



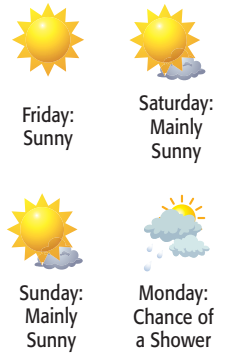
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Fun at the Beeton Fall Fair

The Beeton Fall Fair is now in its 168th year. Thousands of people turned out to have fun, enjoy the rides, see the animals, watch the demolition derby, and listen to music. Held from Sept. 13 to 15 at the Beeton Fairgrounds, the historic fair now has several generations of local residents as well as many out-of-town visitors who attend for a fun weekend. See more photos on Page 7. BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit confirms human case of West Nile

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is reminding residents to protect themselves against mosquito bites and the possible transmission of the West Nile virus.

After reporting that mosquitoes tested positive for the virus in Alliston on Sept. 4 and Barrie on Aug. 15, the SMDHU is warning the public about the first confirmed human case of West Nile Virus in the region.

This is the first human case of the virus confirmed in the Simcoe Muskoka district this year.

Late summer and early fall is a prime time for possible infection from mosquitoes.

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

While some people think that this time of year the risk of being bitten by a mosquito is reduced, mosquitoes are still active and can still pose a threat.

SMDHU's surveillance program has shown that the rate of West Nile virus remains within local and historical norms.

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

Symptoms 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.

Anyone experiencing these symptoms should seek medical advice.

To avoid the risk of being bitten by an infected mosquito, it is recommended you use an approved insect repellent, wear light-coloured clothing covering arms and legs in areas where mosquitoes are active, and try to stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active – from dusk to dawn.



HUMAN CASE – After finding mosquitos that tested positive for West Nile Virus in Alliston on Sept. 4 and Barrie on Aug. 15, the SMDHU is warning the public about the first confirmed human case of West Nile Virus in the region. **STOCK PHOTO**

Essa Township donates \$8,450 to support redevelopment of Stevenson Hospital

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation has received a \$8,450 donation from Essa Township that will go towards the 'Because of you, we can,' campaign in support of the ongoing redevelopment efforts at Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

Essa Township, located in the County of Simcoe, is a neighbouring rural community northeast of New Tecumseth, known for its rich agricultural heritage, particularly potato farming. The area has a robust

military presence, with the nearby CFB Borden military base and many Franco-phone families. On June 4, Essa Township held its 22nd Annual Golf Tournament to raise funds for local healthcare, including the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation.

"We are proud to contribute some of the proceeds from our Annual Golf Tournament to Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation," said Essa Township Mayor Sandie Macdonald. "Access to a modern, well-equipped hospital is essential for the

health and well-being of our community, now and in the future. We are honoured to support the 'Because of you, we can' Campaign and the important redevelopment of Stevenson Memorial Hospital."

Frank Cerisano, CEO of the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, said, "We are deeply thankful to Essa Township for their continued support through their annual golf tournament. Their generous donation will go a long way in helping

Stevenson Memorial Hospital provide the exceptional care our growing community needs. Their commitment to improving local healthcare is truly appreciated."

The 'Because of you, we can,' campaign is the largest campaign in SMHF's history. Donations received help purchase essential equipment, upgrade technology, and complete critical renovations essential to the transformation and redevelopment of Stevenson Memorial Hospital



DONATION – Essa Township donated \$8,450 to the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation to go towards the 'Because of you, we can' campaign in support of the hospital's redevelopment. Essa Township council made the presentation to the hospital foundation on Friday, Sept. 13.

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New Tecumseth Council receives priority water allocation list

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

New Tecumseth Council received a report detailing priorities for water allocation two years ahead of the anticipated completion of system improvements.

The report identifies existing approved development that will serve as priority development areas for water allocation to advance the construction of housing.

Collingwood is completing a Water Treatment Plant Interim Capacity Feasibility Study that will facilitate additional water capacity for development prior to the completion of the expansion of the Water Treatment Plant by mid-2026.

New Tecumseth is completing a Well Optimization Study that will also identify additional water capacity in mid-2026 for development prior to the completion of the Water

Treatment Plant expansion.

New Tecumseth's practices will need to change to enable the servicing of development sites, sales programs and home construction for occupancy in 2026.

Around 2,300 housing units could be available by the second quarter of 2026 through these two initiatives.

The Beeton Meadow Phase 1 development represents 135 pre-sold housing units (pending water availability) and can begin construction in the very near term. Water capacity has been made available through the early water that is flowing in accordance with the WTP expansion agreement with Collingwood.

New Tecumseth currently has an inventory of 4,639 already approved housing units. These units are on hold pending additional water capacity. Staff have identified

over 2,300 housing units that could proceed to building permit issuance in the 2025-2028 timeframe if water availability was not an issue.

To facilitate housing construction in this timeframe, the Town needs to change its practice of allocating water only after it is flowing to one that aligns housing construction and occupancy with the timing of the completion of capital improvements.

The Town also needs to limit the risk of having home sale closings impacted by a delay in the completion of capital improvements, and it is recommended that allocation be given no greater than two years prior to the scheduled completion of capital improvements. This coincides with the typical timing of when a development undergoes servicing, sales, construction and occupancy.

The risk is further limited by the practical

timing of the number of closings that can occur in any given period of time. Currently, 250 cubic metres of additional water is flowing from Collingwood under the terms of the WTP expansion agreement. An additional 150 cubic metres will flow in the next year.

In order to initiate New Tecumseth's housing program, staff identified 135 units in Beeton Meadows Phase 1 that can rapidly proceed with a building permit since these units are pre-sold, awaiting water allocation.

Staff will work to expedite the remaining servicing of the site through 2024-2025 with building permits anticipated to be ready for issuance in 2025.

Accelerating the housing construction program will not only facilitate the construction of much-needed housing but will also accelerate the collection of development charge revenue.

Honda preparing for start of new electric vehicle and battery plant construction

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

As part of its historic \$15 billion Canadian Electric Vehicle Value Chain initiative announced in April 2024, Honda of Canada Mfg. unveiled plans to build two new facilities in Alliston for assembling electric vehicles and their batteries.

Site preparation work has begun at Honda's location on Industrial Parkway in Alliston.

Honda has said it acknowledges the potential disruptions from this construction and has taken steps to minimize the local impact.

Honda 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 the building of new plant structures can begin. The work includes but is not limited to removing vegetation and a raised bank of land, as well as grading and levelling 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 Honda associates.

Honda respectfully asks for the commu-

nity's cooperation and patience while crews complete this stage of the construction project as efficiently as possible. Honda looks

forward to collaborating with residents to ensure the construction process goes smoothly.

Further updates will be provided regularly

to ensure residents and members of the business community are informed of the project's progress.



RUNNING FOR RESEARCH – The annual Terry Fox Run took place in cities and towns across the country on Sunday, Sept. 15, to raise money for cancer research. In Tottenham, run organizer Phil Short brought together a good-sized group for this year's event, which was held on the trail beside the Tottenham Conservation Area. Participants could run, walk or bike the route. The weather was perfect for this year's event. The run raised \$1,840 for cancer research.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

If Taylor Swift says it...

I've never been much of a fan of celebrities who make political endorsements.

I don't mind celebrities or sports figures who make commercial endorsements. That's just earning a living.

If a famous actor is paid a million dollars to say they like a certain brand of pickles, or a famous athlete gets paid big bucks to say they use a certain kind of floppy-floppy shoe on the beach – keep smiling and take the money to the bank. With fame, does come fortune.

Famous pianist, Liberace, the rather flamboyant, all-time greatest showman, used to show his furs and very expensive jewellery to his audience and say, “Do you like them? You should – you paid for them!”

He was a character.

Being famous does not make you smarter, more intelligent, more politically aware, or more in tune with any political strategies, platforms, or occurrences, than any other person.

Most of these famous Hollywood types who endorse a candidate, likely couldn't name a single policy or party platform of the party or candidate they just endorsed. I'll bet if there were voting records, most of them don't even

bother to make a trip to the polls to cast a vote.

Some Hollywood celebrities get this – they don't make endorsements and they don't make political statements. They are the smart ones. They realize they just may be called on to explain their endorsement at a later interview and end up looking stupid. This has happened on more than one occasion.

Some celebrities are smart enough to keep their political leanings private.

Actor and comedian, Ricky Gervais, said a mouthful at the Golden Globe Awards in 2020.

I like Ricky. He's made some great movies, and he's a pretty funny guy.

This particular year, he hosted the awards, and during his opening monologue, he pretty much said what he thought about celebrities making political statements at awards shows.

“Apple roared into the TV game with a morning show – a superb drama,” he said to his audience. “A superb drama about the importance of dignity and doing the right thing – made by a company that runs sweat shops in China. If ISIS started a streaming service, you would call your agent.”

The comment received a lukewarm

response, for obvious reasons.

He went on to say, “If you do win an award tonight, don't use it as a platform to make a political speech. You're in no position to lecture the public about anything. You know nothing about the real world. Most of you spent less time in school than Greta Thunberg. If you win, accept your little award, thank your agent, and your god, and F**** off.”

To be fair, part of Ricky's comedy shtick is an abrasive delivery, but I think in this case, he was being sincere.

It is now reported, after the recent U.S. presidential debate, that pop star, Taylor Swift's Instagram call for voter registration, prompted around 400,000 people to visit an American government website, in under 24 hours, to learn how to register to vote. The week prior, the website reported it had around 30,000 visitors per day.

Taylor Swift is now the biggest pop star on the planet. I'm not really a fan – her music seems to be geared more toward teenagers and young girls. But I will admit she is a talented songwriter and gifted performer, and her audiences love her.

She's also quite attractive, so I'll count

myself as a fan in that respect.

The scary thing here is not that Taylor Swift encouraged people to register to vote, it's the fact that it took a celebrity to make this happen.

Why haven't these people already registered? Why does a person who is so complacent, who hasn't bothered to register to vote, suddenly make the effort because a celebrity suggested it?

Are some people that dim, that they haven't bothered to cast a vote in previous federal elections, but are suddenly spurred into action because a pop singer told them to register to vote?

Even if they register, and go to vote in the upcoming American presidential election, they will likely have to check their iPhone prior to entering the voting station so they will know which candidate's name to place the 'X' beside.

I'm glad I won't be voting in this foreign election – what a nightmare – but if I did, I would like to think that the people joining me at the polls at least had an idea of what the candidates are about, their policies and platforms, and not cast a vote based on a celebrity endorsement.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Don't unpack the sweaters just yet

Are you ready for sweater weather?

Autumn arrives this Friday, and, depending on your internal thermostat, you're probably either dreading the arrival of the fall equinox or looking forward to a decidedly cozier season ahead.

Personally, I've always had a love-hate relationship with the change of seasons.

As a kid, I loved the chance to decompress from life in the classroom or lecture hall over the summer, but as my thermostat generally runs a bit on the warm side, the heat and humidity was, at best, a bit of a buzzkill – or, at worst, my very own climate nemesis. In short, I wilted pretty easily and the younger me looked forward to returning to elementary school in my unfortunate trademark of trackpants – but, in my defence, these Zellers numbers had Gordie Howe's name slapped on 'em for some reason, so sporty by default!

Maybe I was a bit ahead of my time

when it came to the North American embrace of the Danish principle of Hygge – that is, the cultivation of coziness – but it was strictly a matter of comfort at the time.

As I got older, however, I became fonder of summer and what has become an alarmingly increasing number of warmer months throughout the year. I'm not sure exactly when and how this shift took place, but maybe it was just a matter of learning how to maximize what I could get out of summer and squeeze the most out of it.

Maybe wisdom does indeed come with age – no matter what that age happens to be.

I couldn't help but smile last week when my colleague, Sheralyn Roman, wrote her column for the Caledon Citizen on the subject of “Adulthood.” We've all been there when it comes to adulthood, but the timing of the column made me chuckle because I entered my fortieth year on Tuesday – or, as I now prefer to think of it, in honour of late,

great comedian Jack Benny, hitting 39 and holding.

“Remember when you were a kid and couldn't wait to be an adult?” she posed. “Without exception, I am sure at least once as a child you thought to yourself, ‘I can't wait 'til I'm grown up and can do whatever I want! Implication being that as an adult, life would be so much fun.

“It turns out being an adult is all the internet memes happening to you all at once. All the time. It's cleaning up the dirty dishes and pots and pans, after every single meal, three times a day, every damn day. Meals that first you have to dream up, then grocery shop for, and after all that – plan, prepare and serve. Adulthood is looking forward to a rainy Saturday so you can get ‘caught up’ (News Flash: You'll never, ever catch up) with your laundry, or cleaning, or yard work or...whatever else is on your long list of to-dos. Adulthood is coming home from the grocery store with just one bag of groceries that cost

the equivalent of the mortgage payment on your first home. Worse, as you unpack it, you realize you've forgotten the one thing you actually went for in the first place!”

Sher's comments were, in part, based on being a parent, but even as a “childless cat dad,” to borrow a phrase from Taylor Swift and her bizarre coterie of unlikely political adversaries, they resonated. Yet, no matter what one's age, family situation, and how furry those in your life might be, I'm noticing an increase in people just looking to hit the fast-forward button on life.

Summer will still have one final official gasp in it by the time this paper arrives at your door on Thursday, but this might come as a surprise to all those who have been looking for just about any excuse to count it out.

Continued on Page 15

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Uncharted territory

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



No sirens are blaring, nobody even looks frightened, but they should be. Last week the world moved into uncharted territory. The ‘aspirational’ goal of never allowing the average global temperature to rise more than 1.5 degrees Celsius higher than the pre-industrial norm (+1.5°C) has been breached for a whole year – and probably forever.

‘Never’ is a long time, so the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), when it set that target in 2018, actually said that it should remain achievable until at least 2050. You may have noticed that the year is only 2024, and we are already there. Something has gone wrong, and there is a scramble to cover it up.

This takes two forms. One was to say that it’s just a temporary effect related to the recent El Niño, a cyclical ocean event that occasionally raises the average global temperature a bit for nine to twelve months, then subsides again.

The trouble with that explanation was that the ‘anomaly’, as climate scientists were calling the unexpected warming, was twice as big as any El Niño event has ever been. It also began months before this El Niño got going – and it did not go away when the El Niño died out, in April. The ‘anomaly’ is still there.

So much for that attempt to explain the ‘anomaly’ away, but there’s another. What if a whole year above +1.5°C doesn’t count as ‘breaching the limit’? It doesn’t, according to the IPCC’s counting rules. Those rules say it won’t be reached until the average global temperature has been +1.5°C for the past twenty years – so about ten years from now, in practice.

Calculating long-term averages for global temperature made sense when the climate was basically stable and just jiggled around a bit from year to year, but those days are long gone.

The trend in average global tempera-

ture has been relentlessly upwards for decades now. To insist on mixing in cooler temperatures from twenty years ago to come up with a number that understates the reality of the present would be self-deception at best.

What would it be at worst? I wouldn’t use the words ‘deliberate misrepresentation’, but something complicated and largely invisible happens at the conclusion of each Assessment Report, the scientific document on which the IPCC’s now-annual conferences are based.

The data and conclusions in the hundreds of pages of the reports are valid and unbiased, but the ‘executive summary’ (the only part most journalists will ever read) is a political document negotiated between the scientists and the governments that are paying for the whole IPCC enterprise.

The scientists are already hampered by their own professional reluctance to discuss their private and tentative conclusions in public. Alas, that handicaps them in their protracted arm-wrestle over the executive summary with governments that are deeply concerned about climate change, but always want to avoid large spending commitments right now.

I’m relying on private information from

some scientists who have been involved in the process, but the governments usually win. (“He who pays the piper calls the tune.”) This may explain the widening gap between what the IPCC says and what we can see with our own eyes: monster wildfires, unprecedented heatwaves, killer landslides and all the rest.

What can we do about all this? The stock answer is ‘cut your greenhouse gas emissions’, and we should move as fast as we can on that front, but it is delusional to go on pretending that this is all we can and must do. After thirty years of trying, our emissions are still growing almost every year (although we may start to make a little progress soon).

We need to hold the heat down while the emissions work proceeds, or the growing chaos, damage and violence will make further progress on any front impossible. The various ways to do that are called ‘geoengineering’ or climate engineering, and for a long time it was taboo. That never made sense, and now the prejudice is fading fast.

Geoengineering is a very big subject, but if you’re interested I recently wrote a book about it.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Wrest
5. Russian river
10. Grupo
- Montparnasse founder
12. One who quits prematurely
14. Related to the nature of being
16. Early multimedia
18. Indigenous Tibetan religion
19. Tease
20. J.M. __, Irish dramatist
22. Pounds per square inch
23. Surrendered
25. Notable Dallas Cowboy Leon
26. Dash
27. Man who behaves dishonorably
28. British Air Aces
30. Data executive
31. Spiritual leader
33. Flower cluster
35. Of the cheek
37. Tears down
38. Uncoordinated
40. Touches lightly
41. Soak
42. Founder of Babism
44. Not good
45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
48. Type of casino game
50. Skills assessments for adults
52. Check
53. Gives a job
55. Fifth note of a major scale
56. Small, faint constellation
57. Thou
58. Reduce
63. Another recording
65. Removes for good
66. Jill and Catherine are two
67. Cruise

CLUES DOWN

1. Greenwich Time
2. Metropolis
3. Complete
4. Scheduled
5. One who obeys
6. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
7. Days (Spanish)
8. Unsaturated hydrocarbon radical
9. Region of the U.S. (abbr.)
10. Tributary of the Alabama River
11. One who eliminates
13. Ballroom music
15. Officer in the Book of Mormon
17. Denies
18. Barrels per day (abbr.)
21. Make vital
23. Former NFLer
24. Kashmiri tribe
27. Indigenous S. American person
29. Capacitance unit
32. MLB great
- Scherzer
34. Taxi
35. Boggy
36. Artist’s workroom
39. Feline
40. Prosecutors
43. Freshwater perches
44. Young ladies
46. Whittles
47. Licensed for Wall Street
49. Type of gene
51. Express displeasure
54. Fly high
59. Norwegian krone
60. Investment account
61. Chinese surname
62. Language
64. By the way (abbr.)

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

OPP raising awareness about Off-Road Vehicle safety amid seasonal rise in fatalities

BY SAM ODROWSKI

In 2023, half of the Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) fatalities in Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) jurisdictions occurred during the end of the year. As a result, the Central Region of the OPP is raising awareness about ORV safety.

The OPP investigated 26 ORV fatalities in 2023, in which 13 occurred between September and December. Lack of helmet use, alcohol and/or drug consumption, and failure to maintain control of the vehicle remain the leading factors.

Here are some critical safety guidelines and best preparation for enjoyable riding:

• Driving an ORV while impaired by alcohol or drugs is as unlawful as driving any other vehicle and carries the same impaired driving penalties that apply to driving a motor vehicle.

• Always wear a properly fitted helmet with a secure chin strap. ORV drivers and passen-

gers who do not wear their helmets are at a much higher risk of serious injury or death if they crash, lose control, or their vehicle tips over.

• Always carry your registration and proof of insurance.

• Ensure proper display of licence plate according to the ORVA.

• Have a valid trail pass where applicable.

• Exercise caution when riding on permitted roadways, adjusting to the difference between dirt and pavement.

• Drive cautiously and familiarize yourself with the required speeds for ORVs.

SAFETY MEASURES – The Central Region of the OPP recently issued a statement offering safety advice to Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) drivers. Lack of helmet use, alcohol and/or drug consumption, and failure to maintain control of the vehicle remain the leading factors causing fatalities. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



Brian and Kathy Gibson launch match initiative in support of hospital redevelopment

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMHF) has announced a \$1 million matching gift from Brian and Kathy Gibson.

The Gibsons are long-time supporters of the SMHF.

This match donation initiative will double the impact of every new donation made toward the hospital's redevelopment.

The 'Building Your Stevenson for Tomorrow, Together,' \$1 million matching gift is a testament to Brian and Kathy Gibson's commitment to the community and its health.

"For generations, Brian and Kathy Gib-

son's family have been at the forefront of supporting Stevenson Memorial Hospital," said Frank Cerisano, CEO of SMHF. "Their incredible generosity will help to ignite the community and surrounding area in supporting this transformative redevelopment project, ensuring that our hospital can continue to provide exceptional care for years to come."

The \$1 million 'Building Your Stevenson for Tomorrow, Together,' matching gift offers donors a unique opportunity to significantly impact the community's health care future.

Brian and Kathy Gibson will match every dollar contributed to the redevelopment proj-

ect, effectively doubling the impact of each gift.

The Foundation encourages all community members, businesses, and organizations to participate in this initiative.

"We are so thankful for the support of our community for our hospital and redevelopment project that will provide a new facility that is needed and deserved," said Barbara Steed, Interim President and CEO of Stevenson Memorial Hospital. "Together, we can make it happen and I thank Brian and Kathy Gibson for their leadership and generosity in bringing this opportunity forward."

Donations received through the 'Build-

ing Your Stevenson for Tomorrow, Together' \$1 million matching gift will help purchase essential equipment, upgrade technology, and complete critical renovations essential to the transformation of Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

The hospital's redevelopment plan includes a new emergency department that will triple in size.

The emergency department was built to manage 7,000 visits per year. It now has close to 40,000 visits each year.

With a growing population in South Simcoe and surrounding communities, redevelopment is needed today and for future generations.

DUFFERIN FARM TOUR

September 28, 2024

dufferinfarmtour.com



GOOD TIMES – The Beeton Fall Fair celebrated its 168th year in Beeton on Sept. 13, 14, and 15, with something for everyone to enjoy. Visitors had fun on the midway, watched 4H judging, listened to some great music, and enjoyed the wildly popular demolition derby. Thousands of people turned out for the event and the weather cooperated with three full days of sunshine.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN LOCKHART



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Arts & Entertainment

Time, space, reality blend in Blackhorse Theatre's production of Marjorie Prime

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Things may not really be as they appear – not by a long shot – in the Blackhorse Village Players production of *Marjorie Prime*, currently on stage at its Highway 9 and Mount Wolfe Road location.

Marjorie Prime is a senior citizen who lives in the home of her daughter and her husband. Marjorie, played by Carol McLennan, seems to be suffering from some sort of dementia. She has forgotten many details of her life and has to be reminded of many things.

Marjorie is visited by a much younger man. In the role of Walter, Christian Tribuzio arrives at Marjorie's room and gently scolds her for not eating properly. Marjorie questions Walter about many past events.

She references the time he proposed to her, and refers to him as her husband.

It is soon revealed that Walter doesn't really exist. He is a computer-generated image of Marjorie's long-dead husband, with knowledge of Marjorie's past life, and he is there in this form, to keep her company.

Marjorie's only child, Tess, played by Erin Mackie, arrives with her husband Jon.

In the role of Jon, Ted Powers seems to be

the voice of reason in the room.

Neither Tess nor Jon acknowledge that Walter is there.

Tess is obviously worried about her mother's health as the older woman's failing memory is becoming a challenge and Tess struggles with past events involving her mother.

While Tess married Jon, her college sweetheart, Marjorie was more of a free spirit in her youth and thought Tess would be the same.

Marjorie was once involved with a French professional tennis player named Jean Paul who was ranked eighth in the world, as well as several other lovers in her past. Jean-Paul never stopped trying to win Marjorie's love, even sending her letters 50 years after they were together.

Marjorie asks Tess if she and Jon are still planning to travel.

Tess reveals that it is her dream to travel to Madagascar.

While Jon and Tess discuss the situation around Tilly, Tess seems to struggle with some past issues.

Jon has tried to encourage Tess to seek counselling, but she refuses.

From here, the play takes a dramatic, unexpected turn.

Things aren't really what they appear to be.



BREAK A LEG – The Blackhorse Village Players' production of *Marjorie Prime* is currently on stage at its Highway 9 location. Starring Carol McLennan, Christian Tribuzio, Erin Mackie, and Ted Powers, the play bends reality and time, while making the audience question how much of their lives is real. *Marjorie Prime* is on the Blackhorse stage until Sept. 29.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Even time is questioned as more is revealed.

If you are a fan of the old *Twilight Zone* show, you will really enjoy this production.

Directed by Maureen Lukie, *Marjorie Prime* makes you think, then think again.

Marjorie Prime is on the Blackhorse Village Players stage through to Sept. 29.

You can get tickets to *Marjorie Prime* online at blackhorsetheatre.ca or by calling the box office at 905-880-5002.

Sugartones return to the stage with a live performance - The Power of Song

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Sugartones, a local acapella group, will be returning to the stage with their first live public show since 2019.

This popular local ensemble had to curtail its activity during COVID but has since regrouped and has a whole new line-up of music.

This new show, themed 'The Power of

Song' will delight audiences with the unique and professional quality of sound of many voices in harmony. This will be the debut of the chorus's new director Jeanette Martin.

During this new performance, the group will welcome a special guest, clarinetist Sean Derragh, as well as the Music in Motion performers.

This show will take place at the Alliston Pentecostal Church (7810 Highway 89).

A matinee will take place at 2 p.m., with the evening show at 7 p.m. The doors will open at 1:30 p.m., and again at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under.

For tickets to the special event, you can e-mail sugartones2012@gmail.com or contact Denise at 705-250-2404.

If you know a chorus member, you can contact them directly to inquire about tickets.

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BACK ON STAGE – Local acapella group, the Sugartones, will be staging a live performance for the first time since 2019, due to a hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic. Two performances are taking place on Oct. 5. The first one will be at 2 p.m. and the evening show is at 7 p.m. The shows will take place at the Alliston Pentecostal Church, 7810 Highway 89, Alliston.

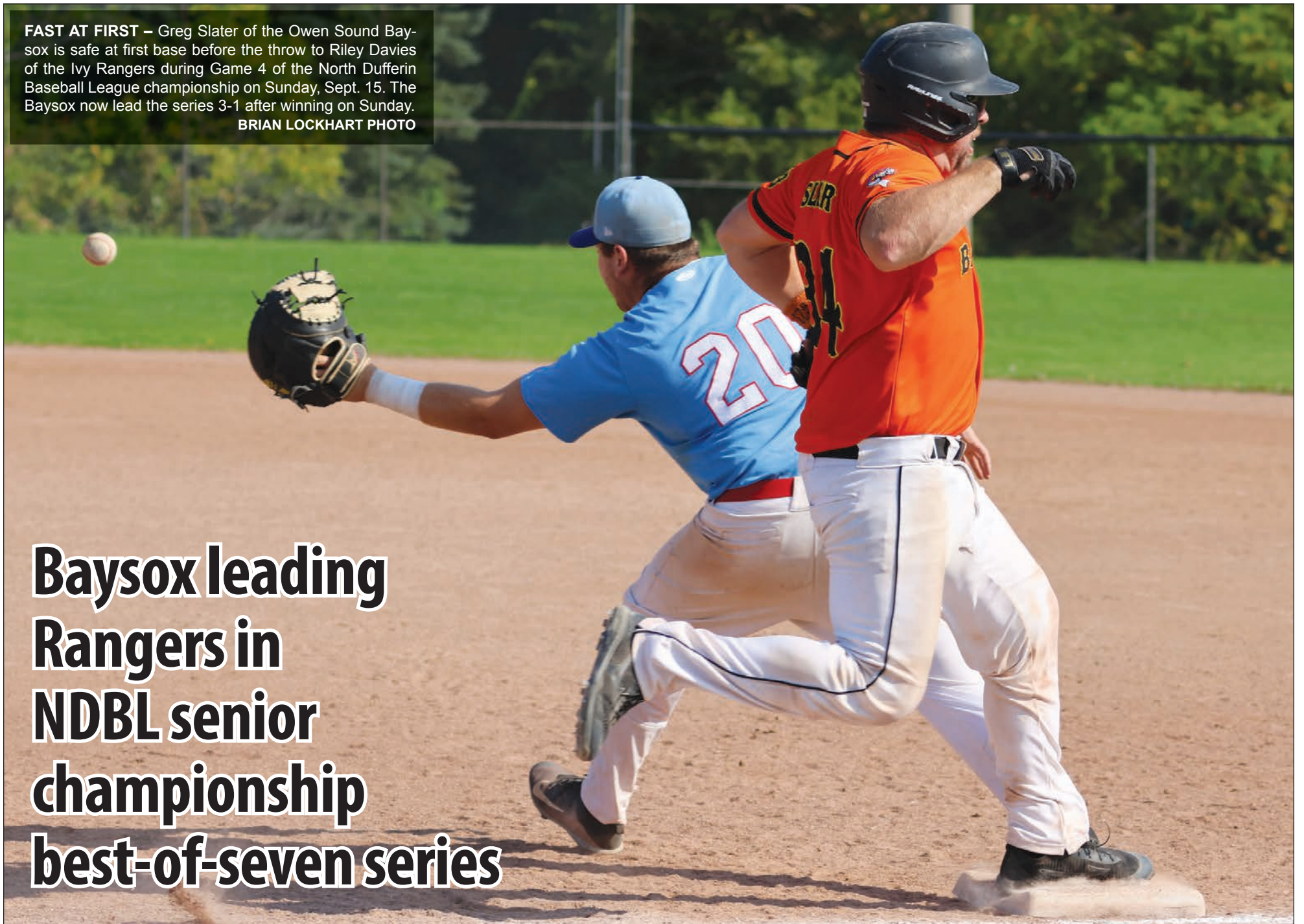
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

FAST AT FIRST – Greg Slater of the Owen Sound Baysox is safe at first base before the throw to Riley Davies of the Ivy Rangers during Game 4 of the North Dufferin Baseball League championship on Sunday, Sept. 15. The Baysox now lead the series 3-1 after winning on Sunday.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



Baysox leading Rangers in NDBL senior championship best-of-seven series

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

After a second weekend of back-to-back games, the Owen Sound Baysox are leading the Ivy Rangers 3-1 in the North Dufferin Baseball League senior championship series.

This is a best-of-seven series so the Baysox can wrap up the 2024 championship with another win this coming weekend.

The series got underway on Saturday, Sept. 7, in Owen Sound. Game 1 ended with a close 5-4 win for the Baysox.

Moving to the diamond in Ivy the following day, the series was tied when the Rangers managed to shut out the Baysox 3-0 to even things up.

The teams were given a week off and returned to Owen Sound on Saturday, Sept. 14, for Game 3.

Owen Sound got the edge in this game and left the field with a 4-3 win in a well-played game by both teams.

The Baysox had a huge advantage in the series after Game 4. Played in Owen Sound on Sunday, Sept. 15, the afternoon game was one both teams needed to win.

The final score was a repeat of Game 3 with the Baysox leaving the diamond with a 4-3 win.

This gives the Owen Sound team a huge advantage going into Game 5.

The Rangers will have to dig deep and win this upcoming game to keep the series alive.

Owen Sound will be the 2024 champions if they keep it all together and manage a win this weekend.

Both teams had good seasons this year.

The Baysox finished as the second-place team in the regular season with a 17-5-2 record and 36 points.

The Rangers finished well back in fifth place but came alive during the playoffs and knocked the first-place Bolton Brewers out of competition in the second round.

Game 5 of the Owen Sound versus Ivy championship series takes place in Ivy on Saturday, Sept. 21, with a 2 p.m. start.

If the Rangers manage a win, Game 6 of the series will also be in Ivy on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 2 p.m.

If the series goes the distance, the final game will take place in Owen Sound on Saturday, Sept. 28, at 2 p.m.



JUST IN TIME – The throw to first base arrived just in time during a game between Nickel 9 and Shear Addiction on the baseball diamond at Keogh Park in Tottenham on Friday, Sept. 13. Tottenham Ladies Slo-Pitch is now in the playoffs with teams battling it out for the top spot.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Stevenson Memorial Hospital receives over \$900,000 from Simcoe County for redevelopment

The County of Simcoe is continuing its support of Stevenson Memorial Hospital's (SMH) redevelopment project and presented a \$924,248 cheque to the hospital. This is the second installment of a \$10 million commitment to the hospital's redevelopment through the Simcoe County Hospital Alliance, the largest funding commitment to the hospital's redevelopment project to date.

The redevelopment project includes a new expanded facility that will triple the size of the hospital. The new facility will wrap around the current hospital building and include a complete redesign of the hospital's clinical areas. It will feature a new Emergency Department triple the size of the current space, new Laboratory, Surgical Suite, Birthing Unit, Medical/Surgical inpatient Unit, Diagnostic Imaging and Pharmacy. The hospital's inpatient bed capacity will grow by 20 per cent, all with single occupancy patient rooms to meet infection prevention and control best practices.

SMH's facility will be modernized for the first time in over 60 years, complete with a vibrant, new atrium entrance space, enhanced use of natural light and design elements that are inspired by local history, landscape, infrastructure and cultures.

The hospital has significantly outgrown its current space as it was built to manage 7,000 Emergency Department visits a year and has seen up to almost 40,000 annually. With a growing population in New Tecumseth and surrounding communities that is expected to reach 100,000 by 2031, SMH's planned expansion will provide the space that meets the needs of local communities in south Simcoe County today and future growth projected.

On August 30, 2024 the hospital in partnership with Infrastructure Ontario, issued a request for qualifications (RFQ) for the project. The RFQ is the first step in the process to select a team to build the project.

"The County of Simcoe continues to be an incredible support and partner to Stevenson Memorial Hospital," says Barbara Steed, In-

terim President and CEO, SMH. "Their leadership in recognizing the needs of hospitals in our region has made a profound impact, from critical equipment to hospital infrastructure. Patients and families in our community have had the benefit of being able to access excellent health care services close to home thanks to their significant contributions."

"The County of Simcoe is pleased to continue building up healthcare across our region through targeted investments in our hospitals across the region," said Warden Basil Clarke. "Between 1994 and 2031, the County has committed to investing \$107 million to support area hospitals, including \$10 million towards the important redevelopment of Stevenson Memorial Hospital. Through these targeted investments, County Council recognizes the importance of our valued partnerships with hospitals and their role in building up vibrant, healthy, and sustainable communities across our region."

The Simcoe County Hospital Funding Alliance was established in 2002 to anticipate and respond to our community needs and to ensure this health-care funding was distributed equitably across all of our local hospitals. In June 2017, County Council approved continued hospital funding for a total \$45 million commitment, with \$3 million distributed annually to the Simcoe County Hospital Alliance over a 15-year period from 2017 to 2031.

Of the County's 15-year, \$45 million commitment, Stevenson Memorial will receive \$10 million supporting its redevelopment project.

The Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMHF) launched the Because of you, we can Campaign in 2019 in support of the redevelopment project, as well as funds needed to support critical equipment and technology upgrades. The SMH and SMHF is thankful for the support of several businesses, organizations, local government, individuals and families to date. To support the redevelopment project by making a donation, please visit www.transformingstevenson.ca.



COUNTY SUPPORT - The County of Simcoe presents Stevenson Memorial Hospital with a cheque for \$924,248 as a second installment towards their \$10 million commitment to the hospital's redevelopment project through the Simcoe County Hospital Alliance. Stevenson Memorial Hospital staff and volunteers gathered with representatives from the Town of New Tecumseth to mark the occasion. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



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NEW TECUMSETH TIMES



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Nottawasaga OPP lay charges in relation to historic sexual assault investigation

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police Major Crime Unit has charged an individual in relation to a historical sexual assault.

An investigation began in August 2024,

after a victim reported a sexual assault that occurred in 2010.

At the time of the incident, the accused and the victim were members of the same residential community in Beeton.

As a result of this investigation, John Wilkinson from New Tecumseth was

charged with Sexual Assault and Sexual Interference.

Wilkinson has been arrested and released.

He is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on Sept. 26, 2024.

The charge against Wilkinson hasn't been proven in court.

Anyone with information about this incident or a similar incident is urged to contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Should you want to remain anonymous, contact Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

South Simcoe Police issue fraud warning

South Simcoe Police Service would like to make the public aware of a scam circulating in the region.

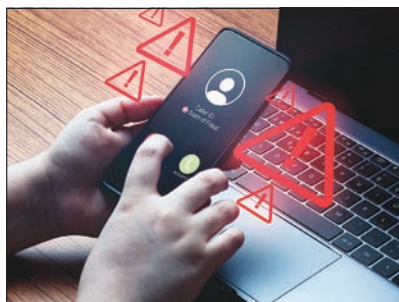
The scam works by having an unsuspecting person approached by someone pretending to pay for a taxi ride.

The scammer will claim that the taxi does not accept cash and offer the victim cash in exchange for using their debit or credit card. The taxi operator, who is also involved in the scam, will then use the victim's card and replace it with a similar-looking one. The scammers then leave and use the victim's card for unauthorized withdrawals and purchases.

Similar scams have been reported in other municipalities across the province.

How to Protect Yourself:

- Do not agree to use your debit or credit card to pay for someone else's transaction, even if you are offered compensation



- Regularly monitor your bank and credit card statements for suspicious activity

- Always hide your PIN when making purchases, use one that is difficult to guess, and do not share your PIN with anyone

- Remain alert and aware of your surroundings

Report fraud to police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or visit their website to learn more about the latest scams and how to protect yourself at AntiFraud-Centre.ca.

Man dead after motorcycle and SUV collide in Mulmur

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) along with Dufferin County EMS, and Fire Services attended a serious three-vehicle collision in Mulmur over the weekend.

On Saturday, Sept. 14, at approximately 2:45 p.m., officers attended County Road 19 in Mulmur for the report of a serious three-vehicle collision.

The collision involved a motorcycle, sedan and sport utility vehicle (SUV). The motorcycle was traveling southbound and collided with a northbound sedan and SUV.

Sadly, as a result of the collision the driver of the

motorcycle, a 53-year-old male from Hamilton, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

There were no other injuries reported at the time of the collision.

The Traffic Collision Investigation (TCI) team of the OPP was brought in to investigate. The investigation is continuing and anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dash cam footage is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP 1-888-310-1122.

If you had witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

Shoplifting report results in impaired driving charge

Officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a Shelburne man with impaired driving as the result of a shoplifting investigation.

Dufferin OPP officers responded to a shoplift call for service at a grocery store in Shelburne on Sept. 10, shortly after 3:30 p.m. The accused had left the scene prior to police arrival.

Officers located the driver who was operating a mobility scooter and were led into an impaired driv-

ing investigation.

Brent YOUNG, a 58-year-old male, from Shelburne has been charged with operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

The accused individuals are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville. Their driver's licence was suspended 90 days, and their vehicles impounded for 7 days.

The impaired driving charge has not been proven in court.

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Don't unpack the sweaters just yet

The August Long Weekend saw the first round of this metaphorical nail-biting and tooth-gnashing that “summer’s almost over!” It wasn’t. By the time Labour Day came around, those same people, and probably a few more in their ranks, they were using any measure but a calendar to usher the season towards its demise – from the end of the CNE, to the first day of school, and anything in between.

Then there are those festive types who begin the countdown to Christmas on December 27 of any given year, trying to move the needle forward to a holiday season that is, more often than not, even in this day of Climate Change, typified by cold, snow and ice.

Others still are looking to mentally fast-forward for some more concerning reasons.

A friend who just happens to be a “child-less pet dad” recently mused they were in the throes of pre-mourning one of their pets simply because they crossed an arbitrary age threshold. Another wished we could be in the middle of November with the snap of the fingers because, to hear them tell it, the lead-up to and worry about that month’s U.S. Presidential Election was causing ulcers. No word

at press time whether Jagmeet Singh’s decision to “rip up” its agreement with the governing Liberals is also causing peptic upset. I suspect it might be, but pressing that particular fast-forward button to see how that turns out could take us into next week or next fall.

Whiling away doesn’t seem like the best use of anyone’s time.

Rather than mourning a death that hasn’t happened, this particular time could be used to make years of wonderful memories. Rather than worrying about a political outcome beyond our borders, although deeply concerning, the same could be used to try to affect meaningful change in ways large and small. Worry can be a valuable motivator, but it’s just as important not to drown in it.

With international wars ongoing with little signs of a resolution, with economic and affordability challenges continuing in a rampant way, with political turmoil impacting just about every aspect of our lives, including those factors of conflict and cash, it’s understandable why some might wish away weeks and months in hopes of a smoother road ahead or ripping the proverbial Band-Aid off something that could very well be unpleasant.

But, at the same time, it’s more important than ever to live in the here and now, whether you’re looking to make the most of a season, advance a cause, or do

something that is otherwise important to you.

But maybe that’s just being 364 days away from 40 talking!

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