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Halloween Fun

The Frightfully Fun event took over the streets of Tottenham and Beeton on Saturday, Oct. 26. There was trick-or-treating at a local business and the fire hall and a lot of good costumes. Bryare, Sandea, and Addison visit with a crazy jack-in-the-box at the Tottenham Fire Hall. See more photos on Page 8.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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BioPed Footcare celebrates opening of Alliston Foot Care Clinic

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you suffer from pain or discomfort in your lower limbs, BioPed Footcare now has a clinic in Alliston to help you achieve relief from foot and leg pain.

The clinic held a grand opening on Thursday, Oct. 24, to let the public know they are now open in a convenient location on Parson Road.

“Our team of multi-disciplinary foot care clinicians provide solutions in five therapeutic areas – orthotics, compression, bracing, fitted footwear, and medical footcare,” explained Megan Evans, a Canadian Certified Podiatrist and BioPed Footcare Alliston owner and manager. “Our new full-service clinic in Alliston will allow us to meet the growing demand for our services. We can’t wait to welcome our new customers and provide them with the BioPed customer experience.”

Many people experience pain in the lower limbs due to a variety of reasons. The team at BioPed can determine the problem areas and come up with a solution to help relieve that pain and let you live a more active lifestyle.

“We specialize in lower limb care – everything from the hips down,” Megan explained. “We cover everything from osteoarthritis of the hips and knees, to any condition of the foot, knee, and hips. They can come to see us for a no-charge assessment. We will take a look at a person’s history, how their feet move, the range of motion, and we will see how everything works together. We can recommend treatment from there. We could offer a better shoe, an orthotic, to a knee brace. It really depends on what we find during an assessment.”

BioPed clinics have helped alleviate foot and lower limb pain and discomfort for Canadians for more than 40 years.

The Alliston clinic is located at 29-180 Parson Road.



RIBBON CUTTING – BioPed Footcare has opened a new clinic on Parson Road in Alliston. The clinic helps people with lower limb pain and discomfort. Clinic owners, Megan Evans and Jasmine Basner are joined by New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross and company dignitaries to cut the ribbon and officially open the Alliston clinic. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Stevenson Memorial Hospital revises mask policy as cases of respiratory illness rise

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) is increasing masking requirements.

Wearing a hospital-provided medical mask will be required in all clinical areas of the hospital for staff, patients, visitors and volunteers. Masks are not required in common areas such as hallways and stairwells.

The change to the masking protocol comes as the number of COVID-19 cases and other respiratory illnesses

are increasing in the region and community.

“SMH is a mask-friendly, inclusive environment that keeps the safety of all individuals at the hospital a top priority,” said Susan Wollard, Interim vice president of clinical services at SMH. “This is an important step to keep our vulnerable patients safe, as well as our staff while reducing transmission within our facility during this viral season.”

Protocols required for visitors include: wearing a hospital-provided medical mask while in a patient’s room, having visitors

wash their hands or sanitize before entering and after leaving a patient’s room, and eating or drinking not being permitted by visitors in a patient room.

The hospital asks that anyone with symptoms of respiratory illness or had high-risk contact with someone who’s ill not enter the hospital for patient visits.



MASKS MANDATED – The Stevenson Memorial Hospital has reinstated its mask mandate amidst a rise in respiratory illnesses. Visitors, volunteers, staff and patients must wear masks in clinical areas of the hospital. Masks are not required in common areas such as hallways and stairwells. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

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School Board sanctions Trustee for breach of code of conduct

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) held a special board meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 23, to determine what actions will be taken against a trustee who contravened the School Board Trustee Code of Conduct during an appearance before New Tecumseth Council on Sept. 11, 2023.

New Tecumseth Trustee Sarah Beitz said during her deputation at the September council meeting that the Simcoe County District School Board would not rebuild Banting Memorial High School on its current site. She then proposed building the new school on the Banting Homestead location.

The deputation threw New Tecumseth Council for a loop, as the information was not in line with previous information given to them and provided by the school board.

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

after the deputation was made on Sept. 11.

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

A special SCDSB meeting was held on Aug. 28, and it was announced that a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Trustee Beitz was brought forward.

The SCDSB then censured Trustee Beitz for breaching its code of conduct.

A report from Integrity Commissioner Michael Maynard was presented at the Aug. 28, meeting. The report concluded that Beitz violated the code of conduct five times.

The SCDSB held a special meeting following the regular board meeting on Oct. 23 to discuss the matter.

As a result of that meeting, the Board determined that Trustee Beitz contravened sections 3.3 and 8.4 of the SCDSB’s Trustee Code of Conduct.

The Board approved a motion to impose sanctions on Beitz.

Beitz will not attend SCDSB Board and committee meetings for one month, starting Nov. 1, 2024, but will be permitted to attend the Organizational meeting scheduled for Nov. 18, 2024.

The board ordered that confidential documents referred to in the report of the investigator be returned to the board director’s office, with hand-written notes written on the documents by Beitz redacted.

The Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Code of Conduct Committee not to pursue a formal inquiry into the

complaint and to stay any further proceedings with respect to the matter on the basis that the complaint was out of time and did not provide sufficient grounds for a complaint under the Code of Conduct.

The New Tecumseth Times reached out to Beitz for comment but didn’t receive a response before press time.

Tips for maintaining a well on a rural property

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Living in a rural area means you most likely obtain your water from a well on your property.

If you have a well on your property, you are responsible for it and must follow specific rules for maintaining it and, if necessary, abandoning a well to protect the safety of your water and the groundwater resource.

If you are considering constructing a new well on your property or need to upgrade your well, there are rules that the person constructing the well must follow to help protect the water supply. There are minimum

requirements for licensing individuals and companies who construct wells, as well as for homeowners when maintaining a well, abandoning a well, and reporting well activities. These requirements and rules cover all wells, including private, residential and domestic wells; agricultural, commercial and industrial wells; municipal, communal and public wells; test holes and dewatering wells.

Most people do not have the expertise to build or maintain a well and will need to hire an expert to do it. There are serious dangers when working on wells, such as falling, exposure to explosive gases, and the risk of electrocution.

Continued on Page 15

Basil Clarke acclaimed County of Simcoe Warden for a second term

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Simcoe County Council held mid-term nominations during its meeting on Oct. 22.

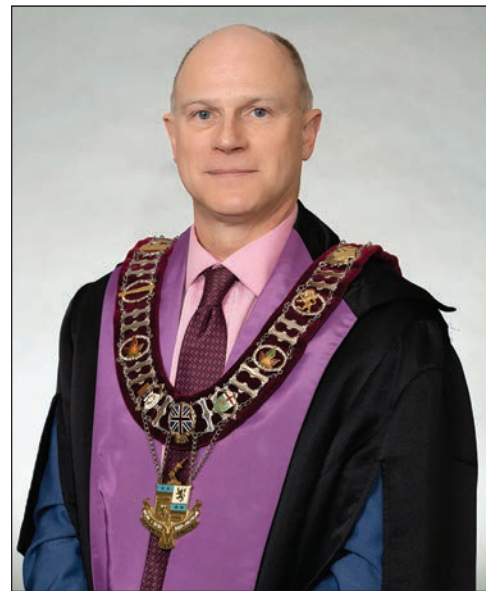
Basil Clarke was acclaimed as Simcoe County Warden for 2025-26.

Warden Clarke was elected warden for 2023-24 and will continue in the role until the 2026 municipal election.

Jennifer Coughlin was acclaimed as Simcoe County Deputy Warden for 2025-26. Deputy Warden Coughlin was also elected into the role for 2023-24 and will now continue in the role until the 2026 municipal election.

“I am humbled and honoured to receive the support of our Council and to continue representing them, our residents and communities as Simcoe County Warden,” said Basil Clarke. “In my opinion, Simcoe County is one of the best places to live in Ontario and I’m committed to continuing to help our communities thrive. I also look forward to continuing to work with Deputy Warden Jenny Coughlin as we address both challenges and opportunities across our great region.”

During an upcoming meeting to be held



APPOINTED – Basil Clarke has been acclaimed as the warden of County of Simcoe for a second term. Warden Clarke was elected for 2023-24 and will continue in the role until the 2026 municipal election.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

on Nov. 26, 2024, County Council will elect chairs and vice chairs for its three business section committees for 2025-26.

ELEMENTS

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NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

Accepting applications for the New Tecumseth Public Library Board

The Council of the Town of New Tecumseth are accepting applications from individuals interested in being appointed as a member of the New Tecumseth Public Library Board for the remainder of the 2022-2026 Term of Council. Under the Public Libraries Act, R.S.O.c. P.44 Board members must meet regularly to ensure the proper governance of the library and to conduct the business of the board. The board meeting is an opportunity to make decisions, solve problems, educate members and plan for the future. There Committee meets once per month. Applications will be accepted until Fri., Nov. 22, 2024 and can be submitted through the Town’s Website at the following link: <https://www.newtecumseth.ca/en/town-hall/committees.aspx> For further information regarding the above, please contact Kerry Wallace, Legislative Support Specialist at 705-415-3115 or kwallace@newtecumseth.ca

Notice to all residents of New Tecumseth

Owners of vehicles are hereby advised that to facilitate street maintenance including snow clearing and/or removal, parking is prohibited, pursuant to By-Law 93-128, s.10, on all streets

between 2 a.m. to 7 a.m.
effective from November 15th to April 15th

Vehicles parked on the streets between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. will be ticketed and should it be necessary to remove the vehicle, the owner will be charged with the cost of removal. This prohibition is in effect whether it is snowing or not. If you park where prohibited during the time frame outlined above, you will receive a \$35 fine that must be voluntarily paid within 10 days. If the fine is not paid within 10 days, the set fine you will be responsible for is then \$52.50. The Town will not be liable for any damage done by street maintenance equipment to vehicles parked on Town streets. Outside of the above-mentioned dates, a 5-hour parking restriction is in effect, unless otherwise signed.

Pamela Fettes, Director of Administration Services/Clerk
24 Tupper Street West, Alliston, Ontario L9R 1H2
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For further information please visit www.newtecumseth.ca



Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

What then must we do?

“What then must we do?” It is a line said, then put to paper, by journalist Billy Kwan in the 1982 movie, *The Year of Living Dangerously*. It was based on a question posed in the *Book of Luke* in the Bible.

It was a time of turmoil in Indonesia, and Billy Kwan was trying to get word out of what was really going on.

Billy’s question was never answered, because he was tossed out of a hotel window by security personnel for daring to display a banner critical of the president.

Some questions may never be answered.

The Coroner’s Office in British Columbia just released a report about drug-related deaths in the province. Illicit drug deaths in B.C. were down slightly compared to the same time last year, however, the deaths of women and girls in the same period have increased dramatically.

The report says that so far this year – mid-October – there have been 1,749 deaths due to illicit drug overdose. There were 187 overdose deaths in August, and 183 in September. That’s six people dying from a drug overdose every day.

The potent opioid fentanyl, remains the primary cause and was detected in 85

per cent of drug deaths.

That is an incredible number of preventable deaths in a province with a population of just over 5 million people.

Compare that to deaths as the result of car accidents in the province at 284 on average per year over the last five years.

If there were the same number of people dying in car crashes that were overdosing, there would be a huge uproar and response to get it under control.

In Ontario, it is reported by Ontario Public Health that in a four-and-a-half-year period leading up to 2023, there were 10,024 accidental substance toxicity deaths in Ontario.

That’s an incredible number. If the nation were involved in some kind of war, and that number of people were killed, there would be a demand to cease fighting and bring them home.

Yet, every day, someone in Ontario dies from a drug overdose.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, drug and alcohol-related deaths nearly doubled in Ontario.

Illicit drugs can cripple a society. In the late 1770s, the British introduced opium to China. Before long there was a serious drug problem that invaded all levels of society in China.

The British got what they wanted, by making sure half of China was too stoned to care, and they walked in and took over.

But what must we do to stop all this carnage?

Apparently education does not work. When I was in school, we received numerous lectures about the dangers of drug abuse – and my class was not the first to receive this shocking information.

Schools have been preaching against illegal drug use since at least the 30s.

Luckily, no one I know ever became a drug addict.

If you are told all the time that something can ruin your life, why do people still pursue that option?

While education about the danger of drug use has increased, so has the number of addicts and deaths to go along with it.

The U.S. had a ‘war on drugs’ a few years ago. That didn’t work either.

When I was in college, my film crew had the misfortune of being hired to shoot some footage with a group of ‘actresses’ from Hollywood. Special note here – if your daughter runs off to Hollywood with the intention of becoming a famous actress, and she calls you later telling you she got work as a model – she’s not

modelling in the conventional sense. Far from it.

During this shoot, one of the ‘actresses’ said that cocaine didn’t seem to be very popular here. She then asked me if I could ‘score them’ some cocaine.

I replied that I had no idea where the local drug dealer lived, and I also told them I don’t do drugs.

This did not go over well, and the entire film crew was labelled as ‘squares’ because we didn’t routinely walk up in a strange place with powder on our noses and no idea of what happened the previous night.

So what must we do, to stop this carnage that is taking so many lives?

Education doesn’t seem to work, prison time doesn’t seem to work.

The really sad thing is many of the people who have died from overdoses, are not regular users, but just some ordinary person who went to a party, and was given a substance laced with a deadly drug.

The experts in drug use, haven’t been able to come up with an answer.

Maybe it’s just one of those questions that will never be answered.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Stay tuned and don’t touch that dial

Sometimes, as I’ve been trying to fall asleep lately, I can’t help but chuckle about the possibility of waking up to the dulcet sounds of Cher and Sonny Bono the following morning.

It’s not that I don’t already have a propensity to still listen regularly to the so-called “Goddess of Pop”, as she wears the deserved mantle well, but rather the sense that the following morning might

start like any other.

If you’re a movie or comedy buff, you know Sonny and Cher’s “I Got You Babe” was the welcome wake-up call for Bill Murray’s weatherman, Phil Connors, in the 1990s classic *Groundhog Day*. Well, it was a welcome sound at first, it became less and less so with each passing day as it came out of his clock radio. After all, every day was exactly like any other in this flick – spoiler alert, if you’re about 31 years behind – until they weren’t.

For the uninitiated, Murray’s Phil plays a blustery weatherman sent to the Pennsylvania town of Punxsutawney, famous for its groundhog, also a Phil, for the rodent’s big day – and a big day for superstitious sun-seekers.

As Phil – the rodent, not the man – gets ready to potentially observe his shadow and apparently change the trajectory of meteorology, Phil – the man, not the rodent – gets stuck in a time loop, reliving February 2 day after day until he can right some wrongs.

There are instances in all our lives

for which we might want a bit of a do-over, but having to do it over every single day until you complete some sort of invisible puzzle, can, at best, get on your last nerve. Yet, in some respects, it feels like we’re also caught in a loop.

This coming Tuesday, November 5, Americans are set to go to the polls in an election which, no matter how you slice it, will have far-reaching international implications.

Sadly, once again, this election all too often feels like a personality contest rather than one about substantive policy. Don’t get me wrong, these always have something of a beauty pageant element, but it wasn’t all that long ago where elections hinged on policy and vision rather than just who is pushing and promoting the vision, or who can excite or rile their base – or get people frothing to such an extent that they’re voting against something rather than for something.

Continued on Page 15

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Dufferin teen to compete in cattle, equestrian, poultry shows at Royal Winter Fair

BY SAM ODROWSKI

A 16-year-old Dufferin County resident will compete at an unprecedented level during the 102nd Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

While it takes a high level of talent and dedication to show livestock in just one competition at the Royal, Ava Campbell of Mono will be vying for ribbons in several.

She will be a contender in two horse shows, a cattle show, and a poultry show, with her chickens and ducks.

“We’re very proud of this accomplishment, and in our recent memory of the fair, this is the first time that we have seen something like this,” said the Royal Winter Fair’s CEO Cyrus Cooper about the number of competitions Campbell’s competing in. “It’s quite a feat.”

The Royal Winter Fair takes place from Nov. 1 to 10 at Exhibition Place, where the best competitors across Canada compete at a national level.

“Every year, the Royal is circled on various competitors’ calendars, whether you’re an Olympic rider or a young, aspiring rider,” Cooper noted.

Campbell’s ability to train and present animals well is what’s led her to qualify for so many different competitions at this year’s Royal.

She is eager to show different kinds of livestock and is working hard to prepare in hopes of taking home some ribbons.

At past Royal Winter Fairs, she has done well in horse riding competitions, as this is her main focus.

“A couple of years ago I won a lot of classes in the smalls [horse category], and then I was overall grand champion in the ponies,” Campbell recalled. “Last year I was third overall in the Jump Canada Medal Finals Equitation Class.”

She has again qualified to compete in the Junior Hunters Division Horse Show as well as the Jump Canada Finals.

“She’s been showing horses [at the Royal] for years and competing,” said Campbell’s father Mark. “The Royal is like the playoffs, if you will, for horse riding.”

To qualify, Campbell regularly competed in horse shows at the Caledon Equestrian Park and Angelstone Tournaments in Rockwood.



NATURAL TALENT – Ava Campbell competed at a horse show in Traverse City, Michigan, over the summer. She’s a talented horseback rider with a promising future, having placed third overall in the Jump Canada Medal Finals Equitation Class at last year’s Royal Winter Fair. She’s eager to compete at this year’s Royal in the Junior Hunters Division and Jump Canada Finals. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



GETTING READY FOR THE ROYAL – Ava Campbell showed a heifer at the Markham Fair earlier this year with good results. From a young age, she’s had an interest in cattle shows and participating in them. This year, Campbell has finally had that opportunity and will be competing at the Royal Winter Fair. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



JUNIOR CHAMPION – Ava Campbell took home a Junior Champion Waterfowl ribbon for the ducks she showed at the Ontario Poultry Breeders Show earlier in the month. She’s looking forward to entering ducks and chickens into the Royal Winter Fair. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

“You show the horses all year and then you qualify through points. You have to be top eight in Ontario to go [to the Royal] for the horses,” Campbell explained.

Throughout the winter, she’s in Florida training on horseback, and taking online school so she can remain committed to her passion for riding.

Campbell is hoping her dedication to horse riding throughout the year will yield positive results at the Royal.

“It’s rewarding when you continue to get better throughout the year, and then seeing the hard work pay off... going to these big venues and doing well,” she enthused.

Campbell’s mother Elizabeth also has a love for horses and riding. She competed in the Royal Winter Fair when she was a teenager as well and is always excited to see her daughter do the same.

“Her mother plays a big role in the helping with the horse and the training as well,” Mark noted. “The horses have always been a big part of my wife’s life.”

Campbell’s been invited on a recruiting trip to the University of South Carolina and hopes to earn a scholarship to compete with the school’s equestrian team.

For the Royal’s cattle show, Campbell will be competing in it for her very first time.

She’s competed in sanctioned cattle shows at fairs in the region through the summer to prepare.

Campbell will be showing a full-blood Simmental heifer, owned by cattle breeder Charles Burns of Kingsfield Farms.

Burns said Campbell first developed an interest in showing cattle about seven years ago when they met at the Royal and has been persistent in pursuing the opportunity ever since.

“She kept asking me until I said, ‘sure,’ and let her show at the Markham Fair for a couple years, and I told her she can show at the Royal this year,” Burns recalled.

He added that Campbell has the right temperament for showing animals.

“There’s some people that animals just trust, they don’t flinch, they’re not scared of them.

They seem to trust the person right away, and she has whatever that skill is,” Burns noted. “The animals don’t run away from her.”

For the competition, Campbell’s focus will be on ensuring her heifer looks at its best at any given moment, standing tall and remaining calm.

When it comes to the ducks and chickens Campbell is entering in the Royal, she was recently named Junior Championship for her waterfowl at the Ontario Poultry Breeders Show.

She said she’s eager to compete in this category as well.

The Royal Winter Fair features a variety of competitions that allow qualifying Canadians to demonstrate their skills and move on to international championships.

“We’re very proud of the fact that the Royal offers the opportunity to compete at a high level for various individuals from all walks of life, age, and gender as well,” Cooper said. “That’s what’s unique about the Royal every year, and that’s what makes it special.”

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19				20	21			22	23			24	
25						26					27		
28					29					30			
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39					40	41	42						
43					44					45	46	47	48
49				50					51	52			
53			54						55				
56		57				58				59			
60					61	62				63			
			64							65			

CLUES ACROSS

1. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)

5. Highly impressed

11. Pronoun to identify something specific

12. Uttered in an impassioned way

16. Outfits

17. “Westworld” actor Harris

18. Stewed game casserole

19. Indignities inflicted on others

24. Blood type

25. Says beneath one’s breath

26. Taxis

27. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm

28. NFL great Randy

29. Where college students live

30. Brief Yankees sensation Kevin

31. Condiment

33. -frutti

34. Polish city

38. Astronomy unit of distance

39. Romanian village

40. Bears first overall pick Williams

43. Irritated

44. Clothing for sale has them

45. One-time world power

49. When you anticipate arriving

50. Farm building

51. Organize thoughtfully

53. Detective

54. One who reduces

56. Nursemaids

58. Partner to “Pa”

59. World’s longest river

60. Commemorates

63. Compound

64. The Lannisters and Starks fought for one

65. Email function

CLUES DOWN

1. Open-roofed

entrance

2. Japanese religion

3. Dancer’s garments

4. Distributes

5. Yemeni port

6. Spanish doctors

7. It cools your house

8. Engine variant

9. Makes more manageable

10. Days (Spanish)

13. Milliliter

14. Spread out from

15. With two replaceable hydrogen atoms

20. Respectful title for a man

21. Equally

22. Scarlett’s home

23. Big Blue

27. Subway dwellers

29. One-tenth of a liter

30. Central European river

31. Distress signal

32. Expression of sympathy

33. Bar bill

34. Football equipment

35. Dance music

36. Russian river

37. Mary ___, cosmetics

38. Gym class

40. Autos

41. Fourth and honorable name in ancient Rome

42. Defeats (abbr.)

44. A way to color

45. Planet

46. Form of humor

47. Taken without permission

48. Go over again

50. Auto parts manufacturer

51. Detective’s source

52. Home of the Flyers

54. Short official note

55. Emit coherent radiation

57. In the year of Our Lord

61. Atomic #18

62. Not from, but...

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

Council receives report on municipal structures inspection

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Simcoe County District School Board and the Town of New Tecumseth Council received a report on municipal structures inventory and inspection that was completed on Oct. 21, prepared by GHD Limited.

It has been recommended that the information be incorporated into the Asset Management Plan and updated within the Long Range Financial Plan as part of future year budget considerations.

The report updates the condition assessment and priority ratings of all road structures over a three-metre span maintained by the Town of New Tecumseth.

Key findings in the report include an adjusted for owners share summary of the total structure construction and rehabilitation needs for a 10-year period is estimated to be \$37,719,100.

The estimated minimum annual capital program for structures should be approximately \$3,066,000 per year for the Town to maintain the current system adequately.

Over a five-year period from 2029 to 2033, the Town has allocated approximately \$6,958,000 towards related capital bridge improvement projects.

The Municipal Structure Inventory and Inspections Report Update is completed every two years in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Public Transportation and Highway Act.

Based on funding and priority listing as noted in the 2024 MSII Report, the Town's practice is to address the high-priority structural deficiencies in a three-staged multi-year program. The first stage is to undertake engineering bridge investigations such as deck condition surveys and load capacity analysis. The second stage involves retaining a consultant to undertake the design and any applicable environmental assessment, as required. The final stage undertakes the recommended construction improvements. By implementing the three-stage strategy it is anticipated that over time the overall system adequacy and average bridge condition index will improve.

The appraisal of the structures involved the following tasks:

- A visual re-inspection for deficiencies and the recording of any relevant dimensions.
- An updated photographic inventory of the structure's appearance and deficiencies.
- Compilation of the field review and structure appraisals using Worktech Asset Foundation Software.

• An individual assessment of the condition and state of repair/non-repair of each structure, as well as the recommendation of improvements and estimated costs to bring the existing structure to an acceptable level of service.

• Recommendation of the feasible options and cost-effectiveness of maintaining the existing structure versus possible replacement and the costs and timing of the same.

• Development of a bridge and culvert improvement priority program to determine various conditions and appraisal ratings for each structure.

The program includes an algorithm to determine an overall condition rating, functional needs rating and overall rating for each structure as outlined in Appendix E. Relative rankings of bridge and culvert needs have also been included.

Bridge condition index (BCI) values have been calculated for each structure. The Asset Management Program will utilize BCI values to further assist in scheduling works as part of the Long-Range Financial Plan.

The structure priority number (SPN) is a value calculated using inventory and inspection data to assist in guiding the prioritization of investment in structure rehabilitation and replacement programs.

The Town will need to identify specific budget recommendations for detailed condition surveys and bridge rehabilitation/replacement including associated engineering design and supervision and construction estimates.

The report recommends several issues that need to be addressed. This includes Bridge #12001 on the 14th Line, which has been identified for future widening to four lanes.

The design for the replacement and widening of the Cunningham Bridge #11001 is substantially complete as part of the Church Street North Road and Bridge Improvements project.

The Town's overall bridge improvement program continues to address high-priority structural deficiencies in order to maintain the overall system adequacy.

Completion of the 89 bridge and culvert structure inspections has resulted in reliable and current data being available to the Town to implement a maintenance program ensuring the Town's structures are kept safe and in good repair.

Maintenance of the Bridge and Culvert Management Program will require updating databases on an ongoing biennial basis to reflect the previous year's rehabilitation/replacement project updates.

County of Simcoe invests in regional hospice and palliative care services

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe is supporting regional hospice and palliative care services with funds for the Simcoe County Hospice Alliance.

The County presented a cheque for \$427,782 to the Hospital Alliance to go towards building up local residential hospice and palliative care services across the region.

The funds are part of the County's five-year \$2.5 million commitment between 2021 to 2025 to support community expansion and capital projects, along with Infection Prevention and Control upgrades at regional hospice centres.

This year's allocation was issued to Alliance partners.

- Hospice Georgian Triangle - \$55,156

- Hospice Simcoe - \$107,72
- Matthew House Hospice - \$94,993
- Mariposa House Hospice - \$170,561

"Funding regional hospice care is investing in dignity and compassion," said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. "By building up hospice services, we ensure that individuals and their families receive the comfort, respect, and quality care they deserve during life's most challenging moments. We also hope that our support encourages greater awareness and funding for these extremely important agencies in our communities."

The Simcoe County Hospice was formed to look at regional planning and project capital needs for area hospice centres.

The group has representatives from five regional hospices.



HELPING HOSPICES – Simcoe County Councillors joined with Township of Severn Council members and representatives from both the County and Simcoe County Hospice Alliance to celebrate its investment in support of the Simcoe County Hospice Alliance. Several regional hospices will receive funding to support expansion and capital projects.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Inspiring Faith, Igniting Hope

Simcoe County aims to increase local support for mental health and addiction

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe along with identified key partners has recognized a need for integrated community-based services to address a homelessness health crisis, through the establishment of a Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hub.

The County of Simcoe has applied to the Government of Ontario to host one of 10

HART facilities in the province.

Primary partners included as part of the application are the Barrie and Area Ontario Health Team, Barrie Native Friendship Centre, Canadian Mental Health Association – Simcoe County Branch, Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin IIPCT/ Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health, and Barrie Cares.

Since launching its 10-point Homeless-

ness Prevention Strategy in 2023, the County has been making significant investments and enhancements to social services programs and support in communities.

In the 10-point plan, the pillars created include improving safety and well-being, creating easier ways to access services, enhancing community shelter services and standards, and finding new opportunities.

The HART Hub is one more tool available to complement these pillars and provide even

better support for this vulnerable population within the community.

In addition to supporting this pillar, it is anticipated that this project will help increase the County's efforts to move residents who have been living 'rough' or staying in shelters to more stable housing.

Communities whose applications have been approved to house one of the ten provincial HART Hubs will be announced by the Ontario Ministry of Health in December 2024.

Battery collection week runs Nov. 4 to 7 throughout Simcoe County

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe will again be collecting used batteries to ensure the safe and environmentally friendly disposal of household batteries.

All residents are encouraged to participate and help make a positive impact on the environment.

Residents should use their designated collec-

tion day during the week of Nov. 4 to 7. Please place the bag on top of your garbage and recycling cart, not inside it.

This will ensure the batteries are easily seen and accessible for collection.

Acceptable items include dry-cell, single-use batteries such as standard AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt and battery buttons. Due to regulatory requirements, only undamaged, single-use and dry-cell batteries are accepted for curbside collection.

Batteries that are not accepted include rechargeable battery packs – NiCad, NiMH, or Lithium Ion – typically used in laptop computers, cellular phones, etc., car batteries, industrial batteries, and battery packs.

These items should be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Depot for a fee. A depot has free drop-off and is open year-round.

Proper disposal of batteries prevents harmful chemicals from entering the environment and helps conserve valuable resources.

For more information contact the County's Service Simcoe Contact Centre at 705-735-6901, or online at service@simcoe.ca.



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Arts & Entertainment



FRIGHTFUL FUN – Photo above: Lauren, 8 seph, and Matthew were all dressed up their costumes for the Frightfully Fun event, sponsored by the Beeton Tottenham Business Improvement Association. The event took place along the busy streets of Tottenham and Beeton on Saturday, Oct. 26 and thousands of people turned out. Attendees of the event, both young and old, wore fun costumes. Children received candy from local businesses.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS



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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Alliston Hornets remain in first place with three-weekend wins

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets moved into first place in the North Carruthers division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League earlier in the month and have remained undefeated, winning three games in as many nights over the weekend.

It was a busy few days for the Alliston squad beginning with their regular Friday night home game against the Midland Flyers on Oct. 25.

The Hornets were relentless in their attack, outshooting the Flyers 96-12 for the night.

At the end of the first period, Alliston was leading 4-1. They increased the lead to 9-1 in the second period.

Midland managed to score one more time early in the third period, but the Hornets responded with three more goals to finish the night and take a 12-2 win.

Half of the Hornets bench figured into the scoring for the night.

Alliston forward, Jax Bellwood led the scoring with a hat trick. Cole Turcote got two for the night.

Other Alliston goals came from Jacob Holmes, Will Hopcraft, Nick Lamont, David Harvey, Kyler MacNeil, Duncan Grube, and Ben Smith.

“We were just playing as a team tonight,” said Hornets forward, Jax Bellwood, after the game. “We play really well together and find ways to score goals and be successful on offence. We have the speed, see the ice, and make a decision.”

The Division has three strong teams this season – the Hornets, Stayner Siskins, and Orillia Terriers.



12 IN A ROW – The Alliston Hornets hosted the Midland Flyers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Oct. 25. The game ended with a 12-2 Hornets win. The Hornets played two more games over the weekend and won both. They are still undefeated and in first place in the North Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League after 12 games.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

“We work really hard in practice,” Jax said. “Our coach always wants us to come to practice and put in a 100 per cent effort. Every game we play like we are playing a top team. We try to score as many goals as we can, and play the best we can. We’ll play our best game so when we get to the playoffs and are up against better teams, that will be the difference.”

The Hornets travelled to Penetang on Sat-

urday (Oct. 26) to take on the Kings.

This game was another blow-out with the Hornets leaving the ice with a 16-1 win over the Penetang team.

On Sunday, Oct. 27, the Hornets were up against Midland for a second time over the weekend.

The game ended with a 6-2 Hornets win.

After the weekend the Hornets were in first place in the division with a 12-0 record

and 24 points.

The Stayner Siskins are in second place with 22 points, followed by the Orillia Terriers in the number three spot.

The Hornets will travel to Stayner on Thursday, Oct. 31, to face the Siskins. They will be back on home ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, Nov. 1, to host the Huntsville Otters.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Tottenham Railers in second place in South Division after win over North York

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Tottenham Railers are currently in second place in the South Division of the Greater Metro Hockey League after a 4-1 win over the North York Renegades on Saturday, Oct. 26, on Renegades home ice.

The Railers will be back on home ice this coming Saturday, Nov. 2, to host the Durham Roadrunners. The puck drop will be at 7:30 p.m.

The game against Durham is the first of several theme nights hosted by the Railers celebrating youth hockey in New Tecumseth.

Saturday’s home game on Nov. 2, will be called Stingers Night. The Railers are offering any Beeton Stingers player free entry if they come to the game in their Stingers jersey. There are lots of fun activities planned with games and a draw with some merchandise and prizes.

Stingers’ leadership will be represented at the game and will take part in a ceremonial puck drop.

The following week, there will be a spe-

cial remembrance match, which is currently being planned.

“We have been very encouraged by the response from most of the teams with both the Stingers and IceCats agreeing to send representatives from their Board of Directors to celebrate local youth hockey,” said Andy Wilson, Railers game day manager. “Unfortunately, the Tornados have declined the request to come along, but we will still be holding Tornados Night and offering the players free entry and a fun night. For now though, we are concentrating on Saturday’s game and having a great time with the Stingers players and staff.”

Saturday evening saw goalie Thomas Rousseau put in a first-star performance making 57 saves in their win at North York. Xavier Charbonneau scored twice and added two helpers to take him up to 30 points on the season with a team-leading 17 goals and 13 assists.

If you want to come along on Saturday the admission prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, while children under 6 are free.



PUSHING THROUGH – The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior football team hosted the Eastview Secondary School Wildcats on the field at Banting on Thursday, Oct. 24. Marauder’s player, Aidan Dwyer, sprints through a pack of defenders during the fourth quarter of the game. The Marauders had to settle for a 48-14 loss.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

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Arson in Adjala-Tosorontio under investigation, footage sought from public

On Tuesday Oct. 22, just after 04:29 a.m. Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), were called to a structure fire on in Adjala-Tosorontio.

The residence is located on Marigold Boulevard in a new subdivision, in the area of County Road 14 and Concession Road 8, Adjala-Tosorontio.

Members of the Nottawasaga OPP and crews from the Adjala-Tosorontio Fire



department attended the scene and were able to safely extinguish the fire. The residence appeared to be under construction before the

fire took place, and no injuries have been reported at this time.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Updates will be provided by Nottawasaga OPP when available.

The Nottawasaga OPP is actively investigating the incident and is seeking the public's assistance. If you have any information, please reach out to the OPP at 1-800-310-1122. Additionally, drivers in the area from approximately 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. on Oct. 22

who may have dash cam or video footage are encouraged to contact the OPP.

For those wishing to remain anonymous, you can reach out to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at www.crimestoppersdm.com. Crime Stoppers ensures anonymity-your call won't show on caller ID, and you will not be required to testify in court. You may also be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$2,000 for any information that leads to an arrest.

South Simcoe police officer charged with nine counts of discreditable conduct

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A 15-year veteran Police Constable of the South Simcoe Police Service has been charged with nine counts of Discreditable Conduct contrary to the Police Services Act.

On Oct. 27, 2023, South Simcoe Police received a complaint from the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) that involved an interaction with a female that constituted a sexual assault alle-

gation.

Upon receipt of the complaint and due to the nature of the allegations, the South Simcoe Police Service notified the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) who invoked their mandate. At such time, the Constable was assigned to administrative duties, however, has been off on leave.

After the SIU completed their investigation, it was determined that they were unable to proceed with laying criminal charges in relation to that matter.

Through investigation of the initial complaint and further information that was revealed, it was determined that a Police Service Act investigation was warranted. South Simcoe Police requested the assistance of the Barrie Police Service Professional Standards Unit to investigate the matter pursuant to the Police Services Act.

After the investigation was concluded by the external police agency, nine (9) counts of discreditable conduct were substantiated involving two complainants.

The matter is currently before a Police tribunal and the Constable appeared virtually for a first appearance date on Oct. 25, 2024 in answer to the Code of Conduct breaches. The matter has been put over to a next appearance date that is scheduled for Nov. 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. via teleconference.

To protect the privacy of the complainants and maintain the integrity of the investigation, South Simcoe Police will not be releasing further details as the matter is currently before a police tribunal.

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Saturday November 9, 11:00am

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708 OBITUARIES

Sandy Walker



Sandy (Sandra Jean) Walker passed away peacefully on Friday, October 11, 2024, at the age of 59. She was born in Weston, Ontario in 1965 to loving parents, William (Bill) and Dorothy (Dot) Walker.

Sandy graduated from the University of Toronto in 1987 and continued her studies throughout her career, achieving designations including Fellow, Life Management Institute (FLMI), Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP), and her Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD.D) from Rotman. She led strategic HR, Talent and Corporate Affairs for complex multinationals including Swiss Re Life & Health, Alliance Atlantis Communications, BCE and Aimia. As in her personal life, Sandy was known for her integrity, principles, and ability to cut through complexity for positive outcome.

Sandy loved animals, our family cottage, was an avid reader of books and world news, enjoyed staying fit, and working on word puzzles over her morning coffee. Sandy travelled extensively with her work, and made great memories with family who had the chance to travel with her for personal vacations. Supporting her Mom, and family has always been a priority. She is survived by her Mother Dorothy Walker; sisters Brenda, Barb (Gord Corlett), Connie, Nancy (Bill Boyd), and Rosemary; nieces Carolyn (Mike) and Kathryn; nephews David (Besy) and Tom, as well as great-nieces Emma, Ainslie, Hadley, and great-nephews William, Braydon, and Jack. She will be deeply missed by her family, extended family and dear friends.

Our thanks go out to the tireless and caring team at Sunnybrook Hospital and the Odette Cancer Centre. Memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Nobleton Church, 5750 King Road, Nobleton on Saturday morning, November 2 at 11:30am.

Donations are requested in lieu of flowers, in support of Sandy's goal for the expansion of the Oncology Urgent Care Unit at Sunnybrook at <http://support.sunnybrook.ca/SWalker>

Or in memorium for Sandy Walker via Sunnybrook Foundation by phone (416-480-4483) or mail c/o Sunnybrook Foundation, KGW01-2075 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4N 3M5. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

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Verna Cavell Murton



Verna Cavell Murton (McKinnon) passed away peacefully in her sleep October 21, 2024, in St. Thomas, Ontario.

Verna was born in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia to John and Florence McKinnon, where she enjoyed a seaside childhood with her parents and brother Donald before moving to London, Ontario.

Verna and Jim (Norman) started their life together in London before settling in Tottenham to raise their family. They later moved to Port Stanley in southwestern Ontario to enjoy a lakeside retirement.

Verna's smile was appreciated by the residents of Simcoe Manor where she worked as a cook until her retirement. She is fondly remembered by her co-workers.

Verna will be missed by her husband Jim, children Cindy (Jerry), Cathy (Pete) and Christine (David); her Grandchildren Perry (Kayla), Jillian (Rory), Cassandra, Alora (Hunter), Emma (Junior), Brittianne and David James, as well as her Great Grandchildren, Ellie, Addison and Rowan; Colson and Alice; Asher and Addison; Elina, Luca and Amiya; Elyzabeth and Spencer. Verna is predeceased by her Great Grandson Eli-Gideon.

A private gathering of family has taken place. Donations to an Alzheimer/Dementia charity of choice is welcome.

714 PRAYERS

"Thanks to St. Jude for answering my prayers during this difficult time. The power of prayer & believing is so powerful when it come from the heart". ~ Rosanna

804 SERVICES

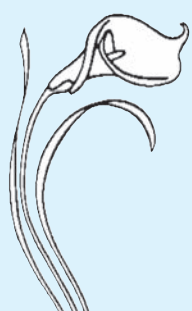
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Continued from Page 5

Brock's Banter: Stay tuned and don't touch that dial

That is, once again, pretty disheartening. As the big day approaches, I was curious this past weekend to see what I wrote in the week before the 2016 Presidential Election.

Doing so, I couldn't help but be struck by how much things have changed – and how much things have not.

"Since the very beginning of this unlikely campaign, he has continually cited media 'elites' and power-brokers being the cause of all the controversy he has caused in his wake," I wrote, the blank not too difficult to plug in. "Clear bias,' he and his surrogates cry when referring to the so-called 'mainstream' media, despite the fact that nobody has played the media game better than him over the course of the bulk of my life. He has been a power player and he knows the ropes. Yet, he has found a core base of voters who see him as an outsider, someone who is fighting an uphill battle, someone who can be a change-maker, and it's fascinating to watch it unfold. His core uncritically latches onto buzzwords without exercising

the critical thinking powers available to us all to see they are just words, completely devoid of meaning and, let's face it, when it comes to monikers, completely lacking in the catchiness and panache offered by politicians from elections of yore. It is, in the case of this man, easier to find a constituency eager to take just about everything spoon-fed to them as long as it fits into their already-set worldview at face value without giving it a moment's consideration."

This column hit doorsteps on October 27, 2016 – and we all know what happened a week or two later.

We came through four years of those results, a small sliver in our collective human history in which a hell of a lot happened. Unrest continued around the world. Decisions were made for better or worse. A global pandemic changed the world. Another President was duly elected. And, with just a little under three months left in the President's turn, despite all these changes, upheavals, and events that have changed the trajectory

of most of our lives in one way or another, here we are back at the starting line.

Allegations of bias are still being trotted out whenever the words uttered by the candidate and his surrogates come under scrutiny, there are denials of things we see and hear with our own eyes and ears, scapegoating is back and worse than ever, and positioning one's self as the poor, defenceless underdog once again, despite all evidence to the contrary....

This re-heated perfect storm seems to be bringing out the worst in people, when these exercises in democracy should bring out the best. Hopefully it's not a sign that democracy as we know it, in and of itself, might be experiencing its last gasp south of the border.

In these last few days of the campaign, media outlets in the United States are often turning to get the opinions of voters who claim to be undecided – although, once again, with such diametrically opposed visions being offered by both candidates, the idea of someone being undecided in

one way or another by press time this week seems extraordinarily unlikely – but that's nothing new.

If they do exist, perhaps it's a sign of voter fatigue or electoral exhaustion. If I were a United States resident, let alone a citizen, I imagine living through all this would feel less like Groundhog Day, and more like being strapped into a human-sized hamster wheel – spinning in place with nowhere to go and little opportunity to move the needle forward; although any little pitfall could, as has been demonstrated, pull the needle back.

It's nothing short of exhausting looking on, so spare a thought for the American voter this week. My only hope is this process, and the fact that the United States has, for the last two decades, been living in a perpetual election cycle, doesn't deter voters from casting an informed choice. Given early voting figures, the numbers paint a motivated story, but a week is a long time in politics.

Stay tuned – and resist the temptation to tune out.

Continued from Page 3

Tips for maintaining a well on a rural property

Improper construction is also a water contamination risk. For these reasons, when you are building, repairing, modifying or abandoning a well, you should hire a licensed well contractor.

A well contractor must be licensed and use licensed well technicians who have the proper class of license for the work that is being done.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, operates a public Wells Help Desk

to ensure that information is available to the public. The Wells Help Desk also receives and forwards well complaints to the appropriate ministry office, answers general questions on wells, and assists well owners in locating their well records.

When choosing a location for a new well, the person constructing the well must ensure it is a minimum distance from any nearby sewage systems and other existing sources of contaminants.

It must be at a higher elevation than the immediate surrounding area and be accessible for treatment, cleaning, repair, testing, inspection, and visual examination. It must also be kept a minimum distance away from all property lines because you can't control what happens on adjacent properties.

There is a full list of rules that must be followed during construction of a new well.

Once constructed, a well owner must test the

quality of the water regularly and look for changes in the water's appearance. You should keep surface water and foreign materials from entering the well by securing the well cap in place and checking regularly for signs of rust and wear, cracks, holes, or gaps in the well's structure. There are times when a well should be abandoned.

An abandoned well must be plugged and sealed.

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