



Recreation Guide Fall 2026



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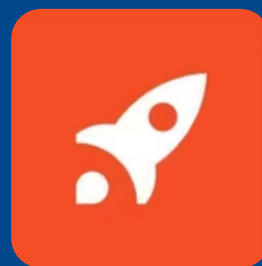
Summer Session

The Fall session will run from August 31st to November 29th, 2026

Registration

Program registration begins Friday, August 7th, 2026

Click Here to Register



Or Visit
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com



Message from Council

Essa Residents, have a happy, safe and healthy fall.

As Mayor and Council, we invite you to rediscover Essa's outdoor spaces this fall. Our trails are framed by brilliant foliage, playgrounds offer a safe space for families, community events are planned to bring neighbours together while we celebrate our Farmers harvest season. Our rivers are a hidden gem and yours to discover. Together let's make this fall a season of connection, care, and community pride.

Thank you to our busy Parks and Rec Staff for diligently working to provide so many new programs and our existing programs. Be sure to register for a program that will fit you, there are so many to choose from for all ages 😊 Seniors free exercise programs are available in Thornton Arena facilitated by The VON call to register. Seniors free Exercise and Fitness Group in Angus Arena, facilitated by Sandie Macdonald for 26 years! Mon- 8:45- 9:45 Thursday 8:45 -9:45 followed by Essa Seniors Community Circle (Facebook Page) this group participates in the exercise then there is a different free event each week followed by fellowship and refreshments.

Township wide events are posted on Essa website. Events you might be interested in

Ivy Days September 12th starts at 9am @ Ivy Hall

Thornton Corn Roast
September 13th @ Thornton Arena --4pm to 6pm

Angus Rock and Roll- September 18, 19 & 20th @ the Angus Arena.

Angus Wrestling September 26th doors open @ 6:30pm show time.

We hope to see everyone out exploring Essa.

Kind Regards,
Essa Council

Mayor Sandie Macdonald
Deputy Mayor Mike Smith
Councillors Pieter Kiezebrink, Henry Sander, Liana Maltby

What's new this season?

- **New Skatepark at the Thornton Community Centre**
- **New Outdoor Pickleball and Basketball Courts at the Angus Recreation Centre**
- **New Pump Track in Baxter**
- **Maple Lane Park Parkour Equipment**
- **New Gazebos at Brownley Meadows Park and the Angus Skatepark**
- **Tennis Court Lighting in Thornton, Baxter and Angus**
- **New Gazebo at the Clocktower in Angus**
- **McGeorge Park Upgrade**

Message from the Parks & Recreation Team

Welcome to the Fall 2026 Recreation Guide!

As the seasons change, we invite you to explore all that Essa has to offer. Whether you're registering for a fitness program, enjoying a public skate, discovering our trails, or visiting one of our many parks and recreation facilities, there are countless opportunities to stay active, connect with your community, and make lasting memories.

This season, we're excited to showcase several new amenities, including the Thornton Skatepark, Baxter Pump Track, outdoor pickleball and basketball courts, enhanced tennis court lighting, and new community gathering spaces throughout the Township.

We are proud to continue creating opportunities for residents of all ages to stay active, connect with neighbours, and enjoy the many parks, facilities, and programs available throughout Essa. We look forward to seeing residents participate in our programs, events, and outdoor spaces this season. Thank you for making recreation an important part of our vibrant community.

See you this fall!

The Parks & Recreation Team

Registered Programs

VON SMART

Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together

The VON SMART (Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together)® program offers group exercise classes to community members 55 years and older or any adult living with a disability who wants to improve their strength, balance and mobility through low-impact exercise. The exercise classes are facilitated by fitness instructors and/or volunteers who receive specialized training and ongoing education to deliver safe exercise programs for all levels of ability. Participants are encouraged to work at their own pace, wear comfortable clothing and supportive shoes. The exercises can be completed seated or standing. Participants can sign themselves up for group classes or be referred by a healthcare provider, family or friend. The program is fully funded, so there is no cost to participate.

Pre-Registration with the VON Office is required prior to participating in the VON SMART Exercise Program. Please call 705-737-5044 ext 225 and leave a brief message with your name, number and class location you would like to register for (i.e. Thornton Community Centre). We will get back to you as soon as possible to complete the registration over the phone.

Location: Thornton Community Centre - Meeting Room

Price: Free

Age: 55+

MON	10:30 AM	1 HR	Sept 14 th - Nov 30 th	Ongoing
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No Class: Oct 12, Oct 26

Chair Yoga

Chair yoga is a modified form of yoga where we use a chair for support during seated and standing yoga postures. It offers the same physical and mental health benefits as traditional yoga - strengthening, stretching, flexibility and balance. It is gentle and accessible for anyone, even those with mobility concerns or anyone new to yoga. Chairs are provided. Bring some water if needed.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$80 + HST

Age: 55+

WED	1 PM	1 HR	Sept 9 th - Nov 11 th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A



Hatha Yoga

Brought to you by Side Door Yoga, this 60 minute yoga class is designed to be accessible and beneficial for all students of all levels. We focus on movement, breath awareness, stretching and relaxation. Bring your own yoga mat, water and any yoga equipment you may use (ie, blocks, straps)

Location: Angus Recreation Centre- Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

MON	7: 30 PM	1 HR	Sept 14th -Nov 23rd	10 WKS
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No Class: Oct 12

Location: Thornton Community Centre- Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

MON	7 PM	1 HR	Sept 14 th - Nov 23 rd	10 WKS
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No Class: Oct 12

Pilates

Gain strength, mobility and mind-body connection. Because of the progressive sequencing, this class is for all levels. Classes will focus on abdominal, hip and spine strengthening and increasing the overall total body range of motion.

Location: Thornton Community Centre- Banquet Hall

Price: \$130.00 + HST

Age: 18+

TUES	7 PM	1 HR	Sept 15 th - Nov 17 th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Side Door Yoga Program Discount



Register for more than one program provided by Side Door Yoga and receive 15% off the second class

Strength and Conditioning

Brought to you by Side Door Yoga, this structured high intensity interval style of workout is designed to improve overall physical fitness through a combination of cardiovascular, strength and flexibility exercises. All equipment is supplied. A yoga mat is encouraged for floor work and a water bottle is highly recommended.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

WED	7 PM	1 HR	Sept 16 th - Nov 18 th	10 WKS
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Location: Thornton Community Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

WED	7:30 PM	1 HR	Sept 16 th - Nov 18 th	10 WKS
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Zumba

Each Zumba class is a welcoming, energetic space where you can let go of stress, move freely, and reconnect with yourself through the power of dance. Once the music starts and the rhythms take over, you'll understand why our classes are often called exercise in disguise. Come for the workout, stay for the joy!

Location: Angus Recreation Centre- Banquet Hall

Price: \$100.00 + HST

Age: 18+

THURS	7 PM	1 HR	Sept 24 th - Nov 26 th	10 WKS
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No Class: Oct 8, Nov 12

Program registration begins

Friday August 7th at 5 PM.

Register online at

townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

Basketball Skills (5-12)

Junior Basketball participants learn the fundamental skills of basketball through fun, engaging games and drills, building essential qualities including: leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork and respect.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$120

Age: 5-8

No Class: Nov 5th

THUR	6 PM	50 MIN	Sept 24 th - Nov 19 th	8 WKS
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Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$120

Age: 9-12

No Class: Nov 5th

THUR	7 PM	50 MIN	Sept 24 th - Nov 19 th	8 WKS
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Monkeynastix (1-4)

This fun fitness movement education program designed for children ages 1-4 focuses on gross and fine motor skills, balance, coordination, spatial and body awareness utilizing a variety of safe activities with specialized equipment and music.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$108

Age: 1-2 years

WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Sept 2 nd - Oct 7 th	6 WKS
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WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Oct 21 st - Nov 25 th	6 WKS
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Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$108

Age: 2-3 years

WED	5:45 PM	30 MIN	Sept 2 nd - Oct 7 th	6 WKS
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WED	5:45 PM	30 MIN	Oct 21 st - Nov 25 th	6 WKS
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Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$108

Age: 3-4 years

WED	6:30 PM	30 MIN	Sept 2 nd - Oct 7 th	6 WKS
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WED	6:30 PM	30 MIN	Oct 21 st - Nov 25 th	6 WKS
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Program registration begins
Friday August 7th at 5 PM.
Register online at
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com



Learn to Dance (3-4)

For toddlers ages 3-4 who love to move, they will learn introductory dance moves through creative expression and dance play. With upbeat and age appropriate moves and music. Styles to be introduced: Ballet, Jazz and Hip-Hop.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall
Price: \$75.00
Age: 3-4 years

FRI	5 PM	30 MIN	Sept 11 th - Nov 13 th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Learn to Dance (5-6)

An introduction to Ballet, Jazz and Hip-Hop. Kids ages 5-6 will learn basic dance skills, movement, balance, rhythm and coordination in a fun and upbeat environment.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall
Price: \$75.00
Age: 5-6 years

FRI	5:45 PM	30 MIN	Sept 11 th - Nov 13 th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Learn to Dance (7-9)

Kids ages 7-9 will learn beginner dance steps in Ballet, Jazz, Hip-Hop and Musical Theatre. Kids will learn to find their own style and expression in a fun and supportive class while improving coordination and flexibility.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall
Price: \$100.00
Age: 7-9 years

FRI	6:30 PM	1 HR	Sept 11 th - Nov 13 th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Learn to Dance (10-12)

Kids ages 10-12 will get to explore different genres of dance such as Ballet, Jazz, Hip-Hop and Musical Theatre. They will learn beginner dance moves, dance combinations and team work. They will also work to build confidence, coordination, flexibility and friendship.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall
Price: \$100.00
Age: 10-12 years

FRI	7:30 PM	1 HR	Sept 11 th - Nov 13 th	10 WKS
-----	---------	------	---	--------

No Class: N/A



Program registration begins
Friday, August 7th, 2026 at 5 PM.
Register online at
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

Drop-in Programs

September 8-November 29

Pickleball Drop-in (Ages 18+)

A dynamic paddle sport blending elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, played on a compact court with a unique perforated ball, offering fast-paced fun for all adults. Paddles and balls are available.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Times: Mondays & Thursdays (10:30 AM - 12:30 PM), Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays (8 - 10 AM)

Exclusion Dates: Sept 4, 7, Oct 12, 26,

Inclusive Recreation Drop-in (11+)

Join our drop-in sport sessions, where residents of all abilities can connect, build community, and enjoy playing various sports together. Sports equipment is provided. Free entry for support workers.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Times: Fridays (1 - 3 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Sept 4, 18, Oct 23, Sept 4

Drop-in Prices (Cash Only)

Ages 0-4: \$2

Ages 18-64: \$5

Ages 5-17: \$3

Ages 65+: \$4

Family (up to 4)- \$9

Pickleball Drop-in (Ages 11+)

A dynamic paddle sport blending elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, played on a compact court with a unique perforated ball, offering fast-paced fun for all adults and youth. Paddles and balls are available.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Times: Mondays & Wednesdays (7:30 PM - 9:30 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Aug 31, Sept 7, Oct 12, 26

Family Basketball Drop-in (Ages 5+)

A drop-in program providing families with an opportunity to come and play a variety basketball

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Times: Mondays (5:30-7 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Aug 31, Sept 7, Oct 12, 26



**All drop-in times are subject to change.*

Please refer to the schedule online for the most up-to-date schedule. Click [HERE](#) for the online schedule.

Drop-in Programs

Senior Walking & Exercise Group (55+)

The Angus & Area Seniors walking and exercise group meets every Monday and Thursday. This is a fun group that exercises to 60s music with lots of stretching, balancing, dance moves, tapping, and wall exercises, finishing up with an inside walk with fellow members. This is a free program, just bring your water and indoor shoes!

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Times: Mondays & Thursdays (8:45-9:45 am)

Exclusion Dates: No classes if school busses are cancelled

Preschool Drop-in (5 and under)

Explore our preschool drop-in program, where little ones can engage in fun activities, socialize, and learn through play in a supportive environment. Free entry for parents/guardians.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Times: Wednesdays & Fridays (10:30 AM - 12 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Sept 18, Oct 30,

Recreation Calendar

Check out our Recreation Calendar located on the Township of Essa website!
To view the calendar click [HERE](#)

Community Calendar

> October 2024

Week Month List Print Define Search Subscribe

	SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
Apply Selection							
Select All Deselect All							
Community Calendar +			11:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - Angus	10:30 am Drop-in Gym Programs Preschool (Drop-in (5 and under) - Angus	11:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - Angus	10:30 am Drop-in Gym Programs Preschool (Drop-in (5 and under) - Angus	11:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - Angus
Recreation Calendar -			11:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - Thornton	11:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Leisure Skate - Angus	11:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - Thornton	11:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Leisure Skate - Angus	11:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - Thornton
Drop-in Gym Programs							
Drop-in Skate Programs							
Recreation Events			11:30 am Drop-in Gym Programs Adult Pickleball (Drop-in (18+) - Angus	11:30 am Drop-in Skate Programs Adult Pickleball (Drop-in (18+) - Thornton	11:30 am Drop-in Gym Programs Adult Pickleball (Drop-in (18+) - Angus	11:30 am Drop-in Skate Programs Adult Pickleball (Drop-in (18+) - Thornton	11:30 am Drop-in Gym Programs Adult Pickleball (Drop-in (18+) - Angus

***All drop-in times are subject to change.**

Please refer to the schedule online for the most up-to-date schedule. Click [HERE](#) for the online schedule.

Skating Drop-in Programs

**Skating programs will run from
September 27th, 2026 to
March 28th, 2026**

Public Skate (All Ages)

Enjoy public skating sessions at our rink, where individuals and families can glide around the ice, have fun, and stay active together.

Angus Recreation Centre:

Times: Fridays (5 - 5:50 PM), Saturdays (4:30-5:30 PM) & Sundays (12 - 1:20 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 23, 24, 25, Dec 18, 19, 20, Dec 25, Dec 26, Jan 1, Jan 2, Jan 23, 24, Mar 5, 6, 7

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Tuesdays (5 - 5:50 PM), Fridays (5 - 5:50 PM), & Saturdays (1 - 1:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 23, 24, Dec 25, Dec 26, Jan 1 Mar 5, 6, 7

Drop-in Prices (Cash Only)

Skating:
5 & Under: Free
Ages 5+: \$3

Shinny:
All Ages: \$5
Goalies are free!

Leisure Skate (18+)

Experience leisure skating at our rink, a relaxed and enjoyable activity suitable for individuals looking to go for a leisurely skate.

Angus Recreation Centre:

Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays (11 - 12:20 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Dec 24, Dec 31

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays (11:30 - 12:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Dec 24, Dec 31

Parent & Tot Skate (5 & under)

Parent and tot skate sessions provide a fun and supportive environment for young children and their caregivers to enjoy skating together. Caregivers must be 18+.

Angus Recreation Centre:

Times: Wednesdays (11 - 12:20 PM)

Exclusion Dates:

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Wednesdays (9 - 10:20 PM)

Exclusion Dates:



Children Shinny (5-10)

Shinny hockey for children ages 5-10 offers a friendly and active introduction to the sport. Full equipment is required. Parents/Guardians (18+) are welcome to support and receive free entry.

Angus Recreation Centre:

Times: Saturdays (3:30 - 4:20 PM) & Sundays (7:30 - 8:30 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 24, 25, Dec 18, 19, Jan 2, Jan 23, 24 Mar 6, 7

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Mondays (4-4:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 12, Feb 15



Youth Shinny (11-17)

Youth shinny hockey for ages 11-17 provides a dynamic and inclusive environment for players to hone their skills and enjoy friendly competition. Full equipment is required.

Angus Recreation Centre:

Times: Sundays (7:30-8:20 PM) Mondays (4 - 4:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 12, Oct 25, Feb 15, Mar 7

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Tuesdays (4 - 4:50 PM)

Adult Shinny (18+)

Adult shinny hockey for ages 18 and up offers a recreational and competitive opportunity for players to enjoy the sport in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. Full equipment is required.

Angus Recreation Centre:

Times: Saturdays (7-8:30 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 24, Dec 19, Jan 2, Jan 23, 24, Mar 6

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Thursdays (3 - 5:30 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Dec 24, Dec 31

***All drop-in times are subject to change.**

Please refer to the schedule online for the most up-to-date schedule. Click [HERE](#) for the online schedule.

Equipment Rules

Helmets are mandatory for all public skate participants ages 10 and under and are highly recommended for all users.

Full equipment is mandatory for all Shinny programs.



PA Day Public Skates



**Angus:
Friday, November 20th 12 -1:50 PM**

**Thornton:
Friday, November 20th 12 -1:20 PM**



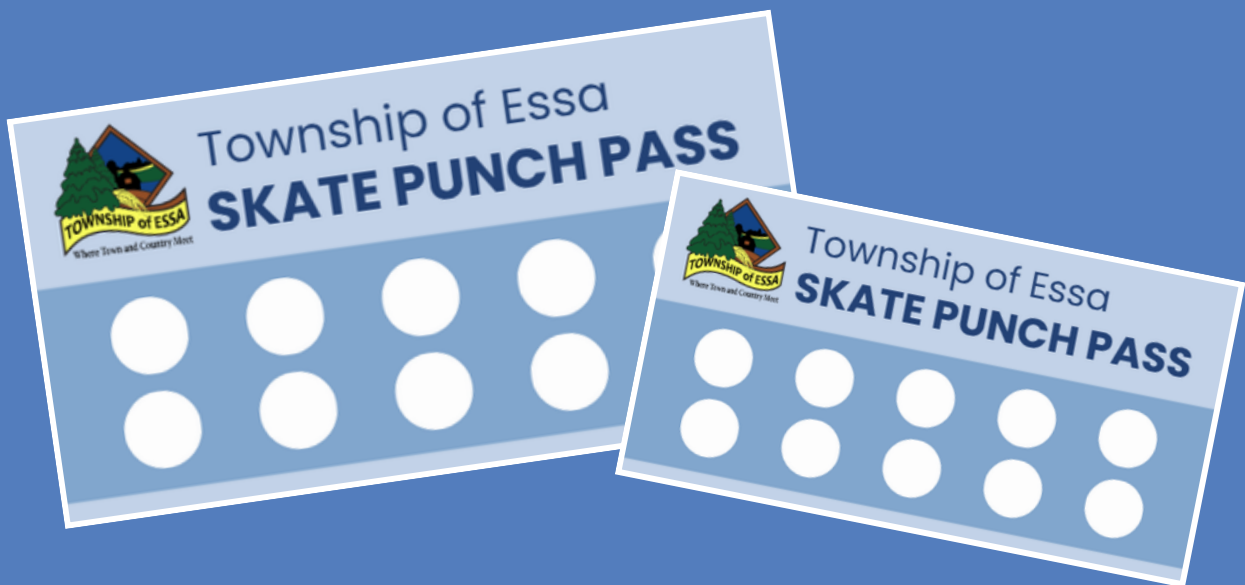
Drop-in Prices (Cash Only)

**Skating:
5 & Under: Free
Ages 5+: \$3**

Skate Punch Passes

Are you someone who frequently comes to our public skates, or are you looking for a great gift for the holidays? Enjoy 10 flexible visits to public skating at any Township of Essa facility for \$27! This means you will receive 10 skates for the price of 9!

- Step One: Go to townshipofessa.perfectmind.com and create an account
- Step Two: Hover over the "Purchase" button on the top of your page and click "Products"
- Step Three: Pay for your pass and pick it up at one of our facilities
- Step Four: Skate!



Passes can be picked up within 7 days of purchasing, at the Thornton Community Centre, Angus Recreation Centre, or the Township of Essa Administration Centre. Please find a Township of Essa staff member and bring proof of purchase (email confirmation or physical receipt) when picking up your pass.

Passes are not valid for shinny programs and are non-refundable. Skating is at your own risk – helmets are strongly recommended. Schedules may change based on facility needs or weather. Check online for the up-to-date schedule at <https://www.essatownship.on.ca/play-explore/recreation-programs-events/drop-in-programs/> and follow our Facebook page for the latest updates or cancellations at <https://www.facebook.com/essatownship>.

RZone Policy in Place

15

Township of Essa Parks, Facilities, Programs & Trails



Respect for yourself
Respect for others
Responsibility for your actions



Be nice. Violence, assault, abusive language and bullying are not tolerated.



Keep parks and facilities clean. Do not litter.
Put garbage and dog waste in receptacles or take home.



Respect all municipal property, including equipment, buildings and natural areas.



Report suspicious activity or property damage.

Report criminal behaviour, property damage, and violence immediately to:

OPP Emergency - 911

OPP non-emergency - (705) - 434 -1939

To report an RZone incident (litter, graffiti, broken equipment or glass, etc.), please contact Township of Essa at 705-424-9917



Facility Rentals

Facilities

The Township of Essa offers a diverse array of facility rental options within Angus, Thornton, Baxter and Utopia. Whether you are planning a private event, family gathering, birthday party or tournament, we have the perfect venue to make your occasion unforgettable!

Hall Rentals

All rentals with alcohol are subject to the Municipal Alcohol Risk Management Policy and Agreement. Please click [HERE](#) to complete and submit a rental request form.

Visit the Facility Rentals webpage by clicking [HERE](#) to view the Fees Schedule and to find out more information about facility rentals.

Rental opportunities include:

Gymnasium
Ice & Floor Pads
Halls & Meeting Rooms
Pavilions & Park Spaces
Sports Fields & Diamonds
Outdoor Pads

Want to Get Your Business Noticed? Advertise with us!

- Arena Rink Wall (4' x 8') - \$250.00
- Arena Rink Board (2.5' x 5') - \$400.00
- Changeroom Door (3" x 12") - \$200.00
- Ice Resurfacers - \$2,500.00
- Advertisement on Rink Surface - \$850.00
- Letter-sized, framed wall ad for Community Centres - \$100.00
- Banner for Dog Park/Sports Field (4'x10') - \$100.00

For Rental and Advertising Inquiries Contact:



(705) 424-9917 ext. 108



parksandrec@essatownship.on.ca

Angus Recreation Centre

8529 County Road 10

This multi-purpose facility features a full-sized rink, gymnasium, fully equipped hall and skatepark. From hockey, indoor soccer and fitness classes, to dances and birthday parties, the Centre can accommodate a wide variety of functions all year round.



Outdoor Pads

Various Locations

The Township of Essa is equipped with 3 Outdoor Pads for Community use and rentals. Perfect for a game of ball hockey!



Thornton Community Centre

246 Barrie Street

This multi-purpose facility features a full-sized rink, fully equipped hall, outdoor splash pad, ball diamond and park. This facility is perfect for all your event needs.



Baseball Diamonds

Various Locations

The Township of Essa has many baseball diamonds in its inventory. Diamonds are located in Angus, Baxter, Thornton, Ivy and Elmgrove. Available for Community use and rentals.



To view more information about facilities and rentals click [HERE](#)

Ice Rentals

The Township of Essa has two ice skating rinks available to rent from Mid September-March each year.

Angus Recreation Centre

8529 County Road 10

Thornton Community Centre

246 Barrie Street

View availability here: [Xplor Recreation](#)

Contact the Parks and Recreation Department to book:
parksandrec@essatownship.on.ca

Prime Time \$220.00/50 minutes (plus HST & insurance):
5 pm - 12 am Monday to Friday, 6 am - 12 am Saturday/Sunday

Non-Prime Time \$138/50 minutes (plus HST & insurance):
6 am - 5 pm Monday to Friday

Last-minute ice rentals can be booked within 1-48 hours of your desired time and pay \$99/50 minutes (plus HST & insurance) Excludes Saturdays and Sundays

Ice Birthday Parties

**NEW**

Angus Recreation Centre

8529 County Road 10

Days and Times Offered:

Saturdays from 4pm-6:30pm

Sundays from 12pm- 2pm

Thornton Community Centre

246 Barrie Street

Days and Times Offered:

Saturdays from 12:30pm-2pm

From beginner to experts, this activity is great for both small and large groups. Available September through March. Participants must follow all public skating rules while participating in a scheduled skate. Helmets strongly recommended.

1.5 hours in a multi-purpose room (Plus 15 minutes set-up)

Participation in a Public Skate pending room availability

Private ice birthday parties are also offered pending ice and room availability

Outside food, snacks, and cake permitted

For every 10 children, 1 adult is required (with a minimum of 2 adults).

Public Skate Party Fees:
\$200.00 plus HST

Private Skate Party Fees:
\$300.00 plus HST

Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department for more information!
parksandrec@essatownship.on.ca

Outdoor Activities

Parks

The Township of Essa offers a diverse array of parks and open spaces for residents and visitors to utilize. With all our offerings, there's something for everyone in our parks and facilities to enjoy!

Communities within the Township of Essa have access to many enjoyable spaces and parks, including ball diamonds, soccer fields, dog parks, playgrounds, splash pads, skate parks, fishing parks, multi-sport courts used for basketball and pickleball, as well as outdoor pads. Baseball diamonds, soccer fields, playgrounds, splash pads, skate parks, and multi-sport facilities will be closed during the winter season. The park spaces, trails, and dog parks remain open, and we encourage residents to take advantage of the spaces for winter recreation activities such as playing in the snow, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, etc.



Dog Parks

The Township of Essa is home to two dog parks located in Thornton and Angus. When visiting a dog park, please remember...

- Owners will be held liable for all actions of their dog
- Owners must be present at all times
- No other animals allowed
- All owners are responsible to **"Stoop and Scoop"** and to dispose of excrement in the appropriate waste receptacles

Splash Pads

The Township of Essa currently has three splash pads, which are open from Victoria Day to Labour Day each calendar year. The hours of operation for the Splash Pads are 10:00 am to 8:00 pm, however Post-Labour Day hours are on a "weather permitting" basis.

Splash Pads are located at the following locations:

- Angus Community Park, 6 Huron Street, Angus
- Thornton Arena Ball Park, 246 Barrie Street, Thornton
- Maplewood Park, 191 Maplewood Drive, Angus



Fishing

The Township of Essa is home to four designated fishing parks, which are scattered throughout the Township. These designated fishing parks are enjoyed by many fishing enthusiasts year-round. The designated fishing parks are located at the following locations:



Essa Centennial Park
Angus Community Park
Nottawasaga Fishing Park
Don Ross Drive Park

Did you know you need a Fishing Access Pass to fish on Essa Township property?

The money collected from the fishing access passes goes back into maintaining our parks for all anglers to enjoy. Seasonal or Day Fish Passes can be purchased at the township office or online [HERE](#).



Motorized Snow Vehicles

The Township of Essa is fortunate to have many beautiful natural spaces, please respect the natural environment while enjoying the recreation it offers. Under By-Law 2021-16 All-Terrain and Off-Road Vehicles are approved to travel on ALL municipal roads under the jurisdiction of the Township of Essa.

Off-road vehicles are allowed on permitted roadways between the hours of 7:00am and 11:00pm and are prohibited between 11:00pm and 7:00am

20KM per hour on roadways with a posted speed limit of 50KM per hour or less. 50KM per hour on roadways with a posted speed limit of greater than 50KM per hour.

For more information on By-Law 2021-16 visit the Township of Essa website by clicking [HERE](#).



Trails

Township of Essa

The following trails are maintained by the Township of Essa:

Pine River Trail

The Pine River Trail is a 1.5 km trail that meanders through the Nottawasaga Fishing Park and LeClair Park. Enjoy the picturesque Nottawasaga River while hiking this trail.

Rippon Trail

The Rippon Trail is a 1 km trail that connects Peacekeepers Park at the north end of Mill Street to the Nottawasaga Fishing Park, and the Pine River Trail.

Thornton Cookstown Trail

The Thornton Cookstown Trans-Canada Trail is a 15.6 km shared use trail between the villages of Thornton and Cookstown. This trail is a part of nearly 24,000 km of trail that goes through 13 provinces and territories. It travels through green pasture land and forest, and crosses the Cookstown Creek.



County of Simcoe

The following trails are located in the Township of Essa but maintained by the County of Simcoe:

- **Baxter Tract of Simcoe County Forest**
- **Foster Tract of Simcoe County Forest**

The County of Simcoe provides nature and hiking enthusiasts with a plethora of trails scattered throughout Simcoe County forests.

For information on these tracts, please contact the County of Simcoe at 705-726-9300.

Conservation Area Trails

The following trails are located in Essa and are maintained by local conservation authorities

Utopia Conservation Area Trails

The Utopia Conservation trails encompass an area of 100 acres which is used as passive green space. The conservation area is open to the public for passive recreation and features the historic Utopia Grist Mill.

Tiffin Conservation Area (Tiffin Centre Loop Trail)

The Tiffin Centre is a spectacular place for a walk or to bring your gear and bike, cross-country ski or snowshoe on 5 km of looped trails that meander through a mixture of wetlands, forests, open meadows and ancient lake beds. It is home to the Tiffin Centre Loop Trail, which is situated in the Township of Essa.

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Ganaraska Hiking Trail

The Mad River section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail encompasses a 50.5 km section of trail that runs through Angus and Glencairn. The trail follows the Mad River in the direction of Creemore and Glen Huron, where the Ganaraska Trail meets the Bruce Trail.

This trail is maintained by the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association. For more information about this trail, please contact the [Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.](#)

Click [HERE](#) for more information on trails in the Township of Essa.



Bicycle Safety

Every bike ride begins with putting on a helmet. It's important to wear a helmet that fits correctly. Wearing a helmet while riding your bike is the law in Ontario for cyclists under 18. It's important to be safe while riding your bike. We have compiled a list of bike safety tips that should be followed to have a safe enjoyable ride.

- Always wear a helmet
- Wear bright clothing
- Make sure your bike has reflectors mounted on the front and back
- Ride a bike that fits
- If riding on the road, ride in a straight line on the right side of the road in the same direction as traffic
- Know the rules of the road
- If riding on the sidewalk, be mindful of pedestrians
- Walk your bike across streets and make sure you look all ways for traffic
- Ride in a straight line
- Use hand signals

Left Turn



Right Turn



Stop



Operation Brain Freeze

In 2021, the Township of Essa initiated its Operation Brain Freeze campaign to promote safe cycling etiquette, with a focus on the importance of wearing properly-fitted helmets.

Operation Brain Freeze is a well loved program that allows Municipal Law Enforcement Officers to interact with youth in our communities that practice safe cycling and wear properly fitted helmets. Youth that are "caught" by Officers are awarded a certificate, a voucher for a frozen treat, in addition to a bike safety booklet from the Ministry of Transportation.

In 2022, Essa expanded Operation Brain Freeze to include a monthly draw to award a prize. When youth are "caught" by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers, their name will also go into a monthly draw for the chance to win bicycle safety equipment!



Operation Brain Freeze runs from May 1 to September 31 each calendar year. We would like to wish all youth the best of luck in getting "caught", and remember - **CYCLE SAFELY!!**

Maps

Essa Township is home to a variety of trails, parks, facilities, and conservation areas. Explore where they are located below!

Thornton



Burke Family Park: 35 Kevin Crescent
Earl Cunningham Park: 3 Henry Street
Len Vanderpost Park: 246 Barrie Street

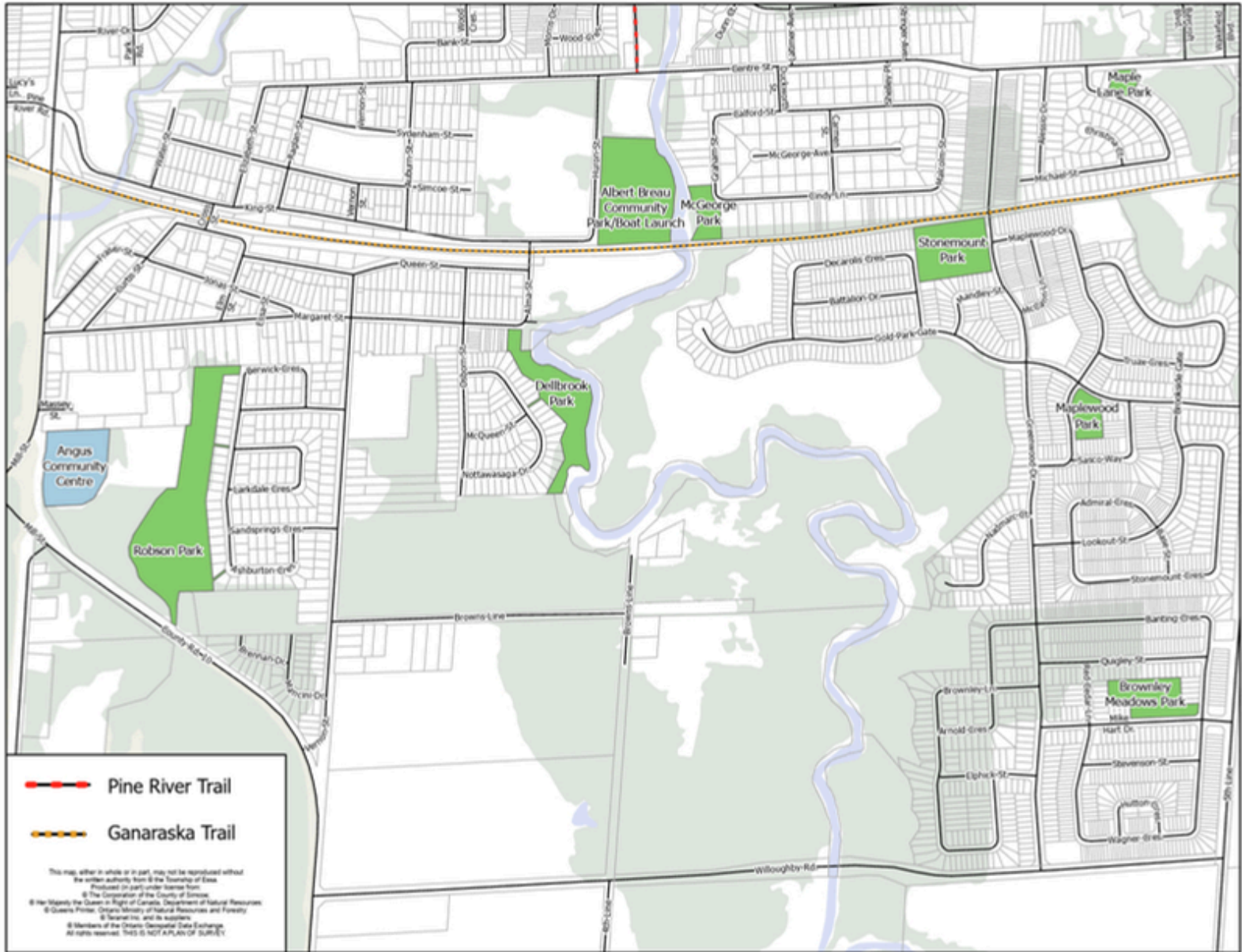
Thornton Arena: 246 Barrie Street
Thornton Arena Ball Park: 246 Barrie Street
Thornton Soccer Pitches/Dog Park: 4256 7th Line

North Angus



Bob Geddes Park: 147 Centre Street
Glen Eton/Wildflower Park/Dog Park: 42 McCarthy Crescent
Lions Ball Park: 4 Park Road
LeClair Park: 54 Roth Street
Peacekeepers Park: 12 Commerce Drive

South Angus



Albert Breau Community Park/Boat Launch: 6 Huron Street

Angus Community Centre: 8529 CR 10

Brownley Meadows Park: 60 Mike Hart Drive

Dellbrook Park: 240 Margaret Street

McGeorge Park: 107 Graham Street

Maplewood Park: 191 Maplewood Drive

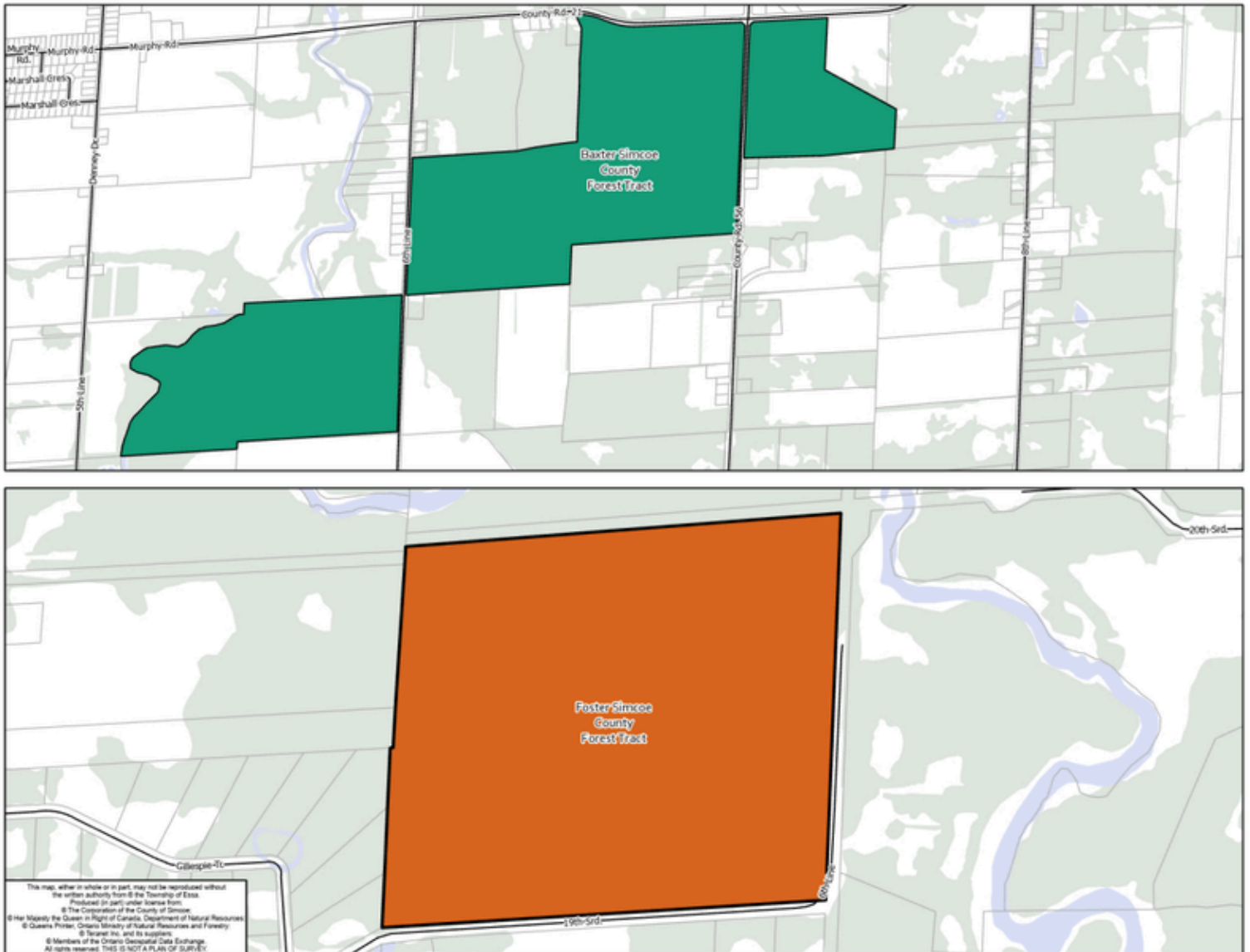
Maple Lane Park: 8 Michael Street

Robson Park: 23 Berwick Crescent

Rural Parks



Egbert Park: 5200 10th Sideroad
 Elmgrove Ball Park: 6580 5th Sideroad
 Utopia Park (Soccer Pitch): 8378 6th Line
 Victoria Ball Park: 5079 20th Sideroad



Baxter Simcoe County Forest Tract: Located across from the Township of Essa Administration Building (5786 CR 21)
Foster Simcoe County Forest Tract: Located off of the 19th Sideroad and 6th Line



**For more information,
click [HERE](#)**



For more information, click [HERE](#)



Arts, Culture & Heritage

Building Origins

Thornton Community Centre

The Thornton Arena was built on land donated by the Stewart Family and the first artificial ice was installed in 1969. A fire in September 1973 led to a rebuild and reopening of a new Arena in the same spot in the fall of 1975.

Angus Recreation Centre

In 1972 Angus residents came together to fund raise for an Arena. With the clearing of trees and debris, hard work, holding dances, raffles and soliciting for funds, the doors to the Arena finally opened in September 1977.

Thornton Library

For many years, the Thornton Library operated out of the back of a local store. The current location of the Thornton Library opened in November 1997.

Angus Library

The current Angus branch building opened in 2011. The previous space was in use from 1967 to 2011.

Historical Books

Are you interested in the history surrounding the Township of Essa?

The following books are available for purchase at the Essa Public Library or the Administration Centre:

- "Footsteps Into the Past: A History of Angus"
- "Essa: The Garden of Simcoe County"
- "History of Utopia: Utopia Grist Mill"
- "History of Thornton"
- "History of Ivy"
- "History of Egbert"
- "History of Elmgrove"



Organizations

Community Arts and Cultural Organizations

- Maclaren Art Centre: Hub for contemporary art and cultural programming.
- South Simcoe Arts Council: Promotes arts in the South Simcoe region.

Cultural Enterprises and Museums

- Borden Museum: Showcases military history and the heritage of CFB Borden.
- Museum on the Boyne: Preserves the history of the Alliston area.
- Simcoe County Museum: Features exhibits on Simcoe County's history and culture.

Cultural Heritage

- Utopia Grist Mill: Preserves milling heritage.

Cultural Spaces and Facilities

- Essa and District Agriplex: Hosts various agricultural and community events.

Festivals and Events

- Barrie Fair: Held at the Essa and District Agriplex.
- Essa Salmon Derby: Fishing competition held in Angus

Natural Heritage

- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority: Conserves natural resources of the Nottawasaga Valley.
- Peacekeepers Park: Honors peacekeepers.
- Pine River Trail & Thornton Cookstown Trail: Scenic trails for outdoor activities.

Community Events

Community Events

Our community events bring people of all ages with exciting activities, entertainment, and opportunities to meet neighbours and make memories. Stay active, get involved, and experience the best of what our community has to offer. Check out our upcoming events and mark your calendar!

**Do you have a community event you
want to promote in the Fall?**

Contact

**parksandrec@essatownship.on.ca to
learn more**





BIRTHDAY / FALL MARKET

Fall Market

FOOD • VENDORS • CLASSES

Saturday, September 12th
10AM - 3PM

ANGUS ARENA
8529 County Road 10,
Angus ON

see you there!

BARRIETODAY.com

Community Organizations

Community Organizations

Our community is home to a variety of organizations that bring people together, support local initiatives, and enhance the quality of life for residents of all ages. Explore some of the offerings in our community in the following pages.



Are you involved with an organization that supports the community and want to promote your services this Winter?

Contact
parksandrec@essatownship.on.ca to
learn more

Events you won't want to miss

Signup for newsletters at essalibrary.ca and follow us on social media to find out about upcoming programs for all ages.



Movie Night Trivia

Show off your inner film buff at this cinematic trivia fundraiser for ages 19+. Participate in teams of 6, and don't forget to check out the concession stand.

Thursday, September 24 @ 7-8:30pm
Angus Recreation Centre | Tickets \$20

Simcoe Reads

Eight libraries are bringing their communities together with the 7th annual Simcoe Reads, a cover-to-cover competition for adults. Participate by reading one or all of the books, then vote for your favourite at the final debate at The General John Hayer South Shore Community centre in Barrie.

Tuesday, September 29 @ 6:30-8pm
For more details and to register, visit SimcoeReads.ca

Fall Programs for Kids

Explore the full lineup of registered and drop-in programs for babies, toddlers, and school-age children on our online calendar. Want a reminder when something new is coming? Sign up for emails to get our news sent directly to your inbox.

essalibrary.ca

Get Your Library Card

With your membership, you can borrow kitchen appliances, podcast kits, ukuleles, Yoto Players, and even a telescope. Access to e-books and e-audiobooks, movie streaming, online tutoring, and LinkedIn Learning job skills courses is included. Sign up at Angus or Thornton Branch.

**JOIN THE YOUNG ENGINEERS COMMUNITY AND
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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: Rimple

Phone: 647-284-0377



**EMAIL:
YOUNGINVENTORSLAB@YOUNGENGINEERS.ORG**

DON'T DELAY!

Borden Family Resource Centre

The Borden Family Resource Centre provides community based family services which support and enhance the quality of life of the CFB Borden community.



The Centre provides support to...

- CAF Members, Veterans, DND civilian employees and their immediate families
- Families and other individuals of significance to CAF members who have died while serving
- Others who provide direct support to the CAF

Le Centre de ressources à la famille de Borden

Le Centre de ressources à la famille de Borden offre des services communautaires axés sur les familles qui soutiennent et qui améliorent la qualité de vie de la communauté de la BFC Borden.



Le Centre offre du soutien aux suivants...

- Membres des FAC, les vétérans, employés civils du MDN ainsi que les membres de leur famille immédiate
- Familles et autres personnes importantes pour les membres des FAC qui sont morts en service
- Autres personnes qui appuient les FAC



Information

Building E-182

56 Gibraltar Road

Borden, ON

L0M 1C0

705-424-1200 Ext. 3994

bordenfamilyresourcecentre@gmail.com
cfmws.ca

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TOWNSHIP**
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE

Contact Us

Contact Us

Parks and Facilities Booking Coordinator

Abbey McClinton

(705) 424-9917 ext. 108

amccinton@essatownship.on.ca

Parks and Recreation Manager

Chris Rankin

(705) 424-9917 ext. 141

crankin@essatownship.on.ca

Visit Us

Township of Essa Administration Centre

5786 County Road 21, Utopia, ON

Administration Centre

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Social Media



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