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# The Times • New Tecumseth



Friday:  
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Sunny



Saturday:  
Mainly  
Cloudy



Sunday:  
Cloudy with  
Sunny Breaks



Monday:  
Mix of Sun  
and Clouds

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## Big Upset For Alliston Hornets

The Alliston Hornets are done for the season after taking a 5-4 overtime loss to the Orillia Terriers in their best-of-seven North Carruthers Division championship series. The final game for the Hornets was played at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston on Friday, March 28. The loss was a huge disappointment for Alliston fans who expected the team to advance to the Schmalz Cup playoffs after finishing first in the regular season with 40 wins and just two shoot-out losses. The Hornets started the season with a 28-game winning streak. See a full story on Page 13.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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# Spring Clean-Up Week coming up in support of Earth Day

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of New Tecumseth is inviting residents to get outside, get active, and have fun while participating in the annual Spring Clean-Up event.

This gives people the chance to pitch in and help clean up the town of all the litter left over from the winter months.

This cleanup is in support of Earth Day. Earth Day is a celebration that recognizes the success of the environmental movement while raising awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources.

This year, Earth Day is Monday, April 22. Residents can pitch in as individuals or

get a team together to be part of the cleanup.

Arrangements can be made to pick up clear garbage bags and nitrile gloves, which are available to participants free of charge.

Supplies will be available for pickup approximately one week before your cleanup date.

For the week of April 7, supplies can be picked up from the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre (7300 Industrial Pkwy, Alliston), Tottenham Community & Fitness Centre (139 Queen St N, Tottenham) or Joint Operations Centre (6558 8 Line, Beeton).

The Town will also arrange to pick up collected waste when left at a pre-arranged site.

There are many places you can choose to pick up litter.

These include schoolyards, neighbourhoods, parks, playgrounds, conservation areas, churchyards, cemeteries, trails, business areas, and sports fields.

To register, organizers will need your name, your group name (if applicable), the number of participants, your phone number, the number of bags and gloves needed, the location where you would like to clean up, and the proposed location of filled bags for collection.

To become involved, contact the Town Parks and Recreation department at parks@newtecumseth.ca, to request your supplies for additional information.



# New Tecumseth Council considers changing Procurement Policy to 'Buy Canadian'

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As a response to the US government's tariffs and proposed tariffs on Canadian goods, New Tecumseth Town Council is considering a by-law to amend the Town Procurement Policy to implement a more flexible 'Buy Canadian' and 'Buy Ontario' policy.

This will align with federal and provincial efforts to address tariffs and trade disruption between the two countries while ensuring compliance with existing trade agreements.

The US has imposed tariffs on Canadian goods causing disruptions to local businesses and economies leading to anticipated supply chain disruption and increased

procurement costs.

In response, Canada and its provincial governments have implemented retaliatory measures against the US and are seeking support from municipalities.

While municipalities are encouraged to back these higher levels of government, they must still comply with various free trade agreements signed by the Province of Ontario as well as the Discriminatory Business Practices Act, all of which carry specific legal implications for municipal procurement.

Determining if a product is 'made in Canada', can be complex and open to interpretation.

The Town primarily procures from Canadian suppliers. In 2024, only seven suppliers invoiced the Town from US addresses

as their main business location.

Although some suppliers are headquartered in the US, the Town usually deals with their Canadian satellite offices.

Competition Bureau Guidelines contain a distinction between 'Product of Canada' and 'Made in Canada' claims.

A 'Product of Canada' claim is subject to a higher threshold of Canadian content, at 98 per cent. 'Made in Canada' claims are subject to a 51 per cent threshold of Canadian content.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency sets the criteria for food products. A corporation is considered to be American if its head office or registered head office is in a US state, or is directly or indirectly controlled by persons or entities located, or who ordinarily reside in a US state.

The Building Ontario Business Initiatives Act defines an 'Ontario Business' as a business that is a supplier, manufacturer or distributor of any business structure that conducts its activities permanently in Ontario, has its headquarters or main office in Ontario, or has at least 250 full-time employees in Ontario at the time of the applicable procurement process.

The Town's procurement processes are regulated by several key trade agreements, including the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between Quebec and Ontario.

The Town must comply with trade agreements when establishing the open competition procurement threshold.

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# Three candidates announced in New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury riding

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

With a federal election coming up on April 28, three candidates have been announced for the riding of New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury as of April 1.

This is the first time New Tecumseth residents will vote in this newly created electoral district.

Terry Dowdall, current MP, will be running in Simcoe-Grey, which has had its boundaries changed and no longer includes the towns of Alliston, Beeton, Tottenham, and surrounding rural areas. New Tecumseth residents will now vote in the new riding.

This was a recent change made by Canada's Chief Electoral Officer. Federal electoral districts are reviewed after each 10-year census to reflect changes and movements in the population.

### Conservative Party of Canada

Incumbent York-Simcoe MP Scot Davidson

will run for the Conservative Party of Canada in the New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury riding.

Davidson has been an MP since 2019 when he was elected in a federal by-election. He was re-elected during the 2021 general election.

### Liberal Party of Canada

The Liberal Party of Canada has announced that Tottenham resident Mike Hanrahan will be their candidate in the federal election.

Hanrahan had no competition in the nomination process and was acclaimed by the Liberal Party.

### Green Party of Canada

The Green Party of Canada announced their candidate on Monday, March 31 as Callum McKinnon.

While he will be on the ballot for the Greens, no information about this candidate has been released as of press time.

The NDP Party of Canada has not yet announced candidates for New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury.



### What you should know:

Election day is: Monday, April 28, 2025

New riding: The Town of New Tecumseth will now join Bradford West Gwillimbury in the new riding of New Tecumseth-Bradford.

Adjusted boundaries: The riding of Simcoe-Grey has had its boundaries changed and will now include Mulmur Township and Grey Highlands.

# Weekend ice storm creates havoc in some communities throughout the province

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Maintenance crews had their work cut out for them after a severe ice storm blew through the region and much of the province over the weekend.

Environment Canada started warning late last week that a system was approaching and to expect a possible severe ice storm.

Beginning on Friday, March 28, the region started experiencing rain that started to freeze.

Saturday and Sunday saw a build-up of ice that caused tree limbs to break away and bring down power lines under the weight of the ice.

While Alliston was hit fairly hard, most of the severe weather affected communities farther north.

Barrie, Innisfil, Springwater, and Oro-Medonte were hardest hit in this region with some roads closed off due to debris blocking passage.

Power was lost in several communities and thousands of people were left without

electricity for several days.

Tottenham remained relatively unscathed and experienced only some wet weather with almost no ice build-up at all, even though Caledon to the south and Oran-

geville to the west, had significant freezing.

Power and maintenance crews worked diligently to remove fallen tree branches from roadways and repair fallen power lines. w



**WEEKEND WARRIORS** – A severe ice storm pelted the region and much of the province with freezing rain over the weekend. The inclement weather started on Friday, Mar. 28, and continued through the weekend. Maintenance crews worked diligently to clear roads of debris and restore power.  
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

## Is she real?

I recently had a discussion over the telephone about a service I required.

It was a fairly detailed conversation where the person asked me different questions about what I needed, and then provided answers.

Except there was no person on the other end of the line. It was an AI-generated voice.

At the start of the call it was explained you are being transferred to speak to someone who will help you, but it also briefly explained with not too much detail, that the person you would be speaking to was not a real person.

The call went fine. I got the information I needed and the voice was pleasant, accommodating, and knowledgeable.

In fact, it was so real, that there were only a couple of times that you could notice a slight variation that may give away the fact that the voice you heard was not a real person.

The advancements in Artificial Intelligence over the past few years have been phenomenal.

So far, the only AI that I have had experience with has mostly been positive. However, there is definitely a side to this technology that can be used for nefarious purposes.

I’m pretty sure that over the next few years, we will learn more about the not-so-positive side of AI.

Some of the dark side of this technology has already been revealed through replicating a person’s voice so accurately that you may receive a telephone call, thinking it is from a family member, and that you recognize the voice.

If your child calls you looking for help, and you recognize them, would you refuse?

Over the past few weeks, I have watched a series of AI-generated videos.

The first series recreated historical figures based on paintings and sculptures of that person. They went as far back as to create Cleopatra as a modern-day person.

It was fascinating to see what Cleopatra or Napoleon Bonaparte would have looked like if their photograph had been taken yesterday, complete with minor skin blemishes and lifelike complexion.

The second video brought people from a long-gone era back to life. They used black and white photos from the Edwardian age as a base for the work.

It was a time when photography still required a person to sit very still, not blink, and not smile, to achieve a sharply

focused image.

For that reason, people who were photographed at the time always appeared to be stern or unhappy.

The truth is, even in the Edwardian era, people smiled and laughed, you just couldn’t show that in a photograph.

In the video, they first colourize the photo to create a very modern-looking picture.

From there, they bring the people in the photo to life. The characters laugh and smile. It is a very convincing production.

If I were a budding movie actor, I would be worried about future opportunities.

Although AI has been used to create locations that do not exist, so far, movies are still using actors.

In the near future, I think we should expect to see the first entirely AI-created feature film.

From a filmmaker’s perspective, this could be a huge advantage.

You wouldn’t have to pay a top star \$20 million to be in your movie, and several more million to supporting characters.

You could create the perfect character for the role based on the director’s vision. Creating the most beautiful woman or man, or the ugliest person

based on what you need, could all be done from a desk.

There would be no need for a second take if you create the first take exactly as you want it to be.

You could do it right the first time and create the perfect emotion you want the actor to show.

You could create just about any setting you want to place your characters in.

I’m not sure how the public will react to watching a movie where none of the characters are real.

However, it has already worked for Disney Studios who have created an entire empire based on animated characters.

AI has a world of possibilities if it is used for good purposes, however, there is no doubt it is here to stay and will only get better over the next few years.

To what end? We don’t yet know.

However, I did see a humorous post about visiting websites where you have to prove you are real.

“AI has now advanced to the point where you have a robot demanding that you prove you are not a robot.”

Yeah, that is weird.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



## Plugging the brain drain?

How do you measure success?

I suppose it depends on just how you define it and what you’re evaluating.

Maybe it’s your career. Maybe it’s your family life.

Maybe it’s simply the satisfaction at the end of the day that you’ve done something of value — for yourself or others — over the course of the previous 24 hours. Maybe it’s just a matter of sticking to your personal moral compass or staying true to who you are, however you come to define yourself against the myriad challenges that are regularly flung our way.

There are no wrong answers.

If you define yourself by your job or vocation, it could be measured by the esteem in which you’re held by your peers — such as a tenured professor, a family doctor that has served generations of the same family, or a member of a professional organization — or the impact you’ve had on the community you call home, or your industry, or your field.

Young athletes looking to hit that next

level, for instance, might measure their success by whether or not they land a scholarship to an American university. That’s nothing to sneeze at, mind you, but sometimes it seems that, as a result, great homegrown athletes who choose to study in Canada and either keep their eyes on professional sport or pursue a different vocation while keeping their sporting passion at the amateur level, are sometimes left just adjacent from the spotlight.

In our political life, it often seems like there are those who derive a feeling of success through serving their constituents in the community, at Queen’s Park, or on Parliament Hill. But, by the same token, there are others who might measure the same success by whether or not they can make the leap to an office they see as higher, regardless of whether the mandate at hand — given to them by voters — has been completed. (Prime Ministers excepted because, as recent examples have shown, there is only one way to

go once you’re there!)

Then, of course, there is our cultural sector.

We don’t have to go far to find examples of musicians, actors, or comedians who might not think they’ve truly “made it” until they become household names stateside or globally.

Yet, are those measures held just by those who feel the need to get out the ruler, or do we as Canadians hold them to others as well?

When you get down to it, we Canadians are curious creatures. As much as we support our homegrown talent in arts and entertainment — a possible exception being many elements of the music industry — the passion in which we do so is usually most evident while they are “on the way up.” Yet, when they get there, all too often they’re looked on by us as “just a Canadian” actor (for example) if they stay here and, if they leave our borders for the next chapter in their careers, many scoff and sniff, “Well, they thought they were

too big for us.”

Unless, of course, they achieve phenomenal fame on the international stage, then all is seemingly forgiven and, most importantly, forgotten!

I’ve heard Academy Award-winning British actress Kate Winslet describe this in an interview as “tall poppy syndrome” in which if one is deemed to be getting too high for the others, are patted back down — subtly or otherwise. Maybe it’s a Commonwealth thing.

I was thinking about this just before settling in at my desk to write this, but in the context of the medical field where so many of our homegrown doctors either pursue their degrees at American universities that have a particular prestige and stay there, or perhaps leave for the States after successfully establishing themselves in Canada.

Continued on Page 19

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# Iran: A long fuse lit

Maybe it was the fact that we were coming up on the 10th anniversary of the treaty Donald Trump destroyed that prompted him to start issuing threats to Iran again.

The treaty, obscurely named the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was a deal in which Iran put its nuclear programme on hold in return for all the major powers easing sanctions on the country. The treaty was a major accomplishment of Barack Obama's presidency, which may be why Donald Trump pulled the United States out three years later.

Iran had been scrupulously obeying the terms of the JCPOA, and none of the other signatories (China, France, Germany, Russia, and the United Kingdom) had any complaint about its behaviour. Trump, however, clamped strict trade sanctions back on Iran, which naturally responded by resuming its work on enriching uranium.

The Iranians claim that they are only enriching uranium for nuclear fuel and other peaceful uses, but nobody believes them.

The experts say they must want at least a 'nuclear threshold' capability, because nobody enriches nuclear fuel to 60% uranium just to fuel power plants. The Iranians want at least the ability to build their own nukes fast in an emergency.

What kind of emergency? Well, the Iranians know that there are Israeli and American nuclear weapons targeted on them, and currently they have no nuclear weapons of their own. Getting them would no more proves that they plan to use them than it did when the Soviet Union, Britain, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea got them.

However, many other nuclear states see Iran as less eligible to have nuclear weapons because it is ruled by an elderly and fanatical religious elite that regularly issues blood-curdling threats to its numerous enemies. That was why they banded together to back the JCPOA treaty, but Trump trashed that and here we are.

Iran has used the past seven years to work

away on its uranium enrichment project, first at a fairly leisurely pace but then more quickly as the prospect of another Trump regime loomed. Now they are almost there.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said last month that Iran has now stockpiled almost 275 kg of uranium enriched to 60% purity, just short of weapons grade. The last step, to 90 per cent pure, is the easiest, and could be done in a few days or at most a few weeks.

That's enough fissile material for six nuclear bombs, although actually fabricating crude but effective nuclear bombs would probably take a further six months. If they want to put nuclear warheads on missiles, they could be looking at as much as two years.

Given how many Iranian missiles were intercepted or missed their targets in the past two rounds of fighting, however, Tehran might prefer not to put its precious warheads-to-be in the nose-cones of ballistic or cruise missiles. Trucks aren't a good bet for delivering across Israel's border either. Ships? Who knows?

None of this speculation means that Iran is planning to use nuclear weapons on Israel (or anywhere else) as soon as it gets them. It does mean that potential target countries will be thinking that it might, and making their own plans to pre-empt that contingency if they can. It's definitely getting more dangerous.

None of this would be happening if Trump had just left the JCPOA alone. Iran would still be years and years away from nuclear weapons, and even Trump might settle for just negotiating another ten-year term for the treaty.

But maybe not. Trump is very much under the influence of Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who really does want the US to attack Iran. (He'll even help.) And to make matters worse, the Iranian regime feels that it has its back to the wall.

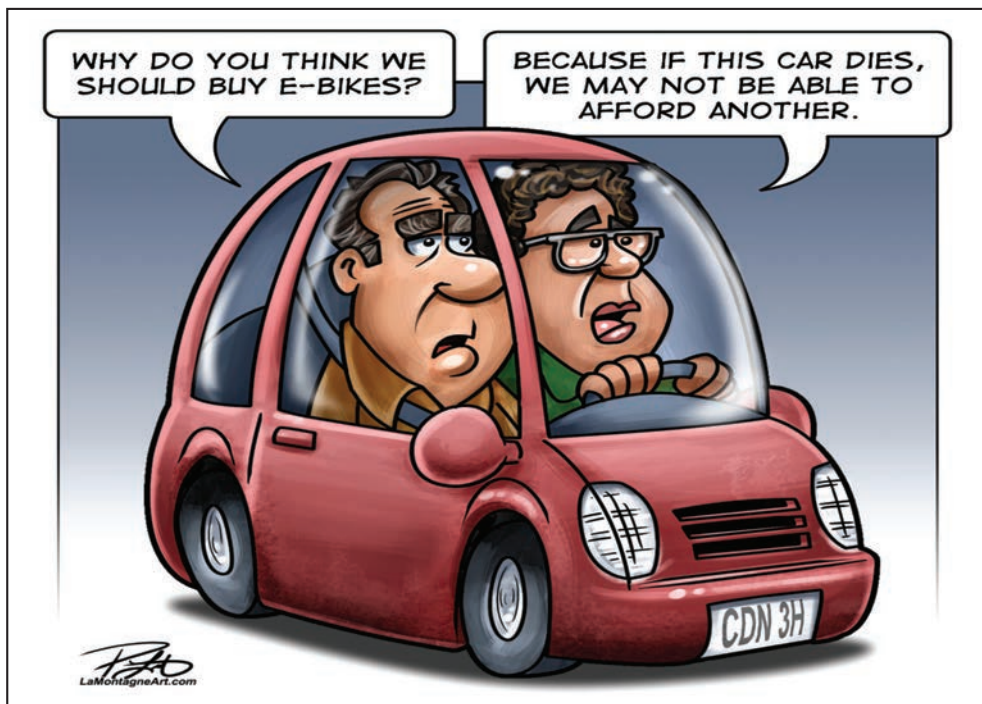
Nationwide outbreaks of protest against

the government of the ayatollahs are coming closer and closer together. The sanctions have crippled the economy and everybody is feeling the pinch. All of Iran's allies in the Arab world – Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, the Assad regime in Syria, even the Houthis in Yemen – are being stripped away.

And Donald Trump seems to think that he can retrieve his original blunder (not that he admits it was a blunder) by writing a letter to Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He gave the Supreme Leader two months to negotiate a new nuclear deal or the US and Israel will strike Iran's nuclear facilities.

This is typical Trump stuff: set very tight deadlines, demand unrealistic terms, and threaten 'Hell' if the deadline is not met. It generally doesn't work well, especially when you're dealing with fanatics. We have the makings of a really nasty war here, possible including a local nuclear war or (if Iran's nukes are still not ready) at least a 'dirty' bomb or two.

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OUR WORLD TODAY



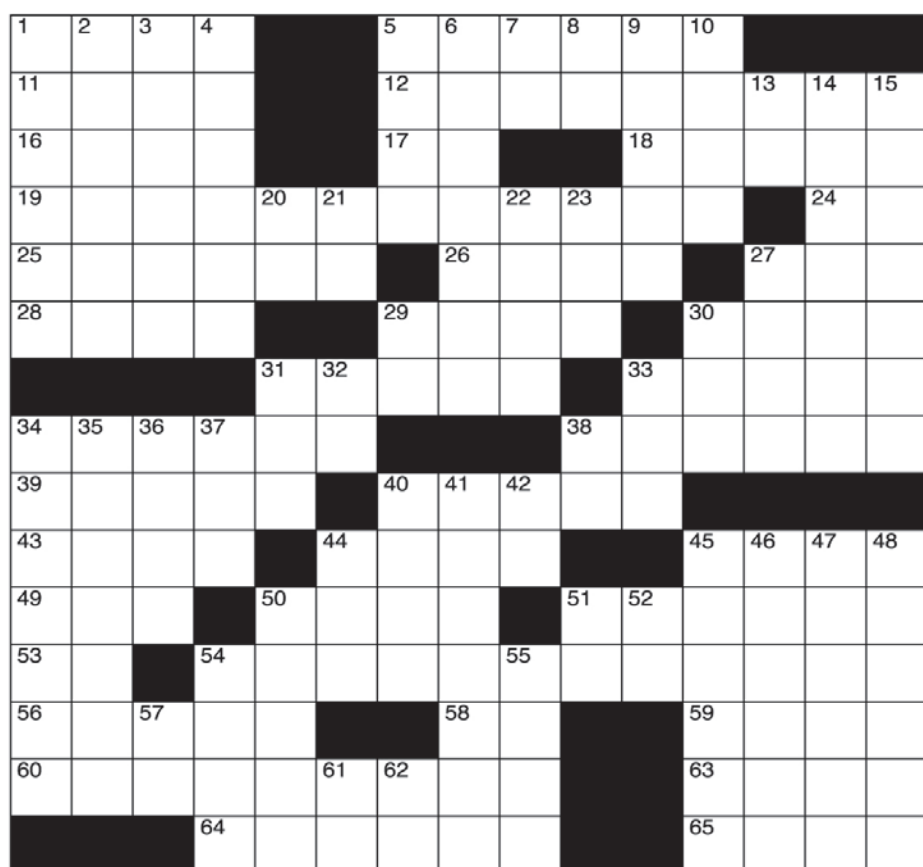
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- Narrow piece of wood
- African desert
- Waxy covering on birds' beaks
- Sour
- Infrequent
- Former AL MVP Vaughn
- Policemen wear one
- Out of the question
- Used to chop
- Symptoms
- Not moving
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Comedian Armisen
- Quantitative fact
- Incline from vertical
- Scottish musician
- Rooney and Kate are two
- Positioned
- A very short time
- Tropical American

- Yemen capital
- Spanish municipality
- Medical professionals
- Fibrous material
- Confined condition (abbr.)
- Without covering
- "Mad Men" honcho Don
- Hockey position
- Taste property
- Fertile spots in a desert
- They precede C
- "Requiem for a Dream" actor Jared
- Try a criminal case
- Liberal rights organization
- Spoke
- Insect repellent
- Unshaven facial hair
- More thin

- Show up
- Seethed
- Ancient Greek city
- Poisonous plant
- Hello
- College sports official
- Monetary unit of Russia
- Wings
- Take too much of a substance
- A citizen of Uganda
- Most appealing
- Atomic #18
- Global investment bank (abbr.)
- Jewish calendar month
- Popular sandwich
- Swiss river
- Incorrect letters
- Popular entree
- Foot (Latin)
- A driver's license is one form
- Extinct flightless

- bird
- Appetizer
- After battles
- It neutralizes alkalis
- Beverage container
- Partner to "Pa"
- Gray American rail
- Salt of acetic acid
- Canadian province
- Dish made with lentils
- Narrative poem of popular origin
- For each one
- Come to terms
- Test
- More dishonorable
- Unit of loudness
- The Ocean State
- Monetary unit in Mexico
- Lying down
- Thus
- Where LA is located
- Western State

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

# Southgate man arrested and charged while shoplifting at Alliston LCBO

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested and charged an individual after a report of a shoplift in progress at an LCBO in Alliston.

On March 19, at 5:18 p.m., officers from the Nottawasaga OPP detachment were dispatched to a report of a shoplift in progress at 22 Dunham Drive in Alliston.

The complainant reported that loss prevention services had one male in their custody for attempting to shoplift whiskey from the store.

Officers arrived on scene and located the individual who had attempted to steal one bottle of Canadian Club Premium (1750 ml) - \$69.75 and one bottle of Alberta Premium

Whiskey (1750 ml) - \$69.75. A total value of \$139.90 was returned to the store.

Initially, the accused provided officers with a false identity and upon further investigation, officers were able to positively identify the accused individual.

As a result, 44-year-old Bryan Skidmore, of Southgate Township, has been arrested and

charged with:

- Theft Under \$5000 - shoplifting
- Obstruct Peace Officer

The accused has been released and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice located in Bradford on May 1.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

# Seedy Saturday event at Beeton Library prepares residents for spring planting

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It is not yet time to start planting a garden, but you can be prepared for when the warmer weather arrives.

Seedy Saturday, hosted by the Beeton Horticultural Society, the D.A. Jones Branch of the New Tecumseth Public Library and the Beeton Tottenham Business Improvement Association welcomed visitors to the Beeton Library on Saturday, March 29, where they could pick up some free seeds for the garden.

The event featured a variety of vegetable and flower seeds.

The program is unique as it offers free seeds but also asks people to bring back some of the seeds from the vegetables they grow in their garden, which can then be distributed to others. This way, there is always a supply of seeds on hand.

“This event spreads awareness of gardening, growing, seed saving, and education,” explained Liza Williams, president of the Beeton Horticultural Society. “The library has a seed library. The concept is that you take the seeds and grow plants, and return seeds from your garden. We purchased some of the seeds and there are a lot of donated seeds. From one tomato you will get a lot of

seeds, so that’s enough to do your garden and donate some back.”

There were all sorts of seeds available, including tomatoes, cucumbers, peas, peppers, and lettuce.

Along with the seeds, several local gardening-related businesses brought their products to the event.

There was also a lot of information from the Horticultural Society about gardening and how to plant a home garden.

While Seedy Saturday is an annual event, the library has a seed catalogue that they keep on hand, and seeds are available all year.

It was a popular event at the library, with a steady stream of visitors throughout the day.



SEEDY SPRING – Members of the Beeton Horticultural Society show some of the seeds that were available for visitors at the Beeton Library during Seedy Saturday, on Saturday, Mar. 29. Local residents could pick up vegetable and flower seeds for free to get ready for spring planting.  
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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# Estate of Helen Lucas partners with Cultural Centre for spring sale

BY BROCK WEIR

Sprouting flowers are synonymous with Spring's arrival, and, if you're a local art lover, there are fewer names more synonymous with flowers than Helen Lucas, the late King-based artist, who expressed herself through vivid herbaceous slashes of paint.

This spring, art lovers will have the opportunity to share in Lucas' legacy with a Spring Sale from the Estate of Helen Lucas, hosted by the Aurora Cultural Centre.

The sale will include more than 200 drawings, prints and paintings, which will be sold online May 22 through June 5 and in-person from May 29 and June 2 at Lucas' studio in King Township, which remains largely untouched since her death in November 2023.

The sale is being organized by Frank Simonetta, Lucas' son-in-law and the representative of her estate, and Samantha Jones, Gallery Manager for the Aurora Cultural Centre.

While Lucas held a solo show at the Centre in 2018, it was before Jones arrived at the Centre. She first encountered Lucas' work when curating the 2024 exhibition, Seven Masters, featuring select pieces from the collection of the Georgina Centre for Arts and Culture.

"As we were exhibiting her works from their collection, we wanted to make sure we were giving her her proper place in the show," says Jones. "There were three artworks by Helen Lucas in their collection, but it just didn't seem like enough."

Simonetta helped flesh out Lucas' presence in this posthumous exhibition and many others were thus able to learn about the popular artist and what fuelled her passion.

"I hadn't even heard about Helen Lucas really because I have only been here for three years," says Jones. "Just from being around her work and getting to work so closely with it, I can say she is probably my favourite artist of all time, just because of the journey she had and her practice. She came from a small town in Saskatchewan, came here as a young woman, went to OCAD, went through some troubled relationships, but eventually found happiness. I think that's what's so compelling about her – just her resilience and her ability to express it through her art."

"She has very distinct eras – kind of a darker, sadder and trying-to-discover-yourself eras... and going into full flowers, which is just self-embracing and self-loving. Because her work is so expressive and so intimate, it's hard to believe she is a regional artist. You don't hear about these artists of southern Ontario making works like this. I call her the 'Georgia O'Keefe of Southern Ontario.' She's totally different, but I think she should be put in that calibre. What's really important right now is because she is such an important feminist artist, especially during the time she was creating work about her experience being in a relationship that was oppressive, then coming out of it and finding stability, I think it is really politically important right now with what we're seeing in the States and, I think, the fear that is happening down in the United States. Canadians are being very conscious of their rights and especially women in particular. I would just love more people to see her work and see the fight that she fought, and maybe it will make them feel some comfort that she was able to overcome and find happiness."

The online sale begins Thursday, May 22, at 9 a.m., running to Thursday, June 5.

24-hour early access to the online sale will go to subscribers to the Flower Friends e-newsletter, which is facilitated by the Cultural Centre.

The in-person sale from Thursday, May 29 to Monday, June 2, will take place each day from 12 noon to 6 p.m. at Lucas' home and studio in King, the address to which will be

announced May 28.

Lucas was born in Weyburn, SK, in 1931 to Greek immigrant parents.

"Her life-long artistic practice reflects a journey of both internal and external transformation," says the Centre. "Early works, often somber charcoal drawings, depicted sorrowful, subdued portraits reflective of womanhood within a patriarchal society. Over time, and following the separation from her first marriage, her style evolved into bold, joyful flower paintings that celebrate colour and life. Frequently working on a large scale, Lucas often painted entire canvases in a single day. In the 1970s, she became an influential figure in the feminist movement, using her art to speak out against the oppression of women

within a patriarchal society and to express femininity through her work. From 1972 to 1979, she taught drawing and painting at the University of Toronto and Sheridan College, and she was a guest lecturer and artist at various universities, panels, TV and radio programs, and publications.

"Throughout her career, Lucas held over 50 solo exhibitions, both nationally and internationally, including Why Do I Paint Flowers?, her 2018 solo exhibition at the Aurora Cultural Centre. In 2003, her work was selected for exhibition at the Florence Biennale. Her art is represented in numerous collections, including The Canadian War Museum, The King City Municipal Offices, SickKids Hospital, The Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

and the Georgina Centre for Arts and Culture."

For more, visit: [auroraculturalcentre.ca/helen-lucas-spring-sale](http://auroraculturalcentre.ca/helen-lucas-spring-sale).



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# Arts & Local Events

## Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee challenges adults' spelling knowledge

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you think you can spell just about any word, the Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee offers a chance to show your knowledge of the dictionary.

In support of the Literacy Council of South Simcoe's Next Step Literacy Program, the Spelling Bee tests contestants on their spelling abilities while raising funds for a good cause.

This is the 13th annual Spelling Bee event.

Teams of adults dressed in costumes compete for the honour of being crowned the best spellers.

It won't be an easy night of spelling simple words. As the night goes on, the spelling challenges become tougher.

On top of crowning the best spelling team, there are also prizes for best costume, most team spirit, and the most pledges raised.

The audience can also win in a Play-Along Round.

The evening includes a dinner, dessert buffet, silent auction, and a 50/50 draw.

This year, author Rod Carley will be the honoured guest.

Funds raised at the Spelling Bee support Next Step Literacy's mission of providing free one-to-one adult tutoring in essential skills such as reading, writing, math, and computer literacy.

The event will take place Saturday, April 5 at The Club at Bond Head (4805 7th Line, Beeton), beginning at 5 p.m.

The cost to register a team is \$250, with a minimum of three people per team and a maximum of 12.

Registration includes dinner and entertainment.

For more information contact info@nextstpliteracy.ca, call 705-435-5624, or visit the website at: www.nextstpliteracy.ca/spelling-bee-2025.



**SUCCESSFUL SPELLERS** – The Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee in support of Next Step Literacy will take place on Saturday, April 5, at The Club at Bond Head in Beeton. The event has teams of adults in costumes being challenged to spell different words with the winning team crowned the top spellers. **FILE PHOTO**

## Tickets now on sale for 40th Annual Tottenham Bluegrass Festival coming this June

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you think you can spell just about any word, the Tottenham Bluegrass Festival is returning to the natural amphitheatre at the Tottenham Conservation Area for its 40th year.

This will be three days of Bluegrass music in a beautiful setting at the park.

There will be a stellar line-up of top-tier bluegrass bands performing on the centre stage in front of the Conservation Area's pond.

In addition to some great bands, you can also sit in on some jam sessions, take part in music workshops, and find some great merchandise in the vendor area.

This year's line-up includes Stoney Lonesome from Orangeville. Their material is a mix of traditional, new acoustic, and original songs and instrumentals.

Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers perform regularly at the Grand Ole Opry and were named Entertainers of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association in 2019. The band is looking forward to performing at the Tottenham Bluegrass Festival.

Junior Sisk hails from the Virginia Blue Ridge and will be bringing his five-piece band to perform original music on the stage.

The Highbanks Bluegrass Band draws from a wide variety of material, including traditional bluegrass, pop and show tunes, country,

and original music. They'll be entertaining festival attendees at the Tottenham Conservation Area.

The Tone Rangers are a fun band whose songs 'echo across the vast plains and dusty trails.' From campfire ballads to saloon show-downs, this eclectic posse serenades the frontier with tales of adventure, heartache, and redemption – don't miss out.

Simply Blu from Moncton, New Brunswick, perform a mix of originals and covers both in English and French – sure to entertain festivalgoers.

The 2025 Tottenham Bluegrass Festival will take place on June 20 to 22.

Tickets for the Bluegrass Festival can be purchased for the day or for the weekend.

Tickets can be purchased on the Tottenham Bluegrass Festival website at www.tottenhambluegrass.ca.

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**MUSICAL MILESTONE** – The Tottenham Bluegrass Festival will be returning to the Tottenham Conservation Area from June 20 to 22, with a full line-up of music on the main stage by the pond. This is the 40th year the festival is taking place. **FILE PHOTO**



# AUTO MAINTENANCE



## Maintenance intervals drivers should know

Vehicles are among the most costly expenses individuals have.

According to data from Kelley Blue Book, the average price paid for a new vehicle in the United States in September 2022 was \$48,094. Canadian car buyers face an equally expensive reality in their country, where the average MSRP for a new car is more than \$45,000.

Since vehicles are such sizable investments, it behooves motorists to do as much as they can to keep their cars and trucks running smoothly. Vehicle owner's manuals typically recommend maintenance intervals and should be drivers' first resource for information regarding how to take care of their cars and trucks. But the following are some standard maintenance intervals drivers can keep in mind.

### 3,000 MILES

The 3,000-mile marker used to be the benchmark for changing oil, but modern vehicles can now go longer between oil changes. However, it's still a good idea to check other fluid levels every 3,000 miles. Windshield washer fluid, coolant, brake fluid, transmission fluid, and power steering fluid should all be checked every 3,000 miles and topped off if levels are low.

It's wise for drivers to perform some additional maintenance checkups every 3,000 miles. Check tire pressure, inspect hoses (which should not be leaking or bulging) and clean the interior of the vehicle every 3,000 miles.

### 5,000 MILES

Many vehicle manufacturers now recommend oil changes every 5,000 miles. Tire rotations also can be part of service visits at this interval, and drivers can ask their mechanic to check their fuel filters and

batteries every 5,000 miles as well. Many may already do this as part of their comprehensive maintenance packages, but it's still good to confirm if they do and request they do so if it's not part of the plan.

Drivers also can request that cabin air filters be inspected at this point, though they can generally last a year before they need to be replaced.

Around the 5,000-mile mark, wiper blades also may begin to show signs of wear and tear, including streaking on the windshield or scratching noises when in use. Each of those signs indicates the wipers need to be replaced. However, drivers should take note of these signs regardless of when they appear. Some may not make it 5,000 miles before they begin to wear down. In such instances, they should be replaced immediately regardless of how many miles it's been since they were installed.

### 10,000 MILES

Some vehicles may only require oil changes every

10,000 miles. That's not uncommon in vehicles that use synthetic oil, though drivers are urged to consult their owner's manuals.

Brake pads also may need to be replaced around this time, and one telltale sign of that is a squeaking noise whenever the brakes are applied.

Drivers can ask their mechanics to check the alignment of their vehicles around this interval as well. Though many vehicles won't develop alignment issues, it's best to check for such issues every 10,000 miles or whenever a vehicle feels as though it's pulling in one specific direction.

Maintenance intervals are created to serve as a guideline for drivers. Any issues that arise should still be brought to the attention of a mechanic regardless of how many miles have been added to the odometer since the most recent trip to the garage.

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# AUTOMAINTEANCE



## Auto interior maintenance and cleaning tips

**A** number of factors are involved in keeping a vehicle functioning and looking good. Ensuring a vehicle interior is clean and tidy is easily overlooked, but such efforts can improve the driving experience.

Drivers who want their cars and trucks to look their best should not forget their vehicle interiors. Drivers unsure where to start can spruce up their vehicle interiors in the following ways.

### REMOVE ANY TRASH

Wrappers, receipts, empty water bottles, and other items can quickly pile up inside a car, especially for drivers who have young children. Routinely go through the vehicle to gather and remove debris.

### VACUUM THE INTERIOR

Start off with a can of compressed air and blow out dust and any other dirt that has accumulated in tight crevices. Then use a high-powered vacuum to conduct a thorough cleaning. Pay attention to the seams of car seats, door handles, armrests, floor mats (and under them), underneath child safety seats, and the trunk or cargo area. If you don't have a vacuum with a lot of suction, utilize one at a do-it-yourself car wash location.

### SCRUB FLOOR MATS

Drivers with rubber mats can remove them and make a mild cleaning solution of a few drops of dish soap and warm water. Use a soft-bristled brush to clean the mats. Upholstered mats can be sham-

pooned using a carpet cleaner. Then rinse and hang to dry. All mats should be completely dry before being returned to the vehicle.

### CLEAN THE UPHOLSTERY

Seats can get dirty and dingy over time. For cloth vehicle seats, use a proper spray or foam upholstery cleaner. All-purpose cleaner can work on vinyl seats, but leather seats require a special leather soap and conditioner. Avoid products with silicone, which can stain your clothes and may make interior surfaces too slippery.

### ADDRESS GLASS SURFACES

Turn your attention to the windshield, windows and mirrors. You can use a store-bought glass cleaner on these surfaces and a lint-free cloth. Avoid products containing ammonia, which may damage tinting on windows.

### CONSIDER LINGERING ODORS

If the interior of the car has an odor, the cabin air filter may need to be changed, or there may be water entering the vehicle somewhere and creating a musty smell. Seek out any problems and address. A car air freshener can further improve the interior smell.

A thorough deep cleaning can be done at least once a month to keep a vehicle's interior fresh and clean. However, keeping up with interior cleaning and maintenance by doing small jobs regularly will reduce the need for routine deep cleaning.



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# AUTOMAINTEANCE



## Common car noises and what they might be indicating

**A**lthough there are many drivers who understand what goes on under the hood of a vehicle and the inner workings of car mechanics, there are plenty of others who might not know a spark plug from a dipstick. For the latter group, random noises when driving can be a cause for immediate alarm.

Certain noises can be innocuous and easily fixed, while others may be indicative of something more complex. Pinpointing where a noise is coming from can help vehicle owners identify the problem. Here's a list of some common sounds and what the causes might be, courtesy of Firestone, Geico and Nationwide.

### HIGH-PITCHED SQUEALING

Screeching or squealing coming from the tires when stepping on the brakes likely means that brake pads are wearing down and the indicator is rubbing against the

rotor. Although this is not an emergency situation, it does mean that brakes will need to be replaced sooner than later.

### RATTLING IN THE WHEEL

If you hear rattling inside of a wheel at low speeds which stops as you drive faster, it could mean there is a loose lug nut inside of the hub cap. That wheel wasn't tightened properly the last time it was removed and replaced. Bring the car to a mechanic as soon as possible.

### CLICKING

If you try to start the car and only hear a clicking sound instead of the car turning over, a dead battery is likely the cause. Such a noise also may indicate corroded battery terminals that are preventing the current from flowing. Terminals need to be cleaned. The battery should be checked and jumped, if necessary. If a battery is not holding a charge, a new one is needed.

### SQUEAKY OR SCRAPING WINDSHIELD WIPERS

Squeaking and scraping means the windshield wipers are wearing down or the windshield is dirty. Clean the windshield and inspect the wiper blades to make sure they are in working order. A bad wiper and dirty windshield can reduce visibility and make driving dangerous.

### CLUNKING SOUNDS

Clunking sounds may indicate a few different issues. A clunking sound might indicate worn out shock absorbers, which absorb vibrations from the wheels. Damaged struts also can cause clunking. Worn out leaf spring shackles that help in off-roading conditions, also can cause clunking when they bend or break.

### HUMMING, WHINING OR WHIRRING

These strange noises might have different origins. Check if the differential needs to be lubricated. A wheel

bearing also could be worn out and produce a noise. In more severe cases, the transmission could be failing. The best course of action is to get a professional opinion from a mechanic.

### FLAPPING NOISE

A broken belt typically is the culprit when a vehicle makes a flapping or slapping noise. Something also may be interfering with the fan. Driving with a broken belt may cause severe engine damage, so it's important to address the issue.

### SQUEALING UNDER THE HOOD

Squealing can indicate worn or loose accessory belts. In newer cars it might be the serpentine belt. Belts are relatively inexpensive and easy fixes. These are some of the sounds that vehicles can make when something is awry. Figuring out the issue can prevent further damage.



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# AUTOMAINTEANCE



## WARNING SIGNS that brakes are faltering

Automotive problems are often best left to professionals.

Though seasoned car enthusiasts may be capable of diagnosing and fixing car troubles without the assistance of a trusted mechanic, most drivers are better off letting the pros address issues under the hood.

However, drivers can still play a vital role in vehicle maintenance. Learning to recognize warning signs of various problems that can affect cars can prevent breakdowns and potentially costly repairs. In certain instances, such as when the brake system is not

working properly, knowing how to spot problems before they escalate into something larger can make drivers and their passengers safer and potentially prevent accidents.

Television shows and movies have lent credence to the notion that brake problems are marked by the sudden cessation of a vehicle's ability to stop. Though that can happen, warning signs of fading brake systems tend to be more subtle.

**NOISES:**

Much like a knocking sound typically indicates a problem with a vehicle's air-fuel ration mixture, certain noises also suggest there are problems with the brakes. The most noticeable such sign is a high-pitched squeal that occurs when drivers

...Brake systems should be inspected during routine maintenance visits....

apply the brakes. But grinding sounds and noises like scratching and scraping also warrant a visit to a brake specialist.

**INCREASE IN STOPPING DISTANCE:**

An increase in the distance a vehicle travels before it stops after the brakes are applied indicates that there's an issue with the brakes. This issue may or may not require a brake replacement. In fact, it's sometimes indicative that brake fluid levels are low, which can be remedied quickly and easily. However, an increase in stopping distance is significant

enough that it should be brought to the attention of a brake specialist immediately.

**PULLING UPON STOPPING:**

Another warning sign of brake problems is when the vehicle noticeably pulls to one side as it comes to a stop. This indicates that one side of the brakes is malfunctioning while the other is working properly. Like other issues with brakes, this one requires immediate attention from an automotive professional.

Brake systems should be inspected during routine maintenance visits. But issues with brakes can arise even after such inspections, which underscores how important it is that drivers learn to recognize the warning signs of brake problems.

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# SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

## Hornets eliminated from playoffs following 5-4 overtime loss

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It took the Orillia Terriers just 26 seconds to win the North Carruthers Division championship with a 5-4 OT win over the Alliston Hornets at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre during Game Five of the Division final series on Friday, Mar. 28.

It was a disappointment for Alliston fans who were expecting to see their team vie for the provincial Schmalz Cup this season.

The Hornets dominated the Division this year taking only two losses in the 42 game regular season. They took over first place early in the season and remained there getting win after win as the season went on.

Entering the playoffs, the Hornets won the quarter-final round with a four-game sweep over the Muskoka Bears.

They followed up in the semi-final round against the Penetang Kings, taking that series in four games to advance to the championship round to face the Terriers for the Division title.

The Terriers were a formidable squad this year, finishing in second place with a 35-7 record and 59 points.

The Hornets won over the Terriers in all six games they played against them in the regular season, usually beating them by several goals.

However, the Terriers really came alive in the playoffs and showed what they could do.

Fans were stunned when the Hornets were shut-out 3-0 in Game One of the championship series on Mar. 21.

The Hornets redeemed themselves with a 3-2 win in Game Two and Alliston fans expected them to win four straight.

A 4-2 Terriers win in game three gave the Orillia squad a 2-1 lead in the series.

A 4-3 loss in Game Four on Orillia home ice meant the Hornets were under threat of elimination if they didn't pull it together for Game Five.

It started off well for the Hornets and confidence was high when they took an early 2-0 lead on goals from Bendo Logan and Jax Bellwood.

The Terriers got on the scoreboard at 13:55 into the first period.

Jax Bellwood scored his second of the night at 1:27 into the second period to make



**TOUGH LOSS** – The Alliston Hornets are done for the season after taking a 5-4 overtime loss to the Orillia Terriers in their best-of-seven North Carruthers Division championship series at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre in Alliston on Friday, Mar. 28. The loss was a huge disappointment for Alliston fans who expected the team to advance to the Schmalz Cup playoffs after finishing first in the regular season.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

it a 3-0 game.

Orillia closed the gap with a goal at 14:51 into the second period.

It was a tied game when Orillia's Josh Presley scored a short-handed goal that stunned Hornets fans on a penalty kill and a shot to the top corner of the net.

Alliston was again in the lead when Tristen Pitt scored at 8:12 into the third period, and fans were hoping they would hold on for the win.

The game was tied at four when the Terriers scored with 2:04 remaining on the clock.

The teams returned for OT, but it was all over when Orillia forward Dylan Palomaki

scored at just 26 seconds into OT.

Orillia claimed the Division championship and the Hornets players can trade in their hockey sticks for golf clubs.

Hornets coach Jacob Bauchman said he thought the Hornets needed more of a challenge during the regular season to be more successful at the end.

"We played great during the regular season and we played great in the playoffs," Bauchman said after the final loss. "We didn't face any real adversity and that's what ended up getting to us. We didn't know how to battle through the adversity and bear down when we needed to. I'm not trying

to make excuses. It happened last year as well – no one really tested us. They (Orillia) were a different team than they were in the regular season. We didn't have the fight in us. We had three leads in that game and couldn't hang on."

The team and the fans were disappointed to see the season end the way it did.

"Our end goal was much further than what happened," Bauchman said.

After having such a dominant season, the Hornets were expected to move to the Schmalz Cup playoffs.

The season still provided some great entertainment for Junior C fans.



**FINAL DAYS** – The TNT Tornados U16 AA team take on the Orangeville Flyers during playoff action at the Alder Street Arena in Orangeville on Thursday, March 27. Minor hockey is entering the last week of the season. The Tornados had to settle for a 4-2 loss in this game.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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**AWARD-WINNING GOALTENDING** – The Provincial Junior Hockey League honoured Alliston Hornets goalies, Seth Ronan and Owen Butler, with the Top Goals Against Average for the North Carruthers Division before Game Three of the division championship series against the Orillia Terriers on Monday, March 24. Presenting the award is North Conference manager Andy McAskill.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO



**MOST VALUABLE DEFENCEMAN** – The Provincial Junior Hockey League is honouring players for outstanding achievements on the ice. Awards were handed out to Alliston Hornet players prior to the start of Game Three of their championship final series against the Orillia Terriers on Monday, March 24, at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre. Hornets' defenceman Jacob Holmes was honoured with the North Carruthers Division's Most Valuable Defenceman Award, presented by North Conference Manager Andy McAskill.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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## OPP looking to identify shoplifting suspect

Officers from the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a shoplift and are requesting the public's assistance to identify an individual.

On March 22, 2025, at 5:49 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP were dispatched to a theft incident at Zehrs located at 30 King Street South, Alliston. The preliminary investigation revealed that at approximately 5:40 p.m. the male subject entered the store, approached the produce department selecting oranges. The male proceeded through numerous departments selecting a verity of items including meats and jerky packs and was last seen removing reusable grocery bags from his backpack and placing the items in it. The male exited the store through an employee entrance located on the south side of the store.

The suspect is described as: male, with a short brown beard, approximately 35 years old wearing a black winter jacket with a fur-trimmed hood. Officers attempted to locate



the male but were unsuccessful.

See attached photographs from video surveillance. If you know this individual, please call 1-888-310-1122 Report number (E250346530). You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or [www.crimestoppersdm.com](http://www.crimestoppersdm.com). When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

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## Three Brampton residents charged with stealing over \$30,000 from LCBO

An ongoing police investigation has resulted in the arrest of three individuals in connection to a series of LCBO thefts in New Tecumseth.

The investigation involved members of the Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and its Community Street Crime Unit.

In May 2024 Nottawasaga CSCU began an investigation as they received various calls from several LCBO locations in our area that the same individuals were shoplifting high value amounts of alcohol from several locations.

Nottawasaga CSCU with the assistance of the LCBO have identified and arrested a network of individuals committing the thefts that were occurring not only in the Nottawasaga detachment area, but other regions as well. They include Huronia West, Collingwood, Caledon, and Dufferin OPP

areas, reaching a total loss of \$32,307.15.

On March 18 and 19, 2025 the following individuals have been arrested and charged by the Nottawasaga OPP.

Sharndeeep Singh 25, of Brampton, has been charged with:

- Theft over \$5000.00 Shoplifting - two counts
- Conspiracy to Commit Indictable Offence
- Fail to Comply with Release Order - seven counts

Jagroop Singh, 30, of Brampton, has been charged with:

- Theft over \$5000.00 Shoplifting- Two counts
- Conspiracy to Commit Indictable Offence
- Theft Under \$5,000.00, Shoplifting

Simranjeet Singh, 24, of Brampton, has been charged with:



• Theft over \$5000.00 Shoplifting-Two counts

• Conspiracy to Commit Indictable Offence

• Fail to Comply With Probation Order -five counts

All accused parties have been held for a bail hearing and are to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice at a later date.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

The LCBO theft investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information in relation to this investigation is asked to call the Nottawasaga OPP Detachment at 1-888-310-1122, and request to speak to the CSCU.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at <https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca>.

## Early morning break-and-enter at Alliston Shopper's Drug Mart under investigation

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Officers from the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police are investigating an early morning break-and-enter of a business in Alliston on Tuesday, March 25.

At 5:16 a.m., officers were dispatched to an alarm call at the Shoppers Drug Mart on Victoria Street East in Alliston.

Upon arrival, officers found the front door

to be smashed and determined there had been a break-and-enter.

The suspects fled the scene prior to police arrival.

A preliminary investigation revealed that shortly before 5 a.m., three unknown suspects believed to be males, smashed through the front door making entry.

All three suspects entered the store and stole an estimated amount of \$1,000 worth of electronics and \$25,000 worth of beauty

products.

The suspects were last seen on video fleeing eastbound on Victoria Street in what is believed to be a 2007 – 2012 silver Ford Escape.

Suspect 1, is described as male, wearing a black winter jacket, light blue jeans, and black running shoes.

Suspect 2, is described as male, wearing a black hat, black balaclava, grey joggers, and black running shoes.

Suspect 3, is described as male, wearing all black, a black ball cap, and white/black running shoes.

The investigation is ongoing.

Police are encouraging residents to review their camera footage or dashcam between 4 a.m. and 5:16 a.m. for any suspicious activity that may be helpful in this investigation.

If you have any information regarding this incident, please contact the Nottawasaga OPP at 1-888-310-1122 (Reference E250356760).

## Impaired driving charges laid against 57-year-old man after parked vehicle struck in Cookstown

The Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a driver involved in a collision with impaired operation in New Tecumseth.

On March 21, at 6:30 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a report of a passenger vehicle that had just struck a parked car in

Cookstown then continued westbound on Highway 89 towards Alliston,

No injuries were reported.

Officers located the vehicle in question.

As a result of the officers' investigation, they determined the driver Fredrick Rankin, 57, of Keswick, displayed signs of impairment. He

was arrested at 6:41 p.m. for the following:

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

In addition to the listed 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 May 1, to answer to the charges.

None of the charges have been proven in court.

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## 708 OBITUARIES

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF BOB (ROBERT) WILLIAM MOORE



With love, we announce that our dear Bob (Robert) William Moore was peacefully called home to Jesus on Friday, March 28, 2025 at the age of 59, surrounded by family at his home in Caledon. Bob was the devoted and cherished husband, and best friend, to Odette; a proud and loving father to Jaqueline (Harry), Alexis (Quade), and Natasha; and an adoring Papa to his grandchildren, Kreaden and Silas, who brought him endless joy. Bob was also a beloved brother to Debbie (Lorrie) and Lynda. His warmth, laughter, and loving presence were the heart of our family, and his spirit will live on through all who knew him.

Bob's life was deeply rooted in his unwavering faith in Christ. His relationship with the Lord was the foundation of everything he did, and his mission was to share Jesus' love with others. He served in many missions throughout his life, spreading God's word and living with compassion, kindness, and purpose. Even through his courageous battle with pancreatic cancer, Bob's faith remained unshaken. He found strength in Christ and, throughout his journey, carved crosses from old cedar branches to share the message of the power of the cross with all who encountered him (1 Corinthians 1:18).

As a man of action, Bob had a passion for athletics, adventure, and always sought to connect with others. His vibrant energy, generosity, and love for life were felt by everyone around him. Whether through his dedication to Christ, his adventurous spirit, or the deep love he had for his family, Bob leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire and uplift all who knew him. He will be deeply missed and his spirit will continue to live on in the many lives he touched.

Family and friends will be received at Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Friday, April 4th, from 2-4 and 6-8 o'clock. Funeral service will be held in the chapel on Saturday, April 5th at 11 o'clock. A reception will be held immediately after the service at the funeral home to share stories and celebrate Bob's life.

Private family interment will be held in Woodland Cemetery, Burlington.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society ([donate.cancer.ca](http://donate.cancer.ca)) Condolences may be offered at [www.EganFuneralHome.com](http://www.EganFuneralHome.com).

#### Niemeyer,

#### Annegret Bärbel "Barb"

Barb unexpectedly but peacefully passed away at home on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 77 years of age. Beloved wife of Klaus Niemeyer. Loving mother of Nicole. Proud Oma of Monika. Bärbel will be lovingly remembered by the Niemeyer family in Germany. Barb will also be fondly remembered by her friends in the Schomberg area. A celebration of Barb's life will be held at a later date. In Barb's memory, donations may be made to The Schomberg Horticultural Society. (Please contact the Society through their email address [schomberghortsociety@gmail.com](mailto:schomberghortsociety@gmail.com) to request to make a donation.) Online condolences may be made and future details available at [www.skwarfunkfuneralhome.com](http://www.skwarfunkfuneralhome.com)

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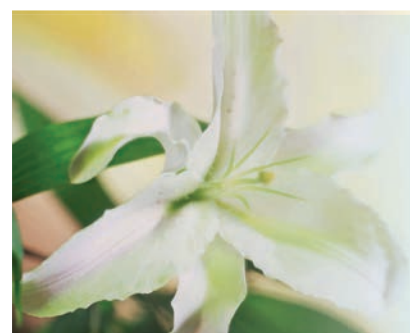
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Continued from Page 4

# Brock's Banter: Plugging the brain drain?

The common view is this is always to maximize profits, but this is not always the case, as was highlighted Monday by the CBC.

Reporter Campbell MacDiarmid reports that Ottawa-based heart surgeon Marc Ruel was headed to the San Francisco campus of the University of California to lead their cardiac surgery department until last fall's Presidential election and the subsequent threats to Canada's sovereignty.

"Canada is under duress right now. I felt my role and duty at this point was to directly serve my country from within," he told the CBC.

MacDiarmid continues: "Ruel says he considers his skills a product of Canada, abilities that he was ready to share globally when he accepted the position...last year. 'In the western United States, no one does

this more advanced, minimally invasive multiple bypass surgery,' he said.... 'I don't want to do politics, I'm a surgeon, I'm not a politician, and I respect every nation's choice to choose their own destiny.' But Trump's imposition of tariffs and threats to annex the country that's historically been its closest ally has made geopolitics an unavoidable issue.

"I had to most unfortunately change my decision," Ruel said. 'I say unfortunately because there were patients there in California, I can tell you, who were looking forward to having this type of surgery.' Given the broader context, Ruel says staying put was the best decision. 'I'm very happy to be here and serve, as well as I can, my fellow Canadians.'"

Doctors on the other side of the equation

– that is, American doctors who are now looking at opportunities to bring their profession to Canada – declined to speak to the CBC on the record, but recruiter Michelle Flynn indicated enquiries to come north have "more than doubled over the last several months" and, by the same token, questions from Canadians looking to head south have been waning.

Canada has lived far too long with a brain drain, but in some respects, the tide might be turning. If — to quote Melanie Joly — the "psychodrama" inflicted upon us semi-monthly by President Trump has any positives, helping to plug the brain drain might be one positive we can hold onto in this mess. It might also be an economic boost as well!

In a recent conversation with Debra Wil-

son, Interim Executive Director of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, on the importance of spring home shows in our communities to underscore the idea of shopping local, she stressed that as important as the "Shop Local" principle is, "Support Local" is just as important, if less punchy-sounding.

That, in my view, is very true.

We send messages with our dollars — we have and we should continue to do so — but there are other ways to send messages and strengthen the home front: and that includes supporting, recognizing and fostering the talent we have at home, celebrating their successes. This also includes those talented ones who are proudly flying Brand Canada abroad and, in turn, doing us proud — even if some are loath for some reason to admit it!

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