



Recreation Guide

Fall 2025



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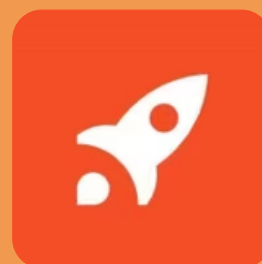
Fall Session

The Fall session will run from
September 1st to November 30th, 2025

Registration

Program registration begins Friday,
August 8th, 2025 at 5 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)



Or Visit
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com



Message from Council

Dear Essa Residents,

As we continue to celebrate Essa Townships. 175th Birthday, the leaves begin to turn and a crisp breeze fills the air. Essa Council wants to take a moment to wish everyone a wonderful fall season. Autumn is a special time in our communities, a season of harvest, gratitude, and reflection. This is a time when our parks and neighborhood burst with colour and we gather to celebrate cherished traditions and festivities. We encourage you to enjoy the beauty and activities our Township has to offer, attend local events and support your local businesses. Some of the events that will be taking place.

- Barrie Fair Essa Agriplex Aug 21 - 24 2025
- Ivy Days at Ivy Hall, Sept 06, 2025
- Pro Wrestling at the Angus Arena Sept 06, 2025
- Annual Thornton Corn Roast Sep 14, 2025 at the Thornton Arena
- Rock n Roll Angus at Angus Arena Sept 14 & 15
- Essa Riverbank Derby Nottawasaga and Don Ross Fishing parks on Sept 21, 2025
- Turkey dinner at Baxter Living Faith Presbyterian Church Oct 25, 2025

Watch on Essa Website for event updates.

Minor Hockey in Thornton and Angus will be in full swing be sure to take in a game or two. We have great talent. Thank you to the coaches, volunteers and Managers who make this happen for our youth. Essa Public Library has such exciting monthly programs for everyone to join in. Parks and Rec Programmer Alex has a full line of fun filled programs waiting of everyone of all ages to join. The Fall Parks and Rec guide is very informative and overflowing with new and existing programs. Great job Alex and team.

Join us to celebrate the Anniversary of the Angus and Essa exercise group, which has been going strong for 25 years. Sandie Macdonald started it and continues to facilitate it for free! The program is for seniors and anyone, regardless of age, who wants to get healthy and stronger. Classes are held Monday and Thursday, 8:45 to 9:45, at the Angus Arena. The celebration will be held Oct 16th, 2025, starting at 8:45 am, after the exercise class, where we will have a taste testing smoothy bar, treats and you could win a prize. There will be a guest speaker.

School is back in September, and our precious ones will be walking, biking or on scooters. Please be the one that always slows down, does the posted speed limit to save lives. Please be respectful to our Farmers who need to use the roadways to get to their fields. Remember, farmers grow the food we consume. Essa is where town and country meet, and we are proud of our local farmers, the stewards of the land. As we prepare for the cooler months ahead, let's continue to look out for one another especially our Seniors and neighbours in need. Together, we can ensure everyone feels connected and cared for.

We thank our dedicated Staff for continuing to work to keep our Township safe and moving forward every single day. Thank you to everyone for making our Communities and Township such a vibrant, welcoming place to live, do business and be proud to call Essa home.

Warm Regards,
Your Essa Council
Mayor Sandie, Deputy Mayor Mike
Councillors Pieter, Henry, Liana

What's new this season?

- **55+ Shuffleboard & Cornhole Drop-in**
- **Basketball Skills Program**
- **Mom and Baby Yoga**
- **New Skatepark at the Angus Recreation Centre**
- **New Pump Tracks at the Angus Recreation Centre and Thornton Community Centre**
- **Dance for Seniors Program**
- **Skating Memberships**
- **15% Side Door Program Discount**
- **Parkettes in Elmgrove and Baxter**
- **Disc Golf Courses in Olive Lee Park in Thornton and Bob Geddes Park in Angus**

Message from the Parks & Recreation Team

Welcome to the Fall 2025 season in Essa Township! We're excited to share a variety of new programs and facility upgrades designed to keep you active and connected this season. New programs include Mom and Baby Yoga, Dance for Seniors, a Basketball Skills Program, Shuffleboard and Cornhole drop-in, and skating memberships that provide unlimited access to our drop-in skating programs.

We're also pleased to offer a 15% discount when you register for more than one course provided by Side Door Yoga this fall. Outdoors, we've added a brand-new skatepark at the Angus Recreation Centre, pump tracks in both Angus and Thornton, parkettes in Elmgrove and Baxter, and 5-hole disc golf courses at Olive Lee Park in Thornton and Bob Geddes Park in Angus.

Thank you for being part of our growing recreation community. We hope to see you this fall!

Chris Rankin
Manager of Recreation

55+ Shuffleboard & Cornhole Drop-in

The free 55+ Shuffleboard/Cornhole Drop-in program will provide seniors with the opportunity to stay active, play, and build connections with their community. Seniors can look forward to playing corn hole and shuffleboard in a relaxing and fun atmosphere. Whether you are an experienced player or looking to try something new, all are welcome to join in on the fun!

Please bring indoor shoes to help keep dirt and salt out of the room and protect the equipment.

Schedule:

September 3rd, 2025- March 25th, 2026

Angus Recreation Centre

- Mondays (10 AM - 11:30 AM)
- Wednesdays (10 AM - 11:30 AM)

Thornton Community Centre

- Mondays (1 PM - 2:30 PM)
- Wednesdays (10 AM - 11:30 AM)

Excluding: Sept 1st & Oct 13th

Ages: 55+

Cost: Free

For more information, contact the Recreation Programmer at ajacobs@essatownship.on.ca or (705) 424-9917 ext 107



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	Jun 2 nd - Aug 25 th	Ongoing
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No Class: July 21st & August 4th, 2025

Dance for Seniors

New Program

Dance is an exercise that works your brain as much as your body! This dance series encourages imagination and playful exploration of movement through improvisation, exploration of rhythms and sequences, and physical storytelling - all to great music! With your choice of seated or standing, while moving in time to music, participants will learn short movement sequences and play with a variety of dance styles. This is a class for everyone; no dance experience is necessary!

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$100 + HST

Age: 55+

TUES	11 AM	1 HR	Sept 9 th - Nov 11 th	10 WKS
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Location: Thornton Community Centre - Meeting Room

Price: \$100 + HST

Age: 55+

TUES	1 PM	1 HR	Sept 9 th - Nov 11 th	10 WKS
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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 PM	1 HR	Sept 8 th - Nov 17 th	10 WKS
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No Class: Oct 13th

Location: Thornton Community Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

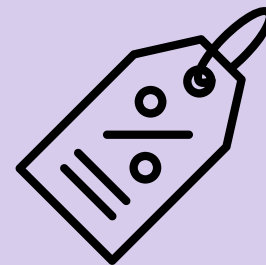
MON	7 PM	1 HR	Sept 8 th - Nov 17 th	10 WKS
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No Class: Oct 13th



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 3 rd - Nov 5 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 3 rd - Nov 12 th	10 WKS
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No Class: Oct 22nd

Registration

Program registration begins
Friday, August 8th, 2025 at 5 PM.
Register online at
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com



Pilates



Brought to you by Side Door Yoga, gain strength, mobility and mind-body connection with Pilates. Due to the progressive sequencing, this class is suitable 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+

THUR	7 PM	1 HR	Sept 4 th - Nov 27 th	10 WKS
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No Class: Sept 11th, Sept 25th, Oct 9th, Nov 6th, Nov 13th



The Township of Essa is committed to the delivery of quality child recreation programming and is a proud HIGH FIVE® Registered Organization! HIGH FIVE is a quality assurance standard for children's recreation and sport. To learn more about HIGH FIVE® visit the website by clicking [HERE](#)

HIGH FIVE® A quality standard for recreation and sport programs. Founded by Parks and Recreation Ontario.

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+

SAT	10:30 AM	1 HR	Sept 6 th - Nov 15 th	10 WKS
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No Class: Oct 4th

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 - Gymnasium
Price: \$100 + HST
Age: 18+

TUES	7 PM	1 HR	Sept 2 nd - Nov 4 th	10 WKS
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Basketball Skills (5-12)

New Program

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

THUR	6 PM	50 MIN	Sept 11 th - Oct 30 th	8 WKS
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Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$120

Age: 9-12

THUR	7 PM	50 MIN	Sept 11 th - Oct 30 th	8 WKS
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Art Exploration (7-12)

Attention young artists of Essa Township! Join us in an 8-week program designed to foster creativity and self-expression, while learning key art techniques. Children will explore various art mediums including acrylics, watercolour, ink, pastels, and pencil. Lessons focused on developing colour mixing skills and incorporating elements such as line, value and texture will enable children to create a diverse range of artworks. Suitable for all skill levels, from beginners to intermediate artists. This program requires no prior experience, and all materials will be provided. Just bring your creativity and love of art!

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$140

Age: 7-12

THUR	5 PM	1 HR	Sept 11 th - Nov 13 th	8 WKS
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No Class: Sept 25th & Nov 6th

Location: Thornton Community Centre - Meeting Room

Price: \$140

Age: 7-12

WED	5 PM	1 HR	Sept 10 th - Oct 29 th	8 WKS
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Monkeynastix (1-4)

This fun 6 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	Sept 3 rd - Oct 8 th	6 WKS
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WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Oct 22 nd - Nov 26 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 3 rd - Oct 8 th	6 WKS
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WED	5:45 PM	30 MIN	Oct 22 nd - Nov 26 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 3 rd - Oct 8 th	6 WKS
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WED	6:30 PM	30 MIN	Oct 22 nd - Nov 26 th	6 WKS
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Registration

Program registration begins Friday,
August 8th, 2025 at 5 PM.

Register online at
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

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), Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays (8 - 10 AM)

Exclusion Dates: Sept 1st & Oct 13th

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: Sept 1st & Oct 13th

Open Gym (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: N/A

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 - 12:30 PM)

Exclusion Dates: N/A

Drop-in Prices (Cash Only)

Ages 0-4: \$2	Ages 18-64: \$5
Ages 5-17: \$3	Ages 65+: \$4



**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.

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: N/A

Senior Walking & Exercise Group (55+)

Do you want to have fun and get a workout? 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. It is a great way to start your day. Sandie Macdonald has facilitated the exercise group for 23 years. We encourage everyone to join us to keep healthy and moving. 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

***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.

Shuffleboard/Cornhole Drop-in (55+)

This is a free program that provides seniors with the opportunity to stay active, play, and build connections with their community. Equipment is available on site.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall

Times: Mondays & Wednesdays (10 - 11:30 AM)

Exclusion Dates: Sept 1st & Oct 13th

Location: Thornton Community Centre - Meeting Room

Times: Mondays (12 - 1:30 PM) &

Wednesdays (10 - 11:30 AM)

Exclusion Dates: Sept 1st & Oct 13th

Paid for by the
Government of Ontario



Recreation Calendar

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

< > October 2024						
SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
		10:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - State - Angus	10:30 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - State - Angus	10:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - State - Angus	10:30 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - State - Angus	10:00 pm Drop-in Skate Programs Public Skate - State - Thornhill
		10:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - State - Thornhill	10:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - State - Thornhill	10:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - State - Thornhill	10:00 am Drop-in Skate Programs Parent and Tot Skate - State - Thornhill	10:00 pm Drop-in Skate Programs Public Skate - State - Thornhill
		10:30 am Drop-in Skate Programs Adult Pickleball Drop-in Angus	10:30 am Drop-in Skate Programs Adult Pickleball Drop-in Angus	10:30 am Drop-in Skate Programs Adult Pickleball Drop-in Angus	10:30 am Drop-in Skate Programs Adult Pickleball Drop-in Angus	10:00 pm Drop-in Skate Programs Public Skate - State - Angus



Skating Drop-in Programs

**Skating programs will run from
September 29th, 2025 to
March 29th, 2026**

**Stay tuned for an announcement
about Skating Drop-in
Memberships**

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 - 9 PM) & Sundays (12 - 1:20 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 4th, 24th, 25th, 26th, Dec 19th, 20th, 21st, 26th, Jan 3rd, 24th, 25th, Mar 6th, 7th & 8th

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Tuesdays (5 - 5:50 PM), Fridays (5 - 6:20 PM), & Saturdays (1 - 1:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 24th, 25th, Dec 19th, 20th, Mar 6th & 7th

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 25th & Jan 1st

Thornton Community Centre:

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

Exclusion Dates: Dec 25th & Jan 1st

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: Dec 24th & 31st

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Wednesdays (12 - 1:20 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Dec 24th & 31st

Drop-in Prices (Cash Only)

Skating:	Shinny:
5 & Under: Free	All Ages: \$5
Ages 5+: \$3	Goalies are free!

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)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 4th, Oct 25th, Dec 20th, Jan 3rd, Jan 24th & Mar 7th

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Mondays (5 - 5:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 13th & Feb 16th



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 (5 - 5:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 13th & Feb 16th

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Mondays (4 - 4:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 13th & Feb 16th

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: Oct 4th, Oct 25th, Dec 20th, Jan 3rd, Jan 24th & Mar 7th

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Saturdays (8 - 8:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Oct 25th, Dec 20th & Mar 7th

***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.



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 Resurfacer - \$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](#)

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 outdoor spaces and parks, including ball diamonds, soccer fields, dog parks, playgrounds, splash pads, skate parks, fishing parks, and multi-sport courts used for basketball and pickleball. During the summer season, these facilities are open and ready for use, offering a wide range of recreational opportunities for residents of all ages. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the warm weather by enjoying our parks, trails, and outdoor amenities for activities such as walking, biking, picnicking, sports, and water play.



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](#).



All-Terrain 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 June 1st to September 31st 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
Thornton Arena Park: 246 Barrie Street

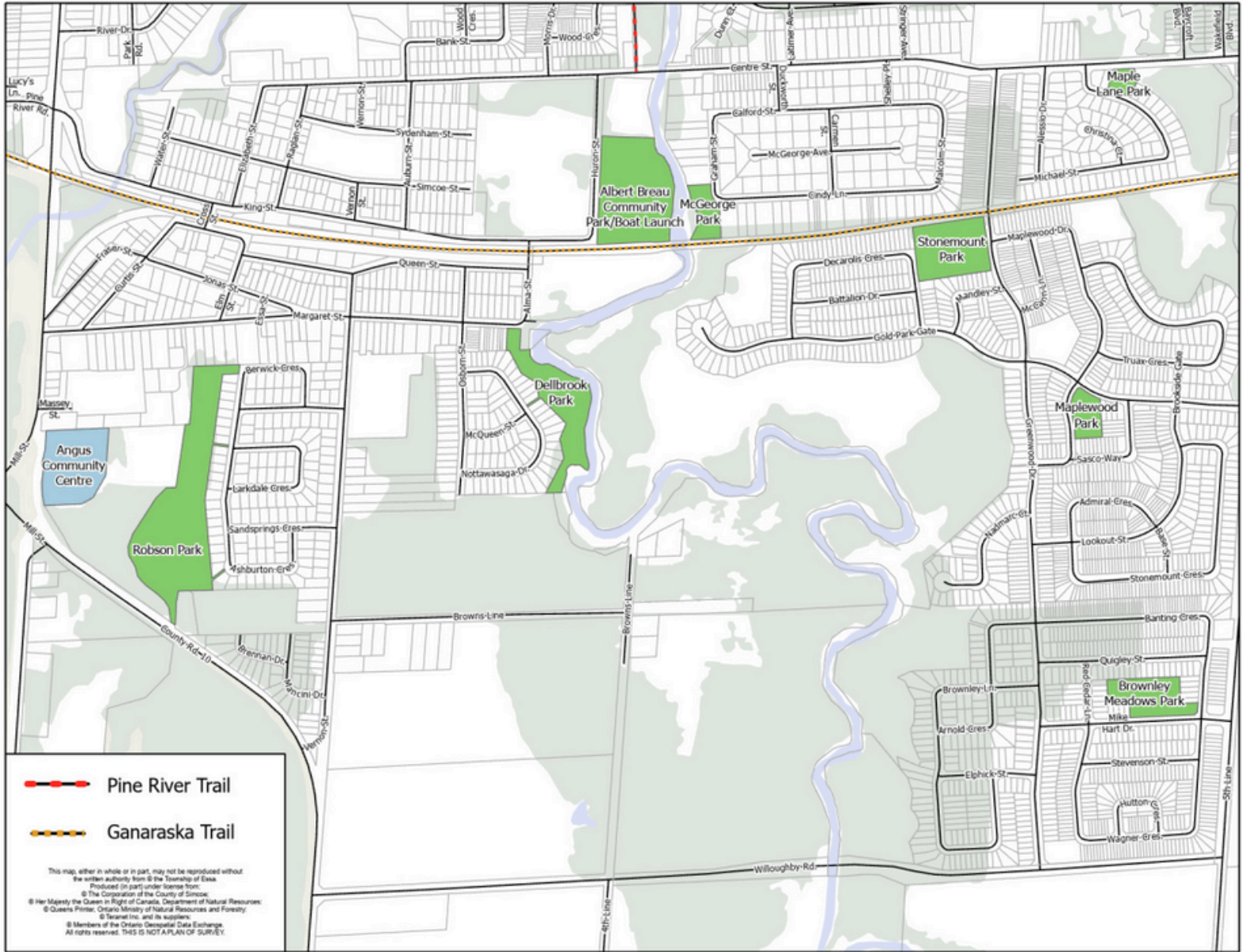
Thornton Arena: 246 Barrie Street
Thornton Arena Ball Park: 246 Barrie Street
Thornton Soccer Pitches/Dog Park: 4256 7th Line

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

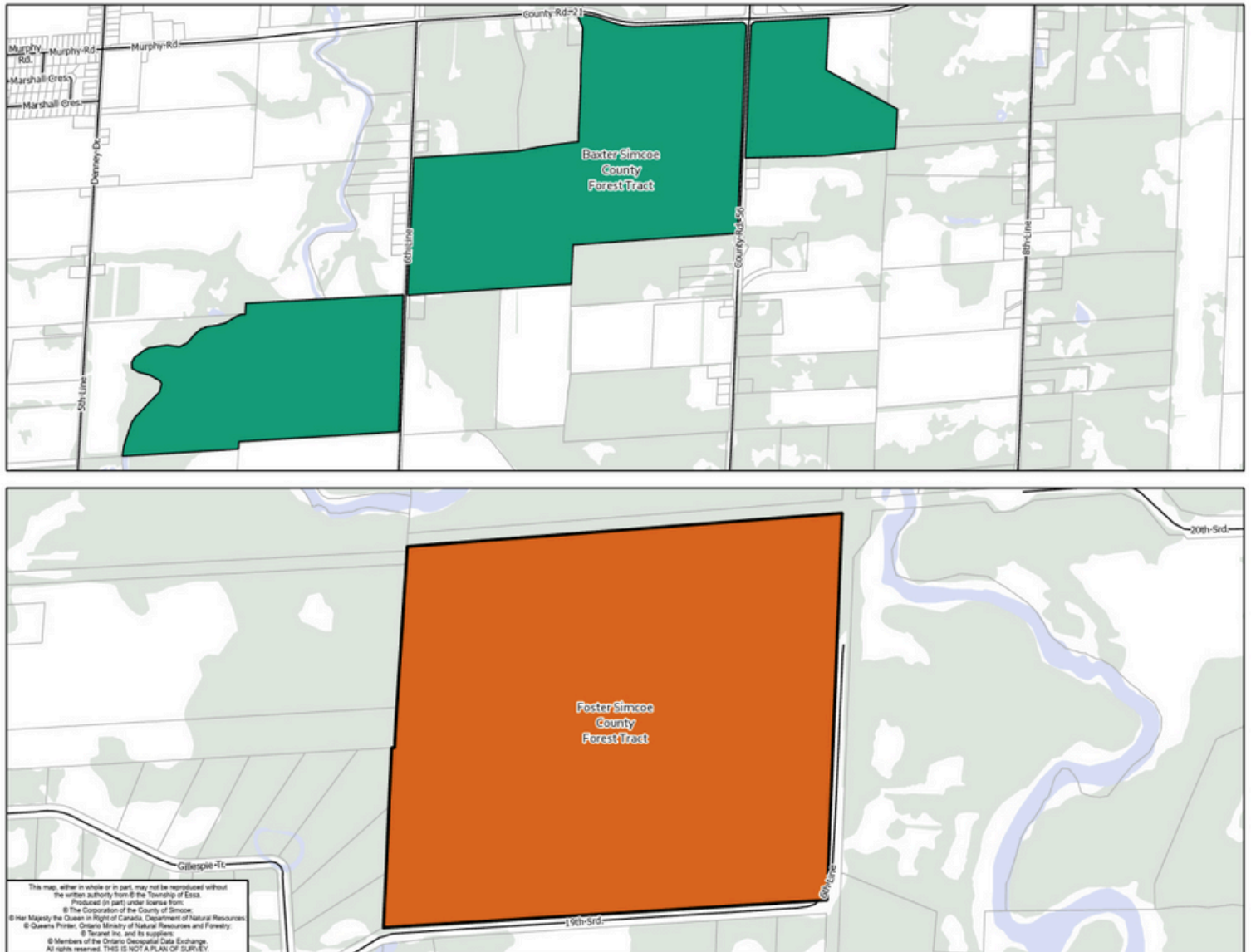
Maple Lane Park: 8 Michael Street

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



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

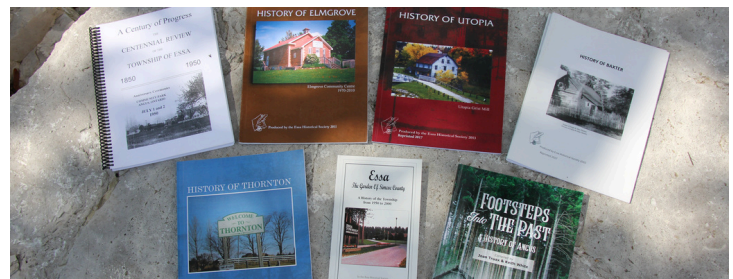
The current Angus branch building opened in 2011. The previous space was in use from 1967 to 2011.

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 next Winter?
Contact ajacobs@essatownship.on.ca
to learn more**



26th Annual

THORNTON CORN ROAST

CORN | BURGERS | HOTDOGS | REFRESHMENTS
BOUNCY CASTLES | FISHPOND



CASH DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED

SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2025 | 4-6PM
THORNTON ARENA PARKING LOT

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
THORNTON AREA ACTION COMMITTEE
& THE THORNTON LIONS CLUB



Trivia Night

Thursday, September 25 @7-9 PM

Angus Recreation Centre

Test your knowledge with this adult (19+) trivia night fundraiser in support of Essa Public Library.

Tickets: \$20 per person

Teams of up to 6 (prize for best team name)

For full event details and ticket information, visit essalibrary.ca

WHAT'S HAPPENING this FALL at Essa Public Library



8 Libraries. 8 Books. 1 Winner. Join us for the Simcoe Reads final debate **Thursday, October 23** at 6:30 pm at the Gibson Centre in Alliston. Register to attend at EssaLibrary.ca or SimcoeReads.ca.



Don't miss Essalicious, a delicious fundraiser supporting our library. Enjoy fall food, live music, a guest speaker, and silent auction. Purchase your ticket at Essa Public Library.
Thursday, November 20

Drop-in programs for adults 18+

Writers Group Meetings

one
Wednesday a month
from 7-8 pm. For adults
18+, all creatives and
skill levels welcome.

Location: Angus Branch

Hobby Circle

Meets twice a month.
Upcoming meetings on
Thursday, Sept 18 & 25 @
6-7:30 pm.

Location: Angus Branch

Chair Yoga

Every Wednesday at
1:30-2:30 pm until
December 17th.

Location: Angus
Recreation Centre



FÊTE BORDEN BLAST



NDWCC Craft show
CCMTDN exposition d'artisanat

September 20 septembre 2025

1000 to 1500 hrs • de 10 h à 15 h

Zip-line, vendors, food trucks,
interactive activities and more!

Tyrolienne, fournisseurs,
cantines mobiles, activités interactives
et plus encore !

Prizes*!

Prix* !

*Must be a current CAF Member to win
* Pour gagner, il faut être membre de la FAC

**NDWCC Craft show
1000 hrs - 1500 hrs**

**CCMTDN exposition
d'artisanat de 10 h à 15 h**

Thank you to our sponsors!



Merci à nos commanditaires!

BMO



Official bank of the
Canadian Defence Community

BMO



Banque officielle de la communauté
de la Défense canadienne

cfmws.ca/borden
sbmfc.ca/borden

Location: Buell front entrance and the baseball diamonds
Lieu : À l'entrée du Centre Buell et sur les terrains de baseball

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 ajacobs@essatownship.on.ca to learn more



Knock, knock. Who's there?

You, but you don't have a library card yet.

Do you have a piece of ID with your name and address?

Sure do.

Great, we can sign you up for the library in minutes.

Residents of Essa Township and Base Borden can visit us in-person to get a library card with unlimited checkouts and no late fines. Don't have a piece of formal ID? Chat to staff about how to get a Discovery Card.

For hours & locations visit essalibrary.ca



BELONGING, WELL-BEING, EXPRESSION AND ENGAGEMENT.

Early ON

Child and Family Centre

ANGUS

SATELLITE LOCATION

PROGRAMS

STAY, PLAY & LEARN

Ages 0-6 years old

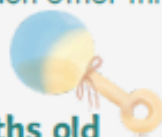
Parents, caregivers and their children utilize our open space to engage with each other through play, exploration and imagination.



BABY & ME

Ages 0-12 months old

Come with your little one to enjoy sing-a-longs, storytime and baby play while connecting with other parents and caregivers.



PARENT CHILD MOTHER GOOSE (infant)

Ages 0-18 months old

Enjoy this 5 or 10 week program with no toys, or materials as we focus on the intimate connection with you and your baby and building attachment through rhymes, stories and songs.



Do you have questions or concerns about your **child's development**? Ask us how we can support you through our developmental screenings and to connect you with our community partners.

VISIT WWW.E3.CA TO REGISTER FOR OUR PROGRAMS AND TO SEE OUR SCHEDULE



8527 County Rd 10, Angus, ON L0M 1B0
(Behind the Angus Recreation Center Arena)



www.e3.ca



(705) 435-4308

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

Follow Us!

Suivez-nous !



**REGISTER
NOW!**

INDOOR SOCCER

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!



FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS

PLAY WITH THE BEST TO BE THE BEST!

ASC UNITED

ALL GAMES PLAYED AT THE
NOTTAWASAGA PINES SS
IN ANGUS

SATURDAYS ARE GAME DAYS
(see online for times)

**LEAGUE BEGINS
NOVEMBER**

Register Online

ASCUNITED.CA



Scan the QR for more details



Scan the QR for more details



INDOOR SOCCER

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

INFO: 437-488-7860

REGISTER
ONLINE



OUTPLAY, OUTTHINK, OUTSCORE



5 ON 5 FUTSAL

LEAGUE BEGINS NOVEMBER

ALL GAMES PLAYED SATURDAYS
AT NOTTAWASAGA PINES SS

FAST FEET, SHARP MINDS



ASCUNITED.CA



Scan the QR to Registers

**ESSA
TOWNSHIP**
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE

Contact Us

Contact Us

Recreation Programmer

Alex Jacobs

(705) 424-9917 ext. 107

ajacobs@essatownship.on.ca

Parks & Facilities Bookings Coordinator

Abbey McClinton

(705) 424-9917 ext. 108

amccclinton@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](#)



X (Formerly Twitter)

[@essatownship](#)



Youtube

[@townshipofessa2377](#)



Instagram

[@essafire](#)