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Here Comes Santa Claus

Christmas came early to Alliston when the local Rotary Club's night-lit Santa Clause parade made its way through the downtown area on Saturday, Nov. 16. Thousands of residents lined Victoria Street, King Street, and Young Street to watch the light-filled parade. See more photos on page 7. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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County Paramedic Services launches annual food and toy drive

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe Paramedic Services food and toy drive is back for its 22nd year.

The drive supports individuals and families in need across Simcoe County.

Financial contributions can be made online at CanadaHelps.

New, unwrapped toys, non-perishable food items, and gift cards are welcome to be donated at designated drop-off locations. Please indicate the value of gift cards when

dropping them off.

Over the past 21 years, the food and toy drive has made a significant impact, collecting 122,835 toys, 66,174 pounds of food, and \$278,800 in monetary and gift card donations for families in need across the region.

“Today County of Simcoe Paramedic Services kicked off their annual Food and Toy Drive, a testament to the enduring generosity of our community,” said Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke. “This initiative not only brings joy to those in need during the holiday season, but it also showcases the giving spirit of our residents, businesses

and organizations. I encourage all residents to help spread kindness and generosity this holiday season as together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of our neighbours.”

You can make a donation at the following locations in New Tecumseth and nearby towns:

- 6933 Industrial Parkway, Alliston
- 51 Main Street East, Beeton
- 1 Tree Top Street, Angus

Other locations in the region include:

- 113 Tiffin Street, Barrie
- 480 Miller Park Avenue, Bradford

- 1 Firehall Lane, Coldwater
- 169 St. Paul Street, Collingwood
- 2298 Horseshoe Valley Road, Oro-Medonte

- 17 Allenwood Road, Elmvale
- 395 Cranston Crescent, Midland
- 68 West Street, Orillia
- 10 Robert Street West, Penetanguishene
- 6993 Highway 26, Stayner
- 2394 Victoria Street West, Stroud
- 23 Oxbow Park Road, Wasaga Beach
- 401 Anchor Drive, Severn

For an up-to-date list, visit simcoe.ca/toy-drive.

Your Support Services Network celebrates quarter-century of crisis support close to home

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In an ideal world, they would have put themselves out of business, but as long as there’s a need, Your Support Services Network will be there to help.

Last week, Your Support Services Network (YSSN) celebrated a significant milestone as they commemorated 25 years of crisis support close to home.

Since the organization brought in crisis supports in 1999, YSSN Executive Director Kim Thorn estimates the organization has supported 200,000 people across various crisis programs. But the impact goes beyond 200,000 individuals – it impacts every person in their orbit.

“In a world where the need for crisis services remain ever-present, it’s essential to recognize the unwavering commitment of those who are available 24/7 ready to lis-

ten, ready to help, and ready to provide hope,” said Thorn, addressing staff, clients and dignitaries at an anniversary reception held at their Edward Street headquarters on November 12. “These are the people who embody our vision of an equal life for all, a life rooted in community, relationships and wellbeing. As we reflect on the journey of the past quarter-century, it’s important to acknowledge that we have worked hand-in-hand with a wide range of community partners to ensure that our services are meeting the diverse needs of people in our community. Our work continues to focus on connecting people not only to immediate crisis supports, but also to a broader network of services that work together to uplift and empower. Today’s an opportunity for us to honour the dedication of those who have devoted themselves to supporting others in their most vulnerable moments and to acknowledge the profound impact that

we have made on over 200,000 individuals who have connected with our crisis supports.”

The first iteration of YSSN’s crisis supports was their 310-COPE line.

Thorn began her work with YSSN as a case worker supporting youth and recalled one individual she worked with, whom she described as “highly risk-tolerant” and “often made choices that put her in high-risk situations.” Thorn considered the youth “highly vulnerable” and found she would often go missing for days at a time.

“As much as I am a professional, it’s hard not to worry about a 17-year-old girl on the streets,” she says. “When she would re-emerge and I would retrieve her from places I considered quite dangerous as an adult, we would talk about what we could do differently the next time. We would debrief. She would tell me about the fact she wanted to reach out sooner, but she felt fear – fear of

disappointing the people around her. She talked about shame and not wanting to necessarily deal with the adults in her life and the repercussions of her decisions.”

Bringing her to meet a crisis worker with 310-COPE, Thorn recalls the girl was connected with “an empathetic worker who had no judgement and talked to her about some of the things she could do once she was in a situation where she felt she couldn’t reach out to the adults in her life.”

They formed a wellness plan for her and while there was another instance of her going missing, it was for two days, as opposed to four or five, and she independently reached out to 310-COPE to be “reconnected back to her natural support network.”

YSSN has gone from strength to strength since they laid the foundations of crisis support with 310-COPE.

Continued on Page 9

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READY TO RECRUIT – The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting a job fair at Banting Memorial High School (203 Victoria Street East, Alliston) on Nov. 28 from 3 to 6 p.m. SCDSB is looking to hire educational assistants and custodians at Banting. School board staff will be on-site to meet with candidates. For more information on available opportunities and enrollment applications, visit www.scsb.ca. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

TERRY DOWDALL MP
SIMCOE-GREY

Terry.Dowdall@parl.gc.ca

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County of Simcoe updates 2025 draft budget after deliberations

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe held a special budget meeting on Oct. 29, regarding the 2025 draft budget.

The Committee of the Whole further reviewed the County’s budget on Nov. 12.

During the review and deliberations in both meetings, cost adjustments were brought forward by staff, hiring for two specific roles was deferred and a final recommended percentage tax rate increase of 3.25 per cent was decided. The tax rate was

reduced from the originally proposed 4 per cent.

The 3.65 per cent increase is 1.625 per cent for operating and 2 per cent for asset management. This equates to an increase of \$10.86 per \$100,000 of assessment on a property.

The draft budget maintains existing service levels for all County areas as well as allowing for the growing needs of future services, programs, and large capital and infrastructure projects.

The key projects in the budget include the expansion of a new LINX Transit route to

serve south Simcoe communities, continued progress at the Simcoe Village campus redevelopment, a large affordable housing build in Barrie and the completion of other sites.

Projects also include phased road work on CR4, 21, and 22, a new paramedic station in Waubaushene, and museum expansion for the C. Matthews Innovation and Transportation Gallery.

The proposed budget will be forwarded to County Council for potential ratification on Nov. 26.

Other considerations in the proposed budget include furthering the work of the

County’s 10-point homelessness Prevention Strategy, increasing supportive housing units/spaces and diversifying options to achieve improved housing outcomes and reduce reliance on emergency homeless shelters.

Other considerations include the planning and implementation of the Medical Priority Dispatch System, and the implementation of the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, including the implementation of a new cost-based funding formula and targeted system growth of 698 new licensed child care spaces.

Trillium Ford getting four new electric vehicle chargers amongst other locations

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The province is building 20 new electric vehicle charging stations in Simcoe-Grey.

This is part of the province’s plan to increase access to EV chargers outside of large urban centres and support the electrification of transportation across the province.

As Ontario continues to see substantial job creation and investment in the growing EV and EV battery manufacturing sector, the new charging stations will provide supporting infrastructure across the province.

“For EV drivers finding a charging station that’s close by and available can mean the difference between a quick stop and a time-consuming detour that takes time away from work, school or family,” said Simcoe Grey MPP Brian Saunderson. “I’m proud to be delivering 20 new EV charging stations in Alliston, Collingwood, Thornbury and

Wasaga Beach to make life easier and more convenient for drivers.”

The new EV chargers include:

- Four new chargers at Alliston Trillium Ford
- Four new chargers at Thornbury, Blue Mountain parking lot
- Four new chargers at Wasaga Beach, 535 River Road
- Eight new chargers at Collingwood Loblaws Market

“With more than 201,000 electric vehicles on the road in Ontario, we’re putting shovels in the ground to build more charging stations and make life easier for drivers,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Electrification. “That includes a focus on smaller and underserved communities across our province where we are providing more certainty for parents and workers during their commutes.”

Each new EV charging site will include

Level 2 charging stations, Level 4 charging stations, or a combination of the two.

The government has also launched a new Ultra-Low Overnight Electricity Price Plan and is exploring options for an Electric Vehicle Charger Discount Electricity Rate

to further support EV adoption and reduce emissions. The new Ultra-Low Overnight Electricity Price Plan is helping customers who use more electricity at night, including those who charge their electric vehicle, save up to \$90 per year.



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~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Once they've seen Paris

“How Gonna Keep ‘em Down on the Farm, After They’ve Seen Patee?”

That’s an old song from the First World War.

It suggests that someone who has the opportunity to travel and see what the world has to offer may no longer be content with their current surroundings and may decide to explore further.

There’s a lot of truth in that.

I recall my first trip to downtown Toronto as a teenager. Seeing the hustle and bustle, the skyscrapers and all the activity really impressed me. I did actually move there only a few years later.

The song was a reference to all the young men who were shipped overseas as during World War One and had an opportunity to travel from a one-horse town where they grew up, to an entirely different world and culture. The song reveals that many of those farm boys may not want to return to the farm after seeing what the rest of the world has to offer.

North Korea, has for some reason, signed a pact with Russia, to help in its war of aggression against Ukraine.

Why North Korea would consider Ukraine a threat, makes no sense at all.

Countries with similar ideologies tend to stick together.

As a result of this pact, up to 10,000 North Korean soldiers have been deployed to the Ukraine region where, no doubt, they will learn what it’s like to see your friend blown to bits by an artillery shell.

This number of soldiers may sound like a lot, but it’s not.

These 10,000 soldiers are nothing more than a non-fodder for Putin. He’s running out on his own soldiers that he has to recruit criminals from prisons and give them a rifle.

These 10,000 North Korean soldiers were defeated before they even arrived.

No doubt that most, if not all, of these soldiers were drafted and forced into the army.

Conscripted armies as history shows never do well. A conscripted army is not motivated, has low morale, and is usually not trained as well as they should be.

A conscripted army will always lose to a volunteer professional military force that is well-trained and well-equipped.

A lot of these North Korean soldiers are going to die or receive life-altering

wounds while fighting on foreign soil, for a cause they don’t believe in, and an enemy they have no quarrel with. These soldiers are being sent to fight an enemy they have no knowledge of, in a region they probably have never heard of.

So what does this have to do with soldiers seeing Paris in World War I?

These North Korean soldiers are going to see things they have never seen before. They are going to experience things that are not in North Korea, and go against everything the regime of man/bird goofball dictator Kim Jong Un, has ever told them.

They will experience things they have not been taught in school. They will learn that things are not quite the way they were told when sitting behind a desk and ordered to pay allegiance to the ‘dear leader.’

The problem is one their mission is over, either through the war ending or a landmine blowing off one of their feet, these North Korean soldiers won’t be receiving a hero’s parade through their hometown. They won’t receive veteran’s benefits. Most likely they will never be in touch with their families ever again.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



The last thing North Korea wants is soldiers returning home and telling everyone what the world is really like on the other side of the barbed wire that keeps them inside the borders of their country.

They don’t want soldiers telling townsfolk that in other countries people boss their leaders. They don’t want soldiers telling their friends that they are private individuals actually driving their own cars and that the movie theatres show films from around the world.

They don’t want soldiers explaining to their families that the World Wide Web has information from around the entire world, not just what the government wants them to see.

It has already been suggested that once these soldiers are done fighting, their future is bleak.

Most likely they will be shipped off to a gulag somewhere for re-education, or some similar fate.

It will be a sad ending for 10,000 soldiers who have no idea why they have been sent to fight in a foreign country against an enemy that they don’t even know.

The Power of One

Some people, though sympathetic to our environmental challenges, hold back, feeling that their individual efforts may not matter. But one person truly can make a difference.

As one of many volunteers helping to create the first pollinator mini forest in Mono, I had the good fortune to meet owner Shelly Candel, whose humble pursuit of her passions has touched countless lives and inspired many. Her story shows that dedication, no matter how modest, can have an extraordinary environmental impact.

Shelly studied agriculture at the University of Guelph. Her career began in research and evolved into entrepreneurship. However, her growing awareness of climate change and biodiversity loss drove her toward environmental action. Wanting to make

a difference by connecting people to organic food and sustainable agriculture, she established a successful Farmers Market at Edwards Gardens in Toronto.

It was at this market that she met a beekeeper, learning about pollinators and their vital role in our ecosystems. This discovery planted the seeds for a new journey. In 2015, after learning about Bee City USA, she was inspired to create Bee City Canada, and within a year, Toronto became Canada’s first Bee City. Over the next few years, the organization expanded to over 100 affiliates across the country.

Moved by children’s eagerness to protect pollinators, she created the Bee City Ambassadors Program, reaching 50,000 Canadian students. In 2023, she and Gabriel Slater co-

founded Bee Ambassadors Canada, a registered charity to continue educating the next generation of pollinator advocates.

Her journey didn’t stop there. During the pandemic, she became fascinated with Miyawaki Mini Forests, developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, advocating for dense tree spacing to accelerate forest growth. Inspired, she planted a 30 by 100-metre mini forest on her land in Mono, Ont. This fall, with help from Ian Payne, a landscape architect; Owen Goltz, an Organic Soil Consultant; myself, a retired Arborist; and enthusiastic volunteers, including Greys for Green, her dream became a reality.

Shelly proclaimed that “some things were meant to be.”

JOHN WILSON
GREYS FOR GREEN



The community involvement, especially from youth, made the experience deeply rewarding as they collectively created a lasting habitat for pollinators, helped to restore biodiversity, and a forest that will sequester tons of CO2.

For anyone feeling like “just one person,” she suggests learning from those already engaged in this work and believes that each step, contributes to a greater whole. Her plans for more Miyawaki forests and continued work with Bee Ambassadors Canada stand as a testament to how one person’s dedication can ripple outward, making a real and lasting difference for our environment.

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Fact-finding on paper trails

BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER



Over the weekend, I went on a rather unusual fact-finding mission.

As a long-time admirer of comedic character actor Gale Gordon, I've collected a not insubstantial archive of his work, from television appearances lovingly restored and committed to DVD to more ephemeral objects like theatre programs, letters back to fans, and even drinking glasses sold by the homegrown Stage West dinner theatres in Calgary and Mississauga, where he often appeared.

As a prolific actor, however, there are many blanks of "career" I still need to fill – one of which was a mysterious one-season wonder sitcom in which he starred from 1956-57. Beyond photographs and just a couple of very brief clips posted online, CBS' "The

Brothers", an unlikely show involving a sibling duo running a San Francisco photography studio, has alluded me and many other fans.

But recently I logged onto eBay and, to my astonishment, found a complete bound set of scripts up for bids. I couldn't let this golden opportunity to solve a mystery pass, so I watched the auction unfold for several days before jumping into the race. After ultimately placing the winning bid – again, to my astonishment – a series of circumstances led to a family road trip to upstate New York on Saturday morning to pick them up.

Although it's unlikely I'll SEE the episodes in question any time soon, I can now at least read along and get a feel for the show, including why it didn't go the distance, using my mind's eye to fill in the blanks.

As a fan, I was so happy that this paper trail existed to help shine a light on an admittedly niche piece of entertainment history, but, at the same time, it made me a bit wistful for the lack of paper trail we're collectively leaving today. I don't say this simply as the editor of a newspaper that exists both in the physical and online realms, but as someone who has learned and understands the importance of learning from those who have come before us.

As we have reported in previous editions, one Aurora couple is underscoring the impact of simple letter writing, an exercise which has become something of a lost art in recent years. Their mis-

sion has been to encourage communities across the GTHA to pick up a greeting card, or just a plain piece of paper, and jotting down simple but poignant thoughts and messages of support to our serving Canadian soldiers during the holiday season.

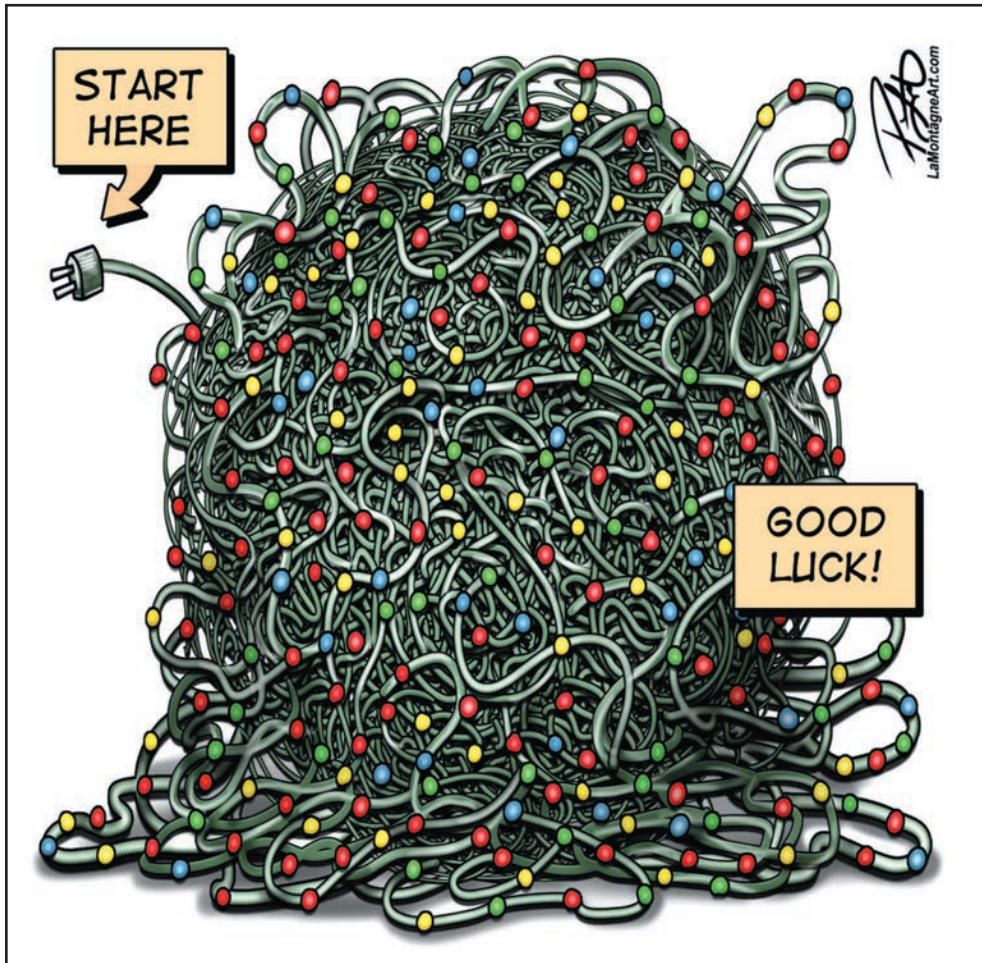
Simple, effective, time-tested – and, if the words particularly touch the heart of a man or woman serving overseas, likely to be saved by the recipient not only for themselves, but a treasured memento that might be one piece of a much broader story of service ready to be discovered by their descendants or people of tomorrow.

It's not an onerous task to write the letter, but one that doesn't provide the instant gratification we're so accustomed to these days that perhaps it seems like an intimidating process, but it doesn't need to be.

One regret I live with is not following my grandmother's advice when I embarked on an internship in East Africa not long after graduating from university. As a woman who travelled extensively in her retirement, she bought me a travel diary to record all the interesting and mundane along the way. I knew the value of this, as I had read some of the diaries she completed in Europe and North Africa, and was determined to follow her example.

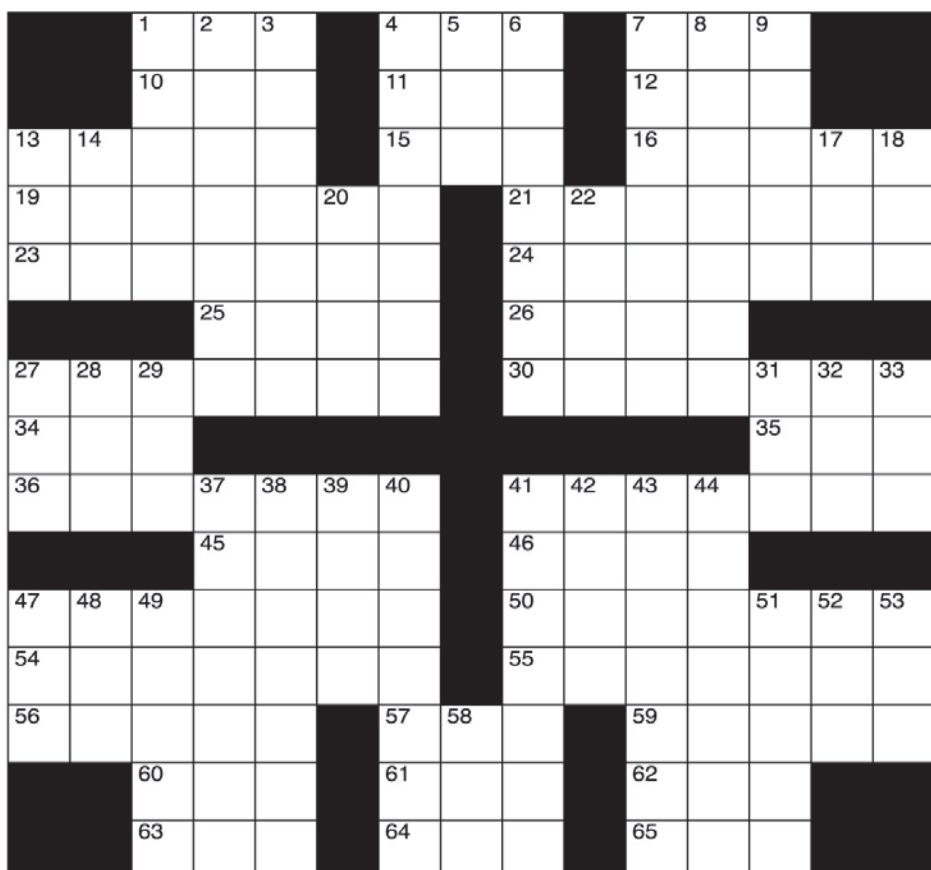
When I arrived in Rwanda in August of 2007, I was a diligent diary keeper – at least for the first week, writing down just about every observation I had. But, somewhere along the line, my diligence dropped off as I got into the rhythm of life there and set out to make the most of it, leaving precious little time for the pen. While photos and videos are wonderful reminders of this interlude in my life, a more comprehensive record would be so helpful in rekindling some of the day-to-day stuff that may have seemed boring at the time, but would only serve to enrich the tapestry of my memory.

Continued on Page 15



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Defunct airline
4. Beverage container
7. A team's best pitcher
10. Unit of liquid capacity
11. It comes before two
12. Male child
13. Type of wheat
15. One's mother
16. Upper side of an organism
19. United is one
21. Extraction process
23. A being with lesser divine status
24. People living together in a community
25. Luxury automaker
26. This (Spanish)
27. Semitic language
30. Period for a defined purpose
34. Wander aimlessly in search of pleasure
35. Up in the air (abbr.)

36. American marsupial
41. Decadent dessert
45. Aquatic plant
46. About aviation
47. Summer footwear
50. Rugged mountain ranges
54. With tin
55. Cut on the surface of a hard object
56. Wrapped in cloth
57. Defensive nuclear weapon
59. "American Idol" contestant Clay
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Court decision "___ v. Wade"
62. Born of
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Actress ___Margaret
65. Not even

1. Heat unit
2. ___ Faulkner, American writer
3. Guatemalan town
4. Of funny things
5. Actress ___ de Armas
6. Agents of one's downfall
7. Takes forcibly
8. Body lice
9. Large nest of a bird of prey
13. Unhappy
14. Popular holiday dessert
17. Habitual drunkard
18. Used of a number or amount not specified
20. Complications
22. Fail to win
27. Before the present
28. Musical genre
29. Flurry
31. 007's creator
32. Indiana Pacer

33. Midway between north and northeast
37. Feeling
38. Damage another's reputation
39. Mottled citrus fruit
40. Beauty product
41. They man first, second and third
42. Harness
43. Herb
44. Expressed concern
47. Mississippi scientific area (abbr.)
48. Consumed
49. Nostrils
51. Gathered fallen leaves
52. Express good wishes
53. Monetary unit of Brunei
58. Japanese Buddhist festival

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

Faris Team donates \$6,200 to SMHF through Realtor Challenge Participation

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation has announced that Faris Team Real Estate Brokerage has made a donation of \$6,200 to the ‘Because of you, we can’ campaign.

The Faris Team raised the funds through participation in the 2023 Realtor Challenge.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Faris Team has supported the Foundation by contributing \$100 for each home bought or sold in Alliston and the surrounding area.

The ‘Because of you, we can’ campaign focuses on raising funds for Stevenson Memorial Hospital’s new build and critical

equipment needs.

Contributions like those from the Faris Team allow the Foundation to support the enhancement of healthcare services, ultimately benefiting patients, families, and healthcare providers in the community.

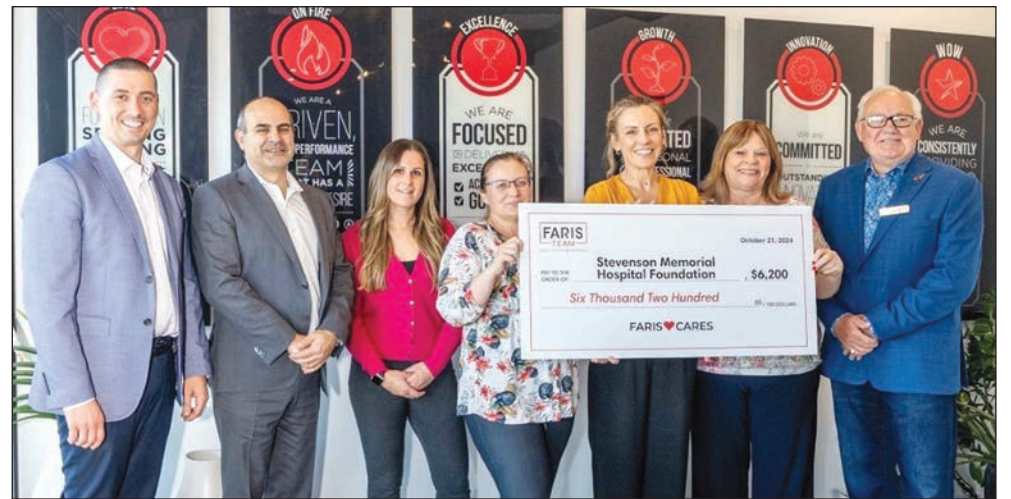
“The unwavering generosity of the Faris Team creates lasting impact for our hospital and community,” said Frank Cerisano, CEO of Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation. “Their support of the ‘Because of You, We Can’ campaign is helping to bring Stevenson’s vision for its new build to life, building a foundation for a stronger, more accessible healthcare for future generations.”

“At Faris Team, supporting our commu-

nity’s well-being is fundamental to who we are,” said Rachelle Layes, president of Faris Team Real Estate Brokerage. “Our continued participation in the Realtor Challenge allows us to make a real impact, and we hope other realtors will join us in this

mission to enhance local healthcare.”

The Realtor Challenge unites the real estate community in a meaningful cause, helping drive the success of the ‘Because of You, We Can’ campaign and bring transformative improvements to the hospital.



FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER – The Faris Team Real Estate Brokerage donated \$6,200 to the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation’s (SMHF) ‘Because of You, We Can,’ campaign. The funds were raised through the company’s participation in the 2023 Realtor Challenge. From left, Steve Vieira, director of sales and sales representative for Faris Team; Shafer Srouji, sales representative for Faris Team; Sara Wallbank, sales representative for Faris Team; Melody Craggs, director of development and campaign manager for SMHF; Rachelle Layes, president/sales representative for Faris Team; Tina Marty, sales representative for Faris Team; and Ted Vandevs, board chair, SMHF. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



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NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

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www.newtecumseth.ca

**NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING
CONCERNING A TOWN INITIATED PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW
AMENDMENT (HOUSEKEEPING)
FILE NO.: DEV 432**

TAKE NOTICE that the Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth has prepared a complete application for a Town initiated Zoning By-law Amendment pursuant to Section 34 of the *Planning Act*. The proposed amendment is housekeeping in nature and will include the following:

- Correction of spelling, grammar, and typos
- The addition of, or removal of, uses or provisions to provide greater flexibility and clarity where issues have occurred;
- Updates to performance standards
- Updates to mapping and schedules
- Updates to definitions to provide greater clarity; and,
- Updates to general provisions to provide greater clarity.

More details of the proposed housekeeping amendment can be found at: www.newtecumseth.ca/en/business-and-development/developmentandplanning.aspx

The proposed amendment applies to the entirety of the Town of New Tecumseth. Notice of application, once complete, is required to be provided by publishing a notice in the newspaper as well as notifying the applicant and those prescribed by the Planning Act.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth will hold a

**Public Meeting
on December 18, 2024 at 6:00pm
Council Chambers of the Town Hall
24 Tupper St W, Alliston, L9R 1H2**

THE PURPOSE of the public meeting is to consider the proposed Town initiated Zoning By-law Amendment that proposes a general housekeeping amendments

ANY PERSON may participate in the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. Please note that all comments received will form part of the public record.

If you wish to make a written submission regarding the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Planning Department, Town of New Tecumseth, 24 Tupper St W, Alliston, L9R 1H2 or via email at: planning@newtecumseth.ca

Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal a Zoning By-law to the Ontario Land Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf. Furthermore, no person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the By-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the Council or, in the opinion of the Ontario Land Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Town Planning Department at 24 Tupper St W, Alliston, ON L9R 1H2 or by email at: planning@newtecumseth.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION related to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, including information about preserving your appeal rights is available for inspection Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. through the Planning & Development Department by telephone number (705) 435-3900 or by e-mail at: planning@newtecumseth.ca

DATED at the Town of New Tecumseth this 21st day of November 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.NEWTECUMSETH.CA

Prohibited winter season street parking now in effect for specified hours

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

With winter weather now approaching, the Town of New Tecumseth is reminding residents that restrictions for street parking are now in effect.

As of Nov. 15, parking on all streets is prohibited between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m., as per the Town’s parking and traffic bylaw. This will be in effect until April 15.

Streets need to be clear of vehicles so Town crews can conduct snow removal services during the fall and winter months.

Vehicles parked on the streets during restricted hours will be ticketed and possibly towed.

If your vehicle is towed, you are responsible for the towing costs.

The Town is not liable for any damage done by street maintenance equipment to vehicles parked on Town streets.

If you are parked on Town streets during the prohibited time, you will receive a \$35 fine that must be voluntarily paid within 10 days.

After 10 days, you will be responsible for a set fine of \$52.50.

It is necessary to have proper access to streets for snow plows and snow removal equipment to allow proper clearing of Town streets after a snowfall.

Residents should comply with the restricted parking by-law to ensure streets can be cleared.



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Arts & Local Events



SANTA CLAUS COMES TO TOWN: The streets of Alliston were filled with Christmas cheer on Saturday, Nov. 16, when the Santa Claus Parade rolled through town. The event is organized by the Alliston Rotary Club and features floats from a variety of not-for-profits, businesses, community groups and notable people in the community. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTOS**



Community Church Directory

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Alliston Hornets stay in first place after defeating Penetang Kings

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets remain in first place in the North Caruthers division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League after a win over the Penetang Kings on Penetang home ice on Fri. Nov. 15.

The team is still undefeated this season after 16 games.

Jaeden French from the Hornets started the scoring in Friday's game when he hit the back of the Penetang net at 12:40 into the first period.



It was a 2-1 game when Alliston forward Nick Lamont got the only goal of the second period midway into the frame.

The Kings were on the scoreboard with a goal mid-period in the third.

Cole Turcotte and Jackson Young finished the scoring for the night with two Alliston goals just 53 seconds apart in the final two minutes of the game for a 4-1 Alliston win.

The Hornets are the only team in the PJHL with an undefeated record so far this season and are in first place with a 16-0 record.

The Stayner Siskins are two points behind with 30 points and a 15-3 record.

They are followed by the Orillia Terriers with 29 points, and the Penetang Kings, who have 18 points so far this season.

Across the PJHL, first-place teams include the Norwich Merchants for the South Doherty

Division, Clarington Eagles for the East Orr Division, Exeter Hawks for the West Yeck Division, Niagara Riverhawks for the South Bloomfield Division, Essex 73's for the West Stobbs Division, Frankford Huskies for the East Tod Division, and Hanover Barons for the North Pollock Division.

The Hornets have two road games this weekend against the Huntsville Otters and the Muskoka Bears.

They will return to home ice on Nov. 29 to host the Orillia Terriers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Medieval times combat enthusiasts compete in Alliston Memorial Arena

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

They wear the clothes of the Medieval era, engage in combat with swords and try to outmanoeuvre their opponent to deliver what would be considered a fatal or wounding blow to defeat their enemy.

The Frost on the Blade event brought

Medieval sword fighters to Alliston Memorial Arena on Nov. 16 and 17 to engage in a sport that pits sword-wielding opponents in a one-on-one battle.

This modern version of sword fighting allows competitors to enjoy the sport while doing it safely – at least as safe as they can be. Injuries can still happen when you strike a heavily protected opponent with a

sword blade.

Competitors wear protective clothing and visors so a blade strike will not hit them directly. The swords do not have a sharp edge and the sword's points are covered.

Points are awarded when a fighter makes contact with an opponent. The most points are awarded for head or body contact.

The activity is similar to fencing, however the swords are a lot heavier and do not bend like an épée. The long swords are the same type of weapon that would have been used in battle at one time.

Several clubs around the province enjoy the activity and hold regular meets.

Continued on Page 9



Final Release

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Continued from Page 8

Bringing back swordmanship competition from a long-gone era

“This is a historical European martial arts tournament,” explained event organizer Kaitlyn Rose. “We have people from Ontario, Quebec, and the northern U.S. Today is the longsword competition for men and women. Tomorrow we will have sabres – which are a single handed curved blade. We also have something called the Wheel of Death. We spin the wheel and it lands on a weapon, or one of several very unlikely weapons. This period is based on the 10th century to the 15th century and is what we focus on.”

The two-handed longsword weighs around three pounds and is balanced so you can use your two hands to rotate it easily.

Matches are refereed and points are awarded for a strike. As the battles go on, winners can advance to the next round until a final winner is declared.

“We set safety standards,” Rose explained. “There’s a type of helmet that is required, back and head protection, we have body

protection and gloves. There’s no exposed skin at all. The helmets look similar to modern fencing helmets but these are reinforced. This sport has been around for 30 or 40 years, but it has been picked up a lot in the last five years.”

There’s an inherent risk, however, competitors rely on their safety equipment and skills to avoid injury.

Participants of these types of matches enjoy competing in a sport that brings back competition from a long-gone era.

ON GUARD – Two opponents battle it out during the Froß on the Blade medieval competition held at Allis on Memorial Arena in Allis on on Sat. Nov. 16, and Sun. Nov. 17. Based on medieval sword skills competitors try to score points with hits on their opponent. The matches are judged and points are awarded for a body strike.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



Continued from Page 2

Your Support Services Network celebrates quarter-century of crisis support close to home

The next milestone took place in 2001 when YSSN partnered with Kinark Child and Family Services to provide after-hours support for young people in York Region, and four years later enhanced services by collaborating with York Regional Police on mobile crisis support teams. By 2015, this service expanded to include York Region Paramedics and, by 2017, partnerships with South Simcoe Police and the Nottawasaga OPP to “ensure people in crisis had immediate access to specialize local crisis supports” in all the communities YSSN serves.

Further enhancements, this time a support

initiative for individuals with developmental disabilities, was founded in collaboration with first responders; and in 2002, they launched the Safe Bed program with funding from Ontario Health.

This service provides short-term stay options for people in crisis, along with peer support and resources from the Krasman Centre and Addiction Services Central Ontario as needed.

Around the same time, they expanded their work with York Regional police to re-route calls for mental health support from the 911 system back to “appropriate community services.”

Most recently, and in a particular point of pride, YSSN was one of 39 organizations to help launch 9-8-8, the nation-wide suicide crisis helpline.

“These milestones represent just a few of the many ways YSSN’s crisis response services have grown and adapted over the years,” said Thorn. “Each step has been made possible through the incredible partnerships we have built with local police, paramedics, and community organizations. Together, we have created a network of support for those in crisis, ensuring that health is always just a phone call

or a text away.

“As we look to the future our vision remains clear: we strive for a world where the need for crisis support is diminished. That’s the goal that we have – a safety net and supports available in the community where we don’t have people who need to call a crisis line. However, until that day comes, we will continue to be there for the community. We remain committed to being available, responsive and ready to provide the critical support individuals need when they face the most challenging moments of their lives.”



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Health Unit encourages informed alcohol choices during holidays

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As the holiday season approaches, people will be attending gatherings with friends, social events, and celebrations.

With so many parties going on, many people may find themselves drinking more alcohol than usual.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is encouraging people to be aware of their alcohol consumption during this time.

If you choose to drink, Canada’s Guidance on Alcohol and Health provides an easy way to figure out how you can lower the risks to your health. Recent research has led to updated guidance on alcohol and health, showing that drinking less is better for your overall well-being.

There is a clear risk associated with alcohol use if the number of drinks per week increases. So does the risk of long-term health issues, including seven types of cancer, cardiovascular disease, liver disease, and alcohol dependency.

Additionally, alcohol use can lead to immediate harm like violence, injuries, and motor vehicle collisions. The more you drink, the higher your risk is of experiencing these harms.

“A mindful approach to drinking over the

holidays, is a gift to yourself and your loved ones this season,” said Mia Brown, manager of the health unit’s, Substance Use and Injury Prevention program. “When you reduce your alcohol consumption, not only do you lower your risk for serious health problems, but you will begin to experience other positive changes that can improve your social and mental well-being such as better sleep, increased energy during the day and improved decision-making that can lead to better relationships with your loved ones.”

To lower your alcohol consumption, consider planning activities and gatherings that do not include alcohol. You can opt for non or low-alcoholic beverages, set a drink limit and stick to it.

Also, measure alcohol when mixing drinks and pace your alcohol intake.

Other approaches include alternating alcoholic drinks with water or non-alcoholic beverages and eating.

If you are hosting a holiday gathering that includes alcohol, be sure to offer a selection of non-alcoholic beverages. It also helps to have plenty of nutritious food options, so no one drinks on an empty stomach. Try including activities and entertainment that shift the focus away from alcohol, and have a plan to get guests home safely.

Staying healthy as you age helps prevent falls

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

While falls can happen to anyone, they can be life-altering for an older adult and can lead to loss of independence.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is encouraging everyone to take proactive steps to prevent falls. Falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths in Simcoe Muskoka resulting in 22,500 emergency department visits, nearly 2,400 hospitalizations, and 200 deaths in 2022.

As a person ages, their bodies change and one of the main challenges they face is the risk of falling.

While fall prevention includes things like removing slip or slide hazards like ice on a walkway, wet floors, or scattered rugs around the home, many other factors play a role in healthy aging including the ability to maintain or improve health.

Taking steps to support your health and well-being as you age can be simple and easily included in your day.

This can include participating in regular physical activity or simple exercises such as walking with friends or taking a chair yoga class can help you maintain strength, balance, flexibility and overall health. These activities are key to reducing your risk of a fall.

Enjoying a variety of foods every day helps to improve your mood and maintains your health so that you can do the activities you enjoy. Drinking more water as you age will help you avoid dehydration, dizziness and bladder infections.

Having meaningful and enjoyable social interactions is just as important as physical activity for your well-being. Being physically active, eating nutritious meals and staying hydrated can help you to have the energy to spend time with friends and family.





NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

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Public assistance sought in Alliston LCBO theft investigation

Officers from the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a local theft and are requesting the public's assistance to identify two individuals.

On Nov. 12, Nottawasaga OPP responded to a theft incident at the LCBO on 22 Dunham Drive, Alliston. The preliminary investigation reveals that shortly before 11 a.m. two individuals were seen on video taking three

bottles of alcohol with no attempt to pay.

Anybody with information is asked to call 1-888-310-1122 (reference number E241509735).

Information can also be provided anonymously

by contacting Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or www.crimestoppersdm.com. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

Nottawasaga OPP looking to identify a trespasser

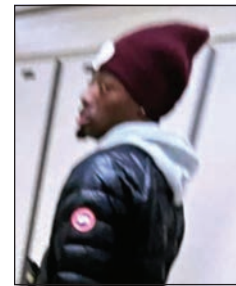
Officers from the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a trespass at Banting Memorial Highschool and are requesting the public's assistance to identify a person of interest.

On Oct. 31, Nottawasaga OPP were dis-

patched to a trespassing incident at Banting Memorial Highschool. The preliminary investigation reveals that shortly before 2:30 p.m. this individual was seen inside the high school and confronted by staff providing no identification. At this time this individual has been

seen on two different occasions and officers are looking to speak with him.

Officers want to remind everyone that anyone found inside of a school without permission is illegally trespassing and will be arrested.



Traffic stop with driver asleep at the wheel leads to impaired driving charges

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga OPP have charged two men with several drug related offences in New Tecumseth after a traffic stop on Nov. 14.

At approximately 10 p.m., officers from the Nottawasaga OPP conducted a traffic stop on a passenger vehicle with an obstructed rear plate on Young Street in Alliston.

The investigation revealed that two individuals from Alliston were in possession of a schedule 1 substance.

As a result of this investigation, both Al-

liston residents are facing charges under the Criminal Code and Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

Darryl Berdan, 40, was charged with: possession of a Schedule 1 substance for the purpose of trafficking – cocaine, fail to comply with probation order (three counts), possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 in Canada, and possession of a Schedule 1 substance for the purpose of trafficking – methamphetamine.

Jason Hoffarth, 41, was charged with Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking – cocaine, Possession of a Schedule 1 Substance for the Purpose of

Trafficking – methamphetamine.

Both accused parties were held for a bail hearing and appeared before the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on Nov. 14, 2024, and released on a release order.

None of the listed charged have been proven in court.

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police has charged an Adjala-Tosorontio man for driving while impaired in the Town of New Tecumseth.

On Nov. 12, just before 8:30 a.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a report of a driver asleep behind the wheel of his motor vehicle.

The incident occurred on Young Street in Alliston.

No injuries were reported.

As a result of the investigation, Brant MacDonald, 43, of Adjala-Tosorontio, was charged with Adult Operation while Impaired – Alcohol and Drugs.

In addition to the charges, the driver was issued a 90-day license suspension and the vehicle was impounded for seven days.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on December 26, 2024, to answer to the charges.

The impaired driving charge has not been proven in court.

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The King City Firefighters Association would like to honour the memory of *Ella Unterlander* (June 24, 1933 ~ November 11, 2024).

Ella Unterlander was a longtime resident of King City and an integral supporter of the King City Fire Department (as it was known in the past). The entire Unterlander family was involved in the early days of the fire department. Frank Sr. was Deputy Fire Chief, son Michael a senior firefighter and Frank Jr. a Captain.

When the department started up there was no station in King City. While the station was being built a fire truck resided at the Unterlander service station on Keele Street. Ella was one of the many amazing wives of firefighters who dropped everything they were doing when the firefighters went out to a fire. Refreshments were quickly put together and taken out to the fire scene.

Another thing that the women did was to arrange for the fundraisers to raise money for department equipment. Dances, picnics, boot drives were important means of raising money to run the fire department. There was very little money forthcoming from the local council in those times.

It was the women like Ella who pitched in to support their husbands and the early days of King Fire. Women like Ella were unsung heroes of the early times of King Fire.

Ella was just short of 60 years in the Catholic Women's League for Sacred Heart Parish. Ella dedicated herself to the community in many ways. Our deepest sympathies to the Unterlander family for their loss.

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Up Your Life guide re-published following pandemic pause

BY BROCK WEIR

In the midst of an affordability crisis, a popular guide on how to navigate the local community on a budget has been revised and re-issued for a very different world.

Aurora-based Your Support Services Network (YSSN), which also operates out of Alliston, updated and re-issued the Up Your Life Guide, an initiative of the publication formally known as York Region on a Limited Budget. It provides a roadmap for local residents in need.

First published under its previous name in 1997, it was originally conceived by volunteers concerned about residents facing challenges putting food on their table and accessing necessities of life.

“They came together, they pooled their collective experience living on limited incomes and navigating community ser-

vices, with the goal of sharing that knowledge with others,” says Kim Thorn, Executive Director of YSSN. “The results of their efforts...close to 30 years later remains one of the most requested resources we have as an organization.

“Since the initial production, YSSN has facilitated ongoing efforts to update and reproduce revised editions of the guide, often with the help and input of many of its users. Growing steadily in popularity over the years, this booklet has, at times, attracted the interest and general support of community partners and founders.

“Following a pause as we navigated the pandemic years, we are pleased to now share with the community the newest edition of this resource.”

Leading up to this 2024 update, Thorn thanked members of YSSN’s Peer & Family Advisory Committee, for keeping their

fingers on the pulse of the communities they serve – and its needs.

YSSN’s Gary Whetung said he joined the organization during the pandemic and, as soon as he walked through the door, he was immediately struck by the dedication of the committee.

“Some of the very first people that I met were the peers who were part of the advisory team that were revising the booklet and creating the Up Hub website that would feature all the great resources. Today, those resources are still available online and in booklet form. Many of those same peers are part of YSSN’s Peer and Family Advisory Committee. This Committee, now in its third year, has been a valuable source of input and feedback on our agency’s many initiatives and programs including our Strategic Plan, our Accessibility Plan and Goals, our Diversity, Equity and Inclu-

sion Strategies, and our Communications Efforts as an organization.

“What I really love about our Peer and Family Advisory Committee, apart from the people who have dedicated their time to it, is its very existence reinforces something fundamental about our agency. We are a team of people who see ourselves as companions walking alongside people who support their life journeys through good times, tough times, taking their lead in how we can support them and work towards the goals that they have set. Our sincere thanks to our peer and family advisory committee and more importantly for all the feedback and the ability to continually improve upon our service to the community. We couldn’t do that without their support and efforts.”

For more information about UpHub and Up Your Life, visit yssn.ca/uphub.

Continued from Page 5

Brock’s Banter: Fact-finding on paper trails

In my case, this one example of a paper trail would have recorded many happy memories, but oftentimes can serve as poignant reminders of the past – good and bad.

Samuel Pepys diary, a remarkable survivor from the 17th century, gives us an unparalleled view into life – glorious and mediocre – at the time of the Restoration, a volume that historians have drawn upon for centuries in painting a vivid picture of where we’ve collectively been.

The journal left behind by Anne Frank only discovered after her horrific death in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and posthumously published by her father as The Diary of a Young Girl, remains a benchmark of diary keeping

and has served to inspire and warn generations since. Frank wasn’t alone, of course, in keeping a diary during this very dark period in history and I don’t know if luck had the opportunity to meet Holocaust survivors who kept diaries of their own and grateful they had the wherewithal not only to write their thoughts in the first place but share it with the world.

Could these types of writings be due for an unwelcome comeback?

I was struck by these thoughts on Monday morning when an American friend who is quite concerned about the results of the recent U.S. election threw a suggestion out to the world via social media. The suggestion was simple in

and of itself, but the context, however, made me feel rather uneasy.

“I am going to make a suggestion,” wrote B.G. “We’re about to go through an extraordinarily significant time in the history of the world. If you’ve ever thought about journaling, this may be the time to start. You see, your journal, your thoughts, your record of the events that are about to unfold may be an important historical record someday. It may also help you to experience things as darkness unfolds as I’ve found. If, I was able to stick to a rule of writing something each day. I started every morning by putting the date at the top of the page, and then, during the day, I found time to put something, some

thought, some perspective, some experience [on] paper.

“Perhaps you prefer to write only once a week or a couple of times a month. Whatever works for you. On the other hand, if you find yourself unable to put your thoughts down, that’s quite understandable, too. But I ask you to consider it. As I said, experience could end up being very important to history.”

Indeed, there’s a significant chance it could be and if some of the more dire predictions come to pass could be as testimonials for what needs to be done to prevent it from ever happening again.

On this side of the border, we can only hope for the best – and make our own observations from afar.

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