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Hornets Remain Undefeated

The Alliston Hornets take on the Orillia Terriers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Oct. 4. The Hornets won this game 7-3 and are undefeated for the season after playing five games. Turn to Page 17 for a full story on the Alliston Hornets.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Local residents honoured with Saint Michael Award for service

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Towns of New Tecumseth and Collingwood The Archdiocese of Toronto has announced the inaugural recipients of the Saint Michael Award recognizing distinguished and faithful service by members of the Catholic community in the Greater Toronto area.

Alliston residents, Larry and Theresa Keogh, who are members of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Alliston, have been honoured with this award.

Mr. Keogh is well known locally as a former principal at Banting Memorial High School and as a former Mayor of New Tecumseth.

Larry and Theresa have, for years, been involved in many local community events and contributed greatly to the betterment of the town.

They were awarded the Saint Michael Award for the Northern Pastoral Region.

The Saint Michael Award recognizes distinguished and faithful service by members of the Catholic community in the Greater Toronto area. Each year, awards will be presented to an individual, couple, group or organization nominated by their local pastor.

Nominations, which included letters of support and references, were reviewed by

an archdiocesan committee before final recipients were selected.

Saint Michael is the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

“What a joy it is to honour these men and women who have so lovingly served our community with great joy, humility and fidelity over so many years. Inspired by their faith, they are a profound witness of the Gospel in action and reflect the face of Jesus in giving so generously of themselves to others,” said the Most Rev. Francis Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto.

Larry and Theresa have been married for 68 years, raised six children and rooted their relationship in service inspired by their faith.

Theresa served as parish organist for more than 50 years while also giving generously in numerous roles with the Catholic Women’s League.

Larry has been a Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Co-ordinator for Building Committees, Maintenance Supervisor, Member of the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Capital Projects Assistant.

Before the hiring of a cleaner for St. Paul’s Parish, Larry, Theresa, and family members cleaned the church each week.

In January 1976, when a devastating



RECOGNIZING THE KEOGH’S SERVICE – Larry and Theresa Keogh have been honoured with the Saint Michael Award from the Archdiocese of Toronto, recognizing distinguished and faithful service by members of the Catholic community. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

fire destroyed Knox Presbyterian Church in Alliston, the couple established a community assistance group and rallied volunteers. They were later honoured for their leadership by the mayor.

Even in their late 80s and early 90s, Theresa and Larry continue to give generously and are the foundation from which many projects have come to fruition within the parish and local community.

New Tecumseth, Collingwood respond to funding for water treatment plant

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Towns of New Tecumseth and Collingwood have issued a joint statement following the announcement that Ontario is investing nearly \$70 million into a water treatment plant extension in Collingwood.

The investment will allow for the construction of more homes in both communities, as New Tecumseth utilizes a portion of Collingwood’s water supply.

Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey, announced the provincial government will invest \$69,999,999 into the project on Sept. 26.

The Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project tender with the lowest bidder, Kenaidan Contracting Ltd., is estimated to be in the range of \$270 million.

“The Province of Ontario’s significant commitment and investment in the Towns of New Tecumseth and Collingwood is remarkable,” said New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross. “We have worked together tirelessly to develop partnerships and solutions for funding assistance, and we are grateful for the province’s support that ensures we have the services and water needed to continue to prosper today and into the future.”

Town of New Tecumseth staff continue to investigate all options to finance the project, including contributions from the federal government.

“I am proud to announce that we have secured a provincial grant of \$70 million dollars towards our water treatment plant expansion,” said Collingwood Mayor Yvonne Hamlin. “This project is the largest investment in Collingwood and New Tecumseth’s history and tremendous effort has gone into reaching this point. Numerous meetings and discussions which I have been honoured to arrange and attend with

the premier, Minister Calandra, and provincial budget committee, amongst many others, have yielded results for which we are so thankful. I very much look forward to continuing to work with the province to achieve our joint goals to enhance our community.”

On Sept. 12, 2023, a joint statement issued from both towns announced that three bids were received from the pre-qualified contractors for the Raymond A. Barker Water Treatment Plant Expansion project.

The unofficial low bid was \$212 million for construction alone. The total project costs are now estimated to be in the range of \$270 million, and the timeline to complete the project has also been extended by about two years.

Construction of the expansion has begun, and the current schedule for commissioning of the 59,000 m³/d is July 2029, with work continuing until 2031.

The project is essential for both Collingwood, New Tecumseth and the surrounding area as it can supply significant additional drinking water to the existing 60-kilometre pipeline southerly from Collingwood and westerly to the Town of the Blue Mountains.

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Stevenson issues statement in response to report

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

A report issued by a provincially appointed investigator and an investigation team raised several concerns about Stevenson Memorial Hospital's operations.

Investigator Janice Skot and a team of four other investigators spent four months at the hospital observing its operations, interviewing people and gathering information to compile the report. Skot formerly served as president and CEO of Simcoe County's largest hospital – Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre.

The final report on Stevenson noted concerns about governance, leadership, quality of care, operations and financial performance.

In response to the final report, the hospital issued a statement on Oct. 3.

"Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) has been providing health care services to our local community and beyond for almost 100 years. It is the heart of the community, and has been here for individuals and families providing compassionate care for patients at the beginning of life, the end and all stages of life in between," the statement

continued.

"SMH has a dedicated team of staff and physicians whose goal is always to deliver safe, quality care. We welcome the opportunity to strengthen our hospital and make improvements that will provide a solid foundation for the future, as well as have a lasting positive impact for our staff, physicians, and the lives of those we serve. Our team will act upon the recommendations found in the investigation report in a timely, professional and transparent manner. Coupled with the redevelopment of the hospital, the future is bright at SMH."

Simcoe County to again participate in nationally coordinated Point-in-Time Homeless Count

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Simcoe County will once again be participating in a nationally coordinated Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count in October 2024.

This fourth annual count is required by Reaching Home, Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada, and is supported by community partners across the country.

The County has participated in PiT counts in previous years as part of this project.

Over the count period, trained surveyors will count and survey individuals who

are staying in shelters, short-term emergency housing, and sleeping rough (without shelter). The PiT count will provide a snapshot of homelessness in Simcoe County.

It will indicate the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in the community.

Other forms of homelessness, such as people staying temporarily with friends or family are not typically included in a PiT count.

The PiT count will improve the region's understanding of the needs and circumstances of the people who are affected by homelessness in the community. The survey will provide the County with key data on gender, age, ethnicity, veteran status, length of time experience and other factors.

Results from the PiT count will be publicly available and will be used in combination with the regional Coordinated Access system's By-Name Date to improve the County's response to homelessness.

In the future, successive counts will allow the County to measure progress toward its ultimate goal of ending homelessness in Simcoe County.

The Simcoe County PiT count has received support from Reaching Home and the

Government of Canada's Homelessness Strategy.

In October and November 2024, indi-



HOMELESS COUNT – The County of Simcoe is taking part in the nationally coordinated Point-in-Time Homeless Count this year. Simcoe has participated in past PiT counts, which capture how many people are living without homes in the county. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

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Don't shoot me, I'm only the piano player

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



“It's a hellova thing killing a man. You take away all he's got, and all he's ever gonna have.”

That pretty much sums up Bill Munny's philosophy on murder in the 1992 film, *Unforgiven*.

Yes, killing a person does indeed take away everything.

There was a mass killing in South Africa a couple of weeks ago – 18 murdered. All shot dead.

The victims were all neighbours or relatives in two houses, side by side. They were gathering for a traditional ritual to mark the end of mourning for a mother and daughter, who were also murdered a year ago.

South Africa has already recorded almost 13,000 murders this year. In 2022, the country experienced more than 27,000 murders.

The country's Police Ministry claims that more than 53,000 suspects wanted for violent crimes, including murder, have been arrested in the last month.

Life – is cheap, in South Africa.

In Canada, your chances of being murdered by a stranger, are almost zero. Almost always, a murder is committed by a person who knew the victim, either closely, or through other connections.

The country recorded 788 murders in 2021. Around a quarter of those were gang related. If you live by the sword, you die by the sword.

The homicide rate for Indigenous persons was six times higher than that of non-Indigenous victims.

There are around 100,000 victims of domestic violence every year, and about 90 people die annually at the hands of their abuser. That's no way to end a marriage, but it happens every week.

For the most part, you will feel safe in any Canadian city.

How do we stack up against other countries when it comes to violence?

Western Europe has the lowest murder rate in the world. Based on murder per 100,000 inhabitants, Italy, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Austria, Netherlands, and Scotland, have very low homicide rates of just over one, to only .5 of population based on the 100,000 number.

On the other side of the world, a murder in Australia is a big deal. They have a rate of only .8, per 100,000 people.

By comparison, Canada's rate is around 2.2 – still very low on the world scale.

The U.S., which has a reputation for

guns, both as a pastime and for mass shootings, has a rate that is actually pretty low, around 6.83.

From there, the statistics go up dramatically depending on what part of the world you live in.

Several countries in Africa are rated in the high mid-level to high range. Nigeria, Botswana, Eritrea, Eswatini, South Sudan, Lesotho, and Namibia, all have dangerous levels of yearly homicides.

When you look at Central and South America, the numbers are outright scary. In fact, so scary, I think any person would be nervous just going to the grocery store.

Jamaica has the second-highest murder rate in the world with a rate of 53 per 100,000 people. It is a country of around 2.7 million people, that had 1,508 murders in 2022. Compare that to the City of Toronto, with around the same population. Toronto had 57 murders in 2023, many of them gang-related.

Even the Bahamas with a population of around 450,000 recorded 128 murders.

In Central America, Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Honduras, had high rates from 19 up to 35 per 100,000. You probably don't want to do many out-

door activities in Honduras.

Haiti's rate is over 40.

Even the larger countries in South America have a high rate of violence and killing.

While Chile, Paraguay, Argentina, and Bolivia, are relatively safe with ratings around 4 to 6 per 100,000, but their neighbours aren't so peaceful.

Mexico, which is still part of North America, has a rate of 26 per 100,000 – that's way too high for a modern country.

Columbia's rate is 25, with around 13,108 murders.

Brazil is not far behind, with a rate of just over 20, with over 44,000 murders per year.

I'm sure most of the people who live in Brazil or Columbia are decent hard working people who want to have a place to live, a decent job, and good life for their families. But it must be difficult in a place where violence is so common place.

The next time you are taking a stroll down the main street of your town, take a moment to appreciate the fact that you can do it freely without having to look over your shoulder or keep a pistol in your belt, just in case.

Counting blessings where we find them

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Thanksgiving is always a time to count our collective blessings, but, admittedly, sometimes it feels like the count gets shorter as challenges increase here at home and around the world.

Over the last few years, it sometimes feels like we're being bombarded with new trials and crises just about every day. In addition to our double-barrelled crises of affordability and housing, we have wars and conflicts raging in every-growing swaths of our world, serious and troubling weather patterns which are putting so many more people at risk, upending lives in ways that were previously thought unthinkable.

I'm writing this on Monday, October 7, the first anniversary of the most prevalent conflict in the Middle East.

It's been a year of senseless death and destruction, of boiling tensions both in the conflict zone and in just about every corner of the world. In our interconnected world, we're all stakeholders. If you don't have loved ones whose lives might be on the line, you more than likely have a friend or loved one who has one of their own in harm's

way.

On that frontline, the stark lack of any positive movement towards a resolution, any declines in civilian casualties, and a light at the end of the tunnel that hasn't grown beyond a pinprick over the last 12 months, it's all so dispiriting – as is the way this conflict is manifesting itself locally. At the start of this week, for instance, York Regional Police stepped up its presence in key location through its wide catchment area, a response to what they describe as “increased tensions,” with patrols also giving way to additional “command posts” set up and staffed by Diversity Officers to support the community, whatever their concerns.

It's a terribly vivid reminder, yet again, of our interconnectivity and our collective interest in a peaceful outcome.

Even with this conflict, and it's a conflict that feels like it's growing week over week, out of the equation, we're living in the midst of multifold uncertainty.

It's less than a month away now from the United States Presidential Election, one that has the potential to re-shape our world, leaving just about every part

of the political map giving the impression that whatever they hold dear is teetering on a knife's edge.

Here at home, we have our own political challenges.

Now that the Supply and Confidence agreement between the governing Liberals and the NDP has ceased, it's anyone's guess on when the present government will fall; as such, it's a season of near-weekly confidence motions, no matter how mundane the issue, and once the inevitable finally happens, it's a situation people are already dreading or clamoring for, depending on your own political stripes.

At this point, I feel it must be said that the empty sabre-rattling, name-calling, and other examples of assorted nonsense we've seen on the floor in Ottawa these last few weeks are hardly helping matters on any side – but it's certainly been an S.O.S. call for Civics lessons the nation-over because so many people are either mistaken or feigning ignorance on how our Parliamentary System of government works in a minority.

But, I digress.

That being said, as Thanksgiving approaches this weekend, it's very important to focus on the things we can be thankful for this year.

Tireless Community Volunteers

It's often said if you need something done, the best course of action is to ask a busy person to do it. I don't necessarily subscribe to that way of thinking – I never want to toss something onto someone else's busy plate – but we're fortunate to live in communities where people are willing to take on challenges, allocate portions of their seemingly-limitless supplies of energy to try to make the places in which they live – and, indeed, the wider world – better than how they found it.

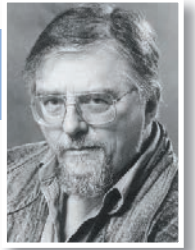
I look to the seniors still with us who were called upon to “do their bit” in one of the darkest chapters of our collective recent history who, with those early seeds of duty planted, continue to do so however they can, large or small.

Continued on Page 23

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Chinese Commies at 75

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



“No one can stop the wheel of history,” said China’s President Xi Jinping on the 75th anniversary of the day when the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) proclaimed the creation of the People’s Republic of China. And the wheel is indeed still turning— but that may not be good news for the fourth-generation heirs of that revolution.

The 1950s was the time of peak Communism, when people still feared or hoped that it would spread across the whole world. That was never likely, however, and apart from Cuba and Vietnam it never spread any farther. The Soviet Union itself finally evaporated peacefully in 1991 at the age of 74, taking the rest of the European Communist regimes down with it.

At that point China suddenly became the world’s oldest surviving Communist state – which had the same psychological impact on the CCP as losing one’s own parents does to those in the middle generation. Suddenly your own generation is on the front-line, with personal extinction waiting for you down the road.

The Chinese Communist revolution was still only 42 years old in 1991, of course, but a chill wind began to blow as Party members realized that Communist regimes can be mortal too. From that time on, avoiding the fate of the Soviet Union has become the unwritten subtext of almost every major policy decision the CCP regime has made.

Inevitably, there were competing prescriptions for the best way to avoid that fate. By the middle 1990s two dominant strategies had emerged, espoused by two rival factions: the ‘princelings,’ who were the children and grandchildren of the founding revolutionary heroes, and the ‘populists,’ who had risen by merit.

Most ‘populists’ had grown up poor somewhere in the country’s vast interior and were aware of the needs of vulnerable social groups like farmers, migrant workers and the urban poor. Their formula for outlasting the Soviet Union was a more generous welfare state, more open media, and more democracy within the Party.

Most of them came up through the Communist Youth League and were known in Chinese as tuanpai (‘the League faction’).

The ‘princelings,’ by contrast, were born to privilege and rose easily upward through the ranks of the ruling party as they matured. They generally took a more authoritarian and centralizing approach to politics, and they regularly pointed out that it was Mikhail Gorbachev’s attempt to

‘reform’ the Soviet Communist Party that precipitated its downfall.

However, in the nineties and the noughties (2000-2009) the Chinese economy was still growing very fast, and a choice between the rival strategies could easily be postponed. For almost three decades the two factions carefully shared power and never attacked each other in public. But then the economic miracle ran out of steam.

There was really nothing miraculous about China’s 30 years of high-speed growth (10% a year). Most industrializing economies get that one-time bonus growth while the rural population migrates to the cities and provides emerging industries with almost limitless cheap labour.

Britain had that in 1850-1880, the United States in 1870-1900, Russia in 1920-1940 (cut short by the Second World War), and Japan in 1950-1980. It never lasts, and China’s time was up by 2015.

Since then Beijing has been cooking the books to maintain the pretense of at least a 5 per cent growth rate, but the real growth rate is 2-3 per cent at best – and probably negative growth during the lockdown years. The glory days are past, and the question of how to avoid the Soviet Union’s fate must be faced squarely.

That’s why the truce between the princelings and the populists was broken in 2012-2015, as Xi Jinping, the ultimate princeling, took over all the major offices of state: President of the Chinese

People’s Republic, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, and Chairman of the Central Military Commission. It is decided: the future is authoritarian.

There’s no surprise in that. The princelings were always a more cohesive faction, and ‘reform’ is seen as by most Chinese Communists as the gateway to oblivion. The question is whether repression can be a successful long-term strategy, especially when the economy is no longer growing fast and the population is going into decline.

We can’t really estimate the likely longevity of the kind of high-tech total surveillance state that Xi Jinping is building in China now, because it’s a new thing in history. It’s more ambitious than any previous experiment in controlling human behaviour, and if it works then the regime could turn out to be immortal.

On the other hand, you just have to write that sentence down to realize how implausible it is. The Old Hundred Names have seen off a dozen other dynasties and countless invaders; they’re probably not finished yet.



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Puzzle No. 24A210 • Solution in Classifieds

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep
5. Rock TV channel
8. Streetcar
12. Concerning
14. Exclamation
15. Greek goddess of youth
16. Popular type of device
18. Alcoholic beverage
19. Ancient Olympic Site
20. Sharpshoots
21. Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
22. Pointed ends of pens
23. Measuring instruments
26. Midsection body part
30. Made a mistake
31. Adjusted
32. “Partridge” actress Susan
33. Yell

34. Civil rights city in Alabama
39. Young boy
42. Type of sea bass
44. To call (archaic)
46. Unfortunate
47. Separate oneself from others
49. Hero sandwiches
50. Spy group
51. Florida is famous for them
56. Irritating individuals
57. Luck
58. Hunting expedition
59. WWII diarist Frank
60. Peyton’s younger brother
61. Type of wrap
62. Type of overseas tax or levy
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Wake up

CLUES DOWN

1. Works of body art
2. Israeli politician
3. Renowned desert
4. Eat greedily
5. She didn’t make it through the Fr. Revolution
6. Beat
7. Bloodsucker
8. From a place already noted
9. Counted on
10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools
11. Something one can make
13. One who abstains
17. Wild ox
24. Type of student
25. Bacterial infection of the skin
26. Expresses surprise
27. What engaged couples ultimately say
28. Crony
29. Where one begins (abbr.)
35. Architectural designation
36. “Matt Houston” actor Horsley
37. More (Spanish)
38. Autonomic nervous system
40. Indigenous peoples
41. Deflections
42. Circulating life force
43. Executes with a rope
44. Natives of an island nation
45. Girls
47. Logician and philosopher
48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
49. Relaxing spaces
52. From a distance
53. Form of Persian language
54. Amounts of time
55. Mathematical designation

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



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Inspiring Faith, Igniting Hope

Province appoints supervisor for hospital following report highlighting concerns

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Province of Ontario has appointed Eric Hanna as supervisor for Stevenson Memorial Hospital to oversee the hospital's operations and strengthen its governance, accountability and ability to deliver the best health care possible care to Ontarians.

Mr. Hanna's appointment is in response to the final report submitted by Janice Skot, who was appointed as an investigator at the hospital in February 2024, to review concerns that were raised about the hospital's governance, management, and patient care. Skot previously worked as CEO and president of Simcoe County's largest hospital – Royal Victoria Regional.

Mr. Hanna will work closely with the hospital's interim president and CEO, board of directors and staff to implement changes and solutions to address concerns that are outlined in the report.

Reporting to the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health with regular updates on his work, Mr. Hanna will provide a final report that will help strengthen and improve the hospital's governance accountability, finances, and ability to deliver the best possible care to patients and their families.

During his tenure as supervisor, regular operations at Stevenson Memorial Hospital will continue, including progress on the hospital's redevelopment project.

Anyone needing care at the hospital will not experience a disruption in service and



INVESTIGATOR APPOINTED – A 77-page report from an investigator with Ontario's Ministry of Health shows several areas of concern for Stevenson Memorial Hospital. **FILE PHOTO**

will be able to access all of its regular programs and services.

Mr. Hanna is an experienced health care leader and possesses a breadth of knowledge of the hospital sector.

He previously served as president and CEO of Arnprior Regional Health from 2008 to 2021 and recently as interim president and CEO of Campbellford Memorial Hospital from November 2021 to June 2023.

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Ontario 

Local community gardens experience theft this past summer

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Growing vegetables for yourself or your family is a good way to enjoy fresh produce while reducing grocery bills.

However, a local garden has been having a problem with people stealing vegetables.

The Tec-We-Gwill Woman's Institute has been looking after a community garden in Alliston since 2009.

Boxes were built to make the gardens accessible for residents who live in apartments or those needing to garden at waist

height instead of on the ground.

The boxes are assigned each year to residents and they agree to look after their assigned box at the end of the growing season by making sure it is tidy for the winter season.

The aim is to grow their own vegetables, enjoy healthy eating during the summer months, and hopefully have enough to put away for the winter.

Each person is assigned a plot within a garden box where they grow the produce to provide for their family.

Tec-We-Gwill Woman's Institute has also provided canning demonstrations to show how to preserve the harvest properly.

During this past summer, the garden experienced theft as people showed up to it and stole vegetables grown by other people.

The Tec-We-Gwill Woman's Institute is asking people to be respectful of other people's gardens and not steal their vegetables.

There is a waiting list for garden plots as people that have a designated box tend to keep it for the next year. The Institute is hoping that New Tecumseth Council will include

the building of 10 more boxes in their budget for the next growing season.

If you are interested in growing at the community garden for next year, e-mail the Institute at: Tecwegwillwi@gmail.com.

The Institute will continue to look after registering and monitoring the plots and work with the Town's Parks and Rec Department for water to be supplied to the community garden.

If you do not have a garden plot, do not enter the area to harvest vegetables.

They are someone else's property.

Simcoe County Museum will host vintage construction equipment display this weekend

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Simcoe County Museum and the Historical Construction Equipment Association will be presenting another exciting edition of the Last Blast – a unique event showcasing the strength of vintage steam-powered

machines.

This is an opportunity to step back in time and see vintage construction equipment roar to life with demonstrations.

From tractors to steam-powered rollers, shovels and road-building equipment, this a chance to see some raw steam power and see

the way construction was done during the steam era.

There will be live demonstrations as well as static displays of machines.

While you're there, you can also explore the museum grounds.

The Last Blast show will take place on Sat-

urday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Special events admission prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$8 for youth, \$5 for children (4 to 11) and free for preschoolers or museum members.

The Simcoe County Museum is located at 1151 Highway 26, Minesing.

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Arts & Entertainment

Procyon Wildlife will host second annual fundraising gala

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Procyon Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre will be hosting its second annual fundraising gala to help the not-for-profit organization continue its work in the community.

Procyon cares for injured and sick animals as well as ones that have been orphaned. Many animals are killed or injured by cars and other accidents that leave younger animals on their own.

Procyon helps care for them until they are old enough to be released.

The organization serves New Tecumseth, Orangeville, Caledon and several other communities within a 50-kilometre radius from its centre in Beeton.

At any time, the centre is home to a variety of different wildlife needing help. There is a lot of cost to house, feed and treat these animals so they can recover.

The gala help cover the costs of running the rehabilitation and education centre.

This year, the gala will be held at Caesar's Centre in Bolton. This is a central location that allows easy access for guests coming from all directions.

The evening will feature hors d'oeuvres, followed by a four-course dinner with anti-pasto, pasta, salad, a main course and Crème Brulé for dessert. The main course will offer a choice of braised beef for meat lovers, egg-plant parmigiana for vegetarians and stuffed peppers for vegans.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Barry MacKay from the Animal Alliance of Canada – an organization that lobbies for the rights of animals.

There will also be a live and silent auction.

Mars Giammarco and his band Echo will be performing at the gala, bringing live music to the event.

Thanks to the success of last year's gala, Procyon was able to take care of more injured and orphaned wildlife in 2024.

It also enabled the organization to make major improvements. This includes a



MAKING RETURN – Mars Giammarco performed at Procyon's gala in Orangeville last year and will be playing again with his band Echo at the gala in Bolton this year. **FILE PHOTO**

brand new 50-foot flight cage. This allows them to admit birds of prey and other large birds without having to transport them to another wildlife facility, meaning less trauma to the birds as they can receive care right away.

With the large aviary, staff can test the birds' ability to fly before they are released back into the wild.

The gala will take place on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024, and tickets are already on sale. For tickets, call 1-905-729-0033.

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HOMES & GARDEN

A beginner's guide to fall planting and maintenance

Spring and summer are perhaps the busiest times of year for gardeners. However, fall also is a prime time to tend to gardens. With self-care The tree and bare root retailer Bower & Branch advises that soil temperatures in many regions of the country may still be warm enough to encourage root growth well into the start of winter. Furthermore, fall is often the ideal time to plant, fertilize and keep a garden going or to get a head start on next year's bounty.

Here are some tips to make the most of the fall gardening season.

Think about fall annuals and bulb planting

Near the end of September, start planting cool-weather-loving pansies and violas for pops of colour as summer flowers fade. Also, it's a good idea

to stock up on bulbs that will bloom in the months to come before they sell out in stores. Wait until the temperatures really cool down before planting them in desired spots for spring sprouts.

Sow salad seeds

Lettuce, spinach, radishes, and arugula tolerate cooler temperatures. Try new and interesting lettuce varieties and enjoy salads well into the fall season.

Take inventory of the sun

Positioning a garden carefully means maximizing hours of sunlight, which begin to dwindle in the fall. Experts say gardens grow best in sunny locations that receive six hours of direct sunlight each day. This is where container gardens can be helpful, as they allow gardeners to move plants into spots that will get ample sunlight.

Fill in landscaping gaps

Some fall plants can add colour around the landscape and brighten up homes to add curb appeal. In addition to pansies and violas, asters, kale and chrysanthemums are fall blooms. Keep in mind that mums can come back year after year. So take them out of those flower pots and get them into the ground. They can be enjoyed next year as well, sprouting in early spring and developing leaves and buds through late summer.

Clean up unwanted growth

Fall is an ideal time to cut back spent vegetable plants and get rid of errant weeds. Rather than bagging leaves, mow them with a grass catcher and then add the mix to a vegetable garden as an excellent soil insulator. The nitrogen and

carbon will fertilize the soil, enhancing growing possibilities and limiting weed growth.

Propagate plants in the fall

As temperatures gradually begin to cool, start taking cuttings from perennials, gathering seed pods from azaleas and rhododendrons and dividing hardwood cuttings, says the resource Gardening Know How. Consult with a garden centre or horticulturist on the proper ways to propagate stems using rooting hormone and other techniques.

Continue to water plants

Water is essential in the fall and winter as roots can still be growing. Gradually reduce watering duration as plants go dormant.



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TENEISHA CAMPBELL, the owner, decided to open the location in Orangeville due to its central location and the need for such a business in the community.

The idea for Lobban Appliances was born out of Teneisha's own experience. When her washing machine broke down, she needed a replacement immediately. She checked out the big-box stores, but the prices exceeded her budget. She searched online for an open-box appliance store nearby, but none were available. She would have to travel over an hour to find one, and the delivery costs would have been excessive. The repair person she called told her that the machine was too old and the repair parts

would be costly. However, a friend helped her fix the washing machine, and they managed to repair it for under \$100. It was a satisfying feeling of accomplishment! Although the washing machine never broke down again, Teneisha eventually replaced it with a brand-new one from Lobban Appliances at an affordable price (with a sheepish smile).

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“Our in-home water tests allow us to customize your water treatment solution to your water chemistry and demands”, says Dave.

Energy-efficient home heating on the rise

As fall begins and temperatures begin to drop, Ontario fuel costs continue to rise.

Thanks to advances in heating technology, there are now energy-efficient options to heat your home while saving you money.

“Our customers are certainly looking for new, energy-efficient heating options,” says Robert Cook, owner of The Heating

Source. “Thankfully there are now excellent options that can help homeowners meet their energy efficiency goals.”

Pellet stoves are an environmentally-conscious heating option that has traditionally been used in Europe but, thanks to growing demand in Canada, are now available locally. These European-designed stoves provide heat without the need for logs or kindling. By burning pellets that contain extremely low levels of ash and moisture, pellet stoves are up to 90 per cent efficient, and, since pellets are produced with upcycled sawdust wood waste, they are also carbon-neutral.

Another efficient option that is becoming increasingly popular in Ontario are mini split heat pumps. These quiet units mount right to your wall, providing heating (and cooling) where it is needed most. Often used in additions, enclosed patios and homes without ductwork, these powerful, yet quiet, units can heat entire homes and are ideal for chilly spaces that are underserved by furnaces and other heat sources.

If you are interested in finding an efficient heating option for your home, visit The Heating Source at 588283 Dufferin County Road 17 at Airport Road in Mansfield, call 705-250-0498 or visit www.theheating-source.ca and book a free in-home consultation with an expert technician today.



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At Country Oaks Contracting, we believe that every project is an opportunity to create something exceptional. Our expertise lies in premium tile installation for flooring, bathrooms, and kitchens, and we take pride in our attention to detail and commitment to using only the highest quality materials.

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At Country Oaks Contracting, we recognize that for many different reasons, people are staying in their homes longer. Whether you are wanting to freshen up your space or need a more accessible home, we are honoured to help guide you through each decision and transition.

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5 SIGNS IT'S TIME TO RENOVATE

HOMEOWNERS RENOVATE their homes for a variety of reasons. Renovations can increase the value of a property and make homes safer and more comfortable for their occupants. Improvements also can be made to stay current with the times or to give a home a new vibe.

Kitchens and bathrooms often get the most attention when it comes to home improvement. However, every room and space in a home may need a renovation at some point, and the following are five signs it's time to renovate.

Age

The National Association of Home Builders states that 50 percent of U.S. homes are over the age of 40. That means that age alone could dictate a need to renovate, particularly if some materials are original to the home. For example, asphalt roofs typically last 25 to 30 years, while window frames can last 20 to 50 years depending on how well they have been maintained.

Inconvenient layout

Some homeowners scratch their heads when faced with awkward floor plan layouts. While one may live with the inconvenience for some time, typically a floor plan that isn't working for the homeowner is a major driver of renovations.

Outdated looks

A home can look dated even if it is a relatively recent build. That's because trends change quickly. For example, dark, cherry cabinets that were popular just a little while ago have now been replaced by lighter colour palettes. Homeowners whose homes do not match the looks emulated in design magazines may consider a change, particularly if they're planning to sell soon.

Deterioration

Signs of water, storm or structural damage should be addressed as soon as possible. Any deterioration should be a strong indicator that it's time to renovate.

Efficiency

Escalating utility bills could be indicative of an inefficient home. Homeowners can conduct energy audits and then improve the areas where energy loss may be occurring, such as windows, doors, siding, and insulation.



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Tips to ensure your garden looks fantastic next spring - starting now

Fall is for planting - The soil is still warm, and the cool air will allow for an easy transition to your garden - trees and shrubs will establish well this fall, and will be ready to bloom next spring.

PLANT SOME spring blooming bulbs - tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and more will add early season colour! If deer are a problem, choose daffodils, snowdrops and squill - the deer will not bother with them.

Cut back perennials that have gone dormant—with a few exceptions—but don't cut back semi-evergreen plants such as heuchera, creeping phlox, and dianthus or semi-woody plants such as Russian sage, lavender, butterfly bush, and rose mallow.

Leave ornamental grasses up for winter interest, and leaving black-eyed susans and coneflowers alone will encourage many bird visits all winter.

Continue to water your garden during dry spells - the roots are still growing!

Alliston Botanix is open 7 days a week for all of your gardening, house plant and decor needs and their staff is ready to help. You can contact them at 705-435-3181 or visit their website www.allistonbotanix.com.



A RECENT SURVEY of home renovation industry professionals conducted by Fixr.com found that creating indoor spaces outdoors was homeowners' biggest priority regarding renovations in 2022. Sixty-two percent of renovation-minded homeowners surveyed indicated outdoor dining areas are their most sought-after living space. In addition, 41 percent of respon-

dents felt outdoor kitchens were their biggest priority. The survey found that certain outdoor living space features were especially popular, none more so than comfortable outdoor furniture. Firepits, outdoor fireplaces, swimming pools, hot tubs, and outdoor connectivity were some additional popular features among homeowners focused on their outdoor living spaces.



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SIGNS A ROOF MUST BE REPAIRED OR REPLACED

THE EXTERIOR COMPONENTS OF A HOME, such as the siding and the roof, help to protect its occupants from the elements. While many roofing materials can last for decades, at some point in time homeowners will likely have to repair or replace the roof on their home.

Roof wear and tear may not always be so evident, particularly because most homeowners do not make it a point to get on their roofs very often. The first sign of roof damage typically is a leak that is noticeable from the indoors. It may include a browned spot on the ceiling or even pooling water in the attic. Leak from storm damage or something minor like a water intrusion through a nail hole or from a lost shingle typically can be repaired easily enough. However, additional indicators may necessitate a complete roof overhaul. Here are some signs a roof is in need of repairs or replacement.

• **SAGGING ROOF:** If the roof is sagging, it could be due to excess loads, such as water-damaged shingles or even weakened roof structure. A professional will need to restore the integrity of the roof.

• **CRACKING AND BUCKLING:** It is likely that shingles will have to be replaced if there is cracking or if shingles are buckling and warping.

• **EXPOSED NAILS:** Exposed nails may rust and contribute to a leaky roof, says Family Handyman. How long the nails were exposed could indicate if the roof can be repaired or if everything should be redone.

• **LOST GRANULES:** Asphalt roofing shingles have small granules on the surface. Over time these granules will slowly degrade and fall off. If there are many granules in gutters or if one can see that portions of the shingles are bare, it is likely time for a new roof.

• **VISIBLE LIGHT:** Homeowners who can see light streams coming into the home need roof repair. This is indicative of holes, cracks or spaces in the roof.

• **GROWTH ON THE ROOF:** Mold and mildew on the roof is a sign that the roof needs to be repaired or replaced. Such growths contribute to rot that jeopardizes the integrity of the roof.



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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Alliston Hornets remain undefeated after 7-3 win over Orillia Terriers

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Alliston Hornets are on a five-game winning streak after defeating the Orillia Terriers on home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Oct. 4.

The Hornets won 7-3 and opened the scoring late in the first period on a goal from Jaeden French.

They were ahead by two when Will Millington scored at 6:46 into the second period.

Orillia fought back and notched two goals, two minutes apart to tie it up and make it a 2-2 game with one period left to play.

Alliston's Nick Lamont broke the tie early in the third frame followed by a goal from Jaeden French just over three minutes later to make it a 4-2 game.

The Terriers closed the gap with a goal mid-way through the period.

French got the hattrick at the 17:44 mark when he scored his third of the game to put the Hornets ahead 5-3.

The Terriers pulled their goalie and put six attackers on the ice. Jacob Holmes got the chance and took the shot down the long ice for an empty net goal.

David Harvey got the final goal of the night with 1:16 left on the clock and the Hornets left the ice with their fifth win of the season.

"Are lot of our guys are geared up to be here for three or four years," said Hornets head coach, Jacob Bauchman, of this year's roster. "We've got a lot of [players born in 2005] that were here last year, they're here this year, and they have two more years after that, so our team will be very similar



WINNING STREAK CONTINUES – The Alliston Hornets host the Orillia Terriers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Oct. 3. The Hornets won the game 7-3 and now have five wins and zero losses for the season. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

for the next three years. We brought in five or six players from a higher level. They have a lot of experience."

Friday's game was a tight competition until the Hornets opened it up in the third period.

"Orillia played really well and they worked really hard," Bauchman said. "Our

team's good, we're very skilled. Sometimes if we're not working hard, we'll come down to the other team's level. No matter how skilled we are, if we aren't working hard, they're going to take it to us. You can play five lower teams, then play a top team. We have to play the lower teams the same way we do the top teams."

The Hornets have two new goalies this year, rookie Seth Ronan and Owen Butler.

The Hornets won't have a home game this weekend. They will be on the road in Innisfil.

They return to home ice at the NTRC on Friday, Oct. 18, to host the Penetang Kings. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

adopt a cat

Hear ye- hear ye! May we present to you, Duchess! Not only is this girl stunning, she is so so friendly and great with other cats.

Duchess is approximately 5 years old and melting all the volunteers hearts since she came in months ago.

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NVCA provides briefing on permits required for work in the watershed area

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Living in a rural area means you most likely if you live on land that is under the jurisdiction of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, you should be aware of the necessary permits required when you build, renovate, or plan on doing site alterations such as grading.

This also includes shore walls, in-ground pools, retaining walls, septic tanks, foundation works, concrete pads and driveways.

NVCA staff held a briefing at the Conservation Authority's administration centre on Tuesday, Oct. 1, to provide information about when permits are required and to explain the process.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is responsible for the protection of our watershed as well as the safety of the lives and property of residents who live near waterways and wetlands. The NVCA's vision is to foster a sustainable watershed that is resilient to the effects of climate change, urban growth, and other stressors on the area.

As of September 24, 2024, the NVCA issued 398 permits with 93 per cent of those permits issued within provincial timelines.

Homeowners are required to secure an NVCA permit if the work the homeowners are planning to do is in an NVCA-regulated area. Any work that triggers the definition of 'development' will require a permit.

Not all projects require a permit. Projects that don't require a permit include fences and ground-level decks, above-ground swimming pools and hot tubs, landscaping activities, minor limbing of trees, and agricultural practices such as cropping a tilling of existing agricultural lands.

"Permits are required within regulated areas in the NVCA watershed," explained Meagan Kieferle, provincial offences officer with the NVCA.

"These areas are comprised of natural hazards as well as natural heritage features. If you're in a regulated area, you may need multiple permits. You would potentially need a building permit from your municipality and if you're in a regulated area, a permit from the NVCA. Many people are unaware of that. They assume one would trump the other, which is not the case. It is a process that can be daunting for those doing it the first time."

To find out if your property is in a regulated area, you can view the NVCA's Interactive Data Viewer which is available on the Conservation Authority's website. You may be in a regulated area even if you are living in an established neighbourhood or subdivision.

There are several stages a permit application goes through to final approval.

There is the permit request – the application and document submission, which includes plans, studies and other required documents.



PERMIT PRESENTATION– The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority provided information on how to obtain a permit for projects within the NVCA's jurisdiction. The presentation was delivered by NVCA staff at the NVCA administration centre in Utopia on Tuesday, Oct. 1. NVCA provincial offences officer Meagan Kieferle led the presentation which included how to obtain a permit and what to expect when going through the process.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

NVCA then assesses whether the information provided is sufficient to consider the application as complete.

This will take up to 21 days.

The request then goes to a technical review with a technical and regulatory assessment by development review staff and internal technical staff.

A permit decision is the last step, where NVCA staff make a decision on the file. This may take up to 90 days.

When making an application, you should make sure it is completed properly.

Applications can be delayed if the application is incomplete, applicants did not consult with the NVCA prior to submitting their application or the proposal does not comply with policy.

Other reasons for a delay include incorrect, illegible, or hand-drawn engineering plans, drafts, and blueprints.

NVCA water resource engineers are highly trained professionals who review the technical drawings provided with permit applications to assess the impact a development will have. They consider the proximity to wetlands and watercourses and how development will impact an area's ability to absorb water. They also examine if the proposed development will be in danger of erosion hazards in the future.

If development occurs within a regulated area without the benefit of an NVCA permit or clearance letter, you will be in violation of the Conservation Authorities Act, which can result in fines or jail time.

"If you're going to be doing a significant amount of excavation, for example, in an area of unstable soil, or on a slope, that is something we would definitely look at for an application to be made," Meagan explained. "We would look at it to see if it meets the test of the natural hazard management guidelines. We might have recommendations during your work on how to mitigate any risk, and how to complete those activities safely."



OFFICIALLY OPEN – Local dignitaries and real estate sales representatives cut the ribbon to officially open the Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd. Brokers office in Alliston (35 Victoria St. E.) on Thursday, Oct. 3. This new office will serve New Tecumseth and the surrounding region. The office is home to 15 agents, with other Century 21 agents occasionally stopping by when they have work in the area.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

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Three individuals arrested in local drug trafficking investigation

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police has charged three individuals with multiple weapons and drug offences after executing search warrants.

The Nottawasaga OPP Community Street Crime Unit initiated a drug trafficking investigation in August 2024.

Search warrants were executed on three residents on Oct. 3, at approximately 11:40 a.m. in Barrie, Essa Township, and Tay Township.

The warrants were executed with assistance from members of the OPP Nottawasaga Crime Reduction Unit, Huronia West Detachment, Collingwood and Blue Mountains Detachment, Orillia Detachment, Southern Georgina Bay CSU, and the Muskoka Crime Unit.

As a result of the investigation, three individuals were arrested and several items were seized. The seized items include 121 grams of cocaine, three imitation handguns, switch blade knife, drug trafficking paraphernalia, 494 pieces of ammunition (blanks), approximately \$5,000 in Canadian currency, jewelry valued at approximately \$20,000, unmarked cigarettes, and vehicles related to the offence. There were also six rifles seized, all pellet



ARRESTED – Nottawasaga OPP arrested three individuals after executing search warrants at three locations on Oct. 3. Numerous items were seized including drugs, weapons, and vehicles. **SUBMITTED PHOTOS**

guns or airsoft.

Christopher Wice of Angus, 42, was charged with: Traffick in Schedule I substance – cocaine, possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking – cocaine, possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 – two counts, possession of a prohibited device or ammunition and possession of imitation weapon for dangerous purpose – four counts.

Joshua Kujansuu, 38, from Barrie was charged with: Traffick in Schedule I substance – cocaine, possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking – cocaine, possession of imitation weapon for dangerous purpose, fail to comply with probation order – four counts, have care or control of vehicle or boat with cannabis readily available. and possession of unmarked cigarettes.

Christopher Russell, 42, from Angus, was

charged with: Traffick in Schedule I substance – cocaine, possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking – cocaine and possession of imitation weapon for dangerous purpose – four counts.

Wice, Kujansuu and Russell were held for bail to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Barrie.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Two people face charges for stealing vehicles in Essa over the weekend

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has arrested and charged two individuals in relation to a stolen motor vehicle investigation.

On October 6, 2024 at around 9:38 a.m., Nottawasaga OPP received information about a stolen motor vehicle from the area of 11th Line and 25 Sideroad, Essa that had two

occupants inside of the motor-vehicle. As a result of police efforts, around 9:58 a.m., the stolen vehicle was observed by members of the Nottawasaga OPP in Essa Township. Subsequently, Police recovered the motor vehicle and located two people inside.

As a result of the investigation, two people have been arrested and charged.

Susana Sobey, a 52-year-old female from Adjala-Tosorontio Township has been charged with:

- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime over \$5,000

The accused is being held pending a bail hearing.

Corey Robinson, a 41-year-old male from

Penetanguishene has been charged with:

- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime over \$5,000

- Fail to Comply with Probation Order

The accused is being held pending a bail hearing.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Derek Perry of New Tecumseth remains missing for over one year

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is seeking the public's assistance to locate a person who has been missing for over one year.

Derek PERRY, a resident of New Tecumseth, was 34 years old when he was reported missing on June 17, 2023. Over a year later, the OPP continues its search and is actively seeking information about his whereabouts.

Derek is described as 5'11" with a

medium build and short brown hair. He was known to frequent the Alliston and Barrie areas.

Investigators are concerned for Derek's well-being and the investigation is continuing under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch.

"Thanksgiving is just around the corner, a time to share special moments with family and friends. The OPP is determined to bring resolution to Derek's loved ones, who are deeply missing him this time of

the year," said Detective Inspector Jane Conway, major case manager for the Nottawasaga OPP.

"Anyone with information, no matter how small, is urged to come forward in hopes of reconnecting Derek with family and friends."

Anyone with information is urged to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or crimestoppersdm.com.



Cookstown man riding motorcycle seriously injured after colliding with SUV

The Dufferin County Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a serious motor vehicle collision in Mono.

On Oct. 3 at approximately 8 p.m., Dufferin County OPP officers and emergency

crews responded to a serious two-vehicle collision, involving a motorcycle and an SUV on Highway 10, in Mono.

The driver of the motorcycle, a 27-year-old man from Cookstown, was transported to a

Toronto hospital with life-altering injuries.

Highway 10 was closed for several hours, while the OPP Technical Collision Investigators assisted with the investigation.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone who

may have witnessed or has video/dash camera footage of the collision, and has not yet spoken with police, is asked to contact the Dufferin County OPP Detachment at 1-888-310-1122.

Classifieds

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- Proficient with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel and Outlook)
- Social Media Administration an asset

Benefits:

- Competitive Wage
- Offer Extended Health Care Benefits
- RRSP/DPSP Plan
- Excellent Employee Discount Program
- Annual Reviews
- Health & Safety Training

Resume & references should be emailed to:
bill.gillam@homehardware.ca & julie.gate@homehardware.ca

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Job Description

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Core Capabilities:

- Customer and quality focus
- Effective communication skills (both verbal and written)
- Team work
- Excellent problem-solving abilities
- Responsibility and dependability
- Ethics and integrity

Job Duties:

- Drive and operate a variety of trucks/equipment to complete a variety of tasks
- Carry out daily pre-trip and post-trip inspections on vehicles
- Secure special attachments to equipment
- Complete driver's logbook on a daily basis and ensure logs are handed in at the end of each week
- Transport building materials to and from the job site, including loading and unloading
- Using proper tie-down procedures, secure materials to be transported to ensure the safety and security of the load
- Utilize GPS devices and maps to plan travel schedules and routes
- Report on the health and operating status of all equipment
- Assist with general labor duties when needed
- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment
- Comply with all company policies and procedures
- Work in accordance with all local health and safety laws and regulations

Job Requirements:

- Completion of high school
- Valid driver's license [Class D], air brake [Z] endorsement with clean abstract
- Safe driving record – able to submit a driver's abstract (infractions history) upon request
- Minimum 2-4 years of experience
- Ability to read and interpret maps
- Documentation knowledge of: driver logbook; pre-trip and post-trip inspection reports; maintenance and repair reports; and trip reports
- Must have good knowledge of the layout of city roadways, maintain awareness of road restrictions and have the ability to source alternative routes
- Physically fit
- Ability to follow safe working procedures
- Excellent observation skills and a strong attention to detail
- Good analytical and problem-solving skills
- Effective communication skills (both verbal and written)
- Ability to work both independently with little supervision, and as part of a team
- Speak, read, and write English

Work Conditions:

- Occasional weekend work
- Ability to lift a minimum of 50 lbs. repeatedly through an entire work shift
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
- Work safely near heavy equipment and other vehicles on a regular basis
- Work outdoors in various conditions including heat and humidity, rain, dust, noise, and cold

Benefits:

- Competitive Wage
- Offer Extended Health Care Benefits
- RRSP/DPSP Plan
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- Annual Reviews
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Resume & references should be emailed to:

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Counting blessings where we find them

I also look to the youth, often but not always guided by their educators, who have been instilled with the passion to identify problems and come forward with resources, virtual or tangible, to come up with real solutions to real problems facing the real world.

Out-of-the-box thinkers and their solutions

When I first started my working life, albeit in a different field, I often encountered what felt to me a peculiar school of thought. In one fundraising effort in this other field, for instance, someone chimed in to make an unusual, but highly effective-sounding suggestion on how to increase money flowing towards the cause.

"Well, we've never done it like that," was

the immediate response, and, with just a few quick words, cold water duly doused the idea and the individual was never seen at that particular forum again. Thankfully, the idea of something simply not being "the done thing" has largely given way to some out-of-the-box solutions.

A recent example came to the fore last week from Toronto's University Health Network which has partnered with a non-profit housing group to offer more than 50 permanent housing units to homeless individuals who would likely seek services within the hospital network due to their precarious living situations.

"The project, named Dunn House, is officially opening Thursday, with residents expected to move in over the coming weeks

and months," CP24 reported last week. "University Health Network has earmarked all 51 apartments in the building for those who use its hospitals frequently and are willing to move there... The homes are set up to help unhoused individuals with complex medical and social needs. Some people who were set to move in have died before the project's opening, which highlights the need for such a space."

A sensible partnership borne out of necessity in a world that sometimes appears more inclined to mask a problem rather than brainstorm solutions.

The Silver Lining

I've sometimes been criticized for trying to find a silver lining, however elusive, in

just about anything. Perhaps it is, at "best", annoying to some, or, worse, a sign of "toxic positivity," but I think it's important to do so. Hey, there's even a silver lining to be found amid the aforementioned political uncertainty.

When there is uncertainty, or if you have questions, it's important to seek out answers – and I'm glad people are beginning once again to look beyond their echo chambers to trusted media sources and elsewhere to do just that. While people are indeed uncertain over what the future holds in many paths, it has, in my observation, created a population – and yes, I'm painting with the broadest of brushes here – that is more engaged and informed than ever before.

For that, I think we can all be grateful.

Health Unit begins school immunization program for Grade 7 students

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Growing vegetables for yourself or your The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit in partnership with local school boards is providing school-based clinics for three routine recommended immunizations for Grade 7 students.

The clinics will start on Oct. 1.

Vaccinations include hepatitis B, meningococcal conjugate (Men-C-ACYW) and human papillomavirus (HPV-9).

School immunization nurses will visit elementary schools throughout Simcoe and Muskoka from October to December to provide immunizations for round one of the three free vaccines

for Grade 7 students.

Information will be sent home with these students through the school in advance of the school-based clinics.

Students in Grade 8 who missed a dose and did not finish their vaccine series in Grade 7 will be caught up in round two, scheduled for April to June 2025. Students in Grade 7 who miss their first round of immunization in the fall will begin their series in the spring and finish in the fall of Grade 8.

"Students in Grade 7 are offered three important vaccines that protect them from serious diseases – meningococcal disease, hepatitis B and human papillomavirus (HPV), said Dr. Coline

Lee, SMDHU's associate medical officer of health. "These vaccines are safe, effective and greatly reduce the risk of potentially life-threatening diseases when a completed series has been received. The HPV-9 vaccine is important because it significantly reduces the risk of various types of cancers such as throat and cervical cancer and prevents genital warts. Some parents may feel that it is too early for their kids to need protection from STIs, however, the vaccine has the best chance of protecting against infection if a person gets a series of shots before becoming sexually active."

The health unit advises getting immunized according to the publicly funded immunization

schedule for Ontario. Having up-to-date immunizations helps to ensure that students have the best protection against serious vaccine-preventable diseases, reduces the risk of outbreaks in schools and allows the health unit to act quickly to prevent and control outbreaks.

The health unit also reminds parents and caregivers that meningococcal disease is one of the designated diseases under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) which requires children and youth attending elementary or secondary school to be appropriately immunized against unless they have a valid exemption.

Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines are not required under ISPA but are strongly recommended.

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