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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, May 1, 2025

Volume 51, Issue 18

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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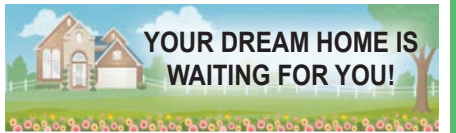
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# New Tecumseth Stays Blue

Newly elected Conservative MP for New Tecumseth–Gwillimbury, Scot Davidson, holds a bag of potatoes and a bag of carrots to signify his support of farmers in the region during his campaign celebration at Perfect SZN restaurant in Bradford on election night, Monday, April 28. Davidson won the election with 59 per cent of the popular vote. See full story on page 6.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

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# Blood donation clinics coming to Alliston and Tottenham in May

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

New Tecumseth residents will soon have the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and make a potentially lifesaving donation.

Two blood donation clinics happening next month in Tottenham and Alliston.

In Tottenham, there will be a clinic on Saturday, May 17, at the Tottenham Community Centre, 139 Queen Street N., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In Alliston, there will be a clinic on Thursday, May 22, at the Alliston Memorial Arena, 48 Nelson Street W., from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Canadian Blood Services needs 450 new donors every day this coming month to meet the growing need for blood and plasma.

Around 230 new donors give every day on average across Canada, however, Canadian Blood Services needs to double that number to meet the growing need.

The demand for blood and plasma is rising, but there are not enough donors to keep up with the rising patient needs.

“The need for blood is growing, but there aren’t enough donors to keep up with this need. To continue to help patients, we need to double the number of new donors,” says Canadian Blood Services’ community development manager Courtney Thompson. “Become a new donor. Book an appointment to help a patient in need and join a community of people committed to saving lives.”

To register for one of the two blood donation clinics scheduled to happen locally in May and make a donation, visit [blood.ca](http://blood.ca).

For group bookings contact: [courtney.thompson@blood.ca](mailto:courtney.thompson@blood.ca).

It is important that you keep your appointment if you register. Please notify Canadian Blood Services well in advance if you can’t make your appointment so they can schedule someone else to take your place.



**IT'S IN YOU TO GIVE** - Blood donors are needed for upcoming clinics in Alliston and Tottenham. The need for blood is growing and there's not enough donors to keep up with the rising demand. To support Canadian Blood Services and people in need of lifesaving blood transfusions, sign up for the Tottenham clinic on May 17 or Alliston clinic on May 22 at [blood.ca](http://blood.ca).

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We Are Canadian



# Tec-We-Gwill Women’s Institute hosts seminar on Victim Services

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Honda Canada will continue to operate at fuVictim services are something people rarely think about – until they need them.

The Tec-We-Gwill Women’s Institute invited Marie McCallum, executive director of Victim Services of Simcoe County to provide information during a seminar on April 22, at the group’s Newton Robinson location.

Victim Services helped between 1,100 and 1,500 people in the region last year. They support victims of violent crimes including domestic violence, as well as anyone else who has suffered trauma for a variety of reasons.

The police consider Victim Services to be a valuable partner who can deal with some situations the police are not trained to handle.

Victim Services personnel can accompany a police officer in a situation where a person or family is going to be informed of a sudden death. Many police officers do not feel comfortable in that duty, and a person

from Victim Services is trained in how to break the news and handle the aftermath.

Their crisis intervention provides emotional support, practical assistance, education, and referrals for ongoing assistance.

A large part of what they do is assist victims of domestic violence.

McCallum has been with Victim Services for 30 years and has assisted with almost any kind of trauma you can think of.

“This is a program that has been in Ontario since 1997,” McCallum explained.

“It originally started as a pilot project in Toronto, Sudbury, Kingston and Brantford to see if a community-based victim’s services program would be equal to or better than a police based program. After two years, it was determined that a community-based program works much better. Our program is called ‘community-based’ because we have a community-based board of directors from all walks of life. And we do get people from the community who just want to help. They want to go on calls and be available when someone is in need of some kind of support.”

McCallum has been on some calls that

have resulted from very traumatic circumstances. From violent assaults to murders and suicides, she and her team assist the victims. Victim Services also helps victims of human trafficking, property crime and vandalism, elder abuse, and crime-related motor vehicle accidents.

She explained that when these things happen, it also affects others, including family members and even innocent people who have witnessed a tragedy.

“The volunteers that work with our agency are trained by us,” McCallum said. “When they go out on a call, they go out in pairs. We don’t want anyone going out by themselves. When police see them coming to the scene, they really do believe that they can leave it to the victim support workers to be there to support the families.”

Many people are unaware that Victim Services even exists. It’s not until a tragedy occurs that they find out there is someone who can help.

Victim Services provides a valuable service to the community and steps in to help the most vulnerable in society when no one else can.



**IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS** – The Tec-We-Gwill Women’s Institute welcomed Marie McCallum, executive director of Victim Services of Simcoe County on Tuesday, April 22. McCallum provided information on what Victim Services does and shared her experience of helping victims of trauma. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

# County Council takes step toward reducing number of councillors starting in 2026

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

County of Simcoe councillors have moved closer to reducing the size of County Council from 32 to 17 members.

Following extensive discussion throughout 2025, councillors enacted a by-law on April 22 to initiate changes to the size and composition of County Council. A new Council would include the mayors from each member municipality and an appointment of a full-time Warden.

The move is one more step in a comprehensive process which included a public meeting on March 11, 2025, where feedback from the public was received.

The matter will now be considered by the member municipalities as part of a triple majority approval process.

A focus of the discussion was the weighted vote component which allocates a total number of votes to each municipal-

ity based on the number of electorates in that municipality. This essentially means that larger municipalities have more votes.

Currently, this is apportioned between two municipal representatives – the Mayor and Deputy Mayor – who both sit as County Councillors. The proposal to reduce Council would reallocate the same weight to one municipal representative.

Councillors requested that the Governance Committee make recommendations about the circumstances in which a weighted vote could be used going forward. Once the Governance Committee has had the opportunity to consider these circumstances, recommendations will be brought back to County Council for consideration.

Changes to the composition of Council are not yet finalized.

The enactment of this by-law is the first step in the ‘triple majority’ process.

This process requires a majority of

votes on County Council – which has now been achieved. It also requires a majority of lower-tier councils passing resolutions consenting to the by-law, and the consenting lower-tier councils representing a majority of all electors in the upper-tier municipality.

The by-law will be circulated to the 16

lower-tier councils for further consideration with responses requested by June 30, 2025.

If approved, these decisions would take effect for the 2026-2030 term.

The current structure will continue for the remainder of the current term of County Council.

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# Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

## Instant gratification

Did you ever notice the longest minute of the day is when you place something in the microwave and you stand there staring at the electronic timer counting down the 60 seconds so you can retrieve your bran muffin heated to just the right temperature?

Modern Western society has become a place where everyone expects instant gratification — no waiting.

It's not necessarily a bad thing. Technology has advanced modern living to a point where things happen a lot faster than they used to.

A trip to the bank to make a deposit or withdrawal used to be a tedious undertaking. There was always a long line-up and for some reason, everyone spoke in hushed tones. As a kid, I remember going to the bank with my mom. I would sit in one of the old-school oak chairs while she stood in line waiting for that moment when the teller would say, “Next.” It was a horrifying and tiresome experience for a six-year-old to sit in that hard wooden chair and be afraid of making a noise that would disrupt the entire process.

Now, if there is one person ahead of you at the instant teller, it's not a long

wait. The instant teller turns the entire banking experience into a one-minute, or less, exchange, and you don't even have to wish the machine to ‘have a good day.’

I had a reason to actually go into my bank branch a couple of weeks ago. It was empty. The teller mentioned she hadn't seen me in a year.

After our business was concluded, she laughed and said, ‘See you next year!’

Your home computer provides instant gratification. Click on a website, and a couple of seconds later, you have the information you need.

If your computer falters for any reason and you don't get that information the instant you ask for it, it's a long wait staring at that screen.

In reality, it may be only a few seconds, but it's a very frustrating few seconds.

I saw a very interesting documentary a few years ago where some scientists tried to explain how time is relevant to different living things. Some creatures experience time at a different rate than others.

This, the documentary explained, is why a common house fly manages to escape your rolled-up newspaper while a snail crossing on the sidewalk hasn't got

a chance if you decide to step on it.

To the house fly, that rolled-up newspaper is coming at him at a speed a lot slower than you see it — the fly has time to react and get out of the way. Considering a house fly only lives for a month or so, their sped-up sense of time may mean they think they are living a lot longer than they really are.

A sense of time changes for people as well. Time speeds up as you get older. When you're a child, a half-hour seems like a long period of time, especially when you're in math class or doing something you have little interest in.

By the time you're middle age, that half-hour is taken up in no time at all as you grab a coffee in the morning and turn the key in the car to get on your way, and you realize it's been 30 minutes since you poured the coffee into your travel mug.

I think for people who live to be 100, a day must be like hearing the alarm clock ring, then realizing a few minutes later, it's dark and time to hit the sack.

Our modern sense of instant gratification is really apparent if you like to watch the videos that may come across your Facebook page.

**BRIAN LOCKHART**  
FROM THE SECOND ROW



When YouTube first started, it was at the same time that video cameras became more affordable, so it was an obvious platform to explore. People posted videos of just about everything, from historic events to family birthday parties, it was all there for the world to see.

However, some people didn't get the concept of editing. Sometimes a video would show way too much before the actual event occurred.

Now that everyone's cellphone can record video, there is a video that captures pretty much everything from around the world.

Now I get videos that will contain short segments of around five seconds. No waiting for the action.

If you want to see 30 funny videos of people falling down icy stairs, wham, bam, there you go — 30 videos in 1.5 minutes. Instant gratification.

However, there are some things that will never speed up.

Some of the best things in life are done as slowly as possible.

## Keep hoisting those elbows

Is Canada broken?

That is a question that was bandied about a great deal during the Federal election that was — and, let's be clear, it was bandied about a great deal as well in the prelude to the Federal election as well.

Answers varied depending on who you asked.

Some had lived through highly individual experiences that may have led them to answer the question in the affirmative. Others, with different experiences under their respective belts, might have shuddered at the very idea of Canada's amour being dented let alone broken.

Then there are — and were — others who would have answered a resounding yes simply out of partisanship and efforts to undermine whatever opponent was in their crosshairs.

More people might have answered “yes” before the resignation of Justin Trudeau earlier this year. Others may have been emboldened to continue on with that line of thinking in the heat of a campaign. Given the results of Monday's election, some might still subscribe to this hue and cry, convinced that only one person could have re-assembled a nation that had, in

their view, less structural integrity than Humpty Dumpty at his worst.

As an observer of this year's campaign, however, I came away Monday night surer than ever that reports of the country being on the fritz were greatly exaggerated.

Simply look at the electoral process itself. In contrast to the prolonged and questionable saga our southern neighbours routinely embrace in electing their leaders and governments, our election ran fairly smoothly, we had a reasonable idea of the overall outcome at a reasonable hour, and with the exception of a few squawks from the usual suspects, very few cries of shenanigans at the polls.

Regardless of how you voted and what the ultimate results turned out to be, that is a testament not only to the thousands of volunteers who dedicated their time to ensure it was a smooth process, but also a testament to the strength of our institutions.

At a time when our country is under an existential threat, that is nothing to sneeze at — and these election workers, and, of course, the dedicated, community-minded, and community-driven individuals who put themselves forward to make

a difference as candidates.

You all deserve our thanks.

For some, it was an election about affordability. For others, housing. For still more, it was about the very idea of Canada itself.

Given the resignation of Justin Trudeau earlier this year, the subsequent race to lead his party and government, the Ontario election, and, most recently, the resulting Federal Election campaign, for far too long it's felt like we've been without a rudder in the choppiest waters of our existence. Whether you're happy with a returned Liberal government or not, I'm happy with a greater degree of stability and predictability in our day-to-day and in the unprecedented and unpredictable fight we collectively have ahead of us.

“Humility underscores the importance of governing as a team in cabinet and in caucus and working constructively with all parties across Parliament, of working in partnership with the provinces and territories and with Indigenous peoples,” said Prime Minister Carney in his victory speech. “And at this time, it underscores the value of bringing together labour, business, civil society, to advance the nation-

building investments we need to transform our economy. “Humility is also about recognizing that one of the responsibilities

of government is to prepare for the worst, not hope for the best, as I've been warning for months, America wants our land, our resources, our water, our country — never.

“But these are not idle threats: President Trump is trying to break us, so that America can own us. That will never, ever happen but we also must recognize the reality that our world has fundamentally changed. There is also, for me, as I stand before you this evening, humility in recognizing that while many have chosen to place your trust in me, trust in the Liberal party, millions of our fellow citizens preferred a different outcome. And my message to every Canadian is this: no matter where you live, no matter what language you speak, no matter how you voted, I will always do my best to represent everyone who calls Canada home.”

Continued on Page 15

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PUBLISHER: Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Ltd.  
 GENERAL MANAGER: Zach Shoub  
 EDITOR: Sam Odrowski [sam@citizen.on.ca](mailto:sam@citizen.on.ca)  
 REPORTER: Brian Lockhart  
 PRODUCTION: Lisa Clendening  
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# The Puzzle of Jorge Bergoglio

**GWYNNE DYER**  
OUR WORLD TODAY



Not being a believer myself, I take only a limited interest in the doings of priests, imams and rabbis, but I did stumble into a situation involving the late Pope Francis at a crucial point in his early career. This is probably the last time that the story will be of interest, so I might as well tell it now.

It was 1977, I was brand new to the trade of freelance journalism, and I had just sold a radio series that would focus on reformers, radicals and troublemakers in the Catholic Church.

I made a deal with the Jesuit mother-house in Rome to use Jesuit contacts around the world as my way in (they were dabbling in 'liberation theology' at the time, so out of favour in the Vatican), and in due course I found myself in Buenos Aires.

The head Jesuit there was Fr. Jorge Bergoglio (much later Pope Francis), whom I did not meet. I stayed with two younger Jesuits who were working in one of the city's poorest barrios and were definitely of the liberation theology persuasion.

It was the earliest and worst days of Argentina's military dictatorship and everybody was scared. Military teams cruised through the streets in their trademark Ford Falcons, seizing people on their list for torture and subsequent murder, and my hosts were convinced that they were on one of those lists.

They stayed at their posts, working with their poverty-stricken congregation, but they were sure the soldiers would soon come and take them. And they knew that the Church would not save them, because Bergoglio had handed two other left-wing Jesuits over to the military death squads just months before. Or at least that was what they believed.

All the other young Jesuit priests I met believed it too, even though Bergoglio was the 'provincial' (chief Jesuit) in Argentina. Several of them had seen him meeting senior military officers in his offices, but they didn't know what was said. He moved in the same social circles as military officers at that time, but that doesn't necessarily mean he gave up his priests to the regime.

In due course Bergoglio became a pope, and there will never be a definitive answer to the question: did he or didn't he? If there ever were any documents, they will have been destroyed long ago by the military, the Church, or both. But why, knowing that there was this problematic element in his past, did the Church make him pope?

With at least a hundred-plus cardinals young enough to vote (the over-80s can't), surely, they could have found somebody with a little less baggage. In fact, even if they rightly thought that it was long past time for the first Latin American pope, why on Earth choose Argentina?

The Argentine Catholic Church's behaviour during the time of the generals was so craven, so shameful that it made a public apology in 2000 for its failure to make a stand.

"We want to confess before God everything we have done badly," Argentina's Episcopal Conference said. So why not a pope from Brazil, or Colombia, or even Cuba, where the Church is under siege?

Perhaps because there are never really all that many 'papabile' (men who are plausible contenders for the papacy). There is a short-list of ten at most who represent (or more accurately, seem to embody) the divergent strands of conservatism and liberalism in matters both secular and doctrinal.

What happens in a papal conclave remains secret, but the struggle to choose the 'right' next pope is usually hard-fought and its outcome is significant for the Church's future, possibly over a period of decades. Maybe Pope Francis just the least unacceptable compromise, and the cardinals decided that the future was more important than the past.

Anyway, he's gone now, and we have a last chance to question the choices made by that previous incarnation of Francis when he was 50 years younger. The likeliest explanation for Bergoglio's conduct, if it was less than perfect, is that he saved people when he could, but let others go because the military were determined to have them. He made deals, in other words.

That is the calculation that most people with responsibility for the lives of others tend to make in evil times. Rodolfo Yorio, brother of one of the Jesuits who was kidnapped and tortured, summed it up this way:

"I know people whom he (Bergoglio/Francis) helped.

That shows his two faces and his closeness to the military authorities. His way of managing ambiguity is masterly. If they were killed, he was rid of them, if they were saved, he was the one who had saved them. That's why there are people who consider him a saint and others who are terrified of him."

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Puzzle No. 255110 • Solution in Classifieds

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- Herring-like fish
- Perform on stage
- Soda
- Small growth
- In support of
- Step taken when walking
- Hollyhocks
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Feel pain
- San Diego ballplayer
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- Fat from a pig's abdomen
- Create again
- Honors once more
- Thin coating of gold
- Welsh river
- Japanese novelist Mizumura
- Husks of corn
- Green vegetable
- Showing guilt
- Soldier
- Photographers
- Language spoken in Nigeria
- Mimic
- Expressed pleasure
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Beverage container
- Night monkey genus
- Lace bugs
- Hogshead (abbr.)
- Frameworks
- Keyboard key
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Influential Korean independence figure
- Welsh river
- Japanese novelist Mizumura

- Razorbill genus
- Bleached
- Continent
- Fruit preserved in syrup
- Impediment to one's freedom
- Nocturnal rodents
- Earthy pigment
- Relieved oneself
- Golf score
- Tech hub \_\_ Alto
- Sportscaster Andrews
- Records electric currents
- Popular Hitchcock film
- Revolutions per minute
- NY Giants legend
- Sports radio host Patrick
- When you hope to get somewhere
- French seaport
- Thai river
- Rocker's accessory
- Extra charge
- Influential American president
- Pain in the head
- Great Plains people
- Consumed
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Improves
- Secret clique
- Behind the stern of a ship
- Dough made from corn flour
- Fallow deer
- Swiss river
- Grayish white
- Engrave
- College's Blue Devils
- Midway between south and southeast

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

# Liberal Party of Canada projected to form minority government, New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury provides Conservative MP with resounding mandate

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Conservative incumbent, Scot Davidson, has retained his seat in federal parliament after winning the riding of New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury with 59 per cent of the popular vote in the federal election on April 28.

Davidson previously represented the riding of York-Simcoe. He became the candidate for New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury when the riding boundaries were changed last year, creating the new electoral district which includes Alliston, Beeton, Tottenham, Bradford West-Gwillimbury, and Bradford East Gwillimbury.

This is the fourth time Davidson has been elected to parliament since winning a by-election in 2019. He won his seat by a large margin in the 2019 and 2021 federal elections.

The Liberal Party of Canada will form the next federal government with Mark Carney at the helm. However, as of press time, it was unclear whether the Liberals would form a majority. Elections Canada decided early on Tuesday to pause the counting of special ballots with a handful of ridings still too close to call.

The Liberals were elected in 168 seats. The Conservatives were close behind with

144 seats, at the time of print. The Block Québécois won 23 seats. The NDP won 7. The Green Party of Canada won a single seat.

Newly elected Prime Minister Mark Carney easily won the riding of Nepean with 44,980 votes and 64 per cent of the popular vote.

The election was a huge comeback for the Liberals. Earlier in the year, the polls indicated that Pierre Poilievre and his Conservatives had a 20 per cent lead over the Liberals and were on track for a majority.

Carney managed to turn that around by instilling confidence in his abilities in many Canadians to respond to Donald Trump's tariffs and comments about making Canada "The 51st State." Carney's talk of unification under difficult circumstances helped him rally support.

The election has also resulted in disaster for two party leaders.

Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre lost his seat in Carleton, which he previously held for 20 years, to Liberal candidate Bruce Fanebaeke. Fanebaeke received 42,374, over Poilievre's 38,581.

Poilievre has not yet announced if he will stay on as party leader.

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh announced he is stepping down as party leader after losing his own seat in his British Columbia riding.



**RESOUNDING WIN** - Incumbent Conservative MP Scot Davidson won the New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury riding on Monday, April 28. He was joined by a group of supporters and volunteers who celebrated his victory at Perfect SZN restaurant in Bradford. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Singh garnered only 20 per cent of the vote trailing behind both Conservative and Liberal candidates.

The NDP managed to win only 7 seats in the election meaning they will likely lose official party status. Some political experts predict the NDP is about to fade into history.

In the riding of New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury, Elections Canada provides the final tally on voting numbers:

- Scot Davidson, Conservative – 39,000
- Mike Hanrahan, Liberal – 24,182
- Nancy Morrison, NDP – 1,209
- Callum McKinnon, Green Party – 708
- Paul Montague, People's Party – 493

Davidson celebrated his victory with a small number of campaign volunteers, family, and supporters at Perfect SZN restaurant in Bradford, who gathered to watch the election results.


As the numbers came in, it was apparent that Davidson was leading by a wide margin.

"I have to thank all of our volunteers here tonight," Davidson told his supporters after it became obvious he had won the election. "We connected with people, and that's what being a member of parliament is all about.

I've always looked at the seat in Ottawa as the people's seat. It doesn't matter whether you live in Beeton, Alliston, Tottenham, Sharon, Queensville, or Bradford, we are going to fight for every constituent, every last person. I always say my office – my door is like the church, it's open to everyone. It's an honour to represent the people. I've always taken the approach to assemble a great team, and get out and earn every vote."

The country faces some challenges over the next few years, and Davidson expanded on what he and his party would like to achieve while addressing those challenges.

"I like to be able to work across party lines to get things done," Davidson explained. "There are a lot of policy that Canadians disagree with, with the Liberals. It's a long list, and those are issues I will still be bringing. One thing is the carbon tax. No one here got the rural top-up that they were entitled to. Now the CRA is coming after them, it's crazy. This government, the Liberals, they love to divide Canadians. We're going to be there as the official opposition, and our job is to hold the government to account and make it the best it can be."



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# Yard waste collection starts this week throughout Simcoe County

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After prioritizing ice storm clean-up in the hardest hit communities over the past few weeks, the County of Simcoe will commence regular collection for leaf and yard waste across the region.

Starting on April 28, residents will receive three weeks of collection occurring bi-weekly and coinciding with garbage collection weeks.

Residents are asked to place leaf and yard

waste out by the curb by 7 a.m. on Monday of your collection week.

Collection may occur on any day during the week.

Regular leaf and yard waste collection takes place bi-weekly from April 28 to June 6.

Leaf and yard waste collection includes leaves, grass, garden waste and branches that are sized and bundled appropriately. Residents are reminded to use kraft paper yard waste bags, cardboard boxes, or open-ended rigid containers to place out for collection.

“We thank residents for their patience as our collection crews and resources prioritized ice storm clean-up in some of our hardest hit communities,” said Warden Basil Clarke. “We know residents rely on our leaf and yard waste collection program and we ask for your continued patience as we ramp up collection a little bit later than usual this year.”

As a reminder to residents who continue to deal with brush and debris from the ice storm, County waste sites will continue to accept drop-offs of brush free of charge until

the end of May. Temporary brush drop-off sites continue to be available for a limited time.

Curbside brush collection is still ongoing in some of the hardest-hit communities such as Ramara, Oro-Medonte and Severn. Crews have also begun progressing into communities in Innisfil, Springwater and Essa, with chipper crews expected to mobilize in the coming days.

The County will communicate more information about larger brush collections in the coming days.

# Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit dispels misinformation surrounding measles

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A confirmed case of measles was reported in Simcoe-Muskoka on March 19.

The case resulted in a total of three cases connected to that same household.

Another confirmed case of measles in an unvaccinated resident who recently travelled was reported on April 2.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit noticed that comments on social media about measles are inaccurate and contrary to well-established scientific evidence.

As a result, the Health Unit has provided information to separate facts from fiction regarding measles.

Listed are the following claims made on social media that they’d like to correct or clarify.

- False claims: No one dies from measles – measles is as minor as a cold.
- Fact: Measles is one of the world’s most contagious viruses. If one person has it, up

to nine out of 10 people nearby will become infected if they are not protected. There is no specific antiviral treatment for measles and many people will recover without special treatment or hospitalization. However, some people may suffer from severe complications such as pneumonia and encephalitis. They may need to be hospitalized and could die.

- False claim: We have measles cases every year.
- Fact: Measles was declared eliminated in Canada in 1998. This was achieved with high rates of people being immunized. However, falsehoods about vaccines and the disruptions caused by the pandemic have led to declining immunization rates and the resurgence of measles.
- False claim: Most people who get measles are those who are vaccinated.
- Fact: In Ontario, 92.6 per cent of affected infants, children and adolescents, and 64.3 per cent of affected adults were unimmunized when they got sick.



**FACTS VS FALSEHOOD** – The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is trying to dispel myths surrounding measles. **STOCK PHOTO**

- False claims: The vaccination includes live measles so they are infecting you and making you sick with the disease and measles vaccination causes autism.
- Fact: Similar to other routine vaccines, the MMR and MMRV are live attenuated (weakened) vaccines that have a minute amount of the measles virus. After injection, the viruses cause a harmless infection in the vaccinated person with very few, if any, symptoms before they are eliminated from the body. This allows the body to form a long-lasting immune memory that can prevent a future measles infection. There is no scientific evidence to support the claim that the MMR vaccine causes autism.

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# Arts & Local Events

## Nottawasaga Conservation Authority to host Arbour Day Tree Sale

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Conservation Authority will be hosting its annual Arbour Day tree sale and offering a selection of native trees and shrubs you can plant around your property.

Tree availability will be on a first-come first-serve basis, so if you have a particular tree in mind, you should come early so you won't be disappointed.

There will be a variety of species avail-

able including white pine, red pine, white spruce, Norway spruce, white cedar, tamarack, European larch, red oak and white birch.

There will also be silver maple, black walnut, nannyberry and American highbush cranberry.

Trees and shrubs will be sold in bundles of ten for \$35 each. Payments can be made through Visa, MasterCard, debit, or cash.

If you are buying trees or shrubs, the NVCA offers some tips for when you are ready to plant your seedlings.

Do not open storage bags until you are ready to plant, and re-seal partially used storage bags as quickly as possible. The best way to care for your new seedlings is to plant them right away when you bring them home.

Do not prune roots, especially if you see new white root tips. Place seedlings in an upright position and pack loosely so that removal will not damage the roots.

If you cannot plant the seedlings right away, you should store them in a cool, shaded area and water frequently with fresh

water.

Avoid leaving the seedlings in direct sunlight, standing water, or low-lying frost pockets.

Do not open the storage bags until you are ready to plant.

Plant within five days of purchase.

The Arbour Day tree sale is a great place to pick up seedlings that you can plant around your property.

The sale will take place on Saturday, May 10, at the Tiffin Conservation Area, located at 8195 8th Line of Essa, in Utopia.

## Alliston & District Humane Society hosting Pet Supplies Garage Sale next weekend

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you have pets and you need supplies to make sure they are happy and safe, the Alliston & District Humane Society will be hosting a Pet Supplies Garage Sale.

The Humane Society has a surplus of new pet supplies, which will be available for the public to purchase at the garage sale.

There are supplies for dogs and cats as well

as small animals.

This is an opportunity to find some great deals on items you need for your furry friends while helping the Humane Society.

All proceeds from the sale will go to support the animals at the shelter.

"Some supplies are new that we have and some are donated supplies," explained Alliston & District Humane Society volunteer Sherri Wilson. "We have a surplus of leashes, collars, and toys for both cats and dogs. We

have storage units at the shelter and we're absolutely full. We need to raise some money for our Vet bills."

The Humane Society is currently filled to capacity. Many of the animals with the Humane Society have been abandoned at the roadside or left on their own.

The shelter spends a lot of money on veterinarian bills to keep their animals healthy.

"We're full of cats and a lot of kittens that

were dumped," Sherri said. "We have been getting a lot of dogs that have been dumped and not claimed. We also have a lot of rabbits. People dump rabbits in farm fields and think they can just go off on their own, but they are domesticated rabbits, they can't survive."

The sale will take place at the Alliston & District Humane Society location at 5545 Concession Road 4, Everett, on Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Hillside Community Church

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## See handmade artistry at upcoming quilt show

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It takes a lot of time, skill, and effort to create a beautiful handmade quilt, and the Quilting Corners Guild will present their work to the public during an upcoming quilt show.

The show, titled 'Stitching Among Friends', will feature a variety of quilts and related items.

In addition to quilts on display, there will be wall hangings and quilted apparel.

Held over two days, the show will also have a mini-auction, a quilt raffle, a merchant mall, a tea room and a corner store.

The show will take place at the Alliston Curling Rink, 52 Albert St. W., Alliston, on Saturday, June 7, and Sunday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.



# SPORTS

NEW TECUMSETH TIMES

## Pitching and catching clinic inspires young softball players

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Tottenham-Beeton District Minor Softball Association (TBDMSA) celebrated a successful close to its highly anticipated Softball Pitching and Catching Clinic on Sunday, April 27.

To get ready for the season, 33 young athletes took part in the clinic to sharpen their skills to prepare for the upcoming softball season.

The clinic was held at the Tottenham Community Centre gym during April and led by Sasha Laroque. Laroque instructed participants through a dynamic series of drills and one-on-one training sessions.

Pitchers and catchers ranging in age from 8 to 19 worked on mechanics, technique, and strategy — all essential elements for excelling at their positions on the field.

“This clinic wasn’t just about learning new skills, it was about building confidence, encouraging leadership, and showing these young players what’s possible through hard work and passion,” said Laroque.

Parents and players praised the event for its organization, energy, and lasting



**CATCHING CLINIC** – The Tottenham-Beeton District Minor Softball Association held a month-long pitching and catching clinic in the gym at the Tottenham Community Centre in April. Young softball players learned skills and techniques to help make them better players.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

impact. Many expressed excitement for future clinics and camps hosted by the TBDMSA.

The organization would like to thank

Laroque’s assistants, Jamie, Dan, and Lisa, for their hard work and dedication to support the athletes.

For information about future clinics and

events being held by the Tottenham-Beeton District Minor Softball Association, visit the group’s website online at [www.tbdmsa.ca](http://www.tbdmsa.ca).

Are you part of a sports team?

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Do you have an upcoming event or a recent accomplishment?

We want to hear from you!

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**START OF SEASON** – The Banting Memorial High School Marauders senior boys’ rugby team took on the team from Collingwood Collegiate on the turf at G.A Wright field in Alliston on Friday, April 25. The Marauders played a good game but had to settle for a 12-0 loss in their first game of the season.

BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

# Stevenson Memorial Hospital celebrates Medical Laboratory Week

BY BRIAN LOCKHART  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) celebrated National Medical Laboratory Week which was recognized from April 20 to 26, across the country.

A team of 31 medical lab technologists and medical lab assistants work behind the scenes at SMH to complete testing that supports the diagnosis of illnesses in patients and critical patient treatment plans.

Medical Laboratory Professionals Association of Ontario CEO Michelle Hoad visited SMH's laboratory for a tour. She engaged with staff and provided resources and insights on the growing laboratory profession.

Stephanie MacLellan, deputy mayor of the Town of New Tecumseth, was also in attendance.

"We are pleased to recognize our team of laboratory professionals at Stevenson who work around the clock to provide critical services, often lifesaving," said Susan Woollard, Interim vice president of Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Executive at SMH. "The tests that they provide are an important component to patient care and we are grateful for their contributions to our hospital."

Every year, over 280+ million lab tests are processed in Ontario by dedicated medical laboratory technologists and medical laboratory assistants/technicians. Lab professionals are involved in every aspect of health-care throughout every stage of life.

"The MLPAO's theme this year is 'Testing Through Every Stage of Life,' and our goal is to educate the public on the importance of lab professionals, as they test for thousands of diseases and disorders that occur throughout our lives each and every day," Ms. Hoad said. "It's a profession that doesn't always get the spotlight as many work behind closed doors. In reality, the lab is with us on our health care journeys every step of the way."

Locally at SMH, over 400,000 tests are processed annually. This hard-working and dedicated team provides services 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the hospital in support of patient care.

From newborn screening tests detecting critical conditions in infants to prenatal tests supporting healthy pregnancies, routine checkups in kids and young adults, chronic disease management for middle-aged patients, and complex diagnostics for seniors, laboratory testing is woven into the health journey of every individual.



**LAB TOUR** – Members of Stevenson Memorial Hospital's Leadership Team welcomed Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario CEO Michelle Hoad and New Tecumseth's deputy mayor Stephanie MacLellan for a tour of the lab during Medical Laboratory Week. From left, Susan Woollard (interim vice-president of Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Executive), MacLellan, Trewhite (Laboratory Operational Charge technologist), Michelle Hoad and Fiona Neil (director of Clinical Services). **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



**HOME IMPROVEMENT** – The Tottenham Home & Artisan Show filled the arena at the Tottenham Community Centre on Saturday, April 26. Many local businesses offering home improvement services, along with artisans, brought their products and information to the show. The show, sponsored by the Tottenham & Beeton Chamber of Commerce, was busy all day long as visitors arrived to see how they could improve their homes or buy some unique crafts from local vendors. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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## Charges laid against Essa man who drove through backyard fence

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged a driver involved in a single vehicle collision with impaired operation in Essa.

On April 20, shortly after 5 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a single motor vehicle collision at 132 Auburn Street, Essa. A resident nearby contacted police to report that a vehicle had just drove

through a residential property fence and the driver appeared to be asleep at the wheel.

At 5:22 p.m., officers arrived at the collision at which time the officers spoke with the lone male driver. Officers assisted the driver out of the motor vehicle and was observed to be unsteady on his feet and unable to maintain a conversation or

answer the officers' questions.

"The male was assessed and cleared by paramedics, and based on the numerous observed signs of intoxication and impairment, The driver was arrested and charged with operation while impaired," said Nottawasaga OPP in a press release.

At 5:37 p.m., Frankie Cook, 28, from Essa, was arrested and charged with Opera-

tion while impaired - alcohol and drugs.

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

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice located in Bradford on May 8 to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven in court.

## South Simcoe Police investigating home invasion in Bradford West Gwillimbury

South Simcoe Police responded to a home invasion on Gibson Circle in Bradford West Gwillimbury on April 21, at approximately 4:05 a.m.

Through the initial investigation, police determined that four male suspects arrived in the area of Gibson Circle in a dark-coloured Honda CRV. The four suspects forcibly entered the residence by kicking open the front door. The suspects were

confronted by the homeowner and fled the scene heading west on Gibson Circle in the same Honda CRV.

One of the suspects was armed with a handgun. The handgun was not discharged and there were no injuries reported.

Police obtained video footage and are seeking public assistance to identify the suspects. The suspects are described as:

- Suspect 1 – White male, wearing a black

balaclava, light grey sweater with black hood, grey sweatpants and white running shoes

- Suspect 2 – Brown male, dark jacket with hood, black pants, black running shoes with white soles

- Suspect 3 – Black male, dark coloured clothing and shoes, dark turquoise backpack

- Suspect 4 – Black male, short dreadlocks and black clothing and shoes

- Suspect vehicle – Dark-coloured Honda CRV, newer model

South Simcoe Police are actively investigating this incident and seeking more information.

Anyone with information that could help to identify the suspects is asked to contact South Simcoe Police Detective Constable Matthew DeBono at [matthew.debono@southsimcopolice.ca](mailto:matthew.debono@southsimcopolice.ca).

## Barrie man found asleep wearing underwear inside vehicle arrested for impaired driving

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged one driver for driving while impaired in New Tecumseth.

On April 26 at 3:52 a.m., officers were conducting general patrols in Alliston, when they located a motor vehicle in a parking lot with its engine running and lights on, partially parked in the bushes.

Officers approached the vehicle, where they observed two open bottles of vodka sitting on the driver's seat with a male party sleeping in his underwear.

Officers were able to wake the male, at which time he exited the vehicle stumbling on his feet. The male party was slurring his words and an odour of alcohol was emanat-

ing from his breath.

At 3:54 a.m., the driver, a 45-year-old from Barrie, was placed under arrest and charged with the following:

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

- Driving motor vehicle with liquor readily available

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

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice located in Bradford on May 22, 2025, to answer to the charges.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

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Continued from Page 4

## Brock's Banter: Keep hoisting those elbows

That is, in my opinion, a good start – but it's a two-way street. In these unprecedented times, it's important that Carney not only be a Prime Minister for all Canadians by reaching across party lines, but for everyone – including those who might bleed any other colour but red – to do the same and work together for the common good.

But Carney has his work cut out for him, as do we all.

As much as Trump's threats have been a boost for Canadian patriotism, the bread-and-butter issues of affordability and housing have not magically disappeared simply with the conclusion of a hard-fought campaign.

There's a lot of work to be done and, if this ultimately turns out to be a minor-

ity government, probably not a heck of a lot of time to achieve relevant goals by the time we're next at the polls, so time will be of the essence for Carney and his government to prove their mettle.

It will be interesting to see how seriously the current occupant of the White House will take the new occupant of 24 Sussex Drive – or Rideau Cottage – and that will, indeed, be the first litmus test.

Canadians are not generally known to be boastful about their country, its achievements, and its place in the world, but, if anything, Election 2025 has been a shot in the arm for patriotism, whatever position we place our respective elbows.

That will only go so far as we, as Canadians, can only control so much.

Once these very important issues are

addressed, a top priority for the new government needs to be restoring the public's trust.

I sense a few pairs of eyes that lit upon that last sentence rolling back at the very thought, as if that proverbial horse may have left the barn sometime in the Stephen Harper era, but that doesn't have to be the case. A good start, in my opinion, would be to ditch the personality politics that have taken root in this country, one of the less savoury imports we've imported tariff-free from the United States.

We're well past the era where comments on Justin Trudeau's apparently enviable locks and colourful socks were an apparent substitute for substantive debate on issues.

We're well past the time when the word

"Trudeau" somehow became a seven-letter four-letter-word in some circles, uttered as if it was at the heart of all rot people were seeing.

We're well past time when the same word can be used to paint anyone who had any association with him as if it is the broadest brush available at the paint store.

In a definitive era for our country, we're in a time where we need adults to sit down at the table, behave as such, and work towards the betterment of this country.

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