



**ElginCounty**  
Progressive by Nature

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**Community Profile**

**Robotic Seals - Innovative Care Giving in Elgin County**



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Elgin County strives to be “progressive by nature” in all aspects of corporate operations including the care provided at its three long-term care homes: Bobier Villa, Elgin Manor and Terrace Lodge. Staff is actively integrating some of the newest technological advances in health care including robotics.

There are not enough care givers in Japan to meet the needs of the country’s aging population. As a result the country has turned to the use of advanced robots

including Paro a robotic seal originally used to assist Tsunami victims. Paro has been used in Japan and Europe since 2003 but Elgin County is the first in the province to utilize this technology in long-term care homes. Elgin was pleased to have received funding towards the purchase of a Paro for each home in the amount of \$5000 from Behavioural Supports Ontario.

The Paro Seal is a realistic-looking,

interactive robot with motion sensors that react to different types of touch. Elgin County Homes were looking for an innovative way to best meet the needs of residents who are experiencing responsive behaviours. Often people who have Alzheimer's or Dementia have difficulties expressing themselves and these difficulties are often expressed as responsive behaviours which can manifest as agitation or frustration. Understanding the meaning behind these behaviours and meeting resident needs are extremely important. Paro is able to meet a large number of underlying needs, creating a calming effect for residents, reducing their stress, and stimulating interaction.

Paro responds to different tones of voice, different emotional states, and can distinguish between different residents. The robot is able to respond in a realistic manner to many different situations for example if someone is rough with Paro or speaks harshly it will respond by crying. If someone is affectionate with Paro it will cuddle with them.

Animal therapy has proven a very affective care-giving method for those exhibiting responsive

behaviours; however, using live animals is not always logistically possible. Live animals can be unpredictable in certain situations and allergies and sanitary standards must always be considered. Paro is a unique way to provide animal therapy in the absence of a live animal.

Some may wonder why a baby seal was selected over a more common animal such as a dog or a cat. A baby seal with its big eyes and furry coat is non-threatening with no big teeth or sharp claws. Additionally, very few people have ever had any interactions with a seal. This means that resident interactions with Paro are free from past fears, negative experiences or dislikes of other more common animals.

The introduction of Paro in Elgin County's three long-term care homes has been a resounding success. Watch this [video](#) to learn more about the impact that Paro has had on the lives of Elgin County's long-term care residents and to see Paro in action in Elgin and surrounding communities.

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## Tourism Event

### Paws-itively Elgin - A Perfect Way to Spend the Dog Days of Summer

This July celebrate the dog days of summer with an event that will be fun for the whole family - particularly the four-legged members! On July 28, 2018 Springwater Conservation Area will play host to Paws-itively Elgin a dog-friendly festival with the purpose of supporting animal rescues in Elgin County.

The event is organized by JettaJacks Brand Corp., and hosted by; Ice Foundation K9 Rescue, K9 Ground Search Elgin/Middlesex, and Helping Paws Rescue. All proceeds from the event will go towards helping the hosting organizations to pay for the expenses associated with animal rescue (food, medication, veterinary bills, etc.).

Todd Caverly of JettaJacks hopes that in addition to a whole lot of tail-wagging fun that the event will help





to promote responsible dog ownership, teaching visitors about proper pet care while raising money for a good cause.

The event will feature a variety of exciting attractions for dog lovers of all ages and the organizers encourage dogs to attend as well – as long as they are leashed.

A temporary dock will be built to accommodate demonstrations by Ontario Dock Dogs®. This canine aquatics competition is the fastest growing sport for dogs who love to run, jump and swim. A toy is thrown from a dock and the competing dogs run and jump into the water. They are measured, depending on the event, on how high or how far they jump. Ontario Dock Dogs also has a speed retrieval event where dogs are timed on how fast they can retrieve a toy from the water. In addition to demonstrations, visitors will have a chance to let their own water-loving pets take a jump from the dock.

The Run Spot Run team from Woodstock will also be in attendance to entertain you and your furry friend with a lure course. Exercise is important for your dog and the jumps and corners of this course are a perfect way to encourage some much needed physical activity.

Let Details Dog Training from Mapleton dazzle you with world class dogs competing in difficult agility courses. Put your own dog's skills to the test and see how he/she measures up! Don't worry if your

pooch is less than agile, the photo opportunities will make up for any shortcomings.

Paws-itively Elgin will also feature a vendor area appropriately titled "The Kennel" where all sorts of local businesses have been invited to sell their wares – both dog-related and human-focused. The event will feature food for sale, prizes, and contests. A veterinarian and St. John's Ambulance will be on site all day to deal with any medical issues that may arise – human or canine.

Todd Caverly expects that between 2000 and 4000 people will show up for this one-day extravaganza and encourages attendees to take photos of their dogs at the event using the hashtag #dogsofelgin for the chance to win great prizes.

To learn more about this Fido-friendly affair visit [www.pawsitivelyelgin.ca](http://www.pawsitivelyelgin.ca).



## Business Profile

### Antiques and Ice Cream Combine in Dutton with Charming Results



A leisurely afternoon spent perusing the treasures at Antiques and Ice Cream in Dutton will take you back to a time when things were made to last and craftsmanship was impeccable. Ambiance is extremely important to owner Lisa Welch who has filled her store with a kaleidoscope of gorgeous antique furniture, glassware, paintings, china and tools.

“A visit to the shop is sort of like a treasure hunt,” says Lisa. “You never know what you might find!”

Lisa sources her antiques from a variety of different places. She attends auctions both in person and online searching for unique one-of-a-kind pieces for



the store. She will also go through people’s homes, at their request, looking for items of interest. One of her particularly spectacular finds was an antique gentleman’s cabinet from 1875 with intricate dragons carved into the wood.

The store also carries a variety of Elgin County made products including Sparta Country Candles and, as per its name, a selection of 12 Shaw’s Ice Cream flavours and milkshakes year-round!

Her love of antiques and a desire to work closer to home prompted Lisa to open the shop two years ago. She noticed that Dutton didn’t have an ice cream shop so she decided to combine the two elements with charming results.

To learn more about Antiques and Ice Cream and to view a selection of in-store items visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Antiques-Ice-Cream-873929942739831/>.



# Elgin County Tourism Launches Bucket List Summer Contest

Canadian summers can be fleeting so to help you make the most of Summer 2018, Elgin County has created a summer bucket list detailing a series of Elgin County experiences that shouldn't be missed! Even better, we are giving you a chance to win great prizes all summer long! All you have to do is take a photo of one of the Elgin experiences listed below, post it on Instagram and hashtag it #ElginBucketList18. Each week a random entry will be selected to win a series of great Elgin prizes. Check out contest details on our [website](#).



# Share

your Elgin County photos on Instagram with the hashtag

## #ElginBucketList18

this summer to win awesome prizes!

**1** SOAK UP THE SUN   
at one of our nine sandy beaches

**2**  EXPLORE 100 KMS of natural trails

**3** THE SAVOUR FLAVOUR   
of our area restaurants

**4** ENJOY   
a live performance at a local intimate theatre

**5** TREAT YOURSELF   
to an ice cream cone at a local parlour

**6** THE TOAST COAST   
at a local vineyard

**7** PICK-YOUR-OWN   
fresh fruits & vegetables

**8** ATTEND   
a local event & visit the Tourism Cruiser

**9** FIND   
a one-of-a-kind piece of local art

**10** STAY   
at one of Elgin's Campgrounds, inns, B+B's, or cottages

### How to Play:

- 1 Like @elgincounty on Instagram.
- 2 Take a photo of a category on the bucket list.
- 3 Post your photo on Instagram and use #ElginBucketList18.





- PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKERS
- REGISTERED NURSES
- REGISTERED PRACTICAL NURSES

# JOIN OUR TEAM

## COUNTY OF ELGIN HOMES & SENIORS SERVICES

- Progressive
- Education
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- Not For Profit
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- Staff Retention
- Modern Facilities
- Competitive Wages
- Flexible Schedules
- Staff Appreciation
- Charming Locations

**APPLY NOW AT**  
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☎ 519 631-1460 EXT. 155

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