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Earthfest Returns to Alliston

New Tecumseth celebrated Earth Day with the Earthfest event held at the New Tecumseth Administration building on Saturday, May 3. There was a lot of fun for the kids with a bicycle safety rally, as well as a bike tune-up station. Inside, environmental groups had information on everything from how to plant trees to urban planning. Several electric vehicles were on display in the parking lot. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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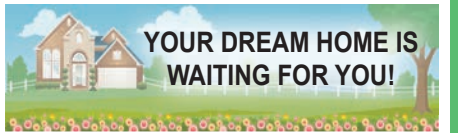
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Request for Proposal announced for redevelopment of Stevenson Memorial Hospital

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Stevenson Memorial Hospital and Infrastructure Ontario (IO), in partnership with the Ontario government, has announced that a Request for Proposals has been released.

This is part of the hospital's journey to expand and revitalize the hospital. The new 147,100-square-foot facility will provide a modernized hospital for New Tecumseth and the surrounding communities and will accommodate a growing population.

"This is a very significant step in the hospital's journey to build a much-needed new facility for our patients, staff and community," said Eric Hanna, supervisor of Stevenson Memorial Hospital. "An incredible amount of work and planning has gone into this project over the years, and we are closer than ever to bringing a new, modernized, state-of-the-art healthcare facility to this growing community, providing high-quality healthcare close to home."

Following the competitive Request for Qualifications process that began in August 2024, three companies were shortlisted based

on the criteria identified, including construction expertise and financial capacity to undertake a project of this size and scope.

Teams that pre-qualified include: EllisDon Corporation, Ledcor Construction Limited, and Pomerleau Inc.

These pre-qualified companies will begin preparing proposals that detail how they will deliver the project through IO's Design-Bid-Build (DBB) model. Key features of a DBB model include increased owner control over the project, as well as a high level of flexibility to respond to changing conditions and concerns.

Once submissions are received, IO and SMH will evaluate the proposals, select a preferred company and then negotiate a final contract. A fairness monitor will oversee the entire procurement process.

The final decision is expected to be announced in early 2026.

Preliminary site preparations are underway and will continue throughout 2025, including property grading, building retaining walls, a new parking lot and the construction of a new elevated helipad.

"Stevenson Memorial Hospital is a pillar of



VISION FOR STEVENSON – The Stevenson Memorial Hospital redevelopment project has now entered the Request for Proposals phase. The hospital, in partnership with Infrastructure Ontario and the Ontario government, has narrowed the search for builders to three companies. An architect's rendering of the project shows how the hospital will look when the project is completed.
BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO

the community having served generations of a new, expanded hospital is vital and will families in and around New Tecumseth," said ensure SMH provides world-class healthcare Simcoe-Grey MPP Brian Saunderson. "This to residents here in Simcoe-Grey throughout next step on the road to the construction of their lives."

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CONTACT Community Services hosts annual volunteer appreciation dinner

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

CONTACT Community Services provides a valuable resource and service to the community by taking a proactive approach to addressing social needs in South Simcoe.

The organization is committed to supporting anyone in need, and all services are offered free of charge.

Every year, CONTACT Community Services helps over 3,500 people in their personal journey to improve their quality of life and support the need to thrive.

This includes housing support for people who are experiencing, or who are at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness, as well as employment services that connect people seeking employment with meaningful work opportunities.

CONTACT's community programs include the New Horizons social wellness program for isolated seniors, and the Needle Exchange Program to help keep those who use substances, safe.

The Clothes Line is CONTACT's community thrift store that provides affordable items to South Simcoe residents and raises funds so CONTACT can continue with its valuable work.

All these programs and services are supported by volunteers who care about the community and those in need.

Around 100 individuals give their time to support these programs and keep the Clothes Line staffed and operating. This includes both the Alliston and Bradford locations.

CONTACT held its 19th annual Volunteer Potluck dinner at the Lions Club in Alliston on Wednesday, April 30, to recognize the valuable contributions its volunteers give every year.

"Today we are recognizing our volunteers," explained Tina de los Santos, CON-



RECOGNIZING LOCAL VOLUNTEERS – CONTACT Community Services held its annual volunteer appreciation potluck dinner at the Lions Club hall in Alliston on Wednesday, April 31. Around 100 people volunteer with CONTACT and the annual dinner recognized their efforts. It also highlighted the contributions of some of the volunteers who have special anniversaries for long-term volunteer service. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

TACT Services executive director. "National Volunteer Week is coming up next week. We have around 100 active volunteers and many of them are here tonight. Many of these volunteers volunteer at the Clothes Line. We also have a Bradford location. They help us sell the clothes, accept donations, set up the floor, and do everything involved with the store. They raise over \$300,000 per year for CONTACT through the store. And all that goes right back to the community. We have some volunteers that have been with us for over 20 years."

At this year's dinner, several volunteers were recognized for their special contributions.

Special recognition was given to Rita Threw, a volunteer at Bradford Above and

Beyond.

Edith Steinmayr was recognized for five years of volunteer service.

Celebrating 10 years of volunteering were Lori Dixon, Lori Grimmer, and Margaret Walker.

Brenda Herring was recognized for 15 years of volunteer service.

Tina Stanley was recognized for 20 years of volunteer service.

Jean Marshall was honoured for her volunteer contribution of 35 years of service.

The evening was a pleasant way to thank and recognize CONTACT Community Services volunteers for their support and help with the organization's valuable work.

Traffic complaint results in impaired driving charges

Nottawasaga Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged an individual with impaired driving following a traffic complaint in New Tecumseth.

On May 3, shortly after 1 a.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a traffic complaint in the area of Young Street in Alliston.

"The vehicle was described as being operated in a concerning manner. Officers located the vehicle and met with the driver. During the interaction, grounds were formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol, leading to the driver's arrest," reads a press

release from the Nottawasaga OPP.

As a result of the investigation, Norman Acomata, 32, of New Tecumseth, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol
- Operation While Prohibited under the Criminal Code - Two Counts
- Obstruct Peace Officer

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on May 29, 2025, to answer to the charge.

The listed charges have not been proven in court.

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Editorial, Letters & Opinion

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

~ Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Our new government

The votes are in, and the citizens have returned a Liberal government to Ottawa.

This is not what nearly half the population wanted according to the votes that were cast during the election, but that's democracy.

It was one of the most stunning comebacks in Canadian politics over the past few decades.

Only a few months ago, Pierre Poilievre and his Conservatives had a big lead according to the polls.

For whatever reason, many people believed that Carney was the best man for the job.

Carney has a solid financial background - of that, there is no doubt. He is well-educated.

He worked at an investment bank, Goldman Sachs, then as the Governor of the Bank of Canada where he was credited for playing a major role in helping Canada avoid the worst impacts of the 2008 financial crisis.

He then went on to become the Governor of the Bank of England – the first non-Briton to be appointed to the role since 1694.

However, he has no political experience. Prior to the federal election, he had never been elected to office and was not

sitting in the House of Commons at the time of his appointment to the position of Prime Minister.

Being good with money doesn't mean you're going to be good with everything else that goes along with running a country.

I've met people who were geniuses at their job, both in finance as well as in the computer industry, but try sending them out to Tim Horton's for a coffee run and it's a disaster.

Carney has already admitted, in a roundabout way, that the Liberal government of the last few years has made some major mistakes.

He said he plans to 'unite' the country. Does that mean the former Liberal government fragmented the country? Well, yes they did.

He said he plans to increase military spending and buy new submarines. That certainly would be welcome in military circles after the tough time they went through during the Trudeau era.

If you have a military, you have to support them – otherwise, people get killed.

Carney has a rather ambitious house-building plan in the works. He plans to build 500,000 houses per year.

However, he does not address why we

have a housing shortage in the first place – and that was a failure of the previous Liberal government.

If you think developers are going to start selling houses for less just because they are allowed to build more, you're mistaken. Housing prices are not going to go down.

Carney is also in favour of building houses closer together, allowing more high-rise buildings, and eliminating parking minimums.

That's an easy thing to say from a guy who doesn't have to live jammed on top of his neighbour and apparently has never driven a car.

Turning our cities into a Moscow-type situation where everyone lives in run-down apartments, is not a good thing.

As for standing up to Donald Trump, don't forget Carney spent several years in the U.S. as a student, rather than going to a Canadian University, then spent 13 years working at an American Bank headquartered in New York.

During that time, I'm sure he made many American business allies. That's something to consider.

Here's the thing to remember when it comes to politicians.

They don't work only for the people who

voted for them or those who contributed to their campaign to make it a success.

They work for all the constituents in their riding.

If you have a problem with what the government is doing or have a problem with a policy, make it known.

There is nothing to stop you from having your voice heard. You can either call you're MP's office or send an e-mail.

If you have friends who are equally concerned about the same issue, have them call as well.

You're MP will take notice when groups of people start sending in correspondence about a particular issue.

The Trudeau era policies created a lot of issues with many people across the country. Unfortunately for them, they did not get the mandate they wanted in this election.

But again, that's democracy.

Hopefully, the new PM will follow through on his policies. We will know in a couple of years whether he was honest about his campaign promises.

In the meantime, jamming thousands of people into a square mile and calling it 'housing' is still not a solution.

BRIAN LOCKHART
FROM THE SECOND ROW



Questions and regrets

It's often said that it's preferable to regret the things one has done rather than the things one has not.

It's a quote often attributed to Lucille Ball, almost without exception, but like so many comments and quips attributed to such luminaries as Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, and Mark Train, to pick just three, many have lined up to take credit.

And that's really no surprise; as far as pearls of wisdom go, it's pretty solid insight.

After all, if you regret something that you haven't done, or something that will invariably remain a hypothetical for the remainder of your days the gnawing unknowns and what-ifs probably aren't worth it.

Despite our best efforts, I would wager that each and every one of us has at least one regret in either column. Maybe it's a matter of not recognizing an opportunity until it was too late; or taking what felt like the correct turn in a fork in the road at any given period of time, only

to find that perhaps things would have been a little different had you veered to the left; or what further forks may have presented themselves if you just had the wherewithal to strike up a conversation with that person across the room.

It's not just a matter of missed opportunities.

Words, and how they're used, can be a minefield – even if you don't realize it at the time.

In this combative age we're living in, "It's a free country" or cries of "Free speech!" are common refrains – even if in this country "free speech" is not a Charter Right – the moment anyone receives the slightest degree of push-back on what they've spouted. Yet, fewer and fewer people these days seem inclined to take a moment to consider the true impact of their words.

Words, for some, can be water off a duck's back. For others, they can stick and have a cascading affect in someone's life – and any subsequent regrets often come about when it's too late to do

anything about it.

The sheer number of reasonably anonymous ways we can communicate with each other, particularly on social media behind the shield of a fake profile photo, the reflection of sunglasses, or from beneath the brim of a slogganned baseball cap, has only emboldened these actors and exacerbated an already problematic situation.

Yet, whether it's a missed opportunity, or reflecting on the impact of one's actions, no matter how small and inconsequential it might feel at the time, the common factor is hindsight. It doesn't, of course, need to be 20/20 – any amount of true reflection will do.

I know I have some regrets related to both things I have done and things I have not done, but one particular regret I have this week is not asking enough questions.

That might seem like a strange confession for a journalist – after all, by and large, we're paid to ask the tough questions – but what we're bold enough to

do in our workplace or vocation doesn't necessarily translate to our lives out from behind a desk.

On Monday, for instance, I woke up early to watch events in the United Kingdom commemorating the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

Watching these ceremonies has become something of an inadvertent tradition.

Interest in events such as these was, perhaps, stoked by my maternal grandmother.

My paternal grandparents didn't often speak of their wartime experiences – for example, throughout the entire time I shared this earth with them, they insisted that due to wartime shortages there were no photographs taken of their 1941 nuptials in Moosomin, SK.

But, for whatever reason, this line

Continued on Page 23

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Impunity in Gaza

Israel may or may not have God on its side (opinions vary), but it certainly has the US government on its side, and that seems to be enough. It has just attacked an unarmed civilian ship called 'Conscience' with armed drones near Malta in the central Mediterranean, almost 2,000 kilometers from Israel – and nobody has said 'boo.'

Skeptics please note: Israel has not formally claimed responsibility for the operation. The culprit might theoretically have been any other country from Albania to Zimbabwe, but I am assuming that the only country with a motive for the attack probably did carry out the attack.

When the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, the group that sent the 'Conscience', sent an earlier aid convoy to Gaza bearing 10,000 tonnes of aid in 2010, Israel waited until the ship 'Mavi Marmara' neared the coast and sent commandos who abseiled down from helicopters. Ten civilians were killed and 28 injured, and there was an almighty international uproar about it.

That was really the main purpose of the trip. Israel can always be counted on to overreact, and the Coalition expected to exploit that overreaction to turn the spotlight on the perpetual Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip. The sponsors of the 'Mavi Marmara' probably didn't expect so many dead, or even any dead, but in terms of publicity it was all grist for the mill.

Drones have made it a lot easier for Israel this time. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's regime was able to disable the ship much farther away, and though it couldn't be sure nobody on the 'Conscience' would be killed, there would at least be fewer dead. But frankly, there wouldn't have been much outcry now even if the Israelis had sunk it with all hands.

It wouldn't have mattered all that much even if Swedish activist Greta Thunberg had gone down with the ship. (She was scheduled to join it the next day.) Israel has carte blanche to do anything it likes in Gaza, with the possible exception of Israeli actions

that Donald Trump strongly disagrees with – and he hasn't found any yet.

Unsurprisingly, this has unleashed a huge although lopsided 'culture war' in Israel. When all doors are open and every choice seems possible, everybody is under pressure to come out and state their real desires. In Israel, this has brought an ideological struggle between those who cling to older Jewish values and the relatively recent ethno-nationalist majority out into the open.

Israel's official goals in Gaza are the return of the remaining hostages and the destruction of Hamas, but the wholesale removal of Palestinians from the territory controlled by Israel is now openly discussed.

Here, for example, is Israel's finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, speaking the day before Netanyahu broke the ceasefire and resumed military operations on 18 March. He said he hoped the bombing would begin the 'mass transfer' of Palestinians out of the Gaza Strip to other destinations, presumably outside Israeli-ruled territories.

"Even if the process is slow at first, it will gradually pick up pace and intensity," he said. "There won't be anything for the Gazans in Gaza. After we go back to fighting and all of Gaza looks like Jabaliya [utterly obliterated], there will be nothing for them there." However, it would be "a huge logistical operation to get such vast numbers of people out of here."

Smotrich is from the far right of Netanyahu's coalition, but defence minister Israel Katz agrees: "I instructed the IDF to capture additional areas, evacuate the population, and expand the security zone around Gaza...through a permanent hold of the area by Israel. As long as Hamas refuses [to free the hostages] it will lose more land." The process is already underway.

The voices of those who defend the old values are fewer and weaker. "It's crystal-clear that the renewal of the war is for political reasons and not for security reasons," wrote Guy Poran, a retired air force pilot

whose open letter was signed by a thousand other air force reservists and retired officers. However, such protests have no visible effect on policy.

Netanyahu called the signatories of the letter "an extreme fringe group that is once again trying to break Israeli society from within" and ordered the dismissal of all active-duty officers who had signed the letter. The Israel Defence Forces are being politicized even faster than the US armed forces.

Surprises are still possible. Netanyahu's policies are unsustainable without Trump's unhesitating support, and Trump has the attention span and the emotional volatility of a four-year-old. But 70 per cent of Gaza is already effectively out of bounds for Palestinians, and barring some surprise about-turn the Great Eviction is getting underway.

Where to remains to be seen, but they certainly can't stay in the Trump Riviera.

GWYNNE DYER
OUR WORLD TODAY



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CLUES ACROSS

- Two-person German submarine
- 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
- Database management system
- Vertical position
- American jazz singer Irene
- Ancient Greek City
- Former Senate Majority Leader Harry
- Japanese seaport
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Assigns tasks
- Beloved type of cigar
- Discounts
- Cambodian communist leader Pot
- Important football position
- Kilometers per hour
- Lentil
- Extremely angry
- Yellow-flowered European plant
- American state
- Some are made by rabbits
- Express with a head movement
- Affair
- Cured
- Youth organization
- 18-year astronomical period
- Automobile
- Focus a shot
- The NFL's big game (abbr.)
- Mouth
- Infections
- Curved pieces of a horse collar
- Shameless
- Assist in escaping
- Capuchin monkey genus
- Cold wind
- Retired Brazilian NBAer
- Tropical Old World tree
- Bulgarian city
- Speak indistinctly
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Between-meal sustenance
- CLUES DOWN
- Not soft
- Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- Line a roof
- Greek god of the underworld
- Software
- Large-headed elongated fishes
- Shag rugs
- Type of whale
- Lacking a plan
- Spill the beans
- Some is "heavy"
- One who has been canonized
- Indicate times
- Greeting
- Broadway actor Josh
- Seashore
- Indicates before
- Electrical power unit
- Destitute
- Drags forcibly
- Impropriety
- Word forms
- Equal to 10 meters
- Neither
- Computer language
- Practice of aging film or TV characters (abbr.)
- A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- A promise
- Challenges
- Official
- People living in Myanmar
- Notable tower
- Type of sword
- Vaccine developer
- Listing
- Summertime insects
- Concluding passage
- Guitarist Clapton
- Damp and musty
- Central nervous system
- Against

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

Local expert offers spring safety tips for motorcycle riders

BY ALAN MASTERS

Having already ridden this spring I can tell you the roads are loaded with sand and other debris which will have the unwitting rider off his motorcycle, if not careful of conditions.

The following safety riding tips are from my own experience but I highly recommend you take Rider Training if you are a new rider or haven't ridden for some time.

Early spring riding: Winter salt and sand spells upset for the non-observant motorcyclist this spring. Use brakes smoothly and progressively. Don't accelerate hard out of corners.

When country riding: Slow down, particularly on corners where vehicles tend to throw sand and stones back onto the road surface all year. Never go into a corner faster than you are prepared to go around it comfortably and safely.

Entering corners toward the outside of the bend with a safe margin to the shoulder is the best position for visibility and set up to lean into the corner apex.

Braking in corners is a learned technique which you will get better at with more experience, otherwise, all braking should be performed while the bike is upright and under control prior to entering a corner.

Your front brake is your main stopping brake. Normally, application pressure should be a 70 per cent front and 30 per cent rear bias. Both brakes should be applied together with brake pressure adjusted for best effect.

Most modern sports bikes come from a race-proven background and generally utilize the latest braking technology. By design, they have more brake bias to the front wheel for high-speed stopping (the wedge effect) making the rear wheel weight very light under extreme braking. Learn to apply your motorcycle brakes properly. Learn the full potential of your brakes by carefully and safely practicing on a clear dry area void of traffic.

Highway riding: Simple, stay away from traffic. I'll clarify – don't allow yourself to be closed in by vehicles. Always find the open spaces, move up ahead or drop back from traffic. If you can't do either, move to the inside lane and take up as much space as possible using the left wheel track, always leave yourself "an out."

Normal cruising: Keep in the left third of the lane. This gives you good heads-up visibility. Cars will overtake you "in your lane" if you ride to the right side of the lane. Cars will also pull out in front of you if you are overtaking or in the overtaking lane, they don't see you.

High beams and load pipes are good for letting car drivers know where you are but don't count on it. Keep your head and eyes up at all times.

In the city: My number one rule is to ride as though every car at an intersection or in a driveway will pull out in front and in full view of you.

This is the number one cause of motorcycle accidents in Canada, I believe, especially at intersections and crossroads.

City streets are particularly slippery when wet. Try to ride without having to rely on your brakes as much.

Motorcycles typically have good engine braking power. Remember to use both brakes together smoothly and progressively in an emergency.

Protection: Always wear the right equipment. Wear proper riding boots with good ankle protection. Wear pants, jackets and

gloves designed to protect you in the event of an unplanned fall. Most importantly, invest in a good helmet designed for optimum protection.

All Terrain vehicles: As a side note, I hear of too many kids being injured because their parents didn't take the time out to understand the ramifications of owning and allowing their children to operate either 4-wheelers or dirt bikes without proper equipment, instruction or supervision.

The most common injuries are ankle, shoulder and head. The typical steel, "saw tooth footrests" are designed to grip off-road competition boots and will rip through the ankle tendons of your child in a tip-over.

Good gloves, a full-face helmet and a chest/shoulder protector are a must. There are some very good off-road training camps for children not far away which I highly recommend, they will also learn basic maintenance skills.

Ride safely and enjoy motorcycling for many years to come.

Alan was a Senior Motorcycle Instructor and Ministry Examiner. He has ridden for 60 years and raced motorcycles for 40-plus years.

New Tecumseth Fire Rescue submits annual reports to council on 2024 activities

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The New Tecumseth Fire Department has issued its annual report to Town Council regarding its activities for 2024.

The report provides information on Fire Department responses, training, fire prevention, public education and emergency management activity.

In 2024, New Tecumseth Fire Rescue

emergency responses increased by 8.36 per cent over 2023.

Public education and support of community events increased significantly during 2024, with personnel attending and participating in 95 events.

Over the year, 188 routine, request, and complaint fire inspections were conducted, and 14 fire origin, cause, and circumstance investigations were completed.

In 2024, there was a total of 1,245 responses

to emergencies. This includes 35 MTO vehicle accidents, 162 municipal roadway vehicle accidents, 39 structure fires, 10 vehicle fires 54 CO alarms, and 433 medical calls.

The NTFR has enhanced training programs for volunteer firefighters, ensuring exacting standards of readiness and response. NTFR has developed and conducted comprehensive training sessions, managing mandatory NFPA training certified to IFSAC/Pro Board accreditation requirements.

The NTFR is staffed by 100 paid-on-call firefighters and a team of full-time fire administration officers, including a fire chief, deputy fire chief of operations and training, deputy fire chief of prevention and education, a division chief of operations and training, and a fire prevention officer.

Fire department equipment includes pump-

ers, tankers, pumper tankers, rescue units, and aeriels.

In 2024, the two new fire apparatus were acquired to enhance emergency response capabilities. This includes a Pierce 100' Ascent Aerial – this state-of-the-art aerial apparatus will significantly improve the ability to tackle high-rise fires and perform rescues at elevated heights.

Acquisitions also include a Saber Heavy Rescue – Equipped with advanced rescue tools and equipment, this vehicle will bolster the capacity to manage complex extrication and technical rescue operations.

The Fire Department currently has three fire stations – Station 1 (Alliston), Station 2 (Beeton) and Station 3 (Tottenham).

There is a request for the new construction of Fire Hall #4 in the Treetops area of Alliston.

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**46 Sunset Blvd.
Offered at \$765,000**



Looking for a detached, bright bungalow in Briar Hill? This lovely Renoir model shows very well and you will feel right at home from the time you walk in. As you come in, there is a lovely spot for casual dining or a sitting area off the kitchen overlooking the front yard. The kitchen offers granite countertops, lovely white cabinetry and a large built in corner pantry. The open concept dining/living rooms are very bright with good size windows, skylights and a walk out to the western facing deck - perfect for catching the sunsets. And off the deck - once the trees bloom - the view down the courtyard is wonderful and the privacy is amazing. The main floor primary is spacious and bright as well, with a walk in closet and 3pc bath. There is an additional space for a home office tucked off to the side. Laundry is a couple of steps down from the main level. The professionally finished lower level is nicely appointed with French doors into a large but cozy family room - complete with a fireplace to sit by with a good book, watch some TV or just relax and enjoy! There is a spacious guest bedroom with a large closet - storage is important - another bathroom and another room that works as a smaller guest room, a hobby room, or home office.



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NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

NOTICE OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Take Notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth will hold a **Committee of the Whole Meeting for public comment** regarding the Ward Boundary Review on

Monday, May 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
in the Council Chambers of Town Hall
24 Tupper St W, Alliston

The Town of New Tecumseth has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Town's ward boundaries assessing whether the present electoral structure and wards constitute an effective, equitable and democratic system of representation. The final recommendation report from the Town's consultant, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd will be considered by Committee of the Whole on May 26, 2025. The report will also make a recommendation on whether the Deputy Mayor position should be elected (at large) or appointed (with a member of council). The full report will be publicly available on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 on the Town's website. www.newtecumseth.ca/wardboundaryreview

Any person may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed recommendations. If you wish to register to speak to this item, or wish to make a written submission, please contact the Clerk's office at 705-435-3900 or clerks@newtecumseth.ca Written submissions can also be directed to the Clerk's Office, Town of New Tecumseth, 24 Tupper St W, Alliston, L9R 1H2.



DRAW AND DANCE DELIVERS – The 47th Annual Community Recreation Improvement Committee (CRIC) Draw and Dance was held at the Tottenham Community Centre on Saturday, May 3. There was another huge turnout for the event, with close to 1,000 people throughout the evening. Your New Neighbours performed covers of popular music and Sam Odrowski from Dufferin DJs played inbetween the band's sets. The Draw and Dance raises funds for recreation and cultural improvements for the town. This year, 56 sponsors donated prizes that were won during the draw. This year's big winner was a team from Orangeville Honda who won the \$20,000 grand prize. Over \$40,000 in prizes was given away. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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Arts & Local Events

The South Simcoe Theatre's production of 'Pippin' – a rollicking fun time

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

A young man searches for fulfillment and a purpose in life in the South Simcoe Theatre's production of "Pippin."

This classic musical first hit the stage on Broadway in 1972.

Based on the book by Roger O. Hirson with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, the South Simcoe Theatre production is directed by Scott Hurst with music direction by Colin Frotten.

The stage is set during the reign of Charlemagne, the Holy Roman Emperor. His son Pippin, has just graduated from university and has returned home.

In the role of the leading player, Lindsay Stephen acts as a kind of narrator throughout the play and speaks not only to other actors, but she breaks the fourth wall several times and speaks to the audience.

Carolyn Nettleton takes on the role of Pippin. After graduating, Pippin seems lost, but determined to find his purpose in life.

After consulting with his father Char-

lemagne, Pippin decides that fighting in battle is a worthy activity.

A battle scene is creatively portrayed through the use of a shadow box.

Afterwards, Pippin decides that killing is just not something he wants to do.

Pippin's father Charlemagne, played by Mark Vina, seems indifferent to his son's activities or future.

However, Charlemagne's wife Fastrada, played by Krissy Hutchens, has other plans for her son and Pippin's half-brother.

In the role of Lewis, Tyler Baillie, is eager to one day assume the throne, but he may not really have what it takes to assume the role of Emperor.

Enter Berthe – Pippin's grandmother. In the role of Berthe, Judi Erickson offers advice to Pippin, but also maintains a playful personality.

Pippin's search for meaning takes him to a rural area, where by chance, he meets a young widow.

Nicole Strawbridge takes on the role of Catherine, a widow who lives with her son

on a farm.

Catherine's son, Theo, is having a difficult time after his pet duck dies, and Pippin tries to help him get through it.

Pippin must decide if staying on the farm and living that lifestyle is the purpose he has been looking for.

This is a full-blown musical production with a talented cast and incredible costumes. The orchestra is highly professional and does an incredible job all the way through the production.

On top of the main cast, there is a full complement of supporting players who really make this production come alive.

Costume designer Sandi LaPlante has done an incredible job of recreating the clothing of the time period.

The South Simcoe Theatre's production of Pippin is a fun, rollicking presentation that is highly polished and suitable for the entire family.

Pippin is on stage at the South Simcoe Theatre's Cookstown stage through to May 18, with Friday and Saturday evening perfor-



PIPPIN – The South Simcoe Theatre's production of "Pippin" is now on stage at its Cookstown location. This production is a fun, full-blown musical with a large and talented cast. Fun for the entire family, the stage is set during the reign of Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

mances and Sunday matinees.

For tickets, visit the website at: www.southsimcoetheatre.com.



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HOME & GARDEN

Spring

Popular trends in home exteriors

Certain homes have an undeniable wow factor. That instant appeal tends to be noticeable the moment visitors pull up to the curb, and it might be a byproduct of homeowners' willingness to embrace the latest exterior design trends.

TRENDS COME AND GO, but recognition of the current fashions can help homeowners create that highly sought-after wow factor. The following are some recent trends in home exteriors that have helped homeowners set their properties apart.

Wood

Natural wood has undeniable appeal, and it hasn't only found newfound devotion among home interior decorators. Natural wood garage doors create a sense of warmth and can set a home apart from others with steel doors, which tend to be the most popular garage door material. In addition to the garage door, natural wood entry doors and wood decks are popular ways to impart this classical, warm look to a home's exterior.

Painted brick

Like natural wood, brick is a traditional material that's both sturdy and classical. But homeowners can add character to brick with a coat of paint,

which has become a popular trend in recent years. Light tones tend to be most popular when painting bricks. The experts at Better Homes & Gardens note that this could prove a long-term commitment if homeowners so desire, as a properly painted brick exterior could last as long as 20 years.

Hardscaping

Hardscaping isn't a new trend, but it has been trending in recent years. Hardscaping is an umbrella term that includes everything from outdoor living rooms to incorporating natural stone into a landscape. Outdoor living rooms are one hardscaping trend that has become increasingly popular of late. These spaces serve as an extension of indoor living spaces. The home improvement experts at HGTV note that recently homeowners have looked to create covered outdoor rooms that can be enjoyed more frequently than patios or decks that are not protected from the elements.

Outdoor lighting

It makes sense that individuals looking to spend more time enjoying their properties outdoors would want more lighting outside. Ambient outdoor lighting can be utilized throughout a property. Such lighting can light up walkways and driveways and be used to light up landscaping features like trees and gardens.

Home design trends tend to be fickle. But recognition of the current trends in exterior home design can set homes apart and turn properties into awe-inspiring places to enjoy the great outdoors.



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Spring HOME & GARDEN

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Stretch summer gatherings into spring and fall with outdoor gas fireplaces, firepits and heaters. Perfect for outdoor entertaining and relaxation, outdoor gas fireplaces provide warmth and ambiance and are available in many styles, from traditional shapes to modern linear units and round bowls. Skilled technicians can install a gas line to bring heat where you (and your guests) need it most, allowing you to create the backyard oasis of your dreams.

If you prefer roasting marshmallows over an open crackling fire, iron firepits are the perfect Canadian-made option – and don't forget the logs, kindling and firestarter available in-store!

Looking to cook up more than just s'mores? The Heating Source's showroom

boasts a selection of gas and pellet barbeques ranging in size and style to meet your budget. Let the team at The Heating Source help you select the perfect grill for your outdoor cooking needs, whether it be a Classic Saber barbeque, a modern pellet barbeque from Green Mountain Grills, or a Canadian-made Broil King grill. And, with gas line installation from experienced technicians, you can get that just-grilled taste on your patio or deck, right where you want it.

Finally, now that spring has sprung, there's nothing left to do but open the pool with help from The Heating Source's annual Pool Heater Start Up Program – designed to take the stress out of pool heater maintenance so you can sit back and enjoy the season!

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Shop and support local at Focus on Decorating

Benjamin Moore, Orangeville's premium paint and decor store

By Sam Odrowski

Taking on a home improvement project can be daunting, but the team at Focus on Decorating – Benjamin Moore in Orangeville is here to help.

Located at 88 First Street, Unit 4, the Benjamin Moore retailer is independently owned by Ken Eppenberger, who's happy to provide customers with state-of-the-art paint and decor.

With more Canadians becoming consumer-conscious amidst tensions around trade policy and tariffs from the United States, Ken said it's important to note that Focus on Decorating is not a franchise or corporate store.

"We are an independent, Canadian-owned store and we employ over eight people throughout the year that are local to our business," said Ken.

"Regardless of what we sell here, we are Canadian-owned and operated." He added, "The profits are staying here in Canada."

Focus on Decorating has a great deal of choice in what products or brands they carry. While the business is dedicated to the Benjamin Moore brand, they're not restricted to it and carry products from many different companies.

The business is a proud carrier

of Hunter Douglas, Alta, and Maxxmar blinds. Focus on Decorating also carries INSL-X paints, York, Ontario, Provincial, Wallcoverings, Coronado Premium Paints and Cottage Paint Furniture Restoring.

Started in 1997 by Ken's mother, Focus on Decorating was passed down to him 10 years ago, and he's been enjoying serving the community ever since.

The personalized service provided to customers by Focus on Decorating staff is part of why the business has been so successful over the years.

They help customers narrow down the scope of their projects and make informed recommendations.

"We take the time to assist people with whatever decisions or colour choices they're making," said Ken. "We do have extensive product knowledge, so if people are having problems, we've been around long enough to pinpoint them and provide solutions."

Focus on Decorating offers free in-store consultations to customers to assist with colour and product choices. Small colour swatches and colour testers are also available for customers to use at home.

Ken is community-minded and enjoys giving back through his business,

donating products to not-for-profits or community projects.

"We support community events, community groups such as the Rotary Club, and various church groups," Ken explained. "We provide help or donations to these groups throughout the course of the year."

Benjamin Moore donated the product to repaint the Orangeville Lions Club's blue and yellow storage building at Rotary Park.

A nature-themed mural on the Main Street Bridge on the Grand River in Grand Valley was made possible thanks

to a donation of specialized paint from Focus on Decorating. The business also committed to future touch-ups as weather and water will wear down the mural over time.

So when you support Focus on Decorating, you're supporting the community.

The hours of operation at Focus on Decorating are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

To learn more about the business and what it can do for you, call 519-942-8171 or visit focusondecorating.ca.



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After a long, snowy winter, your lawn might show signs of stress.

Snowplow damage near driveways and sidewalks is common, and underground rodents — like moles — can leave behind trails and tunnels after nesting beneath the snow all season. If your final mow last fall wasn't on a lower setting, your lawn may have suffered even more damage over the winter months.

As spring rolls in, it's the perfect time to give your lawn a fresh start. Begin by raking and dethatching to remove dead grass and debris that can smother new growth. Aeration helps oxygen, water, and nutrients reach the roots while overseeding fills in bare patches for a fuller lawn.

Due to the length and severity of this past winter, lawns suffered more winter kill than usual and extra seeding may be necessary.

Be sure to keep an eye out for signs of grub activity — raccoons and skunks are emerging from hibernation and digging for these underground pests. Early detection and treatment are key to preventing further lawn destruction.

Adding fresh topsoil and compost can

improve overall soil quality, particularly in areas with compacted soil or poor drainage.

Also, throughout the season, ensure your lawn mower isn't on too low of a setting, as this can make your lawn more susceptible to damage and less able to retain water. A higher-cut lawn can also prevent weeds like crabgrass from growing.

Get your lawn ready for the season with help from the pros. **Dufferin Lawn Life** has proudly served Dufferin County and surrounding areas since 1973.

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• Free additional lawn check ups if necessary	✓	✓	✓
• Seasonal newsletter with lawn care tips	✓	✓	✓
• Surface insect management	✓	✓	✓
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• Overseeding of weak areas of the lawn - Spring or Fall	✓	✓	✓
• Application of our "Seed and Feed" fortified compost and seed blend - spring or fall	✓	✓	✓
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Buying furniture can be an exciting prospect



The opportunity to breathe new life into a home with the addition of different furnishings inspires many people. However, at the same time, searching for furniture can be a tad overwhelming, especially when homeowners do not know where to begin.

Statistics Canada reports that Canadians spend an average of \$934 on furniture each year. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that, in 2017, Americans spent an average of \$2,484 on furniture. While furniture may not be the most costly investment, it's also not the cheapest, which is why getting it right is important.

DETERMINE YOUR NEEDS

The first step in purchasing new furniture is to decide what is needed. Assess current furniture and think about what works for certain pieces and what doesn't. Then you can gear purchases around desired features. For example, if you've determined chenille fabric holds onto too much pet fur, the next couch may be leather or microfiber.

MEASURE MORE THAN ONCE

Measure your room multiple times and create a mock floor plan. This will help when figuring out if certain pieces can fit into the space. Some retailers even offer floor plan software on their websites so that you can upload the dimensions of your room and see how certain items will fit in your spaces. In addition, be sure to measure the width of doors to ensure that it's easy to get the furniture into the home when delivered.

DETERMINE YOUR STYLE

Figure out which style best fits your personality and lifestyle. This may be tra-

ditional, transitional or modern. Incorporate pieces accordingly, or mix and match to create a look that is completely unique.

CONFIRM MATERIALS

Consider your budget when choosing the construction materials for the furniture. Solid wood tends to be more expensive, but often more durable than engineered products. In addition, check to see how items are built. Pull out drawers and check hinges to ensure the quality is there.

SAVE MONEY ON SALES

Furniture can be expensive, but there is room for savings. Shop when retailers offer seasonal sales.

READ REVIEWS

Before taking the plunge, be sure to read reviews of items and retailers. While items may appear perfect, reviews can shed light on how pieces stand up to wear and tear. Shopping for furniture means taking steps to measure, match style, read reviews, and find pieces that fit homeowners' lifestyles.

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Andrew Leonard, Ron Rice, Cristina Ventresca and Andy Leonard make up The Fireplace Stop's dedicated sales team. (Contributed photo)

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At The Fireplace Stop, a one-stop home comfort centre based out of Schomberg, great people are at the heart of the business.

The Fireplace Stop was founded by Andy Leonard in 1987. It opened its location at Highway 9 and 27 in Schomberg in 1990, and that's where it is to this day.

"As you progress and get bigger and better, it's because of your supporting team, whether it's your installers, salespeople, drivers, or people in the office... it's a bumper to bumper, front door to back door effort in our business," said Leonard from The Fireplace Stop. "Everyone has their part in the process."

Leonard said The Fireplace Stop, and its sister business ABL Air Heating & Air Conditioning, have grown because they've always been willing to do challenging jobs. Whether it's a fireplace of any kind, a high-quality barbeque, or any kind of HVAC work, The Fireplace Stop has you covered.

"Anything you can think of to comfort the home, we're involved in it," said Leonard. "We're used to doing challenging jobs."

Leonard said The Fireplace Stop team is like one big family. Many of its employees have been there for decades.

The Fireplace Stop serves a large part of Ontario, including Toronto and all of cottage country. They've done jobs all over, including jobs on properties with snowmobile or boat access only.

The Fireplace Stop offers personalized service

and makes customer satisfaction the top priority on any project.

Scott Leonard and Eric Newton are the head installers for the company and are the best of the best, and they're supported by an incredibly strong installer team. Eric's brother Daniel also works for The Fireplace Stop and they make a great team.

Corey Hillier is the amazing head of service for The Fireplace Stop, and Richard McAnsh is known as "Tricky Ricky" because he can do all the tricky jobs.

Mateusz Welna runs shipping and receiving for the company and helps out on challenging installs too.

Leonard said installer Lucas Dowdle, and co-op students Alexander Lord, Bobby Worth, and Aaron Hwang have amazing careers ahead of them.

Glen Rueda does custom cabinetry for The Fireplace Stop.

Leonard's son Andrew runs sales for the company with his exceptional colleagues Ron Rice, Cristina Ventresca and Leonard himself. Kelsey Leonard is the head of administration with her supporting group of Kevin Snell, Renee Noble and Jennifer Russell. Jody Koerssen leads the accounting.

All of these wonderful employees and associates, and more, are at the core of The Fireplace Stop, where it truly is the people that make the difference.

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THREE DECADES IN TOTTENHAM – The Tottenham Tim Hortons is celebrating 30 years of serving the community. The restaurant is a popular place for local residents, many of whom make it their first stop every morning. Restaurant owner Jerry Lawlor is congratulated and given a certificate of recognition from New Tecumseth Mayor Richard Norcross and Deputy Mayor Stephanie MacLellan. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Tottenham Tim Hortons celebrates 30 years

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

For many Canadians their first stop in the morning is at the local Tim Hortons for their coffee and maybe a croissant or other bakery item.

The Tottenham Tim Hortons on Queen Street is currently celebrating 30 years of serving the community.

Store owner Gerry Lawlor is a well-known face in town. He opened the Tottenham Tim Hortons in 1995, with a brand new building on what was at the time, a vacant lot.

Since the restaurant opened, Gerry has been committed to creating a place where anyone can go at any time and feel at home.

Gerry gives back to the community that sup-

ports him and the store.

Over the years, the Tottenham Tim Hortons has raised over \$300,000 for charitable organizations through annual initiatives like Smile Cookie, Camp Day, and Special Olympics Donuts. This is in addition to the local support Gerry provides to the community through Timbits sports and supporting community events like Tottenham Canada Day, Family Day, and the Tottenham Festival of Lights.

The 30-year anniversary of the Tottenham Tim Hortons is a testament to the strength of the community and the relationships built along the way.

The anniversary was celebrated at the store on Wednesday, April 30, and was attended by local dignitaries and several executives from Tim Hortons headquarters.

More than a game: How Hockley Valley Resort's Ladies Night is redefining women's golf

Every month this summer, as the sun dips behind the rolling hills of Hockley Valley Resort, a vibrant community of women gathers on the first tee — clubs in hand, laughter in the air, and no pressure in sight. This is Ladies Night at Hockley Valley Resort, and it's about more than just golf.

It's about taking time for yourself. It's about shared moments, new friendships, and the quiet thrill of a well-hit shot after a long day. And it's part of a growing shift in the sport — one that's placing women front and center in a space that hasn't always felt like their own.

At Hockley Valley Resort, that change feels effortless. The Ladies Night League isn't a separate experience — it's a thoughtfully curated one. A space where women feel genuinely welcome, relaxed, and supported, whether they're long-time players or lacing up their spikes for the first time.

Running on June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, and Sept. 18, each Ladies Night begins at 5 p.m., featuring nine holes of golf in a cart-mandatory format that ensures a smooth, easy pace of play across the beautifully maintained course. A power cart is included in every registration — not just for convenience, but to help keep the game light, social, and accessible for all skill levels.

And this isn't a competitive gathering. There's no official scoring, just a couple of fun on-course contests and lots of friendly banter. Come with a group or book solo — the Resort's team will thoughtfully pair individuals to make sure everyone feels included and connected.

After the final putt drops, the evening continues at Babbo, Hockley Valley Resort's stylish bar and lounge, where each participant enjoys a complimentary glass of wine or beer. Often, that glass comes from Adamo Estate Winery, the resort's sister property just minutes away, and the perfect way to toast a summer evening well spent.

But what makes this league so special isn't



just the golf — it's the culture. For many women, Ladies Night has become a highlight of their summer calendars: a rare opportunity to unplug, enjoy nature, and invest in something that's purely for them.

And make no mistake — what's happening here is bigger than a few great tee shots and a glass of Pinot. Events like this are reshaping the golf landscape by fostering a sense of community and belonging for women of all ages and abilities. They're proving that golf doesn't need to be intimidating to be meaningful — and that joy, connection, and inclusion are just as important as par.

So whether you're a seasoned golfer or simply golf-curious, Hockley Valley Resort's Ladies Night League offers a welcoming entry point into the game — and a great excuse to get outside, try something new, and make a few friends along the way.

Spots are limited and fill up fast, so head to hockley.com to register today. The fairways are calling — and this summer, they sound a lot like laughter.

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SPORTS

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SUCCESS ON THE SOCCER PITCH – The Banting Memorial High School Marauders junior girls soccer team take on the Eastview Secondary School Wildcats on the pitch at Banting on Wednesday, April 30. The Marauders won the game 2-1 and are now 1-1 for the season. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

Tottenham Railers prepare to build on successful year for upcoming season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Coming off the back of the Tottenham franchise's most successful season since the Steam lifted the Russell Cup back in 2016, planning for the Tottenham Railers' next season is well underway.

General manager Michael Prock and head coach Anthony Pullicino are busy working away behind the scenes and building a team that can challenge for the top honours next season.

The core group of players from last season remain, but there are some holes that have to be filled that were left by outgoing players – notably captain and leading points scorer, Xavier Charbonneau.

Throughout the off-season, the Railers' executive will be providing details about new players.

The Railers have also announced their first annual golf tournament which will take place on Saturday, June 1, at the Silver Brooke Golf Club in Lisle.

All participants must register by May 27, with the fee being \$150 per person and \$500 for a foursome.

This includes prizes on certain holes and lunch at the turn.

Also coming up is a hockey tournament being held at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre on June 28-29.

Teams of up to 21 players can register. The fee is \$1,250 per team.

The Tottenham Railers are seeking sponsors for the golf tournament and hockey tournament.

Sponsorship inquiries should be directed to Beth Prock, director of business operations, at beth@railershockey.com.

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EAGER TO PLAY – Left photo: Shane Passmore and his daughter Avaleigh are not letting the cool spring stop them from playing at the Alliston tennis courts at 251 Albert Street East. A Friday Night Drop-In Social is taking place at the courts from 7 to 9 p.m. on May 9, and it is open to members and non-members. Right photo: Wind screens are now up on half the fences at the Alliston tennis courts. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority completes independent financial audit for 2024

BY BRIAN LOCKHART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority continues to be financially stable, according to the 2024 financial audit conducted by KPMG.

The independent audit found no concerns, and the NVCA maintains a good financial position with healthy reserves, prudent financial practices and responsible stewardship of public funds.

“This audit reflects NVCA’s commitment to careful financial management and accountability to our member municipalities and residents,” said NVCA Chair Jonathan Scott.

“It provides a solid foundation for our ongoing work to strengthen service delivery and protect the Nottawasaga watershed.”

In addition to maintaining a strong financial position, NVCA continues to implement operational improvements.

Over the past several months, NVCA has cut the development planning and permitting backlog of files in half, introduced a risk-based system to fast-track low-risk permits such as pools and septic systems, and launched a new e-permitting platform to improve customer experience and internal efficiency.

It has also strengthened customer service standards across departments.

“These improvements are helping ensure that NVCA remains a trusted partner in supporting safe, sustainable growth while protecting rivers, wetlands, forests and other natural resources,” Scott added.

NVCA’s full audit and financial statements are available at nvca.on.ca.

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Nottawasaga OPP share safety tips for Motorcycle Safety Week

As the weather warms and motorcycle season kicks into high gear the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) wants to highlight the need for vigilance and safe riding practices during this year's motorcycle safety week that runs from May 1 to May 7.

Motorcycle Safety Week is an annual initiative to raise awareness about the importance of safe riding and responsible driving habits. Motorcyclists are significantly more vulnerable in collisions than other motorists, and many motorcycle-related crashes are preventable. Motorcycle safety

is a shared responsibility, we're encouraging riders to stay alert, ride within their limits, and ensure their bikes are in good working condition.

At the same time, drivers must remain aware of motorcycles on the road and respect their right to share it safely."

Motorcycle Safety Tips for Riders:

- Wear all the gear, all the time: Always wear a DOT-approved helmet, protective jacket, gloves, pants, and boots.
- Stay visible: Use reflective gear, keep your headlights on, and avoid riding in blind spots.

• Ride sober and alert: Impaired or distracted riding drastically increases your risk of a crash.

• Perform regular maintenance checks: Ensure brakes, lights, signals, tires, and fluids are in proper working condition.

• Take a safety course: Even experienced riders can benefit from refresher training.

Safety Tips for Motorists:

- Check your blind spots: Motorcycles can be hard to see; always look twice before changing lanes or turning.
- Give space: Allow extra following distance

behind motorcycles. They can stop more quickly than cars.

• Use your signals: Clearly indicate your intentions in advance to help motorcyclists anticipate your actions.

• Respect the lane: Motorcyclists have the same right to a full lane as other vehicles.

Motorcycle Safety Week is a great time to recommit to safer driving habits and to respect all road users. With cooperation and awareness, we can help reduce injuries and fatalities on our roads.

Local driver arrested for impaired driving following RIDE spot check

Local driver arrested for impaired driving following RIDE spot check

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged one individual with impaired driving following a ride spot check in Tottenham

On May 4, 2025, shortly after 1 a.m., Not-

tawasaga OPP were conducting a ride spot check in the area of Mill Street East, Tottenham.

Officers spoke to the driver and formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol, leading to the driver's arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Mark Clapham, 59, of New Tecumseth, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
 - Operation while impaired - alcohol
- The accused is scheduled to attend the

Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on May 29, 2025, to answer to the charge.

The driver's licence was also suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle impounded for seven.

The listed charges have not been proven in court.

Impaired driving charges laid after Nottawasaga OPP recieved traffic complaint

Members of the Nottawasaga Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a traffic complaint, leading officers to charge a driver with impaired operation.

On April 30, shortly after 11:30 p.m., Nottawasaga OPP responded to a traffic complaint in the area of Victoria Street East in the

Town of New Tecumseth.

The vehicle was described as being operated in a concerning manner. Officers located the vehicle and met with the driver. During the interaction, grounds were formed that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol, leading to the driver's arrest.

As a result of the investigation, Sharon Urdzins, 42, of Alliston, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while impaired - alcohol
- Having care or control of motor vehicle with liquor in open baggage
- Possess more than one licence

The accused is scheduled to attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Bradford on May 29, 2025, to answer to the charge.

The driver's licence was also suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle impounded for seven.

The listed charges have not been proven in court.

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708 OBITUARIES

Schwab: Donald William
Peacefully at Southlake Health Newmarket on February 24, 2025. Don Schwab in his 85th year, beloved husband for 55 years of Margaret Schwab (née: Hodge). Loving father of Mark and Neil. Sadly missed by his grandchildren Troy (Hailey), Ava, Lilly, and Jessica, and his great grandson Toby. Dear brother of Diane Wilson (Bill), and Gordon Schwab (Deborah), and predeceased by his brother Ken Schwab (Carole). Remembered with love of his brother in law Jerold Hodge (Jeni), and dear friend Gord Barry (Jan). Forever in the hearts of his nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

For many years Don enjoyed playing slow pitch baseball from his 30's to his 50's, and for many years he loved playing rugby. It was during the rugby years, through Don's knee dislocation that Don met Margaret, and their love grew, and they built their lives together. Don will be greatly missed.

Cremation has taken place and a Memorial Funeral Mass will be held at St. James Church, 2118 Adjala-Tecumseth Townline Colgan, on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 10am. A Celebration of Life Reception will follow in the Cliffside Hall at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Rd., Tottenham 905-936-3477. Interment will be held in Holy Cross Cemetery Mount Forest after the reception. Donations in Don's memory may be made to Chalice or Covenant House Toronto. Online condolences or memories may be shared with the family at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

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Continued from Page 4

Brock's Banter: Questions and regrets

But, for whatever reason, this line turned out to be far removed from the truth as, while we packed up their things when it was time to downsize, I found an entire shoebox of photos commemorating the day, from their living room wedding, to their glamorous honeymoon departure, my grandmother swathed in enough furs to make Cruella de Vil green with envy.

The other branch of the family tree was far more forthcoming with their own experiences.

The 50th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day was celebrated on May 8, 1995, which just happened to be my grandmother's 70th birthday. While I got to take the day off of school to celebrate her milestone, what I remember most is sitting in front of the TV with her as a 10-year-old asking questions about the Second World War – and her, having lived through it, putting her birthday

celebrations briefly on the backburner to share whatever she could.

As someone with the lived experience, she was moved at the sight of Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and Princess Margaret returning to the Buckingham Palace balcony to revisit the iconic image of the trio – then joined by King George VI and Winston Churchill – celebrating such a pivotal moment in history.

She explained why people were so moved by Dame Vera Lynn taking the stage on the ground below to sing the melodies so many found comfort in during those dark times a half-century before. Some 30 years on – an expanse of time that really didn't hit me until after the ceremonies came to a close – I have so many more questions, including how those that were there would view today's political cli-

mate, but precious few ways to get these living, breathing answers.

My grandmother is gone, the five – and then three – who appeared on the balcony are gone, so many of the veterans who were so moved on May 8, 1995 are gone, and these events are very quickly fading from living memory.

It's a natural progression, of course, but we lose so much with each passing year – and for those of us lucky enough to still have friends and relatives able to share, it's important to ask these questions while we still have the chance.

And it's not just a matter of asking questions of those who lived through conflict. The questions we might have for any individual are unique to ourselves, informed by our experiences and interests, and we can all benefit from asking them – whatever generation they might hail from.

Had I started research into my own family tree far earlier than university, my grandparents might have regretted any part they took in teaching me how to talk, or have been tempted to turn off their respective hearing aids at the umpteenth "Do you remember when....?" but it's definitely a worthwhile exercise.

Mother's Day is this weekend and there is no better time to take a few minutes to think of burning questions you might have and how you can take this opportunity to broach them. And, for all of our sakes, write them down for posterity. We'll all benefit.

Now, if only I could get to the bottom of just what the circumstances of my paternal grandparents' wedding photos were for them to be shrouded in mystery, denied their very existence, for the better part of 60 years.

Hope I didn't miss something really spicy!

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