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The Woodland Heights Herald

Helping Make Our Community as Friendly as it is Beautiful



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Moon Names and Phases

Given we're lucky enough to enjoy a dark sky, we can celebrate the beauty of the night sky and the ever-changing phases of the Moon. From the thin crescent visible just days after the new moon to the fully illuminated "supermoon," the Moon's shape shifts throughout the month. A complete cycle takes 29.5 days, and each full moon has its own name, such as the Wolf Moon in January and the Harvest Moon in October.

Here are the full moon names for 2025:

Wolf Moon - January 13
Snow Moon - February 12
Worm Moon - March 14
Pink Moon - April 13
Flower Moon - May 12
Strawberry Moon - June 11

Buck Moon - July 10
Sturgeon Moon - August 9
Corn Moon - September 7
Harvest Moon - October 7 (supermoon)
Beaver Moon - November 5 (supermoon)
Cold Moon - December 4 (supermoon)

For more information on moon names, visit [Almanac's Full Moon Names](#), and **READ ON** for your invitation to join the Woodland Heights Moonlight Hike and Bonfire (March 15).



Moonlight Hike and Bonfire Returns

MARCH 15TH - HOLD THE DATE

Mark your calendars for the Worm Moon on March 15th! Join us for a Guided Moonlight Sanctuary Hike and Bonfire, a family-friendly outdoor event. We'll meet at the Sanctuary parking lot (on Natures Way) for a guided hike under the March Worm Moon, followed by a cozy bonfire with s'mores and refreshments. Dress warmly, wear sturdy footwear, and bring a headlamp, snowshoes (if needed), or boots with spikes according to conditions. Can't make the hike? The bonfire will be going from 7-9 PM, so drop by to warm up! Please RSVP to WHCAsocial@gmail.com so we can plan accordingly.

Getting to Know You

DISCOVERING OUR NEIGHBOURS

We've certainly had no shortage of snow this winter. For those who visit the Sanctuary, they can always be sure there will be a fresh set of ski tracks set very early on the morning of a new snowfall. Who is this stealthy and steadfast skier, you may wonder? Meet Claudia Kaye. Claudia and her husband, Nathan, moved to Huntsville from Brooklin, ON about twelve years ago. Both avid outdoor enthusiasts, Claudia is active all year round. She embraced Nordic skiing for being a great workout, and easier on her knees. Mostly though, she enjoys the quiet time in nature as the Sanctuary awakes, early in the mornings. Claudia favours backcountry or "bush skis" which give her better stability while breaking trail on the open marsh. For those who hike or snowshoe on the marsh, it's a courtesy that we avoid ski tracks and not go over them. Thank you, Claudia, for being an inspiration to many for enjoying and appreciating the beauty of our very special community!





The Founding of Huntsville

Continuing Our Historical Series

We all cross the Canal bridge on our way to Woodland Heights. Have you ever wondered how the canal got to be there?

The story of the Peninsula Canal is one that started in the late 1900's. Roads through Muskoka at that time were primitive. Aside from the slender railway that linked Huntsville to points further north and south, the most reliable form of transportation was steamships. These carried the burden of Muskoka's early industry and passenger traffic.

In 1875, a lock on the north branch of the Muskoka River linked Mary, Fairy and Vernon Lakes. With residents and the government recognizing that accessing Peninsula Lake would open it's shores to tourism, settlement and logging, the search was on to find a way to connect Fairy and Peninsula Lake. Fortunately, there was a small creek between them, flanked by wetlands. Dredging began in 1886 and the government financed the \$25,000 cost to create a three-quarter mile long channel over two years. It was four feet deep and wide enough to accommodate the steamships of the day. Some of the original wall timbers can still be seen in the water today.

The completed canal was a boon for the region, extending the reach of industry, tourism and settlement further east. It was a big consideration in the opening of the Deerhurst Lodge in 1896. For more information on the locks and waterways in Muskoka, you may enjoy reading this article in [Unique Muskoka](#)

Stay tuned for our next installment where we follow the further expansion of this area to the East.



From the Board

Last Fall, the Board was delighted to host our first “in person” Annual General Meeting (AGM) in many years. Residents welcomed the opportunity to gather, reaching a record attendance of almost 60 people. The Board provided an update on the issues, challenges and opportunities affecting our community, and the work they do on the residents’ behalf. A local realtor, Kayley Spalding, gave an informative update on the local real estate market and sponsored the refreshments and snacks.

The AGM is an important opportunity to stay connected with your community. We encourage you to Save the Date for this year’s event to be held on Saturday, October 18th at 10 AM, once again at the Hidden Valley Ski Chalet.

Join the Club

A Chance to Share Common Interests

Are you passionate about a particular interest or hobby? Perhaps hiking, cooking, games nights or vintage cars, for example. Would you like to meet others who are as well? Why not connect with some of our own residents in Woodland Heights. I think we can all agree that sharing a common interest is a great way to meet like-minded neighbours and make new friends.

Just send in the details of your interest or hobby to WHCAherald@gmail.com. Include a little about how you got started and what you envision for meeting others. We can highlight your interest in future editions of The Herald along with your contact info, giving others with similar interests a chance to connect. Similarly, if you have an interest in hosting or joining a club, please let us know. Our role will be simply to publish and match common connections.





Volunteer Opportunities to Support Our Community

We in Woodland Heights are fortunate to enjoy many blessings. We are also a group that cares about those in our broader community. With many of us at a point where we're keen to 'give back' and share time and resources, we thought it would be helpful to highlight local volunteer opportunities. Whether you're looking to lend a hand for a few hours or make a lasting impact, there are countless ways to contribute and help improve the lives of those in need.

Sometimes the hardest part is knowing where to start. You may be surprised to learn just how many and varied charities there are operating in Huntsville and Muskoka. Here is a list of some of the charities that use hands-on volunteers, year-round. In addition, many national groups like the Canadian Cancer Society have branches in Muskoka. Most of these organizations have websites if you would like to learn more.

Huntsville Hospice 705.789.6878
Huntsville Hospital Auxiliary 705.789.2311 ext 2297
Huntsville Hospital Foundation huntsvillehospitalfoundation.ca
Habitat for Humanity 705.788.0305
(incl ReStore and community housing projects)
Muskoka Seniors 705.789.6676
(incl Transportation, Meals on Wheels, Social Connections and Friendly Visiting)
Huntsville Festival of the Arts 705.788.2787
Salvation Army 705.789.3398
Food Bank and Thrift Store
The Table Food Bank 705.783.5827
The Table Soup Kitchen and Exchange Store thetablefoundation.ca
Enliven Cancer Care Muskoka 705.787.5459
Canadian Mental Health Association 705.384.5392
Friends of the Huntsville Library 705.789.5232
Food4Kids Muskoka 705.571.3204
Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) 705.788.9955
Muskoka Conservancy 705.645.7393
Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary 705.644.4122
Good Food Co-op 705.789.0020
Ontario SPCA Muskoka 705.645.6225
Back of Beyond Equine Centre 705.380.5226

We hope you'll find this a helpful and inspiring list for getting involved.
Together, we can have an even bigger impact on the community we love so much.