

White City & Emerald Park

APRIL EDITION, 2025

Community Newsletter

EGGS
BUNNIES
WHY?



Why Easter is called Easter, and other little-known facts about the holiday

The date of Easter, when the resurrection of Jesus is said to have taken place, changes from year to year.

The reason for this variation is that Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox.

I am a religious studies scholar specializing in early Christianity, and my research shows that this dating of Easter goes back to the complicated origins of this holiday and how

it has evolved over the centuries.

Easter is quite similar to other major holidays like Christmas and Halloween, which have evolved over the last 200 years or so. In all of these holidays, Christian and non-Christian (pagan) elements have continued to blend together.

EASTER AS A RITE OF SPRING

Most major holidays have some connection to the changing of seasons. This is especially obvious

in the case of Christmas. The New Testament gives no information about what time of year Jesus was born. Many scholars believe, however, that the main reason Jesus' birth came to be celebrated on December 25 is because that was the date of the winter solstice according to the Roman calendar.

Since the days following the winter solstice gradually become longer and less dark, it was ideal symbolism for the birth of "the light of

the world" as stated in the New Testament's Gospel of John.

Similar was the case with Easter, which falls in close proximity to another key point in the solar year: the vernal equinox (around March 20), when there are equal periods of light and darkness. For those in northern latitudes, the coming of spring is often met with excitement, as it means an end to the cold days of winter.

- Continued on page 2

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Why Easter is called Easter, and other little-known facts about the holiday *Continued from page 1*

Spring also means the coming back to life of plants and trees that have been dormant for winter, as well as the birth of new life in the animal world. Given the symbolism of new life and rebirth, it was only natural to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at this time of the year.

The naming of the celebration as "Easter" seems to go back to the name of a pre-Christian

goddess in England, Eostre, who was celebrated at beginning of spring. The only reference to this goddess comes from the writings of the Venerable Bede, a British monk who lived in the late seventh and early eighth century. As religious studies scholar Bruce Forbes summarizes:

"Bede wrote that the month in which English Christians were celebrating the resurrection of Jesus had been called Eosturmonath in Old English, referring to a goddess named Eostre. And even though Christians had begun affirming the Christian meaning of the celebration, they continued to use the name of the goddess to designate the season."

Bede was so influential for later Christians that the name stuck, and hence Easter remains the name

by which the English, Germans and Americans refer to the festival of Jesus' resurrection.

THE CONNECTION WITH JEWISH PASSOVER

It is important to point out that while the name "Easter" is used in the English-speaking world, many more cultures refer to it by terms best translated as "Passover" (for instance, "Pascha" in Greek) – a reference, indeed, to the Jewish festival of Passover.

In the Hebrew Bible, Passover is a festival that commemorates the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, as narrated in the Book of Exodus. It was and continues to be the most important Jewish seasonal festival, celebrated on the first full moon after the vernal equinox.

At the time of Jesus, Passover had special significance, as the Jewish people were again under the dominance of foreign powers (namely, the Romans). Jewish pilgrims streamed into Jerusalem every year in the hope that God's chosen people (as they believed themselves to be) would soon be liberated once more.

On one Passover, Jesus traveled to Jerusalem with his disciples to celebrate the festival. He entered Jerusalem in a triumphal procession and created a disturbance in the Jerusalem Temple. It seems that both of these actions attracted the attention of the Romans, and that as a result Jesus was executed around the year A.D. 30.

Some of Jesus' followers, however, believed that

- Continued on page 4



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ERES Community Council News

Next ERESCC mtg: May 13 in the ERES Library

All parents are encouraged to attend as your input & ideas are welcomed and valued!

Kindergarten Registration is Open!

Emerald Ridge Elementary is accepting registrations for the 2025-2026 school year. Children turning five by December 31, 2025, are eligible for Kindergarten in Fall 2025. To register, visit the ERES website (www.emeraldridge.pvsd.ca) and complete the Online Registration Form, including proof of age.

Alternatively, request a form at emeraldridgeschool@pvsd.ca. If you know new families moving to the area, encourage them to contact the school for a registration form or use the online form. Early registrations help with planning for the upcoming year.



New Members!

The ERES SCC always welcomes new members! If you're interested in helping out your school, feel free to pop into one of our meetings or send us an email

ERESCommunityCouncil@gmail.com

Important Dates:

- April 16 - Family Movie Night
- April 18-25 - No School
- April 28 - Classes Resume
- May 13 - ERESCC Mtg at ERES Library
- May 16 - ERESCC Popcorn Day
- May 19 - No School



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Why Easter is called Easter, and other little-known facts about the holiday *Continued from page 2*

they saw him alive after his death, experiences that gave birth to the Christian religion. As Jesus died during the Passover festival and his followers believed he was resurrected from the dead three days later, it was logical to commemorate these events in close proximity. Some early Christians chose to celebrate the resurrection of Christ on the same date as the Jewish

Passover, which fell around day 14 of the month of Nisan, in March or April. These Christians were known as Quartodecimans (the name means "Fourteeners").

By choosing this date, they put the focus on when Jesus died and also emphasized continuity with the Judaism out of which Christianity emerged. Some others instead preferred to hold the festival on a Sunday, since that was when Jesus' tomb was believed to have been found.

In A.D. 325, the Emperor Constantine, who favored Christianity, convened a meeting of Christian leaders to resolve important disputes at the Council of Nicaea. The most fateful of its decisions was about the status of Christ, whom the

council recognized as "fully human and fully divine." This council also resolved that Easter should be fixed on a Sunday, not on day 14 of Nisan. As a result, Easter is now celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox.

THE EASTER BUNNY AND EASTER EGGS

In early America, the Easter festival was far more popular among Catholics than Protestants. For instance, the New England Puritans regarded both Easter and Christmas as too tainted by non-Christian influences to be appropriate to celebrate. Such festivals also tended to be opportunities for heavy drinking and merrymaking.

The fortunes of both holidays changed in the 19th century, when they became occasions to be spent with one's family. This was done partly out of a desire to make the celebration of these holidays less rowdy.

But Easter and Christmas also became reshaped as domestic holidays because understandings of children were changing. Prior to the 17th century, children were rarely the center of attention. As historian Stephen Nissenbaum writes,

"...children were lumped together with other members of the lower orders in general, especially servants and apprentices - who, not coincidentally, were generally young people themselves."

From the 17th century onward, there was an increasing recognition of childhood as a time of life that should be joyous, not simply as preparatory for adulthood. This "discovery of childhood" and the

doting upon children had profound effects on how Easter was celebrated.

It is at this point in the holiday's development that Easter eggs and the Easter bunny become especially important. Decorated eggs had been part of the Easter festival at least since medieval times, given the obvious symbolism of new life. A vast amount of folklore surrounds Easter eggs, and in a number of Eastern European countries, the process of decorating them is extremely elaborate. Several Eastern European legends describe eggs turning red (a favorite color for Easter eggs) in connection with the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection.

Yet it was only in the 17th century that a German tradition of an "Easter hare" bringing eggs to good children came to be known. Hares and rabbits had a long association with spring seasonal rituals because of their amazing powers of fertility.

When German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries, they brought this tradition with them. The wild hare also became supplanted by the more docile and domestic rabbit, in another indication of how the focus moved toward children.

As Christians celebrate the festival this spring in commemoration of Jesus' resurrection, the familiar sights of the Easter bunny and Easter eggs serve as a reminder of the holiday's very ancient origins outside of the Christian tradition.

Brent Landau

*Lecturer in Religious Studies,
The University of Texas at Austin*

THE CONVERSATION



Irrigation as a Time Saver
Bob Baker and Jeff Holland

For the last 8 years, Bob and Jeff have been fighting the dry and windy prairie conditions, trying to turn a canola field into their own lush acreage paradise.

This has 'offered' them the opportunity to test and trial several different methods for watering trees, perennial beds and raised gardens. Bob and Jeff will share their lessons learned - as they evolved from watering by hand from a water tank in the back of a pick-up truck, to their current fully automated irrigation system operating over 2,000 drips - as well as a glimpse into their future plans.



Wed. April 9th, 2025, at 7:00 pm
Ramada Emerald Park
Everyone Welcome
 Visitors drop-in fee \$5.00
 Info: <https://whitecitygardenclub.ca/events/>







High protein cookies: Only 6 ingredients

If you're searching for a nutritious, high-protein snack that satisfies your sweet cravings, these six-ingredient cookies are a must-try.

If you're searching for a nutritious, high-protein snack that satisfies your sweet cravings, these six-ingredient cookies are a must-try. Featured on Kidney Community Kitchen, this recipe is not only simple and delicious but also kidney-friendly and ideal for individuals seeking to manage their overall health or simply looking for healthier desserts.

These cookies take only 10 minutes of prep time and are 15 kilocalories per cookie, making them the ideal on-the-go snack. The recipe makes a total of 12 cookies, so you can enjoy them without compromising your nutrition goals.

High protein cookies

Prep time: 10 min Cook time: 15 min Makes: 12 cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 15 oz can garbanzo beans, drained and rinsed
- 2/3 cup (160 ml) creamy peanut butter stirred
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) pure maple syrup
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 tsp (6 ml) baking powder
- Pinch of sea salt
- 2/3 cup (160 ml) chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350° F (177°C) and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Add all of the ingredients except the chocolate chips to a food processor and process until well-combined and a thick dough forms. Fold in the chocolate chips.
3. Form 12 round discs out of the dough (it won't spread on its own, so you will need to shape it into cookie shapes) and place them on the prepared baking sheet.
4. Bake in the preheated oven eight to 12 minutes, depending on how soft or crisp you like your cookies.
5. Allow cookies to cool for 10 minutes before diving in.

Food safety tips:

Wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Clean all countertops and equipment used for food preparation.

Do not eat raw dough or batter as it may contain bacteria that could cause you to become sick.

Find more recipes at kidneycommunitykitchen.ca.

www.newscanada.com



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Flexibility When Planning a Wedding

- By Gwen Randall-Young

may ensue. Of course, the couple need to be involved in the planning, because, after all, it is their wedding. On the other hand, if the parents are paying for the wedding, they naturally will want to have some say as to how their money is to be spent.

Working this out before the preparations begin may save many headaches later on. Each family will do things differently and there is no one right way. However, it is important that everyone is clear about how decisions are made.

The couple may feel that since it is their wedding, they should have the final say in all decisions. They may not realize that in many ways the wedding is partly for the parents as well, as they celebrate an important milestone in

their lives, and the life of their child. A shared decision-making process, with each person listening to the other's vision, and trying to accommodate everyone is ideal, but certainly not always practical.

As always, really listening to each other is important. There is a possible compromise in most situations. If the couple want complete control over all aspects of the wedding, they should probably pay for it themselves, and the parents are included and honored guests. Even if the parents are shouldering the entire cost, the engaged couple should make the decisions about the ceremony itself, because that part is truly theirs. In working out the details of the ceremony, they are creating the foundation upon which they

are building their lives, and this process is an important phase in learning to work together.

What happens in the family during the planning of the wedding can set the tone for all of the years to come. If there was ever a time to be flexible, compassionate and understanding, and to refrain from attributing negative motives to others, this is it. Wedding memories linger for a lifetime, so make them as pleasant as possible.

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and award-winning psychologist. For permission to reprint this article, or to obtain books, audio recordings or to read other articles visit www.gwen.ca. Follow Gwen on Facebook for inspiration.

A wedding, which should be a joyous and exciting process, however, often turns into a very stressful one at best, and a nightmare at worst. This is because the planning of such an event necessitates a lot of communication, and if communication has not been a family's strong point, this is a time when it will surely show.

Everyone involved may have a slightly different idea of how things should be, and power struggles

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We will be closed on April 18th for Good Friday

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APRIL 2025 PROGRAM & EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 One eRead Canada begins: Valid by Chris Bergeron	2 National Poetry Month begins	1 An introduction to Beekeeping 6:30pm Please Register	2 EAL Language Circle for Newcomers 6:00pm	3 One Book, One Province begins: April Bread & Water by Dee Hobbsaw-Smith	4 Preschool Storytime 10:00am	5 Crazy Forts 10am-2pm
6	7 Sound Bath Therapy 7:00pm Please Register	8	9 EAL Language Circle for Newcomers 6:00pm	10	11 Preschool Storytime 10:00am	12 K'Nex Building 10am-2pm
13	14 Kite Making 6:30pm Please Register	15	16 EAL Language Circle for Newcomers 6:00pm	17	18 Closed for Good Friday	19 Crazy Forts 10am-2pm
20 Easter Sunday	21 K'Nex Building 1:30pm	22 Crazy Forts 1:30pm	23 Lego Building 1:30pm	24 Adult Book Club 11:00am Next Year in Havana By Chanel Cleston	25 Stay & Play 10:00am	26 K'Nex Building 10am-2pm
27 Canadian Children's Book Week: April 27-May 3	28 Adult Book Club 6:30pm Class: a memoir by Stephanie Land	29	30 EAL Language Circle for Newcomers 6:00pm			

Preschool Storytime

Fridays @ 10:00 AM

April 4 & 11

A Drop-in program for children 0-5 years and their caregiver. Join Gail for stories, rhymes and a simple craft.

Kite Making

Monday, April 14 at 6:30pm

All supplies provided. Register early, only 10 spots available.

Makerspace Kits this Month

K'Nex Building: A building toy that leaves the bricks behind and incorporates gears, wheels and much more.

Crazy Forts: This fort-building toy allows you to create a multitude of play structures.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Adult book Clubs

Thursday, April 24 at 11:00am we will discuss

Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleston.

Monday, April 28 at 6:30pm we will discuss

Class: a memoir of motherhood... by Stephanie Land.

Ask for a copy at the front desk.

Sound Bath Therapy

Monday, April 7 at 7:00pm

Facilitated by Jodi Kreuzer

Registration is required.

Please bring a yoga mat, pillow or blanket to be comfortable.

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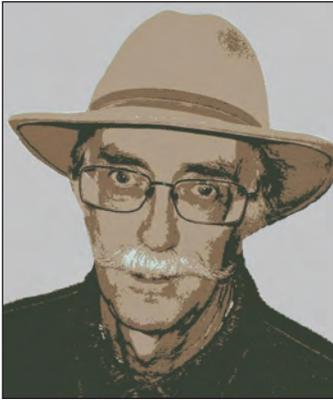
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Off the Beaten Track

- By John Panter

An item on a recent RM council meeting agenda caught my eye. A staff report recommended temporary suspension of any "new Town Hall events." What I found intriguing was that "new" implies that there might have been "regular" town hall meetings in the past. If there have been any new, recent, or past town halls, they have escaped my attention.

The staff report says that the last Ratepayer Town Hall event, held in April of 2024, "wasn't well attended or viewed as a success." I'm not surprised. Let me explain.

The April event was held in Balgonie and was billed as a Meet and Greet with a 6 pm start. It admittedly wasn't well attended, but the councillors and staff who hosted were congenial enough. There was a flip chart on which attendees could write their observations about life in the RM. I seem to recall that there was food (doughnuts). But let's face it, it was a meet and greet. A meet and greet crowd and a town hall meeting crowd are two different breeds of cat.

The Town Meeting originated in the American New England States in colonial times and was an early example of participatory, or direct, democracy. Often boisterous affairs, the citizens and their elected representatives thrashed out

how they wanted their community to be run in the year ahead.

There is a format for a real, and productive, modern town hall meeting. For whatever reason, both White City and the RM seem reluctant, or maybe afraid, to hold one. In the case of the RM, it's as though they tried it once, it didn't work, so they gave up. Instead, they should be saying, "That didn't work, let's get it right next time."

Both of our local governments have now debated the advisability of offering property tax abatements to encourage development. The concept is simple enough. Anyone willing to develop a vacant parcel of land would be given a tax holiday on a portion of the tax bill for several years. This, in theory, would enable the municipality to collect the full amount of taxes sooner on land that might otherwise sit idle. White City's plan could cost as much as \$270,000 to implement.

What I didn't hear, sitting listening to the debates, was whether there was any hard evidence that land wouldn't be developed without the tax breaks.

Nor did there seem to be an awareness that if one municipality offered the tax holiday, neighbouring municipalities would likely have to do the same just to stay competitive. The developer could pick and chose and all municipalities lose out on the full tax levy, with existing homeowners picking up the slack.

At the time of writing this column the RM has not

decided whether to hire consultants to do a Risk Assessment for the fire department. Described as a "high end" analysis of everything required to fight all types of fires, it would examine, among other things, water pipes, water pressure, location and number of hydrants and an evaluation of all equipment and staff levels.

There is \$35,000 in the budget for the analysis but councillors seemed to be skeptical of the need for one. Time will tell.

Gophers were on the RM agenda, the cost and method of their eradication, that is. The existing program has been available to landowners farming more than 80 acres. It seems obvious

that gophers won't restrict their activities to 80 acre or larger parcels of land and, as councillor Capnerhurst pointed out, all ratepayers in the RM would be paying for the program, regardless of how small their landholding. Under the new rules, gopher poison with a cost cap of \$150 will be available to RM residents if they want to go after the little b****rs.

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Kruppi Klassic

"The Jr. Boys hosted the first Kruppi Klassic on February 14th and 15th. The featured game was the "White Out" game, where students filled the gym in their white T-shirts. The T-shirts were created as a fundraiser for the Kruppi family. Kelly Kruppi, a staff member and Jr. Boys coach, was injured while playing basketball earlier that month. The opening tip-off was made by Kelly's children. Mr. Kruppi's wife, along with friends of Kelly, attended the event as well. Sadly, Mr. Kruppi passed away later that month. He will be deeply loved and missed by the Griffin Family, as his kindness and dedication left a lasting impact. The Kruppi Klassic will become an annual event in Mr. Kruppi's honor.

March Update

UPCOMING DATES:

- March 28th -No School
- April 15-16 PTI



GreenALL Equity Team Volunteers at Souls Harbour

The GreenALL Equity team volunteered with Souls Harbour Rescue Mission's meal program last week. Two groups volunteered on two separate nights, serving hot meals to the community of Regina. The teams of students and staff spent their evenings serving food, preparing beverages, and completing cleaning duties. This was an incredibly rewarding experience for our team of students and staff.



Greenall's Grade 11 Outdoor School

The ODS program enjoyed the warm temperatures at their Winter Camp from March 5-7. The winter camp took place at Echo Lake, where all students slept in quinzhees! Quinzhees are snow shelters made by piling snow, shaping snow, and then hollowing out the shaped snow. The ODS students go winter camping every year, but it's not often that every student sleeps in the quinzhees.

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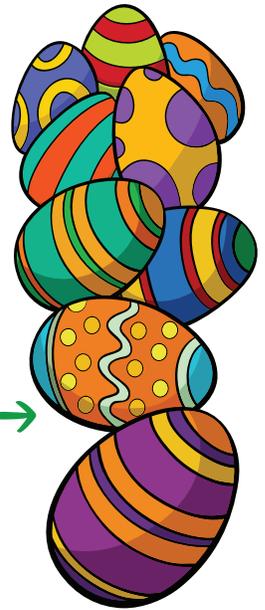
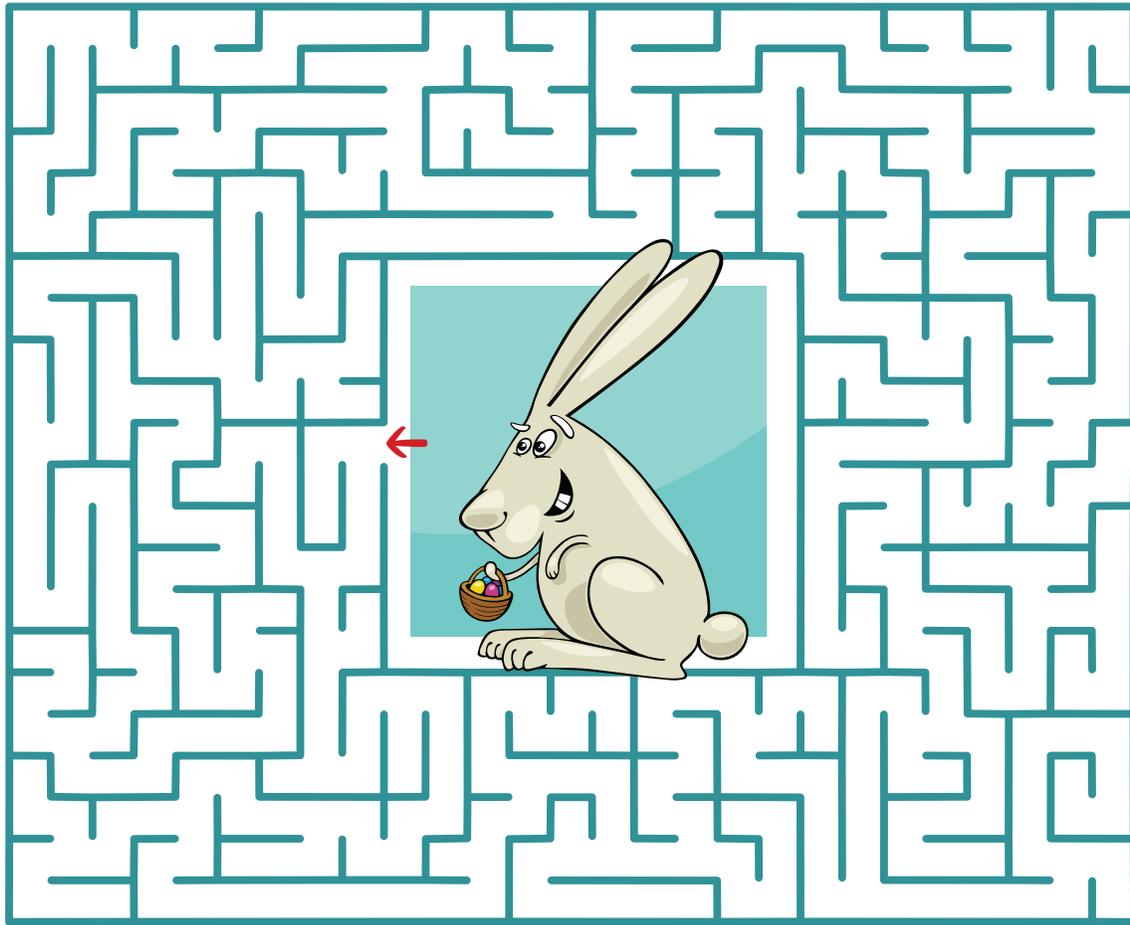
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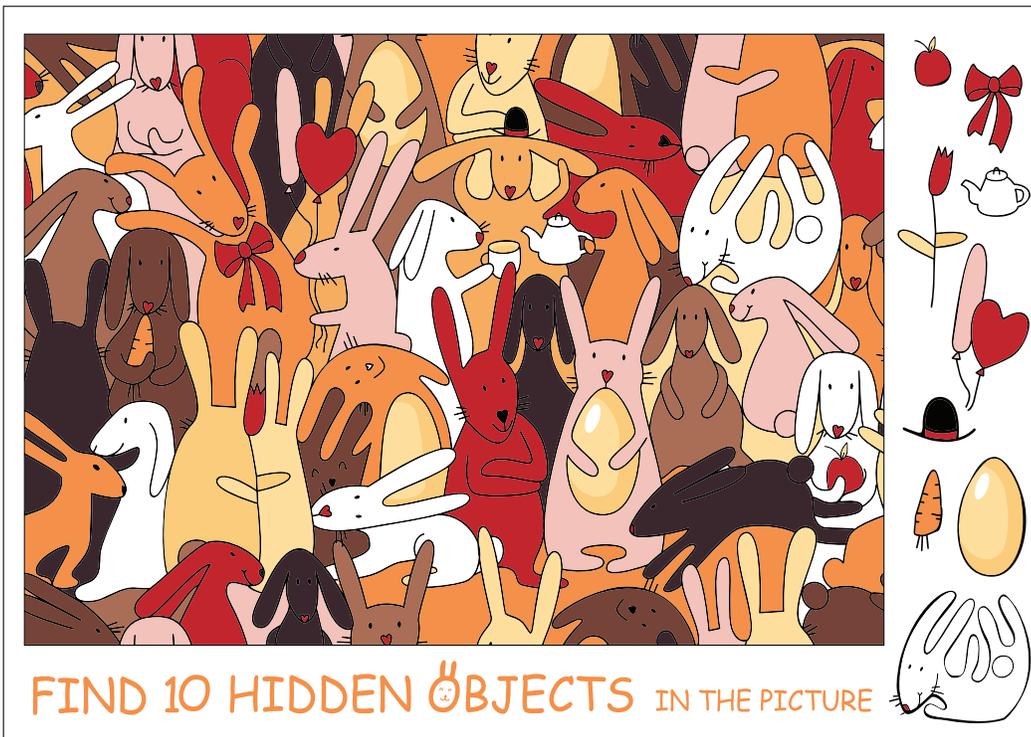
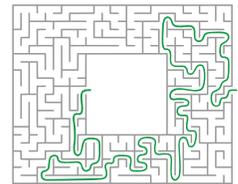
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EASTER CELEBRATIONS

The Sacrifice Worth Celebrating God's love for us is greater than we can fully understand. When we think of love, we often expect actions to show it. We may also feel that we need to deserve love in order to receive it.

However, in Romans 5:8, the Apostle Paul reminds us that God's love is not based on whether we are worthy. He writes that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Jesus also spoke about this love in John 3:16:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (NKJV).

Jesus' death on the cross was more than just suffering—it was a sacrifice that paid for our sins. Because of His sacrifice, we can have a personal relationship with God and live the life He planned for us.

As we celebrate Easter, let's remember what Jesus has done for us. His death and resurrection bring us hope, joy, and peace. May you have a blessed and Happy Easter! Amen.

Pastors James & Rebecca Otitoju



For more information, please visit our website www.afcml.org.

APRIL 2025

The next issue of the *Community Newsletter* will be distributed the first week of May.

All copy **MUST** be submitted on or before **April 20th**.

Everyone is welcome to put meeting dates, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. on the calendar, free of charge.

Please email: shannon@westernlitho.ca

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		WHITE CITY Composting 1	EMERALD PARK Garbage WHITE CITY Recycling 1	EMERALD PARK Recycling 3	EMERALD PARK Composting 4 Preschool Storytime 10am	5
6	7	WHITE CITY Composting 8	EMERALD PARK & WHITE CITY Garbage	10	EMERALD PARK Composting 11 Preschool Storytime 10am	12
13	14	WHITE CITY Composting 15	EMERALD PARK Garbage WHITE CITY Recycling 1	EMERALD PARK Recycling 17	EMERALD PARK Composting 18 GOOD FRIDAY	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY	21	WHITE CITY Composting 22	EMERALD PARK & WHITE CITY Garbage	24	EMERALD PARK Composting 25	26
27	28	WHITE CITY Composting 29	EMERALD PARK Garbage WHITE CITY Recycling 1		CASA ROSA/JAMESON ESTATES Garbage pick up every Tuesday Recycling pick up every Thursday	

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