



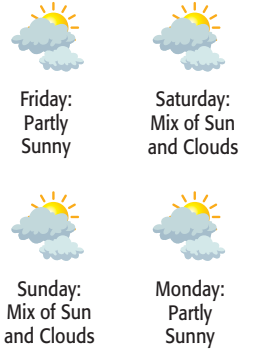
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TURN TO PAGE 3 TO READ THE 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Community Care Project

With many people struggling to just provide necessities for their families, a little help can go a long way. Alliston resident Jacqueline Muramatsu started putting Community Care bins in front of her Albert Street home. People can drop off items of clothing and housewares into the bins or pick up what they need. See page 2 for full story. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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Serving Your Community Since 1986

Community Care provides opportunity to ‘take what you need’

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

For someone needing a warm coat on a cold day, the Community Care bins on Albert St. in Alliston provide an opportunity for someone to simply take what they need, free of charge.

The curbside bins offer clothing and other household items, sorted by size and age group, for someone who may be currently having some financial difficulty and having a hard time finding suitable clothing for themselves or their children.

The initiative was started by Alliston resident Jacqueline Muramatsu, in front of her home, and once word got around, has

become a popular place for people to visit and find what they need.

While everything is free, people are encouraged to “take only what you need – there may be other people who need something more than you do.”

Jacqueline had the idea of providing a place to drop off or pick up clothing after seeing community library boxes in various places where you can borrow or drop off books.

“I thought it was a really great idea,” Jacqueline said. “I thought these days many people need a little more assistance with things other than books, so why not take it a step further and trade every day items, clothing, houseware, things that people

actually need when they are starting out or maybe their lives have been thrown, and they need something new and they need to start over. This is a place they can come to and get free things. It’s a give and take type of thing. I have some people who come here and give and never take anything, and there are other people who really need the help and take things.”

Jacqueline started the project in July 2023.

“It’s been a good balance of give and take,” Jacqueline said. “There are some days when I don’t get any donations but there’s usually more than enough items left in the bins. When people make donations, I bring them in, wash the clothes, sort them

out, and put them in bags and write the size and gender on the bag so people know what it is. I don’t mind taking the money for that out of my pocket because in the past, I’ve been in similar situations where I could have really benefited from a resource like this.”

Jacqueline began by putting out some flyers at local businesses to get the word out and people quickly took notice.

“The whole idea is to get the community to work together and help each other,” Jacqueline explained.

The Community Care bins are located on Albert Street, directly across from the Town of New Tecumseth Administration Centre.

Southlake Health ends milestone year on high note for capital campaigns

BY BROCK WEIR

Southlake launched its \$20 million HERE is Where Cancer Meets its Match campaign in 2022 with a \$1 million donation from The Powell Group, supporting radiation oncology services.

Two years on, the Powells’ contribution was celebrated last week with the unveiling of a new Radiation Treatment Suite dedicated in their honour.

“It was so important to us that we give back to the community that’s given so much to us,” said Matthew Powell in a statement. “This gift will help to ensure our employees, customers, families, and friends have access to exceptional cancer care, close to home at such a critical time. We’re so proud to have this space named in celebration of our organization and our family.”

Added Derek McNally, Executive Vice President of Clinical Operations for Southlake Health: “With the generous support of donors like the Powells, Southlake Health is proudly building on a 100-year legacy of leading-edge care, close to home. The Elekta Harmony LINAC has been game-changing for our communities. We’re bringing the latest advancements directly to patients – because they deserve nothing less.”

Last week’s dedication ceremony was a fitting way for Southlake to end its milestone 100th anniversary year.

It’s been a busy time for the local hospi-



tal and this contribution, as well as smaller but no less impactful donations, have helped Southlake reach or approach many long-held goals.

“The Powell Gift was really significant because it was the first Corporate Leadership gift for this campaign when we kicked it off, so, it gave the campaign momentum; it demonstrated to the community the importance, and we’re judged by the company we keep,” says Lesley Ring of the Southlake Health Foundation. “When various families and companies stand with Southlake and against cancer, others take notice. We were very grateful. This campaign has also had a very short timeframe. With our communities

growing at the rate they are growing, and also aging in the rate they are aging and knowing that age is your number one risk factor for getting cancer, we had to really move to end wait times for our cancer patients. When someone is facing cancer, time is of the essence. The quicker that we could raise these funds then we would be able to make progress.

“We quickly brought the PET CT to the Regional Cancer Program, we followed up with the linear accelerators, we’re working still through systemic therapy and the MRI. With the support of Powell in those early stages, we have now actually completed the radiation therapy portion of the campaign with the replacement of the three original linear accelerators that when we opened the Cancer Centre just over a decade ago, and now also the addition of a fifth, which just saw its first patient on December 2.”

As the end of this year approaches, along with the dawn of 2025, Ring says a key priority will be “closing out” the Cancer Campaign, which is just \$2 million away from reaching its target.

“We can’t do what we do without the support of our generous community because government does not fund new or replacement equipment, or renovations or expansion to our current spaces. Our donors have absolutely stepped up, they prioritize local care close to home, and we have been very, very fortunate this year to close out our Homeward campaign, our campaign in support of the

Maternal Child Program, with the volunteer leadership of Chris and Wendy Neal.

“We’re bringing a new MRI to Southlake and that is imminent and construction is underway. We certainly want to reach out and ideally exceed our \$20 million goal, and that will enable us to complete our cancer projects,” says Ring. “With our gala this past October, we launched The Future Is Now (campaign) and that turns our focus to one of the most significant challenges Southlake faces, and that is our Emergency Department. Our Emergency Department has had no significant expansions or upgrades in the last two decades and we’re seeing over 120,000 patients in spaces that were built for less than half of that patient volume. If you’ve driven by, you may have seen some signs of construction as we work to expand and renew the space and also provide some much-needed new technologies and equipment as well. That will be a significant focus for us through next year.”

Although Christmas is less than a week away, there are still opportunities to support the Southlake Health Foundation before the close of 2024. Now through Christmas Eve, members of the Foundation and volunteers will be at Upper Canada Mall wrapping gifts in exchange for a donation, which will benefit needs across Southlake’s services.

Tickets to Southlake’s ongoing 50/50 lottery are also “great stocking stuffers,” Ring adds.

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REWINDING BACK ON THE TOP NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

ATTENTION READERS!

For the final edition of the New Tecumseth Times in 2024, we're taking you through all of the highs and lows of the last year. Our 2024 Year in Review will share some of the most significant stories impacting our readers from Jan. 4 to Dec. 26. Now, without any further ado, here's a look at the year that was.

JANUARY

- New Tecumseth Town Council has agreed to spend an additional \$735,000 to furnish the new Administration Centre that is nearly completed in Alliston.
- Stevenson Memorial Hospital closes medical and surgical in-patient unit to visitors due to an increase of COVID-19 at the hospital.
- The New Tecumseth Public Library has gone fine-free and is now making all of its programs free as well.
- The Alliston Hornets wrapped up 2023 as the first-place team in the north Carruthers Division of the Provincial Junior Hockey League after the final game of the year against the Caledon Golden Hawks.
- Work to repair a structural failure at the Beeton Arena started with the project expected to take around three months to complete.
- Rapid antigen test kits made available locally as COVID-19 cases surge.
- The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is warning the public that flu cases in the region are rising, and it's advising residents to take necessary precautions.
- The CRIC Idea Lab offers certification courses at Tottenham library, with cutting-edge technology to help facilitate several different types of projects.
- Town owned property a 90 Prospect Street, adjacent to Beeton Community Park



- has been deemed surplus land to sell for potential future residential re-development.
- Stevenson Memorial Hospital is undergoing a large project that will see patient room windows replaced. The funds were provided through a Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund (HIRF) grant from the Ministry of Health.

FEBRUARY

- The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is advising that precipitation,

above-freezing temperatures, and associated snowmelt are likely to result in above seasonal water levels over several days.

- Brian Saunderson, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Simcoe-Grey, has announced that the Ontario government is launching a call for applications and is investing \$5.5 million, including an additional \$496,000 this year, in the Women's Economic Security Program. The program aims to increase training opportunities for low-income women, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and experience to find a job or start a business and increase their financial security.
- The County of Simcoe is once again providing \$500,000 in funding to support eligible applicants in making homes more accessible, adaptable, and inclusive for individuals over 60 years of age in Simcoe County.
- The province is warning that students who have not received the required vaccinations could be suspended from school if they do not update their vaccination status over the next few months.

Continued on Page 6



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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Brain Boost: A guide to mental health and cognitive wellness for seniors

As a retired journalist, I've always been fascinated by the stories of resilience among seniors in Southern Ontario. Now, as I reflect on my own journey, I realize the importance of prioritizing mental health and cognitive wellness as we age. In my research, I've identified several key areas that contribute to keeping our minds sharp and addressing issues such as depression and cognitive decline. In this article, I'll discuss what experts say are the top six:

1. Recognizing the signs of depression

One of the most vital lessons I've learned is the importance of recognizing the signs of depression. It can be easy for feelings of sadness or withdrawal to creep in, especially during challenging times. Symptoms like prolonged sadness, lack of interest in activities, or changes in sleep patterns are red flags to watch for. Sometimes, I find myself feeling overwhelmed by daily tasks or losing interest in hobbies I once loved. Recognizing these signs early is crucial because it allows us to seek help before the situation worsens. Talking to a friend or consulting a professional can provide the support needed to navigate these emotions effectively.

2. Accessing resources and support

Knowing where to find resources and

support is crucial for maintaining your mental well-being. Ontario's Health 811 helpline is available 24/7 for health advice and information. For immediate support, contact Connex Ontario (1-866-531-2600), which helps people who need support and information about the mental health, gambling, and addiction services that are available in Dufferin County. You can also find services and programs through local health units and community health centres.

3. Maintaining social connections

Engaging with family and friends can significantly reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness, which are common struggles among seniors. I often make it a point to host regular gatherings with loved ones, whether it's a simple coffee chat or a larger family dinner. These moments not only bring joy but also strengthen our bonds. Maintaining social connections is vital for emotional well-being; it helps us feel more grounded and connected to the world. Additionally, volunteering for local organizations has introduced me to new friends and given me a sense of purpose, further enriching my social life.

4. Engaging in physical activity

Staying physically active has been a game-changer for my mental health. Whether it's a daily walk or a YouTube

aerobics class, regular exercise boosts my mood and keeps my mind alert. I've noticed that even small bursts of activity can elevate my spirits and provide a sense of accomplishment. Engaging in physical activities not only improves your physical health but gives you a wonderful opportunity to socialize. Activities like gardening or dancing can provide both physical movement and social interaction, making exercise enjoyable and beneficial.

5. Sustaining a healthy diet

Nutrition plays a significant role in your mental health. I've embraced a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins. Foods such as salmon, blueberries, and nuts are packed with nutrients that support brain health. Cooking has become a fun and engaging activity for me, allowing me to experiment with new recipes while nourishing my body. I've found that what we eat can directly impact our mood and cognitive function, so nourishing our bodies is just as important as nourishing our minds. Additionally, staying hydrated is crucial, as dehydration can affect our mental clarity and overall well-being.

6. Fostering sleep hygiene

As a sufferer from severe apnea, I've come to recognize the crucial link between sleep and mental health. Quality sleep reju-

venates the mind and supports cognitive function. To improve your sleep hygiene, establish a calming bedtime routine, limit screen time before bed, and create a comfortable sleeping environment. I've noticed that prioritizing sleep has dramatically improved my mood and cognitive clarity. Quality sleep is essential for maintaining emotional balance and enhancing our overall well-being. I find that practices such as reading or listening to calming music help me unwind before sleep, promoting a more restful night.

Last words

As we navigate the journey of aging, prioritizing mental health and cognitive wellness becomes increasingly important. By recognizing signs of depression, accessing resources, and fostering social connections, we can keep our minds sharp and resilient. Let's support one another in this journey, ensuring that we all thrive as we embrace the beautiful years ahead. Remember, it's never too late to start prioritizing our mental health—let's take that step together.

Brandon Jones is a retired journalist and magazine publisher. He lives in Alliston.



BRANDON JONES
GUEST COLUMN

Superstitious peasants

More than half the world's people (4.3 billion) own smart phones, and practically everybody has access to one. All the information in the world is available to everybody. Yet willful ignorance and superstition still flourish.

From Tiktok to YouTube, the web is currently seething with videos of smugly self-righteous people pouring milk down drains (or, in some cases, toilets). 'Can't fool me,' they say. 'We know you're trying to kill us, or control our minds, or something like that.'

The focus of all the fury is Bovaer, a new feed ingredient for cows and other ruminants (sheep and goats) that greatly reduces their methane emissions. Methane is a major contributor to global warming, and of all the proposed quick fixes for excess warming this would have the biggest impact.

The world urgently needs some fast-acting fixes, because in June of 2023 the average global temperature jumped by almost one-third of a degree. That is the total amount of warming that conventional climate models were predicting would hap-

pen by the mid-2030s.

The only greenhouse gas we can cut rapidly is methane, which on a day-to-day basis accounts for about a third of the current warming. (Carbon dioxide does more harm in the long run because it stays around for centuries, but a methane molecule does a huge quick hit – 26 times more warming in a single year than a CO2 molecule – and is gone in ten years.)

The methane burped out by the world's one-and-a-half billion cows is a mere by-product of the chemistry by which cows process hard-to-digest grass in their specialized stomachs, but it accounts for about 30% of all the world's methane emissions. Its great virtue is that we can make it go away fast.

Bovaer does that job. It's certified safe for use in 58 countries and just a quarter-teaspoon per day per cow mixed with the cattle feed will cut a herd's methane emissions by 30% for dairy cows, and by 45% for beef cattle. Done worldwide, this would have about the same impact on warming as shutting down the global aviation industry –

twice.

We are not going to shut down either industry and there is no magic pill for air-craft. But Bovaer, developed in Belgium, could be rolled out everywhere in just a few years. What reason could there be to delay it?

One reason is cost: treating one cow for one year costs around US\$50, so many farmers will not use it without government subsidy and/or legal compulsion. That's easily done, but the other obstacle is bigger: the 'superstitious peasant' factor.

These metaphorical peasants are not actual farmers, who are usually well informed about agricultural matters and will do the right thing if they can afford to. The problem is the urban peasants who live online and eagerly swallow any old rubbish that is put before them, especially if it has a conspiratorial, paranoid quality.

The claim that the Bovaer additive in cows' feed can end up in the milk is not just false; it is physically impossible. The digestive system in mammals is entirely separate from the lactation system (mammary

glands) that produces milk. Nevertheless, the boycotts of super-market milk alleged to contain Bovaer are proliferating.

Almost all medical and dietary innovations now get this treatment, from the false claim in 1998 that the MMR vaccine causes autism (one-quarter of American adults still believe it today), to the 22% who believe Covid vaccines caused thousands of deaths in 2021, to the people today who think Bill Gates is trying to kill them with poisoned milk.

Why Bill Gates and not Elon Musk? Because Gates is backing an Australian start-up called Rumin8 that is working on another dietary supplement that suppresses methane production in cows (and he's secretly trying to weed out the world's population leaving only the rich).

The willfully ignorant will always be with us, and they're noisier than most other people. But they're usually a minority; keep going anyway. It's just another cost of doing business.



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Countering Complaint Culture: Revisited

BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER



This week, as we take time off to enjoy the holidays with our families and loved ones, I wanted to take the time to revisit a column that generated a great deal of feedback in my inbox – perhaps, unsurprisingly, they were the antithesis of the concerns expressed below.

That being said, however, complaint culture still appears to reign supreme and as we look ahead to the New Year on Wednesday, and potentially returning a gift or two that may have missed the mark, there is still a bit of time to forge some resolutions!

(As originally run January 18, 2024)

The following statement might come as something of a surprise for regular readers of this column, but, believe it or not, I am not a natural-born complainer.

Don't get me wrong – I'm not a doormat, nor am I complacent. If I see a wrong that needs to be righted, I have no qualms speaking my mind or doing my utmost to spur action towards a solution, but not all perceived wrongs are created equal.

Yet, in this highly polarized world we now find ourselves living in, our collective sense of proportionality appears to be crumbling in favour of unfettered grumbling.

Case in point, for instance, Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown put forward a motion to Region of Peel Council to look at imposing fines on area residents who misuse 9-1-1.

Bolstering Mayor Brown's motion was data put forward by police departments over the last little while citing people calling the emergency line to report everything from being temporarily unable to access some of their favourite cable channels to kvetching about a snafu with a Tim Horton's order.

If fines or any other deterrents are ultimately effective in curtailing such nonsense, I think that is something to be applauded but, as far as complaints go, I feel it's going to be pretty difficult to get this foul-tasting toothpaste back into its proverbial tube.

In a world that is, again, as highly polarized as ours, we've also found ourselves living in a world where "complaint culture" has taken a firm foothold.

It's not hard to identify at least one factor that has helped complaint culture gain its foothold, and that is the anonymity that our online world has fostered.

When you don't have to show your face or state your name, it is much easier to put your worst on display

because said anonymity can blunt any backlash. Likewise, if you're complaining to a company's social media feed, there is a similar anonymity as far as to whom or what (thanks, bots) you're venting your spleen.

At a micro level, I'm not one to really complain if there is a minor (yes, minor) discrepancy between the order I shouted through the wind into an oh-so-inviting drive-thru speaker box versus what I get at the next window in an equally oh-so-appetizing brown paper bag. With the exception of unexpected mayonnaise or melted cheese appearing on what I ordered, two toppings I've weirdly loathed since childhood, I can usually muscle through it. I'm fully conscious that companies that operate in structures that offer drive-thru windows have streamlined their workforce in the interests of greater profit margins, despite absurdly claiming that people don't want to work anymore, and are thus placing more expectations and a greater burden on people doing the heavy lifting. Here, mistakes are bound to happen, but am I going to raise a stink if they put just a regular amount of onions on my burger instead of the extra I requested? Come on. Just don't get me started on self-checkouts!

Now that winter has belatedly arrived, the annual sport of complaining about snow and ice maintenance, or lack thereof, has finally had its season opener – with, as one would expect, the usual complaints from people who take umbrage at their streets not being cleared first among hundreds. This, despite more ways than ever before to track the whereabouts of local snowplows to give you a bit of insight on when your turn will come.

Experiencing a delay? Again, not a reason to call 9-1-1. The appropriate municipal department? Sure. It's not at the top of my own list, but you do you!

On a personal note, my small nuclear family is experiencing something of a significant upheaval right now – not to worry, everyone is healthy and well – but there is nothing we can do about it. We might complain amongst ourselves, but no manner of complaining is going to change the outcome. Instead of dwelling upon it, I'm trying, with varying levels of success, to accentuate whatever positives that might be had – and, admittedly, there are few to be found – if only for my own peace of mind.

As complaint culture marches on seemingly unabated, it's doing so, in my view, at the expense of

"doing culture" – that is, people who are content just to complain about what's bothering them rather than taking action to do something about it.

For the "small stuff," such as those who complain about their fast-food order, action can be as simple as putting themselves in the shoes, even for a moment, of those who tasked with putting the meal together.

For the big stuff, such as political action, it often feels people are more content to simply sound off on the performance of their leaders at all levels of government without (a) offering solutions to whatever has raised their ire or, (b), putting themselves forward to foster the change they want to see in the world.

And, I believe, we're all the poorer for it.

As I write this, I can't help but think of an airline snafu I had this past summer when, due to weather in Toronto, my flight back from New York City was cancelled.

The airline in question, in just about as many words, texted to say they were working hard to re-book all those impacted on the next available flight – but, when that subsequent confirmation came thorough about an hour later, the "next available flight" was literally a full week later.

An extra week in a "foreign" clime, with all the expenses that would incur, was obviously unacceptable and a call to their customer service was in order.

The delay and the re-booking was, again, obviously, not the fault of whoever was going to pick up the phone at the other end and I governed myself accordingly.

"Thank you for not yelling at me," said the clerk, almost sheepishly and exhausted by the time I got through at 2 a.m., with an audible crack in her voice and relief in the air.

"Yelling" at her was the furthest thing from my mind; all I wanted was to work with her for a practical solution – and, working together, a much more reasonable option was found.

I'd wager the people who did, in fact, bellow down the phone might have had a full seven days ahead of them.

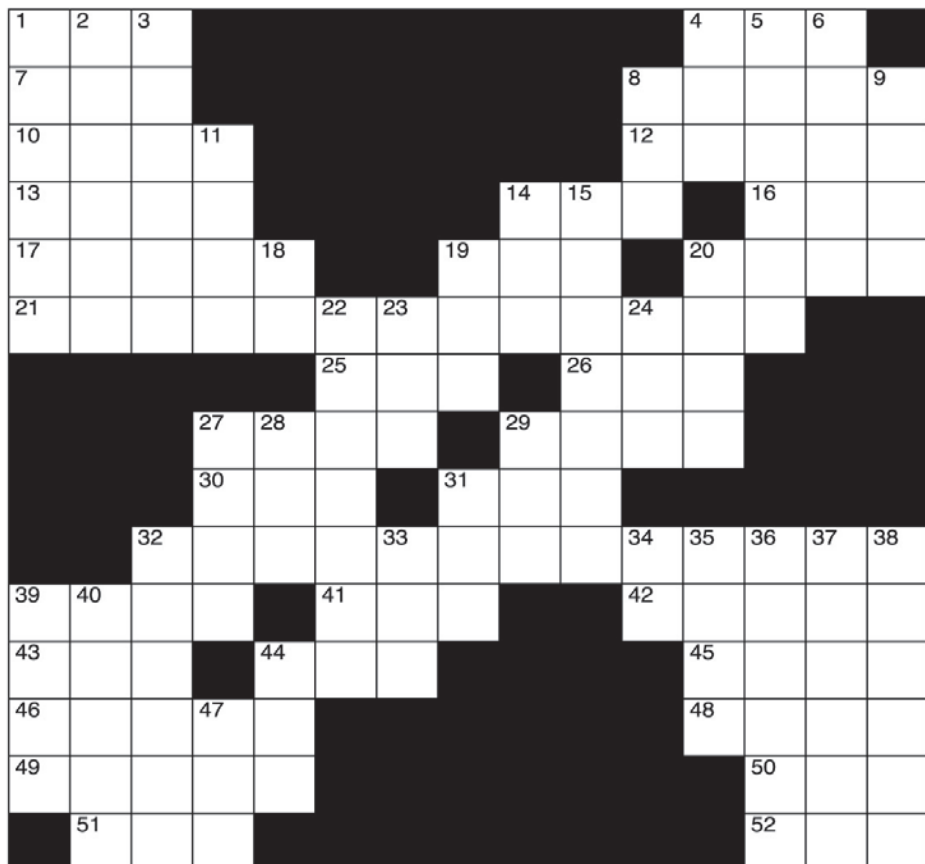
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CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 24C410 • Solution in Classifieds



CLUES ACROSS

- Central processing unit
- Taxi
- Body part
- Papal court
- Young women making their public debuts
- Metal shackles
- Joseph's wife
- Licensed professional
- Partner to cheese
- Mild fruits
- File format
- Province of Indonesia
- Beloved grilled foods
- Bar bill
- Don't know when yet

CLUES DOWN

- Whale ship captain
- Touches softly
- Mock
- Red-brown Pacific sea bream
- Summer
- Protective crust
- Cool!
- Behave in a way that belittles
- Denial
- A place to sleep
- Electronic countermeasures
- Intestinal pouches
- SE Asia family of languages
- Sound
- Select
- Give the impression of dishonesty
- Witness

CLUES DOWN

- Of cadmium
- Deliver a sermon
- Inner regions of a shadow
- Aggressive dog
- Smells
- Twofold
- Former OSS
- Computer language
- Indian groom
- Automobile
- Hairstyle
- Atomic #76
- Guy (slang)
- Ladies' undergarments
- Furniture with open shelves
- Back-arc basin
- Partner to flow
- A type of horse
- Possesses
- Split pulses
- Small amount
- Flat-bottomed riverboat
- Not good
- Atomic #31
- Assist in committing a crime
- Chauvinists
- Get away
- One of a people who speaks a Semitic language
- Civil rights college organization
- Combustible dark rocks
- Grocery container
- Central nervous system

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

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REWINDING BACK ON THE TOP NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

• The Ministry of Health has appointed an investigator to examine operations at Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston. The appointment was announced on Feb. 7.

• The Ontario government is investing almost \$880,000 to connect more people to primary care teams in Simcoe Grey. This is part of the province's \$110 million investment to connect up to 328,000 people to primary care teams.

MARCH

• The County of Simcoe Committee of the Whole preliminarily approved through a unanimous recommendation that the County of Simcoe secure a long-term external organics processing contract instead of pursuing the development of the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre at this time.



MARCH

• The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is reminding people to stay up to date with measles vaccinations as cases have increased both globally and in Ontario. Measles is the world's most contagious human respiratory virus as it is spread through the air indoors without a person needing to be close to someone who is infectious. It can quickly spread among people who are unvaccinated.

• South Simcoe Theatre stages its production of "God of Carnage." When two couples meet to discuss an interaction between their children, it doesn't take long for an initially somewhat friendly visit to turn into chaos.

• The Community Living Association for South Simcoe (CLASS) community fridge will open by mid-March. Inspired by other community food pantries, CLASS staff member Courtney Johnston proposed the idea of helping those in the Alliston area with food insecurity by opening a Community Fridge program.

• The Stevenson Memorial Hospital has received a matching gift pledge of \$50,000 to go towards the Centralized Fetal Monitoring System fundraising initiative, which will enhance both the maternal and fetal healthcare at the hospital.

• With the population of New



APRIL

Tecumseth predicted to double over the next 30 years, the Town is already looking ahead to determine the best way to grow. A series of public meetings will be held to give residents a chance to voice their opinions on how growth should look.

APRIL

• Beeton Memorial Arena scheduled to re-open after structural improvements. After being closed for six months, Beeton Memorial Arena is scheduled to re-open on April 15.

• County of Simcoe breaks ground on new paramedic station. County of Simcoe councillors, partners from Springwater Township and representatives from County Paramedic

Services gathered to break ground for the County's new strategically located paramedic station location in Midhurst.

• The Royal Canadian Air Force is celebrating 100 years as a branch of the armed forces, and much of the early history of military aviation in Canada happened locally at CFB Borden.

• The Alliston Hornets hockey team won four straight games to claim the North Carruthers Division championship of the Provincial Junior Hockey League. The Alliston Hornets are the 2023-24 Carruthers Division champions after winning the final series in four games over the Stayner Siskins.

Continued on Page 7

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TheTimes New Tecumseth

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REWINDING BACK ON THE TOP NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024



MAY

- Flato Developments has announced a significant milestone in their development of Beeton Meadows – Phase 2. The Town of New Tecumseth Council ratified Flato’s draft plan on April 8, opening a new chapter in Beeton’s development.
- New Tecumseth and Collingwood award contract, share plans for expansion of water treatment plant. A joint statement from New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross and Collingwood Mayor Yvonne Hamlin announced an agreement to award the contract for the water treatment plant expansion.
- Landowners can now apply for the NVCA’s 2025 tree-planting grants. Landowners are invited to apply for the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority’s 2025 tree-planting grants before next winter.

MAY

- It was a chance to find some quality baked goods while helping local good cause when Toonies for New Tecumseth held its first fundraiser at the Tottenham Legion on Saturday, April 27.
- Honda to build \$15 billion EV production facilities in Alliston. Honda will invest \$15 billion in Canada to create an electric-vehicle supply chain, including four manufacturing plants.
- The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit shares how to protect yourself from disease-carrying ticks this spring. The warmer weather is now here, and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is reminding people to protect themselves from ticks when in an outdoor setting.

- Town of New Tecumseth welcomes new Chief Administrative Officer. Neil Garbe will join the Town effective June 3, 2024.
- New Tecumseth releases current Budget Variance Report. The Town of New Tecumseth released a report on the 2024 forecasted year-end operating financial results and capital projections as of March 31.
- The 46th Annual Tottenham CRIC Draw and Dance sees huge success. It was a night to have some fun while potentially earning a big cash prize at the CRIC Draw and Dance held at the Tottenham Community Centre, on Saturday, May 4.
- Stevenson Memorial Hospital currently under investigation. Stevenson Memorial Hospital is under investigation by the provincial government, and investigators are seeking input from the public regarding their experience at the hospital.

JUNE

- The Town of New Tecumseth has marked a milestone in its history with the opening the new Town Hall.
- The annual Tottenham Bluegrass Festival is coming to the Tottenham Conservation Area with three days of toe-tapping music at the end of June.
- A local family was recently dismayed over vandalized and stolen memorial plaque. When Stephen Engelhardt and his siblings took advantage of a Town program that provided a memorial plaque with a tree to be planted in a local park, it was meant as a tribute to their late parents. The plaque was later vandalized and stolen.
- Stevenson Memorial Hospital welcomes new Chief of Staff. Dr. Roger Musa will take over the position effective June 24.

Continued on Page 8



JUNE



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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REWINDING BACK ON THE TOP NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

- A Brampton man received a three-year sentence for a train collision in Tottenham. The Brampton man drove a car that collided with a train on the 5th Line near Tottenham on the night of October 13, 2021, and was handed a three-year prison sentence as well as a lifetime driving ban.
- County provides progress update on Simcoe Village long-term care development. The County of Simcoe held a preview day to allow visitors and the media to see first-hand the progress being made on the construction of the Simcoe Village Campus in Beeton.
- LINX Transit expands routes to connect towns within Simcoe County. The County of Simcoe's LINX Transit service is expanding its presence in Bradford West Gwillimbury by adding stop extensions to Route 5 with service scheduled to begin on July 2. Route 5 provides access to the heart of the town centres of Alliston, Beeton and Bradford.

JULY

- The Town of New Tecumseth received a report by the Emergency Management Group detailing the Community Risk Assessment and the Fire Master Plan during a Committee of the Whole working meeting on Monday, June 24.
- New Tecumseth Council discusses allowing chickens in the backyard following a presentation by a local resident requesting a consideration to change the bylaw regarding backyard chicken coops. This resulted in some discussion during New Tecumseth Council's July 8 meeting.
- The NVCA issued a high-water warning following significant rainfall. A heavier-than-normal amount of rain in the region caused local waterways to rise. The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) issued a warning about possible flooding.



JULY



AUGUST

- The County of Simcoe has released its 10th annual Housing Our Future report for 2023 to measure and evaluate the implementation of recommendations contained in its Our Community 10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy.
- New Tecumseth received \$125,815 in transit funds from the provincial gas tax. The Ontario government supported transit in Simcoe-Grey with a \$840,267 investment from the 2023-24 Gas Tax program.
- Automatic speed enforcement is coming to New Tecumseth. Plans are to have two mobile camera systems in operation beginning in spring 2025.
- Stevenson Memorial Hospital introduces 2024-25 Board of Directors. The hospital announced Nishika Jardine has been elected as the Chair of the Board of Directors, having been a member since June 2019.
- Petition on new school spurs Council debate. A petition opposing plans for a new high school on the Banting Homestead opened yet another discussion on the subject at New Tecumseth Council's regular meeting on Monday, July 22.
- Simcoe-Grey's MPP was named Parliamentary Assistant to Vic Fedeli. Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson has been named a Parliamentary Assistant to Vic Fedeli, who serves Ontario as the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT). Saunderson will work alongside his colleague, MPP Effie Triantafilopoulos, who is also a Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister.
- CONTACT Community Services' Grand Parade to return next month. CONTACT Community Services will host its Second Annual Grand Parade in support of seniors in need in South Simcoe.
- County of Simcoe releases statement on possible job action by CUPE. The County of Simcoe has issued a statement regarding possible impending work action by CUPE 5820.00 and 5820.01.

Continued on Page 10

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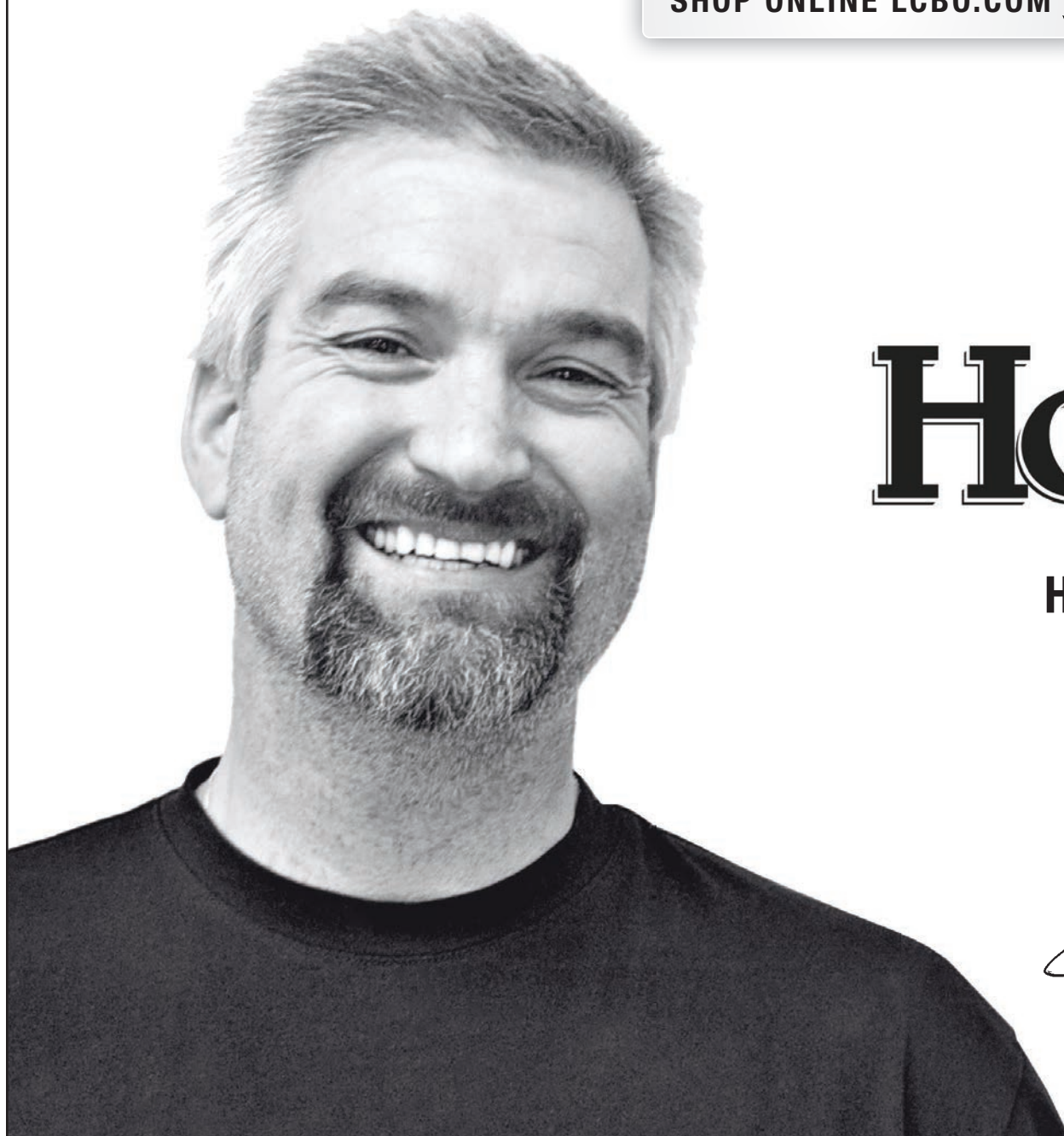


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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REWINDING BACK ON THE TOP NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

- Heath Unit urges routine immunizations as part of back-to-school planning. The start of the new school year is a few weeks away and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) continues to offer vaccination clinics throughout the region to help children and youth aged four to 17 years old to catch up and stay on track with their publicly funded routine vaccines before classes begin.

- A new mural depicting local history was unveiled in downtown Alliston. Visitors of downtown Alliston will now be greeted by a large mural depicting scenes through history.

SEPTEMBER

- An Alliston woman was inducted into the Water Ski and Wakeboard Hall of Fame. The first time Betty Preece tried water skiing, she knew she had found her sport. Betty was 14 years old when a neighbour at her family cottage on Sparrow Lake started teaching local kids what was then, a relatively new sport.

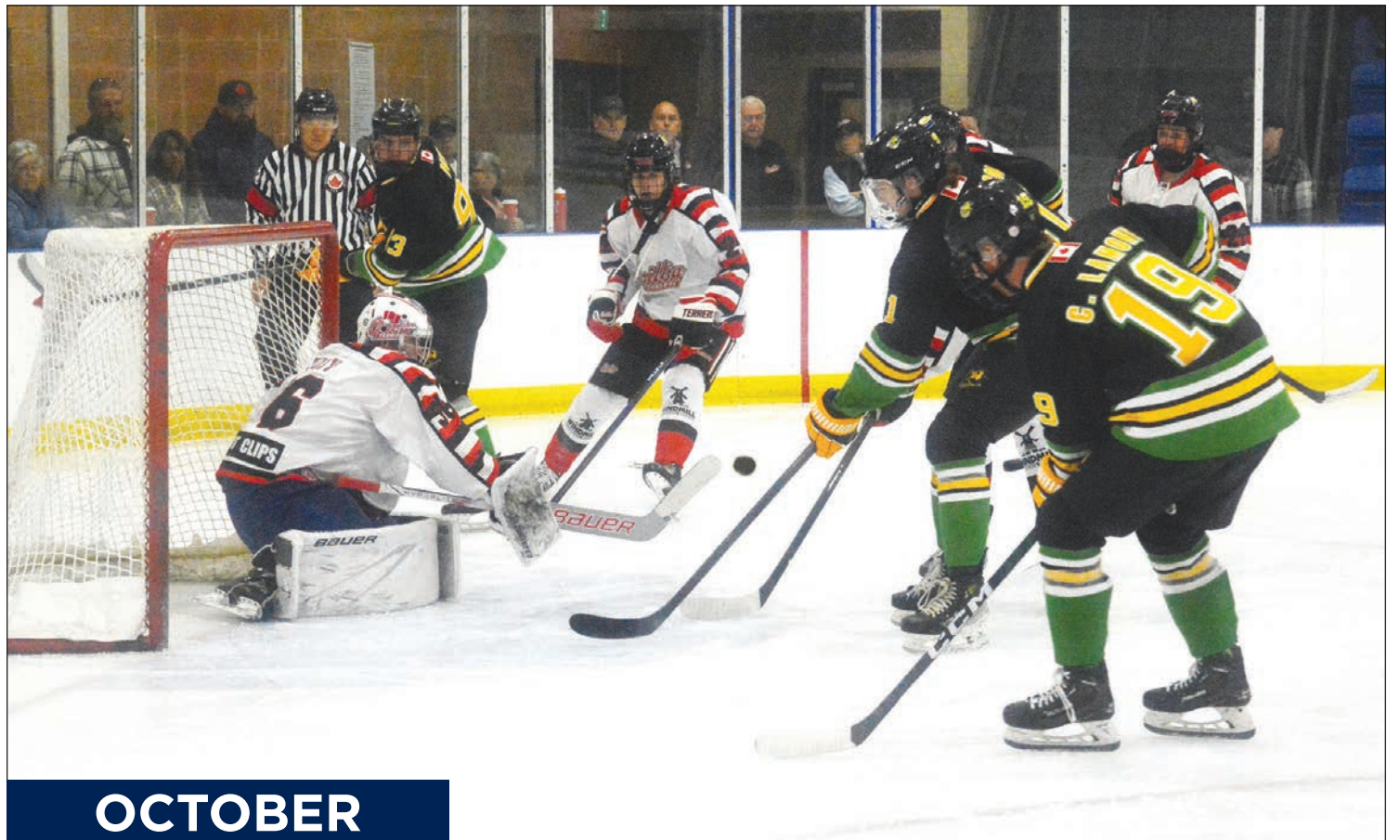
- Funding aims to create faster emergency care in Simcoe County. The Ontario government is investing \$29,677,813 in Simcoe County to connect people to emergency care faster and increase the availability of ambulances.

- Council receives year-end Budget Variance Report. New Tecumseth Council recently received a Budget Variance Report with information as of June 30, 2024. The report was received at the Aug. 26 council meeting. The report forecasts year-end operating financial results and capital projections as of June 30.

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

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

- Honda preparing for start of new electric vehicle and battery plant construction. As part of its historic \$15 billion Canadian Electric Vehicle Value Chain initiative announced in April 2024, Honda of Canada Mfg. unveiled plans to build two new fa-



OCTOBER

- Council receives year-end Budget Variance Report. New Tecumseth Council recently received a Budget Variance Report with information as of June 30, 2024. The report was received at the Aug. 26 council meeting. The report forecasts year-end operating financial results and capital projections as of June 30.

- An investigation by the Ministry of Health at Stevenson revealed concerns over leadership and quality of care. A final report of an investigation into Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) reveals several concerns about governance, leadership, quality of care, operations, and financial performance.

- County of Simcoe to launch new medical dispatch triage system. With support from the Ontario government, the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services will join services throughout the province in implementing the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS).

- Equipment Ontario opens its doors to serve the local farming community. Equipment Ontario has opened a huge new dealership just south of Alliston that has pretty much everything you need. From small units for home use to massive machines designed for large farming operations, they have the equipment for every job.

- Town of New Tecumseth mulls options



SEPTEMBER

- The Beeton Horticultural Society celebrated 100 years within the community. Established in 1925, the society promotes horticulture in the community through a variety of activities, including regular meetings with speakers, community beatification projects, and the establishment of annual plants in Beeton.

- Local filmmakers shoot a movie in a rural Beeton location. Local filmmakers Greg Johnston and Neil Mackay have teamed up for their latest movie.

- Community facilities receive provincial funding for building upgrades, repair. The Ontario government is investing \$85,400 in two local social service agencies for necessary building upgrades and repairs.

- County of Simcoe updates 2025 draft budget after deliberations. 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.

NOVEMBER



Continued on Page 11

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REWINDING BACK ON THE TOP NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

• Trillium Ford getting four new electric vehicle chargers amongst other locations. 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.

• Banting’s robotics team is heading to Germany for an international event. Several members of the Banting Memorial High School Robotics Team will be travelling to an international robotics event in Hanover, Germany during the first week of April next year. Coming with them is a robot goalie they plan to exhibit.

DECEMBER

• Postal strike affects Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation donations. The current strike by Canada Post employees is having a direct effect on charitable organizations across the country that rely on mail to receive donations.

• Council receives report on Automated Speed Enforcement cameras. The Town of New Tecumseth Council has received a report with recommendations regarding the policy of upcoming use of automated speed enforcement cameras.

• Simcoe County Council approves 2025 budget with a 3.6 per cent tax increase. County of Simcoe Council approved a \$962 million budget on Nov. 26, focused on the resources necessary to maintain existing services and address significant growth in its communities.

• Cold weather bringing outdoor rinks to New Tecumseth soon. The weather is getting colder, but not yet cold enough to start working on the Town of New Tecumseth’s outdoor rink. Outdoor rinks can be difficult to maintain as they are totally dependent on the weather, and how Town crews maintain them the best they can during the winter months.



DECEMBER



DECEMBER

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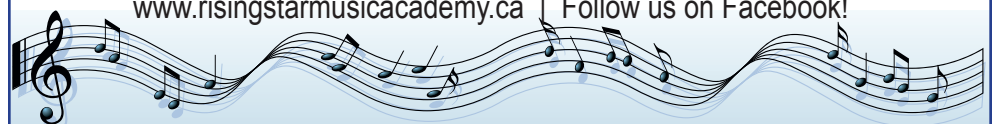
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Local family safely evacuates during large house fire on Previn Court

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), New Tecumseth Fire Department and Simcoe County Paramedics responded to a report of a large house fire at a residence on Previn Court in New Tecumseth on Dec. 16, shortly before 1:30 p.m.

“Upon arrival, the home was visibly

engulfed in smoke. A mother and a small child were able to safely evacuate the home prior to officers’ arrival with no injuries due to working fire alarms in the home,” said Nottawasaga OPP in a press release. “The fire did not spread to the nearby residences and was put out several hours later.”

The cause of the fire is unknown at this time but it appeared to have come from the children’s game room in the basement of the home. Nottawasaga OPP said the fire is not considered suspicious.

The roadway near the residence was temporarily closed until the fire was put out and re-opened at 6 p.m..



Youth criminally facing charges for threatening comments made on social media

A youth from Bolton is facing criminal charges after making threats toward a Caledon high school.

“Officers responded to a report of a social media message threatening the safety and wellbeing at a local high school,” said Caledon OPP in a press release.

“With the assistance of the Caledon OPP Major Crime Unit, the source was quickly identified and a youth was placed into police custody.”

The 17-year-old youth who was placed in custody is facing charges of criminal harassment, uttering threats and mischief.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven in court. The identity of the youth was withheld by Caledon OPP under the provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

“The OPP take all public safety threats seriously and provide resources necessary to assess and respond to such threats,” said Caledon OPP’s press release. “The investigation is ongoing.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 1-888-310-1122.

Bradford resident arrested and faces shoplifting, breaking and entering, mischief charges

Members of the South Simcoe Police Service completed a search warrant in the area of John Street in Bradford West Gwillimbury and arrested a 33-year-old male from Bradford late last month.

The search warrant, executed on Nov. 28, was in relation to an investigation involving several thefts from retail stores, break and enter, and other criminal offences dating back to Nov. 14. As a result of the search warrant, a 33-year-

old male was charged with:

- Theft under \$5000, shoplifting – cc. 334 (B)
- Theft under \$5000, shoplifting – cc. 334 (B)
- Theft under \$5000, shoplifting – cc. 334 (B)
- Break, enter a place with intent to commit

indictable offence – cc 348 (1) (a)

- Mischief under \$5000 – cc. 430 (4)

The accused was held in police custody for a bail hearing. None of the charges have been proven in court.

Two stolen vehicles recovered, methamphetamine seized after OPP executed search warrant

Members of the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid charges in connection to a stolen vehicle investigation.

In December 2024, the Caledon OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) conducted an investigation into stolen vehicles at a rural property in the area of McLaughlin Road and Old School Road in Caledon.

The investigation led officers to execute a search warrant at that location.

As a result of the search, two stolen vehicles were recovered, as well as an amount of methamphetamine.

Lance Caines, 40, of Caledon, was charged with possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 and possession of a schedule I substance – methamphetamine.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on Jan. 30, 2025, to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven in court.

South Simcoe Police officer passes away

The South Simcoe Police Service announced on Dec. 13 that one of its officers recently passed away.

“The South Simcoe Police Service is deeply saddened to hear of the passing of one of its officers, Police Constable Paul Catling,” reads a statement from the police service.

“Constable Catling passed away on December 11, 2024. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family, friends, and col-



leagues. Our thoughts are with them.”

“During this sensitive and difficult time, we ask that everyone respect the privacy of the family and all those impacted as they grieve,” the South Simcoe Police Service added.



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602 ARTICLES FOR SALE

Helen Lucas original for sale - "The Holy Spirit"



For sale is a unique original painting by renowned floral artist, the late Helen Lucas. "Holy Spirit," is an original acrylic on wood frame piece that captures spirituality in a simple way, through a dove. Created in 2017. The small set of originals was meant to be printed as art cards for a church fundraiser. Only 5-6 of these doves exist (in different poses) so they are truly rare. This is the only one of its kind. Measures 19.5" by 23.5." Lucas originals are quite valuable and sought after. This is unlike anything else in her collection. "... the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form, as a dove, upon him, and a voice came out of heaven, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." Asking \$500. Email mpavilons@rogers.com for more.

Original Arathoon canvas for sale



For sale is "Pine on the Ridge" (Small Study) by Canadian artist David Arathoon. It was created in the 1990s and sold at a Caledon-based charity auction. Frame measures 20" by 17.25" and canvas is 11.5" by 8.5". Valued at \$450. David Arathoon has achieved national success with numerous solo and group exhibitions in many private and public galleries, such as the Hummingbird Center for the Performing Arts, Toronto. Arathoon has been instrumental in successful fundraising efforts with his original art and limited edition prints. His prints have raised over \$100,000 for various charities. Asking \$300 obo. Email mpavilons@rogers.com

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612 AUCTIONS/FLEA MARKETS

HOME OF THE 5% BUYERS PREMIUM
Kidd Family Auctions is calling all buyers and sellers!

JANUARY 3RD AT 5PM HANDS OF TIME SALE

KIDD FAMILY AUCTIONS is winding up for the Hands of Time Sale – An Outstanding Clock & Parts Collection, set to ring in the new year on Jan 3rd. Offering an exquisite range of pieces that embody history, ingenuity, and elegance with every tick from notable clockmakers such as Pequegnat, W.L. Gilbert, Waterbury, Schatz and many more.

Lots begin closing online at 5pm on Jan 3rd.
Place your bids online now - the clock is ticking!

Come preview this catalog on Jan 3rd from 10am-4pm, or call for appointment on another day, at our Home Office Base
438280 4th Line, Melancthon L9V 1S9.

Featuring: 1893 Waterbury "Haadin" Walnut 30hr Clock; "Valse Rose" French Statue Marble 8 Day Clock; 1910 W. L. Gilbert "Valerie" Crystal Regulator Clock; Blackforest Mantel Clock; Arthur Pequegnat "Toronto" Oak 8 Day Clock; National Oak Mission Style Clock; Schatz 1000 Day Clock; Vienna Regulator – 8 Day Clock; 1907 Waterbury "Sagua" 8 Day Mantel Clock; 1879 Ansonia Oak Gingerbread 8 Day Clock; and so much more.



Call, text or email anytime! Office Phone Number: 519-288-2228
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HOME OF THE 5% BUYERS PREMIUM
Kidd Family Auctions is calling all buyers and sellers!

JANUARY 10TH AT 5PM ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & QUALITY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Take a stroll down memory lane and rediscover the charm of the past. From evening purses to vintage movie posters, collectible tins, and folk art, each item tells a story. It's your chance to collect the past and love the present!

Lots begin closing at 5pm on Jan 10th.
Preview: Fri Jan 10th, 10am – 4pm, or call for appointment on another day.
Pickup: Sat Jan 11th, 10am – 5pm. Call or text if you need more information.

Pickup & preview at our Home Office Base
438280 4th Line, Melancthon L9V 1S9 (North of Shelburne).

Featuring: Framed Oil Paintings; Nautical Inspired Folk Art; Large Quantity of Beaded Clutch Purses and Lucite Box Purses; Pocket Watches; Vintage Movie Posters; Inkwell Bottles; Wool Blankets; Sterling Silver & 10k Gold Jewelry; Sherman Rhinestone Jewelry; Waterbury Shelf Clock; Nikon Vintage Cameras; Tobacco Tins; Vintage Publications including 1st Edition by Van Dyke; Home Renovation Supplies including Live Edge Slabs; Small Appliances; Anchor Hocking Mugs; Jadeite Fire King Glassware; Collectible Bar Trays, and so much more.

If you're interested in absentee bids or consigning in any of our upcoming sales then give us a call at 519-288-2228.

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708 OBITUARIES

Kesteven: Douglas



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Douglas Robert Kesteven, age 78, on December 14, 2024 surrounded by family at Stevenson Memorial Hospital Alliston. Doug is survived by his sister Barb (Rob) Thompson, (step) daughters Daphne (Ron) Robinson, Amy (Ted) Skerratt, grandson Ryan Zanelli, and son Michael Kesteven. He will be sadly missed by his niece Shanna Robb and partner Justin, and his nephew Ryan (Jillian) Robb. Doug is predeceased by his loving wife Sandy (Grant) Kesteven, his parents Bob and Verda Kesteven, his sister Jan Robb, and brother-in-law Bill Robb. Doug often reminisced of his years playing baseball in Tottenham. His passion for motorcycles and old cars was apparent to all who knew him. Doug would talk "the good old days", with anyone that would lend an ear.

As per Doug's wishes, a private service will occur with immediate family only. Donations in memory of Doug may be made to any of his preferred charities: the Alliston Humane Society, Royal Victoria Hospital Barrie, or the Canadian Cancer Society. Arrangements entrusted to Rod Abrams Funeral Home. Online condolences and memories may be left for the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.



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