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Ambeault's Says Goodbye to Gas Sales

MONDAY'S WINTERY WEATHER SEEMED a little colder and darker for Jay and Cheryl Ambeault than what the weather was actually offering, but with good reason. The couple had to stand by and watch sadly as the excavating machines were turned loose to ruthlessly rip up the Ambeault's Confectionery parking lot.

They watched in grim silence as their fuel pumps, lines and storage tanks were dug up and hauled away. Ambeault's Confectionery has been forced out of the fuel business. The business options available ranged from poor to catastrophic, leaving no real choice at all.

Several bystanders were on hand to watch the operation and, upon inspecting the equipment as they were loaded onto a flatbed trailer, many commented that they still looked like new – definitely a far cry from being 'old and corroded' - an expression that we all seem to have been hearing a great deal lately.

This has clearly been a difficult, heart-rending decision for Jay and Cheryl to make. "This island is my home and these people are all my family," she says wistfully. "Jay and I have always put all of ourselves into it. We've always done everything we could to serve our customers' needs," she said, close to tears.

"From time to time over those years, we've had to invest money into the business to keep it alive and healthy," she confides, "but this time it's different. We simply do not have the money nor can we

realistically consider borrowing such a large amount, to stay in the fuel business."

That's just the cold hard facts making their unpleasant selves known. The costs of making the improvements required by the TSSA [Ontario's Technical Standards and Safety Authority – see our October 16th issue, Number 967] could grow into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Even if they could borrow such a large amount for their small business, the cost of carrying the debt could well be more than the income from fuel sales and would likely take more than 20 years to recoup. There simply isn't enough money made from fuel sales at the independent retailer level. It tends to be a 'loss leader' so that people stopping for fuel will also come into the store, which is the true heart of the business.



Pumps & tanks removal while Jay somberly looks on.

Continued on next page



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GOODBYE TO GAS...continued from cover

Even after facing the fact that they couldn't afford to make more 'improvements' to meet newly-set standards, the couple must still pay, pay and pay. Just the removal of the pumps, lines and tanks will likely cost them up to \$60,000 in contractor costs and fees that TSSA has charged for the inspections. There's also the additional cost of changing all of their signage and roadside billboards, to remove references to providing fuel. That's a big chunk out of any small neighbourhood store's bottom line, with absolutely nothing gained in return.

While they were removing the fuel equipment, Jay and Cheryl asked the contractors to take soil samples to test for any possible environmental problems or concerns, although they believe that to be unlikely. "We've kept up with all of our maintenance over the years and today we've seen for ourselves that all of our equipment is still in great shape."



says Jay with a hint of resentment in his voice. "With all of the monitoring and sensors, I think we'd know if there was even the slightest leak!" Yet the Ambeaults want to test, just to be on the safe side.

The excavation came as a bit of a surprise, even to Jay and Cheryl. "We've worked with the contractors for several years" Cheryl tells us. "When they had an unexpected opening in their schedule, they offered us the choice of taking them [the storage tanks, lines and pumps] out now, or wait until the

spring. Faced with a TSSA-imposed deadline for getting the work done, their recently-filled gasoline tanks now empty and nothing but more expenses, problems and worries coming at them, their decision was, in the end, the only one to make.

As with its cousin, Kent's Corner, Ambeault's Confectionery will continue from here as a neigh-

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bourhood convenience store, stocked with everything their customers could need on short notice ... except fuel.

Now, all eyes will turn to Kentvale, our last surviving seller of auto fuel, who are also under pressure from the TSSA to upgrade their equipment and who presumably also face the same factors in deciding how to proceed from here.

In the meantime, Township of St. Joseph Mayor Jody Wildman continues to fight to ease the situation by tempering the TSSA's apparent overzealousness in enforcing its standards, hoping it can offer more options to the small retailer than choosing between closing down or risking bankruptcy. With the exception of the Hilton Beach Marina, all of our gas retailers are located within St. Joseph Township.

In a letter that he personally delivered to Michael Beard, TSSA's President & CEO following his remarks to him at last week's public meeting in the Soo, Mayor Wildman stated "I understand TSSA's core role in ensuring public safety, however there does not appear to be any evidence that there is an "imminent threat" with regard to the businesses in my community."

After meeting or speaking with local fuel retailers throughout our area, he summarized their concerns about how TSSA is handling things, citing issues with inspections and the conduct of the inspectors, as well as poor communication, duplication of work and retroactive enforcement on systems previously considered to have met public safety standards and now under orders to have portions replaced. There has so far been no evidence of any threat to public safety, yet TSSA issues orders for costly work with short deadlines for issues that are more to do with meeting new standards than with "imminent threats."

Continued on page 4



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GOODBYE TO GAS...*continued from page 3*

“It appears TSSA is retroactively enforcing new regulations on existing installations which were previously inspected and approved. What data is available to support the need for a small business putting out a significant capital investment for upgrades when no imminent hazards exist?” the Mayor inquired.

Mr. Wildman also asked if TSSA had done any impact analysis to determine the effect of regulation changes and enforcement actions on small independent businesses in Northern Ontario. He further inquired if TSSA had consulted other ministries (Tourism, Health, Environment, etc) or other stakeholders regarding the possible impacts.

He also wondered what recourse a business owner might have if he or she does not feel an order or the fees, etc. are reasonable, without incurring additional fees charged for such consultations. Another key question was how TSSA monitors the ability of licensed contractors in Northern Ontario to do the work within the timelines specified by its field inspectors.

Mayor Wildman suggested that it would greatly benefit all parties, were the TSSA to commit to:

- A meaningful stakeholder consultation process to clearly understand the impact of its standards and enforcement, and whether public safety might be actually compromised by how consumers respond to the loss of fuel in their community.
- explore possible funding options for small businesses
- review whether there are enough licensed contractors in Ontario’s regions to complete this work, at an affordable price, within the timeframes of the orders.

He further urged that the TSSA institute an **immediate** moratorium on orders (where there is no imminent hazard) until stakeholder consultation and an impact analysis are completed, as well as conduct an audit to determine if their field inspector’s behaviour is aligned with its “Corporate Values”.

At our press time, there has been no response from TSSA officials. And, even if TSSA acts immediately on Mr. Wildman’s advice, it’s already too late for gas sales at Ambeault’s Confectionery. Like so many other perceived ‘public safety’ concerns, this one too is now gone.

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 By phone: 705 246-1635 • By fax: 705 246-7060
 By mail: The Island Clippings, 5285 5th Side Road,
 R. R. 1, Hilton Beach, Ontario P0R 1G0.
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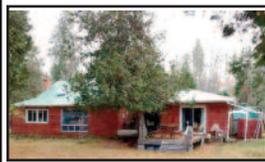
PURE COUNTRY!

Beautiful country location on 7A just outside Thessalon, 3+1 BR, 2.5 baths, large country kitchen, huge family-room and hardwood floors. Large 2 tiered deck, screened gazebo and 3 car garage for all the outdoor toys. **\$219,000**



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Special island home with sweeping lawns & great useable waterfront. Large open concept living with living room, dining room, kitchen and master bedroom overlooking the water from the second level. New flooring throughout. Large garage with workshop and 220 wiring. **\$229,500.**



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FEATURE LISTINGS



DOWNTOWN LOCATION!

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The constant sound of the waves and relaxing at the cabana or the huge rear deck overlooking the lake are aspects you'll have to endure as the owner of this beautiful water front home. Island Enterprises kitchen, formal dining room, wood burning FP for those brisk mornings, full finished basement, 3 car garage are just some of the features of this great island home.

\$259,000.



THE SOUND OF THE WAVES

will lull you in a sound sleep at this 3 acre wooded property with 200ft of deep waterfront. Hardwood, ceramic floors and oak cabinetry thru out this Littleton built two storey with full finished basement, 2 full baths, master balcony and sweeping wrap around deck for entertaining and a view of the lake. Huge 3 car garage/man cave that's insulated and heated. Did I mention

the bunkie? Perfect end of the road private and quiet location. **\$369,000.**



COUNTRY STARTER OR RETIRE!

Affordable, cozy country bungalow on level treed lot with double detached garage. Perfect for your first home or downsizing in retirement. Large country kitchen with appliances included, 2BRs, full bath and large undeveloped loft area would add additional space. **\$109,000**



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Plan on taking a lunch when you check out this 460 plus acre retreat along the banks of the Thessalon River. 250 acres clear, good maple bush. Large 4 BR home with huge country kit, main floor family-room and view the rolling fields and river from the 3 season sun room. Great country living **\$350,000.**

LOTS FOR SALE

Large 256 Acre wooded parcel near Fort St. Joseph. Great for hunting and ATV's. **\$150,000.**

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3 level & wooded waterfront lots with private location, sand beach leading to deep water. **\$43,500** each or put an offer on all three. Large wooded building lot in nice residential area of Richards Landing on Littleton Street. **\$34,900.**

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COMMERCIAL LISTINGS



NEW LISTING

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GAS, GIFTS AND VARIETY!

Long established family business with separate 40 x 60 steel building with reinforced concrete floor for additional business opportunities. Double lot allows expansion. 3 bedroom house with full basement also available.

A Fantastic Christmas Craft Bazaar

By Teresa Parker

THERE WAS A GREAT TURNOUT on a sunny Sunday for the Christmas Craft Bazaar at the Legion, sponsored by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

The Bazaar featured a wonderful selection of vendors with many beautiful handmade items from which to choose. There was everything from woodworking, sewing, knitted and crocheted items and jewellery, plus baked and canned goods. There were also vendors offering Tupperware, cosmetics, even computer technicians and the 2015 calendars from the St Joseph Island Historical Society, featuring Island Veterans of World War II.

Another great attraction was the 'Cookie Walk' put on by the Anglican Church Women. You could purchase a box and fill it up with your favourite cookies. Like their ad says "Christmas baking has never been this easy!"

Thanks everyone for making it such a great day.



PHOTOS BY TERESA PARKER



Continued on next page

THE TOWNSHIP OF ST. JOSEPH CALL FOR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

The Township of St. Joseph is seeking volunteers who would like to contribute to the quality of life in our community. Any resident of The Township with an interest in any of the following areas is encouraged to contact the Township office for an application form, or download the form directly from www.stjosephtownship.com under News and Notices:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cemetery Board | Recreation Committee |
| Marina Committee | Seniors & Disabled Services |
| Heritage Committee | Environmental Committee |
| Waste Disposal Site | Public Library Board |
| Museum Board | Fence Viewer |
| Property Standards | St. Joseph Island Planning Board |

The deadline for Committee applications is **Friday, November 28, 2014**. For further information, please contact Carol Trainor at the Township Office at 246-2625, or stjoadmin@bellnet.ca

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A Legion Euchre Update

SATURDAY WAS A BUSY, BUSY DAY at the Royal Canadian Legion in Richards Landing. While the late afternoon and evening was devoted to 'Fun Night' for our local teens, the morning and most of the day was spent hosting the Legion's Zone Euchre tournament.

St. Joseph Island's Legion Branch 374 entered 3 teams of players and all 3 teams qualified and placed to advance to the next level of competition known as 'District,' to be held in Gore Bay in March.

Congratulations to all of our players, who showed such skillful playing and great sportsmanship: the team of Teresa Parker, Eliza See, Terry See, Flo Bertolo, the team of Lynda Reynolds, Sue Barlow, Sandra Stevens, Ann Gable and the team of Blake Smail, Neil Rowat, Bruce Smail and Bruce Harten.

We're proud of you all. Good luck in March!

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St Joseph Island Free Methodist Church



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Friday Night Foods at the Legion

the special will be Hot Turkey Sandwich by Wayne Desing along with the regular menu.

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2004 VW Jetta Wagon. TDI, manual, separate set of rims with studded snow tires (one year left). Efficient, reliable transportation. \$6,000. OBO. Call 705 246-2257, evenings.

1992 Chevy Silverado 1/2 ton. All options, CD player, cap & box liner, strong engine, needs water pump. \$800 'as is'. Call 705 246-3901

Massey-Harris 33 tractor, needs a fly wheel. Ran great when I used it. \$500. On island. Would like it gone before winter. Call 705 542-9951

1999 Chev S10, "as is": \$500. Call 705 246-2645 or 705 254-8584

McCulloch MC627 ES walk behind Electric Start 27" snow blower. Used two seasons only, works great, starts every time.....Asking ...\$650. Old beat up lawn mower, probably could use a new blade. Works good always starts. Make an offer. 21" console tv with stand. Still works fine: FREE; Fairly old electric organ keyboard: FREE; airtight woodstove in good condition: \$45. Call 705 246-3484

Firewood for Sale: \$85, cut, split & delivered; \$65, cut, split & you pick up. Call Rick at 705 297-1879 or Mandy at 705246-2425

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teen Games Night is available every Saturday night from 6pm to 9pm at the R.C. Legion Branch 374 lounge. The youth 13 to 18 years of age are invited to play traditional games in a safe environment with peers, family and neighbours. There is no cost to play. Donations of games are appreciated. For more information contact Anne 705 246-7269.

The **Natural Christmas Craft Night** is at 6 pm on Thursday, December 4 at Harmony St. Mark's in Richards Landing. Presented by the St. Joseph Island Horticultural Society come out & create a fresh decor item for inside or outside your home. Bring a container & accessories. Fee is \$5 for paid-up members and \$10 for non-members. To register contact Carol at 705 246-3942 /carol.wlodarczyk@gmail.com.

The Township of St. Joseph Recreation and Health Promotions Committee is planning programs and activities for 2015 and we need your involvement. It doesn't matter where you live on the Island, you are welcome to participate. We will be meeting Monday December 1st at 7pm at the Municipal Office in Richards Landing. If you can't make it but still want to be involved, please email stjoeahpc@gmail.com or call 705-246-2625

The Hilton Union Public Library will be closed until further notice due to the heating crisis. If you need assistance with library issues or have questions please call Melanie at home @ 246-0188. We apologise to all that use the library.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 374 in Richards Landing is holding a **Grey Cup party** in the legion lounge on Sunday November 30th starting at 4 pm. Chicken wings, popcorn chicken, fries and onion rings will be available for purchase along with nice cold beer and other refreshments, so get your friends together and come out and cheer on your favorite team. Everyone is welcome.

The **Island Nordic Ski Club** is offering a **youth XC ski program** at Makes Scents ski trails for ages 8 - 15. 10 weeks every Saturday, starting Dec 13 from 1 - 2:30 pm. Cost is \$30, or \$50 if equipment needed. To register and for more information call Detlef or Daniela at 705 246-1570

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 374 will be hosting its Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 13th. Please register your children up to age 10 by calling the Legion office at 705 246-2494 or call Kathy Clark at 705 246-2387. Deadline to register is December 6th.

Teen Games Night at the Legion

By Teresa Parker

LAST SATURDAY NIGHT marked the very first of what's sure to become a major hit with our area's youth. It was Teen Games Night at the Legion in Richards Landing and the fun was on! Everyone young and ... less young ... declared the evening a great success!

Sponsored by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary and supported by Legion Branch 374, Teen Games Nights will take place every Saturday night from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion in Richards Landing. Available to young folks aged 13 to 18 from Bruce Mines, Desbarats, St. Joseph Island, Echo Bay and all parts in between, Teen Games Night offers a safe environment where teens can get together for a night of fun, playing a number of popular traditional games with their friends, peers, family, friends and neighbours.

This 'social' can help our children interact and develop in a relaxed atmosphere. Adult volunteers and community mentors will be on hand to plan and supervise the evenings. One thing though ... parents, if you bring a younger child (under age 13) along, please stay to supervise them. This night is all about teens having fun together.

There's no cost to join the gaming nights as the event materials are all loaned or donated. A minimal cost may be needed for special activities. Saturday's kickoff night also offered a special incentive of two pieces of pizza and juice for just \$1.50 to the first 60 participants, along with door prizes.

Although Teen Games Night is off to a great start, the organizers can always use help. Perhaps you could donate board games, playing cards, door prizes or even financial support to help purchase games and materials – or perhaps you'd care to volunteer for a night of fun yourself!

We look forward to seeing and hearing more about this great initiative for our youth. We also encourage everyone to support the cause in any way they can.



Visit Kent's Corners Saturday, November 22nd to meet and visit with author Cheryl Alleyway for the second signing of her novel "Inverness Skies". Her first piece "Of Blade and Valor" will also be on sale. Both books will now be available at Kent's Corners if you are looking for a unique Christmas gift! Stop by from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday to get your copy autographed. Grab a snack from the store while you're there and enjoy the start of the holiday season!

THANK YOU

I want to send out a huge thank you to all of those who stopped to assist my parents when they had their accident on Thursday, November 13. The compassion and assistance shown to them was greatly appreciated. It's wonderful to know that so many people are willing to take time to help those who are in need. I also want to thank all of those who were worried, concerned and we're praying for them. Amazingly enough they came through with only a scrape and a couple bruises. There are far too many people to name, and frankly I would probably miss someone but I thank all of those who had a part in assisting them in their time of need. *Cynthia Schaafsma*

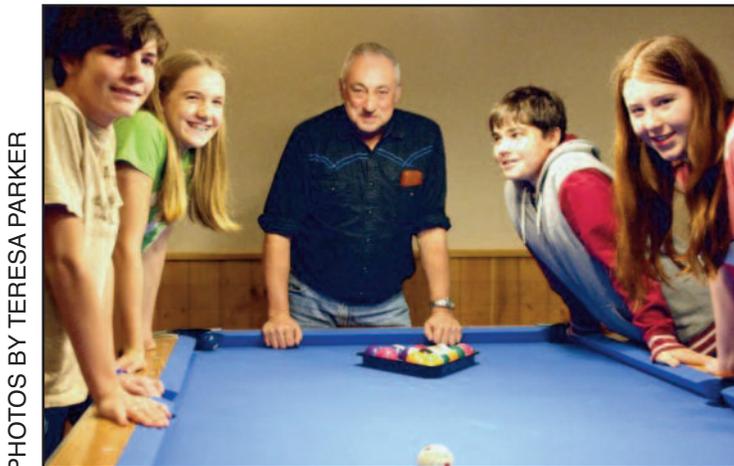
We would like to thank all who attended the annual Grace United Church Christmas Tea and Bazaar, and all of the volunteers and donors. It was a great success. Door prizes were donated by Mary Stevens, Pat Duma, Graham Shell and Island Scoops. The winners were Jan Ormond, Val Armstrong, Arden Palmer and Griffin Coutu. *The Grace United Church Women*

A big thank you to everyone who sponsored me for this year's Great Soup Kitchen Sleep-over in the Soo. I was the only person from the Island this year and I even got to play a few tunes for my fellow 'sleepers'. Together we raised approximately 20,000, of which \$220 came from you, my sponsors. Thanks so much for your kindness and caring. *Brian Read*

The family of the late Randy Perry wish to express their sincere thanks to all our family, friends and neighbours for the visits, phone calls, cards and the many memorial donations. Also we would like to express our appreciation to Venables Hugh Hamilton for the lovely service, Sandy Ross for the music, the Legion members for the Legion tribute and the Legion Ladies Auxiliary for the great lunch. A special thank-you to Jim, Debbie and Arthurs Funeral Home for their support and thoughtfulness during a difficult time. *Jean and Family*

Deadline for classifieds is noon Tuesdays

Deadline for display ads is Mondays at 3 pm



PHOTOS BY TERESA PARKER

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The Island Clippings is pleased to publish personal Classified Advertising and Public Service Announcements of **50 words or less**, free of charge to Island residents, as a community service. Other than personal for sale ads (**please limit three items**) the announcement must be of value to the community. We reserve the right to decide if the ad is of service to the community. **Please identify yourself when sending in a classified or your ad will not be published.**

Ads or announcements for non-residents or items or services, to be sold for profit, or generate income or events charging an entrance fee (which includes "not for profit organizations") as well as items valued at over \$1,000, will incur a nominal charge of \$10, plus HST. We reserve the right to determine if a fee is required. We reserve the right to edit down to 50 words or less.

Business or commercial ads, including those placed by individuals do not qualify as Classified ad or Public

Service Announcements. Such advertising must be via display advertising, governed by our published rates in effect at that time.

Ads or announcements will appear in one issue, but may be repeated, to a maximum of three weeks (space permitting). **Advertiser must resubmit ad each week.** To ensure space for everyone, please limit your content to a **maximum of 50 words.**

Ads can be placed by: **Email to:** islandclippings@gmail.com
or by phone 705 246-1635 (from 9 – 5, Mon-Fri)
or fax 705 246-7060.

Mail to: Island Clippings
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Or simply put it in our pick-up box conveniently located at Ambeault's, Kent's Corner & the Hilton Beach Waterfront Centre.

Sorry, we're not available on Sundays.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON ST. JOE

Friday

Hens & Stitches, Dr. Trefry Centre - 10 am to 12 pm
705 246-0036

Island Cast-a-Weights, Calorie Watchers, Hilton Community Hall (rear door, basmt) - 8:30 am

Walking at the Legion - 9 am to noon

Friday Foods at the Legion

AA Meeting, United Church (new addition, side door) - 8 pm

Saturday

The Children's Library - 10 am to 3 pm

Hilton Union Public Library - 1 pm to 5 pm

Free pool all day in the Legion lounge

St. Joseph Twp. Public Library - 10 am to 3 pm.

St. Boniface Roman Catholic, Hilton Beach at 4:30 pm.

Sunday

The Anglican Parish of St. Joseph & St. George worships at 11 am at Holy Trinity, Jocelyn

Free Methodist, 10th Side Rd. Coffee, tea and friendship at 10:30 am. Worship service 11 am.

Island Bible Chapel, Richards Landing.

Lord's Supper 10 am, Family Bible Hour 11:15 am.

Grace United, Hilton Beach. 9:30 am.

Harmony St. Marks United, Richards Landing. 11 am.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints,

Primary, Priesthood, Relief Society. 10 - 10:40

Sunday School 10:50 - 11:30 Sacrament Meeting 11:40 - 12:30

Monday

Walking at the Legion - 9 am to noon

Euchre, Legion Hall - 7:30 pm (\$4.00 per person)

Wii Bowling, Dr. Trefry Centre, 10 – 11 am

Bridge, Dr. Trefry Centre - 1 pm to 4 pm

(Open to all seniors) 705 246-0036

Exercise Class, Dr. Trefry Centre - 10 am

Free pool all day in the Legion lounge

Carpet Bowling for 50 Plus, Legion

- Refreshments Available - 1 pm

St. Joseph Twp, Public Library - 5 pm to 8 pm

Hilton Union Library - 3 pm to 5 pm & 7 pm to 9 pm

Tuesday

Cribbage (singles), Legion Hall - 7:30 pm
(\$4.00 per person)

Trefry Centre's Day Out, Bruce Mines Location, 9 am 3:30 pm,

Free pool all day in the Legion lounge

Quilting - 1-3 pm, Downstairs Hilton Hall except the 3rd week

held at the Trefry Centre. 705 246-0036

Childcare Algoma C.A.P. Children's Playgroup - 10 am to noon at Free Methodist Church

Yoga, Old Town Hall, RL - 6:30 to 8 pm, drop-ins welcome

Wednesday

Walking at the Legion - 9 am to noon

Nordic Pole Walking at the Legion - 10 am

Free pool in the Legion lounge

Bridge, Dr. Trefry Centre - 1 pm to 5 pm (Open to all seniors)
705 246-0036

League pool in the Legion Lounge at 7:30

St. Joseph Twp. Public Library - 10 am to 3 pm

Food Bank, United Church, Richards Landing

(side door) - 1 pm to 3 pm

The Children's Library, 9 am - 12 noon, Storytime 10:30

Hilton Union Public Library - 1 pm to 5 pm -

Phone number: 705 255-3520.

Thursday

Dr. Trefry Centre's Day Out Program - 9 am to 3:30 pm.

Coffee Connections 9 am, Dr. Trefry Centre, Come for a coffee!

Free pool all day in the Legion lounge

Exercise Class, Dr. Trefry Centre - 11 am

The Children's Library, 9 am - 12 noon, Storytime 10:30

St. Joseph Twp.

Public Library - 5 pm to 8 pm

**Deadline for classifieds is
noon Tuesdays**

**Deadline for display ads is
Mondays at 3 pm**

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