



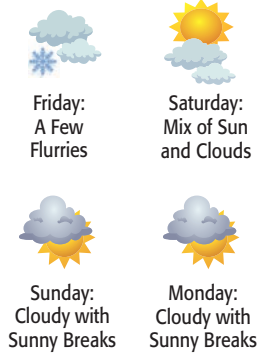
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Riding the trails

It has been a good winter for sports that rely on snow for fun. Ski hills have had a good season and for the first time in several years, the snowmobile trails have had a long stretch of well-groomed trails. Two snowmobilers travel down one of the trails near Everett.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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Keep being you **Love your ears**

Measles cases nearly doubled in Ontario over two weeks

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A recent measles outbreak in Ontario has resulted in 18 unimmunized children being hospitalized.

Public Health Ontario has reported that as of Feb. 26, a total of 119 confirmed cases and 23 probable cases of measles have been reported in the province this year.

All but two of the cases were associated with an ongoing multi-jurisdictional outbreak. One confirmed case was associated with travel outside of the country and occurred in an unimmunized child who required hospitalization.

In total, 177 cases of measles were reported in Ontario between Oct. 28, 2024, and Feb. 26, 2025. This includes 127 confirmed and 50 probable cases.

Cases of measles have occurred in four public health units, including Southwestern Public Health, Grand Erie Public Health,

Grey Bruce Health Unit, and Chatham-Kent Public Health.

All outbreak cases were in individuals born in or after 1970. This includes 141 children and adolescents and 36 adults.

Eighteen of those cases required hospitalization including one case that required intensive care.

Public health officials have called this the largest measles outbreak in the province in almost 30 years.

Immunization rates in the province have decreased over the past few years and public health officials are urging parents to get their school aged children vaccinated.

Cases of measles have also been reported in New Brunswick, Manitoba, and Quebec.

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory virus. Symptoms include fever, a red blotchy rash, red watery eyes and cough.

Immunization is the best protection against measles. For children and most adults born in or after 1970, this means

receiving two doses of a measles-containing vaccine.

In Ontario, measles has been rare, owing to the successful elimination of measles in Canada and high immunization coverage.

As a result, measles cases in the country have typically been associated with travel.



Nutritious food out of reach for many: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

With the rise in the cost of living and steadily increasing food prices, the 2024 Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) survey reveals that many residents in Simcoe Muskoka are unable to afford the basic, nutritious food necessary to meet current Canadian nutrition recommendations.

The NFB survey, conducted annually by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit tracks the cost of a basic nutritious diet in the region.

The 2024 survey revealed that it costs \$1,302.77 per month for a family of four (two adults and two children) and \$452.83 for a single-person household to purchase the 61 basic food items in the Nutritious Food basket. When food costs are put in the context of total income and rent is factored in, many people cannot meet their basic needs, let alone afford all the other expenses needed for daily living.

“Food affordability is a critical issue that is impacting everyone, but it is most challenging for those living on lower incomes, those who have unstable or insecure work, people who rent, single parents with kids, and those living alone,” said Vanessa Hurley, Public Health Nutritionist and Registered Dietitian at SMDHU.

“When household income is too low, people cannot cover their basic expenses,” she explained. “A family of four receiving Ontario Works benefits would need to spend 100 per cent of their income just on food and rent alone. For a single adult on Ontario Works, covering these two essen-

tials is impossible, consuming 177 per cent of their income, leaving no money for other basic needs such as utilities, transportation, clothing, medications or child-care.”

Recent data from Public Health Ontario shows a sharp increase in food insecurity in Simcoe Muskoka, with the number of households unable to afford food reaching an all-time high.

Currently, one in three households in the area experience food insecurity, almost twice as many as in 2022, and more than the provincial rate of one in four.

Food insecurity can mean buying less food or lower quality food, feeling stressed about running out of food, skipping meals or, in the most severe cases, going without food for days.

Household food insecurity is a serious public health issue with many individuals experiencing significant physical and mental health consequences. Individuals living in food-insecure households are at a higher risk of suffering from chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and depression. “When people cannot afford nutritious food, their overall health gets worse, which adds more strain to our healthcare system,” said Hurley. “Food and living costs are not only a financial burden on individuals but also contribute to higher healthcare costs, which ultimately affect the entire community.”

For more information about the NFB results, the issue of household food insecurity, actions that can be taken, and how the health unit can support you, visit the health unit's website at smdhu.org.

Blue wave sweeps across Ontario, Saunderson re-elected in Simcoe-Grey

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A wave of blue swept across Ontario on Thursday, Feb. 27, during the provincial election, as Premier Doug Ford and his Progressive Conservatives won their third straight majority government.

This was the first time since 1959 in Ontario that a party has won three consecutive majorities.

Ford said the snap election was called to combat continued threats from U.S. President Donald Trump, who has said he will place heavy tariffs against Canadian products.

At his election headquarters in Toronto, Ford told his supporters, “This election, we asked the people for a mandate. A strong mandate that outlives and outlasts the Trump administration. A mandate to do whatever it takes to protect Ontario. Well friends, the people have spoken. They’re ready to stand up for Canada.”

The Progressive Conservatives won 80 seats in the election.

The New Democratic Party will return as the official opposition after winning 27 seats.

In third place, the Liberals had a disappointing evening winning only 14 seats in the province.

Liberal Party leader Bonnie Crombie, failed to win her seat in Mississauga East-Cooksville, losing to PC Silvia Gualtieri.

Crombie said she plans to stay on as party leader. However, that is an unlikely scenario given she doesn’t have a seat in provincial parliament.

Locally, incumbent Brian Saunderson was re-elected to represent Simcoe-Grey as a member of the Progressive Conserva-

“I just want to say to the residents of Simcoe-Grey: thank you for this endorsement. My commitment to you is to continue the work of the last two and a half years, and continue to champion the residents and advocate for our interests at Queen’s Park.”

Brian Saunderson, MPP

tives.

Saunderson received 53.55 per cent of the vote. This will be his second term in provincial office.

“This was an election about protecting Ontario, and I think you’re going to see that’s going to be front and centre in the agenda,” Saunderson said to supporters after arriving at Bear Resort in Collingwood on election night. “I just want to say to the residents of Simcoe-Grey: thank you for this endorsement. My commitment to you is to continue the work of the last two and a half years, and continue to champion the residents and advocate for our interests at Queen’s Park.”

Along with protecting Ontario, Saunderson said his government will work toward making progress in jobs, affordability, and housing.

“These are all critical issues that are affecting every one of us and if we have a step backward because of what’s happening with the tariffs south of the border, that’s going to be a very big issue for us,” Saunderson said. “We will survive this and we will grow. We will sustain.”



RE-ELECTED – Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunders addresses supporters after the Feb. 27 provincial election at the Bear Resort in Collingwood. Saunderson won the election with 53 per cent of the vote. This will be his second term in provincial office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

He added, “When the chips are down, we’re bigger – we’re a bigger country in terms of our heart, our determination, and our will to survive. And we will not be cowed. We will continue to protect Ontario and we will continue to champion Canada and this is what this day means because we have a renewed mandate to do all of that and I’m looking forward to getting back to Queen’s Park.”

The election results for Simcoe-Grey

were:

- PC Party of Ontario - Brian Saunderson - 30,572 votes
- Ontario Liberal Party - Ted Crysler - 18,549 votes
- Ontario NDP - Benten Tinkler - 3,264
- Green Party of Ontario - Allan Kuhn - 3,154
- New Blue Party - David Ghobrial - 1,554
- Voter turnout was 44.53 per cent.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Give Buffy a break

There's an old public service commercial from 1970 that a lot of people remember – because it was really well done.

It was at a time when people had very little concern for the environment. Cities in the U.S. were filled with garbage, Lake Erie was a cesspool, and factories would belch toxic smoke into the atmosphere and dump toxic chemicals in public waterways.

In the public service commercial, a Native American is seen paddling his canoe through a lake littered with garbage.

At the end, he stands at the side of the highway. A car drives by and the passenger throws a pile of garbage out of the car window that lands in front of the Native American's moccasin covered feet.

The tagline from the commercial is 'people start pollution, people can stop it.'

In the final shot, the Native American turns to the camera, with a single tear rolling down his cheek, because of the lack of concern for nature and the natural beauty of the country.

It was a powerful commercial, and it really did bring awareness to the public about what a mess the country was in. It was a turning point in North American history where both sides of the border

decided to clean things up.

The Native American actor was Iron Eyes Cody.

Good old Iron Eyes had quite the career as both a personality and as an actor – appearing in more than 200 films as a Native American.

He sure did look the part, dressing in appropriate clothing with his long hair braided and adorned with a single feather.

Except it turns out Iron Eyes wasn't a Native American at all. His parents were Sicilian, and Iron Eyes was born and raised in Louisiana. His birth name was Espera Oscar de Corti.

This wasn't really discovered until after his death, however there was no outrage, and no call for destroying the movies he had appeared in.

Iron Eyes identified as a Native American and made a whole career of it, and when it was discovered he had pulled the wool over the public's eyes, people just smiled and thought, 'What do you know – Iron Eyes wasn't really Native.'

Singer-songwriter, Buffy Sainte-Marie has been performing since the 1960s. She has always performed as an Indigenous Canadian.

She wrote songs about Native American culture and participated in education and social activism, particularly in

regards to Indigenous issues.

She was well liked and her activism was appreciated.

It was discovered in 2023, that Buffy isn't Indigenous at all. There have been rumours of this for years, but hard evidence wasn't produced until an investigation by CBC News discovered the truth.

It turns out Buffy was born as a white girl in Massachusetts.

There has been plenty of fall-out for Buffy since then. She was stripped of her Order of Canada Award, and most recently was removed from an exhibit at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg.

Why the outrage?

Over the past several years, the whole 'I identify as an (insert noun, verb, etc.)' thing has been in the news.

If a 6'8" solidly built male athlete suddenly declares he 'identifies as female', everyone applauds and congratulates him on being so brave.

Buffy identifies as Indigenous and created an entire persona and career around being an Indigenous performer.

That's show business for ya.

The entire business of being a performer or being an actor is all about deception and creating a character that will be noticed by the public.

Marilyn Monroe was not a ditzy blonde,

she was actually quite intelligent.

Harpo Marx honked a horn instead of speaking and was never seen speaking in public. However, Harpo was quite capable of carrying on a normal conversation.

Dean Martin was a crooner and notorious drunk. However, that drink he always had in his hand, didn't really contain alcohol. Martin wasn't really a drinker.

Steve Martin had a career as one 'wild and wacky' guy. However, in his personal life, he is reported to actually be quite reserved.

Buffy identified as an Indigenous person and Native American groups appreciated her activism and her efforts at bringing awareness to Indigenous issues.

The question is, what harm did she do?

She did a lot more good in her on-stage role as an Indigenous person.

Maybe she wasn't truthful in her role as a performer, but so what? She's a singer/songwriter, she wasn't testifying under oath at a trial.

If creating a false image in the world of show business is a negative thing, then most of Hollywood and the music industry would be in trouble.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



My father's 'Swedish Pimple'

Since time immemorial, fishermen worldwide have embarked on a personal quest to discover the 'Holy Grail' of fishing lures. The one lure that, when attached to a fishing line, regardless of season, would attract a multitude of fish, leading them to their doom and ultimately, to your frying pan, or, if you finally caught the 'big one' of your dreams, to the taxidermist.

There is much-heated debate amongst anglers about which lure is best. A friend of mine swears by two particular lures, the 'Mepps Spinner' and the 'Hula Popper'. When he was a kid, he witnessed a lot of fish being caught with those two particular lures. His brother-in-law always seemed to do well with the 'Mepps Spinner', and a summer tourist who rented a local cabin always seemed to bring back a large string of fish from his days on the lake, courtesy of the 'Hula Popper'. To the childhood recollections of my friend,

those two particular lures back then always seemed to be 'fish magnets'.

Many fishermen believe they have found their own personal Holy Grail of fishing lures, and my angler father was certainly no different.

Dad loved to go ice fishing during the winter months and enjoyed experimenting with the different lures he kept in his tackle box that were intended to catch the fish that were lurking under his hut during the time he spent on the ice.

And as far as he was concerned, after performing a number of different angling experiments in his hut throughout the winters he spent on the ice, the lure he finally settled on as his personal Holy Grail of ice fishing was the 'Swedish Pimple'.

The 'Swedish Pimple' fishing lure was created more than 50 years ago by three brothers each of two fishing families of Gladstone, Michigan, USA and was based on other successful ice fishing

lures of the time. The reflective brass body, varied coloured designs, and unique movements of the lure made it irresistible to fish as it was jigged under the ice or in the open water.

Named by Field and Stream magazine as one of the 50 greatest fishing lures of all time, the 'Swedish Pimple' name came from the Swedish word 'pimpla', meaning 'to jig'. The lure was so successful that the Nyberg brothers formed the Bay de Noc Lure Company to manufacture 'Pimples' and other successful lures back in 1955.

Starting out as a group of six fishing friends who had trouble finding a steady supply of fishing lures for their passion, the three brothers each of the Nyberg and Apelgren families finally started making their own fishing lures by copying the popular Swedish designs of the time. When the Nyberg brothers finally received a registered trademark for their own 'Swedish Pimple' design in 1957,

their lure became an instant hit. The lure is still hand-made to this day and currently sells 500,000 a year throughout the Midwestern USA, Canada, and all around the world.

The 'Swedish Pimple' fishing lure became a personal favourite of my Father, not only because it got results and caught fish, but also because the name always brought a little smirk to Dad's face every time he said it. And I have no doubt that he was not the only angler out there who was amused by the name.

But silly names aside, the lure always seemed to get results. To my recollection, Dad rarely came home empty-handed from ice fishing, and he usually attributed his angling success to the lure with the silliest name in his tackle box: The 'Swedish Pimple.'

KEITH SCHELL
REMEMBERING WHEN



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The last few weeks haven't been particularly friendly for those of us who are predisposed to cabin fever.

Mountains of snow have conspired to block the most obvious paths between Point A and Point B; the occasional warm-ups have made the mountains a little bit easier to traverse, at least on the surface. These surfaces often cover up untold depths of slush, another obstacle to navigate, which, comes with the frequent flash freezes, results in sheets of ice that would make even the most novice curler go back to get a rock.

The projected warm-up this week should take care of much of the remaining mess, a boon for those of us who are eager to make the most out of the great outdoors again, but it hasn't been solely a time to hunker down and hibernate until more clement days arrived.

Hopefully, for instance, you were among the paltry 45.4 per cent of eligible electors who made their way to a ballot box for February 27's Provincial Election, a pitiful number by any estimation. Perhaps you took the time to lace up for one of the coldest Coldest Night of the Year events in recent memory. Maybe you simply enjoyed some wintery fun in our trails or parks.

A couple of weeks ago, when there was a sweet spot between the snow, I ventured into the city to go to one of my favourite independently-owned specialty shops. A place in which I have been a loyal customer for more than 30 years, it was in the heat of their annual February Sale, and I'm never one to turn down a treasure hunt. And few places in Toronto, given my particular interest in television history, have provided a greater chance for a successful hunt!

Since I first crossed their threshold when I was eight years old, I've built up a good relationship with the two individuals who have been operating the store with remarkable consistency since then.

Or, so I thought. This last visit was something of a different experience as one of the guys behind the cash register had the gall to think of himself (I kid) as he up and got married, moved out of the city, and is presumably enjoying a new wave of domestic bliss.

After so much time walking through the door and being greeted by familiar faces, it was jarring enough to see someone new on the till; what took things over the top, however, was being greeted by an unfamiliar face who didn't already know the types of things I was looking for.

This is not a complaint, mind you – after all, there's plenty of time to get to know

the new kid on the block and rebuild those retailer-customer ties – but rather to point out that the vague discomfort felt, simply brought about by change, is a testament to the power of such ties that can only come with supporting strong, independent businesses and retailers.

A lot has been said and written recently, and rightfully so, on how Canada can best respond to tariff threats levelled at us by the U.S. President. Many of us are wading our way into what it means to Buy Canadian – and the differences between "Made in Canada", "Product of Canada", "Manufactured in Canada", "Assembled in Canada", "Made from Domestic and Imported Ingredients", and many other nuances not listed here.

It's not always easy to keep track and it's not always easy to find homegrown alternatives to some products. Sometimes, as well, it's simply not practical – as illustrated by one acquaintance of mine who was looking for alternatives to the only food their neurodivergent son can eat without any qualms, and whether it was worth upsetting the apple cart, their fought-to-establish routine, and both his stomach and his peace of mind to find alternatives that support Canadian producers.

Since these threats have wafted our way, I've noticed some subtle behavioural changes from my fellow customers when navigating the crowded aisles of the grocery store – a crowdedness that seems to be attributable, at least in part, to people foregoing grabbing a product and throwing it in the cart without a second thought. Now, in my observation, they are lingering, if only for a moment, to double-check labels, tags and other signage to help them make an informed decision.

This is all well and good, but we should be taking a multi-faceted and mindful approach to letting our wallets do the talking.

**Continued on
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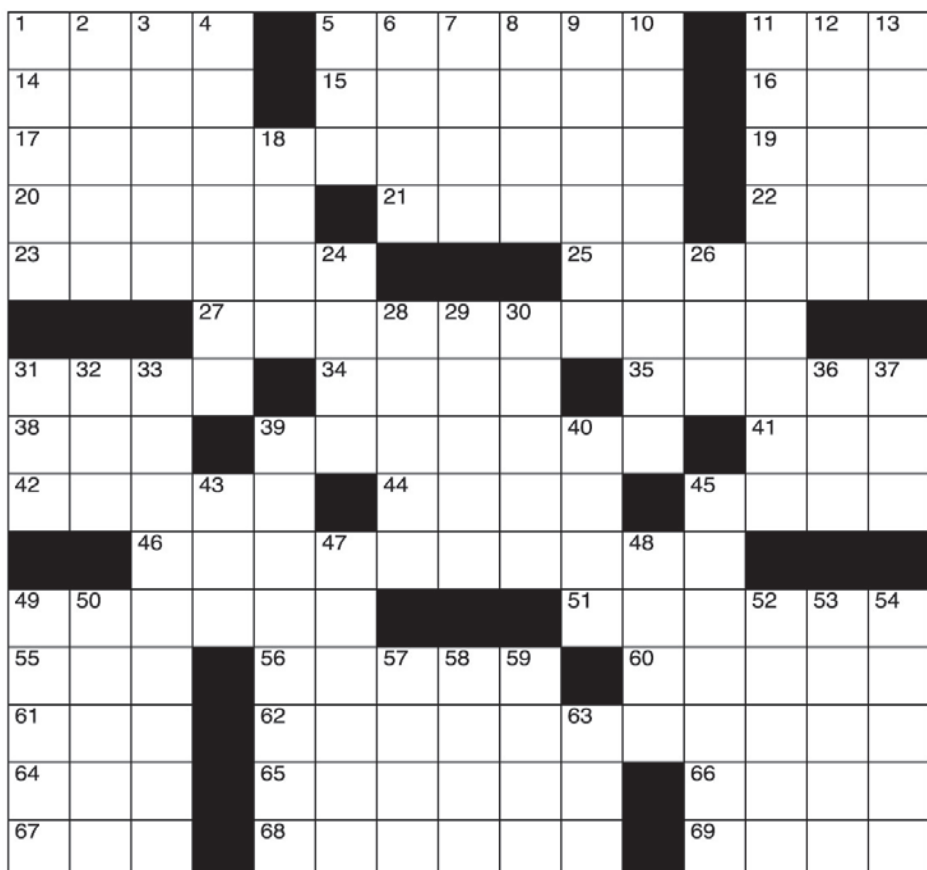
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- Challenged
- One-sided
- Showing extreme greed
- Potted plants
- Everyone has one
- Lake in Botswana
- E.T. rode in one
- Juniors' parents

- Small amount
- Mother of Perseus
- Ornamental box
- Gov't investigators
- Uncertain
- A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- The vast grassy plains in S. America
- Your consciousness
- Noted consumer advocate
- Spanish sports club
- Body part
- Tractability
- Woman (French)
- Ready and willing to be taught
- Brushed aside
- Water sprite
- Ones to look up to
- Monetary units
- A number everyone has
- Marine invertebrate
- One who takes you to court
- Indicates outer
- Parallelograms
- Strains
- Cross
- A way to remove
- Some pages are dog_
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- A citizen of Denmark
- Summer month (abbr.)
- Hindu queens
- Jewelry brand
- Fictional rider of Rohan
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- Russian city
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- Furious
- Drivers' licenses
- Musical composition
- Auction
- They _
- Women
- Inspire with love
- Japanese ankle sock
- Appears
- Old World lizard
- The leading performer
- Type of protein
- Pennsylvania town
- Art _ : around 1920
- _ Blyton, children's author
- Abnormal breathing
- A place to sleep
- Muslim ruler title
- Depressed
- Gradually gave way
- Clear-thinking

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

Local volunteer recognized for 35 years of service

BY SAM ODROWSKI

A local not-for-profit organization that connects people with social and government programs in Simcoe County is recognizing one of their longest volunteers.

CONTACT Community Services issued a statement thanking Jean Marshall for her decades of dedication at its thrift store, The Clothes Line (55 Victoria Street West).

“On behalf of everyone at CONTACT Community Services we are so very pleased to acknowledge and honour our volunteer of 35 years, Jean Marshall,” reads the statement.

“Jean’s journey with CONTACT Community Services started at our original CONTACT Centre 40 years ago. She was just looking for some community information, and Jean was so impressed by the dedication of our volunteers that she returned several years later to volunteer herself!”

Marshall, who lives in a condominium in Alliston, told the Times she likes spend-

ing time with fellow volunteers and looking after the people who come into The Clothes Line.

“I enjoy the people,” said Marshall, “Both the customers and definitely the volunteers. You make wonderful friends.”

“The highlight of Jean’s experience, as with many of our volunteers, was meeting new people. The friendliness of staff, volunteers and customers, has fostered some amazing long-term friendships,” said CONTACT Community Services’ statement on Marshall’s volunteerism.

“For several years, she has been an instrumental part of CONTACT’s events at the store, always creating a welcoming experience. Her only complaint over the 35 years was how much she missed volunteering during the COVID shut down, but even at 90 years of age, she continues to serve, helping anyway she can. We are honoured to have Jean as a volunteer and friend and cherish the stories and memories she continues to share.”

Marshall said she feels very blessed to

have been able to donate her time to CONTACT to do “something worthwhile” for the last 35 years. At 90 years old she still volunteers roughly 15 hours a week with the organization.

Part of the reason why Marshall donates her time is because of the important work CONTACT does for the community.

“It’s just a wonderful organization,” she said. “When I started, there was a few people in a little store, and it’s just grown so well and so positively.”

Reflecting on her early days with CONTACT, Marshall said the thrift store started small, sharing a space with a small office and has grown significantly over the years.

“There’s just so much stuff that comes in of any variety, in every variety,” she noted.

Marshall said CONTACT could always use more volunteers and would encourage others to join in on the “fun.”

“It’s just happy work that you’re doing. You’re doing something good and yet you’re having a good time doing it... with wonderful people,” Marshall said. “Come and work and have fun.”

To volunteer, please email Linda at linda@contactcommunityservices.ca or call the thrift store at 705-434-0790. For more information about volunteering with CONTACT visit, contactcommunityservices.ca/volunteer/volunteer-with-contact

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DEDICATED VOLUNTEER – Alliston resident Jean Marshall, 90, has been volunteering at CONTACT Community Services’ thrift store, The Clothes Line, for 35 years. CONTACT recently issued a statement recognizing her efforts over the last few decades.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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THIS WEEKEND!



Local organizations celebrate International Women’s Day

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The theme of International Women’s Day for 2025 is ‘Accelerate Action.’

Focusing on the need to Accelerate Action, emphasized the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality.

International Women’s Day calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face in both their personal and professional lives.

Significant barriers to gender equality remain and International Women’s Day brings awareness that with the right action and support, positive progress can be made for women everywhere.

Several local groups and organizations in New Tecumseth will celebrate International Women’s Day with different events on the day, and throughout the year.

At the New Tecumseth Public Library, the Kanopy Club is celebrating International Women’s Day by hosting a discussion about the first film of the modern women’s movement, titled, “Growing Up Female.”

This film was widely used by consciousness-raising groups to generate interest and help explain feminism to a skeptical society. The film looks at female socialization through a personal look into the lives of six women, aged 4 to 35, and the forces that shape them.

This will offer participants a chance to see how much has changed, and how much has remained the same.

The event takes place on March 13 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and is free to attend. For more information, please contact Kim

at adultservices@ntpl.ca.

The Simcoe Area Women’s Institute will be hosting a Women’s Day event on April 26. Members of the Tec-We-Gwill Women’s Institute will be attending.

Dr. Molly-Claire Gillett will be speaking about the role of crafting in placemaking and community building, both historically and in the present day.

After the presentation, there will be crafting.

Supplies will be provided but feel free to bring your own embroidery floss, needles, and scissors.

This event will take place at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 170 Steel Street in Barrie.

The cost is \$25 with lunch or \$15 without lunch.

To register, email Donna Jebb of Tec-We-Gwill at twgpres@gmail.com.

The Gibson Centre in Alliston will be hosting a Women’s Day event titled, “Fuelled by Females,” on Saturday, March 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be a breakfast bar and cafe, yoga, sound baths, a curated market, workshops, readings, and Reiki.

Admission is \$5 at the door or free with an Experience/Workshop ticket.

The history of International Women’s Day can be traced back to the early 20th century and emerged from the activities of labour movements in North America and Europe which reflected a growing call for women’s equal participation in society.

The first International Women’s Day took place on March 19, 1911, in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland.

Today, International Women’s Day is celebrated in many countries worldwide.

International Women’s Day

Together we can forge women's equality.
Collectively we can all **#AccelerateAction.**

March 8

www.internationalwomensday.com



Final Release

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Arts & Local Events

Family values clash in the theatre's production of 'Having Hope At Home'

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Every family is a little different. Some families support each other whether right or wrong, however, others can't seem to ever get along.

In The South Simcoe Theatre's production of *Having Hope At Home*, a young couple makes a decision which they know will clash with the woman's family values.

Written by David S. Craig, produced by Nancy Chapple Smokler, and directed by Candy Pryce, the play looks at a family dynamic run amok.

Carolyn Bingham, played by Ashlee Brewer, is a young woman expecting her first child.

In the role of Carolyn's boyfriend, Michel Charbonneau plays Cy Williams, a French Canadian who is on good terms with his family. He is happy to be living in Ontario because his family lives in Quebec.

The young couple decide to have a home birth with the assistance of a doula.

It is a decision they know won't be popular with Carolyn's father, a well-known and respected obstetrician.

The couple live on a rundown farm that has been in the family for several generations.

Carolyn's grandfather, Russel 'Gramps' Bingham, also lives on the farm and insists he is still able to work, despite having a heart condition and a severe case of arthritis in his hands.

Gramps may see the entire picture clearer than anyone else.

Carolyn has invited her parents over for dinner after not seeing them for quite some time. She is determined to have a pleasant evening and cook a delicious dinner to prove to them that she is a capable adult.

Having experienced signs that she may be going into labour, Carolyn calls her doula early in the evening but insists the dinner goes on as planned.

Carolyn's parents arrive happy to see their daughter.



FAMILY TIES – The South Simcoe Theatre's production of "Having Hope At Home" is currently playing on the Theatre's Cookstown stage. It is a humorous, heartwarming, and hopeful tale of a family who just can't agree on much, but manages to work it all out.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

Her father, Bill Bingham, played by Jason Bowers, is expecting his daughter to give birth in a hospital. He believes it is the safest thing to do, and he is not shy about expressing his expert medical opinion.

In the role of Carolyn's mother Jane, Shari Morgan is a somewhat self-absorbed woman who always wonders how any situation will affect her, rather than other people. Her main concern is making sure her lipstick always looks good.

Doula, Dawn Shaw, played by Stephanie Ffrench, arrives not knowing that her presence may cause an issue.

At first, Gramps tries to tell Carolyn's par-

ents that Dawn is his girlfriend.

When the parents realize Dawn's real reason for being there, they are not appreciative of her skills or her efforts.

Carolyn and her parents are at loggerheads in more than one way as the evening progresses.

Cy is caught in the middle and does his best not to get on the wrong side of anyone.

Gramps tries to remain neutral, but still throws his opinion into the conversation from time to time.

When it becomes apparent that Carolyn is indeed going into labour, she must choose between the home birth she wanted, or going

to a hospital as her father the doctor recommends.

Supported by a talented and skilled behind-the-scenes crew, The South Simcoe Theatre's production of "Having Hope At Home" is humorous, heartwarming, and hopeful.

"Having Hope At Home" is on the South Simcoe Theatre stage (1 Hamilton Street, Cookstown) until March 16, on Fridays and Saturdays in the evening with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sundays.

For ticket information visit TheSouthSimcoeTheatre.com online, call 705-458-4432, or email BoxOffice@TheSouthSimcoeTheatre.com.

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Marsha Harrison-Mateer, Broker

I HAVE LIVED most of my life in this area, and my husband and I love raising our daughters here.

I have been fortunate to be selling real estate since 1997. I am continually increasing my knowledge through courses to stay current in this ever changing market to best serve my clients. I bring to your moving experience a broker who will listen to you, advocate for you and be honest and transparent in all of our dealings. I truly love helping my clients achieve their goals and although I am very proud of many years of award winning service, I am most proud of many years of truly happy satisfied clients. For Distinctive Service That Moves You, you can reach me at 705-440-9400.



Marsha Harrison-Mateer, Broker
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Jessica Green, Warrior Martial Arts

I HAVE BEEN TEACHING in the martial arts for 13 years, and hold a 3rd degree black belt in shoto-kan karate. After teaching in several schools, I created a program that encompassed a combination of traditional karate, as well as modern martial arts. Our students practice everything from techniques and kata, to weapons and acrobatics, and everything in between. After starting a small location in Orangeville, I added a second location in Alliston, which has now become our largest location.

At Warrior Martial Arts, we meet students where they're at, and work collaboratively with parents to reach their goals. Having children of my own, I know the importance of helping your child succeed in school, and other areas of life, and it has always been my goal to help students become the best versions of themselves. Whether it be learning self-defense, gaining confidence, a sense of community, or a chance to compete as a high-level competitor, Warrior Martial Arts has programming that will exceed your expectations! Discipline through respect, not fear, is a cornerstone in our program. We teach life skills such as resilience, integrity, respect, discipline, focus, amongst many others. Visit our location at 180 Parsons Road, Unit 15 in Alliston to start your family's journey into the martial arts!



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Kayla Thompson, Realtor

KAYLA THOMPSON is a successful real estate agent. Born and raised in Simcoe County, she has extensive knowledge regarding New Tecumseh, Clearview, Essa, Innisfil, and Collingwood. Passionate, knowledgeable, and empathetic, Kayla is constantly striving to help her clients and the community.

Kayla's previous financial background has provided her with a keen attention to detail, exceptional organizational skills, expertise, and willingness to help others succeed. Kayla carries the values of hard work, integrity, and outstanding client service into all that she does.

Kayla's goal is to make each client feel comfortable and at ease with the process of selling, buying, or leasing a property by providing clear communication and updates along the way. Always caring and patient, Kayla is committed to helping her clients have a stress-free and joyful experience while achieving their Real Estate dreams. Her ability to connect on a personal level and genuinely understand her clients' goals sets her apart in the industry.



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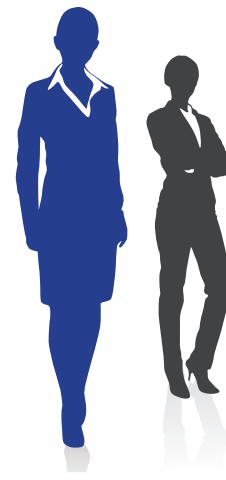
THE WOMEN AT MCGOEY'S understand the power behind women in business – especially in the historically male-dominated insurance industry. McGoey Insurance Broker's have been around for over 125 years with the same values at its core – family. McGoey's was founded in 1900 by Thomas Quinlan McGoey with the hope of creating a legacy of trustworthy insurance brokers that represent our beautiful area's charm of humbleness and honesty; and the McGoey family continues to do just that. The women at McGoey Insurance Broker's know the importance of their slogan "Our Family, Protecting Yours." "We spend one third of our lives with the people we work with – and we consider ourselves a work family. We truly work as a team, understanding the unpredictability of womanhood and motherhood really helps us come together to ensure all our clients get the best service, while not suffering from burn-out."

McGoey's is made up of over 95% women that positions range from Insurance Brokers, Technical Service Representatives, Admin, Accounting, Reception & Marketing. With many of the women being at McGoey's for over a decade, they praise McGoey's reliability and flexibility to being able to be so successful at managing their work-life balance and delivering exceptional customer service to our clients.



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Sandra Phekoo Financial Services Inc.

SANDRA PHEKOO has over 25 years experience in the insurance and finance fields respectively. She has worked for Co-operators insurance since 2008 and is proud to now be the new owner of the local Co-operators office in Alliston as of September 1st 2024. In her current role as owner of Sandra Phekoo Financial Services Inc, she and her team, continue to strive to provide a variety of insurance and investment solutions, which best suit the unique needs of her clientele. These Insurance products include life, disability, critical illness, home, auto, commercial, travel and group benefits to name a few. With regards to investments, she provides opportunities for savings and retirement planning via mutual funds and segregated funds for registered and non-registered accounts. She strongly believes in The Co-operators vision of building a resilient and sustainable community, by providing insurance and financial instruments for the benefit of all Canadians.



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Thank-you to all my past and present clients for allowing me to "Give You the Key" to your new home.

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Robyn Caruana, Co-Owner & Operations Manager

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Angela Rossi – Realtor

HI, MY NAME IS ANGELA ROSSI, and I am a proud realtor who stands by my ethics. With a deep passion for my work, I strive to provide all my clients with the best customer service experience possible. Nothing brings me more joy than witnessing the smiles on my client's faces when they secure their dream home or sell their property for top dollar. I take immense pride in safeguarding my client's interests at every stage of the process. Over the course of my career, I have been a top performer at my brokerage, achieving numerous awards, including the prestigious Top 30 Under 30 award globally. I am also a proud family woman, and I am passionate about giving back to great causes. I am thrilled to continue positively impacting the lives of those I serve and look forward to helping many more clients achieve their real estate goals.

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2025 Age-Friendly Housing Grant Program opens

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The County of Simcoe Age-Friendly Housing Grant program opened on March 1. Currently in its eighth year, the program provides \$500,000 in annual funding to help support seniors in their efforts to continue to live independently in their communities by implementing project designs that are accessible, adaptable, and inclusive. The grant program was originally recommended as part of the Simcoe County 2018-2023 Positive Aging Strategy. In 2024, 95 appli-

cations were approved. “The County’s Age-friendly Seniors Housing Grant Program has been instrumental in supporting more than 440 projects over the past seven years,” said Warden Basil Clark. “These projects ensure that older adults can continue living independently in their homes, enhancing their quality of life and fostering a more supportive, age-friendly community.” Grants will be awarded under three streams: accessible housing design for seniors. Design for individuals with dementia. Support services for housing that incor-

porate enhanced aspects of accessibility over and above compliance with the Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act and building code standards for residential units. Projects are required to be located within Simcoe County (excluding the cities of Barrie and Orillia), and applicants who were successful in obtaining an Age-Friendly Seniors housing grant in the past three years are not eligible to apply again in 2025. Applicants can be homeowners of a principal residence or developers who wish to include accessible, adaptable, and inclusive

design modifications for occupants aged 60 or older. Grant amounts will be distributed based on the number of applications received and the ability to meet funding criteria. An Age-Friendly Grant Selection Subcommittee will evaluate each grant submission in accordance with established evaluation criteria. The deadline for 2025 application submissions is May 31, 2025. For further details or to apply to the Age-Friendly Housing Seniors Grant program, visit simcoe.ca/agefriendly.

County raises the #ITSTARTS flag to launch month of celebrations

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A wave of blue swept across Ontario on Tuesday, Feb. 25, to raise the #ITSTARTS flag, to launch a month of multicultural celebration and community connection.

The annual tradition, now marking its ninth year, continues to champion inclusion, acceptance, and equity across the region.

“During ITSTARTS month each year we celebrate our growing multicultural community, which now includes more than 82,000 immigrants who enrich Simcoe County in countless ways,” said Warden

Basil Clarke. “Through our Local Immigration Partnership’s ongoing commitment, we’re building up welcoming and supportive communities where everyone can thrive together.”

The #ITSTARTS campaign has become a grassroots success story bringing positive change through innovative community engagement.

The campaign runs every year during March.

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN – County of Simcoe Warden, Basil Clarke, Deputy Warden Jennifer Coughlin, and County Council gather to raise the #ITSTARTS flag at the County Administration Centre in Midhurst on Tuesday, Feb. 25. This launches a month of multicultural celebration and community connection.

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TheTimes New Tecumseth

NVCA announces Interim CAO's work plan to deliver improvements

Sheryl Flannagan, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's (NVCA) Interim CAO, shared a work plan to improve operations with the NVCA Board of Directors at its recent meeting.

The plan consists of four key priorities and commitments:

1. Strengthening Municipal Relationships;
2. Restoring and Enforcing Customer Service Standards;
3. Improving Planning, Permitting and Engineering Processes; and
4. Developing a Strategy for Planning, Permitting and Engineering to Complete Existing Files.

"NVCA is going through a transformative time with the upcoming recruitment of a new CAO," said Flannagan. "To ensure stability and continuity of our organization, we have implemented a focused work plan that addresses feedback from our stakeholders and member municipalities, while positioning the organization for success under new leadership."

To date, NVCA has engaged with several municipalities to discuss development priorities and address concerns. The organization reinstated a customer service strategy that lapsed in practice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last week, NVCA also launched a new e-permitting system, to help residents and businesses better navigate NVCA approval processes. Further, NVCA is initiating an external review to evaluate the planning, permitting and engineering processes in order to identify efficiencies and improvements.

"Conservation authorities do important work to protect people, property and our environment, but we also must ensure this work is efficient, expeditious and meets the high standards of our customers," added Jonathan Scott, Chair of NVCA. "Our goal is to ensure concerns raised in recent months

are addressed and the organization meets its commitments to our member municipalities. I am confident this plan represents a thorough approach to achieve these important goals."

Staff at NVCA works with many partners across the Nottawasaga Watershed to avoid the loss of life and damage to property due to flooding and erosion.

"They restore rivers, streams, wetlands and forests, and provide environmental education opportunities to watershed residents to help them connect with our natural world and become the future stewards of our watershed," said the NVCA in a press release.

Province investing in training skilled workforce as many well-paying jobs available

As many university graduates find out after they have finished school that not all degrees lead to a steady paying job, many return to the college system or other training to find an employable skill.

The province is investing in training to build Ontario's skilled workforce which will support the economy.

Training for skilled trade provides access to thousands of well-paying jobs and in-demand careers.

A person can earn a living while learning on the job as an apprentice.

There are over 140 skilled trades available for people to learn.

By 2026, one in six job openings in the province are projected to be in the skilled trades. Over 26,000 employers in the province offer paid apprenticeships.

Ontario schools have programs that help students explore in-demand careers in the skilled trades. With specialty training, hands-on work experience and the ability to earn while you learn, skilled trades programs give students exposure to a wide range of secure, high-paying and satisfying careers.

Students can get an early start and strong foundational skills in the skilled trades through different programs in high school.

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program is a school-to-work program. It lets students explore and work in apprenticeships starting in the summer before Grade 11 through cooperative education.

Co-op allows students to get hands-on learning, test-drive career options, see the relevance of their classroom learning, earn credits through workplace experience, develop skills and habits required in the

workplace, and build a resume for their post-secondary plans and future employment.

Once you are in an apprentice program you can prepare for the future.

The Red Seal Program is the national standard of excellence for skilled tradespeople in Canada.

With a Red Seal endorsement, certified tradespeople can apply for jobs nationwide, without the need to complete additional testing to prove their skills.

Enter the trades is an option that will give you a skill to last a lifetime.

Continued from Page 5

Brock's Banter: Supporting local, buying Canadian and finding balance

It's tricky in this day and age to support Canadian businesses in a way that also supports Canadian workers. So many of our neighbours are employed by American-owned businesses that operate out of this country either independently of the parent or as a subsidiary thereof.

We have to be conscious that our decisions in letting our aforementioned wallets speak doesn't adversely affect our neighbours who are in that situation.

One quick win we can achieve is foregoing self-checkouts. It might take a little longer to get on your way after picking up what you need from their groaning shelves, but it will help underscore to the powers-that-be the importance of our

homegrown human resources.

The number of Canadian workers an American company might employ in our country could also be a factor to consider in weighing what we should buy, when, and from whom.

Any incoming tariffs are estimated to impact hundreds of thousands of Canadian jobs, so our own personal responses should not be in a way that exacerbates that particular problem.

Buying local wherever possible – whether it is a local retailer or a local producer, such as the myriad farmers and artisans that we boast around our communities – is probably the safest bet. We're not only supporting Canadian, but we're keeping money in

the community, and that's always a win-win.

As unimaginable as the tariffs are, the renewed emphasis on shopping local and buying Canadian is probably the one silver lining in all this slush. That was also one of the few silver linings to be found at the height of the pandemic, as well, at least for a time. That, however, faded somewhat amid backlash against restrictions and any other calls on Canadians to row in the same direction in the face of the slightest inconvenience.

This time, however, we need to band together to ensure the momentum is on our side for the next four years, at the very least.

It won't be easy, but being considerate

of the impact of each and every purchase you make will only serve us well – not only for your own bottom line and our local economy but for our sense of community as well.

Having a 30-plus year relationship with a small, independent retailer wasn't an unusual instance not too long ago; a relationship where the business owner knows their customer's likes, dislikes, tastes – and even what might or might not be within their budgets. It's something you aren't likely to forge with Big Box Retailers or online behemoths, despite the best efforts of their pernicious algorithms.

A trip back to basics – with balance and flexibility – could well make us all stronger.

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Check out this hunk of a cat. Magic is a six year old male, who is not only one of our most handsome boys, but one of our funniest. He loves to greet us each day for pets and lounges on the top of cat trees like the king he is.

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Check our facebook page to see the other kitties looking for their forever home. Donations always needed to help care for the cats as we are not funded at all, and rely on donations and fundraisers. If you would like to volunteer as well we are always appreciative.

Magic

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1. Do people seem to mumble or talk softer than they used to?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. When in a crowd or in a busy restaurant, is it hard for you to follow the discussion?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Do you feel tired or irritable after a long conversation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4. Do you feel the need to turn up the volume on your TV or radio such that it is too loud for others?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5. Do you often need to ask others to repeat themselves?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6. Has someone close to you pointed out you may have a hearing problem?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. Do you find it difficult to pinpoint where a noise comes from?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Three series decided in North Carruthers division quarter-finals

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The quarter-final round of the North Carruthers division of the PJHL is waiting for one final game to be played before the semi-final round can get underway.

The quarter-final series started on Feb. 19 and has had predictable results.

Three of the series have ended with teams earning the right to advance to the next round.

The Alliston Hornets versus Muskoka Bears series wrapped up on Feb. 23, with an Alliston win.

The Hornets swept the series in four games. The Alliston team outscored Mus-

koka 39 to 3 in the series.

Muskoka has only won six games this season and was never considered a threat.

The Hornets finished the regular season in first place taking only two losses out of 42 games this year – both were shoot-out losses.

In the quarter-final round, the Orillia Terriers were up against the Midland Flyers.

Orillia arrived at the series as the second-place team with a 27-7 record including one overtime loss.

Orillia managed to win that series in four games.

They left the ice in game one with a 5-2 win, then followed up winning 6-2, 5-1,

and 6-3 in the remaining games to earn the right to advance.

In the Stayner Siskins and Innisfil Spartans match-up, the Spartans pulled off a 2-1 win in game one on Feb. 20, but that's all they could do.

The Siskins fought back and managed to win four straight to take the series.

Stayner finished the regular season in third place with a 31-13 record that included two shoot-out wins, and one shoot-out loss.

The remaining series has the fourth-place Penetang Kings up against the fifth-place Huntsville Otters.

The series is tied 3-3, with game seven scheduled for Wednesday, March 5. Results

were not available at press time.

The Kings won the opening game of that series. Huntsville tied it up in game two. Penetang was leading after a win in game three.

Huntsville went ahead winning games four and five.

Penetang kept it alive with a 5-3 win in game six.

In the semi-final round, Orillia will meet Stayner.

Alliston will be up against the winner of the Penetang and Huntsville series.

The semi-final round game dates won't be announced until the final series is finished, but the next round is expected to get underway immediately.



PLAYOFF LOSS – The TNT Tornados U13 LL team took on the Bradford Bulldogs in a playoff game on the ice at the Tottenham Community Centre arena on Friday, Feb. 28. The Tornados came up short in this game, taking a 4-2 loss to the visitors. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Are you part of a sports team?
Do you have a recent accomplishment?
Share the information with us!
We'd love to hear from you! Email us the details at newtetimeseditorial@gmail.com



NVCA launches new e-permitting platform for applications

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has announced the launch of a new e-permitting platform that allows property owners in the Nottawasaga Watershed to easily submit inquiries about their property or proposed development, book pre-consultations and submit permit applications.

“In the last few years, NVCA has made changes to our operations to improve efficiency and permit review timelines,” said Ben Krul, NVCA’s manager of development planning & permits. “We hope this platform will help us deliver continuous improvement by reducing manual administration work, allowing staff to focus on processing permit applications and responding to requests.”

To assist users, information about submitting general inquiries, pre-consultations and the permitting process is available on the landing page of the NVCA’s website before a formal request is made.

NVCA is responsible for regulating activities in natural and hazardous areas to avoid the loss of life and damage to property caused by flooding and erosion. Property owners looking to develop near a watercourse, river, stream, pond, wetland, steep slope, floodplain, or the Georgian Bay shoreline may need a permit from NVCA before they start their project.

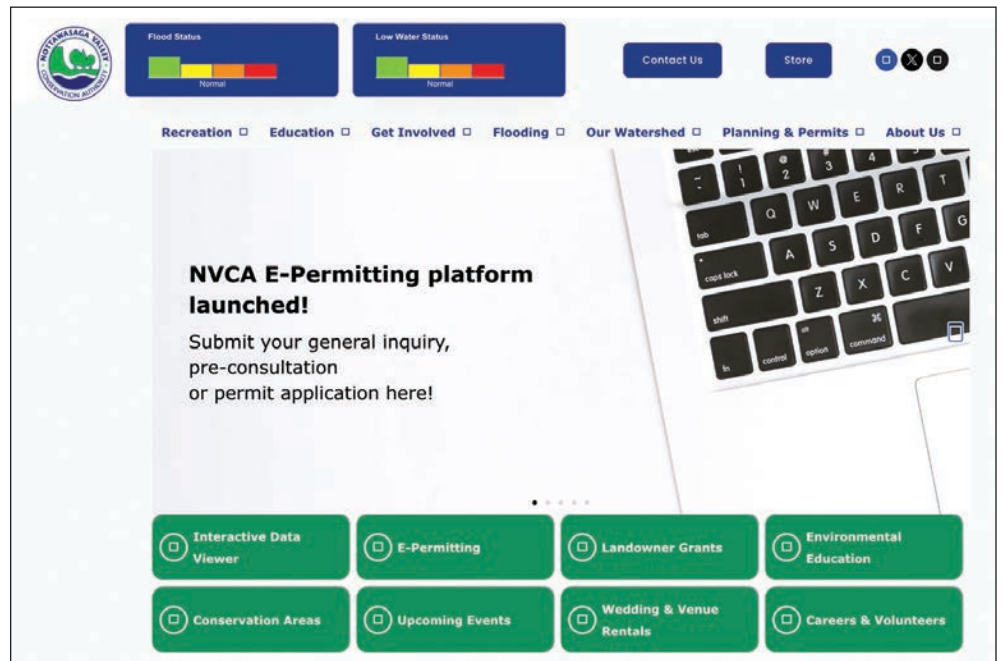
To save time and money, NVCA advises

property owners to book a pre-consultation with NVCA’s regulations and planning staff before submitting. Staff will let property owners know if they are in a regulated area, review project plans, and outline the information required to submit a complete permit application.

Property owners are encouraged to use the e-permitting platform to submit inquiries about their property or proposed development, book pre-consultations and submit permit applications for a more streamlined experience.

“Since this a new system, we are looking for user feedback to improve usability for everyone in the watershed,” said Krul. “It is important that property owners of all abilities can navigate and efficiently use this platform.”

To access NVCA’s e-permitting platform or submit feedback, visit www.nvca.on.ca.



Alliston Legion hosting St. Patrick’s Day party

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It’s that time of year when everyone wears green and hopes the luck o’ the Irish rubs off on them.

St. Patrick’s Day parties will be happening across the country as many people celebrate the occasion in various ways.

While no real leprechauns are expected to turn out, dressing like one means you will fit right in at any St. Patrick’s Day party.

The Alliston Legion will be hosting a St. Patrick’s Day party to celebrate the day.

There will be plenty of cold beer to celebrate the day.

If you enjoy singing, Karaoke by Dennis will provide the entertainment, so you can get up on stage and belt out your favourite song.

There is no cover charge so come out and have some fun. Donations to the Alliston Food Bank are appreciated.

This special St. Patrick’s Day Party will take place on Saturday, March 15, at the Alliston Legion, at 111 Dufferin St. S., in Alliston from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Come out and be Irish for a day!



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Nottawasaga OPP introduces body worn cameras to front-line

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are rolling out new technology to their front-line officers.

After a successful roll out of In Car Cameras (ICC) which incorporated an Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) system, the Nottawasaga OPP along with other detachments within Central Region, are starting to roll out their next piece of

technology in the form of Body Worn Cameras (BWC).

The implementation of BWCs provides one more tool for the OPP to enable the collection of better evidence, demonstrate greater accountability and transparency, and enhance public and officer safety in the communities we serve.

The BWCs are worn on the front of the of-

ficer's vest and are clearly visible to anyone an officer may be interacting with. The BWC will display a visible ring of flashing green lights when in standby mode which will turn to flashing red lights once the BWC begins recording.

Officers are currently being trained on the use of the new technology and are being outfitted with their BWC upon the completion

of their training. The full rollout for the Nottawasaga OPP is anticipated by this summer, however officers who have received their training will begin use of the BWCs immediately.

The Ontario Provincial Police is committed to serving our province by protecting its' citizens, upholding the law and preserving public safety.

Shoplifter arrested and charged after incident at local grocery store

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested and charged an individual after a report of a shop lift at a local grocery store.

On February 27, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., officers responded to a report of a shoplift in progress at 30 King Street South in Alliston. The complainant reported that a male, approximately 30-years-old, 5 foot 9 wearing

a brown jacket, jeans and black shoes was observed stealing beers, putting them in his backpack then last seen walking westbound towards Dollarama.

Officers located the individual matching the description with the stolen property from the store containing of six 473 ml James Ready beers and twelve 473 ml of Molson Canadian beers, along with what appeared to

be suspected cocaine. Upon further investigation, officers learned that that accused was also wanted on an outstanding warrant with the Nottawasaga OPP.

As a result, 34-year-old Adam Gibson, of Loretto has been arrested and charged with:

- Theft Under \$5000 - shoplifting
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of Trafficking - Cocaine

- Failure to comply with undertaking
- The accused has been held for a bail hearing.

Nottawasaga OPP values your contribution to building safe communities. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please visit Crime Stoppers at: www.crimestoppersdm.com. or call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Driver charged with impaired driving following single vehicle collision in Adjala-Tosorontio

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged one driver for driving while impaired in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio.

On March 2, 2025, shortly after 9:30 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a single motor vehicle in the ditch on 20 Sideroad Tosorontio.

Upon arrival, officers located a single pickup truck facing eastbound with its passenger side tires in the ditch. During the in-

vestigation the officer began to suspect that the driver had been under the influence of alcohol and as a result, issued an Approved Screening Device demand (ASD). Subsequently the driver provided a sample which resulted in a "Fail".

At 10 p.m., the driver: Ethan Wells 29-years-old, of Innisfil, was arrested and charge with:

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

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor

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

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice located in Bradford at a later date to answer to the charges.

The OPP remind motorists that no amount

of alcohol or drug is acceptable to consume and drive. Report impaired drivers. Should you observe a suspected impaired driver, please dial 911 or contact the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-822-8477 (TIPS) or www.crimestoppersdm.com. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

Traffic complaint tip leads to impaired driving charges for New Tecumseth resident in Essa

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

On March 2, 2025, shortly before 7:30 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a traffic complaint of a passenger vehicle swerving all over the road, veering into oncoming lanes.

An officer was able to locate the vehicle and safely initiated a traffic stop on Com-

merce Road. The officer issued an Approved Screening Device demand (ASD). Subsequently the driver provided a sample which resulted in a "Fail".

At 7:40 p.m., the driver: Tomislav Mihnjak 48 years-old, of New Tecumseth, was arrested and charge with:

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

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

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice located in Bradford on April 3, 2025, to answer to the charges.

None of the charges have been proven in court.

The OPP would like to remind motorists that no amount of alcohol or drug is acceptable to consume and drive.

Report impaired drivers. Should you observe a suspected impaired driver, please dial 911 or contact the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-822-8477 (TIPS) or www.crimestoppersdm.com.

When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

OPP arrest Loretto man for shoplifting beer from grocery store, also with suspected cocaine

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested and charged an individual after a report of a shoplift at a local grocery store.

On Feb. 27, at 5 p.m., officers responded to a report of a shoplift in progress at 30 King Street South in Alliston. The complainant reported that a male, approximately 30 years old, 5 foot 9 wearing a brown

jacket, jeans and black shoes was observed stealing beers, putting them in his backpack then last seen walking westbound towards Dollarama.

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- Failure to comply with undertaking
- The accused has been held for a bail hearing.

Nottawasaga OPP values your contribution to building safe communities. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please visit Crime Stoppers at: www.crimestoppersdm.com. or call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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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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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.

708 OBITUARIES

Joan Megraw

July 27, 1935 - March 1, 2025

With profound and heartfelt sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved mother, Joan Megraw, on the morning of Saturday, March 1, 2025. She left us peacefully in the early hours, leaving behind a legacy of love, strength, and unwavering faith.

Joan Megraw (née Mitchell) was born in Belfast, County Antrim, Northern Ireland (The Isle of Erin) on July 27, 1935. The second daughter of four children born to George and Sarah Mitchell.

Predeceased by her loving husband Gerald Megraw. Beloved mother of seven children: Deborah Donnelly, Joanna (Alan Blenkinsopp), Karene, Helen (Paul Sturge), predeceased by son John (Janet Simmons-Megraw), Michael (Abbie M.), and Megan.

Cherished Grandmother (Nana) of Sarah Donnelly, Mitchell Donnelly, Samantha McGillion, Stephanie Megraw-Fabian, Dakota V., Liam Megraw, R.J. M., and Great Grandmother to Nolan Donnelly and Wrenley Griffin.

At the heart of everything Joan did was love—love for her family, her community, and the performing arts. A gifted soprano, she graced the stage with the Waterford Light Opera in Ireland before immigrating to Canada, where she embraced a new life with unwavering determination. In 1966, she founded the South Simcoe Music Theatre, now nearing its 60th year, bringing the joy of theatre to her small town.

Beyond the stage, Joan was a tireless volunteer and advocate for culture and community, serving as Vice-Chairwoman of Cultur-All, an active CWL member at St. Paul's Church in Alliston, and a recipient of multiple awards, including the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation Outstanding Achievement Award. Yet, her true legacy lies in the countless lives she touched with her indomitable spirit and devotion to community and human connection, her boundless generosity, and her playful sense of humor that drew people in like a warm embrace. Joan's grace and purpose-driven life left an enduring mark on all who had the privilege of knowing her.

*"Oh blessed art
in how many grey hours...
have you kindled
my heart...
have you taken me away
to a better world..."*

*'An die Musik' (Ode to Music)
~ Franz Schubert / Franz von Schober*

Crossley, Joseph Daniel



Born: April 13, 1929 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, passed peacefully on Feb. 25, 2025 in Newmarket, Ontario.

Loving son of the late Carlton Charles and Mary (Sturdy) Crossley. Brother to the late Allan Crossley (Shirley), Marion Kelly (Jim) and Roderick Crossley (Bonnie). Fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews.

Throughout his life Danny was often drawn to the north, born there, and spending many summers in places like Biscotasing, and Temagami, Ontario. Content to live in a tent, fishing and camping in amongst the forest and lakes, this is probably where he found his passion for geology. Danny graduated from the University of Toronto in 1954 with a degree in Geological Engineering. His career as a geologist took him to many places throughout the world such as Greenland, Iceland, The Middle East, Africa, California and Canada's Far North. During his travels he met many who became lifelong friends, connecting and corresponding whenever possible.

Danny was also an avid airplane pilot, like his father. He held a commercial pilot's license with multi-engine and helicopter ratings. He would often visit friends with his float plane, staying for a meal and conversation, sometimes bringing along one of his many musical instruments, such as a guitar, banjo or mandolin. Music was another passion he held.

Our family want to thank the caregivers and Brookside Court in Richmond Hill as well as those at Newmarket Health Centre for their care and concern with Danny over the past few years.

A celebration of life will be planned for a later date.

If you are considering a donation in Danny's Memory, Temperanceville United Church was his place of worship, 734 King Road, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4E 2Y8

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ROOFING

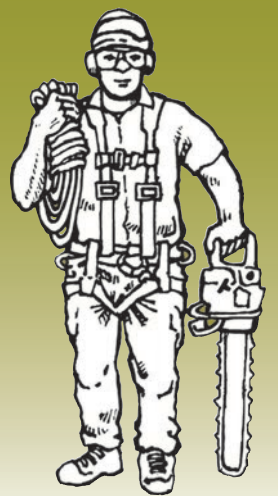

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INCREDIBLE PRICE

9.99 each

NEW!

Wagyu Beef Sliders
9 SLIDERS x 51 g/1.8 oz

SAVE \$5

Deluxe Meat Lasagna
907 g

SAVE \$7

Hot Honey & Chicken Flatbreads
460 g - 515 g
Choose from 4 varieties.

SAVE \$3

Chicken Nuggets
33-40 PIECES 907 g/2 lb

SAVE \$11

Italian Style Beef Meatballs
89-95 PIECES 907 g

SAVE \$9

Haddock Tenders
8-12 PIECES 454 g

SAVE \$6

Cinnamon Bun Pull-apart Bread
625 g

NEW!

SAVE \$5

Pork Schnitzel
5-7 PIECES 650 g

NEW!

SAVE \$6

Taco Bites
8 PIECES 480 g

SAVE \$3

Bistro Chicken[®]
114 g
Choose from:
• Swiss
• Ricotta & Spinach

SAVE \$9.96

4 for \$9.99

MIX AND MATCH

Stuffed, Breaded Chicken
142 g
Choose from:
• Broccoli and Cheese
• Kiev • Parmesan
• Swiss

Regular price \$4.99 each

INDULGE

3.99 Blossoms
2 PORTIONS 230 g
3 Varieties

Apple Crisps
2 PORTIONS 228 g

4.99

NEW!

9.99 Mini Mocha Cheesecakes
6 PIECES 330 g

SAVE \$3

100% CREAM DAIRY

BUY 1, GET 1 50% OFF

Mozzarella Sticks
15-21 PIECES 454 g

SAVE \$7.50

MIX AND MATCH

Jalapeño Cheese Sticks
13-16 PIECES 454 g

Regular price \$14.99 each

SAVE \$9

WOW!

INCREDIBLE PRICE

19.99

Slow Cooked Beef Pot Roast
907 g/2 lb

Also available, **Pork Pot Roast**
907 g/2 lb \$16.99 **SAVE \$6**

FAMILY FAVOURITES

Maple Butter Pork Chops
4 PIECES 500 g

SALE

11.99

Cod Nuggets
17-27 PIECES 567 g

SAVE \$4

13.99 each

Meat Loaf Minis
4 PORTIONS 680 g

SAVE \$3

15.99

Supreme Homestyle Meat Loaf
600 g

SAVE \$2

Korean Style Fried Chicken
650 g

NEW!

16.99

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MULTI-SERVE MEALS 907 g 13.99

SAVE \$1

Lasagna

SAVE \$3

NEW AND IMPROVED RECIPE!

Homestyle Shepherd's Pie

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Fettuccine Alfredo

Spicy Sesame Chicken & Rice

Homestyle Tuna Casserole

Chicken Pad Thai

Chicken & Broccoli Pasta Bake

CROWD PLEASERS

Chicken Satay with Peanut Sauce
20 SKEWERS 500 g

SAVE \$2

15.99 each

Chicken and Pineapple Mini-Skewers
20 PIECES 500 g

SAVE \$2

16.99

Bistro Steaks
2 STEAKS x 170 g/6 oz
3 Varieties

SAVE \$3

27.99

Lobster Tail Skewers
4 PIECES 200 g

SAVE \$2

16.99

Herb and Garlic Shrimp Skewers
4 SKEWERS 365 g

SAVE \$3

SAVOUR EVERY BITE

Montreal Smoked Meat
2 POUCHES x 200 g

Pulled Pork
2 POUCHES x 340 g

Smoked Beef Brisket in BBQ Sauce
400 g

Philly Beef Steak
4 PORTIONS 336 g

SAVE \$2

15.99 each

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