



Recreation Guide Spring 2026



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Spring Session

The Spring session will run from March 2nd to May 31st 2026

Registration

Program registration begins Friday, February 13th, 2026 at 5pm

Click Here to Register



Or Visit
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

A photograph of five people (three men and two women) standing by a pond, holding fishing rods. They are dressed in outdoor attire like hats and jackets. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

Message from Council

Essa Residents, Happy Spring!

As the days grow warmer and the world around us comes back to life, we are excited for the Spring season ahead and all it brings to our Communities. A few reminders to keep everyone safe while enjoying the season. Be cautious near waterways, warmer weather temperatures can make conditions unpredictable. Please supervise children and pets and stay on designated paths. Drive respectfully and do the posted speed limits. Pedestrians, cyclists, runners will be out enjoying the weather, slower speeds will help keep everyone safe. Farmers will be hard at work in their fields, please give farm vehicles plenty of space and patience. Please pull over when you see the green flashing lights on vehicles, our Firefighters are responding to a call. Every minute counts. Essa Staff will be shifting gears to begin road projects, watch for construction signs and follow detours. Parks and Rec Staff will be cleaning and refreshing parks and installing new equipment for everyone to enjoy. Good luck to our local hockey teams in their finals. Baseball will be gearing up for their season. Check out our Parks and Rec Guide to see what program best suits your needs. Thank you to our Staff for their dedication and commitment to keeping Essa Township moving forward. A special thank you to our Public Works Dept for keeping our roads safe during the storms this winter. Be sure to get out on our trails to enjoy nature at its best.

Essa Residents thank you for all that you do to make Essa the best place to live. Spring into Spring we waited through our true winter temperatures and storms to get here.

Warm Regards, Essa Council

Mayor Sandie Deputy Mayor Mike
Councillors Pieter, Henry, Liana

Message from the Parks & Recreation Team

Spring is a time of renewed energy and opportunity, and the Township of Essa is pleased to offer a diverse range of recreation programs and services for the season ahead. As the weather warms, residents are encouraged to take advantage of our parks, trails, playgrounds, sports fields, and outdoor facilities, which provide welcoming spaces for activity, connection, and enjoyment. Our spring programming is designed to support active, healthy lifestyles while fostering community engagement for residents of all ages. Whether participating in registered programs, enjoying unstructured outdoor recreation, or exploring our natural spaces, we invite you to make the most of the season and all that recreation in Essa has to offer.

March Break Camp

Sports Camp

In partnership with Elevation Athletics. Campers will learn the fundamentals of multiple sports including basketball, soccer, badminton and pickleball over the week. Campers will participate in skills and drills that focus on developing hand eye coordination, foot work, technique and team building skills. There will also be exciting and stimulating games, activities and crafts to make for an action packed and fun filled day!

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Age: 6-11 years

Dates: March 16th - 20th, 2026

Price: \$195

Times: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Drop Off: 9:00 am - 9:30 am

Pick Up: 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Capacity: 15 Campers



Register Today!

Register online at townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

Summer Camps

Sports Camp Jr

In partnership with Elevation Athletics. Campers will learn the fundamentals of multiple sports including basketball, soccer, badminton and pickleball over the week. Campers will participate in skills and drills that focus on developing hand eye coordination, foot work, technique and team building skills. There will also be exciting and stimulating games, activities and crafts to make for an action packed and fun filled day!

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Age: 6-8

Times: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Drop Off: 9:00 am - 9:30 am

Pick Up: 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Price: \$195 (unless on a week with a stat holiday)

Capacity: 10 Campers

Sports Camp Sr

In partnership with Elevation Athletics. Campers will learn the fundamentals of multiple sports including basketball, soccer, badminton and pickleball over the week. Campers will participate in skills and drills that focus on developing hand eye coordination, foot work, technique and team building skills. There will also be exciting and stimulating games, activities and crafts to make for an action packed and fun filled day!

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Age: 9-12

Times: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Drop Off: 9:00 am - 9:30 am

Pick Up: 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Price: \$195 (unless on a week with a stat holiday)

Capacity: 10 Campers

Morning Care

Need a little extra time before drop-off at the Angus Recreation Centre? Our Extended Care Program provides a safe, supervised environment for campers outside of regular camp hours.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Age: 6-12

Times: 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Price: \$25 (unless on a week with a stat holiday)

Capacity: 10 Campers

Afternoon Care

Need a little extra time after pick-up at the Angus Recreation Centre? Our Extended Care Program provides a safe, supervised environment for campers outside of regular camp hours.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Arena Floor

Age: 6-12

Times: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Price: \$25 (unless on a week with a stat holiday)

Capacity: 10 Campers

Registration

Program registration begins Friday, February 13th, 2026 at 5pm.

Register online at townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

Yoga & Arts Camp

In partnership with Side Door Yoga studio. A week of movement, mindfulness, and creativity at our Kids Yoga Camp! Perfect for children ages 6-11 years. This camp combines yoga, games, crafts, and storytelling to help kids build strength, focus, confidence, and calm. Each day includes gentle yoga poses, breathing exercises, teamwork activities, and time to play. Whether your child is new to yoga or already loves it, they'll enjoy exploring and playing in a supportive environment.

Highlights:

- Weekly themed yoga and activities
- Mindful games & movement activities
- Arts, crafts & nature time
- Relaxation and breathing tools
- Fun, safe, and inclusive space for all

Location: Albert Breau Community Park - Community Park Hall

Age: 6-11

Times: 7:30 am - 5:00 pm

Drop Off: 7:30 am - 9:00 am

Pick Up: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Capacity: 20 Campers

July 20th - July 24th

\$240.00

August 17th - August 21st

\$240.00



Registration

Program registration begins Friday, February 13th,
2026 at 5pm.

Register online at townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

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	Mar 4 th - May 25 th	Ongoing
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No Class: Apr 6th, May 18th

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 - Gymnasium

Price: \$80 + HST

Age: 55+

WED	12 PM	1 HR	Mar 4 th - May 13 th	10 WKS
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No Class: Mar 18th 2026



Hatha 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 PM	1 HR	Mar 2nd- May 4th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Location: Thornton Community Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

MON	7 PM	1 HR	Mar 2nd - May 4th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Mom & Baby Yoga

A gentle and supportive yoga class designed for moms and their little ones (6 weeks to crawling). This class focuses on postpartum recovery, rebuilding strength and releasing tension in the shoulders, neck, and back. You'll also enjoy bonding time with your baby through movement, massage, and playful interaction. No previous yoga experience needed. Come as you are—fussy babies, feeding, and diaper changes are all welcome here. Meet other moms, move your body and breathe deeply.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

FRI	10:30 AM	1 HR	Mar 6 th - May 8th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A



Strength and Conditioning

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+

TUES	11 AM	1 HR	Mar 3rd May 5th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

WED	7 PM	1 HR	Mar 4 th - May 6 th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Location: Thornton Community Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

WED	7:30 PM	1 HR	Mar 4 th - May 6 th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

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: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

THURS	7 PM	1 HR	Mar 19 th - May 21 st	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

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: \$105

Age: 5-8

THUR	6 PM	50 MIN	Mar 26 th - May 7 th	7 WKS
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Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$105

Age: 9-12

THUR	7 PM	50 MIN	Mar 26 th - May 7 th	7 WKS
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Monkeynastix (1-4)

This fun 8 week 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	Mar 11 th - May 6 th	6 WKS
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No Class: Mar 18th, Apr 1 & 2

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$108

Age: 2-3 years

WED	5:45 PM	30 MIN	Mar 11 th - May 6 th	6 WKS
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No Class: Mar 18th, Apr 1 & 2

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$144

Age: 3-4 years

WED	6:30 PM	30 MIN	Mar 11 th - May 6 th	6 WKS
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No Class: Mar 18th, Apr 1 & 2

Learn to Dance (3-12)

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: \$45.00

Age: 3-4 years

FRI	4:30 PM	30 MIN	Mar 27 th - May 8 th	6 WKS
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No Class: Apr 8th

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: 45.00

Age: 5-6 years

FRI	5:15 PM	30 MIN	Mar 27 th - May 8 th	6 WKS
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No Class: Apr 8th

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: \$60.00

Age: 7-9 years

FRI	6 PM	50 MIN	Mar 27 th - May 8 th	6 WKS
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No Class: Apr 8th

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 teamwork. They will also work to build confidence, coordination, flexibility and friendship.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$60.00

Age: 10-12 years

FRI	7 PM	50 MIN	Mar 27 th - May 8 th	6 WKS
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No Class: Apr 8th

Registration

Program registration begins Friday, February 13th, 2026 at 5 PM.

Register online at
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

Skating Drop-in Programs

Skating programs end on
March 29th, 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 (7 - 8:50 PM) & Sundays (12 - 1:20 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Mar 6th, 7th & 8th

Thornton Community Centre:

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

Exclusion Dates: Mar 6th & 7th

Drop-in Prices (Cash Only)

Skating:	Shinny:
5 & Under: Free	All Ages: \$5
Ages 5+: \$3	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: Mar 17th

Thornton Community Centre:

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

Exclusion Dates: N/A

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: Mar 18th

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Tuesdays (1-1:50 PM) & Wednesdays (12 - 1:20 PM)

Exclusion Dates: N/A

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: Mar 7th

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Mondays (5 - 5:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: N/A

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: Mondays (4 - 4:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: N/A

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Tuesdays (4 - 4:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: N/A

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 (4:30 - 5:20 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Mar 7th

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Mondays (9 - 9:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: N/A



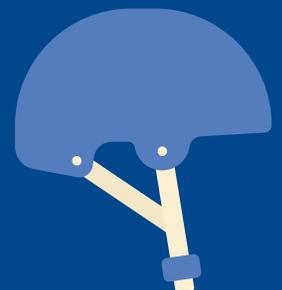
***All drop-in times are subject to change.**

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.



MARCH BREAK SKATE

SCHEDULE 2026

DROP-IN PRICES (CASH ONLY)

Skating
 5 and under: Free
 Ages 5+: \$3
Shinny
 All Ages: \$5
 Goalies are free!

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.

Monday March 16th	Tuesday March 17th	Wednesday March 18th	Thursday March 19th	Friday March 20th
<p>Angus Public Skate 11:30 AM-1:20 PM</p> <p>Children Shinny (5-10) 3-4:50 PM</p> <p>Youth Shinny (11-17) 4-4:50 PM</p>	<p>Angus Public Skate 2:30- 4:20 PM</p> <p>Youth Shinny (11-17) 5:30-5:50 PM</p>	<p>Angus Public Skate 11:30 AM-1:20 PM</p> <p>Children Shinny 5-5:50PM</p>	<p>Angus Public Skate 1-2:50 PM</p>	<p>Angus Public Skate 11 AM-1:20 PM</p> <p>Public Skate 5-6:50 PM</p>
<p>Thornton Public Skate 10-11:50 AM</p> <p>Children Shinny (5-10) 5-5:50 PM</p> <p>Youth Shinny (11-17) 6-7:20 PM</p>	<p>Thornton Public Skate 10 -11:20 AM</p> <p>Youth Shinny (11-17) 4-4:50 PM</p> <p>Public Skate 5-5:50 PM</p>	<p>Thornton Public Skate 9-10:20 AM</p>	<p>Thornton Youth Shinny (11-17) 6-7:20PM</p> <p>Public Skate 7:30-9PM</p>	<p>Thornton Youth Shinny (11-17) 3-3:50 PM</p> <p>Children Shinny (5-10) 4-4:50 PM</p> <p>Public Skate (All Ages) 5-5:50 PM</p>

Gym Drop-in Programs

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)

Exclusion Dates: Mar 16 & 19, Apr 2 & 6, May 18
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays (8 - 10 AM)

Exclusion Dates: Mar 17, 18 & 20, Apr 3

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: Mar 16 & 18, Apr 1, 6, 8 & 29, May 4,
May 6, May 11, May 18, May 25

Open Gym (Ages 11+)

Drop by during our open gym times to enjoy unstructured play and recreation. Whether you're shooting hoops or playing ball hockey this program is perfect for all ages and abilities. A variety of sports and equipment are available for use.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays (2:30 - 4:30 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Mar 17 & 19

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 - 11:30 AM)

Exclusion Dates: Mar 18 & 20, Apr 3

Drop-in Prices (Cash Only)

Ages 0-4: \$2

Ages 5-17: \$3

Ages 18-64: \$5

Ages 65+: \$4



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

For Rental 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](#)

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



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 2005-23, motorized snow vehicles are permitted to operate on designated trails and spaces. To find local trails and keep up to date with trail conditions, visit the OFSC website by clicking [HERE](#). For more information on By-Law 2005-23 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.

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.

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!!



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
Thornton Arena Park: 246 Barrie Street

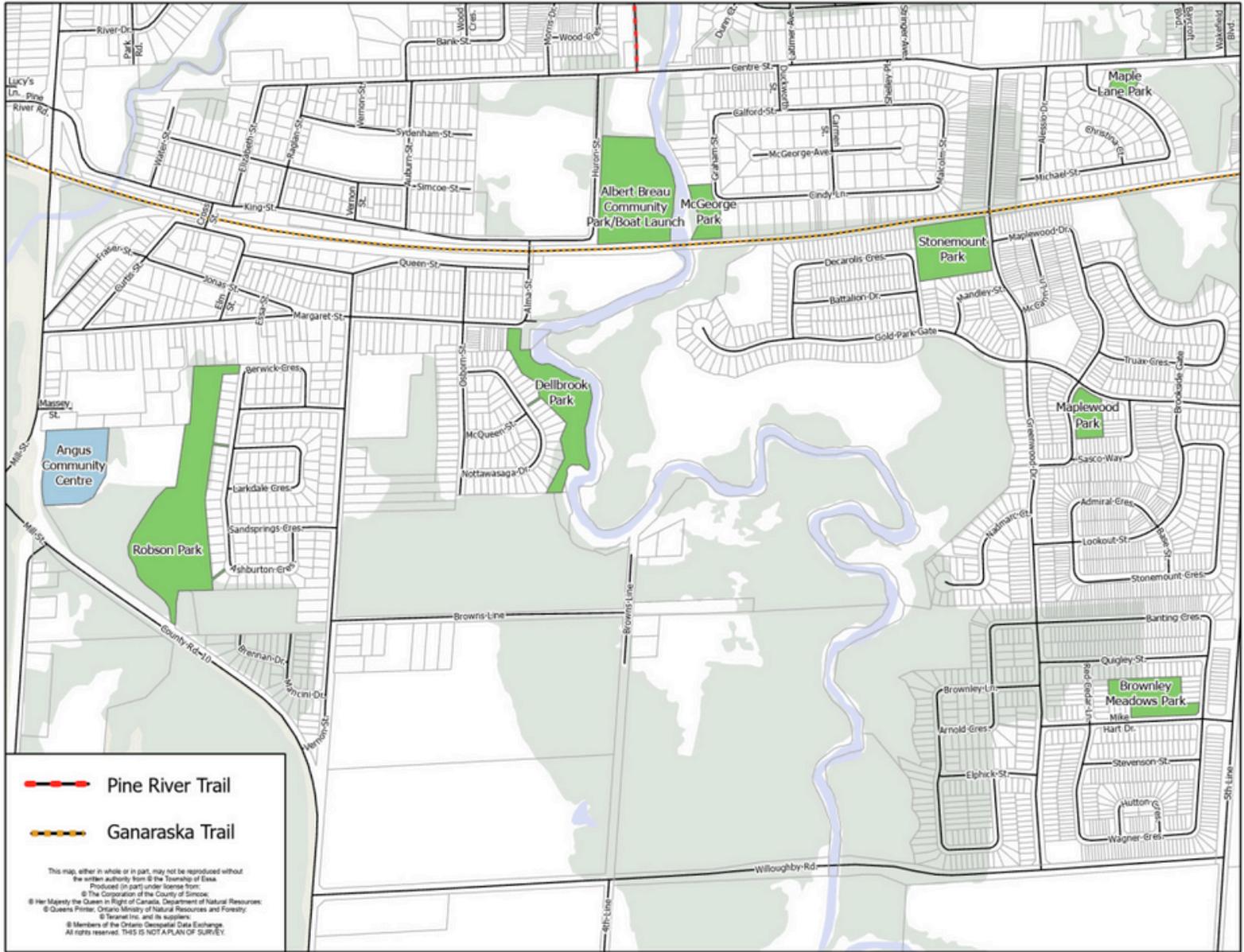
Thornton Arena: 246 Barrie Street
Thornton Arena Ball Park: 246 Barrie Street
Thornton Soccer Pitches/Dog Park: 4256 7th Line

North Angus



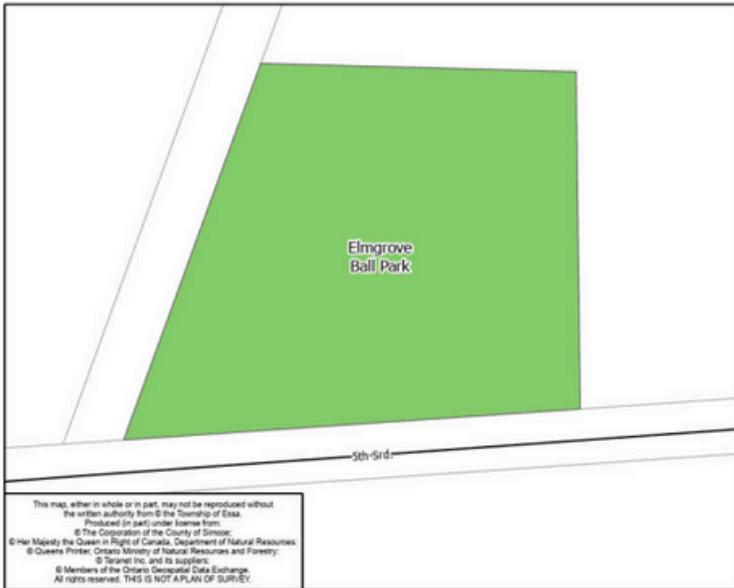
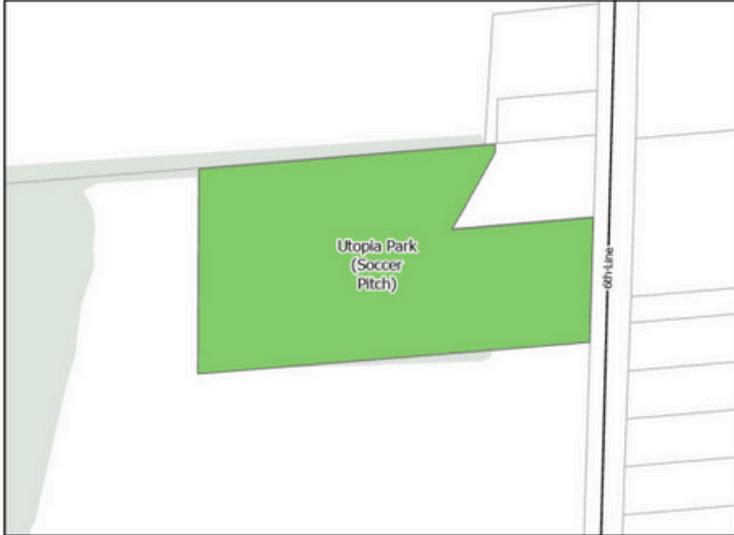
- Bob Geddes Park: 147 Centre Street
- Glen Eton/Wildflower Park/Dog Park: 42 McCarthy Crescent
- Lions Ball Park: 4 Park Road
- LeClair Park: 54 Roth Street
- Peacekeepers Park: 12 Commerce Drive

South Angus

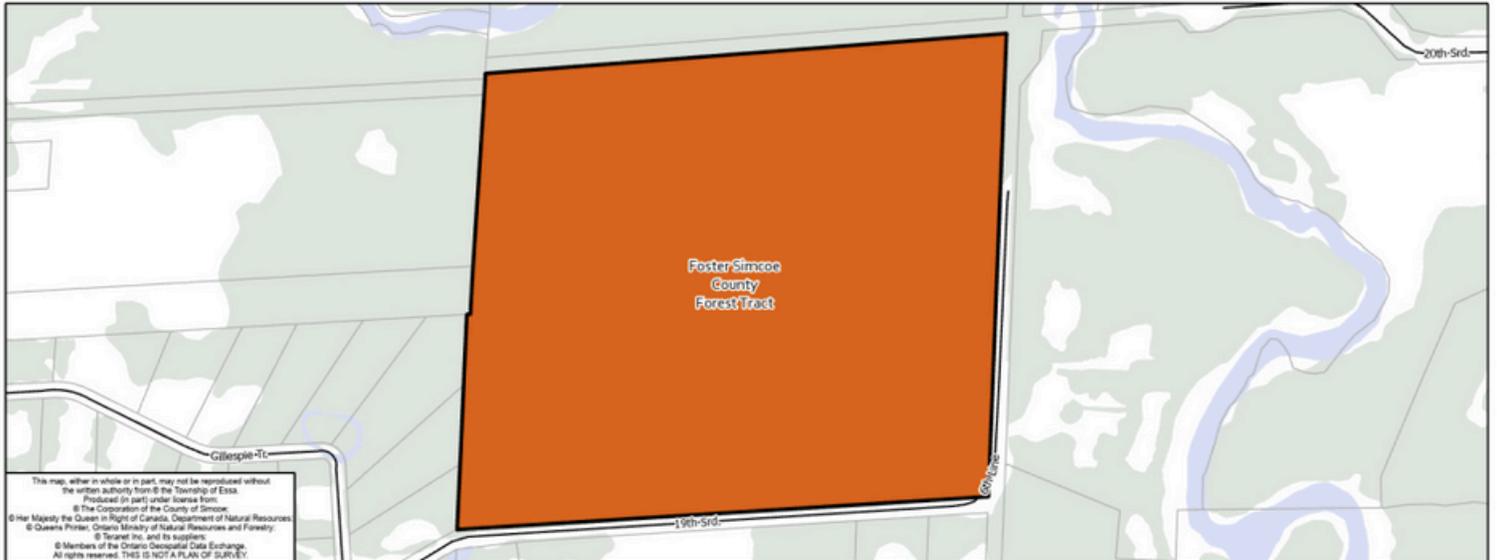
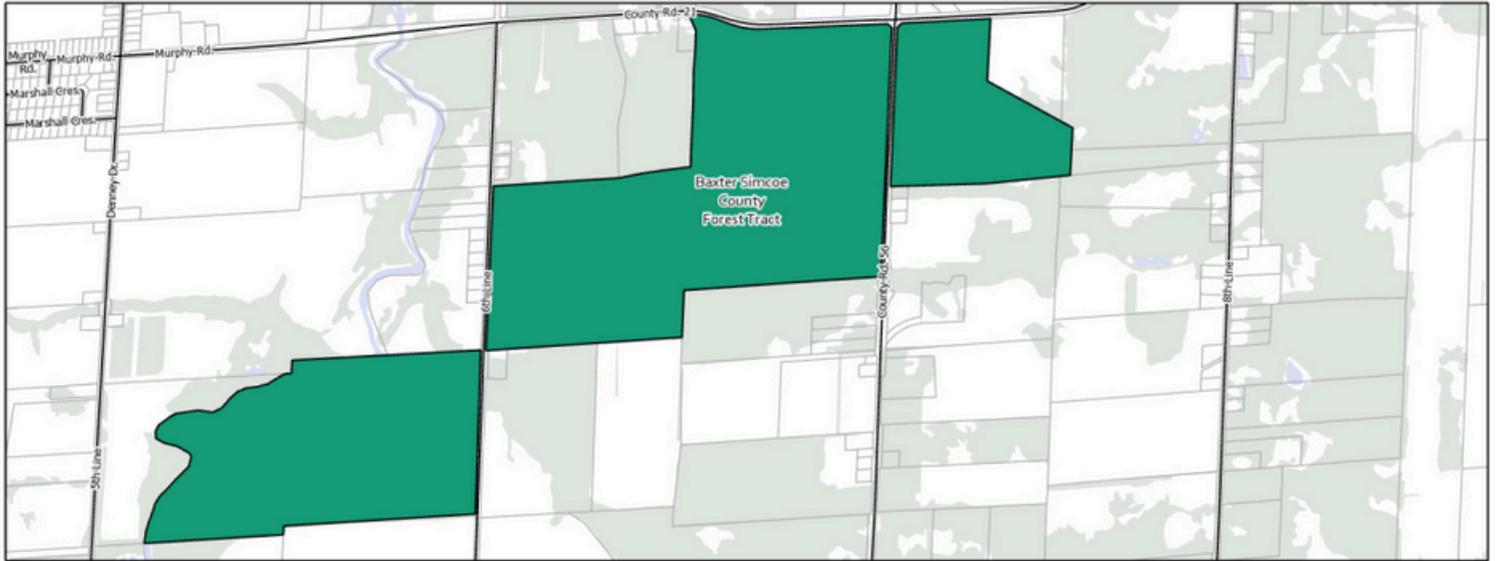


- Albert Breau Community Park/Boat Launch: 6 Huron Street
- Angus Community Centre: 8529 CR 10
- Brownley Meadows Park: 60 Mike Hart Drive
- Dellbrook Park: 240 Margaret Street
- McGeorge Park: 107 Graham Street
- Maplewood Park: 191 Maplewood Drive
- Maple Lane Park: 8 Michael Street
- Robson Park: 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



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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



**Tiffin Conservation Area:
8195 8th Line**

For more information,
click [HERE](#)



**Utopia Conservation
Area: 8609 6th Line**

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

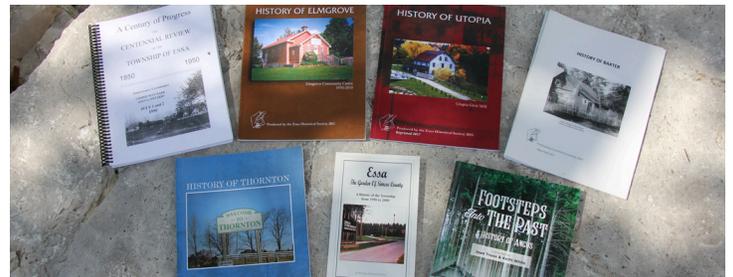
The current Angus branch building opened in 2011. The previous space was in use from 1967 to 2011.

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 next Spring?**

Contact

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



Community Organizations

Community Organizations

WORLD CUP SUMMER SOCCER
 ⚽ Choose the option that works best for your family:

✓ **Pay in Two Installments**
 Pay ½ at registration and ½ on April 30 – no extra fees, just peace of mind.

✓ **Pay in Full & Save**
 Pay in full at the time of registration and receive **\$20 OFF** each registration.

👨‍👩‍👧 **Family Savings Still Apply!**
 No matter which payment option you choose, you can still take advantage of our family discount:
\$10 OFF each child when registering more than one child

LEAGUE BEGINS LATE MAY EARLY JUNE

VOTED NUMBER ONE

Recreational, Competitive Soccer
 We Keep Scores, Standings & Playoffs

In celebration of World Cup
 Every player will receive Canada's Maple the Moose 2026 Mascot Keychain

FREE

GOAL IN THE HOLE AND

Every Family will receive This Family Fun Game of soccer golf to play at the beach or in your backyard

REGISTER ONLINE OR TEXT 437-488-7860 FOR MORE INFO

ASCUNITED.CA

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.



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.

Nacho Average Trivia Night

Show off your random knowledge and enjoy a nacho bar snack. Participate in teams of 6 in this 19+ library fundraiser. Tickets on sale now.

Thursday, March 5 @ 7-8:30pm
Angus Recreation Centre | Tickets \$20

March Break at the Library

Join us for March Break fun at Angus and Thornton Branches, including:

- **Stuffy Clinic** Monday, March 16 between 2-4pm - register to save your spot.
- **Skating & Stories** Tuesday, March 17 @ 12:30-1:50pm at the Angus Rec Centre.
- **Search & Find** Participate during library open hours at both branches.

Details and registration at essalibrary.ca.

Angus and Thornton Branches

Preschool Gym Drop-in

This open play program for ages 2-4 runs every Monday and Friday through the Township of Essa. Miss Karly from the Essa Public Library will be there Fridays to lead musical fun.

Fridays @ 11am-12pm
Angus Recreation Centre

How To Get Your Sh*t Together

During this safe, judgement-free presentation, author Michelle Unsworth-Foote will discuss a number of steps adults should take to get their end-of-life planning in order.

Thursday, April 23 @ 6:30-7:30pm
Angus Branch | Register to attend

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

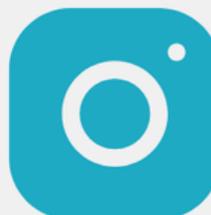
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705-424-1200 Ext. 3994

**bordenfamilyresourcecentre@gmail.com
cfmws.ca**

Follow Us!

Suivez-nous !



ESSA
TOWNSHIP
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE

Contact Us

Contact Us

Parks and Facilities Booking Coordinator

Abbey McClinton

(705) 424-9917 ext. 108

amclinton@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



Facebook

[@Township_of_Essa](https://www.facebook.com/Township_of_Essa)



X (Formerly Twitter)

[@essatownship](https://twitter.com/essatownship)



Youtube

[@townshpofessa2377](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtwnshpofessa2377)



Instagram

[@essafire](https://www.instagram.com/essafire)