



# The Neebing News

Volume Sixteen, Number Two

February 2021

NEEBING FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION (NFRA) is seeking **new members!** See NFRA News on pages 5 & 6!



## Help save a deer - Don't let Fido Run Loose outdoors

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Thunder Bay District

If you are going to spend some time outdoors this winter or other areas where wildlife live please remember to keep your dogs under control.

Every year the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry conservation officers investigate incidents of dogs chasing deer and injuring them. Having to run in deep snow or ice is very stressful for deer. As they try to escape they may injure themselves and dogs can wound them too.

In Ontario, there are laws that help to protect deer from chase during non-hunting season, such as:

1. Under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, it is illegal to let a dog be at large in an area inhabited by deer, moose, elk or bear during the closed season
2. Under this legislation, we may charge dog owners whose dogs are found chasing deer during the closed season. The maximum fine for an individual under the FWCA is \$25,000. Dogs that aren't under control can be hit by cars, exposed to diseases, attacked by other animals or get accidentally captured in legally set traps.

If you see a natural resource violation please contact the MNRF TIPS line a 1-877-847-7667.



## Snow Clearing Reminder!

As we head into winter, the Municipality would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that placing snow from private property onto municipal road allowances is not permitted. This practice is contrary to municipal by-laws and the Province's Highway Traffic Act. Section 181 of the Highway Traffic Act states:

181. No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing so to do from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road

Placing snow on the roadway creates safety hazards for vehicle traffic and makes road maintenance more difficult. Please help keep the roads safe for everyone!

Emergency preparedness starts with you

## power outages

Stay away from and report downed power lines

Avoid water near electrical equipment

Stay informed

Don't use outdoor grills or bbqs indoors

Use glowsticks or flashlights

ontario.ca/beprepared

## EMERGENCY TEXT ALERT SERVICE For Neebing Residents



Sign up for Neebing's Emergency Text Alert Service! This text alert service is used to notify our residents **via text message** of immediate dangers or emergencies occurring in our community such as evacuations, road closures, forest fires and other hazards. *Sign up is free!*

You must have a smartphone equipped to receive text messages to sign up for this service. It does not work on land lines. Sign up at [neebing.org/textalerts](https://www.neebing.org/textalerts) or send us your name, Neebing address, and your text-enabled cell phone number including area code to [nee-bing@nee-bing.org](mailto:nee-bing@nee-bing.org) or call us at 474-5331. Your personal information is kept strictly confidential. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [www.neebing.org/contact](https://www.neebing.org/contact).

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# Chix in the Stix Self Preservation

by Cindy Harasen

Corona brain. Covid stress. Lock-down fever. We have been coining lots of new phrases lately. How are you? I hope you're all doing okay. Ever feel like you're sort of spiralling out of control? I mean that sure wouldn't be a total stretch given the current health crisis, and all the related challenges. For the most part we're holding it all together here in our house. Most days. There have been some days though when things have felt a bit unhinged. And while I pride myself on being a pretty go-with-the-flow type of person, every now and then I feel like I just want to be in control of LIFE again and make my own decisions about things. I am an adult after all. An adult who used to be a teenager and still has a rebellious streak I guess. And these days there are just so many rules to follow. It's hard to keep up. And you can only go in the bush and scream so many times. I am always looking for healthy ways to reduce stress and increase my daily bliss. And then I discovered THIS and honestly I could hardly wait to get home and share it with you. It is my new strategy for stress relief and I can't believe I didn't discover it sooner. It's a keeper. I can't tell you how much fun I am having. And now you can too. I mean it doesn't come with a guarantee or anything but I still think you're gonna love it. So. Here is how it happened. I was running some errands around town, dropping off and picking up at places that were new to me so I was relying on GPS to find the best route. And I was being really good and hitting all the correct turns. And then I missed a turn. And I could practically hear the condemnation in that GPS voice as it repeated its instructions and scrambled to get me back on track. And I totally could have. But instead I rebelled. Not only did I take the scenic route but I made some deliberate stupid turns that made no sense at all. And she was not happy. Honestly I am not sure how they programmed that snarkiness into her voice but it was definitely there. I know because I recognized it. I have used that tone with my kids. And probably even my husband on occasion. And the more I made little Miss

GPS scramble to keep up with me the more I showed her that I was running the show here, not her. And the more I very vocally told her off and put her in her place the more we laughed and the cheerier I got. It was harmless fun and there may have been a little 'french' word here and there if you know what I mean, which honestly made it even more effective in releasing some pent up stress. I highly recommend it. Just plug some address in and head for a drive and you can thank me later! And in these roller-coaster days we can use all the laughs and pleasant distractions we can get. While I'm here, there are a few other things that for some reason have brought me great pleasure and relief this past month – all totally out of the blue. One is yogurt in a bag. Not sure who invented this beautiful thing but if you haven't grabbed one from the grocery store yet, I highly recommend it. Squeezing yogurt out of a bag is almost up there with bubble wrap. It feels so wrong yet so right at the same time. Okay, one last tip. Compartmentalize. And I don't mean in a deep psychological sense. I mean your food. This is another weird thing that just makes my shoulders drop every time I do it. I picked up the coolest serving trays from the big box store. They have like 6 little divided compartments for your meal and snack items. We have started calling them prison trays because they look like what you see them use in prison – at least in the movies. I'm not one of those people who care if their food touches, but there is something about preparing a snack for your child or other loved one and putting a little item in each of those compartments. One for the raisins. One for the crust-less sandwich. One that holds the little fruit cup just right. Very tidy and orderly. My blood pressure is going down just thinking about it. I mean I can be having an over the top stressed out kind of day and all I have to do is talk back to the GPS lady, squeeze some yogurt into a bowl, and grab a prison tray and organize the perfect snack and suddenly I can breathe again! Call me weird (I've been called

worse!). It is totally possible that lock-down is impacting my sanity. But don't knock it till you try it. Follow me for more tips to maintaining your sanity during a pandemic. Free of charge!

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# Looking for Something to Do?

by Dawne Kilgour

As we anxiously await a lessening of the Pandemic numbers and lifting of restrictions, many are looking to do something different, something to do with our kids, outdoors.

Your Recreation committee would like to suggest skating at each of our community rinks: Alf Olsen and Century Park, [Blake Hall] are both open for public skating. The rinks themselves are cleared and flooded by volunteers. The warming shed is closed but there are lights should you wish to go after dinner. The putting on/taking off skates must be done in your vehicle or outside as no facilities are available due to Covid-19.

Restrictions allow for 5 people on the rink at a time and social distancing needs be followed but that can easily be done.

The fresh air and cool breezes ensure a good night sleep and give parents, grandparents an old fashioned activity to enjoy. If you have a helmet

or knee pads, that could facilitate some of those of us who haven't skated for a while.... as well as prevent a concussion or two. You may be surprised at the number of games that you may recall and play with your young ones. I remember playing Crack the whip, tag, frozen tag, or just holding hands and skating while the car radio blared out music. Carry some hot chocolate and graham crackers for a delightful snack and you are all set. Sing at the top of your lungs on the way home...remember 99 bottles of Beer on the wall???

Write me a note if you do any of these activities or call and let me know how things went. Perhaps your story could be featured in the next issue.

Neebing is a great place to live and play. Spread the word!

For further info, call Dawne at 964-2750.

## RURAL CUPBOARD FOOD BANK

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While current restrictions keep us from meeting in person, you can view our weekly Sermon Messages on-line Sunday's at 11:00am. Follow our website and Facebook page for updates! God Bless!



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### Need some extra winter gear?

We have an assortment of free winter items available. If you or someone you know needs some help keeping warm this winter, please contact us. We also have a pantry of non-perishable food items and other sundries. Emergency care packages to assist rural singles, seniors and families are available by request. Hours are currently by appointment. Find us on Facebook or contact us for more information. Phone: 475-5140 or email: [slateriverbaptistchurch2@gmail.com](mailto:slateriverbaptistchurch2@gmail.com)



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## Hymers Fair News

by Erin Laforest

The Hymers Agricultural Society, for the first time ever, held their Annual General Meeting virtually! ...And with much success might I add.

With a virtual fair been held, 2020 was not a complete bust. The group worked hard to hold exhibit challenges on Facebook and Instagram, a music concert via Youtube, a virtual market on Facebook and a 50/50 draw with tickets sold by our amazing volunteers and the businesses that supported us. It was marvelous to have pulled it off in such a short period of time. Switching the gears from a physical fair to trying to entertain our fair-goers virtually took some hard work and ingenuity, but we managed.

We thank everyone for their kind words and support through it all. The 2020 virtual exhibits and music can still be accessed through our website at [www.hymersfair.com](http://www.hymersfair.com).

With that being said, the 2021 Board of Directors have already been drumming up ideas to make this year's fair an even better success, should we be unable to hold a physical fair again due to COVID-19. Stay tuned for upcoming news via newsletters, Facebook, Instagram and the Hymers Fair website.

### Congratulations to the 2021 Board of Directors!

President - Randy Creighton

1st Vice President - Lawrence Prystanski

2nd Vice President - Erin Laforest

Secretary - Debbie Hoover

Treasurer - Oona Szyja

Shannon Dodd-Smith

Marg Duncan

Jeff Glavish

Chris Lawrence

Aury Murray

Gerry Murray

Nadia Myhal



The Hymers Fair Board wishes everyone good health. We hope to see you all for a "normal" fair in 2021. To make this possible, we encourage everyone to stay distanced as much as possible so that we can beat this awful virus.

# Provincial State of Emergency Declared Stay-at-Home Order

As of January 14, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., a stay-at-home order is in effect for all of Ontario and will remain in effect until at least February 11, 2021.

This means you must stay at home. You should only go out for necessities, such as:

- getting food, beverages or medication
- going to medical appointments
- supporting vulnerable community members
- child care
- attending school or a post-secondary institution
- going to a bank
- accessing government services
- getting exercise or walking pets
- going to work, if you can't do it remotely

Businesses must ensure that all employees work from home if they can. The stay-at-home order does not define what work or jobs are essential. Rather, it now mandates that anyone who can work from home must now do so.

Do not travel outside your region or the province unless absolutely necessary. The government says that because it is asking residents to stay home, trips to a cottage or secondary residence should be avoided, unless it is for an essential purpose like emergency maintenance.

### Gatherings

Limit close contact to only members of your household (the people you live with). If you live alone, you may consider having close contact with one other household only.

Up to 5 people may gather outdoors, as long as you can keep 2 metres physical distance from each other. You should also wear a mask or face covering.

You may attend a funeral, religious service or wedding of up to 10 people.

If you do not follow these rules for gatherings:

- organizers may be fined \$10,000
- each attendee may receive a \$750 ticket

- enforcement personnel may break up the gathering or temporarily close the premises

### Stop the spread

You should always:

- stay home if you have COVID-19 symptoms, even if they are mild
- stay two metres apart from people you don't live with
- wear a mask or face covering properly in indoor public spaces and outside any time physical distancing is not possible — you may be fined if you don't
- wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- get tested if you think you have symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19

You can also download the COVID Alert mobile app ( <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covidalert> ) to protect yourself and your community.

### New guidance on mask use

It is now being recommended that individuals wear a face covering or mask when they are outdoors and cannot physically distance from others.

Individuals are still required to wear a mask or face covering in the indoor areas of businesses or organizations.

### Fines

Individuals and businesses who are not following the orders can be fined.

The set fines are:

- \$750 for not following an order
- \$1,000 for preventing others (including individuals, employees or other workers) from following an order

Maximum fines can be up to \$100,000 for individuals and \$10 million for a corporation.

Failure to follow the rules could also result in prosecution or even a year in jail.

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# NEEBING FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Respectfully submitted: Carole Aitken, President NFRA

NEEBING FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION (NFRA) is seeking **new members** to join our Association. We need more persons to participate in planning, organizing, and implementing our fund raising activities. The past year we raised over \$12,000.

**Our main purpose is to provide financial assistance and support for Neebing Emergency Services (NES).**

**Volunteer opportunities include:**

1. Become a member (\$5.00 per year)
2. Tailgate sale – June
3. Fire Prevention week – October
4. Christmas Treat sale – December
5. Ticket sales for various raffles
6. Donate baking or draw prizes
7. Other Municipal events - where NFRA can participate, support and education the public about fire awareness, safety and prevention.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Monday February 22 at 7pm** electronically. Last year’s AGM minutes will be approved along with the yearend Financial report for 2020. Upon completion of the AGM we will be holding an **election** from our members for the 7 Board positions. The new Board will then choose their Executive comprised of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.’

**A Membership fee of \$5.00 must be paid in advance** and may be mailed to NFRA at the above address or e-transferred to Clara Butikofer, (butikofer.clara@gmail.com.) If you are familiar with e-transfer, simply e-transfer your \$5.00 to nfraevents@gmail.com advising Clara through the same email or by text (807-620-2922). In the comment section say that it is for 2021 membership.

We hope you will join our group and participate in a fun and meaningful way to continue to improve our community of Neebing.

**For more information or to join, please contact President, Carole Aitken at: caroleaitken1989@gmail.com or 767-1989.**

## WINTER WORD SEARCH

X R H B L B P G F P Y D V S H  
 G U Y O E S R I G L J O E I A  
 W P P O A N N S N O W S U I T  
 H X E T R O V C I T C R A K S  
 T F R S M W P P H M I T T S N  
 A R T N U B O S S E K A L F O  
 A I H O F L L H I H C D N I W  
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 U G R B S W S U E U Q U O T H  
 M I M A S E L L C S K I D O O  
 K D I L Z R E S I U R C T G E  
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| SNOW         | SNOWBLOWER | SNOWBALL   |
| SNOWBOARD    | SNOWPLOW   | SNOWSUIT   |
| TOBOGGAN     | TOQUE      | WINDCHILL  |

## WINTER SAFETY QUIZ

1. Wet hair can cause a cold.
  - A. True
  - B. False
2. From a health stand point wind chill doesn't matter only the actual temperature.
  - A. True
  - B. False
3. At what temperature can you start to suffer from hypothermia?
  - A. 75 degrees
  - B. 70 degrees
  - C. 65 degrees
4. Which of the following does not contribute to frost bite?
  - A. Extreme cold
  - B. Dry clothes
  - C. High winds
  - D. Poor circulation
5. Which of the following is a symptom of frost bite?
  - A. White or pale skin
  - B. Red skin
  - C. Loss of feeling
  - D. All of the above
6. Which sport is most dangerous?
  - A. Skiing
  - B. Sledding
  - C. Snowboarding
  - D. Ice skating
7. Teeth chattering is one way your body warms itself up.
  - A. True
  - B. False
8. Cold weather increases the risk of heart attacks.
  - A. True
  - B. False
9. Cold weather affects patients with arthritis and other chronic conditions.
  - A. True
  - B. False
10. What kind of lotion is best for dry skin in the winter?
  - A. Oil-based
  - B. Water based
  - C. Any lotion

(ANSWERS to WINTER SAFETY QUIZ on page 10)

# Valentine's Day Safety Tips

PVMA FACT SHEET



Whether you think Valentine's Day is fun to celebrate or a silly waste of time, you still might end up with a few things around the house from your sweetheart or an admirer that could pose a danger to your pet. Take a minute to make sure you understand the risks.

### Roses Can Be a Thorny Issue

Ouch! You know how much it hurts to jab your finger with a thorn from a rose or other thorny stemmed flowers. Imagine if you bit down on one of those thorns or accidentally stepped on one. Pets don't realize thorns will hurt, and may not be able to resist taking a bite out of your bouquet or knocking it on the floor and stepping on it. Puncture wounds in the mouth or feet not only hurt but can become infected.

### Cats and Lilies Don't Mix

Most people don't realize that all species of lilies can be fatal to cats. If you're purchasing a bouquet for someone who has a cat in the household, hold off on including lilies. Even so, other forms of leaves and flowers can be toxic to pets so watch for stomach upset, vomiting, or diarrhea as an indication that your pet has ingested a portion of your flower arrangement. The ASPCA has an online list of toxic and non-toxic plants at <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants>.

### Chocolates

It's no secret that chocolate—especially dark chocolate—is toxic to dogs, but that doesn't stop them from trying to eat it. There are variables to chocolate toxicity—smaller dogs are at greater risk after ingestion, darker chocolate increases the danger of poisoning, and of course it matters how much chocolate was ingested. Regardless of the amount of chocolate your pet ingests, be sure to contact your veterinarian immediately. Even if your pet looks fine, it can have a negative effect on their

cardiac, gastrointestinal, and neurologic functioning, as well as pancreatic troubles.

### Let's Make a Toast

If you're celebrating with your sweetheart or friends at home with cocktails, be sure to keep them out of reach of your pets. Whether you spill a glass of wine and your pet wants to help clean up or they take a drink out of your glass, alcohol is bad news for dogs. Animals not only have less tolerance to the effects of alcohol (they're much smaller!), but if enough alcohol is ingested, respiratory difficulties, central nervous system depression, and even coma are possible.

### A Romantic Dinner

If you plan to dine by candlelight or sit in front of the fire, make sure to put it out before you leave the room or leave the house. Noisy pets can get hurt (or burn the house down!).

### Giving the Gift of ... a Pet?

Just like during the holidays, some folks just can't resist presenting their loved ones with a brand new puppy, kitten, or other small furry creature, but is it really such a good idea? Probably not. While your loved ones might think the animal is cute, they may not be ready for pet ownership or even have a true understanding of the responsibilities of owning a pet. There is also the financial obligation of providing proper care, food, and supplies. In addition, many pets who were given as gifts end up in shelters because of the owners inability or lack of desire to care for the animal and give it the time and attention it needs.



advancing animal welfare and human health while ensuring the vitality of the profession

# Neebing Fire and Rescue Association (NFRA) News

Neebing Fire and Rescue Association continues to accept donations for our Fill the Fire Hose campaign. We are still hoping to reach our goal of \$47,000 to complete the requested purchases for the new Pumper Fire Truck. You can donate by sending a cheque to Neebing Fire and Rescue Association, 4766 Hwy. 61 Neebing, ON P7B0B5 or at [www.neebingfirerescueassociation.com](http://www.neebingfirerescueassociation.com), then press the donate button that takes you to Canada Helps to donate.

Please continue to support us by dropping off your cans and Liquor bottles at the designated areas at the two landfill sites. These materials translate into more dollars for our purchasing ability.

As well you can donate your old vehicles through Donate a Car Canada and receive a charitable receipt. Simply go to our Neebing Website noted above and click on the Donate a Car icon.

We are having our Annual General Meeting on Monday, February 22 at 7pm virtually. Please see the Article on New members for details and to join. At that time the new Board will be elected and plans for the coming year will be developed.

Due to my move to town I will be stepping down as President of NFRA, following the election. This will also be my last article for the Neebing News. I wish the Association all the best in the future and know NFRA will continue to play an important role in the community.

Carole Aitken, President NFRA

*Ed. Note: Many thanks to Carole and Jim Aitken for all of their hard work on behalf of Neebing Fire and Rescue Association. Their submissions to The Neebing News were very well done and full of excellent information. Best wishes from Chris Vaclav*



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Folding Access Ladder	\$ 3,500	✓
Generator and automatic electric cord reel	\$12,000	✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$47,000</b>	

## NFRA Annual General Meeting

On Monday February 22 at 7pm we will be having our Annual General meeting. The minutes of the past years AGM will be presented as well as the yearend Financial Report.

The new Board will be elected for the year and from that the new Executive. New members are welcomed and encouraged.

Please contact me at  
[caroleaitken1989@gmail.com](mailto:caroleaitken1989@gmail.com) or 767-1989 or  
[www.neebingfirerescueassociation.com](http://www.neebingfirerescueassociation.com)

# Neebing Emergency Services

by Dale Ashbee, Fire Chief, Neebing



## Mr. Groundhog Sends Good Wishes to All our Neebing Residents for a "Fire Safe February"!

There is something inherently reassuring when the calendar tells us that February has arrived; the second month of a New Year begins with days that feel like the 'heart of winter', and tends to end with some 'promise of spring'. We appreciate that the 'daylight hours' are actually getting longer, and the intensity of the sun's heat is increasing with each passing day. February proves to be a great month to get outdoors and enjoy all the 'S-sports': *skiing, snowshoeing, skating* (the rinks are open and just waiting to be skated on at both the Blake Hall and in Pearson), and *snowmobiling*. A few lucky (and patient) folks may even enjoy some successful Speckled Trout *ice fishing* (I know, the activity does not start with an 'S'). In addition, it should be noted that there are other reasons that February is so well suited to help us through the mid-winter blues; for one thing, it has 'the fewest days' of any month in the year and therefore 'goes by' faster! Although, while it's hard to imagine a Neebing groundhog sticking its nose out of his burrow to check for signs of spring on the 2nd day of the month, we still like to acknowledge the calendar date and celebrate *Groundhog Day* as being the first indication that winter will soon be departing (in six (6) weeks at the latest). Another distraction from the blahs of winter is the February 14th celebration of *Valentine's Day* - even during our COVID pandemic, there are chocolates to be eaten, special meals to be prepared and consumed, and flowers to be enjoyed for their beauty and scent.

Speaking of cooking, it is important to remember to make a point of staying focused while you are working at the stove (caution: imbibing while you stir or saute can definitely result in a 'lapse of attention'), as the number one fire hazard occurrence in the month of February is recorded as originating from cooking-generated fires. Stepping away from the stove for 'just a minute' often results in a much longer time away than expected due to other distractions encountered, and can result in ruined food and/or a serious kitchen fire. It is common knowledge that one of the most frequent causes of a kitchen fire occurs when a pot of oil is left unattended on the stove waiting to cook French Fries!

During the winter heating months, home heating methods and electrical caused fires, like cooking fires, remain primary fire threats. Managing these fire threats, can keep your home and family safe. You need to check your chimney regularly, and clean it effectively if required, as well as maintain service on your heating equipment. Be aware of the 'growth' of what is known as an 'octopus' (too many cords plugged into a single electrical outlet) of extension cords, which can overload the outlet and spark a fire. Create a layout whereby electrical demands are managed by many various outlets to prevent the potential for overload and electrical sparking. Finally, make a point of monitoring your smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms systems - they need to be tested regularly to ensure they are current and working effectively. As the snow builds up over the winter, it is important to ensure that any exhaust vents leading to the outside of the house are kept clear of any snow blockage which could result in a buildup of CO in the home.

Although Groundhog and Valentine's Day get much of the attention during February, *Family Day in Canada, held on February 15th* is a great day for partaking in activities that involve the entire family.

The Fire Service as an organization encourages families to take some time on Family Day to review and update their (or maybe make their first) *Home Fire Escape Plan*. Homes can become toxic and deadly



very quickly should a fire situation occur.

In addition to having an early fire alert from your home smoke alarms, a developed and practiced (with your family) *fire escape plan* will be of great assistance in making sure that all family members (and guests) safely exit the building immediately and proceed directly to safety at the predetermined "Meeting Place". The following links regarding Home Fire Escape Planning (from the Ontario Fire Marshal), will be most helpful in developing or reviewing your Home Fire Escape Plan with your family:

- [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K\\_bnjA40VncRVnJ0RrHIPHAMHAjaFRxC/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K_bnjA40VncRVnJ0RrHIPHAMHAjaFRxC/view)
- <https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/sites/default/files/content/ofmdocs/Escape%20Planning%20ENG.pdf>
- <https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/sites/default/files/content/ofm/docs/Escape%20Planning%20ENG.pdf>

REMEMBER: You may have as little time as 60 seconds to exit a burning building. Be sure you get the most out of each of those seconds - have a prepared and practiced fire escape plan.

On another note, I would like to take a moment to draw everyone's attention to the **Neebing Fire and Rescue Association (NFRA)** and the wonderful work they carry out with the aim of supporting Fire and Emergency 1st response services here in Neebing. NFRA was established almost 50 years ago as a not-for-profit entity that could raise funds to assist with both fire and first response equipment acquisition, and fire safety public education in Neebing. Over the years NFRA fundraising activities have, in addition to penny auctions, prize draws, and lotteries, have established community events and activities that provide benefit not only to the fire service, but to the broader community and each Christmas to those in need in our community. My own first personal contact with NFRA occurred in 2006, when NFRA provided funding assistance to NES for the acquisition of AED's. These purchases allowed Neebing to be acknowledged as the first community in the area to have AED's on board our emergency vehicles. The list is long that portrays how many times the assistance provided by NFRA has helped NES obtain equipment to meet the needs of the community - from seemingly simple things like 'lift belts' (that greatly assist in moving patients who have fallen in difficult locations or who have serious injuries) to the more recent monetary assistance in acquiring special equipment suited to the new fire pumper (whose arrival is expected very soon) through NFRA's recent "Fill the Fire Hose" campaign.

So now, we would like to send a special Thank You from NES to all these generous, energetic and creative members of NFRA, who are slated to hold their Annual General Meeting this month. I would encourage Neebing residents who are supportive of Neebing Emergency Services (but are unable to commit to being a fire volunteer) to consider joining NFRA - to join and assist them in their many activities that serve to support emergency services in Nee-



## 55 Plus Group Chat Line

### What is it?

A call in telephone-based older adult service to join in on fun activities, educational and health and wellness program information.

A calendar will be provided to you with the dates and times of scheduled activities.

### You can participate if you:

-Live in the township of Conmee, Murillo, Oliver Paipoonge, Neebing, Shuniah, O'Connor, Gilles or Fort William First Nation.

-Are 55 and older and find it difficult to leave home, access community centres and services or experience loneliness.

### What Are The Benefits?

Create friendships and a community from the comfort of your home. Scheduled time so you know when you can chat. There will be a variety of weekly activities to participate in all or choose those that interest you.

### Join Now!

No fees or charges to join.

You just need a telephone! No computer required

**For more information or to register contact Twyla or Suzanne at the Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre.**

Email: [tbiluk@thunderbay.ca](mailto:tbiluk@thunderbay.ca)

Phone: 684-3471



**211 ONTARIO NORTH**

Information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario  
Dial 2-1-1 to speak with a Community Resource Specialist

## COVID-19 – Resources and Assistance

### What resources are available if I need help?

Call 211 or visit [211north.ca](http://211north.ca) to learn more about resources and supports related to emergency food, health care, income support and more for Neebing residents.

### Where can I find more COVID-19 information?

Provincial Government: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>

Public Health Ontario:  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus>

Thunder Bay District Health Unit:  
<https://www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus>

Municipality of Neebing: [www.neebing.org](http://www.neebing.org)

### COVID-19: Know the facts

#### How can I protect myself, my family, and my community?



**Stay home when sick.** Do not go to work or any public places. If you are out and start to feel sick, go home and separate yourself from others immediately (this is called self-isolating). Get tested for COVID-19.



**Wear a mask or face covering** that covers your nose, mouth and chin with no gaps. Wear it in all indoor public spaces and when physical distancing is not possible. Continue to practice physical distancing.



**Clean and disinfect** objects and surfaces around the house that people touch a lot (e.g. door handles, cell phones).



**Wash your hands** often with soap and warm water. When this isn't possible, use hand sanitizer.



**Practice physical distancing.** Stay away from busy places. Stay at least 2 meters (6 feet) away from people outside your household or social circle.



**Be prepared** to self-isolate or provide support for loved ones who are sick. Have a care plan as well as enough supplies to last 14 days.



**Cover your coughs and sneezes** using your sleeve or a tissue. Wash your hands right away.



**Be extra careful** around people who are at higher risk.

## Neebing Municipal Services During COVID-19

Updated February 1, 2021

### Municipal Buildings:

All Municipal Buildings are **CLOSED** to the general public.

The Municipal Office will re-open when provincial regulations allow with **entry restrictions** and COVID-19 safety protocols in place for public and staff. Entry restrictions include:

- Only one visitor at a time is permitted inside the building
- The wearing of face masks is **MANDATORY**

### Municipal Council Meetings:

- Council meetings are virtual and held on regular council dates being the first and third Wednesday of each month. A 'virtual meeting' is the hosting of a meeting in a virtual environment and not face-to-face. Participants call in by telephone or connect online through the internet.
- Prior to all meetings, agendas, meeting documents and public participation details are posted on our website **[www.neebing.org/events](http://www.neebing.org/events)**.

### Municipal Services:

Essential municipal services continue being offered during the lockdown. Contact us by telephone **474-5331** or email **[neebing@neebing.org](mailto:neebing@neebing.org)**.

Municipal matters requiring in-person consultations must be scheduled in advance. Please call the office at **474-5331** to book an appointment.

Stay safe and avoid unnecessary interactions with others not from your immediate household. We strongly recommend using options other than in-person contact to conduct business whenever possible.

Visit our website for up-to-date information on all service modifications.

**[www.neebing.org](http://www.neebing.org)**



Posted by  
The Corporation of the Municipality of  
Neebing  
4766 Highway 61 - Neebing, ON -  
P7L 0B5 (807) 474-5331





# The Rural Pharmacist: Monthly Newsletter to be Offered at Pharmacy

by Devon Myers, Pharmacist/Owner  
of Kakabeka and Rosslyn Pharmacies

Have you ever signed into your email account only to realize that you have 20 unopened messages from Cineplex? How about Lowe's and HomeDepot? Sometimes you get slammed with multiple emails in one week! We do NOT want to join that list! However, we are launching a new initiative at our pharmacies. To help our patients stay up-to-date within the dynamic world of pharmacy we are providing an email newsletter for those who are interested. Our plan is to provide 1 newsletter on a monthly basis (or bimonthly, we don't want to bother anyone too much). The messages will be short and concise. For example, they could update patients on the status of flu shots. Or, perhaps the availability of Covid-19 vaccines when they come around. It will also help us relay information on issues such as back orders

or shipment delays. Unfortunately, those still happen from time-to-time.

If this is a service that you're interested in, let us know! There are a few ways you can reach the pharmacy team. If you've been in the pharmacies lately you may have already been asked by a team member if you'd like to enrol in the program. You can also reach out to us on Facebook or you can give us a call directly. Additionally, you can sign up by sending an email to the following: [pharmacyupdates2021@gmail.com](mailto:pharmacyupdates2021@gmail.com).

Now I know a lot of you have read thus far in anticipation that I will have an update on the status of the Covid-19 vaccine. But, there hasn't been a lot of additional information provided to us since our last article was written in January. Sorry everyone! However, there is

some good news. Administration appears to be gaining traction in certain populations. Some lucky individuals have even finished their course of immunization. Health care workers stationed in hospitals, long-term care homes and retirement homes have begun receiving their vaccines in Ontario. This coincides with the Phase 1 rollout of Covid-19 vaccines in our province. I am not sure of the status, but individuals in remote indigenous communities are also included in Phase 1.

In Phase 2, which is anticipated to start in March, the next group of individuals will hopefully begin to receive vaccinations. Recipients are expected to include healthcare workers working outside of hospital settings as well as residents of long-term care homes and retirement homes. Phase 2 will include a lot more people. In fact, millions

more. Of course, this will all depend on availability. Availability being a variable that we've all come to expect as being quite elusive. Up next, phase 3.

Phase 3 will represent a period in which anyone who wants to be immunized can receive vaccination. At the time of writing this article Phase 3 is projected to start in August. Ontario is anticipating widespread distribution of the vaccine by then. However, I always approach these timelines with a grain of salt. Rick Hilliard, the Chair of the Vaccine Distribution Task Force responsible for distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine, could not state with certainty that Ontario would have secured enough vaccines for the entire population by the rollout date. Things change, everyone is staying optimistic and hopefully we're ready to go in August!

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Salesperson  
(807) 626-3860 CELL



## Murillo Minor Athletic Association 2021 Spring Softball League Cancelled

It is with great disappointment to announce the cancellation of the 2021 spring softball season due to the ongoing COVID-19 virus uncertainty. Over the coming weeks, the MMAA will be contacting families regarding the refund of any 2020 softball registration fees refund that were held for the 2021 season. The MMAA will also be contacting businesses about their 2020 team sponsorships.

We thank the many local businesses that have sponsored our League:

Bay City Energy  
Brule Creek Farms  
BTG Contracting  
Chaschuk Enterprises  
Daniel Vanlenthe Mechanical  
DJs Truck and Trailer Repair  
Drift Day Spa  
Haveman Brothers  
Forestry Services

Impact Promotions  
Kershaw Well Services  
L.A.K. Business Services  
Levaero Aviation  
M.A.C. Rail Contracting  
Main Excavations  
Makkinga Contracting  
Mooseland Contracting  
Pines Hardware  
Play It Again Sports  
P.V. Ltd.  
Ronald Parcher - RAP Comets  
Silvaggio Fine Homes  
SolCrete Contracting  
Stanley Hill Bison  
Superior Hyundai  
Sunrise Farms  
The Eddy

Please stay safe and let us look forward to a successful 2022 softball season! For more information, contact Joe and Karen Ladouceur by email at [mmaa1@tbaytel.net](mailto:mmaa1@tbaytel.net).

## Rural Family Centre

**The Centre is closed until further notice.**

We hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy.

We look forward to seeing you when our EarlyON programs begin again!

Keep updated and connected to us on Facebook or call 935-3009 or Email [ruralfrc@tbaytel.net](mailto:ruralfrc@tbaytel.net)

Use physical distancing and hand washing to stay safe.

**Play, sing, laugh and we will see you soon!**



## WINTER LANDFILL HOURS

Starting October 1, 2020,  
the Sandhill and Scoble Landfill hours will be as follows:

**Saturdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**

**Sundays from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm**



## Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

submitted by LRCA Staff

The Ontario government has declared a second provincial emergency in response to COVID-19 under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) to ensure that necessary measures and restrictions can be put in place to keep Ontarians safe and immediately respond to the ongoing threat of COVID-19, effective January 14, 2021.

The government-issued stay-at-home order requires everyone to remain at home with exceptions for permitted purposes or activities, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, for exercise or for work where the work cannot be done remotely.

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) fully supports the public health and workplace safety measures for all businesses, organizations, facilities and individuals, including staying home to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

If you do continue to use our trails and Conservation Areas for the expressly permitted purpose of exercise only, you must:

- maintain the minimum recommended physical distance of at least two metres from others (unless from your household),
- wear a mask if adequate physical distancing is not possible,
- note that gatherings of more than five people are prohibited,
- keep dogs on-leash and picked-up after,
- remove all of your garbage (including disposable masks) after visiting, and
- follow all posted Conservation Areas Rules and Regulations, including parking fees.

Conservation Areas (including trails) are not being maintained during the winter; however, if you see any major damage, please email us at [info@lakeheadca.com](mailto:info@lakeheadca.com) or call (807) 344-5857.

Please note that the LRCA Administrative Office remains closed to the public; LRCA staff are working from home until further notice. All essential services including the LRCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning and Development Regulations operations remain active. The LRCA appreciates your patience, understanding and cooperation.

Visit [www.lakeheadca.com](http://www.lakeheadca.com) or follow us on Facebook @lakeheadregion for further updates.

## Thunder Bay District Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs New Local Food Directory Website in Development

The Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy is developing a directory website for local food producers, processors and retailers as well as restaurants cooking with local ingredients. Qualifying businesses will receive a directory listing and profile at no charge. To have your business included, please contact [inseason@beanstalkconsulting.com](mailto:inseason@beanstalkconsulting.com).

### OMAFRA Dateline

OMAFRA Dateline is an online resource for use by interested individuals and organizations across Ontario. Events may be hosted by OMAFRA or other groups. The events posted on this site are aimed at sharing information of interest to agriculture and regional economic development clients.

Check the calendar regularly for upcoming events, workshops, conferences and meetings.

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/edr/events-training.htm>

For more information contact the OMAFRA Northern Ontario Regional Office (NORO) at 705-594-2312 or email: [noroaginfo@ontario.ca](mailto:noroaginfo@ontario.ca) 807- 627-1566 or [kendal.donahue@ontario.ca](mailto:kendal.donahue@ontario.ca)

## ANSWERS to WINTER SAFETY QUIZ

1-b 2-b 3-b 4-b 5-d 6-c 7-a 8-a 9-a 10-a

### Premium Wood Pellets For Sale

Lac Wood softwood@**\$5.95** per bag  
Proudly selling locally produced premium hard and softwood pellets

\*While quantities last



Call for more details  
**939-1152**  
3879 Hwy 11/17

# WANT ADS

### SNOW PLOWING WANTED

We are a new residents to neving taking possession December 15th moving into the house by February 20th need to have driveway kept clear after major snowfall. Please contact me 807-631-5205 with price and more information.

### FOR SALE: INTERNATIONAL 5 TON TRUCK

466 cu.in., 7.6 L Navistar, non-intercooled, turbo charge, inline 6 cyl. Diesel engine-10 speed Road Ranger transmission. Air brakes, manually acuated, clutch, air compressor on motor, hydraulic power steering, all spring suspension, 24' flat deck. Capable of hauling eleven 5' x 6' round bales of hay. Call 473-9002


### FOR SALE: SKIDDER

C6 Tree Farmer, 353 Detroit Diesel. 10 speeds: 4 low speed, 4 high speed, 2 reverse - 1 low, 1 high. Gearmatic winch, good tires-chains on front tires, blade and a snowplow. Call 473-9002

### FOR SALE: John Deere #9 6' Sickle Mower

3PTH Mount. Gear box in good condition. Needs Pitman hardware and cutter bar repair. \$250obo  
Text 630-5320 or call 683-6861



<p><b>Murillo Library</b> Curbside Service Wednesday 2:00 – 7:00 935-2729</p>	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:oplibrary@tbaytel.net">oplibrary@tbaytel.net</a> Website: <a href="http://oliverpaipoonge.olsn.ca">http://oliverpaipoonge.olsn.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Roslyn Library</b> Curbside Service Tuesday 2:00 – 7:00 939-2312</p>
<p>Special 'Thanks' to Carole and Bob Klapprat for their donation to the library in memory of Jack MacMillan.</p>		
<p>We now have six reusable radon detectors available for two-week loan periods.</p> <p>Why should residents of Northwestern Ontario test for radon gas?</p> <p>Radon is the #2 cause of lung cancer in Canada. Residents of Northwestern Ontario are at an increased risk for radon-induced lung cancer. A 2012 Health Canada study found that 12% of homes in the Thunder Bay District have high levels of radon, compared to 5% of homes across Ontario. The Thunder Bay District Health Unit has conducted follow-up municipal-level studies that have found that 16% of homes in Thunder Bay, 17% of homes in Marathon, and 65% of homes in Oliver, Popoonge test above the Health Canada guidelines.</p>	 <p><b>DIGITAL RADON DETECTOR</b> Now available at your local library!</p>	

**NEEBING NEWS NOW DELIVERED TO YOUR MAILBOX (unless you have NO FLYERS posted) Deadline for the MARCH issue of The Neebing Newsis FEBRUARY 20!! (BUT early submissions are always very welcome!)**

Submissions and photos of community events and articles of interest are welcome, and can be sent to Chris Vaclav at [designhouse@tbaytel.net](mailto:designhouse@tbaytel.net). 628-7271



# Beyond Books:

## Your Library - Making a Difference

submitted by Beverly Ball on behalf of the Oliver Paipoonge Library Board

**Deanine Bakker** is a busy mother of four young children and an educator. She has spent her entire life in the community of Oliver Paipoonge with the exception of two years, where she moved to Northern British Columbia to start a teaching career. She now teaches in our community.

Deanine is an avid user of both branches of the Library. She loans books and material that interest her and in particular enjoys historical books. When specific books that interest Deanine have not been available, staff at the Library take the extra time and always manage to seek out what she is looking for. Her children also use the Library – they enjoy taking out books and movies and especially enjoy season material. Deanine mentioned that the staff at the Library are very helpful and patient during this process of having the children select their cherished materials to bring home.

In the past, the children have eagerly participated in playgroup and story time at the Library. In Deanine's experience, she feels that "story time at the Library is the most valuable of their offerings. It gives the children a small introduction to an organized setting. It also is important because it is a level playing field: It is free and available to all and any children. Some children thrive in this environment as they may not have access to other preschool learning and social opportunities." For Deanine, story time was extra special for her children as the timing overlapped with a senior exercise program held in the community hall. This time gave her children and their cousins the opportunity to say hello to their great Oma, moments that were treasured for all involved. Deanine's children have also enthusiastically participated in a variety of activities that were hosted by the Library in the summer. This was much appreciated as children of their age are often not included in summer camps and activities.

Deanine is a strong advocate for young family and children's programming and hopes that more

can be offered in the future. What impressed Deanine and what she found most valuable was the welcoming environment for her young children. She had her children rather close together and mobility was difficult with four young children. The Library was the one place she was able to take the children. They would eagerly run into the Library once or twice a week until they began school. Resources and activities were tailored to the children's interests and needs. Deanine said that "we were welcomed, and appreciated, and it made a big difference in our lives during that time. I am forever grateful for the adult interaction, and the engaging activities for my children, that made that busyness of being a mom of so many young children a little easier."

According to Deanine, "the Library is a great equalizer: It has no cost, therefore no matter your economic condition, it is a place to go for education and entertainment (both in resources and programming). Ipads, internet and printing are available which is something that not every person has access to at home. The Library is a place to go for information on available community resources. Overall, the Library is invaluable to the community."

The Library is currently still unable to open its doors and provide a safe, welcoming space for residents to loan materials and participate in the various programs and activities like those that Deanine's family has come to enjoy. However, the Library is offering curbside pick up of materials that you may borrow. If you are not sure what the Library offers but you like certain kinds of books and material, contact your Library directly either by emailing the Library at oplibrary@tbaytel.net or phone and leave a message at either Murillo 935-2729 or Rosslyn 939-2312. The staff will assist in suggesting material that you may enjoy.

Many thanks to **Deanine Bakker** who provided the information for this article.

# RURAL BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

## AUTO REPAIR

### Charlie's Auto

Automotive Service Technician, Charles Clair  
953 Candy Mountain Dr., 473-5456 708-5536

### Fast Forward Auto

Full Service Domestic & Import Repairs  
Brakes, Driveline, Drivability; Quality Four Wheel Alignments  
1024 Boundary Dr. W. Neebing 807-628-8551

## CATERING, HALL RENTALS & MEETINGS

### Blake Hall - For Rental call 474-5331

**Founder's Museum**  
Hwy. 61 & Gillespie Road, Phone: 475-5114  
Fax: 473-4663, Email: info@founders.ca

## CLEANING SERVICES

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Email: theslaterivercleaningcompany@yahoo.com  
www.theslaterivercleaningcompany.com

## EXCAVATING & EQUIPMENT RENTALS:

### Allens Enterprises Services Inc.

Office: 626-6267 Director: 626-6857  
dig1@tbaytel.net / www.dig1.ca

### Pete's Backhoe Service Ltd.

52 Haniak Rd, Rosslyn  
Ph 939-1014, Email office@petesbackhoe.com  
Dump Trucks, Excavation, Lot Development

## ELECTRICAL

### 5 Star Electric (Thunder Bay) Inc.

Residential, Commercial, Industrial; New Builds, Upgrades. Lighting Retrofits (grants possible), Solar system repairs, Generator backup systems. 807-475-7827,  
email:inquiries@fivestarelectric.ca, message us at Facebook

## FEED & FERTILIZER

### Thunder Bay Co-op Farm Supplies

Highway 61 & Boundary Drive  
Phone 475-5190 Fax 475-7420 www.tbcoop.com Fertilizers, chemicals, building supplies, hardware, feed, poultry chicks, garden products

## GENERAL CONTRACTORS

### Allens Enterprises Services Inc.- Essential

Excavating, Landscaping, Driveways, Dug Wells, Septic Systems  
dig1@tbaytel.net / www.dig1.ca  
Office: 626-6267 Director: 626-6857

### Pete's Backhoe Service Ltd.

52 Haniak Rd, Rosslyn Ph 939-1014,  
Email office@petesbackhoe.com  
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## MUSIC

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964-2223 musicaldiscovery@hotmail.com

## PORTABLE TOILET RENTALS

### A-1 Sewage Services (1989) Ltd.-Essential

519 Pole Line Rd. Rosslyn P7K 0S6  
Ph. 473-9480 Fax 473-9099

## REAL ESTATE SALES

**Avista Realty Group Ltd.** 640 Beverly St. Thunder Bay

### Barb McEwen, Sales Rep.

Cell 807-626-3860 Ph. 344-3232 Fax 344-5400

## SEPTIC SYSTEMS INSTALLS:

### Allens Enterprises Services Inc.

Licensed Septic Systems Installer  
dig1@tbaytel.net / www.dig1.ca  
Office: 626-6267 Director: 626-6857

### Pete's Backhoe Service Ltd.

52 Haniak Rd, Rosslyn  
Ph 939-1014, Email office@petesbackhoe.com  
Licensed Septic Installers

## SEPTIC TANK CLEANING:

### A-1 Sewage Services (1989) Ltd.

519 Pole Line Rd. Rosslyn P7K 0S6  
Ph. 473-9480 Fax 473-9099

## TIRE SHOP

### Pro-Tec Tire Centre

3129 West Arthur Street, Husky Truck Stop  
Tire Shop: 939-2581 Office: 939-2572 Fax 939-1171

## TRAVEL

### Travel Professionals International

### Amanda Gordon - Travel Consultant

Direct line 807-708-5342, amandag@tpi.ca  
Ph 905-896-6948 TICO# 1576226  
1131 Nottingham Gate, suite 203, Oakville, ON L6M1K5

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### HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL MEMBER

**Erwin Butikofer, Mayor,**  
Mayor@neebing.org, 964-1788 (R)

**Gordon Cuthbertson, Councillor at Large,**  
Councilatlarge@neebing.org 708-7548 (C)

**Mark Thibert, Ward 1 (Blake)**  
Blake@neebing.org 939-2720 (R)

**Brian Wright, Ward 2 (Crooks)**  
Crooks@neebing.org 964-2365 (R)

**Curtis Coulson, Ward 3 (Pardee)**  
Pardee@neebing.org 577-2475 (R)

**Gary Gardner, Ward 4 (Pearson)**  
Pearson@neebing.org 577-1963 (R)

**Brian Kurikka, Ward 5 (Scoble)**  
Scoble@neebing.org 633-3735 (C)

R-Residence      C-Cell

## Let's Connect!

Have a Birthday or Anniversary To Share?  
Resident Yard Sale? Want Ad?  
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Amount of Space Provided on Availability Basis - 150 words max.  
Email [designhouse@tbaytel.net](mailto:designhouse@tbaytel.net)

**Exciting Announcement:**  
**Ontario Parks' Permits Now Available at Oliver Paipoonge Libraries!**

Oliver Paipoonge Library is excited to bring you your next adventure! There are so many beautiful places in Ontario that you may have yet to explore. Luckily, you can now checkout free Ontario Parks day-use permits from both the Murillo and Rosslyn libraries! There are many parks with spectacular views and activities just a short drive away! This is a great opportunity for those in the community who enjoy getting outside and spending time with nature and their loved ones. These Ontario Parks permits provide complimentary day-use access for one vehicle and its occupants at more than 100 provincial parks where fees are normally applicable. If you are as excited as us about this new service offered at our library and can't wait to checkout your own permit, simply contact the Rosslyn or Murillo Library, and we will let you know if or when one is available. The permit will be yours for a week, giving you lots of time to explore many beautiful destinations! In addition, the first time you checkout a permit, you will be given a coupon for \$5 off to purchase your own day-use permit at Ontario Parks! You can find a map of operating park locations near you at [ontarioparks.com/park-locator](http://ontarioparks.com/park-locator). You can also use the Ontario Parks' website to explore the different activities and experiences each park has to offer. This opportunity will be available from January 1, 2021 until December 31, 2021.



*Got Pictures? Maybe we can't SEE each other, but we can SHOW each other!  
 Kids playing? Beautiful sunset? Wildlife? Send them in!  
 Let's share some great shots for March's Neelbing News!*  
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**SATURDAY, February 20 & SUNDAY, February 21**

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