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MAY 2026

# The Woodland Heights Herald

*Helping Make Our Community as Friendly as it is Beautiful*



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## **There Will be Goats! Don't Miss Our Spring Celebration Social on Saturday May 2nd.**

We're excited that on May 2nd from 1 to 3 PM in the Sanctuary parking lot, we'll welcome Muskoka Goat Away to Woodland Heights! Local farmer, Stephanie Brooks, will be bringing some of her friendly herd for a family friendly visit that's sure to spark smiles for young and old alike.

Muskoka Goat Away is a true labour of love. Stehania cares for a lively herd that eats plenty of hay and a mix of 16 grains. While she once considered using them for milk and soap, she now focusses on simply sharing their joy. All her males are neutered, and the goats live a relaxed, happy life.

One of the popular activities she offers is goat walks – a fun, family-friendly outing where the goats set the pace and charm everyone they meet. Very generous in her community, Stephanie also brings them to schools, retirement homes and community events where their gentle personalities make them instant favourites.

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# There Will be Goats continued

Stephanie is also a part of LOOP, a local program that rescues food from landfills and redirects it to farms. Ten farms in our area participate, helping reduce waste and support sustainable agriculture.

We're thrilled that these delightful visitors will be joining us for our Spring Social! Their curiosity, calm nature and quirky antics make sharing time with them truly unforgettable. In recognition of Stephanie's many community volunteer commitments, we'll welcome contributions to a Donation Jar to help her with costs. This is a good way for our young people to learn both the joys and costs of caring for farm animals. To learn more about Stephanie and her herd, visit Muskoka Goat Away. To book a reservation for your own goatastic experience, call or text Stephanie at 705-380-1066.



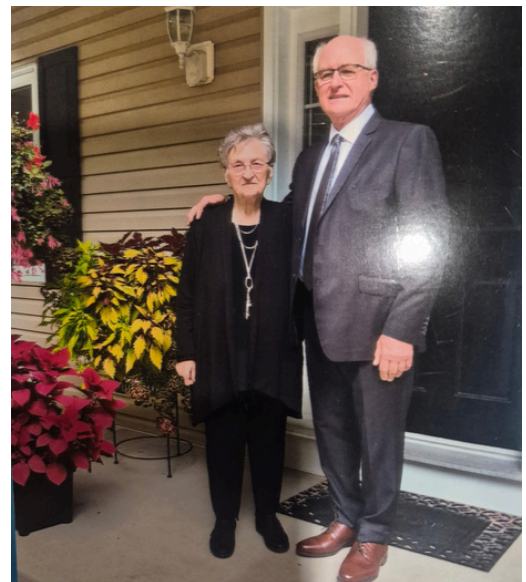
## Getting to Know You

### DISCOVERING OUR NEIGHBOURS

#### **Horst Radtke: A Commitment to Conservation Through Landfill Waste Collection**

Horst Radtke arrived in Woodland Heights in 2020, bringing with him a lifetime of building experience and a deep commitment to community. Originally from Lake of Bays, Horst built his career in construction, becoming a project manager at just 22 and focusing early on low income housing. That sense of responsibility never left him. Today, his passion is reducing landfill waste. He runs a shop in town where materials from local resorts – everything from refrigerators to bathtubs – are dismantled and recycled for reuse.

Family anchors his life. Horst's mother, now 96, lives at Muskoka Landing, and he visits daily to help care for her. He raised five children and is a proud grandfather of ten. Though he has known deep loss with the passing of his wife Jill at 45, he finds peace in our community of Woodland Heights, which he calls "nature at its best."





## Your Dues are Due!

We are fortunate in Woodland Heights to benefit from an organized Community Association.

This is a friendly reminder that the \$50.00 membership dues for the Association's 2026-2027 year are payable by Sunday, May 31st, 2026. This deadline aligns with both our fiscal year and propane contract. Only members whose dues are paid on time are eligible for the Propane Buyer Group (PBG). In addition to the considerable cost savings under the PBG, there are many other benefits to membership under the Woodland Heights Community Association. They include being able to:

- Maximize the enjoyment and value of your investment in our unique community
- Get to know and enjoy your neighbors through social events organized by the WHCA
- Receive timely, accurate and reliable information important to WH residents and owners
- Enjoy community enhancements such as community gardens and nature sanctuary trails
- Access to group advocacy with the town on your behalf for community services, development and infrastructure
- Have a say and voting privileges on matters important to your experience in Woodland Heights
- Help to build a contingency fund to address potential future community needs
- Show support for the dedicated volunteers that make all this possible.

To pay your membership dues by Interac e-transfer:

1. Log in to your on-line banking page
2. Select Interac e-Transfer
3. Select Recipient: Woodland Heights Dues OR add a this as a new recipient
4. Enter Contact Name: Woodland Heights Dues, and Enter Contact email: [whca.dues@gmail.com](mailto:whca.dues@gmail.com)

Auto-deposit is in place. No security question is required and you'll receive an automatic payment confirmation via email. Should you want to pay by cheque, please drop off a cheque payable to Woodland Heights Community Association or WHCA care of Derek Taylor at 150 Deerfoot Trail.

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## News From the Board

### Update on Traffic Calming on Deerfoot Trail from the Board

As the WHCA members will no doubt be aware, the flexible bollards that were installed as a trial project on Deerfoot Drive in 2025 generated some significant controversy among our members, both for and against. Members of the WHCA Board have recently met with representatives from the Town to review traffic calming alternatives. The meeting went well and as an initial measure, the town has agreed to place some advisory signing on the edge of shoulders in 2026. The Town is currently considering other traffic calming opportunities, and pending agreement with the town, the WHCA is considering a survey among our members. The goal would be to determine support for the flexible bollards same/similar as in 2025, AND/OR other traffic calming opportunities. This will be an important opportunity for you to have input. Stay tuned for additional information!

### Pumping Up Interest on Septic Savings

Approximately three years ago, the WHCA initiated a group purchasing for the pumping of septic tanks for Woodland Heights residents. Although the program was largely a success, there were a few minor oversights that need to be addressed. In addition, there have also been several new residents move into the Woodland Heights community in recent years. As a result, the Board has decided to review and refresh the program. The WHCA will be soliciting quotations from three local septic contractors. Following this, WHCA members will be asked to advise our association if they would like to join a septic program. If so, they'll be asked to provide their contact information, the year their tank was last pumped, and when they expect to need their next pump (typically in 2, 3 or 4+ years after their last pump.)

An E-Mail will soon be circulated providing additional information. As well documented with the success of our Propane Buyers Program, these opportunities work best with volume. We hope you'll be pleased with the program, and we welcome your participation.





## Explore Your Backyard

Walking down the road and meeting neighbours on the way. Enjoying home made lemonade at a road side stand. Bird watching while hiking on the local trail. A leisurely bike ride with friends. Golf games just down the road. Star gazing by the lake ... These are a few of the very special things we enjoy here in our very own backyards. And this summer, there is so much more...

### Muskoka Markets

Summer markets are fun and there is at least one for every day of the week. Jump in a car and go explore!

On Monday: head over to Bala between 9-1pm at Jasper Park (June 29-August 31). Have some fun and you can even jump into the cranberry bog for one-of-a-kind photos.

On Tuesday: between 10-1pm head over to the Peca Farm at 1288 N Mary Lake Rd just on the outskirts of Huntsville (July 7-August 25). It's so close and the petting farm is full of critters wanting to give licks and kisses to everyone.

Every Wednesday: Seasonal Niagara peaches and big sunflowers can be found at Dwight Market between 9 - 2 pm. The famous Henrietta Pine Bakery is right nearby. If you hungry for a bit more, head south to Dorset for Firestone pizza at "Pizza on Earth". Dessert is on the other side of the building at a quaint little bakery. Mid-week can get a bit long so why not head south to Gravenhurst to Gull Lake Park between 9-2 pm (June 3-Oct 7). It's a bit of a drive so take your time and enjoy a beverage while checking out the boats and the floating saunas at Floathaus.

Come Thursday: it's a busy day with two markets. The Huntsville Farmer's Market at 407 Ravenscliffe Rd (June 4-Oct 9) and Port Sydney at the local gas station between 3-7 pm. Taking the back roads is always a pleasure. Enjoy the local beach or the dam on Ontario Street. Just a quick walk across the metal bridge over the dam will lead you to the general store where there is home made pizza. If you continue on the back roads and love ice cream ... Sugarbush Hill Maple Farm has wonderful treats.

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## Explore Your Backyard ... continued

As the weekend approaches why not stock up on some yummy foods from the Baysville Market between 11- 6 pm (Fridays between June 26-Sept 4). Pick up some craft beer for the weekend BBQ at the craft brewery just down the road. Go early to this one to get a parking spot as it fills up quickly. In the opposite direction is the popular Rousseau Market at the waterfront park every Friday between 10-2 pm (June 26-Sept 11). This one is smaller and has some exceptional art vendors. There is really good pizza just next door at the Rousseau Pizzeria, and what a view! If you're looking to enjoy a patio with your pup ... check out the renown Crossroad Restaurant Dog Menu. People come from all over Ontario to check this out! It's one of those places you need to try once (just make reservations ahead and... bring your wallet).

When the weekend arrives...the market fun continues. On Saturday, there is the Bracebridge Market between 8:30-1:30 pm at Memorial Park (June 6-Oct 10). And new this year - right here in town and sure to be a favourite - is the Waterfront Farmer's Market. It will be at the waterfront every Sunday between 10-2 pm (June 7-September 13).

In addition to the many patios and little boutiques we have in town, we also have the Muskoka Olive Oil Company that offers tastings and unique Llama products. And how about the upcoming opening of Le Bouchon Bistro and Wine Bar right on Main Street at the site of the former Topiary building. Very exciting!

Summer Markets are plentiful in Muskoka and they're always something fun to do with guests or visitors. And the best part ... there are so many to choose from, and they're practically in our backyard!

### **Muskoka Parks & Festivals**

The fun keeps going on with over a dozen festivals in the area. Markets and festivals come and go but we have many permanent landmarks in our area. Some of them come alive in summer with kids, lights, animals and activities.

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## Explore Your Backyard ... continued

On June 14th we are celebrating Father's Day. Why not get on the train for a ride at the Heritage Park in the heart of Huntsville. The museum and pioneer village opens up for May 16 - Oct 10th and aren't just for kids. They provide a very well done representation of what life was like here in the settlement days. Just down the road is a terrific dog beach with an old rail trail. Just up the hill is the Lion's Lookout, which changes with the season. It's a great place to enjoy the view over lunch at one of the many picnic tables.

Just a short way from town is the Limberlost Forest and Wildlife Reserve Park. There are about eighteen hiking trails around many beautiful bodies of water, some with boardwalks along the groomed trails. For the mountain bikers, there are almost 70 km of trails. Make sure to give yourself plenty of time to enjoy the nature along the way. You may even pass park cabins, ski hill and beaches of interest. There is a huge disc golf course which is complimented by statutes of animals. It's a really gem of a park - and it's free! Cottages and canoe rentals are available so there is really something for everyone.

If you're looking for more action, you could try Treetop Trekking on Hwy 60 or Bala SPLASH Island Muskoka Ltd. And last but not least, have you ever checked out the Muskoka Beer Spa in Torrance? You can even book a cabin for a fun weekend or reunion! With so many parks to choose from, we have everything we need to enjoy a safe, fun and active summer with friends and family.

Our backyard is one of a kind ... here we can relax, enjoy the people we meet and carry on being proud of this community that generations have loved.

