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and Clouds



Saturday:
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and Clouds



Sunday:
Scattered
Flurries



Monday:
Light
Snow

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Family Day Fun

There was plenty to do and see at the Tottenham Community Centre on Feb. 17 for Family Day. The community centre was filled with family-friendly activities, such as Jenga. The event was sponsored by the Town of New Tecumseth, the BTBIA, and Tottenham Tim Hortons. See more photos on Page 9.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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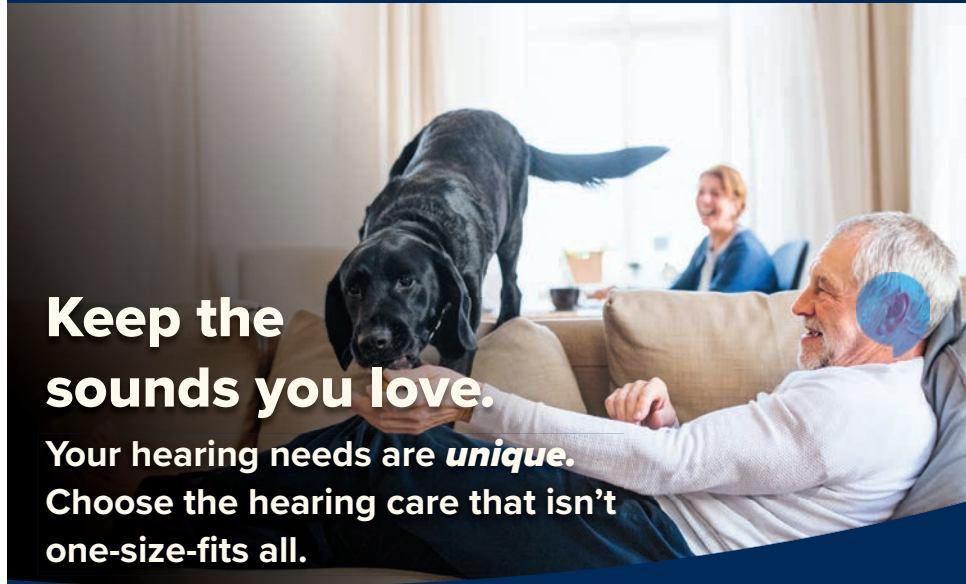
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Keep being you **Love your ears**

Applications open for United Way's School Food Infrastructure Fund

United Way Simcoe Muskoka, in partnership with United Way East Ontario, United Way Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, United Way Northumberland, United Way Elgin Middlesex, and United Way Windsor-Essex-Chatham-Kent, is pleased to announce that applications for the School Food Infrastructure Fund (SFIF) are now being accepted.

Funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada the SFIF supports not-for-profit organizations in enhancing infrastructure and equipment for school food programs. The initiative aims to improve access to nutritious food for students.

"Ensuring that students have access to healthy meals is essential for their well-being and academic success," says Brian Shelley, Chief Executive and Philanthropy Officer of United Way Simcoe Muskoka. "The School Food Infrastructure Fund provides a vital opportunity for local organizations to strengthen their food programs and make a real difference in the lives of children in our communities."

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Registered charity (with its own RR number) or a First Nations Band designated as a qualified donee by the Canada Revenue

Agency or a registered non-profit organization (OCN BIN).

- Maintain a volunteer board that meets regularly.
- Host an Annual General Meeting.
- Carry sufficient liability insurance (at least \$2 million).
- Provide audited financial statements (agencies with revenues under \$250,000 may submit reviewed statements from a licensed public accountant).
- Activities must benefit residents within the catchment area of United Way Simcoe Muskoka.
- Financially solvent applicant (or partnering sponsor organization).
- Letter of support from the partnering school or school board.

The application period is open until March 12 at 5 p.m., with funding decisions being communicated by May 1.

"By supporting these vital school food programs, United Way Simcoe Muskoka is working to build stronger, healthier communities where all children have the opportunity to thrive," said Shelley.

For further details regarding eligible and ineligible costs and the application process, please visit unitedwayeo.ca/partner-agencies/school-food-infrastructure-fund/

Southlake marks "pioneering" cardiac milestone

Southlake Health is the Region's go-to cardiac centre and, last week, celebrated a new milestone in providing leading-edge care close to home.

The local hospital is now just the second hospital in Ontario – and the fourth nationwide – to use 4D technology to image the heart in some of its most complex cases.

As it's a technology not approved for regular use within Canada, Southlake received "Special Access" authorization to bring the use of Nuvision 4D ICE catheters to fruition.

"Typically, physicians who require a 3D image of the heart use transesophageal echocardiograms (TEE), a procedure during which a thin tube is guided down the esophagus to take pictures of the heart," says Southlake. "The Nuvision 4D ICE catheter is next generation technology. A small catheter with an ultrasound sensor is inserted from the leg into the heart to generate real-time images of the valves and other structures. This advanced technology provides higher quality, real-time images, allowing physicians to instantly see the heart in 3D so that patients who cannot use TEE can still undergo life-changing cardiac procedures that help them avoid recurrent heart failure and other complications."

Southlake began the work to bring the 4D tech to Newmarket after receiving a cardiac referral from a patient in Windsor, ON.

The patient in question, Nancy Skinner, was "seeking treatment for tricuspid valve regurgitation (TVR), a form of heart valve disease in which the valve between the two right chambers of the heart does not fully close." Moderate to severe cases of the condition can require surgical valve repair or replacement, to ensure optimum blood flow to the heart.

"However, Nancy was not a candidate for surgery and complications with her heart valve prevented clear imaging of the valve with TEE. This imaging is necessary to ensure a safe and successful procedure, and patients who cannot have TEE or have inadequate imaging with the tool are ineligible for procedures like a transcatheter tricuspid

"Special access to cutting-edge technology like the 4D ICE catheter enables us to offer treatment options to patients who otherwise have little to no options, improving their quality of life."

Dr. Warren Cantor

valve repair, leaving them with limited care options. Nancy and her cardiologist needed more options to address her heart disease. Undeterred, [Dr. Warren Cantor], an international expert in acute coronary syndromes, and the cardiac team at Southlake turned to global solutions in the Nuvision 4D ICE catheter."

Cantor says when a patient comes to Southlake with matters of the heart, "they're trusting us with their hearts, a responsibility that our team takes incredibly seriously."

"Special access to cutting-edge technology like the 4D ICE catheter enables us to offer treatment options to patients who otherwise have little to no options, improving their quality of life," says Cantor. "We are honoured to play a key role in bringing this technology to Southlake and Canada."

Adds Derek McNally, Executive Vice President of Clinical Services for Southlake Health, and Chief Operating Officer: "Over the last century, Southlake Health has built a proud legacy of leading-edge care, close to home to save patients from travelling into Toronto. Our world-class team at the Regional Cardiac Centre continues to lead ground-breaking research and techniques, ensuring patients from York Region to Muskoka, and beyond have access to the best care possible."

And Nancy is a testament to this.

"I feel like myself again," says Nancy. "Dr. Cantor and the cardiac team at Southlake Health gave me another chance at life and went above and beyond to do so. I am so thankful for their resourcefulness in getting this new technology."

Stevenson Memorial Hospital launches new monthly Paediatric Clinic

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Stevenson Memorial Hospital has announced the opening of a new Paediatric Clinic, expected to launch on Feb. 25.

This clinic will provide dedicated paediatric care, led by Dr. Jessica Gillam – an experienced paediatrician from Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre.

The clinic is designed to help meet the

growing healthcare needs of children in the community.

Operating one day each month, the clinic will be located in the hospital's Outpatient Department on the second floor.

"This is an important service for our hospital and community, and I thank Dr. Gillam and the RVH team for helping to bring this service to Stevenson," said Dr. Ihab Khalil, Chief of Paediatrics and Emergency Department physician at SMH.

The hospital has released key details regarding the new clinic.

The clinic operates by referral only and is not a walk-in service. Families and individuals interested in using the clinic must contact their family physician or primary care provider to obtain a referral.

The clinic will be offered once per month, with the possibility of expanding based on demand and physician availability.

Focusing on general paediatric care, the clinic will not address acute illness, emergency care, and behavioural or mental health needs. General paediatric care includes patients with chronic illness, pain management, asthma, medical follow-up, and abnormal blood testing.

The clinic is expected to provide a welcoming, professional, and supportive environment for both children and their families.

New Tecumseth Community Grant Program accepting applications until month's end

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The deadline for applications for the Town of New Tecumseth Community Grant Program is fast approaching.

The last day for applications for this year is Feb. 28.

Applications will be reviewed and processed by the Community Grant Program Committee in March and April. Council will ratify the applications in May.

There are three categories for Community Grant Program applications.

The Community Fee Waiver Grant provides funds to offset town-established user fees to rent space, equipment, or provide supplies. This may include but is not limited to, space rental, signs, equipment or in-kind services.

The maximum eligible grant amount is \$1,000.

The Community and Events Grant provides funding to assist organizations that provide services or events to the community, which are beneficial to the community and not currently provided by the Town. This category will support a variety

of community celebrations, festivals, and special events.

Funds provided in this category will include requests for initial start-up funding, equipment, materials and supplies purchased.

The maximum eligible grant in the Community and Events Grant category is \$2,000.

The Community Arts, Culture, and Tourism Grant supports local not-for-profit organizations promoting activities and initiatives that enhance the cultural and artistic landscape of the community through

education and participation. This includes visual, performing, and literary art.

Educational Programs can include cultural learning opportunities for all ages, workshops, classes and outreach programs.

The Tourism component supports initiatives that provide community festivals, cultural celebrations, tourist attractions, and special events whose efforts attract visitors to the community.

The maximum eligible grant in this category is \$25,000.00.

Eligibility for grant applications is available on the Town's website.

County Council updates for February: Housing, Homelessness and council composition public meeting

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Simcoe County Housing Corporation Affordable Housing Developments update

Updates on the prioritized affordable housing projects identified in the Simcoe County Housing (SCHC) Affordable Housing Development Master Plan to be implemented and/or initiated in 2024-25.

Staff provided updates and recommendations on the development at 20 Rose Street in Barrie, the SCHC Urban Native secondary suites in Midland and Penetanguishene, developments on Birch Street in Collingwood, and 810 Bay Street and 837 Montreal Street in Midland.

2025 / 26 Municipal Homelessness Funding and Provincial Homelessness Prevention funding allocations

The County received approval for the 2025-2026 Municipal Homelessness Funding and Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) funding allocations, totaling \$22,592,679.

This funding will support a coordinated, integrated system of homelessness prevention services that are people-centered, evidence-informed, and outcome-based. The

allocations aim to address chronic homelessness, youth homelessness, Indigenous homelessness, and support individuals exiting public institutions.

Reaching Home funding allocations for 2025 / 26 and Community Plan 2024 – 2028

The County of Simcoe, as the Community Entity (CE) for the Reaching Home (RH) Funding Program, received approval for the 2025-2026 funding allocations and the 2024-2028 Community Plan.

The proposed allocations and plan aim to support homelessness prevention services and align with the National Housing Strategy's goals. The County received additional federal investments, increasing the RH funding to \$18,240,426 for 2024-2028.

County to host statutory public meeting about council composition, head of council

The County is hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 10 a.m. in the Council Chamber at the Simcoe County Administration Centre to provide the public and stakeholders with an opportunity to provide feedback on a proposed by-law to change the composition of County Council and the appointment of the Head of Council (Warden position).



Happening at Hillside Community Church





Have questions about God, the Bible or church. Alpha is a series of excellent teachings by Nicky Gumbel which have been enjoyed by over 60,000 churches worldwide.

This video series is being held at Hillside Community church (2314 Tottenham Rd.) each Friday, @ 6:30 PM
It's not too late to join us.
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Contact us:
905-936-2177
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Beeton Tottenham Business Improvement Association will hold our annual general meeting to review 2024 and present our 2025 budget. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 5th, 2025 at 6:30 pm.** at the Tottenham Community Fitness Centre 139 Queen St. N., Tottenham. RSVP to attend.

For information please contact Susan Iacoucci **905.936.3424** or email info@btbia.ca



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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

A picture doesn't always say 1000 words

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



There is a fairly famous painting that hangs in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

It was created in 1948 by American painter Andrew Wyeth, and is titled ‘Christina’s World.’

It shows what appears to be a girl or young woman, in a dress, reclining in the middle of a field.

Presumably, her name is Christina.

There is a farmhouse off in the distance and she seems to be gazing up at the house.

The viewer may wonder what she is up to and why is she in the middle of the field?

The painting itself is rather unremarkable. It is done mostly in shades of brown, with a grey coloured house. Even the open sky is a muted shade of blue.

The only real colour in the painting is Christina’s dress, which is a shade of pink.

You can’t really gather much information from the work of art, other than what you see.

But you have to wonder what the artist was trying to say.

Is the girl relaxing? Is she waiting for someone? Or is she looking up at the house and waiting for someone to come out and greet her.

It wasn’t until years after first seeing

this painting I learned the real meaning of Christina’s world.

Christina isn’t a young woman, or a girl – she is actually in her 50’s when the painting was made.

She’s on the ground because she had a degenerative muscular disorder. For some reason, she was firmly against using a wheelchair so she would crawl everywhere she went.

One day, the artist looked out of the window of his home at the neighbouring property and saw Christina crawling across the field on her way home.

He was inspired to capture this scene on canvas.

When you find out the real meaning of this work of art, the entire visual takes on an entire different meaning.

A few years ago I attended a seminar at a local clinic that specializes in helping people with hearing loss.

There was a man there who described an experience when he was a kid.

He had an older uncle, who the guy described as a ‘miserable person.’ The uncle would attend family get-togethers, but not really participate.

He would sit by himself, not engage in any conversation, and seemed to be in a perpetually bad mood.

The guy I met, would avoid this uncle, because as a kid, he was afraid of him.

The rest of the family also kept a distance.

It wasn’t until years later that this guy realized the real reason for his uncle’s misery.

The man had slowly lost his hearing over the years. He didn’t engage in conversation, because he couldn’t hear anyone speaking to him.

Apparently, no one clued in to the fact that his poor man was suffering in silence, and no one reached out to help him.

Quite often we are too quick to judge another person based on a single moment in time, or some other interaction that leaves you with a negative feeling about them.

However, do you really think that person that just cut you off in traffic really meant to do it? Or did they just not see you in the car’s blind spot.

Is it worth blasting your horn and yelling insults at the next stoplight?

Maybe I watch too many Youtube videos, but it seems we have entered an age of entitlement where some people have lost the ability to be civilized.

You never know what someone else is going through, or what their life circumstances are.

Berating a cashier for giving you the wrong change, or yelling at a person

serving coffee for making simple mistake is just not acceptable.

A couple of years ago I was in the local grocery store when a local guy started reaching over the counter to grab some scratch lottery tickets. The kid behind the counter told him couldn’t do that.

The customer started yelling at the kid. He called him a few names, ridiculed his youth and inexperience, then made some threat about burning his house down.

I was about to yell out, and tell the guy to knock it off, when the guy standing beside me, I guess had heard enough. Maybe he knew the kid, or remembered from the store.

The guy was about 6’4” tall, and around 230 lbs. He calmly walked over to the offender, and quietly said something to him. I didn’t hear what he said, but I’m sure it had something to do with putting the loud-mouth’s head through a wall or something.

The loud-mouth stopped talking and exited the store like a scared rabbit.

Karen served, as they say. It shouldn’t have come to that.

A picture doesn’t always say 1000 words, sometimes you don’t know the real story.

Making it Count

We all know today’s world is as fast-paced as it’s ever been.

I don’t know about the rest of you, but it feels though that as fast-paced as things are, they’re getting ever-faster.

It was hard enough to keep up with the rapid clip before the darkest days of the Global Pandemic set in, but that series of extremely unfortunate events – and, indeed, some continuing associated events – trebled things even more.

Perhaps the times we spent in lockdown, and in various degrees of “unlock” along the way, skewed our collective sense of time, but as the trend continues unabated, despite many treating the pandemic as a distant memory, I’m not so convinced.

Many of us these days struggle to find a decent chunk of downtime in which to disconnect, unplug, mentally recalibrate, or whatever you’re ultimately looking for.

Perhaps doing so requires a vacation to a distant land, somewhere you’ve

never been before, in which you can fully immerse yourself in “different,” making a true break from the everyday. Those opportunities, of course, are now more cost-prohibitive than ever, so maybe it’s a staycation at home, or just a short distance away that offers something new, or a different pace. Maybe it’s simpler than that, and the most accessible brain tonic is turning off your phone, finding a comfy chair and a cozy blanket in an equally comfy and cozy corner and getting swept away to a different world through the pages of a book.

Even still, as engrossing as the book might be, there’s always that temptation to reach out for that unlikely appendage that our smartphones have become, to keep just a foothold in the “outside world.” Heck, in the current news cycle, if you’re disconnected even for ten minutes, chances are high you’ve missed at least one game-changer, for better or worse.

Doomscrolling? Maybe. Wanting to

be prepared, or at least a few steps ahead? Perhaps. Healthy? Doubtful.

That’s why it’s kind of refreshing when you have some unexpected downtime due to issues beyond our control.

Over the Christmas holidays, I was lucky to get a decent chunk of time off. It took some very hard work ahead of time to make that happen, and the very thought of that time off filled me with more than a couple of shots of excitement about all the possibilities that lay ahead. Well, truth be told, after I clocked out for 2024, it took less than 48 hours for a degree of boredom to set in – well, maybe not boredom specifically, but the feeling I could use my time in a much more productive way.

Yet, this past weekend, being pretty well snowed in after Wednesday’s first blast of snow, which was followed in short order by further blasts over the weekend, for the first time in a while I felt no compelling need to be anywhere specific, or accomplish much

more than what you see in the pages of this week’s paper. Maybe through a deluge of the white stuff, nature – and circadian rhythms – were healing themselves!

Yet, I have to commend the brave souls who kept calm and carried on throughout the significant snow dumps.

Despite the challenges the snow and roads conspired to provide, I was heartened by the number of people who made the effort to take in all the wonderful activities our communities had to offer on Family Day – as well as, of course, the activities Mother Nature helped facilitate, like tobogganing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, or simply providing the raw materials to make families and armies of snow-people.

Continued on Page 11

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Different kinds of thieves

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



What's the difference between smash-and-grab raids and protection rackets? Not all that much from the legal point of view, but protection rackets have a lower level of risk and a higher rate of returns.

Take Rwanda, for example. President Paul Kagame is running no personal risks, but the Tutsi soldiers of the M23 rebel army, which essentially works for him, are fighting an actual war in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

As in most African wars, civilians are dying in far larger numbers than the soldiers, but there is a real element of personal risk for the soldiers too. On the other hand, M23's soldiers are paid very well by local standards, and they have plenty of opportunities to loot.

If they also need a moral justification for their actions, as some may do, they can tell themselves that as Tutsis they are honorary victims of a genocide, although the real victims were Tutsis living across the border in Rwanda. (The Tutsi ethnicity also lives on the western side of the DRC-Rwanda border, in the North Kivu and South Kivu provinces.)

The current task of the M23 army is to seize control of the part of eastern DRC that borders Rwanda and steal the rich mineral reserves of that region: gold, cobalt, and above all coltan, which is essential for smartphones and almost all other sophisticated electronic devices.

This region contains up to 60 per cent of the global reserves of coltan ore, and it's easy to steal and market. It's dug out by tens of thousands of small-scale operators working landscapes honeycombed with shallow digs, and once it reaches Rwanda, they mix it with locally mined coltan and market it as a Rwandan product.

Stolen coltan currently accounts for a secret but significant share of Rwandan government income, but it's a typical smash-and-grab operation: lots of violence and a short-term perspective. At the moment they're doing well: M23 seized all of North Kivu last month, and has already conquered most of South Kivu this month.

Paul Kagame always sends some Rwandan soldiers along to back up the local thugs (4,000 Rwandan troops this time), but this is the third time in thirty years that Rwanda has sent its army into the eastern DRC to grab resources. Lots of people die, but it never lasts.

Whereas a protection racket is a long-term relationship: "Nice little shop/country you've got here. You wouldn't want to see it smashed/destroyed now, would you? Just have the cash ready every Friday and nothing bad will happen to you."

Or in Ukraine's case, just have half your mineral output loaded up for shipment every Friday and you won't be hurt.

"I want the equivalent of like \$500 billion worth of rare earths, and they've essentially agreed to do that," Don-

ald Trump says he told the Ukrainian government last week. The truth is that Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky knew the mob boss would be coming round for his cut, so he offered to pay even before Trump asked.

It caught Trump on the hop, so the first number out of his mouth in reply was \$500 billion. That's almost five times the value of US military and civilian aid to Ukraine since the Russian invasion three years ago (\$116 billion), but it's far less than Trump could really screw out of a country with its back to the wall.

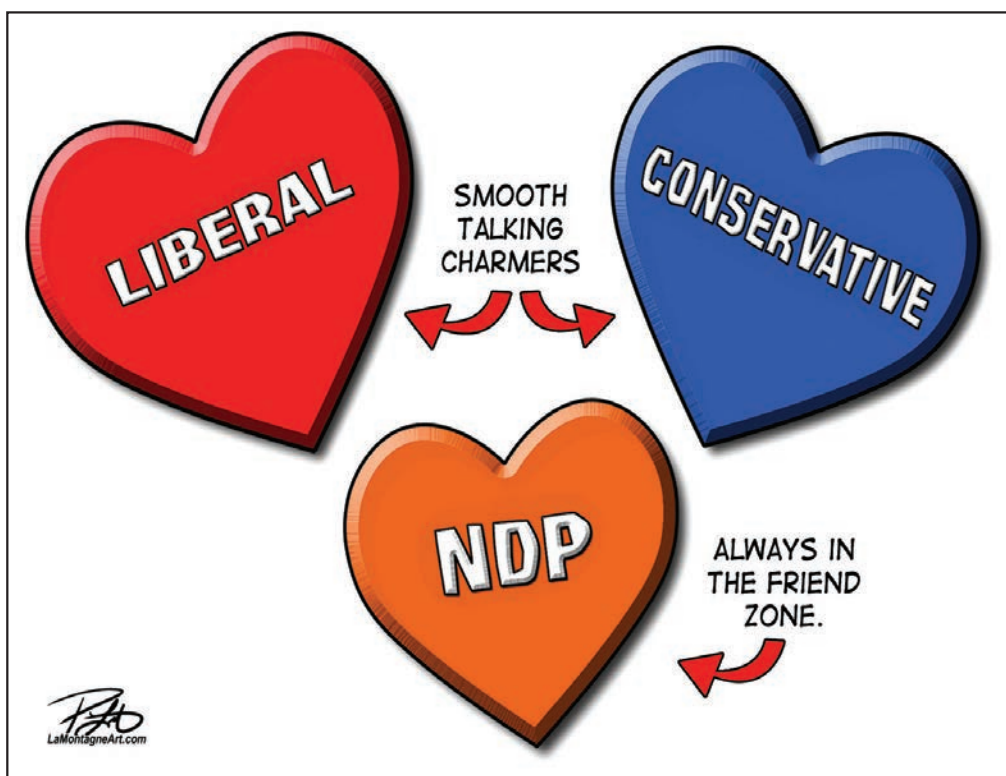
In a couple of days, therefore, Trump upped the demand hugely – but he followed Zelensky's suggestion that it should come out of Ukraine's future mineral wealth, since Kyiv currently has no spare money at all.

Trump said he now wanted 50% of Ukraine's future income from exploiting its reserves of rare metals and critical materials: titanium, uranium, lithium, beryllium, manganese, gallium, zirconium, graphite, apatite, fluorite and nickel. Half Ukraine's mineral income forever could be worth as much as \$5 trillion.

Zelensky didn't fall for that, so now they are in a negotiation. It's not just about the price Ukraine pays for survival, but also about what assurances Trump can give that paying off America will really guarantee Ukraine's survival.

The underlying difficulty is that the White House mob has farmed the enforcement work out to the Kremlin mob. The Russians may hate Ukraine enough to insist on destroying it even if Trump makes a deal with Zelensky – which is far from agreed.

That's the downside of protection rackets. It's a crowded field, and there are always other rival mobs trying to spoil your play or cut you out completely. Don Corleone had to deal with problems like this in his (fictional) past, and Don Kagame has been handling them successfully most of his life. Don Trump is new to this game, and we shall see.



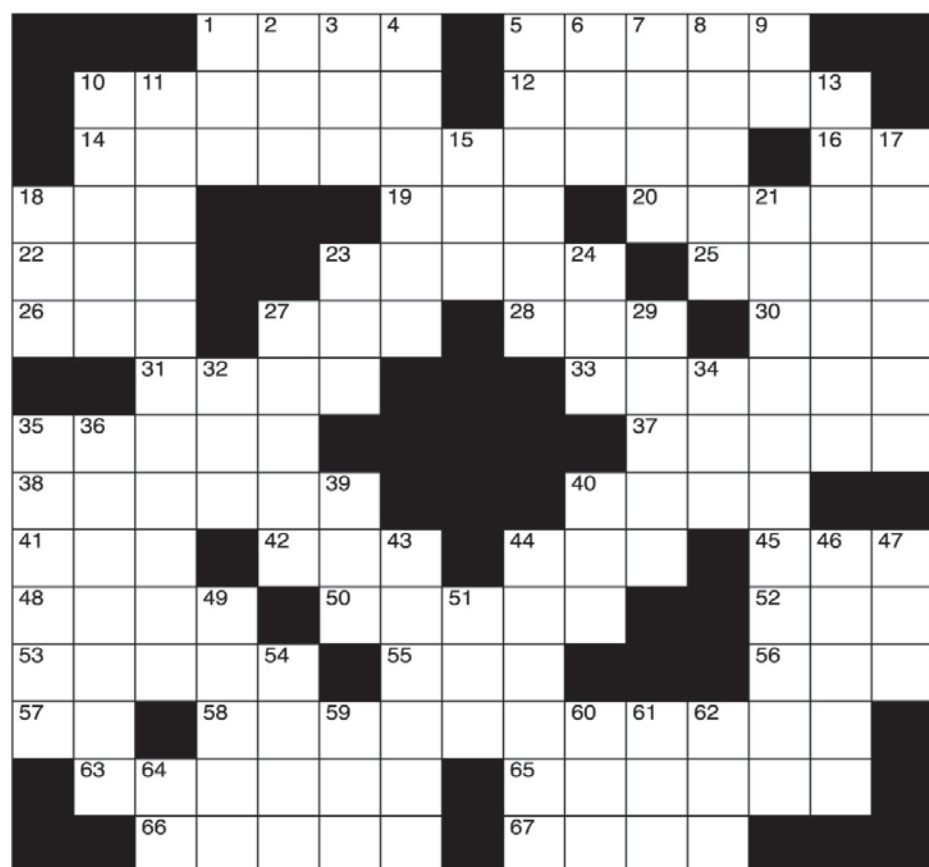
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Tropical Asian plant
5. Yankees' slugger
- Judge
10. Helps to preserve food
12. Plant disease
14. One who predicts
16. Equally
18. Burundian franc
19. Pouch
20. Arizona city
22. Surround
23. Hard, heavy timber
25. Witnessed
26. They ___
27. French river
28. A way to drink
30. Small constellation
31. Peruse a written work
33. Type of hound
35. Plant of the goosefoot family
37. Evade or escape

38. A way to confine (abbr.)
40. Volcanic crater
41. Weekday
42. Women's service organization (abbr.)
44. Local area network
45. Sensory receptor
48. Posted
50. Tibetan pastry
52. Licensed for Wall Street
53. Very willing
55. Golf score
56. Consume
57. Touchdown
58. Tends to remind
63. In a way, smoothed
65. Poke holes in the ground
66. Herbaceous plants
67. Taiwanese river

CLUES DOWN

1. Body art
2. Boxing's GOAT
3. Film for posterity

4. Prayer
5. Calculating machine
6. Keyboard key
7. Outburst
8. Man-eating giants
9. New Hampshire
10. Type of sword
11. Counting
13. Pants style
15. Political action committee
17. U.S. government legislative branch
18. Civil Rights Act component
21. Contractors take one
23. Spanish soldier
24. A person's brother or sister
27. Expressed pleasure
29. Song of praise
32. Shock treatment
34. Patti Hearst's two captors
35. Counteract
36. Goes over again
39. Popular Dodge truck
40. Male adult
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Rope used to lasso
46. Become less intense
47. Subway rodent
49. Lead alloy
51. Japanese honorific title
54. Advise someone
59. Famous NYC museum
60. Ocean
61. Cathode-ray tube
62. Cologne
64. It starts with these two

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

MEET THE CANDIDATES

PROVINCIAL ELECTION COVERAGE



Candidates respond to issues prior to provincial election

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe invites those inThere are five candidates running in the upcoming provincial election for Simcoe-Grey, which is set to take place on February 27.

The New Tecumseth Times offered each candidate the opportunity to address constituents on several important issues. The Times asked five questions and also allowed a final comment as to why they think they deserve your vote.

Candidates in Simcoe-Grey:
Ted Crysler – Ontario Liberal Party
Brian Saunderson - (Incumbent) Ontario PC
Benten Tinkler – NDP
David Ghobrial – New Blue Party
Allan Kuhn – Green Party

Candidate: Ted Crysler
Party: Ontario Liberal Party

What are your, and your party's thoughts on the fact that this election has been called early rather than completing the mandated term of office?

The short answer, it is a waste of 189 million taxpayers' dollars. The province wasn't supposed to see an election until June 2026. Again Doug Ford's Conservatives did not prioritize Ontarians' needs. Calling this

snap election early when all the major opposition parties said they'd back him to potentially spend "billions of dollars" to protect people's livelihoods proves that the supposed reason for him calling the election is questionable.

What do you think are the most important issues facing the province over the next four years?

"The list is long. We have a crumbling healthcare system, which will be prioritized. Investing in doctors, primary care, hospitals, PSWs, and nurses are just a few of the things that are needed to fix this crisis. Affordability is another issue that is in desperate need of being addressed. Housing, groceries, heating and hydro, the everyday needs of Ontarians are skyrocketing in price. Removing the tax off your home heating and hydro bills, cutting income tax rates for the middle class, eliminating the hidden taxes on building homes, cutting small business taxes in half, and working with the other provinces to eliminate interprovincial trade barriers will go a long way to keeping money in Ontarians' pockets. Dealing with Trump's tariffs may unfortunately be a daily focus due to his unpredictability. That being said, with the federal government leading the charge, our coordinated response will ensure we are fighting to protect Canadian jobs and our

economy. As a lifelong environmentalist, I believe it is critical to protect our natural heritage and farmland, and care for our ecosystems, wildlife and habitats so we can ensure our long-term survival. I told you, we have a big job ahead of us. But we're ready for it. I truly believe the Liberal plan is strong enough to see us through this time of uncertainty."

What will your party do to deal with proposed U.S. tariffs that may greatly affect the province and is the stated reason for the early election.

Well, that's an interesting question, given the fact that every day we are seeing the tariff goalpost move under the Trump administration. Let's be clear, the reasoning behind calling this election early was not because of the

Trump tariff threats; it was solely because the Ford government decided to take advantage of the fear every Ontarian is facing. Did Ford need to spend \$189 million on an early election? No. Now we have to deal with the fallout. I believe in the Team Canada approach - leading a cross-government initiative to address and eliminate interprovincial trade barriers, excluding American companies from bidding on procurement opportunities, investing in small businesses, providing necessary aid and interest free loans to affected businesses, and spending Ontarians' tax dollars wisely will all help in soothing the blow to our economy."

The province has experienced a housing shortage with prices rising dramatically leaving many people without the ability to afford a house of their own. What solutions can you provide to get this under control?

Removing the hidden tax of development charges on new builds can save the homebuyer up to \$170,000 on their purchase, and we will invest in needed infrastructure to support new homes through the permanent Better Communities fund. We will remove the land transfer tax for first time buyers, seniors who are downsizing, and non-profit

home builders. At the same time, we need to protect our farmland from sprawl development so development needs to occur in the right places and ideally within existing towns. Expanding rent controls will help stabilize rent prices. In 2018 Doug Ford rolled back rent controls on all units built or occupied after November 15 that year, saying the move would provide "market-based incentives for supply growth." An initial flurry of building has since stagnated and we are now facing a housing crisis. We can legalize lowrise fourplexes on land zoned residential across the province - a policy recommended by the housing task force. These and other measures will build confidence in our economy and give both homebuyers and renters the breathing space they need in this charged environment."

What do you, as a candidate, offer the citizens of Simcoe-Grey as a choice for their elected representative?

My voice and my ears! As your MPP, you elect me to be your voice in the legislature. Equally as important, it is my job to listen to you. And I am. And I would continue to listen to you throughout my term of office, because it is your concerns that matter and they must be heard and acted on. I would spend as much time in the riding meeting with the citizens of Simcoe-Grey as I could, to ensure I am clear on your priorities. You have made it perfectly clear what my/our priorities are right now; healthcare, affordability, the tariff threat, and sustainability. I'm ready to take on the fight and put Simcoe-Grey's needs first."

Final Comment

"We deserve a government that will listen, spend tax dollars wisely, and work tirelessly to build a sustainable future for all Ontarians. I truly believe Bonnie Crombie's Liberals are the party to achieve this goal, and I'm proud to be part of Team Bonnie."

Continued on Page 7

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4. Do you feel the need to turn up the volume on your TV or radio such that it is too loud for others? Yes No
5. Do you often need to ask others to repeat themselves? Yes No
6. Has someone close to you pointed out you may have a hearing problem? Yes No
7. Do you find it difficult to pinpoint where a noise comes from? Yes No

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Continued from Page 6

Candidates provide stances on issues ahead of provincial election

Candidate: Benten Tinkler
Party: NDP

What are your, and your party's thoughts on the fact that this election has been called early rather than completing the mandated term of office?

At this critical moment for Ontario, Doug Ford has quit his job and thrown the province into an unnecessary snap election. The Ontario NDP believes that the government's focus should have been on protecting jobs and addressing the immediate threats posed by proposed U.S. tariffs, rather than diverting attention to an early provincial election.

What are the most important issues facing the province over the next four years?

After seven years of Doug Ford, life is less affordable than ever and our public services have been starved of funding in favour of privatization. Over the next four years, an NDP government will rebuild Ontario as a place full of opportunities by focusing on:

- Building homes to address the skyrocketing cost of housing and the rapidly growing population of unhoused Ontarians.
- Hiring doctors and ensuring every person in our province has access to primary care and quality emergency services, close to home and when they need it
- Making life affordable again, by bringing down the cost of housing and offering a monthly grocery rebate to bring down household costs that have gotten out of control in recent years
- Tariff-proofing Ontario's economy by establishing new supply chains and export markets and investing in retraining programs

What will your party do to deal with proposed U.S. tariffs that may greatly affect the province and is the stated reason for the early election?

New Democrats have a comprehensive plan to defend jobs and build a more resilient, tariff-proof economy. We'll provide direct support for affected industries, collaborating with trade-exposed sectors like steel, automotive, and agriculture to maintain operations and explore new markets. We'll negotiate a joint federal-provincial income assistance for individuals whose livelihoods are impacted by tariffs.

By investing in infrastructure projects, including transit development, school repairs, and home building, we'll create thousands of jobs and stimulate economic growth.

The province has experienced a housing shortage with prices rising dramatically leaving many people without the ability to afford a house of their own. What solutions can you provide to get this under control?

To combat the housing crisis, the Ontario NDP's Homes Ontario Plan aims to build or acquire at least 300,000 permanently affordable rental homes through non-profit and co-op housing initiatives.

We're getting the province back in the business of building homes as we push to construct 1.5 million new homes over the next decade. We'll also implement real rent control by closing loopholes that exempt newer units and attach rent control to the unit during vacancies, to prevent significant rent hikes between tenants.

What do you, as a candidate, offer the citizens of Simcoe-Grey as a choice for their elected representative?

As the Ontario NDP candidate for Simcoe-Grey, I am dedicated to building an Ontario full of opportunities for everyone. After seven years of Doug Ford, life has only gotten harder and more expensive – he's helped out his wealthy insiders, while the rest of us face rising costs.

I'll be a voice to invest in the things that make a difference in our lives – building homes, hiring doctors, fixing schools, and making life affordable again.

Candidate: David Ghobrial
Party: New Blue Ontario

What are your, and your party's thoughts on the fact that this election has been called early rather than completing the mandated term of office?

Doug Ford's early election call is nothing more than political maneuvering. His claim that he needs "a mandate to stand up to Trump" is complete nonsense – Ontario's election should be about Ontario issues, not U.S. politics.

I strongly suspect Ford is securing his position before the expected federal election later this year, which will likely result in a federal Conservative win. This would expose the stark contrast between Ford's fake conservatism and a real conservative government. Ford has betrayed every campaign promise, hijacked the provincial Conservative Party, and governed no differently than Kathleen Wynne.

His praise of Trudeau and Freeland, his choice of former Liberal MPP candidates for cabinet roles, and his continued embrace of reckless liberal policies prove that he is Conservative in name only. His agenda mirrors Wynne's, and his loyalty lies with Trudeau, not Ontarians.

This premature election is about protecting Ford, not fixing Ontario.

What are the most important issues facing the province over the next four years?

Ontario is facing a crisis of reckless spending, a failing healthcare system, unaffordable housing, and rising crime. If we do not take decisive action, these problems will only continue to spiral out of control.

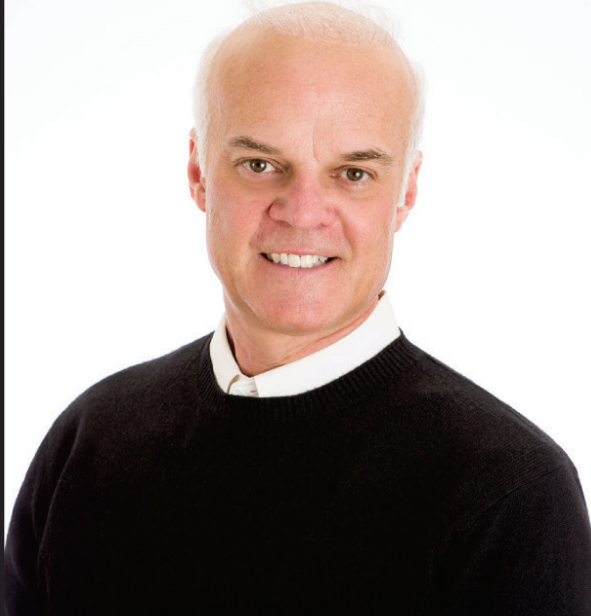
One of the most pressing concerns is economic stability. The Ford government has wasted billions of taxpayer dollars on corporate handouts and failed projects, all while ignoring the real economic issues affecting Ontarians.

Additionally, reckless immigration policies have strained our economy and created national security risks, putting further pressure on our resources. As I wrote in the Simcoe Times during the last election: "If we had spent a fraction of the funds used to subsidize the shutdown of our economy on healthcare instead, we would have ended up with a stronger economy and a stronger healthcare system post-pandemic." Ontario needs fiscal responsibility and policies that prioritize the well-being of its citizens, not globalist agendas and corporate welfare.

The healthcare crisis is another major issue that cannot be ignored. Over two million Ontarians lack access to a family doctor, forcing them to overcrowded emergency rooms where wait times are at record highs. Instead of investing in real solutions, the government has buried healthcare under layers of bureaucracy, preventing more doctors and nurses from working efficiently. Without immediate reforms, this crisis will continue to worsen, leaving more Ontarians without proper medical care.

Education is also falling apart under radical ideological agendas. Instead of focusing on core subjects like math, science, and literacy, our schools have become a battleground for woke indoctrination and divisive ideological curriculums. As a result, students are falling behind, and Ontario's education system is failing to prepare the next generation for real-world success. We must restore academic excellence, remove ideological influence from classrooms, and ensure parents have a voice in their children's education.

Continued on Page 8



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as your Ontario Liberal MPP for Simcoe-Grey

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My name is Ted Crysler and I am running to be the MPP for Simcoe-Grey. As a family man having grown up in this area, my roots run deep. I am running because I believe Simcoe-Grey deserves an enthusiastic advocate whose voice in the legislature will not be ignored and who will be dedicated to work with local constituents. Liberal Leader Bonnie Crombie has a strong plan that I fully endorse. As your Simcoe-Grey MPP, my focus will be on those things that matter most to my constituents.

Health Care - Get doctors and primary care providers for all Ontarians, build the new Stevenson Memorial Hospital ASAP.

Ruthless Tariffs - Provide aid as needed to address any tariffs affecting the stability of Ontario's economy.

Tax Cuts - Cut income taxes, home heating and hydro taxes, and small business taxes.

Build Housing - Execute a real housing plan that creates affordable housing.

Schools - Fund and build a new Banting Memorial high school ASAP.

Agriculture - Enact proper land use planning to protect farmland, full fund the risk management program, stop stormwater fees.

Listen - Listen to you. Contact me about the issues that matter to you at info@votecryslers.ca

Authorised by the CFO for the Ted Crysler Campaign

Continued from Page 7

Candidates provide stances on issues ahead of provincial election

The housing crisis is yet another growing concern. Government policies, mass immigration, and corporate speculation have made homeownership unattainable for many hardworking Ontarians. The Ford government has lined the pockets of developers instead of focusing on responsible housing solutions. Rather than artificial market suppression, we must fix supply chain issues, remove bureaucratic barriers to home construction, and prevent foreign investors from driving up prices. Homeownership should be attainable for Ontario families, not just a luxury for the wealthy elite and foreign speculators.

Finally, rising crime and declining public safety have made many communities unsafe. Instead of tackling the root causes of criminal activity, the government has added more safe injection sites near schools, enabled soft-on-crime policies, and allowed drug dealers to walk free with little to no consequences. We need real law and order, not policies that encourage crime and addiction.

The next four years are critical for Ontario. If we do not restore fiscal responsibility, fix healthcare, repair education, address the housing crisis, and implement real public safety measures, the situation will only deteriorate. Ontario needs leadership that will stand up for its people—not waste money, push ideological agendas, and ignore the real issues that matter to families.

What will your party do to deal with proposed U.S. tariffs that may greatly affect the province and is the stated reason for the early election?

Doug Ford's claim that this early election is necessary to "stand up to Trump" over U.S. tariffs is nothing more than a political distraction. The reality is that tariffs primarily impact American consumers by raising prices, making Canadian goods less competitive in the U.S. market. While tariffs may reduce Canada's share in certain industries, Ford's election excuse is simply a cover-up/scapegoat for his failures and an attempt to secure his position before an expected federal Conservative win later this year — which would expose his liberal governance under the Conservative label.

The real solution to U.S. tariffs is not an early election, but strong leadership through direct trade negotiations. Ontario should follow Alberta's lead and negotiate directly with President Trump to reduce tariffs on key Canadian commodities that the U.S. relies on. America still needs Canadian resources, and a smart government would work to secure favourable trade agreements instead of using tariffs as a fear-mongering election tactic.

However, the bigger problem facing Ontario is not U.S. tariffs — it's our own government's reckless policies that have weakened our economy and security. If we had secured our borders instead of allowing the influx of radical extremists, terrorists, and fentanyl into our country, we would not be in this situation. Policies like "catch and release," safe injection sites, drug legalization, reduced sentencing for drug dealers, and soft-on-crime laws have only made things worse.

This is the main reason Trump is applying

pressure — Canada has failed to secure its borders, enforce laws, and protect its economy. That, and of course, the childish behavior of Justin Trudeau, who bad-mouths the U.S. president just minutes after leaving a so-called "great meeting" with him. Trudeau's reckless diplomacy has damaged Canada-U.S. relations, and Ford, instead of addressing real economic solutions, is using this as an excuse for an early election.

It is hypocritical for both Ford and Trudeau to pretend they are standing up to Trump over tariffs while completely ignoring the damage they have caused with their own policies. The carbon tax alone has hurt Ontario's economy far more than any U.S. tariff could, driving up costs on food, housing, energy, and manufacturing. Instead of blaming external factors, our leaders should fix the economic disaster they created.

As MPP, I will push for direct trade negotiations to protect Ontario's industries, pressure the federal government to secure our borders and stop reckless immigration policies, eliminate the carbon tax, and end wasteful spending that is draining our economy. Ontario needs real leadership — not distractions and political games.

Ontario's housing crisis is the direct result of reckless government policies, mass immigration without proper infrastructure planning, and corporate land speculation. Home prices have soared beyond reach for many hardworking Ontarians, while developers and foreign investors profit. Instead of prioritizing homeownership for Ontario families, the government has played directly into the globalist agenda of "own nothing and be happy," eroding the middle class as part of the "Great Reset" ideology.

The solution is not artificially suppressing home prices, which would trigger a market collapse and further destroy the economy. Instead, the focus must be on making homeownership more attainable for Canadians. This starts with:

- Securing mortgages for Canadians, ensuring they have access to financing rather than letting foreign investors buy up properties.
- Slashing taxes so families keep more of their paycheques and qualify for mortgages more easily.
- Making mortgage payments tax-deductible for Canadians, while preventing foreign investors from benefiting from the same deductions.

The Ford government has failed to protect Ontario families from runaway housing costs while allowing big developers and foreign buyers to dominate the market. Instead of addressing real affordability solutions, the government's policies continue to push homeownership out of reach and weaken the financial stability of the middle class.

Homeownership is the foundation of a strong, independent society—not a privilege for the wealthy elite. Without decisive action to support Canadian homebuyers, the dream of homeownership will continue to fade for the next generation.

What do you, as a candidate, offer the citizens of Simcoe-Grey as a choice for their

elected representative?

The people of Simcoe-Grey deserve a reThe people of Simcoe-Grey deserve a representative who will put them first, not a politician who plays into the same establishment politics that have left Ontario in decline. As a candidate, I offer a real conservative alternative — someone who will fight for families, protect our freedoms, and restore economic stability.

Unlike career politicians who campaign as conservatives but govern as liberals, I am committed to principled leadership that upholds fiscal responsibility, family values, and personal freedoms. Doug Ford and his so-called "Conservative" government have betrayed Ontarians, broken their promises, and pushed liberal policies under a conservative label.

I will fight to restore affordability by cutting taxes, fixing our broken healthcare system, removing radical ideologies from education, and pushing back against reckless immigration policies that strain our resources and drive up housing costs. Instead of wasteful spending and corporate handouts, I will focus on protecting hardworking Ontarians, supporting small businesses, and strengthening our economy.

I will be a strong voice in Queen's Park standing up for our farmers, skilled workers, entrepreneurs, workers in the tourism industry, healthcare professionals, and all those who make Simcoe-Grey thrive. Our province cannot function without these hardworking individuals, yet government overreach, excessive taxation, and out-of-touch policies have made it harder for them to succeed. I will fight to cut red tape, remove unnecessary regulations, and support policies that empower workers, businesses, and industries essential to our local economy.

Do you have a final comment to share?

My vision for Simcoe-Grey is a community where families can thrive, where homeownership is attainable, where children receive a proper education — not ideological indoctrination — and where law and order are restored. I will be a true conservative voice, fighting for common-sense policies that put people before politics.

This election is about choosing real leadership over empty promises. If you want a representative who will stand up for your rights, fight for a stronger economy, and bring real conservative values back to Ontario, then I ask for your support.

It's time to take back Simcoe-Grey.

**Candidate: Allan Kuhn
Party: Green Party of Ontario**

What are your, and your party's thoughts on the fact that this election has been called early rather than completing the mandated term of office?

Canada, Ontario, Simcoe-Grey is under threat from Trump Tariffs. We should not be out campaigning in a Provincial Election, spending millions and millions of dollars competing against each other, we should be rallying together as Team Canada, reaching over party lines to build Team Canada, not competing against each other riding for riding in

a snap election. Only together can we defend ourselves against Trump.

What do you think are the most important issues facing the province over the next four years?

Healthcare and Housing. Currently there are millions and millions of people in Ontario, and tens of thousands of people in our region, including myself, without a doctor! Currently anybody working full time with minimum wage cannot afford rent in Ontario. Medicine and Housing seem to be reserved only for the very wealthy. That is not the Ontario that we want! We want to protect the people and places we love!

What will your party do to deal with proposed U.S. tariffs that may greatly affect the province and is the stated reason for the early election.

Immediately create a 'tariff taskforce' that works across party, jurisdictional and sectoral lines to negotiate with the United States on trade. Create an investment tax credit to unlock business investments in Ontario. Develop a "Buy Ontario" strategy and implement public procurement rules that support Ontario businesses and farmers. Create a Protect Ontario Fund for businesses disproportionately impacted by tariffs and make the investments needed to build new supply chains. Immediately move to aggressively diversify our trade partners. Work with other provinces to finally remove interprovincial trade barriers.

The province has experienced a housing shortage with prices rising dramatically leaving many people without the ability to afford a house of their own. What solutions can you provide to get this under control?

Update the Planning Act, Provincial Planning Statement and other applicable laws and regulations to expand zoning permissions to allow for fourplexes and four storeys as-of-right within existing urban boundaries.

Set uniform provincial standards for urban design and remove onerous rules.

Change planning laws to ensure various building types can be built along main streets, transit stations and corridors, public lands, surplus commercial lands, and residential neighbourhoods to ensure there is a liveable mix of housing in all neighbourhoods.

Make homes affordable for home buyers by removing development charges on homes, condos and apartment units built under 2,000 sq ft within urban boundaries. Implement an Affordable Community Fund to reimburse municipalities for lost revenue.

End the Land Transfer Tax for first-time home buyers to make it more affordable for people to purchase their first home.

Implement a multiple property speculation tax on those who purchase more than two houses in Ontario. The tax will begin at 25% on the third home and increase with each additional property owned.

Work with municipalities to implement a province-wide vacant homes tax. Implement a provincial anti-flipping tax on quick turn-around sales.

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COMMUNITY FUN – It was blus ery and o ld, but a lot of loa l res dents s ill made it to the Tottenham Community Centre for Family Day (Feb. 17). In addition to free skating, there were all orts of fun at iv ties for k ds **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Hornets finish the regular season as top team in division

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets have clinched the 2025 North Carruthers Division as the first-place team to end the regular season.

Dominating the division this year, the Alliston squad wrapped up the season with a 40-2 record. Their only losses came on Jan. 10, when they gave up a 5-4 game on a shoot-out to the Muskoka Bears, and in the final game of the season with a shoot-out loss to the Stayner Siskins.

The final game of the regular season had the Hornets hosting the Siskins at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre for an afternoon game on the Family Day holiday on Monday, Feb. 17.

In the final game, the Hornets were leading 1-0 early in the third period with both teams putting up very good defensive play.

Tristen Pitt scored the only Hornets goal of the game at 2:28 into the third period.

The Siskins matched it with a goal at the 12:28 mark.

Neither team could score to break the tie and the game went into three-on-three overtime.

With no scoring in overtime, the game ended with a shoot-out. The Siskins won the game outscoring the Hornets 2-1 over four shots on net to claim the 2-1 win.

“It was a nothing game and we were short guys,” said Hornets coach Jacob Bauchman after the Stayner game. “We sat three of our top guys, our top three scorers. It’s a nothing game so we don’t want any injuries.”

The Hornets had already clinched first place and the outcome of Monday’s game would not impact on the standings.

“We’re feeling good going into Wednesday, (playoffs),” Bauchman said. “We just got to make sure we’re going on all cylinders from the get-go. We won’t take anyone lightly. We play our game and get this series over as soon as possible then we will have more of a break. We can rest and get in some practice.”

In the first round of the playoffs, the Hornets will be up against the Muskoka Bears in a best-of-seven playoff series.

That series got underway on Muskoka home ice on Wednesday, Feb. 19, with results not available at press time.

The series will move to Allison for game two on Friday, Feb. 21.

Game time is 7:30 p.m.



HEADING TO PLAYOFFS – The Alliston Hornets host the Stayner Siskins for the last game of the regular season at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston on Monday, Feb. 17. The Hornets gave up a 2-1 loss after the game went into overtime, and then a shoot-out. The Hornets finished the regular season in first place to clinch the Division. The 2025 playoffs are now underway with the Hornets meeting the Muskoka Bears in the quarter-final round.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



ON THE ICE – The Tottenham Railers host the Toronto Flyers on the ice at the Tottenham Community Centre during an afternoon Family Day game on Feb. 17. The Railers left the ice with a 5-4 win. The Railers are now in fifth place in the South Division of the Greater Metro Hockey League.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Are you part of a sports team?
Are you an individual athlete?
Do you have an upcoming event or
a recent accomplishment?
Share the details with us!
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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Making it Count

What was even more heartening, however, was the number of people who bundled up and did what they needed to do to flex their civic muscles, despite the meteorological barriers.

This includes both the candidates who gave their boots, hats and earmuffs a work-out knocking on as many doors as they could before a deep chill set in, as well as residents at large who made the effort to door-knock on behalf of their candidates of choice or trek to wherever they needed to trek to cast their vote ahead of the Feb. 27 Provincial election.

Kudos also go to the dozens of people who came out to a Newmarket-Aurora All-Candidates meeting on Wednesday night, just as Arctic conditions began to descend on the Greater Toronto Area.

With calls from the weather authorities

to go home early from work (if you had to go out at all) and avoid unnecessary travel, dozens of hardy souls filled Newmarket's Old Town Hall to hear what their local candidates had to say and how they hoped to represent them at Queen's Park.

What's a shame, however, was the less-than-hardy turnout from said candidates looking to gain or retain support from the electorate.

Just two candidates – representing the Liberals and the NDP, and surprisingly not the Green Party considering this was an all-candidates meeting largely focused on the environment and climate change – showed up to share their views with the assembled company, with the others sending their regrets.

It wasn't all that long ago when debates and all-candidates meetings were seen as an essential part of the campaign, regardless of

whether the election in question was taking place in the winter, spring, summer or fall.

At the end of the day, an election is a 30-odd-day job application process and talking to someone at their door, or a collective of voters at meetings like these is equally important as the job interview component of the process. After all, if one's being asked to lend a candidate their vote, it shouldn't be a vote taken for granted; rather, a candidate should offer what they believe to be a compelling reason why they deserve an X next to their name.

Across Ontario, there have been multiple reports of Progressive Conservative candidates being no-shows at set debates or all-candidates meetings being cancelled altogether as candidates from the incumbent governing party have either declined invitations or had previous commitments keeping

them from the table.

This shouldn't be the case.

As we have seen in recent years, months and weeks, democracy can be a fragile thing and it's only as strong as we want it to be. Key in our democratic process is a healthy exchange between candidates and electors, with candidates presenting their respective visions for the future and electors staying engaged and using their vote to advance what their own vision is for tomorrow.

We can't have that with empty seats at the table, and if voters are willing to show up despite whatever calamities nature throws at them, candidates should be willing – and eager – to do the same.

Despite the pause the winter blast afforded us over the last week, an election is no time to let snow accumulate around our feet. Let's all of us make the last week count.

Plan ahead for parking if visiting the hospital

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you are planning on going to Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston over the next few weeks, you should consider parking options before you arrive.

There is construction activity on the hospital property taking place in preparation for the building of the new facility.

All activity is taking place outside of the hospital building and programs and services a running as normal.

However, there will be an increased volume of trucks in the main entrance parking lot. Personnel will be on hand to direct the trucks so that ambulances and other traffic can proceed safely.

Parking may be impacted as a result of the construction. Overflow parking is available along Fletcher Crescent just past the hospital.

If you plan on dropping off patients with mobility limitations, you may want to drop them off at the main entrance before proceeding to park to avoid a longer distance from the parking spot to the hospital entrance.

The hospital said it would like to thank visitors for their patience and understanding during the construction process.



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Two vehicle thefts in Alliston under investigation by local police

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating two vehicle thefts overnight in Alliston.

On Feb. 12, at 3:28 a.m., officers responded to a call for service to a home on Walnut Street in Alliston, where the homeowner reported they had just heard their white 2023 Toyota Tundra pickup truck start in the driveway then depart southbound on

their street.

On Feb. 12, at 5:17 a.m. officers received another report of a black 2024 Toyota Tundra that had been stolen overnight in that same area on Gordon Drive in Alliston.

The vehicle was last seen around midnight.

Witnesses stated they observed the suspects vehicles being a dark grey larger European model SUV and a white Mercedes

SUV with one suspect driving and a passenger that would steal the vehicles.

Police conducted extensive patrols of the area and were unable to locate the suspect vehicles.

If you have any information or video surveillance footage in relation to these thefts, please call the Nottawasaga OPP Detachment at 1-888-310-112 (Report #E250174515 and #E250174424). You can also provide infor-



mation anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at <https://ontario.crimestoppers.ca/>.

Alliston driver leaving St. Louis Bar and Grill charged with impaired operation

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a driver for driving while impaired in Alliston.

On Feb. 12, shortly before 7:30 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a report of an unwanted person at the St. Louis Bar and Grill on King Street South, Alliston. A cus-

tommer who had been drinking was no longer welcome and refused to leave. Upon officers' arrival, the individual had just fled the parking lot in a motor vehicle.

The officer was able to locate the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop shortly after on Victoria Street East. The officer issued an Approved Screening Device demand (ASD).

Subsequently, the driver provided a sample which resulted in a "Fail".

At 7:41 p.m., the driver, Neil Harrison, 63, of Alliston, was arrested and charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

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

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice located in Bradford on March 6 to answer to the charges.

None of the charges have been proven in court.

Nottawasaga OPP lays impaired driving, failure to stop at red light charges in Alliston

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a driver for driving while impaired in Alliston.

On Feb. 7, shortly after 11:30 p.m., a Nottawasaga OPP officer was conducting general patrol in the area of Victoria St. and Boyne St., Alliston. The officer observed a passenger vehicle proceeded through the intersection on

the red light.

The officer conducted a traffic stop for the offence under the Highway Traffic Act. Upon further investigation, the officer could smell an odour of an alcoholic beverage coming from the driver at which time the officer issued an Approved Screening Device demand (ASD).

The driver subsequently provided a sample which resulted in a "Fail".

At 11:46 p.m., the driver: Edwin Addai Sarfo, a 28 years-old from Bradford, was charged with:

- Red light - fail to stop
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

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

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice located in Bradford on March 13, 2025, to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Local police officer recovers stolen Kia Seltos using ALPR during general patrol in Angus

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested and charged one person in connection to a stolen vehicle located in Angus.

On Feb. 11, shortly before 11 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP officers were conducting general patrols around Massey Street in Angus when officers received an Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) alert on a black Kia Seltos. The ALPR indicated the vehicle was stolen in Hamilton.

Officers located a lone male party near the vehicle and investigated. Upon completion of the investigation, the male party was placed under arrest.

Brent Christopher Remy, a 42-year-old male from Toronto, was charged with Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Under \$5,000 - in Canada - two counts

Remy has been released and is to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice on March 20. The listed charge has not been proven in court.



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602 ARTICLES FOR SALE

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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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.

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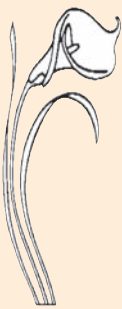


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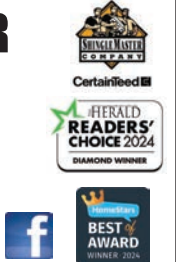
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