

THE STORY OF

NO HATE IN HURON

(PART 2)

The ongoing strange tale of how neo-Nazis came to our little rural Ontario county, and what some of us are doing about it.

by

Patrick Corvyn

Goderich Resident

November 1, 2024

Goderich, Ontario, “The Prettiest Town in Canada,” has been seeing some pretty ugly hate activity around our neighbourhood lately.

We have been dealing with **racist homemade billboards** and a meetup of **neo-Nazis**.



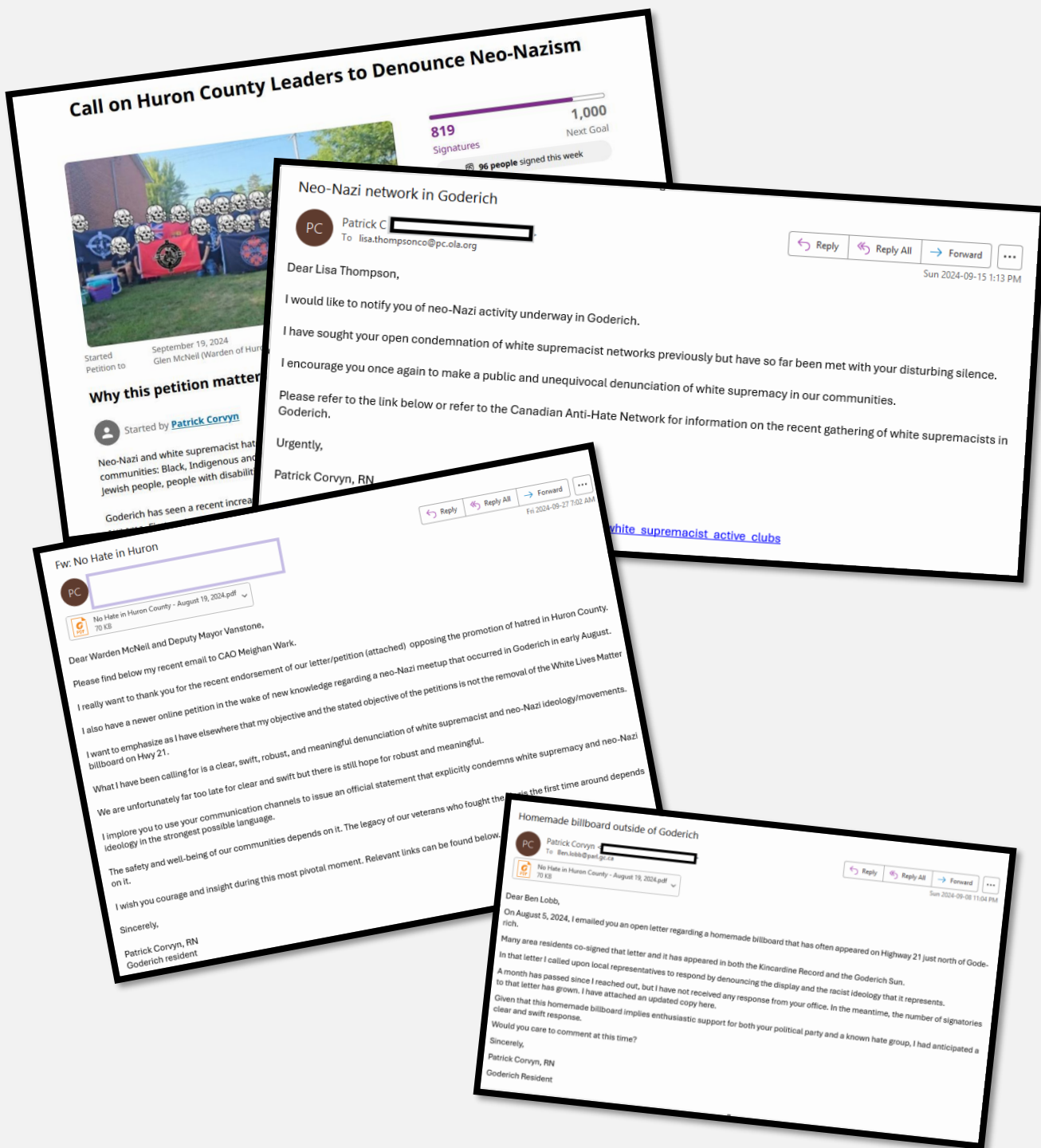
We refuse to allow the seeds of hatred to take root here.

Our vision is a world in which all people are free to pursue **joyous lives without fear** of harassment, cruelty, or violence.



This vision encapsulates our **two-pronged approach** in responding to hate activity in Huron County...

The first prong is **advocacy**. That includes a lot of things, like petitions and letter-writing....



(change.org/nohateinhuron)

Advocacy includes **democratically engaging** with local government. On October 7, I shared Part I of our story and submitted a draft motion **denouncing neo-Nazi ideology** to Goderich Town Council.

Draft Official Statement for Consideration by Goderich Town Council
Re: Denunciation of Nazi and neo-Nazi Ideologies
MONDAY OCTOBER 7, 2024

Whereas the Town of Goderich offers no safe harbour for hate;

And whereas the Town of Goderich strives for a world in which all people are free to pursue joyous lives without fear of harassment, cruelty, or violence;

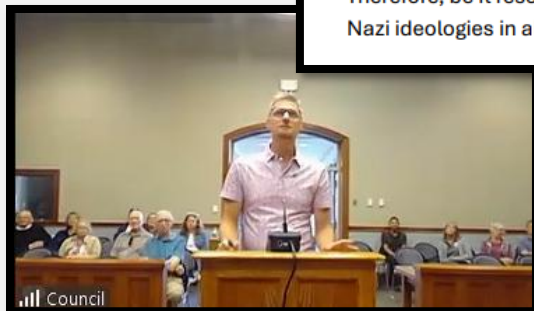
And whereas the Town of Goderich celebrates and cherishes diversity, inclusion, compassion, and courage;

And whereas the Town of Goderich is committed to the goal of fostering a welcoming and caring community by strengthening a sense of belonging among everyone who makes Goderich home, as outlined in the 2024-2027 Strategic Action Plan;

And whereas the Town of Goderich has taken specific actions and implemented programs to cultivate a sense of belonging for all residents, including the painting of the Pride crosswalk, providing support for public organizations through the Community Grants program, creating Welcome packages for new residents, enhancing accessibility throughout the Town, and organizing public awareness campaigns on key social issues through the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan;

And whereas in irreconcilable contrast, Nazi and neo-Nazi ideologies seek the commission of harassment, cruelty, and violence against people based on age, ancestry, colour, race, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, creed, disability, family status, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Goderich unequivocally denounces Nazi and neo-Nazi ideologies in all their original and modern forms.



(<https://www.goderich.ca/en/town-hall-and-services/agendas-and-minutes.aspx>)

Advocacy includes engaging with broadcast and social media.

And we are doing **lots** of that!

LONDON | News

Mayor 'denounces hate' as debate around white lives matter sign intensifies



Scott Miller
CTV News London
Videographer
Follow Contact

Published Oct. 11, 2024 3:54 p.m. EDT

Share



A controversial sign[↗] has temporarily moved to a neighbour's lawn just outside of Goderich, but the message on it, 'White Lives Matter,' remains the same.

"Well, it's not a nice sign to see. It is not in the town, but it's still in the neighboring municipality, so people are either leaving town or coming to the cottage, and that's something that they're seeing on Highway 21. And, you know, it shouldn't be a reflection of our town, but unfortunately, it's being perceived as a reflection of our town," said Goderich Mayor Trevor Bazinet.

In early August, Gord Leaman erected a two-sided wooden sign, reading, "Screw Trudeau, Screw Singh, Capitalism not Socialism, White Lives Matter," on his lawn, located along Highway 21 just north of Goderich.

For a couple weeks, he's moved it to his neighbours lawn, at his neighbours request. Leaman said he's had plenty of support for his billboard, but not from Goderich residents Matt Hoy and Patrick Corvyn.

(<https://london.ctvnews.ca/mayor-denounces-hate-as-debate-around-white-lives-matter-sign-intensifies-1.7071616>)

Lots!...



(<https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2024/10/11/no-hate-in-huron-looks-for-support-from-goderich/>)

(<https://www.goderichsignalstar.com/news/goderich-council-asked-to-denounce-neo-nazi-ideologies>)

(<https://x.com/LFP/status/1844380003162787905>)

...and lots!...



(<https://www.clintonnewsrecord.com/news/goderich-council-passes-motion-rejecting-intolerance-in-all-forms>)

(<https://www.instagram.com/marcieriegling/p/DBkDpAJuyqE/>)

(<https://www.change.org/p/call-on-huron-county-leaders-to-denounce-neo-nazism/u/32987618>)

...and lots! We even spoke with **Radio Canada!!**



ICI Windsor

À la une En continu Arts Sports Bureau économique

« Je ne suis pas raciste, non », a-t-il déclaré en entrevue à CTV la semaine dernière. « C'est juste que l'homme blanc doit être défendu. On ne nous défend pas adéquatement ».

Patrick Corvyn l'a connu quand il était plus jeune. Il dit se souvenir d'un homme « gentil, drôle, agréable, pragmatique et excellent en résolution de problèmes ».

Mais « il est mal avisé » en exhibant sa pancarte, croit tout de même l'infirmier.

M. Corvyn a d'ailleurs lancé une pétition demandant aux élus de la région de dénoncer les actes haineux dans le comté de Huron, dont fait partie Goderich.

En date de samedi, elle avait déjà recueilli plus de 650 signatures.

« En tant que personne métisse, la pancarte m'a rendue inconfortable. Est-ce un endroit où je voudrais rester et dépenser de l'argent en tourisme? Si je me perdais, est-ce que je pourrais, en toute sécurité, frapper à une porte pour demander mon chemin? », écrit la signataire Indrani Mahadeo.

Mais comme membre de la Légion royale canadienne à Goderich, il est particulièrement irrité par le fait que la phrase « White Lives Matter » apparaisse sur une route provinciale qui porte aussi le nom de « Bluewater Veterans Highway » en hommage aux anciens combattants.

« Il y a des membres de ma famille qui se sont battus pour ce pays et les droits de ce pays. [...] C'est absolument offensant. »

— Matthew Hoy, résident de Goderich



Le nom de la route 21, qui traverse le village de Goderich, rend hommage aux anciens combattants.
PHOTO : RADIO-CANADA / BÉENVENU SENGH



(<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/2109754/goderich-village-controverse-pancarte>)

Yet even after all this passionate advocacy, the most senior political leaders in Huron County have still **refused to denounce hate activity**.

Today is November 1, 2024.

It has been **88 days** since we first called upon them to do so.

It is especially strange since that racist billboard appears to imply support for their political parties and affiliations.

You would think they would want to distance themselves from hate.



The **Conservative MP** for Huron-Bruce **Ben Lobb**...



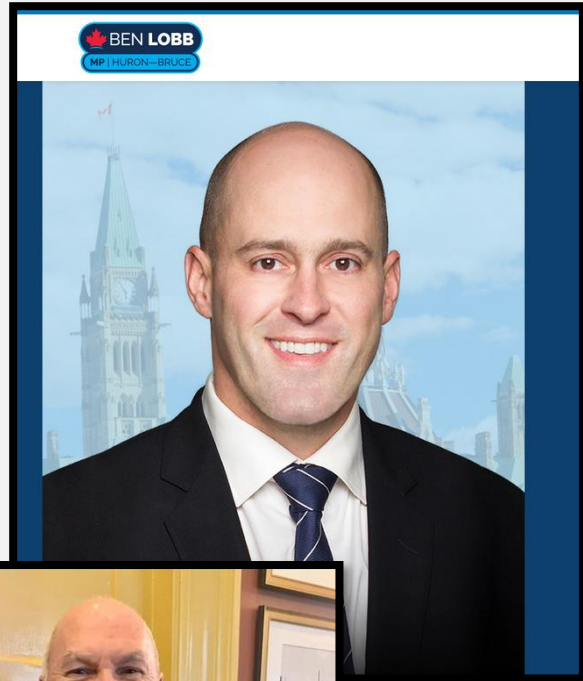
...and the **Conservative MPP** for Huron-Bruce **Lisa Thompson**...



...and the **Warden of Huron County, Glen McNeil**...

STILL have not spoken out against neo-Nazi activity in our community.

Whose side are they on?



Shame. On. Them.

Yesterday was **Halloween**. I reflected on the fact that
Neo-Nazis are not Beetlejuice.



(https://www.antihate.ca/us_neo_nazis_visit_canada_meeting_white_supremacist_active_clubs)

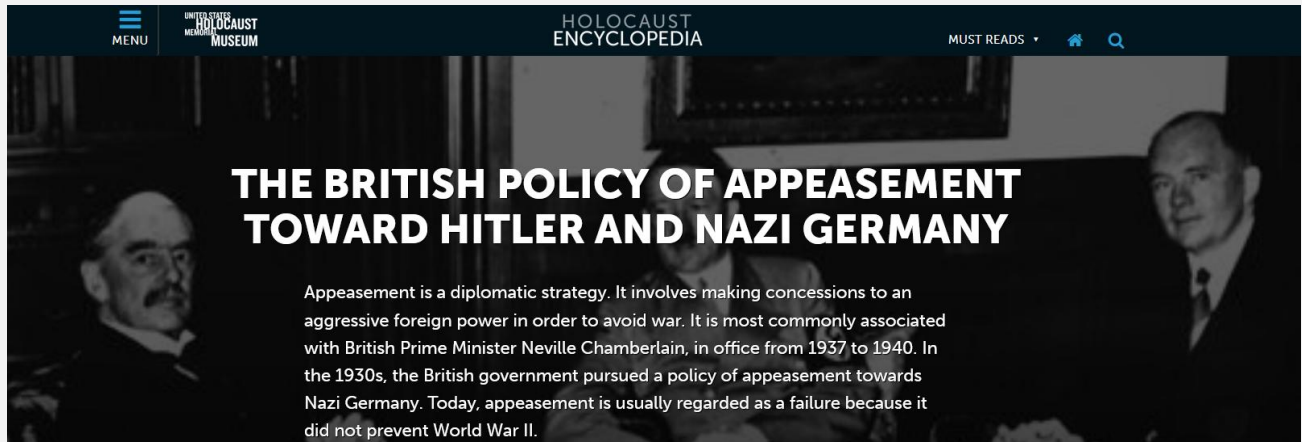
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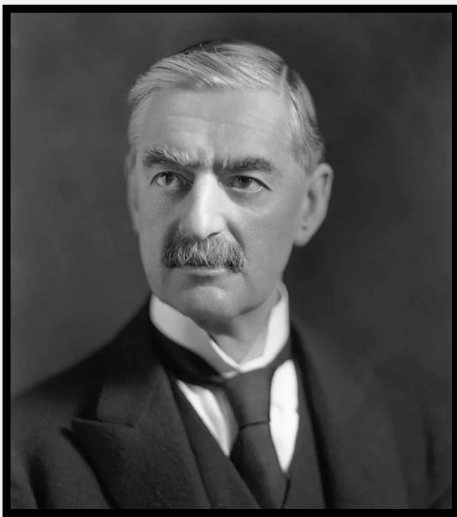
But we can and should **call them out!**
They will **not magically appear** next to you on the couch.

Soon it will be **Remembrance Day**.

It is a fitting time to reflect upon the legacy of Neville Chamberlain and where his pathway of **appeasement** led us in the 1930s.



(<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/neville-chamberlain>)



“Neville Chamberlain believed that the British government could negotiate with Hitler in good faith. Chamberlain hoped that by appeasing Hitler (i.e. agreeing to some of his demands), the Nazis would not resort to war. Others warned that Hitler could not be trusted by the normal standards of international diplomacy.”

- Holocaust Encyclopedia

“Today, **appeasement** is usually regarded as a **failure**...”

As we approach Remembrance Day, I also remember a **weird thing** that the owner of that “**White Lives Matter**” sign said in the London Free Press.



Gord Leamen placed the white lives matter sign on his Highway 21 property in early August. He says he did so because “our country’s getting overrun by immigrants. And, you know, my old man fought the Second World War to have this country free. Right now, our freedoms are being taken away.”

(<https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/small-town-tensions-enflamed-over-defiant-landowners-white-lives-matter-sign>)

It looks like Gord Leamen and I have **one thing** in common.

We are both direct descendants of **World War II veterans**.

But only one of us has spent the last several months publicly promoting and defending the name of a recognized hate network that idolizes **Adolf Hitler**.

(<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/white-lives-matter>)

But enough with the divisiveness. We have all had enough of that.
The **second prong** of No Hate in Huron (*the most important part*) is
providing the **antidote to hate!**



We are organizing a community cabaret!

It is coming along **BEAUTIFULLY!!**

The **Community Cabaret 4 Caring and Camaraderie** will be happening from noon to midnight on Saturday, November 23, 2024.

It is going to be a joyous event...

...on both the top floor **Jubilee Room...**



...and the underground basement level...



**Branch 109
Goderich**

...of the **Goderich Legion**, Branch 109 at 56 Kingston Street.

In the **underground level** from noon until 8 pm....

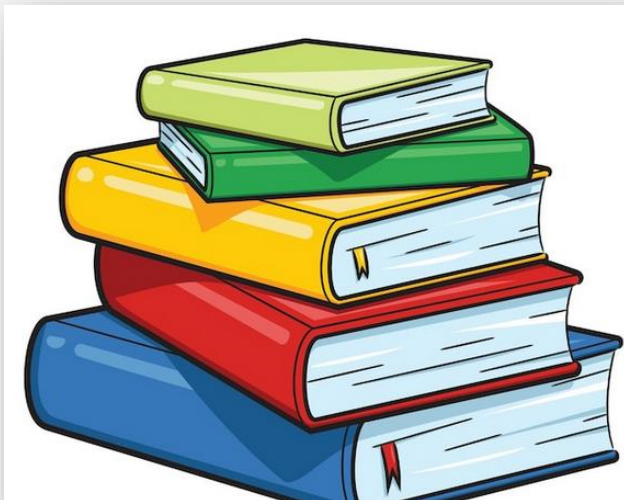


...there will be a **coffeehouse!**...

...and **musicians!**...



... cooperative board games!...



...poets and authors!...

...community groups!...



...big cool
puzzles!...

...and **chances to connect with each other!!**

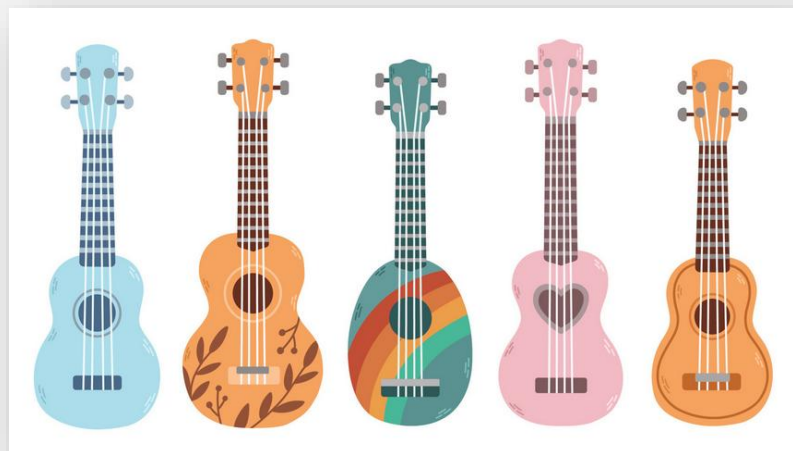
Admission is free with donations welcome! Donations will help us cover the cost of coffee and equipment and our sound technician.

In the **Jubilee Room** (the top floor of the Legion)
from noon until 4 pm...

We will be serving a **free community luncheon!!**



...with **even more**
musicians and
performers!!...



...and several collaborative art projects!



All free, with donations welcome!! No ticket needed!

Donations will help us cover the cost of our luncheon and materials for our collaborative art projects.

Just show up with your wonderful self, family and friends!!

In August 2011, our beloved Courthouse Square and much of our beautiful town was destroyed by an **F3 tornado**. We banded together. We rebuilt. We showed how much we care for one another. It came so naturally to us.

At 4 pm on November 23, we will have a **peaceful and joyous musical walk** around the sidewalk of **the Square** that is today as majestic and as magical as ever!!



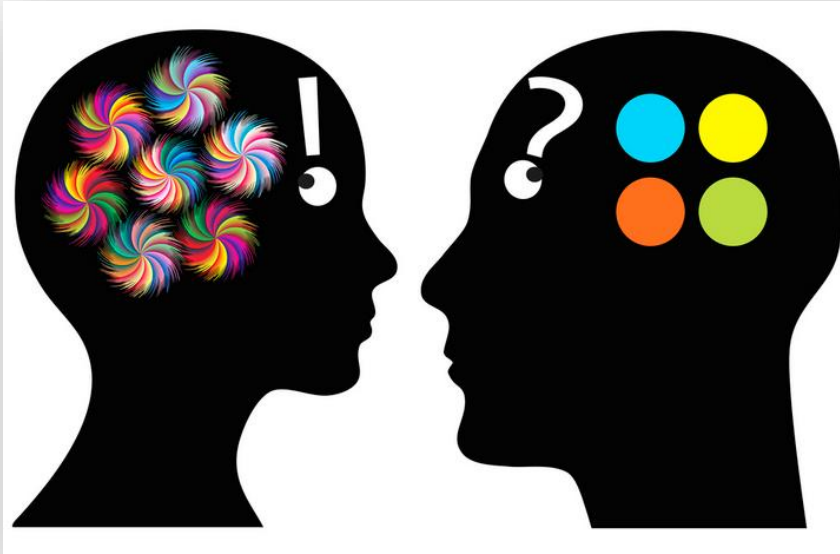
This **“Clockwise Ringer of Peace & Progress”** will symbolize our moving forward as a community and overcoming this latest challenge.

In the evening in the Jubilee Room (the top floor) we will celebrate with a glittery, raucous night of **cabaret entertainment**! This will be a ticketed pay-what-you-can event. Stayed tuned for ticket details!

Doors open at 7 pm.



The cabaret evening upstairs will feature **improv comedy performances...**



...**drag performances...**



...spicy tales!...



...and sing-alongs!...



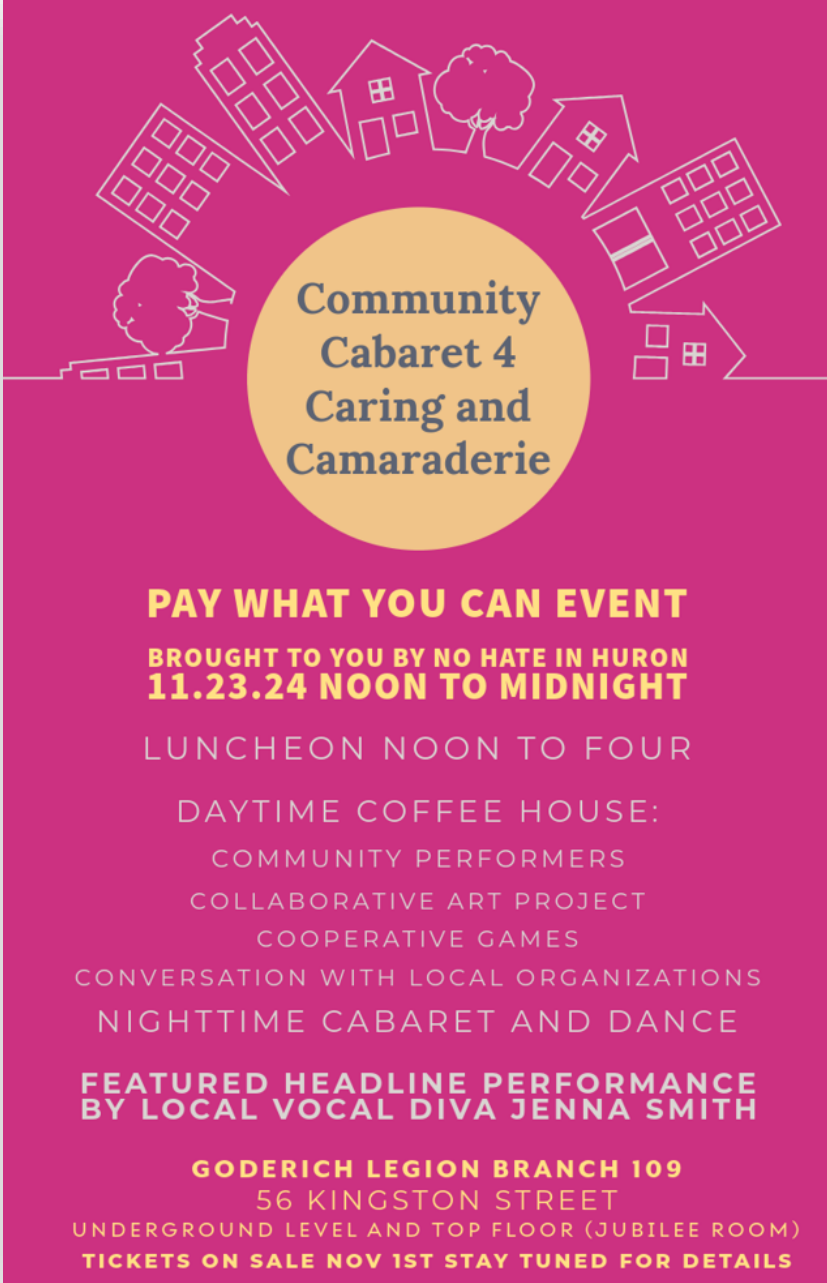
A headlining **local vocal diva** you don't want to miss!



And then we **dance** the night away!!

The Community Cabaret 4 Caring and Camaraderie is like a **potluck of the community's imagination!** The first of many.

Please share this with your friends and friendly networks.

A pink poster with a central yellow circle containing the event title. Above the circle is a white line-art illustration of a neighborhood with houses, trees, and buildings. The text on the poster is in yellow and white, providing details about the event, including ticket pricing, activities, and location.

**Community
Cabaret 4
Caring and
Camaraderie**

PAY WHAT YOU CAN EVENT
BROUGHT TO YOU BY NO HATE IN HURON
11.23.24 NOON TO MIDNIGHT

LUNCHEON NOON TO FOUR

DAYTIME COFFEE HOUSE:
COMMUNITY PERFORMERS
COLLABORATIVE ART PROJECT
COOPERATIVE GAMES
CONVERSATION WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
NIGHTTIME CABARET AND DANCE

**FEATURED HEADLINE PERFORMANCE
BY LOCAL VOCAL DIVA JENNA SMITH**

GODERICH LEGION BRANCH 109
56 KINGSTON STREET
UNDERGROUND LEVEL AND TOP FLOOR (JUBILEE ROOM)
TICKETS ON SALE NOV 1ST STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS

We are a community that remembers **who we are**.

We remember which side **we fought** on.

We remember how **we rebuild**.



We remember how **we care** for each other.

We remember how **we heal**.

We remember who we are.

We would love to tell you more about this story.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at:

nohateinhuron@proton.me

Please invite your friends to say “hello!” to join our email list.



**NO HATE
IN HURON 😊**

We invite you to join us in the following message of solidarity:

I, [your name], am a [resident/friend/visitor] of Goderich [and/or] Huron County.

I strive for a world in which all people are free to pursue joyous lives without fear of harassment, cruelty, or violence.

I celebrate and cherish diversity, inclusion, compassion, and courage.

I unequivocally denounce Nazi and neo-Nazi ideologies in all their original and modern forms.

I call on our local leaders to do the same: change.org/nohateinhuron