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## Supporting Stevenson

Al Lord, Chair of the Kevin Lord Foundation, delivers a cheque for \$2,500 to the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, represented by Kara Harris, communications coordinator, and Dayna Dunn, community and corporate giving officer. The funds were raised during the annual Kevin Lord Memorial Golf Tournament. See page 7 for a full story.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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# Convenience stores now selling beer, cider, ready-mix drinks

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Life in Ontario is a little more convenient for some people as grocery and convenience stores have started selling beer, cider, and ready-mix alcoholic drinks in their stores.

The Ford government has changed the rules on who can sell these products.

As of September 5, 4,187 convenience stores across Ontario are licensed to sell alcoholic beverages, in addition to nearly 3,000 other licensed retail outlets as well as take-away options from licensed bars and restaurants.

“The expansion delivers on our government’s promise to give people in Ontario the same choice and convenience enjoyed by people throughout the rest of Canada,” said Premier Doug Ford. “With the recent announcement, we’re also creating new opportunities to produce and sell world-class Ontario-made beer, wine and ready-to-drink beverages in nearly 4,200 convenience stores across the province.”

The hours of sale for alcoholic products are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week, including holidays.

“People finally have more options to responsibly and conveniently support local Ontario breweries and wineries – or whatever their drink-of-choice may be – even closer to home, and today’s announcement is another

milestone in the government’s commitment to deliver more choice and convenience to consumers,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “In addition to supporting Ontario retailers, domestic producers and workers in the alcohol industry, our vision for a better marketplace has come to life thanks to people and businesses across the province.”

Liquor is excluded and will only remain available in the LCBO and its agency stores.

Here is a list of participating stores in New Tecumseth.

**Alliston**

- Banting Convenience
- Canadian Tire Gas Bar Plus
- Circle K
- Lukie’s Convenience
- Shell
- TLC Convenience
- Victoria Mart
- Zehrs (expanded to include larger quantities)

**Beeton**

- Beeton Express
- Beeton Gas Bar

**Tottenham**

- AM PM Convenience
- Circle K
- Foodland
- Tottenham Milk and Variety
- Ultramar

**Adjala**

- Esso Convenience Cty 50



**NOW AVAILABLE** – Since September 5, all licensed convenience stores in Ontario can sell beer, cider, wine and ready-to-drink alcoholic beverages, marking the largest expansion of consumer choice and convenience in provincial alcohol sales since the end of prohibition almost 100 years ago. **STOCK PHOTO**

The government is also permanently allowing the transfer of wine and spirits between locations with the same owner and/or affiliated licensees in order to help bars and restaurants effectively manage inventory, and is allowing licensed grocery and convenience stores to display alcoholic beverages in multiple areas of a store, while maintaining small-producer shelf space requirements as well as policies that will continue to ensure the safe and responsible sale of alcohol.

# Council receives year-end Budget Variance Report at meeting

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

New Tecumseth Council recently received a Budget Variance Report with information as of June 30, 2024.

The report was received at the Aug. 26 council meeting.

The report forecasts year-end operating financial results and capital projections as of June 30.

Key findings are summarized as, a forecasted town surplus of \$45,000, and a forecasted water and wastewater surplus of \$113,000.

Overall capital projects are forecasting a favourable variance of \$858,000.

On Dec. 11, 2023, Council approved the 2024 Town Water and Wastewater Budgets, illustrated within this report. Pursuant to financial management best practices and budgetary control, quarterly and year-end operating variance reports are submitted to Council to provide projected operating results to year-end. In addition, the reports provide status updates on budgeted capital projects throughout the year, including additional details for projects considered to be high profile per the Town’s Capital Project Administration and Reporting Policy.

The operating budget provides for expenses that cover day-to-day expenditures and activities including utilities, insurance, staff wages and benefits, program supplies, and facility/equipment repairs and maintenance.

For town operating expenses, staff are

forecasting a year-end surplus of \$45,000, made up of a favourable revenue variance of \$373,000, and an unfavourable expenditure variance of \$328,000. These results may change as the year progresses.

For financial results, environmental staff are forecasting a year-end surplus of \$113,000.

The Town’s 2024 capital plan includes a total of 165 capital projects valued at \$110 million. Staff are forecasting a favourable variance of \$858,000 at the end of project completion.

The town has reserves and reserve funds which are critically important for financial sustainability.

Reserves and reserve funds purposes include stabilization reserves, Capital from Taxation Reserve to fund new capital works projects, legislation and growth, and asset renewal.

This also includes gas tax – Federal Gas Tax funds received by the town and are primarily used to fund the annual road improvement projects.

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Welcome home! No need to look any further - this beautiful Briar Hill bungalow will check all your boxes. This Monticello features an open concept floor plan that works so well. A lovely living room with a linear fireplace overlooks the large back deck – perfect for early morning coffee or evening entertaining while watching the sun set. This level features a spacious main floor primary with a spa like ensuite and walk-in closet, a main floor laundry room, space for a den or even an extra bedroom and direct access to the double car garage. The professionally done lower level offers a large family room with a walk out to the patio area. Guests will be very comfortable in the bright, sunny guest bedroom. Off the family room there is additional space for your home office – or a place to work on those hobbies! This home is all ready for you – nothing more to do!



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# School Board trustee sanctioned for unauthorized presentation to Town Council

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

“That’s quite the bomb that’s just been dropped on this council,” said New Tecumseth Mayor, Richard Norcross after a presentation by Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) Trustee, Sarah Beitz, at a council meeting on Sept. 11, 2023.

Ms. Beitz, who is the School Board Trustee for New Tecumseth, was at last year’s council meeting and gave a deputation indicating that the Simcoe County District School Board would not rebuild Banting Memorial High School on its current site. She proposed that a new school be built on the Banting Homestead location.

However, this information was not in line with previous information given to council and presented by the school board.

Mayor Norcross and the rest of council appeared shocked and blindsided by the statements made by Ms. Beitz.

“We should have heard this from the school board sooner, instead of coming here to our council meeting – we ratify something tonight, and it gets dropped like this – if you don’t decide tonight this isn’t going to happen? That’s not the relationship I want to build.” Mayor Norcross said.

However, it was revealed later that Ms. Beitz was never authorized by the school board to speak on its behalf at a council meeting.

At a special school board meeting on Aug. 28, it was announced that the board imposed the following sanctions:

- Censure the member (Ms. Beitz) through a formal reprimand addressing the breach of the code

- Completion of the Good Governance for School Board Trustee Professional Development training offered through the Ontario Public School Board’s Association within three months

- As it pertains to communication with the SCDSB staff, Trustee Beitz follow the direction of the Director of Education

A report from Integrity Commissioner Michael Maynard was presented at the Aug. 28 council meeting.

“The formal complaint regarding the conduct of Trustee Beitz has been brought forward,” it was announced before providing the findings in the report. “Simcoe County District School Board policy 2125 Trustee Code of Conduct outlines a variety of behaviour expectations for Trustees including the integrity and dignity of office and civil behaviour and the process for addressing code of conducting matters.”

The report found that Trustee Beitz violated the code of conduct five times.

Trustees at the SCDSB meeting questioned whether Trustee Beitz would follow through with the required procedures listed in the sanctions.

# Tottenham resident visited by rare albino chipmunks on property

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

A Tottenham resident has some very rare visitors who come out to greet him every afternoon.

Ron Passer, who lives on the 10th Sideroad, has been feeding the squirrels and chipmunks on his property for years. They are friendly critters and approach Ron when he throws out peanuts for them to eat.

This year, however, he has two very rare visitors – albino chipmunks.

He first noticed an all-white chipmunk in May, presumably its first summer after leaving the nest. Then one day he saw the white chipmunk again, but this time it was accompanied by another white chipmunk – there were two of them.

Most likely the chipmunks were siblings. “I first saw them near the end of May,”

Ron explained. “The two of them have to be related somehow. I was sitting out here one day and saw the white one. I thought, ‘that’s rare.’ He ran off that day, then a few days later, there were two of them standing on the steps together. It was unusual to see one, but there’s two. They’re white with red eyes.”

Albinism in animals is the congenital absence of melanin, resulting in white hair, feathers, scales, and skin. The condition also results in reddish pink or blue eyes.

Animals that are albino have a real disadvantage as they lack the normal colour that helps them blend into their surroundings and are easily spotted by predators. At the same time, other studies indicated that because they don’t have the usual colouring, some predators don’t recognize them as

a food source.

Albino animals exist in most species, but they are very rare. Conservation studies indicate the probability of an albino chipmunk is around one in 200,000.

“I see them every day,” Ron said. “Sometimes they come by themselves and other times they come together. The squirrels and chipmunks all come together.”

The chipmunks all recognize Ron and approach him when he throws out the peanuts.

Chipmunks typically live for around three years. If Ron’s visitors can stay out of sight and remain safe, he may see them return again next spring.

There is also a possibility that there may be more albino chipmunks if the two parent chipmunks remain together.



**RARE SIGHTING** – Two rare albino chipmunks have made Ron Passer’s property their home. The rare chipmunks made their first appearance in May and now come out every day in the late afternoon when Ron feeds them peanuts. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

“The window to the world can be covered by a newspaper.”

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

## My gun is bigger than your gun

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



There are two main wars underway in the world and several other smaller ones that have been more like continuing skirmishes.

The Russia-Ukraine war is the main battleground in the world today, with hundreds of thousands of casualties caused by modern weapons.

The Israeli invasion of Gaza is ongoing and has resulted in thousands of deaths.

We hear so much about military powers in the world, but the truth is, that most of the military power is in the hands of only a few countries.

Having a presence on the high seas has always been a big deal. Currently, the U.S. has the most powerful navy that has ever existed.

With 11 aircraft carriers, 68 submarines, 70 destroyers, and a total of around 475 ships, the U.S. Navy is designed to bring the fight to other shores.

In comparison, Canada, with the largest coastline in the world has a strictly defensive naval force with no destroyers, 12 frigates, and 21 off-shore patrol vessels.

While having a reliable navy is important, it is very expensive to operate a naval force.

There are 44 landlocked countries in the world. Your naval presence on the

world stage is limited when you don't have access to the ocean.

Most other countries have very limited navies. Smaller countries have only shoreline patrol boats.

Even those countries that operate a sizable fleet of naval vessels have most of their ships docked most of the time.

It is expensive to send an entire fleet out to patrol the water if there is no threat.

Air power is a huge advantage when it comes to warfare.

If you're on the ground, the last thing you want to see is an A-10 Thunderbolt approaching. You will have no defence against it. When it unleashes 65 to 70 rounds per second at its target, those on the ground will never even hear the hum of its rotary cannon before being ripped to shreds.

The U.S. again leads the total in military aircraft with an air force of 5,190, naval aircraft at 2,626, and army aircraft at 4,397. Add to that more aircraft in their reserve forces.

The Royal Canadian Air Force is considered formidable on the world stage with around 430 aircraft including fighters and support aircraft. The new F-35A super high-tech fight will join the fleet with 88 on order.

Having an air force is incredibly

expensive. The cost of buying a modern fighter is huge. Then there is the cost of training pilots and maintaining each airplane.

Every time a jet fighter takes off, it is a huge expense. If you are training pilots and need to fire some missiles, every trigger pull could cost thousands of dollars or more.

Many countries in the world don't have a working air force due to the expense. Some small countries maintain an air wing, but they are mostly reconnaissance aircraft used for keeping an eye on their neighbours or used for transportation.

The loss of a single aircraft is a huge disaster for many smaller countries.

During the Six Day War, the Israeli forces managed to destroy most of the Egyptian Air Force, then eliminated the Jordanian and Syrian Air Forces while they were still on the ground.

That mission gave Israel total air superiority and turned the tide of the war.

Ground forces have always been the mainstay of any nation's military. This includes infantry, armoured divisions, artillery, and transportation. It may also include support units such as helicopters.

The number of personnel in a country's army may also be misleading, as

reported. Many countries report dubious numbers of active soldiers – especially those countries that have no perceived threat.

North Korea reports 1,280,000 regular military, 600,000 reserves, and 5,700,000 trained paramilitary personnel. There is plenty of doubt if North Korea's military is effective.

North Korean soldiers who were loaned to Russia in the war against Ukraine, proved to be untrained, unmotivated, ill-equipped and most likely volunteered for service at the point of a gun.

Also, North Korea does not have the financial capability of supporting an army of that size, so who are they trying to kid?

When it comes to ground-based wars, numbers usually don't mean much, other than to increase your casualty rate.

Military forces are a huge expense for any country.

It's sad to think that in this day and age, we still need an armed force.

If all that money that makes the arms dealers rich, was used for good causes, think of the advances that could be made in medicine, science, arts, culture, and just building new parks.

## Finding the time and taking the time

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What kind of consumer are you?

When you go into a store, perhaps at the end of a long day, to get some groceries for the evening or a ready bite, do you like to grab what you need and hit the self-checkout to save time, or do you like to be a bit more leisurely about it, browse some of the aisles for out-of-the-box dinner ideas to break the monotony and check out with an all-too-rare human clerk?

In my case, while I'm a firm opponent of self-checkout, I sometimes bend my own rules when the day has turned into a terribly long slog.

If it's been a particularly arduous day and I'm on my way home later than I'd hoped when I set out that morning, I can see the value in knowing what I want to get well ahead of time, keeping a mental map handy of where it might be in any given store, and having an all-important exit plan for maximum efficiency.

At other times, if the day had been a little bit more relaxed, or a rare occasion in this job where I'm alone with my laptop, it's sometimes nice to linger over the process a little bit, take one's time, and check in with a real-life person when it's time to check out.

Maybe it's all about how much "social bandwidth" you have at the end of the day.

I can only imagine that if you're in a forward-facing job, such as a cashier, server, or working on reception, to pick just three examples, where you need to plaster on a happy face in the morning for hours on end for dozens, or even hundreds of customers and clients, keeping that trend going once you clock out is probably the last thing you want to do – but making time for these interactions, even if you feel it's just one more thing on your plate, can be valuable.

I often think about an unlikely experi-

ence I had a few years ago when, late at night, I had to pick up the phone and dial up a call centre when experiencing what felt like a dire I.T. problem.

After a few minutes navigating my way through an automated telephone system, I finally reached a gentleman willing and able to help. It wasn't a problem that he could solve with just the tap of a button. It took a bit to find the root cause of the issue, so, at the beginning of the session, there was a bit of dead air.

When he spoke, however, it was clear that his attention was divided. After I asked him if he was okay, he mentioned he was in India and he was continually checking back in with his family elsewhere in the country that was under a serious cyclone threat.

Whatever impatience I may have been feeling at the time evaporated. The fact that an online service I was paying for was glitching seemed like small potatoes

by comparison, and rightly so. He could take all the time he needed, as far as I was concerned.

With a simple question, and a simple but difficult answer, my perspective experienced a seismic shift.

I had an evening meeting on Monday night, a start to the week that turned out to be a bit more trying than I expected, and when the time to head home mercifully arrived, I decided to spring for a ride share rather than transit because, admittedly, I was a bit tired, cranky, and not in the best frame of mind.

My driver pulled up in a pretty stylin' vehicle with a number of creature comforts, and as I settled into the back seat to relax for a bit, a conversation took shape.

Continued on Page 6

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# Israel's curse

**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY



Six Jewish hostages were murdered by Hamas last week just before the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) reached them, and a controversy has erupted in Israel about whether Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu should have done more to save them. But only among the ignorant and the credulous, because everybody else knew he never intended to save them.

If your child is kidnapped and you get a ransom note, do you

(A) pay the ransom if you can possibly raise the money, informing the police only after your child is safe; or do you

(B) ask the police to find and free the child, accepting the risk that she might get killed in the process; or do you

(C) write the child off, as you have other priorities that take precedence?

Most parents would choose option (A) if they could afford it and option (B) if they could not. Almost none

would choose option (C). But politicians are dealing with other people's children, and the calculations are different.

When Hamas fighters from the Gaza Strip attacked Israel last October, killing 1,200 Israelis and taking 250 others back to the Strip as hostages, Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu owed the latter group a duty of care, but it wasn't unlimited.

Option (A) was politically unavailable to Netanyahu. He could not afford to pay the Hamas kidnappers off, because their price would be the complete and permanent withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip.

In current circumstances, no Israeli leader could sell that outcome to Israeli voters, Netanyahu's coalition government would crumble, there would be a general election, and he would lose.

Option (C) was also off-limits, at least as an openly declared policy. He could not publicly write off the hostages as a lost cause, because that was an emotionally unacceptable conclusion for a large proportion of Israel's Jewish voters.

For public consumption, therefore, Netanyahu adopted Option (B): ask the police (or actually the army, in this case) to find the hostages and liberate them, although he must have known privately that they would be killed before they could be rescued.

This is a reality that is often ignored by the hostages' families and their supporters. The kidnappers in this case are not random criminals but trained and fanatical soldiers. They are holding the hostages in tunnels as much as twenty metres underground. Of course they will kill the hostages before Israeli soldiers reach them. There is no real Option (B).

These are the facts, and they would have forced Netanyahu to write off the hostages or agree to a cease-fire even if he were a wise and honest man. He is neither, of course.

He is a man facing likely conviction

in three criminal trials for corruption that have been interrupted because of the war. Conviction could carry a jail sentence, so he is in no hurry for the trials to resume.

He is a man who is playing for time, because the longer the time between last October's Hamas attacks and the date when the inquiry opens into his responsibility for not preventing that disaster, the better for him. Something else might turn up: a Trump election victory, a war with Iran that drags the Americans in, anything that changes the subject.

He is a man who, eleven months into the war, has yet to give a single hint about how he thinks the Gaza Strip should be governed when the war ends. Not even addressing the issue postpones the evil day when the reality of a cease-fire and a peace settlement must be discussed and decided.

He wants to avoid that day because his coalition is critically dependent on an extreme right-wing party which relies on the turmoil of the war to distract attention from its campaign to drive as many Palestinians as possible out of the occupied West Bank.

"Today, we have power in the government," said National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, a leading light of that far-right group. "I'm not ashamed to say that we're using this power to prevent a reckless deal and to stop any negotiations altogether." To prevent any deal and any negotiations at all, in fact.

There were big pro-cess-fire demonstrations on the day after the murdered hostages were found, including up to 5% of the Israeli population. There was a six-hour 'national strike' by the country-wide trade union Histadrut on the following day, but they tamely shut it down when the courts ruled that it was 'political'.

Netanyahu is Israel's curse, but he and his strategy are safe at least until the US election in November, and a lot longer if Trump wins then. Nothing Joe Biden can bring himself to do or say in the meantime will change that.



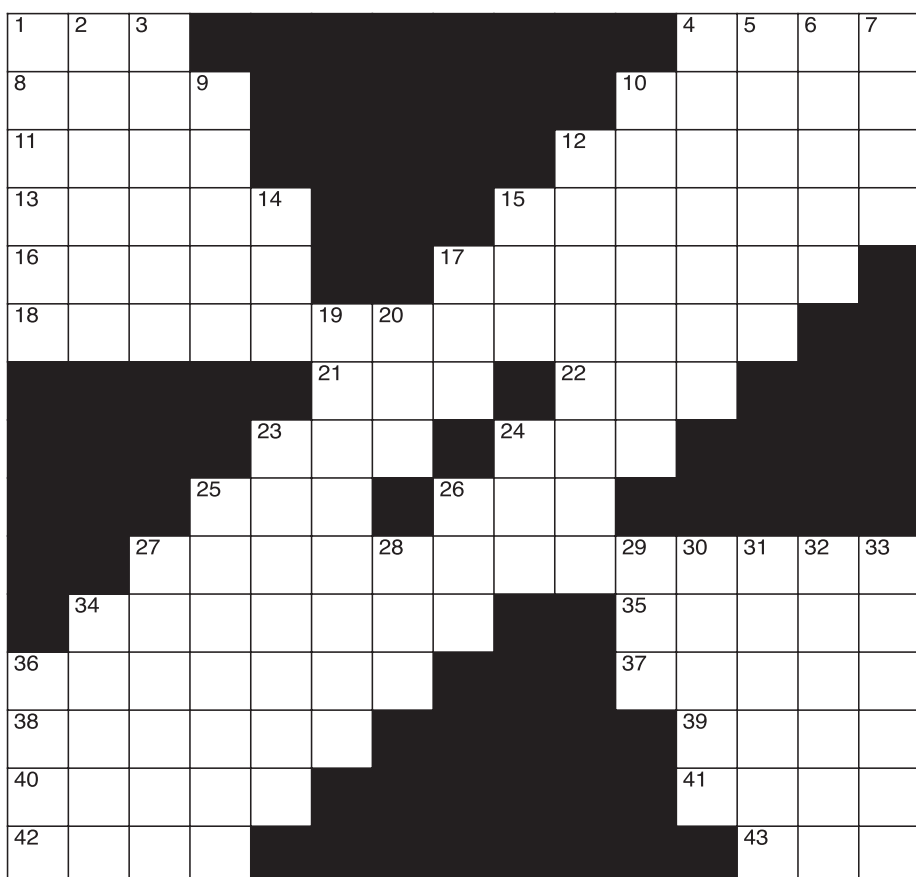
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## CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 249210 • Solution in Classifieds



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Engine additive
- 4. A type of test
- 8. Curtail
- 10. Irish surname
- 11. The opposite of good
- 12. Got rid of
- 13. Central parts of a church building
- 15. Stylistically
- 16. Intestinal
- 17. Negative potential outcomes
- 18. Lived up to a standard
- 21. Snag
- 22. Time units (abbr.)
- 23. Ad \_\_\_
- 24. "Partridge" actress

Susan

- 25. For each
- 26. \_\_\_ Paulo, city
- 27. League titles
- 34. More intensely
- black
- 35. Slang for lovely
- 36. Petrarch is known for them
- 37. Old Eurasian wheat
- 38. Body part
- 39. Swedish rock group
- 40. They're worth avoiding
- 41. Rising and falling of the voice
- 42. Wings
- 43. Enzyme import for respiration

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Idyllic
- 2. South Pacific island
- 3. Shrub of the olive
- 4. Boundaries
- 5. Encircle
- 6. Weights
- 7. Samberg is one
- 9. Sheep sound
- 10. European country
- 12. Respected group of people
- 14. Trigraph
- 15. Prosecutors
- 17. Assign a nickname
- 19. Huge size
- 20. Partner to cheese
- 23. Fastballs
- 24. Principle underlying the universe
- 25. Distinct units of sound
- 26. Title of respect
- 27. Against
- 28. Foot (Latin)
- 29. One point east of due south
- 30. Concerning the blood
- 31. Type of pentameter
- 32. North American peoples
- 33. Layers of rock
- 34. Georges \_\_\_, French philosopher
- 36. Lengthy tale

*No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.*

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Continued from Page 4

## Brock's Banter: Finding the time and taking the time

As it turns out, the driver just finished a rather gruelling-sounding day at a large-scale employer in the community and was just beginning an evening of driving he anticipated would take him through 3 a.m. or so. An exceedingly long day by any stretch of the imagination, particularly as he aimed to be back at work at 9 a.m. Tuesday morning, but it was all worth it, he said – he was supporting his family and, come the weekend, was able to fully disconnect from work and give them his undivided attention.

It made my day seem like a walk in the park by comparison!

We've often heard the phrase that if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it.

While I've sometimes wondered whether that particular phrase was coined by a less motivated person looking for a sound excuse to pass the proverbial buck onto anyone but themselves, there is admittedly a grain of truth in the adage.

From this perspective, I continually

marvel at what members of our communities can accomplish, whether it is a youth whose continuing volunteerism has long surpassed the requisite hours needed to get their high school diploma, or adults who juggle their families and multiple jobs yet still are able to carve the time to fuel their passions and give back to their community, to those who have retired from a long career and, rather than just resting on their laurels to enjoy their leisure time, fill their hours in multiple volunteer capacities, determined to have an impact.

Everyone has their own story, everyone has their own motivation, all are valuable and valued, but all too often their work and accomplishments go unrecognized.

That doesn't have to be the case.

Throughout this month, our local MPs and MPPs have been collecting nominations from community members for the King's Coronation Medal, struck by the Government of Canada to mark the coronation of King Charles III.

30,000 individuals nation-wide will be recognized with the award as recognition of their contributions to: community service and philanthropy; arts and media;

healthcare and medicine, science, technology, and innovation; business, industry and economy; education; politics, public service and justice; sports; and social sciences and humanities.

On Sunday, which marked the second anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne, I witnessed a presentation of ten medals by Ontario Lieutenant Governor Edith Dumont and the accomplishments of those recognized were impressive in both their large-scale contributions to this country and myriad smaller community-level contributions that came together to form an impressive, invaluable whole.

What a remarkable way to honour our everyday heroes who, through contributions large and small, have undoubtedly made a difference – even those aforementioned "busy people" who are continually asked to take on more than their fair share because they're efficient at what they do!

If you know someone who fits the bill, take time out of your own schedules to contact your local MP or MPP and shine a light on these individuals who keep our communities great places to live, work, play – and shop.



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### NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

#### 2024 Final Tax Due Date for Property Taxes

The 2024 final tax bills were issued on May 24, 2024. The due dates are as follows:

- 1st instalment will be due June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**
- 2nd instalment will be due September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Making a payment online? It's simple! Add New Tecumseth Tax as a bill payee and enter your 15-digit roll number to make a payment online. Be advised that online payments take 3-5 business days to process before our office receives it. Please adjust your payment timeframe accordingly to ensure payment is received before the due date to avoid penalty. If your tax bill is being paid via preauthorized payment with the Town or by your mortgage company, look for verification on the lower left corner of the payment stubs. If there is no reference to your preauthorized payment amount or stating the bill is being paid by your mortgage company, please contact the Finance Department at [propertytaxes@newtecumseth.ca](mailto:propertytaxes@newtecumseth.ca). Please be advised there is a surcharge of \$10.50 for all requests for tax statements and/or copies of interim or final tax bills. The surcharge will be applicable to both reprinted/mailed and emailed copies. Requests for statements or copies of bills received in office can be paid for with cash, debit, or cheque. Requests received via email or phone will be processed as a surcharge to your tax account.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT [WWW.NEWTECUMSETH.CA](http://WWW.NEWTECUMSETH.CA)

# Kevin Lord Foundation raises money for local hospital

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Stevenson Memorial Hospital received a generous donation of \$2,500 from The Kevin Lord Memorial Foundation for Stevenson’s redevelopment.

The donation will support the ‘Building Your Stevenson for Tomorrow, Together,’ matching campaign for the hospital’s Redevelopment Fund.

“We are very happy to support our local hospital again this year with a portion of the funds raised from our annual golf tournament that was held on May 25, at Bear Creek Golf Course,” said Al Lord, chair of The Kevin Lord Memorial Foundation. “The memorial fundraising golf tournament is held annually in

memory of our son, Kevin, who passed away in 2006 after a year-long battle with brain cancer. It continues to make us very proud to have his name associated with this, and our other donations in keeping his memory alive.”

The Foundation relies on private and public donations to continue its valuable work at the hospital.

“The Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation graciously thanks the Kevin Lord Memorial Foundation for their kind donation,” said Dayna Dunn, community and corporate giving officer for the Foundation.

The donation will be matched by Brian and Kathy Gibson, who have committed to match all donations towards the redevelopment of the hospital, up to \$1 million.

# Nearly one third of households in Simcoe–Muskoka food insecure

New data from Public Health Ontario (PHO) Household Food Insecurity Snapshot (July 2024), reveals a concerning rise in household food insecurity across the province, with Simcoe Muskoka experiencing a particularly sharp increase compared to the previous four years.

In 2023, 31 per cent of households in Simcoe Muskoka experienced some level of food insecurity, meaning they don’t have enough money for adequate and secure access to food. This number is a significant increase from the rate of 19 per cent in 2022 and higher than the provincial rate of 24 percent.

“When individuals and families experience food insecurity it means they do not have enough food or regular access to food because of financial constraints,” says Vanessa Hurley, a Public Health Nutritionist with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU). “The experience of food insecurity can range from having concerns about running out of food before there is money to buy more, to being unable to buy nutritious food, to going hungry and skipping meals. In severe cases, people may not eat for whole days because of a lack money for food.”

Household food insecurity is linked to serious health problems and people living with food insecurity are at greater risk of experiencing mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety, as well as a number of chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. They are also at greater risk of poor oral health, infections, and physical injuries.



These health effects can be long lasting, particularly among children as they are most vulnerable. In turn, household food insecurity also takes a serious toll on healthcare resources and spending. With one in four children experiencing household food insecurity in Ontario, urgent action is needed.

Addressing household food insecurity requires a community-wide approach to find solutions and guide actions to put more money in people’s pockets. Actions can be as simple as sending a letter to urge your political leaders to act on household food insecurity. The health unit’s website offers resources to help you get started, including a link to Community Food Centres Canada’s advocacy e-letter that can be sent directly to your local Member of Parliament. You can also contact the health unit for a customized letter to send to your local leaders or to learn how to get involved in creating long-lasting solutions that target inadequate income.

For more information about the issue of household food insecurity and how it can be addressed, please visit the health unit’s website at [smdhu.org](http://smdhu.org) or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Phone: 705-435-5561 ext. 5302

## NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

### Honda of Canada Mfg. begins site preparation ahead of new electric vehicle and battery plant construction

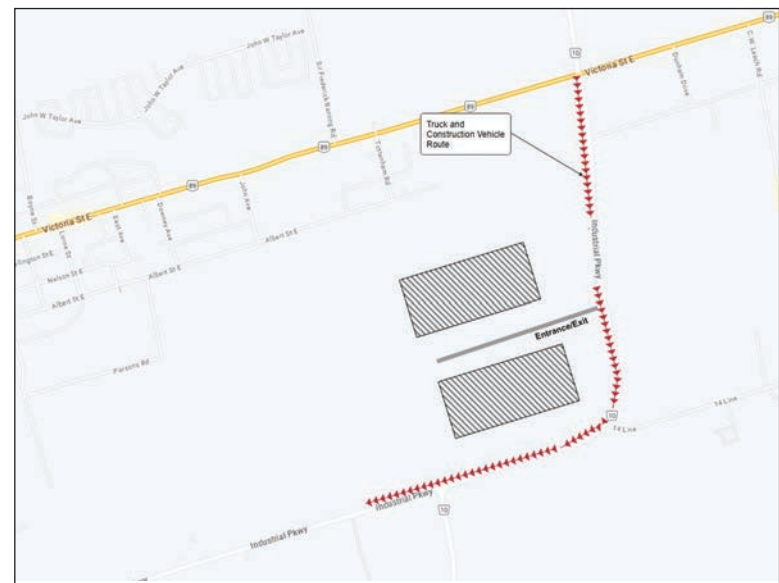
Start date: Week of September 16th, 2024

As part of its historic \$15 billion Canadian EV Value Chain initiative announced in April, Honda of Canada Mfg. (HCM) unveiled plans to build two new facilities in Alliston for assembling electric vehicle batteries and vehicles. Site preparation work has begun at HCM’s location on Industrial Parkway. HCM acknowledges the potential disruptions from this construction and has taken several steps to minimize the local impact. The company also thanks the community for their patience and understanding as it embarks on this exciting next step in its almost 40-year journey in Alliston.

Site preparation involves a series of tasks carried out before building new plant structures can begin. The work includes but is not limited to removing vegetation and a raised bank of land (or berm), as well as grading and leveling the area where the new buildings will be constructed. Teams have installed industrial fencing around the area to ensure the safety of the public, construction personnel and HCM associates.

HCM respectfully asks for the community’s cooperation and patience while crews complete this stage of the construction project as efficiently as possible. As proud members of the community, HCM looks forward to collaborating with residents to ensure the construction process is a smooth one.

Further updates will be provided on a regular basis to ensure residents and members of the business community are informed of the project’s progress.



HCM will take several measures to minimize disruption to local communities:

- Installation of special barriers and screens, as well as regular water spraying and the use of suppression materials to help control dust
- Continuous onsite monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of dust mitigation measures
- Vibration monitoring equipment to detect and ultimately, reduce effects to the surrounding area
- Installation of mud matting and truck sweeping at site exit locations to prevent tracking soil onto municipal roads
- Coordination of construction vehicles around Honda associate schedules to avoid heavy traffic times

Honda of Canada Mfg. has also made extra planning efforts to lessen the impact of truck traffic in the area; however, minor traffic delays may occur along the following routes:

- Industrial Parkway
- Highway 89
- County Road 10
- County Road 27

For more information about Honda of Canada Mfg., please visit [hondacanada.ca/manufacturing](http://hondacanada.ca/manufacturing).

## OPEN HOUSE

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# Positive feedback makes us all better

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The urgency of today's global challenges, highlighted by frequent extreme weather events and the inequality faced by low-income and developing populations, signals a pressing need for change. The warning sounded by environmentalist David Suzuki resonates deeply. We have prioritized economic gains at the expense of our environment, blindly pursuing endless growth on a finite planet.

Our linear economic mode, fixated on profit, is flawed. We extract resources, manufacture goods, and thoughtlessly discard them into overflowing landfills. This approach is unsustainable and at odds with the natural world. We've been living off nature, not with it, a reality that is exacerbating our climate and biodiversity crises. According to the Global Footprint Network, a Canadian research organization based at York

University, humanity is currently using the resources of 1.75 planets to provide the goods and services we demand when we only have one planet.

Amidst these challenges, there's hope: the call for a circular economy, which offers a promising solution, rooted in the regenerative capacities of all life on Earth. Circularity prioritizes not only profit but also people and the regenerative needs of nature. Canada's indigenous culture based on respect for nature embodies circularity and offers inspiration with this philosophy. Central to this approach is the ethos of "use less, use longer, and use again". It champions the repurposing of previously extracted resources, efficient utilization of products and their continual maintenance. In this framework, the notion of single-use products becomes obsolete, in contrast to our

"throwaway" culture.

The principles of a circular economy are versatile, applicable to all levels of society. Its holistic approach transcends individual actions, offering scalable solutions for a sustainable future.

Consumers play a crucial role by making conscious choices about what we buy. Supporting ecological products and reducing waste are essential.

Corporations are motivated to explore innovative business models such as product-as-a-service, where customers lease or rent instead of own; using the latest AI tools and emerging technologies, like "biofabricated materials" in which living organisms are utilized to create building materials; "supply chain transparency", where companies trace products throughout their lifecycle, and "3D printing", an efficient production

method that uses less material, made locally and on demand.

Embracing a circular economy is an ethical imperative towards harmony with nature, and from exploitation to coexistence, ensuring that our actions align with the regenerative capacities of our planet. It's a chance to synchronize our economic pursuits with the wellbeing of humanity and nature, offering a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable future for all.

*John Wilson is a Director of Greys for Green in New Tecumseth. He believes that a greater understanding and appreciation of nature is what's needed to inspire everyone to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle. Contact Greys for Green at [contactus@greysforgreen.org](mailto:contactus@greysforgreen.org) or follow on social media.*

# Mosquitoes test positive for West Nile virus in Alliston

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

After first finding mosquitoes that tested positive for the West Nile virus in Barrie, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit has now reported that mosquitoes collected from a trap in Alliston have also tested positive for the virus.

The Health Unit is encouraging residents to take precautions when around areas where mosquitoes are found.

The West Nile virus circulates between

birds and some species of mosquitoes. The virus can be transmitted to humans by a mosquito bite if the mosquito has first bitten an infected bird.

The risk of contracting the virus from an infected mosquito is highest in late summer.

The Health Unit recommends following personal protection measures.

These include using an approved mosquito repellent, wearing light-coloured clothing, covering up arms and legs in areas where mosquitoes are present and staying indoors

when mosquitoes are most active – especially at dusk and dawn.

While most people will not become sick if bitten by an infected mosquito, the virus can cause severe illness in some people.

Symptoms of West Nile virus include fever, muscle weakness, stiff neck, confusion, severe headache, and a sudden sensitivity to light. In very rare cases, the virus may cause serious neurological illness.

If you experience these symptoms, you should seek medical advice.



# More people are working today than ever before

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Quilt, rug, and artisan fair returns to Simcoe County Museum

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

A quilt, rug, and artisan fair is returning to the Simcoe County Museum later this month.

Experience and see the beauty of local craftsmanship as artisans' guilds proudly showcase their exquisite handicrafts at the museum.

As you wander through the event, you can take the opportunity to stock up on essential supplies and materials at the bustling merchants' market.

At the fair, you can discover and purchase unique, one-of-a-kind hand-crafted products created by talented local guild artisans.

While you are there, you can enjoy a leisurely stroll through the picturesque museum grounds and explore a captivating collection of heritage buildings and artifacts from across Simcoe County.

The Quilt, Rug, and Artisan Fair will take place from Friday, Sept. 20 to Sunday, Sept. 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Fair will be at the Simcoe County Museum at 1151 Highway 26, in Minesing.

Fair admission is \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for seniors 65+, \$8.00 for youth, and \$5.00 for children.

Admission is free for pre-schoolers and Museum Members.



**ONE-OF-A-KIND** – From Sept. 20 to Sept. 22, the Simcoe County Museum will host a quilt, rug and artisan fair. The Simcoe County Museum is located at 1151 Highway 26, Minesing. **FILE PHOTO**

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# Loretto resident celebrates jackpot win

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

A Loretto resident is celebrating a big LOTTARIO jackpot.

Jeffrey McInnis won \$709,022.30 in the Aug. 17, LOTTARIO draw.

A father and grandfather, Jeffrey has been an occasional lottery player with OLG for around 30 years.

He enjoys playing LOTTARIO and LOTTO MAX and this is his first big win.

“I was at the gas station when I decided to go inside to grab a coffee and check my tickets,” Jeffrey recalled, while at the OLG Prize Centre in Toronto to pick up his winnings. “I went over to the ticket checker, scanned my ticket, and saw the ‘Big Winner’ message on the screen. I thought to myself, ‘That can’t be right!’ I checked a few other tickets before re-scanning the

first one. I couldn’t believe what I was seeing!”

He shared the good news with his wife and said, “she didn’t believe me at first. I had to show her the winning numbers of the OLG app. It was a funny moment we shared.”

With his windfall, Jeffrey said he plans to pay off his mortgage and complete some home renovations.

Jeffrey purchased his winning ticket at the Foodland in Beeton.

**WINNING** – Loretto resident Jeffrey McInnis is celebrating a huge LOTTARIO win. He won \$709,022.33 in the Aug. 17, LOTTARIO draw. He plans to pay off his mortgage and complete some home renovations with the windfall. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



# Sign up for automatic reminders for provincial documents

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Province of Ontario no longer charges a fee for renewing your vehicle’s license plate or requires a sticker in the upper right-hand corner of the plate, however, that doesn’t mean you can just forget about it.

Your license plate still needs to be renewed, or you could face a fine.

While you usually have to renew your documents every few years, it is easy to forget that this is the year you need to re-

new your driver’s license or health care card.

Since the province keeps track of you, and your documents, you can sign up for a document renewal reminder – and it takes only a few minutes.

You can go to the Province of Ontario website at [www.Ontario.ca](http://www.Ontario.ca), to sign up for reminders.

A reminder will be sent to you 60 days before a document expires, and again at 30 days, either by e-mail, text message, or an automated phone call. You can choose

which method of delivery you prefer.

With the automatic renewals, you can sign up for a message regarding your driver’s license, Ontario health card, vehicle license plate, and Ontario photo card.

To register for an automatic renewal, you will need to provide your driver’s license number, your health card number with its 9-digit control number, your license plate number, your postal code, and your date of birth.

You will also be prompted to select a method of message delivery.

To use this service, you must confirm you have been physically present in Ontario for at least 153 days over 12 months, that your primary place of residence is Ontario, and that your health card address is up to date with ServiceOntario.

Signing up is an easy process, and the reminder will let you know it’s time to get those documents renewed.

This could save you a headache if you forget and find out you are in violation or you need health care but your card has expired.

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## Roasted Fall Vegetables with Brown Butter Vinaigrette

Autumn means roasting vegetables and the wonderful aroma it brings to your kitchen. Browning butter gives a nutty depth of flavour that complements the slightly charred vegetables perfectly.

**Preparation Time:** 20 minutes

**Roasting Time:** 25 minutes

**Cooking Time:** 5 minutes

**Serves 4 to 6**

**Ingredients:**

- 2 Ontario Carrots, thickly sliced diagonally
  - Half small Ontario Cauliflower, cut into large florets
  - 1 Ontario Red Onion, cut into 1/2-inch (1 cm) wedges
  - 1 Ontario Zucchini, cut into finger-size pieces
  - 2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
  - 2 tbsp (25 mL) fresh Ontario Thyme or Rosemary Leaves, coarsely chopped
  - 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
  - Pepper
- Vinaigrette:
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) butter
  - 1 tbsp (15 mL) each olive oil and red wine vinegar

- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) Dijon mustard
- 1 clove Ontario Garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper
- Garnish: fresh Ontario Parsley Leaves

**Directions:**

In large bowl, combine carrots, cauliflower, onion, zucchini, oil, thyme, salt and pepper to taste. Turn onto large, rimmed baking sheet, spreading in single layer. Roast in 400°F (200°C) oven for 25 to 30 minutes, stirring halfway through, until tender and lightly charred.

Vinaigrette: Meanwhile, in small skillet over medium heat, cook butter, stirring frequently, for 2 to 3 minutes or until butter is browned and has nutty aroma. Remove from heat; carefully (as it may spatter) whisk in oil, vinegar, mustard, garlic, salt and pepper to taste.

Arrange vegetables on serving platter; drizzle with vinaigrette. Sprinkle with parsley leaves. Serve warm or at room temperature.

For more great recipes such as this visit Foodland Ontario’s website at: [foodlandontario.ca/recipe](http://foodlandontario.ca/recipe)



**STEVENSON**  
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS STEVENSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Stevenson Memorial Hospital (“SMH”) invites all general contractors to submit proposals for the Early Works Redevelopment Project. The Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) has received Ministry of Health approval for construction of a new hospital building that will wrap around the existing hospital, known as the Phase 1 Redevelopment Project. The main project is expected to begin construction in late 2025 subject to a forthcoming tender process to be administered through Infrastructure Ontario.

To prepare its site for this upcoming project, SMH is proceeding with an Early Works construction project to prepare site utility services, internal roads and parking lots, the existing water tower and hospital helipad for the Phase 1 Redevelopment. Accordingly, this Request For Proposals (RFP) seeks to secure the services of a qualified contractor to undertake this Early Works project. Time is of the essence to ensure the site is ready for the Phase 1 Redevelopment Project by Fall 2025. The successful Proponent to this RFP will have the necessary project experience, leadership and team members and partnerships with qualified and experienced subcontractors to meet the full scope of the Early Works project within the timelines required to ensure the site is ready for the Phase 1 Redevelopment Project.

Interested contractors may receive a copy of the Request for Proposals document through the Bonfire Tender Portal (Bonfire): Early Works Redevelopment Project: <https://medbuy.bonfirehub.ca/opportunities> (Bonfire)

Bidders may request clarifications of this RFP by submitting all requests through the secure messaging process in Bonfire, no later than September 26, 2024.

Submissions must be received before October 9, 2024; 2:00 PM EST. All proponents must submit responses online through the Bonfire Portal only. Submissions received after the submission’s deadline or in any other manner, will not be considered.

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# SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

## NDBL senior championship series tied after two games

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The North Dufferin Baseball League Championship series is tied at one after the opening games over the weekend.

The Owen Sound Baysox and Ivy Rangers are battling it out in a best-of-seven series for the NDBL Strother Cup.

Owen Sound arrived at the championship after finishing second in the regular season. In the second round of competition, they eliminated the New Lowell Knights.

Ivy is the dark horse entry in this year's

championship. The Rangers finished in fifth place in the regular season, then went on to knock out the Creemore Padres in the first round of playoffs.

They went on to eliminate the first-place Bolton Brewers in the second round. That series went five games and wrapped up on Aug. 29, to move Ivy to the championship series.

Both Ivy and Owen Sound have a lot of talent on their teams.

Game 1 of the championship series got underway on Saturday, Sept. 7, in Owen Sound. On their home diamond, the Baysox managed

to squeeze out a one-run win to take the game 5-4.

Game 2 of the series took place in Ivy on Sunday, Sept. 8. This time the Rangers came out on top, shutting out the Baysox 3-0, to tie the series.

The NDBL senior division had a successful season this year after playing a 24-game regular season schedule.

The season got underway the first week of May, and wrapped up at the end of July, before heading into the playoffs.

The Bolton Brewers finished in first place

with a 19-5 record. They were followed by the Owen Sound Baysox, the New Lowell Knights, the Creemore Padres, and the Ivy Rangers.

The playoffs started on Aug. 6, with eight teams in competition.

The championship series will continue this weekend with Game 3 scheduled to take place in Owen Sound on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 8 p.m.

Game 4 of the series will take place the following day, Sunday, Sept. 15, also in Owen Sound. Game time is 2 p.m.

## Baseball experiencing a resurgence in popularity in New Tec

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

It is a sport that really is a combination of teamwork and individual skills that make the team.

Whether you are at-bat, pitching, or fielding a ball during a game, you're on your own. However, the second you make that throw to a teammate or to the base, it's a team effort to complete the play.

Baseball is seeing a resurgence in popularity both in the region and across the country.

TNT Thunder baseball is completing a successful season that saw them field a large group of teams this year.

They had U9, U11, U13 and U15 teams in both house league and select teams, with a total of 15.

They also had a U18 house league and a select team.

Around 200 youths played baseball with the Thunder this year.

"Once the word gets out there, we have more players signing up," explained Ted Scovell, president of TNT Thunder Baseball Association. "I started the Thunder with a U9 team in 2018. Then next year we had three teams. Our numbers are growing by leaps and bounds. Right now we're having try-outs for rep select. There's a real resurgence in baseball – even though the Jays aren't doing that well. Once kids see it, they want to play it."

The Thunder has signed on many players who previously played softball and wanted to step up to a full baseball format game.

With a growing number of players and teams, the only thing holding the association back is a lack of diamond time.

The Tottenham diamond is currently not

being used at all. There is no mound, and the lights don't work, and there is no indication if they will be repaired any time soon.

It has also been determined that the light standards are not safe.

Thunder teams play at Coventry Park in Tottenham, but as those diamonds don't have a pitching mound, they are only suitable for

the younger teams.

Baseball doesn't require a pitcher to be on a mound until the U14 level.

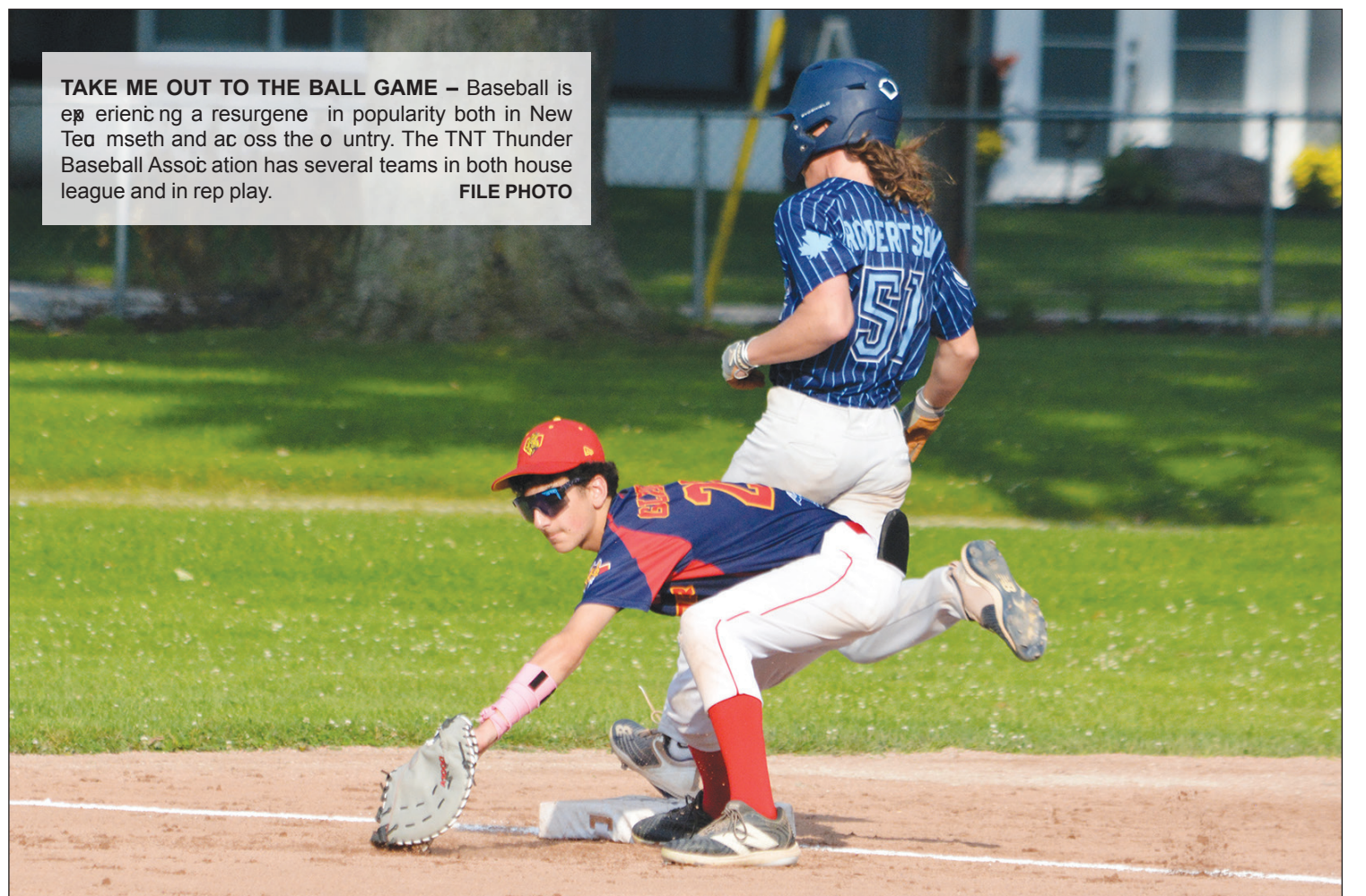
Teams also play at Riverdale Park's Donor Diamond in Alliston and at the South Diamond at the fairgrounds in Beeton.

The Beeton diamond was made ready to accommodate baseball with a mound, and a

temporary fence in the outfield.

"The team working with me from the town were very accommodating," Ted said of when they were trying to have the Beeton diamond made ready for play.

You can find out more about TNT baseball as well as learn how to register to play by visiting the website at: [www.tntbaseball.ca](http://www.tntbaseball.ca).



**TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME** – Baseball is experiencing a resurgence in popularity both in New Tecumseth and across the country. The TNT Thunder Baseball Association has several teams in both house league and in rep play. **FILE PHOTO**

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!**

# The Beer Store now sells snacks and energy drinks

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

With convenience stores now selling beer and coolers, The Beer Store – Ontario’s long-standing place to buy beer – has decided to expand its business and add a little convenience store atmosphere to its outlets.

Walking into The Beer Store in Alliston, there is a large display featuring potato chips right by the front door.

For years, The Beer Store had a monopoly on the distribution of brewed alcoholic beverages in the province. However, recent legislation changed the playing field. First, grocery stores were allowed to sell beer, cider, and ready-mix alcoholic drinks. Starting on Sept. 5, some convenience stores were given the green light to sell those products and several local stores now stock them.

“In response to government changes to the marketplace, The Beer Store is pleased to announce partnerships and investments that will now bring new offerings to consumers and help us serve the province of Ontario in new ways,” The Beer Store said in a statement.

Those offerings include products that naturally go along with having a beer on a sunny day.

“Customers can now shop convenience items such as salty snacks, meat snacks and energy beverages from our partners including Old Dutch, Frito Lay, Jack Link’s, Great Canadian Meat and Red Bull.”

the statement went on to say. “Items vary by retail store location and are also available on-

line with eCommerce orders. The Beer Store will launch a new campaign to showcase its commitment to the customers of Ontario with a new media campaign. The campaign delivers a message of how The Beer Store serves the people of Ontario with choice, speedy service and a world-renowned commitment to the environment through our bottle return program. These investments will allow The Beer Store to successfully compete in the marketplace while maintaining its position as the socially responsible and the best source for beer in Ontario.”

The Beer Store was founded in 1927 as Brewers Retail, before changing its name to The Beer Store in 1985, to reflect the commonly used phrase to describe its locations.

Many people thought The Beer Store was a government-operated outlet like the LCBO. However, The Beer Store has always been privately owned by major brewing companies.

The store has received criticism over the years because it was the only source of beer in the province, which raised concerns about a monopoly and unfairly shutting out smaller breweries.

“Bring it on – we’re ready,” said Roy Benin, President of The Beer Store. “We see this as a new chapter for The Beer Store and we’re excited to compete. All of our channels – from distribution to retail to deposit return will continue to deliver for Ontario.”

The Beer Store recently opened a new state-of-the-art distribution centre in Bolton, Ontario.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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# NewRoads steps up – and pedals up – for Hospital, Food Pantry

BY BROCK WEIR

NewRoads Automotive Group is gearing up for a busy September inviting the community to help them support organizations that are close to residents' hearts: Southlake Regional Health Centre and the Aurora Food Pantry.

This Saturday, September 14, NewRoads and the Aurora Farmers' Market will once again join forces to kick-off the Stuff-a-Truck campaign. Benefiting the Aurora Food Pantry, Market-goers are invited to bring or buy items for the Food Pantry and quite literally help fill an on-site vehicle supplied by NewRoads.

"This is a three-week event, and the truck will be [at Aurora Town Park] collecting non-perishable food items in support of the Aurora Food Pantry on September 21 and September 28 as well," says NewRoads' Aliya Miller, noting the vehicle will most likely be a Toyota pickup truck. "The goal has always been to help as many people as possible. We love being immersed in local neighbourhoods and NewRoads has always been a great community supporter.

"With the cost of living becoming increasingly high and food costs rising it is difficult for people to feed themselves let alone to eat nutritiously. It's important to bring awareness to this problem and to try and enhance resources that are already available. Some most-needed items are canned proteins, pasta and pasta sauce, and peanut free snacks. Baby formula, baby food and diapers are much needed as are feminine products."

The following weekend, on Sunday, Sep-

tember 22, the NewRoads community and community members at large will hit the road for another good cause as the NewRoads LakeRide returns. This ninth-annual event will once again support Southlake Regional Health Centre's Mental Health Program.

Led by medal-winning cyclist Ed Veal, this year's LakeRide will offer 10K, 20K, 45K, 80K, and 125K routes for riders of all abilities, departing from Newmarket's NewRoads Performing Arts Centre just off Mullock Drive.

"Every year this event gains traction and always brings new riders and participants," says Miller. "I am very excited because it will be my first time attending and the enthusiasm surrounding it is in the air and almost feels palatable. Donations from The NewRoads LakeRide help support the Emergent Mental Health Assessment Centre which has played a significant role in transforming mental health care at Southlake Hospital. Care has become more accessible to those who need it. I think almost everyone has been affected, in some way or another, by mental health issues. It has become a crisis and especially in the aftermath of the pandemic, so many people are struggling. There is no demographic for mental illness; it affects people of all ages, races and genders and I think it's so important to eliminate the stigma surrounding it. It is a cause everyone can relate to."

This year's fundraising goal for the LakeRide is \$250,000.

\$500,000 has been raised to date, and the goal is to reach \$1 million.

For more information, visit [www.newroads.ca/lakeride](http://www.newroads.ca/lakeride).



**HEALTHCARE MILESTONE** – Southlake Regional Health Centre celebrates its 100th anniversary this year and, to mark the occasion, the local hospital has held a series of events to mark its "Centennial Summer." The program drew to a close at the end of August with a free public screening of "If" at the Newmarket Seniors' Meeting Place. There for the fun were, Mary and Deletia (above) and Rena and Cassidy (below). **PHOTOS BY GLENN RODGER**



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## Three men charged with mischief on weekend in downtown Shelburne

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has charged three parties with mischief along with alcohol related offences as the result of their investigation.

On Sept. 7, at approximately 2:45 a.m., Dufferin OPP officers responded to a call for service in the area of Main Street and Owen Sound Street in the Town of Shelburne. The complainant advised that three parties were observed banging on windows and damaging construction signs. Police arrived on scene and were led into a mischief investigation.

Amrat Buttar, 24-year-old, from Brampton has been charged with:

- Mischief - destroys or damages property

Gurveer Chohan, 29-year-old, from Brampton has been charged with:

- Mischief - destroys or damages property
- Being intoxicated in public place

Maihtaab Singh, 22-year-old, from Mono has been charged with:

- Mischief - destroys or damages property

Members of the Dufferin OPP are committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities. Officers value your contribution to building safe communities. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-822-8477 (TIPS) or [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com).



## Mulmur collision puts three in hospital

The Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a serious collision that occurred on Airport Road, County Rd. 18 in Mulmur.

On Sept. 7, shortly before 8:30 p.m., Dufferin OPP officers along with emergency crews responded to a three-vehicle collision on Airport Road near County Rd. 21, in Mulmur. Three individuals were transported to a local hospital and treated for non-life-threatening injuries. One party was transported to a

Toronto area trauma centre.

Airport Road was closed for several hours while the OPP continued their investigation. The investigation is ongoing. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Dufferin OPP at 519-925-3838 or 1-888-310-1122.

If you are affected by this incident or witnessed the collision and would like to speak with victim service, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

## Police officer assaulted after traffic stop

On Sunday, Sept. 1, at approximately 7:50 a.m., South Simcoe Police officers were patrolling Yonge Street in Bradford when an Automatic Licence Plate Reader alerted them that the registered owner of a vehicle had a suspended driver's licence. Officer's conducted a traffic stop and discovered that the driver had two driver's licence suspen-

sions.

During the course of the arrest, the driver was uncooperative and refused to exit the vehicle.

As a result of an investigation, a 64-year-old from River Drive Park was charged with Adult Assault a Peace Officer, Adult Resist Arrest and Driving Under Suspension.

## Over 9,000 charges laid over long weekend

It was a tragic Labour Day long weekend on and off the road, with two pedestrians, a motorcyclist and an off-road vehicle driver among the seven traffic fatalities that occurred in separate collisions in OPP jurisdictions.

Throughout the weekend, the OPP did its part to keep travellers safe and hold accountable those who did not, with officers laying 9,143 traffic/marine and Criminal Code charges across the province.

Aggressive drivers were the most significant offenders, making roads unsafe for the many families and other people travelling

throughout the province to take in the last long weekend of summer.

Officers laid a total of 4,841 speeding charges and 124 stunt driving/racing charges.

Among other charges:

- No seatbelt: 545
- Impaired driving: 234
- Distracted driving: 102

With children and other students heading back to school, the OPP would like to remind drivers, pedestrians and cyclists to use roads responsibly and help ensure everyone gets to and from their destination safely.



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<p><b>Cookstown</b> Charlie Brown's Convenience, 25 King St. S. Foodland - In-store, 52 Queen St., Unit 1 Newspaper Box Left of Pharmasave, 52 Queen St.</p>	<p><b>Rosemont</b> MacEwen Rosemont Gas Station, 9225 ON 89</p>
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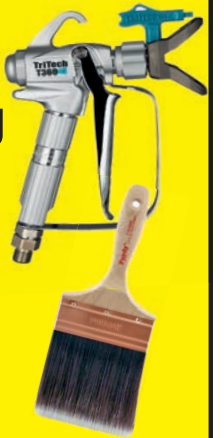
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# Province renames Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship

On Sept. 8, the second anniversary of the passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the provincial government announced it is renaming the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (OMGC) to the Queen Elizabeth II Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (QEIIOMGC).

The renaming of this provincial medal of merit celebrates the connection between those who are bestowed this honour and Her Late Majesty's sense of duty and exemplary lifetime of service.

The Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship was first presented by Queen Elizabeth II during a Royal Visit to Ontario in 1973. Since then, 573 Ontarians have received this honour, recognizing the many ways they have driven positive change in their communities and helped build a stronger province.

"The new name for this honour is a tribute to the strong connections forged between Her Late Majesty and our province during her long and extraordinary reign," said the Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. "The renamed medal will ensure her legacy of service will continue to inspire Ontario's volunteers and civic leaders for generations to come."

Applications are now open until January 15, 2025 and Ontarians are encouraged to submit nominations through the program's application portal. Nominating someone is easy and can be done in three steps: gathering the required information; creating an account on the Ontario Honours and Awards Portal; and submitting the application on the portal.

"Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II led a life of leadership and exceptional service," said Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "The redesignation of the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship will ensure Her Majesty's legacy continues to live on through this provincial medal of merit and its recipients."

To be eligible for this honour, the nominated individuals must stand as a model Ontarian who exemplifies civic-mindedness, integrity and community leadership. The nominee must be a resident of Ontario and have contributed to areas meaningful to the Late Queen Elizabeth II, such as: the environment; arts and culture; seniors; education and youth; community and civic engagement; health care and hospices; social clubs; history and heritage; sport and recreation, faith or animal care.

## What to know about being eligible for the QEIIOMGC

### Eligibility

To be eligible for this honour, the nominee must be a model Ontarian who demonstrates:

- Civic-mindedness
- Integrity
- Community leadership

### The nominee must:

- Be a resident of Ontario
- Have contributed to areas that are meaningful to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, such as:
  - The environment
  - Arts and culture
  - Seniors and aging
  - Education and youth
  - Community and civic engagement
  - Healthcare and hospices
  - Social clubs
  - History and heritage
  - Sport and recreation
  - Faith
- Animal care

### You cannot nominate:

- Yourself

- Someone who has passed away
- An elected federal, provincial or municipal representative currently in office
- A public appointee if their achievements relate to their current appointment
- Someone for acts of bravery

### Required information

To submit a nomination, you will need to provide:

- The nominee's first name, last name, email address and phone number.
- The nominator's first name, last name, email address and phone number.
- A detailed description of the nominee's achievements.
- At least two signed testimonial letters.

The letters must be from two different people who are not the nominator. An electronic signature or scanned copy of the signed letters are acceptable. The testimonial writers should:

- know the nominee
- be able to explain the value and impact of the nominee's achievements
- support the nomination

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