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and Clouds



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Sunny



Monday:
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Showers

Weekly Circulation: 3,000 | 905-857-6626 | 1-888-557-6626 | www.newtetimes.com



\$1.50 per copy (\$1.43 + 7¢ G.S.T.)

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Volume 51, Issue 12

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 0040036642 RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO 30 MARTHA ST., #205, BOLTON ON L7E 5V1

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Canada

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Dedicated Resident Recognized

Lifetime Alliston resident J.J. Paul Whiteside was honoured during a small gathering of friends, family, and OPP members on March 11, for his dedication and service to New Tecumseth. Mr. Whiteside passed away three days later and flags at Town buildings were lowered in his honour. Mr. Whiteside is seen here with Adjala-Tosoronto Mayor Scott W. Anderson, New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross, Essa Mayor Sandie Macdonald, and Nottawasaga Detachment Commander Insp. David McLagan. DAVID ANDERSON PHOTO

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Keep being you **Love your ears**



APPRECIATION MONTH – Stevenson Memorial Hospital is celebrating Pharmacy Appreciation Month. The hospital is recognizing pharmacist Leudia Barros as a valuable member of its team. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Stevenson Memorial Hospital thanks pharmacists for dedication

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Stevenson Memorial Hospital is celebrating Pharmacy Appreciation Month and recognizes the dedication and expertise of one of its pharmacists.

Leudia Barros has been in her role at the hospital for 11 years.

He has a background in hospital pharmacy and began her journey in Brazil.

"I am originally an International Graduated Pharmacist from Brazil," Leudia explained. "In 2008, I immigrated to Canada with my husband and four children, and by the beginning of 2013, I had fulfilled all the requirements to get my license as a Canadian Pharmacist."

Although her background in Brazil was in hospital pharmacy, finding a similar role in Canada as an International Pharmacy Graduate was a challenge.

"Being an IPG, it is very difficult to get a job opportunity in hospitals," Leudia explained. "I initially worked as a community pharmacist until the summer of 2014 when the Pharmacy Department at Stevenson Memorial Hospital gave me the opportunity to start working here."

Leudia's interest in healthcare started in nursing, but she found the direct patient care aspect challenging. Pharmacy became the perfect balance for her, allowing her to contribute to patient care in a way that was still impactful but different.

"I always liked health science," she said. "I first started nursing school, but it was very challenging for me to work directly with the patient. I then moved to pharmacy, where I

would still be able to work with patients, but in a more indirect manner."

Leudia's role at Stevenson is dynamic and always changing.

"Our day is normally not typical," Leudia said. "Every day is full of possibilities because human beings are full of possibilities. With that being said, I start every shift the same. I look to our census and review all the new admissions, making sure all home medications are accurate and that they are the proper dose regarding renal and liver function, and so on."

Leudia added, "Once I've reviewed them, I would make recommendations to the prescribers or even make adjustments myself based on the hospital policies, which have allowed pharmacists to make such adjustments. I participate in clinical rounds along side all other health care professionals."

One of Leudia's most meaningful experiences at Stevenson involved a patient admitted for an overdose.

"Usually, patients do not know pharmacists in a hospital setting because we are always working behind the scenes. When I was counselling a patient regarding her discharge, I noticed she really wanted a change in the course of her life. I took the opportunity to encourage her and gave her some suggestions beyond medications. So, a year later, she came back to thank all of us who made an impact on her recovery, and I was one of them."

Leudia exemplifies the dedication, knowledge, and compassion that make pharmacists an integral part of the healthcare system.

Town honours J.J. Paul Whiteside

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local resident well known for his dedication to the Town of New Tecumseth was honoured and remembered during the same week.

J.J. Paul Whiteside received special recognition from the Nottawasa OPP Detachment Board on March 11, for his extensive years of dedicated service as a provincial appointee.

A small gathering of family, friends, and OPP members came together to celebrate Mr. Whiteside and his numerous contribu-

tions to the local community where he's actively participated in various committees and boards over the years.

Mr. Whiteside was a lifetime resident of Alliston who devoted his time to the community serving as the treasurer of the Town, as well as Ward 3 councillor and a board member on various committees and groups.

He passed away, three days later on March 14, after a battle with colon cancer.

In honour of his memory, Town of New Tecumseth flags are lowered at municipal buildings in the Town.

Local health unit reports zero measles cases for Simcoe–Muskoka

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

There have been a high number of cases of measles reported across the country over the past several months.

This includes more than 173 cases in Ontario over the last several weeks, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in Ontario to 350 since 2024, including 31 hospitalizations.

Most cases have been reported in the southwest area of the province.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit continuously monitors cases of measles and is reporting that so far, there have been no cases of measles confirmed in Simcoe or Muskoka.

If a case of measles is confirmed, the health unit works to ensure that the people affected, including parents, are informed and know how to respond.

Measles is one of the world’s most contagious human respiratory viruses. It spreads easily through the air when someone with measles breathes, coughs or sneezes.

Measles is preventable and the risk of getting measles is low for people who have been fully immunized with two doses of measles vaccine or those born

before 1970.

Typically, many of the cases of measles in Canada are linked to international travel.

There are several things you can do to protect yourself.

If you work in healthcare, education or childcare and were exposed to measles, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to discuss your exposure and vaccination status.

If you are pregnant and have been exposed to measles, talk to your healthcare provider. They can check your vaccination records or do a blood test to confirm immunity.

If you were born before 1970, you are likely immune since measles was common at that time.

If you were born between 1970 and 1995, check your records to confirm you received two doses of the MMR vaccine.

For those born after 1995, check your vaccination records to confirm you received two doses of the MMR or MMRV vaccine. In Ontario, children receive two doses: one after their first birthday and another at 4 to 6 years of age.

If you have concerns or need vaccination, contact your healthcare provider or public health.



MEASLES OUTBREAK – As measles continues to spread across Canada, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is reporting zero overall cases for the region. **STOCK PHOTO**

Open house and public meeting to gather opinions on town growth

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth will be hosting two meetings together with the County of Simcoe to gather the public’s views on the draft Official Plan amendment, which includes the recommended Settlement Area Boundary Expansions to Allison, Beeton, and Tottenham.

This represents a long-term plan for how and where the Town will grow over the next 30 years.

The meetings will be a Public Open House and a Public Meeting.

The draft policies for the Official Plan set out how future growth will be managed, including the phasing of develop-

ment and the need for further studies that will be required before any development can start.

This represents a comprehensive approach to growth management which has taken into account feedback received through extensive public engagement, comments from stakeholders and input from landowners.

The open house meeting will be a drop-in-style event. It will take place in the Community Room (second floor) of Town Hall at 24 Tupper St. W., in Alliston, on Tuesday, April 1, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The public meeting will occur in the Council Chambers of Town Hall on Wednesday, April 9, at 6 p.m.



MEDIEVAL MEN AT THE MUSEUM – A group called Knights in the Classroom was at the Museum on the Boye during March Break on Wednesday, March 12, to teach kids some facts about history. In the morning the group dressed in Medieval costumes and explained about knights of the era. In the afternoon the group donned pirate gear and encouraged kids to share ideas about pirates to see if they were fact or fiction. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Papers please

We’ve all seen the old World War II movies, where an SS officer approaches someone trying to board a train, or has simply been stopped at a checkpoint.

“Papers,” states the SS officer.

Your papers had better be in order, or the rest of your day would be ruined.

It was a time in Germany when every one was a suspect. You could easily end up in a concentration camp for not proving your loyalty or birthright.

It’s a scary thought to think you can be stopped arbitrarily in the streets and have someone demand you prove who you are, and that you belong there.

When I was younger, friends and I went to a series of concerts in Niagara Falls, New York. They had a newly built convention centre and started bringing top-name bands of the era there to perform.

It was a fairly large venue that seated around 10,000 people.

On the night of the concert, we would simply walk across the Rainbow Bridge to cross an international border. The convention centre was easily within walking distance.

When we arrived on the American side of the bridge, the customs person would ask what we were up to.

They didn’t ask for ID or proof of citi-

zenship. Usually, they would just ask to see our tickets.

Yup, Bachman Turner Overdrive appeared at the convention centre that night.

“Have fun guys.”

We crossed an international border with no problem at all.

We were 16 years old. We didn’t pose a threat. Obviously, we were returning home after the concert.

There was no need for extensive questioning, a demand for a passport, or the spies at Homeland Security, which didn’t even exist at the time, to order us into a room for interrogation.

It was a border between two friendly countries that enjoyed over 150 years of peaceful coexistence, did not have armed guards on patrol with snarling attack dogs, and had no naval ships patrolling the waterways along the border.

Of course, most nations want to protect their borders to stop criminals and undesirables from entering. That only makes sense.

However, you can go too far when it comes to protectionism.

After 9/11, the US started operating interior checkpoints on interstates and secondary highways. There are 33 per-

manent checkpoints in four states and 38 tactical checkpoints that do not have a permanent location.

According to the federal rules, no documentation is required for US citizens. What does this mean?

It means officers are determining if you are in the country legally by a snap judgment. If you ‘sound’ and ‘look’ American, you’re good to go.

What if you’re an American citizen who was born elsewhere and still have a trace of an accent? Papers please.

If you are a tourist, you need proper documentation. I guess that means a passport, to prove you crossed the border legally.

I saw a YouTube video of a Canadian tourist who was stopped at a checkpoint in Texas. When she said she was Canadian, the officer demanded to see her visa.

The woman informed the officer that Canadians don’t require a visa to visit the US. He had to call a supervisor to verify this.

What a scary thought, that a border patrol agent didn’t know this.

I’ve also seen videos of Canadians being stopped by police in the state of Georgia, only to be told they violated the

law because to drive in Georgia you need a State of Georgia driver’s license.

In this case, the driver had to explain international law to the cop and explain most countries have agreements that a driver’s license is valid on an international level.

Now the US is starting a program where all foreign nations who plan to stay in the US for 30 days or longer will be required to apply for registration and fingerprinting. Although, it has just been announced that Canadians will be exempt from the fingerprinting rule.

Fingerprinting is used by police agencies around the world to identify criminals. By being forced to provide fingerprints simply for travelling, the state is turning you into a suspect just by existing.

The new order gives police the option of stopping anyone who appears not to be an American.

If I grew up speaking French in Quebec, I would feel pretty nervous about crossing that border.

Securing your border is one thing – demanding papers and documents at will may just be the start of a new era of the state spying on its own citizens.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Wafting winter away

“Grab some toilet paper,” she said.

“Why?” I replied somewhat taken aback – after all, I had only met her mere minutes before.

“Just grab some toilet paper,” she repeated, firmly, but with a friendly smile on her face.

Since I was in a brand-new place, I just adopted a “When in Rome...” mentality.

I was a 17-year-old first-year university student who had just finished the first phase of unpacking in a brand-new dorm room, and I was unfamiliar with the ice-breaking ritual of revealing a factoid about yourself, however banal, according to how many squares of Charmin or Royale you happened to yank off the roll.

Apparently, I bit off a bit more than I could chew as the Residence Assistant held the roll. Speaking as someone who finds such ice-breakers not far removed from torture, my unlucky spin, which yielded me no less than 12 squares, was setting me up for failure.

My heart sank as the rules of the game were read out and I discovered

when you’re pressed to share something about yourself in a socially-awkward setting, you’re damned if you can come up with something interesting right off the bat – despite the fact that everyone is interesting.

I’m afraid in my quest for “interesting” I served up more than my fair share of weird, but by the time square eight or nine came around, they would have done little to help me wipe the sweat off my brow as I began scraping what I thought was the bottom of the proverbial barrel.

“Well,” I began, hesitatingly, “I love the feeling of going outside in the winter, still warm from a shower, and feeling the inside of the nostrils freeze just a little bit on first contact.”

If a photo can say a thousand words, I wonder how many tomes could’ve been generated by the blank stares that greeted this revelation.

Weird? Yes. Memorable? Perhaps. Something that sets the tone for the year? Unfortunately, yes.

Yet, it wasn’t wrong.

As a child, winter was my favourite season. In addition to the aforementioned nostril frost, my love of the season was also about the perfect crunch underfoot when the snow the night before fell in just the right way. There’s also the cold-warm feeling of rosininess gathering on one’s cheeks, which I always found revitalizing, keeping me grounded in the moment. Yes, I feel somewhat alone in this. Then, when I was older, there was the feeling of tiny icicles forming on the beard – such as when covering a Santa Claus parade over a decade ago where flash blizzard hit, and, unable to do anything about it, came back to the car icier than that time Lucy Ricardo got locked in the freezer. Uncomfortable? Sure, but what a reminder of being Canadian!

Yet, in recent years, the love affair with winter has somewhat waned.

As I settled into adulthood, I don’t know just what it was, but I finally had my summer “switch” flipped. Suddenly I “got it” and saw beyond the wall of mugginess that was previously my overarching idea of our hottest season.

There was no turning back and each year takes me further and further away from whatever remnants of Northern European that still lingers in my veins.

And yet, that trend has hit something of a personal speedbump – even as spring has well and truly sprung.

Perhaps it is the state of the world these days, but did you ever have the feeling that the “winter that was” was just a little bit darker, a little bit drearier than in winters’ past, a bit harder to tease out a few strands of tinsel-like silver linings that are part and parcel of the season? Maybe it was just me.

This time around, I found myself counting down the days of the winter solstice, excited to know that every day thereafter, at least until the Summer Solstice, would be just a little bit longer than the last.

Continued on Page 6

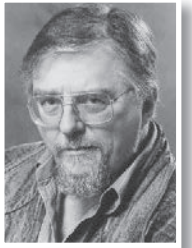
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Unpunished crimes

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



Everyone has heard the saying: “The mills of justice grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine.” The saying is a promise that all crimes will eventually be punished – but it is a lie.

Most crimes here have always gone unpunished. So while the arrest of former Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte by the International Criminal Court (ICC) last week for the ‘crime against humanity of mass murder was long overdue, it also came as a great surprise.

Duterte was elected president in 2016 on the promise that he would wage a ‘war on drugs,’ and he meant ‘war’ literally. Once in office he sent the police out with orders to kill drug dealers and drug users without trial or even arrest. The bodies were generally just left in the streets.

By the time the ICC opened its investigation in 2018, the death toll was already at least 8,000 people shot to death by the police, mostly small-

time users and dealers but including the usual quota of ‘mistaken identity’ cases. Far from denying his deeds, Duterte gloried in them and promised more of the same – and most Filipinos cheered. It is not a woke place.

When he finished his single legally permitted term in 2022, with up to 30,000 police murders to his credit, his popular approval rating was 88%, higher than when he took office six years before. And just to make sure nothing went wrong after he left office, a deal between the country’s most powerful families saw his daughter Sara elected as vice-president.

But Filipino politics is a soap opera with guns, and what went wrong was the deal between Vice-President Sara Duterte and the scion of the Marcos clan, President Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Marcos Jr. (His father, Ferdinand Marcos, was the president and dictator of the Philippines 1965-1986; his mother was famous for having 3,000 pairs of

shoes.)

The deal was that Sara would run for president with Bongbong’s support in 2028 and get her own six years in power, but she couldn’t wait, or he decided to sideline her, or both. Thereupon, in the same family tradition of openness that led her dad to boast publicly about running death squads, she posted a video on Facebook about the hitman she had hired.

“This country is going to hell because we are led by a person who doesn’t know how to be a president and who is a liar. Don’t worry about my safety. I have talked to a person and I said, if I get killed, go kill Bongbong, Liza Arana [his wife], and Martin Romualdez [speaker of the House]. No joke. No joke. I said, do not stop until you kill them and he said yes.”

In Manila, this is definitely not a joke. Sara Duterte probably does have a couple of assassins in her contact book. So Bongbong’s response, in addition to doubling his security, was to retaliate by handing Sara’s father over to the ICC. A private jet delivered him to The Hague on March 12, and he was taken into custody by the court’s chief prosecutor, Karim Khan.

All very entertaining, if viewed from afar, and it does mark a significant step forward for the ICC. Duterte is the first former head of state who is not from an African country to be brought before the ICC to answer for his crimes.

There were good reasons why all previous ones involved African regimes: the continent is home to one-third of the world’s countries, most of its dictatorships, and most of its wars. Nevertheless, even competent, law-abiding African governments were starting to feel victimized, and it helps to have an Asian country on the list.

But more importantly, this is part of a much broader initiative to bring the rule

of law to a domain where legal justice was previously unavailable. Where can individual citizens turn to get protection of their own rights (including the right to life) against the government of a sovereign state that does not obey its own laws?

Obviously, this enterprise is not doing very well at the moment. The ICC can do its research and issue arrest warrants even for serving heads of state like Russian president Vladimir Putin and Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but the most it can achieve is to make them cautious about travelling to countries that might actually execute the warrant.

Even retired mass murderers like Rodrigo Duterte are generally safe so long as they stay at home – unless they fall afoul of a successor government like his daughter did. If the ultimate goal is to build a global civilization that respects individual rights, and especially the right to life, then we are still a very long way from the Promised Land.



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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Take heed</p> <p>5. One’s superior</p> <p>9. Prepped meat</p> <p>11. Tighten anew</p> <p>13. Type of textile fiber</p> <p>15. Animalistic</p> <p>16. When you hope to get somewhere</p> <p>17. Offender</p> <p>19. Former NYC mayor Ed</p> <p>21. Type of cryptocurrency</p> <p>22. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano</p> <p>23. Herring-like fish</p> <p>25. Popular PBS program</p> <p>26. Congressman (abbr.)</p> <p>27. Flightless Australian birds</p> <p>29. Defrosted</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>31. Prior Yankee sensation Kevin</p> <p>33. Nasal mucus</p> <p>34. Some are southern</p> <p>36. A place to construct</p> <p>38. Popular beer brand</p> <p>39. Shouts of farewell</p> <p>41. Network of nerves</p> <p>43. Make a mistake</p> <p>44. Showed old movie</p> <p>46. Body parts</p> <p>48. A divisor</p> <p>52. Congressional investigatory body</p> <p>53. Papers</p> <p>54. Most unnatural</p> <p>56. Judge the worth of something</p> <p>57. Makes sounds while sleeping</p> <p>58. Which</p> <p>59. Hungarian Violinist</p> <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Pages</p> </div> </div>	<p>2. Head pain</p> <p>3. A loud utterance</p> <p>4. Large brown seaweed</p> <p>5. Hulu’s chef Carmine</p> <p>6. Greek mountain</p> <p>7. Made final</p> <p>8. Bar</p> <p>9. Tai subgroup</p> <p>10. What you eat</p> <p>11. Teaches again</p> <p>12. Small constellation</p> <p>14. Type of berry</p> <p>15. Cows fattened for meat</p> <p>18. A way to hoof it</p> <p>20. Exaggerated a role</p> <p>24. About two</p> <p>26. Long upholstered seat</p> <p>28. What employees earn</p> <p>30. Fiber from a coconut husk</p> <p>32. Digits</p> <p>34. Polish by rubbing</p> <p>35. Liquid body substances</p> <p>37. Furniture with open shelves</p> <p>38. Edible part of a chicken</p> <p>40. Satisfy</p> <p>42. Tool used to remove</p> <p>43. Icelandic poems</p> <p>45. Swiss village</p> <p>47. Drunks</p> <p>49. Evergreen plant genus</p> <p>50. Light precipitation</p> <p>51. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid</p> <p>55. An informal debt instrument</p>
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No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.

Are you being nurtured by nature?

As urbanization increases and screens dominate our attention, many people are spending more time indoors and losing their connection with the natural world. Why does this matter? Science and indigenous wisdom suggest that having access to and building a relationship with nature is essential for our well-being, our communities, and the planet.

The benefits of connecting with nature

Science confirms what many cultures have long understood: spending time in nature makes us happier and healthier. Research shows that people with a strong connection to nature experience lower stress levels, better mental health, and greater overall well-being. They are also more engaged in their communities and are more likely to adopt sustainable lifestyles.

Even small doses of nature can have

significant benefits. Studies suggest that spending as little as two hours per week in natural environments can improve mood, reduce anxiety, and boost overall life satisfaction. Some doctors are now prescribing “nature therapy” to patients showing signs of what is referred to as “nature deficit disorder.”

The consequences of nature disconnection

Our collective disconnect from nature has led to both personal and planetary consequences. Dr. Howard Frumkin, an advocate for planetary health, warns that a lack of exposure to nature contributes to mental health issues, anxiety, sleep disorders, and even substance abuse.

On a global scale, environmentalist David Suzuki has long emphasized that when people live off nature rather than with it, they fail to recognize its

true value. This has led to poor environmental stewardship and prioritizing economic growth over ecological balance. The consequences of our collective actions contribute to climate change and loss of biodiversity. All stark reminders that our future depends on repairing our relationship with the natural world.

What can we do?

On a personal level, making time for nature should be as routine as eating healthy food or exercising. Engaging in outdoor activity and integrating nature into daily life are all simple yet effective ways to reconnect.

On a community level, we must advocate for urban designs that prioritize green infrastructure and ensure access to nature is equitable. One example is the 3-30-300 rule, launched by the University of British Columbia, Urban Forestry Professor Cecil Konijnendijk

which suggests that every person should:

- See at least three trees from their home
- Live in an area with at least 30% tree canopy cover
- Live within 300 metres of a park or green space

Conclusion

Our relationship with nature is not just about personal enjoyment, it's about survival, health, and the future of our planet. Reconnecting with the natural world enhances our well-being, strengthens our communities, and fosters a more sustainable world.

Whether taking a walk in the woods, advocating for green spaces, or simply appreciating the trees outside your window, every effort counts. The question is: Are you making time to be nurtured by nature?



JOHN WILSON,
GREYS FOR GREEN

Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Wafting winter away

From there, it was a brief sprint to the holidays before the bona-fide countdown began. No, not towards 2025, but counting down the days towards this month's time change.

Ah, the joys of archaic customs! But at

least we were moving in the right direction.

And yet, as we move into the future, one that has true spring and a full summer almost within reach, I can't help but find myself almost (ALMOST) looking for a do-over to make the most out of the season that was.

Maybe that's because we're now in a season of rebirth and it's high time to think differently about many things, including the most contentious season of all!

As we cracked and destroyed heat records this summer, a particular meme circulated on social media which made me chuckle – at least at first. Then, realizing the so-called “truth bomb” it represented, the chuckle led to a furrowed brow.

This particular meme featured a vignette of Homer and Bart Simpson.

As the original scene went, a plaintive Bart whines to his father, “This is the worst day of my life”

An oblivious Homer responds to his son, “The worst day of your life SO FAR,” complete with a friendly, if unlikely grin.

The meme in question, however, subbed the word “worst” with “hottest” (or, in some variants, “warmest”) and the simple truth of that certainly made me pause.

If we exclude the significant snow

storms that punctuated winter's last month, we didn't have it all that bad when it comes to the dreaded white stuff. We were well into the latter half of winter before we had to truly put our backs into shovelling or adopt our reflexive gait to safely walk across icy terrain.

We enjoyed the mildness, revelled in being outdoors just a little bit more without that nostril freeze and without the cheeks getting too ruddy.

Jokes about the so-called benefits of Climate Change, but more often in day-to-day banter, “global warming”, abounded with degrees of enthusiasm both genuine and mock. But, really, it's no laughing matter.

While I look forward to spring getting well and truly underway, the grass getting greener, flowers popping out to add a splash of colour to the landscape, and birds providing the perfect soundtrack to all this, I do wonder when what we've come to love, hate and grapple with when it comes to winter will be little more than a memory – and this could apply to all the seasons as well.

As we wake ourselves out of the doldrums of winter, and we've all earned it, let's be mindful not to wish it away the next one, whatever it has in store for us, completely. And this is a sentiment I am happy to share without a single square of toilet paper in my hand demanding it so.

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NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC MEETING
PROPOSED COUNTY OF SIMCOE OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT
PROPOSED TOWN OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

TAKE NOTICE that the County of Simcoe and the Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth have initiated Official Plan Amendments pursuant to Sections 17 and 26 of the Planning Act.

THE PURPOSE and EFFECT of the Town Official Plan Amendment is to implement changes to effectively manage growth to 2051, update Schedules to reflect the proposed Settlement Area Boundary Expansions for Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham, and alignment with the Provincial Planning Statement.

THE PURPOSE and EFFECT of the County Official Plan Amendment is to implement the proposed settlement area boundary expansion mapping changes on Schedule 5.1 of the County's Official Plan and is available on the Town's webpage: <https://www.newtecumseth.ca/OPR>. The draft Official Plan Schedule is the key map.

THE PROPOSED TOWN OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT applies to the entirety of the Town of New Tecumseth including all properties within the Settlement Area Boundary Expansions to Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham. The draft Official Plan Amendment and Schedules are provided on the Town's website: <https://www.newtecumseth.ca/OPR>. The draft Official Plan Schedules are the key maps.

Take Notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth will hold an Open House on **Tuesday, April 1 from 2 - 4 PM, and 6 - 8 PM in the Community Room of Town Hall, 24 Tupper St W, Alliston.**

Take Notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth will hold a **Public Meeting on Wednesday, April 9 at 6 PM in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 24 Tupper St W, Alliston.**

THE DRAFT OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENTS are available for inspection at the County of Simcoe Administration Centre, 1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, ON L9X 1N6 and Town of New Tecumseth Town Hall, 24 Tupper St W, Alliston, L9R 1H2 during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday). Information is also available for viewing on the County and Town websites:

County of Simcoe Website:
<https://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/pln/amendments-and-current-applications>

Town of New Tecumseth Website:
<https://www.newtecumseth.ca/OPR>

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, contact the Planning Department at the Town of New Tecumseth at the Town Hall, by phone at or by email planning@newtecumseth.ca.

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Arts & Local Events

Two psychic mediums to be featured at upcoming Gibson Centre event

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you are a believer in the power of people to connect with the spirit world and have some questions for lost loved ones, an upcoming event at the Gibson Centre in Alliston will provide you with the chance to interact with two psychic mediums.

Psychic Mediums Trish Finch and Barbara Quinton will connect with the spirit world to help guests find answers.

“We have a live audience reading,” Quinton explained. “We introduce ourselves to the audience and tune our minds to the spirit world. Almost everyone who attends these events has someone in their lives who has passed. When Trish and I speak to you we know how to tune in to your energetic field.”

Barbara said that everything you experience in life, including every trauma, stays with you. She and Trish say they can tune into that experience.

They have held successful psychic events



in several towns in the region.

Many people who reach out to Trish and Barbara have questions about a family member or friend who has passed away. They would like answers about various things and want to know how that friend or family member is doing in the afterlife.

Trish and Barbara will appear in the Honda Performance Hall at the Gibson Centre on Friday, May 23, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The doors will open at 6 p.m.

For more information and ticket information, you can contact them via email at eventsbyredfern@gmail.com.



CONNECTING WITH THE OTHER SIDE – Psychic mediums Trish Finch and Barbara Quinton are hosting an event at The Gibson Centre in Alliston on May 23. The Gibson Centre is located at 63 Tupper Street West, Alliston. **FILE PHOTO**

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation’s interim CAO announces improvement plan details

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) interim CAO Sheryl Flannagan has released a work plan to improve operations with the NVCA board of directors.

The plan was shared at the board of directors recent meeting.

The plan consists of four key priorities and commitments.

These include strengthening municipal relationships, restoring and enforcing customer service standards, improving planning, permitting and engineering processes, and 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 imple-

mented a focused work plan that addresses feedback from our stakeholders and member municipalities, while positioning the organization for success under new leadership.”

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.

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 while also providing environmental education opportunities to watershed residents.

NVCA staff ensure visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience at NVCA’s 11 conservation areas and also identify stressors that are impacting the local environment.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) interim CAO Sheryl Flannagan recently announced a work plan for the organization’s board of directors. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

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:
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Region faces flooding from rising temperatures melting snow and ice

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

With heavy rain and warmer temperatures in the region, the Nottawasaga Vally Conservation Authority issued a flood watch warning and is asking residents to be vigilant around local waterways.

Rainfall accumulations of 15 to 20 mm combined with the existing snowpack are expected to cause significant melting resulting in increased runoff.

Due to frozen ground conditions, rain and runoff absorption will be limited, increasing the risk of localized flooding in low-lying areas and ponding on roadways.

Elevated water levels from rainfall and runoff will also make local streams and rivers hazardous, particularly near culverts, bridges, and dams.

The public is urged to exercise caution and avoid all watercourses, especially for the safety of children and pets.

The NVCA will continue to closely monitor weather conditions, ice formation, and water levels within the watershed.



FLOODING RISK RISING – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is reminding residents to be cautious around local waterways. Heavy rain combined with melting snow is causing rivers, streams, and pond water levels to rise causing hazardous conditions. Pictured here is flooding that occurred in the region in 2017. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

Alliston Hornets win semi-final in four-game sweep over Penetang Kings

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Alliston Hornets eliminated the Penetang Kings in their best-of-seven semi-final playoff series with a four-game sweep. The Hornets will now compete for the North Carruthers Division championship against the Orillia Terriers.

The Alliston team has won eight playoff games in a row, first knocking the Muskoka Bears out of competition in four games in their quarter-final round series.

The semi-final against Penetang got underway on Friday, March 7, on Alliston home ice. Game One ended with a 3-2 Alliston win.

Moving to Penetang for Game Two on Monday, March 10, the Hornets scored six goals over three periods before the Kings managed to get on the scoreboard in the third period.

Alliston goals came from Cole Turcotte in the first period, Mark Coish and Will Millington in the second followed by two from Nick Lamont.

Duncan Grube got the lone third-period Hornets goal for a 6-1 win.

A large crowd turned out for Game Three at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Wednesday, March 12. With schools out for March Break, a lot of younger fans were in the stands.

The Hornets were leading 5-0 at the end of the second period.

Penetang avoided the shut-out after scor-

ing two goals, four minutes apart in the third period.

Cole Turcotte banged in the final Alliston goal with 2:08 left on the clock to give the Hornets a 7-2 win.

Game Four got underway in Penetang on Friday, March 14.

The Hornets were determined to end the series and started off by scoring three goals in the first period.

Duncan Grube got the game opener followed by two from Cam Lamont.

Jax Bellwood scored early in the second period to make it a 3-0 game.

The Kings got on the scoreboard with two quick goals just 1:29 apart in the second.

Bellwood got his second of the night just three minutes after his first goal.

Cole Turcotte scored the final goal of the series late in the period to give the Hornets a 6-2 win to end the best-of-seven match-up.

“Game Two and Three were much better than game one,” said Hornets coach Jacob Bauchman after the win in game three.

“We had 12 games off between the last Muskoka game and game one of this series. We were knocking a bit of rust off in game one of this series. We won 3-2, but we were rusty. I think we’ve shaken off the rust and we were much better in Game Two and Three – our intensity level was much higher. Tonight, out of the 60 minutes, we were probably happy with 50 minutes. We fell asleep for about 10 minutes and they got a goal.”

The first-place Hornets will now face the



DOMINATING PLAYOFFS – The Alliston Hornets host the Penetang Kings on the ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre during Game Three of their best-of-seven semi-final playoff series on Wednesday, March 12. The Hornets won Game Four 6-2 in Penetang to win the series and will now go on to meet the Orillia Terriers in the North Carruthers Division championship series.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

second-place Orillia Terriers for the North Carruthers Division championship in what should be an epic battle between two strong teams.

The Terriers won their semi-final series over the Stayner Siskins in a series that went five games.

That series wrapped up on Saturday, March 14, with a 9-3 win for Orillia on home ice.

The first game of the championship playoff series between the Alliston Hornets and Orillia Terriers is slated for Friday, March 21 at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre.

The puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

North Dufferin Baseball Leagues hosts annual awards ceremony, recognizes achievements

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The North Dufferin Baseball League (NBDL) celebrated and recognized the outstanding accomplishments of players and teams from the 2024 season at its annual awards presentation held on Sunday, March 9, in Lisle.

The big winner was Jack Larmer from the Barrie Baycats junior team.

Larmer won multiple awards including Best Batter (.556 average), best on-base percentage (.647), and most home runs with seven – the NBDL’s highest amount since 2006. Larmer was also named the Most Valuable Player for the junior division.

In the senior division, Ben Sterritt of the Bolton Brewers was recognized as Best Batter (.548 average) and had the best on-base percentage (.667).

Sterritt’s teammate Brett Chater scored the most runs with 36 and was named Most Valuable Player in the senior division.

Bryan Post of the Owen Sound Baysox won his second consecutive home run tile with seven home runs.

Baysox pitcher, Trevor Smith was named Best Pitcher.

Father-son duo for the Baysox, Don and Ryan Bartley, won the Coach of the Year Award.

Brett Beardsall of the Orillia Majors was voted Best Catcher. The Most Sportsmanlike



STATISTICIAN’S AWARD – The North Dufferin Baseball League held its annual awards day on Sunday, March 9, in Lisle. League president Chris Fafalios presented the Statistician’s Award for the Junior Division to the most valuable player, Jack Larmer of the Barrie Baycats, at the North Dufferin Baseball League awards presentation.

Award went to Emerson Pendleton of the Mansfield Cubs.

Josh McBride of the Creemore Padres received the Best Pitcher Award in the Junior Division. Anson Dupuis was voted the Most Sportsmanlike Player.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the prestigious President’s Award to Pete

Kinghan for his years of service and dedication to the NBDL.

Kinghan’s career includes coaching the Creemore Braves junior team, the Creemore Braves senior team, and the New Lowell Knights.

Over 40 years, he has won 17 league championships and three provincial titles. He’s also served 24 years as a league statistician with two

stints as president in 2003 and 2014.

Kinghan is the eleventh person to receive the award since it was created in 1984.

After the awards, the league membership met to begin planning for the 2025 season.

Current plans have a 22-game schedule for the 12-team senior division and a 17-game schedule for the eight junior teams.



HIGH CALIBER COACH – North Dufferin Baseball League president Chris Fafalios presented the President’s Award to Pete Kinghan at an awards presentation on March 9. Kinghan was recognized for his coaching prowess with the Creemore Junior Braves, Creemore Senior Braves and the New Lowell Knights. He also served 24 years as a league statistician and was on the executive for two terms, totalling six years.

DAVID ANDERSON PHOTOS

Federal government makes significant investment in local watershed health

BY BROCK WEIR

Efforts to improve ecology in the Lake Simcoe watershed received Federal dollars this month.

Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leah Taylor Roy, accompanied by Newmarket-Aurora MP Tony Van Bynen, recently announced a Federal investment of \$1 million for three freshwater projects spearheaded by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), that could have a significant impact on Lake Simcoe and its watershed.

The projects, which are designed to address phosphorous flowing into the lake through agriculture, urbanization, and other paths, comes as the LSRCA celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

“As you can imagine, over those seven decades being involved in environmental restoration and stewardship, we have seen a lot of changes in this watershed

from when there weren't 400 highways to the growth,” said Rob Baldwin, CEO of the LSRCA “Now we're facing one of the more existential changes that we are experiencing: climate change. The funding provided through the Freshwater Action Funding being announced today is to help us assess the best management practices to help our farmers and our rural landowners in mitigating and responding to those climatic changes, where the practices of 30 years ago are still as effective today, and that is what this project is really looking at: to make sure we're implementing the best management practices that will be resilient into the future.

“This work is being coordinated in partnership with TMU (Toronto Metropolitan University) and the University of Waterloo as our academic partners where they will be looking at the effectiveness of these traditional best management practices



FUNDING BOOST – MPs Leah Taylor Roy and Tony Van Bynen were joined by East Gwillimbury Mayor Virginia Hackson, Georgina Mayor Margaret Quirk, Council representatives from municipalities within the Lake Simcoe watershed, and community advocates for the recent funding announcement benefiting the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

BROCK WEIR PHOTO

but also exploring what are the new and emerging techniques that might exist out there in the agricultural best management world.

“We're able to assess what is going to give us the best bang for the dollar to ensure that we are achieving that phosphorus reduction that we all value in Lake Simcoe.”

Knowledge that will be gleaned from these projects will be shared across Canada, he noted.

“Farming is an incredibly important part of our economy and we have to do more to protect our farmland to ensure that farming is sustainable, to ensure it doesn't damage the environment, and that we're working together to make sure farmers are supported and we can do even more,” said MP Taylor Roy. “We need more farming, we need more local farmers, and we need more sustainable farms.”

This month's funding, she said, was “an important step in protecting one of Southern Ontario's most vital fresh water resources” in Lake Simcoe, a body of water that supports “recreation, biodiver-

sity, agriculture, tourism, economic prosperity, [and] Indigenous culture.”

“It's essential that we work together to protect it for generations to come,” she said.

“Water is life; it quenches our thirst, sustaining us and our environment and our economy. Clean, fresh water is something we must never take for granted. For so many of us, Lake Simcoe represents more than just a body of water; it's part of our communities, our families, our way of life – whether it is through walking along the shores, fishing, boating, swimming in it, or simply knowing it provides drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people. It really does play an essential role in our communities.

“For me, protecting it is not just a policy or a priority; it really is a personal commitment,” she continued.

“We have heard about this money coming for quite a while, we kept waiting [and now] it is here, and as part of a \$650 million initiative over the next 10 years to restore and protect our most vital freshwater ecosystems.”



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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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General patrol leads to impaired driving related charges for Essa man

Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) recently charged an Essa resident for driving while impaired in New Tecumseth.

On March 11, shortly after 8:30 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP were conducting general patrols eastbound on Victoria Street East in Alliston.

Officers observed a dark passenger vehicle weaving left and right over the center line, while driving at inconsistent speeds. Shortly after, officers and the passenger

vehicle approached the intersection of Victoria Street East and County Road 10. They observed the passenger vehicle attempt to make a left turn on a red light.

The officers initiated a traffic stop on the northern portion of County Road 10.

Upon speaking to the driver, officers noticed a strong odour of an alcoholic beverage on his breath.

The driver displayed delayed responses to the officer's commands, and upon looking for the documents to the vehicle the accused

got out of his vehicle swaying and unsteady on his feet.

At 8:52 p.m., the driver, Cooper Martin 30, of Essa, was arrested and charged with operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs.

Upon attending the Nottawasaga OPP Detachment, the accused provided the first suitable breath sample. Upon officers attempting to conduct the second breath sample, the accused would no longer comply.

As a result, at 10:57 p.m., the accused was charged with failure or refusal to comply with demand

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

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice located in Bradford on April 10, 2025, to answer to the charges.

None of the charged have been proven in court.

Traffic tip to Nottawasaga OPP assists officers in making impaired driving arrest

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) recently charged one person with driving while impaired in New Tecumseth.

On March 17, shortly before 8 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a traffic tip that the driver of a passenger vehicle just approached the complainant in his vehicle drinking a bottle of Malibu rum and last

seen travelling south on Church Street.

Officers were able to quickly locate the vehicle during general patrols and two marked cruisers approached it to initiate a traffic stop. The suspect vehicle proceeded to reverse into the front of one cruiser.

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

in a "Fail" reading.

At 8:11 p.m., the driver, Michael Moulton, 42, of New Tecumseth, was arrested and charged with:

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

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 April 10, 2025, to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

Nottawasaga OPP deem structure fire in Essa non-suspicious, no injuries reported

Local emergency services recently responded to a structure fire in Essa where no injuries have been reported.

On March 11, at 8:27 p.m., members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and Essa Fire Department were at 8294 County Road 27 to respond to the blaze.

Upon officers' arrival, they observed a fully-engulfed shed behind a mobile trailer.

Officers confirmed that all parties had exited, as well as any animals that were on the property. Essa Fire Department arrived shortly thereafter to combat the blaze.

"The property owner was the only one on scene at the time and no injuries were

reported," said Nottawaga OPP in a press release. "The fire did not spread to the nearby residences and was put out shortly after. The cause of the fire appears to be a generator that was producing power to the mobile home at the time. The investigation is ongoing but is

not considered to be suspicious."

The roadway near the home was temporarily closed until the fire was put out. The owner was residing in Springwater at the time, this property was being utilized for storage and to work on a mobile home.

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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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708 OBITUARIES

Bruno: Joanne

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Joanne Bruno (Callaghan), on Saturday, March 8, 2025 in her 88th year, after a brief illness. She was the beloved wife of the late Donald Bruno and the loving mother to Shirley Bruno, Donna Healey (Philip) and Len Bruno (Jackie). Joanne adored her grandchildren: Justin, Leanne, Jeff (Elizabeth), Chris (Kim) and great-grandchildren: Nathan, Nicholas, Austin, Aiden and Liam. She will be missed by her sisters Wendy Henderson (Joe) and Susan Tompkins (Glenn). Living on a dairy farm, Joanne loved animals, especially Bailey (her black lab). Joanne was a proud Canadian who always reminded us that we live in the best country in the world. Joanne will be missed by all her family and friends.

Visitation was held at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham 905-936-3477, on Friday, March 14, 2025 from 10:30am until the time of Funeral Service in the chapel at 12pm. Interment followed in Morningside Cemetery Palgrave. A reception took place in the Cliffside Hall at the funeral home after the interment. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Stevenson Memorial Hospital, Matthews House Hospice, or Alliston & District Humane Society. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com

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GO, GO, GO – The New Tecumseth IceCats U18 B team hosted the Huntsville Sting on the ice at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on Friday, March 12. The season is winding down but the IceCats still have several games to play.

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SAVE \$3 each Cream Cheese Stuffed Jalapeños 10-13 PIECES 360 g

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SAVE \$2 Sausage Rolls 26-28 PIECES 500 g

SAVE \$2 each Cauliflower Bites 450 g

SAVE \$2 each Artichoke Mac & Cheese Bites 14 PIECES 280 g

SAVE \$2 each Hot Honey Cheese Bites 14 PIECES 280 g

SAVE \$2 each Cheesecake Bites 15 PIECES 300 g

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