I reviewed a Stephen King book. So in that vein, for this final column I'm happy to review *King Sorrow* by Joe Hill (King's son) and give it a full five stars. I can honestly say it reminded me of *IT* in that six college age friends find themselves tied together through a shared responsibility they brought to the world and we follow them over the years through tragedy, hope and some sort of redemption. This is a long novel but if you like character driven stories that pull you in because you are invested in their survival and happiness you will love this book. I've read most of Hill's novels and this is for sure his best.

As always in December I'm happy to recommend some books that would make great gifts for the readers on your list. Winner of the National Book Award *One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This* by Omar El Akkad is a great read for the history/political buff on your list, I learned a ton reading it myself and it deserves all the accolades it has received. On my list this year is Margaret Atwood's memoir *Book of Lives: A Memoir of Sorts, The Smiling Land: All Around the Circle in My Newfoundland and Labrador* by Alan Doyle, and *The Look* by Michelle Obama.

Fiction lovers have some new releases that would make great gifts including *The Black Wolf* by Louise Penny, *The Secret of Secrets* by Dan Brown and *The Widow* by John Grisham. Chris Hadfield has a new book out, *Final Orbit* and Charlie Mackesy's *Always Remember*, I picked up a copy locally and couldn't wait until Christmas to give it away!

For the kids there's *Dog Man #14: Big Jim Believes* by Dav Pilkey, *Diary of a*

BY
TRACY
PRIMEAU



Between the Covers

Wimpy Kid Book #20: Partypooper by Jeff Kinney and the latest in the *Wings of Fire* series graphic novels, *Darkstalker* by T. Tiu Sutherland and Jake Parker. My kids always enjoyed perusing the newest

Guinness Book of Word Records list aimed at kids and it is a great way to enjoy a book together Christmas Day.

For the littles so many options to choose from but I'm a classics fan myself, love Munsch, the Little Critter books and Richard Scarry.

Finally for those who'd rather read by listening an Audible subscription is a great idea! This may be my last column but I'm always happy to chat books, you can find me at tracy.primeau@gmail.com or on social media.

Happy Reading and don't forget to support local where you can!

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All non-perishable food or hygiene donations are appreciated.

Help your community celebrate the holiday season!

Want to get involved? Email:
kathy_cottrell@bwdsb.on.ca

Watch for the Christmas Knights visiting your neighbourhood collecting items for the Kincardine Food Bank. Please feel free to leave marked items for donation outside your front door for pick up.



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We would like to take the time to wish
our friends, family and customers a
**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!**
Teresa, Jeska, Karen & Crystal



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